1 00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:57,890

2 00:00:57,890 --> 00:01:00,565 You said you were really miserable during your time--

3 00:01:00,565 --> 00:01:01,440 When I was in Moscow.

4 00:01:01,440 --> 00:01:02,510 When you were in Moscow--

5 00:01:02,510 --> 00:01:03,350 Right

6 00:01:03,350 --> 00:01:05,660 Did you have friends at all.

7 00:01:05,660 --> 00:01:08,000 Were the other children helpful?

8 00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:11,120 All the girls who lived with me in the dorm

9 00:01:11,120 --> 00:01:16,220 were, maybe, if not my age maybe a couple years older.

10 00:01:16,220 --> 00:01:20,780 There were three other girls, who were also partisans, who

11 00:01:20,780 --> 00:01:24,830 were also flown in to Moscow.

12 00:01:24,830 --> 00:01:26,780 And this is how I ended up in this school, 13 00:01:26,780 --> 00:01:29,213 because I met them somewhere in Moscow.

14 00:01:29,213 --> 00:01:30,380 We said, what are you doing?

15 00:01:30,380 --> 00:01:32,280 They say, well, we go to school in here.

16 00:01:32,280 --> 00:01:32,780 We work.

17 00:01:32,780 --> 00:01:34,490 Oh, great, we'll be together.

18 00:01:34,490 --> 00:01:36,950 So there were four of us.

19 00:01:36,950 --> 00:01:40,988 And we aroused a lot of interest on the outside.

20 00:01:40,988 --> 00:01:42,530 They didn't know how starved we were.

21 00:01:42,530 --> 00:01:47,710 But one painter from the--

22 00:01:47,710 --> 00:01:50,080 it's called Tretyâkovskaya Galereya--

23 00:01:50,080 --> 00:01:52,740 it's a very famous museum in Moscow--

24 00:01:52,740 --> 00:01:54,820 it's the equivalent of our East Wing, 25 00:01:54,820 --> 00:01:59,710 or whatever-- came and had us pose for a painting.

26 00:01:59,710 --> 00:02:02,150 And they called us the three partisans.

27 00:02:02,150 --> 00:02:04,840 And we were three girls.

28 00:02:04,840 --> 00:02:07,390 And we were sitting for her.

29 00:02:07,390 --> 00:02:10,090 And we never saw the finished product.

30 00:02:10,090 --> 00:02:15,450 But apparently people did see it in the gallery.

31 00:02:15,450 --> 00:02:16,520 We just posed.

32 00:02:16,520 --> 00:02:20,320 And I don't know how she found out about us, or who told her--

33 00:02:20,320 --> 00:02:23,650 in the middle of all this [INAUDIBLE] the head there.

34 00:02:23,650 --> 00:02:29,410 He was sitting-- we posed for her for the portrait.

35 00:02:29,410 --> 00:02:33,730 And apparently it did end up in the gallery. 00:02:33,730 --> 00:02:37,180 You see on one side, you had this very deep gratitude--

37 00:02:37,180 --> 00:02:38,950 patriotism--

38 00:02:38,950 --> 00:02:44,530 and willing to make your life a success

39 00:02:44,530 --> 00:02:47,740 and see the Germans you know, do away.

40 00:02:47,740 --> 00:02:51,580 But the conditions, you had to be very hearty.

41 00:02:51,580 --> 00:02:55,960 Like in Moscow, it was very--

42 00:02:55,960 --> 00:02:57,700 for breakfast, they would give me--

43 00:02:57,700 --> 00:03:00,820 after working a whole night [? at least ?],, I would come.

44 00:03:00,820 --> 00:03:06,430 And they'd give me 200 grams of bread, which was like a slice.

45 00:03:06,430 --> 00:03:09,760 And then a bowl, which they called it soup.

46 00:03:09,760 --> 00:03:11,860 It's more like [INAUDIBLE] or something.

47 00:03:11,860 --> 00:03:13,485 And then you take this hot thing,

48 00:03:13,485 --> 00:03:14,860 and then you went another window.

49 00:03:14,860 --> 00:03:17,950 And there was a girl standing there with a bowl.

50 00:03:17,950 --> 00:03:19,060 She had oil in it.

51 00:03:19,060 --> 00:03:21,520 And she would take one little teaspoon of the oil

52 00:03:21,520 --> 00:03:22,780 and pour it into your soup.

53 00:03:22,780 --> 00:03:24,340 This was the fact.

54 00:03:24,340 --> 00:03:26,290 So you had the 200 grams of bread,

55 00:03:26,290 --> 00:03:29,980 and you had that so-called soup.

56 00:03:29,980 --> 00:03:34,585 And because of that-of malnutrition--

57 00:03:34,585 --> 00:03:36,617 this is why I had all the illnesses.

58 00:03:36,617 --> 00:03:38,950 If I lived at this country, I probably wouldn't make it.

00:03:38,950 --> 00:03:42,700 There was no lack of, probably, vitamins.

60

00:03:42,700 --> 00:03:46,150 Whatever it is, I had all these illnesses.

61

00:03:46,150 --> 00:03:49,300 So I didn't have it in the partisans,

62

00:03:49,300 --> 00:03:51,070 because we were never hungry.

63

00:03:51,070 --> 00:03:53,010 Food was constantly [INAUDIBLE].

64

00:03:53,010 --> 00:03:56,410 But here-- and I had nobody to complain.

65

00:03:56,410 --> 00:04:00,180 Because you don't complain during the war.

66

00:04:00,180 --> 00:04:03,640 They would tell you, how dare you to complain?

67

00:04:03,640 --> 00:04:06,960 Look at this, people are dying on the front.

68

00:04:06,960 --> 00:04:12,460 And we did you a favor, and we saved your life.

69

00:04:12,460 --> 00:04:14,460 And we brought you to this country. 00:04:14,460 --> 00:04:16,600 And you don't have to fight.

71 00:04:16,600 --> 00:04:19,420 How can you even ask for anything?

72 00:04:19,420 --> 00:04:21,140 They would turn around psychologically.

73 00:04:21,140 --> 00:04:24,310 They would make you feel guilty, and you apologize to them,

74 00:04:24,310 --> 00:04:27,110 rather than them apologizing to you-- sorry,

75 00:04:27,110 --> 00:04:29,320 we cannot accommodate you.

