

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,710

2
00:00:05,710 --> 00:00:08,170
We were talking about
your experiences

3
00:00:08,170 --> 00:00:12,490
working in the crematorium,
folding the clothes.

4
00:00:12,490 --> 00:00:16,720
And what then happened
with those clothes?

5
00:00:16,720 --> 00:00:18,310
What did you exactly do?

6
00:00:18,310 --> 00:00:21,440
Can you be a little
more specific?

7
00:00:21,440 --> 00:00:28,030
We tried to match sizes and
make bundles, attach them,

8
00:00:28,030 --> 00:00:30,490
and put them in a truck.

9
00:00:30,490 --> 00:00:32,549
The truck was going to a train.

10
00:00:32,549 --> 00:00:34,750
We put them on the train.

11
00:00:34,750 --> 00:00:37,015
And then they went to Germany.

12
00:00:37,015 --> 00:00:39,540

13

00:00:39,540 --> 00:00:42,600

So these were clothes from
the Hungarian victims.

14

00:00:42,600 --> 00:00:44,950

Yeah.

15

00:00:44,950 --> 00:00:48,880

And where-- did you
work in a warehouse or--

16

00:00:48,880 --> 00:00:50,170

It was a big room.

17

00:00:50,170 --> 00:00:52,900

It was built specially for that.

18

00:00:52,900 --> 00:00:54,700

They had five crematoriums.

19

00:00:54,700 --> 00:00:59,890

And they built five big rooms.

20

00:00:59,890 --> 00:01:04,879

We weren't-- it was pretty
far, one from the other.

21

00:01:04,879 --> 00:01:07,680

But that's what happened.

22

00:01:07,680 --> 00:01:12,250

They built the big rooms.

23

00:01:12,250 --> 00:01:17,400

And it was a lot of
clothes coming in,

24

00:01:17,400 --> 00:01:21,880

piles and piles
of clothes from--

25

00:01:21,880 --> 00:01:25,010
because people brought
some with them.

26
00:01:25,010 --> 00:01:33,380
Bring the best thing you have,
the jewelry, and this, so

27
00:01:33,380 --> 00:01:36,150
that's what we did.

28
00:01:36,150 --> 00:01:38,730
So you sorted out women's
clothes, and men's clothes,

29
00:01:38,730 --> 00:01:39,730
and sizes.

30
00:01:39,730 --> 00:01:40,230
Right.

31
00:01:40,230 --> 00:01:45,133

32
00:01:45,133 --> 00:01:46,425
But then after a little while--

33
00:01:46,425 --> 00:01:50,230

34
00:01:50,230 --> 00:01:53,620
it was too close for the people
to see what they were doing.

35
00:01:53,620 --> 00:02:01,750
So they put on the [INAUDIBLE].

36
00:02:01,750 --> 00:02:06,670
They put blankets so we
shouldn't look at it,

37
00:02:06,670 --> 00:02:08,460

we shouldn't see.

38

00:02:08,460 --> 00:02:12,808

But the smell, and the
screaming, and yelling--

39

00:02:12,808 --> 00:02:15,350

Oh, they put blankets up so you
wouldn't see the crematorium.

40

00:02:15,350 --> 00:02:16,475

Is that what you're saying?

41

00:02:16,475 --> 00:02:18,860

Yeah.

42

00:02:18,860 --> 00:02:22,980

Because people who are
revolting them self

43

00:02:22,980 --> 00:02:25,470

Were you standing
all day doing this?

44

00:02:25,470 --> 00:02:26,490

Yeah.

45

00:02:26,490 --> 00:02:28,040

Standing at tables?

46

00:02:28,040 --> 00:02:29,920

Yeah.

47

00:02:29,920 --> 00:02:32,460

They had a shift night
and then daylight.

48

00:02:32,460 --> 00:02:34,400

How many hours a day
did you have to work?

49

00:02:34,400 --> 00:02:38,270

50
00:02:38,270 --> 00:02:41,520
10 or 12 hours.

51
00:02:41,520 --> 00:02:43,960
Did you work during
the day or at night?

52
00:02:43,960 --> 00:02:46,690
Only-- you switched.

53
00:02:46,690 --> 00:02:49,102
One, two weeks, you
worked at night.

54
00:02:49,102 --> 00:02:50,560
And two weeks, you
did the daytime.

55
00:02:50,560 --> 00:02:54,770

56
00:02:54,770 --> 00:02:58,780
And then what were your
sleeping conditions like?

57
00:02:58,780 --> 00:03:04,480
Well, in Brzezinka, the sleeping
conditions were wonderful.

58
00:03:04,480 --> 00:03:07,540
We slept one person to a bed.

59
00:03:07,540 --> 00:03:12,940
Before, we slept by
12 to a piece of wood.

60
00:03:12,940 --> 00:03:14,690
So you had your own bed.

61
00:03:14,690 --> 00:03:18,070

Yes, and sheets, too.

62

00:03:18,070 --> 00:03:20,340

What were you wearing?

63

00:03:20,340 --> 00:03:23,140

The uniform, a simple uniform.

64

00:03:23,140 --> 00:03:26,110

Did you wear the same
uniform the whole time

65

00:03:26,110 --> 00:03:27,390

you were in camp?

66

00:03:27,390 --> 00:03:28,360

The same--

67

00:03:28,360 --> 00:03:29,360

Oh, sometimes.

68

00:03:29,360 --> 00:03:32,210

And when some body dying
You have the same size,

69

00:03:32,210 --> 00:03:35,570

and they were cleaned
enough, you were--

70

00:03:35,570 --> 00:03:39,910

or they had no
lice because people

71

00:03:39,910 --> 00:03:41,670

died very quickly sometimes.

72

00:03:41,670 --> 00:03:45,200

When they arrived, in two or
three days, they were dead.

73

00:03:45,200 --> 00:03:48,190

So people used to change around.

74
00:03:48,190 --> 00:03:50,500
Otherwise, you wore
the same uniform.

75
00:03:50,500 --> 00:03:51,100
For years.

76
00:03:51,100 --> 00:03:52,900
For years.

77
00:03:52,900 --> 00:03:55,010
What did you wear
under your uniform?

78
00:03:55,010 --> 00:03:55,900
Nothing.

79
00:03:55,900 --> 00:03:57,790
It was nothing to wear.

80
00:03:57,790 --> 00:04:05,350
We had lost so much weight,
everything was hanging down.

81
00:04:05,350 --> 00:04:08,603
And you didn't need anything.

82
00:04:08,603 --> 00:04:10,270
And they wouldn't
give it to you anyway.

83
00:04:10,270 --> 00:04:13,240

84
00:04:13,240 --> 00:04:14,890
What were the
sanitary facilities

85
00:04:14,890 --> 00:04:16,885
like when you were working
in the crematorium?

86
00:04:16,885 --> 00:04:20,540
Oh, in the crematorium,
it was nice.

87
00:04:20,540 --> 00:04:26,320
They had showers-- given
by men, but I didn't care.

88
00:04:26,320 --> 00:04:29,530
It came to that point,
and I didn't care.

89
00:04:29,530 --> 00:04:30,700
And--

90
00:04:30,700 --> 00:04:32,350
What do you mean given by men?

91
00:04:32,350 --> 00:04:33,850
Yeah, the showers.

92
00:04:33,850 --> 00:04:34,480
Yeah.

93
00:04:34,480 --> 00:04:36,420
They would turn on
the water by men.

94
00:04:36,420 --> 00:04:39,080

95
00:04:39,080 --> 00:04:45,580
And they were-- we had
clean sheets on the bed.

96
00:04:45,580 --> 00:04:50,960
And we could change uniform
if we wanted to, at that time,

97
00:04:50,960 --> 00:04:52,175
at that period of time.

98
00:04:52,175 --> 00:04:55,150

99
00:04:55,150 --> 00:04:58,060
So for four months, it was--

100
00:04:58,060 --> 00:05:02,140
well, they didn't want to
we should revolt, you know?

101
00:05:02,140 --> 00:05:06,510
That's a way of
pacifying the people.

102
00:05:06,510 --> 00:05:08,940
That's what we were doing.

103
00:05:08,940 --> 00:05:13,990
Now, did you have any
contact with any of the women

104
00:05:13,990 --> 00:05:15,500
that you were with
in the beginning

105
00:05:15,500 --> 00:05:18,700
once you started this new work?

106
00:05:18,700 --> 00:05:24,050
I had a toothache, and I
asked to go into Birkenau.

107
00:05:24,050 --> 00:05:28,800
And I saw Toni
there and Matilde--

108
00:05:28,800 --> 00:05:33,740
no, not Matilde But Danielle
Casanova was a dentist.

109
00:05:33,740 --> 00:05:38,020

And she was the
Communist non-Jewish.

110
00:05:38,020 --> 00:05:41,870
She pulled the tooth on me.

111
00:05:41,870 --> 00:05:43,100
How did she pull it?

