

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:29,120

2

00:00:29,120 --> 00:00:34,476

Mrs. Mandelbaum, continue  
telling us about Aschersleben.

3

00:00:34,476 --> 00:00:36,850

Yes.

4

00:00:36,850 --> 00:00:47,420

From Auschwitz, we  
left in we left--

5

00:00:47,420 --> 00:00:48,680

when was it?

6

00:00:48,680 --> 00:00:54,990

Yes, January '45 to Hamburg.

7

00:00:54,990 --> 00:00:57,820

We didn't know where we  
were going, naturally.

8

00:00:57,820 --> 00:01:02,760

It was a station of 300 women.

9

00:01:02,760 --> 00:01:08,340

And we started to ask  
questions, each other.

10

00:01:08,340 --> 00:01:13,850

So whoever knew something said,  
it is a factory of planes,

11

00:01:13,850 --> 00:01:16,230

and we will work there.

12

00:01:16,230 --> 00:01:21,070

They took us to the barracks,  
like usually 3 story.

13  
00:01:21,070 --> 00:01:23,580  
You know.

14  
00:01:23,580 --> 00:01:28,970  
And we started to work.

15  
00:01:28,970 --> 00:01:31,530  
I mean, first the Appell.

16  
00:01:31,530 --> 00:01:35,090  
You get up and get counted.

17  
00:01:35,090 --> 00:01:39,850  
And then five, five and we  
were marching maybe a half hour

18  
00:01:39,850 --> 00:01:41,800  
to the factory.

19  
00:01:41,800 --> 00:01:44,530  
And everybody was  
assigned to his work.

20  
00:01:44,530 --> 00:01:50,110

21  
00:01:50,110 --> 00:01:56,350  
I was cutting on  
a machine windows

22  
00:01:56,350 --> 00:02:02,740  
to the airplane from a sheet--

23  
00:02:02,740 --> 00:02:06,510  
from a sheet of plastic.

24  
00:02:06,510 --> 00:02:08,979  
And this plastic burned.

25  
00:02:08,979 --> 00:02:11,860

You know, slowly like a candle.

26

00:02:11,860 --> 00:02:13,330

And I found out--

27

00:02:13,330 --> 00:02:22,480

so from the machine

what is thrown off

28

00:02:22,480 --> 00:02:29,245

from the squares what I had

to make, I made candles.

29

00:02:29,245 --> 00:02:34,120

And every Friday I lit the

candle in Aschersleben.

30

00:02:34,120 --> 00:02:37,210

We had a table.

31

00:02:37,210 --> 00:02:40,860

In that barrack, we had

one room with a table,

32

00:02:40,860 --> 00:02:46,240

where the foreman

for us had to divide

33

00:02:46,240 --> 00:02:50,140

the bread, and the

marmalade, or margarine.

34

00:02:50,140 --> 00:02:56,620

This was our everyday food.

35

00:02:56,620 --> 00:03:01,270

So on that table,

I lit the candles.

36

00:03:01,270 --> 00:03:04,800

And I had to watch, because

when the German came,

37

00:03:04,800 --> 00:03:06,250

a woman sometimes.

38

00:03:06,250 --> 00:03:11,530

But we had from our woman,  
one who had to take care.

39

00:03:11,530 --> 00:03:14,110

So this was a Jewish woman.

40

00:03:14,110 --> 00:03:17,590

So she-- and it was a Hungarian.

41

00:03:17,590 --> 00:03:21,010

And the Hungarians and the  
Poles doesn't like each other.

42

00:03:21,010 --> 00:03:25,060

So I found [? mirror ?]  
in her eyes, you know,

43

00:03:25,060 --> 00:03:29,410

that she didn't persecute me.

44

00:03:29,410 --> 00:03:32,500

In some way it was  
a forgetful thing

45

00:03:32,500 --> 00:03:37,810

that we shouldn't think of what  
was, only live with the life

46

00:03:37,810 --> 00:03:39,010

here.

47

00:03:39,010 --> 00:03:40,990

And the life was not--

48

00:03:40,990 --> 00:03:45,820

I would say that it was not  
so horrible, like in the past.

49

00:03:45,820 --> 00:03:48,440

It was a little leisure.

50

00:03:48,440 --> 00:03:52,780

It was January, and maybe the  
people alone, the Germans,

51

00:03:52,780 --> 00:03:56,810

they felt that it's  
going to the end.

52

00:03:56,810 --> 00:04:02,860

Anyway, the day  
started like 6 o'clock.

53

00:04:02,860 --> 00:04:05,320

And we came very tired home.

54

00:04:05,320 --> 00:04:07,030

We slept.

55

00:04:07,030 --> 00:04:11,470

And it was like  
every day the same.

56

00:04:11,470 --> 00:04:20,140

But some time I was experiencing  
a very bad accident.

57

00:04:20,140 --> 00:04:25,810

Because the fore-- the woman  
who was taking us, like we

58

00:04:25,810 --> 00:04:31,300

marched five in a  
row like 100 women.

59

00:04:31,300 --> 00:04:38,680

And then again, a lot of  
Germans, these SS women.

60

00:04:38,680 --> 00:04:40,240

And she came.

61  
00:04:40,240 --> 00:04:44,040  
She had a rubber weapon.

62  
00:04:44,040 --> 00:04:44,665  
you know this--

63  
00:04:44,665 --> 00:04:46,300  
A truncheon, a rubber truncheon.

64  
00:04:46,300 --> 00:04:49,210  
A truncheon.

65  
00:04:49,210 --> 00:04:54,820  
And before our five, the  
women started to talk,

66  
00:04:54,820 --> 00:04:58,270  
and they talked  
something that they

67  
00:04:58,270 --> 00:05:01,030  
started to laugh, maybe  
a joke, something.

68  
00:05:01,030 --> 00:05:05,500  
And she thought that  
our women were talking.

69  
00:05:05,500 --> 00:05:06,260  
She came.

70  
00:05:06,260 --> 00:05:08,620  
I was the first  
one, and she hit me

71  
00:05:08,620 --> 00:05:13,630  
with this truncheon, my head,  
and she made me a very big

72  
00:05:13,630 --> 00:05:16,850

gash, and I started to bleed.

73

00:05:16,850 --> 00:05:20,290

So she took me to the--

74

00:05:20,290 --> 00:05:21,460

from out from the five.

75

00:05:21,460 --> 00:05:22,120

And we sat.

76

00:05:22,120 --> 00:05:23,470

We didn't talk.

77

00:05:23,470 --> 00:05:27,850

[INAUDIBLE] We couldn't  
even say that we didn't.

78

00:05:27,850 --> 00:05:28,940

Because who did?

79

00:05:28,940 --> 00:05:30,250

So you have to--

80

00:05:30,250 --> 00:05:32,870

so we didn't talk.

81

00:05:32,870 --> 00:05:35,200

But she took me to  
the Krankenstube.

82

00:05:35,200 --> 00:05:36,250

You know the--

83

00:05:36,250 --> 00:05:36,970

Dispensary.

84

00:05:36,970 --> 00:05:38,740

Dispensary.

85

00:05:38,740 --> 00:05:42,520

And they said that I have  
to be, but I was afraid

86  
00:05:42,520 --> 00:05:47,600  
because who was in the  
dispensary today is unable.

87  
00:05:47,600 --> 00:05:50,680  
So they get rid of her.

88  
00:05:50,680 --> 00:05:52,570  
So I said, no, I'm all right.

89  
00:05:52,570 --> 00:05:56,920  
I want to go with  
the band-aid to work.

90  
00:05:56,920 --> 00:05:58,960  
And I worked.

91  
00:05:58,960 --> 00:06:03,200  
This gash I had like that.

92  
00:06:03,200 --> 00:06:08,660  
But this is an empty  
space on my head.

93  
00:06:08,660 --> 00:06:11,170  
You can see I have it.

94  
00:06:11,170 --> 00:06:16,090  
Anyway, so it was not--

95  
00:06:16,090 --> 00:06:20,140  
It was like monotony,  
but we prayed every day

96  
00:06:20,140 --> 00:06:25,540  
that we should survive, not  
to be killed for some reason,

97  
00:06:25,540 --> 00:06:31,190

what they do that  
because we are Jewish.

98  
00:06:31,190 --> 00:06:44,980  
And it was January,  
February, March, and April.

