

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:34,730

2
00:00:34,730 --> 00:00:36,830
OK.

3
00:00:36,830 --> 00:00:39,500
Before we start,
I have a question

4
00:00:39,500 --> 00:00:42,460
so we don't complicate.

5
00:00:42,460 --> 00:00:47,690
Today is March 21, 2001.

6
00:00:47,690 --> 00:00:53,360
We are at the Temple Beth
El in San Mateo, California.

7
00:00:53,360 --> 00:00:57,500
And this morning, we're
interviewing Dennis Miklos.

8
00:00:57,500 --> 00:00:59,360
My name is Peter
Ryan, interviewer.

9
00:00:59,360 --> 00:01:02,180
Elizabeth Ryan is also
doing the interviewing.

10
00:01:02,180 --> 00:01:06,230
Anne Grenn Saldinger
is doing the videotape.

11
00:01:06,230 --> 00:01:11,790
Could we begin by my asking you
where and when you were born?

12
00:01:11,790 --> 00:01:18,260

I was born November the 4th,
1928 in a little village

13
00:01:18,260 --> 00:01:24,590
called Ribnica in
Czechoslovakia.

14
00:01:24,590 --> 00:01:27,860
And how many people
were in your family?

15
00:01:27,860 --> 00:01:30,020
In our immediate
family, there were

16
00:01:30,020 --> 00:01:35,510
six of us, two parents
and four siblings.

17
00:01:35,510 --> 00:01:37,670
Could you name the
parents and the children?

18
00:01:37,670 --> 00:01:43,550
My father's name was
Alader, A-L-A-D-A-R.

19
00:01:43,550 --> 00:01:51,860
My mother's name was Frida,
F-R-I-D-A. My sister, Kathy,

20
00:01:51,860 --> 00:01:53,900
K-A-T-H-Y--

21
00:01:53,900 --> 00:01:55,250
Was she the oldest?

22
00:01:55,250 --> 00:01:58,640
She was the-- well, no,
my oldest was the brother,

23
00:01:58,640 --> 00:02:06,740
F-R-E-D, Fred, and then my

sister, Kathy, K-A-T-H-Y--

24

00:02:06,740 --> 00:02:13,130
they both perished-- and
my twin sister, Eva, E-V-A,

25

00:02:13,130 --> 00:02:17,030
who's now living in New York.

26

00:02:17,030 --> 00:02:18,170
So you had a twin.

27

00:02:18,170 --> 00:02:19,250
Yes.

28

00:02:19,250 --> 00:02:20,990
She's still with us.

29

00:02:20,990 --> 00:02:23,480
Right.

30

00:02:23,480 --> 00:02:25,650
What did your father do?

31

00:02:25,650 --> 00:02:31,420
My father did a combination
of things, mainly a farmer.

32

00:02:31,420 --> 00:02:34,070
He had a farm near Ribnica--

33

00:02:34,070 --> 00:02:36,920
actually in the area of Ribnica.

34

00:02:36,920 --> 00:02:41,000
And he also had a
bank, a small bank,

35

00:02:41,000 --> 00:02:46,100
assisting the agriculture
population in our area.

36

00:02:46,100 --> 00:02:48,800

That's a very unusual
combination, farmer/banker.

37

00:02:48,800 --> 00:02:50,210

Yes.

38

00:02:50,210 --> 00:02:54,225

And mostly, the bank was
for the farmers of the area.

39

00:02:54,225 --> 00:02:54,725

Correct.

40

00:02:54,725 --> 00:02:57,230

41

00:02:57,230 --> 00:03:00,670

And had there been a family
tradition of farming?

42

00:03:00,670 --> 00:03:02,780

Do you know?

43

00:03:02,780 --> 00:03:04,790

I don't think so.

44

00:03:04,790 --> 00:03:08,060

But I really can't
tell for sure.

45

00:03:08,060 --> 00:03:11,120

Do you know how far back the
family goes in that area?

46

00:03:11,120 --> 00:03:12,080

No.

47

00:03:12,080 --> 00:03:15,630

The only one I know
about is my grandmother,

48

00:03:15,630 --> 00:03:17,450
who had a vineyard.

49

00:03:17,450 --> 00:03:19,970
Of course, she had the
vineyard with her husband.

50

00:03:19,970 --> 00:03:23,000
But her husband died
the year I was born.

51

00:03:23,000 --> 00:03:27,780
And then she maintained
that vineyard in the area.

52

00:03:27,780 --> 00:03:31,270
I can't remember, nor was I--

53

00:03:31,270 --> 00:03:35,510
I don't think-- ever told
about my great grandparents.

54

00:03:35,510 --> 00:03:38,870
Do you know how big a town
it was that you were born in?

55

00:03:38,870 --> 00:03:42,620
Very small, maybe 300 people.

56

00:03:42,620 --> 00:03:45,470
And how many Jews would you say?

57

00:03:45,470 --> 00:03:49,640
Now, probably none.

58

00:03:49,640 --> 00:03:51,470
But we lived after--

59

00:03:51,470 --> 00:03:53,340
I was born in this little place.

60

00:03:53,340 --> 00:03:59,450

But then we lived probably
from year one, my year one,

61

00:03:59,450 --> 00:04:05,000

in a place called
Umgvar, U-M-G-V-A-R.

62

00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:09,890

That's where I spent my time.

63

00:04:09,890 --> 00:04:13,100

Now, how far was that from
your original birthplace?

64

00:04:13,100 --> 00:04:16,279

Maybe 15 miles.

65

00:04:16,279 --> 00:04:20,610

And what kind of housing
arrangement did you have there?

66

00:04:20,610 --> 00:04:21,255

Where?

67

00:04:21,255 --> 00:04:22,100

In Umgvar.

68

00:04:22,100 --> 00:04:25,800

In Umgvar, we had a
big home, a big house.

69

00:04:25,800 --> 00:04:26,430

Yes.

70

00:04:26,430 --> 00:04:29,320

Was that a small
community or larger?

71

00:04:29,320 --> 00:04:33,210

The total community was
approximately 35,000.

72

00:04:33,210 --> 00:04:36,840

I would say at least a
third of them were Jewish.

73

00:04:36,840 --> 00:04:39,630

74

00:04:39,630 --> 00:04:41,920

And your father was still
doing farming there?

75

00:04:41,920 --> 00:04:42,420

Yes.

76

00:04:42,420 --> 00:04:43,260

And the banking?

77

00:04:43,260 --> 00:04:44,730

Bank was in Umgvar.

78

00:04:44,730 --> 00:04:46,080

And the farm was near Ribnica.

79

00:04:46,080 --> 00:04:50,660

80

00:04:50,660 --> 00:04:53,270

Do you remember your
early schooling?

81

00:04:53,270 --> 00:04:54,230

I do.

82

00:04:54,230 --> 00:04:55,410

I do.

83

00:04:55,410 --> 00:04:57,980

In Umgvar, I went to--

84

00:04:57,980 --> 00:04:59,180

When did you start?

85
00:04:59,180 --> 00:04:59,780
What age?

86
00:04:59,780 --> 00:05:01,400
I believe I was six.

87
00:05:01,400 --> 00:05:02,150
I believe that.

88
00:05:02,150 --> 00:05:02,650
Six?

89
00:05:02,650 --> 00:05:03,590
Yes.

90
00:05:03,590 --> 00:05:05,780
And what public school?

91
00:05:05,780 --> 00:05:07,520
Public school, and
they-- well, they

92
00:05:07,520 --> 00:05:09,160
were Czechoslovakian schools.

93
00:05:09,160 --> 00:05:10,910
Right.

94
00:05:10,910 --> 00:05:16,160
But in 1930-- well, I
was six in I think '34.

95
00:05:16,160 --> 00:05:20,990
In 1939, the Hungarians came in.

96
00:05:20,990 --> 00:05:24,680
And they became Hungary.

97
00:05:24,680 --> 00:05:28,460
So from that point on, I

went to Hungarian school.

98

00:05:28,460 --> 00:05:31,980

Now, you started school
at age six in 1934.

99

00:05:31,980 --> 00:05:32,510

Right.

100

00:05:32,510 --> 00:05:35,690

And that was a public
Czechoslovakian school.

101

00:05:35,690 --> 00:05:36,230

Correct.

102

00:05:36,230 --> 00:05:37,640

And what was spoken there?

103

00:05:37,640 --> 00:05:38,780

Czech?

104

00:05:38,780 --> 00:05:42,530

Czech and Hungarian,
because the population

105

00:05:42,530 --> 00:05:46,070

was mainly Hungarian.

106

00:05:46,070 --> 00:05:52,010

So number one, it was in
close proximity to Hungary

107

00:05:52,010 --> 00:05:52,970

geographically.

108

00:05:52,970 --> 00:05:54,110

Right.

109

00:05:54,110 --> 00:05:57,080

And it had also changed
hands a number of times.

110
00:05:57,080 --> 00:05:57,590
Correct.

111
00:05:57,590 --> 00:06:02,450
So there were many Hungarians
living there as well as Czechs.

112
00:06:02,450 --> 00:06:05,270
Well, very few Czechs--

113
00:06:05,270 --> 00:06:06,000
very few Czechs.

114
00:06:06,000 --> 00:06:06,500
Slovaks?

115
00:06:06,500 --> 00:06:07,460
Yes, very few.

116
00:06:07,460 --> 00:06:10,250
And when I say Czechs, Slovaks--

117
00:06:10,250 --> 00:06:12,300
probably no Czechs.

118
00:06:12,300 --> 00:06:13,340
Yeah.

119
00:06:13,340 --> 00:06:19,580
So this would be in the
eastern part of Czechoslovakia.

120
00:06:19,580 --> 00:06:20,690
Correct.

121
00:06:20,690 --> 00:06:23,300
Correct.

122
00:06:23,300 --> 00:06:28,760
Scenario where Czechoslovakia,

Hungary, and probably

123

00:06:28,760 --> 00:06:31,510

Russia or Ukraine met
in the corner there.

124

00:06:31,510 --> 00:06:37,170

125

00:06:37,170 --> 00:06:41,520

What do you remember about
your early schooling?

126

00:06:41,520 --> 00:06:43,050

Well, I kind of enjoyed it.

127

00:06:43,050 --> 00:06:48,120

I went with my sister together
because we were the same age--

128

00:06:48,120 --> 00:06:52,290

mostly Jewish colleagues.

129

00:06:52,290 --> 00:06:53,980

Now, it was a public school.

130

00:06:53,980 --> 00:06:55,050

It was a public school.

131

00:06:55,050 --> 00:06:56,610

But mostly Jewish students?

132

00:06:56,610 --> 00:06:57,840

Mostly, yes.

133

00:06:57,840 --> 00:07:00,140

Was religion taught
in the school at all?

134

00:07:00,140 --> 00:07:01,770

No, I don't remember.

135

00:07:01,770 --> 00:07:02,970

I don't remember having it.

136

00:07:02,970 --> 00:07:06,810

But I went to what
we called the cheder.

137

00:07:06,810 --> 00:07:07,820

After school?

138

00:07:07,820 --> 00:07:08,620

Yes.

139

00:07:08,620 --> 00:07:11,490

And this was for
Jewish learning?

140

00:07:11,490 --> 00:07:12,210

Yes.

141

00:07:12,210 --> 00:07:14,160

And done in Hebrew?

142

00:07:14,160 --> 00:07:15,750

Yes.

143

00:07:15,750 --> 00:07:19,890

And it was escalated towards
when I was probably 11

144

00:07:19,890 --> 00:07:22,290

to study for the bar mitzvah.

145

00:07:22,290 --> 00:07:23,220

Yeah.

146

00:07:23,220 --> 00:07:24,960

What was spoken at home?

147

00:07:24,960 --> 00:07:26,070

Hungarian.

148
00:07:26,070 --> 00:07:26,740
Hungarian.

149
00:07:26,740 --> 00:07:27,480
Yes.

150
00:07:27,480 --> 00:07:30,648
And what was spoken
in the public schools?

151
00:07:30,648 --> 00:07:32,130
Czech?

152
00:07:32,130 --> 00:07:32,630
No.

153
00:07:32,630 --> 00:07:33,130
No.

154
00:07:33,130 --> 00:07:36,660
I think-- well, we learned
from the teachers in Czech.

155
00:07:36,660 --> 00:07:42,690
But as far as when we were free
students, we spoke Hungarian.

156
00:07:42,690 --> 00:07:45,930
So it was a very heavy
Hungarian influence.

157
00:07:45,930 --> 00:07:48,540
Absolutely.

158
00:07:48,540 --> 00:07:51,330
I wanted to ask a question.

159
00:07:51,330 --> 00:07:53,610
Do you remember
learning anything

160

00:07:53,610 --> 00:07:57,890
in school about the crucifixion?

161

00:07:57,890 --> 00:07:59,280
No.

162

00:07:59,280 --> 00:08:02,140
Do you remember learning
anything about the Inquisition?

163

00:08:02,140 --> 00:08:03,380
No.

164

00:08:03,380 --> 00:08:05,520
Do you remember
learning anything

165

00:08:05,520 --> 00:08:07,820
about the Black Plague?

166

00:08:07,820 --> 00:08:08,320
No.

167

00:08:08,320 --> 00:08:09,540
No.

168

00:08:09,540 --> 00:08:10,770
Did they not have history?

169

00:08:10,770 --> 00:08:12,720
Or was the history
only of that area?

170

00:08:12,720 --> 00:08:15,380
Yes, only that area
that we learned about.

171

00:08:15,380 --> 00:08:20,680

172

00:08:20,680 --> 00:08:24,900

How, when, where did you
learn about the history

173
00:08:24,900 --> 00:08:27,420
of the Jewish people
and the persecutions

174
00:08:27,420 --> 00:08:30,090
they had suffered
over the centuries?

175
00:08:30,090 --> 00:08:30,820
Or did you?

176
00:08:30,820 --> 00:08:31,780
I probably didn't.

177
00:08:31,780 --> 00:08:32,280
You didn't?

178
00:08:32,280 --> 00:08:32,730
No.

179
00:08:32,730 --> 00:08:33,600
Don't remember that?

180
00:08:33,600 --> 00:08:34,100
No.

181
00:08:34,100 --> 00:08:37,500

182
00:08:37,500 --> 00:08:41,429
Were your family a
religious family?

183
00:08:41,429 --> 00:08:44,159
Well, they were not
religious, per se.

184
00:08:44,159 --> 00:08:48,600
We were Orthodox, but we not--

185
00:08:48,600 --> 00:08:51,480
use a simple-- we
were not Hasidics.

186
00:08:51,480 --> 00:08:53,610
Just we followed the religion.

187
00:08:53,610 --> 00:09:00,150
We had dairy and meat dishes
separated, went to synagogue

188
00:09:00,150 --> 00:09:05,770
on Friday nights and Saturdays,
but not during the week.

189
00:09:05,770 --> 00:09:07,500
I did not wear a yarmulke.

190
00:09:07,500 --> 00:09:10,020
Neither did my father.

191
00:09:10,020 --> 00:09:13,350
But my mother was more
religious than any of us.

192
00:09:13,350 --> 00:09:16,650
Had she come from
a religious family?

193
00:09:16,650 --> 00:09:17,560
Not really.

194
00:09:17,560 --> 00:09:18,060
No.

195
00:09:18,060 --> 00:09:19,290
But she emphasized it.

196
00:09:19,290 --> 00:09:23,060

197

00:09:23,060 --> 00:09:25,310

How close were you
and your sister,

198

00:09:25,310 --> 00:09:27,680

because twins are often
usually very close?

199

00:09:27,680 --> 00:09:29,660

Yes, and we were very close.

200

00:09:29,660 --> 00:09:31,100

Yeah.

201

00:09:31,100 --> 00:09:33,360

Did you think alike?

202

00:09:33,360 --> 00:09:35,420

Well, we do-- we do now.

203

00:09:35,420 --> 00:09:38,860

We find that because I speak
with her a couple of times

204

00:09:38,860 --> 00:09:39,360

a week.

205

00:09:39,360 --> 00:09:43,520

And it's amazing how she
reads my mind and I read hers.

206

00:09:43,520 --> 00:09:48,740

So it's more evident now than it
used to be when we were small.

207

00:09:48,740 --> 00:09:51,270

208

00:09:51,270 --> 00:09:53,670

If you had a problem
when you were young,

209

00:09:53,670 --> 00:09:54,600

who would you go to?

210

00:09:54,600 --> 00:09:57,870

211

00:09:57,870 --> 00:09:59,790

Probably my brother.

212

00:09:59,790 --> 00:10:01,260

Your oldest brother.

213

00:10:01,260 --> 00:10:02,850

Yes.

214

00:10:02,850 --> 00:10:04,200

Why did you pick him?

215

00:10:04,200 --> 00:10:05,340

I don't know.

216

00:10:05,340 --> 00:10:07,120

He was my role model, I guess.

217

00:10:07,120 --> 00:10:07,980

He was--

218

00:10:07,980 --> 00:10:10,110

How much older?

219

00:10:10,110 --> 00:10:11,510

Seven years older.

220

00:10:11,510 --> 00:10:12,150

Seven.

221

00:10:12,150 --> 00:10:14,520

Yes.

222

00:10:14,520 --> 00:10:19,650

And my older sister and I
were a five-year difference.

223
00:10:19,650 --> 00:10:23,730
She was born in 1923.

224
00:10:23,730 --> 00:10:25,860
Now, if you had gone
to your older brother

225
00:10:25,860 --> 00:10:27,990
about some kind
of situation that

226
00:10:27,990 --> 00:10:29,910
was giving you a
little difficulty,

227
00:10:29,910 --> 00:10:32,430
he would be sympathetic?

228
00:10:32,430 --> 00:10:36,360
It's tough to remember that.
but most of the time, he was.

229
00:10:36,360 --> 00:10:40,920
And most of the time, he told me
to go see my parents about it.

230
00:10:40,920 --> 00:10:41,790
But I didn't have--

231
00:10:41,790 --> 00:10:43,500
I didn't have too many problems.

232
00:10:43,500 --> 00:10:46,680
I don't remember having
too many problems.

233
00:10:46,680 --> 00:10:51,960
But sometimes, people just had
a need to talk to someone older.

234

00:10:51,960 --> 00:10:55,540

But it was my brother
and probably my mother.

235

00:10:55,540 --> 00:10:58,350

How about your father?

236

00:10:58,350 --> 00:11:00,190

Well, I loved him dearly.

237

00:11:00,190 --> 00:11:01,470

And he loved me.

238

00:11:01,470 --> 00:11:04,240

But it was not the kind of thing
where you would talk to him?

239

00:11:04,240 --> 00:11:06,930

No.

240

00:11:06,930 --> 00:11:09,150

It wasn't the kind
of relationship

241

00:11:09,150 --> 00:11:12,690

that I had with my
sons, a constant--

242

00:11:12,690 --> 00:11:13,560

Say more.

243

00:11:13,560 --> 00:11:14,160

Pardon me?

244

00:11:14,160 --> 00:11:14,790

Say more.

245

00:11:14,790 --> 00:11:15,720

What do you mean?

246

00:11:15,720 --> 00:11:18,840

Well, when my boys
were growing up,

247
00:11:18,840 --> 00:11:23,040
my wife and I together
were constantly

248
00:11:23,040 --> 00:11:25,830
following their progress,
what they were doing,

249
00:11:25,830 --> 00:11:28,110
where they were.

250
00:11:28,110 --> 00:11:30,430
But my father didn't do that.

251
00:11:30,430 --> 00:11:31,430
No.

252
00:11:31,430 --> 00:11:35,070
He kind of left it up to
my mother to be in control.

253
00:11:35,070 --> 00:11:37,290
Was that typical, do you
think, in those days?

254
00:11:37,290 --> 00:11:38,600
I think so.

255
00:11:38,600 --> 00:11:41,100
I think so.

256
00:11:41,100 --> 00:11:46,080
Did that make him feel
more detached to you?

257
00:11:46,080 --> 00:11:50,670
I don't know how he
felt about it, but--

258

00:11:50,670 --> 00:11:53,790
No, I meant the way you saw it.

259
00:11:53,790 --> 00:11:56,430
No, he was not detached.

260
00:11:56,430 --> 00:11:57,390
No.

261
00:11:57,390 --> 00:12:00,323
Even though he let
her kind of run things

262
00:12:00,323 --> 00:12:01,740
and know where you
were and so on,

263
00:12:01,740 --> 00:12:03,860
you felt that he
was very involved?

264
00:12:03,860 --> 00:12:04,360
Mm-hmm.

265
00:12:04,360 --> 00:12:07,630
Well, of course, he was away
from the house every day.

266
00:12:07,630 --> 00:12:10,200
He was either in the
bank or on the farm.

267
00:12:10,200 --> 00:12:13,440
And he left early
and came back late.

268
00:12:13,440 --> 00:12:18,060
So I don't remember
him ever asking, well,

269
00:12:18,060 --> 00:12:19,470
how was school, for example.

270

00:12:19,470 --> 00:12:23,370

He may have because
it's been 60-some years.

271

00:12:23,370 --> 00:12:24,240

True.

272

00:12:24,240 --> 00:12:26,945

But my mother did and my
brother did and so forth.

273

00:12:26,945 --> 00:12:27,820

You do remember that.

274

00:12:27,820 --> 00:12:28,320

Yes.

275

00:12:28,320 --> 00:12:34,110

Yes, because my brother used
to help me with my schoolwork.

276

00:12:34,110 --> 00:12:36,300

And your mother was
the kind of person

277

00:12:36,300 --> 00:12:39,520

who would be asking how
things were, how things went?

278

00:12:39,520 --> 00:12:40,080

Right.

279

00:12:40,080 --> 00:12:40,580

Right.

280

00:12:40,580 --> 00:12:42,570

Right.

281

00:12:42,570 --> 00:12:45,240

Did the family feel Czech?

282

00:12:45,240 --> 00:12:45,990
No.

283
00:12:45,990 --> 00:12:47,040
What did they feel?

284
00:12:47,040 --> 00:12:47,850
Hungarian.

285
00:12:47,850 --> 00:12:48,390
Hungarian.

286
00:12:48,390 --> 00:12:50,340
Yes.

287
00:12:50,340 --> 00:12:54,060
So how did they make sense out
of now being a country called

288
00:12:54,060 --> 00:12:55,080
Czechoslovakia?

289
00:12:55,080 --> 00:12:58,200

290
00:12:58,200 --> 00:13:00,120
Well, I don't know.

291
00:13:00,120 --> 00:13:07,080
But remember, before the First
World War, before 1918, it

292
00:13:07,080 --> 00:13:08,700
was Hungary.

293
00:13:08,700 --> 00:13:12,060
And my mother and
father born in--

294
00:13:12,060 --> 00:13:15,090
I guess my father
was born in 1888.

295

00:13:15,090 --> 00:13:18,790

My mother was born in 1896.

296

00:13:18,790 --> 00:13:21,180

So it was Hungary for them.

297

00:13:21,180 --> 00:13:29,400

And Czechoslovakia became-- we
became Czechoslovaks in 1918

298

00:13:29,400 --> 00:13:33,270

for those 20 years.

299

00:13:33,270 --> 00:13:35,080

So it was a temporary situation.

300

00:13:35,080 --> 00:13:35,580

Right.

301

00:13:35,580 --> 00:13:38,730

So at the time that
you were growing up,

302

00:13:38,730 --> 00:13:41,430

they had had many
more years of being

303

00:13:41,430 --> 00:13:43,560

literally Austrian
citizens than they

304

00:13:43,560 --> 00:13:45,120

had Czechoslovakian citizens.

305

00:13:45,120 --> 00:13:47,340

Well, Hungarian
citizens, Hungarian.

306

00:13:47,340 --> 00:13:51,420

It was Austro-Hungarian
prior to the First World War.

307
00:13:51,420 --> 00:13:55,890
But we didn't speak
German at home.

308
00:13:55,890 --> 00:13:57,230
But we spoke Hungarian.

309
00:13:57,230 --> 00:13:58,560
It was all Hungarian.

310
00:13:58,560 --> 00:14:01,810

311
00:14:01,810 --> 00:14:05,440
Do you think that it then caused
difficulty to feel loyalty

312
00:14:05,440 --> 00:14:07,075
to the Czechoslovakian state?

313
00:14:07,075 --> 00:14:09,980

314
00:14:09,980 --> 00:14:13,010
I don't remember.

315
00:14:13,010 --> 00:14:17,510
I do remember that when
we became Hungary again,

316
00:14:17,510 --> 00:14:19,170
there was joy in the home.

317
00:14:19,170 --> 00:14:19,670
There was?

318
00:14:19,670 --> 00:14:20,420
Yes.

319
00:14:20,420 --> 00:14:21,360

Your home?

320

00:14:21,360 --> 00:14:25,830

Your home because it's our
language and it's our culture.

321

00:14:25,830 --> 00:14:27,500

Do you remember
talking in the house

322

00:14:27,500 --> 00:14:31,910

of world conditions, dangers?

323

00:14:31,910 --> 00:14:32,810

Oh, yes.

324

00:14:32,810 --> 00:14:36,080

Oh, yes.

