

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,530
M-A-L-N-I-K.

2
00:00:01,530 --> 00:00:04,020
But if you do--

3
00:00:04,020 --> 00:00:06,907

4
00:00:06,907 --> 00:00:07,490
Wait a minute.

5
00:00:07,490 --> 00:00:08,119
Let's cut.

6
00:00:08,119 --> 00:00:10,250
Did we put a sign on the
door, don't ring the bell?

7
00:00:10,250 --> 00:00:11,290
OK.

8
00:00:11,290 --> 00:00:11,790
All right.

9
00:00:11,790 --> 00:00:12,300
Let's go.

10
00:00:12,300 --> 00:00:18,590

11
00:00:18,590 --> 00:00:22,220
I want you to tell me the
story of how you ended up

12
00:00:22,220 --> 00:00:25,520
working for the factory
owner and giving

13
00:00:25,520 --> 00:00:28,690

a manicure to the SS.

14

00:00:28,690 --> 00:00:31,570

So you probably want
to tell me that you

15

00:00:31,570 --> 00:00:35,020

were in hiding in the country
with your aunt and uncle.

16

00:00:35,020 --> 00:00:37,120

Sandy, I'm sorry,
but something just

17

00:00:37,120 --> 00:00:39,410

came on before we got started.

18

00:00:39,410 --> 00:00:41,980

Is it the central--

19

00:00:41,980 --> 00:00:44,996

I'm going to start when
you guys are slating.

20

00:00:44,996 --> 00:00:47,710

I want you to tell the
story of how you ended up

21

00:00:47,710 --> 00:00:50,740

working for the factory
owner and giving

22

00:00:50,740 --> 00:00:52,480

a manicure to the SS.

23

00:00:52,480 --> 00:00:55,330

And I want you to give
a one line context,

24

00:00:55,330 --> 00:00:59,590

maybe my brother and mother
had already been taken

25

00:00:59,590 --> 00:01:01,900
and I was in hiding--

26

00:01:01,900 --> 00:01:02,710
With my aunt.

27

00:01:02,710 --> 00:01:03,210
Yeah.

28

00:01:03,210 --> 00:01:05,750

29

00:01:05,750 --> 00:01:06,250
Now?

30

00:01:06,250 --> 00:01:08,980
Do I start-- OK.

31

00:01:08,980 --> 00:01:11,320
My family was taken
already while I

32

00:01:11,320 --> 00:01:15,790
was convalescing in my
aunt and uncle's home

33

00:01:15,790 --> 00:01:22,750
after a tonsillitis operation.

34

00:01:22,750 --> 00:01:28,900
And I had nobody but my aunt and
uncle, and I stayed with them.

35

00:01:28,900 --> 00:01:35,170
And I acquainted people
that lived next door to us,

36

00:01:35,170 --> 00:01:37,160
which liked me very much.

37

00:01:37,160 --> 00:01:39,550

And they suggested that
I should come and work

38
00:01:39,550 --> 00:01:43,000
for them while we were
in hiding and nobody

39
00:01:43,000 --> 00:01:46,450
will know that I am Jewish.

40
00:01:46,450 --> 00:01:50,560
And the Germans, when
they invaded Belgium,

41
00:01:50,560 --> 00:01:53,350
took his factory over.

42
00:01:53,350 --> 00:01:58,960
So I was doing camouflaged
work in the factory.

43
00:01:58,960 --> 00:02:02,620
And the owner was
very, very nice to me

44
00:02:02,620 --> 00:02:05,500
and was trying to
help me so that we

45
00:02:05,500 --> 00:02:11,050
could stay in the
apartment and live there.

46
00:02:11,050 --> 00:02:13,480
And the little bit of
money I made there,

47
00:02:13,480 --> 00:02:18,440
I help my aunt and
uncle to buy groceries.

48
00:02:18,440 --> 00:02:25,410
And while I was doing the

work at night in the evening,

49

00:02:25,410 --> 00:02:28,690

there was another neighbor
who knew I was Jewish,

50

00:02:28,690 --> 00:02:30,540

and he had a beauty shop.

51

00:02:30,540 --> 00:02:34,080

And they made connection
with this gentleman

52

00:02:34,080 --> 00:02:37,860

there and asked for
me to go and work

53

00:02:37,860 --> 00:02:44,040

there and learn the trade as
an apprentice to do manicuring.

54

00:02:44,040 --> 00:02:48,300

And so I was learning
to trade in the evenings

55

00:02:48,300 --> 00:02:50,880

to be a manicurist.

56

00:02:50,880 --> 00:02:53,280

And in the evening,
I would practice

57

00:02:53,280 --> 00:02:58,470

on the owner of the beauty
shops how to do the nails.

58

00:02:58,470 --> 00:03:04,020

And one day, the
owner from the factory

59

00:03:04,020 --> 00:03:08,880

told me, Lilly, I request for
you to do something for me.

60

00:03:08,880 --> 00:03:11,910

You don't go to work
in the beauty shop,

61

00:03:11,910 --> 00:03:17,280

but come into our apartment
and help me in the kitchen

62

00:03:17,280 --> 00:03:21,390

because we are entertaining
German people who

63

00:03:21,390 --> 00:03:23,280

control the factory.

64

00:03:23,280 --> 00:03:25,590

And I said, how can I do that?

65

00:03:25,590 --> 00:03:29,550

I said, they'll know I'm Jewish
and they'll take me away.

66

00:03:29,550 --> 00:03:31,780

And he says, don't worry.

67

00:03:31,780 --> 00:03:34,750

I promise you you won't
come out of the kitchen.

68

00:03:34,750 --> 00:03:37,410

I'll come in and I'll give
you orders in the kitchen,

69

00:03:37,410 --> 00:03:41,010

and you won't have to
show yourself over there

70

00:03:41,010 --> 00:03:43,560

and please do it.

71

00:03:43,560 --> 00:03:45,970

And I couldn't refuse the man.

72

00:03:45,970 --> 00:03:48,750

He was so nice to me and
he was trying to help me.

73

00:03:48,750 --> 00:03:50,820

So I said, OK, I will.

74

00:03:50,820 --> 00:03:54,900

And I went that night
to his house, which

75

00:03:54,900 --> 00:03:58,920

was next door to our apartment.

