

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,320

2

00:00:07,320 --> 00:00:09,780

Let me ask you the same
question that I just asked you.

3

00:00:09,780 --> 00:00:11,290

All right.

4

00:00:11,290 --> 00:00:15,100

Was it in some ways helpful
to you that you didn't know?

5

00:00:15,100 --> 00:00:17,590

Would it have actually
made a difference?

6

00:00:17,590 --> 00:00:18,760

That I did not know--

7

00:00:18,760 --> 00:00:20,110

Know about the [INAUDIBLE]--

8

00:00:20,110 --> 00:00:21,985

--and did not learn
about the extermination--

9

00:00:21,985 --> 00:00:24,420

Yeah.

10

00:00:24,420 --> 00:00:29,830

--it's very hard to put myself
in the kind of frame of mind

11

00:00:29,830 --> 00:00:35,250

that I had at that time and
try to speculate what it would

12

00:00:35,250 --> 00:00:39,320

have caused if I had known.

13
00:00:39,320 --> 00:00:43,640
I think, as I
mentioned earlier--

14
00:00:43,640 --> 00:00:48,130
perhaps we were off camera;
I don't recall anymore--

15
00:00:48,130 --> 00:00:53,560
that it's a lot
both easier for me

16
00:00:53,560 --> 00:00:55,840
and much more present
in my mind to tell you

17
00:00:55,840 --> 00:01:00,910
what my mind was occupied
with during, especially

18
00:01:00,910 --> 00:01:05,750
the late summer months, as we
begin to really more than hope

19
00:01:05,750 --> 00:01:06,250
now.

20
00:01:06,250 --> 00:01:10,090
We can see this being a
tangible, reachable goal,

21
00:01:10,090 --> 00:01:11,440
to be liberated.

22
00:01:11,440 --> 00:01:12,430
Right.

23
00:01:12,430 --> 00:01:15,220
That more increasingly
my thoughts constantly

24

00:01:15,220 --> 00:01:19,450
are with the family, and,
of course, the big unknown.

25
00:01:19,450 --> 00:01:24,940
And I can still remember going
on long walks in the middle

26
00:01:24,940 --> 00:01:29,020
of the mountains and sitting
on a rock and looking

27
00:01:29,020 --> 00:01:32,560
at the horizon, beyond which
you cannot see because the next

28
00:01:32,560 --> 00:01:39,130
ridge intervenes, and try to
go mentally beyond that ridge.

29
00:01:39,130 --> 00:01:42,550
And then I would see the family.

30
00:01:42,550 --> 00:01:47,440
See, I mean,
pictures in my mind.

31
00:01:47,440 --> 00:01:51,900
But almost all
the thoughts were,

32
00:01:51,900 --> 00:01:58,040
no matter how they started, were
all how things are going to be,

33
00:01:58,040 --> 00:02:01,680
not how things they were,
but how they are going to be.

34
00:02:01,680 --> 00:02:05,390
And I was-- it was this feeling
that with liberation there

35

00:02:05,390 --> 00:02:12,180
would be really a greater,
brighter thing for everybody.

36
00:02:12,180 --> 00:02:17,120
And now the experience in
the mountains and so forth

37
00:02:17,120 --> 00:02:20,210
had begun to--

38
00:02:20,210 --> 00:02:24,620
I grew up almost overnight.

39
00:02:24,620 --> 00:02:29,390
I had-- I don't think I had
another childish thought after

40
00:02:29,390 --> 00:02:30,170
I--

41
00:02:30,170 --> 00:02:33,330
after the one I stated
was [? Messenikolas ?]..

42
00:02:33,330 --> 00:02:35,430
So this is what I
was preoccupied with,

43
00:02:35,430 --> 00:02:38,720
that I would have to
go to the university,

44
00:02:38,720 --> 00:02:43,290
and how it would be with my
mother, my father, my brothers,

45
00:02:43,290 --> 00:02:48,150
how I would be able to guide
them with all my experience.

46
00:02:48,150 --> 00:02:50,180
So that was what

was preoccupying--

47

00:02:50,180 --> 00:02:53,720

48

00:02:53,720 --> 00:02:57,260

you know, it would have
been terrible to have

49

00:02:57,260 --> 00:03:01,680

had these kinds of
things be disturbed by

50

00:03:01,680 --> 00:03:05,310

if we had learned what
was actually happening.

51

00:03:05,310 --> 00:03:06,420

What was happening.

52

00:03:06,420 --> 00:03:09,860

So in many ways, you were
constructing a future--

53

00:03:09,860 --> 00:03:11,160

Right.

54

00:03:11,160 --> 00:03:12,300

--at this point.

55

00:03:12,300 --> 00:03:14,370

I don't know, perhaps,
temperamentally,

56

00:03:14,370 --> 00:03:18,120

I've always been much
more forward-looking

57

00:03:18,120 --> 00:03:21,480

than retrospective-looking.

58

00:03:21,480 --> 00:03:26,010

And it's essential for
me to have an objective.

59
00:03:26,010 --> 00:03:28,820
So I would always
formulate objectives

60
00:03:28,820 --> 00:03:33,290
that would be reached
that I can then act on.