112
00:05:43,100 --> 00:05:44,050
Did she have any--

113
00:05:44,050 --> 00:05:45,610
No, with the pliers.

114
00:05:45,610 --> 00:05:48,610

115
00:05:48,610 --> 00:05:52,980
I don't have much
teeth in my mouth.

116
00:05:52,980 --> 00:05:53,980
So the --

117
00:05:53,980 --> 00:05:54,980
You couldn't wash them.

118
00:05:54,980 --> 00:05:59,640
You couldn't have toothpaste,
or no brush, or no nothing.

119
00:05:59,640 --> 00:06:05,760

120
00:06:05,760 --> 00:06:08,190
So they had permitted
you to go back and get

121
00:06:08,190 --> 00:06:09,080
your tooth removed.

122

00:06:09,080 --> 00:06:09,580

Yes.

123

00:06:09,580 --> 00:06:11,490

And they brought me back.

124

00:06:11,490 --> 00:06:15,068

What was the state of mind with
the women when you went back?

125

00:06:15,068 --> 00:06:16,110

They wouldn't believe it.

126

00:06:16,110 --> 00:06:19,550

127

00:06:19,550 --> 00:06:21,250

They wouldn't believe it.

128

00:06:21,250 --> 00:06:21,750

What?

129

00:06:21,750 --> 00:06:24,540

You mean they wouldn't
believe what you were doing?

130

00:06:24,540 --> 00:06:25,085

Yes.

131

00:06:25,085 --> 00:06:27,770

They wouldn't believe
it was happening.

132

00:06:27,770 --> 00:06:30,410

To them.

133

00:06:30,410 --> 00:06:35,816

Because a certain
Hungarian got into camp.

134

00:06:35,816 --> 00:06:39,330

Cause they were liberated
very early, which is--

135
00:06:39,330 --> 00:06:43,840

136
00:06:43,840 --> 00:06:46,445
so they said some--

137
00:06:46,445 --> 00:06:49,700
they're coming into camp,
so it can't be that bad.

138
00:06:49,700 --> 00:06:55,090

139
00:06:55,090 --> 00:06:56,890
These are the
Hungarian saying this?

140
00:06:56,890 --> 00:07:00,180
No, the people who] were,
there already for a while.

141
00:07:00,180 --> 00:07:03,120
Were saying things,
it couldn't be as bad?

142
00:07:03,120 --> 00:07:06,850
It couldn't be as bad
because some Hungarians

143
00:07:06,850 --> 00:07:08,030
are coming into camp.

144
00:07:08,030 --> 00:07:09,500
Right.

145
00:07:09,500 --> 00:07:11,180
They're coming into Birkenau.

146
00:07:11,180 --> 00:07:12,610

Right.

147
00:07:12,610 --> 00:07:14,830
So then you had to go back.

148
00:07:14,830 --> 00:07:22,540
Yeah, and then I have to go
back to Brzezinka At that time

149
00:07:22,540 --> 00:07:26,800
already, Mara and her
boyfriend escaped.

150
00:07:26,800 --> 00:07:33,010
Because apparently,
they had papers

151
00:07:33,010 --> 00:07:35,760
which say that they're going
to destroy the whole camp.

152
00:07:35,760 --> 00:07:38,830
They're going to bomb the whole
camp so there would be no--

153
00:07:38,830 --> 00:07:42,460

154
00:07:42,460 --> 00:07:44,190
Who is they?

155
00:07:44,190 --> 00:07:44,690
The Germans.

156
00:07:44,690 --> 00:07:45,760
Will bomb the camp.

157
00:07:45,760 --> 00:07:46,690
Yeah.

158
00:07:46,690 --> 00:07:51,220
So it would be no

testimonial or anything.

159
00:07:51,220 --> 00:07:53,920
Two weeks later,
they find them when

160
00:07:53,920 --> 00:07:58,120
they were home, both of them.

161
00:07:58,120 --> 00:07:59,880
So they brought me in again.

162
00:07:59,880 --> 00:08:04,580
They brought in the whole
camp to watch them hang.

163
00:08:04,580 --> 00:08:08,127
And that's what they
used to do all time.

164
00:08:08,127 --> 00:08:10,710
What did you feel like when you
would see something like that?

165
00:08:10,710 --> 00:08:12,990
I couldn't watch it.

166
00:08:12,990 --> 00:08:17,764
Because I liked it very much,
she helped a lot of people.

167
00:08:17,764 --> 00:08:20,435
And now-- she was
a wonderful person.

168
00:08:20,435 --> 00:08:24,026

169
00:08:24,026 --> 00:08:27,480
So I keep my eyes down.

170
00:08:27,480 --> 00:08:30,880

I just didn't look.

171
00:08:30,880 --> 00:08:34,980
And then they brought us
back again to Brzezinka.

172
00:08:34,980 --> 00:08:37,590

173
00:08:37,590 --> 00:08:40,750
And you continued to do
this from April- till--

174
00:08:40,750 --> 00:08:42,030
To January.

175
00:08:42,030 --> 00:08:43,659
Of '45.

176
00:08:43,659 --> 00:08:45,270
Of '45.

177
00:08:45,270 --> 00:08:46,450
And then?

178
00:08:46,450 --> 00:08:53,100
Then all the Russians
were coming in too fast.

179
00:08:53,100 --> 00:08:55,450
So they did not want to--

180
00:08:55,450 --> 00:09:01,110
the SS did not want to be
liberated by the Russians.

181
00:09:01,110 --> 00:09:03,830
So they start to walk us.

182
00:09:03,830 --> 00:09:08,710
We walked for three
nights and three days.

183
00:09:08,710 --> 00:09:11,735
I don't know, but it was
a hard walk in the snow,

184
00:09:11,735 --> 00:09:15,510
in the cold, and no
food, and nothing.

185
00:09:15,510 --> 00:09:24,950
We arrived in [? Loslo, ?] which
is pretty far from Brzezinka.

186
00:09:24,950 --> 00:09:29,940
And they put us in
trains, open trains.

187
00:09:29,940 --> 00:09:31,548
Cattle trains.

188
00:09:31,548 --> 00:09:33,090
How many people are
we talking about?

189
00:09:33,090 --> 00:09:37,300

190
00:09:37,300 --> 00:09:38,550
Well, I--

191
00:09:38,550 --> 00:09:41,460
Is this more than the
people that worked with you

192
00:09:41,460 --> 00:09:42,870
in the crematorium?

193
00:09:42,870 --> 00:09:45,442
Oh, yeah, because
Auschwitz was evacuated.

194
00:09:45,442 --> 00:09:47,775

So it was-- oh, you're talking
about everybody marching.

195
00:09:47,775 --> 00:09:48,550
Everybody, yeah.

196
00:09:48,550 --> 00:09:49,050
OK.

197
00:09:49,050 --> 00:09:51,300
This was just not
your particular group.

198
00:09:51,300 --> 00:09:51,870
No.

199
00:09:51,870 --> 00:09:53,245
No, it's not my
particular group.

200
00:09:53,245 --> 00:09:54,870
So the camp was evacuated.

201
00:09:54,870 --> 00:09:56,730
Yeah, the camp was evacuated.

202
00:09:56,730 --> 00:09:59,260
What was the talk among
the people at that time,

203
00:09:59,260 --> 00:10:02,460
among the prisoners?

204
00:10:02,460 --> 00:10:08,580
Well, to an extent,
we were quite scared.

205
00:10:08,580 --> 00:10:13,290
Because every camp we
stopped, they didn't warn us.

206
00:10:13,290 --> 00:10:16,090

They have their own people.

207

00:10:16,090 --> 00:10:19,570

So we were traveling from
one camp to another one.

208

00:10:19,570 --> 00:10:23,130

In the meantime, people
were dying on the train.

209

00:10:23,130 --> 00:10:26,250

We had to sleep on top of them.

210

00:10:26,250 --> 00:10:29,920

We had to-- we
couldn't do anything.

211

00:10:29,920 --> 00:10:30,600

And--

212

00:10:30,600 --> 00:10:32,350

You walked for three
days and three nights

213

00:10:32,350 --> 00:10:33,433

and then got to the train.

214

00:10:33,433 --> 00:10:35,160

Yeah.

215

00:10:35,160 --> 00:10:37,980

And then we ask for water.

216

00:10:37,980 --> 00:10:40,600

They didn't want
to give us water.

217

00:10:40,600 --> 00:10:47,760

We arrived in Ravensbrück,
another great gem of a camp.

218

00:10:47,760 --> 00:10:51,048

And they accepted us.

219
00:10:51,048 --> 00:10:58,065
And here, we stayed
January, February, March.

220
00:10:58,065 --> 00:11:01,400

221
00:11:01,400 --> 00:11:03,590
No, into February.

222
00:11:03,590 --> 00:11:08,690
And February, I was very
happy to get out of there.

223
00:11:08,690 --> 00:11:16,100
Because they were doing
experimental on women.