325

00:14:36,080 --> 00:14:38,420

Before the invasion
of Czechoslovakia?

326

00:14:38,420 --> 00:14:39,620

No, not then.

327

00:14:39,620 --> 00:14:46,490

But it started in 1940, '41,
when Hitler started taking

328

00:14:46,490 --> 00:14:48,260

the countries over in Europe.

329

00:14:48,260 --> 00:14:52,000

And we were just wondering
when we are next.

330

00:14:52,000 --> 00:14:54,620

Well, in fact, you had already
been taken over by Hitler

331

00:14:54,620 --> 00:14:55,820

in '42.

332

00:14:55,820 --> 00:14:59,150

Not until 1944.

333

00:14:59,150 --> 00:15:01,250

We were the last one.

334

00:15:01,250 --> 00:15:08,660

But what was the arrangement
between Czechoslovakia

335

00:15:08,660 --> 00:15:11,390

and Germany?

336

00:15:11,390 --> 00:15:14,420

Germany had occupied
Czechoslovakia

337

00:15:14,420 --> 00:15:18,410

first in 1938, Sudetenland.

338

00:15:18,410 --> 00:15:21,500

And then in 1939, they
took over the rest.

339

00:15:21,500 --> 00:15:23,360

Not Hungary.

340

00:15:23,360 --> 00:15:24,940

See, we were Hungary.

341

00:15:24,940 --> 00:15:26,090

Oh, OK.

342

00:15:26,090 --> 00:15:28,070

We were Hungary starting--

343

00:15:28,070 --> 00:15:29,600

It's not the Germans
occupying you.

344

00:15:29,600 --> 00:15:33,198

It's the Hungarians reclaiming
what used to be theirs.

345

00:15:33,198 --> 00:15:33,740

That's right.

346

00:15:33,740 --> 00:15:34,280

OK.

347

00:15:34,280 --> 00:15:39,140

So for all intents and
purposes, starting in 1939,

348

00:15:39,140 --> 00:15:43,220

we were Hungarians, not Germans
and not Czechoslovakian.

349

00:15:43,220 --> 00:15:45,860

And the Hungarians allowed
you to continue life

350

00:15:45,860 --> 00:15:47,180

as you had known it?

351

00:15:47,180 --> 00:15:48,380

More or less, yes.

352

00:15:48,380 --> 00:15:52,820

We felt very-- we saw
very few problems--

353

00:15:52,820 --> 00:15:55,190

some antisemitism, yes.

354

00:15:55,190 --> 00:15:55,790

But we were--

355

00:15:55,790 --> 00:15:57,470

What do you remember?

356

00:15:57,470 --> 00:16:02,630

Well, somebody calling
me Jew and so forth.

357

00:16:02,630 --> 00:16:07,550

But we were not prevented
from doing what we used

358

00:16:07,550 --> 00:16:09,670

to do under the Czechoslovaks.

359

00:16:09,670 --> 00:16:11,090

Violence towards the Jews?

360

00:16:11,090 --> 00:16:11,720

No.

361

00:16:11,720 --> 00:16:13,820

No, very little.

362

00:16:13,820 --> 00:16:16,404

They didn't interfere with
your father's occupation?

363

00:16:16,404 --> 00:16:17,706

No.

364

00:16:17,706 --> 00:16:20,000

You didn't feel unsafe then?

365

00:16:20,000 --> 00:16:21,560

No, we didn't.

366

00:16:21,560 --> 00:16:25,550

Now, was there talk that we
might have problems later?

367

00:16:25,550 --> 00:16:26,600

Yes.

368

00:16:26,600 --> 00:16:28,650

But we kept going to school.

369
00:16:28,650 --> 00:16:31,670
My father kept
going to his farm.

370
00:16:31,670 --> 00:16:33,330
And the bank was open.

371
00:16:33,330 --> 00:16:34,920
And so--

372
00:16:34,920 --> 00:16:37,220
What were the problems later?

373
00:16:37,220 --> 00:16:38,810
What was anticipated?

374
00:16:38,810 --> 00:16:45,030
Well, later was when the Germans
came in 1944, spring of 1944.

375
00:16:45,030 --> 00:16:45,530
Yes.

376
00:16:45,530 --> 00:16:47,480
But had that been
something that people

377
00:16:47,480 --> 00:16:49,010
had been concerned about?

378
00:16:49,010 --> 00:16:51,470
Yes, because the
surrounding countries,

379
00:16:51,470 --> 00:16:57,500
like Slovakia, maybe
15, 20 miles from us,

380
00:16:57,500 --> 00:16:59,360
were taken over by the Germans.

381

00:16:59,360 --> 00:17:02,600

Romania was taken
over by the Germans.

382

00:17:02,600 --> 00:17:07,290

How familiar were you with
what was really going on there?

383

00:17:07,290 --> 00:17:08,030

Well, let's see.

384

00:17:08,030 --> 00:17:11,540

I was 15, 14 years old.

385

00:17:11,540 --> 00:17:15,200

I wasn't involved in the
family conversations.

386

00:17:15,200 --> 00:17:16,760

But I was listening.

387

00:17:16,760 --> 00:17:17,930

I was aware of it.

388

00:17:17,930 --> 00:17:21,680

I knew that something
was going on.

389

00:17:21,680 --> 00:17:23,690

What did you know was going on?

390

00:17:23,690 --> 00:17:27,150

Well, my father will
listen to the radio.

391

00:17:27,150 --> 00:17:30,350

And he will tell my mother,
this is happening in Stalingrad

392

00:17:30,350 --> 00:17:31,970

or this is what's happening.

393

00:17:31,970 --> 00:17:33,590

Was it allowed, to have radios?

394

00:17:33,590 --> 00:17:34,100

Yes.

395

00:17:34,100 --> 00:17:39,830

But we were not allowed
to listen to BBC.

396

00:17:39,830 --> 00:17:40,913

Did you listen?

397

00:17:40,913 --> 00:17:41,413

Yes.

398

00:17:41,413 --> 00:17:45,200

399

00:17:45,200 --> 00:17:49,760

They evidently couldn't figure
a way to jam that frequency.

400

00:17:49,760 --> 00:17:52,670

I guess they were not so--

401

00:17:52,670 --> 00:17:54,380

Because I'm amazed
how many people

402

00:17:54,380 --> 00:17:59,210

were able to listen to
BBC during the war in very

403

00:17:59,210 --> 00:18:01,400

faraway places, like Hungary.

404

00:18:01,400 --> 00:18:03,410

Yes, we did.

405

00:18:03,410 --> 00:18:06,080

Of course, as soon as we
finished hearing the news,

406
00:18:06,080 --> 00:18:09,740
we moved the dial in
case somebody walked in.

407
00:18:09,740 --> 00:18:12,950
And would you turn it on
only at specific hours?

408
00:18:12,950 --> 00:18:14,480
In the evening.

409
00:18:14,480 --> 00:18:16,290
Would everyone in
the family listen?

410
00:18:16,290 --> 00:18:18,560
My father and my
brother, mainly.

411
00:18:18,560 --> 00:18:20,930
And sometimes, a neighbor
who didn't have a radio

412
00:18:20,930 --> 00:18:22,550
would come in and listen.

413
00:18:22,550 --> 00:18:24,170
The men?

414
00:18:24,170 --> 00:18:24,707
The men.

415
00:18:24,707 --> 00:18:25,290
Not the women?

416
00:18:25,290 --> 00:18:27,800
No.

417
00:18:27,800 --> 00:18:30,290

Were they shielding
themselves separately?

418
00:18:30,290 --> 00:18:32,060
Or were the men shielding them?

419
00:18:32,060 --> 00:18:34,820

420
00:18:34,820 --> 00:18:37,820
I think that was
just the culture.

421
00:18:37,820 --> 00:18:39,018
This is a man's business?

422
00:18:39,018 --> 00:18:39,560
That's right.

423
00:18:39,560 --> 00:18:40,080
War?

424
00:18:40,080 --> 00:18:40,580
Yeah.

425
00:18:40,580 --> 00:18:46,150

426
00:18:46,150 --> 00:18:51,830
Did you have other relatives
in Slovakia and now Hungary?

427
00:18:51,830 --> 00:18:52,330
Yes.

428
00:18:52,330 --> 00:18:53,320
Yes?

429
00:18:53,320 --> 00:18:55,180
Well, it starts
with my grandmother

430

00:18:55,180 --> 00:18:57,430
on my mother's side.

431

00:18:57,430 --> 00:19:07,600
She lived with us from the
beginning of, I believe, 1935.

432

00:19:07,600 --> 00:19:11,160
Until '35, she had her own
house in the same city.

433

00:19:11,160 --> 00:19:13,090
Is this the grandma
who had the vineyard?

434

00:19:13,090 --> 00:19:14,380
That's right.

435

00:19:14,380 --> 00:19:16,210
And then she--

436

00:19:16,210 --> 00:19:19,810
I don't know how old she was
at the time, maybe in her 70s.

437

00:19:19,810 --> 00:19:21,340
She moved in with us.

438

00:19:21,340 --> 00:19:24,100
She had a little
apartment in our building.

439

00:19:24,100 --> 00:19:25,450
In 1935?

440

00:19:25,450 --> 00:19:26,170
Yes.

441

00:19:26,170 --> 00:19:29,950
And she stayed with
us till the end.

442

00:19:29,950 --> 00:19:31,520
This was your mother's mother.

443

00:19:31,520 --> 00:19:33,210
Right.

444

00:19:33,210 --> 00:19:34,450
Were you close to her?

445

00:19:34,450 --> 00:19:38,060
Yes, very much so.

446

00:19:38,060 --> 00:19:41,590
And then my grandfather,
her husband,

447

00:19:41,590 --> 00:19:45,670
died in 1928 when I was
born, in an accident.

448

00:19:45,670 --> 00:19:51,360
My grandparents from
my father's side

449

00:19:51,360 --> 00:19:53,880
also lived in the same building.

450

00:19:53,880 --> 00:19:58,230
But they both died in the
early '30s-- well, 1933,

451

00:19:58,230 --> 00:20:02,190
my grandmother, in
'35, my grandfather.

452

00:20:02,190 --> 00:20:05,070

453

00:20:05,070 --> 00:20:11,550
Then we had aunts and uncles not
in the same city, but close by,

454

00:20:11,550 --> 00:20:13,830
within 25 miles.

455

00:20:13,830 --> 00:20:16,090
From which side of the family?

456

00:20:16,090 --> 00:20:18,060
My mother's side.

457

00:20:18,060 --> 00:20:21,390
Did she come from a big family?

458

00:20:21,390 --> 00:20:26,880
There were three
sisters and one brother.

459

00:20:26,880 --> 00:20:29,025
And my father had two sisters.

460

00:20:29,025 --> 00:20:31,550

461

00:20:31,550 --> 00:20:33,930
Was he the oldest, your father?

462

00:20:33,930 --> 00:20:34,430
No.

463

00:20:34,430 --> 00:20:35,885
No, I think he was the youngest.

464

00:20:35,885 --> 00:20:42,950

465

00:20:42,950 --> 00:20:46,460
Would you have family
meals every day?

466

00:20:46,460 --> 00:20:47,470
Absolutely.

467

00:20:47,470 --> 00:20:51,595
And would that be at the middle
of the day or the evening?

468

00:20:51,595 --> 00:20:52,330
Evening.

469

00:20:52,330 --> 00:20:53,680
Because your father was away.

470

00:20:53,680 --> 00:20:54,310
That's right.

471

00:20:54,310 --> 00:20:58,180
That's right-- about 7 o'clock.

472

00:20:58,180 --> 00:21:02,860
Now, my sister told
me a few years ago

473

00:21:02,860 --> 00:21:07,280
that she remembers us having
the main meal at lunchtime.

474

00:21:07,280 --> 00:21:08,950
And I did not remember that.

475

00:21:08,950 --> 00:21:10,390
All I remember is
going to school

476

00:21:10,390 --> 00:21:11,590
and taking my lunch with me.

477

00:21:11,590 --> 00:21:14,352

478

00:21:14,352 --> 00:21:16,060
You remember taking
your lunch to school.

479

00:21:16,060 --> 00:21:16,660

Yes.

480

00:21:16,660 --> 00:21:19,880

Not coming home.

481

00:21:19,880 --> 00:21:21,738

Well, we came home
about 2 o'clock.

482

00:21:21,738 --> 00:21:23,530

Yeah, but that would
be the end of the day.

483

00:21:23,530 --> 00:21:24,100

That's right.

484

00:21:24,100 --> 00:21:25,060

You didn't go back and--

485

00:21:25,060 --> 00:21:25,390

No.

486

00:21:25,390 --> 00:21:25,890

No.

487

00:21:25,890 --> 00:21:28,520

488

00:21:28,520 --> 00:21:30,530

Was your mother
a wonderful cook?

489

00:21:30,530 --> 00:21:31,070

Pardon me?

490

00:21:31,070 --> 00:21:32,680

Was your mother
a wonderful cook?

491

00:21:32,680 --> 00:21:33,350

Oh, yes.

492
00:21:33,350 --> 00:21:37,070
Of course, my grandmother was
doing a lot of cooking, too,

493
00:21:37,070 --> 00:21:39,910
because she lived with us.

494
00:21:39,910 --> 00:21:44,540
And I failed to
mention the schooling.

495
00:21:44,540 --> 00:21:48,860
After the elementary
school, my sister and I

496
00:21:48,860 --> 00:21:52,310
went to a Jewish
gymnasium, which

497
00:21:52,310 --> 00:21:55,760
was a high school in this town.

498
00:21:55,760 --> 00:21:59,120
It was all Jewish kids.

499
00:21:59,120 --> 00:22:00,960
They had their own
separate gymnasium?

500
00:22:00,960 --> 00:22:02,300
Yes.

501
00:22:02,300 --> 00:22:05,750
And it was not state-run?

502
00:22:05,750 --> 00:22:07,760
I don't know if it was
funded by the state,

503
00:22:07,760 --> 00:22:14,870
but it was all Jewish students

and Jewish professors.

504

00:22:14,870 --> 00:22:17,430

Could non-Jews go
to that school?

505

00:22:17,430 --> 00:22:17,930

Do you know?

506

00:22:17,930 --> 00:22:19,920

I don't think so.

507

00:22:19,920 --> 00:22:22,820

First of all, they
probably didn't want to.

508

00:22:22,820 --> 00:22:26,610

But it was all Jewish.

509

00:22:26,610 --> 00:22:30,290

Did you have friends who
were both Jews and non-Jews

510

00:22:30,290 --> 00:22:32,790

when you were growing up?

511

00:22:32,790 --> 00:22:34,470

I don't think so.

512

00:22:34,470 --> 00:22:35,890

I don't remember.

513

00:22:35,890 --> 00:22:38,090

It was all Jews
that you remember?

514

00:22:38,090 --> 00:22:40,250

Yes.

515

00:22:40,250 --> 00:22:43,190

I don't think so.

516

00:22:43,190 --> 00:22:45,140

And your family--
do you know if they

517

00:22:45,140 --> 00:22:50,660

had friends who were both
Jewish and not Jewish?

518

00:22:50,660 --> 00:22:52,300

Again, I don't think so.

519

00:22:52,300 --> 00:22:56,750

I don't remember them coming
into the house socially.

520

00:22:56,750 --> 00:22:58,730

What about your father's farm?

521

00:22:58,730 --> 00:23:00,110

Did he have employees?

522

00:23:00,110 --> 00:23:01,660

Or did he do all
the work himself?

523

00:23:01,660 --> 00:23:03,560

No, he had employees.

524

00:23:03,560 --> 00:23:05,900

Matter of fact, he
had a manager who

525

00:23:05,900 --> 00:23:13,060

lived on the farm who handled
the workers, hiring them.

526

00:23:13,060 --> 00:23:14,900

And were they all Jewish, too?

527

00:23:14,900 --> 00:23:15,440

No.

528

00:23:15,440 --> 00:23:16,690

They didn't have to be Jewish.

529

00:23:16,690 --> 00:23:17,580

No.

530

00:23:17,580 --> 00:23:18,080

No.

531

00:23:18,080 --> 00:23:22,481

532

00:23:22,481 --> 00:23:23,950

Interesting.

533

00:23:23,950 --> 00:23:28,000

Do you remember experiencing
direct incidents

534

00:23:28,000 --> 00:23:30,730

of antisemitism?

535

00:23:30,730 --> 00:23:31,480

No.

536

00:23:31,480 --> 00:23:32,245

No.

537

00:23:32,245 --> 00:23:37,533

Well, I take it back
because it comes back to me

538

00:23:37,533 --> 00:23:38,200

once in a while.

539

00:23:38,200 --> 00:23:44,740

And I don't know why, but it
happened maybe 60 years ago.

540

00:23:44,740 --> 00:23:51,400

In 1937 or '38, when we were

still Czechoslovakian and I was

541

00:23:51,400 --> 00:23:56,770

in grammar school, one
Czech student-- now,

542

00:23:56,770 --> 00:23:58,240

he was really Czech--

543

00:23:58,240 --> 00:24:02,380

called me dirty Jew or
something about Jews.

544

00:24:02,380 --> 00:24:04,930

And I turned around and
called him a dirty Czech.

545

00:24:04,930 --> 00:24:07,530

546

00:24:07,530 --> 00:24:10,350

And of course, he
complained about me.

547

00:24:10,350 --> 00:24:14,340

And my parents were
notified that I

548

00:24:14,340 --> 00:24:20,400

had to come in with my father
and explain what happened.

549

00:24:20,400 --> 00:24:24,780

There was no punishment,
but it was a very unfriendly

550

00:24:24,780 --> 00:24:25,410

situation.

551

00:24:25,410 --> 00:24:29,260

I was concerned
about it very much.

552

00:24:29,260 --> 00:24:30,807

But that was it that I remember.

553

00:24:30,807 --> 00:24:32,140

You were concerned in terms of--

554

00:24:32,140 --> 00:24:36,540

That they might
expel me for this.

555

00:24:36,540 --> 00:24:40,860

You defended yourself by saying,
well, he called me a dirty Jew?

556

00:24:40,860 --> 00:24:41,520

Oh, yes.

557

00:24:41,520 --> 00:24:42,330

And that's what--

558

00:24:42,330 --> 00:24:43,570

Was that enough?

559

00:24:43,570 --> 00:24:44,070

It was.

560

00:24:44,070 --> 00:24:46,710

It was, because I
was not expelled.

561

00:24:46,710 --> 00:24:48,870

I was not punished.

562

00:24:48,870 --> 00:24:50,430

But that's the only--

563

00:24:50,430 --> 00:24:52,870

it's a minor situation.

564

00:24:52,870 --> 00:24:55,090

But that's the only

one I remember.

565

00:24:55,090 --> 00:24:58,200

Do you remember how your
father was about that incident?

566

00:24:58,200 --> 00:25:00,060

You had to go to
school with him, right?

567

00:25:00,060 --> 00:25:03,300

I don't remember whether
he thought that I shouldn't

568

00:25:03,300 --> 00:25:06,570

have called him a dirty Czech.

569

00:25:06,570 --> 00:25:07,710

Was he supportive?

570

00:25:07,710 --> 00:25:09,648

Yes, he was.

571

00:25:09,648 --> 00:25:10,690

That's what you remember.

572

00:25:10,690 --> 00:25:11,190

Right.

573

00:25:11,190 --> 00:25:14,460

574

00:25:14,460 --> 00:25:17,670

And the principal-- did you
have to talk to the principal?

575

00:25:17,670 --> 00:25:18,750

Oh, yes.

576

00:25:18,750 --> 00:25:21,960

And how was that received?

577

00:25:21,960 --> 00:25:24,630

It was very calm.

578

00:25:24,630 --> 00:25:29,700

But I guess he had to do what he
was supposed to do is follow up

579

00:25:29,700 --> 00:25:31,380

why I called him Czech.

580

00:25:31,380 --> 00:25:34,770

The question was not
why he called me a Jew.

581

00:25:34,770 --> 00:25:36,270

Because everyone
understood that.

582

00:25:36,270 --> 00:25:37,380

That's right.

583

00:25:37,380 --> 00:25:38,940

But a dirty Czech--

584

00:25:38,940 --> 00:25:41,590

Dirty Czech was not allowed.

585

00:25:41,590 --> 00:25:44,790

But I told the principal
that he called-- of course,

586

00:25:44,790 --> 00:25:48,630

he was there also,
this young fellow.

587

00:25:48,630 --> 00:25:49,890

That's sort of funny in a way.

588

00:25:49,890 --> 00:25:53,610

It's like calling someone
a dirty American now.

589

00:25:53,610 --> 00:25:57,658

That would-- it's a mixture
of insult and not insult.

590

00:25:57,658 --> 00:25:58,200

That's right.

591

00:25:58,200 --> 00:25:58,920

That's right.

592

00:25:58,920 --> 00:25:59,880

But you see--

593

00:25:59,880 --> 00:26:03,870

But you were saying it coming
from a Hungarian background.

594

00:26:03,870 --> 00:26:05,430

That's why--

595

00:26:05,430 --> 00:26:08,640

I don't know that I was thinking
that smartly at the time.

596

00:26:08,640 --> 00:26:10,380

But I couldn't call him--

597

00:26:10,380 --> 00:26:12,660

I didn't think about calling
him a dirty Catholic,

598

00:26:12,660 --> 00:26:14,580

because I didn't know
whether he was Catholic.

599

00:26:14,580 --> 00:26:17,185

So the only thing I
could think of was Czech.

600

00:26:17,185 --> 00:26:21,450

601

00:26:21,450 --> 00:26:32,430

But we had very little
problems, as far as religion,

602

00:26:32,430 --> 00:26:33,780

in the early '40s--

603

00:26:33,780 --> 00:26:39,750

'41, '42, '43-- although Hitler
was roaming all over Europe

604

00:26:39,750 --> 00:26:41,610

at the time, taking
countries all over.

605

00:26:41,610 --> 00:26:43,410

But he wasn't bothering
where you were.

606

00:26:43,410 --> 00:26:44,430

No.

607

00:26:44,430 --> 00:26:46,920

And the Hungarians were not.

608

00:26:46,920 --> 00:26:48,810

No.

609

00:26:48,810 --> 00:26:51,090

Of course, people are still
writing books about it

610

00:26:51,090 --> 00:26:53,970

as to why.

611

00:26:53,970 --> 00:26:58,050

And the closest thing
that I learned about it,

612

00:26:58,050 --> 00:27:00,660

that the Hungarians
said, keep out of here.

613
00:27:00,660 --> 00:27:03,570
And we'll take care of it.

614
00:27:03,570 --> 00:27:06,360
And at the end, the
Germans felt, well,

615
00:27:06,360 --> 00:27:09,170
they didn't take care of it
because all the Jews are still

616
00:27:09,170 --> 00:27:09,670
there.

617
00:27:09,670 --> 00:27:18,450
So they decided in the spring
of '44 to go to work on us.

618
00:27:18,450 --> 00:27:19,760
Tell me how it was for you.

619
00:27:19,760 --> 00:27:22,920
How do you remember it?

620
00:27:22,920 --> 00:27:26,520
How do I remember it?

621
00:27:26,520 --> 00:27:30,330
Well, that's when we heard
that the Germans came

622
00:27:30,330 --> 00:27:34,410
into Budapest, which was
the capital of Hungary.

623
00:27:34,410 --> 00:27:35,880
And they start--

624
00:27:35,880 --> 00:27:37,800
Now, you would have
heard that by radio or--

625
00:27:37,800 --> 00:27:39,720
By radio or by telephone.

626
00:27:39,720 --> 00:27:44,160
My aunt and uncle lived in
Budapest from my father's side.

627
00:27:44,160 --> 00:27:47,220
And they started rounding
up Jews in Budapest.

628
00:27:47,220 --> 00:27:51,090
So we figured it's going to be
very soon when it's our turn.

629
00:27:51,090 --> 00:27:54,060

630
00:27:54,060 --> 00:27:55,300
I remember my--

631
00:27:55,300 --> 00:27:57,090
I may go back and forth here.

632
00:27:57,090 --> 00:27:59,010
That's OK.

633
00:27:59,010 --> 00:28:02,520
I remember my father was
thinking about moving

634
00:28:02,520 --> 00:28:07,430
the family to our farm.

635
00:28:07,430 --> 00:28:08,520
That that would be safer?

636
00:28:08,520 --> 00:28:09,480
It would be safer.

637

00:28:09,480 --> 00:28:10,560
Than being in the city?

638
00:28:10,560 --> 00:28:11,190
Yes.

639
00:28:11,190 --> 00:28:14,850
Maybe some of the
people, workers there--

640
00:28:14,850 --> 00:28:18,240
because he had a very close
relationship with them--

641
00:28:18,240 --> 00:28:19,230
would be hiding us.

642
00:28:19,230 --> 00:28:21,210
But he said that's
not going to work

643
00:28:21,210 --> 00:28:25,230
because the regulations
indicated that if anyone

644
00:28:25,230 --> 00:28:27,730
is caught hiding Jews--

645
00:28:27,730 --> 00:28:29,370
It's their life.

646
00:28:29,370 --> 00:28:32,610
But whatever, that's
going to be too bad.

