

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:13,590

2  
00:00:13,590 --> 00:00:17,850  
Mrs. Waterford, can  
you describe for me

3  
00:00:17,850 --> 00:00:23,250  
how rescue efforts worked  
in Holland, and in general,

4  
00:00:23,250 --> 00:00:25,290  
how that differed  
from other countries

5  
00:00:25,290 --> 00:00:28,750  
in Europe, if you  
can address that.

6  
00:00:28,750 --> 00:00:33,540  
I know only after the  
war what had been.

7  
00:00:33,540 --> 00:00:37,470  
During the war, you  
practically knew nothing.

8  
00:00:37,470 --> 00:00:40,920  
Because if you  
went to the places

9  
00:00:40,920 --> 00:00:44,910  
who we are supposed to  
know, you heard only

10  
00:00:44,910 --> 00:00:48,220  
you should do what you are told.

11  
00:00:48,220 --> 00:00:51,410  
We don't know what happened.

12

00:00:51,410 --> 00:00:53,500

We do not know  
what you should do.

13

00:00:53,500 --> 00:00:57,040

We cannot give you any answer  
because we do not know.

14

00:00:57,040 --> 00:00:59,680

This was the official.

15

00:00:59,680 --> 00:01:06,100

What private was, I don't  
know when that did start.

16

00:01:06,100 --> 00:01:11,370

But I do know that very  
close friends of ours

17

00:01:11,370 --> 00:01:24,620

came to us in 1942, in July,  
that they had a few people who

18

00:01:24,620 --> 00:01:27,100

offered to help.

19

00:01:27,100 --> 00:01:32,700

And this was a small church  
of blue collar workers

20

00:01:32,700 --> 00:01:38,240

who made it their goal  
to help Jewish people who

21

00:01:38,240 --> 00:01:44,700

needed it to take in their  
homes as far as possible.

22

00:01:44,700 --> 00:01:47,880

And we naturally said we do.

23

00:01:47,880 --> 00:01:51,150

Because by that

time, we were already

24  
00:01:51,150 --> 00:02:01,330  
ordered to come to the train  
on the 15th of July, 1942 at

25  
00:02:01,330 --> 00:02:03,280  
night.

26  
00:02:03,280 --> 00:02:07,540  
And we brought-- would  
be brought east--

27  
00:02:07,540 --> 00:02:10,039  
that was on this letter--

28  
00:02:10,039 --> 00:02:11,660  
to work.

29  
00:02:11,660 --> 00:02:16,140  
So this didn't-- we didn't like  
this sort of expression it was

30  
00:02:16,140 --> 00:02:16,640  
supplied.

31  
00:02:16,640 --> 00:02:23,040  
And the Jewish--  
the Jewish people

32  
00:02:23,040 --> 00:02:26,590  
who were in charge of that  
didn't help us at all.

33  
00:02:26,590 --> 00:02:30,030  
So we were very happy to  
accept the help of this group.

34  
00:02:30,030 --> 00:02:32,280  
And they did help us.

35  
00:02:32,280 --> 00:02:36,810

We have-- the first  
thing go to those people.

36  
00:02:36,810 --> 00:02:39,450  
What did you and your  
husband decide to do?

37  
00:02:39,450 --> 00:02:42,960  
Explain to me about how  
big your family was,

38  
00:02:42,960 --> 00:02:47,250  
and how much you knew  
of what was going on,

39  
00:02:47,250 --> 00:02:49,110  
what fear you had,  
and then what you

40  
00:02:49,110 --> 00:02:51,600  
decided to do with your child.

41  
00:02:51,600 --> 00:02:54,600  
Now, we had no idea.

42  
00:02:54,600 --> 00:02:58,890  
And like everybody else, we only  
knew since we came originally

43  
00:02:58,890 --> 00:03:02,130  
from Germany, that  
practically all the people who

44  
00:03:02,130 --> 00:03:05,820  
had left in Germany, Jewish  
people, were not there anymore.

45  
00:03:05,820 --> 00:03:11,020  
They were taken-- they were  
taken by train, or whatever,

46  
00:03:11,020 --> 00:03:14,670  
and nobody had ever

heard anything from them

47

00:03:14,670 --> 00:03:15,750

when they were gone.

48

00:03:15,750 --> 00:03:18,750

And nobody knew where they were.

49

00:03:18,750 --> 00:03:21,150

So this was already

enough for us

50

00:03:21,150 --> 00:03:27,000

to decide that we would do

anything, and take any help.

51

00:03:27,000 --> 00:03:32,390

The first thing we did was

that my husband discussed it

52

00:03:32,390 --> 00:03:34,860

with a doctor if

he could get his--

53

00:03:34,860 --> 00:03:38,210

54

00:03:38,210 --> 00:03:41,270

now, I don't know

the word anymore--

55

00:03:41,270 --> 00:03:42,300

removed.

56

00:03:42,300 --> 00:03:42,980

Appendix.

57

00:03:42,980 --> 00:03:46,770

Yes, his appendix removed,

even the appendix was fine.

58

00:03:46,770 --> 00:03:48,380

And when he woke  
up in the hospital,

59  
00:03:48,380 --> 00:03:50,870  
there were more lost appendixes.

60  
00:03:50,870 --> 00:03:56,080  
So this would-- since  
we had to be at the 15th

61  
00:03:56,080 --> 00:03:59,330  
at the station, that  
was a few days before.

62  
00:03:59,330 --> 00:04:06,110  
So we had time with  
the doctor thing at--

63  
00:04:06,110 --> 00:04:14,090  
doctors telling what he had  
done to get two weeks time,

64  
00:04:14,090 --> 00:04:16,500  
and then we should come again.

65  
00:04:16,500 --> 00:04:19,610  
So with this two  
weeks, we were using

66  
00:04:19,610 --> 00:04:27,550  
because I had heard that the  
Jewish council was hiring

67  
00:04:27,550 --> 00:04:29,650  
people for all kinds of work.

68  
00:04:29,650 --> 00:04:36,700  
And all those people were on a  
piece of paper at that moment

69  
00:04:36,700 --> 00:04:39,170  
free of deportation.

