

[TEST TONE] Rose, I want to go back a little, because we forgot a very sweet story about Irena and milk and a cow. Can you tell us that story?

Yes. You know, the ghetto, when it was established, and they calmed down a little bit, they settled down, there were places where they had cows. They took them to the field during the day, close by, and then, you know. Some never went out of the ghetto, too.

And that I couldn't-- I was breast feeding her, but not all of us had enough. And so once, she needed milk. And my doctors, they believed very much in fresh milk. So my mother-in-law found out where the cows are. They weren't too far from where we lived.

And we decided to buy milk, fresh milk, because she was selling a lot of things to have money for every day. So we took-- we went the first time, I went, and bought milk. And she asked me, which cow do you want? To me, they look all the same. But I said, this cow.

So she gave me milk from this cow. And from then on, I was always buying from the same cow the milk, because I was afraid maybe another cow could get sick, or something will happen to her, and then it will be a reflection on my Irena. So we had the milk all the time, whenever I bought, from the same cow.

Was Irena hungry?

Irena was never hungry. Maybe was in the orphanage, but I don't think the children were hungry in the orphanage, because they got some food. Whether it was good food or bad food, I don't know. But I'm sure that she was never hungry.

She needed a lot of, let's say, other things, like fruit or chocolate, which I always sent in. And Dr. Zachert used to give her. Even my husband Michal, he went a few times to the orphanage and brought the chocolate and good things to Dr. Zachert so she can give it to her. And she was giving to her. I gave it to her, and she was giving very quietly to Irena something special.

But when he went there, she was screaming at him. She said to never show up again, because it's very dangerous for the child. Nobody should know. Only the director of the orphanage knew, the woman, that she's a Jewish child.

And I can-- only the mother can pick her up. This was her restriction, Dr. Zachert's, when Irena came to the orphanage. She said only I can pick her up and not to give the child to anybody, because people adopt, you know how it is.

She looked as a very Aryan child. She was blonde. You'll see the photographs of her when she's a little child. So this is-- but I don't think Irena was hungry.

So even in the ghetto, she wasn't hungry?

I don't think so. No. And that-- look, she was the only child in our family, you know? And we could be hungry. I was not ever-- not all the time, you know. I had enough, believe me. But Irena, Irena had even fresh milk from the same cow. No, she wasn't hungry.

Later on also she got-- I would have very difficult time. But Irena usually had-- everything comes to food, even clothes. Later on, you know, I was sewing, and [? Anka ?] was sewing for her. So we had. She was-- I don't think Irena suffered.

When you described the deportation of your mother and your mother-in-law and father-in-law, there's a piece of the story that I think you didn't tell us about Gina seeing them at the umschlagplatz [INAUDIBLE].

Yes. Gina wasn't there when the raid was in the building. But she was the umschlagplatz, so she was in the hospital. But she saw them later on, on the umschlagplatz. And Maria was carrying her father's, with Miss Irena's great-grandfather, a

golden watch, which the men always carried in the breast, with the chains, the golden chains.

And she took this watch, and she gave it to Gina and said, this watch, this golden watch is for Irena, whenever she will need to have it to buy her out of whatever happens. But this is for this child. And she gave it to Irena. And then Gina-- and she gave it to Gina, and Gina gave it to me.

And later on, I gave it to Dr. Zachert for her, when she was in the orphanage, with the address of the aunt here in the States. Inside the watch, I put in a little card with the address of Irena's grandmother's sister here in the States. But she was killed by the Ukrainians in the Polish uprising.

Dr. Zachert was?

With her husband. Yes.

Yes. Hold on for a second. Rose, can you tell us how Dr. Zachert and her husband were killed?

In the Polish uprising. It was 1944, you know? The Ukrainians were there. The Latvians were there, the Lithuanians, on the side of Germany. And they were behaving terrible. They were drinking and killing. And this was the case with Dr. Zachert, because somebody told us what happened at the time.

They took all the people down-- they lived in a very fine neighborhood. This is where I was, not far from them. And they took them down to the court and just killed them and robbed them. And it's a time also when they, the watch was them. But this is what they were doing.

OK.

Before, I wanted to tell you about going back, my life is the [? Robas ?]. That Helena Ellenbogen used to come up to me. Did I tell you that?

