

We continue our interview with Elizabeth Stern-Szollosi. Mrs. Szollosi, you had an experience with Mengele. Would you like to tell us about it?

Yes, I have.

Josef Mengele.

Yes. When we was in the-- at first time, when we arrived, we was divided. And I had no idea, Mengele or anybody. But when we was in the B lager, Auschwitz, Block 9, and we had to stay every day in C lager. And sometimes, Mengele coming. They spread the word, Mengele coming, you know, how we stand and everything.

And five in a row, and in the line. And all of them, long line. And starting the first one. And when he was there he, he was whistling. He had a stick in his hand. And a SS women was around her. And then the blockalteste, which usually was the Polish girls. And he just show with his finger, like this, or this. And this side I have to go. And we know now this mean life or death.

And it's very interesting how I got to work and how I get away from Auschwitz. We was, as I say, five in a group-- my girl-- two of my close girlfriends, and one of her older sisters. And I said to them, if I would have ever a chance to go to work, I would go to work.

And the other-- the older sister of my girlfriend said, no, it is a bad idea. If they take us to work, which is, that's just fantasy. If they would take us to work, maybe they beat us as much as they beat here. And we don't get food, just like we don't get here. And plus, we work in a heavy factory or mining. And now, we still have some color in our body from home. But if this takes longer, and plus we have to work, then we definitely won't live through.

So I said to my girlfriend that two things could happen. The Nazis always lie. So first of all, we could not believe them, work, or not work, or this, or that. But one thing I know, if I stay here I couldn't take it any longer. I will lose my mind and better die than lose my mind.

And if they kill us, they said go work, but they kill us, it's wonderful. I don't have to suffer any longer. It's great. I don't mind to die. And if we go to work, maybe we can liberated. Maybe we find some good people. Maybe we can escape. Freedom or dead is very much alive for me. But this, I can't take it. But I cannot tell you what to do. Maybe I run into my death, maybe you. So I cannot talk what to do, but definitely I want to go if I have a chance. No one else had a chance, no one else.

When come Mengele, and we was naked. And here, behind him this we have to stand naked. And was the latrine-- a can was there. We have to stay there without clothes. The other group, if said the other place, then those people could put on their clothing and stay again in line. The other group don't have to stay anymore in line.

So they pointed me to the naked group. And I did that, but like a magician, I turn over there where he showed to me. I make a fast turn and run to the group who were able to put on their clothes. And I said-- I whispered to the girls, cover me, I escape. So, cover me, I escape. But I whispered without moving my mouth.

And I stand between the five. I put on very first leg in the clothes. And they saw the shadow. They didn't see me. And they ran after me. But they catch somebody else. They beat her up. That's the first time in a lifetime that I let somebody else get beated, instead me. But she didn't take it either, because she was proved that she's OK for work. But I wasn't OK for work. I was already run down.

So she stay. I stay. She got one more beating. So what. We got a lot of beating. I got-- after that beating, even the liberating, they beat me. I fell on the ground. And so that's how I get to the work. That's how I tell the story here.

Not any of them come back who stayed there. My girlfriends, all of them was killed. I was the only witness. Her brothers was in Israel and come to America. I told them the story through the very last day what happened with us. I was

with her in the wagon and whatever, whatever message she had.

And I remember her very well. When first time we arrived in Auschwitz, when we got shaved, and I see the rest of the women, the Polish and other one, who had numbers on her, I said, oh-- her name was Elizabeth, too. I said, oh, this will be hurt. Look at, they have the tattoo, you know, numbers. This must be hurt.

She said, you think that's the only one which will hurt, here? A lot of things will be hurt. I hear her voice, you know? How sadly she said that. Which was so true. That's the smallest hurt. But our group didn't get the number. We was the only group who don't get the number.

And then when we was taken to the working camp, we was collecting. They locked the window, everything, that people shouldn't jump in and out. And before we left, one of the prisoners said, with tears in her eyes, you're lucky, you will go really to work. And that's the first group who ever left Auschwitz in life. So we was the first group who ever went to Auschwitz.

And then later we heard that the-- everybody was gassed, the children, the mother, the pregnant, every one of them who was not good for work. And then the Hungarian group of the children arrived. And they said they-- if they haven't got enough gas to them, they poured gasoline on it and burned to death, the Hungarian babies.

