

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,810
OK, OK.

2
00:00:02,810 --> 00:00:06,920
So aside from reading
a lot, was there

3
00:00:06,920 --> 00:00:08,720
other-- were there
other things that you

4
00:00:08,720 --> 00:00:10,160
could do during this time?

5
00:00:10,160 --> 00:00:11,810
Did you have tasks?

6
00:00:11,810 --> 00:00:14,520
Did you help your mother at all?

7
00:00:14,520 --> 00:00:15,040
My mother?

8
00:00:15,040 --> 00:00:15,540
Mm-hmm.

9
00:00:15,540 --> 00:00:16,537
No.

10
00:00:16,537 --> 00:00:18,870
So who did the cooking and
the cleaning and all of that?

11
00:00:18,870 --> 00:00:21,600
My sister did most of it.

12
00:00:21,600 --> 00:00:22,300
OK.

13
00:00:22,300 --> 00:00:22,800

Yeah.

14
00:00:22,800 --> 00:00:23,760
OK.

15
00:00:23,760 --> 00:00:24,720
So, yes--

16
00:00:24,720 --> 00:00:31,750
If my mother wasn't there,
my sister did things.

17
00:00:31,750 --> 00:00:33,140
She called me--

18
00:00:33,140 --> 00:00:34,950
I was lazy all the time.

19
00:00:34,950 --> 00:00:38,280

20
00:00:38,280 --> 00:00:39,260
You were still a kid.

21
00:00:39,260 --> 00:00:43,340
[CHUCKLES]

22
00:00:43,340 --> 00:00:46,190
So are there any
other experiences

23
00:00:46,190 --> 00:00:53,420
that come to mind about the
occupation, the behavior, let's

24
00:00:53,420 --> 00:00:57,440
say, of German soldiers
or of neighbors,

25
00:00:57,440 --> 00:01:01,200
the Polish neighbors, or anybody
else during this time when

26
00:01:01,200 --> 00:01:01,700
you're all--

27
00:01:01,700 --> 00:01:02,200
They--

28
00:01:02,200 --> 00:01:04,550
--by yourselves?

29
00:01:04,550 --> 00:01:10,870
When the Germans first came,
some of them came to visit us.

30
00:01:10,870 --> 00:01:12,460
My father was still there.

31
00:01:12,460 --> 00:01:16,520
As I said, we
always spoke German.

32
00:01:16,520 --> 00:01:19,440
My mother [CHUCKLES] never
learned to speak Polish.

33
00:01:19,440 --> 00:01:21,870
We always spoke German.

34
00:01:21,870 --> 00:01:24,950
And when we went to--

35
00:01:24,950 --> 00:01:30,450
there was a beach where people
went to go swimming and so on.

36
00:01:30,450 --> 00:01:34,400
It wasn't a real beach, but
that's the place where--

37
00:01:34,400 --> 00:01:37,490
and if we spoke German
and there happened

38
00:01:37,490 --> 00:01:40,370
to be some soldiers
or some German there,

39
00:01:40,370 --> 00:01:44,590
they would come
over and talk to us.

40
00:01:44,590 --> 00:01:51,100
Yeah, we had a few German
soldiers who came to visit us,

41
00:01:51,100 --> 00:01:59,080
even when my father was still
with us, and afterwards, too,

42
00:01:59,080 --> 00:02:00,970
when he wasn't with us anymore.

43
00:02:00,970 --> 00:02:02,590
Mm-hmm.

44
00:02:02,590 --> 00:02:06,620
But only the people that
were not Nazis, you know--

45
00:02:06,620 --> 00:02:07,120
Yeah.

46
00:02:07,120 --> 00:02:10,100
--that didn't hate
the Jews, right?

47
00:02:10,100 --> 00:02:14,930
And was there a possibility
for your mother and for you

48
00:02:14,930 --> 00:02:17,730
all to go back to Germany?

49
00:02:17,730 --> 00:02:18,465

At that time?

50
00:02:18,465 --> 00:02:20,970
Mm-hmm.

51
00:02:20,970 --> 00:02:22,780
I don't think so.

52
00:02:22,780 --> 00:02:23,280
OK.

53
00:02:23,280 --> 00:02:26,100

54
00:02:26,100 --> 00:02:28,620
Not at that time.

55
00:02:28,620 --> 00:02:35,670
Did life change after Germany
started losing the war for you,

56
00:02:35,670 --> 00:02:40,670
for you, your mother,
your brother, your sister?

57
00:02:40,670 --> 00:02:41,210
Goodness.

58
00:02:41,210 --> 00:02:44,490
There were so many
different things

59
00:02:44,490 --> 00:02:50,340
going on that I would have
to really sit down and think

60
00:02:50,340 --> 00:02:51,570
what--

61
00:02:51,570 --> 00:02:54,210
because there's so
many different things

62
00:02:54,210 --> 00:02:58,470
that were going on
during a certain time.

63
00:02:58,470 --> 00:03:01,350
Well, food might get worse.

64
00:03:01,350 --> 00:03:03,310
There may be less of it.

65
00:03:03,310 --> 00:03:03,810
No.

66
00:03:03,810 --> 00:03:04,643
You could see more--

67
00:03:04,643 --> 00:03:06,750
We didn't think that
much about food.

68
00:03:06,750 --> 00:03:07,750
OK.

69
00:03:07,750 --> 00:03:08,400
So that meant--

70
00:03:08,400 --> 00:03:09,460
We were never starving.

71
00:03:09,460 --> 00:03:11,940
We were never starving,
let's put it that way.

72
00:03:11,940 --> 00:03:13,290
That's huge.

73
00:03:13,290 --> 00:03:13,950
That's huge.

74
00:03:13,950 --> 00:03:14,490

Yeah, yeah.

75
00:03:14,490 --> 00:03:14,990
Yeah.

76
00:03:14,990 --> 00:03:17,700
There was always the
big, dark, dark bread,

77
00:03:17,700 --> 00:03:20,490
which I'm always longing
for [CHUCKLES] that we--

78
00:03:20,490 --> 00:03:22,327
So you always had some?

79
00:03:22,327 --> 00:03:23,160
You always had some.

80
00:03:23,160 --> 00:03:25,250
We always had
something to eat, never

81
00:03:25,250 --> 00:03:27,460
that we were really starving.

82
00:03:27,460 --> 00:03:28,470
OK.

83
00:03:28,470 --> 00:03:29,680
That's a big thing.

84
00:03:29,680 --> 00:03:30,675
That's a big thing.

85
00:03:30,675 --> 00:03:31,175
A big thing.

86
00:03:31,175 --> 00:03:32,430
Right.

87

00:03:32,430 --> 00:03:35,040

Did you end up
seeing more soldiers

88

00:03:35,040 --> 00:03:38,750

coming back on trains, that is,
more wounded soldiers coming

89

00:03:38,750 --> 00:03:39,250

through?

90

00:03:39,250 --> 00:03:41,700

No, we never saw
wounded soldiers, no.

91

00:03:41,700 --> 00:03:42,950

You never saw that?

92

00:03:42,950 --> 00:03:45,930

We weren't near any
kind of train station

93

00:03:45,930 --> 00:03:47,580

where we used to live.

94

00:03:47,580 --> 00:03:49,005

Was there a curfew?

95

00:03:49,005 --> 00:03:50,295

A what?

96

00:03:50,295 --> 00:03:53,410

Was there a curfew,
a certain time--

97

00:03:53,410 --> 00:03:53,910

Oh, yes.

98

00:03:53,910 --> 00:03:54,410

Yeah?

99

00:03:54,410 --> 00:03:55,260

Oh yes, yeah, yeah.

100
00:03:55,260 --> 00:03:57,280
Every day?

101
00:03:57,280 --> 00:03:58,480
I think so.

102
00:03:58,480 --> 00:03:59,600
OK, OK.

103
00:03:59,600 --> 00:04:00,100
Yeah.

104
00:04:00,100 --> 00:04:03,190

105
00:04:03,190 --> 00:04:05,260
Did you ever--

106
00:04:05,260 --> 00:04:08,230
I already asked you
whether or not you ever

107
00:04:08,230 --> 00:04:11,090
saw someone being killed again.

108
00:04:11,090 --> 00:04:11,590
No.

109
00:04:11,590 --> 00:04:18,209
But did you ever see any
acts of violence after that?

110
00:04:18,209 --> 00:04:19,718
I don't think so.

111
00:04:19,718 --> 00:04:20,218
OK.

112
00:04:20,218 --> 00:04:23,930

113
00:04:23,930 --> 00:04:27,530
Did you know that
the war was ending?

114
00:04:27,530 --> 00:04:29,510
As the years went
on and the months

115
00:04:29,510 --> 00:04:31,730
went-- the months and
the years went on,

116
00:04:31,730 --> 00:04:35,000
did you have an idea that
this is coming to an end

117
00:04:35,000 --> 00:04:38,190
and Germany is not going to win?

118
00:04:38,190 --> 00:04:38,690
Sorry.

119
00:04:38,690 --> 00:04:39,890
That's OK.

120
00:04:39,890 --> 00:04:41,840
[CHUCKLES] Don't give
me anything in my hand.

121
00:04:41,840 --> 00:04:42,340
Yeah.

122
00:04:42,340 --> 00:04:44,170
I [CHUCKLES] will move it.

123
00:04:44,170 --> 00:04:44,670
Yeah.

124
00:04:44,670 --> 00:04:49,800

125
00:04:49,800 --> 00:04:51,220
No.

126
00:04:51,220 --> 00:04:55,790
See, by the time you were 14 and
15, you're no longer a child,

127
00:04:55,790 --> 00:04:56,290
you know?

128
00:04:56,290 --> 00:04:56,790
Right.

129
00:04:56,790 --> 00:05:00,940
You're already in the
middle of the teenage years,

130
00:05:00,940 --> 00:05:05,530
and I'm wondering how that
15-year-old girl experienced

131
00:05:05,530 --> 00:05:07,690
living in Ostrowiec.

132
00:05:07,690 --> 00:05:09,550
I was in love with someone.

133
00:05:09,550 --> 00:05:10,400
Were you?

134
00:05:10,400 --> 00:05:11,500
Yeah.

135
00:05:11,500 --> 00:05:12,790
Who were you in love with?

136
00:05:12,790 --> 00:05:16,340
A Polish boy.

137
00:05:16,340 --> 00:05:16,840

Really?

138

00:05:16,840 --> 00:05:18,220

A Polish man, I should say.

139

00:05:18,220 --> 00:05:21,190

He was seven years
older than I was.

140

00:05:21,190 --> 00:05:22,000

Yeah.

141

00:05:22,000 --> 00:05:22,930

How did you meet him?

142

00:05:22,930 --> 00:05:26,740

143

00:05:26,740 --> 00:05:29,950

Well, at that time, all Jewish
people were already gone,

144

00:05:29,950 --> 00:05:32,980

you know, weren't
around anymore.

145

00:05:32,980 --> 00:05:37,270

And Else had friends
that were more her age.

146

00:05:37,270 --> 00:05:40,440

147

00:05:40,440 --> 00:05:47,420

And I saw this young man
when we went swimming.

148

00:05:47,420 --> 00:05:51,620

And he jumped-- there was a--

149

00:05:51,620 --> 00:05:55,460

not a tower, but street

or something above where

150
00:05:55,460 --> 00:05:56,810
you could drop down.

151
00:05:56,810 --> 00:06:01,400
And I saw him there,
and I kind of liked him.

152
00:06:01,400 --> 00:06:03,980
And Else's friend--

153
00:06:03,980 --> 00:06:05,120
I don't know how it came.

154
00:06:05,120 --> 00:06:08,370
We talked about it, and I
told her about this guy.

155
00:06:08,370 --> 00:06:11,210
And she said, oh, he's
a relative of mine.

156
00:06:11,210 --> 00:06:12,020
I know him.

157
00:06:12,020 --> 00:06:14,330
So she introduced me to him.

158
00:06:14,330 --> 00:06:15,680
What was his name?

159
00:06:15,680 --> 00:06:16,640
Andrzje.

160
00:06:16,640 --> 00:06:17,390
Andrzje.

161
00:06:17,390 --> 00:06:18,350
Yeah.

162

00:06:18,350 --> 00:06:21,500
And do you remember
his last name?

163
00:06:21,500 --> 00:06:22,605
Manowski.

164
00:06:22,605 --> 00:06:23,105
Manowski.

