

You see here?

You can say when you're going to start.

Pardon? Oh 10 seconds. You start.

This is Diane Plotkin. It's January 30, 1992. We're interviewing Mrs. Alegre Tevet at Southern Methodist University.

I'm Mark Jacobs.

My name is Alegre Tevet. And I came to visit my daughter, Sarah, who lives in Dallas. I live in Portland, Oregon.

Why don't you start by telling us when you were born, and where you were born, and something about your family, and about growing up.

Well, I was born in Greece on November 15, 1922 in the city of Drama, Greece. And I was the fourth of the girls. And I have three brothers, and four girls. We were seven children in our family, and my father and mother were living.

What were your parents' names?

My father's name was Samuel Kastro. My mother's name was Sarah Kastro. I had a sister. Her name was Regina. She was married. Her name was Regina Arama. I had another sister, she survived with me, Julia Cohen, lives in Tel Aviv, Israel.

My other, sister Matilda Kastro, she's deceased too. She was in concentration camp. Three brothers Aaron, Menachem and Josef. So we was a very nice family, very happy family.

My father was a shoemaker. My mother was a housewife to raise the children. We were not very rich. We was not poor. We all worked very together, the family. And my oldest sister, she was a dressmaker. My sister, the one she survived, she's a milliner. She used to make hats. And my other sister, Matilda, she was a beauty operator. And I was a beauty operator with her.

And then I had the three brothers. They was going to school, but part time, they used to work to make extra money, what they needed. We was a very, very happy family, and I see the two Jewish schools. I went to a Jewish school. They call them the School of Alliance. I learned my Greek, and my Hebrew, and French, which was very important to all the Jewish families to learn one extra foreign language.

Of course, the Hebrew is our nationality, not nationality, our faith. And the nationality was the Greek.

Did you speak Ladino in your house?

Pardon me?

Did you speak Ladino?

Yes, at home we used to speak Ladino, everybody because I'm a Sephardic. And my father and mother, everybody was Sephardic. We never have Ashkenazis in our home town. And I don't know Ashkenazi is-- I have a cousin who married Ashkenazi, and then we knew the difference from Ashkenazi to Sephardic. But we used speak at home, we used to speak Ladino.

And when I used to go out with the friends, we used to speak Greek, and the Hebrew of course, to know the religion of the Jewish faith. My mother and father, they was a very warm people. They give us such a warm home, happy life. We never have sadness in our family, never screaming, never yelling, always with love, sweetheart. I love you. We used to

behave ourselves.

We never have the kids to argue or nothing. So we was very close family. Well, we all went to schools. And I was going to high school for two years. And then the war broke out. So we can't afford it to go to high school. I stopped going high school. And then I was helping my sister, beauty operator. And I was making a little bit of money.

So when the war broke out and the Greek was in war with Albania, and Italian. So the Greek went to the war, everything, and Germany came through Italy. And then from Italy, they came to Greece. They lost the war.

And I used to live in Drama, Greece, which is the border of Bulgarian. It's north of Greece, they call it Macedonia. So in Drama, in Greece, they declared the war with the Bulgarians. The Bulgarians came through Drama. And my mother and father, they was having such a experience with the first world war, that the Bulgarian, they was barbarians. And she was scared.

And in between, my sister, she was married, and she was living in Salonika. And when the Italians was bombarding Salonika, so my sister came to Drama to visit with the little boy. And so when they stopped the bombarding in Salonika, she went back. And she took one of my sisters, the one she lives now in Israel.

So she took her back with her, and one of my brothers. So they went, the four of them to Salonika. After a little while, a month after, my other sister went with another brother. They went to Salonika. Can you tell us approximately when this was, what year? That was in 1941, in then end of '41.

And then they went to Salonika. So we was only my mother and father and one of my brothers, Aaron. We was at home in Greece. And when the Bulgarians came, my mother says, you're a young girl, and the boy, they're going to take you. They're going to kill them. We have to leave here. So they don't allow-- they was divided, Salonika was divided with the Germans and Macedonia was divided with the Bulgarians. And they don't give you a permit to go to travel, to cross the city.

