

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,265

2

00:00:06,265 --> 00:00:09,300

Take me back up to
going into the shelter.

3

00:00:09,300 --> 00:00:09,800

OK.

4

00:00:09,800 --> 00:00:19,760

5

00:00:19,760 --> 00:00:21,050

And give the context.

6

00:00:21,050 --> 00:00:25,400

Here we were three pale
Jews in hiding for so many,

7

00:00:25,400 --> 00:00:28,110

for more than--

8

00:00:28,110 --> 00:00:29,880

OK.

9

00:00:29,880 --> 00:00:31,920

We went-- OK.

10

00:00:31,920 --> 00:00:35,820

We had to go in
the public bunker.

11

00:00:35,820 --> 00:00:39,270

We were in hiding
for a long time.

12

00:00:39,270 --> 00:00:40,360

We were pale.

13

00:00:40,360 --> 00:00:40,860
Wait.

14
00:00:40,860 --> 00:00:43,590
Let's just wait till this
truck goes by and start again.

15
00:00:43,590 --> 00:00:45,080
OK, let's do it again.

16
00:00:45,080 --> 00:00:46,110
Sorry.

17
00:00:46,110 --> 00:00:48,120
That's OK.

18
00:00:48,120 --> 00:00:51,810
We went into the public bunker.

19
00:00:51,810 --> 00:00:54,780
We were very pale.

20
00:00:54,780 --> 00:01:02,730
And when I came back from where
my mother sent me, she says,

21
00:01:02,730 --> 00:01:04,739
they recognized us.

22
00:01:04,739 --> 00:01:06,330
They're whispering.

23
00:01:06,330 --> 00:01:07,830
They're saying we
must be Jewish,

24
00:01:07,830 --> 00:01:11,310
because the children
are very pale.

25
00:01:11,310 --> 00:01:12,000
We got to go.

26
00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:14,520

27
00:01:14,520 --> 00:01:16,680
So we left.

28
00:01:16,680 --> 00:01:20,460
Mrs. Olefska's brother
told us something before we

29
00:01:20,460 --> 00:01:21,720
went into this bunker.

30
00:01:21,720 --> 00:01:26,430
He says, if you really,
really have no other choice,

31
00:01:26,430 --> 00:01:29,220
I'll give you a place to go.

32
00:01:29,220 --> 00:01:33,960
There is a crazy professor
that has a house.

33
00:01:33,960 --> 00:01:36,750
He's crazy.

34
00:01:36,750 --> 00:01:39,360
He's harmless.

35
00:01:39,360 --> 00:01:42,850
If you have no other
choice, go to his house.

36
00:01:42,850 --> 00:01:45,090
He told us where it is.

37
00:01:45,090 --> 00:01:47,940
So we went to his house.

38

00:01:47,940 --> 00:01:52,320

We came there, and
he says, welcome.

39

00:01:52,320 --> 00:01:53,415

God sent me guests.

40

00:01:53,415 --> 00:01:56,550

41

00:01:56,550 --> 00:01:57,720

So we stayed in the house.

42

00:01:57,720 --> 00:02:00,330

43

00:02:00,330 --> 00:02:07,800

And middle of the night,
I hear him run, naked,

44

00:02:07,800 --> 00:02:11,340

never saw a naked man in
my life, at that point.

45

00:02:11,340 --> 00:02:15,420

And he's pulling my
mother by the hand, come,

46

00:02:15,420 --> 00:02:18,690

I got to show you something.

47

00:02:18,690 --> 00:02:21,150

And don't forget, when
you are frightened,

48

00:02:21,150 --> 00:02:24,330

everything frightens you.

49

00:02:24,330 --> 00:02:26,550

So he's pulling my
mother by the hand.

50

00:02:26,550 --> 00:02:28,770

I'm behind my mother,
my sister behind me.

51

00:02:28,770 --> 00:02:29,520

We're all running.

52

00:02:29,520 --> 00:02:31,590

He says, I gotta
show you something.

53

00:02:31,590 --> 00:02:35,250

There's a holy light burning.

