

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,120

2
00:00:02,120 --> 00:00:07,790
This is a continuation of the
interview with Josiane Traum.

3
00:00:07,790 --> 00:00:13,700
Today is Thursday,
September 3rd, 2020.

4
00:00:13,700 --> 00:00:19,190
And since we spoke last year,
Josiane, and had our interview,

5
00:00:19,190 --> 00:00:24,800
you remembered some facts
that had not been on your mind

6
00:00:24,800 --> 00:00:25,970
that day.

7
00:00:25,970 --> 00:00:28,550
So could you tell me
what it is that you'd

8
00:00:28,550 --> 00:00:31,250
like to add to the
interview that we

9
00:00:31,250 --> 00:00:34,130
had and the pieces
of information

10
00:00:34,130 --> 00:00:37,000
that you now have
at your fingertips?

11
00:00:37,000 --> 00:00:37,750
Of course.

12

00:00:37,750 --> 00:00:40,500

13

00:00:40,500 --> 00:00:46,440

I found-- actually,
it's like an index card.

14

00:00:46,440 --> 00:00:51,540

And it's actually research
that was done at the museum,

15

00:00:51,540 --> 00:00:52,957

at the Holocaust Museum--

16

00:00:52,957 --> 00:00:53,790

In Washington, yeah.

17

00:00:53,790 --> 00:00:59,040

--to out exactly my
mom's journey when

18

00:00:59,040 --> 00:01:01,500

she was deported to Auschwitz.

19

00:01:01,500 --> 00:01:02,010

OK.

20

00:01:02,010 --> 00:01:05,940

And I found that before
going to Auschwitz,

21

00:01:05,940 --> 00:01:12,440

she was deported actually on--

22

00:01:12,440 --> 00:01:16,910

and taken to a transit camp,
which was called Malines.

23

00:01:16,910 --> 00:01:26,060

And Malines is in French
and Mechelen is in Flemish.

24

00:01:26,060 --> 00:01:27,730
Could you spell
the French version?

25
00:01:27,730 --> 00:01:30,750
Could you spell how
Malines is in French?

26
00:01:30,750 --> 00:01:34,200
That is, let's
just spell it out.

27
00:01:34,200 --> 00:01:41,250
OK, Malines in French
is M-A-L-I-N-E-S.

28
00:01:41,250 --> 00:01:42,870
OK, thank you.

29
00:01:42,870 --> 00:01:46,190
And that was a transit
camp in Belgium?

30
00:01:46,190 --> 00:01:48,560
That was in Belgium.

31
00:01:48,560 --> 00:01:50,540
And apparently, my mom--

32
00:01:50,540 --> 00:01:55,460
the card that I have with
the research from the museum

33
00:01:55,460 --> 00:02:02,180
shows that my mom was actually
in Malines for two months.

34
00:02:02,180 --> 00:02:04,410
That's quite a while.

35
00:02:04,410 --> 00:02:05,790
Yes, it is.

36

00:02:05,790 --> 00:02:16,974

She was there-- let me see,
she got there March 1944.

37

00:02:16,974 --> 00:02:18,970

OK, do you have a date?

38

00:02:18,970 --> 00:02:21,590

And I have a copy of that.

39

00:02:21,590 --> 00:02:23,410

It says in Brussels--

40

00:02:23,410 --> 00:02:26,200

I don't know [? der haustet ?].

41

00:02:26,200 --> 00:02:29,590

And then it says Juden
Lager, Malines, which was--

42

00:02:29,590 --> 00:02:31,390

Right.

43

00:02:31,390 --> 00:02:35,450

Yes, it was a camp, but
it was a transit camp.

44

00:02:35,450 --> 00:02:38,950

And I found this in
two books which I have.

45

00:02:38,950 --> 00:02:42,760

They actually mention
Malines, that it was--

46

00:02:42,760 --> 00:02:46,450

each-- different countries
had transit camps.

47

00:02:46,450 --> 00:02:47,050

That's right.

48

00:02:47,050 --> 00:02:50,840

Till they got the Jews
on trains to deport them.

