

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,810

2

00:00:00,810 --> 00:00:03,960

This is a recording for
the United States Holocaust

3

00:00:03,960 --> 00:00:05,610

Memorial Museum.

4

00:00:05,610 --> 00:00:09,720

Interview with Jaffa Munk
conducted by Margaret Garrett

5

00:00:09,720 --> 00:00:18,840

on March 11, 1997 in Washington,
D.C. Take one, side A.

6

00:00:18,840 --> 00:00:24,030

Mrs. Monk, when we had the
interview several months ago,

7

00:00:24,030 --> 00:00:28,950

we left off about the time that
you and your sister, Esther,

8

00:00:28,950 --> 00:00:33,510

went to Prague for a day
and then to Budapest.

9

00:00:33,510 --> 00:00:35,340

So can we pick up there?

10

00:00:35,340 --> 00:00:40,486

And could you tell what happened
when you arrived in Budapest?

11

00:00:40,486 --> 00:00:40,986

OK.

12

00:00:40,986 --> 00:00:44,100

First I want to go back
for a minute to Prague.

13
00:00:44,100 --> 00:00:46,740
The main reason that
we went to Prague--

14
00:00:46,740 --> 00:00:50,130
A, it was on the way,
but mainly because that

15
00:00:50,130 --> 00:00:53,250
was a center of information--

16
00:00:53,250 --> 00:00:56,340
who, the people, survived?

17
00:00:56,340 --> 00:01:01,350
And there were charters already
put up in the Jewish centers

18
00:01:01,350 --> 00:01:02,970
and in the temple there.

19
00:01:02,970 --> 00:01:06,450
And we looked if our father
and brother survived.

20
00:01:06,450 --> 00:01:11,190
Somehow we knew that mother
perished at the very beginning

21
00:01:11,190 --> 00:01:12,670
in Auschwitz.

22
00:01:12,670 --> 00:01:15,060
However, we didn't
find their names

23
00:01:15,060 --> 00:01:18,060
and we still had
a slight of hope.

24

00:01:18,060 --> 00:01:21,660

We didn't want to spend
any more time in Prague.

25

00:01:21,660 --> 00:01:24,540

We took the very first
opportunity of train

26

00:01:24,540 --> 00:01:26,760

and we went to Budapest.

27

00:01:26,760 --> 00:01:30,390

As we arrived to Budapest,
by the train station

28

00:01:30,390 --> 00:01:34,580

was big trucks waiting
for the survivors, which

29

00:01:34,580 --> 00:01:36,150

one was organized by the Joint.

30

00:01:36,150 --> 00:01:39,120

31

00:01:39,120 --> 00:01:39,620

What?

32

00:01:39,620 --> 00:01:40,430

Organized by who?

33

00:01:40,430 --> 00:01:41,480

By the Joint.

34

00:01:41,480 --> 00:01:42,260

The Joint?

35

00:01:42,260 --> 00:01:48,180

Joint is an organization
that is from America,

36

00:01:48,180 --> 00:01:54,650
Jewish organization
helping refugees.

37
00:01:54,650 --> 00:01:58,730
I really don't know exactly
the details of the name,

38
00:01:58,730 --> 00:02:00,680
but it's a well-known
organization.

39
00:02:00,680 --> 00:02:02,750
It's in existence
until this day.

40
00:02:02,750 --> 00:02:05,060
And they do help out--

41
00:02:05,060 --> 00:02:09,720
in the diaspora and many,
many other countries--

42
00:02:09,720 --> 00:02:13,250
people who are in need of help.

43
00:02:13,250 --> 00:02:15,740
And they greeted us.

44
00:02:15,740 --> 00:02:20,960
They took us to a headquarters
that they established

45
00:02:20,960 --> 00:02:26,060
in a school for the refugees
who came back and had no family.

46
00:02:26,060 --> 00:02:29,780
As we were going through
the streets of Budapest,

47
00:02:29,780 --> 00:02:33,560
suddenly I noticed that we

are passing by the house

48

00:02:33,560 --> 00:02:35,450
where my aunt lived.

49

00:02:35,450 --> 00:02:38,480
And I started to scream,
"This is [PLACE NAME]..

50

00:02:38,480 --> 00:02:41,290
This is the street
where my aunt lives."

51

00:02:41,290 --> 00:02:43,190
However, they did
not let anybody

52

00:02:43,190 --> 00:02:45,620
to get off because
they were not sure

53

00:02:45,620 --> 00:02:49,160
that anybody survived
in that address,

54

00:02:49,160 --> 00:02:51,770
that aunt really is alive.

55

00:02:51,770 --> 00:02:57,320
So we continued and we went to
that place that was established

56

00:02:57,320 --> 00:02:58,880
for the refugees.

57

00:02:58,880 --> 00:03:05,810
And after a day, somebody
from the orphanage home

58

00:03:05,810 --> 00:03:07,820
visited the place.

59

00:03:07,820 --> 00:03:11,240
Her name is Esther
Eckstein, who today

60
00:03:11,240 --> 00:03:14,390
is still alive and
lives in Israel

61
00:03:14,390 --> 00:03:16,550
in the city of Bnei Brak.

62
00:03:16,550 --> 00:03:20,900
She was the head of
that orphanage home.

63
00:03:20,900 --> 00:03:30,530
And she made every effort to
collect as many Jewish girls

64
00:03:30,530 --> 00:03:35,570
who remained after the
Holocaust and try to bring them

65
00:03:35,570 --> 00:03:39,770
to the orphanage home that
she established in Budapest

66
00:03:39,770 --> 00:03:45,740
immediately after the liberation
and to try to re-educate,

67
00:03:45,740 --> 00:03:48,500
again, those people who lost--

68
00:03:48,500 --> 00:03:52,650
some of us a year, some
more years of schooling.

69
00:03:52,650 --> 00:03:55,850
So the orphanage home
was located in Budapest.

70
00:03:55,850 --> 00:04:00,100

And she took us--

71

00:04:00,100 --> 00:04:03,310

not only me and my
sister, but a lot

72

00:04:03,310 --> 00:04:07,120

of girls who arrived with their
transport-- back to Budapest.

73

00:04:07,120 --> 00:04:10,480

And we were put up
in the orphanage home

74

00:04:10,480 --> 00:04:14,960

where we had regular
schooling during the day.

75

00:04:14,960 --> 00:04:17,890

Teachers-- how she
organized this?

76

00:04:17,890 --> 00:04:19,870

From where she got the money?

77

00:04:19,870 --> 00:04:21,010

And the energy?

78

00:04:21,010 --> 00:04:25,780

Her herself, a survivor,
who was for many years

79

00:04:25,780 --> 00:04:28,390

first hiding in Budapest.

80

00:04:28,390 --> 00:04:29,710

Then she was caught.

81

00:04:29,710 --> 00:04:32,080

And she was sent
to a concentration

82

00:04:32,080 --> 00:04:33,895
camp in Theresienstadt.

83
00:04:33,895 --> 00:04:39,790
But upon her return, that
was her aim and her dream

84
00:04:39,790 --> 00:04:42,860
that as many children
that survived

85
00:04:42,860 --> 00:04:47,200
she wants to see them
being educated again.

86
00:04:47,200 --> 00:04:52,270
And in that orphanage
home, we had very meager

87
00:04:52,270 --> 00:04:54,830
but we had some food.

88
00:04:54,830 --> 00:04:58,480
And we had very
simple headquarters

89
00:04:58,480 --> 00:05:01,450
for sleeping and resting.

90
00:05:01,450 --> 00:05:04,630
And we had excellent teachers.

91
00:05:04,630 --> 00:05:09,100
In Budapest, a lot of professors
and teachers from the gymnasium

92
00:05:09,100 --> 00:05:10,240
remained alive--

93
00:05:10,240 --> 00:05:15,730
thanks to Wallenberg, or some
of them just in the ghetto,

94

00:05:15,730 --> 00:05:19,570

some of them who were
hiding or with false papers.

95

00:05:19,570 --> 00:05:22,675

And they also felt
that this much

96

00:05:22,675 --> 00:05:27,970

what they can do to educate the
generation that remained alive.

97

00:05:27,970 --> 00:05:29,740

So we were studying.

98

00:05:29,740 --> 00:05:36,740

Now how did that feel to
you to be in that situation?

99

00:05:36,740 --> 00:05:39,550

Well in that
situation, in a way,

100

00:05:39,550 --> 00:05:42,760

I was missing the
home atmosphere.

101

00:05:42,760 --> 00:05:45,250

Your home?

102

00:05:45,250 --> 00:05:46,520

My home.

103

00:05:46,520 --> 00:05:55,340

Also, I have to tell you
that two uncles and one aunt

104

00:05:55,340 --> 00:05:57,760

remained alive in Budapest.

105

00:05:57,760 --> 00:06:01,990

And I had been visiting

them once in a while.

106

00:06:01,990 --> 00:06:08,410

They had free time that we could
go visiting museums or going

107

00:06:08,410 --> 00:06:10,720

for books or to the library.

108

00:06:10,720 --> 00:06:15,100

And each time that we
had that kind of period,

109

00:06:15,100 --> 00:06:18,730

I would jump over and
go to visit my aunt.

110

00:06:18,730 --> 00:06:23,170

And it was very traumatic
to see that they

111

00:06:23,170 --> 00:06:24,700

lived in their own home.

112

00:06:24,700 --> 00:06:26,660

They had their own furniture.

113

00:06:26,660 --> 00:06:28,300

It was a family life.

114

00:06:28,300 --> 00:06:31,930

And here we had no
family life whatsoever.

115

00:06:31,930 --> 00:06:33,580

Did you wish that
your aunt would

116

00:06:33,580 --> 00:06:37,330

invite you to live with her?

117

00:06:37,330 --> 00:06:38,500

Not really.

118

00:06:38,500 --> 00:06:42,250

Because I think not
being in the camps,

119

00:06:42,250 --> 00:06:47,050

she had not enough understanding
what we went through.

120

00:06:47,050 --> 00:06:50,740

So in a way, I cherished
that I am together

121

00:06:50,740 --> 00:06:55,180

with people who have the very
same fate that we had, and had

122

00:06:55,180 --> 00:07:01,600

more understanding of
our moods, our crying,

123

00:07:01,600 --> 00:07:04,180

or not being able
to cope sometimes

124

00:07:04,180 --> 00:07:07,780

with the regular
daily situation.

125

00:07:07,780 --> 00:07:09,670

Because we were together.

126

00:07:09,670 --> 00:07:12,680

We had all together that
very same background,

127

00:07:12,680 --> 00:07:14,980

that very same kind of faith.

128

00:07:14,980 --> 00:07:18,260

And we helped each
other to overcome.

129
00:07:18,260 --> 00:07:21,320
And what were the
moods and the crying

130
00:07:21,320 --> 00:07:25,060
and the difficulty coping like?

131
00:07:25,060 --> 00:07:27,280
Well it was very
difficult that we

132
00:07:27,280 --> 00:07:30,910
had no mommy with
whom we could discuss.

133
00:07:30,910 --> 00:07:36,670
In a simple way, even
our menstruation,

134
00:07:36,670 --> 00:07:40,840
our monthly period
did not return back

135
00:07:40,840 --> 00:07:44,680
yet because of the
starvation and the medication

136
00:07:44,680 --> 00:07:46,780
that we got in Germany.

137
00:07:46,780 --> 00:07:49,840
It would be lovely to
talk over with the mommy

138
00:07:49,840 --> 00:07:54,850
and to hear from a mother that
"don't worry" or "eventually

139
00:07:54,850 --> 00:07:56,830
it will happen,"
or that mommy would

140

00:07:56,830 --> 00:07:59,620

say, "let's go to a doctor."

141

00:07:59,620 --> 00:08:02,020

All we had to deal with--

142

00:08:02,020 --> 00:08:04,930

little and big

problems-- by ourselves,

143

00:08:04,930 --> 00:08:07,480

even though that we

had teachers and we

144

00:08:07,480 --> 00:08:13,960

had the mother of

the orphanage home.

145

00:08:13,960 --> 00:08:17,140

But it's not the same, like

talking with your own mother.

146

00:08:17,140 --> 00:08:19,480

So you were able to

talk to these people?

147

00:08:19,480 --> 00:08:20,357

We were able to.

148

00:08:20,357 --> 00:08:22,690

But it was not as helpful as

talking to your own mother.

149

00:08:22,690 --> 00:08:24,730

It was not as easy.

150

00:08:24,730 --> 00:08:26,050

Maybe helpful, it was.

151

00:08:26,050 --> 00:08:31,630

Because they did seek

out doctors to take us

152
00:08:31,630 --> 00:08:33,760
and have checkups
here and there.

153
00:08:33,760 --> 00:08:37,570
But it wasn't the same like
talking with your own mother.

154
00:08:37,570 --> 00:08:39,880
You are shy more.

155
00:08:39,880 --> 00:08:42,730
And there are certain
things that you were just

156
00:08:42,730 --> 00:08:44,530
keeping to yourself
and you wouldn't

157
00:08:44,530 --> 00:08:48,610
want to share even though they
were trying and very warm.

158
00:08:48,610 --> 00:08:52,930
But nevertheless,
it wasn't the same.

