

[TEST TONE] We're back with Wiera Goldman. And we're talking about the concentration camp at Riga.

Well, in Riga, when I came in, like I was telling you, with my leg, they took everything away from us-- whatever we grabbed from the ghetto. You know, still maybe we should have something. I had a beautiful coat with a silver collar. So I was afraid they will take away from me, so I sewed it in in the lining, you know? But when I came there, they took everything away from us. That's all what we were wearing.

And we were there for a few days. And we didn't know what they are going to do. And suddenly, we find out that they will send us to work. But we never believed "work." We believed always the next will be the gas chamber.

And they took us in. And we were about 400 girls. And they told us to take off the clothes and leave our clothes.

And we said to each other, goodbye. See you someplace. You know, it's like, we didn't cry. To us, life was already-- that's it. Who is the next, like the cattles, to kill.

And we walked in, and it wasn't the gas chamber. It was a shower. They washed us up to be clean, to send us to work.

So when we came out, everything was gone. But my shoes were there. And they were the most comfortable shoes, because of my leg.

I says, oh my god, I have my shoes. I have my pictures. And that's how I have my pictures from home, because it was in the shoe.

They gave us clothes, that we looked like-- believe me, a junkyard is nicer clothes. This was in the afternoon. They gave us food, and they put us on trucks.

And we didn't know where we're going, but they took us to a work camp. That was Strassenhof. You know, the camp. And over there we were 400 girls from Vilna. They were some German women too-- not too many. They were German mens, and they were a lot of men from [NON-ENGLISH], not Lithuania but [NON-ENGLISH].

So it was a three-level building. And we were on the third level. There was a kitchen. They had cooks. In the camp, they had a cable factory, where they made all the cables.

But I was looking to get out of the camp. There was a doctor too, a German doctor. And I went right away, and I said, I have a problem with my leg. Help me, because otherwise I'm losing my leg. And he did something to me.

And I said, I have to get out of this camp, but how? So they called out, who knows sewing? Who knows this? Who knows this? Everybody was professional, right away, to go out from the camp.

So they send us to a silk factory. Most of the girls went to work. Some of the girls stayed in the camp, and they worked in the cable factory.

And the cable factory was in which camp?

In Strasshof.

And Kaiserwald-- is that where you stayed at night?

Then we came into Kaiserwald from Vilna. This was a place where they selected for work.

Oh, so now you were, like, living in Strassenhof.

Strassenhof, in a work camp, where they made out the materials-- the webbing, the machine. Some of the girls went

there. Me, they send to where you spool the silk from big spools on small spools.

There were 20 machines in this place. It was like-- I don't know how big. We couldn't talk to each other. We used to say hoo-hoo!

So as the foreman was showing the first girls how to work with the machine-- and my machine was, like, the eighth or nine-- so I worked-- put it before he came. He says, how do you know how to work on that? I says, I'm a dressmaker.

And as soon as the girls-- the Lithuanian girls-- heard that I'm a dressmaker-- can you do something for us? How can I do? I don't have a machine. I don't have nothing. Said, they will bring in, even by hand, to show them how to work.

And certainly, my sister was there. And a girlfriend of mine was there, too, working with me. And she brought in some good food.

But before she start telling me sewing I says, look, I will do for you everything, but I have to save my leg. I need a doctor.

Now, this girl was a Lithuanian girl?

Lithuanian girl.

Was she a prisoner--

She worked--

--or just a worker?

--she was a worker there. She was like a foreman. Oh, yeah, she wasn't Jewish, you know? But she was like a foreman.

There were three girls, and then was one the overhead foreman. Now, when I spooled in the machine, he start to like me, because-- but we did plenty damage for them, too, plenty sabotage. Anything we could, we did.

And I even said to this foreman, I says, look, I will do anything. I want my leg. They arranged, in the factory, with a doctor. And I start going to the doctor.

