

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:28,680

2
00:00:28,680 --> 00:00:30,600
Mr. Laks, please continue.

3
00:00:30,600 --> 00:00:31,635
Thank you.

4
00:00:31,635 --> 00:00:33,120
Dr. Weinstein.

5
00:00:33,120 --> 00:00:38,460
I forgot to mention why I
was going from Plas back

6
00:00:38,460 --> 00:00:40,200
to Mauthausen.

7
00:00:40,200 --> 00:00:46,890
I was very much in need to let
to know my sister in the United

8
00:00:46,890 --> 00:00:52,260
States that I was
a life until '45.

9
00:00:52,260 --> 00:00:54,780
I wasn't thinking I will be--

10
00:00:54,780 --> 00:00:57,390
I will live too,
but it helped me

11
00:00:57,390 --> 00:01:00,810
that no trace would
remain after me.

12
00:01:00,810 --> 00:01:05,880
Nobody will know where
I disappeared, how long,

13
00:01:05,880 --> 00:01:08,100
but it was only a wish.

14
00:01:08,100 --> 00:01:09,570
I couldn't communicate.

15
00:01:09,570 --> 00:01:16,230
And I was-- and I was thinking
how could we help ourselves?

16
00:01:16,230 --> 00:01:20,160
Here we knew any
day, and here we

17
00:01:20,160 --> 00:01:24,150
don't know if we'll
be able to talk

18
00:01:24,150 --> 00:01:27,750
by itself was very painful.

19
00:01:27,750 --> 00:01:32,370
And after liberation,
the disappointment.

20
00:01:32,370 --> 00:01:36,780
We always were
thinking about a man.

21
00:01:36,780 --> 00:01:40,214
Since the beginning
of the war we

22
00:01:40,214 --> 00:01:46,140
were like dreaming about the
defeat of Hitler in Germany,

23
00:01:46,140 --> 00:01:51,150
and now this wish came true.

24
00:01:51,150 --> 00:01:58,150

We should have been very chill
from this, but we weren't.

25
00:01:58,150 --> 00:02:00,340
I wasn't.

26
00:02:00,340 --> 00:02:09,039
I remember there was a sense of
helplessness, a sense who I am,

27
00:02:09,039 --> 00:02:10,289
where do I go.

28
00:02:10,289 --> 00:02:15,810
We knew that we don't
have anybody in our homes.

29
00:02:15,810 --> 00:02:17,040
Oh, let's see.

30
00:02:17,040 --> 00:02:21,570
In the beginning when I
didn't know that I had a home,

31
00:02:21,570 --> 00:02:26,230
everybody wanted to go back
to the home where ever it is

32
00:02:26,230 --> 00:02:31,030
and to get there, but
there was still home.

33
00:02:31,030 --> 00:02:36,510
But in '45, we knew there's
nothing left for us anymore.

34
00:02:36,510 --> 00:02:45,360
The people, their families,
and this and all of a sudden I

35
00:02:45,360 --> 00:02:50,010
find myself without--

36

00:02:50,010 --> 00:02:53,700

how to say not knowing
what I'm going to do.

37

00:02:53,700 --> 00:02:55,470

No resources.

38

00:02:55,470 --> 00:03:00,180

No, not thinking
that with what--

39

00:03:00,180 --> 00:03:03,930

I didn't know how to decide
for myself, to take--

40

00:03:03,930 --> 00:03:06,330

to make decisions.

41

00:03:06,330 --> 00:03:08,705

Before when I was
in camp, I said

42

00:03:08,705 --> 00:03:12,780

when I'm going to be free then
I can sleep wherever I want.

43

00:03:12,780 --> 00:03:14,010

I can sleep outside.

44

00:03:14,010 --> 00:03:17,970

I can go in a field and
dig out a potato and eat.

45

00:03:17,970 --> 00:03:19,860

I love potatoes, anything.

46

00:03:19,860 --> 00:03:21,570

I wouldn't be hungry.

47

00:03:21,570 --> 00:03:27,510

But then you saw there
are different needs.

48
00:03:27,510 --> 00:03:36,050
I didn't have clothing, and
then because I was naked.

49
00:03:36,050 --> 00:03:39,900
And then I got some
jacket, I think, this was

50
00:03:39,900 --> 00:03:42,705
and a romper, and
that's all and a shirt.

51
00:03:42,705 --> 00:03:46,290

52
00:03:46,290 --> 00:03:50,140
And I had to decide
simple what to do,

53
00:03:50,140 --> 00:03:54,900
and then this is why I went
from one place to another.

54
00:03:54,900 --> 00:03:58,800
And I was in
Bratislava, and the girl

55
00:03:58,800 --> 00:04:02,160
told me that I had sisters.

56
00:04:02,160 --> 00:04:08,520
My aim was to unite with them,
to go back and see them again,

57
00:04:08,520 --> 00:04:10,170
to live with them.

58
00:04:10,170 --> 00:04:15,480
So then we went
to Prague, and we

59

00:04:15,480 --> 00:04:21,209
got from the Polish
committee some document

60
00:04:21,209 --> 00:04:23,190
to travel back to Prague.

61
00:04:23,190 --> 00:04:30,750
But I want to say the people in
Czechoslovakia were so great.

62
00:04:30,750 --> 00:04:33,090
They set up kitchens.

63
00:04:33,090 --> 00:04:34,900
They fed people.

64
00:04:34,900 --> 00:04:39,330
They saw people
should where to sleep.

65
00:04:39,330 --> 00:04:42,180
They did really right.

66
00:04:42,180 --> 00:04:48,870
I mean thousands and thousands
people went through both ways

67
00:04:48,870 --> 00:04:50,040
from--

68
00:04:50,040 --> 00:04:55,050
let's see-- from East
to not the opposite,

69
00:04:55,050 --> 00:04:59,190
from Poland to Greece.

70
00:04:59,190 --> 00:05:03,210
There were a lot of people in
Poland from other countries,

71

00:05:03,210 --> 00:05:05,740
and they cared for people.

72
00:05:05,740 --> 00:05:13,480
So I was there a few days, and
I got even some-- in Bratislava,

73
00:05:13,480 --> 00:05:16,890
we got some money from
the Jewish committee.

74
00:05:16,890 --> 00:05:22,960
And we got a meal a day
and same thing in Prague.

75
00:05:22,960 --> 00:05:28,150
And I set out to go back to
Poland and then back to--

76
00:05:28,150 --> 00:05:33,050
and on the station
in Prague, we met

77
00:05:33,050 --> 00:05:35,650
a lot of people who
are coming from Poland.

78
00:05:35,650 --> 00:05:39,660
They told us there was the
[NON-ENGLISH] on the pogroms

79
00:05:39,660 --> 00:05:42,800
that they were killing Jews.

80
00:05:42,800 --> 00:05:49,360
And many said this
in Poland, but I

81
00:05:49,360 --> 00:05:53,080
wanted to be with my sisters.

82
00:05:53,080 --> 00:05:59,610
So I remember passing

the Polish border,

83

00:05:59,610 --> 00:06:05,920

the Polish soldiers
came, and I had--

84

00:06:05,920 --> 00:06:11,350

what I had is a few blankets
from Mauthausen they gave us.

85

00:06:11,350 --> 00:06:13,180

Then I had the luggage.

86

00:06:13,180 --> 00:06:17,680

He took me off the train
and took me in, and then

87

00:06:17,680 --> 00:06:24,160

started to ask me if I
do contraband, gold this.

88

00:06:24,160 --> 00:06:27,860

He took away my blanket,
and I started to talk.

89

00:06:27,860 --> 00:06:29,140

He threatened me.

90

00:06:29,140 --> 00:06:33,130

If you talk, we took
you to work brigade.

91

00:06:33,130 --> 00:06:35,740

92

00:06:35,740 --> 00:06:40,390

I went through, and then
it was I felt like you

93

00:06:40,390 --> 00:06:42,620

know what I'm doing here.

94

00:06:42,620 --> 00:06:47,890

On the boat they said
they had big signs

95

00:06:47,890 --> 00:06:51,940

we greeting
yesterday's business,

96

00:06:51,940 --> 00:06:58,765

and you are now the like--

97

00:06:58,765 --> 00:07:01,810

98

00:07:01,810 --> 00:07:04,660

how would this be in English?

99

00:07:04,660 --> 00:07:11,260

You now the subjects of free
country, something like this.

100

00:07:11,260 --> 00:07:17,110

They had that sign, a
greeting sign for those,

101

00:07:17,110 --> 00:07:20,590

because thousands-- hundreds
of thousands Pollacks

102

00:07:20,590 --> 00:07:24,060

came back and went
to the station.