She was the one who was living in the-- she was [INAUDIBLE].

Yes. I told you about that, that she was-- I gave her the job in the [INAUDIBLE]. And at that time also, during that time, we used to go-- meeting. Then I met Maria and Blanca, Maria Rosenbloom and Blanca Rosenberg.

And how did you meet them?

It was by pure accident. Helena Ellenbogen was before Medem Sanatorium. A sanatorium for children, sick children, under the auspices of Bund. Medem was one of the leaders, great leaders, from the Bund, really the theoretician of the Bund.

And so there was a sanatorium named in his name, was the sanatorium. And during the war, she was there. [? Perelka ?] is really her name, Ellenbogen. It was also Bolek Ellenbogen and Anya Ellenbogen. This was the family. And after the liquidation of the Medem Sanatorium, in fact, Michal came there and told them one night that they can go out, but they didn't hear them.

They were on another side of the-- and this was, from Warsaw, quite a few miles. You know, about 10 or 15 miles they had to go by train. And they didn't hear him, but he went at night. Helena said that she heard him, but they couldn't come to that point, because they were afraid.

So they came to Warsaw, you know? There was one woman, also a teacher in Medem Sanatorium, which was Helena was also young, and she took care of her. And she came to look for work. And at that time, Blanca and Maria were working at the Germans'. She probably told you.

And she came to ask for work. There were Volksdeutsche, or Germans, the real Germans. And so she, Blanca, was the

head maid over the housekeeper for the Germans. And she looked at her, and she says, my name is [? Sielizka, ?] which is a Polish name.

So Blanca answered her. We had a lot of [? Sielizka ?] like that, you know? And through her, Helena came to Blanca and Maria. And as we were meeting constantly, you know, Sundays we-- we had all off. So we were meeting in one place, either Anya Ellenbogen, but she was working. Her mistress was going out.

So we brought in Blanca and Maria also there. And sometimes we were going there because they could listen to the radio, to the-- you know, Germans could have radio. So we could listen to what's going on.

So this is how I got-- we were-- I want to tell you that during that time, we were meeting all these friends, and we were meeting Maria Sawicka, you know, who does the Anna Wachalska, who gave us a lot, a lot of help, particularly to Michal and Gina, when they-- when I was sick, they were taking care of her. But this was during the Aryan side, until the Polish uprising, '44. And during the Polish uprising--

Could we go back? Because in some ways, we're moving faster. There's a period between October and November when Irena goes into the orphanage, and you're working at that house. Between that time and then the uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto, the Jewish uprising. And how much you're seeing Michal.

Oh, the Jewish uprising, you're talking. There was a ghetto uprising. How much I was seeing--

Seeing him. What did you know about what he was doing at that point.

At that point, I knew already what he was doing. We were meeting constantly. We were meeting, and let's say sometimes I was staying there overnight too, that worker who met him in the street and said what are you doing here, he gave him shelter there. It was a basement or something like that, maybe. A low, you know, ground floor apartment.

So he slept there. This was his place at that time. And we were meeting either there or other places, sometimes in a coffee shop, you know, which he knew was safe to go in a certain room or whatever. And he was writing a lot what's going on.

And he was meeting with the leaders from the underground. And there was a special place also from the Bundist on [? Åšrawia ?] Street. And he was leaving there the happenings, the events, which he was writing down every day. And I remember sitting once with him at a cafe. He was writing.

I said, aren't you afraid? He said, no. This is-- you know. Have to leave something, what's happening now. He wrote every day. He was very, very-- he started to mind that and to let people know what's happening.

So we were meeting, I would say, once a week, for sure. When Mrs. [? Roba ?] thought that I am very depressed or something, she says, why don't you go meet her husband. Because whenever I come back from these meetings, I was elated. I was-- started to believe it will be the end of it.

He always could put me in such mood, really. Don't-- be patient. You'll see. We will come through. We will take Irena. You know, these kinds of things. And I was always looking forward to the weekend, to see him. We used to meet constantly. And he used to tell me what's going on, what he is doing at that time.

So did you know that he was creating the explosives and [INAUDIBLE].

I knew that.

--[INAUDIBLE] people.

I knew that, yeah. I knew that.

Were you torn about what he was doing?

[SIGHS] Yes. I had a big conflict. Because this was very dangerous, what he's doing, that he was exposed. He was going in and out, because he looked well.