49

00:02:50,840 --> 00:02:58,360

So my mom was actually
taken to Auschwitz on--

50

00:02:58,360 --> 00:03:04,980

let me see-- on May 19th, 1944.

51

00:03:04,980 --> 00:03:07,780

She was taken to
Auschwitz at Birkenau

52

00:03:07,780 --> 00:03:08,310

OK.

53

00:03:08,310 --> 00:03:12,540

And there's a whole
list of numbers, which

54

00:03:12,540 --> 00:03:14,220

I don't know what they are.

55

00:03:14,220 --> 00:03:17,250

And then it says Ravensbruck,
which was actually

56

00:03:17,250 --> 00:03:19,420

another concentration camp.

57

00:03:19,420 --> 00:03:23,470

So she was in Ravensbruck too?

58

00:03:23,470 --> 00:03:29,890

It looks like-- it says,
Auschwitz-Birkenau,

59

00:03:29,890 --> 00:03:33,580

which I know Birkenau was
a sub-camp from Auschwitz.

60
00:03:33,580 --> 00:03:34,760
It was a labor camp--

61
00:03:34,760 --> 00:03:35,260
Correct.

62
00:03:35,260 --> 00:03:38,770
--which is actually where
she went daily to work.

63
00:03:38,770 --> 00:03:41,890
And there's some
numbers after that.

64
00:03:41,890 --> 00:03:43,060
I don't know what they are.

65
00:03:43,060 --> 00:03:47,553
And then right under
there it says Ravensbruck.

66
00:03:47,553 --> 00:03:48,095
Ravensbruck--

67
00:03:48,095 --> 00:03:49,360
So, I don't know if--

68
00:03:49,360 --> 00:03:52,390
--as in R-A-V-E-N-B--

69
00:03:52,390 --> 00:03:54,510
R-A-V-E-N-S-B-R-U-K?

70
00:03:54,510 --> 00:03:56,350
No.

71
00:03:56,350 --> 00:03:57,190
No?

72
00:03:57,190 --> 00:03:57,910

No.

73
00:03:57,910 --> 00:04:05,110
R-A-V-E-N-S-B-R-U-E-C-K.

74
00:04:05,110 --> 00:04:10,100
Ah, Ravensbruck, so it is that
women's concentration camp--

75
00:04:10,100 --> 00:04:10,600
Yes.

76
00:04:10,600 --> 00:04:14,900
--that is-- so she
was transferred.

77
00:04:14,900 --> 00:04:16,010
Does it give a date?

78
00:04:16,010 --> 00:04:18,550

79
00:04:18,550 --> 00:04:26,270
No, only that she
got there May 1944.

80
00:04:26,270 --> 00:04:31,010
So only that she got into
Auschwitz in May 1944.

81
00:04:31,010 --> 00:04:32,270
And then you don't know--

82
00:04:32,270 --> 00:04:32,840
Yes.

83
00:04:32,840 --> 00:04:38,060
It doesn't say actually that she
was transferred to Ravensbruck.

84
00:04:38,060 --> 00:04:39,380
It just has that name.

85
00:04:39,380 --> 00:04:39,880
No.

86
00:04:39,880 --> 00:04:41,450
OK, OK.

87
00:04:41,450 --> 00:04:43,760
It's just has
Auschwitz-Birkenau.

88
00:04:43,760 --> 00:04:52,670
Then there's a capital N-R,
and a capital A, and then 5144.

89
00:04:52,670 --> 00:04:56,270
So this is-- what kind of-- do
you know what kind of a card

90
00:04:56,270 --> 00:04:58,238
this is?

91
00:04:58,238 --> 00:05:02,630
Is this a-- this is a facsimile
of an actual German record?

92
00:05:02,630 --> 00:05:07,390
Or you're not familiar with what
kind of record this could be?

93
00:05:07,390 --> 00:05:11,280
I believe it's-- I
believe it's German.

94
00:05:11,280 --> 00:05:12,770
OK.

95
00:05:12,770 --> 00:05:15,110
I believe it is,
but I don't know.

96
00:05:15,110 --> 00:05:19,520

I guess I could telephone
Micheline and ask her.

