1 00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:13,540

2 00:00:13,540 --> 00:00:16,450 We'll continue now with our interview of Mrs. Edith Farben.

3 00:00:16,450 --> 00:00:18,940 And I think we'd like to know a little bit more

00:00:18,940 --> 00:00:22,030 about what happened after your reunion with your mother

5 00:00:22,030 --> 00:00:23,680 back then.

6 00:00:23,680 --> 00:00:27,200 Well, after I met my mother and my brother, of course,

00:00:27,200 --> 00:00:32,565 we were very happy because we already were a little family.

8 00:00:32,565 --> 00:00:33,565 At least we had someone.

9 00:00:33,565 --> 00:00:37,100

10 00:00:37,100 --> 00:00:40,220 I considered myself, and I was considered by everybody,

11 00:00:40,220 --> 00:00:42,410 very lucky to have a mother.

12 00:00:42,410 --> 00:00:45,320 13 00:00:45,320 --> 00:00:50,960 And we stayed in Bratislava for about a week or so together.

14 00:00:50,960 --> 00:00:53,450 Then we started out for home.

15 00:00:53,450 --> 00:00:56,510 And again, the train would run a few kilometers,

16 00:00:56,510 --> 00:00:58,350 stop, and took us a long time.

17 00:00:58,350 --> 00:01:01,640 We stopped in Budapest for a couple of days.

18 00:01:01,640 --> 00:01:04,250 And we headed home.

19 00:01:04,250 --> 00:01:06,710 Of course, when we got home, our house

20 00:01:06,710 --> 00:01:10,160 was occupied by one of our neighbors.

21 00:01:10,160 --> 00:01:11,300 There was no place to stay.

22 00:01:11,300 --> 00:01:15,540

23 00:01:15,540 --> 00:01:16,800 Didn't find anybody.

24 00:01:16,800 --> 00:01:18,960 We knew already that my father had died, 00:01:18,960 --> 00:01:21,420 and my sister had died.

26 00:01:21,420 --> 00:01:24,380 My mother's sister was with us.

27 00:01:24,380 --> 00:01:29,660 And incidentally, she was married before the war.

28 00:01:29,660 --> 00:01:34,930 And she found her husband when she came home.

29 00:01:34,930 --> 00:01:36,256 He was home.

30 00:01:36,256 --> 00:01:39,730 How were you able to eat and to just get by from day to day

31 00:01:39,730 --> 00:01:40,630 at this time?

32 00:01:40,630 --> 00:01:46,130 Oh, they had kitchens in every big city.

33 00:01:46,130 --> 00:01:49,300 Schools were set up to sleep.

34 00:01:49,300 --> 00:01:55,410 And they had, what do you call, community, whatever.

35 00:01:55,410 --> 00:01:59,370 You went to these certain places to eat.

36 00:01:59,370 --> 00:02:03,520 I think it was run by UJA or something like that.

37

00:02:03,520 --> 00:02:07,830 But every big city had that.

38

00:02:07,830 --> 00:02:09,120

Relief agencies?

39

00:02:09,120 --> 00:02:10,650

Yeah.

40

00:02:10,650 --> 00:02:12,330 Was UNRRA involved in your--

41

00:02:12,330 --> 00:02:13,380 Yes.

res

42

00:02:13,380 --> 00:02:15,520

Yeah.

43

00:02:15,520 --> 00:02:21,980 And then there was nothing for us to do in Polana,

44

00:02:21,980 --> 00:02:25,560 so we went to Mukachevo.

45

00:02:25,560 --> 00:02:32,740

And over there, we met what turned out

46

00:02:32,740 --> 00:02:35,110 to be later my husband.

47

00:02:35,110 --> 00:02:40,400 We knew him before, and he had a wife, and he had children.

48

00:02:40,400 --> 00:02:41,980

And he had a couple of houses.

00:02:41,980 --> 00:02:47,810 And one of his homes was empty, and he offered it to us.

50 00:02:47,810 --> 00:02:49,820 So my aunt went with her husband.

51 00:02:49,820 --> 00:02:51,690 And my brother, my mother, and I went,

52 00:02:51,690 --> 00:02:55,580 stayed at my husband's home.

53 00:02:55,580 --> 00:02:57,320 And then in October, I married him.