99  
00:06:44,980 --> 00:06:48,070  
The situation was very grave.

100  
00:06:48,070 --> 00:06:51,360  
I have to tell you that  
during the marches,

101  
00:06:51,360 --> 00:06:55,810  
the planes were  
attacking the city.

102  
00:06:55,810 --> 00:06:58,100  
And it was close to Hamburg.

103  
00:06:58,100 --> 00:07:03,180  
So the planes were close  
range, from wherever they came,

104  
00:07:03,180 --> 00:07:06,210  
from London or from Paris.

105  
00:07:06,210 --> 00:07:10,700  
And because the  
Americans were already

106  
00:07:10,700 --> 00:07:15,270  
in France and the English,  
together they were very much

107  
00:07:15,270 --> 00:07:20,330  
attacking our vicinity.

108  
00:07:20,330 --> 00:07:23,900  
And so we went to bunkers.

109

00:07:23,900 --> 00:07:25,880  
They had special for us, too.

110  
00:07:25,880 --> 00:07:28,120  
I mean for the Germans.

111  
00:07:28,120 --> 00:07:30,600  
And we were there  
a little while.

112  
00:07:30,600 --> 00:07:34,195  
And when it was quiet, the  
sirens blast, we come out.

113  
00:07:34,195 --> 00:07:36,120  
You know how during the war.

114  
00:07:36,120 --> 00:07:37,750  
Yes.

115  
00:07:37,750 --> 00:07:44,205  
And it was like mid-April.

116  
00:07:44,205 --> 00:07:47,040

117  
00:07:47,040 --> 00:07:50,280  
All of a sudden at night,  
they said, "los, los.

118  
00:07:50,280 --> 00:07:53,100

119  
00:07:53,100 --> 00:07:56,520  
Make ready, we are going."

120  
00:07:56,520 --> 00:07:59,640  
I have to tell you once  
incident, what happened.

121  
00:07:59,640 --> 00:08:01,260  
It was Pesach.

122  
00:08:01,260 --> 00:08:05,670  
You know, because--  
and as I told you,

123  
00:08:05,670 --> 00:08:08,480  
I didn't eat the soups.

124  
00:08:08,480 --> 00:08:15,990  
Only I ate bread, marmalade  
and bread and margarine.

125  
00:08:15,990 --> 00:08:20,230  
So during the Pesach,  
they gave bread.

126  
00:08:20,230 --> 00:08:25,110  
So my aunt, what  
we were together,

127  
00:08:25,110 --> 00:08:26,760  
she worked in the kitchen.

128  
00:08:26,760 --> 00:08:29,130  
Because there are  
people who worked

129  
00:08:29,130 --> 00:08:31,410  
someplace else, not  
only in the factory

130  
00:08:31,410 --> 00:08:35,429  
but whatever they  
wanted to give them.

131  
00:08:35,429 --> 00:08:38,309  
So my aunt was  
working the kitchen.

132  
00:08:38,309 --> 00:08:42,299  
And every day she  
brought me potatoes.

133

00:08:42,299 --> 00:08:45,930

And we were a mattress from hay.

134

00:08:45,930 --> 00:08:48,900

You know these mattresses?

135

00:08:48,900 --> 00:08:54,280

On that bunk it was like  
wood, and here a mattress.

136

00:08:54,280 --> 00:08:56,070

So I hid the potatoes.

137

00:08:56,070 --> 00:09:00,120

Every day she brought me  
before holiday potatoes.

138

00:09:00,120 --> 00:09:05,540

And all eight days I ate  
potatoes with the skin.

139

00:09:05,540 --> 00:09:08,720

And nothing more.

140

00:09:08,720 --> 00:09:12,800

Only water and the  
potatoes, and I survived.

141

00:09:12,800 --> 00:09:18,690

And I'm proud of that,  
that all during the war

142

00:09:18,690 --> 00:09:21,710

I didn't eat treif.

143

00:09:21,710 --> 00:09:26,850

So coming back to that  
day when at night came

144

00:09:26,850 --> 00:09:34,620

that we are going, so everybody  
had something smart to say.

145  
00:09:34,620 --> 00:09:40,200  
You know, you live a life  
like that, wherever you find

146  
00:09:40,200 --> 00:09:42,110  
is a precious thing.

147  
00:09:42,110 --> 00:09:48,510  
So everybody had  
bundled up the bundle,

148  
00:09:48,510 --> 00:09:53,280  
and like the Jew what you see  
on the pictures with a bundle.

149  
00:09:53,280 --> 00:09:54,030  
The wandering Jew.

150  
00:09:54,030 --> 00:09:54,780  
The wandering Jew.

151  
00:09:54,780 --> 00:09:55,590  
Wandering Jew.

152  
00:09:55,590 --> 00:09:58,650  
We were all women  
wandering Jews.

153  
00:09:58,650 --> 00:09:59,640  
And go.

154  
00:09:59,640 --> 00:10:00,660  
Where we go?

155  
00:10:00,660 --> 00:10:02,160  
We don't know.

156  
00:10:02,160 --> 00:10:03,810  
We go.

157

00:10:03,810 --> 00:10:08,160

And we go, and we  
walked the whole night.

158

00:10:08,160 --> 00:10:16,350

And we went to a peasant,  
to give us to sleep.

159

00:10:16,350 --> 00:10:19,290

So some women said  
when they had the idea

160

00:10:19,290 --> 00:10:21,170

to stay by the peasant.

161

00:10:21,170 --> 00:10:24,030

But if he wants to keep you?

162

00:10:24,030 --> 00:10:25,260

He was afraid, too.

163

00:10:25,260 --> 00:10:27,390

Because he was German.

164

00:10:27,390 --> 00:10:29,850

And he saw us.

165

00:10:29,850 --> 00:10:33,680

So they suspected  
we are prisoners,

166

00:10:33,680 --> 00:10:35,670

that we murdered  
somebody or something.

167

00:10:35,670 --> 00:10:38,880

Because they couldn't--  
some Germans there,

168

00:10:38,880 --> 00:10:43,050

it's far from the civilization,  
that they maybe didn't know

169

00:10:43,050 --> 00:10:46,830

that Hitler was so  
bad for the Jews.

170

00:10:46,830 --> 00:10:49,620

So they thought that  
we are prisoners.

171

00:10:49,620 --> 00:10:53,830

So he will not give  
shelter for a prisoner.

172

00:10:53,830 --> 00:10:57,240

So we had to go  
on and on and on.

173

00:10:57,240 --> 00:10:59,760

And so we're wandering  
and wandering.

174

00:10:59,760 --> 00:11:03,290

And there came a night,  
after a few nights

175

00:11:03,290 --> 00:11:07,410

what we were walking,  
that we decided,

176

00:11:07,410 --> 00:11:11,500

my sister-in-law decided,  
we are not going farther.

177

00:11:11,500 --> 00:11:12,490

We are not going.

178

00:11:12,490 --> 00:11:13,290

Let them shoot.

179

00:11:13,290 --> 00:11:13,800

Let them.

180

00:11:13,800 --> 00:11:16,476

It was up to here.

181  
00:11:16,476 --> 00:11:17,310  
Yes.

182  
00:11:17,310 --> 00:11:20,970  
So we hid in the hills.

183  
00:11:20,970 --> 00:11:28,230  
It was a hilly  
territory, like a park.

184  
00:11:28,230 --> 00:11:30,970  
And by the day--

185  
00:11:30,970 --> 00:11:32,670  
and they went on.

186  
00:11:32,670 --> 00:11:34,910  
The whole Kommando went on.

187  
00:11:34,910 --> 00:11:40,950  
But so they tore the  
emblems from their sleeves.

188  
00:11:40,950 --> 00:11:43,420  
So something fishy is going on.

189  
00:11:43,420 --> 00:11:45,680  
We knew that.

190  
00:11:45,680 --> 00:11:50,080  
And we were waiting  
until daybreak.

191  
00:11:50,080 --> 00:11:55,550  
So we saw that barracks, and  
we heard the Polish language.

192  
00:11:55,550 --> 00:11:57,700  
Oh, so Poles are here.

193

00:11:57,700 --> 00:12:04,930

They came to work  
as Zwangsarbeit.

194

00:12:04,930 --> 00:12:05,630

Forced labor.

