

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:47,553

2

00:00:47,553 --> 00:00:48,720

--and they were the Kazakhs.

3

00:00:48,720 --> 00:00:51,420

4

00:00:51,420 --> 00:00:55,710

And at some point, I had a  
teacher who was a doctor.

5

00:00:55,710 --> 00:01:00,870

And he was teaching  
because he couldn't--

6

00:01:00,870 --> 00:01:06,570

people came to  
Czechoslovakia to get away

7

00:01:06,570 --> 00:01:09,870

from Romania and from Russia.

8

00:01:09,870 --> 00:01:14,640

And some of these people  
were professional people.

9

00:01:14,640 --> 00:01:17,040

And because there was  
a shortage of teachers,

10

00:01:17,040 --> 00:01:19,780

they became teachers.

11

00:01:19,780 --> 00:01:21,010

You know--

12

00:01:21,010 --> 00:01:22,268

OK, we're rolling.

13

00:01:22,268 --> 00:01:23,060

You guys can start.

14

00:01:23,060 --> 00:01:23,740

We're rolling.

15

00:01:23,740 --> 00:01:25,600

Can we get some water?

16

00:01:25,600 --> 00:01:26,943

Is there any--

17

00:01:26,943 --> 00:01:28,360

There is the  
bathroom in the back.

18

00:01:28,360 --> 00:01:29,920

Yeah, there's some  
glasses over here.

19

00:01:29,920 --> 00:01:31,990

I'll get some water.

20

00:01:31,990 --> 00:01:35,240

Also, I may not respond to you.

21

00:01:35,240 --> 00:01:35,740

That's OK.

22

00:01:35,740 --> 00:01:36,580

I'll just let you talk.

23

00:01:36,580 --> 00:01:37,540

I don't want to interrupt.

24

00:01:37,540 --> 00:01:38,230

OK, that's fine.

25

00:01:38,230 --> 00:01:40,300

Because whatever I  
say gets picked up.

26  
00:01:40,300 --> 00:01:42,100  
OK, I understand.

27  
00:01:42,100 --> 00:01:44,320  
So when we're  
going to start, I'm

28  
00:01:44,320 --> 00:01:46,830  
just going to start  
out from where I--

29  
00:01:46,830 --> 00:01:47,830  
I'll ask you a question.

30  
00:01:47,830 --> 00:01:49,060  
OK, you'll ask a question.

31  
00:01:49,060 --> 00:01:51,760  
You will introduce yourself.

32  
00:01:51,760 --> 00:01:53,264  
OK, good.

33  
00:01:53,264 --> 00:01:56,743  
[THUDDING SOUND OFF-CAMERA]

34  
00:01:56,743 --> 00:02:01,730

35  
00:02:01,730 --> 00:02:04,650  
Are you monitoring your camera?

36  
00:02:04,650 --> 00:02:05,150  
Hmm?

37  
00:02:05,150 --> 00:02:06,551  
Are you monitoring your camera?

38  
00:02:06,551 --> 00:02:10,479

39  
00:02:10,479 --> 00:02:11,440  
We just need one.

40  
00:02:11,440 --> 00:02:12,070  
One is fine.

41  
00:02:12,070 --> 00:02:15,660

42  
00:02:15,660 --> 00:02:16,160  
Well.

43  
00:02:16,160 --> 00:02:22,560

44  
00:02:22,560 --> 00:02:24,736  
Can you hear the sound at all?

45  
00:02:24,736 --> 00:02:26,690  
Yeah.

46  
00:02:26,690 --> 00:02:28,160  
Oh, you mean the  
sound from here?

47  
00:02:28,160 --> 00:02:28,660  
Yeah.

48  
00:02:28,660 --> 00:02:40,365

49  
00:02:40,365 --> 00:02:43,470  
There's a drinking  
fountain [INAUDIBLE]..

50  
00:02:43,470 --> 00:02:44,220  
There is--

51  
00:02:44,220 --> 00:02:45,090  
Give us 10 seconds.

52  
00:02:45,090 --> 00:02:51,580

53  
00:02:51,580 --> 00:02:53,510  
[? That's ?] helped.

54  
00:02:53,510 --> 00:02:57,510  
OK, it's all yours.

55  
00:02:57,510 --> 00:03:01,950  
I'm Howard Felson with the  
Holocaust Oral History Project.

56  
00:03:01,950 --> 00:03:06,810  
And I'm interviewing Miriam  
Samuel in Oakland, California,

57  
00:03:06,810 --> 00:03:15,960  
at Beth Jacob Synagogue  
on February 7, 1989.

58  
00:03:15,960 --> 00:03:18,690  
Miriam, could you tell  
me when you were born

59  
00:03:18,690 --> 00:03:21,270  
and where you were  
born, what town.

60  
00:03:21,270 --> 00:03:28,090  
I was born in Czechoslovakia,  
July 24, 1924.

61  
00:03:28,090 --> 00:03:37,700  
And I lived in a very small town  
by the name of [? Těšlavice. ?] I

62  
00:03:37,700 --> 00:03:39,940  
had a large family.

63  
00:03:39,940 --> 00:03:42,840

I had very young parents.

64

00:03:42,840 --> 00:03:44,310

At that time, I  
think people were

65

00:03:44,310 --> 00:03:48,270

getting married, after first  
World War, quite young.

66

00:03:48,270 --> 00:03:52,230

My father was a war veteran.

67

00:03:52,230 --> 00:03:59,880

And my father, in  
our small town,

68

00:03:59,880 --> 00:04:02,850

he was the most educated man.

69

00:04:02,850 --> 00:04:07,980

So a lot of people would  
come to him for advice.

70

00:04:07,980 --> 00:04:15,060

He also represented the  
town at government level.

71

00:04:15,060 --> 00:04:18,120

Because he was educated.

72

00:04:18,120 --> 00:04:20,180

And there weren't that  
many educated people.

73

00:04:20,180 --> 00:04:22,770

74

00:04:22,770 --> 00:04:26,760

Czechoslovakia was a  
very Democratic country.

75

00:04:26,760 --> 00:04:30,690

We lived through some  
very difficult times

76

00:04:30,690 --> 00:04:34,110

during the Depression.

77

00:04:34,110 --> 00:04:36,150

I heard that here wasn't  
that great either,

78

00:04:36,150 --> 00:04:38,160

but there was very bad.

79

00:04:38,160 --> 00:04:42,825

The Czechs built roads to  
nowhere to give people jobs.

80

00:04:42,825 --> 00:04:46,590

81

00:04:46,590 --> 00:04:53,580

We felt very safe when the Czech  
gendarme, when the Czech police

82

00:04:53,580 --> 00:04:56,070

were around, because  
they were very protective

83

00:04:56,070 --> 00:04:59,100

of every individual.

84

00:04:59,100 --> 00:05:03,900

Though the people where we lived  
were the Ukrainian and white

85

00:05:03,900 --> 00:05:06,090

Russian, and they  
were very antisemitic.

86

00:05:06,090 --> 00:05:09,300

87

00:05:09,300 --> 00:05:13,830

I went to a school  
where we used to have,

88

00:05:13,830 --> 00:05:18,270

in our classroom, 65 children  
during the wintertime.

89

00:05:18,270 --> 00:05:19,770

It was a farming town.

90

00:05:19,770 --> 00:05:22,065

So during the summer, there  
weren't as many pupils.

91

00:05:22,065 --> 00:05:25,140

92

00:05:25,140 --> 00:05:30,000

They said the Lord's  
prayer in the morning.

93

00:05:30,000 --> 00:05:35,300

And we weren't obliged to  
do so because I was Jewish,

94

00:05:35,300 --> 00:05:37,940

the Jewish children.

95

00:05:37,940 --> 00:05:41,445

We weren't required to  
go to religious training.

96

00:05:41,445 --> 00:05:48,190

97

00:05:48,190 --> 00:05:52,030

My father, because  
he was a war veteran,

98

00:05:52,030 --> 00:05:56,200

had the type of businesses



that other people couldn't

99

00:05:56,200 --> 00:06:01,840

get licenses, like  
tobacco and liquor.

100

00:06:01,840 --> 00:06:04,330

What kind of work did he do?

101

00:06:04,330 --> 00:06:08,650

Well, we had licenses  
for the stores,

102

00:06:08,650 --> 00:06:12,160

for selling tobacco and liquor.

103

00:06:12,160 --> 00:06:13,900

Most people couldn't  
get those type

104

00:06:13,900 --> 00:06:18,400

of licenses except  
if they were veterans

105

00:06:18,400 --> 00:06:21,410

or they had some type  
of things that they

106

00:06:21,410 --> 00:06:23,630

have needed in that community.

107

00:06:23,630 --> 00:06:28,840

So that was some type  
of a good thing to have.

108

00:06:28,840 --> 00:06:34,250

And also, because we  
were such a large family,

109

00:06:34,250 --> 00:06:37,880

I don't think he could make a  
living from those two things.

110

00:06:37,880 --> 00:06:40,025

So he had to go out  
and do other business.

111

00:06:40,025 --> 00:06:47,230

He built bridges, he designed  
bridges, railroad tracks,

112

00:06:47,230 --> 00:06:52,870

sell the materials for  
it, the ties and things.

113

00:06:52,870 --> 00:06:56,470

He did all kinds  
of different jobs.

114

00:06:56,470 --> 00:06:58,720

He tried his hand at  
everything, especially

115

00:06:58,720 --> 00:07:00,580

during the Depression.

116

00:07:00,580 --> 00:07:08,110

Later on, when Germany  
started being antisemitic

117

00:07:08,110 --> 00:07:12,910

and Hitler came  
into power, things

118

00:07:12,910 --> 00:07:14,740

started changing for us too.

119

00:07:14,740 --> 00:07:18,370

First of all, we were scared.

120

00:07:18,370 --> 00:07:20,260

It was in the news all the time.

121

00:07:20,260 --> 00:07:26,410

Now, we did not have radios and

televisions like now and here.

122  
00:07:26,410 --> 00:07:30,340  
But my father had  
three newspapers that

123  
00:07:30,340 --> 00:07:31,720  
came from different countries.

124  
00:07:31,720 --> 00:07:35,560  
He read The New  
York Times, I think.

125  
00:07:35,560 --> 00:07:38,650  
And it used to come written in--

126  
00:07:38,650 --> 00:07:43,090  
I think it was The Times--  
it was written in Yiddish.

127  
00:07:43,090 --> 00:07:46,930  
And he read the [? Wasche ?]  
[? Blatt. ?] And he read

128  
00:07:46,930 --> 00:07:49,270  
a paper that came from London.

129  
00:07:49,270 --> 00:07:53,950  
And he would compare  
notes of the three papers.

130  
00:07:53,950 --> 00:07:58,300  
And so he knew that  
things weren't good.

131  
00:07:58,300 --> 00:08:02,260  
When I was 14 years  
old, at the time,

132  
00:08:02,260 --> 00:08:06,100  
my father said, nothing good  
is going to happen here.

133

00:08:06,100 --> 00:08:08,807

And I was the second  
child in the family.

134

00:08:08,807 --> 00:08:10,390

How many children  
were in your family?

135

00:08:10,390 --> 00:08:11,980

Eight.

136

00:08:11,980 --> 00:08:13,540

I had seven brothers.

137

00:08:13,540 --> 00:08:17,680

One was older than me, and  
all the rest were younger.

138

00:08:17,680 --> 00:08:22,480

My father wanted  
to send me away.

139

00:08:22,480 --> 00:08:25,000

So I went and I  
had pictures taken.

140

00:08:25,000 --> 00:08:30,830

He made out a passport for  
me, some type of passport

141

00:08:30,830 --> 00:08:33,130

that's called an  
international passport,

142

00:08:33,130 --> 00:08:39,760

that I'm a homeless person, so  
that I would be able to leave.

143

00:08:39,760 --> 00:08:43,570

And but it didn't  
happen, because I was

144

00:08:43,570 --> 00:08:45,580  
too young to travel by myself.

145  
00:08:45,580 --> 00:08:48,250  
He did not have enough money  
to pay for somebody else

146  
00:08:48,250 --> 00:08:49,660  
to take me.

147  
00:08:49,660 --> 00:08:53,380  
I would have had to go  
through Germany to England.

148  
00:08:53,380 --> 00:08:58,090  
And from there, he was hoping I  
could come to the United States

149  
00:08:58,090 --> 00:08:59,160  
or Palestine.

150  
00:08:59,160 --> 00:09:02,710

151  
00:09:02,710 --> 00:09:08,950  
You said that Ukrainians and white  
Russians who lived around you

152  
00:09:08,950 --> 00:09:10,030  
were antisemitic.

153  
00:09:10,030 --> 00:09:10,540  
Very.

154  
00:09:10,540 --> 00:09:11,860  
How did you know that?

155  
00:09:11,860 --> 00:09:16,630  
Well, first of all,  
what they did is--

156  
00:09:16,630 --> 00:09:21,700

I will come later to what they  
did when they took us away.

157

00:09:21,700 --> 00:09:25,750

But during all of this time,  
we lived across the street

158

00:09:25,750 --> 00:09:27,340

from a church.

159

00:09:27,340 --> 00:09:32,470

On Easter and Christmas, they'd  
throw stones at Jewish homes.

160

00:09:32,470 --> 00:09:37,810

A Jewish child was not safe if  
we went by ourselves any place.

161

00:09:37,810 --> 00:09:40,130

When children went  
to Hebrew school,

162

00:09:40,130 --> 00:09:44,300

cheder, especially if it  
was early in the morning,

163

00:09:44,300 --> 00:09:49,150

they would be caught and beaten.

164

00:09:49,150 --> 00:09:53,890

Even to go to public schools, I  
remember that some of the kids

165

00:09:53,890 --> 00:09:56,950

would wait for us and beat  
us up because we were Jewish,

166

00:09:56,950 --> 00:09:58,180

and for no other reason.

167

00:09:58,180 --> 00:10:01,000

168

00:10:01,000 --> 00:10:06,130

Their belief was that  
we killed their Lord.

169

00:10:06,130 --> 00:10:09,400

And so we were supposed  
to be punished for it.

170

00:10:09,400 --> 00:10:11,590

This was their teaching.

171

00:10:11,590 --> 00:10:13,315

It was Russian Catholic.

172

00:10:13,315 --> 00:10:16,430

173

00:10:16,430 --> 00:10:19,630

The main religion was Russian  
Catholic, and some Roman

174

00:10:19,630 --> 00:10:20,650

Catholic.

175

00:10:20,650 --> 00:10:24,820

And they preached a lot  
of this in their churches.

176

00:10:24,820 --> 00:10:25,990

Were you ever beaten?

177

00:10:25,990 --> 00:10:29,950

Oh, yes, many times, many times.

178

00:10:29,950 --> 00:10:34,380

I also learned to  
protect myself.

179

00:10:34,380 --> 00:10:36,940

Well, first of all,  
I tried to stay away

180

00:10:36,940 --> 00:10:42,190

from wherever I saw a group  
of kids, or even older kids

181

00:10:42,190 --> 00:10:47,430

than me, adults, when it  
came to Jewish children,

182

00:10:47,430 --> 00:10:53,520

they really were brutal.

183

00:10:53,520 --> 00:10:57,100

And this experience  
was not just for me,

184

00:10:57,100 --> 00:11:00,060

but for most Jewish children.

185

00:11:00,060 --> 00:11:04,830

A lot of times, I think, I was  
beaten on the way to school

186

00:11:04,830 --> 00:11:08,490

by a boy who was  
in my classroom.

187

00:11:08,490 --> 00:11:13,440

And every time I  
went to school, I

188

00:11:13,440 --> 00:11:15,990

had to run because  
he would beat me up.

189

00:11:15,990 --> 00:11:20,085

So at one point, me  
and another girl,

190

00:11:20,085 --> 00:11:23,370

a Jewish girl, my  
girlfriend, went together.

191



00:11:23,370 --> 00:11:27,000

And when he was  
trying to beat us up,

192

00:11:27,000 --> 00:11:30,630

we jumped him and pulled  
his jacket over his head

193

00:11:30,630 --> 00:11:31,940

and beat him.

194

00:11:31,940 --> 00:11:34,350

He never beat me again.

195

00:11:34,350 --> 00:11:38,760

But those were the type  
of things that were

196

00:11:38,760 --> 00:11:42,260

practiced from their homes.

197

00:11:42,260 --> 00:11:47,220

Though the Jewish people  
lived in their own type

198

00:11:47,220 --> 00:11:50,040

of surroundings, they had  
their own type of lives.

199

00:11:50,040 --> 00:11:54,480

We lived mainly on  
the main street,

200

00:11:54,480 --> 00:11:58,030

our group of Jewish people  
who were next to each other.

201

00:11:58,030 --> 00:11:59,430

It was like for protection.

202

00:11:59,430 --> 00:12:02,130

203

00:12:02,130 --> 00:12:03,930

Was your family observant?

204

00:12:03,930 --> 00:12:04,950

Very observant.

205

00:12:04,950 --> 00:12:08,490

My father was a yeshiva bochur.

206

00:12:08,490 --> 00:12:12,300

And he was also cantor.

207

00:12:12,300 --> 00:12:14,970

And there was a lot  
of music in our home.

208

00:12:14,970 --> 00:12:20,310

209

00:12:20,310 --> 00:12:23,730

All of the people who lived in  
our town were very observant.

210

00:12:23,730 --> 00:12:27,180

If not, they would have  
been excommunicated.

211

00:12:27,180 --> 00:12:30,330

There was no such thing as not  
eating kosher, or not going

212

00:12:30,330 --> 00:12:34,180

to temple, or intermarriage,  
or anything like that,

213

00:12:34,180 --> 00:12:35,820

especially in my community.

214

00:12:35,820 --> 00:12:39,330

In the bigger cities,  
it was more acceptable.

215

00:12:39,330 --> 00:12:41,520

But in the small  
towns, it wasn't.

216

00:12:41,520 --> 00:12:48,030

And it was really for  
self-preservation.

217

00:12:48,030 --> 00:12:52,770

We also practiced--  
when anybody traveled,

218

00:12:52,770 --> 00:12:56,760

Jewish people traveled,  
they were salesmen

219

00:12:56,760 --> 00:13:02,640

or they had wagons and they were  
hauling, like truck drivers,

220

00:13:02,640 --> 00:13:06,310

goods from one  
town to the other.

221

00:13:06,310 --> 00:13:12,060

We always asked them to  
come and have a meal with us

222

00:13:12,060 --> 00:13:15,250

whenever they were passing by.

223

00:13:15,250 --> 00:13:19,440

It was a practice that--  
it was almost like,

224

00:13:19,440 --> 00:13:21,660

at dinner time, when we  
were going to have dinner,

225

00:13:21,660 --> 00:13:24,330

if I wagon drove by,  
my mother would say,

226

00:13:24,330 --> 00:13:27,060

see if somebody is driving by.

227

00:13:27,060 --> 00:13:31,140

And we would stop them and say,  
come on in and eat with us.

228

00:13:31,140 --> 00:13:33,150

It was a practice.

229

00:13:33,150 --> 00:13:35,040

We always had  
strangers for Shabbat.

230

00:13:35,040 --> 00:13:39,030

231

00:13:39,030 --> 00:13:41,460

I always have to give  
up my bed for them,

232

00:13:41,460 --> 00:13:48,720

because I had my own room, and  
I would sleep with my mother.

233

00:13:48,720 --> 00:13:49,890

It was a practice.

234

00:13:49,890 --> 00:13:55,170

It was practice all the  
time, because a Jewish person

235

00:13:55,170 --> 00:13:57,600

couldn't stay any other place.

236

00:13:57,600 --> 00:14:00,810

They had to stay with  
another Jewish family.

237

00:14:00,810 --> 00:14:02,310

Where was your mother from?

238

00:14:02,310 --> 00:14:05,190

My mother was from born in  
the same town as we lived.

239

00:14:05,190 --> 00:14:10,620

My father was from Æierna, which  
my husband is also from there--

240

00:14:10,620 --> 00:14:12,540

was from a different town.

241

00:14:12,540 --> 00:14:14,880

But my mother lived--

242

00:14:14,880 --> 00:14:21,990

her father was a very  
well-to-do landowner.

243

00:14:21,990 --> 00:14:29,880

And he also practiced  
law in the community.

244

00:14:29,880 --> 00:14:37,080

And so my grandfather  
died of influenza

245

00:14:37,080 --> 00:14:41,190

after first World War,  
before my mother got married.

246

00:14:41,190 --> 00:14:48,660

And so she lived  
on that property.

247

00:14:48,660 --> 00:14:51,990

Of course my father  
wanted to build

248

00:14:51,990 --> 00:14:53,440

another house and all of that.

249

00:14:53,440 --> 00:14:56,490

But basically we lived in the  
same town where my mother was

250  
00:14:56,490 --> 00:15:00,400  
born, and my grandfather.

251  
00:15:00,400 --> 00:15:04,890  
So it was generations  
in the same town.

252  
00:15:04,890 --> 00:15:10,680  
And our relatives and so on  
owned, like, the whole block.

253  
00:15:10,680 --> 00:15:15,300  
There Jewish people  
did own land.

254  
00:15:15,300 --> 00:15:17,700  
I don't know, in  
history, how it was.

255  
00:15:17,700 --> 00:15:22,200  
But in my time, Jewish  
people did own land.

256  
00:15:22,200 --> 00:15:30,660  
So like the whole block was-- my  
family lived, uncles and aunts

257  
00:15:30,660 --> 00:15:32,940  
and brother-in-laws and  
sister-in-laws, and cousins,

258  
00:15:32,940 --> 00:15:35,490  
and so on.

259  
00:15:35,490 --> 00:15:37,890  
That was as far  
as the town goes.

260  
00:15:37,890 --> 00:15:39,540  
As I say, it was

a very small town.

261

00:15:39,540 --> 00:15:43,510

We had a synagogue,  
we had a mikvah,

262

00:15:43,510 --> 00:15:47,080

they had all of the things  
that bigger towns had.

263

00:15:47,080 --> 00:15:52,150

We had a cheder, and  
a rabbi, a melamed.

264

00:15:52,150 --> 00:15:54,460

And most of the time,  
it was in our house,

265

00:15:54,460 --> 00:16:01,090

because we were such a large  
family that we had to pay--

266

00:16:01,090 --> 00:16:05,410

well, for our children, we  
needed a tutor all the time.