61
00:03:33,290 --> 00:03:36,770
And that's what
was the primary--

62
00:03:36,770 --> 00:03:42,050
and the closer this thing
is coming, the more eager

63
00:03:42,050 --> 00:03:45,320
I am to want to do it.

64
00:03:45,320 --> 00:03:49,290
So tell me about what liberation
was like, how-- what led up--

65
00:03:49,290 --> 00:03:50,070
Very quickly.

66
00:03:50,070 --> 00:03:52,890
The thing that, like
many things like that,

67
00:03:52,890 --> 00:03:54,010
happened very quickly.

68
00:03:54,010 --> 00:03:59,700
That was towards the
tail end of September,

69
00:03:59,700 --> 00:04:01,990
maybe beginning of October.

70

00:04:01,990 --> 00:04:04,830

We're issued orders
that, indeed, we

71

00:04:04,830 --> 00:04:06,660

have to start descending down.

72

00:04:06,660 --> 00:04:10,770

And we physically
begin to descend.

73

00:04:10,770 --> 00:04:15,150

And, out of nowhere, I thought
nowhere because I had--

74

00:04:15,150 --> 00:04:17,160

in the mountain, I'd
never seen that--

75

00:04:17,160 --> 00:04:21,180

a tiny little Fiat
automobile, which

76

00:04:21,180 --> 00:04:24,630

was a captured Italian
army vehicle, which

77

00:04:24,630 --> 00:04:27,150

I think the Italians
called Topolino,

78

00:04:27,150 --> 00:04:29,660

which means "little mouse."

79

00:04:29,660 --> 00:04:33,880

It was smaller than a VW.

80

00:04:33,880 --> 00:04:37,070

And that's where--
there was a driver.

81

00:04:37,070 --> 00:04:40,630

Imagine that little
thing, four people.

82
00:04:40,630 --> 00:04:42,500
And I don't know why.

83
00:04:42,500 --> 00:04:46,460
Here's the colonel, sitting in
the passenger seat in front.

84
00:04:46,460 --> 00:04:49,960
And in the rear seat
is the adjutant,

85
00:04:49,960 --> 00:04:53,897
who has the rank of
a captain, and me.

86
00:04:53,897 --> 00:04:55,360
[LAUGHS]

87
00:04:55,360 --> 00:04:59,410
But it's almost-- as we
are unloading, or taking

88
00:04:59,410 --> 00:05:01,930
the few files that we
took with us, maybe

89
00:05:01,930 --> 00:05:06,160
because I was helping, I
just got in and that's it.

90
00:05:06,160 --> 00:05:11,470
So for hours, we are driving
down very rough roads.

91
00:05:11,470 --> 00:05:14,686
And it's like we were
stopping every so often.

92
00:05:14,686 --> 00:05:19,850
And I think, finally, towards

10 or 11 o'clock at night,

93

00:05:19,850 --> 00:05:29,480

we stopped someplace
for relief and even

94

00:05:29,480 --> 00:05:32,840

to have a bite that we
had carried with us.

95

00:05:32,840 --> 00:05:34,790

And we slept on the ground.

96

00:05:34,790 --> 00:05:38,686

And we're already now in
the plains of Thessaly.

97

00:05:38,686 --> 00:05:40,850

And the following morning,
as we are ready again

98

00:05:40,850 --> 00:05:45,540

to proceed, the colonel turns
to the adjutant and says,

99

00:05:45,540 --> 00:05:47,940

what's Nehama doing here?

100

00:05:47,940 --> 00:05:52,250

I mean, I've been with him for
a whole day talking and driving.

101

00:05:52,250 --> 00:05:55,600

He just then realized that
I was there, apparently.

102

00:05:55,600 --> 00:05:56,770

Out!

103

00:05:56,770 --> 00:06:01,030

So without any other
thing, I'm ordered out

104

00:06:01,030 --> 00:06:04,240
of the vehicle in the
middle of nowhere.

105

00:06:04,240 --> 00:06:05,620
And they left me.

106

00:06:05,620 --> 00:06:11,320
I mean, I had my rifle and
a few personal belongings.

107

00:06:11,320 --> 00:06:16,455
But soon, very soon, I could
hear even a truck coming.

108

00:06:16,455 --> 00:06:21,130
And it was a truck that the
partisans had commandeered,

109

00:06:21,130 --> 00:06:21,940
and it was--

110

00:06:21,940 --> 00:06:22,720
so they stopped.

111

00:06:22,720 --> 00:06:26,320
And I got on.

112

00:06:26,320 --> 00:06:29,290
And it took us two
to three hours.

113

00:06:29,290 --> 00:06:35,110
So as I said, these things
occurred very, very fast.

114

00:06:35,110 --> 00:06:37,510
In fact, when I was
left, and then I

115

00:06:37,510 --> 00:06:39,730
boarded the truck, that

was the first time when

116
00:06:39,730 --> 00:06:44,350
I saw visual evidence
of the German retreat

117
00:06:44,350 --> 00:06:47,050
because on the side
of the road, there

118
00:06:47,050 --> 00:06:50,830
were burned vehicles because
they had been attacked.

119
00:06:50,830 --> 00:06:56,900
And I saw a considerable
number of dead German soldiers.