224
00:11:16,100 --> 00:11:19,520
And what we saw was so
horrible that we wanted

225
00:11:19,520 --> 00:11:21,890
to get out as fast as possible.

226
00:11:21,890 --> 00:11:24,400
And they did send
us to a little camp.

227
00:11:24,400 --> 00:11:27,080
Prchin-Malkov, it was called.

228
00:11:27,080 --> 00:11:29,660
Let's talk a little bit about
the conditions of Ravensbrück.

229
00:11:29,660 --> 00:11:30,640
Oh, god.

230
00:11:30,640 --> 00:11:32,940

If you're able to.

231
00:11:32,940 --> 00:11:35,000
It was-- unbelievable.

232
00:11:35,000 --> 00:11:38,540

233
00:11:38,540 --> 00:11:42,960
People cannot believe what
was [? done ?] in RavensbrÃ¼ck.

234
00:11:42,960 --> 00:11:45,686
What happened when
you first got there?

235
00:11:45,686 --> 00:11:46,800
You were on the train.

236
00:11:46,800 --> 00:11:47,780
You would stop there.

237
00:11:47,780 --> 00:11:50,060
Yes, and we got off.

238
00:11:50,060 --> 00:11:52,250
And they put us in the room.

239
00:11:52,250 --> 00:11:55,300
And people were laying all over.

240
00:11:55,300 --> 00:11:57,920
And they were dead.

241
00:11:57,920 --> 00:12:02,510
They were completely
dead, cold as ice.

242
00:12:02,510 --> 00:12:04,820
These are men and women?

243

00:12:04,820 --> 00:12:07,460
No, just women.

244
00:12:07,460 --> 00:12:10,300
Ravensbrück was a woman camp.

245
00:12:10,300 --> 00:12:12,180
Yeah, but the people
on the train with you--

246
00:12:12,180 --> 00:12:13,220
We were just women.

247
00:12:13,220 --> 00:12:15,290
Oh, you were just women
on the train, oh, OK.

248
00:12:15,290 --> 00:12:20,630
Yes, because Birkenau
was only woman.

249
00:12:20,630 --> 00:12:23,310
The other camp was men.

250
00:12:23,310 --> 00:12:25,400
We were not together.

251
00:12:25,400 --> 00:12:26,400
The women get separated.

252
00:12:26,400 --> 00:12:28,756
But when you were working
at the crematoria,

253
00:12:28,756 --> 00:12:30,590
that was mixed men and women.

254
00:12:30,590 --> 00:12:31,100
Yes.

255
00:12:31,100 --> 00:12:32,060
It was mixed there.

256
00:12:32,060 --> 00:12:34,520
But they went to
the men's camp--

257
00:12:34,520 --> 00:12:35,690
When it was time to leave.

258
00:12:35,690 --> 00:12:35,990
Yeah.

259
00:12:35,990 --> 00:12:36,490
I see.

260
00:12:36,490 --> 00:12:37,070
OK.

261
00:12:37,070 --> 00:12:38,940
Yeah.

262
00:12:38,940 --> 00:12:40,220
And we stayed.

263
00:12:40,220 --> 00:12:43,820
We slept on the dead people.

264
00:12:43,820 --> 00:12:48,080
We-- eating, we didn't
eat, I don't think.

265
00:12:48,080 --> 00:12:50,360
But most of the time,
we were walking around

266
00:12:50,360 --> 00:12:52,520
because we couldn't
take the smell.

267
00:12:52,520 --> 00:12:57,636
We couldn't take the idea of
being with the dead people.

268

00:12:57,636 --> 00:12:59,630

It was a horror.

269

00:12:59,630 --> 00:13:05,300

Ravensbrück was the worst thing I ever saw in my life.

270

00:13:05,300 --> 00:13:09,800

And then they send us a little bit outside of Ravensbrück.

271

00:13:09,800 --> 00:13:14,870

And there, they were doing experimental on women.

272

00:13:14,870 --> 00:13:17,000

Why did they send you there?

273

00:13:17,000 --> 00:13:19,250

Because they had room.

274

00:13:19,250 --> 00:13:25,150

There was a big room there where they can put us up.

275

00:13:25,150 --> 00:13:28,180

276

00:13:28,180 --> 00:13:30,630

That's the only way I can--

277

00:13:30,630 --> 00:13:32,910

How did you know they were doing experiments?

278

00:13:32,910 --> 00:13:35,430

Oh, we saw them.

279

00:13:35,430 --> 00:13:37,770

We saw the women.

280

00:13:37,770 --> 00:13:39,636
Can you describe any thing.

281
00:13:39,636 --> 00:13:40,136
Oh, god.

282
00:13:40,136 --> 00:13:43,841

283
00:13:43,841 --> 00:13:46,890
There was no
description of that.

284
00:13:46,890 --> 00:13:54,030
They were-- no hands, no
feet, to have a stomach out,

285
00:13:54,030 --> 00:13:59,430
have one eye out, one eye in.

286
00:13:59,430 --> 00:14:00,390
It was a horror.

287
00:14:00,390 --> 00:14:01,350
It was horrible.

288
00:14:01,350 --> 00:14:05,100
It was just unbelievable.

289
00:14:05,100 --> 00:14:06,210
It was just--

290
00:14:06,210 --> 00:14:07,955
Were these people still alive?

291
00:14:07,955 --> 00:14:10,082
[GASPS] I don't think so.

292
00:14:10,082 --> 00:14:11,040
So these were all dead.

293

00:14:11,040 --> 00:14:12,950
I don't know.

294
00:14:12,950 --> 00:14:15,910
They never came
back to the country.

295
00:14:15,910 --> 00:14:20,100
I think they were
put in a sanatorium

296
00:14:20,100 --> 00:14:23,400
and being taken care of there.

297
00:14:23,400 --> 00:14:25,660
Because they couldn't
take care of themselves.

298
00:14:25,660 --> 00:14:27,640
So some of these people
were still alive.

299
00:14:27,640 --> 00:14:29,010
Oh, they were alive, yeah.

300
00:14:29,010 --> 00:14:30,237
When we saw them--

301
00:14:30,237 --> 00:14:31,070
Oh, they were alive.

302
00:14:31,070 --> 00:14:32,880
They were alive, yes.

303
00:14:32,880 --> 00:14:35,730
But I don't think they
ever went back home.

304
00:14:35,730 --> 00:14:37,410
I see.

305
00:14:37,410 --> 00:14:39,150

Were you able to
talk to any of them?

306
00:14:39,150 --> 00:14:42,780
Yes, a lot of French people.

307
00:14:42,780 --> 00:14:47,571
On the ground,
Maquis people fought.

308
00:14:47,571 --> 00:14:52,290

309
00:14:52,290 --> 00:14:55,550
So you were there for
how long at Ravensbrück?

310
00:14:55,550 --> 00:14:56,900
We were there for about--

311
00:14:56,900 --> 00:14:58,322
[Two months?

312
00:14:58,322 --> 00:15:02,590

313
00:15:02,590 --> 00:15:05,066
Not too long, about three weeks.

314
00:15:05,066 --> 00:15:05,840
Yeah.

315
00:15:05,840 --> 00:15:07,030
And then they said--

316
00:15:07,030 --> 00:15:09,010
Did people trying
to help these--

317
00:15:09,010 --> 00:15:12,520
Yes, we tried to help.

318

00:15:12,520 --> 00:15:13,550

We had very little--

319

00:15:13,550 --> 00:15:15,133

I was going to say,
what could you do?

320

00:15:15,133 --> 00:15:17,960

Well, there was nothing
much we could do.

321

00:15:17,960 --> 00:15:19,660

Some people couldn't eat.

322

00:15:19,660 --> 00:15:21,520

They had-- they cut
out their tongues.

323

00:15:21,520 --> 00:15:25,096

They cut out-- it was just--

324

00:15:25,096 --> 00:15:28,860

it was just
unbelievable and cruel.

325

00:15:28,860 --> 00:15:36,610

326

00:15:36,610 --> 00:15:38,240

St. Joseph's College--

327

00:15:38,240 --> 00:15:40,932

I don't know if you know
it, in Philadelphia, it's

328

00:15:40,932 --> 00:15:43,040

a Catholic college--

329

00:15:43,040 --> 00:15:47,380

asked me one time to
come to talk with them.

330

00:15:47,380 --> 00:15:49,190

And then they took me--

331

00:15:49,190 --> 00:15:50,655

we were talking about--

332

00:15:50,655 --> 00:15:54,110

it's in the clinical
psychology department.

333

00:15:54,110 --> 00:16:03,570

And I said never that I read,
in the history of the world,

334

00:16:03,570 --> 00:16:04,950

this happened.

335

00:16:04,950 --> 00:16:06,480

And they disagreed with me.

336

00:16:06,480 --> 00:16:09,730

337

00:16:09,730 --> 00:16:12,850

They said it was
always a Holocaust.

338

00:16:12,850 --> 00:16:14,620

Yes, it was Holocaust.