103

00:07:24,060 --> 00:07:28,240

So I went through
channels to Harvard.

104

00:07:28,240 --> 00:07:33,000

This man that told me to
actually look for my sister.

105

00:07:33,000 --> 00:07:39,040

And I didn't have where to go

to start, and I walk through--

106
00:07:39,040 --> 00:07:43,280
I remember still [? Garibaldi ?]
was the street where

107
00:07:43,280 --> 00:07:45,670
the Jewish people settled.

108
00:07:45,670 --> 00:07:46,180
I asked.

109
00:07:46,180 --> 00:07:48,730
They told me there is a kibbutz.

110
00:07:48,730 --> 00:07:52,870
I went in the kibbutz,
and I saw religious girls

111
00:07:52,870 --> 00:07:54,070
staying and praying.

112
00:07:54,070 --> 00:07:56,620
I said my sisters are not there.

113
00:07:56,620 --> 00:07:57,160
I asked.

114
00:07:57,160 --> 00:07:58,990
Nobody answered me.

115
00:07:58,990 --> 00:08:01,890
Then I went to the
Jewish committee,

116
00:08:01,890 --> 00:08:10,120
and from the committee I got
a loaf of bread, some sugar,

117
00:08:10,120 --> 00:08:15,280
and they gave me a free
ticket to go farther.

118
00:08:15,280 --> 00:08:18,710
And I got to know
that my sisters--

119
00:08:18,710 --> 00:08:22,360
someone who was the
leader of the kibbutz

120
00:08:22,360 --> 00:08:29,350
told me that my sisters left,
and we can go to Danzig.

121
00:08:29,350 --> 00:08:31,205
They founded there a kibbutz.

122
00:08:31,205 --> 00:08:35,020

123
00:08:35,020 --> 00:08:40,580
And my younger sister was
a few days before she left.

124
00:08:40,580 --> 00:08:42,280
Now I didn't think twice.

125
00:08:42,280 --> 00:08:46,960
I took my love package,
and I went to the station.

126
00:08:46,960 --> 00:08:49,780

127
00:08:49,780 --> 00:08:53,970
And conditions to go
there were terrible.

128
00:08:53,970 --> 00:08:55,660
Trains were packed.

129
00:08:55,660 --> 00:09:02,440
You couldn't go in, but to go

to Danzig, I had to go to Lodz.

130
00:09:02,440 --> 00:09:05,230

131
00:09:05,230 --> 00:09:10,090
in Lodz, I had to walk over
to a different station.

132
00:09:10,090 --> 00:09:15,670
And from there we supposed
to get the train to Danzig.

133
00:09:15,670 --> 00:09:18,240
I came was night, late.

134
00:09:18,240 --> 00:09:22,130
So when the train
came, we're through.

135
00:09:22,130 --> 00:09:25,500
There's no way to get inside.

136
00:09:25,500 --> 00:09:31,510
So the people were standing
on the steps holding on.

137
00:09:31,510 --> 00:09:37,000
I settled myself on a bumper
between two railroad cars,

138
00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:40,480
and I was traveling like this.

139
00:09:40,480 --> 00:09:46,960
And there was a little
steel plate where

140
00:09:46,960 --> 00:09:49,990
they used to put the lamps.

141
00:09:49,990 --> 00:09:54,190

In Poland, they used to
have those kerosene lamps.

142
00:09:54,190 --> 00:09:55,990
And it was very narrow.

143
00:09:55,990 --> 00:09:57,850
And I was sitting there.

144
00:09:57,850 --> 00:10:03,130
But at night, when you travel,
you tend to fall asleep.

145
00:10:03,130 --> 00:10:07,290
Every time, I close
my eyes I woke up

146
00:10:07,290 --> 00:10:11,590
because I knew the minute I will
fall asleep I wouldn't hold on.

147
00:10:11,590 --> 00:10:15,790
And I can fall between the two--

148
00:10:15,790 --> 00:10:17,760
fall down.

149
00:10:17,760 --> 00:10:24,040
So this how I traveled
all night long.

150
00:10:24,040 --> 00:10:30,940
And in the morning, after
people got off, I got to--

151
00:10:30,940 --> 00:10:32,530
I managed to get--

152
00:10:32,530 --> 00:10:37,160
I don't know how you call
it, a place where they have

153

00:10:37,160 --> 00:10:40,052
the breaks for the little--

154
00:10:40,052 --> 00:10:41,620
from the train.

155
00:10:41,620 --> 00:10:47,080
There, they used to
have like a little--

156
00:10:47,080 --> 00:10:52,150
it's not-- a person
could stand there.

157
00:10:52,150 --> 00:10:56,210
And there was a wheel
where they used to break.

158
00:10:56,210 --> 00:10:58,660
So I managed to get in there.

159
00:10:58,660 --> 00:11:01,930
And I traveled
this way to Danzig.

160
00:11:01,930 --> 00:11:06,100
And about afternoon, we got--

161
00:11:06,100 --> 00:11:07,300
it wasn't Danzig.

162
00:11:07,300 --> 00:11:13,030
Was Brzesc, was a
town near Danzig,

163
00:11:13,030 --> 00:11:15,080
where they told me this is.

164
00:11:15,080 --> 00:11:17,090
And I got off the station.

165
00:11:17,090 --> 00:11:19,510

And I asked to go
to the committee

166
00:11:19,510 --> 00:11:24,600
because an address
for Jewish people

167
00:11:24,600 --> 00:11:27,100
was always a Jewish committee.

168
00:11:27,100 --> 00:11:31,680
After the war, in the
big cities, they set up.

169
00:11:31,680 --> 00:11:36,610
And there they used to
give food and luggage.

170
00:11:36,610 --> 00:11:39,890
This was the only address
was for the Jewish people.

171
00:11:39,890 --> 00:11:41,740
So I went to the committee.

172
00:11:41,740 --> 00:11:46,240
And happened that two girls
from the kibbutz worked there.

173
00:11:46,240 --> 00:11:51,460
And there was, oh,
everybody knew is a good--

174
00:11:51,460 --> 00:11:55,220
[INAUDIBLE] the three
sisters' brothers came.

175
00:11:55,220 --> 00:11:57,770
And this was early
for Rosh Hashanah.

176
00:11:57,770 --> 00:11:59,680
And I got there

for [NON-ENGLISH]..

177

00:11:59,680 --> 00:12:02,080

Then I was really happy.

178

00:12:02,080 --> 00:12:06,790

But I was a little disappointed
that they were in my kibbutz,

179

00:12:06,790 --> 00:12:09,070

you know, in life.

180

00:12:09,070 --> 00:12:13,310

But I joined, too.

181

00:12:13,310 --> 00:12:19,510

And in Danzig, we started
to learn Hebrew and prepare

182

00:12:19,510 --> 00:12:20,470

to go to Israel.

183

00:12:20,470 --> 00:12:27,280

We worked on the harbor
with buildings and this.

184

00:12:27,280 --> 00:12:32,330

They tried to gave us
places where to work to.

185

00:12:32,330 --> 00:12:40,020

And we stayed there
until like November.

186

00:12:40,020 --> 00:12:43,300

November, we went back
to Czechoslovakia.

187

00:12:43,300 --> 00:12:45,550

Can I ask you why
you were disappointed

188

00:12:45,550 --> 00:12:47,020
that they were there?

189
00:12:47,020 --> 00:12:47,910
I don't know.

190
00:12:47,910 --> 00:12:52,775
I was thinking of a home
to be together the first.

191
00:12:52,775 --> 00:12:54,150
But then I got used.

192
00:12:54,150 --> 00:12:56,440
This was only the first moment.

193
00:12:56,440 --> 00:12:57,680
Yes.

194
00:12:57,680 --> 00:13:03,200
I thought I'll be-- we'll
have a home, and the sisters.

195
00:13:03,200 --> 00:13:06,250
But they didn't
have a home either.

196
00:13:06,250 --> 00:13:08,580
They couldn't
provide me with one.

197
00:13:08,580 --> 00:13:15,040
And a lot of youngsters
joined a kibbutzim.

198
00:13:15,040 --> 00:13:18,390
They were all over in
Poland after the war.

199
00:13:18,390 --> 00:13:23,440
And there was like
an organization

200

00:13:23,440 --> 00:13:28,740

who directed the people
across the borders to Germany.

201

00:13:28,740 --> 00:13:30,880

And they organized kibbutzim.

202

00:13:30,880 --> 00:13:37,300

Bricha was called, who
was preparing people

203

00:13:37,300 --> 00:13:39,280

to go to Palestine.

