

Celia, you were telling me about your recovery from typhoid fever.

Yeah.

What happened after that?

Well, after that, after a few days, I recovered. I had to go back to work. So I tried to be strong. And I went back to my machine. Nobody was working there. And they were really happy to see me there, especially that German lady there, because they were behind.

And I tried very hard. It was a very hard work. But I tried very hard because I knew, this is-- if I want to stay alive, then I just have to do it. So the will was stronger than me. So I worked there for about seven months.

After the seven months, the Russians started to bomb us, to bomb Reichenbach. And they went first for the factories. And they knew that there is a factory. So the first time that they bombed us-- and it so happened that we were working and in the factory. So they took us out. The SS took us out to a field. And they bombed us away from the factory. And they were hiding. They were so afraid.

And somehow, we girls we got used to it already. And matter of fact, we were smiling. We were happy about it because what could happen? It couldn't be worse than Birkenau, Auschwitz.

So this-- the first time, they-- like I say, they took us out to a field. And after the bombing, they took us back to the factory. So they bombed just one part of the factory. We were still able to work. And then the bombing came always frequently and frequently. So finally, they decided that they have to take us for a-- they kept us for insurance, that-- for a trade or later on, for something. So they were worried about us already.

So they started to evacuate us from Reichenbach. And we didn't know where they are taking us. But we walked and walked with no ends. The first day, we walked 35 kilometers. And we were-- our feet were swollen.

And before we started walking, they gave us a slice of bread. And with this, we had to walk the 35 kilometers. And then we started to yell, we-- and on the way, the bombing constantly went on. And all we had to do is we always sat down on the ground until the bombing stopped. And we walked further.

We arrived at night. I don't remember the time, but we arrived at night in some town. I don't know where it was. They never told us which town we are in. And the way we found out-- if we asked one or the other, someone who recognized it or someone was close to a German, and they told them. And this is how we knew.

So we arrived to that town. And they put us where the cattles are living in a stall. And they took out the cattles. And when we went in, there was still from the cattles the manure. There was still-- the hay was still warm.

But we were so happy that we could lie down. But that was so small that all the girls from that factory, we were so tight in there that it was no room at all. We were again like herrings. Because Reichenbach, we had already bunk beds. We felt already like human beings in bunk beds, although we didn't have running water and we didn't have beds.

We had to wash up-- even in the wintertime, the water was frozen-- in a pot. They gave us a pot. And in that pot, we took turns. And everybody washed up in that frozen water. But we were happy that we have and wiped us off with the end of the dress-- again, because we didn't have no towels.

So when we came to that, where they took out the cattles, so we were happy that at least we are there. Already, in the morning-- it was a farm-- in the morning, they gave us breakfast. And what was the breakfast, I don't remember already-- I think a glass of milk and a piece of bread. And they took us further.

Excuse me, how many girls were you now? Were you still 140?

No, we were about 1,500.

1,500 girls?

1,500. Because after that-- I was with the first group. But then they always brought out more and more. So to the end, we were about 1,500 workers. Nobody worked except the Jewish girls there, plus they had Germans who watched us. That's all. So because the rest of them were all occupied in the-- with the war. So then they took us further. We traveled.

But the following day, we didn't travel already. The following day, we went 27 kilometers. We went for five days. We walked for five days. After five days, we came to a camp where other girls were. And then they started to bomb this-- also that camp.

So all the people from that camp went further with us. So we arrived. We went to three camps like this, always further and further. They started to bomb, we went again further. We arrived to Porta.

This is-- Porta was by Holland. I remember, there was a water. And on the other side was Holland, on this side was Germany. And they took us, they built-- to a camp there. And we worked in a hill they opened up. It was a gate in the hill. When they closed it, they didn't see nothing at all. And you went in that hill.

And inside was seven-- built seven stories, all kind of machineries, all kind. They said that Hitler kept there all the secrets and all the treasures over there. But there was no air. There was artificial air.

