

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,200

2  
00:00:05,200 --> 00:00:07,300  
I'll just ask-- I'll  
make the first sentence,

3  
00:00:07,300 --> 00:00:11,680  
and I'll just say, you were  
telling that you left from

4  
00:00:11,680 --> 00:00:12,200  
the--

5  
00:00:12,200 --> 00:00:12,700  
Yeah.

6  
00:00:12,700 --> 00:00:13,200  
OK?

7  
00:00:13,200 --> 00:00:18,560

8  
00:00:18,560 --> 00:00:21,010  
Here.

9  
00:00:21,010 --> 00:00:25,780  
You were telling me that you  
left the cellar after two days,

10  
00:00:25,780 --> 00:00:30,115  
and then you went to  
the labor camp with--

11  
00:00:30,115 --> 00:00:30,740  
My two sisters.

12  
00:00:30,740 --> 00:00:31,780  
--your two sisters.

13

00:00:31,780 --> 00:00:33,820  
Yeah.

14  
00:00:33,820 --> 00:00:35,800  
So I have to talk about it.

15  
00:00:35,800 --> 00:00:39,580  
We went-- been taken to the  
Brody [NON-ENGLISH] lager,

16  
00:00:39,580 --> 00:00:44,020  
which was located in  
the middle of town.

17  
00:00:44,020 --> 00:00:47,080  
That was the kaserne  
that I mentioned before,

18  
00:00:47,080 --> 00:00:52,150  
that my father used to take  
out the Jewish soldiers

19  
00:00:52,150 --> 00:00:54,340  
for Saturday dinners.

20  
00:00:54,340 --> 00:01:02,410  
We met a lot of people there  
that have all their families

21  
00:01:02,410 --> 00:01:04,480  
already taken away.

22  
00:01:04,480 --> 00:01:08,290  
And they've been  
transferred to death camp

23  
00:01:08,290 --> 00:01:12,160  
for all the work they needed.

24  
00:01:12,160 --> 00:01:17,880  
One night, one of my  
friends, younger than I am,

25

00:01:17,880 --> 00:01:20,890  
came at night.

26

00:01:20,890 --> 00:01:26,350  
She was thrown out  
from the train,

27

00:01:26,350 --> 00:01:32,270  
going to Majdanek by her mother.

28

00:01:32,270 --> 00:01:39,680  
And she was shot by the  
German soldiers that stayed

29

00:01:39,680 --> 00:01:43,100  
on the top of that death train.

30

00:01:43,100 --> 00:01:48,380  
She told me that my mother and  
my brother had been with her.

31

00:01:48,380 --> 00:01:54,020  
And she even mentioned that my  
brother had a mind to jump too.

32

00:01:54,020 --> 00:01:57,530  
Luckily, she escaped, and--

33

00:01:57,530 --> 00:01:59,390  
But she was wounded.

34

00:01:59,390 --> 00:02:04,250  
--she was wounded  
in her leg, and was

35

00:02:04,250 --> 00:02:09,650  
find undressed and naked  
completely by a priest that

36

00:02:09,650 --> 00:02:14,720  
took her to his house, dressed  
her, and made her go back

37  
00:02:14,720 --> 00:02:16,680  
to our town.

38  
00:02:16,680 --> 00:02:17,415  
How old was she?

39  
00:02:17,415 --> 00:02:18,545

40  
00:02:18,545 --> 00:02:21,690  
At that time-- she's five  
years younger than I am,

41  
00:02:21,690 --> 00:02:26,435  
so she was, in 1943,  
very, very young.

42  
00:02:26,435 --> 00:02:29,180

43  
00:02:29,180 --> 00:02:36,290  
And then we've been hiding  
with her and my future husband,

44  
00:02:36,290 --> 00:02:38,570  
together in one of the--

45  
00:02:38,570 --> 00:02:42,220

46  
00:02:42,220 --> 00:02:43,570  
that's fine.

47  
00:02:43,570 --> 00:02:48,430  
No, no, I just want to know,  
you went first from the cellar

48  
00:02:48,430 --> 00:02:52,330  
to this kaserne to the camp.

49

00:02:52,330 --> 00:02:54,550  
Now how were you able to hide?

50  
00:02:54,550 --> 00:02:55,210  
Oh, no, wait.

51  
00:02:55,210 --> 00:02:55,945  
At what point?

