

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Interview with Paula Blue
August 7, 2009
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PREFACE

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The reader should bear in mind that this is a verbatim transcript of spoken, rather than written prose. This transcript has been neither checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy, and therefore, it is possible that there are errors. As a result, nothing should be quoted or used from this transcript without first checking it against the taped interview.

PAULA BLUE

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Question: **Paula**, tell me – I need you to tell me where – where were you born?

Answer: I was born in a small town named **Constance** in **Germany**.

Q: What year were you born?

A: 1928.

Q: And wha – when you were born, you – today your name is **Paula Blue**, but what was your given name in –

A: My name was [indecipherable] **Paula Regina Goldlust**.

Q: **Paula**, okay.

A: Yeah, **Paula**.

Q: And in 1928, describe to me – in the later years, when you remember, as early as you remember, what it was like in **Constance**.

A: **Constance** being a smaller town, there was a – a Jewish community, synagogue, Jewish life. Jewish schools, teacher. And the – as I said, our Jewish community was quite active, and the – and the children were at that – at that time, we went to public school, and Hebrew school.

Q: Would you say you-your parents were very religious, or moderately religious?

A: My mother was leaning towards really rel – quite religious. My father was more to a lesser degree. But he kept ko – kept kosher, as far as possib – as far as I remember.

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Q: You kept kosher?

A: Yes, mm-hm.

Q: Your parents, what were their names and birthdates, if you remember them?

A: What were their names?

Q: Their names and their birthdates.

A: My father, I think was May 30th, 1896, and my mother March 24th, 1894.

Q: Your father's name was **Bernard**?

A: **Bernard**.

Q: And your mother?

A: **Manya**.

Q: Where were they born?

A: They were born in **Poland**.

Q: Do you know the towns?

A: I believe was a small town near **Kielce**, or something like that.

Q: Did they come from large families?

A: My mother had a – yes, actually, I believe so. And I don't know, I don't remember how many brothers and sisters they had. But the – my mother's family may – they emigrated to **Canada**, brothers and a sister, and nothing but three brothers em-emigrated to **Canada**, to **Toronto**.

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Q: Do – do you know when they emigrated?

A: I don't know –

Q: [indecipherable]

A: 20s – oh yeah, through the 20s or late 20s, so in the 20s somewhere.

Q: Your father was still considered a Polish citizen after he moved to **Germany**, or did he –

A: No, no, he was considered stateless.

Q: He was considered stateless, okay. And –

A: And in **Germany**, who – whatever the – the head of the household is the whole family considered stateless, takes on the nationality of the husband and the father.

Q: What did your father do?

A: He had a business, a clothing and tailoring.

Q: And would you say you were a prominent Jewish family in the community?

A: Moderately so, yes, we were, yeah. Belonged to – I mean, everybody belonged to the synagogue in the Jewish community, or what they call the **gemeindehaus**, which was community center.

Q: As far as siblings, you had an older brother. Can you tell me his name and his birthdate?

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A: He – his name – my brother's name was – was **Leo Goldlust**, and he was born October 7, 1924.

Q: Do you recall early childhood with **Leo**, being able to roam freely in the streets, do things?

A: Early on, yes, yeah, yeah. Let's say until – let's say 30 – as I recall, '36 - '37, we – not freely. I mean, there was always the fear of – of Nazi. We'd play **Juden** and so forth and so on. But we went to school in [indecipherable] to public school, he went to public school and I went to public school and they – there were a few Jewish children. There was another Jewish child – girl in my class. Boys and girls went to separate schools, and the – it – it was so-so. I mean, the other children greeted the fuehrer and so forth and so on and we – we were sitting, I mean Jewish – Jew children – Jewish children, we were sitting in the seats, we didn't get up. Whatever, whatever, the – but the – but otherwise we were mostly together with other Jewish children.

Q: When earlier on I asked you about your father leaving **Poland**.

A: Mm-hm.

Q: Do you recall why he left **Poland**?

A: I don't know.

Q: It's a hard question because –

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A: I [indecipherable] I don't know, he left – probably – he had an uncle there, in **Germany**, which – you know, so he – the reason why, I – I don't know.

Q: Once he was in **Germany**, did he ever travel back to **Poland**?

A: No.

Q: And did you –

A: No, he lost Polish citizenship. I think he left across the border illegally, or came to **Germany** illegally, or left **Poland**, or whatever. I – I don't know exactly, but we were stateless, we were not Polish citizens.

Q: When you – when we first were talking earlier with your son, he mentioned that **Constance** is literally on the Swiss border.

A: It is.

Q: You can walk back and forth.

A: Right, mm-hm.

Q: Before the war, do you remember being able to do this? Do you remember people being able to cross the border –

A: Oh yes. Yes, we did.

Q: And was there a thought that your parents might try fleeing over the border into **Switzerland**?

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A: **Switzerland** was closed. I mean, if they didn't – if they wouldn't – wouldn't accept Jewish refugees, very, very few. But they immigrate – to immigrate into – to **Switzerland** was quite impossible, apparently. But we did cross the border, was a – was one – one Jewish community for – at a certain time, but they became – as things became worse in **Germany**, the – the Jewish community in – in **Switzerland** [indecipherable] remained – remained by themselves.

Q: And they re – they remained intact, but in **Constance** the –

A: People started –

Q: – people started to flee?

A: Yeah. People started immigrating to – to **United States**, to **Argentina**, to wherever. Where there was any – any opening to go to – to – at that time to **Israel**, which was **Palestine** at the time, if they were lucky enough to get there.

Q: Tell me about your f – your recollections of **Kristallnacht**, the November pogroms of 1938.

A: November pogrom, 1938, a – a – that's very early they were – they came into the nac – I don't recall. It was quite, quite early and they – two Gestapo came in, and they took my father, they went through the apartment, didn't do that – that much damage, but they were looking for a – was later on my father mentioned the things, they were looking for literature, for books, which not – which were forbidden to

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read. And the – and so forth and so on, but then – but then when I woke up they had – they had just left with my father.

Q: They took your father with them?

A: Right.

Q: They arrested him?

A: Yeah.

Q: Do you know where they took him?

A: Gestapo headquarters, we – we assumed, and from there to **Dachau**. The – all – all the Jewish men were taken to – were arrested the same – that same night or morning, early mornings.

Q: How long was he in **Dachau**, do you know?

A: He came back – I re – I recall he came back Hanukkah time, which must have been about four or six weeks later.

Q: So, just to clarify, he was arrested on **Kristallnacht**, which was November –

A: Just November 10.

Q: – ninth, 10th.

