

# **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum**

## **Interview with Stella Tobis January 28, 2015 RG-50.030\*0791**

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

## PREFACE

The following interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Rights to the interview are held by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

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

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

## **STELLA TOBIS**

### **January 28, 2015**

Question: This is a **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum** interview with Mrs. **Stanislawa Synowiec Tobis**, on January 28, 2015, in **Chicago, Illinois**. Thank you very, very much, Mrs. **Tobis**, for agreeing to speak with us today, and to share your experiences of what happened to you and your family during World War II. I'm going to start our interview by talking an awful lot about what pre-war life was like, so that we get a better understanding of how things really changed for you when the war actually occurred. So my very first question is; could you tell me the date of your birth?

Answer: 10-17-1928.

Q: So that would be October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1928?

A: Right.

Q: Okay. And where was the place you were born?

A: **Osada Brantowce, gmina Łyskow, województwa Wolkowysk, bial – Bialystok** – no, **województwa Bialystok**. Oh, I am mixed up.

Q: So you were telling me the place, then the larger district, and then the larger region.

A: Right.

Q: Is that right?

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Right.

Q: So what's the name of the place itself? Th-Th-The very place you were born.

A: **Osada Brantowce.**

Q: **Brantowce.**

A: Right.

Q: And what does **osada** mean?

A: **Osada** means a settlement my father received for being a soldier in the first World War. As a young boy he joined, and he –

Q: We'll talk about that then, so –

A: Right.

Q: This was a settlement, which was as a result – that your family moved to as a result of his service.

A: Right.

Q: Okay, and it was called **Brantowce.**

A: Right.

Q: Okay. And what was your name at birth?

A: **Stanisława Synowiec.**

Q: Did you have a baptized name?

A: Yes.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: What was that?

A: **Stanisława Helena.**

Q: **Helena**, okay. Tell me a little bit about your father, since we started talking about him. What was his name?

A: **Wawjeenitz**(ph).

Q: **Wawjeenitz**(ph).

A: **Synowiec.**

Q: And was he from that part of **Poland**, or did he come from someplace else?

A: No, he came from **Opoczno**.

Q: And where is **Opoczno**?

A: **Opoczno** is in the western part of **Poland**.

Q: Okay. Did he come from a small family, or a large family?

A: A small. Three – three boys, and the parents.

Q: And a – which one was he? The youngest, the oldest?

A: He was middle.

Q: Of course he'd be the middle, because I said the youngest and the old. What were the names of his brothers?

A: I only – I don't even – I know –

A2: Was **[inaudible]** or no?

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: I know only children's names.

Q: Okay. Did you ever meet your uncles, your father's brothers?

A: Brothers, no. Only son who –

Q: Of the brother.

A: – of the brother, of the – I think younger brother, who lived in wa – eastern part of **Poland** also, and he was deported to – not to **Siberia**, because it was in the last deportation in April of – no, June of 1941 – no, 1940, 1940, the same year. And – and he ended up in Polish army.

Q: So that was your uncle, or the son of your uncle?

A: Son of a – of uncle.

Q: Okay, uncle was not deported.

A: No, a – uncle died before the war.

Q: Okay. Did you know your father's parents?

A: No.

Q: Okay.

A: My father didn't have – my father's father died before the first World War. And then his mother was taken care of by the older – oldest brother, so there was no good relationship with the good brother, because he didn't, I think, do a good dividing of the property. So – so my – my father just left to the army, and then

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

never – never went back to him. But he had better relationship with his young – middle brother – no, not middle, youngest brother, who lived in – I for – I'm forgetting – closer to **Lithuania**. **Lida**(ph).

Q: **Lida**(ph).

A: He – he – he lives in le – **Lida**(ph). And his son was de – deported to **Russia**, but then he joined the arm – Polish army.

Q: I see. So there were deportations from **Lida** as well?

A: Right.

Q: Okay. But they were both – so both brothers ended up in the same general part of **Poland**, the northeastern part of **Poland**.

A: Right, right.

Q: Okay.

A: But he lived in a city, and he was not given such a reward for being in – in Marshall **Pilsudski** army. So – so he was co – kind of better – in a better pos – position.

Q: That is, your father was?

A: Than – no, no, my father was better.

Q: Yo – your father was in a better position.

A: Yes, mm-hm.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: What did your father tell you about his service in Marshall **Pilsudski's** army?

A: He was injured during the war, and he wanted to become a – a how do you call?

A – to be – to be permanently in the army, and he was not accepted because th-the injury was – I don't remember, Father never told me, but he told me only that he was wounded, and – and he was not accepted for – for the –

Q: He wanted to be a career military.

A: Career, right. And – and he was not. So he always exercised the same, like in the army.

Q: Oh, did he really?

A: Yes. And I think my sister took after him.

Q: Really?

A: Because she – she is so all the time exercising, and I am worse.

Q: It's a good thing to do.

A: Right. I only swim, that's all.

Q: Well, that's also very good. So, you didn't have much relations with your father's side of the family.

A: Right.

Q: Okay.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.



**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Only with my mother's. With my mother's was a tremendous – it was like wi – like having grandmother, ma – my mom's aunt.

Q: Okay, so that meant – tell me a little bit about – what was your mother's first name?

A: **Zofia**(ph).

Q: **Zofia**(ph). And her maiden name?

A: **Bokwajits**(ph).

Q: **Bokwajits**(ph). And where was she from in **Poland**?

A: She was always living – she was born there, and she was living in – in bialys – **Białostocka województwa**.

Q: So she always lived in the **Białystok** region?

A: Mm-hm.

Q: Okay, wi – did she live in the town, in the city of **Białystok** itself?

A: In the city, **Wolkowysk**.

Q: Yeah? Ah, **Wolkowysk**. What was her family like? What did – what did her parents do? Were they city people, or farm people?

A: City – city people, and – and my mother, when she was three, her – her mother died of pneumonia. At that time I guess there was no medicine for it. And when she was five years old, it was still under **Russia**, under tsar, and she – her father went to

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

meet with the uprising people, that were preparing the uprising, and – and was killed, and never returned.

Q: Her fa –

A: Her father.

Q: So she was an orphan?

A: She was an orphan from five years old.

Q: Who brought her up?

A: A aunt.

Q: Her aunt?

A: Yes.

Q: So – and her – what had happened – ah, her mother had died. You're saying her mother had already died.

A: Her mother died, right, and –

Q: Yeah.

A: – and her father die – was killed.

Q: And –

A: And that was before the first World – World War.

Q: Well, did she have – did your mother have brothers and sisters?

A: She had two brothers.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Younger, older?

A: Older.

Q: Okay.

A: Who was taken to the Russian army.

Q: Okay.

A: And never let go, during the first World War. And after first World War, he was kept there.

Q: Oh, really?

A: My mom – my mom tried to get hi – to – to help him to come, and she couldn't get enough money to – fast enough, and they closed the border. So he stayed in **Moscow**, and had family. And I'm gonna jump a little, to fra – to the – because, when I talk about him, he was the one that helped us to leave **Siberia**, because we didn't have Father when they were deporting us, and we had no money. My brother, only 15 years old, was supporting us, buying the bread, and this –

Q: We'll talk about that – yeah, we'll talk about that later.

A: Right, right.

Q: So, you ha – your uncle, whom you had never seen, who had been drafted in the tsar's army, and then wasn't able to leave in time because there was no money to pay for this –

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Mm-hm.

Q: – journey, or whatever costs were involved –

A: Yeah.

Q: – and the border closed, ended up living in **Moscow**.

A: Right.

Q: And he was your mother's older brother.

A: Right, older.

Q: What wa – what was his name?

A: **Jusef(ph) Bokwajits(ph)**.

Q: **Jusef(ph) Bokwajits(ph)**, okay. And then your mother had another brother?

A: And she had a younger brother.

Q: What was his name?

A: And – oh my gosh, I'm – I have a – I –

Q: You want to take a look in your book?

A: I-I'd have to.

Q: Okay. Let's cut while she looks in her book.

A: Because I have – I have a – **[break] Janic(ph) Bokwajits(ph)**.

Q: Was your mother's younger brother.

A: Younger brother, yes.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Okay. Can you tell us again who – the name of your mother's younger brother?

A: **Janic(ph) Bokwajits(ph)**.

Q: Okay. Okay. And what happened to him? Did he stay in **Poland**?

A: He stayed, and he had to hide all the possible pictures, or some – something to show that – that he was my mother's brother. So he has to hide that, and they were trying to deport him too, but never found –

Q: Evidence.

A: Evidence.

Q: Okay.

A: So – so he was living til '90, I think one.

Q: 1991.

A: Or 1990, something like that.

Q: Okay.

A: And I was able to visit him.

Q: Oh wow. Okay, we'll come to these times too.

A: Right. I am not continuing that.

Q: Yeah. So – but I wanted to establish your family, who was in your family. And so you – in your mother's and your father's families. So she – your father has – I'm going to kind of summarize. Your father has an older brother with whom he doesn't

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

have great relations, because whatever property that had been left to the children, the boys, he felt wasn't fairly divided.

A: Mm-hm.

Q: Your – he did have relations with his younger brother, who also lived in – now moved to northeastern **Poland**, to **Lida**(ph), but died before the second World War, and the younger brother's son was deported to the **Soviet Union**. Your mother's side, her father – her mother died when she was a young girl, a little girl, three years old, you said?

A: Right.

Q: And her father was killed during the uprising against the tsarist regime at the end of first World War, to free **Poland**. As an effort to free **Poland**. And so she grew up with your –

A: Aunt.

Q: Aunt. Was it at the end of the first World War that she grew up with your aunt, or was it earlier? Was it another uprising that took place before the first World War?

A: No, there was no – no other wa – and then – then the war started, and – and – and my mother – and got married.

Q: Ah, okay.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: And ah – so – so she – she – she was –

Q: When was – okay, te –

A: – growing up.

Q: – tell me, do you remember the date of your mother's birth?

A: Not the date, only –

Q: The year?

A: – the year.

Q: What was the year?

A: The year, ni – 19 – you have to tell me it –

Q: Her sister was – yes, what is the year?

A2: 1898, isn't it?

A: So that's right, 1898.

Q: 1898. All right. So this is – this is one of the reasons I would bring this up. Her mother dies when she's three years old, from pneumonia.

A: Mm-hm.

Q: And that would make it 1901. And her father dies in an uprising when she's five years old. That's 1903. That's well before World War I.

A: Mm-hm.

Q: So there was an uprising against the tsarist regime before World War I?

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: It wasn't. It didn't come to that. I – I guess they – they got –

Q: They failed.

A: They failed, yeah. They didn't start.

Q: Okay.

A: It wasn't during the uprising, it was just during the meeting, that they – they were meeting there, in a forest.

Q: And he was killed at that time.

A: And he was killed at that time.

Q: Did ye – did she ever find out whether – who killed him?

A: Not – Russians. Tsarist Russians.

Q: I see. So then she spent her childhood and her girlhood with your aunt?

A: Right.

Q: Her mother's sister.

A: Right.

Q: And at – what was your mother's – what was this aunt's name?

A: **Zofia(ph) Kornapelko(ph).**

Q: **Kornapelko(ph).**

A: Hey, I remembered.

Q: Did you know her as well?

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.



**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Oh yes, we loved her.

Q: Was she like a grandmother then?

A: Oh yes.

Q: Okay.

A: We called her grandmother, and she – she loved my sister more, because she was smaller, and she wrapped us like babies.

Q: Oh really?

A: In – in a big – you know. She was very good grandma.

Q: Okay. So let's turn now to your own, you know, smaller family, that is your – your mother, your father, got married after World War I. Is this correct?

A: Yes.

Q: Okay.

A: And I have to tell you, because that's a nice story. My grandma – or mom's aunt, she loved my mo – our mother so much that she wanted my – my **[crying]** – can't talk about my mom. She wanted our mom – mom to get married. So – so she says, I want you to get married. I – I am not gonna die until you get married. So my mother died. No, what I am talking. Oh, I'm getting mixed up. I better don't do that any more, it's nasty.

Q: It's okay. It's okay.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: So my – my grandma was telling my mother to get married, and my mother got married. So then – then she's changed her dying date. She says, I will not die until you have a baby. And sure thing, my – my mother had my brother.

Q: Okay.

A: And he was the oldest in our family. She didn't see me, and she – and she saw my son – my – don't – don't listen to me what I'm saying.

Q: No, no, it's okay.

A: Listen to what I am thinking.

Q: Okay, we'll listen to what you're thinking.

A: Okay, so – so my brother was born, and – and she says, now I can die.

Q: Okay. But she didn't.

A: Yes, she did.

Q: But you – but you didn't – but you hadn't been born yet.

A: Oh no, I – she didn't wait for me. I wasn't important.

Q: But you said that she loved you and your younger sister.

A: Oh yes, til then. Oh, wait a minute, my – what did I –

Q: You s –

A: Oh no, I am talking about real grandmother.

Q: Your real grandmother died when your mother was three years old.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: No, no, wait a minute. You have to straighten me out.

A2: Should I help?

Q: Okay, we're – we're talking now with **Stanisława, Stella**, but her sister is sitting by the side, and is going to help out with this confusion and mystery about the early years. Tell us, **Pani Irena**, what – what – what **Stella** is talking to.

A2: Oh I – the [indecipherable] when we used to visit her, that somebody else ha, I don't know.

A: That was my mom [indecipherable]

A2: Not the real mo-mother, you know.

A: And I am talking about –

A2: Not the real grandma.

Q: No, she is talking ab – what you are saying is that someone else, who was visiting them, was saying these things. I'm going to try and repeat the story as I understand it. Your – the lady who brought up your mother was your aunt, your grandmother's sister, correct?

A: Yes?

Q: Yes. Who brou – because your grandmother died when you were yo – when your mother was young, and it was her sister who then brought up your mother.

A: That's probably was the daughter of the – of that grandmother, or something.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Okay, let –

A: Oh my gosh.

Q: No, let's cut the camera.

A: I completely got – I got completely mixed up.

Q: Okay, but – **[break]**

A: – remember what I said.

Q: No, no, no, it's okay. Okay, so we haven't been able to really establish your – who was saying – who – who was saying to your mother, I won't die until you do this, and I won't die until you do that. What you do know, or what you have told me is that your grandmother, who was really your grand-aunt, who raised your mother, was someone who loved you and your sister and your whole family very much.

A: Yeah, and she lived a long time, because we were in **Siberia**.

Q: And she still was alive.

A: And still was alive, and she was se-sending to us some care packages.

Q: Okay. So –

A: So – so she – so that has to be completely blank – blank in my head. That's what you get with 86 ye-years old **[indecipherable]**

Q: Sometimes we get it even earlier. All right. So let's now turn to your brothers and sisters.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Okay.

Q: Tell me –

A: That I remember.

Q: Good. And we start with the oldest. When was the – who was the oldest of your brothers and sisters, and when was that person born?

A: My brother was born in April, 1924.

Q: And what is his name?

A: **Stanisław.**

Q: **Stanisław Synowiec.**

A: Right.

Q: And then who came after him?

A: I was the one.

Q: So that then it was **Stanisława**?

A: **Stanisława.**

Q: And just remind me again, you were born in 1920 si –

A: Eight.

Q: 1928. And then who came after that?

A: And then my sister.

Q: Okay.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Who is still smarter than me.

Q: And her name?

A: **Irene.**

Q: And she was born?

A: February 16. Very soon her birthday.

Q: Yeah.

A: 1930 – 1930.

Q: Okay. And who came after that?

A: Oh, **Jereczek.**

Q: Okay.

A: Really, **Jerzy.**

Q: **Jerzy.**

A: **Jerzy Synowiec**(ph), and he was born on June – June, June, June, I think maybe sixth, something like that. In the beginning of June.

Q: And which year?

A: Ni – the war – 19 –

Q: Thirty-nine?

A: Thirty-nine.

Q: And was there any other child?

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: No.

Q: So there were you – four of you.

A: Four of us.

Q: Okay. So that's quite a big difference between 1930 and 1939.

A: My father h-had work in **Wolkowysk**. So that's – that was 35 kilometers from our – our **Brantowce osada**. So he used to come only once a week, and apparently didn't work.

Q: I see. So, did you li – when – describe to be bren – **Brensowice**(ph)?

A: **Brantowce**.

Q: **Bran-Brantowce**. How many – how many families lived there?

A: One, two – six.

Q: So it was a very small place.

A: It's very small. I think what was happening – I didn't know the story, not at that time yet, and – and then I never found out. That was probably big property of someone that maybe was killed, or – and the family was killed, or – or ran away, because many Russian people were running away from tsars during that uprising that was in **Russia** at the same time.

Q: You mean the **Bolshevik** revolution?

A: **Bolshevik** re – yes.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Right.

A: So – so that's – that's why that land was for the government to give to those that were fighting for freedom, and – and that's how my father got as a reward for being in the army, and –

Q: How much land did he get?

A: How much it – I know it was a big – big property, but not huge.

Q: Was it 10 hectares, was it 20?

A: I think it was more than 20.

Q: Do you think it was more than 30? You don't know.

A: I do – I really don't know, but I know it was one of the very, very good – quite a piece of land. There was forest, there was a river. River was the border. And that my father could ju – could do a lot with this. We had – we had ponds, fish ponds, and my father was raising carps, which were very popular for Christmas eve dinner. So – so he – he was making good money. Then he had apple orchards, and a pear orchard, and – and raspberries, and all kinds of –

Q: Fruit?

A: – fruit. And then other – other things necessary for having nice – a living, to make a good living there.

Q: Was he a f – was he farming the land?

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.



**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Not in a – as a – as his – but he – later, yes. He was hiring people from the village.

Q: To farm the land.

A: To farm the land. And – and – and we had always a – a man, and a – and a woman to help out in the house for my mom. And he was working in **Wolkowysk** in a jail. And – and that – that was giving him additional money to – to start that place, and buy the equipment and everything. So – so he was – a-and for that, he was, if I can talk about my father now.

Q: Yes, but not about the war, just about what his life was like –

A: Okay.

Q: – what he was doing before the war.

A: Okay, so that's the – I think that fits into it.

Q: Okay.

A: So when – when Russians came, he was arrested.

Q: Well, excuse me, let's leave that for later.

A: Oh, oh, oh, okay.

Q: Because that's already about – about what happens during the war.

A: Okay. Okay.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Okay. But I – tell me this, wha-what was his role in the jail? What was his job there?

