

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:53,950

2

00:00:53,950 --> 00:00:55,700

Rose, again, I want
to go back a little

3

00:00:55,700 --> 00:01:00,550

before we come to the point
where we ended the last tape.

4

00:01:00,550 --> 00:01:04,000

You talked about Gina
dying from that operation.

5

00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:07,390

Can you tell us a little
bit about the funeral?

6

00:01:07,390 --> 00:01:09,340

Yes.

7

00:01:09,340 --> 00:01:13,930

Dr. Zachert really
was in touch, was

8

00:01:13,930 --> 00:01:17,050

the doctor in the hospital
when Gina was there.

9

00:01:17,050 --> 00:01:18,010

I called her up.

10

00:01:18,010 --> 00:01:22,870

And I told her what happened,
that the [INAUDIBLE] operated.

11

00:01:22,870 --> 00:01:29,470

And so she was really
in touch with that.

12

00:01:29,470 --> 00:01:33,500

And when it came to the
funeral, when I found out,

13

00:01:33,500 --> 00:01:41,470

Michal told me that she
died, I went to the hospital.

14

00:01:41,470 --> 00:01:44,410

And I wanted to
speak to the doctor.

15

00:01:44,410 --> 00:01:47,260

And I waited for quite
a while until he saw me.

16

00:01:47,260 --> 00:01:52,090

I don't know whether he
knew, or this was neglect.

17

00:01:52,090 --> 00:01:53,560

I don't know.

18

00:01:53,560 --> 00:01:58,060

I am afraid it was a
neglect thing, just saying.

19

00:01:58,060 --> 00:02:00,460

And I asked him what happened.

20

00:02:00,460 --> 00:02:03,053

So they started to give him
some medical terms which

21

00:02:03,053 --> 00:02:03,970

I couldn't understand.

22

00:02:03,970 --> 00:02:07,900

I couldn't comprehend
the whole thing.

23

00:02:07,900 --> 00:02:11,440

And justifying,

you know, the fact

24

00:02:11,440 --> 00:02:17,510

that there was no rescue for
her, or something like that.

25

00:02:17,510 --> 00:02:21,100

So then it was the
matter of the funeral.

26

00:02:21,100 --> 00:02:23,590

And I spoke to Dr. Zachert.

27

00:02:23,590 --> 00:02:28,450

And she told me that
she spoke to her priest

28

00:02:28,450 --> 00:02:32,290

and told him who she
was, that she was Jewish.

29

00:02:32,290 --> 00:02:34,930

And the priest
told them, let her

30

00:02:34,930 --> 00:02:39,610

be buried by the name
she was alive and died.

31

00:02:39,610 --> 00:02:45,310

So this-- where she was buried
in Praga is the other side

32

00:02:45,310 --> 00:02:49,390

of the WisÅa in Warsaw.

33

00:02:49,390 --> 00:02:54,850

And I didn't let Michal
to come to the funeral

34

00:02:54,850 --> 00:02:57,070

because it was too
dangerous for him.

35
00:02:57,070 --> 00:02:59,590
He was so exposed, you know.

36
00:02:59,590 --> 00:03:03,130
And different--
anybody could find him.

37
00:03:03,130 --> 00:03:06,430
But there were a few people
Dr. Zachert didn't come either.

38
00:03:06,430 --> 00:03:08,710
Because she didn't she
was afraid, you know,

39
00:03:08,710 --> 00:03:13,060
to commit herself in
case something happened.

40
00:03:13,060 --> 00:03:18,520
And some people came who
were on the Aryan side

41
00:03:18,520 --> 00:03:21,340
to the funeral at that time.

42
00:03:21,340 --> 00:03:27,010
And she was buried under
her name, Kazimiera Jozwiak.

43
00:03:27,010 --> 00:03:33,880
And later on, after the
war, I sent money to Poland

44
00:03:33,880 --> 00:03:39,400
to write down that
Kazimiera Jozwiak was

45
00:03:39,400 --> 00:03:42,640
Gina Klepfisz This way, she--

46

00:03:42,640 --> 00:03:44,780
otherwise, she
would be never found

47
00:03:44,780 --> 00:03:47,080
in the cemetery under this name.

48
00:03:47,080 --> 00:03:51,490
She was registered as Jozwiak.

49
00:03:51,490 --> 00:03:55,690
And this is how she
has now a stone there.

50
00:03:55,690 --> 00:03:57,400
And you came to the funeral?

51
00:03:57,400 --> 00:03:58,000
Sure.

52
00:03:58,000 --> 00:03:59,210
Of course, I was.

53
00:03:59,210 --> 00:04:00,370
Yeah.

54
00:04:00,370 --> 00:04:01,675
Was it dangerous for you also?

55
00:04:01,675 --> 00:04:04,840
Oh, it was always dangerous
to go into the street,

56
00:04:04,840 --> 00:04:10,870
particular to such, you know,
gathering, any gathering.

57
00:04:10,870 --> 00:04:13,600
Somebody can find you out.

58
00:04:13,600 --> 00:04:16,060
It was always dangerous.

59
00:04:16,060 --> 00:04:18,310
But we were living like that.

60
00:04:18,310 --> 00:04:21,399
I was going out into the
street to do some shopping

61
00:04:21,399 --> 00:04:24,850
or whatever I was
doing, it was dangerous.

62
00:04:24,850 --> 00:04:28,120
It was dangerous, you know,
with my next door neighbor,

63
00:04:28,120 --> 00:04:33,430
whether he'll send something
to say, please, check it out

64
00:04:33,430 --> 00:04:34,660
or whatever.

65
00:04:34,660 --> 00:04:36,640
Or if the concierge,
you know, who

66
00:04:36,640 --> 00:04:41,590
was taking care of the building,
it was always dangerous.

67
00:04:41,590 --> 00:04:43,960
Did you know everybody
who was at the funeral?

68
00:04:43,960 --> 00:04:45,970
Were these all--

69
00:04:45,970 --> 00:04:46,600
Yes.

70
00:04:46,600 --> 00:04:47,530

I did know.

71
00:04:47,530 --> 00:04:48,040
Yes.

72
00:04:48,040 --> 00:04:50,050
I did know.

73
00:04:50,050 --> 00:04:53,410
I didn't meet them,
but I know I knew them.

74
00:04:53,410 --> 00:04:54,970
And then it was
through connections,

75
00:04:54,970 --> 00:04:58,030
they were found-- they
found out, you know, that is

76
00:04:58,030 --> 00:04:58,760
the funeral.

77
00:04:58,760 --> 00:05:00,100
They came.

78
00:05:00,100 --> 00:05:04,630
And it was Maria Sawicka
and Anna Wachalska

79
00:05:04,630 --> 00:05:09,280
was there, the two of
them, which helped.

80
00:05:09,280 --> 00:05:10,000
Which helped you?

81
00:05:10,000 --> 00:05:13,570
Of course, they were Christians.

82
00:05:13,570 --> 00:05:16,990
And it helped for

them being there.

83

00:05:16,990 --> 00:05:23,830

In case, in sense of
safety, Polacks, you know,

84

00:05:23,830 --> 00:05:25,690

they came to the funeral.

85

00:05:25,690 --> 00:05:28,420

And how old was Gina?

86

00:05:28,420 --> 00:05:32,910

Gina was five years
older than Michal.

87

00:05:32,910 --> 00:05:38,800

So if he was born in
1917, she was 1908.

88

00:05:38,800 --> 00:05:43,250

Yes, 1908, and 42 minus 42.

89

00:05:43,250 --> 00:05:48,020

So 34 years old.

90

00:05:48,020 --> 00:05:48,520

No.

91

00:05:48,520 --> 00:05:51,870

92

00:05:51,870 --> 00:05:54,880

She was born in 19--

93

00:05:54,880 --> 00:05:55,510

OK.

94

00:05:55,510 --> 00:05:56,010

OK.

95

00:05:56,010 --> 00:06:02,370
1908, that's 44-- no, 34--

96
00:06:02,370 --> 00:06:05,910
34, yes, 34 years old, yeah.

97
00:06:05,910 --> 00:06:09,440
This is the only funeral
and the only grave.

98
00:06:09,440 --> 00:06:11,250
The only grave
for both families.

99
00:06:11,250 --> 00:06:13,950

100
00:06:13,950 --> 00:06:16,410
We don't have anybody else.

101
00:06:16,410 --> 00:06:17,400
So it means a lot.

102
00:06:17,400 --> 00:06:21,825

103
00:06:21,825 --> 00:06:22,325
Yes.

104
00:06:22,325 --> 00:06:29,010

105
00:06:29,010 --> 00:06:34,860
When the Warsaw ghetto
uprising was occurring,

106
00:06:34,860 --> 00:06:37,790
do you remember what it
was like on the outside

107
00:06:37,790 --> 00:06:39,540
or whether people were

[INAUDIBLE] things?

108

00:06:39,540 --> 00:06:42,540

Yes, I was with the family Roba.

109

00:06:42,540 --> 00:06:46,590

And he was going
every day to the city.

110

00:06:46,590 --> 00:06:49,890

Because he was doing some
work as an architect.

111

00:06:49,890 --> 00:06:55,500

You know, very little, but
he tried to earn some money.

112

00:06:55,500 --> 00:06:57,690

And he brought all the news.

113

00:06:57,690 --> 00:07:04,060

And I was asking him all
the time, what's going on?

114

00:07:04,060 --> 00:07:07,740

So he used to tell me that
the Germans are on this block.

115

00:07:07,740 --> 00:07:10,260

And they're burning
the buildings.

116

00:07:10,260 --> 00:07:13,950

And people are jumping
from the windows.

117

00:07:13,950 --> 00:07:16,850

118

00:07:16,850 --> 00:07:23,330

And the constant
smoke he can see.

119

00:07:23,330 --> 00:07:27,710

He never went close to
ghetto to see, or whatever.

120

00:07:27,710 --> 00:07:35,720

But he used to tell me which
blocks are being surrounded

121

00:07:35,720 --> 00:07:40,610

by the Germans, and how people
are fighting, and all that.

122

00:07:40,610 --> 00:07:44,810

The atmosphere was--
some said, oh, it's

123

00:07:44,810 --> 00:07:47,885

good that the Germans are
finishing out the Jews.

124

00:07:47,885 --> 00:07:51,530

125

00:07:51,530 --> 00:07:53,840

I never went there, close by.

126

00:07:53,840 --> 00:07:59,000

I was I was afraid to
go there, you know.

127

00:07:59,000 --> 00:08:01,470

Because of Irena.

128

00:08:01,470 --> 00:08:05,400

Somebody had to be for her.

129

00:08:05,400 --> 00:08:07,560

I knew that Michal is there.

130

00:08:07,560 --> 00:08:12,280

But I couldn't do
anything about it.

131
00:08:12,280 --> 00:08:16,510
And there was a telephone from
the ghetto still coming out

132
00:08:16,510 --> 00:08:20,070
to some people, which
I had contact with.

