

--going to start.

Yeah.

And I'm going to give an introduction. And then we start our interview. Any time you want to stop it, just let us know. If you want to take a break, if you want to have a sip of water, for whatever reason-- for whatever reason.

So how long it takes, the whole interview, an hour?

Or more than that.

More?

But we'll stop for lunch. We'll have some lunch.

Why so long? Why so long?

95 years we're covering. 95 years.

I'm not yet. My birthday is in November.

So it will be--

94--

--years and 11 months.

Yeah.

OK. So I'm going to start now, OK? This is a United States Holocaust Memorial Museum interview with Mrs. Ilse Weinryb.

Weinryb.

Weinryb on October 18, 2016, in Owings Mills, Maryland. Thank you very, very much Mrs. Weinryb--

You're welcome.

--for agreeing to meet with us. I'm going to start our interview with the most basic questions, and we'll go from there. And the very first and simplest questions are, can you tell me the date of your birth.

2/11/21.

Does that mean February 11?

No, November the 2nd, 1921.

November 2, 1921.

Right.

And where were you born?

Marienburg, Westpreussen, which is Polish now. Everything is Poland.

Ah, Westpreussen.

A half an hour from Danzig.

OK.

Marienburg.

I was going to ask. So Westpreussen, and it was half an hour from Danzig, which is on the Baltic Sea.

Danzig, I don't know where it is. Maybe you know more than I.

So Marienburg.

Marienburg, Westpreussen. Now it's all Poland.

Do you know its Polish name?

Yeah.

What is it called in Polish?

Malborko.

Malborko.

I think so, yeah.

OK. Was it a large place?

The town?

When you were born, yes, was it a big place?

It was a nice-- maybe 30,000. I don't remember exactly.

OK. What was your name when you were born?

Ilse.

And your last name?

Reifenberg.

Reifenberg. OK. And was your father and mother, were they both from Marienburg?

No.

Where were they from?

Westphalia.

Oh, so they were from the western part of Germany.

Mm-hmm.

How had they ended up there in Westpreussen?

My dad was involved in horses. And he had a partner in Marienburg. And my parents moved to Marienburg.

Does that mean he was in the horse-trading business?

Mm-hmm.

OK.

And he was a [SPEAKING GERMAN] in he only had one leg. [SPEAKING GERMAN]

[GERMAN]

Right.

OK. And we'll talk about that a little bit. Did you have brothers and sisters?

I had one beautiful sister, but she died very young. And my brother was Lanzee. He was in the grain business in Frankfurt. He was lucky to emigrate.

OK, so you had a brother and a sister.

Yeah.

What was your sister's name?

Hildegard.

And when was she born?

I think she was born-- you got me.

Do you remember, was she older or younger than you?

Older.

She was older than you. OK. And your brother?

My brother Helmut was much older than I.

So you were the youngest?

I was the baby. They didn't want me, but I came anyhow.

Babies tend to do that.

Yeah.

So there were three of you at home.

Mhm.

And were your brother and sister very much older than you, or within a few years, do you think?

No. My sister was-- she was already, I think, I think 22 something.

Really?

Mhm.

So--

And my brother was older, much older than I.

So you really were the baby of the family. And you could say almost the only child, if the others had already grown up.

Yeah.

OK. What was your mother's name?

Frieda.

And her maiden name?

Gutenberg.

Frieda Gutenberg. And they both came from Westphalia? Do you know what place--

No, no, no, my mother didn't come from Westphalia. I forgot. I forgot. Oh, yeah, it was Una, Westphalia. Yeah, you're right.

OK.

Town name was Una.

Una.

Yeah.

Uh-huh. Did you ever visit Westphalia. Did you still have friends or relatives there?

No, no, no.

No? OK. And do you know approximately when your father and your mother were born, what years that might have been?

My dad's birthday was-- my mind is blank today.

That's OK.

My mom was born-- oh, her birthday was in-- I think in April. But don't ask me the year.

And what else did you ask me?

Well, the reason I'm asking about their births is I wanted to get a sense, when you were born, were they already older parents? If they had children who were already young adults when you were born, that means they must have been born around 1900, 1901, your brother and sister.

I don't remember that.

Yeah. Do you remember your father as being an older person as you were growing up, older than other fathers in the neighborhood?

Oh, what do you mean how old?

Was he middle-aged when you were born?

Yeah, I guess so.

OK. And did your mother work outside the home?

No.

OK.

She was a housewife. A very good one. A wonderful cook.

Yeah?

Yeah.

Were there any favorite dishes that you had when you were growing up?

Yeah, but whatever she would make, I ate. I had to. You didn't leave no food.

Were your parents well-to-do?

No. In-between.

Well, would they--

Not really rich. Not wealthy, no. My dad received a high pension.

Uh-huh.

Because of his war wounds.

Mhm.

So did he ever tell you much about what his experience was during World War I?

No, he didn't talk much.

So how he lost his leg, or what kind of battle he was in?

During the war, you know, in Russia.

In Russia. He was on the Eastern Front, then.

Mhm. Yeah, That I remember.

Did your mother have any help at home?

Yeah, we had a maid.

You had a maid.

Mhm.

OK.

Her name was Martha Schlack.

Martha Schlack. You remember her name.

Yeah. She cared for me. I was the baby.

Was she somebody local who came from--

Yeah, from the same town, from the same town.

Yeah.

Was she Jewish?

No.

OK.

Were there many Jews in Marienburg?

Yeah.

Yeah?

Maybe about 50 families.

About 50 families.

Yeah.

OK.

And then they all disappeared, right? If were able to come to the United States and had a lot of money, they left. And they want-- they died, right?

We'll talk about that. Right now, I want to ask a lot of questions about your childhood and your early years to get a picture of what life was like then, and what kind of-- the world was that you were born into. So that's why I'm asking so many details.

Yeah.

Tell me a little bit about your home. Did you live in the center of Marienburg or in the residential area?

No, we had a nice house.

You had a house.

Yeah. On that I'm sure.

OK. Can you describe it for me a little bit?

It was a living room, a dining room, a very big kitchen, an upstairs, and a bedroom downstairs, and upstairs were two more bedrooms.

It was quite large.

A very nice house, yeah.

Yeah.

And then everything was taken away. Now, that's another story, right?

We'll come to that.

Yeah.

We'll come to that. Now, was the house built in the 19th century, do you think? Was it a stone house, or a wooden one? Do you remember?

It was a nice house, stone. I don't remember. It had to be something, right? It couldn't be made from paper.

Did it have a garden?

Yeah. Back garden. Very nice back garden. And a nice front with a flower bed. My dad took great pride. A nice flower bed in front, yeah.