So we took false identifications, and I went with my mother to Salonika. And a week after, my father and brother, we went to Salonika, they came. They came to Salonika, in between, I see all the Jewish people, they was wearing those stars, the yellow stars, a Jew. So we still was going to work. We was working and everything. But you have to really make your living, because the war, the people was dying from malnutrition in the sidewalks in Greece.

So they don't allow us to go to the central streets.

Did you have to live in a ghetto?

Pardon me?

Did you have to live in a ghetto in Salonika.

Later on. They put us in ghetto, yeah. Later on. At least we was making a living. We was living in a home, nice home. We rented and we was working everybody.

So the whole family was together?

All, the whole family, we went to Salonika. In between, the Bulgarians, they was coming and taking, knocking on the doors, and taking-- it doesn't make any difference if you're Jewish or not Jewish. They were knocking in the door. They take the people, and they kill them.

But after a couple of months, the Bulgarians, in the middle of the night, they knocked all the Jewish homes on the doors, and they took the people, the way they was, with their nightgowns, with pajamas. Some people, they was giving a birth to a baby, with the little babies. They were the ones they took them to warehouses.

And that's what we heard from some Greek people that came to Salonika. They heard, they took all the Jewish people. They brought them to warehouses. We never know what happened to all those Jewish people, not only to Drama, not only Kavala, if you see on the map, in the Greek map, Drama, Kavala, Serres, Xanthi, Komotini, Alexandroupoli, [PLACE NAME]-- all those cities. They took all the Jewish people. They put them in a warehouse. But they don't know nobody what happened.

So some people they say, they put them in the trench, which was true that they put them in trench. And they throw them in the [PLACE NAME] River. That's what they say. So, I heard from a lot of people, they did that to all those Jewish people. But nobody survive, nobody.

The only thing we was lucky, the family, we left Drama and we went to Salonika, and I'm here now to talk my story what happened.

In 1942, they put us in ghettos in Salonika. That was close to the depot train, train depot. They put us in ghetto for a week or two weeks. We stay over there. And then they take transports. You know what is transport. They took in transports, and they put them in the trains.

The trains was like cargo-- little small window with the bars, one on one side, one on the other side, like animals. So they shoveled us down inside, one on top of the other. And no water, no food, until we went to Birkenau.

So whatever we took with us, sometimes they stopped, they took us a little barrel of water, and they take the, you know you have to go to bathroom and things like that, they clean up. So about five or six days, we stay on those trains, five, maybe a week.

Before you tell us about the camps, can you tell us what it was like in the ghetto?

In the ghetto was nothing to tell you. For two weeks, three weeks, we was over there. It was nothing, because the ghetto was only Jewish people. That ghetto was little houses, and houses, and houses. They used to live Jewish people in Salonika. They took the transport, the first ones they took on those. They took him to concentration camp, and they cleared up that one, and they prepare that when they take in transports, they bring them over there.

They don't took all the Jewish at once to put it in a ghetto, because there was a lot of Jewish people in Salonika. There was very, very wealthy, and very, very poor people. So the poor class, they used to live in that ghetto. They took them first those. They cleared up. And then they started to transport. They take them, example, one section of the city. They bring it to that ghetto. And then they take another section of the city. They bring in the ghetto. See?

In between, some people, if they can hide, fine. But it was impossible to hide.

How many people to a room?

How many people to a room?

Oh 10, 10, 20 people.

To a room?

Not to the room, to two rooms.

To two rooms?

To two rooms, yeah.

What kind of food did you get? Whatever we took from home, because when they took us from home they put us in the ghetto over there, see? Whatever we brought from home, we never know where we going. Nobody knows where we

was going. See? It's impossible to know what you're taking. I don't know. We never thought that it's going to happen that way.