The girls, the Lithuanian girls, took over the machine for the time being, and I went to the doctor. And he start healing-- because it was so much pus that, every place, the pus went out from my leg. It's a miracle, how my leg survived.

And he healed, and it was healing beautiful already. And that's all what I needed-- some baths, water baths, and soak that in a little-- it was, like, a blue medicine, like a powder. We call it [NON-ENGLISH]. I don't know how they say it in America. I have to find out.

I was so close to healing, somebody told the doctor that he's saving a Jew. [PAUSES] And they told him, if we see the Jew one more by you, that's it. He used to send a nurse, the doctor, to the factory, with a big pail with the medicine. She would come to the toilet. And if somebody will come in who is suspicious, we had a signal. And that's the way I healed my leg.

Now, was the doctor a German?

No. A Lithuanian!

A Lithuanian.

Yeah. And he was a doctor from the factory. You know? But he was a human being. To him, I was a human being. I'm

working here.

And what he did, he did to save my life as a human being, not as a Jew. And this is the way my leg was healed.

And every day we used to go to work in the morning. They used to give us breakfast-- go to work. And-- you know, I can't really remember if they used to give us food there. I really don't remember. But I know that I had it, and I shared with the girl, because they used to bring. Any--

I would go in and do something for them. They would check my machine. And we used to go back to camp. Every time we walked in in camp, they would search us-- if we didn't bring ammunition, if we didn't bring nothing.

Who were you guarded by? Were they Germans or non-Germans?

The SS. Germans-- always guard by the Germans. Now, one day, in this camp where I was-- the camp Fuhrer, he was an SS man. And in this camp we still had children and mothers and grandmothers. Suddenly he got a letter that he has to take out the children. He himself was a father, with two kids in Berlin. And he was an SS man, but he had a heart. So he tried to hide the children as much as he could.

Till one Sunday morning, they came unexpectedly, and they took away all the kids. And the mothers wanted to go. They wouldn't take them. That was another ghetto tragedy.

Then they wanted to take away from 30, up-- till 30 should stay in the camp. And we had the SS. There was a young, 25-year-old SS-- young man. And he heard it, and he went and he helped to dig a tunnel, to go out-- where they would go, I don't know, but just to go out. Now--

So there were a few who were bothered by what was going on and wanted to help.

Yes. Yeah. Then this German, a German Jew, brought it out to the Germans that he is helping to do this. [PAUSES] And they took him out, and they killed him, and the Jews had to bury him. [PAUSES] We couldn't take it. It was too much already.

One day, they cut our hair, because they saw what's going on, that we're trying to run away. So what do they do now? They cut our hair, completely bald.

And certainly, some of the girls, they cried. And I says, why are you crying? If you have your head, you will have hair. Who cares? So we won't have lice. Right?

But we had to go out to work. So how will we go to work? They got us babushkas, and we should wear the babushkas. So one day, we decided. They take us back to camp. And we were walking through town. Nobody knew who we are. We took off the babushkas.

And the SS got so confused. They thought we will start running away, and here is a bunch of girls. And you know-- how we did that, you know-- and we really could run, but where could you run? You didn't have hair! They would right away know that you are a Jew!

When we came to camp, we paid for it. We stayed till late at night on our knees. And they were walking around, saying, you're paying for it. No food. It was raining-- soaking wet.

We went upstairs. We washed up. We dried the clothes. [LAUGHS]

We got up in the morning. They count us again. They gave us food-- breakfast. They count us again.

And this SS man, from the Lager, he said, don't do it again. It's not worth. You know, like, here, with one hand, he knocked us. With the second hand, he tried to help us. You know? It's like--

We saw, it's nothing to do-- the world-- if they know, they can do nothing. And the Lithuanian, they didn't know who we are. They didn't know!

It was like, oh, nobody wanted to know about it? It's like, we didn't believe that, what the Germans are doing already in Poland, it won't happen to us.

So we worked in the factory, till-- [PAUSES] it was like-- the Russians were coming closer. And they had to liquidate us. So they took us, and they put us in Stutthof.

