

Fred Kahn

Video transcripts:

Video 1; Kristallnacht

There was the famous *Kristallnacht* in November of 1938. That was the first time my father was arrested, and also I was arrested for the first time. I was very young then. Some windows were broken out in our house. There came a truckload of SS men. They stopped in front of our house and they wanted to come in and do the looting and smashing from the furniture and windows and so on. The *Bürgermeister* from this small town, he came and he protected us. He said, "This man was in the first World War. He received the Iron Cross. He fought for Germany, and I won't let anybody go in this house."

Video 2: Arrived in the Ghetto

There were two SS men standing, one on each side, and they had boxes right next to them. They said, "The suitcases you have to leave at the train station." You could carry nothing, and anything we had on us—watches, rings, money, jewelry, whatever it was—we had to drop in the boxes. And they told us right away, "If we find anything on anybody, they're going to be shot." So, we disposed of everything we had, and we went on the march, and it was very cold this day in December, in Riga. And finally we arrived in the ghetto. The ghetto was a whole bunch of houses which was about, city blocks, I would say about 15-20 city blocks with barbed wire surrounded, and guards standing all on the outside. We walked in through the main gate and then we noticed some people laying on the side, dead people, but we didn't pay much attention to it. So they said, "You go to any house you want. Wherever you can. Each family gets a room." But by the time we were all in this ghetto, there wasn't enough room for everybody. Then two, three families, four families went into one room.