70

00:04:39,170 --> 00:04:42,710

Our family was my  
husband, our little girl,

71

00:04:42,710 --> 00:04:49,770

which was at that time  
four years old, and me.

72

00:04:49,770 --> 00:04:51,750

So we decided to do all that.

73

00:04:51,750 --> 00:04:54,900

And I went around and  
I got a job, which

74

00:04:54,900 --> 00:05:04,840

made us all available not  
to go, and we could stay

75

00:05:04,840 --> 00:05:07,270

the time-- there was no limit.

76

00:05:07,270 --> 00:05:14,120

So my husband came home and we  
thought maybe with a job I have

77

00:05:14,120 --> 00:05:19,050

that we would be  
helped at the time.

78

00:05:19,050 --> 00:05:24,850

I worked at old people's  
home in the kitchen.

79

00:05:24,850 --> 00:05:28,500

And I worked every day.

80

00:05:28,500 --> 00:05:31,670

And I cooked for 40 people.

81

00:05:31,670 --> 00:05:32,570

I liked it.

82  
00:05:32,570 --> 00:05:36,260  
I liked the work, and  
it seemed to be safe.

83  
00:05:36,260 --> 00:05:40,010  
And one morning after  
about six weeks of working,

84  
00:05:40,010 --> 00:05:43,400  
I came at 7:00 and  
the doors were open,

85  
00:05:43,400 --> 00:05:46,580  
and all the people  
in there were gone.

86  
00:05:46,580 --> 00:05:51,510  
It was a terrible,  
terrible frightening.

87  
00:05:51,510 --> 00:05:54,870  
Rooms-- every room was  
looked for probably

88  
00:05:54,870 --> 00:05:56,250  
for valuable things.

89  
00:05:56,250 --> 00:05:57,300  
I don't know.

90  
00:05:57,300 --> 00:06:00,960  
When I saw what had happened  
that most of the people who

91  
00:06:00,960 --> 00:06:05,440  
couldn't walk and  
were taken and must

92  
00:06:05,440 --> 00:06:10,060  
have been taken in stretchers,  
I didn't believe any word

93

00:06:10,060 --> 00:06:10,570  
any more.

94

00:06:10,570 --> 00:06:15,820  
I ran out and ran home, and I  
knew what we had was not safe,

95

00:06:15,820 --> 00:06:16,850  
the piece of paper.

96

00:06:16,850 --> 00:06:19,890

97

00:06:19,890 --> 00:06:22,170  
Describe to me what  
you and your husband

98

00:06:22,170 --> 00:06:25,730  
decided to do with  
your daughter.

99

00:06:25,730 --> 00:06:29,730  
This same man who came just--

100

00:06:29,730 --> 00:06:32,670  
I talked about before,  
which came just after that

101

00:06:32,670 --> 00:06:40,620  
has happened to us, he  
told us that our friends,

102

00:06:40,620 --> 00:06:42,960  
and our friends told us, also.

103

00:06:42,960 --> 00:06:44,350  
They had a daughter.

104

00:06:44,350 --> 00:06:48,950  
She was about five, six  
months older than ours.

105

00:06:48,950 --> 00:06:52,590

And we were-- the  
mother of the child,

106

00:06:52,590 --> 00:06:55,530

we were friends from  
school in Germany.

107

00:06:55,530 --> 00:06:58,270

So we all knew each  
other very well.

108

00:06:58,270 --> 00:07:01,680

And they had told us that  
they had made the decision

109

00:07:01,680 --> 00:07:04,200

and the child is already gone.

110

00:07:04,200 --> 00:07:13,300

And he and she and his mother  
who lived with them was gone.

111

00:07:13,300 --> 00:07:15,820

They won't be going  
that one of the leader

112

00:07:15,820 --> 00:07:20,410

into wherever they were safe,  
where they're supposed to be.

113

00:07:20,410 --> 00:07:22,670

We never-- we didn't  
hear anything.

114

00:07:22,670 --> 00:07:24,110

And that was the right way.

115

00:07:24,110 --> 00:07:26,650

And this man said, we  
will try that for you,

116

00:07:26,650 --> 00:07:29,050  
too, if you want to  
give up your child.

117  
00:07:29,050 --> 00:07:32,050  
Because three of you  
cannot be in one part.

118  
00:07:32,050 --> 00:07:34,780  
You have to give  
your child somebody.

119  
00:07:34,780 --> 00:07:37,480  
And the leader, he  
said he had somebody

120  
00:07:37,480 --> 00:07:41,020  
as we found out much,  
much later, that was

121  
00:07:41,020 --> 00:07:43,240  
his sister, this man's sister.

122  
00:07:43,240 --> 00:07:45,220  
That was Joe Fisch.

123  
00:07:45,220 --> 00:07:46,930  
He's still alive.

124  
00:07:46,930 --> 00:07:55,040  
And that's where  
they took our child.

125  
00:07:55,040 --> 00:07:58,430  
And there was  
very, very helpful.

126  
00:07:58,430 --> 00:08:01,790  
They got the bed and the toys  
and clothes and everything

127  
00:08:01,790 --> 00:08:04,490  
there already, that

when she would come,

128  
00:08:04,490 --> 00:08:08,910  
it wasn't all  
foreigners, strangers.

129  
00:08:08,910 --> 00:08:11,880  
And then he was trying to  
look for us for a place,

130  
00:08:11,880 --> 00:08:14,430  
and that took a little  
longer, maybe a month,

131  
00:08:14,430 --> 00:08:18,340  
until we found the first place  
to go so-called underground.

132  
00:08:18,340 --> 00:08:19,690  
It was never underground.

133  
00:08:19,690 --> 00:08:23,210  
It was always in an attic.

134  
00:08:23,210 --> 00:08:27,110  
Describe what your  
daughter knew about hiding,

135  
00:08:27,110 --> 00:08:30,920  
and how difficult it was  
for you to part with her.

136  
00:08:30,920 --> 00:08:34,150  
My daughter didn't  
know she was hiding.

137  
00:08:34,150 --> 00:08:37,000  
As I said, she was not five yet.

138  
00:08:37,000 --> 00:08:43,809  
And we-- my husband and I had  
more than a year ago decided

139

00:08:43,809 --> 00:08:48,010  
since we knew of children  
transports from Germany

140

00:08:48,010 --> 00:08:53,460  
to England, maybe that  
would be one day possible.