76 00:04:29,320 --> 00:04:32,230 This is typical propaganda, that they

77 00:04:32,230 --> 00:04:35,620 make you feel like, you know, how dare you?

78 00:04:35,620 --> 00:04:38,950 s so this was, like, one side--

79 00:04:38,950 --> 00:04:40,570 you felt happy being there.

80 00:04:40,570 --> 00:04:46,300 But I could not handle the loneliness and the uncertainty,

81 00:04:46,300 --> 00:04:47,200 and also the work. 82 00:04:47,200 --> 00:04:51,568 12 hours for a 14, 15-year-old kid with a stint on their leg.

83 00:04:51,568 --> 00:04:53,110 You know, we didn't having a breaks--

84 00:04:53,110 --> 00:04:54,700 like coffee, or something.

85 00:04:54,700 --> 00:04:58,960 The only place we could rest, we would go to the ladies room.

86 00:04:58,960 --> 00:05:01,210 And a lot of the girls would come there.

87 00:05:01,210 --> 00:05:05,910 And then we'd sit on the floor and fall asleep,

88 00:05:05,910 --> 00:05:08,230 until I our supervisor would come.

89 00:05:08,230 --> 00:05:08,950 And she'd come--

90 00:05:08,950 --> 00:05:10,400 I remember her face.

91 00:05:10,400 --> 00:05:12,280 Oh, what do you think you're doing in here?

92 00:05:12,280 --> 00:05:12,520 You know.

93 00:05:12,520 --> 00:05:13,100 Get to work. 94 00:05:13,100 --> 00:05:13,600 Get to work.

95

00:05:13,600 --> 00:05:14,830 And then get all up.

96

00:05:14,830 --> 00:05:17,710 This is where we sneak in a little sleep.

97

00:05:17,710 --> 00:05:22,330 And then when the session was over and the [INAUDIBLE],,

98

00:05:22,330 --> 00:05:25,600 we would trudge through this very heavy snow.

99 00:05:25,600 --> 00:05:28,050 And Russian snow is not our snow.

100 00:05:28,050 --> 00:05:30,460 I had to walk back to the dorm.

101 00:05:30,460 --> 00:05:31,550 I don't know how much.

102 00:05:31,550 --> 00:05:33,280 It was a mile, or something.

103 00:05:33,280 --> 00:05:35,930 You put your foot in, you had to drag it out.

104 00:05:35,930 --> 00:05:37,588 I had a hard time getting out.

105 00:05:37,588 --> 00:05:39,130 And there was nothing waiting for you 106 00:05:39,130 --> 00:05:42,190 in the dorm-- not like something hot.

107 00:05:42,190 --> 00:05:45,820 But you kept quiet, because you do not complain.

108 00:05:45,820 --> 00:05:47,350 They brought you here.

109 00:05:47,350 --> 00:05:50,290 They giving you your life, in a sense.

110 00:05:50,290 --> 00:05:52,210 And everybody suffers.

111 00:05:52,210 --> 00:05:54,330 Everybody suffered in Moscow.

112 00:05:54,330 --> 00:05:58,340 And if you were starving--

113 00:05:58,340 --> 00:06:01,300 anyhow, that's a story all by itself.

114 00:06:01,300 --> 00:06:07,410 But the surprise of my mother coming without any warning--

115 00:06:07,410 --> 00:06:10,200 no letters, or something.

116 00:06:10,200 --> 00:06:13,020 One very pleasant thing happened when I was--

117 00:06:13,020 --> 00:06:14,160 no, two things happened. 118 00:06:14,160 --> 00:06:15,870 When I was once walking to Moscow,

119 00:06:15,870 --> 00:06:19,010 I was walking down the street and very depressed.

120 00:06:19,010 --> 00:06:22,442 And I hear ahead of me a few people are walking.

121 00:06:22,442 --> 00:06:23,400 And they speak Yiddish.

122 00:06:23,400 --> 00:06:25,920

123 00:06:25,920 --> 00:06:27,510 And I followed them.

124 00:06:27,510 --> 00:06:31,790 I didn't have the nerve to go up and say, I am Jewish, too.

125 00:06:31,790 --> 00:06:33,540 And I don't know what they were talking.

126 00:06:33,540 --> 00:06:38,590 But just to hear the Jewish thing--

127 00:06:38,590 --> 00:06:43,280 voice-- Jewish words-got me all choked up.

128 00:06:43,280 --> 00:06:47,210 And I was feeling, well, maybe there 00:06:47,210 --> 00:06:49,340 are some other people like me.

130

 $00:06:49,340 \longrightarrow 00:06:51,810$ I don't know where it came from.

131

 $00:06:51,810 \longrightarrow 00:06:58,520$ And another thing is also the head of our partisans sent--

132

 $00:06:58,520 \longrightarrow 00:07:02,060$ Medvedev gave his address of his wife

133

 $00:07:02,060 \longrightarrow 00:07:07,220$ in Moscow, to give to me to go visit her.

134

 $00:07:07,220 \longrightarrow 00:07:09,110$ And I did go to see her--

135

00:07:09,110 --> 00:07:10,188 Oh, you did.

136

00:07:10,188 --> 00:07:10,980 --to her apartment.

137

 $00:07:10,980 \longrightarrow 00:07:12,500$ It was very nice place.

138

 $00:07:12,500 \longrightarrow 00:07:13,310$ I met his wife.

139

 $00:07:13,310 \longrightarrow 00:07:17,450$ And then she gave-- she saw how probably dehydrated and hungry.

140

 $00:07:17,450 \longrightarrow 00:07:22,070$ She served me

borscht, from beets.

141

 $00:07:22,070 \longrightarrow 00:07:24,550$

And she says, would you like to eat some?

142

00:07:24,550 --> 00:07:25,950 I'd say yeah, yeah, yeah.

143

00:07:25,950 --> 00:07:27,500 She gives me the borscht to eat.

144

00:07:27,500 --> 00:07:28,790 And I eat and eat.

145

00:07:28,790 --> 00:07:32,170 But then there were still pieces of beets left.

146

00:07:32,170 --> 00:07:34,910 And I remember my mother telling me,

147

00:07:34,910 --> 00:07:39,020 it's not good manners to clean a plate up.