Was it in the center of Marienburg, or?

Yeah. Steinbrecht Bruch 4.

Stein?

Steinbrecht Bruch 4. Nothing in the town. You know, outside, it was a court with three homes.

Uh-huh. Uh-huh. And was there a garage attached to it? No? Nothing like that. Did your parents have a car?

No.

How did he get to work, your father?

Hm?

How did your father get to work in the morning?

He walked.

He walked.

He was an invalid. He didn't have to. He only had one leg. He was an invalid from World War I.

Oh, so he didn't have to work?

No. He got a very high pension.

Oh, I see. I misunderstood.

Yeah.

I thought that he was in the horse trading business--

No, no.

--after the war.

No, no, before.

Before the war. OK. OK. And your mother's family, did your parents have brothers and sisters themselves?

Yeah. My mom was-- Tante Elena, Tante Julie, Uncle Albert. Yeah, three sisters. And I think Uncle Albert, yeah, one brother.

So Uncle Albert?

Yeah.

Tante Helena--

Yeah.

--Tante Julie--

Julie.

And your mother?

Freida.

And Freida. So Freida, Helena, Julie, and Albert.

Yeah.

And that was on your mother-- and did they stay in Una? Did they live in Una, the aunts and uncles?

I don't know that. I don't know that.

Did you know them?

Yeah, but I don't know where they lived. I forgot. It might come to me another time, not right now.



That's OK. That's OK. What about your father, did he have brothers and sisters?

My dad?

Mhm.

Yeah. Tante Julie, Tante Helena. He had two sisters, two sisters, yeah.

He had two sisters, also called Julie and Helena, like your mother?

Mhm. No, my mother was Frieda.

I know. But her sisters, her sisters' names were?

Julie and Helena.

And your father's sisters' names were?

My father's sister-- I don't remember.

That's OK. That's OK. Did you grow up knowing your aunts and uncles and cousins?

Oh, sure, sure, sure. We visited. They lived in Frankfurt.

Amine or the [GERMAN].

Amine.

Amine.

And I used to go for vacation to my grandma. And one grandma lived in Berlin on my father's side. My mother's side was in Bavaria, Aschaffenburg.

Aschaffenburg.

Mhm.

So you had family all over Germany.

Yeah, yeah. Not all over, in certain places.

Yeah. Well, Berlin, Bavaria, Westphalia.

Yeah.

That's quite a stretch, you know?

Yeah. On my vacation, I went to see one grandma in Berlin and the other one in Bavaria.

Do you remember your impressions of visiting your grandma in Berlin?

Oh, sure. It was a pleasure.

Yeah?

Who didn't want to go to a grandma, right?

Yeah, yeah. What part of Berlin did she live in, your grandma?

My grandma? Oh, Charlottenburg.

Oh, that's a nice area.

SchlÃ¼tterstrasse, SchlÃ¼tterstrasse.

Schlute-- SchlÃ¼tterstrasse.

Schlute--

SchlÃ¼tterstrasse.

You know that?

I think. It's familiar to me. It's familiar to me. It's a nice part of Berlin.

Yeah.

And how old were you when you would be visiting her?

A teenager.

So--

Filling in from school, vacation from school.

From school.

I was a young girl, 14, 15.

So if you were visiting her when you were 14 or 15--

Yeah?

--that would make it 1935, 1936.

I guess so.

So that means Hitler was already in power.

Oh, sure, sure, sure.

Do you remember anything about that, when you would go to Berlin? And did you remember seeing signs of the Nazis in power when you were in Berlin?

Sure, sure. Anti-Semitism will never die. You know that.

Yeah.

Yeah.

How did you experience it?

I was kicked out of school. The teacher came in, any Jews in the class? And I had to raise my hand.

How old were you?

A teenager.

Do you remember whether this was in 1933 or years afterwards?

Afterwards.

Afterwards.

Yeah.

When the Nazism started. And Hitler came one time to our town. And the Gestapo used to come every Monday and Wednesday visit in a sense. Don't look out of the window. You close your window. The FÃ¼hrer is coming.

And they said that to everybody?

No, to the Jews.

To the Jews.

Where I lived, you know.

Was that a Jewish neighborhood?

No, no. Mixed, you know.

But they came to your home to say that you shouldn't look out the window.

The Gestapo came every Monday, Wednesday to check on. Yeah. Yeah. They had nothing better to do, right?

Yeah. Did you like school before you were kicked out? Did you like going to school?

Yeah, sure. Who doesn't like school? Then the teacher came in one day, and he said, any Jews in the class? And I had to get out.

Were you the only one?

Yeah. There were a couple Jews, but they were already in a different school, higher educated, you know.

And you were the only one in your class who had to stand up? Everybody else was not Jewish?

No, there was another girl. Her name was-- what was her name? Helga Galinsky. I remember her name.

Helga Galinsky.

Yeah, her and me out far as I remember.

So most of the students in your class were not Jewish.

No. We were friends. They came to me for Hanukkah, I was invited for Christmas over their house. You know.

When was the first time when you were a child that you experienced that you were treated-- so not before Hitler comes to power.

No. My parents lived in that town 30 years.

OK. Did they have friends?

Oh, sure.

Who were not Jewish?

Yeah, sure. Very nice friends. And then everything changed. You know.

Let's talk about a little bit before it changed.

Mhm.

Did you have best friends in the neighborhood? Did you have anybody that you played with?

Sure, yeah, sure. Neighbor friends, sure. We played together. Yeah.

OK.

And didn't know then what was coming, right? Nobody knew.

Now, in the 1920s, the economy was not very good in Germany.

Yeah, but I was born '21. I didn't know that.

Did it affect your family, though? Did your father or mother have any kind of economic hardships?

No.

No?

No. We had, well, you live 30 years in a town, we had good friends. My dad played cards with friends, you know.

OK. What about your brother and sister? Did they live at home with you?

My brother lived over-- went already to Frankfurt.

Amine?

No, he went, not to [GERMAN], in the Gottingen.

Oh, to Gottingen.

Yeah.

OK.

In there to learn, you know.

To study at university?

I don't know that.

OK. And did he start working afterwards? Did he have a job?

I'm sure he did, but I don't remember that. I was a little girl. I was young. I don't remember that.

OK. So did you see him much when you were growing up?

Oh, sure. He came to visit, and I went to see the grandma, you know, grandma, grandpa, sure.

OK. What about your sister? Did she live at home?

Yeah.

Did she ever marry?

No. She got very ill.

Ah.

She passed away when she was 22.

Oh.

Pneumonia.

