

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,793

2
00:00:02,793 --> 00:00:04,460
You were talking about
how you went over

3
00:00:04,460 --> 00:00:05,930
to Miss Jansen's house.

4
00:00:05,930 --> 00:00:08,360
Yes, that was like
a little haven

5
00:00:08,360 --> 00:00:13,040
to be until the next house
was available for us.

6
00:00:13,040 --> 00:00:15,800

7
00:00:15,800 --> 00:00:20,390
I don't really remember who
and how I got my clothing.

8
00:00:20,390 --> 00:00:27,210
It must've been him
that took charge

9
00:00:27,210 --> 00:00:29,810
and arranged for all of this.

10
00:00:29,810 --> 00:00:40,460
Well, here he took me to a
house where my parents had been.

11
00:00:40,460 --> 00:00:49,770
And my parents had to leave,
because they were squealed on.

12
00:00:49,770 --> 00:00:52,190

And the girl that
squealed on them

13
00:00:52,190 --> 00:00:56,240
was killed by the underground.

14
00:00:56,240 --> 00:01:01,980
Anyway, can you believe that
after this had died down,

15
00:01:01,980 --> 00:01:06,500
that they were willing to
take another human being,

16
00:01:06,500 --> 00:01:11,570
another Jewish person
to be in their house?

17
00:01:11,570 --> 00:01:14,660
Well, I came there.

18
00:01:14,660 --> 00:01:16,250
What were their names?

19
00:01:16,250 --> 00:01:24,770
That was Mr. And Mrs. Robertson.

20
00:01:24,770 --> 00:01:28,130
And their only daughter, Katie.

21
00:01:28,130 --> 00:01:31,970
The house was built
on the outskirts

22
00:01:31,970 --> 00:01:34,820
between two small towns.

23
00:01:34,820 --> 00:01:39,657
We had only--

24
00:01:39,657 --> 00:01:41,240
Are we still talking

about Falkenberg?

25

00:01:41,240 --> 00:01:42,050

Is that where you--

26

00:01:42,050 --> 00:01:54,500

No, places that I was in
hiding is all in the vicinity

27

00:01:54,500 --> 00:01:58,190

of [NON-ENGLISH] Triberg--

28

00:01:58,190 --> 00:02:02,240

these are all small
coal-mining towns.

29

00:02:02,240 --> 00:02:09,320

And this is where Mr.
Jansen was able to place us.

30

00:02:09,320 --> 00:02:13,560

But I'm coming back to go
to the Robertson's house.

31

00:02:13,560 --> 00:02:21,470

The Robertson house
was on a road that

32

00:02:21,470 --> 00:02:27,050

was between two small towns.

33

00:02:27,050 --> 00:02:28,720

And they have never
gotten together

34

00:02:28,720 --> 00:02:31,670

who is going to put in
the electricity, who is

35

00:02:31,670 --> 00:02:35,060

going to put in water supply.

36

00:02:35,060 --> 00:02:41,570
We didn't have any water
supply except for a well

37
00:02:41,570 --> 00:02:43,260
in the back yard.

38
00:02:43,260 --> 00:02:44,900
And there was no electricity.

39
00:02:44,900 --> 00:02:47,390
We only had kerosene.

40
00:02:47,390 --> 00:02:51,530
And the only heating
place in the house

41
00:02:51,530 --> 00:02:53,880
was the stove in the kitchen.

42
00:02:53,880 --> 00:02:56,120
It was very primitive,
but the people

43
00:02:56,120 --> 00:03:00,210
were absolutely wonderful.

44
00:03:00,210 --> 00:03:05,510
I stayed there, and
we had another lady--

45
00:03:05,510 --> 00:03:09,350
German, Jewish--
from Heidelberg.

46
00:03:09,350 --> 00:03:13,190
She was used to a lot of money.

47
00:03:13,190 --> 00:03:18,500
Her parents had a
cigar factory, and she

48

00:03:18,500 --> 00:03:24,590
had a hard time adjusting--

49
00:03:24,590 --> 00:03:29,980
being a nobody--
absolutely nobody.

50
00:03:29,980 --> 00:03:32,310
You are at the mercy of people.

51
00:03:32,310 --> 00:03:34,830
If they are good to
you, then it's fine.

52
00:03:34,830 --> 00:03:40,550
If not, it's a hard time
and a different way of life.

53
00:03:40,550 --> 00:03:43,460
Don't forget, a
little carafe of water

54
00:03:43,460 --> 00:03:47,060
had to last us for one week.

55
00:03:47,060 --> 00:03:50,330
I slept with Katie
in a single bed.

56
00:03:50,330 --> 00:03:52,760
When she turned, I had to turn.

57
00:03:52,760 --> 00:03:55,430
When I turned, she had to turn.

58
00:03:55,430 --> 00:04:00,920

59
00:04:00,920 --> 00:04:05,570
The bed linens were
washed every two months,

60

00:04:05,570 --> 00:04:09,290
because they would
hang the clothes out.

61
00:04:09,290 --> 00:04:14,060
And people would probably
watch how often you wash.

62
00:04:14,060 --> 00:04:16,579
So they were used to
washing once a month,

63
00:04:16,579 --> 00:04:19,250
so once a month
this bed was being

64
00:04:19,250 --> 00:04:22,840
changed, in the next month,
this bed was being changed.

65
00:04:22,840 --> 00:04:27,210
Our clothing wasn't changed
for at least once a week.

66
00:04:27,210 --> 00:04:29,690
And like I said, our water--

67
00:04:29,690 --> 00:04:35,720
we had a little carafe that
had to last us one week.

68
00:04:35,720 --> 00:04:42,650
But, look, you do anything
to keep your life.

69
00:04:42,650 --> 00:04:51,150
I was asked once, did you make
plans when you were in hiding?

70
00:04:51,150 --> 00:04:56,690
And they were so amazed, I said,
no, I didn't make any plans,

71

00:04:56,690 --> 00:04:59,240
because I didn't
know if I was going

72
00:04:59,240 --> 00:05:03,770
to live the next day,
or the next morning,

73
00:05:03,770 --> 00:05:06,050
or the next minute.

74
00:05:06,050 --> 00:05:09,770
Because I didn't know
where I was going to be.

75
00:05:09,770 --> 00:05:14,210
I didn't know what was going
to happen to us if I ever

76
00:05:14,210 --> 00:05:16,790
survived.

77
00:05:16,790 --> 00:05:17,720
We couldn't tell.

78
00:05:17,720 --> 00:05:20,480

79
00:05:20,480 --> 00:05:23,570
The people were very good to us.

80
00:05:23,570 --> 00:05:25,220
The food was ample.

81
00:05:25,220 --> 00:05:31,110
We ate probably potatoes three
times a day, which was fine.

82
00:05:31,110 --> 00:05:32,800
You remember the
parents' first names?

83

00:05:32,800 --> 00:05:35,480
No.

84
00:05:35,480 --> 00:05:36,320
No.

85
00:05:36,320 --> 00:05:44,540
I know that he was a
coal-miner and a farmer.

86
00:05:44,540 --> 00:05:46,580
And the woman didn't work.

87
00:05:46,580 --> 00:05:49,370
And Katie delivered
the newspapers.

88
00:05:49,370 --> 00:05:50,960
That's all I remember.

89
00:05:50,960 --> 00:05:52,570
So you stayed inside the house.

90
00:05:52,570 --> 00:05:53,380
Inside the house.

91
00:05:53,380 --> 00:05:54,500
All of the time.

92
00:05:54,500 --> 00:05:56,570
All of the time.

93
00:05:56,570 --> 00:06:00,090
And what did you do there?