I will never forget that the first day when I went there, I said to the girls, that will be our end. Because I thought, it's-- with no air, with no nothing. But it was safe enough. The conditions were as bad as anyplace else.

But we were happy that at least they are bombing. And something will happen. We had hope. Till then, we didn't have no hope at all. So we stayed there four weeks. Four weeks, it was still all right. They gave us-- the condition was the same as in Reichenbach, almost.

The last week, the fifth week-- oh yeah, I got sick again. My feet-- I had an infection on my leg because they gave us wooden shoes. I have a small foot, size 5. I wore a size-- a big-- I don't know, in Europe, they call the size 40 wooden shoe. It was twice as big as my leg. And as I went, it dropped off.

And I got-- my feet got infection. And I got fever. And I was sick. I couldn't go to work. So they said, one day-- we had from Holland the doctor who was in Reichenbach. She was the doctor then by us.

And when I arrived to Porta, I always thought to myself, if I will be free in my life, I'm going to look up that Russian doctor, and I'm going to really be like a daughter to her. And in Porta, the doctor told me, that Holland doctor, the Jewish one, that they killed her. They shot her because they found out that she gave me the antibiotic instead of the girl. So it's sabotage. And because she committed sabotage, they shot her. So that was the end of her.

Where were you working now? Where did they take you out to work?

In Porta.

In Porta.

In that hill, in that hill factory.

Was a factory.

It was a factory, yeah. And we worked over there. So but then, like I say, when they started to bomb-- yeah, after the fourth week that we were there, some days, they didn't even took us to work because they kept on bombing. And they

didn't want to reveal that hill because that was, like I say-- from outside, all you saw is a hill. It's just in the front, it was a gate. That's all.

So in the gate was a big door. So apparently, they didn't discover it then. So after the fourth week, they didn't give us food. They didn't have no food. So it got to a point that the girls went on the garbage dump. And they ate the food what they could, like potato peels. And it was already mold on them. And it was rotten. But they ate it.

One day, a girlfriend of mine, she was-- her bed was next to me. And he said, everybody is going to the garbage dump. You think you are still wise, Celie? You are just like one of us. Now, if you want to live, you go to the dump too.

It hurt me very much, but I decided, if I want to live, I might as well go because I was hungry. So my feet was all swollen, all the way. And I thought, maybe that will help. I went all the way to the dump. And when I felt that smell and I saw how rotten it is the garbage, I turned around. I said, I'm going to die, but I'm not-- I just couldn't put it in my mouth. I couldn't eat.

So when I came back, she saw it that I went to the dump and I didn't eat it. She says, now what? What are you going to do now? So I asked for a little water. And that kept me. I couldn't. I just-- I couldn't go to the dump and eat garbage.

So that lasted for a whole week. After a week, they bombed us again. And they started-- they took us in a train, cattle trains, but not closed one-- by open cattle trains. And it was fall. It was cold, terrible. And we were about 70 girls in one cattle car. And we started to squeeze one to the other, we should keep warm.

But they bombed the tracks too. When they bombed the tracks, then-- it was a big train because we were then already lots of people. Because as we traveled, we always picked up from that camp the girls. And we went all together. So when we-- when they bombed the tracks, a half a train went one way, the half a train because we couldn't cross. The tracks were bombed.

And later, I heard because friends of mine were in the other side-- I was in that side-- that they took us back to Germany. They took us back to Germany. And the other side, later on, they kept five days on the tracks.

And then from Switzerland, they came, and they took them to Switzerland. They were half-dead, the girls. Some of them died there, right there in the track. And I was on the other side. So we never knew till later on what happened with the other half of the train.

And so they took us to Salzwedel. In Salzwedel, it was also a camp. In Salzwedel, they started to bomb us again. We didn't work over there. They just kept us. They gave us to eat once a day also garbage.