159
00:08:52,930 --> 00:08:55,930
So we were missing
family very much so.

160
00:08:55,930 --> 00:09:01,120
And in the light, that Budapest
family life more or less

161
00:09:01,120 --> 00:09:03,400
returned to normality.

162
00:09:03,400 --> 00:09:07,100
Of course, the ones who
remained there remained intact--

163

00:09:07,100 --> 00:09:08,680
the families.

164

00:09:08,680 --> 00:09:13,000
And to see that was a
contrast to the life

165

00:09:13,000 --> 00:09:16,120
that we maintained
in an orphanage home.

166

00:09:16,120 --> 00:09:20,230
But really, I have to praise--

167

00:09:20,230 --> 00:09:25,750
there were three teachers
besides this Esther Eckstein,

168

00:09:25,750 --> 00:09:29,680
whose name today
is Esther Weinberg.

169

00:09:29,680 --> 00:09:32,440
There were two other teachers.

170

00:09:32,440 --> 00:09:35,290
She recruited them.

171

00:09:35,290 --> 00:09:36,940
Very knowledgeable girls.

172

00:09:36,940 --> 00:09:39,490
And they all are still
alive, one of them

173

00:09:39,490 --> 00:09:41,200
in Brooklyn, New York.

174

00:09:41,200 --> 00:09:44,590
And the other one
is also in Israel.

175

00:09:44,590 --> 00:09:46,060
Do you have contact with them?

176

00:09:46,060 --> 00:09:48,160
I do have contact with them.

177

00:09:48,160 --> 00:09:54,670
And in many fact, this past
summer, I was in Israel.

178

00:09:54,670 --> 00:09:59,590
And Esther, who was the
head teacher and the head

179

00:09:59,590 --> 00:10:03,490
of this whole organization
of the orphanage home

180

00:10:03,490 --> 00:10:06,760
and looking after us--

181

00:10:06,760 --> 00:10:12,490
she organized a get-together
evening in honor of my visit

182

00:10:12,490 --> 00:10:13,850
to Israel.

183

00:10:13,850 --> 00:10:18,580
And it was very moving
because some, very few,

184

00:10:18,580 --> 00:10:24,970
who remain still from that
school, the orphanage home,

185

00:10:24,970 --> 00:10:27,700
came to greet me.

186

00:10:27,700 --> 00:10:34,360
And I am in very, very, very
strong contact with Esther,

187
00:10:34,360 --> 00:10:35,510
mainly.

188
00:10:35,510 --> 00:10:39,740
However, the other teacher,
Rachel, she was also there.

189
00:10:39,740 --> 00:10:45,430
And the third one,
Miriam Gross, she

190
00:10:45,430 --> 00:10:50,720
is less involved
with the group, if it

191
00:10:50,720 --> 00:10:56,480
has to do with it
that she moved away

192
00:10:56,480 --> 00:10:58,160
from the circle of the girls.

193
00:10:58,160 --> 00:11:01,700
The majority of the students
from that orphanage home

194
00:11:01,700 --> 00:11:04,100
are living in Israel.

195
00:11:04,100 --> 00:11:06,670
But I visit very often these.

196
00:11:06,670 --> 00:11:09,540
So I am in touch
with the teachers.

197
00:11:09,540 --> 00:11:14,090
And each time, a very
interesting reminder

198
00:11:14,090 --> 00:11:18,470

of the era that we all went
together after the war.

199
00:11:18,470 --> 00:11:26,610
And is it partly upsetting for
you to visit again with them?

200
00:11:26,610 --> 00:11:28,770
Really not.

201
00:11:28,770 --> 00:11:32,550
In many fact, as the
years are passing by,

202
00:11:32,550 --> 00:11:37,990
I am more and more
admiring their mission,

203
00:11:37,990 --> 00:11:43,170
their undertaking, and all the
effort and all the attention

204
00:11:43,170 --> 00:11:44,790
that they gave us.

205
00:11:44,790 --> 00:11:47,910
And for instance, I
remember that Esther

206
00:11:47,910 --> 00:11:50,880
went to a sewing
lady and ordered

207
00:11:50,880 --> 00:11:55,860
for all of us beautiful blouse
and beautiful skirt for one

208
00:11:55,860 --> 00:12:02,190
celebration to give back to
us the feeling of humanity,

209
00:12:02,190 --> 00:12:06,480
to feel good about

ourselves and to look good,

210

00:12:06,480 --> 00:12:08,090

which was very important.

211

00:12:08,090 --> 00:12:09,820

We had no clothing.

212

00:12:09,820 --> 00:12:12,780

We came back from the
concentration camp--

213

00:12:12,780 --> 00:12:18,450

in many fact, my winter coat
was a German soldier's army coat

214

00:12:18,450 --> 00:12:20,730

that I shortened.

215

00:12:20,730 --> 00:12:23,730

And somebody helped me to
change the buttons that I should

216

00:12:23,730 --> 00:12:25,630

feel a little bit better.

217

00:12:25,630 --> 00:12:27,210

And here was a woman--

218

00:12:27,210 --> 00:12:31,530

and you have to understand
at the time, the situation

219

00:12:31,530 --> 00:12:34,890

in Budapest was very
difficult. I mean,

220

00:12:34,890 --> 00:12:37,680

I'm talking about
time that it was still

221

00:12:37,680 --> 00:12:41,970

under a regime of
the Russian army.

222

00:12:41,970 --> 00:12:45,870

And people were standing
for bread in the street.

223

00:12:45,870 --> 00:12:48,610

Clothing was a rarity.

224

00:12:48,610 --> 00:12:56,210

So we didn't feel that outcast
with our poor clothing.

225

00:12:56,210 --> 00:13:02,690

And yet, she was driving and
doing everything to get for us

226

00:13:02,690 --> 00:13:06,060

some dresses, some
blouse, some skirt

227

00:13:06,060 --> 00:13:09,950

that we should be
looking more decent.

228

00:13:09,950 --> 00:13:12,980

Aside from standing
in line, were you

229

00:13:12,980 --> 00:13:17,450

aware of any abuses from
the Russian soldiers--

230

00:13:17,450 --> 00:13:19,100

personal abuses?

231

00:13:19,100 --> 00:13:20,570

I personally not.

232

00:13:20,570 --> 00:13:25,160

But on the train
traveling here and there,

233
00:13:25,160 --> 00:13:33,830
I used to see them seeking out
nice-looking girls and when

234
00:13:33,830 --> 00:13:39,110
the train stopped, stopping
these girls of continuing

235
00:13:39,110 --> 00:13:43,250
their trip and just grabbing
them and taking them down.

236
00:13:43,250 --> 00:13:45,260
And whatever they
did with them--

237
00:13:45,260 --> 00:13:47,570
that could be understood.

238
00:13:47,570 --> 00:13:50,540
Were you frightened to travel
by yourself on the train?

239
00:13:50,540 --> 00:13:51,470
Very much so.

240
00:13:51,470 --> 00:13:54,920
And I very rarely
traveled, if at all.

241
00:13:54,920 --> 00:13:59,630
I went on a trip I took once
with my aunt to Onod because--

242
00:13:59,630 --> 00:14:03,980
I don't know if I told you this,
that my mother, before we left,

243
00:14:03,980 --> 00:14:07,040
she hid some of
the family pictures

244

00:14:07,040 --> 00:14:11,270

and some silverware
by a Gentile lady.

245

00:14:11,270 --> 00:14:14,660

And my aunt wanted very
much that we should have

246

00:14:14,660 --> 00:14:18,750

some mementos from our parents.

247

00:14:18,750 --> 00:14:20,300

So we traveled together.

248

00:14:20,300 --> 00:14:23,390

And my aunt was putting
a babushka on me.

249

00:14:23,390 --> 00:14:25,980

I shouldn't look decent.

250

00:14:25,980 --> 00:14:30,410

I should look very
frightened and very skinny,

251

00:14:30,410 --> 00:14:32,780

which one I was
anyway, and very pale.

252

00:14:32,780 --> 00:14:35,390

253

00:14:35,390 --> 00:14:36,840

But she was protecting me.

254

00:14:36,840 --> 00:14:39,970

And I don't think that
ever I would travel

255

00:14:39,970 --> 00:14:42,970

by myself at all in those days.

256

00:14:42,970 --> 00:14:48,610

And when you had time
off from the orphanage,

257

00:14:48,610 --> 00:14:52,000

did you walk to your
aunt's by yourself?

258

00:14:52,000 --> 00:14:54,310

We would walk but never alone.

259

00:14:54,310 --> 00:14:55,240

Never alone.

260

00:14:55,240 --> 00:14:59,590

We would never walk alone
and never in the evening.

261

00:14:59,590 --> 00:15:02,470

It was mainly in the daytime.

262

00:15:02,470 --> 00:15:05,350

And luckily, it wasn't
too far from my Aunt.

263

00:15:05,350 --> 00:15:10,600

But if I visited my aunt, I
would always watch my watch

264

00:15:10,600 --> 00:15:15,700

that if it's starting in
winter a little bit to be dark,

265

00:15:15,700 --> 00:15:18,740

we would be already going
heading back to the orphanage.

266

00:15:18,740 --> 00:15:20,140

So you were very cautious?

267

00:15:20,140 --> 00:15:21,370

Very cautious, yes.

268

00:15:21,370 --> 00:15:24,970

And when you went back
to Onod with your aunt

269

00:15:24,970 --> 00:15:29,510

to see if you could find
the mementos, what happened?

270

00:15:29,510 --> 00:15:34,220

When we went back to Onod to
find the mementos, we came in--

271

00:15:34,220 --> 00:15:37,280

and she was a neighbor
of us-- and she

272

00:15:37,280 --> 00:15:39,830

greeted us very friendly.

273

00:15:39,830 --> 00:15:45,770

And when my aunt said,
"You know my sister, who

274

00:15:45,770 --> 00:15:50,030

you loved and loved
you, she left with you

275

00:15:50,030 --> 00:15:53,300

a few very important items.

276

00:15:53,300 --> 00:15:56,750

Would you be able
to give it back?

277

00:15:56,750 --> 00:15:59,390

This is a child that survived."

278

00:15:59,390 --> 00:16:03,720

My sister was in a sanatorium
so she couldn't travel with us.

279

00:16:03,720 --> 00:16:05,510
She wasn't well yet.

280
00:16:05,510 --> 00:16:10,910
And she said, "Well,
I am very sorry.

281
00:16:10,910 --> 00:16:13,580
I know she gave me
a lot of things,

282
00:16:13,580 --> 00:16:16,250
and I was very happy
to do that for her.

283
00:16:16,250 --> 00:16:19,100
But the Russian
army passed by here,

284
00:16:19,100 --> 00:16:22,220
and they came into the houses
and they emptied everything.

285
00:16:22,220 --> 00:16:24,210
And they took."

286
00:16:24,210 --> 00:16:26,870
Somehow, looking
around it didn't

287
00:16:26,870 --> 00:16:32,900
seem like the house was
robbed by the Russian army

288
00:16:32,900 --> 00:16:35,520
or anything was
emptied from there.

289
00:16:35,520 --> 00:16:38,330
So my aunt told her,
"We're very thirsty.

290
00:16:38,330 --> 00:16:41,150

Would you go out and
fetch some water?"

291
00:16:41,150 --> 00:16:45,200
Because there were no faucets
inside in those days yet.

292
00:16:45,200 --> 00:16:48,680
We are talking about 1945.

293
00:16:48,680 --> 00:16:53,480
And she went out to pump
some water from the well.

294
00:16:53,480 --> 00:16:58,040
While she was gone, my aunt
went and opened up her drawer.

295
00:16:58,040 --> 00:17:00,620
And lo and behold, there it was.

296
00:17:00,620 --> 00:17:03,260
And then she came
back, she was white.

297
00:17:03,260 --> 00:17:06,230
And she said, "Oh, gee!

298
00:17:06,230 --> 00:17:09,970
I really didn't know that
the things remained."

299
00:17:09,970 --> 00:17:11,718
So your aunt showed
her that she had

300
00:17:11,718 --> 00:17:13,010
found the things in the drawer?

301
00:17:13,010 --> 00:17:13,609
Yes.

302

00:17:13,609 --> 00:17:14,150
Yes.

303
00:17:14,150 --> 00:17:15,560
She found the things.

304
00:17:15,560 --> 00:17:19,609
And she said, "Oh, I am so
happy that you did find it."

305
00:17:19,609 --> 00:17:20,839
OK.

306
00:17:20,839 --> 00:17:24,589
If it was really
true that she didn't

307
00:17:24,589 --> 00:17:28,369
know that it wasn't emptied
or the drawers or it

308
00:17:28,369 --> 00:17:30,320
wasn't at all.

309
00:17:30,320 --> 00:17:32,180
In any rate, we got it back.

310
00:17:32,180 --> 00:17:36,290
And that's how I have some
pictures of my family.

311
00:17:36,290 --> 00:17:37,760
How did that feel?

312
00:17:37,760 --> 00:17:40,310
It was very, very moving.

313
00:17:40,310 --> 00:17:44,150
Very moving moment to
see my parents again,

314
00:17:44,150 --> 00:17:46,350

even if it's not their life.

