

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:13,685

2
00:00:13,685 --> 00:00:14,268
You all right?

3
00:00:14,268 --> 00:00:14,768
Yeah.

4
00:00:14,768 --> 00:00:16,786
I do.

5
00:00:16,786 --> 00:00:17,620
OK.

6
00:00:17,620 --> 00:00:18,900
OK.

7
00:00:18,900 --> 00:00:22,470
This is a United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

8
00:00:22,470 --> 00:00:31,470
interview with Mrs. Mary
Hermanowski on August 19, 2013

9
00:00:31,470 --> 00:00:34,180
in Jamaica, Queens, New York.

10
00:00:34,180 --> 00:00:34,680
Yes.

11
00:00:34,680 --> 00:00:37,500
Thank you, Mrs.
Hermanowski for agreeing

12
00:00:37,500 --> 00:00:39,430
to speak with us today.

13
00:00:39,430 --> 00:00:42,900

It's late in the day, but we are
thrilled that we're still going

14
00:00:42,900 --> 00:00:45,480
to have an opportunity to talk.

15
00:00:45,480 --> 00:00:47,030
Great, I'm happy.

16
00:00:47,030 --> 00:00:48,340
OK.

17
00:00:48,340 --> 00:00:48,990
Rolling.

18
00:00:48,990 --> 00:00:51,540
All right, so I'm going
to start the interview

19
00:00:51,540 --> 00:00:55,050
like I did with your
husband a little earlier.

20
00:00:55,050 --> 00:00:58,710
Could you tell me
when you were born--

21
00:00:58,710 --> 00:01:00,690
your date of birth, that is--

22
00:01:00,690 --> 00:01:03,540
where you were born,
and your maiden name?

23
00:01:03,540 --> 00:01:06,770

24
00:01:06,770 --> 00:01:14,750
Ah, July 11, 1930--

25
00:01:14,750 --> 00:01:16,882
what?

26
00:01:16,882 --> 00:01:17,960
1930?

27
00:01:17,960 --> 00:01:18,460
One.

28
00:01:18,460 --> 00:01:19,440
Or 1931?

29
00:01:19,440 --> 00:01:20,212
'31.

30
00:01:20,212 --> 00:01:22,480
1931.

31
00:01:22,480 --> 00:01:23,790
In Poznan.

32
00:01:23,790 --> 00:01:24,900
In Poznan, Poland.

33
00:01:24,900 --> 00:01:26,330
Poland.

34
00:01:26,330 --> 00:01:30,240
And what was your name at birth?

35
00:01:30,240 --> 00:01:32,690
Well, it was spelled in Polish.

36
00:01:32,690 --> 00:01:35,680
Maria Ludwika--

37
00:01:35,680 --> 00:01:36,840
Ludwika.

38
00:01:36,840 --> 00:01:38,150
--Szrajer.

39

00:01:38,150 --> 00:01:39,120
Szrajer?

40
00:01:39,120 --> 00:01:40,110
Right.

41
00:01:40,110 --> 00:01:46,290
S-Z-R-A-J-E-R.

42
00:01:46,290 --> 00:01:48,230
Did you have any
brothers and sisters?

43
00:01:48,230 --> 00:01:49,050
No.

44
00:01:49,050 --> 00:01:50,550
You were the only child.

45
00:01:50,550 --> 00:01:51,300
Yes.

46
00:01:51,300 --> 00:01:52,440
Aw.

47
00:01:52,440 --> 00:01:55,470
And what was your mother's name?

48
00:01:55,470 --> 00:01:59,150
Janina Landowska.

49
00:01:59,150 --> 00:01:59,730
Landowska?

50
00:01:59,730 --> 00:02:00,230
Right.

51
00:02:00,230 --> 00:02:01,450
Was her maiden name?

52
00:02:01,450 --> 00:02:02,100

Right.

53

00:02:02,100 --> 00:02:04,240

Do you remember
when she was born?

54

00:02:04,240 --> 00:02:05,910

She was born--

55

00:02:05,910 --> 00:02:09,042

Oh, my god.

56

00:02:09,042 --> 00:02:13,030

1898.

57

00:02:13,030 --> 00:02:14,280

1898?

58

00:02:14,280 --> 00:02:15,780

Is that what the year would be?

59

00:02:15,780 --> 00:02:20,120

60

00:02:20,120 --> 00:02:23,900

Where do we have
that information?

61

00:02:23,900 --> 00:02:24,840

It doesn't matter.

62

00:02:24,840 --> 00:02:25,590

It doesn't matter.

63

00:02:25,590 --> 00:02:26,757

We have it in our documents.

64

00:02:26,757 --> 00:02:28,850

I'm just asking
now so that I get

65

00:02:28,850 --> 00:02:33,620
an orientation while we begin
the interview at the beginning.

66
00:02:33,620 --> 00:02:35,030
Your father, what was his name?

67
00:02:35,030 --> 00:02:38,010

68
00:02:38,010 --> 00:02:39,530
His name was Ludwig.

69
00:02:39,530 --> 00:02:40,820
Ludwig.

70
00:02:40,820 --> 00:02:45,990
But on this side of the
Atlantic, he was Lewis.

71
00:02:45,990 --> 00:02:46,880
Lewis.

72
00:02:46,880 --> 00:02:47,780
OK.

73
00:02:47,780 --> 00:02:50,150
So in Polish, he
would be Ludwig,

74
00:02:50,150 --> 00:02:51,470
and his name was Szrajer.

75
00:02:51,470 --> 00:02:52,430
Right.

76
00:02:52,430 --> 00:02:54,230
Are they both from
Poznan, your parents?

77
00:02:54,230 --> 00:02:55,310
No.

78
00:02:55,310 --> 00:02:59,830
My father was from Lodz.

79
00:02:59,830 --> 00:03:02,990
And my mother was from Warsaw.

80
00:03:02,990 --> 00:03:05,000
And you grew up in Poznan?

81
00:03:05,000 --> 00:03:05,810
Yes.

82
00:03:05,810 --> 00:03:07,250
OK.

83
00:03:07,250 --> 00:03:09,950
Can you tell me what was
your first language at home?

84
00:03:09,950 --> 00:03:13,150

85
00:03:13,150 --> 00:03:15,190
I'm sure it's Polish.

86
00:03:15,190 --> 00:03:18,290
But French was
there, pretty close.

87
00:03:18,290 --> 00:03:21,425
So it was bilingual,
French and Polish.

88
00:03:21,425 --> 00:03:23,180
Yeah.

89
00:03:23,180 --> 00:03:24,770
What was your
father's profession?

90

00:03:24,770 --> 00:03:30,860

91

00:03:30,860 --> 00:03:34,505

My father had a
business, ran a business.

92

00:03:34,505 --> 00:03:37,520

93

00:03:37,520 --> 00:03:41,460

Everybody thought
he was a lawyer.

94

00:03:41,460 --> 00:03:49,230

He was a graduate of the
Moscow Conservatory in piano.

95

00:03:49,230 --> 00:03:49,730

Oh.

96

00:03:49,730 --> 00:03:54,570

97

00:03:54,570 --> 00:03:55,120

What else?

98

00:03:55,120 --> 00:03:57,740

There's one other thing.

99

00:03:57,740 --> 00:04:01,366

He was going to polytechnic.

100

00:04:01,366 --> 00:04:05,000

But he never finished
the polytechnic.

101

00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:06,430

It didn't work.

102

00:04:06,430 --> 00:04:07,060

No.

103
00:04:07,060 --> 00:04:09,510
And he was crazy about cars.

104
00:04:09,510 --> 00:04:10,010
OK.

105
00:04:10,010 --> 00:04:13,970

106
00:04:13,970 --> 00:04:16,339
So your father had
his own business.

107
00:04:16,339 --> 00:04:17,000
Yep.

108
00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:18,279
What was the business in?

109
00:04:18,279 --> 00:04:20,990

110
00:04:20,990 --> 00:04:23,630
Export-import.

111
00:04:23,630 --> 00:04:25,700
Was it consumer products?

112
00:04:25,700 --> 00:04:26,200
Yes.

113
00:04:26,200 --> 00:04:29,080

114
00:04:29,080 --> 00:04:34,590
I think it was almost
exclusively threads.

115
00:04:34,590 --> 00:04:39,010
And did he have his own store

or did he sell to stores?

116
00:04:39,010 --> 00:04:39,760
No, no, no.

117
00:04:39,760 --> 00:04:42,260
He had an office.

118
00:04:42,260 --> 00:04:45,460
And he would deliver
some packages.

119
00:04:45,460 --> 00:04:48,100

120
00:04:48,100 --> 00:04:51,370
And your mother, she helped
him in the business or not?

121
00:04:51,370 --> 00:04:51,880
Yes.

122
00:04:51,880 --> 00:04:52,570
She did.

123
00:04:52,570 --> 00:04:54,130
She helped him.

124
00:04:54,130 --> 00:05:03,280
My mother, before she
married, she worked in a bank.

125
00:05:03,280 --> 00:05:07,120
And she had this right of
signature for the bank.

126
00:05:07,120 --> 00:05:10,630

127
00:05:10,630 --> 00:05:16,150
And then she helped him.

128

00:05:16,150 --> 00:05:21,220

My mother was an
unusual character.

129

00:05:21,220 --> 00:05:22,210

Tell me in what way.

130

00:05:22,210 --> 00:05:25,210

131

00:05:25,210 --> 00:05:29,320

Now I realize how
extremely bright she was.

132

00:05:29,320 --> 00:05:32,440

133

00:05:32,440 --> 00:05:35,590

Very determined.

134

00:05:35,590 --> 00:05:38,820

135

00:05:38,820 --> 00:05:40,320

She knew what she wanted.

136

00:05:40,320 --> 00:05:42,930

137

00:05:42,930 --> 00:05:46,785

And God forbid I wouldn't
do exactly what she wanted.

138

00:05:46,785 --> 00:05:51,120

139

00:05:51,120 --> 00:06:00,030

But our son considers
her his mother.

140

00:06:00,030 --> 00:06:06,030

He loved-- When she
died, he sat crying.

141
00:06:06,030 --> 00:06:08,950
He said, "I lost my mother."

142
00:06:08,950 --> 00:06:11,190
He loved her.

143
00:06:11,190 --> 00:06:13,860
And she loved him.

144
00:06:13,860 --> 00:06:17,460
So she was a funny cat.

145
00:06:17,460 --> 00:06:22,710
Well, that's beautiful,
because there

146
00:06:22,710 --> 00:06:26,280
are many children who don't
know their grandparents well.

147
00:06:26,280 --> 00:06:28,980
And to have a grandparent who
was such an important part

148
00:06:28,980 --> 00:06:32,490
of your life is a true gift.

149
00:06:32,490 --> 00:06:33,690
How was she with you?

150
00:06:33,690 --> 00:06:37,290
Were you frightened of
her when you wouldn't do--

151
00:06:37,290 --> 00:06:41,160
or was she your best friend?

152
00:06:41,160 --> 00:06:44,795
She was not my

best friend, right?

153

00:06:44,795 --> 00:06:45,295

Wojtus?

154

00:06:45,295 --> 00:06:47,880

155

00:06:47,880 --> 00:06:50,430

Well, I guess what I'm
trying to establish

156

00:06:50,430 --> 00:06:54,010

is what kind of relationship
did you have with your parents--

157

00:06:54,010 --> 00:06:55,830

with your father and
with your mother?

158

00:06:55,830 --> 00:06:58,530

She was the one issuing orders.

159

00:06:58,530 --> 00:07:00,180

And I better listen.

160

00:07:00,180 --> 00:07:04,560

And my father was my pal.

161

00:07:04,560 --> 00:07:09,990

And my father was trying
to make up for the fact

162

00:07:09,990 --> 00:07:11,670

that I was an only child.

163

00:07:11,670 --> 00:07:18,990

So he tried to be a
friend, a playmate.

164

00:07:18,990 --> 00:07:21,060

Were you able to confide in him?

165
00:07:21,060 --> 00:07:21,840
Yes.

166
00:07:21,840 --> 00:07:24,330
So any kind of troubles
you had, any kind

167
00:07:24,330 --> 00:07:25,410
of thoughts or secrets--

168
00:07:25,410 --> 00:07:26,040
I went to him.

169
00:07:26,040 --> 00:07:27,260
You went to him.

170
00:07:27,260 --> 00:07:29,040
OK.

171
00:07:29,040 --> 00:07:33,120
A typical daughter-father
relationship.

172
00:07:33,120 --> 00:07:33,620
Yeah.

173
00:07:33,620 --> 00:07:37,400

174
00:07:37,400 --> 00:07:39,195
Tell me what religion
were your parents?

175
00:07:39,195 --> 00:07:42,330

176
00:07:42,330 --> 00:07:44,670
My mother was Roman Catholic.

177
00:07:44,670 --> 00:07:49,810

My father was--
what do you call it?

178
00:07:49,810 --> 00:07:52,800

179
00:07:52,800 --> 00:07:54,570
Neither.

180
00:07:54,570 --> 00:07:55,080
Nothing.

181
00:07:55,080 --> 00:07:56,190
He was agnostic?

182
00:07:56,190 --> 00:07:57,570
Agnostic.

183
00:07:57,570 --> 00:07:58,830
He was agnostic.

184
00:07:58,830 --> 00:08:00,540
Yeah.

185
00:08:00,540 --> 00:08:05,310
Were your father and mother
both from originally Catholic

186
00:08:05,310 --> 00:08:06,870
families?

187
00:08:06,870 --> 00:08:08,070
No.

188
00:08:08,070 --> 00:08:11,670
So tell me about that.

189
00:08:11,670 --> 00:08:16,050
My father was originally
from a Jewish family

190

00:08:16,050 --> 00:08:18,210
and so was my mother.

191
00:08:18,210 --> 00:08:19,100
I see.

192
00:08:19,100 --> 00:08:21,020
But she actually converted.

193
00:08:21,020 --> 00:08:25,260
No, her father or
even before that.

194
00:08:25,260 --> 00:08:28,680
The conversion
happened much earlier.

195
00:08:28,680 --> 00:08:29,520
For her?

196
00:08:29,520 --> 00:08:30,240
Yeah.

197
00:08:30,240 --> 00:08:31,320
OK.

198
00:08:31,320 --> 00:08:34,120
Into Roman-- And for him?

199
00:08:34,120 --> 00:08:38,039
For him, he was an agnostic.

200
00:08:38,039 --> 00:08:40,230
He didn't care.

201
00:08:40,230 --> 00:08:42,580
I'm asking about
your grandparents.

202
00:08:42,580 --> 00:08:43,080
Were they?

203

00:08:43,080 --> 00:08:44,070

I don't know them.

204

00:08:44,070 --> 00:08:46,410

I don't know what's going on.

205

00:08:46,410 --> 00:08:48,140

And neither did he.

206

00:08:48,140 --> 00:08:49,230

I see.

207

00:08:49,230 --> 00:08:51,270

So you didn't know your
grandparents very well?

208

00:08:51,270 --> 00:08:54,540

No, the only grandparents I--

209

00:08:54,540 --> 00:08:59,190

parent-- I knew was
my mother's father.

210

00:08:59,190 --> 00:08:59,850

I see.

211

00:08:59,850 --> 00:09:01,650

That was the only one I knew.

212

00:09:01,650 --> 00:09:05,070

And we were the biggest
buddies in the world.

213

00:09:05,070 --> 00:09:06,540

Did he spoil you?

214

00:09:06,540 --> 00:09:09,510

Oh, yeah.

215

00:09:09,510 --> 00:09:11,530

As much as he could.

216
00:09:11,530 --> 00:09:13,290
OK.

217
00:09:13,290 --> 00:09:17,430
What do you remember from
your childhood in Poznan?

218
00:09:17,430 --> 00:09:20,310
Do you have an earliest memory?

219
00:09:20,310 --> 00:09:27,130
I remember my wonderful
room with all--

220
00:09:27,130 --> 00:09:30,540
I remember how the
furniture was arranged.

221
00:09:30,540 --> 00:09:32,940
I remember I had--
well, you see,

222
00:09:32,940 --> 00:09:37,530
my father's relatives
had a toy factory.

223
00:09:37,530 --> 00:09:40,830
So he's got all these dolls.

224
00:09:40,830 --> 00:09:43,170
And I didn't like dolls.

225
00:09:43,170 --> 00:09:45,330
I never played with dolls.

226
00:09:45,330 --> 00:09:48,220
I played with games.

227
00:09:48,220 --> 00:09:52,620
And so I had a beautiful shelf.

228

00:09:52,620 --> 00:10:02,280

And that particular room had
a terrace, small terrace.

229

00:10:02,280 --> 00:10:06,810

So I had a door to the
terrace, which in the winter

230

00:10:06,810 --> 00:10:14,820

was covered with a pretty heavy
felt, because it was cold.

231

00:10:14,820 --> 00:10:17,400

But I had a--

232

00:10:17,400 --> 00:10:18,750

Oh, what do you call them?

233

00:10:18,750 --> 00:10:26,200

234

00:10:26,200 --> 00:10:30,937

What they used to
use to warm a place.

235

00:10:30,937 --> 00:10:32,020

You mean those coal ovens?

236

00:10:32,020 --> 00:10:35,060

237

00:10:35,060 --> 00:10:36,810

But they were not coal.

238

00:10:36,810 --> 00:10:43,232

No, they were made out of the--

239

00:10:43,232 --> 00:10:44,520

Clay.

240

00:10:44,520 --> 00:10:45,020

What?

241
00:10:45,020 --> 00:10:46,120
No.

242
00:10:46,120 --> 00:10:48,860
Kafle.

243
00:10:48,860 --> 00:10:49,360
Oh.

244
00:10:49,360 --> 00:10:53,150

245
00:10:53,150 --> 00:10:55,100
They were ovens
that had tiles? ,

246
00:10:55,100 --> 00:10:57,620
Yes, tiled all the way up.

247
00:10:57,620 --> 00:10:58,720
And down.

248
00:10:58,720 --> 00:10:59,480
And down.

249
00:10:59,480 --> 00:11:01,287
And on the bottom, you--

250
00:11:01,287 --> 00:11:02,120
You put the coal in.

251
00:11:02,120 --> 00:11:02,870
--put the coal in.

252
00:11:02,870 --> 00:11:03,740
Yeah.

253
00:11:03,740 --> 00:11:04,995
And it was very pretty.

254
00:11:04,995 --> 00:11:07,220
It was white and blue.

255
00:11:07,220 --> 00:11:09,320
And stuff was nice.

256
00:11:09,320 --> 00:11:11,000
So you had a pretty room?

257
00:11:11,000 --> 00:11:13,010
Yes.

258
00:11:13,010 --> 00:11:15,650
What kind of a house did
your parents live in?

259
00:11:15,650 --> 00:11:17,000
Was it an apartment building?

260
00:11:17,000 --> 00:11:17,800
Yeah.

261
00:11:17,800 --> 00:11:18,600
OK.

262
00:11:18,600 --> 00:11:20,720
Was it in the center of town?

263
00:11:20,720 --> 00:11:22,150
No.

264
00:11:22,150 --> 00:11:22,790
OK.

265
00:11:22,790 --> 00:11:24,470
It was in a residential
area of Poznan?

266
00:11:24,470 --> 00:11:26,720
It was a residential area.

267

00:11:26,720 --> 00:11:29,450

Was it a large apartment?

268

00:11:29,450 --> 00:11:33,370

The apartment itself
had seven rooms.

269

00:11:33,370 --> 00:11:34,840

That's rather large.

270

00:11:34,840 --> 00:11:35,840

You bet.

271

00:11:35,840 --> 00:11:36,950

Yeah.

272

00:11:36,950 --> 00:11:40,040

And did anybody else live with
your family besides yourself

273

00:11:40,040 --> 00:11:42,200

and your mother and your father?

274

00:11:42,200 --> 00:11:44,780

Yes, we had the--

275

00:11:44,780 --> 00:11:47,780

276

00:11:47,780 --> 00:11:50,128

[SPEAKING POLISH]

277

00:11:50,128 --> 00:11:55,610

278

00:11:55,610 --> 00:11:56,840

A maid?

279

00:11:56,840 --> 00:11:57,890

A maid.

280
00:11:57,890 --> 00:11:59,330
A Maid, a cook
all in one person.

281
00:11:59,330 --> 00:12:00,470
A housekeeper.

