

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,450

2

00:00:05,450 --> 00:00:07,170
Change film, camera four is up.

3

00:00:07,170 --> 00:00:08,570
So take five is up.

4

00:00:08,570 --> 00:00:16,640

5

00:00:16,640 --> 00:00:22,820
Talk to me about what it was
like to have to live in hiding.

6

00:00:22,820 --> 00:00:28,660
The feelings of darkness,
what you gave up,

7

00:00:28,660 --> 00:00:31,390
and what you did
to pass the time.

8

00:00:31,390 --> 00:00:37,240
OK, first of all, we had
to be very, very quiet.

9

00:00:37,240 --> 00:00:38,920
We could not talk.

10

00:00:38,920 --> 00:00:41,590
In fact, after the war
none of us had voices.

11

00:00:41,590 --> 00:00:43,810
We were totally hoarse.

12

00:00:43,810 --> 00:00:47,690
We lost our voices
from whispering.

13
00:00:47,690 --> 00:00:50,950
As a matter of fact,
what I gave up--

14
00:00:50,950 --> 00:00:53,620
I gave up my childhood.

15
00:00:53,620 --> 00:00:55,420
We were never playing.

16
00:00:55,420 --> 00:00:58,930
We could never go outside.

17
00:00:58,930 --> 00:01:05,000
After a while, we went into a
basement where we were hiding.

18
00:01:05,000 --> 00:01:07,720
We could hear
children play outside.

19
00:01:07,720 --> 00:01:13,510
We could hear music play
in an upstairs apartment.

20
00:01:13,510 --> 00:01:16,960
We could hear people walking.

21
00:01:16,960 --> 00:01:19,570
We had none of this.

22
00:01:19,570 --> 00:01:22,120
We had no sunshine.

23
00:01:22,120 --> 00:01:25,900
As a matter of fact,
I developed a goiter.

24
00:01:25,900 --> 00:01:30,130
My neck became totally swollen.

25

00:01:30,130 --> 00:01:33,370

One day, my mother said to Mrs.

[? Olavsoka, ?] look at her.

26

00:01:33,370 --> 00:01:37,840

And she said, oh my God,

even if she lives through,

27

00:01:37,840 --> 00:01:38,695

she'll be a cripple.

28

00:01:38,695 --> 00:01:41,360

29

00:01:41,360 --> 00:01:47,780

So being summer-- it must have

been the next summer already.

30

00:01:47,780 --> 00:01:50,450

On a very quiet afternoon

Mrs. [? Olavsoka ?]

31

00:01:50,450 --> 00:01:54,480

came in the basement and she

says you have to come with me.

32

00:01:54,480 --> 00:01:57,050

And she took me-- it

was a very quiet day.

33

00:01:57,050 --> 00:01:59,120

There was nobody on the street.

34

00:01:59,120 --> 00:02:02,120

She took me out on a hill.

35

00:02:02,120 --> 00:02:04,490

And she said you have

to sit in the sun.

36

00:02:04,490 --> 00:02:06,410

You have no sun.

37
00:02:06,410 --> 00:02:07,770
Maybe that'll help you.

38
00:02:07,770 --> 00:02:11,720
And she did this
quite a few times.

39
00:02:11,720 --> 00:02:16,510
I have a perfectly good
neck thanks to her.

40
00:02:16,510 --> 00:02:20,560

41
00:02:20,560 --> 00:02:24,130
To pass the time,
I taught my sister

42
00:02:24,130 --> 00:02:25,570
how to read the newspaper.

43
00:02:25,570 --> 00:02:27,400
So the first thing
the newspaper came,

44
00:02:27,400 --> 00:02:30,520
the two-year-old read
it before we did,

45
00:02:30,520 --> 00:02:33,490
including the obituary,
and the matrimonial,

46
00:02:33,490 --> 00:02:40,360
and the lost and found, and
the ads, and all the politics,

47
00:02:40,360 --> 00:02:42,760
and everything.

48
00:02:42,760 --> 00:02:45,460

We tried to remember songs.

49

00:02:45,460 --> 00:02:49,030

We used to whisper
songs to each other.

50

00:02:49,030 --> 00:02:52,510

And one day she said to
me, let's write it down.

51

00:02:52,510 --> 00:02:57,160

Maybe when we live,
maybe if we live,

52

00:02:57,160 --> 00:02:59,410

we could sing these songs.

53

00:02:59,410 --> 00:03:04,900

So I used to sing a
lot when I was a child.

54

00:03:04,900 --> 00:03:06,850

And I had all the
cousins who used

55

00:03:06,850 --> 00:03:10,600

to teach me all the newest--

56

00:03:10,600 --> 00:03:14,800

what you call--
the newest songs.