76

00:03:58,920 --> 00:04:02,010

And the dinner--
everything went very good.

77

00:04:02,010 --> 00:04:04,710

And while I was finishing
up, he came in and says,

78

00:04:04,710 --> 00:04:07,740

Lilly, please don't
be nervous, but I

79

00:04:07,740 --> 00:04:10,650

told him that you
were a manicurist

80

00:04:10,650 --> 00:04:15,180

and one of the German
officers would like--

81

00:04:15,180 --> 00:04:19,089

and are requesting for you
to give him a manicure.

82

00:04:19,089 --> 00:04:20,970

Well, I almost dropped
dead right there

83
00:04:20,970 --> 00:04:22,810
because I was so frightened.

84
00:04:22,810 --> 00:04:25,410
And for an excuse,
again, I told him,

85
00:04:25,410 --> 00:04:27,240
I don't have my tools with me.

86
00:04:27,240 --> 00:04:28,110
I can't do it.

87
00:04:28,110 --> 00:04:31,740
And I'm scared and I
will cut his fingers.

88
00:04:31,740 --> 00:04:34,200
So he says, calm down.

89
00:04:34,200 --> 00:04:36,780
I have tools, and
you'll go in there

90
00:04:36,780 --> 00:04:39,810
and you'll give him a manicure.

91
00:04:39,810 --> 00:04:41,850
I said, how can I?

92
00:04:41,850 --> 00:04:44,400
I'll be shaking all over.

93
00:04:44,400 --> 00:04:48,160
And he insisted I should do it.

94
00:04:48,160 --> 00:04:49,950
And so I went in.

95
00:04:49,950 --> 00:04:52,080

There was nothing
for me else to do.

96
00:04:52,080 --> 00:04:55,860
I went in and I
spoke very little.

97
00:04:55,860 --> 00:04:58,830
I pretended I didn't
understand what

98
00:04:58,830 --> 00:05:01,140
they were saying because
they were speaking

99
00:05:01,140 --> 00:05:03,970
German in between themselves.

100
00:05:03,970 --> 00:05:08,670
And I gave my manicure, and
he gave me a generous tip yet.

101
00:05:08,670 --> 00:05:13,080
And how I didn't
cut his fingers,

102
00:05:13,080 --> 00:05:17,040
I don't understand to this day
because I was a nervous wreck

103
00:05:17,040 --> 00:05:18,330
inside of me.

104
00:05:18,330 --> 00:05:21,930
And that was one of the
most terrible experiences

105
00:05:21,930 --> 00:05:29,890
that I had to experience before
I even was caught in Belgium.

106
00:05:29,890 --> 00:05:31,410
Great.

107
00:05:31,410 --> 00:05:37,740
Tell the story of the tenant who
denounced your aunt and uncle,

108
00:05:37,740 --> 00:05:42,090
how they left and you stayed
with the factory owner,

109
00:05:42,090 --> 00:05:46,290
and overheard the
Germans come to search.

110
00:05:46,290 --> 00:05:51,180
In that same apartment where I
lived with my aunt and uncle,

111
00:05:51,180 --> 00:05:55,590
one night after work
in the beauty shop,

112
00:05:55,590 --> 00:05:58,980
I came home and my aunt
and uncle were crying

113
00:05:58,980 --> 00:06:00,870
and were very upset.

114
00:06:00,870 --> 00:06:05,430
And they told me,
Lilly, we have to leave.

115
00:06:05,430 --> 00:06:10,320
Some neighbors came and
told us that the new tenants

116
00:06:10,320 --> 00:06:12,360
that moved in--

117
00:06:12,360 --> 00:06:15,120
we lived in an
apartment building,

118

00:06:15,120 --> 00:06:17,410
and we each had apartments.

119

00:06:17,410 --> 00:06:22,890
So they found out that we were
Jewish and they denounced us.

120

00:06:22,890 --> 00:06:25,000
And had-- word came to them.

121

00:06:25,000 --> 00:06:27,210
I don't know to
this day, but they

122

00:06:27,210 --> 00:06:32,280
knew that that night the Germans
were coming to take us away.

123

00:06:32,280 --> 00:06:37,590
So I quick ran over to our
next-door neighbor's, which

124

00:06:37,590 --> 00:06:40,290
was my boss from the factory.

125

00:06:40,290 --> 00:06:45,750
And I told him, and I
said we were in despair.

126

00:06:45,750 --> 00:06:49,140
He says, take the
keys of the factory.

127

00:06:49,140 --> 00:06:52,620
Tell your mother-- your
aunt and uncle to go

128

00:06:52,620 --> 00:06:54,510
and hide there overnight.

129

00:06:54,510 --> 00:06:57,630
They can only stay

there one night.

130

00:06:57,630 --> 00:07:02,430

You come and stay with
us in our apartment.

131

00:07:02,430 --> 00:07:05,850

But tomorrow morning
when they leave,

132

00:07:05,850 --> 00:07:08,190

they should not come
back to the apartment.

133

00:07:08,190 --> 00:07:11,700

They should go out
and find another place

134

00:07:11,700 --> 00:07:14,020

and never come back here.

135

00:07:14,020 --> 00:07:18,750

So I went back to my aunt
and uncle that evening,

136

00:07:18,750 --> 00:07:22,290

and I gave them the
keys of the factory.

137

00:07:22,290 --> 00:07:27,600

I told my aunt and uncle to
take whatever they can with them

138

00:07:27,600 --> 00:07:31,680

and stay in the factory
overnight and leave

139

00:07:31,680 --> 00:07:33,690

the next day in the morning.

140

00:07:33,690 --> 00:07:40,530

And I went to sleep over
in my boss's apartment.

141
00:07:40,530 --> 00:07:45,270
Well, it didn't take long,
maybe about midnight or 1:00.

142
00:07:45,270 --> 00:07:48,150
I really don't know
what time it was.

143
00:07:48,150 --> 00:07:51,570
We heard the trucks come and--

144
00:07:51,570 --> 00:07:54,360
the squeaking of the
trucks and they stopped.

145
00:07:54,360 --> 00:07:57,060
And it so happened that
the apartment where

146
00:07:57,060 --> 00:08:00,280
I slept, the wall
of the bedroom was

147
00:08:00,280 --> 00:08:05,940
the other side of the apartment
of our living room from my aunt

148
00:08:05,940 --> 00:08:07,290
and uncle.

