

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:21,020

2

00:00:21,020 --> 00:00:22,110

Good afternoon.

3

00:00:22,110 --> 00:00:26,780

I am Joseph Preil, Director of  
the Holocaust Resource Center

4

00:00:26,780 --> 00:00:30,380

here at Kean College  
of New Jersey.

5

00:00:30,380 --> 00:00:36,690

This afternoon Wednesday,  
February 22nd, 1995.

6

00:00:36,690 --> 00:00:42,000

We are privileged to have  
with us Mrs. Nella Anguillara

7

00:00:42,000 --> 00:00:47,750

Bergen, who will tell  
us of her experiences

8

00:00:47,750 --> 00:00:52,560

during World War II,  
as a resident of Rome.

9

00:00:52,560 --> 00:00:56,510

Mrs. Anguillara, first of all,  
thank you for coming down.

10

00:00:56,510 --> 00:00:59,000

And in order to get  
started, can you

11

00:00:59,000 --> 00:01:02,940

tell me where and  
when you were born?

12

00:01:02,940 --> 00:01:08,900

I was born in Rome, in  
1921, March 21, 1921.

13

00:01:08,900 --> 00:01:10,730

All right.

14

00:01:10,730 --> 00:01:13,460

What did your family consist of?

15

00:01:13,460 --> 00:01:15,980

My father and my mother  
had six children.

16

00:01:15,980 --> 00:01:17,000

I was the last one.

17

00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:19,800

All right, so you're the  
youngest of six children?

18

00:01:19,800 --> 00:01:20,300

Yes.

19

00:01:20,300 --> 00:01:22,770

Your parents were  
also born in Italy?

20

00:01:22,770 --> 00:01:23,270

In Italy?

21

00:01:23,270 --> 00:01:23,770

Yes, yes.

22

00:01:23,770 --> 00:01:24,320

In Rome?

23

00:01:24,320 --> 00:01:24,820

Yes.

24

00:01:24,820 --> 00:01:25,550

All right.

25

00:01:25,550 --> 00:01:27,540

How many generations  
back do you go?

26

00:01:27,540 --> 00:01:28,350

Many, many.

27

00:01:28,350 --> 00:01:31,380

I mean, centuries, I guess.

28

00:01:31,380 --> 00:01:38,510

Can you tell us about life  
in Rome before World War II?

29

00:01:38,510 --> 00:01:40,970

Was a normal life.

30

00:01:40,970 --> 00:01:42,590

Everybody worked.

31

00:01:42,590 --> 00:01:43,525

I was going to school.

32

00:01:43,525 --> 00:01:47,720

And my brother,  
Franco, stopped to go.

33

00:01:47,720 --> 00:01:50,600

When he was 15, my father  
took him out of school

34

00:01:50,600 --> 00:01:52,040

to put him in the store.

35

00:01:52,040 --> 00:01:54,680

But he was going to  
evening, to school.

36

00:01:54,680 --> 00:01:56,270

And I was making

a regular school.

37

00:01:56,270 --> 00:01:59,840

I was good in school.

38

00:01:59,840 --> 00:02:02,300

What did your father  
do for a living?

39

00:02:02,300 --> 00:02:03,310

We had a store.

40

00:02:03,310 --> 00:02:09,539

It was selling fabric and making  
custom-made suits and ladies

41

00:02:09,539 --> 00:02:10,850

fashions.

42

00:02:10,850 --> 00:02:13,505

Was the family comfortable?

43

00:02:13,505 --> 00:02:16,970

It was all right, concerned,  
you know, six children is a lot.

44

00:02:16,970 --> 00:02:19,670

So nothing was missing.

45

00:02:19,670 --> 00:02:22,344

But it wasn't really rich.

46

00:02:22,344 --> 00:02:22,844

Yeah.

47

00:02:22,844 --> 00:02:24,650

Was just still working.

48

00:02:24,650 --> 00:02:30,820

What was the Jewish life in  
Rome, at that time, like?

49

00:02:30,820 --> 00:02:34,190

Ah, I think was a normal  
life, in the sense

50

00:02:34,190 --> 00:02:37,430

that my sister, because  
I was the last one,

51

00:02:37,430 --> 00:02:40,700

was a big difference of age  
between my brother, my sisters,

52

00:02:40,700 --> 00:02:41,750

and myself.

53

00:02:41,750 --> 00:02:44,880

So they were going to  
dances which happened,

54

00:02:44,880 --> 00:02:45,935

and with my mother.

55

00:02:45,935 --> 00:02:50,972

56

00:02:50,972 --> 00:02:52,055

And then they got engaged.

57

00:02:52,055 --> 00:02:53,420

And then they got married.

58

00:02:53,420 --> 00:02:57,350

And the way used to be in Italy,  
my father didn't let them go

59

00:02:57,350 --> 00:02:59,900

alone with the fianc e.

60

00:02:59,900 --> 00:03:01,340

So I was going with them.

61

00:03:01,340 --> 00:03:03,270

And my brother was  
going with them.

62

00:03:03,270 --> 00:03:04,910

Yeah.

63

00:03:04,910 --> 00:03:06,380

That's all right.

64

00:03:06,380 --> 00:03:10,560

But can you tell us something  
about your Jewish upbringing?

65

00:03:10,560 --> 00:03:12,030

Did you get a Jewish education?

66

00:03:12,030 --> 00:03:12,530

All right.

67

00:03:12,530 --> 00:03:14,490

And what kind of  
observance was there?

68

00:03:14,490 --> 00:03:14,990

Right.

69

00:03:14,990 --> 00:03:17,360

We were observing the Holy Days.

70

00:03:17,360 --> 00:03:19,760

When my brother was preparing  
for the bar mitzvah,

71

00:03:19,760 --> 00:03:21,560

I went to Talmud Torah with him.

72

00:03:21,560 --> 00:03:23,390

So I learned then.

73

00:03:23,390 --> 00:03:27,080

And then we were celebrated

the holidays, and all family,

74

00:03:27,080 --> 00:03:31,040

together, going to synagogue.

75

00:03:31,040 --> 00:03:33,680

When did you go to synagogue?

76

00:03:33,680 --> 00:03:34,910

Friday nights, sometimes.

77

00:03:34,910 --> 00:03:37,340

Sometimes Saturdays,  
sometimes near holidays.

78

00:03:37,340 --> 00:03:39,100

Holidays, for sure.

79

00:03:39,100 --> 00:03:40,400

Mhm?

80

00:03:40,400 --> 00:03:43,220

Was the business  
open on Shabbat?

81

00:03:43,220 --> 00:03:43,980

Yes.

82

00:03:43,980 --> 00:03:44,480

Yeah?

83

00:03:44,480 --> 00:03:46,160

We weren't so Orthodox.

84

00:03:46,160 --> 00:03:47,480

I see.

85

00:03:47,480 --> 00:03:48,230

All right.

86

00:03:48,230 --> 00:03:52,190

And all right.

87

00:03:52,190 --> 00:03:54,800

88

00:03:54,800 --> 00:03:58,430

Your family was all  
saved during the war?

89

00:03:58,430 --> 00:04:00,050

The [? strict ?] family, yes.

90

00:04:00,050 --> 00:04:01,250

Some cousin were taken.

91

00:04:01,250 --> 00:04:06,660

But my [? strict ?]  
family were all saved.

92

00:04:06,660 --> 00:04:07,800

How many cousins?

93

00:04:07,800 --> 00:04:10,580

About how large was  
your own family?

94

00:04:10,580 --> 00:04:13,970

Your immediate family was  
six children and two parents.

95

00:04:13,970 --> 00:04:15,290

That's eight people.

96

00:04:15,290 --> 00:04:16,940

And their husband and children.

97

00:04:16,940 --> 00:04:17,865

Yeah.

98

00:04:17,865 --> 00:04:19,279

Oh, OK.



99

00:04:19,279 --> 00:04:20,160

Then they had more.

100

00:04:20,160 --> 00:04:20,660

All right.

101

00:04:20,660 --> 00:04:22,320

So as far as you're  
concerned, you

102

00:04:22,320 --> 00:04:25,700

were a girl at the time  
when World War II started.

103

00:04:25,700 --> 00:04:29,300

So your immediate family was  
8 people, yourself and 7?

104

00:04:29,300 --> 00:04:30,140

Yeah.

105

00:04:30,140 --> 00:04:32,930

Then my father and my  
mother died in 1941 and '42.

106

00:04:32,930 --> 00:04:33,885

All right.

107

00:04:33,885 --> 00:04:35,010

But I'm talking about 1939.

108

00:04:35,010 --> 00:04:36,030

Yeah.

109

00:04:36,030 --> 00:04:40,520

Now, how many other members  
of the family were there,

110

00:04:40,520 --> 00:04:41,510

would you say?

111

00:04:41,510 --> 00:04:46,970  
Including the husbands  
and wives of your siblings

112  
00:04:46,970 --> 00:04:50,240  
and through first cousins?

113  
00:04:50,240 --> 00:04:53,430  
One cousin with  
one, a male cousin,

114  
00:04:53,430 --> 00:04:55,220  
with the wife and the children.

115  
00:04:55,220 --> 00:04:58,940  
Another cousin wasn't married.

116  
00:04:58,940 --> 00:05:02,570  
And because of the  
great difference of age,

117  
00:05:02,570 --> 00:05:07,460  
I was not cross so  
to the other cousins.

118  
00:05:07,460 --> 00:05:10,920  
But you say some of them  
disappeared during the war?

119  
00:05:10,920 --> 00:05:11,420  
Yeah, yeah.

120  
00:05:11,420 --> 00:05:13,340  
About how many did you lose?

121  
00:05:13,340 --> 00:05:15,950  
That I know of for  
sure, I know all three.

122  
00:05:15,950 --> 00:05:17,810  
I don't know more.

123

00:05:17,810 --> 00:05:18,500  
Oh.

124  
00:05:18,500 --> 00:05:24,890  
So in other words, your  
family, in terms of Holocaust,

125  
00:05:24,890 --> 00:05:28,730  
might have had certain  
difficulties and so on, which

126  
00:05:28,730 --> 00:05:30,290  
you will be telling us about.

127  
00:05:30,290 --> 00:05:36,410  
But in terms of perishing in  
the Holocaust, about three?

128  
00:05:36,410 --> 00:05:36,920  
Yeah.

129  
00:05:36,920 --> 00:05:38,480  
Three cousins?

130  
00:05:38,480 --> 00:05:39,626  
That you know of.

131  
00:05:39,626 --> 00:05:45,710  
That I know of in Italy,  
we were 30,000 Jew.

132  
00:05:45,710 --> 00:05:49,305  
About 1 per 1,000 Italian,  
Italian Christian.

133  
00:05:49,305 --> 00:05:52,550  
Wait, you were 30,000  
Jews in all of Italy?

134  
00:05:52,550 --> 00:05:54,710  
In all of Italy, and  
they killed 10,000.

135

00:05:54,710 --> 00:05:56,120

So they killed 1/3,

136

00:05:56,120 --> 00:05:57,620

1/3.

137

00:05:57,620 --> 00:05:59,380

But in your family,

they didn't get 1/3?

138

00:05:59,380 --> 00:06:01,280

No.

139

00:06:01,280 --> 00:06:04,700

Because also, because I was  
the youngest one, and maybe

140

00:06:04,700 --> 00:06:09,050

some uncle and auntie, they  
died already, of old age.

141

00:06:09,050 --> 00:06:09,940

Yeah.

142

00:06:09,940 --> 00:06:12,920

And in your family,  
you were fortunate,

143

00:06:12,920 --> 00:06:17,030

as you told me a little while  
ago, that you all managed

144

00:06:17,030 --> 00:06:18,650

to hide out with Italians?

145

00:06:18,650 --> 00:06:19,980

Yes.

146

00:06:19,980 --> 00:06:21,585

Right.

147

00:06:21,585 --> 00:06:29,570

Now, what was life  
like, in terms of Jews

148

00:06:29,570 --> 00:06:32,990

living together with  
non-Jews in Italy?

149

00:06:32,990 --> 00:06:35,360

Before the war, during the war?

150

00:06:35,360 --> 00:06:38,870

That is, for example,  
when was a student,

151

00:06:38,870 --> 00:06:42,970

I was exonerated from the  
religious teaching, all right?

152

00:06:42,970 --> 00:06:47,140

But some professor wanted me to  
sit-in the class, even though I

153

00:06:47,140 --> 00:06:49,390

shouldn't because  
they thought so it

154

00:06:49,390 --> 00:06:50,660

would penetrate something.

155

00:06:50,660 --> 00:06:53,215

In fact, I know a  
lot about the fact

156

00:06:53,215 --> 00:06:56,030

of of religion more  
than some students,

157

00:06:56,030 --> 00:06:58,480

that I could tell  
them what to say.

158

00:06:58,480 --> 00:07:01,600

But at the same  
time, the professor

159  
00:07:01,600 --> 00:07:04,480  
said, that you go  
outside for this hour.

160  
00:07:04,480 --> 00:07:07,450  
And then everybody, all the  
professor was passing by.

161  
00:07:07,450 --> 00:07:08,600  
Are you in punishment?

162  
00:07:08,600 --> 00:07:10,000  
What did you do?

163  
00:07:10,000 --> 00:07:13,580  
You know, one word to say that  
you were Jewish is not so easy.

164  
00:07:13,580 --> 00:07:14,080  
Yeah.

165  
00:07:14,080 --> 00:07:16,670

166  
00:07:16,670 --> 00:07:20,720  
So might have been a little  
bit uncomfortable at times.

167  
00:07:20,720 --> 00:07:21,420  
Yeah.

168  
00:07:21,420 --> 00:07:23,600  
But you manage fine.

169  
00:07:23,600 --> 00:07:25,790  
That is what it sounds like.

170  
00:07:25,790 --> 00:07:29,070  
When did you sense a

change taking place?

171  
00:07:29,070 --> 00:07:33,090

172  
00:07:33,090 --> 00:07:35,220  
After 1938.

173  
00:07:35,220 --> 00:07:37,050  
What happened after 1938?

174  
00:07:37,050 --> 00:07:41,877  
When they started  
the racial laws.

175  
00:07:41,877 --> 00:07:42,960  
You couldn't go to school.

176  
00:07:42,960 --> 00:07:43,830  
The racial laws?

177  
00:07:43,830 --> 00:07:44,910  
Yes.