165
00:06:23,105 --> 00:06:24,270
Andrzej Manowski.

166
00:06:24,270 --> 00:06:24,890
Yeah.

167
00:06:24,890 --> 00:06:26,360
I never knew his parents.

168
00:06:26,360 --> 00:06:29,250
I never saw his parents.

169
00:06:29,250 --> 00:06:30,770
He never came to my house.

170
00:06:30,770 --> 00:06:34,070
I never went to his house.

171
00:06:34,070 --> 00:06:37,700
I only saw-- he had two
brothers, one older and one

172
00:06:37,700 --> 00:06:41,300
younger, and they were both
ugly, and he was handsome.

173
00:06:41,300 --> 00:06:46,530
That's-- [CHUCKLES] he didn't
look like his brothers at all,

174
00:06:46,530 --> 00:06:47,030
anyhow.

175
00:06:47,030 --> 00:06:50,400

176
00:06:50,400 --> 00:06:52,860
So what did you
want to know next?

177
00:06:52,860 --> 00:06:55,500
Well, I was wondering
what was going

178
00:06:55,500 --> 00:06:57,360
through the mind
of a 15-year-old,

179
00:06:57,360 --> 00:06:58,690
and you told me, at the time.

180
00:06:58,690 --> 00:06:59,190
[CHUCKLES]

181
00:06:59,190 --> 00:06:59,520
Yeah.

182
00:06:59,520 --> 00:07:00,020
Oh, yeah.

183
00:07:00,020 --> 00:07:02,100
Did it last long?

184
00:07:02,100 --> 00:07:05,010
Until he went to the partisans.

185
00:07:05,010 --> 00:07:07,860
You know, Polish young
men went to the partisans

186
00:07:07,860 --> 00:07:13,330
to fight the Germans, to
train, to all kinds of things,

187
00:07:13,330 --> 00:07:13,850
they did.

188
00:07:13,850 --> 00:07:16,550

189
00:07:16,550 --> 00:07:23,510
And, oh, I should say
at one time, my mother,

190
00:07:23,510 --> 00:07:28,310
I think, had gone to Germany
and sent some things over

191
00:07:28,310 --> 00:07:30,200
to Poland.

192
00:07:30,200 --> 00:07:34,550
And the partisans attacked
the train and all things--

193
00:07:34,550 --> 00:07:39,030
they took everything
out and so on.

194
00:07:39,030 --> 00:07:44,510
And after a short time,
we got information--

195
00:07:44,510 --> 00:07:48,200
my mother got information that
she should come and pick up

196
00:07:48,200 --> 00:07:51,090
things, her things.

197
00:07:51,090 --> 00:07:56,640
So somehow, some of the
partisans realized that we're--

198
00:07:56,640 --> 00:08:03,220
our stuff is there, on there,

and they took it off and gave

199

00:08:03,220 --> 00:08:06,520

us information to pick it up.

200

00:08:06,520 --> 00:08:07,530

That's interesting.

201

00:08:07,530 --> 00:08:08,710

Yeah, very interesting.

202

00:08:08,710 --> 00:08:09,210

Interesting.

203

00:08:09,210 --> 00:08:11,280

So everybody knew us.

204

00:08:11,280 --> 00:08:14,330

All the Polish people
that were in charge,

205

00:08:14,330 --> 00:08:18,270

they all knew about us.

206

00:08:18,270 --> 00:08:21,110

And when they saw
the name on there,

207

00:08:21,110 --> 00:08:24,240

they knew to let my mother know.

208

00:08:24,240 --> 00:08:27,780

And what about Andrzej, when
he went to join the partisans?

209

00:08:27,780 --> 00:08:29,567

I never saw him anymore.

210

00:08:29,567 --> 00:08:30,900

Do you know if he lived or died?

211

00:08:30,900 --> 00:08:31,470
No.

212
00:08:31,470 --> 00:08:35,700
I don't know if he ever survived
it all, the war, or not.

213
00:08:35,700 --> 00:08:36,940
Uh-huh.

214
00:08:36,940 --> 00:08:39,600
I always think of
that, and it's my fault

215
00:08:39,600 --> 00:08:41,820
that he went at that time.

216
00:08:41,820 --> 00:08:43,350
Why is it your
fault that he went?

217
00:08:43,350 --> 00:08:48,060
Because I was too childish to
accept being loved by someone.

218
00:08:48,060 --> 00:08:48,960
[CHUCKLES]

219
00:08:48,960 --> 00:08:50,190
Oh.

220
00:08:50,190 --> 00:08:52,430
Yeah.

221
00:08:52,430 --> 00:08:57,200
I was very much in love with
him, but when he told me--

222
00:08:57,200 --> 00:09:00,140
we always went for walks.

223
00:09:00,140 --> 00:09:03,290

We never made arrangements that
were going to meet someplace,

224
00:09:03,290 --> 00:09:05,900
but whenever he
walked that way and I

225
00:09:05,900 --> 00:09:07,740
walked that way, he just--

226
00:09:07,740 --> 00:09:09,960
we got together and
walked together.

227
00:09:09,960 --> 00:09:13,150

228
00:09:13,150 --> 00:09:16,940
And at one time--

229
00:09:16,940 --> 00:09:20,240
somehow, sometimes, he
spoke also a little German,

230
00:09:20,240 --> 00:09:24,530
and I called him "you're
crazy" in German, [GERMAN]..

231
00:09:24,530 --> 00:09:27,510
I don't know what we
were talking about.

232
00:09:27,510 --> 00:09:31,020
And he said, [GERMAN].

233
00:09:31,020 --> 00:09:33,048
Aw, he said, "I'm not crazy.

234
00:09:33,048 --> 00:09:33,590
I'm in love."

235
00:09:33,590 --> 00:09:34,430

"I'm in love."

236
00:09:34,430 --> 00:09:36,050
So I made fun of it.

237
00:09:36,050 --> 00:09:37,610
I made such fun of it.

238
00:09:37,610 --> 00:09:40,260
And I said, who would you
be in love with, da, da, da.

239
00:09:40,260 --> 00:09:43,760
And so I couldn't handle it.

240
00:09:43,760 --> 00:09:46,490
And he said, aren't you in love?

241
00:09:46,490 --> 00:09:47,820
And I made fun of it.

242
00:09:47,820 --> 00:09:49,010
Who would I be in love?

243
00:09:49,010 --> 00:09:50,180
Who, da, da, da?

244
00:09:50,180 --> 00:09:51,980
And I never saw him again.

245
00:09:51,980 --> 00:09:52,670
That's it.

246
00:09:52,670 --> 00:09:53,660
Oh, no.

247
00:09:53,660 --> 00:09:55,370
That's when he went
to the partisans,

248
00:09:55,370 --> 00:09:57,810

and I never saw him again.

249

00:09:57,810 --> 00:09:59,270

And you think this
is your fault?

250

00:09:59,270 --> 00:10:00,290

Yes.

251

00:10:00,290 --> 00:10:02,330

Maybe eventually
he would have gone,

252

00:10:02,330 --> 00:10:04,850

but I would have had
the chance to hear.

253

00:10:04,850 --> 00:10:08,750

Maybe he would let me
hear from someone else.

254

00:10:08,750 --> 00:10:12,370

But when I acted like that--

255

00:10:12,370 --> 00:10:14,720

That's a huge burden to carry.

256

00:10:14,720 --> 00:10:15,700

That's a huge burden.

257

00:10:15,700 --> 00:10:17,470

But he was seven years older.

258

00:10:17,470 --> 00:10:19,660

He should have known I--

259

00:10:19,660 --> 00:10:24,040

you know, that I loved him, but
somehow, some way, you know?

260

00:10:24,040 --> 00:10:25,370

Oh, we're not mind readers.

261
00:10:25,370 --> 00:10:25,870
No.

262
00:10:25,870 --> 00:10:26,290
We're not mind readers.

263
00:10:26,290 --> 00:10:26,790
No.

264
00:10:26,790 --> 00:10:28,000
Ay-yi-yi.

265
00:10:28,000 --> 00:10:31,240
So I never knew if he
survived the war or not.

266
00:10:31,240 --> 00:10:33,400
Now, was he antisemitic?

267
00:10:33,400 --> 00:10:34,660
No, no.

268
00:10:34,660 --> 00:10:36,610
He was not.

269
00:10:36,610 --> 00:10:39,700
There were some Poles
who were not antisemitic.

270
00:10:39,700 --> 00:10:43,610
A lot of them were,
but he was not, no.

271
00:10:43,610 --> 00:10:44,770
OK.

272
00:10:44,770 --> 00:10:50,270
He was a very
unusual person, yeah.

273

00:10:50,270 --> 00:10:52,800
So, yeah.

274
00:10:52,800 --> 00:10:54,550
So how did the war end for you?

275
00:10:54,550 --> 00:10:57,630

276
00:10:57,630 --> 00:10:59,690
How did it end?

277
00:10:59,690 --> 00:11:00,663
Don't know.

278
00:11:00,663 --> 00:11:01,330
Do you remember?

279
00:11:01,330 --> 00:11:03,970
There's so many things
going on in between

280
00:11:03,970 --> 00:11:12,080
that I would have to
sit down and think

281
00:11:12,080 --> 00:11:13,500
about what happened then.

282
00:11:13,500 --> 00:11:15,110
When did that happen?

283
00:11:15,110 --> 00:11:16,192
When did that happen?

284
00:11:16,192 --> 00:11:16,775
You know this?

285
00:11:16,775 --> 00:11:19,220
Well, do you remember
hearing that the war is over?

286

00:11:19,220 --> 00:11:23,600

287

00:11:23,600 --> 00:11:26,465

Somehow, we heard
that the war is over.

288

00:11:26,465 --> 00:11:29,420

289

00:11:29,420 --> 00:11:35,600

The funny thing is we
were in part of the Poland

290

00:11:35,600 --> 00:11:39,390

that we did not want to stay
when the Russians take over,

291

00:11:39,390 --> 00:11:39,950

you know?

292

00:11:39,950 --> 00:11:41,780

Because there was
a war going on,

293

00:11:41,780 --> 00:11:43,580

the Germans and the Russians.

294

00:11:43,580 --> 00:11:44,780

That's right.

295

00:11:44,780 --> 00:11:47,360

And we did not want to
stay with the Russians,

296

00:11:47,360 --> 00:11:51,260

because we heard all kinds of
things, what the Russians do.

297

00:11:51,260 --> 00:11:58,430

They don't ask questions,
they rape women, and so on.

298

00:11:58,430 --> 00:12:04,010

So we tried to get west,
even if it was a German army

299

00:12:04,010 --> 00:12:08,450

transport that tried to get the
soldiers someplace, you know?

300

00:12:08,450 --> 00:12:14,360

We just asked them if we
could go on with them.

301

00:12:14,360 --> 00:12:15,650

They didn't ask questions.

302

00:12:15,650 --> 00:12:16,590

We spoke German.

303

00:12:16,590 --> 00:12:21,600

That was all important to them.

304

00:12:21,600 --> 00:12:24,170

So we got a little
bit further west--

305

00:12:24,170 --> 00:12:24,850

So you left--

306

00:12:24,850 --> 00:12:25,767

--away from Ostrowiec.

307

00:12:25,767 --> 00:12:26,910

So you left Ostrowiec?

308

00:12:26,910 --> 00:12:27,490

Oh, yeah.

309

00:12:27,490 --> 00:12:27,650

Yeah.

310

00:12:27,650 --> 00:12:28,520
You left Ostrowiec.

311
00:12:28,520 --> 00:12:31,302
You left that hovel,
[CHUCKLES] more or less,

312
00:12:31,302 --> 00:12:32,760
that you were living
in, that room?

313
00:12:32,760 --> 00:12:34,240
Yeah, we left that Ostrowiec.

314
00:12:34,240 --> 00:12:34,740
Yeah.

315
00:12:34,740 --> 00:12:35,240
Yeah.

316
00:12:35,240 --> 00:12:37,640
We already had left that before.

317
00:12:37,640 --> 00:12:38,630
Oh, had you?

318
00:12:38,630 --> 00:12:41,540
And where did you go before?

319
00:12:41,540 --> 00:12:45,070

320
00:12:45,070 --> 00:12:47,230
Tschenstochau.

321
00:12:47,230 --> 00:12:49,720
At one time, we
lived in Ostrowiec,

322
00:12:49,720 --> 00:12:54,820
and I was already a teenager,
13 or 14, and Else was older.

