

1

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

2

00:00:13,540 --> 00:00:14,240

All right.

3

00:00:14,240 --> 00:00:16,149

Rose, will you please continue?

4

00:00:16,149 --> 00:00:20,980

A whole night long, sometimes,  
we marched to get bread.

5

00:00:20,980 --> 00:00:22,300

And we couldn't get it.

6

00:00:22,300 --> 00:00:26,470

And we'd come home empty,  
and hungry, and wet.

7

00:00:26,470 --> 00:00:32,259

And one time, many times, where  
we stayed was like a hill.

8

00:00:32,259 --> 00:00:33,760

And it was very deep.

9

00:00:33,760 --> 00:00:36,520

Being I was afraid  
to go near the grave.

10

00:00:36,520 --> 00:00:39,700

So my father says, we will  
cut through the woods.

11

00:00:39,700 --> 00:00:42,550

And it's like a very steep--

12

00:00:42,550 --> 00:00:46,480

I mean, like a wall, a hill  
down, and then on the bottom,

13  
00:00:46,480 --> 00:00:47,200  
you know?

14  
00:00:47,200 --> 00:00:51,520  
So 99 times of 100,  
we just laid down.

15  
00:00:51,520 --> 00:00:54,760  
And we tumbled till we  
come down to the bottom.

16  
00:00:54,760 --> 00:00:56,230  
When we come down  
to the bottom, we

17  
00:00:56,230 --> 00:00:58,090  
had to go up to the next hill.

18  
00:00:58,090 --> 00:01:00,980  
And then we were not  
far away from the house.

19  
00:01:00,980 --> 00:01:03,370  
So we knew already not--

20  
00:01:03,370 --> 00:01:07,270  
to save miseries, because  
I was very frightened--

21  
00:01:07,270 --> 00:01:08,770  
not to go near the grave.

22  
00:01:08,770 --> 00:01:10,780  
And so we went the other way.

23  
00:01:10,780 --> 00:01:15,370  
And that's how we tried to  
make it, every day, count.

24  
00:01:15,370 --> 00:01:20,800  
And my father used to say,

children, maybe a other month,

25

00:01:20,800 --> 00:01:23,920

maybe a other year,  
you hear, he says,

26

00:01:23,920 --> 00:01:25,720

the Russians are already there.

27

00:01:25,720 --> 00:01:29,080

And maybe, someday,  
we'll touch them.

28

00:01:29,080 --> 00:01:31,450

And that was something  
unbelievable.

29

00:01:31,450 --> 00:01:34,150

They didn't even shoot  
or anything like that.

30

00:01:34,150 --> 00:01:38,620

They just decided, with the  
boats, to go over the water.

31

00:01:38,620 --> 00:01:42,340

And that's it.

32

00:01:42,340 --> 00:01:44,390

During all the time  
that you were in hiding,

33

00:01:44,390 --> 00:01:48,880

did you have any sense of  
time, of how time was passing?

34

00:01:48,880 --> 00:01:51,770

Yes, we had-- since time--

35

00:01:51,770 --> 00:01:53,530

I just told the lady.

36

00:01:53,530 --> 00:01:58,360

In that hall, we had one  
block, a little block taken out

37

00:01:58,360 --> 00:02:02,770

so we can see when it's daytime  
and when it's nighttime.

38

00:02:02,770 --> 00:02:05,620

You see, in that--

39

00:02:05,620 --> 00:02:08,770

at nighttime, usually, when  
the kids went to sleep,

40

00:02:08,770 --> 00:02:12,100

he brought food  
for us, whatever--

41

00:02:12,100 --> 00:02:16,270

excuse me-- fall off of  
his mouth was for us.

42

00:02:16,270 --> 00:02:19,000

Many times, we had to  
fight with the dog.

43

00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:20,680

Because we were really hungry.

44

00:02:20,680 --> 00:02:22,900

We were young, and  
we were hungry.

45

00:02:22,900 --> 00:02:25,890

So if they give  
scraps for the dog, so

46

00:02:25,890 --> 00:02:28,630

who can grab it  
faster, me or the dog?

47

00:02:28,630 --> 00:02:33,002

So that's how we would eat,  
or the peels from potatoes.

48  
00:02:33,002 --> 00:02:33,710  
So it was really.

49  
00:02:33,710 --> 00:02:34,750  
That was delicious.

50  
00:02:34,750 --> 00:02:38,980  
You're really surviving  
at the most basic level.

51  
00:02:38,980 --> 00:02:41,830  
After we were freed,  
the doctor said

52  
00:02:41,830 --> 00:02:47,640  
if we would be one more month  
in hiding, nobody from us

53  
00:02:47,640 --> 00:02:48,850  
would survive.

54  
00:02:48,850 --> 00:02:51,760  
Because we didn't  
have no protein,

55  
00:02:51,760 --> 00:02:56,050  
no vitamins, nothing  
in our bodies.

56  
00:02:56,050 --> 00:03:00,850  
But on my legs, after  
I come out and we

57  
00:03:00,850 --> 00:03:06,250  
start getting halfway normal, I  
used to get blisters this big,

58  
00:03:06,250 --> 00:03:08,500  
filled up with water.

59

00:03:08,500 --> 00:03:11,470

And they were burning  
something fierce.

60

00:03:11,470 --> 00:03:15,400

And the doctor says because  
no vitamins in the body,

61

00:03:15,400 --> 00:03:17,950

no nourishment, nothing.

62

00:03:17,950 --> 00:03:25,640

Because we were so hungry, the  
only wish was we should survive

63

00:03:25,640 --> 00:03:29,560

and, one day, we  
should not be hungry.

64

00:03:29,560 --> 00:03:33,670

Our stomachs shouldn't growl,  
that when we will lay down,

65

00:03:33,670 --> 00:03:36,940

we can fall asleep not hungry.

66

00:03:36,940 --> 00:03:39,910

Do you know your stomach  
keeps cooking, and cooking,

67

00:03:39,910 --> 00:03:43,900

and cooking and being so  
starving hungry that you

68

00:03:43,900 --> 00:03:46,150

can't fall asleep?

69

00:03:46,150 --> 00:03:49,630

And you don't even  
have water to drink.

70

00:03:49,630 --> 00:03:51,460

We were limited with everything.

71

00:03:51,460 --> 00:03:53,200

Were you dehydrated  
and everything?

72

00:03:53,200 --> 00:03:57,370

Yeah, we only could have-- when  
she brought down that food,

73

00:03:57,370 --> 00:04:01,420

she brought a jar of water,  
a little bit of water,

74

00:04:01,420 --> 00:04:03,550

and that was it.

75

00:04:03,550 --> 00:04:07,480

I was a little bit better off,  
or my brother, because we went

76

00:04:07,480 --> 00:04:08,800

with our father.

77

00:04:08,800 --> 00:04:11,290

And when we come to  
one of the people,

78

00:04:11,290 --> 00:04:14,560

what they call themselves  
friends-- who weren't--

79

00:04:14,560 --> 00:04:18,399

particularly, the one would  
want to marry me off to her son.

80

00:04:18,399 --> 00:04:24,700

So he always used to come  
out with a big jar of milk.

81

00:04:24,700 --> 00:04:27,100

And he says, drink  
as many as you want.

82  
00:04:27,100 --> 00:04:29,860  
He always bring me a piece  
of bread with cheese.

83  
00:04:29,860 --> 00:04:31,120  
Come on, eat it now.

84  
00:04:31,120 --> 00:04:32,860  
Later, you take home the rest.

85  
00:04:32,860 --> 00:04:35,360  
But this is for you.

86  
00:04:35,360 --> 00:04:39,340  
So as long-- and then my  
brother-- it got to a point

87  
00:04:39,340 --> 00:04:42,910  
that my brother couldn't go  
so many times because his legs

88  
00:04:42,910 --> 00:04:45,190  
were growing together, his hips.

89  
00:04:45,190 --> 00:04:50,020  
So most of the time, when the  
Germans were stationed already,

90  
00:04:50,020 --> 00:04:51,670  
period, over there--

91  
00:04:51,670 --> 00:04:54,940  
so most of it, I was  
the one who was going.

92  
00:04:54,940 --> 00:04:57,940  
And I had to go daylight  
because nighttime,

93  
00:04:57,940 --> 00:05:00,680  
if they catch anybody,



they kill you on the spot.

94

00:05:00,680 --> 00:05:03,070

They don't ask you if you  
are a woman or you are a man.

95

00:05:03,070 --> 00:05:06,940

You are shot at because  
that's where that war--

96

00:05:06,940 --> 00:05:08,380

how you called it?

97

00:05:08,380 --> 00:05:11,780

The place what you call war--

98

00:05:11,780 --> 00:05:12,430

War zone?

99

00:05:12,430 --> 00:05:14,840

War zone.