267

00:16:05,410 --> 00:16:08,770

And education was the  
most important thing

268

00:16:08,770 --> 00:16:10,580

that my father taught us.

269

00:16:10,580 --> 00:16:14,740

He said that's more important  
to have a good education than

270

00:16:14,740 --> 00:16:21,170

to have money or wealth  
or anything else.

271

00:16:21,170 --> 00:16:23,440

And my older brother

went to the gymnasium

272

00:16:23,440 --> 00:16:29,050

in [Chust It was  
a royal gymnasium.

273

00:16:29,050 --> 00:16:33,340

And he was one of  
those gifted children

274

00:16:33,340 --> 00:16:35,860

that he started when he  
was in the fifth grade.

275

00:16:35,860 --> 00:16:39,100

276

00:16:39,100 --> 00:16:41,650

What kind of school  
did you go to?

277

00:16:41,650 --> 00:16:44,740

Well, I just finished grade  
school, the eighth grade,

278

00:16:44,740 --> 00:16:47,200

because the war  
started right after.

279

00:16:47,200 --> 00:16:50,830

There was a mobilization  
by the Czechs.

280

00:16:50,830 --> 00:16:52,705

Schools were closed.

281

00:16:52,705 --> 00:16:57,070

The schools were taken  
over for military purposes.

282

00:16:57,070 --> 00:16:59,320

Even our home was taken.



283

00:16:59,320 --> 00:17:01,450

Then the Hungarians came in.

284

00:17:01,450 --> 00:17:04,599

285

00:17:04,599 --> 00:17:09,310

because we had, as I said,  
the liquor store and tobacco,

286

00:17:09,310 --> 00:17:14,800

the front of our  
house was a large bar,

287

00:17:14,800 --> 00:17:17,410

with cages for certain things.

288

00:17:17,410 --> 00:17:21,579

I think it was  
different than here.

289

00:17:21,579 --> 00:17:25,400

You sold liquor  
and tobacco from--

290

00:17:25,400 --> 00:17:27,400

Well, in the front of the  
house was the business

291

00:17:27,400 --> 00:17:30,230

and the back was where we lived.

292

00:17:30,230 --> 00:17:35,320

And so they occupied  
part of our house.

293

00:17:35,320 --> 00:17:40,600

They just let us have the  
kitchen and two rooms.

294

00:17:40,600 --> 00:17:45,490

The field hospital was in our

house and the examining room.

295

00:17:45,490 --> 00:17:49,960

And the doctors lived there  
during the time of occupation.

296

00:17:49,960 --> 00:17:52,240

What year was this?

297

00:17:52,240 --> 00:17:54,040

When did the Hungarians come in?

298

00:17:54,040 --> 00:17:58,210

I think it was '39, '40.

299

00:17:58,210 --> 00:18:01,840

To be very honest, I'm having  
a very hard time with dates.

300

00:18:01,840 --> 00:18:05,000

It seems like everything's  
get jumbled in.

301

00:18:05,000 --> 00:18:07,780

But I think it was  
the end of '39.

302

00:18:07,780 --> 00:18:09,350

After the Anschluss

303

00:18:09,350 --> 00:18:09,850

Yes.

304

00:18:09,850 --> 00:18:15,330

305

00:18:15,330 --> 00:18:18,000

So we were occupied  
by the Hungarians.

306

00:18:18,000 --> 00:18:22,570

And they took away

my father's licenses.

307

00:18:22,570 --> 00:18:26,970

They gave it to next-door  
neighbor who wasn't Jewish.

308

00:18:26,970 --> 00:18:30,960

So we had a very hard  
time making a living.

309

00:18:30,960 --> 00:18:35,130

And my parents were just  
about ready to give up

310

00:18:35,130 --> 00:18:37,500

because it was such a shock.

311

00:18:37,500 --> 00:18:42,630

My father was fighting in  
the Austro-Hungarian army.

312

00:18:42,630 --> 00:18:47,230

And he lost one hand there.

313

00:18:47,230 --> 00:18:52,620

So it was a big shock that  
they came in and treated

314

00:18:52,620 --> 00:18:54,690

him that badly.

315

00:18:54,690 --> 00:19:00,090

So me and my brother  
baked rolls--

316

00:19:00,090 --> 00:19:02,160

I baked them, my  
brother was selling them

317

00:19:02,160 --> 00:19:03,540

to the Hungarian soldiers.

318

00:19:03,540 --> 00:19:07,500  
Because by the time they got  
their bread from Hungary,

319  
00:19:07,500 --> 00:19:11,700  
wherever they were sending  
it, it was very stale.

320  
00:19:11,700 --> 00:19:14,730  
And they wanted to  
have fresh bread.

321  
00:19:14,730 --> 00:19:15,780  
So we baked rolls.

322  
00:19:15,780 --> 00:19:19,590  
And while they were  
marching or whatever,

323  
00:19:19,590 --> 00:19:25,320  
my brother would run with a  
basket and sell them the rolls.

324  
00:19:25,320 --> 00:19:30,850  
Also my brother was  
released from the gymnasium,

325  
00:19:30,850 --> 00:19:34,590  
because Jewish children were  
not allowed to go anymore

326  
00:19:34,590 --> 00:19:35,970  
for higher education.

327  
00:19:35,970 --> 00:19:38,130  
He wanted to be a doctor.

328  
00:19:38,130 --> 00:19:40,800  
Was this after--

329  
00:19:40,800 --> 00:19:44,640  
This was after  
Hungary, before German.

330  
00:19:44,640 --> 00:19:51,420  
Then the Germans occupied  
the Czechs and the Hungarians

331  
00:19:51,420 --> 00:19:52,830  
occupied other part.

332  
00:19:52,830 --> 00:19:55,680  
They divided  
Czechoslovakia into two.

333  
00:19:55,680 --> 00:19:58,710

334  
00:19:58,710 --> 00:20:04,380  
So things were pretty tough,  
actually, at the time.

335  
00:20:04,380 --> 00:20:07,830  
The Hungarian soldiers,  
Jewish, were still

336  
00:20:07,830 --> 00:20:10,290  
in the army at the time.

337  
00:20:10,290 --> 00:20:18,450  
And they still did not feel  
the same pressure against Jews

338  
00:20:18,450 --> 00:20:21,450  
as we did in the  
occupied territories.

339  
00:20:21,450 --> 00:20:25,140  
And they helped  
us to some extent,

340  
00:20:25,140 --> 00:20:28,990  
the Jews who were in  
the Hungarian army who

341

00:20:28,990 --> 00:20:31,740  
also were the occupants.

342  
00:20:31,740 --> 00:20:34,470  
Like they brought  
officers to our house.

343  
00:20:34,470 --> 00:20:39,953  
And privately they  
had drinking parties.

344  
00:20:39,953 --> 00:20:41,370  
And we sold them  
the liquor, which

345  
00:20:41,370 --> 00:20:47,370  
was against the law,  
things like that.

346  
00:20:47,370 --> 00:20:53,550  
Then they moved away, I  
think, after occupation,

347  
00:20:53,550 --> 00:20:54,620  
after a while.

348  
00:20:54,620 --> 00:21:00,210  
Horthy Mikl<sup>3</sup>s came riding down  
through our town at one point.

349  
00:21:00,210 --> 00:21:07,470  
And we had the whole  
bit of the occupation.

350  
00:21:07,470 --> 00:21:11,520  
Then they had a  
blacklist of the Jews

351  
00:21:11,520 --> 00:21:14,370  
who they were a  
little bit afraid of,

352  
00:21:14,370 --> 00:21:18,240

the ones who were more  
educated, or had some power,

353  
00:21:18,240 --> 00:21:21,780  
or had some brains, or had  
military training or something

354  
00:21:21,780 --> 00:21:24,060  
like that.

355  
00:21:24,060 --> 00:21:26,490  
Well, I guess my father was  
the first one on the list.

356  
00:21:26,490 --> 00:21:30,600  
Because we were  
on the blacklist.

357  
00:21:30,600 --> 00:21:43,310  
And one Saturday morning,  
1941, in June, around 5 or 6

358  
00:21:43,310 --> 00:21:46,070  
o'clock in the morning,  
Saturday morning,

359  
00:21:46,070 --> 00:21:48,570  
there was a knock on the door.

360  
00:21:48,570 --> 00:21:55,070  
And there were Hungarian  
gendarmes and local people who

361  
00:21:55,070 --> 00:22:00,890  
volunteered as peacekeepers.

362  
00:22:00,890 --> 00:22:04,560

363  
00:22:04,560 --> 00:22:06,630  
And they came to our  
door, and they knocked,

364

00:22:06,630 --> 00:22:08,820

and they told us to  
open up the door.

365

00:22:08,820 --> 00:22:09,660

We opened the door.

366

00:22:09,660 --> 00:22:12,030

We were all asleep.

367

00:22:12,030 --> 00:22:17,130

And they said, we give you two  
hours to get ready to leave.

368

00:22:17,130 --> 00:22:21,960

And they said, you better  
take your citizenship papers

369

00:22:21,960 --> 00:22:26,460

because you're not a  
citizen of this country.

370

00:22:26,460 --> 00:22:28,862

So we thought we are going  
to be taken to some office

371

00:22:28,862 --> 00:22:29,820

or something like that.

372

00:22:29,820 --> 00:22:32,430

There was a lot of  
antisemitic going around.

373

00:22:32,430 --> 00:22:34,770

Jews were picked and  
cut their beards off

374

00:22:34,770 --> 00:22:35,980

and things like that.

375

00:22:35,980 --> 00:22:43,980

There was a lot of things going



on that were for no good reason

376

00:22:43,980 --> 00:22:44,750  
whatsoever.

377

00:22:44,750 --> 00:22:47,720

378

00:22:47,720 --> 00:22:50,970  
So we kind of knew that  
nothing good is coming.

379

00:22:50,970 --> 00:22:55,500  
They also told us, take all of  
your valuables and two or three

380

00:22:55,500 --> 00:22:56,220  
days' food.

381

00:22:56,220 --> 00:22:58,930

382

00:22:58,930 --> 00:23:02,380  
So we got together.

383

00:23:02,380 --> 00:23:04,770  
They didn't give  
us the two hours.

384

00:23:04,770 --> 00:23:09,750  
And all of our  
neighbors who were

385

00:23:09,750 --> 00:23:13,890  
so-called our good friend  
neighbors, Christians, came

386

00:23:13,890 --> 00:23:16,390  
to our house and  
they were dividing

387

00:23:16,390 --> 00:23:18,640

whatever we had already.

388

00:23:18,640 --> 00:23:22,860

Oh, Marijke, I'll take that,  
oh, I'll take the bedroom,

389

00:23:22,860 --> 00:23:28,680

oh, I'll take the kitchen  
table, I'll take the linen.

390

00:23:28,680 --> 00:23:31,320

Before we were even  
out of the house,

391

00:23:31,320 --> 00:23:33,120

they were dividing  
whatever we had.

392

00:23:33,120 --> 00:23:36,540

393

00:23:36,540 --> 00:23:39,780

It's unexplainable the  
shock that a person--

394

00:23:39,780 --> 00:23:41,760

you know, when you  
play with children,

395

00:23:41,760 --> 00:23:45,390

go with them to  
school, eat together,

396

00:23:45,390 --> 00:23:48,300

and everything else like  
that, and then they are ready,

397

00:23:48,300 --> 00:23:51,990

instead of protecting  
you or protesting,

398

00:23:51,990 --> 00:23:54,580

they are ready to

take whatever you had,

399

00:23:54,580 --> 00:23:55,830

"Why do you have to take that?"

400

00:23:55,830 --> 00:23:58,120

Give it to me" type of things.

401

00:23:58,120 --> 00:24:01,385

It was very, very difficult.

402

00:24:01,385 --> 00:24:08,220

Anyway, the Jews that  
they gathered up--

403

00:24:08,220 --> 00:24:10,950

and there wasn't many because  
I am from a small town--

404

00:24:10,950 --> 00:24:16,650

they took us to a yard where--

405

00:24:16,650 --> 00:24:18,510

actually it was  
my uncle's front,

406

00:24:18,510 --> 00:24:24,030

where the wagons and things  
used to stop feeding.

407

00:24:24,030 --> 00:24:28,320

Like he had a truck  
stop type of place.

408

00:24:28,320 --> 00:24:32,130

And we had to wait  
there until 11 o'clock

409

00:24:32,130 --> 00:24:37,170

or so in the morning  
with our bundles.

410

00:24:37,170 --> 00:24:40,080  
I mean, they didn't give us  
a chance to pack or anything,

411  
00:24:40,080 --> 00:24:44,400  
just take things  
fast and get out.

412  
00:24:44,400 --> 00:24:49,860  
So we sat there, and  
then they took us

413  
00:24:49,860 --> 00:24:53,490  
to the railroad station,  
which we had to ride to.

414  
00:24:53,490 --> 00:24:55,740  
And it was on Shabbat.

415  
00:24:55,740 --> 00:24:57,210  
We got to the railroad station.

416  
00:24:57,210 --> 00:24:58,290  
We waited some more.

417  
00:24:58,290 --> 00:25:00,490  
Around 2 or 3 o'clock  
in the morning,

418  
00:25:00,490 --> 00:25:03,910  
they brought people from other  
towns, loaded us on the train,

419  
00:25:03,910 --> 00:25:07,650  
and they took us to  
the Polish border.

420  
00:25:07,650 --> 00:25:11,980

421  
00:25:11,980 --> 00:25:15,660  
We rode that whole afternoon  
and the next morning.

422  
00:25:15,660 --> 00:25:18,390  
We got sometime there on Sunday.

423  
00:25:18,390 --> 00:25:22,900  
And we were still there  
on Monday morning.

424  
00:25:22,900 --> 00:25:26,430  
I think it was Monday  
morning, my father went--

425  
00:25:26,430 --> 00:25:29,520  
there was our general  
stationed with--

426  
00:25:29,520 --> 00:25:30,870  
there were armies all over.

427  
00:25:30,870 --> 00:25:34,050  
This was a time of war.

428  
00:25:34,050 --> 00:25:37,770  
In '41, the Germans  
and the Russians

429  
00:25:37,770 --> 00:25:41,055  
were fighting already  
on the front in Poland.

430  
00:25:41,055 --> 00:25:43,980

431  
00:25:43,980 --> 00:25:47,730  
So the Hungarians were  
the German allies.

432  
00:25:47,730 --> 00:25:49,530  
And of course they were helping.

433  
00:25:49,530 --> 00:25:52,110  
I mean, they were with them.

434  
00:25:52,110 --> 00:25:58,860  
My father went to this general,  
and he said, General, my rank

435  
00:25:58,860 --> 00:25:59,700  
is so-and-so.

436  
00:25:59,700 --> 00:26:00,720  
I was in the army.

437  
00:26:00,720 --> 00:26:02,130  
I'm a war veteran.

438  
00:26:02,130 --> 00:26:04,080  
Here are my papers.

439  
00:26:04,080 --> 00:26:06,150  
Here is my citizenship papers.

440  
00:26:06,150 --> 00:26:09,480  
My father, my grandfather,  
and the father before him

441  
00:26:09,480 --> 00:26:11,580  
were born here.

442  
00:26:11,580 --> 00:26:14,220  
They served in the army, my  
brother served in the army,

443  
00:26:14,220 --> 00:26:15,330  
I served in the army.

444  
00:26:15,330 --> 00:26:18,810

445  
00:26:18,810 --> 00:26:22,070  
Why am I here?

446  
00:26:22,070 --> 00:26:29,730

The officer said to my  
father, are you a Jew?

447  
00:26:29,730 --> 00:26:32,020  
My father says yes.

448  
00:26:32,020 --> 00:26:36,240  
And he says, a Jew is not  
a citizen of this country.

449  
00:26:36,240 --> 00:26:38,140  
I remember my  
father coming back.

450  
00:26:38,140 --> 00:26:39,990  
He went with hope.

451  
00:26:39,990 --> 00:26:44,260  
When he came back, it was  
like he aged 100 years.

452  
00:26:44,260 --> 00:26:46,815  
His head, his  
shoulders were slumped.

453  
00:26:46,815 --> 00:26:50,450

454  
00:26:50,450 --> 00:26:51,800  
And that was that.

455  
00:26:51,800 --> 00:26:55,320  
Then we had to  
get off the train.

456  
00:26:55,320 --> 00:27:00,440  
And the Ukraine  
black-uniformed people

457  
00:27:00,440 --> 00:27:06,065  
came, which were their  
police, civil police, I think.

458

00:27:06,065 --> 00:27:09,140

459

00:27:09,140 --> 00:27:10,490

Took us over.

460

00:27:10,490 --> 00:27:12,210

This is in Poland now.

461

00:27:12,210 --> 00:27:15,020

Now, yes, this was the  
border they took us to..

462

00:27:15,020 --> 00:27:17,370

We have to get off the  
train at the border,

463

00:27:17,370 --> 00:27:18,890

and they took us to Poland.

464

00:27:18,890 --> 00:27:22,400

And this was the Ukraine.

465

00:27:22,400 --> 00:27:26,630

They took us off, and they  
were herding us like cattle,

466

00:27:26,630 --> 00:27:34,070

with switches, with  
those black sticks,

467

00:27:34,070 --> 00:27:38,750

beating us, run, run,  
run, go fast, faster.

468

00:27:38,750 --> 00:27:45,870

We were going like 30 to 35  
kilometers or miles per day.

469

00:27:45,870 --> 00:27:47,610

Now, this was with  
small children,



470  
00:27:47,610 --> 00:27:51,500  
old people, our bundles.

471  
00:27:51,500 --> 00:27:55,580  
If they liked your shoes,  
they took them away.

472  
00:27:55,580 --> 00:27:59,780  
If they saw somebody wearing  
jewelry, they tore it off.

473  
00:27:59,780 --> 00:28:04,040

474  
00:28:04,040 --> 00:28:07,340  
Now, they were doing this  
like from one town to another.

475  
00:28:07,340 --> 00:28:09,440  
They took us to the next town.

476  
00:28:09,440 --> 00:28:11,360  
The next town, somebody  
else took us over,

477  
00:28:11,360 --> 00:28:13,310  
were herding us further.

478  
00:28:13,310 --> 00:28:15,230  
This was going on  
for three weeks.

479  
00:28:15,230 --> 00:28:18,040

480  
00:28:18,040 --> 00:28:26,910  
During this time, especially  
in the first few days,

481  
00:28:26,910 --> 00:28:29,850  
people completely

lost their mind.

482  
00:28:29,850 --> 00:28:32,950  
They committed suicide.

483  
00:28:32,950 --> 00:28:36,630  
They just screamed  
and were shot.

484  
00:28:36,630 --> 00:28:40,710

485  
00:28:40,710 --> 00:28:44,250  
It was like a  
terrible nightmare.

486  
00:28:44,250 --> 00:28:46,080  
I mean, some people  
just couldn't

487  
00:28:46,080 --> 00:28:51,000  
handle any of these  
horrible things that

488  
00:28:51,000 --> 00:28:54,210  
were being done to them.

489  
00:28:54,210 --> 00:28:58,680  
The people who couldn't  
keep up the walk

490  
00:28:58,680 --> 00:29:04,110  
and were left a little bit back,  
especially the older people,

491  
00:29:04,110 --> 00:29:07,170  
were beaten to death.

492  
00:29:07,170 --> 00:29:12,390  
The young girls,  
the pretty girls,

493

00:29:12,390 --> 00:29:16,890  
were taken out and  
raped, lots of them.

494  
00:29:16,890 --> 00:29:20,910  
I remember my mother gave me  
a scarf, a black scarf, said,

495  
00:29:20,910 --> 00:29:22,680  
you put that on.

496  
00:29:22,680 --> 00:29:23,520  
Tie it in the front.

497  
00:29:23,520 --> 00:29:28,800  
I was 17 at the  
time, not quite 17.

498  
00:29:28,800 --> 00:29:31,140  
And I had a 3-year-old brother.

499  
00:29:31,140 --> 00:29:34,980  
And I carried my little brother.

500  
00:29:34,980 --> 00:29:39,010  
I tied a tablecloth on my back,  
and carried him in the back.

501  
00:29:39,010 --> 00:29:41,700  
I carried him in the front.

502  
00:29:41,700 --> 00:29:45,090  
And my father and  
mother, my mother

503  
00:29:45,090 --> 00:29:48,060  
tried to keep my father  
frontwards so that he

504  
00:29:48,060 --> 00:29:50,040  
wouldn't see what's happening.

505

00:29:50,040 --> 00:29:55,560  
Because he was terribly  
sensitive to what was going on

506  
00:29:55,560 --> 00:30:01,200  
and the injustice that is  
being done from one human

507  
00:30:01,200 --> 00:30:03,540  
being to another.

508  
00:30:03,540 --> 00:30:06,510  
Anyway, they herded  
us and herded us,

509  
00:30:06,510 --> 00:30:08,220  
and they didn't let  
us rest, and they

510  
00:30:08,220 --> 00:30:11,830  
didn't give us anything to eat.

511  
00:30:11,830 --> 00:30:17,770  
They took us by farmland,  
and they told us to sit down.

512  
00:30:17,770 --> 00:30:19,350  
Well, we thought  
we're going to rest.

513  
00:30:19,350 --> 00:30:21,600  
And people were  
working in the fields.

514  
00:30:21,600 --> 00:30:24,360  
Then the people from the  
fields came out with their hoes

515  
00:30:24,360 --> 00:30:28,590  
and with their implements, and  
were beating us over our heads.

516  
00:30:28,590 --> 00:30:32,115

That's why we sat down there,  
so they would have some sport.

517  
00:30:32,115 --> 00:30:34,710

518  
00:30:34,710 --> 00:30:37,740  
That's why I say how  
antisemitic it is there.

519  
00:30:37,740 --> 00:30:40,530  
Now, this was in Poland, but  
these were the Ukrainians.

520  
00:30:40,530 --> 00:30:45,590

521  
00:30:45,590 --> 00:30:50,640  
They mostly-- once in a  
while, for staying overnight,

522  
00:30:50,640 --> 00:30:55,770  
like when we [INAUDIBLE] was  
the sight of a creek or river

523  
00:30:55,770 --> 00:30:58,760  
or someplace where we stay.