52  
00:02:55,945 --> 00:02:57,190  
I did not finish.

53  
00:02:57,190 --> 00:02:58,065  
That's true.

54  
00:02:58,065 --> 00:03:04,240  
We stayed in the  
[NON-ENGLISH] for few weeks.

55  
00:03:04,240 --> 00:03:10,580  
My two sisters, a friend  
of my father, a Polish man,

56  
00:03:10,580 --> 00:03:14,630  
promised to find  
a place to hide.

57  
00:03:14,630 --> 00:03:19,460  
And they went  
there, and they had

58  
00:03:19,460 --> 00:03:23,115  
to be separated and go  
in two different places.

59  
00:03:23,115 --> 00:03:26,720

60  
00:03:26,720 --> 00:03:30,580  
I went to a different  
hiding place with that girl.

61

00:03:30,580 --> 00:03:32,170

My future husband  
was there too--

62

00:03:32,170 --> 00:03:33,420

OK, so let me just make sure--

63

00:03:33,420 --> 00:03:34,360

--and another--

64

00:03:34,360 --> 00:03:35,020

--I understand.

65

00:03:35,020 --> 00:03:38,905

So this Polish individual,  
not Jewish, correct--

66

00:03:38,905 --> 00:03:39,405

Yeah.

67

00:03:39,405 --> 00:03:41,290

--who had been a  
friend of your father,

68

00:03:41,290 --> 00:03:44,450

was able to get you  
and your sister to--

69

00:03:44,450 --> 00:03:49,810

No, promised just to put my  
daughters in certain place--

70

00:03:49,810 --> 00:03:51,610

my sisters-- sorry--

71

00:03:51,610 --> 00:03:53,680

in certain places.

72

00:03:53,680 --> 00:03:55,560

OK.

73

00:03:55,560 --> 00:04:03,870

And I went to another place  
that a Polish woman, for money,

74  
00:04:03,870 --> 00:04:09,090  
had a cellar built  
under her bedroom.

75  
00:04:09,090 --> 00:04:15,990  
And she kept us, promised to  
keep us there for a while.

76  
00:04:15,990 --> 00:04:20,700  
She cooked for us and  
brought us food once a day.

77  
00:04:20,700 --> 00:04:23,826

78  
00:04:23,826 --> 00:04:24,326  
There was--

79  
00:04:24,326 --> 00:04:25,743  
How many people  
were hiding there?

80  
00:04:25,743 --> 00:04:29,880  
--around seven, eight  
people at the time.

81  
00:04:29,880 --> 00:04:32,300

82  
00:04:32,300 --> 00:04:34,220  
Why did she hide you?

83  
00:04:34,220 --> 00:04:38,660  
She was a friend of our  
friends, and someone found out

84  
00:04:38,660 --> 00:04:44,540  
that she wants to do  
it for money, mainly.

85

00:04:44,540 --> 00:04:45,860

Who was paying her?

86

00:04:45,860 --> 00:04:52,550

We had some friends who had  
some money, like golden things.

87

00:04:52,550 --> 00:04:56,540

And one night, I went  
down out from the cellar,

88

00:04:56,540 --> 00:05:05,030

and changed something for the  
Polish zloty, and we paid her.

89

00:05:05,030 --> 00:05:08,570

She was quite good to us.

90

00:05:08,570 --> 00:05:10,620

We never found track of her.

91

00:05:10,620 --> 00:05:14,660

So maybe she died already,  
because we tried to find her.

92

00:05:14,660 --> 00:05:16,970

She was an older woman.

93

00:05:16,970 --> 00:05:20,210

And she used to  
bring down the food

94

00:05:20,210 --> 00:05:27,710

and jokingly said, instead of  
throwing it out, you eat it.

95

00:05:27,710 --> 00:05:32,360

But still, she was the  
one that saved our lives.

96

00:05:32,360 --> 00:05:36,680

One afternoon, I



remember clearly,

97

00:05:36,680 --> 00:05:44,690  
the steps on the upstairs,  
and two German soldiers came.

98

00:05:44,690 --> 00:05:50,090  
And in their loud voices,  
we could hear saying,

99

00:05:50,090 --> 00:05:53,690  
we have an [GERMAN]  
under the [GERMAN]..

100

00:05:53,690 --> 00:05:55,280  
And they looked under the bed.