178  
00:07:44,910 --> 00:07:46,980  
What were the racial laws?

179  
00:07:46,980 --> 00:07:53,190

180  
00:07:53,190 --> 00:07:57,720  
All the professional  
people were out of work.

181  
00:07:57,720 --> 00:07:59,370  
The store had to be closed.

182  
00:07:59,370 --> 00:08:01,490  
You couldn't be listed  
in the telephone book.

183

00:08:01,490 --> 00:08:06,300  
You couldn't have anybody  
to help you in the house.

184  
00:08:06,300 --> 00:08:09,600  
You had to go and register  
to the police station

185  
00:08:09,600 --> 00:08:12,930  
that you were a Jew.

186  
00:08:12,930 --> 00:08:16,360  
The rights, the rights, as a  
citizen, have been abolished.

187  
00:08:16,360 --> 00:08:17,564  
Yeah.

188  
00:08:17,564 --> 00:08:19,020  
They could arrest you.

189  
00:08:19,020 --> 00:08:20,280  
The rights as a citizen.

190  
00:08:20,280 --> 00:08:22,680  
And also, the ability  
to make a living.

191  
00:08:22,680 --> 00:08:23,910  
Yes.

192  
00:08:23,910 --> 00:08:26,310  
So it was economic also.

193  
00:08:26,310 --> 00:08:30,240  
You couldn't even go in  
the hospital, get a doctor.

194  
00:08:30,240 --> 00:08:31,350  
You could not?

195  
00:08:31,350 --> 00:08:31,950



Do anything.

196  
00:08:31,950 --> 00:08:34,620

197  
00:08:34,620 --> 00:08:37,320  
That started in 1938.

198  
00:08:37,320 --> 00:08:41,580  
The war started in  
September of '39.

199  
00:08:41,580 --> 00:08:44,090  
Italy was on the  
side of Germany.

200  
00:08:44,090 --> 00:08:45,540  
Yeah.

201  
00:08:45,540 --> 00:08:50,880  
Did anything change in your  
status when the war started?

202  
00:08:50,880 --> 00:08:58,065  
In September '39, when Germany  
and Italy were together?

203  
00:08:58,065 --> 00:09:02,970  
I think that the German  
occupied all of Italy, in 1943.

204  
00:09:02,970 --> 00:09:06,690  
That, in 1943, is when the  
Germans occupied all of Italy.

205  
00:09:06,690 --> 00:09:09,250  
But so as far as you were  
concerned, nothing changed?

206  
00:09:09,250 --> 00:09:13,875  
This was a continuous  
daily hammering by radio,

207

00:09:13,875 --> 00:09:18,680

by newspaper, everything,  
everything, against the Jew.

208

00:09:18,680 --> 00:09:20,490

Yeah.

209

00:09:20,490 --> 00:09:24,390

Did all the Italians  
take it seriously?

210

00:09:24,390 --> 00:09:26,730

All the fascists,  
most of them did.

211

00:09:26,730 --> 00:09:30,360

Now, there is a--

212

00:09:30,360 --> 00:09:34,230

I don't want to say peculiarity,  
but a certain way of thinking

213

00:09:34,230 --> 00:09:38,550

of Italian people, not to listen  
too much to the authorities.

214

00:09:38,550 --> 00:09:39,120

OK?

215

00:09:39,120 --> 00:09:40,078

Keep to their own mind.

216

00:09:40,078 --> 00:09:40,840

Yeah.

217

00:09:40,840 --> 00:09:43,110

And that was helpful,  
very helpful.

218

00:09:43,110 --> 00:09:45,060

Right.

219

00:09:45,060 --> 00:09:49,410  
And there were enough of them to  
make life bearable, is that it?

220

00:09:49,410 --> 00:09:50,190  
Yeah, to help.

221

00:09:50,190 --> 00:09:51,150  
Yeah.

222

00:09:51,150 --> 00:09:56,640  
So from 1939-43 is  
one period that you

223

00:09:56,640 --> 00:10:00,360  
had to go through when  
the Italians were still,

224

00:10:00,360 --> 00:10:02,730  
shall we say, independent?

225

00:10:02,730 --> 00:10:03,960  
Yeah, partially.

226

00:10:03,960 --> 00:10:05,190  
To a certain extent.

227

00:10:05,190 --> 00:10:11,010  
And the other phase  
of the war certainly,

228

00:10:11,010 --> 00:10:14,790  
as far as Jews are  
concerned, is from '43

229

00:10:14,790 --> 00:10:18,300  
until the Germans  
were out of Italy.

230

00:10:18,300 --> 00:10:21,550  
What month in '43  
are we talking about?

231  
00:10:21,550 --> 00:10:25,680  
Well, the American arrive  
in Milano April 25--

232  
00:10:25,680 --> 00:10:27,870  
no, April 22 or 23.

233  
00:10:27,870 --> 00:10:31,080  
For 3 days, they  
stayed around Milano,

234  
00:10:31,080 --> 00:10:35,580  
so to leave the fascists and the  
partisans to kill each other.

235  
00:10:35,580 --> 00:10:37,410  
And then they came in.

236  
00:10:37,410 --> 00:10:42,620  
And then we were liberated  
April 25, of 1943.

237  
00:10:42,620 --> 00:10:44,370  
You were liberated?

238  
00:10:44,370 --> 00:10:48,030  
By the American,  
April 25, in 1943.

239  
00:10:48,030 --> 00:10:50,820  
In 1943?

240  
00:10:50,820 --> 00:10:52,740  
No, I'm sorry.

241  
00:10:52,740 --> 00:10:54,075  
'45, I'm sorry.

242  
00:10:54,075 --> 00:10:56,250  
All right, in April '45?

243  
00:10:56,250 --> 00:10:57,300  
Yes.

244  
00:10:57,300 --> 00:10:58,180  
April 25 in 1945.

245  
00:10:58,180 --> 00:10:59,090  
In Milan?

246  
00:10:59,090 --> 00:10:59,590  
Yeah.

247  
00:10:59,590 --> 00:11:02,500  
When was was Rome liberated?

248  
00:11:02,500 --> 00:11:05,160  
1944, in June, 1944.

249  
00:11:05,160 --> 00:11:05,700  
All right.

250  
00:11:05,700 --> 00:11:09,780

251  
00:11:09,780 --> 00:11:14,430  
And when did the  
Germans come in, in '43?

252  
00:11:14,430 --> 00:11:15,030  
When?

253  
00:11:15,030 --> 00:11:16,140  
Yeah.

254  
00:11:16,140 --> 00:11:17,670  
I think it was September?

255  
00:11:17,670 --> 00:11:23,220  
September 8, the king  
called Mussolini.

256

00:11:23,220 --> 00:11:26,490

And relieved of his position  
as the prime minister

257

00:11:26,490 --> 00:11:28,110

and had him arrested.

258

00:11:28,110 --> 00:11:32,190

And they was put on top of a  
mountain, Gran Sasso, which

259

00:11:32,190 --> 00:11:33,630

is in Abruzzo.

260

00:11:33,630 --> 00:11:37,520

But the German went  
with an helicopter

261

00:11:37,520 --> 00:11:41,190

and free him and put him  
as the head of the New

262

00:11:41,190 --> 00:11:42,615

Republic, the Fascist Republic.

263

00:11:42,615 --> 00:11:47,070

264

00:11:47,070 --> 00:11:50,740

So in September '43, the  
Germans are in charge.

265

00:11:50,740 --> 00:11:51,240

Yeah.

266

00:11:51,240 --> 00:11:54,360

To the extent that they  
could be in charge?

267

00:11:54,360 --> 00:11:56,450

They didn't have to answer.

268

00:11:56,450 --> 00:11:58,547

They were all the authority

269

00:11:58,547 --> 00:11:59,130

They were all.

270

00:11:59,130 --> 00:12:00,330

All right.

271

00:12:00,330 --> 00:12:02,640

You were in Rome, at the time?

272

00:12:02,640 --> 00:12:03,540

Yes.

273

00:12:03,540 --> 00:12:07,200

Did your life change  
after September '43,

274

00:12:07,200 --> 00:12:08,340

when the Germans came in?

275

00:12:08,340 --> 00:12:11,410

276

00:12:11,410 --> 00:12:19,060

Yes, after a while, I left  
the apartment where I was.

277

00:12:19,060 --> 00:12:22,570

No, wait a moment.

278

00:12:22,570 --> 00:12:29,110

After the armistice,  
the Germans,

279

00:12:29,110 --> 00:12:32,380

they took it all away  
from the Italian soldier.

280

00:12:32,380 --> 00:12:35,390

Then they were making radial  
in the cities all over.

281  
00:12:35,390 --> 00:12:38,890  
They were circling  
this part of the city

282  
00:12:38,890 --> 00:12:40,493  
and taking all the men.

283  
00:12:40,493 --> 00:12:41,410  
And they were saying--

284  
00:12:41,410 --> 00:12:42,817  
Which men?

285  
00:12:42,817 --> 00:12:43,650  
All the Italian men.

286  
00:12:43,650 --> 00:12:45,637  
Italian, but especially  
Jewish, if they

287  
00:12:45,637 --> 00:12:46,720  
knew that you were Jewish.

288  
00:12:46,720 --> 00:12:52,390  
But otherwise, all young men  
had to go to Germany, to work.

289  
00:12:52,390 --> 00:12:55,306  
They said to work.

290  
00:12:55,306 --> 00:12:59,470  
But then, when  
they took the Jew,

291  
00:12:59,470 --> 00:13:00,730  
They told it was to working.

292  
00:13:00,730 --> 00:13:01,960  
But it was to kill them.



293  
00:13:01,960 --> 00:13:06,930

294  
00:13:06,930 --> 00:13:11,130  
That was as far as the people  
that they took away from Italy

295  
00:13:11,130 --> 00:13:11,850  
to Germany?

296  
00:13:11,850 --> 00:13:12,630  
Yeah.

297  
00:13:12,630 --> 00:13:13,230  
To Germany.

298  
00:13:13,230 --> 00:13:17,470  
Or even to the murder  
camps, like Auschwitz?

299  
00:13:17,470 --> 00:13:19,020  
Yes, sure.

300  
00:13:19,020 --> 00:13:21,000  
But you remained in Italy?

301  
00:13:21,000 --> 00:13:21,690  
Yes.

302  
00:13:21,690 --> 00:13:27,940  
Did the conditions of your  
existence change at this time?

303  
00:13:27,940 --> 00:13:28,440  
Yeah.

304  
00:13:28,440 --> 00:13:30,660  
It was very difficult  
to find food.

305

00:13:30,660 --> 00:13:31,920  
We had the black market.

306  
00:13:31,920 --> 00:13:34,530  
If you could reach it,  
if you could find things.

307  
00:13:34,530 --> 00:13:36,570  
People could not  
congregate together,

308  
00:13:36,570 --> 00:13:38,040  
more than two, three people.

309  
00:13:38,040 --> 00:13:41,340  
They were stopped by the police.

310  
00:13:41,340 --> 00:13:44,760  
Even in the food market,  
you couldn't stop and talk

311  
00:13:44,760 --> 00:13:46,920  
with anybody.

312  
00:13:46,920 --> 00:13:50,370  
The radio was always saying  
that we were winning the war.

313  
00:13:50,370 --> 00:13:56,370  
But one thing did  
upset me is this one.

314  
00:13:56,370 --> 00:13:57,870  
I was a young girl.

315  
00:13:57,870 --> 00:13:59,460  
I couldn't go to  
school if I didn't

316  
00:13:59,460 --> 00:14:03,090  
belong to the Italian  
Fascist girls group.

317

00:14:03,090 --> 00:14:10,380

And when you traveled to Italy,  
in every house near the station

318

00:14:10,380 --> 00:14:14,820

was written phrases  
of Mussolini.

319

00:14:14,820 --> 00:14:22,095

And Mussolini said it's  
better to live 1 day

320

00:14:22,095 --> 00:14:25,830

as a lion than 100 as a sheep.

321

00:14:25,830 --> 00:14:32,280

Now, Mussolini was taken  
by the Partisan, dressed

322

00:14:32,280 --> 00:14:36,090

in a German uniform,  
in a German car,

323

00:14:36,090 --> 00:14:40,050

with all the gold  
that had been taken.

324

00:14:40,050 --> 00:14:45,150

So that's the big leaders,  
that the young people

325

00:14:45,150 --> 00:14:46,442

believe in too.

326

00:14:46,442 --> 00:14:48,250

Mhm.

327

00:14:48,250 --> 00:14:54,580

You lived in the same  
apartment after September,

328

00:14:54,580 --> 00:14:58,390

1943, that you lived in  
before September '43?

329  
00:14:58,390 --> 00:15:01,480  
In other words, during the  
first four years of the war?

330  
00:15:01,480 --> 00:15:03,550  
I moved into my sister house.

331  
00:15:03,550 --> 00:15:05,020  
I moved to my sister's house.

332  
00:15:05,020 --> 00:15:08,600  
Then I went into the  
thing that I was there.

333  
00:15:08,600 --> 00:15:09,100  
All right.

334  
00:15:09,100 --> 00:15:10,240  
Let's get it.

335  
00:15:10,240 --> 00:15:13,510  
During the first four  
years of the war,

336  
00:15:13,510 --> 00:15:15,250  
you lived in your own apartment.

337  
00:15:15,250 --> 00:15:16,930  
The family lived together?

338  
00:15:16,930 --> 00:15:18,370  
No, my brother and I.

339  
00:15:18,370 --> 00:15:19,503  
Your brother and you?

340  
00:15:19,503 --> 00:15:20,470  
The other one married.

341

00:15:20,470 --> 00:15:21,640

The others were married?

342

00:15:21,640 --> 00:15:22,310

Married, yeah.

343

00:15:22,310 --> 00:15:23,110

Oh.

344

00:15:23,110 --> 00:15:25,120

What happened to your parents?

345

00:15:25,120 --> 00:15:27,160

My mother died in 1941.

346

00:15:27,160 --> 00:15:29,540

She had a stroke.

347

00:15:29,540 --> 00:15:35,020

I finish the school  
in June of 1939.

348

00:15:35,020 --> 00:15:39,220

And my mother got the  
stroke in September, '39.

349

00:15:39,220 --> 00:15:40,630

She live one year, live.

350

00:15:40,630 --> 00:15:42,010

And then she died.

351

00:15:42,010 --> 00:15:46,330

And my father was six, seven,  
eight months and then he died.