323
00:12:54,820 --> 00:12:57,460
And we heard Polish
people tell us

324
00:12:57,460 --> 00:13:03,180
that the Germans want to send
us away, the two girls, us.

325
00:13:03,180 --> 00:13:05,220
And we had no idea.

326
00:13:05,220 --> 00:13:06,870
You know, where
would they send us?

327
00:13:06,870 --> 00:13:08,070
What would happen?

328
00:13:08,070 --> 00:13:10,860
So my mother packed
suitcases for us

329
00:13:10,860 --> 00:13:13,950
and took us to the train
station, and the first train

330
00:13:13,950 --> 00:13:17,600
that came, she put us on.

331
00:13:17,600 --> 00:13:21,680
And we ended up in
Tschenstochau, a German city.

332
00:13:21,680 --> 00:13:27,140
And my sister was much
older, found a room for us

333
00:13:27,140 --> 00:13:29,150
where we could stay.

334
00:13:29,150 --> 00:13:31,880

Eventually, she found a job.

335
00:13:31,880 --> 00:13:34,820

336
00:13:34,820 --> 00:13:39,100
And that's where we stayed.

337
00:13:39,100 --> 00:13:41,425
And they didn't know
about us, you know.

338
00:13:41,425 --> 00:13:45,060

339
00:13:45,060 --> 00:13:48,480
[CHUCKLES] One funny
thing I should tell you--

340
00:13:48,480 --> 00:13:50,700
in order to get enough food--

341
00:13:50,700 --> 00:13:54,240
because food was
always a problem--

342
00:13:54,240 --> 00:13:58,920
the Germans advertised they're
looking for people to feed mice

343
00:13:58,920 --> 00:14:02,370
that they had in little boxes.

344
00:14:02,370 --> 00:14:05,210
What they used them
for, I don't know.

345
00:14:05,210 --> 00:14:08,540
They must have used
them to do something.

346
00:14:08,540 --> 00:14:10,350

And they were in little boxes.

347
00:14:10,350 --> 00:14:13,970
So we decided we'd go
and feed the mice--

348
00:14:13,970 --> 00:14:14,870
the lice.

349
00:14:14,870 --> 00:14:15,680
The mice?

350
00:14:15,680 --> 00:14:16,400
Lice.

351
00:14:16,400 --> 00:14:16,910
Lice?

352
00:14:16,910 --> 00:14:19,350
Lice, in little boxes.

353
00:14:19,350 --> 00:14:19,850
They--

354
00:14:19,850 --> 00:14:21,490
They wanted to feed lice?

355
00:14:21,490 --> 00:14:22,700
Yes, yes.

356
00:14:22,700 --> 00:14:23,445
That's crazy.

357
00:14:23,445 --> 00:14:26,600
[CHUCKLES] Well,
that's what we did.

358
00:14:26,600 --> 00:14:29,660
I don't know what they used
them, for what exactly they--

359

00:14:29,660 --> 00:14:31,372
Well, what did you
get for feeding lice?

360
00:14:31,372 --> 00:14:32,330
Did they give you food?

361
00:14:32,330 --> 00:14:32,830
Food.

362
00:14:32,830 --> 00:14:35,180
Yes, yes, food, extra--

363
00:14:35,180 --> 00:14:38,000
certain kind of food, yes.

364
00:14:38,000 --> 00:14:42,380
So we did that, I think, one
week, [CHUCKLES] and then

365
00:14:42,380 --> 00:14:44,300
we said that's enough.

366
00:14:44,300 --> 00:14:48,680
First they put one box on, you
know, and it itches afterwards.

367
00:14:48,680 --> 00:14:51,950
Then the next time, two boxes,
three boxes, four boxes.

368
00:14:51,950 --> 00:14:53,580
So you have to put
it on your body?

369
00:14:53,580 --> 00:14:54,080
Oh, yeah.

370
00:14:54,080 --> 00:14:58,520
It was tied on about
your leg here, you know?

371

00:14:58,520 --> 00:15:01,160
And so the lice-- you were
the food for the lice?

372
00:15:01,160 --> 00:15:02,270
For the lice, yes.

373
00:15:02,270 --> 00:15:05,660
And the itching afterwards
was crazy, you know?

374
00:15:05,660 --> 00:15:09,290
[CHUCKLES] So we did that for
one week, and that was it.

375
00:15:09,290 --> 00:15:09,870
That was it.

376
00:15:09,870 --> 00:15:10,370
That was it.

377
00:15:10,370 --> 00:15:11,060
That was enough.

378
00:15:11,060 --> 00:15:12,680
That was enough, yeah.

379
00:15:12,680 --> 00:15:13,700
Oh my goodness.

380
00:15:13,700 --> 00:15:16,880
Yeah, so we got food,
a special kind of food

381
00:15:16,880 --> 00:15:19,440
that you couldn't get
any other way, you know?

382
00:15:19,440 --> 00:15:20,330
OK.

383
00:15:20,330 --> 00:15:24,110

But the lice was
too much, you know?

384
00:15:24,110 --> 00:15:25,380
One week was enough.

385
00:15:25,380 --> 00:15:30,590
[CHUCKLES] Crazy things.

386
00:15:30,590 --> 00:15:32,250
Did your mother and brother--

387
00:15:32,250 --> 00:15:32,750
She wasn't--

388
00:15:32,750 --> 00:15:33,110
--join you?

389
00:15:33,110 --> 00:15:33,730
She wasn't with us.

390
00:15:33,730 --> 00:15:33,950
No.

391
00:15:33,950 --> 00:15:35,750
My mother wasn't
with us at the time.

392
00:15:35,750 --> 00:15:39,648
It was my sister and I. Did I
say she put us on the train?

393
00:15:39,648 --> 00:15:40,190
That's right.

394
00:15:40,190 --> 00:15:40,590
That's right.

395
00:15:40,590 --> 00:15:41,132
That's right.

396

00:15:41,132 --> 00:15:42,590
So we went Tschenstochau.

397
00:15:42,590 --> 00:15:43,880
My mother was still--

398
00:15:43,880 --> 00:15:44,600
In Ostrowiec?

399
00:15:44,600 --> 00:15:45,590
--in Ostrowiec, yeah.

400
00:15:45,590 --> 00:15:47,220
OK.

401
00:15:47,220 --> 00:15:49,320
So my sister, who
was much older,

402
00:15:49,320 --> 00:15:51,510
always took charge
of things, you know?

403
00:15:51,510 --> 00:15:55,390
She found as a room where to
stay, and she found a job,

404
00:15:55,390 --> 00:16:01,770
and she got me a little,
unimportant job, you know?

405
00:16:01,770 --> 00:16:05,551
And they didn't know that
we were Jewish, naturally.

406
00:16:05,551 --> 00:16:06,051
Mm-hmm.

407
00:16:06,051 --> 00:16:08,700

408
00:16:08,700 --> 00:16:11,370

And then eventually,
my mother came back,

409
00:16:11,370 --> 00:16:17,430
and she took me to Germany
to stay near her parents

410
00:16:17,430 --> 00:16:18,920
in Germany.

411
00:16:18,920 --> 00:16:20,080
Ah-ha, OK.

412
00:16:20,080 --> 00:16:25,450
Oh, I think she did that before,
and because her sister married

413
00:16:25,450 --> 00:16:31,270
a Nazi, and at one time,
she called my mother

414
00:16:31,270 --> 00:16:36,910
"you Jewish-something,"
you know, and then we left.

415
00:16:36,910 --> 00:16:39,050
So you had gone back to Germany?

416
00:16:39,050 --> 00:16:40,780
Yes, yeah, yeah, yeah.

417
00:16:40,780 --> 00:16:42,310
And then--

418
00:16:42,310 --> 00:16:43,340
And then we left again.

419
00:16:43,340 --> 00:16:44,600
And then you left again.

420
00:16:44,600 --> 00:16:45,370
Yeah.

421
00:16:45,370 --> 00:16:46,040
OK.

422
00:16:46,040 --> 00:16:51,110
I really don't know exactly
how we left, you know,

423
00:16:51,110 --> 00:16:53,870
or how it happened, but
I know we didn't stay.

424
00:16:53,870 --> 00:16:55,520
OK.

425
00:16:55,520 --> 00:16:58,700
And then you're back in Poland.

426
00:16:58,700 --> 00:17:00,290
And you say that--

427
00:17:00,290 --> 00:17:02,540
you said that you were
frightened of the Russians?

428
00:17:02,540 --> 00:17:04,520
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

429
00:17:04,520 --> 00:17:06,920
We didn't want to stay
with the Russians.

430
00:17:06,920 --> 00:17:07,890
That's for sure.

431
00:17:07,890 --> 00:17:11,160
So what did you do?

432
00:17:11,160 --> 00:17:15,450
Well, eventually, the
Russians came there anyhow,

433

00:17:15,450 --> 00:17:17,549
wherever we were, you know?

434

00:17:17,549 --> 00:17:18,960
So did you run, though?

435

00:17:18,960 --> 00:17:21,717
Did you leave Ostrowiec?

436

00:17:21,717 --> 00:17:22,800
Did you leave Czestochowa?

437

00:17:22,800 --> 00:17:23,300
Oh, yeah.

438

00:17:23,300 --> 00:17:25,599
We weren't in
Ostrowiec anymore, no.

439

00:17:25,599 --> 00:17:26,099
OK.

440

00:17:26,099 --> 00:17:30,860
It was someplace in Germany.

441

00:17:30,860 --> 00:17:35,530
Oh, as I said, German
trucks of soldiers

442

00:17:35,530 --> 00:17:40,220
started who went west took
us with them for a while.

443

00:17:40,220 --> 00:17:44,240
And somehow, my mother probably
didn't agree what one of them

444

00:17:44,240 --> 00:17:48,290
or two of them wanted, and
they put us out on the street,

445

00:17:48,290 --> 00:17:50,180
wherever it was, you know?

446
00:17:50,180 --> 00:17:51,300
OK.

447
00:17:51,300 --> 00:17:51,800
[CHUCKLES]

448
00:17:51,800 --> 00:17:53,780
And that would have been
your mother, yourself,

449
00:17:53,780 --> 00:17:55,030
your sister, and your brother?

450
00:17:55,030 --> 00:17:56,460
No, my sister wasn't with us.

451
00:17:56,460 --> 00:17:56,960
No.

452
00:17:56,960 --> 00:17:57,830
Oh, OK.

453
00:17:57,830 --> 00:18:02,270
She decided to do
something else.

454
00:18:02,270 --> 00:18:02,870
OK.

455
00:18:02,870 --> 00:18:04,760
And your brother was with you?

456
00:18:04,760 --> 00:18:06,470
My brother was with us, yeah.

457
00:18:06,470 --> 00:18:08,310
OK.

458

00:18:08,310 --> 00:18:10,755
We left him some place--

459
00:18:10,755 --> 00:18:12,105
a safe place.

460
00:18:12,105 --> 00:18:14,630

461
00:18:14,630 --> 00:18:18,800
I don't know if at that time
he was still with us or not.

462
00:18:18,800 --> 00:18:20,400
OK.

463
00:18:20,400 --> 00:18:24,210
But anyhow, we all survived.

464
00:18:24,210 --> 00:18:28,530
Well, you say that
you were on the run

465
00:18:28,530 --> 00:18:32,980
and you were together
with some German soldiers.

466
00:18:32,980 --> 00:18:33,480
And--

467
00:18:33,480 --> 00:18:33,980
Yeah.

468
00:18:33,980 --> 00:18:36,295
They were on the truck
transport to get west--

469
00:18:36,295 --> 00:18:36,795
To get west.

470
00:18:36,795 --> 00:18:40,080
--because they were

fighting the Russians there.

471

00:18:40,080 --> 00:18:42,460

And then they threw
you off of there.

472

00:18:42,460 --> 00:18:43,260

Yeah, yeah.

473

00:18:43,260 --> 00:18:44,160

[CHUCKLES]

474

00:18:44,160 --> 00:18:46,080

And that was in East Germany?

475

00:18:46,080 --> 00:18:47,530

That was in Germany someplace.

476

00:18:47,530 --> 00:18:48,030

OK.

477

00:18:48,030 --> 00:18:52,120

So there were some kind of
hills and a few houses there

478

00:18:52,120 --> 00:18:53,500

and a house there.

