

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,640

2  
00:00:05,640 --> 00:00:07,563  
This time I'm going  
to-- because I'm

3  
00:00:07,563 --> 00:00:09,480  
going to let you talk  
as much as you want just

4  
00:00:09,480 --> 00:00:11,200  
about different things.

5  
00:00:11,200 --> 00:00:12,960  
What I would like  
you to talk about

6  
00:00:12,960 --> 00:00:17,490  
is, first about your parents,  
about-- but without maybe

7  
00:00:17,490 --> 00:00:19,694  
the history of Russia.

8  
00:00:19,694 --> 00:00:20,680  
We're going to get set.

9  
00:00:20,680 --> 00:00:22,168  
Stand by, and we're all set now.

10  
00:00:22,168 --> 00:00:22,960  
Ready when you are.

11  
00:00:22,960 --> 00:00:25,030  
Ready.

12  
00:00:25,030 --> 00:00:27,430  
This is the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

13  
00:00:27,430 --> 00:00:32,500  
interview conducted by Peggy

Frankston, with André, Lucie,

14  
00:00:32,500 --> 00:00:33,610  
and Joyce--

15  
00:00:33,610 --> 00:00:35,170  
Joyce.

16  
00:00:35,170 --> 00:00:38,240  
--who were born Zalc, all--

17  
00:00:38,240 --> 00:00:40,180  
a brother and two sisters.

18  
00:00:40,180 --> 00:00:42,700  
And it's going to be--

19  
00:00:42,700 --> 00:00:46,880  
and it's on July 23,  
2009, in New York City.

20  
00:00:46,880 --> 00:00:50,110  
And it's a continuation of  
the three separate interviews

21  
00:00:50,110 --> 00:00:54,310  
that we've just done, talking  
about wartime experiences,

22  
00:00:54,310 --> 00:00:59,300  
and perhaps some of the  
experiences after the war,

23  
00:00:59,300 --> 00:01:01,760  
or some experiences  
before the war.

24  
00:01:01,760 --> 00:01:04,819  
So I'd like to start  
with some of the things

25  
00:01:04,819 --> 00:01:07,160  
that you know  
about your parents.

26

00:01:07,160 --> 00:01:08,430

Yeah.

27

00:01:08,430 --> 00:01:16,080

So my mother, she came from  
a family living in Latvia.

28

00:01:16,080 --> 00:01:19,010

And not in the Riga.

29

00:01:19,010 --> 00:01:20,490

She were Ventspils.

30

00:01:20,490 --> 00:01:21,760

That's a different city.

31

00:01:21,760 --> 00:01:24,300

It's a harbor in Latvia.

32

00:01:24,300 --> 00:01:31,500

And she had two brothers  
and two sisters.

33

00:01:31,500 --> 00:01:39,930

And they owned a farm of cattle,  
the cattle farm up there.

34

00:01:39,930 --> 00:01:44,640

And, of course, in Latvia  
there was a certain amount

35

00:01:44,640 --> 00:01:46,980

of a Jewish population.

36

00:01:46,980 --> 00:01:51,090

And that's why  
Latvia also was a--

37

00:01:51,090 --> 00:01:52,440

belonged to Russia.

38

00:01:52,440 --> 00:01:54,540

But before it  
belonged to Russia,

39

00:01:54,540 --> 00:01:58,500  
was a part of Germany,  
was a colony of Germany.

40

00:01:58,500 --> 00:02:01,720  
And the people spoke German.

41

00:02:01,720 --> 00:02:06,510  
And later, they learned Russia  
from the Russian occupation

42

00:02:06,510 --> 00:02:10,530  
or because the Russian  
got the territory.

43

00:02:10,530 --> 00:02:18,960  
And she-- they were selling  
cattle to Finland, and Sweden,

44

00:02:18,960 --> 00:02:20,670  
and everywhere.

45

00:02:20,670 --> 00:02:26,130  
But then the czar of  
Russia had a brother.

46

00:02:26,130 --> 00:02:28,140  
And his name was Peter.

47

00:02:28,140 --> 00:02:35,140  
And when they went in war  
with Germany, [INAUDIBLE]..

48

00:02:35,140 --> 00:02:38,190  
He was afraid of the  
Jewish population

49

00:02:38,190 --> 00:02:42,580  
because in those days the Jews  
were friendly with the Germans.

50

00:02:42,580 --> 00:02:46,630  
And then they spoke Yiddish,  
which is an old German.

51  
00:02:46,630 --> 00:02:51,920  
It's a dialect of Germany  
from 500 years ago.

52  
00:02:51,920 --> 00:02:58,570  
So Peter decided with his  
brother, the czar of Russia,

53  
00:02:58,570 --> 00:03:03,970  
they decided to take  
the Jews and send them

54  
00:03:03,970 --> 00:03:09,910  
to the other part of Russia  
by the Iranian border,

55  
00:03:09,910 --> 00:03:15,370  
by the Caspian Sea, by  
Astrakhan, by Baku Astrakhan.

56  
00:03:15,370 --> 00:03:17,380  
And they were sent there.

57  
00:03:17,380 --> 00:03:21,760  
And up there, they started a new  
life with different businesses

58  
00:03:21,760 --> 00:03:23,710  
to survive.

59  
00:03:23,710 --> 00:03:30,910  
And the grandfather, my  
mother's father, started--

60  
00:03:30,910 --> 00:03:34,160  
because up there,  
there's a lot of fish.

61  
00:03:34,160 --> 00:03:38,290  
The caviar comes from  
there, and the best fish,

62  
00:03:38,290 --> 00:03:42,040  
and the oil from

the whales, too,

63

00:03:42,040 --> 00:03:45,760

which was like very  
important in those days.

64

00:03:45,760 --> 00:03:50,290

So he started a factory  
of smoking fish.

65

00:03:50,290 --> 00:03:52,780

And he was very  
successful with that,

66

00:03:52,780 --> 00:03:55,900

because in those days  
in the First World War,

67

00:03:55,900 --> 00:03:59,950

the Russian Army had no  
sea rations like today.

68

00:03:59,950 --> 00:04:03,040

And they used to use  
a piece of smoked fish

69

00:04:03,040 --> 00:04:04,690

and a piece of bread.

70

00:04:04,690 --> 00:04:07,850

That was the food of  
the Russian soldier.

71

00:04:07,850 --> 00:04:12,950

And he couldn't produce enough  
smoked fish for the government.

72

00:04:12,950 --> 00:04:16,769

So the government wanted they  
should produce more fish.

73

00:04:16,769 --> 00:04:18,209

They were working day and night.

74

00:04:18,209 --> 00:04:20,570

So he complained about it.

75

00:04:20,570 --> 00:04:22,880  
So they told him,  
don't worry about it.

76

00:04:22,880 --> 00:04:26,220  
If you're short of labor,  
we give you workers.

77

00:04:26,220 --> 00:04:28,550  
So they gave him  
Turkish prisoners,

78

00:04:28,550 --> 00:04:32,150  
and German prisoners,  
and Austrian prisoners

79

00:04:32,150 --> 00:04:34,550  
from the First World War.

80

00:04:34,550 --> 00:04:37,730  
And they used to work  
in the factory helping

81

00:04:37,730 --> 00:04:39,335  
to smoke the fish.

82

00:04:39,335 --> 00:04:42,830

83

00:04:42,830 --> 00:04:47,150  
And two prisoners fell  
in love with my aunts.