148

00:07:39,020 --> 00:07:41,360 You must leave something in the plate.

149

00:07:41,360 --> 00:07:42,890 It's not nice.

150

00:07:42,890 --> 00:07:43,970 Oh, this is strict.

151

00:07:43,970 --> 00:07:46,670 So I left a little bit of the borscht on the plate,

152

00:07:46,670 --> 00:07:49,160 even though I was dying to eat it.

00:07:49,160 --> 00:07:53,180 But this is how my mother taught me.

154 00:07:53,180 --> 00:07:57,290 And the upbringing I got at home wasn't prepared for war,

155 00:07:57,290 --> 00:08:00,160 and it wasn't prepared for something like this.

156 00:08:00,160 --> 00:08:05,540 But it was very uplifting to talk to his wife.

157 00:08:05,540 --> 00:08:08,770 And she wanted to know how things are doing

158 00:08:08,770 --> 00:08:10,860 in the partisans and what was.

159 00:08:10,860 --> 00:08:12,620 So there were little things, which

160 00:08:12,620 --> 00:08:16,500 were like pleasant things, happen, if you can say.

161 00:08:16,500 --> 00:08:23,360 But as I think back, I consider it the hardest for me

162 00:08:23,360 --> 00:08:25,400 because I was alone.

163 00:08:25,400 --> 00:08:26,540 I had no family.

164 00:08:26,540 --> 00:08:27,450 I didn't have p--. 165 00:08:27,450 --> 00:08:30,350 I wasn't prepared for it with all the--

166 00:08:30,350 --> 00:08:33,367 And the uncertainty--

167 00:08:33,367 --> 00:08:35,159 Because you didn't know what was happening.

168 00:08:35,159 --> 00:08:37,669 I didn't know what was happening with the partisans.

169 00:08:37,669 --> 00:08:41,120 Because just because they felt secure when I was there,

170 00:08:41,120 --> 00:08:45,440 they were always subject to bombing, or somebody

171 00:08:45,440 --> 00:08:52,160 could turn them in and bring the Germans there-- the Nazis.

172 00:08:52,160 --> 00:08:56,360 And this guy, Kuznetsov, even though he impersonated a Nazi--

173 00:08:56,360 --> 00:08:58,120 and he felt very secure.

174 00:08:58,120 --> 00:09:00,830 If they would have caught him earlier,

175 00:09:00,830 --> 00:09:02,700 and they would torture him, he could 176 00:09:02,700 --> 00:09:04,190 have told a story about us.

177 00:09:04,190 --> 00:09:08,810 They had to be very careful about how to get around.

178 00:09:08,810 --> 00:09:11,720 So I didn't if I was going to see my parents or not.

179 00:09:11,720 --> 00:09:14,590 It was very difficult. But everyone suffered in Moscow

180 00:09:14,590 --> 00:09:15,800 at that time.

181 00:09:15,800 --> 00:09:16,790 It wasn't just me.

182 00:09:16,790 --> 00:09:18,710 This was the time.

183 00:09:18,710 --> 00:09:22,050

184 00:09:22,050 --> 00:09:27,360 So when my mother brought me back here--

185 00:09:27,360 --> 00:09:30,960 back to this Ukrainian territory--

186 00:09:30,960 --> 00:09:33,870 and we met some other survivor relatives.

187 00:09:33,870 --> 00:09:36,910 We got together and were overjoyed. 188 00:09:36,910 --> 00:09:39,240 We went to Royno.

189

00:09:39,240 --> 00:09:45,480 We waited there for a year, and I enrolled to a regular school.

190 00:09:45,480 --> 00:09:47,610 And it's a Russian school.

191 00:09:47,610 --> 00:09:51,360 And we were getting help--

192 00:09:51,360 --> 00:09:52,830 I don't know which organization--

193 00:09:52,830 --> 00:09:56,160 with food in Rovno, because nobody worked.

194 00:09:56,160 --> 00:09:58,440 And my father and my uncle, they would

195 00:09:58,440 --> 00:10:00,750 go in the streets of Rovno.

196 00:10:00,750 --> 00:10:06,570 And if they would hear somebody talking Jewish, or something,

197 00:10:06,570 --> 00:10:09,930 they would come up and say to them, [NON-ENGLISH]..

198 00:10:09,930 --> 00:10:12,450 You know what that means, right?

199 00:10:12,450 --> 00:10:14,700 [NON-ENGLISH] means, are you Jewish?

200

00:10:14,700 --> 00:10:17,660 if the person said, yeah, because--

201

00:10:17,660 --> 00:10:20,840 so they would right away bring them to our house,

202

00:10:20,840 --> 00:10:24,120 because they knew he's a survivor alone, and feed them.

203

00:10:24,120 --> 00:10:27,510 And said, if you don't mind sleeping on the floor,

204

00:10:27,510 --> 00:10:29,460 you can share our house.

205

00:10:29,460 --> 00:10:30,412 It was constantly.

206

00:10:30,412 --> 00:10:31,620 They would go on the streets.

207

00:10:31,620 --> 00:10:36,180 And you'd see somebody who was alone and a survivor.

208

00:10:36,180 --> 00:10:38,690 They would try to help them.

209

00:10:38,690 --> 00:10:40,440 So were you able to go back to your house?

210

00:10:40,440 --> 00:10:43,710

211

 $00:10:43,710 \longrightarrow 00:10:45,150$

No, that wasn't ours.

212

00:10:45,150 --> 00:10:47,385 We never went back to Malinsk.

213

00:10:47,385 --> 00:10:48,630 You went to Royno?

214

00:10:48,630 --> 00:10:49,560 We went to Royno.

215

00:10:49,560 --> 00:10:51,180 Because, Malinsk, first of all, there

216

00:10:51,180 --> 00:10:52,800 were all the families killed.

217

00:10:52,800 --> 00:10:55,080 We wouldn't go back there.

218

00:10:55,080 --> 00:10:57,660 I wouldn't even go even today.

219

00:10:57,660 --> 00:10:59,950 Basically, the people down there,

220

00:10:59,950 --> 00:11:01,110 they were very antisemitic.

221

00:11:01,110 --> 00:11:06,240 And they were so glad to get some of the property,

222

00:11:06,240 --> 00:11:08,610 or something from the Jews.