149
00:08:07,290 --> 00:08:08,820
We heard him come up.

150
00:08:08,820 --> 00:08:11,040
We heard him go
in the apartment.

151
00:08:11,040 --> 00:08:13,470
We heard the screams
and the hollerings,

152

00:08:13,470 --> 00:08:15,240
because they didn't find us.

153
00:08:15,240 --> 00:08:17,550
They were very angry and upset.

154
00:08:17,550 --> 00:08:20,940
They were throwing the furniture
all over the apartment.

155
00:08:20,940 --> 00:08:25,350
The walls of the bedroom
where I was sleeping

156
00:08:25,350 --> 00:08:31,950
was vibrating from the banging
and throwing the furniture

157
00:08:31,950 --> 00:08:33,299
around.

158
00:08:33,299 --> 00:08:35,130
And then they left.

159
00:08:35,130 --> 00:08:41,220
But before that, the owner
was so nervous and upset,

160
00:08:41,220 --> 00:08:46,230
he ran to the window
and he looked down.

161
00:08:46,230 --> 00:08:50,760
And the wife was so nervous and
upset, she grabbed my hand--

162
00:08:50,760 --> 00:08:52,170
we were laying in bed--

163
00:08:52,170 --> 00:08:56,010
and she said, Lilly, please,
Lilly, pray to your God

164

00:08:56,010 --> 00:08:58,140
that they shouldn't find us.

165

00:08:58,140 --> 00:09:00,600
And otherwise, they're
going to shoot us

166

00:09:00,600 --> 00:09:02,790
and they're going
to take you away.

167

00:09:02,790 --> 00:09:07,410
Please pray to your God and
that your God should hear you.

168

00:09:07,410 --> 00:09:09,510
And then she was
hollering at her husband

169

00:09:09,510 --> 00:09:12,900
to get away from the window
because she was afraid

170

00:09:12,900 --> 00:09:16,620
that they would see him and
they would come upstairs.

171

00:09:16,620 --> 00:09:23,460
But thank God, nobody saw us and
nobody told that I was there.

172

00:09:23,460 --> 00:09:25,740
And they drove off.

173

00:09:25,740 --> 00:09:29,280
And this is how they
really saved my life.

174

00:09:29,280 --> 00:09:32,100
Because I wouldn't have
been here because I

175

00:09:32,100 --> 00:09:35,550
was able to hide for
two years like that

176
00:09:35,550 --> 00:09:39,345
until my aunt and
uncle and I was caught.

177
00:09:39,345 --> 00:09:43,970

178
00:09:43,970 --> 00:09:47,210
Tell me that story,
how you got picked up.

179
00:09:47,210 --> 00:09:53,330
Well, when my aunt and
uncle were in hiding,

180
00:09:53,330 --> 00:09:57,320
they went and found
another neighborhood.

181
00:09:57,320 --> 00:10:00,900
The neighborhood was not
a real good neighborhood.

182
00:10:00,900 --> 00:10:07,960
It was low--
working people live.

183
00:10:07,960 --> 00:10:14,300
And they took one
room furnished,

184
00:10:14,300 --> 00:10:16,670
and they stayed in
that little room.

185
00:10:16,670 --> 00:10:22,710
And I befriended a friend who
I worked with in the factory.

186

00:10:22,710 --> 00:10:27,020

She was a girl about maybe
two, three years older than me,

187

00:10:27,020 --> 00:10:29,000

and she liked me very much.

188

00:10:29,000 --> 00:10:32,420

When my aunt and uncle moved
away from the neighborhood

189

00:10:32,420 --> 00:10:35,870

and I was in despair, I
didn't know where to go.

190

00:10:35,870 --> 00:10:38,000

And I mentioned it
to her, I said--

191

00:10:38,000 --> 00:10:40,510

and she knew I was Jewish.

192

00:10:40,510 --> 00:10:43,547

So she says, Lilly, don't worry.

193

00:10:43,547 --> 00:10:46,130

I'm going to tell my mother that
you're going to come and live

194

00:10:46,130 --> 00:10:47,150

with me--

195

00:10:47,150 --> 00:10:48,200

with us.

196

00:10:48,200 --> 00:10:49,700

I says, how can I do this?

197

00:10:49,700 --> 00:10:51,260

I cannot-- I cannot.

198

00:10:51,260 --> 00:10:55,650

And they were working people
that really had no money.

199
00:10:55,650 --> 00:10:59,490
And I said, your mother
is not going to like that.

200
00:10:59,490 --> 00:11:03,210
She says, my mother
will do it for you.

201
00:11:03,210 --> 00:11:05,660
And so she asked her
mother and her mother

202
00:11:05,660 --> 00:11:09,600
agreed that I should
come and stay with them.

203
00:11:09,600 --> 00:11:14,840
So the money that I was
making I gave to her mother

204
00:11:14,840 --> 00:11:18,620
for me to help with
the room and board.

205
00:11:18,620 --> 00:11:23,090
But then naturally, I started to
worry about my aunt and uncle.

206
00:11:23,090 --> 00:11:24,200
And I knew--

207
00:11:24,200 --> 00:11:25,395
We have to reload.

208
00:11:25,395 --> 00:11:25,895
OK.

209
00:11:25,895 --> 00:11:29,340

210

00:11:29,340 --> 00:11:30,550

Yeah, let's pick--

211

00:11:30,550 --> 00:11:35,050

212

00:11:35,050 --> 00:11:35,970

OK.

213

00:11:35,970 --> 00:11:40,340

Why don't you pick it

up I think you were--

214

00:11:40,340 --> 00:11:45,970

I was nervous and worried

about my aunt and uncle.

215

00:11:45,970 --> 00:11:51,490

And I decided one

morning on a Sunday early

216

00:11:51,490 --> 00:11:55,720

that I would go and visit them

where they were in hiding.

217

00:11:55,720 --> 00:11:58,750

They naturally did not

know that I was coming,

218

00:11:58,750 --> 00:12:02,200

and I surprised them and

I came to visit them.