315

00:17:46,350 --> 00:17:54,020

But before I thought to myself,
no cemetery and no anything

316

00:17:54,020 --> 00:17:57,260

to remind my parents at all.

317

00:17:57,260 --> 00:17:58,670

And here I am looking.

318

00:17:58,670 --> 00:18:02,120

And I am seeing my
beautiful father and mother

319

00:18:02,120 --> 00:18:03,110

and my brother.

320

00:18:03,110 --> 00:18:06,740

It was a very great moment.

321

00:18:06,740 --> 00:18:09,350

And each time I'm
taking out the picture,

322

00:18:09,350 --> 00:18:11,480

I feel like I am close to them.

323

00:18:11,480 --> 00:18:18,450

How did it feel that the
woman planned to deprive you

324

00:18:18,450 --> 00:18:20,255

of retrieving that?

325

00:18:20,255 --> 00:18:24,830

Well at that moment, I felt
a little bit angry at her.

326

00:18:24,830 --> 00:18:30,620

And I felt if she could

keep the silverware--

327
00:18:30,620 --> 00:18:31,820
but pictures?

328
00:18:31,820 --> 00:18:35,780
If she wanted to have the
silverware because she

329
00:18:35,780 --> 00:18:39,410
needed money, wanting.

330
00:18:39,410 --> 00:18:41,690
But at least the pictures!

331
00:18:41,690 --> 00:18:44,910
And that, somehow, I
couldn't grasp it--

332
00:18:44,910 --> 00:18:50,000
that why would the Russian
army take pictures?

333
00:18:50,000 --> 00:18:55,280
I do know that they took
usually watches or jewelry

334
00:18:55,280 --> 00:18:56,900
that they were looking for.

335
00:18:56,900 --> 00:18:59,450
But the picture
somehow, I couldn't.

336
00:18:59,450 --> 00:19:01,940
But I think that
she felt, if she's

337
00:19:01,940 --> 00:19:04,070
looking in the drawer
for the pictures,

338

00:19:04,070 --> 00:19:06,480
maybe other things will come up.

339
00:19:06,480 --> 00:19:08,570
I really can't
figure out exactly.

340
00:19:08,570 --> 00:19:09,700
I don't want to accuse.

341
00:19:09,700 --> 00:19:13,490

342
00:19:13,490 --> 00:19:17,210
I felt at that moment
that the whole world

343
00:19:17,210 --> 00:19:20,240
changed, apparently.

344
00:19:20,240 --> 00:19:24,080
That the people who have
been very friendly and very

345
00:19:24,080 --> 00:19:25,760
helpful--

346
00:19:25,760 --> 00:19:28,380
not once they used
to come and shovel

347
00:19:28,380 --> 00:19:31,220
our snow because
the snow was so high

348
00:19:31,220 --> 00:19:33,830
they couldn't open our door.

349
00:19:33,830 --> 00:19:39,380
And we would go and help them
in any kind of situation,

350

00:19:39,380 --> 00:19:43,280
especially my mother, who
was the midwife of the town,

351
00:19:43,280 --> 00:19:44,360
so to say.

352
00:19:44,360 --> 00:19:47,620
Anywhere that the child was
born, my mother was there.

353
00:19:47,620 --> 00:19:52,520
It didn't matter if Jewish
or not Jewish, poor or rich.

354
00:19:52,520 --> 00:19:54,560
She would go and help.

355
00:19:54,560 --> 00:19:57,500
Warm water, bathe the baby.

356
00:19:57,500 --> 00:20:00,770
Cook a meal for the mother
after the childbirth.

357
00:20:00,770 --> 00:20:07,040
And here we are coming back,
and they are so cold, so to say.

358
00:20:07,040 --> 00:20:10,820
And this was a woman that your
mother had selected as someone

359
00:20:10,820 --> 00:20:12,380
that she could trust?

360
00:20:12,380 --> 00:20:13,310
Yeah.

361
00:20:13,310 --> 00:20:14,270
Yeah.

362

00:20:14,270 --> 00:20:16,190
So it's hard to know.

363
00:20:16,190 --> 00:20:19,520
It puzzles me sometimes.

364
00:20:19,520 --> 00:20:22,970
But having the
nature that I don't

365
00:20:22,970 --> 00:20:26,810
want to hate people
or be angry at people,

366
00:20:26,810 --> 00:20:30,530
perhaps she wanted really
to keep those things.

367
00:20:30,530 --> 00:20:31,610
It's possible.

368
00:20:31,610 --> 00:20:32,480
You never know.

369
00:20:32,480 --> 00:20:35,140

370
00:20:35,140 --> 00:20:38,770
So from that, then we
went back to Budapest.

371
00:20:38,770 --> 00:20:43,240
And I remained in that
orphanage home almost

372
00:20:43,240 --> 00:20:50,790
the whole year, from September
1945 to about May '46.

373
00:20:50,790 --> 00:20:54,600
Now Esther was in a
sanatorium all that time?

374

00:20:54,600 --> 00:20:55,850

Most of the time.

375

00:20:55,850 --> 00:21:05,690

After about in January

1946, she was let out

376

00:21:05,690 --> 00:21:07,580

from the sanatorium.

377

00:21:07,580 --> 00:21:11,600

She got the OK from the

doctors that she recuperated.

378

00:21:11,600 --> 00:21:14,030

And she joined us in

that orphanage home.

379

00:21:14,030 --> 00:21:17,870

So I do have some

pictures of celebration

380

00:21:17,870 --> 00:21:21,500

that we are together already

in the orphanage home.

381

00:21:21,500 --> 00:21:23,450

Now where were the

Solomon sisters

382

00:21:23,450 --> 00:21:26,270

that you were with earlier?

383

00:21:26,270 --> 00:21:30,800

The Solomon sisters,

they went back to Onod.

384

00:21:30,800 --> 00:21:33,320

They did find their little home.

385

00:21:33,320 --> 00:21:42,080

And they were somehow not afraid

of living in the home town.

386

00:21:42,080 --> 00:21:45,590

One of them who was
married found her husband.

387

00:21:45,590 --> 00:21:46,980

He came back.

388

00:21:46,980 --> 00:21:49,610

So there was a man
protecting them.

389

00:21:49,610 --> 00:21:53,810

It was a very different
kind of situation.

390

00:21:53,810 --> 00:21:57,920

They lived together, the husband
and the wife and the sister.

391

00:21:57,920 --> 00:22:01,230

And eventually, after a very
short time being in Onod,

392

00:22:01,230 --> 00:22:04,790

they moved into a bigger city
called Miskolc, which one

393

00:22:04,790 --> 00:22:08,270

is the nearest city to Onod.

394

00:22:08,270 --> 00:22:11,660

And there were already
many Jewish people

395

00:22:11,660 --> 00:22:16,550

who either came back and
found someone of the family

396

00:22:16,550 --> 00:22:20,900

or they established
again a family life.

397

00:22:20,900 --> 00:22:23,690

Some people got married
a couple of months

398

00:22:23,690 --> 00:22:27,290

after the Holocaust who
were at the age of marriage

399

00:22:27,290 --> 00:22:33,410

and who wanted to have some kind
of family life, a home life.

400

00:22:33,410 --> 00:22:39,170

So in Miskolc, there was already
a fairly dynamic Jewish life

401

00:22:39,170 --> 00:22:40,400

again.

402

00:22:40,400 --> 00:22:41,940

They established school.

403

00:22:41,940 --> 00:22:43,970

They had the temple.

404

00:22:43,970 --> 00:22:46,220

They had a visiting
rabbi coming.

405

00:22:46,220 --> 00:22:49,140

406

00:22:49,140 --> 00:22:53,490

I never participated in
any of the activities

407

00:22:53,490 --> 00:22:55,840

there because I was in Budapest.

408

00:22:55,840 --> 00:23:00,210

But even until today,

there are a few families

409

00:23:00,210 --> 00:23:05,460

who are in Miskolc who happen
to be from Onod and survivors.

410

00:23:05,460 --> 00:23:09,090

And they still have a temple.

411

00:23:09,090 --> 00:23:12,840

I don't think that they have
any Jewish schools now anymore

412

00:23:12,840 --> 00:23:14,100

there.

413

00:23:14,100 --> 00:23:19,350

In the previous interview, you
talked some about your faith.

414

00:23:19,350 --> 00:23:25,500

What was your religious life
like at this point in Budapest?

415

00:23:25,500 --> 00:23:33,750

In Budapest, this orphanage home
was an orthodox religious home.

416

00:23:33,750 --> 00:23:38,910

We had been conducting
the same type of life

417

00:23:38,910 --> 00:23:41,990

that I was brought up at home--

418

00:23:41,990 --> 00:23:46,340

praying and blessing
over the bread

419

00:23:46,340 --> 00:23:56,378

and dressed according to
the code of the religion.

420

00:23:56,378 --> 00:23:59,290

It was more or less
the very same one.

421

00:23:59,290 --> 00:24:03,450

And it's really
amazing because a lot

422

00:24:03,450 --> 00:24:10,650

of people who survived they, so
to say, turned away from God.

423

00:24:10,650 --> 00:24:15,870

And as the head of
Yeshiva University,

424

00:24:15,870 --> 00:24:19,350

Dr. Lamm-- once I had a
very interesting discussion

425

00:24:19,350 --> 00:24:20,220

with him.

426

00:24:20,220 --> 00:24:23,460

And he said to me,
"Jaffa, I am not

427

00:24:23,460 --> 00:24:28,800

surprised the ones who turned
away after the Holocaust.

428

00:24:28,800 --> 00:24:32,340

To me, is the most surprising
the ones who remain

429

00:24:32,340 --> 00:24:35,760

so faithful, such as
you," he says to me.

430

00:24:35,760 --> 00:24:41,220

And many of them who really
completely turned away

431

00:24:41,220 --> 00:24:48,970
eventually recovered from the
traumatic kind of experience

432

00:24:48,970 --> 00:24:52,390
and slowly came back
to the realization

433

00:24:52,390 --> 00:24:57,010
that even though this
terrible thing happened, still

434

00:24:57,010 --> 00:24:58,570
there is God.

435

00:24:58,570 --> 00:25:02,590
It could be for some kind
of reason He turned away

436

00:25:02,590 --> 00:25:05,650
or He let things to
happen in the world.

437

00:25:05,650 --> 00:25:10,690
But definitely there is a God.

438

00:25:10,690 --> 00:25:14,620
Unfortunately, a lot of people
just can't cope with it,

439

00:25:14,620 --> 00:25:21,070
and they have so much anger and
so much disappointment in God

440

00:25:21,070 --> 00:25:24,280
that they can't
return back again.

441

00:25:24,280 --> 00:25:27,400
I feel very lucky
and very fortunate

442

00:25:27,400 --> 00:25:31,600
that it did not affect
me, and I remained

443
00:25:31,600 --> 00:25:37,040
the same faithful person that
my parents brought me up.

444
00:25:37,040 --> 00:25:43,370
And I pity the ones who can't
recognize the hand of God,

445
00:25:43,370 --> 00:25:48,500
because I think that it
gives me a certain strength.

446
00:25:48,500 --> 00:25:52,550
In my whole life, if it
has to do with coping what

447
00:25:52,550 --> 00:25:57,830
I went through or
our daily life today.

448
00:25:57,830 --> 00:26:01,670
To see the creation
and not to believe

449
00:26:01,670 --> 00:26:04,620
that it was created by God.

450
00:26:04,620 --> 00:26:07,350
To see a beautiful
day like today--

451
00:26:07,350 --> 00:26:13,100
the sun is shining,
the renewing of nature.

452
00:26:13,100 --> 00:26:14,770
How all this is taking place?

453
00:26:14,770 --> 00:26:18,560

Yeah, science has to do with
it, but definitely, above all

454
00:26:18,560 --> 00:26:19,700
is God.

455
00:26:19,700 --> 00:26:24,480
And I pity the ones who can't
see and recognize His presence.

456
00:26:24,480 --> 00:26:29,220
And so how do you explain
to yourself the Holocaust

457
00:26:29,220 --> 00:26:32,200
and how that could
have happened?

458
00:26:32,200 --> 00:26:34,540
You are asking me a
very difficult question

459
00:26:34,540 --> 00:26:42,410
because I am all the time
trying to ask that to myself--

460
00:26:42,410 --> 00:26:48,190
this tremendous,
puzzling question.

461
00:26:48,190 --> 00:26:53,080
Why it took place and why
I had to lose my parents

462
00:26:53,080 --> 00:26:56,020
and why six million
Jews and so many

463
00:26:56,020 --> 00:27:00,520
Gentiles and so many
Gypsies, who were innocent.

464
00:27:00,520 --> 00:27:05,470

And mainly, the most hurting
and most painful for me

465
00:27:05,470 --> 00:27:09,910
is whenever I think of that one
and a half million children who

466
00:27:09,910 --> 00:27:11,860
were completely innocent.

467
00:27:11,860 --> 00:27:14,830
Even if we want to
blame or we want

468
00:27:14,830 --> 00:27:23,260
to put any kind of pressure
on people or to say

469
00:27:23,260 --> 00:27:25,570
it came to them because
they did something.