100

00:05:14,840 --> 00:05:18,290

There was all the ammunition,  
all the artillery,

101

00:05:18,290 --> 00:05:20,510

all that stuff we're  
standing around.

102

00:05:20,510 --> 00:05:23,570

So if to go, I  
had to go daytime.

103

00:05:23,570 --> 00:05:28,070

So I put on the babushka  
and a red cotton dress--

104

00:05:28,070 --> 00:05:31,130

filthy-- with the  
rags on my feet.

105

00:05:31,130 --> 00:05:33,212  
And the Germans used to pass by.

106  
00:05:33,212 --> 00:05:34,170  
And they used to laugh.

107  
00:05:34,170 --> 00:05:35,390  
He says, look at this.

108  
00:05:35,390 --> 00:05:36,920  
That's how the Poles look.

109  
00:05:36,920 --> 00:05:40,610  
And I say, as long as they  
don't bother me, I am OK.

110  
00:05:40,610 --> 00:05:41,300  
And I went.

111  
00:05:41,300 --> 00:05:43,400  
And sometimes, I was successful.

112  
00:05:43,400 --> 00:05:45,950  
Sometimes, I was not successful.

113  
00:05:45,950 --> 00:05:50,990  
But the last couple of months  
was very difficult, very

114  
00:05:50,990 --> 00:05:52,160  
difficult to survive.

115  
00:05:52,160 --> 00:05:54,770

116  
00:05:54,770 --> 00:05:57,350  
And you hear, here was one shot.

117  
00:05:57,350 --> 00:05:58,860  
Here, they took another one.

118

00:05:58,860 --> 00:05:59,840  
This one is in jail.

119  
00:05:59,840 --> 00:06:02,370  
And it was a small town.

120  
00:06:02,370 --> 00:06:05,630  
Everybody knows everybody.

121  
00:06:05,630 --> 00:06:07,280  
And this one is no more life.

122  
00:06:07,280 --> 00:06:08,390  
And this one is killed.

123  
00:06:08,390 --> 00:06:11,720  
This one, they squeeze the  
hand in before with the door

124  
00:06:11,720 --> 00:06:12,980  
because he want to run out.

125  
00:06:12,980 --> 00:06:14,990  
So they caught the  
door in the hand.

126  
00:06:14,990 --> 00:06:17,360  
And they slammed it and  
cut off his fingers.

127  
00:06:17,360 --> 00:06:22,090  
All those horrors, what they  
were telling, it was un--

128  
00:06:22,090 --> 00:06:25,520  
a human brain-- and  
I had a small brain.

129  
00:06:25,520 --> 00:06:27,650  
I couldn't observe it.

130  
00:06:27,650 --> 00:06:29,690

How in the world--

131

00:06:29,690 --> 00:06:33,440  
and then I always used to  
say, if they will catch me,

132

00:06:33,440 --> 00:06:35,420  
they have to kill  
me on the spot.

133

00:06:35,420 --> 00:06:37,580  
Because they will not punish me.

134

00:06:37,580 --> 00:06:40,250  
Because I knew the taste,  
how the Germans do.

135

00:06:40,250 --> 00:06:44,250  
Because one time, when he  
shoved his big foot in my face

136

00:06:44,250 --> 00:06:46,220  
and I was all black.

137

00:06:46,220 --> 00:06:49,310  
And the other time, the  
police, when they caught me,

138

00:06:49,310 --> 00:06:52,970  
when I wanted to give my  
father water, when he run over,

139

00:06:52,970 --> 00:06:55,580  
and beat me up, and chained  
me right up, he says,

140

00:06:55,580 --> 00:06:57,050  
you are dangerous.

141

00:06:57,050 --> 00:07:00,020  
Can you picture me dangerous?

142

00:07:00,020 --> 00:07:01,960  
But that's the way it looked.

143  
00:07:01,960 --> 00:07:04,940  
Or my mother had to go to  
bring in the wood to the jail.

144  
00:07:04,940 --> 00:07:09,650  
Because if I would  
go, I might run away.

145  
00:07:09,650 --> 00:07:10,700  
And in my heart--

146  
00:07:10,700 --> 00:07:13,640  
I had in my mind, if I run away  
and they kill me instantly,

147  
00:07:13,640 --> 00:07:15,920  
that would be a blessing.

148  
00:07:15,920 --> 00:07:18,560  
I'm one mouth less to feed.

149  
00:07:18,560 --> 00:07:20,000  
It was horrible.

150  
00:07:20,000 --> 00:07:23,630  
And the hunger, and  
the filth, it was--

151  
00:07:23,630 --> 00:07:25,670  
that's when I promised myself.

152  
00:07:25,670 --> 00:07:33,870  
If I ever come out of it  
alive, and if I have the money,

153  
00:07:33,870 --> 00:07:38,660  
whatever the best food in the  
whole wide world, I will buy.

154

00:07:38,660 --> 00:07:40,200  
And I will eat it.

155  
00:07:40,200 --> 00:07:42,770  
What kind of food  
did you live on?

156  
00:07:42,770 --> 00:07:44,390  
Mainly potatoes.

157  
00:07:44,390 --> 00:07:48,320  
If we could get a  
potato, it was good.

158  
00:07:48,320 --> 00:07:51,770  
And when we had one little  
piece of bread this big.

159  
00:07:51,770 --> 00:07:53,630  
And my brother used to sit.

160  
00:07:53,630 --> 00:07:56,990  
And my father says, well, it's  
already almost 12 o'clock.

161  
00:07:56,990 --> 00:07:59,570  
Should I give the  
kids a bite of bread?

162  
00:07:59,570 --> 00:08:03,620  
And my brother says,  
we eating already?

163  
00:08:03,620 --> 00:08:07,880  
Like one says, I hope  
I didn't miss it.

164  
00:08:07,880 --> 00:08:09,230  
The potatoes, who cooked it?

165  
00:08:09,230 --> 00:08:10,400  
The women upstairs?

166

00:08:10,400 --> 00:08:11,750

The women upstairs.

167

00:08:11,750 --> 00:08:13,310

First, they ate.

168

00:08:13,310 --> 00:08:15,110

They ate food.

169

00:08:15,110 --> 00:08:18,920

Whatever was leftover,  
she brought it down.

170

00:08:18,920 --> 00:08:22,820

And like I said  
with the pig ear,

171

00:08:22,820 --> 00:08:24,740

when she brought down the food--

172

00:08:24,740 --> 00:08:26,480

so my father took the plate.

173

00:08:26,480 --> 00:08:27,710

And he looked.

174

00:08:27,710 --> 00:08:28,940

And he looked at my mother.

175

00:08:28,940 --> 00:08:31,650

And he says, you  
take care of it.

176

00:08:31,650 --> 00:08:35,299

So my little brother  
used to get a portion.

177

00:08:35,299 --> 00:08:38,600

In one bite, the  
portion was gone.

178

00:08:38,600 --> 00:08:41,059

Then I got a portion.

179

00:08:41,059 --> 00:08:43,100

And my poor father  
was the last one

180

00:08:43,100 --> 00:08:45,470

for the portion,  
whatever was left over.

181

00:08:45,470 --> 00:08:50,210

And God forbid, to  
throw out this piece?

182

00:08:50,210 --> 00:08:51,170

You're kidding.

183

00:08:51,170 --> 00:08:54,410

The whole plate was licked  
three times, not even

184

00:08:54,410 --> 00:08:57,110

a tiny scrap on it.

185

00:08:57,110 --> 00:08:59,010

Because we were hungry.

186

00:08:59,010 --> 00:09:02,720

We were starving-- never  
mind hungry, starving.

187

00:09:02,720 --> 00:09:07,340

And in the fields,  
summertime, we could steal.

188

00:09:07,340 --> 00:09:10,400

But we were afraid to steal  
because if we pull out

189

00:09:10,400 --> 00:09:15,140

the potatoes to bring it home,  
or the corn in the corn fields,



190  
00:09:15,140 --> 00:09:17,720  
or whatever, then  
they will find out.

191  
00:09:17,720 --> 00:09:20,060  
And they will stand guard.

192  
00:09:20,060 --> 00:09:22,310  
And we have to pass that road.

193  
00:09:22,310 --> 00:09:23,490  
And they will catch us.

194  
00:09:23,490 --> 00:09:27,450  
And we are dead as it  
is, no problem there.

195  
00:09:27,450 --> 00:09:29,730  
So we would be finished.

196  
00:09:29,730 --> 00:09:32,130  
Was the mass grave ever marked?

197  
00:09:32,130 --> 00:09:32,630  
No.

198  
00:09:32,630 --> 00:09:35,250

199  
00:09:35,250 --> 00:09:37,710  
One from our home town--

200  
00:09:37,710 --> 00:09:40,530  
I think by five years  
ago, I'm not sure.

201  
00:09:40,530 --> 00:09:45,060  
I think five or six years ago,  
he just started turning 60.