But I didn't tell you-- in the beginning, in Birkenau, they fed us with broom. They put in that pot of food-- it was garbage. But they called it food. They put some medicine in it that the girl shouldn't have the period. Some girls, it affected so much that they could never have children. And some people were all right. But it affected most-- 80% of the girls, it affected.

So when they took us already to Salzwedel, like I say, they fed us once a day. We were there for a few weeks. And then all of a sudden, they bombed that too. We saw that the Germans are afraid already. And they kept on running like without a head.

Finally, the German one-- the SS who was in charge of that camp asked one girl who-- they put on every camp-- they put one girl who was in charge of the rest of the girls. See? They called it Aufseherin.

And they told her-- they made a deal with her. The Germans knew already that this is their end, that they lost the war. So they asked her, if they will be-- if we will be liberated, that we won't give out his name. And for that, he told her-- she had to promise her-- she had to promise him that she won't give out his name. He should tell the secret.

So the secret was we-- the whole camp was with bombs, with wires, that in the last minute, if they won't be able to make

a deal with the Russian or with the Americans, then they will bomb us. So we knew about it. So what we did is we decided-- we got our heads together. And there was lots of underground people from French-- from France, underground people.

And the way we communicated is we took a piece of paper. And we wrote with charcoal, or with anything, or with stone, or with anything we could find. We put it around the stone. We pulled out from our dress the thread. We tied it and we threw it through the fence.

Because we had an electrical wire fence. Every camp had electrical wire camps-- wire fences. So we threw it, that-- to remind them to tell them that we are all wired, to blow us up, that they should go to the Americans or to the Russian. And they should free us sooner because they knew how many days they need that they are going to come to our camp.

So those French people, when they saw the note, the underground, they went to the Americans. And they said, turn around. Because they wanted to go I don't know which way, I don't remember anymore, and go this way. And arrive sooner with two days. Otherwise, we all will be-- we were about 30,000 by that time already. If not, we will be bombed.

So luckily, the American came. And they liberated us. That was the most beautiful day in my life. When we saw that-- now, I was again to a point, like I said, my feet were all swollen. I couldn't put on shoes, period. I walked barefooted.

And when the American came and opened up the gates, and we-- I remember, myself, I stood there by the gate. I couldn't believe that I could walk out. I just couldn't believe it. Finally, my girlfriend from home, she had shoes on. I went-- all I had is just one dress-- no underwear, no nothing because they never gave us anything-- and barefooted.

She says, OK, let's go. They gave us three day free robbing, the Americans. We could have gone into any house and take whatever we wanted to.

In what town was this now?

That was in Salzwedel after they liberated us. And we did like this. All the girls, 30,000 girls. I remember, I came in to a milk factory. When I came in already, because I couldn't walk-- and when I came in already, everything was gone. On the ground, on the floor was still a little milk. I couldn't pick up anything.

So finally, we decided, let's go into that house. It was not far from that factory. We went into that house. I couldn't. I said to my girlfriend, I couldn't take anything. She took what she took. I saw a little suitcase, which I kept it with me all the way. I brought it even to the United States a little suitcase. It was in it a blanket. They were preparing to run.

Were the people still in their houses? They were still there.

Yes, the people were in, but they were hiding because they were afraid of us. Because we were so disgusted. Although you hardly could see that we are human beings, but the will of living was so strong that we could have done anything. And they were afraid of us. So I took that little suitcase. And I'm walking.

We go further and we see the Americans on open trucks riding on the streets, one after another, one after another. And will never forget, one truck stopped. And a soldier jumped down from the truck and said, why are you walking barefooted? I said, look at my feet. I can't put on no shoes.

So he-- and he exactly were in front of a shoe store. He took his bayonet and knocked out the window. He says, come in and take yourself any shoes you want, whatever you can. And because it was, like I say, three day-- for three days, we could do it. That was the first day.