Oh, I see.

Gorgeous sister. My dad had a heart attack. I remember that.

After she passed away?

Mhm.

How old were you when she died?

I was a young kid.

Five years old, seven years old?

No, older, older.

OK.

I don't remember. Can we go into something else? This upsets me too much.

OK, OK. We don't have to talk about that. Tell me a little bit about the life of the town. Were the transportation and so. Were there trolley cars?

No, no, no. We walked.

You walked.

Sure.

You walked. Could you walk from one end of Marienburg to the other in the space of an hour or two hours or something?

Within limits of the town, you know--

Yeah.

--not outside, yeah.

And your own home, did you have-- how was the home heated? Was it coal.

Coal. Play catch in coal.

OK. Did you have those nice ovens, the coal ovens in your home?

Oh, beautiful ovens.

Yeah?

And then when I came home from school, there was-- there was on the end, my mom used to put apples in it. You know, you opened it up. I forget the name of it. I was very, very nursed.

Yeah. Did you have indoor plumbing in your home?

Oh, yes. Yeah we had to-- you could take a shower, yeah. We had a badewanne.

A badewanne,

Yeah, sure. Upstairs.

OK. And did you have electricity?

Yeah, sure.

OK. Did you have a radio?

Yeah.

Did your parents listen to the radio?

Yeah. A Blaupunkt.

Blaupunkt. And is that a manufacturing name?

There was a radio. If the Nazis would catch you, you shouldn't be. You got all the news on that.

Ah. And the news from where?

What's going on and what's coming.

OK.

When Hitler started to come, you know?

So you heard about that-- the way you got news was through the radio. Ah.

From England.

Ah.

Would if they catch you, they kill you.

Yeah. Yeah, that was dangerous.

Sure.

That was dangerous. Is that the sort of thing the Gestapo was looking for when they would come every Monday and Wednesday?

They liked to take things. Then when the war started and they got [INAUDIBLE] a little bit. They took blankets. Anything they could take, they took. They don't ask for it. They took.

OK.

Yeah.

OK.

Nobody know who Hitler was. Right?

Yeah.

And anti-Semitism will never die. Right? I was in Tudor Heights in Park Heights Avenue. And one time I heard them say, them Jews got everything.

Here in the United States.

Oh, sure. What do you think?

Did you ever hear such things as you were growing up in Germany?

What?

The same sort of sentiments, the same sort of phrases?

No, I was a young girl then. No, no, no, not then, when things changed. Not sure. When they couldn't come to you. We had good friends. They were not allowed to come to you. They were afraid. And my dad had connections. And they put the butter in the bread, in the cellar door. The next day, we left the money. And the cellar door had a window. They were nice people.

Oh, so in other words, when you weren't able to go and purchase food, they would buy it for you?

No, no, no.

Explain to me.

They only gave-- when the ration cards came, they only gave-- my dad only got me 350 milligram of meat.

OK.

I had more meat. Then my dad had a friend from [GERMAN] and he brought us everything.

And that's how he did it, is that he would leave it--

At night, he came and leave it in the cellar door, in the window.

Was your father treated any differently because he was a World War I veteran, or was he treated-- well, how did they treat him, by the way, the new authorities when they came in?

A little bit better.

A little bit better.

Yeah.

How did that show itself? In what way was it a little bit better?

All depends who came. I remember one day the Gestapo came, and he pushed my father. My dad only had one leg, and he had a stump here. And then he had pants up. He pushed my father against a wall.

OK.

I wish I would have seen after the war. I wouldn't know what to do with him, right?

Yeah.

Yeah. So let's go into something else.

OK.

How about here? What--

Oh, we're going to talk more about the war. This is the whole-- this is the purpose of our interview. And if there are things that you don't want to go into, we don't need to go into them.

Let's so, look, what I've got to lose?

Yeah.

Nobody going to lock me up no more, right?

Exactly.

Yeah.



Exactly.

Shaking a sec.

Yeah. When you were taken out of school--

Yeah?

--and could no longer go to school--

Mhm?

--what happened to you then? Did your parents find teachers privately?

Nobody could come to you. They weren't allowed. I wasn't stupid, so I could read and write.

How many years of schooling had you had?

I went from-- I went from-- not in the last two years, I couldn't go. 12 to 12. I don't know what it meant.

So you went 10 years, but you weren't able to finish 12 years?

No, no. They were not allowed. Nobody could teach us.

OK. But you finished 10 years of school?

Yeah.

OK. So were you in a gymnasium?

No.

Were you in middle school?

Yeah, middle school, graduated.

OK. And after that, you just stayed at home? After you couldn't go to school anymore, what did you do?

Yeah, I was home with my parents. I did this. We all had to wear a sign, Jew. And my dad wouldn't go out. And I did all the shopping. I accomplished everything.

Did you.

And I had friends, girlfriends. She worked in a bakery. And I used to go 5:30 in the morning, and she used to give me five breads. If they would catch, they'd go, whick.

So it was not--

I had guts.

It sounds like it.

Yeah.

It sounds like it. So you were able to get the food for the family by running these errands.

Only my father got 350 milligram of meat.

OK.

So.

And you would take the ration card and then get the meat for him, is this it? Or did he have to go himself to get it?

No, no, the card. And they gave it to him. And we didn't get-- I had more meat than anybody else. You live 30 years in a town, we had friends, you know?

OK.

They were afraid, but they came late at night.

OK.

So did you have anybody betray you? That is, people who had been friends who turned the other way?

They were afraid. Sure, they did. But they didn't turn on, no.

OK, that's the important part.

They got there. The said, I'm so afraid, but we're with you. You know, they risked their life, you know what they were.

Yeah.

So what else? Let's change the subject.

Well, we'll go on a little bit. After you're at home, and you go on these errands for your parents, was your-- yeah, let's wait a bit. You can have a bit of a drink.

Your maid who helped bring you up, what was her name again?

Marta Spark.

Marta Spark.

Did she stay with you during this time, or did she have to go?

No, you weren't allowed. Sure not. A Jew friend, are you kidding? A traitor.

I see. So she had to leave.

She came to visit later in the evening, sure.

Ah, OK.

Yeah.

How did your mother manage? What did she do then? You would go get the food, and she would make it? She would then do all of the housework and prepare everything?

I helped. I helped.

OK.

Sure.

OK. Aside from going out to get the groceries, did you leave the house at all?

Hmm?

Did you go visiting anybody? Did you walk--

Everybody was-- You couldn't visit. People were afraid, right? They tell you we're with you, but they're afraid. And Hitler came to my town, too, with the hat down to here.

Really.