219

00:12:02,200 --> 00:12:05,200

Towards evening when

I wanted to go back

220

00:12:05,200 --> 00:12:11,120

to the girl who invited

me to stay with her,

221

00:12:11,120 --> 00:12:16,330

my uncle said, Lilly, don't
go back, sleep over tonight,

222

00:12:16,330 --> 00:12:20,410
and I am worried for you
to go through the section.

223

00:12:20,410 --> 00:12:23,440
Because the men that
lived around there

224

00:12:23,440 --> 00:12:27,490
in that neighborhood in the
evening, it was summertime

225

00:12:27,490 --> 00:12:30,460
and it was very hot,
they would sit outside

226

00:12:30,460 --> 00:12:33,430
on the curbs of the
street and drink beer

227

00:12:33,430 --> 00:12:35,150
and look at everybody
who's walk--

228

00:12:35,150 --> 00:12:37,420
and naturally, they
knew one another

229

00:12:37,420 --> 00:12:40,220
and knew everybody who
lived in that neighborhood.

230

00:12:40,220 --> 00:12:44,060
So my uncle was worried
for me to go back.

231

00:12:44,060 --> 00:12:48,100
And he said, stay already
here and sleep over.

232

00:12:48,100 --> 00:12:49,760

My aunt was very upset.

233

00:12:49,760 --> 00:12:53,260

She said, no, the people
who are keeping Lilly

234

00:12:53,260 --> 00:12:57,070

will worry where she is and
why she didn't come back.

235

00:12:57,070 --> 00:12:57,970

Let her go.

236

00:12:57,970 --> 00:13:00,280

And there is no bed here anyhow.

237

00:13:00,280 --> 00:13:02,440

So my uncle wouldn't
hear about it

238

00:13:02,440 --> 00:13:04,660

and he says, I'll
make a bed for her

239

00:13:04,660 --> 00:13:06,370

on the floor in the kitchen.

240

00:13:06,370 --> 00:13:09,190

There was only two little rooms.

241

00:13:09,190 --> 00:13:15,580

And so-- and so my
aunt finally gave in

242

00:13:15,580 --> 00:13:18,100

and I slept over that night.

243

00:13:18,100 --> 00:13:20,500

And early in the
morning, I don't

244

00:13:20,500 --> 00:13:23,380
know what time it was,
it was very early,

245
00:13:23,380 --> 00:13:26,980
I heard terrible
banging at the--

246
00:13:26,980 --> 00:13:30,100
at the door where I was
sleeping at the head.

247
00:13:30,100 --> 00:13:34,300
And I jumped up from the floor
and I looked out the window,

248
00:13:34,300 --> 00:13:37,270
and there were the
Germans with their rifles

249
00:13:37,270 --> 00:13:41,560
up in the air looking
at the window.

250
00:13:41,560 --> 00:13:45,520
In case somebody was trying to
escape, they would shoot you.

251
00:13:45,520 --> 00:13:48,700
And I knew right then
there that we were caught.

252
00:13:48,700 --> 00:13:52,390
And this is how my
aunt and uncle and I

253
00:13:52,390 --> 00:13:58,060
were arrested from
Jette in Brussels

254
00:13:58,060 --> 00:14:02,690
where I was hiding
with my aunt and uncle.

255

00:14:02,690 --> 00:14:04,540

And so then you--

256

00:14:04,540 --> 00:14:06,790

did you get

transported right away?

257

00:14:06,790 --> 00:14:09,040

No.

258

00:14:09,040 --> 00:14:15,220

They took us by truck from

that little small apartment,

259

00:14:15,220 --> 00:14:20,320

and they took us to

a jail in Brussels,

260

00:14:20,320 --> 00:14:24,040

which was a lot of

different little cells.

261

00:14:24,040 --> 00:14:27,190

And they packed us

in each little cell.

262

00:14:27,190 --> 00:14:29,360

We were very, very crowded.

263

00:14:29,360 --> 00:14:30,850

We couldn't even turn around.

264

00:14:30,850 --> 00:14:34,210

We were standing like

sardines in that cell.

265

00:14:34,210 --> 00:14:36,460

I remember we couldn't breathe.

266

00:14:36,460 --> 00:14:40,150

The smell was terrible,

and the screams and cries

267
00:14:40,150 --> 00:14:46,690
that came from the other
cells was very frightening.

268
00:14:46,690 --> 00:14:50,560
And we were very bewildered
and exhausted from standing

269
00:14:50,560 --> 00:14:52,690
like this all day long.

270
00:14:52,690 --> 00:14:57,220
And finally at night, they
took us out of those cells

271
00:14:57,220 --> 00:15:02,060
and put us in trucks
and they moved us away.

272
00:15:02,060 --> 00:15:04,570
And after we
traveled for a while,

273
00:15:04,570 --> 00:15:09,100
we arrived in a little
town called Malines.

274
00:15:09,100 --> 00:15:12,520
Malines, what--
there was a detention

275
00:15:12,520 --> 00:15:17,410
place where they gathered
all the Jews that they caught

276
00:15:17,410 --> 00:15:21,280
from Belgium, and they
brought them to Malines,

277
00:15:21,280 --> 00:15:24,100
and they kept them
there until they had

278

00:15:24,100 --> 00:15:27,850
enough people for a transport.

279

00:15:27,850 --> 00:15:30,910
And when they were ready
to have the transport,

280

00:15:30,910 --> 00:15:34,120
they send them away to
the concentration camps.

281

00:15:34,120 --> 00:15:39,160
So I was in Malines with my
aunt and uncle, I would say,

282

00:15:39,160 --> 00:15:40,990
maybe six or seven weeks.

283

00:15:40,990 --> 00:15:43,120
I really have no idea
how long I stayed there.

284

00:15:43,120 --> 00:15:45,620
It seemed to me a long time.

285

00:15:45,620 --> 00:15:50,410
And when we came in,
naturally, they--

286

00:15:50,410 --> 00:15:54,490
right away they said we have
to give up all the jewelry,

287

00:15:54,490 --> 00:15:57,880
and all the money, and all the--

288

00:15:57,880 --> 00:16:00,820
whatever we had
personal belongings.

289

00:16:00,820 --> 00:16:04,120

And if you don't do
it, you will be hurt

290
00:16:04,120 --> 00:16:06,160
and you will be punished.