339

00:16:14,620 --> 00:16:16,390

I agree with them.

340

00:16:16,390 --> 00:16:20,580

But not organized
like that, not--

341

00:16:20,580 --> 00:16:24,430

they were fighting wars,
or revolutions, or things,

342

00:16:24,430 --> 00:16:26,320
even now to this day.

343
00:16:26,320 --> 00:16:32,765
But nothing, nothing like
this, nothing like this.

344
00:16:32,765 --> 00:16:36,950
In many thing, I don't know
what happened in Auschwitz.

345
00:16:36,950 --> 00:16:40,857
Many things that I saw,
documentary on the Claude

346
00:16:40,857 --> 00:16:43,580
Lanzmann I don't know.

347
00:16:43,580 --> 00:16:47,820
They had families in
one camp and children.

348
00:16:47,820 --> 00:16:50,540
There would raised them
to see how they were doing

349
00:16:50,540 --> 00:16:52,070
and then kill them.

350
00:16:52,070 --> 00:16:57,080
I didn't know that, that that
was happening in Auschwitz.

351
00:16:57,080 --> 00:17:01,310
You were 19, 20 when--

352
00:17:01,310 --> 00:17:02,580
When I was liberated.

353
00:17:02,580 --> 00:17:07,579
Well, when you were in
Ravensbrück and you saw these

354

00:17:07,579 --> 00:17:09,680
indescribable scenes.

355

00:17:09,680 --> 00:17:12,800
Again, how do you
think you kept going?

356

00:17:12,800 --> 00:17:15,829
I was crying all the time.

357

00:17:15,829 --> 00:17:17,254
I was crying all the time.

358

00:17:17,254 --> 00:17:19,839
And I said-- people--

359

00:17:19,839 --> 00:17:25,760
it came to a point that we were
saying, nobody will believe it.

360

00:17:25,760 --> 00:17:27,079
There's no sense of talking.

361

00:17:27,079 --> 00:17:32,010
For years, I've never
talked because nobody

362

00:17:32,010 --> 00:17:34,560
would believe it.

363

00:17:34,560 --> 00:17:35,820
It's like a fairy tale.

364

00:17:35,820 --> 00:17:37,380
It's worse than a fairy tale.

365

00:17:37,380 --> 00:17:45,820

366

00:17:45,820 --> 00:17:49,510
So then after you

left Ravensbrück--

367

00:17:49,510 --> 00:17:55,840

We went to Prchin-Malkov,
which had no [? work. ?]

368

00:17:55,840 --> 00:17:57,600

What was that?

369

00:17:57,600 --> 00:18:04,600

It was a little camp near
[PLACE NAME] in Germany.

370

00:18:04,600 --> 00:18:08,350

And there was no
crematorium, no.

371

00:18:08,350 --> 00:18:10,840

I am sure it must have been--

372

00:18:10,840 --> 00:18:11,610

A labor camp.

373

00:18:11,610 --> 00:18:16,390

A labor camp, or a prisoner
camp, or something like that.

374

00:18:16,390 --> 00:18:20,410

And we arrived in February.

375

00:18:20,410 --> 00:18:23,470

Again, February is
the good month for me.

376

00:18:23,470 --> 00:18:27,460

And May 6--

377

00:18:27,460 --> 00:18:32,180

May 1, 1945, we
started to walk again.

378

00:18:32,180 --> 00:18:34,460

What did you do there
between February and May?

379
00:18:34,460 --> 00:18:36,915
Nothing, nothing-- starve.

380
00:18:36,915 --> 00:18:38,290
This is, again,
a group of women.

381
00:18:38,290 --> 00:18:39,420
You're still with women.

382
00:18:39,420 --> 00:18:40,870
Yeah.

383
00:18:40,870 --> 00:18:42,860
We didn't do anything.

384
00:18:42,860 --> 00:18:46,990
They gave you enough
to subsist on?

385
00:18:46,990 --> 00:18:49,720
I [? ran-- ?] I was so
furious because they

386
00:18:49,720 --> 00:18:56,260
were keeping the bread for the
soldiers which were passing by.

387
00:18:56,260 --> 00:18:57,370
They were running out.

388
00:18:57,370 --> 00:18:58,420
They're running away.

389
00:18:58,420 --> 00:19:00,130
These are German
soldiers running away.

390
00:19:00,130 --> 00:19:00,760

Yeah, the SS.

391
00:19:00,760 --> 00:19:02,400
They were running away.

392
00:19:02,400 --> 00:19:04,070
And I was really furious.

393
00:19:04,070 --> 00:19:07,220
So somebody pushed me up
to where the bread in.

394
00:19:07,220 --> 00:19:10,870
And I threw out all the
bread to the people.

395
00:19:10,870 --> 00:19:14,290
But nobody gave
me a piece to me.

396
00:19:14,290 --> 00:19:19,020
But I did-- my
mother used to say,

397
00:19:19,020 --> 00:19:22,570
everybody is going to hold
up, but Maria has to eat.

398
00:19:22,570 --> 00:19:24,040
It's not true.

399
00:19:24,040 --> 00:19:26,220
I could stay without
eating for days.

400
00:19:26,220 --> 00:19:28,800

401
00:19:28,800 --> 00:19:33,460
So that's-- and then
we started to walk.

402

00:19:33,460 --> 00:19:34,820
And, yeah--

403
00:19:34,820 --> 00:19:35,820
This is May.

404
00:19:35,820 --> 00:19:37,690
May 1.

405
00:19:37,690 --> 00:19:42,083
May 6, I was with
a friend, Maria.

406
00:19:42,083 --> 00:19:45,050
And it was raining.

407
00:19:45,050 --> 00:19:47,780
And she said, the
Americans are here.

408
00:19:47,780 --> 00:19:50,660
I said, oh my God,
she's losing her mind.

409
00:19:50,660 --> 00:19:52,110
What am I going to do with her?

410
00:19:52,110 --> 00:19:54,650
Were you still with a
whole group of people?

411
00:19:54,650 --> 00:19:56,370
Yes, with the camp.

412
00:19:56,370 --> 00:19:57,620
With the camp

413
00:19:57,620 --> 00:20:00,040
But we were-- one was here.

414
00:20:00,040 --> 00:20:01,130
The one was there.

415
00:20:01,130 --> 00:20:02,110
The one was--

416
00:20:02,110 --> 00:20:04,280
But there were German
guards with you.

417
00:20:04,280 --> 00:20:05,400
Yes, they were German.

418
00:20:05,400 --> 00:20:06,870
They want to be liberated.

419
00:20:06,870 --> 00:20:08,840
But the Americans,
they did not --

420
00:20:08,840 --> 00:20:11,690
What was their treatment of
you when you were walking?

421
00:20:11,690 --> 00:20:14,620
I sat down, and I said,
I don't walk anymore.

422
00:20:14,620 --> 00:20:18,500
He said, you're almost free.

423
00:20:18,500 --> 00:20:20,450
Come on and walk.

424
00:20:20,450 --> 00:20:23,760
Because the Americans
are not far from here.

425
00:20:23,760 --> 00:20:27,830
So they wanted to be
liberated by the Americans.

426
00:20:27,830 --> 00:20:30,710
They were right because

the Russians were not

427

00:20:30,710 --> 00:20:33,860

very nice to them.

428

00:20:33,860 --> 00:20:37,930

And I -- she said, the

Americans are here.

429

00:20:37,930 --> 00:20:41,210

I said, oh my God, she's crazy.

430

00:20:41,210 --> 00:20:43,140

I don't know if--

431

00:20:43,140 --> 00:20:46,600

and I saw the Americans.

432

00:20:46,600 --> 00:20:48,440

took the junction.

433

00:20:48,440 --> 00:20:52,100

The Russians took

over that part.

434

00:20:52,100 --> 00:20:54,680

So we weren't in the Russian--

435

00:20:54,680 --> 00:20:59,290

What was your feeling when
you first saw the Americans?

436

00:20:59,290 --> 00:21:01,330

I think I was numb, mostly.

437

00:21:01,330 --> 00:21:04,650

What happened was I was walking.

438

00:21:04,650 --> 00:21:09,190

And in front of me, who
walks in front of me,

439

00:21:09,190 --> 00:21:15,940

Tobaya that bastard of the
Nazi who did all the selection

440

00:21:15,940 --> 00:21:17,500

for the gas chamber--

441

00:21:17,500 --> 00:21:22,040

him, and Mengele and Eichmann.

442

00:21:22,040 --> 00:21:25,000

And he turns around--
he was in civilian.

443

00:21:25,000 --> 00:21:27,664

He turns around,
and he said shh.

444

00:21:27,664 --> 00:21:33,140

[SLAPPING NOISE] So I went
over to the Americans.

445

00:21:33,140 --> 00:21:36,850

And I said, this is an SS
who killed million of people.

446

00:21:36,850 --> 00:21:39,850

They arrested him.

447

00:21:39,850 --> 00:21:44,020

And then I had to be here
and witness in Nuremberg.