57

00:03:14,800 --> 00:03:17,350

And we wrote down 23 of them.

58

00:03:17,350 --> 00:03:21,490

59

00:03:21,490 --> 00:03:24,100

Well, we also watched
the Reds go by.

60

00:03:24,100 --> 00:03:27,820

61

00:03:27,820 --> 00:03:30,760

Mostly we just sat around.

62

00:03:30,760 --> 00:03:32,830

I thought myself how to knit.

63

00:03:32,830 --> 00:03:36,400

I took apart an old sweater and
I found some knitting needles.

64

00:03:36,400 --> 00:03:39,620

I taught myself how to knit.

65

00:03:39,620 --> 00:03:41,630

I read everything
that was there.

66

00:03:41,630 --> 00:03:44,020

Mrs.Olavsoka, being
a very pious woman,

67

00:03:44,020 --> 00:03:48,580

she had some religious
magazines there.

68

00:03:48,580 --> 00:03:51,760

And Saint Anthony
became my saint.

69

00:03:51,760 --> 00:03:53,080

And I prayed to him too.

70

00:03:53,080 --> 00:03:55,930

71

00:03:55,930 --> 00:03:59,300

I don't remember any more
a saint of who he was,

72

00:03:59,300 --> 00:04:01,590
but I adopted him.

73
00:04:01,590 --> 00:04:02,375
He was from Padua.

74
00:04:02,375 --> 00:04:05,030

75
00:04:05,030 --> 00:04:10,730
So many times when my mother
had to leave for a while

76
00:04:10,730 --> 00:04:14,270
and didn't come
back immediately,

77
00:04:14,270 --> 00:04:17,070
I would pray to my father.

78
00:04:17,070 --> 00:04:18,829
I would pray to God.

79
00:04:18,829 --> 00:04:21,980
And I would pray
to Saint Anthony--

80
00:04:21,980 --> 00:04:22,865
whoever would listen.

81
00:04:22,865 --> 00:04:27,530

82
00:04:27,530 --> 00:04:29,960
What about fear?

83
00:04:29,960 --> 00:04:32,450
Were you afraid a
lot, constantly--

84
00:04:32,450 --> 00:04:35,030
The fear was constant.

85
00:04:35,030 --> 00:04:38,750
The fear was non-stop.

86
00:04:38,750 --> 00:04:42,050
The fear was that somebody
will come into the basement.

87
00:04:42,050 --> 00:04:44,120
The fear was that
somebody will listen.

88
00:04:44,120 --> 00:04:47,810
The fear was that somebody
will give a cough.

89
00:04:47,810 --> 00:04:50,570
My sister developed
a whooping cough,

90
00:04:50,570 --> 00:04:56,480
which is a horrible cough
with a lot of loud coughing.

91
00:04:56,480 --> 00:05:01,100
We taught the little one to put
a large pillow over her face.

92
00:05:01,100 --> 00:05:03,440
I don't know how she
didn't suffocate.

93
00:05:03,440 --> 00:05:06,080
When the attack came she
coughed into the pillow.

94
00:05:06,080 --> 00:05:09,570

95
00:05:09,570 --> 00:05:12,330
The fear was constant.

96

00:05:12,330 --> 00:05:16,560
A wrong word from somebody--

97
00:05:16,560 --> 00:05:19,410
I don't know how,
but somebody must

98
00:05:19,410 --> 00:05:22,590
have noticed some action
around the basement,

99
00:05:22,590 --> 00:05:23,925
although they were very careful.

100
00:05:23,925 --> 00:05:26,460

101
00:05:26,460 --> 00:05:29,400
The woman that lived
upstairs in the apartment

102
00:05:29,400 --> 00:05:34,860
that we previously occupied said
one day to Mrs. [? Olavsoka, ?]

103
00:05:34,860 --> 00:05:38,940
she says, you know,
after the war--

104
00:05:38,940 --> 00:05:43,350
after the war is over, I
wonder about those Jews

105
00:05:43,350 --> 00:05:45,190
that are hiding here.

106
00:05:45,190 --> 00:05:47,640
I wonder what they would--

107
00:05:47,640 --> 00:05:49,350
how this would come out?

108

00:05:49,350 --> 00:05:50,490
What would happen?

109
00:05:50,490 --> 00:05:52,710
How they would behave?

110
00:05:52,710 --> 00:05:54,290
And she was so innocent.

111
00:05:54,290 --> 00:05:57,070
She did not expect anything
or suspect anything.

112
00:05:57,070 --> 00:06:02,250
She says, don't worry, I
think it'll be all right.

113
00:06:02,250 --> 00:06:05,850
This gave it away--
she didn't realize.

114
00:06:05,850 --> 00:06:11,050
And immediately, the
woman went and told on us.