282
00:12:00,470 --> 00:12:02,240
Housekeeper.

283
00:12:02,240 --> 00:12:04,310
You had a housekeeper.

284
00:12:04,310 --> 00:12:06,920
Would you say that your
family was well to do?

285
00:12:06,920 --> 00:12:09,270
Yes.

286
00:12:09,270 --> 00:12:10,490
OK.

287
00:12:10,490 --> 00:12:13,190
So materially, you
didn't ever feel

288
00:12:13,190 --> 00:12:18,020
a lack for either food
or clothing or toys

289
00:12:18,020 --> 00:12:19,090
or anything like that?

290
00:12:19,090 --> 00:12:20,140
Nope.

291
00:12:20,140 --> 00:12:21,550
OK.

292

00:12:21,550 --> 00:12:23,660

A lack of things,
only if my mother

293

00:12:23,660 --> 00:12:25,580

decided I shouldn't have it.

294

00:12:25,580 --> 00:12:27,200

Then I didn't get it.

295

00:12:27,200 --> 00:12:29,610

Got it.

296

00:12:29,610 --> 00:12:31,460

That's the only way.

297

00:12:31,460 --> 00:12:32,900

Well, what about friends?

298

00:12:32,900 --> 00:12:35,843

One of the hard things for
only children is to have--

299

00:12:35,843 --> 00:12:38,135

Did you have cousins to play
with or neighborhood kids?

300

00:12:38,135 --> 00:12:39,425

No, I didn't have cousins.

301

00:12:39,425 --> 00:12:42,770

302

00:12:42,770 --> 00:12:46,710

First of all, there was a park
right near where we lived.

303

00:12:46,710 --> 00:12:49,950

So I went to that
park every day.

304

00:12:49,950 --> 00:12:57,500

And I had a pair of
twins who were my age,

305
00:12:57,500 --> 00:13:00,980
but they were bigger and
taller and everything.

306
00:13:00,980 --> 00:13:02,540
I have pictures of them.

307
00:13:02,540 --> 00:13:04,190
It's so funny.

308
00:13:04,190 --> 00:13:07,070
They were my bosom pals.

309
00:13:07,070 --> 00:13:15,900
I had a couple of
girlfriends too.

310
00:13:15,900 --> 00:13:18,120
But I always had
somebody to play with.

311
00:13:18,120 --> 00:13:20,250
And they were neighborhood kids?

312
00:13:20,250 --> 00:13:21,670
Yeah, pretty much.

313
00:13:21,670 --> 00:13:24,420
OK.

314
00:13:24,420 --> 00:13:27,660
And tell me a little
bit about school.

315
00:13:27,660 --> 00:13:32,040
How many years of schooling
did you have in the 1930s?

316
00:13:32,040 --> 00:13:32,880

Two.

317
00:13:32,880 --> 00:13:33,900
Only two.

318
00:13:33,900 --> 00:13:35,160
You finished two classes?

319
00:13:35,160 --> 00:13:36,045
I was only--

320
00:13:36,045 --> 00:13:41,460

321
00:13:41,460 --> 00:13:44,010
I was eight years old
when the war started.

322
00:13:44,010 --> 00:13:45,990
So I was six.

323
00:13:45,990 --> 00:13:47,400
I went to grade 1.

324
00:13:47,400 --> 00:13:48,420
I was seven.

325
00:13:48,420 --> 00:13:49,515
I went to--

326
00:13:49,515 --> 00:13:50,120
Grade 2.

327
00:13:50,120 --> 00:13:51,360
--grade 2.

328
00:13:51,360 --> 00:13:53,610
And I was about
to start grade 3.

329
00:13:53,610 --> 00:13:58,140

330
00:13:58,140 --> 00:14:00,270
Was it a private school?

331
00:14:00,270 --> 00:14:01,390
Yes.

332
00:14:01,390 --> 00:14:01,940
OK.

333
00:14:01,940 --> 00:14:02,790
What kind of school?

334
00:14:02,790 --> 00:14:04,373
Was it a Catholic
school, for example?

335
00:14:04,373 --> 00:14:06,090
Yes.

336
00:14:06,090 --> 00:14:08,190
And why were you sent
to a Catholic school?

337
00:14:08,190 --> 00:14:11,100

338
00:14:11,100 --> 00:14:13,770
Because it had an
excellent reputation.

339
00:14:13,770 --> 00:14:16,410

340
00:14:16,410 --> 00:14:18,300
Was your mother very religious?

341
00:14:18,300 --> 00:14:19,260
No.

342

00:14:19,260 --> 00:14:19,890
OK.

343
00:14:19,890 --> 00:14:22,110
So she identified
herself as a Catholic,

344
00:14:22,110 --> 00:14:23,610
but she wasn't very practicing?

345
00:14:23,610 --> 00:14:24,660
No.

346
00:14:24,660 --> 00:14:27,028
And your father was
neutral, completely neutral?

347
00:14:27,028 --> 00:14:27,570
That's right.

348
00:14:27,570 --> 00:14:30,690

349
00:14:30,690 --> 00:14:32,940
Do you have any memories
of those first couple

350
00:14:32,940 --> 00:14:34,140
of years in school?

351
00:14:34,140 --> 00:14:35,400
Oh, yes.

352
00:14:35,400 --> 00:14:36,930
What was it like?

353
00:14:36,930 --> 00:14:39,330
I remember the buildings.

354
00:14:39,330 --> 00:14:41,400
But I have pictures of them.

355

00:14:41,400 --> 00:14:42,000

More recent.

356

00:14:42,000 --> 00:14:44,580

357

00:14:44,580 --> 00:14:49,350

I remember that the
first class teacher,

358

00:14:49,350 --> 00:14:54,170

she was kind of short
and smiley and pleasant.

359

00:14:54,170 --> 00:14:57,150

They're pleasant
memories-- very pleasant.

360

00:14:57,150 --> 00:14:58,890

Did you like going
to school there?

361

00:14:58,890 --> 00:15:00,320

Oh, yeah.

362

00:15:00,320 --> 00:15:02,820

OK.

363

00:15:02,820 --> 00:15:10,620

Because you see, my aim in life
was to have higher education.

364

00:15:10,620 --> 00:15:13,860

Even at age eight, you knew
that this is what you wanted?

365

00:15:13,860 --> 00:15:15,810

Yep.

366

00:15:15,810 --> 00:15:18,660

Were there certain subjects that
were your favorite subjects?

367
00:15:18,660 --> 00:15:19,710
Yes.

368
00:15:19,710 --> 00:15:20,965
What would have that been?

369
00:15:20,965 --> 00:15:21,465
Math.

370
00:15:21,465 --> 00:15:23,840

371
00:15:23,840 --> 00:15:24,340
Math.

372
00:15:24,340 --> 00:15:27,630

373
00:15:27,630 --> 00:15:31,680
At home, what was the
atmosphere like at home?

374
00:15:31,680 --> 00:15:34,260

375
00:15:34,260 --> 00:15:35,670
Very pleasant.

376
00:15:35,670 --> 00:15:37,320
Your parents got along?

377
00:15:37,320 --> 00:15:38,490
Oh, yeah.

378
00:15:38,490 --> 00:15:39,300
OK.

379
00:15:39,300 --> 00:15:40,590
It was a love match?

380

00:15:40,590 --> 00:15:42,070

Yes.

381

00:15:42,070 --> 00:15:46,980

And did they talk about
the wider world with you?

382

00:15:46,980 --> 00:15:48,415

I mean, you were a child.

383

00:15:48,415 --> 00:15:49,665

Or did you hear conversations?

384

00:15:49,665 --> 00:15:54,660

Well, I think-- that I
don't remember that well--

385

00:15:54,660 --> 00:15:59,970

but I think there was talk
about this kind of stuff

386

00:15:59,970 --> 00:16:02,310

at the dinner table.

387

00:16:02,310 --> 00:16:03,960

Between them?

388

00:16:03,960 --> 00:16:04,690

About politics--

389

00:16:04,690 --> 00:16:07,830

Well, they let me
take part in it.

390

00:16:07,830 --> 00:16:08,530

Oh, they did?

391

00:16:08,530 --> 00:16:09,030

Yeah.

392

00:16:09,030 --> 00:16:11,300

So in some ways, they
treated you like a grown up.

393
00:16:11,300 --> 00:16:11,800
Yep.

394
00:16:11,800 --> 00:16:15,660

395
00:16:15,660 --> 00:16:19,020
Did they talk about
Poland's leaders?

396
00:16:19,020 --> 00:16:23,120
Were they very patriotic people?

397
00:16:23,120 --> 00:16:25,550
I should say yes.

398
00:16:25,550 --> 00:16:26,360
Yes.

399
00:16:26,360 --> 00:16:28,820
Why would you
hesitate a little bit?

400
00:16:28,820 --> 00:16:35,450
Because I later on I
kept telling my father,

401
00:16:35,450 --> 00:16:38,180
"Why the hell didn't you leave?

402
00:16:38,180 --> 00:16:39,320
Why didn't you move.

403
00:16:39,320 --> 00:16:42,110
You knew what was
going to happen."

404
00:16:42,110 --> 00:16:43,310
But they wouldn't do it.

405
00:16:43,310 --> 00:16:47,360

406
00:16:47,360 --> 00:16:50,270
You said that they were
not born in Poznan, yes?

407
00:16:50,270 --> 00:16:50,940
No.

408
00:16:50,940 --> 00:16:51,890
OK.

409
00:16:51,890 --> 00:16:54,920
What had caused
them to move there?

410
00:16:54,920 --> 00:16:57,460
A relative.

411
00:16:57,460 --> 00:17:00,830
A relative that I
remember my father telling

412
00:17:00,830 --> 00:17:05,599
me that a relative when he--

413
00:17:05,599 --> 00:17:11,990
He came back from Russia
after World War I,

414
00:17:11,990 --> 00:17:23,030
found himself completely cleaned
out of anything he possessed.

415
00:17:23,030 --> 00:17:28,230
The relatives beautifully
left him with nothing.

416
00:17:28,230 --> 00:17:37,740
And a relative told

him to move to Poznan.

417

00:17:37,740 --> 00:17:41,490

It's a good place
to start a business

418

00:17:41,490 --> 00:17:48,750

and that he was going to help
him, which he indeed did.

419

00:17:48,750 --> 00:17:50,760

Was this an uncle
or a distant--?

420

00:17:50,760 --> 00:17:53,790

Did you know the person?

421

00:17:53,790 --> 00:17:56,210

Yes, I was familiar
with the person.

422

00:17:56,210 --> 00:17:57,030

Yeah.

423

00:17:57,030 --> 00:17:59,640

OK.

424

00:17:59,640 --> 00:18:01,230

Because it sounds
like you didn't

425

00:18:01,230 --> 00:18:06,600

know many of your relatives
outside of your grandfather.

426

00:18:06,600 --> 00:18:11,820

No, I did, because
my father was friends

427

00:18:11,820 --> 00:18:13,170

with a lot of relatives.

428

00:18:13,170 --> 00:18:18,090

So I knew two or
three of his cousins.

429

00:18:18,090 --> 00:18:25,950

I knew a couple of his friends.

430

00:18:25,950 --> 00:18:27,390

I knew people.

431

00:18:27,390 --> 00:18:29,000

And were they--

432

00:18:29,000 --> 00:18:31,740

I'm sorry that I emphasize
and keep going back to this,

433

00:18:31,740 --> 00:18:34,920

but were they Jewish
or were they Catholic?

434

00:18:34,920 --> 00:18:36,960

They were both.

435

00:18:36,960 --> 00:18:39,850

They were this, this, and this.

436

00:18:39,850 --> 00:18:40,350

OK.

437

00:18:40,350 --> 00:18:41,600

So there were mixed marriages?

438

00:18:41,600 --> 00:18:43,290

Mixed, yep.

439

00:18:43,290 --> 00:18:46,680

But did they all consider
themselves assimilated

440

00:18:46,680 --> 00:18:50,070

into Polish society?

441
00:18:50,070 --> 00:18:52,440
Did they consider
themselves Poles?

442
00:18:52,440 --> 00:18:56,170
Poles rather than
Polish society.

443
00:18:56,170 --> 00:18:56,670
OK.

444
00:18:56,670 --> 00:18:58,230
They consider themselves Poles?

445
00:18:58,230 --> 00:18:58,950
Polish.

446
00:18:58,950 --> 00:18:59,670
They were Polish.

447
00:18:59,670 --> 00:19:02,748

448
00:19:02,748 --> 00:19:04,060
[PHONE RINGS]

449
00:19:04,060 --> 00:19:04,560
OK.

450
00:19:04,560 --> 00:19:07,420
Let's break for a second.

451
00:19:07,420 --> 00:19:08,640
Yeah.

452
00:19:08,640 --> 00:19:11,610
My father was crazy about cars.

453
00:19:11,610 --> 00:19:13,500
Did you have a car at home?

454
00:19:13,500 --> 00:19:14,240
Oh, yeah.

455
00:19:14,240 --> 00:19:17,190

456
00:19:17,190 --> 00:19:22,800
I think his driver's license
was number seven or something

457
00:19:22,800 --> 00:19:23,330
like that.

458
00:19:23,330 --> 00:19:24,870
For the city?

459
00:19:24,870 --> 00:19:25,500
No, no, no.

460
00:19:25,500 --> 00:19:26,400
For Poland.

461
00:19:26,400 --> 00:19:27,060
Oh, my God.

462
00:19:27,060 --> 00:19:30,900
After World War I.

463
00:19:30,900 --> 00:19:32,100
Oh, my God.

464
00:19:32,100 --> 00:19:33,700
He really did like cars.

465
00:19:33,700 --> 00:19:35,250
Yes.

466
00:19:35,250 --> 00:19:37,680
And he traveled.

467

00:19:37,680 --> 00:19:40,560
Well he used them for business.

468

00:19:40,560 --> 00:19:45,815
But he belonged to
the automobile club.

469

00:19:45,815 --> 00:19:48,870
And he used to
take part in rides.

470

00:19:48,870 --> 00:19:49,380
Oh my.

471

00:19:49,380 --> 00:19:51,900

472

00:19:51,900 --> 00:19:59,100
Just before the war, he won the
biggest Polish ride like that.

473

00:19:59,100 --> 00:20:05,820
It was from the southeast
corner to the northwest corner.

474

00:20:05,820 --> 00:20:07,660
Like from Zamosc to Gdynia?

475

00:20:07,660 --> 00:20:08,160
No.

476

00:20:08,160 --> 00:20:13,240
From Zaleszczyki to Gdynia.

477

00:20:13,240 --> 00:20:14,280
Yes.

478

00:20:14,280 --> 00:20:16,500
Wow, I wonder how
many hours that took.

479

00:20:16,500 --> 00:20:19,120

480

00:20:19,120 --> 00:20:26,150

That probably took
something around 20.

481

00:20:26,150 --> 00:20:32,950

And he took with him
his brother-in-law.

482

00:20:32,950 --> 00:20:34,030

Your mother's brother?

483

00:20:34,030 --> 00:20:42,770

No, my mother's brother-in-law,
who was an idiot.

484

00:20:42,770 --> 00:20:44,410

I don't know why he took him.

485

00:20:44,410 --> 00:20:46,060

I have no idea.

486

00:20:46,060 --> 00:20:55,450

But he didn't spoil the whole
thing, which was important.

487

00:20:55,450 --> 00:21:02,740

But then he took me for
most of the local things.

488

00:21:02,740 --> 00:21:04,110

Did you like riding with him?

489

00:21:04,110 --> 00:21:06,390

Ooh!

490

00:21:06,390 --> 00:21:10,630

And he let me win most of them.

491

00:21:10,630 --> 00:21:13,900

So were these races?

492

00:21:13,900 --> 00:21:14,710

Rallies.

493

00:21:14,710 --> 00:21:16,390

They called them rallies.

494

00:21:16,390 --> 00:21:18,520

I see.

495

00:21:18,520 --> 00:21:20,920

Did you win according to speed?

496

00:21:20,920 --> 00:21:24,110

No, according to what I found.

497

00:21:24,110 --> 00:21:25,750

Oh, so it was along
the way, you would

498

00:21:25,750 --> 00:21:27,550

find markers of some kind.

499

00:21:27,550 --> 00:21:29,890

Yeah, there was
something up in the tree

500

00:21:29,890 --> 00:21:33,070

or there was something
someplace else.

501

00:21:33,070 --> 00:21:42,700

Or there was some sort of a
house that didn't belong there.

502

00:21:42,700 --> 00:21:43,990

Something like that.

503

00:21:43,990 --> 00:21:45,800

That sounds like great fun.

504

00:21:45,800 --> 00:21:47,380

Yes.

505

00:21:47,380 --> 00:21:49,390

Did your mother ever take part?

506

00:21:49,390 --> 00:21:50,500

No.

507

00:21:50,500 --> 00:21:53,230

My mother was not
interested in that.

508

00:21:53,230 --> 00:21:58,050

My mother went to get a new
dress made while we did that.

509

00:21:58,050 --> 00:22:00,880

OK.

510

00:22:00,880 --> 00:22:05,230

So they talked about important
things and serious things

511

00:22:05,230 --> 00:22:05,740

at home.

512

00:22:05,740 --> 00:22:06,282

[PHONE RINGS]

513

00:22:06,282 --> 00:22:06,820

Oh, yes.

514

00:22:06,820 --> 00:22:07,320

OK.

515

00:22:07,320 --> 00:22:10,757

516

00:22:10,757 --> 00:22:11,740

[PHONE RINGS]

517
00:22:11,740 --> 00:22:17,670
She what's-- What did
you do to your finger?

518
00:22:17,670 --> 00:22:18,170
Nothing.

519
00:22:18,170 --> 00:22:19,030
I'm just holding it.

520
00:22:19,030 --> 00:22:19,530
Oh.

521
00:22:19,530 --> 00:22:22,420

522
00:22:22,420 --> 00:22:27,100
So they talked about serious
and important things to you.

523
00:22:27,100 --> 00:22:28,180
Yes, they did.

524
00:22:28,180 --> 00:22:33,250
Did you have any sense
of the nervousness

525
00:22:33,250 --> 00:22:37,810
that so many people had
at the end of the 1930s?

526
00:22:37,810 --> 00:22:40,640
Did you have any sense,
even being a small child,

527
00:22:40,640 --> 00:22:43,990
that there was this place called
Germany to the West and Soviet

528
00:22:43,990 --> 00:22:45,010
Union to the East?

529
00:22:45,010 --> 00:22:49,210

530
00:22:49,210 --> 00:23:03,930
All I know is that a week
before September, I guess--

531
00:23:03,930 --> 00:23:06,330
1939.

532
00:23:06,330 --> 00:23:12,900
--my father packed us up,
and we drove to Warsaw,

533
00:23:12,900 --> 00:23:15,840
where his sister lived--

534
00:23:15,840 --> 00:23:18,690
a sister he couldn't stand.

535
00:23:18,690 --> 00:23:21,660
But being a
gentleman, he'd never

536
00:23:21,660 --> 00:23:23,340
throw her out of the house.

537
00:23:23,340 --> 00:23:27,120
But he used to give
her such a hard time.

538
00:23:27,120 --> 00:23:30,570
One thing you ought to enjoy.

539
00:23:30,570 --> 00:23:33,480
She wanted to know what he
was going to do with her

540
00:23:33,480 --> 00:23:36,340
or something when they
came back from Russia

541
00:23:36,340 --> 00:23:39,210
after World War I.
He said, "No problem.

542
00:23:39,210 --> 00:23:42,090
I'll put you in the
post office on a chair.

543
00:23:42,090 --> 00:23:46,064
You'll stick out your tongue
and people will wet their--

544
00:23:46,064 --> 00:23:48,600
wet their stamps."

545
00:23:48,600 --> 00:23:52,135
That was my father
with his sister.

546
00:23:52,135 --> 00:23:54,690

547
00:23:54,690 --> 00:23:57,480
I don't know if she would
have appreciated that humor.

548
00:23:57,480 --> 00:23:59,310
Did she?

549
00:23:59,310 --> 00:24:04,230
Yes, because she considered
that as an expression of love.

550
00:24:04,230 --> 00:24:05,760
Aw.

551
00:24:05,760 --> 00:24:08,850
She did that all the time.

552
00:24:08,850 --> 00:24:10,890
Did you like her?

553
00:24:10,890 --> 00:24:11,970
No.