101

00:05:55,280 --> 00:05:57,560  
Want to translate, just--

102

00:05:57,560 --> 00:06:00,120  
He once found the  
Jews under the bed.

103

00:06:00,120 --> 00:06:04,370  
They opened the closet, which  
was just under that cellar.

104

00:06:04,370 --> 00:06:08,180  
But they did not  
think that the cellar

105

00:06:08,180 --> 00:06:11,726  
would be below that closet.

106

00:06:11,726 --> 00:06:19,310  
We were there a few months that  
we never thought we'll live.

107

00:06:19,310 --> 00:06:24,140  
The memories hounded us  
of losing all the parents.

108

00:06:24,140 --> 00:06:36,300

But somehow, the strong will for  
life or survival made us exist.

109

00:06:36,300 --> 00:06:44,192

I found out, in the  
meantime, that my sisters

110

00:06:44,192 --> 00:06:49,690

(VOICE BREAKING) came back  
for one night to the camp,

111

00:06:49,690 --> 00:06:54,802

because that Polish man  
was expecting company

112

00:06:54,802 --> 00:06:56,080

for that Sunday.

113

00:06:56,080 --> 00:07:01,840

And he was afraid that,  
wandering around the house,

114

00:07:01,840 --> 00:07:05,620

they can find the two  
Jewish girls there.

115

00:07:05,620 --> 00:07:07,060

And he would have  
been, of course,

116

00:07:07,060 --> 00:07:10,430

prosecuted for it immediately.

117

00:07:10,430 --> 00:07:13,510

So he told them,  
if you go back just

118

00:07:13,510 --> 00:07:16,000

for one night, and Monday--

119

00:07:16,000 --> 00:07:18,490

or was it the next day--

120

00:07:18,490 --> 00:07:26,820  
come back, I will try  
to locate you somewhere.

121

00:07:26,820 --> 00:07:34,190  
And that was the second and  
real Judenfrei in our town.

122

00:07:34,190 --> 00:07:40,010  
There was no more Jew  
allowed to be seen or found

123

00:07:40,010 --> 00:07:44,390  
without being  
killed immediately.

124

00:07:44,390 --> 00:07:46,490  
We stayed there for a while.

125

00:07:46,490 --> 00:07:52,850  
Then the news start to  
come in then the Russian,

126

00:07:52,850 --> 00:07:54,950  
the Germans are losing the war.

127

00:07:54,950 --> 00:07:58,380

128

00:07:58,380 --> 00:08:03,210  
But there are Germans  
starting to walk back

129

00:08:03,210 --> 00:08:07,530  
frozen, defeated  
from the climate they

130

00:08:07,530 --> 00:08:09,960  
couldn't take in Russia.

131

00:08:09,960 --> 00:08:15,750

But even this news could  
not bring us any hope.

132

00:08:15,750 --> 00:08:17,515

How can you live  
(VOICE BREAKING)

133

00:08:17,515 --> 00:08:19,140

when you know you'll  
be free, and there

134

00:08:19,140 --> 00:08:26,730

is no one to welcome you or to  
talk to you or to comfort you?

135

00:08:26,730 --> 00:08:29,100

We went to the  
woods for a while,

136

00:08:29,100 --> 00:08:52,120

and then we were liberated  
in 1944 by the Russians.

137

00:08:52,120 --> 00:08:56,740

The war was still going on  
in the other part of Poland,

138

00:08:56,740 --> 00:09:03,560

which was previously  
occupied by the Germans too.

139

00:09:03,560 --> 00:09:08,240

We stayed there almost a year.

140

00:09:08,240 --> 00:09:11,300

And then in '45, when  
the war was over--

141

00:09:11,300 --> 00:09:14,870

142

00:09:14,870 --> 00:09:16,620

Just one question, I'm  
sorry to interrupt.

143  
00:09:16,620 --> 00:09:17,930  
For a year, you stayed--

144  
00:09:17,930 --> 00:09:18,920  
Around.

145  
00:09:18,920 --> 00:09:20,330  
Where?

146  
00:09:20,330 --> 00:09:24,440  
In little towns-- in Galicia,  
in Dubno, Krzemieniec.

147  
00:09:24,440 --> 00:09:25,910  
And who were you together with?

148  
00:09:25,910 --> 00:09:26,165  
What?

149  
00:09:26,165 --> 00:09:27,290  
Who were you together with?