115
00:06:11,050 --> 00:06:14,850
But then another a
miracle happened.

116
00:06:14,850 --> 00:06:18,690
The Russian front
was coming closer.

117
00:06:18,690 --> 00:06:19,620
And there was bombing.

118
00:06:19,620 --> 00:06:22,490

119
00:06:22,490 --> 00:06:24,330
And I have to tell you--

120

00:06:24,330 --> 00:06:26,040
I have to describe the basement.

121
00:06:26,040 --> 00:06:29,620
There was a staircase
going down from the house.

122
00:06:29,620 --> 00:06:32,273
And there was a door going
out into the backyard--

123
00:06:32,273 --> 00:06:32,940
into the garden.

124
00:06:32,940 --> 00:06:35,580

125
00:06:35,580 --> 00:06:37,110
And it was always locked.

126
00:06:37,110 --> 00:06:42,060
We were locked in, except for
when they came to take our pail

127
00:06:42,060 --> 00:06:45,120
and to bring us food and water.

128
00:06:45,120 --> 00:06:48,660
This one day, Mrs.
[? Olavsoka's ?] brother

129
00:06:48,660 --> 00:06:50,340
came down and he
said to my mother,

130
00:06:50,340 --> 00:06:53,580
you know what, I'm going to
leave the door to the garden

131
00:06:53,580 --> 00:06:55,360
open tonight.

132

00:06:55,360 --> 00:06:57,780

There's a lot of
bombing going on.

133

00:06:57,780 --> 00:07:01,680

What if the house is bombed
and you're caught in a fire?

134

00:07:01,680 --> 00:07:03,720

You have to have an escape.

135

00:07:03,720 --> 00:07:06,000

You are locked in.

136

00:07:06,000 --> 00:07:07,800

So he left the door unlocked.

137

00:07:07,800 --> 00:07:11,910

I mean, the door was closed,
but not locked on the lock.

138

00:07:11,910 --> 00:07:14,160

This was the same
day when the woman

139

00:07:14,160 --> 00:07:18,180

talked to Mrs.

[? Olavsoka ?] about us.

140

00:07:18,180 --> 00:07:21,870

Naturally, it didn't take
long and she went and talked.

141

00:07:21,870 --> 00:07:27,240

And at night, we hear people
coming down the stairs knocking

142

00:07:27,240 --> 00:07:29,850

on the door.

143

00:07:29,850 --> 00:07:33,570

Hey you, [INAUDIBLE],,
Jews open up.

144
00:07:33,570 --> 00:07:36,180
We were in our night clothes.

145
00:07:36,180 --> 00:07:40,170
And I said to my mother, the
door is open, let's get out.

146
00:07:40,170 --> 00:07:43,170
Let's go into the garden.

147
00:07:43,170 --> 00:07:46,080
At first, my mom was hesitant,
but I started running.

148
00:07:46,080 --> 00:07:47,620
She came after me
with my sister.

149
00:07:47,620 --> 00:07:49,500
And I we were in
our night clothes.

150
00:07:49,500 --> 00:07:51,330
We hid in the bushes.

151
00:07:51,330 --> 00:07:53,910
And a second later,
they were inside.

152
00:07:53,910 --> 00:07:57,870
And we could see the
flashlight going around.

153
00:07:57,870 --> 00:07:59,490
They found our bed.

154
00:07:59,490 --> 00:08:02,220
We were sure they were
going to search more.

155
00:08:02,220 --> 00:08:03,540

And then we heard them left.

156
00:08:03,540 --> 00:08:05,760
They said, oh, the old man
is probably sleeping here.

157
00:08:05,760 --> 00:08:07,080
He's afraid of the bombs.

158
00:08:07,080 --> 00:08:08,130
There's nobody here.

159
00:08:08,130 --> 00:08:08,880
And they left.

160
00:08:08,880 --> 00:08:13,240

161
00:08:13,240 --> 00:08:15,370
Call it what you
want, it's a miracle.

162
00:08:15,370 --> 00:08:18,650

163
00:08:18,650 --> 00:08:22,760
After this, she took
us back in for one day.

164
00:08:22,760 --> 00:08:27,500
And she said, you can't be here
any longer, it's suspicious.

165
00:08:27,500 --> 00:08:29,990
You have to find a place.

166
00:08:29,990 --> 00:08:32,929
And she told us where to go.

167
00:08:32,929 --> 00:08:37,320
There was a woman
living alone in a field.

168
00:08:37,320 --> 00:08:38,780
She was a maid in the city.

169
00:08:38,780 --> 00:08:41,480
She built herself a little
house-- a two room house--

170
00:08:41,480 --> 00:08:43,159
a little bedroom and a kitchen.

171
00:08:43,159 --> 00:08:45,590
So she lives all by herself.