352

00:15:46,330 --> 00:15:47,740

What did he die from?

353

00:15:47,740 --> 00:15:49,834

Atherosclerosis, the heart.

354  
00:15:49,834 --> 00:15:51,130  
Mhm.

355  
00:15:51,130 --> 00:15:54,220  
So you being the youngest  
one, were you the only one not

356  
00:15:54,220 --> 00:15:55,930  
married in the family?

357  
00:15:55,930 --> 00:15:57,470  
Yeah, me and my brother Franco.

358  
00:15:57,470 --> 00:15:58,960  
You and your brother, Franco.

359  
00:15:58,960 --> 00:16:04,240  
So after your parents  
died, and it's 1942, now?

360  
00:16:04,240 --> 00:16:04,740  
Yes.

361  
00:16:04,740 --> 00:16:06,943  
Where did you go?

362  
00:16:06,943 --> 00:16:08,610  
We stayed for a while  
in that apartment.

363  
00:16:08,610 --> 00:16:09,700  
And then we went away.

364  
00:16:09,700 --> 00:16:11,350  
And we went to my sister.

365  
00:16:11,350 --> 00:16:14,590  
And then, when the German ask  
for the gold, and I understood

366

00:16:14,590 --> 00:16:16,000  
it was time to move.

367  
00:16:16,000 --> 00:16:19,660  
And I went into the  
family who hide me.

368  
00:16:19,660 --> 00:16:20,830  
OK.

369  
00:16:20,830 --> 00:16:27,190  
Now, that means that as long as  
Italy was fighting in the war

370  
00:16:27,190 --> 00:16:32,290  
together with Germany, you were  
able to live in your apartment

371  
00:16:32,290 --> 00:16:34,060  
or your sister's apartment?

372  
00:16:34,060 --> 00:16:35,470  
Almost normal.

373  
00:16:35,470 --> 00:16:36,070  
What?

374  
00:16:36,070 --> 00:16:37,060  
Almost?

375  
00:16:37,060 --> 00:16:38,290  
Almost normal.

376  
00:16:38,290 --> 00:16:39,640  
But not really.

377  
00:16:39,640 --> 00:16:42,850  
Because it was the  
rationing of the food.

378  
00:16:42,850 --> 00:16:45,580  
You had a curfew.

379  
00:16:45,580 --> 00:16:46,480  
You couldn't do this.

380  
00:16:46,480 --> 00:16:47,355  
You couldn't do that.

381  
00:16:47,355 --> 00:16:48,760  
And you couldn't find the shoes.

382  
00:16:48,760 --> 00:16:49,690  
You couldn't buy clothes.

383  
00:16:49,690 --> 00:16:50,210  
You couldn't do any--

384  
00:16:50,210 --> 00:16:52,210  
Did everybody have the  
curfew and the rationing?

385  
00:16:52,210 --> 00:16:52,780  
Yes.

386  
00:16:52,780 --> 00:16:53,322  
All Italians.

387  
00:16:53,322 --> 00:16:54,280  
All Italians, yeah.

388  
00:16:54,280 --> 00:16:57,310  
So you didn't suffer  
because you were a Jew?

389  
00:16:57,310 --> 00:17:02,700

390  
00:17:02,700 --> 00:17:06,869  
Of course, if you couldn't work,  
if you couldn't do anything,

391  
00:17:06,869 --> 00:17:07,980



you couldn't go no place.

392

00:17:07,980 --> 00:17:12,839

Always afraid that a  
policeman can arrest you.

393

00:17:12,839 --> 00:17:14,980

When I came to  
America, and I was

394

00:17:14,980 --> 00:17:17,790

told that you teach  
the children to trust,

395

00:17:17,790 --> 00:17:20,609

in case they get lost, to  
trust the policemen, for me,

396

00:17:20,609 --> 00:17:22,530

it was very hard to understand.

397

00:17:22,530 --> 00:17:26,609

Because I was thinking  
back, when a policemen could

398

00:17:26,609 --> 00:17:28,554

arrest you and send you away.

399

00:17:28,554 --> 00:17:29,890

Uh-huh?

400

00:17:29,890 --> 00:17:32,280

So there was a fear that had?

401

00:17:32,280 --> 00:17:33,090

Sure.

402

00:17:33,090 --> 00:17:37,140

But it was also, in your  
case, you were able to live?

403

00:17:37,140 --> 00:17:39,150

Yeah.

404

00:17:39,150 --> 00:17:41,580

You weren't really free.

405

00:17:41,580 --> 00:17:44,260

You had concerns  
about your safety.

406

00:17:44,260 --> 00:17:44,760

Yeah.

407

00:17:44,760 --> 00:17:47,970

But it wasn't like somebody was  
coming in middle of the night,

408

00:17:47,970 --> 00:17:50,640

knocking on the door, and  
taking you away to a camp?

409

00:17:50,640 --> 00:17:52,270

No, that happened later on.

410

00:17:52,270 --> 00:17:52,770

What's that?

411

00:17:52,770 --> 00:17:55,620

It happened later on, to  
other people, not to me.

412

00:17:55,620 --> 00:17:58,750

So later on to when  
the Germans came?

413

00:17:58,750 --> 00:17:59,250

Yeah.

414

00:17:59,250 --> 00:18:00,540

So that's what I'm trying to do.

415

00:18:00,540 --> 00:18:01,873

I'm trying to get that division.

416  
00:18:01,873 --> 00:18:02,490  
Yeah.

417  
00:18:02,490 --> 00:18:05,760  
That there was a difference  
between the four years

418  
00:18:05,760 --> 00:18:09,840  
of the war under the Italians,  
as compared with the year

419  
00:18:09,840 --> 00:18:12,110  
and a half under the Germans?

420  
00:18:12,110 --> 00:18:12,870  
Mhm.

421  
00:18:12,870 --> 00:18:13,380  
All right.

422  
00:18:13,380 --> 00:18:16,470  
Can you describe what  
happened different

423  
00:18:16,470 --> 00:18:18,330  
when the Germans came in?

424  
00:18:18,330 --> 00:18:21,533  
That was in September, '43.

425  
00:18:21,533 --> 00:18:28,320  
[SIGHS] I said I was ready for  
a streetcar, going someplace,

426  
00:18:28,320 --> 00:18:30,630  
at 12 o'clock.

427  
00:18:30,630 --> 00:18:35,550  
Then I saw tanks coming in  
from the [ITALIAN],, which

428

00:18:35,550 --> 00:18:39,400

is the big road where all  
the Roman, the emperor

429

00:18:39,400 --> 00:18:42,210

used to come when  
they were victorious.

430

00:18:42,210 --> 00:18:44,160

So I saw this tank coming in.

431

00:18:44,160 --> 00:18:47,100

It was just right  
after the armistice.

432

00:18:47,100 --> 00:18:48,900

I thought they were Americans.

433

00:18:48,900 --> 00:18:50,580

And instead, they were Germans.

434

00:18:50,580 --> 00:18:53,910

Now, because in  
school we were already

435

00:18:53,910 --> 00:18:58,680

taught that the Empire,  
Austro-Hungarian,

436

00:18:58,680 --> 00:19:02,300

had mistreated Italian.

437

00:19:02,300 --> 00:19:05,340

They're taking part of Italy,  
France, and Greece, and so on.

438

00:19:05,340 --> 00:19:10,360

I thought that for sure, the  
Italian will send them away.

439

00:19:10,360 --> 00:19:14,220

But instead, they have

infiltrated from a long time

440

00:19:14,220 --> 00:19:15,715  
before.

441

00:19:15,715 --> 00:19:19,380  
In two, three hours, they  
had all Rome in their hands.

442

00:19:19,380 --> 00:19:21,580  
Somebody some  
military assistance,

443

00:19:21,580 --> 00:19:27,780  
but they took the arms off  
from the Italian soldiers.

444

00:19:27,780 --> 00:19:30,950  
And it was a moment--

445

00:19:30,950 --> 00:19:33,090  
They took what  
from the Italians?

446

00:19:33,090 --> 00:19:33,970  
The arms.

447

00:19:33,970 --> 00:19:34,470  
The arms.

448

00:19:34,470 --> 00:19:35,970  
For the Italian soldier.

449

00:19:35,970 --> 00:19:36,750  
Yeah.

450

00:19:36,750 --> 00:19:41,940  
Then was a moment, a  
period of chaos, I suppose.

451

00:19:41,940 --> 00:19:44,850  
Because the officer,

they saw the German

452

00:19:44,850 --> 00:19:46,000

were taking their arms.

453

00:19:46,000 --> 00:19:50,790

They wouldn't have  
any know what to do.

454

00:19:50,790 --> 00:19:55,530

So at that time, some  
of the Italian soldier,

455

00:19:55,530 --> 00:20:00,000

when they tried to  
reach their homes,

456

00:20:00,000 --> 00:20:03,600

when my brother had yet the  
store open and was giving them

457

00:20:03,600 --> 00:20:06,600

clothes for free,  
of course, to get

458

00:20:06,600 --> 00:20:11,130

dressed, so that they  
could go their home.

459

00:20:11,130 --> 00:20:13,010

To the Italian soldiers?

460

00:20:13,010 --> 00:20:13,630

Yeah.

461

00:20:13,630 --> 00:20:15,240

Yeah.

462

00:20:15,240 --> 00:20:20,670

Now, did your living  
conditions change

463

00:20:20,670 --> 00:20:24,000  
after the Germans came in?

464  
00:20:24,000 --> 00:20:27,910  
Yours or other Jews?

465  
00:20:27,910 --> 00:20:29,860  
Yeah.

466  
00:20:29,860 --> 00:20:35,740  
So when it came the  
order from Germany,

467  
00:20:35,740 --> 00:20:41,590  
to the chief of police,  
of Germany, Rome,

468  
00:20:41,590 --> 00:20:48,400  
came the order that all the  
Jew, regardless of age, sex,

469  
00:20:48,400 --> 00:20:50,340  
condition, whatever  
condition, they

470  
00:20:50,340 --> 00:20:54,400  
had to be taken, send to  
Germany, and be liquidated.

471  
00:20:54,400 --> 00:20:59,500  
But to the able to do  
this they stress that it

472  
00:20:59,500 --> 00:21:01,630  
should be as a surprise.

473  
00:21:01,630 --> 00:21:04,360  
So the Germans were  
told to act nicely

474  
00:21:04,360 --> 00:21:07,690  
and don't make any  
problems and so on.

475  
00:21:07,690 --> 00:21:12,290  
So the Italian wouldn't  
get suspicious.

476  
00:21:12,290 --> 00:21:14,110  
And that's what's happened.

477  
00:21:14,110 --> 00:21:17,270  
The first that they went there,  
I don't know, the 12 or 13

478  
00:21:17,270 --> 00:21:22,590  
October, 1943, they went  
where the synagogue was.

479  
00:21:22,590 --> 00:21:24,280  
went all around the synagogue.

480  
00:21:24,280 --> 00:21:28,030  
And because of the  
administrative office

481  
00:21:28,030 --> 00:21:30,190  
of the community,  
the Jewish community,

482  
00:21:30,190 --> 00:21:32,680  
was in the same building  
of the synagogue.

483  
00:21:32,680 --> 00:21:34,330  
So they went upstairs.

484  
00:21:34,330 --> 00:21:39,530  
And there was a library  
with important papers

485  
00:21:39,530 --> 00:21:42,770  
that there were there  
from centuries, important.

486



00:21:42,770 --> 00:21:43,840  
And many books.

487  
00:21:43,840 --> 00:21:46,300  
And then, 2 million lira.

488  
00:21:46,300 --> 00:21:49,600  
They say to the  
secretary what's there,

489  
00:21:49,600 --> 00:21:52,690  
we see the way what you had.

490  
00:21:52,690 --> 00:21:54,880  
We want to come back  
tomorrow to get it.

491  
00:21:54,880 --> 00:21:58,660  
And if something is  
missing, we kill you.

492  
00:21:58,660 --> 00:22:04,660  
So poor woman, she spoke  
with the director of.

493  
00:22:04,660 --> 00:22:07,300  
And he said, don't  
give the key to nobody.

494  
00:22:07,300 --> 00:22:08,620  
Not even to me.

495  
00:22:08,620 --> 00:22:10,120  
Just don't touch anything.

496  
00:22:10,120 --> 00:22:13,648  
And the next day, they had--

497  
00:22:13,648 --> 00:22:15,970  
I don't know how you call it.

498  
00:22:15,970 --> 00:22:20,560

The things that the  
streetcar goes on.

499  
00:22:20,560 --> 00:22:21,310  
The tracks.

500  
00:22:21,310 --> 00:22:22,930  
The tracks around.

501  
00:22:22,930 --> 00:22:24,700  
And they had the trucks.

502  
00:22:24,700 --> 00:22:27,940  
And they took everything out.

503  
00:22:27,940 --> 00:22:31,530  
So some manuscripts and some  
things, were very valuable.

504  
00:22:31,530 --> 00:22:33,470  
But you know, the  
German thought that they

505  
00:22:33,470 --> 00:22:35,200  
will liquidate all the Jews.

506  
00:22:35,200 --> 00:22:42,610  
And they will have this as a  
lot of civilization papers,

507  
00:22:42,610 --> 00:22:44,680  
that it would be very  
valuable to them.

508  
00:22:44,680 --> 00:22:46,940  
Yeah.

509  
00:22:46,940 --> 00:22:50,440  
So what happened to  
the Jews, themselves?

510  
00:22:50,440 --> 00:22:54,730

In the October 16, they  
went to the ghetto.

511  
00:22:54,730 --> 00:22:58,300  
And they put armored  
soldiers on every door

512  
00:22:58,300 --> 00:23:01,510  
so nobody can come out. it  
was 5:30 in the morning.

513  
00:23:01,510 --> 00:23:03,002  
Where was this?

514  
00:23:03,002 --> 00:23:04,150  
In Rome.

515  
00:23:04,150 --> 00:23:06,700  
Yeah, was this in homes  
or in the synagogue?

516  
00:23:06,700 --> 00:23:07,840  
In the homes.

517  
00:23:07,840 --> 00:23:10,580  
Oh, they imprisoned  
them in their homes?

518  
00:23:10,580 --> 00:23:11,080  
Yes.

519  
00:23:11,080 --> 00:23:11,590  
They went.

520  
00:23:11,590 --> 00:23:15,520  
They put the soldier down the  
door, downstairs, the big door.