84

00:04:47,150 --> 00:04:49,100  
And they married my aunts.

85

00:04:49,100 --> 00:04:54,650  
And when the revolution  
of Russia started,

86

00:04:54,650 --> 00:04:56,450  
the war with the  
Germans and Russians

87

00:04:56,450 --> 00:05:01,070  
stopped because the Germans  
made the Russian revolution.

88

00:05:01,070 --> 00:05:04,370  
I don't know if you know  
that, yeah, because they

89

00:05:04,370 --> 00:05:06,170  
got Lenin in Switzerland.

90

00:05:06,170 --> 00:05:09,560  
And they gave them money, and  
they send them back to Russia

91

00:05:09,560 --> 00:05:11,450  
to make the revolution.

92

00:05:11,450 --> 00:05:14,600  
And when they made their  
revolution, the war stopped.

93

00:05:14,600 --> 00:05:19,490  
So the-- those two prisoners  
took their wives with them

94

00:05:19,490 --> 00:05:22,670  
to Germany and then  
went to United States.

95

00:05:22,670 --> 00:05:27,000  
And one uncle and  
aunt went to Belgium.

96

00:05:27,000 --> 00:05:28,730  
And my mother, she was younger.

97

00:05:28,730 --> 00:05:29,850  
She wasn't married.

98

00:05:29,850 --> 00:05:32,910  
So she stayed with her folks.

99



00:05:32,910 --> 00:05:37,470  
And the two brothers  
went to the Russian army.

100  
00:05:37,470 --> 00:05:43,400  
And after the war, my mother  
was the only daughter home

101  
00:05:43,400 --> 00:05:45,470  
with her two brothers.

102  
00:05:45,470 --> 00:05:49,220  
They went back to  
Latvia from Astrakhan.

103  
00:05:49,220 --> 00:05:52,250  
But her parents  
died in Astrakhan.

104  
00:05:52,250 --> 00:05:56,970  
They got the--  
what's that disease?

105  
00:05:56,970 --> 00:05:57,470  
Typhoid?

106  
00:05:57,470 --> 00:05:57,875  
The fever.

107  
00:05:57,875 --> 00:05:58,375  
Huh?

108  
00:05:58,375 --> 00:05:59,090  
Typhoid?

109  
00:05:59,090 --> 00:06:00,140  
Typhoid.

110  
00:06:00,140 --> 00:06:04,640  
They got typhoid, and they  
died from that disease,

111  
00:06:04,640 --> 00:06:06,140  
[NON-ENGLISH] it's called.

112

00:06:06,140 --> 00:06:08,300

And-- typhoid, yeah, in English.

113

00:06:08,300 --> 00:06:10,880

So they died from that disease.

114

00:06:10,880 --> 00:06:12,930

So my mother became an orphan.

115

00:06:12,930 --> 00:06:14,090

So the Russians--

116

00:06:14,090 --> 00:06:16,610

Russian government  
gave her a visa

117

00:06:16,610 --> 00:06:18,590

as it was already  
after the revolution.

118

00:06:18,590 --> 00:06:20,480

But because she  
was an orphan, they

119

00:06:20,480 --> 00:06:23,000

gave her a visa to  
go to her sisters.

120

00:06:23,000 --> 00:06:27,500

One lived in the States,  
and one lived in Belgium.

121

00:06:27,500 --> 00:06:30,470

So she went to Belgium  
to go to the States.

122

00:06:30,470 --> 00:06:34,130

And by going to Belgium, she  
stayed by that other sister,

123

00:06:34,130 --> 00:06:36,410

and she married my father.

124

00:06:36,410 --> 00:06:43,340

And that's the-- we were born  
in Belgium from that wedding.

125

00:06:43,340 --> 00:06:44,190

And--

126

00:06:44,190 --> 00:06:45,140

And we had a--

127

00:06:45,140 --> 00:06:48,590

--my sister Joyce  
was born in France

128

00:06:48,590 --> 00:06:51,590

during the wartime, yeah.

129

00:06:51,590 --> 00:06:53,240

Where was your father from?

130

00:06:53,240 --> 00:06:56,480

My father was Polish from Lodz.

131

00:06:56,480 --> 00:06:59,060

And he came to Belgium, too.

132

00:06:59,060 --> 00:07:02,040

But he didn't have his birth  
certificate from Poland.

133

00:07:02,040 --> 00:07:03,660

He couldn't get the  
birth certificate.

134

00:07:03,660 --> 00:07:06,770

He had to go back to Poland  
to serve in the reserve.

135

00:07:06,770 --> 00:07:08,150

In Poland, after the--

136

00:07:08,150 --> 00:07:10,460

after being in  
the army, you have

137

00:07:10,460 --> 00:07:14,780  
to be four or five  
years in the reserve.

138  
00:07:14,780 --> 00:07:18,230  
So he couldn't go back there  
because he was married.

139  
00:07:18,230 --> 00:07:20,240  
He had no way of  
going back there.

140  
00:07:20,240 --> 00:07:25,520  
So he couldn't get married  
officially in Belgium.

141  
00:07:25,520 --> 00:07:30,740  
So he was just married  
by the Jewish law, yeah.

142  
00:07:30,740 --> 00:07:32,870  
But he was from Lodz.

143  
00:07:32,870 --> 00:07:34,640  
He was from Lodz, yeah.

144  
00:07:34,640 --> 00:07:40,070  
But he served in the Polish  
army in the war with Pilsudski.

145  
00:07:40,070 --> 00:07:42,980  
That's the German--  
the Polish general who

146  
00:07:42,980 --> 00:07:45,290  
freed Poland from the Russians.

147  
00:07:45,290 --> 00:07:50,120  
And Poland invaded  
Ukraine, Kiev.

148  
00:07:50,120 --> 00:07:51,950  
Poland took Kiev.

149  
00:07:51,950 --> 00:07:54,860

But after that, the  
Polish lost the war.

150  
00:07:54,860 --> 00:07:58,730  
And the Russians came all the  
way to the capital of Poland.

151  
00:07:58,730 --> 00:08:01,490  
And things got  
very bad in Poland.

152  
00:08:01,490 --> 00:08:05,629  
And so he left Poland,  
and he came to Belgium.

153  
00:08:05,629 --> 00:08:07,087  
And he didn't serve  
in the reserve.

154  
00:08:07,087 --> 00:08:09,910  
Is that why your name  
is Ulmam on your--

155  
00:08:09,910 --> 00:08:10,410  
Right.

156  
00:08:10,410 --> 00:08:14,360  
Yeah, and that's why in Belgium  
I didn't have my father's name.

157  
00:08:14,360 --> 00:08:16,790  
I was named Ulmam  
after my mother.

158  
00:08:16,790 --> 00:08:21,880  
And being that I was  
under my mother's name,

159  
00:08:21,880 --> 00:08:24,800  
I became a Belgium  
citizen automatically,

160  
00:08:24,800 --> 00:08:28,970  
because she came from-- from  
foreign parents in Belgium,

161  
00:08:28,970 --> 00:08:30,690  
you didn't have the  
Belgian nationality.

162  
00:08:30,690 --> 00:08:33,110  
You had to go-- you had to  
serve in the Belgium army

163  
00:08:33,110 --> 00:08:34,580  
to become a Belgium.

164  
00:08:34,580 --> 00:08:37,039  
So I was a Belgium  
automatically.