But there are always those-- they're called the [POLISH] Szmalcownik you know? They take money. And they can always spot you. And they even did Stefan that I am talking about-- was sleeping. He later on started to get money from other people and were telling all kinds of stories. And he just cut off with him. He wouldn't have--

He was living with [INAUDIBLE].

He wouldn't harm Michal, but other people were coming. [NON-ENGLISH] was coming in there too sometimes. Because the connections with all that. So the big conflict was that. What is more important, I and the child or this? Had a tremendous conflict. But for him it was important. He couldn't do otherwise.

Did you talk about the conflict together, or did you not feel able to do that?

No.

No.

I couldn't do it to him. And the last time he called me, we had a telephone when I-- the [? Robas ?] had a telephone. He called me. This was before the seventh. It was about the 16th of April. It was Irena's birthday and his.

And he called me, and he said that he is going back into the ghetto, because they know that we'll be coming. The Germans will come and surrounded the ghetto. And the fights will start.

And I said at that time, maybe you want to go. He said, I must go. I didn't say anything anymore. This was it. And he wished me, you know, Irena and that. Was his birthday, 30th birthday.

And Irena was how much? Two years old. I had a tremendous conflict for a long, long time, maybe up till now. Who knows? But what's more important? I cannot judge.

We were very important to him. I know that. He left Irena. He felt when she was born that there's no other child who is more educated, more intelligent, than she is, or prettier than she is. So he was very proud, very proud of her.

So this was-- we were meeting constantly in different places. You know, we were meeting. And later on, after the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, [SIGHS] we started to meet with other people. And they stay with Blanca and Maria and Anya Ellenbogen, Bolek Ellenbogen, and Helena Ellenbogen. Helena is also not her name, but Pearl is her name.

And Helena was nearby me over there. She got a job. And Anya was still working as a maid. And Bolek was working in the construction business.

So we used to meet. Sometimes we went to Maria Sawicka home and Anna Wachalska. And there was a time when Michal was grabbed in the street and going to Treblinka. He was in the train already.

And he jumped. He jumped from the train, and the Germans shot. And it was-- he got it in his leg, the bullet. And he was-- couldn't walk. But he hid someplace in the field where he jumped from.

And the first place, he waited till the morning. This was closer to the evening. Middle of the-- something. In the morning, he went to Maria Sawicka. And Anna Wachalska, they lived together.

And they took him in, of course. Underneath, Gestapo lived. They had a big apartment, Gestapo. And there was no toilets there, that were there, so they had to carry out everything. But they did it.

They were marvelous. They were really marvelous. They helped a lot to give such a shelter, you know? To many people. Particularly Gina. When Gina got sick, Gina got sick, and she died, you know? [SIGHS] Before the Polish uprising. She died in '42.

She felt she had ulcers, and she couldn't function. She was very sick. And I wasn't from the strongest either. I had a small child. So she felt that she has to take care of us.

The only way, being a nurse, knowing what's the matter, she can go for an operation. But this was a Polish hospital. How much care she-- Michal didn't tell me. She talked to me about going for an operation. I said, never. I said, over my dead body you're going to go to the hospital. Because I'm afraid they might not give too good care.

And Michal didn't tell me that she went to the hospital. But I found out that she died in the hospital after the operation. And this was in December 1942. So another link of the family went.

Can you tell me a little bit more of what she was doing? She seems to have been helping an awful lot of people in the umschlagplatz.

And she was working in the hospital, too. It's that stupid hospital, you know, created. It wasn't a real hospital, it was just a made hospital. She was working there as a nurse. This is why I had the privilege of being in the nursing room and the nurses' room, you know, and having these doctors operating on me.

But how did she have-- who granted her the privilege of being at the umschlagplatz, and how did she start--

On her own.

On her own.

This is on her own. Of course she put in her uniform, you know? It's a special uniform and such, on her own, with her hat. You will see it. You will see her hat. This is as a nurse. This was on her own.

And the Germans [INAUDIBLE].

At this time, they let in, you know, still this was the beginning of this. They let in at that time. So and she took them out for this case, this case. You know, they always could find some kind of excuse for the official people. She was like an official person.

Gina was a marvelous person, really. She loved this baby like-- she was a joy for the whole family in those circumstances.

