

Elen Chajet Murad

Tape 1

November 12, 2013

R-50.030*0741

Abstract

Elen was born May 27, 1935 in Paris to Hannah Burstein who was born in Eishyshok, Lithuania in 1903 and Aval Tai Aba Chajet who was born in a shtetl in Lithuania in 1886. Elen had an older brother, Isaac, an older sister, Eva and a younger brother, Leon, Her father made a living as a tailor. They lived in a Jewish area, spoke Yiddish and French and were religious. After the Germans marched into Paris in 1940, they had to wear a Jewish star, go food shopping only limited hours when most of the food was gone and endure visits by the Germans. Luckily, the Germans did not take families with children under two so they were temporarily safe. After the roundup of 20,000 Jews from July 16 to 19, 1942 the parents decided to hide separately. Each parent hid with a different family in Paris, Eva and Leon in Normandy, Isaac on a farm and Elen with the Dusets (?) in Arluf (?) in Nievre. The couple treated Elen as their own child but it was a small town and the house had no running water nor a bathroom. Elen made friends with Yvette when she visited her grandma who lived across the street. Neither child had toys but Elen made a doll out of a piece of wood. Elen remained with the Dusets for three years and had no contact with her family. One day when the Germans came to town, she had to hide in a cave beneath the house. She was the last one to go home after the war ended to find that most of their relatives had been killed. The landlord had saved the father's sewing machine so the father continued his trade. Her sister moved to Brooklyn in 1949 and married and Leon followed her in 1958. Two years later Elen followed and married Marcel Moran. In November '60, Mrs. Duset came to visit Elen in New York alone as Mr. Duset had died. Elen feels that it was a miracle that her father thought to hide the family and ability to get in touch with so many helpful French people whereas others were not helpful. She had a daughter and two sons. Gary is the youngest and is present at the interview and has tried to get Yad Vashem certify the helpful gentiles.

Summary

00:00 Elen was born May 27, 1935 in Paris to Hannah Burstein who was born in Eishyshok, Lithuania in 1903 and Aval Tai Aba Chajet who was born in a shtetl in Lithuania in 1886. Her father was a tailor like his father and was one of eight children. He was drafted into the army in World War I and became a POW. He went to England with his cousin who had his same name. The cousin was able to get on a ship and her father went to Paris where he met his wife through a cousin in April 1926. She was a dressmaker when she was young and worked with Elen's father until 1928. When Isaac was born her mother stopped working.

- 05:00 Elen went to Eishyshok in September. Her father had seven siblings who were married with children. Six brothers immigrated to Paris and one was murdered September 1941 in Eishyshok. His mother was one of eight siblings. Her oldest brother went to Boston in 1920 and the youngest brother to Paris in early 20s and joined the French army in World War II. Five of her siblings were murdered September 1941 in Eishyshok. Elen's father was poor but went swimming. Her sister Eva was born in 1931 and Leon was born in September 1940. It was not a good year as the Germans marched into Paris in May 1940 when she was eight. Her parents were religious and lived in the Jewish quarter called "Pletzel" (?). Her father's business did well. He worked at home. He was a tailor and made men's suits. He was self-employed and had Jewish clients. Most of his customers were Jewish. She saw her father as he worked at home. He never raised his voice, nor did her mother. They lived in an apartment on the 4th floor (3rd in France).
- 10:00 They had lots of windows, two large bedrooms, a marble fireplace, a large entrance, a bathroom, a kitchen, a dining room and a large room where the father worked. It was a nice place as it was unusual to have a bathroom in your own apartment. The grandparents in Eishyshok were poor. Her father's father and grandfather in Yanov (?) were tailors. Her mother's father was a shochet (kosher slaughterer) and a rabbi. The grandparents were in their early 40s when they died of unknown causes. Her mother's mother died when her mother was three and her father remarried to take care of the children. The stepmother was not kind. Her mother was a middle sibling. Before the war in Paris, Elen's mother spoke little and she changed after the war. They did not receive mail from their relatives in Lithuania during the war. A first cousin from Belgium went to England and then to Dublin. He had the same name as Elen's father and got mail from his siblings until 1941 when they were murdered. Elen's mother had a sister who lived on the corner who was married and had a daughter. Her father had a brother with a wife and three sons.
- 15:00 Due to the war, they only saw them occasionally. Elen spoke Yiddish with her parents and French with her siblings though the parents were fluent in French. She felt close to her siblings. Both her siblings were smart. Her sister was four years older and took piano lessons and took Elen to school which was a five minute walk. Most of her neighbors and friends were Jewish and 90% of the students in her public school were Jewish. Her earliest memory was when she was three years old in the country and had an ear infection and her father put her on his shoulder. Her parents would rent a house in the south for the summer. Her father was very nice and took care of the baby brother until September 1940. Her mother was unwell and Elen went to the grocery with her sister and brother. Her mother got sick after giving birth and then got better. Before the war she would sing and talk with the cousins when they visited.
- 20:00 The only household help was that done by Elen's older sister. They lived in the 4th Arrondissement when she was five and her mother would take her to the park to play. The