165  
00:08:37,039 --> 00:08:42,049  
And I was considered the  
son of the King Albert.

166  
00:08:42,049 --> 00:08:44,450  
King Albert, I was his son.

167  
00:08:44,450 --> 00:08:45,530  
I've never seen him.

168  
00:08:45,530 --> 00:08:47,210  
But [INAUDIBLE].

169  
00:08:47,210 --> 00:08:48,532  
Yeah.

170  
00:08:48,532 --> 00:08:54,080  
Lucie, do you  
remember what it was

171  
00:08:54,080 --> 00:08:58,360  
like arriving in France, you--

172  
00:08:58,360 --> 00:09:01,670  
going to the different camps?

173  
00:09:01,670 --> 00:09:05,600  
Well, we were on a  
train going to France.

174  
00:09:05,600 --> 00:09:08,530  
And I think a bomb  
fell on the train.

175  
00:09:08,530 --> 00:09:09,470  
About two weeks.

176  
00:09:09,470 --> 00:09:11,870  
And it took us a long time.

177  
00:09:11,870 --> 00:09:13,880  
And we had to get  
off the train to go

178  
00:09:13,880 --> 00:09:15,980  
to the bathroom and all that.

179  
00:09:15,980 --> 00:09:18,980  
And when the bomb  
fell on the train,

180  
00:09:18,980 --> 00:09:21,500  
it divided the train in two.

181  
00:09:21,500 --> 00:09:25,430  
And part of the train  
was left behind.

182  
00:09:25,430 --> 00:09:27,050  
And we were lucky.

183  
00:09:27,050 --> 00:09:28,550  
Our train went on.

184  
00:09:28,550 --> 00:09:31,905  
And that's how we got  
to our destination.

185  
00:09:31,905 --> 00:09:33,140  
To the south of France.

186  
00:09:33,140 --> 00:09:37,370  
And that's-- it's

unbelievable, you know.

187

00:09:37,370 --> 00:09:39,980

188

00:09:39,980 --> 00:09:41,910

And also, by the--

189

00:09:41,910 --> 00:09:45,480

when we traveled to

France, they arrested

190

00:09:45,480 --> 00:09:47,120

the German fifth column.

191

00:09:47,120 --> 00:09:48,500

You know fifth column?

192

00:09:48,500 --> 00:09:50,310

They had German spies.

193

00:09:50,310 --> 00:09:52,690

They were dressed as priests.

194

00:09:52,690 --> 00:09:55,140

And the French

police arrested them.

195

00:09:55,140 --> 00:09:55,640

No.

196

00:09:55,640 --> 00:09:57,800

But we just want to know

about Mommy and Daddy.

197

00:09:57,800 --> 00:09:58,020

No, no.

198

00:09:58,020 --> 00:09:59,990

It's just the different

things that happened there.

199

00:09:59,990 --> 00:10:00,490

Yeah.



200  
00:10:00,490 --> 00:10:04,060  
And then they, you  
know, when they ask you

201  
00:10:04,060 --> 00:10:06,130  
for your identification,  
if you don't have one,

202  
00:10:06,130 --> 00:10:09,720  
they automatically  
put you in a camp.

203  
00:10:09,720 --> 00:10:12,580

204  
00:10:12,580 --> 00:10:16,820  
When you went to the first  
camp, were you all together?

205  
00:10:16,820 --> 00:10:18,380  
Or were you separated?

206  
00:10:18,380 --> 00:10:19,398  
I think we were--

207  
00:10:19,398 --> 00:10:19,940  
All together.

208  
00:10:19,940 --> 00:10:21,410  
We were together.

209  
00:10:21,410 --> 00:10:22,470  
We were together.

210  
00:10:22,470 --> 00:10:24,260  
And then Récébédou?

211  
00:10:24,260 --> 00:10:25,810  
In Brens too, we were together.

212  
00:10:25,810 --> 00:10:27,650  
In Brens, Récébédou  
we were together.

213

00:10:27,650 --> 00:10:31,685

Even in Rivesaltes, in the  
beginning we were together.

214

00:10:31,685 --> 00:10:32,810

And then they separated us.

215

00:10:32,810 --> 00:10:33,310

Right.

216

00:10:33,310 --> 00:10:37,875

And then when Joyce was  
born, that's when we escaped.

217

00:10:37,875 --> 00:10:40,430

218

00:10:40,430 --> 00:10:42,440

I was there for quite a while.

219

00:10:42,440 --> 00:10:45,530

And which Illo are  
they making the museum?

220

00:10:45,530 --> 00:10:46,940

Is it K?

221

00:10:46,940 --> 00:10:52,700

I think I was in that Illo,  
which is very unusual.

222

00:10:52,700 --> 00:10:58,760

Something else, the people  
from eating the [NON-ENGLISH]..

223

00:10:58,760 --> 00:11:00,140

How you call the [NON-ENGLISH]?

224

00:11:00,140 --> 00:11:01,820

The--

225

00:11:01,820 --> 00:11:02,460

Turnips.

226  
00:11:02,460 --> 00:11:02,960  
Oh, yeah.

227  
00:11:02,960 --> 00:11:05,840  
They used to get  
water in their legs

228  
00:11:05,840 --> 00:11:08,930  
from eating that  
without stopping,

229  
00:11:08,930 --> 00:11:10,880  
because that's the only  
food they gave you.

230  
00:11:10,880 --> 00:11:12,820  
The used to get  
water in their legs.

231  
00:11:12,820 --> 00:11:14,570  
Their legs used to blow up.

232  
00:11:14,570 --> 00:11:16,742  
A lot of people  
just didn't make it.

233  
00:11:16,742 --> 00:11:18,200  
Used to get sick  
and die from them.

234  
00:11:18,200 --> 00:11:21,390  
Some of them made it now.

235  
00:11:21,390 --> 00:11:24,820  
You remember crying a lot.

236  
00:11:24,820 --> 00:11:25,945  
You mentioned crying a lot.

237  
00:11:25,945 --> 00:11:26,240  
Yeah.

238  
00:11:26,240 --> 00:11:26,740

Mama--

239

00:11:26,740 --> 00:11:29,820

Did you have any  
friends your age?

240

00:11:29,820 --> 00:11:34,520

I don't-- I remember  
they made a party.

241

00:11:34,520 --> 00:11:37,610

And they gave us some food.

242

00:11:37,610 --> 00:11:39,140

And it was very joyous.

243

00:11:39,140 --> 00:11:40,760

There was music and everything.

244

00:11:40,760 --> 00:11:44,090

But I think that was  
around the holidays.

245

00:11:44,090 --> 00:11:46,940

And that's all I remember.

246

00:11:46,940 --> 00:11:49,460

I even remember smuggling  
out a little piece

247

00:11:49,460 --> 00:11:53,940

of bread in my  
underwear for my mother,

248

00:11:53,940 --> 00:11:57,220

because she always  
saved everything for us.

249

00:11:57,220 --> 00:12:02,050

And in camp, too, there was  
a certain rumors going around

250

00:12:02,050 --> 00:12:06,280

that if you volunteer to  
go to work in Germany,

251  
00:12:06,280 --> 00:12:09,170  
you get more food, and  
you get better things.

252  
00:12:09,170 --> 00:12:11,540  
And a lot of people  
volunteered for it.

253  
00:12:11,540 --> 00:12:14,920  
I don't know if they  
went to Germany.

