

--little bit.

He brought out a box full of baby clothes, baby clothes, bandages, shirts.

What else?

Everything you could think of. Of course, that was precious because we could not get it in Shanghai. You couldn't even get anything almost like it. So my son was dressed from the day he was born in junk clothes, but it was pretty. I have to say that. Honestly, I did-- I was just delighted to get the stuff.

The reason was there was a woman. She was pregnant, and she had born a child with a cord around-- the child had a cord around the neck. It was dead. So she had everything beautiful, everything from America that you can imagine, just the most beautiful stuff. And I felt a little bit like [INAUDIBLE], you know.

And so she bore another child just before, while I still was pregnant, and she bore another child. And when I looked in the beautiful carriage, it's a beautiful blanket and everything, beautiful baby clothes. And I thought-- I thought I saw a skeleton in there, a baby, just almost newborn baby-- she looked like a skeleton. After that, I was very happy with my junkman's clothes.

You felt grateful for your son and his [BOTH TALKING]

I was very happy because I thought, I didn't need that.

You needed--

I had a healthy child.

You had the healthy baby, and that--

In Shanghai--

--was fine with you.

--you didn't know-- that was the biggest worry in Shanghai. You didn't want a child that you couldn't feed right or whatever. Speaking of couldn't, he died. He never got fresh milk because for the reason fresh milk, the cows were all to-- had all tuberculosis in them. You could not give a child a bottle of fresh milk.

I had to feed him-- after I couldn't breastfeed him anymore, I had to use the [INAUDIBLE], we call it [INAUDIBLE] milk-- but fresh milk. It was out. Let's see--

Why would the [BOTH TALKING]

The cows had tuberculosis.

The cows had tuberculosis? Oh my.

She didn't want to feed that to the kids. In Shanghai that was really something you didn't need. That was something, when the Americans checked us for the-- for the DP quota, that we-- for the States, that is something that they wouldn't allow in into the States.

Was tuberculosis?

Was tuberculosis. Anybody who had tuberculosis had to be healed first, and that was very easy to get it in Shanghai. So

I was-- but as I say, I didn't need any American clothes anymore. I didn't need any baby buggies. I was happy with my child.

There you go.

I was very, very much healed without that. I didn't want it anymore. But yes, we had to make do. We had a very high-ceiling Chinese house. It did not have a ceiling itself. It had height-- how should I say it? It's a roof but high.

Steep?

Steep.

Steep.

Steep, concrete, but no ceiling in between. So when my boy was born, we took sheets, old sheets, and he put them-- made a ceiling out of the sheets to keep the draft out.

Oh, keep it warmer.

We couldn't heat that-- we didn't have heating.

Oh my. What was the winter like over there?

Luckily the first year he was born it was a mild winter. But still, a mild winter mean cold and wet, so you had to do the best that you could--

So damp?

--to protect him yes. Even the [INAUDIBLE] we had-- when we went to bed, the truth was that we got first to go to bed. We had feather beds, downs, feather beds. It wasn't warm enough. Nope.

I've wore woolen socks at night. The old-fashion swimsuits with a skirt-- I got a hold of one of those, and I cut the skirt-- the pants off. And that was my underwear, underwear, and also going into bed we tried a pajama to keep warm. I couldn't get warm.

In the summer was something else again. We were dripping. My husband was dripping. He dripped, literally. As we didn't have the furniture as we have in the States, my husband slept on a military cot. And he dripped so much.

Sweat, huh?

Sweating at night. And besides that, we had to have the mosquito coils under the bed so that we wouldn't be bitten to death by mosquitoes.

Mosquito coils, you said?

Mosquito coils.

What is that?

They are coming out now with all in a new pottery barn that they put in a mosquito coil. But people don't that, that it's really Chinese. You light it, yes. It smokes until it's finished.

I see.

A coil, green coil.

Interesting.

But we had to have it under the bed because we didn't-- we couldn't have screen windows. The screen window would take the air away from you, so you had to have some air.

Oh my.

And mosquito netting-- the same story. We didn't have that luxury either. The men-- the foreigner-- as we were the so-called [INAUDIBLE]-- the men could-- the Chinese would sleep outside at night in the summer, but the woman couldn't do that.

So I slept on my table-- I had a big table-- on my table so that I got a little bit drafts from the stairs to the window that I could sleep. Women-- it was not-- it was out of the question. Otherwise, you lost face. Woman couldn't do that. Men could.

You lost face?

Lost face.

What did they say what's going on if you were sleeping outside? Why would they--

You would just be done. They would think you are a cheap woman or whatever.

A cheap woman?

Yeah.

For sleeping outside. You couldn't do that. And there was still lots of limitations what a woman couldn't do, or let's say a foreign woman couldn't do.

Did you have less privileges as a foreigner than the Chinese women did? Were you lower in privileges than the Chinese women?

No, no, no.

No? But it was just a--

Right. If I would have slept outside or, yes, lived like the Chinese women, yes, I would be below. But the men could do anything. That is what you call losing face.

