

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,479
[TEST TONE]

2
00:00:03,479 --> 00:01:08,943

3
00:01:08,943 --> 00:01:09,610
Get that, Irene?

4
00:01:09,610 --> 00:01:10,110
Yeah.

5
00:01:10,110 --> 00:01:12,540
Not them.

6
00:01:12,540 --> 00:01:13,660
What's a no-no?

7
00:01:13,660 --> 00:01:15,080
To look into the lens?

8
00:01:15,080 --> 00:01:15,580
The light?

9
00:01:15,580 --> 00:01:16,540
I understand.

10
00:01:16,540 --> 00:01:19,260
We'll direct your attention.

11
00:01:19,260 --> 00:01:21,310
You don't have to
be riveted to me.

12
00:01:21,310 --> 00:01:22,960
But you can just--

13
00:01:22,960 --> 00:01:24,930
your attention in my direction.

14

00:01:24,930 --> 00:01:26,785

But actually, you're right.

15

00:01:26,785 --> 00:01:27,660

This is the big test.

16

00:01:27,660 --> 00:01:29,940

I am going to ask you your name.

17

00:01:29,940 --> 00:01:31,620

Oh, no.

18

00:01:31,620 --> 00:01:33,120

I am.

19

00:01:33,120 --> 00:01:35,500

It's the hardest question
of all, I'm sure.

20

00:01:35,500 --> 00:01:38,380

But just for the record, for
the beginning of the tape,

21

00:01:38,380 --> 00:01:41,960

they want you guys to
identify yourselves.

22

00:01:41,960 --> 00:01:46,280

Well, just, it's not
such a simple question.

23

00:01:46,280 --> 00:01:47,540

Which name do you want?

24

00:01:47,540 --> 00:01:49,080

A birth name, middle name?

25

00:01:49,080 --> 00:01:52,107

I mean, I've had lots of second
names from the beginning.

26

00:01:52,107 --> 00:01:52,940
I'll tell you what--

27
00:01:52,940 --> 00:01:55,155
I'll give you the whole--

28
00:01:55,155 --> 00:01:57,530
--give me the whole litany,
starting with your first name

29
00:01:57,530 --> 00:01:58,440
and moving forward.

30
00:01:58,440 --> 00:01:58,940
OK.

31
00:01:58,940 --> 00:01:59,990
OK.

32
00:01:59,990 --> 00:02:01,490
So I assume you
want me to go first?

33
00:02:01,490 --> 00:02:02,115
Sure, go ahead.

34
00:02:02,115 --> 00:02:04,430
OK, my name is Rene Slotkin.

35
00:02:04,430 --> 00:02:08,300
I was born Rene Guttman.

36
00:02:08,300 --> 00:02:10,910
And then in the middle in
between those two names,

37
00:02:10,910 --> 00:02:15,260
I had a name called
Mann, a second name Mann.

38
00:02:15,260 --> 00:02:21,010
And also one other name, which

I can't recall right now.

39

00:02:21,010 --> 00:02:24,440

I can't-- Kalina, Kalina.

40

00:02:24,440 --> 00:02:27,170

So I really have had
four second names.

41

00:02:27,170 --> 00:02:29,030

Rene was the
original, which stuck

42

00:02:29,030 --> 00:02:31,910

with me, even though I
took a little bit of abuse

43

00:02:31,910 --> 00:02:32,630

for that name.

44

00:02:32,630 --> 00:02:33,680

But that's my name.

45

00:02:33,680 --> 00:02:38,300

And I was born in
Czechoslovakia, December 21,

46

00:02:38,300 --> 00:02:39,448

1937.

47

00:02:39,448 --> 00:02:39,948

Great.

48

00:02:39,948 --> 00:02:44,728

49

00:02:44,728 --> 00:02:46,100

There goes my phone.

50

00:02:46,100 --> 00:02:47,828

Saved by the bell.

51

00:02:47,828 --> 00:02:49,870

Should we get that or let
the machine pick it up?

52

00:02:49,870 --> 00:02:51,720

Yeah, just let me.

53

00:02:51,720 --> 00:02:53,130

OK.

54

00:02:53,130 --> 00:02:54,000

I can go?

55

00:02:54,000 --> 00:02:54,760

Yep.

56

00:02:54,760 --> 00:02:55,260

OK.