141

00:08:53,460 --> 00:08:56,310  
So we would give  
away our child any

142

00:08:56,310 --> 00:09:01,470  
place we knew where  
she would be welcome.

143

00:09:01,470 --> 00:09:06,680  
And why should she  
maybe has to die

144

00:09:06,680 --> 00:09:09,240  
when she can live a good life.

145

00:09:09,240 --> 00:09:11,720  
We have family in  
the United States

146

00:09:11,720 --> 00:09:14,360  
who were only too  
happy to take her.

147

00:09:14,360 --> 00:09:19,910  
So we decided that we-- that to  
make it to her-- for her heart

148

00:09:19,910 --> 00:09:27,910  
not to kiss her anymore, not to  
have her too close physically.

149

00:09:27,910 --> 00:09:29,160  
Both of us did that.

150

00:09:29,160 --> 00:09:32,060

151

00:09:32,060 --> 00:09:33,890

And that has helped her.

152

00:09:33,890 --> 00:09:39,590

Because when we had the  
time that she had to leave,

153

00:09:39,590 --> 00:09:40,880

and we told her--

154

00:09:40,880 --> 00:09:43,070

she was an outgoing child.

155

00:09:43,070 --> 00:09:49,490

She would go and visit a couple  
and they have no children,

156

00:09:49,490 --> 00:09:52,560

and they would so  
much like to see her.

157

00:09:52,560 --> 00:09:56,790

And she was-- she always  
like to visit people.

158

00:09:56,790 --> 00:10:00,740

So when those other people  
came to talk to her, they had--

159

00:10:00,740 --> 00:10:05,770

when they came on  
a Sunday afternoon,

160

00:10:05,770 --> 00:10:08,240

and we didn't know their name.

161

00:10:08,240 --> 00:10:10,300

We didn't know where they lived.

162

00:10:10,300 --> 00:10:13,690  
And she saw them and  
we told her this was

163  
00:10:13,690 --> 00:10:17,120  
the friends who would like you  
to see where they're living.

164  
00:10:17,120 --> 00:10:19,670  
See, they have no children.

165  
00:10:19,670 --> 00:10:25,700  
And she went with-- we took-- we  
went with her to the streetcar

166  
00:10:25,700 --> 00:10:28,250  
and we said goodbye like that.

167  
00:10:28,250 --> 00:10:29,420  
No kissing, nothing.

168  
00:10:29,420 --> 00:10:32,670

169  
00:10:32,670 --> 00:10:34,150  
That comes afterwards.

170  
00:10:34,150 --> 00:10:39,290  
And this is very  
personal, and it's

171  
00:10:39,290 --> 00:10:41,270  
ridiculous to say  
that it's difficult

172  
00:10:41,270 --> 00:10:44,350  
because it never changes.

173  
00:10:44,350 --> 00:10:47,790  
It never changes  
for all those years.

174

00:10:47,790 --> 00:10:54,600  
Because it was '45  
before we saw her--

175  
00:10:54,600 --> 00:10:56,068  
before I saw her.

176  
00:10:56,068 --> 00:10:58,820

177  
00:10:58,820 --> 00:11:01,190  
But you rescued her.

178  
00:11:01,190 --> 00:11:03,380  
In that way, I rescued her, yes.

179  
00:11:03,380 --> 00:11:07,630  
We rescued her-- my  
husband and I, we did so.

180  
00:11:07,630 --> 00:11:09,410  
There was no arguing about it.

181  
00:11:09,410 --> 00:11:13,060  
This was just one way to  
do if we want her to live.

182  
00:11:13,060 --> 00:11:24,360

183  
00:11:24,360 --> 00:11:28,250  
I'd like you to  
describe for me what

184  
00:11:28,250 --> 00:11:30,950  
it was like to live in hiding.

185  
00:11:30,950 --> 00:11:33,920  
How restricted you were, how  
you felt, were you afraid.

186  
00:11:33,920 --> 00:11:36,590

187  
00:11:36,590 --> 00:11:37,680  
To be in hiding?

188  
00:11:37,680 --> 00:11:42,780  
I don't think that anybody  
can be trained for that.

189  
00:11:42,780 --> 00:11:48,370  
Because every situation, since  
you are in people's homes,

190  
00:11:48,370 --> 00:11:50,150  
is different.

191  
00:11:50,150 --> 00:11:55,510  
So the first place where  
we were was a bungalow.

192  
00:11:55,510 --> 00:11:59,290  
We had downstairs, a young  
couple with two small children

193  
00:11:59,290 --> 00:12:00,340  
was living.

194  
00:12:00,340 --> 00:12:03,550  
And on the second floor,  
the mother of one of them.

195  
00:12:03,550 --> 00:12:07,740  
And she was alone and  
she cooked for us.

196  
00:12:07,740 --> 00:12:12,540  
And we had to bring  
beds, metal beds.

197  
00:12:12,540 --> 00:12:14,460  
We had to bring them  
there because they

198

00:12:14,460 --> 00:12:16,980

didn't have beds for us,  
and we were in the attic.

199

00:12:16,980 --> 00:12:20,240

200

00:12:20,240 --> 00:12:21,770

This was the situation.

201

00:12:21,770 --> 00:12:26,710

We came, and they were  
kind of primitive people,

202

00:12:26,710 --> 00:12:28,750

but they meant well.

203

00:12:28,750 --> 00:12:32,980

And since they got some money,  
that was helping them, too.

204

00:12:32,980 --> 00:12:40,900

But we would have stayed.

205

00:12:40,900 --> 00:12:44,140

There was really no  
connection to talk about

206

00:12:44,140 --> 00:12:45,740

with this is old--

207

00:12:45,740 --> 00:12:47,050

now, I say old lady.

208

00:12:47,050 --> 00:12:49,640

She wasn't as old as I am now.

209

00:12:49,640 --> 00:12:55,420

And she wasn't-- she wasn't  
interested that we were there.

210

00:12:55,420 --> 00:12:57,830  
But it came then,  
though, [INAUDIBLE]

211  
00:12:57,830 --> 00:12:59,560  
that when there was  
a holiday and there

212  
00:12:59,560 --> 00:13:02,830  
was a little special  
meat or so available,

213  
00:13:02,830 --> 00:13:04,820  
that we didn't even get it.