521  
00:23:15,520 --> 00:23:18,940  
And then they went inside  
with the arms, to knock--

522

00:23:18,940 --> 00:23:21,550

"knock," with a  
foot, open the door.

523

00:23:21,550 --> 00:23:23,830

And then they said  
they show a car.

524

00:23:23,830 --> 00:23:26,800

They write in Italian  
and in German.

525

00:23:26,800 --> 00:23:30,070

In 20 minutes, you  
got to go outside.

526

00:23:30,070 --> 00:23:31,630

Bring your money.

527

00:23:31,630 --> 00:23:34,690

Bring some food.

528

00:23:34,690 --> 00:23:35,950

20 minutes, what can you do?

529

00:23:35,950 --> 00:23:37,500

You didn't expect it, so on.

530

00:23:37,500 --> 00:23:40,270

First thing that they did, they  
cutted all the telephone wires

531

00:23:40,270 --> 00:23:42,240

so nobody could  
tell anybody else.

532

00:23:42,240 --> 00:23:42,880

Yeah.

533

00:23:42,880 --> 00:23:45,280

And they put them downstairs.

534

00:23:45,280 --> 00:23:46,900  
It was raining and it was cold.

535  
00:23:46,900 --> 00:23:49,780  
Some of them were in  
nightgown or pajamas.

536  
00:23:49,780 --> 00:23:51,520  
And they put them in trucks.

537  
00:23:51,520 --> 00:23:54,960  
And the trucks went to  
a [ITALIAN] station,

538  
00:23:54,960 --> 00:23:57,100  
another train station.

539  
00:23:57,100 --> 00:23:58,990  
They have trains over there.

540  
00:23:58,990 --> 00:24:01,870  
They, from the trucks,  
they put in the trains.

541  
00:24:01,870 --> 00:24:05,320  
And they lock the  
train from the outside.

542  
00:24:05,320 --> 00:24:06,820  
What kind of a train was it?

543  
00:24:06,820 --> 00:24:09,940  
Was it a passenger train  
or a freight train?

544  
00:24:09,940 --> 00:24:12,140  
A freight train.

545  
00:24:12,140 --> 00:24:14,100  
For what kind of freight?

546  
00:24:14,100 --> 00:24:15,020

I don't know.

547

00:24:15,020 --> 00:24:18,060

548

00:24:18,060 --> 00:24:18,610

I know that--

549

00:24:18,610 --> 00:24:22,460

It sounds like in Poland, and  
in France, they had cattle cars.

550

00:24:22,460 --> 00:24:24,220

Yeah, there were many cars.

551

00:24:24,220 --> 00:24:24,720

Yes.

552

00:24:24,720 --> 00:24:28,030

And then they didn't  
let them go out.

553

00:24:28,030 --> 00:24:30,405

You really don't know what  
happened, from that minute on?

554

00:24:30,405 --> 00:24:30,905

No.

555

00:24:30,905 --> 00:24:31,770

I read about.

556

00:24:31,770 --> 00:24:34,140

But I don't know, personally.

557

00:24:34,140 --> 00:24:34,870

Yeah.

558

00:24:34,870 --> 00:24:38,250

Now, what was the Jewish  
population of Rome,

559

00:24:38,250 --> 00:24:38,890  
at the time?

560

00:24:38,890 --> 00:24:40,291  
Do you know?

561

00:24:40,291 --> 00:24:45,175  
No, as I say, there was only  
one Jew for every 1,000 Italian.

562

00:24:45,175 --> 00:24:46,050  
I don't know exactly.

563

00:24:46,050 --> 00:24:49,460

564

00:24:49,460 --> 00:24:49,960  
OK.

565

00:24:49,960 --> 00:24:53,460

566

00:24:53,460 --> 00:24:58,170  
Did you know many people who  
were taken away, at this time?

567

00:24:58,170 --> 00:24:59,670  
Some.

568

00:24:59,670 --> 00:25:02,180  
Some.

569

00:25:02,180 --> 00:25:03,578  
In your family,  
nobody was taken?

570

00:25:03,578 --> 00:25:04,620  
Not immediate family, no.

571

00:25:04,620 --> 00:25:06,440  
In your brothers and sisters?

572  
00:25:06,440 --> 00:25:08,090  
Immediate family, no.

573  
00:25:08,090 --> 00:25:13,820  
And then, did that  
change your minds,

574  
00:25:13,820 --> 00:25:16,890  
as to what you should  
do, to be safe?

575  
00:25:16,890 --> 00:25:17,390  
Yeah.

576  
00:25:17,390 --> 00:25:20,420

577  
00:25:20,420 --> 00:25:25,250  
I find out later, for example,  
that a friend of mine when

578  
00:25:25,250 --> 00:25:28,160  
the German knock on her  
door, she threw herself out

579  
00:25:28,160 --> 00:25:29,270  
of the window.

580  
00:25:29,270 --> 00:25:31,040  
A safe?

581  
00:25:31,040 --> 00:25:32,210  
She threw--

582  
00:25:32,210 --> 00:25:32,900  
Herself?

583  
00:25:32,900 --> 00:25:35,660  
Herself, out of the window.

584



00:25:35,660 --> 00:25:39,200  
And she landed on a  
terrace underneath.

585  
00:25:39,200 --> 00:25:40,580  
Did she live?

586  
00:25:40,580 --> 00:25:43,681  
Because she was for eight or  
nine months, with her, first.

587  
00:25:43,681 --> 00:25:44,181  
OK.

588  
00:25:44,181 --> 00:25:49,160

589  
00:25:49,160 --> 00:25:52,670  
Now, what happened to  
you and your brother

590  
00:25:52,670 --> 00:25:55,080  
Franco and your sister,  
where you were living?

591  
00:25:55,080 --> 00:25:57,990

592  
00:25:57,990 --> 00:26:02,960  
So my brother,  
Franco, went to hiding

593  
00:26:02,960 --> 00:26:06,470  
in Latina, a small  
town near Rome.

594  
00:26:06,470 --> 00:26:08,390  
With a friend, Filippo.

595  
00:26:08,390 --> 00:26:11,480  
They lived in a  
hut that was where

596

00:26:11,480 --> 00:26:17,000

the tools for a cave, of  
a quarry cave were kept.

597

00:26:17,000 --> 00:26:19,670

They slept and they  
lived in there.

598

00:26:19,670 --> 00:26:23,870

And because it was very  
difficult to find food

599

00:26:23,870 --> 00:26:30,450

and so on, when it  
was possible, [SIGHS]

600

00:26:30,450 --> 00:26:34,740

was possible when the  
store was already closed.

601

00:26:34,740 --> 00:26:38,790

But I had a very good friend  
that had worked with us.

602

00:26:38,790 --> 00:26:43,140

So she was going in the  
store, take a few, two

603

00:26:43,140 --> 00:26:44,730

or three raincoats.

604

00:26:44,730 --> 00:26:47,280

And then goes again, and come.

605

00:26:47,280 --> 00:26:50,340

And I was so I would  
say stupid, naive,

606

00:26:50,340 --> 00:26:55,110

waiting for her in same  
street, in another place.

607

00:26:55,110 --> 00:26:56,580  
Then I would take the raincoat.

608  
00:26:56,580 --> 00:27:00,330  
I would bring in another section  
in Rome, to a tobacco store.

609  
00:27:00,330 --> 00:27:02,180  
And they would  
give me cigarette.

610  
00:27:02,180 --> 00:27:04,590  
And I would send the  
cigarette to brother Franco.

611  
00:27:04,590 --> 00:27:06,150  
And he will give  
it to the farmers.

612  
00:27:06,150 --> 00:27:09,510  
And the farmer will  
give him bread.

613  
00:27:09,510 --> 00:27:12,240  
Did you have enough to eat?

614  
00:27:12,240 --> 00:27:16,950  
When I was hiding in this lawyer  
family, they were very good.

615  
00:27:16,950 --> 00:27:18,390  
They made me feel welcome.

616  
00:27:18,390 --> 00:27:20,980  
They were hiding  
their own two sons.

617  
00:27:20,980 --> 00:27:22,090  
And one was 18.

618  
00:27:22,090 --> 00:27:23,200  
And one was 20.

619

00:27:23,200 --> 00:27:30,330

And I would never forget, that  
it was so hard to find food.

620

00:27:30,330 --> 00:27:32,380

Even on the black market.

621

00:27:32,380 --> 00:27:34,620

But one day, they had  
a small piece of bread

622

00:27:34,620 --> 00:27:36,120

like this, extra.

623

00:27:36,120 --> 00:27:39,720

And they divide  
it in three part.

624

00:27:39,720 --> 00:27:42,840

One for the son, one for  
the son, and one for me.

625

00:27:42,840 --> 00:27:45,640

So that's, the son did.

626

00:27:45,640 --> 00:27:48,340

So you did have enough to eat?

627

00:27:48,340 --> 00:27:50,340

Well, you were already  
a little bit hungry.

628

00:27:50,340 --> 00:27:53,070

But you had the bread, it  
was this color of this table.

629

00:27:53,070 --> 00:27:53,760

Was brown.

630

00:27:53,760 --> 00:27:56,070

It was bitter.

631

00:27:56,070 --> 00:28:01,060

And they gave a quarter of  
a pound of butter a month.

632

00:28:01,060 --> 00:28:03,970

A very small quantity of oil.

633

00:28:03,970 --> 00:28:05,010

it was terrible.

634

00:28:05,010 --> 00:28:07,930

I mean, it was very difficult.

635

00:28:07,930 --> 00:28:11,400

But in Poland, they went around  
with hunger pangs all the time.

636

00:28:11,400 --> 00:28:12,120

Yeah.

637

00:28:12,120 --> 00:28:13,910

They starved to death, really.

638

00:28:13,910 --> 00:28:14,580

Yeah, I know.

639

00:28:14,580 --> 00:28:17,760

That wasn't the case in Rome?

640

00:28:17,760 --> 00:28:18,960

Maybe for somebody.

641

00:28:18,960 --> 00:28:20,066

Not for me.

642

00:28:20,066 --> 00:28:21,060

Right.

643

00:28:21,060 --> 00:28:22,800

So you were quite  
fortunate, really?

644  
00:28:22,800 --> 00:28:23,670  
I was fortunate.

645  
00:28:23,670 --> 00:28:25,380  
God bless this family.

646  
00:28:25,380 --> 00:28:28,260  
Now, this lawyer  
and his wife died.

647  
00:28:28,260 --> 00:28:33,040  
And their son, one is  
Giorgio, got married.

648  
00:28:33,040 --> 00:28:35,020  
He has two-- he had three son.

649  
00:28:35,020 --> 00:28:35,520  
One died.

650  
00:28:35,520 --> 00:28:36,810  
He has two sons.

651  
00:28:36,810 --> 00:28:38,460  
And another one is Alfredo.

652  
00:28:38,460 --> 00:28:41,040  
And he is also  
married with children.

653  
00:28:41,040 --> 00:28:44,710  
And when I went to Rome,  
I wanted to visit them.

654  
00:28:44,710 --> 00:28:48,510  
And they are wonderful.

655  
00:28:48,510 --> 00:28:52,050  
This man who saved  
you was a lawyer?

656

00:28:52,050 --> 00:28:52,710

Yeah.

657

00:28:52,710 --> 00:28:55,440

And he and his wife agreed  
that they're going to do this?

658

00:28:55,440 --> 00:28:56,580

Yeah.

659

00:28:56,580 --> 00:28:59,790

Did you ever understand,  
how did it come about

660

00:28:59,790 --> 00:29:00,660

that they this did?

661

00:29:00,660 --> 00:29:03,330

Did your sister know  
them beforehand?

662

00:29:03,330 --> 00:29:05,250

I think that my  
brother-in-law, they

663

00:29:05,250 --> 00:29:08,250

asked them to take his wife.

664

00:29:08,250 --> 00:29:10,780

But then, with the  
children, all was difficult.

665

00:29:10,780 --> 00:29:14,160

So they took me in.

666

00:29:14,160 --> 00:29:17,400

When I was to Rome,  
this summer, I

667

00:29:17,400 --> 00:29:19,410

went to go visit  
Giorgio and his wife.

668  
00:29:19,410 --> 00:29:24,090  
And I said, I think if I recall,  
that your father save also

669  
00:29:24,090 --> 00:29:26,130  
the Fascist.

670  
00:29:26,130 --> 00:29:28,860  
When the war ended.

671  
00:29:28,860 --> 00:29:30,480  
His father was what?

672  
00:29:30,480 --> 00:29:32,400  
He save not only the Jew.

673  
00:29:32,400 --> 00:29:35,580  
When the war ended,  
he save the Fascist.

674  
00:29:35,580 --> 00:29:38,540  
When the people wanted to kill  
the Fascists there, they made.

675  
00:29:38,540 --> 00:29:39,240  
Really?

676  
00:29:39,240 --> 00:29:42,780  
He said, but of course.

677  
00:29:42,780 --> 00:29:47,970  
He meant that they helped  
anybody in trouble.

678  
00:29:47,970 --> 00:29:51,824  
Without making  
you, yes, you, no.

679  
00:29:51,824 --> 00:29:54,240  
Do you understand him?



680

00:29:54,240 --> 00:29:56,130

The father, the lawyer?

681

00:29:56,130 --> 00:29:58,330

I was surprised.

682

00:29:58,330 --> 00:29:59,980

But I think I understand.

683

00:29:59,980 --> 00:30:03,030

684

00:30:03,030 --> 00:30:06,630

Does this say something about  
what kind of a person he was?

685

00:30:06,630 --> 00:30:10,650

He was very moral, very ethical.

686

00:30:10,650 --> 00:30:11,970

He was shocked.

687

00:30:11,970 --> 00:30:14,700

One day, he came to lunch.

688

00:30:14,700 --> 00:30:17,080

And he was very  
shocked, very upset.

689

00:30:17,080 --> 00:30:18,390

And I said, what's the matter?

690

00:30:18,390 --> 00:30:20,970

He said, I was talking  
with another lawyer.

691

00:30:20,970 --> 00:30:23,310

And I said how you doing?

692

00:30:23,310 --> 00:30:26,910

You know, because of the

food scarcity and so on.

693

00:30:26,910 --> 00:30:30,210

And this other lawyer  
said, "Oh, I find a way."

694

00:30:30,210 --> 00:30:30,710

"Yes?