150  
00:09:27,290 --> 00:09:31,130  
With a few friends, like we all  
clicked together to survive.

151  
00:09:31,130 --> 00:09:32,360  
And your present husband?

152  
00:09:32,360 --> 00:09:32,990  
Yes.

153  
00:09:32,990 --> 00:09:34,073  
But you were not married--

154  
00:09:34,073 --> 00:09:43,550  
No, I got married  
in end of 1944.

155

00:09:43,550 --> 00:09:48,980

In 1945, the war was over.

156

00:09:48,980 --> 00:09:55,970

We all tried to think

where do we go from there.

157

00:09:55,970 --> 00:10:02,240

We did not make up our minds

Israel would be the place.

158

00:10:02,240 --> 00:10:07,178

Or my husband had

a brother in USA.

159

00:10:07,178 --> 00:10:13,790

We went, a whole group, the

friends, to Poland, Lodz,

160

00:10:13,790 --> 00:10:16,070

where the war--

161

00:10:16,070 --> 00:10:25,285

the peace was announced, and

the Germans defeated, thank God.

162

00:10:25,285 --> 00:10:29,580

163

00:10:29,580 --> 00:10:32,940

It wasn't-- we stayed

there for a while,

164

00:10:32,940 --> 00:10:35,820

and then we went to Cordova.

165

00:10:35,820 --> 00:10:41,250

And from Cordova, they had

a special organized place

166

00:10:41,250 --> 00:10:50,750

to take people to Germany,

to the displaced camps.

167

00:10:50,750 --> 00:10:53,670

168

00:10:53,670 --> 00:10:58,590

We went to Germany, and we  
stayed in [? FÃ¼rth. ?] And then

169

00:10:58,590 --> 00:11:01,260

from [? FÃ¼rth, ?] we  
went to Frankfurt,

170

00:11:01,260 --> 00:11:07,390

from where we emigrated  
to the USA in 1948.

171

00:11:07,390 --> 00:11:11,820

So you were in DP camp  
from 1945 until '48?

172

00:11:11,820 --> 00:11:15,570

'46, we'd been in Lodz,  
there, for a while.

173

00:11:15,570 --> 00:11:17,190

OK.

174

00:11:17,190 --> 00:11:19,050

So from '46 to '48,  
you were in DP camp?

175

00:11:19,050 --> 00:11:20,130

Yes.

176

00:11:20,130 --> 00:11:33,270

And in 1948, we arrived  
in this country in June.

177

00:11:33,270 --> 00:11:40,630

I remember it was Shavuot,  
and my brother-in-law

178

00:11:40,630 --> 00:11:50,450

and sister-in-law

took us down the boat.

179

00:11:50,450 --> 00:11:58,100

And it was a very heartbreaking

reunion for my husband

180

00:11:58,100 --> 00:12:02,030

to tell his brother that

he was the only one left

181

00:12:02,030 --> 00:12:04,160

from his big family.

182

00:12:04,160 --> 00:12:08,420

They had a nice,

wonderful family life.

183

00:12:08,420 --> 00:12:12,140

They adored their sister,

who'd had such a hard time

184

00:12:12,140 --> 00:12:13,190

to have a baby.

185

00:12:13,190 --> 00:12:17,060

And she had it two

years before the war.

186

00:12:17,060 --> 00:12:21,650

The mother that was

like a queen for them

187

00:12:21,650 --> 00:12:24,230

died, too, in the ghetto.

188

00:12:24,230 --> 00:12:30,800

Then my relatives start to pour

in, which I incidentally found.

189

00:12:30,800 --> 00:12:41,970



And, in a way, it was one of  
the hardest time in my life too,

190  
00:12:41,970 --> 00:12:45,870  
that I always thought it  
would be one of the happiest.

191  
00:12:45,870 --> 00:12:50,680  
But all of a sudden, you  
wind up in a country.

192  
00:12:50,680 --> 00:12:56,430  
It's not envious being that  
you see full families together,

193  
00:12:56,430 --> 00:13:00,150  
living normally, being  
worried and taken care of,

194  
00:13:00,150 --> 00:13:01,740  
minute by minute.

195  
00:13:01,740 --> 00:13:09,060  
And here you find yourself all  
alone, from everyone you had.

196  
00:13:09,060 --> 00:13:17,430  
Our family consisted of around  
40 to 50 cousins from both

197  
00:13:17,430 --> 00:13:20,490  
sides, my father's  
and my mother's.