OK, so they sent you to a new camp.

This was not a working camp.

Now, how did you get to Stutthof?

Oh. They drove us with trains, because that was from Riga to Poland, because Stutthof is in Poland. So when they put us on the trains, we thought we're going to the gas chamber again. But the same German, the SS man, he said that they are sending us to another camp but not a work camp.

And when we came to Stutthof, and we walked in, and we saw what's happened already-- people dying, and people looking like Muselmans, and putting on on us [PAUSES] the stripe uniforms, you know, and the numbers-- and the men, they cut the hair in the middle, they shouldn't be able to run away. And numbers. You see, they didn't put numbers on us, like they put Auschwitz, Treblinka--

We had numbers. We had the star. We didn't have our hair. And the men, they cut in the middle, they shouldn't be able to run away. So when we came into this camp, to Stutthof, and we said, what's going on here? People are dying.

You mean, you could see these people were sick.

Sure, we saw! And we walked into the barrack, and with seeing what's happened, we said, uh-oh, we have to get out. But how do you get out?

So we heard that they're signing up for to farms to work. Now, here is a problem. I'm there with my sister, and I want to be with her.

Was this a help to you, so far, to have had your sister with you?

Yeah. I had my sister till three months before the liberation. And we signed up for work, but I put a different name and she had a different name, that they shouldn't know we are sisters. And suddenly we saw, they're bringing in people to the camp, and they look, like, sick, you know? What's this?

We're taking their place. They couldn't work on the farms anymore. They were from Hungarian, from Czechoslovakia, you know? They brought us in, and they send them straight to the gas chamber.

Could you see the gas chamber, there?

Sure.

So you saw people going to the gas chamber.

Sure. We saw-- that wasn't such a big gas chamber in Stutthof. We saw the smoke coming out. Sure, we saw it. It was like, who is next? You know, you live a life where you say, who is next? Now we're going to be tortured.

So when they took us for work, somehow I was lucky, with my sister, to go out on the farm. Meantime, a few days before, they brought-- you know, when I start-- they took the men from the ghetto. They send them to Eistland. It's like Lithuania, Latvia, Eistland, and Finland.

They send the men there for work. And they send a lot of women there, from the ghetto, too, to work, to Eistland. And suddenly I heard that, from Eistland there is some men came in to Stutthof. And I said to my sister, I says, you know what? Let's see if my brother is alive-- you know, if my cousins are alive.

Being in Eistland, they made selections too-- women with children, children, most sick people, old people. My brother ran away three times from the gas chamber. The third time when he came, he was the only kid. And what will they do to him? Shot him? So they put him with the men. And he came into Stutthof.

And when I heard a transfer from Stutthof, I was standing-- you know, we couldn't go close to the fence, because it was electrocuted. And I saw a guy. He wasn't Jewish, but he was a prisoner, too, you know, with--

And I said to him, do me a favor. Find out if Abraham Shoag is there-- if Isaac Shoag is there-- if this is there-- if this is there. You know? It didn't take a half an hour. He brought me my brother.

I said, how did you make it? He said he signed up that he is older. He looked like a kid, was six years old!

I said, maybe I should stay in the camp. And he said, go. Remember where we have to meet-- in Vilna, in this place.

So we went on the farms, to work. And a German Jew adopted him. And they send him up with 50 mens, to another camp, because there were no kids, too. So he was lucky to go out.

When they came to pick us up to work on the farm, you know, we wanted to see everything good. We were happy. We were singing. You know, who cares?

We saw a funeral. It's lucky. We saw a woman wearing two pail of waters, full of waters, you know? Oh, it's lucky.

Finally we came on the farm. And we were there-- Jewish girls, Polish girls, Ukrainian, Russians-- you know, everything what is taking on work-- not in the camp, from the camp, but just brought from Germany to work for the Germans for nothing.