57

00:02:55,260 --> 00:02:58,140

My name is Irene Hizme.

58

00:02:58,140 --> 00:03:04,450

I was born Renata Guttmann,
same time as Rene,

59

00:03:04,450 --> 00:03:07,300

in Czechoslovakia.

60

00:03:07,300 --> 00:03:09,580

And you two took
the name Slotkin?

61

00:03:09,580 --> 00:03:12,430

Slotkin, yes, I was
adopted by the Slotkins.

62

00:03:12,430 --> 00:03:14,350

And then I got married,
and now I'm Hizme.

63

00:03:14,350 --> 00:03:18,490

64

00:03:18,490 --> 00:03:26,440

I'm going to sort of go right
to the hard stuff, which is--

65

00:03:26,440 --> 00:03:31,530

and you can decide who
wants to answer first.

66

00:03:31,530 --> 00:03:33,690

But I'd like to hear from
you both on everything,

67

00:03:33,690 --> 00:03:36,180

pretty much.

68

00:03:36,180 --> 00:03:45,210

Do you remember when you
were deported from Prague

69

00:03:45,210 --> 00:03:47,008

to-- and I'm going to
mispronounce this--

70

00:03:47,008 --> 00:03:48,050

is it pronounced Terezin?

71

00:03:48,050 --> 00:03:48,905

Theresienstadt.

72

00:03:48,905 --> 00:03:50,960

Terezin.

73

00:03:50,960 --> 00:03:53,100

Oh, it's Theresienstadt.

74

00:03:53,100 --> 00:03:54,780

And Terezin was?

75

00:03:54,780 --> 00:03:57,690

Terezin-- I think
Terezin is the city.

76
00:03:57,690 --> 00:03:58,830
I'm not sure.

77
00:03:58,830 --> 00:03:59,810
OK.

78
00:03:59,810 --> 00:04:04,130
So do you remember that
trip or how that came about?

79
00:04:04,130 --> 00:04:06,650
I personally don't
remember going there.

80
00:04:06,650 --> 00:04:09,770
I just found myself
awake there one day.

81
00:04:09,770 --> 00:04:12,870
Not that I remember getting
up and oh, here I am.

82
00:04:12,870 --> 00:04:14,750
I was just there.

83
00:04:14,750 --> 00:04:19,050
And I don't know what Irene
really remembers about it.

84
00:04:19,050 --> 00:04:19,550
If she does.

85
00:04:19,550 --> 00:04:20,120
OK.

86
00:04:20,120 --> 00:04:23,240
I remember going on a train.

87
00:04:23,240 --> 00:04:27,440

And it was a long trip.

88
00:04:27,440 --> 00:04:29,420
Or to me, it seemed
like a long trip.

89
00:04:29,420 --> 00:04:35,630
I was little and that's all
I remember, was a train ride.

90
00:04:35,630 --> 00:04:37,070
If you can describe it for me.

91
00:04:37,070 --> 00:04:40,610
Do you remember before
that where you were living?

92
00:04:40,610 --> 00:04:44,642
And did you pack up and go?

93
00:04:44,642 --> 00:04:46,850
What were the circumstances
surrounding your leaving?

94
00:04:46,850 --> 00:04:49,760

95
00:04:49,760 --> 00:04:52,370
Well, we were living
in Prague at the time.

96
00:04:52,370 --> 00:04:58,010
And I don't recall that
we packed or anything.

97
00:04:58,010 --> 00:04:59,690
Probably our mom did.

98
00:04:59,690 --> 00:05:01,980
But I don't recall that.

99
00:05:01,980 --> 00:05:05,450

But I do remember definitely taking a train ride.

100
00:05:05,450 --> 00:05:09,260
It was a nice train, not a cattle car or anything.

101
00:05:09,260 --> 00:05:12,200
And we were, I guess, even excited

102
00:05:12,200 --> 00:05:13,490
about where we were going.

103
00:05:13,490 --> 00:05:17,900

104
00:05:17,900 --> 00:05:18,880
That's it.

105
00:05:18,880 --> 00:05:20,185
And do you remember arriving?

106
00:05:20,185 --> 00:05:23,130

107
00:05:23,130 --> 00:05:25,210
Specifically, no.

108
00:05:25,210 --> 00:05:29,220
We just-- we were someplace new, that's all I knew.