And the working place, when we arrived, we went also with wagon, to Lippstadt. In Germany, in an ammunition factory.

How did you get to Lippstadt?

By train. The Germans take us over there. They needed the workers. Probably the Germans run out from their own workers. They needed our work. And we worked 12 hours at night, 12 hours day time. So different shift. One week, night, and one week, daytime.

The life was better than in Auschwitz because we had water, number one, water, and wash ourself. Not hot water or anything like that, but was very happy able to drink water. And then we got soap. What kind of soap? The sign said R-I-F, Rein Israelite Fett. You ever of that?

Rein Israelite Fat.

And then the Polish people who was there, more than we were, told us made from Jewish people fat. That's what we've got, first time soap, in the working camp.

The first day when we went there, I work on a hand grenade. We have to make hand grenades. It's like a tube with hole in it. And we have to burn with electric fire. I don't know the expression how you say that.

And I didn't make a very good job. Not that's what I did all my life time, hand grenades. And the German meister, name was [Personal name] limping with the hand, gave me such a big slap on my face that I could see the stars. And the food was better than Auschwitz, but very bad and very little. And the bread and the other was the same. And the beating was also.

Where did you sleep at night?

We had bed, a double bed. A double, single bed. And two of each single bed would sleep two. So instead of the two, we sleep four.

And the beating was very usually. One of the women-- oh, she was a very intelligent woman too, [Personal name] And one day when one of the women was beating up who was older-- she was about maybe 40, I don't know how old-- and a young SS beat her up. And she looked at him and said, tell me, you don't think of your mother when you beat an older lady?

Because she dared say that-- it was winter, it was snow-- two SS beat her up from one end to the other, because she said that. And my other friend, mother-- when somebody has young child, like 12, 11, and look grown up, and the mother was youthful looking, somehow happened that they was together. And she was beat up terrible and fell in the ground.

And the hauptscharfuhrer-- this is the rank of the German-- still was beating and kicking her. And then she stand up, straight, and pull out the dust-- this mean not just the dust. That's the German touch. Was so proud.

And when come the Yom Kippur, we don't eat. We was hungry, but we don't eat Yom Kippur. Not even the Jewish-- some of them non-Jewish was with us too. And nobody eat Yom Kippur. And went the hauptscharfuhrer and the other one came and see that the food is untouched, said, oh, these cows, you know, some animals, they don't eat. Maybe we give them too much. Next time, they won't get as much as they get till now. This was the reaction of the Germans.

And we tried to do-- we tried to keep each other with humor, with joke, with singing, when the German didn't see, because they hate to see that we don't break down spiritually. And I remember once, when singing, and one of the Nazis said, I hear that. Look, they are still singing. Our people is already suffer with the bombs and air raids. And we start to be hungry. And they're still singing.

Oh, my god, when I hear that, I was so happy. My god, the Germans jealous of us. That's great. That's really what-- only happiness we had. And we always support each other, try to be better.

And a little episode from the working camp. Somebody's birthday was coming up. We had nothing. You don't know how much we need to save a slice of bread, from one slice of bread a day. And we save it. And one slice of bread. And we saved one tiny little bit margarine. For weeks take to save that.

And finally, I make like a little cake from the little margarine and decorate it from the piece of paper, squeeze on the margarine and put on happy birthday. Looks like a cake. So what happened, the hauptscharfuhrer came and find that. And was, who did that? And I never want anybody punished for me, so I said I did it.

You can cook? And I said, yes. Could your husband? No, I said, I was a cook. I wasn't, but, you know, who knew who I am. He said, from tomorrow, you go to the kitchen.

So I work in the kitchen. And a very nice Slovak girl was there too. We tried to help to our people as much as we could, make it better and make friendly with the German woman chef. And asking some more supporting. And with our strength, we did something, changed. And the people was happy, our people, that they get some better food.

Than the German Nazi hauptscharfuhrer recognized that the food getting better. And said from tomorrow you go to the German kitchen. So I cannot work for our people anymore. So from the factory, I went and they took me to the kitchen for the Jew, and then from there, they took me for the German kitchen, which was also on the premises.

And I was quite bitter about it because now I cannot help my people so much. So I start-- I tried to steal a little bit, whatever I can, put in my overall. And then, especially when the alarm came, I run away and I went to my group and give some carrots, or onion, whatever I could especially for this, see.