695

00:30:30,710 --> 00:30:31,620

So what you do?"

696

00:30:31,620 --> 00:30:35,070

"Oh," he said, "I denounce  
one Jew and month.

697

00:30:35,070 --> 00:30:39,490

5,000 liras.

698

00:30:39,490 --> 00:30:41,036

5,000 liras.

699

00:30:41,036 --> 00:30:43,510

At that time it was a  
lot of money, but still.

700

00:30:43,510 --> 00:30:45,430

What kind of money  
are we talking about?

701

00:30:45,430 --> 00:30:47,100

How would it be in today's?

702

00:30:47,100 --> 00:30:48,473

Maybe \$5,000, I don't know.

703

00:30:48,473 --> 00:30:49,890

It would be like  
\$5,000 over here?

704

00:30:49,890 --> 00:30:50,950

I suppose.

705  
00:30:50,950 --> 00:30:51,970  
That's a lot of money.

706  
00:30:51,970 --> 00:30:55,270

707  
00:30:55,270 --> 00:30:56,265  
And then, when--

708  
00:30:56,265 --> 00:31:00,910  
And you have the impression  
that many people did that?

709  
00:31:00,910 --> 00:31:04,390  
[SIGHS]

710  
00:31:04,390 --> 00:31:08,860  
They did, for me and my brother,  
they did in Rome, the time

711  
00:31:08,860 --> 00:31:11,760  
that I told you about  
the Partisan, they did--

712  
00:31:11,760 --> 00:31:13,960  
oh, I didn't tell you this.

713  
00:31:13,960 --> 00:31:18,470  
Before we close the store,  
we have lots of merchandise.

714  
00:31:18,470 --> 00:31:20,440  
So we had a basement.

715  
00:31:20,440 --> 00:31:24,010  
So we put lot of  
merchandise in the basement.

716  
00:31:24,010 --> 00:31:25,660  
And we were so naive.

717

00:31:25,660 --> 00:31:28,930

And we put in the suitcase,  
everybody of the family,

718

00:31:28,930 --> 00:31:29,702

silverware.

719

00:31:29,702 --> 00:31:30,535

Put in the suitcase.

720

00:31:30,535 --> 00:31:31,900

They put in the basement.

721

00:31:31,900 --> 00:31:35,100

Then made a wall, had  
a wall made, and so on.

722

00:31:35,100 --> 00:31:37,120

And somebody spied.

723

00:31:37,120 --> 00:31:40,540

And they said, why don't  
you look at the floor?

724

00:31:40,540 --> 00:31:43,240

725

00:31:43,240 --> 00:31:45,050

I don't know how you call it.

726

00:31:45,050 --> 00:31:47,830

And so they did  
take everything out.

727

00:31:47,830 --> 00:31:51,640

And then, when we  
were in Milano,

728

00:31:51,640 --> 00:31:54,130

somebody else also spied on us.

729

00:31:54,130 --> 00:31:57,580  
But because there was a few days  
before the American arrived,

730  
00:31:57,580 --> 00:31:59,740  
they didn't do anything.

731  
00:31:59,740 --> 00:32:04,270  
But I mean, good people and  
bad people in every nation,

732  
00:32:04,270 --> 00:32:07,570  
in every place,  
I guess they are.

733  
00:32:07,570 --> 00:32:09,910  
But you seem to have had  
quite a few in Italy,

734  
00:32:09,910 --> 00:32:11,300  
of the good people.

735  
00:32:11,300 --> 00:32:13,520  
Yes, thank God.

736  
00:32:13,520 --> 00:32:17,030  
Because a lot of the  
Italian Jews were saved?

737  
00:32:17,030 --> 00:32:18,820  
Mhm.

738  
00:32:18,820 --> 00:32:20,910  
And your whole family,  
that's remarkable.

739  
00:32:20,910 --> 00:32:21,410  
Yeah.

740  
00:32:21,410 --> 00:32:24,380

741

00:32:24,380 --> 00:32:27,000  
Ah, but--

742  
00:32:27,000 --> 00:32:29,280  
You're thinking of another  
story that took place?

743  
00:32:29,280 --> 00:32:30,140  
If you don't mind.

744  
00:32:30,140 --> 00:32:35,910  
When we were in Milano,  
first of all, we went to--

745  
00:32:35,910 --> 00:32:37,750  
well, I want to say this, yes.

746  
00:32:37,750 --> 00:32:42,500  
[SIGHS] The lawyer told us  
the name and the address

747  
00:32:42,500 --> 00:32:44,170  
of the family he knew.

748  
00:32:44,170 --> 00:32:46,940  
Then my brother-in-law  
was a salesman.

749  
00:32:46,940 --> 00:32:49,250  
He was a representative  
of manufacturer.

750  
00:32:49,250 --> 00:32:51,710  
So he gave us the address  
of the manufacturer.

751  
00:32:51,710 --> 00:32:56,810  
So when Franco and I arrive in  
Milano, we went to this family.

752  
00:32:56,810 --> 00:32:59,690  
And their apartment  
had been bombed.

753  
00:32:59,690 --> 00:33:01,550  
So part was still standing.

754  
00:33:01,550 --> 00:33:03,260  
And they rented us  
that part because they

755  
00:33:03,260 --> 00:33:05,670  
had gone in the country.

756  
00:33:05,670 --> 00:33:09,890  
And then we went into  
this manufacturer.

757  
00:33:09,890 --> 00:33:12,720  
We asked if it was possible  
to go to Switzerland.

758  
00:33:12,720 --> 00:33:14,210  
And they said don't.

759  
00:33:14,210 --> 00:33:18,110  
Because recently, the  
guys did take the money

760  
00:33:18,110 --> 00:33:21,260  
and left the people  
in the mountain.

761  
00:33:21,260 --> 00:33:25,760  
So my brother started to  
work as a salesman of soap

762  
00:33:25,760 --> 00:33:29,690  
and toothbrushes and toothpaste.

763  
00:33:29,690 --> 00:33:32,720  
And I was making the deliveries.

764  
00:33:32,720 --> 00:33:35,180  
And it was very difficult.

Because sometimes when

765

00:33:35,180 --> 00:33:38,360

you are in the street, the  
bombs were coming down.

766

00:33:38,360 --> 00:33:40,220

Then, at that  
time, they were not

767

00:33:40,220 --> 00:33:42,950

used to see a young  
woman going around.

768

00:33:42,950 --> 00:33:46,370

And somebody made  
bad jokes and things.

769

00:33:46,370 --> 00:33:47,960

You know.

770

00:33:47,960 --> 00:33:51,550

Anyway,

771

00:33:51,550 --> 00:33:55,490

You said, a little while  
ago, something about

772

00:33:55,490 --> 00:34:01,790

did Franco, your brother,  
have a store during the war?

773

00:34:01,790 --> 00:34:03,470

That was our father's store.

774

00:34:03,470 --> 00:34:07,610

But then he had to close  
it when we had to close it.

775

00:34:07,610 --> 00:34:08,929

When did he have to close in?

776



00:34:08,929 --> 00:34:14,730

777

00:34:14,730 --> 00:34:16,530

I don't want to make mistake.

778

00:34:16,530 --> 00:34:20,760

Probably between 1943.

779

00:34:20,760 --> 00:34:22,590

1943?

780

00:34:22,590 --> 00:34:25,170

Before the Germans came.

781

00:34:25,170 --> 00:34:27,480

Before September.

782

00:34:27,480 --> 00:34:30,300

Or after September?

783

00:34:30,300 --> 00:34:31,949

That would be a  
difference of months.

784

00:34:31,949 --> 00:34:32,969

I don't recall.

785

00:34:32,969 --> 00:34:40,345

My father died April 5, 1942.

786

00:34:40,345 --> 00:34:40,845

Mhm?

787

00:34:40,845 --> 00:34:45,960

788

00:34:45,960 --> 00:34:48,370

So between '42 and '43.

789

00:34:48,370 --> 00:34:48,870

Right.

790  
00:34:48,870 --> 00:34:53,550  
Now, when did you go  
from Rome to Italy--

791  
00:34:53,550 --> 00:34:54,330  
to Naples?

792  
00:34:54,330 --> 00:34:55,239  
To Milan?

793  
00:34:55,239 --> 00:34:55,739  
To Milano.

794  
00:34:55,739 --> 00:34:56,820  
From Rome to Milan?

795  
00:34:56,820 --> 00:34:57,960  
Milano is Milan?

796  
00:34:57,960 --> 00:34:59,200  
Milano, Yeah.

797  
00:34:59,200 --> 00:34:59,790  
All right.

798  
00:34:59,790 --> 00:35:02,070  
When did that take place?

799  
00:35:02,070 --> 00:35:09,540  
From what I read, the  
American came to Rome.

800  
00:35:09,540 --> 00:35:10,530  
Wait a moment.

801  
00:35:10,530 --> 00:35:14,420

802  
00:35:14,420 --> 00:35:15,260

Yeah.

803

00:35:15,260 --> 00:35:19,950

The American came  
in Sicily, in 1943.

804

00:35:19,950 --> 00:35:20,450

Yes.

805

00:35:20,450 --> 00:35:23,420

They went into Rome, in 1944.

806

00:35:23,420 --> 00:35:24,680

Yeah.

807

00:35:24,680 --> 00:35:26,510

When in '44?

808

00:35:26,510 --> 00:35:27,530

1944.

809

00:35:27,530 --> 00:35:28,340

What month?

810

00:35:28,340 --> 00:35:28,880

June.

811

00:35:28,880 --> 00:35:29,630

June.

812

00:35:29,630 --> 00:35:32,270

We were waiting for  
the American to come.

813

00:35:32,270 --> 00:35:34,220

We waited seven months or so.

814

00:35:34,220 --> 00:35:37,730

Because they were held  
on Cassino Mountain.

815

00:35:37,730 --> 00:35:40,760

Because there, the German  
were very strong in there.

816

00:35:40,760 --> 00:35:44,180

They couldn't pass through.

817

00:35:44,180 --> 00:35:47,330

When it happened  
that we spoke before,

818

00:35:47,330 --> 00:35:50,660

about my brother and I  
were stopped by a Partisan.

819

00:35:50,660 --> 00:35:54,710

And my sister had been  
seen by a classmate,

820

00:35:54,710 --> 00:35:57,440

that she had the rationing  
cards with another name.

821

00:35:57,440 --> 00:36:00,930

Then we decided to go  
too, away from home.

822

00:36:00,930 --> 00:36:03,080

We thought about Forenza.

823

00:36:03,080 --> 00:36:05,600

Why did you decide  
to go away from Rome?

824

00:36:05,600 --> 00:36:07,730

Because somebody  
had spied on us.

825

00:36:07,730 --> 00:36:08,240

Yes?

826

00:36:08,240 --> 00:36:11,607

Or because they saw that

if she had another name,

827  
00:36:11,607 --> 00:36:13,790  
it means that she  
was Jew, right?

828  
00:36:13,790 --> 00:36:17,030  
So we thought to  
go away from Rome.

829  
00:36:17,030 --> 00:36:17,530  
Yeah.

830  
00:36:17,530 --> 00:36:20,330

831  
00:36:20,330 --> 00:36:22,550  
So we thought about Florence.

832  
00:36:22,550 --> 00:36:26,620  
But Florence, they were,  
the Partisan and the German

833  
00:36:26,620 --> 00:36:27,410  
were fighting.

834  
00:36:27,410 --> 00:36:29,528  
So we didn't know where you go.

835  
00:36:29,528 --> 00:36:31,820  
You find a German, you find  
a Fascist, who you'll find.

836  
00:36:31,820 --> 00:36:35,070

837  
00:36:35,070 --> 00:36:36,990  
So we decided to Milano.

838  
00:36:36,990 --> 00:36:42,180  
Meanwhile, Mussolini, New  
Republic, the Fascist Republic,

839

00:36:42,180 --> 00:36:46,110  
had the central party  
in [ITALIAN],, which

840

00:36:46,110 --> 00:36:48,840  
is near Milano, near Lake Como.

841

00:36:48,840 --> 00:36:52,800  
So when Franco and I arrive  
in Milano, well, first

842

00:36:52,800 --> 00:36:58,720  
of all, my brother-in-law,  
his wife and the two children,

843

00:36:58,720 --> 00:37:04,140  
and Franco and I,  
we made an agreement

844

00:37:04,140 --> 00:37:09,840  
that when we arrived in Milano,  
we would walk on the gallery,

845

00:37:09,840 --> 00:37:13,050  
it's called, near the Duomo.

846

00:37:13,050 --> 00:37:15,120  
See each other, but  
not talk to each other,

847

00:37:15,120 --> 00:37:17,910  
just to know that  
we are all right.

848

00:37:17,910 --> 00:37:19,410  
This, we did.

849

00:37:19,410 --> 00:37:21,970  
Then we rented an  
apartment, as I said,

850

00:37:21,970 --> 00:37:25,530  
that was partially bombed out.

851  
00:37:25,530 --> 00:37:29,370  
And so my sister and her husband  
and the children did that too.

852  
00:37:29,370 --> 00:37:35,620

853  
00:37:35,620 --> 00:37:39,720  
Your brother and you  
worked the whole time

854  
00:37:39,720 --> 00:37:43,030  
after the store was closed?

855  
00:37:43,030 --> 00:37:44,340  
No, he was hiding.

856  
00:37:44,340 --> 00:37:45,302  
And I went hiding.

857  
00:37:45,302 --> 00:37:45,802  
Right.

858  
00:37:45,802 --> 00:37:48,910  
So who supported you?

859  
00:37:48,910 --> 00:37:50,220  
Who provided you with food?

860  
00:37:50,220 --> 00:37:52,960

861  
00:37:52,960 --> 00:37:54,420  
You were hiding with a family.

862  
00:37:54,420 --> 00:37:55,672  
So the lawyer gave you food?

863

00:37:55,672 --> 00:37:56,380

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

864

00:37:56,380 --> 00:37:58,690

And your brother was where?

865

00:37:58,690 --> 00:38:00,850

Was in the country, hiding.

866

00:38:00,850 --> 00:38:03,040

With whom?

867

00:38:03,040 --> 00:38:04,540

Latina, near Rome, I told you.

868

00:38:04,540 --> 00:38:06,345

Yeah, with whom was he?

869

00:38:06,345 --> 00:38:08,440

With Filippo, a friend of his.

870

00:38:08,440 --> 00:38:10,060

And they provided him with food?