[INAUDIBLE].

[SIGHS]

You know, we've talked privately about luck and about how everything was so arbitrary. One didn't know from one moment to the next if one would be alive.

That's right. This was, for example, you know, as I was going to meet Michal, let's say. And we always waited till the last moment, before the police time to get home. He was on one side of the city, I was on the other side, and I wanted to take the tram.

And then I see that the street is empty. I was walking on the street. And then from afar, I seen an SS man walking, with his arm. And I don't know to pass or to cross to the other side. If I cross, it will be suspicious. I probably should go straight. And I went marching through him, straight, and I passed.

Behind me, about 20 yards behind me, was I heard somebody walking. There's another woman. And he stopped her. Why not me, but her, who was probably Polish? Because who would risk these kind of things.

He stopped her. I don't know what happened, but he stopped her. If he would stop me, it would be the end of me. With all my knowledge that the prayers and all that, I wouldn't pass. Because they can always hook up to something which I couldn't answer or be not true.

Did you look Jewish in [INAUDIBLE]?

I looked like nothing. I told you, I looked like nothing. Not this way, not this way. I looked like somebody doesn't matter, doesn't pay attention to me. I was wearing a hat. I was wearing a black coat. To look like nothing, you know.

So you also tried to look like nothing.

Of course. Of course, yes. Not to pay it-- not to call attention to myself. I was dressed normally. Then Sundays, it was the main thing, when I was going out to meet this one or this one. This was that.

Can you tell us about this dream that you have?

Yes. When Michal was still alive, we were getting The Bulletin. It's called the Informative Bulletin, from London, we used to get. And I was-- this was underground. And I was picking it up some place, on a certain street, for the whole building. It was a co-op building for the engineers, architects and engineers. And they were all patriots, Polish patriots. So only the concierge was a little shaky for me.

And he didn't know. If he would know, I wouldn't be there. If he would guess, even, I wouldn't be. He would finish with me to get some money from the Gestapo. And Michal was still alive. And I was-- I had a dream.

I woke up, and I was all wet. I dreamed that I see-- in that bulletin, I see a news item about Michal Klepfisz this year was caught while making arms and it was-- and was killed, something like that. And I remember, it was page three. One, two, you know, the first page, number three.

I couldn't believe it. And truly enough, it was 19-- late '43. I get The Bulletin. Michal was already dead. It was the end of the year. I don't remember which month. It was the same news item.

And he was awarded with the medal of Virtuti Militari, the only medal given to a Jew at the time of the Nazi occupation. How would this happen? I don't know. But this is a fact.

Being still on the Aryan side, I had to have my Kennkarte.

Let me-- can I stop you for a moment? How did you find out that he was killed? When did you find out?

[SIGHS] I found out two weeks later, about 10 days later. Vladka came to tell me. It was a little unfortunate, the way she did it. But she wanted the best, probably, but she told me. We met Sunday, on my free day.

She called me and-- because I didn't hear from him at all. And the fighting was going on. And she got the contact from the ghetto. Marek Edelman was in his group with Michal with the-- the whole group was there.

And she found out. They let her know. But she didn't tell me for a little while. And she also-- probably it was difficult for her to tell me. And we met in the street, in the park. And she told me about that.

So she knew longer than-- for a longer time than she told you.

For days longer. I don't know how many days. But it was later on.

What did you mean it was unfortunate how she told you?

She started to talk about other things, tried to make me laugh, this-- you know, but forget about it. This is what I couldn't come to myself for a long time. This was the end.

Right.

Yes.

Did the family help that you were staying with when you were-- did you tell them?

Yes. Because they knew I am beside myself. They were very warm, very sympathetic. The children didn't know. So [INAUDIBLE] the children. [INAUDIBLE] my best friend, I'll tell you. You know what? So the children never knew who I was.

Right.

And so this was then.

So then you had to start again, in a way, [? we know ?].

On my own, without any advice, to make my own decisions. And how to deal with the rest. And then came the offer, after a while, for the Hotel Polski.

The director of that, you know, Guzik he was very well known. He was in the Judenrat. He was a persona grata. Said I can go to France with Irena. We were-- you know, the Jews paid thousands and thousands of dollars to get out. And they could-- they were all in that Hotel Polski. You know, the Hotel Polski. It was a hotel.