554
00:24:11,970 --> 00:24:13,350
And why not?

555
00:24:13,350 --> 00:24:14,085
She was stupid.

556
00:24:14,085 --> 00:24:17,704

557
00:24:17,704 --> 00:24:19,950
She was very stupid.

558
00:24:19,950 --> 00:24:23,370
But the place that you moved to
in Warsaw, was that her house

559
00:24:23,370 --> 00:24:26,640
or a family house or
a family apartment?

560
00:24:26,640 --> 00:24:30,120
No, I think we were in
a hotel or something.

561
00:24:30,120 --> 00:24:30,990
I don't know.

562
00:24:30,990 --> 00:24:33,390
I don't know if it
was her place or not.

563
00:24:33,390 --> 00:24:34,810
She had a daughter.

564
00:24:34,810 --> 00:24:39,850
And the daughter was a pain
in the neck all her life.

565

00:24:39,850 --> 00:24:42,190

Unfortunately,
she's gone already.

566

00:24:42,190 --> 00:24:46,380

So I should not be
too nasty about her.

567

00:24:46,380 --> 00:24:50,204

I love her oldest son.

568

00:24:50,204 --> 00:24:52,950

We were big friends.

569

00:24:52,950 --> 00:24:56,040

So because she lived
though in Warsaw,

570

00:24:56,040 --> 00:24:58,710

your father decided
to move there?

571

00:24:58,710 --> 00:24:59,430

Is that right?

572

00:24:59,430 --> 00:25:00,263

Or to just go there?

573

00:25:00,263 --> 00:25:07,380

No, this was just as an
emergency measure before we--

574

00:25:07,380 --> 00:25:10,500

I think he realized
he has to go east.

575

00:25:10,500 --> 00:25:13,890

And that was the way to go.

576

00:25:13,890 --> 00:25:14,640

Oh, I see.

577

00:25:14,640 --> 00:25:17,266

578

00:25:17,266 --> 00:25:22,450

So did you think that you'd
be returning back to Poznan

579

00:25:22,450 --> 00:25:22,950

or not?

580

00:25:22,950 --> 00:25:26,010

I don't think I even
gave it a thought.

581

00:25:26,010 --> 00:25:28,530

582

00:25:28,530 --> 00:25:32,160

Your parents, did they
seem particularly agitated

583

00:25:32,160 --> 00:25:35,640

or this was just a normal kind
of well, one time we go here.

584

00:25:35,640 --> 00:25:36,920

Another time we go there.

585

00:25:36,920 --> 00:25:39,910

No, they were quite upset.

586

00:25:39,910 --> 00:25:41,100

OK.

587

00:25:41,100 --> 00:25:42,320

How did that show itself?

588

00:25:42,320 --> 00:25:45,760

589

00:25:45,760 --> 00:25:46,570

Discussions.

590
00:25:46,570 --> 00:25:50,650

591
00:25:50,650 --> 00:25:51,635
They were nervous?

592
00:25:51,635 --> 00:25:52,135
Yes.

593
00:25:52,135 --> 00:25:55,450

594
00:25:55,450 --> 00:25:57,790
Do you remember where you
were when the war broke out?

595
00:25:57,790 --> 00:26:03,580

596
00:26:03,580 --> 00:26:09,140
I think we were either in
Warsaw or we were already

597
00:26:09,140 --> 00:26:10,970
traveling east.

598
00:26:10,970 --> 00:26:13,040
So you only stayed a
little bit in Warsaw.

599
00:26:13,040 --> 00:26:14,180
You didn't stay long?

600
00:26:14,180 --> 00:26:16,310
No.

601
00:26:16,310 --> 00:26:18,140
I see.

602

00:26:18,140 --> 00:26:22,760

And did your father
give you any reason

603

00:26:22,760 --> 00:26:27,005

why you would have traveled
east rather than stay in Poznan?

604

00:26:27,005 --> 00:26:30,700

605

00:26:30,700 --> 00:26:32,170

I don't remember.

606

00:26:32,170 --> 00:26:32,670

OK.

607

00:26:32,670 --> 00:26:35,180

608

00:26:35,180 --> 00:26:37,990

Where did you eventually end up?

609

00:26:37,990 --> 00:26:39,660

Lvov.

610

00:26:39,660 --> 00:26:40,520

In Lvov.

611

00:26:40,520 --> 00:26:44,780

And did you go by his
car that he used to go--?

612

00:26:44,780 --> 00:26:46,130

Well, he lost his car.

613

00:26:46,130 --> 00:26:50,780

It was taken away from
him at a certain point.

614

00:26:50,780 --> 00:26:53,360

The Russians took it away.

615
00:26:53,360 --> 00:26:56,070
That's after you got
to Lvov or before?

616
00:26:56,070 --> 00:26:57,410
Before.

617
00:26:57,410 --> 00:27:03,396
We were trying to get
through to Lithuania.

618
00:27:03,396 --> 00:27:04,190
[PHONE RINGS]

619
00:27:04,190 --> 00:27:06,840
But on the way--

620
00:27:06,840 --> 00:27:07,580
Hang on.

621
00:27:07,580 --> 00:27:10,280
Every time you hear it, we cut.

622
00:27:10,280 --> 00:27:13,873
Why were you trying
to get to Lithuania?

623
00:27:13,873 --> 00:27:14,540
Do you remember?

624
00:27:14,540 --> 00:27:17,780
To get to Sweden
to get to the west.

625
00:27:17,780 --> 00:27:18,380
I see.

626
00:27:18,380 --> 00:27:19,850
As a transit route?

627

00:27:19,850 --> 00:27:20,900

Yes.

628

00:27:20,900 --> 00:27:22,880

And I think there were--

629

00:27:22,880 --> 00:27:25,070

my father had a
couple of cousins

630

00:27:25,070 --> 00:27:34,010

who managed to get to Lithuania
to Latvia, Estonia, or whatever

631

00:27:34,010 --> 00:27:38,720

and managed to buy
a ticket to Mexico.

632

00:27:38,720 --> 00:27:40,250

I see.

633

00:27:40,250 --> 00:27:41,590

But we didn't.

634

00:27:41,590 --> 00:27:42,620

OK.

635

00:27:42,620 --> 00:27:45,470

So you leave Warsaw.

636

00:27:45,470 --> 00:27:47,750

Do you think it was
within a week or two

637

00:27:47,750 --> 00:27:50,287

of having just stayed there?

638

00:27:50,287 --> 00:27:52,370

Do you remember how long
you stayed and then moved

639

00:27:52,370 --> 00:27:54,860

on or not?

640

00:27:54,860 --> 00:27:56,020

No, I don't remember.

641

00:27:56,020 --> 00:27:56,520

OK.

642

00:27:56,520 --> 00:28:00,110

643

00:28:00,110 --> 00:28:05,900

When was the first time you
saw any foreign soldier?

644

00:28:05,900 --> 00:28:08,870

Was it a Russian soldier, Soviet
soldier, or German soldier?

645

00:28:08,870 --> 00:28:11,690

646

00:28:11,690 --> 00:28:25,230

I saw a German fighter plane
attacking the cars on the road.

647

00:28:25,230 --> 00:28:27,360

And what my mother did--

648

00:28:27,360 --> 00:28:29,730

this was typical of my mother--

649

00:28:29,730 --> 00:28:38,580

she grabbed me out of the
car, ran into the ditch

650

00:28:38,580 --> 00:28:44,390

on the side of the road
to have me fall there

651

00:28:44,390 --> 00:28:48,120

and put herself on top of me.

652
00:28:48,120 --> 00:28:54,868
He flew over and
didn't shoot us.

653
00:28:54,868 --> 00:28:56,660
And then she went back
to the car with you?

654
00:28:56,660 --> 00:28:58,460
Yes.

655
00:28:58,460 --> 00:29:00,020
And we continued.

656
00:29:00,020 --> 00:29:01,790
And this was the
first sign that you

657
00:29:01,790 --> 00:29:05,210
saw that here's something
foreign in my territory,

658
00:29:05,210 --> 00:29:06,800
in my world?

659
00:29:06,800 --> 00:29:09,710
I presume-- I presume it was.

660
00:29:09,710 --> 00:29:10,220
Yeah.

661
00:29:10,220 --> 00:29:11,780
OK.

662
00:29:11,780 --> 00:29:15,270
And then of course,
while this was happening,

663
00:29:15,270 --> 00:29:23,150
the Ukrainians were trying to
attack all those cars, pretty

664
00:29:23,150 --> 00:29:27,680
rich cars, with pitchforks.

665
00:29:27,680 --> 00:29:30,260
Were the Ukrainians
within Polish territory?

666
00:29:30,260 --> 00:29:30,950
Yeah, yeah.

667
00:29:30,950 --> 00:29:35,090
OK, so the eastern
part of Poland,

668
00:29:35,090 --> 00:29:37,330
you must have already
been in that section?

669
00:29:37,330 --> 00:29:38,170
Yep.

670
00:29:38,170 --> 00:29:38,810
OK.

671
00:29:38,810 --> 00:29:40,430
And you saw some of this?

672
00:29:40,430 --> 00:29:41,420
Yep.

673
00:29:41,420 --> 00:29:44,612
And did they succeed
in attacking the cars?

674
00:29:44,612 --> 00:29:45,320
Did they succeed?

675
00:29:45,320 --> 00:29:49,010
Well, not that I saw,
but I'm sure they did.

676

00:29:49,010 --> 00:29:50,170

OK.

677

00:29:50,170 --> 00:29:52,670

That must have been a
little scary for a kid.

678

00:29:52,670 --> 00:29:54,470

Oh, yeah.

679

00:29:54,470 --> 00:29:56,610

I was never very brave.

680

00:29:56,610 --> 00:29:58,616

I was always scared
of something.

681

00:29:58,616 --> 00:30:00,320

Aw.

682

00:30:00,320 --> 00:30:01,790

There was plenty
to be scared of.

683

00:30:01,790 --> 00:30:04,490

684

00:30:04,490 --> 00:30:09,950

You say that your car was
taken away at some point

685

00:30:09,950 --> 00:30:12,380

even before you reached Lvov.

686

00:30:12,380 --> 00:30:13,260

Is that right?

687

00:30:13,260 --> 00:30:13,760

Yes.

688

00:30:13,760 --> 00:30:16,370

689
00:30:16,370 --> 00:30:19,610
How did that happen?

690
00:30:19,610 --> 00:30:21,150
You weren't there?

691
00:30:21,150 --> 00:30:25,040
I was there, but
I don't remember.

692
00:30:25,040 --> 00:30:28,370
So it was like you were
driving along in the car--

693
00:30:28,370 --> 00:30:29,210
No, no.

694
00:30:29,210 --> 00:30:32,990
We were in a small
town or something.

695
00:30:32,990 --> 00:30:39,180
And we couldn't either buy
gas or somehow or other.

696
00:30:39,180 --> 00:30:41,510
And the Russians
were there already.

697
00:30:41,510 --> 00:30:43,940
So you saw them in that town?

698
00:30:43,940 --> 00:30:45,710
At that point, yes.

699
00:30:45,710 --> 00:30:48,180
And then I saw them in Lvov.

700
00:30:48,180 --> 00:30:51,830
And that I remember,

and I'll never

701

00:30:51,830 --> 00:30:53,770

forget it as long as I live.

702

00:30:53,770 --> 00:30:54,770

So tell me what you saw.

703

00:30:54,770 --> 00:31:02,870

The picture was that on one
of the most elegant streets

704

00:31:02,870 --> 00:31:05,830

there walked a Russian family--

705

00:31:05,830 --> 00:31:12,170

first the soldier with
his stupid uniform.

706

00:31:12,170 --> 00:31:24,310

And their uniforms were
so kind of inelegant.

707

00:31:24,310 --> 00:31:29,240

And with the hat,
with the two kids.

708

00:31:29,240 --> 00:31:35,110

And behind him a few steps
was the wife with all

709

00:31:35,110 --> 00:31:39,520

the coats and all the--

710

00:31:39,520 --> 00:31:43,810

All the things was
behind him, carrying

711

00:31:43,810 --> 00:31:46,840

all their paraphernalia.

712

00:31:46,840 --> 00:31:48,000

Their belongings?

713

00:31:48,000 --> 00:31:50,290

Yep.

714

00:31:50,290 --> 00:31:57,350

Oh, and she-- what they did
was when they arrived in Lvov,

715

00:31:57,350 --> 00:32:11,950

they robbed a magazine
of Polish made underwear.

716

00:32:11,950 --> 00:32:14,010

You mean a store.

717

00:32:14,010 --> 00:32:18,280

No, I think it was a
magazine someplace.

718

00:32:18,280 --> 00:32:21,790

So a journ-- like a magazine?

719

00:32:21,790 --> 00:32:22,955

No, no, no.

720

00:32:22,955 --> 00:32:23,830

So what's a magazine?

721

00:32:23,830 --> 00:32:24,970

Storage place.

722

00:32:24,970 --> 00:32:26,230

A storage place.

723

00:32:26,230 --> 00:32:27,830

A storage facility.

724

00:32:27,830 --> 00:32:28,600

Yep.

725

00:32:28,600 --> 00:32:29,150
OK.

726
00:32:29,150 --> 00:32:35,620
And because Poland was
making very nice underwear--

727
00:32:35,620 --> 00:32:36,670
Ladies underwear?

728
00:32:36,670 --> 00:32:40,820
--ladies underwear--
before the war.

729
00:32:40,820 --> 00:32:45,920
And it wasn't silk.

730
00:32:45,920 --> 00:32:51,090
It was artificial
silk of some kind.

731
00:32:51,090 --> 00:32:57,750
And all of a sudden, all these
wives were wearing this stuff.

732
00:32:57,750 --> 00:33:01,960
And the kids were running after
them and laughing at them.

733
00:33:01,960 --> 00:33:04,780
So in other words, they were
taking like night dresses--

734
00:33:04,780 --> 00:33:05,280
Yeah.

735
00:33:05,280 --> 00:33:08,550
--and wearing them as
regular day clothes?

736
00:33:08,550 --> 00:33:12,720
Elegant day clothes--
long, beautiful.

737
00:33:12,720 --> 00:33:16,540

738
00:33:16,540 --> 00:33:22,340
And Lvov was full of churches.

739
00:33:22,340 --> 00:33:24,500
Big churches, small churches.

740
00:33:24,500 --> 00:33:28,320
They were all different
denominations.

741
00:33:28,320 --> 00:33:34,640
So the kids had plenty to
run into and hide and look

742
00:33:34,640 --> 00:33:39,440
from behind the thing and laugh.

743
00:33:39,440 --> 00:33:42,030
And not get caught
in other words.

744
00:33:42,030 --> 00:33:43,730
That's right.

745
00:33:43,730 --> 00:33:46,125
Where did you
settle then in Lvov?

746
00:33:46,125 --> 00:33:47,500
How did you
eventually get there?

747
00:33:47,500 --> 00:33:48,708
Did you have to take a train?

748
00:33:48,708 --> 00:33:49,480
Did you walk?

749

00:33:49,480 --> 00:33:52,100

Well, I don't know how
we settled in Lvov.

750

00:33:52,100 --> 00:33:54,260

But we were able--

751

00:33:54,260 --> 00:33:56,420

I don't know how
my parents did it.

752

00:33:56,420 --> 00:34:07,010

They were able to rent a room
from a widow of a professor

753

00:34:07,010 --> 00:34:10,639

of the university.

754

00:34:10,639 --> 00:34:13,860

The professor had
already passed away.

755

00:34:13,860 --> 00:34:22,730

But his son was now a big to do.

756

00:34:22,730 --> 00:34:25,190

But he was drafted or something.

757

00:34:25,190 --> 00:34:26,620

Into the Polish military?

758

00:34:26,620 --> 00:34:27,230

Yeah.

759

00:34:27,230 --> 00:34:28,580

So she had a room.

760

00:34:28,580 --> 00:34:30,650

And she rented us the room.

761

00:34:30,650 --> 00:34:32,800

She didn't want
to be by herself.

762
00:34:32,800 --> 00:34:34,620
And she wanted some income.

763
00:34:34,620 --> 00:34:35,120
Yeah.

764
00:34:35,120 --> 00:34:37,639

765
00:34:37,639 --> 00:34:40,520
Tell me, why do you think
your father went east

766
00:34:40,520 --> 00:34:41,929
rather than west--

767
00:34:41,929 --> 00:34:43,880
not when you were an
eight-year-old child but

768
00:34:43,880 --> 00:34:45,290
afterwards?

769
00:34:45,290 --> 00:34:47,480
What was the
reasoning behind that?

770
00:34:47,480 --> 00:34:49,810
How did you explain
it to yourself?

771
00:34:49,810 --> 00:34:52,250
What do you mean?

772
00:34:52,250 --> 00:34:54,639
We were fleeing east.

773
00:34:54,639 --> 00:34:56,270
But why?

774
00:34:56,270 --> 00:35:00,110
Germany was-- Germans
were not our friends.

775
00:35:00,110 --> 00:35:02,510
They would arrest us.

776
00:35:02,510 --> 00:35:04,160
Because?

777
00:35:04,160 --> 00:35:06,890
We were Polish.

778
00:35:06,890 --> 00:35:08,840
The war was on.

779
00:35:08,840 --> 00:35:11,960
And the Russians were
not as threatening?

780
00:35:11,960 --> 00:35:12,505
That's right.

781
00:35:12,505 --> 00:35:20,040

782
00:35:20,040 --> 00:35:23,950
So you felt safe when
you went to Lvov.

783
00:35:23,950 --> 00:35:27,060
Not really.

784
00:35:27,060 --> 00:35:31,130
A funny thing happened
when we went to Lvov.

785
00:35:31,130 --> 00:35:34,470
This woman that
we rented the room

786

00:35:34,470 --> 00:35:39,630

from lived in an
apartment house,

787

00:35:39,630 --> 00:35:43,440

an old-fashioned
apartment house, that

788

00:35:43,440 --> 00:35:48,760

was sitting on a street
right next to a park.

789

00:35:48,760 --> 00:35:52,710

At Lvov is full of
hills and things.

790

00:35:52,710 --> 00:35:58,050

That park at that point
had a pretty big hill.

791

00:35:58,050 --> 00:36:05,040

And as my mother was
pushing me into the stairway

792

00:36:05,040 --> 00:36:09,240

to go down to the--

793

00:36:09,240 --> 00:36:13,350

794

00:36:13,350 --> 00:36:17,170

oh, what do you call it--

795

00:36:17,170 --> 00:36:30,710

basement, a bomb hit
the park, that hill.

796

00:36:30,710 --> 00:36:34,720

And the whole house kind of went
down and then back up again.

797

00:36:34,720 --> 00:36:35,220

Oh, my God.

798

00:36:35,220 --> 00:36:38,880

That feeling I remember.

799

00:36:38,880 --> 00:36:41,400

How odd?

800

00:36:41,400 --> 00:36:42,930

That it could go down, yes.

801

00:36:42,930 --> 00:36:45,520

But that it would kind
of rise once more?

802

00:36:45,520 --> 00:36:46,020

Yep.

803

00:36:46,020 --> 00:36:48,120

It went down and back up.

804

00:36:48,120 --> 00:36:49,590

And you felt the movement?

805

00:36:49,590 --> 00:36:50,130

Oh, yeah.

806

00:36:50,130 --> 00:36:54,470

807

00:36:54,470 --> 00:36:59,390

When I asked why did
your parents go east,

808

00:36:59,390 --> 00:37:02,060

I was trying not to
ask a leading question.

809

00:37:02,060 --> 00:37:04,910

And now I will ask
the leading question.

810

00:37:04,910 --> 00:37:07,520

Could it be that
your father figured

811

00:37:07,520 --> 00:37:09,760

because he had a
Jewish background

812

00:37:09,760 --> 00:37:13,940

someplace felt that
truly he certainly wasn't

813

00:37:13,940 --> 00:37:17,960

safe in the West and would
be safer in the East?

814

00:37:17,960 --> 00:37:20,900

Do you think that had
anything to do with it?

815

00:37:20,900 --> 00:37:25,370

Or that didn't play in
the reasoning at all?

816

00:37:25,370 --> 00:37:26,480

I don't know.

817

00:37:26,480 --> 00:37:28,700

You don't know.

818

00:37:28,700 --> 00:37:30,380

I don't want to guess.

819

00:37:30,380 --> 00:37:31,910

OK.