195

00:12:05,630 --> 00:12:08,400

Forced labor.

196

00:12:08,400 --> 00:12:10,600

So we spoke to them.

197

00:12:10,600 --> 00:12:12,910

And we said, look, we are Jews.

198

00:12:12,910 --> 00:12:15,920

Only because of that we are  
in the prisoner clothes.

199

00:12:15,920 --> 00:12:18,640

We didn't do anything wrong.

200

00:12:18,640 --> 00:12:20,800

Some of them were sarcastic.

201

00:12:20,800 --> 00:12:24,430

Some of them, but there  
are Menschen, too.

202

00:12:24,430 --> 00:12:28,620

So they gave us their rags.

203

00:12:28,620 --> 00:12:33,250

You know, to throw out, instead  
of the garbage, they gave.

204

00:12:33,250 --> 00:12:37,410

And they took from  
the women, too.

205

00:12:37,410 --> 00:12:39,640  
There were men and women  
from the other side.

206  
00:12:39,640 --> 00:12:40,610  
They went.

207  
00:12:40,610 --> 00:12:42,370  
They were very helpful.

208  
00:12:42,370 --> 00:12:49,900  
This until this day, I cannot  
be all bad for the Poles,

209  
00:12:49,900 --> 00:12:51,250  
whatever they did.

210  
00:12:51,250 --> 00:12:54,910  
Because they showed us heart.

211  
00:12:54,910 --> 00:12:59,730  
And we were in plain clothes.

212  
00:12:59,730 --> 00:13:01,950  
So we could move  
around the town,

213  
00:13:01,950 --> 00:13:07,640  
and we were still not  
having where to live.

214  
00:13:07,640 --> 00:13:11,500  
But with them in the  
barracks, they let us.

215  
00:13:11,500 --> 00:13:14,650  
They go to work, so we  
were in their barracks.

216  
00:13:14,650 --> 00:13:19,510  
You know, they were good for us.

217

00:13:19,510 --> 00:13:20,920

But one day, it was--

218

00:13:20,920 --> 00:13:24,020

219

00:13:24,020 --> 00:13:27,250

the planes were  
coming constantly.

220

00:13:27,250 --> 00:13:29,885

Because we were  
hearing here and there.

221

00:13:29,885 --> 00:13:34,480

But one day it was like  
thousands of planes,

222

00:13:34,480 --> 00:13:38,860

and they are  
bombarding that city,

223

00:13:38,860 --> 00:13:42,405

because they knew that a  
lot of factories were there.

224

00:13:42,405 --> 00:13:43,780

Right, it was an  
industrial area.

225

00:13:43,780 --> 00:13:46,090

Industrial area, right.

226

00:13:46,090 --> 00:13:48,310

So they were  
bombarding somewhere.

227

00:13:48,310 --> 00:13:50,350

And we were lost.

228

00:13:50,350 --> 00:13:54,340

Because we didn't know  
what to do with ourselves.

229

00:13:54,340 --> 00:13:59,620

The Germans were running to the shelters, and we were afraid.

230

00:13:59,620 --> 00:14:03,430

But we had to go, too, and we went to the shelters, too.

231

00:14:03,430 --> 00:14:05,470

We start now to talk.

232

00:14:05,470 --> 00:14:09,790

We're invisible, so to say.

233

00:14:09,790 --> 00:14:16,930

And when it was quiet, the Germans say,

234

00:14:16,930 --> 00:14:19,670

the English and the Americans are here.

235

00:14:19,670 --> 00:14:22,450

Because they came up from the bunkers.

236

00:14:22,450 --> 00:14:24,100

They saw the soldiers.

237

00:14:24,100 --> 00:14:26,860

They go, the English and the Americans.

238

00:14:26,860 --> 00:14:28,930

They were very scared.

239

00:14:28,930 --> 00:14:29,920

We were not scared.

240

00:14:29,920 --> 00:14:34,920

But right away the soldiers

didn't know that we are Jews.

241

00:14:34,920 --> 00:14:41,560

But anyway, when we  
came out very carefully,

242

00:14:41,560 --> 00:14:46,420

we tried to get in  
the stream, so to say.

243

00:14:46,420 --> 00:14:55,430

And we were cautious to find  
somebody who will be for us.

244

00:14:55,430 --> 00:14:59,320

And sure enough, we find  
an American soldier.

245

00:14:59,320 --> 00:15:02,020

And he was Jewish.

246

00:15:02,020 --> 00:15:03,850

Ben Stein was his name.

247

00:15:03,850 --> 00:15:09,330

I never-- I came to America,  
but I never looked up him.

248

00:15:09,330 --> 00:15:13,780

Anyway, and this  
guy was good to us.

249

00:15:13,780 --> 00:15:18,370

And we -- you know,  
like our father.

250

00:15:18,370 --> 00:15:24,160

And everybody wanted  
to tell him the story.

251

00:15:24,160 --> 00:15:27,430

So he called a few  
of his buddies.

252  
00:15:27,430 --> 00:15:33,220  
Even Americans, they are Jewish.

253  
00:15:33,220 --> 00:15:35,500  
We didn't know how  
to speak English.

254  
00:15:35,500 --> 00:15:36,480  
We know Jewish.

255  
00:15:36,480 --> 00:15:37,520  
We know German.

256  
00:15:37,520 --> 00:15:39,010  
But he didn't know.

257  
00:15:39,010 --> 00:15:40,780  
But somehow we--

258  
00:15:40,780 --> 00:15:41,870  
Communicated.

259  
00:15:41,870 --> 00:15:45,310  
--communicated with hands.

260  
00:15:45,310 --> 00:15:46,990  
And we said, we  
don't have a shelter.

261  
00:15:46,990 --> 00:15:48,895  
We don't know where to--

262  
00:15:48,895 --> 00:15:50,630  
"ah, come with us."

263  
00:15:50,630 --> 00:15:55,270  
So first of all,  
he gave us a house.

264  
00:15:55,270 --> 00:15:57,570

Then he said he will bring food.

265

00:15:57,570 --> 00:16:00,960

So from these rations,  
we got this compote.

266

00:16:00,960 --> 00:16:02,530

But we were very careful.

267

00:16:02,530 --> 00:16:05,900

Everybody from us five  
said to each other,

268

00:16:05,900 --> 00:16:09,760

remember that we couldn't eat  
because we are not used to it.

269

00:16:09,760 --> 00:16:11,590

We have to eat slowly.

270

00:16:11,590 --> 00:16:15,070

Thank God we were all right.

271

00:16:15,070 --> 00:16:25,540

And it was very, very  
good at the beginning.

272

00:16:25,540 --> 00:16:26,905

What we will do next?

273

00:16:26,905 --> 00:16:29,200

Next, we have to get dressed.

274

00:16:29,200 --> 00:16:30,830

Because we had nothing.

275

00:16:30,830 --> 00:16:34,550

Only the schmattas  
what the Poles gave us.

276

00:16:34,550 --> 00:16:37,560

So the stores were closed.

277  
00:16:37,560 --> 00:16:39,730  
Everything was closed.

278  
00:16:39,730 --> 00:16:43,740  
And whatever he could bring  
was not enough for us.

279  
00:16:43,740 --> 00:16:46,630  
Even the house what we got.

280  
00:16:46,630 --> 00:16:51,220  
So it was a meager thing,  
but we had a shelter.

281  
00:16:51,220 --> 00:16:54,820  
We had a roof above our heads.

282  
00:16:54,820 --> 00:16:56,960  
This was very important.

283  
00:16:56,960 --> 00:16:59,910  
So my sister-in-law,  
she was very--

284  
00:16:59,910 --> 00:17:03,130  
so she said, let's  
go to the trains.

285  
00:17:03,130 --> 00:17:08,020  
And you know when war  
stopped, everything stopped.

286  
00:17:08,020 --> 00:17:10,700  
The trains were  
loaded with food.

287  
00:17:10,700 --> 00:17:15,160  
And a wagon of sugar,  
and rice, and barley,

288  
00:17:15,160 --> 00:17:17,410

and vegetables, and apples.

289

00:17:17,410 --> 00:17:19,849

We didn't even have a bag.

290

00:17:19,849 --> 00:17:25,000

You know, it's primitive  
things, what for us today

291

00:17:25,000 --> 00:17:26,380

not to comprehend.