94
00:06:00,090 --> 00:06:02,700
I knitted.

95
00:06:02,700 --> 00:06:07,130
I remember that had
handmade sweaters.

96

00:06:07,130 --> 00:06:09,890

And they would pull
them out, and then I

97

00:06:09,890 --> 00:06:15,950

knit them bigger for somebody
else-- this kind of stuff.

98

00:06:15,950 --> 00:06:17,420

People asked me if I read.

99

00:06:17,420 --> 00:06:19,940

No.

100

00:06:19,940 --> 00:06:20,810

I never read.

101

00:06:20,810 --> 00:06:25,130

There was no reading
material in those houses.

102

00:06:25,130 --> 00:06:29,240

What happened to your Jewish
star that you would have?

103

00:06:29,240 --> 00:06:31,070

The Jewish star?

104

00:06:31,070 --> 00:06:32,660

I didn't have it with me.

105

00:06:32,660 --> 00:06:38,280

That was back in Falkenberg
with somebody else.

106

00:06:38,280 --> 00:06:40,640

I never had it with me.

107

00:06:40,640 --> 00:06:42,513

I have it here,
but I don't have--

108
00:06:42,513 --> 00:06:43,430
Left it with somebody.

109
00:06:43,430 --> 00:06:45,044
I left it with somebody.

110
00:06:45,044 --> 00:06:50,260

111
00:06:50,260 --> 00:06:52,015
So you're with the Robertsons.

112
00:06:52,015 --> 00:06:53,320
I'm with the Robertsons.

113
00:06:53,320 --> 00:06:54,862
[? You're sewing and ?]
[INAUDIBLE]..

114
00:06:54,862 --> 00:06:59,230
And yes, I remember
one moment that

115
00:06:59,230 --> 00:07:05,680
was close already
when the Germans were

116
00:07:05,680 --> 00:07:07,150
dug in front of the house.

117
00:07:07,150 --> 00:07:10,470

118
00:07:10,470 --> 00:07:12,640
Anna is the other lady--
we were downstairs,

119
00:07:12,640 --> 00:07:15,780
and what we were doing
downstairs, I don't know.

120

00:07:15,780 --> 00:07:19,990
Anyway, the German soldiers
coming the back entrance

121
00:07:19,990 --> 00:07:21,850
and coming into the house.

122
00:07:21,850 --> 00:07:23,740
And here we are--

123
00:07:23,740 --> 00:07:26,770
there's the kitchen, and
here's a French door,

124
00:07:26,770 --> 00:07:31,360
and here's a round table,
and we could not get out

125
00:07:31,360 --> 00:07:35,710
of that room to go upstairs.

126
00:07:35,710 --> 00:07:42,190
The poor soul asked these
German soldiers in the kitchen,

127
00:07:42,190 --> 00:07:47,320
entertained them, gave them
coffee, gave whatever she had--

128
00:07:47,320 --> 00:07:53,140
and she probably knew that
we were in the adjacent room.

129
00:07:53,140 --> 00:07:59,116
The adjacent room had a round
table and long table cloths.

130
00:07:59,116 --> 00:08:04,130
We were under the
table in the next room.

131
00:08:04,130 --> 00:08:06,400
You don't know how

frightened we were.

132
00:08:06,400 --> 00:08:08,890
You don't know how
scared we were.

133
00:08:08,890 --> 00:08:15,287
If we had coughed, that would
have been the end of us.

134
00:08:15,287 --> 00:08:16,870
They would have said,
who is in there?

135
00:08:16,870 --> 00:08:18,740
Let's go see.

136
00:08:18,740 --> 00:08:19,810
Because they are aware.

137
00:08:19,810 --> 00:08:22,810
They knew that people
were in hiding,

138
00:08:22,810 --> 00:08:25,850
and the knew exactly
what was going on.

139
00:08:25,850 --> 00:08:29,560
You don't know the fright,
how scared we were.

140
00:08:29,560 --> 00:08:33,789
I don't know, it probably
lasted three days to us.

141
00:08:33,789 --> 00:08:35,470
But it didn't last that long.

142
00:08:35,470 --> 00:08:38,590
I don't remember
how long it lasted.

143

00:08:38,590 --> 00:08:46,330

But thank God we survived
that particular incident.

144

00:08:46,330 --> 00:08:50,560

145

00:08:50,560 --> 00:08:54,340

They had to live a
normal life and just fell

146

00:08:54,340 --> 00:09:02,000

in because people knew
exactly how they live.

147

00:09:02,000 --> 00:09:04,760

Friday morning, she
would go into town

148

00:09:04,760 --> 00:09:06,650

and buy her groceries.

149

00:09:06,650 --> 00:09:08,240

Everything had to be just so.

150

00:09:08,240 --> 00:09:12,590

The clothes that were hanging
out had to be just normal--

151

00:09:12,590 --> 00:09:17,090

not one piece more than another,
because people in small towns

152

00:09:17,090 --> 00:09:20,600

know exactly what
the next person does.

153

00:09:20,600 --> 00:09:25,400

I really don't remember
how long I stayed with them

154

00:09:25,400 --> 00:09:28,500

until I had to leave again.

155

00:09:28,500 --> 00:09:35,330

And I don't know if
they got scared of us.

156

00:09:35,330 --> 00:09:36,950

There's just so
much time that you

157

00:09:36,950 --> 00:09:39,890

can spend with a person
that's a fugitive.

158

00:09:39,890 --> 00:09:43,670

I absolutely was the
fugitive in that house.

159

00:09:43,670 --> 00:09:45,320

They were also getting paid.

160

00:09:45,320 --> 00:09:47,026

Yes, everybody was.

161

00:09:47,026 --> 00:09:50,120

Did have you have contact
with the underground there?

162

00:09:50,120 --> 00:09:53,810

I'll tell you what happened--
well, at certain times,

163

00:09:53,810 --> 00:09:55,560

we ran out of money.

164

00:09:55,560 --> 00:09:59,720

So the underground would
go back to Falkenberg

165

00:09:59,720 --> 00:10:05,390

where we had things,
and, I don't know,

166

00:10:05,390 --> 00:10:07,520

got in contact with
friends of ours--

167

00:10:07,520 --> 00:10:11,000

I don't know if they sold
things or what happened.

168

00:10:11,000 --> 00:10:12,320

I really don't know.

169

00:10:12,320 --> 00:10:15,680

I never asked my father,
how did you get the money?

170

00:10:15,680 --> 00:10:17,210

This was the Dutch underground?

171

00:10:17,210 --> 00:10:19,170

The Dutch underground.

172

00:10:19,170 --> 00:10:20,390

The Dutch Jewish underground?

173

00:10:20,390 --> 00:10:25,580

No, no, there wasn't
a Jew in sight--

174

00:10:25,580 --> 00:10:28,970

just the regular
Dutch underground.

175

00:10:28,970 --> 00:10:38,020

And then I was transported
pretty far from [NON-ENGLISH]

176

00:10:38,020 --> 00:10:39,440

to Triberg.

177

00:10:39,440 --> 00:10:47,410

And I got into a house
where I was upstairs.

178
00:10:47,410 --> 00:10:49,990
I know I didn't
like it that much,

179
00:10:49,990 --> 00:10:51,205
but I had no other choice.

180
00:10:51,205 --> 00:10:53,760

181
00:10:53,760 --> 00:10:59,160
And in that house
also was another girl.

182
00:10:59,160 --> 00:11:01,770
And this girl had polyps.

183
00:11:01,770 --> 00:11:03,690
She had polyps.