97
00:05:19,520 --> 00:05:24,892
It also says, after
Ravensbruck, it says KL Malchom.

98
00:05:24,892 --> 00:05:27,980

99
00:05:27,980 --> 00:05:31,571
M-A-L-C-H-O-M.

100
00:05:31,571 --> 00:05:32,110
M-A-L-C-H--

101
00:05:32,110 --> 00:05:33,485
And I don't know
what that means.

102
00:05:33,485 --> 00:05:37,860
I've not heard of that, but
KL means konzentrationslager,

103
00:05:37,860 --> 00:05:40,390
which means concentration camp.

104
00:05:40,390 --> 00:05:42,410
I see.

105
00:05:42,410 --> 00:05:49,550
It would be-- it's interesting
and important to have as many

106
00:05:49,550 --> 00:05:53,640
of the details as one can.

107
00:05:53,640 --> 00:05:57,590
And so this document has told
you some of the details of--

108
00:05:57,590 --> 00:06:01,220

after your mother is arrested,
where the various places were

109
00:06:01,220 --> 00:06:04,450
and the dates, at least,
when she was there.

110
00:06:04,450 --> 00:06:04,950
Yes.

111
00:06:04,950 --> 00:06:07,460
I think the other
significance is

112
00:06:07,460 --> 00:06:13,490
that such things, which were
so crucial and so central

113
00:06:13,490 --> 00:06:20,710
to her story are things that
you didn't know for a long time.

114
00:06:20,710 --> 00:06:22,070
Yes.

115
00:06:22,070 --> 00:06:26,780
And so that's also part of--

116
00:06:26,780 --> 00:06:29,390
part of what the experience is.

117
00:06:29,390 --> 00:06:36,870
Your experience of what your
mother went through is limited.

118
00:06:36,870 --> 00:06:39,980
I hate to say it, put
it that way, but it is--

119
00:06:39,980 --> 00:06:40,850
I mean, it is--

120

00:06:40,850 --> 00:06:42,206
[INAUDIBLE]

121
00:06:42,206 --> 00:06:42,706
It is--

122
00:06:42,706 --> 00:06:44,560
I don't know details.

123
00:06:44,560 --> 00:06:45,060
Yeah.

124
00:06:45,060 --> 00:06:45,560
Yes.

125
00:06:45,560 --> 00:06:47,930
Yeah.

126
00:06:47,930 --> 00:06:48,710
And--

127
00:06:48,710 --> 00:06:50,030
You know--

128
00:06:50,030 --> 00:06:50,940
Yes?

129
00:06:50,940 --> 00:06:58,550
Right after that, it says 29445.

130
00:06:58,550 --> 00:07:00,290
I guess that's her--

131
00:07:00,290 --> 00:07:04,010
April 29th, 1945, that's
what that would be.

132
00:07:04,010 --> 00:07:04,670
Yeah.

133
00:07:04,670 --> 00:07:05,300

Uh-huh.

134
00:07:05,300 --> 00:07:09,540
Yes, April 29th, 1945.

135
00:07:09,540 --> 00:07:13,020
It says Leipzig befreit.

136
00:07:13,020 --> 00:07:14,550
OK, Leipzig is--

137
00:07:14,550 --> 00:07:18,180
B-E-F-R-- I guess maybe that's
where she was liberated.

138
00:07:18,180 --> 00:07:20,040
So Leipzig is the city.

139
00:07:20,040 --> 00:07:25,110
And the befreit, yes,
befreit means to be free,

140
00:07:25,110 --> 00:07:26,570
to be made free.

141
00:07:26,570 --> 00:07:28,080
Yes, yes.

142
00:07:28,080 --> 00:07:30,480
OK, so that's-- OK, that--

143
00:07:30,480 --> 00:07:33,020
See, I always thought she was--

144
00:07:33,020 --> 00:07:35,570
she was liberated on the Elbe.

145
00:07:35,570 --> 00:07:39,290
There was a battle between
the Germans and the Russians.

146

00:07:39,290 --> 00:07:41,540
And that's when the
Russians liberated her.