214  
00:13:04,820 --> 00:13:06,410  
But that was not important.

215  
00:13:06,410 --> 00:13:08,540  
Important was that  
all of a sudden,

216  
00:13:08,540 --> 00:13:14,510  
they said to Joe Fisch that they  
cannot stand it anymore to have

217  
00:13:14,510 --> 00:13:18,950  
those two people around, and he  
has to get us out the same day

218  
00:13:18,950 --> 00:13:21,740  
and not the next.

219  
00:13:21,740 --> 00:13:25,110  
So Joe-- that was--

220  
00:13:25,110 --> 00:13:27,120  
Joe was a hard working man.

221  
00:13:27,120 --> 00:13:27,900  
He did this.

222

00:13:27,900 --> 00:13:30,780  
He found places sometimes.

223  
00:13:30,780 --> 00:13:33,660  
Not the right ones, and  
we only could stay there

224  
00:13:33,660 --> 00:13:39,620  
a day or two because the people  
who were hiding us got scared.

225  
00:13:39,620 --> 00:13:43,520  
Because there were so  
openly in the newspapers,

226  
00:13:43,520 --> 00:13:48,110  
he who hides Jews will  
be treated like the Jews.

227  
00:13:48,110 --> 00:13:51,170  
It didn't say a word  
about killing or anything.

228  
00:13:51,170 --> 00:13:57,210  
Because at that time, we did  
not know what was happening.

229  
00:13:57,210 --> 00:13:59,500  
We did not know.

230  
00:13:59,500 --> 00:14:07,520  
It was known to the British  
and the American governments,

231  
00:14:07,520 --> 00:14:11,670  
but we, the people,  
did not know.

232  
00:14:11,670 --> 00:14:17,460  
And we came to places where we  
were very short, some of them

233  
00:14:17,460 --> 00:14:20,580

maybe was four weeks,  
and then they got scared.

234  
00:14:20,580 --> 00:14:23,070  
And some of them was  
very, very lovely people.

235  
00:14:23,070 --> 00:14:27,250  
But they couldn't work anymore  
they were so much afraid.

236  
00:14:27,250 --> 00:14:30,760  
Until we got to Harlem.

237  
00:14:30,760 --> 00:14:34,510  
And we were there  
in a bungalow where

238  
00:14:34,510 --> 00:14:38,754  
there was a mother with  
three teenage daughters.

239  
00:14:38,754 --> 00:14:42,520  
It was nice and roomy  
building, and we

240  
00:14:42,520 --> 00:14:46,470  
had in the attic a small room.

241  
00:14:46,470 --> 00:14:49,560  
We were there for a  
long time till the end,

242  
00:14:49,560 --> 00:14:52,530  
until we were found.

243  
00:14:52,530 --> 00:14:55,390  
And we were very--

244  
00:14:55,390 --> 00:14:58,630  
you could be alone in our room.

245

00:14:58,630 --> 00:15:04,510  
And my husband for the time we  
lived there, more than a year,

246  
00:15:04,510 --> 00:15:11,110  
he was writing 19 books  
all with a pencil.

247  
00:15:11,110 --> 00:15:15,030  
And in school-- this  
was blue school--

248  
00:15:15,030 --> 00:15:18,250  
blue school papers.

249  
00:15:18,250 --> 00:15:22,380  
I have all those things,  
but there is not too much

250  
00:15:22,380 --> 00:15:25,590  
interest in there  
because he wrote only

251  
00:15:25,590 --> 00:15:30,590  
about what he would wish  
for the country, Holland.

252  
00:15:30,590 --> 00:15:32,870  
He felt very close to Holland.

253  
00:15:32,870 --> 00:15:40,500  
And the whole world,  
and the human--

254  
00:15:40,500 --> 00:15:43,830  
the humans, what they  
would do when the war was--

255  
00:15:43,830 --> 00:15:45,750  
when the war would be over.

256  
00:15:45,750 --> 00:15:52,300  
And he was sure already for

years that Germany would lose.

257

00:15:52,300 --> 00:15:55,810

And even when it  
looked uncertain times

258

00:15:55,810 --> 00:16:01,820

that it was impossible because  
they were, practically,

259

00:16:01,820 --> 00:16:04,040

in all of Germany,  
in all of Europe,

260

00:16:04,040 --> 00:16:06,920

every country  
besides two or three,

261

00:16:06,920 --> 00:16:09,560

we are not under the Germans.

262

00:16:09,560 --> 00:16:11,750

But he said the  
Germans will lose.

263

00:16:11,750 --> 00:16:19,140

And from this view out, he  
had articles about economics,

264

00:16:19,140 --> 00:16:24,200

about religions, about anything  
you can think of-- philosophy,

265

00:16:24,200 --> 00:16:25,820

form of philosophy.

266

00:16:25,820 --> 00:16:29,840

And how it was that the  
people who were helping us

267

00:16:29,840 --> 00:16:34,850

to get to the place that every  
two weeks, one came and he

268  
00:16:34,850 --> 00:16:38,730  
had a whole list of books  
he wanted for his writings.

269  
00:16:38,730 --> 00:16:41,300  
And they all came  
every two weeks

270  
00:16:41,300 --> 00:16:46,370  
when we also got our food slips.

271  
00:16:46,370 --> 00:16:51,500  
How much the food was for  
any person in Holland.

272  
00:16:51,500 --> 00:16:53,240  
How much they could have.

273  
00:16:53,240 --> 00:16:57,540  
And all the people  
who were underground

274  
00:16:57,540 --> 00:17:02,630  
were supported and were  
helped with those coupons.

275  
00:17:02,630 --> 00:17:10,099  
Because every month, the  
places where there were--

276  
00:17:10,099 --> 00:17:13,710  
where the people could  
pick it up themselves,

277  
00:17:13,710 --> 00:17:16,790  
they broke in and then  
took out what they needed.

278  
00:17:16,790 --> 00:17:19,430  
And it was every  
month another place.

279

00:17:19,430 --> 00:17:25,650

And they never found who did  
this for more than two years.