family kept kosher and kept the Shabbat and her father attended shule (synagogue) twice a day. The family attended services Friday night. Elen did not have any non-Jewish friends. She talked to her relatives' children. Her father made clothes for the entire family including coats and dresses so they never bought outfits, even when they were older.

- 25:00 Her father sewed clothes for their friends who bought their own fabrics. The last time they went to the countryside for the summer was when she was three. Afterwards, it was too difficult as they knew that war was coming and the situation was bad in Lithuania and Poland. They would send money home to Lithuania instead of renting a summer home. In 1939 the atmosphere changed as she heard her parents talking since she knew Yiddish and also heard the news on the radio. Her parents talked of the families left in Lithuania who could not leave as they had no paper nor necessary papers. The borders were closed and she sensed the nervousness. When the Germans marched in 1940 everything changed as the stores were empty and they had to wear the yellow star. Her father sewed it on and there was an 8 PM curfew for Jews. They could not go food shopping until a certain time when the shelves were empty. Elen remembers waiting in line with her two elder siblings.
- 30:00 They had ration cards for milk and a big "J" on the card. She felt conspicuous to wear the star as people looked at it. There were both Jewish and non-Jewish stores. They went across the street to a store for vegetables and further away were Jewish stores but they closed early. They would go to two stores to get food but sometimes went home empty-handed. Her father remained nice, sweet and helpful despite the hard times. Her mother was unwell which might have been due to post-partum depression. She took care of the baby but her father took care of the house and cooked.
- 35:00 His clients stopped coming. Many Jews who worked for the banks, government and schools lost their jobs so they had no money for tailoring. The Jewish stores closed due to insufficient inventory. Elen was known by name at the Jewish stores. The non-Jewish store owners were not friendly. She would go to the stores with her father. Perhaps her father had money put away to pay the rent when he had no clients. The landlord was nice to them and permitted them to hide in his little apartment. In May '40 the Germans walked down the street and she was wearing the star. The soldiers looked at her but they had no interaction until '41. Some days they only had bread and milk to eat which they bought daily as they had no refrigerator. Most of the stores had little to sell and the Jews were not permitted to shop until the end of the day when all was already sold. They had to be home by 8 PM. They could not even buy a little with the ration card.
- 40:00 There was no buying in the black market as her father was very straight and would not break the rules. Everyone was afraid as they did not know what was happening next.

Elen was five and was afraid when she saw the Germans with guns walking fast and talking loudly. Her mother's brother-in-law (sister's husband) lived two blocks away and was arrested. He was taken during the night and disappeared. They came from Eishyshok. Elen's brother went about two or three hours south of Paris where he was caught and returned to Paris. Her mother came to get him. Both French police and German soldiers banged on their door one night and her mother wanted to heat a bottle for the baby and she was thrown on the floor. Until '42 the family was safe as they would be taken to the police station and let go as they had a baby under two and families with a child under two were no taken.

