

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:28,780

2
00:00:28,780 --> 00:00:30,260
Good afternoon.

3
00:00:30,260 --> 00:00:31,690
My name is Frances Farber.

4
00:00:31,690 --> 00:00:34,930
And I'm associated with the
Kean College Oral Testimonies

5
00:00:34,930 --> 00:00:38,770
project of the Holocaust
Resource Center.

6
00:00:38,770 --> 00:00:41,170
We are affiliated with
the Video Archives

7
00:00:41,170 --> 00:00:43,930
for Holocaust Testimonies
at the Sterling

8
00:00:43,930 --> 00:00:46,000
library of Yale University.

9
00:00:46,000 --> 00:00:47,740
Sharing the interview
with me today

10
00:00:47,740 --> 00:00:51,670
is Bernard Weinstein, director
of the Kean College project.

11
00:00:51,670 --> 00:00:55,960
Today, we're privileged to
welcome Mrs. Zelda Peters.

12
00:00:55,960 --> 00:00:58,810

Mrs. Peters is a
survivor presently living

13
00:00:58,810 --> 00:01:00,760
in Highland Park, New Jersey.

14
00:01:00,760 --> 00:01:03,430
And she has
generously volunteered

15
00:01:03,430 --> 00:01:05,950
to give testimony
about her experiences

16
00:01:05,950 --> 00:01:10,870
before, during, and
after the Holocaust.

17
00:01:10,870 --> 00:01:12,280
Welcome, Mrs. Peters.

18
00:01:12,280 --> 00:01:13,870
Thank you.

19
00:01:13,870 --> 00:01:18,190
I thought we might start off
by having you tell us something

20
00:01:18,190 --> 00:01:20,410
about your early
childhood-- the date

21
00:01:20,410 --> 00:01:24,320
and place of your birth, where
you came from, and your family.

22
00:01:24,320 --> 00:01:24,820
Yeah.

23
00:01:24,820 --> 00:01:30,130
I was born in 1921,
May 29 in Sighet.

24

00:01:30,130 --> 00:01:32,800

My parents-- my
father's name was Alex.

25

00:01:32,800 --> 00:01:34,750

My mother's was Charlotte.

26

00:01:34,750 --> 00:01:35,793

Sighet is in Romania.

27

00:01:35,793 --> 00:01:36,460

Is that correct?

28

00:01:36,460 --> 00:01:37,810

In Romania, yes.

29

00:01:37,810 --> 00:01:43,280

And we were three brothers and
three sisters, six children.

30

00:01:43,280 --> 00:01:44,690

I was the youngest.

31

00:01:44,690 --> 00:01:50,380

And we had a very happy life,
childhood and growing up,

32

00:01:50,380 --> 00:01:52,430

though my parents
were very poor.

33

00:01:52,430 --> 00:01:57,030

But still, we had a lot
of love in the house.

34

00:01:57,030 --> 00:01:59,160

Three of us went to school.

35

00:01:59,160 --> 00:02:01,830

Three of us went only four
years, grammar school.

36

00:02:01,830 --> 00:02:04,080
And three of us went on further.

37

00:02:04,080 --> 00:02:07,380
One brother studied to be
a doctor, the oldest one.

38

00:02:07,380 --> 00:02:11,050
But he never finished
it, because the war

39

00:02:11,050 --> 00:02:12,030
came in between.

40

00:02:12,030 --> 00:02:15,520
And my sister and myself,
we were always very close.

41

00:02:15,520 --> 00:02:19,260
We always went
together all over.

42

00:02:19,260 --> 00:02:22,170
And then, in 19--

43

00:02:22,170 --> 00:02:27,570
this part of Romania was
usually Austria-Hungary.

44

00:02:27,570 --> 00:02:30,420
And in 1919, after
the First World War,

45

00:02:30,420 --> 00:02:34,800
they gave this part of
Transylvania to the Romanians.

46

00:02:34,800 --> 00:02:38,970
In 1940, Hitler gave it
back to the Hungarians.

47

00:02:38,970 --> 00:02:42,042

And that's where
the problem started.

48
00:02:42,042 --> 00:02:45,600
We were not allowed to go in
the street whenever we wanted.

49
00:02:45,600 --> 00:02:48,300
In the post office was
a big sign put out,

50
00:02:48,300 --> 00:02:52,191
Turks and Jews are not welcome.

51
00:02:52,191 --> 00:02:58,890
In 1944, the Hungarians came
in in 1940, September the 5th.

52
00:02:58,890 --> 00:03:03,090
And until '44, it
was not too bad.

53
00:03:03,090 --> 00:03:06,030
It was bad, but not
as bad until, in 1944,

54
00:03:06,030 --> 00:03:09,180
when the Germans took over.

55
00:03:09,180 --> 00:03:11,160
And after a few
days, they were in.

56
00:03:11,160 --> 00:03:13,590
And they took us to a ghetto.

57
00:03:13,590 --> 00:03:17,490
And two weeks later, the
deportations started.

58
00:03:17,490 --> 00:03:20,610
My parents went with
the first transport.

59

00:03:20,610 --> 00:03:21,990

There was four transport.

60

00:03:21,990 --> 00:03:24,375

There was 28,000 Jews
living in Sighet.

61

00:03:24,375 --> 00:03:26,900

62

00:03:26,900 --> 00:03:31,010

And I worked for a
builder, an architect

63

00:03:31,010 --> 00:03:32,900

in a building company.

64

00:03:32,900 --> 00:03:35,840

And they always said
they're going to hide me.

65

00:03:35,840 --> 00:03:37,980

About how old were
you at this time?

66

00:03:37,980 --> 00:03:39,710

22.

67

00:03:39,710 --> 00:03:43,010

And I accepted it,
until one day I

68

00:03:43,010 --> 00:03:46,215

got a card signed with
my mother's signature

69

00:03:46,215 --> 00:03:49,310

that we are here,
and it's very nice.

70

00:03:49,310 --> 00:03:52,580

It was those printed cards
where they give for everybody.

71
00:03:52,580 --> 00:03:56,120
When I heard that, I didn't
want to be hidden anymore.

72
00:03:56,120 --> 00:03:59,900
I said, I want to go
where my parents are.

73
00:03:59,900 --> 00:04:03,260
Little did I know
what happened to them.

74
00:04:03,260 --> 00:04:08,720
In 1944, May, we
arrived to Auschwitz.

75
00:04:08,720 --> 00:04:12,170
I came with four of
my best girlfriends.

76
00:04:12,170 --> 00:04:15,080
My mother, and my sister,
and the kids, and my father,

77
00:04:15,080 --> 00:04:16,829
they went with the
first transport.

78
00:04:16,829 --> 00:04:19,730
And there was nobody
left, only my only sister,

79
00:04:19,730 --> 00:04:23,090
who lives in Highland Park.

80
00:04:23,090 --> 00:04:25,820
And I was in the C lager.

81
00:04:25,820 --> 00:04:27,740
And my sister was

in the A lager,

82

00:04:27,740 --> 00:04:30,835

meaning that she was
supposed to work.

83

00:04:30,835 --> 00:04:34,670

And in the C lager, we
were condemned to death.

84

00:04:34,670 --> 00:04:37,910

Every day, when we were
standing outside the line,

85

00:04:37,910 --> 00:04:40,310

the SS woman used to
come and just point

86

00:04:40,310 --> 00:04:42,560

with her finger, you,
and you, and you.

87

00:04:42,560 --> 00:04:46,340

And whoever face she didn't
like or looked too old,

88

00:04:46,340 --> 00:04:48,560

they took them out, and
we never saw them again.

89

00:04:48,560 --> 00:04:51,170

90

00:04:51,170 --> 00:04:54,290

One day, one of my
friends, they took

91

00:04:54,290 --> 00:04:58,250

her to take a bath in the A
lager, where my sister worked,

92

00:04:58,250 --> 00:05:02,270

because that's where we

had to go to clean up.

93

00:05:02,270 --> 00:05:05,180

And they saw my sister.

94

00:05:05,180 --> 00:05:08,840

And my sister said, I don't
believe it that Zelda came,

95

00:05:08,840 --> 00:05:12,210

because her boss
wanted to hide her.

96

00:05:12,210 --> 00:05:16,310

But little did she know
that, a few weeks later, I

97

00:05:16,310 --> 00:05:17,780

came to the same place.

98

00:05:17,780 --> 00:05:24,110

I was picked out for a transport
and taken to have a bath taken

99

00:05:24,110 --> 00:05:26,570

and to get new clothes,
cleaner clothes.

100

00:05:26,570 --> 00:05:28,160

And as I was--

101

00:05:28,160 --> 00:05:31,970

I looked terrible, because
I had a gum disease.

102

00:05:31,970 --> 00:05:34,310

And I got very skinny.

103

00:05:34,310 --> 00:05:37,010

And I had a dress
only until about here,

104

00:05:37,010 --> 00:05:38,870
with everything showing.

105
00:05:38,870 --> 00:05:42,800
And I saw my sister stay in
Zahlappell in the street.

106
00:05:42,800 --> 00:05:44,540
And my feet just got stuck.

107
00:05:44,540 --> 00:05:46,980
I couldn't walk.