So we took whatever we have at home, a little flour, rice, beans, whatever we had. And that's what-- and then they used to bring us like the salvation army, they bring soup. What do you call them that?

Soup kitchen.

That they used to bring us too. And for three weeks, we was over there, until the transport there was. As soon as we was leaving, there was coming another section, another section of Jewish people they bring them to the ghetto.

So when we went to Birkenau, it was hard. We never thought. Because we saw the snow and everything. It's still snowing over there. We would say, where are we going? Right away, they opened the doors, and they drop us down, and they start to separating.

About how long was your train ride?

Five, six days, a week almost. It was a week. It was a week.

Do you remember about how many people were in your train?

Oh, my god. You can't count the people. You can't count the people. It was one on top of the other. You can't stretch your feet. It was impossible.

Can you describe any of the people?

Who they was? Yeah, there was a lot of families which were from the section I used to live, from the, like example, the west side, east side. What do you call them that? So that. And we don't know the people, because we never live in Salonika. We just was transferred from Drama to Salonika. We don't know the people.

But they were Jewish people, nice people.

Did they all survive the ride?

If they survived, some of them, I don't know.

Did they survive the train ride? Did anybody die on the train ride?

Yes, two people died in the train, yeah, two people. Two people die. And they took them, they throw them out. That's all. It was hard. It was a very bad experience to be in that train, very bad. My father used to say when he left the house, he was crying. He broke every dish, every glass of the house. And he pulled the mezuzah from the door.

And he was praying. He was so sad, very sad. He pulled the mezuzah from the door, and he said, god shall be with us.

He was still a young man, to see such a tragic life, very tragic life. Everybody was thinking that was the end of our lives when we was in the train. We never thought we was going to be alive out of the train. So when they took us out and they opened the doors, and they were saying [NON-ENGLISH] here. The older in here, and the women here, and the girls here, and boys here.

So they separate to us, and I was running with my mother, because I was very close to my mother. And they pulled me up, and they took me with my other two sisters. My older sister, she was holding the little boy in her arms. So they took her with my mother, she went.

Two of my brothers, Aaron and Menachem, they went separate. My father separate. My little boy, but my mother. My

boy was 10 years old, very smart. He learned the German language right away.

Who was the 10-year-old? I'm sorry.

Pardon me?

Who was the little boy?

Josef.

And who was he?

My brother.

Your brother, OK.

He learned. He was a very smart boy. He learned right away the German language in a short time. And then they took us, line, walking, walking. We went to Birkenau.

Who did you march in front of somebody? Did you go in front of somebody?

For people, yes, yes, big, 1,000 people, sweetheart, thousands and thousands. We was in the line. Yeah, there are some people, they survived with the-- we was together. And they live. One lives in Seattle. One lives in New York.

Who told you where to go?

Where to go? There was the Germans with the dogs.

With the dogs?

Yes. There was the Germans with the dogs. And we used to walk, and we walk straight, like you walk in the army. And we went to the-- it was a big community-- they call them [NON-ENGLISH]. They take a shower.

They shaved. We took all the clothes. They shaved our hair, every place. And they-- they keep us like this, nude. And then you're going to take a shower. Before we took a shower, they put the-- they put us the number. And then we went to take a shower.

And they gave us clothes like camp clothes, a pants, and a jacket, and underwear, some stockings, some shoes with the wood. Like prisoners we was. And then they put us in the blocks. And they come in the barracks. You know the barracks?

What shall I start now? We went inside, everybody cry. Crying, we don't know what happened to everybody. We was my two sisters and I, three we was together. We never separated for a little while. You know, we was always together. We was going to for 40 days, they have us quarantine, not to go out of the cabin.

But maybe I was young, but I was very curious, very courage. And I have some friends that survived. They are in Salonika too, in Israel. She said to me, Alegre, they're asking, the barrack was divided in four sections. And they call them-- each section they have a [NON-ENGLISH]. [NON-ENGLISH] is like they watch you. You go to bed, if you're sleeping, or you're doing something wrong, they report to the blockalteste, the one the higher of the barrack. Maybe you there know better those things.