202

00:09:45,060 --> 00:09:50,610  
And he says, he wants to go and  
take his wife and his daughter

203  
00:09:50,610 --> 00:09:52,350  
to that town.

204  
00:09:52,350 --> 00:09:54,210  
And he took a lot of--

205  
00:09:54,210 --> 00:09:55,887  
he was like--

206  
00:09:55,887 --> 00:09:56,970  
Yeah, your outside glasses

207  
00:09:56,970 --> 00:09:58,180  
Right.

208  
00:09:58,180 --> 00:10:00,550  
And he is going to Poland.

209  
00:10:00,550 --> 00:10:02,520  
And he will show  
his daughter where

210  
00:10:02,520 --> 00:10:05,160  
he survived, where he was born.

211  
00:10:05,160 --> 00:10:08,500  
Because the house where he  
was born was still standing.

212  
00:10:08,500 --> 00:10:11,170  
And he will show who give  
bread and who didn't.

213  
00:10:11,170 --> 00:10:15,300  
He will go to the cemetery where  
his father, and grandparents,

214  
00:10:15,300 --> 00:10:18,930

and all the family, and  
say Kaddish over there.

215

00:10:18,930 --> 00:10:23,260  
And he will go to the mass grave  
because his grandmother and two

216

00:10:23,260 --> 00:10:26,580  
aunts and were in that  
mass grave, all the people.

217

00:10:26,580 --> 00:10:29,280  
And he will say  
Kaddish on that grave.

218

00:10:29,280 --> 00:10:32,820  
In light yahrzeit glasses.

219

00:10:32,820 --> 00:10:36,690  
And the airport in Warsaw--

220

00:10:36,690 --> 00:10:42,630  
one summer, when he get off, he  
went, and he took those lights.

221

00:10:42,630 --> 00:10:48,010  
And when he come to Warsaw,  
they give him such a hard time.

222

00:10:48,010 --> 00:10:51,510  
They were digging into all  
those cans, what he brought,

223

00:10:51,510 --> 00:10:54,510  
and what he's hiding,  
and where he is going,

224

00:10:54,510 --> 00:10:59,220  
and why for interrogation,  
for maybe five hours.

225

00:10:59,220 --> 00:11:01,980  
After the five hours,

he went to Warsaw,

226

00:11:01,980 --> 00:11:05,700

to a hotel where he  
arranged it before.

227

00:11:05,700 --> 00:11:09,610

I guess he was overweight,  
and he was very upset.

228

00:11:09,610 --> 00:11:13,410

And he got a heart attack  
and died right there.

229

00:11:13,410 --> 00:11:17,160

And then they had the  
hardest time bringing

230

00:11:17,160 --> 00:11:19,626

back the body to America.

231

00:11:19,626 --> 00:11:24,830

He never went to the cemetery  
or anything like that.

232

00:11:24,830 --> 00:11:28,730

And now my husband tries to  
say, why would you want to go?

233

00:11:28,730 --> 00:11:30,150

I go with you.

234

00:11:30,150 --> 00:11:31,140

I say Kaddish.

235

00:11:31,140 --> 00:11:35,690

You see where my  
hometown, your hometown.

236

00:11:35,690 --> 00:11:37,070

Let's do it.

237

00:11:37,070 --> 00:11:38,820  
I says, nope.

238  
00:11:38,820 --> 00:11:44,780  
I don't want no part of Poland  
because two Jews went back.

239  
00:11:44,780 --> 00:11:47,270  
They wanted to sell  
their property.

240  
00:11:47,270 --> 00:11:50,690  
In our hometown,  
they killed them.

241  
00:11:50,690 --> 00:11:51,890  
After the war was over.

242  
00:11:51,890 --> 00:11:53,300  
After the war.

243  
00:11:53,300 --> 00:11:55,610  
And we ran away and  
never went back.

244  
00:11:55,610 --> 00:11:57,740  
Never, I mean never.

245  
00:11:57,740 --> 00:11:58,820  
This is it.

246  
00:11:58,820 --> 00:12:00,800  
I said, why would  
I want to go back?

247  
00:12:00,800 --> 00:12:01,910  
For what?

248  
00:12:01,910 --> 00:12:07,220  
We sent plenty packages to the  
two people who had give us,

249

00:12:07,220 --> 00:12:09,660  
really, a helping  
hand with a thank you.

250  
00:12:09,660 --> 00:12:11,680  
We had a lot of land.

251  
00:12:11,680 --> 00:12:13,850  
My father signed it all over.

252  
00:12:13,850 --> 00:12:16,490  
The house, where it was  
standing with all the tiles,

253  
00:12:16,490 --> 00:12:18,230  
that was very expensive.

254  
00:12:18,230 --> 00:12:20,270  
For them, it was a fortune.

255  
00:12:20,270 --> 00:12:23,060  
With the roof, with  
all the furniture,

256  
00:12:23,060 --> 00:12:25,090  
he give them and them.

257  
00:12:25,090 --> 00:12:27,650  
And he said to him, all  
this stuff, what you have,

258  
00:12:27,650 --> 00:12:28,760  
you keep it.

259  
00:12:28,760 --> 00:12:30,230  
To the other one,  
he says, you go

260  
00:12:30,230 --> 00:12:33,950  
to that lady who wanted to send  
the police for my daughter.

261

00:12:33,950 --> 00:12:36,680  
And here's the list, the men.

262  
00:12:36,680 --> 00:12:38,240  
She should give  
you all the thing.

263  
00:12:38,240 --> 00:12:39,830  
Here, you have my signature.

264  
00:12:39,830 --> 00:12:41,030  
You take care of it.

265  
00:12:41,030 --> 00:12:41,780  
And he did.

266  
00:12:41,780 --> 00:12:44,060  
He took out from her  
whatever he could.

267  
00:12:44,060 --> 00:12:44,870  
And that's it.

268  
00:12:44,870 --> 00:12:50,090  
And the people from [? Å»uraw, ?]  
where we were picked up to take

269  
00:12:50,090 --> 00:12:53,450  
us to jail, that house--

270  
00:12:53,450 --> 00:12:57,260  
he said, before I die,  
I have to burn it down.

271  
00:12:57,260 --> 00:12:59,610  
I don't know if he  
did or he didn't.

272  
00:12:59,610 --> 00:13:01,730  
But that lady--  
would you believe,

273

00:13:01,730 --> 00:13:05,270  
just for the clothes,  
what we were wearing,

274  
00:13:05,270 --> 00:13:10,340  
she was willing to  
sacrifice four lives?

275  
00:13:10,340 --> 00:13:13,070  
And then when we come to the  
police, they searched us.

276  
00:13:13,070 --> 00:13:16,740

277  
00:13:16,740 --> 00:13:19,740  
Women, not women, they  
kept searching us all over.

278  
00:13:19,740 --> 00:13:24,900  
And then they didn't put us in  
the first floor, in that jail,

279  
00:13:24,900 --> 00:13:27,600  
because we might run  
away, on the second floor.

280  
00:13:27,600 --> 00:13:31,020  
And we had to run, let  
ourselves down, and run away,

281  
00:13:31,020 --> 00:13:34,800  
stay over there  
over the two nights,

282  
00:13:34,800 --> 00:13:38,940  
and then go back, marching back  
all the way to the same place

283  
00:13:38,940 --> 00:13:40,020  
where we were before.

284  
00:13:40,020 --> 00:13:45,120



But every town in the whole  
neighborhood, they all knew.

285  
00:13:45,120 --> 00:13:47,610  
They announced it  
in every church,

286  
00:13:47,610 --> 00:13:51,420  
in every police that  
this family got caught.

287  
00:13:51,420 --> 00:13:55,350  
And they're supposed  
to be killed.

288  
00:13:55,350 --> 00:13:57,690  
Do you believe that?

289  
00:13:57,690 --> 00:14:02,250  
So when you were freed,  
where did you go after that?

290  
00:14:02,250 --> 00:14:05,370  
After we were  
freed, we went to--

291  
00:14:05,370 --> 00:14:10,182  
we were in Pilzno by a cousin,  
a second cousin of ours.

292  
00:14:10,182 --> 00:14:11,640  
We stayed there  
because we couldn't

293  
00:14:11,640 --> 00:14:13,170  
stay by us in the house.

294  
00:14:13,170 --> 00:14:14,640  
And we didn't stay there long.

295  
00:14:14,640 --> 00:14:16,360  
We left from over there.

296

00:14:16,360 --> 00:14:20,430

And we went to Bytom,  
Bytom Schlesien.

297

00:14:20,430 --> 00:14:24,630

And from there, we stayed  
there maybe a year.

298

00:14:24,630 --> 00:14:25,950

And then we left.

299

00:14:25,950 --> 00:14:28,830

And we went through  
Czechoslovakia, Austria,

300

00:14:28,830 --> 00:14:30,060

to American zone.