479

00:18:53,500 --> 00:18:57,540

So my mother and I,
we walked up the hill.

480

00:18:57,540 --> 00:18:59,310

And the woman was nice.

481

00:18:59,310 --> 00:19:01,950

You know, the family--
a German family,

482

00:19:01,950 --> 00:19:04,030

and they gave us
something to eat.

483
00:19:04,030 --> 00:19:07,470
I always remember potatoes--

484
00:19:07,470 --> 00:19:09,750
cooked potatoes, I
think with the peel

485
00:19:09,750 --> 00:19:15,570
still on, with some white
cheese and some butter.

486
00:19:15,570 --> 00:19:16,890
I still like that.

487
00:19:16,890 --> 00:19:22,200
[CHUCKLES] So we--

488
00:19:22,200 --> 00:19:24,680
I don't know exactly how
long we stayed there.

489
00:19:24,680 --> 00:19:27,470

490
00:19:27,470 --> 00:19:29,500
But there's so many
different things

491
00:19:29,500 --> 00:19:33,100
that happened during that
time that sometimes--

492
00:19:33,100 --> 00:19:33,640
I know.

493
00:19:33,640 --> 00:19:34,210
It can be--

494
00:19:34,210 --> 00:19:36,770
I can't remember what
comes first, what is after,

495
00:19:36,770 --> 00:19:37,270
what came--

496
00:19:37,270 --> 00:19:37,840
That's not important.

497
00:19:37,840 --> 00:19:38,340
You know?

498
00:19:38,340 --> 00:19:40,240
I might be asking
questions like that,

499
00:19:40,240 --> 00:19:42,340
but what is most
important is what

500
00:19:42,340 --> 00:19:44,020
are the things
that you remember,

501
00:19:44,020 --> 00:19:46,480
even if you don't
remember them in sequence.

502
00:19:46,480 --> 00:19:47,140
Oh, right.

503
00:19:47,140 --> 00:19:47,650
Yeah.

504
00:19:47,650 --> 00:19:48,490
OK.

505
00:19:48,490 --> 00:19:51,010
So you say the
Russians eventually

506
00:19:51,010 --> 00:19:52,990
overtook that place, too?

507

00:19:52,990 --> 00:19:55,710

The Russians eventually
overtook that place.

508

00:19:55,710 --> 00:19:59,120

We were all sleeping in
that house, on the floor.

509

00:19:59,120 --> 00:20:05,260

My mother, whatever she
took, it was some puff.

510

00:20:05,260 --> 00:20:08,824

You know, the
Germans have these--

511

00:20:08,824 --> 00:20:10,600

what do you call
them, down puffs--

512

00:20:10,600 --> 00:20:11,350

Yeah that's right.

513

00:20:11,350 --> 00:20:13,550

--that you roll up into
a very small thing.

514

00:20:13,550 --> 00:20:16,280

And she always carried
that with her--

515

00:20:16,280 --> 00:20:16,780

OK.

516

00:20:16,780 --> 00:20:19,870

--and soft pillow.

517

00:20:19,870 --> 00:20:27,110

And we slept in that house
on the floor, all of us.

518

00:20:27,110 --> 00:20:32,300

And all of a sudden, at
night, the door opened,

519
00:20:32,300 --> 00:20:36,440
and somebody put the
flashlights on us.

520
00:20:36,440 --> 00:20:39,740
And we were all covered up.

521
00:20:39,740 --> 00:20:41,330
And that's it.

522
00:20:41,330 --> 00:20:44,465
The next morning, we found out
those were Russian people who

523
00:20:44,465 --> 00:20:46,310
did that, were there.

524
00:20:46,310 --> 00:20:48,300
But they thought
we're all children.

525
00:20:48,300 --> 00:20:51,560
You know, we were covered
up to here, sleeping.

526
00:20:51,560 --> 00:20:52,400
And that's it.

527
00:20:52,400 --> 00:20:58,090
Now, we were in a Russian
area, a Russian zone.

528
00:20:58,090 --> 00:21:04,960
So, well, they weren't as
bad as we thought at first,

529
00:21:04,960 --> 00:21:10,270
as we heard, that they would
rape women here and everywhere.

530

00:21:10,270 --> 00:21:14,834

So anyhow, so we were--

531

00:21:14,834 --> 00:21:17,500

had a room in German--

532

00:21:17,500 --> 00:21:20,210

with a German family.

533

00:21:20,210 --> 00:21:24,380

And some Russian
army officers also

534

00:21:24,380 --> 00:21:26,240

had some room in the same place.

535

00:21:26,240 --> 00:21:29,010

536

00:21:29,010 --> 00:21:33,450

And it was all right,
except one evening,

537

00:21:33,450 --> 00:21:36,540

they invited us
to eat with them.

538

00:21:36,540 --> 00:21:40,140

They had food at the table.

539

00:21:40,140 --> 00:21:43,740

And all of a sudden,
one of the officers--

540

00:21:43,740 --> 00:21:48,000

usually officers-- got
up and locked the door.

541

00:21:48,000 --> 00:21:53,990

And my mother--
[LAUGHS] so funny--

542

00:21:53,990 --> 00:22:00,680
said to me, jump out the
window, because [LAUGHS] she

543

00:22:00,680 --> 00:22:03,170
knew what would happen.

544

00:22:03,170 --> 00:22:08,060
And it was the first floor, but
the windows were kind of high,

545

00:22:08,060 --> 00:22:09,358
you know?

546

00:22:09,358 --> 00:22:11,150
Because you have a
basement there, and then

547

00:22:11,150 --> 00:22:11,900
the first floor.

548

00:22:11,900 --> 00:22:15,080
So she said, jump
out the window.

549

00:22:15,080 --> 00:22:20,850
[LAUGHS] So I jumped out the
window, and she said, and run.

550

00:22:20,850 --> 00:22:23,800
[LAUGHS] And then she
ran out-- jumped out.

551

00:22:23,800 --> 00:22:28,610
We started running the
fields, as far as we could.

552

00:22:28,610 --> 00:22:31,990
And all of a sudden,
we hear a shot.

553

00:22:31,990 --> 00:22:34,570

And we said, oh my
goodness, they're

554
00:22:34,570 --> 00:22:38,530
shooting after us, the Russians.

555
00:22:38,530 --> 00:22:40,330
Well, we went as
fast as we could,

556
00:22:40,330 --> 00:22:43,570
and we stayed out there
all night, someplace.

557
00:22:43,570 --> 00:22:49,120
The next morning, we heard there
was one Jewish guy, an officer

558
00:22:49,120 --> 00:22:53,500
with them, who told us they
sent these Russians someplace

559
00:22:53,500 --> 00:23:01,150
else, that did the shooting,
and we were safe now.

560
00:23:01,150 --> 00:23:02,380
He knew you were Jewish?

561
00:23:02,380 --> 00:23:04,435
Yeah, yeah, he knew
we were Jewish.

562
00:23:04,435 --> 00:23:10,030
[CHUCKLES] And he belonged to
the Russian army, you know?

563
00:23:10,030 --> 00:23:12,850
But that was quite
[LAUGHS] an experience,

564
00:23:12,850 --> 00:23:15,226
to jump out the window and

start running, you know?

565
00:23:15,226 --> 00:23:15,726
Yeah.

566
00:23:15,726 --> 00:23:19,060

567
00:23:19,060 --> 00:23:21,650
Maybe they wouldn't have
done anything, I don't know.

568
00:23:21,650 --> 00:23:23,740
But when he went to
lock the door, that

569
00:23:23,740 --> 00:23:26,180
was a little too dangerous
for my mother, you know?

570
00:23:26,180 --> 00:23:26,680
Yeah.

571
00:23:26,680 --> 00:23:29,710
So she said, jump out
the window and then run.

572
00:23:29,710 --> 00:23:35,320
So we stayed out there in the
field some place, all night.

573
00:23:35,320 --> 00:23:37,720
And the next morning
we heard that they

574
00:23:37,720 --> 00:23:43,810
sent these officers away
someplace else and we were safe

575
00:23:43,810 --> 00:23:44,650
again.

576

00:23:44,650 --> 00:23:48,180
And then what happened?

577
00:23:48,180 --> 00:23:49,320
What happened?

578
00:23:49,320 --> 00:23:51,990
Sometimes, something like
that happens, and then

579
00:23:51,990 --> 00:23:55,050
it's normal again,
nothing, you know?

580
00:23:55,050 --> 00:23:57,180
You just live from day to day.

581
00:23:57,180 --> 00:24:00,540
Was this in a small town,
in a village, in a farm?

582
00:24:00,540 --> 00:24:02,310
What kind of area was it?

583
00:24:02,310 --> 00:24:06,840
This was a town.

584
00:24:06,840 --> 00:24:07,435
A town.

585
00:24:07,435 --> 00:24:08,470
Small town, yeah.

586
00:24:08,470 --> 00:24:08,970
OK.

587
00:24:08,970 --> 00:24:14,840
Near the German-Polish or
Czech border, some place.

588
00:24:14,840 --> 00:24:15,340
OK.

589
00:24:15,340 --> 00:24:17,920

590
00:24:17,920 --> 00:24:19,720
What did we do next?

591
00:24:19,720 --> 00:24:21,405
Was it winter yet?

592
00:24:21,405 --> 00:24:22,030
Was it winter--

593
00:24:22,030 --> 00:24:23,140
No, it wasn't winter.

594
00:24:23,140 --> 00:24:23,320
It wasn't--

595
00:24:23,320 --> 00:24:24,028
It wasn't winter.

596
00:24:24,028 --> 00:24:28,600
It wasn't really
real winter, no.

597
00:24:28,600 --> 00:24:30,870
OK.

598
00:24:30,870 --> 00:24:32,370
What was the next--

599
00:24:32,370 --> 00:24:38,380
no, well-- but--

600
00:24:38,380 --> 00:24:41,100
Did you ever make
it further west?

601
00:24:41,100 --> 00:24:43,050
Did you end up

traveling further west?

602
00:24:43,050 --> 00:24:45,730
Eventually we got to
Wetter on the Ruhr, yes.

603
00:24:45,730 --> 00:24:46,770
Oh, you did?

604
00:24:46,770 --> 00:24:49,590
Eventually, yes.

605
00:24:49,590 --> 00:24:53,220
And my father was there
already, and we didn't even

606
00:24:53,220 --> 00:24:55,530
know if he was alive.

607
00:24:55,530 --> 00:24:56,400
Oh, my goodness.

608
00:24:56,400 --> 00:24:59,610
And he ended up in
Wetter before us.

609
00:24:59,610 --> 00:25:03,090
And he thought he would
find us over there.

610
00:25:03,090 --> 00:25:06,700
And nobody was there.

611
00:25:06,700 --> 00:25:11,720
But we had friends in the
next town which were Germans,

612
00:25:11,720 --> 00:25:14,890
so he went to them first.

613
00:25:14,890 --> 00:25:19,810
And they said that they saw

us at one time during the war,

614
00:25:19,810 --> 00:25:24,610
that we came to Germany,
and then we went--

615
00:25:24,610 --> 00:25:26,860
disappeared again.

616
00:25:26,860 --> 00:25:29,390
So he knew at least
that we were alive.

617
00:25:29,390 --> 00:25:32,060

618
00:25:32,060 --> 00:25:38,820
And [CHUCKLES] the strange thing
is that he was there before we.

619
00:25:38,820 --> 00:25:39,320
Yes.

620
00:25:39,320 --> 00:25:42,860
And we didn't even
know if he was alive.

621
00:25:42,860 --> 00:25:45,830
As a matter of fact,
during that time,

622
00:25:45,830 --> 00:25:49,130
Jewish people slowly came
out of concentration camps

623
00:25:49,130 --> 00:25:53,270
from here and there, and they
had started a Jewish community

624
00:25:53,270 --> 00:25:56,210
in Bavaria some place.

625

00:25:56,210 --> 00:26:00,530
And on the train when
we were going west,

626
00:26:00,530 --> 00:26:02,780
we met the first Jewish people.

627
00:26:02,780 --> 00:26:06,470
We didn't even know if
Jewish people were--

628
00:26:06,470 --> 00:26:11,680
survived at all,
anyone survived.

629
00:26:11,680 --> 00:26:13,390
And we saw they were shaved.

630
00:26:13,390 --> 00:26:15,490
You know, at that time,
shortly after the war,

631
00:26:15,490 --> 00:26:17,800
they had very little hair.

