

If we may follow where your dogs are approaching. And you're afraid that you'll be discovered.

Yes. And one of the Polish gentlemen, he arranged with a few farmers, there were-- this was in Tepl, near Karlsbad. They arranged with them that maybe they can find some work for us because the war is already coming to an end. And they knew it because they saw all those transports going to Theresienstadt. And there was no work for anybody anymore.

So we went to the farmers. They were Czechoslovakian, but they were German, nice people. They took us in. The first night, I remember, when I came in the first evening, they didn't have where to put me. So they said, if I want, I can sleep in the stall. So I was in a corner next to a pig. But they warned me that they are harmless, that I shouldn't be scared. I should just stay there put. And they won't touch me.

My sister went to another farmer a few houses down the street. And then our girlfriend went to another one. I work there. In the morning, I was already called in to get some breakfast. This was already--

Heaven.

--heaven. A miracle happened to us, like not to be scared, not to run, not to escape, and be able already to talk to people. So gave us some bread with some milk, and I had to work at the farm to clean the cows-- not to scrub off with a brush, to scrub off the dirt. But I didn't mind. I did it.

That is willing.

Willingly, knowing that they helped me already, so I have to do something for them too. And in the afternoon, usually, I was going out with the farmer on the field. He had to plow the fields. So I had to hold on to the plow and to the cow. And with my little hands, the finger were just-- the skin was cracking. And the blood was coming out.

But I didn't complain because I was afraid if I complained, he says, oh, if you can't work, for what do I need you? So this was going on like this for a few weeks. We worked there. And my sister with my friend saw each other whenever we had the chance.

When did liberation come for you? You were still not liberated.

No, no. Liberation came for us May the 8th. But being in such a small town, just the American tanks were going through.

So there weren't too many Germans around anymore then.

No.

No.

Because that little town were German Czechoslovakian-- there was a Czechoslovakian population. But they were like in any country, you have different.

Yeah, but I mean, is the SS and the German military were not there anymore.

No, no. They were not there anymore. The last one was the one what was in the woods.

In the woods, that you met.

This, what I thanked him for it. And this was the last one that we really had to watch for.

So you stayed on the farm until--

Till the liberation, yes. And we stayed there a few weeks, working very hard. But were happy that we were alive. And we were getting-- they fed us. It was a funny thing that every evening, when I went up to my little corner to sleep, I had a bench they put for me in the attic.

So I slept on the bench. And they gave me a cover. So every evening, I went up, I used to take with me a cooked potato, a baked potato. And I put it on the windowsill because I was afraid that maybe, next morning, if they won't keep me anymore, if they tell me, I don't need you anymore, at least let me have a potato. Let me have something to eat.

But when liberation came, it was-- there were just tanks with soldiers, with American soldiers going through the little village. And we were staying outside, greeting, waving, happy that we are free people. And they were going on.

After a week or so, we hear that nearby, it's a camp. And more people are getting together, prisoners of war, people what escaped. And we went there. It was not too much organized because it was really-- the population was not too big. And there were not too many of us that somebody should stand up and try to take care of us. But they were coming doctors. And they checked us.

And I didn't mention earlier, I had a time that I lost my voice completely-- completely. This was when I was in the woods. This was from anxiety. I didn't-- I couldn't say a word. So when the doctor checked me-- this was an American doctor-- and he said to me that I shouldn't worry. They had a translator there because I didn't understand any English.

And he gave me some medication. He said, it will go away, just it will take the time. And living already through the war and everything, and here, all of a sudden, you want to go home. And you can't talk. But this was anxiety. And I had it back already, forgot this. And now I know what it is.

So we went-- so we had a choice to go back to Poland. This was already when we were at the camp with the Americans. So they told us, we have a choice to stay on in Czechoslovakia. Or you can go to-- back to Poland or wherever you want. Being born there and was still thinking, oh, maybe it wasn't so bad. Maybe still somebody survived. Maybe still somebody around. But we don't know, whatever.

So my sister, and my friend, and myself, we rushed home as soon as we could by train. It was-- it took us a long way because the train was going, and coming, and stopping, and picking up other people. And there were Russian on the train. Because whoever want to go someplace, everybody got on the train. You didn't have to wait for tickets. Whoever felt like going someplace just hopped on it.

And we went back to Łódź, to Poland, to Łódź. We went back. And not having anybody, and no place to go, no place to stay, we had a friend in Stutthof. We were together with her. And we met her on the street. And she was already there a few weeks in Łódź because her aunt and uncle, they stayed on in the Łódź ghetto because there were 500 people what stayed on in the ghetto.

And her aunt and uncle were from them. So they went there. She had a little place, right-- she herself slept on a cot. And we slept on the floor, but as long we were already back in Łódź and between our own people.

Being there a few days, a friend of ours, a man came. He worked in the same-- in Łódź, in the factory, where I worked in the kitchen. He came. And he said to me, Nadzia, Michael-- my husband now-- Michael is alive. And he is in [PLACE NAME]. This is somewhere near the German border in concentration camp. And he is sick. He has--

Maybe a DP camp by now.

