

I am Leatrice Robinsky. Today, we are interviewing Mrs. Anna Moses, a Holocaust survivor. The project is sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women, Cleveland section. Mrs. Moses, we were talking about your concentration camp experiences. Do you remember any particular experience about holidays? You said that was so very important to you in the concentration camps-- the Passover, Seder.

It was not just me recalling. We tried to keep our mind, and we believed-- a lot of us believed that the only way we can survive is to keep our spiritual life going. It couldn't be any other way.

We came, and I can't believe how people could think different. Because the whole world saw which was done to us, and how can even our own people be different? Who did to whom, I mentioned it before.

When people take human beings, when we came to that second concentration camp, we met people literally just covering their body with paper, with a piece of string around. No thread of any material. Is this believable? Is this was led by human being? This what they did with human beings?

What did you do, then, on the Passover holiday?

The Passover holiday, we tried as much as possible. Some people bought some flour from ways and means they could ever get it, and they baked it in a little iron oven, a round one. Did you ever see this? I don't know if you ever saw this. It was standing like in the middle, and it was pipe in the top. And this was people used to heat homes sometimes, or one room.

Was this in your barracks?

This is in the barracks. And naturally, everything had to be secretly done, and they baked it at night. And it came the holidays, everybody, they tried to give a piece to make to [NON-ENGLISH].

In other words, each a piece of the matzo.

Eat a piece of matzo. And the first one, not in the second one, I didn't eat any bread. Not that I can say the food which I ate anything else was kosher, but I tried.

Did you have a Seder service? Did you try among--

This was in the last one in Germany. It's unbelievable. I remember there were some girls who knew a few other languages, and I always wanted to learn. It was hard enough for sure, but we used to give her eat a piece of bread, a piece of margarine, and she taught us.

One woman said to me, Haniu, for you, I will teach you without anything. She wanted me to know. But we tried to learn.

Also, it came for the Passover. Like they had made-- we didn't have matzo. It was in Germany already. But even before that, we tried to keep whichever we could.

I want to bring out a few other points in the second concentration camp. Like I mentioned before, when we came there, and I saw the situation, and I couldn't believe that this is a place we can exist too long. But we, again, comes in the fate. Because is it describable when a person passed away already, they throw him literally in a box where you throw garbage. Used to be the big garbage boxes.

And then, and they had filled it up, they came big wagons like in a slaughterhouse, and they throw him-- they took off-- they never had a thread on their bodies. And I felt the life is so bitter, but the death is even worse. I said, it doesn't pay to remain here. We have to try our best.

And it's just for some miracle. When we came to this concentration camp, this was in Skarzysk-- Called it Skarzysko-Karmienna.

Was that the one that was near--

This is in Poland, which was--

Near Radom?

Near Radom. And not long after, before that woman I mentioned before had given one of her earrings came to me. I saw, I noticed that somebody, a man came into the barrack, and he wanted to buy from her that diamond-- a Jewish man.

He knew that she had had that diamond?

No, she must have tell him. She must have knew him. I don't know how it went about. I happened to notice as people are talking already about it. See, Mrs. so-and-so. I don't want to mention. She never finished-- she was [INAUDIBLE]. She wrote me still when we lived in Pittsburgh already.

And she said to me, I said, I don't like it. Because if too many people know about it, they will take it away from her. She will not have nothing.

I worked when I came there. It was all-- all ammunition with a woman. They were there two sisters. I don't know if they are still here. I never met them. I never heard about him after the war. Two sisters had married two brothers. I just want to describe how I became a diamond--

You were a diamond dealer?

Diamond dealer in the concentration camp. It's interesting because so she said to me the epidemic, naturally, such uncleanliness, is such a-- in such situation didn't take too long and broke out typhus. For the uncleanliness, they called it [NON-ENGLISH], like bloody typhus must be the name.

And everybody got sick. And a lot of people were sick. And this woman was extremely refined person. And she said to me, she wants to help people.

Before that, I met this woman. We were sitting and talking, and she told me where she comes from. And that she was dealing with diamonds before the war. And told me a place in Poland where she hid a lot of diamonds. Her husband, I think, and her son, they were-- they left. They went someplace. They must be-- or if not them, maybe the children someplace in England.