147
00:07:41,540 --> 00:07:44,210
That's what she had told me.

148
00:07:44,210 --> 00:07:46,850
Well, it could both
these things be true.

149
00:07:46,850 --> 00:07:47,660
We'd have to take--

150
00:07:47,660 --> 00:07:48,500
Exactly.

151
00:07:48,500 --> 00:07:51,200
We'd have to take a
look where Leipzig is.

152
00:07:51,200 --> 00:07:54,350
And my geography is not
that strong for Germany.

153
00:07:54,350 --> 00:07:58,418
But it could also very well
be close to the Elbe River.

154
00:07:58,418 --> 00:08:00,050
Yeah.

155
00:08:00,050 --> 00:08:04,340
So I wish I could say that
off the top of my head.

156
00:08:04,340 --> 00:08:08,301
But you do have these pieces
of information about--

157
00:08:08,301 --> 00:08:08,801
Yes.

158

00:08:08,801 --> 00:08:12,920

--about-- is there any-- about
your mother's incarceration.

159

00:08:12,920 --> 00:08:14,540

Is there anything
else that you'd

160

00:08:14,540 --> 00:08:19,580

like to share with us today
to be part of her interview?

161

00:08:19,580 --> 00:08:24,170

Well, it does have her
name, and maiden name,

162

00:08:24,170 --> 00:08:27,510

and her parents' name
on this piece of paper.

163

00:08:27,510 --> 00:08:30,630

164

00:08:30,630 --> 00:08:32,700

I did find out last night--

165

00:08:32,700 --> 00:08:38,429

I spoke to my cousin,
who lives in Canada,

166

00:08:38,429 --> 00:08:42,480

and who's my
mother's sister son.

167

00:08:42,480 --> 00:08:44,220

OK.

168

00:08:44,220 --> 00:08:48,330

When-- when Belgium
was liberated--

169

00:08:48,330 --> 00:08:51,900

Belgium was liberated
in 1944, which

170
00:08:51,900 --> 00:08:55,620
is before the rest of some
of the countries in Europe.

171
00:08:55,620 --> 00:08:56,370
Of course.

172
00:08:56,370 --> 00:09:00,360
And as soon as
Belgium was liberated,

173
00:09:00,360 --> 00:09:03,570
my mother's sister
came looking for me.

174
00:09:03,570 --> 00:09:05,940
And actually found me.

175
00:09:05,940 --> 00:09:07,000
So that is the--

176
00:09:07,000 --> 00:09:08,380
so, OK.

177
00:09:08,380 --> 00:09:12,960
So she found you at
some point in 1944,

178
00:09:12,960 --> 00:09:14,860
probably towards
the end of the year.

179
00:09:14,860 --> 00:09:17,430
I think that's when the--

180
00:09:17,430 --> 00:09:18,060
Yes.

181
00:09:18,060 --> 00:09:21,630

--allies were preparing
or were part of the Battle

182
00:09:21,630 --> 00:09:22,410
of the Bulge--

183
00:09:22,410 --> 00:09:22,910
Yes.

184
00:09:22,910 --> 00:09:27,930
--which took place not far
from where you would have been.

185
00:09:27,930 --> 00:09:30,290
Right, right.

186
00:09:30,290 --> 00:09:34,350
My understanding is that
they were also hidden in--

187
00:09:34,350 --> 00:09:36,570
during the war,
through the underground

188
00:09:36,570 --> 00:09:38,160
and through churches.

189
00:09:38,160 --> 00:09:40,680
And there was this network.

190
00:09:40,680 --> 00:09:45,750
People could somehow
find each other.

191
00:09:45,750 --> 00:09:48,540
And that's how she--

192
00:09:48,540 --> 00:09:52,620
they found me and
brought me to their home.

193
00:09:52,620 --> 00:09:58,550

And, of course, it
was so different.

194
00:09:58,550 --> 00:09:59,120
Yeah.

195
00:09:59,120 --> 00:10:01,580
--being with family.

196
00:10:01,580 --> 00:10:05,420
And, you know, it's so strange,
I spoke to Charles last night.