133
00:08:20,070 --> 00:08:21,630
And they didn't hear anything.

134
00:08:21,630 --> 00:08:23,850
If they knew they,
didn't tell me.

135
00:08:23,850 --> 00:08:27,420

136
00:08:27,420 --> 00:08:33,429
But the atmosphere among the
Polacks were very divided.

137
00:08:33,429 --> 00:08:40,049
So I was not interested,
or not very pressing.

138
00:08:40,049 --> 00:08:44,130
In a sense, it's good,
what is happening.

139
00:08:44,130 --> 00:08:51,480
And some were very sympathetic.

140
00:08:51,480 --> 00:08:58,920
But in our home, he was
coming constantly, telling me

141
00:08:58,920 --> 00:09:04,560
my heart was when and how.

142
00:09:04,560 --> 00:09:07,290

And I didn't know for
a long time who killed.

143
00:09:07,290 --> 00:09:12,090
Vladka came told
me, this was it.

144
00:09:12,090 --> 00:09:13,050
I understood.

145
00:09:13,050 --> 00:09:15,150
Otherwise, he would
call, or come out,

146
00:09:15,150 --> 00:09:16,950
or something like that.

147
00:09:16,950 --> 00:09:18,960
But don't want to believe it.

148
00:09:18,960 --> 00:09:20,920
Just want to hear
that it, you know.

149
00:09:20,920 --> 00:09:23,880
If you don't hear it,
you don't believe it.

150
00:09:23,880 --> 00:09:24,720
This was that.

151
00:09:24,720 --> 00:09:28,420

152
00:09:28,420 --> 00:09:33,280
So it's a very tragic time,
absolutely tragic for me.

153
00:09:33,280 --> 00:09:36,170
And I found out
how surreal it is.

154

00:09:36,170 --> 00:09:46,290

155

00:09:46,290 --> 00:09:51,240

There was a point when two
Germans came to pick you up?

156

00:09:51,240 --> 00:09:52,410

When was that?

157

00:09:52,410 --> 00:09:55,020

It was when I was in Pruszk³w.

158

00:09:55,020 --> 00:09:57,060

And I went out to buy something.

159

00:09:57,060 --> 00:10:02,300

160

00:10:02,300 --> 00:10:09,290

Germans were raiding up certain
areas again for young people

161

00:10:09,290 --> 00:10:12,050

to go to Germany to work.

162

00:10:12,050 --> 00:10:17,570

They were slaves, you
know, and men and women,

163

00:10:17,570 --> 00:10:20,570

you know, young,
young men and women.

164

00:10:20,570 --> 00:10:22,370

And I went out--

165

00:10:22,370 --> 00:10:28,520

Irena stayed home with
the people I lived with--

166

00:10:28,520 --> 00:10:29,930

just to buy something.

167

00:10:29,930 --> 00:10:33,770

And suddenly, you know,
there were four Germans.

168

00:10:33,770 --> 00:10:36,950

And they said, you come with us.

169

00:10:36,950 --> 00:10:38,450

My heart stood still.

170

00:10:38,450 --> 00:10:42,410

I knew that they're going
to take me to Germany,

171

00:10:42,410 --> 00:10:43,100

Irena is lost.

172

00:10:43,100 --> 00:10:48,090

173

00:10:48,090 --> 00:10:56,380

So I started to tell them
that I have a sick child.

174

00:10:56,380 --> 00:10:59,340

I have a [GERMAN] [GERMAN].

175

00:10:59,340 --> 00:11:01,390

I was afraid I
didn't know German.

176

00:11:01,390 --> 00:11:05,340

I'm afraid that I put in
some Yiddish words, you know.

177

00:11:05,340 --> 00:11:07,050

[GERMAN] my [GERMAN].

178

00:11:07,050 --> 00:11:10,050

179
00:11:10,050 --> 00:11:13,860
So they say to me,
where is your husband?

180
00:11:13,860 --> 00:11:17,010

181
00:11:17,010 --> 00:11:18,870
So I didn't think long.

182
00:11:18,870 --> 00:11:21,720
And I said Blanca
was in Heidelberg.

183
00:11:21,720 --> 00:11:24,210
I said the Heidelberg.

184
00:11:24,210 --> 00:11:25,420
What is he doing?

185
00:11:25,420 --> 00:11:27,570
I said, he's a mechanic.

186
00:11:27,570 --> 00:11:29,290
I said, what firm?

187
00:11:29,290 --> 00:11:32,230
Blanca and Maria,
were at Walter Kinsel.

188
00:11:32,230 --> 00:11:33,510
I said, the Walter Kinsel.

189
00:11:33,510 --> 00:11:35,730
And it went just like that.

190
00:11:35,730 --> 00:11:37,290
And they believed me.

191
00:11:37,290 --> 00:11:40,740

So I had one soldier
decide, went this one front,

192
00:11:40,740 --> 00:11:41,880
and the back.

193
00:11:41,880 --> 00:11:45,840
The big fish, they
caught, you know, me.

194
00:11:45,840 --> 00:11:53,070
So one soldier said, from
the left side, [GERMAN],,

195
00:11:53,070 --> 00:11:55,410
"let her go, she's
has a sick child."

196
00:11:55,410 --> 00:11:58,020
When I heard that,
I turned around.

197
00:11:58,020 --> 00:11:59,460
And I ran.

198
00:11:59,460 --> 00:12:02,850
I just ran.

199
00:12:02,850 --> 00:12:04,575
And this was my
quick thinking, you

200
00:12:04,575 --> 00:12:10,380
know, knowing the Heidelberg,
know the Walter Kinsel, also,

201
00:12:10,380 --> 00:12:13,380
that I can get--

202
00:12:13,380 --> 00:12:15,060
I can shoot.

203

00:12:15,060 --> 00:12:16,140
This was it.

204
00:12:16,140 --> 00:12:16,890
What is that?

205
00:12:16,890 --> 00:12:19,650
I said, he's a mechanic.

206
00:12:19,650 --> 00:12:21,720
And I ran away.

207
00:12:21,720 --> 00:12:22,710
And I came home.

208
00:12:22,710 --> 00:12:25,780
I was without--
couldn't breathe.

209
00:12:25,780 --> 00:12:29,340

210
00:12:29,340 --> 00:12:34,260
When you spoke to them, do you
think you sounded frightened?

211
00:12:34,260 --> 00:12:35,280
I don't know.

212
00:12:35,280 --> 00:12:36,970
I don't know how I sounded.

213
00:12:36,970 --> 00:12:38,760
I just was thinking quickly.

214
00:12:38,760 --> 00:12:41,640
And I said--

215
00:12:41,640 --> 00:12:43,150
I was scared to death.

216

00:12:43,150 --> 00:12:45,160
I didn't-- I was--

217
00:12:45,160 --> 00:12:47,910
I didn't know what to do.

218
00:12:47,910 --> 00:12:50,730
I can only talk
to them, you know.

219
00:12:50,730 --> 00:12:52,050
I was sure that I am going.

220
00:12:52,050 --> 00:12:58,807

221
00:12:58,807 --> 00:13:03,690
There-- Michal had
a very close friend.

222
00:13:03,690 --> 00:13:06,040
You both had a very
close friend, Friedrich--

223
00:13:06,040 --> 00:13:08,860
Fred Sigmund, Friedrich, yeah.

224
00:13:08,860 --> 00:13:10,960
And they made a pact.

225
00:13:10,960 --> 00:13:13,210
Yes, they made the pact.

226
00:13:13,210 --> 00:13:23,240
Before the uprising, when the
uprising started, they met.

227
00:13:23,240 --> 00:13:27,230
And they said-- he had a
wife and a child, Elsa.

228
00:13:27,230 --> 00:13:30,660

229

00:13:30,660 --> 00:13:36,120

She was born in 1936, Elsa.

230

00:13:36,120 --> 00:13:38,700

And whoever lives

through will take

231

00:13:38,700 --> 00:13:42,310

care of the other

wife and the children.

232

00:13:42,310 --> 00:13:43,320

This was their pact.

233

00:13:43,320 --> 00:13:47,210

234

00:13:47,210 --> 00:13:54,550

And Friedrich told me about it.

235

00:13:54,550 --> 00:14:03,400

236

00:14:03,400 --> 00:14:05,500

Friedrich told me about it.

237

00:14:05,500 --> 00:14:08,950

Yeah, it was after when

I met him when I already

238

00:14:08,950 --> 00:14:14,230

knew about what Vladka told me.

239

00:14:14,230 --> 00:14:17,050

And both of them, you know--

240

00:14:17,050 --> 00:14:24,670

when Friedrich was killed taking

out people from the canals

241

00:14:24,670 --> 00:14:30,340

after the Warsaw ghetto
uprising, to a certain village.

242

00:14:30,340 --> 00:14:31,660

And they were caught.

243

00:14:31,660 --> 00:14:34,520

And there were five people
were killed at that time.

244

00:14:34,520 --> 00:14:37,570

And he was among them.

245

00:14:37,570 --> 00:14:39,670

And his wife
perished in Majdanek.

246

00:14:39,670 --> 00:14:43,140

247

00:14:43,140 --> 00:14:45,660

She was taken before that.

248

00:14:45,660 --> 00:14:50,980

And Elsa was with Polish people.

249

00:14:50,980 --> 00:14:53,280

And she was first
in the convent.

250

00:14:53,280 --> 00:14:57,780

And then, you know, Marek
Edelman and the whole group

251

00:14:57,780 --> 00:15:05,890

were just following her
stay in the convent.

252

00:15:05,890 --> 00:15:07,950

And then after the
Polish uprising,

253
00:15:07,950 --> 00:15:12,070
she was shifted to another
place, to a few places.

254
00:15:12,070 --> 00:15:13,770
And she was sick
and tired of it.

255
00:15:13,770 --> 00:15:19,380
She was a young child, very
bright, intelligent, beautiful.

256
00:15:19,380 --> 00:15:26,880
And she settled-- you know,
they gave her to a Swiss family.

257
00:15:26,880 --> 00:15:28,260
And they left her.

258
00:15:28,260 --> 00:15:31,560
And they really wanted her.

259
00:15:31,560 --> 00:15:33,195
And she felt good with them.

260
00:15:33,195 --> 00:15:35,790

261
00:15:35,790 --> 00:15:40,020
And all the time,
changing places,

262
00:15:40,020 --> 00:15:47,790
and losing her security, she
was very angry and bitter

263
00:15:47,790 --> 00:15:49,410
about that.

264
00:15:49,410 --> 00:15:55,050
And after the war, when they

came for her, Marek Edelman

265

00:15:55,050 --> 00:15:59,010

came with his wife

Ala, to take her away

266

00:15:59,010 --> 00:16:03,390

from that Polish family,

she didn't want to go.

267

00:16:03,390 --> 00:16:05,340

Because her parents

told her, remember,

268

00:16:05,340 --> 00:16:09,240

never anybody that

you are Jewish.