So I was talking to her, and she said, what can I tell, and what can I say? She started telling me the story with the diamonds. After that, I asked her. I said, a woman has a diamond and I don't like the way it's going to be sold because I'm afraid they will take it away from her and she will not have nothing.

Because they used to buy it up. They used to sell it to the Germans. Germans bought it up. So she asked me, what should I do?

Before that, when I looked around right in the beginning, I went out. And I saw that there is no way to survive here. I met two sister in-laws-- young woman, and they looked very decent. And I asked them, how long are you here? And she told me, a year and a half.

And I said, how is it possible to be here a year and a half and look the way you look? Can you tell me the secret of your survival here? She told me, they had left merchandise at the neighbors. Again, that they were some decent ones. And now they are sending it over to them either by money, way of money.

So a woman once told me that they had a Gentile apartment, and she was there with two children and her sister-in-law. And I told her, she was never very hungry. She was in her middle age in her 50s. And I happened to know the family because my sister, one of my sisters were married to this family.

I said, you have obligation to your husband and your wife. Try. You see, we can't survive here by doing nothing. So she says she's afraid. They're not allowed to send out mails. You weren't allowed to write.

So she asked me. I wrote for her the letter sitting in top, and wrote a few words. Can I tell you that when they were sick, these people received some money. Let's say they get half, but it doesn't make any difference. As long as they-- it can't be helped.

So I knew that this woman had still some money. And I told her, I said, would you please loan me some money? I didn't have anything, but they trusted me. I don't know why.

Because I have a case here that I would like her to should have as much as possible because she could help a lot of other people. And I gave her some money in order to help meantime these people she wanted to help. Meantime, they took us out every second week called to the [NON-ENGLISH].

One Sunday, nobody knew why, they didn't let us out. I know why, because I told her that woman, it's not here anymore. You don't have it. She sold it, and she sold it-- we gave her more. I didn't plan to have anything. The woman who sold it said to me, how come you are foolish? We given her at least 1,000 zlotys more than she could have.

And we shared with 1,500 zlotys. Didn't take maybe two more days, and all of a sudden, I was standing waiting. We supposed to go to work, and I felt very dizzy. I went to doctor, and he gave me an injection. I was sick, but I had it in a very mild. Very mild.

And because I had this money, it helped me to survive. I could have bought-- they bought for me a piece of bread, or I had something that I could survive. Isn't this a miracle?

And where did the diamond end up?

The diamond end up-- it was sold to somebody, but for a higher price. The woman had the money. She didn't have to do a way not to help anybody, and the opposite. She could help more people.

And she had survived. I did not know she had survived, and I at once received, and we lived in Pittsburgh, I received a letter from her. She lived in Holon, Israel. And her husband happened to be with my husband together, and he survived.

But after the war, people couldn't-- started to eat too fast, and they couldn't digest it. And a lot of people on account of this died, too.

All right, Mrs. Moses. Now, would you share with us, you said you were nine months in each concentration camp. What happened after the second camp after the nine months?

After the second camp--

How did you leave that?

--they scattered us again. Kept us overnight, and the next morning, they sent us away.

Did you have any idea?

No.

Did you walk or go in a train?

No, they took us in--

In a train.

--with this-- to the rail station, and they packed us in, again, like 102. And they throw when a few breads. And I had one in my hand, and a taller woman took it out. I forgive her because it was a time that you can't really accuse anybody.

And then I met two women even before in-- I felt to them like my mother. And they had some bread, and they shared with me a piece.

Was this on the train ride?

In the train ride. And I put it in my little bag whichever I had, and I-- it was very bitter. And it-- the whole-- the day when they send us away from the second one to the third one, they took us to the place where we worked in the ammunition factory. Put us in a stone floor. We were lying like one top of the other.

And the next day, they picked us in this. And they were some-- we met there some girls already, and they had tattooed their hands, KL. And they said-- they start to push. He said, you don't know which means a concentration camp.

KL means concentration lager?