632
00:26:17,800 --> 00:26:19,240
And we started talking.

633
00:26:19,240 --> 00:26:21,010
And they talked to
us, and they said

634
00:26:21,010 --> 00:26:24,220
that there's a Jewish
community that they opened up,

635
00:26:24,220 --> 00:26:25,570
and we should come with them.

636
00:26:25,570 --> 00:26:29,050
We could sleep there and
we could get food there.

637

00:26:29,050 --> 00:26:31,460

And we did that.

638

00:26:31,460 --> 00:26:35,800

So we found more Jewish people
[LAUGHS] that were alive.

639

00:26:35,800 --> 00:26:37,090

First there was one--

640

00:26:37,090 --> 00:26:39,310

I was-- we were
the only two women,

641

00:26:39,310 --> 00:26:44,720

and then another girl showed
up, and then another girl,

642

00:26:44,720 --> 00:26:45,220

you know?

643

00:26:45,220 --> 00:26:50,320

So slowly, the Jewish people
that survived some place

644

00:26:50,320 --> 00:26:53,670

showed up there.

645

00:26:53,670 --> 00:26:59,670

Very, very strange time,
all this time, you know?

646

00:26:59,670 --> 00:27:02,910

You didn't know how
many Jewish people

647

00:27:02,910 --> 00:27:07,200

survived, if any survived,
if our father is alive.

648

00:27:07,200 --> 00:27:10,950

And at one of these

places, one of the men

649

00:27:10,950 --> 00:27:16,540
told us he was in the same
barracks with my father,

650

00:27:16,540 --> 00:27:19,980
and at one time, they
called my father out.

651

00:27:19,980 --> 00:27:22,665
They all had
numbers, and by name.

652

00:27:22,665 --> 00:27:25,650

653

00:27:25,650 --> 00:27:28,730
And he was the only one that
was called out of the barracks.

654

00:27:28,730 --> 00:27:30,250
And they never saw him again.

655

00:27:30,250 --> 00:27:33,136

656

00:27:33,136 --> 00:27:40,360
[SOBS]

657

00:27:40,360 --> 00:27:45,850
So many different
stories, you know?

658

00:27:45,850 --> 00:27:55,150
And they told us not to hope
to find him alive because--

659

00:27:55,150 --> 00:28:00,300
that he was called out, and
they never saw him again,

660

00:28:00,300 --> 00:28:02,670
so they didn't know
what happened to him.

661
00:28:02,670 --> 00:28:07,530
In the meantime, he was sent
to a different transport.

662
00:28:07,530 --> 00:28:12,770
He was missing on the
train, and they called him.

663
00:28:12,770 --> 00:28:17,470
So he came to a different camp.

664
00:28:17,470 --> 00:28:19,890
But we didn't know, you know?

665
00:28:19,890 --> 00:28:20,794
Yeah, you didn't.

666
00:28:20,794 --> 00:28:23,510

667
00:28:23,510 --> 00:28:25,680
And what happened afterwards?

668
00:28:25,680 --> 00:28:30,390
We stayed there for a while in
that Jewish community center.

669
00:28:30,390 --> 00:28:33,350
They found rooms
where people could--

670
00:28:33,350 --> 00:28:35,500
in German houses,
where they could sleep.

671
00:28:35,500 --> 00:28:39,120

672

00:28:39,120 --> 00:28:42,390
And my mother
happened to get sick.

673
00:28:42,390 --> 00:28:45,960
After all the stress and
all the things, you know,

674
00:28:45,960 --> 00:28:53,580
she got lumps under her
arms, big lumps full of pus.

675
00:28:53,580 --> 00:28:54,330
Oh.

676
00:28:54,330 --> 00:28:59,160
She had that once before,
after it started, all,

677
00:28:59,160 --> 00:29:04,620
with the Jews in Germany.

678
00:29:04,620 --> 00:29:06,300
And there, she had it again.

679
00:29:06,300 --> 00:29:09,300
And then it grew and grew,
until they opened up,

680
00:29:09,300 --> 00:29:11,610
and all the pus came out.

681
00:29:11,610 --> 00:29:14,340
But she felt awful,
awfully sick.

682
00:29:14,340 --> 00:29:18,420

683
00:29:18,420 --> 00:29:22,160
And so that's how
we stayed there.

684

00:29:22,160 --> 00:29:25,940

And that's how I got to meet
my husband who I eventually

685

00:29:25,940 --> 00:29:28,390

married.

686

00:29:28,390 --> 00:29:29,620

At that community?

687

00:29:29,620 --> 00:29:32,090

In that community, right.

688

00:29:32,090 --> 00:29:34,060

Uh-huh.

689

00:29:34,060 --> 00:29:34,560

And--

690

00:29:34,560 --> 00:29:40,390

They had a piano there and I
played a little bit, the piano,

691

00:29:40,390 --> 00:29:43,840

and a young men who had a
violin played the violin,

692

00:29:43,840 --> 00:29:48,190

so we both kind of
tried to find something

693

00:29:48,190 --> 00:29:51,390

that we could play together.

694

00:29:51,390 --> 00:29:53,850

And this young man heard this--

695

00:29:53,850 --> 00:29:58,380

us-- me play the piano, and he
came in, and he sat next to me.

696

00:29:58,380 --> 00:30:04,520
Every time we did get
together and play,

697
00:30:04,520 --> 00:30:06,505
he was right there, anyhow.

698
00:30:06,505 --> 00:30:08,260
And that's how we get
to know each other,

699
00:30:08,260 --> 00:30:09,770
and eventually, I married him.

700
00:30:09,770 --> 00:30:10,850
[LAUGHS] That's--

701
00:30:10,850 --> 00:30:12,290
What was his name?

702
00:30:12,290 --> 00:30:14,270
My husband's name?

703
00:30:14,270 --> 00:30:14,927
Mietek.

704
00:30:14,927 --> 00:30:15,760
I called him Mietek.

705
00:30:15,760 --> 00:30:17,360
Mm-hmm, Mietek?

706
00:30:17,360 --> 00:30:20,990
Which was-- in Jewish, he's
really Moses, Moishe, you know?

707
00:30:20,990 --> 00:30:23,900
But in Polish, he
was called Mietek,

708
00:30:23,900 --> 00:30:25,700
and I always called him Mietek.

709
00:30:25,700 --> 00:30:27,245
And his last name?

710
00:30:27,245 --> 00:30:27,745
Rechnitz.

711
00:30:27,745 --> 00:30:28,245
Rechnitz.

712
00:30:28,245 --> 00:30:29,490
That's my name.

713
00:30:29,490 --> 00:30:29,990
OK.

714
00:30:29,990 --> 00:30:31,490
He was a Rechnitz, right.

715
00:30:31,490 --> 00:30:33,200
I married him eventually.

716
00:30:33,200 --> 00:30:35,660
Mm-hmm.

717
00:30:35,660 --> 00:30:38,120
And so how long did you
stay in this community?

718
00:30:38,120 --> 00:30:41,270

719
00:30:41,270 --> 00:30:44,330
I stayed-- my mother
said, you stay here.

720
00:30:44,330 --> 00:30:47,510
I know now you are
with people that

721
00:30:47,510 --> 00:30:50,180

are kind to us, Jewish
people, you know, and so

722
00:30:50,180 --> 00:30:52,730
you're Jewish girls,
so you can stay here,

723
00:30:52,730 --> 00:30:56,670
and I try to get to
Wetter by myself.

724
00:30:56,670 --> 00:30:59,530
It was also very
difficult to get food,

725
00:30:59,530 --> 00:31:01,620
you know, and
difficult to travel,

726
00:31:01,620 --> 00:31:05,760
because the railroad tracks were
bombarded, were out, you know.

727
00:31:05,760 --> 00:31:11,520
You had to find all kinds of
ways to get moving someplace.

728
00:31:11,520 --> 00:31:12,870
So I stayed there.

729
00:31:12,870 --> 00:31:16,150

730
00:31:16,150 --> 00:31:19,550
And eventually, my
mother got back to Wetter

731
00:31:19,550 --> 00:31:21,940
and my father was already there.

732
00:31:21,940 --> 00:31:23,440
What a surprise
that must have been.

733
00:31:23,440 --> 00:31:25,690
What a surprise, yes.

734
00:31:25,690 --> 00:31:28,210
What a surprise.

735
00:31:28,210 --> 00:31:36,440
So it was the most
amazing thing,

736
00:31:36,440 --> 00:31:39,380
because we didn't know
if my father was alive,

737
00:31:39,380 --> 00:31:42,740
and I didn't know either.

738
00:31:42,740 --> 00:31:45,530
And I stayed there with
another Jewish girl

739
00:31:45,530 --> 00:31:49,190
in one of the German houses.

740
00:31:49,190 --> 00:31:53,150
And the two of us
tried to go out.

741
00:31:53,150 --> 00:31:57,410
Another couple lived up
the street, Jewish girls

742
00:31:57,410 --> 00:32:00,590
you met another Jewish boy.

743
00:32:00,590 --> 00:32:02,540
And we were trying
to walk there.

744
00:32:02,540 --> 00:32:07,100
As we walked out, a little

yard in front of the house--

745

00:32:07,100 --> 00:32:11,610

all of a sudden, I see a car
driving down very slowly.

746

00:32:11,610 --> 00:32:17,170

You didn't see many cars
at that time at all.

747

00:32:17,170 --> 00:32:28,440

And I-- [SOBS] I look up
the street at the house

748

00:32:28,440 --> 00:32:34,770

as the car slowly came
closer and closer.

749

00:32:34,770 --> 00:32:37,950

And I said, that
looks like our car--

750

00:32:37,950 --> 00:32:38,450

Ah!

751

00:32:38,450 --> 00:32:42,530

[LAUGHS] --that we
had before the war.

752

00:32:42,530 --> 00:32:46,530

753

00:32:46,530 --> 00:32:53,360

And as it came
towards the house,

754

00:32:53,360 --> 00:33:01,155

there was my father in the
car [SOBS] with my mother.

755

00:33:01,155 --> 00:33:04,310

756

00:33:04,310 --> 00:33:12,530

You cannot imagine-- you
cannot imagine how that was--

757

00:33:12,530 --> 00:33:15,750

No, I can't.

758

00:33:15,750 --> 00:33:20,730

--since we heard that
maybe is not alive,

759

00:33:20,730 --> 00:33:26,190

we shouldn't hope he's alive,
and there, he drives in our car

760

00:33:26,190 --> 00:33:30,960

that we had before the war,
and my mother next to him.

761

00:33:30,960 --> 00:33:36,270

Well, I was tacked to one spot.

762

00:33:36,270 --> 00:33:37,290

I couldn't move.

763

00:33:37,290 --> 00:33:41,760

764

00:33:41,760 --> 00:33:47,150

And then I realized
it's not a dream.

765

00:33:47,150 --> 00:33:47,870

It's real.

766

00:33:47,870 --> 00:33:51,048

767

00:33:51,048 --> 00:33:56,850

And I started crying and
screaming, Papa, Papa, Papa.

768

00:33:56,850 --> 00:34:00,419

769

00:34:00,419 --> 00:34:06,740

And he came out of the car
and Mama came out of the car.

770

00:34:06,740 --> 00:34:10,370

It's something that
you can't describe.

771

00:34:10,370 --> 00:34:16,070

You just can't
imagine the feeling,

772

00:34:16,070 --> 00:34:24,100

what it was, you know,
thinking he might not be alive,

773

00:34:24,100 --> 00:34:28,510

because that's what people
told us, then all of a sudden,

774

00:34:28,510 --> 00:34:34,179

he drives up in our car
that we had before the war,

775

00:34:34,179 --> 00:34:37,580

and my mother next to him.

776

00:34:37,580 --> 00:34:42,810

It's impossible to describe
what kind of feeling you have.

777

00:34:42,810 --> 00:34:48,219

778

00:34:48,219 --> 00:34:52,030

How long did it take before
you could sit down and talk

779

00:34:52,030 --> 00:34:54,270

to one another?

780
00:34:54,270 --> 00:34:58,210
[LAUGHS] Well, first
I cried a long time.

781
00:34:58,210 --> 00:34:59,260
And then--

782
00:34:59,260 --> 00:35:00,820
And he as well?

783
00:35:00,820 --> 00:35:09,460
[LAUGHS] Well, he was not
crying, but happy to see me.