184
00:11:03,690 --> 00:11:09,630
And I think that they were able
to get a doctor in that house

185
00:11:09,630 --> 00:11:12,000
to help her.

186
00:11:12,000 --> 00:11:14,190
I don't know if he
operated in that house.

187
00:11:14,190 --> 00:11:17,250
I don't know whatever happened.

188
00:11:17,250 --> 00:11:22,680
But I know that I
didn't like it there,

189
00:11:22,680 --> 00:11:25,540
but I had no other place to go.

190

00:11:25,540 --> 00:11:35,850

And this was already close
towards the end of the war.

191

00:11:35,850 --> 00:11:38,220

I remember being
at Katie's house.

192

00:11:38,220 --> 00:11:43,650

She had a radio, and we
listened to the invasion.

193

00:11:43,650 --> 00:11:47,790

And we followed
them, but we didn't

194

00:11:47,790 --> 00:11:52,710

know how long it would take
before the liberation came--

195

00:11:52,710 --> 00:11:56,880

if there ever was a liberation,
which one didn't know.

196

00:11:56,880 --> 00:12:01,630

But that I know we
had at Katie's house.

197

00:12:01,630 --> 00:12:03,175

That was June of '44?

198

00:12:03,175 --> 00:12:03,675

Yes.

199

00:12:03,675 --> 00:12:08,160

200

00:12:08,160 --> 00:12:08,780

Right.

201

00:12:08,780 --> 00:12:13,760

So here I am in Triberg in this

other house with more people.

202
00:12:13,760 --> 00:12:17,030
And the bombing got heavier.

203
00:12:17,030 --> 00:12:21,380
And I remember being so scared.

204
00:12:21,380 --> 00:12:30,280
Here we are, we didn't know
how soon the liberation came.

205
00:12:30,280 --> 00:12:33,040
And I remember I was so scared.

206
00:12:33,040 --> 00:12:37,280
And I went down in the basement
and there was a potato bin.

207
00:12:37,280 --> 00:12:39,890
And I crawled into
the potato bin.

208
00:12:39,890 --> 00:12:43,370
And I don't know how often
I sat in that potato bin

209
00:12:43,370 --> 00:12:46,160
and how long I sat
in that potato bin,

210
00:12:46,160 --> 00:12:54,740
because when the Americans
came to liberate us,

211
00:12:54,740 --> 00:13:01,060
the house was in front
of a big coal pile.

212
00:13:01,060 --> 00:13:04,180
And the Germans would
sit on this side

213

00:13:04,180 --> 00:13:07,480
and shoot over our house.

214

00:13:07,480 --> 00:13:11,380
And the Americans came across--

215

00:13:11,380 --> 00:13:12,980
there was a big field.

216

00:13:12,980 --> 00:13:16,780
I'll never forget, the
Americans came across

217

00:13:16,780 --> 00:13:24,610
with their tanks and infantry.

218

00:13:24,610 --> 00:13:32,770
And we were told to
stay in the basement,

219

00:13:32,770 --> 00:13:37,150
because we didn't know
who was going to stay,

220

00:13:37,150 --> 00:13:39,610
who was going to be pushed back.

221

00:13:39,610 --> 00:13:45,440
And I know that some of the
American soldiers got hurt,

222

00:13:45,440 --> 00:13:48,820
but do you know that we
were afraid to come out

223

00:13:48,820 --> 00:13:51,520
of the basement for days?

224

00:13:51,520 --> 00:13:54,903
We didn't if they
were going to stay.

225

00:13:54,903 --> 00:13:57,070

We didn't know if they were
going to be thrown back.

226

00:13:57,070 --> 00:14:03,400

227

00:14:03,400 --> 00:14:10,390

But we did get liberated
September 17, 1944.

228

00:14:10,390 --> 00:14:13,150

That was a relief,
but still scared--

229

00:14:13,150 --> 00:14:16,240

absolutely frightened to
death to even tell people,

230

00:14:16,240 --> 00:14:17,530

well, here I am.

231

00:14:17,530 --> 00:14:18,490

I'm Jewish.

232

00:14:18,490 --> 00:14:20,680

I'm liberated now.

233

00:14:20,680 --> 00:14:22,450

I'm free.

234

00:14:22,450 --> 00:14:24,616

For three days, we
did not come out.

235

00:14:24,616 --> 00:14:27,317

We were scared--
absolutely scared.

236

00:14:27,317 --> 00:14:28,720

Scared, scared.

237

00:14:28,720 --> 00:14:33,640

Then we got a call
from Mr Jansen

238

00:14:33,640 --> 00:14:37,243

that my parents had
gone back to Falkenberg.

239

00:14:37,243 --> 00:14:38,410

You were still in the house?

240

00:14:38,410 --> 00:14:40,570

I was still in the house.

241

00:14:40,570 --> 00:14:42,160

They already had gone.

242

00:14:42,160 --> 00:14:45,400

Well, we didn't
have a place to go.

243

00:14:45,400 --> 00:14:48,460

We did not have anywhere,
because the house that

244

00:14:48,460 --> 00:14:50,695

was rented was not ours.

245

00:14:50,695 --> 00:14:52,570

Let's talk a little bit
about the liberation.

246

00:14:52,570 --> 00:14:53,770

What were your feelings?

247

00:14:53,770 --> 00:14:54,805

What were our feelings?

248

00:14:54,805 --> 00:14:58,950

249

00:14:58,950 --> 00:15:01,110
You have no idea.

250
00:15:01,110 --> 00:15:04,540
I could've kissed every
soldier that there was.

251
00:15:04,540 --> 00:15:09,120
These were the first Americans?

252
00:15:09,120 --> 00:15:13,860
First Americans that I saw.

253
00:15:13,860 --> 00:15:15,723
And--

254
00:15:15,723 --> 00:15:17,390
What kind of things
did they say to you?

255
00:15:17,390 --> 00:15:21,080

256
00:15:21,080 --> 00:15:26,160
I don't even know that I
told them that I was Jewish.

257
00:15:26,160 --> 00:15:30,310
I was just so happy
to be free, afraid--

258
00:15:30,310 --> 00:15:33,620
don't forget, how long
have I been afraid?

259
00:15:33,620 --> 00:15:36,830
How long have I
been in underground?

260
00:15:36,830 --> 00:15:46,400
How long have I been
living with people scared

261

00:15:46,400 --> 00:15:50,240
for 24 hours all these months?

262

00:15:50,240 --> 00:15:52,940
There was not a wink
that I could say.

263

00:15:52,940 --> 00:15:56,630
I could smile, I could
enjoy, I could live.

264

00:15:56,630 --> 00:16:00,920
It was, will I ever
be able to be free?

265

00:16:00,920 --> 00:16:03,245
Will I ever be able to live?

266

00:16:03,245 --> 00:16:07,700

267

00:16:07,700 --> 00:16:08,540
I don't know--

268

00:16:08,540 --> 00:16:14,115
I guess I lived so
intimidated that I was scared.

269

00:16:14,115 --> 00:16:16,890

270

00:16:16,890 --> 00:16:25,870
And to be free, there
were so many questions.

271

00:16:25,870 --> 00:16:28,150
What happened to my family?

272

00:16:28,150 --> 00:16:30,480
What happened to my family?

273

00:16:30,480 --> 00:16:32,210
OK.

274
00:16:32,210 --> 00:16:36,880
Mr Jansen came, and got me,
and brought me to my parents.

275
00:16:36,880 --> 00:16:39,480
Well, we didn't know where
we were going to live.

276
00:16:39,480 --> 00:16:40,348
We didn't have--

277
00:16:40,348 --> 00:16:41,140
Back at Falkenberg.