54 00:02:57,320 --> 00:03:01,450

55 00:03:01,450 --> 00:03:06,190 Sometime that winter, we got a message

56 00:03:06,190 --> 00:03:11,240 from my brother, the one that was here in the United States,

57 00:03:11,240 --> 00:03:16,840 that he is in Czechoslovakia, and he's looking for us.

58 00:03:16,840 --> 00:03:18,610 He couldn't come to Mukach because it

59 00:03:18,610 --> 00:03:23,780 was occupied by the Russians, and he was an American soldier.

60 00:03:23,780 --> 00:03:31,100 So my brother and I decided to go to see him.

61 00:03:31,100 --> 00:03:33,260 My husband wanted to stay where he was.

62 00:03:33,260 --> 00:03:35,460 So did my mother.

63 00:03:35,460 --> 00:03:38,580 But my brother and I didn't, so we made up,

64 00:03:38,580 --> 00:03:40,285 we are going to see him, and then we

65 00:03:40,285 --> 00:03:41,910 are not going to come back, and they'll

66 00:03:41,910 --> 00:03:45,250 have to come and join us.

67 00:03:45,250 --> 00:03:46,330 So we did.

68 00:03:46,330 --> 00:03:50,730 We had to go across borders during the night.

69 00:03:50,730 --> 00:03:54,150 And we went, and we found my brother.

70 00:03:54,150 --> 00:03:58,460 And we sent my husband and my mother a message

71 00:03:58,460 --> 00:04:03,755 that they should pack up and come join us. 72 00:04:03,755 --> 00:04:04,880 First, they didn't want to.

73 00:04:04,880 --> 00:04:08,610 Then my brother went back and brought them back to--

74 00:04:08,610 --> 00:04:10,800 we were in Teplice-Sanov.

75 00:04:10,800 --> 00:04:13,590 That was in Czechoslovakia.

76 00:04:13,590 --> 00:04:17,050 We stayed there through the winter.

77 00:04:17,050 --> 00:04:22,920 And in the spring, we went to Germany to Wasserburg.

78 00:04:22,920 --> 00:04:25,560 That was a displaced persons camp before the war.

79 00:04:25,560 --> 00:04:33,430 It was a hospital for mentally retarded people.

80 00:04:33,430 --> 00:04:36,140

81 00:04:36,140 --> 00:04:41,490 And then my brother came back to the United States

82 00:04:41,490 --> 00:04:43,070 to send papers for my mother.

83 00:04:43,070 --> 00:04:46,330 84 00:04:46,330 --> 00:04:51,980 In January of '47, my mother came to this country.

85 00:04:51,980 --> 00:04:55,730 And we followed in July.

86 00:04:55,730 --> 00:04:57,920 When she came, did she stay with your other brother?

87 00:04:57,920 --> 00:04:58,420 No.

88 00:04:58,420 --> 00:04:59,370 My brother was single.

89 00:04:59,370 --> 00:05:01,752

90 00:05:01,752 --> 00:05:03,710 Well, now, at the time, he was married already.

91 00:05:03,710 --> 00:05:05,480 No, she stayed with one of her sisters.

92 00:05:05,480 --> 00:05:09,480 My mother had three sisters and two brothers here.

93 00:05:09,480 --> 00:05:13,190 So she stayed with one of her sisters.

94 00:05:13,190 --> 00:05:22,730 So we came here, and we rented an apartment.

95 00:05:22,730 --> 00:05:25,790 We got something from here, something from there,

96 00:05:25,790 --> 00:05:29,200 a bed, a table, and stuff like that.

97 00:05:29,200 --> 00:05:31,270 And we both started working.

98 00:05:31,270 --> 00:05:33,190 And my mother came to live with us.

99 00:05:33,190 --> 00:05:35,670 So did my brother.

100 00:05:35,670 --> 00:05:43,530 And little by little, we made enough to live on.

101 00:05:43,530 --> 00:05:46,300

102 00:05:46,300 --> 00:05:49,120 We worked very hard.

103 00:05:49,120 --> 00:05:52,740 But we didn't complain because we felt that we're free.

104 00:05:52,740 --> 00:05:59,650 We never went to any of the agencies for any help, never.