Concentration camp-- lager.

Right.

I didn't have-- naturally, in the first one, they painted us. They painted our clothing, as it's known, and I had just my number and my clothing. And at that time, it was so unknown. They told even the people whichever they belonging they have they should take along, and people started to schlep this around. I didn't take anything. Just foolish.

So we were in the way from Poland to Germany. We didn't know where.

You had no idea where you were.

No.

Do you have any idea about how many girls went with you?

No. I really don't know a number. And there, we came. We met all nationalities already.

Do you know any reason why they emptied out the second concentration camp? Were there rumors of what was happening?

We didn't know anything. We didn't have no any way. We could know a little better when we were in Germany. I happened, when we came already to Germany to describe this trip, it took us from Sunday until Friday surviving just in a little water.

With no food?

Because I gave this piece of bread to somebody, a friend of mine. And I said to her, please keep it for me. And when I-- in the first day, in the second day, I was so over fed up with everything that I didn't feel a hunger. I just once in a while, I had an opportunity to have a lick of water. I drank it. But I didn't feel hungry.

When I started to feel hungry, I asked her. She says to me, they used to have a pastry bakery in Krakow. She says, after the war, I will give you torte for it. So--

A torte. Something to look forward to.

Yeah, but what could I do? She didn't mean anything. She couldn't-- she couldn't control herself. So we remained friends until I always used to see her when I used to go to New York. They're a lovely people, but in a time like that you cannot judge nobody.

So I lived with literally a little bit of water a whole week. Came the Friday, they ask us to go in. I meant maybe-- this is the end already. Maybe gas. Who knows?

They took us in. We saw a few buildings-- barracks. We saw people, it looked like a crazy house. They cut their hair because they didn't the previous ones, too. They looked over all the time.

Sometimes it was nothing because some people have dandruff. And it looks like this is not clean. But they were sitting, again, Polish woman. And the minute they just had the greatest satisfaction to take with a little machine, not with our scissors, and cut on the hair.

They shaved their heads?

They shaved their heads. They had [NON-ENGLISH]-- the [NON-ENGLISH] on.

What is a [NON-ENGLISH]?

The stripes which everybody saw in the movies. I have pictures of them. And they took us in. They asked us to undress.

Before I left, I had on a little overcoat like a housecoat. It's not really-- it's not really a house because you could work outside or to work special made. And I had a little pocket, and I had the pictures from my whole family. And whatever I felt, whichever what happened, wherever I go, can never know. Maybe at work, maybe-- I want to have it with me.

But they took us in a room. They ask us to undress. And we walked around just like newborn children. And there walked on the big educated men.

And then they took us to other rooms. They didn't have prepared-- our clothing wasn't ready. So we just walked around in nightgowns, which they did. For short women, they gave long ones. This is the Poles already. This was in Germany already.

For tall ones, they gave short ones. And this way, we walked around for two weeks until--

You had no underwear, nothing?

Nothing. We didn't even have toilet paper. Can you imagine? No toilet paper. They prepared-- we had a soup when we came in, and people who didn't eat a whole week.

And it-- is this possible? You know how we had a piece of paper? Different margarine, everybody had the next for every third day, every fourth day, this was saved.

What was the name of this camp the third camp?

This was-- Birkenau-- was in Buchenwald.

You were in Buchenwald.

Buchenwald. And for good work, they gave us-- they had a canteen. And they gave us-- and the canteen I still have at home. I used to hang it out before the Seder a few reminders. It was a piece of paper, it's written [NON-ENGLISH]. And for this, we could buy in the canteen a toothbrush, a piece of soap, which was like nothing. It's not soap. And little comb. I don't know. If it was a comb, I didn't remember.

Do you remember what year this was?

That was-- and when they took-- this was in '43. They came there '42 in the middle-- in November '43. And there, again, we worked. I happened to end up being the lucky one working in a place that I had even a little stool. Because this was the finishing out. We had to look over and clean out the timers which went into the grenades.

So you worked in ammunitions again?