278
00:16:41,140 --> 00:16:43,780
Back at Falkenberg.

279
00:16:43,780 --> 00:16:47,860
There was a Jewish family that--

280
00:16:47,860 --> 00:16:49,510
When you first
saw your parents--

281
00:16:49,510 --> 00:16:50,160
Oh, my god.

282
00:16:50,160 --> 00:16:51,780
What were your feelings?

283
00:16:51,780 --> 00:16:55,360
My mom-- I didn't
recognize my mother.

284
00:16:55,360 --> 00:16:58,780
My mother did not eat.

285
00:16:58,780 --> 00:17:06,910
She could not stand the

thought of pork, bacon.

286

00:17:06,910 --> 00:17:09,490

She couldn't stand the
smell in the house.

287

00:17:09,490 --> 00:17:11,109

She wouldn't eat.

288

00:17:11,109 --> 00:17:14,670

My mother weighed
about 80-some pounds

289

00:17:14,670 --> 00:17:17,710

when she came out of hiding.

290

00:17:17,710 --> 00:17:30,080

And she was
absolutely devastated.

291

00:17:30,080 --> 00:17:38,310

Here we are, but she knew
that my brother had left.

292

00:17:38,310 --> 00:17:41,790

Her two sisters had left.

293

00:17:41,790 --> 00:17:46,590

Another sister who has a
husband and son had left.

294

00:17:46,590 --> 00:17:50,790

And she didn't know
what happened to them.

295

00:17:50,790 --> 00:17:55,890

She wouldn't eat,
she just existed.

296

00:17:55,890 --> 00:18:01,305

And, well, my father, he was
a different type of person.

297

00:18:01,305 --> 00:18:05,220

298

00:18:05,220 --> 00:18:12,360

They spoke with the family
that owned this big house,

299

00:18:12,360 --> 00:18:19,290

and they asked my parents
to move in with them.

300

00:18:19,290 --> 00:18:22,620

We did not have a
chair to sit on.

301

00:18:22,620 --> 00:18:25,890

We did not have a bed to sleep.

302

00:18:25,890 --> 00:18:29,490

But what the Dutch
government did,

303

00:18:29,490 --> 00:18:37,920

they went in to the apartments
that the Germans deserted,

304

00:18:37,920 --> 00:18:41,070

that the Germans left
behind, and gave us

305

00:18:41,070 --> 00:18:46,200

furniture, and beds,
and chairs to sit on,

306

00:18:46,200 --> 00:18:47,940

and beds to sleep in.

307

00:18:47,940 --> 00:18:55,035

And they gave us enough that
we could live in this house.

308

00:18:55,035 --> 00:18:57,810

309

00:18:57,810 --> 00:19:00,930

This young couple
also was in hiding,

310

00:19:00,930 --> 00:19:07,470

but the elderly couple
had been taken away.

311

00:19:07,470 --> 00:19:10,650

Of course, they never returned.

312

00:19:10,650 --> 00:19:16,770

And let me tell you
something how people take

313

00:19:16,770 --> 00:19:20,440

things different than others.

314

00:19:20,440 --> 00:19:26,700

One day-- and I'm coming back to
the people that we lived with--

315

00:19:26,700 --> 00:19:30,390

I went upstairs in an attic
to hang up clothing, here

316

00:19:30,390 --> 00:19:34,680

this young man that asked us
to come and move in with them

317

00:19:34,680 --> 00:19:36,630

tried to hang himself.

318

00:19:36,630 --> 00:19:41,580

He tried to commit suicide,
because his parents did not

319

00:19:41,580 --> 00:19:42,780

return.

320

00:19:42,780 --> 00:19:46,710
And he had an absolute
nervous breakdown.

321
00:19:46,710 --> 00:19:50,340
Well, we didn't have a
telephone in our house.

322
00:19:50,340 --> 00:19:54,850
I went to the doctor, and he
was committed for a while,

323
00:19:54,850 --> 00:19:57,927
because he had a complete
nervous breakdown.

324
00:19:57,927 --> 00:20:00,910

325
00:20:00,910 --> 00:20:04,960
Anyway, we stayed in this house.

326
00:20:04,960 --> 00:20:10,150

327
00:20:10,150 --> 00:20:12,262
We lived in this house.

328
00:20:12,262 --> 00:20:13,720
There were no
windows in the house.

329
00:20:13,720 --> 00:20:18,740
The windows were all broken
from [INAUDIBLE] from the--

330
00:20:18,740 --> 00:20:19,240
Bombs.

331
00:20:19,240 --> 00:20:20,550
From the bombs.

332

00:20:20,550 --> 00:20:25,090
And they were all put
together with wood.

333
00:20:25,090 --> 00:20:30,058

334
00:20:30,058 --> 00:20:31,100
Can you just turn it off?

335
00:20:31,100 --> 00:20:38,590
Let me-- all right, the
transports were coming in.

336
00:20:38,590 --> 00:20:40,168
And--

337
00:20:40,168 --> 00:20:41,210
You're with your parents.

338
00:20:41,210 --> 00:20:44,200
And I'm living with my parents,
the transports were coming in,

339
00:20:44,200 --> 00:20:48,040
and I was still hoping
that my father was alive.

340
00:20:48,040 --> 00:20:52,830
He would stand at the--

341
00:20:52,830 --> 00:20:54,010
Train station.

342
00:20:54,010 --> 00:20:58,660
At the train station all day
long from morning till night.

343
00:20:58,660 --> 00:21:01,300
And when he found
out eventually,

344

00:21:01,300 --> 00:21:04,480
he thought that my brother
would never come home.

345
00:21:04,480 --> 00:21:07,510

346
00:21:07,510 --> 00:21:09,460
My mother and I
would go into town

347
00:21:09,460 --> 00:21:12,430
to Maastricht
where she was born,

348
00:21:12,430 --> 00:21:15,550
and where my family
used to live.

349
00:21:15,550 --> 00:21:19,780
And we would maybe go shopping
or we would do something.

350
00:21:19,780 --> 00:21:23,110
And people would come
and say, aren't you

351
00:21:23,110 --> 00:21:25,750
the sister of the
[INAUDIBLE] basement?

352
00:21:25,750 --> 00:21:29,050
And they looked so much alike.

353
00:21:29,050 --> 00:21:31,030
And let me tell
you, it killed her.

354
00:21:31,030 --> 00:21:35,350
My mother died
literally of heartbreak

355
00:21:35,350 --> 00:21:37,870

because her oldest
son, her only son

356
00:21:37,870 --> 00:21:40,390
was killed in
concentration camp,

357
00:21:40,390 --> 00:21:43,500
her two maiden
sisters were killed.

358
00:21:43,500 --> 00:21:46,960
Her other sister, and the
husband, and son were killed.

359
00:21:46,960 --> 00:21:51,370
My whole Dutch family
is not there anymore.

360
00:21:51,370 --> 00:21:55,840
I'm the only survivor
of my Dutch family.

361
00:21:55,840 --> 00:21:58,240
There is nobody left.

362
00:21:58,240 --> 00:22:02,010
The only ones left
are at the cemetery.

363
00:22:02,010 --> 00:22:06,520
And my mother is buried in
Maastricht, and my grandparents

364
00:22:06,520 --> 00:22:10,600
and my great grandparents.

365
00:22:10,600 --> 00:22:15,220
But I'm the only survivor.

366
00:22:15,220 --> 00:22:18,160
I didn't want to
stay in Holland.

367

00:22:18,160 --> 00:22:22,750

I felt that, as a Jewish girl
I didn't have much of a chance.

368

00:22:22,750 --> 00:22:27,220

Even so, I had been
begged to stay.