204

00:13:39,280 --> 00:13:41,320

Was it connected with
the Agudat Yisrael?

205

00:13:41,320 --> 00:13:43,570

No, no, no, was leftist.

206

00:13:43,570 --> 00:13:44,380

Oh.

207

00:13:44,380 --> 00:13:48,880

Was-- later, would become
Hashomer Hatzair, left of left.

208

00:13:48,880 --> 00:13:50,100

Yeah.

209

00:13:50,100 --> 00:13:51,850

[INAUDIBLE]

210

00:13:51,850 --> 00:13:54,620

So then it wasn't yet.

211

00:13:54,620 --> 00:13:59,160

But later, it was together
with another organization.

212

00:13:59,160 --> 00:14:01,820
Well, it was from HeHalutz.

213
00:14:01,820 --> 00:14:05,970
But in Germany,
then they separated.

214
00:14:05,970 --> 00:14:08,740
They became the other--

215
00:14:08,740 --> 00:14:14,040
some of the people went to
the war, a different kibbutz.

216
00:14:14,040 --> 00:14:18,250
And we were in Hashomer Hatzair.

217
00:14:18,250 --> 00:14:24,010
But then we had to travel
to back to Slovakia.

218
00:14:24,010 --> 00:14:27,720
So they gave us a
group ticket like,

219
00:14:27,720 --> 00:14:32,890
with papers that we
are Greek refugees.

220
00:14:32,890 --> 00:14:37,530
They taught us even to say
[NON-ENGLISH],, good morning.

221
00:14:37,530 --> 00:14:40,190
[NON-ENGLISH].

222
00:14:40,190 --> 00:14:43,440
And places from where we are.

223
00:14:43,440 --> 00:14:45,650
A few words in
Greek they taught.

224

00:14:45,650 --> 00:14:46,650

I still remember.

225

00:14:46,650 --> 00:14:50,560

226

00:14:50,560 --> 00:14:54,940

And we got-- we were supposed
to have gone to Prague.

227

00:14:54,940 --> 00:14:57,490

I don't know, for
some reason we wind up

228

00:14:57,490 --> 00:15:01,344

in Bratislava, back in this.

229

00:15:01,344 --> 00:15:06,130

And in Bratislava, we came
to the Hotel [? Yellen ?]

230

00:15:06,130 --> 00:15:07,780

in Platz [PLACE NAME].

231

00:15:07,780 --> 00:15:11,230

It was a big square
there where this hotel

232

00:15:11,230 --> 00:15:16,350

was situated, where they--
it was for refugees.

233

00:15:16,350 --> 00:15:18,010

And there we stayed--

234

00:15:18,010 --> 00:15:19,820

I don't-- a day or two.

235

00:15:19,820 --> 00:15:23,350

And then we went to
[? Karlsbratt. ?]

236

00:15:23,350 --> 00:15:27,385

And from there, they
took us at night by foot

237

00:15:27,385 --> 00:15:30,070

to the German border.

238

00:15:30,070 --> 00:15:33,350

And we went-- what is that?

239

00:15:33,350 --> 00:15:37,080

I don't remember the
town that we got at.

240

00:15:37,080 --> 00:15:43,200

But we had to go by-- the
bricha took us over to Germany.

241

00:15:43,200 --> 00:15:46,190

And then from there, we
went to [? Minhen, ?]

242

00:15:46,190 --> 00:15:50,070

in the [? museum. ?]
We stayed a few days.

243

00:15:50,070 --> 00:15:56,840

And from there, we
went to Wittenberg.

244

00:15:56,840 --> 00:15:58,760

After Ulm, a town--

245

00:15:58,760 --> 00:16:00,940

what was the name of it?

246

00:16:00,940 --> 00:16:03,120

I have it someplace.

247

00:16:03,120 --> 00:16:08,810

And I think I have it someplace.

248

00:16:08,810 --> 00:16:10,270

At this moment,
I cannot remind--

249

00:16:10,270 --> 00:16:10,770

Yeah.

250

00:16:10,770 --> 00:16:13,730

I-- it's not on
your questionnaire.

251

00:16:13,730 --> 00:16:14,290

Yeah.

252

00:16:14,290 --> 00:16:15,650

But we went there.

253

00:16:15,650 --> 00:16:20,210

In this place in this town,
we stayed in the former SS

254

00:16:20,210 --> 00:16:22,580

barrack, military barracks.

255

00:16:22,580 --> 00:16:27,470

And after this, we were
transferred to [? Yodenbach. ?]

256

00:16:27,470 --> 00:16:30,180

This was--

257

00:16:30,180 --> 00:16:34,700

it was [INAUDIBLE],, a sanatorium
for the recuperating SS

258

00:16:34,700 --> 00:16:39,470

and the administrate--

259

00:16:39,470 --> 00:16:44,120

the German-- Catholic
nuns administrate.

260

00:16:44,120 --> 00:16:52,400

I mean, they were the one who
cared for this sanatorium.

261

00:16:52,400 --> 00:16:55,330

And there, we learned Hebrew.

262

00:16:55,330 --> 00:17:03,870

And we had-- we prepared
ourselves to go to Palestine

263

00:17:03,870 --> 00:17:08,319

with Jewish history, Hebrew.

264

00:17:08,319 --> 00:17:12,530

And we worked a little
bit because they

265

00:17:12,530 --> 00:17:18,490

wanted us to try to be
prepared to physical work

266

00:17:18,490 --> 00:17:20,329

for the kibbutz.

267

00:17:20,329 --> 00:17:23,750

And then they--

268

00:17:23,750 --> 00:17:27,560

I was there-- oh,
when I was there,

269

00:17:27,560 --> 00:17:30,140

I went with my sister Golda.

270

00:17:30,140 --> 00:17:35,120

We traveled to the [INAUDIBLE]----
this is the Swiss border--

271

00:17:35,120 --> 00:17:38,770

to see our uncle
from Switzerland.

272
00:17:38,770 --> 00:17:41,540
We started to write to him.

273
00:17:41,540 --> 00:17:46,730
But we couldn't meet
because I could see him

274
00:17:46,730 --> 00:17:48,710
from the other side border.

275
00:17:48,710 --> 00:17:55,240
He wasn't Swiss, and he
didn't have Swiss citizenship.

276
00:17:55,240 --> 00:17:59,070
So those who didn't have,
they wouldn't let them out.

277
00:17:59,070 --> 00:18:04,000
So we were talking like was
hundreds of people far away.

278
00:18:04,000 --> 00:18:05,722
I could see him from far away.

279
00:18:05,722 --> 00:18:08,840
And he had some
suitcase with things,

280
00:18:08,840 --> 00:18:11,110
but we couldn't take it.

281
00:18:11,110 --> 00:18:16,560
We were very disappointed
we couldn't see him.

282
00:18:16,560 --> 00:18:20,060
And there in [? Yodenbach, ?]
I found another cousin

283
00:18:20,060 --> 00:18:23,240

from France.

284

00:18:23,240 --> 00:18:28,760

She lived in France, in Metz.

285

00:18:28,760 --> 00:18:33,170

Two administrator from
the [? Judenrat, ?]

286

00:18:33,170 --> 00:18:34,130

I don't know how--

287

00:18:34,130 --> 00:18:35,780

I talked.

288

00:18:35,780 --> 00:18:39,350

And he knew--

289

00:18:39,350 --> 00:18:42,260

I think his father
came from Zmigra³d, too.

290

00:18:42,260 --> 00:18:45,350

And I told him I
had cousins in Metz.

291

00:18:45,350 --> 00:18:47,860

He told me about this cousin.

292

00:18:47,860 --> 00:18:50,980

And we got in
contact with Esther.

293

00:18:50,980 --> 00:18:53,620

She lived in Metz.

294

00:18:53,620 --> 00:19:00,920

But about in March,
the end of March, we--

295

00:19:00,920 --> 00:19:04,610

they selected people,

like a group of 10 people,

296
00:19:04,610 --> 00:19:07,160
to go to Israel.

297
00:19:07,160 --> 00:19:11,480
So we traveled back to Austria.

298
00:19:11,480 --> 00:19:20,990
And then in-- with
[INAUDIBLE] trucks,

299
00:19:20,990 --> 00:19:24,260
it looked like American
military trucks, this

300
00:19:24,260 --> 00:19:27,920
how we passed the border.

301
00:19:27,920 --> 00:19:34,430
And from Austria, we
went to Innsbruck.

302
00:19:34,430 --> 00:19:37,420
From Innsbruck, this
was near the Alps.

303
00:19:37,420 --> 00:19:40,010
Then we stayed there.