In ammunitions. And there, it was a beautiful building. And it was-- the radio was on, and we understood everything. After they saw we understand, they took it out. And even--

What had you heard on the radio? Had you heard news about--

We had some news, too. And they were some old German people, and they told us. They said, you will take off you [NON-ENGLISH], this concentration camp uniforms, and we will have to put them on. And we knew even some-- I would say we read them their every move. It was-- the one who was in charge of our room, he knew Polish. So we had to be careful not to speak it because he was in Poland during the war.

They used to have a map, and they used to-- after the news, they used to go in and show it. And we used to tell to each other, they staying [NON-ENGLISH].

Standing and praying?

Saying, no, we know that something goes on. We just watch their move. But again, nobody can believe the German nation naturally must have been told a long time ago. And a lot of people, they took-- they let us out all the criminals from all the jails. We had our men there, old men who had all his hand-- the hand tattooed all over.

And I remember this was already in this concentration camp. In the beginning, they gave us a soup. And with us was a German woman because later on, and even before as maybe people told the ones in Krakow, when they send out the people in 1938 from [PLACE NAME], this was the border, all the Polish citizen, German threw them out. Poland didn't let them in.

Somehow they came to Krakow, and they tried to locate them in the beginning in all the synagogues, in all the buildings which were occupied from the Jewish, let's say, federations. They had all kinds of buildings. So these people were there, and slowly, they tried to, whichever way, to emigrate. I don't know how, but not all of them remained.

In this one, we worked already. They had airlifts, which means not like now airlifts, but the-- we heard the planes. And they had the sirens. They were yellow. They were worried, the Germans.

We said, we have to take a break. We were just-- we didn't care at all. We weren't afraid. We didn't even mind at all. And this is almost--

You weren't afraid of air raids?

Not at all. For what? I mean, what do they want to do with us?

Did you know it was the end of the war? Did you feel it was?

We did not know. We know it's coming closer, and they are-- we understood when they are already fighting in

Germany. If we lived to this time that they are already in German air. So we know something is coming close. How and what you didn't know, but we observed them, and we watched them, and you could feel it in the air. You could feel it.

Did you sense that the Germans were afraid?

We saw it. The minute the siren was-- they were just-- they became wild. We were laughing. We just used to joke about it. When will we have our intermission? Just we went down like nothing. We didn't worry, not at all.

In this camp also--

How long did you stay in this camp?

Nine months.

So you were nine months in each camp?

Nine months in each. And I mentioned, and I guess that the good Lord just repaid me with three, Ba-HaShem, lovely daughters.

He felt one to represent the birth period for each of the nine months that you stayed?

Each for nine months.

What happened toward the end of this camp stay?

The end? This was even before we tried to keep-- again, the spirit kept us. They were high intelligent girls, and we made plays. We made a theater. Found a piece, like you found a piece of paper, set the table. We took the coffee, that colored water. This was the wine.

We found what you call it like a big ribbon. It's a vegetable. And we made nice round slices, and this was the matzo.

A turnip?

Like, but it's a big one. The turnips are small, and this was a big one. Like they have it-- sometimes they have it like sugar ones.

Beets?

No, beets is red.

I see.

This was a kind of a vegetable, a round one-- big one. And we made out of this, this was the slices, so this was the matzo round. And we, whichever we remembered by heart, we said the seder. And I can tell you, the Poles couldn't believe it how we kept ourself.

They were the same time in the concentration camp, too. The difference was their sin was because we had to limit time still in the ghetto how long we could walk. And when we had a time, and when they cut him, they put him for a week, for a month, for two months. They had a limit.

For us, there was no limit. And they, in a short period of time, they looked-- it's unbelievable. And we kept herself nice, and clean, and decent, and with hope. The ones who said, oh, we can't survive never-- didn't survive.

And I'm positive that just the spirit-- the spirit helped a great lot, and that's why we could-- they were among people,

friends, which they tried to help each other. Without this, would have been impossible.

Did you remain at the camp toward the end of the war, or were you taken from the camp?

From the camp when the front came close, they took us out. And how they, like you say, how did you know? They told us a part of the people they took to Czestochowa. This was in Poland. And they told us like we would be fools.