820

00:37:31,910 --> 00:37:37,460

All I know is that he later
on kept talking about the fact

821

00:37:37,460 --> 00:37:44,990

that he had a much earlier

plan to move to the Riviera

822
00:37:44,990 --> 00:37:47,390
and he should have
moved earlier.

823
00:37:47,390 --> 00:37:50,360
But that's all I
heard, remember.

824
00:37:50,360 --> 00:37:53,060
Just to get out of Poland?

825
00:37:53,060 --> 00:37:55,100
To live permanently.

826
00:37:55,100 --> 00:37:57,530
Yeah.

827
00:37:57,530 --> 00:38:00,260
And that wasn't connected with
the war or any of those events?

828
00:38:00,260 --> 00:38:02,040
No, no, no.

829
00:38:02,040 --> 00:38:06,990
It would have been a nice
place to live a beautiful life.

830
00:38:06,990 --> 00:38:09,340
OK.

831
00:38:09,340 --> 00:38:13,700
When you were in
Lvov, did your parents

832
00:38:13,700 --> 00:38:19,100
have, do you think, enough
money to be able to buy food,

833
00:38:19,100 --> 00:38:20,055

support themselves?

834
00:38:20,055 --> 00:38:21,080
No, they didn't.

835
00:38:21,080 --> 00:38:30,170
So my father found himself
a job of translations

836
00:38:30,170 --> 00:38:32,030
at the university.

837
00:38:32,030 --> 00:38:35,490
And there he had
quite a bit of work.

838
00:38:35,490 --> 00:38:38,360
So I know that would've
been an income.

839
00:38:38,360 --> 00:38:42,890
Otherwise, I have
no idea about money.

840
00:38:42,890 --> 00:38:47,140
Did it look like things
were a lot tighter at home

841
00:38:47,140 --> 00:38:47,930
at that point?

842
00:38:47,930 --> 00:38:54,440
Sure, because from a large
apartment and servants and all

843
00:38:54,440 --> 00:38:56,840
this, we're down to one room.

844
00:38:56,840 --> 00:38:59,510

845
00:38:59,510 --> 00:39:01,220

Were you able to
bring any of your toys

846
00:39:01,220 --> 00:39:03,448
with you, any of your games?

847
00:39:03,448 --> 00:39:04,240
Or you had nothing?

848
00:39:04,240 --> 00:39:06,760
No, I don't think
I even bothered.

849
00:39:06,760 --> 00:39:07,260
OK.

850
00:39:07,260 --> 00:39:09,810

851
00:39:09,810 --> 00:39:14,850
There was a game that
somebody bought me

852
00:39:14,850 --> 00:39:21,108
in the very beginning of
the war that I lived with.

853
00:39:21,108 --> 00:39:22,150
What kind of game was it?

854
00:39:22,150 --> 00:39:24,950
But what would we call this?

855
00:39:24,950 --> 00:39:26,940
Wojtus, you know what
I'm talking about?

856
00:39:26,940 --> 00:39:32,320

857
00:39:32,320 --> 00:39:34,900
Wojtus?

858
00:39:34,900 --> 00:39:36,110
He doesn't.

859
00:39:36,110 --> 00:39:36,610
Huh?

860
00:39:36,610 --> 00:39:37,540
He doesn't.

861
00:39:37,540 --> 00:39:39,460
He doesn't know which game.

862
00:39:39,460 --> 00:39:40,300
Yes, he does.

863
00:39:40,300 --> 00:39:41,040
Oh, he does.

864
00:39:41,040 --> 00:39:41,780
OK.

865
00:39:41,780 --> 00:39:44,254
I think he does.

866
00:39:44,254 --> 00:39:45,150
Can I say?

867
00:39:45,150 --> 00:39:46,200
Yes, you can say.

868
00:39:46,200 --> 00:39:51,610
It's you have lights,
ball light bulbs.

869
00:39:51,610 --> 00:39:52,600
Ball light bulbs.

870
00:39:52,600 --> 00:39:56,655
When you press certain
things, they go a certain way.

871
00:39:56,655 --> 00:40:00,970
And she was believing
that this is very cool.

872
00:40:00,970 --> 00:40:01,470
OK.

873
00:40:01,470 --> 00:40:03,042
Oh, no that was the earlier.

874
00:40:03,042 --> 00:40:04,750
And then she found
that this is not good,

875
00:40:04,750 --> 00:40:07,680
because she opened up the
toy and found that there's

876
00:40:07,680 --> 00:40:09,070
battery and everything.

877
00:40:09,070 --> 00:40:11,710
Yeah, that--
[SCOFFS] Was I upset.

878
00:40:11,710 --> 00:40:15,280
Ah, I'll repeat this
so it'd be on tape.

879
00:40:15,280 --> 00:40:17,380
That earlier when
you were younger,

880
00:40:17,380 --> 00:40:20,920
you had gotten a toy
that had light bulbs that

881
00:40:20,920 --> 00:40:24,160
would light up in certain ways
when you pressed a button.

882

00:40:24,160 --> 00:40:25,630

And you thought
it was miraculous.

883

00:40:25,630 --> 00:40:26,130

Right.

884

00:40:26,130 --> 00:40:26,860

Yes?

885

00:40:26,860 --> 00:40:28,330

And when you opened
it up and saw

886

00:40:28,330 --> 00:40:31,410

that it was run by a battery--

887

00:40:31,410 --> 00:40:33,670

And wires.

888

00:40:33,670 --> 00:40:36,700

I was very disappointed.

889

00:40:36,700 --> 00:40:38,370

It takes the magic
out of everything.

890

00:40:38,370 --> 00:40:39,160

Yep.

891

00:40:39,160 --> 00:40:39,697

Yeah.

892

00:40:39,697 --> 00:40:41,530

But that's not the toy
you're talking about?

893

00:40:41,530 --> 00:40:42,430

No.

894

00:40:42,430 --> 00:40:44,200

[SPEAKING POLISH]

895
00:40:44,200 --> 00:40:52,250

896
00:40:52,250 --> 00:40:53,582
Wojtek?

897
00:40:53,582 --> 00:40:55,310
I don't know the name of it.

898
00:40:55,310 --> 00:41:00,290
But you move the 10
points, let's say,

899
00:41:00,290 --> 00:41:05,130
until you have the
proper sequence--

900
00:41:05,130 --> 00:41:07,340
like 1, 2, 3, 4,
5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.

901
00:41:07,340 --> 00:41:09,680
It was a thing of this size.

902
00:41:09,680 --> 00:41:12,720
And you moved numbers.

903
00:41:12,720 --> 00:41:13,450
Oh.

904
00:41:13,450 --> 00:41:14,500
Oh, yeah, yeah.

905
00:41:14,500 --> 00:41:16,260
With one empty spot.

906
00:41:16,260 --> 00:41:17,090
I know that.

907
00:41:17,090 --> 00:41:19,340

I don't know what to call
it either, but it's a very--

908
00:41:19,340 --> 00:41:22,200
You move them
around like squares.

909
00:41:22,200 --> 00:41:23,670
And they're not in a sequence.

910
00:41:23,670 --> 00:41:25,045
And you put them
in the sequence.

911
00:41:25,045 --> 00:41:25,830
Right.

912
00:41:25,830 --> 00:41:27,660
That's what I was--

913
00:41:27,660 --> 00:41:29,820
Well, it shows your
math proclivities.

914
00:41:29,820 --> 00:41:31,720
Yeah.

915
00:41:31,720 --> 00:41:38,070
That's what kept my mind
kind of from going nuts.

916
00:41:38,070 --> 00:41:40,160
Did you go to school in Lvov?

917
00:41:40,160 --> 00:41:41,846
Yes.

918
00:41:41,846 --> 00:41:45,150
For about a year.

919
00:41:45,150 --> 00:41:47,280
I was able to go to a--

920
00:41:47,280 --> 00:41:52,970

921
00:41:52,970 --> 00:41:55,090
cloister school.

922
00:41:55,090 --> 00:41:56,450
So a Catholic school again?

923
00:41:56,450 --> 00:41:58,560
Catholic school, yeah.

924
00:41:58,560 --> 00:41:59,750
The nuns were run--

925
00:41:59,750 --> 00:42:04,730
It was close and it
was run by the nuns.

926
00:42:04,730 --> 00:42:07,910
And that's where my
mother met this teacher.

927
00:42:07,910 --> 00:42:11,030
And she became very
friendly with her.

928
00:42:11,030 --> 00:42:15,290
And that's where the
two of them decided

929
00:42:15,290 --> 00:42:18,680
to teach me Polish spelling.

930
00:42:18,680 --> 00:42:22,130
And indeed they did.

931
00:42:22,130 --> 00:42:26,762
I don't think I ever make
Polish spelling errors.

932
00:42:26,762 --> 00:42:27,470
It was that good.

933
00:42:27,470 --> 00:42:28,880
But that's from then.

934
00:42:28,880 --> 00:42:31,670
That's from then, from
that good teacher.

935
00:42:31,670 --> 00:42:32,690
Yep.

936
00:42:32,690 --> 00:42:35,900
And this was as you
were a third grader.

937
00:42:35,900 --> 00:42:37,550
Did you like the teacher?

938
00:42:37,550 --> 00:42:39,950
I loved her.

939
00:42:39,950 --> 00:42:44,150
And I was what grade?

940
00:42:44,150 --> 00:42:46,850
I suppose third.

941
00:42:46,850 --> 00:42:48,440
Third, fourth maybe.

942
00:42:48,440 --> 00:42:51,100
Was there any one
to play with there?

943
00:42:51,100 --> 00:42:53,840
Not really.

944
00:42:53,840 --> 00:42:56,300
No, not really.

945

00:42:56,300 --> 00:42:59,360

And your mother, I take it,
must have stayed at home?

946

00:42:59,360 --> 00:43:01,670

Or did she also work
when you were in Lvov?

947

00:43:01,670 --> 00:43:04,360

948

00:43:04,360 --> 00:43:05,740

No, she stayed home.

949

00:43:05,740 --> 00:43:10,190

She had to cook and clean.

950

00:43:10,190 --> 00:43:12,430

And she had needed an operation.

951

00:43:12,430 --> 00:43:14,095

What kind of operation
did she need?

952

00:43:14,095 --> 00:43:16,990

A hysterectomy.

953

00:43:16,990 --> 00:43:19,330

So she needed to
recover from that?

954

00:43:19,330 --> 00:43:20,020

That's right.

955

00:43:20,020 --> 00:43:26,470

And that's why we were not
deported to Russia like all

956

00:43:26,470 --> 00:43:31,770

the other people who fled east.

957

00:43:31,770 --> 00:43:33,160

Most of them were deported.

958

00:43:33,160 --> 00:43:40,590

But she had a piece of paper
that she needs that surgery.

959

00:43:40,590 --> 00:43:43,720

And the Russians saw that.

960

00:43:43,720 --> 00:43:45,820

They left us alone.

961

00:43:45,820 --> 00:43:48,100

What happened to the
lady whose apartment you

962

00:43:48,100 --> 00:43:50,320

were renting a room from?

963

00:43:50,320 --> 00:43:52,000

Was she deported?

964

00:43:52,000 --> 00:43:55,450

No, because she was local.

965

00:43:55,450 --> 00:44:00,010

They were deporting people
who came from the west.

966

00:44:00,010 --> 00:44:02,620

Do you remember
anything about that?

967

00:44:02,620 --> 00:44:05,590

Did you see any of these things?

968

00:44:05,590 --> 00:44:06,490

I saw it all.

969

00:44:06,490 --> 00:44:08,080

I remember the woman.

970

00:44:08,080 --> 00:44:10,210

I remember what she looked like.

971

00:44:10,210 --> 00:44:21,340

I remember-- she was taking
care of her girlfriend's two

972

00:44:21,340 --> 00:44:26,920

children who were
grown-ups at that point.

973

00:44:26,920 --> 00:44:31,240

And the woman was beautiful.

974

00:44:31,240 --> 00:44:33,050

And I remember her.

975

00:44:33,050 --> 00:44:34,830

I remember her name was Dada.

976

00:44:34,830 --> 00:44:37,690

977

00:44:37,690 --> 00:44:40,180

I used to remember
her last name.

978

00:44:40,180 --> 00:44:42,700

And I don't remember anymore.

979

00:44:42,700 --> 00:44:46,150

Do you remember anything
from those deportations

980

00:44:46,150 --> 00:44:50,860

that you so luckily
missed at that time?

981

00:44:50,860 --> 00:44:54,080

No, because I was not involved.

982
00:44:54,080 --> 00:44:56,020
So you didn't see
soldiers coming in

983
00:44:56,020 --> 00:44:58,180
or trucks on the
street with people?

984
00:44:58,180 --> 00:45:03,110
Yes, but it didn't apply to us.

985
00:45:03,110 --> 00:45:03,610
OK.

986
00:45:03,610 --> 00:45:05,650
So it didn't register with you?

987
00:45:05,650 --> 00:45:06,650
Nope.

988
00:45:06,650 --> 00:45:07,390
OK.

989
00:45:07,390 --> 00:45:09,190
Did your parents talk about it?

990
00:45:09,190 --> 00:45:11,650
Oh, you bet.

991
00:45:11,650 --> 00:45:13,240
What are some of the
things they said?

992
00:45:13,240 --> 00:45:14,070
Do you remember?

993
00:45:14,070 --> 00:45:14,876
What what?

994
00:45:14,876 --> 00:45:16,990

What are some of the
things they said?

995
00:45:16,990 --> 00:45:18,380
I don't remember.

996
00:45:18,380 --> 00:45:19,610
You don't remember.

997
00:45:19,610 --> 00:45:22,790
It was a question of
being able to stay

998
00:45:22,790 --> 00:45:25,835
and not having to be
deported to Russia.

999
00:45:25,835 --> 00:45:29,140

1000
00:45:29,140 --> 00:45:32,320
And so can I assume they
lived in a kind of state

1001
00:45:32,320 --> 00:45:34,060
of constant nervousness?

1002
00:45:34,060 --> 00:45:36,220
Yes.

1003
00:45:36,220 --> 00:45:38,530
Did their personalities change?

1004
00:45:38,530 --> 00:45:39,940
No.

1005
00:45:39,940 --> 00:45:41,813
So your mother still
was the strict one

1006
00:45:41,813 --> 00:45:43,480
and your father still

was your playmate?

1007
00:45:43,480 --> 00:45:45,370
Yes.

1008
00:45:45,370 --> 00:45:47,180
But he was without a car now?

1009
00:45:47,180 --> 00:45:47,680
Right.

1010
00:45:47,680 --> 00:45:49,850
So he couldn't
take you any place?

1011
00:45:49,850 --> 00:45:51,700
Well, we used to walk places.

1012
00:45:51,700 --> 00:45:54,480

1013
00:45:54,480 --> 00:45:56,440
And so how did life
continue for you?

1014
00:45:56,440 --> 00:45:59,680
Did you see any Polish
soldiers in Lvov?

1015
00:45:59,680 --> 00:46:00,470
No.

1016
00:46:00,470 --> 00:46:01,000
Nothing?

1017
00:46:01,000 --> 00:46:02,900
There was no such thing.

1018
00:46:02,900 --> 00:46:04,720
OK.

1019

00:46:04,720 --> 00:46:05,900
Through those travels--

1020
00:46:05,900 --> 00:46:07,450
I'm going to go
back a little bit--

1021
00:46:07,450 --> 00:46:11,230
when you leave Poznan a week
before the war happens and you

1022
00:46:11,230 --> 00:46:14,860
have the German planes
shooting on a car on the road

1023
00:46:14,860 --> 00:46:18,250
and you get to Warsaw and
then you go further east.

1024
00:46:18,250 --> 00:46:22,610
No, that was between Warsaw
and Lvov, the German plane.

1025
00:46:22,610 --> 00:46:25,740
OK, so that happens
between Warsaw and Lvov.

1026
00:46:25,740 --> 00:46:27,490
And you're on your
road east, did you ever

1027
00:46:27,490 --> 00:46:29,650
see any Polish military at all?

1028
00:46:29,650 --> 00:46:30,910
No.

1029
00:46:30,910 --> 00:46:32,330
You never saw any
Polish soldiers?

1030
00:46:32,330 --> 00:46:34,660
They just didn't exist anymore.

1031
00:46:34,660 --> 00:46:37,240
And they were fleeing.

1032
00:46:37,240 --> 00:46:39,460
They were fleeing to Romania.

1033
00:46:39,460 --> 00:46:44,770
They then regrouped,
I think, in Italy.

1034
00:46:44,770 --> 00:46:47,435

1035
00:46:47,435 --> 00:46:49,310
This is stuff you learned
later, most likely?

1036
00:46:49,310 --> 00:46:50,020
Yeah, sure.

1037
00:46:50,020 --> 00:46:50,660
Yeah.

1038
00:46:50,660 --> 00:46:55,900
OK, so how did life progress
for you and your family in Lvov?

1039
00:46:55,900 --> 00:46:59,570
What happened after that?

1040
00:46:59,570 --> 00:47:02,560
Well, eventually,
my father decided

1041
00:47:02,560 --> 00:47:06,220
we have to go back to Warsaw.

1042
00:47:06,220 --> 00:47:07,382
What?

1043

00:47:07,382 --> 00:47:10,880
1941 attack of the--

1044
00:47:10,880 --> 00:47:12,380
Germans, right?

1045
00:47:12,380 --> 00:47:16,560
And they took Lvov
from the Russians.

1046
00:47:16,560 --> 00:47:18,385
OK.

1047
00:47:18,385 --> 00:47:22,720
And my father decided it's
time to go back to Warsaw.

1048
00:47:22,720 --> 00:47:23,230
Oh, I see.

1049
00:47:23,230 --> 00:47:26,420
So first the Germans
attack the Soviet Union?

1050
00:47:26,420 --> 00:47:26,920
Yeah.

1051
00:47:26,920 --> 00:47:29,470
And you saw German
soldiers in the streets?

1052
00:47:29,470 --> 00:47:30,790
Did you?

1053
00:47:30,790 --> 00:47:33,040
You don't remember.

1054
00:47:33,040 --> 00:47:34,030
I don't know.

1055
00:47:34,030 --> 00:47:36,660
But your father then says,

"Time to go back to Warsaw."

1056
00:47:36,660 --> 00:47:37,870
Yeah.

1057
00:47:37,870 --> 00:47:38,890
And you did?

1058
00:47:38,890 --> 00:47:39,630
Yes.

1059
00:47:39,630 --> 00:47:40,390
OK.

1060
00:47:40,390 --> 00:47:45,440
In as large a place as
possible to disappear.

1061
00:47:45,440 --> 00:47:46,860
OK.

1062
00:47:46,860 --> 00:47:52,180
And do you remember
anything of the journey?

1063
00:47:52,180 --> 00:47:53,020
No.

1064
00:47:53,020 --> 00:47:53,980
OK.

1065
00:47:53,980 --> 00:47:57,920
Where did you end up in Warsaw?

1066
00:47:57,920 --> 00:48:05,730
In a small apartment
that my grandfather

1067
00:48:05,730 --> 00:48:12,780
had rented when he moved
from Poznan to Warsaw.

1068

00:48:12,780 --> 00:48:15,130

And this would have been
your mother's father?

1069

00:48:15,130 --> 00:48:16,120

Yeah.

1070

00:48:16,120 --> 00:48:17,520

OK.

1071

00:48:17,520 --> 00:48:19,970

And you stayed with him?

1072

00:48:19,970 --> 00:48:26,190

Well, there was a wife, who
was like his second wife

1073

00:48:26,190 --> 00:48:28,650

or something like that.

1074

00:48:28,650 --> 00:48:32,910

We stayed there, but
I don't remember much.

1075

00:48:32,910 --> 00:48:36,850

Did you stay there
for a long time--

1076

00:48:36,850 --> 00:48:39,090

in this apartment in Warsaw?

1077

00:48:39,090 --> 00:48:42,690

I think we stayed there
until the Warsaw Uprising.

1078

00:48:42,690 --> 00:48:44,580

So quite a long
time-- three years.

1079

00:48:44,580 --> 00:48:47,340

For two years, three years.

1080

00:48:47,340 --> 00:48:51,450

And how did your parents occupy themselves during those two

1081

00:48:51,450 --> 00:48:52,170

or three years?

1082

00:48:52,170 --> 00:48:58,740

Oh, they were trying to make money in all kinds of ways.