280

00:17:25,650 --> 00:17:27,470

That's really remarkable.

281

00:17:27,470 --> 00:17:31,430

And the woman who had  
us there, she needed it.

282

00:17:31,430 --> 00:17:34,210

Otherwise, she couldn't  
have fed us at all.

283

00:17:34,210 --> 00:17:36,700

Because everything  
which was edible,

284

00:17:36,700 --> 00:17:42,910

everything, needed a piece  
of paper and a coupon.

285

00:17:42,910 --> 00:17:45,590

At that time, I  
was still smoking.

286

00:17:45,590 --> 00:17:47,740

And I was making  
from one cigarette,

287

00:17:47,740 --> 00:17:50,230

I think, three new ones.

288

00:17:50,230 --> 00:17:53,830

And so-- and I--

289

00:17:53,830 --> 00:17:56,350

we got a package, I think--

290

00:17:56,350 --> 00:17:59,810

my husband didn't smoke so

it wasn't very nice of me

291

00:17:59,810 --> 00:18:02,290  
that I was smoking  
in that little room.

292

00:18:02,290 --> 00:18:06,600  
But I thought at that time, I  
couldn't live without smoking.

293

00:18:06,600 --> 00:18:10,850  
And he was writing,  
and on the second floor

294

00:18:10,850 --> 00:18:13,160  
was a woman who lived  
there with her mother.

295

00:18:13,160 --> 00:18:18,260  
She was a seamstress, a  
very nice, very nice person.

296

00:18:18,260 --> 00:18:20,900  
And I sat very often  
downstairs with her

297

00:18:20,900 --> 00:18:23,330  
because she very  
seldom had clients.

298

00:18:23,330 --> 00:18:26,190  
And when she knew when  
they would be coming.

299

00:18:26,190 --> 00:18:31,360  
And I learned how to  
make, I think, seamless.

300

00:18:31,360 --> 00:18:33,760  
But that was about all.

301

00:18:33,760 --> 00:18:37,070  
She didn't let me do so much.

302

00:18:37,070 --> 00:18:43,146  
What were the rescuers like, and  
why do you think they did it?

303

00:18:43,146 --> 00:18:43,940  
What do you mean?

304

00:18:43,940 --> 00:18:46,450  
People who hid you,  
what were they like?

305

00:18:46,450 --> 00:18:49,090  
Were they all different  
kinds of people, and why

306

00:18:49,090 --> 00:18:50,200  
do you think they did it?

307

00:18:50,200 --> 00:18:53,380  
No, the others who were  
before we were in Harlem

308

00:18:53,380 --> 00:18:56,740  
did not know where  
we were, naturally.

309

00:18:56,740 --> 00:18:58,900  
They were glad to be rid of us.

310

00:18:58,900 --> 00:19:06,130  
The people in Harlem, this  
was a woman who told anybody.

311

00:19:06,130 --> 00:19:08,950  
And I heard from  
the top floor always

312

00:19:08,950 --> 00:19:12,920  
when people came with  
anything to do in the house

313

00:19:12,920 --> 00:19:16,210  
that she told them that her  
husband had left her when

314  
00:19:16,210 --> 00:19:17,860  
her youngest child was a baby.

315  
00:19:17,860 --> 00:19:21,100  
The baby was in the  
meantime 15 years.

316  
00:19:21,100 --> 00:19:23,920  
But she told various,  
she had a hard life.

317  
00:19:23,920 --> 00:19:25,570  
I'm sure she did.

318  
00:19:25,570 --> 00:19:27,890  
She did it probably  
to get some money,

319  
00:19:27,890 --> 00:19:33,400  
but we didn't have to pay,  
I mean, outlandish amounts.

320  
00:19:33,400 --> 00:19:38,560  
But we paid about what she's  
spending a little bit more.

321  
00:19:38,560 --> 00:19:40,390  
So it was-- it  
was a very decent.

322  
00:19:40,390 --> 00:19:42,130  
But she-- but she needed it.

323  
00:19:42,130 --> 00:19:46,510

324  
00:19:46,510 --> 00:19:50,537  
Was she afraid-- what was  
she risking by doing this?

325  
00:19:50,537 --> 00:19:51,370  
And was she afraid--

326  
00:19:51,370 --> 00:19:51,910  
No.

327  
00:19:51,910 --> 00:19:55,720  
Everybody thought-- everybody--  
and you can read about

328  
00:19:55,720 --> 00:20:00,940  
that the people who  
were hiding the Jews

329  
00:20:00,940 --> 00:20:03,580  
would be treated like the Jews.

330  
00:20:03,580 --> 00:20:04,750  
So they were scared.

331  
00:20:04,750 --> 00:20:08,620  
And the more things got  
bad for the Germans,

332  
00:20:08,620 --> 00:20:12,490  
the more they got against  
who were to take people in.

333  
00:20:12,490 --> 00:20:17,450

334  
00:20:17,450 --> 00:20:21,070  
Political, we didn't  
talk much with--

335  
00:20:21,070 --> 00:20:22,670  
with this woman.

336  
00:20:22,670 --> 00:20:24,140  
There was not much interest.

337

00:20:24,140 --> 00:20:28,160

And then it was that  
she was a poor woman,

338

00:20:28,160 --> 00:20:31,840

and she had that house and  
she didn't belong to her.

339

00:20:31,840 --> 00:20:32,900

It was rented.

340

00:20:32,900 --> 00:20:36,470

But she made something on the  
rent from the people upstairs,

341

00:20:36,470 --> 00:20:37,700

and she got our money.

342

00:20:37,700 --> 00:20:41,180

And so she could get  
her children to--

343

00:20:41,180 --> 00:20:43,880

at least to high school.

344

00:20:43,880 --> 00:20:47,270

Did you know about persecutions  
in this period of time

345

00:20:47,270 --> 00:20:48,440

while you were hiding?

346

00:20:48,440 --> 00:20:50,070

No.

347

00:20:50,070 --> 00:20:54,230

We heard one story, and that  
was the saddest of all this.