Unfortunately, and naturally, everything in German, we can't rescue you because it's no time. And we couldn't say nothing. And we were in Germany. This was when they sent us out.

And then in Germany, when it came by the end, all of a sudden they took us out--

Didn't you go on a march from there?

Yes.

Could you describe it?

Yes. Before this, it was just always like the holidays. We try to remember. It was as the Taanis. It's a day of fast before Purim.

This is a fast of Queen Esther?

The fast of Queen Esther. And all of a sudden, it was an air raid. And then we went outside, and they took us home. It's unbelievable. The houses there, lights, this is a very beautiful city.

You were near the German city of Leipzig, right?

We were in Leipzig, but this was maybe a little out of the city because we weren't free to go anywhere. We were just in the buildings, and they took us to work and back from work.

They took us by lanterns by 4 o'clock in the morning, and they took us back at night, always with guards. And after that air raid, we went out. We saw just like burnt papers outside.

They were a few buildings all demolished. One of the men who was a watchman, or I don't know, who worked in this place came to work. His wife and two daughters went to visit, and happened to be in the building. Their bodies were still in the-- covered with the ruins, and he came to work.

And he said, Deutschland Ã¼ber alle-- the country goes before anything. Can you imagine?

And he knew that his family was?

He knew. And also, before we left, we saw they took all the machineries and they hid them underground. And the same places, if anybody would take me there, I could show it. It's nothing new.

The war machinery was saved?

The war-- or the ammunition factories, the machinery, everything is saved underground.

Could you describe this march that you went on?

The march, they took us out. And again, we walked, and we couldn't wait to see our building. We worked for three weeks like this. We couldn't wait to see our building. We hoped already to see our building with electric wires. Each one of the concentration camps was surrounded by electric wiring.



And they had-- also, they had the watch things, the high--

Towers.

--towers. And so they took us, and we walked. They said it's just a short distance, but we walked for a long, long time. The only rest, we rested a little bit in the ground, in the fields. And they had very little food already there.

So they gave us, for a day, maybe a half a baked potato, and we had to survive in this. Because in the beginning, they fed us. The rations were pretty decent. But I assume at that time by the end of the war, they didn't have.

And they had-- they needed us so badly, they couldn't let us go. And by the end, before they took us, we saw it. Because when they dragged us around, we saw some of the German people put on their civil clothing. And on top, they put on the [NON-ENGLISH], their military clothing. So we could understand. We weren't fools.

And while we walked, we had always planes on top of us. And when the planes came low, they came close to us. They shouldn't be seen.

But we, even in this situation, we tried to help. It was one girl, a daughter of a rabbi, there were two sisters from Radom. And she was so weak she couldn't walk. We carried her. We changed, but we carried her.

And also, we passed by the German country. Unfortunately, is so nice.

The scenery is lovely there?

Beautiful. Beautiful houses. We said-- we pass by, and people saw-- they dragged us around a transport like this. They couldn't believe it. And one older woman said, [NON-ENGLISH].

That means, what this good-for-nothing people did with these people, it will be a disgrace for all the time to come for the whole nation.

For the German nation.

For the German nation. Because we looked-- it's-- I can't describe it. Because when we left, everyone had one blanket. We were already at the time with all nationalities. We had even gypsies among us.

And the gypsies, we were lying down. So we put them in the ground one blanket, and we covered ourselves with the other one. All of a sudden, they took off-- they stole it away.

So I remember walking with my friend, and we both covered with one. How did we survive there? They-- somebody had-- we didn't have any water.

We found some place-- I don't know. I can't call it a stream because it was so little, and we had a can. And we took a little water. It was more dirt than water.

And some people tried to get some grass and cook this grass. And found some splinters of some-- it was in the forest. And which, I mean, it's the life they've had for three weeks.

Was this--

This was in German ground.

German-- did you have any idea where they were taking you?

No. They just schlepped us. They didn't know themselves. They did not know themselves.

Did you hear any news--

I assumed that they took us because the few German people were afraid they shouldn't be sent to the front. And they want to save their skin, so they had to--

Stay with you.