524  
00:30:58,760 --> 00:31:04,190  
And we would soak our feet there  
or wash ourselves a little bit,

525  
00:31:04,190 --> 00:31:05,235  
drink some of the water.

526  
00:31:05,235 --> 00:31:08,600

527  
00:31:08,600 --> 00:31:10,880  
They didn't give us any food.

528  
00:31:10,880 --> 00:31:14,570

Whatever we had that they told  
us to take along for three

529  
00:31:14,570 --> 00:31:16,010  
days, that's what we had.

530  
00:31:16,010 --> 00:31:18,910

531  
00:31:18,910 --> 00:31:23,890  
At some point they  
took us to a place,

532  
00:31:23,890 --> 00:31:28,870  
a large farm, where  
they had, like,

533  
00:31:28,870 --> 00:31:30,730  
their cattle feed or something.

534  
00:31:30,730 --> 00:31:34,000  
You know, it had a  
roof, but no walls.

535  
00:31:34,000 --> 00:31:40,120  
And they told us that we are  
going to be able to rest there.

536  
00:31:40,120 --> 00:31:45,280  
Well, people from  
the town brought us

537  
00:31:45,280 --> 00:31:47,890  
each a boiled potato.

538  
00:31:47,890 --> 00:31:51,070  
And we thought how  
nice it finally

539  
00:31:51,070 --> 00:31:52,850  
is that we came to  
some place where

540

00:31:52,850 --> 00:31:58,300

people are human that they are  
giving us something to eat.

541

00:31:58,300 --> 00:31:59,470

We ate the potato.

542

00:31:59,470 --> 00:32:03,100

Then they told us to lie down.

543

00:32:03,100 --> 00:32:06,370

And they walk on our hands--

544

00:32:06,370 --> 00:32:08,570

with their boots on  
our hands and our feet.

545

00:32:08,570 --> 00:32:11,200

And I am not talking  
about two or three people.

546

00:32:11,200 --> 00:32:13,240

It felt like an army.

547

00:32:13,240 --> 00:32:18,490

Just to punish us  
because we are Jews.

548

00:32:18,490 --> 00:32:24,340

At the same place, they took out  
some girls and they raped them.

549

00:32:24,340 --> 00:32:26,590

And we could hear them scream.

550

00:32:26,590 --> 00:32:28,390

And I don't know if  
they ever came back.

551

00:32:28,390 --> 00:32:31,420

Nobody made an effort  
to know anybody

552  
00:32:31,420 --> 00:32:33,640  
because it was so horrible  
if you didn't see them

553  
00:32:33,640 --> 00:32:36,280  
the next time.

554  
00:32:36,280 --> 00:32:38,530  
They also, at each  
of these stops,

555  
00:32:38,530 --> 00:32:44,830  
they took out men and boys  
who were big and strong--

556  
00:32:44,830 --> 00:32:48,790  
I mean teenagers  
or young adults,

557  
00:32:48,790 --> 00:32:52,450  
or adults who had  
some type of power.

558  
00:32:52,450 --> 00:32:55,780  
They took out these people  
and killed them in each place.

559  
00:32:55,780 --> 00:32:58,900  
I didn't know that  
until later on.

560  
00:32:58,900 --> 00:33:02,800  
Because in this place  
where this happened,

561  
00:33:02,800 --> 00:33:06,460  
a friend of mine whom I  
knew from home was taken.

562  
00:33:06,460 --> 00:33:10,780  
What they said is, we  
are taking you to work.



563  
00:33:10,780 --> 00:33:11,980  
Are you big and strong?

564  
00:33:11,980 --> 00:33:14,020  
Are you healthy?

565  
00:33:14,020 --> 00:33:18,640  
So the people who were  
the healthiest went.

566  
00:33:18,640 --> 00:33:20,920  
And they shot them.

567  
00:33:20,920 --> 00:33:27,490  
Now, they took these men,  
I think about 20 of them.

568  
00:33:27,490 --> 00:33:30,010  
They didn't take big groups,  
they took small groups.

569  
00:33:30,010 --> 00:33:32,650  
But at each place,  
they took some of them.

570  
00:33:32,650 --> 00:33:36,350  
It was like a sport to them.

571  
00:33:36,350 --> 00:33:40,210  
They took them to a creek  
someplace, on a field.

572  
00:33:40,210 --> 00:33:45,490  
And they were shooting  
them like fish in a barrel.

573  
00:33:45,490 --> 00:33:48,160  
This friend of mine--

574  
00:33:48,160 --> 00:33:50,590  
it was getting dark.

575

00:33:50,590 --> 00:33:53,890

It was between day and night.

576

00:33:53,890 --> 00:33:57,190

And he jumped in the creek.

577

00:33:57,190 --> 00:34:02,170

And he hid there

until he escaped.

578

00:34:02,170 --> 00:34:08,290

And actually I saw him in 1942.

579

00:34:08,290 --> 00:34:13,900

Now, I don't think he survived

later, but he did survive this.

580

00:34:13,900 --> 00:34:16,420

And so he told us what was

happening to those people.

581

00:34:16,420 --> 00:34:21,889

We found out later on that

that was what was happening.

582

00:34:21,889 --> 00:34:24,650

Anyway, this was going

on for three weeks.

583

00:34:24,650 --> 00:34:31,219

And then they took us to a town

where the blood on the ground

584

00:34:31,219 --> 00:34:35,270

was still fresh from the Germans

and the Russians fighting

585

00:34:35,270 --> 00:34:36,560

together.

586

00:34:36,560 --> 00:34:39,020

How many of you were there?

587

00:34:39,020 --> 00:34:42,735

There was about 2,000.

588

00:34:42,735 --> 00:34:45,360

What was happening, a lot of the people were killed on the way,

589

00:34:45,360 --> 00:34:49,110

but a lot of people joined, some from Romania,

590

00:34:49,110 --> 00:34:54,870

some from even Poland, I guess, who got in--

591

00:34:54,870 --> 00:34:56,670

it was almost like we were walking,

592

00:34:56,670 --> 00:34:58,980

and then there were groups joining us

593

00:34:58,980 --> 00:35:00,180

that they were herding them.

594

00:35:00,180 --> 00:35:01,230

This was in Poland.

595

00:35:01,230 --> 00:35:03,310

Where were they taking you?

596

00:35:03,310 --> 00:35:05,850

Well, I'm coming to that.

597

00:35:05,850 --> 00:35:08,950

They took us to this place in Poland

598

00:35:08,950 --> 00:35:15,090

where they fought a  
terrible war the day before.

599  
00:35:15,090 --> 00:35:19,780  
And the blood was still on  
the ground, by a churchyard.

600  
00:35:19,780 --> 00:35:21,540  
They had us to sit  
on it and smell it.

601  
00:35:21,540 --> 00:35:25,230  
They said that we are  
communists and we better

602  
00:35:25,230 --> 00:35:27,540  
see what we're doing.

603  
00:35:27,540 --> 00:35:30,990  
I mean, we were being  
blamed for this.

604  
00:35:30,990 --> 00:35:35,100  
Then I think this was  
the front at that point.

605  
00:35:35,100 --> 00:35:39,823  
Then they turned us  
around and we went back.

606  
00:35:39,823 --> 00:35:41,490  
I guess they didn't  
know what they going

607  
00:35:41,490 --> 00:35:43,050  
to do with us at this point.

608  
00:35:43,050 --> 00:35:46,500  
They just took us away from  
our homes, punished us,

609  
00:35:46,500 --> 00:35:49,410  
beat us, raped, and did

everything that they could.

610  
00:35:49,410 --> 00:35:51,760  
Now they didn't know  
what to do with us.

611  
00:35:51,760 --> 00:35:52,830  
They took us back.

612  
00:35:52,830 --> 00:35:54,330  
They were herding us back.

613  
00:35:54,330 --> 00:35:57,430

614  
00:35:57,430 --> 00:36:02,820  
And they brought  
us to Stanisławów.

615  
00:36:02,820 --> 00:36:07,815  
And they took us  
into the Gestapo.

616  
00:36:07,815 --> 00:36:10,580

617  
00:36:10,580 --> 00:36:15,500  
In Stanisławów, the  
Gestapo was a big prison.

618  
00:36:15,500 --> 00:36:17,000  
It was like a maze.

619  
00:36:17,000 --> 00:36:21,350  
You went inside, and it  
was one courtyard and then

620  
00:36:21,350 --> 00:36:22,400  
another courtyard.

621  
00:36:22,400 --> 00:36:25,980  
And it was like a maze.

622  
00:36:25,980 --> 00:36:28,940  
Then we came between  
two buildings,

623  
00:36:28,940 --> 00:36:34,880  
between two two-story buildings.

624  
00:36:34,880 --> 00:36:38,870  
And we had to march in four.

625  
00:36:38,870 --> 00:36:42,290  
This is the first time  
I saw the Germans.

626  
00:36:42,290 --> 00:36:52,280  
Here came Germans with their  
dogs and their shiny boots.

627  
00:36:52,280 --> 00:36:56,690  
And all the men had to  
take off their hats.

628  
00:36:56,690 --> 00:36:59,210  
And we had to  
stand at attention.

629  
00:36:59,210 --> 00:37:06,890  
And mind you these are kids  
and just average people who

630  
00:37:06,890 --> 00:37:09,190  
were never exposed to this.

631  
00:37:09,190 --> 00:37:12,928  
And an old man who--

632  
00:37:12,928 --> 00:37:17,240  
[EXHALES SHARPLY] this old man  
who was beaten so many times

633  
00:37:17,240 --> 00:37:20,240

he didn't know where he  
is or what he's doing

634  
00:37:20,240 --> 00:37:22,130  
didn't take off his hat.

635  
00:37:22,130 --> 00:37:24,770  
He was just standing  
there with his head

636  
00:37:24,770 --> 00:37:28,560  
shaking forward and back.

637  
00:37:28,560 --> 00:37:35,670  
This SS man, I think they called  
him [? Krueger, ?] sent his dog

638  
00:37:35,670 --> 00:37:38,070  
to teach this Jew a lesson.

639  
00:37:38,070 --> 00:37:42,870  
He tore him to pieces  
in front of our eyes.

640  
00:37:42,870 --> 00:37:46,000  
And then he walked away.

641  
00:37:46,000 --> 00:37:49,500  
And we were told, this  
is what's going to happen

642  
00:37:49,500 --> 00:37:55,170  
to you if you don't cooperate.

643  
00:37:55,170 --> 00:37:58,710  
Move closer to the wall and sit  
down the way you're standing.

644  
00:37:58,710 --> 00:38:00,180  
And that's what we had to do--

645  
00:38:00,180 --> 00:38:08,910

sit down, by four,  
against the wall.

646  
00:38:08,910 --> 00:38:14,410  
Now, we weren't  
supposed to move.

647  
00:38:14,410 --> 00:38:17,700  
This was a lesson for  
us, not that we didn't

648  
00:38:17,700 --> 00:38:19,785  
see enough of things before.

649  
00:38:19,785 --> 00:38:22,670

650  
00:38:22,670 --> 00:38:27,860  
We sat there for 10 days.

651  
00:38:27,860 --> 00:38:29,150  
They didn't feed us.

652  
00:38:29,150 --> 00:38:33,800

653  
00:38:33,800 --> 00:38:38,240  
There was barrels of  
water from the rain.

654  
00:38:38,240 --> 00:38:43,640  
And if we could somehow sneak  
there and have a little bit,

655  
00:38:43,640 --> 00:38:46,280  
a hand of water, that was it.

656  
00:38:46,280 --> 00:38:49,430  
A lot of children,  
especially young children,

657  
00:38:49,430 --> 00:38:53,630



died from dehydration  
and from hunger

658  
00:38:53,630 --> 00:38:56,720  
while we were sitting there.

659  
00:38:56,720 --> 00:39:00,980  
And we asked them, would you  
please take away the dead.

660  
00:39:00,980 --> 00:39:05,600  
And they said, no, you're  
going to be so hungry you

661  
00:39:05,600 --> 00:39:06,710  
are going to eat them.

662  
00:39:06,710 --> 00:39:12,190

663  
00:39:12,190 --> 00:39:13,990  
We were sitting there.

664  
00:39:13,990 --> 00:39:19,780  
This was probably early July.

665  
00:39:19,780 --> 00:39:22,560  
It was in July, because  
we were taken away in--

666  
00:39:22,560 --> 00:39:26,440

667  
00:39:26,440 --> 00:39:39,550  
So we sat there almost like  
suspended, without being

668  
00:39:39,550 --> 00:39:43,640  
able to think or to--

669  
00:39:43,640 --> 00:39:48,340  
it's very hard to

explain what's going on.

670

00:39:48,340 --> 00:39:51,230

I mean, we fell  
against each other.

671

00:39:51,230 --> 00:39:53,860

We didn't know who they  
were or anything like that,

672

00:39:53,860 --> 00:39:57,730

like that type of thing,  
that we didn't care.

673

00:39:57,730 --> 00:40:00,340

674

00:40:00,340 --> 00:40:05,230

During the night, they  
would bring in prisoners.

675

00:40:05,230 --> 00:40:08,590

And we would hear the screams.

676

00:40:08,590 --> 00:40:10,960

Into the Gestapo--  
they bring them in

677

00:40:10,960 --> 00:40:12,970

through the same  
courtyard as we were in,

678

00:40:12,970 --> 00:40:15,790

but put them in the other  
building, the building

679

00:40:15,790 --> 00:40:17,085

that we were facing.

680

00:40:17,085 --> 00:40:18,595

And we would hear the screams.

681

00:40:18,595 --> 00:40:21,310

682

00:40:21,310 --> 00:40:24,010

And after a while, the  
screams would stop.

683

00:40:24,010 --> 00:40:26,230

That would be during the night.

684

00:40:26,230 --> 00:40:28,270

In the morning, we saw  
all of those people

685

00:40:28,270 --> 00:40:31,980

who were brought in the day  
before being taken out there.

686

00:40:31,980 --> 00:40:38,100

687

00:40:38,100 --> 00:40:40,120

I don't know who  
those people were,

688

00:40:40,120 --> 00:40:42,100

but I guess they  
considered them communists

689

00:40:42,100 --> 00:40:43,705

or traitors or whoever.

690

00:40:43,705 --> 00:40:48,080

691

00:40:48,080 --> 00:40:53,480

The 10th day, they  
came and they said,

692

00:40:53,480 --> 00:40:56,930

all of the people who  
want to work, this way.

693

00:40:56,930 --> 00:41:01,800

Mother and children and  
old people stay here.

694

00:41:01,800 --> 00:41:06,610

After 10 days, everybody  
wanted to get out of there.

695

00:41:06,610 --> 00:41:12,010

So my father and three  
brothers and I ran to work.

696

00:41:12,010 --> 00:41:17,340

My mother and the smaller  
children stayed behind.

697

00:41:17,340 --> 00:41:19,980

Now, at that point,  
they didn't watch us

698

00:41:19,980 --> 00:41:23,440

as much these people  
who were left behind.

699

00:41:23,440 --> 00:41:27,420

So my mother came running  
after me and she said to me,

700

00:41:27,420 --> 00:41:29,610

Miriam, I want you with me.

701

00:41:29,610 --> 00:41:32,270

Come back.

702

00:41:32,270 --> 00:41:35,420

She put on again  
that's scarf on me.

703

00:41:35,420 --> 00:41:37,340

And she gave me my  
little brother to hold.

704

00:41:37,340 --> 00:41:39,830

And she says, I want  
you to stay with me.

705

00:41:39,830 --> 00:41:43,470

It was like her intuition.

706

00:41:43,470 --> 00:41:49,920

So we stayed one more day  
there until the next day.

707

00:41:49,920 --> 00:41:53,100

And they took these people away.

708

00:41:53,100 --> 00:41:57,730

We found out later on that  
they took these people,

709

00:41:57,730 --> 00:42:00,220

and they had to dig their own  
graves, and they were shot.

710

00:42:00,220 --> 00:42:16,910

711

00:42:16,910 --> 00:42:21,310

Then the next day--

712

00:42:21,310 --> 00:42:26,860

no, after they took these people  
away, from the second window,

713

00:42:26,860 --> 00:42:32,343

from the prison, they threw some  
sandwiches at us, some food.

714

00:42:32,343 --> 00:42:34,510

They didn't give it to us,  
they threw it from there.

715

00:42:34,510 --> 00:42:36,430

And they wanted to  
see how we are going

716  
00:42:36,430 --> 00:42:39,360  
to kill each other for it.

717  
00:42:39,360 --> 00:42:42,740

718  
00:42:42,740 --> 00:42:48,650  
And the next day, they told  
us to stand up and march out

719  
00:42:48,650 --> 00:42:49,265  
of this place.

720  
00:42:49,265 --> 00:42:52,130

721  
00:42:52,130 --> 00:42:56,600  
And this was a Stanisławów.

722  
00:42:56,600 --> 00:43:02,360  
And they took us to the Jewish  
community in Stanisławów.

723  
00:43:02,360 --> 00:43:04,970  
The people there, I don't  
think, knew where we were

724  
00:43:04,970 --> 00:43:06,490  
or who we were or what we were.

725  
00:43:06,490 --> 00:43:07,040  
We were Jews.

726  
00:43:07,040 --> 00:43:09,650

727  
00:43:09,650 --> 00:43:12,515  
And the Germans were very  
good at keeping secrets.

728

00:43:12,515 --> 00:43:15,600

729

00:43:15,600 --> 00:43:18,420

And they gave us some dry--

730

00:43:18,420 --> 00:43:22,080

731

00:43:22,080 --> 00:43:23,400

those big horse beans.

732

00:43:23,400 --> 00:43:25,260

I don't know what  
they're called.

733

00:43:25,260 --> 00:43:28,860

Whatever, some type of  
[INAUDIBLE] type of things.

734

00:43:28,860 --> 00:43:33,810

Dry-- I guess they  
didn't have much either.

735

00:43:33,810 --> 00:43:39,660

And we stayed one night there  
in that Jewish community.

736

00:43:39,660 --> 00:43:42,550

By then, we were cut  
down quite a bit.

737

00:43:42,550 --> 00:43:44,860

They took away a lot  
of the people already.

738

00:43:44,860 --> 00:43:48,220

739

00:43:48,220 --> 00:43:53,750

I think there was  
left 250 or so.

740

00:43:53,750 --> 00:43:56,350

I'm not sure.

741

00:43:56,350 --> 00:44:00,360

And it was mainly mothers  
and smaller children

742

00:44:00,360 --> 00:44:01,755

and older people.

743

00:44:01,755 --> 00:44:05,190

744

00:44:05,190 --> 00:44:09,540

Then they took us to a  
place in Stanislaw<sup>3</sup>w.

745

00:44:09,540 --> 00:44:11,640

This was already a  
ghetto, mind you.

746

00:44:11,640 --> 00:44:14,760

It was a ghetto  
there, in the ghetto,

747

00:44:14,760 --> 00:44:18,660

to a place that they  
called Rudolfsmuehle.

748

00:44:18,660 --> 00:44:23,130

They made a camp in  
the ghetto for us.

749

00:44:23,130 --> 00:44:26,220

It was with barbed wires.

750

00:44:26,220 --> 00:44:32,430

And by the way, Jewish  
police at the gates.

751

00:44:32,430 --> 00:44:37,860

It was a four-story



building with a mill.

752

00:44:37,860 --> 00:44:50,010

And they gave us boards  
on sawhorses to sleep on,

753

00:44:50,010 --> 00:44:54,270

kind of a place to sleep on.

754

00:44:54,270 --> 00:44:56,700

And it was very crowded.

755

00:44:56,700 --> 00:44:59,880

You couldn't even have a  
walking space in between,

756

00:44:59,880 --> 00:45:02,910

one right next to the other.

757

00:45:02,910 --> 00:45:07,080

At the same time, from  
the three weeks of walking

758

00:45:07,080 --> 00:45:09,780

and all of that, I  
developed an infection

759

00:45:09,780 --> 00:45:15,150

in my leg, my foot,  
the bottom of my foot.

760

00:45:15,150 --> 00:45:20,730

My leg turned all blue and  
red and swollen, all the way

761

00:45:20,730 --> 00:45:23,190

to my thigh.

762

00:45:23,190 --> 00:45:25,230

Once we were in  
that Rudolfsmuehle

763

00:45:25,230 --> 00:45:31,120  
for a couple of days,  
some student doctors,

764  
00:45:31,120 --> 00:45:35,290  
came around, people who were  
in medical school and nurses,

765  
00:45:35,290 --> 00:45:37,780  
from the Jewish  
community, to see if they

766  
00:45:37,780 --> 00:45:38,950  
can help with something.

767  
00:45:38,950 --> 00:45:40,660  
When they saw my  
leg, they were going

768  
00:45:40,660 --> 00:45:46,430  
to take me straight to  
the hospital and amputate,

769  
00:45:46,430 --> 00:45:50,400  
and that I have gangrene.

770  
00:45:50,400 --> 00:45:57,710  
And if things aren't  
taken care of, I'll die.

771  
00:45:57,710 --> 00:46:00,450

772  
00:46:00,450 --> 00:46:03,460  
Well, I said no way.

773  
00:46:03,460 --> 00:46:07,950  
You know, that's all I needed.

774  
00:46:07,950 --> 00:46:14,070  
So they left, and they  
told me that they'll

775

00:46:14,070 --> 00:46:16,530  
be back in another day or two.

776

00:46:16,530 --> 00:46:19,260  
And I'll change my mind.

777

00:46:19,260 --> 00:46:23,160

778

00:46:23,160 --> 00:46:28,290  
I think we were so  
gullible and so religious

779

00:46:28,290 --> 00:46:30,900  
that, as far as  
we were concerned,

780

00:46:30,900 --> 00:46:35,790  
it was all what god wanted  
us to suffer or something.

781

00:46:35,790 --> 00:46:37,275  
We even sat there and prayed.

782

00:46:37,275 --> 00:46:40,040

783

00:46:40,040 --> 00:46:45,020  
Well, the thing was  
that my mother said,

784

00:46:45,020 --> 00:46:47,180  
let's try something  
for your leg.