647
00:28:32,610 --> 00:28:34,110
So your father
thought, I won't be

648
00:28:34,110 --> 00:28:36,034
able to find people who
would be willing to hide us

649

00:28:36,034 --> 00:28:36,867
in those conditions?

650

00:28:36,867 --> 00:28:37,950
Correct.

651

00:28:37,950 --> 00:28:40,265
Pardon me?

652

00:28:40,265 --> 00:28:41,640
He was afraid that
he wouldn't be

653

00:28:41,640 --> 00:28:44,490
able to find someone that
would be willing to hide them--

654

00:28:44,490 --> 00:28:45,330
That's right--

655

00:28:45,330 --> 00:28:46,200
Under that threat?

656

00:28:46,200 --> 00:28:53,670
Now, I also remember him buying
on the farm from somebody

657

00:28:53,670 --> 00:28:56,460
a certificate that
we were not Jews.

658

00:28:56,460 --> 00:29:03,480
We were Catholics, because
it was a very popular thing

659

00:29:03,480 --> 00:29:04,440
to do at the time.

660

00:29:04,440 --> 00:29:06,700
And a lot of people
got away with it.

661

00:29:06,700 --> 00:29:09,630

And I remember him bringing
the certificates home

662

00:29:09,630 --> 00:29:10,830

that he bought.

663

00:29:10,830 --> 00:29:13,740

And after a day or so,
my mother and my father

664

00:29:13,740 --> 00:29:16,270

decided to tear it
up and not to use it.

665

00:29:16,270 --> 00:29:17,070

Why?

666

00:29:17,070 --> 00:29:20,532

Because that-- if we get
caught lying about it,

667

00:29:20,532 --> 00:29:21,990

that would have
been the end of us.

668

00:29:21,990 --> 00:29:25,740

669

00:29:25,740 --> 00:29:27,900

But the main reason for--

670

00:29:27,900 --> 00:29:31,810

How was that for you to listen
to that kind of talk going on?

671

00:29:31,810 --> 00:29:33,120

No, it wasn't pleasant.

672

00:29:33,120 --> 00:29:33,900

We were worried.

673

00:29:33,900 --> 00:29:35,140

But I don't--

674

00:29:35,140 --> 00:29:36,390

Did that frighten you to hear?

675

00:29:36,390 --> 00:29:42,870

Yes, but my father and mother
never called us together.

676

00:29:42,870 --> 00:29:46,110

Maybe my brother and sister,
older sister, were involved.

677

00:29:46,110 --> 00:29:51,600

But my twin and I, we were never
involved in the discussions.

678

00:29:51,600 --> 00:29:53,200

But you were almost 17 by then.

679

00:29:53,200 --> 00:29:53,700

No.

680

00:29:53,700 --> 00:29:55,980

No, I was 14.

681

00:29:55,980 --> 00:30:00,990

I'm talking about 1943
or something like that.

682

00:30:00,990 --> 00:30:02,280

I was 14 or 15.

683

00:30:02,280 --> 00:30:05,610

684

00:30:05,610 --> 00:30:07,830

Did you wish that you
had been involved?

685

00:30:07,830 --> 00:30:08,900
No.

686
00:30:08,900 --> 00:30:13,520
No, because I don't think
I could have added anything

687
00:30:13,520 --> 00:30:14,145
to the subject.

688
00:30:14,145 --> 00:30:19,930

689
00:30:19,930 --> 00:30:24,430
Of course, the Hungarians
and the Germans

690
00:30:24,430 --> 00:30:27,430
did a terrific job
with the propaganda

691
00:30:27,430 --> 00:30:30,880
as to tell us that it's
not going to be bad.

692
00:30:30,880 --> 00:30:34,130
Even if we are taken to camps,
we're going to be together.

693
00:30:34,130 --> 00:30:37,750
It's going to be a working
type of environment.

694
00:30:37,750 --> 00:30:42,220
And none of us heard about
Auschwitz, none of us,

695
00:30:42,220 --> 00:30:47,980
although Auschwitz
was there from 1939.

696
00:30:47,980 --> 00:30:52,390
We didn't have the internet

that we can look up

697

00:30:52,390 --> 00:30:55,220

what's going on in the world.

698

00:30:55,220 --> 00:30:57,735

So all those death camps

were really still secret

699

00:30:57,735 --> 00:30:58,840

at that point?

700

00:30:58,840 --> 00:30:59,590

I beg your pardon?

701

00:30:59,590 --> 00:31:02,140

All those death camps

were still secret to you?

702

00:31:02,140 --> 00:31:02,960

Oh, yes.

703

00:31:02,960 --> 00:31:03,700

Oh, yes.

704

00:31:03,700 --> 00:31:06,910

It was nonexistent

to us, nonexistent.

705

00:31:06,910 --> 00:31:12,370

Now, was it not true after

Poland was taken over in 1939--

706

00:31:12,370 --> 00:31:13,540

Which was close to us--

707

00:31:13,540 --> 00:31:18,070

That Polish refugees would come

to these different countries

708

00:31:18,070 --> 00:31:21,000

and they would tell

stories about how

709

00:31:21,000 --> 00:31:22,000
they were being treated?

710

00:31:22,000 --> 00:31:23,110
Correct.

711

00:31:23,110 --> 00:31:26,440
But we felt-- my
father and mother

712

00:31:26,440 --> 00:31:28,907
and the rest of the
Jewish population--

713

00:31:28,907 --> 00:31:30,490
that this is not
going to happen here.

714

00:31:30,490 --> 00:31:32,240
It will not happen in Hungary.

715

00:31:32,240 --> 00:31:33,310
Why not?

716

00:31:33,310 --> 00:31:36,340
Because they left us alone
for four or five years.

717

00:31:36,340 --> 00:31:40,060
Why would they start now?

718

00:31:40,060 --> 00:31:42,010
We were naive.

719

00:31:42,010 --> 00:31:43,750
We were very naive.

720

00:31:43,750 --> 00:31:46,300
On the other hand,
the evidence each day

721
00:31:46,300 --> 00:31:50,020
said the way we're viewing
this is probably correct.

722
00:31:50,020 --> 00:31:51,850
They are going to
leave us alone.

723
00:31:51,850 --> 00:31:55,540
Well, we started--
we started thinking

724
00:31:55,540 --> 00:32:02,470
about real deep trouble
in January of '44,

725
00:32:02,470 --> 00:32:07,355
because we knew that the
Germans are losing the war.

726
00:32:07,355 --> 00:32:08,980
And they're just not
going to leave us.

727
00:32:08,980 --> 00:32:13,060
Or we didn't think they're going
to leave us there and go down

728
00:32:13,060 --> 00:32:15,160
without us go down with them.

729
00:32:15,160 --> 00:32:19,160

730
00:32:19,160 --> 00:32:21,890
So your father was trying
to make preparations.

731
00:32:21,890 --> 00:32:23,330
He bought certificates.

732

00:32:23,330 --> 00:32:26,480
He thought about
hiding you on the farm.

733
00:32:26,480 --> 00:32:28,640
Did he have other
contingency plans?

734
00:32:28,640 --> 00:32:31,970
No, no, no.

735
00:32:31,970 --> 00:32:37,100
Some of the Jewish friends just
took off into the mountains

736
00:32:37,100 --> 00:32:39,860
to hide.

737
00:32:39,860 --> 00:32:47,300
But my father was super naive,
along with everybody else.

738
00:32:47,300 --> 00:32:50,330
See, he was an officer
in the Hungarian army

739
00:32:50,330 --> 00:32:54,380
during the First
World War, decorated.

740
00:32:54,380 --> 00:32:59,180
And he was-- he was naive.

741
00:32:59,180 --> 00:33:00,140
That's the only thing.

742
00:33:00,140 --> 00:33:01,990
Did he think that
would protect him?

743
00:33:01,990 --> 00:33:02,890
Many people did.

744

00:33:02,890 --> 00:33:03,390

Yes.

745

00:33:03,390 --> 00:33:03,890

Sure.

746

00:33:03,890 --> 00:33:05,390

Yes.

747

00:33:05,390 --> 00:33:07,010

What did your father
think of people

748

00:33:07,010 --> 00:33:08,350

who took off for the mountains?

749

00:33:08,350 --> 00:33:10,465

Did he think they
were hysterical?

750

00:33:10,465 --> 00:33:12,590

He thought they're making
a mistake because they're

751

00:33:12,590 --> 00:33:14,270

going to get caught.

752

00:33:14,270 --> 00:33:15,528

And most of them were caught.

753

00:33:15,528 --> 00:33:17,820

In other words, he saw it as
more dangerous to do that.

754

00:33:17,820 --> 00:33:19,100

Absolutely.

755

00:33:19,100 --> 00:33:21,260

Yeah, he took the easy way out.

756

00:33:21,260 --> 00:33:25,580

He says, listen, there are
10,000 Jews in this town.

757
00:33:25,580 --> 00:33:27,020
And we're going
to be one of them.

758
00:33:27,020 --> 00:33:29,890

759
00:33:29,890 --> 00:33:31,488
Incidentally, he was also--

760
00:33:31,488 --> 00:33:32,780
I don't know if I mentioned it.

761
00:33:32,780 --> 00:33:37,430
He was prominent in
the Jewish community.

762
00:33:37,430 --> 00:33:42,770
He was the president of the
Jewish Federation there.

763
00:33:42,770 --> 00:33:46,280
And he said, I can't
do these things

764
00:33:46,280 --> 00:33:49,710
without letting down my people.

765
00:33:49,710 --> 00:33:51,370
He didn't want to
set a bad example.

766
00:33:51,370 --> 00:33:53,130
Yes.

767
00:33:53,130 --> 00:33:56,210
So he felt a considerable
responsibility.

768

00:33:56,210 --> 00:33:58,370
Correct.

769
00:33:58,370 --> 00:33:59,380
How about your mother?

770
00:33:59,380 --> 00:34:02,460
Did she agree with him on his--

771
00:34:02,460 --> 00:34:09,570
I think so, because we didn't
hear any controversy about it.

772
00:34:09,570 --> 00:34:13,130
So when did it become
apparent that this was not

773
00:34:13,130 --> 00:34:15,190
going to work?

774
00:34:15,190 --> 00:34:22,850
Apparently, it became apparent
I believe in March of 1944,

775
00:34:22,850 --> 00:34:25,744
when we had to start
wearing the yellow armband.

776
00:34:25,744 --> 00:34:28,940

777
00:34:28,940 --> 00:34:30,792
You would have to
wear it on your arm?

778
00:34:30,792 --> 00:34:31,696
Mm-hmm.

779
00:34:31,696 --> 00:34:32,820
On my jacket and--

780
00:34:32,820 --> 00:34:33,320

Jacket.

781
00:34:33,320 --> 00:34:35,480
Yes.

782
00:34:35,480 --> 00:34:37,918
There were restrictions
as to how late

783
00:34:37,918 --> 00:34:39,710
we can be out on the
street in the evening.

784
00:34:39,710 --> 00:34:42,500

785
00:34:42,500 --> 00:34:47,648
And then I think
in April, we were

786
00:34:47,648 --> 00:34:49,190
notified that they're
going to put us

787
00:34:49,190 --> 00:34:51,739
in a ghetto in that city.

788
00:34:51,739 --> 00:34:55,520

789
00:34:55,520 --> 00:34:59,000
And that's where we wound
up sometimes in May,

790
00:34:59,000 --> 00:35:05,210
all Jews in that brickyard.

791
00:35:05,210 --> 00:35:08,168
How many people you
think were there?

792
00:35:08,168 --> 00:35:11,390

Well, about 10,000.

793

00:35:11,390 --> 00:35:13,670

All of your family?

794

00:35:13,670 --> 00:35:14,615

Yes.

795

00:35:14,615 --> 00:35:15,920

Your mother, your father--

796

00:35:15,920 --> 00:35:18,080

Mother, father, sisters,
and my grandmother.

797

00:35:18,080 --> 00:35:21,410

Now, it may have been
more because there

798

00:35:21,410 --> 00:35:25,190

were a lot of Jews in the
vicinity, in little villages

799

00:35:25,190 --> 00:35:26,300

around our city.

800

00:35:26,300 --> 00:35:28,780

And they were also brought
into the same place.

801

00:35:28,780 --> 00:35:33,080

And what were the
conditions like there?

802

00:35:33,080 --> 00:35:35,180

What can I tell you?

803

00:35:35,180 --> 00:35:37,280

It wasn't awful.

804

00:35:37,280 --> 00:35:45,890

It was not awful, because we

had the hut, a big hut and beds,

805

00:35:45,890 --> 00:35:48,620

not real beds--

like you go camping.

806

00:35:48,620 --> 00:35:49,530

Cots.

807

00:35:49,530 --> 00:35:50,030

Cots.

808

00:35:50,030 --> 00:35:53,070

809

00:35:53,070 --> 00:35:54,480

Heat?

810

00:35:54,480 --> 00:35:55,950

I don't remember.

811

00:35:55,950 --> 00:35:57,310

Of course, it was April.

812

00:35:57,310 --> 00:35:59,320

We were there April, May, June.

813

00:35:59,320 --> 00:35:59,820

I don't--

814

00:35:59,820 --> 00:36:01,195

It might not have
been that cold.

815

00:36:01,195 --> 00:36:02,520

Yeah.

816

00:36:02,520 --> 00:36:04,190

Matter of fact, as
I'm thinking here,

817

00:36:04,190 --> 00:36:07,000

I don't even remember
us cooking separately.

818

00:36:07,000 --> 00:36:09,100

I think it was--

819

00:36:09,100 --> 00:36:09,600

Communal--

820

00:36:09,600 --> 00:36:12,290

A community kitchen there.

821

00:36:12,290 --> 00:36:14,160

I can't remember that.

822

00:36:14,160 --> 00:36:15,700

Was there enough to eat?

823

00:36:15,700 --> 00:36:16,890

Yes.

824

00:36:16,890 --> 00:36:17,730

Yes.

825

00:36:17,730 --> 00:36:22,687

It wasn't great food, but I
don't remember being hungry.

826

00:36:22,687 --> 00:36:23,520

Were you frightened?

827

00:36:23,520 --> 00:36:25,152

You would remember, I'm sure.

828

00:36:25,152 --> 00:36:25,860

I would remember.

829

00:36:25,860 --> 00:36:26,880

Yes.

830

00:36:26,880 --> 00:36:28,980
Not in a ghetto.

831
00:36:28,980 --> 00:36:30,610
Were you frightened?

832
00:36:30,610 --> 00:36:32,990
I don't-- I was not.

833
00:36:32,990 --> 00:36:35,790
Were any members of your
family, as far as you knew?

834
00:36:35,790 --> 00:36:36,400
Frightened?

835
00:36:36,400 --> 00:36:36,900
Yes.

836
00:36:36,900 --> 00:36:41,430
No, because keep in mind,
they played that game

837
00:36:41,430 --> 00:36:43,050
till the very end--

838
00:36:43,050 --> 00:36:43,690
very end.

839
00:36:43,690 --> 00:36:45,190
That this was going
to be all right.

840
00:36:45,190 --> 00:36:46,773
We're going to keep
families together.

841
00:36:46,773 --> 00:36:47,940
Yes.

842
00:36:47,940 --> 00:36:51,520
Even when we were put

in the cattle cars,

843
00:36:51,520 --> 00:36:54,060
we thought we're going
to a camp where we're

844
00:36:54,060 --> 00:36:55,570
going to be working together.

845
00:36:55,570 --> 00:36:57,220
In the east somewhere.

846
00:36:57,220 --> 00:36:57,720
Yes.

847
00:36:57,720 --> 00:36:58,803
That's what they told you.

848
00:36:58,803 --> 00:37:01,070
That's what they told us.

849
00:37:01,070 --> 00:37:04,170
Did you get worried when you
saw that the train was not

850
00:37:04,170 --> 00:37:06,150
a normal train?

851
00:37:06,150 --> 00:37:06,960
Yes.

852
00:37:06,960 --> 00:37:08,760
Yes.

853
00:37:08,760 --> 00:37:09,920
Yes.

854
00:37:09,920 --> 00:37:13,440
We were in the cattle
car for I believe--

855

00:37:13,440 --> 00:37:14,700
it seemed like forever.

856
00:37:14,700 --> 00:37:17,730
But I understand
it was three days.

857
00:37:17,730 --> 00:37:22,290
How long were you in the ghetto
before you were transported?

858
00:37:22,290 --> 00:37:23,597
Couple of months, I think.

859
00:37:23,597 --> 00:37:24,930
It may have been just six weeks.

860
00:37:24,930 --> 00:37:26,930
It may have been--

861
00:37:26,930 --> 00:37:28,500
Was there any work there?

862
00:37:28,500 --> 00:37:29,490
No.

863
00:37:29,490 --> 00:37:30,870
People just sat and--

864
00:37:30,870 --> 00:37:31,950
Right.

865
00:37:31,950 --> 00:37:34,110
Nothing.

866
00:37:34,110 --> 00:37:37,290
What was that place where
the ghetto was set up?

867
00:37:37,290 --> 00:37:40,610

868

00:37:40,610 --> 00:37:45,420

They did bricks there, a
brickyard I guess you call it.

869

00:37:45,420 --> 00:37:46,830

In the town.

870

00:37:46,830 --> 00:37:48,480

And outside of town.

871

00:37:48,480 --> 00:37:50,190

So they just walled it off and--

872

00:37:50,190 --> 00:37:51,030

Walled it off--

873

00:37:51,030 --> 00:37:53,110

And brought in cots and
said, you live here now.

874

00:37:53,110 --> 00:37:54,630

Yes.

875

00:37:54,630 --> 00:37:59,190

And we heard later that in
almost every city in Hungary,

876

00:37:59,190 --> 00:38:00,960

they used the same format.

877

00:38:00,960 --> 00:38:04,680

And you left-- had to leave
all your possessions behind?

878

00:38:04,680 --> 00:38:05,610

Oh, yes.

879

00:38:05,610 --> 00:38:06,348

Oh, yes.

880

00:38:06,348 --> 00:38:07,890

How much notice did
you have that you

881
00:38:07,890 --> 00:38:11,130
had to go to the ghetto?

882
00:38:11,130 --> 00:38:14,010
I believe a couple
of days, three days.

883
00:38:14,010 --> 00:38:15,690
And everything stayed behind.

884
00:38:15,690 --> 00:38:18,670
That must have been
fantastically difficult.

885
00:38:18,670 --> 00:38:21,990
And here again, I
remember I was--

886
00:38:21,990 --> 00:38:23,610
I want to emphasize it.

887
00:38:23,610 --> 00:38:29,700
Although I was 14, I was still a
child, because I never had to--

888
00:38:29,700 --> 00:38:34,650
my sons when they were 14
knew more about the world

889
00:38:34,650 --> 00:38:36,800
than I did when I was 14.

890
00:38:36,800 --> 00:38:39,180
So you knew too
little to be afraid?

891
00:38:39,180 --> 00:38:39,680
Yes.

892

00:38:39,680 --> 00:38:39,990
Is that what you're saying?

893
00:38:39,990 --> 00:38:40,530
Yes.

894
00:38:40,530 --> 00:38:42,180
Well, I'm thinking
about your mother,

895
00:38:42,180 --> 00:38:45,960
just the ordinary things of
life that you accumulate,

896
00:38:45,960 --> 00:38:49,650
your pots, your pans, your
sheitel if she wore one,

897
00:38:49,650 --> 00:38:51,020
whatever it is.

898
00:38:51,020 --> 00:38:53,550
It was all left
behind in our home.

899
00:38:53,550 --> 00:38:55,110
Was she very upset?

900
00:38:55,110 --> 00:38:55,798
I don't know.

901
00:38:55,798 --> 00:38:56,590
You don't remember?

902
00:38:56,590 --> 00:38:58,790
I really don't know.

903
00:38:58,790 --> 00:38:59,790
I wish I could tell you.

904
00:38:59,790 --> 00:39:03,330
I don't want to say

something that--

905

00:39:03,330 --> 00:39:05,370

If you don't remember,
maybe she wasn't.

906

00:39:05,370 --> 00:39:06,750

I don't want to--

907

00:39:06,750 --> 00:39:13,590

Probably my father was most
upset about these things,

908

00:39:13,590 --> 00:39:15,930

because he was very quiet
throughout the whole time,

909

00:39:15,930 --> 00:39:17,070

very quiet.

910

00:39:17,070 --> 00:39:18,780

Had they taken the bank away?

911

00:39:18,780 --> 00:39:19,650

Oh, yes.

912

00:39:19,650 --> 00:39:21,600

And they took the farm away?

913

00:39:21,600 --> 00:39:22,658

That's right.

914

00:39:22,658 --> 00:39:24,075

Before you were
put in the ghetto?

915

00:39:24,075 --> 00:39:25,260

Yes.

916

00:39:25,260 --> 00:39:26,130

How much before?

917

00:39:26,130 --> 00:39:26,850

Do you know?

918

00:39:26,850 --> 00:39:28,890

Maybe six months before.

919

00:39:28,890 --> 00:39:29,730

Yes

920

00:39:29,730 --> 00:39:32,110

So for six months, there
was nothing for him to do.

921

00:39:32,110 --> 00:39:32,770

Nothing.

922

00:39:32,770 --> 00:39:33,270

Nothing.

923

00:39:33,270 --> 00:39:37,350

He was just going to the temple.

924

00:39:37,350 --> 00:39:39,230

And they had offices
there and worried

925

00:39:39,230 --> 00:39:44,340

about who's going to do what,
how are they going to organize.

926

00:39:44,340 --> 00:39:48,330

This must have been a crushing
transformation for people, huh?

927

00:39:48,330 --> 00:39:50,670

Unbelievable.

928

00:39:50,670 --> 00:39:53,730

Everything that you know how
to do is taken away from you.

929

00:39:53,730 --> 00:39:56,250
And suddenly, you have
all this free time.

930
00:39:56,250 --> 00:39:57,690
And you don't have
anything to do.

931
00:39:57,690 --> 00:39:58,190
No.

932
00:39:58,190 --> 00:39:59,520
And they did it gradually.

933
00:39:59,520 --> 00:40:02,430
They didn't just say,
today, everything is fine.

934
00:40:02,430 --> 00:40:05,040
And tomorrow, it's going
to be a different world.

935
00:40:05,040 --> 00:40:07,140
They did everything gradually.

936
00:40:07,140 --> 00:40:10,650
They were excellent in that.

937
00:40:10,650 --> 00:40:14,970
I imagine for the adults
who knew the implications

938
00:40:14,970 --> 00:40:17,790
or could imagine them,
I imagine your father--

939
00:40:17,790 --> 00:40:21,750
your father's silence, he must
have been terrified and not

940
00:40:21,750 --> 00:40:23,880
wanting to frighten you.

941

00:40:23,880 --> 00:40:26,970

And he probably had
a guilty conscience

942

00:40:26,970 --> 00:40:30,990

that he didn't do
something about preventing

943

00:40:30,990 --> 00:40:33,510

this situation.

944

00:40:33,510 --> 00:40:35,772

And here again,
I'm just guessing.

945

00:40:35,772 --> 00:40:36,870

As if he could.

946

00:40:36,870 --> 00:40:39,850

I never had a chance
to ask him later on.

947

00:40:39,850 --> 00:40:44,310

So you were on the
train for three days?

948

00:40:44,310 --> 00:40:48,840

I believe it was three
days from Umgvar, which

949

00:40:48,840 --> 00:40:52,050

was the ghetto, to Auschwitz.

950

00:40:52,050 --> 00:40:55,830

Now, how did you get from
the ghetto to the train?

951

00:40:55,830 --> 00:40:57,610

By buses.

952

00:40:57,610 --> 00:41:00,660

It was just like two

or three kilometers.

953

00:41:00,660 --> 00:41:03,312

It was very close for
the train station.

954

00:41:03,312 --> 00:41:04,770

They didn't make
people walk there.

955

00:41:04,770 --> 00:41:06,090

No.

956

00:41:06,090 --> 00:41:08,280

No, I don't think so.

957

00:41:08,280 --> 00:41:09,450

But it may have been.

958

00:41:09,450 --> 00:41:11,010

I don't remember.

959

00:41:11,010 --> 00:41:13,110

I don't remember.

960

00:41:13,110 --> 00:41:15,780

Do you remember anything
about that trip?

961

00:41:15,780 --> 00:41:17,710

You know that I just
remembered something

962

00:41:17,710 --> 00:41:18,960

that-- since you mentioned it.

963

00:41:18,960 --> 00:41:22,980

I think we did walk
there because we

964

00:41:22,980 --> 00:41:30,930

walked past our home, our

house, in rows of rows of Jews.

965

00:41:30,930 --> 00:41:32,550

And I remember
looking at the house.

966

00:41:32,550 --> 00:41:35,430

And some of the
people who lived in--

967

00:41:35,430 --> 00:41:39,030

Gentiles-- were out there
standing and looking at us.

968

00:41:39,030 --> 00:41:41,590

People had taken
over your house.

969

00:41:41,590 --> 00:41:44,310

Yes.

970

00:41:44,310 --> 00:41:47,190

Well, I don't know if
this particular family

971

00:41:47,190 --> 00:41:49,020

took over our apartment.