291
00:16:06,160 --> 00:16:10,700
And again, we heard screams
and cries and carrying-ons.

292
00:16:10,700 --> 00:16:13,750
And some people in
other places over there,

293
00:16:13,750 --> 00:16:18,100
they-- behind doors, they were
torturing for information.

294
00:16:18,100 --> 00:16:22,090
And we were very,
very frightened.

295
00:16:22,090 --> 00:16:24,190
And that's how we
arrived in Malines,

296
00:16:24,190 --> 00:16:28,060
and we stayed there
in a big room.

297
00:16:28,060 --> 00:16:34,830
And I found out afterwards
that Malines, before the war,

298
00:16:34,830 --> 00:16:42,690
was a caserne, which is
from horses, an army--

299
00:16:42,690 --> 00:16:44,340
an armory.

300
00:16:44,340 --> 00:16:47,940
And that's that

place they turned it

301

00:16:47,940 --> 00:16:54,030
into the detention place for the
Jewish people that they caught.

302

00:16:54,030 --> 00:16:58,350
And from there, it
was in the early fall,

303

00:16:58,350 --> 00:17:04,089
we were transported to
the concentration camp.

304

00:17:04,089 --> 00:17:06,750
And we went into cattle
wagons, and we did not

305

00:17:06,750 --> 00:17:10,319
know where our destination
was going to be.

306

00:17:10,319 --> 00:17:12,420
And we left and--

307

00:17:12,420 --> 00:17:15,510
for good from Belgium.

308

00:17:15,510 --> 00:17:22,349
And I understand that afterwards
that I was the 25th transport,

309

00:17:22,349 --> 00:17:27,630
which was the second class
transport that left Belgium,

310

00:17:27,630 --> 00:17:31,770
and after that
Belgium was liberated.

311

00:17:31,770 --> 00:17:37,350
Describe the transport and
then the arrival for me.

312
00:17:37,350 --> 00:17:42,210
The transport was
horrible, just terrible.

313
00:17:42,210 --> 00:17:46,230
They gave us a ration of
bread, and the children

314
00:17:46,230 --> 00:17:49,290
got a can of milk.

315
00:17:49,290 --> 00:17:53,670
And we were herded
into cattle wagons.

316
00:17:53,670 --> 00:17:59,100
The cattle wagon that I ended
up with my aunt and uncle

317
00:17:59,100 --> 00:18:01,620
was a coal wagon.

318
00:18:01,620 --> 00:18:06,420
So the floor from
the cabin was black.

319
00:18:06,420 --> 00:18:10,920
And I don't know how many
people were in the cattle wagon.

320
00:18:10,920 --> 00:18:14,370
We were herded in
with so many people,

321
00:18:14,370 --> 00:18:17,650
it was like in that other jail
where we couldn't even sit,

322
00:18:17,650 --> 00:18:23,520
or we had to stand up most of
the time and we couldn't move.

323

00:18:23,520 --> 00:18:29,130

They gave us two buckets on
each side of the cattle wagon

324

00:18:29,130 --> 00:18:32,370

to relieve ourselves.

325

00:18:32,370 --> 00:18:38,250

And before we knew what
the pails were turned over,

326

00:18:38,250 --> 00:18:41,550

and we laid like this
in that dirt for--

327

00:18:41,550 --> 00:18:44,490

until we arrived into the camp.

328

00:18:44,490 --> 00:18:48,330

And we couldn't breathe.

329

00:18:48,330 --> 00:18:49,840

There was no air.

330

00:18:49,840 --> 00:18:53,430

There was a small
little window with wires

331

00:18:53,430 --> 00:18:57,720

that were over the windows
so that nobody could escape.

332

00:18:57,720 --> 00:19:01,350

And we went that-- like that
for maybe three or four days.

333

00:19:01,350 --> 00:19:03,150

I don't know how
many days we went.

334

00:19:03,150 --> 00:19:06,540

In between the--

we were riding--

335

00:19:06,540 --> 00:19:10,440
the trains had to stop because
the sirens would come on.

336

00:19:10,440 --> 00:19:16,320
And then they wouldn't ride the
trains when the sirens were on.

337

00:19:16,320 --> 00:19:20,550
And then we would start
again and we-- and people

338

00:19:20,550 --> 00:19:24,930
were getting very, very
restless and very nervous.

339

00:19:24,930 --> 00:19:27,810
And they got upset
with one another

340

00:19:27,810 --> 00:19:33,150
because their tension of
patience was running out.

341

00:19:33,150 --> 00:19:38,130
So they started arguing with
one another and fighting.

342

00:19:38,130 --> 00:19:40,860
And there was noise,
and all of a sudden,

343

00:19:40,860 --> 00:19:45,210
the German put his
rifle in the window

344

00:19:45,210 --> 00:19:48,720
and he was just shooting
at blank at people.

345

00:19:48,720 --> 00:19:51,790

And then he hollered
we should be quiet.

346
00:19:51,790 --> 00:19:55,620
And he shot two or
three people that way.

347
00:19:55,620 --> 00:19:58,320
And we settled down, naturally,
because we were afraid

348
00:19:58,320 --> 00:20:00,060
that we were going to get shot.

349
00:20:00,060 --> 00:20:02,070
And this is how we arrived.

350
00:20:02,070 --> 00:20:04,680
And when we arrived,
it was dawn.

351
00:20:04,680 --> 00:20:11,220
And I understand the
camp was called Birkenau.

352
00:20:11,220 --> 00:20:16,490
And in Birkenau
when I arrived, we

353
00:20:16,490 --> 00:20:19,460
were so exhausted
and so tired, I only

354
00:20:19,460 --> 00:20:23,570
had eaten the
bread in the train.

355
00:20:23,570 --> 00:20:25,790
And my aunt wouldn't
let me drink the milk

356
00:20:25,790 --> 00:20:28,580
because she thought I

should save it for later.

357

00:20:28,580 --> 00:20:31,910

But I had to leave all
my packages and the milk

358

00:20:31,910 --> 00:20:36,680

on the side because they told
us to drop all our belongings.

359

00:20:36,680 --> 00:20:39,220

And I was so upset that
I couldn't drink my milk,

360

00:20:39,220 --> 00:20:39,720

I remember.