292

00:17:26,380 --> 00:17:28,900

Because how can  
you not have a bag?

293

00:17:28,900 --> 00:17:30,890

How can you not have money?

294

00:17:30,890 --> 00:17:31,390

How?

295

00:17:31,390 --> 00:17:32,740

How?

296

00:17:32,740 --> 00:17:34,150

We didn't have nothing.

297

00:17:34,150 --> 00:17:37,930

Only ourselves, our body.

298

00:17:37,930 --> 00:17:41,610

And she was-- she goes--  
she took a schmatta

299

00:17:41,610 --> 00:17:44,290

and she made like  
two women hold,

300

00:17:44,290 --> 00:17:47,200

and she loaded  
whatever she could.

301  
00:17:47,200 --> 00:17:48,940  
And she brought.

302  
00:17:48,940 --> 00:17:53,650  
And I was never timid.

303  
00:17:53,650 --> 00:17:55,360  
I was outgoing.

304  
00:17:55,360 --> 00:17:57,880  
But here I was so--

305  
00:17:57,880 --> 00:17:59,690  
I just came to--

306  
00:17:59,690 --> 00:18:02,690

307  
00:18:02,690 --> 00:18:06,710  
it was a transformation in  
me when the war stopped.

308  
00:18:06,710 --> 00:18:07,940  
Not stopped.

309  
00:18:07,940 --> 00:18:11,480  
When the Americans  
came to our town.

310  
00:18:11,480 --> 00:18:13,970  
It was not stopped, the war.

311  
00:18:13,970 --> 00:18:18,050  
The war, because the war  
stopped the 5th of May,

312  
00:18:18,050 --> 00:18:23,950  
and this was by  
the end of April.

313

00:18:23,950 --> 00:18:25,380  
But--

314  
00:18:25,380 --> 00:18:27,283  
But the town was  
already occupied?

315  
00:18:27,283 --> 00:18:27,950  
It was already--

316  
00:18:27,950 --> 00:18:29,720  
Yes, absolutely.

317  
00:18:29,720 --> 00:18:31,610  
The Germans had  
been driven away.

318  
00:18:31,610 --> 00:18:35,000  
Yes, some Germans stayed.

319  
00:18:35,000 --> 00:18:38,590  
And some Germans  
went away and ran.

320  
00:18:38,590 --> 00:18:42,290  
The conscience was bad if  
they were SS, you know?

321  
00:18:42,290 --> 00:18:47,690  
Because some Germans  
said [SPEAKING GERMAN]..

322  
00:18:47,690 --> 00:18:58,560  
Anyway, so slowly we came to  
a condition that is human.

323  
00:18:58,560 --> 00:18:59,060  
You know?

324  
00:18:59,060 --> 00:19:02,180  
Because before it was not.

325

00:19:02,180 --> 00:19:04,830  
And we started to be normal.

326  
00:19:04,830 --> 00:19:11,990  
And my aunt was the cook, and  
we started to go to the stores,

327  
00:19:11,990 --> 00:19:14,000  
because slowly they opened.

328  
00:19:14,000 --> 00:19:17,150  
And a committee was formed.

329  
00:19:17,150 --> 00:19:19,230  
And they gave us--

330  
00:19:19,230 --> 00:19:20,800  
Even a Jewish community.

331  
00:19:20,800 --> 00:19:24,560  
They gave us our  
identification cards.

332  
00:19:24,560 --> 00:19:26,270  
And everything was rationed.

333  
00:19:26,270 --> 00:19:29,020  
So we can have a ration, too.

334  
00:19:29,020 --> 00:19:31,470  
For food, for clothes.

335  
00:19:31,470 --> 00:19:37,100  
Because it was like  
nothing was new for them.

336  
00:19:37,100 --> 00:19:40,430  
Everything was  
during even rationed.

337  
00:19:40,430 --> 00:19:43,940  
So we were a part of them,

and we could go to a store,

338

00:19:43,940 --> 00:19:45,990

and we bought a  
piece of material.

339

00:19:45,990 --> 00:19:50,150

And I was the sewer,  
and my sister-in-law.

340

00:19:50,150 --> 00:19:54,000

And we were making  
a skirt and a blouse

341

00:19:54,000 --> 00:19:56,540

that we should wear something.

342

00:19:56,540 --> 00:20:02,630

And the time was going on,  
and we heard that it's over,

343

00:20:02,630 --> 00:20:03,560

the war.

344

00:20:03,560 --> 00:20:07,220

When it's over, the war, we  
want to come to our country

345

00:20:07,220 --> 00:20:09,080

and to our home.

346

00:20:09,080 --> 00:20:11,570

So we started to  
gather things that when

347

00:20:11,570 --> 00:20:14,400

we go that we should have.

348

00:20:14,400 --> 00:20:23,010

And it was like the  
time was with us.

349

00:20:23,010 --> 00:20:27,550  
And this was like May, June.

350  
00:20:27,550 --> 00:20:34,280  
June, by the end of June,  
we were sort of ready to go.

351  
00:20:34,280 --> 00:20:36,330  
Because nothing was working.

352  
00:20:36,330 --> 00:20:37,670  
The train, how will go?

353  
00:20:37,670 --> 00:20:38,780  
We walk.

354  
00:20:38,780 --> 00:20:43,040  
We had to wait until the  
establishment will be ready

355  
00:20:43,040 --> 00:20:44,270  
for us, too.

356  
00:20:44,270 --> 00:20:49,340  
Because we cannot be independent  
from Germany to go to Poland.

357  
00:20:49,340 --> 00:20:50,260  
The trains.

358  
00:20:50,260 --> 00:20:55,280  
And first the  
military was going.

359  
00:20:55,280 --> 00:20:59,370  
So the priority is for them.

360  
00:20:59,370 --> 00:21:04,020  
So the civilians could not  
even let be on the train.

361  
00:21:04,020 --> 00:21:07,520

So we were stuck  
in Aschersleben.

362  
00:21:07,520 --> 00:21:12,260  
And then we went to another--

363  
00:21:12,260 --> 00:21:17,060  
from Aschersleben, when we  
survived, it was Bitterfeld.

364  
00:21:17,060 --> 00:21:21,420  
Because it was another town  
when we walked somewhere.

365  
00:21:21,420 --> 00:21:25,390  
So really we were in Bitterfeld.

366  
00:21:25,390 --> 00:21:29,200  
So in Bitterfeld  
we had our home,

367  
00:21:29,200 --> 00:21:31,820  
and waiting, and waiting until--

368  
00:21:31,820 --> 00:21:39,260  
because in Bitterfeld we had  
the Kommando, what they gave us

369  
00:21:39,260 --> 00:21:41,300  
the identification.

370  
00:21:41,300 --> 00:21:44,390  
And they formed-- and in  
meantime, we found out

371  
00:21:44,390 --> 00:21:45,920  
that we are not the only one.

372  
00:21:45,920 --> 00:21:51,080  
Because then we find out that  
16 other women also escaped.

373

00:21:51,080 --> 00:21:53,510  
So they were now with us.

374  
00:21:53,510 --> 00:22:01,500  
And they were coming  
more, these VIs--

375  
00:22:01,500 --> 00:22:03,170  
the very important--

376  
00:22:03,170 --> 00:22:03,860  
VIPs.

377  
00:22:03,860 --> 00:22:10,580  
VIPs came from the English  
and from the Americans.

378  
00:22:10,580 --> 00:22:11,260  
Generals.

379  
00:22:11,260 --> 00:22:13,130  
Generals, yes.

380  
00:22:13,130 --> 00:22:17,510  
And we were sort of  
introduced by these people

381  
00:22:17,510 --> 00:22:21,590  
who were in this town,  
that we were the survivors.

382  
00:22:21,590 --> 00:22:23,670  
And we were very important.

383  
00:22:23,670 --> 00:22:28,150  
So some of the generals, because  
the other women would also

384  
00:22:28,150 --> 00:22:32,720  
survive but they ran away, they  
were very sophisticated girls.

385

00:22:32,720 --> 00:22:34,880  
And we are homely girls.

386  
00:22:34,880 --> 00:22:36,380  
Like I and my sister.

387  
00:22:36,380 --> 00:22:41,220  
But they were reaching for  
the generals, to have friends,

388  
00:22:41,220 --> 00:22:42,020  
you know?