269

00:16:09,240 --> 00:16:12,330

And she didn't know--

after the war ended,

270

00:16:12,330 --> 00:16:13,900

she didn't know anything.

271

00:16:13,900 --> 00:16:17,250

And the woman didn't

want to give her away.

272

00:16:17,250 --> 00:16:22,080

She wanted to have her a

child, as a child, her own.

273

00:16:22,080 --> 00:16:24,150

So they gave her a lot of money.

274

00:16:24,150 --> 00:16:27,780

And this way, they took Elsa.

275

00:16:27,780 --> 00:16:30,330

And then started, the

whole thing, again, you

276

00:16:30,330 --> 00:16:32,710
know, from place to place.

277

00:16:32,710 --> 00:16:35,370
I was, for her, a mother.

278

00:16:35,370 --> 00:16:36,840
But she loved Irena.

279

00:16:36,840 --> 00:16:43,740
And the pact was following me,
you know, to take care of Elsa.

280

00:16:43,740 --> 00:16:47,850
And there is a family,
Heerschatz, who adopted her.

281

00:16:47,850 --> 00:16:49,830
She had tragic life.

282

00:16:49,830 --> 00:16:55,530
She couldn't-- she had a
few nervous breakdowns.

283

00:16:55,530 --> 00:16:57,950
And she always was coming
to me on the vacation.

284

00:16:57,950 --> 00:16:59,280
She was at Cornell.

285

00:16:59,280 --> 00:17:01,230
And when the vacation
came, she always

286

00:17:01,230 --> 00:17:06,119
visited, not with her parents,
adoptive parents, but as us,

287

00:17:06,119 --> 00:17:08,130
with Irena and me.

288

00:17:08,130 --> 00:17:11,670

And they were like siblings.

289

00:17:11,670 --> 00:17:15,750

You know, to me, she was
like a daughter, really.

290

00:17:15,750 --> 00:17:19,030

But she had the few
nervous breakdowns.

291

00:17:19,030 --> 00:17:21,106

And she went to the hospital.

292

00:17:21,106 --> 00:17:25,349

Also, she got married, a
professor from Columbia.

293

00:17:25,349 --> 00:17:26,700

He is very known now.

294

00:17:26,700 --> 00:17:29,250

He's a historian.

295

00:17:29,250 --> 00:17:37,740

And that Sunday morning, when
she went to the hospital,

296

00:17:37,740 --> 00:17:38,850

she called me up.

297

00:17:38,850 --> 00:17:43,290

And she said, Lodzia, I'm going
to meet my father and mother.

298

00:17:43,290 --> 00:17:46,500

Because she knew it'll
be, you know, their link

299

00:17:46,500 --> 00:17:50,230

about their past, their
childhood, and this, and that.

300
00:17:50,230 --> 00:17:53,310
And then she committed suicide.

301
00:17:53,310 --> 00:18:00,300
In 1962, she committed suicide.

302
00:18:00,300 --> 00:18:01,680
This was Elsa--

303
00:18:01,680 --> 00:18:04,140
Irka was at that time in Europe.

304
00:18:04,140 --> 00:18:07,050
She didn't know, I didn't
want to write to her.

305
00:18:07,050 --> 00:18:10,280
She could never forgive me that.

306
00:18:10,280 --> 00:18:11,490
But I didn't--

307
00:18:11,490 --> 00:18:12,410
I was afraid.

308
00:18:12,410 --> 00:18:15,630
I was really afraid.

309
00:18:15,630 --> 00:18:20,880
So she found out-- not from
me-- after she came back,

310
00:18:20,880 --> 00:18:24,220
through a pure accident from
somebody else, not myself.

311
00:18:24,220 --> 00:18:27,330
I prepared myself to tell her
during the weekend I'm home

312

00:18:27,330 --> 00:18:29,160
and be with her.

313
00:18:29,160 --> 00:18:30,260
Doesn't work like that.

314
00:18:30,260 --> 00:18:34,250

315
00:18:34,250 --> 00:18:35,145
This was Elsa.

316
00:18:35,145 --> 00:18:39,380

317
00:18:39,380 --> 00:18:43,250
Was-- they were good friends.

318
00:18:43,250 --> 00:18:45,260
Sigmund-- Sigmund
was the one who

319
00:18:45,260 --> 00:18:49,460
brought back the news
about Treblinka, you know.

320
00:18:49,460 --> 00:18:54,580
Very active-- very active guy.

321
00:18:54,580 --> 00:18:55,300
Nice people.

322
00:18:55,300 --> 00:18:57,950

323
00:18:57,950 --> 00:19:01,588
So little by little, everything
was shrinking, you know.

324
00:19:01,588 --> 00:19:06,740

325

00:19:06,740 --> 00:19:09,560

When we ended the
last tape, you began

326

00:19:09,560 --> 00:19:13,820

to talk about meeting
Marek Edelman in Lodz,

327

00:19:13,820 --> 00:19:17,210

and his telling you
about how Michal died.

328

00:19:17,210 --> 00:19:22,970

329

00:19:22,970 --> 00:19:25,670

I met Marek before,
as I told you.

330

00:19:25,670 --> 00:19:28,830

I took Irena in there,
we went to them.

331

00:19:28,830 --> 00:19:33,800

And this is how I got through
Helena Schaffner, you know.

332

00:19:33,800 --> 00:19:36,200

I went to them.

333

00:19:36,200 --> 00:19:42,050

And this was the
first time I saw him,

334

00:19:42,050 --> 00:19:49,550

Marek, you know, still during
the war, after the uprising.

335

00:19:49,550 --> 00:19:54,230

He told me at that
time what happened.

336

00:19:54,230 --> 00:20:02,930

What happened is that the
whole group was on a attic,

337

00:20:02,930 --> 00:20:07,430

trying to get through
to another building.

338

00:20:07,430 --> 00:20:15,214

They didn't know that there was
a German with a gun, you know,

339

00:20:15,214 --> 00:20:16,145

standing.

340

00:20:16,145 --> 00:20:17,270

I don't know what's called.

341

00:20:17,270 --> 00:20:18,110

Machine gun?

342

00:20:18,110 --> 00:20:19,130

Machine gun, yeah.

343

00:20:19,130 --> 00:20:22,070

344

00:20:22,070 --> 00:20:25,910

We were in a corner,
or whatever it was,

345

00:20:25,910 --> 00:20:29,180

and suddenly they
realized and they

346

00:20:29,180 --> 00:20:31,880

couldn't get through
to the other building

347

00:20:31,880 --> 00:20:34,880

through the attics.

348

00:20:34,880 --> 00:20:36,800
So Michal was the one--

349
00:20:36,800 --> 00:20:40,370
Michal was with Marek
Edelman, the same group,

350
00:20:40,370 --> 00:20:46,970
was the one who jumped on him
and killed him at the same time

351
00:20:46,970 --> 00:20:47,800
he killed him.

352
00:20:47,800 --> 00:20:51,060

353
00:20:51,060 --> 00:20:54,710
So the group could
pass through, you know.

354
00:20:54,710 --> 00:20:58,950
They survived, but
Michal was killed.

355
00:20:58,950 --> 00:21:02,520
In the same evening,
Marek Edelman

356
00:21:02,520 --> 00:21:09,820
buried Michal in the court,
which now, later on were ruins,

357
00:21:09,820 --> 00:21:14,560
because the buildings
were burned, and so on.

358
00:21:14,560 --> 00:21:19,030
But he gave him the
funeral, you know.

359
00:21:19,030 --> 00:21:21,810
He just buried from over

there in the court, yeah.

360

00:21:21,810 --> 00:21:25,090

361

00:21:25,090 --> 00:21:31,160

And this is what he told me that time, when I went to visit him.

362

00:21:31,160 --> 00:21:37,960

363

00:21:37,960 --> 00:21:45,880

But since I visited Marek there, I got the contact already.

364

00:21:45,880 --> 00:21:50,620

They gave me some money that I could have, and I was--

365

00:21:50,620 --> 00:21:54,220

would pay off some, which I was owing.

366

00:21:54,220 --> 00:21:57,890

Anyway, I was doing some sewing late at night,

367

00:21:57,890 --> 00:22:02,068

being in Pruszk³w you know.

368

00:22:02,068 --> 00:22:05,030

They give some money for our living.

369

00:22:05,030 --> 00:22:07,920

So I said I can sew, and I can do something for you.

370

00:22:07,920 --> 00:22:11,020

And she was very happy about it.

371

00:22:11,020 --> 00:22:13,730

So I was sitting and sewing
sometimes to 2 o'clock

372

00:22:13,730 --> 00:22:15,730

at night, 3 o'clock at night.

373

00:22:15,730 --> 00:22:19,720

And Irena was sleeping.

374

00:22:19,720 --> 00:22:22,840

It was only two
rooms, the total.

375

00:22:22,840 --> 00:22:24,640

One bedroom was there.

376

00:22:24,640 --> 00:22:27,460

I was in the bedroom,
Irena was on one bed.

377

00:22:27,460 --> 00:22:32,200

Another bed somebody
else was sleeping there.

378

00:22:32,200 --> 00:22:35,840

And this is how it was.

379

00:22:35,840 --> 00:22:37,918

So how long were you
in Pruszk³w then?

380

00:22:37,918 --> 00:22:40,550

381

00:22:40,550 --> 00:22:45,320

From-- Pruszk³w, I was
since the Polish uprising,

382

00:22:45,320 --> 00:22:49,670

when they took us out to the
[? Chleniec, ?] I told you,

383

00:22:49,670 --> 00:22:57,650

till the Soviet army came
in to Warsaw and then to us.

384

00:22:57,650 --> 00:22:59,270

Warsaw, they were before.

385

00:22:59,270 --> 00:23:01,010

They came before.

386

00:23:01,010 --> 00:23:05,960

And then they came to us.

387

00:23:05,960 --> 00:23:09,320

And when I was seeing
the Soviet army,

388

00:23:09,320 --> 00:23:12,230

I was standing and
crying, you know,

389

00:23:12,230 --> 00:23:16,770

because I knew that
we'll stay alive already.

390

00:23:16,770 --> 00:23:20,120

So how much, you know,
I have against them,

391

00:23:20,120 --> 00:23:23,540

I cannot forget that they
brought me to freedom.

392

00:23:23,540 --> 00:23:26,930

393

00:23:26,930 --> 00:23:30,350

And this was already when
people, I was, you know,

394

00:23:30,350 --> 00:23:32,030

I had the contact

with the people.

395

00:23:32,030 --> 00:23:34,700

So people already
started find out

396

00:23:34,700 --> 00:23:39,890

that I and Irena which is a
miracle that she was alive,

397

00:23:39,890 --> 00:23:42,800

you know, with me.

398

00:23:42,800 --> 00:23:45,470

Found out that we are here.