784
00:35:09,460 --> 00:35:11,390
And then my brother--

785
00:35:11,390 --> 00:35:15,700
we had left him someplace else
when my mother and I tried

786
00:35:15,700 --> 00:35:18,910
to get further, to
Wetter, because there

787
00:35:18,910 --> 00:35:24,010
was a German family where we
left him, and they were nice.

788
00:35:24,010 --> 00:35:25,840
It was a nice
place, and pleasant,

789
00:35:25,840 --> 00:35:28,720
so we thought we'd
leave him there,

790
00:35:28,720 --> 00:35:33,430
because it's difficult to travel
with two people, or one person,

791

00:35:33,430 --> 00:35:36,280

but more difficult
when three are there,

792

00:35:36,280 --> 00:35:40,090

and try to find food some place.

793

00:35:40,090 --> 00:35:49,970

So anyhow-- so my father
and my mother tried to drive

794

00:35:49,970 --> 00:35:51,560

on, to see--

795

00:35:51,560 --> 00:35:54,140

to pick my brother
up, where he is,

796

00:35:54,140 --> 00:35:58,040

and I stayed with
the friend that I

797

00:35:58,040 --> 00:36:03,220

had there in the same apartment
while my father and my mother

798

00:36:03,220 --> 00:36:06,510

went to pick my brother up.

799

00:36:06,510 --> 00:36:09,440

And so eventually-- I have to--

800

00:36:09,440 --> 00:36:10,030

I need this.

801

00:36:10,030 --> 00:36:11,280

You're going to need that one?

802

00:36:11,280 --> 00:36:13,320

I need to have
something in my hand.

803
00:36:13,320 --> 00:36:15,070
OK.

804
00:36:15,070 --> 00:36:18,640
So eventually, they
picked me up, too,

805
00:36:18,640 --> 00:36:23,020
and we all went to
Wetter, the place

806
00:36:23,020 --> 00:36:27,090
where we used to
live before the war.

807
00:36:27,090 --> 00:36:33,160
And that part of Germany
was occupied by the English.

808
00:36:33,160 --> 00:36:37,360
You know, Germany was occupied
some Russians, some Polish, all

809
00:36:37,360 --> 00:36:41,590
the way there, some
English, and some Americans,

810
00:36:41,590 --> 00:36:45,190
and that part was
occupied by the English.

811
00:36:45,190 --> 00:36:46,490
I hate them.

812
00:36:46,490 --> 00:36:48,190
I can tell you that right now.

813
00:36:48,190 --> 00:36:51,550
They're the biggest
antisemite alive.

814
00:36:51,550 --> 00:36:59,990

Anyhow, so when we got
to Wetter, we found--

815
00:36:59,990 --> 00:37:03,200
my father was there.

816
00:37:03,200 --> 00:37:07,780
And he had-- people
helped him already.

817
00:37:07,780 --> 00:37:10,010
They knew that he had
the business there.

818
00:37:10,010 --> 00:37:13,340
People found him that
were his customers.

819
00:37:13,340 --> 00:37:17,750
And he started his
business again.

820
00:37:17,750 --> 00:37:22,565
And he had bought a house
that the Germans had sold.

821
00:37:22,565 --> 00:37:25,130

822
00:37:25,130 --> 00:37:27,680
And the English took
it away from him.

823
00:37:27,680 --> 00:37:28,550
They moved in.

824
00:37:28,550 --> 00:37:32,390
He could not move
into the house.

825
00:37:32,390 --> 00:37:35,060
That was a house
that he had bought,

826
00:37:35,060 --> 00:37:38,460
the Jewish guy-- the only Jew
that came back to that town,

827
00:37:38,460 --> 00:37:41,040
but the English took it away.

828
00:37:41,040 --> 00:37:44,490
He couldn't move in, so
we couldn't move in there.

829
00:37:44,490 --> 00:37:52,250
So when we got back, we moved
in into another German house.

830
00:37:52,250 --> 00:37:54,410
The Germans still
lived on the apartment.

831
00:37:54,410 --> 00:37:57,640
We moved in on the top.

832
00:37:57,640 --> 00:37:59,160
So that's the English.

833
00:37:59,160 --> 00:38:01,920
And I still hate
them to this day.

834
00:38:01,920 --> 00:38:03,620
I hate the English.

835
00:38:03,620 --> 00:38:06,990
They are the biggest
antisemites in the world,

836
00:38:06,990 --> 00:38:15,690
even though the Polish were
that big antisemites, too.

837
00:38:15,690 --> 00:38:18,000

All the Jews that came back--

838
00:38:18,000 --> 00:38:21,480
and they knew that Jews were
killed all over the world,

839
00:38:21,480 --> 00:38:22,230
you know?

840
00:38:22,230 --> 00:38:27,780
And they took away
what he bought.

841
00:38:27,780 --> 00:38:28,425
His property.

842
00:38:28,425 --> 00:38:28,967
His property.

843
00:38:28,967 --> 00:38:30,900
His property, yeah.

844
00:38:30,900 --> 00:38:33,250
Where was your sister
in all of this?

845
00:38:33,250 --> 00:38:38,235
She had met, someplace, a
German girl on our travels,

846
00:38:38,235 --> 00:38:42,850
and she decided to travel
with her, to stay with her.

847
00:38:42,850 --> 00:38:45,780
She didn't want to stay with us.

848
00:38:45,780 --> 00:38:48,270
My mother begged her,
let's keep the family

849
00:38:48,270 --> 00:38:49,720

that we have together.

850

00:38:49,720 --> 00:38:54,850

But she was a teenager, 18
years, and she went on her own.

851

00:38:54,850 --> 00:38:58,920

So we don't know where she was.

852

00:38:58,920 --> 00:39:00,660

But she knew your
father was alive?

853

00:39:00,660 --> 00:39:01,160

No.

854

00:39:01,160 --> 00:39:01,810

Oh, OK.

855

00:39:01,810 --> 00:39:03,355

Because she had
gone off-- she was--

856

00:39:03,355 --> 00:39:04,230

She had gone off, OK.

857

00:39:04,230 --> 00:39:05,770

--with the German girl--

858

00:39:05,770 --> 00:39:06,270

Her friend.

859

00:39:06,270 --> 00:39:06,870

--someplace.

860

00:39:06,870 --> 00:39:08,670

We didn't even
know where she was.

861

00:39:08,670 --> 00:39:11,400

We didn't know if she
was alive someplace.

862
00:39:11,400 --> 00:39:15,730

863
00:39:15,730 --> 00:39:21,280
She just-- grown
up, 18 years old,

864
00:39:21,280 --> 00:39:23,770
and she didn't want to
stay with the family.

865
00:39:23,770 --> 00:39:24,610
That's it.

866
00:39:24,610 --> 00:39:27,790
Did your father talk much
about what he had been through?

867
00:39:27,790 --> 00:39:30,895
Not at that time when
we first met him, no.

868
00:39:30,895 --> 00:39:33,460
[CHUCKLES] No.

869
00:39:33,460 --> 00:39:39,880
You said earlier that he had
changed when he came back,

870
00:39:39,880 --> 00:39:43,150
that he was not the same.

871
00:39:43,150 --> 00:39:45,320
No, that was much--
that was later.

872
00:39:45,320 --> 00:39:49,570
At that time, he was still my
father, the way I knew him,

873
00:39:49,570 --> 00:39:50,230

you know?

874
00:39:50,230 --> 00:39:50,730
OK.

875
00:39:50,730 --> 00:39:54,100
My brother wasn't with us.

876
00:39:54,100 --> 00:39:59,430
So when I met him, he was the
father that I thought is lost.

877
00:39:59,430 --> 00:40:02,760
I didn't know if he
was alive or not.

878
00:40:02,760 --> 00:40:07,090
And there he was
with our car that we

879
00:40:07,090 --> 00:40:11,380
had before the war and my
mother sitting next to him.

880
00:40:11,380 --> 00:40:12,700
It's like a miracle, really.

881
00:40:12,700 --> 00:40:17,050
It is impossible for
anybody to understand,

882
00:40:17,050 --> 00:40:20,810
to imagine what that was.

883
00:40:20,810 --> 00:40:21,670
Yeah.

884
00:40:21,670 --> 00:40:29,510
It's undescrivable, the
feeling, to see him.

885
00:40:29,510 --> 00:40:31,100

So how did things go on?

886
00:40:31,100 --> 00:40:33,320
Did it sort of like
pick up after the--

887
00:40:33,320 --> 00:40:36,800
like the way it
had been left off?

888
00:40:36,800 --> 00:40:40,910
Well, eventually we got--

889
00:40:40,910 --> 00:40:42,017
I stayed there while--

890
00:40:42,017 --> 00:40:42,725
[DOORBELL CHIMES]

891
00:40:42,725 --> 00:40:44,210
Who's-- who could that be?

892
00:40:44,210 --> 00:40:45,200
Let's cut the camera.

893
00:40:45,200 --> 00:40:46,640
Clara.

894
00:40:46,640 --> 00:40:50,450
My son interviewed
me a few years ago.

895
00:40:50,450 --> 00:40:51,530
Did he?

896
00:40:51,530 --> 00:40:53,427
And it's on the computer.

897
00:40:53,427 --> 00:40:54,010
Oh, I'd love--

898

00:40:54,010 --> 00:40:58,040
Four hours, and then another
four hours, eight hours.

899
00:40:58,040 --> 00:41:00,220
That would be terrific
for us to be able to--

900
00:41:00,220 --> 00:41:03,230
So you might want to
see that sometimes.

901
00:41:03,230 --> 00:41:06,090
I might leave things
out, and I wasn't crying

902
00:41:06,090 --> 00:41:08,250
as much then as I am now.

903
00:41:08,250 --> 00:41:08,750
[CHUCKLES]

904
00:41:08,750 --> 00:41:10,370
OK.

905
00:41:10,370 --> 00:41:15,660
If your daughters have a
way of sending it to me--

906
00:41:15,660 --> 00:41:16,640
OK.

907
00:41:16,640 --> 00:41:17,220
All right.

908
00:41:17,220 --> 00:41:17,720
OK.

909
00:41:17,720 --> 00:41:20,510
So we were talking about--

910
00:41:20,510 --> 00:41:23,540

you were talking
about your father

911
00:41:23,540 --> 00:41:26,420
reestablishing his business.

912
00:41:26,420 --> 00:41:29,540
You moved into a house that--

913
00:41:29,540 --> 00:41:30,090
Oh, yeah.

914
00:41:30,090 --> 00:41:30,590
Yeah.

915
00:41:30,590 --> 00:41:32,800
My father came back to Wetter--

916
00:41:32,800 --> 00:41:33,530
To Wetter, yeah.

917
00:41:33,530 --> 00:41:37,190
--where we used to live,
long before we were back.

918
00:41:37,190 --> 00:41:39,320
Yeah.

919
00:41:39,320 --> 00:41:43,490
Well, he knew we were alive
because we had been in the town

920
00:41:43,490 --> 00:41:45,890
next to Wetter.

921
00:41:45,890 --> 00:41:49,940
Our close friends lived there.

922
00:41:49,940 --> 00:41:52,550
So he knew that we
are OK, we are alive,

923

00:41:52,550 --> 00:41:54,110
but we are not in Wetter.

924

00:41:54,110 --> 00:41:56,330
So he stayed in Wetter.

925

00:41:56,330 --> 00:41:58,910
And my aunt, my--

926

00:41:58,910 --> 00:41:59,900
Elsie.

927

00:41:59,900 --> 00:42:05,450
My aunt Elsie took care
of him, of the household.

928

00:42:05,450 --> 00:42:11,480
You see, she was a fantastic
woman, my mother's older

929

00:42:11,480 --> 00:42:12,350
sister.

930

00:42:12,350 --> 00:42:14,930
Yeah.

931

00:42:14,930 --> 00:42:17,780
Was your grandmother
still alive at the time?

932

00:42:17,780 --> 00:42:20,210
Had she survived the war?

933

00:42:20,210 --> 00:42:21,590
My Jewish grandmother?

934

00:42:21,590 --> 00:42:22,090
No, no.

935

00:42:22,090 --> 00:42:22,460
No, no.

936
00:42:22,460 --> 00:42:22,960
No.

937
00:42:22,960 --> 00:42:25,683
My other grandmother-- I
think she was-- yes, yes, she

938
00:42:25,683 --> 00:42:26,600
was still alive, yeah.