It was a big farm. It belonged to SS men. And every time we came from work, they closed us up, 8 o'clock-- close time. And we used to come from work, and we used to work hard, but we would have meals, you know, and-- [PAUSES]

We were amazing. We had to have hot water, to be washed-- everything. And the foreman, he was a Polack, but he already converted as a German.

And he used to say, why are you always want to wash? Why can't you be dirty? I said, we work out. We want to wash.

They were French prisoners of war, with us, working, too. And--

What kind of work did you do on the farm?

On the field.

In the field.

In the field, yeah. And we used to go out on a field, maybe about 20 or 30 people, to take the whole field. So, the French prisoners, they felt sorry for us. So they used to sneak with us, to help us work on the farm. We weren't used-- you know, was such a heavy work. And always bend up, and we wanted to straighten out, and we couldn't, because the SS was watching us.

So one day, somehow, I talked and I said, oh, I wish I could make work for somebody to sew. And somehow, the foreman-- that was a foreman, and that was overhead foreman-- a German. And the foreman said, you know, Wiera is a dressmaker. And this foreman wanted me to come and work for his wife.

And the Germans said-- came over to me. He says, you know what? Are you a dressmaker? Are you a good one? I says, I guess. He says, I have a daughter. She's getting married. We need a lot of clothes.

I said, uh-uh. I'm not going. You want me to get caught and killed? He said, don't worry. It's on my responsibility.

Now, we got up in the morning, 5 o'clock, to count us if we are all here and go to have breakfast. And they signed us up. And me had to go to the woods, 5 o'clock in the morning, to go to his house.

Now, you go, you hear noise and everything. And it's like, why am I going there? I might be killed!

I went there-- was 6 o'clock in the morning. I walked in. I had a wide bed, with a clean blanket, to go in and to fall asleep. I wasn't sleeping. I was scared. You know?

7 o'clock in the morning, she would knock on the door. She was a Polish woman, married to the German. And once she saw me sleeping in the clothes. And I says, why? I says, I'm afraid. She says, don't be afraid. You are with us. Nothing is going to happen

And she brought me breakfast-- eggs and butter-- just name it. My eyes opened up. Now, here I have nine girls, and they don't have it. So the first day, I ate the eggs; the second day, I didn't, and the third day, I didn't.

She couldn't believe it. She comes in to me. She says, tell me, Wiera-- in Vilna, you ate the eggs with the shells? And I got so insulted. I says, no, I'm taking it for the girls.

She says, don't do it. I will give it to you. She said to me, how is your food? I said, lousy. We had good food. And thanks to us, the Polish and-- everybody had good food.

So you took food back for them.

This SS man, who was over the farmer-- the foreman-- he made cook good-- they used to send good food, but he would take it away! He wouldn't give us good food! He made sure that everybody should have good food, to go to work.

Then the cold weather started, and we didn't have clothes. So he wrote to the city hall-- if they won't send clothes for us to go out to work on the field, they're sending us back to the camps. But they needed us. We worked for nothing! We got clothes to wear.

And I worked there, and the girls had it good, till one Ukrainian girl start looking for me. And she says, where is Wiera? And the girls told me, didn't you better come to work, because you're in trouble.

So I told this the SS man, that I'm in trouble. I'm not going there anymore. He said, don't worry.

When we had, in the morning-- they called us out to count, he called her out. He says, whoever talks something about the Jewish girls, I'm going to show you what I'm going to do. He put her on a bench, picked up the dress-- she got 25. And since then, everything was right.

This foreman was so afraid of us, because if we would run away they would kill him. We find out that, in a close town, about an hour, there are another Jewish girls, our girls from the camp, and we want to go to see them. Why not? We are free people.

He would stay and cry-- please come back. We would come back. You know, where would we go?

I still could survive with my sister, because this German and his wife begged us. They built a bunker, under, with logs or everything, in case they can hide there. One day, I had an experience by dinner. They invited a priest. And I got so scared. I says, oh, my god.