109
00:05:29,220 --> 00:05:30,940
But our mother was with us.

110
00:05:30,940 --> 00:05:33,120
And so that was OK.

111
00:05:33,120 --> 00:05:37,140
And Rene was-- we were all together.

112
00:05:37,140 --> 00:05:41,540
And what were the
conditions like there?

113
00:05:41,540 --> 00:05:45,320
I can't say I remember anything
much about Theresienstadt

114
00:05:45,320 --> 00:05:52,580
except cobblestone
walkways and bridges.

115
00:05:52,580 --> 00:05:53,915
Well, not bridges but--

116
00:05:53,915 --> 00:05:56,860

117
00:05:56,860 --> 00:05:57,360
Archways?

118
00:05:57,360 --> 00:05:58,290
--archways.

119
00:05:58,290 --> 00:06:02,460

120
00:06:02,460 --> 00:06:03,840
Did you have enough food to eat?

121
00:06:03,840 --> 00:06:08,280
Did you have-- how many people?

122
00:06:08,280 --> 00:06:10,170
Did you live in an apartment?

123
00:06:10,170 --> 00:06:12,660
If you can describe
what the living--

124

00:06:12,660 --> 00:06:15,750
I'm not sure what we lived in.

125
00:06:15,750 --> 00:06:19,536
I don't remember.

126
00:06:19,536 --> 00:06:21,760
Rene, do you
remember any of this?

127
00:06:21,760 --> 00:06:24,340
The archways connected
buildings that

128
00:06:24,340 --> 00:06:25,840
were more than one story high.

129
00:06:25,840 --> 00:06:28,360
I remember they were at least
two or three stories high.

130
00:06:28,360 --> 00:06:29,920
Well, to me, they appeared tall.

131
00:06:29,920 --> 00:06:33,430
They were red brick.

132
00:06:33,430 --> 00:06:35,890
The inside, I really don't.

133
00:06:35,890 --> 00:06:37,330
I do remember the streets.

134
00:06:37,330 --> 00:06:41,560
And I do remember, on the
streets, there was traffic.

135
00:06:41,560 --> 00:06:43,780
And one of the things
that I remember

136
00:06:43,780 --> 00:06:49,240

was a cart with two wheels.

137
00:06:49,240 --> 00:06:54,640
And there were bodies on
it covered with, I guess,

138
00:06:54,640 --> 00:06:56,290
a huge cloth.

139
00:06:56,290 --> 00:06:59,680
But you could tell because
there were parts sticking out.

140
00:06:59,680 --> 00:07:02,080
So I do remember that.

141
00:07:02,080 --> 00:07:03,460
On those streets,
cobble streets.

142
00:07:03,460 --> 00:07:06,730
Because I remember how you
had to shift the wagon.

143
00:07:06,730 --> 00:07:08,470
Whoever was pulling
it, they had going

144
00:07:08,470 --> 00:07:10,870
to get over one hump
and then like that.

145
00:07:10,870 --> 00:07:12,540
I remember that.

146
00:07:12,540 --> 00:07:15,880
I don't know if I remember
this, anything like that.

147
00:07:15,880 --> 00:07:18,880
When you saw that, were
you curious about what

148
00:07:18,880 --> 00:07:20,890
had happened to those people?

149
00:07:20,890 --> 00:07:21,390
No.

150
00:07:21,390 --> 00:07:24,990

151
00:07:24,990 --> 00:07:26,190
I might have been then.

152
00:07:26,190 --> 00:07:31,570
But I don't recall trying to
explain it in any which way.

153
00:07:31,570 --> 00:07:33,070
So you don't recall asking?

154
00:07:33,070 --> 00:07:33,570
No.

155
00:07:33,570 --> 00:07:35,400
Asking anybody what?

156
00:07:35,400 --> 00:07:37,140
Were you living
with other families?

157
00:07:37,140 --> 00:07:40,560
Were you living just the
three of you in a room?

158
00:07:40,560 --> 00:07:41,730
Do you recall any of that?

159
00:07:41,730 --> 00:07:47,140

160
00:07:47,140 --> 00:07:48,370
No.

161
00:07:48,370 --> 00:07:54,220
I remember the indoors
was clean in the sense

162
00:07:54,220 --> 00:07:56,530
that it was painted, I think.