399

00:23:45,470 --> 00:23:52,490

And Bolek Ellenbogen, he
was in Lublin at that time,

400

00:23:52,490 --> 00:23:55,120

with a lot of--

401

00:23:55,120 --> 00:24:02,270

during the Polish uprising, they
just went through the Vistula,

402

00:24:02,270 --> 00:24:08,030

WisÅ,a to the other
side, to the east side.

403

00:24:08,030 --> 00:24:12,440

And they could, you know-- the
Soviets were there already.

404

00:24:12,440 --> 00:24:15,332

Did that, just didn't
come during the Polish.

405

00:24:15,332 --> 00:24:17,540

They didn't want to-- they
wanted to kill each other,

406

00:24:17,540 --> 00:24:20,660

you know, when up.

407

00:24:20,660 --> 00:24:25,490

So Bolek found out
where we are, and he

408

00:24:25,490 --> 00:24:29,380

was working for the Jewish
committee over there already

409

00:24:29,380 --> 00:24:31,530

in Lublin.

410

00:24:31,530 --> 00:24:35,525

And one day-- and he already
knew the address, my address.

411

00:24:35,525 --> 00:24:39,340

412

00:24:39,340 --> 00:24:45,220

A car stops by, not a car, but
the heavy, what I call the car,

413

00:24:45,220 --> 00:24:52,400

[POLISH] cieżar³wka the big--
you know, they come with old--

414

00:24:52,400 --> 00:24:53,130

Not a truck?

415

00:24:53,130 --> 00:24:54,380

A truck, yeah.

416

00:24:54,380 --> 00:24:56,510

He came with a truck.

417

00:24:56,510 --> 00:24:58,490

And he brought me some food.

418

00:24:58,490 --> 00:25:03,530

He brought all the goodies in
the world could be for Irena.

419

00:25:03,530 --> 00:25:06,970

And I remember he
brought those cigarettes.

420

00:25:06,970 --> 00:25:10,610

I didn't smoke at
that time already.

421

00:25:10,610 --> 00:25:17,190

and chocolate and sardines
and all kinds of things.

422

00:25:17,190 --> 00:25:22,580

And it was like, you
know, manna from heaven.

423

00:25:22,580 --> 00:25:25,310

424

00:25:25,310 --> 00:25:28,820

And I remember, and I was
excited to give Irena little

425

00:25:28,820 --> 00:25:31,250

by little, the goodies.

426

00:25:31,250 --> 00:25:33,890

And Helena came, so I
gave her the cigarettes

427

00:25:33,890 --> 00:25:37,050

because she was smoking,
heavily smoking.

428

00:25:37,050 --> 00:25:38,810

And I gave her all the goodies.

429

00:25:38,810 --> 00:25:42,380

Irena was-- couldn't

even reach the table.

430

00:25:42,380 --> 00:25:44,630

But she was looking how Irena--

431

00:25:44,630 --> 00:25:46,460

how Helena was eating.

432

00:25:46,460 --> 00:25:48,590

I gave her this,

and I gave her that.

433

00:25:48,590 --> 00:25:55,940

So she asked me, Mommy, will

Pani Helena eat everything?

434

00:25:55,940 --> 00:25:56,810

So I said, no.

435

00:25:56,810 --> 00:25:58,490

There's things for you too.

436

00:25:58,490 --> 00:25:59,105

Don't worry.

437

00:25:59,105 --> 00:26:02,040

438

00:26:02,040 --> 00:26:07,200

So this was-- and then, he

came twice with the truck,

439

00:26:07,200 --> 00:26:10,500

you know, from Lublin.

440

00:26:10,500 --> 00:26:13,140

And he brought me food.

441

00:26:13,140 --> 00:26:15,600

And the third time

came Marek, the man

442

00:26:15,600 --> 00:26:22,360
who took us to Lodz already.

443

00:26:22,360 --> 00:26:24,820
We couldn't get train
tickets that took us.

444

00:26:24,820 --> 00:26:26,920
It's not so easy to say.

445

00:26:26,920 --> 00:26:29,650
There was a one train a day.

446

00:26:29,650 --> 00:26:32,840
And there were thousands,
thousands of people.

447

00:26:32,840 --> 00:26:34,810
So he took me and Irena--

448

00:26:34,810 --> 00:26:36,710
he showed Irena
through the window.

449

00:26:36,710 --> 00:26:37,960
Somebody picked her up.

450

00:26:37,960 --> 00:26:40,210
Then me he pushed also
through the window.

451

00:26:40,210 --> 00:26:41,980
And he somehow got
through a door.

452

00:26:41,980 --> 00:26:43,750
I don't know how.

453

00:26:43,750 --> 00:26:44,600
This was the way.

454

00:26:44,600 --> 00:26:46,360
This was Marek.

455
00:26:46,360 --> 00:26:49,000
Always caring.

456
00:26:49,000 --> 00:26:53,320
This is how people, a whole
group of people, cared,

457
00:26:53,320 --> 00:26:53,870
you know.

458
00:26:53,870 --> 00:26:55,930
When they knew somebody.

459
00:26:55,930 --> 00:26:58,780
And they picked up
Elsa, as I told you.

460
00:26:58,780 --> 00:27:00,820
People cared.

461
00:27:00,820 --> 00:27:06,310
Take Bolek, you know, how he
came with food and all that.

462
00:27:06,310 --> 00:27:11,740
Because first of all, a
child alive at this time

463
00:27:11,740 --> 00:27:14,860
was like a miracle.

464
00:27:14,860 --> 00:27:16,780
I was the only mother.

465
00:27:16,780 --> 00:27:20,890
There was also Gabrish,
Hannah Frishdorf

466
00:27:20,890 --> 00:27:22,190

they were in the Partisans.

467

00:27:22,190 --> 00:27:25,350

468

00:27:25,350 --> 00:27:30,686

But he was born in a bunker
during the Polish uprising.

469

00:27:30,686 --> 00:27:34,270

470

00:27:34,270 --> 00:27:38,890

And she went out, you know.

471

00:27:38,890 --> 00:27:41,890

She also was in--

472

00:27:41,890 --> 00:27:44,170

but this was 1944 already.

473

00:27:44,170 --> 00:27:47,500

He was just born then.

474

00:27:47,500 --> 00:27:52,780

And she was, for a while,
the Polish uprising finished.

475

00:27:52,780 --> 00:27:58,420

You know, it was for a while
she was in a village someplace.

476

00:27:58,420 --> 00:28:04,120

He was-- she was looked like,
you know, a hundred Jews.

477

00:28:04,120 --> 00:28:06,760

And the little ones
the babies, nothing.

478

00:28:06,760 --> 00:28:10,945

But after a while she came to

Lodz, to find out, you know,

479

00:28:10,945 --> 00:28:12,700
she went to Warsaw.

480

00:28:12,700 --> 00:28:16,380
And the committee with addresses
and names, as you found out,

481

00:28:16,380 --> 00:28:17,860
to be in Lodz.

482

00:28:17,860 --> 00:28:24,250
And she came to Lodz and she
found us, Hannah Frishdorf.

483

00:28:24,250 --> 00:28:27,910
Her husband was killed
in the Partisans.

484

00:28:27,910 --> 00:28:29,930
He went for a project, you know.

485

00:28:29,930 --> 00:28:33,880
They had for the trains,
the dynamite or something.

486

00:28:33,880 --> 00:28:36,010
He was killed by the Germans.

487

00:28:36,010 --> 00:28:41,855
And she stayed, you know,
pregnant with the child.

488

00:28:41,855 --> 00:28:45,710
And she came to Lodz,
and she found us.

489

00:28:45,710 --> 00:28:46,650
She went back.

490

00:28:46,650 --> 00:28:50,210

She brought Gabi, who
was very sick also.

491
00:28:50,210 --> 00:28:51,500
He had some kind--

492
00:28:51,500 --> 00:28:57,890
around his ear, some
infections all around his neck.

493
00:28:57,890 --> 00:29:01,310
And we stayed
together since then.

494
00:29:01,310 --> 00:29:03,110
You know, this is
why Gabi, she's

495
00:29:03,110 --> 00:29:06,140
like a brother to
her, to Irka was

496
00:29:06,140 --> 00:29:10,280
Irka was the big sister,
another three years old there,

497
00:29:10,280 --> 00:29:10,820
you know.

498
00:29:10,820 --> 00:29:15,890
So you know, we
created families.

499
00:29:15,890 --> 00:29:20,750
It was like one was cared
about the other, you know.

500
00:29:20,750 --> 00:29:23,510
And I had two towels.

501
00:29:23,510 --> 00:29:25,370
I gave her one towel, you know.

502

00:29:25,370 --> 00:29:27,950

Two apples, I gave
her one apple.

503

00:29:27,950 --> 00:29:30,860

For Gabi, you know,
this is how it was.

504

00:29:30,860 --> 00:29:32,960

And we lived together.

505

00:29:32,960 --> 00:29:35,720

It was a while in
Lodz after the war,

506

00:29:35,720 --> 00:29:39,740

we lived together, the
Ellenbogens and the Hannah

507

00:29:39,740 --> 00:29:42,703

Frishdorf and [INAUDIBLE].

508

00:29:42,703 --> 00:29:46,960

509

00:29:46,960 --> 00:29:50,110

I want to ask you a
question about Irena.

510

00:29:50,110 --> 00:29:55,265

During this period, she
seemed, from your description,

511

00:29:55,265 --> 00:29:56,890

from the little
you say about her,

512

00:29:56,890 --> 00:29:59,050

rather than your
feelings about what's

513

00:29:59,050 --> 00:30:03,550

happening, is that in some ways she was a calm child.

514
00:30:03,550 --> 00:30:04,720
That she was very good.

515
00:30:04,720 --> 00:30:08,530
That there was not-- that she wasn't creating problems

516
00:30:08,530 --> 00:30:10,250
in a very dangerous situation.

517
00:30:10,250 --> 00:30:10,750
No.

518
00:30:10,750 --> 00:30:13,240
As if she understood.

519
00:30:13,240 --> 00:30:13,840
No.

520
00:30:13,840 --> 00:30:18,040
She was just, you know, she was a good child, you know.

521
00:30:18,040 --> 00:30:19,870
And she was listening.

522
00:30:19,870 --> 00:30:23,210
And I explained to her certain things,

523
00:30:23,210 --> 00:30:25,750
that you cannot do this because of that.

524
00:30:25,750 --> 00:30:30,700
You know, in a very light way, not to scare her for anything.

525
00:30:30,700 --> 00:30:31,840

But she was listening.

526

00:30:31,840 --> 00:30:35,590

She didn't give me any
trouble as a child.

527

00:30:35,590 --> 00:30:39,200

She was-- only gave
me trouble later.

528

00:30:39,200 --> 00:30:42,005

[LAUGHTER]

529

00:30:42,005 --> 00:30:44,530

But as a child, no.

530

00:30:44,530 --> 00:30:46,810

No.

531

00:30:46,810 --> 00:30:47,920

She was very good.