108
00:05:46,980 --> 00:05:48,530
And then she ran over to me.

109
00:05:48,530 --> 00:05:50,630
And she says, oh, my
god, you are here.

110
00:05:50,630 --> 00:05:53,540
I thought you're not
going to arrive in here.

111
00:05:53,540 --> 00:05:54,770
And then they took her away.

112
00:05:54,770 --> 00:06:01,370
And I haven't seen her until
later in March, until 1956.

113
00:06:01,370 --> 00:06:04,955
When you went to--
was it to Auschwitz?

114
00:06:04,955 --> 00:06:06,380
Yes.

115
00:06:06,380 --> 00:06:08,250
Were you aware of what
was happening there?

116

00:06:08,250 --> 00:06:08,750
No.

117
00:06:08,750 --> 00:06:09,970
Were you aware of
what was going on?

118
00:06:09,970 --> 00:06:10,470
No.

119
00:06:10,470 --> 00:06:12,287
What did you
believe, for example,

120
00:06:12,287 --> 00:06:13,370
when you got the telegram?

121
00:06:13,370 --> 00:06:14,495
They took us in cattle car.

122
00:06:14,495 --> 00:06:16,730
And like I said, I got
a card from my mother.

123
00:06:16,730 --> 00:06:19,310
I though, we're going
to be here, living.

124
00:06:19,310 --> 00:06:21,920
But when the
transport, the train

125
00:06:21,920 --> 00:06:25,040
arrived, and we saw people
laying in the street,

126
00:06:25,040 --> 00:06:27,530
and all the packages
laying in the street,

127
00:06:27,530 --> 00:06:31,500
then we knew already
that this is trouble.

128
00:06:31,500 --> 00:06:32,000
Yeah.

129
00:06:32,000 --> 00:06:35,960
And then came the SS with dogs.

130
00:06:35,960 --> 00:06:38,160
It was a terrible experience.

131
00:06:38,160 --> 00:06:40,202
I believe you said you
were in Auschwitz from May

132
00:06:40,202 --> 00:06:40,785
till November.

133
00:06:40,785 --> 00:06:42,770
I was in Auschwitz from
May until September.

134
00:06:42,770 --> 00:06:44,700
September of '44.

135
00:06:44,700 --> 00:06:45,200
Yeah.

136
00:06:45,200 --> 00:06:50,630
In September, I got picked
to go to [PLACE NAME]..

137
00:06:50,630 --> 00:06:52,340
That's by Frankfurt am Main.

138
00:06:52,340 --> 00:06:54,920

139
00:06:54,920 --> 00:06:59,270
We did the surfacing on
the airport in Frankfurt.

140

00:06:59,270 --> 00:07:02,150

So from the-- where
we used to stay,

141

00:07:02,150 --> 00:07:03,800

in the barracks,
every day we had

142

00:07:03,800 --> 00:07:08,480

the March about 10 kilometers
to work and back from work.

143

00:07:08,480 --> 00:07:14,240

I was there exactly one week
when I woke up on a Saturday

144

00:07:14,240 --> 00:07:15,770

morning and I couldn't walk.

145

00:07:15,770 --> 00:07:18,620

I couldn't get on my feet.

146

00:07:18,620 --> 00:07:21,383

And nobody knew what happened.

147

00:07:21,383 --> 00:07:22,050

I didn't either.

148

00:07:22,050 --> 00:07:24,080

But you had to go to work.

149

00:07:24,080 --> 00:07:26,780

So there were three sisters.

150

00:07:26,780 --> 00:07:28,790

Their names were Jacobowicz.

151

00:07:28,790 --> 00:07:31,280

And they were very good
customers of my father.

152

00:07:31,280 --> 00:07:33,017

They used to buy
the meat from him.

153
00:07:33,017 --> 00:07:34,100
Your father was a butcher.

154
00:07:34,100 --> 00:07:35,183
And he used to deliver it.

155
00:07:35,183 --> 00:07:37,550
Yes, my father was a butcher.

156
00:07:37,550 --> 00:07:43,320
And they took me on their arms
that I have to go to work.

157
00:07:43,320 --> 00:07:45,270
Otherwise, we will go
to the-- unable to work,

158
00:07:45,270 --> 00:07:46,790
they didn't need any more.

159
00:07:46,790 --> 00:07:48,950
They finished them.

160
00:07:48,950 --> 00:07:50,990
And that went like
this for a few days

161
00:07:50,990 --> 00:07:53,600
until I came into the hospital.

162
00:07:53,600 --> 00:07:56,180
Finally, they put
me in the hospital.

163
00:07:56,180 --> 00:08:00,800
And I was there until
November of '44.

164
00:08:00,800 --> 00:08:03,620

And then they took
us to Ravensbruck,

165
00:08:03,620 --> 00:08:05,930
because the Americans
were closing in.

166
00:08:05,930 --> 00:08:06,800
Yes.

167
00:08:06,800 --> 00:08:09,170
So they emptied the camps.

168
00:08:09,170 --> 00:08:12,980
And we went to Ravensbruck.

169
00:08:12,980 --> 00:08:15,620
And a lot of girls
died on the way.

170
00:08:15,620 --> 00:08:19,490
We were also two nights and
three days on the road--

171
00:08:19,490 --> 00:08:20,120
On the march.

172
00:08:20,120 --> 00:08:22,430
--in those cattle car.

173
00:08:22,430 --> 00:08:26,540
And when we arrived, they
took the deads off first.

174
00:08:26,540 --> 00:08:27,470
And they took me, too.

175
00:08:27,470 --> 00:08:31,790
They put me on their trucks
for the deads together.

176
00:08:31,790 --> 00:08:36,330

So I figured, well, here
I go, that's the end.

177
00:08:36,330 --> 00:08:40,490
And when we arrived,
I was in there

178
00:08:40,490 --> 00:08:43,070
when the English came to bomb.

179
00:08:43,070 --> 00:08:44,059
The air raid.

180
00:08:44,059 --> 00:08:45,050
So they took us into--

181
00:08:45,050 --> 00:08:45,780
an air raid.

182
00:08:45,780 --> 00:08:48,620
They took us into
a cell, what they

183
00:08:48,620 --> 00:08:51,140
used to use for the horses.

184
00:08:51,140 --> 00:08:52,517
And I started to scream.

185
00:08:52,517 --> 00:08:55,100
I don't want to die-- that I'm
too young, I don't want to die.

186
00:08:55,100 --> 00:08:59,510
Because of the air raid,
everything was dark.

187
00:08:59,510 --> 00:09:01,880
And then the same
girls, they come to me.

188
00:09:01,880 --> 00:09:05,420

And they said, Zelda, don't
be scared, we are here, too.

189
00:09:05,420 --> 00:09:07,910
So when I heard their
voices, and I saw them,

190
00:09:07,910 --> 00:09:13,210
then I figured, well, no,
maybe, maybe I'll live.

191
00:09:13,210 --> 00:09:19,480
And I was there until April the
30th, when we got liberated.

192
00:09:19,480 --> 00:09:23,120
But in the meantime, we had
to stay outside in the snow.

193
00:09:23,120 --> 00:09:24,800
And I couldn't walk
home before already.

194
00:09:24,800 --> 00:09:28,600
So you can see, even now, you
could see how that leg looks.

195
00:09:28,600 --> 00:09:32,480
I got tuberculosis in my bones.

196
00:09:32,480 --> 00:09:34,750
And I was in the hospital there.

197
00:09:34,750 --> 00:09:38,110
And every two weeks, I
had a different name,

198
00:09:38,110 --> 00:09:41,180
because you couldn't stay
so long in the hospital.

199
00:09:41,180 --> 00:09:44,800
And there was a nurse from

Czechoslovakia, a Gentile.

200
00:09:44,800 --> 00:09:46,480
Her name was Milka.

201
00:09:46,480 --> 00:09:50,920
And every night, she used
to stay by my bed and cry.

202
00:09:50,920 --> 00:09:55,060
I always said, Milka,
why are you crying?

203
00:09:55,060 --> 00:09:57,430
She never wanted to tell me.

204
00:09:57,430 --> 00:09:58,720
But one night, she came.

205
00:09:58,720 --> 00:10:02,050
And she said, Zelda,
tomorrow comes a big doctor

206
00:10:02,050 --> 00:10:04,040
from Frankfurt am Main.

207
00:10:04,040 --> 00:10:06,175
And if he says,
you walk, you got

208
00:10:06,175 --> 00:10:07,800
to walk if you want to live.

209
00:10:07,800 --> 00:10:10,400

210
00:10:10,400 --> 00:10:13,070
And he came, the doctor.

211
00:10:13,070 --> 00:10:15,140
And she took me off.

212

00:10:15,140 --> 00:10:17,060

And I couldn't walk,
no matter what.

213

00:10:17,060 --> 00:10:18,830

I didn't have no bone there.

214

00:10:18,830 --> 00:10:20,640

I couldn't walk.

215

00:10:20,640 --> 00:10:23,600

So the doctor said,
what's wrong with her?

216

00:10:23,600 --> 00:10:29,870

And the nurse said, she doesn't
have calcium in her bones.

217

00:10:29,870 --> 00:10:32,550

So he said, I want
to see the x-rays.