369

00:22:27,220 --> 00:22:32,530

They needed young girls
to marry Jewish men

370

00:22:32,530 --> 00:22:38,200

so there would be a continuation
of the Jewish people

371

00:22:38,200 --> 00:22:39,400

in Holland.

372

00:22:39,400 --> 00:22:40,600

And I said, no.

373

00:22:40,600 --> 00:22:43,540

I'm not going to do that.

374

00:22:43,540 --> 00:22:47,020

My sister lived
here, and she was

375

00:22:47,020 --> 00:22:53,350

willing to send papers
for me to come to America.

376

00:22:53,350 --> 00:22:57,640

I don't know--
sometimes I ask myself,

377

00:22:57,640 --> 00:23:02,180

did I do the right thing
to leave my parents?

378

00:23:02,180 --> 00:23:07,120
But having been through so
much in my young life, that I

379
00:23:07,120 --> 00:23:11,800
felt that I wanted
to start a new life,

380
00:23:11,800 --> 00:23:18,070
not really realizing how hard
it is to start a new life,

381
00:23:18,070 --> 00:23:22,620
because you turn a leaf over
and you start all over again.

382
00:23:22,620 --> 00:23:25,780

383
00:23:25,780 --> 00:23:33,393
I left my parents and
I came to America.

384
00:23:33,393 --> 00:23:34,310
How did you get there?

385
00:23:34,310 --> 00:23:36,320
Literally on the boat.

386
00:23:36,320 --> 00:23:39,980
I came over on
the New Amsterdam.

387
00:23:39,980 --> 00:23:42,680
And as soon as I
got off the boat,

388
00:23:42,680 --> 00:23:49,730
the first word my sister said
to me, you speak only English.

389
00:23:49,730 --> 00:23:53,330
No other language is

spoken in that house.

390

00:23:53,330 --> 00:23:55,911

What day did you arrive
in the United States?

391

00:23:55,911 --> 00:23:59,810

392

00:23:59,810 --> 00:24:00,710

I don't remember.

393

00:24:00,710 --> 00:24:02,400

I have it all written down--

394

00:24:02,400 --> 00:24:03,900

1948.

395

00:24:03,900 --> 00:24:05,260

1948.

396

00:24:05,260 --> 00:24:05,760

In the fall?

397

00:24:05,760 --> 00:24:05,960

In the spring.

398

00:24:05,960 --> 00:24:06,835

In the spring of '48.

399

00:24:06,835 --> 00:24:08,330

In the spring.

400

00:24:08,330 --> 00:24:15,890

And she and my
brother-in-law picked me up,

401

00:24:15,890 --> 00:24:20,580

and we went to
Kittanning, Pennsylvania,

402

00:24:20,580 --> 00:24:23,480
which is about 40 miles
out of Pittsburgh.

403
00:24:23,480 --> 00:24:24,830
That's where they ended up.

404
00:24:24,830 --> 00:24:28,880
And I don't know how
and why, but that's it.

405
00:24:28,880 --> 00:24:32,120
I stayed with them
for six months

406
00:24:32,120 --> 00:24:35,720
to learn the
American way of life.

407
00:24:35,720 --> 00:24:38,510
I remember that
their friends were

408
00:24:38,510 --> 00:24:41,150
absolutely wonderful to me.

409
00:24:41,150 --> 00:24:44,060

410
00:24:44,060 --> 00:24:47,150
I spent time with them.

411
00:24:47,150 --> 00:24:50,090
They taught me the American way.

412
00:24:50,090 --> 00:24:53,660
They invited me
to a country club.

413
00:24:53,660 --> 00:24:59,060
They had brothers that
took me out on a date.

414

00:24:59,060 --> 00:25:03,920

It was absolutely a wonderful,
frightening experience

415

00:25:03,920 --> 00:25:07,850

for me being in this country.

416

00:25:07,850 --> 00:25:10,820

I spoke English pretty
well, because we were

417

00:25:10,820 --> 00:25:13,070

liberated by the Americans.

418

00:25:13,070 --> 00:25:18,830

And when we went to services
with the American soldiers--

419

00:25:18,830 --> 00:25:19,880

Religious services?

420

00:25:19,880 --> 00:25:22,700

Yes.

421

00:25:22,700 --> 00:25:25,880

The Jewish soldiers
came to our synagogue,

422

00:25:25,880 --> 00:25:31,220

and they had their rabbi
that brought everything.

423

00:25:31,220 --> 00:25:34,980

And then they came to our
house for tea afterwards.

424

00:25:34,980 --> 00:25:37,430

And this is how I
learned to speak--

425

00:25:37,430 --> 00:25:42,330

well, I spoke English, but I

learned to speak much better.

426
00:25:42,330 --> 00:25:44,398
Well anyway, one
day, my sister said,

427
00:25:44,398 --> 00:25:46,190
after we haven't been
there for six months,

428
00:25:46,190 --> 00:25:49,370
it's about time for you
to go and get a job.

429
00:25:49,370 --> 00:25:54,110
So we took the bus
into Pittsburgh,

430
00:25:54,110 --> 00:25:58,370
and I went to some stores--

431
00:25:58,370 --> 00:26:02,270
department stores,
ready to wear stores.

432
00:26:02,270 --> 00:26:04,730
And the first time, I
didn't get anything.

433
00:26:04,730 --> 00:26:06,640
Well, a couple of weeks later--

434
00:26:06,640 --> 00:26:10,730
there's a slow season in August,
things pick up in September--

435
00:26:10,730 --> 00:26:14,600
I went back in and I got a job.

436
00:26:14,600 --> 00:26:18,150
I got a job at Max Athens.

437

00:26:18,150 --> 00:26:24,470
And that was a store that only
sold furs, coats, and suits.

438
00:26:24,470 --> 00:26:28,400
And here this gentleman
gave me a job.

439
00:26:28,400 --> 00:26:30,680
I was scared to death
because, really, I

440
00:26:30,680 --> 00:26:34,020
hadn't done much sewing
for a long, long time.

441
00:26:34,020 --> 00:26:37,320
But I had to have
a place to stay.

442
00:26:37,320 --> 00:26:40,812
In the three years there that
you were with your folks--

443
00:26:40,812 --> 00:26:42,020
I just stayed home with them.

444
00:26:42,020 --> 00:26:42,687
You didn't work?

445
00:26:42,687 --> 00:26:43,760
No.

446
00:26:43,760 --> 00:26:45,370
So now you have your first job.

447
00:26:45,370 --> 00:26:47,300
I now have my first job.

448
00:26:47,300 --> 00:26:53,660
And, well, I had to
have a place to stay.

449

00:26:53,660 --> 00:27:00,290

Well, my sister's friend
had an aunt in Pittsburgh

450

00:27:00,290 --> 00:27:07,580

who had an apartment
over a restaurant.

451

00:27:07,580 --> 00:27:12,290

And she was willing
to take me in.

452

00:27:12,290 --> 00:27:13,865

I didn't have a room by myself.

453

00:27:13,865 --> 00:27:16,790

454

00:27:16,790 --> 00:27:19,700

I shared a bedroom with her.

455

00:27:19,700 --> 00:27:25,010

And I shared the
apartment with her.

456

00:27:25,010 --> 00:27:29,750

And it was difficult.
I didn't have, really,

457

00:27:29,750 --> 00:27:32,600

the freedom that I wanted,
but I couldn't afford more.

458

00:27:32,600 --> 00:27:37,820

And she was happy to have me
because she used this money

459

00:27:37,820 --> 00:27:40,580

to help send her
son to law school.