301

00:14:30,060 --> 00:14:34,080

Because we found out that  
my mother has-- in America,

302

00:14:34,080 --> 00:14:37,200

she had a brother and a sister.

303

00:14:37,200 --> 00:14:40,540

And they want us  
to come to America.

304

00:14:40,540 --> 00:14:42,460

That's where we are now.

305

00:14:42,460 --> 00:14:43,270

And thank God.

306

00:14:43,270 --> 00:14:47,530

We are in the best country  
in the whole wide world.

307

00:14:47,530 --> 00:14:48,490

You had nothing?

308

00:14:48,490 --> 00:14:50,320

Or what did you  
have when you left?

309

00:14:50,320 --> 00:14:51,040

Because--

310

00:14:51,040 --> 00:14:53,710

Nothing, bare.

311

00:14:53,710 --> 00:14:57,040

We didn't even have clothes, OK?

312

00:14:57,040 --> 00:15:01,120

But we still had  
stuff like clothing,

313

00:15:01,120 --> 00:15:05,260

what we give away to the  
Poles to hold for us.

314

00:15:05,260 --> 00:15:07,630

So my father was nobody's fool.

315

00:15:07,630 --> 00:15:10,690

So he went to his  
personal friend, what

316

00:15:10,690 --> 00:15:12,710

we survived from over there.

317

00:15:12,710 --> 00:15:15,700

And he says, you know,  
I have just rags.

318

00:15:15,700 --> 00:15:17,770

I left two suits by you.

319

00:15:17,770 --> 00:15:20,650

I have shirts, I have underwear.

320

00:15:20,650 --> 00:15:23,410

I don't ask for a lot,  
just one change of clothes.

321

00:15:23,410 --> 00:15:27,340

I should not be so  
filthy looking, he says.

322

00:15:27,340 --> 00:15:29,320

And then I will  
take care of myself.

323

00:15:29,320 --> 00:15:34,930

I will find out what to do  
with myself, and for my wife,

324

00:15:34,930 --> 00:15:36,910

something to put on.

325

00:15:36,910 --> 00:15:39,260

And my brother couldn't walk.

326

00:15:39,260 --> 00:15:42,550

My brother couldn't walk at all.

327

00:15:42,550 --> 00:15:47,110

Because most of the time, to the  
end, it was really dangerous.

328

00:15:47,110 --> 00:15:53,260

And he started hopping because  
his hips were growing together.

329

00:15:53,260 --> 00:15:55,840

So it was very  
difficult for him.

330

00:15:55,840 --> 00:15:59,740

So most of the time,  
he was sitting inside.

331

00:15:59,740 --> 00:16:04,720

And when I went,

when we were freed

332

00:16:04,720 --> 00:16:08,410

and we didn't have  
our favorite house--

333

00:16:08,410 --> 00:16:11,380

oh, other story I  
forgot to tell you.

334

00:16:11,380 --> 00:16:15,590

To the end, almost,  
there was no more food.

335

00:16:15,590 --> 00:16:19,130

And nobody wants to give us  
any materials out or whatever.

336

00:16:19,130 --> 00:16:22,900

So my father said, near  
the house, by the steps,

337

00:16:22,900 --> 00:16:27,580

he left, in a bottle,  
my mother's jewelry--

338

00:16:27,580 --> 00:16:30,310

the engagement ring,  
all the jewelry,

339

00:16:30,310 --> 00:16:33,310

and some money in a  
bottle right by the steps.

340

00:16:33,310 --> 00:16:37,660

If he only could get near the  
house, he would take that out,

341

00:16:37,660 --> 00:16:41,150

and we would sell it, and we  
would have some money for food.

342

00:16:41,150 --> 00:16:44,320

So I said to my father,  
one night, when it's dark,

343  
00:16:44,320 --> 00:16:45,610  
we will go.

344  
00:16:45,610 --> 00:16:49,360  
And the house was  
on a flat land.

345  
00:16:49,360 --> 00:16:52,390  
We went, and we had a dog.

346  
00:16:52,390 --> 00:16:55,120  
That dog was my favorite dog.

347  
00:16:55,120 --> 00:16:58,480  
I could do to that dog  
anything and everything.

348  
00:16:58,480 --> 00:17:00,330  
He never touched me.

349  
00:17:00,330 --> 00:17:04,420  
And as I was approaching the  
house, I was coming first.

350  
00:17:04,420 --> 00:17:10,861  
And he put them on a chain,  
on a long wire and on a chain.

351  
00:17:10,861 --> 00:17:12,319  
And he was running  
forward and back

352  
00:17:12,319 --> 00:17:15,910  
because we had a garden  
with fruits and vegetables.

353  
00:17:15,910 --> 00:17:19,300  
So he let him run to  
watch the fruits, I guess.

354

00:17:19,300 --> 00:17:23,950

And I said, Lord, I said, shh.

355

00:17:23,950 --> 00:17:25,930

And I says, "Lord."

356

00:17:25,930 --> 00:17:29,350

He said, [PANTING]  
like you've never seen,

357

00:17:29,350 --> 00:17:32,860

with both hands on my shoulders.

358

00:17:32,860 --> 00:17:38,440

If you ever in your lifetime  
see how that dog was

359

00:17:38,440 --> 00:17:40,600

licking me, and licking me--

360

00:17:40,600 --> 00:17:44,500

like one says, you come back,  
you come back, oh my god!

361

00:17:44,500 --> 00:17:48,910

And then my father took out  
that stuff, what was there.

362

00:17:48,910 --> 00:17:50,650

And we left.

363

00:17:50,650 --> 00:17:52,240

He followed me to the end.

364

00:17:52,240 --> 00:17:55,960

And then I turned around,  
and I said, "Lord, shh."

365

00:17:55,960 --> 00:17:56,920

And he stood there.

366

00:17:56,920 --> 00:18:01,450  
[PANTING] This was unreal.

367  
00:18:01,450 --> 00:18:02,770  
I forgot to tell you.

368  
00:18:02,770 --> 00:18:04,900  
When we were leaving the town--

369  
00:18:04,900 --> 00:18:05,830  
I don't know.

370  
00:18:05,830 --> 00:18:06,700  
We were not there.

371  
00:18:06,700 --> 00:18:08,530  
But we had a cat.

372  
00:18:08,530 --> 00:18:10,240  
We had that dog.

373  
00:18:10,240 --> 00:18:11,830  
And we had a cow.

374  
00:18:11,830 --> 00:18:16,570  
The cow, we give from  
the town to that--

375  
00:18:16,570 --> 00:18:18,580  
whatever this, that man.

376  
00:18:18,580 --> 00:18:20,350  
He took our cow.

377  
00:18:20,350 --> 00:18:24,580  
And that dog and the  
cat was around our feet,

378  
00:18:24,580 --> 00:18:26,470  
crying like human beings.

379



00:18:26,470 --> 00:18:29,380

This, you never  
heard in your life.

380

00:18:29,380 --> 00:18:32,680

And the cat was pregnant.

381

00:18:32,680 --> 00:18:37,700

And as the Gestapo car,  
the last car, left--

382

00:18:37,700 --> 00:18:39,700

so first, it go slow.

383

00:18:39,700 --> 00:18:43,510

When it started out going  
faster, that cat, full speed,

384

00:18:43,510 --> 00:18:46,450

went and threw itself  
under the wheels.

385

00:18:46,450 --> 00:18:48,130

They stopped the car.

386

00:18:48,130 --> 00:18:51,220

And they pushed the cat  
away, not to be killed.

387

00:18:51,220 --> 00:18:53,140

They start again driving fast.

388

00:18:53,140 --> 00:18:57,090

That cat ran, and went under  
the car, and got killed.

389

00:18:57,090 --> 00:18:58,330

It didn't want to live.

390

00:18:58,330 --> 00:18:59,980

Would you believe that?

391

00:18:59,980 --> 00:19:04,920  
And that dog, after so  
many months, so many weeks,

392  
00:19:04,920 --> 00:19:07,070  
recognized me, not a sound.

393  
00:19:07,070 --> 00:19:10,360  
That's why that men who had  
lived in that house says,

394  
00:19:10,360 --> 00:19:12,550  
I cannot understand.

395  
00:19:12,550 --> 00:19:14,920  
I didn't even hear one bark.

396  
00:19:14,920 --> 00:19:18,250  
Somebody must have known.

397  
00:19:18,250 --> 00:19:21,640  
And then when I told  
the story to the men,

398  
00:19:21,640 --> 00:19:25,120  
we stayed there, he says, oh,  
yeah, a dog will sniff you.

399  
00:19:25,120 --> 00:19:27,280  
And he will know  
exactly who you are.

400  
00:19:27,280 --> 00:19:29,620  
Because if anybody else  
would come near the house,

401  
00:19:29,620 --> 00:19:31,930  
he would tear you to pieces.