304
00:19:40,010 --> 00:19:46,396
And in a day or two, I don't
remember how long until we

305
00:19:46,396 --> 00:19:47,670
were--

306
00:19:47,670 --> 00:19:50,990
they put us again
on the same trucks.

307
00:19:50,990 --> 00:19:56,780

And we went through the Alps,
the border between Austria

308
00:19:56,780 --> 00:20:00,620
and Italy to Milano.

309
00:20:00,620 --> 00:20:02,990
This was the first town.

310
00:20:02,990 --> 00:20:06,620
But this is the
famous Brenner Pass.

311
00:20:06,620 --> 00:20:07,460
Yes.

312
00:20:07,460 --> 00:20:11,015
And when you go down
from the mountains,

313
00:20:11,015 --> 00:20:13,790
and you look down Milano, this--

314
00:20:13,790 --> 00:20:18,450
and some-- I'll never
forget the sight.

315
00:20:18,450 --> 00:20:20,690
It was in the spring.

316
00:20:20,690 --> 00:20:23,780
And they had a lot
of citrus wood.

317
00:20:23,780 --> 00:20:26,470
Every turn, it was blossoming.

318
00:20:26,470 --> 00:20:30,310
Was so beautiful.

319
00:20:30,310 --> 00:20:33,280
I'll remember this always.

320
00:20:33,280 --> 00:20:37,440
And in Milano, we stayed
over Saturday there.

321
00:20:37,440 --> 00:20:39,340
And they had the
house, the bricha.

322
00:20:39,340 --> 00:20:44,890

323
00:20:44,890 --> 00:20:47,030
And-- oh, I forgot.

324
00:20:47,030 --> 00:20:53,480
In Austria, we got united
with a group from our kibbutz

325
00:20:53,480 --> 00:20:55,390
who remained in Danzig.

326
00:20:55,390 --> 00:20:58,510
And they had traveled--
they weren't in Germany.

327
00:20:58,510 --> 00:21:00,850
But they traveled from Poland.

328
00:21:00,850 --> 00:21:04,000
And I had a cousin there, too.

329
00:21:04,000 --> 00:21:06,880
And we got united,
and we went together.

330
00:21:06,880 --> 00:21:10,610
They went with us
together to Italy.

331
00:21:10,610 --> 00:21:13,700
And from Milano,

we went to Milano.

332
00:21:13,700 --> 00:21:15,430
We stayed there.

333
00:21:15,430 --> 00:21:19,030
And it was the Jewish
committee, too.

334
00:21:19,030 --> 00:21:22,780
We slept on the floor
a few days until the--

335
00:21:22,780 --> 00:21:26,110
and after this, they
sent us to Tradate.

336
00:21:26,110 --> 00:21:29,055
This was a camp from the bricha.

337
00:21:29,055 --> 00:21:39,640
It was like estate, with a lot
of grounds and a big building.

338
00:21:39,640 --> 00:21:41,230
And we stayed there.

339
00:21:41,230 --> 00:21:44,200
And you couldn't
leave this camp.

340
00:21:44,200 --> 00:21:47,620
It was like a military regime.

341
00:21:47,620 --> 00:21:52,240
And we were all waiting
to get on boats to Israel.

342
00:21:52,240 --> 00:21:54,250
How long did you stay there?

343
00:21:54,250 --> 00:21:56,560

Well, we-- I stayed longer.

344
00:21:56,560 --> 00:22:01,015
But my group left,
I think was in July.

345
00:22:01,015 --> 00:22:03,810

346
00:22:03,810 --> 00:22:08,590
And they went to--

347
00:22:08,590 --> 00:22:11,050
I forgot which one.

348
00:22:11,050 --> 00:22:14,680
[INAUDIBLE] was
the-- a big boat.

349
00:22:14,680 --> 00:22:16,830
And they went to Israel.

350
00:22:16,830 --> 00:22:23,710
But my sisters-- [? Hava ?]
had a boyfriend who got sick

351
00:22:23,710 --> 00:22:26,090
just before the group left.

352
00:22:26,090 --> 00:22:29,470
And he was transferred
to the hospital.

353
00:22:29,470 --> 00:22:32,370
So I on mine returned.

354
00:22:32,370 --> 00:22:36,540
There was another
boy who was sick.

355
00:22:36,540 --> 00:22:41,830
And he got the appendix

but in a bed already.

356
00:22:41,830 --> 00:22:45,280
It was already in--

357
00:22:45,280 --> 00:22:46,840
how do you say-- in the--

358
00:22:46,840 --> 00:22:48,790
not in the beginning
of the stage.

359
00:22:48,790 --> 00:22:50,410
It was an advanced stage.

360
00:22:50,410 --> 00:22:52,210
Advanced stage.

361
00:22:52,210 --> 00:22:56,990
And he-- this boy, [? Moishe ?]
[? Kleinman, ?] from--

362
00:22:56,990 --> 00:23:00,370
he was from [? Klentz-- ?]
from [? Keltza. ?] He was

363
00:23:00,370 --> 00:23:06,916
in our group, a very gifted boy.

364
00:23:06,916 --> 00:23:09,550
And he had a sense of humor.

365
00:23:09,550 --> 00:23:13,700
And we stayed with him.

366
00:23:13,700 --> 00:23:19,240
And the whole group
left for Palestine.

367
00:23:19,240 --> 00:23:21,920
And he was in hospital.

368

00:23:21,920 --> 00:23:25,840

And we thought he is
already almost recovered.

369

00:23:25,840 --> 00:23:29,970

All of a sudden,
he got sick again.

370

00:23:29,970 --> 00:23:34,010

And he got a bad infection.

371

00:23:34,010 --> 00:23:35,770

They operated there.

372

00:23:35,770 --> 00:23:38,060

I guess this was--

373

00:23:38,060 --> 00:23:40,660

Tradate was a small town.

374

00:23:40,660 --> 00:23:45,550

And they operated, I remember,
like Saturday afternoon, Sunday

375

00:23:45,550 --> 00:23:46,450

morning.

376

00:23:46,450 --> 00:23:48,390

He died almost in our hands.

377

00:23:48,390 --> 00:23:54,160

We were standing next to
him, and he passed away.

378

00:23:54,160 --> 00:23:56,830

And he said to me--
to us, if I will

379

00:23:56,830 --> 00:23:59,120

get to Palestine, [INAUDIBLE].

380

00:23:59,120 --> 00:24:01,660

381

00:24:01,660 --> 00:24:03,235

He was already--

382

00:24:03,235 --> 00:24:07,630

I mean, he knew, because
he had high temperature.

383

00:24:07,630 --> 00:24:09,810

The doctors gave up.

384

00:24:09,810 --> 00:24:14,395

They opened up, and
it was all infected.

385

00:24:14,395 --> 00:24:17,760

And he was buried in Milano.

386

00:24:17,760 --> 00:24:20,780

And there's a story to it.

387

00:24:20,780 --> 00:24:24,640

He had a brother who was
with him in [PLACE NAME]..

388

00:24:24,640 --> 00:24:26,840

He knew he is alive.

389

00:24:26,840 --> 00:24:29,500

And he was looking for him.

390

00:24:29,500 --> 00:24:31,540

And the brother
happened to be in Milano

391

00:24:31,540 --> 00:24:32,830

at the time when we were.

392

00:24:32,830 --> 00:24:34,960

He wasn't in the kibbutz.

393
00:24:34,960 --> 00:24:36,940
He lived there separately.

394
00:24:36,940 --> 00:24:42,270
But after we were already
in Israel, we got a letter.

395
00:24:42,270 --> 00:24:46,460
My sister got a letter
from this boy in Italy.

396
00:24:46,460 --> 00:24:52,270
And he-- all through--

397
00:24:52,270 --> 00:24:58,160
the rest of our kibbutz
came to Italy in 1947.

398
00:24:58,160 --> 00:25:04,350
And to them, he got to know
that his brother died in Milano.

399
00:25:04,350 --> 00:25:06,360
And he went to the cemetery.

400
00:25:06,360 --> 00:25:08,170
We didn't-- we--

401
00:25:08,170 --> 00:25:12,160
I happened to have some
money, because the uncle

402
00:25:12,160 --> 00:25:16,070
from Switzerland sent me \$50.

403
00:25:16,070 --> 00:25:20,600
So I left for the \$50
they should put up

404
00:25:20,600 --> 00:25:24,670
a stone, a gravestone for him.

405
00:25:24,670 --> 00:25:28,670
But apparently, they
couldn't write the right age

406
00:25:28,670 --> 00:25:30,240
and the right name.