54

00:02:35,250 --> 00:02:38,490

And he's pulling
her to the window.

55

00:02:38,490 --> 00:02:43,650

And he has a gas line
going with a flame.

56

00:02:43,650 --> 00:02:47,910

The holy light is there
burning, because he got company.

57

00:02:47,910 --> 00:02:50,790

In the meantime,
we died 100 deaths,

58

00:02:50,790 --> 00:02:53,250

because we had no idea
what he's pulling us,

59

00:02:53,250 --> 00:02:56,570

what he's going to show us.

60

00:02:56,570 --> 00:03:00,470

But we stayed in his house.

61

00:03:00,470 --> 00:03:04,880

We stayed in his house until
the Russian front came.

62
00:03:04,880 --> 00:03:10,010
Then this house had
to be evacuated, too.

63
00:03:10,010 --> 00:03:12,530
And we went to some village.

64
00:03:12,530 --> 00:03:15,680
I have no recollection of what.

65
00:03:15,680 --> 00:03:16,310
We came there.

66
00:03:16,310 --> 00:03:19,370
By that time, we
weren't so pale anymore.

67
00:03:19,370 --> 00:03:20,530
We came there.

68
00:03:20,530 --> 00:03:21,950
We went into the bunker.

69
00:03:21,950 --> 00:03:24,230
Everybody was in
the bunker again,

70
00:03:24,230 --> 00:03:26,660
because there was bombing.

71
00:03:26,660 --> 00:03:31,040
And there was a couple, and
they befriended my mother.

72
00:03:31,040 --> 00:03:33,830
And the women were making
plans, after the war,

73
00:03:33,830 --> 00:03:35,340
we're going to go
to the big city,

74
00:03:35,340 --> 00:03:36,590
they're going to open a store.

75
00:03:36,590 --> 00:03:40,070
Because the war
was toward the end.

76
00:03:40,070 --> 00:03:46,640
And when the Russians came
in, and my mother told her

77
00:03:46,640 --> 00:03:49,700
who she is, she
wouldn't believe it.

78
00:03:49,700 --> 00:03:53,930
And she would not have
anything to do with her.

79
00:03:53,930 --> 00:03:57,530
She wanted no part of her.

80
00:03:57,530 --> 00:03:59,540
Well, that's OK.

81
00:03:59,540 --> 00:04:01,850
The Russians liberated
us at that point.

82
00:04:01,850 --> 00:04:04,420

83
00:04:04,420 --> 00:04:07,330
Tell me who [Vishbitsky ?] was.

84
00:04:07,330 --> 00:04:11,740
Tell me what you know
about him, what he did.

85
00:04:11,740 --> 00:04:13,840
OK.

86
00:04:13,840 --> 00:04:16,360
[?Vishbitsky?] basically
was my father's customer.

87
00:04:16,360 --> 00:04:17,420
He had a farm.

88
00:04:17,420 --> 00:04:19,848
He's a farmer, had a big farm.

89
00:04:19,848 --> 00:04:20,890
He used to be a customer.

90
00:04:20,890 --> 00:04:24,370
He would come and
buy from my father.

91
00:04:24,370 --> 00:04:27,470
When the war started, then my
father wasn't there anymore.

92
00:04:27,470 --> 00:04:30,250
He used to come and
buy from my mother.

93
00:04:30,250 --> 00:04:33,940
He many times brought us fresh
eggs and butter from the farm,

94
00:04:33,940 --> 00:04:37,720
and of course, mama
paid him for it.

95
00:04:37,720 --> 00:04:40,990
And he also used to like
to go into the back room

96
00:04:40,990 --> 00:04:42,610
where there was storage.

97
00:04:42,610 --> 00:04:45,160

98

00:04:45,160 --> 00:04:49,780

And every time mama would come
home from the store and bring

99

00:04:49,780 --> 00:04:51,800

fresh eggs, and
butter, and chicken,

100

00:04:51,800 --> 00:04:54,910

whatever he brought from the
farm, she would say, you know,

101

00:04:54,910 --> 00:04:57,820

[?Vishbitsky ?] came,
and he brought us this.