And each [NON-ENGLISH], some of them they was nice, because they were Jewish too. Some of them, they wanted to be strictly not to get involved wrong. So this is we can go to the bathroom. We can't go out. So everything was at the barrack.

They have big barrels in each section of the barrack, so we used to do that over there. And then when the time comes, you have to go and throw it in the toilet outside. So they says, I want four girls. Who wants to go out? The second day, I went out. I went out. I was so curious. I want to know what's going on now.

So we went with four girls, take the barrels. It was very heavy. It was iron, very heavy. So we went, and we saw some French Jewish girls, and Polish. I don't know Poland. I don't know other language, only French. I ask her, what happened to our mothers? And start crying, she says [NON-ENGLISH]. They burned them up.

I say, how can they burn up? She said, don't you see the chimney? The smoke, she says. That's what our mothers is, and fathers, and brothers, and sisters, everybody that are over there. I don't know how we came with that barrel back in the barrack.

Like I don't know. I don't know. We came. We start screaming. And we said, the whole barrack over there was two section was Greek Jewish, you know Sephardics. And the other section was Ashkenazis. But we were so friendly, everybody. Those two, they was in quarantine too. And I say, they burn our parents. They put them in the ovens. They burned them up.

And everybody is screaming and crying. So the [GERMAN], the ones they was watching us, and they say, they was trying to give us what do you call them-- to give us a little comfort. They says, you have to look for your life. They says, now they're gone, they says. We can't bring them back, they says. If you're strong, you will survive, they says.

And I don't know. My mother, she always was afraid of fire. She always was very-- she a lot of fear of fire. How she came and she went over there? I was thinking that, and it was driving me crazy. So one of my sisters, Matilda, she became very depressed, very, very depressed.

She was working with us. We was working in Auskommando. Auskommando is outdoor, and very hard labor. Take like walls they are, we used to take like those electric poles, they got, those heavy ones, and to push them, and to break the walls, and then to take the bricks, and clean the bricks. Hard labor. What they need those bricks for? But to give us a hard labor.

So I work over there for six months. In 1942, by the end of 1942, and then we went to Auschwitz. Before I went to Auschwitz, they make a selection. You know what is selection? Selection. And they made a selection. And then they went to work. And my sister, Matilda, she was very, very skinny, like a skeleton.

But she was about six months she was at the camp with us. She went to work a little bit. I said to her, please Matilda, come with us. Don't stay. You stay in the lager, they're going to put you in crematorium. You're working, you forget. Come with us.

She was very depressed, very depressed. She was staying always. She always sick, sick, sick. They made a big selection. They took her. And one time she skip, she ran away back to the cabin. Well a week after, and she told me that, she told us. A week after, they made a big, big selection. And they took her. They took her. She knew she was going to go to crematorium. See my mother, my other sister don't know. They took a shower, from the gas, one breath, and that's all.

But my sister Matilda knew it. She was going to go to crematorium. She knew it. My brothers, two brothers, three. But she knew it, Matilda. She knew that. It was hard for her, poor girl, young. 22 years old, the fruit of her life.

So we went back from work. And I-- when we went, and I saw the bed what's happening, and I asked the girls from the other side. I said, what happened to my sister? They said, they took her. They took her.

So, that was one big tragedy. I lost my mother and father and my brothers. But I knew that my sister, she knew it, she was going to go over there. So that was really very sad, very, very sad. So after they transfer us to Auschwitz, I was working in a shoe kommando. Shoe kommando is for the shoes.

So to take the leather, separate it, the [NON-ENGLISH], with the plastic separate, the rubber separate, everything. So the whole shoe, how it was the shoe, we peeled like you peel a potato, like this we peel the whole shoe, clean them up. And we separated. So I work over there more than a year.

And in between, that was in 1943 and '44. And I was working in a shoe kommando. And then the German came, a big husky man with a fur coat and everything. And he was like a commander. He came, and he checked, and he said to me, [GERMAN].