And I took off my striped clothes, and I wore regular clothes, and I had my babushka on. And we sat down. And before you start eating, to say grace. And I did it. And he said, pray in your own language.

I almost-- I thought-- I said to them, don't ever do it. I don't want to have anybody-- and he was telling us to be brave because the Russians are coming closer and we will be liberated.

Was this the priest or the SS--

The priest told them that the Russians are coming closer and we are going to be liberated. But we weren't lucky, because it was an order, we have to go back to camp, to Stutthof. And they filled up bags of food for us and everything.

And you know, I will never forget her words-- don't ever say this is your last step. Don't turn around; just go. Believe me, till this day I hear her voice-- go.

We came into the camp, and we saw what's happened-- again, people dying, crawling, taking out clothes, looking for the lice. And here we are, with bags of food. And they saw it, and they start screaming! We are hungry. Take it!

We slept through the one night; we were all in lice. And there is the trouble what starts.

You mean, at Stutthof.

Stutthof. My sister was a beautiful girl. She was tall. She was-- I am the oldest, and she was the middle one, then my brother.

And they took us all out to count. And they took her out to another barrack, she should be, like, another foreman but to watch--

And my sister said, don't worry. I'm going. We will have food-- everything. Don't worry. We see each other. Because it was close.

And it didn't take long, and the typhus broke out. And she was the first one to get sick on typhus. And I used to come and bring--

I wouldn't let her go to the hospital. I used to bring her something and go back. And one morning--

Meantime, they stopped the gas chamber burning, because the Russians were coming-- we were hearing shooting and bombs, far away. And we were praying, come and bomb our camp. Come and do it. Relief us! We were praying for it.

So, one morning, I went, and one of the ladies said, your sister is dead. I says, how can she be dead? She has her eyes open. She said, she was waiting for you, you should come and close them.

And I closed her eyes. [CRYING] And I stood, and I waited till they threw her on a pile of wood, to burn her. [CRYING] I don't know how we are normal people.

And then I got the typhus. And I thought, this is the end. But the girls said to me, no, you have to make it. You cannot die. We have to tell this story. [CRYING]

And they wouldn't let me to stand on the barrack, because they were counting us every morning. They would push me out. And I had, like, the soldiers are carrying the food-- a dish like this. And I would sit on the dish. And when the

German woman was counting us, they would pick me up . But they wouldn't let me stay on the barrack, because if you stay they send you where your sister is.

And somehow, this was going on. The food was terrible. How bad it was, and how hungry I was-- I couldn't eat the food. I just wanted some water.

I don't know from where-- I found a little bottle, like a Coca-Cola bottle. So that's all what I wanted-- the water. If I would-- see, we used to get a slice, one thin slice, of bread. So I used to put it in four, not to eat at once. And water, I think people can survive on water without food. I believe in this, because I did it.

And it was raining, and I didn't have water. We couldn't even go to wash. They wouldn't let us go to wash-- nothing. The lice were eating us up.

We used to hold a dead body four, three days, to get the food. And when it starts smelling, we would take it out. People were crawling, like, naked, because the lice were eating us up.

I had here a wound from lice. We were looking for a comb. I'm starting itching. We were looking [LAUGHS] for a comb. And one of the girls had a comb. So I went in my hair, and I start brushing. And I start screaming. The lice were eating my head. I felt they're eating.

And here, I had such a wound they were like ants, little ants, on something. It was so painful. But somehow, like I say, it's meant.

So when I went out, I was out of water-- to have a little water. The SS woman saw me, standing by the gutter and getting the water. She broke the bottle. She beat me up so bad that, for three days--

I said to the girls, please, be quiet. You're screaming! They say, we are not screaming. It's your head.

Now, how did I survive? I don't know. I don't know! I ate-- I had a high temperature. That so the girls used to bring me snow-- rub me with snow!

I didn't have a body. I had skin and bones. It was nothing.