939
00:42:26,600 --> 00:42:27,850
And your grandfather who you--

940
00:42:27,850 --> 00:42:28,350
Yeah.

941
00:42:28,350 --> 00:42:29,090
--liked so much.

942
00:42:29,090 --> 00:42:29,590
Yeah.

943
00:42:29,590 --> 00:42:30,870
He was still alive.

944
00:42:30,870 --> 00:42:31,730
They were both, OK.

945
00:42:31,730 --> 00:42:36,290
As a matter of fact, when I got
married eventually to this man

946
00:42:36,290 --> 00:42:38,820
that I met--

947
00:42:38,820 --> 00:42:42,520
and the Jewish wedding
is under a chuppah--

948
00:42:42,520 --> 00:42:43,020

Chuppah.

949
00:42:43,020 --> 00:42:43,530
--you know?

950
00:42:43,530 --> 00:42:45,370
Yeah.

951
00:42:45,370 --> 00:42:51,720
I did not invite my grandparents
because of my grandmother,

952
00:42:51,720 --> 00:42:54,000
the way she used
to be, you know.

953
00:42:54,000 --> 00:42:57,250
She knew we were
sent out of Germany.

954
00:42:57,250 --> 00:43:02,790
She should not have believed
in Hitler anymore, right?

955
00:43:02,790 --> 00:43:05,100
But she did, anyhow.

956
00:43:05,100 --> 00:43:09,090
So I didn't want
her at my wedding.

957
00:43:09,090 --> 00:43:14,370
We invited them because I
loved my grandfather when

958
00:43:14,370 --> 00:43:18,210
we had the reception
afterwards, but not

959
00:43:18,210 --> 00:43:21,170
when I had the wedding
under the chuppah.

960
00:43:21,170 --> 00:43:22,550
Yeah.

961
00:43:22,550 --> 00:43:23,630
So--

962
00:43:23,630 --> 00:43:25,862
What year did you get married?

963
00:43:25,862 --> 00:43:26,445
Good question.

964
00:43:26,445 --> 00:43:30,260
[LAUGHS] I don't know.

965
00:43:30,260 --> 00:43:30,800
[LAUGHS]

966
00:43:30,800 --> 00:43:32,020
OK, OK.

967
00:43:32,020 --> 00:43:36,140

968
00:43:36,140 --> 00:43:44,500
My oldest son was born-- he
was 68 when he died, recently,

969
00:43:44,500 --> 00:43:48,230
and my oldest son
was three years old.

970
00:43:48,230 --> 00:43:50,350
He was 71.

971
00:43:50,350 --> 00:43:54,200
So it was 72 years ago--

972
00:43:54,200 --> 00:43:55,122
OK.

973
00:43:55,122 --> 00:43:56,080
--that I got-- [LAUGHS]

974
00:43:56,080 --> 00:43:58,930
Let me see if I can
count that back.

975
00:43:58,930 --> 00:44:00,400
So it would have been--

976
00:44:00,400 --> 00:44:01,460
After the war.

977
00:44:01,460 --> 00:44:02,020
'46.

978
00:44:02,020 --> 00:44:02,740
'46?

979
00:44:02,740 --> 00:44:03,820
1946?

980
00:44:03,820 --> 00:44:05,730
I think it was 1947.

981
00:44:05,730 --> 00:44:06,230
OK.

982
00:44:06,230 --> 00:44:07,500
I think it was 1947.

983
00:44:07,500 --> 00:44:08,270
'47.

984
00:44:08,270 --> 00:44:08,770
Yeah.

985
00:44:08,770 --> 00:44:10,060
OK.

986

00:44:10,060 --> 00:44:15,640
And did your father
continue working in Wetter?

987
00:44:15,640 --> 00:44:18,190
Did he have his wholesale
business again, the paper

988
00:44:18,190 --> 00:44:19,840
business?

989
00:44:19,840 --> 00:44:21,250
Or what happened with him?

990
00:44:21,250 --> 00:44:23,990
I mean, he'd just come back
from a concentration camp.

991
00:44:23,990 --> 00:44:24,490
Yeah.

992
00:44:24,490 --> 00:44:27,190

993
00:44:27,190 --> 00:44:30,190
What exactly happened?

994
00:44:30,190 --> 00:44:32,880
I just don't know
that part right now.

995
00:44:32,880 --> 00:44:35,560
I can't think of it right now.

996
00:44:35,560 --> 00:44:36,550
That's OK.

997
00:44:36,550 --> 00:44:37,840
That's OK.

998
00:44:37,840 --> 00:44:39,250
Believe me, that's fine.

999

00:44:39,250 --> 00:44:42,200

In one interview, we will
never be able to fit--

1000

00:44:42,200 --> 00:44:42,825

Get everything.

1001

00:44:42,825 --> 00:44:44,050

--everything in.

1002

00:44:44,050 --> 00:44:46,090

You know, we've gotten a lot in.

1003

00:44:46,090 --> 00:44:50,020

1004

00:44:50,020 --> 00:44:52,630

And there are so
many different parts.

1005

00:44:52,630 --> 00:44:55,120

That's exactly it.

1006

00:44:55,120 --> 00:44:58,180

My life is not a normal life.

1007

00:44:58,180 --> 00:45:01,640

[LAUGHS] There's so
many different stages,

1008

00:45:01,640 --> 00:45:03,860

different parts to it.

1009

00:45:03,860 --> 00:45:06,400

So let's just ask this way.

1010

00:45:06,400 --> 00:45:09,370

After the war, did your
parents stay in Wetter?

1011

00:45:09,370 --> 00:45:12,980

1012

00:45:12,980 --> 00:45:15,230

They came to America eventually.

1013

00:45:15,230 --> 00:45:15,800

When?

1014

00:45:15,800 --> 00:45:18,050

What-- was it 10 years later?

1015

00:45:18,050 --> 00:45:19,130

Five years later?

1016

00:45:19,130 --> 00:45:22,070

1017

00:45:22,070 --> 00:45:25,580

No, we went to-- my husband
and I, when I got married,

1018

00:45:25,580 --> 00:45:32,200

went to Israel, and my
parents came visiting us.

1019

00:45:32,200 --> 00:45:37,180

But they did not want to come
to Israel, because he could not

1020

00:45:37,180 --> 00:45:41,900

have started a business there.

1021

00:45:41,900 --> 00:45:46,790

So went-- they came to America,
because my sister had married

1022

00:45:46,790 --> 00:45:52,140

somebody who had a family
in America from long before,

1023

00:45:52,140 --> 00:45:53,420

a long time ago.

1024
00:45:53,420 --> 00:45:55,430
So they came to America.

1025
00:45:55,430 --> 00:46:00,590
And then my parents
went to America.

1026
00:46:00,590 --> 00:46:01,610
And--

1027
00:46:01,610 --> 00:46:03,405
Your brother, did
he stay in Germany?

1028
00:46:03,405 --> 00:46:06,420

1029
00:46:06,420 --> 00:46:06,920
Yeah.

1030
00:46:06,920 --> 00:46:10,230
In the meantime, yeah, he
stayed with my parents,

1031
00:46:10,230 --> 00:46:14,030
yeah, wherever my
parents were, yeah.

1032
00:46:14,030 --> 00:46:17,600
And now, tell me--

1033
00:46:17,600 --> 00:46:22,430
let's go back to that question I
asked earlier about your father

1034
00:46:22,430 --> 00:46:26,960
and how he behaved differently
towards your brother

1035
00:46:26,960 --> 00:46:28,970

after he came back
from the camps.

1036
00:46:28,970 --> 00:46:34,760
I think when he left us, we
were still young, you know?

1037
00:46:34,760 --> 00:46:37,822
My brother, unfortunately, was--

1038
00:46:37,822 --> 00:46:40,830

1039
00:46:40,830 --> 00:46:41,940
how do you say that?

1040
00:46:41,940 --> 00:46:45,770

1041
00:46:45,770 --> 00:46:49,320
He didn't want to be that, but
that's the way people are born,

1042
00:46:49,320 --> 00:46:49,820
you know?

1043
00:46:49,820 --> 00:46:54,980
He was-- I forgot the
name, what you call it?

1044
00:46:54,980 --> 00:46:56,190
He was homosexual?

1045
00:46:56,190 --> 00:46:56,725
Yes.

1046
00:46:56,725 --> 00:46:57,225
OK.

1047
00:46:57,225 --> 00:46:58,070
Right, right.

1048

00:46:58,070 --> 00:47:00,030

He was homosexual.

1049

00:47:00,030 --> 00:47:06,840

And when my father found
out that his only son--

1050

00:47:06,840 --> 00:47:11,190

he was-- he couldn't
accept that.

1051

00:47:11,190 --> 00:47:16,785

And he did not behave to him the
way he should have, you know?

1052

00:47:16,785 --> 00:47:22,290

To us girls, he was the
best father you can imagine.

1053

00:47:22,290 --> 00:47:23,602

Not to him.

1054

00:47:23,602 --> 00:47:24,102

Ah.

1055

00:47:24,102 --> 00:47:27,860

1056

00:47:27,860 --> 00:47:33,890

Did he ever talk, then,
later about his whole odyssey

1057

00:47:33,890 --> 00:47:36,510

through the concentration camps?

1058

00:47:36,510 --> 00:47:41,390

I have the whole story about
his-- he told his whole story.

1059

00:47:41,390 --> 00:47:41,900

He did?

1060
00:47:41,900 --> 00:47:42,275
He--

1061
00:47:42,275 --> 00:47:42,775
Yeah.

1062
00:47:42,775 --> 00:47:44,100
He said it on tape?

1063
00:47:44,100 --> 00:47:44,600
Not--

1064
00:47:44,600 --> 00:47:45,260
Oh, he--

1065
00:47:45,260 --> 00:47:47,520
He had somebody write it down.

1066
00:47:47,520 --> 00:47:50,240
He told somebody
in German, and then

1067
00:47:50,240 --> 00:47:53,430
somebody translated
it into English.

1068
00:47:53,430 --> 00:47:53,930
OK.

1069
00:47:53,930 --> 00:47:57,350
So I have it written
down here in English.

1070
00:47:57,350 --> 00:48:02,030
But some of it is also
on the computer, I think.

1071
00:48:02,030 --> 00:48:05,030
And did he ever
tell you, or was it

1072

00:48:05,030 --> 00:48:07,250
only in this
special circumstance

1073
00:48:07,250 --> 00:48:10,610
where someone wrote it
down and translated it?

1074
00:48:10,610 --> 00:48:14,050
Did he ever share it with you
and your mother and your--

1075
00:48:14,050 --> 00:48:16,700
of he went here, and then
this happened, and so on?

1076
00:48:16,700 --> 00:48:20,530
Did he tell-- did he
ever talk to you folks?

1077
00:48:20,530 --> 00:48:23,620
Not much, not much.

1078
00:48:23,620 --> 00:48:25,990
We did not talk much about that.

1079
00:48:25,990 --> 00:48:29,500
No, as if it almost
never happened.

1080
00:48:29,500 --> 00:48:30,870
My goodness.

1081
00:48:30,870 --> 00:48:31,500
Yeah.

1082
00:48:31,500 --> 00:48:32,800
Yeah.

1083
00:48:32,800 --> 00:48:36,220
When did you start
speaking about such things?

1084

00:48:36,220 --> 00:48:38,760

To my children?

1085

00:48:38,760 --> 00:48:42,510

Oh, they were much older,
because my husband also

1086

00:48:42,510 --> 00:48:43,890

went through it, you know?

1087

00:48:43,890 --> 00:48:47,130

But we never talked about
it when they were little.

1088

00:48:47,130 --> 00:48:48,990

Had he been in a
concentration camp?

1089

00:48:48,990 --> 00:48:50,070

Yes, yeah.

1090

00:48:50,070 --> 00:48:52,020

Which one was he in?

1091

00:48:52,020 --> 00:48:55,170

Well, he tried to
make believe he is

1092

00:48:55,170 --> 00:48:58,770

Polish, not Jewish, you know?

1093

00:48:58,770 --> 00:49:02,190

So a lot of times it
wasn't as bad for him

1094

00:49:02,190 --> 00:49:05,260

as it was for my
father, because they

1095

00:49:05,260 --> 00:49:07,510

were Polish people in
concentration camps,

1096
00:49:07,510 --> 00:49:09,340
too, not just Jewish people.

