

OK. Tell it to me as though you didn't tell it to me before.

Well, you have to know that Raoul saved over 100,000 people, but many times here in America, especially, people say, oh, don't tell me that. He didn't even save 5,000. Well, if he didn't do that, the very last act he, he saved 70,000 people. So even if he didn't save anyone else, 70,000 would be quite enough.

And how that happened is that the Nazis finally decided they have to make a big ghetto, and we have a very beautiful synagogue in the middle of Budapest. And all the houses around it became the ghetto, and they pushed 70,000 people in there. Now, the only way we could get in there was that our Red Cross people, the Swedish Red Cross, went in almost every week, twice, and brought them some food and medication and see what had to be done. But otherwise, we had not much connection, just try to take care of it that people won't be taken.

One day, a Hungarian Nazi officer came to Raoul who thought that maybe Raoul will help him after the Soviet occupation because the Soviet was already on the outskirts of Budapest and said to him, Raoul, Eichmann ordered to kill the 70,000 people in the ghetto, and the guards are already standing there. And Raoul said, oh my God, and our two Red Cross girls are just in there now. Go back to your headquarters and tell them that the German headquarters called off the killing.

The Hungarian left immediately, and Raoul looks at us. It was in the office, in one of the offices where we worked on that day. And he said, now, listen to me what I'm going to do. And he picked up the phone, as he spoke beautiful German, and he called the German headquarters. And he said, this is Lieutenant [? Krauss ?] I want to speak to the general. Naturally, to Lieutenant [? Krauss ?] they give to General immediately.

And when the General came to the phone, Raoul said, this is Raoul Wallenberg. And the man was surprised, but he couldn't hang up. And Raoul said to him, General, I do not understand what you're doing. I understand you are a very highly-decorated First World War general. How can you take it on your heart and conscience to kill 70,000 innocent people, plus my two Swedish Red Cross girls who are in there, whereby he must have answered, Eichmann did it. Now, how daring Raoul was. Eichmann could have stood right next door to the general, but our Raoul-- no, he had to think fast.

And he said, Eichmann? Didn't you know Eichmann left town? I had lunch with him yesterday. Thereby the General said, I didn't know that. So Raoul said, all right, then you are responsible, and if you are not calling off the killing within five minutes, I, as a Swedish diplomat, tell you you will be the first one hanging before your office as soon as the Russians reach us here in midtown. In four minutes he called off the killing, and thereby he saved 70,000 people plus the two girls from the Swedish Red Cross. That was Raoul Wallenberg.

One more story that was in your other transcript was about the curfew and a little child who was there one minute after curfew and the doctor were trying to help him. Do you remember that story? They were lined up and--

That was not my story.

OK. Can you talk to me a little more about how hard it was to believe what was happening?

Yes, it was very hard. I don't know if for everybody, but for me, it was because I never knew cruelty or-- because I also had a father who believed that everybody's equal, and it was a horror to see that our young life can be snuffed out in one second. For what? Just because you were a Jew or just because you were an anti-Nazi. It was a horrible feeling that you never know what happens the next minute.

And it was a very frightening thing to think, how can you get out of this, how can you save yourself and save someone else? And of course, after Raoul, it was much easier because somehow he was the head, and we were the body. But before he came, even in that three weeks in that heaven up at the Swedish embassy, you were thinking about, what's going to happen to my parents? How can I get them saved?

So the constant worry because we didn't know what these crazy people are doing-- it was a horrifying time and especially, as I said, because when you're so young to think of it that-- what is in the future? Nothing. It's a very frightening feeling. It's an incredible feeling, what is very hard to explain.

But the only help maybe was that big radio I had and that electricity was still on so that we could hear from those stations what's happening, and that always gave a hope. The Allies won't let us down, and the Allies will help. And the Allies didn't help, so it wasn't very easy. And I remember when we were down in the basement when we had bombing. And they made it as a joke, but it wasn't. That was one old lady who constantly said, oh my God, oh my God. Where are they? Because they were bombing.

And somebody said, well, why are you so worried? They're taking care of us. And then suddenly the bombing started, and the old lady looked up, says, thank you, Americans. Now you're here. She was relieved. But that's how we all felt, that the Allies must be helping us. The Allies must be there.

And they weren't always there, and it was frightening that we didn't know that, that actually the whole Balkan was given away to the Soviets. We didn't know that, and we were not expecting the Soviets to liberate us. Maybe if the Americans liberated us I would have never left Hungary, but I did leave. And many, many other people were like that, and it wasn't easy.

When I went back to our home, for instance, when you went down to the basement when it was bombing, the faces were all new. Well, we only found out after the war that there were quite a few Jews there who had Christian papers, and that's how they survived. But there was also a very good-looking, orderly gentleman with a younger son, and a mother, and a wife, and he always looked at me. And I looked at him, and I had no idea who he could be.

And then one day he asked me where I'm always going, and-- I don't know why-- I believed in the man. So you come out and telling him. He said, I wish I could go with you, and I said, well, who are you? And it turned out he was the only Hungarian general who got away from the Germans, and he took some false papers. But he gave me his real name, General [? Gutweih, ?] and he happened to come to our house and find an apartment.

His son committed suicide, but-- thank God-- they put him back. And he was my ally. He had-- at that time, the radio upstairs didn't work, but he had a little radio with batteries. And in that one we heard the BBC telling us that Romania was already free, and it was occupied by British, French, and the Russians.

And then he was the one who, one day, running and say, come out and see what's happening. And we looked out by our big port door, and the German weapons were lying on the ground like this. He said, the Russians must be-- and then he and his son was the first one. Now, the Russians knew everything. They took them away, and we were so worried. And they came back after three days.

The interrogation was incredible. Military girls interviewed them with caviar and drinks for three days. Of course, they both threw their drinks over their shoulders, and they wanted to know whether they really are the person who they are, and they were not Nazis, and all that. So it was a frightening time, but he was a great ally for us and wonderful. And it was a frightening time. It was a very frightening time.

OK, we're finished. That's it. You need to do one thing, and that's--