A: I think he was in – I have no idea, because I was too small. Father was still talking about showing the pictures. I know on the pictures he had a lot of pictures from the jail. And – and he was always in the middle, so I don't know whether that's the – was that something important for him?

Q: Yeah. Was he the – was he the director of the jail, or was he just in charge of something?

A: He was maybe – maybe – I don't know, director, or – or – or somebody, you know, in may – maybe somebody more important, you know.

Q: Okay.

A: But I know he was getting good money and – and – and it's helped him to start in the farming, and – and whatever. And he was very smart man, because he knew how to start – start everything, and –

Q: It sounds like he was very enterprising.

A: Right, right, he was.

Q: Now, di – because it was land that he was given, did he and your mother build the house you lived in?

A: Yes.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Was it a new house?

A: Yes.

Q: What did it look like?

A: Well, it was bigger than somebody else had.

Q: In other words, it was a large house.

A: Well, the – I would say medium –

Q: Okay.

A: – because there will – there were bigger houses than – but not in this area.

Q: Okay, was it built from brick, or from stone, or from wood?

A: From wood.

Q: Okay.

A: And we – we had the f – forest, a lot of forest, so – so I guess they – they had their own probably wood, that they took to **Tartak**, and in **Tartak** was where they can take the – and the – the tree, and – and make a –

Q: Log structure.

A: – logs for – for building, or for something, for the boards, or whatever – whatever they needed. So –

Q: And how – how many rooms did you have in the house? Do you remember?

Was it –

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Three, four. F-Four and – and they – they were – no, five. There was another one. And – an-and they were making another room, another –

Q: They were adding on to the house?

A: Adding – adding onto – more.

Q: Okay. When – when you were growing up, were you going to school, to Polish school?

A: Yes.

Q: Did you have to travel far to do it?

A: They usually – the man that was working, he took u – he drove us there, but I think it was two kilometers.

Q: Was it by horse and cart?

A: Yes.

Q: Okay.

A: No, that time, only one car we saw in the area, and that man owned ha – thousand – thousand of hectare of land.

Q: So this man was a – was your –

A: So – so – so – so our – our 30 or 40 didn't – didn't – car –

Q: Yeah, no car.

A: No car.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: No car. Did you have a radio at home?

A: Yes.

Q: You did, okay. Did you have electricity?

A: No, not yet.

Q: Running water?

A: Ru – no, we had to – and –

Q: You had a well?

A: And – we had a river.

Q: Oh, okay.

A: It was so – so close that it wasn't worth it to – to dig the well.

Q: Oh really, so you would get water from the river?

A: Mm-hm. And I – and that's where I learned to swim.

Q: When you were still a girl, when all political things started happening, did your parents in – talk about what was going on in **Germany**, or what was going on in **Russia**?

A: I'm sure they did, because I – I do remember some talk. Not that I maybe understood to a hundred percent, but I knew that something bad happening. And then at one time, they were collecting like donations for the government, to start helping, and start –

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Preparing?

A: – preparing. So – so all that was being prepared, and my parents knew about it.

And – and even – well, this – this I am not supposed to say now. But the newspaper was delivered, but at that time, there was no more newspaper, no more news.

Q: Oh really? You mean in ni – like when the war started, there was no more news?

A: Yes.

Q: Can you –

A: Because that was – that was – what I want to say, it's the beginning of war.

Q: Okay.

A: Should I?

Q: In a minute. Just –

A: Oh, in a minute.

Q: We're almost there.

A: Okay.

Q: We're almost there.

A: Okay.

Q: Do you remember what the summer of 1939 was like? Where you were, what you were doing? This is just before the war starts.

A: Okay.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Do you remember how your family spent that last summer?

A: We were at home. My father fi – he was not working in **Wolkowysk** any more.

So –

Q: He had stopped his job?

A: He stopped his job, but – I think couple years ago, but I really don't remember which year. And so he – and – and – and probably about three years or so, and **Jereczek** was born, so Father was so happy that finally, I will raise this child. I'll be – I will have him, and – and he was very happy that it's a little boy, and so – and my brother was always trained for the army, because my father was so proud of his boys. And I thought he doesn't love me.

Q: Oh.

A: But I – but when he died, my brother says, you know you – our father loved you more than me.

Q: Oh really?

A: So I guess there is no –

Q: Yeah.

A: – no – with children –

Q: Yes, yeah.

A: – you never – you never judge your father or mother.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: No. You can't tell.

A: Mm-mm.

Q: I mean, you're loved – you're loved much more sometimes than you know.

A: Right, right.

Q: Yeah. So, do you remember the day that the war broke out? This was September first.

A: Yes, yes.

Q: Where were you?

A: I was home. We didn't start the school, and – and my father tell – told my mom, I'm gonna go to the village, and I'm gonna find out – maybe they have some news, and – and maybe I can find out what's happening. And he – he went, and – and there was an hour, two hours, three hours. My mom started to crying, and – something happened to Dad. And she says, why don't you go to that village, a-and maybe you will find Father.

Q: And this was September first?

A: Yes. Wait a minute. September – yeah, that was –

Q: The fi – when the war actually starts.

A: Yes, yes, yes.

Q: Okay. And what was the name of the village that he had gone to?

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.



**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: **Krupa**.

Q: **Krupa**, all right. So who did she ask? She asked you to go?

A: My s – my sist – my sister and me. You didn't go?

A2: I don't think so.

A: Oh, so I probably went, maybe with neighbor's children.

Q: Okay.

A: Because we had one neighbor very close to us.

Q: Okay.

A: Because the – the plans were, on your property, you – you build, you know, where you wanted. So – so that was close to the river, close to the border, and –

Q: By border you mean the territ – your – parents' land?

A: Right.

Q: From the neighbors' land.

A: Right, right.

Q: Okay. So, you went to find your father in the village of **Krupa**?

A: Mm-hm.

Q: What happened? What did you find out?

A: On the – on the way to it, my father was led by group of Byelorussian boys, with the gun pointing at him, and walked towards us. Where they were walking – I really

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

don't know wher-where they wanted him to go. At that point, wasn't yet towards **Łyskow**. In the **Łyskow** was – that was post office place, very small town. And in it was place for the police, and apparently – and they got the guns from the police over there, and – and police already was in the jail. And they were leading my father there.

Q: To the jail.

A: To the jail.

Q: In **Łyskow**.

A: Yes. And my father just said, go to Mom and tell her what you saw.

Q: Okay, but I'm a little confused. You're saying this happened September first?

A: Oh, wait a minute. No, no, no, that's not – not September first, that was 19<sup>th</sup>?

Q: September 19<sup>th</sup>?

A: September 19<sup>th</sup>, yes.

Q: Okay, so –

A: I'm sorry.

Q: Okay. That's – okay, that makes more sense, bec-because –

A: Yeah.

Q: – September first is when **Germany** attacks.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: **Germany** attacked. At that time, the radio still was working, and we heard the – the news on the radio yet.

Q: Okay. [phone ringing] We can stop, please [break]

Q: Okay, so we were talking about the radio still worked, and was telling – wi – there was information over the radio that the germ – **Germany** had attacked **Poland**.

A: Right.

Q: Do you remember how your parents reacted? How –

A: Very, very worried.

Q: Okay.

A: Didn't know wha-what to do. And I really – I really don't remember. They did – they didn't want to upset us, you know, so that was a ri – a lot of it was hush hush.

Q: Yeah.

A: Not – not to tell children much.

Q: And the next two weeks is – you know, did – was there any more news? Did you hear more things?

A: More on the radio. Yeah, we were – we were getting some, but I don't remember probably where the station was that they were getting the news. But –

Q: Did school start?

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: No.

Q: No school.

A: The school – school starts – my – my parents didn't send us to school –

Q: Okay.

A: – at that time. Up f – at that time – no, that was when the Russians came in. Then – then our help went. They didn't – they didn't stay with us any more. But – but at this point, we were – we were still being taken care of, as far as the people working for us.

Q: And were the people who worked for you Byelorussian?

A: Yes.

Q: Okay.

A: From the villages. Mostly from – from another village that has the same name as our **osada**.

Q: Okay, a-as – as your settlement.

A: As my settlement, yes.

Q: Which was bran –

A: **Brantowce**.

Q: **Brantowce**. So there was a village **Brantowce**, and there was a settlement of **Brantowce**.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Right. And I heard that **Brantowce** name came from the family name **Brant**. So – so he probably owned this – this property of – at our **osada**.

Q: Mm-hm, your settlement.

A: And the village at earlier times, you know, probably the village –

Q: I see.

A: – belonged to him, and the people worked for him, and he – I don't know how – how it was working, but my father was paying to – to those women or men, you know, that were – were working in the fields.

Q: And you said there were two or more people working in the fields?

A: Oh they – no, no, in the fields there were sometimes hundred people.

Q: Oh really?

A: Because – depending what was being done.

Q: So you mean, during the harvest time, or the –

A: Right.

Q: – farming time, there could be many people.

A: Right, right.

Q: I see. And they would come as day laborers to work on this –

A: Day. And I know my father gave them one zloty, which is what, like one dollar.

So, each one got, so he always was prepared with those single – single zlotys.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Did you have any interaction with these – with the villagers who would come to work with you – work at your father's farm?

A: What kind of interactions, what did you –

Q: I mean, did you talk to them, did they talk to you, did you know them by name?

A: Oh yes, when I was riding the horse, they were screaming that I am gonna fell – fall off. They – they were sa – shouting, [indecipherable] you gonna fall off the horse. And I – and I didn't care.

Q: Okay. So, what happens – what happened after that? How did things progress? You know, the war's declared, people are nervous. Nothing really much changes. And then what happens?

A: Well, we – we just sit and wait, and – and get some news if you can. And if you get nothing, that's –

Q: Okay.

A: But until ra – Russians cross the border, that's when radios were cut, and everything was cut. And Germans already got all the stations, so the cities on the west, and – and we just –

Q: So was –

A: – completely became –

Q: Isolated.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: – isolated, yes.

Q: So, does that – on the day that no more news came over the radio, is that when your father said, I'm going to go to fi – that other village?

A: Right.

Q: Okay. And did you – did you know that the Russians had crossed the border at that time?

A: I – we didn't. I don't remember, that was surprise when we saw the tanks rolling down those roads. Because in our area, the roads were just a normal – how do you call? Field roads. But well used and everything, you know, so – so that's what they were rolling those tanks on, and they were coming and – and so – so they didn't come to – to our area, until the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Q: Was your father already arrested by then?

A: No, that's – that's when – that's when they arrested my father, on the – on the second day.

Q: On the second day.

A: Because on the se – we were quite a ways from the border, so they didn't come to our area until next – second day.

Q: Okay.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: So, early – early in the morning he – he went to find out the news, because he always read, and he always had to know. He wanted to know everything what's going on.

Q: And when he went to find out, when you went to find him –

A: They – they – they arrested him.

Q: And brought him to the jail in **Łyskow**.

A: Mm – yeah.

Q: And then you went – he told you to go home and tell your mother.

A: Yes.

Q: And – yeah.

A: Oh, and he asked too that my – our mom bring some clean clothes, and – and some f-food, because he didn't eat nothing from morning til – I think my mother probably got there maybe in the evening, she had to walk seven kilometers to the **Łyskow** –

Q: Okay.

A: – because –

Q: Why wouldn't she go by horse, or by cart?

A: I don't know, maybe she – she went by – by cart.

Q: Okay.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.



**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: That I d – I don't remember.

Q: Okay.

A: Yeah. But my father had to walk.

Q: Okay.

A: And they walked him.

Q: Okay. So sh – de – was she able to see him?

A: That day, yes.

Q: Okay.

A: She – and she gave him a clean clothes, an-and – and food.

Q: And was there any reason given as to why he was arrested?

A: Because he was Polish.

Q: That was enough.

A: They were – they were arresting all – all people that were well – well-to-do, so –

Q: And was your father – your family considered well-to-do?

A: Yes. So they – and – and they didn't let my father go home, and they kept him, and over there were – were a policeman and – and also **Jakowinski**(ph), the one that I was telling you about, who has a car.

Q: Oh, so he was there too?

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: And – and – and his – oh yeah, and his car was taken by the young Byelorussian boys, the one that – that was a chauffeur at –

Q: For him.

A: – for him. So he – he's the – the one that owned that car, and the reason I know, or we know, because when – when my father was arrested second time, he was let go once. My mother went to the village, and she was asking for the people to – to get – to sign the petition for him, she got the whole list. I remember that list ve – so, so well, you know, that – that he – that my mother came home and is – and she said she gonna go now to – to **Łyskow**, and she gonna ask the people to let – let him come home. But before that, he was taken to **Wolkowysk** – no, no, no, that was from **Łyskow**, they let him come beca-because my mother says there's nobody to help me, and she had a little baby, and she was not healthy. So – so –

Q: So that – so her – when she went to the village of **Brantowce**, not the settlement but the village –

A: No, the – not **Brantowce**, this was to **Krupa**.

Q: To **Krupa**. And were – and people signed this petition –

A: Mm-hm.

Q: – and it was to request that your father be let go?

A: Right.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Did she go to Byelorussian people, or to –

A: Yes.

Q: Okay.

A: Well, they organized their own government.

Q: Okay.

A: Police was fi – you know, how do you call it, fired or whatever. Arrested, arrested.

Q: The police – the police was arrest –

A: Arrested.

Q: – relieved of their duties and then arrested.

A: And they – and they rep-replaced that government with Byelorussian people.

Q: Why would the Byelorussian people from **Krupa** sign a petition to release your father? What was in their interest for them to do that?

A: Because my father, he had to move the fish from the summer ponds, into the winter ponds.

Q: Okay.

A: And – and that had to be done manually.

Q: Okay.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: He usually had couple men that were doing it, but when they let him go, then he came and – and he moved the –

Q: The fish.

A: – the fish himself.

Q: So e – he was allowed to leave because there was nece – necessary work to be done –

A: Right.

Q: And the new –

A: And they didn't want to do.

Q: And they didn't want to do this work?

A: Mm-hm.

Q: Okay.

A: And my father paid for it. That he – they were not free, you know, they – they were coming, and – and I ni – I saw my father every time they – the people were working, he always had some money to give.

Q: Okay. So the villagers in **Krupa**, their reason to sign the petition is that they didn't want to do the work that needed to be done, and it was to let your father go so he could do it.

A: Right, right.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Okay. And the – and the people who let him go were local people, was that right? It was local people who arrested him, and local people who let him go?

A: Parth – part of that – that group, that Byelorussian people.

Q: And did you – when you had seen him on the road, had you recognized the – the people who were guarding him? Did you know who they were?

A: No, no.

Q: Okay.

A: We – we didn't know because usually children like us, you know, that – of the people with the property, or that had little – and Polish people, because there – there was a lot of Polish people that were buying land here. It was for sale, and they would move from the western part, here.

Q: Okay.

A: So that was something that was done all the – all the time after the first World War.

Q: Did the be – were – had relations been bad with the local Byelorussian people?

A: From **Krupa** children were be – very bad. I'm talking about children.

Q: Okay.

A: They were throwing – throw – sta –

Q: Stones?

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: – rocks, stone at us, shouting at us, calling us – how did they call **Irchu**(ph)?

**Polaki**(ph)? **Polaki**(ph), and – and something else.

A2: With the dogs – with dogs they were, and the dogs –

A: With dogs they – they were chasing us. So we – we used to go in the back of the village, we couldn't go through the middle. And –

Q: This is before the war?

A: That was before the war.

Q: Okay.

A: So they – they were preparing – they knew probably what was – will come, and happen.

Q: You think so, huh?

A: I think so.

Q: Okay.

A: I think it was planned real well.

Q: Your father is released, and he comes back and he moves the fish from the summer pond to the winter pond.

A: Yeah, yeah, and – and that's all the – in barns, and – and feeds the stock and – and all, you know, until – until he is arrested second time.

Q: When was he – how was he arrested the second time, what happened?

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: It was January fifth.

Q: So three months had gone by?

A: Mm-hm.

Q: And –

A: And then –

Q: Okay, and then January fifth, what happened?

A: And then the – that car from **Jakowski**(ph) –

Q: So, that had belonged to him.

A: – that drives up.

Q: Right.

A: And it's winter, and it's parked in the house – front of the house, and we – we just – it was cold outside, so we – we didn't play, and besides that, it was such a time that – that we were not sure what's going on. And so – so we see from the car comes out couple of – Russian soldiers, and – and with them comes that

**Jakowski's**(ph) chauffeur. And that chauffeur was a relative of our neighbor. Our neighbor was married to a Byelorussian woman. Very nice woman, I have no bad word about her. And – and he comes and leads those people, and tells them things, that my father was so and so, the bad one, you know. All the bad words that he could find. He did – he never saw my father before, or maybe saw because my father

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

co – sometimes visited **Jakowski**(ph). So – but that was – I – I – I – I don't know why – why he did it, or, well, probably for his benefit. And – and – and they ask my father to show his pictures. So he, of course, has taken the – not the family albums, he took the – his – from – from the jail, with all his friends, and the – and – and they started, you know, telling that my father was so bad, that my father was beating them, and – and – and things – things that I was listening, I – I don't even remember any more. But he was li – he was accused so badly.

Q: In front of you, in front of all the children?

A: In – in – in front of all the family. And the – and – and then – then they take that – that was a little – we used to take little cases like that to the beach here. And that was my father's little suitcase that he kept his papers and army – army papers and everything. They took everything. And then they told my father, get dressed, put war – warm col – clothes on, and we're taking you to the **Wolkowysk** to check how – how much truth you're telling us.

Q: So he was – he was saying no, I didn't do these things, no, I'm not the way you're accusing me, is that what the case was?

A: I would say so.

Q: Okay.



**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: But – but then I – I – I just remembered, you know, that ho-how could they – I felt, you know, how can they say, when my father is so nice, and he was so nice to them, you know? And so – so anyway, so – so Father get dressed, and then it came to say goodbye to him. It was last time for 11 years.

Q: Oh my.

A: And so – so we didn't – we just hugged him, you know. Of course, first time I saw him crying. I guess he knew. He knew that that's the last time we see each other. And – and then comes our neighbor, that Russian wife, Byelorussian wife of our neighbor. And – a-a-and this young punk tries to block his aunt's – that was his aunt – way to the house. She pushed him, she didn't care. She – she just says, I am coming to – to say goodbye to my neighbor. And – and – and – and she was – she was so brave. And I still wrote to her daughter not too long ago, because I – I've – I found a address of her, and – and – and I – and children are so nice. I visited them when I was there. So – so it's –

Q: You can't –

A: – in the family can be – can be too different – different children, two different members.