972

00:41:49,020 --> 00:41:51,930

But that they were
living in this building.

973

00:41:51,930 --> 00:41:52,740

It was ours.

974

00:41:52,740 --> 00:41:56,650

975

00:41:56,650 --> 00:41:59,490

Do you remember anything
else about the trip?

976

00:41:59,490 --> 00:42:02,160

A trip to--

977

00:42:02,160 --> 00:42:03,600

On the train.

978

00:42:03,600 --> 00:42:06,450

Well, yes.

979

00:42:06,450 --> 00:42:09,400

I remember there was
a can of something

980

00:42:09,400 --> 00:42:12,570

where it was our bathroom.

981

00:42:12,570 --> 00:42:17,970

And I believe there were
like 40 or 50 people.

982

00:42:17,970 --> 00:42:22,660

Sometimes, I read that in
some places, they have 200.

983

00:42:22,660 --> 00:42:24,480

I don't know how it's possible.

984

00:42:24,480 --> 00:42:28,440

But my grandmother was there.

985

00:42:28,440 --> 00:42:31,470

We were all concerned about her.

986

00:42:31,470 --> 00:42:32,080

Her health--

987

00:42:32,080 --> 00:42:33,755

She was almost 80, I think.

988

00:42:33,755 --> 00:42:36,640

989

00:42:36,640 --> 00:42:39,180

Was there room to sit down?

990

00:42:39,180 --> 00:42:40,470

There were benches.

991

00:42:40,470 --> 00:42:43,170

You had benches, at least.

992

00:42:43,170 --> 00:42:45,090

Benches.

993

00:42:45,090 --> 00:42:47,160

Could you get any
sense of where you

994

00:42:47,160 --> 00:42:52,700

were going by seeing maybe the
signs in different towns or--

995

00:42:52,700 --> 00:42:53,200

No.

996

00:42:53,200 --> 00:42:54,240

No.

997

00:42:54,240 --> 00:42:54,857

No.

998

00:42:54,857 --> 00:42:56,190

So no idea where you were going.

999

00:42:56,190 --> 00:42:56,910

No.

1000

00:42:56,910 --> 00:43:01,620

They told us we're going
somewhere in Poland

1001

00:43:01,620 --> 00:43:04,110

where we'll be together

and we'll be working.

1002

00:43:04,110 --> 00:43:07,900

1003

00:43:07,900 --> 00:43:14,980

So after Umgvar, there were
maybe three or four cities

1004

00:43:14,980 --> 00:43:16,600

where this thing stopped.

1005

00:43:16,600 --> 00:43:20,770

They probably picked
up some more customers.

1006

00:43:20,770 --> 00:43:22,030

Paying or non-paying?

1007

00:43:22,030 --> 00:43:22,850

Pardon me?

1008

00:43:22,850 --> 00:43:24,220

Yes.

1009

00:43:24,220 --> 00:43:29,800

But perhaps after eight or 10
hours, it was no man's land.

1010

00:43:29,800 --> 00:43:32,830

We didn't know where we were.

1011

00:43:32,830 --> 00:43:35,840

Can you describe the arrival?

1012

00:43:35,840 --> 00:43:36,440

Oh, I will.

1013

00:43:36,440 --> 00:43:39,460

But I'd like to take a
break for a few minutes.

1014
00:43:39,460 --> 00:43:39,960
Sure.

1015
00:43:39,960 --> 00:43:46,040

1016
00:43:46,040 --> 00:43:52,130
We were in the middle of
discussing the train ride

1017
00:43:52,130 --> 00:43:57,380
and wanted to ask if
you could describe

1018
00:43:57,380 --> 00:44:00,080
how it was when the
train arrived at wherever

1019
00:44:00,080 --> 00:44:03,680
the destination was.

1020
00:44:03,680 --> 00:44:07,550
Now comes the difficult part.

1021
00:44:07,550 --> 00:44:10,100
We arrived in Auschwitz.

1022
00:44:10,100 --> 00:44:18,350
We were told to separate
men and women immediately.

1023
00:44:18,350 --> 00:44:20,990

1024
00:44:20,990 --> 00:44:26,400
And then they told us under age
whatever-- eight, 10, whatever,

1025
00:44:26,400 --> 00:44:28,220
I don't remember the number--

1026

00:44:28,220 --> 00:44:30,510
to make a third group.

1027
00:44:30,510 --> 00:44:34,820
And I remember staying with
my father and my brother,

1028
00:44:34,820 --> 00:44:38,450
three of us, together.

1029
00:44:38,450 --> 00:44:42,680
I guess my age or
the way I looked,

1030
00:44:42,680 --> 00:44:44,690
they felt that I
can do some work.

1031
00:44:44,690 --> 00:44:48,950
That was the emphasis, who
can work and who cannot work.

1032
00:44:48,950 --> 00:44:52,670
Of course, it turned
out to be a lie.

1033
00:44:52,670 --> 00:44:54,590
How old would your
father have been then?

1034
00:44:54,590 --> 00:44:55,740
Do you know?

1035
00:44:55,740 --> 00:44:57,500
Yes.

1036
00:44:57,500 --> 00:45:04,270
My father was 56
of 55, 55 or 56.

1037
00:45:04,270 --> 00:45:09,090

1038

00:45:09,090 --> 00:45:13,860

Now, that's the last time I
saw my mother and my sisters

1039

00:45:13,860 --> 00:45:18,650

and my grandmother, because
they went into another group.

1040

00:45:18,650 --> 00:45:20,220

And your twin?

1041

00:45:20,220 --> 00:45:22,290

Sister went with the women.

1042

00:45:22,290 --> 00:45:23,080

With the women.

1043

00:45:23,080 --> 00:45:23,580

Yeah.

1044

00:45:23,580 --> 00:45:27,200

1045

00:45:27,200 --> 00:45:29,730

Then we walked into the camp.

1046

00:45:29,730 --> 00:45:36,980

And I remember going into
this huge, huge dressing room.

1047

00:45:36,980 --> 00:45:39,420

They took all our clothes away.

1048

00:45:39,420 --> 00:45:45,800

And they gave us prisoner's
outfit and cut our hair.

1049

00:45:45,800 --> 00:45:49,580

And now, we were
prisoners of Auschwitz.

1050

00:45:49,580 --> 00:45:51,500
No tattoo.

1051
00:45:51,500 --> 00:45:52,380
No.

1052
00:45:52,380 --> 00:45:53,300
No.

1053
00:45:53,300 --> 00:45:54,890
Some did get tattooed.

1054
00:45:54,890 --> 00:45:56,300
Some didn't.

1055
00:45:56,300 --> 00:46:00,180
Do you know what the criteria
was for who got it and who

1056
00:46:00,180 --> 00:46:00,680
didn't?

1057
00:46:00,680 --> 00:46:01,222
I don't know.

1058
00:46:01,222 --> 00:46:05,960
I guess I asked a
few people later on.

1059
00:46:05,960 --> 00:46:09,440
Those who remained in Auschwitz
for an extended period

1060
00:46:09,440 --> 00:46:10,190
were tattooed.

1061
00:46:10,190 --> 00:46:10,880
We stayed there.

1062
00:46:10,880 --> 00:46:13,460
We were there, I think,
for three weeks maybe.

1063
00:46:13,460 --> 00:46:14,390
It may have been four.

1064
00:46:14,390 --> 00:46:17,450
It may have been two.

1065
00:46:17,450 --> 00:46:23,720
When you have a good time,
you forget about days.

1066
00:46:23,720 --> 00:46:26,380
Were you still together with
your father and your brother?

1067
00:46:26,380 --> 00:46:30,340
I was together with my
father and my brother.

1068
00:46:30,340 --> 00:46:37,400
Then at one point, they asked
for volunteers for a project.

1069
00:46:37,400 --> 00:46:41,550
And my brother volunteered.

1070
00:46:41,550 --> 00:46:42,050
Why?

1071
00:46:42,050 --> 00:46:43,670
I don't know.

1072
00:46:43,670 --> 00:46:46,010
But then we got
separated from him.

1073
00:46:46,010 --> 00:46:47,450
You know what kind of project?

1074
00:46:47,450 --> 00:46:48,260
I don't remember.

1075
00:46:48,260 --> 00:46:51,270

1076
00:46:51,270 --> 00:46:53,135
And I stayed with my father.

1077
00:46:53,135 --> 00:46:56,440

1078
00:46:56,440 --> 00:47:01,440
And what would the
days be like there?

1079
00:47:01,440 --> 00:47:02,900
Boring.

1080
00:47:02,900 --> 00:47:06,875
Now, that's when we
start getting hungry.

1081
00:47:06,875 --> 00:47:07,500
[PETER SNEEZES]

1082
00:47:07,500 --> 00:47:08,220
Pardon me.

1083
00:47:08,220 --> 00:47:10,950
Bless you.

1084
00:47:10,950 --> 00:47:15,270
There's very little
food, very little food.

1085
00:47:15,270 --> 00:47:19,990

1086
00:47:19,990 --> 00:47:23,610
And the barracks
were not comfortable.

1087
00:47:23,610 --> 00:47:26,230

Now, this was summer?

1088

00:47:26,230 --> 00:47:30,370

This was summer, in
early June of 1944.

1089

00:47:30,370 --> 00:47:32,290

Was it hot?

1090

00:47:32,290 --> 00:47:34,020

I don't remember
it being too hot.

1091

00:47:34,020 --> 00:47:37,600

1092

00:47:37,600 --> 00:47:39,640

They didn't try
to make you work.

1093

00:47:39,640 --> 00:47:41,290

Not in Auschwitz.

1094

00:47:41,290 --> 00:47:45,850

Not in Auschwitz,
just roaming around.

1095

00:47:45,850 --> 00:47:51,293

Matter of fact, when we were
told I believe in three weeks,

1096

00:47:51,293 --> 00:47:53,460

after three weeks, that
we're going to go somewhere,

1097

00:47:53,460 --> 00:47:56,590

we were happy about it,
because we're thinking,

1098

00:47:56,590 --> 00:47:59,770

well, this is going to
be something better.

1099

00:47:59,770 --> 00:48:05,430

Did you have any idea
about extermination then?

1100

00:48:05,430 --> 00:48:06,760

No.

1101

00:48:06,760 --> 00:48:07,750

And it was right there.

1102

00:48:07,750 --> 00:48:10,860

1103

00:48:10,860 --> 00:48:11,820

No.

1104

00:48:11,820 --> 00:48:13,950

Was it crowded at that
point in Auschwitz?

1105

00:48:13,950 --> 00:48:14,500

Mm-hmm.

1106

00:48:14,500 --> 00:48:15,420

It was.

1107

00:48:15,420 --> 00:48:18,450

Yeah, because I
think we were if not

1108

00:48:18,450 --> 00:48:22,950

the last transport, very
close to the last one.

1109

00:48:22,950 --> 00:48:25,320

Were there prisoners there
from other countries?

1110

00:48:25,320 --> 00:48:30,420

Yes, but mainly the
Hungarians, mainly Hungarians.

1111

00:48:30,420 --> 00:48:35,490

I remember seeing people
that I knew from my town.

1112

00:48:35,490 --> 00:48:44,350

1113

00:48:44,350 --> 00:48:47,830

Were you together
with other people

1114

00:48:47,830 --> 00:48:50,260

who had already been
there for a while?

1115

00:48:50,260 --> 00:48:53,380

Yes, but not for
too long, perhaps

1116

00:48:53,380 --> 00:48:57,670

with the previous transport, a
week or two weeks before that.

1117

00:48:57,670 --> 00:49:00,820

Would they be reluctant to tell
you what was going on there?

1118

00:49:00,820 --> 00:49:05,920

Or were people reluctant to
hear what they had to tell?

1119

00:49:05,920 --> 00:49:10,310

Well, when you say "they,"
we had no contact with them,

1120

00:49:10,310 --> 00:49:13,060

except three times
a day when they

1121

00:49:13,060 --> 00:49:15,590

told us to line up because
they're going to count us,

1122

00:49:15,590 --> 00:49:16,870
the German soldiers.

1123

00:49:16,870 --> 00:49:20,280

1124

00:49:20,280 --> 00:49:24,730
And there was no conversation as
to what is the situation here.

1125

00:49:24,730 --> 00:49:26,000
What are we doing?

1126

00:49:26,000 --> 00:49:28,192
What are you doing?

1127

00:49:28,192 --> 00:49:30,400
So in other words, when you
were free to roam around,

1128

00:49:30,400 --> 00:49:32,800
you were free to roam around
with other people who had

1129

00:49:32,800 --> 00:49:34,570
come there when you had come.

1130

00:49:34,570 --> 00:49:35,200
Right.

1131

00:49:35,200 --> 00:49:38,730
Not with people who'd been there
for some months or anything.

1132

00:49:38,730 --> 00:49:40,510
No.

1133

00:49:40,510 --> 00:49:43,000
So in effect, they
kept you isolated.

1134

00:49:43,000 --> 00:49:44,380
Right.

1135
00:49:44,380 --> 00:49:47,680
Did you see people who
were very thin from not

1136
00:49:47,680 --> 00:49:49,090
having eaten for a long time?

1137
00:49:49,090 --> 00:49:52,540

1138
00:49:52,540 --> 00:49:54,720
I don't remember.

1139
00:49:54,720 --> 00:49:55,770
I don't remember.

1140
00:49:55,770 --> 00:49:57,510
Did you see brutality there?

1141
00:49:57,510 --> 00:49:59,380
No.

1142
00:49:59,380 --> 00:50:01,710
No.

1143
00:50:01,710 --> 00:50:06,460
So it looked better than
one might have thought.

1144
00:50:06,460 --> 00:50:06,960
Yeah.

1145
00:50:06,960 --> 00:50:10,860
But we knew that we're
not going into a place

1146
00:50:10,860 --> 00:50:13,650
where you're going to be
together and we'll be working

1147
00:50:13,650 --> 00:50:15,480
and the family's going
to stay together.

1148
00:50:15,480 --> 00:50:17,160
We knew there was
something different.

1149
00:50:17,160 --> 00:50:18,880
Because you'd already
been divided up.

1150
00:50:18,880 --> 00:50:20,730
That's right.

1151
00:50:20,730 --> 00:50:22,140
Yes.

1152
00:50:22,140 --> 00:50:23,730
And we had nothing left.

1153
00:50:23,730 --> 00:50:27,900
Even the little things that we
brought along on the train ride

1154
00:50:27,900 --> 00:50:31,560
were taken away from-- we
had nothing left, nothing.

1155
00:50:31,560 --> 00:50:33,030
Did you have a spoon?

1156
00:50:33,030 --> 00:50:35,743
Yes, from what we got from them.

1157
00:50:35,743 --> 00:50:36,660
They gave you a spoon?

1158
00:50:36,660 --> 00:50:39,030
Yeah.

1159

00:50:39,030 --> 00:50:40,770

And the shoes--

1160

00:50:40,770 --> 00:50:44,363

I guess that's the only thing
that we kept were the shoes.

1161

00:50:44,363 --> 00:50:45,530

They let you keep the shoes?

1162

00:50:45,530 --> 00:50:46,080

Yes.

1163

00:50:46,080 --> 00:50:50,450

I remember they
didn't last long.

1164

00:50:50,450 --> 00:50:52,950

But we kept the shoes.

1165

00:50:52,950 --> 00:50:55,740

Did you get sick there?

1166

00:50:55,740 --> 00:50:59,570

I don't remember being sick.

1167

00:50:59,570 --> 00:51:02,800

Now, you're probably going to be
surprised from my story that--

1168

00:51:02,800 --> 00:51:05,670

and my wife every
once in a while

1169

00:51:05,670 --> 00:51:07,680

tries to bring up problems.

1170

00:51:07,680 --> 00:51:10,800

And basically, I
didn't experience

1171

00:51:10,800 --> 00:51:14,550
terrible, terrible
things because I was--

1172
00:51:14,550 --> 00:51:19,710
they called us the
[GERMAN],, in the child camp.

1173
00:51:19,710 --> 00:51:23,020
I spent a lot of time
with other children.

1174
00:51:23,020 --> 00:51:25,830
And they treated us
a little bit better.

1175
00:51:25,830 --> 00:51:29,370
What age would that be?

1176
00:51:29,370 --> 00:51:36,630
Anywhere 13 to 16, because
if you were under 13,

1177
00:51:36,630 --> 00:51:39,510
you were put in a gas chamber.

1178
00:51:39,510 --> 00:51:45,480
And if you were over 16,
you went with the adults.

1179
00:51:45,480 --> 00:51:48,240
Now, I found out later--

1180
00:51:48,240 --> 00:51:51,690
just to make a little
story-- that I was together

1181
00:51:51,690 --> 00:51:52,890
with Elie Wiesel.

1182
00:51:52,890 --> 00:51:56,646

1183

00:51:56,646 --> 00:52:01,680

See, he was brought to
Auschwitz from Szatmar,

1184

00:52:01,680 --> 00:52:03,120

which is Romania--

1185

00:52:03,120 --> 00:52:07,260

actually Hungary, but
before Hungary was Romania.

1186

00:52:07,260 --> 00:52:09,960

He and I are the same age.

1187

00:52:09,960 --> 00:52:12,390

He was brought
there in June just

1188

00:52:12,390 --> 00:52:15,600

like we were, Auschwitz
for a couple of weeks, then

1189

00:52:15,600 --> 00:52:16,290

Buchenwald.

1190

00:52:16,290 --> 00:52:18,180

I'll get to it in a minute.

1191

00:52:18,180 --> 00:52:21,520

And we were in
the same building.

1192

00:52:21,520 --> 00:52:24,630

I met him a few years ago, and
we were talking about that.

1193

00:52:24,630 --> 00:52:31,510

1194

00:52:31,510 --> 00:52:39,370

Were you able to meet people
that you say had come from home

1195
00:52:39,370 --> 00:52:40,210
in the camp?

1196
00:52:40,210 --> 00:52:41,110
Yes.

1197
00:52:41,110 --> 00:52:43,000
And you could converse?

1198
00:52:43,000 --> 00:52:45,070
You could commiserate--

1199
00:52:45,070 --> 00:52:45,910
Correct--

1200
00:52:45,910 --> 00:52:47,550
And support each other?

1201
00:52:47,550 --> 00:52:49,450
Yes.

1202
00:52:49,450 --> 00:52:53,140
Did anyone else that
you were able to meet,

1203
00:52:53,140 --> 00:52:56,470
people your own age, were they
together with their father

1204
00:52:56,470 --> 00:52:57,460
like you were?

1205
00:52:57,460 --> 00:52:58,250
A few of us.

1206
00:52:58,250 --> 00:52:58,750
A few.

1207
00:52:58,750 --> 00:53:01,270
A few of us.

1208
00:53:01,270 --> 00:53:07,240
Were you worried about how
your father would survive?

1209
00:53:07,240 --> 00:53:07,740
No.

1210
00:53:07,740 --> 00:53:08,310
No.

1211
00:53:08,310 --> 00:53:10,060
No.

1212
00:53:10,060 --> 00:53:11,860
Somehow, you felt--

1213
00:53:11,860 --> 00:53:13,580
He was probably
worried about me,

1214
00:53:13,580 --> 00:53:15,030
but I was not worried about him.

1215
00:53:15,030 --> 00:53:17,830

1216
00:53:17,830 --> 00:53:19,690
The ignorance of youth, huh?

1217
00:53:19,690 --> 00:53:20,312
That's right.

1218
00:53:20,312 --> 00:53:21,770
You don't know what
to worry about.

1219
00:53:21,770 --> 00:53:22,150
That's right.

1220
00:53:22,150 --> 00:53:22,700

Yeah.

1221
00:53:22,700 --> 00:53:23,620
It's a blessing.

1222
00:53:23,620 --> 00:53:25,150
We took one day at a time.

1223
00:53:25,150 --> 00:53:28,650

1224
00:53:28,650 --> 00:53:33,240
So you didn't really see
much brutality, not there.

1225
00:53:33,240 --> 00:53:36,450
Not in Auschwitz.

1226
00:53:36,450 --> 00:53:39,467
So how was it that you then--

1227
00:53:39,467 --> 00:53:40,050
Then we were--

1228
00:53:40,050 --> 00:53:40,920
moved--

1229
00:53:40,920 --> 00:53:46,680
Put on a train again
into the Zeitz.

1230
00:53:46,680 --> 00:53:48,270
Into what?

1231
00:53:48,270 --> 00:53:48,930
Excuse me.

1232
00:53:48,930 --> 00:53:52,170
We were first in
Buchenwald, Buchenwald.

1233

00:53:52,170 --> 00:53:53,650

Were you told where
you were going?

1234

00:53:53,650 --> 00:53:54,150

No.

1235

00:53:54,150 --> 00:53:55,140

No.

1236

00:53:55,140 --> 00:53:57,390

They may have been,
but I don't remember.

1237

00:53:57,390 --> 00:53:59,832

We just knew that
we arrived there.

1238

00:53:59,832 --> 00:54:00,540

With your father?

1239

00:54:00,540 --> 00:54:01,200

Were you with your father?

1240

00:54:01,200 --> 00:54:02,130

With my father.

1241

00:54:02,130 --> 00:54:04,110

And then we got separated.

1242

00:54:04,110 --> 00:54:04,710

There?

1243

00:54:04,710 --> 00:54:05,670

Yes.

1244

00:54:05,670 --> 00:54:06,630

Immediately?

1245

00:54:06,630 --> 00:54:09,030

Immediately because he
went with the adults,

1246
00:54:09,030 --> 00:54:13,030
and I went with the children
in a separate building.

1247
00:54:13,030 --> 00:54:16,110
And I saw him every
day because he was just

1248
00:54:16,110 --> 00:54:19,410
yards from where we were.

1249
00:54:19,410 --> 00:54:26,920
And in Buchenwald, we were
working out digging ditches

1250
00:54:26,920 --> 00:54:28,680
and--

1251
00:54:28,680 --> 00:54:30,300
What were you doing?

1252
00:54:30,300 --> 00:54:37,380
I remember working with bricks
again and cleaning the German--

1253
00:54:37,380 --> 00:54:39,660
there were a lot of
German soldiers there,

1254
00:54:39,660 --> 00:54:42,000
the so-called guards.

1255
00:54:42,000 --> 00:54:45,690
And we were cleaning the houses.

1256
00:54:45,690 --> 00:54:47,130
But it wasn't terrible.

1257
00:54:47,130 --> 00:54:47,970
It was not terrible.

1258

00:54:47,970 --> 00:54:51,620

1259

00:54:51,620 --> 00:54:56,120

But before you ask me,
there was brutality,

1260

00:54:56,120 --> 00:55:01,820

because if somebody
didn't do enough work

1261

00:55:01,820 --> 00:55:04,340

or didn't want to work,
they just beat them up right

1262

00:55:04,340 --> 00:55:06,260

in front of us.

1263

00:55:06,260 --> 00:55:07,960

Would you witness
some things like that?

1264

00:55:07,960 --> 00:55:09,080

Oh, yes.

1265

00:55:09,080 --> 00:55:12,400

And that was basically
their way of telling us,

1266

00:55:12,400 --> 00:55:14,360

don't you try to do
this, because this

1267

00:55:14,360 --> 00:55:16,100

is what the consequences are.

1268

00:55:16,100 --> 00:55:18,770

1269

00:55:18,770 --> 00:55:27,590

Now, we were in Buchenwald
for maybe two months.

1270
00:55:27,590 --> 00:55:33,115
And from there, we were taken to
Zeitz, a place called Z-E-I-Z,

1271
00:55:33,115 --> 00:55:35,890
I believe, not too far.

1272
00:55:35,890 --> 00:55:41,710
It was a huge coal factory.

1273
00:55:41,710 --> 00:55:45,670
And the Americans were
constantly bombing it.

1274
00:55:45,670 --> 00:55:47,710
And then we would
come and clean it up.

1275
00:55:47,710 --> 00:55:50,890
And they would
start working on it,

1276
00:55:50,890 --> 00:55:52,460
and the bombs would come again.

1277
00:55:52,460 --> 00:55:53,830
It was a coal factory?

1278
00:55:53,830 --> 00:55:54,790
Coal, I think.

1279
00:55:54,790 --> 00:55:55,720
Yes.

1280
00:55:55,720 --> 00:55:57,460
It was like a coal mine?

1281
00:55:57,460 --> 00:55:58,780
A coal mine.

1282

00:55:58,780 --> 00:56:04,210
But they were also processing
the coal in factories.

1283
00:56:04,210 --> 00:56:08,350
But that was a short time,
maybe a month or two.

1284
00:56:08,350 --> 00:56:12,135
How did you get from
Buchenwald to there?

1285
00:56:12,135 --> 00:56:15,160
In train, in cattle cars.

1286
00:56:15,160 --> 00:56:15,790
Again.

1287
00:56:15,790 --> 00:56:16,290
Yes.

1288
00:56:16,290 --> 00:56:19,080

1289
00:56:19,080 --> 00:56:20,720
And you were with your father.

1290
00:56:20,720 --> 00:56:21,220
Yes.

1291
00:56:21,220 --> 00:56:22,930
And how was he holding
up at that point?