448

00:21:44,020 --> 00:21:48,385

Oh, we'll talk about that.

449

00:21:48,385 --> 00:21:49,510

So they arrested him there.

450

00:21:49,510 --> 00:21:51,700

And you continued walking?

451
00:21:51,700 --> 00:21:54,040
And we continued walking.

452
00:21:54,040 --> 00:21:56,500
And the Russians took over.

453
00:21:56,500 --> 00:22:02,590
They put us in a
camp, a military camp

454
00:22:02,590 --> 00:22:08,170
with the soldiers who were
[? presented. ?] They brought--

455
00:22:08,170 --> 00:22:12,590
the Americans did
not know how to--

456
00:22:12,590 --> 00:22:16,390
unfortunately, they
were young kids.

457
00:22:16,390 --> 00:22:20,730
And they-- immediately,
it was butter, and milk,

458
00:22:20,730 --> 00:22:22,420
and chocolate.

459
00:22:22,420 --> 00:22:24,670
And people were dying.

460
00:22:24,670 --> 00:22:27,520
They used to get
diarrhea, and that's it.

461
00:22:27,520 --> 00:22:28,730
The Russians knew better.

462
00:22:28,730 --> 00:22:34,960
They bought us potatoes, and
rice, and they locked us in.

463

00:22:34,960 --> 00:22:40,960

They say, you don't walk out
because of the Mongolians.

464

00:22:40,960 --> 00:22:45,630

They were raping every
child, every woman, everybody

465

00:22:45,630 --> 00:22:46,625

they could find.

466

00:22:46,625 --> 00:22:49,890

467

00:22:49,890 --> 00:22:52,680

So we didn't walk out.

468

00:22:52,680 --> 00:22:55,372

What was your physical
state at that point?

469

00:22:55,372 --> 00:22:55,914

Do you know--

470

00:22:55,914 --> 00:22:56,392

Oh

471

00:22:56,392 --> 00:22:57,351

--how much you weighed?

472

00:22:57,351 --> 00:23:02,190

Oh, I had pleurisy
I couldn't breathe.

473

00:23:02,190 --> 00:23:02,970

I couldn't eat.

474

00:23:02,970 --> 00:23:06,400

475

00:23:06,400 --> 00:23:11,940
I was in a bad shape,
a very bad shape.

476
00:23:11,940 --> 00:23:18,450
At that time, already,
I was not good at all.

477
00:23:18,450 --> 00:23:22,590
Because I came back
to Paris in 19 of May.

478
00:23:22,590 --> 00:23:27,130
And the 20th, I was
in the sanatorium.

479
00:23:27,130 --> 00:23:27,630
OK.

480
00:23:27,630 --> 00:23:29,190
So how long did you stay--

481
00:23:29,190 --> 00:23:29,850
In the zone

482
00:23:29,850 --> 00:23:32,880
No, in the Russian
zone that you were in.

483
00:23:32,880 --> 00:23:35,310
We stayed about three weeks.

484
00:23:35,310 --> 00:23:41,280
And then they wanted to take
us to Odessa, to the Black Sea,

485
00:23:41,280 --> 00:23:43,650
and go back to Marseilles.

486
00:23:43,650 --> 00:23:47,010
That was a little too far.

487

00:23:47,010 --> 00:23:50,960
We were very close to
Belgium in Holland.

488
00:23:50,960 --> 00:23:55,950
It was closer to be
repatriated that way.

489
00:23:55,950 --> 00:23:59,880
So we asked them,
and they say, fine.

490
00:23:59,880 --> 00:24:03,480
So we went back home.

491
00:24:03,480 --> 00:24:06,020
On your own, you left and went--

492
00:24:06,020 --> 00:24:06,630
No, no, no.

493
00:24:06,630 --> 00:24:09,990
It was a train,
a military train.

494
00:24:09,990 --> 00:24:18,020
The French, who came from
England with De Gaulle

495
00:24:18,020 --> 00:24:21,150
they took over a train.

496
00:24:21,150 --> 00:24:23,590
And of course, they had to go--

497
00:24:23,590 --> 00:24:25,590
it was so destroyed,
Germany was so

498
00:24:25,590 --> 00:24:30,030
destroyed that we had to go
to Holland, and from Holland

499

00:24:30,030 --> 00:24:32,400
to Belgium, and from
Belgium to France.

500

00:24:32,400 --> 00:24:33,870
So you got back to Paris.

501

00:24:33,870 --> 00:24:35,280
Yeah.

502

00:24:35,280 --> 00:24:37,740
And who were you with when
you got back to Paris?

503

00:24:37,740 --> 00:24:39,010
I had nobody.

504

00:24:39,010 --> 00:24:39,510
OK.

505

00:24:39,510 --> 00:24:41,280
What did you do when
you got back there?

506

00:24:41,280 --> 00:24:46,890
Well, they had a hotel.

507

00:24:46,890 --> 00:24:49,330
And they put us in a hotel.

508

00:24:49,330 --> 00:24:53,610
And I said, I'm not going
to go back to another camp.

509

00:24:53,610 --> 00:24:56,460
To me, a hotel was another camp.

510

00:24:56,460 --> 00:24:58,890
I just didn't want to do that.

511

00:24:58,890 --> 00:25:02,760

So I went to Toni and
I stayed with her.

512
00:25:02,760 --> 00:25:04,530
She had come back earlier.

513
00:25:04,530 --> 00:25:07,920
She spoke Polish,
so it was easier

514
00:25:07,920 --> 00:25:13,830
to come back for
very early and she

515
00:25:13,830 --> 00:25:16,470
find her husband and her child.

516
00:25:16,470 --> 00:25:20,580
So I stayed with her.

517
00:25:20,580 --> 00:25:22,800
Did you really believe you
were free at that point

518
00:25:22,800 --> 00:25:23,717
after all those years?

519
00:25:23,717 --> 00:25:27,630
No, it was very hard to
believe that I was free.

520
00:25:27,630 --> 00:25:30,390

521
00:25:30,390 --> 00:25:33,660
I was always looking
in the back if some--

522
00:25:33,660 --> 00:25:38,295
if a German was
not following me.

523

00:25:38,295 --> 00:25:40,170
This is even after
liberation, you're saying.

524
00:25:40,170 --> 00:25:41,700
Yeah.

525
00:25:41,700 --> 00:25:47,130
And even in concentration--
in the sanatorium, when

526
00:25:47,130 --> 00:25:51,270
I saw a blonde with blue eyes,
I said, he's going to kill me.

527
00:25:51,270 --> 00:25:53,820
He's a German doctor.

528
00:25:53,820 --> 00:25:56,190
It was-- actually,
psychiatry, was --

529
00:25:56,190 --> 00:25:59,900
in France, it didn't exist yet.

530
00:25:59,900 --> 00:26:01,500
So you went back
to your friend Toni

531
00:26:01,500 --> 00:26:03,390
And how long did
you stay with her?

532
00:26:03,390 --> 00:26:07,440
I stayed not long
because when I went

533
00:26:07,440 --> 00:26:10,560
through a medical
examination, they

534
00:26:10,560 --> 00:26:14,700
sent me to the sanatorium

for 18 months immediately.

535

00:26:14,700 --> 00:26:16,240

Where was the sanatorium?

536

00:26:16,240 --> 00:26:21,760

In the [INAUDIBLE] at
[PLACE NAME] It's not far from

537

00:26:21,760 --> 00:26:24,665

Grenoble I don't
know if you know that

538

00:26:24,665 --> 00:26:26,490

And you stayed
there for 18 months.

539

00:26:26,490 --> 00:26:27,630

18 months.

540

00:26:27,630 --> 00:26:29,970

Were there other
survivors there with you?

541

00:26:29,970 --> 00:26:31,240

Yes.

542

00:26:31,240 --> 00:26:42,520

But a lot of them were Maquis
people for the underground.

543

00:26:42,520 --> 00:26:50,110

And then I find a letter
from one of my uncles,

544

00:26:50,110 --> 00:26:53,470

who lives in America, one of--

545

00:26:53,470 --> 00:26:57,310

brother of my mother, if
I wanted to come here.

546

00:26:57,310 --> 00:27:04,450
And my friend said, oh, you
may never have the occasion

547
00:27:04,450 --> 00:27:05,460
to go to America.

548
00:27:05,460 --> 00:27:06,610
Try.

549
00:27:06,610 --> 00:27:09,830
If you don't like it, I'll send
you the money to come back.

550
00:27:09,830 --> 00:27:14,590
But you don't write send me
the money, I want to come back.

551
00:27:14,590 --> 00:27:17,460
They were very not
nice, my family.

552
00:27:17,460 --> 00:27:19,990

553
00:27:19,990 --> 00:27:21,060
I'm a little confused.

554
00:27:21,060 --> 00:27:23,670
You got this letter from your
uncle in America to come.

555
00:27:23,670 --> 00:27:25,020
Yeah.

556
00:27:25,020 --> 00:27:26,150
And did you go then?