407
00:25:30,240 --> 00:25:34,200
He told-- he wrote to
us later, the brother

408
00:25:34,200 --> 00:25:37,580
of this [? Moishe, ?] because
he was a younger brother.

409
00:25:37,580 --> 00:25:39,130
He later left for Brazil.

410
00:25:39,130 --> 00:25:42,070

411
00:25:42,070 --> 00:25:44,120
He had relatives there.

412
00:25:44,120 --> 00:25:51,535
He was in touch with my sister
for a long time after this.

413
00:25:51,535 --> 00:25:59,390
And so in Milano, then
a different group came.

414
00:25:59,390 --> 00:26:04,300
There was one leader,
[? Yohuda. ?] He was like--

415
00:26:04,300 --> 00:26:07,610
like it was like
a military camp.

416
00:26:07,610 --> 00:26:11,750

Every day, we went out
in appeal and was singing

417
00:26:11,750 --> 00:26:18,230
the [NON-ENGLISH],, because they
had to have discipline there.

418
00:26:18,230 --> 00:26:20,750
And they were afraid
people shouldn't

419
00:26:20,750 --> 00:26:25,600
go out and talk, because
the English were looking.

420
00:26:25,600 --> 00:26:28,560
They-- everything
was [INAUDIBLE]..

421
00:26:28,560 --> 00:26:33,460
I mean, they all-- all the
journeys and all the boarding

422
00:26:33,460 --> 00:26:35,280
of the boats.

423
00:26:35,280 --> 00:26:41,090
But we were there another
two months, approximately.

424
00:26:41,090 --> 00:26:47,670
And then we went to La
Spezia, and we were--

425
00:26:47,670 --> 00:26:49,820
and they put up tents
in a [? vineyard. ?]

426
00:26:49,820 --> 00:26:53,386
We were waiting
for a boat to come.

427
00:26:53,386 --> 00:26:56,860

So finally, the boat came.

428

00:26:56,860 --> 00:27:03,860

And they took us with smaller
boat to the bigger one

429

00:27:03,860 --> 00:27:09,140

because this wasn't
a regular harbor.

430

00:27:09,140 --> 00:27:13,550

The boat had to wait
far away in water.

431

00:27:13,550 --> 00:27:17,780

And the bricha used to
transfer with smaller boat.

432

00:27:17,780 --> 00:27:20,840

It was such a storm--

433

00:27:20,840 --> 00:27:26,090

the water was so stormy,
and that one boy went up

434

00:27:26,090 --> 00:27:30,850

with the ladders made from--

435

00:27:30,850 --> 00:27:38,080

436

00:27:38,080 --> 00:27:41,390

how do you say--

437

00:27:41,390 --> 00:27:46,310

not from wood but from--

438

00:27:46,310 --> 00:27:47,480

no, I forgot the word--

439

00:27:47,480 --> 00:27:51,350

440
00:27:51,350 --> 00:27:53,280
that you tie like a--

441
00:27:53,280 --> 00:27:54,070
Rope, from rope.

442
00:27:54,070 --> 00:27:54,570
Rope.

443
00:27:54,570 --> 00:27:55,892
Yeah, a rope ladder.

444
00:27:55,892 --> 00:27:56,850
I think that's the one.

445
00:27:56,850 --> 00:27:59,370
Excuse me.

446
00:27:59,370 --> 00:28:01,680
And the-- it was so shaking.

447
00:28:01,680 --> 00:28:04,870
One broke his leg.

448
00:28:04,870 --> 00:28:06,690
They had to take him back.

449
00:28:06,690 --> 00:28:09,720
He got caught with the--

450
00:28:09,720 --> 00:28:15,710
from between the small
boat and the larger ship.

451
00:28:15,710 --> 00:28:16,590
And he had to go.

452
00:28:16,590 --> 00:28:21,600
My sister had her hand
in a cast because she

453
00:28:21,600 --> 00:28:24,315
went to a [INAUDIBLE]
then, to a doctor,

454
00:28:24,315 --> 00:28:27,570
because she broke her arm.

455
00:28:27,570 --> 00:28:31,030
She went up with one hand.

456
00:28:31,030 --> 00:28:33,660
She was very brave.

457
00:28:33,660 --> 00:28:38,840
And the journey to
Palestine was terrible.

458
00:28:38,840 --> 00:28:41,390
Was a very small boat.

459
00:28:41,390 --> 00:28:44,670
And [? "Al ?] [? Bahal ?]
[? Iat" ?] was it called.

460
00:28:44,670 --> 00:28:48,120
And they built-- it used--

461
00:28:48,120 --> 00:28:55,800
before, they changed this
for a passenger boat.

462
00:28:55,800 --> 00:28:58,510
It was-- they transferred coal.

463
00:28:58,510 --> 00:29:00,420
They had two decks.

464
00:29:00,420 --> 00:29:05,550
So what they did, they put
down from pipes, barriers

465

00:29:05,550 --> 00:29:10,190
in like-- from hammocks like.

466

00:29:10,190 --> 00:29:14,100
From one, then they
tied a cloth to this,

467

00:29:14,100 --> 00:29:17,730
and this was our bed,
four stories high.

468

00:29:17,730 --> 00:29:19,380
But there was a storm.

469

00:29:19,380 --> 00:29:23,250
And I was laying in
one of those beds.

470

00:29:23,250 --> 00:29:25,860
And above me was a heavy woman.

471

00:29:25,860 --> 00:29:34,260
And she-- and those gave in a
little bit, the steam pipes.

472

00:29:34,260 --> 00:29:36,370
And then this bent out.

473

00:29:36,370 --> 00:29:39,500
So I had to go out
from that and lay

474

00:29:39,500 --> 00:29:44,190
in the-- on the floor, where
people passed on the passages.

475

00:29:44,190 --> 00:29:46,180
How long did the trip take?

476

00:29:46,180 --> 00:29:47,700
Oh, how long--

477

00:29:47,700 --> 00:29:52,970

10 days, because they
had a small motor.

478

00:29:52,970 --> 00:30:02,460

And the [INAUDIBLE] from
cloth they put down to--

479

00:30:02,460 --> 00:30:04,500

with the wind to
go-- how you call it?

480

00:30:04,500 --> 00:30:05,000

A sailboat.

481

00:30:05,000 --> 00:30:05,840

Sail, sails.

482

00:30:05,840 --> 00:30:08,730

Sails.

483

00:30:08,730 --> 00:30:10,920

And one-- some--

484

00:30:10,920 --> 00:30:13,590

I remember, one night
there was a big storm.

485

00:30:13,590 --> 00:30:18,460

The boat went back actually.

486

00:30:18,460 --> 00:30:22,020

And the conditions
were terrible.

487

00:30:22,020 --> 00:30:24,180

Was no water.

488

00:30:24,180 --> 00:30:27,240

In the beginning, they gave
us only a quart of water.

489

00:30:27,240 --> 00:30:30,170

Once, they made tea.

490

00:30:30,170 --> 00:30:33,000

And I happened to be--

491

00:30:33,000 --> 00:30:35,220

I don't know, I
was very sensitive.

492

00:30:35,220 --> 00:30:37,240

And I couldn't take any food.

493

00:30:37,240 --> 00:30:40,400

What I did, I gave
back everything.

494

00:30:40,400 --> 00:30:40,900

Yeah.

495

00:30:40,900 --> 00:30:46,470

I was sick, really sick,
during the whole journey.

496

00:30:46,470 --> 00:30:50,310

And finally, we got to--

497

00:30:50,310 --> 00:30:53,250

oh, before we got
close to Israel,

498

00:30:53,250 --> 00:30:55,620

they threw out all provision.

499

00:30:55,620 --> 00:30:59,380

There were a lot of cans--

500

00:30:59,380 --> 00:31:04,070

canned food usually, because
they didn't have refugee--

501

00:31:04,070 --> 00:31:05,730
refrigerators.

502
00:31:05,730 --> 00:31:09,330
So everything was in cans.

503
00:31:09,330 --> 00:31:12,780
And they threw everything
out because they didn't want

504
00:31:12,780 --> 00:31:17,510
the English Navy should get it.

505
00:31:17,510 --> 00:31:23,740
And the English
destroyer, the Navy, they

506
00:31:23,740 --> 00:31:27,360
surrendered us before
we got to Tel Aviv.

507
00:31:27,360 --> 00:31:30,060
And a lot of people jumped.

508
00:31:30,060 --> 00:31:32,850
They said, those
who know how to swim

509
00:31:32,850 --> 00:31:36,570
should get and
jump to the water.