And then the Gestapo came. And our house was, you know, a court, three homes. And we could look straight to the road from the house. And say-- so the Gestapo came. He said, the Führer is coming. You're not going out. You close your curtains.

Did you peek anyway?

What was there to peek? And he killed himself, that coward, with Eva Braun, his girlfriend, right?

That's right.

He killed her, too.

Yes. Well, she might have done it to herself, but basically.

Ah.

Yeah. So how long did this go on? If you were thrown out of school when you were 14, 15 years old, you had finished maybe 10 years, how many years did you live in this situation where you had these ration cards. You had to go buy groceries at 5:30 in the morning?

Oh, then when it got bad, we all-- we came to Berlin. And from Berlin, my parents and I rode 43 hours on a cattle train to Auschwitz.

Let's back up a little bit.

Mhm.

When you say it got bad, about what year was this? Do you remember?

'39? No, I don't remember.

Do you remember when the war started?

With Hitler?

Mhm. That is, with Poland.

Oh.

Because Marienburg is very close to Poland.

Yeah, but it was German then.

Yeah.

Now, it's Poland.

But do you remember when the war started with Poland, September 1st, 1939?

Yeah, I think so. They marched into Poland, right? And the Poles were working on the fields. Yeah, yeah, they gave up.

You know, because you lived in that part of Germany that was so close to the Polish border.

Yeah, yeah.

Do you remember seeing soldiers, sort of more soldiers, more troops--

Oh, sure.

--in [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH].

Our house was away from the road, but you could see down to the street.

OK.

Yeah, sure, they marched into Poland, and the Polish people were in the fields. They didn't know what was coming. Sure. They liked surprises. Right? Yeah. OK.

Did you see tanks going down the roads?

Yeah.

Yeah. And did you also see Polish Jews, refugees from Berlin or from other parts of Germany?

No, no, I won't talk. When we came, like I told you, we came to Berlin. And from there, we rode 43 hours on the cattle train to Auschwitz.

Why did you go from Marienburg to Berlin? What was the reason?

I don't know. That's where they sent us.

Oh, so were you picked up and arrested?

Oh, sure. No, arrested, sure.

So when did this take place?

Well, 1930-- in the '30s. It had to be in the '30s.

Before the war?

No, the war was already-- you know.

So then '39 or '40--

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

--something like that.

They took everything out of the house, whatever they could get their hands on it. But my dad was very smart. He took the money out of the bank, and he had a wooden leg, and he had it in the leg.

He hid some money in the leg.

Yeah, all the money.

OK. OK.

Yeah.

And do you remember the day that you were forced to leave your home?

When did the war started?

September 1, 1939.

Yeah, '39. Oh, '42, I think. '42.

'42.

Yeah. We were the last Jews in Marienburg, because my dad was invalid from World War I. So they had pity, yeah, sure. And he died in Theresienstadt. My dad is buried in Theresienstadt. I never had a chance to go.

That must have been very bitter.

Yeah, sure. And then my mom and I came to Auschwitz. And she says, I come and visit you, and that was the end. She was gassed.

Let's back up a little bit.

Mhm.

When you first had to leave your home in Marienburg--

Yeah.

--were there soldiers who escorted you out? Were you taken on a truck? Did you have to record--

Yeah, the Gestapo came with a big truck there, and there were some other Jewish people, and that's it. They stole everything they could. That was their pleasure. And I got paid for the house. Not the full amount, but.

When did you get paid for the house?

Because they stole it.

Oh, I mean, after the war?

Oh, sure.

OK. But at that point, when you have to leave, it's 1942.

Mhm.

You're the last family--

Yeah.

--to be taken, the last Jewish family. And they come, they take you, they empty your house out of whatever there is--

I don't know. They took us. And I know my mom, let her rest in peace, she had-- you know in Germany, where you have the butter in a dish?

Yeah.

She took that in her hands.

The butter. In--

In the dish.

--in a dish. Don't ask.

Were you able to take anything else with you? Did they--

I had a very nice suitcase, and they stole that, too. With nice clothes. They stole it. It was a beautiful leather suitcase. They liked it. You should see what was going on in Auschwitz. How about the teeth and the gold and the rings.

So you were taken from Marienburg to Berlin by train, or?

Cattle train.

By cattle train.

Where the cows are and the horses. But they went in. There was people.

And how long did you stay in Berlin at that point?

How long stay in Berlin? From Berlin right to Auschwitz.

And was that the 43 hours, from Berlin to Auschwitz?

Mhm.

So almost four days. Almost four days on that cattle train.

Mhm. And no place where to go-- I don't even want to think about it, how terrible. Yeah.

Were most of the other people on the train also German Jews?

Mhm. I guess so, yeah.

OK. Was there only one language that you remember being spoken, or more languages?

I don't remember.

You don't remember.

I speak German fluently.

Yeah.

But not here.

Yeah.

I like when they're, when they're talk to them, they say, sprechen sie Deutsch? And I say-- no, they say sprechend. I say, no, I'm not sprechend. I'm sprechen. I try not to.

Yeah.

I have nice neighbors where I am now. I get along with everybody. You give respect, you get respect, right?

Yeah.

Yeah. I just don't want to hear anything. Them Jews got everything.

Well, of course. So was your family kept together when you got to Auschwitz, or was it split apart?

My dad died in Theresienstadt.

So when he was in the cattle car with you, was he taken to a different location? That is, at what point--

Oh, the men were separate and the women separate.

Aha. Was this in Marienburg or was this later?

No, it was in Auschwitz already.

OK. So you were taken from Berlin to Auschwitz with your mother.

Yeah.

And your father, at what point do you get separated?

My dad died in Theresienstadt. He was gone already.

OK. Was he taken on the same transport that you were taken on?

Yeah.

From Marienburg.

Yeah, sure, sure.

OK. At what point did you say goodbye to him? At what point did he leave?

He passed away in Theresienstadt.

I know.

And he was in a barrack. They treated him as well as they could, you know. And that's it.

Did you go to Theresienstadt? Were you taken to Theresienstadt?

Yeah, sure.

Ah, see, I didn't realize this. So you and your mother and your father were taken to Theresienstadt before Auschwitz.

Mhm.

OK. From Berlin?

Yeah.

OK. When you got to Theresienstadt, you were still all together, the three of you.

No, my dad passed away already. He passed away.

But in Theresienstadt after you got there.

Oh, no, no. See, you're mixing me up.

I'm so sorry.

No, my dad passed away in Theresienstadt. He passed away.

OK. But when you were taken from Marienburg to Berlin, and then from Berlin, the train went to-- the cattle car went to Theresienstadt. Is that right?