And then, the Russians were coming closer again. And they wouldn't leave us by the Russians-- they should kill us there and leave us by the Russians. No. I suppose we were meant to tell the story. Because if they would kill everybody, nobody would know what's happened.

Did you leave Stutthof?

They took us out from Stutthof. And we walked. Not only we walked, but the Germans, because they ran away from the Russians. We walked for three days, till--

Were you feeling better, by this time?

Are you--

You were still sick.

Sick-- you know, people were dying. Who couldn't walk, they shot. Some people crawled away at night. I don't know what happened to them.

Till they brought us to Gdansk, to the woods. And there, the Russians were bombing, but they didn't bomb us. They didn't come to the woods.



And the SS was there too with us. Everybody was hiding in the woods. And they just--

We were saying, please, finish us. Finish us! And there, they put us on the big barges with the motorboats.

And they start to take us places. We were two barges, big barges. And on the barges they put on the Norwegian-- from Norway, the soldiers-- the-- how you call it-- prisoners-- Norwegian prisoners. And they were with us on the barges, too. Wherever we stopped for food, they wouldn't give us. No.

You mean, they wouldn't stop and give you food?

No, nothing. We were 14 days without food. Just what we did-- we put in some cups, to grab a little water. And the water was salted. And we drank the water so fast, we shouldn't feel the salt. Maybe this kept us going.

Some people had some potatoes, cut up, sliced. Though they gave us-- you know, everybody shared something.

Where were the barges going? The barges were going nowhere!

They were on what body of water? Do you know?

It was in Gdansk, on the-- [PAUSES] ocean? You know? And we were going, just going, for 14 days. A lot of girls fall in. When they went to make, they fall in. What they made there, it was terrible.

This was between the 2nd of May or the 3rd of May. There were two big ships, very big ships, two with camp people. One was 4,000, and one was 5,000.

And these were--

Jews, Poles-- all of them, from camp. This was from other camps. They brought them there. I don't know why they brought them there, but they brought them there.

On these large ships.

Yes. And when we saw the large ships, we thought, well, they will put us on the large ships and take us someplace. So, somehow-- I don't remember how it happened, but a lot of girls went on one of the ships. The name of the ship was Cap Arcona, and one was Deutschland. And they went on the ships. We, oh, they are lucky they went on the ships.

When it came night, the Germans tied us up with ropes to this particular ship. That was a big, you know, luxury. And they took the motorboats, and they went away, and they left us with the two big barges.

Now, the Norway soldiers, they saw that the Germans went away. They said, uh-oh, something is fishy. Let's go to the ocean with the barges. Now, how can you go? So they took off the decks, and somehow they broke this, and they made, like, you know, to-- excuse me. [DRINKS]

I don't know how they cut off the ropes from the ship. I don't know. I don't remember. When we were a half an hour from this big ship, it was a mine that was supposed to explode on us. But we couldn't come to the land, because it was big barges.

Now, the mines-- did they explode?

The Germans-- yeah!

Did the ships go up?

No, it wasn't under this ship. It was under us.

Under your barge.

But they put it for us to be killed, but the Norways rescued us.

And we came-- it was early in the morning. So they swum out to the land.

The Norwegian soldiers.

Yeah. And they got-- this place was, like, a fisher port, for fish. And they took small boats. And how they anchored the two barges, I don't know. And what they said-- what is a miracle--

Now, from here to here to here, to jump, it's nothing. But when they told some of the girls, jump from one barge on the other, because it will be easier for them to drag-- that's happened-- I was on the barge where I didn't have to. How many fall in and drowned, because of jumping. They got killed.

They were too weak to make that little jump.

That's right. And we got there, and it was-- a lot of the girls couldn't get out. How I got out, don't ask me. I was pushed from my friends, out-- don't stay there-- just out. Go.

You mean, off the barge?

Yes.

And where was the barge that you were getting off?

This was already in Neustadt-- Neustadt Holstein. This was already the 3rd of May, the day of the liberation.