1292
00:56:22,930 --> 00:56:24,190
He was holding up good.

1293
00:56:24,190 --> 00:56:25,330
He was holding up good.

1294
00:56:25,330 --> 00:56:26,500
And you?

1295
00:56:26,500 --> 00:56:28,240
And I was holding up good.

1296
00:56:28,240 --> 00:56:31,150
All this time, did you
have enough to eat?

1297
00:56:31,150 --> 00:56:31,720
No.

1298
00:56:31,720 --> 00:56:37,210
No, not as much as
we would like to.

1299
00:56:37,210 --> 00:56:39,880
There were portions in the
morning, then at night.

1300
00:56:39,880 --> 00:56:43,030

1301
00:56:43,030 --> 00:56:49,400
My father started to feel ill.

1302
00:56:49,400 --> 00:56:53,140
I remember his feet were
always swollen, probably

1303
00:56:53,140 --> 00:56:55,120
a heart condition.

1304
00:56:55,120 --> 00:56:57,730
And there were times when
he couldn't go to work.

1305
00:56:57,730 --> 00:57:00,080
So they left him there.

1306
00:57:00,080 --> 00:57:03,010
So then I went by myself.

1307

00:57:03,010 --> 00:57:07,670

But we were holding up together.

1308

00:57:07,670 --> 00:57:12,340

Did you see that as a sign
of something to worry about?

1309

00:57:12,340 --> 00:57:14,440

Yes, I worried about it.

1310

00:57:14,440 --> 00:57:17,260

But I kept asking if
there's anything I can do.

1311

00:57:17,260 --> 00:57:20,290

He said, no, everything is fine.

1312

00:57:20,290 --> 00:57:23,320

And the Germans were
pretty tolerant about that,

1313

00:57:23,320 --> 00:57:25,360

because I don't
remember them saying,

1314

00:57:25,360 --> 00:57:26,860

you must go no matter what.

1315

00:57:26,860 --> 00:57:30,240

1316

00:57:30,240 --> 00:57:32,670

Matter of fact, a
few times, I took him

1317

00:57:32,670 --> 00:57:35,310

down in the hospital--
what they called

1318

00:57:35,310 --> 00:57:38,453

the hospital for treatment.

1319

00:57:38,453 --> 00:57:39,870

And would they
give him treatment?

1320

00:57:39,870 --> 00:57:40,370

Yes.

1321

00:57:40,370 --> 00:57:41,096

What would they give him?

1322

00:57:41,096 --> 00:57:41,596

Do you know?

1323

00:57:41,596 --> 00:57:42,750

Don't remember.

1324

00:57:42,750 --> 00:57:48,420

Don't remember whether it
was medication or therapy.

1325

00:57:48,420 --> 00:57:50,820

Now, what time of year
are we talking about now?

1326

00:57:50,820 --> 00:57:54,150

July, August, September?

1327

00:57:54,150 --> 00:57:57,710

I would probably say
it's the winter of '44.

1328

00:57:57,710 --> 00:58:01,090

It could have been October,
November, or December.

1329

00:58:01,090 --> 00:58:01,590

Don't--

1330

00:58:01,590 --> 00:58:02,280

It's winter.

1331

00:58:02,280 --> 00:58:05,790

Did they give you
anything more to wear?

1332

00:58:05,790 --> 00:58:06,810

I don't think so.

1333

00:58:06,810 --> 00:58:07,485

No.

1334

00:58:07,485 --> 00:58:08,610

Do you remember being cold?

1335

00:58:08,610 --> 00:58:11,310

Yes.

1336

00:58:11,310 --> 00:58:13,020

Cold and hungry.

1337

00:58:13,020 --> 00:58:14,280

No, this was Germany.

1338

00:58:14,280 --> 00:58:16,080

I said cold and hungry.

1339

00:58:16,080 --> 00:58:16,980

Cold and hungry.

1340

00:58:16,980 --> 00:58:17,480

Yeah.

1341

00:58:17,480 --> 00:58:18,120

Yes.

1342

00:58:18,120 --> 00:58:19,230

In the barracks also?

1343

00:58:19,230 --> 00:58:20,460

Yes.

1344

00:58:20,460 --> 00:58:23,720

And was your father
continuing to get worse?

1345
00:58:23,720 --> 00:58:26,340

1346
00:58:26,340 --> 00:58:28,390
Not drastically.

1347
00:58:28,390 --> 00:58:32,640
Not drastically, because-- maybe
I'm jumping ahead of myself.

1348
00:58:32,640 --> 00:58:36,360
He lived till the day
before we were liberated.

1349
00:58:36,360 --> 00:58:40,420

1350
00:58:40,420 --> 00:58:42,040
He lived till April.

1351
00:58:42,040 --> 00:58:44,980
And was working?

1352
00:58:44,980 --> 00:58:49,660
Working or staying in the
barrack, working again.

1353
00:58:49,660 --> 00:58:51,790
But he was not well.

1354
00:58:51,790 --> 00:58:53,650
I didn't think--
here again, I wasn't

1355
00:58:53,650 --> 00:58:56,140
thinking about him dying.

1356
00:58:56,140 --> 00:58:57,840
But I just knew that

he was in trouble.

1357
00:58:57,840 --> 00:59:04,830

1358
00:59:04,830 --> 00:59:09,300
Did you have some
ideas about what

1359
00:59:09,300 --> 00:59:11,850
had happened to your
mother, to your brother?

1360
00:59:11,850 --> 00:59:13,530
None.

1361
00:59:13,530 --> 00:59:16,260
To your sister?

1362
00:59:16,260 --> 00:59:17,820
I feel guilty even saying it.

1363
00:59:17,820 --> 00:59:21,930
But we weren't-- I don't
remember thinking about them.

1364
00:59:21,930 --> 00:59:24,600
I'm sure my father was.

1365
00:59:24,600 --> 00:59:26,160
Do you think what
you're describing

1366
00:59:26,160 --> 00:59:28,810
is what survival
is like for people?

1367
00:59:28,810 --> 00:59:29,310
Yes.

1368
00:59:29,310 --> 00:59:33,000
That they just focus on

surviving and everything else

1369
00:59:33,000 --> 00:59:33,510
is gone?

1370
00:59:33,510 --> 00:59:34,010
Yes.

1371
00:59:34,010 --> 00:59:36,000
Yes, it had to be.

1372
00:59:36,000 --> 00:59:38,250
They didn't have the
time or the energy

1373
00:59:38,250 --> 00:59:40,050
to think about other things.

1374
00:59:40,050 --> 00:59:43,510
Did you see much stealing
of food between prisoners?

1375
00:59:43,510 --> 00:59:45,990
Mm-hmm.

1376
00:59:45,990 --> 00:59:47,490
Whether it was
much, I don't know.

1377
00:59:47,490 --> 00:59:51,810
But constantly, people
were screaming and yelling.

1378
00:59:51,810 --> 00:59:54,420
It disappeared overnight
when they put the bread

1379
00:59:54,420 --> 00:59:55,380
under their pillows.

1380
00:59:55,380 --> 00:59:59,460
And people would come

and take it away.

1381
00:59:59,460 --> 01:00:01,270
Were you ever tempted?

1382
01:00:01,270 --> 01:00:01,770
No.

1383
01:00:01,770 --> 01:00:04,380

1384
01:00:04,380 --> 01:00:05,950
That was a line
you couldn't cross.

1385
01:00:05,950 --> 01:00:06,460
No.

1386
01:00:06,460 --> 01:00:06,960
No.

1387
01:00:06,960 --> 01:00:10,070

1388
01:00:10,070 --> 01:00:13,990
Did you ever try to save
food for later yourself?

1389
01:00:13,990 --> 01:00:18,870
Well, I'm going to separate now
Buchenwald from the other two

1390
01:00:18,870 --> 01:00:21,300
places.

1391
01:00:21,300 --> 01:00:26,460
In Buchenwald, because I
was in a children's camp,

1392
01:00:26,460 --> 01:00:28,570
they treated us better
than the others.

1393
01:00:28,570 --> 01:00:30,420
So I had a chance
to bring something

1394
01:00:30,420 --> 01:00:33,300
to my father, something
that I didn't need

1395
01:00:33,300 --> 01:00:37,920
or I was willing to give up.

1396
01:00:37,920 --> 01:00:40,890
But it was bread or soup.

1397
01:00:40,890 --> 01:00:45,930
I remember one of the
prisoners, non-Jewish prisoners,

1398
01:00:45,930 --> 01:00:50,370
someone from Holland, would
come over and talk to us

1399
01:00:50,370 --> 01:00:54,960
and give me chocolate and
candy, because they were

1400
01:00:54,960 --> 01:00:57,720
able to get packages from home.

1401
01:00:57,720 --> 01:01:01,710
And I would bring it to
my father, some of it.

1402
01:01:01,710 --> 01:01:04,200
So there were some
decent people there.

1403
01:01:04,200 --> 01:01:07,610

1404
01:01:07,610 --> 01:01:09,740

So there were people
there who were not Jewish.

1405
01:01:09,740 --> 01:01:11,540
Oh, yes.

1406
01:01:11,540 --> 01:01:14,802
Buchenwald was half and
half, probably there.

1407
01:01:14,802 --> 01:01:16,010
A lot of political prisoners.

1408
01:01:16,010 --> 01:01:22,500
Political prisoners from Norway,
from France, from Germany.

1409
01:01:22,500 --> 01:01:24,130
And they let you
mingle with them.

1410
01:01:24,130 --> 01:01:24,770
Yes.

1411
01:01:24,770 --> 01:01:25,310
Yes.

1412
01:01:25,310 --> 01:01:27,680
And there were Russian
prisoners, too, weren't there?

1413
01:01:27,680 --> 01:01:29,840
I don't remember the Russians.

1414
01:01:29,840 --> 01:01:31,990
But I know there were Czechs.

1415
01:01:31,990 --> 01:01:38,930
There were French,
Holland, Norway.

1416
01:01:38,930 --> 01:01:41,630

Homosexuals were there.

1417
01:01:41,630 --> 01:01:43,910
Priests were there.

1418
01:01:43,910 --> 01:01:46,470
Did you have to wear
some identifying--

1419
01:01:46,470 --> 01:01:46,970
No.

1420
01:01:46,970 --> 01:01:47,470
No.

1421
01:01:47,470 --> 01:01:51,590
But we were in a
prisoner's uniform.

1422
01:01:51,590 --> 01:01:53,810
But the children
didn't have to have--

1423
01:01:53,810 --> 01:01:56,030
No.

1424
01:01:56,030 --> 01:02:00,350
But we were definitely
treated better.

1425
01:02:00,350 --> 01:02:05,180
Now, after you left the ghetto
and started on these journeys

1426
01:02:05,180 --> 01:02:07,250
and went from one
camp to another,

1427
01:02:07,250 --> 01:02:10,010
did you have any idea what
was going on in the world?

1428

01:02:10,010 --> 01:02:11,150
The war?

1429
01:02:11,150 --> 01:02:11,788
Yes.

1430
01:02:11,788 --> 01:02:12,580
How would you know?

1431
01:02:12,580 --> 01:02:13,538
How would you find out.

1432
01:02:13,538 --> 01:02:16,490
We heard reports.

1433
01:02:16,490 --> 01:02:21,590
Well, it started in
Auschwitz, because I remember

1434
01:02:21,590 --> 01:02:25,070
one of the other
Jewish prisoners

1435
01:02:25,070 --> 01:02:26,900
came to my father
and saying, I just

1436
01:02:26,900 --> 01:02:33,720
heard that the Americans
landed in France.

1437
01:02:33,720 --> 01:02:35,460
It was first part--

1438
01:02:35,460 --> 01:02:37,440
middle of June, I think.

1439
01:02:37,440 --> 01:02:40,110
So we heard that the
Americans had landed there.

1440
01:02:40,110 --> 01:02:43,350

Then later on, we
heard that the Russians

1441
01:02:43,350 --> 01:02:45,000
are in such and such a place.

1442
01:02:45,000 --> 01:02:49,320
And the Americans are
maybe 100 miles from us.

1443
01:02:49,320 --> 01:02:53,670
So we constantly heard reports.

1444
01:02:53,670 --> 01:02:56,880
And we were involved
with it, because we're

1445
01:02:56,880 --> 01:02:58,650
waiting and waiting.

1446
01:02:58,650 --> 01:02:59,910
Did that give you hope?

1447
01:02:59,910 --> 01:03:00,670
Oh, yes.

1448
01:03:00,670 --> 01:03:02,070
Oh, yes.

1449
01:03:02,070 --> 01:03:05,340
Did you think you
were going to survive?

1450
01:03:05,340 --> 01:03:06,450
Yes.

1451
01:03:06,450 --> 01:03:09,510
Yes, I never
thought about dying.

1452
01:03:09,510 --> 01:03:11,400
I'm sure my father did.

1453
01:03:11,400 --> 01:03:12,420
But I didn't.

1454
01:03:12,420 --> 01:03:13,680
You never thought about dying.

1455
01:03:13,680 --> 01:03:15,850
Because I was never sick.

1456
01:03:15,850 --> 01:03:17,620
I was never sick.

1457
01:03:17,620 --> 01:03:19,920
So the question was,
could you hold out longer?

1458
01:03:19,920 --> 01:03:21,660
Right.

1459
01:03:21,660 --> 01:03:23,580
And that was out
of your control.

1460
01:03:23,580 --> 01:03:26,460
That's right.

1461
01:03:26,460 --> 01:03:29,880
In the children's
camp at Buchenwald,

1462
01:03:29,880 --> 01:03:34,020
do you remember about how
many children were there?

1463
01:03:34,020 --> 01:03:34,778
In our camp?

1464
01:03:34,778 --> 01:03:35,278
Mm-hmm.

1465

01:03:35,278 --> 01:03:38,150

1466

01:03:38,150 --> 01:03:41,480

Maybe 150, 200.

1467

01:03:41,480 --> 01:03:43,860

When I say "camp,"
in our building.

1468

01:03:43,860 --> 01:03:46,580

So it was one particular
barracks set aside.

1469

01:03:46,580 --> 01:03:47,840

Right.

1470

01:03:47,840 --> 01:03:49,650

Now, was Elie Wiesel there?

1471

01:03:49,650 --> 01:03:50,150

Yes.

1472

01:03:50,150 --> 01:03:50,650

Yes?

1473

01:03:50,650 --> 01:03:51,800

Yes.

1474

01:03:51,800 --> 01:03:54,450

I read it in his book when
he was talking about it.

1475

01:03:54,450 --> 01:03:59,510

And then I spoke with
him when I saw him here.

1476

01:03:59,510 --> 01:04:03,570

And he was in a very
similar situation.

1477

01:04:03,570 --> 01:04:04,970

In what sense?

1478
01:04:04,970 --> 01:04:08,180
Well, we were brought
there about the same time

1479
01:04:08,180 --> 01:04:10,310
from the same general area.

1480
01:04:10,310 --> 01:04:13,220
He was there with his
father, just like I was.

1481
01:04:13,220 --> 01:04:16,190
He was in Buchenwald
in this camp.

1482
01:04:16,190 --> 01:04:19,850
His father died just
before we got liberated.

1483
01:04:19,850 --> 01:04:20,570
So did mine.

1484
01:04:20,570 --> 01:04:26,810

1485
01:04:26,810 --> 01:04:30,955
It was unbelievable when I was
reading about it in his book.

1486
01:04:30,955 --> 01:04:33,737
Matter of fact, I told
my wife, if any of you

1487
01:04:33,737 --> 01:04:36,112
want to know what happened to
me, then all you have to do

1488
01:04:36,112 --> 01:04:39,080
is read the book.

1489

01:04:39,080 --> 01:04:40,970
Did you actually know him?

1490
01:04:40,970 --> 01:04:41,480
Not there.

1491
01:04:41,480 --> 01:04:41,980
Not there.

1492
01:04:41,980 --> 01:04:42,600
No.

1493
01:04:42,600 --> 01:04:46,040
No, he was not
known at the time.

1494
01:04:46,040 --> 01:04:49,350
Were there any girls in this--

1495
01:04:49,350 --> 01:04:49,850
No.

1496
01:04:49,850 --> 01:04:51,440
Just young men.

1497
01:04:51,440 --> 01:04:53,060
Just young men.

1498
01:04:53,060 --> 01:04:56,300
Was there another building
with young women or--

1499
01:04:56,300 --> 01:04:57,680
I don't think so.

1500
01:04:57,680 --> 01:04:58,310
No.

1501
01:04:58,310 --> 01:05:01,220
They were in different
camps, different--

1502

01:05:01,220 --> 01:05:04,430
These were all Jewish children.

1503

01:05:04,430 --> 01:05:07,010
I don't want to say for sure.

1504

01:05:07,010 --> 01:05:08,790
There might have been
some that weren't.

1505

01:05:08,790 --> 01:05:10,370
Yes.

1506

01:05:10,370 --> 01:05:13,300
Children of other
kinds of prisoners.

1507

01:05:13,300 --> 01:05:15,110
Yeah.

1508

01:05:15,110 --> 01:05:17,750
When you were moved
from Buchenwald,

1509

01:05:17,750 --> 01:05:20,690
was that disturbing
to you because you had

1510

01:05:20,690 --> 01:05:23,330
been treated fairly well there?

1511

01:05:23,330 --> 01:05:24,650
It may have been.

1512

01:05:24,650 --> 01:05:25,610
It may have been.

1513

01:05:25,610 --> 01:05:30,300
But we were told, I remember,
that we are coming back soon.

1514

01:05:30,300 --> 01:05:32,300

Oh, you're going, but
you're going to come back.

1515

01:05:32,300 --> 01:05:33,290

That's right.

1516

01:05:33,290 --> 01:05:34,730

And it did happen.

1517

01:05:34,730 --> 01:05:36,630

We were back within
a month, I think.

1518

01:05:36,630 --> 01:05:37,130

Really?

1519

01:05:37,130 --> 01:05:37,630

Yes.

1520

01:05:37,630 --> 01:05:40,190

1521

01:05:40,190 --> 01:05:44,810

And do you have any sense why
you were going to be back?

1522

01:05:44,810 --> 01:05:46,220

I don't know.

1523

01:05:46,220 --> 01:05:49,010

I don't know.

1524

01:05:49,010 --> 01:05:54,170

You went to this
coal producing area.

1525

01:05:54,170 --> 01:05:56,480

And you were there for a month?

1526

01:05:56,480 --> 01:05:58,190

It may have been six weeks.

1527
01:05:58,190 --> 01:05:59,540
And you were digging?

1528
01:05:59,540 --> 01:06:02,150
Well, what we were really
doing is cleaning up

1529
01:06:02,150 --> 01:06:03,982
after the bombardment.

1530
01:06:03,982 --> 01:06:06,710

1531
01:06:06,710 --> 01:06:11,780
And within a couple weeks, the
chimneys were starting to go.

1532
01:06:11,780 --> 01:06:13,070
And the Americans would come.

1533
01:06:13,070 --> 01:06:16,940
And we were maybe 200
yards from the plant.

1534
01:06:16,940 --> 01:06:18,860
And we were watching
the bombs come down.

1535
01:06:18,860 --> 01:06:20,575
Did you want them to bomb?

1536
01:06:20,575 --> 01:06:22,280
Don't remember.

1537
01:06:22,280 --> 01:06:24,710
I don't remember.

1538
01:06:24,710 --> 01:06:28,520
But I'm sure I was thinking,
please don't hit us.

1539

01:06:28,520 --> 01:06:30,000

But they didn't.

1540

01:06:30,000 --> 01:06:31,442

It was amazing.

1541

01:06:31,442 --> 01:06:32,525

It was absolutely amazing.

1542

01:06:32,525 --> 01:06:35,460

1543

01:06:35,460 --> 01:06:37,500

Did they come in low?

1544

01:06:37,500 --> 01:06:38,150

No.

1545

01:06:38,150 --> 01:06:38,670

High.

1546

01:06:38,670 --> 01:06:40,590

High, high, high.

1547

01:06:40,590 --> 01:06:42,390

So they had good
bomb sites, huh?

1548

01:06:42,390 --> 01:06:43,350

Right.

1549

01:06:43,350 --> 01:06:47,910

Matter of fact, I don't
remember seeing the planes.

1550

01:06:47,910 --> 01:06:51,780

We heard the noise, but
then the bombs are coming.

1551

01:06:51,780 --> 01:06:54,750

So you could hear the plane

and you could hear the bombs,

1552
01:06:54,750 --> 01:06:55,840
but you didn't see them.

1553
01:06:55,840 --> 01:06:56,340
No.

1554
01:06:56,340 --> 01:06:57,180
They were too high.

1555
01:06:57,180 --> 01:06:59,610
And they were decent
enough, the Germans,

1556
01:06:59,610 --> 01:07:03,090
that once they learned
that the planes are coming,

1557
01:07:03,090 --> 01:07:04,317
they moved us out of there.

1558
01:07:04,317 --> 01:07:05,400
That was my next question.

1559
01:07:05,400 --> 01:07:06,300
Oh, yeah.

1560
01:07:06,300 --> 01:07:10,380
Every time, they
moved us out of there.

1561
01:07:10,380 --> 01:07:11,490
Did they come every day?

1562
01:07:11,490 --> 01:07:15,330
Not every day, but I want to
say maybe six or eight times

1563
01:07:15,330 --> 01:07:16,770
while we were there.

1564

01:07:16,770 --> 01:07:18,840

Now, was this-- would
you consider where

1565

01:07:18,840 --> 01:07:21,540

you were like a power plant?

1566

01:07:21,540 --> 01:07:23,010

Were they producing power?

1567

01:07:23,010 --> 01:07:24,000

I don't know.

1568

01:07:24,000 --> 01:07:24,800

I don't know.

1569

01:07:24,800 --> 01:07:26,550

Because I'm wondering
why they wanted to--

1570

01:07:26,550 --> 01:07:28,020

It was important for them.

1571

01:07:28,020 --> 01:07:31,170

Otherwise, they wouldn't
have constantly come back.

1572

01:07:31,170 --> 01:07:33,750

That's what makes me think
it was power producing.

1573

01:07:33,750 --> 01:07:34,470

It may have been.

1574

01:07:34,470 --> 01:07:36,900

But evidently, the
Germans finally

1575

01:07:36,900 --> 01:07:38,760

gave up on cleaning it up.

1576

01:07:38,760 --> 01:07:42,120
And they said, just keep
it there the way it is.

1577
01:07:42,120 --> 01:07:46,360
And we're going to send
the prisoners away.

1578
01:07:46,360 --> 01:07:49,500
And so that's when you
went back to Buchenwald?

1579
01:07:49,500 --> 01:07:50,280
Right.

1580
01:07:50,280 --> 01:07:52,404
And that was with your father.

1581
01:07:52,404 --> 01:07:54,060
Correct.

1582
01:07:54,060 --> 01:07:57,141
And did you get
back into the same--

1583
01:07:57,141 --> 01:07:57,975
Same environment--

1584
01:07:57,975 --> 01:07:58,475
Same setup.

1585
01:07:58,475 --> 01:07:59,400
Yeah.

1586
01:07:59,400 --> 01:08:01,530
And you father was
still right next to you?

1587
01:08:01,530 --> 01:08:02,100
Yes.

1588
01:08:02,100 --> 01:08:04,600

Could I stop for a minute?

1589
01:08:04,600 --> 01:08:05,220
I'm OK.

1590
01:08:05,220 --> 01:08:08,220
I'd like to use the
restroom, which is--

1591
01:08:08,220 --> 01:08:09,140
You had--

1592
01:08:09,140 --> 01:08:10,890
You're going to eliminate
the part where I

1593
01:08:10,890 --> 01:08:12,182
said I'm going to the bathroom.

1594
01:08:12,182 --> 01:08:14,370

1595
01:08:14,370 --> 01:08:17,609
It'll be edited
out, not to worry.

1596
01:08:17,609 --> 01:08:19,609
You had just gone
back to Buchenwald.

1597
01:08:19,609 --> 01:08:20,109
Yes.

1598
01:08:20,109 --> 01:08:23,040

1599
01:08:23,040 --> 01:08:24,120
But that isn't shown.

1600
01:08:24,120 --> 01:08:26,920

1601

01:08:26,920 --> 01:08:28,210

OK.

1602

01:08:28,210 --> 01:08:30,660

Could we pick up with your
having gone back to Buchenwald?

1603

01:08:30,660 --> 01:08:31,160

Sure.

1604

01:08:31,160 --> 01:08:34,979

1605

01:08:34,979 --> 01:08:38,040

It was in the winter of '44 now?

1606

01:08:38,040 --> 01:08:39,180

Winter of '44.

1607

01:08:39,180 --> 01:08:41,010

It may have been January.

1608

01:08:41,010 --> 01:08:42,689

It may have been
December or February.

1609

01:08:42,689 --> 01:08:44,220

I do not remember.

1610

01:08:44,220 --> 01:08:47,210

Do you remember whether
one loses track of days?

1611

01:08:47,210 --> 01:08:48,200

Yes.

1612

01:08:48,200 --> 01:08:51,960

I had no idea whether
it's Saturday, Sunday,

1613

01:08:51,960 --> 01:08:54,810

Monday, or the second or
the third or the fourth.