402  
00:19:31,930 --> 00:19:34,600  
But he still remembered.

403

00:19:34,600 --> 00:19:37,750  
And they killed that dog.

404  
00:19:37,750 --> 00:19:41,140  
After the war,  
when they ran away,

405  
00:19:41,140 --> 00:19:43,180  
when we come to  
the burned house,

406  
00:19:43,180 --> 00:19:44,740  
the burned house  
didn't bother me.

407  
00:19:44,740 --> 00:19:49,570  
But when that dog lied with  
that bullet, I took that dog.

408  
00:19:49,570 --> 00:19:52,000  
And he was stiff, frozen  
because it was winter.

409  
00:19:52,000 --> 00:19:53,920  
It was so cold.

410  
00:19:53,920 --> 00:19:54,850  
I cried.

411  
00:19:54,850 --> 00:19:56,200  
And I hold that dog.

412  
00:19:56,200 --> 00:19:57,910  
I never forget it.

413  
00:19:57,910 --> 00:20:00,790  
And my father said,  
OK, we make a funeral.

414  
00:20:00,790 --> 00:20:02,620  
Where do you want  
the dog to lay?

415

00:20:02,620 --> 00:20:06,200

I said, by that famous  
tree when I used to play.

416

00:20:06,200 --> 00:20:07,780

That's where we put the dog.

417

00:20:07,780 --> 00:20:09,270

Would you believe?

418

00:20:09,270 --> 00:20:11,620

And I never forget it.

419

00:20:11,620 --> 00:20:15,670

But that dog was a real friend.

420

00:20:15,670 --> 00:20:17,260

And he saved us.

421

00:20:17,260 --> 00:20:20,980

Because if we wouldn't sell,  
that time, that jewelry,

422

00:20:20,980 --> 00:20:24,340

we wouldn't-- because we  
couldn't go any more to other

423

00:20:24,340 --> 00:20:26,530

places to pick up stuff.

424

00:20:26,530 --> 00:20:28,480

And we had to live.

425

00:20:28,480 --> 00:20:32,570

If we don't supply  
the stuff to that man,

426

00:20:32,570 --> 00:20:34,600

he wouldn't hold us one day.

427

00:20:34,600 --> 00:20:37,390

My father says, I'm  
not kidding myself.

428  
00:20:37,390 --> 00:20:40,240  
If I don't deliver it,  
we don't have a chance

429  
00:20:40,240 --> 00:20:42,970  
in a lifetime to survive.

430  
00:20:42,970 --> 00:20:46,930  
And this way, we  
are the best people.

431  
00:20:46,930 --> 00:20:53,410  
He called us my people,  
my survivor, my brethren.

432  
00:20:53,410 --> 00:20:56,260  
So was it the sale  
of the jewelry that--

433  
00:20:56,260 --> 00:20:58,120  
No, we got the--

434  
00:20:58,120 --> 00:20:59,830  
he was our shoemaker.

435  
00:20:59,830 --> 00:21:02,200  
See, in Poland,  
you have a tailor.

436  
00:21:02,200 --> 00:21:03,670  
You have a shoemaker.

437  
00:21:03,670 --> 00:21:10,210  
You have the one who takes care  
of the horses, who drives you,

438  
00:21:10,210 --> 00:21:11,510  
all that stuff.

439

00:21:11,510 --> 00:21:15,640  
So one of the shoemakers,  
he said to my father,

440  
00:21:15,640 --> 00:21:20,350  
if you want sometimes to  
sell some kind of jewelry,

441  
00:21:20,350 --> 00:21:21,910  
I have connections.

442  
00:21:21,910 --> 00:21:24,730  
So I can sell it and  
give you some money.

443  
00:21:24,730 --> 00:21:27,520  
And I would have a  
couple of dollars, too.

444  
00:21:27,520 --> 00:21:29,470  
And that's what happened.

445  
00:21:29,470 --> 00:21:31,870  
We brought it over to that man.

446  
00:21:31,870 --> 00:21:36,400  
And for the most  
gorgeous diamond ring,

447  
00:21:36,400 --> 00:21:38,830  
we got a couple hundred dollars.

448  
00:21:38,830 --> 00:21:39,610  
That's it.

449  
00:21:39,610 --> 00:21:42,070  
But that time, it was surviving.

450  
00:21:42,070 --> 00:21:45,190  
It was no jewelry  
to care for jewelry.

451

00:21:45,190 --> 00:21:49,390  
It's just how you survive.

452  
00:21:49,390 --> 00:21:51,340  
Because hungry you were.

453  
00:21:51,340 --> 00:21:55,930  
If we don't have a roof over  
our heads, to be in the woods,

454  
00:21:55,930 --> 00:21:58,270  
you can't survive  
because it's so very

455  
00:21:58,270 --> 00:22:00,910  
cold that it's unbelievable.

456  
00:22:00,910 --> 00:22:02,950  
You can't do it.

457  
00:22:02,950 --> 00:22:05,780  
So you do the best you know.

458  
00:22:05,780 --> 00:22:08,250  
And it was not an easy task.

459  
00:22:08,250 --> 00:22:10,250  
It was not an easy--

460  
00:22:10,250 --> 00:22:13,480  
first of all, if you sleep--

461  
00:22:13,480 --> 00:22:15,390  
one always was watching if--

462  
00:22:15,390 --> 00:22:16,780  
God forbid, you shouldn't snore.

463  
00:22:16,780 --> 00:22:18,520  
Because if somebody  
passes the house,

464

00:22:18,520 --> 00:22:20,830  
they shouldn't hear you, OK?

465

00:22:20,830 --> 00:22:25,240  
In the daytime, you have to  
sit like a mouse, really quiet,

466

00:22:25,240 --> 00:22:28,390  
not even to move.

467

00:22:28,390 --> 00:22:33,470  
In the nighttime, we had  
to go urine or whatever.

468

00:22:33,470 --> 00:22:34,870  
So we had a pot.

469

00:22:34,870 --> 00:22:39,760  
So quickly run out,  
and get rid of that,

470

00:22:39,760 --> 00:22:41,410  
and come right into the house.

471

00:22:41,410 --> 00:22:44,560  
Where could you take  
a bed or wash up?

472

00:22:44,560 --> 00:22:47,500  
At nighttime-- or we  
washed our clothes.

473

00:22:47,500 --> 00:22:51,790  
Or we had to grind  
the wheat for have--

474

00:22:51,790 --> 00:22:54,820  
to make noodles or to very fine.

475

00:22:54,820 --> 00:22:58,616  
So you go over and over two,  
three times, or for bread.



476  
00:22:58,616 --> 00:23:04,010  
And it was not-- that's why I  
said, I grew up very quickly.

477  
00:23:04,010 --> 00:23:07,550  
And that spoiled little girl  
was no more spoiled little girl.

478  
00:23:07,550 --> 00:23:12,020  
She put her shoulders down  
and did the best she know how.

479  
00:23:12,020 --> 00:23:13,370  
It's very hard.

480  
00:23:13,370 --> 00:23:14,390  
That's why--

481  
00:23:14,390 --> 00:23:14,990  
Go ahead.

482  
00:23:14,990 --> 00:23:18,440  
That's why I say, you  
know, God bless America.

483  
00:23:18,440 --> 00:23:20,090  
I said, here, the children--

484  
00:23:20,090 --> 00:23:22,610  
I see, they give one  
bite, a piece of bread,

485  
00:23:22,610 --> 00:23:24,050  
and they throw it away.

486  
00:23:24,050 --> 00:23:27,050  
Would you believe,  
till today, I never

487  
00:23:27,050 --> 00:23:29,090  
threw out a piece of bread yet?

488  
00:23:29,090 --> 00:23:33,290  
Because I was very  
hungry for many years.

489  
00:23:33,290 --> 00:23:35,870  
What happened to your other  
grandfather, the other one who

490  
00:23:35,870 --> 00:23:37,550  
lived with you?

491  
00:23:37,550 --> 00:23:38,640  
My mother's father?

492  
00:23:38,640 --> 00:23:39,140  
Yes.

493  
00:23:39,140 --> 00:23:41,480  
My mother's father  
lived with us.

494  
00:23:41,480 --> 00:23:48,590  
And he lived, I think, two  
years from '39 to '41 or '42.

495  
00:23:48,590 --> 00:23:50,420  
And then he got sick.

496  
00:23:50,420 --> 00:23:52,158  
But he died with  
a natural death.

497  
00:23:52,158 --> 00:23:53,450  
So both your grandfathers died.

498  
00:23:53,450 --> 00:23:57,780  
Both, and they are both  
buried at the Jewish cemetery.

499  
00:23:57,780 --> 00:24:00,590  
I don't know if this

cemetery is still standing.

500

00:24:00,590 --> 00:24:03,830

They do not have gravestones  
because in the war,

501

00:24:03,830 --> 00:24:05,060

we couldn't put it up.