254  
00:12:14,920 --> 00:12:17,890  
But there was all kinds  
of rumors going around.

255  
00:12:17,890 --> 00:12:21,560  
Like people, to get more food,  
they did anything they could,

256  
00:12:21,560 --> 00:12:23,110  
no?

257  
00:12:23,110 --> 00:12:27,320  
Did you meet other children,  
the Spanish children

258  
00:12:27,320 --> 00:12:28,600  
or the Roma children?

259  
00:12:28,600 --> 00:12:30,250  
No, they were in  
a different part--

260  
00:12:30,250 --> 00:12:30,340  
Gypsy.

261  
00:12:30,340 --> 00:12:30,923  
--of the camp.

262  
00:12:30,923 --> 00:12:32,020  
There were gypsies, too.

263

00:12:32,020 --> 00:12:32,890  
The gypsies, too.

264  
00:12:32,890 --> 00:12:34,780  
There were different  
part of the camps.

265  
00:12:34,780 --> 00:12:37,930  
The gypsies were in a  
special part of the camp.

266  
00:12:37,930 --> 00:12:39,550  
And the Spanish, too.

267  
00:12:39,550 --> 00:12:43,720  
Some time we came  
together with the Spanish.

268  
00:12:43,720 --> 00:12:45,850  
But they spoke  
different language.

269  
00:12:45,850 --> 00:12:47,290  
We couldn't talk to them.

270  
00:12:47,290 --> 00:12:51,030  
And they were very good  
in throwing stones.

271  
00:12:51,030 --> 00:12:54,380  
They were throwing stones  
at electric wire, you know?

272  
00:12:54,380 --> 00:12:58,390  
Yeah, the Spanish kids, yeah.

273  
00:12:58,390 --> 00:13:01,870  
In those days, I couldn't  
speak Spanish, you know?

274  
00:13:01,870 --> 00:13:02,370  
Right.

275  
00:13:02,370 --> 00:13:07,890  
I have two friends that I was

with in Villa Marianne, which

276

00:13:07,890 --> 00:13:10,200  
is Elizabeth Silverberg.

277

00:13:10,200 --> 00:13:12,990  
And she passed away in Canada.

278

00:13:12,990 --> 00:13:14,940  
And her sister's still alive.

279

00:13:14,940 --> 00:13:17,250  
But I haven't met her sister.

280

00:13:17,250 --> 00:13:20,020  
I talked to her on the phone.

281

00:13:20,020 --> 00:13:21,640  
Where does she live?

282

00:13:21,640 --> 00:13:24,580  
She lives in Montreal.

283

00:13:24,580 --> 00:13:27,520  
How long were you  
in Villa Marianna?

284

00:13:27,520 --> 00:13:28,480  
Not that long.

285

00:13:28,480 --> 00:13:29,547  
I don't really know.

286

00:13:29,547 --> 00:13:30,130  
Couple months.

287

00:13:30,130 --> 00:13:30,963  
It was three months.

288

00:13:30,963 --> 00:13:32,590  
I don't know because  
they send me--

289

00:13:32,590 --> 00:13:33,130  
That's--

290  
00:13:33,130 --> 00:13:34,505  
I think they send  
me back, right?

291  
00:13:34,505 --> 00:13:36,100  
--on the Riviera  
in [PLACE NAME]..

292  
00:13:36,100 --> 00:13:36,892  
Yeah, [PLACE NAME].

293  
00:13:36,892 --> 00:13:38,140  
Yeah, three months.

294  
00:13:38,140 --> 00:13:39,630  
Is it because you cried a lot?

295  
00:13:39,630 --> 00:13:41,350  
I cried a lot, so they send me--

296  
00:13:41,350 --> 00:13:41,740  
[INAUDIBLE] send us up there--

297  
00:13:41,740 --> 00:13:42,657  
But I made everybody--

298  
00:13:42,657 --> 00:13:47,130  
--to be on vacation, to make  
it easier for our parents

299  
00:13:47,130 --> 00:13:48,720  
in [INAUDIBLE], you know?

300  
00:13:48,720 --> 00:13:50,295  
It was like summer camp.

301  
00:13:50,295 --> 00:13:51,170  
It was in the summer?

302  
00:13:51,170 --> 00:13:52,790  
Yeah, in the summer.



303  
00:13:52,790 --> 00:13:54,580  
Was no summer camp.

304  
00:13:54,580 --> 00:13:56,020  
But it was terrible.

305  
00:13:56,020 --> 00:13:58,690  
There was no food.

306  
00:13:58,690 --> 00:14:02,500  
And we used to, at  
night, I woke up,

307  
00:14:02,500 --> 00:14:04,240  
and the kids were  
like having like

308  
00:14:04,240 --> 00:14:08,170  
a meeting, the boys, and  
because the boys slept different

309  
00:14:08,170 --> 00:14:09,310  
with the girls.

310  
00:14:09,310 --> 00:14:13,670  
And then they were talking  
about stealing tomatoes.

311  
00:14:13,670 --> 00:14:15,370  
So we went out at night.

312  
00:14:15,370 --> 00:14:16,810  
We stole some tomatoes.

313  
00:14:16,810 --> 00:14:18,100  
And we ate.

314  
00:14:18,100 --> 00:14:22,370  
And the next day, the French  
police came over the place.

315  
00:14:22,370 --> 00:14:24,790  
They knew that we

stole the tomatoes.

316  
00:14:24,790 --> 00:14:26,830  
And they put us in a line.

317  
00:14:26,830 --> 00:14:32,090  
And they wanted  
somebody to tell that we

318  
00:14:32,090 --> 00:14:33,340  
were the ones that stole them.

319  
00:14:33,340 --> 00:14:35,338  
But nobody said nothing.

320  
00:14:35,338 --> 00:14:36,130  
They had fig trees.

321  
00:14:36,130 --> 00:14:37,330  
So the French police left.

322  
00:14:37,330 --> 00:14:38,820  
And--

323  
00:14:38,820 --> 00:14:41,020  
Remember, they had fig trees?

324  
00:14:41,020 --> 00:14:43,800  
Yeah, outside by the houses.

325  
00:14:43,800 --> 00:14:47,550  
Sometime they send us to  
buy stuff in the city.

326  
00:14:47,550 --> 00:14:51,300  
We were on detail to  
buy stuff in the city.

327  
00:14:51,300 --> 00:14:53,850  
And as we went to  
the city, we passed

328  
00:14:53,850 --> 00:14:56,530  
houses where there

were-- figs were growing.

329

00:14:56,530 --> 00:14:59,760

So we used to climb over the  
fence and grab some figs.

330

00:14:59,760 --> 00:15:02,550

But it was dangerous  
because it was the people--

331

00:15:02,550 --> 00:15:03,570

people had villas.

332

00:15:03,570 --> 00:15:07,380

They didn't want nobody to steal  
their figs, their tomatoes,

333

00:15:07,380 --> 00:15:08,660

too.

334

00:15:08,660 --> 00:15:12,470

And Masgelier, the Chateau  
du Masgelier, was that--

335

00:15:12,470 --> 00:15:13,940

Oh, this was after the war.

336

00:15:13,940 --> 00:15:14,972

This was in 1944.

337

00:15:14,972 --> 00:15:16,270

Yeah, this was at the end.

338

00:15:16,270 --> 00:15:19,660

Between '44 and '45.