120
00:06:56,900 --> 00:06:59,870
Dead-- in fact, I still
remember one of them

121
00:06:59,870 --> 00:07:05,690
on his back with belly distended
because the corpse inflates

122
00:07:05,690 --> 00:07:07,630
after a while and stinks.

123
00:07:07,630 --> 00:07:10,400

124
00:07:10,400 --> 00:07:13,650
And these were visual,
again, evidence

125
00:07:13,650 --> 00:07:15,800
that they finally had left.

126
00:07:15,800 --> 00:07:22,070
And so we reached Trikala, and
I don't know where we encamped--

127

00:07:22,070 --> 00:07:24,520
someplace.

128

00:07:24,520 --> 00:07:26,950
But then, a couple
of days later, we

129

00:07:26,950 --> 00:07:29,805
were ordered to get to Larissa.

130

00:07:29,805 --> 00:07:33,140
Larissa is a much larger city.

131

00:07:33,140 --> 00:07:38,890
And it happens to be also most
central city and strategic city

132

00:07:38,890 --> 00:07:42,670
because the railroad line
runs through Larissa.

133

00:07:42,670 --> 00:07:45,340
So I got to Larissa,
and essentially, I

134

00:07:45,340 --> 00:07:50,620
rejoined the regimental unit.

135

00:07:50,620 --> 00:07:52,910
And what constituted liberation?

136

00:07:52,910 --> 00:07:57,470
I mean, how did it happen
that somebody said, it's over,

137

00:07:57,470 --> 00:07:58,210
the war's over?

138

00:07:58,210 --> 00:07:59,140
Oh, nobody said that.

139

00:07:59,140 --> 00:08:00,170
Nobody said that.

140
00:08:00,170 --> 00:08:05,350
I mean-- again, this
is not a single event.

141
00:08:05,350 --> 00:08:09,760
So last night, you're a
slave, and next, you're free.

142
00:08:09,760 --> 00:08:14,020
This happens-- but the reason
I would say it happens without

143
00:08:14,020 --> 00:08:19,110
rapidity is we didn't-- we
were not in constant touch.

144
00:08:19,110 --> 00:08:21,590
So we did not know
if, indeed, we finally

145
00:08:21,590 --> 00:08:25,850
have seen the last of the
rear guard of the retreating

146
00:08:25,850 --> 00:08:26,570
Germans.

147
00:08:26,570 --> 00:08:29,960
You know, units are
moving up, but there may

148
00:08:29,960 --> 00:08:34,220
be others coming behind them.

149
00:08:34,220 --> 00:08:36,470
So all these things
you're doing partly

150
00:08:36,470 --> 00:08:38,900
by your feel of the

terrain and what's

151
00:08:38,900 --> 00:08:41,450
happening in front of
you, now at the same time,

152
00:08:41,450 --> 00:08:43,880
also you're receiving
orders, which themselves

153
00:08:43,880 --> 00:08:47,570
are delayed because, again,
the communications are not

154
00:08:47,570 --> 00:08:49,950
what we have today.

155
00:08:49,950 --> 00:08:54,470
So it would take hours until
you begin to get confirmation

156
00:08:54,470 --> 00:09:01,520
that you're eventually seeing
the end of the German columns,

157
00:09:01,520 --> 00:09:05,480
let alone that some
of our outlying units,

158
00:09:05,480 --> 00:09:10,490
on purpose, were harassing
the retreating Germans,

159
00:09:10,490 --> 00:09:13,370
so to speed them on their way.

160
00:09:13,370 --> 00:09:18,320
[LAUGHS] So is there
a moment, let's say,

161
00:09:18,320 --> 00:09:19,680
the war is not over--

162
00:09:19,680 --> 00:09:20,180
Right.

163
00:09:20,180 --> 00:09:22,220
--for a number of months.

164
00:09:22,220 --> 00:09:25,430
But in terms of Greece,
is there a moment

165
00:09:25,430 --> 00:09:29,430
that you remember
saying, it's not just

166
00:09:29,430 --> 00:09:30,940
this free little area--

167
00:09:30,940 --> 00:09:31,440
Right.

168
00:09:31,440 --> 00:09:33,300
--it's the country?

169
00:09:33,300 --> 00:09:38,000
Yes, the moment I got
to Trikala, you see,

170
00:09:38,000 --> 00:09:45,720
since I thought maybe it's a
local situation, but there,

171
00:09:45,720 --> 00:09:52,140
I talked to people in the
city and-- as well as other

172
00:09:52,140 --> 00:09:55,230
partisans from other units and--

173
00:09:55,230 --> 00:09:57,510
because by that time,
they knew, because they

174

00:09:57,510 --> 00:10:01,920

knew that Athens was free,
and Peloponnesus was free,

175

00:10:01,920 --> 00:10:05,730

and Lamia was free, and
therefore, they were free.

176

00:10:05,730 --> 00:10:09,500

And so that's when
I knew, that's it.

177

00:10:09,500 --> 00:10:10,470

Right.

178

00:10:10,470 --> 00:10:13,650

Did you feel physical relief?

179

00:10:13,650 --> 00:10:15,630

Do you remember?