1614
01:08:54,810 --> 01:08:56,220
And the same thing with months?

1615
01:08:56,220 --> 01:08:57,220
Did you know what month?

1616
01:08:57,220 --> 01:08:57,779
That's right.

1617
01:08:57,779 --> 01:08:58,321
That's right.

1618
01:08:58,321 --> 01:08:59,279
No, we didn't.

1619
01:08:59,279 --> 01:09:01,410
Did you know when--

1620
01:09:01,410 --> 01:09:04,500
was there any way to know when
Jewish holidays were occurring?

1621
01:09:04,500 --> 01:09:05,100
Yes.

1622
01:09:05,100 --> 01:09:05,600
Yes.

1623
01:09:05,600 --> 01:09:06,390
How?

1624
01:09:06,390 --> 01:09:11,649
Because some of the firmer--

1625
01:09:11,649 --> 01:09:14,220
not the Hasidics,
but the ones that

1626

01:09:14,220 --> 01:09:17,160
followed in the
morning and noon,

1627
01:09:17,160 --> 01:09:21,120
and they were dabbling
without the book.

1628
01:09:21,120 --> 01:09:24,779
And we knew when
the holidays were.

1629
01:09:24,779 --> 01:09:26,640
Oh, yeah.

1630
01:09:26,640 --> 01:09:29,520
They were fasting on Yom Kippur.

1631
01:09:29,520 --> 01:09:32,370
And that was not a
big deal because there

1632
01:09:32,370 --> 01:09:33,479
wasn't much to eat.

1633
01:09:33,479 --> 01:09:34,852
But they knew.

1634
01:09:34,852 --> 01:09:35,560
I don't know how.

1635
01:09:35,560 --> 01:09:38,370
I still don't know how.

1636
01:09:38,370 --> 01:09:40,060
They must have counted the day.

1637
01:09:40,060 --> 01:09:40,560
Yes.

1638
01:09:40,560 --> 01:09:41,060
Yes.

1639
01:09:41,060 --> 01:09:52,819

1640
01:09:52,819 --> 01:09:55,000
Would you at this point--

1641
01:09:55,000 --> 01:09:58,510
your father was clearly
showing signs of weakness.

1642
01:09:58,510 --> 01:09:59,440
Absolutely.

1643
01:09:59,440 --> 01:10:03,430
Were you trying to
find extra food for him

1644
01:10:03,430 --> 01:10:05,020
or give him some of yours?

1645
01:10:05,020 --> 01:10:06,670
Yes.

1646
01:10:06,670 --> 01:10:10,390
Like I said, we
were treated better

1647
01:10:10,390 --> 01:10:12,730
than the others, the adults.

1648
01:10:12,730 --> 01:10:17,320
And whether it was more food
or better food, but constantly,

1649
01:10:17,320 --> 01:10:20,890
every day, I brought
him something.

1650
01:10:20,890 --> 01:10:24,880
Do you remember
what you had to eat?

1651
01:10:24,880 --> 01:10:30,820
Bread, mainly, some
margarine, soup.

1652
01:10:30,820 --> 01:10:34,120
I don't ever
remember eating meat.

1653
01:10:34,120 --> 01:10:36,830
I don't.

1654
01:10:36,830 --> 01:10:42,740
But basically, the diet was
bread, margarine, and soup.

1655
01:10:42,740 --> 01:10:47,330
And was the soup really soup
the way we think of soup?

1656
01:10:47,330 --> 01:10:47,880
No.

1657
01:10:47,880 --> 01:10:48,800
No.

1658
01:10:48,800 --> 01:10:49,790
Tell us about the soup.

1659
01:10:49,790 --> 01:10:53,330
Well, I can't tell you how the
soup was, what kind it was.

1660
01:10:53,330 --> 01:10:57,560
But I can tell you that we
spent probably half of our time,

1661
01:10:57,560 --> 01:11:02,370
whether with my father or with
others, talking about food.

1662
01:11:02,370 --> 01:11:09,620

And I read later in books that
it was the custom all over.

1663
01:11:09,620 --> 01:11:10,860
When you're hungry.

1664
01:11:10,860 --> 01:11:11,360
Yeah.

1665
01:11:11,360 --> 01:11:13,655
Do you remember any
acts of kindness?

1666
01:11:13,655 --> 01:11:17,777

1667
01:11:17,777 --> 01:11:19,235
Like I mentioned
a while ago, there

1668
01:11:19,235 --> 01:11:22,310
were some other
prisoners, Gentiles,

1669
01:11:22,310 --> 01:11:26,390
who were, again, better treated
than we were as children.

1670
01:11:26,390 --> 01:11:28,760
It was different plateaus.

1671
01:11:28,760 --> 01:11:31,430
They were getting
packages from home.

1672
01:11:31,430 --> 01:11:37,850
They had a better
bed or a mattress.

1673
01:11:37,850 --> 01:11:42,800
So they came down to see
us, especially the kids--

1674

01:11:42,800 --> 01:11:44,900

talk to us and bring us things.

1675

01:11:44,900 --> 01:11:47,480

I remember that.

1676

01:11:47,480 --> 01:11:51,540

But as far as kindness from
the soldiers, the guards, no.

1677

01:11:51,540 --> 01:11:52,040

No.

1678

01:11:52,040 --> 01:11:52,970

No.

1679

01:11:52,970 --> 01:11:55,310

Somehow, the children
represented a hope

1680

01:11:55,310 --> 01:11:57,450

for the older people.

1681

01:11:57,450 --> 01:11:57,950

Correct.

1682

01:11:57,950 --> 01:12:00,680

Correct.

1683

01:12:00,680 --> 01:12:06,260

That you were going to survive
and be in this new world.

1684

01:12:06,260 --> 01:12:07,130

Maybe.

1685

01:12:07,130 --> 01:12:10,811

But I still don't
understand why the Germans--

1686

01:12:10,811 --> 01:12:11,430

Allowed it--

1687
01:12:11,430 --> 01:12:13,530
Allowed us to have
a better life.

1688
01:12:13,530 --> 01:12:14,972
I don't know.

1689
01:12:14,972 --> 01:12:17,180
It doesn't make any sense
given what they were doing.

1690
01:12:17,180 --> 01:12:17,540
None.

1691
01:12:17,540 --> 01:12:18,040
None.

1692
01:12:18,040 --> 01:12:22,980

1693
01:12:22,980 --> 01:12:27,060
It must have to do with the age.

1694
01:12:27,060 --> 01:12:30,090
Clearly, they got rid
of so many children.

1695
01:12:30,090 --> 01:12:31,920
They got rid of the
little children.

1696
01:12:31,920 --> 01:12:33,900
They got rid of the elderly.

1697
01:12:33,900 --> 01:12:36,840
And they didn't
want future enemies.

1698
01:12:36,840 --> 01:12:39,790
But here's this little

teeny group, 13 to 16.

1699

01:12:39,790 --> 01:12:40,290

Yes.

1700

01:12:40,290 --> 01:12:42,610

You don't fit into
categories for them.

1701

01:12:42,610 --> 01:12:43,110

No.

1702

01:12:43,110 --> 01:12:44,970

No, they didn't know
what to do with us.

1703

01:12:44,970 --> 01:12:48,900

1704

01:12:48,900 --> 01:12:52,260

So were you still doing work
when you went back there?

1705

01:12:52,260 --> 01:12:53,100

Yes.

1706

01:12:53,100 --> 01:12:57,690

Yes, I remember almost every
day, we went on a project

1707

01:12:57,690 --> 01:12:58,740

in the morning.

1708

01:12:58,740 --> 01:13:01,740

I came back around 5 o'clock--

1709

01:13:01,740 --> 01:13:05,475

doing things, cleaning up
things, digging ditches.

1710

01:13:05,475 --> 01:13:08,370

1711
01:13:08,370 --> 01:13:11,190
Would they bring you into the
town to clean up the bombing?

1712
01:13:11,190 --> 01:13:12,300
No, not the town.

1713
01:13:12,300 --> 01:13:13,820
We're talking about
Buchenwald now?

1714
01:13:13,820 --> 01:13:14,730
Yes.

1715
01:13:14,730 --> 01:13:17,400
No.

1716
01:13:17,400 --> 01:13:19,140
Buchenwald was not a town.

1717
01:13:19,140 --> 01:13:21,820
It was just a camp.

1718
01:13:21,820 --> 01:13:27,870
The town nearby was Weimar,
maybe six kilometers

1719
01:13:27,870 --> 01:13:29,130
from there.

1720
01:13:29,130 --> 01:13:30,540
Buchenwald was just a camp.

1721
01:13:30,540 --> 01:13:34,600
There was no city
attached to it.

1722
01:13:34,600 --> 01:13:37,530
Were they real
work or were they--

1723

01:13:37,530 --> 01:13:42,780

I've heard prisoners sometimes
describe make-work things,

1724

01:13:42,780 --> 01:13:44,940

like moving rocks
back and forth.

1725

01:13:44,940 --> 01:13:46,890

Were they real projects
or make-work projects?

1726

01:13:46,890 --> 01:13:49,260

A combination of
them, a combination.

1727

01:13:49,260 --> 01:13:52,590

Sometimes, we were building
barracks for the guards,

1728

01:13:52,590 --> 01:13:54,240

for the soldiers.

1729

01:13:54,240 --> 01:13:58,140

Or we were cleaning
up after somebody

1730

01:13:58,140 --> 01:13:59,610

was building something.

1731

01:13:59,610 --> 01:14:01,680

It wasn't heavy work,
because I don't ever

1732

01:14:01,680 --> 01:14:05,300

remember saying I can't do it.

1733

01:14:05,300 --> 01:14:09,060

What languages did you
speak at that time?

1734

01:14:09,060 --> 01:14:10,410

Hungarian.

1735

01:14:10,410 --> 01:14:14,130

How much of a handicap
was that in Buchenwald?

1736

01:14:14,130 --> 01:14:20,010

It wasn't much because I
spoke a little bit of German.

1737

01:14:20,010 --> 01:14:22,000

And so did my father.

1738

01:14:22,000 --> 01:14:27,150

So with some of the
others, the non-Hungarians,

1739

01:14:27,150 --> 01:14:28,710

we spoke in German.

1740

01:14:28,710 --> 01:14:32,370

1741

01:14:32,370 --> 01:14:34,275

So you were able to
understand the orders.

1742

01:14:34,275 --> 01:14:34,775

Yes.

1743

01:14:34,775 --> 01:14:36,390

We were able to communicate.

1744

01:14:36,390 --> 01:14:40,190

1745

01:14:40,190 --> 01:14:48,380

Is that because Germany had
a heavy influence in Hungary?

1746

01:14:48,380 --> 01:14:49,040

I don't know.

1747
01:14:49,040 --> 01:14:50,900
They didn't have
a heavy influence.

1748
01:14:50,900 --> 01:14:54,110
But just like here, you
have a second language.

1749
01:14:54,110 --> 01:14:57,170
Sometimes, it's
Spanish or French.

1750
01:14:57,170 --> 01:15:00,410
But in Hungary, it
probably was German.

1751
01:15:00,410 --> 01:15:01,220
That's what I mean.

1752
01:15:01,220 --> 01:15:01,720
Yes.

1753
01:15:01,720 --> 01:15:09,050

1754
01:15:09,050 --> 01:15:12,410
Was there any-- to your
knowledge, anyone in Buchenwald

1755
01:15:12,410 --> 01:15:18,890
who had a radio who could
hear what was happening?

1756
01:15:18,890 --> 01:15:20,960
We had no knowledge of
it because, obviously,

1757
01:15:20,960 --> 01:15:22,610
it was not allowed.

1758
01:15:22,610 --> 01:15:24,591

We would have been
in deep trouble.

1759
01:15:24,591 --> 01:15:25,091
Sure.

1760
01:15:25,091 --> 01:15:28,040

1761
01:15:28,040 --> 01:15:30,492
When you were being
bombed, would you

1762
01:15:30,492 --> 01:15:33,080
know who was bombing you?

1763
01:15:33,080 --> 01:15:33,590
Oh, yes.

1764
01:15:33,590 --> 01:15:35,180
But it didn't happen
in Buchenwald.

1765
01:15:35,180 --> 01:15:38,300
It was at Zeitz, but
not in Buchenwald.

1766
01:15:38,300 --> 01:15:39,970
They were not bombing.

1767
01:15:39,970 --> 01:15:42,630
So there was not much bombing
when you were in Buchenwald.

1768
01:15:42,630 --> 01:15:43,590
None at all.

1769
01:15:43,590 --> 01:15:44,570
None at all.

1770
01:15:44,570 --> 01:15:47,620
In surrounding

cities or anything?

1771

01:15:47,620 --> 01:15:48,620

We didn't know about it.

1772

01:15:48,620 --> 01:15:49,390

You didn't know about it.

1773

01:15:49,390 --> 01:15:51,098

So you really didn't
have a way to follow

1774

01:15:51,098 --> 01:15:53,210

the progress of the war
while you were there?

1775

01:15:53,210 --> 01:15:56,780

Not in minute detail.

1776

01:15:56,780 --> 01:15:58,310

But you'd hear some rumors.

1777

01:15:58,310 --> 01:16:00,770

We heard rumors that the
Americans or the Russians

1778

01:16:00,770 --> 01:16:03,500

are X kilometers away.

1779

01:16:03,500 --> 01:16:05,720

And I don't know
how we got that,

1780

01:16:05,720 --> 01:16:08,600

but probably from
the German guards.

1781

01:16:08,600 --> 01:16:13,130

Somehow, they would be telling
some of the old timers what's

1782

01:16:13,130 --> 01:16:13,760

going on.

1783

01:16:13,760 --> 01:16:16,850

1784

01:16:16,850 --> 01:16:22,550

Now, if I may jump ahead,
we were really hopeful

1785

01:16:22,550 --> 01:16:25,970

around March, at
the end of March,

1786

01:16:25,970 --> 01:16:30,950

because we saw less and less
guard, the German soldiers,

1787

01:16:30,950 --> 01:16:31,790

less and less.

1788

01:16:31,790 --> 01:16:36,140

Instead of having 100
around, they were taken away.

1789

01:16:36,140 --> 01:16:37,820

They were evacuating.

1790

01:16:37,820 --> 01:16:42,080

So we were really hopeful then.

1791

01:16:42,080 --> 01:16:45,080

And of course, a few
days before liberation,

1792

01:16:45,080 --> 01:16:48,470

we heard a lot of shooting--

1793

01:16:48,470 --> 01:16:51,080

not bombs, but
shooting, the fighting.

1794

01:16:51,080 --> 01:16:51,830

Cannon.

1795

01:16:51,830 --> 01:16:52,760

Cannons.

1796

01:16:52,760 --> 01:16:53,450

Tanks.

1797

01:16:53,450 --> 01:16:56,300

Yes.

1798

01:16:56,300 --> 01:16:57,723

Could you tell how far away?

1799

01:16:57,723 --> 01:16:58,890

Is there a way to tell that?

1800

01:16:58,890 --> 01:17:02,180

No, but it was within earshot.

1801

01:17:02,180 --> 01:17:03,620

Oh, my.

1802

01:17:03,620 --> 01:17:07,220

Now, the day before you were
liberated, your father died.

1803

01:17:07,220 --> 01:17:07,730

Yes.

1804

01:17:07,730 --> 01:17:09,290

How did you find out?

1805

01:17:09,290 --> 01:17:11,870

I went down to visit him.

1806

01:17:11,870 --> 01:17:14,270

And they told me he's
not here anymore.

1807

01:17:14,270 --> 01:17:15,480

He was literally gone.

1808

01:17:15,480 --> 01:17:17,990

Yeah.

1809

01:17:17,990 --> 01:17:19,550

Day before.

1810

01:17:19,550 --> 01:17:22,940

Now, there must be a
kind of a connection

1811

01:17:22,940 --> 01:17:27,580

in your mind between his
death and liberation?

1812

01:17:27,580 --> 01:17:28,720

Or not?

1813

01:17:28,720 --> 01:17:31,870

Sure, there is.

1814

01:17:31,870 --> 01:17:35,800

Why couldn't liberation
happen a day earlier?

1815

01:17:35,800 --> 01:17:40,660

Now, that doesn't mean that
we could have saved him, just

1816

01:17:40,660 --> 01:17:41,330

because--

1817

01:17:41,330 --> 01:17:43,270

Just that he would see it.

1818

01:17:43,270 --> 01:17:45,880

Yes, because he was
in terrible shape.

1819

01:17:45,880 --> 01:17:49,240

He was skinny and--

1820
01:17:49,240 --> 01:17:51,850
so I don't know what
the American soldiers

1821
01:17:51,850 --> 01:17:53,140
could have done with him.

1822
01:17:53,140 --> 01:17:57,460
Maybe-- but anyway, it
happened the day before.

1823
01:17:57,460 --> 01:18:01,030

1824
01:18:01,030 --> 01:18:04,600
That must have taken much of the
joy out of liberation for you.

1825
01:18:04,600 --> 01:18:05,230
Oh, yes.

1826
01:18:05,230 --> 01:18:09,380

1827
01:18:09,380 --> 01:18:13,545
Could you describe the
liberation, how it happened?

1828
01:18:13,545 --> 01:18:14,045
Yes.

1829
01:18:14,045 --> 01:18:19,490

1830
01:18:19,490 --> 01:18:23,930
The first thing that I
saw that the end is here--

1831
01:18:23,930 --> 01:18:25,730
look out the window.

1832

01:18:25,730 --> 01:18:28,100

We were near mountains.

1833

01:18:28,100 --> 01:18:34,370

And one side of the barracks
was facing the mountains.

1834

01:18:34,370 --> 01:18:40,670

We saw a German soldier
with his hands up.

1835

01:18:40,670 --> 01:18:41,810

And he's walking.

1836

01:18:41,810 --> 01:18:44,090

And there was one of
our prisoners following

1837

01:18:44,090 --> 01:18:44,900

him with a gun.

1838

01:18:44,900 --> 01:18:48,000

1839

01:18:48,000 --> 01:18:50,690

So now, he was the
prisoner, and the prisoner

1840

01:18:50,690 --> 01:18:52,280

was a guard with a gun.

1841

01:18:52,280 --> 01:18:54,390

And he's got his hands up.

1842

01:18:54,390 --> 01:18:56,760

So this must be
happening right now.

1843

01:18:56,760 --> 01:18:59,640

And within minutes,
there were others.

1844

01:18:59,640 --> 01:19:05,430

And so the German soldiers
were just running, running.

1845

01:19:05,430 --> 01:19:08,240

And again, within
a half an hour,

1846

01:19:08,240 --> 01:19:12,260

an American tank drove in.

1847

01:19:12,260 --> 01:19:14,610

What a sight.

1848

01:19:14,610 --> 01:19:16,020

And another and another.

1849

01:19:16,020 --> 01:19:19,997

1850

01:19:19,997 --> 01:19:21,080

You remember how you felt?

1851

01:19:21,080 --> 01:19:21,980

Pardon me?

1852

01:19:21,980 --> 01:19:24,000

Do you remember how you felt?

1853

01:19:24,000 --> 01:19:25,150

I felt good.

1854

01:19:25,150 --> 01:19:30,810

And I could not understand how
much preparation was involved,

1855

01:19:30,810 --> 01:19:33,480

because some of
these prisoners--

1856

01:19:33,480 --> 01:19:36,300

and when I say these prisoners
were not the Jewish ones.

1857
01:19:36,300 --> 01:19:42,270
These are perhaps the
Dutch or the French.

1858
01:19:42,270 --> 01:19:51,330
They opened up-- in our
unit, they opened up a door.

1859
01:19:51,330 --> 01:19:55,090
And they went down and
start coming out with guns.

1860
01:19:55,090 --> 01:19:58,110
They had guns under our--

1861
01:19:58,110 --> 01:19:59,850
under the building.

1862
01:19:59,850 --> 01:20:01,450
Under the children's barrack.

1863
01:20:01,450 --> 01:20:01,950
Yes.

1864
01:20:01,950 --> 01:20:02,867
A safe place to hide--

1865
01:20:02,867 --> 01:20:03,420
Yes.

1866
01:20:03,420 --> 01:20:07,260
They one after the other
were bringing guns out.

1867
01:20:07,260 --> 01:20:11,220
And they were marching the
Germans into a prison camp.

1868
01:20:11,220 --> 01:20:14,580

There were maybe 20 or 30
of them locked up afterwards

1869
01:20:14,580 --> 01:20:15,710
who could not escape.

1870
01:20:15,710 --> 01:20:18,270

1871
01:20:18,270 --> 01:20:21,480
And then, of course, the first
thing first off came to food.

1872
01:20:21,480 --> 01:20:25,560
And the Americans were
giving us chocolate.

1873
01:20:25,560 --> 01:20:28,190
I remember people got sick.

1874
01:20:28,190 --> 01:20:31,950
They started eating the
wrong thing and too fast.

1875
01:20:31,950 --> 01:20:33,450
How about you?

1876
01:20:33,450 --> 01:20:35,370
Again, I don't
remember getting sick.

1877
01:20:35,370 --> 01:20:40,170
But I may have been
subconsciously careful.

1878
01:20:40,170 --> 01:20:42,040
Did people know to be careful?

1879
01:20:42,040 --> 01:20:43,350
No.

1880
01:20:43,350 --> 01:20:45,180

No.

1881
01:20:45,180 --> 01:20:47,650
That only came after
you saw people get sick.

1882
01:20:47,650 --> 01:20:50,460
That's right.

1883
01:20:50,460 --> 01:20:53,100
But then all of a
sudden, every day

1884
01:20:53,100 --> 01:20:58,920
was getting better, because now
the so-called former prisoners

1885
01:20:58,920 --> 01:20:59,820
were in charge.

1886
01:20:59,820 --> 01:21:03,330
They were in control
of the kitchen

1887
01:21:03,330 --> 01:21:09,700
and the availability
of everything.

1888
01:21:09,700 --> 01:21:14,340
We didn't have to
line up for counting.

1889
01:21:14,340 --> 01:21:17,080
And all of a sudden,
there was music.

1890
01:21:17,080 --> 01:21:20,940
So it was like a different
world from one day to another.

1891
01:21:20,940 --> 01:21:23,200
Did everyone stay
right there at first?

1892
01:21:23,200 --> 01:21:23,700
Yes.

1893
01:21:23,700 --> 01:21:25,580
Because they didn't know
what else to do, huh?

1894
01:21:25,580 --> 01:21:26,122
That's right.

1895
01:21:26,122 --> 01:21:27,720
That's right.

1896
01:21:27,720 --> 01:21:31,140
We stayed there I
believe for a good month.

1897
01:21:31,140 --> 01:21:34,540
And did the Americans help you
figure out what to do next?

1898
01:21:34,540 --> 01:21:35,040
Yeah.

1899
01:21:35,040 --> 01:21:38,520
Well, the Americans didn't
stay long because they still

1900
01:21:38,520 --> 01:21:40,170
had a war to complete.

1901
01:21:40,170 --> 01:21:42,000
So they kept moving.

1902
01:21:42,000 --> 01:21:45,780
But some of them
stayed behind, the--

1903
01:21:45,780 --> 01:21:48,810
lack of a better
word-- administrators.

1904
01:21:48,810 --> 01:21:49,900
They registered us.

1905
01:21:49,900 --> 01:21:50,880
They asked questions.

1906
01:21:50,880 --> 01:21:51,870
Who is from where?

1907
01:21:51,870 --> 01:21:52,920
When do you want to go?

1908
01:21:52,920 --> 01:21:54,690
Where do you want to go?

1909
01:21:54,690 --> 01:21:56,730
What did you say?

1910
01:21:56,730 --> 01:21:58,470
I want to go back home.

1911
01:21:58,470 --> 01:21:59,430
Yeah.

1912
01:21:59,430 --> 01:22:02,730
Now, don't forget, this
was April, April the 12th.

1913
01:22:02,730 --> 01:22:06,280
The war was not over
yet, a certain part.

1914
01:22:06,280 --> 01:22:10,110
So we had to stay
there for a while.

1915
01:22:10,110 --> 01:22:11,850
Where you were
going to go back to,

1916

01:22:11,850 --> 01:22:13,380
had that been liberated yet?

1917
01:22:13,380 --> 01:22:14,880
Oh, yes.

1918
01:22:14,880 --> 01:22:19,770
That was liberated in
January by the Russians.

1919
01:22:19,770 --> 01:22:22,590
So if there was some
way to get back there,

1920
01:22:22,590 --> 01:22:23,790
that would have been safe.

1921
01:22:23,790 --> 01:22:24,510
Yes.

1922
01:22:24,510 --> 01:22:30,690
Now, within four weeks,
we were put on trucks

1923
01:22:30,690 --> 01:22:35,330
and said, now, you're
going back home.

1924
01:22:35,330 --> 01:22:38,880
These were Americans that
were taking you home?

1925
01:22:38,880 --> 01:22:41,460
I don't know if the truck
drivers were American.

1926
01:22:41,460 --> 01:22:43,170
But the Americans
arranged all that,

1927
01:22:43,170 --> 01:22:44,610
because they were
the liberators.