218

00:10:32,550 --> 00:10:35,900

She says, oh, they are so
bad, you can see nothing.

219

00:10:35,900 --> 00:10:38,690

So he says, OK, go back.

220

00:10:38,690 --> 00:10:41,018

And that's how I remained alive.

221

00:10:41,018 --> 00:10:41,560

That's right.

222

00:10:41,560 --> 00:10:42,143

She saved you.

223

00:10:42,143 --> 00:10:43,310

She saved you.

224

00:10:43,310 --> 00:10:43,910
Yeah.

225
00:10:43,910 --> 00:10:44,690
She saved me.

226
00:10:44,690 --> 00:10:46,050
I don't know where she is.

227
00:10:46,050 --> 00:10:47,700
I know she was from
Czechoslovakia.

228
00:10:47,700 --> 00:10:52,520
But you lose a lot of memories.

229
00:10:52,520 --> 00:10:55,533
And I just couldn't keep
her address in my head.

230
00:10:55,533 --> 00:10:56,300
Of course.

231
00:10:56,300 --> 00:10:57,870
I don't know how to sew.

232
00:10:57,870 --> 00:11:00,050
I used to sew clothes for them.

233
00:11:00,050 --> 00:11:04,040
Then I always got an
extra piece of bread.

234
00:11:04,040 --> 00:11:09,260
On the 30th of April
'45, we got liberated.

235
00:11:09,260 --> 00:11:10,018
By the Russians.

236
00:11:10,018 --> 00:11:10,685
By the Russians.

237
00:11:10,685 --> 00:11:13,550

238
00:11:13,550 --> 00:11:16,970
And what were your
feelings like then when--

239
00:11:16,970 --> 00:11:19,780
When they came in,
they had a white sheet

240
00:11:19,780 --> 00:11:23,330
on and those big boots,
those army boots.

241
00:11:23,330 --> 00:11:27,950
We kissed the bottom of
the soles of the boots.

242
00:11:27,950 --> 00:11:30,630
And the whole
hospital was dynamite.

243
00:11:30,630 --> 00:11:33,320
And naturally, they
took everything out.

244
00:11:33,320 --> 00:11:36,620
We were about 2,000
sick people in there,

245
00:11:36,620 --> 00:11:41,600
because the healthy ones,
they took on to the march,

246
00:11:41,600 --> 00:11:42,590
wherever they went.

247
00:11:42,590 --> 00:11:48,260

248

00:11:48,260 --> 00:11:50,660
How were you treated by the
Russians when they took over?

249
00:11:50,660 --> 00:11:51,620
Very nice.

250
00:11:51,620 --> 00:11:52,970
Very, very nice.

251
00:11:52,970 --> 00:11:55,880
The one who was in the hospital,
they treated very nice.

252
00:11:55,880 --> 00:11:58,640
But some of them moved out.

253
00:11:58,640 --> 00:12:05,060
And they raped a lot of girls.

254
00:12:05,060 --> 00:12:07,070
But the one we stood
in the hospital,

255
00:12:07,070 --> 00:12:09,950
they were really
very nice to us.

256
00:12:09,950 --> 00:12:13,550
How much longer did you
remain in the hospital after?

257
00:12:13,550 --> 00:12:14,520
Until July.

258
00:12:14,520 --> 00:12:15,170
Until July.

259
00:12:15,170 --> 00:12:17,600
Yeah.

260
00:12:17,600 --> 00:12:20,690

And then what happened
after you went--

261
00:12:20,690 --> 00:12:23,570
Then I went over to
the American side,

262
00:12:23,570 --> 00:12:27,756
because I knew there was
nothing for me by the Russian.

263
00:12:27,756 --> 00:12:30,620
And then I met my husband.

264
00:12:30,620 --> 00:12:32,300
And we lived in Germany.

265
00:12:32,300 --> 00:12:34,270
My daughter was
born in Thalheim.

266
00:12:34,270 --> 00:12:37,010
And then, in '51, we came
to the United States.

267
00:12:37,010 --> 00:12:38,660
Had your husband
also been in a--

268
00:12:38,660 --> 00:12:39,360
Yeah.

269
00:12:39,360 --> 00:12:39,860
Yeah.

270
00:12:39,860 --> 00:12:43,724

271
00:12:43,724 --> 00:12:48,690
Can you tell us something
about your experiences

272

00:12:48,690 --> 00:12:52,500
from when you were in the
displaced persons camp in 1945,

273
00:12:52,500 --> 00:12:54,060
you say, till '51?

274
00:12:54,060 --> 00:12:57,130
Can you tell us something
of your experiences there?

275
00:12:57,130 --> 00:13:00,960
Well, it was nice to be free.

276
00:13:00,960 --> 00:13:04,230
Everything we got was just--

277
00:13:04,230 --> 00:13:08,310
we could be happy
with everything.

278
00:13:08,310 --> 00:13:11,010
And we had a nice room.

279
00:13:11,010 --> 00:13:13,215
And the bathroom
was on the floor.

280
00:13:13,215 --> 00:13:15,360
A few families shared the same.

281
00:13:15,360 --> 00:13:18,900
Then we moved out of
Ravensbruck, which we didn't--

282
00:13:18,900 --> 00:13:21,760
it was no more a camp.

283
00:13:21,760 --> 00:13:23,700
We went to live
private, because we

284

00:13:23,700 --> 00:13:26,867
had some very good
friends in Joint,

285
00:13:26,867 --> 00:13:27,950
in the Joint Distribution.

286
00:13:27,950 --> 00:13:29,460
Joint, yes.

287
00:13:29,460 --> 00:13:32,670
My daughter was a very,
very sickly child.

288
00:13:32,670 --> 00:13:35,910
So they thought that it was
better for us to be there.

289
00:13:35,910 --> 00:13:39,150
She always used to faint.

290
00:13:39,150 --> 00:13:42,030
She had a fever of normal.

291
00:13:42,030 --> 00:13:44,880
In two minutes, it
would go up to 105.

292
00:13:44,880 --> 00:13:48,450
And then she got convulsions.

293
00:13:48,450 --> 00:13:49,830
Yeah.

294
00:13:49,830 --> 00:13:51,750
And then, also from
the Joint, they

295
00:13:51,750 --> 00:13:55,200
put us to work for the
Quakers in Bad Aibling.

296

00:13:55,200 --> 00:13:56,760
We got a job there.

297
00:13:56,760 --> 00:13:59,010
I was a house mother.

298
00:13:59,010 --> 00:14:02,070
And from there, we emigrated
to the United States.

299
00:14:02,070 --> 00:14:06,060
The Quakers were
very, very nice.

300
00:14:06,060 --> 00:14:10,520
Did you at any time want
to return to Romania?

301
00:14:10,520 --> 00:14:11,050
No.

302
00:14:11,050 --> 00:14:11,850
No?

303
00:14:11,850 --> 00:14:13,590
I was, after the war, yes.

304
00:14:13,590 --> 00:14:14,100
You were?

305
00:14:14,100 --> 00:14:15,450
But not to my hometown.

306
00:14:15,450 --> 00:14:16,720
I can't go there.

307
00:14:16,720 --> 00:14:17,460
Yes.

308
00:14:17,460 --> 00:14:18,270
No.

309

00:14:18,270 --> 00:14:21,740

We had some friends in
Bucharest, and we went there.

310

00:14:21,740 --> 00:14:25,440

But I could never,
never go back,

311

00:14:25,440 --> 00:14:29,010

because I had such experiences
with my best girlfriends

312

00:14:29,010 --> 00:14:31,530

who were Gentile
and says, oh, I'll

313

00:14:31,530 --> 00:14:34,920

hide your clothes, when
we went in the ghetto.

314

00:14:34,920 --> 00:14:36,870

At least, when
you come back, you

315

00:14:36,870 --> 00:14:38,770

will have something to wear.

316

00:14:38,770 --> 00:14:41,910

The next day, she came to visit
me in the ghetto in my clothes.

317

00:14:41,910 --> 00:14:45,060

318

00:14:45,060 --> 00:14:50,020

And so the memories
are too painful.

319

00:14:50,020 --> 00:14:54,030

And then, like I told you,
before that, all the time I

320

00:14:54,030 --> 00:14:57,330
could not accept what happened--

321
00:14:57,330 --> 00:14:58,260
To your parents.

322
00:14:58,260 --> 00:15:03,070
--to my parents, and my sisters,
and my brother, and the kids.

323
00:15:03,070 --> 00:15:03,570
And--

324
00:15:03,570 --> 00:15:05,700
You were one of six children.

325
00:15:05,700 --> 00:15:06,210
Six.

326
00:15:06,210 --> 00:15:06,570
Yes.

327
00:15:06,570 --> 00:15:07,070
Yeah.

328
00:15:07,070 --> 00:15:08,425
Now there's three of us left.

329
00:15:08,425 --> 00:15:10,380
Yes.

330
00:15:10,380 --> 00:15:14,940
And I used to count always the
months backwards-- that only

331
00:15:14,940 --> 00:15:17,670
one more month, we're going to
be here, and one more month.

332
00:15:17,670 --> 00:15:19,890
And always that,
until next month.