180

00:10:15,630 --> 00:10:21,000

First of all, I still remember
that as we are coming down

181

00:10:21,000 --> 00:10:26,480

the mountains, almost as
we are reaching the plains,

182

00:10:26,480 --> 00:10:32,340

not on purpose, I think
accidentally, I turned west.

183

00:10:32,340 --> 00:10:39,810

And I saw the retreating heights
where I spent the previous 13

184

00:10:39,810 --> 00:10:40,920

months or so.

185

00:10:40,920 --> 00:10:46,330

It's almost like visibly doing

two things, thanking them

186
00:10:46,330 --> 00:10:51,370
for saving me, and
two, saying goodbye.

187
00:10:51,370 --> 00:10:55,060
That's why I've had since
then a tremendous love

188
00:10:55,060 --> 00:10:59,080
and affinity for mountains.

189
00:10:59,080 --> 00:11:04,920
So that when I
finally got to Trikala

190
00:11:04,920 --> 00:11:11,520
and I was told that the rest
of the country was free,

191
00:11:11,520 --> 00:11:13,050
there wasn't elation.

192
00:11:13,050 --> 00:11:16,320
I don't believe that
either mentally or say,

193
00:11:16,320 --> 00:11:21,530
like-- it was definitely
not a letdown,

194
00:11:21,530 --> 00:11:25,440
but it was a kind of calm.

195
00:11:25,440 --> 00:11:30,190
That now, I said,
all right, now you

196
00:11:30,190 --> 00:11:35,050
have to cease worrying about
survival from the standpoint

197

00:11:35,050 --> 00:11:38,170

of an enemy action,
all right, and whatever

198

00:11:38,170 --> 00:11:40,240

the Germans represented.

199

00:11:40,240 --> 00:11:42,730

And so you got to
be able to gather

200

00:11:42,730 --> 00:11:44,770

forces to do what
I had been planning

201

00:11:44,770 --> 00:11:47,670

to do in the mountains.

202

00:11:47,670 --> 00:11:55,870

So there was-- it was a feeling
of a great deal of something--

203

00:11:55,870 --> 00:12:01,330

some weight lifted from
your mind that that part,

204

00:12:01,330 --> 00:12:04,090

you don't have to worry.

205

00:12:04,090 --> 00:12:09,730

But that did linger, and
it was supplanted by, now,

206

00:12:09,730 --> 00:12:13,450

in the coming days, you're
going to rejoin the family.

207

00:12:13,450 --> 00:12:16,000

And you will then
be able to pursue

208

00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:18,640

what you've been hoping to do.

209

00:12:18,640 --> 00:12:23,170

It was more serenity
than elation.

210

00:12:23,170 --> 00:12:24,540

I mean, elation was there.

211

00:12:24,540 --> 00:12:27,360

I mean, we shouted a little bit.

212

00:12:27,360 --> 00:12:29,410

But it was-- it
didn't last very long.

213

00:12:29,410 --> 00:12:30,910

It was much more--

214

00:12:30,910 --> 00:12:31,410

Calm.

215

00:12:31,410 --> 00:12:33,202

I don't know whether
I had a presentiment--

216

00:12:33,202 --> 00:12:35,010

I-- obviously, I didn't.

217

00:12:35,010 --> 00:12:36,780

But it was--

218

00:12:36,780 --> 00:12:38,850

I think others
had the same thing

219

00:12:38,850 --> 00:12:42,070

because, when we
went to Larissa,

220

00:12:42,070 --> 00:12:46,230

I met another

Jewish boy, actually

221

00:12:46,230 --> 00:12:50,310

the son of the
owner of the company

222

00:12:50,310 --> 00:12:52,650

that my father
worked for, who was

223

00:12:52,650 --> 00:12:56,460

almost the last person I could
imagine would have been there.

224

00:12:56,460 --> 00:12:58,680

But he was there, and
we talked for hours.

225

00:12:58,680 --> 00:13:03,360

And I think we almost
shared similar--

226

00:13:03,360 --> 00:13:05,340

had similar reactions
to the events.

227

00:13:05,340 --> 00:13:06,520

And his name?

228

00:13:06,520 --> 00:13:08,280

Sabi [? Camhi ?].

229

00:13:08,280 --> 00:13:12,370

He's been dead a
number of years now.

230

00:13:12,370 --> 00:13:17,650

Now, some woman came by, Popi.

231

00:13:17,650 --> 00:13:19,751

That was in Larissa.

232

00:13:19,751 --> 00:13:23,270
in fact, the day after
I saw Sabi [? Camhi ?],,

233
00:13:23,270 --> 00:13:25,390
whom I encountered
in-- there was

234
00:13:25,390 --> 00:13:31,390
a little park across the
building where we were housed.

235
00:13:31,390 --> 00:13:33,710
And I had gone for a stroll.

236
00:13:33,710 --> 00:13:40,950
And the following day, I
was maybe typing something

237
00:13:40,950 --> 00:13:42,610
or writing something.

238
00:13:42,610 --> 00:13:44,130
Somebody coming
told me that there

239
00:13:44,130 --> 00:13:51,120
is a lady at the office
of the adjutant, which

240
00:13:51,120 --> 00:13:56,100
was next to the colonel's
office, asking for me.

241
00:13:56,100 --> 00:14:01,758
First of all, who could possibly
be asking for me in Larissa?