And that was in Germany.

Germany. And we were so hungry. But the men who were still so hungry, they ran to the Germans. And they brought chickens, and they brought meat, and they killed the chickens, and they made a fire. And they start-- You know, we were 14 days! We were just like, water, water, water.

And the SS wasn't there anymore. The SS wasn't there! So we thought we are free!

It took three hours. The SS came back, because they saw the Russians are not there. And they didn't know who is coming there to liberate us, so they came back, and they start to select us. Here are the Jews, here are the Poles, here are the Ukraine, here are-- and the rest who couldn't make it from the boat, they killed.

There was one woman. They tried to shot her. And he didn't kill her. And the other SS men-- we saw it, everything-- and says, leave her alive-- three times. No. He went to her head, and he shot her and her into the water and bloody.

Then, they took out about 50 mens-- Polacks-- because Jewish men weren't there already, just women. And they, what they rob, they put them in the ocean, and they killed them with machine guns. And then, when the town heard it, they didn't know what's happened.

And they brought us in town, where it was a camp from the Germans. And again they put us on a field. And they took away the Norway prisoners, and they said, we are sending you to Switzerland or to Norway. And us, they were supposed to put back on the big ships and get rid of us. OK?

In meantime, the English came in, and they start to bomb. And one ship, the captain put out a white flag. And this is how my husband survived. Because they came into the port. And the other two ships, they didn't, so they bombed them.

And they were all people, our people, from the camps.

And it didn't take long. You know, just a few people survived. They swam out, you know? And it was 2 o'clock. We got liberated, May the 3rd, 1945, from the English.

And you were exactly where when you were freed?

In Neustadt Holstein, in this camp from the-- German camp. There, we were freed from the English.

You mean, the English marched in actually? Or--

No, it's Neustadt Holstein. But you know, like, some were freed from the Americans; we were freed from the English. You know?

And English troops were there, or were they just bombing overhead?

Oh, they came in right away with tanks! We couldn't get even one German. They were gone. They probably had clothes, you know, private clothes, or they went into the German houses and they gave the-- we couldn't even find--

But I remember, they opened right away a jail, and they led us from the jail. And then, suddenly, we saw naked men running. And this was the men who were swimming out from the big boats.

And even the day of liberation, the English, they didn't know where to put us up, because, you know, the buildings where the Germans were still living and they right away liquidate them, it was filthy and everything. So they took German people, they should clean up all the barracks. It was big-- three-- three-floors apartment.

And us, they put in in a big garage. They brought in some mattresses from-- I don't know where they got it. And I crawled in there, and I was laying. And they brought in food. And I couldn't eat.

And one soldier, a Jewish soldier, came over. And I was sitting like this. You know, I was skinny, with bones, just like a skeleton. And he looked at me. He says, you have such beautiful blue eyes!

I says, I'm dying. He said, oh, no. He went. He brought me a glass of whiskey. And I drank it out, and I fall asleep.

When I got up in the morning, a lot of girls were gone already. And I says, oh my god, this is my end? And then they came back, and they said they find a place, and they took me there.

Who took you there?

The girls, with whom from hometowns, what we still hold ourself together. And I still had the typhus. And when I was walking down, in the morning, I couldn't go up. I had to stay, a whole day, down, to come up in the morning at night and go to sleep.

I couldn't go for food. They had to bring me food. I didn't eat. I was afraid to eat.

Well, didn't the English have physicians watching you or helping you?

It was just time, the next day of the liberation-- May the 3rd--

Oh, in that day.

--1945. That was the next day. That was the 4th of May. Sure, later on, but I brought here--

We had already a Jewish cemetery, in Germany, where people died after the liberation. They got sick. You know?

[PAUSES] They never made it.

Do you remember what you thought when you were liberated, when you found out?

Well, then I said to myself, what's now? I'm alone. I don't have anybody.

We're going to take a short break now, and then we will come back to hear more about your liberation.

OK.