Whoever paid was in this hotel, the Jews. And I went there twice, I remember, to visit some people to find out what it is and how it is. Who are going, who paid in and are going. And there was a woman, [NON-ENGLISH], her husband was also a very famous Bundist and activist. And she had a son and a daughter overseas.

And she was going. She paid in, because she sold-- she was a dentist. She sold everything, her cabinet, this is-- everything. And she had the money. She paid in, and she was going.

So I came there, and she saw me. She says, look, I have two children. I'm not afraid. I'm going there. I want to be together. And I told her that I had the offer from Guzik.

She says, why don't you take your child and go? [SIGHS] I said, I'm scared. I don't know. I cannot make this kind of decision. Now she's in the orphanage. She's safe. I don't know what's going to happen. She's safe now, and the main thing is her safe.

I went once. I looked around, that people who were going there were mostly Jews. So it was dangerous, but I took the risk. I wanted to know. Then I went the second time, and I remember that I met, I think, meet. His brother, I think, was there also. I think so. I think it was his brother.

And I spoke again, and I still-- I couldn't make the decision. Because Irena was safe, I felt. Whether it was true or not, I don't know. But this is how I felt at the time. And I came back, and I had to give an answer, because Guzik had to know the amount of people to get out from Warsaw to France.

Vittel, this was the town Vittel was going. The famous town, Vittel. And I spoke to Mrs. [? Roba ?]. And her-- and they said to me, we don't trust the Germans. If you want to go, go, but we don't trust them.

And this was somehow my point, decision. They helped me to decide not to go. And I did a good thing, because all the people went to Auschwitz from Hotel Polski. So how do you know? This is luck.

Do you-- you make a decision, you don't know right or wrong. And I didn't have anybody close to find out, to ask what should I do. But this was my decision. They helped me to do it. And this is how it was.

So then came the-- so we met with friends of mine, as I told you, was home. And it was nice at that time to see somebody friendly. And they were good company, meaning. The entire room, the German, were working for the Germans. They had a picture of a Polish [? Romsky, ?] you know, also very famous. So you can imagine, we came in there.

Then came the Polish uprising. It's 1944. And they came to our building too. And they took us out, the [? Roba ?] family, the whole [? Roba ?] family. Mirek the oldest one, went to fight with the uprising. He was in the uprising.

And then one of the days, Helena told me, Helena Ellenbogen, when they were in the bunkers, hiding, they were going from places to places. Who came there? Mirek. As Helena used to come up to me to visit me there, Mirek came.

And he said, what do you do here? She says, the same thing as everybody else. He went out, and an hour later, he brought her sugar, a whole box of sugar. She couldn't get over it. Then he was killed in the uprising. Mirek was killed, the oldest son.

And the mother said God gave, and God took. She was a very religious Catholic. Then they came to us to take us. And she, with her husband, the two children, and I went to a camp, to a big, big field where they were selling all kinds of vegetables. They were coming from countries and the villages to sell vegetables. It was a tremendous place.

And they took us there, Ukrainians. They were wild. They wanted to kill us in the apartment. So she gave them a bottle of vodka. And they started to drink, and we went down. And this, we joined the other people, and we were taken, walking, to that [POLISH] zielek it was called. The [POLISH] zielnik is a green. The vegetables are called [POLISH] zielek, you know.

And it was an open place, with tens of thousands of people where they're guarded. We were taken to Pruszkow. It was a transient camp. There were factories, not working factories. And--

Who brought you? Was it the Germans who brought you?

Ukrainians.

Ukrainians brought you.

Ukrainians there, yes. They were the same-- I don't know the same people, but they're who killed the Zacherts, and now they came. This was in our area, over there. And we're there, sleeping there, you know, just on the grass, with the two children.

And then they was taken to Pruszkow, to the factories there. So we had a roof, but nothing else there. And they said that people with children, who have children, can go out. Because they were taking people for work to Germany. So people with children can go out.

So we have two children over there. And there's he and she, but I don't have a child. So I was there. I saw there a nun with a few children, and I asked her whether she can give me a child and an address where I can deliver the child later. And this way, I'll go out.

She gave me. She was great. She was grateful that she can get rid of one child at least. She gave me this child, and we all went out, and we went to [? Roba's ?] an old aunt, the next little town from Pruszkow. We walked.