242
00:14:01,758 --> 00:14:03,740
So I went there.

243
00:14:03,740 --> 00:14:07,590
And she told me her

name, Popi Stasinopoulos,

244

00:14:07,590 --> 00:14:13,450
and she told me that she's
passing on her way to Trikala.

245

00:14:13,450 --> 00:14:17,920
And somehow, my
parents had learned

246

00:14:17,920 --> 00:14:22,300
that I was with
this partisan unit,

247

00:14:22,300 --> 00:14:24,620
maybe Sabi Shabbathai
or his parents,

248

00:14:24,620 --> 00:14:28,060
because Sabi's
still part of that.

249

00:14:28,060 --> 00:14:36,240
And so she had been asked by my
father to get in touch with me,

250

00:14:36,240 --> 00:14:42,750
bring me news of the family, and
to urge me to go and see them

251

00:14:42,750 --> 00:14:45,090
as soon as possible.

252

00:14:45,090 --> 00:14:47,430
I had no thought of
that yet, because I

253

00:14:47,430 --> 00:14:51,986
didn't know by what means
I would leave to do that.

254

00:14:51,986 --> 00:14:53,970
It didn't occur to me

too that, first of all,

255

00:14:53,970 --> 00:14:57,165

it was really almost a
week or two after-- no,

256

00:14:57,165 --> 00:14:58,380

less than that--

257

00:14:58,380 --> 00:15:01,700

that we had been liberated.

258

00:15:01,700 --> 00:15:06,000

She asked me if I had
money to travel to Greece.

259

00:15:06,000 --> 00:15:07,710

I had no money.

260

00:15:07,710 --> 00:15:09,890

We didn't get paid
in the partisans.

261

00:15:09,890 --> 00:15:14,000

And she opened her
purse and gave me

262

00:15:14,000 --> 00:15:17,510

what I thought was a
rather large denomination

263

00:15:17,510 --> 00:15:19,430

bill, or several of
them, and told me

264

00:15:19,430 --> 00:15:25,410

that that would adequately
cover a bus ticket.

265

00:15:25,410 --> 00:15:29,100

And then she was on her
way to the station to go.

266

00:15:29,100 --> 00:15:31,470

And I offered to walk with her.

267

00:15:31,470 --> 00:15:32,700

She says, no, thanks a lot.

268

00:15:32,700 --> 00:15:37,720

But she-- I asked her for
some news about my mother.

269

00:15:37,720 --> 00:15:40,830

But for everybody,
well, there were

270

00:15:40,830 --> 00:15:44,080

anxious moments during all
the hiding and so forth.

271

00:15:44,080 --> 00:15:48,300

But they're all very well and
extremely anxious to see you,

272

00:15:48,300 --> 00:15:49,500

so don't tarry.

273

00:15:49,500 --> 00:15:52,860

274

00:15:52,860 --> 00:15:59,120

I have to-- just a month before
in the middle of the summer,

275

00:15:59,120 --> 00:16:00,880

I had caught a cold.

276

00:16:00,880 --> 00:16:06,220

And I was offered a
medical leave of absence.

277

00:16:06,220 --> 00:16:09,040

But at the time I was offered,
where was I going to go?

278
00:16:09,040 --> 00:16:11,950
I didn't have relatives in
the middle of the mountains.

279
00:16:11,950 --> 00:16:18,260
But I had asked the doctor
if he could keep it for me.

280
00:16:18,260 --> 00:16:21,560
And so, after I saw
Mrs. Stasinopoulos,

281
00:16:21,560 --> 00:16:25,250
Popi, then I
remembered his promise.

282
00:16:25,250 --> 00:16:28,430
So I went to him, and I
said, is this still valid?

283
00:16:28,430 --> 00:16:30,010
Sure.

284
00:16:30,010 --> 00:16:34,030
So immediately, he signed
the three-week medical leave,

285
00:16:34,030 --> 00:16:36,670
which I then presented
to the adjutant.

286
00:16:36,670 --> 00:16:39,946
He said it was fine with him.

287
00:16:39,946 --> 00:16:41,810
He says, when do
you want to leave?

288
00:16:41,810 --> 00:16:43,370
Said, as soon as I can.

289

00:16:43,370 --> 00:16:47,975

So I went to the bus station,
and I booked a seat on the bus.

290

00:16:47,975 --> 00:16:53,020

When I signed it, it was
November, I think November 19.

291

00:16:53,020 --> 00:16:57,950

That was the end of my
stay with the partisans.

292

00:16:57,950 --> 00:17:01,550

Had you dreamt-- do you remember
dreams during this time?

293

00:17:01,550 --> 00:17:07,200

294

00:17:07,200 --> 00:17:10,220

I'm sure I dreamt,
but I don't remember.

295

00:17:10,220 --> 00:17:11,160

Not [INAUDIBLE].

296

00:17:11,160 --> 00:17:12,460

No.

297

00:17:12,460 --> 00:17:16,660

So you get on the bus,
November 19, to travel, yes?

298

00:17:16,660 --> 00:17:17,380

It's a Sunday.

299

00:17:17,380 --> 00:17:18,339

It's a Sunday.

300

00:17:18,339 --> 00:17:19,560

See, that's important.