So I stand up. He said, [GERMAN]. You have dirt on your hands. I said, no soap. [GERMAN], I say. No soap. [GERMAN] So as soon as we went to the lager back, right away the whole kommando we went to take a shower. Once a week, they gave us. They never gave us soap to wash. So and then every day we used to take showers.

So I was lucky I was working in a shoe kommando. There was not rain, it was indoor, not in the rain. So I worked for a little while over there, almost a year. I learned the German. I was obligated to learn a little bit German. So if they said to me, [GERMAN], I can say [GERMAN]. He's going to slap in your face. So I have to know what it means, [GERMAN], get up.

So and I learned the language a little bit. So I work at the shoe kommando. There was coming transport from Hungary, the end in 1944. From Hungary, and all the transport was coming directly they was taken to the crematorium. And all the things that was coming from the transport, they used to take them, and throw them in a ditch.

So when I used to go from one barrack to another with other girls to pick some shoes to bring to there, we used to go to the ditch and dig over there, and if we find something, so we can eat, like you find a jar of marmalade, you know something, at least a few potatoes.

We used to dig in the ditch, and to take. When you're hungry, you can eat the rats. And then in Auschwitz, every once in a while, they used to make the zahlappell. Zahlappell is to count. They don't count you. They don't call you by name, they call you by number. See, they have the list, and they call you by number.

Sometimes they make it to be nude, not to wear clothes. And they take you outdoors, outside of your barrack. Each barrack, they have their own group. We was in the barrack, and over there we was about 120 people, 130 people, each barrack. And they call them barracks in here, but we used to call them blocks. Blocket, maybe your daddy knows that.

And they used to call us, and we stay nude, and they used to call by name. And you say [NON-ENGLISH]. If somebody is absent or is inside, they don't come out, the whole lager you have to be blocksperr. Blocksperr is nobody can go out of the block. Nobody. If they see you go out, they shoot you. Blocksperr is like here, they say curfew. No out at all. So we never went out.

Because somebody was missing. And then when they find it, they take him and the hang him. So two girls that tried to run away, two beautiful girls, they tried to run away. They caught them. They brought us from work to the lager to see the hang them up, the two girls, in front of our eyes.

It don't happen one time, it don't happen twice, it happened so many times, happen that, in case you're not in the appell when they come to you. They have to count. Each day, every morning and every night, when you come from work they count you up. And when the morning, before you go to work they count you up.

So there, they're very strict. You can skip from one block to another like this, everything was barbed wire. If you go close to the wire, you get electric shock. So you can't. Hard time.

There came in 1944 when they started to come aeroplanes, and started bombarding in Auschwitz. And as soon as they was coming, the aeroplanes, they start coming, they used to take us in shelters, in warehouse shelters. It's war shelters, now, you call them, war shelters.

And they put us over there. And we can hear the bomb, the aeroplanes, but they never, never throw one bomb in the concentration camp. Never. I don't know. I never heard.

But we was there for quite a few times, five, six times, when they came and they was doing that. And then they decided to take us from Auschwitz to bring us to Bergen-Belsen. So we work two days and two nights, all day you walk in the snow. And you see ditches, one side, the other side. A lot of people dead in the ditches. A lot of people dead. They shoot them. If you cannot walk, they shoot you.

If you're starting to cripple down, they shoot you. So you have to be very strong, and like you are alert, alert to be. And--

I saw ditches of people die, dead. On the other side pictures of people dead. So we walk the whole day. We stop. We have some soup. And then walk again. So we walk, and they put us in barns, you know where the animals you put in, barns, with the straw, a lot of straw. That was our beds. We sit down. And you sit down in the straw, and go to sleep for the night.

Early in the morning, was the coffee all, the coffee to give us the coffee, and a piece of bread. And then walk again, until we walk two days. And then we took the train. And they bring us with the closed trains, some of them was open, some were closed. They took us to Bergen-Belsen.