Did the Chinese treat the Shanghai Jews in a way that reminded you of Europe? Or did they treat you casually and just like a person? Or were--

No, no.

Did you feel like you were different--

No, no. We lived in between the Chinese, and living in between the Chinese, they adjust to you to be seeing the people around. It's always like in every culture, if there is something different to your own culture they can't get it that you are different. But we are good neighbors, and I couldn't say that I was-- that we were mistreated. We were not.

Did you sense any kind of antisemitism among the Chinese?

They didn't know that. Oh, yes, there was one time-- not just the Chinese. There was at one time-- it was right after the beginning after we came to Shanghai. Let's say in Shanghai-- we were in Shanghai in '38, '39, maybe even '39 in the summer, maybe a little bit later. One day, the camp came Nazis, a whole troupe of Nazis. There was a whole section of German. They came, and they would start throwing the swastika on the street.

Now, these were Germans who came to Shanghai?

No, they were huge-- they were Germans that lived in Shanghai. There was a German community. But like everywhere else, they had the uniforms and everything, too.

And when that happened, the young men, Jewish men-- they had enough, and they started to fight with them.

Oh, good. So then there was that tension?

They started to fight with them. I personally hadn't seen it. I only knew from my husband who was in the middle of it afterwards. I knew him at that time, but he wasn't my husband or anything else. And from him I knew that the police came. They took them to jail, the whole group.

Both? The reaction--

Both, both, and then they had to come in front of the judge. And the judge said, OK, first off, you have to shake hands. You have to join. You eat together in a restaurant. You have to [INAUDIBLE] together, and they had to pay a little fine, too. And that is it.

But luckily, we had good, strong, young men there, including [INAUDIBLE], championship boxer. And they really hit. So after that-- that was the judgment. They had to shake hands. They had [INAUDIBLE] together, in principle, and that was it, and to pay a fine.

Of course, my husband's then-girlfriend, who spoke perfect Chinese-- she was born in Shanghai-- and she had to bail him out.

She had to do what?

Bail him out from the jail.

Oh. So he was in jail?

They wouldn't let you go-- let them go out free. They had to be bailed out. So that-- but that is what happened. After that, the German didn't dare to come in again.

Because there was resistance, and they knew it?

They found a resistance that they didn't expect.

But they had had enough.

Yes. They would not come-- they would not come again. The good were beaten up. So one thing you had to say for the Japanese-- when we were in the ghetto areas that we could not go out, there was a-- s we had to furnish the kind of police force that the men had to take the that certain job for several hours every time there.

But they couldn't so that our people wouldn't leave this area. And we found out then-- we didn't know what was going on, but we had-- when we had to go move into the ghetto, then we didn't know what would be happening to us. Later on we found out that the Germans had insisted that they should-- the Japanese should put us in camps.

And there were camp areas prepared, but the Japanese would not do that. But we had a kind of governor, if you want to call him that. His name was Ghoya and he named himself the King of the Jews.

He was a little guy, but the people, when they had to go there to get permission to leave for two or three hours or a day, they had to find proof that they needed to get out. So everybody was shaking who had to go to him.

He was a little guy, and he asked-- if some good-looking, tall guy would come to him, without reason at all, he even would jump on the table and stuff, that guy.

Slap him?

Slapped him, put them out on the balcony in the blasting sunshine for hours in tropical sun.

And he was Japanese?

He was with the Japanese government?

He was a Japanese, yes.

And they had taken over the city?

Yes, and not only the city.

In the war.

It was Japanese-- all China was almost under Japanese-- what do you call it? Under Japanese-- not observation.

Jurisdiction?

Jurisdiction. So when we came to Shanghai, they had just taken Shanghai over. So after-- that took a while, too. We had to move into the district. In other words, when you lived in a certain area outside that district you had to move into that district.

Like we had-- we had a house rented. We were three couples living there. But we had to trade that house with the Chinese who worked, by the way, at the jail. And it was much smaller. You couldn't take the people with us. They had to find new living quarters, and you had to buy them in dollar value.

Even if it was only \$10, it was too much. People didn't have that money, and US \$10 was high money. You couldn't-- I couldn't afford another room. But it's-- that's the way we had to move into that district. We didn't have a choice.

And yes, we--

Now, this district-- was this a ghetto in a way?

You did your own-- you lived the way you-- normal life, only you couldn't go out of certain area.

OK. So it was just a restricted--

Like you live-- like take it here Sugarhouse, Sugarhouse area. That's where we made a district that you can't leave.

Right, OK.

You go follow your-- you follow your own life as far as you can, work, whatever.

But you couldn't go outside of that?

But you could not leave the area without special permission, and that's where this Ghoya came in.

OK.

OK, now Ghoya at the end, after the American came in-- after the war was over, American came in, and they told the Jewish people, the people-- the refugees in Shanghai, we give you Ghoya. You can do with him whatever you want, but don't kill it.

So the Americans took the authority away from him?