1928
01:22:44,610 --> 01:22:48,630
They were in
control of the camp.

1929
01:22:48,630 --> 01:22:51,750
Now, an interesting
story in my head--

1930
01:22:51,750 --> 01:22:58,050
because you mentioned the
Americans, maybe the third day,

1931
01:22:58,050 --> 01:23:00,060
one of my friends came over.

1932
01:23:00,060 --> 01:23:04,980
He said, Dennis-- well, my name
was not Dennis at the time.

1933
01:23:04,980 --> 01:23:06,870
He says, you're from
Umgvar, aren't you?

1934
01:23:06,870 --> 01:23:07,710
I said, yes.

1935
01:23:07,710 --> 01:23:11,790
He says, there's an American
in a tank who's born in Umgvar.

1936
01:23:11,790 --> 01:23:14,530
And he's wondering if
somebody's here from Umgvar.

1937
01:23:14,530 --> 01:23:16,540
And I walked up to him.

1938
01:23:16,540 --> 01:23:19,870
And he says, who are you?

1939
01:23:19,870 --> 01:23:22,800

And I told him I was Miklos.

1940

01:23:22,800 --> 01:23:24,180

He says, your brother was Fred.

1941

01:23:24,180 --> 01:23:24,880

I said, yes.

1942

01:23:24,880 --> 01:23:26,010

We went to school together.

1943

01:23:26,010 --> 01:23:30,500

1944

01:23:30,500 --> 01:23:31,940

He had gotten to America.

1945

01:23:31,940 --> 01:23:34,160

He came back in an American--

1946

01:23:34,160 --> 01:23:39,275

Well, he left with his
parents in the early '30s

1947

01:23:39,275 --> 01:23:41,060

to Pittsburgh.

1948

01:23:41,060 --> 01:23:45,690

And he was liberating us.

1949

01:23:45,690 --> 01:23:51,920

1950

01:23:51,920 --> 01:23:53,788

That was sad for you, huh?

1951

01:23:53,788 --> 01:23:54,288

Oh, yeah.

1952

01:23:54,288 --> 01:23:57,750

1953
01:23:57,750 --> 01:24:00,600
Because now, were you starting
to think about your family?

1954
01:24:00,600 --> 01:24:01,320
That's right.

1955
01:24:01,320 --> 01:24:02,320
Who's going to be there?

1956
01:24:02,320 --> 01:24:07,710

1957
01:24:07,710 --> 01:24:09,270
I can't resist asking.

1958
01:24:09,270 --> 01:24:12,150
What was your name
before it was Dennis?

1959
01:24:12,150 --> 01:24:12,880
Dionys.

1960
01:24:12,880 --> 01:24:13,380
Spell it.

1961
01:24:13,380 --> 01:24:19,320
D-I-O-N-Y-S. It's a Greek name.

1962
01:24:19,320 --> 01:24:20,070
Dionysus.

1963
01:24:20,070 --> 01:24:21,222
Yes,

1964
01:24:21,222 --> 01:24:21,930
A beautiful name.

1965
01:24:21,930 --> 01:24:24,040
But I just didn't like it.

1966

01:24:24,040 --> 01:24:25,620

When I got here, I changed it.

1967

01:24:25,620 --> 01:24:30,470

1968

01:24:30,470 --> 01:24:32,600

But the whole name
sounded Greek.

1969

01:24:32,600 --> 01:24:33,860

Miklos--

1970

01:24:33,860 --> 01:24:34,452

Yes.

1971

01:24:34,452 --> 01:24:35,410

And it's really Miklos.

1972

01:24:35,410 --> 01:24:39,020

I think to Americans, it might
sound like that's a Greek name,

1973

01:24:39,020 --> 01:24:40,700

but it really isn't, huh?

1974

01:24:40,700 --> 01:24:41,793

No, it's Hungarian.

1975

01:24:41,793 --> 01:24:42,710

It's a Hungarian name.

1976

01:24:42,710 --> 01:24:46,700

It's a Hungarian first name.

1977

01:24:46,700 --> 01:24:51,470

In Hungary, 99% of the
time, when you hear Miklos,

1978

01:24:51,470 --> 01:24:53,180

it's a first name.

1979

01:24:53,180 --> 01:24:54,080

That's a first name.

1980

01:24:54,080 --> 01:24:55,040

Yeah.

1981

01:24:55,040 --> 01:24:59,360

Very, very few times,

it's a last name.

1982

01:24:59,360 --> 01:25:02,330

Does it have an American
equivalent, Miklos?

1983

01:25:02,330 --> 01:25:03,500

Yeah, Michael.

1984

01:25:03,500 --> 01:25:04,680

Michael.

1985

01:25:04,680 --> 01:25:06,800

It's Miklos, with a--

1986

01:25:06,800 --> 01:25:10,460

1987

01:25:10,460 --> 01:25:16,010

I'm sure you heard of a
musician, Miklos Rozsa.

1988

01:25:16,010 --> 01:25:19,640

So that was a first name.

1989

01:25:19,640 --> 01:25:21,140

So when you went back to--

1990

01:25:21,140 --> 01:25:24,650

1991

01:25:24,650 --> 01:25:26,240
were you going back to Hungary?

1992
01:25:26,240 --> 01:25:27,840
Well, I was going back home.

1993
01:25:27,840 --> 01:25:28,340
Home.

1994
01:25:28,340 --> 01:25:33,095
But our first major stop
on the way was Budapest.

1995
01:25:33,095 --> 01:25:34,340
We went through Budapest.

1996
01:25:34,340 --> 01:25:37,080

1997
01:25:37,080 --> 01:25:39,875
And they deposit us a place.

1998
01:25:39,875 --> 01:25:43,440

1999
01:25:43,440 --> 01:25:49,770
And they told us the next day
to come to the Jewish Federation

2000
01:25:49,770 --> 01:25:50,550
to get help.

2001
01:25:50,550 --> 01:25:52,770
They're going to tell us
what we're going to get

2002
01:25:52,770 --> 01:25:54,640
and how we're going to get it.

2003
01:25:54,640 --> 01:26:00,150
And I ran into some other
people from my hometown

2004

01:26:00,150 --> 01:26:05,100
who also were transported
there from a different place.

2005

01:26:05,100 --> 01:26:08,520
And they told me that
my sister is on her way.

2006

01:26:08,520 --> 01:26:11,130

2007

01:26:11,130 --> 01:26:12,030
This was a lady.

2008

01:26:12,030 --> 01:26:15,930
She said, now, your sister,
I saw her just a few days ago

2009

01:26:15,930 --> 01:26:16,740
in a certain place.

2010

01:26:16,740 --> 01:26:17,710
And she'll be here.

2011

01:26:17,710 --> 01:26:18,930
So from that point on--

2012

01:26:18,930 --> 01:26:20,280
Where had she been?

2013

01:26:20,280 --> 01:26:21,420
In a different camp.

2014

01:26:21,420 --> 01:26:22,800
This is your twin sister.

2015

01:26:22,800 --> 01:26:25,560
Twin sister.

2016

01:26:25,560 --> 01:26:28,660

So from that point
on, every morning,

2017
01:26:28,660 --> 01:26:31,110
I came to the
so-called building,

2018
01:26:31,110 --> 01:26:33,230
because everybody was
concentrating there.

2019
01:26:33,230 --> 01:26:37,170
And one morning,
just she was there.

2020
01:26:37,170 --> 01:26:40,590

2021
01:26:40,590 --> 01:26:41,580
What was that like?

2022
01:26:41,580 --> 01:26:47,160
That was awful because they
rolled her in in a little wagon

2023
01:26:47,160 --> 01:26:48,360
because she couldn't walk.

2024
01:26:48,360 --> 01:26:54,090
Her toes or at least one
of her toes was frozen.

2025
01:26:54,090 --> 01:26:56,250
And she couldn't walk.

2026
01:26:56,250 --> 01:26:58,758
Of course, she got
better after that.

2027
01:26:58,758 --> 01:27:02,460
And it was very emotional.

2028

01:27:02,460 --> 01:27:03,510
Then we stayed together.

2029
01:27:03,510 --> 01:27:06,720

2030
01:27:06,720 --> 01:27:11,090
And a few days later, we went
back to our hometown, Ungvar.

2031
01:27:11,090 --> 01:27:12,480
Did you get there by train?

2032
01:27:12,480 --> 01:27:13,560
By train.

2033
01:27:13,560 --> 01:27:15,435
Yeah.

2034
01:27:15,435 --> 01:27:18,450
And what was that like?

2035
01:27:18,450 --> 01:27:22,660
Awful, because I remember
walking up in our building,

2036
01:27:22,660 --> 01:27:24,330
in our home.

2037
01:27:24,330 --> 01:27:26,850
And there were some
strangers there.

2038
01:27:26,850 --> 01:27:29,880
And they looked at us.

2039
01:27:29,880 --> 01:27:32,760
And they basically told
us, get out of here,

2040
01:27:32,760 --> 01:27:34,920
because this is ours now.

2041

01:27:34,920 --> 01:27:37,680

And I don't remember the
words that were exchanged.

2042

01:27:37,680 --> 01:27:43,860

But that was the only time
I saw that, until later on.

2043

01:27:43,860 --> 01:27:47,070

A few years ago, we
went back there again.

2044

01:27:47,070 --> 01:27:52,650

But we stayed in
Umgvar a few weeks.

2045

01:27:52,650 --> 01:27:56,550

And from there, we left, because
now the Russians were there.

2046

01:27:56,550 --> 01:27:59,550

It became the Soviet Union.

2047

01:27:59,550 --> 01:28:03,000

And there was no future there.

2048

01:28:03,000 --> 01:28:08,160

So we left to a
part of Slovakia.

2049

01:28:08,160 --> 01:28:14,250

Not too far were some
relatives of ours who escaped--

2050

01:28:14,250 --> 01:28:14,940

not escaped.

2051

01:28:14,940 --> 01:28:17,490

But they were hiding
in the mountains.

2052

01:28:17,490 --> 01:28:20,890

They escaped the
concentration camp.

2053

01:28:20,890 --> 01:28:22,080

And we heard about them.

2054

01:28:22,080 --> 01:28:24,690

And whether we called
them or not, I don't know.

2055

01:28:24,690 --> 01:28:26,580

But all of us, just here we are.

2056

01:28:26,580 --> 01:28:29,150

And they were pretty nice to us.

2057

01:28:29,150 --> 01:28:32,520

Now, when you had gone
back to your hometown,

2058

01:28:32,520 --> 01:28:36,870

nobody from your
family had returned.

2059

01:28:36,870 --> 01:28:38,050

No.

2060

01:28:38,050 --> 01:28:41,320

So that's when you found out
who survived and who didn't.

2061

01:28:41,320 --> 01:28:41,820

Yeah.

2062

01:28:41,820 --> 01:28:44,460

Well, my sister told me
what happened basically

2063

01:28:44,460 --> 01:28:48,690

to our mother and sister,
because they were together.

2064

01:28:48,690 --> 01:28:54,270

And then some others
told us about my brother,

2065

01:28:54,270 --> 01:28:56,520

that he died in the camp.

2066

01:28:56,520 --> 01:28:58,470

And I knew about my father.

2067

01:28:58,470 --> 01:29:01,930

You had the task to tell your
sister about your father.

2068

01:29:01,930 --> 01:29:02,670

Yes.

2069

01:29:02,670 --> 01:29:05,670

But amazingly, I don't remember
talking about it too much.

2070

01:29:05,670 --> 01:29:08,950

I guess she didn't
want to know too much.

2071

01:29:08,950 --> 01:29:13,530

And conversely, I don't
remember talking to her too much

2072

01:29:13,530 --> 01:29:17,190

about my mother and sister.

2073

01:29:17,190 --> 01:29:21,520

Why did they
execute your sister?

2074

01:29:21,520 --> 01:29:23,610

Wasn't she useful as a worker?

2075

01:29:23,610 --> 01:29:25,140

Don't know.

2076

01:29:25,140 --> 01:29:32,250
Peter, my wife can't understand
it, that my sister never had--

2077

01:29:32,250 --> 01:29:37,200
sister and I never felt like
we needed to talk about it.

2078

01:29:37,200 --> 01:29:38,610
Someday, I hope we will.

2079

01:29:38,610 --> 01:29:40,440
But just--

2080

01:29:40,440 --> 01:29:41,480
You do want to?

2081

01:29:41,480 --> 01:29:43,440
Yes.

2082

01:29:43,440 --> 01:29:45,420
Does she know you're
doing this interview?

2083

01:29:45,420 --> 01:29:47,100
No.

2084

01:29:47,100 --> 01:29:49,440
Do you know if she has
ever been interviewed?

2085

01:29:49,440 --> 01:29:50,530
I know she wasn't.

2086

01:29:50,530 --> 01:29:51,030
Wasn't?

2087

01:29:51,030 --> 01:29:52,221
No.

2088

01:29:52,221 --> 01:29:53,680

Maybe this will break the ice.

2089

01:29:53,680 --> 01:29:54,180

Yeah.

2090

01:29:54,180 --> 01:29:56,860

2091

01:29:56,860 --> 01:29:59,920

I hope so.

2092

01:29:59,920 --> 01:30:02,080

Is it what you want
to hear from her

2093

01:30:02,080 --> 01:30:03,970

or what you need to tell her?

2094

01:30:03,970 --> 01:30:04,720

Both.

2095

01:30:04,720 --> 01:30:05,220

Both.

2096

01:30:05,220 --> 01:30:07,420

Both.

2097

01:30:07,420 --> 01:30:12,640

It's just-- it's been
an impenetrable barrier

2098

01:30:12,640 --> 01:30:13,348

up to this point.

2099

01:30:13,348 --> 01:30:13,848

Absolutely.

2100

01:30:13,848 --> 01:30:14,850

It's so important, huh?

2101

01:30:14,850 --> 01:30:16,540

Yeah.

2102

01:30:16,540 --> 01:30:21,670

No, I remember years ago,
we touched at the edges

2103

01:30:21,670 --> 01:30:23,230

of the conversation.

2104

01:30:23,230 --> 01:30:26,888

And whether I changed
the subject or she did,

2105

01:30:26,888 --> 01:30:27,430

I don't know.

2106

01:30:27,430 --> 01:30:29,590

But it was changed.

2107

01:30:29,590 --> 01:30:30,580

And couldn't get back.

2108

01:30:30,580 --> 01:30:32,860

No.

2109

01:30:32,860 --> 01:30:33,760

Nor have we tried.

2110

01:30:33,760 --> 01:30:37,070

2111

01:30:37,070 --> 01:30:40,520

Now, when you say that she
hasn't been interviewed,

2112

01:30:40,520 --> 01:30:42,223

you say that with conviction.

2113

01:30:42,223 --> 01:30:42,890

How do you know?

2114

01:30:42,890 --> 01:30:43,940
She would have told me.

2115
01:30:43,940 --> 01:30:44,940
She would have told you.

2116
01:30:44,940 --> 01:30:46,160
Oh, yes.

2117
01:30:46,160 --> 01:30:47,390
She would have told me.

2118
01:30:47,390 --> 01:30:49,040
So you're going to tell her.

2119
01:30:49,040 --> 01:30:49,970
Absolutely.

2120
01:30:49,970 --> 01:30:53,060
I'll tell her this weekend.

2121
01:30:53,060 --> 01:30:55,010
She lives in New York?

2122
01:30:55,010 --> 01:30:55,580
Long Island.

2123
01:30:55,580 --> 01:30:56,080
Long Island.

2124
01:30:56,080 --> 01:30:57,455
Massapequa, Long Island.

2125
01:30:57,455 --> 01:31:00,200

2126
01:31:00,200 --> 01:31:02,390
We're very close, very close.

2127
01:31:02,390 --> 01:31:05,510

2128
01:31:05,510 --> 01:31:07,580
Do your kids know this story?

2129
01:31:07,580 --> 01:31:10,080
No.

2130
01:31:10,080 --> 01:31:11,820
Do they want to?

2131
01:31:11,820 --> 01:31:15,060
I'm sure they do.

2132
01:31:15,060 --> 01:31:18,950
So it's really been your
reluctance more than anything?

2133
01:31:18,950 --> 01:31:19,770
Yes.

2134
01:31:19,770 --> 01:31:21,970
Yes.

2135
01:31:21,970 --> 01:31:24,540
They haven't-- they never
came out and said, now, dad,

2136
01:31:24,540 --> 01:31:26,610
let's sit down
and talk about it.

2137
01:31:26,610 --> 01:31:30,480
But they dropped
hints of saying,

2138
01:31:30,480 --> 01:31:32,940
maybe you should sit down
before it's too late.

2139
01:31:32,940 --> 01:31:34,790
Or at least write it out.

2140

01:31:34,790 --> 01:31:38,130

2141

01:31:38,130 --> 01:31:40,740

Maybe this will make
that possible also.

2142

01:31:40,740 --> 01:31:42,150

I hope so.

2143

01:31:42,150 --> 01:31:44,910

Would you have welcomed
them saying, dad,

2144

01:31:44,910 --> 01:31:48,790

we have to sit down
and talk about this?

2145

01:31:48,790 --> 01:31:49,300

No.

2146

01:31:49,300 --> 01:31:49,800

No.

2147

01:31:49,800 --> 01:31:50,850

No.

2148

01:31:50,850 --> 01:31:52,770

So they were right
to do what they did?

2149

01:31:52,770 --> 01:31:54,120

Yes.

2150

01:31:54,120 --> 01:31:57,270

And believe me, it's
not because I didn't--

2151

01:31:57,270 --> 01:31:59,970

I want to keep it
secret from them.

2152

01:31:59,970 --> 01:32:03,270

I just didn't want them
to see me getting upset

2153

01:32:03,270 --> 01:32:05,350

because I didn't know how
I'm going to handle it.

2154

01:32:05,350 --> 01:32:08,370

I think I'm handling this
better than I thought I would.

2155

01:32:08,370 --> 01:32:12,165

But had I-- had I been
doing this in front of them,

2156

01:32:12,165 --> 01:32:13,290

it would have been tougher.

2157

01:32:13,290 --> 01:32:19,630

2158

01:32:19,630 --> 01:32:22,720

Can you envision
yourself sitting there

2159

01:32:22,720 --> 01:32:24,760

with them watching the tape?

2160

01:32:24,760 --> 01:32:26,610

Yes.

2161

01:32:26,610 --> 01:32:28,960

Whether I will or
not, I don't know.

2162

01:32:28,960 --> 01:32:30,750

Well, they're sure
to have questions.

2163

01:32:30,750 --> 01:32:32,530

Do you think that'll be OK now?

2164
01:32:32,530 --> 01:32:33,190
Pardon me?

2165
01:32:33,190 --> 01:32:36,740
They're sure to have questions
if they see this tape.

2166
01:32:36,740 --> 01:32:37,630
I know they'll have--

2167
01:32:37,630 --> 01:32:40,870
I'm trying to imagine
if I were your daughter

2168
01:32:40,870 --> 01:32:44,820
and I was seeing this tape, I
would have questions, I'm sure.

2169
01:32:44,820 --> 01:32:47,760
The one who had the
question is my wife.

2170
01:32:47,760 --> 01:32:49,760
Would that be OK for you now?

2171
01:32:49,760 --> 01:32:52,330
Yes.

2172
01:32:52,330 --> 01:32:54,310
Your wife come from America?

2173
01:32:54,310 --> 01:32:55,180
No, from Germany.

2174
01:32:55,180 --> 01:32:55,840
From Germany.

2175
01:32:55,840 --> 01:32:56,340
Yeah.

2176

01:32:56,340 --> 01:32:57,520
But they were fortunate.

2177
01:32:57,520 --> 01:33:00,130
They came out in '41.

2178
01:33:00,130 --> 01:33:00,860
'41?

2179
01:33:00,860 --> 01:33:01,960
1941.

2180
01:33:01,960 --> 01:33:02,930
Wow.

2181
01:33:02,930 --> 01:33:03,430
At the end.

2182
01:33:03,430 --> 01:33:06,250
Before we got in
the war with them.

2183
01:33:06,250 --> 01:33:07,480
Right.

2184
01:33:07,480 --> 01:33:10,120
Just I think they
were on the last ship.

2185
01:33:10,120 --> 01:33:13,930
That went from where to where?

2186
01:33:13,930 --> 01:33:15,670
From Holland or Belgium--

2187
01:33:15,670 --> 01:33:17,350
I believe it was Holland--

2188
01:33:17,350 --> 01:33:19,960
to New York.

2189

01:33:19,960 --> 01:33:21,580
Oh.

2190
01:33:21,580 --> 01:33:22,700
That's very late.

2191
01:33:22,700 --> 01:33:23,200
Yeah.

2192
01:33:23,200 --> 01:33:26,410
You can tell her that we
will be calling her soon?

2193
01:33:26,410 --> 01:33:27,370
I will tell her.

2194
01:33:27,370 --> 01:33:29,300
She was, I think,
five at the time.

2195
01:33:29,300 --> 01:33:29,800
Oh.

2196
01:33:29,800 --> 01:33:30,890
Yeah.

2197
01:33:30,890 --> 01:33:33,510
Excuse me.

2198
01:33:33,510 --> 01:33:34,960
No, she was eight.

2199
01:33:34,960 --> 01:33:36,740
She was eight.

2200
01:33:36,740 --> 01:33:39,220
Amazing.

2201
01:33:39,220 --> 01:33:43,000
So you think when your
family sees this--

2202

01:33:43,000 --> 01:33:47,420

and I'm sure there'll be
questions and questions.

2203

01:33:47,420 --> 01:33:47,920

Yes.

2204

01:33:47,920 --> 01:33:49,390

That'll be OK for you?

2205

01:33:49,390 --> 01:33:51,190

But what I'm afraid
of, that I will not

2206

01:33:51,190 --> 01:33:54,280

be able to be as open with
them as I am with you.

2207

01:33:54,280 --> 01:33:54,880

Why not?

2208

01:33:54,880 --> 01:33:55,810

I don't know.

2209

01:33:55,810 --> 01:33:56,740

I don't know.

2210

01:33:56,740 --> 01:33:58,780

I'd probably give
them a quick answer.

2211

01:33:58,780 --> 01:34:00,310

I hope I'm wrong.

2212

01:34:00,310 --> 01:34:03,310

And it will not be
a complete answer.

2213

01:34:03,310 --> 01:34:05,990

I don't know.

2214

01:34:05,990 --> 01:34:08,990

Is it because it's so hard
emotionally to talk about?

2215

01:34:08,990 --> 01:34:09,490

Yes.

2216

01:34:09,490 --> 01:34:15,760

And I just don't want to
subject to my problems.

2217

01:34:15,760 --> 01:34:19,520

You think you'll cry in front
of them and that'll be painful?

2218

01:34:19,520 --> 01:34:20,020

I think so.

2219

01:34:20,020 --> 01:34:23,350

Maybe they'll be
relieved finally to know.

2220

01:34:23,350 --> 01:34:24,100

I think they will.

2221

01:34:24,100 --> 01:34:28,390

I think they will
because they know.

2222

01:34:28,390 --> 01:34:31,120

They know there's something
in there that they don't know.

2223

01:34:31,120 --> 01:34:32,320

They know that.

2224

01:34:32,320 --> 01:34:32,980

We'll find out.

2225

01:34:32,980 --> 01:34:33,940

They know that.

2226

01:34:33,940 --> 01:34:35,327
I know that they know that.

2227
01:34:35,327 --> 01:34:37,660
Well, they also know that
there's something in your life

2228
01:34:37,660 --> 01:34:39,850
that has been very
painful to you.

2229
01:34:39,850 --> 01:34:44,800
So how can they not make the
connection between the pain

2230
01:34:44,800 --> 01:34:46,510
that you've been
carrying all your life--

2231
01:34:46,510 --> 01:34:47,110
They will--

2232
01:34:47,110 --> 01:34:49,300
And the tears that
you might be showing?

2233
01:34:49,300 --> 01:34:52,845
Maybe they'll be
relieved to get it out.

2234
01:34:52,845 --> 01:34:55,870
Well, what I will do,
I think, is give them

2235
01:34:55,870 --> 01:35:01,900
the option of watching it
by themselves or with me.

2236
01:35:01,900 --> 01:35:05,650
I'll let them decide.

2237
01:35:05,650 --> 01:35:08,170
And you could also let

them decide that maybe

2238
01:35:08,170 --> 01:35:10,300
if they wanted to
watch it alone,

2239
01:35:10,300 --> 01:35:12,660
that you'd be willing to come
and watch it a second time

2240
01:35:12,660 --> 01:35:13,160
with them.

2241
01:35:13,160 --> 01:35:13,660
Yes.

2242
01:35:13,660 --> 01:35:15,430
Yes.

2243
01:35:15,430 --> 01:35:18,400
Because I think that
it will be the vehicle

2244
01:35:18,400 --> 01:35:19,720
for being able to talk.

2245
01:35:19,720 --> 01:35:20,260
Right.

2246
01:35:20,260 --> 01:35:21,280
I think so, too.