871

00:38:10,060 --> 00:38:13,000

872

00:38:13,000 --> 00:38:15,160

I don't really know.

873

00:38:15,160 --> 00:38:17,650

Because maybe my brother  
had some money with him.

874

00:38:17,650 --> 00:38:20,380

You see, I want to  
explain you something.

875

00:38:20,380 --> 00:38:25,570

I was a young girl.

876



00:38:25,570 --> 00:38:27,460

When I was going to  
school, my father

877

00:38:27,460 --> 00:38:30,100

didn't let me go in  
no place with nobody.

878

00:38:30,100 --> 00:38:31,120

I had no friends.

879

00:38:31,120 --> 00:38:35,050

Just the one girlfriend, I  
could go to her home to study.

880

00:38:35,050 --> 00:38:37,000

Didn't let me go with nobody.

881

00:38:37,000 --> 00:38:40,630

When my mother died  
and Sunday morning, I

882

00:38:40,630 --> 00:38:44,170

was going to the  
cemetery, he resented

883

00:38:44,170 --> 00:38:46,090

that, didn't want to  
let me do that either.

884

00:38:46,090 --> 00:38:46,840

He didn't want to.

885

00:38:46,840 --> 00:38:49,600

I had to say all the  
way, home with him.

886

00:38:49,600 --> 00:38:53,380

So between the school and  
between being all the way in,

887

00:38:53,380 --> 00:39:00,310

I was so naive that I suppose

that a girl of 10 year, 12 year

888

00:39:00,310 --> 00:39:03,130

old now here knows  
more than what I

889

00:39:03,130 --> 00:39:06,530

know when I was 18, 19, and 20.

890

00:39:06,530 --> 00:39:10,106

And we had no idea what's  
happened in Europe.

891

00:39:10,106 --> 00:39:14,588

Now, when I was, as  
I said, we couldn't

892

00:39:14,588 --> 00:39:15,880

hear the radios, word of mouth.

893

00:39:15,880 --> 00:39:18,760

When I went to  
the lawyer family,

894

00:39:18,760 --> 00:39:25,750

they had built an antenna,  
maybe like this, with the green.

895

00:39:25,750 --> 00:39:29,140

And if they find that you were  
listening to Radio Londra,

896

00:39:29,140 --> 00:39:31,450

London, you would be killed.

897

00:39:31,450 --> 00:39:34,030

But they encouraged,  
this lawyer.

898

00:39:34,030 --> 00:39:38,230

And every night, almost every  
night, we heard the radio,

899

00:39:38,230 --> 00:39:41,020

Radio Londra, maybe it was a  
Radio America, I don't know,

900

00:39:41,020 --> 00:39:43,600

that was Fiorello LaGuardia.

901

00:39:43,600 --> 00:39:48,610

They were saying Italian,  
[SPEAKING ITALIAN],, Italian,

902

00:39:48,610 --> 00:39:49,160

go ahead.

903

00:39:49,160 --> 00:39:50,530

And with courage.

904

00:39:50,530 --> 00:39:53,150

And then they were  
saying many phrases

905

00:39:53,150 --> 00:39:55,480

that it didn't seem  
to have any meaning,

906

00:39:55,480 --> 00:39:59,770

but they were things done for  
the Partisans, to tell them

907

00:39:59,770 --> 00:40:01,570

what to do.

908

00:40:01,570 --> 00:40:03,190

Fascinating.

909

00:40:03,190 --> 00:40:06,010

So there were a  
number of really,

910

00:40:06,010 --> 00:40:08,777

you didn't have trouble  
finding good Italians to take

911  
00:40:08,777 --> 00:40:09,985  
care of you and your brother?

912  
00:40:09,985 --> 00:40:12,730  
Free-thinking people, Yeah.

913  
00:40:12,730 --> 00:40:16,630  
That's one of the  
thing that I, when I am

914  
00:40:16,630 --> 00:40:19,990  
asked what should we  
tell to our children?

915  
00:40:19,990 --> 00:40:24,580  
What should we tell to our  
student, I say, first of all,

916  
00:40:24,580 --> 00:40:31,330  
you got to show them proof  
that the Holocaust happened,

917  
00:40:31,330 --> 00:40:32,650  
and what happened.

918  
00:40:32,650 --> 00:40:33,630  
Show pictures.

919  
00:40:33,630 --> 00:40:34,360  
Show movies.

920  
00:40:34,360 --> 00:40:35,410  
Show books.

921  
00:40:35,410 --> 00:40:39,550  
Show testimony of survivors.

922  
00:40:39,550 --> 00:40:43,780  
Then teach them to think, to be  
freethinker, not to take only

923

00:40:43,780 --> 00:40:45,670  
what comes from the authority.

924

00:40:45,670 --> 00:40:47,810  
To think of their own mind.

925

00:40:47,810 --> 00:40:52,660  
And to have a sense  
of responsibility

926

00:40:52,660 --> 00:40:55,240  
for themselves and  
from the others,

927

00:40:55,240 --> 00:41:00,940  
and the ethical principle.

928

00:41:00,940 --> 00:41:03,550  
That's a beautiful statement.

929

00:41:03,550 --> 00:41:06,940  
You were talking  
about the synagogue

930

00:41:06,940 --> 00:41:12,280  
where the Germans brought  
many Jews in 1943.

931

00:41:12,280 --> 00:41:13,390  
Yeah.

932

00:41:13,390 --> 00:41:15,490  
Was that the Great  
Synagogue of Rome?

933

00:41:15,490 --> 00:41:16,600  
Yes.

934

00:41:16,600 --> 00:41:18,205  
That wasn't your  
synagogue, though?

935

00:41:18,205 --> 00:41:19,580

No, I was going  
to a smaller one.

936

00:41:19,580 --> 00:41:26,025

But for example, in Yom Kippur,  
we would walk to the big one.

937

00:41:26,025 --> 00:41:27,820

'Cause that's where  
everybody was.

938

00:41:27,820 --> 00:41:28,880

Yeah.

939

00:41:28,880 --> 00:41:31,690

All right.

940

00:41:31,690 --> 00:41:36,514

What did liberation mean to you?

941

00:41:36,514 --> 00:41:38,810

You were in Milan.

942

00:41:38,810 --> 00:41:42,300

Now, you say Rome was  
liberated in June, '44.

943

00:41:42,300 --> 00:41:42,840

Yeah.

944

00:41:42,840 --> 00:41:43,532

Which I didn't see.

945

00:41:43,532 --> 00:41:44,170

I didn't know.

946

00:41:44,170 --> 00:41:44,980

You weren't there.

947

00:41:44,980 --> 00:41:47,300

Milan was where?

948

00:41:47,300 --> 00:41:49,980

Was liberated when?

949

00:41:49,980 --> 00:41:53,270

April 25, of 1945.

950

00:41:53,270 --> 00:41:53,935

And I saw--

951

00:41:53,935 --> 00:41:55,720

What did liberation mean you?

952

00:41:55,720 --> 00:41:57,730

Did you celebrate?

953

00:41:57,730 --> 00:41:59,200

No, I want to tell you this.

954

00:41:59,200 --> 00:42:02,600

955

00:42:02,600 --> 00:42:07,150

Franco and I had to moved from  
one apartment into the other.

956

00:42:07,150 --> 00:42:09,760

Also a bombed-out apartment.

957

00:42:09,760 --> 00:42:12,550

When we were living  
there, we made friends

958

00:42:12,550 --> 00:42:16,930

with a family that was  
living underneath us.

959

00:42:16,930 --> 00:42:25,510

And when the American  
arrive, we told these people

960

00:42:25,510 --> 00:42:27,700  
that we were Jewish.

961

00:42:27,700 --> 00:42:32,080  
And we made it barely  
in time to tell them.

962

00:42:32,080 --> 00:42:34,840  
Because they were Socialists.

963

00:42:34,840 --> 00:42:38,350  
They suffered a lot  
under the Fascist.

964

00:42:38,350 --> 00:42:41,690  
Because so many  
fascists from Rome

965

00:42:41,690 --> 00:42:44,650  
had to go into North Italy, they  
thought that we were Fascists.

966

00:42:44,650 --> 00:42:46,810  
They already had made plans.

967

00:42:46,810 --> 00:42:49,900  
I don't know if it's to kill  
us or to do what, to arm us.

968

00:42:49,900 --> 00:42:53,170  
We just made in  
time to tell them.

969

00:42:53,170 --> 00:42:55,990  
So when the German arrive,  
I remember one thing.

970

00:42:55,990 --> 00:43:01,330  
That I saw a truck  
with four women in it.

971

00:43:01,330 --> 00:43:03,880



And then they cut  
all their hair.

972  
00:43:03,880 --> 00:43:05,740  
Because these were  
the women that

973  
00:43:05,740 --> 00:43:09,610  
had gone with the  
German soldiers.

974  
00:43:09,610 --> 00:43:13,810  
Then we went to the  
Jewish Community

975  
00:43:13,810 --> 00:43:17,190  
and gave our false ID.

976  
00:43:17,190 --> 00:43:18,190  
And we said we're a Jew.

977  
00:43:18,190 --> 00:43:19,420  
Our name is so-and-so.

978  
00:43:19,420 --> 00:43:22,460  
And so also, they registered us.

979  
00:43:22,460 --> 00:43:27,730  
And we stayed in Milano  
one or two more months.

980  
00:43:27,730 --> 00:43:29,440  
Then we came back to Rome.

981  
00:43:29,440 --> 00:43:30,625  
Yeah.

982  
00:43:30,625 --> 00:43:31,580  
Franco and I, I mean.

983  
00:43:31,580 --> 00:43:35,020  
After April, '45, so you came

back to Rome in June, '45?

984  
00:43:35,020 --> 00:43:35,560  
Probably.

985  
00:43:35,560 --> 00:43:37,460  
Don't know exactly, the month.

986  
00:43:37,460 --> 00:43:38,742  
What did you do then?

987  
00:43:38,742 --> 00:43:39,950  
There, they're taking every--

988  
00:43:39,950 --> 00:43:42,140  
June, '45, the war  
is over already.

989  
00:43:42,140 --> 00:43:42,640  
Yeah.

990  
00:43:42,640 --> 00:43:43,450  
Yeah.

991  
00:43:43,450 --> 00:43:45,670  
So I say, I don't know  
if I was in Milano one

992  
00:43:45,670 --> 00:43:46,928  
more month or two more months.

993  
00:43:46,928 --> 00:43:47,470  
I don't know.

994  
00:43:47,470 --> 00:43:49,150  
Yeah, all right.

995  
00:43:49,150 --> 00:43:53,590  
So when we came home, we found  
that they had taken everything

996

00:43:53,590 --> 00:43:54,940  
from the store.

997  
00:43:54,940 --> 00:44:01,480  
Meanwhile, my brother, had  
given what do you call it?

998  
00:44:01,480 --> 00:44:04,190  
Permission to the lawyer,  
to do our own interest,

999  
00:44:04,190 --> 00:44:05,960  
whatever he thought  
would be there.

1000  
00:44:05,960 --> 00:44:09,320  
So he had rented to somebody.

1001  
00:44:09,320 --> 00:44:13,850  
And there were three Jewish  
sisters and brothers,

1002  
00:44:13,850 --> 00:44:15,890  
and so on.

1003  
00:44:15,890 --> 00:44:21,720  
So they were selling  
things, doing things.

1004  
00:44:21,720 --> 00:44:26,390  
And so they said  
that they wanted

1005  
00:44:26,390 --> 00:44:29,510  
to be there and be part of it.

1006  
00:44:29,510 --> 00:44:31,910  
I said to my brother,  
I can help you.

1007  
00:44:31,910 --> 00:44:32,720  
I can.

1008

00:44:32,720 --> 00:44:34,670

We don't need.

1009

00:44:34,670 --> 00:44:36,780

Well, one of them fell  
in love with my brother,

1010

00:44:36,780 --> 00:44:39,080

so they got married.

1011

00:44:39,080 --> 00:44:44,090

So we started to  
build up our business.

1012

00:44:44,090 --> 00:44:48,860

Because my father was very  
honest, had a good credit.

1013

00:44:48,860 --> 00:44:51,560

And the manufacturer  
said take what you need.

1014

00:44:51,560 --> 00:44:53,540

When you can, you pay.

1015

00:44:53,540 --> 00:44:55,130

So that's what we did.

1016

00:44:55,130 --> 00:44:56,150

In the same time--

1017

00:44:56,150 --> 00:45:02,130

1018

00:45:02,130 --> 00:45:04,290

I'm sorry, I lost my--

1019

00:45:04,290 --> 00:45:06,980

Your brother took over  
the father's business.

1020

00:45:06,980 --> 00:45:07,480  
Yes.

1021  
00:45:07,480 --> 00:45:08,910  
It sounds like he started it?

1022  
00:45:08,910 --> 00:45:09,410  
Yes.

1023  
00:45:09,410 --> 00:45:14,160  
And then you said at the same  
time, what happened to you?

1024  
00:45:14,160 --> 00:45:17,580  
In the morning, I was making  
food shopping and cooking.

1025  
00:45:17,580 --> 00:45:20,780  
The afternoon, I was going  
to help him in the store.

1026  
00:45:20,780 --> 00:45:22,290  
All right, this is June '45.

1027  
00:45:22,290 --> 00:45:23,430  
How long did that last?

1028  
00:45:23,430 --> 00:45:25,980

1029  
00:45:25,980 --> 00:45:27,960  
So you resumed your  
lives, in other words.

1030  
00:45:27,960 --> 00:45:28,695  
Yeah.

1031  
00:45:28,695 --> 00:45:31,080  
You went back to your  
lives before the war.

1032  
00:45:31,080 --> 00:45:31,964

Is that it?

1033  
00:45:31,964 --> 00:45:32,464  
Mm.

1034  
00:45:32,464 --> 00:45:38,460  
[SIGHS] I was a young girl.

1035  
00:45:38,460 --> 00:45:43,770  
And I was going to  
visit a Jewish family.

1036  
00:45:43,770 --> 00:45:46,740  
They had lost their  
son, the young son.

1037  
00:45:46,740 --> 00:45:49,200  
And they, in memory  
of the son, they

1038  
00:45:49,200 --> 00:45:52,690  
were having young Jewish  
people meet them once a month,

1039  
00:45:52,690 --> 00:45:53,880  
once a week in their home.

1040  
00:45:53,880 --> 00:45:54,950  
And I was going there.