172
00:08:45,590 --> 00:08:48,080
The child still is coughing.

173
00:08:48,080 --> 00:08:51,380
Go to her and tell
her, it used to be

174
00:08:51,380 --> 00:08:55,970
said that if you have whooping
cough, a change of climate

175
00:08:55,970 --> 00:08:57,350
will help.

176
00:08:57,350 --> 00:08:59,390
She says, you have
the perfect excuse.

177
00:08:59,390 --> 00:09:02,870
Go to the woman, tell her you
are coming with a sick child.

178
00:09:02,870 --> 00:09:04,040
And mama did that.

179
00:09:04,040 --> 00:09:06,890
She went to the
woman, told her this,

180
00:09:06,890 --> 00:09:08,850
and she rented us the kitchen.

181
00:09:08,850 --> 00:09:11,930
She occupied the bedroom
and we had the kitchen.

182
00:09:11,930 --> 00:09:14,570
And my sister was coughing.

183
00:09:14,570 --> 00:09:16,730
And this was a
very legit excuse.

184
00:09:16,730 --> 00:09:19,370

185
00:09:19,370 --> 00:09:23,330
Well, after a while, my
sister stopped coughing.

186
00:09:23,330 --> 00:09:25,580
It went away.

187
00:09:25,580 --> 00:09:30,350
And the woman-- everybody
was suspicious--

188
00:09:30,350 --> 00:09:32,750
says, well, the child
is not coughing anymore.

189
00:09:32,750 --> 00:09:35,180
And why don't you go back?

190
00:09:35,180 --> 00:09:39,260
So my mother said, look,
they are looking for me.

191
00:09:39,260 --> 00:09:43,790
They want to send me to

slave labor in Germany.

192

00:09:43,790 --> 00:09:46,970

They took Polish people also.

193

00:09:46,970 --> 00:09:51,440

And since I have no husband, I
cannot leave my children with

194

00:09:51,440 --> 00:09:53,350

my brother or sister-in-law.

195

00:09:53,350 --> 00:09:57,960

My sister-in-law is not
very good to my children.

196

00:09:57,960 --> 00:09:59,960

So I really don't
have anywhere to go.

197

00:09:59,960 --> 00:10:02,180

And I'm running away
from the Germans

198

00:10:02,180 --> 00:10:05,210

because I don't want
to go to slave labor.

199

00:10:05,210 --> 00:10:07,340

Never mentioning being Jewish--

200

00:10:07,340 --> 00:10:09,095

we had papers and all this.

201

00:10:09,095 --> 00:10:11,600

She said, oh, you're
just telling me this.

202

00:10:11,600 --> 00:10:14,942

You didn't have a brother.

203

00:10:14,942 --> 00:10:17,000

And mama said, well, you
want to meet my brother?

204
00:10:17,000 --> 00:10:18,950
OK.

205
00:10:18,950 --> 00:10:23,330
So she wrote to a man who used
to be a customer in my father's

206
00:10:23,330 --> 00:10:25,790
store.

207
00:10:25,790 --> 00:10:29,210
He also used to be a customer
after my father was away

208
00:10:29,210 --> 00:10:32,420
and mama had the store.

209
00:10:32,420 --> 00:10:36,330
And she wrote to him
to come and see us

210
00:10:36,330 --> 00:10:41,000
and be her brother for the day.

211
00:10:41,000 --> 00:10:44,660
Now, there's a whole
story about this man too.

212
00:10:44,660 --> 00:10:45,830
Maybe I'll tell you later.

213
00:10:45,830 --> 00:10:48,470
But now, I want to
tell you how he came.

214
00:10:48,470 --> 00:10:52,640
Anyways, he came
and she was at work.

215

00:10:52,640 --> 00:10:54,440
He brought a bottle of vodka.

216
00:10:54,440 --> 00:10:55,940
He brought food for us.

217
00:10:55,940 --> 00:10:58,790
He never came empty handed.

218
00:10:58,790 --> 00:11:03,080
And he waited for the woman
to come home from work.

219
00:11:03,080 --> 00:11:07,970
And he was a nice Polish
man with Polish looks,

220
00:11:07,970 --> 00:11:10,790
with Polish speech.

221
00:11:10,790 --> 00:11:14,600
I mean, you couldn't mistaken
him for anything else.

222
00:11:14,600 --> 00:11:17,640
And he came and mama
introduced him as her brother,

223
00:11:17,640 --> 00:11:20,720
and we were his nieces,
and he spoke to her.

224
00:11:20,720 --> 00:11:25,580
And he said to her, you know,
I have a very nice wife,

225
00:11:25,580 --> 00:11:27,403
but she doesn't like my sister.

226
00:11:27,403 --> 00:11:28,820
And she doesn't
like her children.