532

00:30:47,920 --> 00:30:50,600

533

00:30:50,600 --> 00:30:54,950

She was very supported too.

534

00:30:54,950 --> 00:30:59,480

Bolek in Sweden put
her on a bicycle,

535

00:30:59,480 --> 00:31:01,040

and we were on the hill.

536

00:31:01,040 --> 00:31:07,220

And I said, you
just hold the brakes

537

00:31:07,220 --> 00:31:10,460

and go down, and then stop.

538

00:31:10,460 --> 00:31:11,360

She did it.

539

00:31:11,360 --> 00:31:14,000

To me, she said, you go home.

540

00:31:14,000 --> 00:31:15,280

You go in.

541

00:31:15,280 --> 00:31:17,090

I'll take care of.

542

00:31:17,090 --> 00:31:20,090

So this was said.

543

00:31:20,090 --> 00:31:23,540

She was going swimming
there in Sweden.

544

00:31:23,540 --> 00:31:26,820

But this is a different
job there already.

545

00:31:26,820 --> 00:31:32,870

When you all meet in Lodz,
and you're essentially

546

00:31:32,870 --> 00:31:36,920

forming surrogate families
because people have lost.

547

00:31:36,920 --> 00:31:37,790

What is this like?

548

00:31:37,790 --> 00:31:41,410

Is there a lot of anger as
well as pain about the world?

549

00:31:41,410 --> 00:31:45,500

550

00:31:45,500 --> 00:31:49,650

We were so busy
with everyday life,

551

00:31:49,650 --> 00:31:54,950

how to get through, how to
bring a let's say Halinka and I.

552

00:31:54,950 --> 00:31:56,870

And then I got an apartment.

553

00:31:56,870 --> 00:32:00,650

You know, I lived with the
Bolek, with the Ellenbogens.

554

00:32:00,650 --> 00:32:04,160

My one-removed cousin met me.

555

00:32:04,160 --> 00:32:06,350

He was in the Polish army.

556

00:32:06,350 --> 00:32:08,300

And he was always
in the uniform.

557

00:32:08,300 --> 00:32:10,130

He wasn't in the army anymore.

558

00:32:10,130 --> 00:32:12,320

But he was very tall, handsome.

559

00:32:12,320 --> 00:32:16,700

And he went to all these
offices, and he said, [POLISH]..

560

00:32:16,700 --> 00:32:17,510

I am [POLISH].

561

00:32:17,510 --> 00:32:19,200

As General [POLISH].

562

00:32:19,200 --> 00:32:20,450

Or something like that.

563
00:32:20,450 --> 00:32:23,210
I need an apartment.

564
00:32:23,210 --> 00:32:24,860
They gave him.

565
00:32:24,860 --> 00:32:26,930
This was in my name,
because nobody could

566
00:32:26,930 --> 00:32:29,150
get an apartment at that time.

567
00:32:29,150 --> 00:32:31,100
I said at the time,
there was a child,

568
00:32:31,100 --> 00:32:32,990
and I need that apartment.

569
00:32:32,990 --> 00:32:36,630
And then, you know, it
was one-bedroom apartment.

570
00:32:36,630 --> 00:32:39,275
And I took in the Ellenbogens.

571
00:32:39,275 --> 00:32:42,230
The apartment was in my name.

572
00:32:42,230 --> 00:32:46,760
And he was working for
the Journal at the time

573
00:32:46,760 --> 00:32:51,140
and from Lodz for the committee.

574
00:32:51,140 --> 00:32:53,690
And we lived
together as a family.

575
00:32:53,690 --> 00:32:55,640
Whatever we had, you
know, brought in.

576
00:32:55,640 --> 00:32:56,480
We gave the money.

577
00:32:56,480 --> 00:32:58,050
I got some money.

578
00:32:58,050 --> 00:32:59,930
Some money, very little.

579
00:32:59,930 --> 00:33:02,970
But I remember that shared--

580
00:33:02,970 --> 00:33:05,750
this is from the
Bundist committee.

581
00:33:05,750 --> 00:33:10,100
They sent me some
money at that time.

582
00:33:10,100 --> 00:33:12,800
And then my family, my aunt--

583
00:33:12,800 --> 00:33:16,370
Michal's aunt from the states,
used to send me few dollars

584
00:33:16,370 --> 00:33:17,750
here and there.

585
00:33:17,750 --> 00:33:20,212
But it went all to
the common account.

586
00:33:20,212 --> 00:33:23,840

587

00:33:23,840 --> 00:33:25,730

That's all.

588

00:33:25,730 --> 00:33:29,450

And this is how we lived there.

589

00:33:29,450 --> 00:33:31,190

It was a family.

590

00:33:31,190 --> 00:33:34,820

Bolek we used to go with
Irena, you know, for walks.

591

00:33:34,820 --> 00:33:39,710

We used to do some sewing
at home for somebody.

592

00:33:39,710 --> 00:33:41,600

And also it was me.

593

00:33:41,600 --> 00:33:45,140

And this is how we lived.

594

00:33:45,140 --> 00:33:49,160

Was it difficult to be in
Poland during that period?

595

00:33:49,160 --> 00:33:54,290

Yes, once Irena was playing
downstairs with the children.

596

00:33:54,290 --> 00:33:59,630

And she came up,
and she said, Ma,

597

00:33:59,630 --> 00:34:04,790

this boy called me [POLISH]
A¹/₄ydA³wka, which means, you know,

598

00:34:04,790 --> 00:34:06,650

Jewess.

599

00:34:06,650 --> 00:34:08,762

What does it mean, $\text{\AA}^{\frac{1}{4}}\text{yd}\text{\AA}^3\text{wka}$?

600

00:34:08,762 --> 00:34:10,915

She couldn't understand that.

601

00:34:10,915 --> 00:34:14,069

Now this is an example,
a child comes up.

602

00:34:14,069 --> 00:34:16,340

Then there were
constantly killings.

603

00:34:16,340 --> 00:34:18,590

You know, they were
killing, you know.

604

00:34:18,590 --> 00:34:21,050

Murders.

605

00:34:21,050 --> 00:34:25,820

And we decided to go
away at that time.

606

00:34:25,820 --> 00:34:28,100

It was antisemitism, it was.

607

00:34:28,100 --> 00:34:32,270

Why didn't finish up everybody.

608

00:34:32,270 --> 00:34:35,210

So it wasn't easy.

609

00:34:35,210 --> 00:34:37,940

But to Lodz came a lot
of people, the same thing

610

00:34:37,940 --> 00:34:38,510

to Warsaw.

611

00:34:38,510 --> 00:34:44,000
The survivors looking for the
families, stayed here or there.

612
00:34:44,000 --> 00:34:47,250
You know, but the
atmosphere was very bad.

613
00:34:47,250 --> 00:34:49,070
Then we decided too--

614
00:34:49,070 --> 00:34:52,590
Jacob Pat came to Poland.

615
00:34:52,590 --> 00:34:58,190
And he said that he can
give some visas, you know,

616
00:34:58,190 --> 00:34:59,270
to Sweden.

617
00:34:59,270 --> 00:35:00,995
Sweden was taking in people.

618
00:35:00,995 --> 00:35:05,460

619
00:35:05,460 --> 00:35:09,060
And of course I gave--

620
00:35:09,060 --> 00:35:14,550
I was on the list, with Irena,
because of Michal's aunt here.

621
00:35:14,550 --> 00:35:19,900

622
00:35:19,900 --> 00:35:23,230
But to tell you
about the atmosphere.

623
00:35:23,230 --> 00:35:29,170

To go by train to
Gdynia this is the port

624
00:35:29,170 --> 00:35:32,305
of Poland, how we could
take the boat to Sweden.

625
00:35:32,305 --> 00:35:35,170

626
00:35:35,170 --> 00:35:38,950
Two women, Polish
women, went with us.

627
00:35:38,950 --> 00:35:42,520
We with the children, it was
Hannah Frishdorf with Gabi

628
00:35:42,520 --> 00:35:50,560
and I with Irena in our train.

629
00:35:50,560 --> 00:35:54,100
In case something happens
to their children.

630
00:35:54,100 --> 00:35:56,615
Because they were taking
down people from the trains

631
00:35:56,615 --> 00:35:57,115
and killing.

632
00:35:57,115 --> 00:36:00,910

633
00:36:00,910 --> 00:36:09,460
So once came somebody to
our apartment, with a gun,

634
00:36:09,460 --> 00:36:11,130
and looking for somebody.

635

00:36:11,130 --> 00:36:12,370
Luckily it was a mistake.

636
00:36:12,370 --> 00:36:16,260

637
00:36:16,260 --> 00:36:18,120
No bullet was at that time.

638
00:36:18,120 --> 00:36:19,750
I was at that time home.

639
00:36:19,750 --> 00:36:20,640
Irena was asleep.

640
00:36:20,640 --> 00:36:22,440
It was in the evening.

641
00:36:22,440 --> 00:36:26,340
To kill somebody because they
had some kind of account,

642
00:36:26,340 --> 00:36:28,500
who knows?

643
00:36:28,500 --> 00:36:30,210
But it was very dangerous.

644
00:36:30,210 --> 00:36:31,110
Kielce.

645
00:36:31,110 --> 00:36:32,890
You know about Kielce?

646
00:36:32,890 --> 00:36:35,190
This was 1946.

647
00:36:35,190 --> 00:36:44,350
We left in 1946, the first of,
the 31 of March, I think so.

648

00:36:44,350 --> 00:36:47,590

So this was very
dangerous to live.

649

00:36:47,590 --> 00:36:52,930

So we had with us
some Polish people

650

00:36:52,930 --> 00:36:56,020

to go with us in case
the children are theirs,

651

00:36:56,020 --> 00:36:59,270

always the children.

652

00:36:59,270 --> 00:37:01,390

And if they take us, OK.

653

00:37:01,390 --> 00:37:05,770

But the children are theirs.

654

00:37:05,770 --> 00:37:07,930

So this is how was,
you know, Poland.

655

00:37:07,930 --> 00:37:11,320

656

00:37:11,320 --> 00:37:13,270

What was it like in Sweden?

657

00:37:13,270 --> 00:37:16,930

Sweden was-- [NON-ENGLISH].

658

00:37:16,930 --> 00:37:19,240

It was Eden.

659

00:37:19,240 --> 00:37:21,940

Really Eden.

660

00:37:21,940 --> 00:37:27,790

Irena used to say that this was

my happiest years in my life.

661

00:37:27,790 --> 00:37:28,930

It was beautiful.

662

00:37:28,930 --> 00:37:31,690

Sweden was so, you know, like--

663

00:37:31,690 --> 00:37:34,370

664

00:37:34,370 --> 00:37:37,490

First of all, from

Stockholm, we were how many?

665

00:37:37,490 --> 00:37:39,860

21 minutes, I think,

from Stockholm

666

00:37:39,860 --> 00:37:43,370

by train, a choo-choo train.