Q: Yeah.

A: And you cannot answer for them.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Yeah. So you say there were two Russian soldiers, and this sh – ex-chauffeur –

A: Yes.

Q: – who came. So there were three of them who had been accusing your father.

And the two Russian soldiers were strangers?

A: They were – yeah, they –

Q: They were not from the area.

A: – the Russian – the Russians th-ther – they were just trying to organize, apparently, tha-that area, you know, and – and of course they – they knew they let my father go before, so this time they are taking him for – for good, to the – to the **Wolkowysk** jail.

Q: Okay.

A: Here was just a little – little room, or big room, in which they put probably 50 people. But the **Wolkowysk** there is a big, big jail. I have a picture in my book.

Q: Okay. Is this the same jail your father had worked in?

A: That's – yes.

Q: Okay. And three months had passed before they arrested him. That is, between the time, the first, he was released, and the time he came again –

A: Mm-hm.

Q: – what were those three months like for your family?

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Well, I – my brother was in high school in **Wolkowysk**. And after – aft – when war started, he didn't go back – no, that – sorry, he was there til chr – til Christmas.

Q: Okay.

A: And after Christmas, he didn't return.

Q: Okay.

A: Because he said, they don't teach nothing in sc – in school now, because they replaced all those teachers, professors, they arrested. So – so we – we had no Polish teachers, and Byelorussians not too many were educated. There was one – depends if they could afford.

Q: Okay.

A: And – and there were some people, I'm not saying that they were or – all poor.

Q: Okay.

A: No, they – an – there were some. And – and those, even in our **osada**.

Q: Your settlement, mm-hm.

A: Our settlement. We had one teacher, that she was educated, but they were not Polish citizens, that was a Russian family that stayed here in **Poland** somehow, and that they were not supposed to – not – not forced to return to **Russia**.

Q: Okay.

A: So, and their daughter was educated, and she had no **obywatelstwo**.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: What's that mean?

A: Obet – that you help.

A2: Citizen.

A: **Obywatelstwo.**

Q: No citizen – no citizenship –

A: Citiz – no citizenship, ri –

Q: Okay.

A: That's right.

Q: Okay.

A: So – so he – she became teacher.

Q: Okay.

A: And she was teaching, but my brother said that in – in the high school in

**Wolkowysk**, there was no professors.

Q: Okay.

A: We – we called them professors. Here are teachers, only. So – so –

Q: So in –

A: – my brother stayed with us –

Q: Home, mm-hm.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: And I was the one that was feeding the stock, and going – going from barn to barn.

Q: And there were no more workers to help you?

A: No.

Q: No. Okay.

A: Nobody. And we had no money to pay, because the money was – Polish zloty wasn't – I don't know how – how my mother was paying for – for stuff, because she – she once – sent us to the city, a-and to the village, to – to buy soap, or something, **Irchu**(ph), what did we buy?

A2: I think was sugar or something.

A: Something that – to buy anything, and the store – store was almost empty, nothing.

Q: Okay.

A: They already –

Q: So what did you do after your father's arrest?

A: Just sat there and – and waited, and didn't have to wait too long.

Q: What happened?

A: Tenth of February, we were deported, just month and five days later.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Did you – oh my. Tell me about that. Tell me about this – this deportation. How did this occur?

A: Well, it – four o'clock in the morning, of course we were sleeping. And the not – not expecting anything. Of course, very upset that Father is gone. My brother was – went with one nice Russian – Byelorussian man, went to **Wolkowysk**, and – to see my father and to take some food for him, and they didn't let him see my father. And I don't know what was the reason. And –

Q: So he was not at home?

A: Pardon?

Q: Your brother was not at home?

A: No, no, no, brother went – right, he was not with us, he went to **Wolkowysk**.

Q: Right.

A: And then came back and – and – and he said that he didn't see Father, but they took the things that – that he too – took to my father.

Q: Okay.

A: So ha –

Q: Oh, so he was at home when the – when – at four o'clock in the morning? It was your mother –

A: Yes.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: – your brother –

A: Yes.

Q: – your sister, and your little brother.

A: And baby brother.

Q: And baby brother. Okay. And how – at four o'clock in the morning they came in trucks, in wagons, in that big car?

A: Wagons, bu – open – open **sanie**, which is – how do you call those?

A2: Sled.

A: Sleds.

Q: A sled?

A: Yes.

Q: A sleigh.

A: Sleigh.

Q: Okay.

A: Good.

Q: So, with horses.

A: R-Right.

Q: Okay.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: So they came with those and – and – and – and they said [**speaks foreign language here**]

Q: What does that mean?

A: Get ready, we're moving you to another state.

Q: Okay. How much – how much time did you have?

A: We had a lot, because some people don't have that much.

Q: Okay.

A: But we were on the main road.

Q: Okay.

A: So – so everybody from our settlement were brought even to our house –

Q: So a –

A: – to – to wait.

Q: I see.

A: So – so when they brought everybody, then they s – they pull – put us in the row of sleds that were carrying – I carried to **Wolkowysk**. Apparently that was just open ro – long, long – I don't know how to s – call that, but –

Q: So there was more than one sleigh?

A: Oh, my gosh, there was, all the time, all the time. So they had to stop this group, and pull – pull – put us from this settlement inside, in a – a mi – in middle of it, and

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.



**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

then let those to follow us. But that was from like four o'clock to 10 oclo – I think it's about 10 –

Q: Okay, okay, I'm still confused. I – I asked how long did you have to get ready, to put your things together.

A: Okay, so –

Q: How long was it?

A: That's what I am trying to say now.

Q: Yeah?

A: From four o'clock til –

A2: Two hours.

A: How many?

A2: Two hours they gave us.

A: No, it was more.

A2: That's what I remember he says, in two hours –

A: It was more.

A2: – we are le – you are leaving.

Q: Okay, your sister is saying it was two hours.

A2: They gave us.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: My question is – okay, you – how much time – within your house, before you go outside, how much time did you have to get ready, to put things together, to take something, and what did you take?

A: I – I didn't – I couldn't do nothing. My mom was running with the baby in her –

Q: Arms.

A: – baby – with – with her arms. And she – she couldn't do nothing. She was very confused, and didn't do nothing. Luckily, we had a nice soldier that he st – he took either suitcases – but there was no – no need really, because they were dropping everything on the floor, on the – on the – from the – how do you – cabinets, from the cabinets, into the – on a – on a blanket on the floor, and tied the ends.

Q: So what did they drop into the – into the –

A: Everything, whatever they found. And – and th-there was one **kufer**, which is like a big – how do you call those? For the bed. Sheets.

Q: Okay.

A: Sheets and – and – and comforters, and a – everything. But only sheets were in that big **kufer**.

Q: What's a **kufer**?

A: **Kufer** is a – a – a –

A2: A trunk.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: A trunk?

A: Trunk, yes.

Q: Okay.

A: A big trunk.

Q: Okay, so –

A: And with the key, and – and –

Q: So you took a trunk with you?

A: Yes, they gave us.

Q: Your own trunk that you could take with you.

A: And it had everything except there was some more stuff of that sort they took out from drawers, and filled up that – that – that – and that was our saving for the

**Siberia.**

Q: So –

A: If we didn't have, we would not survive.

Q: So in other words, the soldiers who came to arrest you saw that your mother was distracted, you were distracted, and you didn't know how to pack, and they were packing for you.

A: Right.

Q: And –

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: One only. They left – I think they left one only soldier.

Q: Okay. And what about your brother, your older brother, what was he doing?

A: I don't know. They maybe kept him with the gun. I don't know, did you remember?

A2: Can I talk?

Q: I think that let's –

A: I think –

Q: – let's hold on –

A: – yeah.

Q: – let's cut for a second.

A: Oh, okay. **[tape break]**

Q: Okay, so it was this one young Russian soldier who was helping to pack up –

A: Right.

Q: – when – and when your mother so distre – and you're distracted, and so on.

A: Okay.

Q: And you were li – who lifted that big trunk onto the sleigh?

A: They did.

Q: Did they?

A: Maybe my brother was helping.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Okay.

A: It could be that he was helping. I only took books. My mom said, take a book to teach **Jereczek** Polish.

Q: Okay.

A: Because when we get there, we will not leave that place, and ye – **Jereczek** had to le-learn Polish.

Q: Polish.

A: So – so I took a couple books.

Q: Okay.

A: And I took albums.

Q: Photo albums?

A: Photo albums. When they saw tha-that I – I am holding that, they took and – oh, and the s – oven was on to – to heat –

Q: The house.

A: – the house, because – and – and it was a fire there.

Q: Okay.

A: And he grabbed those albums and threw them in the fire.

Q: Oh my.

A: So I – I did – don't have even a – a one picture of my mom, nothing.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Oh my. Oh my. And did you take food? Did any – was there any food to take?

A: They did some – they prepared some, they – they told us, oh you can take meat grinder, and kind of laughing, you know? They knew that – that there will be no – no meat to grind there. So – so my mother said no, I – I don't want. She kind of sensed everything what was going on.

Q: Okay, now once they've put this together, now explain to me why you had so much time. I wasn't understanding that before. You said, you know, you were amongst the last to be picked up?

A: Mm.

Q: When you went outside, what kind of a vision did you see? What did you see many, many sleighs?

A: Right.

Q: With people?

A: Right.

Q: Okay. And why is that if you were the last to pick up – to be picked up, you had so much time? I would have thought they would give you less time, because everybody is waiting in those sleighs, and it's cold outside.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: I don't know, I don't know. Well – well anyway, I – I wanted also to take a – a picture of my patron, Saint **Stanisław Kostka**. And – and it was made on a silk. So my mom told me, take it off – out –

Q: Okay.

A: – and put it in your pocket. And I put it in my pocket, and down. Oh, and – and the clothes, they – they told us to put my father's clothes, so they were dragging, you know, and whatever; but they were warm. So over our c-clothes, winter clothes, we still put my father's –

Q: Clothes.

A: – clothes.

Q: Okay.

A: And so by – I – I always thought that about nine o'clock, we were already packed, because they would – whatever they would pack, they would take to the sled. And –

Q: Did you have more – did you have more than one trunk?

A: The trunk was at the end of the sle – sled, and then we – we had our seats there.

Q: Okay.

A: And – and they put the comforters for us to sit in, and so we wrapped ourselves.

My mom didn't know what to do, how to take baby.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Yeah.

A: So – so she took two pillows, and put **Jereczek** in between those and try to block the cold air and everything from him. So – so sh-she – she was saying, I don't know if he will live. Maybe he's choked, and everything. But somehow he survived. So – so when we were dri – I want to say driving – riding those sleds, we got halfway only to station, to **Wolkowysk**. So they took us into the palace of – don't remember already names.

Q: Okay.

A: I – I di – I should have prepared myself, but –

Q: It's okay. But it was a – a local palace.

A: A local palace in one of the villages, halfway to **Wolkowysk**.

Q: So it was like a large estate?

A: Very.

Q: Okay.

A: And that was a – and they – they took all the sleds that were behind us, and – and us in there. And I remembered where I was sitting, because we couldn't sl-sleep there.

Q: Okay.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.



**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: It was so many people, and I was sitting with my – my sister and my brother by the window. So when we came in, I went – I-I'm talking about my trip – I went straight to that place, and I said that's – that's where we were sitting.

Q: Oh, that is when you – when you –

A: Oh, that night.

Q: Yeah.

A: That night. We spend the night there.

Q: So, you're talking when you took a trip to your hometown many years later.

A: Right.

Q: That you found the palace, and – and you've –

A: Found the pla – yes.

Q: – you told them where you were sitting.

A: And I remember when – I remembered everything vividly. Nothing – now I am losing memory, but when I was writing my book, I – I – I remembered everything as if I'm there now.

Q: Yeah.

A: So – so that's very –

Q: Was this – was this palace one of Polish nobility?

A: Yes.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: So it had been –

A: [**indecipherable**] they were arrested also, either killed, or – or –

Q: Okay.

A: – or like my father, taken to a gulag.

Q: Okay. What was the manner of these – I mean, it sounds – it sounds actually, as rough as the soldier was, he was doing you a kindness –

A: Yes.

Q: – by – by helping pack things up.

A: Yes, he was – he was very nice, and you know, children will sometimes hold the hands, and – and their hands are freezing, and whatever. When he saw my hands, he says – he started – you take your – that hand, and you kind of roll in between yours, and – to warm it up.

Q: Really?

A: And he – he did – he did that for me. And – and then my – my mom, you know, when our sled, on one – on the way back next day, s – fell over, and we ended up in the snow, he was helping us and – and it was – i-i – Russian soldiers, they have to be th-the way they – they are. They have to be in doing what **Stalin** told them. But some of them, they are forced to do that.

Q: So you could tell they didn't want to.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Right, right. So they – they had – and they – they had good people and bad people like everywhere else.

Q: And was – was – were other soldiers like him who were – who were taking – I meant, those who came to take you, or was there manner in general –

A: Right, it wasn't like that.

Q: Okay.

A: They – when they left, that's when he started. Because it came five of them, and then only one or two, I – I – that I don't remember already.

Q: Okay.

A: So, I – I would have to read my book and maybe refresh.

Q: That's okay. But it – but it means that when he was left alone, and there was no one else to see him –

A: Mm-hm.

Q: – he could afford to be helpful.

A: He showed – yeah, he showed his feeling for us, you know –

Q: Okay.

A: – what they were doing.

Q: So, you stayed overnight there, near the window –

A: Yeah.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: – in this palace?

A: Mm-hm.

Q: And what was the next day like?

A: Next day they put – took us to this – the same sled, but there were things missing already. So somebody stole some of the food.

Q: Okay.

A: And so whatever we took from the home, already wasn't – wasn't as much there as – as it was taken. So – but –

Q: And then you say you'd continued the journey?

A: Continued the journey to the train.

Q: And where was the train?

A: And th-the train was in **Wolkowysk**, at the station, not too far from my uncle.

And my – my mom's aunt. So – and in – on the way close to **Wolkowysk**, I saw a sled, a small sled, you know, and – coming with the horses real fast, and looking at us all the time. And the people. Not – not especially us, you know, but – but trying to identify.

Q: Oh, I see.

A: When they saw my mom, and us, they turned around.

Q: Do you know who it was?

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: It was my aunt and my uncle. No, my – I'm sorry, not my – that – she – that was my **babcia**. That's my mom's aunt. Oh, no, no, thank you, I have –

Q: Okay, okay.

A: And – and **babcia**, that's the one that I – I was tal-talking about, that's my – my mo – **babcia**, my mom's **ciocia**.

Q: Yeah.

A: Okay. So – so they turned around, and they went back to **Wolkowysk**, because they – they knew where.

Q: They knew that it was you.

A: Yes. And then, apparently, **Babcia** watched all the time, which – which boxcar, because those were animal thi-things. And which – which one was the – the one that they pushed us in. So, after – after we got in, a Russian soldier came and naw – opened the door, and – and told **Babcia** to – to give what she had. She brought –

Q: That's unusual.

A: – she brought so-some – how do you call? Tea, hot tea, and some sandwiches. And she wanted to take **Irka**(ph). And **Irka**(ph) was smaller, so – so she thought she can raise her. And **Irk-Irka**(ph) was holding so – so hard to my mom's hand that – an-and they didn't let her to be taken away.

Q: So, she wouldn't go?

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: She wouldn't go.

Q: Okay. Would the soldier have let her go?

A: Force her? No, no.

Q: Not force her, but would she – if she had wanted to, do you think –

A: I don't know. I have no idea. Maybe he would.

Q: What you describe sounds very unusual, that someone was allowed close enough to the train –

A: Right.

Q: – to give – to give water, or food, or tea, or something like that.

A: Well, she spoke Russian. He possibly thought that she's Russian, and she was [indecipherable] and whatever, Polish. So – and – and she was living there all her life. Because there – there were Polish and – and there were lithu – Lithuanian also –

Q: Yeah.

A: I'm sure. So – so that – and that is not unusual, but – but after she spoke Russian, she talk – he didn't know, and he let her –

Q: And he let her –

A: – let her gaved whatever he brought –

Q: She brought, yeah. What were the boxcars like? What did they look like?

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: There was three levels, so when you get – got in, you couldn't sit, you – you should – you could get in and – and just lay there, or – or sleep. And otherwise, you couldn't sit in there. So it –

Q: So who helped you put your trunk in the boxcar?

A: They – whoever was, you know, I'm sure my brother was one.

Q: Okay.

A: And my brother was very – like in charge of ev-everything, so – so he watched. But as far as food, we didn't have much, because somebody stole. But – but my mom did little bit of this, you know.

Q: But your mother was there with an infant, with a baby.

A: Yes, and – and when we – we got there, she – she thought that she gon – he gonna have a real – a real red butt, because he wasn't changed all day, and – and between the two pillows. So – but everything was okay. We took him all the way to **Siberia.**

Q: And you had to change diapers on the lo – on the way.

A: Yes. I don't know how my mom – mom did that. Maybe she just – or if – if he – he – he was still milking my mom. At that time I don't know if she had anything, but she – she had whatever she had, and otherwise I – I think she tried to substitute.

He was – he was at that time, only from June to – about eight months old. So –

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Did he cry?

A: First he did, and I remember my mom said, when – when we were on the way, and he was about – between those pillows, she heard him cry. But then she says, oh, he – he quit crying. So maybe she – he is asleep. But then she says, or maybe he is not alive. So – so things – things were – you know, everything wasn't sure.

Q: So wa – was she on a lower plank, or on an upper plank?

A: They – they got us in between, so we – we had – so – so it was probably above the – the lower, an-and the – and the lower wer-were suitcases. And on this one was – I don't – my hand is not good. Probably that wa – that high. And the – and the third one – the – the best was for the highest people, but you know, men or – or – or somebody that is more quicker, not with baby, you know, they took those places, and we got, you know, some who are in between. So –

Q: Why would they be the best places, the ones on top?

A: More air. It was – it was mo – more space.

Q: Okay.

A: And in between was – you had to breathe so – so the air was coming from here and there. Was kind of stuffy. But –

Q: Did you know any of the other people in your boxcar?

A: No.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.