339

00:15:19,660 --> 00:15:23,912

This was when the--

340

00:15:23,912 --> 00:15:25,120

Oh, they gave you food there.

341

00:15:25,120 --> 00:15:26,500

--they were not

occupied no more.

342

00:15:26,500 --> 00:15:29,020

The French was free.

343

00:15:29,020 --> 00:15:31,030

You mentioned Lyons.

344

00:15:31,030 --> 00:15:38,210

Yeah, I was in Lyons

when they took me to--

345

00:15:38,210 --> 00:15:38,830

To Masgelier.

346

00:15:38,830 --> 00:15:41,120

--Villa-- Masgelier

or Villa Marianne?

347

00:15:41,120 --> 00:15:41,735

No, Masgelier.

348

00:15:41,735 --> 00:15:43,380

No, no, this was different.

349

00:15:43,380 --> 00:15:48,020

I was in Lyons when somebody  
took me to the Villa Marianne.

350

00:15:48,020 --> 00:15:52,850

And she was an underground girl.

351

00:15:52,850 --> 00:15:54,750

And I had to be very quiet.

352

00:15:54,750 --> 00:15:56,630

She took me to her apartment.

353

00:15:56,630 --> 00:15:58,100

Had to be very quiet.

354

00:15:58,100 --> 00:16:00,980

Nobody had to know  
that I was there.

355

00:16:00,980 --> 00:16:03,500

And I just enjoyed  
being with her

356

00:16:03,500 --> 00:16:05,120

because she was very pretty.

357

00:16:05,120 --> 00:16:06,440

And I was a little girl.

358

00:16:06,440 --> 00:16:10,730

I was fascinated her combing  
her hair, putting on makeup,

359

00:16:10,730 --> 00:16:11,450

things like that.

360

00:16:11,450 --> 00:16:12,410

And also eating.

361

00:16:12,410 --> 00:16:16,790

Yeah, she took me to  
a restaurant in Lyons.

362

00:16:16,790 --> 00:16:21,020

And she taught me how  
to eat artichokes,

363

00:16:21,020 --> 00:16:23,120

which I had never eaten before.

364

00:16:23,120 --> 00:16:24,110

And never eaten--

365

00:16:24,110 --> 00:16:27,530

I mean, I've eaten it since  
then but never before.

366

00:16:27,530 --> 00:16:30,497

And we had a nice evening.

367

00:16:30,497 --> 00:16:31,580

And then she took me back.

368

00:16:31,580 --> 00:16:35,880

And then she took me  
to the Villa Marianne.

369

00:16:35,880 --> 00:16:37,680

Was she Jewish?

370

00:16:37,680 --> 00:16:39,060

I don't know.

371

00:16:39,060 --> 00:16:40,270

I don't know.

372

00:16:40,270 --> 00:16:43,410

All I know is I had to  
be very quiet, you know,

373

00:16:43,410 --> 00:16:45,930

which I knew how to be quiet.

374

00:16:45,930 --> 00:16:48,250

And then she took you  
to the Villa Marianne.

375

00:16:48,250 --> 00:16:49,576

Mm-hmm.

376

00:16:49,576 --> 00:16:52,810

And what happened when you  
left the Villa Marianna?

377

00:16:52,810 --> 00:16:56,265

Your parents came for you?

378

00:16:56,265 --> 00:16:59,050

Was I-- I went to France,  
right, from there?

379

00:16:59,050 --> 00:17:00,045

We went back to Trets.

380

00:17:00,045 --> 00:17:00,940

To Trets.

381  
00:17:00,940 --> 00:17:03,040  
Yeah, I went back to Trets.

382  
00:17:03,040 --> 00:17:06,599  
And many things  
occurred in Trets, too,

383  
00:17:06,599 --> 00:17:10,770  
that we could have been  
caught a million times.

384  
00:17:10,770 --> 00:17:12,240  
And we were just very lucky.

385  
00:17:12,240 --> 00:17:14,790  
And remember when they put us  
in that circle in the park?

386  
00:17:14,790 --> 00:17:15,660  
Oh, yeah.

387  
00:17:15,660 --> 00:17:18,290  
This is when they looked for the  
people who derailed the train.

388  
00:17:18,290 --> 00:17:18,790  
Right.

389  
00:17:18,790 --> 00:17:20,980  
I thought it was  
something [FRENCH],,

390  
00:17:20,980 --> 00:17:22,819  
they wanted to kill the priest.

391  
00:17:22,819 --> 00:17:26,060  
Oh, this is-- they  
find the resistance.

392  
00:17:26,060 --> 00:17:26,910  
Ammunition.

393  
00:17:26,910 --> 00:17:29,730

They put-- they  
hide in the church

394  
00:17:29,730 --> 00:17:32,220  
parachute and other weapons.

395  
00:17:32,220 --> 00:17:35,400  
So the Germans find  
all that stuff.

396  
00:17:35,400 --> 00:17:38,100  
And they wanted to  
execute the priest.

397  
00:17:38,100 --> 00:17:43,380  
So the mayor of the town  
swore to the Germans

398  
00:17:43,380 --> 00:17:45,790  
that the priest is not--

399  
00:17:45,790 --> 00:17:47,455  
he blamed everything on the--

400  
00:17:47,455 --> 00:17:48,205  
He's not involved.

401  
00:17:48,205 --> 00:17:48,955  
He's not involved.

402  
00:17:48,955 --> 00:17:51,880  
He blamed everything on the  
resistance and the communists

403  
00:17:51,880 --> 00:17:52,380  
now.

404  
00:17:52,380 --> 00:17:55,850  
But then after a  
while, they let us go.

405  
00:17:55,850 --> 00:17:58,390  
And my mother had  
a lot of Jewish,



406

00:17:58,390 --> 00:18:02,050

like a Jewish book and  
a lot of Jewish things

407

00:18:02,050 --> 00:18:04,560

that she put-- you know  
what a [FRENCH] is?

408

00:18:04,560 --> 00:18:05,260

A what?

409

00:18:05,260 --> 00:18:06,790

A [FRENCH].

410

00:18:06,790 --> 00:18:07,612

It's feathers.

411

00:18:07,612 --> 00:18:08,570

It's a feather blanket.

412

00:18:08,570 --> 00:18:10,360

It's like a feather blanket.

413

00:18:10,360 --> 00:18:14,618

She opened up the seam and  
put a lot of things in there--

414

00:18:14,618 --> 00:18:16,285

She hide a lot of  
things in there, yeah.

415

00:18:16,285 --> 00:18:17,410

--so they wouldn't find it.

416

00:18:17,410 --> 00:18:19,978

Her pictures from our  
family and everything.

417

00:18:19,978 --> 00:18:22,270

She had pictures from her  
brothers in the Russian army.

418

00:18:22,270 --> 00:18:24,670

That's how we got everything.

- 419  
00:18:24,670 --> 00:18:26,320  
She put all that stuff in there.
- 420  
00:18:26,320 --> 00:18:30,490  
And the Germans came  
in, but they never
- 421  
00:18:30,490 --> 00:18:32,080  
dreamed of opening up the thing.
- 422  
00:18:32,080 --> 00:18:33,880  
And also, she threw  
a lot of things
- 423  
00:18:33,880 --> 00:18:36,100  
away in these public  
bathrooms, you
- 424  
00:18:36,100 --> 00:18:39,100  
know where you throw things  
in, like in that movie.
- 425  
00:18:39,100 --> 00:18:42,646  
What's that movie where that  
little kid hid in there?
- 426  
00:18:42,646 --> 00:18:43,890  
The public toilet?
- 427  
00:18:43,890 --> 00:18:44,390  
Mm-hmm.
- 428  
00:18:44,390 --> 00:18:44,990  
Yeah.
- 429  
00:18:44,990 --> 00:18:49,160  
See, in France in that  
town, there wasn't--
- 430  
00:18:49,160 --> 00:18:51,290  
we had toilets in  
where we lived.
- 431

00:18:51,290 --> 00:18:53,870

But a lot of the  
houses had no toilets.