460

00:27:40,580 --> 00:27:43,790

461
00:27:43,790 --> 00:27:45,650
It was hard.

462
00:27:45,650 --> 00:27:46,670
It was hard.

463
00:27:46,670 --> 00:27:49,900
But then again, I had help.

464
00:27:49,900 --> 00:27:57,320
My sister's friends
sent young ladies over

465
00:27:57,320 --> 00:28:01,730
to pick me up and take
me to Hadassah meetings.

466
00:28:01,730 --> 00:28:06,920
And this way, I was
introduced to Hadassah

467
00:28:06,920 --> 00:28:09,280
and the Jewish way of life.

468
00:28:09,280 --> 00:28:15,680
And now there was a Y, and I
wanted to take in everything.

469
00:28:15,680 --> 00:28:19,522
I went to the Y. I
went swimming at the Y.

470
00:28:19,522 --> 00:28:26,170

471
00:28:26,170 --> 00:28:30,650
And through Hadassah,
I made friends.

472
00:28:30,650 --> 00:28:34,000

I made girlfriends.

473

00:28:34,000 --> 00:28:42,860

And it was hard.

474

00:28:42,860 --> 00:28:49,420

I was by myself, and I
had to live on \$25 a week.

475

00:28:49,420 --> 00:28:53,740

I had to pay room and
board, and I had to eat,

476

00:28:53,740 --> 00:28:55,960

and I had to dress myself.

477

00:28:55,960 --> 00:28:57,340

But I did it.

478

00:28:57,340 --> 00:28:59,170

I was very frugal.

479

00:28:59,170 --> 00:29:01,840

I remember sometimes if
I didn't have any money,

480

00:29:01,840 --> 00:29:04,430

I ate M&M's for dinner.

481

00:29:04,430 --> 00:29:09,480

And I remember I got
paid on Monday morning,

482

00:29:09,480 --> 00:29:11,440

then I would go into town--

483

00:29:11,440 --> 00:29:15,070

just enough money
to pay the car fare.

484

00:29:15,070 --> 00:29:16,930

And I probably had a penny left.

485
00:29:16,930 --> 00:29:18,610
But that was fine.

486
00:29:18,610 --> 00:29:20,350
I got used to that.

487
00:29:20,350 --> 00:29:23,060
I didn't want
anything from anybody.

488
00:29:23,060 --> 00:29:26,020
I supported myself.

489
00:29:26,020 --> 00:29:29,538
Were you in contact with your
parents at all at that time?

490
00:29:29,538 --> 00:29:31,920
Yes.

491
00:29:31,920 --> 00:29:34,890
Absolutely.

492
00:29:34,890 --> 00:29:37,410
But my mother got very sick.

493
00:29:37,410 --> 00:29:40,035
And my mother died.

494
00:29:40,035 --> 00:29:42,670

495
00:29:42,670 --> 00:29:45,370
That left my dad by himself.

496
00:29:45,370 --> 00:29:51,320
There was nobody that
could take care of him

497
00:29:51,320 --> 00:29:57,080

except my Aunt
Lisien from London.

498
00:29:57,080 --> 00:30:00,850
She also was a widow.

499
00:30:00,850 --> 00:30:03,860
But she had gone to
London with her son.

500
00:30:03,860 --> 00:30:07,100
She did not live
for the Holocaust.

501
00:30:07,100 --> 00:30:11,330
My Aunt Lisien came, and
stayed with my father,

502
00:30:11,330 --> 00:30:12,470
and took care of him.

503
00:30:12,470 --> 00:30:15,080

504
00:30:15,080 --> 00:30:23,860
But she also had to leave
with her son, daughter-in-law,

505
00:30:23,860 --> 00:30:28,100
and granddaughter to
immigrate to Israel.

506
00:30:28,100 --> 00:30:29,560
So dad was alone.

507
00:30:29,560 --> 00:30:33,820
But in the meantime, the papers
were ready, and my sister,

508
00:30:33,820 --> 00:30:43,090
and brother-in-law, and again,
his family from Brooklyn

509

00:30:43,090 --> 00:30:45,790

gave him the papers
to come to America,

510

00:30:45,790 --> 00:30:48,940

and dad moved in with my sister.

511

00:30:48,940 --> 00:30:51,690

512

00:30:51,690 --> 00:31:00,882

I was still working and
living in Pittsburgh when--

513

00:31:00,882 --> 00:31:02,304

let me think now.

514

00:31:02,304 --> 00:31:05,148

515

00:31:05,148 --> 00:31:08,850

I-- can you turn
it off a minute?

516

00:31:08,850 --> 00:31:27,000

517

00:31:27,000 --> 00:31:30,750

I wanted to take everything
in when I came to Pittsburgh.

518

00:31:30,750 --> 00:31:34,080

519

00:31:34,080 --> 00:31:40,810

I saved enough money to go and
see the Ice Capades by myself.

520

00:31:40,810 --> 00:31:42,840

I took the cheapest ticket.

521

00:31:42,840 --> 00:31:47,640
And I know that had the ticket
that I couldn't see anything.

522
00:31:47,640 --> 00:31:50,320
So I walked around,
I stood all evening,

523
00:31:50,320 --> 00:31:54,240
I wanted to make up for
all the years that I lost.

524
00:31:54,240 --> 00:31:58,170
I took myself to the
theater by myself.

525
00:31:58,170 --> 00:32:01,110
I sat in peanut heaven,
all the way in the back,

526
00:32:01,110 --> 00:32:06,270
just enough to see the
shows that I had missed.

527
00:32:06,270 --> 00:32:09,140
I wanted to make up
for all the time.

528
00:32:09,140 --> 00:32:12,990
And my girlfriends said to me,
you go out on a Saturday night

529
00:32:12,990 --> 00:32:14,190
by yourself?

530
00:32:14,190 --> 00:32:16,740
If I don't have a date
on Saturday night,

531
00:32:16,740 --> 00:32:18,780
I don't even answer the phone.

532
00:32:18,780 --> 00:32:22,980

I said, this doesn't make any
difference to me, I want to go,

533
00:32:22,980 --> 00:32:26,550
and make up, and see
everything, and do everything

534
00:32:26,550 --> 00:32:28,800
that I've never been able to do.

535
00:32:28,800 --> 00:32:32,250

536
00:32:32,250 --> 00:32:34,470
I didn't care if I had a date.

537
00:32:34,470 --> 00:32:38,320
I didn't care, I just
wanted to see everything.

538
00:32:38,320 --> 00:32:42,120
But anyway, here I was at the
Y, and everybody played bridge.

539
00:32:42,120 --> 00:32:43,830
My sister played bridge.

540
00:32:43,830 --> 00:32:44,910
They all played bridge.

541
00:32:44,910 --> 00:32:48,210
And lo and behold, I was
going to take bridge lessons

542
00:32:48,210 --> 00:32:55,170
at the Y. Signed up, and here
are all these young single men

543
00:32:55,170 --> 00:32:57,030
taking bridge lessons with me.

544
00:32:57,030 --> 00:33:00,560

545

00:33:00,560 --> 00:33:05,680

Paul Better wanted to date me.

546

00:33:05,680 --> 00:33:10,380

And he said to Bernie, I'm
going to date this girl.

547

00:33:10,380 --> 00:33:12,700

And Bernie says, no, I'm
going to date this girl.

548

00:33:12,700 --> 00:33:14,650

I want her telephone number.

549

00:33:14,650 --> 00:33:18,430

So Bernie introduced Paul
Better to somebody else who

550

00:33:18,430 --> 00:33:20,200

eventually got married.

551

00:33:20,200 --> 00:33:22,990

And we started to date.