A: Right

Q: Came back around Hanukkah, so perhaps he was detained for a month, or –

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A: Sounds right. And then they started releasing peop – men and – slowly, with the provision that they would leave **Germany** within, I don't remember was six weeks, or six months. I'm assuming it was six months because my father left in June of 1939.

Q: How did they –

A: So they had to leave. They had to leave **Germany**.

Q: How did he leave?

A: He left – there was an opening – **England** had an opening for the a – as I recall, I – I think I'm correct about it, for men being released from – from the camps, there were other camps, **Buchenwald** was one of the camps, **Sachsenhausen**, there were other camps that they took the [indecipherable] men, the Jewish men there. And they – so **England** opened up for those men that were released, without their families, and the – they – there was a camp, called **Kitchener** camp in – in **England**, near **London** I presume it was, that housed – housed the men. And the – my father tried, of course, to – the separation was supposed to be brief, but to bring us there, but war broke out in le-less than six months later and that – that was the end of that for us.

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Q: Back up a little bit, and just explain to me. He left in June of 1939, and at that point, had he – had your family tried to get on the quota to go to a different country?

A: Oh yes, my – actually we had a very eva – to the **United States**. There was a – which we fell under the Polish quota, where my – my father was born, and it was a very – very – and I believe my father [**indecipherable**] qui-quite early with the American consulate, which was in **Stuttgart**, I believe. And the – but – but it was very slow, slow moving. It was a quota, so –

Q: So he had applied for –

A: And we had – we had papers for the – my father's cousin in **New York** who sent papers, but American consulate was slow in – in – in giving out papers – visas for families. Many of them – some of them made it, some of them don't. Many, many did not.

Q: So you remained with your mother in and **Leo** after June of 1939 in **Constance**.

A: Right, right.

Q: And how was the situation in **Constance** for you? Were you still going to school?

A: No. 1938 we – Jewish children couldn't go to school any more. So also there were pe – many Jewish families had left already, and there were few Jewish

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children left, actually, and they – we didn't go to school. There was a – the teacher and the – the cantor, he – they left for a – the **U.S.**, and the – so, there was some **[indecipherable]** teaching there in the Hebrew school, but we were very – not too – not a great deal, put it this way.

Q: How did you feel day to day? What was feeling in your household, what was the feeling **[indecipherable]**

A: Well, we were very – a – it was rather a desperate situation. W-We couldn't – we didn't get any more mail from my – from my father, we were cut off. Did get some mail from – to **Switzerland**. Somebody smuggled it in, or from – from a neighbor that we wrote to, but we were pretty much cut off.

Q: His business gone, taken from him.

A: Business gone, right, mm-hm.

Q: So what were you living on?

A: I don't – I – I don't know. There must have been a – there must have been a – some kind of a thing, because we – we did – I mean, we just existed, I mean, put it this way. My mother and **Leo** and myself.

Q: What did your mother do – do during this time period, just work on trying to get you out?

A: Just trying to get us out.

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Q: And –

A: And then – well, it was a – at an earlier time there were **kindertransports**, which I – I don't know when they were, you know, the hope that we could leave as a family was always present, which you know, obviously has not come about.

Q: And when did it change for you again? What was the next thing that happened?

A: A – well, the situation was quite – was in – quite desperate, I would say.

Q: It was –

A: And when the war broke out –

Q: It was quite desperate?

A: Yes. And the – after war broke out, and well, in 1940, all the Jews from that area ca – bordering **France** were deported to **Camp de Gurs** in **France**.

Q: This was October, 1940?

A: In October, that's the – October 19 – 1940 – October 22nd, 1940 was the day that the –

Q: How did you travel from there to – from **Constance** to **Camp de Gurs**?

A: To **Camp de Gurs** it was, you know, a – I remember being places, but I don't remember how – how I got there. This – some like a vague – vague memory of it. It was a train, I don't remember if they have benches or anything. Did have benches,

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but a – along the side of the – of the wagons. But it was not – it was not the – you know, it was a regular train, actually. That kind.

Q: Were you with other Jewish – German Jewish refugees?

A: Yes, from the same town, right.

Q: [indecipherable]

A: Were deported from the – I don't remember how many people were fe – from – from our town. And they – from the whole area which is called **Baden-Pfalz**, which was like here – here you would call it a state, or a subdivision that they wanted to make – make that area **Judenra – Judenfrei**. So the – the first – that was the first deportation from **Germany**, actual –

Q: Can you translate what you mean?

A: To make it free of Jews.

Q: When you were gathering things, because you were forced to leave, your mother and you and **Leo**, what did you do at the house, what –

A: We – oh, we lived already three families in one, Jews had to start living into one area, on one street. Anyhow, I suppose that was the – the plan to – to make it easier, I suppose. And we lived in – with another – with other three families in one large apartment, which I walked in, by the way, in May, when we were in **Constance**, which was pretty – quite traumatic, actually.

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Q: This past May?

A: This past May, right.

Q: How did you feel, standing in the apartment?

A: A – difficult to describe. It's – it's – it's still with me. So we were – Gestapo – again Gestapo came and the – un – unexpected, unexpected, I mean. But the to -- about 15 - 20 minutes, I remember one of them leaving, pushed **Leo**, says hurry up, hurry up, **schnell, schnell**. And we were taken out of the apartment with very small – whatever small baggage or luggage, whatever, whatever people took with. And we were assembled at, I think it was the **[indecipherable]** it was the train station. I don't recall exactly.

Q: Did you know where you were going?

A: No idea.

Q: Did they tell you **[indecipherable]** **France**.

A: No, people – people did not know where we were going. I remember **Leo** talking and he – talking to someone – he was quite bright. He knew which direction we were going, but we didn't know we were going east or west. So people are going – were hoping we're going west, at least. And –

Q: You arrived in **Camp de Gurs** in **France**.

A: In **France**.

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Q: In the internment camp.

A: Mm-hm.

Q: Describe your experiences when you first arrived.

A: We were taken from the train, as I recall. We were taken from the trains onto **camion** – trucks. And the – we were pretty – from – from the same community, actually, we were together. And the – that was long way. I believe the Germans probably had an – had a – had – they don't need the consent, but they – **Vichy, France** accepted, or had to accept the Jewish refugees from there. I don't remember how many there were from the whole area **[indecipherable]** from larger cities. And there were quite a few – quite a few children actually there. In **Constance** there were not too many children, there was just **Leo**, myself and **Hootie(ph)** and another child was there actually, or teenager, in this – left in the city of **Constance**.

Q: So you – it took days to get to **Camp de Gurs**?