667

00:37:43,370 --> 00:37:45,960

Beautiful.

668

00:37:45,960 --> 00:37:47,750

It was really like

Eden, you know.

669

00:37:47,750 --> 00:37:51,290

The children were

wonderful there, you know.

670

00:37:51,290 --> 00:37:53,730

This is where Irena

was going bicycling

671

00:37:53,730 --> 00:37:55,820

and swimming and school.

672

00:37:55,820 --> 00:37:59,780

She spoke Swedish like

a Swedish-born child.

673

00:37:59,780 --> 00:38:03,050

Immediately, you know,
she went to school.

674

00:38:03,050 --> 00:38:06,270

The people were very nice to us.

675

00:38:06,270 --> 00:38:12,180

They always invited me and
Irena for coffee and cookies.

676

00:38:12,180 --> 00:38:17,240

And she was playing with the
children, then she spoke.

677

00:38:17,240 --> 00:38:23,790

We didn't ever lock
the doors at night.

678

00:38:23,790 --> 00:38:28,035

When Halinka said Irka go and
buy some milk at the store,

679

00:38:28,035 --> 00:38:30,810

there was, you
know, country store.

680

00:38:30,810 --> 00:38:35,100

And she gave her a
little, you know,

681

00:38:35,100 --> 00:38:40,590

bag with a few Swedish crowns.

682

00:38:40,590 --> 00:38:42,960

She said, where is your bag?

683

00:38:42,960 --> 00:38:44,880

Pocket book, Irena had.

684

00:38:44,880 --> 00:38:47,130
Well, I left it on
the bench over there.

685
00:38:47,130 --> 00:38:49,110
She said, go and pick it up.

686
00:38:49,110 --> 00:38:51,330
No, I'll take it tomorrow.

687
00:38:51,330 --> 00:38:53,880
She found it tomorrow.

688
00:38:53,880 --> 00:38:56,070
So this was the kind
of life, you know.

689
00:38:56,070 --> 00:38:58,860
It was nature around.

690
00:38:58,860 --> 00:39:02,235
She was playing with Gabi,
and she was going by herself

691
00:39:02,235 --> 00:39:07,770
with the bicycle, swimming,
over the train, you know,

692
00:39:07,770 --> 00:39:09,540
were passing by.

693
00:39:09,540 --> 00:39:12,660
People were marvelous
there really.

694
00:39:12,660 --> 00:39:14,010
And we had a whole group.

695
00:39:14,010 --> 00:39:15,510
I was always--

696
00:39:15,510 --> 00:39:17,530

I don't like to live in groups.

697

00:39:17,530 --> 00:39:18,880

So we had two buildings.

698

00:39:18,880 --> 00:39:23,250

One was a big building
with a lot of survivors.

699

00:39:23,250 --> 00:39:27,600

And we were only three families
in this building, you know,

700

00:39:27,600 --> 00:39:29,800

where we lived.

701

00:39:29,800 --> 00:39:31,020

And it was marvelous.

702

00:39:31,020 --> 00:39:34,140

Everybody cared about the other.

703

00:39:34,140 --> 00:39:41,400

And we could go to
the city with Halinka

704

00:39:41,400 --> 00:39:46,340

and Halinka's brother's wife
took care of the children

705

00:39:46,340 --> 00:39:49,980

to go to sleep,
something like that.

706

00:39:49,980 --> 00:39:54,090

We started to work, both--
she was a very good children's

707

00:39:54,090 --> 00:39:55,920

dressmaker.

708

00:39:55,920 --> 00:39:59,910

So we went to the biggest
store in Melbourne--

709
00:39:59,910 --> 00:40:00,810
in Melbourne.

710
00:40:00,810 --> 00:40:03,240
I said Australia already.

711
00:40:03,240 --> 00:40:05,580
I was in Australia for times.

712
00:40:05,580 --> 00:40:09,540
And you know, this
is in Stockholm.

713
00:40:09,540 --> 00:40:12,570
And we did some work for them.

714
00:40:12,570 --> 00:40:16,020
And then we sent it by mail.

715
00:40:16,020 --> 00:40:18,570
By the train.

716
00:40:18,570 --> 00:40:20,520
Packed it up, and they send it.

717
00:40:20,520 --> 00:40:24,360
This is how we-- but it
was very, very close.

718
00:40:24,360 --> 00:40:27,570
I created a library there.

719
00:40:27,570 --> 00:40:28,710
Where?

720
00:40:28,710 --> 00:40:30,870
In Stockholm.

721

00:40:30,870 --> 00:40:33,940
This was the Jewish
Labor Committee branch.

722
00:40:33,940 --> 00:40:36,990
And there were a lot
of survivors in Sweden.

723
00:40:36,990 --> 00:40:40,695
And everybody was longing for
a book, for a Yiddish book,

724
00:40:40,695 --> 00:40:42,540
for a Polish book,
something like that.

725
00:40:42,540 --> 00:40:44,025
I wrote the Jewish
Labor Committee

726
00:40:44,025 --> 00:40:46,500
to send me books,
a lot of books.

727
00:40:46,500 --> 00:40:48,270
They sent hundreds of books.

728
00:40:48,270 --> 00:40:49,980
They did send.

729
00:40:49,980 --> 00:40:53,520
And I made catalogs.

730
00:40:53,520 --> 00:40:57,480
And addresses I had, I
sent them the catalogs,

731
00:40:57,480 --> 00:40:59,430
copies of catalogs, you know.

732
00:40:59,430 --> 00:41:01,660
Everything by hand.

733

00:41:01,660 --> 00:41:05,550

And they wrote me what
they want with numbers.

734

00:41:05,550 --> 00:41:07,260

They wrote me back
what they want,

735

00:41:07,260 --> 00:41:09,900

and then I prepared the
books and the Office

736

00:41:09,900 --> 00:41:12,900

of the Jewish Labor Committee
sent them out in the morning.

737

00:41:12,900 --> 00:41:16,320

But this was in the evening,
I was going to Stockholm.

738

00:41:16,320 --> 00:41:19,200

Because during the day,
I was busy with Irena

739

00:41:19,200 --> 00:41:22,140

and whatever I have to do.

740

00:41:22,140 --> 00:41:28,320

But this I was doing all
these three years in Sweden,

741

00:41:28,320 --> 00:41:29,370

you know.

742

00:41:29,370 --> 00:41:33,900

But we had the whole group
of friends over there.

743

00:41:33,900 --> 00:41:36,710

744

00:41:36,710 --> 00:41:40,010

And this is how
that we came here.

745
00:41:40,010 --> 00:41:42,620
And when did you come here?

746
00:41:42,620 --> 00:41:51,650
I came here the
11 of April 1949.

747
00:41:51,650 --> 00:41:53,780
I came here on the--

748
00:41:53,780 --> 00:41:56,390

749
00:41:56,390 --> 00:42:02,870
supposed to pass by the United
States and to go to Australia.

750
00:42:02,870 --> 00:42:06,620
I had a permit to Australia.

751
00:42:06,620 --> 00:42:10,470
Not thinking that
I'll go to Australia.

752
00:42:10,470 --> 00:42:15,070
I had my family arrived
in Australia at that time.

753
00:42:15,070 --> 00:42:17,820
My sister was in
Australia already.

754
00:42:17,820 --> 00:42:19,880
And which sister is this?

755
00:42:19,880 --> 00:42:21,980
Anka, Genia perished, you know.

756
00:42:21,980 --> 00:42:26,460

757

00:42:26,460 --> 00:42:29,775

And I had only 10 days.

758

00:42:29,775 --> 00:42:33,970

Hannah Frishdorf left

two months before.

759

00:42:33,970 --> 00:42:36,970

760

00:42:36,970 --> 00:42:39,570

So a certain way,

you know, but she

761

00:42:39,570 --> 00:42:43,670

couldn't take Gabi When

she comes to the states,

762

00:42:43,670 --> 00:42:48,630

she could claim Gabi to

bring him over there.

763

00:42:48,630 --> 00:42:52,020

So Gabi stayed with

me for two months.

764

00:42:52,020 --> 00:42:56,560

765

00:42:56,560 --> 00:43:00,670

And meanwhile, in

Sweden also, I was

766

00:43:00,670 --> 00:43:05,020

learning English, because

I knew wherever I land,

767

00:43:05,020 --> 00:43:06,340

I need to know English.

768

00:43:06,340 --> 00:43:11,140
So a woman, a German woman,
was a teacher of English.

769
00:43:11,140 --> 00:43:13,510
She used to come to
our [NON-ENGLISH],,

770
00:43:13,510 --> 00:43:19,150
the place called,
and giving lessons.

771
00:43:19,150 --> 00:43:20,320
So there were groups.

772
00:43:20,320 --> 00:43:23,210
But I had to be alone.

773
00:43:23,210 --> 00:43:26,410
I want the full hour,
not with a group.

774
00:43:26,410 --> 00:43:27,940
And I learned.

775
00:43:27,940 --> 00:43:30,460
I learned grammar.

776
00:43:30,460 --> 00:43:35,500
I read Steinbeck already.

777
00:43:35,500 --> 00:43:36,070
Really?

778
00:43:36,070 --> 00:43:39,570
But this was British English.

779
00:43:39,570 --> 00:43:42,880
Another thing, when I came
here, and I opened the radio,

780
00:43:42,880 --> 00:43:46,720

and I couldn't understand
the word, I started to cry.

781
00:43:46,720 --> 00:43:48,790
Because this was the
American English,

782
00:43:48,790 --> 00:43:52,960
and I learned British English.

783
00:43:52,960 --> 00:43:58,960
So I couldn't speak, you know,
but I was reading and writing.

784
00:43:58,960 --> 00:44:02,015
So this was all so I know
what we did in Sweden.

785
00:44:02,015 --> 00:44:04,550

786
00:44:04,550 --> 00:44:09,140
So when I came here and
I brought Gabi with me,

787
00:44:09,140 --> 00:44:11,630
which was a nice on the boat.

788
00:44:11,630 --> 00:44:17,740
At that time, in 1949, it was
an order from the immigration

789
00:44:17,740 --> 00:44:22,450
department that nobody
can land in New York,

790
00:44:22,450 --> 00:44:26,740
only first to go
to Ellis Island.

791
00:44:26,740 --> 00:44:27,940
This was an order.

792

00:44:27,940 --> 00:44:30,400

And not even with visas.

793

00:44:30,400 --> 00:44:34,180

Not only passing by.

794

00:44:34,180 --> 00:44:35,470

Cannot go.

795

00:44:35,470 --> 00:44:37,340

I didn't know about it.

796

00:44:37,340 --> 00:44:39,760

Nobody told me.

797

00:44:39,760 --> 00:44:41,140

Gabi was secure.

798

00:44:41,140 --> 00:44:43,060

His mother was here, you know.

799

00:44:43,060 --> 00:44:46,030

She was legally, you know, here.