510
00:31:36,570 --> 00:31:37,590
A lot of them did.

511
00:31:37,590 --> 00:31:43,010
Firstly, we thought didn't
let the English come aboard.

512
00:31:43,010 --> 00:31:47,730
And a lot of people
tried to swim back.

513

00:31:47,730 --> 00:31:52,290

They got-- the English went
out with small-- in [? gummy ?]

514

00:31:52,290 --> 00:31:53,670

boats, motor boats.

515

00:31:53,670 --> 00:31:55,980

And they, in those,
and they caught them

516

00:31:55,980 --> 00:31:58,680

and brought them back.

517

00:31:58,680 --> 00:32:03,990

A few-- I think two people,
they told us when we came back

518

00:32:03,990 --> 00:32:09,660

to Israel, managed to get
to Netanya, to the Israel,

519

00:32:09,660 --> 00:32:10,630

to the--

520

00:32:10,630 --> 00:32:14,057

521

00:32:14,057 --> 00:32:14,640

they managed--

522

00:32:14,640 --> 00:32:15,515

Through the blockade.

523

00:32:15,515 --> 00:32:16,150

--to swim.

524

00:32:16,150 --> 00:32:16,720

Yeah.

525

00:32:16,720 --> 00:32:19,920

I mean, it was quite a-- you
have to be a good swimmer

526
00:32:19,920 --> 00:32:21,510
to get through.

527
00:32:21,510 --> 00:32:28,012
And two-- and then they
found two bodies, too.

528
00:32:28,012 --> 00:32:29,940
They didn't make it.

529
00:32:29,940 --> 00:32:35,940
And then they transferred
us in Haifa to those--

530
00:32:35,940 --> 00:32:39,750
they had special boats
made like prisons

531
00:32:39,750 --> 00:32:46,235
to transfer the illegal
immigrants to Cyprus.

532
00:32:46,235 --> 00:32:50,030
And they sent us-- we
were not far from Haifa.

533
00:32:50,030 --> 00:32:52,310
And they transferred us.

534
00:32:52,310 --> 00:32:56,940
And there, they were-- they
put up a resistance, too.

535
00:32:56,940 --> 00:33:00,610
And then they
transferred us to Cyprus.

536
00:33:00,610 --> 00:33:03,480
And we lived there in tent.

537

00:33:03,480 --> 00:33:08,830

But quite a few--

538

00:33:08,830 --> 00:33:11,110

how long should I say--

539

00:33:11,110 --> 00:33:19,500

from-- was end of August,
before the Jewish holidays

540

00:33:19,500 --> 00:33:24,470

like, until March.

541

00:33:24,470 --> 00:33:28,880

And then February
15, I was transferred

542

00:33:28,880 --> 00:33:35,920

to [? Atlit. ?] This was like a
holding camp for those who they

543

00:33:35,920 --> 00:33:38,780

released, because
when they transferred

544

00:33:38,780 --> 00:33:42,470

the people to
Cyprus, they gave out

545

00:33:42,470 --> 00:33:50,490

then a 1,500 that certificate
a month for those people.

546

00:33:50,490 --> 00:33:52,700

And there was like a next--

547

00:33:52,700 --> 00:33:55,370

first, they took children
and pregnant woman.

548

00:33:55,370 --> 00:33:58,680

They had priority,

small children.

549

00:33:58,680 --> 00:34:02,400

And the rest, they divided
according to the next.

550

00:34:02,400 --> 00:34:08,510

So some transport who came
like in the beginning of '47,

551

00:34:08,510 --> 00:34:15,860

they were there until the
Jewish state was founded.

552

00:34:15,860 --> 00:34:22,230

And from there, I went to
a kibbutz in the beginning.

553

00:34:22,230 --> 00:34:24,810

It was in [? Nakba. ?]
And from there,

554

00:34:24,810 --> 00:34:28,350

they transferred us when--

555

00:34:28,350 --> 00:34:32,002

in '47, when the--

556

00:34:32,002 --> 00:34:35,304

in November, when they
declared in the United Nation

557

00:34:35,304 --> 00:34:37,040

the Jewish--

558

00:34:37,040 --> 00:34:40,159

the resolution about
the Jewish state,

559

00:34:40,159 --> 00:34:42,280

they started to get hard.

560

00:34:42,280 --> 00:34:47,090

So they transferred
us to the first--

561

00:34:47,090 --> 00:34:48,909

which was the first one?

562

00:34:48,909 --> 00:34:53,735

Oh, in [PLACE NAME].

563

00:34:53,735 --> 00:34:57,820

And this was a area which is--

564

00:34:57,820 --> 00:35:01,190

wasn't too many
Jewish settlings,

565

00:35:01,190 --> 00:35:06,600

and then to the border with
Syria and [PLACE NAME]..

566

00:35:06,600 --> 00:35:08,220

So this was on the border.

567

00:35:08,220 --> 00:35:11,510

568

00:35:11,510 --> 00:35:19,020

And then in-- and then
we went to [PLACE NAME]..

569

00:35:19,020 --> 00:35:25,520

And then '49, the beginning, we
founded the kibbutz in Megiddo.

570

00:35:25,520 --> 00:35:28,590

A border kibbutz was there.

571

00:35:28,590 --> 00:35:31,550

But I didn't stay
in kibbutz long.

572

00:35:31,550 --> 00:35:34,850

My sisters didn't go
to the kibbutz either.

573

00:35:34,850 --> 00:35:39,650

And so I went to army because
when I was in kibbutz,

574

00:35:39,650 --> 00:35:43,810

I didn't have to go
because was like--

575

00:35:43,810 --> 00:35:45,590

You were doing your
public service.

576

00:35:45,590 --> 00:35:47,480

You-- I was-- I did my service.

577

00:35:47,480 --> 00:35:51,435

I used to go out and
board the [? patrols ?]..

578

00:35:51,435 --> 00:35:53,960

But when you left
the kibbutz, then you

579

00:35:53,960 --> 00:35:55,130

have to go to the army.

580

00:35:55,130 --> 00:35:57,980

I didn't go for as
long as the others

581

00:35:57,980 --> 00:36:03,320

because they took off time,
a half a year for the time

582

00:36:03,320 --> 00:36:04,760

that I was there.

583

00:36:04,760 --> 00:36:08,180

But I had-- [? a ?] [? stint ?]

[? like ?] in the army from

584

00:36:08,180 --> 00:36:11,050
'51 to '52.

585

00:36:11,050 --> 00:36:17,930
And then I settled in Haifa
until '59, I came here.

586

00:36:17,930 --> 00:36:19,010
Did you have work to do?

587

00:36:19,010 --> 00:36:20,480
Did you find a job?

588

00:36:20,480 --> 00:36:22,700
Yeah, I worked in
construction, not always.

589

00:36:22,700 --> 00:36:26,420
When there was bad weather in
some place, there was not work.

590

00:36:26,420 --> 00:36:28,525
I worked very hard
in [INAUDIBLE]..

591

00:36:28,525 --> 00:36:29,900
Did you meet your
wife in Israel?

592

00:36:29,900 --> 00:36:31,070
No.

593

00:36:31,070 --> 00:36:33,260
I married here.

594

00:36:33,260 --> 00:36:36,485
Because I worked so
hard, I was always tired.

595

00:36:36,485 --> 00:36:39,055

596
00:36:39,055 --> 00:36:43,730
And there, you worked
eight hours a day.

597
00:36:43,730 --> 00:36:50,180
And then Friday was like
not to have-- a short day.

598
00:36:50,180 --> 00:36:55,430
So you worked-- you started--
you worked seven hours.

599
00:36:55,430 --> 00:36:56,360
What was it?

600
00:36:56,360 --> 00:36:57,390
Why was it shorter?

601
00:36:57,390 --> 00:37:00,250
We started usually like 6:30.

602
00:37:00,250 --> 00:37:03,530
And we had a half
an hour breakfast.

603
00:37:03,530 --> 00:37:06,230
And we worked through
until 2 o'clock.

604
00:37:06,230 --> 00:37:09,808
What brought you to
the United States?

605
00:37:09,808 --> 00:37:10,790
What brought me?

606
00:37:10,790 --> 00:37:14,010
It's a good question.

607
00:37:14,010 --> 00:37:16,320

First of all, I was the--

608
00:37:16,320 --> 00:37:17,880
I couldn't find--

609
00:37:17,880 --> 00:37:19,050
I didn't get married.

610
00:37:19,050 --> 00:37:24,000
And then I felt I couldn't
work in construction.