A: We – I-I don't remem – probably two or three days, something like that, because we stopped, I think. As I learned later on, there was – we didn't – **Vichy, France** didn't want to accept us, and they – the Germans, you know, tried to – I mean **Vichy** didn't have much chance there. So in – we went to the – got to the internment camp of **Gurs**, and it rained and it was miserable, and we were taken by truck, and then they – first, old men out to – so – so **[indecipherable] Simon**

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[**indecipherable**] was a cousin to my father, he **Hootie's(ph) – Hootie's(ph)** father, and they – I remember my mom saying please, please take care of my child, this I remember. And ... and **Leo** got off with the men, and we went on, and I was pretty desperate at that point. And then they had **ilot** in **Gurs**, separate **ilots** which were barbed wire with some of them double ba – between el – **ilots**, I think was double barbed wire, between the **ilots**. And with the French – first it was fr – I believe it was French army actually, then they changed to **Vichy**, to the **Milice**, which was the pr – **Vichy – Vichy** police, they were guarding us at the time. And the –

Q: You – were you with your mother [**indecipherable**]

A: I – first of all with was my mother, and then they separated the children up to the age of 14, separate –

Q: How did you see your –

A: We were in the same **ilot**, so it – I – I could s – I could see my mother.

Q: When you says **ilot**, is it –

A: **Ilot** means the – each separate entity that was surrounded by – by barbed wire.

Q: So multiple barracks.

A: [**indecipherable**] an **ilot** was – I don't know how many barracks was in each one.

Q: What did you – what were your impressions of the camp?

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A: The camp? There was – well, it was in October, the – the mud was – people – people get mired into – into mud, couldn't they – it – it was incredible. It was in the **Pyrenees**, and it rained continuously, and there was no – no – yeah, and the latrines, and the – i-it – i – I mean, was pretty unbearable conditions.

Q: The conditions were poor?

A: Very.

Q: What did you – how did you **[indecipherable]**

A: Food – huh? Food was – I mean, hunger was one, which – which came after a few days already, you know, there was hunger in there, and rats, and vermin, and –

Q: In your –

A: And we were in a barrack, the barrack we were in was a – in **Gurs**, there were – I think it was right next to a – what was it? A **spozak**(ph), a – a bag for **[indecipherable]** straw that the under-underground **[indecipherable]** ground. And there were no windows, there were just like – like shutters, like, wooden shutters there, the wooden barracks.

Q: And were – were they heated?

A: There was one small stove, one small heating stove. So who was lucky enough to get close to it was – was better **[indecipherable]**. I remember being next to a – a mother and a young girl, who didn't sp – they spo – I don't know what they spoke,

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either Spanish or Portuguese, but we just, you know, looked at each other and smiled at each other and she may – she may have been – she was ol-older at that time, she must have been a teenager, 15 at that time. And I remember sleeping next to her, and on the – the other side was my mother. And then they separated the chil – the – I don't know if was voluntary, who did it, that they took children under 14 into separate barrack and they – but it was pretty voluntary. A – because the food that was distributed was more or less – they did try to give the children preference with food. But I do recall the Quakers, I mean, I think Quakers were very – were quite active in the – in – in **Gurs** actually. I don't remember **Rivesaltes**, but **Gurs** they were quite active.

Q: Can you describe how the – what the Quakers did in –

A: I don't know – I don't – I have – I didn't meet them, but we – we did know that the Quakers provided some – provided some food into the – was miserable, the kitchen was in a open barrack like a big –

Q: What kind of things did you eat?

A: Oh, it was a sl – small slice of bread, which was divided. And the food itself was a – I remember the first few days when we came, the people of – there were some people there from – from **Constance**, too, who couldn't eat it. So they gave the

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children, gave us the food. But you know, after a few days they become hungry too, and they – they actually ate the food.

Q: Your –

A: Hunger, I remember. Hunger and cold and wet. And the latrines, open latrines.

Q: You talked about the latrines, they were –

A: Open latrines, an open barrack, an open – not an open barrack, just a – a raised steps up, and the open – you know, just an open thing in the ground, like a – and the end of – the – what **Gurs** is known for is the mud. Mud, deep slime and mud that people got stuck in, and couldn't – couldn't get their – couldn't get out.

Q: So, open latrines, I mean, my guess is that –

A: And open like a barrack.

Q: And people were –

A: [**indecipherable**] themselves.

Q: And –

A: The women were separate from the men, had – in their own **ilot**.

Q: Tell me about in your barracks, you mentioned there were Spanish people because of the Spanish Civil War.

A: Yeah, right, right. **Gurs** – excuse me – **Gurs** was built by, I believe, by the Spanish, the – I suppose the anti-**Franco Spain**. I think they built – they built **Gurs**,

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I mean. They were **ilot F** – I don't remember what, **ilot F**, I believe. They were not behind barbed wire somehow. And there was – there was a whole **[indecipherable]** people there from everywhere, from – from – you had people – you had people from **Germany**. We met somebody from **Constance** by the way, who went to fight **[indecipherable]** against **Franco**, and – a non-Jew. So it was a mixed – a mixed kind of thing, but mostly Spaniards.

Q: How did the different populations get along with each other?

A: Yeah, well, they were separ – separated. They got along, I mean, as far as that goes. I mean, they had a lot of people that fled **Belgium**, for instance, Jewish people fled **Belgium**. They had to take long trip, until they got to – they were interned there already from the summer 1940 on, so they were there already when we came – when we ca – and the –

Q: What did the children do all – what did you do all day?

A: What did we do all day? Y-You know, when Jewish people – somebody finds two – two Jew – two children, they make a school. So they did try. They tried to teach us French –

Q: And who –

A: – in the hope of we – we make it out of the camp one of these da – one days – some days.

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Q: Were the educators other refugees, were they relief workers?

A: They are other refugees, right, yeah. Other **[indecipherable]** I mean, I don't – deportees, in other words, right.

Q: Do you remember – do you have recollection of people who were particularly influential to you, or helpful?

A: A – in **Gurs** itself? Not – not that I recall, I'd say –

Q: We talked about **Andre Solomon** briefly, is –

A: Oh, right, she – that was in **Rivesaltes** **[indecipherable]**

Q: That was later?

A: Yeah, in **Gurs** – **Gurs**. There may have people – there may have been peoples that tried to help, or bought f – with – with food, or with – with the – but – like I said, Quakers, for instance. There may have been French Jews that may have **[indecipherable]** but – but I don't – the – in **Rivesaltes**, French – French Jews did have – until the – the Germans occupied **France**, the-they had some clout.

Q: Talking about the French population –

A: **[indecipherable]**

Q: – around **Gurs**, near **Gurs** –

A: I don't know.

Q: Did you connect with them at all?

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A: No.

Q: Did they come to the camp to try to help?