470
00:27:25,570 --> 00:27:26,740
But why the children?

471
00:27:26,740 --> 00:27:28,300
They were innocent.

472
00:27:28,300 --> 00:27:29,920
So that's the most puzzling.

473
00:27:29,920 --> 00:27:32,440
And the only way
that I can-- it's

474
00:27:32,440 --> 00:27:36,310
above my human understanding.

475
00:27:36,310 --> 00:27:41,810
Because there is no
explanation for it.

476

00:27:41,810 --> 00:27:47,780
The greatest nation, the most
culture, the most educated

477
00:27:47,780 --> 00:27:50,910
people were the Germans.

478
00:27:50,910 --> 00:27:59,390
The people of science, the
people of so many good things.

479
00:27:59,390 --> 00:28:00,040
Music.

480
00:28:00,040 --> 00:28:01,100
You name it.

481
00:28:01,100 --> 00:28:02,720
They really knew.

482
00:28:02,720 --> 00:28:06,290
And that they could go
there, to such a level

483
00:28:06,290 --> 00:28:11,120
and to be so cruel and so
systematically and in so

484
00:28:11,120 --> 00:28:16,740
organized a way to kill
out so many people--

485
00:28:16,740 --> 00:28:20,650
it's behind my
human understanding.

486
00:28:20,650 --> 00:28:25,890
And I feel that
it's for me the best

487
00:28:25,890 --> 00:28:28,950
answer, that there are things--

488

00:28:28,950 --> 00:28:31,770

and we have a great
sage whose name

489

00:28:31,770 --> 00:28:36,390

is Rambam, one of our
great scholars in Judaism,

490

00:28:36,390 --> 00:28:41,430

who said that you are allowed
to search the ways of God.

491

00:28:41,430 --> 00:28:43,800

But when there is
no answer, that

492

00:28:43,800 --> 00:28:48,510

means that it's above a
human ability to understand.

493

00:28:48,510 --> 00:28:52,800

And I can cope with that answer.

494

00:28:52,800 --> 00:28:55,080

I don't buy any kind of answer--

495

00:28:55,080 --> 00:29:04,310

that they were mad or
that they killed the Jews

496

00:29:04,310 --> 00:29:06,560

because the Jews were
rich and all kinds

497

00:29:06,560 --> 00:29:07,790

of other explanations.

498

00:29:07,790 --> 00:29:09,740

They took away their jobs.

499

00:29:09,740 --> 00:29:13,700

There is no

justification whatsoever

500

00:29:13,700 --> 00:29:21,460

to kill so many million
people in such a cruel way.

501

00:29:21,460 --> 00:29:26,180

Except this is one of the
things that we don't understand.

502

00:29:26,180 --> 00:29:30,590

503

00:29:30,590 --> 00:29:34,820

So your very strong faith
continued throughout.

504

00:29:34,820 --> 00:29:37,820

I think so, that that
helped me all the time.

505

00:29:37,820 --> 00:29:40,660

506

00:29:40,660 --> 00:29:47,200

Wherever I have been, I always
felt the presence of God

507

00:29:47,200 --> 00:29:50,560

or the miracles that happened
to me during the Holocaust

508

00:29:50,560 --> 00:29:53,460

and after.

509

00:29:53,460 --> 00:29:58,080

I feel that He was
watching over me, for sure.

510

00:29:58,080 --> 00:30:01,330

We all survivors have
that kind of question--

511

00:30:01,330 --> 00:30:03,810

why me and not others?

512

00:30:03,810 --> 00:30:09,550

And it's not always the easiest
thing to live with that kind.

513

00:30:09,550 --> 00:30:12,510

But you have to believe
that there probably

514

00:30:12,510 --> 00:30:18,120

is a special reason why
some of us and so few of us

515

00:30:18,120 --> 00:30:20,430

remained from the Holocaust.

516

00:30:20,430 --> 00:30:23,910

Perhaps to tell the story.

517

00:30:23,910 --> 00:30:27,820

To teach people
that we care for--

518

00:30:27,820 --> 00:30:31,910

when you are angry,
you have to calm down.

519

00:30:31,910 --> 00:30:33,950

It's a lesson.

520

00:30:33,950 --> 00:30:36,760

The Holocaust, if
it's not really

521

00:30:36,760 --> 00:30:39,910

taken as a lesson for humanity--

522

00:30:39,910 --> 00:30:45,130

to be careful and to know how to
conduct yourself in daily life,

523
00:30:45,130 --> 00:30:47,870
too, with your neighbors,
with your friends,

524
00:30:47,870 --> 00:30:49,300
with your family--

525
00:30:49,300 --> 00:30:51,790
then the Holocaust was in vain.

526
00:30:51,790 --> 00:30:56,020
At least if you learn
from it and we better

527
00:30:56,020 --> 00:31:00,700
our way of life and the whole
humanity is learning from it,

528
00:31:00,700 --> 00:31:03,850
then at least it wasn't
completely in vain.

529
00:31:03,850 --> 00:31:09,590
Otherwise, why so
many people went?

530
00:31:09,590 --> 00:31:12,300
So that's part of what
we're doing today.

531
00:31:12,300 --> 00:31:12,800
Yeah.

532
00:31:12,800 --> 00:31:16,860

533
00:31:16,860 --> 00:31:23,600
So you were in the orphanage
until about May of '46?

534
00:31:23,600 --> 00:31:27,860

Until about end
of April, I think.

535
00:31:27,860 --> 00:31:29,630
It was very interesting.

536
00:31:29,630 --> 00:31:34,720
In many fact, I was already
teaching a little bit,

537
00:31:34,720 --> 00:31:37,380
even though I was 14 years old.

538
00:31:37,380 --> 00:31:41,310
About what I learned, I was
teaching to younger children.

539
00:31:41,310 --> 00:31:42,510
Who were in the orphanage?

540
00:31:42,510 --> 00:31:44,280
In the orphanage home, yes.

541
00:31:44,280 --> 00:31:46,830
What subjects were you teaching?

542
00:31:46,830 --> 00:31:47,940
All kind of subjects.

543
00:31:47,940 --> 00:31:49,710
Mainly math.

544
00:31:49,710 --> 00:31:54,420
From childhood, I was a
very good student in math.

545
00:31:54,420 --> 00:31:58,920
I remember in my hometown,
the mayor's daughter,

546
00:31:58,920 --> 00:32:04,530
who had difficulty in math, I

used to teach her privately.

547

00:32:04,530 --> 00:32:07,330

I must have been
maybe 10 years old.

548

00:32:07,330 --> 00:32:12,790

It just so happened that
that was my best subject.

549

00:32:12,790 --> 00:32:15,330

So I was teaching to
the younger group.

550

00:32:15,330 --> 00:32:24,490

And then one evening, they
gathered us in our social hall,

551

00:32:24,490 --> 00:32:30,910

and they said that there
is an organized group that

552

00:32:30,910 --> 00:32:33,600

is going to Palestine.

553

00:32:33,600 --> 00:32:35,970

And who would like to join?

554

00:32:35,970 --> 00:32:38,880

And they told us that
it's a difficult journey

555

00:32:38,880 --> 00:32:41,690

because it's not legal.

556

00:32:41,690 --> 00:32:44,920

557

00:32:44,920 --> 00:32:49,360

British people don't want Jewish
people to come to Palestine.

558

00:32:49,360 --> 00:32:52,930

But we are going to
organize and there you

559

00:32:52,930 --> 00:32:57,460

will be put into schools
and in orphanage home.

560

00:32:57,460 --> 00:33:01,630

And it was something that
appealed very much to us.

561

00:33:01,630 --> 00:33:04,360

You have to understand
that wherever we turned,

562

00:33:04,360 --> 00:33:09,760

it reminded us-- the
hostility and the abandonment

563

00:33:09,760 --> 00:33:13,540

and the coldness and
the cruelty of people.

564

00:33:13,540 --> 00:33:16,480

How did they let
all this to happen?

565

00:33:16,480 --> 00:33:19,480

Why didn't they try to hide us?

566

00:33:19,480 --> 00:33:26,040

Why didn't they try to go
against the German regime?

567

00:33:26,040 --> 00:33:28,980

Why didn't they try
to fight for us?

568

00:33:28,980 --> 00:33:32,760

So we were not happy
to be in Europe.

569

00:33:32,760 --> 00:33:35,160

We wanted to get
away from there.

570

00:33:35,160 --> 00:33:38,540

It reminded us too much,
wherever we turned.

571

00:33:38,540 --> 00:33:42,040

I remember going in the
street and suddenly crying.

572

00:33:42,040 --> 00:33:42,540

Why?

573

00:33:42,540 --> 00:33:45,960

Because I remember that the
last time I was in Budapest,

574

00:33:45,960 --> 00:33:49,380

it was when my father and
mother took me to the big zoo.

575

00:33:49,380 --> 00:33:50,820

For instance.

576

00:33:50,820 --> 00:33:57,060

So in a way, we were happy
because we had clothing.

577

00:33:57,060 --> 00:33:58,720

We had food.

578

00:33:58,720 --> 00:33:59,880

We had good friends.

579

00:33:59,880 --> 00:34:01,500

We have been in school.

580

00:34:01,500 --> 00:34:06,120

But everything reminded
us of the tragedy

581

00:34:06,120 --> 00:34:08,310
that happened to our nation.

582

00:34:08,310 --> 00:34:11,290
And we were anxious to leave.

583

00:34:11,290 --> 00:34:15,090
So when this came, that
we can go to Palestine,

584

00:34:15,090 --> 00:34:17,900
we were very happy.

585

00:34:17,900 --> 00:34:20,380
And they organized
and they prepared us

586

00:34:20,380 --> 00:34:22,719
that it won't be easy journey.

587

00:34:22,719 --> 00:34:27,830
We will have to go through
borders from Hungary

588

00:34:27,830 --> 00:34:30,290
to Romania in the night.

589

00:34:30,290 --> 00:34:32,480
And we will have to hide.

590

00:34:32,480 --> 00:34:38,560
And they are going to try to
get a boat from Costanta--

591

00:34:38,560 --> 00:34:41,199
that's the port
city of Romania--

592

00:34:41,199 --> 00:34:43,510
and from there, to go to Israel.

593

00:34:43,510 --> 00:34:45,400
And we joined that.

594
00:34:45,400 --> 00:34:47,710
Now who was
organizing this group?

595
00:34:47,710 --> 00:34:52,510
It was a Zionist group
organizing this group.

596
00:34:52,510 --> 00:34:54,380
Based where?

597
00:34:54,380 --> 00:34:55,600
In Budapest.

598
00:34:55,600 --> 00:34:57,640
The group was based in Budapest?

599
00:34:57,640 --> 00:35:00,520
And they wanted to
help children get to--

600
00:35:00,520 --> 00:35:01,420
Get to Palestine.

601
00:35:01,420 --> 00:35:06,050
They knew that,
emotionally, it would

602
00:35:06,050 --> 00:35:09,200
be the best for
the children to be

603
00:35:09,200 --> 00:35:15,020
away from all the environment
that reminds them constantly

604
00:35:15,020 --> 00:35:16,940
of what took place.

605

00:35:16,940 --> 00:35:21,350

So to go to a new country
where most of the year

606

00:35:21,350 --> 00:35:24,800

is spring or summer, that alone.

607

00:35:24,800 --> 00:35:28,810

Being more free.

608

00:35:28,810 --> 00:35:31,090

And the group was going
to be all children?

609

00:35:31,090 --> 00:35:34,690

The group was mainly
children or young people.

610

00:35:34,690 --> 00:35:37,270

The elderly people,
they were sick.

611

00:35:37,270 --> 00:35:41,340

Very few remained
except in Budapest.

612

00:35:41,340 --> 00:35:45,400

No elderly people came back
from the concentration camp.

613

00:35:45,400 --> 00:35:47,880

So they organized this trip.

614

00:35:47,880 --> 00:35:53,970

And I remember we were taking
very few items with us--

615

00:35:53,970 --> 00:35:58,470

we didn't have too much
anyway, but because we

616

00:35:58,470 --> 00:36:01,770

had to be in a truck.

617
00:36:01,770 --> 00:36:03,780
They put some
benches on a truck.

618
00:36:03,780 --> 00:36:07,850
They clothed the
truck with blankets.

619
00:36:07,850 --> 00:36:12,050
And during the night, we
went through the border.

620
00:36:12,050 --> 00:36:15,590
I really don't know how they
arranged this with the Romanian

621
00:36:15,590 --> 00:36:20,030
government that they closed
their eyes, so to say,

622
00:36:20,030 --> 00:36:23,580
that these refugees are
going through the border.

623
00:36:23,580 --> 00:36:27,110
And we were stranded
then in Bucharest,

624
00:36:27,110 --> 00:36:32,210
which is the capital of
Romania, for about six weeks,

625
00:36:32,210 --> 00:36:36,530
also in a Jewish organized home.

626
00:36:36,530 --> 00:36:38,900
Again, just girls together.

627
00:36:38,900 --> 00:36:41,330
And our teachers were with us.

628

00:36:41,330 --> 00:36:44,390

We continued--
even on the truck,

629

00:36:44,390 --> 00:36:46,560

we were continuing learning.