I went in. I couldn't put on no shoes at all. So I took a slippers. Finally, the slippers I could put on. So I put on the slippers. And I walked. Says, here, take this. He helped me to pick out shoes. I couldn't put nothing on. I had swollen feet. I developed a bunion. On the bunion, I had a big wart like this. And it was infected. And I just couldn't put on anything.

So I put a white cloth. I went to the infirmary. And they gave me somethings, they-- a gas, kind of. And I tied it on. And I put on my slippers. I didn't go anymore out because I just couldn't. Other girls did go, but I couldn't. After that, they took us to a place where the Germans were trained for soldiers.

The Americans took you?

Yeah, the Americans took over.

Do you remember when this was?

That was in beginning of May in '45, 1945, beginning of May. Some-- everything happened in May by me. Somehow, it came out that way that everything happened in May. So that was beginning of May. And they took us to that-- it was a big house-- not a house. It's like a military camp.

Barracks?

Not barracks, that was a big house. But they said that it was a school where they trained the young soldiers. They trained already 14 year, or 15 and 16-year-olds. So it was like a academy there. So they took us over there. And the American fed us. And we all got sick because we weren't used to eating anymore. We couldn't take down the food.

So we all got sick. I got sick. They took me again to a hospital nearby. And I felt so bad. I had a very high fever. They didn't know what's wrong with me. They had a hospital in that complex too. But all they had is doctors from Jewish doctors who got liberated also. And we didn't trust the German doctors anyway.

But they took me away, far away, to another hospital. I come over there. And that was a hospital what they redid from a plain house. And there was mainly soldiers, German soldiers, and men who survived the Holocaust, and who survived the labor camps. And there was a few girls just there. They took me over there. The doctors couldn't find anything wrong with me.

But I had a high fever. I had 103, 104 fever. They didn't know what's wrong with me. But I-- the only thing they saw is my leg, my left leg. And this what I complained on. I didn't feel nothing else.

So after a few days, it came down to the camp in Salzwedel to my cousins that I'm dead what I try to tell you. So they put my stuff away already. If I'm dead, I'm dead. And in the hospital, I met there a Jewish doctor, which he had kidney trouble. And he was at a point that the kidneys almost gave up on him. But he tried to help me mentally and physically too.

And all of a sudden, one day, from one day to another, I got well. From one day to another, I got my period. And the fever went down right away. And the following day, I was all right. And they took me back to Salzwedel.

And when they took me back to Salzwedel, I come on the road. I went to the barracks. And whoever saw me started to run away because they thought they see a ghost. They-- everybody knew that I'm dead. All of a sudden, I show up there. So that was a very bad experience also. But in the meantime, I kept contact with that Jewish doctor. He transferred himself to our camp.

So we got very close. And before he transferred himself to the-- to our camp, it was-- one try to help the other. I wasn't strong. I wore the slippers what I had. I couldn't wear no shoes. But I went once a week. I went to the hospital where he was.

I remember, once, I went, and the cherries were blooming. And there was already cherries on the tree. And I tore off a whole branch. And I took it to him to the hospital. And one other day, I went into a house and I took books. And I took them to the hospital. Then he transferred to our camp.

And when he transferred to our camp, we helped each other. I needed help-- mentally, too, because I was hoping and feeling that my brother is alive, yet I was still full of energy that I'm going to find him. Because I saw him in Birkenau. I saw him in Auschwitz. So I thought, if I lived it through, he lived it through too.

So finally, we were there for a few months in Salzwedel. And then they took us back to Czechoslovakia, to Teplice-Sanov. He was from Romania, from Nagyvárad. So I promised them, after we were-- after I will be settled, we'll get together. Fine.

I went. They took us back to Czechoslovakia, to Teplice-Sanov. I was chosen to work in an office there. Also, we stood in line. And I don't know why they chose me, but they chose me. So I worked in the office. I made identification cards.