**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: No.

A: No, because when we were riding on a – with those sleds, our – our sled turned over, and then everybody went, so the neighbors from – from the – our **osada**, they went, and we stayed be – until they lifted the sled, and put us back into the sled.

And then w – then we were coming with different – different people.

Q: I see.

A: So when they put us in – and there was 60 people in our boxcar.

Q: Sixty.

A: So 30 on one side, 30 on the other.

Q: Were there other people who had babies? Were there more babies?

A: Not in our boxcar.

Q: Okay.

A: Only **Jereczek**.

Q: So what happened after that? You're in the boxcar, what happens?

A: Well then – then we waited, I think two days, by the time they apparently the whole – there was about hundred – hundred of those boxcars, full of deportees, and – and then – and then we started going. But they – in – in this area, between bra – no, between – oh my gosh, again no name. Well **[indecipherable]** next – next

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

station when – when the large station, when they got us there, we had to wait for **Baranowicze**.

**Q: Baranowicze.**

**A:** I got it, **Baranowicze**. There they were changing the tracks from European width to the Russian. So we had to wait there until they finish. When they finished, it was like second day or third day, something like that. And then – then we had to carry everything from – from this one to – to the other one.

**Q:** Oh, so you changed, actually, cattle cars.

**A:** Right. And there, we had little more room –

**Q:** Okay.

**A:** – than – than on the Polish ones. So they had – then we got – also on the lower, but – but there wasn't three of them, was –

**Q:** It was two –

**A:** – it was two.

**Q:** – it was two platforms.

**A:** Two – two platforms, yes.

**Q:** I see. Okay.

**A:** So – so it was a little – a little easier.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: And was it a – everybody from the firs – from the di – was it everybody who was in one boxcar then gets transferred to the same boxcar on the next train, or di –

A: Probably –

Q: Okay.

A: – because they – they were keeping really soldiers were standing so nobody will run away.

Q: Okay.

A: So – so that's –

Q: So that – at that point did you know you were in the **Soviet Union**?

A: No, it wasn't yet.

Q: It wasn't yet.

A: Because **Baranowicze** –

Q: Is still **Poland**.

A: – is still **Poland**. So to the border was still quite a few miles –

Q: Okay.

A: – or kilometers.

Q: So what happened after that, how did things go?

A: Well, then – then we started rolling, once they packed us all. And we were – we were going fast, and people were watching, you know, some of them, there's – you

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

know, there is about two – two windows on one side, on – on top. So – so we were watching some of them. You know, if you were lucky, where is the Polish border?

Q: Could they find it, could they see it?

A: We saw, and – and they started singing [**speaks Polish**] and things like that, you know.

Q: What are those? Are those –

A: Hymn. Polish, and – and – and – and prayers, church –

Q: Can you – would you mind singing one of those so – hymns?

A: [**indecipherable**] I will take. I think one of the very – very much loved is [**Polish**]

Q: If that was being sung, then please, I would appreciate it.

A: [**sings in Polish**]

Q: And that was –

A: That was –

Q: – that was a hymn.

A: – a hymn. That's – that's a church song. Pope **Johns Paul** the second loved that very much.

Q: Oh yeah?

A: That was – and – and –

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: And so the boxcar would just sing that –

A: Singing all the Polish, one after the other, so –

Q: How – how could you tell – how could those who –

A: Sorry my voice is –

Q: I appreciate that you sang it. Thank you. How could you tell when you were pro – crossing the border, that this is **Poland**, and this is no longer **Poland**? What looked different?

A: And there were wires, how do you call those wires, with the –

Q: Barbed wires?

A: Yes. So – so that – that –

Q: It was a barbed wire fence.

A: – barb – barb wire fence, yet.

Q: Were you near the window?

A: I know I could see, so apparently people were nice enough to – to let children, you know –

Q: Take a look.

A: – climb up and – and take a look.

Q: Okay.

A: And we had to do it quickly.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Of course.

A: Just a – a look and – and that's it.

Q: Yeah. And then –

A: And then the train was speeding so fast, and maybe it wasn't so much, but you just – you just see that it's going away, and th – so fast, you know, so – so I – I just remember that, and –

Q: Did you cry a lot?

A: As a child, you – you don't know so much what's happening. My mom – oh, my – our mom fainted. When the train – that was yet in **Wolkowysk**, when the train moved –

Q: Okay, the first train, yeah.

A: – the first – my – our mom fainted. And we cried and cried because we didn't know what happened. I – I never saw my mother faint, you know, and – and all of a sudden, you know, she's – I thought she died. And once – one lady, apparently she was maybe nurse, and she – she had smelling –

Q: Salts.

A: – salt – salts, and – and she do – did that to her [**indecipherable**]

Q: So to bring her back.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: To bring her back, yes. And – an-and then I – I don't know if she fainted again, or – or not, but –

Q: How did people behave with one another on that train, on that car?

A: Oh, we were – we were like – we didn't know each other, but – but we – we talked to each other like to your brother or sister, because that's all – you are – you are sitting here and – and you're – you're going. Going to the same place, going from your home, a warm har – home. And – an-and I don't know if you want to hear about conditions in that.

Q: Yes.

A: In – we didn't have any toilets, of course. The only thing, there was a hole in the floor, and – and nothing else. No – no cover, no nothing, so – so how – how do you do that? Some – some people had extra blankets. They somehow managed to h – to hang it up, to – to cover –

Q: Hide it.

A: – make it private. So that was it. But, it was fro – freezing temperature. It didn't take long until that hole was all fr-frozen, and no more hole. So the only way you could empty yourself, outside. So everybody, didn't matter, a lady or – or – or a man, or – or – or who – the child, everybody had to go –

Q: Outside.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: – outside. And a Russian soldier would stand with a gun over you. Y-You open your – your panties [**indecipherable**] and it became, you know, everything – you have to go. But eventually when – when you didn't eat so much, so you didn't need to go so much.

Q: So how often would they open the train doors?

A: I think maybe twice a day. So – so that was – and – and another thing was they gave you a loaf of bread the first day, and a bucket of water for – for all – for whole 60 people.

Q: Oh my goodness.

A: So – so we – we didn't get much food, and of course that – that wasn't en – and how much water did you get when you have a – a bucket of water? So – so you just get cup or something, you know.

Q: So people must have been hungry very quickly.

A: Well, hungry and – but gradually your stomach gets – gets –

Q: Adjusted?

A: – adjusted to that, right.

Q: Did anybody get sick on the train?

A: Everybody. They – they were sick, they were dying.

Q: There were de – people who were dying in your car?

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.



**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: And babies – babies I’ve seen they threw out. They – you couldn’t carry it because it wouldn’t – and can you imagine the mother, losing a child? So –

Q: Did this happen in your boxcar too?

A: No. Luckily, in our boxcar there was no dead person.

Q: Okay. But you saw in the other boxcars.

A: But we saw through that little window, once in a while, you know. Or sometimes the door was opening, and they were carrying out from the other door. So they didn’t consider people as people. To them was like animal carrying the – I’ve seen so many dead, so many.

Q: What happened where you got – when did you – where did you end up? Where did the train take you?

A: It took us to a station – through vol – **Moscow, Vologda**, and at **Vologda** our train turned north towards **Arkhangelsk**. And on the way to **Arkhangelsk**, at the station that – I have it in my book, but not in my head, finally they stopped the train and si – told us to take our stuff out. They had, again, sleds waiting for us. They helped my – my brother, or probably one of the people was helping to – to put that trunk on. And – and us – and my sister and I and my mom, we were allowed to ride, but not my brother. My brother had to walk.

Q: Your 15 year old brother.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: My 15 years old brother. And he walked all way to – to **Shilova**. Every night we would stop in a village, Russian village, of the people that were also deportees from the first – from the revolution –

Q: Really?

A: – Russian revolution. And at one house a woman, when she saw my mom, she st – with the baby, she started crying. Apparently she had a baby too, and – when she was deported, and now – now –

Q: She sees someone else.

A: – she – she sees one and she – she started t-telling my mother – my mother spoke Russian, because she was through – through a couple, in German and – and Russian occupations. So to – to my mother, the languages were not strange. And – and then – then sh – we – I don't know why she took us downstairs, but as we were walking downstairs, there was a little curtain, and she opened that, and she showed a Blessed Mother picture, and she says, I too believe in God. And didn't – didn't say much, because they are afraid, you know, their – they were afraid. So – so – so we slept there on the floor. They provided just floor because that's all they had, probably one bed for themselves, and – and nothing else. So that was our first night. Then s – then I think we – we had like four or five – they're in the book.

Q: Okay.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: And –

Q: How long did it take to get to **Slishko**(ph)?

A: To **Shilova**?

Q: **Shilova**, excuse me.

A: A week.

Q: Okay. And your brother walked the whole time.

A: And – and every day he had to walk.

Q: And what about your baby brother, your – the other brother?

A: The – the baby brother was okay yet, and my mom – but he had very clean – she probably had enough powder or whatever, you know, to – to help him to heal and – but that's – that's all she ca – she could do. But that woman was very helpful. Well, I guess we – we met a lot of people on the way, good people. I cannot – cannot complain. There were bad people, but those not necessarily were Russians. They could be Polish. Because when they stole something, I don't think the Russian would carry, because – although, who knows? I don't know.

Q: So did this lady – did this lady have food to give you as well, or –

A: Just **kipiatok**.

Q: And what's **kipiatok**?

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Just hot water. And they – they all had ra – rationing, so we – we – we couldn't expect and – or if – if the government gave them something, you know, but otherwise – and like they appar – apparently expected that we did take enough food, you know, for that.

Q: So when you get to **Shilova**, what is – what did you find there?

A: They put us in one room, two families. And the room was maybe a – like this living room to – til – to here. From there maybe it's even – this is ba – bigger. And – and one side was boards, and nothing else, no mattresses, no nothing, for one family, and the other si-side boards also sta – you know, it's like a table, and – and –

Q: So was it like a room that would be 10 by 10? Ten feet by ten feet, or – about half the size of this living room?

A: Yeah, that's – that's all, only – only that much.

Q: Okay.

A: And there was one table, small table in the middle, by the window. And two – two chairs, but not real chairs like we have, the one with the back.

Q: Right.

A: So – and – and then there was one small bed yet, a real – real bed. That – that one was my s – my brothers'. So four of us in – in one, across, because otherwise

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

would be not enough room for – for – for us. So – so we did across, legs – legs probably my Mom's were falling – showing. And – and the same, the other family was three children and the father and mother. So –

Q: So five people on one, and five in the other.

A: Yeah.

Q: Ten people in this small room.

A: In this small room, and one stove, and one of those, like many, many years ago, when there was no electric type stoves, or – or electric whatever, you know, it's – it's very primitive. So – so that's all. Do you – then the next day, they came, the [indecipherable] is the one that's in charge of whole – whole 800 people there that they brought. In – in that they – they – he comes, and he asks who is – who is the man in the family. And the only man was my – my brother. One person has to work, he said. So you're going to work, at 15, with the men, with adults. And whatever – whatever he earned during the day – if he didn't make his ra-arash – a ration?

Q: Quota?

A: Quota.

Q: Quota, mm-hm.

A: If he didn't make his quota, he would get less – less bread. There was soup and bread that they could – could get when they were working, once a day. And – an-

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

and bread, they could divide for morning and – and on lunch. And if – if they didn't, you know, then they didn't have it.

Q: So what did they do in **Shilova**, what was ki – what was the work that your brother had to do?

A: Cutting. Cutting tr-trees, trimming branches on them, and – a-and putting them in a – a mound that they were told that that's how it sh – the measurements have to be, the – the length of it, and – and – and so much high – height, and – and so – so that's what my brother was supposed to – and I – I didn't know until I read my brother's report when he – when he was getting into the army, Polish army. So – so at that time, he wrote that he was not getting enough food, and they were cutting, and that's why he was getting sick being there.

Q: So that meant your – your older brother was working as an adult, even though he was 15 years old.

A: Mm-hm.

Q: And was his ration, his food, for the whole family?

A: No, that was for him.

Q: Okay.

A: But only as much –

Q: As he worked.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: – as each person should get it.

Q: And so they said he didn't me – ma – meet his quota –

A: So –

Q: – and so he would get less food.

A: Right, right.

Q: And the – I mean, it sounds like the cards were stacked against him, because he was a boy to begin with –

A: Right, right.

Q: – to have to do an adult job.

A: Mm-hm. So – and on the first summer, he came home, they brought him home sick.

Q: So he didn't come home every day?

A: No, he was in the camp for half a year, for New Year's – New Year's day they would give the day, that was holiday, and for first of May. And there – there was holiday. So – so those days they would come home. Otherwise, they were working all the time.

Q: So he was taken away, and you never saw him, except for such holidays, and in the summertime, and you, fr – if I count, do you know the date you arrived in

**Shilova?** If it –

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: To **Shilova**? I know in the book.

Q: It's in the book?

A2: I know.

Q: Okay. Well, when we interview you, then we will – we will get that then.

A2: Okay.

Q: But I would say that it's probably if you were taken on February 10<sup>th</sup>, you know, and you spent some days until you cross the border from **Poland** into the **Soviet Union**, probably sometime in – at the end of the month, or the beginning of March is when you arrived there. I'm just estimating. So your brother is taken, and you don't see him at least until May first.

A: Right.

Q: Okay. And when he came –

A: Until he got sick.

Q: So what did he get sick from?

A: A nutri – nutrition.

Q: A lack of nutrition.

A: Less of nutrition.

Q: What was his disease?

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.



**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: First time was he couldn't see. He – hi – he lost the vision at night. So, they sent him home, and he came with a raw liver. Because on **Siberia** we didn't see them eat.

Q: Okay.

A: But when somebody is sick and couldn't work, then they found it. And – and he – he came with that, and my mother was chopping it and trying to make it – no – no onion, no – no spices. Maybe she had some little salt or something. So – so she would prepare that for him, and – and he had to eat. And my sister knows what the – what – how it tastes because she had – she had the problem in her life.

Q: Okay. Now, in – what did the rest of you do?

A: Before my si – my brother and that one date before, when he headed home, he showed me how to cut the trees – tree down.

Q: Okay.

A: And which tree to cut. Which tree is dry, dead. So I went with him, and – and I helped him to cut. And when we cut it down, he showed us how – how to cut into pieces.

Q: Okay.

A: And how to put on a sled. Oh, one thing –

Q: Okay.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: – or more things that they gave us to take from home, our sled that we were playing with.

Q: So you could bring a sled?

A: So we could bring the sled, just was – it wasn't big. It was probably that big. It was ours to – for down – downhill.

Q: Okay.

A: And that thing came – came in so handy, because we took that sled, and we went to – to the – where the bog is, but in the wintertime it's frozen. And there are the trees that are dead. So we cut those trees, one by one, and were carrying home. So my brother helped me to prepare that foo – that wood, and – and we – and I learned how to do it.

Q: Okay.

A: So then, next day, my sister, I took her with me, okay, we are going. Because to cut the tree, we had one – one long saw that you have to pull on each side, so – so she was on one side, I was on the other. We cut it, and then I did everything what my brother taught me, and we started wa – bringing the f – the wood.

Q: So you would at least have heat for the house.

A: Heat and – and cooking.

Q: And what about the other family, did they do the same thing?

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: I always think, you know, they used our wood. Because there was two boys, and one boy was my brother's –

Q: Age.

A: – age, so he went to work in a forest.

Q: Okay.

A: But the other one stayed here.

Q: Okay.

A: And – and they – I don't remember i – them bringing any – any wood.

Q: Did they contribute in any way?

A: I – I don't remember.

Q: Okay. Okay.

A: I don't remember. Eventually they – they moved to another room, but – but that was probably a year later.

Q: So what did – did your mother stay in the room with your baby brother, or did she have to work as well? Did she get –

A: No, my mother was getting release from work.

Q: Okay.

A: Relief because one of – this baby, and the other one, she had something wrong.

When she was walking, she was holding her here.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Her side.

A: So she apparently had something, either intestines, or –

Q: She was not well.

A: She was not well, and each time – and – and also, she was getting migraine. I am blessed with them.

Q: Oh, oh.

A: Today – today I had to take pills.

Q: Oh, what a pity, what a pity.

A: That's okay, I forgive my mom.

Q: Oh. So she was not well, and you and your sister would go and get the wood.

A: Mm-hm.

Q: Did you have any other duties that you had to do?

A: Eventually we went to school.

Q: Okay.

A: I'll – but when we went to school, it was morning hours. And then in afternoon, we got the job. We could work and make some money. So it was a

**[indecipherable]** which, cubic meters.

Q: A cubic meter, yeah.

A: Cubic meter, and we had to cut the wood a certain am –

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Length.

A: – length, and make it until it reaches the – the requirement.

Q: Okay.

A: And then we got something like maybe one ruble, or something for it.

Q: Okay.

A: I know it wasn't much, but it was helping my brother.

Q: Yeah.

A: Because whatever he was giving us was enough only to buy bread. So – so but we sa – somehow we survived.

Q: Were you selling some of the items from the trunk?

A: Yes. We – we were going to Russian people, those that were previously deported. And the village was on the other side of the lake.

Q: Okay.

A: In the wintertime the lake froze, so we could get there. But no boats or anything that could take us across.

Q: Okay.

A: Some – some of the women from the other side sometimes would come here.

And I remember my mom had a sweater, like a – a wool for knitting. And she didn't

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

know how to knit, and I didn't learn because I didn't want to learn, because the village people were – were doing that. So I –

Q: Oh really?

A: – oh, this – I – I had s-some kind of stupid pride. And so – so when my mother was selling that, she says, see, you could have make a nice sweater for yourself, and now you don't know how.

Q: Yeah.

A: And would you believe, I – I took the needles [indecipherable] and I – and I knew it.

Q: You learned how?

A: The only – by myself this time. Because that women that was teaching me, apparently she showed me enough that I memorized. I wasn't that stupid, like now.

Q: No, no, no, no, no, no, no. Very good, very good. So that you – you sold the sweater to –

A: To the –

Q: – to the villagers over in the –

A: Yeah. And they gave you more when it was ne – new. So – but it wasn't that much, you know, that wasn't – I don't know, maybe two sweaters or something.

But things like that, you know, and they gave us a lot of those, in the – in the trunk,

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

you know, the – those things, pillowcases and – and so – so all that, you know, helped us. Except at the end we already at the end of our stay there, it wasn't enough to do exchanging or – because we – we would ask for the bread, gave us loaf, you know. Okay, I will give you – give you this. I mean, it's – it's that kind of, you know, business.