800

00:44:46,030 --> 00:44:49,810

But I didn't know
about it at all.

801

00:44:49,810 --> 00:44:54,700

And during the passage,
there was a young woman who

802

00:44:54,700 --> 00:44:58,210

really was with me constantly.

803

00:44:58,210 --> 00:45:03,130

She was going on legal, legal
visa to her sister here.

804

00:45:03,130 --> 00:45:05,590

But she was-- she was

from a camp, something.

805

00:45:05,590 --> 00:45:06,970

Very depressed.

806

00:45:06,970 --> 00:45:10,630

But I took her under my wing
so I had her go to the doctor.

807

00:45:10,630 --> 00:45:12,660

So I said, child, you
go first to a doctor,

808

00:45:12,660 --> 00:45:14,170

so I gave her one child.

809

00:45:14,170 --> 00:45:16,780

She go before me,
and I went after her.

810

00:45:16,780 --> 00:45:18,580

This kind of thing.

811

00:45:18,580 --> 00:45:22,480

And her sister was also
there when we arrived.

812

00:45:22,480 --> 00:45:24,980

They let them come on
the board, you know.

813

00:45:24,980 --> 00:45:25,480

Aboard.

814

00:45:25,480 --> 00:45:29,050

815

00:45:29,050 --> 00:45:31,000

And I see that they keep her.

816

00:45:31,000 --> 00:45:31,930

They don't let her go.

817
00:45:31,930 --> 00:45:33,400
She has to go to Ellis Island.

818
00:45:33,400 --> 00:45:37,618
From Ellis Island, she
can go to her sister.

819
00:45:37,618 --> 00:45:39,410
I wondered why, but I
couldn't talk to her,

820
00:45:39,410 --> 00:45:41,930
because I was the next one.

821
00:45:41,930 --> 00:45:46,390
So Hannah Frishdorf was
there, was Bernard Goldstein

822
00:45:46,390 --> 00:45:50,620
was another one, survivor also.

823
00:45:50,620 --> 00:45:55,120
And so first of
all, I clear Gabi.

824
00:45:55,120 --> 00:45:56,340
I say, the mother is here.

825
00:45:56,340 --> 00:45:57,520
She can pick him up.

826
00:45:57,520 --> 00:45:59,290
I know the mother.

827
00:45:59,290 --> 00:46:02,230
And Gabi is through.

828
00:46:02,230 --> 00:46:05,450
Then I come, and
I supposed to go.

829

00:46:05,450 --> 00:46:07,990

Gabi shouldn't have gone,
you know, to Ellis Island

830

00:46:07,990 --> 00:46:09,910

as a child.

831

00:46:09,910 --> 00:46:13,570

But all the other passengers
with visas, legal visas,

832

00:46:13,570 --> 00:46:14,810

had to go to Ellis Island.

833

00:46:14,810 --> 00:46:18,040

From Ellis Island, they
had to release them.

834

00:46:18,040 --> 00:46:20,470

Next I come.

835

00:46:20,470 --> 00:46:27,940

So I give my passport, all
these documents for clearing.

836

00:46:27,940 --> 00:46:31,570

And he said, now, you
go to Ellis Island.

837

00:46:31,570 --> 00:46:33,580

He talked fast.

838

00:46:33,580 --> 00:46:36,640

So I said to him,
with my husband.

839

00:46:36,640 --> 00:46:41,080

I said to him, you speak very
good English, but too fast.

840

00:46:41,080 --> 00:46:42,535

He take the stamp to put pass.

841
00:46:42,535 --> 00:46:45,470

842
00:46:45,470 --> 00:46:48,080
Can you imagine such a thing?

843
00:46:48,080 --> 00:46:52,430
I was the only one
with Irena who passed.

844
00:46:52,430 --> 00:46:53,210
[LAUGHTER]

845
00:46:53,210 --> 00:46:55,550
And then they go-- if I
would go to Ellis Island,

846
00:46:55,550 --> 00:46:57,650
I wouldn't be here today.

847
00:46:57,650 --> 00:46:59,040
Because I only had 10 days.

848
00:46:59,040 --> 00:47:02,100
And they sent everybody out.

849
00:47:02,100 --> 00:47:02,600
In transit.

850
00:47:02,600 --> 00:47:03,345
I was in transit.

851
00:47:03,345 --> 00:47:06,290

852
00:47:06,290 --> 00:47:09,080
But this is what I
said, these few words.

853
00:47:09,080 --> 00:47:14,510

I said my husband said you speak
very good English but too fast.

854
00:47:14,510 --> 00:47:15,810
I didn't know was Ellis Island.

855
00:47:15,810 --> 00:47:19,040
I didn't know what
he was talking about.

856
00:47:19,040 --> 00:47:21,040
And I got the stamp pass.

857
00:47:21,040 --> 00:47:25,050

858
00:47:25,050 --> 00:47:27,630
So this is how I came here.

859
00:47:27,630 --> 00:47:29,430
To New York?

860
00:47:29,430 --> 00:47:31,020
Yeah.

861
00:47:31,020 --> 00:47:33,060
Australia was, for me, too far.

862
00:47:33,060 --> 00:47:37,360
From what and from whom,
I don't know up to now.

863
00:47:37,360 --> 00:47:41,300

864
00:47:41,300 --> 00:47:44,060
I was four times in Australia.

865
00:47:44,060 --> 00:47:46,850
Every 10 years I was
going to Australia.

866

00:47:46,850 --> 00:47:49,580

You-- it didn't--

867

00:47:49,580 --> 00:47:52,070

you didn't feel as if you

should be near your sister

868

00:47:52,070 --> 00:47:55,160

or that was important?

869

00:47:55,160 --> 00:47:58,550

No, I was afraid that for Irena,

it wouldn't be good somehow.

870

00:47:58,550 --> 00:47:59,570

I don't know why.

871

00:47:59,570 --> 00:48:00,650

Right.

872

00:48:00,650 --> 00:48:02,900

Far, far away, Australia.

873

00:48:02,900 --> 00:48:04,430

Who knows about Australia?

874

00:48:04,430 --> 00:48:07,790

875

00:48:07,790 --> 00:48:10,190

Makes sense.

876

00:48:10,190 --> 00:48:10,880

So this--

877

00:48:10,880 --> 00:48:13,050

Was New York Eden too?

878

00:48:13,050 --> 00:48:14,292

Like Sweden?

879

00:48:14,292 --> 00:48:15,284

Oh, no.

880

00:48:15,284 --> 00:48:16,450

Right.

881

00:48:16,450 --> 00:48:20,430

Had a very hard time.

882

00:48:20,430 --> 00:48:23,510

Very hard time.

883

00:48:23,510 --> 00:48:27,020

Until I established
myself, you know.

884

00:48:27,020 --> 00:48:28,940

Who I am, what I am.

885

00:48:28,940 --> 00:48:32,150

With Irena being a
child, it was English,

886

00:48:32,150 --> 00:48:34,906

she didn't know at all.

887

00:48:34,906 --> 00:48:37,730

It was very difficult.
She was very sensitive

888

00:48:37,730 --> 00:48:41,780

for me going away to
work and being alone.

889

00:48:41,780 --> 00:48:45,290

It was a very difficult
period for me.

890

00:48:45,290 --> 00:48:48,750

Very difficult.

891

00:48:48,750 --> 00:48:52,905

Were you more alone in
New York or were there

892

00:48:52,905 --> 00:48:54,330

other circumstances?

893

00:48:54,330 --> 00:48:59,760

The circumstances,
you know, the stresses

894

00:48:59,760 --> 00:49:03,060

between one and the other, was--

895

00:49:03,060 --> 00:49:05,250

I got the apartment
[? amalgamated. ?]

896

00:49:05,250 --> 00:49:07,020

A beautiful apartment, you know.

897

00:49:07,020 --> 00:49:11,550

But because they cared,
the Jewish Labor Committee

898

00:49:11,550 --> 00:49:14,580

brought me over.

899

00:49:14,580 --> 00:49:20,650

So this is-- we had a
very difficult time here.

900

00:49:20,650 --> 00:49:24,270

The beginning was very--

901

00:49:24,270 --> 00:49:30,750

I didn't know what to do, and
Irena first of all, you know.

902

00:49:30,750 --> 00:49:33,510

Irena was afraid to
leave here, you know.

903

00:49:33,510 --> 00:49:35,010

The school, she was scared.

904

00:49:35,010 --> 00:49:36,840

She was very scared.

905

00:49:36,840 --> 00:49:39,690

So we came an

April, 11 of April.

906

00:49:39,690 --> 00:49:41,430

And Dr. [INAUDIBLE]

arranged for her

907

00:49:41,430 --> 00:49:47,280

to go to the workmen's

circle camp for the summer.

908

00:49:47,280 --> 00:49:49,140

In fact, she went--

909

00:49:49,140 --> 00:49:50,970

she spoke a beautiful Swedish.

910

00:49:50,970 --> 00:49:52,020

She went to the camp.

911

00:49:52,020 --> 00:49:54,860

She lost the Swedish and came

back with an English, you know.

912

00:49:54,860 --> 00:49:57,440

913

00:49:57,440 --> 00:49:58,730

Just like that.

914

00:49:58,730 --> 00:50:04,760

She didn't-- you know,

when she came to school,

915

00:50:04,760 --> 00:50:07,320
I put her in school nearby.

916
00:50:07,320 --> 00:50:09,110
This was nearby.

917
00:50:09,110 --> 00:50:12,860
So the teacher wrote about her.

918
00:50:12,860 --> 00:50:17,180
Here today came to a class, a
little girl, with two braids,

919
00:50:17,180 --> 00:50:19,640
with two bows and a bow on top.

920
00:50:19,640 --> 00:50:20,570
You know.

921
00:50:20,570 --> 00:50:23,660
Very sweet little girl.

922
00:50:23,660 --> 00:50:25,910
Something like that, you know.

923
00:50:25,910 --> 00:50:27,060
And she didn't know.

924
00:50:27,060 --> 00:50:35,710
I remember that once was
the fire alarm just--

925
00:50:35,710 --> 00:50:37,460
and all the children went out.

926
00:50:37,460 --> 00:50:39,420
And I ran out.

927
00:50:39,420 --> 00:50:40,390
I was afraid.

928

00:50:40,390 --> 00:50:41,770
I heard it.

929
00:50:41,770 --> 00:50:43,435
That she'll be scared.

930
00:50:43,435 --> 00:50:47,110
And this girl was scared
to death again, you know.

931
00:50:47,110 --> 00:50:49,020
Because she knew
about the bombarding,

932
00:50:49,020 --> 00:50:53,950
and she was very much
scared at the time.

933
00:50:53,950 --> 00:50:57,400
It was not good for
her, for me going away.

934
00:50:57,400 --> 00:51:01,840
And since I started to
work in the designing room.

935
00:51:01,840 --> 00:51:04,630
I was very good with
my hands always.