2247
01:35:21,280 --> 01:35:24,130

2248
01:35:24,130 --> 01:35:29,140
So how was that to go back and
be told, this is our house now,

2249
01:35:29,140 --> 01:35:31,870
go away?

2250

01:35:31,870 --> 01:35:34,270

Peter, here again,
I wasn't devastated,

2251

01:35:34,270 --> 01:35:35,910

because I expected it.

2252

01:35:35,910 --> 01:35:36,610

You did?

2253

01:35:36,610 --> 01:35:39,400

Oh, yes, because
we heard already

2254

01:35:39,400 --> 01:35:43,180

from people who were back home
and came back to Budapest.

2255

01:35:43,180 --> 01:35:45,970

So we had a pretty good idea
of what's happening there.

2256

01:35:45,970 --> 01:35:48,820

2257

01:35:48,820 --> 01:35:51,700

I don't think my
sister and I walked

2258

01:35:51,700 --> 01:35:54,710

in there expecting
everybody to leave

2259

01:35:54,710 --> 01:35:58,480

and say, no, this
is yours again.

2260

01:35:58,480 --> 01:35:59,830

Were you allowed to look around?

2261

01:35:59,830 --> 01:36:00,910

Yes, a little bit.

2262
01:36:00,910 --> 01:36:02,935
We saw the furniture
still there.

2263
01:36:02,935 --> 01:36:05,590
Were there any things
there that you wanted?

2264
01:36:05,590 --> 01:36:09,490
Maybe I would have liked
the furniture again.

2265
01:36:09,490 --> 01:36:12,340
But I didn't even ask for it.

2266
01:36:12,340 --> 01:36:14,860
No, I just assumed.

2267
01:36:14,860 --> 01:36:16,870
So it's like everything
has been taken from us.

2268
01:36:16,870 --> 01:36:18,490
Right.

2269
01:36:18,490 --> 01:36:20,260
And you just have
to start a new life.

2270
01:36:20,260 --> 01:36:21,220
Correct.

2271
01:36:21,220 --> 01:36:23,230
And you went where
when you left there?

2272
01:36:23,230 --> 01:36:25,240
Now, before I tell
you where I went,

2273
01:36:25,240 --> 01:36:36,440

I remember before
my father told us

2274
01:36:36,440 --> 01:36:38,840
that we're going to
leave this place,

2275
01:36:38,840 --> 01:36:44,700
we're going to the ghetto, he
took me down into the basement.

2276
01:36:44,700 --> 01:36:49,110
And he said, I'm going
to hide our jewelry here.

2277
01:36:49,110 --> 01:36:52,070
And he showed he where
he's going to bury it.

2278
01:36:52,070 --> 01:36:54,950
And he did.

2279
01:36:54,950 --> 01:37:02,890
And when I say basement, it
was just a place in the yard.

2280
01:37:02,890 --> 01:37:05,480
There are some steps
down in the basement.

2281
01:37:05,480 --> 01:37:06,770
Nobody was living there.

2282
01:37:06,770 --> 01:37:08,760
And when I came back--

2283
01:37:08,760 --> 01:37:10,910
my sister and I came back.

2284
01:37:10,910 --> 01:37:15,110
And after our visit to
the house, one afternoon

2285

01:37:15,110 --> 01:37:18,920

or evening, I decided
to go for the jewelry.

2286

01:37:18,920 --> 01:37:20,490

And I didn't ask anyone.

2287

01:37:20,490 --> 01:37:22,730

I just walked into the
house, and I went down there.

2288

01:37:22,730 --> 01:37:23,840

And I found it.

2289

01:37:23,840 --> 01:37:24,620

You did?

2290

01:37:24,620 --> 01:37:26,330

Oh, yes.

2291

01:37:26,330 --> 01:37:28,850

Yes, it wasn't hidden deep.

2292

01:37:28,850 --> 01:37:30,380

I just took it out.

2293

01:37:30,380 --> 01:37:34,340

It was in a big jar.

2294

01:37:34,340 --> 01:37:35,520

And I found it.

2295

01:37:35,520 --> 01:37:36,920

What was in there?

2296

01:37:36,920 --> 01:37:40,280

Well, my mother's
diamond rings--

2297

01:37:40,280 --> 01:37:42,530

diamond earrings and rings--

2298
01:37:42,530 --> 01:37:46,430

2299
01:37:46,430 --> 01:37:47,990
perhaps a gold watch.

2300
01:37:47,990 --> 01:37:50,420
Here again, I don't
remember too much.

2301
01:37:50,420 --> 01:37:53,270
It wasn't something that's
worth millions of dollars.

2302
01:37:53,270 --> 01:37:56,660
It was family.

2303
01:37:56,660 --> 01:38:01,780
And of course, my sister
was happy with it.

2304
01:38:01,780 --> 01:38:03,170
I'm so glad you found it.

2305
01:38:03,170 --> 01:38:04,330
Yeah.

2306
01:38:04,330 --> 01:38:11,680
And then we went to see
our relatives in Slovakia,

2307
01:38:11,680 --> 01:38:17,080
stayed there for a
few weeks, then went--

2308
01:38:17,080 --> 01:38:19,060
They had gone to the
mountains and hid?

2309
01:38:19,060 --> 01:38:20,950
That's right.

2310
01:38:20,950 --> 01:38:22,570
So some people made it?

2311
01:38:22,570 --> 01:38:23,330
Right.

2312
01:38:23,330 --> 01:38:25,180
Right.

2313
01:38:25,180 --> 01:38:27,770
Now, don't forget, they
were not in Hungary.

2314
01:38:27,770 --> 01:38:32,170
They were in Czechoslovakia
on the other side.

2315
01:38:32,170 --> 01:38:35,170
And they left in '42 or '43.

2316
01:38:35,170 --> 01:38:37,090
They were in the mountains
for a couple years.

2317
01:38:37,090 --> 01:38:40,480

2318
01:38:40,480 --> 01:38:44,870
And after a short
period of time,

2319
01:38:44,870 --> 01:38:47,500
we went to another
city, my sister and I.

2320
01:38:47,500 --> 01:38:52,120
And an aunt that showed
up, my mother's sister,

2321
01:38:52,120 --> 01:38:54,460
came back from a camp.

2322

01:38:54,460 --> 01:38:57,040

Where had she been?

2323

01:38:57,040 --> 01:38:59,200

In Auschwitz and a
couple of other places.

2324

01:38:59,200 --> 01:39:03,820

I don't remember-- with women.

2325

01:39:03,820 --> 01:39:07,330

And we stayed in
this Slovak town

2326

01:39:07,330 --> 01:39:10,480

not too far away
for a few months.

2327

01:39:10,480 --> 01:39:15,780

My sister had a new
apartment with her.

2328

01:39:15,780 --> 01:39:21,010

And I stayed with another
relative whom I found.

2329

01:39:21,010 --> 01:39:23,710

And we were together
for a few months.

2330

01:39:23,710 --> 01:39:28,340

Then I became-- well, I
got worried about the army,

2331

01:39:28,340 --> 01:39:31,210

because now I was--

2332

01:39:31,210 --> 01:39:33,550

'47-- about 18.

2333

01:39:33,550 --> 01:39:35,980

I was 17.

2334
01:39:35,980 --> 01:39:38,050
Well, the Czechoslovak army--

2335
01:39:38,050 --> 01:39:41,110
I was 17 I think at the time.

2336
01:39:41,110 --> 01:39:46,220
So I was told that I
should get out of there.

2337
01:39:46,220 --> 01:39:47,800
And I went to Paris.

2338
01:39:47,800 --> 01:39:48,910
Who told you to go?

2339
01:39:48,910 --> 01:39:49,570
My uncle.

2340
01:39:49,570 --> 01:39:52,150

2341
01:39:52,150 --> 01:39:54,100
Yeah.

2342
01:39:54,100 --> 01:39:57,730
And I had to get a
passport first and a visa

2343
01:39:57,730 --> 01:40:03,250
as if I'm going on vacation
or just a visit to France.

2344
01:40:03,250 --> 01:40:06,632
And of course, I
never came back.

2345
01:40:06,632 --> 01:40:08,590
That meant you were
separated from your sister?

2346
01:40:08,590 --> 01:40:09,520
Yes.

2347
01:40:09,520 --> 01:40:10,210
Yes.

2348
01:40:10,210 --> 01:40:11,260
She stayed on?

2349
01:40:11,260 --> 01:40:14,920
She stayed on in
Prague with relatives.

2350
01:40:14,920 --> 01:40:20,500
But I know I came back two
or three times to visit her,

2351
01:40:20,500 --> 01:40:25,390
because I was still as
a visitor in France.

2352
01:40:25,390 --> 01:40:28,390
But I was not bound to
get into the army yet.

2353
01:40:28,390 --> 01:40:31,790
So I still had time.

2354
01:40:31,790 --> 01:40:34,240
So what did you do
while you were in--

2355
01:40:34,240 --> 01:40:36,360
there you are in
France, all by yourself.

2356
01:40:36,360 --> 01:40:38,566
Well, I was having fun.

2357
01:40:38,566 --> 01:40:39,100
Were you?

2358
01:40:39,100 --> 01:40:39,730
Yes.

2359
01:40:39,730 --> 01:40:40,660
What kind of fun?

2360
01:40:40,660 --> 01:40:44,980
Well, an 18-year-old in Paris--

2361
01:40:44,980 --> 01:40:47,950
got new friends.

2362
01:40:47,950 --> 01:40:49,850
What were you living on?

2363
01:40:49,850 --> 01:40:53,180
You were basically wiped out.

2364
01:40:53,180 --> 01:40:55,170
Not basically-- I was wiped out.

2365
01:40:55,170 --> 01:40:58,480
But the Federation or they-- it
was a different name for it--

2366
01:40:58,480 --> 01:40:59,500
Joint, I think.

2367
01:40:59,500 --> 01:41:03,390
The Joint gave us an
allowance every morning--

2368
01:41:03,390 --> 01:41:07,380
every month.

2369
01:41:07,380 --> 01:41:10,410
It wasn't a lot of money,
but it was enough--

2370
01:41:10,410 --> 01:41:11,440

To get by--

2371

01:41:11,440 --> 01:41:12,200

To get by.

2372

01:41:12,200 --> 01:41:17,440

And a cousin, my mother's
cousin from Youngstown, Ohio,

2373

01:41:17,440 --> 01:41:18,267

found out about us.

2374

01:41:18,267 --> 01:41:19,600

Or we've told them here to here.

2375

01:41:19,600 --> 01:41:23,050

And he sent me some
help every month.

2376

01:41:23,050 --> 01:41:24,220

So I got by.

2377

01:41:24,220 --> 01:41:25,150

I wasn't working.

2378

01:41:25,150 --> 01:41:26,710

I wasn't allowed to work.

2379

01:41:26,710 --> 01:41:28,180

Could you speak French?

2380

01:41:28,180 --> 01:41:29,210

I learned French.

2381

01:41:29,210 --> 01:41:29,710

Yes.

2382

01:41:29,710 --> 01:41:31,395

But you didn't speak
it when you first went?

2383

01:41:31,395 --> 01:41:31,670
No.

2384
01:41:31,670 --> 01:41:32,170
No.

2385
01:41:32,170 --> 01:41:34,930

2386
01:41:34,930 --> 01:41:37,090
Who could you talk to then?

2387
01:41:37,090 --> 01:41:41,920
Well, I made friends
quickly, quickly.

2388
01:41:41,920 --> 01:41:43,000
When you have to, huh?

2389
01:41:43,000 --> 01:41:45,700
Yes.

2390
01:41:45,700 --> 01:41:47,780
So there you are in Paris--

2391
01:41:47,780 --> 01:41:51,460
People were in the same
situation as I was.

2392
01:41:51,460 --> 01:41:54,910
I learned German
fluently because I

2393
01:41:54,910 --> 01:41:58,960
was among Germans in this area.

2394
01:41:58,960 --> 01:42:01,180
Played soccer-- I
was a soccer player.

2395
01:42:01,180 --> 01:42:03,915
And that was my--

2396
01:42:03,915 --> 01:42:06,550
Now, when you say
Germans, what do you mean?

2397
01:42:06,550 --> 01:42:07,690
German Jews.

2398
01:42:07,690 --> 01:42:09,130
German-- oh, German Jews.

2399
01:42:09,130 --> 01:42:10,490
Who are also in Paris.

2400
01:42:10,490 --> 01:42:10,990
Yes.

2401
01:42:10,990 --> 01:42:12,940
So there was a whole
enclave of you.

2402
01:42:12,940 --> 01:42:14,600
I called it a
ghetto at the time.

2403
01:42:14,600 --> 01:42:16,450
Somehow, they had survived.

2404
01:42:16,450 --> 01:42:18,280
Yes.

2405
01:42:18,280 --> 01:42:19,030
Hiding?

2406
01:42:19,030 --> 01:42:20,900
Different ways.

2407
01:42:20,900 --> 01:42:21,400
Camps?

2408
01:42:21,400 --> 01:42:24,010

Either camps or in hiding.

2409

01:42:24,010 --> 01:42:25,630

And are they waiting to--

2410

01:42:25,630 --> 01:42:29,290

Many of them went to
Belgium as Christians.

2411

01:42:29,290 --> 01:42:31,910

So there are hundreds
of ways of people.

2412

01:42:31,910 --> 01:42:34,180

And now, are they waiting to--

2413

01:42:34,180 --> 01:42:37,510

they're not in DP camps?

2414

01:42:37,510 --> 01:42:38,824

Some were.

2415

01:42:38,824 --> 01:42:39,700

Some were.

2416

01:42:39,700 --> 01:42:41,388

And are they waiting
to figure out

2417

01:42:41,388 --> 01:42:42,680

where they're going to go live?

2418

01:42:42,680 --> 01:42:44,170

Oh, in France?

2419

01:42:44,170 --> 01:42:45,100

Yeah.

2420

01:42:45,100 --> 01:42:48,890

They were in limbo because
some of them stayed there.

2421

01:42:48,890 --> 01:42:50,710

They made France
their residence.

2422

01:42:50,710 --> 01:42:52,300

And they were allowed to stay.

2423

01:42:52,300 --> 01:42:52,870

Oh, yes.

2424

01:42:52,870 --> 01:42:53,850

Did you consider that?

2425

01:42:53,850 --> 01:42:54,400

Pardon me?

2426

01:42:54,400 --> 01:42:54,820

No.

2427

01:42:54,820 --> 01:42:55,320

No.

2428

01:42:55,320 --> 01:42:56,020

No.

2429

01:42:56,020 --> 01:42:56,590

No.

2430

01:42:56,590 --> 01:42:58,070

What were you going to do?

2431

01:42:58,070 --> 01:42:59,600

I wanted to come to America.

2432

01:42:59,600 --> 01:43:00,250

You knew that?

2433

01:43:00,250 --> 01:43:00,850

Yes.

2434

01:43:00,850 --> 01:43:01,480
Yes.

2435
01:43:01,480 --> 01:43:02,620
Why?

2436
01:43:02,620 --> 01:43:03,430
I don't know.

2437
01:43:03,430 --> 01:43:04,780
My cousin was here.

2438
01:43:04,780 --> 01:43:10,330
My aunt and uncle
were in New York.

2439
01:43:10,330 --> 01:43:13,720
I just wanted to get this
other part behind me.

2440
01:43:13,720 --> 01:43:16,323
Suppose your sister didn't go.

2441
01:43:16,323 --> 01:43:17,740
Then I wouldn't
have gone, either.

2442
01:43:17,740 --> 01:43:21,964
But it was never a question
that this is what we want to do.

2443
01:43:21,964 --> 01:43:22,756
She wanted it also.

2444
01:43:22,756 --> 01:43:23,256
She, too?

2445
01:43:23,256 --> 01:43:24,580
Oh, yes.

2446
01:43:24,580 --> 01:43:28,252
So how did you get from A to B?

2447
01:43:28,252 --> 01:43:29,080
There you are.

2448
01:43:29,080 --> 01:43:30,430
You're in Paris.

2449
01:43:30,430 --> 01:43:31,870
She's back in Prague.

2450
01:43:31,870 --> 01:43:32,630
In Prague.

2451
01:43:32,630 --> 01:43:34,220
Yeah, in Prague.

2452
01:43:34,220 --> 01:43:36,820
In Prague with my
aunt and uncle.

2453
01:43:36,820 --> 01:43:38,560
So what was the next
thing that happened?

2454
01:43:38,560 --> 01:43:39,810
Well, the next thing happened.

2455
01:43:39,810 --> 01:43:44,530
We were both registered
at the American consulate

2456
01:43:44,530 --> 01:43:48,670
for a visa for
affidavits to come

2457
01:43:48,670 --> 01:43:51,550
to this country on
a permanent basis.

2458
01:43:51,550 --> 01:43:56,930
But the quota for
Czechoslovaks were just a few.

2459
01:43:56,930 --> 01:44:00,770
So they told us it may
take three to four years.

2460
01:44:00,770 --> 01:44:04,150
So when we registered
in '47, I went to Paris.

2461
01:44:04,150 --> 01:44:08,320
And she stayed in Prague
with my aunt and uncle

2462
01:44:08,320 --> 01:44:14,500
for I believe two
and a half years.

2463
01:44:14,500 --> 01:44:18,370
When they got their
visas, my aunt and uncle,

2464
01:44:18,370 --> 01:44:20,470
they went to New York.

2465
01:44:20,470 --> 01:44:22,340
And my sister couldn't go yet.

2466
01:44:22,340 --> 01:44:24,220
So she came-- she
joined me in Paris.

2467
01:44:24,220 --> 01:44:25,630
Why couldn't she go?

2468
01:44:25,630 --> 01:44:27,760
Because her number
didn't come up,

2469
01:44:27,760 --> 01:44:31,210
because she
registered the same--

2470

01:44:31,210 --> 01:44:32,380
With you?

2471
01:44:32,380 --> 01:44:33,910
With me.

2472
01:44:33,910 --> 01:44:38,500
So she joined me in
Paris for a few months

2473
01:44:38,500 --> 01:44:41,800
and did a little apartment.

2474
01:44:41,800 --> 01:44:47,020
And pretty soon, we
decided that we're not

2475
01:44:47,020 --> 01:44:49,660
going to wait anymore in Paris.

2476
01:44:49,660 --> 01:44:57,850
We're going to make a little
trip to Canada, a side trip,

2477
01:44:57,850 --> 01:45:00,700
because we were able to
get to Canada quicker

2478
01:45:00,700 --> 01:45:02,470
than into America.

2479
01:45:02,470 --> 01:45:05,320
So we went to Montreal.

2480
01:45:05,320 --> 01:45:08,680
And within a few months,
we got our visa in Montreal

2481
01:45:08,680 --> 01:45:12,340
and came to New York.

2482
01:45:12,340 --> 01:45:16,130

Now, I didn't care for New York.

2483

01:45:16,130 --> 01:45:16,630

Why not?

2484

01:45:16,630 --> 01:45:18,020

I just didn't like it--

2485

01:45:18,020 --> 01:45:22,360

didn't like the hustle

or bustle, the size,

2486

01:45:22,360 --> 01:45:29,500

plus the fact somebody got a

hold of me from San Francisco,

2487

01:45:29,500 --> 01:45:33,550

whether I'm interested to

come here and play soccer.

2488

01:45:33,550 --> 01:45:35,030

You were good?

2489

01:45:35,030 --> 01:45:36,020

Well, I wasn't great.

2490

01:45:36,020 --> 01:45:37,480

But I was pretty good.

2491

01:45:37,480 --> 01:45:38,920

And they heard about me.

2492

01:45:38,920 --> 01:45:42,760

And I said, gee, San Francisco

sounds like a lot of fun.

2493

01:45:42,760 --> 01:45:44,510

Did you know anything

about San Francisco?

2494

01:45:44,510 --> 01:45:45,520

Nothing.

2495
01:45:45,520 --> 01:45:46,180
Nothing.

2496
01:45:46,180 --> 01:45:48,040
Well, you knew it was
smaller than New York.

2497
01:45:48,040 --> 01:45:51,570
It was smaller than New York.

2498
01:45:51,570 --> 01:45:57,670
And they came to pick me
up, these friends, by car.

2499
01:45:57,670 --> 01:46:00,400
Before you ask me what
happened to my sister,

2500
01:46:00,400 --> 01:46:03,490
I wish I would have asked
her to come with me.

2501
01:46:03,490 --> 01:46:05,470
I guess I never did.

2502
01:46:05,470 --> 01:46:07,720
And she never said, I
want to go with you,

2503
01:46:07,720 --> 01:46:10,780
because she was comfortable
with our aunt and uncle.

2504
01:46:10,780 --> 01:46:13,510

2505
01:46:13,510 --> 01:46:15,940
Perhaps I didn't think
it's going to last forever.

2506
01:46:15,940 --> 01:46:19,180

Maybe I just came to San
Francisco for a while.

2507
01:46:19,180 --> 01:46:24,460
But it was permanent.

2508
01:46:24,460 --> 01:46:31,720
So my sister stayed with my
aunt and uncle for a few years

2509
01:46:31,720 --> 01:46:34,330
until she got married.

2510
01:46:34,330 --> 01:46:36,920

2511
01:46:36,920 --> 01:46:38,411
How did you meet your wife?

2512
01:46:38,411 --> 01:46:41,888

2513
01:46:41,888 --> 01:46:43,180
I was working for Levi Strauss.

2514
01:46:43,180 --> 01:46:47,350

2515
01:46:47,350 --> 01:46:48,790
And we had a picnic.

2516
01:46:48,790 --> 01:46:50,620
And she was there
with her brother, who

2517
01:46:50,620 --> 01:46:54,370
also worked at Levi Strauss.

2518
01:46:54,370 --> 01:46:56,360
I haven't been to a
Levi picnic since.

2519

01:46:56,360 --> 01:47:01,070

2520

01:47:01,070 --> 01:47:04,040

Yeah, that was--
that's how we met.

2521

01:47:04,040 --> 01:47:06,370

Was that the first
job that you got here?

2522

01:47:06,370 --> 01:47:06,870

Yes.

2523

01:47:06,870 --> 01:47:07,370

Yeah?

2524

01:47:07,370 --> 01:47:09,550

Yes, first and last.

2525

01:47:09,550 --> 01:47:10,480

First and last.

2526

01:47:10,480 --> 01:47:11,130

Yes.

2527

01:47:11,130 --> 01:47:14,180

You stayed all that time.

2528

01:47:14,180 --> 01:47:16,850

Almost 35 years, I believe.

2529

01:47:16,850 --> 01:47:19,020

I heard it's a very
good place to work.

2530

01:47:19,020 --> 01:47:21,300

So I guess it must be true, huh?

2531

01:47:21,300 --> 01:47:23,346

Yes, it was a very good place.

2532
01:47:23,346 --> 01:47:24,815
Wonderful.

2533
01:47:24,815 --> 01:47:26,390
And you have sons.

2534
01:47:26,390 --> 01:47:27,470
How many sons?

2535
01:47:27,470 --> 01:47:28,460
Two sons.

2536
01:47:28,460 --> 01:47:29,690
We got married in '54.

2537
01:47:29,690 --> 01:47:33,410

2538
01:47:33,410 --> 01:47:37,880
David was born a year
and a half later and then

2539
01:47:37,880 --> 01:47:41,720
Robert probably
three years later.

2540
01:47:41,720 --> 01:47:43,800
Yeah.

2541
01:47:43,800 --> 01:47:45,540
And are they living in the area?

2542
01:47:45,540 --> 01:47:47,220
Both living in the area.

2543
01:47:47,220 --> 01:47:50,050
Has America been what
you wanted it to be?

2544
01:47:50,050 --> 01:47:50,550

Yes.

2545

01:47:50,550 --> 01:47:51,450

Yes?

2546

01:47:51,450 --> 01:47:52,340

Yes.

2547

01:47:52,340 --> 01:47:53,580

In what sense?

2548

01:47:53,580 --> 01:47:54,450

In every sense.

2549

01:47:54,450 --> 01:47:58,140

Of course, when
you compare to what

2550

01:47:58,140 --> 01:48:05,930
was in Europe during the awful
years, it's a great country.

2551

01:48:05,930 --> 01:48:08,040

You mentioned before
that you had gone back

2552

01:48:08,040 --> 01:48:13,710
two years ago to this hometown.

2553

01:48:13,710 --> 01:48:14,720

More than two years ago.

2554

01:48:14,720 --> 01:48:16,530

We went back in 1990.

2555

01:48:16,530 --> 01:48:17,370

1990?

2556

01:48:17,370 --> 01:48:19,350

Yes, 11 years ago.

2557

01:48:19,350 --> 01:48:20,495

Can you describe that?

2558

01:48:20,495 --> 01:48:20,995

Uh-huh.

2559

01:48:20,995 --> 01:48:21,495

But--

2560

01:48:21,495 --> 01:48:23,570

Go ahead.

2561

01:48:23,570 --> 01:48:24,630

I need--

2562

01:48:24,630 --> 01:48:26,093

Let's stop.

2563

01:48:26,093 --> 01:48:27,510

Now, you don't
have to go so fast.

2564

01:48:27,510 --> 01:48:30,110

I drank too much water.

2565

01:48:30,110 --> 01:49:29,000