Q: That kind of bartering.

A: Bartering, yeah.

Q: Yeah, yeah.

A: So – so we – we did that, you know, and – and – and then in the summertime, we did have berries.

Q: Okay.

A: Especially cranberries. The only problem was, you had to go into a bog.

Q: A bog, oh.

A: And – and – and there was ice yet floating on top, so the water was –

Q: Cold.

A: – cold. And I'm – I am – I started getting some kind of sores on my legs. So apparently from cold –

Q: Yeah.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: – cold water. But – but we went couple times with **Irka**(ph) to – to pick, and we were selling, and –

Q: The cranberries?

A: – cranberries, yeah. And also, we could – they – they provided for us, a barrel. In that barrel you could preserve those blueberry – n-no, cranberries. And – and they would provide some food, and of course vitamins. So – so we saved for us, and then sold what – sold what was too much for us. And – and then get couple, and some – and for that extra money, we would ma-make – buy soup. Because they were providing fish soup. They called it **uha**(ph).

Q: **Uha**(ph).

A: So, the [**indecipherable**].

Q: How is – how is your brother doing, your little brother?

A: He didn't last too long.

Q: What happened?

A: There was no – no food for baby. My mom would – would – I – I remember was chewing that bread, and – and giving them chewed up, you know, it's – she would never do that, but that's the on-only way the baby could – because he was –

Q: Digest it, yeah.



**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Yeah, he wasn't even a year old. So, at – he was getting sick all the time. She didn't have any – she was so – so slim. She was a nice – probably your – your size person, and then when – when it came, probably like Easter, first Easter, he already was getting sick and – and diarrhea, and – and things like that, you know, and – and not – not too – too long, he was already with bloody discharge from his rectum. So – so that – that was already beginning of the illness that he died of. And he died on July – I don't know, fourth or – or second. Something in beginning of July.

Q: 1940.

A: 1940.

Q: So, he last –

A: Forty – wait a minute, '40, yeah.

Q: 1940. So he lasted maybe five months. February, March –

A: Oh, wait a minute.

Q: – April, May –

A: No, no, no, that was –

Q: – June.

A: – another year.

Q: Huh.

A: Oh wait a minute. I'm – I'm – I'm already mixed up.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Okay, you –

A: Well, I know he was year old.

Q: He was at least a year old.

A: Yeah, on July, okay –

Q: So then –

A: Yeah, yeah, I'm okay. That's –

Q: Yeah –

A: – that's –

Q: – so it was right –

A: – that was –

Q: – he lasted five months.

A: – yeah.

Q: Five months –

A: Mm-hm.

Q: – of captivity.

A: Yes.

Q: And then he died.

A: And in eight – eight or – or seven years – seven months of –

Q: Of normal life.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: – a normal life, yeah.

Q: Yeah. So, early July is when he dies, and –

A: Yeah.

Q: – do you remember that moment?

A: Oh, do I. **[crying]** He was a – like our ba – doll. We played with him, we did everything with him. My mom didn't have to do not – not much. We both, **Irka**(ph) and I, we took care of him. She did only change the diapers or something like that, but otherwise, we were –

Q: You were taking care.

A: It was our – our baby.

Q: Was it in the daytime?

A: He was dying, and – and people were so – so helpful. Whoever had somebody dying, you know, they would come and they would pray. They would try to – to help my mom, you know. And – and they even make – made a coffin for him, a little white, you know, and – but I – I couldn't – I couldn't accept **[indecipherable]** crying and praying God that he would live. I think it – this – that was the most painful thing in my life because I couldn't understand what – what is happening, I couldn't understand why it's happening, you know, it –

Q: And he was so innocent, he's a baby. He's a baby.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Yeah. All the babies in the camp died. Eight hundred people were there, and only one survived.

Q: Only one baby?

A: But that pe – pe – person – that family was privileged for some reason. I don't want to talk about it, but – but there were people that were trying to give some others that maybe had some – something wrong, or – I – I – I really don't know why – why that f-family was giving out some other people.

Q: You mean they were informing on other people?

A: Informing, yeah. And they – and they – every day they could get a glass of milk for that baby. My mother – of course we – we saw, because the – we have windows and we see, you know, people wa – people walking in front. And so when uri --

**Jereczek** was so much – so sick, she would go to – to that **pryncidacin(ph)** and ask him. He was the only one that had a cow. He was – he was in charge of the camp.

And so my mom went, and I remember she came with the glass of milk, gave – and gave him that, you know, what's glass of milk, you know, just – but, better than nothing. And – and that was the last glass that he – that he had.

Q: So it was –

A: The only glass.

Q: The only glass.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: But there was no meat, no – no nothing. Bread and water. And our family didn't – didn't have money, and we just exchanged our clothes for – for food, for bread, for potatoes. Potatoes they had the lot. So – so we could get. Once my mother said, I will go, because she felt sorry for us, but I don't know how many time – times **Irka**(ph) went, but I went once with a couple lady friends, and they took me with, and I exchanged fo-for – for potatoes, so that was okay. I – I took the sled with me, and put the bag on it, bu – and nothing happened. But when my mom went, for some reason, they froze. Maybe she was resting too much, and maybe laying down on – on ice, or something. So –

Q: You know something, we'll break for a minute.

A: Okay.

Q: I'm going to make a phone call, and then we'll continue until lunchtime, okay?

A: Okay. **[break]**

Q: We're – we're talking again.

A: Oh, oh, we're talking.

Q: We're talking again.

A: Uh-oh.

Q: Oh yeah. But we – we – before we cut and you know, cut the camera, we were talking about a very – very tragic event for you.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: For me that was very – I never forget that. I still remember grave of **Jereczek**.

Q: Oh, really?

A: **Irka**(ph) and I, we made a fence around. Can you imagine, two little girls? We dug f – to put the –

Q: Coffin in?

A: – posts –

Q: Okay.

A: – into. We figured out how to put the – around the grave, and – and we – we made – put the grass on the – and planted some wildflowers, because we tried to plant – our **babcia** that sent from **Wolkowysk** those flowers, seeds that she send us. And they didn't want to grow. But we did plant and – and found out that they don't grow. But to us –

Q: Where did – where was – where was his grave in the compound?

A: There – there was a – a cemetery, because those Russian people, when they were deported, they were dying out. So there were some graves, but those graves, some of them had crosses, some of them already – because it was 20 years, and the only thing there was is a wooden cross.

Q: Did your brother have a wooden cross?

A: Yes.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Were you able to put his name on it?

A: It's the –

Q: Not really, huh?

A: I – I don't think we put the name. I don't think we thought about it. We just decorated. The flowers, the – the little **wianki**, you know, to hang up on a – **wianek** is – how do you say **wianek**? From the flowers, you make the circ –

Q: A wreath?

A: A **reef**.

Q: A wreath.

A: A **reef**, yes.

Q: Okay.

A: Little **reefs** on it, you know. And – or – or put just bouquet o-of flowers on the grave. We – we a – if not every day, then every second day we would go to his grave. And the – it was – we kept that as a – as our part of responsibility. And my mo – our mother, once in a while she would go, and she would praise us and say, you know, that's – that's the right thing to do, and – and we –

Q: How was she doing? How was your mother doing after this – after all this happened?

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: She – she did good, and that’s when she started getting those migraines. And she – and sometimes her migraine would last for two, three days. And she would – one day she says, cut – cut my hair. And she had already long hair. And – and she just took scissors, and – and he says, oh just cut there. And I didn’t know how to cut, you know, so I took – I think she had made into a one – one of those braids. A braid, and – and she just took that braid, cut here. And she didn’t care, because she –

Q: Because the weight of the hair was hurting her?

A: Yeah, that’s what she thought, that the weight of the hair is causing her – but, you know, it didn’t help. And she would – tie a scarf on her head tight, do it tight, you know, and oh she – she suffered.

Q: She was suffering.

A: And with migraine, I know if I wouldn’t take the pill, those that are helping – one lady in **Joole(ph)** told me what to take, and – and it’s cheap, and – and I can get at **Walmart**. But oth-otherwise, I don’t know what I would do, because doctors always try something that they think it helps. Not everyone helps. But now – now I – I always take that **aceen – aceenominophen(ph)**.

Q: But you know, for a person who was in the situation that your mother was in, and that other people were in, not everybody who got deported was in the best of



**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

health, or their health got broken in different ways along the journey, or on the journey, or in the place. And how do you take care of that, how do you recover, you know, when there is – when you're in such a – you know, if someone gets sick, or if someone has cancer, or someone – you know.

A: Well, th – over there, there was an – nobody knew about cancer, period, and – and – and those were not old ladies. There were – there were some pu – people that were deported with the – grandmothers. And – but those grandmothers were taken, and they said, we're taking them to the place that when they – where they get better, and they apparently poisoned them, because no-nobody s-saw one of them. So all those grandmothers were destroyed from this – this earth.

Q: From your – from the –

A: From the camp.

Q: From the camp.

A: From the camp. But lucky mi – my mom was just 43, or some – between 43 and 45. So she was a young person. So they apparently thought that their **podoszok(ph)**, which is a little – a little bit of powder, that's the **podoszok(ph)**. And that's what they gave each time she – she had to go to that **pryncidacin(ph)**.

Q: **Pretzidatto(ph)**. What does **pretzidatto(ph)** translate as?

A: This is manager.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Was this a person who was a military person?

A: Yes.

Q: Okay.

A: I don't know if he is military, but – but probably that's – in a way, he is.

Q: A government official, though?

A: I think so, because he was in – in charge of us.

Q: You said 800 people were in this **Shilova**, yeah?

A: **Tushilova**(ph), yeah.

Q: Yeah. **Tushilova**(ph), or –

A: **Tushilova**(ph).

Q: **Tushilova**(ph), okay.

A: Yeah.

Q: And – and that the adults were taken away that could work, to work in cutting down trees.

A: Yes.

Q: Can you describe how that settlement looked? Was it in – you mentioned that there were bogs, were there forests, too?

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Forests all around. And only some places became bogs, and those bogs then destroyed that – the trees. So those are the ones that I and **Irka**(ph) were – we were looking for –

Q: What about –

A: – to cut down, because they were lighter to begin with.

Q: Right.

A: And – and ready to be put into fire.

Q: What – what did the – how many buildings were there to house these 800 people?

A: Ah, I don't remember exactly, but probably eight. And each building – the one that we were, were eight of those rooms –

Q: Okay.

A: – for some families – there were some families like eight people in one, so they got the ha – one room. But since our was only five, and a baby, so apparently they didn't count, or they didn't think that he will live. And us stayed with two families in one.

Q: So it would be like eight large buildings and maybe eight to 10 rooms per building, and about 10 people per room, something like that.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Something like that, and – and some more, because – because they were a large family.

Q: And you said one family got special treatment because they informed on others.

A: Mm-hm, yeah.

Q: So what kind of things could they inform on?

A: People would, after work would meet and talk, you know, what would be, what – for instance we – we were sitting at the table, and – and that was making – I don't remember exactly, but that – whatever we were using, we would put finger on it, and that thing would be energized, and go from – and we would ask, and – and it would spell wha –

Q: Like a **Ouija** board.

A: **Ouija** board. And – and you know, that kept us going, because we believed that that thing tells us the – the truth.

Q: I see. So they would report on these kinds of activities.

A: Yes.

Q: Okay.

A: And – or, we would – on Sundays, we would get together into one room and pray.

Q: Was there a priest in – amongst the 800?

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Not – not in our – not that we knew.

Q: Okay.

A: Not in our camp. I'm – I know there were –

Q: Okay.

A: – but not in our camp.

Q: And you said that every baby that came to that camp died, except one. Were there other people who were dying in the camp?

A: Yes, yes. Oh, I have to tell you that one. My brother worked in the summer.

Whatever tree, or – or those woods they were cutting, now, when the lake –

Q: Wasn't frozen.

A: – wasn't frozen, then they took that – that circle, because they were throwing into water – and – and into – inside of the circle, and were – with a special – I have it in my book.

Q: Was it a special instrument of some kind?

A: Special thing, primitive, but they made it, and then they could pull, they – on – on the shore. They could turn that. And that was moving the – the wood towards the opening in the lake where the river starts. In – and then they, on a river, they wa – they go on a shore walk. And – and they watch where there is like a turn, and at the turn, and the – the wood gets stuck.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: So they would try and guide the logs from the water –

A: To – right.

Q: – from the lake to the river.

A: – to the oma – to the **Onega** river, because this one's smaller, **Kosh**(ph) river, and that I remember. And – and to the ome – **Onega** –

Q: **Omega**?

A: **Onega, Onega.**

Q: **Onega.**

A: **Onega** river.

Q: **Onega** river, okay.

A: And then – and then they let it go, wherever – wherever some – something else takes over. So my brother and in a group of those men, was – and there was another young boy. I'm sure there was couple – couple of them. That one was fourth grade high school, and my brother was only second grade. So –

Q: Second year of high school.

A: Second year of high school. So – so my – my brother was in a boat with the young men – young boys. And – and my – and his friend was sitting on the same bench, but he's on this side, and – and – and **Urich**(ph) on the other side. So when – when they came to the **[indecipherable]** waterfall, then they – the Russian,

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

whoever was in charge of that group, said that they have to go down on the waterfall.

Q: They have to go down the waterfall.

A: On the waterfall, with the boats. So the old man, I guess more knowing how to – how – how to operate that, you know, water and the – and the boat. So they went down, and they were okay. But then comes that – this young boys' boat, and it went straight into water and filled up with water, and they got up out of the water. But in the middle of the **Stasek**(ph), my bro-brother was on the right side towards the shore. And th – and the people that was on the shore threw the rope to him, pulled him out. **Urich**(ph) jumped towards the middle, and the middle, there was –

Q: A current?

A: – rocks. And he stood on that, and that was the s – the last thing that people heard from him. And – and the father was watching.

Q: Oh my. Oh my.

A: And then the father was looking for him for whole week until they found his body. And – and the mother was – oh, you could hear all over, her crying.

Q: All over the camp.

A: She was crying so – every day, every day. That's the worst thing, I think.

Q: Yeah. Yeah. How long did you stay in this camp?

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Until – I was looking, but I forgot already. Oh, til – til January 17<sup>th</sup> of '42.

Q: Of '42?

A: Yes.

Q: So that meant you were there almost two years.

A: Right.

Q: And how – how did you find out – what happened that you could leave? What happened that – that things changed?

A: I think – I think men always find something faster than – than we did.

Q: Okay.

A: They – they were already allowed to go not – not to work. So they came to the camp **[indecipherable]**

Q: There were some men who came to the camp?

A: All those husbands and – and wives, even wives were there **[indecipherable]** also were there, working.

Q: You mean who were logging, who were cutting branches? Okay.

A: Who were logging, yes, yes.

Q: Okay.

A: So they – they came to – to the camp, and they already knew that Polish army is being organized and where, all this.



**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: And –

A: So they were informed.

Q: And –

A: I guess Russians were informing these Polish people that they can go, and they are free. That we are free.

Q: And – and about when did the – did this news come by?

A: I – e – in November. But it was August – August, I think, of – of '42.

Q: Forty-one.

A: Forty-two.

Q: You said –

A: Or '41?

Q: – you left in – in January '42.

A: Forty-two, yeah.

Q: Okay.

A: Oh, that's right, so '41. And – and my – my brother came and – and they couldn't work any more.

Q: Okay.

A: So – or were not allowed, or something like that. So – so my – my brother and – and there was a nice gentleman that he organized that group. I think I – in book

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

everything is right, not here. So – so they – they did get as a group, and decided to – to leave. I think it was 11<sup>th</sup> of November, and it's a – I think – I don't know.

Q: Your brother was part of this group?

A: Mm-hm.

Q: So he left you and – he left with the group.

A: And – and – and my mom gave him a lot of – not a lot, whatever he had – she had, money, whatever she saved. And – and – and – and my brother says, no, no, no, I am not gonna take. But then he's already on the lake, and she says go and give him – you have to give him, I cannot keep this. We will sell – sell some – some of the clothes. So – so I ran after him, I catch him, and – and I say – say to him,

**Mamusha** said you – you have to have it. And he says no. So he was as stubborn as my sister, and he didn't take it.

Q: He didn't take it.

A: So – so I – I brought on that, I – but I swa – I think it was like 70 or something.

So – so then – then we sta – started saving money for our trip.

Q: Okay.

A: Because in order for us to leave, we as a family of a soldier, we were allowed to leave the **Siberia**. If we didn't have nobody, we wouldn't.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: So does that mean because your brother was a soldier, or because your father had been a soldier?

A: And the father also.

Q: Did you know where your father was at this point?

A: I – we received one – I was looking here at that postcard from my father –

Q: Okay.

A: – in Russian. I don't think my father was writing, only his signature was there.

Q: Okay.

A: But he said wherever – wherever you are, try to go in the direction of – again, a place where – where the Polish army is organized.

Q: Okay.

A: So – so that – that was our destination, and th –

Q: And did your f – excuse me for interrupting – was your father also released?

A: Yes.

Q: Okay.

A: But father was with awful, awful, awful condition. And got four – I think four rubles for two years of – of gulag.

Q: Wow. Wow.

A: Big rewa – big reward.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Okay.

A: But he wa –

Q: Did he eventually leave the **Soviet Union**?

A: Yes.

Q: In 1940 –

A: He joined. In the book look for – for – I – I have two pictures. One that he's just joined, and then when he is already in better shape.

Q: Ba – okay, but he was able to leave the **Soviet Union** during these – these months –

A: With the Polish – with the Polish –

Q: With the Polish –

A: – army.

Q: Okay.

A: And they hi – they didn't want him to be served in the army when he was younger, but this time they –

Q: They took him.

A: – they took him and – and – and were very happy, and he was very happy. He was driving a truck or something there, you know, delivering, you know, ammuni – ammunition during the war, and he – he did – did his good – good job.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Service, yeah.

A: Yeah, good service.

Q: So – but di – you didn't meet up, you didn't see him at this –

A: I – we didn't see him until – in a – in **United States** in '43.

Q: Fifty-three.

A: Fifty-three, that's right.

Q: Fifty-three, yeah.

A: Thanks.