227

00:11:28,820 --> 00:11:30,500

Because I realize
you're going to select

228

00:11:30,500 --> 00:11:32,960

what you want to select,
but I think it's important.

229

00:11:32,960 --> 00:11:34,640

Go ahead.

230

00:11:34,640 --> 00:11:36,140

Go ahead, tell me about that.

231

00:11:36,140 --> 00:11:39,590

232

00:11:39,590 --> 00:11:42,740

Well, first I want to tell
you that for the longest time

233

00:11:42,740 --> 00:11:45,410

I didn't speak about all
this because I didn't think

234

00:11:45,410 --> 00:11:48,950

that my story was that
important compared

235

00:11:48,950 --> 00:11:50,840

to all the other
horror stories that I

236

00:11:50,840 --> 00:11:53,270

have heard from other people.

237

00:11:53,270 --> 00:11:55,920

238

00:11:55,920 --> 00:12:00,890

But I feel it's very important
to know that people like

239

00:12:00,890 --> 00:12:07,280

[? Pani Olavsoka ?] and

[? Pan Fischpetsky ?] were

240

00:12:07,280 --> 00:12:12,380

truly one in a million.

241

00:12:12,380 --> 00:12:15,050

Not only did they help--

242

00:12:15,050 --> 00:12:20,180

because in helping, you

risked your own life.

243

00:12:20,180 --> 00:12:26,450

You could be caught and the same

fate faced you, than the Jews.

244

00:12:26,450 --> 00:12:28,460

But pointing a finger--

245

00:12:28,460 --> 00:12:30,890

that was the

easiest thing to do.

246

00:12:30,890 --> 00:12:33,950

And lots and lots

of people did it.

247

00:12:33,950 --> 00:12:37,100

The Germans could not

distinguish who was Jewish

248

00:12:37,100 --> 00:12:38,210

and who was not.

249

00:12:38,210 --> 00:12:40,430

They didn't know.

250

00:12:40,430 --> 00:12:41,360

They didn't know.

251
00:12:41,360 --> 00:12:44,000
They couldn't recognize--
especially if you were blond,

252
00:12:44,000 --> 00:12:48,530
and had blue eyes, and didn't
have an accent, nobody knew.

253
00:12:48,530 --> 00:12:51,710
There's a lot of Polish
people with black eyes,

254
00:12:51,710 --> 00:12:55,670
and black hair, and
even crooked noses.

255
00:12:55,670 --> 00:12:57,530
They couldn't tell.

256
00:12:57,530 --> 00:13:00,170
It was the Polish people--

257
00:13:00,170 --> 00:13:03,950
99.9% that were
pointing the finger.

258
00:13:03,950 --> 00:13:06,890
And for a measly five zloty--

259
00:13:06,890 --> 00:13:10,280
for a hat, they would get it.

260
00:13:10,280 --> 00:13:15,755
But people like Mrs. Pani
[? Olavsoka ?] and Pan

261
00:13:15,755 --> 00:13:22,610
[? Fischpetsky ?] were
truly angels from God.

262
00:13:22,610 --> 00:13:24,440

They risked their lives.

263

00:13:24,440 --> 00:13:28,160

They risked the lives of their
families, their possessions,

264

00:13:28,160 --> 00:13:30,470

of everything.

265

00:13:30,470 --> 00:13:34,490

They truly believed
that they had to help.

266

00:13:34,490 --> 00:13:38,370

Pani Olavsoka told us a story
that when she was a little girl

267

00:13:38,370 --> 00:13:42,920

she was crossing a pond,
coming home from school,

268

00:13:42,920 --> 00:13:44,810

and the ice broke.

269

00:13:44,810 --> 00:13:47,150

And she was drowning.

270

00:13:47,150 --> 00:13:51,240

And a man was passing
by and pulled her out.

271

00:13:51,240 --> 00:13:54,590

It was a Jewish man.

272

00:13:54,590 --> 00:13:58,970

When this happened, she
said to my mother, maybe

273

00:13:58,970 --> 00:14:04,190

he saved my life in order so
I should save Jewish lives.

274

00:14:04,190 --> 00:14:07,310

How many people do
you know that would

275

00:14:07,310 --> 00:14:09,970

feel that kind of gratitude--

276

00:14:09,970 --> 00:14:13,840

such a mission in life.

277

00:14:13,840 --> 00:14:16,780

I mean, this is incredible.

278

00:14:16,780 --> 00:14:21,210

This is an example that
people all over the world

279

00:14:21,210 --> 00:14:23,520

should take--

280

00:14:23,520 --> 00:14:28,650

how to care, and
how to sympathize,

281

00:14:28,650 --> 00:14:33,030

and how to feel with
a fellow human being--

282

00:14:33,030 --> 00:14:34,290

how to help other people.