105 00:05:59,650 --> 00:06:01,960 My husband was a very proud man, and he

106 00:06:01,960 --> 00:06:05,170 said, as long as I'm alive, and I can, 107 00:06:05,170 --> 00:06:07,270 I don't want anybody to give me anything.

108 00:06:07,270 --> 00:06:09,580 What kind of work did you do, and what kind of work

109 00:06:09,580 --> 00:06:10,360 did he do?

110 00:06:10,360 --> 00:06:11,830 Well, I worked in a dress factory.

111 00:06:11,830 --> 00:06:13,210 Dress factory?

112 00:06:13,210 --> 00:06:16,420 And my husband, when we first came here,

113 00:06:16,420 --> 00:06:21,990 he was hired by someone in a lumber factory to cut lumber.

114 00:06:21,990 --> 00:06:25,060 Happened to be very nice people, very nice.

115 00:06:25,060 --> 00:06:26,200 He had a very nice boss.

116 00:06:26,200 --> 00:06:30,000

117 00:06:30,000 --> 00:06:35,320 Health-wise, we weren't doing well because to live the way we

118 00:06:35,320 --> 00:06:38,350 lived, and then suddenly-- 119

00:06:38,350 --> 00:06:42,850 when my husband started to work, his hands and his feet

120

00:06:42,850 --> 00:06:44,260 were swelling.

121

00:06:44,260 --> 00:06:45,740 He couldn't stand on his feet.

122

00:06:45,740 --> 00:06:47,720 That's how they were swollen.

123

00:06:47,720 --> 00:06:51,280 But his boss was a very, very nice man.

124

00:06:51,280 --> 00:06:52,710 He sent him to his doctor.

125

00:06:52,710 --> 00:06:56,700 He took somebody off the production line,

126

00:06:56,700 --> 00:07:01,770 gave him the keys to his car, sent him to his doctor.

127

00:07:01,770 --> 00:07:03,660 The doctor gave him medicine and whatnot

128

00:07:03,660 --> 00:07:06,360 and told him to be off his feet for a few days.

129

00:07:06,360 --> 00:07:08,260 He paid him.

130

00:07:08,260 --> 00:07:09,430

He gave him suits.

131 00:07:09,430 --> 00:07:12,700 He was very, very nice to my husband.

132 00:07:12,700 --> 00:07:17,330 And then after a while, he got a job

133 00:07:17,330 --> 00:07:20,840 in Ronson cigarette lighter factory.

134 00:07:20,840 --> 00:07:23,360 My uncle knew someone that worked there,

135 00:07:23,360 --> 00:07:26,600 and through him, my husband got a job there.

136 00:07:26,600 --> 00:07:28,180 And I worked in a dress factory.

137 00:07:28,180 --> 00:07:31,080

138 00:07:31,080 --> 00:07:33,570 And in 1948, my daughter was born.

139 00:07:33,570 --> 00:07:38,350

140 00:07:38,350 --> 00:07:39,460 And I went back to work.

141 00:07:39,460 --> 00:07:41,650 My mother was with my daughter.

142 00:07:41,650 --> 00:07:44,160 143 00:07:44,160 --> 00:07:45,690 So we were a family.

144 00:07:45,690 --> 00:07:48,370

145 00:07:48,370 --> 00:07:51,620 And then in 1952, my husband bought

146 00:07:51,620 --> 00:07:55,320 a business, a candy store.

147 00:07:55,320 --> 00:07:57,900 So I quit my job, and we worked very hard.

148 00:07:57,900 --> 00:08:04,930 We worked hard and got on our feet financially.

149 00:08:04,930 --> 00:08:13,500 And in 1953, I had a little boy.

150 00:08:13,500 --> 00:08:16,155 I had him for 3 and 1/2 years, and then he died.

151 00:08:16,155 --> 00:08:21,140

152 00:08:21,140 --> 00:08:27,890 Then my brother got sick, and he died.

153 00:08:27,890 --> 00:08:32,572

154 00:08:32,572 --> 00:08:37,210 My mother has suffered a lot. 155 00:08:37,210 --> 00:08:43,789 She lost her husband, a daughter, a son, a grandson,

156 00:08:43,789 --> 00:08:46,710 and she really has suffered a lot.