163
00:07:56,530 --> 00:07:59,730
It was light colored.

164
00:07:59,730 --> 00:08:02,000
Some reason, light
green comes to mind.

165
00:08:02,000 --> 00:08:05,000
I don't know why, but
that's what comes to mind.

166
00:08:05,000 --> 00:08:07,880
But no, I don't recall the
specific place, or bed,

167
00:08:07,880 --> 00:08:11,720
or anything like that, room.

168
00:08:11,720 --> 00:08:13,950
Irene?

169
00:08:13,950 --> 00:08:16,370
Now that I heard Rene
talk about the carts,

170
00:08:16,370 --> 00:08:18,650
I do remember
seeing that as well.

171
00:08:18,650 --> 00:08:21,260
I don't recall that they
were covered bodies.

172
00:08:21,260 --> 00:08:26,870

I thought they were
just bodies in a cart.

173

00:08:26,870 --> 00:08:29,660

The one thing I do
remember is sometimes

174

00:08:29,660 --> 00:08:31,680

having to wait on line for food.

175

00:08:31,680 --> 00:08:35,700

But I'm not sure
exactly how aware.

176

00:08:35,700 --> 00:08:39,460

And I remember music.

177

00:08:39,460 --> 00:08:42,789

Music in Theresienstadt.

178

00:08:42,789 --> 00:08:45,467

Again, I don't know.

179

00:08:45,467 --> 00:08:46,800

What do you mean you don't know?

180

00:08:46,800 --> 00:08:48,750

I'm not sure in what context.

181

00:08:48,750 --> 00:08:52,005

I don't know if we
went to hear music,

182

00:08:52,005 --> 00:08:55,050

or they were playing
music, or there was a show.

183

00:08:55,050 --> 00:08:58,270

184

00:08:58,270 --> 00:08:59,485

I just remember music.

185
00:08:59,485 --> 00:09:02,900

186
00:09:02,900 --> 00:09:05,840
Is your memory of
your time there,

187
00:09:05,840 --> 00:09:07,580
which I realize
you were very young

188
00:09:07,580 --> 00:09:15,200
so the memories are very sort
of sparse and fragmented--

189
00:09:15,200 --> 00:09:19,690
do you recall it
being a good time?

190
00:09:19,690 --> 00:09:24,970
Do you recall that it
was a difficult time?

191
00:09:24,970 --> 00:09:26,140
Were you scared?

192
00:09:26,140 --> 00:09:27,670
Were you going to school?

193
00:09:27,670 --> 00:09:35,250

194
00:09:35,250 --> 00:09:36,900
That's really a hard question.

195
00:09:36,900 --> 00:09:37,710
I don't know.

196
00:09:37,710 --> 00:09:43,860
It seems-- I don't
get a feeling today

197
00:09:43,860 --> 00:09:46,040
that I was terribly scared.

198
00:09:46,040 --> 00:09:54,480
We were with our mom and we
seemed to have things to do.

199
00:09:54,480 --> 00:10:01,640
Possibly drawing or crayons
or something like that.

200
00:10:01,640 --> 00:10:04,260
And again, I'm going
to go back to the music

201
00:10:04,260 --> 00:10:05,325
and learning songs.

202
00:10:05,325 --> 00:10:08,020

203
00:10:08,020 --> 00:10:08,830
So I don't know.

204
00:10:08,830 --> 00:10:10,500
What about you, Rene?

205
00:10:10,500 --> 00:10:14,440
I more seem to now
recall doing drawings

206
00:10:14,440 --> 00:10:19,770
on paper with other kids.

207
00:10:19,770 --> 00:10:24,480
And I also remember playing
in the outdoors with friends.

208
00:10:24,480 --> 00:10:27,450
We were throwing things,
I think mischievously

209
00:10:27,450 --> 00:10:28,860
at second-story things.

210
00:10:28,860 --> 00:10:31,440
That's how I remember
the buildings were tall.

211
00:10:31,440 --> 00:10:34,400
Into the windows.

212
00:10:34,400 --> 00:10:37,730
But on the whole, the
question of whether we were--

213
00:10:37,730 --> 00:10:41,630
whether I was frightened
or anything like that,

214
00:10:41,630 --> 00:10:43,560
I don't seem to recall.

215
00:10:43,560 --> 00:10:49,160
But it seemed like a very
organized kind of setting.