And we were there. And I was with this strange little girl. She was four or five years old. And what do we do now? There's no money. There is nothing.

And I don't know what's going to happen to Irena, because everything was being evacuated. I knew that I have to go back and find out what's happening to Irena, to Pruszkow, at least. And I got the address from another convent.

Meanwhile-- I was there a few days-- I took the little girl, I brought her to that convent, and I went back. I slept in the convent for a whole night. They didn't know who I am. I said that the parents, so and so and so.

And I went back. And then I told the [? Robas ?] I'm going to Pruszkow. I have to find out what's happening with Irena. She says, where are you going? Where are you going to stay? She had a friend in Pruszkow, on [POLISH] Street, in the [NON-ENGLISH]. And I got the address from her.

And one morning, she says, but you have no money. You have nothing. I said, what can I do, but I have to go. So when they were all sleeping still, I left her a note that I'm going to this address, that she knows where I am. Because she was worried about me.

And I have to know what's happening to her. I was hungry, but I was walking through fields with the wheat, so I was taking out the kernels, and I was eating this. And I came to that person, to that family. And I told her that I know Mrs. [? Roba ?]. She didn't know anything that I am Jewish, you know?

And I came that I was-- I know them. I didn't say that I was working there, but I know them, and I met them. And that I was in the Polish uprising, and my husband is in Germany. He's working.

And my daughter, my child, is in an orphanage, because we had to do something to make a living, and she should be safe. It's the orphanage in a Polish orphanage, a Catholic orphanage. So everything is kosher.

And I started to run around to find out the convent. I found out the convent, and I told them the story. I was fighting in the Polish uprising. My husband is in Germany. And all the same story. And my child is in the orphanage.

Is Boduena coming here? Did you hear anything of Boduen? He said, yes. We know that they're going to be evacuated. So good. When? We don't know. But leave me your address, and I'll let you know. They were very nice and very kind.

So I left them the address where I was. But I was going every day-- I didn't rely on that-- to that Pruszkow, to that camp, the big gates were there to-- because it was for the factory before that. And the Germans were standing there with their arms. And they were pushing me all the time I was going close that maybe I can take a look inside or whatever. I was running.

One day, I came over there. I was almost the whole day, because I was afraid they will come, and I wouldn't know where they're going or whatever. One day, I come, and somebody was standing there, but Boduena orphanage came already.

So I heard this. I said, this is it. I was waiting. I was already further, a little bit, from the gate. I was afraid that they would catch me there. So I'm going further down.

And I see, after maybe an hour, one cart came out with children. You know what's a cart? The Polish-- the peasants have a cart. It's a board in the center, and there is two other boards, but a little like-- the children were from both sides, sitting, the small children, you know. And their heads were going like that, onto the board.

This one cart came out, with a horse. This was-- was drawn by a horse. And Irena wasn't there. There came another one. She wasn't there. The third one, I found her.

And there is one nun there with the children, in the cart. I let them go, because I was afraid near the Germans. I let them go. And quite a while, I was running after them on the other side, so nobody was suspicious. And then I [? protest ?] up

the cart.

And I said to the nun, here is my little child. I want to take her. She says, take her. I said, Irena, [POLISH] chodÅ do mamusi. Come-- come to Mommy. She stretched out her hands, you know, and I took her. And I ran.

This child, a running nose, with the diarrhea. I touched her head. I thought that she has a fever. I took her home. I took her temperature. It was in Celsius, 40 degrees, which is in Fahrenheit, 104. [SIGHS]

I didn't know what to do. I have not a penny to my soul. I don't know anybody. What do I do? Well, I ask about a doctor, the people I lived with, you know. I was there already about a week, probably. I asked about a doctor, and they gave me a name of a doctor, a Polish doctor.

I went there. I was in the uprising. My husband in Germany. You know, my child was in the orphanage. I just brought her back. She's sick, and she has a lot of fever. So he said, bring her. I said, I have no money. He said, bring her.

And when I left to look for the doctor, [INAUDIBLE], Irena, said to me, Mommy, will you still come back? I said, yes. I'll be back. I took the child.

He said she has a deep bronchitis. She has an infection of all her intestines. You have to give her medication and grind apples and make-- grind-- take ground meat, make balls, boil it without anything, and give it to her. That's all.