283

00:14:34,290 --> 00:14:36,930

284

00:14:36,930 --> 00:14:38,280

I just have to tell you this.

285

00:14:38,280 --> 00:14:43,320

286

00:14:43,320 --> 00:14:48,660

Tell me, now, about your

mother and her ingenuity.

287

00:14:48,660 --> 00:14:53,310

How did she-- tell me about
some of the things she did plan

288

00:14:53,310 --> 00:14:56,120

for taking care of you,
like sewing money into her--

289

00:14:56,120 --> 00:14:59,460

290

00:14:59,460 --> 00:15:02,475

Well, before my father left--

291

00:15:02,475 --> 00:15:06,150

292

00:15:06,150 --> 00:15:08,580

as I told you, he
provided for food.

293

00:15:08,580 --> 00:15:11,160

And told her to buy
clothing and shoes.

294

00:15:11,160 --> 00:15:13,500

It's going to be scarce.

295

00:15:13,500 --> 00:15:17,340

And since she had the store
for a while, whatever money she

296

00:15:17,340 --> 00:15:20,550

had, she bought dollars for it.

297

00:15:20,550 --> 00:15:23,550

And she wrapped it around--

298

00:15:23,550 --> 00:15:28,470

women, at that time,

used to wear a corset.

299

00:15:28,470 --> 00:15:31,380

And the corset had stiff--

300

00:15:31,380 --> 00:15:33,150

I don't know what you call it.

301

00:15:33,150 --> 00:15:35,280

She would take this,
wrap the money around,

302

00:15:35,280 --> 00:15:36,750

and put it in that corset.

303

00:15:36,750 --> 00:15:38,790

She always had money on her.

304

00:15:38,790 --> 00:15:42,870

So she would remove it and
from time to time exchange it.

305

00:15:42,870 --> 00:15:46,540

And Mrs. Olavsoka's
brother took care of this.

306

00:15:46,540 --> 00:15:52,800

So we actually had enough
money to live through.

307

00:15:52,800 --> 00:15:55,500

Of course, you realize that we
didn't pay for our keep, only

308

00:15:55,500 --> 00:15:57,240

for our food.

309

00:15:57,240 --> 00:15:59,490

And then she sold jewelry too.

310

00:15:59,490 --> 00:16:00,930

She had lots of jewelry.

311
00:16:00,930 --> 00:16:04,030
And she sold that too--

312
00:16:04,030 --> 00:16:04,815
money to survive.

313
00:16:04,815 --> 00:16:10,740

314
00:16:10,740 --> 00:16:13,890
That's it.

315
00:16:13,890 --> 00:16:19,320
All right, tell me how you ended
up back at Mrs. Olavsoka's,

316
00:16:19,320 --> 00:16:21,240
in the basement,
with the Germans

317
00:16:21,240 --> 00:16:23,580
in front of the basement.

318
00:16:23,580 --> 00:16:25,650
So you have to
describe this for me

319
00:16:25,650 --> 00:16:27,620
as though I don't
know anything else.

320
00:16:27,620 --> 00:16:32,430

321
00:16:32,430 --> 00:16:37,860
At one point, we had to
come back into the basement.

322
00:16:37,860 --> 00:16:44,610
Oh I know-- we had to
leave the woman's house,

323

00:16:44,610 --> 00:16:46,860
even though she believed
that [PERSONAL NAME]

324

00:16:46,860 --> 00:16:49,980
was our uncle and brother.

325

00:16:49,980 --> 00:16:52,950
She said look, enough is enough,
I need this room for myself.

326

00:16:52,950 --> 00:16:55,050
You have to leave.

327

00:16:55,050 --> 00:16:58,680
So mama went back to
[? Pani Olavsoka ?] because she

328

00:16:58,680 --> 00:17:00,060
was in touch constantly.

329

00:17:00,060 --> 00:17:02,100
She was the one that
provided us with food.

330

00:17:02,100 --> 00:17:05,550
She said, what are
we going to do?

331

00:17:05,550 --> 00:17:08,730
She said, the only thing
to do is we can get a sled

332

00:17:08,730 --> 00:17:12,810
and send you to
[? Fischpetsky. ?]

333

00:17:12,810 --> 00:17:15,000
It was winter time.

334

00:17:15,000 --> 00:17:18,390

And she ordered a sled for us.

335

00:17:18,390 --> 00:17:20,550

And it was an early
Sunday morning, which

336

00:17:20,550 --> 00:17:23,430

was a big mistake,
but we got on the sled

337

00:17:23,430 --> 00:17:28,860

and we went into the
[? Fishpetsky's ?] village.