630

00:36:46,560 --> 00:36:51,590

They were very much to
that the kids should not

631

00:36:51,590 --> 00:36:56,150

suffer any lack of education,
that all what has been deprived

632

00:36:56,150 --> 00:37:01,070

from us during the year or some
who were longer in the camp

633

00:37:01,070 --> 00:37:07,970

that it should be now given back
to them and to educate again.

634

00:37:07,970 --> 00:37:11,420

In a way, also, to be busy
with knowledge instead

635

00:37:11,420 --> 00:37:14,600

of too much time of thinking.

636

00:37:14,600 --> 00:37:16,936

We have to stop
to turn the tape.

637

00:37:16,936 --> 00:37:17,436

OK.

638

00:37:17,436 --> 00:37:23,840

639

00:37:23,840 --> 00:37:25,460

Jaffa Munk.

640

00:37:25,460 --> 00:37:29,090

March 11, 1997.

641

00:37:29,090 --> 00:37:33,490

Tape one, side B.

You were talking

642

00:37:33,490 --> 00:37:38,050

about stopping in Bucharest

for six weeks on that trip

643

00:37:38,050 --> 00:37:42,490

and how the lessons

continued during the trip.

644

00:37:42,490 --> 00:37:43,450

Yes.

645

00:37:43,450 --> 00:37:47,200

We have been

stranded in Bucharest

646

00:37:47,200 --> 00:37:54,220

because dealing with the boat

company, with the ship company,

647

00:37:54,220 --> 00:37:58,060

took a long time 'til they

organized, 'til they purchased

648

00:37:58,060 --> 00:38:01,390

the boat, 'til they

find a person who

649

00:38:01,390 --> 00:38:05,500

was ready to maintain

the boat and take

650

00:38:05,500 --> 00:38:08,440

the group to Palestine.

651

00:38:08,440 --> 00:38:09,670

How many were in the group?

652

00:38:09,670 --> 00:38:13,440

We were 1,800.

653

00:38:13,440 --> 00:38:18,750

Half of it or the
majority of it were girls.

654

00:38:18,750 --> 00:38:22,180

And the other group was boys.

655

00:38:22,180 --> 00:38:25,270

We joined together with
the other orphanage

656

00:38:25,270 --> 00:38:28,150

home, which one was boys' home.

657

00:38:28,150 --> 00:38:32,190

And they were
outskirt of Bucharest,

658

00:38:32,190 --> 00:38:35,850

in a little city put up.

659

00:38:35,850 --> 00:38:40,560

And after six weeks of
living in Bucharest,

660

00:38:40,560 --> 00:38:43,740

where we constantly
continue to learn

661

00:38:43,740 --> 00:38:46,410

and they all the
time looked for it

662

00:38:46,410 --> 00:38:52,020

that life should be as
normal as is possible for us,

663

00:38:52,020 --> 00:38:55,080

we were told one
day that at last we

664

00:38:55,080 --> 00:39:01,650

are going to the port city, and
we are going to board the ship.

665

00:39:01,650 --> 00:39:07,080

I can't tell you how
joyful it was for us.

666

00:39:07,080 --> 00:39:11,670

We were looking forward
of leaving Europe.

667

00:39:11,670 --> 00:39:14,790

Not knowing where we
really will be going

668

00:39:14,790 --> 00:39:19,800

and how good it will be or how
bad it will be, how difficult

669

00:39:19,800 --> 00:39:21,510

or what is waiting for us.

670

00:39:21,510 --> 00:39:24,450

Did you have some
imaginings of what it might

671

00:39:24,450 --> 00:39:27,180

be like in Israel for you?

672

00:39:27,180 --> 00:39:28,350

Very little.

673

00:39:28,350 --> 00:39:31,200

Except I had an uncle
who lived in Jerusalem

674

00:39:31,200 --> 00:39:38,670

and who during the war, when we

were still at home in Hungary,

675

00:39:38,670 --> 00:39:42,030
in Onod, he used to write to us.

676

00:39:42,030 --> 00:39:46,470
And he would describe the
mountains of Jerusalem,

677

00:39:46,470 --> 00:39:49,770
the beauty of the country.

678

00:39:49,770 --> 00:39:52,680
So we had a little
bit of desire.

679

00:39:52,680 --> 00:39:58,290
Also they were teaching us in
the school songs about Israel.

680

00:39:58,290 --> 00:40:02,040
Or they would be telling us
stories about the prophets that

681

00:40:02,040 --> 00:40:06,150
used to walk in the
streets of Jerusalem

682

00:40:06,150 --> 00:40:09,840
or the temple that was in
existence once upon a time

683

00:40:09,840 --> 00:40:12,300
and there is the remaining wall.

684

00:40:12,300 --> 00:40:16,390
So a little bit of a taste or a
little bit of understanding we

685

00:40:16,390 --> 00:40:16,890
had.

686

00:40:16,890 --> 00:40:20,970

However, I wouldn't
say that we were

687

00:40:20,970 --> 00:40:24,030

very knowledgeable about
what life is there.

688

00:40:24,030 --> 00:40:26,280

Nevertheless, we
had understanding

689

00:40:26,280 --> 00:40:31,560

that the Jewish people who
were present at that time

690

00:40:31,560 --> 00:40:34,530

in Palestine, which
one is called today,

691

00:40:34,530 --> 00:40:40,890

is that they were seeking the
Britons to leave the country.

692

00:40:40,890 --> 00:40:43,890

And that there is
conflict there.

693

00:40:43,890 --> 00:40:45,970

Because I don't think
that at that point

694

00:40:45,970 --> 00:40:48,660

we wanted to go
to anywhere where

695

00:40:48,660 --> 00:40:52,830

life would be a conflict
again or war again

696

00:40:52,830 --> 00:40:55,940

or hostility again.

697

00:40:55,940 --> 00:41:00,380

What we wanted is
to be just in nature

698

00:41:00,380 --> 00:41:05,360

and to see positive
things, to see peacefulness

699

00:41:05,360 --> 00:41:07,310

among people and love.

700

00:41:07,310 --> 00:41:10,130

Mainly really, what
we seeking for,

701

00:41:10,130 --> 00:41:16,580

it was to see that people love
each other, because a lot of us

702

00:41:16,580 --> 00:41:20,600

lost that faith that
people can still love

703

00:41:20,600 --> 00:41:23,630

and that people care
for each other--

704

00:41:23,630 --> 00:41:27,560

except the unitedness
of our people,

705

00:41:27,560 --> 00:41:33,810

here and there, and help
during or after the Holocaust.

706

00:41:33,810 --> 00:41:38,010

That boat was waiting
for us at that port.

707

00:41:38,010 --> 00:41:47,770

And 1,800 people in a big
ship, which one actually

708

00:41:47,770 --> 00:41:51,520
wasn't a ship for
transporting human beings.

709
00:41:51,520 --> 00:41:56,110
It was a ship transporting
goods or animals.

710
00:41:56,110 --> 00:42:00,670
But we were delighted that
we are heading to Israel,

711
00:42:00,670 --> 00:42:02,080
to Palestine.

712
00:42:02,080 --> 00:42:07,450
And the singing and the
lectures on the boat.

713
00:42:07,450 --> 00:42:15,960
And somehow just to go have a
new life in a different place,

714
00:42:15,960 --> 00:42:18,287
it was connected
with a lot of hope.

715
00:42:18,287 --> 00:42:22,510
We were hoping that we
are going to establish

716
00:42:22,510 --> 00:42:25,680
a new type of life.

717
00:42:25,680 --> 00:42:27,060
We are on the boat.

718
00:42:27,060 --> 00:42:30,030
And water is coming
into the ship.

719
00:42:30,030 --> 00:42:34,070
We were frightened that

we are going to sink.

720

00:42:34,070 --> 00:42:38,460

They tried to fix the boat
while we were in the boat.

721

00:42:38,460 --> 00:42:41,610

And then one day
after traveling,

722

00:42:41,610 --> 00:42:45,480

they said that all the
young people should

723

00:42:45,480 --> 00:42:48,520

go on the deck of the boat.

724

00:42:48,520 --> 00:42:51,020

We are in contact by
the Britons who don't

725

00:42:51,020 --> 00:42:52,910

want to let us into Palestine.

726

00:42:52,910 --> 00:42:55,130

Now how long had you
been on the boat?

727

00:42:55,130 --> 00:42:56,550

About one week.

728

00:42:56,550 --> 00:42:57,050

One week.

729

00:42:57,050 --> 00:42:58,790

One week.

730

00:42:58,790 --> 00:43:01,880

And lots of us were sick.

731

00:43:01,880 --> 00:43:03,470

Seasick.

732
00:43:03,470 --> 00:43:04,530
Were you seasick?

733
00:43:04,530 --> 00:43:05,510
No.

734
00:43:05,510 --> 00:43:06,410
No.

735
00:43:06,410 --> 00:43:08,900
I am always the lucky one.

736
00:43:08,900 --> 00:43:09,710
Was Esther seasick?

737
00:43:09,710 --> 00:43:10,880
Esther, yes.

738
00:43:10,880 --> 00:43:11,460
Sure.

739
00:43:11,460 --> 00:43:11,960
Sure.

740
00:43:11,960 --> 00:43:13,370
She's very sensitive.

741
00:43:13,370 --> 00:43:17,520
She's very sensitive
until this day.

742
00:43:17,520 --> 00:43:23,400
We went on the deck of the boat
and we saw a huge military boat

743
00:43:23,400 --> 00:43:24,690
greeting us.

744
00:43:24,690 --> 00:43:29,850
And they were screaming

to the head of our boat,

745

00:43:29,850 --> 00:43:34,530

to the organizers, that we
should return back to Europe.

746

00:43:34,530 --> 00:43:37,120

So we started to cry.

747

00:43:37,120 --> 00:43:40,230

We didn't want to go
back anymore to Europe.

748

00:43:40,230 --> 00:43:44,760

Whatever is waiting for us,
but just not back to Europe.

749

00:43:44,760 --> 00:43:47,820

So we were begging.

750

00:43:47,820 --> 00:43:51,720

Each one had the opportunity
to speak in the loudspeaker

751

00:43:51,720 --> 00:43:53,880

and begging the
Britons that please,

752

00:43:53,880 --> 00:43:56,760

we are refugees
who lost everybody.

753

00:43:56,760 --> 00:43:58,150

We suffered so much.

754

00:43:58,150 --> 00:43:59,940

We have nobody.

755

00:43:59,940 --> 00:44:02,120

We want to come to this country.

756

00:44:02,120 --> 00:44:03,720

We want to start a new life.

757

00:44:03,720 --> 00:44:05,460

Please let us.

758

00:44:05,460 --> 00:44:08,220

Oh, this went on for

three, four hours.

759

00:44:08,220 --> 00:44:11,130

The quarrelling.

760

00:44:11,130 --> 00:44:11,640

Yes.

761

00:44:11,640 --> 00:44:12,600

No.

762

00:44:12,600 --> 00:44:15,710

Are you having a lot of men?

763

00:44:15,710 --> 00:44:19,230

The military people?

764

00:44:19,230 --> 00:44:22,500

Do you bring with you

any kind of ammunition?

765

00:44:22,500 --> 00:44:26,160

They were frightened that the

Jewish people will be strong

766

00:44:26,160 --> 00:44:28,860

and they are going

to try to oust

767

00:44:28,860 --> 00:44:32,250

the Britons from Palestine.

768

00:44:32,250 --> 00:44:37,980

After four hours-- about, maybe

it was a little bit longer--

769

00:44:37,980 --> 00:44:42,630

they agreed, that they
let us into Palestine.

770

00:44:42,630 --> 00:44:49,230

And the boat came to
the port of Haifa.

771

00:44:49,230 --> 00:44:53,130

And just from the deck to
see the beautiful mountains

772

00:44:53,130 --> 00:44:59,530

of Carmel, which one is
a huge mountain in Haifa,

773

00:44:59,530 --> 00:45:03,640

was very moving, very emotional.

774

00:45:03,640 --> 00:45:09,060

The nature-- it was
springtime, it was end of May--

775

00:45:09,060 --> 00:45:10,750

is beautiful in Israel.

776

00:45:10,750 --> 00:45:14,200

All the flowers are
blooming already.

777

00:45:14,200 --> 00:45:18,930

And as we came
down from the boat,

778

00:45:18,930 --> 00:45:24,330

our people who already lived in
Israel, they were greeting us.

779

00:45:24,330 --> 00:45:28,710

And they were throwing to us
bags of all kinds of goodies.

780

00:45:28,710 --> 00:45:31,330

And the singing and the hugging.

781

00:45:31,330 --> 00:45:35,700

And some people found some
relatives, some friends.

782

00:45:35,700 --> 00:45:40,260

But the Britons did not allow
us to go out to the city.

783

00:45:40,260 --> 00:45:47,040

We were put in a camp, which one
was not a concentration camp.

784

00:45:47,040 --> 00:45:48,720

It's named Atlit.

785

00:45:48,720 --> 00:45:54,600

It was surrounded with
a gate and a fence.

786

00:45:54,600 --> 00:46:00,310

It was a fenced-in camp
with army barracks.