1083

00:48:58,740 --> 00:49:06,150

My mother used to make some sort of hairnets.

1084

00:49:06,150 --> 00:49:09,190

1085

00:49:09,190 --> 00:49:12,940

That didn't bring much income, but it brought something.

1086

00:49:12,940 --> 00:49:16,570

What my father did, I have no idea.

1087

00:49:16,570 --> 00:49:17,890

You were growing up though.

1088

00:49:17,890 --> 00:49:20,260

You were no longer eight years old.

1089

00:49:20,260 --> 00:49:22,990

In 1941, you would have been 10.

1090

00:49:22,990 --> 00:49:25,570

And then by the time of the Uprising,

1091

00:49:25,570 --> 00:49:27,550

you would have been 13.

1092
00:49:27,550 --> 00:49:31,300
You're a young
adolescent teenager.

1093
00:49:31,300 --> 00:49:34,300
Were you becoming more aware of
what was going on around you?

1094
00:49:34,300 --> 00:49:35,910
Oh, yes.

1095
00:49:35,910 --> 00:49:39,580
And you see what
happened was that I

1096
00:49:39,580 --> 00:49:45,520
got rheumatic fever in 1944.

1097
00:49:45,520 --> 00:49:49,240
So I was quite sick.

1098
00:49:49,240 --> 00:50:00,170
So my mother's sister
had a floor, I think,

1099
00:50:00,170 --> 00:50:02,900
in a villa outside of Warsaw.

1100
00:50:02,900 --> 00:50:05,820
So they moved me over there.

1101
00:50:05,820 --> 00:50:08,570

1102
00:50:08,570 --> 00:50:13,490
Then I stayed there
until after the war.

1103
00:50:13,490 --> 00:50:13,990
Oh.

1104

00:50:13,990 --> 00:50:19,960

1105

00:50:19,960 --> 00:50:20,890

What did you eat?

1106

00:50:20,890 --> 00:50:24,520

I want to go back to Lvov.

1107

00:50:24,520 --> 00:50:25,960

How did you feed yourselves?

1108

00:50:25,960 --> 00:50:29,530

What kind of food did you eat?

1109

00:50:29,530 --> 00:50:34,450

The only thing I
remember from Lvov--

1110

00:50:34,450 --> 00:50:39,350

that when my mother had that
operation, my father and I

1111

00:50:39,350 --> 00:50:43,080

ran the house.

1112

00:50:43,080 --> 00:50:48,760

And my father was, as
you heard, a corker.

1113

00:50:48,760 --> 00:50:55,360

So he was able to get
potatoes someplace.

1114

00:50:55,360 --> 00:50:56,650

We had potatoes.

1115

00:50:56,650 --> 00:51:00,040

We had onions and some oil.

1116

00:51:00,040 --> 00:51:02,500

And he made different
variations--

1117
00:51:02,500 --> 00:51:03,570
From those three things?

1118
00:51:03,570 --> 00:51:05,820
--of those three.

1119
00:51:05,820 --> 00:51:09,160
And every day we ate
something different.

1120
00:51:09,160 --> 00:51:10,080
Oh God.

1121
00:51:10,080 --> 00:51:11,840
But with all of those things?

1122
00:51:11,840 --> 00:51:13,780
I mean, one day--

1123
00:51:13,780 --> 00:51:15,610
oil, potatoes, and onions.

1124
00:51:15,610 --> 00:51:17,550
The next day-- potato,
oil, and onions.

1125
00:51:17,550 --> 00:51:18,050
Yes.

1126
00:51:18,050 --> 00:51:18,758
Things like that?

1127
00:51:18,758 --> 00:51:20,632
That was my father's system.

1128
00:51:20,632 --> 00:51:23,410

1129

00:51:23,410 --> 00:51:25,630

Well, clearly then,
food was a problem?

1130

00:51:25,630 --> 00:51:27,040

Oh, yeah.

1131

00:51:27,040 --> 00:51:32,800

And did it continue to be a
problem when you got to Warsaw?

1132

00:51:32,800 --> 00:51:34,840

That I don't remember.

1133

00:51:34,840 --> 00:51:37,180

I remember one thing.

1134

00:51:37,180 --> 00:51:39,520

I'm not aware of one thing.

1135

00:51:39,520 --> 00:51:42,220

The reason they
got me into the--

1136

00:51:42,220 --> 00:51:55,770

1137

00:51:55,770 --> 00:51:58,110

The nuns ran a school.

1138

00:51:58,110 --> 00:51:58,710

Convent.

1139

00:51:58,710 --> 00:51:59,530

What?

1140

00:51:59,530 --> 00:52:00,720

A convent?

1141

00:52:00,720 --> 00:52:01,980

Yeah.

1142

00:52:01,980 --> 00:52:06,840

Was because they were
hiding Jewish girls.

1143

00:52:06,840 --> 00:52:10,140

And what they needed was food.

1144

00:52:10,140 --> 00:52:13,200

So the way to get
your kid there was

1145

00:52:13,200 --> 00:52:22,710

to provide like a sack of flour,
so many potatoes, and stuff.

1146

00:52:22,710 --> 00:52:27,450

So that's where I went,
because there was no way

1147

00:52:27,450 --> 00:52:28,560

for me to go to school.

1148

00:52:28,560 --> 00:52:33,270

1149

00:52:33,270 --> 00:52:35,580

There was not--

1150

00:52:35,580 --> 00:52:37,690

And this is in
Lvov or in Warsaw?

1151

00:52:37,690 --> 00:52:38,280

Warsaw.

1152

00:52:38,280 --> 00:52:39,510

In Warsaw.

1153

00:52:39,510 --> 00:52:42,930

And did they teach you
anything there in the convent?

1154
00:52:42,930 --> 00:52:44,160
Yeah.

1155
00:52:44,160 --> 00:52:46,290
There was whatever it was.

1156
00:52:46,290 --> 00:52:48,960
It was whatever
the curriculum was.

1157
00:52:48,960 --> 00:52:51,330
Was it like your
husband's situation

1158
00:52:51,330 --> 00:52:53,490
where you had to
kind of keep quiet,

1159
00:52:53,490 --> 00:52:55,410
that this wasn't a real school?

1160
00:52:55,410 --> 00:52:56,760
Oh, yeah.

1161
00:52:56,760 --> 00:52:57,990
We had to have these--

1162
00:52:57,990 --> 00:53:01,685

1163
00:53:01,685 --> 00:53:03,890
[SPEAKING POLISH]

1164
00:53:03,890 --> 00:53:04,390

1165
00:53:04,390 --> 00:53:05,690
Tables.

1166
00:53:05,690 --> 00:53:06,190
No.

1167
00:53:06,190 --> 00:53:08,940

1168
00:53:08,940 --> 00:53:10,690
Wojtus, what is it?

1169
00:53:10,690 --> 00:53:13,770

1170
00:53:13,770 --> 00:53:15,940
Some kind of a
certificate or something?

1171
00:53:15,940 --> 00:53:16,770
No, no, no.

1172
00:53:16,770 --> 00:53:20,310
Things you could
draw on with a--

1173
00:53:20,310 --> 00:53:21,610
A tablet of some kind.

1174
00:53:21,610 --> 00:53:22,110
Yes.

1175
00:53:22,110 --> 00:53:24,520
Like a small
blackboard type thing?

1176
00:53:24,520 --> 00:53:26,220
Yes, yes.

1177
00:53:26,220 --> 00:53:29,070
That's the only
thing we could use,

1178
00:53:29,070 --> 00:53:33,180
because we had to
erase it in case.

1179

00:53:33,180 --> 00:53:34,200

I see.

1180

00:53:34,200 --> 00:53:38,040

Were there many other
children at the convent?

1181

00:53:38,040 --> 00:53:38,580

Oh, yes.

1182

00:53:38,580 --> 00:53:40,110

Quite a few.

1183

00:53:40,110 --> 00:53:44,370

And most of them were
the Jewish girls.

1184

00:53:44,370 --> 00:53:50,460

They were saving Jewish kids.

1185

00:53:50,460 --> 00:53:58,110

And then when the Uprising
came, they were all killed--

1186

00:53:58,110 --> 00:54:02,040

because it was
bombed and that's it.

1187

00:54:02,040 --> 00:54:03,018

They all went.

1188

00:54:03,018 --> 00:54:04,560

The nuns and the
girls and everybody?

1189

00:54:04,560 --> 00:54:06,630

Yep.

1190

00:54:06,630 --> 00:54:08,297

Who was the name of the convent?

1191

00:54:08,297 --> 00:54:09,005
Do your remember?

1192
00:54:09,005 --> 00:54:10,950
Zmartwychwstanki.

1193
00:54:10,950 --> 00:54:13,220
Zmartwychwstanki?

1194
00:54:13,220 --> 00:54:14,370
Zmartwychwstanki.

1195
00:54:14,370 --> 00:54:18,100

1196
00:54:18,100 --> 00:54:29,010
I had my special favorite nun
there that I was able to--

1197
00:54:29,010 --> 00:54:32,880
That was the only person
I visited before mother

1198
00:54:32,880 --> 00:54:37,303
and I left Poland after the war.

1199
00:54:37,303 --> 00:54:38,220
What made her special?

1200
00:54:38,220 --> 00:54:42,220

1201
00:54:42,220 --> 00:54:43,630
I don't know.

1202
00:54:43,630 --> 00:54:46,180
I just liked her.

1203
00:54:46,180 --> 00:54:50,920
And by then, she was in Poznan.

1204

00:54:50,920 --> 00:54:53,690
So I went to see her.

1205
00:54:53,690 --> 00:54:58,270
But by then, because of
everything that was going on,

1206
00:54:58,270 --> 00:55:00,520
she lost her mind a little bit.

1207
00:55:00,520 --> 00:55:02,560
She was not normal.

1208
00:55:02,560 --> 00:55:05,020
So I'm not sure
that she knew who I

1209
00:55:05,020 --> 00:55:10,080
was when I went to say goodbye.

1210
00:55:10,080 --> 00:55:11,172
How sad.

1211
00:55:11,172 --> 00:55:12,380
Yeah.

1212
00:55:12,380 --> 00:55:13,550
Tragic.

1213
00:55:13,550 --> 00:55:15,400
But that's the war.

1214
00:55:15,400 --> 00:55:18,730
That's the way things went.

1215
00:55:18,730 --> 00:55:20,860
Did you get any sense
that your parents

1216
00:55:20,860 --> 00:55:23,560
were involved in any
underground activity at all.

1217
00:55:23,560 --> 00:55:27,630

1218
00:55:27,630 --> 00:55:34,600
I think they were, but they
were being careful having me.

1219
00:55:34,600 --> 00:55:40,310
They didn't have as much
freedom of movement.

1220
00:55:40,310 --> 00:55:42,340
Than if they hadn't had a child?

1221
00:55:42,340 --> 00:55:44,480
That's right.

1222
00:55:44,480 --> 00:55:47,690
And I want to go back to a
question about your father--

1223
00:55:47,690 --> 00:55:50,930
maybe even your
mother, I don't know.

1224
00:55:50,930 --> 00:55:54,230
Do you think they
felt a special fear

1225
00:55:54,230 --> 00:55:59,840
that their Jewish background
could come to the fore somehow,

1226
00:55:59,840 --> 00:56:03,140
that they could be exposed,
that generations back--?

1227
00:56:03,140 --> 00:56:06,230
I don't think they
even thought about it.

1228

00:56:06,230 --> 00:56:08,530
OK.

1229
00:56:08,530 --> 00:56:10,368
Right, Wojtus?

1230
00:56:10,368 --> 00:56:20,260
Now, I think her mother did more
Semitic look than her father.

1231
00:56:20,260 --> 00:56:23,642
And she was constantly
afraid they'd suddenly

1232
00:56:23,642 --> 00:56:26,360
stop her on the street.

1233
00:56:26,360 --> 00:56:27,580
She was?

1234
00:56:27,580 --> 00:56:28,305
OK.

1235
00:56:28,305 --> 00:56:29,180
I'm going to repeat--

1236
00:56:29,180 --> 00:56:29,972
See, I didn't know.

1237
00:56:29,972 --> 00:56:32,510
--what your husband
said-- is that he

1238
00:56:32,510 --> 00:56:36,160
thinks your mother had more of
a Semitic look than your father.

1239
00:56:36,160 --> 00:56:37,250
She thought so.

1240
00:56:37,250 --> 00:56:38,570
She thought she did.

1241
00:56:38,570 --> 00:56:44,120
And she was very afraid that she
would be stopped on the street.

1242
00:56:44,120 --> 00:56:47,180
If that's what he
says, he should know.

1243
00:56:47,180 --> 00:56:49,040
Did you know your mother-in-law?

1244
00:56:49,040 --> 00:56:49,790
Did you meet her?

1245
00:56:49,790 --> 00:56:50,290
Oh, yeah.

1246
00:56:50,290 --> 00:56:50,790
Yes.

1247
00:56:50,790 --> 00:56:51,320
OK.

1248
00:56:51,320 --> 00:56:52,320
And so she would tell--?

1249
00:56:52,320 --> 00:56:54,190
And her father was--

1250
00:56:54,190 --> 00:56:58,330
I'm not sure about-- he
was probably circumcised.

1251
00:56:58,330 --> 00:57:05,650
And the Germans would stop if
they would see Semitic face,

1252
00:57:05,650 --> 00:57:09,640
they would stop and
pull down your pants.

1253

00:57:09,640 --> 00:57:11,660

I want to see who you are.

1254

00:57:11,660 --> 00:57:14,613

If they found that
this was the case--

1255

00:57:14,613 --> 00:57:15,300

[CLICKS TONGUE]

1256

00:57:15,300 --> 00:57:17,360

OK, I'm going to repeat
what you just said.

1257

00:57:17,360 --> 00:57:21,560

Your husband is close by, and
I want to repeat what he said.

1258

00:57:21,560 --> 00:57:26,470

Your father probably, he
says, was circumcised.

1259

00:57:26,470 --> 00:57:26,990

Yes.

1260

00:57:26,990 --> 00:57:31,550

And then one of the
dangers he would have had

1261

00:57:31,550 --> 00:57:34,250

is Germans often would stop
men on the street or boys

1262

00:57:34,250 --> 00:57:38,317

on the street and order them to
pull down their trousers to see

1263

00:57:38,317 --> 00:57:38,900

who they were.

1264

00:57:38,900 --> 00:57:40,640

And if they saw

something like that,

1265
00:57:40,640 --> 00:57:43,015
then they're in
danger of being shot.

1266
00:57:43,015 --> 00:57:45,220
Yep.

1267
00:57:45,220 --> 00:57:48,860
But he still did go out.

1268
00:57:48,860 --> 00:57:55,610
He did go to different
places in the city.

1269
00:57:55,610 --> 00:57:57,140
I remember him even--

1270
00:57:57,140 --> 00:57:58,610
I refused to go.

1271
00:57:58,610 --> 00:57:59,920
I was afraid.

1272
00:57:59,920 --> 00:58:01,820
I didn't want to go.

1273
00:58:01,820 --> 00:58:03,680
He said, "Look, we have to live.

1274
00:58:03,680 --> 00:58:06,830

1275
00:58:06,830 --> 00:58:09,560
Let's try our luck."

1276
00:58:09,560 --> 00:58:12,380
So he was taking risks.

1277
00:58:12,380 --> 00:58:14,600

Yes.

1278

00:58:14,600 --> 00:58:17,090

Did your parents
ever talk with you

1279

00:58:17,090 --> 00:58:20,720

about what was happening to
the Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto?

1280

00:58:20,720 --> 00:58:25,010

Did they ever mention
something like that going on?

1281

00:58:25,010 --> 00:58:27,210

Do you think they did?

1282

00:58:27,210 --> 00:58:31,640

They must have because
there was the Uprising,

1283

00:58:31,640 --> 00:58:34,700

the Jewish Uprising in 1943.

1284

00:58:34,700 --> 00:58:40,070

The whole Warsaw was hard to
breathe, because of the fire,

1285

00:58:40,070 --> 00:58:42,800

because of what was going on.

1286

00:58:42,800 --> 00:58:45,600

Everybody knew that
something is going on.

1287

00:58:45,600 --> 00:58:46,400

OK.

1288

00:58:46,400 --> 00:58:49,170

What your husband says
is that he thinks that--

1289

00:58:49,170 --> 00:58:50,880
I think he's right.

1290
00:58:50,880 --> 00:58:52,760
--they must have been
speaking about it,

1291
00:58:52,760 --> 00:58:58,830
because during the Warsaw
Ghetto Uprising in 1943

1292
00:58:58,830 --> 00:58:59,650
there was fire.

1293
00:58:59,650 --> 00:59:00,930
It was difficult to breathe.

1294
00:59:00,930 --> 00:59:02,230
Not join.

1295
00:59:02,230 --> 00:59:03,260
Nobody join--

1296
00:59:03,260 --> 00:59:05,990
Not the Warsaw Uprising,
the Ghetto Uprising.

1297
00:59:05,990 --> 00:59:07,560
Nobody joined that.

1298
00:59:07,560 --> 00:59:08,760
No, not joining it.

1299
00:59:08,760 --> 00:59:10,100
They heard about it.

1300
00:59:10,100 --> 00:59:11,650
They knew about it.

1301
00:59:11,650 --> 00:59:13,351
Yeah.

1302

00:59:13,351 --> 00:59:14,782

That's wrong too.

1303

00:59:14,782 --> 00:59:18,300

There were Polish
guys who joined

1304

00:59:18,300 --> 00:59:22,845

the resistance of the Jews,
but they were very few.

1305

00:59:22,845 --> 00:59:28,920

This wasn't a mass help, because
we didn't have armaments.

1306

00:59:28,920 --> 00:59:32,170

We didn't have
possibility to help Jews.

1307

00:59:32,170 --> 00:59:33,860

OK.

1308

00:59:33,860 --> 00:59:35,750

Your husband's saying
that there were

1309

00:59:35,750 --> 00:59:41,970

some Polish guys, very few, who
did join the Ghetto Uprising.

1310

00:59:41,970 --> 00:59:46,280

But not in a massive way
as there weren't armaments.

1311

00:59:46,280 --> 00:59:49,360

There wasn't any
way to really help.

1312

00:59:49,360 --> 00:59:50,100

That's right.

1313

00:59:50,100 --> 00:59:52,760

Yeah.

1314
00:59:52,760 --> 00:59:56,810
So do you think that
you were kind of

1315
00:59:56,810 --> 00:59:58,430
shielded from these things?

1316
00:59:58,430 --> 01:00:00,530
Did you feel nervous yourself?

1317
01:00:00,530 --> 01:00:03,000
No, I think I was shielded.

1318
01:00:03,000 --> 01:00:03,800
Yeah?

1319
01:00:03,800 --> 01:00:05,460
Being a kid, I was shielded.

1320
01:00:05,460 --> 01:00:06,220
Yeah.

1321
01:00:06,220 --> 01:00:07,340
OK.

1322
01:00:07,340 --> 01:00:12,710
Was the convent where you were
sent, was that outside of town?

1323
01:00:12,710 --> 01:00:13,700
Pretty much.

1324
01:00:13,700 --> 01:00:17,390
No, it was in town.

1325
01:00:17,390 --> 01:00:19,250
It wasn't in town.

1326
01:00:19,250 --> 01:00:19,970

Zoliborz.

1327
01:00:19,970 --> 01:00:20,670
That's right.

1328
01:00:20,670 --> 01:00:21,840
That's town.

1329
01:00:21,840 --> 01:00:23,360
That's part of the city.

1330
01:00:23,360 --> 01:00:26,150
Yes, but was it sort
of a suburban area

1331
01:00:26,150 --> 01:00:27,920
outside the certain--?

1332
01:00:27,920 --> 01:00:32,310
It's like Queens in
relation to Manhattan.

1333
01:00:32,310 --> 01:00:34,190
So you're saying it's
like Queens in relation

1334
01:00:34,190 --> 01:00:35,150
to Manhattan?

1335
01:00:35,150 --> 01:00:38,600
I guess I'm just trying to get
a sense of whether the location

1336
01:00:38,600 --> 01:00:42,810
of the convent would have been
part of what helped shield you.

1337
01:00:42,810 --> 01:00:43,310
No.

1338
01:00:43,310 --> 01:00:43,810
No.

1339
01:00:43,810 --> 01:00:44,680
No.