No, this-- he was still in concentration camp because this was just a few weeks after they were--

It's still not liberated?

Yes, he was liberated.

However, that he was in the camp.

But he was still there in that camp. The Russian liberated him because they didn't-- he didn't go to any other place because he had typhoid.

I see.

After the war, he had typhoid. So they couldn't move him. So he stayed there in the same place. And when he came back, he said, I know that he is recovering. And he is coming back to Łódź. And remember, don't go anyplace. He will be back. And that's how it happened.

Few days, weeks went by. Every day, I was going, looking because there was a special committee that we were looking for people who was going-- coming, looking. Every day we were looking at the lists who showed up because we were writing down our names. So this way, we could find each other.

After a few weeks, he came back. And that's how we got together again. And he came to the same place, to the same girlfriend. She's now in-- she lives, thank god, in Israel. We are in touch with her. And in December 9-- December 25, 1945, we got married. The same day, with my sister, got married. But one was before sundown, one after sundown. We had the same rabbi. We didn't have much.

Was this still in Łódź?

This was in Łódź. We didn't have much, but we were thinking, too, it's cheaper if we get married together. We had the same friends-- it was just a handful of people-- and the same rabbi. And one was just before sundown, one after sundown. So we got married the same day. It went by a little time.

It wasn't easy in Poland. It was very hard after the war. The antisemitism was just as bad that was before the war. You were afraid to go in the evening someplace. You were afraid to go on a train. You were afraid. They were just terrible.

So one day, we heard my brother, this Jack Lipton, the one what thank god is alive and is-- he lives in Bloomfield, Michigan-- he was in Germany. Because after he was liberated, he didn't come back to Poland. He stayed on in Germany.

And he wrote-- with somebody, he wrote one letter, another letter to find if somebody is alive. So we were in touch with him. And in 1946, after the pogroms in Poland, having heard Kielce pogrom, what was going on, we decided to leave Poland for good. But I missed something that I should move back.

You can.

After we came back from concentration camp, like I said in the beginning, that-- the first few days of the war, our property, everything was destroyed. And I saw it with my own eyes that just from the building, everything, there was just skeleton. But all the years in the war, all the six years, it was all the time in my mind, it's impossible. Maybe it was just a nightmare. Maybe it was just-- I just made up something. I was young. I would think, maybe just made up something, like children do. So in 1945--

You went to your hometown.

Yes. This was probably in September 1945. I met a friend of ours from Zloczew. But he lived just a few houses away from us, a neighbor of ours. He's in Israel. And he's still a good friend of ours. And we went back to Zloczew. My husband didn't know about it. I know he went to something to do. And I was thinking, oh, we'll just go for a few hours. It wasn't that far.

When we came, everything wasn't just destroyed, but the whole place, it was a field of potatoes. I couldn't coming into the city from one side. Well, I came in. We looked at it. We didn't know where we were standing because the whole-- was a marketplace. And the house was-- and our building was a corner house. It was

part of the marketplace.

And there was a whole street-- Przechodnia, the whole street, a length from the street. So I looked at it, it was a big field. We didn't-- both of us, we didn't know where we used to live, where we grew up. We didn't know it. So I said to him, you know what? We are here already. And my uncle used to live in outskirts of Zloczew, maybe five-ten minutes away.

So I said, you know what? You will go to see something else-- because they had some properties in other place-- and I go there. And then we meet. And I knew that a tenant of ours was living there someplace. I knew where.

So I went in. And I made sure with him where I can stay overnight with them. He said, yes, anytime you come back. This was our tenant. And I said, I want to go there to see how it looks where my uncle used to live. It was my great uncle.

And when I came there, was the farmer, the guy what was taking care of everything. So he took over everything like it's his. And he was staying with a shovel, digging something. So he saw me. He said, [POLISH]. You dirty Jew, you are alive? And he knew, he-- right away, Lipszyc, you are alive? If you won't run away fast enough, you see, I will get you with that shovel.

This was the incident. I ran back right away to see my friend. And an hour later, we were out of town. That's why we didn't stay on in Poland because we didn't have why to stay on. I had a few friends what we lived through the war. And we stayed together in-- we were together in all the camps. And after the war, they went home. And they were killed on the spot-- two sisters and two brothers. This was already after the war. Oh, how you talk about those things so?

So you went to Germany after?

Went to Germany to my brother. It wasn't so easy to go through the borders. We had to bribe. And it wasn't easy because you had to smuggle yourself to go from Poland to Germany. They didn't want you out. But somehow, we came to Russian soldiers. They were transporting coffee in different-- from Oswiecim is a city on the border to Berlin. So they took us on those trucks. We were hidden under the coffee.

And you had to bribe them?

Oh, yes. Yes, whatever we had, we gave them. Because I remember at the end, he said, no, you can just go on the truck. Your husband will go tomorrow. And we never knew when that tomorrow will be. That tomorrow could have been never. So I remember that I pulled off my watch. And I gave it to him. And he pushed him off-- pushed him on the truck. Still had to think fast.