502

00:24:05,060 --> 00:24:05,720

Yes.

503

00:24:05,720 --> 00:24:10,670

But they are both buried and  
died with a normal death.

504

00:24:10,670 --> 00:24:13,210

And that was-- and the  
rest of the family,

505

00:24:13,210 --> 00:24:15,140

It was a very big family.

506

00:24:15,140 --> 00:24:18,410

In the same hometown,  
from wherever we were,

507

00:24:18,410 --> 00:24:22,190

was my mother's  
sister living there.

508

00:24:22,190 --> 00:24:25,070

And she had three  
children, a husband.

509

00:24:25,070 --> 00:24:28,830

Then she had an other  
brother in the other town.

510

00:24:28,830 --> 00:24:30,770

My father had two brothers.

511

00:24:30,770 --> 00:24:31,730  
That's the closest--

512  
00:24:31,730 --> 00:24:35,430  
I mean, the closest  
family And the sister.

513  
00:24:35,430 --> 00:24:37,145  
Nobody survived-- nobody.

514  
00:24:37,145 --> 00:24:39,980

515  
00:24:39,980 --> 00:24:43,400  
Your brother, did he receive  
surgery after the war?

516  
00:24:43,400 --> 00:24:44,120  
No.

517  
00:24:44,120 --> 00:24:46,230  
You see, we had a doctor.

518  
00:24:46,230 --> 00:24:50,330  
And he says, the last thing  
in his life what he will do

519  
00:24:50,330 --> 00:24:53,300  
is he will make my brother walk.

520  
00:24:53,300 --> 00:24:57,500  
And he started doing  
exercises to separate the hip.

521  
00:24:57,500 --> 00:25:00,020  
Because the hip was  
growing together.

522  
00:25:00,020 --> 00:25:05,900  
So he says, with tearing it  
apart, he will make it work.

523

00:25:05,900 --> 00:25:09,980

And every time he  
used to do exercises

524

00:25:09,980 --> 00:25:15,140

to separate the hip from  
the leg, my brother used

525

00:25:15,140 --> 00:25:18,480

to scream that you could  
hear him to America.

526

00:25:18,480 --> 00:25:22,340

And he says, I rather die  
instead to go back to him.

527

00:25:22,340 --> 00:25:25,930

And he walked on crutches.

528

00:25:25,930 --> 00:25:29,950

He hopped on crutches because  
he couldn't walk because his two

529

00:25:29,950 --> 00:25:32,320

hips were growing together.

530

00:25:32,320 --> 00:25:35,410

And it was horrible.

531

00:25:35,410 --> 00:25:42,370

Skinny-- I mean, the bones were  
not even covered with skin, OK?

532

00:25:42,370 --> 00:25:46,930

And there is, from a  
little boy, a growing man,

533

00:25:46,930 --> 00:25:50,620

tall, with long legs--  
enormous, long legs.

534

00:25:50,620 --> 00:25:55,120

And he can't swing

it, can't move it.

535

00:25:55,120 --> 00:25:58,030

It was a sight to see.

536

00:25:58,030 --> 00:25:59,740

It was unreal.

537

00:25:59,740 --> 00:26:05,200

And slowly, and slowly, and  
then he said to him, step one,

538

00:26:05,200 --> 00:26:06,400

step two.

539

00:26:06,400 --> 00:26:07,270

He couldn't.

540

00:26:07,270 --> 00:26:09,100

It was very hard for him.

541

00:26:09,100 --> 00:26:12,040

Finally, after maybe  
three or four months,

542

00:26:12,040 --> 00:26:15,580

he started moving a little bit.

543

00:26:15,580 --> 00:26:18,100

You see, his legs  
were sewed together.

544

00:26:18,100 --> 00:26:20,110

This hopping was easy.

545

00:26:20,110 --> 00:26:23,200

But just making a step,  
he couldn't because it

546

00:26:23,200 --> 00:26:25,353

was hurting very bad.

547

00:26:25,353 --> 00:26:27,018

Yeah, to take two  
separate steps.

548

00:26:27,018 --> 00:26:28,060

Probably the hip sockets.

549

00:26:28,060 --> 00:26:29,770

The hips were growing together.

550

00:26:29,770 --> 00:26:32,680

And little by little-- you  
should see my brother now.

551

00:26:32,680 --> 00:26:33,850

God bless him.

552

00:26:33,850 --> 00:26:34,540

God bless him.

553

00:26:34,540 --> 00:26:37,970

You wouldn't tell that he  
had problems like that.

554

00:26:37,970 --> 00:26:40,270

And it was just pitiful to look.

555

00:26:40,270 --> 00:26:45,100

And when you come out  
from hiding like that,

556

00:26:45,100 --> 00:26:47,050

you really wanted to eat.

557

00:26:47,050 --> 00:26:49,210

You wanted to eat a lot.

558

00:26:49,210 --> 00:26:51,270

And you never filled up.

559

00:26:51,270 --> 00:26:53,050

And the doctor says,  
be careful, you're

560  
00:26:53,050 --> 00:26:55,900  
going to get deadly sick.

561  
00:26:55,900 --> 00:26:57,700  
He says, you don't  
have no vitamins.

562  
00:26:57,700 --> 00:27:00,070  
Your body is a dead body.

563  
00:27:00,070 --> 00:27:01,970  
You have to start slow.

564  
00:27:01,970 --> 00:27:05,440  
How can you start slow  
when you are so hungry?

565  
00:27:05,440 --> 00:27:08,240  
You want to push it in  
more, and more, and more.

566  
00:27:08,240 --> 00:27:10,670  
And you have to be careful.

567  
00:27:10,670 --> 00:27:12,490  
And he says, no,  
you can't do that.

568  
00:27:12,490 --> 00:27:15,880  
Because you'll all end up dead.

569  
00:27:15,880 --> 00:27:18,130  
Yeah, that's died in the camps.

570  
00:27:18,130 --> 00:27:21,490  
My mother got a heart  
condition from it,

571  
00:27:21,490 --> 00:27:23,350



and my father, bleeding ulcers.

572

00:27:23,350 --> 00:27:24,760

Oh, don't ask.

573

00:27:24,760 --> 00:27:29,120

It never went back to

what it was, to be,

574

00:27:29,120 --> 00:27:32,030

really, a normal life.

575

00:27:32,030 --> 00:27:34,400

But thank God my brother

is doing very well.

576

00:27:34,400 --> 00:27:38,020

And I am doing,

thank God, very good.

577

00:27:38,020 --> 00:27:39,760

I am healthy.

578

00:27:39,760 --> 00:27:42,808

And I am retired now, thank God.

579

00:27:42,808 --> 00:27:43,600

Somehow we managed.

580

00:27:43,600 --> 00:27:44,800

And you parents?

581

00:27:44,800 --> 00:27:46,900

And my parents

are still with us.

582

00:27:46,900 --> 00:27:49,120

My parents are

not doing so well.

583

00:27:49,120 --> 00:27:55,240

My father is 6 foot and

only skin covers his bones.

584

00:27:55,240 --> 00:27:56,350

How old is he?

585

00:27:56,350 --> 00:27:59,080

91 and 1/2.

586

00:27:59,080 --> 00:28:04,343

And my mother, God

bless her, is 86.

587

00:28:04,343 --> 00:28:05,010

Where did they--

588

00:28:05,010 --> 00:28:07,495

They married this

March, the 30th.

589

00:28:07,495 --> 00:28:12,732

It's going to be 60 years

that couple is married.

590

00:28:12,732 --> 00:28:13,620

Do you believe?

591

00:28:13,620 --> 00:28:19,230

And if you ever see somebody

caring and loving each other,

592

00:28:19,230 --> 00:28:21,420

this is those two.

593

00:28:21,420 --> 00:28:24,810

He watches her, and

she watches him.

594

00:28:24,810 --> 00:28:30,450

[SPEAKING YIDDISH]

Gave him the medicine.

595

00:28:30,450 --> 00:28:32,400

You have to take the medicine.

596

00:28:32,400 --> 00:28:35,700

Come on to the table,  
take the medicine.

597

00:28:35,700 --> 00:28:40,140

Taking care of each other,  
that's a blessing from heaven.

598

00:28:40,140 --> 00:28:44,460

Protecting her in every  
way and aspect, nobody,

599

00:28:44,460 --> 00:28:48,450

should God forbid, say  
anything wrong on his wife.

600

00:28:48,450 --> 00:28:50,220

She's the prettiest.

601

00:28:50,220 --> 00:28:51,870

And she is the smartest.

602

00:28:51,870 --> 00:28:53,760

And she is his wife.

603

00:28:53,760 --> 00:28:55,320

And if you see caring--

604

00:28:55,320 --> 00:28:57,180

the man can't see you, OK?