389  
00:22:42,020 --> 00:22:45,560  
Like independent girls  
they were before the war.

390  
00:22:45,560 --> 00:22:47,460  
But now they are--

391  
00:22:47,460 --> 00:22:56,740  
So they made us feel that  
we are the naive girls

392  
00:22:56,740 --> 00:22:59,120  
and they are the sophisticateds.

393  
00:22:59,120 --> 00:23:05,740  
So anyway, life went like today,  
let me tell you, after the war.

394  
00:23:05,740 --> 00:23:14,890  
But it was always the  
woman, you know, yourself,

395  
00:23:14,890 --> 00:23:16,040  
if you are free.

396  
00:23:16,040 --> 00:23:17,920  
If you are you are a nebish.

397  
00:23:17,920 --> 00:23:23,320

But if you are free,  
you show your being.

398  
00:23:23,320 --> 00:23:25,730  
And they were  
dressed beautifully,

399  
00:23:25,730 --> 00:23:28,340  
and they wore makeup right away.

400  
00:23:28,340 --> 00:23:30,460  
And we are looking at  
them, what they are doing?

401  
00:23:30,460 --> 00:23:33,400  
We are only thinking  
to go back to Poland.

402  
00:23:33,400 --> 00:23:40,390  
And they were like establishing  
themselves here, with the IVP.

403  
00:23:40,390 --> 00:23:43,000  
They were thinking of going  
to the United States, maybe?

404  
00:23:43,000 --> 00:23:46,200  
yes they were thinking  
to catch a husband.

405  
00:23:46,200 --> 00:23:49,510  
That's what they were thinking,  
because they were not married,

406  
00:23:49,510 --> 00:23:51,230  
these other women.

407  
00:23:51,230 --> 00:23:57,900  
So anyway, so we had fun and  
gossip and a normal life.

408  
00:23:57,900 --> 00:24:02,890  
But then we found out that

civilians get their permission

409  
00:24:02,890 --> 00:24:03,840  
to travel.

410  
00:24:03,840 --> 00:24:09,970  
You know, because as I said,  
only the soldiers were.

411  
00:24:09,970 --> 00:24:14,770  
But it was a lot of  
soldiers still on the trains

412  
00:24:14,770 --> 00:24:18,640  
when we boarded the  
train to go, too.

413  
00:24:18,640 --> 00:24:21,660  
It was like-- if  
you see the map,

414  
00:24:21,660 --> 00:24:23,970  
you are in Germany  
to go to Poland,

415  
00:24:23,970 --> 00:24:26,920  
you know, it is a long journey.

416  
00:24:26,920 --> 00:24:29,440  
And it took us a long journey.

417  
00:24:29,440 --> 00:24:33,260  
And we had to beg  
for food, because you

418  
00:24:33,260 --> 00:24:38,550  
are a traveler on a  
train, and you don't have.

419  
00:24:38,550 --> 00:24:45,110  
But we provide ourselves  
with food for the time being.

420

00:24:45,110 --> 00:24:47,710

And when we didn't  
have any more food,

421

00:24:47,710 --> 00:24:50,740

we got of a station,  
when they made it.

422

00:24:50,740 --> 00:24:52,870

And we went to a committee.

423

00:24:52,870 --> 00:24:58,330

Because by then, it was sort of  
a normal existence for people.

424

00:24:58,330 --> 00:25:00,580

Because it was after the war.

425

00:25:00,580 --> 00:25:05,990

May was after the  
war, May, June, July.

426

00:25:05,990 --> 00:25:08,750

So we went to a committee,  
and we said, look,

427

00:25:08,750 --> 00:25:10,810

we are repatrians.

428

00:25:10,810 --> 00:25:15,620

We want to go back to  
Poland and to our village.

429

00:25:15,620 --> 00:25:19,210

And we came, and we came to--

430

00:25:19,210 --> 00:25:23,590

there was a very big  
gathering of the DP persons

431

00:25:23,590 --> 00:25:28,960

in Theresienstadt and in Prague.

432  
00:25:28,960 --> 00:25:34,090  
And we were traveling until  
Prague, our five women.

433  
00:25:34,090 --> 00:25:36,850  
And there was--  
oh, there was a lot

434  
00:25:36,850 --> 00:25:42,850  
of organizations, a beautiful  
organization, Prague.

435  
00:25:42,850 --> 00:25:48,620  
They were giving you permission  
to go here, wherever you want.

436  
00:25:48,620 --> 00:25:53,500  
They give us very good food,  
and they give us even--

437  
00:25:53,500 --> 00:25:56,140  
like the UNRRA supported it.

438  
00:25:56,140 --> 00:25:57,590  
So they gave.

439  
00:25:57,590 --> 00:26:00,650  
So the UNRRA gave us.

440  
00:26:00,650 --> 00:26:10,730  
And then in Prague, people from  
all Poland, from all Germany,

441  
00:26:10,730 --> 00:26:15,910  
whoever survived and was in  
Prague, we could commune --

442  
00:26:15,910 --> 00:26:18,150  
Like I ask about my family.

443  
00:26:18,150 --> 00:26:21,250

"Did you meet maybe  
the family Reich.

444  
00:26:21,250 --> 00:26:24,685  
My brother, my sister.

445  
00:26:24,685 --> 00:26:26,230  
Her name was Sophia.

446  
00:26:26,230 --> 00:26:27,100  
Did you hear?

447  
00:26:27,100 --> 00:26:30,300  
My husband Simon?"

448  
00:26:30,300 --> 00:26:31,170  
"Simon?

449  
00:26:31,170 --> 00:26:32,590  
Simon Mandelbaum?"

450  
00:26:32,590 --> 00:26:35,290  
Somebody said, "was it Kafka?"

451  
00:26:35,290 --> 00:26:38,300  
So I said, "yes, Kafka."

452  
00:26:38,300 --> 00:26:39,140  
"Kafka?

453  
00:26:39,140 --> 00:26:41,560  
Kafka survived in Gusen.

454  
00:26:41,560 --> 00:26:46,464  
He is now in the  
hospital in Weis."

455  
00:26:46,464 --> 00:26:46,964  
You know?

456  
00:26:46,964 --> 00:26:49,180

Like that.

457

00:26:49,180 --> 00:26:54,210

And he didn't-- he knew him  
only as Kafka from that camp,

458

00:26:54,210 --> 00:26:57,880

where they were going there, and  
he remembers how it happened.

459

00:26:57,880 --> 00:26:59,820

But Kafka was  
standing on his head.

460

00:26:59,820 --> 00:27:05,140

Kafka is a black  
bird in English.

461

00:27:05,140 --> 00:27:08,460

So I said to my  
sister-in-law, sister-in-law

462

00:27:08,460 --> 00:27:11,620

and my aunt and the  
five women, I said,

463

00:27:11,620 --> 00:27:14,080

I will say goodbye to you.

464

00:27:14,080 --> 00:27:18,070

I take my pack, my  
bundle, and go to Weis

465

00:27:18,070 --> 00:27:19,240

to look for my husband.

466

00:27:19,240 --> 00:27:22,370

467

00:27:22,370 --> 00:27:25,090

And I traveled.

468

00:27:25,090 --> 00:27:28,850  
Whenever I-- so they gave  
me a permission, because I

469  
00:27:28,850 --> 00:27:30,140  
didn't even have money.

470  
00:27:30,140 --> 00:27:32,150  
From where do I have money?

471  
00:27:32,150 --> 00:27:37,820  
So I got this permission  
to travel without money

472  
00:27:37,820 --> 00:27:40,370  
looking for my husband.

473  
00:27:40,370 --> 00:27:46,170  
So I come to Weis, to the  
hospital, and as you read.

474  
00:27:46,170 --> 00:27:49,230  
And, "oh, Simon Mandelbaum.

475  
00:27:49,230 --> 00:27:51,140  
Yeah, he was here.

476  
00:27:51,140 --> 00:27:54,575  
And he registered to  
go back to Poland."

477  
00:27:54,575 --> 00:27:58,850  
So I said-- because we  
made up when we survive,

478  
00:27:58,850 --> 00:28:00,680  
we will meet there and there.

479  
00:28:00,680 --> 00:28:05,030  
So I said, but when  
did he register?

480

00:28:05,030 --> 00:28:06,200  
When did he go out?