216
00:10:49,160 --> 00:10:51,400
Things went on
according to schedule.

217
00:10:51,400 --> 00:10:57,270
Nothing was out of the
ordinary that happened.

218
00:10:57,270 --> 00:10:59,810
But I do now recall this.

219
00:10:59,810 --> 00:11:03,800
I don't know when it happened,
but the taking of a picture

220
00:11:03,800 --> 00:11:09,200

that we have of my mom,
and Irene, and myself,

221
00:11:09,200 --> 00:11:11,690
being set up into--

222
00:11:11,690 --> 00:11:14,060
I had to be a photo
shop of some kind.

223
00:11:14,060 --> 00:11:17,960
Because we had to be
in front of a camera.

224
00:11:17,960 --> 00:11:27,120
And I do recall from there my
last contact with my mother.

225
00:11:27,120 --> 00:11:29,160
I remember.

226
00:11:29,160 --> 00:11:30,330
We have the picture here.

227
00:11:30,330 --> 00:11:33,060
You could see my hand
is on her shoulder.

228
00:11:33,060 --> 00:11:35,580
And I remember the
feel, the coarseness

229
00:11:35,580 --> 00:11:38,430
of that wool garment.

230
00:11:38,430 --> 00:11:39,930
I think it was wool.

231
00:11:39,930 --> 00:11:43,440
And also the odor of it.

232
00:11:43,440 --> 00:11:46,180

But that's vivid.

233
00:11:46,180 --> 00:11:48,800
But that's.

234
00:11:48,800 --> 00:11:50,450
It's amazing what
sticks with you.

235
00:11:50,450 --> 00:11:51,240
Smells.

236
00:11:51,240 --> 00:11:53,180
Yeah.

237
00:11:53,180 --> 00:11:56,250
Where was your father
during all this?

238
00:11:56,250 --> 00:12:00,030

239
00:12:00,030 --> 00:12:03,600
My father-- and we
only know this now--

240
00:12:03,600 --> 00:12:07,140
was deported to
Auschwitz in '41.

241
00:12:07,140 --> 00:12:11,070
We had gotten to
Theresienstadt in '43.

242
00:12:11,070 --> 00:12:17,925
And he was killed in Auschwitz
in '41, December also, 18th.

243
00:12:17,925 --> 00:12:21,800

244
00:12:21,800 --> 00:12:24,980

Do you remember
asking your mother--

245
00:12:24,980 --> 00:12:27,440
I get it, at that time, I'm
sure, again, as you say,

246
00:12:27,440 --> 00:12:29,300
you know this now.

247
00:12:29,300 --> 00:12:33,440
At the time asking or wanting
to know from your mother

248
00:12:33,440 --> 00:12:34,700
where your father was?

249
00:12:34,700 --> 00:12:36,650
Or did she ever talk
to you about him?

250
00:12:36,650 --> 00:12:39,560

251
00:12:39,560 --> 00:12:40,670
I myself don't.

252
00:12:40,670 --> 00:12:42,350
I think maybe Irene will.

253
00:12:42,350 --> 00:12:45,530
But I myself have
absolutely no recollection.

254
00:12:45,530 --> 00:12:49,160
Because '41-- and I think
he was taken a little bit

255
00:12:49,160 --> 00:12:52,880
before the end of December--
so he had to be taken probably

256

00:12:52,880 --> 00:12:55,550
in the middle of that year.

257
00:12:55,550 --> 00:13:00,740
If you figure out how old I
was, I don't recall anything.

258
00:13:00,740 --> 00:13:02,000
I really don't.

259
00:13:02,000 --> 00:13:03,110
Irene, do you recall?

260
00:13:03,110 --> 00:13:07,340

261
00:13:07,340 --> 00:13:11,000
To answer your question, whether
our mom spoke about where

262
00:13:11,000 --> 00:13:14,030
our father was, I'm not sure.

263
00:13:14,030 --> 00:13:17,780
The only thing that I
definitely do recall

264
00:13:17,780 --> 00:13:22,940
is when the Gestapo came
to take him away from us.

265
00:13:22,940 --> 00:13:26,360
That it was in the
middle of the night

266
00:13:26,360 --> 00:13:29,410
and it was a very scary ordeal.