A: I don't th – no, I –

Q: Nothing.

A: No, no.

Q: What about Judaism?

A: What about Judaism?

Q: Was there Judaism?

A: Yes, there was a – there was even a girls' Haggadah, by the way. I don't know if you're familiar with that. You saw the girls' Haggadah? Yeah, I don't recall – led by **Anspach**, I believe, **Leo Anspach**, who – who was a – I think he was from **Germany**, a refugee from **Belgium** or somewhere. I don't – I really don't recall exactly, who – who seemed to be a – but we were depor – we were taken from **Gurs** early in – before Passover. If anybody knew – if anybody knew a holiday coming on, a thing like that.

Q: Right, 1941.

A: 1941. So the people with children were assembled and were sent to **Rivesaltes**. Don't ask me about the trip. I don't know how – how I –

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Q: Back up one second. You were – you s – while you were in **Gurs**, you saw your mother, you saw [indecipherable]

A: I saw my mother, I saw **Leo**. Like I said, some a – a – like a – is a – you know **Ruthie**, yeah, she was quite little, she was about three and a half years old. And some of the guards let us out, and sometimes we – you know, I – we went through the barbed wire from one [indecipherable] to get out. And we went to see – she had her father and her [indecipherable] and – and **Leo** was in same. All the – all the men, by the way, were in the – in one barrack in **Gurs**. They somehow were simply in one. The – the women, somehow, were dispersed through the camp from the – from that deportation, the – from the whole **Baden**, from that area.

Q: How do you suspect your mother dealt with this day to day?

A: I don't know. I don't know.

Q: She was just strong?

A: Hm? Strong? She was strong. She was strong. She – she didn't – yeah, she sort of didn't do that well after my father left, we were in **Constance**, she didn't do that well. She was ill, she was in the [indecipherable] the hospital. She was treated well, it was a Catholic nuns' hospital, and there –

Q: This was in **Constance**?

A: Hm?

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Q: Was this in **Constance**?

A: In **Constance**, still in **Constance**, right, she was ill. But once we were – we were in **Gurs**, she – she – she did – she held up. She held up.

Q: At this point are you back to writing to and from – re-receiving anything from your father, any words?

A: We didn't – well, we – if – we were cut off, we were cut off.

Q: You still had no correspondence from him.

A: And we had correspond – some – we had correspondence. I think telegrams came through. There was correspondence, actually.

Q: You were writing?

A: We were writing, but we didn't – I – I believe there was a telegram from ta – once we arrived there. We were writing to him, I don't know how it got there, or who took the mail, I – I don't recall.

Q: Some of your letters are quite vague about your circumstances.

A: Well, you don't –

Q: You don't really describe – was that purposeful?

A: Yes.

Q: Your letters, in some cases, are even upbeat.

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A: Yes. Yeah, yeah, well, couldn't – I mean, didn't – didn't want to make it worse for my father when – than it was already.

Q: So in April of 1941, you're moved to **Rivesaltes**, as a family?

A: Yes, it was in April, possibly, I – I don't –

Q: Summer 1941?

A: No, before.

Q: Before.

A: Before. May have been – I think it –

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Beginning Tape Two

Q: Okay, so before Passover in 1940, you – 1941, excuse me, you're moved to **Rivesaltes**. Again, do you remember?

A: We were – s-sentiments. We – I don't recall having – remembering any holiday, Jewish holiday, period. But apparently in **Gurs** I did – did have some [indecipherable] Haggadah, but in **Rivesaltes** we didn't. We didn't even know it was Passover, I mean, I – as far as I'm concerned, I mean, I didn't – we didn't.

Q: You were moved with your mother and **Leo**.

A: Right.

Q: Did you again live in separate barracks from **Leo**?

A: Yes, mm-hm. He was in the men's barracks. There was a men's barrack in –

Q: Where were you in **Rivesaltes**?

A: I was together with my mother.

Q: Do you remember the barrack?

A: I think I wrote it down. Can't remember. **Ilot N**? Yeah, I wrote it down because I got it from letter – from a letter. I – I wouldn't – I wouldn't remember it otherwise, like, you know, from the letters that the have – I have that. And the – so that we – we got to **Rivesaltes**. I don't remember getting there, I don't remember how we got there, or the – I remember walking a lot, but I – I don't remember the – the trip. I – I

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– I don't recall going from place to place – I re – I know being there, but I can't remember going from place to place. Leaving my mother, for instance with the **OSE**, going to the home. I remember leaving her, but I don't remember getting there. It's – it's blacked out.

Q: So once you were in **Rivesaltes**, what was **Rivesaltes** like?

A: How can you describe **Rivesaltes**? Number one, it was huge. The barracks were rabbit cage like, you know, first we were on the second floor. An incident I recall is they took young men to – again, **Vichy** police came. I suppose they had an order from the Germans for forced labor somewhere. And again my mother panicked, **Leo** came into the barrack and the –

Q: **Leo** was how old at this point?

A: **Leo** was – 1940 – he was born in fo – '24, so he was 16 – 16, almost 17. And the – she – she threw a blanket over him and I sat on him so they shouldn't – shouldn't – to hide him.

Q: And that – that worked?

A: They – and – and that ha – they didn't tou – yeah, he – he – he didn't. But they took men, and at that time people didn't know, because they were families **[indecipherable]** father was in **England**, or was safe, wa-was getting out already, but there were many, many families. And they took the men to we didn't know

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where. Appar – some of them came back. Some of them came back and said they were building installation for the Germans in **Normandy**, which is interesting.

Q: And you were living in a barracks. Describe the barracks. Describe what the –

A: The barrack was the –

Q: – inside was like, the daily life. Physical.

A: Y-Yeah, well you know, it was really long time, the hunger was – hunger was a – one of the big, big problems. People went through garbage cans, I mean, a – and the – the barracks were – cause in **Gurs** there were wooden barracks, I believe [indecipherable] in there. I don't remember any windows there either, by the way. But they – they had like, you know, rabbit cage kind. I think girls were sleeping on the – on the ground on straw, bags of straw.

Q: In **Rivesaltes**?

A: In the re – in – in **Gurs**.

Q: In **Gurs**.

A: In **Rivesaltes** they had the double the rabbit cage, first floor and second floor.

It's like the long – you see it sometimes in – in the – I think there's one from [indecipherable] **Rivesaltes**. That's the kind of thing they had in **Rivesaltes** too.

Q: You slept –

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A: We were on top, we were on top, right. My mom and me were on top, the top floor.

Q: Who were the other people in the barracks?

A: Huh? It was a mixture of people, but there were many of them from you n – from – from – Jews from **Germany** that I remember primarily, and the others, I mean, we didn't have that much contact with them and it was huge, I mean ba – I don't know how many people it held.