348

00:20:54,230 --> 00:20:59,450

Joe Fisch, who had at  
that time, I think,

349  
00:20:59,450 --> 00:21:02,720  
three children and  
his wife was pregnant,

350  
00:21:02,720 --> 00:21:05,780  
he took people into his house  
when he had no other place

351  
00:21:05,780 --> 00:21:07,490  
anymore, and they  
wouldn't have--

352  
00:21:07,490 --> 00:21:09,950  
they wouldn't know where to go.

353  
00:21:09,950 --> 00:21:13,430  
And he had a man at that time--

354  
00:21:13,430 --> 00:21:28,630  
I think that must have  
been in July 1943, late

355  
00:21:28,630 --> 00:21:31,990  
'43, that he had  
a man in his house

356  
00:21:31,990 --> 00:21:35,020  
with all the other  
people and the children

357  
00:21:35,020 --> 00:21:40,560  
that he was from the Spanish  
war on the black list

358  
00:21:40,560 --> 00:21:42,270  
of the Germans.

359  
00:21:42,270 --> 00:21:45,540  
And he had for a few  
days no place to go.

360

00:21:45,540 --> 00:21:48,280  
He was from Holland, originally.

361  
00:21:48,280 --> 00:21:49,920  
And so he took him in.

362  
00:21:49,920 --> 00:21:56,680  
And that night they came  
and emptied the whole house.

363  
00:21:56,680 --> 00:21:58,630  
The neighbors took the children.

364  
00:21:58,630 --> 00:22:01,450  
But everybody else  
who was there,

365  
00:22:01,450 --> 00:22:06,310  
there was two people  
I knew very well.

366  
00:22:06,310 --> 00:22:10,420  
I had sent to Joe Fisch,  
if he would help them.

367  
00:22:10,420 --> 00:22:13,870  
They were there because they  
had no-- he had no other places.

368  
00:22:13,870 --> 00:22:16,400  
And that man and  
he and his wife,

369  
00:22:16,400 --> 00:22:17,590  
and they were brought to--

370  
00:22:17,590 --> 00:22:22,200

371  
00:22:22,200 --> 00:22:24,900  
I don't know, they were  
brought to a person, I know.

372

00:22:24,900 --> 00:22:27,550

But when they found out  
that his wife was pregnant,

373

00:22:27,550 --> 00:22:29,520

they sent her home.

374

00:22:29,520 --> 00:22:34,730

And the others, Joe came to  
the house and said from that,

375

00:22:34,730 --> 00:22:35,330

he lifts--

376

00:22:35,330 --> 00:22:38,200

377

00:22:38,200 --> 00:22:38,860

OK.

378

00:22:38,860 --> 00:22:41,830

Paint me a portrait  
of this man, Joe.

379

00:22:41,830 --> 00:22:47,740

Joe Fisch was like very  
many people are in Holland--

380

00:22:47,740 --> 00:22:53,170

white, blond hair,  
tall, husky guy.

381

00:22:53,170 --> 00:22:58,810

And this part of Holland  
where we found the friends,

382

00:22:58,810 --> 00:23:02,350

and we found most of the  
places where we could hide,

383

00:23:02,350 --> 00:23:05,050

and where he brought

some of his people,

384  
00:23:05,050 --> 00:23:08,140  
and that was the churches.

385  
00:23:08,140 --> 00:23:16,780  
He was-- he was a  
carpenter starting out.

386  
00:23:16,780 --> 00:23:23,080  
But when I met him, he  
was already in connection

387  
00:23:23,080 --> 00:23:24,310  
with childrens--

388  
00:23:24,310 --> 00:23:27,720

389  
00:23:27,720 --> 00:23:31,770  
all kinds of difficulties with  
childrens and the children.

390  
00:23:31,770 --> 00:23:37,770  
And he was-- he had some--  
a completely different job

391  
00:23:37,770 --> 00:23:44,430  
above his way what he  
originally went in schooling.

392  
00:23:44,430 --> 00:23:48,810  
And so he was--

393  
00:23:48,810 --> 00:23:52,990  
this church was quite liberal.

394  
00:23:52,990 --> 00:23:56,500  
And-- but they  
were not very rich.

395  
00:23:56,500 --> 00:23:58,200

And he was not very rich.

396  
00:23:58,200 --> 00:24:01,670  
But he was a friend.

397  
00:24:01,670 --> 00:24:05,480  
He and his wife came  
very many times at night

398  
00:24:05,480 --> 00:24:07,490  
when you're not allowed  
to be on the street,

399  
00:24:07,490 --> 00:24:11,720  
and took things which were  
needed for our daughter,

400  
00:24:11,720 --> 00:24:14,140  
or which we would  
need when we can

401  
00:24:14,140 --> 00:24:19,880  
go to the first place, beds and  
linen, and all those things.

402  
00:24:19,880 --> 00:24:23,740  
We couldn't carry anything  
when we were going.

403  
00:24:23,740 --> 00:24:28,650  
When we were going, we  
had to take off the star

404  
00:24:28,650 --> 00:24:30,720  
and go by train.

405  
00:24:30,720 --> 00:24:35,470  
And that's a very  
obvious, very difficult

406  
00:24:35,470 --> 00:24:37,780  
because they were obviously  
looking for a younger

407

00:24:37,780 --> 00:24:42,340  
man, that my husband was never  
asked for any identification

408

00:24:42,340 --> 00:24:44,650  
because we had none.

409

00:24:44,650 --> 00:24:48,220  
And everybody had to  
have identification.

410

00:24:48,220 --> 00:24:53,140  
Joe was, for the people he  
helped, more than a father--

411

00:24:53,140 --> 00:24:54,910  
more than a father.

412

00:24:54,910 --> 00:25:02,380  
Because really, he had the  
best things in his mind

413

00:25:02,380 --> 00:25:03,520  
what should be done.

414

00:25:03,520 --> 00:25:07,240  
And when he was  
arrested, his best friend

415

00:25:07,240 --> 00:25:09,550  
took over like nothing.

416

00:25:09,550 --> 00:25:13,330  
In this best friend was  
the gardener of the City

417

00:25:13,330 --> 00:25:18,040  
of Zan--Zandarn.

418

00:25:18,040 --> 00:25:22,150  
And he had a library,

and he brought--

419

00:25:22,150 --> 00:25:25,900  
what we found out afterwards--  
the books my husband wanted.