45:00 Others were taken away. They knew there would be a roundup soon as her father looked for a place to hide but it was hard to find a place for four children. Sometimes a French policeman came or sometimes someone who spoke German and they spoke Yiddish. The French policeman said to hurry up. The roundup was from July 16 to 19, 1942 and 20,000 Jews were sent to Verdun (?) which was used for bicycle racing. They remained there for a week and even children under two were taken. Her family hid in a cave under the building. They had a coal stove and kept coal in the cave which was downstairs and very dark.

50:00 They entered the cave through a wooden door. There were several little rooms behind the coal. The Germans came down but did not see them. Some neighbors hid there during the bombing but not during the roundup. The bombing started in '41 and they wore a gas mask. They remained until the all-clear siren sounded. The Germans found out about the caves. Other people might have found other places to hide. They were not taken and felt they had to divide up as they could not remain in their apartment. They lived in 16 Sans Quoi de (?). Relatives lived two blocks away in Pletzel (?) in 27 Rue de Rose, the Jewish section. Her father's brother lived ten miles away at 65 Rue Ronde de Toute (?). The Jewish school and fish market were at Pletzel. About two or three times a week, the Germans banged on their door during the night. When her parents returned to the apartment after the war, they found it ransacked. Everything was gone, even the wooden floor. There was a marble floor in the dining room, electric wires and walls with holes. After the war, the owner moved away.

55:00 Their foot warmers were saved. Their aunt, uncle and cousin never returned from the bicycle track. They were sent to Drancy and then to Auschwitz where they were murdered in a few days. After the war, they received papers about survivors with their transport numbers, where they were sent and when they were gassed. Her father's brother, Isaac, his wife, Sivri (?) and three sons (12, 14 and 15 years old) were taken away during the day in a truck by the Germans. Her mother's sister, husband and 9-year-old daughter, Esther, were taken away in '41. The Germans came for them and they were told to pack a suitcase. Elen was home because she was sick and heard Esther saying good-bye and now Elen realizes that she should have told her to come upstairs.

- 60:00 Esther was pretty with black short hair. Elen was blond and they played together. She does not remember Esther's parents much. Her aunt, Dabrushka (?) would come over to talk to her mother. Elen's parents decided that the family would separate. The sister and the baby went to Normandy and stayed with a nice couple but the sister never talked about it. Her brother was blond with blue eyes. When the sister took the brother for a walk, the priest would say, "So beautiful and already Jewish." Before the war, city children would be sent to the country for the summer. Three hours south of Paris at Arluf in Nievre a couple lived who agreed to take the sister for two months and she was happy and then returned home. Her father got in touch with them. The people had a farm and were happy to have children of 12 years old to help them. It was good for the children to be away from the city.
- 65:00 There she mingled with non-Jews. Her father got in touch with the couple by mail and they agreed to take her. Elen went by train which was packed with German soldiers. There was no place to sit so they stood for three hours. She was accompanied by her 14-year-old brother, Isaac. He left her and returned to Paris. They probably took off their Jewish stars to travel but she does not remember. Her brother had blue eyes and curly hair and did not look Jewish. Her parents had straight noses and could pass. Her sister had brown eyes. Without the Jewish star, it was hard to recognize a Jewish child. Her parents found a couple in another village to take in Isaac. It was difficult being away from her brother for three years as he made fun and spoke French and Yiddish. Her sister was outgoing and at age twelve had to care for the two-year-old. That was the only way to survive. Her father hid in Paris and her mother elsewhere. She had no contact with her family until the end of the war.
- 70:00 She was the last to return to her family. Her sister seemed more serious upon their return. She had to take care of an infant and also work for the family on the farm. Things got a little better after the war. Her parents hoped that some relatives survived so frequently looked at the list of survivors but found no one. It was amazing that her family survived. There were some good French people and some who told the Germans where the Jews hid and were awarded rations. It was luck that her parents found three homes for the children and two for themselves. They had no contact with non-Jews before the war but found them helpful. Her parents did not accompany her to the train station but told her that she would be living with another couple and to behave and do not ask for anything.
- 75:00 Elen had no toys though her family was well-off. She had some books. She made a wooden doll. She wanted a talking doll but never got it as it was expensive and did not need one but needed a baby brother. She said good-bye to her parents in the apartment and hugged them and knew that she would not see them for a long time. Elen was the first to leave. The mail was censored so it must have been hard for her parents to get in touch with the people in Normandy and with her couple. She saw the couple later and