102

00:04:57,820 --> 00:05:01,810

And he also went
into the back room,

103

00:05:01,810 --> 00:05:03,850

and I know that he
filled his pockets.

104

00:05:03,850 --> 00:05:06,970

105

00:05:06,970 --> 00:05:10,180

But I cannot say
anything to him.

106

00:05:10,180 --> 00:05:11,770

I actually didn't see it.

107

00:05:11,770 --> 00:05:14,140

I just know he does it.

108

00:05:14,140 --> 00:05:16,240

But I didn't see
it with my eyes,

109

00:05:16,240 --> 00:05:21,640

and I cannot go and
touch his pockets.

110

00:05:21,640 --> 00:05:23,620

So he was actually stealing.

111

00:05:23,620 --> 00:05:26,780

My mother said never a word.

112

00:05:26,780 --> 00:05:27,280

Wait.

113

00:05:27,280 --> 00:05:29,360

Let's cut for a minute.

114

00:05:29,360 --> 00:05:34,460

That's this little
[BEEP] I want you to--

115

00:05:34,460 --> 00:05:36,358

That little tiny piece
was a false start,

116

00:05:36,358 --> 00:05:37,400

and that was [INAUDIBLE].

117

00:05:37,400 --> 00:05:41,660

Tell me more about
how difficult it

118

00:05:41,660 --> 00:05:46,880

was in Poland to be a
rescuer, and how many

119

00:05:46,880 --> 00:05:48,260

denouncers there were.

120

00:05:48,260 --> 00:05:50,540

I mean, people cling
to the rescue stories

121

00:05:50,540 --> 00:05:54,650

as though they're the
hope for humankind,

122

00:05:54,650 --> 00:05:57,770

the rescue stories are.

123

00:05:57,770 --> 00:05:59,200

How do you feel about that?

124

00:05:59,200 --> 00:06:02,520

125

00:06:02,520 --> 00:06:09,050

Well, the rescue stories
are wonderful, not enough.

126

00:06:09,050 --> 00:06:13,980

There were not-- there were some
rescuers, no question about it.

127

00:06:13,980 --> 00:06:15,740

But there were more
people that denounced

128

00:06:15,740 --> 00:06:18,650

people, that pointed a finger.

129

00:06:18,650 --> 00:06:21,470

It was very difficult
to be a rescuer.

130

00:06:21,470 --> 00:06:22,620

You faced the same--

131

00:06:22,620 --> 00:06:24,560

I think I said that--

132

00:06:24,560 --> 00:06:27,980

you faced the same
penalties, even worse.

133

00:06:27,980 --> 00:06:32,150

They were hung for
everybody to see.

134

00:06:32,150 --> 00:06:33,680

Yet a lot of people did it.

135

00:06:33,680 --> 00:06:37,160

A lot of people
did it for money.

136

00:06:37,160 --> 00:06:39,770

But a lot of people,
like in our case,

137

00:06:39,770 --> 00:06:44,210

did it out of the
goodness of their heart.

138

00:06:44,210 --> 00:06:45,590

They just did it.

139

00:06:45,590 --> 00:06:47,900

They felt it was a
Christian way to do it.

140

00:06:47,900 --> 00:06:50,670

That was it.

141

00:06:50,670 --> 00:06:53,940

But most of the
population pointed

142

00:06:53,940 --> 00:06:57,140

a finger, pointed us out.

143

00:06:57,140 --> 00:07:00,890

The Germans could not
distinguish who was

144

00:07:00,890 --> 00:07:03,080

and who was not a

Jew, except that they

145
00:07:03,080 --> 00:07:05,030
pulled the men's pants down.

146
00:07:05,030 --> 00:07:07,592
Women for sure, they
could not distinguish.

147
00:07:07,592 --> 00:07:10,190

148
00:07:10,190 --> 00:07:13,340
So I think that it wouldn't
be for the Polish people,

149
00:07:13,340 --> 00:07:15,440
there would be a
lot of people alive.