605

00:28:57,180 --> 00:28:59,400

I talked to him  
on the telephone.

606

00:28:59,400 --> 00:29:04,170

And he says to me, if you could  
see your mother put on a dress,

607

00:29:04,170 --> 00:29:07,110

she looks so beautiful  
in that dress

608  
00:29:07,110 --> 00:29:09,570  
that you don't have no idea.

609  
00:29:09,570 --> 00:29:12,030  
She said, ah, it's just a dress.

610  
00:29:12,030 --> 00:29:13,740  
She answers, just a dress.

611  
00:29:13,740 --> 00:29:17,880  
And he thinks I am  
pretty in the dress.

612  
00:29:17,880 --> 00:29:20,055  
Well, you answer me.

613  
00:29:20,055 --> 00:29:22,350  
Are many couples like that?

614  
00:29:22,350 --> 00:29:23,365  
I don't think so.

615  
00:29:23,365 --> 00:29:23,940  
Not too many.

616  
00:29:23,940 --> 00:29:24,440  
No.

617  
00:29:24,440 --> 00:29:26,800  
I don't think, not after  
60 years of being married.

618  
00:29:26,800 --> 00:29:28,440  
That's beautiful.

619  
00:29:28,440 --> 00:29:31,350  
Was your father able to  
work when he came here, or--

620

00:29:31,350 --> 00:29:34,500

Well, my father  
was a rich merchant

621

00:29:34,500 --> 00:29:37,260

on other side, a very rich man.

622

00:29:37,260 --> 00:29:42,120

When he come to America, it  
was very difficult for him

623

00:29:42,120 --> 00:29:45,750

because I had an  
aunt and an uncle,

624

00:29:45,750 --> 00:29:49,600

but they wouldn't  
give a helping hand.

625

00:29:49,600 --> 00:29:51,930

My uncle said to  
my father, you go

626

00:29:51,930 --> 00:29:54,060

and look where  
it's dirty windows,

627

00:29:54,060 --> 00:29:57,420

and go in and ask for work.

628

00:29:57,420 --> 00:29:58,500

This was his brother?

629

00:29:58,500 --> 00:30:04,590

No, that was his brother-in-law,  
my mother's-- the sister was

630

00:30:04,590 --> 00:30:06,270

my mother's sister.

631

00:30:06,270 --> 00:30:07,860

And it was very difficult.

632  
00:30:07,860 --> 00:30:10,050  
But they were not  
survivors themselves?

633  
00:30:10,050 --> 00:30:12,000  
No, they come before.

634  
00:30:12,000 --> 00:30:14,880  
They come here before the war.

635  
00:30:14,880 --> 00:30:16,740  
They didn't know  
anything about it.

636  
00:30:16,740 --> 00:30:20,340  
As a matter of fact, they  
were ashamed of the survivors,

637  
00:30:20,340 --> 00:30:24,132  
that we were lesser  
people than they are.

638  
00:30:24,132 --> 00:30:26,958  
[SIGHS]

639  
00:30:26,958 --> 00:30:28,850  
It's true.

640  
00:30:28,850 --> 00:30:30,660  
What did your father do?

641  
00:30:30,660 --> 00:30:37,010  
He become a sewing operator,  
anything to make a dollar,

642  
00:30:37,010 --> 00:30:40,880  
to be independent,  
and not to ask

643  
00:30:40,880 --> 00:30:43,130  
for any charity from anybody.

644  
00:30:43,130 --> 00:30:44,000  
And we make do.

645  
00:30:44,000 --> 00:30:46,340  
We lived together.

646  
00:30:46,340 --> 00:30:49,490  
We paid in a cold flat.

647  
00:30:49,490 --> 00:30:50,770  
And we survived.

648  
00:30:50,770 --> 00:30:52,750  
How old were you  
when you came here?

649  
00:30:52,750 --> 00:30:56,500  
When I come here, I  
was 25, I think, I was.

650  
00:30:56,500 --> 00:30:58,750  
You were in a DP  
camp for a while?

651  
00:30:58,750 --> 00:30:59,710  
Yeah, in Germany.

652  
00:30:59,710 --> 00:31:02,770  
Ulm on the Donau, I  
was in the DP camp.

653  
00:31:02,770 --> 00:31:03,970  
For how long?

654  
00:31:03,970 --> 00:31:07,840  
About a year and a half  
or two years because they

655  
00:31:07,840 --> 00:31:10,150  
were making out the  
papers to come here.

656

00:31:10,150 --> 00:31:12,460

And from beginning,  
to be honest with you,

657

00:31:12,460 --> 00:31:17,110

if I know what was waiting  
me here, I would never budge.

658

00:31:17,110 --> 00:31:18,400

I would go to Israel.

659

00:31:18,400 --> 00:31:20,590

And that's where I would remain.

660

00:31:20,590 --> 00:31:24,860

Because the beginning  
was very difficult.

661

00:31:24,860 --> 00:31:27,880

We didn't have any  
jobs prepared for us.

662

00:31:27,880 --> 00:31:30,010

We didn't have any apartment.

663

00:31:30,010 --> 00:31:31,150

They just brought us here.

664

00:31:31,150 --> 00:31:35,830

And they said to  
us, you go and do

665

00:31:35,830 --> 00:31:37,690

for yourself  
whatever you can do.

666

00:31:37,690 --> 00:31:40,630

We cannot help you.

667

00:31:40,630 --> 00:31:45,520

I had a very well-to-do uncle,



my mother's brother in Trenton.

668

00:31:45,520 --> 00:31:47,860

And he said, you,  
I will not help.

669

00:31:47,860 --> 00:31:50,800

But your mother, when she  
comes, she has a place by me.

670

00:31:50,800 --> 00:31:53,590

When my mother come, she  
didn't have a place by him.

671

00:31:53,590 --> 00:31:55,540

She had a place by me.

672

00:31:55,540 --> 00:31:58,900

Because he says, I cannot  
argue with my wife.

673

00:31:58,900 --> 00:32:00,130

She's my wife.

674

00:32:00,130 --> 00:32:01,700

And I cannot help you.

675

00:32:01,700 --> 00:32:03,560

And so that was it.

676

00:32:03,560 --> 00:32:04,300

Thank God.

677

00:32:04,300 --> 00:32:07,630

You know, thank  
God, in [PLACE NAME]

678

00:32:07,630 --> 00:32:09,010

I once made a dinner.

679

00:32:09,010 --> 00:32:11,350

And my whole family I

invited because my mother

680  
00:32:11,350 --> 00:32:12,490  
had come from California.

681  
00:32:12,490 --> 00:32:14,620  
I invited them to our house.

682  
00:32:14,620 --> 00:32:18,040  
And I had, maybe, 25  
or 30 people, family.

683  
00:32:18,040 --> 00:32:22,210  
And they all admired how  
beautiful I have the house,

684  
00:32:22,210 --> 00:32:24,550  
how the China and everything.

685  
00:32:24,550 --> 00:32:29,800  
And inside, buckled  
up for a long time,

686  
00:32:29,800 --> 00:32:35,770  
that's-- my family look at me  
as a second citizen, you know?

687  
00:32:35,770 --> 00:32:37,392  
That's I'm not equal.

688  
00:32:37,392 --> 00:32:38,350  
A second-class citizen.

689  
00:32:38,350 --> 00:32:39,308  
A second-class citizen.

690  
00:32:39,308 --> 00:32:42,160  
I am not equal to their level.

691  
00:32:42,160 --> 00:32:43,300  
And there they are.

692

00:32:43,300 --> 00:32:48,700

And I prepared-- I worked  
to prepare for that evening.

693

00:32:48,700 --> 00:32:51,310

And they all sit, and  
they enjoyed the food,

694

00:32:51,310 --> 00:32:53,230

and they admire everything.

695

00:32:53,230 --> 00:32:57,010

And then my cousin, my first  
cousin, my aunt's daughter,

696

00:32:57,010 --> 00:33:02,660

says, where did you get  
all this beautiful stuff?

697

00:33:02,660 --> 00:33:03,970

And I turned around.

698

00:33:03,970 --> 00:33:05,710

I says, Rose, look at this.

699

00:33:05,710 --> 00:33:07,630

You see those 10 fingers?

700

00:33:07,630 --> 00:33:10,930

With my sweat and my  
10 fingers, I says.

701

00:33:10,930 --> 00:33:14,620

And I used my head  
and an honest way.

702

00:33:14,620 --> 00:33:17,710

All what I have is  
from that, I says.

703

00:33:17,710 --> 00:33:20,350

And I am proud it's mine.

704  
00:33:20,350 --> 00:33:22,930  
Did you work from the  
time you came here?

705  
00:33:22,930 --> 00:33:24,780  
Two jobs.

706  
00:33:24,780 --> 00:33:25,860  
What did you do?

707  
00:33:25,860 --> 00:33:27,000  
I sewed.