43 hours.

43 hours.

With nothing to drink. And you went-- It gives me a headache when I think about it. OK?

OK. When you got to Theresienstadt--

Yeah?

--do you remember what you saw, what the place looked like?

Like a ghetto. People running, going back and forth and back and forth and back and forth. Yeah. And my dad was with men, and my mom was with somebody, and I was in a younger group.

Oh, so you were split apart.



Yeah, in Theresienstadt.

In Theresienstadt.

Yeah.

I see.

And I was-- And Theresienstadt was already full of lice. And I was lucky to work in the laundry and could keep myself clean.

Yeah.

But it was horrible. And I took for my parents. I had to be very careful, you know, took their dead clothes and washed-- see that they could keep clean.

That was difficult.

You took a lot of risks, sure.

Yeah.

The kapos, you know? The Polish girls and kapos with the whip. I remember my number was 795. And we had to line up, and I forgot my number. And she took her hand and she gave me one in the face. That was the only one.

Because you forgot your number.

Yeah. So that was OK.

Mhm.

They could do something else to you, too. Right?

Your job was working in the laundry.

Mhm.

How long did you do that job? How long were you working there?

We worked in shifts.

OK.

From 8 to 2 and from 2 to 10 and then night shift. And they gave you, far as I remember, they gave you a quarter and a little bit of chopped liver is all I know that I'll see. That's all you had.

Were you hungry a lot?

Yeah, sure.

OK.

And then there were apple trees. And the Czech soldiers, they took us out of the ghetto. But they didn't look, and then we picked the apples from the trees. They were pretty nice.

What kind of work did your mother have to do?

Nothing.

So she was just in the barracks.

No, but she was with elderly ladies, in a different place. Young alone and old alone.

I see. Were you able to visit her at where she was?

Oh, yeah, sure. It was all around Theresienstadt. Sure, I used to visit her. I tried to bring her some food best I could.

OK. And what about your father? Could you visit him, too?

Yeah.

OK. And you say he died in Theresienstadt. How did that happen? What did he die from?

From being undernourished.

Starvation.

Yeah, sure.

Was anyone with him? Was your mother with him? Were you with him when he died?

My mom was with with him. And where I was-- And he would go, and somebody came 6:00 in the morning and crying, so terrible. Then when I woke up, we had the bunks, one, two, three. And my dad passed away. She came to tell me.

Mm.

Tell me a little bit-- what kind of a person was your father? He passed away, but tell me about his character.

Very well-liked.

Yeah?

Very well-liked, very smart, lots of friends. And he dealt with horses, you know? In a business, not raising them.

Yeah, but still--

Better for it. Was a good business.

And what are your fondest memories of your father?

I was the baby, he spoiled me. And my mom gave patchy, patchy.

[LAUGHS] She was the disciplinarian?

Yeah. I was very-- I was violent.

Were you really?

I was a tomboy.

[LAUGHS]

Tell me a little bit about the trouble you got into. What kind of tomboy things did you do?

No, I didn't listen very well, and then I got punished.

But your father was easier?

Yeah, my father used to-- used to, leave that child alone. So where do we go from here now?

Well, from here, we've talked about Theresienstadt.

Yeah.

So you lose your father in Theresienstadt.

Yeah.

About how long had you been there?

In Theresienstadt?

Mm-hmm.

And from there, we went to Auschwitz. I don't remember how long.

OK.

Went to Auschwitz.

Did you go together with your mother to Auschwitz?

Yeah, but then we were separated, left, right, right, left. My mom used to say, I come and visit you. Yeah, and then when I find out where she was within the vicinity, I visited her. She was with some elderly ladies-- three ladies in one room. And I was with 350 women in big barracks.

In Auschwitz?

Huh?

In Auschwitz?

No, in Theresienstadt.

In Theresienstadt?

Oh, it was a pleasure, ooh. All the-- and then the Russian girls, they were kapos, and they had them there.

There were Russian kapos, or you said--

Russian girls.

Russian girls?

Oh, they were tough cookies.

Oh yeah?

Mm-hmm.

Were they prisoners, or were they kapos?

Kapos.

Kapos.

Oh, nice. I wish I would meet some today. Now, it's too late. No.

So they mistreated the other prisoners?

Oh sure. No, mistreated, yeah. They had to do something, right? Yep.

Do you remember going from Theresienstadt to Auschwitz?

Yeah.

Was it also a long train?

I told you, it was 43 hours on the cattle train.

I thought that was from Berlin to Theresienstadt?

Yeah.

And then from Theresienstadt to Auschwitz also a long time?

From Theresienstadt-- I guess so, yeah.

OK.

You know, my mind any good working today, I don't know why. So let's go in something.

OK.

But I know how bad-- and I don't have a Kleenex, do I?

Hang on, let's cut for a second.

Oh, no.

When you got to Auschwitz, and the cattle cars opened, is that the last time you saw your mother?

Yeah, she says, I visit you. And then left, right-- the young here, and the old there. Yeah, yeah.

OK. And she never did?

What?

Visit you.

Yeah, she could come.

But I thought at Auschwitz, she was sent to the line that was sent to the gas?

Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, that was in Auschwitz, yeah, yeah.

OK. So when she was sent to the other line, you never saw her after that?

No.

Did you know what had happened to her at that time?

Yeah, I didn't want to know. Sure, we knew.

OK. And tell me then-- you stayed, then, in Auschwitz once you got there. Where were you sent? Where were you taken?

From Auschwitz?

No, no, no, in Auschwitz How long were you in Auschwitz?

I don't even remember.

OK.

My mind ain't working today very well.

I'm so sorry. I'm so sorry. Do you want to take a break?

No, no, no, let's finish. I'm getting hungry. I have low blood sugar, and I got to eat, otherwise, I get a headache.

OK, then let's cut for right now.

Now you're recording? All right.

Now I'm recording.

OK.

Now I'm recording. So when you get to Auschwitz, where are you taken? Where did they take you?

When we got to Auschwitz, we take that. I don't even remember. In a big, big place. Thank god I was only in Auschwitz, I think, five weeks. That was my luck.

Ah. Do you know about what year this was when they took you to Auschwitz?

Mm-mm. Had in the '40s. Had to be in the '40s, yeah.

Of course, of course. Do you think you were in Theresienstadt for more than a year?

Yeah, I think so.

Maybe two years or so?

No, I don't think two years.

OK. So at any rate, that means '43 or '44 is when you're taken to Auschwitz-- one of those two years-- and you're there about five weeks?

Yeah.

OK. Do you remember anything from those five weeks-- what it looked like, what kind of barracks you were in?