157 00:08:46,710 --> 00:08:50,520

158 00:08:50,520 --> 00:08:59,900 And then in 1970, she remarried, but for a very short time.

159 00:08:59,900 --> 00:09:01,950 Up until then, she lived with me.

160 00:09:01,950 --> 00:09:04,620 And after that, when she got married, she moved out.

161 00:09:04,620 --> 00:09:12,020 And she's living on her own now, but just a block away from me.

162 00:09:12,020 --> 00:09:17,390 She lives right on Mickey Avenue, at the Mickey Village.

163 00:09:17,390 --> 00:09:20,510 And if you know where the ACME is, I live right in back

164 00:09:20,510 --> 00:09:21,800 of the ACME.

165 00:09:21,800 --> 00:09:27,010 So when I go to my mother, I just walk through the ACME lot.

166

00:09:27,010 --> 00:09:33,960 And that's how our lives shaped up.

167 00:09:33,960 --> 00:09:38,260 And we tried to do the best.

168 00:09:38,260 --> 00:09:45,090 My husband died in 1980.

169 00:09:45,090 --> 00:09:46,868 I have three grandchildren.

170 00:09:46,868 --> 00:09:51,810

171 00:09:51,810 --> 00:09:55,450 I want to tell you a little bit about my mother's experience

172 00:09:55,450 --> 00:09:58,400 in camp.

173 00:09:58,400 --> 00:10:04,390 After we were separated, as I said before, I went to camp,

174 00:10:04,390 --> 00:10:07,140 and I worked.

175 00:10:07,140 --> 00:10:09,330 When my mother was shipped from Auschwitz,

176 00:10:09,330 --> 00:10:11,700 it was already when they were liquidating there

177 00:10:11,700 --> 00:10:13,785 because the Russians were very close.

178

179

00:10:17,170 --> 00:10:25,060 They shipped them to Mauthausen; first to Bergen-Belsen,

180

00:10:25,060 --> 00:10:29,470 Venusberg, Mauthausen.

181

00:10:29,470 --> 00:10:31,000 They were filthy.

182

00:10:31,000 --> 00:10:31,843 They were hungry.

183

00:10:31,843 --> 00:10:32,635 They were diseased.

184

00:10:32,635 --> 00:10:37,850

185

00:10:37,850 --> 00:10:41,920 My aunt had an infection in her hand here.

186

00:10:41,920 --> 00:10:44,210 That's Irene's mother.

187

00:10:44,210 --> 00:10:47,550 It was so bad that a red stripe was going on her right hand.

188

00:10:47,550 --> 00:10:49,540 A red stripe was going up her arm.

189

00:10:49,540 --> 00:10:50,150

It was--

190

00:10:50,150 --> 00:10:51,131

Following the veins.

191 00:10:51,131 --> 00:10:53,960

192 00:10:53,960 --> 00:10:54,643 --blood--

193 00:10:54,643 ---

00:10:54,643 --> 00:10:55,310 Blood poisoning.

194 00:10:55,310 --> 00:10:57,200 --poisoning.

195 00:10:57,200 --> 00:11:00,350 And you can't even show it to anybody

196 00:11:00,350 --> 00:11:05,050 because right away, it's death.

197 00:11:05,050 --> 00:11:08,230 My mother found a potato in the field,

198 00:11:08,230 --> 00:11:13,140 as they were on a train for 16 days.

199 00:11:13,140 --> 00:11:16,800 They let them out, I don't know, twice, I think, in the 16 days.

200 00:11:16,800 --> 00:11:19,020 They gave them water twice or three times

201 00:11:19,020 --> 00:11:21,550 and a piece of bread once.

202 00:11:21,550 --> 00:11:23,455 Every morning, they would open up the cars 203 00:11:23,455 --> 00:11:24,455 and take out the bodies.

204 00:11:24,455 --> 00:11:27,633

205 00:11:27,633 --> 00:11:29,550 They were in the field when they let them out,

206 00:11:29,550 --> 00:11:32,100 and my mother found a potato.

207 00:11:32,100 --> 00:11:37,930 So her first instinct was to eat it.

208 00:11:37,930 --> 00:11:40,930 Then she decided, no, she can't eat that potato

209 00:11:40,930 --> 00:11:43,220 because her sister needs it to get the--

210 00:11:43,220 --> 00:11:43,720 Poison?