223

00:11:08,610 --> 00:11:11,440 And they were certainly not going to try to save us.

00:11:11,440 --> 00:11:13,450 They were sorry we survived, probably.

225

00:11:13,450 --> 00:11:14,640 No, we never went back.

226

00:11:14,640 --> 00:11:16,050 We went to Rovno.

227

00:11:16,050 --> 00:11:17,790 Rovno had a bigger population.

228

00:11:17,790 --> 00:11:20,430 It had more people.

229

00:11:20,430 --> 00:11:23,370

230

00:11:23,370 --> 00:11:24,510 It was more modern.

231

00:11:24,510 --> 00:11:26,460 It was not Malinsk.

232

00:11:26,460 --> 00:11:29,520 So your mother rented a place?

233

00:11:29,520 --> 00:11:32,020 Did your father come soon?

234

00:11:32,020 --> 00:11:34,890 Oh, you mean after my mother brought me back from Moscow.

235

00:11:34,890 --> 00:11:39,060 She brought me right back to my father, who was already in--

236

00:11:39,060 --> 00:11:41,910

it's near Rovno--

[? Kostopol ?]..

237

00:11:41,910 --> 00:11:44,300 And from there we decided to go to Rovno,

238

00:11:44,300 --> 00:11:46,260 because Rovno was a bigger city.

239

00:11:46,260 --> 00:11:48,000 And we felt safer.

240

00:11:48,000 --> 00:11:50,490 There shouldn't be any pogroms.

241

00:11:50,490 --> 00:11:51,790 We will be more protected.

242

00:11:51,790 --> 00:11:55,630 Yeah, we were reunited after my mother brought me back.

243

00:11:55,630 --> 00:11:57,900 And you said that the Russians said

244

00:11:57,900 --> 00:11:59,602 that your mother had to promise that you

245

00:11:59,602 --> 00:12:00,560 would go to the school?

246

00:12:00,560 --> 00:12:01,350 Yes.

247

00:12:01,350 --> 00:12:02,130 Yeah.

248

00:12:02,130 --> 00:12:03,300 But there was no school.

00:12:03,300 --> 00:12:04,290 There was no school.

250

00:12:04,290 --> 00:12:06,820 I think it was just propaganda.

251

00:12:06,820 --> 00:12:09,280 They had a good excuse to let me go.

252

00:12:09,280 --> 00:12:11,850 The Russians are soft hearted.

253

00:12:11,850 --> 00:12:17,140 And they weren't going to deny a mother to reunite with a child.

254

00:12:17,140 --> 00:12:19,950 But the same, they did train me.

255

00:12:19,950 --> 00:12:21,300 I was starving.

256

00:12:21,300 --> 00:12:24,990 And they had to show some kind of precedent-- say, oh, you

257

00:12:24,990 --> 00:12:27,030 are going, but under this condition--

258

00:12:27,030 --> 00:12:29,160 so other people wouldn't take off.

259

00:12:29,160 --> 00:12:31,200 I don't know what was the reasoning behind,

260

00:12:31,200 --> 00:12:33,900 but they let Mom take me home.

00:12:33,900 --> 00:12:35,620 Did you go to school there also?

262

00:12:35,620 --> 00:12:36,236

Yeah.

263

00:12:36,236 --> 00:12:37,580

When I came to Rovno.

264

00:12:37,580 --> 00:12:38,180

No, no.

265

00:12:38,180 --> 00:12:40,830

I mean when you went to Moscow.

266

 $00:12:40,830 \longrightarrow 00:12:41,550$

Yeah.

267

00:12:41,550 --> 00:12:42,767

It wasn't the regular school.

268

00:12:42,767 --> 00:12:43,850

It was a technical school.

269

00:12:43,850 --> 00:12:46,050

It was called a Tekhnikum

in other words, everything

270

00:12:46,050 --> 00:12:51,570

we studied had to do pertaining

to machinery and metal

271

00:12:51,570 --> 00:12:53,280

melting and stuff like that.

272

00:12:53,280 --> 00:12:57,030

We all hated it, because

we were sitting hungry.

273

 $00:12:57,030 \longrightarrow 00:13:02,760$

And we learned how to

get around our teacher.

274

00:13:02,760 --> 00:13:04,290

He was hungry, too.

275

00:13:04,290 --> 00:13:06,170

And we were all sitting at the tables.

276

00:13:06,170 --> 00:13:10,370 And somebody would bring a piece

of bread, or a slice of bread.

277

00:13:10,370 --> 00:13:13,160

And he would come into

classroom and look at it.

278

00:13:13,160 --> 00:13:16,640

And this would completely

change his mind another way.

279

00:13:16,640 --> 00:13:17,750

Oh, you got bread.

280

00:13:17,750 --> 00:13:19,130

So where did you buy bread?

281

 $00:13:19,130 \longrightarrow 00:13:22,040$

And you would spend a whole

lot talking about food--

282

00:13:22,040 --> 00:13:23,980

forgot about

lecturing [INAUDIBLE]..

283

00:13:23,980 --> 00:13:27,950

That's why we played

tricks on him, because food

284

00:13:27,950 --> 00:13:30,530

was the primary concern.

285

00:13:30,530 --> 00:13:34,400 But this was what you call technical school,

286

00:13:34,400 --> 00:13:40,540 to prepare us to go work on the factory 12 hours.

287

00:13:40,540 --> 00:13:42,666 This is it.

288

00:13:42,666 --> 00:13:45,760 And your mother knew where to find you?

289

00:13:45,760 --> 00:13:46,720 I didn't know how.

290

00:13:46,720 --> 00:13:51,010 She knew by word of mouth where we are.

291

00:13:51,010 --> 00:13:54,140 But the fact that we know-- she knew it.

292

00:13:54,140 --> 00:13:54,640 She knew it.

293

00:13:54,640 --> 00:13:58,020 Because some people would come from the Party zones and maybe

294

00:13:58,020 --> 00:13:58,900 fly back.

295

00:13:58,900 --> 00:14:02,498 I don't know how she knew, and even find the factory.

296

00:14:02,498 --> 00:14:03,040

I don't know.

00:14:03,040 --> 00:14:04,560 Yeah, because

Moscow is not small.

298

00:14:04,560 --> 00:14:05,560

Well, this is not small.