Not pleasant.

I'm sure.

Yeah.

Were the barracks as large as they had been in Theresienstadt?

I just told you I was with 350 people.

In Auschwitz, or was that in Theresienstadt?

That was in Theresienstadt, right, yeah.

So in Auschwitz-- I'm trying to get a sense of what did you see and experience there in Auschwitz itself.

Burning bodies.

Ah, you could smell it?

And how.

Can you describe that smell for me?

Oh, terrible. And we have to watch how the body disappeared. That was the most horrible thing I ever been to. They did it on spite. A woman or something-- 60 minutes, and a man, 90 minutes, something like that.

How long it takes for a body to burn, is that it?

Yeah, yeah.

After that-- you say you were there for five weeks?

Yeah. And then the Russians were near, and they socked it to them what they deserved. They drowned them in the seas. They know how to handle them. In Marienburg, in my former hometown, they had the prisoners. They ate out of the barrel the potato peels. They deserve everything they got back. No, even more. They let them have it, yeah.

So did they liberate you? Was it the Russians that liberated you?

No, American soldiers.

So were you taken from Auschwitz to someplace else?

Campen Schleifring in Austria, a little woman's camp.

How is it called again?

Fiecobruch. A little town--

Fiecobruch?

Yeah, some crazy name, yeah.

OK.

A woman's camp. And there, the American soldiers, they liberated us.

Was it still wintertime when they did it, or was it already spring time?

Actually, It was in the spring, yeah.

OK.

And then I started to eat with eggs and milk, and I got a horrible rash on my body, and I was very, very sick. I had high fever, because we were not used to eating, you know?

Yeah, yeah.

It took a long time.

When the Americans liberated you, do you remember that day of liberation? Do you remember where you were?

Yeah, in Austria.

Yeah. Do you remember within the women's camp-- were you in the barracks? Were you outside? Do you remember--

No, inside, inside.

And do you remember your impression the first time you saw one of the soldiers coming by?

Yeah, sure, look at different uniform, you know? They were very good to us. And then the French-- they didn't couldn't find us. They camp was laying so deep down, and the French showed them where the woman's camp was.

Oh. And was this close to any Austrian city, like Salzburg or Vienna?

No, no, no, no.

No?

I told you, Fiecobruch.

Feicobruch?

Yeah. Some crazy name.

See, I don't recall it, that's why I'm asking.

Yeah, it's a small, small town.

OK. Was there any kind of work going on in this camp? No? You were just sent there?

Sure.

Just sent there?

Oh, yeah, we had to go to work, sure.

Yeah. What kind of work was it?

Yeah, putting one stone from here to there and from there to here. Shove snow, yeah.

OK.

They know what they were doing.

Yeah. So when you were liberated and you were fed this food, how long were you sick from that rash?

Oh, definitely, sure. They did-- they gave me something. It was horrible. I stood against a wall and was itching my back. And then I met my husband later, and my husband was looking for his wife. He lost his first wife and two children. And he was from Poland-- his family-- one of seven.

Oh, my goodness.

He was a wonderful tailor. That's why he saved his life.

Because he knew how to tailor?

And how. And the Gestapo used to say, hey, Jew, what can you do? My husband used to say, I'm a schneider. You know what's a schneider, yeah?

It's a tailor.

Yeah, and then they gave him some food. But he had to go and hide to eat the food. They kill you for a piece of bread. You know what hunger does to you? You wouldn't want to know.

No.

It turns you into an animal.

Did that happen to you too?

What?

Did that happen to you too? Did you feel like you changed as a person?

Oh, you mean change?

Yeah. This whole thing-- this whole horror-- did it have an effect on you as well?



Not right away. Later on, you know? We were all dazed, you know? Sure, it comes to you, you know?

Yeah.

Yeah. And I liked when somebody was asking me, was it so bad where you were? And I said, if you would have been there, you would have known, and I just turned away. You don't talk to people like that.

Yeah. So you met your husband in Austria, is that right?

Yeah, he came to our camp, looking for his wife.

For his wife?

Yeah.

And had she perished? Had she died?

Yeah, sure, with the children, yeah.

OK.

And his brothers and sisters-- one of seven.

So he lost them all?

Yeah.

OK. What part of--

He would never talk about it.

Really?

No. He had a big number here.

Do you remember his number?

Six numbers. I had only-- oh yeah, 795 for my number.

And was that from Theresienstadt or from Auschwitz?

Auschwitz.

Your number was 795?

Yeah. That was a low number.

It was a low number.

Oh yeah. No, and then when they put us on the trains, there was an SS woman, and she said to me-- she heard my accent, and she said, be happy that you get out of this shithouse. You're going to here and there--

And she was talking about Auschwitz or about Theresienstadt?

I guess Auschwitz, who knows? I don't remember, but that's what she said to me. Be happy you get out of here.

Do you remember your husband's number-- what it was?

It was too long number-- six numbers.

Six numbers?

Yeah.

What was your husband's name?

Rubin.

Rubin Weinryb?

Yeah.

And what part of Poland was he from?

From a little town, it's called Lask, L-A-S-K.

Lask?

Lask, yeah.

Was that close to the German border, or was that further away?

No. I guess a lot closer to Lodz or something.

Did he ever visit it afterwards?

No, no, no. He wouldn't have no part of it, no.

And what about you? Did you ever go back to Marienburg? Never?

What should I do there? They going to kill me? I got reimbursed. Not enough, but I did.

OK.

You have to have proof. You cannot say, I had a house and this and that, you know?

Well, tell me, what kind of proof did you have to have?

That's over. I was told whatever I told them, they checked that out. Sure, they did. They not give you for your pretty face, sure not.

Yeah.

Everything was OK.

When you got better in Austria, how long did you stay there? Did you go anywhere from Austria?

Oh, you mean on transport?

I mean after you got better from the food that you were eating, what happened to you then?

I don't remember. Then we went to Linz. I'd lived in Linz. And then my cousins gave us affidavits for me and my husband, and then we came on transport. My first cousin-- they know me from a little girl, and they found that I am alive, and they gave us affidavits for my husband and for me.

And this was from your father's side or your mother's side, these first cousins?

My mother's side.

Your mother's side?

Yeah.

And they lived in the United States.

Oh, yeah. No. Oh, they lived here. Yeah, I guess so did.

OK.

They had to.

OK. Now you told me earlier that your brother got out in time.

Yeah, my brother was in the grain business with a big firm in Frankfurt. And there was a Gentile boss. He lived in Durban, South Africa. And he gave my brother affidavit that when he came, he wouldn't know him. So my brother was a cocktail shaker and a this and a that, so he managed very well.