361

00:20:39,720 --> 00:20:42,890

362

00:20:42,890 --> 00:20:44,930

And then we went into a line.

363

00:20:44,930 --> 00:20:47,300

They told us to go into a line.

364

00:20:47,300 --> 00:20:51,110

And we were facing Germans.

365

00:20:51,110 --> 00:20:55,310

The Germans were
everywhere with dogs.

366

00:20:55,310 --> 00:20:59,060

The German shepherd dogs,
they were sniffing at us.

367

00:20:59,060 --> 00:21:04,610

And I heard screams
because certain dogs would

368

00:21:04,610 --> 00:21:06,470

attack people.

369
00:21:06,470 --> 00:21:08,390
And I would hear shots.

370
00:21:08,390 --> 00:21:10,680
But anyhow, we stayed in line.

371
00:21:10,680 --> 00:21:13,250
And as we came closer
to the Germans,

372
00:21:13,250 --> 00:21:16,970
I saw this tall
man, which I didn't

373
00:21:16,970 --> 00:21:21,140
know at that time who he
was, and he directed us

374
00:21:21,140 --> 00:21:22,340
where to go--

375
00:21:22,340 --> 00:21:25,010
to the right or to the left.

376
00:21:25,010 --> 00:21:29,930
My aunt went to the left,
and I had to go to the right.

377
00:21:29,930 --> 00:21:32,570
I didn't even have a chance
to say goodbye to my aunt

378
00:21:32,570 --> 00:21:36,380
because I thought she was
just going to register us,

379
00:21:36,380 --> 00:21:40,220
to give our names
and identification.

380

00:21:40,220 --> 00:21:45,010

And afterwards, I found that
when I went into the camp,

381

00:21:45,010 --> 00:21:46,860

that she went to the
left, and the left

382

00:21:46,860 --> 00:21:49,750

meant crematoria
which meant the ovens.

383

00:21:49,750 --> 00:21:54,320

And I was going into
the concentration camp.

384

00:21:54,320 --> 00:21:58,680

This is how I arrived in
Ausch-- in Bergen-Belsen.

385

00:21:58,680 --> 00:22:00,030

No, no, no, excuse me.

386

00:22:00,030 --> 00:22:01,410

I made a mistake.

387

00:22:01,410 --> 00:22:02,530

In Birkenau.

388

00:22:02,530 --> 00:22:05,520

389

00:22:05,520 --> 00:22:07,065

We're almost about to run out.

390

00:22:07,065 --> 00:22:09,270

I'll ask you a quick question.

391

00:22:09,270 --> 00:22:12,420

Who was the doctor, and how
did you know who he was?

392

00:22:12,420 --> 00:22:15,600

I was told that the man who
directed us from the left

393

00:22:15,600 --> 00:22:19,470

to the right, he-- with his
finger, we went to the right

394

00:22:19,470 --> 00:22:23,610

or to the left, and
he was Dr. Mengele.

395

00:22:23,610 --> 00:22:29,060

And each time afterwards
when we saw him,

396

00:22:29,060 --> 00:22:31,310

we saw death in
front of our eyes

397

00:22:31,310 --> 00:22:35,190

because they called
him the angel of death.

398

00:22:35,190 --> 00:22:40,250

When we saw him, we saw hell,
because we thought for sure--

399

00:22:40,250 --> 00:22:43,610

400

00:22:43,610 --> 00:22:48,690

Why don't you
describe registration,

401

00:22:48,690 --> 00:22:50,520

and start with from selection.

402

00:22:50,520 --> 00:22:53,990

And also, give your age
at this point in time.

403

00:22:53,990 --> 00:22:57,240

Describe registration and then--

404

00:22:57,240 --> 00:22:59,250

What do you mean
by registration?

405

00:22:59,250 --> 00:23:01,660

Going in and getting processed.

406

00:23:01,660 --> 00:23:02,160

OK.

407

00:23:02,160 --> 00:23:11,980

When we arrived in Birkenau,
after we went to the right,

408

00:23:11,980 --> 00:23:17,450

they took us to--

409

00:23:17,450 --> 00:23:23,220

they called it Entlausung,
which was the bathhouses.

410

00:23:23,220 --> 00:23:29,190

And we stayed there for
hours after we showered.

411

00:23:29,190 --> 00:23:31,940

And then they cut our hair.

412

00:23:31,940 --> 00:23:38,490

And we gave them our name,
although, that didn't matter,

413

00:23:38,490 --> 00:23:39,850

I don't think.

414

00:23:39,850 --> 00:23:44,650

And we stayed in the bath house
for hours when it was freezing.

415

00:23:44,650 --> 00:23:46,570

The windows were
covered with ice.

416
00:23:46,570 --> 00:23:48,190
We couldn't even look out.

417
00:23:48,190 --> 00:23:51,310
And we were waiting for
our clothes to come back.

418
00:23:51,310 --> 00:23:57,220
And we stayed in a tremendous
big room with no heat,

419
00:23:57,220 --> 00:23:59,020
and we were wet.

420
00:23:59,020 --> 00:24:02,830
And we waited like
that for hours.

421
00:24:02,830 --> 00:24:05,290
And finally, when
we got our clothes,

422
00:24:05,290 --> 00:24:08,840
they were not our clothes,
they were inmate clothes.

423
00:24:08,840 --> 00:24:12,130
And we were hungry and
we were very exhausted,

424
00:24:12,130 --> 00:24:16,180
because we had no rest
from the train trip.

425
00:24:16,180 --> 00:24:18,250
And we still had no food.

426
00:24:18,250 --> 00:24:24,040
And finally, that's how they
brought us to the barracks

427
00:24:24,040 --> 00:24:27,430
in Birkenau.

428
00:24:27,430 --> 00:24:30,820
And we had the bunks.

429
00:24:30,820 --> 00:24:33,340
The bunks were out
of three layers--

430
00:24:33,340 --> 00:24:35,830
the bottom, the
middle, and the top.

431
00:24:35,830 --> 00:24:39,070
And I received a top bunk.

432
00:24:39,070 --> 00:24:44,600
And there were about 14
people on each layer sleeping.

433
00:24:44,600 --> 00:24:47,830
And when one had to
turn over, we all

434
00:24:47,830 --> 00:24:50,740
had to turn over because
we were so packed.