333
00:15:19,890 --> 00:15:22,260
And when I was a
liberated, naturally,

334
00:15:22,260 --> 00:15:25,875
I got such a diarrhea that
I couldn't take me off

335
00:15:25,875 --> 00:15:26,690
from the toilet.

336
00:15:26,690 --> 00:15:29,700
And then I started
to cry, because I

337
00:15:29,700 --> 00:15:32,980
had to accept what happened.

338
00:15:32,980 --> 00:15:35,480
Yes.

339
00:15:35,480 --> 00:15:37,613
You were not able to cry
during the whole period--

340
00:15:37,613 --> 00:15:38,113
No.

341
00:15:38,113 --> 00:15:38,566
No.

342
00:15:38,566 --> 00:15:39,566
--of your incarceration?

343
00:15:39,566 --> 00:15:41,360
No.

344
00:15:41,360 --> 00:15:44,390
But I cried here enough.

345

00:15:44,390 --> 00:15:45,800
I love United States.

346
00:15:45,800 --> 00:15:47,510
When we came, I
kissed the ground.

347
00:15:47,510 --> 00:15:49,760
And every time we go
someplace, when I come home,

348
00:15:49,760 --> 00:15:51,770
I kiss the ground.

349
00:15:51,770 --> 00:15:54,580
I'm sure.

350
00:15:54,580 --> 00:15:57,280
And when you came
to this country,

351
00:15:57,280 --> 00:15:59,470
did you settle
immediately in New Jersey?

352
00:15:59,470 --> 00:16:00,550
No, we were in Brooklyn.

353
00:16:00,550 --> 00:16:03,940

354
00:16:03,940 --> 00:16:05,350
I had an aunt there.

355
00:16:05,350 --> 00:16:08,260
My mother is one of 13 children.

356
00:16:08,260 --> 00:16:10,420
And that's the only
one who remained alive,

357
00:16:10,420 --> 00:16:14,650

because she came to the
United States in '23, 1923.

358
00:16:14,650 --> 00:16:17,420
And she was very sweet.

359
00:16:17,420 --> 00:16:19,090
She was alone.

360
00:16:19,090 --> 00:16:20,980
But we had an extra apartment.

361
00:16:20,980 --> 00:16:23,650

362
00:16:23,650 --> 00:16:25,690
And we were four
years in Brooklyn.

363
00:16:25,690 --> 00:16:27,238
And then we moved to New Jersey.

364
00:16:27,238 --> 00:16:28,780
Where you live now,
in Highland Park?

365
00:16:28,780 --> 00:16:29,460
Yeah.

366
00:16:29,460 --> 00:16:30,480
I see.

367
00:16:30,480 --> 00:16:32,290
Yeah.

368
00:16:32,290 --> 00:16:36,580
What do you think sustained
you during all of this time,

369
00:16:36,580 --> 00:16:37,970
during all this suffering?

370
00:16:37,970 --> 00:16:38,470
Do you--

371
00:16:38,470 --> 00:16:40,780
Mostly, because I
counted it every night,

372
00:16:40,780 --> 00:16:42,400
when I went to bed--

373
00:16:42,400 --> 00:16:44,890
that there is one more day left.

374
00:16:44,890 --> 00:16:49,420
I always said, well, June
started, and 30 days.

375
00:16:49,420 --> 00:16:53,800
Yeah, it started-- 29, 28, 27,
always counting backwards, then

376
00:16:53,800 --> 00:16:55,690
July.

377
00:16:55,690 --> 00:16:59,560
I knew it was going to
have to happen sometimes.

378
00:16:59,560 --> 00:17:00,880
Much hope, we didn't have.

379
00:17:00,880 --> 00:17:03,425
But something had
to keep us alive.

380
00:17:03,425 --> 00:17:05,800
Would you call it a kind of
blind faith in something or--

381
00:17:05,800 --> 00:17:06,300
Yes.

382

00:17:06,300 --> 00:17:08,630

Yes.

383

00:17:08,630 --> 00:17:12,710

And it was the counting
that enabled you to hold on.

384

00:17:12,710 --> 00:17:14,420

I fell asleep for that.

385

00:17:14,420 --> 00:17:15,560

Counting?

386

00:17:15,560 --> 00:17:16,220

Yeah.

387

00:17:16,220 --> 00:17:18,200

We were six on one--

388

00:17:18,200 --> 00:17:22,160

sometimes, it's not
funny, but it's funny.

389

00:17:22,160 --> 00:17:26,150

We were six girls
sleeping on one bed.

390

00:17:26,150 --> 00:17:29,390

And there was only room
to lay on one side.

391

00:17:29,390 --> 00:17:32,420

So we started to the
left, to the right.

392

00:17:32,420 --> 00:17:36,880

When one had to turn, then
the whole six had to turn.

393

00:17:36,880 --> 00:17:39,790

Yes.

394

00:17:39,790 --> 00:17:44,950

Which of these memories
for you is the most vivid?

395

00:17:44,950 --> 00:17:47,540

396

00:17:47,540 --> 00:17:50,480

Can you tell us?

397

00:17:50,480 --> 00:17:55,430

The most vivid was when
I saw my sister again.

398

00:17:55,430 --> 00:18:00,280

399

00:18:00,280 --> 00:18:03,130

That's because we were
always-- she's only-- not

400

00:18:03,130 --> 00:18:04,920
even two years older than I am.

401

00:18:04,920 --> 00:18:07,676
And we were always very close.

402

00:18:07,676 --> 00:18:10,840

403

00:18:10,840 --> 00:18:14,290
She lived in Israel.

404

00:18:14,290 --> 00:18:15,790
She was also very sick.

405

00:18:15,790 --> 00:18:17,060
And they took her to Sweden.

406

00:18:17,060 --> 00:18:20,890
Well, I'll let her

tell you her story.

407

00:18:20,890 --> 00:18:22,975

And from Sweden,
she went to Israel.

408

00:18:22,975 --> 00:18:25,770

409

00:18:25,770 --> 00:18:27,090

Where she lives now, in Israel?

410

00:18:27,090 --> 00:18:28,000

No, she lives here.

411

00:18:28,000 --> 00:18:28,625

Now she's here.

412

00:18:28,625 --> 00:18:30,076

In 1956, she came here.

413

00:18:30,076 --> 00:18:30,576

She came.

414

00:18:30,576 --> 00:18:30,700

Yes.

415

00:18:30,700 --> 00:18:31,260

Yeah.

416

00:18:31,260 --> 00:18:35,220

And then my brother came
in '64 from Romania.

417

00:18:35,220 --> 00:18:37,620

So it was the three of us here.

418

00:18:37,620 --> 00:18:40,080

We live one street apart.

419

00:18:40,080 --> 00:18:43,920

So there is not one day that
we shouldn't get together,

420
00:18:43,920 --> 00:18:44,880
all three of us.

421
00:18:44,880 --> 00:18:45,510
Yes.

422
00:18:45,510 --> 00:18:48,060
Are you able to talk about
these things with each other?

423
00:18:48,060 --> 00:18:49,830
Or do you find
that you have to--

424
00:18:49,830 --> 00:18:51,230
I'd rather not.

425
00:18:51,230 --> 00:18:51,940
--talk around it?

426
00:18:51,940 --> 00:18:53,790
I'd rather not,
because it always

427
00:18:53,790 --> 00:18:55,320
ends up that, the
whole night, they

428
00:18:55,320 --> 00:18:59,460
are chasing me whenever
we talk about it.

429
00:18:59,460 --> 00:19:01,000
And it's very sad memories.

430
00:19:01,000 --> 00:19:04,834

431
00:19:04,834 --> 00:19:07,370

In other words, you
have dreams about it?

432
00:19:07,370 --> 00:19:09,570
Or you recollect it,
and you can't sleep?

433
00:19:09,570 --> 00:19:12,620
Oh, how many times
I shield my child

434
00:19:12,620 --> 00:19:15,260
in my dreams under my skirt--

435
00:19:15,260 --> 00:19:17,390
many, many times.

436
00:19:17,390 --> 00:19:20,150
And see, I got in--

437
00:19:20,150 --> 00:19:24,730
'59 and in '63 I had, two
times, a nervous break down.

438
00:19:24,730 --> 00:19:27,270

439
00:19:27,270 --> 00:19:33,040
And then I had rheumatic
fever, rheumatic heart disease,

440
00:19:33,040 --> 00:19:35,150
which I contacted there.

441
00:19:35,150 --> 00:19:42,400
And from this, I got, 10
years ago, open heart surgery.

442
00:19:42,400 --> 00:19:47,040
So your health has
been terribly affected.

443

00:19:47,040 --> 00:19:49,180
I was normal.

444
00:19:49,180 --> 00:19:51,810
And then I'm not normal.

445
00:19:51,810 --> 00:19:52,680
I limp.

446
00:19:52,680 --> 00:19:54,000
I wear special shoes.

447
00:19:54,000 --> 00:19:56,430
This is my sitting shoes.

448
00:19:56,430 --> 00:19:58,620
I wear special shoes,
high lace shoes.

449
00:19:58,620 --> 00:20:00,940
I always buy them in Israel.

450
00:20:00,940 --> 00:20:03,700
They don't have them here.