267
00:13:29,410 --> 00:13:39,720

268
00:13:39,720 --> 00:13:43,020

There was just
something so final

269
00:13:43,020 --> 00:13:45,060
about them taking him away.

270
00:13:45,060 --> 00:13:48,460

271
00:13:48,460 --> 00:13:51,020
You felt that even then?

272
00:13:51,020 --> 00:13:51,520
Yeah.

273
00:13:51,520 --> 00:13:55,310

274
00:13:55,310 --> 00:13:56,090
I'd love to know.

275
00:13:56,090 --> 00:13:59,660
Where was I at that point?

276
00:13:59,660 --> 00:14:01,340
Because I don't
recall this at all.

277
00:14:01,340 --> 00:14:04,550
You might have-- you
know, it was at night.

278
00:14:04,550 --> 00:14:06,710
And it's possible that
you were even sleeping.

279
00:14:06,710 --> 00:14:12,680

280
00:14:12,680 --> 00:14:17,930
And in the years after that, in
the couple of years after that,

281
00:14:17,930 --> 00:14:18,485
did you--

282
00:14:18,485 --> 00:14:21,940

283
00:14:21,940 --> 00:14:23,140
how can I put this--

284
00:14:23,140 --> 00:14:28,930
did you question
his absence in terms

285
00:14:28,930 --> 00:14:31,840
of talking to your mom
about it, or wanting

286
00:14:31,840 --> 00:14:34,870
to know where he was, or
when he was coming back?

287
00:14:34,870 --> 00:14:35,575
Do you recall?

288
00:14:35,575 --> 00:14:38,350

289
00:14:38,350 --> 00:14:40,960
Do you recall him not
being there and how that--

290
00:14:40,960 --> 00:14:43,790
I recall him not being there.

291
00:14:43,790 --> 00:14:49,180
But I don't recall
asking our mom questions.

292
00:14:49,180 --> 00:14:54,220
I think we intuitively
knew something not good

293
00:14:54,220 --> 00:14:55,120
had happened.

294
00:14:55,120 --> 00:14:58,960
And I do remember my
mom crying at night.

295
00:14:58,960 --> 00:15:02,590
So I wasn't going
to ask anything.

296
00:15:02,590 --> 00:15:06,820
I do recall now on at
least two occasions,

297
00:15:06,820 --> 00:15:13,750
we wrapped a package, which
was meant to go to him somehow.

298
00:15:13,750 --> 00:15:19,180

299
00:15:19,180 --> 00:15:22,220
I don't know how,
but we wrapped.

300
00:15:22,220 --> 00:15:27,990
And I think we even went out
to deliver it to a place.

301
00:15:27,990 --> 00:15:29,760
And that's all I seem to recall.

302
00:15:29,760 --> 00:15:32,260
And this would have still
been while you were in Prague?

303
00:15:32,260 --> 00:15:33,010
Yes.

304
00:15:33,010 --> 00:15:34,170

Yes, from Prague, right.

305
00:15:34,170 --> 00:15:36,840
Before Theresienstadt.

306
00:15:36,840 --> 00:15:41,330
So when you were
in Theresienstadt,

307
00:15:41,330 --> 00:15:43,740
did you have any sense
of being prisoners?

308
00:15:43,740 --> 00:15:47,030

309
00:15:47,030 --> 00:15:48,040
I don't think so.

310
00:15:48,040 --> 00:15:51,530

311
00:15:51,530 --> 00:15:56,000
You know, it's like, we
were what, three or four?

312
00:15:56,000 --> 00:15:57,620
You know, we had our mom.

313
00:15:57,620 --> 00:15:59,945
And as Rene said, there
were other children.

314
00:15:59,945 --> 00:16:04,990

315
00:16:04,990 --> 00:16:07,090
I don't think that
they thought about it.

316
00:16:07,090 --> 00:16:10,410

317
00:16:10,410 --> 00:16:17,400
What about-- what happened next?

318
00:16:17,400 --> 00:16:22,110
Where did you go next after
Theresienstadt, what happened?

319
00:16:22,110 --> 00:16:25,850
Well, after a while,
there was one night.

320
00:16:25,850 --> 00:16:28,800
It was in December.

321
00:16:28,800 --> 00:16:33,800
And it was a very
cold night with snow,

322
00:16:33,800 --> 00:16:36,200
and there was snow everywhere.