Q: And so you were 13 at this point, do you – were there other preteens and teenage kids in the barracks with you that you could have befriended? Was there some kind of camaraderie there?

A: There was – what people th – primarily remember is – is the vermin. Fleas, lice. Fleas in **Rivesaltes**.

Q: Were you able to bathe?

A: Huh? There was a – there was a ba – yes, there were – there were showers there.

Q: There were showers, but there were still – you said –

A: There was water at a certain time only, and so forth and so on, in – in the – same as in – same as in **Gurs**. Or they put – somebody died at night in **Gurs**, by the way, they used to put – somebody died, they put him into the – the barrack where the – the [indecipherable] water, the fau – you know, th-they had water and the – some

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shower stalls, so they put the bodies there, which – which one of the kids were in the kids barracks [**indecipherable**] were going, ran into it early and there were, you know, the bodies of people, their bodies. One, I recall.

Q: Do you know what happened to the people who were – who had –

A: They had a cemetery. There was – there was a cemetery in **Gurs**, actually.

Q: Do you recall seeing a cemetery in **Gurs**?

A: Yeah, because we were in the **ilot** which was the last **ilot**, it was **ilot M**, and the – next to **ilot M** there was the – they buried the people.

Q: And so –

A: [**indecipherable**]

Q: In **Rivesaltes** was it the same situation, where people –

A: I don't know, I don't know.

Q: Do you recall people being sick, dying?

A: Sick yes, dying I don't – I don't – I don't recall. Not – not in the barrack I was in right away. I'm sure they did but I – I – I personally don't – haven't – haven't experienced it like in **Gurs**.

Q: And again the question: What did you do all day?

A: What it – did we do all day? I don't know. Be hungry mostly.

Q: Your mother, what did she do?

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A: Huh? I – I don't – I d – I d – I don't know, I don't remember. Just – just –

Q: Was there ever a point when you – when you or your mother or **Leo**, that you know of had to do any kind of labor, or –

A: We were taken, at one point in **Rivesaltes** we were taken to a – yeah, it wasn't forced, I mean it was, you know, they – they took people, I suppose the – the – the farmers around needed help for – to pick –

Q: Harvest?

A: Huh?

Q: To harvest?

A: To harvest the grapes, I believe, and then they – the **topinambur**, which is sort of potato-like kind of – ugly kind of thing. So we were taken. We were together, which was actually – which – which was actually a relief to be out of the camp. And we – we were watched by **Vichy** police –

Q: Were you –

A: – and we did work early morning til ni – evening, but – but my mother mentioned – there was another family there, a Jewish family with – also with two children. And we were living in – in a end – sort of a cave-like thing, we lived in, with – with a big pot over a **[indecipherable]** fire. And the – that t-two – two mothers cooked, or whatever were they cooked. It was good, but –

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Q: So let me clarify, you were – you weren't leaving in the morning from

Rivesaltes and coming home in the evening –

A: No, no, we were out –

Q: – you were living at the farm.

A: We were out – we – right, we were living on – I don't remember where we were living, but it was a – I don't recall exactly, but I remember it was cave-like.

Q: How long did this – how long did this –

A: I don't remember, but it was – it was a relief to be away from the camp.

Q: How was – how were the –

A: Because food was – i-it wasn't plentiful, but – but i-it was there, and there together with – my mother and **Leo** was there together with the other family, the same thing. I don't remember sleeping conditions there, how it went. But, you know, it's called **vendanges**, which means to – the – the – the grape harvest – harvesting – grape harvesting and something else, was potatoes or whatever it was.

Potatoes didn't exist in southern **France** altogether, didn't see a potato.

Q: How did – I mean – so, at this point, you're living, you're doing – you're leaving to do some harvesting, you're coming – you went back to **Rivesaltes**.

A: Back to – we were taken back to **Rivesaltes**.

Q: And while you were out at the farm, did you interact at all with just French –

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A: Yeah, **Leo** spoke a little French, which he learned in s – in school [indecipherable]. But they didn't speak fr – they didn't speak – it wasn't French, it was **Catalan**, which is the – the language between **Spain** and the – **Spain** and **France**. So they spoke – they didn't – don't remember them speaking French, but like I say, it was **Catalan**, it's a language that's a mixture of a – so, we didn't interact with them, just we – we harvested, we worked.

Q: So you didn't feel like there was – you didn't have any chance to even know [indecipherable]

A: Flee, or to go, or it was – yeah, now in – in retrospect think maybe we were probably not far from the Spanish border, but we had – didn't have a chance to get away.

Q: And in retrospect –

A: Or maybe could have, maybe – I – I don't know.

Q: Also in retrospect, could these people have helped hide – hide the Jews, hide some of the Jews?

A: They – this – you couldn't underst – they couldn't understand us – we couldn't – first of all, we only spoke German, by the way. Didn't speak French. **Leo** spoke a few high school – high school French, but that's all [indecipherable] I – I think it was just a – a woman with a child or two children our age.

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Q: And so – and when you're 14, I believe, in 1940 – you were in **Rivesaltes** until when? When were you in **Rivesaltes** until?

A: Til October '41, I think.

Q: October '41?

A: Yeah.

Q: And then in October '41, what happened?

A: I – again, it must have been a – I suppose **OSE**, hm – either **OSE** or I don't know who – who took us out, very frankly. I have no – no idea, I mean, somebody must have spoken to the parents, or my mother, and they –

Q: Do you remember how it happened?

A: How it happened?

Q: Yes.

A: No, I don't know. I just know that I was leaving, I was leaving my mother, who –

Q: Do you remember saying goodbye to her?

A: Yeah, yeah, I remember her saying to – remember who you are, and the – to be good, and the hope to – to be reunited.

Q: Did your mother – did you feel that your mother had hope you would be reunited?

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A: I imagine so. Hope springs eternal, they say, but I – I re – I – I imagine so, that we should all be united – reunited with the – with my father hopefully, but the –

Q: Where were you taken?

A: The – we – taken to a home in – **OSE** home, in cru – **La Creuse**(ph), which – which there's about three homes there that they – they – many of the – many of the children or teenagers that were there were from the camp, and some of them were from – who were refugees or **Kindertransport** children from the – from **Germany** that were in the **Paris** area, and as the Germans came in they – they fled f-further. Many of the parents remember remaining in **Germany** didn't know what happened to them, and they – so –

Q: How long were you at this home?

A: At the – hm?

Q: In the –

A: The home?

Q: The first – the first home that you were in?

A: A – **Marjolet**? '41 til – til about '43, I believe.

Q: Did your – your mother was not able to see you?