785

00:46:47,180 --> 00:46:54,110  
She went and she found  
some cow manure or horse

786

00:46:54,110 --> 00:46:55,670  
manure, some type of a manure.

787

00:46:55,670 --> 00:46:59,840

And she brought it-- because  
we didn't have water.

788

00:46:59,840 --> 00:47:02,520

As I say, we were really--

789

00:47:02,520 --> 00:47:05,240

it's hard to believe  
some of the circumstances

790

00:47:05,240 --> 00:47:07,640

how we were at that time.

791

00:47:07,640 --> 00:47:13,310

And I put that  
manure on my foot.

792

00:47:13,310 --> 00:47:20,120

And I sharpened a knife myself,  
on a stone, wiped it off.

793

00:47:20,120 --> 00:47:22,760

I kept that all night  
on my foot, the manure.

794

00:47:22,760 --> 00:47:29,210

And what happened is,  
because of the moisture,

795

00:47:29,210 --> 00:47:34,850

it got white instead of  
red, the bottom of my foot.

796

00:47:34,850 --> 00:47:37,670

My mother got me a big needle.

797

00:47:37,670 --> 00:47:40,010

And everybody left the room.

798

00:47:40,010 --> 00:47:46,010

And I started, myself,

cutting my foot.

799

00:47:46,010 --> 00:47:51,040

800

00:47:51,040 --> 00:47:56,770

Anyway, when we were there,  
there was already some water.

801

00:47:56,770 --> 00:47:58,340

My mother got me some water.

802

00:47:58,340 --> 00:48:02,590

I washed it out, cleaned it up  
the best I could, pushed on it,

803

00:48:02,590 --> 00:48:07,720

and cried and pushed until  
blood was coming out of it.

804

00:48:07,720 --> 00:48:13,340

By the time those visiting  
doctors came along,

805

00:48:13,340 --> 00:48:15,190

my redness disappeared.

806

00:48:15,190 --> 00:48:18,340

It still was infected  
and all of that.

807

00:48:18,340 --> 00:48:21,130

But my foot was much better.

808

00:48:21,130 --> 00:48:24,100

And they were so  
surprised that they

809

00:48:24,100 --> 00:48:28,630

wanted to reward me that  
things should be easier

810

00:48:28,630 --> 00:48:31,690  
for me if I'm so inventive or--

811  
00:48:31,690 --> 00:48:34,990  
so whatever.

812  
00:48:34,990 --> 00:48:40,540  
So they got me into their  
office in this Rudolfsmuehle.

813  
00:48:40,540 --> 00:48:44,410  
I washed medicine bottles  
and stacked their shelves

814  
00:48:44,410 --> 00:48:45,460  
and cleaned a little bit.

815  
00:48:45,460 --> 00:48:47,170  
I mean, I was just there.

816  
00:48:47,170 --> 00:48:48,400  
They had nothing.

817  
00:48:48,400 --> 00:48:50,780  
They have no medicine.

818  
00:48:50,780 --> 00:48:54,520  
And they were here to  
help all of these people.

819  
00:48:54,520 --> 00:48:55,940  
But they wanted to help me.

820  
00:48:55,940 --> 00:48:58,180  
And then they shared  
their sandwich with me.

821  
00:48:58,180 --> 00:49:03,710

822  
00:49:03,710 --> 00:49:08,690  
I mean, they have nothing to

help with or nothing to do.

823

00:49:08,690 --> 00:49:13,250

And then they opened up  
a kitchen for us there.

824

00:49:13,250 --> 00:49:16,730

And people who also  
came from Germany

825

00:49:16,730 --> 00:49:19,730

who were considered not  
German citizens, but they

826

00:49:19,730 --> 00:49:23,103

are Jewish people, and so  
one lady from those people

827

00:49:23,103 --> 00:49:25,270

and somebody else came to  
work in the kitchen there.

828

00:49:25,270 --> 00:49:28,570

829

00:49:28,570 --> 00:49:31,330

And I guess they heard of me.

830

00:49:31,330 --> 00:49:35,800

And so they said that  
I could come and work.

831

00:49:35,800 --> 00:49:38,560

I was the only one from  
all of these people

832

00:49:38,560 --> 00:49:39,910

that worked in the kitchen.

833

00:49:39,910 --> 00:49:42,070

Because they wanted  
to take in the people

834

00:49:42,070 --> 00:49:43,540  
from the ghetto to work there.

835

00:49:43,540 --> 00:49:46,270

836

00:49:46,270 --> 00:49:49,130  
So I worked in the kitchen.

837

00:49:49,130 --> 00:49:53,470  
And I was supposed to help  
with doing the so-called diet

838

00:49:53,470 --> 00:49:58,060  
food, which consisted for  
the very small children,

839

00:49:58,060 --> 00:50:01,510  
of cream of wheat.

840

00:50:01,510 --> 00:50:03,125  
That was it.

841

00:50:03,125 --> 00:50:04,000  
I mean, they didn't--

842

00:50:04,000 --> 00:50:07,300

843

00:50:07,300 --> 00:50:12,490  
Life there was very  
difficult. There was no food.

844

00:50:12,490 --> 00:50:13,990  
They didn't give us much food.

845

00:50:13,990 --> 00:50:16,810

846

00:50:16,810 --> 00:50:21,140  
The Germans took the



food for themselves.

847

00:50:21,140 --> 00:50:27,170

They did not allot food for  
especially people like us.

848

00:50:27,170 --> 00:50:29,800

They just kept us  
there until they

849

00:50:29,800 --> 00:50:33,280

have something to do with us.

850

00:50:33,280 --> 00:50:34,940

How long were you there?

851

00:50:34,940 --> 00:50:40,480

I was there from end of July  
or so, sometime in the middle

852

00:50:40,480 --> 00:50:45,020

of July, end of  
July, until Passover,

853

00:50:45,020 --> 00:50:49,120

which probably was  
around April I don't--

854

00:50:49,120 --> 00:50:49,900

'42.

855

00:50:49,900 --> 00:50:50,420

Of '42.

856

00:50:50,420 --> 00:50:53,940

857

00:50:53,940 --> 00:51:00,000

About February, through  
'42, they completely

858

00:51:00,000 --> 00:51:01,440

stopped the food.

859

00:51:01,440 --> 00:51:05,500

Before, they gave us something  
for soups and stuff like that.

860

00:51:05,500 --> 00:51:07,770

And because I worked  
in the kitchen,

861

00:51:07,770 --> 00:51:09,555

I still got a little  
bit more than most.

862

00:51:09,555 --> 00:51:15,820

863

00:51:15,820 --> 00:51:19,750

So they completely  
stopped the food.

864

00:51:19,750 --> 00:51:22,990

The kitchen was closed.

865

00:51:22,990 --> 00:51:27,970

There was nothing  
as far as food goes.

866

00:51:27,970 --> 00:51:33,850

And we were also locked  
up, not just in the ghetto,

867

00:51:33,850 --> 00:51:38,590

but also in this  
Rudolfsmuhle as a camp.

868

00:51:38,590 --> 00:51:43,360

But some of the Jewish  
police sometimes looked away.

869

00:51:43,360 --> 00:51:50,140

And people slipped out and got  
when somebody was throwing out

870  
00:51:50,140 --> 00:51:53,980  
potato peels or some  
garbage can type of things.

871  
00:51:53,980 --> 00:51:56,890  
And there wasn't much in  
the ghetto, some of that,

872  
00:51:56,890 --> 00:51:59,020  
or hot water, or whatever.

873  
00:51:59,020 --> 00:52:02,080

874  
00:52:02,080 --> 00:52:06,340  
My little brother, who was  
3 and 1/2 years at the time,

875  
00:52:06,340 --> 00:52:09,871  
died from hunger there.

876  
00:52:09,871 --> 00:52:13,170

877  
00:52:13,170 --> 00:52:14,310  
This is kind of hard.

878  
00:52:14,310 --> 00:52:17,120

879  
00:52:17,120 --> 00:52:19,700  
His little belly swole up.

880  
00:52:19,700 --> 00:52:24,550  
And in a day or so, he was dead.

881  
00:52:24,550 --> 00:52:28,950

882  
00:52:28,950 --> 00:52:35,215

So somehow we didn't cry.

883  
00:52:35,215 --> 00:52:37,950

884  
00:52:37,950 --> 00:52:43,030  
It was just-- he  
died peacefully.

885  
00:52:43,030 --> 00:52:48,430

886  
00:52:48,430 --> 00:52:56,560  
Then this German woman who  
was working in the kitchen

887  
00:52:56,560 --> 00:52:59,180  
knew our circumstances.

888  
00:52:59,180 --> 00:53:06,010  
And so she brought  
me a cube of sugar.

889  
00:53:06,010 --> 00:53:08,530  
I guess she wanted  
me to survive.

890  
00:53:08,530 --> 00:53:11,020  
I don't know.

891  
00:53:11,020 --> 00:53:15,190  
I remember put the cup  
of sugar in my bosom.

892  
00:53:15,190 --> 00:53:17,560  
And I ran up-- we were  
on the fourth floor--

893  
00:53:17,560 --> 00:53:20,650  
to the fourth floor, and  
gave it to my mother.

894

00:53:20,650 --> 00:53:22,630

And my mother said  
to me, you have it.

895

00:53:22,630 --> 00:53:24,580

And I said, no, you have it.

896

00:53:24,580 --> 00:53:26,860

Because my mother's face  
was already swollen.

897

00:53:26,860 --> 00:53:31,110

898

00:53:31,110 --> 00:53:37,950

And I always felt like  
I saved her life then,

899

00:53:37,950 --> 00:53:39,080

with a cube of sugar.

900

00:53:39,080 --> 00:53:45,050

901

00:53:45,050 --> 00:53:49,460

Well, then one day, [? the ?]  
[? youth ?] [? went ?]

902

00:53:49,460 --> 00:53:52,130

[? through ?] [? the ?]  
Rudolfsmuhle [INAUDIBLE]..

903

00:53:52,130 --> 00:53:55,400

They brought food.

904

00:53:55,400 --> 00:53:58,160

And they had the kitchen,  
the stoves are on,

905

00:53:58,160 --> 00:54:02,870

and they are cooking  
dinner for us.

906

00:54:02,870 --> 00:54:04,400

As soon as they  
brought the food,

907

00:54:04,400 --> 00:54:06,750

before it was even  
cooked or anything,

908

00:54:06,750 --> 00:54:09,980

people lined up to get the food.

909

00:54:09,980 --> 00:54:14,420

So did the Germans, with  
their trucks and machine guns,

910

00:54:14,420 --> 00:54:17,780

to surround us.

911

00:54:17,780 --> 00:54:22,580

We kind of knew then that  
they're going to kill us all,

912

00:54:22,580 --> 00:54:24,800

but we didn't care.

913

00:54:24,800 --> 00:54:29,330

I remember telling my mother,  
you know, we sound so stupid.

914

00:54:29,330 --> 00:54:33,510

We are standing in  
line to get food,

915

00:54:33,510 --> 00:54:36,680

and we know they're  
going to kill us.

916

00:54:36,680 --> 00:54:40,370

And my mother said,  
well, at least we'll

917

00:54:40,370 --> 00:54:41,435

die with a full stomach.

918  
00:54:41,435 --> 00:54:47,660

919  
00:54:47,660 --> 00:54:50,990  
So everybody stood in the line.

920  
00:54:50,990 --> 00:54:53,120  
Some of them got the  
food and ate it up,

921  
00:54:53,120 --> 00:54:56,500  
and went straight into the  
trucks, didn't even fight it.

922  
00:54:56,500 --> 00:55:00,750  
And they were taken away,  
shot, and that was it.

923  
00:55:00,750 --> 00:55:05,510  
Some didn't go so  
willingly, and tried--

924  
00:55:05,510 --> 00:55:06,830  
there was no place to hide.

925  
00:55:06,830 --> 00:55:13,670  
It was like this hall, except  
they had those seahorse things

926  
00:55:13,670 --> 00:55:15,260  
with the boards on the top.

927  
00:55:15,260 --> 00:55:19,820  
I mean, there was no  
closets, no place to hide.

928  
00:55:19,820 --> 00:55:23,180

929  
00:55:23,180 --> 00:55:28,430

Anyway, we were walking.

930

00:55:28,430 --> 00:55:32,900

I remember how hard it was to  
walk up four flights of stairs.

931

00:55:32,900 --> 00:55:40,050

My mother said to me, listen,  
I want you to save yourself.

932

00:55:40,050 --> 00:55:44,240

It doesn't matter if you  
see them take me or not.

933

00:55:44,240 --> 00:55:46,310

And she gave me  
these things, like

934

00:55:46,310 --> 00:55:51,120

"it's better to be a live  
rabbit than a dead lion,"

935

00:55:51,120 --> 00:55:56,270

"they can't kill you twice," if  
you end up being on the truck,

936

00:55:56,270 --> 00:56:02,330

jump off, they'll  
just kill you once.

937

00:56:02,330 --> 00:56:05,000

She gave me this  
type of somebody

938

00:56:05,000 --> 00:56:07,670

has to survive to  
tell my brothers.

939

00:56:07,670 --> 00:56:11,480

My mother had three  
brothers in Oakland.

940

00:56:11,480 --> 00:56:19,330



Don't let yourself be  
slaughtered like a sheep.

941  
00:56:19,330 --> 00:56:21,040  
And she said, I'll  
do the same thing.

942  
00:56:21,040 --> 00:56:26,470  
And I had three other  
brothers in the same camp.

943  
00:56:26,470 --> 00:56:28,060  
She told my other brothers too.

944  
00:56:28,060 --> 00:56:29,260  
They were separately.

945  
00:56:29,260 --> 00:56:32,510

946  
00:56:32,510 --> 00:56:36,720  
Anyway, she told them also  
to save themselves in any way

947  
00:56:36,720 --> 00:56:38,830  
or however they can--

948  
00:56:38,830 --> 00:56:42,710  
jump, run, hide.

949  
00:56:42,710 --> 00:56:45,340  
Whatever you can do, do it.

950  
00:56:45,340 --> 00:56:50,500  
But don't let yourself  
just be taken like a lamb

951  
00:56:50,500 --> 00:56:53,560  
to the slaughter.

952  
00:56:53,560 --> 00:56:56,770  
And she gave us this

responsibility--

953

00:56:56,770 --> 00:56:59,797

somebody has to survive,  
and it has to be you.

954

00:56:59,797 --> 00:57:02,926

955

00:57:02,926 --> 00:57:05,240

Well, I was with my mother.

956

00:57:05,240 --> 00:57:12,200

And we went to the fourth  
floor and we waited.

957

00:57:12,200 --> 00:57:15,560

And the Germans, the people  
who didn't come, they took,

958

00:57:15,560 --> 00:57:19,070

floor by floor, swept through.

959

00:57:19,070 --> 00:57:24,770

And with the dogs and  
with the machine guns,

960

00:57:24,770 --> 00:57:28,010

they took all of the  
people and took them away.

961

00:57:28,010 --> 00:57:30,950

This lasted, as I say--

962

00:57:30,950 --> 00:57:33,050

it started getting dark.

963

00:57:33,050 --> 00:57:36,170

964

00:57:36,170 --> 00:57:45,880

And there were those two

board beds, like together.

965

00:57:45,880 --> 00:57:50,140

And my mother laid down  
right on top of me.

966

00:57:50,140 --> 00:57:53,950

And she said-- because they were  
already coming onto the fourth

967

00:57:53,950 --> 00:57:54,790

floor--

968

00:57:54,790 --> 00:58:01,000

she says, now remember,  
they're going to take me,

969

00:58:01,000 --> 00:58:04,750

but you stay here.

970

00:58:04,750 --> 00:58:08,650

If it's the last thing I tell  
you, I want you to stay here.

971

00:58:08,650 --> 00:58:12,400

Don't let yourself be caught.

972

00:58:12,400 --> 00:58:17,290

So when they came up, my mother  
kind of stuck out from there.

973

00:58:17,290 --> 00:58:20,290

And she did it on purpose.

974

00:58:20,290 --> 00:58:23,410

So they took my  
mother from that,

975

00:58:23,410 --> 00:58:28,810

and my mother threw down the  
bed so that it covered me.

976

00:58:28,810 --> 00:58:32,080

977

00:58:32,080 --> 00:58:34,270

And they took her down.

978

00:58:34,270 --> 00:58:38,320

And she talked to them in  
German, and that was that.

979

00:58:38,320 --> 00:58:43,000

I remember I was lying  
with my chest to the floor.

980

00:58:43,000 --> 00:58:44,710

My heart was beating  
so hard that I

981

00:58:44,710 --> 00:58:47,920

thought it's going to  
make a hole in the floor.

982

00:58:47,920 --> 00:58:51,330

983

00:58:51,330 --> 00:58:58,020

Then I stayed there all night.

984

00:58:58,020 --> 00:59:03,270

In the morning, I got  
out from under there,

985

00:59:03,270 --> 00:59:04,800

walked down the stairs.

986

00:59:04,800 --> 00:59:08,130

There was nobody watching  
the gate anymore.

987

00:59:08,130 --> 00:59:09,960

The place was empty.

988

00:59:09,960 --> 00:59:11,205

It was ghostly.

989

00:59:11,205 --> 00:59:15,670

990

00:59:15,670 --> 00:59:19,210

So what I did is I just  
walked out into the ghetto.

991

00:59:19,210 --> 00:59:21,940

992

00:59:21,940 --> 00:59:29,030

And by this time, I think  
this was on Pesach, Passover.

993

00:59:29,030 --> 00:59:30,970

I walked out into the ghetto.

994

00:59:30,970 --> 00:59:34,720

And this woman who  
worked there saw me.

995

00:59:34,720 --> 00:59:37,750

And I was kind of dazed.

996

00:59:37,750 --> 00:59:41,080

I didn't know where I  
was or what I was doing.

997

00:59:41,080 --> 00:59:45,850

She pulled me in  
to her apartment.

998

00:59:45,850 --> 00:59:47,860

And she was very surprised  
that I was alive.

999

00:59:47,860 --> 00:59:53,070

1000

00:59:53,070 --> 01:00:01,020

So but I didn't know  
anybody else is left alive.

1001

01:00:01,020 --> 01:00:06,950

Two days later, my  
mother showed up

1002

01:00:06,950 --> 01:00:10,040

with a twisted ankle and  
a little bit scraped.

1003

01:00:10,040 --> 01:00:13,760

She jumped off the truck.

1004

01:00:13,760 --> 01:00:15,740

And she ran and she hid.

1005

01:00:15,740 --> 01:00:18,370

And she finally came back  
into the ghetto to find me.

1006

01:00:18,370 --> 01:00:22,780

1007

01:00:22,780 --> 01:00:29,990

So we stayed-- this  
woman couldn't keep us.

1008

01:00:29,990 --> 01:00:31,990

I mean, she was also  
a stranger there.

1009

01:00:31,990 --> 01:00:36,800

But we hid there in a cellar,  
kind of a basement place.

1010

01:00:36,800 --> 01:00:40,930

And then we would go  
out and rummage around

1011

01:00:40,930 --> 01:00:43,480

for food and stuff like that.

1012  
01:00:43,480 --> 01:00:46,400  
We were there a few days.

1013  
01:00:46,400 --> 01:00:49,300  
And this woman tried  
to help us also.

1014  
01:00:49,300 --> 01:00:52,120  
We were there for a few days.

1015  
01:00:52,120 --> 01:00:56,740  
And we heard all of the  
things that was going on.

1016  
01:00:56,740 --> 01:01:00,490  
People were being [? hauled ?]  
dead, shot in the streets,

1017  
01:01:00,490 --> 01:01:01,960  
in Stanisławów.

1018  
01:01:01,960 --> 01:01:09,130  
The police were gathering  
everybody to be killed.

1019  
01:01:09,130 --> 01:01:11,290  
And they knew, at  
this time, they knew

1020  
01:01:11,290 --> 01:01:14,350  
that they are being killed.

1021  
01:01:14,350 --> 01:01:16,240  
It wasn't anymore a secret.

1022  
01:01:16,240 --> 01:01:20,110  
What was happening here  
is that some people

1023  
01:01:20,110 --> 01:01:26,500  
went to work to dig the

graves, mass graves.

1024

01:01:26,500 --> 01:01:29,830

And the Germans kind of  
ordered like for 800 people,

1025

01:01:29,830 --> 01:01:32,440

for 200 people, for 500 people.

1026

01:01:32,440 --> 01:01:36,150

And we'll give you two  
loaves of bread for it.

1027

01:01:36,150 --> 01:01:40,360

If you wanted the bread,  
you went and dug the things.

1028

01:01:40,360 --> 01:01:42,860

They knew they're  
all going to die.

1029

01:01:42,860 --> 01:01:45,610

So they just went.

1030

01:01:45,610 --> 01:01:50,470

I remember, in the same  
building where we stayed,

1031

01:01:50,470 --> 01:01:52,690

there were people who  
were digging the graves.

1032

01:01:52,690 --> 01:01:54,700

And a few days later,  
they were taken away.

1033

01:01:54,700 --> 01:01:58,030

1034

01:01:58,030 --> 01:02:01,150

And because it was in a ghetto,  
you don't need a newspaper.



1035

01:02:01,150 --> 01:02:04,060

You can hear, through  
a certain grapevine,

1036

01:02:04,060 --> 01:02:06,220

of what was going on.

1037

01:02:06,220 --> 01:02:08,980

It went to the point  
where everybody

1038

01:02:08,980 --> 01:02:16,120

was killed except for the people  
who were in the Jewish agency.

1039

01:02:16,120 --> 01:02:19,420

1040

01:02:19,420 --> 01:02:21,370

They still protected their--

1041

01:02:21,370 --> 01:02:24,280

maybe their children  
their wives or themselves.

1042

01:02:24,280 --> 01:02:25,840

They said, give us--

1043

01:02:25,840 --> 01:02:30,622

we want 500, we want 200  
more, we want 100 more.

1044

01:02:30,622 --> 01:02:32,080

And if they didn't  
give it to them,

1045

01:02:32,080 --> 01:02:35,550

then we'll take your families.

1046

01:02:35,550 --> 01:02:36,960

And they were hauling--

1047

01:02:36,960 --> 01:02:42,420  
and if people somehow didn't  
want to do what they were told,

1048

01:02:42,420 --> 01:02:43,570  
they were shot on the spot.