Q: I see. All right. So you – you'd know – your father is in a gulag, he is released, he is in bad condition, but he gets his way south. He joins the army, he leaves, and he ends up serving as a – as a truck driver delivering ammunition. Meanwhile, your younger – your older brother goes, and it's the three – three women who are left: your mother and yourself and your sister.

A: Mm-hm.

Q: And you start planning to leave.

A: Yeah.

Q: And preparing to leave.

A: Yeah.

Q: Okay. So your preparations involved earning more money, was that it?

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Ner – well, we had to go to – across the lake to exchange. And this time, of course, we wanted m-money.

Q: Yeah.

A: Because we needed money, we have to pay for – for the sled to take our trunk and us and whatever. And it wasn't so easy this time, because they had enough.

People sold or exchange so much, you know, that –

Q: They didn't need any more things.

A: – they didn't need. So I think we – we couldn't do much, and my mother just had enough to pay for our trip to the station.

Q: The railway station.

A: Railway station. And – and she says, on the way we'll be trying to sell. So in those villages that we had to stop, then she – every time we stopped in the evening, she would go and – and start selling. And she sold enough to – for us to pay for our train tickets, and some for food.

Q: Okay.

A: That – so it wasn't. But she was selling everything the best. Nobody wanted to buy her suits, because she had some suits for sale. But that she – who wears, you know, skirt and – and – and beautiful jacket, you know, in **Siberia**?

Q: Yeah.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: So – so she – one – one time she was in a house of a – a woman, and sh – and she was taking care of her granddaughter. And that grotter – that grandda-daughter saw my mother wearing nice hat, knit hat, you know, and – and – and Mama – no, Grandma, I want that, I want that. And – and – and – an-and Grandma was afraid to – to ask. But – but finally that one so – trying so hard. And my mom says, I can sell that. So – so my mother gave her that hat. And she gave my mom a loaf of bread, hundred rubles. And yet she gave – she told my mom, come tomorrow morning, I'll give you another loaf of bread.

Q: Wow.

A: So – so that was such a –

Q: A huge thing.

A: – huge thing. And – and small knit hat, you know, but – but to – to that little – of course grandma always buys everything for –

Q: Grandchildren, yeah.

A: But she didn't have to give so much –

Q: Money.

A: – money, yeah. So – so she – she was lucky.

Q: And that helped you.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: And that – that was another addition, and so we gradually had enough money to go. And – and she had on – on herself another 300 rubles. Oh, I didn't tell you about my uncle from **Moscow**.

Q: Oh yes, tell us, because you mentioned in the beginning that he had been helpful to you.

A: Mm-hm.

Q: Okay.

A: So – so he – with – we'll regress. It was a few days before – **[doorbell rings]**

Q: Okay, hang on. **[break]**

A: He asks me – I was corresponding with him after we came, and he asked me after I published my – my book, he asked me to send him a couple books, and – and he was the one, he was working at – what is the name of it? Where y – what you may – what you work now?

Q: At the Holocaust Museum?

A: Holocaust Museum.

Q: Uh-huh.

A: So – so – and I don't remember his ma – name, because it was five years ago.

Q: Oh, okay. And you met him in **Italy**, in **Monte Cassino**?



**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Ye – well, we – we took a trip from **Chicago** to – but I don't know if that was a group only from **Chicago**, it's possibly, that we didn't get anybody else. But – oh no, he wa – he lived by the **Washington, D.C.**

Q: I see.

A: By the – yeah, by the **Washington, D.C.** Because he'll – he lived there, and he – he volunteered there.

Q: I see.

A: So he was there. He was so nice gentleman. Took me to – in **Viedin(ph)**, to the opera. I was – when we were talking, and I said oh, I wish I could go to the opera, because we were – on our tour we were visiting **Vienna**, and then cemeteries where a la – about thousand – more than thousand Polish soldiers were buried. So we were going, you know, from one place to the other, and then we came friends, you know, so – so –

Q: And you don't remember the gentleman's name?

A: No, I don't remember his name. Five years only. And remember – remember si – how many, 70 what? Seventy-five siver – from **Siberia**.

A2: **Rozhanski(ph)**?

A: No, no, no, that was a Jew.

A2: Oh, oh, oh, oh.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: A Jewish –

Q: Person.

A: A Jewish person.

Q: You're telling me now about a Jewish person you met –

A: Mm-hm.

Q: – when you were at **Monte Cassino** at the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary –

A: Mm-hm.

Q: – to commemorate, y-you know, the soldiers –

A: My brother.

Q: – who had fallen, for you was your brother.

A: Right, and my brother.

Q: Yeah.

A: And I thought he wasn't there, so I – so I want to go instead of him, for him.

Q: Yeah, for him.

A: And that – tha – and I don't remember –

Q: Well, that's a nice experience.

A: Yeah. I don't remem – he – at th – each cemetery he would go only to the corner  
where the Jewish soldiers were buried. So – so he would go there, and I would go to  
– to look at the Polish –

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Polish.

A: – soldiers. And I don't know if th – anybody was – probably in – in **Monte Cassino** were my brother's friends –

Q: Could be.

A: – buried.

Q: Could be

A: But my brother was injured.

Q: At **Monte Cassino**.

A: At **Monte**. He says his best time was there, because they didn't have the – how do you c-call **wismayrjits**(ph) for the pain.

Q: They didn't have painkillers?

A: Yes, th-they gave him bottle of whisky.

Q: Oh.

A: He says once he [**indecipherable**]

Q: No pain, huh?

A: He did not need that, I think.

Q: Okay. Well, before the break, we were talking about – we were talking about how you and your mother needed money, and your si – the three of you: you, your

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

sister, your mother, needed money in order to leave the camp, and how she was able to gather some money together by selling some things –

A: Mm-hm.

Q: – including the knit hat.

A: Mm-hm.

Q: And then we stopped at the point where you said your uncle and wa – in **Moscow** was also of great help –

A: Mm-hm.

Q: – at this time. So explain to me in what way he was helping you and your mother and your sister.

A: Okay. Shortly before we left **Siberia**, my – my mom was wondering how can we get the money. And – and I don't know if she has written to – to my aunt in – my – no, **babcia**.

Q: Your aunt – yeah.

A: Ma – my mom's aunt in **Wolkowysk**, or – or not, but I know that that was the aunt of also uncle – I don't know if I call – told you right name. He was **Joseph**.

Q: I don't remember.

A: But –

Q: I don't remember, but you did mention –

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: The one in **Moscow**, his name was **Joseph**.

Q: – the one who – who had – the one who was inducted in the tsar's army –

A: Yeah.

Q: – and could not leave the **Soviet Union** –

A: Mm-hm, mm-hm.

Q: – after the **Bolshevik** revolution.

A: Yes, that's the one.

Q: So he was in **Moscow**, mm-hm.

A: Yeah, so – so he apparent – she apparently, the aunt wrote to him and told him that we're in need of money. So my mom sent us to the post office. We – we had to go, I don't know, maybe eight kilometers to – to the main aw – post office, to pick up the letter. And we got the letter and we come home and – and – and I look at this, and this is from Uncle **Joseph** from **Moscow**. So – so – and of course when Mama opened this and – and si – found 300 rubles, that was all that we needed.

Q: Oh my. So that helped, that helped.

A: So that yes, that helped us. Hundred – hundred thou – thou – rubles for each person –

Q: Okay.

A: – on the – on the train. But not on – on the sled.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: So she still had to pay for that.

A: For that she paid, a-and – and only she could ride, and we two, we were supposed to walk. And we said Mama we – don't worry, we will walk, we will walk, and – because she was worried that – and doesn't have enough to pay. Well, first – first distance was from our camp to **Polwina**(ph) which was part of – half to – to the next village, an-and that's why the name **Polwina**(ph), halfway. So – so **Irka**(ph) and I, we were walking. And **Irka**(ph) –

Q: And you – and you were walking because there wasn't enough money to pay for you to ride in the sleigh?

A: Right.

Q: I see. Okay.

A: See, at that point my mom didn't sell her hat, an-and the – and other s – other beautiful things that I remember seeing and admiring it, you know. But at that point we – we had only that much how to pay. And she, of course, she would never make it.

Q: Yeah.

A: The – the way sh – when she was walking [**indecipherable**] sometimes, and not always. When she felt little better. So – so at that time, we walked, and when we got to the end, I think **Irka**(ph) was so – i-in such a pain – she is a very tough little

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

child when she was little, and now too. She – what she has, I – I think I would be dead long time ago.

Q: Okay.

A: Exercises, and all. But – so – so then – and then, at – at – in that village when we arrived, my mother says, I have to somehow bribe the – the –

Q: Driver?

A: – driver, because **Irka**(ph) cannot go back to – to walk. So – so she took my prettiest skirt that I liked so much, you know, with those pleats all around, and I never forgot. Forgave her, but – but f – didn't forget. And at that time my – of course, I – I didn't – she didn't ask me, and I would always allow. But **Irka**(ph) all the way, hardly ke – could walk. And – but I walked all the way. My – my le – feet would – would be –

Q: Took you the whole way.

A: – okay.

Q: And so what kind of a distance are we talking about?

A: Hundred twenty kilometers to the station.

Q: So that's a good – almost a hundred miles.

A: Kilometers

Q: I know, 120 kilometers –

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Mm-hm, it's a hundred miles.

Q: Hundred miles.

A: – yeah. So – so –

Q: That's huge.

A: – I did. I did. And I guess my legs are okay, because I don't even have big veins.

**Irka**(ph) has u – they – her veins are like my finger.

Q: Wow.

A: You can see that.

Q: So –

A: So – so that was –

Q: And – and then you were able to buy tickets on the train?

A: Yes. Yes, because my mom sold that hat, and – and some – and that was shawl that she – and that I admired, I always looked at it and then, you know, girls –

Q: Yeah.

A: – like some pretty things. So – so it was – it was really good preparation. And then – then as we – as we were driving by the open – this boxcar, then was open there, and – and one of the gentleman from the – from the camp was there. And – and he says, come on into our – they still needed some more people.

Q: So you had – you had an open boxcar now?

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.



**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Yeah.

Q: No – not a –

A: Yeah, now – now we are free. So it – so it was a – a open thing, and waiting for us. We could close the door when we wanted, we could do anything that we wanted.

Q: So – but it was the same set-up as before, with the planks.

A: Right.

Q: Okay.

A: But only two.

Q: Only two.

A: Only two, so – so it was more – more room for us, and – an-and we went – we went in the top. And on the top, that man, he was helping us a lot.

Q: Okay.

A: As we were going, I will tell you – will we finish until I get to **Mexico**?

Q: Yes. Oh, we can talk about it now if you want to, or was – he was helping you in **Mexico**?

A: Oh, no, no, this is not in **Mexico**. This is when we were going south –

Q: Yes.

A: – already without my mom.

Q: Oh, he helps you there?

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: We – we left – on the first station, **Irka**(ph) and I were looking for Mom. We were running at the station on one side.

Q: Okay, no then – no, let's get a little –

A: Back up?

Q: Yeah.

A: Okay.

Q: Because otherwise I – I might not understand.

A: Okay.

Q: So you're in this boxcar, and there's a gentleman there from your camp, who sees you and says come on in, and he helps you.

A: Mm-hm.

Q: And you get the top platform, the top bunk where it's a little bit more air.

A: Mm, okay.

Q: And you're proceeding south.

A: Mm-hm.

Q: And then what happens?

A: And then at one – at one of the s-stations, one person catches a dog.

Q: Okay.

A: And – and they murder the dog, and –

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Food.

A: – cook – cook and smelling this – it's the worst – worst meat if you want to cook the dog. Well, anyway – and when the – one skin, when they too – pulled off the skin from him, they wanted to throw away. And the woman that had two little girls, they look more like twins or anything, and – and – and she was kind of not too – too able to provide –

Q: Food.

A: – or save for them, because they were overpowering her or something, that she – she didn't have nothing. My mom would have at least a spoon of something, and then she would divide that spoon among us. Usually not herself, she wouldn't include. So – so she – that woman takes that skin, burns the hair – you can imagine burning hair in a – in a –

Q: Cattle car, yeah.

A: – traveling –

Q: Right.

A: – train. And – and then she cooked that. And she cooked that skin for probably hours. And there was a stink and – and whatever. You know, it's – it was just unbearable, but – but poor children were hungry and that's all she could provide.

Possibly she was with my mom, you know, to go to buy that food, and the train left

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

and she didn't go because they were saying, and she listened. And our mom said no, I cannot feed you, I – I have to go. So – so –

Q: Oh, so you stopped at a train stop. You stopped at a railway station.

A: Yes, following.

Q: Mm-hm. Following after this incident.

A: Yes. And then – and then we g – jumped out, opened the door because we were in charge of doors and everything. So – so we opened the door and started running at the station and calling, **Mamushu(ph)**, **Mamushu(ph)**. But **Mamushi(ph)** was not on one side, so – so we went for the other side. And on the other side we did the same and – and – and then we see the train, the wheels are moving. And I said to **Irka(ph)**, let's – let's go on the other side. And I'm telling you that I think God was protected us because the train was already moving and we managed to go on the other side.

Q: You mean by the other side, you've managed to get into the car from the other side?

A: The – only from that side the door was.

Q: Okay.

A: So – so w-we – we climbed underneath and started running towards the front, because we went til –

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Oh, I see.

A: – til now to the back. So we were running, and – and here is the door opened, and – and Mr. whatever stands in the door and come on, give me hand, give me hand. And – and he pulls us what – with arm, one arm and – and the – I guess he was pulling so fast that – that – and we were light, we were still hungry and – and – and – and skinny. So – so he pulled us in. And he f –

Q: And do you remember the train station, what the name of it was?

A: Maybe in the book.

Q: Okay.

A: Because I – I don't remember, at this point.

Q: Was this very far into the journey, close to the beginning –

A: Oh yes, yes.

Q: – or close to the end?

A: That was whole day, as we started at – at noon –

Q: Okay.

A: – the train was speeding.

Q: Okay.

A: Speeding and speeding and speeding. And just stopped at the pi – or stopped or didn't stop, or just whistled woo-ooo and go and go and go, until we passed, I think

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

**Ural** mountains. So, from **Vologda** to – to the **Ural** mountains, and then – and then he stops. Apparently he tried as fast and as farthest to get because Germans are – airplanes are flying. And if they saw the – I think that during the day they could go. At night, train – the airplanes would – would be bombar – bombarding the train. So anyway – so we – we are at the – at the train, and – and – and another day, but – but was stopping more often. So whatever station we would – we would come out and call Mamo, Mamo, Mama, you know, and – and – and nobody – nobody –

Q: So you had been on the train for one whole day when it stopped at a station, your mother left to buy food, and didn't return before the train left. In other words, it – it left without her.

A: Right.

Q: And so – and then, at each subsequent station, when the train would stop, you would go out and you would shout.

A: We would go out, yeah.

Q: Okay. Okay.

A: And then – and then we – the whole – whole day and night, and – and – kept on going, we were going for a certain time that I don't remember. And finally we got to the southern state, but now it's a different country, **Kirghizia**.

Q: Ah, **Kyrgyzstan**.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: **Kyrgyzstan**. And they're separate now. So – and there was, in **Jalabad**(ph), was Polish army already. Whatever they are – they are – were, you know, part of them, you know, and – and they gave us good food, and – an-and we were, you know – but no Mama.

Q: So how long did – yeah, how long did the trip from **Vologda** to **Jalabad**(ph) last?

A: Probably about three – three weeks, or something like that.

Q: And you lost your mother on the first day?

A: No, week. We were traveling from the first station to **Vologda** for a week.

Q: Okay.

A: Over there we were traveling only during the day, and at night would be standing in a secluded area.

Q: The train.

A: The train. So the – the –

Q: Okay.

A: – the airplanes wouldn't see. And then in **Vologda**, we were stand – staying for whole week.

Q: Oh, so two weeks from – so it was –

A: Two weeks, yes.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Okay.

A: So – so there, every day, they would be telling us, we will leave today. We will leave today and – and – and we started going, and whatever. So for a whole week my mom was always living with that nervous, oh, I'm going for bread, or – or – or my daughter is going for – because which she would send **Irka**(ph) and me, and whatever – whichever felt little better. So – so we – we were constantly separated, and – and she was nervous about losing us. And then – then finally her system couldn't hold it, and – and she says, we – we don't have nothing to eat, so – so she is going. And she didn't even listen to us, what we – now, of course, which mother listens to a child? So – so anyway, after – wait, what did I want to say?

Q: In **Vologda** –

A: Okay.

Q: – you had to wait a week.

A: Yes.

Q: But you were already on the boxcar.

A: Oh we – we were in the same boxcar that we paid in – in – in the first station.

Q: And the fir – what was the name of the first station?

A: Tha-That's the problem.

Q: You don't remember.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.



**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: In my book.

Q: It's okay. Okay. And it was – but then you traveled for a full day, and then at one station your mother goes out to get the bread, and the train starts to move.

A: Yeah. And at – that day an – day, because each day they were saying that we will leave, we will leave, you know, at noon, or in the evening, and this. And then, at that day, they se – they were saying the same thing. And a – I don't know,

**Irka**(ph) or – or I was – I think **Irka**(ph) probably, was for the bread. And she come back. Maybe she ti – she'll tell you –

Q: Okay, yeah.

A: – straighten me out. And – and whoever was there, came back.

Q: Okay.

A: So – so then my mom decided she will go. And – and she did go. And we were crying, we were asking her and didn't work. So –

Q: And you never saw her again.

A: And – and it was like 12 o'clock – five – five minutes after t – after – after 12 o'clock, the train starts moving. And then you can imagine both of us just couldn't – couldn't –

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: It wa – and it's – it's what one has heard before, that very often the trains would stop, and one of the family members would get out to get something, and then they'd be left behind.

A: Yeah. But some of them catch up, and some don't have luck. They couldn't find out – see, that was war, you know. They probably left when there was something – they got probably clear from – from somebody. So – so that was not a pr – on purpose for leave those, or leave that, you know, it was just happened. And – wait, what else? Oh, and we were – when we were going down, and probably the first longer stop for us was at the place that was Polish – Polish – oh my gosh, I knew all those names and ev – whatever. Where – Polish government small office was there. And so I went to report that we lost our mother, that Mother stayed in **Vologda**, and gave the names, mine – **Irka's**(ph) and mine, and we never heard of that, you know, that anybody reported anything, you know. So she didn't get that far.

Q: Did she have the money, or did you have any money?