787

00:46:00,310 --> 00:46:09,010

And it was a very
emotional kind of arrival

788

00:46:09,010 --> 00:46:14,590

to Israel, which one represents
in our eye the freedom.

789

00:46:14,590 --> 00:46:16,900

That's what we were
dreaming-- that now we

790

00:46:16,900 --> 00:46:22,300

are going to be free from
soldiers and from being

791

00:46:22,300 --> 00:46:23,660
observed all the time.

792
00:46:23,660 --> 00:46:27,860
And here we are again in
a closed camp situation.

793
00:46:27,860 --> 00:46:31,160
And so what did that
feel like to you?

794
00:46:31,160 --> 00:46:35,030
It brought anger.

795
00:46:35,030 --> 00:46:39,020
It brought anger because we
felt that the world still

796
00:46:39,020 --> 00:46:43,610
did not learn from
the experience

797
00:46:43,610 --> 00:46:45,530
and from the tragedy.

798
00:46:45,530 --> 00:46:51,180
And we felt that we are people
who actually, all of us, needed

799
00:46:51,180 --> 00:46:53,000
to be pampered.

800
00:46:53,000 --> 00:46:55,340
We needed to be loved.

801
00:46:55,340 --> 00:47:00,470
We needed, so to say,
to be in a resort place

802
00:47:00,470 --> 00:47:04,440
and given all that
could be given to us.

803

00:47:04,440 --> 00:47:09,350

And here we are
again in a situation

804

00:47:09,350 --> 00:47:11,870

where we are closed in.

805

00:47:11,870 --> 00:47:16,340

We have no contact with
the outside world again.

806

00:47:16,340 --> 00:47:19,130

So again you had
hoped, and again you

807

00:47:19,130 --> 00:47:20,750

had been disappointed.

808

00:47:20,750 --> 00:47:23,060

In a way, yes.

809

00:47:23,060 --> 00:47:26,330

And still, it's not to compare--

810

00:47:26,330 --> 00:47:29,810

because we know
that eventually they

811

00:47:29,810 --> 00:47:32,180

are going to fight
for our freedom.

812

00:47:32,180 --> 00:47:35,450

The people who
organized this trip,

813

00:47:35,450 --> 00:47:37,040

it's called the Youth Aliyah.

814

00:47:37,040 --> 00:47:39,640

815

00:47:39,640 --> 00:47:43,840

The youth going up to Israel.

816

00:47:43,840 --> 00:47:46,740

It's a lovely
movement who wanted

817

00:47:46,740 --> 00:47:50,490

to save the children
from remaining

818

00:47:50,490 --> 00:47:52,500

in Europe with the memories.

819

00:47:52,500 --> 00:47:55,530

They felt that that's the
right thing to do for them.

820

00:47:55,530 --> 00:47:58,180

So you had confidence that
they would be able to help you?

821

00:47:58,180 --> 00:47:58,680

Yes.

822

00:47:58,680 --> 00:47:59,910

We had confidence.

823

00:47:59,910 --> 00:48:00,690

Yes.

824

00:48:00,690 --> 00:48:06,220

And still, we could move in
the premises back and forth.

825

00:48:06,220 --> 00:48:07,580

We couldn't leave the camp.

826

00:48:07,580 --> 00:48:14,290

But it's not to compare
to the camps in Germany.

827

00:48:14,290 --> 00:48:15,850

We were given food.

828

00:48:15,850 --> 00:48:18,250

We had some people.

829

00:48:18,250 --> 00:48:21,820

Had visitors.

830

00:48:21,820 --> 00:48:23,980

Did you and Esther
have visitors?

831

00:48:23,980 --> 00:48:27,850

We slowly contacted
our uncle in Jerusalem,

832

00:48:27,850 --> 00:48:29,740

who sent his son-in-law.

833

00:48:29,740 --> 00:48:31,810

And he brought goodies for us.

834

00:48:31,810 --> 00:48:37,480

And he brought us my
very first silk scarf.

835

00:48:37,480 --> 00:48:41,530

I got from my uncle who
sent it to the camp to us.

836

00:48:41,530 --> 00:48:44,380

He wanted that we
should feel human.

837

00:48:44,380 --> 00:48:47,650

We should feel as girls
should feel-- that you

838

00:48:47,650 --> 00:48:49,540

beautify a little bit yourself.

839

00:48:49,540 --> 00:48:53,140

So he sent a scarf for
me and for my sister.

840

00:48:53,140 --> 00:48:58,570

And by nature, I
cherish until this day

841

00:48:58,570 --> 00:49:00,490

every little new thing.

842

00:49:00,490 --> 00:49:03,010

I don't have to have big things.

843

00:49:03,010 --> 00:49:05,350

Every little thing,
I can be very happy.

844

00:49:05,350 --> 00:49:08,710

And in those days, for sure,
that scarf meant so much.

845

00:49:08,710 --> 00:49:12,030

I was trying to put it
around my neck, on my hat,

846

00:49:12,030 --> 00:49:13,940

and on my face.

847

00:49:13,940 --> 00:49:15,730

All kind of different things.

848

00:49:15,730 --> 00:49:17,100

What color was it?

849

00:49:17,100 --> 00:49:21,070

It was blue with white and pink.

850

00:49:21,070 --> 00:49:25,780

I remember because I had one
nice dress and it matched.

851

00:49:25,780 --> 00:49:27,220

And the dress was blue.

852

00:49:27,220 --> 00:49:29,810

853

00:49:29,810 --> 00:49:33,500

So we were in that
situation but not too long,

854

00:49:33,500 --> 00:49:37,730

because then from
the Jewish agency,

855

00:49:37,730 --> 00:49:42,560

which one has branches
in America, too--

856

00:49:42,560 --> 00:49:46,880

and it's subsidized, I think,
the money from here, as well

857

00:49:46,880 --> 00:49:49,820

from Palestine.

858

00:49:49,820 --> 00:49:53,360

They came in and they
demanded from the Britons

859

00:49:53,360 --> 00:49:57,650

that young children
should be let out.

860

00:49:57,650 --> 00:50:05,070

And after three weeks being
in that camp, we were let out.

861

00:50:05,070 --> 00:50:11,330

And they gave us some
tickets for a bus that

862

00:50:11,330 --> 00:50:13,460

would take us to Jerusalem.

863

00:50:13,460 --> 00:50:16,340

Because they asked, where
is your destination?

864

00:50:16,340 --> 00:50:18,200

Where do you want to go?

865

00:50:18,200 --> 00:50:22,430

And my uncle, who
lived in Jerusalem,

866

00:50:22,430 --> 00:50:25,310

he corresponded with
my uncle in Budapest.

867

00:50:25,310 --> 00:50:30,500

And prior to our trip to
Palestine, the two of them

868

00:50:30,500 --> 00:50:33,800

made the decision,
since we had no parents,

869

00:50:33,800 --> 00:50:36,260

that we should be
attending a certain kind

870

00:50:36,260 --> 00:50:38,960

of religious school
in Jerusalem.

871

00:50:38,960 --> 00:50:44,050

And that's what happened
to have a dormitory.

872

00:50:44,050 --> 00:50:47,410

And in that dormitory
were the refugees,

873

00:50:47,410 --> 00:50:50,950

the survivors, the orphans.

874
00:50:50,950 --> 00:50:55,000
So it was a kind of
orphanage dormitory.

875
00:50:55,000 --> 00:50:57,370
But still, you
didn't feel that you

876
00:50:57,370 --> 00:51:00,670
are in a real orphanage home.

877
00:51:00,670 --> 00:51:04,090
It was more like a
school dormitory.

878
00:51:04,090 --> 00:51:08,010
How did you feel
about that decision?

879
00:51:08,010 --> 00:51:14,520
Well in a way, I felt
that it was somebody

880
00:51:14,520 --> 00:51:16,080
who is making the decision.

881
00:51:16,080 --> 00:51:22,920
I didn't have to break my head
where to head and what to do.

882
00:51:22,920 --> 00:51:26,200
Later on, I wished
that they wouldn't

883
00:51:26,200 --> 00:51:28,470
make that decision for me.

884
00:51:28,470 --> 00:51:33,130
Perhaps I would have
chosen a different school.

885

00:51:33,130 --> 00:51:37,855

This was a little bit
more religious than I.

886

00:51:37,855 --> 00:51:40,690

It was a little bit too pious.

887

00:51:40,690 --> 00:51:41,976

You know what I mean?

888

00:51:41,976 --> 00:51:42,476

No.

889

00:51:42,476 --> 00:51:43,018

I don't know.

890

00:51:43,018 --> 00:51:46,420

It was a little bit too
strict kind of a school.

891

00:51:46,420 --> 00:51:50,860

I wanted to go
maybe to a lesser.

892

00:51:50,860 --> 00:51:54,610

It's like you go to a
regular public school

893

00:51:54,610 --> 00:51:56,320

or you go to the church school.

894

00:51:56,320 --> 00:51:59,680

So this was more compared
to a church school.

895

00:51:59,680 --> 00:52:01,660

Very restricted.

896

00:52:01,660 --> 00:52:05,680

Or there's a very
restricted code

897

00:52:05,680 --> 00:52:10,430
of dressing, code of behavior.

898
00:52:10,430 --> 00:52:15,820
What kinds of behavior
and dress did they--

899
00:52:15,820 --> 00:52:18,170
Very little freedom
in the evening.

900
00:52:18,170 --> 00:52:19,930
You couldn't leave the premises.

901
00:52:19,930 --> 00:52:24,160
You had to be at
home a certain time.

902
00:52:24,160 --> 00:52:26,800
In the school, you have
to go with long sleeves

903
00:52:26,800 --> 00:52:29,470
and long skirts.

904
00:52:29,470 --> 00:52:30,830
Were there boys in the school?

905
00:52:30,830 --> 00:52:31,330
No.

906
00:52:31,330 --> 00:52:31,940
Only girls.

907
00:52:31,940 --> 00:52:32,440
Only girls.

908
00:52:32,440 --> 00:52:33,040
Only girls.

909
00:52:33,040 --> 00:52:35,050
But you had to be very covered?

910
00:52:35,050 --> 00:52:36,820
Very much so, yes.

911
00:52:36,820 --> 00:52:37,880
Yes.

912
00:52:37,880 --> 00:52:42,530
So I wouldn't have minded a
little bit less strict kind

913
00:52:42,530 --> 00:52:43,730
of situation.

914
00:52:43,730 --> 00:52:46,070
Was there more
religious training

915
00:52:46,070 --> 00:52:48,380
and more religious services?

916
00:52:48,380 --> 00:52:52,460
It was more, yes, than we
have been exposed at home

917
00:52:52,460 --> 00:52:55,380
although I am coming
from a rabbinical family.

918
00:52:55,380 --> 00:52:59,510
But this was a little
bit more to the right.

919
00:52:59,510 --> 00:53:05,420
But the learning was on a high
level, so I can't complain,

920
00:53:05,420 --> 00:53:08,910
because educationally,
I got what I wanted.

921
00:53:08,910 --> 00:53:12,680

I wanted very much to
further my education.

922
00:53:12,680 --> 00:53:17,510
And at the beginning, we had
difficulty with the language.

923
00:53:17,510 --> 00:53:18,890
You and Esther?

924
00:53:18,890 --> 00:53:20,390
Me and Esther, yes.

925
00:53:20,390 --> 00:53:22,310
And the language was Hebrew?

926
00:53:22,310 --> 00:53:22,970
Hebrew.

927
00:53:22,970 --> 00:53:27,620
And were the other girls in
the school survivors or were

928
00:53:27,620 --> 00:53:29,100
some of them not survivors?

929
00:53:29,100 --> 00:53:29,900
No.

930
00:53:29,900 --> 00:53:34,070
A majority of the
students were local, who

931
00:53:34,070 --> 00:53:36,200
were born and raised in Israel.

932
00:53:36,200 --> 00:53:39,500
Or at that time it
was called Palestine.

933
00:53:39,500 --> 00:53:46,700
And the refugees were trained

by private teachers in order

934

00:53:46,700 --> 00:53:49,010

that they can cope
with the material

935

00:53:49,010 --> 00:53:51,050

that the rest of the
group was learning.

936

00:53:51,050 --> 00:53:55,640

So they subsidized
our learning sessions

937

00:53:55,640 --> 00:53:59,720

by taking us out for a certain
time from the regular class

938

00:53:59,720 --> 00:54:02,060

and then privately teaching us.

939

00:54:02,060 --> 00:54:09,020

However, in many things, such
as science or math or geography,

940

00:54:09,020 --> 00:54:11,750

we were ahead of the Israelis.

941

00:54:11,750 --> 00:54:14,390

So apparently, the
education in Europe

942

00:54:14,390 --> 00:54:18,320

was on a high level
in certain areas.

943

00:54:18,320 --> 00:54:23,400

And religious education
was much behind.

944

00:54:23,400 --> 00:54:27,170

So we needed, mainly, language
and religious studies,

945
00:54:27,170 --> 00:54:29,540
such as the Bible
or the prophets.

946
00:54:29,540 --> 00:54:32,060
We needed a lot of
help at the beginning.