I brought her back. And there were a lot of fruit cartons there. So I used to see that apples were on the ground. So one evening, I went out, and I picked up the apples. I ground them, gave her.

I borrowed money from my-- where I lived. I said, I'll sew something for you. I'll be sewing, you know, and I'll return it. I'll return the money to you. And she gave me, and I bought the meat.

And then medication, I said, what do I do now? So there was like Kupat Cholim in Israel, you know? [NON-ENGLISH], it was called. And I went there. I was in the Polish uprising. My husband is in Germany, and my child is very sick. I need-- I have no money. Can I get the medication.

He said, of course. We'll get it. They gave me themselves the money. The doctor didn't take money. They didn't take money. She-- I brought this. You know? She came out. She came out from that.

And she was-- she was happy with me. There was a teenager, Helena. And I was there. There came a time when I needed the papers, the Kennkarte, you know? And she got used to it, you know, Irena. She settled down somehow.

Then I needed the Kennkarte, the document. Without this, you know, I'm nothing. And one winter day, I decided to go for it. Because I had the birth certificate of the sister of our maid. It was what she gave me from the-- when I went to the village, there. On this basis, I could get a Kennkarte.

But the risk to go to the official bureau to get a Kennkarte is like to go on the guillotine. And it's far away. I am in Pruszkow, and this is in another town. I cannot go by train. I have to walk on the highway. [SIGHS]

I gave her instructions. I said, in case maybe something happens to me, this and this and this. What will you do? I said, I don't know. Nothing will happen to you. Go. And I went. I had no instructions to give to leave her with anybody, you know.

And I went with this highway. It was quite a few miles. I'm the only one there. It's cold. It's terribly cold. I didn't have any-- something to warm, the wear on the way. And against me walks a woman. And she passes me by with-- always started not to look each other in the face, whoever I see. Better not.

And I see a familiar face, but I wasn't sure. I was afraid. And I go a few steps further, quite a few steps. I turned around. The woman stands and turned around too. I decided to meet her. And we go to each other.

And who is it? It was Halina [? Shefner ?], who was the professor of my husband's gymnasium, who teaches French. And I knew her. I knew her husband, too. He was a journalist.

And you can imagine. I had so many pimples on my face, because I didn't eat right and all that. The first thing what she did with me, there was a kiosk. It was selling little things. She bought me yeast, to eat it. I get vitamins. You know? And the-- for the-- this one.

She gave me the contacts. She looked like-- I say again, like a thousand, like a 10, you know, going. Beautiful woman. I have a photograph of her. She was so marvelous, really. Gray hair, white hair. She looked like a queen. She gave me the contact of Marek.

Marek Edelman?

Yes. She gave me the contacts of Marek and [POLISH], you know, the whole group. Not [POLISH], but Antek, Antek and Zivia. She gave me the contacts over there.

And she used to come, you know, visit me. And when she looked at Irena, she told me later, this child is very sick, she thought. Irena was quite well already. Can you imagine how she looked?

Anyway, one day-- so I had the contact with her already. And she let them know that I am someplace. She let them know, because she was in contact with them. And one day, I took Irena-- first of all, I had to take her to Boduena.

They were taking all the children to big factories of silk. They were for sewing silk, you know, the little things. And the factories, all the children, if Irena would go there, she wouldn't come out alive, being so sick at that time.

I decided to go tell the director that I took Irena, because it was her responsibility. And I felt at that time-- also stupid of me-- but this is right to do that, because she was-- would be worried what happened to Irena, who took her, because she was told not to give her to anybody.

So I went there to her. This was the first trip I did by train. And I came back. And after I met Helena Schaffner, I decided to go to Marek Edelman, with the whole group, because they would give me help. You know, money, they would give me. They had money.

And I went there. I went to the train. And who do I see? A mother of my friend who looks like a hundred Jews. I made like that, and I approached her.

So we got off. And we went to Marek, you know. And Ala, his wife. And there was Tivia and Antek together. Well, you can imagine that he saw us. Mark was the last man at-- with Michal. By the way, Michal, Marek, Burt, Michal, and Sam were caught where he was killed. Did I tell you how he was killed?

No. Let's stop the tape, and we'll start there.

OK.

All right. Because we're at the end.