kept in touch with them until they passed away. Each parent hid in a different area of Paris in a small room. They got food once a day and neither knew where the other one was. They did not talk about it later and the children did not want to ask questions as it was sad.

- 80:00 Her parents were not ready to talk. She told her own children including Gary, the youngest, who is present at this interview. He has a daughter, Judy and three sons, 10, 15, and almost 17. She told her grandsons a little. She will show them the video. Her oldest son, Jeffrey has a son who is seven and Gary, the youngest, is single. (Elen shows a photo of her parents, grandparents and great-grandparents.) She has no photos of the others who disappeared during the war. Isaac, the eldest, 17 in 1945, never married and stayed in the same apartment as his parents as the owner saved it for them. The owner took the father's sewing machine and returned it to him. Her brother worked with the father but he is not in good health and was a sickly child. In '65 her parents and brother moved to Brooklyn
- 85:00 In '62 or '63 her father bought an apartment which was probably repaired. Her father had to hire someone every now and then to change the wallpaper and other things. Her sister finished her studies at 25 and married a survivor, moved to Brooklyn and got a job as a secretary. Her husband-to-be was on his way to Israel to visit his sister who survived and they met and both visited the sister before returning to Brooklyn. They moved to 13th Avenue in a religious part of Flatbush (Boro Park?). They met as he had a brother who escaped the Holocaust who was tutoring Elen's brother for his Bar Mitzvah. The husband was very nice, a Hasid who was very religious. After the war, the youngest brother returned to school to a Yeshiva outside of Paris. When he was 18, the sister in Brooklyn told him to come to Brooklyn to get away from the war between the French and Algerians. He completed Yeshiva in Brooklyn and married a few years ago in his '30s. Now he is 38 and has three children. He has no memories of the family in Normandy but knows he was with Eva.
- 90:00 Elen recalls waiting in line for hours at food stores and then nothing might be left to buy. She also remembers when her father held her as she had an ear infection. These events stick in her mind as they are not normal. Her parents came from Yanof (?) and Eishyshok in Lithuania. They were occupied by Poland, then Lithuania and then Russia on the border, close to Vienna. Leon married in 1972 and came to the US in 1958. He had two daughters and a son. The eldest daughter is married with four children. Eva died in '70 in Brooklyn and Isaac passed away in 1996 in Brooklyn. He never married. Leon lost his wife a couple of years ago and lived in Flatbush (Brooklyn) and has four grandchildren. Isaac accompanied Elen on a train for three hours south of Paris to Arlof (?) and left her with the couple.

95:00 They had a small house in the center of a village with five or seven roads where Elen spent three years. It was the first time that she was in such a small place and quite different from Paris. The house was smaller than their Paris apartment. Everyone knew that she was Jewish. She was the only Jew in the village. Duset (?) was the family name and they were nice. The hugged her and were happy to see her. It was the husband's second marriage and he had a son from the first marriage who lived in Paris and had a son. The couple were in their 40s. Elen's brother stayed overnight and returned to Paris by train. He said he would return very soon but she did not see him for three years. Elen often thought of her family as she missed them. She thought something might have happened to them. She did not correspond as she could not write because she could not take a chance. She felt the door was closed. She wondered how her father had made the arrangements as there was no phone and correspondence was hard. Elen was seven and bashful but the couple kissed and hugged her. They were not religious and not rich. There was an outhouse and no running water. They had a small area to grow vegetables. Her duty was to take buckets and get water, feed the dog and cat, shoo the rabbits and then she could play. She was sent to school which was a one-room school house with 12 to 24 children of different ages. She got to know them.