150
00:07:15,440 --> 00:07:18,290
A lot of people were
in the woods hiding.

151
00:07:18,290 --> 00:07:23,690
A lot of people were running,
hiding in cemeteries,

152
00:07:23,690 --> 00:07:25,880
hiding all places.

153
00:07:25,880 --> 00:07:28,940
Germans wouldn't go
looking there for them.

154
00:07:28,940 --> 00:07:30,650
But they went there
after they were

155
00:07:30,650 --> 00:07:36,650
told where to go, simple
as that, hide and go seek.

156

00:07:36,650 --> 00:07:40,604

What do you know
about pogroms after?

157

00:07:40,604 --> 00:07:41,480

After the war?

158

00:07:41,480 --> 00:07:44,180

159

00:07:44,180 --> 00:07:47,660

When we came back to our
hometown after liberation,

160

00:07:47,660 --> 00:07:48,740

it wasn't after the war.

161

00:07:48,740 --> 00:07:49,940

It was after liberation.

162

00:07:49,940 --> 00:07:52,460

The war wasn't over yet.

163

00:07:52,460 --> 00:07:54,440

We couldn't go
back to our house,

164

00:07:54,440 --> 00:07:58,070

because our house was part of
the ghetto, and was leveled.

165

00:07:58,070 --> 00:07:59,390

They built a road there.

166

00:07:59,390 --> 00:08:02,540

Our house and my
grandparents' house was gone.

167

00:08:02,540 --> 00:08:04,130

They built a road.

168

00:08:04,130 --> 00:08:07,520

And we lived in an
apartment in the city.

169

00:08:07,520 --> 00:08:10,460

There was a few people
there were rescued.

170

00:08:10,460 --> 00:08:15,590

There was a father and three
daughters that were in hiding,

171

00:08:15,590 --> 00:08:19,670

and other people came coming
out, like from the woods

172

00:08:19,670 --> 00:08:22,790

or from the partisans.

173

00:08:22,790 --> 00:08:28,400

And I have to back
up, because there

174

00:08:28,400 --> 00:08:31,790

was a group of people in hiding
during the occupation, about

175

00:08:31,790 --> 00:08:32,570

20 people.

176

00:08:32,570 --> 00:08:35,900

They were hiding in
a woman's basement.

177

00:08:35,900 --> 00:08:41,809

And the local army, the Polish
underground knew about them,

178

00:08:41,809 --> 00:08:45,830

and they came to kill them off.

179

00:08:45,830 --> 00:08:48,500

That was during the occupation.

180
00:08:48,500 --> 00:08:54,050
At that point, they bought
their lives with gold and silver

181
00:08:54,050 --> 00:08:55,760
and money, whatever they had.

182
00:08:55,760 --> 00:09:00,290
They just bought themselves out.

183
00:09:00,290 --> 00:09:03,020
Besides, they convinced
the attackers-- there

184
00:09:03,020 --> 00:09:05,360
was a band of them--
they convinced them

185
00:09:05,360 --> 00:09:10,010
if they get killed, the
woman that was in her house,

186
00:09:10,010 --> 00:09:11,390
what would happen to her?

187
00:09:11,390 --> 00:09:14,600
So somehow, they let it be.

188
00:09:14,600 --> 00:09:18,300
These same people showed up
at the man's house, the man

189
00:09:18,300 --> 00:09:23,960
and the three daughters who came
back and lived in their house.

190
00:09:23,960 --> 00:09:29,690
They came there one afternoon
and they said, this time,

191
00:09:29,690 --> 00:09:33,420

you cannot buy your
life with money.

192
00:09:33,420 --> 00:09:35,590
And they shot them.

193
00:09:35,590 --> 00:09:39,420
There was also a young
boy there visiting.

194
00:09:39,420 --> 00:09:40,290
He was shot.

195
00:09:40,290 --> 00:09:42,150
One of the girls survived.

196
00:09:42,150 --> 00:09:46,770
Somehow she was in another
room, and she hid under a bed.

197
00:09:46,770 --> 00:09:50,280
After this, we
left our hometown,

198
00:09:50,280 --> 00:09:53,040
because nobody was safe.