They stayed with us.

How did you know liberation was at hand? Could you describe the day of liberation?

Yes. It was not early because the last few days, we ran away.

How did that happen?

--girls came to me, and she told me we are eight. Would you like-- we are seven, eight. And you want to be with us? I knew them. Not all of them, but I knew them.

And I said, the only condition I have, I have a close girlfriend. If she can come with me, I will be with you, too. I didn't ask for any details because I didn't have anything to contribute. I figured maybe they give something.

It seems that they watched the guard who was watching us fell asleep, and they started running away. And I ran after them. I couldn't run as fast because-- I don't know. I just-- is a high up hill, and I couldn't. I was too weak.

Because before that, and even during that march, it was the time like in March. The ground was still frozen. We could still see a little bit of snow or ice. We didn't have-- the shoe broke. I threw it away, and I was just running.

And before that, when they schlepped us around, dragged us around, people stole some potatoes lying in the fields to prepare to be able to-- for what you call it, for the new potatoes. And there were two sisters, German girls. One bent down, picked up a potato, and the watchman shot her. And the other sister--

He shot her right there?

He didn't say nothing before. This is right before me. He didn't warn her. He didn't say, don't take it. He just shot her. This is such a cold blooded murders.

And the other one started crying. And he said to her, you want I can do the same thing to you. And they just-- whoever during that march is-- people fell like during the cutting of the wheat, whichever you call it, the harvest. People fell because they couldn't continue, and they just say [NON-ENGLISH], which means, continue. Walk fast. The one who couldn't, they fell in the way, and a small group remained.

Do you have any idea how many of you remained?

I know which people say that like a half a percent people from the concentration survived. They were other people survivors. Most of them could be just like the ones-- somehow, the ones who were taken to send away even to Siberia. From there, it was-- they had their portion enough, hunger, and a lot of people died from all kinds of sickness, but half of them, I know a fact from my family, half returned. From the concentration camps, I'm the only one survived from my whole family.

Mrs. Moses, tell us about the day of liberation.

When we ran away, I stucked with my-- in the fields. Like if somebody fainted in a way, we found a little piece of

rhubarb, and this was our medicine-- a little sour to survive. I didn't have the mood anymore already, and I said to my friend, I said, let me sit already in the road. I don't care. And she just dragged me along.

She cried. She cut a piece of grass. It was in April already. And she tried to give it to me, or the piece of rhubarb we held for-- this was the medicine for survivors.

And then we came to a countryside, and we went in our-- I was always blonde, and people didn't recognize me. They were some Polish girls working there. A lot of Polish people went to Germany because they needed workers to work in the fields.

I saw one Polish woman, and she meant I'm Polish. And she brought me some food, and she brought me a dress to cover up. Because we couldn't walk around because they recognized us. We had the [NON-ENGLISH], which is clothing from the jail.

So I had this dress. We went into one woman, and we asked her if we can stay here in the stable. And somehow, it was an old man there with that woman. She had mercy on us, and she let us go in there. And the man brought us some warm water. Can you imagine our feet were just sores.

He brought us some warm water, and she cooked for us a light soup, [NON-ENGLISH]. And we stayed there. We were there at night, and we lay down.

We could hear, the war could not be too far away. We could hear the machine guns. So he said to us, don't worry. The war is coming to an end. And we stayed there a few days.

First, we-- the first group, we separated in three parts. I felt that we should follow the way of our patriarch Jacob that he didn't keep the whole camp at once. If one is attacked, the other one. But we kept contact.

And then it took a few days, and then we weren't just freed. You know who came in. It was close to the Russian border. The Russians came in.

A day before, we didn't have electricity. We didn't have it because we weren't in the house. It was no electricity, and no water, and we could know. This is something-- a end, but it's not the end [? we had. ?]

So when they saw it so close, they asked us already, come into the house. And we closed the door, and the next day, or at night, the Russians came in. And they came in, and they had to open the door. And they opened the door. It's no problem. They came in first the tanks-- with the tanks.