338

00:17:28,860 --> 00:17:33,690

When we arrived, we arrived
just in time for all the people

339

00:17:33,690 --> 00:17:37,140

to come out of church.

340

00:17:37,140 --> 00:17:40,950

And everybody said, ah
aha, three Jewish women

341

00:17:40,950 --> 00:17:43,920

are going to be
[? Fischpetsky. ?] They knew.

342

00:17:43,920 --> 00:17:45,920

The whole village knew
that [? Fischpetsky ?]

343

00:17:45,920 --> 00:17:48,480

is against Germans--

344

00:17:48,480 --> 00:17:50,710

that he is in the underground--

345

00:17:50,710 --> 00:17:52,290

he does everything against.

346

00:17:52,290 --> 00:17:56,040
And they knew that we are
going straight to him.

347
00:17:56,040 --> 00:17:59,130
And they knew what he is,
but nobody would give us out

348
00:17:59,130 --> 00:18:00,700
at that point.

349
00:18:00,700 --> 00:18:04,050
So he rented us a
place for one month.

350
00:18:04,050 --> 00:18:06,210
Not in his house,
but somewhere else.

351
00:18:06,210 --> 00:18:08,700
And we stayed for a month.

352
00:18:08,700 --> 00:18:11,190
After this he says,
you have to go back.

353
00:18:11,190 --> 00:18:13,890
You cannot be here because
there's too many people that

354
00:18:13,890 --> 00:18:15,600
know about you.

355
00:18:15,600 --> 00:18:21,900
So he rented us another sled
and sent us back to cross snow.

356
00:18:21,900 --> 00:18:25,410
And under the
disguise of darkness,

357
00:18:25,410 --> 00:18:27,750
we went back to

[? Pani Olavsoka. ?]

358

00:18:27,750 --> 00:18:29,430

And she took us back
into the basement.

359

00:18:29,430 --> 00:18:30,750

It was a month later.

360

00:18:30,750 --> 00:18:33,060

It was quieter.

361

00:18:33,060 --> 00:18:35,310

We came back.

362

00:18:35,310 --> 00:18:39,120

The front-- the Russian
front was coming closer.

363

00:18:39,120 --> 00:18:41,880

And the street got evacuated.

364

00:18:41,880 --> 00:18:43,920

And the Germans
occupied the houses.

365

00:18:43,920 --> 00:18:47,100

And Mrs. Olavsoka
was still upstairs.

366

00:18:47,100 --> 00:18:50,580

But she told them that one of
the basements they could have--

367

00:18:50,580 --> 00:18:54,320

the basement was
divided into three,

368

00:18:54,320 --> 00:18:56,580

like three different rooms.

369

00:18:56,580 --> 00:18:59,190

One part belonged
to the tenants.

370
00:18:59,190 --> 00:19:02,550
The two other rooms
were adjoining rooms

371
00:19:02,550 --> 00:19:04,920
that belong to the Olavsoka.

372
00:19:04,920 --> 00:19:08,160
So they were next door to us.

373
00:19:08,160 --> 00:19:09,660
And we could hear the radio.

374
00:19:09,660 --> 00:19:11,500
We could hear everything
that's going on.

375
00:19:11,500 --> 00:19:12,870
We knew all the politics.

376
00:19:12,870 --> 00:19:15,670
We could hear how far the
front is because the radio was

377
00:19:15,670 --> 00:19:16,350
on all the time.

378
00:19:16,350 --> 00:19:19,800
My mother understood German.

379
00:19:19,800 --> 00:19:24,340
And one day, I don't
know how it happened,

380
00:19:24,340 --> 00:19:26,670
we hear somebody is coming.

381
00:19:26,670 --> 00:19:30,690
So we quickly ran

into the next room.

382
00:19:30,690 --> 00:19:34,650
The next room was full
of Olavsoka's stuff--

383
00:19:34,650 --> 00:19:36,720
her bedding, her food--

384
00:19:36,720 --> 00:19:39,240
because they expected
bombing so they

385
00:19:39,240 --> 00:19:41,100
put everything in the basement.

386
00:19:41,100 --> 00:19:43,170
It was filled to the ceiling.

387
00:19:43,170 --> 00:19:45,780
So we climbed over
this whole thing.

388
00:19:45,780 --> 00:19:47,880
We hid in the corner.

389
00:19:47,880 --> 00:19:51,630
Sure enough, the
Germans were next door.

390
00:19:51,630 --> 00:19:55,860
I don't know-- they
didn't hear us run.

391
00:19:55,860 --> 00:19:58,500
They didn't see us.

392
00:19:58,500 --> 00:20:00,360
It's a miracle.

393
00:20:00,360 --> 00:20:02,100
We hid there.

394
00:20:02,100 --> 00:20:04,070
We just shut the door.