435
00:24:50,740 --> 00:24:56,500
And there was no room on
the bunk to sleep to make--

436
00:24:56,500 --> 00:24:58,660
so that we could lay down.

437
00:24:58,660 --> 00:25:05,650
And we were sleeping on straw
mats and the wooden planks.

438
00:25:05,650 --> 00:25:14,020

And the next day, they called
us back to the Entlausung house

439
00:25:14,020 --> 00:25:19,150
in the-- where the showers
were, and they tattooed us.

440
00:25:19,150 --> 00:25:21,670
And that was really
the registration

441
00:25:21,670 --> 00:25:23,560
that we went through.

442
00:25:23,560 --> 00:25:31,990
And they gave me a tattoo,
and my number was A-5143.

443
00:25:31,990 --> 00:25:38,680
And-- I have to
go back because we

444
00:25:38,680 --> 00:25:42,250
were the only 25th
transport where

445
00:25:42,250 --> 00:25:44,290
they had given us this tattoo.

446
00:25:44,290 --> 00:25:46,420
And then the next day,
they called us back

447
00:25:46,420 --> 00:25:50,230
and scratched it out and
gave us that new number

448
00:25:50,230 --> 00:25:52,880
because they made a mistake.

449
00:25:52,880 --> 00:25:57,760
I understand it was because
those people were dead already,

450
00:25:57,760 --> 00:25:59,770
I was told.

451
00:25:59,770 --> 00:26:05,380
And they told us we should never
answer our name-- by our name.

452
00:26:05,380 --> 00:26:09,670
From now on, we are this number.

453
00:26:09,670 --> 00:26:12,100
This is our name.

454
00:26:12,100 --> 00:26:17,620
And I don't have to tell
you the terrible feeling

455
00:26:17,620 --> 00:26:25,600
I had in my heart when at my
age of a girl of 15 years old,

456
00:26:25,600 --> 00:26:29,950
that you were told that
your name is a number.

457
00:26:29,950 --> 00:26:31,660
Forget your name.

458
00:26:31,660 --> 00:26:34,540
You don't have a name anymore.

459
00:26:34,540 --> 00:26:38,620
That your head is shaven
off, and you're hungry,

460
00:26:38,620 --> 00:26:41,410
and you have no clothes,
and you're freezing,

461
00:26:41,410 --> 00:26:43,770
and your family is taken away.

462
00:26:43,770 --> 00:26:46,400

463
00:26:46,400 --> 00:26:49,220
It was very hard for
me to accept that.

464
00:26:49,220 --> 00:26:52,850

465
00:26:52,850 --> 00:26:55,790
And yet, I don't
know how I made it,

466
00:26:55,790 --> 00:27:04,070
because I got a hold of
myself, and I pushed all this

467
00:27:04,070 --> 00:27:04,880
behind me.

468
00:27:04,880 --> 00:27:10,630
And I says, I have to live,
and I have to be strong.

469
00:27:10,630 --> 00:27:16,120
And at that young age,
I felt like I was 90.

470
00:27:16,120 --> 00:27:18,850
I felt I had a lifetime
already in those

471
00:27:18,850 --> 00:27:23,080
two days that I
arrived in Birkenau.

472
00:27:23,080 --> 00:27:27,830
That was my first
two days there.

473

00:27:27,830 --> 00:27:30,410
But the rest of the
inmates that made it

474
00:27:30,410 --> 00:27:35,720
with me, because their families
also went to the right.

475
00:27:35,720 --> 00:27:39,230
And we had decided,
the young girls

476
00:27:39,230 --> 00:27:43,700
that were left, that we should
all stay together and try

477
00:27:43,700 --> 00:27:47,300
to survive together because our
families were taken together

478
00:27:47,300 --> 00:27:49,010
to the ovens.

479
00:27:49,010 --> 00:27:52,300
So they said, let us
all stay together.

480
00:27:52,300 --> 00:27:55,380
Together we will be strong.

481
00:27:55,380 --> 00:27:57,270
And we will make it.

482
00:27:57,270 --> 00:27:58,680
We will lick them.

483
00:27:58,680 --> 00:28:00,360
They will not kill us.

484
00:28:00,360 --> 00:28:02,940
And we will come
out and be free.

485

00:28:02,940 --> 00:28:07,260

Just let's hope till
the war's ended.

486

00:28:07,260 --> 00:28:11,070

And that's what we
tried to do until we

487

00:28:11,070 --> 00:28:13,830

were deported from Auschwitz.

488

00:28:13,830 --> 00:28:18,810

But we stayed together all,
and that gave us strength

489

00:28:18,810 --> 00:28:19,375

to survive.

490

00:28:19,375 --> 00:28:25,340

491

00:28:25,340 --> 00:28:28,130

Talk about volunteering
for hard labor.

492

00:28:28,130 --> 00:28:31,390

Talk about some of the
ways that you particularly

493

00:28:31,390 --> 00:28:32,300

used to survive.

494

00:28:32,300 --> 00:28:39,520

Well, we found out in Birkenau,
that if you were idle,

495

00:28:39,520 --> 00:28:42,610

you were going to be
taken by the trucks

496

00:28:42,610 --> 00:28:44,950

and sent to the crematoria.

497

00:28:44,950 --> 00:28:49,430

So we volunteered
any job that came up.

498

00:28:49,430 --> 00:28:56,030

And in the beginning when we--
while we were in Birkenau,

499

00:28:56,030 --> 00:28:59,000

the jobs were very,
very, very hard.

500

00:28:59,000 --> 00:29:03,680

And I don't know what they
were trying to make us do,

501

00:29:03,680 --> 00:29:09,500

but we were carrying big
rocks, tremendous stones.

502

00:29:09,500 --> 00:29:12,830

They told us to go
from one hillside

503

00:29:12,830 --> 00:29:16,340

to the next with those rocks,
and we had to carry them.

504

00:29:16,340 --> 00:29:17,540

We had no gloves.

505

00:29:17,540 --> 00:29:20,900

We had no working clothes,
and we scratched our bodies

506

00:29:20,900 --> 00:29:23,150

from the scraping of the rocks.

507

00:29:23,150 --> 00:29:25,800

And we carried them
back and forth.