552

00:33:22,990 --> 00:33:26,230

I met Bernie playing
bridge at the Y.

553

00:33:26,230 --> 00:33:29,730

Date-- not regular, on and off.

554

00:33:29,730 --> 00:33:33,550

Well, there was a national
Hadassah convention in town.

555

00:33:33,550 --> 00:33:38,230

And every eligible
single woman, single man

556

00:33:38,230 --> 00:33:41,710

from all around
Pittsburgh area, Ohio

557
00:33:41,710 --> 00:33:45,280
came to this
Hadassah convention.

558
00:33:45,280 --> 00:33:48,240
It was a very snowy night,
and a girlfriend and I,

559
00:33:48,240 --> 00:33:51,370
we took a cab down to
the William Penn Hotel,

560
00:33:51,370 --> 00:33:55,360
get up to the top floor
wherever this big thing was.

561
00:33:55,360 --> 00:33:56,920
And we walk around,
and walk around,

562
00:33:56,920 --> 00:34:00,670
and who do I run
in to but Bernie?

563
00:34:00,670 --> 00:34:06,280
We stayed together all night,
and he took me home that night.

564
00:34:06,280 --> 00:34:12,159
And from then on, that's
when we started to date.

565
00:34:12,159 --> 00:34:13,239
When did you get married?

566
00:34:13,239 --> 00:34:16,920
When I got married?

567
00:34:16,920 --> 00:34:20,020
1951, April 8.

568
00:34:20,020 --> 00:34:22,330
And then how long did
you stay in Pittsburgh?

569
00:34:22,330 --> 00:34:24,560
We stayed in Pittsburgh--

570
00:34:24,560 --> 00:34:30,130
oh, we got married 1951, then
Bernie decided after April

571
00:34:30,130 --> 00:34:34,550
that he wanted to go back to
school for his advanced degree.

572
00:34:34,550 --> 00:34:38,920
And we went through that.

573
00:34:38,920 --> 00:34:41,409
What did he study?

574
00:34:41,409 --> 00:34:43,330
Chemistry.

575
00:34:43,330 --> 00:34:49,174
And we moved here by '51.

576
00:34:49,174 --> 00:34:52,420

577
00:34:52,420 --> 00:34:57,460
And we got married in '51,
and we moved here in 1957.

578
00:34:57,460 --> 00:34:59,260
So we stayed six
years at Pittsburgh.

579
00:34:59,260 --> 00:35:01,870
It took him a while to
get his advanced degree.

580
00:35:01,870 --> 00:35:03,110
Do you have any children?

581
00:35:03,110 --> 00:35:04,990
Yes, I have three--

582
00:35:04,990 --> 00:35:08,500
the most wonderful,
wonderful daughters.

583
00:35:08,500 --> 00:35:10,240
I don't know what to do.

584
00:35:10,240 --> 00:35:11,770
They are my support.

585
00:35:11,770 --> 00:35:14,770
Between my husband and
my three daughters,

586
00:35:14,770 --> 00:35:19,270
I have the most wonderful
support that I need.

587
00:35:19,270 --> 00:35:24,820
Carla is the oldest one, and
she was born in Pittsburgh.

588
00:35:24,820 --> 00:35:30,820
Helen already was born here in
Alexandria, and then Amy also.

589
00:35:30,820 --> 00:35:35,020
They are absolutely
so dear to me

590
00:35:35,020 --> 00:35:38,500
that I wouldn't know what to do
without them, because I really

591
00:35:38,500 --> 00:35:39,970

don't have family.

592

00:35:39,970 --> 00:35:42,670

593

00:35:42,670 --> 00:35:49,870

My sister who let
me come over, she

594

00:35:49,870 --> 00:35:54,430

died at the age of 53 of cancer.

595

00:35:54,430 --> 00:35:58,270

Her husband was so
dependent on her,

596

00:35:58,270 --> 00:36:04,630

he had nobody either, because
his family was also killed.

597

00:36:04,630 --> 00:36:10,300

Then he died within a year and
left their daughter an orphan

598

00:36:10,300 --> 00:36:12,310

at the age of 19.

599

00:36:12,310 --> 00:36:19,270

I do have my niece, but
that's another story.

600

00:36:19,270 --> 00:36:21,430

And then your father came over?

601

00:36:21,430 --> 00:36:22,060

Oh, yes.

602

00:36:22,060 --> 00:36:23,590

How long did he live?

603

00:36:23,590 --> 00:36:29,850

Father came over

when we got married.

604
00:36:29,850 --> 00:36:32,500
Was it after you were married?

605
00:36:32,500 --> 00:36:33,910
No.

606
00:36:33,910 --> 00:36:35,700
He did come to the wedding.

607
00:36:35,700 --> 00:36:38,260
So he came over before
we were married.

608
00:36:38,260 --> 00:36:40,480
But he lived with my sister.

609
00:36:40,480 --> 00:36:43,480
And after we got married,
he lived six months

610
00:36:43,480 --> 00:36:46,510
with us and six
months with my sister.

611
00:36:46,510 --> 00:36:54,940
Well, then we rented a
house here in Alexandria,

612
00:36:54,940 --> 00:36:55,930
and he loved it.

613
00:36:55,930 --> 00:36:59,120
But after we moved into
this house, he said,

614
00:36:59,120 --> 00:37:01,060
I'm not going back.

615
00:37:01,060 --> 00:37:05,350
So he stayed with us at

least 10 years, solidly.

616
00:37:05,350 --> 00:37:07,810
And he loved it here.

617
00:37:07,810 --> 00:37:09,250
He loved the children.

618
00:37:09,250 --> 00:37:10,780
He loved my husband.

619
00:37:10,780 --> 00:37:12,190
He was a happy person.

620
00:37:12,190 --> 00:37:14,590
He went to schul all the time.

621
00:37:14,590 --> 00:37:17,830
When they needed a minyan,
they came and picked him up.

622
00:37:17,830 --> 00:37:21,250
They made him an honorary
member of the synagogue.

623
00:37:21,250 --> 00:37:25,600
And he got ill.

624
00:37:25,600 --> 00:37:30,900
He had heart failure, and
he died at the age of 93.

625
00:37:30,900 --> 00:37:33,400
Can we talk a little bit
now about your feelings

626
00:37:33,400 --> 00:37:36,670
and reflections after the war?

627
00:37:36,670 --> 00:37:38,170
How do you think the war--

628
00:37:38,170 --> 00:37:39,880
Is it on?

629
00:37:39,880 --> 00:37:41,650
OK.

630
00:37:41,650 --> 00:37:43,570
What are your feelings
today about how

631
00:37:43,570 --> 00:37:46,780
the war has influenced you?

632
00:37:46,780 --> 00:37:49,390
The war has influenced
me to the point

633
00:37:49,390 --> 00:37:56,620
that I'm the person that say,
you should not hate Germans.

634
00:37:56,620 --> 00:37:59,860
You should forgive and forget.

635
00:37:59,860 --> 00:38:04,000
Well, I am of the opposite end.

636
00:38:04,000 --> 00:38:10,330
When I hear somebody speak
German, I get such fury in me,

637
00:38:10,330 --> 00:38:12,310
I cannot take it--

638
00:38:12,310 --> 00:38:15,940
even so on my own side--

639
00:38:15,940 --> 00:38:18,760
my dad, I had to
speak German too.

640

00:38:18,760 --> 00:38:23,680
I have cousins in Brazil
that when I write to them,

641
00:38:23,680 --> 00:38:27,190
I have to think in German,
I write to them in German,

642
00:38:27,190 --> 00:38:30,700
because their mother
tongue is Portuguese.