1340
01:00:44,680 --> 01:00:45,980
No.

1341
01:00:45,980 --> 01:00:49,144
Germans usually
didn't go to convent

1342
01:00:49,144 --> 01:00:53,510
because I don't know why.

1343
01:00:53,510 --> 01:00:54,260
OK.

1344
01:00:54,260 --> 01:00:58,100
So you got rheumatic fever.

1345
01:00:58,100 --> 01:01:00,380
And then you were
sent somewhere else?

1346
01:01:00,380 --> 01:01:01,370
Is that right?

1347
01:01:01,370 --> 01:01:05,100
I was sent to my aunt.

1348
01:01:05,100 --> 01:01:09,710
My mother's sister was
renting the top floor

1349
01:01:09,710 --> 01:01:14,850
of a villa outside of Warsaw.

1350
01:01:14,850 --> 01:01:17,870
It was mostly because
of my uncle, who was--

1351

01:01:17,870 --> 01:01:19,370
[WHISTLES]

1352
01:01:19,370 --> 01:01:20,300
A little crazy?

1353
01:01:20,300 --> 01:01:21,230
Yeah.

1354
01:01:21,230 --> 01:01:24,950
He always thought that--

1355
01:01:24,950 --> 01:01:31,070
He had lung problems
as a youngster.

1356
01:01:31,070 --> 01:01:34,410
And he was always
worried about his lungs.

1357
01:01:34,410 --> 01:01:39,110
So I think that's
why she rented that--

1358
01:01:39,110 --> 01:01:39,860
Place.

1359
01:01:39,860 --> 01:01:41,120
--place.

1360
01:01:41,120 --> 01:01:46,280
And it came in handy,
because I had to recuperate.

1361
01:01:46,280 --> 01:01:48,650
And was it then good
for lungs, actually?

1362
01:01:48,650 --> 01:01:51,320
Yeah.

1363
01:01:51,320 --> 01:01:53,270

And do you remember when
you were sent there?

1364
01:01:53,270 --> 01:01:55,160
Was this in '43 or '44?

1365
01:01:55,160 --> 01:02:00,080
This was just before
the Warsaw Uprise.

1366
01:02:00,080 --> 01:02:03,650
So you were living
separately from your parents?

1367
01:02:03,650 --> 01:02:10,670
Well, my mother was able to get
there the day of the Uprising.

1368
01:02:10,670 --> 01:02:14,840
So I was with my mother the
full time, but not my father.

1369
01:02:14,840 --> 01:02:18,230
He went to concentration
camps and stuff.

1370
01:02:18,230 --> 01:02:20,540
Tell me what happened
with your father.

1371
01:02:20,540 --> 01:02:26,100
He was arrested like the
rest of the population.

1372
01:02:26,100 --> 01:02:28,650
Well, do you know the
circumstances and the details

1373
01:02:28,650 --> 01:02:31,280
of how this came to happen?

1374
01:02:31,280 --> 01:02:32,360
Not really.

1375
01:02:32,360 --> 01:02:38,120
I don't know what was
happening to the population.

1376
01:02:38,120 --> 01:02:39,170
I know my aunt--

1377
01:02:39,170 --> 01:02:40,070
[PHONE RINGING]

1378
01:02:40,070 --> 01:02:41,180
Excuse me please.

1379
01:02:41,180 --> 01:02:51,770
--tried get into one of these
transit places to get him out.

1380
01:02:51,770 --> 01:02:55,430
And my mother was
very upset because it

1381
01:02:55,430 --> 01:02:58,850
was dangerous to do that.

1382
01:02:58,850 --> 01:03:01,130
And she never managed anyway.

1383
01:03:01,130 --> 01:03:05,210
So eventually he ended up
in Bergen-Belsen, which

1384
01:03:05,210 --> 01:03:09,620
was the worst camp there was.

1385
01:03:09,620 --> 01:03:13,400
But I want to go
back a little bit.

1386
01:03:13,400 --> 01:03:18,260
Your mother comes on the first
day she manages to get to you.

1387
01:03:18,260 --> 01:03:19,320
But your father doesn't.

1388
01:03:19,320 --> 01:03:20,660
That's right.

1389
01:03:20,660 --> 01:03:23,540
He stays in your
apartment in Warsaw.

1390
01:03:23,540 --> 01:03:24,710
Right.

1391
01:03:24,710 --> 01:03:29,100
And he is then arrested
with lots of other people.

1392
01:03:29,100 --> 01:03:29,600
Right.

1393
01:03:29,600 --> 01:03:30,892
Rounded up with lots of other--

1394
01:03:30,892 --> 01:03:34,250
You don't know how or where or--

1395
01:03:34,250 --> 01:03:35,060
We don't know.

1396
01:03:35,060 --> 01:03:37,220
--anything like that.

1397
01:03:37,220 --> 01:03:41,840
But how did you find out
that he was arrested?

1398
01:03:41,840 --> 01:03:43,110
How did you find out?

1399
01:03:43,110 --> 01:03:45,680

Because there was
nobody left in Warsaw.

1400
01:03:45,680 --> 01:03:47,090
They didn't leave anybody.

1401
01:03:47,090 --> 01:03:50,000

1402
01:03:50,000 --> 01:03:53,180
Do you remember the neighborhood
that you lived in in Warsaw?

1403
01:03:53,180 --> 01:03:54,470
Yeah.

1404
01:03:54,470 --> 01:04:00,350
What was it called, that he
would have been located in?

1405
01:04:00,350 --> 01:04:01,380
Wojtus, what was it?

1406
01:04:01,380 --> 01:04:03,270
Same as I was.

1407
01:04:03,270 --> 01:04:06,380
It was three blocks away.

1408
01:04:06,380 --> 01:04:07,388
OK, what was it called?

1409
01:04:07,388 --> 01:04:08,180
I'd like to say it.

1410
01:04:08,180 --> 01:04:09,950
Kolonia Staszica.

1411
01:04:09,950 --> 01:04:11,540
Kolonia Staszica.

1412

01:04:11,540 --> 01:04:14,990

So from Kolonia

Staszica, the apartments

1413

01:04:14,990 --> 01:04:16,700

were being emptied out.

1414

01:04:16,700 --> 01:04:18,170

From everywhere.

1415

01:04:18,170 --> 01:04:18,980

From everywhere.

1416

01:04:18,980 --> 01:04:21,196

I think that's

where her father was

1417

01:04:21,196 --> 01:04:23,905

arrested like I was arrested.

1418

01:04:23,905 --> 01:04:26,300

But he was not as

lucky as I was.

1419

01:04:26,300 --> 01:04:28,525

He was sent to

concentration camp.

1420

01:04:28,525 --> 01:04:30,520

And I was sent to labor camp.

1421

01:04:30,520 --> 01:04:31,730

OK.

1422

01:04:31,730 --> 01:04:33,620

So what your

husband is saying is

1423

01:04:33,620 --> 01:04:37,890

that he thinks that your father

was arrested from Kolonia

1424

01:04:37,890 --> 01:04:41,000
Staszica the same as he was.

1425
01:04:41,000 --> 01:04:43,110
But he was not as
lucky as your husband--

1426
01:04:43,110 --> 01:04:43,610
Yes.

1427
01:04:43,610 --> 01:04:46,430
--in that he was sent
to a concentration camp,

1428
01:04:46,430 --> 01:04:47,930
not to a labor camp.

1429
01:04:47,930 --> 01:04:48,740
Yes.

1430
01:04:48,740 --> 01:04:53,090
And was he sent directly
to Bergen-Belsen?

1431
01:04:53,090 --> 01:04:53,750
Do you know?

1432
01:04:53,750 --> 01:04:54,535
No.

1433
01:04:54,535 --> 01:04:55,535
Where was he sent first?

1434
01:04:55,535 --> 01:04:59,160

1435
01:04:59,160 --> 01:05:01,070
Could it be Neuengamme?

1436
01:05:01,070 --> 01:05:02,476
No, I don't think so.

1437

01:05:02,476 --> 01:05:03,648

It was some other place.

1438

01:05:03,648 --> 01:05:04,860

I don't remember.

1439

01:05:04,860 --> 01:05:05,748

So you don't know.

1440

01:05:05,748 --> 01:05:06,915

Even now you don't remember.

1441

01:05:06,915 --> 01:05:07,580

I'm not sure.

1442

01:05:07,580 --> 01:05:10,380

My mother knew.

1443

01:05:10,380 --> 01:05:12,690

So in other words,
what I'm surprised by

1444

01:05:12,690 --> 01:05:18,390

is that you found out
that he's rounded up.

1445

01:05:18,390 --> 01:05:22,890

So that you aunt wanted
to go into a transit place

1446

01:05:22,890 --> 01:05:24,450

to try and release him.

1447

01:05:24,450 --> 01:05:26,790

That means somehow
information got to you.

1448

01:05:26,790 --> 01:05:27,840

Yes.

1449

01:05:27,840 --> 01:05:30,150

OK.

1450

01:05:30,150 --> 01:05:34,650

And do you remember how
you felt when they told you

1451

01:05:34,650 --> 01:05:37,830

your father has been arrested?

1452

01:05:37,830 --> 01:05:45,220

It was-- Remember, I was what?

1453

01:05:45,220 --> 01:05:45,990

13.

1454

01:05:45,990 --> 01:05:47,220

13.

1455

01:05:47,220 --> 01:05:55,470

It was a very special time.

1456

01:05:55,470 --> 01:05:59,400

There was the Russians
to worry about.

1457

01:05:59,400 --> 01:06:02,700

If they found a
female someplace,

1458

01:06:02,700 --> 01:06:04,720

there was a huge problem.

1459

01:06:04,720 --> 01:06:07,800

There was really
very little to eat.

1460

01:06:07,800 --> 01:06:11,580

There were all
kinds of problems.

1461

01:06:11,580 --> 01:06:32,920

And then these-- relatives of an

aristocratic family that lived

1462

01:06:32,920 --> 01:06:37,360
nearer to Poznan had a small--

1463

01:06:37,360 --> 01:06:40,970
The family had a small farm.

1464

01:06:40,970 --> 01:06:44,750
And they were farming
it, because it gave them

1465

01:06:44,750 --> 01:06:48,560
some food and stuff.

1466

01:06:48,560 --> 01:06:55,700
So they had a white horse.

1467

01:06:55,700 --> 01:06:59,600
And their daughter managed
to get a red dress.

1468

01:06:59,600 --> 01:07:03,800
And all you could see
was her on a white horse,

1469

01:07:03,800 --> 01:07:06,050
because it was
the Polish colors.

1470

01:07:06,050 --> 01:07:06,860
Red and white.

1471

01:07:06,860 --> 01:07:09,440

1472

01:07:09,440 --> 01:07:11,200
This was in--

1473

01:07:11,200 --> 01:07:20,830
1944, '43, something like that.

1474

01:07:20,830 --> 01:07:22,960

But that's far away in Poznan?

1475

01:07:22,960 --> 01:07:25,930

No, that was just near Warsaw.

1476

01:07:25,930 --> 01:07:26,650

Oh, I see.

1477

01:07:26,650 --> 01:07:31,030

Poznan was not accessible

to us, because it

1478

01:07:31,030 --> 01:07:33,130

was considered part of Germany.

1479

01:07:33,130 --> 01:07:33,920

I see.

1480

01:07:33,920 --> 01:07:34,420

I see.

1481

01:07:34,420 --> 01:07:38,920

1482

01:07:38,920 --> 01:07:42,400

Later on when my

mother was hoping

1483

01:07:42,400 --> 01:07:48,370

to connect with my father,

as soon as she could,

1484

01:07:48,370 --> 01:07:52,810

we moved to Poznan,

because she figured

1485

01:07:52,810 --> 01:07:56,770

that that's where he

would be looking for us.

1486

01:07:56,770 --> 01:07:57,800
And indeed--

1487
01:07:57,800 --> 01:07:58,300
He did.

1488
01:07:58,300 --> 01:07:59,120
--he was.

1489
01:07:59,120 --> 01:07:59,910
OK.

1490
01:07:59,910 --> 01:08:02,320
But let's stay back in Warsaw.

1491
01:08:02,320 --> 01:08:06,460
She's there, succeeded
to be with you.

1492
01:08:06,460 --> 01:08:08,650
Your father's arrested.

1493
01:08:08,650 --> 01:08:11,140
You somehow find out about it.

1494
01:08:11,140 --> 01:08:16,149
But you don't remember that
circumstance of finding out.

1495
01:08:16,149 --> 01:08:19,210
But essentially, your
pal is no longer around.

1496
01:08:19,210 --> 01:08:19,870
That's right.

1497
01:08:19,870 --> 01:08:22,210
The strict one is there.

1498
01:08:22,210 --> 01:08:23,229
But you're--

1499

01:08:23,229 --> 01:08:23,770

Yes.

1500

01:08:23,770 --> 01:08:28,770

But our relationship with
my mother changed a lot.

1501

01:08:28,770 --> 01:08:29,890

In what way?

1502

01:08:29,890 --> 01:08:33,350

Because we were just
left the two of us.

1503

01:08:33,350 --> 01:08:35,874

So she was more--

1504

01:08:35,874 --> 01:08:39,910

1505

01:08:39,910 --> 01:08:41,080

She was softer.

1506

01:08:41,080 --> 01:08:47,790

She was less strict and stuff.

1507

01:08:47,790 --> 01:08:53,890

And it was like the two
of us against the world.

1508

01:08:53,890 --> 01:08:56,529

Then mostly to find my father.

1509

01:08:56,529 --> 01:08:59,220

So it was a different attitude.

1510

01:08:59,220 --> 01:09:02,680

Well, it also suggests to me--
and I don't want to put words

1511

01:09:02,680 --> 01:09:05,170

in your mouth and interpret
it in the wrong way--

1512
01:09:05,170 --> 01:09:07,710
but you weren't
completely alone.

1513
01:09:07,710 --> 01:09:08,210
No.

1514
01:09:08,210 --> 01:09:10,080
That is, you still
had one parent--

1515
01:09:10,080 --> 01:09:10,580
Yes.

1516
01:09:10,580 --> 01:09:13,510
--to be able to hold on to,
and a strong parent at that.

1517
01:09:13,510 --> 01:09:14,529
Right.

1518
01:09:14,529 --> 01:09:16,540
And so it wasn't
like your security

1519
01:09:16,540 --> 01:09:17,729
was completely shattered.

1520
01:09:17,729 --> 01:09:18,790
No.

1521
01:09:18,790 --> 01:09:19,899
OK.

1522
01:09:19,899 --> 01:09:22,507
And then there was
my aunt, and there

1523
01:09:22,507 --> 01:09:29,590

was her husband thinking he
has problems with this lungs.

1524
01:09:29,590 --> 01:09:30,670
Oh God.

1525
01:09:30,670 --> 01:09:33,130
So you had characters in
your family in addition

1526
01:09:33,130 --> 01:09:34,088
to this context of war.

1527
01:09:34,088 --> 01:09:40,160
You know what he did now,
about a year or two years ago?

1528
01:09:40,160 --> 01:09:46,649
He started a fire in his little
one-room apartment in Warsaw

1529
01:09:46,649 --> 01:09:52,740
and burnt all of my pictures
of the other relatives.

1530
01:09:52,740 --> 01:09:54,770
Oh.

1531
01:09:54,770 --> 01:09:55,710
What am I going to do?

1532
01:09:55,710 --> 01:09:56,460
Kill him?

1533
01:09:56,460 --> 01:09:57,220
No, of course not.

1534
01:09:57,220 --> 01:09:59,990
Of course not.

1535
01:09:59,990 --> 01:10:03,550
But people do very

inexplicable things sometimes.

1536

01:10:03,550 --> 01:10:10,600

Sure and you have to
know when to get upset

1537

01:10:10,600 --> 01:10:12,690

and when to just let it go.

1538

01:10:12,690 --> 01:10:15,290

That's right.

1539

01:10:15,290 --> 01:10:17,070

So tell me, how
did things progress

1540

01:10:17,070 --> 01:10:18,382

for you and your mother?

1541

01:10:18,382 --> 01:10:19,340

You were in this villa.

1542

01:10:19,340 --> 01:10:29,220

Well, the way it worked out for
us was that the war sort of--

1543

01:10:29,220 --> 01:10:34,000

1544

01:10:34,000 --> 01:10:36,090

passed us by.

1545

01:10:36,090 --> 01:10:42,010

The Russians came, and
then they went to west.

1546

01:10:42,010 --> 01:10:49,198

And I think we had the
Communist Polish state, right?

1547

01:10:49,198 --> 01:10:51,070

Yes.

1548
01:10:51,070 --> 01:10:57,190
So in other words, did
you feel that-- you talked

1549
01:10:57,190 --> 01:11:00,070
about a fear of the Russians
coming and being a woman

1550
01:11:00,070 --> 01:11:01,800
and how you're in
particular danger.

1551
01:11:01,800 --> 01:11:03,850
That's when that
happened, because they

1552
01:11:03,850 --> 01:11:13,320
sent in these totally
wild creatures.

1553
01:11:13,320 --> 01:11:15,840
They didn't seem to
be normal people.

1554
01:11:15,840 --> 01:11:16,960
And you saw these?

1555
01:11:16,960 --> 01:11:17,460
Yeah.

1556
01:11:17,460 --> 01:11:18,180
You such people?

1557
01:11:18,180 --> 01:11:24,750
We were looking from behind
curtains and windows.

1558
01:11:24,750 --> 01:11:27,810
Did any come to your apartment?

1559
01:11:27,810 --> 01:11:30,060

First of all, there
was no apartment.

1560
01:11:30,060 --> 01:11:31,370
The top of the villa?

1561
01:11:31,370 --> 01:11:35,144
This villa-- No, they--

1562
01:11:35,144 --> 01:11:38,210
They were a little
afraid of that, I think.

1563
01:11:38,210 --> 01:11:41,100
So what they did was in
the front of the villa

1564
01:11:41,100 --> 01:11:42,330
for quite a while--

1565
01:11:42,330 --> 01:11:45,170

1566
01:11:45,170 --> 01:11:49,920
There was enough space
for three or four villas

1567
01:11:49,920 --> 01:11:53,520
that was supposed to have
been built before the war.

1568
01:11:53,520 --> 01:11:54,270
They weren't.

1569
01:11:54,270 --> 01:11:59,175
It was a beautiful piece of
land full of flowers and things.

1570
01:11:59,175 --> 01:11:59,970
Oh, wow.

1571
01:11:59,970 --> 01:12:04,380

And that's where they settled.

1572

01:12:04,380 --> 01:12:05,980

Set up camp?

1573

01:12:05,980 --> 01:12:06,480

Pardon?

1574

01:12:06,480 --> 01:12:08,130

Did they set up camp there?

1575

01:12:08,130 --> 01:12:09,330

Sort of.

1576

01:12:09,330 --> 01:12:12,630

And they ate
whatever grew there.

1577

01:12:12,630 --> 01:12:16,650

Whatever was growing, they eat.

1578

01:12:16,650 --> 01:12:19,110

And they didn't
approach the villa?

1579

01:12:19,110 --> 01:12:21,220

No.

1580

01:12:21,220 --> 01:12:24,730

Then you saw them kind
of like in the distance?

1581

01:12:24,730 --> 01:12:29,070

I saw them from behind
curtains in the window.

1582

01:12:29,070 --> 01:12:30,930

Why did that happen?

1583

01:12:30,930 --> 01:12:32,220

I don't know.

1584

01:12:32,220 --> 01:12:33,720

Whether they were
afraid that there

1585

01:12:33,720 --> 01:12:37,860

were Polish people with guns.

1586

01:12:37,860 --> 01:12:39,300

I don't know.

1587

01:12:39,300 --> 01:12:42,490

Did they stay there
long and then move on?

1588

01:12:42,490 --> 01:12:42,990

Yes.

1589

01:12:42,990 --> 01:12:45,430

And then all of a
sudden, they disappeared.

1590

01:12:45,430 --> 01:12:45,930

OK.

1591

01:12:45,930 --> 01:12:48,720

1592

01:12:48,720 --> 01:12:54,300

And do you remember what it
was like when the war ended?

1593

01:12:54,300 --> 01:12:55,710

Do you remember the war ending?

1594

01:12:55,710 --> 01:12:59,360

1595

01:12:59,360 --> 01:13:05,440

I don't remember like
how we found out,

1596

01:13:05,440 --> 01:13:09,770
whether it was radio or--

1597
01:13:09,770 --> 01:13:10,380
I don't know.