420

00:25:25,900 --> 00:25:28,160  
He all had them at home.

421

00:25:28,160 --> 00:25:33,640  
He had a tremendous library, and  
a very, very highly intelligent

422

00:25:33,640 --> 00:25:34,340  
man.

423

00:25:34,340 --> 00:25:36,500  
As I said, he came  
every two weeks.

424

00:25:36,500 --> 00:25:39,340  
And we were looking forward  
when he came, because he

425

00:25:39,340 --> 00:25:42,610  
brought with him his--

426

00:25:42,610 --> 00:25:45,100  
what he thought about  
what was going on.

427

00:25:45,100 --> 00:25:51,190  
And he was also listening  
to the British BBC,

428

00:25:51,190 --> 00:25:57,790  
which was forbidden,  
because they would kill you.

429

00:25:57,790 --> 00:25:59,610  
And then you'd  
know that you have

430

00:25:59,610 --> 00:26:02,910

left the radio on that station.

431

00:26:02,910 --> 00:26:06,390

And he told us  
everything-- everything--

432

00:26:06,390 --> 00:26:07,830

what he heard.

433

00:26:07,830 --> 00:26:15,270

And he was the first one  
who told us in July 1944,

434

00:26:15,270 --> 00:26:19,380

that by that time 1 and  
1/2 or 2 million Jews

435

00:26:19,380 --> 00:26:21,150

had been killed in Auschwitz.

436

00:26:21,150 --> 00:26:22,620

We had no idea.

437

00:26:22,620 --> 00:26:25,230

We had never heard  
the name of Auschwitz.

438

00:26:25,230 --> 00:26:27,540

And I think practically  
all the people

439

00:26:27,540 --> 00:26:35,280

who had nothing to do with the  
Nazis or whatever didn't know.

440

00:26:35,280 --> 00:26:37,470

So-- but he told us that.

441

00:26:37,470 --> 00:26:42,120

That helped us later  
on to get a better

442  
00:26:42,120 --> 00:26:48,540  
picture when we were arrested  
where we would be going.

443  
00:26:48,540 --> 00:26:53,360  
How many people did Joe  
rescue, do you think?

444  
00:26:53,360 --> 00:26:56,650  
I don't-- you see,  
only the ones I know.

445  
00:26:56,650 --> 00:26:58,800  
I'm sure he had many, many more.

446  
00:26:58,800 --> 00:27:03,500

447  
00:27:03,500 --> 00:27:04,880  
How many?

448  
00:27:04,880 --> 00:27:09,920  
It's Doris and it's me  
and it is the friends in--

449  
00:27:09,920 --> 00:27:14,840  
I introduced him to who  
had three daughters,

450  
00:27:14,840 --> 00:27:17,060  
all three daughters-- no.

451  
00:27:17,060 --> 00:27:18,020  
Yeah.

452  
00:27:18,020 --> 00:27:21,260  
The third-- the oldest  
daughter was in his house

453  
00:27:21,260 --> 00:27:26,810  
when they were all

arrested there.

454

00:27:26,810 --> 00:27:31,580

So the oldest daughter up  
to that point, she was--

455

00:27:31,580 --> 00:27:35,510

she was with him, and she  
was taken to Bergen-Belsen

456

00:27:35,510 --> 00:27:38,250

where she found her mother.

457

00:27:38,250 --> 00:27:43,290

And the mother and this daughter  
came along at least six months

458

00:27:43,290 --> 00:27:49,270

before the war was over  
and a changing of prisoners

459

00:27:49,270 --> 00:27:53,110

of Germany and Jews.

460

00:27:53,110 --> 00:27:56,530

Why do you think  
Joe was a rescuer?

461

00:27:56,530 --> 00:28:04,300

Now, he-- at first, he made us  
open the place to go and hide.

462

00:28:04,300 --> 00:28:07,410

We wouldn't have known anybody.

463

00:28:07,410 --> 00:28:10,470

Why do you think he did it?

464

00:28:10,470 --> 00:28:14,370

Oh, I know why, because  
he loved people.

465

00:28:14,370 --> 00:28:21,710

He was basically  
very, very good man.

466

00:28:21,710 --> 00:28:25,560

There was nothing wrong in  
any way to complain ever.

467

00:28:25,560 --> 00:28:31,470

He was a fantastic,  
hardworking man and loving man.

468

00:28:31,470 --> 00:28:35,290

469

00:28:35,290 --> 00:28:37,330

Was he risking  
not only his own--

470

00:28:37,330 --> 00:28:38,080

Oh, sure.

471

00:28:38,080 --> 00:28:38,950

--but his family?

472

00:28:38,950 --> 00:28:40,300

His family, too.

473

00:28:40,300 --> 00:28:43,900

But he's not the only  
one who did that for us.

474

00:28:43,900 --> 00:28:48,040

The family would have suffered  
already in the first days

475

00:28:48,040 --> 00:28:50,140

when they were arrested.

476

00:28:50,140 --> 00:28:54,880

But nothing would have happened  
to his wife and nothing did.

477

00:28:54,880 --> 00:28:58,090

But he would-- you don't  
know when you do that.

478

00:28:58,090 --> 00:29:01,420

But I think he didn't  
even think about.

479

00:29:01,420 --> 00:29:06,280

We have other friends  
who risked everything.

480

00:29:06,280 --> 00:29:09,820

We did not come from  
this place, from him.

481

00:29:09,820 --> 00:29:11,450

They didn't know each other.

482

00:29:11,450 --> 00:29:14,740

We brought them together,  
and the two of them

483

00:29:14,740 --> 00:29:19,180

really did get more groups  
and different kind of people.

484

00:29:19,180 --> 00:29:23,950

The other man had  
all our belongings.

485

00:29:23,950 --> 00:29:26,920

The most important  
thing were our books.

486

00:29:26,920 --> 00:29:31,500

And he had clothes.

487

00:29:31,500 --> 00:29:34,530

The first thing you would  
need if you have nothing.

488

00:29:34,530 --> 00:29:39,090  
That's why my husband said, if  
he takes it, it will be right.