A: No.

Q: How about **Leo**?

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A: **Leo** was left – **Leo** was left there also in the – in the camp, and he, later on [indecipherable] I don't know if s – I don't know if I gave it to you, I may not have, where he writes that he has to leave **Maman**, and he'll have to – that the **Eclaireur Israeli de France**, the French scouts had a home in **Morsak(ph)** which is in south [indecipherable] who had the home, also took out the teenagers, the older ones, that freedom or [indecipherable] and for a time, yeah, I was in – I was with him in **Morsak(ph)** for a few – oh, maybe a month or six weeks.

Q: Was this before you w-were in –

A: After my mother wa – after my mom was deported.

Q: So, in wa – in **Marjolet**, can you just describe what it was like for you? Did you feel a sense of relief being out of the camp?

A: No, I – I probably cried for two weeks, being separated from my mother. And we were – how should I put it? Kids that came from the camp, they had to be deloused. And the – it – it – the first few weeks were – were very hard. But the children there were – you know, telling [indecipherable] and some of them – we didn't speak French, most of us didn't, you know, came from **Germany** and barely – and the – we learned really fast. The smaller they were, the faster they learned.

Q: And so –

A: So it was French mostly – huh?

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Q: Day to day, what was it like?

A: In the home? It – it was – it was good, you know, it was good.

Q: And [indecipherable] were –

A: It was interesting with the – with – with the other – with the other children.

There was even a class, there was even a school classroom. And we were, you know, the kids from – from – yeah, from – from that – we were integrate in the whole – so – so to learn French wasn't – I don't even [indecipherable] I think it took weeks, the kids just – just started speaking it and knowing it.

Q: Do you remember anyone during that time period, any figure or person that stood out in your mind as being really helpful to your survival, your day to day survival, your emotional survival?

A: Yeah, there was a director of – the director of the – of the home was **Monsieur, Madame Bloch, Bloch, b-l-o-c-h**, who – who were the really kindest – kindest, best people that you – who consoled us, I mean, people that came there, I think they – we understood them, I think they spoke German, and the – until we became integrated into the – the French society over there.

Q: And –

A: Which didn't take long, by the way, anyway.

Q: You were there for two years, a little –

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A: Yeah.

Q: [indecipherable] two years, a year and a half, two years.

A: Yeah, close to two years –

Q: Right.

A: – for only one.

Q: And then you were moved – where did you move?

A: We were in the – they star – we were – they started looking for places to – to hide children, and they – so that was in the – near the Swiss border, and then i – so that was already after deportations from – that we knew already that – we didn't know, I mean, that that would be final – the final solution there. And hope was always there. But they were hiding children either with fra – in **France** or in – in the – I was in **Chambéry** at the Salvation Army, by the way, with another few girls. There was a – not a convent, they – where they were hiding the boy – th-the boys in the religious – a – like a monastery, probably off in that area. So –

Q: Hand up for a second to – you mentioned deportations. Had you – once you left **Rivesaltes**, how did you know what was going on with your mother?

A: We – we were in – in contact at – for – for a while.

Q: You were receiving letters?

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A: Right. I – I remember her last letter I got from her, I mean, that she was taken to a different – we didn't – we didn't know at that time, we didn't – we didn't know what the – the fi –

Q: Can you [indecipherable]

A: – we didn't know about the final solution, let me put it this way.

Q: You received the letter, and what did the letter say?

A: That they – she will be going to a different camp, and she will probably hear from – we will hope – hopefully hear from her. Something like that, the last – the last letter which we had – first of all, when we were – left **Marjolet** to go to **Haute-Savoie** being hidden with a family, with a French family for a wh – for a few – for a while, we had to – we had to get rid of everything [indecipherable] in German everything al-already, uh-huh. I recall an incident I wrote to **Leo**, who was in **Morsak(ph)**, which was the – with the French scouts **Eclaireur Israeli du jour – de France**. And I used to turn over envelopes and it was from **Rivesaltes**, and I turned them inside-out to send to him. And he – he wrote me back to – to – to be careful. So in – he [indecipherable] he wrote on one side of the corner of the letter was **g-i-e-b** on the – on the bottom, he wrote an eight, which means in German **gieb** - give, **acht**, mean, be careful. And I understood what he meant.

Q: So he wrote in code, and you –

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A: He wrote in code, and I knew what he meant.

Q: When did you hear the – so, you received the last letter from your mother.

A: In other words, not to return – turn the envelope that anybody's is in the – anybody's in the camp, I mean, they – would would be in a camp, in **Rivesaltes**?

Q: Right. So she was deported to a different camp, you didn't know what camp.

A: We didn't – we didn't know at the time.

Q: And what about your father?

A: We didn't know at the time.

Q: Were you hearing anything at this point from your father?

A: We didn't – in **Marjolet** I – I believe I had letters from – or telegram or – there was some – there was some – you know, I don't even recall. I believe there wa – there was some, a – not much.

Q: At this point, are you still keeping track of **Leo**, until you're together in **Morsak**(ph) again?

A: Well, **Leo** was already – **Leo** was taken to – he – it was [indecipherable] French, and he was taken to – it was a **Vichy** youth camp in – in **Annecy**.

Q: Do you remember when this was?

A: When he left? No, I don't know, because he – we – I was in one home, and he was in the – in the – but they started taking young a-as – Jews to – to deport them,

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or if they had French papers, even if they had French papers, they took them for forced labor. So they had to find a – I mean, the – the – the French – the French Jews did amazing job, they – they saved thousands of children, I would say **OSE** did, **Eclaireur Israeli de France** did.

Q: So, you moved to **Haute-Savoie**, you're in sh – you are in – hidden in **Chambéry** and **Annecy**.

A: **Chambéry** and **Annecy**, I was there briefly with the French – the French family in **Peseux [indecipherable]** in to – to **Switzerland**. I was there for maybe a week, but that's about it. And the – crossed the border in **Switzerland**, which I do not remember – **Ruthie** is better than I am at that. I – I don't recall.

Q: She does remember this –

A: I don't re – hm?

Q: She does remember this **[indecipherable]**

A: She remembers it?

Q: She remembers it's a Polish woman –

A: Yeah, yeah, I know, but she remembers a – a – I – I remember **[indecipherable]** crossing, I think either as a small child or my – you know, holding my hand or –

Q: She doesn't remember exactly, but –

A: And she remembers, it's amazing. She remembers. And I – and I don't.

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Q: Once you – once you –

A: – I don't. I remember arriving in **Geneva**.

Q: You do?

A: I do remember

Q: Can you describe them?