1598
01:13:10,380 --> 01:13:11,005
Or a neighbor--

1599
01:13:11,005 --> 01:13:11,838
How did we find out?

1600
01:13:11,838 --> 01:13:13,780
--could have told
you or something?

1601
01:13:13,780 --> 01:13:15,890
Well, my mother found out.

1602
01:13:15,890 --> 01:13:19,250
My mother and my aunt
maybe went to Warsaw

1603
01:13:19,250 --> 01:13:22,520
looking for some of
their possessions.

1604
01:13:22,520 --> 01:13:24,140
I don't know.

1605
01:13:24,140 --> 01:13:31,490
I know that my mother decided
that it was time for the two

1606
01:13:31,490 --> 01:13:35,420
of us to go back to
Poznan, our hometown,

1607
01:13:35,420 --> 01:13:42,080
just in case my father
shows up or looks for us.

1608

01:13:42,080 --> 01:13:43,040
And you did that?

1609
01:13:43,040 --> 01:13:44,330
Yep.

1610
01:13:44,330 --> 01:13:47,720
And then when she get to
Poznan, it turned out--

1611
01:13:47,720 --> 01:13:49,970
well, since most
people knew her--

1612
01:13:49,970 --> 01:13:51,440
she got the bank job.

1613
01:13:51,440 --> 01:13:52,640
She got another job.

1614
01:13:52,640 --> 01:13:54,330
She had three jobs.

1615
01:13:54,330 --> 01:13:55,790
Oh, my goodness.

1616
01:13:55,790 --> 01:13:57,530
Supporting us.

1617
01:13:57,530 --> 01:14:00,410
Did you go back
to your old home?

1618
01:14:00,410 --> 01:14:04,340
We couldn't because there were
four families living there.

1619
01:14:04,340 --> 01:14:07,460

1620
01:14:07,460 --> 01:14:12,280
But we could go to

my aunt's apartment,

1621

01:14:12,280 --> 01:14:14,870
because it was much smaller.

1622

01:14:14,870 --> 01:14:17,080
And we managed to
get a room there.

1623

01:14:17,080 --> 01:14:20,720

1624

01:14:20,720 --> 01:14:23,270
And you stayed
there for how long?

1625

01:14:23,270 --> 01:14:26,210

1626

01:14:26,210 --> 01:14:29,060
Until my father
got us to Sweden.

1627

01:14:29,060 --> 01:14:30,680
When did he come
back from the camps?

1628

01:14:30,680 --> 01:14:33,950

1629

01:14:33,950 --> 01:14:36,040
Well, he got in touch with us--

1630

01:14:36,040 --> 01:14:39,090

1631

01:14:39,090 --> 01:14:39,590
In Sweden.

1632

01:14:39,590 --> 01:14:40,455
I don't know.

1633

01:14:40,455 --> 01:14:41,793

Huh?

1634

01:14:41,793 --> 01:14:42,710

From Sweden, but when?

1635

01:14:42,710 --> 01:14:46,410

He ended up in

Sweden, like I did.

1636

01:14:46,410 --> 01:14:49,658

And from there, he start

looking and found out

1637

01:14:49,658 --> 01:14:51,680

that they are alive.

1638

01:14:51,680 --> 01:14:52,490

OK.

1639

01:14:52,490 --> 01:14:57,950

So your husband says that from
the camps he got to Sweden

1640

01:14:57,950 --> 01:15:00,660

and then started

searching for you--

1641

01:15:00,660 --> 01:15:01,160

Right.

1642

01:15:01,160 --> 01:15:06,410

--and found out that you were
alive and you were in Poznan.

1643

01:15:06,410 --> 01:15:11,000

He sent a letter to Poznan.

1644

01:15:11,000 --> 01:15:13,760

And then my mother answered him.

1645

01:15:13,760 --> 01:15:14,780
I see.

1646
01:15:14,780 --> 01:15:16,580
So you haven't seen him yet?

1647
01:15:16,580 --> 01:15:17,280
No.

1648
01:15:17,280 --> 01:15:17,780
OK.

1649
01:15:17,780 --> 01:15:22,190

1650
01:15:22,190 --> 01:15:24,620
And were you able to
leave to go to Sweden,

1651
01:15:24,620 --> 01:15:26,180
or did he have to come get you?

1652
01:15:26,180 --> 01:15:27,020
How did that happen?

1653
01:15:27,020 --> 01:15:27,650
No.

1654
01:15:27,650 --> 01:15:29,270
No, no, no.

1655
01:15:29,270 --> 01:15:33,080
He had to buy visas
from somebody.

1656
01:15:33,080 --> 01:15:34,310
For both of you?

1657
01:15:34,310 --> 01:15:35,530
Yep.

1658

01:15:35,530 --> 01:15:36,560
OK.

1659
01:15:36,560 --> 01:15:46,370
This was already the
Polish communist setup.

1660
01:15:46,370 --> 01:15:50,030
So it wasn't that easy.

1661
01:15:50,030 --> 01:15:52,310
What year did you leave
Poland to go to Sweden?

1662
01:15:52,310 --> 01:15:53,730
'46.

1663
01:15:53,730 --> 01:15:54,230
'46.

1664
01:15:54,230 --> 01:15:56,630
December of '46.

1665
01:15:56,630 --> 01:16:00,710
So you still lived in
Poland for a year and a half

1666
01:16:00,710 --> 01:16:03,320
after the war ends.

1667
01:16:03,320 --> 01:16:05,690
And I went to school.

1668
01:16:05,690 --> 01:16:07,550
Do you remember
what it was like?

1669
01:16:07,550 --> 01:16:08,530
Yeah.

1670
01:16:08,530 --> 01:16:11,810
It must not have been a

Catholic school anymore, was it?

1671

01:16:11,810 --> 01:16:14,900

No, it was a public school.

1672

01:16:14,900 --> 01:16:16,670

And did it differ at all?

1673

01:16:16,670 --> 01:16:19,760

No, it was like it
used to be before,

1674

01:16:19,760 --> 01:16:27,500

except that more than half
of the students were over 20,

1675

01:16:27,500 --> 01:16:31,190

because those were the girls
that couldn't go to school

1676

01:16:31,190 --> 01:16:32,990

at all during the war.

1677

01:16:32,990 --> 01:16:35,000

They were the local girls.

1678

01:16:35,000 --> 01:16:39,780

So it was a problem,
because it was a mixture.

1679

01:16:39,780 --> 01:16:43,220

And what grade when
you went to school

1680

01:16:43,220 --> 01:16:50,100

in 1945 to 1946, that school
year, and then the second fall?

1681

01:16:50,100 --> 01:16:53,900

That was the fourth
year of Gymnasium.

1682

01:16:53,900 --> 01:16:54,410
For you?

1683
01:16:54,410 --> 01:16:55,950
Mm-hmm.

1684
01:16:55,950 --> 01:17:00,380
So the last I remember is
that you went into third grade

1685
01:17:00,380 --> 01:17:02,710
in Lvov.

1686
01:17:02,710 --> 01:17:04,110
No, no, no.

1687
01:17:04,110 --> 01:17:06,140
That was much younger.

1688
01:17:06,140 --> 01:17:08,240
Yeah, you were much
younger in Lvov.

1689
01:17:08,240 --> 01:17:11,360
And then you had some
schooling in the convent.

1690
01:17:11,360 --> 01:17:12,380
That's right.

1691
01:17:12,380 --> 01:17:13,850
And then this was--

1692
01:17:13,850 --> 01:17:16,680
here, it was after the war.

1693
01:17:16,680 --> 01:17:22,340
And I was 14.

1694
01:17:22,340 --> 01:17:25,390
So it's the next--

1695

01:17:25,390 --> 01:17:29,311

1696

01:17:29,311 --> 01:17:31,940

But did you jump from
let's say fourth grade

1697

01:17:31,940 --> 01:17:35,600

in elementary school to the
fourth year of Gymnasium

1698

01:17:35,600 --> 01:17:38,120

without having any formal
education between them?

1699

01:17:38,120 --> 01:17:41,303

1700

01:17:41,303 --> 01:17:42,470

Do you know what I'm asking?

1701

01:17:42,470 --> 01:17:45,110

Yes.

1702

01:17:45,110 --> 01:17:47,690

I'm not sure.

1703

01:17:47,690 --> 01:17:48,960

How could I have jumped?

1704

01:17:48,960 --> 01:17:56,600

She told me once that she was
going through private lessons,

1705

01:17:56,600 --> 01:18:00,700

private education at home.

1706

01:18:00,700 --> 01:18:05,895

And she had many,
many years was behind.

1707

01:18:05,895 --> 01:18:10,810
But this education at this
time was for everybody.

1708
01:18:10,810 --> 01:18:14,860
All those people who lost four
or five years of education,

1709
01:18:14,860 --> 01:18:16,360
they had to catch up.

1710
01:18:16,360 --> 01:18:18,630
And that's they push, push.

1711
01:18:18,630 --> 01:18:19,130
OK.

1712
01:18:19,130 --> 01:18:21,110
I'm going to repeat
that on tape.

1713
01:18:21,110 --> 01:18:24,330
Is that your husband says is
that you told him at one point

1714
01:18:24,330 --> 01:18:28,190
that in those years where you
couldn't go to school formally,

1715
01:18:28,190 --> 01:18:32,450
you had some private
lessons at home.

1716
01:18:32,450 --> 01:18:34,130
I don't remember that.

1717
01:18:34,130 --> 01:18:35,290
You don't remember that?

1718
01:18:35,290 --> 01:18:35,790
OK.

1719

01:18:35,790 --> 01:18:38,480

1720

01:18:38,480 --> 01:18:40,910

But that after the
war just as you said--

1721

01:18:40,910 --> 01:18:43,760

Then I was able to catch up.

1722

01:18:43,760 --> 01:18:44,660

Catch up.

1723

01:18:44,660 --> 01:18:50,360

Catch up and finish at least
the fourth year of Gymnasium?

1724

01:18:50,360 --> 01:18:51,320

That's right.

1725

01:18:51,320 --> 01:18:52,100

OK.

1726

01:18:52,100 --> 01:18:56,130

So what was left was
two years of liceum.

1727

01:18:56,130 --> 01:18:58,550

But by then, I left.

1728

01:18:58,550 --> 01:19:00,170

OK.

1729

01:19:00,170 --> 01:19:04,500

And so that's the first time
you saw your father in 1946.

1730

01:19:04,500 --> 01:19:05,000

Yes.

1731

01:19:05,000 --> 01:19:06,720

Probably two and half years--

1732
01:19:06,720 --> 01:19:07,220
Right.

1733
01:19:07,220 --> 01:19:09,200
--since the Warsaw Uprising.

1734
01:19:09,200 --> 01:19:10,610
What did he look like?

1735
01:19:10,610 --> 01:19:11,630
Could you recognize him?

1736
01:19:11,630 --> 01:19:12,230
Sure.

1737
01:19:12,230 --> 01:19:14,840
He was the same.

1738
01:19:14,840 --> 01:19:16,960
His hair was grayer.

1739
01:19:16,960 --> 01:19:19,430
OK.

1740
01:19:19,430 --> 01:19:25,160
So he also had time to recover
from the concentration camps.

1741
01:19:25,160 --> 01:19:26,110
Yes.

1742
01:19:26,110 --> 01:19:28,250
So he probably didn't
look as bad as--

1743
01:19:28,250 --> 01:19:29,220
That's right.

1744
01:19:29,220 --> 01:19:30,710
OK.

1745
01:19:30,710 --> 01:19:33,710
Did he talk about it at all,
what he had gone through?

1746
01:19:33,710 --> 01:19:36,540
That I don't remember.

1747
01:19:36,540 --> 01:19:38,660
I don't remember.

1748
01:19:38,660 --> 01:19:40,780
Was he the same pal
that you had before?

1749
01:19:40,780 --> 01:19:42,020
Yeah.

1750
01:19:42,020 --> 01:19:43,810
Yeah?

1751
01:19:43,810 --> 01:19:51,020
And all I know is he
came, he looked around,

1752
01:19:51,020 --> 01:19:54,140
he met with people,
this and that.

1753
01:19:54,140 --> 01:20:00,110
And then he said, "There's
no more Poland for 50 years.

1754
01:20:00,110 --> 01:20:03,740
It'll be 50 years before
there's Poland again."

1755
01:20:03,740 --> 01:20:09,350
He was right to the day,
because it took 50 years then

1756
01:20:09,350 --> 01:20:16,010

for this current regime
to come into existence.

1757
01:20:16,010 --> 01:20:18,950
Amazing that he had
that kind of foresight.

1758
01:20:18,950 --> 01:20:22,100
And he said he was going
to wait for it there,

1759
01:20:22,100 --> 01:20:27,300
because he had known the Russian
Bolsheviks from over there.

1760
01:20:27,300 --> 01:20:30,530

1761
01:20:30,530 --> 01:20:34,692
So clearly he didn't want
to go back to Poland.

1762
01:20:34,692 --> 01:20:36,025
The idea was to get you two out.

1763
01:20:36,025 --> 01:20:38,390
He said he couldn't.

1764
01:20:38,390 --> 01:20:40,860
This was not a Poland
he could go back to.

1765
01:20:40,860 --> 01:20:43,492

1766
01:20:43,492 --> 01:20:44,825
How long did you stay in Sweden?

1767
01:20:44,825 --> 01:20:51,380

1768
01:20:51,380 --> 01:20:54,390

We ended up staying in
Sweden for four years,

1769
01:20:54,390 --> 01:20:57,540
but that's because
he had a heart attack

1770
01:20:57,540 --> 01:21:04,440
and had to be cured from it.

1771
01:21:04,440 --> 01:21:06,360
Did you learn Swedish?

1772
01:21:06,360 --> 01:21:08,640
Yes.

1773
01:21:08,640 --> 01:21:11,580
I don't remember a word.

1774
01:21:11,580 --> 01:21:16,710
I spoke Swedish so they couldn't
recognize where I was from.

1775
01:21:16,710 --> 01:21:20,040
And then the Swedish
now is [WHISTLES] gone.

1776
01:21:20,040 --> 01:21:20,890
It happens.

1777
01:21:20,890 --> 01:21:21,680
It happens.

1778
01:21:21,680 --> 01:21:23,010
It obviously happens.

1779
01:21:23,010 --> 01:21:24,420
It happened to me.

1780
01:21:24,420 --> 01:21:28,260

1781
01:21:28,260 --> 01:21:30,090
Did you integrate?

1782
01:21:30,090 --> 01:21:31,650
Did you have Swedish friends?

1783
01:21:31,650 --> 01:21:33,150
Yeah.

1784
01:21:33,150 --> 01:21:34,830
Did you like your
time in Sweden?

1785
01:21:34,830 --> 01:21:35,970
Yeah.

1786
01:21:35,970 --> 01:21:40,930
Sweden is a nice
country to be in,

1787
01:21:40,930 --> 01:21:44,670
especially if you're a student.

1788
01:21:44,670 --> 01:21:46,530
You went to Swedish schools?

1789
01:21:46,530 --> 01:21:48,380
Yeah.

1790
01:21:48,380 --> 01:21:50,730
OK.

1791
01:21:50,730 --> 01:21:56,550
What happened was and that
was a problem my father had--

1792
01:21:56,550 --> 01:22:01,650
Gymnasium in Sweden was
four years, especially

1793
01:22:01,650 --> 01:22:03,270

for foreigners.

1794

01:22:03,270 --> 01:22:06,360

And he figured four
years we don't have,

1795

01:22:06,360 --> 01:22:10,680

because we should be able to
leave for the United States

1796

01:22:10,680 --> 01:22:12,030

sooner.

1797

01:22:12,030 --> 01:22:14,520

So he was always looking
at it as a stepping stone?

1798

01:22:14,520 --> 01:22:15,570

Yes.

1799

01:22:15,570 --> 01:22:27,120

And then we found a two-year
commercial Gymnasium.

1800

01:22:27,120 --> 01:22:29,610

And that's where I went.

1801

01:22:29,610 --> 01:22:31,530

So I learned my Swedish.

1802

01:22:31,530 --> 01:22:36,690

I learned my
accounting from there.

1803

01:22:36,690 --> 01:22:43,740

I learned quite a bit of
business law there too.

1804

01:22:43,740 --> 01:22:47,100

And when did you leave
for the United States?

1805

01:22:47,100 --> 01:22:54,112
We finally left in
February of '51.

1806
01:22:54,112 --> 01:22:57,430

1807
01:22:57,430 --> 01:22:58,330
Finally.

1808
01:22:58,330 --> 01:23:00,700
Where did you meet your husband?

1809
01:23:00,700 --> 01:23:03,350
Over in Sweden.

1810
01:23:03,350 --> 01:23:07,970
He was traveling in
the same Polish group.

1811
01:23:07,970 --> 01:23:11,830
And I always thought he
was a very interesting guy,

1812
01:23:11,830 --> 01:23:14,920
but he wouldn't look at me.

1813
01:23:14,920 --> 01:23:17,050
I was just a kid.

1814
01:23:17,050 --> 01:23:22,170
And he had nothing to do
with kids, right, Wojtus?

1815
01:23:22,170 --> 01:23:24,640
He is diplomatically
not saying anything.

1816
01:23:24,640 --> 01:23:26,890
That's right.

1817
01:23:26,890 --> 01:23:32,220

And when you came to the United States, where did you come to?

1818
01:23:32,220 --> 01:23:34,390
What part of the States?

1819
01:23:34,390 --> 01:23:35,770
New York City.

1820
01:23:35,770 --> 01:23:36,880
And you stayed here, then?

1821
01:23:36,880 --> 01:23:37,830
Yeah.

1822
01:23:37,830 --> 01:23:39,070
OK.

1823
01:23:39,070 --> 01:23:42,640
Did your father find work?

1824
01:23:42,640 --> 01:23:45,040
He found some part-time work.

1825
01:23:45,040 --> 01:23:49,630
He couldn't do anything more because of his heart.

1826
01:23:49,630 --> 01:23:54,220
I found work with the Swedish American Line.

1827
01:23:54,220 --> 01:24:03,700
And my mother found work with some sort of a business outfit.

1828
01:24:03,700 --> 01:24:07,330
So with the two of us working, we could manage.

1829
01:24:07,330 --> 01:24:08,650
You could support the family?

1830
01:24:08,650 --> 01:24:09,490
Yeah.

1831
01:24:09,490 --> 01:24:15,010
And what part of New York
City did you end up moving to?

1832
01:24:15,010 --> 01:24:16,420
Rego Park.

1833
01:24:16,420 --> 01:24:17,740
Rego Park.

1834
01:24:17,740 --> 01:24:20,920
So since you came to the United
States, you've lived in Queens?

1835
01:24:20,920 --> 01:24:21,723
Yes.

1836
01:24:21,723 --> 01:24:22,390
Your whole life.

1837
01:24:22,390 --> 01:24:27,670
But I worked in Rockefeller
Center by Atlas.

1838
01:24:27,670 --> 01:24:29,400
You know where Atlas is?

1839
01:24:29,400 --> 01:24:30,820
Mm-hmm.

1840
01:24:30,820 --> 01:24:32,890
And how long did you work there?

1841
01:24:32,890 --> 01:24:33,760
Five years.

1842
01:24:33,760 --> 01:24:35,080

Five years.

1843
01:24:35,080 --> 01:24:39,160
And when did you meet
your husband again?

1844
01:24:39,160 --> 01:24:41,740
Was it in the mid '50s?

1845
01:24:41,740 --> 01:24:43,590
When did we meet again?

1846
01:24:43,590 --> 01:24:45,620
In 1954.

1847
01:24:45,620 --> 01:24:46,120
In 1954.

1848
01:24:46,120 --> 01:24:49,160
1954 he came.

1849
01:24:49,160 --> 01:24:52,090
Yeah, and when he
came again, that's

1850
01:24:52,090 --> 01:24:57,530
when I decided that's
the guy for me.

1851
01:24:57,530 --> 01:25:02,530
But it took me a while
to rearrange life for it

1852
01:25:02,530 --> 01:25:06,920
to become a reality.

1853
01:25:06,920 --> 01:25:08,280
But it happened, yes?

1854
01:25:08,280 --> 01:25:09,550
Yes.

1855

01:25:09,550 --> 01:25:13,545

I was married at the
time to the other woman.