And plus, we had rabbits. So I have to feed the rabbits. So when I put in the rabbits' cage the food, I told them, girls, I feeding the rabbits. They know that. So I went there and I take out the carrots from the rabbits. And they find out. And they said, this rotten [GERMAN]-- and we was [GERMAN]-- everything, you name it, we got it, beside the beating-- they steal from the rabbits.

And I said, poor rabbits, poor rabbits, how anybody can do this, take away the food from the rabbits. Then I right away said to the others, be careful, don't go to the rabbits' cage anymore. I will put in the garbage. So I put the food, whatever I could, into the garbage.

So then, it was a short time, then I was sent back to the regular place, to the factory again. And we tried to do the best

and sabotage as much as we could. It was very hard.

Because the funny thing was, the Polish, they was prisoner, and the Ukraine. And I was prisoner too. They didn't cooperate with us. They cooperated with the German. This was the funny thing. When we went there, we thought, so they are prisoner like us, but no. They felt differently than we did.

And because they had somehow better treatment than we had. We was the worst. The Jew was the lowest of the lowest. We was jealous of the German dog. That's the honestly truth. We was not even a worm. We was nothing Dehumanized--dehumanizing, absolutely, completely.

And when I-- when I was-- I go back to the kitchen, the story. We had no paper. We was absolutely isolated from the world completely. But when I was in the kitchen, I was able to see in the kitchen some newspaper. So somehow, get something.

And I remember once to the hauptscharfuhrer, innocently I said to him-- hauptscharfuhrer, what you think? Who will win this war, the Russian or the American? He look at me. He said, what do you mean? We win. What do you mean, Russian or American? So it made me feel so good, just a little [INAUDIBLE]. Just a little bit.

Did you think you would get away with it?

I was in the kitchen. They used me at that time. God forbid, my god, if I won't be in a position like that in that second, then it would be goodbye, Charlie, you know?

Yeah.

But somehow, when you are in a certain position, it's a little bit better. And then, one of the girls was-- always selected us. And one of the girls was separated from-- was separated from her sister. And both cried.

So when I was in the kitchen, I said to the hauptscharfuhrer-- hauptscharfuhrer, when we was taken-- everybody, we have nobody. Here is two sisters. Please, I beg him, not to take these two sisters. Take me. Send me away. I don't care. I don't have anybody.

And he said, oh, no. So he didn't send me away, but they stayed together. They are liberated. So I'm glad that that time I was in the kitchen.

Then I was sent back to the factory. Oh, and one more thing I said to him. My god, this was really-- I was stupid. I don't go to college. I don't know what-- it's stupidity. To a German, I said maybe once in a lifetime I will be thankful, I could be thankful that for you. A Nazi, god, I say that. I don't know where I take the courage. When I thinking back, a Jew, a [INAUDIBLE].

And you know, the miracle happened. In year '60, they call me on the German consular. They catch him and call me as a witness.

Which consulate is this?

In America, in New York. The German consulate called me.

Yeah.

I was already called from my people. And I was witness. I didn't see him.

Who was the person you're talking about?

This hauptscharfuhrer.

The same hauptscharfuhrer.

Who I said, maybe in my lifetime I can thank for the Jewish [INAUDIBLE]. He was not better than anybody else. But I was working in the kitchen at that time. And when I said to one of the girls that I was witness, she said that son of gun. Said you know how much he beat my mother. This woman who was shaken down the dust from the beating, even on the ground.

And they asked me if I see anybody to die. I said, no, I didn't see personally, but I know somebody was died and was put margarine on and burned. And pregnant woman or whoever accidentally lived through the pregnancy because they don't know pregnant. And her sisters, together, they're hiding each other. Always the non-pregnant stay in the first row.

But they all finally die. Every one of them was taken to Bergen-Belsen. And I don't have to talk about that. But I just saw some of them, skeleton like, after the liberating army.

And well, in the work, I don't want details on the working place. But one thing I know, the liberating day was the most beautiful time in our lifetime, which one we still celebrate all that time.

And when I was in the kitchen, they tried to-- what you hear? What you know? We liberated for Christmas? I said, I don't think so. But liberate maybe for Easter. And then said, liberating? And I said, no-- yes. I can't imagine, a German soldier come to me, ask me a piece of potato? If they are hungry, we will be liberated soon because they have no food now.