When was this?

Bergen-Belsen?

When?

In 1944.

The end of '44 and '45. In '45, yeah, because we don't stay too much in Bergen-Belsen, that's what I remember, see, the end of '44. We walk in the snow 1944. And we went with the trains. When we saw the trains, we thought that was the end of our lives. We thought that they're going to take us directly.

A lot of people die from suffocation, malnutrition, no food, no nothing, or fear. So they die in the trains. And then we arrive in Bergen-Belsen. And they put us in cabins, in barrack, barracks. They put us in barracks.

And then they-- I was working in Auskommando again. My sister always was with me. But before I go to Bergen-Belsen, I have something more important. When I was in the show kommando, and I am in Auschwitz, and then they separate us. They say, they cut the girls, not too many girls to work in the shoe kommando. So they separate me with my sister, Julia.

I have to tell that. And my sister, she was working in Auskommando, it's outdoors. So I was-- I knew beauty operator, so I started fixing her to the blockalteste. That is the higher up of the of the barrack. And I beg her if my sister can have a better kommando to work. She say, I'll put her to sew.

So I put my sister with my little German language, I put my sister to go sew, in a kommando of sewing. So she was indoor working. And she was working in the evening. I was working in the daytime. Always we used to meet at the gate of the lager. When I used to go out to work, she used to come. So it still was nice, we see each other. I know she was in indoor kommando working.

So after when they said they're going to send us to Bergen-Belsen, I said I want my sister together with me. That's the only one I got, I say. Because that kommando, that was going to go later. So I took my sister with me. And she was with me all the way through to Bergen-Belsen. When we went to Bergen-Belsen, we worked together in the Auskommando.

And they put you in the toilets, where they go. Some people, they worked hard. They go to the toilet. They relax for 10, 15 minutes. They have to have a guard in to watch if you stay too long over there. There was a German with a dog in



one side, and another German soldier with the dog on the other side.

So they never let the girls to stay too long in the bathroom. So when my sister and I was working, and he said to me, the German [NON-ENGLISH], come here. So I start shaking. And my sister said, [NON-ENGLISH]. He said, [NON-ENGLISH], come here. He said to me, he said, why are you crying all the time? I said, why shouldn't I cry? My mother kaput, my father kaput, my brother kaput, my sister kaput. All is kaput, I said. Everybody die. Why shouldn't I be sad?

And that was in the middle-- that was in '45, I think was in February, in March he said to me, he said [NON-ENGLISH], he says, please, don't cry, he says. You're going to go home. No mother, I say, no home. No mother, no father, and I say no brother, no nothing. I say where should I go home? I say, where am I going to go home?

He say, yeah you're going to go home. He says, me kaput he says to me, exactly like this. He said me kaput. Anyway, so that was an appeal to me, but he gave him a little something. Because he used to see me, always I was crying, working and crying. The tears was coming everybody, see? We're at the end of our lives. There was very hard labor.

And then they don't let us work for a month, because the war was losing, and we was at the barracks all the time. And so some girls were singing. Some, they was laughing. Some, they was crying. Some, they was dying.

So one morning, it was the dream of our lives. Never, never thought I was going to see that day. We get up early in the morning, oh, and we saw the white flags. I don't know what was the white flag for or nothing. And there was screaming people. We was free. We are free! We are free!

And some people from the joy and happy there was, they die right away. Right away, they die, in front of our eyes. I say, listen, sweetheart, we are free. I say, we're going to go home. To where? Where are we going to go? We don't got a home. Where are we going? But we was free. We was free.

They came right away in the tanks, the big tanks and the big trucks. With the English and the Germans on top the trunks and the tanks. And everybody screaming and throwing rocks at the Germans.

You can't kill with a rag, a piece of rag, you throw to him, it's nothing for him. But you feel like you did something if you throw. Anyway, so it was a pleasant day to see the freedom, and it was a sad day, a very sad day. If you think, you lost the whole family, lost the whole family.