299

00:14:05,560 --> 00:14:08,530 It was a town called Lublino.

300

00:14:08,530 --> 00:14:11,270

You had to take a train to get there--

301

 $00:14:11,270 \longrightarrow 00:14:13,730$

like a streetcar.

302

00:14:13,730 --> 00:14:15,820

And we lived in that city--

303

00:14:15,820 --> 00:14:18,730

Lublino-- where the factories were.

304

00:14:18,730 --> 00:14:21,310

Moscow, used to go in

down there for just

305

00:14:21,310 --> 00:14:26,390

maybe sightseeing, or if

I had some business to do.

306

00:14:26,390 --> 00:14:30,730

But basically the city I

stayed in was called Lublino.

307

00:14:30,730 --> 00:14:33,280

And I know somebody

who went back there.

308

00:14:33,280 --> 00:14:35,900

And they say, there's

nothing left there anymore,

309

00:14:35,900 --> 00:14:37,020 where the Tekhnikum was.

310

00:14:37,020 --> 00:14:39,490 There's no more where the dorm was, or something.

311

00:14:39,490 --> 00:14:40,642 I didn't cry.

312

00:14:40,642 --> 00:14:42,250 [LAUGHS]

313

00:14:42,250 --> 00:14:44,920 And how did your mother get from the partisan group

314

00:14:44,920 --> 00:14:47,500 to where you were?

315

00:14:47,500 --> 00:14:48,460 By train?

316

00:14:48,460 --> 00:14:49,480 Yeah.

317

00:14:49,480 --> 00:14:51,740 She had a lot hutzpah.

318

00:14:51,740 --> 00:14:56,680 And she had a medal that says that she was a partisan--

319

00:14:56,680 --> 00:14:58,180 a recognition.

320

00:14:58,180 --> 00:14:59,580 And my mother was very fiesty. 00:14:59,580 --> 00:15:04,420 She went to a military train, that was going to Moscow.

322

00:15:04,420 --> 00:15:07,250 And there was nothing but for military people.

323

00:15:07,250 --> 00:15:08,170 And she went in.

324

00:15:08,170 --> 00:15:12,370 She says, I was a par-- and I have to go see my daughter.

325

00:15:12,370 --> 00:15:15,970 And she went to talk to somebody up high there-- whoever it is.

326

00:15:15,970 --> 00:15:18,610 And they let her get on the truth.

327

00:15:18,610 --> 00:15:20,050 There was a military train.

328

00:15:20,050 --> 00:15:22,588 If anybody could do it, my mother could do it.

329

00:15:22,588 --> 00:15:23,380 That's [INAUDIBLE].

330

00:15:23,380 --> 00:15:26,110 So she got on the train, and I didn't even

331

00:15:26,110 --> 00:15:27,967 know she was coming.

332

00:15:27,967 --> 00:15:28,550 I didn't know.

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

00:15:28,550 --> 00:15:31,810 She had to get special permission from Rovno

334

00:15:31,810 --> 00:15:35,780 to be able-- who went to Moscow after the war.

335

00:15:35,780 --> 00:15:37,700 It was forbidden.

336

00:15:37,700 --> 00:15:40,250 So she knew how to get around.

337

00:15:40,250 --> 00:15:42,080 And they respected her-- whatever.

338

00:15:42,080 --> 00:15:45,020

339

00:15:45,020 --> 00:15:46,400 This may sound silly.

340

00:15:46,400 --> 00:15:48,560 As much as I promised my mother--

341

00:15:48,560 --> 00:15:53,660 to myself I was saying, if we ever are reunited, Mom,

342

00:15:53,660 --> 00:15:55,790 I will do everything you want me to do.

343

00:15:55,790 --> 00:15:57,270 And within an hour--

344

00:15:57,270 --> 00:15:59,936 [LAUGHS] You weren't.

00:15:59,936 --> 00:16:02,540 My mother says to me, what are you, complaining?

346

00:16:02,540 --> 00:16:04,105 Look, you've got the bed and this.

347

00:16:04,105 --> 00:16:05,980 I said, Mom, wait till you stay here a couple

348

00:16:05,980 --> 00:16:08,090 and you see what they give us to eat.

349

00:16:08,090 --> 00:16:11,720 And she lavished on her the praise.

350

00:16:11,720 --> 00:16:13,700 She was in the partisan, you know?

351

00:16:13,700 --> 00:16:17,010 But anyhow, I wasn't very easy child.

352

00:16:17,010 --> 00:16:19,550

353

00:16:19,550 --> 00:16:21,680 So you started complaining right away?

354

00:16:21,680 --> 00:16:23,900 It didn't last very long--

355

00:16:23,900 --> 00:16:25,490 the truce.

356

00:16:25,490 --> 00:16:26,150

Truth, truce.

357

00:16:26,150 --> 00:16:26,970 Right.

358

00:16:26,970 --> 00:16:28,880 And your prayer to God didn't last too long?

359

00:16:28,880 --> 00:16:29,690 You [? didn't ?] [INAUDIBLE].

360

00:16:29,690 --> 00:16:30,190 Yeah

361

00:16:30,190 --> 00:16:31,670 But then when I came home--

362

00:16:31,670 --> 00:16:35,640

363

00:16:35,640 --> 00:16:39,050 if you want me to tell you about how the war finish.

364

00:16:39,050 --> 00:16:41,130 We leave Royno.

365

00:16:41,130 --> 00:16:43,530 I was going to Russian school.

366

00:16:43,530 --> 00:16:45,450 And we knew that the war wasn't over.

367

00:16:45,450 --> 00:16:48,998 This must've been maybe in the spring or something of '44.

368

00:16:48,998 --> 00:16:51,990

00:16:51,990 --> 00:16:57,000 And then during the night, we hear shooting.

370

00:16:57,000 --> 00:16:59,150 We heard shooting going gone and all this.

371

00:16:59,150 --> 00:17:03,580 And we said, oh, boy, apparently the Nazis are coming back.

372

00:17:03,580 --> 00:17:06,240 The front turned around, and they're coming back.

373

00:17:06,240 --> 00:17:10,355 So we jumped out of the bed and laid down on the floor,

374

00:17:10,355 --> 00:17:11,980 because we were afraid the bullets will

375

00:17:11,980 --> 00:17:12,855 come from the window.