557
00:27:26,150 --> 00:27:26,650
Yeah.

558
00:27:26,650 --> 00:27:27,880

Oh.

559

00:27:27,880 --> 00:27:30,090

And you arrived here
in the United States.

560

00:27:30,090 --> 00:27:31,530

How did you come?

561

00:27:31,530 --> 00:27:32,456

Did you leave from--

562

00:27:32,456 --> 00:27:35,100

563

00:27:35,100 --> 00:27:36,480

how did you come over?

564

00:27:36,480 --> 00:27:39,990

I came on the quota.

565

00:27:39,990 --> 00:27:40,940

And that--

566

00:27:40,940 --> 00:27:42,120

You sailed from where?

567

00:27:42,120 --> 00:27:43,800

From Cherbourg.

568

00:27:43,800 --> 00:27:45,880

But it was destroyed.

569

00:27:45,880 --> 00:27:49,740

So we had to take a little
boat, the Queen Elizabeth

570

00:27:49,740 --> 00:27:53,250

was parked right in
the middle of the ocean

571

00:27:53,250 --> 00:27:57,030
because they couldn't dock.

572
00:27:57,030 --> 00:27:58,525
Because it was bombed.

573
00:27:58,525 --> 00:28:00,540
So you took a boat
out to the ship.

574
00:28:00,540 --> 00:28:01,835
Ship, yeah.

575
00:28:01,835 --> 00:28:03,210
And you took the
Queen Elizabeth?

576
00:28:03,210 --> 00:28:04,740
Uh-huh.

577
00:28:04,740 --> 00:28:06,960
And where did you dock?

578
00:28:06,960 --> 00:28:07,480
In New York.

579
00:28:07,480 --> 00:28:07,980
New York.

580
00:28:07,980 --> 00:28:10,431
And then where did you go?

581
00:28:10,431 --> 00:28:12,120
Well, to Philadelphia.

582
00:28:12,120 --> 00:28:13,625
Your relatives were
in Philadelphia?

583
00:28:13,625 --> 00:28:15,325
Mm-hmm.

584

00:28:15,325 --> 00:28:17,220

And you did this by yourself.

585

00:28:17,220 --> 00:28:17,790

Yeah.

586

00:28:17,790 --> 00:28:20,230

And what happened when you arrived in Philadelphia?

587

00:28:20,230 --> 00:28:22,620

Oh, my uncles were not very nice.

588

00:28:22,620 --> 00:28:25,230

589

00:28:25,230 --> 00:28:26,220

I was a kid.

590

00:28:26,220 --> 00:28:28,950

I didn't even know I had uncles.

591

00:28:28,950 --> 00:28:30,850

And they blamed my mother.

592

00:28:30,850 --> 00:28:32,440

The blamed my father.

593

00:28:32,440 --> 00:28:33,860

Why didn't they come here?

594

00:28:33,860 --> 00:28:34,860

Why did they-- you know.

595

00:28:34,860 --> 00:28:38,130

They just--

596

00:28:38,130 --> 00:28:40,180

Did you know any English at this point?

597

00:28:40,180 --> 00:28:44,430

Yeah-- well, some, what
I learned in school.

598

00:28:44,430 --> 00:28:46,390

But it didn't take
me long to learn.

599

00:28:46,390 --> 00:28:50,490

600

00:28:50,490 --> 00:28:53,620

And you were 20 years old now?

601

00:28:53,620 --> 00:28:56,647

I'm 21, 20-- well,
four years later.

602

00:28:56,647 --> 00:28:57,730

Oh no, you were 20, right.

603

00:28:57,730 --> 00:28:59,970

So I was 25 years old.

604

00:28:59,970 --> 00:29:02,350

Oh, you came-- when did you
arrive in the United States?

605

00:29:02,350 --> 00:29:03,100

1949.

606

00:29:03,100 --> 00:29:04,820

What day was that?

607

00:29:04,820 --> 00:29:05,360

In May.

608

00:29:05,360 --> 00:29:06,650

May of '49.

609

00:29:06,650 --> 00:29:07,370
Yeah.

610
00:29:07,370 --> 00:29:07,870
Oh, OK.

611
00:29:07,870 --> 00:29:10,222
So you were 24 years old.

612
00:29:10,222 --> 00:29:11,430
And you went to Philadelphia.

613
00:29:11,430 --> 00:29:13,550
And how long did you stay there?

614
00:29:13,550 --> 00:29:14,790
With my uncle?

615
00:29:14,790 --> 00:29:15,290
Yeah.

616
00:29:15,290 --> 00:29:18,580

617
00:29:18,580 --> 00:29:19,210
A year.

618
00:29:19,210 --> 00:29:22,330

619
00:29:22,330 --> 00:29:26,890
I had met my
husband and friends.

620
00:29:26,890 --> 00:29:28,140
That's a long story.

621
00:29:28,140 --> 00:29:30,070
I don't know if
you want to hear.

622

00:29:30,070 --> 00:29:34,740
[LAUGHS] It was no--

623
00:29:34,740 --> 00:29:42,530

624
00:29:42,530 --> 00:29:46,940
civilian male,
only military male.

625
00:29:46,940 --> 00:29:51,110
And my friend, Toni's husband,
saw my husband in the street.

626
00:29:51,110 --> 00:29:56,750
And he said, I have a girl
who got an English letter.

627
00:29:56,750 --> 00:30:00,410
And she doesn't know the
address of her uncle.

628
00:30:00,410 --> 00:30:02,760
Would you-- where
do you come from?

629
00:30:02,760 --> 00:30:07,200
He said, well, I have a
sister living in Philadelphia.

630
00:30:07,200 --> 00:30:09,380
And she looked up
all the Singers.

631
00:30:09,380 --> 00:30:11,910
And she find them.

632
00:30:11,910 --> 00:30:14,940
And that's the way the
correspondence started,

633
00:30:14,940 --> 00:30:19,770
in between him, and he

used to bring it to me.

634
00:30:19,770 --> 00:30:21,020
And that's it.

635
00:30:21,020 --> 00:30:24,320
When I came over, he
was living with his--

636
00:30:24,320 --> 00:30:26,390
he was going to school.

637
00:30:26,390 --> 00:30:30,350
He finished college
because he was very young

638
00:30:30,350 --> 00:30:33,920
when he got into the army.

639
00:30:33,920 --> 00:30:39,350
And he didn't like to live
with his mother and sister.

640
00:30:39,350 --> 00:30:41,390
And I didn't like to
live with my uncle.

641
00:30:41,390 --> 00:30:44,570
He was-- they were nasty people.

642
00:30:44,570 --> 00:30:46,520
So he said, well,
I have solution.

643
00:30:46,520 --> 00:30:49,338
Let's get married.

644
00:30:49,338 --> 00:30:51,950
So we got married.

645
00:30:51,950 --> 00:30:53,845
And you've lived in

Philadelphia ever since.

646
00:30:53,845 --> 00:30:54,730
Since, yeah.

647
00:30:54,730 --> 00:30:56,194
44 years.

648
00:30:56,194 --> 00:30:56,694
Wow.

649
00:30:56,694 --> 00:31:08,130

650
00:31:08,130 --> 00:31:10,180
Yeah, I have two children.

651
00:31:10,180 --> 00:31:11,510
I have a boy and a girl.

652
00:31:11,510 --> 00:31:14,810

653
00:31:14,810 --> 00:31:16,820
Can we talk a little
bit about them?

654
00:31:16,820 --> 00:31:20,750
When they were growing
up, did you ever

655
00:31:20,750 --> 00:31:23,780
share any of your
experiences with them?

656
00:31:23,780 --> 00:31:26,060
That was one mistake.

657
00:31:26,060 --> 00:31:29,660
But I felt I didn't want
to make them feel guilty.

658

00:31:29,660 --> 00:31:32,603

I wanted to raise them with no--

659

00:31:32,603 --> 00:31:35,774

660

00:31:35,774 --> 00:31:39,440

normal way, not they
should feel sorry

661

00:31:39,440 --> 00:31:46,160

for me, or pity, or
something like that.

662

00:31:46,160 --> 00:31:49,100

I'm paying it now.

663

00:31:49,100 --> 00:31:51,530

My daughter has said
to me the other day--

664

00:31:51,530 --> 00:31:54,260

she told my husband,
she didn't tell me--

665

00:31:54,260 --> 00:31:59,210

that after 50 years, she
should forget it already.

666

00:31:59,210 --> 00:32:02,570

I'm sick and tired of it.

667

00:32:02,570 --> 00:32:05,270

I'll never forget that.

668

00:32:05,270 --> 00:32:06,960

My son is different.

669

00:32:06,960 --> 00:32:10,930

He's much more sensitive.

670

00:32:10,930 --> 00:32:12,300
He talks about it.

671
00:32:12,300 --> 00:32:15,240
He reads about it.