A: Oh God, huh? They were not very kind, the French – the French **gendarmes** over there. One of them said [**speaks French**] where do you come from, you little Jews?

Q: You were in **Geneva**?

A: In **Geneva**, at the police.

Q: What did you do once you arrived in **Geneva**?

A: We were taken to camps.

Q: Refugee camps?

A: Refugee camps.

Q: Did you realize, we're free?

A: Ye-eah.

Q: [**indecipherable**] made it.

A: We were – I don't know. I – I – I don't recall.

Q: You still didn't have a sense of –

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A: Well, you know, in the camps you're still not free, but the a – I – we couldn't – we couldn't write. I couldn't write to my father, that – you know, like [indecipherable] you know, you write to Papa, and you re – you know, that we're alive. And – but we couldn't write to – we couldn't – we couldn't write from the camp to – to **England**, only into anybody in **Switzerland**, if we knew anybody. So you couldn't write there and the – that was really – so the same time that I c – my father probably died the same time when I ca – when I came into **Switzerland**, or before, or after that, I don't know exactly.

Q: You knew that after the war ended, right? That –

A: We found out – we found out after the war.

Q: Let's back up for just a second.

A: Well, we didn't hear from him, and it just couldn't, I mean –

Q: Which could have been the war, but –

A: Yeah, but we found out – we f – we f – no, during – during the war in **Switzerland**, even, I found out. I don't know when **Leo** found out, we never talked about it, we never talked about the –

Q: How did you find out about your father?

A: I was with the –

Q: Just for the sake of the – the – getting it on tape, what happened to your father?

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A: He – he died of a heart attack. He didn't hear from us and he died of a heart attack in – in **London**.

Q: Do you know when he died?

A: When? Yeah, I know the date.

Q: What's the date?

A: And the date was May – May 17th, 1943

Q: And how did you find out?

A: I found out in the – I was with a family in **Kreuzlingen**, which is the s – the Swiss part of the – I was af – with family there. And I didn't go to school or anything, I don't remember. Just – just worked, I did housework there, they took – what is – which was very kind. I had a friend there **[indecipherable]** they took especially girls, I mean to – you know, for – for help in the house, or housework, or so forth and so on, but you know, we were not in – we were not danger of our lives.

Q: And when did you find out?

A: I – I found out at a – I think a – the – I don't know how she found out, the mother – was a Jewish – Jewish family there, she – she told me.

Q: She told you exactly what happened

A: She told me – she told me that my father was dead.

Q: And – and –

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A: And I didn't hardly react. I think I – I didn't speak for weeks, apparently, to others. I mean, to a – Swiss people, Swiss chil-children teenagers already, my age, and I just [indecipherable] I – I – I didn't – I didn't talk.

Q: So at this point you were 16 –

A: I didn't – I didn't – I just didn't – didn't speak, I lost my sp – I don't know how that comes, but the – it's – it's – yeah. This I recall. I just – but functioned, but I didn't speak. This I remember.

Q: Where was **Leo** during this time –

A: **Leo** was in the – **Leo** was in – in – didn't hear from him, I mean he couldn't, it was – he was in **Annecy**, he was in the – the – forgot the name of the thing. The company **en France**, which was a **Vichy** [indecipherable] camp kind of thing, which quite a few Jewish boys were there his age, teenagers that time. And what happened by him, I do not know. As far as I know he joined the – after the **Normandy**, I believe he joined the – the **Maquis**, and from the **Maquis** he joined the army.

Q: And when did you learn about your mother, can you tell me what happened to your mother?

A: Yeah, well, after the war, we started looking, with the others like me, and we started looking on the Red Cross in – you know, it was really in **Geneva** – in geni –

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in **Geneva** [indecipherable] yeah. And they – they were looking from – there were names, names, names of people, the survivors. And you didn't find a name, and I mean, it came out that – what happened, after the war.

Q: Can you tell me what happened for th – on tape?

A: What happened?

Q: What happened to her?

A: What do you mean what happened?

Q: What happened when she was – when she left **Rivesaltes**. I know –

A: Well, the only thing I know – the only thing I know is from – from the [indecipherable] list. And she's in the 19th – 19th transport, August – August the 12th.

Q: 1943?

A: 1942.

Q: '42?

A: '42.

Q: And she was deported st – through **Drancy**?

A: [indecipherable] to **Drancy**, from **Drancy** to **Auschwitz**, I mean, whatever that's –

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Q: And when the war ended, I'm assuming that at one point you were reunited with **Leo**.

A: With **Leo**? I didn't hear from **Leo** for a long time. He – got a letter from **Leo** that he wrote from the army that he didn't hear from me, he wrote to **OSE**. I got the letter here – I don't know if I brought it or not, but it's – it's in French anyway. So he – he – he didn't hear from me, and he didn't know what happened. He didn't know what happened, if I – if I – if I ever wound up in **Switzerland**, or what happened, he didn't know.

Q: He didn't know if you'd survived that.

A: He didn't know if I – if I made it across or not. So he – so after the war, he wrote to that small town in the – which was the sort of sister town in **Germany**, which was called **Kreuzlingen**. And he – I think that's how he found out – we found each other. And he came on **conge**, which is furlough. I was in **Geneva** that he found out where I was. And he was on furlough, and I – I don't remember how – how that came about, but he was on the French side, which is [indecipherable] **Geneva** side, but we met on no man's land in between.

Q: When did you come to the **United States**?

A: In 1947.

Q: And did you come from **Switzerland**?

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A: I came – yeah, I got my – I – I was in **Paris** with the – **Leo** when he – after he was released from the army, and I was the – the – yeah, the consulate was in – my family in **Canada** found someone here to – to make papers for me, because I couldn't get to **Canada**, believe it or not, I was German.

End of Tape Two

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Beginning Tape Three

Q: – letters that **Leo** was able to get – retrieve in 1950s – in the 1950s from the **United Kingdom**, you donated the letters to the museum, but when did you first receive the letters? When did you first see the letters?

A: You mean – the letters for what? For –

Q: The letters from your mother from you, from **Leo** to your father.

A: I don't recall that. How did I get those letters?

Q: Cause when I visited you, you told me that you'd really not gone through them.

A: Hm?

Q: You re –

A: I did – did I remember?

Q: You – it had only been a couple of years since you'd received them, and you told me that you didn't really ever look at them.

A: That is true, I never looked at them. I think **Leo** – **Leo** handed them to me, I believe, **Leo** handed them to me, the whole – the whole pack, and I di – I never looked at them. Y-You – you're right, **Leo** probably brought the letters, they were letters from us, right, to my fa –

Q: Yes.

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A: Yeah. So he got them [indecipherable] my father's belongings he gave me from my father a – his watch, I have, and what else ha – he gave me something else, which I still have.