936
00:51:04,630 --> 00:51:06,070
Was working for a while.

937
00:51:06,070 --> 00:51:12,640
And she was alone home, and
I had to rent the bedroom.

938
00:51:12,640 --> 00:51:16,480
We were sleeping in the living
room because the rent was \$50.

939
00:51:16,480 --> 00:51:23,470
And I couldn't spend the \$50,

so I was working, sewing.

940

00:51:23,470 --> 00:51:29,110

And it was very difficult. Very difficult. And then I started

941

00:51:29,110 --> 00:51:33,820

to work at the YIVO because the director of the YIVO,

942

00:51:33,820 --> 00:51:36,080

with the confidence of claims, you know,

943

00:51:36,080 --> 00:51:38,170

we started to get the money.

944

00:51:38,170 --> 00:51:41,140

And he knew me from Poland, Dr. Friedman.

945

00:51:41,140 --> 00:51:42,163

Philip Friedman.

946

00:51:42,163 --> 00:51:43,030

Philip Friedman.

947

00:51:43,030 --> 00:51:45,390

Yes, he knew me from Poland.

948

00:51:45,390 --> 00:51:47,530

And he got in touch with me.

949

00:51:47,530 --> 00:51:51,520

He wanted me to work for him, you know.

950

00:51:51,520 --> 00:51:52,660

And I worked for him.

951

00:51:52,660 --> 00:51:58,210

Since then I was working

for eight years at the YIVO.

952

00:51:58,210 --> 00:52:01,730

On Holocaust all the time.

953

00:52:01,730 --> 00:52:05,620

Then he died 1960.

954

00:52:05,620 --> 00:52:07,510

Was that when you
created the bibliography?

955

00:52:07,510 --> 00:52:10,690

956

00:52:10,690 --> 00:52:12,910

Was that the first bibliography?

957

00:52:12,910 --> 00:52:13,690

Yes.

958

00:52:13,690 --> 00:52:15,940

You'll see my name there.

959

00:52:15,940 --> 00:52:17,260

We saw it yesterday.

960

00:52:17,260 --> 00:52:18,340

Really?

961

00:52:18,340 --> 00:52:19,320

Yeah.

962

00:52:19,320 --> 00:52:20,010

Yeah.

963

00:52:20,010 --> 00:52:21,880

It's in very large print.

964

00:52:21,880 --> 00:52:25,250

And then took over.

965
00:52:25,250 --> 00:52:29,260
Dr. Robinson took it
over after his death.

966
00:52:29,260 --> 00:52:31,890
And I was working in the
public library, you know,

967
00:52:31,890 --> 00:52:33,760
looking for material constantly.

968
00:52:33,760 --> 00:52:38,860
For months, for months I was
working at the public library.

969
00:52:38,860 --> 00:52:41,110
And he-- Dr.
Robinson use to come

970
00:52:41,110 --> 00:52:43,720
and took material and
gave me new material

971
00:52:43,720 --> 00:52:45,460
to work constantly, you know.

972
00:52:45,460 --> 00:52:48,310

973
00:52:48,310 --> 00:52:52,558
Till 1962 I was working in the--

974
00:52:52,558 --> 00:52:59,030
at YIVO And one day, Dr.
Robinson approached me.

975
00:52:59,030 --> 00:53:04,930
I was his right hand, you know,
same thing as Friedman's also.

976
00:53:04,930 --> 00:53:08,530

And he approached me, said
that somebody approached them

977
00:53:08,530 --> 00:53:10,730
from the Joint.

978
00:53:10,730 --> 00:53:14,230
They need a person
for the archives,

979
00:53:14,230 --> 00:53:18,390
whether he has somebody.

980
00:53:18,390 --> 00:53:23,880
And he told me, I
have chosen you.

981
00:53:23,880 --> 00:53:25,210
I was shocked.

982
00:53:25,210 --> 00:53:29,790
I said, Dr. Robinson, why do
you want to get rid of me?

983
00:53:29,790 --> 00:53:31,730
Was something wrong?

984
00:53:31,730 --> 00:53:33,990
He said, no.

985
00:53:33,990 --> 00:53:38,100
He put his arms
around me and said,

986
00:53:38,100 --> 00:53:41,070
I know you have a daughter.

987
00:53:41,070 --> 00:53:43,710
You have no insurance here.

988
00:53:43,710 --> 00:53:45,990
We'll probably finish in '64.

989
00:53:45,990 --> 00:53:49,290
Because it was 10 years,
the claims conference

990
00:53:49,290 --> 00:53:54,210
gave money for this project,
and that will be it.

991
00:53:54,210 --> 00:53:56,910
You might stay YIVO,
but you won't ever

992
00:53:56,910 --> 00:54:07,330
have the insurance, health
insurance, or even the wages.

993
00:54:07,330 --> 00:54:09,460
I was making \$60 a week.

994
00:54:09,460 --> 00:54:14,600

995
00:54:14,600 --> 00:54:15,800
But she had everything.

996
00:54:15,800 --> 00:54:19,670
Irena had always
everything, you know.

997
00:54:19,670 --> 00:54:22,610
She didn't feel it.

998
00:54:22,610 --> 00:54:28,220
And there is a good
possibility for you.

999
00:54:28,220 --> 00:54:36,910
Was 35 people in our
[? plant ?] I was shocked.

1000
00:54:36,910 --> 00:54:40,330

Why do you want
to get rid of me--

1001
00:54:40,330 --> 00:54:45,430
Anyway, so I spoke to Dr. Pat.

1002
00:54:45,430 --> 00:54:47,660
Was a very good friend of mine.

1003
00:54:47,660 --> 00:54:51,220
Excellent friend who take care
of Irka, you know, health wise.

1004
00:54:51,220 --> 00:54:56,690

1005
00:54:56,690 --> 00:54:58,465
Meanwhile, I got sick again.

1006
00:54:58,465 --> 00:54:58,965
My thyroid.

1007
00:54:58,965 --> 00:55:02,860

1008
00:55:02,860 --> 00:55:03,370
And--

1009
00:55:03,370 --> 00:55:04,260
Your thyroid again?

1010
00:55:04,260 --> 00:55:07,480

1011
00:55:07,480 --> 00:55:09,520
So I spoke, you know, to him.

1012
00:55:09,520 --> 00:55:13,000
He said-- I said,
what should I do?

1013

00:55:13,000 --> 00:55:15,170

He said, I would like to
see you yesterday there.

1014

00:55:15,170 --> 00:55:18,540

1015

00:55:18,540 --> 00:55:20,910

And I trusted him
because, you know,

1016

00:55:20,910 --> 00:55:24,340

he took really good care of us.

1017

00:55:24,340 --> 00:55:26,290

I mean health wise
and as a friend,

1018

00:55:26,290 --> 00:55:29,060

a very close friend was.

1019

00:55:29,060 --> 00:55:34,230

And this way, you
know, I left the YIVO.

1020

00:55:34,230 --> 00:55:36,240

Made me big party.

1021

00:55:36,240 --> 00:55:38,640

Have a beautiful
crystal from them.

1022

00:55:38,640 --> 00:55:41,850

It's a beautiful speech
from Dr. Robinson.

1023

00:55:41,850 --> 00:55:43,950

You know, I went to the Joint.

1024

00:55:43,950 --> 00:55:47,670

Then started a new era.

1025

00:55:47,670 --> 00:55:50,220

And life got better
for you also?

1026

00:55:50,220 --> 00:55:51,960

Yes, I could make
more money if I

1027

00:55:51,960 --> 00:55:54,300

would have the chutzpah to ask.

1028

00:55:54,300 --> 00:55:57,750

If I made 4,000 at the
YIVO I ask for five.

1029

00:55:57,750 --> 00:55:59,700

I could ask for seven.

1030

00:55:59,700 --> 00:56:00,780

I didn't.

1031

00:56:00,780 --> 00:56:02,631

They grabbed me.

1032

00:56:02,631 --> 00:56:06,460

But because of the
recommendation of Dr. Robinson,

1033

00:56:06,460 --> 00:56:07,621

you know.

1034

00:56:07,621 --> 00:56:08,910

He came once.

1035

00:56:08,910 --> 00:56:11,820

I ask him to come take
a look what I'm doing.

1036

00:56:11,820 --> 00:56:16,110

Because I put in a
new system completely.

1037

00:56:16,110 --> 00:56:21,390
And he approved everything.

1038
00:56:21,390 --> 00:56:26,910
So this way, you know, first
of all, I had insurance.

1039
00:56:26,910 --> 00:56:30,101
For me, for health,
it was very important.

1040
00:56:30,101 --> 00:56:32,690

1041
00:56:32,690 --> 00:56:35,140
The work was very gratifying.

1042
00:56:35,140 --> 00:56:38,100
And so was at the
YIVO, the work.

1043
00:56:38,100 --> 00:56:41,500
Very gratifying for me.

1044
00:56:41,500 --> 00:56:45,160
So this is a new era started.

1045
00:56:45,160 --> 00:56:48,610
And you were there for 23 years.

1046
00:56:48,610 --> 00:56:49,310
Only.

1047
00:56:49,310 --> 00:56:49,810
Only.

1048
00:56:49,810 --> 00:56:52,540

1049
00:56:52,540 --> 00:56:54,450
Only, yeah.

1050

00:56:54,450 --> 00:56:55,880

Up to now I'm a contact--

1051

00:56:55,880 --> 00:56:58,810

they constantly send me--

1052

00:56:58,810 --> 00:57:01,510

I went to the

[INAUDIBLE] affair.

1053

00:57:01,510 --> 00:57:06,340

It was 60 years of [INAUDIBLE],,

and my executive director

1054

00:57:06,340 --> 00:57:08,950

greeted me, you know, also.

1055

00:57:08,950 --> 00:57:11,572

And he said, Mrs. Klepfisz,

You don't know how much

1056

00:57:11,572 --> 00:57:12,530

we're missing you here.

1057

00:57:12,530 --> 00:57:16,870

[INAUDIBLE] miss.

1058

00:57:16,870 --> 00:57:21,710

Didn't print one single

catalog since my going away.

1059

00:57:21,710 --> 00:57:27,495

I left six catalogs of the

scribed material, the archives.

1060

00:57:27,495 --> 00:57:28,750

Six catalogs.

1061

00:57:28,750 --> 00:57:29,770

Now, not one.

1062

00:57:29,770 --> 00:57:32,550

1063

00:57:32,550 --> 00:57:34,380

So they need you?

1064

00:57:34,380 --> 00:57:37,740

So want me get back to work.

1065

00:57:37,740 --> 00:57:39,840

I would.

1066

00:57:39,840 --> 00:57:40,740

I wouldn't go back.

1067

00:57:40,740 --> 00:57:50,640

1068

00:57:50,640 --> 00:57:53,340

I think we should stop the tape.

1069

00:57:53,340 --> 00:57:55,790

We have about two minutes.

1070

00:57:55,790 --> 00:58:26,000