I saw there many, many people whom I never knew that they are alive. I made them identification cards and everything. But I worked there for a few weeks. And then I just didn't have the patience. I couldn't concentrate on anything. I just wanted to go home. I wanted to see my brother.

I went home. We could have traveled for nothing on the trains. And so I went back to the Carpathian, to Tiacevo. I went home. I remembered where we buried some stuff. We buried it on many places. And one place, I remembered, in the basement.

Was your house still there?

The house was still there. It was occupied by Christians already. This is the house what I showed you-- our house, not my brother's. And I went in the basement. I took a shovel. And I found it. When I found it, then over there was the Russians already. So the word went out right away that I found some valuables. And they wanted to take it away from me.

So I remember, one guy-- as I told you in the beginning, we were-- my father was a big dealer, a wholesaler. And every poor person worked by us. And at that time, when we were liberated, when I came home the first time, he was a big shot in the office there. He was in charge of things.

So he comes to me and tells me, you don't have a right to that. This is Russian now. Everything belongs to the Russians. You don't have a right to that. And how do we know that it belongs to you? Because we had 150 people in there-- during the ghetto there.

So I said, you know what? You could recognize it. Because he was so poor, he worked by us that when the apples were half-rotten, we threw it out. And he came, and picked it up, and took it home. That's how poor he was. So he was by us practically every day. He knew us very well.

I says, you are the only one who could know the best if it belongs to me or not. So he shut up. He didn't say anything. So it was a good feeling for me because in that particular place, my father put together on many places-- and from everybody, something-- from my mother, the ring, from my father, a watch, from my brother, something, from my sister, something. From my stuff, what-- I got a diamond ring when I was 16 and all these things. And I was very happy because it meant part of them.

But I couldn't stand it at home because wherever I went, I would see my family there, like every stone would talk to me where I stepped. I couldn't stand it. So I just turned around and went back to Czechoslovakia. Then after that, I went to Czechoslovakia.

I didn't want to go to work. So I kept on going to see the list where my brother is because there was a list of people who are alive. I didn't see my brother's name there. But I always thought, maybe I just miss him. I talked into myself like a sickness that he is alive. And I didn't want to hear any other way. I just talked into myself that he's alive.

So I didn't see the list. I went back and forth, back and forth to look at the list. So I packed up and I went to Hungary, to Budapest. I went to Budapest and went to search again, look through all the lists everywhere, didn't find my brother any

place. Finally, I picked up myself and went back home a second time. Maybe I missed it at home.

Oh, yeah, the first time when I went home, I found in the basement Torah scrolls-- Torah scrolls and torn up Torahs because while we were in the ghetto, we had there the Torahs. People were still religious. We prayed and everything. So I found there the Torah scrolls.

So I went to the people who-- lots of people came home. I mean, the young people came home, whoever were alive. And they-- in a house, they made themselves a synagogue. So I told them that in our basement, there is torn Torah scrolls, and one is a whole one. What to do with it? I didn't know what to do with it. So they said, bring it over here.

And usually, they told me, that when a Torah was given to a shul, they are making a big party, and they say prayers, and things like this. So I says, fine. So I went back to the house. And I told those Christian people, I'm going to come tomorrow and I'm going to pick up the Torah and all the scrolls.

I came the second day, one Torah was still there. The torn ones, I didn't find anymore. Or they discarded it, or they threw it out, or something. Because this is supposed to be buried. You can't throw it out. It has to be buried. So I told them, this is very dangerous that you did that. Where is it? Nobody knew anything.

So I said to myself, fine. I picked up the Torah and I gave it to the shul. At least they had a Torah where they could. They made a big party. And I had to attend because it was in my honor because I donated. And then I went back to Hungary. I went back to Budapest. Went to Budapest and I still couldn't find my brother.

So the third time-- I went always back to Czechoslovakia, back to Hungary, back to-- and then I went-- the third time, I went back home. Third time I went back home, I heard that one of the older people was together with my brother, and that my brother is dead, and he could tell me when he died and how he died. He died from hunger.