451
00:20:03,700 --> 00:20:06,438
Have you been able to get
any kind of reparations

452
00:20:06,438 --> 00:20:07,605
or any kind of compensation?

453
00:20:07,605 --> 00:20:08,105
No.

454
00:20:08,105 --> 00:20:10,410
I had a very bad lawyer.

455
00:20:10,410 --> 00:20:14,850
Even that much, there
is some kind of alliance

456

00:20:14,850 --> 00:20:16,560

between the United
States and Germany

457

00:20:16,560 --> 00:20:21,510

that whoever worked in Germany
is entitled to social security.

458

00:20:21,510 --> 00:20:23,010

Yes.

459

00:20:23,010 --> 00:20:25,980

So we put in the papers.

460

00:20:25,980 --> 00:20:28,540

They had me through the mills.

461

00:20:28,540 --> 00:20:33,720

I had to take an exam
from German culture.

462

00:20:33,720 --> 00:20:38,130

Well, it just so happen I speak
it, I write it, I read it.

463

00:20:38,130 --> 00:20:40,410

But in order--
imagine, for somebody

464

00:20:40,410 --> 00:20:45,360

to get social security, you have
to be educated in the language.

465

00:20:45,360 --> 00:20:50,010

And they threw me back, because
they found out that Sighet

466

00:20:50,010 --> 00:20:53,087

wasn't a German culture house.

467

00:20:53,087 --> 00:20:55,170

On the basis of that, you

were denied reparations?

468

00:20:55,170 --> 00:20:56,430

On this basis, yeah.

469

00:20:56,430 --> 00:21:00,200

470

00:21:00,200 --> 00:21:02,510

Not a penny.

471

00:21:02,510 --> 00:21:03,058

And I worked.

472

00:21:03,058 --> 00:21:04,100

I worked for the Quakers.

473

00:21:04,100 --> 00:21:07,160

474

00:21:07,160 --> 00:21:10,370

Were they in any way able
to intercede for you,

475

00:21:10,370 --> 00:21:12,770

or to use influence, or--

476

00:21:12,770 --> 00:21:15,230

I don't even know
where they are.

477

00:21:15,230 --> 00:21:17,638

Yeah.

478

00:21:17,638 --> 00:21:18,180

I don't know.

479

00:21:18,180 --> 00:21:20,970

I know her name was Miss
Roberts, who was my boss.

480

00:21:20,970 --> 00:21:24,150
But I have no idea from where.

481
00:21:24,150 --> 00:21:26,370
Who was thinking then, doctor?

482
00:21:26,370 --> 00:21:27,420
Who was thinking?

483
00:21:27,420 --> 00:21:28,540
Yeah.

484
00:21:28,540 --> 00:21:29,780
Yeah.

485
00:21:29,780 --> 00:21:31,770
But perhaps there are records.

486
00:21:31,770 --> 00:21:33,280
Quaker's are international.

487
00:21:33,280 --> 00:21:33,780
Yeah.

488
00:21:33,780 --> 00:21:36,290

489
00:21:36,290 --> 00:21:38,390
Are you still to
this day pursuing it?

490
00:21:38,390 --> 00:21:38,990
Or do you--

491
00:21:38,990 --> 00:21:39,680
No.

492
00:21:39,680 --> 00:21:41,000
I get very upset.

493
00:21:41,000 --> 00:21:44,600

Every time we start it,
I always get so upset

494
00:21:44,600 --> 00:21:47,090
that my sister said, if you're
going to do it once more,

495
00:21:47,090 --> 00:21:49,310
I'm not going to talk to you.

496
00:21:49,310 --> 00:21:50,895
I get very, very upset.

497
00:21:50,895 --> 00:21:53,980

498
00:21:53,980 --> 00:21:54,480
I see.

499
00:21:54,480 --> 00:21:58,650

500
00:21:58,650 --> 00:22:03,080
Is there anything that
you want to tell us

501
00:22:03,080 --> 00:22:06,170
that you haven't told us
yet about your experiences,

502
00:22:06,170 --> 00:22:07,100
or anything that--

503
00:22:07,100 --> 00:22:07,743
I'm thinking--

504
00:22:07,743 --> 00:22:08,410
--comes to mind?

505
00:22:08,410 --> 00:22:09,920
--because I bet you, when
I'm going to go home,

506
00:22:09,920 --> 00:22:12,200
I'm going to remember,
why didn't I tell this,

507
00:22:12,200 --> 00:22:14,480
and why didn't I tell that?

508
00:22:14,480 --> 00:22:21,920
Well, maybe you want to
backtrack to your being

509
00:22:21,920 --> 00:22:28,100
a young girl, a young woman,
before the Germans came

510
00:22:28,100 --> 00:22:29,510
into Romania.

511
00:22:29,510 --> 00:22:33,260
Perhaps you can tell us, were
you at school, or working?

512
00:22:33,260 --> 00:22:36,590
Yeah, we went to school,
my sister and myself.

513
00:22:36,590 --> 00:22:39,440
We both went to
Catholic schools,

514
00:22:39,440 --> 00:22:42,050
because they keep you there
a very good education.

515
00:22:42,050 --> 00:22:44,180
And you didn't have
to be Catholic to go

516
00:22:44,180 --> 00:22:46,010
to a Catholic school.

517

00:22:46,010 --> 00:22:49,680
And naturally, the main
subject was religion.

518
00:22:49,680 --> 00:22:51,800
So when they had
their religion, we

519
00:22:51,800 --> 00:22:53,375
had our religion with a rabbi.

520
00:22:53,375 --> 00:22:57,740

521
00:22:57,740 --> 00:23:00,515
Was there a strong Jewish
bond in your household,

522
00:23:00,515 --> 00:23:01,140
in your family?

523
00:23:01,140 --> 00:23:02,180
Oh, yes.

524
00:23:02,180 --> 00:23:02,750
Oh, yes.

525
00:23:02,750 --> 00:23:06,020
My father was very
religious, very Orthodox.

526
00:23:06,020 --> 00:23:06,770
You could see.

527
00:23:06,770 --> 00:23:09,240
I showed you the
picture with a kerchief.

528
00:23:09,240 --> 00:23:11,570
My mother used to wear a wig.

529
00:23:11,570 --> 00:23:14,660

But she was 27 years old
when her father died.

530
00:23:14,660 --> 00:23:17,780
And in 10 minutes,
she turned white.

531
00:23:17,780 --> 00:23:21,680
So she said, no more wig,
only cutting the whole hair.

532
00:23:21,680 --> 00:23:24,580
And all she got was a kerchief.

533
00:23:24,580 --> 00:23:25,100
I see.

534
00:23:25,100 --> 00:23:27,240
My father was a very
good looking man.

535
00:23:27,240 --> 00:23:29,340
And he used to have
a butcher store.

536
00:23:29,340 --> 00:23:31,400
And she used to tell
us my father was

537
00:23:31,400 --> 00:23:33,740
seven years older than she was.

538
00:23:33,740 --> 00:23:36,320
But she was a sickly woman.

539
00:23:36,320 --> 00:23:38,540
And she looked older.

540
00:23:38,540 --> 00:23:41,090
So people, when they came
out of town in the store

541

00:23:41,090 --> 00:23:46,010
to shop, they used to say, is
that your son, of her husband.

542
00:23:46,010 --> 00:23:49,040

543
00:23:49,040 --> 00:23:57,590
And then I went to
business school.

544
00:23:57,590 --> 00:24:01,890
After finished four years there,
I went to business school.

545
00:24:01,890 --> 00:24:05,570
And then I started to work.

546
00:24:05,570 --> 00:24:10,460
First, I worked for an
export-import office,

547
00:24:10,460 --> 00:24:12,260
and then for a lawyer.

548
00:24:12,260 --> 00:24:15,290
And towards the end, when we
were deported, like I said,

549
00:24:15,290 --> 00:24:18,070
I worked for that builder
and the architect.

550
00:24:18,070 --> 00:24:19,340
The one who offered you--

551
00:24:19,340 --> 00:24:20,120
Yeah.

552
00:24:20,120 --> 00:24:21,990
They were very nice.

553

00:24:21,990 --> 00:24:24,440

They really risked their
life to bring something

554

00:24:24,440 --> 00:24:26,270

to eat into the ghetto.

555

00:24:26,270 --> 00:24:29,300

Are you in contact
with these people?

556

00:24:29,300 --> 00:24:30,483

Are they still--

557

00:24:30,483 --> 00:24:31,400

No, they died already.

558

00:24:31,400 --> 00:24:31,950

They died.

559

00:24:31,950 --> 00:24:32,960

Yeah.

560

00:24:32,960 --> 00:24:36,110

I was in contact with
them, but they died.

561

00:24:36,110 --> 00:24:38,390

And they were then
already in their 50s.

562

00:24:38,390 --> 00:24:43,640

In 1944, they were
in their 50s already.

563

00:24:43,640 --> 00:24:46,200

And you say you did
make a trip back.

564

00:24:46,200 --> 00:24:47,060

Pardon?

565

00:24:47,060 --> 00:24:48,470
You said that you did visit.

566
00:24:48,470 --> 00:24:49,050
Not home.