489  
00:29:39,090 --> 00:29:43,210  
Into so he had--

490  
00:29:43,210 --> 00:29:47,010  
he went and-- went  
when Joe was--

491  
00:29:47,010 --> 00:29:51,510  
Joe was arrested and was  
gone, he came in by himself

492  
00:29:51,510 --> 00:29:54,240  
to go every two weeks  
to my daughter, too.

493  
00:29:54,240 --> 00:29:59,160  
And in some way, he  
made our daughter his--

494  
00:29:59,160 --> 00:30:01,880  
a wonderful man.

495  
00:30:01,880 --> 00:30:04,640  
Did you have-- did you get  
news about your daughter

496  
00:30:04,640 --> 00:30:06,230  
while you were in hiding?

497  
00:30:06,230 --> 00:30:07,820  
Not personally.

498  
00:30:07,820 --> 00:30:11,720  
But everybody was there at  
least every two weeks sometimes.

499  
00:30:11,720 --> 00:30:12,920  
Yeah.

500

00:30:12,920 --> 00:30:14,060

Yes, we know.

501

00:30:14,060 --> 00:30:17,120

We got those pictures  
they had made.

502

00:30:17,120 --> 00:30:21,440

But we did not want  
any other contact.

503

00:30:21,440 --> 00:30:25,610

We had no contact only  
really before she was gone.

504

00:30:25,610 --> 00:30:30,140

And we did not want her  
ever to feel that she's

505

00:30:30,140 --> 00:30:31,880

homesick for her parents.

506

00:30:31,880 --> 00:30:33,430

She should forget it.

507

00:30:33,430 --> 00:30:35,720

And she did.

508

00:30:35,720 --> 00:30:40,670

That-- this is maybe  
one-- some of the reasons

509

00:30:40,670 --> 00:30:46,280

that she maybe forgot it for  
a long time, our relationship.

510

00:30:46,280 --> 00:30:49,430

And this is what we did.

511

00:30:49,430 --> 00:30:53,720

Because she would  
not call it that

512  
00:30:53,720 --> 00:30:57,920  
we saved her life at  
that time and much later.

513  
00:30:57,920 --> 00:31:00,510  
But what she called  
it abandoned.

514  
00:31:00,510 --> 00:31:02,460  
And she's not the only one.

515  
00:31:02,460 --> 00:31:05,780  
There's a very big  
literature about children

516  
00:31:05,780 --> 00:31:09,300  
who were brought by their  
parents to other people.

517  
00:31:09,300 --> 00:31:11,570  
They always said that  
they were abandoned.

518  
00:31:11,570 --> 00:31:16,210

519  
00:31:16,210 --> 00:31:19,830  
Tell me about getting arrested.

520  
00:31:19,830 --> 00:31:24,220  
Oh, that came very  
suddenly and unexpected.

521  
00:31:24,220 --> 00:31:27,700  
Because the-- more than a  
year we were in that house,

522  
00:31:27,700 --> 00:31:32,840  
I was only one time out to  
get a tooth pulled at night.

523

00:31:32,840 --> 00:31:35,230  
And the dentist was  
more excited than I was.

524  
00:31:35,230 --> 00:31:37,700  
He was shaking until he gets it.

525  
00:31:37,700 --> 00:31:40,460  
I don't know what he thought  
what he had to do with it.

526  
00:31:40,460 --> 00:31:44,150  
But anyway, we didn't get  
out, and we could hardly

527  
00:31:44,150 --> 00:31:46,790  
look out of the window.

528  
00:31:46,790 --> 00:31:57,270  
It was on a Friday morning,  
and it was the 25th of August,

529  
00:31:57,270 --> 00:32:04,440  
the same day that Paris was  
liberated by the Allies.

530  
00:32:04,440 --> 00:32:06,830  
We didn't know.

531  
00:32:06,830 --> 00:32:09,920  
But that was the day  
we were arrested.

532  
00:32:09,920 --> 00:32:14,820  
And we-- as I said, we  
lived on the top floor.

533  
00:32:14,820 --> 00:32:17,460  
And we heard a  
knock on the door--

534  
00:32:17,460 --> 00:32:19,890  
not a kick, a knock.

535  
00:32:19,890 --> 00:32:21,930  
And here were two men--

536  
00:32:21,930 --> 00:32:23,340  
not in uniform.

537  
00:32:23,340 --> 00:32:26,310  
I found out later on that  
there were two men downstairs

538  
00:32:26,310 --> 00:32:29,250  
on each side of the house.

539  
00:32:29,250 --> 00:32:33,090  
Those two men said that  
we were under arrest.

540  
00:32:33,090 --> 00:32:34,350  
They knew our names.

541  
00:32:34,350 --> 00:32:37,320  
Nobody in that house  
knew our names.

542  
00:32:37,320 --> 00:32:42,830  
And they would come in  
and they looked around.

543  
00:32:42,830 --> 00:32:47,300  
And then saw a picture of  
the last picture we got

544  
00:32:47,300 --> 00:32:49,320  
from our daughter on the wall.

545  
00:32:49,320 --> 00:32:52,580  
And one of them said,  
if this is your child,

546  
00:32:52,580 --> 00:32:56,270  
if you have other

children in hiding,

547

00:32:56,270 --> 00:33:01,880  
we suggest you take them with  
you, because you are brought--

548

00:33:01,880 --> 00:33:06,350  
you will be brought to work and  
to take care of the children

549

00:33:06,350 --> 00:33:09,980  
while the parents are working.

550

00:33:09,980 --> 00:33:15,770  
And then we were both found  
out if we had any money on us.

551

00:33:15,770 --> 00:33:20,360  
and we had money on us, but  
they didn't even find it.

552

00:33:20,360 --> 00:33:23,900  
And they also said-- they  
looked in the drawers.

553

00:33:23,900 --> 00:33:28,550  
We had very little clothes,  
just absolutely necessary.

554

00:33:28,550 --> 00:33:31,430  
And they said, take cold--

555

00:33:31,430 --> 00:33:33,230  
take winter clothes with you.

556

00:33:33,230 --> 00:33:35,720  
Where you are going,  
it's very cold.

557

00:33:35,720 --> 00:33:37,850  
Now, that was true.

558

00:33:37,850 --> 00:33:40,500

The other thing of the  
children were [? bad life. ?]

559

00:33:40,500 --> 00:33:41,000