So I went to him. And I asked him, tell me the date that I could at least keep the memorial services for him. And tell me how he died. And I thought, maybe if I know all this, I'll be cured too. Otherwise, I just talked into myself that he is alive. He didn't want to tell me. He didn't. He refused to tell me. He didn't want to tell me. I was very mad.

So I said, OK, I never in my life wanted to see you again. And God should pay you back. Later on, not long after that, he died. So anyway, after that, I accepted already that my brother is not alive. But I couldn't still live with that.

But I knew, I can't stay at home. I have to go. I didn't know where, but I have to leave. So the third time, we had property. On the other side of Tiacevo was Romania. And there, the water, the Tisza was divided from Czechoslovakia to Romania and, at that time, Russia because Russia took over the Carpathian.

So we had property on the Romanian side. So at that time, the third time when I came home, they closed up already. And they didn't want to let the young kids out because they saw-- Russia saw that everybody is running. And nobody is going to stay home. So I signed release papers that they are going to work on my property.

Who was going to go to work there?

Hmm?

Who would? Who would work there?

The boys and the girls, whoever wanted to leave, to go--

I understand.

--to another country. And there was no way how to get out anymore because Russia closed the gates. That's it. So I signed the papers that they are going to work on the Romanian side. And then if they are on the Romanian side, they could go wherever they like.

So one day, when I signed for a boy who was-- they were very prominent people in our city. And they were very rich before the war. And when he showed up with a piece of paper-- he had to show up when he wanted to go from the Russian side to the Romanian side, he had to have some passport nobody had, but a piece of paper.

So he showed up that piece of paper that he's going to work on my property there. So one looks at the other because everybody knew each other. And he said, it's impossible that you are going to work. It's just you want to leave the country. And you cannot do that. And he got scared, and jumped in the water, and started to swim.

So he swim to the other side and yelled for the other guy, you better go and tell Celie, she should run. Because they were ready to come and get me because I didn't supposed to do that. Because I knew, they are not going to work there. I knew that they want to leave the country. And there was no other way to leave the country.

So I was eating supper at that time, when the other guy came and told me the whole story. So all I did is put on two dresses or three dresses, whatever I could on myself, whatever I had already. The rest of them-- I left the suitcase. I left everything there by my cousin. First, I furnished it, I found furniture from our house and everything. I furnished it, an apartment in a house. And she was pretty good-off, that at least she has.

And I couldn't stay there anyway. Because I had a feeling I just have to go. It's too painful to live there. So I went. I went. I packed up. I dressed up, like I say. And I went to the border. I come to the border.

Nobody was there, but the gate was closed. It was-- the border was on a bridge. I couldn't climb over. I couldn't do anything. So I say to myself, now, what am I going to do now? And that boy who ran away, who came tell me, he was next to me. Said, now, what are we going to do now? Says, we can't climb over. I refuse to go in the water. I couldn't swim. I just refused to do it. What are we going to do now?

So finally, I go up and down, up and down on the bridge. And all of a sudden, I see from the Romanian side, an officer comes with a guard. And he comes towards the gate. When I saw that they are coming towards the gate, and I looked calm, and started just like I am enjoying the water, like it's nothing.

And when that guard opened up the gate, that their officer could come on the Russian side, didn't open up all. I ran. I was small and tiny always. So me and that boy, we ran through. And we ran all the way through to the end of the bridge.

And he started to yell. And the officer started to yell, you cannot do that. And you have to show up some papers and everything. We didn't even turn around. We just ran. And when we were already on the Romanian side, they couldn't do anything for us. So that was the last time that I was home.

And then from there, I went to Nagyvárad to see my friend, the doctor. I come over there because I promised him that I'll see him. I come over there. He had already a practice. He was fine. He was operated as soon as he got there. And he felt fine, everything.