947
00:54:32,060 --> 00:54:33,770
Or Jewish history.

948
00:54:33,770 --> 00:54:37,880
But in many other subjects,
we were much ahead

949
00:54:37,880 --> 00:54:39,740
of the local people.

950
00:54:39,740 --> 00:54:42,710
You had told me in
the earlier interview

951
00:54:42,710 --> 00:54:46,880
that your father had arranged
Hebrew lessons for you

952
00:54:46,880 --> 00:54:49,220
and your sister
and your brother.

953
00:54:49,220 --> 00:54:51,380
Did that include spoken Hebrew?

954
00:54:51,380 --> 00:54:55,490
That included spoken Hebrew,
but that was so little.

955
00:54:55,490 --> 00:54:58,130
It was really not--

956
00:54:58,130 --> 00:55:00,710

we knew certain expressions.

957

00:55:00,710 --> 00:55:06,360

But we were not able
to converse in Hebrew.

958

00:55:06,360 --> 00:55:10,040

So not only did you have
trouble with the classes because

959

00:55:10,040 --> 00:55:13,730

of spoken Hebrew, but was it
hard for you to make friends

960

00:55:13,730 --> 00:55:16,670

also because of the language?

961

00:55:16,670 --> 00:55:18,710

It was.

962

00:55:18,710 --> 00:55:20,270

It was in a way, maybe.

963

00:55:20,270 --> 00:55:24,890

But it wasn't really because
the girls were very outgoing.

964

00:55:24,890 --> 00:55:28,160

I remember very
often being invited

965

00:55:28,160 --> 00:55:33,230

to several of my friends who
were very outgoing to help us

966

00:55:33,230 --> 00:55:37,940

and to try to make us feel good.

967

00:55:37,940 --> 00:55:41,270

And being in homes
sometimes, not

968

00:55:41,270 --> 00:55:43,045
always to be in the dormitory.

969
00:55:43,045 --> 00:55:44,420
Oh, you mean you
would be invited

970
00:55:44,420 --> 00:55:46,070
to be invited to their homes?

971
00:55:46,070 --> 00:55:46,310
Invited to their homes, yes.

972
00:55:46,310 --> 00:55:48,800
Were they day students or
were they boarders who--

973
00:55:48,800 --> 00:55:50,660
They were day students.

974
00:55:50,660 --> 00:55:53,400
Day students, yes.

975
00:55:53,400 --> 00:55:57,150
Only the refugees were the ones
who lived in the dormitories.

976
00:55:57,150 --> 00:55:59,160
Only the orphans.

977
00:55:59,160 --> 00:56:02,940
And it wasn't easy
at the beginning.

978
00:56:02,940 --> 00:56:06,480
Certain subjects took
us a long, long time

979
00:56:06,480 --> 00:56:11,470
to be able to join in with
the rest of the group.

980

00:56:11,470 --> 00:56:16,415
But they made us feel good
that in other subjects

981
00:56:16,415 --> 00:56:21,180
we were ahead, such
as math or science.

982
00:56:21,180 --> 00:56:24,900
So they always used to
say, we teach you Hebrew.

983
00:56:24,900 --> 00:56:26,220
We teach you prophets.

984
00:56:26,220 --> 00:56:29,430
And you teach us other things.

985
00:56:29,430 --> 00:56:32,760
Did you have much contact with
your family at that point?

986
00:56:32,760 --> 00:56:33,720
With your uncle?

987
00:56:33,720 --> 00:56:37,815
With my uncle, we were most
of the time on the Sabbath.

988
00:56:37,815 --> 00:56:42,450

989
00:56:42,450 --> 00:56:45,300
Visiting here and
there for a meal.

990
00:56:45,300 --> 00:56:52,270
We never slept over by my
uncle for different reasons.

991
00:56:52,270 --> 00:56:55,230
This boarding school
didn't like the idea

992
00:56:55,230 --> 00:56:59,340
that we are not back
in the evenings.

993
00:56:59,340 --> 00:57:06,450
Also they lived in a
very poor condition.

994
00:57:06,450 --> 00:57:10,740
Housing was very difficult
in those days in Israel.

995
00:57:10,740 --> 00:57:14,680
So my uncle, who
had three children,

996
00:57:14,680 --> 00:57:17,750
lived in a
two-bedroom apartment.

997
00:57:17,750 --> 00:57:21,100
So it would mean that we
would be living or sleeping

998
00:57:21,100 --> 00:57:25,720
in the living room, which
one we didn't want to cause

999
00:57:25,720 --> 00:57:28,810
such a commotion in the house.

1000
00:57:28,810 --> 00:57:32,470
But we went usually for
a meal here and there.

1001
00:57:32,470 --> 00:57:34,210
And it was very refreshing.

1002
00:57:34,210 --> 00:57:37,150
My aunt was a highly
intelligent woman.

1003

00:57:37,150 --> 00:57:40,510

My uncle was a rabbi
in Frankfurt am Main

1004

00:57:40,510 --> 00:57:47,980

And they always tried to tell
us things that a parent would,

1005

00:57:47,980 --> 00:57:49,780

guide us.

1006

00:57:49,780 --> 00:57:52,360

So before the
Holocaust, your uncle

1007

00:57:52,360 --> 00:57:54,280

had been a rabbi in Frankfurt--

1008

00:57:54,280 --> 00:57:55,390

In Frankfurt am Main.

1009

00:57:55,390 --> 00:57:58,600

And was he a refugee
before the Holocaust, too?

1010

00:57:58,600 --> 00:58:01,720

He went in 1939.

1011

00:58:01,720 --> 00:58:05,050

He got certificates
from the Britons,

1012

00:58:05,050 --> 00:58:09,880

which one meant that he was
invited or allowed citizen

1013

00:58:09,880 --> 00:58:11,500

to come to Palestine.

1014

00:58:11,500 --> 00:58:14,170

They had certain quotas.

1015

00:58:14,170 --> 00:58:19,000

I remember that in this
country also you had quotas--

1016

00:58:19,000 --> 00:58:22,600

how many people could come
from Hungary, how many refugees

1017

00:58:22,600 --> 00:58:24,950

can come from other countries.

1018

00:58:24,950 --> 00:58:27,850

Now a lot of times,
we hear other stories.

1019

00:58:27,850 --> 00:58:34,660

But when I came to this
country, I also came on a quota.

1020

00:58:34,660 --> 00:58:41,380

So my uncle went from Frankfurt
am Main to Palestine in 1939,

1021

00:58:41,380 --> 00:58:42,670

right after the--

1022

00:58:42,670 --> 00:58:46,150

1023

00:58:46,150 --> 00:58:47,697

how you call that night?

1024

00:58:47,697 --> 00:58:48,280

Kristallnacht?

1025

00:58:48,280 --> 00:58:49,430

Kristallnacht.

1026

00:58:49,430 --> 00:58:51,010

Yeah.

1027

00:58:51,010 --> 00:58:56,870
So they were also not
too long in that country.

1028
00:58:56,870 --> 00:58:58,180
A few years.

1029
00:58:58,180 --> 00:59:02,020
But they established
a nice kind of a life.

1030
00:59:02,020 --> 00:59:06,610
And it was very refreshing
to talk with my uncle.

1031
00:59:06,610 --> 00:59:10,840
He would tell us beautiful
stories about our parents.

1032
00:59:10,840 --> 00:59:15,400
And be reminded those days
when he used to come to visit.

1033
00:59:15,400 --> 00:59:17,200
So you had known him before?

1034
00:59:17,200 --> 00:59:19,810
Yes, we had known him, yes.

1035
00:59:19,810 --> 00:59:23,890
And both of them very
outstanding people.

1036
00:59:23,890 --> 00:59:27,370
I remember that one day my
uncle took me and my sister

1037
00:59:27,370 --> 00:59:30,160
to a store in Jerusalem.

1038
00:59:30,160 --> 00:59:33,340
And he bought a
pocketbook for us.

1039
00:59:33,340 --> 00:59:37,420
I mean, there were more
important things, maybe.

1040
00:59:37,420 --> 00:59:43,090
But he wanted so much to give us
the feeling that we are girls,

1041
00:59:43,090 --> 00:59:46,300
that we are human, that
we have a pocketbook just

1042
00:59:46,300 --> 00:59:48,010
like every other girl has.

1043
00:59:48,010 --> 00:59:50,380
So that was very
important to you?

1044
00:59:50,380 --> 00:59:51,460
It was very.

1045
00:59:51,460 --> 00:59:52,330
It was very.

1046
00:59:52,330 --> 00:59:56,890
I have a picture standing by
the store when we came out.

1047
00:59:56,890 --> 01:00:01,270
And believe me, my uncle
wasn't well-to-do to buy

1048
01:00:01,270 --> 01:00:02,860
these kind of things.

1049
01:00:02,860 --> 01:00:06,970
Yet, for him, it was
very important to give

1050
01:00:06,970 --> 01:00:10,630

as many things that
he could in order

1051
01:00:10,630 --> 01:00:14,770
to make us to feel that,
yes, we live a normal life.

1052
01:00:14,770 --> 01:00:16,720
And we are human beings.

1053
01:00:16,720 --> 01:00:22,140
And we are just like all the
other girls after the war.

1054
01:00:22,140 --> 01:00:28,110
And we walked with that
pocketbook so proud.

1055
01:00:28,110 --> 01:00:31,650
I wish to see that
today teenagers would

1056
01:00:31,650 --> 01:00:35,520
cherish something
that they get as we

1057
01:00:35,520 --> 01:00:37,710
cherished those pocketbooks.

1058
01:00:37,710 --> 01:00:42,690
For years-- I think that a
couple of years ago that I gave

1059
01:00:42,690 --> 01:00:43,740
it away--

1060
01:00:43,740 --> 01:00:47,280
I kept that pocketbook,
even though I wasn't using,

1061
01:00:47,280 --> 01:00:49,470
but I just couldn't
depart from it

1062
01:00:49,470 --> 01:00:51,520
because it was so meaningful.

1063
01:00:51,520 --> 01:00:52,200
So special.

1064
01:00:52,200 --> 01:00:55,050

1065
01:00:55,050 --> 01:00:58,880
The scarf that he sent to the
camp and then this pocketbook

1066
01:00:58,880 --> 01:01:07,110
were the very first things
that as a young teenager I had.

1067
01:01:07,110 --> 01:01:10,150
And I wasn't
different from others.

1068
01:01:10,150 --> 01:01:12,600
So where did you give
such a special thing

1069
01:01:12,600 --> 01:01:13,980
as the pocketbook?

1070
01:01:13,980 --> 01:01:14,610
Where I?

1071
01:01:14,610 --> 01:01:17,760
When you gave it away,
such a special thing,

1072
01:01:17,760 --> 01:01:18,720
where did you give it?

1073
01:01:18,720 --> 01:01:20,020
Oh, where I gave it?

1074

01:01:20,020 --> 01:01:25,510

I gave it to a girl who was
visiting me from Poland.

1075

01:01:25,510 --> 01:01:26,684

Yeah.

1076

01:01:26,684 --> 01:01:29,280

In many fact, now, we
have also here a girl

1077

01:01:29,280 --> 01:01:31,940

from-- but it was
not on the tape.

1078

01:01:31,940 --> 01:01:35,940

We have also now a girl who
came here to study from Poland.

1079

01:01:35,940 --> 01:01:37,900

You have a girl?

1080

01:01:37,900 --> 01:01:42,990

I am in contact with a girl
who, the parents were survivors

1081

01:01:42,990 --> 01:01:45,930

and they went back
to Poland to live.

1082

01:01:45,930 --> 01:01:49,050

And this girl is a young girl.

1083

01:01:49,050 --> 01:01:51,450

Parents not young people.

1084

01:01:51,450 --> 01:01:53,370

And she's here to study.

1085

01:01:53,370 --> 01:01:54,860

And she's so determined.

1086

01:01:54,860 --> 01:01:58,440

So it brings back to
me so many memories.

1087

01:01:58,440 --> 01:02:04,230

How determined, how much she
wants to live a normal life.

1088

01:02:04,230 --> 01:02:06,420

Does it remind you of yourself?

1089

01:02:06,420 --> 01:02:07,510

A lot.

1090

01:02:07,510 --> 01:02:08,460

A lot.

1091

01:02:08,460 --> 01:02:10,300

So this is important
for the tape?

1092

01:02:10,300 --> 01:02:10,840

Yeah.

1093

01:02:10,840 --> 01:02:11,400

OK.

1094

01:02:11,400 --> 01:02:14,370

I don't know if I should
put this story in.

1095

01:02:14,370 --> 01:02:15,100

Sure.

1096

01:02:15,100 --> 01:02:16,290

Yeah.

1097

01:02:16,290 --> 01:02:19,680

Did you know her parents?

1098

01:02:19,680 --> 01:02:21,510

How did you and she
find each other?

1099
01:02:21,510 --> 01:02:24,810
She was visiting the
librarian from the school

1100
01:02:24,810 --> 01:02:27,510
where I am teaching.

1101
01:02:27,510 --> 01:02:30,690
She goes to a school
in Silver Spring.

1102
01:02:30,690 --> 01:02:33,570
And the daughter of the
librarian of my school

1103
01:02:33,570 --> 01:02:37,020
goes also to that school.