So your brother's boss gave him an affidavit for Durban, South Africa?

No, the guy from South Africa gave him. He was in connection with the firm in Frankfurt, a big shot, and he gave my husband.

Your brother?

My brother.

OK. Did you ever meet your brother after the war?

Oh yeah, sure, sure, sure. He came to visit later on, yeah. Stood with us four weeks.

So he was the only one of your family to survive?

Yeah.

OK. OK. And your first cousins on your mother's side--

Yeah?

What was their name?

My mother's maiden name was Gutenberg, but they all were married. Tante Julie, was Marx, Haas. I guess that's all.

OK. And how long were you still in Europe before you came to the United States after the war?

Oh, you mean when-- we were from Austria, we came.

I know. Did you stay in Austria-- did you come to the United States in 1946 or '47? How long were you still in Europe after the war?

You got me, I forgot. A couple of years, I guess.

A couple of years?

Yeah.

In Linz? In Linz, Austria?

Yeah. It was still a Nazi town. The Austrians-- they were big Nazis.

You felt that when you were there?

Oh, sure. When somebody ask, was it so bad where you were? I said, if you would have been there, you would know.

Ah, that's where they would ask these things?

Uh-huh, yeah.

Yeah?

Nobody know who Hitler was, yeah. Baloney.

Yeah.

Yeah. I had a flu shot here and the arm don't hurt. All of a sudden, my arm hurts here. It's arthritis from here to here. And ow, I had already Tylenol.

Yeah. We will take a break now.

A guy killed this guy in France.

Oh yeah.

They burned all this [GERMAN] something.

Yeah.

They burned down on-- I had to go to the post office and the synagogue, and I cried all the way. They burned our synagogue down to the ground, you know?

And this is after the assassination of Ernst vom Rath?

Mm-hmm.

And this was, I think, in the '30s?

Yeah.

And so were your parents religious?

Yeah, they were good Jews, not Orthodox.

No, but did they go every week? Did they go every week to the synagogue?

My dad, not my mother. We went for the high holidays.

OK.

Yeah, Friday nights at synagogue. He had a beautiful voice there.

Oh, was he a cantor-- your father?

No, no, but he had a nice voice.

Uh-huh. And did you roll already? OK. So we're starting again.

Yeah.

And I just want to repeat this section. We were talking about the holiday sukkah.

Sukkahs.

Sukkahs. That it was--

Sukkahs.

Sukkahs? Did I say it right?

Sukkahs.

Sukkahs?

Yeah.

OK. It was yesterday, and you said that you remembered about going to the synagogue to bring your father something.

Yeah, they ate in the sukkah. And my mom fixed it, and it was right, so I had to carry it. There was one section, and two sections, and three, and my dad ate in the sukkah. It was nice, it was fun.

And then later, that synagogue was burnt down?

Yeah, in 1938, you know?

Yeah. By the way, I didn't ask you about Kristallnacht.

Kristallnacht.

Kristallnacht.

Yeah.

What did you experience yourself?

Oh, they burned down all the synagogues, Kristallnacht, right?

Yeah.

Yeah.

What about in Marienburg? There, too?

Oh, sure, sure. Beautiful synagogue. I cried.

Did you?

Oh, sure.

What about your own home? Did anybody come to your home that evening, on November 9, '38, Kristallnacht?

I don't know. No one would come to me. They did enough damage in other ways, right?

Yeah. OK, so let's go forward again. We're talking about Austria.

Yeah.

And you lived in Linz. When did you get married to your husband? What year was this?

We got married in-- first, I had to make sure that his wife was not alive. Because they had all off-- made already hanky-panky, and then the wife showed up. That would not happen to me.

Oh, so you saw other people to whom this happened, yeah?

No, no, I was single.

Yeah.

Women, no. My husband made sure that nobody was alive. Otherwise, I wouldn't marry him. I'm not a home wrecker.

Yeah.

Some of them, they didn't care. They forgot already. And then they're sure the wife was dead, and the wife showed up.

And then there's a problem?

Ooh!

How did you determine that? Did you find out what happened to her?

I had friends. And it happened to dead friends and other friends, you know?

Yeah.

Yeah, no.

So what year did you get married?

I got married in Linz. No, I had to go to Salzburg and the mikveh-- a very religious rabbi. Oh, and I had to dunk, and dunk and dunk. I got married, and how you got me. My thinking cap is not good today.

That's OK.

I got married in-- wait a minute. [WHISPERING] Probably '42-- would that be right? No. Later? '42-'45?

Well, how soon after the war ended did you meet your husband?

Oh, my husband was in a men's camp in Austria. And they came in the woman's camp to look for their wives. And that's where I met him. And he had eight teeth pulled in one shot. And I was talking to him, and I said, I don't marry no drunkard. He drank a half a bottle of whiskey. Eight teeth pulled, just yanked out.

Oh, my goodness!

Yeah, he was sick like a dog. And I didn't know that. I'm not marrying no drunkard.

Of course. First impressions, huh?

No, he didn't drink.

Yeah. And once you discovered and were able to verify that nobody survived from his first wife and his two children--

Yeah, sure, sure. We had a friend from his home town, and they went to-- where was that? Where did they go? Wait a minute. Lask-- a little town, and nobody was there. I made sure, because I would've left. That is not for me.

So did you get married in 1946 or '47, do you think? Do you remember?

I was married 62 years.

When did your husband die, do you remember that?

My husband died-- now wait a minute. Miriam knows better than I.

Miriam's your daughter, huh?

It had to be in the '40s.

Yeah, it was in the '40s.

In the '40s, yeah.

OK. And then both of you moved to Linz-- you and your husband together?

Yeah.

And did you have your own apartment there? Or did you live--

Oh, they throw out the Germans. And then there's three apartments and six people-- a woman, a husband, a wife, girlfriend, boyfriend, and they all start to cook at the same time. Oh, brother!

Communal living?

Yeah, no, they were not so nice. Some of them were very tough cookies, you know?

Yeah. You're talking about the neighbors, or the other people you shared the apartments with?

We shared the apartments with.

Yeah.

So got to make the best, right? And then we moved to Gmunden.

Gmunden?

Yeah, my husband had a friend there. And thank god, we got out of there. And then my husband met a lot of people, and they liked him, and he did a lot of tailoring. And there was a very nice lady. She loaned him a machine, and he worked. And my husband liked to work. He doesn't sit idle.

OK.

Yeah.

And then through your relatives, you got affidavits to come to the United States?

To Baltimore. I have cousins here-- first cousins. My cousin gave us affidavits.

OK.