508

00:29:25,800 --> 00:29:29,030

And our backs and
feet were aching us,

509

00:29:29,030 --> 00:29:31,310

with no food, no water.

510

00:29:31,310 --> 00:29:33,680

And we did this all day long.

511

00:29:33,680 --> 00:29:37,250

And whoever fell and couldn't
do it, they just whipped.

512

00:29:37,250 --> 00:29:40,760

And the dogs were
walking next to us.

513

00:29:40,760 --> 00:29:45,800

And one day, a German
officer came and told

514

00:29:45,800 --> 00:29:49,250

the Blockalteste, which
is the woman in charge

515

00:29:49,250 --> 00:29:54,590

of the barracks, that he
needed a group of people

516

00:29:54,590 --> 00:29:59,150

to work in a kitchen
in another camp.

517

00:29:59,150 --> 00:30:02,210

And the Belgian
girls I was with,

518

00:30:02,210 --> 00:30:07,580

we all decided to
volunteer and to try

519

00:30:07,580 --> 00:30:10,490
and be picked for that job.

520
00:30:10,490 --> 00:30:16,250
So we stayed in a roll call
and we looked the Germans

521
00:30:16,250 --> 00:30:17,960
straight in the face.

522
00:30:17,960 --> 00:30:24,220
Funniest thing is that in the--

523
00:30:24,220 --> 00:30:29,650
inside of us, it told us when we
should not look at the Germans,

524
00:30:29,650 --> 00:30:31,990
or when we should look
them straight in the face

525
00:30:31,990 --> 00:30:34,570
and show them that here we are.

526
00:30:34,570 --> 00:30:36,220
We want that job.

527
00:30:36,220 --> 00:30:40,330
And instinct told us when
to do that and when not to.

528
00:30:40,330 --> 00:30:42,670
So we looked them
straight in the face,

529
00:30:42,670 --> 00:30:44,030
the Germans should pick us.

530
00:30:44,030 --> 00:30:47,500
And sure enough, he took the
whole row of those Belgium

531

00:30:47,500 --> 00:30:52,570
girls that we were with, and
we were picked for that job.

532
00:30:52,570 --> 00:30:55,450
And-- because we
knew if we were going

533
00:30:55,450 --> 00:30:59,680
to continue to do this
volunteer work in Birkenau

534
00:30:59,680 --> 00:31:02,080
with those rocks, we
were going to die.

535
00:31:02,080 --> 00:31:06,250
And we thought any job
would be better than that.

536
00:31:06,250 --> 00:31:09,370
And this is how we
arrived in Auschwitz.

537
00:31:09,370 --> 00:31:16,240
And Auschwitz was maybe three,
four miles away from Birkenau.

538
00:31:16,240 --> 00:31:20,530
I really have no idea how
far it was, the distance.

539
00:31:20,530 --> 00:31:23,200
But that was a new
camp that opened up,

540
00:31:23,200 --> 00:31:26,590
and we were put into
[NON-ENGLISH] Lager,

541
00:31:26,590 --> 00:31:30,820
which means 2B
concentration camp.

542

00:31:30,820 --> 00:31:33,250

And we went into the kitchen.

543

00:31:33,250 --> 00:31:38,470

The old people who worked there
showed us and taught us the--

544

00:31:38,470 --> 00:31:39,700

how to go.

545

00:31:39,700 --> 00:31:49,450

And two girls were picked for
each stove, or Kessel, which

546

00:31:49,450 --> 00:31:53,890

meant there was a big
tremendous room in that kitchen,

547

00:31:53,890 --> 00:31:58,090

and they had maybe 25, 30--

548

00:31:58,090 --> 00:32:03,100

I have no idea how many
big ovens with round,

549

00:32:03,100 --> 00:32:04,480

big tremendous ovens.

550

00:32:04,480 --> 00:32:07,870

And we were supposed to
do the cooking in them.

551

00:32:07,870 --> 00:32:11,560

And we scraped
those ovens, and we

552

00:32:11,560 --> 00:32:18,980

put the ovens on, and the fire,
and we had to make the soup.

553

00:32:18,980 --> 00:32:21,790

And then we had to

make the coffee.

554

00:32:21,790 --> 00:32:27,070

And the coffee and the
food, after we did it,

555

00:32:27,070 --> 00:32:31,090

we filled the big
tremendous pails.

556

00:32:31,090 --> 00:32:33,220

There were big army pails.

557

00:32:33,220 --> 00:32:38,440

We had to carry
them out two by two.

558

00:32:38,440 --> 00:32:40,960

And it was very, very heavy.

559

00:32:40,960 --> 00:32:44,260

And the labor was just as
hard as those tremendous rocks

560

00:32:44,260 --> 00:32:46,450

that we were dragging.

561

00:32:46,450 --> 00:32:49,430

And I thought I
was going to die.

562

00:32:49,430 --> 00:32:52,840

I cried myself to sleep every
night, because I thought

563

00:32:52,840 --> 00:32:55,270

I couldn't do that hard labor.

564

00:32:55,270 --> 00:32:59,980

First of all, I was so
young and malnutrition.

565

00:32:59,980 --> 00:33:03,460
But we thought when we heard
kitchen, working in the kitchen

566
00:33:03,460 --> 00:33:05,860
that we would have
extra food and that

567
00:33:05,860 --> 00:33:06,890
would give us strength.

568
00:33:06,890 --> 00:33:10,930
And we were trying to
buy time to survive.

569
00:33:10,930 --> 00:33:14,680
But sure enough, we got
used to the hard work,

570
00:33:14,680 --> 00:33:19,090
and I learned to carry those
hard, big, heavy buckets

571
00:33:19,090 --> 00:33:22,540
of pails, and carry
them out into the camp

572
00:33:22,540 --> 00:33:27,280
so that the inmates could
carry them to their barracks.

573
00:33:27,280 --> 00:33:30,140

574
00:33:30,140 --> 00:33:33,200
And this is how we worked
there for about four or five

575
00:33:33,200 --> 00:33:38,690
months in the kitchen
with the Belgium girls.

576
00:33:38,690 --> 00:33:39,190

OK.

577

00:33:39,190 --> 00:33:42,540

We're going to-- we're
about to run out.

578

00:33:42,540 --> 00:33:53,000