Q: Just – briefly just to – to – before we end, I just wanted to ask you, tell me about what it was like to arrive in the **United States**.

A: I was supposed to get to **Canada**, arriving to the **United States**, it was – it wasn't – it was a happy – it wasn't a happy event, it wasn't a happy moment.

Q: Can you –

A: It was – it was not, you see, because first of all, my parents wanted to come. We – friends of my parents, which he – and a – that the son was a good friend of **Leo's**, who lives in **Pittsburgh**, which I'm in touch with [indecipherable]. He – I think **Leo** was in tou – he was in the American army, **Leo** was in French army, so I – I don't know where they met or where they got contact. He – he wrote to me somewhere in **Switzerland** and he – so – so we were in touch with them, with his – with his parents, and he had a sister, an older sister, and when I came to – to the **States** they picked me up, and it was [indecipherable] they lived in oh, a very German Jewish neighborhood. And the – I think it was **Broadway**, all the way up **Broadway** somewhere. So I stayed with them for a while, and then I – I couldn't get into **Canada**, believe it or not. A si – a sister, I think, a sister-in-law, or a sister

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of my – my aunt, my uncle's wife came to visit her family in **New York**, and she – that ti – and my uncle said to contact – contact me to come to **Canada**. And I – I was smuggled across the border to **Canada**. And the border came, she says, you know, we're going to the thing and to close the – I couldn't get into **Canada**.

Q: So, you [indecipherable]

A: And first time I got to **Canada**, I got smuggled in, by the way, that's it, by – by a sister-in-law of mine, yeah.

Q: When you said that you – it was not happy, can you des –

A: Maybe – maybe it's me, I don't know. It's – it's –

Q: Did you feel that your experiences –

A: I – first of all, **Leo** remained in **France**, and I would have – I would have stayed in **France**, but he says go [indecipherable] and I wanted to – friends – the – my – my friends went to **Israel**, [indecipherable] ma – most of them did. The ones – most of them, they were like, you know, like me, refugees from – from – from the ref – from – from **Germany**, or from – or even French kids have remained with their parents went to **Israel**. And I did want to go, so **Leo** says, you know what? You can – you can go to – **I-Israel** wasn't **Israel** yet, by the way – you – later, if you want to go to **Israel**, you can go to **Israel**, go – go to u – go – go to **United States**, or to **Canada**, to **United States** or whatever. He had more resentment

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against the family in **Canada** than I did that they didn't help. But they tried. They re – they really tried. It was impossible.

Q: He had resentment that they didn't help during the war – before the war –

A: Before the war. Before the war. But – but I – I – I – I believe they did. Cause I did have an uncle that traveled to **New York**, later on I found out to – to **Canada** – **Canada** was closed, by the way, didn't – but the – to encourage cousin of my father's to – to send papers. Again and again he sent papers, I mean, he – to – to the American consulate.

Q: So when you arrive, you're in your late teens?

A: Mm-hm.

Q: You ended up – did you work?

A: In ne – yo – yes, I found my job here in **Chicago**. Yeah, somebody found me a job to support myself. [indecipherable] my marks, no school [indecipherable] my marks. And I – do you believe it?

Q: Did you – did –

A: And I had to sa – yeah – no, I didn't stay with that family, very briefly. I needed a place, and child was growing up, and he needed a place, and so I had to get out. And I – I mean, you know, and I had a room with a – they were from **France**, a French, a husband and wife with a – with – with a child, who – where I took – I

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took a room [indecipherable] moving – moving with us and I stayed there for a while, and I had a room there.

Q: Were they Jewish, the family?

A: Yeah, yeah, they're French fre – from **France** also.

Q: Did they ask you about your experiences?

A: They had their own.

Q: They did.

A: They had their own.

Q: Did anyone ask you about your experiences?

A: Not really.

Q: And what was – did you regain some –

A: English, you know, E-English I – I – **Leo** spoke English quite well when he came. I – I did too, I mean, was still quite – you know. We – we had – my parents hoping to come to **United States**, and we couldn't go to school any more that we [indecipherable] a tutor. I don't know how good he was, but he – he – ma – my parents wanted us to learn – speak English in the hope of arriving here someday. So my English was pretty good, so –

Q: You married a su –

A: Or reasonably good, I think.

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Q: You married a survivor.

A: I married a survivor.

Q: Did you talk about your experiences with each other?

A: Not much, not much. He – he – he was a survivor, he – number one, he was quite a few years older, was about 20 years older than myself. I was alone, and he was in – he was a – a – **Kraków-Plaszów, Auschwitz, M-Mauthausen** survivor, mostly in **Mauthausen**, so he had his own [indecipherable]. Oh, my poor kid.

Q: Your kid seems fine.

A: He's fine, he's fine. He's fine, isn't he?

Q: Backing up, I mean you had said earlier that your experiences differ so much from people who were in the concentration camps, and **Leo** suggested that you just move forward?

A: Y-Yeah, yeah.

Q: Did you feel that way with your husband? That you – that his experiences were so much –

A: No.

Q: He didn't.

A: No, no, he didn't. He didn't make me feel this way.

Q: And he didn't – so he didn't diminish your experiences?

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A: He di – no, no. And he didn't speak that much about it. I – what I learned about him, he was – we were – someone **[indecipherable]** **Plaszów** in the camp, i-in **Kraków**, in **Plaszów** and pretty much through the war, another one who lost a wife, lost a child – h-he did lose a wife and a child, by the way, a young baby. He – so – so it was a – I lost my train of thought.

Q: He did not diminish your experiences.

A: Hm?

Q: He was –

A: No, ya – ya – you know, the thing was, you had it **[indecipherable]** you had it good. I mean, that was the feeling, you had it good.

Q: What was his name?

A: Huh? **Abe**, or **Fritz Blue**.

Q: And when was he born?

A: Hm?

Q: Your husband, when was he –

A: He – I think 1910 – eight or 10.

Q: When did he die?

A: Well, they had pa – you know they – you know they –

Q: Right, they didn't have papers.

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A: They didn't have papers. Or one – one brother came, took the papers from the next one, so they – so he finally – he wrote to – to – to **Poland**, he says, I want a birth certificate. I want to know when I'm born. And he fi – he got it. So it was – it was in '08, I believe. '08 or '10, I don't recall which was the right one.

Q: When did he pass away?

A: In 1982.

Q: I just wanted to thank you very much for doing this. I wanted to know if there is anything that you want to add, or to say?

A: No, that's about it.

Q: You okay?

A: Yeah.

Q: Okay. Thank you very much.

A: Okay.

End of Tape Three

Conclusion of Interview