And but until we're hungry, it doesn't count. I said maybe in Easter. And we was liberated Easter Sunday, '45, 1st of April. That's our real birthday for every one of us. And when the camp was emptied, our working camp-- I'm jumping again.

When the working camp was evacuated, because it was too close-- the ring round Germany. So they don't want give out in life. They want to take us Bergen-Belsen. We walked three days and three nights. They give us that time a piece of loaf of bread and a piece of margarine. And they said, this for a week.

So we was hungry, but we had to save every day to eat that a little bit to keep up for the week what we was told. We was hungry. We was thirsty. We was tired. And even on the road, we asked water from the people in the town. They don't give us a glass of water, no.

And they say, [GERMAN]. This means sit. Stand up, stay up. And we were so exhausted, tired. And I didn't stand up fast enough. They take their machine-- you know, the little machine gun and what he has on him, and hit me on my shoulder. And I fell down. Then the other girls helped me up. And this was the day of the liberation. We don't know we will be liberated.

And one night-- one night we was in a stable for an hour rest. And between the straw and cows, and all like that. And the next day, the rumor went around that the German will be escaped tonight and we will be free.

I have to mention it. An SS Polish man who was good, the only good person. And gave spiritual courage and hope. He don't hurt us. Really, we can say he was good. And the only one. Sure he can show that.

Example, when I was in the working camp, and after the 12-hour work, I sew three-- know cut off three, I have to sew. And he want to help me. And then the other SS came. He is not allowed to do that. He start yelling at me-- you don't know how to do that. I show you how to do that. But really, he was good. And he even gave me a slice of bread.

What was his job?

Just like any other guard. People could do things that make your life miserable or just as bad as have to be. But some of them more ambitious and beat you extra. It's the individual. OK, you can say, I am in the army, I have to do that. But I

don't have to beat you. And they don't have to kill you. You know? Beside the gas chamber, beside the other suffrage. So this, the only man who was good.

Was he found out? Did anybody punish him or do anything to him?

Oh, he would know it. Sure. That's why he start to yelling. And god forbid, any other SS to find out that he's not as cruel as the rest of them.

Yeah.

And so, this man-- I [say this detail why. And he said, you will be liberated next day. All the Germans will be run away and I will stay with you. Because if I don't stay with you, everybody gone, then the other army, who pulling back, they find out that the Jews are here, you all will be dead. They will kill you. So tomorrow morning, you're liberated. Because tonight, all the SS guard will escape.

Oh my, god, this [INAUDIBLE]. This mixed feeling. People yelling, people praying, people cursing. Some of them said, oh, I will see my family, I will see this, I will see-- you know, who I will see. The other one said, I will eat. And the other one said, I will kill the Nazi.

So each emotion was so large, so [INAUDIBLE], so like the babbel, you know? This you cannot-- nobody-- a screaming movie, who would be able to say and put down the words. I'm not capable to explain that emotion, what was there.

And so, this-- Alex was the name, this Polish SS, who was the only good man-- said I beg you women, not to make noise, not to do this. You suffer so much. The liberation is here. You are in the door of the liberating. You won't leave if you make noise. They will find out you're here. All of them will killed. Don't do that.

But you can't control emotion. In the morning, you see all the guards, my god, they didn't escape. They was there. Oh, they didn't escape. We were so much done. We lost all the hope, what we had. And we walk, we walk.

That's the first time when I really lost my hope. And I always hoped my husband is alive. And then I said, oh, god, it's better if he dead. He don't have to suffer like I do. I wish to be dead too. And the same day, really was liberated.

It was in Karnitz. It was an arc around the forest. And they said, lay down. So we all have to lay on the ground. And the Nazis was edge of the forest. And gun pointed us and want to kill us.

And in the same second happened a miracle. First or April, Easter Sunday, '45, the Air Force, American Air Force, and the Army come in. And the white flag on the houses, is on the city hall on the churches.

And we don't know what happened. Alex was laid down with us. And we said, Alex what this mean? He said freedom-- freedom. The Nazis dropped their guns, run into the forest. And we stayed there, free.

And the emotion-- some of them-- was a stable there and the stock room was food for the cows and horses. Around there, start to have some food. And again, Alex-- don't do that. The Air Force don't know who you are. They could shoot you. You suffered so much. Be patient now.