All right. We went out that evening. One evening, we went out to a beautiful restaurant, where he was when he graduated from school. That meant to him so much. He took me there. I first didn't want to go because I wasn't dressed like I was used from home to be dressed in. And the way I was dressed, I said, how am I-- the way I look? I am ashamed to go.

He says, don't worry. Nobody knows you anyway. And if I accept you like you are, that's the main thing. So we went over there. And we had a very good time. He brought me home.

I was by people in a private home. I slept over there in the night. Again-- yeah, and we decided, when we said goodbye to each other, we decided, the following day, he will take me out to get an apartment and take me out shopping. And then we'll see further. After a little while, we'll get married.

During the night, I have a dream. My mother comes to me and starts to cry. And I saw her. I could have even touched

her. It was so real that-- like she would be alive, so real. It's not like a dream, but like real. She comes to me and she says, is that how I raised you? Because he was a Reform Jew. And we were, like I said, very Orthodox, strict Orthodox.

And you can't marry him. And you can't stay here. And you should go. And I started to convince my mother and talk with her, but loud. And we started to argue. And the people-- we were sleeping in one room. Everybody who came to a city got together wherever-- there was always places, houses where you go to that house, there you could sleep, there you could eat. There were lots of people there.

And my mother said, no, you can't do that. And she walked out. At that point, I sat up and started to cry and screamed, don't let her go out. Hold on to her. And the rest of the people thought that I'm out of my mind, that I got crazy. And I woke up.

And I told him what happened, that my mother was here. I could have touched her. And that's why I yelled, don't let her out. But I was so bitter. And I was strict under these-- in Europe, you was raised, you do as you are told. And it hurt me so much. But I had to follow my mother's orders.

So I picked myself up. I wrote him a letter. I mailed it. I went to the train. And I went back to Hungary. After that, I stayed in Budapest for a few days. I saw, there is no future there for me. I went back to Czechoslovakia. I got a job as a store manager and worked there for 14 months.

After the 14 months, Czechoslovakian came out with a rule, everybody has to have the papers that they belong there. If not, then they will send them back home to the Carpathian because lots of people were there. I was so tired running and going and felt so much alone that I just couldn't see myself to go and make papers again.

When I was home the first time, I took out my birth certificate. I took out my school papers, copies of everything, took out my papers. Because in Europe, you couldn't open up a store unless you have the paper that you went to business school-- took all these papers. And I carried it with me from country to country. But I was so tired that I decided, no, I won't make any papers. And it's too hard. And I was-- I just couldn't.

So I went back to Germany. They took groups to Germany through Italy. So I signed up. In Germany, I signed up to the UNRRA. And they took me to Italy. But that trip to Italy, it was just terrible. We went through hills, walked, snow above the knees. We couldn't carry nothing except backpack. And we didn't suppose to leave on the way nothing.

The underground took us from Germany over there in the night. And through hills-- and I couldn't pick out my small feet from that snow. And I said to the shaliach, I said, I'm not going further. I sat down in the snow. I said, this is it. I had enough. I don't want to live anymore.

He said, you can't do that because-- not because of you. If they will see that the transport went through-- because on the end, when the transport went through already, then those underground people put the snow together that they shouldn't see-- that they shouldn't see that someone was there, that someone went through to Italy.

Finally, we got to Milano. We got through the hill. There was buses. And they took us to Milano, to Italy. In Milano, it wasn't bad. We stayed there for five weeks, and also in a gathering place where they gathered the Jews, the young who came home from concentration camp. And from Milano, they took us to Cremona.

And in Cremona, there was a camp under the-- American supported us. And we had a office. We had everything. Everybody worked whatever they could. And I went to a Mizrachi-- they were groups, Mizrachi and other groups, Betar, and other groups. I knew I was always a Mizrachi. So I stick to the Mizrachi.

I think we're going to take a little rest again, Celia. And we'll return in a few minutes. And we'll take up where we left off with the Mizrachi.

OK.

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