611
00:37:24,000 --> 00:37:27,510
I had already
arthritis my knees,

612
00:37:27,510 --> 00:37:32,610
because in the rainy
season, when you--

613
00:37:32,610 --> 00:37:36,300
I had the-- when
you work outside,

614
00:37:36,300 --> 00:37:38,810
it gets you very badly.

615
00:37:38,810 --> 00:37:46,480
And it was-- and I wanted to get
a steady job in some factory,

616
00:37:46,480 --> 00:37:49,200
like in [NON-ENGLISH].

617
00:37:49,200 --> 00:37:51,510
This is electric station.

618
00:37:51,510 --> 00:37:52,880
My sister worked there.

619
00:37:52,880 --> 00:37:54,460
She was steady.

620
00:37:54,460 --> 00:37:57,780
And I tried to get there a job.

621
00:37:57,780 --> 00:38:00,930
But I couldn't remain steady.

622
00:38:00,930 --> 00:38:06,240
After five months, I was
laid off and taken back.

623
00:38:06,240 --> 00:38:10,550
And my sister was here.

624
00:38:10,550 --> 00:38:13,650
And I would say more--

625
00:38:13,650 --> 00:38:16,840
if maybe I would've been
married, settled down,

626
00:38:16,840 --> 00:38:19,390
I wouldn't mind the hard work.

627
00:38:19,390 --> 00:38:25,480
So I came here,
and I met my wife.

628
00:38:25,480 --> 00:38:29,490
I mean, in '61 I got married.

629
00:38:29,490 --> 00:38:30,810
And we had children.

630
00:38:30,810 --> 00:38:33,750
But my wife passed away when--

631
00:38:33,750 --> 00:38:38,710
in '69 she got
the breast cancer.

632

00:38:38,710 --> 00:38:46,590
And I remarried a few
years later in '76.

633
00:38:46,590 --> 00:38:49,350
And your present wife
is also a survivor.

634
00:38:49,350 --> 00:38:50,670
Yes.

635
00:38:50,670 --> 00:38:52,920
You didn't know her
until you came here.

636
00:38:52,920 --> 00:38:54,300
No, I didn't know her.

637
00:38:54,300 --> 00:38:57,100
Somebody-- my boys--

638
00:38:57,100 --> 00:38:59,520
oh, I-- when--

639
00:38:59,520 --> 00:39:04,200
my wife happened
to be in the same--

640
00:39:04,200 --> 00:39:07,350
my first wife, in
the same movement.

641
00:39:07,350 --> 00:39:15,570
She has a story, I mean,
something to have a--

642
00:39:15,570 --> 00:39:19,500
she lived through
the war by herself.

643
00:39:19,500 --> 00:39:24,840
Her father came to the
United States in '38.

644
00:39:24,840 --> 00:39:30,150
And he left behind her with
her brother and her mother.

645
00:39:30,150 --> 00:39:35,270
She was two and a half
years younger than me.

646
00:39:35,270 --> 00:39:38,230
She was born in '25.

647
00:39:38,230 --> 00:39:47,100
And-- but she went
through terrible times.

648
00:39:47,100 --> 00:39:51,630
She lost her-- she
had grandparents.

649
00:39:51,630 --> 00:39:56,820
Her father's parents lived there
in the same town, [? Klost. ?]

650
00:39:56,820 --> 00:39:59,950
It's a known old
Jewish town, too.

651
00:39:59,950 --> 00:40:03,465
And she came in the--

652
00:40:03,465 --> 00:40:08,800
I mean, and her
mother passed away--

653
00:40:08,800 --> 00:40:12,910
they suffered
hunger, and terrible.

654
00:40:12,910 --> 00:40:17,910
But then she was
taken to the camp.

655

00:40:17,910 --> 00:40:20,650

She escaped by herself.

656

00:40:20,650 --> 00:40:23,300

And she managed to survive.

657

00:40:23,300 --> 00:40:29,470

But when she was liberated
by the Russian of '44,

658

00:40:29,470 --> 00:40:33,870

when they were still
in camp, a German plane

659

00:40:33,870 --> 00:40:38,640

came and with bullets,
strafed the camp.

660

00:40:38,640 --> 00:40:39,990

And she got wounded.

661

00:40:39,990 --> 00:40:42,950

662

00:40:42,950 --> 00:40:45,330

She had-- until her--

663

00:40:45,330 --> 00:40:50,610

all that she could see
a big hole in her--

664

00:40:50,610 --> 00:40:51,400

near her behind.

665

00:40:51,400 --> 00:40:54,390

666

00:40:54,390 --> 00:40:59,505

And then she was got sick in
typhus after the liberation.

667

00:40:59,505 --> 00:41:02,490

And she was brought
to a hospital,

668

00:41:02,490 --> 00:41:04,200

Ukrainian hospital in Chortkiv.

669

00:41:04,200 --> 00:41:07,920

She told me she had to run
away, middle of the night,

670

00:41:07,920 --> 00:41:10,980

in her nightgown in her--

671

00:41:10,980 --> 00:41:14,700

because they said they
wouldn't-- they wanted money

672

00:41:14,700 --> 00:41:15,230

from her.

673

00:41:15,230 --> 00:41:17,770

674

00:41:17,770 --> 00:41:25,350

And she joined-- oh, she had
her father's cousin there.

675

00:41:25,350 --> 00:41:27,280

And she joined them.

676

00:41:27,280 --> 00:41:32,060

But later on, she joined a
kibbutz from [NON-ENGLISH],,

677

00:41:32,060 --> 00:41:32,560

too.

678

00:41:32,560 --> 00:41:35,850

I didn't know her.

679

00:41:35,850 --> 00:41:37,420

And she went to Italy.

680
00:41:37,420 --> 00:41:38,710
She was active, too.

681
00:41:38,710 --> 00:41:40,340
She went to Italy.

682
00:41:40,340 --> 00:41:44,440
But her father wanted to
bring her to the States.

683
00:41:44,440 --> 00:41:46,120
And she was a minor.

684
00:41:46,120 --> 00:41:52,910
So they used to send the MP
to the camp to look for her.

685
00:41:52,910 --> 00:41:56,740
So when they saw
that, they hid her.

686
00:41:56,740 --> 00:42:00,870
And she came to Israel, and--

687
00:42:00,870 --> 00:42:02,530
no, I'm sorry.

688
00:42:02,530 --> 00:42:10,220
When the kibbutz went to Israel,
and they were sent to Cyprus,

689
00:42:10,220 --> 00:42:15,530
so her father convinced her,
why should she go and suffer

690
00:42:15,530 --> 00:42:16,810
in Cyprus?

691
00:42:16,810 --> 00:42:20,680
She should come here and

stay in the United States.

692

00:42:20,680 --> 00:42:23,320

When the kibbutz will
come, she'll join them.

693

00:42:23,320 --> 00:42:26,530

She came here in '47.

694

00:42:26,530 --> 00:42:29,320

And they lived-- and her
father lived in Plainfield.

695

00:42:29,320 --> 00:42:32,563

He was a storekeeper,
[? Gelfand. ?] His--

696

00:42:32,563 --> 00:42:34,980

[? well, ?] [? the Shops ?]
[? of ?] [? Gelfand ?] was his

697

00:42:34,980 --> 00:42:36,140

name.

698

00:42:36,140 --> 00:42:41,080

And he had a wife.

699

00:42:41,080 --> 00:42:45,130

But he was [? somethings-- ?]
he was in--

700

00:42:45,130 --> 00:42:47,470

I think he divorced her.

701

00:42:47,470 --> 00:42:49,300

I don't know why.

702

00:42:49,300 --> 00:42:58,490

And she lived with her father
until after the Israel,

703

00:42:58,490 --> 00:43:01,120

they founded the Israeli state.

704

00:43:01,120 --> 00:43:02,130

And they came to Israel.

705

00:43:02,130 --> 00:43:07,780

She left, and she went to
Israel, too, and stayed there

706

00:43:07,780 --> 00:43:09,830

for a year, and came back.

707

00:43:09,830 --> 00:43:11,382

She couldn't.

708

00:43:11,382 --> 00:43:14,140

And what brought you
here to New Jersey?

709

00:43:14,140 --> 00:43:14,815

To New Jersey?

710

00:43:14,815 --> 00:43:18,160

711

00:43:18,160 --> 00:43:19,810

I lived in Brooklyn.

712

00:43:19,810 --> 00:43:22,550

I had a house with my wife.

713

00:43:22,550 --> 00:43:30,170

And the wife that I--
she lived in Jersey

714

00:43:30,170 --> 00:43:31,690

when they introduced me.

715

00:43:31,690 --> 00:43:33,000

So I moved over.