376

00:17:12,855 --> 00:17:16,560 And we lay there until daybreak.

377

00:17:16,560 --> 00:17:23,050 Finally, when the sun came out, somebody in our group came out.

378

00:17:23,050 --> 00:17:25,520 They says, let me see what's happening.

379

00:17:25,520 --> 00:17:26,950 Are they really here?

380

00:17:26,950 --> 00:17:28,840

And he goes out and finds out they

381

00:17:28,840 --> 00:17:31,230 were shooting because the war was over.

382

00:17:31,230 --> 00:17:34,690 They're celebrating the end of war.

383

00:17:34,690 --> 00:17:38,700 And they were just shooting-what do you call it?

384

00:17:38,700 --> 00:17:39,670 What do you call it?

385

00:17:39,670 --> 00:17:40,170 Blanks?

386

00:17:40,170 --> 00:17:41,950 The bullets.

387

00:17:41,950 --> 00:17:42,970 Not the rockets, too.

388

00:17:42,970 --> 00:17:45,310 But it was a happy occasion.

389

00:17:45,310 --> 00:17:47,440 It wasn't to kill anyone.

390

00:17:47,440 --> 00:17:49,770 Well, we couldn't believe it.

391

00:17:49,770 --> 00:17:52,105 We couldn't believe it.

392

00:17:52,105 --> 00:17:52,980

We were never secure.

00:17:52,980 --> 00:17:55,390 We never knew when the front was going to turn around.

394

00:17:55,390 --> 00:17:57,098 The Germans are going to come right back.

395

00:17:57,098 --> 00:18:00,620

396

00:18:00,620 --> 00:18:03,200 So the war wasn't over for you at that point [INAUDIBLE]??

397

00:18:03,200 --> 00:18:04,580

For us it was over.

398

00:18:04,580 --> 00:18:17,510 This is was May 8, 1945 when the Nazis declared the war is over.

399

00:18:17,510 --> 00:18:21,810 And in the same time, an order came out

400

00:18:21,810 --> 00:18:24,590 in the Ukraine and Russia--

401

00:18:24,590 --> 00:18:30,850 all Polish citizens who want to return home may do so.

402

00:18:30,850 --> 00:18:33,990 And because we were Russian citizens--

403

00:18:33,990 --> 00:18:35,050 not Russian, excuse me--

404

00:18:35,050 --> 00:18:37,900

Polish citizen-- we

decided, let's go west.

405

00:18:37,900 --> 00:18:41,350 Let's go as far away

from here as possible.

406

00:18:41,350 --> 00:18:45,600 Let's go to Lodz, which is in the west part of Poland.

407

00:18:45,600 --> 00:18:46,590 And we'll come there.

408

00:18:46,590 --> 00:18:49,440

We'll see where we go from there.

409

00:18:49,440 --> 00:18:52,380 It was on our mind to

get out from Poland.

410

00:18:52,380 --> 00:18:55,380

It was a cemetery for us-- and the Ukraine.

411

00:18:55,380 --> 00:18:57,790

Everybody was killed.

412

00:18:57,790 --> 00:19:01,480

So we got on a train,

and we came to Lodz.

413

00:19:01,480 --> 00:19:05,520

And in Lodz, we found an empty apartment--

414

00:19:05,520 --> 00:19:10,170 because there were a lot of

them that the Germans left.

415

00:19:10,170 --> 00:19:11,480

They ran away.

00:19:11,480 --> 00:19:12,630 And I lived there.

417

00:19:12,630 --> 00:19:13,920 We lived there for a year.

418

00:19:13,920 --> 00:19:17,927

419

00:19:17,927 --> 00:19:19,885 Again I had to learn the language-- pass exams.

420

00:19:19,885 --> 00:19:22,760 And I went to Polish gymnasiums, which

421

00:19:22,760 --> 00:19:28,730 is the same like equivalent of a high school.

422

00:19:28,730 --> 00:19:29,990 But we felt better.

423

00:19:29,990 --> 00:19:32,630 The Germans were defeated.

424

00:19:32,630 --> 00:19:35,930 And there was already contact with Israel.

425

00:19:35,930 --> 00:19:39,510 And there was an embassy in Warsaw.

426

00:19:39,510 --> 00:19:42,640 So my parents decided to go to Warsaw

427

00:19:42,640 --> 00:19:48,530 and get in touch with the embassy,

428 00:19:48,530 --> 00:19:50,730 and see what they can do for us.

429 00:19:50,730 --> 00:19:52,450 I don't believe I told you what--

430 00:19:52,450 --> 00:19:57,330 oh yeah, I told you a thing about why we never got

431 00:19:57,330 --> 00:20:00,350 on the ship, because the war.

432 00:20:00,350 --> 00:20:05,736 So we thought maybe they'll honor papers

433 00:20:05,736 --> 00:20:08,040 and say, yes, you can go ahead to America.

434 00:20:08,040 --> 00:20:10,430 Well, it didn't work this way.

435 00:20:10,430 --> 00:20:12,870 The embassy in Warsaw was powerless.

436 00:20:12,870 --> 00:20:16,160 But they had in Poland at that time trains

437 00:20:16,160 --> 00:20:19,760 going all from Poland all the way to Germany.

438 00:20:19,760 --> 00:20:22,370 They call it the return home trains, 00:20:22,370 --> 00:20:24,810 that people who the Germans took to Poland,

440

00:20:24,810 --> 00:20:26,180 or Polish took the Ger--.

441

00:20:26,180 --> 00:20:29,340 Everybody could return to their own country.

442

00:20:29,340 --> 00:20:32,560 So after living one year in Lodz--

443

00:20:32,560 --> 00:20:35,150 and when this was offered, we got

444

00:20:35,150 --> 00:20:38,570 ourselves one of those trains that say, let's go to Paris.

445

00:20:38,570 --> 00:20:43,790 Let's go as far as we can away from here.

446

00:20:43,790 --> 00:20:47,030 By then our family in the United States

447

00:20:47,030 --> 00:20:52,860 knew already that we survived, because of that little card

448

00:20:52,860 --> 00:20:53,750 I showed you--

449

00:20:53,750 --> 00:20:58,220 that little card, where my father wrote the address,

450

00:20:58,220 --> 00:20:59,870

to let relatives know.