100:00 She had a girlfriend, Yvette, who lived across the way. She was one or two years older and they became good friends. Yvette spent the summer and holidays there with her grandmother and in the winter returned to her parents so Elen got lonely. The grandmother knew she was Jewish. The houses were single homes. The neighbors were friendly. It was a small village and everyone knew everyone else. They were nice and did not mistreat her. They knew her name and that she came from Paris. Isaac had to change his name to Robert and had to get identity papers. She had some papers with a big "J" for Juif (Jewish) so it became public later. The Dusets did not think of getting her false papers as they did not think the Germans would walk in but they did in '43. In the early morning they were very noisy with their motorcycles and trucks and ordered everyone to come outside with their identity papers in hand. She was told to play in the cave with the rabbits out back. It was dark with crooked walls and she spent a long time there and she was scared. She heard the Germans yelling, "shnell", "shnell." (quick, quick) as they were looking for the resistance.

105:00 Some Germans came close to the cave which had no doors. There was just a cage of rabbits. It was a big opening and dark inside the cave under the house. There was wood for the wood stove. You had to go to the backyard to get to the cave. She hid inside for hours until it got quiet. The Dusets did not come for her. She got out and found that everyone had returned home and the street was empty. Across from their house lived the mayor. The Germans burned his house down and shot him as they found no resistance. Elen saw his body. No one wanted to touch it. They buried him in the cemetery a day or two later. The family was sent away. Elen did not see the mayor's wife.

110:00 She saw that the house was still burning. She found the Dusets and everyone was happy to see each other. It was the scariest time of her life. She was alone in the dark and did not know what was happening outside. Nobody told on her. There were people who had farms and large gardens and had come to obtain fresh milk for themselves and for others in another village. It was a different world from what she had grown up in as it was non-Jewish. There was not much food. They had carrots, potatoes, and milk and once killed a rabbit which was terrible as she was the one who cared for the rabbits. It was the only time they had meat. The family was loving and kind to her. They said if something happened to her parents, they would adopt her. The husband was 20 years older than the wife. He was retired from working in the circus where he jumped the horses. He passed away in the 50s. He took Elen for long walks and told her stories of his time in the circus. It was just like a father/daughter relationship. In the summer, he took her swimming in a little lake. She had a good time as she was lonely as did not play with other children.

115:00 She walked a lot. She loved the one-room school house with one teacher. There were about 20 children with an elderly teacher. She walked to and from school and got good grades. She learned to read. The best times were with Yvette when they played on an empty gassy lot. Yvette was the teacher and she was the pupil. Yvette showed her how to write. She had no toys. After the war, a gentleman came to the apartment with a suit made by her father. This was Mrs. Duset's son but she did not know it and he left. He never saw his mother when Elen lived there. Mrs. Duset had a sister who lived elsewhere in France and when she was widowed, went to live with her. They did not attend Church, even Christmas Eve. Elen remembers snow and a bell ringing. She knew that she did not want to go to church as it was not her place. She ate the same as the others although knew that it was not right to eat rabbit as it probably was not kosher. They had chicken once a month at most. She walked the woods with the Dusets and another neighbor and saw a young man with guns hiding behind the trees after the Germans left. She knew who he was.