432

00:18:53,870 --> 00:18:57,410

And in the morning, they used  
to come to the public toilet.

433

00:18:57,410 --> 00:19:00,290

They had like, at  
night they used

434

00:19:00,290 --> 00:19:03,042

to go in pots, like a bucket.

435

00:19:03,042 --> 00:19:05,375

And in the morning, they used  
to come to a public toilet

436

00:19:05,375 --> 00:19:07,140

and empty everything in there.

437

00:19:07,140 --> 00:19:08,990

A public toilet  
was very important.

438

00:19:08,990 --> 00:19:09,650

[INAUDIBLE]

439

00:19:09,650 --> 00:19:12,410

Because there wasn't-- a lot  
of the houses had no public

440

00:19:12,410 --> 00:19:15,610

toilets in France in  
that town where we lived.

441

00:19:15,610 --> 00:19:17,298

Now, not in big  
cities, of course.

442

00:19:17,298 --> 00:19:18,465

OK, what do you want to say?

443

00:19:18,465 --> 00:19:24,740

She also hid her  
wedding certificate.

444  
00:19:24,740 --> 00:19:28,480  
And if you-- and my  
father's tallis in his coat,

445  
00:19:28,480 --> 00:19:31,060  
in the lining of his coat.

446  
00:19:31,060 --> 00:19:35,510  
Now, had they found that--

447  
00:19:35,510 --> 00:19:36,200  
Yeah.

448  
00:19:36,200 --> 00:19:37,000  
Was your--

449  
00:19:37,000 --> 00:19:37,590  
We--

450  
00:19:37,590 --> 00:19:41,490  
We were all surrounded  
by Germans, you know?

451  
00:19:41,490 --> 00:19:44,730  
The Germans in  
Oradour-sur-Glane in France,

452  
00:19:44,730 --> 00:19:47,340  
they put all the  
population in the church.

453  
00:19:47,340 --> 00:19:50,580  
And they burned them all, and  
they machine-gunned everything.

454  
00:19:50,580 --> 00:19:54,870  
And we were like minutes away  
from something like that, too,

455  
00:19:54,870 --> 00:19:58,710  
because the Germans wanted  
to get even for their train,

456

00:19:58,710 --> 00:20:01,140

because the train  
that went to Italy

457

00:20:01,140 --> 00:20:03,870

used to carry German  
troops, ammunition,

458

00:20:03,870 --> 00:20:08,310

and used to carry women who went  
to see their husbands in Italy.

459

00:20:08,310 --> 00:20:10,810

And the women who went to  
see their husbands in Italy

460

00:20:10,810 --> 00:20:12,060

brought their babies in there.

461

00:20:12,060 --> 00:20:16,000

And when the train derailed,  
they all got killed.

462

00:20:16,000 --> 00:20:19,030

And so it was--

463

00:20:19,030 --> 00:20:21,400

the Germans wanted to  
get even with that.

464

00:20:21,400 --> 00:20:23,800

But they were a little bit  
afraid in the South of France

465

00:20:23,800 --> 00:20:28,450

to do crazy things because  
there was too many--

466

00:20:28,450 --> 00:20:34,810

too much resistance, too  
much resistance in the woods.

467

00:20:34,810 --> 00:20:37,990

And they know if they

do something very bad,

468

00:20:37,990 --> 00:20:41,200  
they're going to pay for  
it in the South of France,

469

00:20:41,200 --> 00:20:45,670  
because in the mountains,  
they cut off the roads.

470

00:20:45,670 --> 00:20:47,898  
And they would have  
killed a lot of Germans.

471

00:20:47,898 --> 00:20:49,190  
Yeah, so that's about it, yeah.

472

00:20:49,190 --> 00:20:50,150  
Yeah.

473

00:20:50,150 --> 00:20:53,030  
Your father was  
in the resistance?

474

00:20:53,030 --> 00:20:55,440  
Yeah.

475

00:20:55,440 --> 00:20:56,950  
I knew he were--

476

00:20:56,950 --> 00:20:58,300  
he was in the woods.

477

00:20:58,300 --> 00:21:00,430  
Whenever the Germans  
would come in town,

478

00:21:00,430 --> 00:21:01,900  
he would be in the woods.

479

00:21:01,900 --> 00:21:03,670  
But I didn't know what he--

480

00:21:03,670 --> 00:21:06,700

what exactly for sure.

481

00:21:06,700 --> 00:21:07,908  
But he knows.

482

00:21:07,908 --> 00:21:08,450  
But he knows.

483

00:21:08,450 --> 00:21:09,020  
But he knows.

484

00:21:09,020 --> 00:21:10,270  
Yeah.

485

00:21:10,270 --> 00:21:13,113  
But he was working  
as a lumberjack.

486

00:21:13,113 --> 00:21:13,780  
He was cutting--

487

00:21:13,780 --> 00:21:14,322  
A lumberjack.

488

00:21:14,322 --> 00:21:15,610  
He was cutting trees.

489

00:21:15,610 --> 00:21:16,110  
Right.

490

00:21:16,110 --> 00:21:19,555  
But was he with other  
people who were Jewish?

491

00:21:19,555 --> 00:21:22,390  
Or was he with other  
resistance fighters?

492

00:21:22,390 --> 00:21:25,750  
Or was he part of  
a work brigade?

493

00:21:25,750 --> 00:21:28,990  
No, he was-- the resistance

were in the woods.

494

00:21:28,990 --> 00:21:31,560

And they used to hide  
by the lumberjacks.

495

00:21:31,560 --> 00:21:34,180

In the wood, where you  
hide the woods, where

496

00:21:34,180 --> 00:21:35,830

the pieces where  
you cut the wood,

497

00:21:35,830 --> 00:21:39,650

they used to hide  
their weapons, yeah.

498

00:21:39,650 --> 00:21:42,500

And they used to go  
out to derail trains.

499

00:21:42,500 --> 00:21:44,750

But there wasn't mentioned  
nothing, you know?

500

00:21:44,750 --> 00:21:48,200

I used to say to him, how  
you got so many sardines?

501

00:21:48,200 --> 00:21:51,140

Boxes full of sardines  
from Portugal.

502

00:21:51,140 --> 00:21:55,310

In those days, one little can  
of sardines was like \$100.

503

00:21:55,310 --> 00:21:56,890

You could sell it for \$100.

504

00:21:56,890 --> 00:21:58,340

Nobody had it.

505

00:21:58,340 --> 00:21:59,600



And he didn't say.

506

00:21:59,600 --> 00:22:00,680

He'd say, oh, we got it.

507

00:22:00,680 --> 00:22:02,330

We got it, no.

508

00:22:02,330 --> 00:22:04,775

And then I find out that  
they're by the train.

509

00:22:04,775 --> 00:22:08,130

By the derailment of a train  
they got all this stuff.