708  
00:33:27,000 --> 00:33:28,380  
I learned how to sew.

709  
00:33:28,380 --> 00:33:30,750  
My father taught  
me in a factory.

710  
00:33:30,750 --> 00:33:35,040  
And I worked in stores,  
selling weekends.

711  
00:33:35,040 --> 00:33:38,130  
And then I used to go to New  
York, and buy some stuff,

712  
00:33:38,130 --> 00:33:41,020  
and sell, and make a living.

713  
00:33:41,020 --> 00:33:44,670  
And I sent my daughter to  
college and to graduate school.

714  
00:33:44,670 --> 00:33:47,740  
Did you come over long  
before your parents?

715  
00:33:47,740 --> 00:33:49,273  
No, I come before my parents.

716  
00:33:49,273 --> 00:33:50,190  
Yeah, how long before?

717  
00:33:50,190 --> 00:33:50,970  
Six months.

718  
00:33:50,970 --> 00:33:53,010  
And your brother, did  
he come with them?

719  
00:33:53,010 --> 00:33:57,690  
With my parents, my brother  
come with my parents.

720  
00:33:57,690 --> 00:34:00,450  
I come to Boston, Massachusetts.

721  
00:34:00,450 --> 00:34:02,010  
And I was shipped--

722  
00:34:02,010 --> 00:34:05,460  
when I come off the boat,  
they took me off the boat

723  
00:34:05,460 --> 00:34:06,450  
in a wheelchair.

724  
00:34:06,450 --> 00:34:08,040  
I never forget that.

725  
00:34:08,040 --> 00:34:13,350  
Because the boat  
was for animals,

726  
00:34:13,350 --> 00:34:15,929  
a boat, whatever-- and the  
waters were very rough.

727  
00:34:15,929 --> 00:34:16,576  
A cattle boat?

728  
00:34:16,576 --> 00:34:17,159  
A cattle boat.

729  
00:34:17,159 --> 00:34:20,850  
And I guess I couldn't take it.

730  
00:34:20,850 --> 00:34:24,120  
So they tossed me up  
on top of the deck.

731  
00:34:24,120 --> 00:34:27,489  
And the waters were  
splashing forth and back.

732  
00:34:27,489 --> 00:34:30,420  
I couldn't hold down no  
food through the whole time.

733  
00:34:30,420 --> 00:34:31,389  
Forget it.

734  
00:34:31,389 --> 00:34:34,949  
And I was so sick,  
it was unbelievable.

735  
00:34:34,949 --> 00:34:37,440  
I didn't know if  
I'm coming or going.

736  
00:34:37,440 --> 00:34:40,469  
When the ship docked  
and they says,

737  
00:34:40,469 --> 00:34:44,310  
we already arrived, and  
I am laying over there,

738  
00:34:44,310 --> 00:34:46,659  
I don't care if I'm  
coming or going.

739  
00:34:46,659 --> 00:34:47,159

[LAUGHS]

740  
00:34:47,159 --> 00:34:48,560  
More dead than alive.

741  
00:34:48,560 --> 00:34:50,880  
So they come with a wheelchair.

742  
00:34:50,880 --> 00:34:52,860  
And they sit me in a wheelchair.

743  
00:34:52,860 --> 00:34:56,940  
And they wheeled me down  
to a big, huge hall.

744  
00:34:56,940 --> 00:34:59,910  
And from there, they  
come with emblems.

745  
00:34:59,910 --> 00:35:01,170  
You go here, you go there.

746  
00:35:01,170 --> 00:35:05,250  
And they took us to the train  
and shipped us on the train.

747  
00:35:05,250 --> 00:35:07,228  
Because we had to  
go to our uncle.

748  
00:35:07,228 --> 00:35:08,520  
That's where we supposed to go.

749  
00:35:08,520 --> 00:35:10,687  
Did you speak any English  
at the time you came here?

750  
00:35:10,687 --> 00:35:13,080  
No, no English at all.

751  
00:35:13,080 --> 00:35:13,930  
German?

752  
00:35:13,930 --> 00:35:19,050  
Yes, perfect-- perfect German,  
perfect Polish, Jewish.

753  
00:35:19,050 --> 00:35:21,420  
And that's it.

754  
00:35:21,420 --> 00:35:22,440  
And thank God.

755  
00:35:22,440 --> 00:35:28,590  
Today, I tell my  
story and proudly.

756  
00:35:28,590 --> 00:35:32,340  
I achieved something  
in this country, what

757  
00:35:32,340 --> 00:35:36,600  
I don't think anybody  
could be capable of doing

758  
00:35:36,600 --> 00:35:40,440  
that in Poland, no way.

759  
00:35:40,440 --> 00:35:44,250  
Because first of all,  
they were very hostile.

760  
00:35:44,250 --> 00:35:48,240  
And the second of all, you  
wouldn't have that opportunity,

761  
00:35:48,240 --> 00:35:49,500  
what you have here.

762  
00:35:49,500 --> 00:35:53,790  
If you want to do it, they  
give you a chance to do it.

763  
00:35:53,790 --> 00:35:57,600



Over there, they don't.

764  
00:35:57,600 --> 00:36:00,930  
So I am grateful for that.

765  
00:36:00,930 --> 00:36:03,910  
You were truly a  
survivor in every sense.

766  
00:36:03,910 --> 00:36:05,760  
Yeah.

767  
00:36:05,760 --> 00:36:07,140  
I lived through plenty hell.

768  
00:36:07,140 --> 00:36:08,820  
Some, I can talk about it.

769  
00:36:08,820 --> 00:36:11,370  
And some, I cannot  
talk about it.

770  
00:36:11,370 --> 00:36:13,950  
But it was very hard.

771  
00:36:13,950 --> 00:36:15,780  
And I tell you the truth.

772  
00:36:15,780 --> 00:36:18,780  
Now are my best years.

773  
00:36:18,780 --> 00:36:22,110  
The other day it was  
raining very hard outside.

774  
00:36:22,110 --> 00:36:25,890  
And I said to my husband,  
do you know how lucky I am?

775  
00:36:25,890 --> 00:36:30,670  
I sit inside in a dry room,  
and it's pouring outside.

776  
00:36:30,670 --> 00:36:32,430  
Look at that rain, I says.

777  
00:36:32,430 --> 00:36:33,600  
And I am not--

778  
00:36:33,600 --> 00:36:37,920  
I was wrinkled up like  
a 150-year-old lady,

779  
00:36:37,920 --> 00:36:39,960  
one wrinkle on top.

780  
00:36:39,960 --> 00:36:45,480  
I'd never seen my body like  
that, all shriveled up.

781  
00:36:45,480 --> 00:36:48,810  
I couldn't see my face, but  
I see in my hands, my legs--

782  
00:36:48,810 --> 00:36:54,990  
it was all one wrinkle on  
top of the other-- big, deep

783  
00:36:54,990 --> 00:36:56,190  
from the water.

784  
00:36:56,190 --> 00:36:59,700  
And there, my father's stays  
with his tears in his eyes.

785  
00:36:59,700 --> 00:37:03,270  
And he says to me, which  
way would you like to die?

786  
00:37:03,270 --> 00:37:04,860  
By a bullet or by the water?

787  
00:37:04,860 --> 00:37:07,020  
Because the water is--

788  
00:37:07,020 --> 00:37:09,240  
I said, by a bullet.

789  
00:37:09,240 --> 00:37:10,920  
He says, OK, let's go.

790  
00:37:10,920 --> 00:37:13,110  
And you are waiting any second.

791  
00:37:13,110 --> 00:37:15,390  
They will-- there it comes.

792  
00:37:15,390 --> 00:37:19,080  
You are prepared  
any minute for it.

793  
00:37:19,080 --> 00:37:22,350  
But that's life.

794  
00:37:22,350 --> 00:37:23,880  
It's hard.

795  
00:37:23,880 --> 00:37:25,710  
It's hard to talk about it.

796  
00:37:25,710 --> 00:37:30,930  
Believe me, I tried to prepare  
myself for days for that.

797  
00:37:30,930 --> 00:37:35,670  
And I said to myself,  
you have to be strong.

798  
00:37:35,670 --> 00:37:40,680  
You have to say  
it and not just--

799  
00:37:40,680 --> 00:37:43,080  
[NON-ENGLISH] come  
out the wrong way.

800

00:37:43,080 --> 00:37:46,410

You must control it.

801

00:37:46,410 --> 00:37:47,640

And I tried.

802

00:37:47,640 --> 00:37:49,060

You did.

803

00:37:49,060 --> 00:37:50,110

Thank you very much.

804

00:37:50,110 --> 00:37:51,600

You're very welcome.

805

00:37:51,600 --> 00:37:54,990

This was my pleasure  
and my obligation.

806

00:37:54,990 --> 00:37:56,540

[SIGHS]

807

00:37:56,540 --> 00:38:05,000