323
00:16:36,200 --> 00:16:38,660
And we were marched.

324
00:16:38,660 --> 00:16:42,590
We marched together with our
mother and many other people.

325
00:16:42,590 --> 00:16:45,950
We were marched to
a cattle car train.

326
00:16:45,950 --> 00:16:54,920
And on the way, we, Rene and I,
were like clutching to our mom

327
00:16:54,920 --> 00:16:58,130
and holding on because
it was so cold.

328
00:16:58,130 --> 00:17:01,490

And there were gun shots.

329

00:17:01,490 --> 00:17:05,460

And we saw people
falling to the ground.

330

00:17:05,460 --> 00:17:14,530

And our mom just kept
urging us to go on.

331

00:17:14,530 --> 00:17:19,030

Because I kind of wanted to
not go any more, I was so cold.

332

00:17:19,030 --> 00:17:22,869

And our mom just said, we
have to go, we have to.

333

00:17:22,869 --> 00:17:25,579

Just urged us on to go.

334

00:17:25,579 --> 00:17:30,820

And that's when we
boarded the cattle car.

335

00:17:30,820 --> 00:17:42,250

And that was a
horrible experience.

336

00:17:42,250 --> 00:17:49,500

On that same night, I
recall dogs barking,

337

00:17:49,500 --> 00:17:52,200

German shepherd dogs.

338

00:17:52,200 --> 00:17:54,540

And also, I remember,
I think my mom

339

00:17:54,540 --> 00:17:58,110

had a suitcase of some kind.

340

00:17:58,110 --> 00:18:00,480

And because of the
height of the snow,

341

00:18:00,480 --> 00:18:03,250

and the fact that we were two of
us, and she only had two hands,

342

00:18:03,250 --> 00:18:06,240

I think she had to grab
us one by each hand.

343

00:18:06,240 --> 00:18:08,890

And I think the
suitcase spilled out.

344

00:18:08,890 --> 00:18:10,680

And it was just left.

345

00:18:10,680 --> 00:18:17,340

346

00:18:17,340 --> 00:18:21,600

What happened when you got
aboard the car, the train car?

347

00:18:21,600 --> 00:18:24,470

348

00:18:24,470 --> 00:18:28,250

I don't know if it was right
after we got on because I think

349

00:18:28,250 --> 00:18:31,790

it was a little bit later.

350

00:18:31,790 --> 00:18:38,040

It was extremely hot in there,
even though it was cold.

351

00:18:38,040 --> 00:18:41,660

I think we were just

totally squished.

352
00:18:41,660 --> 00:18:43,040
It's not an English word.

353
00:18:43,040 --> 00:18:47,390
But I think you know what I
mean by bodies all around us

354
00:18:47,390 --> 00:18:50,390
because very tight, tight fit.

355
00:18:50,390 --> 00:18:55,200
The odors I recall from
there were a real stench.

356
00:18:55,200 --> 00:19:01,280
It was just not good.

357
00:19:01,280 --> 00:19:04,470
Sounds of agony, you
know, crying and whatnot.

358
00:19:04,470 --> 00:19:08,810
And then some people who could
maintain the upright position

359
00:19:08,810 --> 00:19:09,500
would fall.

360
00:19:09,500 --> 00:19:11,930
And that was really bad.

361
00:19:11,930 --> 00:19:15,450

362
00:19:15,450 --> 00:19:17,070
What would happen
if somebody fell?

363
00:19:17,070 --> 00:19:25,270

364
00:19:25,270 --> 00:19:28,310
There was really no
way of helping them.

365
00:19:28,310 --> 00:19:34,240
It was just added to
the chaos of the place.

366
00:19:34,240 --> 00:19:39,181
And usually, if they fell,
they were quite ill, I imagine.

367
00:19:39,181 --> 00:19:41,830

368
00:19:41,830 --> 00:19:45,160
How long were you in the car?

369
00:19:45,160 --> 00:19:47,500
I don't know how
long the trip was.

370
00:19:47,500 --> 00:19:50,980
But it seemed like it
was an endless ride.

371
00:19:50,980 --> 00:19:52,720
It was dark.

372
00:19:52,720 --> 00:19:53,620
And light.

373
00:19:53,620 --> 00:20:00,190
And all I could see was like
the bottom half of people.