And we were 10. American soldiers came back just from the war. They didn't treat us very nice. The husbands-- they had to wash the ship, the floors, and mop them, mop.

Oh really?

Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

So on the ship coming over to the United States?

Yeah.

And why didn't they treat you very nice?

Well, because they must not liked us-- I don't know.

OK.

Yeah.

So the husbands were put to manual labor?

Yeah, on the ship.

So did your husband have to do the same thing?

No, everybody had to do something, right?

And what about you?



My son was born in Munich. He was a little boy.

So did you come to the States from Gmunden or from Munich?

We came [INAUDIBLE] from-- wait a minute. Say before what you said?

Gmunden or Munich?

I think Munich, yeah.

Munich?

Yeah.

Munich. So was your son born in Austria or in Munich in Germany?

In Munich.

In Munich?

To my sadness, yeah.

Oh. Were you in a DP camp in Munich, or did you live in an apartment by that point-- just your own place privately?

No, when we left from Austria to-- from Munchen to Austria, my husband had friend there. Then we had a nice apartment. Yeah.

OK. And when you came to the States, then you came from Munich, because your son was born there?

Mm-hm, my cousins waited for us.

OK.

Yeah, they know me from a little girl.

And you come as a young mother?

Yeah, a very sick child. He was sick, Victor, terrible sick. His head came out like-- I had on him on the portion, and some of it must have been [INAUDIBLE]. His head went out like a lemon.

Oh.

Yeah, he suffered a lot. But he's healthy today.

The trip over-- do you have any memories of that trip over-- what kind of ship it was, how many--

I just told you, a military ship. They just came from the war. No, they were not nice.

OK.

No.

You don't remember the name of that ship?

No.

OK.

The food was lousy, too. I didn't eat for 10 days. I throw up. The ship went-- [GROANING]

It was listing.

Oh, [INAUDIBLE]

And when you got here, where did you--

My cousins waited for us at the train station. And we stood with my one cousin-- we stood. And then after two weeks, three weeks, my husband said, Erik, I don't want no charity, I want to go to work. And then the other cousin had the connection with factories, and my husband worked in a factory. It was season work, you know?

When you first arrived, was it to New York or was it to Baltimore? Where did the ship dock?

The ship dock? Now you got me.

Do you know if you arrived-- when you arrived, did you see the Statue of Liberty as you were coming into the harbor?

Yeah.

So it was New York.

Yeah, yeah.

It was in the--

But we didn't stay there.

OK.

And then my cousins meet from there to Baltimore, and my cousins picked us up.

OK. And first, you lived with a cousin Erik, did you say?

Yeah, and his wife, yeah.

OK, when did you move out to your own place?

Then we lived in Gmunden.

Oh, but that was back in Austria.

Yeah, but there we lived in Austria. We didn't live in Munich.

Uh-huh.

Yeah, and then what happened then? Say something.

OK. I think it was that we were trying to find out from where did you come to the United States? And you said that it

was from Munich-- that you left Munich to come to the United States?

I think so. I'm not sure anymore.

OK. OK. When you get to Baltimore--

Yeah?

When you left your cousin Erik's house-- how long did you stay with him before you left for your own place?

We stood there a couple months, not too long. And then my cousin rented us an apartment, Brookfield Avenue, yeah.

In Baltimore?

In Baltimore. My husband had a job at the factory, but it didn't make enough. It was season work, you know, tailoring is a season work. Yeah, we made it.

How long did it take to learn English?

I learned already in Germany.

You already spoke English in Germany?

Not perfect, but enough to understand.

And your husband? Did he have to learn it new?

No, went to night school. I couldn't go to night school, because I had a little boy. He went to night school. He did very well. But he an accent too-- a Polish accent, where I have a German accent, right?

Yeah. And did you stay in the Baltimore area throughout the next couple of decades?

Yeah, we lived here.

You lived here?

Yeah.

Did your husband continue working seasonal work, or did he ever change--

He worked in the factory. Sure, it was seasonal work.

And then he became to join the union, he took 52 weeks that he became a union member. And then they a lot of rights-- that time. Today, no more union, who knows?

Yeah.

Yeah?

Yeah.

Exist?

I don't know.

I don't think so.

Yeah.

OK.

So when he became a union member, did he continue working in the factory?

Oh, sure, yeah, yeah.

How long did he work there?

Then my cousin found out that a lady-- Mrs. Alexander of Liberty Heights, you don't know neighbor-- she's retiring, and my husband took-- he was with her for four weeks, and he took over the store. And people loved him, because she lost clothes, and then she was very nasty. And they loved my husband.

So he became a store owner?

Yeah, no, yeah.

Yeah. And was this where he worked the rest of his life?

No.

No?

And then we came to the United States.

OK. But I thought that after the factory, Mrs. Alexander closes her store, and he goes and he takes the store over?

Over, yeah.

And then he--

He owned the store.

He owned the store?

Right.

OK.

And the people they are happy to see him, because she was very nasty.

Yeah.

Arrogant, like Mr. Trump.

Can we pause for a second?

Yes.

Yeah.

So what were we talking about? It was where you lived, and the store that your husband had after the war. And did he own this store for the rest of his working life-- your husband?

Yeah.

Yeah?

And then he sold it, and we lived in Kings Park. We had a very beautiful house, a split-level, with four bedrooms, three upstairs. And my son slept downstairs-- a very nice fixed basement.

How many children do you have?

I have one son and three daughters.

And the daughters were all born in the United States?

Yeah, yeah, Victor was born in Munich. The girls were born in Baltimore.

Now both your husband and yourself were survivors of the Holocaust.

Yeah.

Did you tell your children about what your experiences have been?

Yeah, they know, they know. I'm not hocking at it. So they know, they know.

OK. And your grandchildren-- do they know about your stories?

I don't think they care one way or the other. Huh? Oh, OK.

And I think I asked this before-- but refresh me-- did you ever go back to Europe, to your home town?

No. Why should I do that? It's all Poland.

Yeah.

No. I wasn't to do that.

We're at the end of our interview.

OK. Well, nice meeting you.

Is there any final thought that you--

Do I get a copy of all this? No?

Yes, you do.

Yeah?

Yes, you do.

To my place? You have my address over there?

We do.

Yeah, OK.

We do. So in that case, what I'd like to say is thank you very, very much--

You're welcome.

--Mrs. Ilse Weinryb--

Yeah, thank you.

--for our interview.

OK.

And I will formally say this concludes the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum interview with Mrs. Ilse Weinryb on October 18, 2016.

Thank you. You have any more people to visit? No, huh?

We will, but not today.

Not today. I mean--