1041  
00:45:54,950 --> 00:45:58,050

1042  
00:45:58,050 --> 00:45:59,360  
So you met somebody?

1043  
00:45:59,360 --> 00:46:02,100  
No, no, no.

1044  
00:46:02,100 --> 00:46:06,120  
If I have ever been Catholic,  
I could have been just a nun.

1045  
00:46:06,120 --> 00:46:09,075  
Because of the way I was  
kept, I didn't know anybody.

1046  
00:46:09,075 --> 00:46:11,730  
I didn't see anybody, and so on.

1047  
00:46:11,730 --> 00:46:17,220  
Then, [SIGHS] I had a  
niece that was seven year,

1048  
00:46:17,220 --> 00:46:19,320  
that is seven years  
younger than me.

1049  
00:46:19,320 --> 00:46:22,360  
And she said, Aunt  
Nella, they're

1050  
00:46:22,360 --> 00:46:25,620  
having a dance at such circle.

1051  
00:46:25,620 --> 00:46:27,150  
And do you want to come?

1052  
00:46:27,150 --> 00:46:31,200  
And she said, these  
are the Jewish soldiers

1053  
00:46:31,200 --> 00:46:37,110  
that were part of the British  
Army of Israel, British Army.

1054  
00:46:37,110 --> 00:46:38,820  
And so I wanted to go.

1055  
00:46:38,820 --> 00:46:42,120  
My brother, with the  
Italian, the way the woman

1056  
00:46:42,120 --> 00:46:44,310

is to stay home and  
no, no, no, no, no.

1057  
00:46:44,310 --> 00:46:46,550  
I said but the mother  
of so-and-so is coming.

1058  
00:46:46,550 --> 00:46:48,180  
So he let me go.

1059  
00:46:48,180 --> 00:46:52,097  
When I was there, I dance  
one dance with my husband.

1060  
00:46:52,097 --> 00:46:54,180  
Then he said, would you  
like to have a cup of tea?

1061  
00:46:54,180 --> 00:46:56,140  
And we went another  
room to have a tea.

1062  
00:46:56,140 --> 00:46:58,410  
And he started to tell me  
about the concentration

1063  
00:46:58,410 --> 00:46:59,940  
camp he had been.

1064  
00:46:59,940 --> 00:47:02,640  
So I was hooked.

1065  
00:47:02,640 --> 00:47:05,520  
[LAUGHS] When I heard  
all he went through,

1066  
00:47:05,520 --> 00:47:07,980  
then we told him to come.

1067  
00:47:07,980 --> 00:47:10,590  
My family and  
everybody welcome him.



1068

00:47:10,590 --> 00:47:13,920

1069

00:47:13,920 --> 00:47:16,320

It didn't take long  
and you were married?

1070

00:47:16,320 --> 00:47:16,920

How long?

1071

00:47:16,920 --> 00:47:18,165

It didn't take long?

1072

00:47:18,165 --> 00:47:19,350

No.

1073

00:47:19,350 --> 00:47:22,860

My father had called my brother.

1074

00:47:22,860 --> 00:47:24,870

I was 17 at the time.

1075

00:47:24,870 --> 00:47:26,820

He said, I leave you the store.

1076

00:47:26,820 --> 00:47:28,710

But you have to  
promise you are going

1077

00:47:28,710 --> 00:47:31,200

to take care of your sister.

1078

00:47:31,200 --> 00:47:35,700

So when I got engaged  
with my husband,

1079

00:47:35,700 --> 00:47:37,770

my brother put up  
the store for us.

1080

00:47:37,770 --> 00:47:44,310

And we were selling fabric for  
men suits, and having a tailor

1081  
00:47:44,310 --> 00:47:47,790  
was making suits custom made.

1082  
00:47:47,790 --> 00:47:51,030  
And that was where we started.

1083  
00:47:51,030 --> 00:47:56,460  
Then we got married  
in March, 1946.

1084  
00:47:56,460 --> 00:47:58,250  
So you were about  
25 at the time?

1085  
00:47:58,250 --> 00:47:59,340  
Mm.

1086  
00:47:59,340 --> 00:48:02,700  
Of course, I have been  
hiding for a long time.

1087  
00:48:02,700 --> 00:48:07,200  
Then, the Jewish  
boys saw my age.

1088  
00:48:07,200 --> 00:48:09,490  
While I was hiding in  
Milano, they got married.

1089  
00:48:09,490 --> 00:48:11,310  
They lived their life.

1090  
00:48:11,310 --> 00:48:13,050  
All right, this is 1946.

1091  
00:48:13,050 --> 00:48:15,240  
What brought you to America?

1092  
00:48:15,240 --> 00:48:15,740

OK.

1093

00:48:15,740 --> 00:48:18,300

1094

00:48:18,300 --> 00:48:23,790

My husband family had  
been killed, all of them.

1095

00:48:23,790 --> 00:48:26,610

He was the first son of the  
second marriage, of the father.

1096

00:48:26,610 --> 00:48:29,190

So he had many brother and  
sister, brother and sister.

1097

00:48:29,190 --> 00:48:30,870

But they got, all, killed.

1098

00:48:30,870 --> 00:48:33,180

And he thought  
that he had nobody.

1099

00:48:33,180 --> 00:48:36,550

Then, one survivor  
told him that he

1100

00:48:36,550 --> 00:48:39,990

see his brother trying  
to escape from a camp,

1101

00:48:39,990 --> 00:48:42,180

but the German fire on him.

1102

00:48:42,180 --> 00:48:44,310

So he thought that  
that was dead too.

1103

00:48:44,310 --> 00:48:48,030

What's happened was, one  
day, walking in Rome,

1104

00:48:48,030 --> 00:48:50,140  
he met the brother.

1105

00:48:50,140 --> 00:48:54,930  
So the brother had applied  
to come to America.

1106

00:48:54,930 --> 00:48:58,890  
They had two uncle and  
an aunt in America.

1107

00:48:58,890 --> 00:49:01,410  
So my husband wants  
to come to America.

1108

00:49:01,410 --> 00:49:05,310  
I had a beautiful  
apartment, nice furniture.

1109

00:49:05,310 --> 00:49:06,480  
We had the store.

1110

00:49:06,480 --> 00:49:10,290  
We had a 3-year-old son and  
I was expecting my daughter.

1111

00:49:10,290 --> 00:49:11,970  
My husband wanted to come.

1112

00:49:11,970 --> 00:49:16,380  
And he said, you come  
with me, or I'll go alone.

1113

00:49:16,380 --> 00:49:18,930  
Now, with a 3-year-old  
son, expecting the second,

1114

00:49:18,930 --> 00:49:20,160  
what do you do?

1115

00:49:20,160 --> 00:49:21,282  
So I left the family.

1116  
00:49:21,282 --> 00:49:21,990  
I left the store.

1117  
00:49:21,990 --> 00:49:23,580  
I left everything.

1118  
00:49:23,580 --> 00:49:24,750  
And I came to America.

1119  
00:49:24,750 --> 00:49:27,960  
I didn't know one  
word of English.

1120  
00:49:27,960 --> 00:49:29,970  
Where did you live, when  
you came to America?

1121  
00:49:29,970 --> 00:49:30,630  
Wait a moment.

1122  
00:49:30,630 --> 00:49:31,590  
Before that.

1123  
00:49:31,590 --> 00:49:36,330  
The bad thing was, that first  
we have to go to Fossoli,

1124  
00:49:36,330 --> 00:49:37,975  
I think it's called.

1125  
00:49:37,975 --> 00:49:39,180  
I mean South Italy.

1126  
00:49:39,180 --> 00:49:40,800  
From there, we took the train.

1127  
00:49:40,800 --> 00:49:44,550  
And they brought us  
to Germany, to Bremen.

1128

00:49:44,550 --> 00:49:45,980  
And then UNRRA came.

1129  
00:49:45,980 --> 00:49:46,965  
You know, the American?

1130  
00:49:46,965 --> 00:49:48,000  
Yeah.

1131  
00:49:48,000 --> 00:49:49,680  
And it was terrible.

1132  
00:49:49,680 --> 00:49:52,980  
With a small child, expecting,  
couldn't cook for him.

1133  
00:49:52,980 --> 00:49:55,590  
I had a small, you know,  
the little something

1134  
00:49:55,590 --> 00:49:58,540  
like that, I could cook  
a little pastina for him.

1135  
00:49:58,540 --> 00:50:03,190  
My husband had the bad idea to  
make my son eat some herrings.

1136  
00:50:03,190 --> 00:50:05,370  
You know the Ashkenazi way.

1137  
00:50:05,370 --> 00:50:06,830  
And he got sick  
with the stomach.

1138  
00:50:06,830 --> 00:50:11,108  
So he went out and rented  
a room in a German house.

1139  
00:50:11,108 --> 00:50:12,150  
I didn't know any German.

1140

00:50:12,150 --> 00:50:13,540

I didn't know that I  
was going to Germany.

1141

00:50:13,540 --> 00:50:15,165

I didn't have a  
dictionary or anything.

1142

00:50:15,165 --> 00:50:17,840

1143

00:50:17,840 --> 00:50:19,650

In the afternoon he  
brought me there.

1144

00:50:19,650 --> 00:50:22,130

He say tonight, come to the DP.

1145

00:50:22,130 --> 00:50:25,580

He never came.

1146

00:50:25,580 --> 00:50:29,270

I saw on the dresser, the  
photograph of the landlord

1147

00:50:29,270 --> 00:50:32,615

was an SS.

1148

00:50:32,615 --> 00:50:40,200

Cannot tell you how I felt. Was  
night, all night, not sleeping.

1149

00:50:40,200 --> 00:50:42,240

He never came.

1150

00:50:42,240 --> 00:50:43,153

I guess that--

1151

00:50:43,153 --> 00:50:44,153

Your husband never came?

1152

00:50:44,153 --> 00:50:44,653

Yeah.

1153  
00:50:44,653 --> 00:50:45,270  
He never came.

1154  
00:50:45,270 --> 00:50:48,930  
Because, he met so many  
women, so many people

1155  
00:50:48,930 --> 00:50:51,605  
speaking Yiddish, that  
was survivors and so on.

1156  
00:50:51,605 --> 00:50:52,230  
He was talking.

1157  
00:50:52,230 --> 00:50:53,370  
He was doing.

1158  
00:50:53,370 --> 00:50:54,900  
Anyway.

1159  
00:50:54,900 --> 00:51:00,180  
Then we came to America  
with a military boat.

1160  
00:51:00,180 --> 00:51:03,210  
In the morning, when  
I got up to go to eat,

1161  
00:51:03,210 --> 00:51:08,970  
the smell of rotten eggs was so  
strong, that I was throwing up.

1162  
00:51:08,970 --> 00:51:12,450  
I was five days without  
eating, until they put me

1163  
00:51:12,450 --> 00:51:14,460  
in the hospital.

1164  
00:51:14,460 --> 00:51:16,950



My husband--

1165  
00:51:16,950 --> 00:51:19,420  
Which hospital?

1166  
00:51:19,420 --> 00:51:20,090  
In the boat.

1167  
00:51:20,090 --> 00:51:20,590  
In the boat?

1168  
00:51:20,590 --> 00:51:21,980  
For the ship.

1169  
00:51:21,980 --> 00:51:25,320  
Meanwhile, I don't know if my  
husband didn't take good care

1170  
00:51:25,320 --> 00:51:26,940  
of the son, over there.

1171  
00:51:26,940 --> 00:51:29,525  
But poor guy, 3 year  
old, we old people

1172  
00:51:29,525 --> 00:51:31,650  
he didn't know, the language,  
he didn't understand.

1173  
00:51:31,650 --> 00:51:35,380  
So my son got sick with  
salt rot, or whatever.

1174  
00:51:35,380 --> 00:51:37,130  
So my son was in the hospital.

1175  
00:51:37,130 --> 00:51:38,500  
I was in the hospital.

1176  
00:51:38,500 --> 00:51:42,270  
My husband came five minutes  
at lunchtime, and that's it.

1177  
00:51:42,270 --> 00:51:44,830

1178  
00:51:44,830 --> 00:51:48,110  
I left the family, I  
left everything for him.

1179  
00:51:48,110 --> 00:51:50,842  
That's was the way.

1180  
00:51:50,842 --> 00:51:52,660  
[SIGHS]

1181  
00:51:52,660 --> 00:51:58,900  
When we arrive, with the help  
of the Joint, you know Joint.

1182  
00:51:58,900 --> 00:52:03,850  
And they give us a  
table, chair, and a bed.

1183  
00:52:03,850 --> 00:52:07,690  
And they wanted to give me  
dishes or the silverware.

1184  
00:52:07,690 --> 00:52:09,040  
I said no, I have this.

1185  
00:52:09,040 --> 00:52:10,000  
Thank you.

1186  
00:52:10,000 --> 00:52:14,110  
And [LAUGHS] when we  
arrive with the boat,

1187  
00:52:14,110 --> 00:52:17,770  
I had brought my mother  
dishes, China dishes

1188  
00:52:17,770 --> 00:52:20,500  
and crystal glasses.

1189  
00:52:20,500 --> 00:52:25,120  
And the man that was  
putting these boxes down

1190  
00:52:25,120 --> 00:52:26,980  
wanted money for a drink.

1191  
00:52:26,980 --> 00:52:29,740  
We did not understand what he  
wanted because he was speaking

1192  
00:52:29,740 --> 00:52:31,490  
English, and we didn't know it.

1193  
00:52:31,490 --> 00:52:33,110  
So he threw the things down.

1194  
00:52:33,110 --> 00:52:37,180  
So most of the  
things got broken.

1195  
00:52:37,180 --> 00:52:43,800  
So [SIGHS] we went then,  
to live in Trenton.

1196  
00:52:43,800 --> 00:52:45,080  
That was your first place?

1197  
00:52:45,080 --> 00:52:45,580  
Yeah.

1198  
00:52:45,580 --> 00:52:48,480  
First of all, had to go  
to Kentucky, you see, now.

1199  
00:52:48,480 --> 00:52:49,860  
So we went into Trenton.

1200  
00:52:49,860 --> 00:52:50,590  
My husband--

1201

00:52:50,590 --> 00:52:52,080

Why Trenton?

1202

00:52:52,080 --> 00:52:54,405

My brother, the older  
brother, had come in America

1203

00:52:54,405 --> 00:52:59,610

in '38, '39, and was living  
in Jersey City, New Jersey.