211 00:11:43,720 --> 00:11:46,180 --infection out of her hand.

212 00:11:46,180 --> 00:11:50,230 So she was cutting tiny little, very thin slices,

213 00:11:50,230 --> 00:11:56,010 and kept it on her hand, and tore a piece of her dress.

214 00:11:56,010 --> 00:12:00,240 And she urinated on it and put the compress on.

215

00:12:00,240 --> 00:12:06,090 And believe it or not, she healed it with that.

216

00:12:06,090 --> 00:12:07,830 How did she know to do that?

217

00:12:07,830 --> 00:12:10,820 I guess it was the old--

218

00:12:10,820 --> 00:12:13,110 Folk medicine? --folk medicine.

219

00:12:13,110 --> 00:12:14,380 And she healed it.

220

00:12:14,380 --> 00:12:18,790 If we would do it today, we would think we'd die.

221

00:12:18,790 --> 00:12:21,790 And then they were walking.

222

00:12:21,790 --> 00:12:25,720 And the people had diarrhea.

223

00:12:25,720 --> 00:12:26,710 They were sick.

224

00:12:26,710 --> 00:12:28,390 As soon as they stopped, they were shot.

225

00:12:28,390 --> 00:12:31,200

226

00:12:31,200 --> 00:12:34,380 And as they're working, and my mother sees 227

00:12:34,380 --> 00:12:38,310 a German soldier, one of the SS, one of their guards,

228

00:12:38,310 --> 00:12:41,220 standing there eating bread, cutting it with a knife

229

00:12:41,220 --> 00:12:45,010 and eating it, and my mother said to her sister,

230

00:12:45,010 --> 00:12:46,760 I'm going to ask him for a piece of bread.

231

00:12:46,760 --> 00:12:49,530

232

00:12:49,530 --> 00:12:51,930 And they also kind of figured that the war

233

00:12:51,930 --> 00:12:56,820 is ending because they were transferred from one camp

234

00:12:56,820 --> 00:12:57,450 to the other.

235

00:12:57,450 --> 00:12:58,200 They were walking.

236

00:12:58,200 --> 00:13:00,600 They were riding all different ways.

237

00:13:00,600 --> 00:13:04,230 They figured the war has ended, is going to be ended soon.

238

00:13:04,230 --> 00:13:08,580

So my aunt said to my mother, sure, you survived until now.

239

00:13:08,580 --> 00:13:11,790 Just in case, if we can survive this,

240

00:13:11,790 --> 00:13:14,280 make sure that you get killed.

241

00:13:14,280 --> 00:13:16,290 Don't do it.

242

00:13:16,290 --> 00:13:18,300 And my mother went to him, and she said to him,

243

00:13:18,300 --> 00:13:20,490 would you please-- in German--

244

00:13:20,490 --> 00:13:23,330 give me a piece of bread?

245

00:13:23,330 --> 00:13:26,780 He looks at her, and he says, you dumb cow.

246

00:13:26,780 --> 00:13:28,730 Why didn't you ask me before?

247

00:13:28,730 --> 00:13:30,980 I only have this little piece.

248

00:13:30,980 --> 00:13:33,850 And he gave it to her.

249

00:13:33,850 --> 00:13:38,170 So my mother, of course, shared it with her sister.

250

00:13:38,170 --> 00:13:41,080 Every time the subject comes up, my mother

251 00:13:41,080 --> 00:13:44,530 said she felt that bread

in the tips of her fingers

252

00:13:44,530 --> 00:13:47,110 and the tips of her toes, one bite,

253 00:13:47,110 --> 00:13:48,640 because one bite went to her sister.

254 00:13:48,640 --> 00:13:52,390

255 00:13:52,390 --> 00:13:54,960 My aunt almost died because she was sick.

256 00:13:54,960 --> 00:13:58,860

257 00:13:58,860 --> 00:14:01,680 But thank God they're here.

258 00:14:01,680 --> 00:14:11,430

259 00:14:11,430 --> 00:14:15,000 Can you see any meaning or pattern

260 00:14:15,000 --> 00:14:16,560 in all the things that have happened

261 00:14:16,560 --> 00:14:19,340 to you that brought you here?

262 00:14:19,340 --> 00:14:20,680 Does it make any sense?