643
00:38:30,700 --> 00:38:33,250
My mother tongue is English.

644
00:38:33,250 --> 00:38:39,020
Yes, they speak English, but not
well enough to write letters.

645
00:38:39,020 --> 00:38:42,770
So when I write to my cousins--

646
00:38:42,770 --> 00:38:45,550
and we are in constant contact--

647
00:38:45,550 --> 00:38:47,200
I have to write in German.

648
00:38:47,200 --> 00:38:48,670
I want to forget Germany.

649
00:38:48,670 --> 00:38:50,710
I want to forget
the German language.

650
00:38:50,710 --> 00:38:54,480
I want to forget the German
country, because it ruined.

651
00:38:54,480 --> 00:39:02,990
It has destroyed
everything I had

652

00:39:02,990 --> 00:39:06,620

There are some
members of my family

653

00:39:06,620 --> 00:39:10,010

that I'm in very
close contact with us.

654

00:39:10,010 --> 00:39:14,930

But I am one of the
youngest ones alive.

655

00:39:14,930 --> 00:39:21,770

And when we are gone, our
whole big family is no more.

656

00:39:21,770 --> 00:39:23,675

But my feelings about Germany--

657

00:39:23,675 --> 00:39:27,330

658

00:39:27,330 --> 00:39:30,230

I have friends now, people
that I went to school with that

659

00:39:30,230 --> 00:39:32,030

want to be friends with me.

660

00:39:32,030 --> 00:39:33,830

They invite me to
come and visit,

661

00:39:33,830 --> 00:39:37,440

they want me to
stay at their house.

662

00:39:37,440 --> 00:39:39,800

I don't know if I have a--

663

00:39:39,800 --> 00:39:40,940

Non-Jewish Germans.

664
00:39:40,940 --> 00:39:44,090
Non-Jewish Germans
that I correspond with,

665
00:39:44,090 --> 00:39:48,680
because they insist that
I correspond with them.

666
00:39:48,680 --> 00:39:55,580
I would like to go back,
and the only reason

667
00:39:55,580 --> 00:40:00,510
that I would go back for
would be to visit the graves--

668
00:40:00,510 --> 00:40:06,660
the graves of my grandparents
in Gelsenkirchen.

669
00:40:06,660 --> 00:40:09,110
I have grandparents, I
think great grandparents

670
00:40:09,110 --> 00:40:11,000
probably over there--

671
00:40:11,000 --> 00:40:16,910
and the grave of my mother in
Holland with my grandparents

672
00:40:16,910 --> 00:40:19,520
and great grandparents
in Holland.

673
00:40:19,520 --> 00:40:23,210
And I know when
mother died, that dad

674
00:40:23,210 --> 00:40:28,880
had the names of my brother,
and my aunts, and family put in.

675
00:40:28,880 --> 00:40:31,730

676
00:40:31,730 --> 00:40:35,240
No, I have no feeling for
Germany, absolutely not.

677
00:40:35,240 --> 00:40:38,450
Germany has ruined not my life--

678
00:40:38,450 --> 00:40:41,130
I have a beautiful life now.

679
00:40:41,130 --> 00:40:45,770
But my childhood, my education--

680
00:40:45,770 --> 00:40:48,520

681
00:40:48,520 --> 00:40:53,150
the whole family, there
is no more family.

682
00:40:53,150 --> 00:40:55,850
What kind of feelings
do you have because

683
00:40:55,850 --> 00:40:59,790
of the war about being Jewish?

684
00:40:59,790 --> 00:41:01,470
Has it changed--

685
00:41:01,470 --> 00:41:02,690
No, hasn't changed.

686
00:41:02,690 --> 00:41:04,470
I'm proud of being a Jew.

687
00:41:04,470 --> 00:41:07,620

I will do anything
for the Jewish people,

688
00:41:07,620 --> 00:41:09,420
for the Jewish religion.

689
00:41:09,420 --> 00:41:14,130
I'm born and raised in that,
and that's what I die with.

690
00:41:14,130 --> 00:41:17,550
I'm perfectly happy to be a Jew.

691
00:41:17,550 --> 00:41:21,150
And what it means to be a Jew--
if I have to fight for it,

692
00:41:21,150 --> 00:41:23,340
I will fight for it.

693
00:41:23,340 --> 00:41:30,030
And I will always be a Jew.

694
00:41:30,030 --> 00:41:35,680
Did you ever talk about your
war experiences before today?

695
00:41:35,680 --> 00:41:37,000
Sometimes, yes.

696
00:41:37,000 --> 00:41:38,335
Who did you share these with?

697
00:41:38,335 --> 00:41:39,130
With the schools.

698
00:41:39,130 --> 00:41:42,640

699
00:41:42,640 --> 00:41:46,150
I was asked to share
it with schools.

700
00:41:46,150 --> 00:41:48,130
What about your children?

701
00:41:48,130 --> 00:41:48,790
Not really.

702
00:41:48,790 --> 00:41:50,020
I haven't sat down with them.

703
00:41:50,020 --> 00:41:51,970
I really need to do that.

704
00:41:51,970 --> 00:41:54,430
They need to know.

705
00:41:54,430 --> 00:41:55,920
They know my background.

706
00:41:55,920 --> 00:42:00,660

707
00:42:00,660 --> 00:42:03,300
Do you receive war reparations?

708
00:42:03,300 --> 00:42:05,040
No.

709
00:42:05,040 --> 00:42:07,440
I do not get a red
cent from Germany,

710
00:42:07,440 --> 00:42:11,190
because I never
worked in Germany,

711
00:42:11,190 --> 00:42:15,720
and never had a job
in Germany, and no, I

712
00:42:15,720 --> 00:42:19,050

do not get one red cent.

713
00:42:19,050 --> 00:42:21,600
Does the war still
affect you in any way?

714
00:42:21,600 --> 00:42:26,710

715
00:42:26,710 --> 00:42:32,320
I don't think I can ever
forget what happened to me.

716
00:42:32,320 --> 00:42:33,760
Why me?

717
00:42:33,760 --> 00:42:38,350
Why did it happen to me?

718
00:42:38,350 --> 00:42:40,390
Why couldn't I
lead a normal life?

719
00:42:40,390 --> 00:42:43,090
Why couldn't my family
lead a normal life

720
00:42:43,090 --> 00:42:46,180
like everybody else?

721
00:42:46,180 --> 00:42:52,540
We had a very large, warm
family, the Dahl family.

722
00:42:52,540 --> 00:42:56,960
And we're still very much
in contact with each other.

723
00:42:56,960 --> 00:43:00,250
We correspond with
each other, because we

724

00:43:00,250 --> 00:43:07,320
want to be still the
family that we were.

725
00:43:07,320 --> 00:43:09,240
Is there anything
else that you want

726
00:43:09,240 --> 00:43:12,180
to share that we've left out?

727
00:43:12,180 --> 00:43:19,830

728
00:43:19,830 --> 00:43:26,290
I appreciate the support
I have from my husband.

729
00:43:26,290 --> 00:43:29,660

730
00:43:29,660 --> 00:43:32,440
Well, thank you very much
for doing this interview.

731
00:43:32,440 --> 00:43:40,470

732
00:43:40,470 --> 00:43:44,790
This concludes the
interview with Ruth Greifer.

733
00:43:44,790 --> 00:43:48,150
The interviewer
was Gail Schwartz.

734
00:43:48,150 --> 00:43:53,820
The interview took place
on December 15, 1994

735
00:43:53,820 --> 00:43:56,490
in Alexandria, Virginia.

736

00:43:56,490 --> 00:44:01,000