1856

01:25:13,545 --> 01:25:15,122

Ah, I see.

1857

01:25:15,122 --> 01:25:17,780

There were kinds
of complications.

1858

01:25:17,780 --> 01:25:18,760

OK.

1859

01:25:18,760 --> 01:25:21,610

And when did you get married?

1860

01:25:21,610 --> 01:25:22,930

What year was that?

1861

01:25:22,930 --> 01:25:23,890

It was--

1862

01:25:23,890 --> 01:25:25,900

'58.

1863

01:25:25,900 --> 01:25:27,670

'58?

1864

01:25:27,670 --> 01:25:29,590

1958.

1865

01:25:29,590 --> 01:25:31,090

And you have two children?

1866

01:25:31,090 --> 01:25:32,030

Yep.

1867

01:25:32,030 --> 01:25:33,430

OK.

1868

01:25:33,430 --> 01:25:38,303

It was-- August 16, right?

1869

01:25:38,303 --> 01:25:40,710

Yes, Mary.

1870

01:25:40,710 --> 01:25:42,840

August 16, 1958.

1871

01:25:42,840 --> 01:25:44,610

Right.

1872

01:25:44,610 --> 01:25:45,180

OK.

1873

01:25:45,180 --> 01:25:48,340

We're coming close to
the end of the interview.

1874

01:25:48,340 --> 01:25:51,740

I want to ask a couple
of general questions.

1875

01:25:51,740 --> 01:25:53,520

OK.

1876

01:25:53,520 --> 01:25:56,700

Number one, is there anything
that I have not asked you

1877

01:25:56,700 --> 01:26:00,960

about that you would like
to add to your story that

1878

01:26:00,960 --> 01:26:03,330

should be part of it?

1879

01:26:03,330 --> 01:26:07,515

With the fact that I worked--

1880

01:26:07,515 --> 01:26:13,700

1881
01:26:13,700 --> 01:26:16,050
that I never stayed
home with the kids.

1882
01:26:16,050 --> 01:26:20,520
I always worked, because
it was a question

1883
01:26:20,520 --> 01:26:21,870
of supporting my parents.

1884
01:26:21,870 --> 01:26:24,510

1885
01:26:24,510 --> 01:26:29,490
And don't put it in there.

1886
01:26:29,490 --> 01:26:32,225
But we had a big fight.

1887
01:26:32,225 --> 01:26:32,725
Cut.

1888
01:26:32,725 --> 01:26:36,180

1889
01:26:36,180 --> 01:26:38,250
Did you study in
the United States?

1890
01:26:38,250 --> 01:26:39,525
Did you continue your studies?

1891
01:26:39,525 --> 01:26:42,585
Yes, because when I came--

1892
01:26:42,585 --> 01:26:45,270

1893

01:26:45,270 --> 01:26:47,850
Yes, that's funny too.

1894
01:26:47,850 --> 01:26:50,700
I went to Columbia.

1895
01:26:50,700 --> 01:26:52,200
University?

1896
01:26:52,200 --> 01:26:54,090
Yes.

1897
01:26:54,090 --> 01:26:57,450
To enroll.

1898
01:26:57,450 --> 01:26:59,645
But in those days it
wasn't the University.

1899
01:26:59,645 --> 01:27:03,180
It was Barnard.

1900
01:27:03,180 --> 01:27:08,700
And they said they don't
accept displaced persons.

1901
01:27:08,700 --> 01:27:09,530
Really?

1902
01:27:09,530 --> 01:27:11,640
Yep.

1903
01:27:11,640 --> 01:27:18,330
So I turned around,
didn't see anything,

1904
01:27:18,330 --> 01:27:22,050
and went to Hunter College.

1905
01:27:22,050 --> 01:27:26,400
And Hunter College
said, "Sure, any time.

1906
01:27:26,400 --> 01:27:30,690
You just have to pass
an English exam."

1907
01:27:30,690 --> 01:27:33,600
So I went to take the exam.

1908
01:27:33,600 --> 01:27:35,610
I passed it, and I was in.

1909
01:27:35,610 --> 01:27:36,510
What did you study?

1910
01:27:36,510 --> 01:27:38,340
What was your major?

1911
01:27:38,340 --> 01:27:43,980
Well, then it was to prove
what I have from Sweden

1912
01:27:43,980 --> 01:27:47,070
and I wanted those
credits and all that.

1913
01:27:47,070 --> 01:27:53,590
So I studied business law
or some such stupid thing.

1914
01:27:53,590 --> 01:27:56,490
And then my father
said go to statistics.

1915
01:27:56,490 --> 01:27:59,080
It's sort of meshes in.

1916
01:27:59,080 --> 01:28:02,580
But statistics and
I don't get along.

1917
01:28:02,580 --> 01:28:05,730
So I ended up

being a math major.

1918
01:28:05,730 --> 01:28:11,260
And when I was about to
finish, the chairlady

1919
01:28:11,260 --> 01:28:16,530
of the math department,
a wonderful lady, said,

1920
01:28:16,530 --> 01:28:17,160
"Don't worry.

1921
01:28:17,160 --> 01:28:18,450
There is a new field.

1922
01:28:18,450 --> 01:28:20,190
I'll get you a job."

1923
01:28:20,190 --> 01:28:21,840
And that was computers.

1924
01:28:21,840 --> 01:28:22,450
No kidding.

1925
01:28:22,450 --> 01:28:22,950
Yep.

1926
01:28:22,950 --> 01:28:25,700

1927
01:28:25,700 --> 01:28:30,660
That was a funny thing
too, because she was

1928
01:28:30,660 --> 01:28:35,760
in touch with Remington Rand.

1929
01:28:35,760 --> 01:28:39,600
They were the earlier
ones on the computers.

1930

01:28:39,600 --> 01:28:42,690

And she was going to--

1931

01:28:42,690 --> 01:28:46,560

There was an opening
in Brazil, I believe.

1932

01:28:46,560 --> 01:28:49,750

My mother didn't
like the idea at all.

1933

01:28:49,750 --> 01:28:55,660

And then it turned out that the
guy they sent from here got--

1934

01:28:55,660 --> 01:29:00,900

oh, some nasty disease,
whatever it is.

1935

01:29:00,900 --> 01:29:03,090

So that was that.

1936

01:29:03,090 --> 01:29:11,680

And what happened?

1937

01:29:11,680 --> 01:29:14,470

Oh, and then you had
finished and there

1938

01:29:14,470 --> 01:29:16,180

was a job opening in Brazil.

1939

01:29:16,180 --> 01:29:17,500

The guy got sick.

1940

01:29:17,500 --> 01:29:19,720

No, that fell through.

1941

01:29:19,720 --> 01:29:23,820

And what was I doing then?

1942

01:29:23,820 --> 01:29:27,330

1943

01:29:27,330 --> 01:29:30,500

Then how I got that
job, I don't know.

1944

01:29:30,500 --> 01:29:32,210

Through friends.

1945

01:29:32,210 --> 01:29:40,520

Maybe also through a
Hunter or whatever.

1946

01:29:40,520 --> 01:29:47,570

There was a company,
a research company,

1947

01:29:47,570 --> 01:30:02,350

on Union Square of all places
that it was four and three

1948

01:30:02,350 --> 01:30:05,690

or however many scientists.

1949

01:30:05,690 --> 01:30:08,375

Four were busy with--

1950

01:30:08,375 --> 01:30:14,970

1951

01:30:14,970 --> 01:30:17,580

Three were in nuclear physics.

1952

01:30:17,580 --> 01:30:28,590

The others were in-- starts
with a P. What were they doing?

1953

01:30:28,590 --> 01:30:31,150

Do you remember?

1954

01:30:31,150 --> 01:30:32,090

Well, anyway.

1955

01:30:32,090 --> 01:30:34,310

I don't know what
she's talking about.

1956

01:30:34,310 --> 01:30:34,810

What?

1957

01:30:34,810 --> 01:30:36,310

Do you know what
I'm talking about?

1958

01:30:36,310 --> 01:30:37,810

No.

1959

01:30:37,810 --> 01:30:41,460

The job on Union Square.

1960

01:30:41,460 --> 01:30:42,770

Larry.

1961

01:30:42,770 --> 01:30:44,440

Well, I don't remember his name.

1962

01:30:44,440 --> 01:30:44,940

OK.

1963

01:30:44,940 --> 01:30:51,970

1964

01:30:51,970 --> 01:31:01,510

Yeah, they needed people to
sit at the calculating machines

1965

01:31:01,510 --> 01:31:06,250

and calculate their
research problems.

1966

01:31:06,250 --> 01:31:08,140

So I did.

1967

01:31:08,140 --> 01:31:16,720

Eventually, they assigned me
to a group of two people who

1968

01:31:16,720 --> 01:31:20,170

were doing nuclear physics.

1969

01:31:20,170 --> 01:31:21,550

Oh my goodness.

1970

01:31:21,550 --> 01:31:26,660

And big deal-- math is math.

1971

01:31:26,660 --> 01:31:32,910

And the guy who ran
this was a genius.

1972

01:31:32,910 --> 01:31:35,590

1973

01:31:35,590 --> 01:31:38,710

He sat with his
back to a window.

1974

01:31:38,710 --> 01:31:40,480

But this is Union Square.

1975

01:31:40,480 --> 01:31:43,210

That window is really high.

1976

01:31:43,210 --> 01:31:48,930

So he always complained because
he said I'll defenestrate.

1977

01:31:48,930 --> 01:31:51,910

1978

01:31:51,910 --> 01:31:55,030

He was going to fall out.

1979

01:31:55,030 --> 01:32:01,270

He had one pair of
pants and one shirt.

1980
01:32:01,270 --> 01:32:03,400
He painted his house in it.

1981
01:32:03,400 --> 01:32:07,540
He went to Florida
in them and so forth.

1982
01:32:07,540 --> 01:32:11,920
So the big boss ended up
keeping clothes for him.

1983
01:32:11,920 --> 01:32:12,420
Oh my God.

1984
01:32:12,420 --> 01:32:16,550
But he had to send him to
IBM to do some calculations.

1985
01:32:16,550 --> 01:32:19,060

1986
01:32:19,060 --> 01:32:20,950
He was a character?

1987
01:32:20,950 --> 01:32:21,700
Oh, yes.

1988
01:32:21,700 --> 01:32:23,470
And brilliant of course.

1989
01:32:23,470 --> 01:32:25,030
He couldn't think
without his dogs.

1990
01:32:25,030 --> 01:32:25,530
And he--

1991
01:32:25,530 --> 01:32:25,750
What?

1992
01:32:25,750 --> 01:32:26,667
--had to go with them.

1993
01:32:26,667 --> 01:32:29,230
And he always had a dog
with him your husband says.

1994
01:32:29,230 --> 01:32:30,912
No that's not the one.

1995
01:32:30,912 --> 01:32:31,870
That's a different one.

1996
01:32:31,870 --> 01:32:33,580
That's not the one.

1997
01:32:33,580 --> 01:32:37,000
There was another one that
had a dog under his feet.

1998
01:32:37,000 --> 01:32:38,710
And he had to be able to--

1999
01:32:38,710 --> 01:32:46,130

2000
01:32:46,130 --> 01:32:53,270
play with his-- fur.

2001
01:32:53,270 --> 01:32:54,920
And if he couldn't,
he couldn't work.

2002
01:32:54,920 --> 01:32:56,720
But no, that was--

2003
01:32:56,720 --> 01:32:57,620
So it sounds like--

2004
01:32:57,620 --> 01:32:58,610

--another one.

2005

01:32:58,610 --> 01:33:02,150

--you had quite a bohemian crowd
amongst those statisticians--

2006

01:33:02,150 --> 01:33:02,650

Yes.

2007

01:33:02,650 --> 01:33:05,690

--and nuclear
physicists and all that.

2008

01:33:05,690 --> 01:33:10,250

And then, unfortunately,
they moved to the island.

2009

01:33:10,250 --> 01:33:13,730

And I wasn't going to
travel to the island.

2010

01:33:13,730 --> 01:33:17,300

Thank God I didn't,
because the company as such

2011

01:33:17,300 --> 01:33:19,950

didn't last very long.

2012

01:33:19,950 --> 01:33:26,710

So one of the girls that
I worked with there before

2013

01:33:26,710 --> 01:33:33,030

heard that Brooklyn
Polytech needed someone,

2014

01:33:33,030 --> 01:33:37,770

because they finally decided
to install a computer.

2015

01:33:37,770 --> 01:33:40,240

And they needed
someone to run it.

2016
01:33:40,240 --> 01:33:42,160
So that's how I moved.

2017
01:33:42,160 --> 01:33:44,550
And when did you get
your master's degree?

2018
01:33:44,550 --> 01:33:47,890
NYU Courant Institute.

2019
01:33:47,890 --> 01:33:48,540
What year?

2020
01:33:48,540 --> 01:33:51,606

2021
01:33:51,606 --> 01:33:54,590
I don't remember.

2022
01:33:54,590 --> 01:33:57,240
OK.

2023
01:33:57,240 --> 01:33:58,050
Wait a minute.

2024
01:33:58,050 --> 01:34:00,530
'56, I got my master's.

2025
01:34:00,530 --> 01:34:04,430
So this must been '57, '58.

2026
01:34:04,430 --> 01:34:06,920
Oh, so you got it
kind of back to back?

2027
01:34:06,920 --> 01:34:08,310
Yeah.

2028
01:34:08,310 --> 01:34:08,810
OK.

2029
01:34:08,810 --> 01:34:11,630

2030
01:34:11,630 --> 01:34:14,450
So is there anything else you'd
like to add to your story?

2031
01:34:14,450 --> 01:34:17,810

2032
01:34:17,810 --> 01:34:24,020
Just the fact that
there was a time when I

2033
01:34:24,020 --> 01:34:27,260
was in charge of 400 students--

2034
01:34:27,260 --> 01:34:28,610
Wow.

2035
01:34:28,610 --> 01:34:29,780
--per year.

2036
01:34:29,780 --> 01:34:32,000
The way this worked out--

2037
01:34:32,000 --> 01:34:33,371
This was in a different--

2038
01:34:33,371 --> 01:34:37,310
This was CW Post College.

2039
01:34:37,310 --> 01:34:37,940
That's right.

2040
01:34:37,940 --> 01:34:39,400
I went there--

2041
01:34:39,400 --> 01:34:41,600
To CW Post after Courant.

2042
01:34:41,600 --> 01:34:45,140
--which is part of
Long Island University.

2043
01:34:45,140 --> 01:34:49,240
And I was running their--

2044
01:34:49,240 --> 01:34:50,630
Computers.

2045
01:34:50,630 --> 01:34:57,080
--computer-- What
do you call them?

2046
01:34:57,080 --> 01:34:57,740
Lab?

2047
01:34:57,740 --> 01:34:58,250
Lab.

2048
01:34:58,250 --> 01:35:00,050
A computer lab.

2049
01:35:00,050 --> 01:35:02,660
Which disappeared very
shortly after that,

2050
01:35:02,660 --> 01:35:06,260
because they became cheap enough
and everybody had their own.

2051
01:35:06,260 --> 01:35:07,940
Yeah.

2052
01:35:07,940 --> 01:35:19,090
So that's where we had to
have that open almost 24 hours

2053
01:35:19,090 --> 01:35:20,270
a day.

2054

01:35:20,270 --> 01:35:21,700

So that the kids could use it?

2055

01:35:21,700 --> 01:35:22,200

Yes.

2056

01:35:22,200 --> 01:35:23,260

Students could use it.

2057

01:35:23,260 --> 01:35:24,370

Yeah.

2058

01:35:24,370 --> 01:35:30,130

Well, did you have the same kind
of reactions and difficulties

2059

01:35:30,130 --> 01:35:32,020

that your husband
did in adjusting

2060

01:35:32,020 --> 01:35:33,790

to life in the United States?

2061

01:35:33,790 --> 01:35:34,840

No.

2062

01:35:34,840 --> 01:35:36,160

No.

2063

01:35:36,160 --> 01:35:38,170

For you it was easier?

2064

01:35:38,170 --> 01:35:40,960

Much easier.

2065

01:35:40,960 --> 01:35:47,350

Well, I had--
language was easier.

2066

01:35:47,350 --> 01:35:51,370

For me, English was no problem.

2067
01:35:51,370 --> 01:35:53,370
And that was a big deal.

2068
01:35:53,370 --> 01:35:53,870
Yeah.

2069
01:35:53,870 --> 01:35:57,940

2070
01:35:57,940 --> 01:36:01,300
What would you want
people to understand

2071
01:36:01,300 --> 01:36:07,600
about your early life
and how it shaped you?

2072
01:36:07,600 --> 01:36:09,790
How do you think it shaped you?

2073
01:36:09,790 --> 01:36:11,500
You mean in the '30s?

2074
01:36:11,500 --> 01:36:14,290
I mean going through
the war years.

2075
01:36:14,290 --> 01:36:22,160

2076
01:36:22,160 --> 01:36:25,390
No, I would start with the '30s.

2077
01:36:25,390 --> 01:36:27,030
OK.

2078
01:36:27,030 --> 01:36:32,786
I was in a Poland that
was a rich country,

2079

01:36:32,786 --> 01:36:38,150
a country that everything
worked very well and stuff.

2080
01:36:38,150 --> 01:36:44,720
My parents were successful
and making money.

2081
01:36:44,720 --> 01:36:50,210
And then all of a sudden
it all went [BLOWS AIR]..

2082
01:36:50,210 --> 01:36:52,052
It never came back to that.

2083
01:36:52,052 --> 01:36:53,660
Well, Poland wasn't
rich at that time.

2084
01:36:53,660 --> 01:36:54,820
What?

2085
01:36:54,820 --> 01:36:58,250
Poland wasn't rich at that time.

2086
01:36:58,250 --> 01:36:59,510
Was not rich?

2087
01:36:59,510 --> 01:37:01,760
No.

2088
01:37:01,760 --> 01:37:04,130
But in her life, yes.

2089
01:37:04,130 --> 01:37:04,880
Yeah.

2090
01:37:04,880 --> 01:37:06,020
They were well to do.

2091
01:37:06,020 --> 01:37:09,350

2092
01:37:09,350 --> 01:37:11,430
And yet you survived it.

2093
01:37:11,430 --> 01:37:14,830
And all three of you
made through the war.

2094
01:37:14,830 --> 01:37:19,670
That's right, because
what my father used to--

2095
01:37:19,670 --> 01:37:26,370
His maxim was "you
have to survive."

2096
01:37:26,370 --> 01:37:30,350
You have to take
care of your health.

2097
01:37:30,350 --> 01:37:33,710
Money comes second.

2098
01:37:33,710 --> 01:37:35,060
You don't worry about money.

2099
01:37:35,060 --> 01:37:39,500
He kept saying, "People
who worry about their money

2100
01:37:39,500 --> 01:37:45,680
and do everything they can
to save their money usually

2101
01:37:45,680 --> 01:37:50,910
don't manage to go through."

2102
01:37:50,910 --> 01:37:53,440
But money is money.

2103
01:37:53,440 --> 01:37:55,340
If you can keep it, fine.

2104
01:37:55,340 --> 01:37:56,950
If you can't, you make it again.

2105
01:37:56,950 --> 01:38:01,200

2106
01:38:01,200 --> 01:38:02,385
Thank you.

2107
01:38:02,385 --> 01:38:03,510
Thank you for sharing that.

2108
01:38:03,510 --> 01:38:04,520
You're welcome.

2109
01:38:04,520 --> 01:38:10,050
And this concludes the United
States Holocaust Memorial

2110
01:38:10,050 --> 01:38:18,660
Museum interview with Mrs. Mary
Hermanowski on August 19, 2013.

2111
01:38:18,660 --> 01:38:20,100
Thank you very much.

2112
01:38:20,100 --> 01:38:22,830
You're more than welcome.

2113
01:38:22,830 --> 01:38:25,590
And thanks to both
of you for having us

2114
01:38:25,590 --> 01:38:28,350
here for so many hours today.

2115
01:38:28,350 --> 01:38:29,390
Oh that's OK.

2116
01:38:29,390 --> 01:38:30,987

You could stand it.

2117

01:38:30,987 --> 01:38:33,430

We are at least
at our territory.

2118

01:38:33,430 --> 01:38:35,221

You are not.

2119

01:38:35,221 --> 01:38:37,230

I feel very--