You cannot talk to them. The Air Force was very low. We see them. And we tried waving to them. And we hear the ground, the trucks. And some people speak English and run for them, in front of them. And I remember, a tiny little soldier was, American soldier, and 500 women hugging around. I don't know how he survived, not to squeezed. And we don't want to believe it's true.

And I remember an officer in a Jeep. And I stayed there. I smoothed his hand. I didn't speak English. I just say, thank you, thank you, German bad, very bad. That's all that I can say, and smoothing his hand. His eyes in tears. My eyes was in tears. And he gave me chocolate and [INAUDIBLE]. That's how I met the first American.

And then I just waving, waving. I had a piece of flag. And standing there and waving. I said, I will see my husband. I will see my parents. I will see the children. I want to see everybody.

And then some of them run to stores and get them food and clothing. And I'm just standing and waving. And one of the girls grabbed me-- you stupid stone. You're standing waving? Other one has already clothes and eat, come on. And grabbed my hand and take me into a store.

And was a bottle of herring and cane sugar. I ate the cane sugar and herring. This was my first food. And then the American Army was very, very good to us. They gave us clothes. They gave us food. And then later, they want to put us in a camp. This was in Karnitz.

And then we were already demonstrating. Can imagine? Said no, we don't want to go to camp. We was in the camp. Put the German in the camp and let us to be free now. And I think our place was the only one who didn't get to camp. Because most of them I hear that they put them in the camp. And so this was so beautiful.

And then they we no transportation. And oh, [INAUDIBLE], the Americans. And they said, don't go back to Hungary. The life is very bad over there right now, which [INAUDIBLE] was true. Come to America. We dry up your tears.

And I said no, I want to go back. I want to find my family. No way I can find them. Only go back where I start from. But was not able to go back because there's no transportation. The war still was on. And we was very much scared that what happened if the German-- the war, later, [INAUDIBLE], back and forth, what will happen with us.

So they said, don't worry about. We don't let you again. We will put you on the truck and take you with us. We was 500 women liberated in the same time. Oh, I have to tell what happened with Alex and with the rest of the Nazis.

So they catch them wherever they could. One of them was Otto. He was a bad guy, Nazi. And they put them in front of the truck. And hand up. And whoever know witnessing.

When I saw him-- at that time I speak very well German. I forget now, but at that time I was very good. And I said to them, no, your hand is up because you're facing with soldiers. You was not like that when you're facing to helpless women without food, without clothes. You kicking, you beating us. Why are you not a hero now? It was easy to be a hero with helpless people. You're not a hero anymore.

And they ask what we want to do with him. You want to see him to shot or no? I said do with him what you want to do. I don't want to see it. Still, I was not able to see somebody get killed. So we don't know he's-- I hope he's in life anyhow.

And then they catch Alex, the good guy. And they want shoot him. And the 500 women protected him, cover his body with our body, and said, no, no, no, he's very good. He's the only good. Please, don't do that.

And his eyes was in tears to see that he got back paid what he put in. And he said, goddamn German Nazi. And was pointed with the machine gun. And we protect with our body his life. And then said, then take of this Nazi symbol and SS symbol.

So the women bring a scissor and cut off his SS emblem. And they want to change his clothes. They change his clothes and stay with us. But he want to go home, see his family. We never hear about him anymore, what happened with Alex. We keep questioning what happened with Alex, but we don't know that. Because who knows when he walked alone, he was-- we just don't know anymore his life.

Did you know his full name?

No, maybe some of the girls know, maybe who is in Israel, some of them in Israel, in Tel Aviv, some of them in kibbutz. I know them. I visited them in '80, after my husband died. I went to Israel, The. First time I went to Israel.

When did you leave Karnitz after this? How soon after did you leave?

To back Hungary?

Yeah.

So there was no transportation. And finally, I don't want to-- the difficulty and the time when I-- how I got back to Hungary. I got back in November. The American or English soldiers helped us to go back. We was liberated in Westphalia, Germany, on the Westphalian border. And that's how-- before I forget, I want to talk about the French woman. Reminding me please, which was very interesting.

So I went back to Hungary. And I didn't find my home. There was no station, was bombed down. And I have to stay one station before. And some of the Jewish group who was already there, because this was already-- the war was over 8th of May. And this was in November when I got back to Hungary. And some of the Jews come to the station and help us.