567
00:24:49,050 --> 00:24:49,550
No.

568
00:24:49,550 --> 00:24:50,100
Never?

569
00:24:50,100 --> 00:24:50,600
No.

570
00:24:50,600 --> 00:24:51,950
Only to Bucharest.

571
00:24:51,950 --> 00:24:52,920
Only to Bucharest.

572
00:24:52,920 --> 00:24:53,600
Yeah.

573
00:24:53,600 --> 00:24:54,800
I couldn't go there.

574
00:24:54,800 --> 00:24:59,530

575
00:24:59,530 --> 00:25:04,615
Then I didn't know that
my sister was alive.

576
00:25:04,615 --> 00:25:07,750
And when she found
out, then I found out.

577
00:25:07,750 --> 00:25:09,940
And then I knew
she went to Israel.

578

00:25:09,940 --> 00:25:12,730

But she came here only in 1956.

579

00:25:12,730 --> 00:25:16,210

When did you learn that your
sister had survived the war?

580

00:25:16,210 --> 00:25:17,800

And I know--

581

00:25:17,800 --> 00:25:22,590

After the liberation, in
the hospital where I was,

582

00:25:22,590 --> 00:25:23,390

there was a girl--

583

00:25:23,390 --> 00:25:24,070

In Ravensbruck.

584

00:25:24,070 --> 00:25:25,180

In Ravensbruck.

585

00:25:25,180 --> 00:25:26,980

There was a girl.

586

00:25:26,980 --> 00:25:29,260

She says, you know--

587

00:25:29,260 --> 00:25:30,820

we started talking--

588

00:25:30,820 --> 00:25:34,180

I had a sister by this name, and
I had a brother by this name.

589

00:25:34,180 --> 00:25:37,330

She survived us with
a girl, a daughter.

590

00:25:37,330 --> 00:25:39,130

That's my sister.

591

00:25:39,130 --> 00:25:41,320

But I don't think
she's alive, she said,

592

00:25:41,320 --> 00:25:44,890

because she was very sick
when they took her away.

593

00:25:44,890 --> 00:25:47,800

So I was sure I don't
have her no more.

594

00:25:47,800 --> 00:25:54,700

In '45, after the war, I found
out my brother was in Romania.

595

00:25:54,700 --> 00:25:55,930

And we corresponded.

596

00:25:55,930 --> 00:25:56,890

And I wrote to him.

597

00:25:56,890 --> 00:26:01,150

I says, I never thought that
my sister would not survive,

598

00:26:01,150 --> 00:26:06,520

because people were very
hard working people,

599

00:26:06,520 --> 00:26:08,680

and people not spoiled.

600

00:26:08,680 --> 00:26:12,500

So we thought we could
manage with everything.

601

00:26:12,500 --> 00:26:14,370

So my brother said, you're not.

602

00:26:14,370 --> 00:26:17,260

He says, your sister
is alive in Sweden.

603

00:26:17,260 --> 00:26:20,050

And then I sent her
right away a telegram.

604

00:26:20,050 --> 00:26:21,670

And she called me.

605

00:26:21,670 --> 00:26:23,815

But seeing-- I saw
her only in '56.

606

00:26:23,815 --> 00:26:28,760

607

00:26:28,760 --> 00:26:31,505

Yeah, I lost my
mother and my father,

608

00:26:31,505 --> 00:26:35,480

a brother with his
wife, and a sister

609

00:26:35,480 --> 00:26:38,060

with her husband and two girls.

610

00:26:38,060 --> 00:26:42,380

That's only the
immediate family--

611

00:26:42,380 --> 00:26:45,410

and my brother-in-law.

612

00:26:45,410 --> 00:26:47,030

I have two cousins here.

613

00:26:47,030 --> 00:26:50,270

One died already in Maryland.

614

00:26:50,270 --> 00:26:55,610
And they were together
with my brother-in-law.

615
00:26:55,610 --> 00:26:58,130
And they found out
that I'm forced labor.

616
00:26:58,130 --> 00:27:00,740
We were on forced labor
for the Hungarian.

617
00:27:00,740 --> 00:27:05,830

618
00:27:05,830 --> 00:27:10,330
And everybody says they
didn't know that there

619
00:27:10,330 --> 00:27:11,812
was a concentration camp.

620
00:27:11,812 --> 00:27:12,520
They didn't know.

621
00:27:12,520 --> 00:27:16,010
But the soldiers knew it.

622
00:27:16,010 --> 00:27:20,380
I mean, my brother-in-law,
he was in the forced labor.

623
00:27:20,380 --> 00:27:23,980
And they told him what happened
to the kids and to the wives.

624
00:27:23,980 --> 00:27:27,560
And in that instant,
he went crazy.

625
00:27:27,560 --> 00:27:29,300
And they put him to the wall.

626

00:27:29,300 --> 00:27:31,540

And they finished him also.

627

00:27:31,540 --> 00:27:32,980

My cousins told me that.

628

00:27:32,980 --> 00:27:37,170

629

00:27:37,170 --> 00:27:41,430

In Romania, you knew very
little, I understand,

630

00:27:41,430 --> 00:27:47,260

about what was happening
elsewhere in Europe, elsewhere

631

00:27:47,260 --> 00:27:47,760

to the Jews.

632

00:27:47,760 --> 00:27:50,490

See, there was a newspaper,
a Hungarian newspaper.

633

00:27:50,490 --> 00:27:54,480

My mother was a very
self-educated woman.

634

00:27:54,480 --> 00:27:56,610

She used to read a lot, too.

635

00:27:56,610 --> 00:28:01,800

And she had the-- the paper's
name was [NON-ENGLISH]..

636

00:28:01,800 --> 00:28:03,240

It was a Hungarian paper.

637

00:28:03,240 --> 00:28:04,920

And she used to read that.

638

00:28:04,920 --> 00:28:06,930
She says, I can't believe it.

639
00:28:06,930 --> 00:28:10,950
I can't believe it, they
did that in Germany.

640
00:28:10,950 --> 00:28:13,230
Nobody wanted to believe it.

641
00:28:13,230 --> 00:28:15,240
It must have seemed very remote.

642
00:28:15,240 --> 00:28:20,860
Yeah, until it
didn't happen to us.

643
00:28:20,860 --> 00:28:22,250
Yeah.

644
00:28:22,250 --> 00:28:27,830
When you came to Auschwitz,
and you see those chimneys--

645
00:28:27,830 --> 00:28:30,000
constantly, the
smoke coming out.

646
00:28:30,000 --> 00:28:34,370
The girls from
Czechoslovakia, from Slovakia,

647
00:28:34,370 --> 00:28:39,380
from the northern part, they
were there already since 1939.

648
00:28:39,380 --> 00:28:42,860
And they used to be
our house mother.

649
00:28:42,860 --> 00:28:46,190
And the women asked the
first day, when we arrived--

650
00:28:46,190 --> 00:28:49,130
some of them, they
took away the babies.

651
00:28:49,130 --> 00:28:52,040
When they came, it
was left and right.

652
00:28:52,040 --> 00:28:53,420
The right went to work.

653
00:28:53,420 --> 00:28:55,310
So they came in.

654
00:28:55,310 --> 00:28:57,380
And they always used
to say, give the babies

655
00:28:57,380 --> 00:28:58,520
to the old people.

656
00:28:58,520 --> 00:29:00,920
But nobody knew why.

657
00:29:00,920 --> 00:29:04,430
And then the next day, when they
asked that house mother, when

658
00:29:04,430 --> 00:29:06,500
are we going to see our baby--

659
00:29:06,500 --> 00:29:10,100
and we had a long
stove in there.

660
00:29:10,100 --> 00:29:12,350
And she used to
stay on top of it.

661
00:29:12,350 --> 00:29:14,460
And she said, you

see those chimneys?

662
00:29:14,460 --> 00:29:15,860
She said, you see that smoke?

663
00:29:15,860 --> 00:29:18,800
There are your children.

664
00:29:18,800 --> 00:29:21,450
And that's how people learned.

665
00:29:21,450 --> 00:29:21,950
Yeah.

666
00:29:21,950 --> 00:29:25,580

667
00:29:25,580 --> 00:29:27,120
And a lot of mothers--

668
00:29:27,120 --> 00:29:30,530
a lot of mothers happened
to give their children

669
00:29:30,530 --> 00:29:32,420
to the elderly people.

670
00:29:32,420 --> 00:29:33,960
When they found
out what happened,

671
00:29:33,960 --> 00:29:36,260
they ran to the electric wire.

672
00:29:36,260 --> 00:29:38,345
They killed themselves--
a lot of mothers.

673
00:29:38,345 --> 00:29:47,850

674

00:29:47,850 --> 00:29:50,520

I started to go to
the psychiatrist,

675

00:29:50,520 --> 00:29:53,340

because I got very depressed.

676

00:29:53,340 --> 00:29:57,540

And he said, the
only thing-- he says,

677

00:29:57,540 --> 00:29:59,520

the conclusion I could come to--

678

00:29:59,520 --> 00:30:02,280

he says, that's your conscience
bothering you that you came

679

00:30:02,280 --> 00:30:06,470

home and the rest of
your family didn't.

680

00:30:06,470 --> 00:30:07,812

I understand.