197
00:10:05,420 --> 00:10:07,460
He lives in Vancouver.

198
00:10:07,460 --> 00:10:09,710
And we were talking about it.

199
00:10:09,710 --> 00:10:12,500
Because he mentioned--
he said, do you

200
00:10:12,500 --> 00:10:15,020
remember how we teased
you and everything?

201
00:10:15,020 --> 00:10:20,280
And, of course, they did,
the three boys, tease me

202
00:10:20,280 --> 00:10:24,250
continuously, which I loved.

203
00:10:24,250 --> 00:10:27,930
I did-- see, I was like
their little mascot.

204
00:10:27,930 --> 00:10:31,330
So just being with the family--

205
00:10:31,330 --> 00:10:32,490

we were talking about it.

206
00:10:32,490 --> 00:10:37,650
And he reminded me that my
grandfather, my mom's father,

207
00:10:37,650 --> 00:10:43,920
my maternal grandfather, had
also been taken to Malines.

208
00:10:43,920 --> 00:10:44,460
Yes.

209
00:10:44,460 --> 00:10:45,810
And-- yes.

210
00:10:45,810 --> 00:10:47,925
And then they took him to--

211
00:10:47,925 --> 00:10:52,880

212
00:10:52,880 --> 00:10:54,200
I have the name of it.

213
00:10:54,200 --> 00:10:55,670
They took him to--

214
00:10:55,670 --> 00:10:59,300
also to Malines and then
to another transit camp.

215
00:10:59,300 --> 00:11:02,480
And apparently,
they tortured him

216
00:11:02,480 --> 00:11:06,530
so much that he died
before he got to Auschwitz.

217
00:11:06,530 --> 00:11:08,510
Oh, my.

218
00:11:08,510 --> 00:11:13,730
I always thought that he
had died on the train going

219
00:11:13,730 --> 00:11:14,570
to Auschwitz.

220
00:11:14,570 --> 00:11:19,640
But my cousin Charles
told me that, no, he had--

221
00:11:19,640 --> 00:11:22,900
he was tortured and
actually, he died.

222
00:11:22,900 --> 00:11:24,080
So--

223
00:11:24,080 --> 00:11:25,390
So these are these--

224
00:11:25,390 --> 00:11:28,390
these are bits and pieces
of information about what

225
00:11:28,390 --> 00:11:30,970
happens to the family
that you are still

226
00:11:30,970 --> 00:11:34,510
discovering to this day.

227
00:11:34,510 --> 00:11:35,650
Yes.

228
00:11:35,650 --> 00:11:37,480
What is your cousin's
his first name?

229
00:11:37,480 --> 00:11:40,790
You mentioned it, but

I didn't catch it.

230
00:11:40,790 --> 00:11:41,900
My cousin?

231
00:11:41,900 --> 00:11:44,180
Yeah, in Vancouver.

232
00:11:44,180 --> 00:11:45,420
Oh, Charles

233
00:11:45,420 --> 00:11:45,920
How do I--

234
00:11:45,920 --> 00:11:46,760
Charles.

235
00:11:46,760 --> 00:11:47,917
How do I spell it?

236
00:11:47,917 --> 00:11:49,080
Charles.

237
00:11:49,080 --> 00:11:52,740
Well, I spell it the French way,
which is probably the same--

238
00:11:52,740 --> 00:11:56,205
C-H-A-R-L-E-S.

239
00:11:56,205 --> 00:11:57,970
Oh, Charles.

240
00:11:57,970 --> 00:11:58,470
OK.

241
00:11:58,470 --> 00:11:58,970
Charles.

242
00:11:58,970 --> 00:11:59,760
Charles, OK.

243
00:11:59,760 --> 00:12:01,500
I call him "Charles."

244
00:12:01,500 --> 00:12:02,370
I see.

245
00:12:02,370 --> 00:12:03,120
I see.

246
00:12:03,120 --> 00:12:04,740
OK.

247
00:12:04,740 --> 00:12:07,570
Just like he-- he
calls me Josiane.

248
00:12:07,570 --> 00:12:08,580
Yeah.