510

00:22:08,130 --> 00:22:10,950

And their weapons, too,  
came from the trains.

511

00:22:10,950 --> 00:22:12,870

They used to have  
German weapons, grenades

512

00:22:12,870 --> 00:22:17,120

that come off from the  
trains they used to derail.

513

00:22:17,120 --> 00:22:19,010

To derail a train was very easy.

514

00:22:19,010 --> 00:22:21,920

They didn't derail  
it with dynamite.

515

00:22:21,920 --> 00:22:25,190

They used to unscrew the rail.

516

00:22:25,190 --> 00:22:30,530

And the train used to  
come and go down in a--

517

00:22:30,530 --> 00:22:32,510

off the mountain, no?

518

00:22:32,510 --> 00:22:33,770

And a ravine, no?

519

00:22:33,770 --> 00:22:36,470

And that was it, no?

520

00:22:36,470 --> 00:22:39,810

Did the people in Trets  
know that you were Jewish,

521

00:22:39,810 --> 00:22:41,377

apart from the woman who--

522

00:22:41,377 --> 00:22:43,460

Yeah, yeah, some people  
know we were Jewish, yeah.

523

00:22:43,460 --> 00:22:44,252

I'm sure they knew.

524

00:22:44,252 --> 00:22:44,810

Yeah.

525

00:22:44,810 --> 00:22:45,740

I'm sure they knew.

526

00:22:45,740 --> 00:22:50,030

But we were lucky they didn't  
stamp a Juif on our passport,

527

00:22:50,030 --> 00:22:51,920

which saved our life.

528

00:22:51,920 --> 00:22:56,300

Yeah, the newspapers say that  
you've got to go to the police

529

00:22:56,300 --> 00:23:00,120

and ask the passport  
to be stamped.

530

00:23:00,120 --> 00:23:03,720

So my mother sent me to the  
police with her passport.

531  
00:23:03,720 --> 00:23:06,060  
So the guy in charge  
of the police,

532  
00:23:06,060 --> 00:23:09,810  
he say, go home, and  
come to me no more.

533  
00:23:09,810 --> 00:23:13,310  
Yeah, they were-- we were lucky.

534  
00:23:13,310 --> 00:23:14,280  
It's all luck.

535  
00:23:14,280 --> 00:23:15,180  
I run back.

536  
00:23:15,180 --> 00:23:15,780  
I say--

537  
00:23:15,780 --> 00:23:17,970  
And when you went to school--

538  
00:23:17,970 --> 00:23:19,920  
We didn't realize  
that we were so--

539  
00:23:19,920 --> 00:23:21,880  
it was so dangerous at times.

540  
00:23:21,880 --> 00:23:24,330  
You knew you were different,  
that you were foreigners.

541  
00:23:24,330 --> 00:23:29,390  
But did they know that you were  
Jewish in the public school?

542  
00:23:29,390 --> 00:23:30,330  
I don't know.

543  
00:23:30,330 --> 00:23:31,200  
I don't know.

544

00:23:31,200 --> 00:23:34,740

In school, they knew.

545

00:23:34,740 --> 00:23:37,665

But they couldn't speak

German, the French.

546

00:23:37,665 --> 00:23:43,270

That was because one

French teacher, he--

547

00:23:43,270 --> 00:23:46,590

you could-- I could see

in his eye the hate, eh?

548

00:23:46,590 --> 00:23:52,230

I could see in his eye when he

talked to me that he hated me.

549

00:23:52,230 --> 00:23:53,630

You know, it's easy to see.

550

00:23:53,630 --> 00:23:55,260

You understand me?

551

00:23:55,260 --> 00:23:59,400

Yeah, and then the Germans

came when they took too long.

552

00:23:59,400 --> 00:24:02,070

In the war, when they took

too long, the Germans.

553

00:24:02,070 --> 00:24:05,320

And when they came,

they came to Trets.

554

00:24:05,320 --> 00:24:07,990

When they took too

long, then they

555

00:24:07,990 --> 00:24:10,630

came from Stalingrad,

the German troops.

556

00:24:10,630 --> 00:24:15,970

And they needed to buy paint,  
and screwdrivers, and nails.

557

00:24:15,970 --> 00:24:20,695

So they asked the principal  
if somebody speaked German

558

00:24:20,695 --> 00:24:21,490

in here.

559

00:24:21,490 --> 00:24:24,095

He said, maybe there's a  
Belgium kid, meaning me,

560

00:24:24,095 --> 00:24:25,510

who speaks German.

561

00:24:25,510 --> 00:24:28,900

So this principal told--

562

00:24:28,900 --> 00:24:31,860

this teacher told the  
principal, take the guy

563

00:24:31,860 --> 00:24:36,280

and send him with the  
Germans to translate

564

00:24:36,280 --> 00:24:40,060

to buy things for them,  
to speak French for them.

565

00:24:40,060 --> 00:24:41,690

So I went with them.

566

00:24:41,690 --> 00:24:43,362

So the Germans--

567

00:24:43,362 --> 00:24:44,025

I translate.

568

00:24:44,025 --> 00:24:48,050

So I said to the Germans, why  
do you need so many things?

569  
00:24:48,050 --> 00:24:49,930  
He says, we're going  
back to Russia.

570  
00:24:49,930 --> 00:24:51,940  
There's nothing there in Russia.

571  
00:24:51,940 --> 00:24:52,733  
There's no nails.

572  
00:24:52,733 --> 00:24:53,525  
There's no hammers.

573  
00:24:53,525 --> 00:24:54,820  
There's no screwdriver.

574  
00:24:54,820 --> 00:24:56,770  
He bought a lot of tools.

575  
00:24:56,770 --> 00:25:00,850  
So the next day, again,  
he came to school.

576  
00:25:00,850 --> 00:25:04,360  
And I went with them  
and the German officers.

577  
00:25:04,360 --> 00:25:09,150  
So the third day,  
he said to me--

578  
00:25:09,150 --> 00:25:11,710  
the guy in charge of  
the German troops,

579  
00:25:11,710 --> 00:25:14,680  
he must have been a brigadier  
general or something.

580  
00:25:14,680 --> 00:25:16,930  
He says, he would  
like to meet you

581

00:25:16,930 --> 00:25:20,425  
because we told him we have a  
kid who speaks German for us.

582

00:25:20,425 --> 00:25:21,550  
Would you like to meet him?

583

00:25:21,550 --> 00:25:23,860  
I say, yeah, if he wants  
to meet me, I mean.

584

00:25:23,860 --> 00:25:26,020  
So I went with them to the base.

585

00:25:26,020 --> 00:25:28,000  
In the wood, they had a tent.

586

00:25:28,000 --> 00:25:30,700  
And they had all the German  
officers in that tent.

587

00:25:30,700 --> 00:25:34,600  
And outside were the trucks,  
and the tents, and everything.

588

00:25:34,600 --> 00:25:36,550  
So I went in the tent with them.

589

00:25:36,550 --> 00:25:39,940  
And the guy in charge  
there, I don't know,

590

00:25:39,940 --> 00:25:41,420  
he was a big German officer.

591

00:25:41,420 --> 00:25:43,450  
They all clapped  
their heels for him.

592

00:25:43,450 --> 00:25:45,520  
I don't know who he was.

593

00:25:45,520 --> 00:25:46,240

Well--

594

00:25:46,240 --> 00:25:49,300

So he says to me, sit down.