1049

01:02:43,570 --> 01:02:46,910

1050

01:02:46,910 --> 01:02:49,940  
And we saw the streets  
are pretty empty.

1051

01:02:49,940 --> 01:02:54,390  
We were going for rummaging  
and there was nobody there.

1052

01:02:54,390 --> 01:02:56,970  
My mother said, it's  
time to leave here.

1053

01:02:56,970 --> 01:02:58,610  
But how do we get  
out of a ghetto?

1054

01:02:58,610 --> 01:03:00,260  
Everybody wants to  
get out of a ghetto.

1055

01:03:00,260 --> 01:03:03,040  
People who lived there,  
we are strangers here,

1056

01:03:03,040 --> 01:03:10,580  
and completely different  
things from what we know.

1057

01:03:10,580 --> 01:03:14,570  
Anyway, we watched the wagons  
hauling the dead people

1058

01:03:14,570 --> 01:03:19,550  
to the cemetery, to the Jewish  
cemetery outside of the ghetto.

1059  
01:03:19,550 --> 01:03:23,900  
One day, my mother,  
me, and one more woman

1060  
01:03:23,900 --> 01:03:29,630  
just kind of hung on on  
one side of the wagon

1061  
01:03:29,630 --> 01:03:35,660  
and got out of with the dead  
into the Jewish cemetery.

1062  
01:03:35,660 --> 01:03:39,950  
Here we didn't  
wait until they're

1063  
01:03:39,950 --> 01:03:44,240  
going to try to put those  
people in the graves.

1064  
01:03:44,240 --> 01:03:49,130  
We kind of laid  
down on the ground,

1065  
01:03:49,130 --> 01:03:55,670  
and lied on our stomach behind  
bushes until things got quiet.

1066  
01:03:55,670 --> 01:04:00,260  
Then we pulled ourselves, on our  
stomachs, out into the fields

1067  
01:04:00,260 --> 01:04:01,410  
and stayed there.

1068  
01:04:01,410 --> 01:04:02,930  
Now, mind you,  
this was in April.

1069

01:04:02,930 --> 01:04:05,630

It was very cold, and we  
didn't have any clothes.

1070

01:04:05,630 --> 01:04:09,170

1071

01:04:09,170 --> 01:04:12,680

During the day, we did this.

1072

01:04:12,680 --> 01:04:14,960

And we heard the people  
talking in the fields.

1073

01:04:14,960 --> 01:04:19,130

They were planting  
grains and doing stuff.

1074

01:04:19,130 --> 01:04:26,450

And then during the  
night we would walk.

1075

01:04:26,450 --> 01:04:33,380

We tried to go to the Hungarian  
border, towards Munkács.

1076

01:04:33,380 --> 01:04:37,390

1077

01:04:37,390 --> 01:04:40,820

There was a work kommando.

1078

01:04:40,820 --> 01:04:44,650

And in that work kommando, we  
heard, is one of our relatives.

1079

01:04:44,650 --> 01:04:46,510

And we thought that  
maybe he could help us.

1080

01:04:46,510 --> 01:04:49,660

1081

01:04:49,660 --> 01:04:58,800

So there was no berries,  
there was no food, no nothing.

1082

01:04:58,800 --> 01:05:02,250

We tried to find hay  
or something where we

1083

01:05:02,250 --> 01:05:03,720

could, during the night, stay.

1084

01:05:03,720 --> 01:05:05,790

But it was dangerous  
because they

1085

01:05:05,790 --> 01:05:10,150

were dogs and things like that.

1086

01:05:10,150 --> 01:05:13,680

So we had a pretty  
difficult time.

1087

01:05:13,680 --> 01:05:20,580

Twice we came to towns  
where, during the night,

1088

01:05:20,580 --> 01:05:27,750

we went and we felt the door  
posts, if there is a mezuzah.

1089

01:05:27,750 --> 01:05:31,080

And at some point, we  
found a mezuzah at night.

1090

01:05:31,080 --> 01:05:33,630

And we stayed there all  
night, waiting for the people

1091

01:05:33,630 --> 01:05:34,230

to wake up.

1092

01:05:34,230 --> 01:05:36,120

We were afraid to  
knock on the door.

1093  
01:05:36,120 --> 01:05:39,660  
They're going to think  
they are Germans.

1094  
01:05:39,660 --> 01:05:45,120  
I remember the woman, a young  
woman, opened up the door.

1095  
01:05:45,120 --> 01:05:51,000  
And she brought out corn  
mush with milk for her cat.

1096  
01:05:51,000 --> 01:05:52,720  
And I was so hungry.

1097  
01:05:52,720 --> 01:05:57,810  
I felt like I wanted to get  
down with the cat and eat that.

1098  
01:05:57,810 --> 01:05:59,400  
We told her who we are.

1099  
01:05:59,400 --> 01:06:02,700

1100  
01:06:02,700 --> 01:06:04,960  
And she let us in.

1101  
01:06:04,960 --> 01:06:08,790  
And she gave us some food.

1102  
01:06:08,790 --> 01:06:12,690  
And in that town, we  
stayed for a few days.

1103  
01:06:12,690 --> 01:06:17,190  
Again, another German woman  
who got away from Germany

1104

01:06:17,190 --> 01:06:18,420  
stayed there.

1105  
01:06:18,420 --> 01:06:19,830  
And she was an old woman.

1106  
01:06:19,830 --> 01:06:21,480  
And she wanted me  
to help her out

1107  
01:06:21,480 --> 01:06:23,160  
with something for a few days.

1108  
01:06:23,160 --> 01:06:24,720  
And she would give  
me food for that.

1109  
01:06:24,720 --> 01:06:29,190  
And my mother stayed  
someplace else.

1110  
01:06:29,190 --> 01:06:30,450  
Still in Poland.

1111  
01:06:30,450 --> 01:06:31,890  
Still in Poland.

1112  
01:06:31,890 --> 01:06:34,980  
We were so hungry that,  
for my mother's work,

1113  
01:06:34,980 --> 01:06:42,300  
they gave us like a cup or two  
grain of some type of groats

1114  
01:06:42,300 --> 01:06:45,190  
or grits or something.

1115  
01:06:45,190 --> 01:06:46,950  
My mother was cooking it.

1116  
01:06:46,950 --> 01:06:48,150

And it never got cooked.

1117

01:06:48,150 --> 01:06:50,040

We both stayed with  
two spoons there.

1118

01:06:50,040 --> 01:06:53,160

And while the water got hot, we  
ate it up before it got cooked.

1119

01:06:53,160 --> 01:06:56,150

1120

01:06:56,150 --> 01:07:00,440

Anyway, I stayed with this  
German woman for a while.

1121

01:07:00,440 --> 01:07:05,450

And she had a boarder who was  
also from Germany, a young man.

1122

01:07:05,450 --> 01:07:08,210

At some point, I was  
carrying her groceries,

1123

01:07:08,210 --> 01:07:11,630

and we were coming  
back to her apartment.

1124

01:07:11,630 --> 01:07:14,550

And on the window, this  
young man hung himself.

1125

01:07:14,550 --> 01:07:17,060

1126

01:07:17,060 --> 01:07:22,330

And I had to be the one to cut  
him down and take care of him.

1127

01:07:22,330 --> 01:07:25,760



1128

01:07:25,760 --> 01:07:28,310

Then we continued.

1129

01:07:28,310 --> 01:07:32,840

And a few weeks later, we  
came to another small town.

1130

01:07:32,840 --> 01:07:36,910

1131

01:07:36,910 --> 01:07:40,600

And we were just  
there one night.

1132

01:07:40,600 --> 01:07:44,000

1133

01:07:44,000 --> 01:07:47,420

And they told us they  
couldn't help us.

1134

01:07:47,420 --> 01:07:51,220

But there was a  
Jewish woman who died.

1135

01:07:51,220 --> 01:07:56,300

They could go and take care  
of her body in a Jewish way,

1136

01:07:56,300 --> 01:07:58,070

and they'll feed us.

1137

01:07:58,070 --> 01:08:02,350

1138

01:08:02,350 --> 01:08:05,630

And mind you, I was 17  
years old at the time.

1139

01:08:05,630 --> 01:08:11,950

I remember I went with  
my mother to this house.

1140  
01:08:11,950 --> 01:08:13,300  
This woman was--

1141  
01:08:13,300 --> 01:08:14,890  
I don't know if she  
was full of water,

1142  
01:08:14,890 --> 01:08:16,960  
or if she was that  
big, or whatever,

1143  
01:08:16,960 --> 01:08:18,200  
just covered the whole bath.

1144  
01:08:18,200 --> 01:08:20,460  
And I was supposed to  
wash her, and lift her,

1145  
01:08:20,460 --> 01:08:21,210  
and what have you.

1146  
01:08:21,210 --> 01:08:25,510

1147  
01:08:25,510 --> 01:08:27,189  
My mother couldn't do it.

1148  
01:08:27,189 --> 01:08:29,090  
I had to do it.

1149  
01:08:29,090 --> 01:08:34,090  
So then I took  
care of this, they

1150  
01:08:34,090 --> 01:08:40,270  
gave me a hot glass of water  
with a little milk in it

1151  
01:08:40,270 --> 01:08:42,796  
and a slice of bread.

1152

01:08:42,796 --> 01:08:43,705

It was the payment.

1153

01:08:43,705 --> 01:08:47,270

1154

01:08:47,270 --> 01:08:49,580

And then we continued.

1155

01:08:49,580 --> 01:08:51,680

And we did get--

1156

01:08:51,680 --> 01:08:54,560

I mean, it took us a long time.

1157

01:08:54,560 --> 01:09:02,240

This took us from Passover  
until September, this trip.

1158

01:09:02,240 --> 01:09:03,740

It wasn't that long of a trip.

1159

01:09:03,740 --> 01:09:08,689

It was just the circumstances  
of how we could travel.

1160

01:09:08,689 --> 01:09:13,580

Every place we came, we looked,  
is there another place to hide?

1161

01:09:13,580 --> 01:09:19,640

On the top of the roof, is there  
someplace, a hole, any type--

1162

01:09:19,640 --> 01:09:23,029

a tree that is covered?

1163

01:09:23,029 --> 01:09:26,660

Wherever we got,  
that was our goal.

1164

01:09:26,660 --> 01:09:28,910

Now it was just  
me and my mother.

1165

01:09:28,910 --> 01:09:31,850

In this town where we stayed,  
the first town we stayed,

1166

01:09:31,850 --> 01:09:35,000

we heard that two of  
my brothers survived.

1167

01:09:35,000 --> 01:09:39,170

They also somehow  
survived that day.

1168

01:09:39,170 --> 01:09:42,430

And they came to the same  
town that we came to.

1169

01:09:42,430 --> 01:09:44,970

1170

01:09:44,970 --> 01:09:50,564

And they were like 11-  
and 13-year-old kids.

1171

01:09:50,564 --> 01:09:54,160

1172

01:09:54,160 --> 01:09:57,813

And they walked from  
Stanislaw<sup>3</sup>w, from the ghetto,

1173

01:09:57,813 --> 01:09:59,230

underneath a bridge,  
I don't know,

1174

01:09:59,230 --> 01:10:03,070

because maybe they didn't  
look that Jewish or whatever,

1175

01:10:03,070 --> 01:10:04,000

to this town.

1176  
01:10:04,000 --> 01:10:08,200  
And people heard of them.

1177  
01:10:08,200 --> 01:10:14,650  
And they wanted to pay them  
money and food if they go

1178  
01:10:14,650 --> 01:10:18,460  
and they bring their relatives  
across from there because they

1179  
01:10:18,460 --> 01:10:23,950  
were killing everybody, killing  
out everybody in Stanislaw<sup>3</sup>w.

1180  
01:10:23,950 --> 01:10:27,250  
So my two little  
brothers went back

1181  
01:10:27,250 --> 01:10:29,650  
and were caught with  
those people and executed.

1182  
01:10:29,650 --> 01:10:32,390

1183  
01:10:32,390 --> 01:10:34,034  
We found this out in this town.

1184  
01:10:34,034 --> 01:10:36,880

1185  
01:10:36,880 --> 01:10:46,000  
So anyway, we finally got  
too close to the border

1186  
01:10:46,000 --> 01:10:50,950  
where the work  
camp was stationed.

1187

01:10:50,950 --> 01:10:56,860

And we did find my--

1188

01:10:56,860 --> 01:11:00,310

anyway, he was a distant cousin.

1189

01:11:00,310 --> 01:11:01,490

And he did help us.

1190

01:11:01,490 --> 01:11:06,310

He brought us, every second  
day, his food, his dinner.

1191

01:11:06,310 --> 01:11:08,350

And we hid there in the woods.

1192

01:11:08,350 --> 01:11:10,160

It was in a mountainous area.

1193

01:11:10,160 --> 01:11:11,890

We hid in the woods.

1194

01:11:11,890 --> 01:11:16,730

And we were there  
for a few weeks--

1195

01:11:16,730 --> 01:11:20,405

I don't know, I couldn't  
remember exactly how long--

1196

01:11:20,405 --> 01:11:20,905

hiding.

1197

01:11:20,905 --> 01:11:24,620

1198

01:11:24,620 --> 01:11:31,660

And he tried to get somebody who  
would take us across the border

1199

01:11:31,660 --> 01:11:35,120

but we were turned back

because it was too dangerous.

1200

01:11:35,120 --> 01:11:38,540

They couldn't take us across.

1201

01:11:38,540 --> 01:11:41,005

And then we were  
caught by the Germans.

1202

01:11:41,005 --> 01:11:43,550

1203

01:11:43,550 --> 01:11:46,550

And we were put in a cellar.

1204

01:11:46,550 --> 01:11:48,380

It was a dirt cellar.

1205

01:11:48,380 --> 01:11:52,850

It was deep, with air holes.

1206

01:11:52,850 --> 01:11:54,430

And we in there by ourselves.

1207

01:11:54,430 --> 01:12:03,380

There was a whole lot of other  
people, or maybe eight or 10.

1208

01:12:03,380 --> 01:12:08,480

You don't pay much attention to  
numbers in these circumstances.

1209

01:12:08,480 --> 01:12:10,100

It was wet and cold.

1210

01:12:10,100 --> 01:12:11,380

They put us in there.

1211

01:12:11,380 --> 01:12:15,280

And these were Polish Jews.

1212

01:12:15,280 --> 01:12:24,100  
And they told us that just a few  
meters away there is a grave--

1213  
01:12:24,100 --> 01:12:27,040  
they were caught, and  
I guess they run away

1214  
01:12:27,040 --> 01:12:28,720  
from the execution--

1215  
01:12:28,720 --> 01:12:35,470  
who were executed and  
covered in a mass grave,

1216  
01:12:35,470 --> 01:12:37,405  
and that the grave  
is still moving.

1217  
01:12:37,405 --> 01:12:40,740

1218  
01:12:40,740 --> 01:12:45,840  
I suppose it was moving not  
because the people were alive,

1219  
01:12:45,840 --> 01:12:48,120  
but they felt like the  
people were still alive

1220  
01:12:48,120 --> 01:12:49,500  
and that grave is still moving.

1221  
01:12:49,500 --> 01:12:52,653

1222  
01:12:52,653 --> 01:12:53,320  
I didn't see it.

1223  
01:12:53,320 --> 01:12:58,210  
They told us in this cellar.

1224



01:12:58,210 --> 01:13:02,320

The people who were  
watching this prison,

1225

01:13:02,320 --> 01:13:05,440

our prison that we  
were imprisoned in,

1226

01:13:05,440 --> 01:13:09,340

were Hungarian soldiers  
and they spoke Hungarian.

1227

01:13:09,340 --> 01:13:11,500

And me and my mother  
speak Hungarian.

1228

01:13:11,500 --> 01:13:14,560

These people didn't.

1229

01:13:14,560 --> 01:13:20,830

And as they were walking,  
changing the guard and talking,

1230

01:13:20,830 --> 01:13:23,260

we kind of understood  
of how often--

1231

01:13:23,260 --> 01:13:24,970

that didn't have watches--

1232

01:13:24,970 --> 01:13:30,058

how often they were changing  
the guards and stuff,

1233

01:13:30,058 --> 01:13:31,600

we listened to what  
they were saying.

1234

01:13:31,600 --> 01:13:35,810

And what they were  
saying is we want

1235

01:13:35,810 --> 01:13:38,480

have to change the  
guards tonight anymore,

1236  
01:13:38,480 --> 01:13:44,290  
they said in Hungarian, because  
tonight is the night where

1237  
01:13:44,290 --> 01:13:45,250  
we execute them.

1238  
01:13:45,250 --> 01:13:50,250

1239  
01:13:50,250 --> 01:13:54,360  
And they even went  
into details about it.

1240  
01:13:54,360 --> 01:14:00,120  
I mean, we just heard muffled  
voices from the soldiers.

1241  
01:14:00,120 --> 01:14:04,920  
So my mother relays  
this to these people.

1242  
01:14:04,920 --> 01:14:11,040  
You know, tonight they  
are going to execute us.

1243  
01:14:11,040 --> 01:14:13,260  
And it's a moonless night.

1244  
01:14:13,260 --> 01:14:14,950  
I think they were  
talking about that.

1245  
01:14:14,950 --> 01:14:17,250  
So we heard them.

1246  
01:14:17,250 --> 01:14:22,950  
And so they said, well,  
there's nothing we can do.

1247

01:14:22,950 --> 01:14:25,150

Everybody wanted  
to be left alone.

1248

01:14:25,150 --> 01:14:27,085

They sat each in their  
own little corner.

1249

01:14:27,085 --> 01:14:29,830

1250

01:14:29,830 --> 01:14:32,970

And if you wanted  
to talk to them

1251

01:14:32,970 --> 01:14:35,910

or to ask them something, who  
they are or what, they said,

1252

01:14:35,910 --> 01:14:41,230

leave me alone, let  
me die in peace,

1253

01:14:41,230 --> 01:14:45,240

I should have not fought and  
died then, or things like that.

1254

01:14:45,240 --> 01:14:47,750

1255

01:14:47,750 --> 01:14:54,190

My mother said, no, we  
are not going to die.

1256

01:14:54,190 --> 01:14:56,420

We are going to escape.

1257

01:14:56,420 --> 01:14:58,670

And they said, you're  
a foolish woman.

1258

01:14:58,670 --> 01:15:01,130

What are you talking about?

1259

01:15:01,130 --> 01:15:05,600

They had a soldier stationed  
at each little thing.

1260

01:15:05,600 --> 01:15:07,560

How are we going to escape?

1261

01:15:07,560 --> 01:15:11,240

And my mother said,  
here is what we do.

1262

01:15:11,240 --> 01:15:12,170

And it was deep.

1263

01:15:12,170 --> 01:15:17,150

You know, you couldn't get  
out so easily to the thing.

1264

01:15:17,150 --> 01:15:18,350

How are we going to escape?

1265

01:15:18,350 --> 01:15:21,080

My mother said, very simply.

1266

01:15:21,080 --> 01:15:25,550

We're going to go one on the  
other's shoulders and get out.

1267

01:15:25,550 --> 01:15:29,030

And whoever survives  
is better than not

1268

01:15:29,030 --> 01:15:31,460

having anybody survive at all.

1269

01:15:31,460 --> 01:15:32,720

And what can you lose?

1270

01:15:32,720 --> 01:15:35,410

1271  
01:15:35,410 --> 01:15:37,570  
Anyway, first, they didn't  
want to hear about it.

1272  
01:15:37,570 --> 01:15:40,420  
But then something clicked.

1273  
01:15:40,420 --> 01:15:44,080  
And my mother said,  
I'll make you a deal.

1274  
01:15:44,080 --> 01:15:47,410  
Let my daughter be  
the first to get out.

1275  
01:15:47,410 --> 01:15:49,840  
And that way you'll  
hear, if they shoot her,

1276  
01:15:49,840 --> 01:15:51,850  
then you don't have to go.

1277  
01:15:51,850 --> 01:15:53,950  
And I'll be the last.

1278  
01:15:53,950 --> 01:15:55,535  
But let's at least try.

1279  
01:15:55,535 --> 01:15:58,420

1280  
01:15:58,420 --> 01:16:04,780  
So I was the first out  
through this hole on the top.

1281  
01:16:04,780 --> 01:16:07,300  
I went on top.

1282  
01:16:07,300 --> 01:16:08,500  
Somebody on the bottom.

1283

01:16:08,500 --> 01:16:14,410

And we gathered dirt together  
to make a little hill

1284

01:16:14,410 --> 01:16:16,660

against the wall.

1285

01:16:16,660 --> 01:16:19,420

I went out first.

1286

01:16:19,420 --> 01:16:24,460

And my mother said, don't  
look back, just run.

1287

01:16:24,460 --> 01:16:26,060

Run as fast as you can.

1288

01:16:26,060 --> 01:16:28,420

It doesn't matter where you  
end up, but just ran away

1289

01:16:28,420 --> 01:16:30,310

from here.

1290

01:16:30,310 --> 01:16:32,710

And don't wait for me.

1291

01:16:32,710 --> 01:16:36,730

Anyway, I did as  
my mother told me.

1292

01:16:36,730 --> 01:16:39,010

I got out of there and I ran.

1293

01:16:39,010 --> 01:16:40,870

And it was so dark.

1294

01:16:40,870 --> 01:16:44,620

This is in the woods, so  
there is no moonlight,

1295

01:16:44,620 --> 01:16:45,460  
there is no nothing.

1296  
01:16:45,460 --> 01:16:48,400  
I was going around  
with my hands,

1297  
01:16:48,400 --> 01:16:53,860  
feeling so I don't run  
into a tree or whatever.

1298  
01:16:53,860 --> 01:16:55,540  
I was going around like that.

1299  
01:16:55,540 --> 01:17:01,370  
And oh, I don't know  
how long it took.

1300  
01:17:01,370 --> 01:17:06,340  
I felt another body  
against me, touching me.

1301  
01:17:06,340 --> 01:17:09,010  
It was my mother.

1302  
01:17:09,010 --> 01:17:11,350  
I have never found  
out how she got out,

1303  
01:17:11,350 --> 01:17:14,680  
because she was supposed  
to have been the last.

1304  
01:17:14,680 --> 01:17:18,460  
I guess somebody must  
have pulled her out.