672
00:32:15,240 --> 00:32:18,210
And my daughter-- well,
I think her husband

673
00:32:18,210 --> 00:32:20,480
has a lot to do with it, too.

674
00:32:20,480 --> 00:32:23,810
They don't want their
children to know anything.

675
00:32:23,810 --> 00:32:30,800
They don't want to
make them feel--

676
00:32:30,800 --> 00:32:33,290
the older grandson,
he asks me, grandma,

677
00:32:33,290 --> 00:32:36,080
why don't you tell me
the story of your number?

678
00:32:36,080 --> 00:32:41,070
And immediately, my daughter
said, some other times, not

679
00:32:41,070 --> 00:32:41,760
now.

680
00:32:41,760 --> 00:32:43,430
He's going to be 13 years old.

681
00:32:43,430 --> 00:32:44,230
He should know.

682

00:32:44,230 --> 00:32:48,090

683

00:32:48,090 --> 00:32:49,890

But that's it.

684

00:32:49,890 --> 00:32:54,110

That's-- we made our will.

685

00:32:54,110 --> 00:32:55,910

And I'm going to
leave some money

686

00:32:55,910 --> 00:33:03,470

to the Holocaust Museum
for a lot of education

687

00:33:03,470 --> 00:33:06,440

for the young people.

688

00:33:06,440 --> 00:33:09,170

Whatever we can,
we're going to leave.

689

00:33:09,170 --> 00:33:17,540

And it's very important
to me, I think.

690

00:33:17,540 --> 00:33:21,560

I can have my [? game ?]
very easily, and in America.

691

00:33:21,560 --> 00:33:24,710

692

00:33:24,710 --> 00:33:26,600

Having gone through
what you did,

693

00:33:26,600 --> 00:33:28,490

what is your feeling
about being Jewish?

694

00:33:28,490 --> 00:33:32,860

695

00:33:32,860 --> 00:33:34,260

Oh, I'm not ashamed.

696

00:33:34,260 --> 00:33:35,190

If you want to--

697

00:33:35,190 --> 00:33:38,480

698

00:33:38,480 --> 00:33:43,420

when I lived in Paris,
we had Jewish friends

699

00:33:43,420 --> 00:33:45,070

and non-Jewish friends.

700

00:33:45,070 --> 00:33:50,350

And somebody told me one time,
if you have Jewish friends,

701

00:33:50,350 --> 00:33:52,240

don't go out with them.

702

00:33:52,240 --> 00:33:55,540

Apparently, we didn't --

703

00:33:55,540 --> 00:34:00,610

in France, they don't tell you
what religion you are when they

704

00:34:00,610 --> 00:34:02,860

meet you or --

705

00:34:02,860 --> 00:34:10,580

It's very-- it's not like in
America where you immediately--

706

00:34:10,580 --> 00:34:13,639

you ask, well,
how much you make,

707
00:34:13,639 --> 00:34:15,620
and how much this
and how much --

708
00:34:15,620 --> 00:34:19,389
Over there, it's not like that.

709
00:34:19,389 --> 00:34:24,239
And I was a little bit ashamed
of saying I was Jewish.

710
00:34:24,239 --> 00:34:26,270
I should have told
them at that time.

711
00:34:26,270 --> 00:34:30,110
I should have slapped him.

712
00:34:30,110 --> 00:34:36,340
Now, I would do it because
I feel that they deserve it.

713
00:34:36,340 --> 00:34:40,300

714
00:34:40,300 --> 00:34:42,070
But I can't hate, either.

715
00:34:42,070 --> 00:34:46,960
I can't-- I don't
like the Germans.

716
00:34:46,960 --> 00:34:51,250
And I don't like the people
who are antisemitic or racial.

717
00:34:51,250 --> 00:34:53,510
So I don't like them.

718

00:34:53,510 --> 00:34:57,670

But I don't want to
destroy myself either.

719

00:34:57,670 --> 00:35:01,600

Hatred is very
difficult. It should

720

00:35:01,600 --> 00:35:03,760

be taken out the dictionary.

721

00:35:03,760 --> 00:35:05,800

Look what happened
to the Germans.

722

00:35:05,800 --> 00:35:10,560

They hated, and they
destroyed themselves.

723

00:35:10,560 --> 00:35:16,050

And that's the way I felt. I
never went back to Germany.

724

00:35:16,050 --> 00:35:18,480

I will never go back to Germany.

725

00:35:18,480 --> 00:35:22,210

That's one thing I
promised myself, that--

726

00:35:22,210 --> 00:35:24,720

Why not?

727

00:35:24,720 --> 00:35:26,790

To a certain extent,
I'm scared that they're

728

00:35:26,790 --> 00:35:29,796

going to keep me there.

729

00:35:29,796 --> 00:35:31,485

It's a very normal reaction.

730

00:35:31,485 --> 00:35:35,794

731

00:35:35,794 --> 00:35:40,330

And just the language, to hear
about the language [? gives ?]

732

00:35:40,330 --> 00:35:41,073

me--

733

00:35:41,073 --> 00:35:44,530

734

00:35:44,530 --> 00:35:45,930

I'm scared.

735

00:35:45,930 --> 00:35:46,730

I get scared.

736

00:35:46,730 --> 00:35:49,710

737

00:35:49,710 --> 00:35:52,460

[speaking in background)

738

00:35:52,460 --> 00:35:53,710

I think it's a normal feeling.

739

00:35:53,710 --> 00:35:59,260

740

00:35:59,260 --> 00:36:01,900

Do you receive reparations?

741

00:36:01,900 --> 00:36:03,670

Yes, not much.

742

00:36:03,670 --> 00:36:05,980

Because I didn't--

743

00:36:05,980 --> 00:36:09,200
How do you feel about
getting that, getting --

744
00:36:09,200 --> 00:36:10,030
What?

745
00:36:10,030 --> 00:36:16,190
Jeffrey Jay, J A Y. (unrelated
speaker in background)

746
00:36:16,190 --> 00:36:19,460
To say I deserve it--

747
00:36:19,460 --> 00:36:22,820
yes, I guess I do.

748
00:36:22,820 --> 00:36:26,630
But if I would have
stayed in France,

749
00:36:26,630 --> 00:36:29,765
I would have gotten
three times as much.

750
00:36:29,765 --> 00:36:32,600

751
00:36:32,600 --> 00:36:38,020
Doing it from here,
it's very little.

752
00:36:38,020 --> 00:36:42,460
The worst part is to go to
the German Council every year.

753
00:36:42,460 --> 00:36:45,440
And they tell me, sign
your name with one

754
00:36:45,440 --> 00:36:51,920
N. Like I don't know how my
name is spelled, you know?

755
00:36:51,920 --> 00:36:53,135
What do they mean by that?

756
00:36:53,135 --> 00:36:54,635
Well, two Ns is German.

757
00:36:54,635 --> 00:37:04,570

758
00:37:04,570 --> 00:37:07,180
Is there anything else
that you wanted to share?

759
00:37:07,180 --> 00:37:10,110
Any thoughts, any feelings?

760
00:37:10,110 --> 00:37:11,090
No.

761
00:37:11,090 --> 00:37:12,400
Did anything get left out?

762
00:37:12,400 --> 00:37:15,540

763
00:37:15,540 --> 00:37:17,400
I'm sure that when
I go home, I'll

764
00:37:17,400 --> 00:37:20,490
remember many other things.

765
00:37:20,490 --> 00:37:24,930
And certain things, I
don't want to remember.

766
00:37:24,930 --> 00:37:26,250
I really don't want to.

767
00:37:26,250 --> 00:37:28,510

And I don't want to
even talk about it.

768
00:37:28,510 --> 00:37:29,520
It's too hard.

769
00:37:29,520 --> 00:37:35,040
It's so difficult.

770
00:37:35,040 --> 00:37:37,980
Yeah, I feel that I
don't want to live

771
00:37:37,980 --> 00:37:43,070
if I have to live with that
constantly and talk about it.

772
00:37:43,070 --> 00:37:44,510
It's just too hard.

773
00:37:44,510 --> 00:37:49,820

774
00:37:49,820 --> 00:37:52,780
I live with my family.

775
00:37:52,780 --> 00:37:54,320
It's terrible.

776
00:37:54,320 --> 00:37:56,860
Maybe I should forget.

777
00:37:56,860 --> 00:38:00,820
Maybe I shouldn't
remember so much.

778
00:38:00,820 --> 00:38:04,352
But we were a very close family.

779
00:38:04,352 --> 00:38:06,400
And I just can't forget it.

780

00:38:06,400 --> 00:38:14,144

781

00:38:14,144 --> 00:38:21,620

It's very difficult.

It's very difficult.

782

00:38:21,620 --> 00:38:24,790

Especially-- I couldn't

talk to anyone.

783

00:38:24,790 --> 00:38:27,760

My husband didn't

want to hear about it.

784

00:38:27,760 --> 00:38:31,300

You have a different country,

you have a different life,

785

00:38:31,300 --> 00:38:32,090

forget it.