451

00:20:59,870 --> 00:21:02,360

So they knew it from [? Oscar. ?]

452

00:21:02,360 --> 00:21:03,600

So we got on those trains.

453

00:21:03,600 --> 00:21:05,030

They were cattle trains.

454

00:21:05,030 --> 00:21:07,700

It went from Poland

all the way to Paris.

455

00:21:07,700 --> 00:21:10,160

Paris was much

better in many ways.

456

00:21:10,160 --> 00:21:11,090

They had to hire us.

457

00:21:11,090 --> 00:21:14,180

They had a lot of

Jewish organizations.

458

00:21:14,180 --> 00:21:18,750

And we lived with this family,

which were wonderful to us--

459

00:21:18,750 --> 00:21:21,560

the Mann family.

460

 $00:21:21,560 \longrightarrow 00:21:24,410$

They were actually

related to my uncle.

461

00:21:24,410 --> 00:21:27,780

And we stayed with them until

we find that he did get visa

00:21:27,780 --> 00:21:29,600 to come to this country.

463

00:21:29,600 --> 00:21:31,970 But I worship [INAUDIBLE],, then what do you walk around

464

00:21:31,970 --> 00:21:34,750 don't see anybody calling you names.

465

00:21:34,750 --> 00:21:36,680 I could go to school.

466

00:21:36,680 --> 00:21:37,930 I could go to the opera.

467

00:21:37,930 --> 00:21:41,630 I could go to culture and all this-- come when I want.

468

00:21:41,630 --> 00:21:45,470 I mean, this was unbelievable to me.

469

00:21:45,470 --> 00:21:47,360 And my father got a job, also.

470

00:21:47,360 --> 00:21:49,820 He worked in some organizations.

471

00:21:49,820 --> 00:21:54,500 But there were a lot of refugees in Paris.

472

00:21:54,500 --> 00:21:57,590 They were put up in hotels.

473

00:21:57,590 --> 00:22:04,100 And the joint organization, I think, paid for them.

474

00:22:04,100 --> 00:22:07,940 And they had cafeterias where everybody could

475

00:22:07,940 --> 00:22:10,820 go once they get a hot meal.

476

00:22:10,820 --> 00:22:12,800 And guess where was the restaurant.

477

00:22:12,800 --> 00:22:15,740 It was on Rue des Oiseaux.

478

00:22:15,740 --> 00:22:21,910 We used to called Goldbergs or something now, it's called now.

479

00:22:21,910 --> 00:22:24,720 It's right on the corner.

480

00:22:24,720 --> 00:22:27,110 And we used be able to go and get a hot meal.

481

00:22:27,110 --> 00:22:32,870 And by then, once we'd got in touch with our family,

482

00:22:32,870 --> 00:22:37,670 they knew what's going, they could start making efforts

483

00:22:37,670 --> 00:22:40,440 to bring us to this country.

484

00:22:40,440 --> 00:22:43,780 What was it like in Lodz for you for that year after the war?

485

00:22:43,780 --> 00:22:48,790 Because a lot of survivors came to Lodz and registered 486 00:22:48,790 --> 00:22:51,618 and tried to find out what was going on in various places.

487 00:22:51,618 --> 00:22:52,660 But was that [INAUDIBLE]?

488 00:22:52,660 --> 00:22:54,340 It was a stepping stone.

489 00:22:54,340 --> 00:22:55,500 Because you came to Lodz.

490 00:22:55,500 --> 00:22:56,200 It was a city.

491 00:22:56,200 --> 00:23:00,330 It was not destroyed by bombs or anything.

492 00:23:00,330 --> 00:23:04,810 But it I helped you get in touch with the world.

493 00:23:04,810 --> 00:23:07,150 You can take a train from Lodz and go to Warsaw,

494 00:23:07,150 --> 00:23:08,860 go to Krakow, something.

495 00:23:08,860 --> 00:23:12,250 They were, I think, embassies in Warsaw.

496 00:23:12,250 --> 00:23:15,220 And communication was better.

497 00:23:15,220 --> 00:23:17,250 And there were Jewish organizations. 498 00:23:17,250 --> 00:23:19,130 And I belonged to a youth organization.

499 00:23:19,130 --> 00:23:26,490 And people were all trying to find ways to leave Poland.

500 00:23:26,490 --> 00:23:27,980 Poland was not secure.

501 00:23:27,980 --> 00:23:32,020 So the [INAUDIBLE] for us was pretty good.

502 00:23:32,020 --> 00:23:35,860 But we knew that, also, we don't want to stay here.

503 00:23:35,860 --> 00:23:40,060 Our goal was really to come to America,

504 00:23:40,060 --> 00:23:45,190 and once and forever be united with our family, who

505 00:23:45,190 --> 00:23:48,490 wanted us to come-- my mother's brothers and sisters.

506 00:23:48,490 --> 00:23:50,707 Is that the major reason why you wanted

507 00:23:50,707 --> 00:23:51,915 to come to the United States?

508 00:23:51,915 --> 00:23:53,750 Oh, no, not only for this.

509

00:23:53,750 --> 00:23:55,450 We had a big family here.

510 00:23:55,450 --> 00:23:56,560 Well, the major, yes.

511 00:23:56,560 --> 00:23:58,350 Because some people went to Israel.

512 00:23:58,350 --> 00:24:02,710 But our relatives-- and I should mention the Rozanskys,

513 00:24:02,710 --> 00:24:06,360 the Weinsteins, and Burkes-- they said, no, you

514 00:24:06,360 --> 00:24:07,210 don't go anywhere.

515 00:24:07,210 --> 00:24:10,490 You're coming once and forever to America,

516 00:24:10,490 --> 00:24:14,500 and so we'll be all together once and forever.

517 00:24:14,500 --> 00:24:18,310 And it took them over 10 years.

518 00:24:18,310 --> 00:24:21,160 It's a miracle that we survived.

519 00:24:21,160 --> 00:24:23,320 And then we started building a new life in here.

520 00:24:23,320 --> 00:24:25,900 00:24:25,900 --> 00:24:27,220 It was adjustments.

522

00:24:27,220 --> 00:24:31,840 For me it was harder, I think, than my parents.

523

00:24:31,840 --> 00:24:36,550 Because when I came in here, it was--

524

00:24:36,550 --> 00:24:39,130 from my Paris, what was it?