A: She had the money. She had nice fur lined coat that was very warm. And – and she had our **I.D.**, because without **I.D.** you couldn't get – buy the bread. So – so my – my suspicion is that – oh, and another thing I have to tell you. Years later, when we arrived in **Mexico**, in our or-orphanage were two little sisters of the boy that in **Vologda** jumped out of that train, and to bring his father and – and the rest of the

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

group back to the – he – he thought that he will make it, and they will be able to get on the train. But it didn't happen. He stayed with the father, father died. And – and our mother was on a – he said on a **breck(ph)**. What is **breck(ph)**? I tried **Russia** – Russian people, I tried Jewish people, I tried anybody I could imagine, if any knows what is **breck(ph)**?

Q: Yeah, what is a **breck(ph)**?

A: The only thing I can imagine, it was a platform, maybe with some si-sides, or maybe nothing. And – and they were on that **breck(ph)** with whatever they had on, and with the wind, when train was going so fast, they would never survive if they were standing on. So all people, like flies were freezing and falling off. And – and somebody found my mother frozen, dead. And – and she – and – and she had all these clothes on, all her documents. She saw, on my mother's document there is two little girls. She would get three portions of bread at the store, not one, and – and she was probably only one, and she threw her clothes off, or just – just – no, she probably ki – kept a – a coat. And – and – and she took my mother's **I.D.**

Q: So – so you – you – you think this is what happened?

A: Right, because exactly everything the same, except – except only thing, where is she from? And she was from **Saint Petersburg**. So at that time people were running away from the war.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Okay, so in other words, you find out later, in later years, that there's a woman who –

A: In 1999, I think, because already my – my book was published.

Q: Okay, so in 1999, you find out that there was somebody from **Saint Petersburg** who had the same documents as your mother?

A: Right.

Q: Did you know this person's real name?

A: No, it didn't show, just that – that she – she traveled from **Saint Petersburg**.

Everything was the same except instead of from **Arhanga(ph) Skyoblish(ph)**, or from **Brantowce**, you know, that's the only thing that was different. And I wrote to – to American because it was through American that I was getting that information. And – and – and she – or – or – or Red Cross couldn't get that information.

Q: So the only pieces of information you ever had about what happened to your mother is from two sources: one, a boy who happened to have jumped off the same train –

A: Mm-hm.

Q: – to get his own father –

A: Mm-hm.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: – to the train.

A: Yeah, and he survived.

Q: [**indecipherable**] the boy survived, the father did not.

A: And – and his sisters were in **Mexico** with me.

Q: Okay, and you met him in **Mexico**, and he said your mother had been on the **breck**(ph), whatever that is.

A: Yeah.

Q: And then the second piece of information came in 1999, when from the Red Cross and from the Russian Red Cross, you got some information that there was a woman who had the same **I.D.** as your mother, but that she comes from **Saint Petersburg**, not fr –

A: Yeah, and in – in the same time.

Q: At the same time, okay.

A: So – so this is –

Q: And otherwise you have no idea what happened?

A: No, no.

Q: And what you think happened, even though you don't have the information, is that this is – the person from **Saint Petersburg** found your mother frozen and took her documents, and maybe some of her clothes.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Yeah, right.

Q: So what happened to you on the train, you didn't have any documents, it was just you and your sister.

A: That's –

Q: And how did you eat, who fed you, and how long did it take from that point when you lost your mother, til you reached **Jalabad**(ph)?

A: Almost three weeks, I think. I have –

Q: I mean from the point you lose your mother –

A: – I have dates in my books, so –

Q: Okay.

A: – so you c – you can get that, and my sister probably –

Q: Okay.

A: – has better – better recording.

Q: Okay, so – okay, the three weeks –

A: But –

Q: – is – is from the point you lose your mother, not from the point you left the camp?

A: Three weeks. Yeah.

Q: Okay.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Yeah. Okay, what – what was the next question?

Q: The next question is how did you eat, who took care of you?

A: Oh, a couple – couple men that were fluent in Russian and whatever, they wrote – they took piece of paper, they wrote **similar** format, our names, and we could – we could buy – or they could buy bread. On the train we had – my mom left a little change purse. And – and that – that's – that has a long story, too, because all of a sudden we are looking for that change purse, and there is none. But then, a couple days later, apparently parents noticed that the little girl too-took the change purse from us, and she told them, put it back where you find it. Which is normally is said by p-parents. And she did. All of a sudden I pa – I look, and at the top of that container where it was, it's – it still is. So – so we had some – I-I think I have also how much I had, but so we used up that. And then when we went to that Polish consulate, oh, I remembered, then they gave us 40 rubles.

Q: Okay.

A: So we had 40 rubles plus there was like in teens, I think, of the change. So – so that lasted until we got to the **Jalabad**(ph), to that – that place, and – and then **[indecipherable]** about, after I think couple days, they fed us, an-and gave us good care. And then they send us to collective farm. And over there we were supposed to wait for something to happen.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Okay.

A: Orphanage or – or something. So after – after we got there, they just threw us out at the station, at the end – end of life – li – at the end of line. So – so for two days we stayed there, and we didn't know what happen – will happen. Good thing we – we had a good send out, you know, with a little food, but not enough for two days. So – so we – we were eating, and there was a big mound of – it's from **maku**(ph), whatever the name that means. It's from the seeds of **bawelna** – aye-aye-aye, **bawelna**. That was – [indecipherable] **bawelna**?

Q: Sunflower? No.

A: Y-You use for the – feeding the cows.

Q: Corn?

A: No, no, th-they use something else in **Kirghizia**. Corn doesn't grow there, it's a sandy, sandy place. Well, maybe it'll – it will come back. I'll – I will continue. Whatever that – that was, we were – we would – i-it wasn't clean on top, so we would clean up and eat that, and it was very bitter. But, you know, better than nothing in your stomach. So – so somehow we survived that. And then next day comes **Kirghizian** man, with the big whatever – didn't look like a wagon or – or anything. So we – we just walked behind him, told – tol – showed us, only we didn't understand at – at all what he was saying. And took us to his collective farm.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.



**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: So I want to understand. You go to a pol – Polish authorities in **Jalabad**(ph).

A: Mm-hm.

Q: The Polish authorities say well, okay here, we feed you, we take care of you, but go to this collective farm until we know what to do with you. Is that correct?

A: But they lost completely, because the army – because the ar – that was the army.

Q: Okay.

A: And – and I guess they were not the – concerned about us, they were concerned more of those soldiers, because those soldiers came naked almost, you know, to join the army, so – so they –

Q: When you said they lost completely, they – they completely forgot you, or they –

A: I think so, because nobody sh-showed up for us. Nobody ever knew wha – which place we are, because even that **Kirghizian** man, when he came he just asked us if we can go with him, so we went, because we didn't have –

Q: Okay, but was this the place that you were supposed to go to?

A: I don't know, I don't know if that was anything like that. Whatever it was, we – we ended up in that collective farm. And – and th – and they let us sleep in their office, because we came very – very late [**indecipherable**] by horse and – or – what – that wasn't horse, what did we use there? Some – some other animal.

Q: Okay.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Well, anyway – anyway so – so when we came it was almost midnight.

Q: Okay.

A: So we slept on floor in that, you know, cold and no – no heat, no nothing. It was March when we ca – got – March, we started in –

Q: January. January fifth, I think.

A: – January 17<sup>th</sup>. So that was more than three weeks. Yeah, because I remember it was March.

Q: Okay.

A: Well, anyway, when we got – got there, they gave us a little – like a bagel thing, and that's all, but that was enough for us, our stomachs were pos – almost empty anyway. So, until next day – next day they came, and they took us to the – they called it **lepianka**. It was made of clay.

Q: So a place to live.

A: Place to live. It was just four walls, no floor, just sand. A opening for the stove, just there. And no place even to put the – the pot –

Q: Okay.

A: – if you had, you know atu – anything to cook. But anyway, that was – and to sleep on the – on the floor they told us, go in the field, pick up some – oh, cotton, and that was cotton seeds, the other, that mountain –

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Oh, cotton seeds, okay.

A: – cotton seeds. And very bitter, don't try to eat that. So – so we picked those cotton seeds, laid them on the – on that sand. Then on it our – one of the – we had still comforters. So one was to sleep, the other one was to cover. So we – we were okay with that. And of course, on the floor. And then – and – and with us came another girl that was 14. I didn't know her before, but now – now we're – we're in the same house, and she has two little boys, much younger than she is. So – so – so we were okay as –

Q: Five.

A: – we had fun and – and whatever. So we were there for, I don't know, a week or something, without working. Then they tell us that we have to go to work. And one day when – **Irka**(ph) [indecipherable] we cheated. But we had got only one of those ro-round things that –

Q: Right, the rou – the portion.

A: – **Irena's** portion. But we – we brought home, we shared it, and that was for lunch, but we didn't have nothing for – for dinner, so – so we – we brought home and we – we ate half and half of that. So – so we were there until spring, until started getting warmer. Next to that hut, there was a – a – a big – bi – a pretty big, like a mountain. Miniature mountain. And – and that mountain started moving, but

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

not mountain moving, on-only on the mountain snakes. There was so many, and they were – they were coming out, and then they would roll up, you know. And we went to go somewhere, and here is one, here is one. So – so we were jumping through them, and – and going to – to the field to work, or – or s – or something.

Q: Did they bite?

A: No. But – unless you step on them. And you know, bu – jumping over them was dangerous, but we didn't think about it. And – and we started going to work, and sometimes playing, you know, and – and those little boys, the – they – they were mischievous, you know, so – so they – they started killing turtles. There were turtles. But we were s – not stupid, but not educated, let's – let's put it that – that you cannot eat turtle. You can eat turtle. Turtle tastes like chicken, if you prepare it, you know, and –

Q: And you cook it.

A: – and you cook it. But they had eggs inside, in spring they had eggs, and they – they were giving birth to probably something. And so those eggs, the boys were catching turtles, killing them with a rock, big rock, and – and taking those eggs out, those poor things.

Q: Yeah.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: And leaving that good meat there. And – and – and their sister, she was older than I, so – and I knew hi – then she knew how to cook those eggs. She put them on a frying pan and – and mixed, without – there's no butter, no nothing, no – no bacon, no –

Q: Nothing.

A: Noth – so – but she made them somehow, and – and she wanted me to try, a-at least that much. And – and I tried and I spit it out faster, I – I just couldn't, as hungry as I was, but I couldn't swallow that. It – it smelled different than – than an egg. So – so anyway, so – so that was the end with the eggs. I was with my sister with – with weeds, we were more a soup of – of weeds.

Q: Right.

A: That – that's what our mom on **Siberia** was –

Q: Was making, yeah.

A: – preparing, so – so that's what we tried, too. And we were –

Q: How long did you stay there?

A: About four months. Four months, yeah.

Q: Okay.

A: And – and then, in the field, there was a Polish lady that we didn't know. You know, everyone talks between – she had two daughters. So apparently they were

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

doing the same thing, one day one, the one day the other one was going. And they – and she – she saw us talking Polish. So – so when I – she asked me, where is your – she asked, where is your **mamusha**(ph), and I started crying. I just couldn't keep my tears. And she just – the word **mamusha**(ph) was for me more than I could take. And at that point she said, don't cry. She – she hugged me and – and she says, I'll – I'll help you. And she – she says, this Sunday I'm gonna go to Polish consulate. She knew where. And – and she report – she reported us. They send us bread and couple cans of sardines, and – and it was shortly before Easter. So bre-bread and sardines ta – what can you have? That's a royal meal.

Q: That's a feast, yeah.

A: So – so we – we had that for a couple days. And – oh, and – and at the consulate they told her, bring one of them only, at least one. Well, she chose me, although – and that one was older, but for some reason she chose me. So – so I go. The whole day we were going there and – and back. **Irka**(ph) stayed home. When I came home, **Irka**(ph) was sitting already half a mile away from – from home and waiting for me. And – and of course then – then we – I gave her, probably that bread – what did I give you to carry?

A2: [inaudible]

Q: Okay.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: So – so we went and – and the – in consulate they s – they said to us that we'll send horse and buggy, and because Polish army had that, and – and they came and took our stuff, and – and took it to the –

Q: Did they take you too?

A: Oh yeah.

Q: Okay.

A: Then they – they take us all –

Q: Okay.

A: – to the orphanage. There, by the consulate was orphanage. So that's where our orphanage life starts.

Q: So you're living in this collective farm, it sounds like somebody just sent you there for no reason.

A: Right, but there was no orphanage.

Q: Oh, got it.

A: There – there was – not at that time. And later, in this – in this pla – but that was

**Lenin-Jol**, that – see, I remember. In **Lenin-Jol** was orphanage, in **Jalabad(ph)**

there was none at that time. But it was happening all –

Q: Okay.

A: – all the time, you know, somebody –

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Things were changing all the time.

A: Right, right.

Q: Okay, so now you go to an orphanage and it happens to be in **Jalabad(ph)**, right?

A: No, no, this one in **Lenin-Jol**.

Q: In **Lenin-Jol**, all right, so there –

A: So that's closer to – on this side of the mountains.

Q: Okay.

A: Because there is a big mountain ridge –

Q: Okay.

A: – in between.

Q: So you go to the orphanage in **Lenin-Jol**, and how long do you stay there?

A: Not too long, maybe month, maybe month and a half.

Q: And then?

A: And then we – we go back to **Jalabad(ph)**. In **Jalabad(ph)** was a train for us.

We got tickets already, and – and they load as many kids as they could, a-as they had on a train, and took us to – oh my gosh –

A2: **Krasnovodsk**.

A: **Krasnovodsk**.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.



**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Okay.

A: In **Krasnovodsk** we waited in the open sun all day, no water, no nothing. The kids were dying; some children were dying, some were – and the teachers, you know, are – and – a-and whoever were taking care of this group, many teachers, you know, they didn't teach, only they took care of us. Eventually they were teachers, they were –

Q: Yeah, mm-hm.

A: – teaching us, but – but not at this time. So – so th – one teacher went to get some water with a bucket, and she was bringing the – to the orphanage. By the time she br – came with this bucket to the orphanage, the bucket was empty. People were from all over sometimes laying on the sand, you know, because they were hardly – and they had cup in hand, and they would –

Q: Take water.

A: – take water, and – and it wasn't for them, she didn't want to give, but what she could do –

Q: Yeah.

A: – you know, people – people were dying from star – from –

Q: Thirst.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: – thirst. So – and once we got, you know, on – on a – well, and our – our trunk came with us.

Q: The one that came all the way from – from **Bransowice**(ph)?

A: **Brantowce**, yes.

Q: **Brantowce**?

A: Yes.

Q: Oh my goodness.

A: And –

Q: Did it have anything in it le – any more?

A: Not too much, but very important things. Skating – skates. Books –

Q: Books.

A: – that my mom told – told me to take.

Q: Okay.

A: Wait, what else was there? A suit for my mom –

Q: Okay.

A: – and one suit for my father. We were – we were thinking about them, you know

–

Q: Sure.

A: – when we meet them, they can –

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Of course.

A: – right away get dressed and –

Q: Yeah.

A: – and look elegant. And – and what – there were some other – other things, but anyway, whatever I – I mentioned, and the book I – I wanted – that was for **Jereczek(ph)**.

Q: Right.

A: But I – I wanted to keep that. One of the teachers took it, and I – I didn't even know which one. Skates, the teacher told me no, you cannot. You don't need it any more. We were going to **Pahlevi** and **Teheran**, you know, there was no ice.

Q: Yeah.

A: So – so that – that somehow she convinced me. Of course my mom's and father's, I cried, I want to have that, I want, because my mom and dad will not have any – anything to wear, to change into better clothes. And – and what we had on, maybe we had one change of dresses or something there. But they didn't allow us to take that. But then I asked for book, and she allowed me to keep the book. She allowed me to – oh, couple pillowcases that we didn't exchange yet. So – so those – those I – I had three of them, because I gave one to my sister, and one to my

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

brother. So – so the pillowcases – and they were beautiful embroidered, with my mom's initials.

Q: Oh.

A: So – so I still have that. And – and there was something else, whatever – but – but anyway, I cried and cried, and she wouldn't let me. And – but who – who had – and you know that now in church – I – I belong to a choir, church choir, and we have one song that we sing, I never can finish. Always end up crying, because it – it is, when I came to the seashore, about **Jesus**. And ha – I shouldn't talk about it, I always cry. Never can finish the song. Right away I see that in front of me, you know.

Q: The trunk.

A: The trunk. The trunk is – was so important to me at that time. But –

Q: It was the last piece from your life of your family.

A: Right. I have those little things yet, you know, but – but those are not that important, apparently. In my book I – I drew that trunk there, you will find it when you read it. And I don't know. Si –

Q: It must have very hard to leave that trunk.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Yeah. Although I took those spa – few things, you know, but – but it's not important as – as that was. That was my – my mom's – how do you call, thing for the wedding –

Q: Trousseau?

A: – from her grandmother. Trousseau.

Q: Her di – her trousseau.

A: Trousseau, filled up, you know, from – from her **babcia**. So – so it was important. And I don't know if I ever – I ever change, as far as that, you know, for – my mom was – was – I cannot forget her, and – and that's the reason why I wrote book. That was because I wanted to – somebody to find. I thought that some miracle will be, and – and somebody to find. Well, I found a little girl. I found – she came here to visit her son, from **Poland**. And – and she remembered me. She w – she wanted to – to come to see us. And I thought maybe we'll develop a friendship, but – but she says she has to go back to **Poland**, she's just visiting her son.

Q: Now, you found a little girl who knew your mother?

A: Well, she's – she's now the adult woman like me.

Q: Yes, yes.

A: So – so – so she found, through the book. Her son bought the book, and – and her – her son saw the last name, because he – he and his father have the same last

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

name. So – so now I – I met her, but that’s the last thing, and not what I was looking for. But what can you do? We are praying, we are doing, and God is leading us. And why? I – I often ask th – **Irka**(ph), you know, why do we live? Two of us? I guess this is the purpose.

Q: We don’t know.

A: Yeah.

Q: We don’t know.

A: Yeah.

Q: So you had to get on that transport to **Pahlevi** –

A: Yeah.

Q: – without the trunk.

A: Without the trunk.

Q: What was the transport –

A: And I was the last one from the orphanage to get on in the – on the – that –

Q: On the boat?