481  
00:28:06,200 --> 00:28:07,100  
I asked questions.

482  
00:28:07,100 --> 00:28:11,240  
They told me this  
was two days ago.

483  
00:28:11,240 --> 00:28:13,100  
And he went.

484  
00:28:13,100 --> 00:28:13,960  
This was Weis.

485  
00:28:13,960 --> 00:28:18,920  
And this was a neighboring town  
from Linz, also in Austria.

486  
00:28:18,920 --> 00:28:21,300  
So you have to find out.

487  
00:28:21,300 --> 00:28:23,530  
So I took the bus.

488  
00:28:23,530 --> 00:28:25,160  
And the Schaffner comes.

489  
00:28:25,160 --> 00:28:27,230  
Sorry, this is the conductor.

490  
00:28:27,230 --> 00:28:30,680  
And I said, "look, I am  
looking for my husband."

491  
00:28:30,680 --> 00:28:34,290  
So they say, "Oh, so go  
to the Jewish committee."

492  
00:28:34,290 --> 00:28:42,142  
The Jewish-- it

was like an office.

493

00:28:42,142 --> 00:28:43,100

The Joint Distribution?

494

00:28:43,100 --> 00:28:44,140

Joint Distribution.

495

00:28:44,140 --> 00:28:45,260

Right.

496

00:28:45,260 --> 00:28:48,980

So they knew about  
it, so I came there.

497

00:28:48,980 --> 00:28:50,400

They were closed.

498

00:28:50,400 --> 00:28:51,560

So I don't know.

499

00:28:51,560 --> 00:28:53,060

I sit in the office.

500

00:28:53,060 --> 00:28:55,460

I sit maybe two, three hours.

501

00:28:55,460 --> 00:28:57,200

Finally, they opened the office.

502

00:28:57,200 --> 00:28:58,100

"What do you want?"

503

00:28:58,100 --> 00:29:00,140

I said, I'm Manya Mandelbaum.

504

00:29:00,140 --> 00:29:02,330

I look for my husband,  
Simon Mandelbaum.

505

00:29:02,330 --> 00:29:06,730

He was registering to  
go back to Poland."

506  
00:29:06,730 --> 00:29:08,725  
So he said, "Yes.

507  
00:29:08,725 --> 00:29:13,841  
Yes, he tomorrow goes  
with the transport.

508  
00:29:13,841 --> 00:29:16,760  
And he lives in Windbichl.

509  
00:29:16,760 --> 00:29:18,560  
Where is Windbichl?

510  
00:29:18,560 --> 00:29:22,160  
You take the bus this and  
this, then you take other bus.

511  
00:29:22,160 --> 00:29:24,380  
So I did it.

512  
00:29:24,380 --> 00:29:28,660  
But this is all one,  
two, three to say.

513  
00:29:28,660 --> 00:29:34,160  
I come-- I come  
to that Windbichl.

514  
00:29:34,160 --> 00:29:36,780  
There were barracks,  
very nice barracks,

515  
00:29:36,780 --> 00:29:40,530  
because they were  
made for the soldiers,

516  
00:29:40,530 --> 00:29:42,460  
for the German soldiers.

517

00:29:42,460 --> 00:29:45,900

And there was a very  
big corridor, very big.

518

00:29:45,900 --> 00:29:50,370

And from each side  
a door and a room.

519

00:29:50,370 --> 00:29:52,890

And I go to the first  
room, open the room,

520

00:29:52,890 --> 00:29:56,350

and there is a bunk bed,  
three story, and another bunk

521

00:29:56,350 --> 00:29:58,330

bed three story.

522

00:29:58,330 --> 00:30:01,800

And nobody in.

523

00:30:01,800 --> 00:30:04,830

And I started to call  
Simon, because I said,

524

00:30:04,830 --> 00:30:13,000

maybe he's in another room where  
I cannot all the rooms check.

525

00:30:13,000 --> 00:30:17,040

So from the other side of  
the corridor, a woman comes.

526

00:30:17,040 --> 00:30:19,980

I didn't even see her,  
so long was the corridor.

527

00:30:19,980 --> 00:30:21,570

She said, who is that?

528

00:30:21,570 --> 00:30:23,600

So I said, "I'm

Manya Mandelbaum.

529

00:30:23,600 --> 00:30:26,550

I'm looking for my  
husband, Simon Mandelbaum."

530

00:30:26,550 --> 00:30:28,560

All this Polish.

531

00:30:28,560 --> 00:30:32,130

So she said, "Oh,  
I don't know, but I

532

00:30:32,130 --> 00:30:36,290

know one thing, that  
yesterday somebody came,

533

00:30:36,290 --> 00:30:40,500

[? Hilla Costman, ?] who  
lives in this room where

534

00:30:40,500 --> 00:30:42,300

you are standing.

535

00:30:42,300 --> 00:30:43,260

Isn't he right there?"

536

00:30:43,260 --> 00:30:49,230

So I said, "No, I  
don't see here."

537

00:30:49,230 --> 00:30:53,520

So she comes over to me,  
and we started to talk,

538

00:30:53,520 --> 00:30:56,550

in the doorway, you know.

539

00:30:56,550 --> 00:30:59,110

And as I said--

540

00:30:59,110 --> 00:31:01,730

she said, "What is  
your husband's name?"

541  
00:31:01,730 --> 00:31:05,810  
I said, "Simon Mandelbaum."

542  
00:31:05,810 --> 00:31:07,230  
And she started to think.

543  
00:31:07,230 --> 00:31:14,430  
And all of a sudden, I hear a  
noise from the third bed up.

544  
00:31:14,430 --> 00:31:17,640  
I hear a noise, and  
somebody leans out.

545  
00:31:17,640 --> 00:31:21,480  
He was like a  
skeleton, the face.

546  
00:31:21,480 --> 00:31:27,610  
And said, "Manusha,  
you came here."

547  
00:31:27,610 --> 00:31:29,840  
I said, "Simon."

548  
00:31:29,840 --> 00:31:32,480  
And he hardly walked.

549  
00:31:32,480 --> 00:31:35,550  
And he came down  
from the third floor.

550  
00:31:35,550 --> 00:31:40,482  
And we embraced, and this was  
that we met after the war,

551  
00:31:40,482 --> 00:31:42,450  
in that room.

552

00:31:42,450 --> 00:31:45,300

And we started to  
cry, both of us.

553

00:31:45,300 --> 00:31:50,240

And I said, take it easy.

554

00:31:50,240 --> 00:31:51,110

Good that we met.

555

00:31:51,110 --> 00:31:57,050

I said, tomorrow 9 o'clock  
I would go to Poland.

556

00:31:57,050 --> 00:31:59,280

Sure, I would go after him.

557

00:31:59,280 --> 00:32:02,610

Because the transport  
were going and going.

558

00:32:02,610 --> 00:32:06,250

This was the  
beginning of our life.

559

00:32:06,250 --> 00:32:07,460

That day.

560

00:32:07,460 --> 00:32:12,520

And this was 16th of  
August, my day of birth,

561

00:32:12,520 --> 00:32:20,070

when we met in that room  
of [? Hilla Costman. ?]

562

00:32:20,070 --> 00:32:26,600

And then it took me September,  
October, November, December,

563

00:32:26,600 --> 00:32:31,330

that I had to take care of him.

564

00:32:31,330 --> 00:32:32,660

He was not well.

565

00:32:32,660 --> 00:32:35,340

566

00:32:35,340 --> 00:32:37,940

Not well at all.

567

00:32:37,940 --> 00:32:44,120

And we lived together.

568

00:32:44,120 --> 00:32:49,340

And we had from the UNRRA food.

569

00:32:49,340 --> 00:32:51,230

So we didn't have to work.

570

00:32:51,230 --> 00:32:53,240

The food came.

571

00:32:53,240 --> 00:32:57,950

We were going like  
the soldiers, this--

572

00:32:57,950 --> 00:33:01,520

how you call what  
the soldier has?

573

00:33:01,520 --> 00:33:02,310

Knapsack?

574

00:33:02,310 --> 00:33:04,980

Knap-- yeah, but he  
has for the food?

575

00:33:04,980 --> 00:33:06,080

A canteen.

576

00:33:06,080 --> 00:33:07,010

A canteen.

577

00:33:07,010 --> 00:33:08,960

[? Manieshka ?] in Polish.