395
00:20:04,070 --> 00:20:05,240
We couldn't close it.

396
00:20:05,240 --> 00:20:08,690
We just shut it, and
we hid in that corner.

397
00:20:08,690 --> 00:20:14,990
And we sat in that
corner like three mice.

398
00:20:14,990 --> 00:20:17,200
We sat there for
two or three days.

399
00:20:17,200 --> 00:20:20,680

400
00:20:20,680 --> 00:20:23,620
Eventually, we got very hungry.

401
00:20:23,620 --> 00:20:25,820
There was no food.

402
00:20:25,820 --> 00:20:30,880
So we found some stuff that
Mrs. [? Olavsoka ?] took down.

403
00:20:30,880 --> 00:20:33,580
And we started eating from it.

404
00:20:33,580 --> 00:20:36,500
And mama said, for God's
sake, this is not ours.

405
00:20:36,500 --> 00:20:37,930
We cannot eat this food.

406

00:20:37,930 --> 00:20:40,000

It doesn't belong to us.

407

00:20:40,000 --> 00:20:42,880

But we were children.

408

00:20:42,880 --> 00:20:45,350

And this took two, three days.

409

00:20:45,350 --> 00:20:50,830

The Germans were
behind the wall.

410

00:20:50,830 --> 00:20:53,060

Finally, Mrs.
Olavsoka's brother came.

411

00:20:53,060 --> 00:20:55,150

He couldn't stand it any longer.

412

00:20:55,150 --> 00:20:59,030

During the day he came,
he looked around--

413

00:20:59,030 --> 00:21:01,180

I don't think anybody
was in the basement.

414

00:21:01,180 --> 00:21:05,050

Maybe they went on some
exercise or something.

415

00:21:05,050 --> 00:21:06,370

Nobody was there.

416

00:21:06,370 --> 00:21:07,810

And he knocked on the window.

417

00:21:07,810 --> 00:21:10,520

He realized the door was closed.

418

00:21:10,520 --> 00:21:11,860
So he knew we were inside.

419
00:21:11,860 --> 00:21:13,900
He knocked on the window.

420
00:21:13,900 --> 00:21:15,550
And we opened it up.

421
00:21:15,550 --> 00:21:19,330
And he said, are
you still alive?

422
00:21:19,330 --> 00:21:21,310
And he said, give me the pail.

423
00:21:21,310 --> 00:21:23,890
That was the first thing--
give me the pail because we

424
00:21:23,890 --> 00:21:25,150
took the pail with us.

425
00:21:25,150 --> 00:21:28,840
Otherwise, it would be obvious
that somebody was there.

426
00:21:28,840 --> 00:21:33,970
And one by one he pulled
us out through that window.

427
00:21:33,970 --> 00:21:35,530
This is actually
when my mother hurt

428
00:21:35,530 --> 00:21:37,990
her arm, which later
became infected,

429
00:21:37,990 --> 00:21:41,560
which later is another story.

430

00:21:41,560 --> 00:21:43,840
He pulled us out.

431
00:21:43,840 --> 00:21:47,980
And he told us, look, the
Russians-- the Russian front

432
00:21:47,980 --> 00:21:50,980
is around the corner.

433
00:21:50,980 --> 00:21:52,600
The street is evacuated.

434
00:21:52,600 --> 00:21:54,550
Nobody's in the street.

435
00:21:54,550 --> 00:21:56,620
Just go to a public bunker.

436
00:21:56,620 --> 00:21:59,740
There is a public bunker
in the middle of the city.

437
00:21:59,740 --> 00:22:01,840
Everybody's going there.

438
00:22:01,840 --> 00:22:02,920
Go with the children.

439
00:22:02,920 --> 00:22:08,380
Say you are from
wherever you want to be.

440
00:22:08,380 --> 00:22:10,250
Mom said, OK.

441
00:22:10,250 --> 00:22:13,630
So we went to the public bunker.

442
00:22:13,630 --> 00:22:15,340
And everybody was there.

443

00:22:15,340 --> 00:22:18,070

I mean, people from
villages, people from houses,

444

00:22:18,070 --> 00:22:22,870

people from all
over, from the city.

445

00:22:22,870 --> 00:22:26,920

And mama said to me, you
know, we have no food.

446

00:22:26,920 --> 00:22:31,180

Go out and see if you
can get some food.

447

00:22:31,180 --> 00:22:35,170

I was the least
suspicious looking one.

448

00:22:35,170 --> 00:22:38,860

So I went out and came back.

449

00:22:38,860 --> 00:22:44,290

And mama says to me,
they recognized us.

450

00:22:44,290 --> 00:22:47,980

They were whispering
that we look very pale.

451

00:22:47,980 --> 00:22:50,430

It was summertime.