1305  
01:17:18,460 --> 01:17:21,280  
But it was my mother.

1306  
01:17:21,280 --> 01:17:26,470  
And we never saw any  
of those other people.

1307

01:17:26,470 --> 01:17:32,680  
Because you have thought that  
they would be around there too.

1308

01:17:32,680 --> 01:17:37,630  
We never ran into anybody.

1309

01:17:37,630 --> 01:17:43,780  
Anyway, we were hiding  
still in those same woods

1310

01:17:43,780 --> 01:17:49,210  
where we were caught because  
we had no other place to go.

1311

01:17:49,210 --> 01:17:51,970  
Except my mother and  
me were sitting back

1312

01:17:51,970 --> 01:17:57,020  
to back so we could  
watch in every direction

1313

01:17:57,020 --> 01:18:02,930  
if we hear or see  
anything, noise.

1314

01:18:02,930 --> 01:18:10,670  
So then we were there  
quite a long time I think.

1315

01:18:10,670 --> 01:18:11,780  
I had a dream.

1316

01:18:11,780 --> 01:18:15,560  
And I know this is  
not anything, but I

1317

01:18:15,560 --> 01:18:19,820  
think maybe it's self-conscious  
I had a dream that I



1318

01:18:19,820 --> 01:18:22,410

was walking up a ladder  
that goes nowhere,

1319

01:18:22,410 --> 01:18:29,120

just plain up, and  
pretty high up.

1320

01:18:29,120 --> 01:18:35,720

And an old man with a beard  
is holding the ladder for me.

1321

01:18:35,720 --> 01:18:38,360

And I'm afraid.

1322

01:18:38,360 --> 01:18:43,940

And then I look far away, and  
I saw my father standing there.

1323

01:18:43,940 --> 01:18:46,430

And he said, go  
on, it's my father.

1324

01:18:46,430 --> 01:18:47,840

That's your grandfather.

1325

01:18:47,840 --> 01:18:49,970

I didn't know my grandfather.

1326

01:18:49,970 --> 01:18:51,170

That's my father.

1327

01:18:51,170 --> 01:18:53,900

Don't be afraid, just go.

1328

01:18:53,900 --> 01:19:00,170

The next morning, when  
the light came out,

1329

01:19:00,170 --> 01:19:02,960

without even talking  
to my mother about it,

1330  
01:19:02,960 --> 01:19:07,100  
we both got up and  
started walking.

1331  
01:19:07,100 --> 01:19:12,020  
Without any help, we got across  
the border and came to Munkács.

1332  
01:19:12,020 --> 01:19:17,120

1333  
01:19:17,120 --> 01:19:18,800  
I mean, we walked  
for a long time.

1334  
01:19:18,800 --> 01:19:21,470  
But we walked across the  
border without being caught.

1335  
01:19:21,470 --> 01:19:26,100  
We tried before and  
couldn't make it.

1336  
01:19:26,100 --> 01:19:31,800  
So sometimes I believe and  
sometimes I don't about what

1337  
01:19:31,800 --> 01:19:33,990  
can happen to a person.

1338  
01:19:33,990 --> 01:19:40,350  
Anyway, we walked to Munkács  
dirty, scratched, barefoot,

1339  
01:19:40,350 --> 01:19:45,005  
half naked looked  
like a wild animal.

1340  
01:19:45,005 --> 01:19:46,380  
Of course we didn't  
see ourselves

1341

01:19:46,380 --> 01:19:49,260

because we didn't  
have any mirrors.

1342

01:19:49,260 --> 01:19:55,950

But my aunt had, waiting  
for us, a railroad there

1343

01:19:55,950 --> 01:19:59,650

to come to her.

1344

01:19:59,650 --> 01:20:03,990

We went into the Jewish  
agency, got our ticket,

1345

01:20:03,990 --> 01:20:05,640

got on the train.

1346

01:20:05,640 --> 01:20:09,960

I remember trying to put  
my legs under the seat

1347

01:20:09,960 --> 01:20:12,490

so nobody would see.

1348

01:20:12,490 --> 01:20:15,430

You still have  
some human modesty.

1349

01:20:15,430 --> 01:20:19,290

1350

01:20:19,290 --> 01:20:22,110

The town where my aunt  
lived is the same town

1351

01:20:22,110 --> 01:20:23,760

where my husband is from.

1352

01:20:23,760 --> 01:20:31,560

His father said that we are  
wild, that we are crazy,

1353  
01:20:31,560 --> 01:20:36,720  
that no human being could  
look that way or survive

1354  
01:20:36,720 --> 01:20:39,270  
or what we were telling.

1355  
01:20:39,270 --> 01:20:39,990  
We came there.

1356  
01:20:39,990 --> 01:20:42,650  
And we were so  
hungry that we ate--

1357  
01:20:42,650 --> 01:20:45,060  
my aunt tried to feed us.

1358  
01:20:45,060 --> 01:20:50,670  
I mean, she knew we were  
hungry, but she fed us,

1359  
01:20:50,670 --> 01:20:52,590  
and we ate, and ate, and ate.

1360  
01:20:52,590 --> 01:20:55,230  
And then we went outside.

1361  
01:20:55,230 --> 01:20:57,780  
And there was a plum  
tree had some plums.

1362  
01:20:57,780 --> 01:21:03,690  
And we shook the plum tree and  
ate a bucket full of plums.

1363  
01:21:03,690 --> 01:21:05,370  
And my father-in-law watched it.

1364  
01:21:05,370 --> 01:21:07,230  
He wasn't my father-in-law then.

1365

01:21:07,230 --> 01:21:10,620

He was a brother-in-law  
to my aunt.

1366

01:21:10,620 --> 01:21:13,890

He says, those women are crazy.

1367

01:21:13,890 --> 01:21:15,810

He says, they're  
like wild animals.

1368

01:21:15,810 --> 01:21:18,030

Of course we looked  
like wild animals--

1369

01:21:18,030 --> 01:21:18,710

scratched.

1370

01:21:18,710 --> 01:21:22,850

1371

01:21:22,850 --> 01:21:25,190

How did your aunt know  
that you were coming?

1372

01:21:25,190 --> 01:21:30,140

This cousin who was  
in the work detail

1373

01:21:30,140 --> 01:21:33,890

in the army in the munkasor  
[INAUDIBLE] they called it,

1374

01:21:33,890 --> 01:21:35,420

"work camp."

1375

01:21:35,420 --> 01:21:38,330

He corresponded with my aunt.

1376

01:21:38,330 --> 01:21:42,830

And he was telling  
her where we are

1377  
01:21:42,830 --> 01:21:49,830  
and that he is hoping that he  
can get us across the border.

1378  
01:21:49,830 --> 01:21:55,250  
So she had the ticket  
waiting for us.

1379  
01:21:55,250 --> 01:21:58,310  
He was with the Hungarian  
work detail in Poland.

1380  
01:21:58,310 --> 01:22:00,740  
That's right.

1381  
01:22:00,740 --> 01:22:07,940  
So we came home, first  
to my aunt's and then

1382  
01:22:07,940 --> 01:22:13,670  
to our own hometown  
and we were told

1383  
01:22:13,670 --> 01:22:26,388  
that we have to go once a week  
to the gendarme, to the police,

1384  
01:22:26,388 --> 01:22:29,400  
you know, like a prisoner goes.

1385  
01:22:29,400 --> 01:22:30,690  
We came back, you see.

1386  
01:22:30,690 --> 01:22:31,950  
They were taking us--

1387  
01:22:31,950 --> 01:22:34,770  
it was determined then that  
we were not legally taken,

1388  
01:22:34,770 --> 01:22:36,220

but that's not the point.

1389  
01:22:36,220 --> 01:22:42,650  
The point was they wanted to  
keep us under surveillance.

1390  
01:22:42,650 --> 01:22:46,410

1391  
01:22:46,410 --> 01:22:52,200  
Then they decided the only  
reason that the two women came

1392  
01:22:52,200 --> 01:22:56,370  
back, my mother and myself--  
my mother was 41 years old--

1393  
01:22:56,370 --> 01:23:00,790  
is that we probably had affairs  
with the German soldiers

1394  
01:23:00,790 --> 01:23:03,580  
and they let us go  
because of that.

1395  
01:23:03,580 --> 01:23:06,998  
So they wanted the same thing.

1396  
01:23:06,998 --> 01:23:08,370  
So I couldn't stay home.

1397  
01:23:08,370 --> 01:23:11,880

1398  
01:23:11,880 --> 01:23:14,515  
So we didn't have any money.

1399  
01:23:14,515 --> 01:23:18,670

1400  
01:23:18,670 --> 01:23:21,150  
It was a real hard time.

1401  
01:23:21,150 --> 01:23:26,160  
We heard from somebody who  
needed a part-time babysitter.

1402  
01:23:26,160 --> 01:23:30,900  
And they would, for that, if  
somebody babysits for them--

1403  
01:23:30,900 --> 01:23:35,760  
that was in KisvÃ¼rda--

1404  
01:23:35,760 --> 01:23:40,800  
then they would teach  
them a profession

1405  
01:23:40,800 --> 01:23:44,160  
or give them a part-time job.

1406  
01:23:44,160 --> 01:23:46,590  
And I had no place to go.

1407  
01:23:46,590 --> 01:23:51,250  
So my mother got me a ticket.

1408  
01:23:51,250 --> 01:23:54,420  
I went to KisvÃ¼rda.

1409  
01:23:54,420 --> 01:23:59,780  
And I came there, and  
those people were away.

1410  
01:23:59,780 --> 01:24:01,970  
I had no place to stay.

1411  
01:24:01,970 --> 01:24:04,470  
I have no money to go back.

1412  
01:24:04,470 --> 01:24:08,830

1413



01:24:08,830 --> 01:24:13,330  
I befriended a girl who was a  
maid for somebody on the train.

1414  
01:24:13,330 --> 01:24:19,690  
And she heard-- the  
people she worked

1415  
01:24:19,690 --> 01:24:23,470  
for, they go back to  
the market every morning

1416  
01:24:23,470 --> 01:24:27,580  
to buy fresh produce.

1417  
01:24:27,580 --> 01:24:30,730  
Talked to other women, and  
she says, I have here--

1418  
01:24:30,730 --> 01:24:33,300  
by then I knew my  
father was lost.

1419  
01:24:33,300 --> 01:24:37,560  
I took my mother's name, Ausch.

1420  
01:24:37,560 --> 01:24:40,492  
I don't know, for some  
reason I did that.

1421  
01:24:40,492 --> 01:24:43,427  
What was your father's name?

1422  
01:24:43,427 --> 01:24:43,927  
Farah.

1423  
01:24:43,927 --> 01:24:50,100  
So she says, I have a girl  
by the name of Miriam Ausch,

1424  
01:24:50,100 --> 01:24:55,860  
and she has some wild  
stories, you know.

1425  
01:24:55,860 --> 01:25:01,650  
And all at once, I  
had relatives galore.

1426  
01:25:01,650 --> 01:25:06,200  
Ausch, oh, those are the  
Auschs from Oberland.

1427  
01:25:06,200 --> 01:25:07,960  
OK, they heard of the name.

1428  
01:25:07,960 --> 01:25:11,310  
I think that's why I took it,  
because my grandfather was kind

1429  
01:25:11,310 --> 01:25:13,820  
of a well-known personality.

1430  
01:25:13,820 --> 01:25:16,760

1431  
01:25:16,760 --> 01:25:18,860  
Anyway, there came an old lady.

1432  
01:25:18,860 --> 01:25:21,440  
She says her daughter is  
getting married in three weeks.

1433  
01:25:21,440 --> 01:25:23,750  
And she wants me to  
move in with them.

1434  
01:25:23,750 --> 01:25:28,220

1435  
01:25:28,220 --> 01:25:32,450  
And I wouldn't be as  
I maid, I would be

1436  
01:25:32,450 --> 01:25:34,080  
like one of their own children.

1437  
01:25:34,080 --> 01:25:36,170  
And I wouldn't get  
paid or anything,

1438  
01:25:36,170 --> 01:25:43,250  
but still one of their daughters  
is a milliner who makes hats,

1439  
01:25:43,250 --> 01:25:46,280  
and that she would teach  
me that profession.

1440  
01:25:46,280 --> 01:25:48,863  
I guess, at this point, I  
have to think of something--

1441  
01:25:48,863 --> 01:25:49,780  
what am I going to do?

1442  
01:25:49,780 --> 01:25:52,870

1443  
01:25:52,870 --> 01:25:56,780  
Well, I moved in with them.

1444  
01:25:56,780 --> 01:26:01,400  
And I had these terrible  
nightmares, and guilt feelings.

1445  
01:26:01,400 --> 01:26:04,022  
And I left my mother.

1446  
01:26:04,022 --> 01:26:06,230  
And I heard my mother was  
beaten because she wouldn't

1447  
01:26:06,230 --> 01:26:08,990  
tell the police where I was.

1448  
01:26:08,990 --> 01:26:18,080  
And I mean, it's very

difficult for me.

1449

01:26:18,080 --> 01:26:21,860

So I started fasting  
twice a week.

1450

01:26:21,860 --> 01:26:28,100

[CHUCKLES] And I got sick.

1451

01:26:28,100 --> 01:26:31,420

I got sick to the  
point where, first, I

1452

01:26:31,420 --> 01:26:36,130

had tonsillitis about three  
times in three months,

1453

01:26:36,130 --> 01:26:41,140

I had whooping cough,  
and then I got malaria,

1454

01:26:41,140 --> 01:26:45,250

all in a fairly short time.

1455

01:26:45,250 --> 01:26:48,640

And the doctor said I have  
to move away from-- maybe

1456

01:26:48,640 --> 01:26:50,470

it's the climate.

1457

01:26:50,470 --> 01:26:53,950

So they found me a so-called  
other relative in Debrecen,

1458

01:26:53,950 --> 01:26:55,930

and I moved there.

1459

01:26:55,930 --> 01:26:58,060

They paid for the expenses.

1460

01:26:58,060 --> 01:27:01,720

And I lived with a young  
woman and her two children.

1461  
01:27:01,720 --> 01:27:05,290  
Things were going on then.

1462  
01:27:05,290 --> 01:27:10,720  
But the Jews still were not  
concerned about anything.

1463  
01:27:10,720 --> 01:27:13,300  
If I told what  
happened to me or what

1464  
01:27:13,300 --> 01:27:17,050  
was happening, I was trying  
to warn them, look out,

1465  
01:27:17,050 --> 01:27:18,290  
these are the signs.

1466  
01:27:18,290 --> 01:27:20,000  
It's showing up here.

1467  
01:27:20,000 --> 01:27:22,630  
You know, Jews don't  
have the same freedom.

1468  
01:27:22,630 --> 01:27:25,480  
They said they're  
in their fatherland,

1469  
01:27:25,480 --> 01:27:31,540  
and the Hungarians are never  
going to do anything to them.

1470  
01:27:31,540 --> 01:27:33,430  
They're their friends.

1471  
01:27:33,430 --> 01:27:36,220  
You know, I'm talking  
about the Russians,

1472

01:27:36,220 --> 01:27:40,210

I'm not talking  
about the Hungarians.

1473

01:27:40,210 --> 01:27:43,630

They actually made me feel  
like I shouldn't talk about it

1474

01:27:43,630 --> 01:27:46,810

because nobody is believing me.

1475

01:27:46,810 --> 01:27:49,450

1476

01:27:49,450 --> 01:27:57,010

Then, while I was in Debrecen,  
the Jewish people still

1477

01:27:57,010 --> 01:27:59,320

had their businesses  
and they still

1478

01:27:59,320 --> 01:28:04,210

were living very  
good in Hungary.

1479

01:28:04,210 --> 01:28:09,820

But then in '44, in the  
beginning, Germans--

1480

01:28:09,820 --> 01:28:13,060

Debrecen is a big city.

1481

01:28:13,060 --> 01:28:15,580

The Germans came in there.

1482

01:28:15,580 --> 01:28:19,930

And the Jews started  
being a little bit scared.

1483

01:28:19,930 --> 01:28:24,640

And the woman I was

living with, she

1484

01:28:24,640 --> 01:28:27,520

considered me as some  
type of a distant cousin.

1485

01:28:27,520 --> 01:28:29,830

I said, listen,  
if you don't want

1486

01:28:29,830 --> 01:28:31,180

to listen to me, that's fine.

1487

01:28:31,180 --> 01:28:33,070

I'm not going to stay here.

1488

01:28:33,070 --> 01:28:35,860

Me and my mother have  
a pact that each of us

1489

01:28:35,860 --> 01:28:37,930

have to survive somehow.

1490

01:28:37,930 --> 01:28:40,070

I want to get away.

1491

01:28:40,070 --> 01:28:44,380

She says, well, fine, my  
father lives in [INAUDIBLE]

1492

01:28:44,380 --> 01:28:47,920

and he has vineyards.

1493

01:28:47,920 --> 01:28:50,410

And you can go and live  
with the people who

1494

01:28:50,410 --> 01:28:56,530

lived in the vineyards and  
take care of the vineyards.

1495

01:28:56,530 --> 01:28:58,690

I mean, she really  
tried to help me,

1496  
01:28:58,690 --> 01:29:03,560  
even if she didn't believe me.

1497  
01:29:03,560 --> 01:29:11,860  
So I went there to her  
father, whom I never met,

1498  
01:29:11,860 --> 01:29:12,910  
to her parents' house.

1499  
01:29:12,910 --> 01:29:15,640

1500  
01:29:15,640 --> 01:29:20,650  
And that's where they, all at  
once, gathered up the people

1501  
01:29:20,650 --> 01:29:25,420  
the same way, took  
us to a ghetto,

1502  
01:29:25,420 --> 01:29:27,760  
and it started over again.

1503  
01:29:27,760 --> 01:29:31,600  
I was going to run away  
from there, from the ghetto.

1504  
01:29:31,600 --> 01:29:33,610  
And I was ready,  
somehow, to escape.

1505  
01:29:33,610 --> 01:29:38,170  
Because I think, when  
it started in Hungary,

1506  
01:29:38,170 --> 01:29:40,390  
if you knew what  
was waiting for you,



1507

01:29:40,390 --> 01:29:42,220  
you still could have escaped.

1508

01:29:42,220 --> 01:29:43,960  
But I didn't even--

1509

01:29:43,960 --> 01:29:47,440  
well, I spoke Hungarian, but I  
didn't speak like a Hungarian,

1510

01:29:47,440 --> 01:29:50,890  
I spoke like a foreigner.

1511

01:29:50,890 --> 01:29:55,330  
So I still was going  
to escape, but I

1512

01:29:55,330 --> 01:29:58,420  
had to wait until  
Pesach was over again.

1513

01:29:58,420 --> 01:30:00,070  
The holiday is coming.

1514

01:30:00,070 --> 01:30:05,590  
So in the meantime, I got  
a letter from my mother

1515

01:30:05,590 --> 01:30:09,840  
telling me that she was caught.

1516

01:30:09,840 --> 01:30:15,390  
She hit with another woman who  
had a child, the child cried,

1517

01:30:15,390 --> 01:30:17,770  
the people didn't  
want to be exposed.

1518

01:30:17,770 --> 01:30:20,910  
They caught this woman, and this  
woman told where my mother was.

1519  
01:30:20,910 --> 01:30:23,740

1520  
01:30:23,740 --> 01:30:27,690  
And I think, at that  
point, I passed out.

1521  
01:30:27,690 --> 01:30:30,030  
I had like a small heart attack.

1522  
01:30:30,030 --> 01:30:34,680

1523  
01:30:34,680 --> 01:30:41,190  
And I didn't care what's  
going to happen next.

1524  
01:30:41,190 --> 01:30:45,350  
So I went to camp.

1525  
01:30:45,350 --> 01:30:48,170  
They took them to a camp.

1526  
01:30:48,170 --> 01:30:51,170  
From the ghetto, they took  
them to a tobacco farm

1527  
01:30:51,170 --> 01:30:55,460  
type of thing, and they  
made a camp out of it.

1528  
01:30:55,460 --> 01:31:00,950  
And the Germans  
came there, and they

1529  
01:31:00,950 --> 01:31:05,210  
have us work, like  
digging up the hill,

1530  
01:31:05,210 --> 01:31:08,840  
and carrying it down, and

then digging it down there

1531

01:31:08,840 --> 01:31:13,410  
and carrying it up, in big bowls  
or something, just to make us

1532

01:31:13,410 --> 01:31:13,910  
work.

1533

01:31:13,910 --> 01:31:17,680

1534

01:31:17,680 --> 01:31:19,450  
And then, because  
my name was Ausch,

1535

01:31:19,450 --> 01:31:24,730  
I was the very first on the  
truck going to Auschwitz

1536

01:31:24,730 --> 01:31:31,870  
in '44, with people I didn't  
know, complete strangers,

1537

01:31:31,870 --> 01:31:34,780  
in a town with no--

1538

01:31:34,780 --> 01:31:36,700  
well, I spoke a  
little Hungarian,

1539

01:31:36,700 --> 01:31:40,780  
but didn't know  
any of the people,

1540

01:31:40,780 --> 01:31:44,440  
didn't know anything  
about this community.

1541

01:31:44,440 --> 01:31:45,100  
When was this?

1542

01:31:45,100 --> 01:31:46,780

In the summer--

1543

01:31:46,780 --> 01:31:49,285

This was in the early  
spring, right after Pesach.

1544

01:31:49,285 --> 01:31:52,810

It must have been April.

1545

01:31:52,810 --> 01:31:55,780

In early April, I think  
it was, early April.

1546

01:31:55,780 --> 01:31:59,830

They took us to Auschwitz,  
straight to Auschwitz.

1547

01:31:59,830 --> 01:32:02,440

First they took us to--

1548

01:32:02,440 --> 01:32:07,360

they called it Zigeunerlager,  
the "Gypsy camp," because they

1549

01:32:07,360 --> 01:32:09,220

didn't have where to put us.

1550

01:32:09,220 --> 01:32:16,930

Then they took us to  
Birkenau, to Lager Tsev.

1551

01:32:16,930 --> 01:32:21,530

And you probably saw  
pictures, and maybe

1552

01:32:21,530 --> 01:32:24,430

you even saw the  
real thing of how

1553

01:32:24,430 --> 01:32:30,430

those bunkers were made, the  
three-layered things where

1554  
01:32:30,430 --> 01:32:31,330  
people stayed.