578

00:33:08,960 --> 00:33:11,330

So it was the canteen

we go in, because UNRRA

579

00:33:11,330 --> 00:33:16,040

gave us food, and gave

us shelter, and gave us

580

00:33:16,040 --> 00:33:21,110

even clothing.

581

00:33:21,110 --> 00:33:24,710

And we lived in that--

582

00:33:24,710 --> 00:33:27,590

this was not yet Windbichl,

because they were

583

00:33:27,590 --> 00:33:30,440

building this Windbichl for us.

584

00:33:30,440 --> 00:33:32,720

Because German soldiers

were still there.

585

00:33:32,720 --> 00:33:39,500

Anyway, and this was August '45.

586

00:33:39,500 --> 00:33:47,360

And by January '46,

we came to Windbichl

587

00:33:47,360 --> 00:33:50,690

from the other lager,

the [INAUDIBLE]..

588

00:33:50,690 --> 00:33:55,150

And there we got a

beautiful apartment,

589

00:33:55,150 --> 00:33:57,670

where everybody got a room.

590

00:33:57,670 --> 00:34:02,030

So three rooms were these  
apartments, three room.

591

00:34:02,030 --> 00:34:06,310

So in one room we lived,  
I with my husband.

592

00:34:06,310 --> 00:34:10,330

And the other, other  
parties, you know.

593

00:34:10,330 --> 00:34:12,889

And the kitchen was for us.

594

00:34:12,889 --> 00:34:17,239

But we still had from  
the UNRRA this food.

595

00:34:17,239 --> 00:34:20,010

We didn't have to work.

596

00:34:20,010 --> 00:34:25,880

And so we registered  
for going to America

597

00:34:25,880 --> 00:34:29,360

and waited for  
the quota to come.

598

00:34:29,360 --> 00:34:33,830

In the meantime, I got  
pregnant, and I gave birth

599

00:34:33,830 --> 00:34:38,750

in September '46 to  
my first son, Richard.

600

00:34:38,750 --> 00:34:41,280

601

00:34:41,280 --> 00:34:42,620

And visited [INAUDIBLE].

602

00:34:42,620 --> 00:34:52,270

We waited 3 and 1/2 years until  
we got the papers from America.

603

00:34:52,270 --> 00:34:59,944

And in November '49,  
we came to America.

604

00:34:59,944 --> 00:35:02,785

605

00:35:02,785 --> 00:35:04,160

Did you come right  
to New Jersey?

606

00:35:04,160 --> 00:35:05,750

No, we came to Boston.

607

00:35:05,750 --> 00:35:08,510

608

00:35:08,510 --> 00:35:14,810

The boat was General Ballou,  
and it was stormy weather.

609

00:35:14,810 --> 00:35:18,500

So he couldn't come to New York.

610

00:35:18,500 --> 00:35:21,680

So he anchored in Boston.

611

00:35:21,680 --> 00:35:25,190

And we were in  
Boston a few days.

612

00:35:25,190 --> 00:35:28,860  
They took us to a hotel,  
the UNRRA, everything.

613  
00:35:28,860 --> 00:35:32,030  
And from there they  
put us on a train,

614  
00:35:32,030 --> 00:35:36,080  
and we went to New  
Jersey with this train.

615  
00:35:36,080 --> 00:35:40,970  
Everybody could go wherever,  
but we had here-- my husband,

616  
00:35:40,970 --> 00:35:44,790  
I mean, we had the Zuckermanns.

617  
00:35:44,790 --> 00:35:47,360  
Bolek Zuckermann,  
Abraham Zuckermann,

618  
00:35:47,360 --> 00:35:51,480  
was my husband's  
partner in Austria.

619  
00:35:51,480 --> 00:35:55,020  
They were partners.

620  
00:35:55,020 --> 00:36:00,890  
Very nice business  
they established.

621  
00:36:00,890 --> 00:36:04,130  
They went to Germany.

622  
00:36:04,130 --> 00:36:06,680  
Not Zuckermann.

623  
00:36:06,680 --> 00:36:09,680  
My husband was the initiative.

624

00:36:09,680 --> 00:36:13,550

And he brought  
merchandise to Austria,

625

00:36:13,550 --> 00:36:18,050

where all the stores  
were empty after the war.

626

00:36:18,050 --> 00:36:23,750

Because all these years, from  
when he got better [INAUDIBLE]..

627

00:36:23,750 --> 00:36:29,720

So like in '46, from '46 to  
'49, he brought merchandise

628

00:36:29,720 --> 00:36:34,040

like scissors and  
thread, lotions,

629

00:36:34,040 --> 00:36:37,760

and he sold it to  
people in Linz.

630

00:36:37,760 --> 00:36:41,480

And this was a very  
good business, a trade.

631

00:36:41,480 --> 00:36:46,610

And from Austria, he took  
something else to Germany.

632

00:36:46,610 --> 00:36:49,260

And so he was traveling.

633

00:36:49,260 --> 00:36:52,200

And then in '45, we came.

634

00:36:52,200 --> 00:36:55,130

So we were in touch  
with the Zuckermanns.

635

00:36:55,130 --> 00:36:57,310

So they said, you  
have to come to us.

636

00:36:57,310 --> 00:37:00,290

And they lived in Newark,  
on Peshine Avenue.

637

00:37:00,290 --> 00:37:03,140

So they had a very  
big apartment.

638

00:37:03,140 --> 00:37:05,760

So we came to them,  
and we stayed.

639

00:37:05,760 --> 00:37:08,530

Though my uncle was waiting.

640

00:37:08,530 --> 00:37:09,650

Simon's uncle.

641

00:37:09,650 --> 00:37:11,120

Because I don't have.

642

00:37:11,120 --> 00:37:16,380

Simon's uncle was waiting  
on the pier when we came.

643

00:37:16,380 --> 00:37:19,070

We were in touch  
with the uncle, too.

644

00:37:19,070 --> 00:37:22,580

Because the uncle said that he  
lives in Peter Stuyvesant-- no,

645

00:37:22,580 --> 00:37:26,470

on 86th Street in  
Manhattan he lived.

646

00:37:26,470 --> 00:37:31,340

Right before we came to

America from Austria.

647

00:37:31,340 --> 00:37:34,640

So he reserved us a  
room that we should

648

00:37:34,640 --> 00:37:37,280

come to Peter Stuyvesant hotel.

649

00:37:37,280 --> 00:37:40,220

But because Bolek was  
a friend, and he said,

650

00:37:40,220 --> 00:37:42,260

no, you are not going.

651

00:37:42,260 --> 00:37:46,640

So uncle came, and he  
greeted us with a niece.

652

00:37:46,640 --> 00:37:49,070

And we stayed with them.

653

00:37:49,070 --> 00:37:52,430

He said, all right, if you want  
to stay with friends, stay.

654

00:37:52,430 --> 00:37:54,950

But remember that  
in Peter Stuyvesant

655

00:37:54,950 --> 00:37:56,210

there's a room for you.

656

00:37:56,210 --> 00:37:58,880

So we stayed two  
weeks with them.

657

00:37:58,880 --> 00:38:03,620

And then we went to uncle,  
and we stayed there.

658

00:38:03,620 --> 00:38:08,660

And we find out that  
friends what came before

659

00:38:08,660 --> 00:38:10,160

have connections.

660

00:38:10,160 --> 00:38:14,240

In '50, it was so hard to get  
apartment for the refugees,

661

00:38:14,240 --> 00:38:16,610

because a lot of people came.

662

00:38:16,610 --> 00:38:21,000

People under the table gave  
money to get an apartment.

663

00:38:21,000 --> 00:38:27,530

But we found out that the  
girlfriend what came before,

664

00:38:27,530 --> 00:38:31,880

she was living with us in  
ghetto, all the time in ghetto

665

00:38:31,880 --> 00:38:33,650

and in lager.

666

00:38:33,650 --> 00:38:35,630

We were very good friends.

667

00:38:35,630 --> 00:38:41,640

She gave us an apartment  
with her uncle on the house.

668

00:38:41,640 --> 00:38:45,320

So we went in February.

669

00:38:45,320 --> 00:38:49,970

February '50, moved to  
Brooklyn, and we lived 16 years

670

00:38:49,970 --> 00:38:52,243  
in this house.