301

00:17:19,560 --> 00:17:20,310
I'll tell you why.

302
00:17:20,310 --> 00:17:21,500
OK.

303
00:17:21,500 --> 00:17:28,430
But, unlike when I came
up from Athens, this time,

304
00:17:28,430 --> 00:17:30,440
it was a regular bus.

305
00:17:30,440 --> 00:17:33,030
So it could make good time.

306
00:17:33,030 --> 00:17:36,900
And we arrived in Athens
around 3 or 4 o'clock

307
00:17:36,900 --> 00:17:38,670
in the afternoon.

308
00:17:38,670 --> 00:17:42,660
Now, Athens, pre-war,
as well as post-war--

309
00:17:42,660 --> 00:17:48,990
I mean, I think all cities,
on Sunday, they are so quiet.

310
00:17:48,990 --> 00:17:51,870
It sounds almost
they're deserted,

311
00:17:51,870 --> 00:17:54,018
especially in the commercial.

312
00:17:54,018 --> 00:17:56,650

313
00:17:56,650 --> 00:18:02,710

So we end up in the bus station,
and I got out of the bus.

314
00:18:02,710 --> 00:18:06,100
And I call on the telephone.

315
00:18:06,100 --> 00:18:09,070
Now, actually, in my house,
we didn't have a telephone.

316
00:18:09,070 --> 00:18:12,520
We shared it with the people
upstairs, the Shabbathais.

317
00:18:12,520 --> 00:18:14,300
So I think Mrs.
Shabbathai answered,

318
00:18:14,300 --> 00:18:15,490
and I said, I just arrived.

319
00:18:15,490 --> 00:18:16,930
She says, well,
come on, come on.

320
00:18:16,930 --> 00:18:21,260
Well, I said, I'm
going to take a taxi.

321
00:18:21,260 --> 00:18:23,060
So I got on a taxi.

322
00:18:23,060 --> 00:18:26,600
And, eventually,
it wasn't really--

323
00:18:26,600 --> 00:18:29,570
it was Omonia, that square
I mentioned to you earlier

324
00:18:29,570 --> 00:18:33,730
where people would sit on
the grates during the war.

325
00:18:33,730 --> 00:18:38,200
It's a 10-minute ride at most.

326
00:18:38,200 --> 00:18:40,680
And we got in
front of the house.

327
00:18:40,680 --> 00:18:41,880
But there's no one there.

328
00:18:41,880 --> 00:18:47,390
I thought that by then, by the
time I made the telephone call,

329
00:18:47,390 --> 00:18:53,680
I would find my younger brothers
there, eager to see me arrive.

330
00:18:53,680 --> 00:18:56,910
There's no one.

331
00:18:56,910 --> 00:19:01,500
And so I opened the
main entrance door.

332
00:19:01,500 --> 00:19:05,760
And I go up the stairs
to the third floor,

333
00:19:05,760 --> 00:19:09,520
where our apartment was,
and I knocked on the floor.

334
00:19:09,520 --> 00:19:11,770
And the door opens,
and who do I see?

335
00:19:11,770 --> 00:19:15,770
Popi, Mrs. Stasinopoulos.

336
00:19:15,770 --> 00:19:19,580

She's the woman that had come
to Larissa to talk to me.

337
00:19:19,580 --> 00:19:21,200
And she went like this.

338
00:19:21,200 --> 00:19:24,090
Go upstairs.

339
00:19:24,090 --> 00:19:28,890
I mean, I'm too dumbfounded
to even ask her why.

340
00:19:28,890 --> 00:19:31,670
So I trudge another floor.

341
00:19:31,670 --> 00:19:34,070
And I knock on the door.

342
00:19:34,070 --> 00:19:41,500
And Mrs. Shabbathai opened
the door and she embraced me.

343
00:19:41,500 --> 00:19:46,180
And she takes me by the
hand into their living room.

344
00:19:46,180 --> 00:19:48,930
And there's my father.

345
00:19:48,930 --> 00:19:52,260
And I still remember him
because it was a kind of a thing

346
00:19:52,260 --> 00:19:57,150
that he wore in
winter, a flannel robe.

347
00:19:57,150 --> 00:20:02,460
And he's sitting in
a kind of deck chair

348

00:20:02,460 --> 00:20:06,790
because he liked that kind
of thing with armrests.

349
00:20:06,790 --> 00:20:10,330
Well, I went in
and embraced him.

350
00:20:10,330 --> 00:20:14,520
He kissed me, and
I see he's crying.

351
00:20:14,520 --> 00:20:16,620
And I say, where is Mother?

352
00:20:16,620 --> 00:20:22,427
And where is-- where
is Sam and Meko?

353
00:20:22,427 --> 00:20:25,170

354
00:20:25,170 --> 00:20:31,090
Well, he-- I don't think
he was in a state to talk.

355
00:20:31,090 --> 00:20:36,100
But Mrs. Shabbathai came again
and put her arm around me.

356
00:20:36,100 --> 00:20:38,560
And Mr. Shabbathai
took hold of my arm

357
00:20:38,560 --> 00:20:42,570
and told me that things had
been terrible, you know,

358
00:20:42,570 --> 00:20:49,700
and the only thing is that
they were caught somehow,

359
00:20:49,700 --> 00:20:53,180

but nobody knew now
where they were.