1555  
01:32:31,330 --> 01:32:35,860  
And three layered, there  
was enough room for 1,000.

1556  
01:32:35,860 --> 01:32:40,495  
There were 1,300 of us  
in one of those stalls.

1557  
01:32:40,495 --> 01:32:43,210

1558  
01:32:43,210 --> 01:32:46,780  
Because they were bringing so  
many people in from Hungary

1559  
01:32:46,780 --> 01:32:50,590  
that there just wasn't enough--  
and from Czechoslovakia still,

1560  
01:32:50,590 --> 01:32:51,850  
and from--

1561  
01:32:51,850 --> 01:32:55,210  
this is where they brought  
the most people in.

1562  
01:32:55,210 --> 01:33:00,160  
It was like their last things  
to gather up all of the Jews

1563  
01:33:00,160 --> 01:33:05,500  
to make all of the countries  
free from the Jews.

1564  
01:33:05,500 --> 01:33:11,410  
Anyway, we were on three layers.

1565  
01:33:11,410 --> 01:33:15,470

The heavier people were on  
the bottom layer, and then

1566  
01:33:15,470 --> 01:33:15,970  
the middle.

1567  
01:33:15,970 --> 01:33:17,512  
And there was supposed  
to be like 10.

1568  
01:33:17,512 --> 01:33:20,650  
But we were 12 and 13.

1569  
01:33:20,650 --> 01:33:24,520  
It depended on how many  
they could push together.

1570  
01:33:24,520 --> 01:33:27,670  
And we were laid like sardines.

1571  
01:33:27,670 --> 01:33:30,190  
If one turned over, all  
of us had to turn over.

1572  
01:33:30,190 --> 01:33:30,940  
There were boards.

1573  
01:33:30,940 --> 01:33:32,500  
There was nothing underneath.

1574  
01:33:32,500 --> 01:33:37,030  
And our flesh went  
through there.

1575  
01:33:37,030 --> 01:33:40,510  
It was really miserable.

1576  
01:33:40,510 --> 01:33:44,440  
But anyway, when we came  
to Auschwitz, as I say,

1577  
01:33:44,440 --> 01:33:48,210

I didn't know anybody.

1578  
01:33:48,210 --> 01:33:54,810  
When we came to  
Auschwitz, I kind of--

1579  
01:33:54,810 --> 01:33:58,500

1580  
01:33:58,500 --> 01:33:59,700  
everything out of my mouth--

1581  
01:33:59,700 --> 01:34:02,880  
I didn't want to think, I  
just didn't want to think.

1582  
01:34:02,880 --> 01:34:04,180  
Whatever was, was.

1583  
01:34:04,180 --> 01:34:11,130  
I was just kind of  
like a non-person.

1584  
01:34:11,130 --> 01:34:12,860  
I didn't care.

1585  
01:34:12,860 --> 01:34:17,160  
Anyway, I started  
writing a journal

1586  
01:34:17,160 --> 01:34:19,470  
in between when I  
came from Poland

1587  
01:34:19,470 --> 01:34:22,290  
and until they took  
me to Auschwitz.

1588  
01:34:22,290 --> 01:34:25,590  
And I think that was my biggest  
loss, when they took my journal

1589

01:34:25,590 --> 01:34:28,080  
away when I came to Auschwitz.

1590  
01:34:28,080 --> 01:34:29,760  
That was my most concern.

1591  
01:34:29,760 --> 01:34:32,460  
Nothing else seemed to matter.

1592  
01:34:32,460 --> 01:34:34,260  
I mean, I don't know why.

1593  
01:34:34,260 --> 01:34:40,680  
But that was something that  
was very important to me.

1594  
01:34:40,680 --> 01:34:42,180  
Anyway, I came there.

1595  
01:34:42,180 --> 01:34:46,980  
And we were lying  
there for days.

1596  
01:34:46,980 --> 01:34:49,620  
They gave us.

1597  
01:34:49,620 --> 01:34:52,290  
As I say, there were so  
many people coming at once,

1598  
01:34:52,290 --> 01:34:59,910  
that they would bring, for each  
30 people, or 35 or 36 people,

1599  
01:34:59,910 --> 01:35:04,590  
they would bring one pitcher  
or one bowl or dish of coffee

1600  
01:35:04,590 --> 01:35:05,940  
for the morning.

1601  
01:35:05,940 --> 01:35:11,010



And the coffee was  
drugged to keep us docile.

1602  
01:35:11,010 --> 01:35:13,770  
And you can taste  
the medicine in it.

1603  
01:35:13,770 --> 01:35:17,326

1604  
01:35:17,326 --> 01:35:19,305  
It kind of kept  
you like a zombie.

1605  
01:35:19,305 --> 01:35:22,050

1606  
01:35:22,050 --> 01:35:25,860  
So everybody, from  
the same dish,

1607  
01:35:25,860 --> 01:35:27,330  
would have a drink of coffee.

1608  
01:35:27,330 --> 01:35:29,910  
It depends how big of  
a swallow you could do.

1609  
01:35:29,910 --> 01:35:31,770  
That was it.

1610  
01:35:31,770 --> 01:35:38,940  
Then they would give us sugar  
beet soup mixed with flour

1611  
01:35:38,940 --> 01:35:41,160  
so that it has some things.

1612  
01:35:41,160 --> 01:35:42,960  
And that came, like,  
in garbage cans.

1613

01:35:42,960 --> 01:35:46,650

And again, we didn't have  
dishes for ourselves.

1614

01:35:46,650 --> 01:35:48,750

And some people did.

1615

01:35:48,750 --> 01:35:50,760

But when we came,  
they didn't have

1616

01:35:50,760 --> 01:35:53,910

enough dishes to go around.

1617

01:35:53,910 --> 01:35:56,880

So they just had one  
dish and everybody

1618

01:35:56,880 --> 01:35:59,470

drank out of that one dish.

1619

01:35:59,470 --> 01:36:02,310

So if somebody was the last,  
they didn't have anything

1620

01:36:02,310 --> 01:36:08,423

or they had a little bit of  
the beets in it, the vegetable.

1621

01:36:08,423 --> 01:36:12,210

1622

01:36:12,210 --> 01:36:17,400

They gave us a small  
slice of bread.

1623

01:36:17,400 --> 01:36:18,780

And that wasn't every day.

1624

01:36:18,780 --> 01:36:21,720

And it was mostly sawdust.

1625

01:36:21,720 --> 01:36:24,945

It was very heavy  
and very coarse.

1626

01:36:24,945 --> 01:36:28,980

1627

01:36:28,980 --> 01:36:36,460

And then, one day, they said, we  
need a certain amount of people

1628

01:36:36,460 --> 01:36:36,960

to work.

1629

01:36:36,960 --> 01:36:41,200

I jumped out of that  
bunk as fast as I could.

1630

01:36:41,200 --> 01:36:43,530

And I was the first one.

1631

01:36:43,530 --> 01:36:47,970

I mean, it was impossible  
to survive there and lie

1632

01:36:47,970 --> 01:36:49,770

in that one position  
all the time.

1633

01:36:49,770 --> 01:36:51,720

Because you couldn't go out.

1634

01:36:51,720 --> 01:36:54,420

It was not permitted to get out.

1635

01:36:54,420 --> 01:37:01,740

You had to stay in  
your slot except when

1636

01:37:01,740 --> 01:37:03,300

they counted for appell.

1637

01:37:03,300 --> 01:37:04,470  
And that was for hours.

1638  
01:37:04,470 --> 01:37:07,680  
Like they get you up at 5  
o'clock, and at 11 o'clock,

1639  
01:37:07,680 --> 01:37:09,580  
you're still standing  
at attention.

1640  
01:37:09,580 --> 01:37:10,770  
And people would faint.

1641  
01:37:10,770 --> 01:37:11,970  
And then we would slap them.

1642  
01:37:11,970 --> 01:37:16,200  
Because if they fell down,  
they were shot or taken away.

1643  
01:37:16,200 --> 01:37:20,060  
We saw people going to the  
wires and getting electrocuted.

1644  
01:37:20,060 --> 01:37:21,930  
And they knew they  
would get electrocuted.

1645  
01:37:21,930 --> 01:37:24,450

1646  
01:37:24,450 --> 01:37:25,395  
There was no water.

1647  
01:37:25,395 --> 01:37:28,290

1648  
01:37:28,290 --> 01:37:33,000  
Anyway, they shaved us,  
they shaved our heads.

1649

01:37:33,000 --> 01:37:35,700

And that country  
is like a desert.

1650

01:37:35,700 --> 01:37:38,730

It's cold at night and  
hot in the daytime.

1651

01:37:38,730 --> 01:37:42,330

We had blisters on our heads  
and blisters on our feet.

1652

01:37:42,330 --> 01:37:46,470

Took away all of  
our clothes and made

1653

01:37:46,470 --> 01:37:52,440

us feel like we are  
not human beings.

1654

01:37:52,440 --> 01:37:55,080

We were-- well, anyway.

1655

01:37:55,080 --> 01:38:02,310

But when I went to work,  
I was in the S kommando,

1656

01:38:02,310 --> 01:38:07,821

carrying food from Lager  
Tsev to the Czech lager.

1657

01:38:07,821 --> 01:38:11,130

They opened up a  
Czech lager where

1658

01:38:11,130 --> 01:38:13,380

they weren't going to make  
a kitchen because they were

1659

01:38:13,380 --> 01:38:15,660

going to kill them all anyway.

1660

01:38:15,660 --> 01:38:18,922

Lager Tsev is also  
a lager where they

1661  
01:38:18,922 --> 01:38:20,130  
were going to kill everybody.

1662  
01:38:20,130 --> 01:38:23,130  
And they didn't give us  
numbers for that reason.

1663  
01:38:23,130 --> 01:38:25,440  
See, it was the  
Vernichtungslager.

1664  
01:38:25,440 --> 01:38:28,110  
It was called that.

1665  
01:38:28,110 --> 01:38:38,460  
So while I was  
carrying these foods,

1666  
01:38:38,460 --> 01:38:42,180  
there were tall garbage  
cans, reaching like that,

1667  
01:38:42,180 --> 01:38:44,250  
to my shoulders.

1668  
01:38:44,250 --> 01:38:46,560  
And then I had to bend.

1669  
01:38:46,560 --> 01:38:48,870  
So when I came to  
the United States,

1670  
01:38:48,870 --> 01:38:52,560  
I had a lot of chiropractic  
work done on it because I

1671  
01:38:52,560 --> 01:38:56,760  
was one-sided from that things.

1672

01:38:56,760 --> 01:39:01,830

Anyway, I was carrying this  
food, three times a day,

1673

01:39:01,830 --> 01:39:05,610

to that other lager.

1674

01:39:05,610 --> 01:39:09,510

And that kept me at  
least out and outside.

1675

01:39:09,510 --> 01:39:12,240

1676

01:39:12,240 --> 01:39:15,120

We had Germans march  
with us from this camp

1677

01:39:15,120 --> 01:39:18,510

to the next camp, not that  
we could have escaped.

1678

01:39:18,510 --> 01:39:24,600

And each time, we did have  
numbers on our uniform.

1679

01:39:24,600 --> 01:39:26,640

Each time we went  
through the gate,

1680

01:39:26,640 --> 01:39:27,795

we had to tell our numbers.

1681

01:39:27,795 --> 01:39:30,570

1682

01:39:30,570 --> 01:39:37,140

And it was that horrible,  
horrible stench, smoke,

1683

01:39:37,140 --> 01:39:39,510

burning.

1684

01:39:39,510 --> 01:39:43,140

And I remember  
when I was carrying

1685

01:39:43,140 --> 01:39:47,790

this food for about three or  
four days, I said to my partner

1686

01:39:47,790 --> 01:39:50,190

with whom I was  
carrying, I said,

1687

01:39:50,190 --> 01:39:54,370

I wonder what that smell is.

1688

01:39:54,370 --> 01:40:02,220

And this German said to  
me, that's the crematoria.

1689

01:40:02,220 --> 01:40:04,540

That's your parents in there.

1690

01:40:04,540 --> 01:40:08,830

He really wanted to make  
us feel that we really

1691

01:40:08,830 --> 01:40:15,300

know that they're  
burning all of-- he says,

1692

01:40:15,300 --> 01:40:17,790

we are very busy now  
because they're bringing

1693

01:40:17,790 --> 01:40:19,620

all of the Hungarian Jews.

1694

01:40:19,620 --> 01:40:22,300

1695

01:40:22,300 --> 01:40:25,060

And it was day and night going.



1696  
01:40:25,060 --> 01:40:29,410  
And the smoke was  
dark and things.

1697  
01:40:29,410 --> 01:40:34,090  
And the burning of  
the flesh and bone

1698  
01:40:34,090 --> 01:40:38,290  
was just positively  
so sickening.

1699  
01:40:38,290 --> 01:40:41,750  
I mean, when you think of it.

1700  
01:40:41,750 --> 01:40:46,810  
And we had to watch it each  
time we walked outside.

1701  
01:40:46,810 --> 01:40:50,980

1702  
01:40:50,980 --> 01:40:56,350  
Then they were giving us--

1703  
01:40:56,350 --> 01:41:00,010  
oh, we would get maybe  
a couple of weeks.

1704  
01:41:00,010 --> 01:41:07,610  
And they gave us soap,  
gray bars of soap.

1705  
01:41:07,610 --> 01:41:15,260  
And they said, this soap is  
from your sisters' bodies.

1706  
01:41:15,260 --> 01:41:20,720  
This is made out  
of human tallow.

1707

01:41:20,720 --> 01:41:24,270  
You can imagine how we felt  
that we had to use that.

1708  
01:41:24,270 --> 01:41:29,740

1709  
01:41:29,740 --> 01:41:35,650  
Then, from Auschwitz,  
well, we knew

1710  
01:41:35,650 --> 01:41:39,440  
that there is mass killing  
there and all of that.

1711  
01:41:39,440 --> 01:41:42,490  
But as I say, I think,  
in order to survive,

1712  
01:41:42,490 --> 01:41:46,310  
you kind of closed your mind and  
didn't want to think about it.

1713  
01:41:46,310 --> 01:41:49,420

1714  
01:41:49,420 --> 01:41:57,200  
Then, one afternoon,  
the SS men and SS women

1715  
01:41:57,200 --> 01:41:59,630  
came with their dogs.

1716  
01:41:59,630 --> 01:42:03,440  
And they had us  
all from this one--

1717  
01:42:03,440 --> 01:42:05,030  
I was in bunk 11--

1718  
01:42:05,030 --> 01:42:07,550

1719

01:42:07,550 --> 01:42:09,425

come out naked.

1720

01:42:09,425 --> 01:42:12,580

1721

01:42:12,580 --> 01:42:15,700

And it doesn't matter  
how degraded you feel,

1722

01:42:15,700 --> 01:42:19,570

but standing naked  
in front of SS

1723

01:42:19,570 --> 01:42:22,750

is the most degrading  
thing, in a group,

1724

01:42:22,750 --> 01:42:25,000

that a person can go through.

1725

01:42:25,000 --> 01:42:31,780

I mean, they came around.

1726

01:42:31,780 --> 01:42:37,620

They used to carry  
around with a leather

1727

01:42:37,620 --> 01:42:47,160

strap around the thing, a  
stick, and the dog by his side.

1728

01:42:47,160 --> 01:42:50,240

Came around them with their  
stick, this way, this way,

1729

01:42:50,240 --> 01:42:54,100

this way, sometimes  
they hit you a little.

1730

01:42:54,100 --> 01:42:58,120

It just so happened that

then I had a high fever.

1731  
01:42:58,120 --> 01:42:59,850  
I was very rosy.

1732  
01:42:59,850 --> 01:43:05,820  
I remember, when I was  
carrying food, I fainted.

1733  
01:43:05,820 --> 01:43:08,520  
I don't know what was with me.

1734  
01:43:08,520 --> 01:43:11,280  
Plenty, but I was sick.

1735  
01:43:11,280 --> 01:43:13,950  
And I thought for  
sure that I'm not

1736  
01:43:13,950 --> 01:43:15,330  
going to be picked  
to leave here,

1737  
01:43:15,330 --> 01:43:18,750  
I'm going to be  
picked to destroy.

1738  
01:43:18,750 --> 01:43:21,690  
But I guess, instead of  
that, I looked healthier

1739  
01:43:21,690 --> 01:43:26,840  
because I was rosy from  
the temperature I had.

1740  
01:43:26,840 --> 01:43:37,130  
And anyway, they picked 200  
from this group, from the 1,300,

1741  
01:43:37,130 --> 01:43:39,110  
from the whole bunk.

1742

01:43:39,110 --> 01:43:40,432  
They picked 200.

1743  
01:43:40,432 --> 01:43:41,390  
And I was one of those.

1744  
01:43:41,390 --> 01:43:46,010  
And they sent us, the next  
day, believe it or not,

1745  
01:43:46,010 --> 01:43:50,300  
to the next camp, where again,  
they had to get undressed, take

1746  
01:43:50,300 --> 01:43:50,800  
a shower.

1747  
01:43:50,800 --> 01:43:52,100  
And we didn't know--

1748  
01:43:52,100 --> 01:43:53,180  
they took us naked--

1749  
01:43:53,180 --> 01:43:57,260

1750  
01:43:57,260 --> 01:44:00,560  
if they're going to  
exterminate us or let us live.

1751  
01:44:00,560 --> 01:44:02,530  
We didn't know which  
way it's going.

1752  
01:44:02,530 --> 01:44:07,570

1753  
01:44:07,570 --> 01:44:12,960  
They marched us through the  
camp like that to the next camp.

1754  
01:44:12,960 --> 01:44:14,310

There they gave us clothes.

1755

01:44:14,310 --> 01:44:16,170

So once they gave  
us clothes, we knew

1756

01:44:16,170 --> 01:44:18,750

that we were going to live,  
at least for the time being.

1757

01:44:18,750 --> 01:44:22,320

1758

01:44:22,320 --> 01:44:23,640

This was on Tisha B'Av.

1759

01:44:23,640 --> 01:44:26,460

I remember that.

1760

01:44:26,460 --> 01:44:30,780

They gave us some clothes  
and they gave us some food.

1761

01:44:30,780 --> 01:44:32,860

They put us on a train.

1762

01:44:32,860 --> 01:44:42,580

And we were taken to  
Kaufering, which was lager 4.

1763

01:44:42,580 --> 01:44:46,260

There things changed.

1764

01:44:46,260 --> 01:44:50,400

The SS who were there  
were not all SS.

1765

01:44:50,400 --> 01:44:53,760

Some of them were  
Wehrmacht who came back

1766

01:44:53,760 --> 01:44:57,060

from the Russian front.

1767

01:44:57,060 --> 01:45:01,650

And in order to come back  
from the Russian camp,

1768

01:45:01,650 --> 01:45:05,850

they had to accept that  
they are going to be SS.

1769

01:45:05,850 --> 01:45:08,400

I guess they ran out  
of people to take

1770

01:45:08,400 --> 01:45:11,620

care of all of these camps.

1771

01:45:11,620 --> 01:45:19,830

Here we were building the  
camps, a whole group of them.

1772

01:45:19,830 --> 01:45:24,780

Now, we built Kaufering  
lager 4, which was, I think,

1773

01:45:24,780 --> 01:45:28,080

a satellite of one  
of the bigger camps.

1774

01:45:28,080 --> 01:45:31,540

I can't quite  
remember which one.

1775

01:45:31,540 --> 01:45:44,710

And then in this camp, we were  
making underground bunkers.

1776

01:45:44,710 --> 01:45:47,970

We dug underground  
and we did the wires.

1777

01:45:47,970 --> 01:45:54,270

So the way they did,

we dug out the ground

1778  
01:45:54,270 --> 01:45:57,002  
and we had to carry it.

1779  
01:45:57,002 --> 01:45:58,710  
One person in the  
front, one in the back.

1780  
01:45:58,710 --> 01:46:02,160  
And it was a carrier]  
type of thing.

1781  
01:46:02,160 --> 01:46:04,830  
I was doing that for a while.

1782  
01:46:04,830 --> 01:46:07,830  
And then they brought--

1783  
01:46:07,830 --> 01:46:11,190  
there were 200 of  
us, no men, just us.

1784  
01:46:11,190 --> 01:46:14,940

1785  
01:46:14,940 --> 01:46:19,320  
Then they started calling  
us hafplings, prisoners,

1786  
01:46:19,320 --> 01:46:21,750  
instead of--

1787  
01:46:21,750 --> 01:46:23,460  
before they didn't  
call us anything.

1788  
01:46:23,460 --> 01:46:27,060  
We were Jews, I mean,  
somebody to destroy.

1789  
01:46:27,060 --> 01:46:30,600



Here they started  
calling us as haftlings.

1790  
01:46:30,600 --> 01:46:37,800  
And we were treated a  
little bit more humanely.

1791  
01:46:37,800 --> 01:46:40,860  
I mean, these people  
actually talked to us

1792  
01:46:40,860 --> 01:46:45,045  
instead of just give  
somebody else the order.

1793  
01:46:45,045 --> 01:46:49,230

1794  
01:46:49,230 --> 01:46:51,070  
Anyway, we were there.

1795  
01:46:51,070 --> 01:47:00,350  
And while I was  
working, an officer

1796  
01:47:00,350 --> 01:47:03,020  
walked by-- because  
I spoke German.

1797  
01:47:03,020 --> 01:47:05,560  
I mean, Yiddish German,  
but I spoke German.

1798  
01:47:05,560 --> 01:47:08,240

1799  
01:47:08,240 --> 01:47:11,060  
And he heard me  
talk to somebody.

1800  
01:47:11,060 --> 01:47:18,380  
And so he said he  
wanted me for something.

1801  
01:47:18,380 --> 01:47:20,770  
The first thing was  
that we were afraid

1802  
01:47:20,770 --> 01:47:22,460  
that, if somebody  
wants a Jewish girl,

1803  
01:47:22,460 --> 01:47:25,850  
he wants to use  
her or something.

1804  
01:47:25,850 --> 01:47:29,420  
And I certainly was  
scared to death.