120:00 The adults asked why he was hiding and he told them not to tell his parents. He was a partisan and it was '43. The Germans did not remain in the village. There was a small police station; maybe two officers who were born in the village so were friendly. The people were afraid that the Germans would return but they did not. The villagers had farms where they grew corn, peas, tomatoes and cabbage. The Dusets only grew vegetables so went to the neighbors in the summer to pick cherries which they did not can. They bought some food. Once a week they went to the bakery and bought a small round loaf of bread as it was rationed. The bread was warm and smelled good and Elen wanted to touch it but did not. There was an old tractor nearby which she was told not to climb on but Elen did with Yvette and Mrs. Dorset got upset. Elen had no toys. She wanted a doll and tried to make it out of sticks of wood.

- 125:00 Mrs. Duset found a piece of cloth to dress it and Elen loved it and put it in her pocket. She kept it in bed and took it to Paris and donated it to the Holocaust Museum after taking a photo of it. Elen would talk to her doll as if it was part of her family. It was about five or six inches tall. It was her very own toy, her own doll. The boy next door had a bicycle but Mrs. Dorset could not afford to buy her one. Once the boy let her try it. It had training wheels. Elen loved the doll. It kept her company. She and Yvette played with it as neither had toys. They would run, talk, pick flowers, hide from each other and pick chestnuts which they peeled and tried to eat. Elen was afraid that the Germans would return as the adults talked about them. She listened to the radio. She was hiding in occupied France. They listened to the BBC with their neighbors who came over to listen to it
- 130:00 They had a large radio and she could sit next to it. Her mother's youngest brother came to Paris in the mid-30s and got married and had three daughters. In 1940 he joined the French Army in and was taken prisoner by the Germans in Tunisia. His name was Eli Bernstein, a Jewish name, but he was not separated from the others. At the end of the war, he returned to Paris. His wife and children hid outside of Paris and survived. Two years after the war ended, his wife passed away and he was left with the three girls. In the early 50s he sent the girls to the oldest brother who had moved from Eishyshok to Boston. A few years later he joined them in Dorchester where he worked as a cab driver. He drove a bus in Paris. His brother got him papers to come to America and in a few years he got married. He lived 15 years in Dorchester and then moved to Florida where he passed away. Elen would see him a lot when he lived in Dorchester. She remembers that after the war he would visit once a week and her mother would serve steak. Elen had a place in Florida and visited him, his wife and their son.
- 135:00 Gary liked his war stories. No one spoke after the war as they did not want to hear sad stories. She told her parents about happy memories such as bright clothes and wooden shoes as they had no leather shoes. Her sister and brother told her that she could not wear them in Paris so she threw them out. Sometimes she was hungry in Normandy as the Dusets had little money. Maybe Mr. Duset had a little pension and Mrs. Dorset never worked. They rented their house which had a small garden. Elen had her own room upstairs. It was a stone house with a small kitchen where they ate, cooked and washed as there was no bathroom. They had a table and a buffet with shelves, two chairs and a big box for her to sit on. There was a tiny living room with dark furniture with a table, chairs, a buffet and a small bed in the corner where she slept in later years.
- 140:00 There were steep stairs to go upstairs to the bedrooms. She had to walk through one bedroom to get to hers where she slept at first. Some homes were bigger such as the mayor's and some had more stairs. Yvette's house was about the same as hers with a kitchen and dining room and stairs to go upstairs and no bathroom or running water. At first Elen cried because she wanted to see her parents. The Dusets told her not to worry

but they were strangers to her. They would take long walks in the woods with the dog and stopped at farms to buy fresh milk and sometimes would be invited in for a small meal. From '42 to '45, Elen was 7 to 10 years old. Mr. Dorset sewed clothes at home. Mrs. Dorset sometimes added pieces to the bottom of her skirts. In the summer she had one pair of shorts and a top which she washed once a week so wore a skirt while it was drying. They had lots of snow when it was cold and she would wear a dress with long sleeves and a sweater.