681

00:30:07,812 --> 00:30:11,510

682

00:30:11,510 --> 00:30:13,080

Did you feel that was true?

683

00:30:13,080 --> 00:30:13,580

Pardon?

684

00:30:13,580 --> 00:30:16,310

Did you, yourself, feel
that that was true?

685

00:30:16,310 --> 00:30:17,390

He convinced me.

686

00:30:17,390 --> 00:30:18,720

I think so.

687

00:30:18,720 --> 00:30:20,390

I think so.

688

00:30:20,390 --> 00:30:22,670

Do you have a different
interpretation?

689

00:30:22,670 --> 00:30:25,410

690

00:30:25,410 --> 00:30:26,180

I don't know.

691

00:30:26,180 --> 00:30:29,120

Sometimes I say, maybe God
wants something with me.

692

00:30:29,120 --> 00:30:29,720

I don't know.

693

00:30:29,720 --> 00:30:32,320

694

00:30:32,320 --> 00:30:36,270

I don't know, because people
say, there is no miracle.

695

00:30:36,270 --> 00:30:38,280

Believe me, there are.

696

00:30:38,280 --> 00:30:41,580

When I was in Frankfurt
am Main, there

697

00:30:41,580 --> 00:30:47,460

was nine beds in that
one room, the hospital.

698

00:30:47,460 --> 00:30:51,420

And in front was

another room where

699

00:30:51,420 --> 00:30:56,010

the nurse used to
be-- naturally, also

700

00:30:56,010 --> 00:30:59,610

who were deported,
just like we were.

701

00:30:59,610 --> 00:31:03,570

And the girls used to go
out to work in the fields.

702

00:31:03,570 --> 00:31:06,450

And they brought out a few
potatoes and a few tomatoes,

703

00:31:06,450 --> 00:31:08,850

which that was a fortune.

704

00:31:08,850 --> 00:31:10,620

And she had it in her room.

705

00:31:10,620 --> 00:31:14,670

And one day, she saw that, in
every barracks, they took out--

706

00:31:14,670 --> 00:31:18,795

they used to hide
it in straw sack.

707

00:31:18,795 --> 00:31:22,710

And she saw they took all the
straw sacks out, and emptied

708

00:31:22,710 --> 00:31:26,850

them, and made a big bonfire,
and burned everything.

709

00:31:26,850 --> 00:31:28,050

So she came to my room.

710

00:31:28,050 --> 00:31:29,670

She says, Zelda, I beg you.

711

00:31:29,670 --> 00:31:32,820

She says, I have a
few things left, food.

712

00:31:32,820 --> 00:31:34,980

Hide them in your bed.

713

00:31:34,980 --> 00:31:36,630

I says, my god,
[? Ella. ?] I says,

714

00:31:36,630 --> 00:31:37,710

if they're going
to find me, what

715

00:31:37,710 --> 00:31:38,835

are they going to do to me?

716

00:31:38,835 --> 00:31:40,750

They know I can't
go out to work.

717

00:31:40,750 --> 00:31:42,690

Where do have them form?

718

00:31:42,690 --> 00:31:44,800

She says, well,
let's take a chance.

719

00:31:44,800 --> 00:31:45,990

And I was praying.

720

00:31:45,990 --> 00:31:47,730

I was praying.

721

00:31:47,730 --> 00:31:52,820

And right away, I The biggest
problem, if I have, I fast.

722

00:31:52,820 --> 00:31:55,500

I says, God, I'm
hungry enough, but I'll

723

00:31:55,500 --> 00:31:58,830

fast five Mondays
or five Thursdays

724

00:31:58,830 --> 00:32:01,020

if they don't touch me.

725

00:32:01,020 --> 00:32:04,500

All the eight girls, they
took out from the bed.

726

00:32:04,500 --> 00:32:05,850

And me, they left there.

727

00:32:05,850 --> 00:32:08,475

And I was all bedded out
with tomatoes and potatoes.

728

00:32:08,475 --> 00:32:12,500

729

00:32:12,500 --> 00:32:15,410

Then, once I was
standing in Zahlappell,

730

00:32:15,410 --> 00:32:19,700

in line with four of my best
girlfriend, four sisters.

731

00:32:19,700 --> 00:32:23,310

And one was, at that
time, 38 years old--

732

00:32:23,310 --> 00:32:26,690

which when you're in the early
20s, you thinks it's ancient,

733

00:32:26,690 --> 00:32:28,010

right?

734

00:32:28,010 --> 00:32:31,380

And the Blockalteste came
in, the house mother.

735

00:32:31,380 --> 00:32:34,842

And she goes, make
your cheeks rose red,

736

00:32:34,842 --> 00:32:36,050

that you shouldn't look sick.

737

00:32:36,050 --> 00:32:37,280

So you'll look healthier.

738

00:32:37,280 --> 00:32:38,810

Then they come in.

739

00:32:38,810 --> 00:32:40,700

And she comes in.

740

00:32:40,700 --> 00:32:43,790

The SS we were staying
outside, and she started--

741

00:32:43,790 --> 00:32:45,200

you, and you, and you.

742

00:32:45,200 --> 00:32:48,390

And that 38-year-old
was standing next to me.

743

00:32:48,390 --> 00:32:49,670

And I asked her, me?

744

00:32:49,670 --> 00:32:52,670

She says, no, the other one.

745

00:32:52,670 --> 00:32:53,540

And they took her.

746

00:32:53,540 --> 00:32:54,850

I never saw her again.

747

00:32:54,850 --> 00:33:01,610

748

00:33:01,610 --> 00:33:06,300

Do you ever think that there
might be a reason for it,

749

00:33:06,300 --> 00:33:09,480

for your being?

750

00:33:09,480 --> 00:33:11,100

I'm not that smart.

751

00:33:11,100 --> 00:33:12,300

I can't tell you.

752

00:33:12,300 --> 00:33:15,310

753

00:33:15,310 --> 00:33:17,520

I wish I knew.

754

00:33:17,520 --> 00:33:20,520

But I could only tell you
that I suffered an awful lot.

755

00:33:20,520 --> 00:33:23,060

And I'm still suffering.

756

00:33:23,060 --> 00:33:23,560

Yes.

757

00:33:23,560 --> 00:33:29,210

758

00:33:29,210 --> 00:33:33,680

I was three years in bed,
three years with that leg.

759
00:33:33,680 --> 00:33:34,730
After you came here?

760
00:33:34,730 --> 00:33:35,720
Yeah.

761
00:33:35,720 --> 00:33:37,520
And then one doctor
said to me, it

762
00:33:37,520 --> 00:33:42,140
has to be amputated
until the knee up.

763
00:33:42,140 --> 00:33:45,510
And I says, no.

764
00:33:45,510 --> 00:33:48,210
So then they took
another set of X-rays.

765
00:33:48,210 --> 00:33:48,945
And he came back.

766
00:33:48,945 --> 00:33:50,445
He says, well, if
you have patience,

767
00:33:50,445 --> 00:33:56,010
there will be three years
in a bed and in a cast.

768
00:33:56,010 --> 00:33:58,380
Then we might save your leg.

769
00:33:58,380 --> 00:33:58,940
And he did.

770
00:33:58,940 --> 00:34:01,100
And naturally, I
was choosing this.

771
00:34:01,100 --> 00:34:02,310
Of course.

772
00:34:02,310 --> 00:34:06,430
I figured, if it doesn't
go, it's still time.

773
00:34:06,430 --> 00:34:07,030
Yeah.

774
00:34:07,030 --> 00:34:08,790
Only thing, I have
walking shoes,

775
00:34:08,790 --> 00:34:11,250
and I have sitting shoes.

776
00:34:11,250 --> 00:34:13,560
When was this, in the 1960s?

777
00:34:13,560 --> 00:34:15,260
'45.

778
00:34:15,260 --> 00:34:16,340
In '45.

779
00:34:16,340 --> 00:34:18,719
I thought you meant after
you came to this country.

780
00:34:18,719 --> 00:34:18,960
No.

781
00:34:18,960 --> 00:34:19,139
No.

782
00:34:19,139 --> 00:34:19,560
No.

783
00:34:19,560 --> 00:34:20,268

Oh, it was there.

784

00:34:20,268 --> 00:34:21,870

No, that was over there.

785

00:34:21,870 --> 00:34:23,040

No.

786

00:34:23,040 --> 00:34:26,580

After I came to this country,
I got the nervous breakdown.

787

00:34:26,580 --> 00:34:30,270

Once you relax a little bit,
then everything comes out.

788

00:34:30,270 --> 00:34:33,969

789

00:34:33,969 --> 00:34:38,469

And I could only say this
country was very good to me,

790

00:34:38,469 --> 00:34:39,159

very good.

791

00:34:39,159 --> 00:34:40,840

I worked hard.

792

00:34:40,840 --> 00:34:41,500

But it was--

793

00:34:41,500 --> 00:34:45,489

794

00:34:45,489 --> 00:34:47,710

I don't have to
turn around a dollar

795

00:34:47,710 --> 00:34:49,164

ten times if I want to spend.