And coming to Germany, came to my brother. And my brother had already-- he had already a business there. He was an electrician. So he had an electrical store. So my husband helped him there. And my health was not good. I had a lot of problems with my lower back. And I had to-- and I had pulled teeth. All my upper eye teeth had to be pulled because I had so swollen eyes. And I was taking special-- those mineral baths. I was going to Bad Kissingen from there, different places.

And my husband was helping my brother in the business. But every time, when we heard-- because we lived private, we didn't go to a camp. And every time, we heard a walking on the steps, I was afraid they're coming to get me. Or a telephone rang, oh, now, they're calling you to pick you up. Or walked on the street-- I myself was afraid.

There were times I was afraid of my own shadow. When I walked, I was all the time thinking, oh, they're arresting me. Or the SS, or Gestapo, or they're walking behind me. They're getting me. I couldn't believe myself that I'm free. I couldn't adjust to it, that I'm already a free person. And I can take-- I couldn't handle the situation. So we were there till '51. In '51, we came to the States.

How did you? Did you have some relatives or someone who helped you?

My husband-- my husband had a cousin. And that cousin had an uncle here from before the war. So they helped them. And then they helped us to come. So we came 1951. We came to New York. And this was already-- seeing the Statue of Liberty was probably the nicest thing that could happen to you.

Did you settle down in New York?

We settled down in New York. My husband worked in a factory. He was not too happy. And then he went to another factory. He worked there. And they were making vacuum cleaners. And in 1952-- 1953, our daughter was born, Sarah Rose. And we named her after our both mothers. My mother was Sarah and my husband's mother was Rose.

And we stayed there for-- till 1954. Then we moved on to Detroit because my sister lived in Detroit. And my brother lived in Detroit. And we had a cousin in Chicago. And then she came to Detroit also. She lives now in Detroit.

So the whole family was all together?

Yes, yes. Yeah.

How long did you live in Detroit?

We are now in Detroit since 1954. We live still in Detroit. We are just here for the winter. So we are here the third year for the winter. And thank god, our children-- we have good children.

How many you have-- how many children?

We have two children, a daughter, Sarah Rose, and a son, Sidney Marty. They are both named after our parents. Our daughter has five children. And our son has three children. Our daughter got married 1976. And our son got married 1983. But it's a funny thing. Every time, I'm very overprotective, maybe because of my--

Your experience.

--my experience. And in many ways, it isn't good for the children. I can-- I recall an incident-- I'm going back and forth. Our children, we raised them Orthodox. They both went to the yeshiva. And our grandchildren are in the yeshiva also-- our grand-- our son-in-law, they're all religious people.

And I remember, it was one day, my daughter said that she's going overnight to camp. So I said, OK. When my husband came home from work, I knew where they are going. We took the car. And we went to see are everything is OK there. Or you know that it isn't-- or they aren't in any danger. So you see, in a way, if you are overprotective-- so it is good and it's not good for the children.

The same thing is when my daughter's told me years ago that she's pregnant with her first child, instead to be happy, I was terribly scared because I was thinking, I was-- it was coming back to me, what was going on with my sister's children and with all the children what I could see how they were pulling them off the arms and tossing them in the air like a rag. And the same thing is with-- when she brought to the world the other children. Every time, I was going through the same thing. And the same thing is with my daughter-in-law.

So there are things that you cannot erase from your mind. And till the children don't become parents or-- I just hope and pray that they will never go through anything like this, that they will never experience anything like this. But in a way, I know that I'm overprotective. And that's why they suffer.

That's why we ask you to make these tapes, so that we can prevent anything like that from happening again, by recording all these histories. We are trying to prevent anything like that from happening so the world knows about.

That's right. We just hope and pray that nothing like this should never happen again and that what we went through, nobody should already suffer. And our children, and grandchildren, and the world should just live in a free world. And nothing like this should ever repeat. You see, that's why I have even this on my thing.

I know, this, it says zachor, to remember.

Zachor means to remember. Because even if we are trying to forget many things, you cannot. And there are things that we shouldn't forget because if we should forget, the people will forget-- and god forbid, god forbid, it might repeat. And we hope to bring up the children in a good--

You mentioned--

--world.

--that your children are being brought up in your parents' footsteps.

Yes. Yeah.

And they would be proud.

Yes. Yeah, that's true. My parents were very religious people. My father was a Gerrer Hasid. And people in the city looked up to him, the same thing to my mother. Whether was a bride to marry off or whatever, there was always an open door for everybody to walk in and to help them. So thank god that the children now, they were brought up religious, the Orthodox way. And the same thing is with our grandchildren.

And we just hope and pray that they should live in a peaceful world. And there should be peace in the world. And nothing like this should ever happen to anybody.

True. True. And we hope just for that. Thank you very much for telling us your experience.

Thank you very much.

Now, we are already coming the third went to Phoenix, my husband and I. And we like it very much. First of all, the climate is very good. We enjoy it. And the people are very nice. And I'm trying to help out in the Jewish Community Center. And I was even in March in the Phoenix paper. I'm proud of it. And I was a volunteer on Purim for the carnival. And we hope to come back.

For many years.

Yes, for many years and still now.