And my girlfriend was a very beautiful woman. She had lost her husband and her children. And the Russians are known for these types of people, especially for soldiers who were in the-- and they stood to her, and they wanted to-- they-- so she said, please leave me alone in Polish, which is a little similar.

We told the people because you treated us, you took us in, we tried to do-- we will try to do our best to say good words for you.

Those were Germans who took you in?

German people. And when they came in, and they were looking, and we told them, it's nobody here. It's just a woman and it's just an old man. And then, anyway, so my girlfriend, until she told him, I'm [NON-ENGLISH], he wouldn't let her go.

She said that she was a Jew?

She's Jewish, and this must have been a Jew.

You mean the Russian liberating soldier was a Jew?

The Russian liberator-- one of them was a Jew. Because the minute she said, I'm a [NON-ENGLISH] and I lost my family, she said it in Polish. And she said, please leave me alone. He let her go. At first, unfortunately, a lot, a lot of incidents with this Russian soldiers.

What happened to you then? You realized it was the end of the war?

We knew, but it was-- naturally, we realized that we knew before we could feel every second what's going on. But we didn't know which the end will be because here are the Russian people. And we know stories which our parents told us about the First World War which happened how were the-- now it's nothing to talk about it. But at that time, how they were looking for young woman, and especially young girls. And they did a lot, a lot, a lot of people-- girls which I knew.

Mrs. Moses, now at the end of the war, what were your thoughts? Did you want to go to your home?

We tried. I mean, it's-- it's not that we wanted. We were without anything. We were-- we tried already when we knew that the war is to the end. We tried to go back. They were trains.

The trains, we could ride an hour or two. And the next morning, we wrote again. And we came to the same place. But we passed by Terezin-- Theresienstadt. Is it Theresienstadt? No, Dresden.

You're talking about Dresden?

Dresden. Dresden, they called us always-- the German called us, this is the heart of Germany. And I was privileged, I could say, to see the ruins there. It was-- I didn't see not maybe further out, but in the city itself I didn't see a whole house.

And from Dresden.

From Dresden, we tried to travel by this type of transportation. And we came back. We came back to Krakow.

You had told us the story of meeting your husband in the very beginning of our interview. But just briefly recount for us, where did you and your husband come together? Where did you meet?

It was-- first I came to Krakow, and I want to mention one word about still the Poles. The ones who were good, they are single people. I went to-- I told to my friend, I said, let's go. He is a socialist worker.

He took over the nicest store for a Jewish store. And I said, let's go. I know the house, and let's go to this place.

We came there, knocked at the door. They didn't recognize me. I told them who I am. They didn't say, come into the house, but they gave us a cup of sour milk and a piece of bread outside.

So they were kind to you and--

And they told us, so many of you still survived? This people, he knew my whole family. Used to come to our house. And this was-- can you imagine?

That was your welcome.

This is the most marvel come. And then from there, I met-- we were first located again in homes like we belonged to Jewish people. Temporarily, they opened a public kitchen. They gave us a soup.

And I was waiting there, and everybody there, they had lists. And they got the whole world. And I wrote in my name. I

remembered my mother's-- my mother had a brother, and my father had a brother, and I remembered the name and the address. And I put it in the list.

And also there, I met a cousin of mine who ran away. He went to Russia. And he came back. He was in the Polish army if you know of the [NON-ENGLISH] army.

So you had then some relatives who did survive the war? You were fortunate.

I had from Russia one, but he was just-- he was still in the Polish uniform. And from there, I said, because before the war, my father had very good friends. And I said, somebody told me that they survived. And I had met them in before. In the first concentration camp, I met them.

And we promised each other, if Hashem will help, that we will survive. We should be together. And when I heard that they are here, I went to Tarnow. This was they lived. And there, I met my husband.

And that's the beginning.

We got married in '46, and we left Poland in '40-- we came to United-- we left in November '47. And we arrived to United States the 4th of April in 1948.

Mrs. Moses, we're so grateful for sharing this story with us.

I'm glad that I could do it.

This is Leatrice Robinsky. Our Holocaust survivor today has been Mrs. Anna Moses. This is a project of the National Council of Jewish Women, Cleveland section.