786

00:38:32,090 --> 00:38:35,510

787

00:38:35,510 --> 00:38:41,400

So I learned to just

keep it in myself

788

00:38:41,400 --> 00:38:42,955

and having a lot of ulcers.

789

00:38:42,955 --> 00:38:46,417

790

00:38:46,417 --> 00:38:48,190

And I never talked about it.

791

00:38:48,190 --> 00:38:53,340

792

00:38:53,340 --> 00:38:58,000
It's very difficult. The
only time I used to talk

793
00:38:58,000 --> 00:38:59,610
is when I used to
go back to Paris

794
00:38:59,610 --> 00:39:02,830
and all my friends were living.

795
00:39:02,830 --> 00:39:06,540
And they've all died already.

796
00:39:06,540 --> 00:39:08,710
These are friends
from childhood?

797
00:39:08,710 --> 00:39:10,190
No, from camp.

798
00:39:10,190 --> 00:39:10,690
Oh.

799
00:39:10,690 --> 00:39:13,342

800
00:39:13,342 --> 00:39:16,530
Yeah, from childhood, I have--

801
00:39:16,530 --> 00:39:20,850
they're not Jewish, but
they're very, very nice.

802
00:39:20,850 --> 00:39:21,890
I live with them.

803
00:39:21,890 --> 00:39:23,490
They [INAUDIBLE] me.

804
00:39:23,490 --> 00:39:25,650
They-- it was very--

805
00:39:25,650 --> 00:39:28,270

806
00:39:28,270 --> 00:39:30,760
and when we talk about they --

807
00:39:30,760 --> 00:39:32,980
They knew all my family.

808
00:39:32,980 --> 00:39:39,180
And when we talk about
it, she cries like I do.

809
00:39:39,180 --> 00:39:42,190
But most of the--

810
00:39:42,190 --> 00:39:48,640
my family-- my father's family,
like I said-- they said to me--

811
00:39:48,640 --> 00:39:51,640

812
00:39:51,640 --> 00:39:54,700
and French policeman,
I didn't have any money

813
00:39:54,700 --> 00:39:56,970
to have a winter coat.

814
00:39:56,970 --> 00:39:58,420
And I didn't have a winter coat.

815
00:39:58,420 --> 00:40:00,040
I came back.

816
00:40:00,040 --> 00:40:03,880
And he got the material.

817
00:40:03,880 --> 00:40:06,550

It was a French policeman.

818
00:40:06,550 --> 00:40:12,370
And a cousin of my
father made a coat.

819
00:40:12,370 --> 00:40:14,150
This is when you
returned after the war.

820
00:40:14,150 --> 00:40:14,920
Yes.

821
00:40:14,920 --> 00:40:18,630
And he asked me for money.

822
00:40:18,630 --> 00:40:22,860
Then his sister said, well,
I can give you a cup of tea,

823
00:40:22,860 --> 00:40:25,610
but I don't have room for you.

824
00:40:25,610 --> 00:40:27,930
But a Gentile took me in.

825
00:40:27,930 --> 00:40:32,240

826
00:40:32,240 --> 00:40:35,750
So you know, I don't know
what to think about it.

827
00:40:35,750 --> 00:40:36,350
I don't.

828
00:40:36,350 --> 00:40:39,510

829
00:40:39,510 --> 00:40:41,260
Some good ones, some bad ones.

830

00:40:41,260 --> 00:40:43,920

And you can't put
everybody in the same bag.

831

00:40:43,920 --> 00:40:45,111

And that's all.

832

00:40:45,111 --> 00:40:48,880

833

00:40:48,880 --> 00:40:51,130

Any message to
your grandchildren?

834

00:40:51,130 --> 00:40:54,450

835

00:40:54,450 --> 00:41:00,790

Well, I hope they grow up
to be sensitive young men

836

00:41:00,790 --> 00:41:12,450

and to learn what went on, not
to be blinded by their parents.

837

00:41:12,450 --> 00:41:16,880

I feel it's very important
for the young kids to do that.

838

00:41:16,880 --> 00:41:22,840

839

00:41:22,840 --> 00:41:25,080

It's very hard.

840

00:41:25,080 --> 00:41:29,780

841

00:41:29,780 --> 00:41:32,480

Before we finish, I
just wanted to know

842
00:41:32,480 --> 00:41:34,760
what your feelings
were when you received

843
00:41:34,760 --> 00:41:39,036
your number on your arm.

844
00:41:39,036 --> 00:41:43,372
Oh, I felt like I
was cattle, you know?

845
00:41:43,372 --> 00:41:45,670
Stamped.

846
00:41:45,670 --> 00:41:46,710
And I ran out.

847
00:41:46,710 --> 00:41:50,040
That was February,
and it was muddy.

848
00:41:50,040 --> 00:41:52,835
And I took the mud
and tried to erase it.

849
00:41:52,835 --> 00:41:54,932
Off.

850
00:41:54,932 --> 00:41:56,245
But it didn't come off.

851
00:41:56,245 --> 00:42:00,750

852
00:42:00,750 --> 00:42:02,600
And I felt very bad.

853
00:42:02,600 --> 00:42:08,590
I felt-- well, maybe
someday, if I come out

854

00:42:08,590 --> 00:42:14,650
of life of here, of the
camp, I'll have it taken off.

855
00:42:14,650 --> 00:42:17,620
And then when I ask
my doctor to do that,

856
00:42:17,620 --> 00:42:21,160
he didn't want to do it.

857
00:42:21,160 --> 00:42:23,080
He said, this should
be the diamonds

858
00:42:23,080 --> 00:42:24,588
for your grandchildren.

859
00:42:24,588 --> 00:42:27,660

860
00:42:27,660 --> 00:42:29,330
And that's true.

861
00:42:29,330 --> 00:42:37,590
That's when he told
me, Dr. [? Rosemont. ?]

862
00:42:37,590 --> 00:42:38,930
So I kept it on.

863
00:42:38,930 --> 00:42:41,620
Many people took it off.

864
00:42:41,620 --> 00:42:43,200
But I kept it on.

865
00:42:43,200 --> 00:42:44,840
I don't care anymore.

866
00:42:44,840 --> 00:42:50,240
It's part of me, and it's

part of what I went through.

867

00:42:50,240 --> 00:42:54,360

And it doesn't bother me
if people make bad comment

868

00:42:54,360 --> 00:42:55,650

or laugh about it.

869

00:42:55,650 --> 00:42:58,720

870

00:42:58,720 --> 00:43:04,470

It's just-- I take it with a
grain of salt, and that's it.

871

00:43:04,470 --> 00:43:08,240

872

00:43:08,240 --> 00:43:09,740

I accept it.

873

00:43:09,740 --> 00:43:19,800

874

00:43:19,800 --> 00:43:22,190

It's not easy sometimes.

875

00:43:22,190 --> 00:43:25,290

It's easier in the wintertime
when you have the long sleeves.

876

00:43:25,290 --> 00:43:30,000

877

00:43:30,000 --> 00:43:34,320

But before, when I
first came over there,

878

00:43:34,320 --> 00:43:37,080

they made big numbers.

879

00:43:37,080 --> 00:43:43,050

Now they had-- later on, they
put the numbers right here with

880

00:43:43,050 --> 00:43:46,130

the name in the
front, which is--

881

00:43:46,130 --> 00:43:48,360

it doesn't show so much.

882

00:43:48,360 --> 00:43:50,110

This shows Wow.

883

00:43:50,110 --> 00:44:03,660

I was the 35,000th
person in camp.

884

00:44:03,660 --> 00:44:07,460

From six million,
that's an early--

885

00:44:07,460 --> 00:44:08,630

that's very early.

886

00:44:08,630 --> 00:44:11,630

887

00:44:11,630 --> 00:44:16,770

And this is Jewish.

888

00:44:16,770 --> 00:44:20,100

The Gentile did not have
that, just the number.

889

00:44:20,100 --> 00:44:30,080

890

00:44:30,080 --> 00:44:30,580

Yeah.

891

00:44:30,580 --> 00:44:32,500
But I rubbed it very
hard with the mud.

892
00:44:32,500 --> 00:44:33,930
It didn't come off.

893
00:44:33,930 --> 00:44:48,690

894
00:44:48,690 --> 00:44:50,420
That's it.

895
00:44:50,420 --> 00:44:51,520
Thank you very much--

896
00:44:51,520 --> 00:44:52,570
Oh, you're welcome.

897
00:44:52,570 --> 00:44:53,910
--for doing the interview.

898
00:44:53,910 --> 00:44:58,600

899
00:44:58,600 --> 00:45:03,040
This has been an interview
of Marie Schwartzman.

900
00:45:03,040 --> 00:45:07,180
It was conducted
on August 12, 1994

901
00:45:07,180 --> 00:45:11,050
by Gail Schwartz on behalf of
the United States Holocaust

902
00:45:11,050 --> 00:45:13,140
Memorial Museum.

903
00:45:13,140 --> 00:45:16,000