374
00:20:00,190 --> 00:20:02,830

375
00:20:02,830 --> 00:20:03,980
Legs.

376
00:20:03,980 --> 00:20:08,740
And we were squeezed very tight.

377
00:20:08,740 --> 00:20:10,580
We could hardly move.

378
00:20:10,580 --> 00:20:12,010
There was no food.

379
00:20:12,010 --> 00:20:13,570
There were no bathrooms.

380
00:20:13,570 --> 00:20:16,930

381
00:20:16,930 --> 00:20:21,595
And I wanted to just cry.

382
00:20:21,595 --> 00:20:24,620

383
00:20:24,620 --> 00:20:26,150
And the smell was so horrible.

384
00:20:26,150 --> 00:20:28,790

385
00:20:28,790 --> 00:20:34,550
And the train, just the
wheels of the train rumbling.

386
00:20:34,550 --> 00:20:35,900
It was dark.

387
00:20:35,900 --> 00:20:37,570
It was like we
were going nowhere,

388
00:20:37,570 --> 00:20:40,480
I mean to some oblivion.

389
00:20:40,480 --> 00:20:46,030
And I wanted to cry
but I was afraid.

390
00:20:46,030 --> 00:20:49,120

391
00:20:49,120 --> 00:20:53,980
And so instead, I remember
I just bit my hand.

392
00:20:53,980 --> 00:20:56,320
And I squelched my cry.

393
00:20:56,320 --> 00:21:02,570

394
00:21:02,570 --> 00:21:05,470
Do you need to take a sip of
water or something like that?

395
00:21:05,470 --> 00:21:05,970
Would you?

396
00:21:05,970 --> 00:21:06,800
Yeah, I'd like.

397
00:21:06,800 --> 00:21:07,300
OK.

398
00:21:07,300 --> 00:21:28,020

399
00:21:28,020 --> 00:21:34,110
And when you got to where
the train was going,

400
00:21:34,110 --> 00:21:36,660
do you recall what
happened next?

401

00:21:36,660 --> 00:21:41,940

Well, when the train
doors were opened,

402

00:21:41,940 --> 00:21:46,710

it was a sea of humanity just
falling right out of the train,

403

00:21:46,710 --> 00:21:48,720

trying to get out.

404

00:21:48,720 --> 00:21:52,270

And it was just a lot of people.

405

00:21:52,270 --> 00:22:01,330

And we were just marched
to a Lager, a house where

406

00:22:01,330 --> 00:22:03,910

we were going to be housed.

407

00:22:03,910 --> 00:22:06,400

That's all I remember.

408

00:22:06,400 --> 00:22:10,810

We were with our mother,
and it was a long walk.

409

00:22:10,810 --> 00:22:12,370

I don't remember
that part at all.

410

00:22:12,370 --> 00:22:14,620

But when the doors
were opened, I

411

00:22:14,620 --> 00:22:19,450

can almost feel the pool,
the cold air coming in

412

00:22:19,450 --> 00:22:24,175

and the German officers

shouting, [GERMAN]..

413
00:22:24,175 --> 00:22:28,360

414
00:22:28,360 --> 00:22:29,520
I can hear it.

415
00:22:29,520 --> 00:22:31,090
I can hear it.

416
00:22:31,090 --> 00:22:35,140
And then, I guess, what
Irene said happened,

417
00:22:35,140 --> 00:22:37,600
which I don't recall.

418
00:22:37,600 --> 00:22:44,350
When you felt the cold air,
when you felt the fresh air,

419
00:22:44,350 --> 00:22:45,590
was that a relief to you?

420
00:22:45,590 --> 00:22:47,310
Yes.

421
00:22:47,310 --> 00:22:49,670
It was great relief.

422
00:22:49,670 --> 00:22:51,270
You know.

423
00:22:51,270 --> 00:22:51,770
Yes.

424
00:22:51,770 --> 00:22:55,120

425
00:22:55,120 --> 00:22:57,300

Should we-- do we
need to take a break?

426
00:22:57,300 --> 00:22:58,780
To the [INAUDIBLE].

427
00:22:58,780 --> 00:23:02,540

428
00:23:02,540 --> 00:23:03,380
I just hear this.

429
00:23:03,380 --> 00:23:05,840
We're hearing this saw.

430
00:23:05,840 --> 00:25:07,000