1204

00:52:59,610 --> 00:53:00,810

So we went to Trenton.

1205

00:53:00,810 --> 00:53:03,860

Because the Jewish community  
said you go to Trenton.

1206

00:53:03,860 --> 00:53:06,290

My husband spoke  
with this landlord

1207

00:53:06,290 --> 00:53:08,220

that was speaking Yiddish.

1208

00:53:08,220 --> 00:53:11,820

he rented an apartment to us.

1209

00:53:11,820 --> 00:53:14,910

Unknown to us,  
because it was April,

1210

00:53:14,910 --> 00:53:18,210

that the heater wasn't working.

1211

00:53:18,210 --> 00:53:23,550

When it was winter, the doctors  
said, you cannot live here.

1212

00:53:23,550 --> 00:53:26,440

Son is getting sick.

1213

00:53:26,440 --> 00:53:29,520

I don't know if I  
should say this,

1214

00:53:29,520 --> 00:53:34,050

but my son got sick  
with the chicken pox.

1215

00:53:34,050 --> 00:53:37,500

I didn't speak any English, I  
couldn't know to have a doctor.

1216

00:53:37,500 --> 00:53:40,380

So I called a gynecologist  
that spoke Italian.

1217

00:53:40,380 --> 00:53:43,140

He said it's chicken pox.

1218

00:53:43,140 --> 00:53:45,540

So I cook something for my son.

1219

00:53:45,540 --> 00:53:47,640

He didn't want to eat.

1220

00:53:47,640 --> 00:53:50,160

So my husband was  
the kind of person

1221

00:53:50,160 --> 00:53:56,040

that when something was  
wrong, he would get mad.

1222

00:53:56,040 --> 00:54:02,500

So this was the first time  
he gave me on my face.

1223

00:54:02,500 --> 00:54:07,800

And I thought, oh my God,  
how low we have gone.

1224

00:54:07,800 --> 00:54:11,110

Then anyway, when the doctors  
say that my son was not

1225  
00:54:11,110 --> 00:54:12,320  
eating well--

1226  
00:54:12,320 --> 00:54:13,260  
ah.

1227  
00:54:13,260 --> 00:54:15,720  
On the beginning,  
because it was summer,

1228  
00:54:15,720 --> 00:54:20,220  
I put my son in then, with the  
rest of the Jewish community,

1229  
00:54:20,220 --> 00:54:21,870  
in a nursery school.

1230  
00:54:21,870 --> 00:54:25,400

1231  
00:54:25,400 --> 00:54:28,670  
This is what year?

1232  
00:54:28,670 --> 00:54:29,573  
'51.

1233  
00:54:29,573 --> 00:54:30,320  
Uh-huh?

1234  
00:54:30,320 --> 00:54:36,080  
And I called the teacher  
to know how he was doing.

1235  
00:54:36,080 --> 00:54:38,240  
Because he didn't know  
any English, the poor guy.

1236  
00:54:38,240 --> 00:54:42,020  
And I had to give a

dictionary to the lady.

1237  
00:54:42,020 --> 00:54:44,190  
I know that the tape  
is going to end soon.

1238  
00:54:44,190 --> 00:54:45,890  
I want to get,  
you're in Trenton.

1239  
00:54:45,890 --> 00:54:48,110  
Where else did you  
live in New Jersey?

1240  
00:54:48,110 --> 00:54:49,310  
In Jersey City.

1241  
00:54:49,310 --> 00:54:50,020  
In Jersey City?

1242  
00:54:50,020 --> 00:54:50,520  
Yeah.

1243  
00:54:50,520 --> 00:54:53,920  
How many years did  
you live in Trenton?

1244  
00:54:53,920 --> 00:54:54,580  
One.

1245  
00:54:54,580 --> 00:54:55,090  
One year.

1246  
00:54:55,090 --> 00:54:56,800  
And in Jersey City?

1247  
00:54:56,800 --> 00:54:59,950  
From 1952 to 1973.

1248  
00:54:59,950 --> 00:55:00,520  
Yeah.

1249

00:55:00,520 --> 00:55:04,010

And your husband  
found work to do?

1250

00:55:04,010 --> 00:55:04,510

Yes.

1251

00:55:04,510 --> 00:55:05,350

He was sewing.

1252

00:55:05,350 --> 00:55:08,050

He was a tailor,  
so he was sewing.

1253

00:55:08,050 --> 00:55:08,733

What did you do?

1254

00:55:08,733 --> 00:55:10,150

Did you work or  
did you stay home?

1255

00:55:10,150 --> 00:55:12,070

Oh, I stayed home  
with the children.

1256

00:55:12,070 --> 00:55:13,450

With the children.

1257

00:55:13,450 --> 00:55:17,540

And one time, we  
had bought a house

1258

00:55:17,540 --> 00:55:21,290

with my sister-in-law,  
the brother of my husband,

1259

00:55:21,290 --> 00:55:21,790

together.

1260

00:55:21,790 --> 00:55:25,240



1261

00:55:25,240 --> 00:55:26,380

So one day--

1262

00:55:26,380 --> 00:55:27,963

I just want to get  
at certain points--

1263

00:55:27,963 --> 00:55:28,797

Oh, I'm sorry, yeah.

1264

00:55:28,797 --> 00:55:29,740

--before this ends.

1265

00:55:29,740 --> 00:55:31,420

I know you went to college.

1266

00:55:31,420 --> 00:55:32,300

Yeah, that was--

1267

00:55:32,300 --> 00:55:33,730

Where did you go to college?

1268

00:55:33,730 --> 00:55:35,553

I went to St. Peter  
College, but this--

1269

00:55:35,553 --> 00:55:36,220

When did you go?

1270

00:55:36,220 --> 00:55:39,070

1271

00:55:39,070 --> 00:55:44,500

19-- I was--

1272

00:55:44,500 --> 00:55:45,880

wait a moment.

1273

00:55:45,880 --> 00:55:48,910

I graduated in '75,  
from the master.

1274  
00:55:48,910 --> 00:55:53,360  
I graduated in '73, I  
think, from St. Peter's.

1275  
00:55:53,360 --> 00:55:53,860  
Yeah.

1276  
00:55:53,860 --> 00:55:57,770  
So you graduated with your  
bachelor's in '73, from St.

1277  
00:55:57,770 --> 00:55:58,270  
Peter's.

1278  
00:55:58,270 --> 00:55:58,770  
Master.

1279  
00:55:58,770 --> 00:56:01,270  
And you had a master's  
in '75, from where?

1280  
00:56:01,270 --> 00:56:02,610  
Trenton State.

1281  
00:56:02,610 --> 00:56:04,840  
How did you get  
to Trenton State?

1282  
00:56:04,840 --> 00:56:12,500  
That was a special program, that  
we were meeting one day a week.

1283  
00:56:12,500 --> 00:56:18,720  
And so two colleague, they  
were Black, big tall men,

1284  
00:56:18,720 --> 00:56:21,650  
they were Black, and I, they  
were picking me up with a car

1285  
00:56:21,650 --> 00:56:22,810

and bringing me there.

1286  
00:56:22,810 --> 00:56:27,460  
And I found out later when the  
other students saw us arrive,

1287  
00:56:27,460 --> 00:56:30,028  
they were calling  
us the Oreo cookie.

1288  
00:56:30,028 --> 00:56:31,820  
Because I was the white  
and I was in center

1289  
00:56:31,820 --> 00:56:32,778  
with the two Black men.

1290  
00:56:32,778 --> 00:56:33,580  
I see.

1291  
00:56:33,580 --> 00:56:37,090  
All right, so you manage to  
do a great deal over here.

1292  
00:56:37,090 --> 00:56:39,100  
Yeah.

1293  
00:56:39,100 --> 00:56:42,040  
Let's see, you were talking  
about the Holocaust.

1294  
00:56:42,040 --> 00:56:45,880  
When did you learn what really  
happened in the Holocaust,

1295  
00:56:45,880 --> 00:56:48,310  
in the rest of Europe?

1296  
00:56:48,310 --> 00:56:51,690  
First of all, when  
I met my husband.

1297

00:56:51,690 --> 00:56:53,170

You really didn't  
understand what

1298

00:56:53,170 --> 00:56:55,630

had taken place until then?

1299

00:56:55,630 --> 00:56:56,130

Then--

1300

00:56:56,130 --> 00:56:58,660

So that, that first  
night at that dance,

1301

00:56:58,660 --> 00:57:01,070

was an eye-opener for you?

1302

00:57:01,070 --> 00:57:03,430

Then we went to see a movie.

1303

00:57:03,430 --> 00:57:04,510

And I saw.

1304

00:57:04,510 --> 00:57:07,460

1305

00:57:07,460 --> 00:57:11,420

So as always an Italian Jew,  
you learned about the Holocaust

1306

00:57:11,420 --> 00:57:12,530

when you met a Polish Jew?

1307

00:57:12,530 --> 00:57:13,030

Yeah.

1308

00:57:13,030 --> 00:57:16,410

[LAUGHS] No, of course,  
then after we came in Rome,

1309

00:57:16,410 --> 00:57:18,960

and started to hear

about, you know, what.

1310  
00:57:18,960 --> 00:57:19,460  
Yeah.

1311  
00:57:19,460 --> 00:57:22,710  
But your real education  
came when you met him?

1312  
00:57:22,710 --> 00:57:23,480  
Yeah.

1313  
00:57:23,480 --> 00:57:24,890  
And I read books about.

1314  
00:57:24,890 --> 00:57:25,390  
Yeah.

1315  
00:57:25,390 --> 00:57:28,280  
And I saw movies.

1316  
00:57:28,280 --> 00:57:31,760  
In terms of what you experienced  
in Italy, and in terms

1317  
00:57:31,760 --> 00:57:34,790  
of what your husband  
experienced in Poland,

1318  
00:57:34,790 --> 00:57:38,908  
what did you learn  
about human nature?

1319  
00:57:38,908 --> 00:57:41,180  
[SIGHS]

1320  
00:57:41,180 --> 00:57:44,180  
How can people be  
so bad or so good?

1321  
00:57:44,180 --> 00:57:48,260  
It depends a lot on the

way they are taught,

1322

00:57:48,260 --> 00:57:49,910

when they are young children.

1323

00:57:49,910 --> 00:57:53,870

And later on, from whatever  
government they had.

1324

00:57:53,870 --> 00:57:56,610

Schooling, education  
is very important.

1325

00:57:56,610 --> 00:57:59,870

So you think that lawyer  
who saved you was brought up

1326

00:57:59,870 --> 00:58:02,300

that way, was taught that way?

1327

00:58:02,300 --> 00:58:07,700

Yeah, he had, as a young  
man, he had to have a life.

1328

00:58:07,700 --> 00:58:10,310

His father died  
when he was 12, 13.

1329

00:58:10,310 --> 00:58:13,730

And his mother wanted him  
to support the mother.

1330

00:58:13,730 --> 00:58:16,770

So he, he did a lot on his own.

1331

00:58:16,770 --> 00:58:17,270

Yeah.

1332

00:58:17,270 --> 00:58:20,840

But do you understand how  
it is that people could

1333

00:58:20,840 --> 00:58:23,360  
be so terrible to other people?

1334  
00:58:23,360 --> 00:58:27,560  
Like to kill them the way  
they did in Auschwitz,

1335  
00:58:27,560 --> 00:58:29,400  
and the other camps?

1336  
00:58:29,400 --> 00:58:32,030  
And all the communities?

1337  
00:58:32,030 --> 00:58:36,500  
I wonder sometimes, what could  
have been the reason that

1338  
00:58:36,500 --> 00:58:38,330  
made Hitler that way?

1339  
00:58:38,330 --> 00:58:39,110  
I don't know.

1340  
00:58:39,110 --> 00:58:42,420

1341  
00:58:42,420 --> 00:58:46,050  
For example, for example, when  
I went for my master degree

1342  
00:58:46,050 --> 00:58:49,880  
and I got an interview from  
a Black professor, teacher.

1343  
00:58:49,880 --> 00:58:52,385  
And while I sit there, she's  
supposed to interview me

1344  
00:58:52,385 --> 00:58:53,660  
and she went away.

1345  
00:58:53,660 --> 00:59:00,540

And then, I found out later she was being very unkind to me.

1346  
00:59:00,540 --> 00:59:06,390  
She was saying I didn't give her the work, and so on.

1347  
00:59:06,390 --> 00:59:11,840  
And she say that because some Jewish landlord had

1348  
00:59:11,840 --> 00:59:13,970  
treated some Black people bad.

1349  
00:59:13,970 --> 00:59:17,930  
That's why she couldn't handle me, that I was Jewish.

1350  
00:59:17,930 --> 00:59:21,170  
In fact, when I gave her my thesis,

1351  
00:59:21,170 --> 00:59:23,510  
she said I didn't give it to her.

1352  
00:59:23,510 --> 00:59:27,980  
And I was so naive again, that I didn't make myself a copy.

1353  
00:59:27,980 --> 00:59:30,420  
And then I went into another professor.

1354  
00:59:30,420 --> 00:59:32,660  
And I said, listen, I'm going to sue the school

1355  
00:59:32,660 --> 00:59:34,010  
because I gave it to her.

1356  
00:59:34,010 --> 00:59:34,940  
So you got it?



1357  
00:59:34,940 --> 00:59:36,050  
I got it.

1358  
00:59:36,050 --> 00:59:36,590  
OK.

1359  
00:59:36,590 --> 00:59:38,270  
I see our time is about up.

1360  
00:59:38,270 --> 00:59:41,270  
And this was a very  
important interview.

1361  
00:59:41,270 --> 00:59:43,160  
And we appreciate  
very much, that you

1362  
00:59:43,160 --> 00:59:46,920  
came down and shared with  
us what you lived through

1363  
00:59:46,920 --> 00:59:47,420  
in Italy.

1364  
00:59:47,420 --> 00:59:47,920  
Thank you.

1365  
00:59:47,920 --> 00:59:50,015  
And you told us about  
the Italian experience

1366  
00:59:50,015 --> 00:59:51,140  
during the war.

1367  
00:59:51,140 --> 00:59:51,540  
Thank you for listening.

1368  
00:59:51,540 --> 00:59:52,540  
Thank you for listening.

1369

00:59:52,540 --> 00:59:54,190

Thank you very much.

1370

00:59:54,190 --> 01:00:05,056