They don't protect-- they didn't protect him.

OK, they wouldn't protect him. What happened to him?

That's what it was, that they didn't give him any protection. But this mean you could hit him. And yes, they treated. They gave him back whatever they could. But no, they did not kill him, and he didn't make any broken bones or anything like that.

But I don't know if you can understand how the feeling after-- at least that-- that was about three years, something like that, when he was the King of the Jews. Later on, he was very humble, and he apologized, very humble. It's in one of the books. You showed me the book. In that book there is that picture, too, where he is very humble.

And that was living in the ghetto. But yes, we could work, follow our lives as far as we could. We didn't know what was outside. Now, in one of the new movies now that you have probably seen it shows where the English people from the English section, and French section, and so on-- were, yes, they had concentration camps for them, which we didn't know.

I don't know about that. There were two movies-- I don't know if I remember the title now. They were very, very, very popular here-- about what went on, how they came in here into Shanghai and how they reacted and how they took the people out of the English section.

I don't know if the Americans-- the Americans, I guess-- they were taken out before. But the people that stayed here-- stayed there, sorry-- stayed there were taken into camps. There was a very good movie done over that.

Now, those camps-- they existed the more--

Not the districts. They were taken into a camp.

A camp outside of Shanghai?

Yeah. And

What was the life like there? Did you hear rumors?

Like a camp, concentration camp.

It was a police--

A police camp with all the-- they couldn't-- no freedom.

No freedom.

No freedom.

Were they as brutal as the camps in Germany, or was it a containment--

This--

Did you hear-- do you-- I saw it in the movie, OK? And I did not know that that existed.

When you were there you mean?

While we were in Shanghai.

You did not know.

In our ghetto. This was not in that-- a camp in that way because we lived our normal life.

Right. You were just contained. You couldn't really get out easily.

Right.

I see.

That is one thing the Japanese did not go for is an alliance with Germany. They did not go for that.

They did not accept their treatment of you.

No. It was not like a-- it was not like a concentration camp or anything like that. But it was-- if you don't have the freedom to go wherever you want to go, in principle-- but it was there. It was there. But I do not know if it had to do with the Japanese emperor's own brother had converted to Judaism.

Oh, you didn't know that? The brother of the emperor had converted to Judaism. I don't know when, but not after the war, already before somehow. And maybe that may have influenced that. I don't know.

But this part of the movie, I believe, it showed-- it showed the whole [? template ?] in Shanghai, areas that I knew where, the Racecourse, Bubbling Well, and so on, and the beautiful houses where the English lived.

Now, in the 10 years you were there, how many years did you spend in your first home and then you had to move to the district? How many-- did you have to move more than twice?

No. I lived at first in a-- where always homes are only, OK? Down-- a big room and so on. I lived there, tried to live, work. Luckily that's making-- you always had-- you can get work. But then after that, I moved into one more one smaller room, and from there I moved into my husband's house.

And then we moved into. We had to go and live there. So it was about-- I think it would have been about two years, something like that after we [INAUDIBLE].

Then how many of the 10 years did you spend in that district?

In the district? Well, at the first district I would say about three or four years about. I can't forget it. I don't know the dates anymore, but until after the war was over. That was the moment when that was over.

So the restrictions stopped when the war was over?

The moment the Japanese were-- had lost, that was it.

Oh, when the Japanese had lost, that was it.

Right.

I see. And then for the last couple of years you were relatively free in Shanghai?

After the war-- after the war we were free to go wherever we wanted.

I see.

So that designated area-- that was the way they called it-- that was done, finished.

Now, why did you eventually leave Shanghai? What happened in the world that made it so that it was time for you to leave Shanghai? Weren't you guys actually--

The war was finished. Then--

In Europe or in China?

Germany.

So in Germany, the World War-- World War II is over?

World War II was over. Germany and the Japanese were allies, right?

OK, all right.

So that finished it.

OK. So the Japanese left, and then you were ready-- you were able to leave to go anywhere you wanted to?

If you had a chance. You didn't-- it was still the same position we went to Shanghai because we didn't have another way to go anywhere else.

Now, at that time, my husband had a cousin in Australia, and everybody, not only us-- everybody tried to think of people there what they knew that were in Australia, or in America, or Africa, or whatever that they could get a sponsor to get them out. You had to have a sponsor to come to the States.

Now, the people that were lucky-- just like that unlucky woman who got all that American stuff-- she probably had sponsors from over there, from the States because she had a sponsor who guaranteed five years that you wouldn't fall on welfare or whatever. Then you could get the-- could leave.

But our case was different. We didn't have a sponsor. We were under the so-called displaced person quota. So I said-- as I said, my husband's cousin in Australia-- they had started to work to get us out to Australia.

But unluckily, the man had a heart attack or whatever. He got sick, and the woman had to take-- they didn't have the time to go from where they lived to the capital city to put that and keep that going. First came a hospital, of course. So in the meantime, the Americans came out with the DP-- displaced persons quota. They threw all