145:00 Elen did not see any foreign soldiers when the war ended. Everyone was happy. They tried to find food. The war ended right before her 10th birthday on May 27th. Isaac came for her and told her that they would return to Paris. She felt both happy and shocked as she had not seen her family in three years. It was hard as she did not want to leave the Dusets but she felt torn to see her parents again. Using the outhouse was awful and as there was no running water, she had to wash with cold water. Once a week they heated a huge trash can and poured a little into a container to take a bath so Elen was looking forward to taking a good bath. She did not want to leave and the Dusets cried. When she arrived home, Elen could not speak Yiddish. She stayed in touch with Mrs. Dorset until the mid-70s when she passed away. Elen would send her matzo as she loved it. In November '60, Mrs. Duset came to New York alone as Mr. Duset had died and, again, Elen had to say good-bye. They had no phone so she wrote. She has her letters and can translate them.

150:00 Mrs. Duset's sister got married in '55 so she came to the US. Mrs. Duset saved Elen's life. It was difficult to return to Arluf (?) as it was a long journey by train. First she was in school and then she worked. Mrs. Duset came to Paris for her sister's wedding. It might have been the only time she met Elen's parents. When she wrote to her, she would send her parents' regards. Isaac looked skinny as he was sickly after three years working on a farm in the fields where he took care of the cows and did the harvesting. His family was good but he did not maintain contact with them. She was the only one who kept contact as Eva did not. Elen's parents saw people who helped them sometimes. Her father worked as a tailor after the war but since there were few religious survivors from the concentration camps, there were fewer orders to make long black Hasidim coats. Soon that's all her father made and he heard so many stories. So many people did not return from the camps. Those who returned did not want to talk. The children usually did not return. One hundred sixty-five children from Pletzel (?), her area, had died.

155:00 Her father was busy with survivors and most went to live in Brooklyn. In '65 Elen moved to Brooklyn with her mother and Isaac. Her father was in his '80s but he still had clients for the black silk coats. He made suits and coats for the family. Her parents were sad after the war. Her father was the only one of nine siblings who survived. Her mother was always mentally fragile. She had two brothers but did not see them. One left in 1920 and was not seen until 1949 when the sister came to the US as a tourist. Her mother

wrote 10 pages to Avram in Boston. Eli drove a bus and they saw him once or twice a week. There was no news from Eishyshock. They found out that everyone was murdered in Eishyshock in September '41. In 1996 Gary returned and saw civil memorials. Her mother's sister and daughter, Esther were taken at Varden (?) and then to Drancy and to Auschwitz. They knew about her father's brother, wife and sons. At the end of the war, they were still reading the list of survivors as were hoping to find a name. Her mother never laughed again but her father did.

160:00 It was hard for her to get to know her parents again as they were like strangers to her but they were still her parents. They loved her and did all they could for her. Her mother was never well again but knew if the children were not happy. Her mother would ask if you were sick and if you needed soup though the father was the cook and the breadwinner. Her father lost everyone except for a cousin who visited after the war. All six of her family were alive; it was a miracle. Some friends did not return or returned without any relatives. Her family was lucky thanks to good people. It was lucky they found people who agreed to keep them. The Dusets said they would adopt her if something happened to her parents. They were all good people as they never got any money. Elen was 10 years old in '45 and stayed with her parents until 1960. Elen went to school and college and then worked in a large company as a secretary in charge of six other girls which she loved. Her sister told Elen that she must come to America. Her sister had been in Brooklyn since '55 and Leon went in '58 so everyone was reunited. She started working on immigration papers and got cold feet as she did not know English and did not want to leave her friends. Her parents got upset so she started working on the papers again. She arrived and stayed with her sister and brother-in-law for a week.