249
00:12:08,580 --> 00:12:13,230
Which nobody does, because it's
French and they can't say it.

250
00:12:13,230 --> 00:12:17,070
But it's how-- it's how he
knows you and how you know him.

251
00:12:17,070 --> 00:12:19,080
Exactly, exactly.

252
00:12:19,080 --> 00:12:20,820
OK, well--

253
00:12:20,820 --> 00:12:23,790
So Charles was two
years older than me.

254
00:12:23,790 --> 00:12:27,580
The three boys were all a
few years older than me.

255

00:12:27,580 --> 00:12:33,610

And I was there until
my mother came back.

256

00:12:33,610 --> 00:12:35,260

Yeah.

257

00:12:35,260 --> 00:12:38,760

So they have memories
of these things.

258

00:12:38,760 --> 00:12:40,410

They do.

259

00:12:40,410 --> 00:12:41,940

They were a little bit older.

260

00:12:41,940 --> 00:12:42,530

OK.

261

00:12:42,530 --> 00:12:48,840

So I think they probably have
more imagery and memories.

262

00:12:48,840 --> 00:12:49,720

OK.

263

00:12:49,720 --> 00:12:51,100

Well, thank you, Josiane.

264

00:12:51,100 --> 00:12:53,430

And if that is--
if that is what you

265

00:12:53,430 --> 00:12:57,480

would like to add to our
interview, we have now done so.

266

00:12:57,480 --> 00:12:59,880

And is there anything
else that you'd

267
00:12:59,880 --> 00:13:01,560
like to add before we conclude?

268
00:13:01,560 --> 00:13:05,770

269
00:13:05,770 --> 00:13:09,220
I don't think I have
any other information.

270
00:13:09,220 --> 00:13:11,980

271
00:13:11,980 --> 00:13:15,330
But I just--

272
00:13:15,330 --> 00:13:19,750
I realize how much
my mother suffered.

273
00:13:19,750 --> 00:13:21,140
Yeah.

274
00:13:21,140 --> 00:13:27,070
And when I think about it, it
is so difficult to comprehend.

275
00:13:27,070 --> 00:13:30,450
Yeah, yeah.

276
00:13:30,450 --> 00:13:33,390
And you're so helpless,
because you could do nothing

277
00:13:33,390 --> 00:13:35,560
to take it away.

278
00:13:35,560 --> 00:13:36,060
That's the--

279
00:13:36,060 --> 00:13:36,690

No.

280
00:13:36,690 --> 00:13:41,310
That's part of the suffering
that someone who loves

281
00:13:41,310 --> 00:13:44,190
that person also experiences.

282
00:13:44,190 --> 00:13:49,590
Because of course, you
just being provided her

283
00:13:49,590 --> 00:13:55,090
with a great deal of not only
comfort, but reason to live.

284
00:13:55,090 --> 00:13:55,590
Yeah.

285
00:13:55,590 --> 00:13:58,320
But you couldn't
physically do anything

286
00:13:58,320 --> 00:14:01,230
to take away what
she went through.

287
00:14:01,230 --> 00:14:02,220
Right.

288
00:14:02,220 --> 00:14:05,400
Yeah, I know, I know.

289
00:14:05,400 --> 00:14:06,420
Well, thank you.

290
00:14:06,420 --> 00:14:11,370
Thank you again for sharing
this and for making it part

291
00:14:11,370 --> 00:14:14,640

of the interview, so that
if somebody hears this later

292
00:14:14,640 --> 00:14:18,930
they'll be able to put it--
get a fuller story of--

293
00:14:18,930 --> 00:14:21,480
a more detailed picture of it.

294
00:14:21,480 --> 00:14:26,640
And I will now say that
this once more concludes

295
00:14:26,640 --> 00:14:31,155
the interview, the addendum
to the interview with Josiane

296
00:14:31,155 --> 00:14:31,950
Traum.

297
00:14:31,950 --> 00:14:37,200
And the addendum is on
September 3rd, 2020.

298
00:14:37,200 --> 00:14:41,150
And I will stop the
recording at this point.