263

00:14:20,680 --> 00:14:21,180

No.

264

00:14:21,180 --> 00:14:24,306

265

00:14:24,306 --> 00:14:26,730 Like a lot of people say, how?

266

 $00:14:26,730 \longrightarrow 00:14:27,480$ 

What?

267

00:14:27,480 --> 00:14:30,390

I think it was just faith.

268

00:14:30,390 --> 00:14:31,530

It was just faith.

269

00:14:31,530 --> 00:14:32,160

One survived.

270

00:14:32,160 --> 00:14:33,330

The other didn't.

271

 $00:14:33,330 \longrightarrow 00:14:37,750$ 

272

00:14:37,750 --> 00:14:42,557

There were stronger people than

I, and they didn't survive it.

273

00:14:42,557 --> 00:14:43,390

Physically stronger?

274

00:14:43,390 --> 00:14:46,660

Physically stronger,

like before camp.

275

00:14:46,660 --> 00:14:53,890

I knew women in our little town that were big and strong,

276

00:14:53,890 --> 00:14:55,930 and they didn't survive it.

277

00:14:55,930 --> 00:14:56,740 And I did.

278

00:14:56,740 --> 00:14:59,622 And then again, who knows?

279

00:14:59,622 --> 00:15:01,570 I guess I'm a faithfulist.

280

00:15:01,570 --> 00:15:02,640 I believe in faith.

281

00:15:02,640 --> 00:15:03,140 It happened.

282

00:15:03,140 --> 00:15:06,790

283

00:15:06,790 --> 00:15:08,710 Whether it's right or wrong, that's my belief.

284

00:15:08,710 --> 00:15:11,460

285

00:15:11,460 --> 00:15:13,230 And you're here to tell about it.

286

00:15:13,230 --> 00:15:14,530 Yeah.

287

00:15:14,530 --> 00:15:15,850

Thank you.

288

00:15:15,850 --> 00:15:18,340 And the reason I wanted to talk about it,

289

00:15:18,340 --> 00:15:24,170 because I would hope to God that it never happens again.

290

00:15:24,170 --> 00:15:27,590 And it should never be forgotten.

291

00:15:27,590 --> 00:15:31,110 It's painful to talk about it, but I'm glad

292

00:15:31,110 --> 00:15:35,790 I can do it because I wouldn't want--

293

00:15:35,790 --> 00:15:37,830 and not just Jewish people.

294

00:15:37,830 --> 00:15:39,540 I wouldn't want any kind of people

295

00:15:39,540 --> 00:15:43,390 to have to go through that kind of--

296

00:15:43,390 --> 00:15:45,380 when we came to this country, those days,

297

00:15:45,380 --> 00:15:47,005 there was quite a bit of discrimination

298

00:15:47,005 --> 00:15:50,130 against the colored.

299

00:15:50,130 --> 00:15:51,600

At the time, they still had to be

300

00:15:51,600 --> 00:15:55,680 in the back of the bus in the South and all that.

301

00:15:55,680 --> 00:15:57,660 We couldn't see it.

302

00:15:57,660 --> 00:16:01,470 We really couldn't see it because we just felt--

303

00:16:01,470 --> 00:16:04,320 we know what it's like to be discriminated against.

304

00:16:04,320 --> 00:16:06,420 And it shouldn't be.

305

00:16:06,420 --> 00:16:08,490 No matter what, it shouldn't be.

306

00:16:08,490 --> 00:16:11,280 People should not be discriminated against,

307

00:16:11,280 --> 00:16:13,760 killed for what they are, or anything like that.

308

00:16:13,760 --> 00:16:16,945

309

00:16:16,945 --> 00:16:18,320 We've had a great lesson in that.

310

00:16:18,320 --> 00:16:22,220

00:16:22,220 --> 00:16:23,600 Thank you, Mrs. Farben.

312

00:16:23,600 --> 00:16:27,203 We appreciate all you've done, and good afternoon.

313

 $00:16:27,203 \longrightarrow 00:16:28,110$  Thank you.

314

00:16:28,110 --> 00:16:29,790 Thank you very much.

315

00:16:29,790 --> 00:16:33,140 [MUSIC PLAYING]

316

00:16:33,140 --> 00:17:11,000