165:00 Then her mother's two brothers took her to Boston where she met her future husband. His cousin was born in Paris. Her future husband was thrown out of Caen and spent two years in Paris and the cousin took him to the US. Elen met him and found they had something in common as they both spoke French. He got a job with an insurance company making policies and Elen worked for Materna, everything for the mother and the baby which she loved. She stayed with her Uncle Abe for six months until she married Marcel Moran. Then they moved to Brookline for two years while her husband graduated from law school and got work. She gave birth to a daughter two years after they got married and quit her job and moved to Framington where her husband worked. The cousin's brother was born in the US and was in the US Army when he visited them in '51 in Paris. He did not speak French so they could not communicate. Elen's sister spoke English as spent '49 to '50 in the US and explained that he was the son of the father's cousin who was in the US. The soldier fell in love with Eva but she refused him so he returned to Falls River.

170:00 When she married, a cousin called her uncle and said they were a relative of Chajet. This was the mother's cousin and they are still close. They all get along, even Marcel, Elen's

husband. It was a gift to her as she thought that she had no cousins. Gary was four or five before telling the other son and daughter about the past. He was more interested as he loved playing with soldiers and was in the reserves in college. The other children were not as interested as him. In September he took her to Lithuania and Poland and is involved with the Holocaust Museum. Marcel returned to Paris as he has relatives and friends there. Three of the friends he knew since first grade and they visited him here. His friend, Joe, took him to Arlorf as he had not been there since 1960. He also took her son, Jeffrey who is a year older than Gary. When they reached the village, Marcel was surprised that it was such a small place.

175:00 The Church is in the center where there are stores where you can buy everything. They went to her house and saw remnants of the Mayor's house and Yvette's grandma's house. Her door opened and an old lady in black looked out. It was the grandma, about 95 years old. Elen said, "bonjour" and told her who she was and the grandma remembered her and they talked. Elen had last seen Yvette there in August 1960 and they had their picture taken. Now, it was 30 years later and the grandma was so surprised that she returned and Elen's husband made a movie. The grandma knew that Mrs. Duset had moved away and passed away. Eishyshok has two memorials: one for women and children and one for men.

180:00 Elen talks about it and shows a movie and a book about it. Eli Weisel wrote a book about the Holocaust and many other books so everyone knows about the Shoah. As Elen gets older, she thinks a lot about the Holocaust. She feels pain for her parents who lost all their siblings and their families. It was mentioned on TV that so many Jews won prizes. So many more would have won or created things if they had not been killed. Friends do the same thing. By getting older, you forget some memories and others cannot talk about it. In 2008 she got the Dusets (?) arches named but she does not know who to give the certificate. She is going to Israel in February for a wedding and see if they can place the plaque at Yad Vashem. There are bad people everywhere but there are good people who knew right from wrong but it's too bad there are not more of them. Elen wants to thank Gary for contacting the Holocaust Museum. (He kisses his mother.) Gary states that he always enjoyed history. He was interested in Joe Kennedy in the early 90s and read about the 1993 Holocaust Museum opening. They mentioned the tower exhibit of Eishyshok so he got involved in the Museum and co-chaired the Next Generation group in New England.

185:00 Gary went to Eishyshock and went last year to Lithuania to find out about the family members in Paris who were deported. The Arolson information was helpful. He started in '93 and heard his mother's story and wanted to name a righteous gentile in Yad Vashem which took three years. He wanted to know what happened to his cousins at Auschwitz. In '85 he went to Yad Vashem but the Holocaust Museum gave him greater

access. It was helpful to have names of visitors. It was more difficult for their family from Paris and Eishyshok when compared to those born here.

190:00 They did not know the names of all their relatives and are just now finding out. It is remarkable that her father, a tailor, understood what was happening and planned well for his family whereas his relatives did not. They show three photos: 1) A lake in Arlorf (?) where she swam and she is shown in shorts and a top, 2) She is wearing a dress that her father made for her. It is black with pink trim. It is '43 in Arlorf (?), and 3) At her sister's wedding, December '55 in Paris. Included are her parents, Elen, Leon, Isaac and the cousin from Dublin with his daughter and son-in-law.

194:00