I have so much to learn on my family. Never had the chance to see nothing. I saw my brothers a few times at the camp, when I was going to work. They separate 20 girls one side to take us in another kommando. And all of a sudden, I don't know. I was so courage all the time. I was, I want to see everything. I'm very curious, curious for my life. I want to know what's going on.

So I went always. I want to be in the front line, always. So I went to the front line, 20 girls they separated, my sister and I, we went. We went to a that commander, and we saw-- and my two brothers, Menachem and Ari, Aaron. And they was pushing, the car, the wagon, they put horses, to carry the wagon, right?

Then the person was the horses, and they was pulling the wagon, full of bricks. So I had my bread for to eat for lunch. And I throw my bread to my brother. And I say, Ari, eat please that bread. So three times I saw him and to my other brother, Menachem.

So my sister and I, we never eat the bread. We always prepare it, when are we going to go and see it, to throw the bread to him. I used to leave always a piece underneath a bush, and he said because that commander, that's the only commander, there was women to work, to clean the bricks. And the men they used to come, take all the clean bricks, put them in the wagon and carry them to the devil, to another corner. Hard time.

So I saw three times, and three times I give my bread only. And that's what I find out, and then I don't see them at all anymore. When I saw some people, they survive, I ask if they saw my brothers. They were so handsome, oh dear god. Dear god, I have in front of my eyes the whole family right now. I can see his face, tall and blond, and red face, so

handsome.

My other brother, Menachem, so affection, for who shall I cry first? For who shall I cry? Honest to god, drives you crazy sometimes. Drives you crazy. That is impossible to forget, it's impossible.

But I was free, thank god. I never dream, never in my life dream I'm going to be free from there. [NON-ENGLISH], thank god. I'm alive and I can tell my story.

It was they treat us very good, they came the English. They treat us. They put us in another warehouse with the regular beds. And they start giving us food. Some people, they die. They can't resist from the food they give us. They died. They never see the freedom. You cry for them too, because they went through so much. And at the end of the war, they never have the chance to see nothing. For who shall I see?

They give us clothes. They took all the pictures. They took movies, the English. It was they treated us very good. They came the Red Cross. They asked me if I want to go to Israel, if I want to go to the United States, whether I want to go back to my hometown. I said, I want to go back to Greece. Maybe I'll find my brothers. I know the rest of my family nobody's going to be alive. But at least I'll see my baby. I find my brothers.

So I had a first cousin in Athens. She survived. She went to hide, because a lot of people there they change into the German camp-- to Athens. People run in the mountains. They hide and in other cities. But in Macedonia, they don't have the chance. They was blocked from both sides.

So I have both sides from Salonika and from Drama, Greece and Serres. They was clocked like this, see? You can't escape. And I send a message with the Red Cross to my cousin in Athens that I'm alive. And between, they put in the Jewish community in Athens, the list of the survivors.

And my cousin, two cousins, they saw the list, and they was very happy to know. And then I have first cousins in Israel. They went in 1933. They went. At that time, they was going emigrate a lot of people to Israel in 1932, '33. So she-- so they notified over there that we are alive.

And then from there they, took us they put us in Belgium, another city, clean up, and treat us good. We stay over there for a little while. And then they bring us up in the mountains, something in Sweden. They put us in tents. And we stay over there maybe 10 days, two weeks. And then from there we went to Brussels.

In Brussels, we stay like a dormitory. It's not a room, a room, a room, a big, big, big dormitory, big good beds, and everything, but it was not room separated. You know what I mean. And there were showers, a big cantina restaurant, and everything was free. And they give us a few dollars money, if we go out to spend, so right away everybody wants to go fix her hair, to look like a mensch, like a human being.

And so, and I know the French. All the girls, they know French to speak. And we was getting along very well in Brussels. Really I like it very much. The people was very nice. They treated us good.

He's just going to change the tapes.

OK, Mark is there anything, any gaps here that you want to fill in?