360
00:20:53,180 --> 00:20:57,460

361
00:20:57,460 --> 00:21:02,950
This is what I found
when I got there.

362
00:21:02,950 --> 00:21:06,160

363
00:21:06,160 --> 00:21:11,740
I really cannot even remember
the remaining of the day.

364
00:21:11,740 --> 00:21:14,500
I'm sure I must have
something to eat because I

365
00:21:14,500 --> 00:21:16,270
hadn't eaten all day long.

366
00:21:16,270 --> 00:21:18,536
I don't know whether
I ate it when--

367
00:21:18,536 --> 00:21:23,500
apparently, I then-- and we went
downstairs to our apartment.

368
00:21:23,500 --> 00:21:25,390
But very quickly
[INAUDIBLE] make

369
00:21:25,390 --> 00:21:31,100
a final tie with Mr. and
Mrs. Stasinopoulos who I met.

370
00:21:31,100 --> 00:21:35,880
When we left our
apartment, then people who

371
00:21:35,880 --> 00:21:38,020
were looking for places, they--

372
00:21:38,020 --> 00:21:43,800
and the Stasinopoulos found or
got a hold of our apartment.

373
00:21:43,800 --> 00:21:46,710
And they moved there.

374
00:21:46,710 --> 00:21:50,790
And at liberation, they
could not be expelled.

375
00:21:50,790 --> 00:21:52,920
They didn't even
have a place to go.

376
00:21:52,920 --> 00:21:57,210
So they stayed in
the same place.

377
00:21:57,210 --> 00:22:01,440
We shared the apartment
for a number of months.

378
00:22:01,440 --> 00:22:06,480
And relations were not really
the best after a while.

379
00:22:06,480 --> 00:22:09,070
It was difficult to do that.

380
00:22:09,070 --> 00:22:12,810
But essentially, my father
and I shared a room.

381
00:22:12,810 --> 00:22:14,820
And they shared
the other bedroom.

382

00:22:14,820 --> 00:22:19,780

383

00:22:19,780 --> 00:22:22,225

You know, and even I know
that the following night--

384

00:22:22,225 --> 00:22:25,690

I don't know how I slept that
night, how I was able to sleep.

385

00:22:25,690 --> 00:22:28,110

I didn't know what to think.

386

00:22:28,110 --> 00:22:31,940

And I'm sure I must
have asked my father,

387

00:22:31,940 --> 00:22:38,300

but he had no details as to
exactly what had happened,

388

00:22:38,300 --> 00:22:40,720

how they had been caught.

389

00:22:40,720 --> 00:22:44,710

Or now, she knows
because other people

390

00:22:44,710 --> 00:22:48,040

had said that they
were taken to Haidari.

391

00:22:48,040 --> 00:22:51,850

And that from there
nobody else they knew.

392

00:22:51,850 --> 00:22:55,210

Actually, we know
now, I know now,

393

00:22:55,210 --> 00:22:58,360

that my mother and

my two brothers

394

00:22:58,360 --> 00:23:02,380

were put on the last
transport that left Greece.

395

00:23:02,380 --> 00:23:05,530

396

00:23:05,530 --> 00:23:08,020

And the reason that
was being delayed

397

00:23:08,020 --> 00:23:13,480

was because they were waiting
for the 2,400 Jews of Rhodes,

398

00:23:13,480 --> 00:23:16,660

which, again, the
Italian army seized.

399

00:23:16,660 --> 00:23:21,560

They had the Germans occupied
and they had rounded up,

400

00:23:21,560 --> 00:23:23,990

and they are bringing
them by boat.

401

00:23:23,990 --> 00:23:30,710

And they made the last
transport in August.

402

00:23:30,710 --> 00:23:39,570

It's very hard sometimes when
I think that the first time

403

00:23:39,570 --> 00:23:45,240

I began to learn and see
that indeed the Germans may

404

00:23:45,240 --> 00:23:48,140

be on the way out

from Greece, it

405

00:23:48,140 --> 00:23:54,640

must have been July, maybe,
or maybe early August of '44.

406

00:23:54,640 --> 00:24:01,190

And to think that within a month
they would be being transported

407

00:24:01,190 --> 00:24:06,770

literally along the railway line
in front of me in Thessaly--

408

00:24:06,770 --> 00:24:09,920

well, figuratively speaking--

409

00:24:09,920 --> 00:24:15,070

or even harder that after
another month or two,

410

00:24:15,070 --> 00:24:16,070

it would have been over.

411

00:24:16,070 --> 00:24:19,472

412

00:24:19,472 --> 00:24:20,930

But it happened.

413

00:24:20,930 --> 00:24:25,790

414

00:24:25,790 --> 00:24:27,650

Was your father able
to talk with you

415

00:24:27,650 --> 00:24:29,120

about what he experienced?

416

00:24:29,120 --> 00:24:30,290

Were you [INAUDIBLE]--

417
00:24:30,290 --> 00:24:30,790
Slowly.

418
00:24:30,790 --> 00:24:31,520
Slowly.