198  
00:13:20,490 --> 00:13:22,320  
All had been brutally killed.

199  
00:13:22,320 --> 00:13:26,550  
Not till now I have no idea.

200  
00:13:26,550 --> 00:13:30,180  
If I would want to  
go back, like people

201  
00:13:30,180 --> 00:13:32,040  
go back to see the grave--

202  
00:13:32,040 --> 00:13:34,050  
you feel it will  
give you a relief--

203  
00:13:34,050 --> 00:13:35,520  
there's no place where to go.

204  
00:13:35,520 --> 00:13:37,050  
There are no graves.

205  
00:13:37,050 --> 00:13:42,540  
Whole Poland is covered  
with Jewish blood.

206  
00:13:42,540 --> 00:13:44,430  
But somehow, you adjust.

207  
00:13:44,430 --> 00:13:48,990  
In 1950, my daughter  
was born, and I

208  
00:13:48,990 --> 00:13:54,190  
think that was (VOICE BREAKING)  
the turning point in my life.

209  
00:13:54,190 --> 00:13:57,220  
I think that was one of  
the happiest moments, when

210  
00:13:57,220 --> 00:13:59,190  
she was born.

211  
00:13:59,190 --> 00:14:01,710  
All of a sudden,  
I felt so strong.

212  
00:14:01,710 --> 00:14:05,030

213  
00:14:05,030 --> 00:14:15,340  
I felt like I'm now in  
charge, and responsible

214  
00:14:15,340 --> 00:14:17,350  
(VOICE BREAKING) for my  
daughter's well-being,

215  
00:14:17,350 --> 00:14:21,850  
and just pray she  
should never have

216  
00:14:21,850 --> 00:14:30,930  
to go through half or one minute  
what we went through the war.

217  
00:14:30,930 --> 00:14:33,800

218  
00:14:33,800 --> 00:14:35,930  
She could not understand  
why she doesn't

219  
00:14:35,930 --> 00:14:40,000  
have any grandmothers, any  
grandfather, (VOICE BREAKING)

220  
00:14:40,000 --> 00:14:41,755  
any aunts, uncles, cousins.

221  
00:14:41,755 --> 00:14:44,400

222  
00:14:44,400 --> 00:14:50,610  
And I just could not make  
myself tell my children.

223  
00:14:50,610 --> 00:14:55,080  
I thought it was not  
fair they should be

224

00:14:55,080 --> 00:14:58,140  
told about all this suffering.

225  
00:14:58,140 --> 00:15:02,130  
I thought it will give them  
a harsh outlook of life.

226  
00:15:02,130 --> 00:15:05,410

227  
00:15:05,410 --> 00:15:08,900  
But somehow, I survived.

228  
00:15:08,900 --> 00:15:12,670  
Pleasant things have been  
coming, with the birthday

229  
00:15:12,670 --> 00:15:16,300  
parties, little celebrations.

230  
00:15:16,300 --> 00:15:22,490  
I really think that my children  
brought back life to me.

231  
00:15:22,490 --> 00:15:25,930

232  
00:15:25,930 --> 00:15:33,400  
We worked both hard here,  
but we gave our children

233  
00:15:33,400 --> 00:15:39,190  
a good education, what was  
pounded in me from home.

234  
00:15:39,190 --> 00:15:48,830  
My daughter graduate Boston  
University as a art major,

235  
00:15:48,830 --> 00:15:51,560  
was working later for  
a publishing company.

236

00:15:51,560 --> 00:15:55,760

My younger daughter graduate  
college as a teacher,

237

00:15:55,760 --> 00:16:01,640

and was considered a very  
good and caring teacher

238

00:16:01,640 --> 00:16:09,560

when she taught in  
Elizabeth public schools.

239

00:16:09,560 --> 00:16:15,740

I guess I had to live to  
give life for my children,

240

00:16:15,740 --> 00:16:18,230

or to tell you that story.

241

00:16:18,230 --> 00:16:19,706

[SNIFFLES]

242

00:16:19,706 --> 00:16:20,690

243

00:16:20,690 --> 00:16:24,134

[PAPER RUSTLING]

244

00:16:24,134 --> 00:16:29,546

245

00:16:29,546 --> 00:16:32,338

OK, Charlie.

246

00:16:32,338 --> 00:16:34,572

Stay here.

247

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