1805  
01:47:29,420 --> 01:47:34,700  
And I tried to change  
my work things,

1806  
01:47:34,700 --> 01:47:38,930  
or not to be seen anywhere.

1807  
01:47:38,930 --> 01:47:44,000  
But he pursued me  
that he wanted to--

1808  
01:47:44,000 --> 01:47:45,940  
he gave an order.

1809  
01:47:45,940 --> 01:47:48,590  
We didn't have yet  
blockaltestes, we

1810  
01:47:48,590 --> 01:47:50,660  
didn't have kapos, we  
didn't have anybody

1811  
01:47:50,660 --> 01:47:53,270  
because we just got there.

1812

01:47:53,270 --> 01:47:55,830  
Anyway, he finally got to me.

1813  
01:47:55,830 --> 01:47:59,660  
And he said he wants  
me to come with him.

1814  
01:47:59,660 --> 01:48:00,960  
I was so scared.

1815  
01:48:00,960 --> 01:48:04,170  
I didn't know what's  
going to happen to me.

1816  
01:48:04,170 --> 01:48:06,350  
And I was afraid to  
ask him what for.

1817  
01:48:06,350 --> 01:48:09,650

1818  
01:48:09,650 --> 01:48:14,620  
And I saw a girl who  
was very beautiful.

1819  
01:48:14,620 --> 01:48:17,470  
And I felt, she is much  
prettier than I am.

1820  
01:48:17,470 --> 01:48:23,230  
Why don't I tell him that  
maybe he could call--

1821  
01:48:23,230 --> 01:48:28,940  
I think, to protect yourself,  
you do almost anything.

1822  
01:48:28,940 --> 01:48:32,600  
So I said to him, look  
at this pretty girl.

1823  
01:48:32,600 --> 01:48:35,140

1824  
01:48:35,140 --> 01:48:40,180  
He said, all I want you for is  
a putzfrau, a cleaning woman.

1825  
01:48:40,180 --> 01:48:44,260  
And I said, can you use two?

1826  
01:48:44,260 --> 01:48:47,710  
And he says, OK, if  
you want her, call her.

1827  
01:48:47,710 --> 01:48:49,030  
So she came along.

1828  
01:48:49,030 --> 01:48:50,260  
And she was very mad at me.

1829  
01:48:50,260 --> 01:48:55,440  
She thought, you know, why me?

1830  
01:48:55,440 --> 01:48:57,880  
And so we both went.

1831  
01:48:57,880 --> 01:49:00,360  
And we became their putzfrau.

1832  
01:49:00,360 --> 01:49:05,920  
And we did cleaning the boots  
and cleaning their apartments.

1833  
01:49:05,920 --> 01:49:07,360  
But the only time  
we were supposed

1834  
01:49:07,360 --> 01:49:09,110  
to do that when they  
weren't in, when they

1835  
01:49:09,110 --> 01:49:10,420  
were on maneuvers or something.

1836

01:49:10,420 --> 01:49:14,470

We were never supposed to  
be in the room with them

1837

01:49:14,470 --> 01:49:16,720

when they were around.

1838

01:49:16,720 --> 01:49:21,400

And we were never supposed to  
touch their radios or whatever.

1839

01:49:21,400 --> 01:49:24,910

We cleaned their rooms,  
and cleaned their boots,

1840

01:49:24,910 --> 01:49:27,340

and did whatever they told us.

1841

01:49:27,340 --> 01:49:31,600

And then we had to go and  
work in the SS kitchen, me

1842

01:49:31,600 --> 01:49:32,650

and this girl.

1843

01:49:32,650 --> 01:49:35,600

1844

01:49:35,600 --> 01:49:40,690

And so there, things were  
just a little bit easier

1845

01:49:40,690 --> 01:49:42,520

because of that.

1846

01:49:42,520 --> 01:49:46,930

Because I remember  
a high officer,

1847

01:49:46,930 --> 01:49:52,360

we had to take off  
his things that he

1848  
01:49:52,360 --> 01:49:57,280  
got, his stars and stripes,  
and change it to the SS things.

1849  
01:49:57,280 --> 01:49:58,550  
And he had tears in his eyes.

1850  
01:49:58,550 --> 01:49:59,050  
he.

1851  
01:49:59,050 --> 01:50:01,420  
Didn't like the idea  
of becoming an SS.

1852  
01:50:01,420 --> 01:50:04,810  
He was an older man.

1853  
01:50:04,810 --> 01:50:10,970  
So I worked in the SS kitchen  
in Kaufering for a while.

1854  
01:50:10,970 --> 01:50:15,950  
And in the meantime, after they  
finished building the camp,

1855  
01:50:15,950 --> 01:50:19,705  
they brought in men from Lodz.

1856  
01:50:19,705 --> 01:50:23,590

1857  
01:50:23,590 --> 01:50:27,520  
And the camps were separate--

1858  
01:50:27,520 --> 01:50:31,210  
and from Greece they  
brought in a lot of men.

1859  
01:50:31,210 --> 01:50:36,670  
And they were  
working in the fields

1860  
01:50:36,670 --> 01:50:39,400  
and in building munition tanks.

1861  
01:50:39,400 --> 01:50:43,250  
I don't quite know because  
I worked in the kitchen.

1862  
01:50:43,250 --> 01:50:45,160  
Was this camp near Auschwitz?

1863  
01:50:45,160 --> 01:50:46,750  
No.

1864  
01:50:46,750 --> 01:50:55,060  
No, this camp was  
Buchenwald or one of those.

1865  
01:50:55,060 --> 01:50:57,490  
It's a satellite of one  
of the bigger camps.

1866  
01:50:57,490 --> 01:50:59,020  
In Poland.

1867  
01:50:59,020 --> 01:51:02,330  
I think it was in Germany.

1868  
01:51:02,330 --> 01:51:04,000  
This was in Germany.

1869  
01:51:04,000 --> 01:51:06,580  
Because me and my  
friend, then, they

1870  
01:51:06,580 --> 01:51:09,610  
rented this house to go  
and work for other people.

1871  
01:51:09,610 --> 01:51:11,150  
Like my friend was a dressmaker.

1872

01:51:11,150 --> 01:51:13,600

She went to make a wedding  
dress for somebody.

1873

01:51:13,600 --> 01:51:18,270

So we went to a farm to make  
somebody-- and was German.

1874

01:51:18,270 --> 01:51:25,020

1875

01:51:25,020 --> 01:51:29,565

I couldn't tell you exactly  
where it was, but it was--

1876

01:51:29,565 --> 01:51:34,480

1877

01:51:34,480 --> 01:51:35,740

How long were you there?

1878

01:51:35,740 --> 01:51:41,820

I was there until about March.

1879

01:51:41,820 --> 01:51:46,410

And then the men were  
dying of typhoid.

1880

01:51:46,410 --> 01:51:51,210

There was a big typhoid  
epidemic in the camp.

1881

01:51:51,210 --> 01:51:55,200

And they wouldn't let us anymore  
go and work in the SS kitchen.

1882

01:51:55,200 --> 01:51:58,140

Because we had to walk  
through the men's camp,

1883

01:51:58,140 --> 01:52:00,540

and they didn't want to--



1884  
01:52:00,540 --> 01:52:04,650  
it was completely closed up.

1885  
01:52:04,650 --> 01:52:07,740  
So we would go across  
to the men's camp,

1886  
01:52:07,740 --> 01:52:10,410  
and boil their clothes,  
and clean it so that--

1887  
01:52:10,410 --> 01:52:13,650  
you know, that's with lice--

1888  
01:52:13,650 --> 01:52:14,890  
so they would survive.

1889  
01:52:14,890 --> 01:52:16,910  
And then they took the women.

1890  
01:52:16,910 --> 01:52:20,520  
None of the women got the  
typhoid, just the men.

1891  
01:52:20,520 --> 01:52:23,130  
They took some of the  
women and they took us

1892  
01:52:23,130 --> 01:52:24,240  
to a different camp.

1893  
01:52:24,240 --> 01:52:30,000  
It was Kaufering 7 instead of 4.

1894  
01:52:30,000 --> 01:52:35,160  
Our welcoming committee there,  
when they brought us there

1895  
01:52:35,160 --> 01:52:40,230  
they had three people,  
three men hanging

1896  
01:52:40,230 --> 01:52:44,730  
on the entrance of the  
things, on one of the bunkers.

1897  
01:52:44,730 --> 01:52:50,953  
To see that, if somebody wants  
to run away or do something,

1898  
01:52:50,953 --> 01:52:51,870  
what happened to them.

1899  
01:52:51,870 --> 01:52:54,720

1900  
01:52:54,720 --> 01:52:56,350  
We were there for a short time.

1901  
01:52:56,350 --> 01:53:01,650  
And the war was kind of  
coming to an end there.

1902  
01:53:01,650 --> 01:53:08,550  
And they took us out on the  
road to take us someplace.

1903  
01:53:08,550 --> 01:53:12,390  
I think we went to Buchenwald.

1904  
01:53:12,390 --> 01:53:18,015  
And I think they were taking  
away from there the prisoners.

1905  
01:53:18,015 --> 01:53:21,210  
We were going through  
all kinds of camps.

1906  
01:53:21,210 --> 01:53:24,270  
And they were herding us.

1907  
01:53:24,270 --> 01:53:28,800  
There was as many SS

as there was of us.

1908

01:53:28,800 --> 01:53:33,090

I think they were  
trying to escape.

1909

01:53:33,090 --> 01:53:37,470

And each night-- we were for  
days doing this-- each night,

1910

01:53:37,470 --> 01:53:44,496

some of them disappeared, the  
prisoners and the SS people.

1911

01:53:44,496 --> 01:53:46,710

Now, I don't know what  
happened to them or what.

1912

01:53:46,710 --> 01:53:51,480

1913

01:53:51,480 --> 01:54:01,770

Finally, one day, they brought  
us to like a military camp.

1914

01:54:01,770 --> 01:54:05,580

Buchberg, I think it was called.

1915

01:54:05,580 --> 01:54:12,840

And they told us to go in and  
rest in these military bunkers,

1916

01:54:12,840 --> 01:54:18,270

military houses type of thing,  
to go and rest for two hours

1917

01:54:18,270 --> 01:54:21,240

and not to go out, not to come  
out, because if we come out,

1918

01:54:21,240 --> 01:54:23,650

we will be shot.

1919

01:54:23,650 --> 01:54:25,240

We went in there.

1920

01:54:25,240 --> 01:54:26,820

We did that for about two hours.

1921

01:54:26,820 --> 01:54:30,000

We came out, there was  
not that German left.

1922

01:54:30,000 --> 01:54:33,150

They disappeared.

1923

01:54:33,150 --> 01:54:35,850

We waited a little  
longer, and outside.

1924

01:54:35,850 --> 01:54:39,250

We kind of knew that  
what was going on.

1925

01:54:39,250 --> 01:54:42,090

We expected it.

1926

01:54:42,090 --> 01:54:48,240

A little bit later,  
two American Jeeps

1927

01:54:48,240 --> 01:54:52,290

came in with about three  
soldiers on each of them.

1928

01:54:52,290 --> 01:54:55,440

That's how we got freed.

1929

01:54:55,440 --> 01:54:57,780

And It was in Germany.

1930

01:54:57,780 --> 01:54:59,640

As I say, Buchberg  
is in Germany.

1931

01:54:59,640 --> 01:55:05,930

I don't exactly know the exact  
area, but that was in Germany.

1932

01:55:05,930 --> 01:55:10,530

1933

01:55:10,530 --> 01:55:16,590

And that was May the  
1st that we got freed.

1934

01:55:16,590 --> 01:55:18,900

And then all the  
transports who were

1935

01:55:18,900 --> 01:55:23,010

behind us or in the  
front of us also went

1936

01:55:23,010 --> 01:55:25,350

to look for people  
they know or something.

1937

01:55:25,350 --> 01:55:31,020

It was kind of an interchange  
of people who were herded

1938

01:55:31,020 --> 01:55:37,710

from place to place for this.

1939

01:55:37,710 --> 01:55:42,210

After I got freed, we still--

1940

01:55:42,210 --> 01:55:45,300

when American soldiers started--

1941

01:55:45,300 --> 01:55:48,870

later on, a few days  
later, more came in--

1942

01:55:48,870 --> 01:55:51,840

started sharing some

of their food with us.

1943

01:55:51,840 --> 01:55:55,890

But we still weren't  
allowed to go in and have

1944

01:55:55,890 --> 01:55:57,870

the same food as the Germans.

1945

01:55:57,870 --> 01:56:00,690

We still couldn't go-- the  
Germans were standing in line

1946

01:56:00,690 --> 01:56:02,970

to get, from the bakery, bread.

1947

01:56:02,970 --> 01:56:03,960

We couldn't do that.

1948

01:56:03,960 --> 01:56:05,490

They wouldn't let us.

1949

01:56:05,490 --> 01:56:11,580

We still went hungry  
for a long, long time.

1950

01:56:11,580 --> 01:56:14,670

Like the Americans would give  
us their breakfast, like one

1951

01:56:14,670 --> 01:56:16,980

breakfast for two or something.

1952

01:56:16,980 --> 01:56:20,100

We didn't have where to cook it.

1953

01:56:20,100 --> 01:56:21,810

We would make little  
fires outside,

1954

01:56:21,810 --> 01:56:26,610

like the powdered eggs, and

they had bacon, which most of us

1955

01:56:26,610 --> 01:56:30,210

didn't eat, in the  
little cans, and I

1956

01:56:30,210 --> 01:56:33,610

don't know, stuff like that.

1957

01:56:33,610 --> 01:56:35,610

But in my case,  
what happened is--

1958

01:56:35,610 --> 01:56:39,940

1959

01:56:39,940 --> 01:56:43,740

oh, what I forgot to say  
is, when I was in Auschwitz,

1960

01:56:43,740 --> 01:56:47,310

I heard that my mother was  
taken to the crematorium

1961

01:56:47,310 --> 01:56:51,270

in Auschwitz, from  
a friend of mine.

1962

01:56:51,270 --> 01:56:55,200

She took her child and they  
took her to the crematorium.

1963

01:56:55,200 --> 01:57:02,460

But then the Czech government--

1964

01:57:02,460 --> 01:57:05,310

or [INAUDIBLE] felt  
like they're still

1965

01:57:05,310 --> 01:57:10,680

a government-- went to gather  
up their people into the camps.

1966

01:57:10,680 --> 01:57:17,610

And they told us to register  
whoever is from Czechoslovakia

1967

01:57:17,610 --> 01:57:18,960

to line up.

1968

01:57:18,960 --> 01:57:21,600

And they came with  
trucks and they

1969

01:57:21,600 --> 01:57:26,070

took us back to  
Czechoslovakia maybe a week

1970

01:57:26,070 --> 01:57:27,170

after we got freed.

1971

01:57:27,170 --> 01:57:30,170

1972

01:57:30,170 --> 01:57:33,650

So they took us first to Pilsen.

1973

01:57:33,650 --> 01:57:37,460

And then we kind of had to just  
hop on trains and go to Prague.

1974

01:57:37,460 --> 01:57:41,000

And there I stayed in a  
high school for three weeks

1975

01:57:41,000 --> 01:57:42,500

before I could  
travel any farther.

1976

01:57:42,500 --> 01:57:43,940

There was still a lot of danger.

1977

01:57:43,940 --> 01:57:46,910

The Russian soldiers weren't  
exactly gentle people.



1978  
01:57:46,910 --> 01:57:49,520  
You couldn't travel  
on planes by not

1979  
01:57:49,520 --> 01:57:51,200  
being afraid about  
something that

1980  
01:57:51,200 --> 01:57:54,830  
didn't happen to you  
before wouldn't happen now.

1981  
01:57:54,830 --> 01:58:04,760  
And then I went to Budapest,  
which the people were horrible.

1982  
01:58:04,760 --> 01:58:07,310  
In Prague, they were wonderful.

1983  
01:58:07,310 --> 01:58:11,060  
The Czech people  
have very big hearts.

1984  
01:58:11,060 --> 01:58:15,950  
They helped us while we  
were in a high school.

1985  
01:58:15,950 --> 01:58:18,050  
And then I went to an  
international home.

1986  
01:58:18,050 --> 01:58:22,610  
And they gave us  
their portion of--

1987  
01:58:22,610 --> 01:58:25,310  
they were getting meal tickets.

1988  
01:58:25,310 --> 01:58:27,440  
They gave us their meal  
tickets so we would

1989

01:58:27,440 --> 01:58:32,690  
have the right type of food.

1990

01:58:32,690 --> 01:58:35,930  
When we first came, they even  
brought us, the first morning,

1991

01:58:35,930 --> 01:58:36,940  
breakfast in bed.

1992

01:58:36,940 --> 01:58:39,770

1993

01:58:39,770 --> 01:58:42,740  
And the difference--  
then we came to Hungary,

1994

01:58:42,740 --> 01:58:48,060  
and they just wanted to see us  
back in the concentration camp.

1995

01:58:48,060 --> 01:58:52,010  
The difference between  
people and people.

1996

01:58:52,010 --> 01:58:54,680  
I was in Hungary for  
a while, and then I

1997

01:58:54,680 --> 01:58:56,525  
went back to my own hometown.

1998

01:58:56,525 --> 01:58:59,210

1999

01:58:59,210 --> 01:59:07,760  
And I came to look at my  
house and to talk to people,

2000

01:59:07,760 --> 01:59:10,700  
if somebody else came  
back and things like that.

2001  
01:59:10,700 --> 01:59:14,870

2002  
01:59:14,870 --> 01:59:23,430  
And the thing that I got there  
is, why did you come back?

2003  
01:59:23,430 --> 01:59:27,390  
Except for one woman who wanted  
me to marry her son because I

2004  
01:59:27,390 --> 01:59:31,410  
was so smart and she wanted  
a Jewish daughter-in-law

2005  
01:59:31,410 --> 01:59:35,910  
because she wanted a certain  
type of grandchildren.

2006  
01:59:35,910 --> 01:59:37,985  
Otherwise, everybody,  
why did you come back?

2007  
01:59:37,985 --> 01:59:40,110  
You know, the Jews were  
supposed to have been dead.

2008  
01:59:40,110 --> 01:59:43,500

2009  
01:59:43,500 --> 01:59:45,450  
I went to look at my house.

2010  
01:59:45,450 --> 01:59:49,530  
And a young man I  
went to school with

2011  
01:59:49,530 --> 01:59:53,250  
was taking off the  
windows of my house.

2012

01:59:53,250 --> 01:59:55,870  
And I said, what are you doing?

2013  
01:59:55,870 --> 02:00:00,180  
And he says, I was a  
fighter in the Russian army.

2014  
02:00:00,180 --> 02:00:01,280  
Didn't you know?

2015  
02:00:01,280 --> 02:00:06,390  
And I have a right to  
take whatever I want you.

2016  
02:00:06,390 --> 02:00:10,170  
I had a friend who came home.

2017  
02:00:10,170 --> 02:00:15,690  
And her house was  
occupied by her neighbors.

2018  
02:00:15,690 --> 02:00:19,290  
And she had to stay--  
while she was there,

2019  
02:00:19,290 --> 02:00:20,850  
they had a summer  
kitchen where they

2020  
02:00:20,850 --> 02:00:23,880  
cooked during the summertime,  
she and her husband.

2021  
02:00:23,880 --> 02:00:25,910  
Her husband stayed alive.

2022  
02:00:25,910 --> 02:00:27,580  
She's now in Israel.

2023  
02:00:27,580 --> 02:00:32,610  
So you were asking me  
before about antisemitism.

2024

02:00:32,610 --> 02:00:36,390

How much more proof do  
you need about that?

2025

02:00:36,390 --> 02:00:42,390

Anyway, afterwards,  
I decided I'm going

2026

02:00:42,390 --> 02:00:45,330

to go where my husband is.

2027

02:00:45,330 --> 02:00:51,420

Because my aunt lived  
there, my mother's sister.

2028

02:00:51,420 --> 02:00:54,300

And she had a married  
daughter and grandchildren

2029

02:00:54,300 --> 02:00:57,085

and her children and all  
of the people I knew.

2030

02:00:57,085 --> 02:00:58,710

And I thought, I'll  
go there, and maybe

2031

02:00:58,710 --> 02:01:01,000

somebody is alive there.

2032

02:01:01,000 --> 02:01:05,850

And when I came there, my  
husband and his brother

2033

02:01:05,850 --> 02:01:06,510

were there.

2034

02:01:06,510 --> 02:01:08,130

His brother was already married.

2035

02:01:08,130 --> 02:01:09,180

You weren't married then.

2036  
02:01:09,180 --> 02:01:11,760  
No.

2037  
02:01:11,760 --> 02:01:14,250  
And I came with other  
people with whom I traveled,

2038  
02:01:14,250 --> 02:01:15,540  
a couple of young men.

2039  
02:01:15,540 --> 02:01:19,140  
And they said we were all  
going to go to Romania.

2040  
02:01:19,140 --> 02:01:20,790  
Because we heard  
that, from Romania,

2041  
02:01:20,790 --> 02:01:26,370  
you can go to Israel  
somehow, through Turkey--

2042  
02:01:26,370 --> 02:01:27,945  
I don't know,  
Russia, or whatever.

2043  
02:01:27,945 --> 02:01:32,580  
Or there is some way from there.

2044  
02:01:32,580 --> 02:01:37,810  
And they were living close  
to the Romanian border.

2045  
02:01:37,810 --> 02:01:45,600  
So when we came there,  
my brother-in-law,

2046  
02:01:45,600 --> 02:01:52,110  
my husband's brother,  
decided that I

2047

02:01:52,110 --> 02:01:54,930  
should marry his brother.

2048  
02:01:54,930 --> 02:01:55,755  
I said no.

2049  
02:01:55,755 --> 02:01:57,630  
And he says, well, I  
have two other brothers.

2050  
02:01:57,630 --> 02:02:01,140  
You can take your choice,  
but you're not leaving here.

2051  
02:02:01,140 --> 02:02:05,490  
At that time, the  
belief was, especially

2052  
02:02:05,490 --> 02:02:08,190  
in the area I came  
from, and in Poland,

2053  
02:02:08,190 --> 02:02:12,930  
that the Jewish women  
didn't survive, you see,

2054  
02:02:12,930 --> 02:02:15,170  
that none of them survived.