And I said, do you know where I live? And I don't know where to turn, to go. And they said, you have two brothers at home. And so I went back and find two brothers. And my husband, I heard the news that he's in life in Russia. He escaped.

He-- like we was gun-pointed on the moment when we was liberated. In the working camp, the slavery camp, in Hungary, under the Nazis hand, he had to make his own grave. 4 o'clock afternoon, they want to shoot him into the own made grave. He digging his grave. Then the Hungarian Nazi said, hurry, hurry. And he said, would you hurry if you make your own grave? And then he threw him a cigarette.

But before 4 o'clock, the Russian army came, Air Force, shoot them out. And my husband stayed there in the snow in Russia. I think [Place name] something like this was the name. And walked, walked. And find a house.

He went in. And then they want to shoot him. They thought, so he's a spy. And with his broken Russian, like he learned over there, on the [INAUDIBLE]. And tried to explain who he is. And they said-- and doesn't help anything.

So, then he take my picture. He still had the picture from me. Kiss me goodbye. And open his mouth and he said, you are not better than the German Nazi. I thought so I come here, freedom. But you're just as bad as they are.

And then a woman came, a Russian woman who know him when he was in the-- just before, in a forced labor camp. And he was a chef. And he tried to help the people as much as he could, because again, he worked with food and sanitary. And able to give some experience for the people, for the Russian people over there.

They recognized him. And say, [INAUDIBLE] doctor. He was not a doctor, but he thought so because he was good and give something for him. So he's thought so maybe he's a doctor. And then the women explained who he was, he's not a spy, and who he is.

Then they give a piece of paper for him. He said he don't know what was in the paper, but wherever he went, opened the door. And that's how he got to the prisoner of war camp in [Place name] But he can't go home. He can't get home.

Finally, he come a year later, in '46, September 13. He got home. And one month before I got the first letter, he got the first from me-- I got-- because from prisoner who got home, I got the address.

And no mail come through, only the first one, which one I say thanks for the people who make able to-- I have the letters. If you want, I give as a document, with the Russian stamp, with the censor, everything.

Thank you.

And I said that I was in Auschwitz. And I said who is home, but I didn't say who was killed because I don't want to make him sad. And then I got the first letter a month before he came home. And this was a miracle too. After four and a



half years. And find a new place where we are. We don't know where we live. Like, I don't know when I got home where I go.

Was his family completely wiped out too?

Partly, yes, two brothers from 10 children. Some of them died before. And the parents died before. And one of the sisters, with four kids. And the brother-in-law, and two beautiful brothers. One of the brothers in Hungary-- their Nazis was no better than the German Nazis-- was beat to death, 200 beautiful young men, with the shovels.

Only one witness staying alive, who was hiding in a chicken coop, in a chicken place. That's the only one who survived. So they killed my brother-in-law. And after the war, they're digging out the graves and they find that 200 beautiful young boys.

So you were now together again?

Yeah. 3 o'clock-- after midnight, and he was to be come the next day, a Saturday. And I want to go to the station Friday. And they said, no, he won't be here. I said I feel he come. And he came the time when I thought so.

I couldn't sleep. I went to the window and I hear steps. And one of the men from the house, I said, [? Andre, ?] is that you? Yes. I said tell me, who's behind you? Is that Eugene? And my husband, yes, open the door. After four and a half years.

And you know, from 10,000 people, approximately, from my city they were in the surrounding, about one-- from Auschwitz or from the prisoner of war camp, 10 couples meet only each other. Either the wife or the husband was nothing alive.

And I was one of the lucky ones. And some couples find who was hiding, but not one in Auschwitz, one in the forced labor camp, [INAUDIBLE], and this place. Because an example from my husband, the battalion or how you go call from [INAUDIBLE], he was the only one who was alive.

You wanted to say something about a French woman.

Oh, yeah. This was in the working camp. Was an alarm, air raid. And I met a French woman, non-Jewish, with her daughter. And she want to give me a slice of bread with marmalade, with a teaspoon of jam. And I didn't want to accept. And I said, I cannot take from you. You're just a hungry as I am. Said no, you are more hungry. We're not Jewish. We got more than you do. And she gave me. She forced me her slice of bread and marmalade.

And the Italian people was very nice, even in the prison camp. One of them-- they was prisoner too. One, her name was Silvio, working in the same factory where I did. And when the machine was kaput, they have to fix the machine. And we said, Silvio, don't fix today the machine. We're so hungry and so tired.