671

00:38:52,243 --> 00:38:53,410  
And then you came back here.

672

00:38:53,410 --> 00:38:55,190  
And in 16 years--

673

00:38:55,190 --> 00:39:00,095  
after 16 years, we  
moved to Elizabeth.

674

00:39:00,095 --> 00:39:02,120  
We lived three  
years in Elizabeth.

675

00:39:02,120 --> 00:39:04,980  
And after three years, we  
bought a house in Hillside,

676

00:39:04,980 --> 00:39:06,515  
and we lived since.

677

00:39:06,515 --> 00:39:07,790  
In '65--

678

00:39:07,790 --> 00:39:09,130  
To be close to your friends.

679

00:39:09,130 --> 00:39:09,713  
Is that right?

680

00:39:09,713 --> 00:39:11,420  
Yes, right, right.

681

00:39:11,420 --> 00:39:14,680  
And my husband was  
building with them.

682

00:39:14,680 --> 00:39:17,780

683  
00:39:17,780 --> 00:39:25,425  
And there were good  
times and bad times.

684  
00:39:25,425 --> 00:39:28,040

685  
00:39:28,040 --> 00:39:29,900  
Have you been able  
to talk to your sons

686  
00:39:29,900 --> 00:39:31,820  
about your experiences?

687  
00:39:31,820 --> 00:39:33,020  
Have they asked?

688  
00:39:33,020 --> 00:39:35,030  
Yes, yes, yes.

689  
00:39:35,030 --> 00:39:38,700  
All three sons are  
interested very much,

690  
00:39:38,700 --> 00:39:40,910  
in that what we went through.

691  
00:39:40,910 --> 00:39:44,500  
And they talk even  
today, our children.

692  
00:39:44,500 --> 00:39:47,180  
That's what Yaki called me.

693  
00:39:47,180 --> 00:39:49,640  
Yakov, short-- Yaki.

694  
00:39:49,640 --> 00:39:51,590  
And this is a wonderful boy.

695

00:39:51,590 --> 00:39:54,645

He is so intelligent  
and so educated.

696

00:39:54,645 --> 00:39:56,690

As a matter of  
fact, he's going--

697

00:39:56,690 --> 00:39:58,430

16 years he's only.

698

00:39:58,430 --> 00:40:01,700

He finished college--  
he finished high school,

699

00:40:01,700 --> 00:40:05,664

and he applied  
for four colleges.

700

00:40:05,664 --> 00:40:13,300

701

00:40:13,300 --> 00:40:18,740

And he was accepted  
Penn and Cornell,

702

00:40:18,740 --> 00:40:20,360

and he waits for Princeton.

703

00:40:20,360 --> 00:40:24,680

Because his father finished  
from Princeton, my son Richard.

704

00:40:24,680 --> 00:40:27,890

So he hopes that he  
will get into Princeton.

705

00:40:27,890 --> 00:40:31,710

I hope, too, because he  
will be very close to us.

706

00:40:31,710 --> 00:40:34,940

So he could come  
for Shabbos to us.

707  
00:40:34,940 --> 00:40:38,540  
What professions did  
your sons go into?

708  
00:40:38,540 --> 00:40:41,450  
My son-- mathematician.

709  
00:40:41,450 --> 00:40:45,950  
My second son is  
an accountant, CPA.

710  
00:40:45,950 --> 00:40:52,370  
And my son is in advertising.

711  
00:40:52,370 --> 00:40:54,280  
He has a good job, my son.

712  
00:40:54,280 --> 00:40:59,100  
The youngest one is divorced,  
and he lives with me.

713  
00:40:59,100 --> 00:41:05,700  
And the middle son, the CPA,  
is in New York in Suffolk.

714  
00:41:05,700 --> 00:41:07,910  
And the oldest is in Rochester.

715  
00:41:07,910 --> 00:41:13,770  
And he has a very, very  
good position there.

716  
00:41:13,770 --> 00:41:25,950  
He is a head of the  
department of computers.

717  
00:41:25,950 --> 00:41:32,760  
He has a budget of  
\$20 million to spend.

718

00:41:32,760 --> 00:41:40,080

And all the computer  
section is under his orders.

719

00:41:40,080 --> 00:41:44,450

He has a lot of people  
working for him, secretaries.

720

00:41:44,450 --> 00:41:51,460

He is very well  
liked, very well.

721

00:41:51,460 --> 00:41:53,640

And he's very religious.

722

00:41:53,640 --> 00:41:56,510

He never goes without a hat.

723

00:41:56,510 --> 00:41:59,260

Always with a [INAUDIBLE].

724

00:41:59,260 --> 00:42:00,920

And I am proud of it.

725

00:42:00,920 --> 00:42:02,870

He's religious.

726

00:42:02,870 --> 00:42:05,880

And he has a position,  
I tell you the truth,

727

00:42:05,880 --> 00:42:09,840

that only in America,  
I have to say.

728

00:42:09,840 --> 00:42:16,340

I don't know the whole America,  
but I know the three states,

729

00:42:16,340 --> 00:42:19,140

like Jersey, New  
York, and Connecticut.

730  
00:42:19,140 --> 00:42:23,010  
I can be proud that  
he as a religious man

731  
00:42:23,010 --> 00:42:26,520  
has a position that he  
has, that in Poland he

732  
00:42:26,520 --> 00:42:32,670  
would never be able to hold  
this position as a Jew.

733  
00:42:32,670 --> 00:42:35,320  
Have you gone back since  
the end of the war?

734  
00:42:35,320 --> 00:42:38,326  
No, I don't go back.

735  
00:42:38,326 --> 00:42:41,860  
My husband mentioned,  
just before he was sick,

736  
00:42:41,860 --> 00:42:44,350  
he said maybe we'll go and see.

737  
00:42:44,350 --> 00:42:46,770  
I said, I don't  
want to see them.

738  
00:42:46,770 --> 00:42:50,730  
And anyway, until this year,  
what they made up with Israel

739  
00:42:50,730 --> 00:42:55,230  
that they are now  
in friendly terms,

740  
00:42:55,230 --> 00:42:57,600  
they don't want  
to have the Jews.

741

00:42:57,600 --> 00:43:01,290

Because after the war,  
Jews would come back

742

00:43:01,290 --> 00:43:02,470

to their country.

743

00:43:02,470 --> 00:43:04,940

This was where I was  
born, where I was raised.

744

00:43:04,940 --> 00:43:09,090

745

00:43:09,090 --> 00:43:13,640

All my life was Polish,  
and they didn't want us.

746

00:43:13,640 --> 00:43:19,770

So it was no other way but  
to look for another country.

747

00:43:19,770 --> 00:43:22,070

But I love very much America.

748

00:43:22,070 --> 00:43:29,630

And I really see and say  
only good things here.

749

00:43:29,630 --> 00:43:34,170

Though I am always with my heart  
in Israel because I'm Jewish

750

00:43:34,170 --> 00:43:36,600

and I love Israel, too.

751

00:43:36,600 --> 00:43:39,600

I sort of have two countries--

752

00:43:39,600 --> 00:43:42,780

Israel and America.

753

00:43:42,780 --> 00:43:47,100

Is there anything you  
want to say in conclusion?

754

00:43:47,100 --> 00:43:53,030

I would mention that I  
appreciate my husband, that he

755

00:43:53,030 --> 00:43:55,040

wanted to come to America.

756

00:43:55,040 --> 00:44:01,100

I really-- because as  
I said, it's freedom,

757

00:44:01,100 --> 00:44:05,390

and I could give my  
children a good education.

758

00:44:05,390 --> 00:44:08,390

And I love America.

759

00:44:08,390 --> 00:44:11,210

It's like my country.

760

00:44:11,210 --> 00:44:18,740

And I love Israel,  
because this is my state.

761

00:44:18,740 --> 00:44:23,480

And I appreciate that you  
asked me to tell my story.

762

00:44:23,480 --> 00:44:30,480

So it will be like for my  
family to leave when I go.

763

00:44:30,480 --> 00:44:37,470

So they will always can hear my  
voice, and know my life story.

764

00:44:37,470 --> 00:44:39,620

Thank you very much,  
Mrs. Mandelbaum.

765  
00:44:39,620 --> 00:44:41,770  
I appreciate--

766  
00:44:41,770 --> 00:44:43,000