716

00:43:33,000 --> 00:43:34,690
Yeah.

717
00:43:34,690 --> 00:43:36,040
You have two children.

718
00:43:36,040 --> 00:43:36,750
And--

719
00:43:36,750 --> 00:43:38,770
Yeah, they're very religious.

720
00:43:38,770 --> 00:43:41,950
I was wondering if you
have spoken with-- they

721
00:43:41,950 --> 00:43:43,620
were born here, I assume.

722
00:43:43,620 --> 00:43:44,320
Yes.

723
00:43:44,320 --> 00:43:46,060
Have you ever spoken
with them about--

724
00:43:46,060 --> 00:43:49,750
Yeah, I-- as a matter of fact,
they wanted to make a tape.

725
00:43:49,750 --> 00:43:54,380
They were very interested what
I went through, to hear from me.

726
00:43:54,380 --> 00:43:57,890
The reason why,
in the beginning,

727
00:43:57,890 --> 00:44:01,420
I wasn't religious when I
was here, when [? Shamat-- ?]

728

00:44:01,420 --> 00:44:02,220
I had--

729
00:44:02,220 --> 00:44:04,790
I felt very--

730
00:44:04,790 --> 00:44:07,600
I had-- how to say--

731
00:44:07,600 --> 00:44:11,960
I had a feeling about
belonging to the Jewish nation.

732
00:44:11,960 --> 00:44:12,850
But I wasn't--

733
00:44:12,850 --> 00:44:15,670
I got unused to
put on [INAUDIBLE]..

734
00:44:15,670 --> 00:44:20,330
And in Israel, I felt you
can be Jewish without being--

735
00:44:20,330 --> 00:44:25,750
praying like three
times-- twice a day.

736
00:44:25,750 --> 00:44:28,870
But when we had
the children, when

737
00:44:28,870 --> 00:44:32,500
we started to think with my
first wife what education

738
00:44:32,500 --> 00:44:37,440
to give, I insisted I
want a Jewish education.

739
00:44:37,440 --> 00:44:45,070
I said-- I saw that kids who
went to elementary school,

740
00:44:45,070 --> 00:44:46,670
they get lost.

741
00:44:46,670 --> 00:44:48,810
They don't know from Jewishness.

742
00:44:48,810 --> 00:44:52,190
And I felt that I'll
be closer to them

743
00:44:52,190 --> 00:44:56,930
if they going to have a Jewish
education, a traditional.

744
00:44:56,930 --> 00:45:00,640
Another thing, when
I told my wife,

745
00:45:00,640 --> 00:45:06,190
when I remembered in the camps,
and I was longing for a home,

746
00:45:06,190 --> 00:45:08,520
I didn't remember
the four walls.

747
00:45:08,520 --> 00:45:11,770
I remembered the
Saturday nights,

748
00:45:11,770 --> 00:45:16,960
how it was, the holidays,
the candlesticks, the food.

749
00:45:16,960 --> 00:45:22,580
This always was, for me,
the symbol of my home.

750
00:45:22,580 --> 00:45:24,820
And I said, I want to--

751

00:45:24,820 --> 00:45:27,130
my children should be--

752
00:45:27,130 --> 00:45:31,480
feel like they should
be more closer to home.

753
00:45:31,480 --> 00:45:34,930
I had the feeling I saw
immigrant children who

754
00:45:34,930 --> 00:45:39,850
weren't religious and didn't
know anything from Jewishness.

755
00:45:39,850 --> 00:45:41,890
They get lost.

756
00:45:41,890 --> 00:45:44,300
They intermarry.

757
00:45:44,300 --> 00:45:52,240
And somehow-- and I am very
pleased we made this decision,

758
00:45:52,240 --> 00:45:56,170
because I think it helped
my children to grow up

759
00:45:56,170 --> 00:46:01,530
without their mother,
too, the being religious.

760
00:46:01,530 --> 00:46:06,950
And the-- and I always tell my
son, I envy you, both of them.

761
00:46:06,950 --> 00:46:13,860
I envy them very much because
they can say they believe 100%.

762
00:46:13,860 --> 00:46:16,960
No, they're very devoted.

763
00:46:16,960 --> 00:46:21,580
And they're morally,
they wouldn't

764
00:46:21,580 --> 00:46:26,500
do any wrong thing, not to,
let's say, cheat and things--

765
00:46:26,500 --> 00:46:28,180
very high standard.

766
00:46:28,180 --> 00:46:34,210
My older son is married,
and both he and his wife

767
00:46:34,210 --> 00:46:37,540
are the same kind of people.

768
00:46:37,540 --> 00:46:40,630
They wouldn't do anything.

769
00:46:40,630 --> 00:46:44,710
My daughter-in-law,
she goes to work.

770
00:46:44,710 --> 00:46:51,360
She works from-- [? Dun ?]
[? & ?] [? Bradstreet. ?]

771
00:46:51,360 --> 00:46:54,940
She's a computer--

772
00:46:54,940 --> 00:46:55,840
Analyst?

773
00:46:55,840 --> 00:46:56,830
Not analyst.

774
00:46:56,830 --> 00:46:58,180
She set up the program.

775

00:46:58,180 --> 00:46:59,075

She has a master's.

776

00:46:59,075 --> 00:46:59,575

Programmer.

777

00:46:59,575 --> 00:47:01,970

A programmer in computers.

778

00:47:01,970 --> 00:47:04,140

And she wouldn't
take off an hour.

779

00:47:04,140 --> 00:47:06,590

She says it's cheating.

780

00:47:06,590 --> 00:47:09,130

781

00:47:09,130 --> 00:47:11,260

I admire them very much.

782

00:47:11,260 --> 00:47:13,840

The same, my son.

783

00:47:13,840 --> 00:47:21,280

He is now working on
his PhD in physics.

784

00:47:21,280 --> 00:47:27,010

But he wouldn't-- what belongs--

785

00:47:27,010 --> 00:47:31,670

he wouldn't miss a [INAUDIBLE]
with a minyan in the morning,

786

00:47:31,670 --> 00:47:33,460

in the evening.

787

00:47:33,460 --> 00:47:37,390

No matter what kind of

weather, he always has to be--

788

00:47:37,390 --> 00:47:40,180

he has to learn everything.

789

00:47:40,180 --> 00:47:43,100

Yes, no, I'm very proud of them.

790

00:47:43,100 --> 00:47:45,670

My younger one is in--

791

00:47:45,670 --> 00:47:50,860

he was in Israel for five years
in the yeshiva he learned.

792

00:47:50,860 --> 00:47:53,320

Now he is in Baltimore.

793

00:47:53,320 --> 00:48:01,150

And he-- in the evening,
he takes a computer--

794

00:48:01,150 --> 00:48:06,920

master course in
computers in once--

795

00:48:06,920 --> 00:48:13,035

one-- once a week.

796

00:48:13,035 --> 00:48:16,840

Mr. Laks, I thank you
very much for your time

797

00:48:16,840 --> 00:48:19,330

and for your story.

798

00:48:19,330 --> 00:48:23,770

And I know that we will
very much appreciate

799

00:48:23,770 --> 00:48:26,320

having it and learning from it.

800
00:48:26,320 --> 00:48:30,070
I, too, thank you,
Dr. Weinstein.

801
00:48:30,070 --> 00:48:37,240
I feel that I had it
on mind how to say--

802
00:48:37,240 --> 00:48:39,970
I felt I have to tell my story.

803
00:48:39,970 --> 00:48:41,650
And I didn't know how to.

804
00:48:41,650 --> 00:48:45,520
I thought of writing,
because I know I belong

805
00:48:45,520 --> 00:48:49,330
to a world that disappeared.

806
00:48:49,330 --> 00:48:54,680
And there's not going to
be very-- in a short time,

807
00:48:54,680 --> 00:48:59,730
there's not going to be anybody
left to tell this story.

808
00:48:59,730 --> 00:49:03,100
And I think I still
would make some--

809
00:49:03,100 --> 00:49:06,880
for my children
to make some tape.

810
00:49:06,880 --> 00:49:07,690
I'm thinking.

811
00:49:07,690 --> 00:49:09,200

I'm playing with the idea.

812

00:49:09,200 --> 00:49:11,820

I don't know if I'll be able.

813

00:49:11,820 --> 00:49:15,410

And I'm very grateful

to you, that-- to you,

814

00:49:15,410 --> 00:49:18,820

that this program enabled

me to talk about it.

815

00:49:18,820 --> 00:49:20,140

Yeah, thank you.

816

00:49:20,140 --> 00:49:21,990

You're welcome.

817

00:49:21,990 --> 00:49:28,000