595

00:25:49,300 --> 00:25:50,950

Have some tea.

596

00:25:50,950 --> 00:25:51,880

I have no coffee.

597

00:25:51,880 --> 00:25:53,500

I'll give you tea.

598

00:25:53,500 --> 00:25:56,020

So he gave me some cake and tea.

599

00:25:56,020 --> 00:26:00,070

And then he said to me, you see,  
all those officers, he says,

600

00:26:00,070 --> 00:26:01,060

they're dummkopfs.

601

00:26:01,060 --> 00:26:03,130

You know what dummkopfs were?

602

00:26:03,130 --> 00:26:05,590

I says, I thought  
you were joking.

603

00:26:05,590 --> 00:26:07,560

And then the officers,  
they got quiet.

604

00:26:07,560 --> 00:26:08,990

They didn't laugh.

605

00:26:08,990 --> 00:26:10,045

So I see it's--

606

00:26:10,045 --> 00:26:11,590

I saw it was serious.



607

00:26:11,590 --> 00:26:13,720

So we said, why you  
saying that for?

608

00:26:13,720 --> 00:26:17,230

He said, because they went  
to Heidelberg to the best

609

00:26:17,230 --> 00:26:18,970

universities, he said.

610

00:26:18,970 --> 00:26:21,010

And they don't speak  
another language.

611

00:26:21,010 --> 00:26:23,440

They only speak German, he says.

612

00:26:23,440 --> 00:26:26,950

And that's why we lose the  
war, he said to me, the guy

613

00:26:26,950 --> 00:26:28,090

in charge.

614

00:26:28,090 --> 00:26:31,520

Yeah, but you always knew not  
to say that you were Jewish.

615

00:26:31,520 --> 00:26:34,210

You always knew that they  
didn't like the Jews.

616

00:26:34,210 --> 00:26:36,080

And then he--

617

00:26:36,080 --> 00:26:37,750

I stay there maybe  
a couple hours,

618

00:26:37,750 --> 00:26:40,360

have coffee and tea with him.

619

00:26:40,360 --> 00:26:43,720

And then he told the  
officer to drive me home.

620  
00:26:43,720 --> 00:26:46,060  
So he drove me back to Trets.

621  
00:26:46,060 --> 00:26:46,840  
And I came home.

622  
00:26:46,840 --> 00:26:50,780  
I brought back a bread and some  
other food that they gave me.

623  
00:26:50,780 --> 00:26:54,040  
You know, they gave me  
some food, the Germans.

624  
00:26:54,040 --> 00:26:56,530  
So I never understood that.

625  
00:26:56,530 --> 00:27:01,690  
He predicted that they're going  
to lose the war, this German.

626  
00:27:01,690 --> 00:27:04,570  
The big German officer,  
he predicted that they're

627  
00:27:04,570 --> 00:27:06,420  
going to lose the war.

628  
00:27:06,420 --> 00:27:09,330  
You mentioned, Lucie, that  
the Madame [PERSONAL NAME] was

629  
00:27:09,330 --> 00:27:09,870  
trying--

630  
00:27:09,870 --> 00:27:12,420  
was thinking that maybe  
you could be baptized.

631  
00:27:12,420 --> 00:27:12,960  
Right.

632

00:27:12,960 --> 00:27:16,390

And maybe that was  
to protect you?

633

00:27:16,390 --> 00:27:17,890

Could be.

634

00:27:17,890 --> 00:27:19,510

Did you got to catechism?

635

00:27:19,510 --> 00:27:21,370

Yes, I did.

636

00:27:21,370 --> 00:27:22,630

I went to church.

637

00:27:22,630 --> 00:27:26,620

And I used to [FRENCH].

638

00:27:26,620 --> 00:27:28,990

I used to know everything.

639

00:27:28,990 --> 00:27:32,890

And in France, it's not  
like here in a little town.

640

00:27:32,890 --> 00:27:33,940

You see the priest.

641

00:27:33,940 --> 00:27:36,520

You kiss his cross  
when you see him.

642

00:27:36,520 --> 00:27:37,990

And I thought it was beautiful.

643

00:27:37,990 --> 00:27:40,520

You know, I was a little girl.

644

00:27:40,520 --> 00:27:41,830

This is, you know.

645

00:27:41,830 --> 00:27:45,190

My mother did say the  
priest did approach her

646  
00:27:45,190 --> 00:27:47,330  
and wanted to baptize us.

647  
00:27:47,330 --> 00:27:48,670  
She said no.

648  
00:27:48,670 --> 00:27:49,990  
She said, I was born a Jew.

649  
00:27:49,990 --> 00:27:52,640  
I am a Jew, meaning us as well.

650  
00:27:52,640 --> 00:27:53,140  
Yeah.

651  
00:27:53,140 --> 00:27:54,250  
And they will die Jews.

652  
00:27:54,250 --> 00:27:55,150  
Yeah.

653  
00:27:55,150 --> 00:27:57,200  
Even if it meant  
that you would die.

654  
00:27:57,200 --> 00:27:58,240  
Yeah.

655  
00:27:58,240 --> 00:28:00,580  
Did you still speak  
Yiddish at home,

656  
00:28:00,580 --> 00:28:01,872  
even though you were in France?

657  
00:28:01,872 --> 00:28:02,372  
Yeah.

658  
00:28:02,372 --> 00:28:03,190  
We always-- We did.

659

00:28:03,190 --> 00:28:04,810

I learned Yiddish when I was--

660

00:28:04,810 --> 00:28:06,040

after the war.

661

00:28:06,040 --> 00:28:07,390

I did not speak Yiddish.

662

00:28:07,390 --> 00:28:07,960

I did.

663

00:28:07,960 --> 00:28:09,350

I spoke French.

664

00:28:09,350 --> 00:28:10,030

Mm-hmm.

665

00:28:10,030 --> 00:28:11,275

That was my first language.

666

00:28:11,275 --> 00:28:11,650

Yeah, we spoke Yiddish.

667

00:28:11,650 --> 00:28:13,490

But the French thought  
it was Flemish.

668

00:28:13,490 --> 00:28:15,220

They didn't know the difference.

669

00:28:15,220 --> 00:28:17,920

The French, they don't know the  
difference between languages.

670

00:28:17,920 --> 00:28:18,970

They just know French.

671

00:28:18,970 --> 00:28:21,100

Half the languages  
they don't know.

672

00:28:21,100 --> 00:28:21,760

They're like--

673  
00:28:21,760 --> 00:28:22,260  
Yeah.

674  
00:28:22,260 --> 00:28:25,780

675  
00:28:25,780 --> 00:28:26,280  
OK.

676  
00:28:26,280 --> 00:28:27,250  
I'm just going to change  
tapes really quickly.

677  
00:28:27,250 --> 00:28:27,930  
We're going to change tapes.

678  
00:28:27,930 --> 00:28:28,430  
Yeah.

679  
00:28:28,430 --> 00:28:29,030  
OK?

680  
00:28:29,030 --> 00:28:32,310  
The French-- I used  
to being home kids.

681  
00:28:32,310 --> 00:28:34,710  
And I spoke Yiddish  
to my mother.

682  
00:28:34,710 --> 00:28:39,660  
So the kids used to say,  
stop speaking the Flemish.

683  
00:28:39,660 --> 00:28:42,590  
Teach your mother  
French, you know?

684  
00:28:42,590 --> 00:30:41,000