525

00:24:39,130 --> 00:24:41,710 Maybe 19 or 20.

526

00:24:41,710 --> 00:24:43,990 Age wise, I wasn't a child any more,

527

00:24:43,990 --> 00:24:46,570 even when I was in Paris or in Lodz.

528

00:24:46,570 --> 00:24:51,700 I lost five years of life-no school for five years.

529

00:24:51,700 --> 00:24:53,980 And when the war was over, I was walking around

530

00:24:53,980 --> 00:24:55,860 with my friends-- survivors.

531

00:24:55,860 --> 00:24:59,200 And we were pondering these very-- quite existential

532

00:24:59,200 --> 00:25:00,270 questions.

533

00:25:00,270 --> 00:25:01,760 But what is the meaning of life?

534

00:25:01,760 --> 00:25:03,020 Why did you kill those people?

535

00:25:03,020 --> 00:25:04,420 How come we survived.

536

00:25:04,420 --> 00:25:06,620 We were old, in a sense.

537

00:25:06,620 --> 00:25:11,140 We were kids, but in our mind we were wondering,

538

00:25:11,140 --> 00:25:13,060 is this going to be for good or something?

539

00:25:13,060 --> 00:25:15,340 So even when I came to this country,

540

00:25:15,340 --> 00:25:21,130 my contemporaries weren't thinking on my level.

541

00:25:21,130 --> 00:25:24,280 I wanted Frank Sinatra and all this [INAUDIBLE]..

542

00:25:24,280 --> 00:25:26,680 And it was a different thinking.

543

00:25:26,680 --> 00:25:30,370 And it was a big adjustment, again, to fit in--

544

00:25:30,370 --> 00:25:32,470 into the young people in here.

545

00:25:32,470 --> 00:25:35,440 Because they didn't understand.

546

00:25:35,440 --> 00:25:37,690

I used to my

cousins always, what

547

00:25:37,690 --> 00:25:40,030

was it like in America

here during the war?

548

 $00:25:40,030 \longrightarrow 00:25:43,700$

Did you know what was going on?

549

00:25:43,700 --> 00:25:46,240

And I understand that

till the United States

550

00:25:46,240 --> 00:25:50,880

entered the war, you really

didn't know much, do you?

551

 $00:25:50,880 \longrightarrow 00:25:51,570$

I don't know.

552

 $00:25:51,570 \longrightarrow 00:25:53,400$

Or did people not pay attention?

553

 $00:25:53,400 \longrightarrow 00:25:54,150$

Right.

554

00:25:54,150 --> 00:25:55,620

But later on, when they came in.

222

00:25:55,620 --> 00:25:57,370

And my cousins used to--

556

 $00:25:57,370 \longrightarrow 00:25:59,670$

I said, did you have

the windows covered?

00:25:59,670 --> 00:26:03,780 Did you have bombings, or something like that?

558 00:26:03,780 --> 00:26:08,850 But nothing comparison with what we went through.

559 00:26:08,850 --> 00:26:11,990 So I had adjustments from the beginning, each time

560 00:26:11,990 --> 00:26:13,350 I come into the country.

561 00:26:13,350 --> 00:26:15,030 I have to learn a new language.

562 00:26:15,030 --> 00:26:17,530 I get this a year later, again.

563 00:26:17,530 --> 00:26:19,140 But the main thing is I just wanted

564 00:26:19,140 --> 00:26:23,610 to say that I feel so blessed.

565 00:26:23,610 --> 00:26:27,660 And I'm so full of gratitude that after all that,

566 00:26:27,660 --> 00:26:30,690 I have made it.

567 00:26:30,690 --> 00:26:33,300 When I look at my life I say to myself,

568 00:26:33,300 --> 00:26:37,360 I feel like I lived nine lives, not one. 569

00:26:37,360 --> 00:26:40,230 Because each life, each country I lived in,

570

00:26:40,230 --> 00:26:44,940 had its separate, maybe, help, but also

571

00:26:44,940 --> 00:26:48,000 problems and adjustments and all this.

572

00:26:48,000 --> 00:26:54,120 So I am happy with my family.

573

00:26:54,120 --> 00:26:55,120 My husband, my children.

574

00:26:55,120 --> 00:26:56,420 And they all are wonderful.

575

00:26:56,420 --> 00:26:58,490 A wonderful husband.

576

00:26:58,490 --> 00:27:01,760 We're living here-- as I said, this summer, we

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00:27:01,760 --> 00:27:03,793 were married 60 years.

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00:27:03,793 --> 00:27:04,560 Wow.

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00:27:04,560 --> 00:27:06,440 And I also got my education.

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00:27:06,440 --> 00:27:11,690 And I missed five years of not going to school at all. 00:27:11,690 --> 00:27:16,850 So I was able to go to college, and went to the University

582 00:27:16,850 --> 00:27:19,610 of Maryland and got my degree.

583 00:27:19,610 --> 00:27:22,130 And I started going, in fact, for a master's degree too.

584 00:27:22,130 --> 00:27:25,080 But then I went to work for JSSA,

585 00:27:25,080 --> 00:27:27,620 because they needed people who knew Russian.

586 00:27:27,620 --> 00:27:32,780 And later on, I had two interesting jobs.

587 00:27:32,780 --> 00:27:35,510 But I had to wait until my children got bigger.

588 00:27:35,510 --> 00:27:42,110 And then I worked for JSSA as a social worker,

589 00:27:42,110 --> 00:27:45,650 helping to resettle the Russian Jews that came in here.

590 00:27:45,650 --> 00:27:47,690 I knew Yiddish and I knew Russian,

591 00:27:47,690 --> 00:27:51,390 so I helped resettle them in the area.

592

00:27:51,390 --> 00:27:54,020 And then when they stopped letting the Jews out

593 00:27:54,020 --> 00:27:57,170 from Russia, I went to the Library of Congress.

594 00:27:57,170 --> 00:28:01,640

595 00:28:01,640 --> 00:28:02,450 Should I stop?

596 00:28:02,450 --> 00:28:03,172 OK.

597 00:28:03,172 --> 00:28:04,380 You should pat me on my back.

598 00:28:04,380 --> 00:28:06,990 That's the only way you can stop me talking.

599 00:28:06,990 --> 00:30:14,000