419
00:24:31,520 --> 00:24:37,400
Yeah, I can now--

420
00:24:37,400 --> 00:24:41,570
and then, but of
course more now--

421
00:24:41,570 --> 00:24:46,070
having children
myself, I began to feel

422
00:24:46,070 --> 00:24:54,650
that as soon as he
emerged from hiding,

423
00:24:54,650 --> 00:24:57,590
he finds that he has
no wife or children,

424
00:24:57,590 --> 00:25:01,010
he doesn't know where I am or
where the rest of the family

425
00:25:01,010 --> 00:25:01,510
are.

426
00:25:01,510 --> 00:25:04,000
And he has no answers.

427
00:25:04,000 --> 00:25:06,190
Nobody can tell him.

428
00:25:06,190 --> 00:25:08,440
I mean, in the case of my
mother and my brothers,

429

00:25:08,440 --> 00:25:11,290

he has surmised that
something horrible happened.

430

00:25:11,290 --> 00:25:14,520

So at least I had told him I
was going to go up the mountain,

431

00:25:14,520 --> 00:25:17,190

but whether I'm alive
or not, he had no idea

432

00:25:17,190 --> 00:25:20,010

until the Shabbathais
returned, which was not

433

00:25:20,010 --> 00:25:22,215

until two or three weeks later.

434

00:25:22,215 --> 00:25:26,270

435

00:25:26,270 --> 00:25:29,780

And only slowly, he began
to tell me how it was.

436

00:25:29,780 --> 00:25:36,235

And, in fact, I remember he told
me that around September, he

437

00:25:36,235 --> 00:25:37,610

finally-- in the
last place where

438

00:25:37,610 --> 00:25:43,540

he was hiding in one of the
suburbs of Athens, he got up,

439

00:25:43,540 --> 00:25:46,450

and he knew it was Yom Kippur.

440

00:25:46,450 --> 00:25:49,440
And he began to pray.

441
00:25:49,440 --> 00:25:59,220
And out of the window, he
saw another man in the yard

442
00:25:59,220 --> 00:26:06,090
in the adjacent house,
who was also praying.

443
00:26:06,090 --> 00:26:11,460
And that's when he realized
it must be another Jew.

444
00:26:11,460 --> 00:26:16,030
And it wasn't yet
liberation or freedom yet.

445
00:26:16,030 --> 00:26:19,806
And when they got
liberated, they--

446
00:26:19,806 --> 00:26:22,060
and indeed, he was another Jew.

447
00:26:22,060 --> 00:26:28,820
So, I mean, for my father,
being immobilized first of all,

448
00:26:28,820 --> 00:26:32,290
because of his leg,
but even because

449
00:26:32,290 --> 00:26:40,100
of hiding, when even people
who were fully functional

450
00:26:40,100 --> 00:26:43,970
couldn't roam around the
streets from fear of being seen

451
00:26:43,970 --> 00:26:45,920

by somebody,
denounced-- there were

452
00:26:45,920 --> 00:26:47,640
many of this kind of people.

453
00:26:47,640 --> 00:26:50,900
In fact, my family, as
I know from my brother,

454
00:26:50,900 --> 00:26:54,955
were found by Recanati,
who was a Jew in Salonika,

455
00:26:54,955 --> 00:27:00,430
a Jew who worked for the
Germans when he was shot.

456
00:27:00,430 --> 00:27:09,060
And so we are trying to
pick up life again out

457
00:27:09,060 --> 00:27:11,950
of the-- but no
sooner are we doing

458
00:27:11,950 --> 00:27:15,120
that that the trouble start.

459
00:27:15,120 --> 00:27:21,240
And at one point, because
I didn't know what to do,

460
00:27:21,240 --> 00:27:26,150
I thought that I ought
to rejoin my unit.

461
00:27:26,150 --> 00:27:33,530
And my father went into
hysterics, literal hysterics,

462
00:27:33,530 --> 00:27:40,100
which I thought a little bit

ludicrous for a man of his age.

463

00:27:40,100 --> 00:27:43,570

But now I can understand.

464

00:27:43,570 --> 00:27:47,740

I mean, it is the only
son that's left to him,

465

00:27:47,740 --> 00:27:54,610

and he's now talking about
going and rejoining the unit.

466

00:27:54,610 --> 00:27:57,520

Well, it wasn't so much his
shouting that kept me there,

467

00:27:57,520 --> 00:28:01,130

but the doctor who
gave me the leave

468

00:28:01,130 --> 00:28:04,340

turned out to be staying at
the apartment across the street

469

00:28:04,340 --> 00:28:05,180

from us.

470

00:28:05,180 --> 00:28:07,270

So I went and I said to
him, what shall I do?

471

00:28:07,270 --> 00:28:09,200

He goes, don't go any place.

472

00:28:09,200 --> 00:28:11,090

Stay there-- here.

473

00:28:11,090 --> 00:28:13,800

And that's what I did.

474

00:28:13,800 --> 00:28:17,750

How old was your father at
this time, do you think?

475

00:28:17,750 --> 00:28:20,420

My father, at that time, must
have been in his late 40s.

476

00:28:20,420 --> 00:28:23,120

477

00:28:23,120 --> 00:28:25,870

OK, let's change the tape.

478

00:28:25,870 --> 00:28:28,000