199
00:09:53,040 --> 00:09:58,890
This time, we were running
from our own [? Polocks. ?]

200
00:09:58,890 --> 00:10:00,630
List for me the things you lost.

201
00:10:00,630 --> 00:10:07,470

202
00:10:07,470 --> 00:10:10,380
I lost my childhood.

203
00:10:10,380 --> 00:10:11,850
I lost my father.

204
00:10:11,850 --> 00:10:17,800

205
00:10:17,800 --> 00:10:19,360
I lost my education.

206
00:10:19,360 --> 00:10:27,020

207
00:10:27,020 --> 00:10:33,470
I lost of who I was, of
what I would have become.

208
00:10:33,470 --> 00:10:37,070
My parents had
great hopes for me.

209
00:10:37,070 --> 00:10:39,090
There was a piano
coming into the house.

210
00:10:39,090 --> 00:10:42,110
I was going to study music.

211
00:10:42,110 --> 00:10:47,630
My parents said they were going
to send me to the best schools.

212
00:10:47,630 --> 00:10:49,190
I lost friends.

213
00:10:49,190 --> 00:10:52,580
I lost family.

214
00:10:52,580 --> 00:10:56,420
I lost grandparents, and
aunts, and uncles, and cousins.

215
00:10:56,420 --> 00:11:00,040

216

00:11:00,040 --> 00:11:03,220

There's no family.

217

00:11:03,220 --> 00:11:06,040

I have friends now

that I consider family,

218

00:11:06,040 --> 00:11:07,930

because I don't have any family.

219

00:11:07,930 --> 00:11:13,600

220

00:11:13,600 --> 00:11:18,220

I'm not even going to talk

about the material possessions.

221

00:11:18,220 --> 00:11:21,790

My parents had a beautiful

home and a wonderful business,

222

00:11:21,790 --> 00:11:29,860

and they were very wealthy,

and gone with the wind.

223

00:11:29,860 --> 00:11:30,360

OK.

224

00:11:30,360 --> 00:11:35,545

225

00:11:35,545 --> 00:11:37,117

I am your-- heart--

226

00:11:37,117 --> 00:11:38,200

But you can't [INAUDIBLE].

227

00:11:38,200 --> 00:11:39,420

Can't roll 7.

228

00:11:39,420 --> 00:11:40,930

And 7 is up.

229

00:11:40,930 --> 00:11:46,040

230

00:11:46,040 --> 00:11:50,810

Tell me, what is the
legacy of the survivor?

231

00:11:50,810 --> 00:11:54,830

The legacy is that each
and every one of us

232

00:11:54,830 --> 00:11:57,030

has a story to tell.

233

00:11:57,030 --> 00:12:00,830

It's never enough, no matter how
many books have been written.

234

00:12:00,830 --> 00:12:03,530

Everyone is different.

235

00:12:03,530 --> 00:12:07,550

And it is our obligation
to talk about it

236

00:12:07,550 --> 00:12:12,350

and to talk about the rescuers.

237

00:12:12,350 --> 00:12:16,140

Because if it would
be not for them,

238

00:12:16,140 --> 00:12:19,380

there would be no one
to tell the story.

239

00:12:19,380 --> 00:12:23,690

There's a lot of doubt
about the Holocaust.

240

00:12:23,690 --> 00:12:26,090
Believe me, there was one.

241
00:12:26,090 --> 00:12:31,940
And if you don't believe the
survivors, ask the rescuers.

242
00:12:31,940 --> 00:12:40,460
And if we lead a semi-normal
life, this is a victory.

243
00:12:40,460 --> 00:12:42,390
We did survive.

244
00:12:42,390 --> 00:12:44,450
And if Hitler would
see us now, he

245
00:12:44,450 --> 00:12:49,220
would turn in his grave 100
times, because we did survive.

246
00:12:49,220 --> 00:12:51,980
He did not.

247
00:12:51,980 --> 00:12:57,630
And we are just as
good as anybody else.