796

00:34:49,164 --> 00:34:53,469

797

00:34:53,469 --> 00:34:58,330

And my poor mother, she used
to put away all year 100, 100

798

00:34:58,330 --> 00:35:00,610

grams of sugar every
week that, when

799

00:35:00,610 --> 00:35:03,985

the season comes to make
jellies, she has enough sugar.

800

00:35:03,985 --> 00:35:07,920

801

00:35:07,920 --> 00:35:10,870

That's why we're always talking
with my sister-in-law to how

802

00:35:10,870 --> 00:35:13,650

our parents had to work and--

803

00:35:13,650 --> 00:35:14,250

Struggle.

804

00:35:14,250 --> 00:35:16,860

--struggle.

805

00:35:16,860 --> 00:35:18,284

Just to stay alive.

806

00:35:18,284 --> 00:35:18,784

Yes.

807

00:35:18,784 --> 00:35:25,190

808

00:35:25,190 --> 00:35:27,880

But God gave me a beautiful
daughter and three

809
00:35:27,880 --> 00:35:29,740
beautiful grandchildren.

810
00:35:29,740 --> 00:35:33,580
Have you been able to tell your
daughter and your grandchildren

811
00:35:33,580 --> 00:35:35,710
of your experiences?

812
00:35:35,710 --> 00:35:39,350
Not much, but
especially the baby.

813
00:35:39,350 --> 00:35:41,270
The baby, he's 14 years old.

814
00:35:41,270 --> 00:35:42,590
He is the youngest.

815
00:35:42,590 --> 00:35:46,540
He always comes
out with questions.

816
00:35:46,540 --> 00:35:51,940
He, and then Sarah, the middle,
the girl, they always ask them.

817
00:35:51,940 --> 00:35:53,420
And I answer.

818
00:35:53,420 --> 00:35:56,710
But sometimes, we talk about.

819
00:35:56,710 --> 00:36:00,260
But they get so emotional.

820
00:36:00,260 --> 00:36:03,610
The little girl is a

very emotional child.

821
00:36:03,610 --> 00:36:05,825
We lost our principal
last Saturday.

822
00:36:05,825 --> 00:36:06,325
Yes.

823
00:36:06,325 --> 00:36:09,250
Yes, I heard about the story.

824
00:36:09,250 --> 00:36:09,910
Very sad.

825
00:36:09,910 --> 00:36:13,150
It was a no-no with her
the whole day Saturday.

826
00:36:13,150 --> 00:36:14,350
Yeah.

827
00:36:14,350 --> 00:36:16,600
He must have been a very
fine man, because the--

828
00:36:16,600 --> 00:36:18,100
Very fine man, very.

829
00:36:18,100 --> 00:36:21,940
He was even my daughter's
social studies teacher.

830
00:36:21,940 --> 00:36:24,520

831
00:36:24,520 --> 00:36:25,180
Yeah.

832
00:36:25,180 --> 00:36:28,140
The kids were very upset.

833

00:36:28,140 --> 00:36:31,800

I can understand.

834

00:36:31,800 --> 00:36:36,420

What would you tell young
people of today in view

835

00:36:36,420 --> 00:36:41,440

of what you've gone
through, and others?

836

00:36:41,440 --> 00:36:44,020

What message would you have?

837

00:36:44,020 --> 00:36:44,700

What what?

838

00:36:44,700 --> 00:36:47,320

What message would
you have for--

839

00:36:47,320 --> 00:36:47,965

What message?

840

00:36:47,965 --> 00:36:49,465

Yes, for young people of today.

841

00:36:49,465 --> 00:36:52,630

842

00:36:52,630 --> 00:36:56,230

They should never
let it happen again--

843

00:36:56,230 --> 00:37:00,445

to nobody, not only to
Jewish people, but to nobody.

844

00:37:00,445 --> 00:37:06,100

845

00:37:06,100 --> 00:37:09,220
That's very good, that slogan,
what they have, never again.

846
00:37:09,220 --> 00:37:19,110

847
00:37:19,110 --> 00:37:22,410
That poor Hugo, too.

848
00:37:22,410 --> 00:37:24,205
He was born in
the United States.

849
00:37:24,205 --> 00:37:25,580
One of the people
we interviewed.

850
00:37:25,580 --> 00:37:26,080
I see.

851
00:37:26,080 --> 00:37:27,248
Yeah.

852
00:37:27,248 --> 00:37:28,520
Yeah.

853
00:37:28,520 --> 00:37:33,680
He sits in front of us
during the holy holiday.

854
00:37:33,680 --> 00:37:36,830
He goes to the temple.

855
00:37:36,830 --> 00:37:38,810
Well, he said much
the same thing

856
00:37:38,810 --> 00:37:42,020
that you said when
we interviewed him,

857

00:37:42,020 --> 00:37:44,270
what you just said
right now about never

858
00:37:44,270 --> 00:37:46,130
letting it happen again.

859
00:37:46,130 --> 00:37:50,270
You know, when we
were in Frankfurt,

860
00:37:50,270 --> 00:37:55,040
there was one
Obersturmfuhrer, the German

861
00:37:55,040 --> 00:37:59,210
and the SS woman was there,
too, the two of them.

862
00:37:59,210 --> 00:38:03,170
And they didn't want mother
and child should be together,

863
00:38:03,170 --> 00:38:04,670
or sisters and sisters.

864
00:38:04,670 --> 00:38:07,506
They always tried
to separate people.

865
00:38:07,506 --> 00:38:09,530
And they found out
there was a mother

866
00:38:09,530 --> 00:38:13,100
with her 16-year-old daughter.

867
00:38:13,100 --> 00:38:16,190
And then they took the two
of them down in the basement.

868
00:38:16,190 --> 00:38:19,055
And the daughter had

to give the mother 25.

869

00:38:19,055 --> 00:38:22,180

870

00:38:22,180 --> 00:38:24,250

And if they thought
that she didn't

871

00:38:24,250 --> 00:38:27,040

give that hard enough, she
didn't hit her mother hard

872

00:38:27,040 --> 00:38:31,060

enough, then the mother had
to give it the daughter, too.

873

00:38:31,060 --> 00:38:36,600

And they were sitting there,
and drinking, and joking around.

874

00:38:36,600 --> 00:38:37,830

You saw this?

875

00:38:37,830 --> 00:38:42,030

Yeah, I saw this
with my own eyes.

876

00:38:42,030 --> 00:38:43,420

We know what was going on.

877

00:38:43,420 --> 00:38:50,760

878

00:38:50,760 --> 00:38:57,013

Well, I want to thank you
for what you have given--

879

00:38:57,013 --> 00:38:58,430

I shouldn't say
it's my pleasure--

880

00:38:58,430 --> 00:38:59,005
--to us.

881
00:38:59,005 --> 00:39:00,255
--because it's not a pleasure.

882
00:39:00,255 --> 00:39:00,950
No.

883
00:39:00,950 --> 00:39:06,750
What you've done is very
courageous and very important.

884
00:39:06,750 --> 00:39:09,140
And it's a way of
speaking to the world,

885
00:39:09,140 --> 00:39:14,510
to at least some segment
of it, about these things.

886
00:39:14,510 --> 00:39:17,530
And it's because of
testimony like yours

887
00:39:17,530 --> 00:39:23,230
that we hope that, as you say,
it will never happen again.

888
00:39:23,230 --> 00:39:28,110
Let's hope to God that it
will never happen again.

889
00:39:28,110 --> 00:39:32,100
We always used to say,
if somebody is in the war

890
00:39:32,100 --> 00:39:35,440
and it happens, you get killed.

891
00:39:35,440 --> 00:39:37,230
Well, you can't help it, right?

892

00:39:37,230 --> 00:39:39,270

But they didn't
give us a chance.

893

00:39:39,270 --> 00:39:40,920

I know.

894

00:39:40,920 --> 00:39:42,390

They didn't give us a chance.

895

00:39:42,390 --> 00:39:44,910

People say, why didn't
they fight back?

896

00:39:44,910 --> 00:39:46,290

That's the answer.

897

00:39:46,290 --> 00:39:47,040

There was no time.

898

00:39:47,040 --> 00:39:47,190

There was no--

899

00:39:47,190 --> 00:39:48,630

I asked myself that question.

900

00:39:48,630 --> 00:39:49,460

But how could we?

901

00:39:49,460 --> 00:39:50,043

How could you.

902

00:39:50,043 --> 00:39:55,950

They took a transport of 3,000
Jews to the railroad station.

903

00:39:55,950 --> 00:39:59,070

And there was two soldiers.

904

00:39:59,070 --> 00:40:01,390

But the two soldiers

had the guns.

905

00:40:01,390 --> 00:40:01,890

Exactly.

906

00:40:01,890 --> 00:40:04,500

907

00:40:04,500 --> 00:40:09,962

We let ourselves be taken
to the slaughterhouse.

908

00:40:09,962 --> 00:40:13,660

909

00:40:13,660 --> 00:40:14,895

Thank you very much.

910

00:40:14,895 --> 00:40:15,520

You're welcome.

911

00:40:15,520 --> 00:40:16,760

Thank you, Mrs. Peters.

912

00:40:16,760 --> 00:40:20,110

[MUSIC PLAYING]

913

00:40:20,110 --> 00:40:53,318