A: On the boat. And the – and I remember everything, you know, the – the walk was boards, some of them missing. So the teacher says, watch it, so your leg doesn’t fall in. But – and – and it was only standing room, and those children that were sick, they would be sent – sitting on the – on the floor in the tra – in the ship. And those

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

ships, they – they were not the real ship, not transport. Those were transporting the – probably coal or something, and they cleaned up and – and are taking – were taking children and people, you know. They – they transported, I think 12,000. It could be 12,000 or plus some – some small amount. I have, from the tu – in the book –

Q: Twelve thousand people, or 12,000 children, or –

A: People.

Q: Twelve thousand people and then –

A: And s – and soldiers.

Q: Okay, in this – on this boat, or –

A: No, no, no.

Q: No, no, no.

A: No, no, there was maybe five, six transportations through the **Caspian** Sea to **Pahlevi**.

Q: Okay.

A: In – in **Pahlevi** and **Karachi** we ended up.

Q: So, and – okay, so you end up in **Pahlevi**, and how long do you stay there?

That's part of **Iran**.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: In **Pahlevi** they asked to – or they took us to the shower. We all had to take shower. They cut the hair – or previously they cut the – the hair, so we were all bald. And then – and then they changed us to a different section of the – of the camp, on sand, not – under the sun. I don't think there was any – any – how do you call – there was any of what? I forgot here. Oh, tents. There was no tent – excuse me – just the – the food when they – and I ha – we di – we slept on a blanket, on the sand, and it was soft and warm. And – til morning, and then got up and ran straight to the sea to take a bath. Oh, I – I enjoyed, to me that was a – a fun. Finally I could swim. Oh, I didn't tell you at – at the **kibietka**(ph), when we were in – in the ca – in the **kohaus**(ph), one day, I don't know what I was wearing, did I have bathing suit with me or what, but I jumped into [**indecipherable**], which is water – waters coming from the mount – mountains, melting snow.

Q: Okay.

A: And – and it was fast running water. I jumped in on our side, ended up about half a mile farther –

Q: Really?

A: – on the other side.

Q: Because the current was so strong? Oh my goodness.



**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: And I – and I – I knew s – how to swim, but not properly. I wasn't a good – good swimmer, I was just a swimmer.

Q: But you made it out of there.

A: I made it on the other side.

Q: Yeah.

A: The only thing, on the other side was **Kirghizian** village, and this one we had only one – one **kibietka**(ph) and that's it. So – so on the other side kids were, I think, with open mouths, how could I do that? I don't think they – they knew how to swim.

Q: Yeah.

A: Because I don't think any mother would allow kids to – to go into water like that.

Q: No, it's too dangerous. It's too dangerous. Okay, so – so in some ways your odyssey out from the **Soviet Union** is over by this point.

A: Yes.

Q: Did your life change? Did it – did it get – did i – anything become brighter, or was it all overshadowed because you had lost your mother?

A: Probably one and then two.

Q: Both of them.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Both of them, yeah.

Q: Yeah.

A: Yeah, I – I never quit. And then in **Teheran**, we were waiting for other transport [indecipherable] yet, you know, and they – and they were bringing every day the couple buses of the deportees or – or whatever. And – and we would run with **Irka**(ph) to the – to that – and that was a airport place that I can – I think it was used by American soldiers. And – an-and we would run there and wait and watch each person coming. And at the end, we would hug each other, no Mama. No Mama. That was th-the probably saddest place where – where we [indecipherable], because from here we already knew that she didn't came out from **Russia**. Because all through her th – **Teheran** were coming people from **Russia**, were – have t – had to stop there.

Q: It was the first place.

A: First place. There was a hospital that was available, there was a place where like **Irka**(ph) had to go to – to that place. She'll probably tell you that. And they wanted to – to take **Irka**(ph) only to that place. And we – we got two – two of us, no, you will not take her away.

Q: Yeah.

A: **Irka**(ph), you will not – she will not stay. I am not going.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Yeah.

A: So – so we – we tried to – we didn't trust anybody any more. Because there were some instances that they would not – oh wait, again, I'm – I'm getting blockages.

Q: That – that people wouldn't let you be together, is that it? They – they would split you apart?

A: Well, they wanted to take her for the place where they will feed her –

Q: Okay.

A: – give her better food –

Q: Okay.

A: – and I didn't need that. I – I was – could be eating only –

Q: You were healthier.

A: I-I was healthier, ta – right.

Q: Okay. So –

A: And – and she – and started from **Siberia**, she was always undernourished, so she had problem always, and she still has. But G-God is good to us. So – and her –

Q: Did you hear from your brother? Did you know what was go –

A: Nothing –

Q: Nothing.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: – nothing, we didn't know yet, until we – after couple months we were transferred to **Maleer**(ph). **Maleer**(ph) was a little away from – from the sea, camp for the Polish army, which never was u – not Polish, for American army. In **India** they had stationed American soldiers. So – so they gave tha – this for the orphanage, a thousand kids.

Q: And this was in **India**?

A: That was in **India**.

Q: So you moved from –

A: From –

Q: – **Iran** to **India**?

A: Yes.

Q: Okay.

A: And then ha – oh, I di – I – oh, I skipped a little bit. I skipped because from **Teheran**, we went to **Isfahan**. And **Isfahan** was – was a – was a city of wealthy per – pers – persovia – per –

Q: Persians.

A: Persians. And they donated their homes, summer homes to the Polish –

Q: Orphans.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: – orphans. So there was five – over 5,000 orphans there. And – and so they transferred us to – to that camp number six. And number six was the largest, there was 300 children. And that was some kind of convent, I think. And there was a – a church by that, and there was bishop presiding there, so – so that was a big, big place. And we had already organized school [**coughs**] Excuse me. And I was in fifth grade, because in **Poland** I was – I finished fourth and started fifth, but never – never finished, because of whatever there. So – so we got separated with **Irka**(ph). **Irka**(ph) was in one building, I was in the other building, but we were close, so we were gradually getting used to it. And – and **Irka**(ph) by then was little better. But her teeth were not better, but that's her subject. But I had to drag her to the dentist. Oh, she was – no, she won't – doesn't want to go. She has very sensitive teeth, and I wish I would share with her. I – I go to dentist, at 86, I still have my teeth, and my – and – and she – she has problem. So – but somehow –

Q: But it also sounds like you took care of each other.

A: On **Siberia**, salt to – to brush your teeth.

Q: Oh my.

A: That's what my – our ma – mom told us. And I still use salt rinse before I go to sleep. Kills the germs, and it's not tasting good, but –

Q: It does the trick.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Yeah, and in – in **Isfahan**, we had very good teacher, fifth grade teacher. And she gave us a project to do, to fi – to write your story of the Siberian deportation.

Q: That's a very good project.

A: Whatever – whatever you lived, from your home til now, it's – and I wrote mine, I don't know how many pages.

A2: Four.

A: Pardon me?

Q: Four pages.

A: Oh no, more than that.

Q: Okay.

A: Well, whatever. I – I think it's like 15 or something.

Q: Okay.

A: But that's okay. **[indecipherable]** And – and that is the beginning of my si – my writing the story. She – I kind of build it in-into me, one thing to – to write something. But I – but maybe another teacher in **Mexico**.

Q: Also?

A: That was another s – time that I was instructed to – to write another – oh, you right maybe – maybe you right, because I have written another one, and that one is about 15 pages, in **Mexico** –

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Okay.

A: – when I was in, I think first year or second year in high school.

Q: Okay, and so this first one could have been shorter.

A: Right, right.

Q: Do you still have both of these writings?

A: I am sure I do, because I don't throw out nothing.

Q: Okay.

A: I ha – I'm **Hector** collector. In – would you believe in **Poland** I started.

Q: Oh yeah?

A: You know what? A little pieces of glass, colored glass. That attracted me, so that was my collection in **Poland**.

Q: Before you left.

A: Before I left.

Q: Before you left. Before you were deported.

A: Yeah, yeah.

Q: Okay, I'd like to kind of wrap this up, I know that there are a lot of sections that we can't pay as much attention to, but I'd like also to be able to talk to –

A: **Irka**(ph).

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: – your sister today. So after – after **India**, after you were in **India**, at some point you were sent to **Mexico**, is this correct?

A: Yes, yes.

Q: And this was all with the orphanage?

A: Yes.

Q: All right. How – were you in **India** – okay, let me put it this way, phrase the question this way: when did they send you to **Mexico**, what year?

A: That was at the end of '43, I think.

Q: Okay.

A: In November. On November first, I think we arrived in **León, Guanajuato**, and – and that's – that's where –

Q: And why in **Mexico**? Was there another orphanage there or something?

A: No. General **Sikorski** visited **Mexi-Mexico**. I think that was with the suggestion from maybe – maybe President **Roosevelt**, because I'm sure he came and asking for the staying in **United States**, for the ca – bringing some – some Polish people to – to **U.S.A.**, and – and I know **Roosevelt** wanted to be friends with **Stalin**, and who – who of Poles would want to be friends with **Stalin** any more?

Q: Yeah.



**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: So – and – and of course that wouldn't go with the – along with the politics. So – so possibly that's where it came from, and so General **Sikorski** went to – to the mexi – to **Mexico** to ja – to the president of **Mexico**, and – and he agreed. He – he says, I can find for 50,000 Polish refugees. So that was –

Q: That's huge.

A: – the – the beginning, but it didn't happen.

Q: Okay.

A: First group arrived in **Mexico** on July second, or something like that.

Q: July second which year?

A: Forty-three.

Q: Forty-three.

A: And the – and the second one arrived on November – I think first. So – so whatever – what – whatever was promised, didn't happen, because **United States** didn't want to – I don't know didn't want, didn't have ships, or whatever, the war was, you know, in – in –

Q: Going on.

A: – going on and – and possibly – so – so all the Polish people went to the English colonists in **Africa**.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: I see. But you made it to **Mexico**.

A: Right.

Q: Were you on the first, or on the second –

A: Second.

Q: In November.

A: Mm-hm.

Q: And you went by boat, by ship?

A: By ship, and that was a huge, huge – the ship weighed I – I also za – forgot – **R** –  
**R** something. No. Well anyway, whatever the name is, it's in the book. I'm sending  
–

Q: Everything to the book.

A: – everything to the book.

Q: And the book, we have to say – we have to mention the name was – tell me the  
title of your book.

A: “**The Fulfillment of Visionary** –

Q: – return.

A: – **Dream.**”

Q: “**The Fulfillment of Visionary Dream.**”

A: That's why I wanted to give you another one –

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Ah, okay.

A: – but I guess so – so – so return, you have return –

Q: Okay.

A: – because those were the first editions.

Q: I see, and it is the visionary dream. “**The Fulfillment of Visionary Dream.**”

A: And this one was a little – the truth is always the same, and whatever else I did, corrected some – some – but I had very good editor.

Q: Okay, okay. So now when we’re talking, you’re in **Mexico** in November, and are you taken to another red – orphanage?

A: No, it was the same. **Mexico** gave us a hacienda, which is like big property of somebody that is not around, or gave that, I do – I really don’t know the story of that. And [indecipherable] **Santa Rosa**, and that was enough for school, a huge school building, high school was in a little different – but i-in – within the roun – around the same area. So – so we – we had very good teachers. We have even – I don’t know if you are familiar of a **Jesus** of Mercy. The priests that brought **Jesus** of Mercy, a story, or – or whatever, to **United States**, across the ocean, was my teacher. I have that many letters from him.

Q: Wow.

A: From – and – and he was a priest.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: Was this a particular order?

A: Yes, **Marian**.

Q: Okay.

A: **Marian** father –

Q: **Marian** order, okay.

A: **Marian** fathers.

Q: Okay.

A: And – and he came here to **United States**, and brought all the papers of Sister **Faustina**. So – so all – all this – that story was – and when I was writing book, I went – I had at that time, I bought a – a little house in **Florida**, and I went to f – to that house, and that's where I have written the book.

Q: Oh.

A: And every day, whenever I started writing, I would pray to him, because he – he was al-already was dead, and all the story I knew about him, you know, so – and seems like always something happened if I didn't pray, and I couldn't s – could not continue to write. And then I thought, why can't I get back in the – and all of a sudden, oh, I didn't pray. I pray and then for the rest of the day I will write without stopping.

Q: You were fine.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: So – and then I had three occurrences that was, I don't know how to call, the vision or something, or it was tired vision, or what. Maybe – maybe somebody who is more educated would know something about it. But at night I would wake up, something wakes me up. And one time the whole ceiling, I don't see the ceiling, I don't see the pictures. Like I am in some kind of thing, and – and all of a sudden disappears after – after a while. And that happened three times, and I thought, is my Mama trying to –

Q: Reach you.

A: – appear to me – to – to me? Yeah. Those are – those are the things for somebody with more education, more faith maybe to – to – to receive. But I don't have even one picture, because my uncle, the one in **Wolkowysk**, he had to destroy his pictures.

Q: The one who was left –

A: The one that –

Q: – your mother's younger brother.

A: Right. He – he says he probably buried them maybe in his backyard or something, and – and water came and you know –

Q: Destroyed, yeah.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: – he had to destroy them anyway. So – so whatever. But he – he – when I was there, he brought me his album. I remember the same album that I was looking when we were visiting them. And – and I – I saw so many missing – missing spots. And he left those, the same way as they were before the war, except missing pictures of my family.

Q: Oh, how sad.

A: Because he was trying to – to sh – to – to con –

Q: Conceal.

A: – conceal the – his – his relationship to – because my father was involved in so many – so many things, that he was – he was one on the list, that we will deport him. And so he says he was packed. He – his things were in bundles –

Q: Ready to go.

A: – because whenever they were coming, somebody would inform him, and – and he would be trying, you know, be ready. But somehow he – they couldn't find pictures. Probably they were looking for pictures. So –

Q: Such unbelievable detail. Unbelievable. So you were in **Mexico** in the orphanage for how long, for how many years?

A: From November '43, to May '46.

Q: Three years. And you finished your high school there?

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Almost.

Q: Almost.

A: Almost. And then – then when we came to **United States**, I – I was taking courses here and there, took – in high school I took something that would help me. Math, it is my – it was my – always my top –

Q: How did you get to – how did you get to the **United States**? What was the re – how did –

A: The orphanage.

Q: Orphanage.

A: Still with the orph – orphanage, 105 children were – were sponsored in the orphanage, that was [indecipherable] and **Harlem**. They – they finally quit existing and they sold for to build their – that – built condos there.

Q: Okay.

A: So now – now in the same pla – next to the cemetery is – is the –

Q: And your brother, did he come to **Chicago**?

A: In '53.

Q: And he came from **England**, or from –

A: He came – he came from **England**. When the Pole – Polish army was –

Q: Disbanded.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: – disbanded, and then my father and he – and father got not too – too young, single woman, and he was working in the hospital, you know, and I don't know what he was doing, what – maybe sweeping, you know, because at that time he – he probably doesn't know English at all. But he met her and – and I guess they wanted to get married, and I – I never forget, my stepmother was – was very upset at me because I – I wrote to my father, and apparently my father told – told her that I don't want my father to get married. How can you get married, we will find Mama.

Q: Yeah, yeah.

A: And how old was I? At that time, twel – I was 11 when we were at – arrested, and I was 22 almost –

Q: Right.

A: Twenty-one and a half when he came. So – and I wanted him to take me to the altar, so I got married.

Q: So you got married to –

A: First the boy. He asked me, okay, I answer yes, yes, yes, right now. So – but those are mistakes of your youth, and then I had to divorce him.

Q: Oh dear.

A: Yeah.

Q: Oh dear.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.



**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: But I have three beautiful children, very, very gifted. One – one is a pharmacist, a doctor in pharmacy.

Q: What's her name?

A: **Lily Klein**, now.

Q: Uh-huh, okay.

A: And that's her professional name.

Q: Okay.

A: And **Mark**. **Mark** builds huge machines. When I ask him tell me what you're doing, well, your house would fit in.

Q: In one of your machine – okay.

A: So sometimes he has to travel to – to the country that it was sold to, and they – and they produce the instruments like syringes, or –

Q: Oh yeah.

A: – and at one time they will – they will come out maybe 50 at one time or 20 at one time, or something – something fantastic what they can do. But –

Q: And then – oops, your third child?

A: She had piano major, and –

Q: Okay. Her name was –

A: **Lucia**.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

Q: And she's passed away?

A: She passed away. I have – I have her picture here somewhere. After – after, I'll show you.

Q: Okay. I'd like to see it.

A: Yeah.

Q: I know there's a lot more that we could talk about, and I would like to ask you about, but we –

A: You can call me anytime.

Q: Thank you. Thank you. Well, we're going to talk now to your sister, and –

A: Yeah, I would feel bad if she didn't.

Q: Yeah.

A: Oh no, no, oh, she always says, she always **[indecipherable]** you should. You should.

Q: And so –

A: You remember more than I do.

Q: So for – for – for today, we'll say that this concludes the **United States**

**Holocaust Memorial Museum** interview –

A: Okay.

Q: – with **Stanisława Synowiec Tobis**.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: **Tobis.**

Q: – on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Thank you.

A: Thank you.

Q: Okay.

A: Thank you very much, and thank you for accepting our group, that will be on th  
– now on more – i-i-in more places shown, and – and more people will know, and  
more people will take it to the heart and don't allow that their country will – could  
end up in the same, because I don't – I don't want anybody to su-suffer and go – go  
through I – what I have. I was strong enough, I don't know how anybody can take  
it.

Q: I also don't. I also don't.

A: There – there were some that didn't, you know.

Q: They didn't make it, they couldn't, it was too much.

A: Right, right. I didn't tell some things, experiences that we went through, like a  
person dying, frozen person dying when on the way to train on **Siberia** yet, before  
we started our trip to – to freedom. But it's too – too many things, and not too many  
things comes at one time, and you cannot tell everything at one time.

Q: No, even in a long interview, even over several – you – i-it's compacting too  
much.

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.

**Interview with Stanisława Tobis**  
**January 28, 2015**

A: Exactly right, right.

Q: Yeah. But I'm appreciative of what you did share.

A: Thanks.

Q: And I think it opens – i-it shows us just how difficult this – this all was, and –  
and I know it costs, so I thank you for paying that cost by telling us.

A: Thank you, thank you.

Q: Appreciate it. Okay.

**Conclusion of Interview**

The following transcript is the result of a recorded interview. The recording is the primary source document, not this transcript. It has not been checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy. This document should not be quoted or used without first checking it against the interview.

The interview is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Information about access and usage rights can be found in the catalog record.