1097
00:49:09,340 --> 00:49:11,480
Yeah.

1098
00:49:11,480 --> 00:49:17,930
So it wasn't that bad for
him as it was for my father.

1099
00:49:17,930 --> 00:49:18,980
I see.

1100
00:49:18,980 --> 00:49:20,460
Was he in Auschwitz?

1101
00:49:20,460 --> 00:49:20,960
No.

1102
00:49:20,960 --> 00:49:22,280
Was he in Buchenwald?

1103
00:49:22,280 --> 00:49:22,880
Yeah.

1104
00:49:22,880 --> 00:49:23,615
He was in Buchenwald?

1105
00:49:23,615 --> 00:49:23,870
Yeah.

1106
00:49:23,870 --> 00:49:25,162
Your husband was in Buchenwald?

1107
00:49:25,162 --> 00:49:25,880
Yeah.

1108
00:49:25,880 --> 00:49:26,900
And your father?

1109

00:49:26,900 --> 00:49:28,670

Do you know the
camps that he was in?

1110

00:49:28,670 --> 00:49:30,630

I know he was in Auschwitz.

1111

00:49:30,630 --> 00:49:35,330

I know he was someplace--
the camp was called Dernau.

1112

00:49:35,330 --> 00:49:36,030

Dernau?

1113

00:49:36,030 --> 00:49:37,730

And it was a starvation camp.

1114

00:49:37,730 --> 00:49:39,860

They almost were all skeletons.

1115

00:49:39,860 --> 00:49:41,600

That's where the Russians--

1116

00:49:41,600 --> 00:49:44,150

1117

00:49:44,150 --> 00:49:44,810

Liberated them?

1118

00:49:44,810 --> 00:49:46,700

Liberated them, yeah.

1119

00:49:46,700 --> 00:49:47,780

Did he have a number?

1120

00:49:47,780 --> 00:49:48,350

Yeah.

1121

00:49:48,350 --> 00:49:49,142

Your father had a--

1122
00:49:49,142 --> 00:49:50,060
From Auschwitz, yeah.

1123
00:49:50,060 --> 00:49:50,560
He did.

1124
00:49:50,560 --> 00:49:51,300
Yeah.

1125
00:49:51,300 --> 00:49:51,950
OK.

1126
00:49:51,950 --> 00:49:55,850
Would you believe neither my
sister nor I nor my brother

1127
00:49:55,850 --> 00:49:59,030
can remember what
number he had on there?

1128
00:49:59,030 --> 00:50:02,730
And even in his memoirs, he
didn't put his number down.

1129
00:50:02,730 --> 00:50:03,500
[SCOFFS]

1130
00:50:03,500 --> 00:50:04,970
Isn't it something?

1131
00:50:04,970 --> 00:50:05,540
[LAUGHS]

1132
00:50:05,540 --> 00:50:09,060
I can't believe that we
didn't think of that.

1133
00:50:09,060 --> 00:50:09,560
Yeah.

1134
00:50:09,560 --> 00:50:12,130

1135
00:50:12,130 --> 00:50:13,570
Such things happen.

1136
00:50:13,570 --> 00:50:16,200
Such things happen.

1137
00:50:16,200 --> 00:50:16,700
Yeah.

1138
00:50:16,700 --> 00:50:20,290
It made such a big difference,
and only in Auschwitz did they

1139
00:50:20,290 --> 00:50:22,400
put the numbers down.

1140
00:50:22,400 --> 00:50:25,050
There wasn't another
camp that they did that.

1141
00:50:25,050 --> 00:50:26,810
Yeah.

1142
00:50:26,810 --> 00:50:29,460
Do you know about when your
parents moved to the States?

1143
00:50:29,460 --> 00:50:35,300

1144
00:50:35,300 --> 00:50:38,530
Don't know exactly.

1145
00:50:38,530 --> 00:50:41,080
Would it have been in the '50s?

1146
00:50:41,080 --> 00:50:43,840
It might have been in the '50s.

1147

00:50:43,840 --> 00:50:45,855
Just, maybe even 1950.

1148
00:50:45,855 --> 00:50:46,355
OK.

1149
00:50:46,355 --> 00:50:49,330

1150
00:50:49,330 --> 00:50:53,730
And did your father
ever work again?

1151
00:50:53,730 --> 00:50:57,610
Yeah, they opened a
television store with--

1152
00:50:57,610 --> 00:50:58,720
In the United States?

1153
00:50:58,720 --> 00:51:01,690
Yeah, with my brother-in-law.

1154
00:51:01,690 --> 00:51:03,040
Yeah, Ben.

1155
00:51:03,040 --> 00:51:05,950
And where was this?

1156
00:51:05,950 --> 00:51:08,800
On, I think, Brooklyn Avenue.

1157
00:51:08,800 --> 00:51:10,690
So they all came
to the Boston area?

1158
00:51:10,690 --> 00:51:12,220
Yeah, yeah.

1159
00:51:12,220 --> 00:51:13,210
OK.

1160

00:51:13,210 --> 00:51:16,660

So your sister and
your brother-in-law,

1161

00:51:16,660 --> 00:51:20,020

yourself and your husband,
and your parents all

1162

00:51:20,020 --> 00:51:21,255

were in the Boston area?

1163

00:51:21,255 --> 00:51:22,610

Yeah, yeah.

1164

00:51:22,610 --> 00:51:24,750

OK.

1165

00:51:24,750 --> 00:51:29,025

When did your father pass away?

1166

00:51:29,025 --> 00:51:34,740

[SIGHS] When he did pass away?

1167

00:51:34,740 --> 00:51:35,490

What year?

1168

00:51:35,490 --> 00:51:36,375

I don't know.

1169

00:51:36,375 --> 00:51:37,500

Do you know how old he was?

1170

00:51:37,500 --> 00:51:39,360

I don't know any years.

1171

00:51:39,360 --> 00:51:39,930

That's OK.

1172

00:51:39,930 --> 00:51:42,743

It's good if I remember
when my children were born.

1173
00:51:42,743 --> 00:51:43,243
Yeah.

1174
00:51:43,243 --> 00:51:43,950
[CHUCKLES]

1175
00:51:43,950 --> 00:51:45,785
Listen, it's the hardest
thing to remember.

1176
00:51:45,785 --> 00:51:46,650
[LAUGHS]

1177
00:51:46,650 --> 00:51:48,030
It's the hardest thing.

1178
00:51:48,030 --> 00:51:51,853
And I ask only to get
a sense of chronology.

1179
00:51:51,853 --> 00:51:52,770
Yes, I know, but you--

1180
00:51:52,770 --> 00:51:54,840
And I understand why it's hard.

1181
00:51:54,840 --> 00:51:56,370
I don't remember--
if someone would

1182
00:51:56,370 --> 00:51:59,042
ask me the same questions,
I wouldn't remember.

1183
00:51:59,042 --> 00:52:00,750
No, you would have to
sit down and think.

1184
00:52:00,750 --> 00:52:01,750
That's right.

1185
00:52:01,750 --> 00:52:02,250
Yeah.

1186
00:52:02,250 --> 00:52:05,020
Do you know about how old he
was when he died, your dad?

1187
00:52:05,020 --> 00:52:08,700
He was, I think, 74 or
something like that.

1188
00:52:08,700 --> 00:52:10,120
And your mother?

1189
00:52:10,120 --> 00:52:12,930
Mother was very young, only 65.

1190
00:52:12,930 --> 00:52:14,010
Oh, wow.

1191
00:52:14,010 --> 00:52:15,090
Oh, wow.

1192
00:52:15,090 --> 00:52:15,670
Yeah.

1193
00:52:15,670 --> 00:52:16,170
Yeah.

1194
00:52:16,170 --> 00:52:19,870

1195
00:52:19,870 --> 00:52:25,380
She was-- she had already
kidney problems before.

1196
00:52:25,380 --> 00:52:29,380
When she was in the hospital
when I was a little girl,

1197
00:52:29,380 --> 00:52:33,340

they thought it's typhoid, it
was kidney trouble she had,

1198
00:52:33,340 --> 00:52:34,800
and they did not know.

1199
00:52:34,800 --> 00:52:36,150
Yeah, yeah.

1200
00:52:36,150 --> 00:52:41,780
So eventually, here in America,
she had one kidney removed.

1201
00:52:41,780 --> 00:52:44,240
So--

1202
00:52:44,240 --> 00:52:44,750
Have you--

1203
00:52:44,750 --> 00:52:45,375
She died young.

1204
00:52:45,375 --> 00:52:50,750
Have you been back to Germany
to visit relatives there?

1205
00:52:50,750 --> 00:52:56,540
I went with my daughter, my
youngest daughter knew it.

1206
00:52:56,540 --> 00:53:03,950
She was 10, and we went to
Germany with my mother, yeah.

1207
00:53:03,950 --> 00:53:05,460
And that was the only time?

1208
00:53:05,460 --> 00:53:08,730
That was the only time, yeah.

1209
00:53:08,730 --> 00:53:10,560
Did you go to Wetter?

1210
00:53:10,560 --> 00:53:12,780
Yeah, they lived
in Wetter, yeah.

1211
00:53:12,780 --> 00:53:13,280
OK.

1212
00:53:13,280 --> 00:53:16,110

1213
00:53:16,110 --> 00:53:17,280
Yeah.

1214
00:53:17,280 --> 00:53:22,660
We've come close to the
end of our interview.

1215
00:53:22,660 --> 00:53:24,640
Is there anything
else you would like

1216
00:53:24,640 --> 00:53:27,760
to add to what we've
been talking about?

1217
00:53:27,760 --> 00:53:30,200
Right now?

1218
00:53:30,200 --> 00:53:32,070
I can't think.

1219
00:53:32,070 --> 00:53:32,570
That's OK.

1220
00:53:32,570 --> 00:53:35,950
There might be many things which
I did not mention, you know?

1221
00:53:35,950 --> 00:53:37,260
That's why I--

1222
00:53:37,260 --> 00:53:37,760
Yeah.

1223
00:53:37,760 --> 00:53:40,310
--I say it's a good
idea when you listen,

1224
00:53:40,310 --> 00:53:42,530
when my son interviewed me.

1225
00:53:42,530 --> 00:53:45,740
There are four hours and
then another four hours.

1226
00:53:45,740 --> 00:53:47,810
I think that would be
very helpful for us

1227
00:53:47,810 --> 00:53:49,680
at the museum to
have both interviews.

1228
00:53:49,680 --> 00:53:50,760
Yes, so--

1229
00:53:50,760 --> 00:53:51,260
You know?

1230
00:53:51,260 --> 00:53:54,110
--any time you
want to come and--

1231
00:53:54,110 --> 00:53:54,680
We will--

1232
00:53:54,680 --> 00:53:56,090
--listen to it, you're welcome.

1233
00:53:56,090 --> 00:53:57,870
We will find a way.

1234

00:53:57,870 --> 00:53:58,370
OK.

1235
00:53:58,370 --> 00:54:00,560
We will find a way.

1236
00:54:00,560 --> 00:54:01,110
In that--

1237
00:54:01,110 --> 00:54:02,130
I wasn't crying.

1238
00:54:02,130 --> 00:54:03,680
I remember when
I listened to it,

1239
00:54:03,680 --> 00:54:05,210
I wasn't crying at all, so--

1240
00:54:05,210 --> 00:54:06,350
That's OK.

1241
00:54:06,350 --> 00:54:07,010
That's OK.

1242
00:54:07,010 --> 00:54:09,590
[LAUGHS]

1243
00:54:09,590 --> 00:54:14,150
I will then say, then, this
concludes the United States

1244
00:54:14,150 --> 00:54:17,360
Holocaust Memorial
Museum interview

1245
00:54:17,360 --> 00:54:23,930
with Mrs. Clara Rechnitz
on December 12th, 2018,

1246
00:54:23,930 --> 00:54:26,480
in Framingham, Massachusetts.

1247
00:54:26,480 --> 00:54:27,590
Thank you again.

1248
00:54:27,590 --> 00:54:30,740
I thank you for coming
to listen to it.

1249
00:54:30,740 --> 00:54:35,270
I thought it will just disappear
because nobody is interested.

1250
00:54:35,270 --> 00:54:38,420
We're very interested,
very interested.

1251
00:54:38,420 --> 00:54:39,380
Thank you.

1252
00:54:39,380 --> 00:54:40,990
Thank you.