And then he tried not to fix it. Then I asked him, were you able to give me a toothbrush? I would save my bread. I give you a slice of bread if you bring me a toothbrush. And he bring me a toothbrush and he didn't accept my bread. That really looks like nothing, you know, but this was life.

And so many, so many things. I just lost--

You stayed in Hungary after the war?

Yes, we wait for my husband. And we establish ourself in business again. And then we moved to Budapest in '48. And in Budapest, we escape during the revolution and we come to America.

And your son had been born in the meantime?

We adopted our son. I can't have a child because of Auschwitz. I don't get back my [INAUDIBLE] how it should be. And so, I love children. And that's why I have my son. And I have to tell you--

Was he adopted here or there?

In Hungary.

In Hungary.

And very important, how I met Carol in Dornburg. Her husband was the doctor in the camp. And my husband was the chef in the camp, in a kosher camp. And our bungalow-- I was always with my husband-- and our bungalow was near to each other. And she hold her little girl, Esther, in her arm. She was a few months old. And the other baby, holding her skirt.

And I look at them. I couldn't say-- I just staring. And I felt embarrassed to staring somebody like I did. So finally, I said, I'm sorry I staring you so much. I had a brother who was deaf and a sister-in-law who was deaf. And they had two babies. One was three and a half years old and one was four weeks old.

And your picture reminded me this picture, with the two children, young woman. And then I showed the picture. And she said to me, how old was your nieces? And I said one born in '40, other one born in '44. And she said, you know what, I will be your niece. I born between the two. And I will be your niece.

And since this time, never lost contact. She's so good, and her family, and so beautiful. She has gorgeous children. And she said every Jew should have six children, born for each million. And she has six children, five girls and one boy. The boy's 9 years old. And daughter is now married. Is beautiful, beautiful, all of them like could be. And good heart, all of them.

It's a pleasure to know, to see people like that. I was once sick. And she want come down to me to Florida, leave the six children and the husband. I said, no, you can't help me. I will be take care of. Because I'm alone. And you just stay with your family.

Because see, my husband passed away, nine years, will be in July. Had a brain tumor. And the doctor said probably a grapefruit sized brain tumor. And I said, probably grew 30, 40 years. You never know, because this doesn't grow for a day. It was not malignant. And maybe from the beating. Because he was beated a lot, in head and everything.

And in the forced labor camp, they just said I bet with you a cigarette that I will shoot them in the eye-- for a cigarette. It was terrible. It's so hard-- so hard to recall all the details. But when we get together, it's just recall everything.

When it was our 25th anniversary with my husband in New York and I find people were liberated with me, and we make like a union and start with God bless America for honor of the liberating army. And we stand in one line. Everybody stand up and sing "God Bless America." And I say this, God bless America. They saved my life and my family life, not once, but twice.

Once when they liberated you and once when you came here?

Yes. And I find a paper, a newspaper, when I come to America. This one is about our group. When I said the story, they showed me the paper. I have the original and I have some photocopies, which when I give out to the people who was with me. And if you need as document, I will give it to you. This is also in my place.

And how much isolated we was. When we get together, we always go back to the subject. And one of my girlfriend, not only one, talking about. And I said, my biggest wish was a glass of water. In my eye, I see a clean glass, shiny, with water. She said, water, how come you had no water? I said, why? You had water. Yes, we had.

So her group, in C lager, they had water. We haven't got water. So each story is absolutely different than the other one.

Then when we had water, I wished to have clean clothes, a fresh ironed apron. This was my biggest wish, besides see the family. So it's just--

Very small things, but yet so large.

Even today, when I sleep in the bed, when I have cover on me, I feel, gee, I'm in a bed, I have cover on my body. I have water. I have food. I have clothes. And now we want to be better or fancier. Remember, you know?

I don't know if I tell you, when we was together, when one of the girls said I always had the food and give them bread or [INAUDIBLE], but now, I not only just give for some bread and [INAUDIBLE], I will call to my table and eat together.

So there's so many little details, which are emotional. But the big thing, the suffering, which we went through mentally, physically, hunger, and then when he was taken from Hungary to the wagon, how they kick the old ladies, or young. Some of them gave birth in the wagon. And the dead, and it just is a terrible thing.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.