248
00:12:57,630 --> 00:13:01,590
And I don't think
any people deserves

249
00:13:01,590 --> 00:13:04,040
to what happened to us.

250
00:13:04,040 --> 00:13:07,070
It is an obligation to
talk, and it should never

251
00:13:07,070 --> 00:13:08,500
happen again, ever.

252

00:13:08,500 --> 00:13:11,020

253

00:13:11,020 --> 00:13:14,440

People have this
saying that Jews went

254

00:13:14,440 --> 00:13:16,090

like sheep to the slaughter.

255

00:13:16,090 --> 00:13:19,480

How does that make you feel?

256

00:13:19,480 --> 00:13:21,910

They did not have a choice.

257

00:13:21,910 --> 00:13:23,650

It was very systematic.

258

00:13:23,650 --> 00:13:30,620

259

00:13:30,620 --> 00:13:32,600

Some did, and some did not.

260

00:13:32,600 --> 00:13:36,230

There were some people
that were fighting.

261

00:13:36,230 --> 00:13:38,090

There was a Warsaw
Ghetto uprising.

262

00:13:38,090 --> 00:13:41,660

There were people
fighting in the woods.

263

00:13:41,660 --> 00:13:42,740

There were partisans.

264

00:13:42,740 --> 00:13:44,780

There were people
on the underground.

265
00:13:44,780 --> 00:13:47,870
Most people did go like
sheep, unfortunately.

266
00:13:47,870 --> 00:13:50,330
They were very
systematic about it.

267
00:13:50,330 --> 00:13:54,140
How do you fight
somebody with guns?

268
00:13:54,140 --> 00:13:59,473
How do you fight with
bare hands against guns?

269
00:13:59,473 --> 00:14:00,515
I mean, they were mighty.

270
00:14:00,515 --> 00:14:03,260

271
00:14:03,260 --> 00:14:08,420
They stripped you of your
dignity before they killed you.

272
00:14:08,420 --> 00:14:11,435
When you have no dignity,
there is no life.

273
00:14:11,435 --> 00:14:14,280

274
00:14:14,280 --> 00:14:20,370
They stripped you of
whatever you believed in.

275
00:14:20,370 --> 00:14:21,135
You were nothing.

276

00:14:21,135 --> 00:14:26,460

277

00:14:26,460 --> 00:14:30,390

How can you fight this?

278

00:14:30,390 --> 00:14:34,020

The ones that did
are very courageous.

279

00:14:34,020 --> 00:14:36,330

A lot did not survive.

280

00:14:36,330 --> 00:14:38,850

The ones that did
are very courageous.

281

00:14:38,850 --> 00:14:43,310

282

00:14:43,310 --> 00:14:44,370

I don't know.

283

00:14:44,370 --> 00:14:49,915

284

00:14:49,915 --> 00:14:54,060

I don't have the vocabulary
to sum it up properly.

285

00:14:54,060 --> 00:14:57,930

286

00:14:57,930 --> 00:15:03,450

The only thing I know is history
should never repeat itself,

287

00:15:03,450 --> 00:15:06,900

not this history, for sure.

288

00:15:06,900 --> 00:15:10,020

And I hope there's more
people like Mrs. Olefska

289
00:15:10,020 --> 00:15:13,710
and Vishbitsky, and others
that I don't know about.

290
00:15:13,710 --> 00:15:16,573
Because if it
wouldn't be for them,

291
00:15:16,573 --> 00:15:17,865
I don't know who would survive.

292
00:15:17,865 --> 00:15:22,473

293
00:15:22,473 --> 00:15:23,790
That's it.

294
00:15:23,790 --> 00:15:25,690
Thank you.

295
00:15:25,690 --> 00:15:26,740
Are we done?

296
00:15:26,740 --> 00:15:28,650
Yeah.

297
00:15:28,650 --> 00:15:30,570
you we are following
this 30 seconds

298
00:15:30,570 --> 00:15:32,970
of room tone for an
interview with Steve

299
00:15:32,970 --> 00:15:38,990
Cooper we're going to record
the sound of the room it's what.