1104
01:02:37,020 --> 01:02:39,300
And they invited her.

1105
01:02:39,300 --> 01:02:42,180
So then she said, "Jaffa,
I think that for you, it

1106
01:02:42,180 --> 01:02:45,720
would be a very
meaningful experience

1107
01:02:45,720 --> 01:02:47,010
to meet with this girl."

1108
01:02:47,010 --> 01:02:49,700
And lo and behold, for
sure, it was for me.

1109
01:02:49,700 --> 01:02:50,680
Very important.

1110

01:02:50,680 --> 01:02:55,470

And I want her to come for
a weekend to visit me also.

1111

01:02:55,470 --> 01:02:57,360

Yeah.

1112

01:02:57,360 --> 01:03:00,660

Had you wished that someone
would do that for you

1113

01:03:00,660 --> 01:03:03,630

when you had first
arrived in Israel?

1114

01:03:03,630 --> 01:03:05,250

Very much so.

1115

01:03:05,250 --> 01:03:06,270

Very much so.

1116

01:03:06,270 --> 01:03:11,280

So giving her the pocketbook was
really very meaningful for you?

1117

01:03:11,280 --> 01:03:12,510

Very much so.

1118

01:03:12,510 --> 01:03:13,470

Very much so.

1119

01:03:13,470 --> 01:03:15,900

And I always wanted
that somebody

1120

01:03:15,900 --> 01:03:20,760

who would appreciate
as much I appreciated.

1121

01:03:20,760 --> 01:03:25,020

And it would be used
by somebody that it

1122

01:03:25,020 --> 01:03:27,370

would be meaningful for her.

1123

01:03:27,370 --> 01:03:30,930

So you found the right

person for the pocketbook.

1124

01:03:30,930 --> 01:03:32,030

I think so.

1125

01:03:32,030 --> 01:03:32,970

I think so.

1126

01:03:32,970 --> 01:03:34,110

Back to Jerusalem.

1127

01:03:34,110 --> 01:03:34,610

Yes.

1128

01:03:34,610 --> 01:03:38,420

Who paid for the school

that you were going to?

1129

01:03:38,420 --> 01:03:41,490

It was paid by

the Jewish Agency.

1130

01:03:41,490 --> 01:03:42,870

It was paid.

1131

01:03:42,870 --> 01:03:48,300

And I remember one thing

that I wanted to tell.

1132

01:03:48,300 --> 01:03:50,670

When we were let

out from the camp,

1133

01:03:50,670 --> 01:03:55,950

we were just given money to

take the bus to Jerusalem.

1134

01:03:55,950 --> 01:03:59,940

And there was no straight
bus from the camp

1135

01:03:59,940 --> 01:04:03,930

which one was situated next
to Haifa to go to Jerusalem.

1136

01:04:03,930 --> 01:04:06,930

We had to stop over in Tel Aviv.

1137

01:04:06,930 --> 01:04:12,310

And as we are standing, waiting
for that connecting bus,

1138

01:04:12,310 --> 01:04:14,550

a lady approaches us.

1139

01:04:14,550 --> 01:04:17,970

She heard me talking
to Esther Hungarian.

1140

01:04:17,970 --> 01:04:21,910

And she approached us and
she's saying, who are you?

1141

01:04:21,910 --> 01:04:23,590

And we told her our story.

1142

01:04:23,590 --> 01:04:26,440

We are the daughter of
the rabbi from Onod.

1143

01:04:26,440 --> 01:04:27,970

And, where are you going?

1144

01:04:27,970 --> 01:04:30,050

We are going to Jerusalem.

1145

01:04:30,050 --> 01:04:34,370

And this was before a holiday.

1146

01:04:34,370 --> 01:04:38,110

And she says, well I know
your family from Europe.

1147

01:04:38,110 --> 01:04:41,420

I am here in this
country a few years.

1148

01:04:41,420 --> 01:04:43,180

And do you need anything?

1149

01:04:43,180 --> 01:04:43,890

We said, no.

1150

01:04:43,890 --> 01:04:45,430

We don't need nothing.

1151

01:04:45,430 --> 01:04:52,550

Well she ran and she
bought for us some cake.

1152

01:04:52,550 --> 01:04:55,660

And she bought for us
some candy and chocolate.

1153

01:04:55,660 --> 01:05:00,850

And she pushed into our pocket
a very small amount of money.

1154

01:05:00,850 --> 01:05:04,180

But that was the
very first money

1155

01:05:04,180 --> 01:05:07,270

that we had in our pocket.

1156

01:05:07,270 --> 01:05:08,410

And she hugged us.

1157

01:05:08,410 --> 01:05:11,400

And she said, God bless you.

1158

01:05:11,400 --> 01:05:14,860

Thank God that I see some
young people who survived

1159

01:05:14,860 --> 01:05:17,260

the concentration camps.

1160

01:05:17,260 --> 01:05:24,700

And a million times, I wanted
to find out who this lady was.

1161

01:05:24,700 --> 01:05:27,010

What was she doing
at the bus stop?

1162

01:05:27,010 --> 01:05:28,180

She wasn't traveling.

1163

01:05:28,180 --> 01:05:33,040

1164

01:05:33,040 --> 01:05:35,620

Many times I repeated
this story because I

1165

01:05:35,620 --> 01:05:39,650

was very moved by it that
somebody who specially found

1166

01:05:39,650 --> 01:05:46,240

for her task to go to stations
or bus or ships or wherever,

1167

01:05:46,240 --> 01:05:49,270

maybe, maybe she will
find some survivors.

1168

01:05:49,270 --> 01:05:53,800

And she will be able to
give them a few things

1169

01:05:53,800 --> 01:05:55,840

to cheer them up.

1170
01:05:55,840 --> 01:06:00,040
And once I told the story
to a cousin of mine.

1171
01:06:00,040 --> 01:06:03,100
And she said, you
know who this was?

1172
01:06:03,100 --> 01:06:07,930
This lady was a
sister-in-law of my sister

1173
01:06:07,930 --> 01:06:12,130
who died after the
war in Budapest.

1174
01:06:12,130 --> 01:06:14,650
She didn't know
that we are related.

1175
01:06:14,650 --> 01:06:18,160
I mean, it's not real relation,
that there is a contact

1176
01:06:18,160 --> 01:06:19,670
or whatever.

1177
01:06:19,670 --> 01:06:25,580
And many times, I
learned from this.

1178
01:06:25,580 --> 01:06:27,910
It's not "many times,"
but I learned from this

1179
01:06:27,910 --> 01:06:31,480
that I also like
to go places where

1180
01:06:31,480 --> 01:06:34,420
I know that there is a

need to cheer up people,

1181
01:06:34,420 --> 01:06:38,440
if it's an old age home or
if it's our orphanage home.

1182
01:06:38,440 --> 01:06:41,500
Because I always will remember.

1183
01:06:41,500 --> 01:06:42,880
It was little.

1184
01:06:42,880 --> 01:06:44,570
It was small.

1185
01:06:44,570 --> 01:06:48,460
But it was very,
very much on time.

1186
01:06:48,460 --> 01:06:52,840
That little bit of package
that she had given to us

1187
01:06:52,840 --> 01:06:56,230
and a few pennies that
she put in our pocket.

1188
01:06:56,230 --> 01:06:59,620
So I hope that I will
be able for many years

1189
01:06:59,620 --> 01:07:04,090
to cheer up people and
continue to do what I learned

1190
01:07:04,090 --> 01:07:07,930
from that one experience.

1191
01:07:07,930 --> 01:07:11,980
Back to Jerusalem.

1192
01:07:11,980 --> 01:07:14,890

I had difficulties of
learning at the beginning.

1193
01:07:14,890 --> 01:07:20,110
But slowly it got each
time better thanks

1194
01:07:20,110 --> 01:07:24,340
to lots of the girls
who came and learned

1195
01:07:24,340 --> 01:07:28,210
with us, who invited
to their houses.

1196
01:07:28,210 --> 01:07:30,610
It was not only the
learning session,

1197
01:07:30,610 --> 01:07:34,510
but being invited and
being in normal homes

1198
01:07:34,510 --> 01:07:38,200
and seeing that
there are families,

1199
01:07:38,200 --> 01:07:40,840
that not everything
has been wiped away

1200
01:07:40,840 --> 01:07:44,770
during the Holocaust,
gave us a lot of strength.

1201
01:07:44,770 --> 01:07:48,970
And a good meal here
and there sometimes--

1202
01:07:48,970 --> 01:07:54,580
because it was very poor
time in Israel at the time.

1203

01:07:54,580 --> 01:07:58,870
The food in the orphanage home
was, again, fairly meager.

1204
01:07:58,870 --> 01:08:00,650
But we ate.

1205
01:08:00,650 --> 01:08:01,780
We ate bread.

1206
01:08:01,780 --> 01:08:03,550
And latke here and that.

1207
01:08:03,550 --> 01:08:05,370
Potatoes.

1208
01:08:05,370 --> 01:08:13,180
It very helpful to be again
among people who were cheerful,

1209
01:08:13,180 --> 01:08:15,040
who were happy.

1210
01:08:15,040 --> 01:08:18,460
Seeing children, seeing babies.

1211
01:08:18,460 --> 01:08:23,590
I remember that I
was very moved when I

1212
01:08:23,590 --> 01:08:26,529
saw that babies are so pretty.

1213
01:08:26,529 --> 01:08:28,959
And that mommies are
pushing carriages.

1214
01:08:28,959 --> 01:08:32,500
I thought that the whole
world has been wiped away

1215
01:08:32,500 --> 01:08:35,380

and only a few of us remained.

1216
01:08:35,380 --> 01:08:40,060
But I saw that
life was going on.

1217
01:08:40,060 --> 01:08:42,880
And families were together.

1218
01:08:42,880 --> 01:08:45,640
And they built homes.

1219
01:08:45,640 --> 01:08:47,170
And they were working.

1220
01:08:47,170 --> 01:08:48,550
And they were learning.

1221
01:08:48,550 --> 01:08:53,290
And it was a normal
kind of a life.

1222
01:08:53,290 --> 01:08:57,939
Unfortunately, I had to go
through again a war in Israel

1223
01:08:57,939 --> 01:09:00,580
in 1947.

1224
01:09:00,580 --> 01:09:05,380
The Independence War of Israel
when the British were ousted

1225
01:09:05,380 --> 01:09:07,370
and the Arabs attacked us.

1226
01:09:07,370 --> 01:09:12,880
I had been visiting a
friend of mine in Jerusalem,

1227
01:09:12,880 --> 01:09:16,300
and as I was returning

back on the road,

1228
01:09:16,300 --> 01:09:18,850
going back to the
orphanage home,

1229
01:09:18,850 --> 01:09:22,689
I see that somehow
the street is empty.

1230
01:09:22,689 --> 01:09:26,290
And that was very unusual
for a Saturday afternoon.

1231
01:09:26,290 --> 01:09:28,330
People used to
stroll in the street.

1232
01:09:28,330 --> 01:09:30,580
That's the day off.

1233
01:09:30,580 --> 01:09:33,310
And I hear, boom, boom, boom.

1234
01:09:33,310 --> 01:09:35,020
And I don't see nobody.

1235
01:09:35,020 --> 01:09:38,960
So I ran to a ditch by the road.

1236
01:09:38,960 --> 01:09:44,050
And I was just
hiding myself there,

1237
01:09:44,050 --> 01:09:47,649
knowing this kind of
things from the experience

1238
01:09:47,649 --> 01:09:49,060
of the Holocaust.

1239
01:09:49,060 --> 01:09:52,689

And then I hear from one window
somebody screaming, come in!

1240
01:09:52,689 --> 01:09:53,830
Come in!

1241
01:09:53,830 --> 01:09:57,490
So I came into a
house, and they took me

1242
01:09:57,490 --> 01:10:00,220
down to the basement,
which one was

1243
01:10:00,220 --> 01:10:03,520
like some kind of a shelter.

1244
01:10:03,520 --> 01:10:07,030
And they told me that
I can't continue to go.

1245
01:10:07,030 --> 01:10:10,310
You can't go back now
to your orphanage place,

1246
01:10:10,310 --> 01:10:14,080
to the dormitory, because
the Arabs attacked us.

1247
01:10:14,080 --> 01:10:18,910
So I went through a
difficult time in Israel

1248
01:10:18,910 --> 01:10:22,420
very shortly after our arrival.

1249
01:10:22,420 --> 01:10:24,460
We arrived in '46, '47.

1250
01:10:24,460 --> 01:10:29,140
Already started with the
British, with the Arabs.

1251

01:10:29,140 --> 01:10:32,950
And then the Independence War.

1252

01:10:32,950 --> 01:10:34,810
Jerusalem was sieged.

1253

01:10:34,810 --> 01:10:37,040
There was no water.

1254

01:10:37,040 --> 01:10:41,530
There was no way to get out
from the city, to come back.

1255

01:10:41,530 --> 01:10:43,960
And yet, I don't know.

1256

01:10:43,960 --> 01:10:49,180
With all that suffering,
I never gave up.

1257

01:10:49,180 --> 01:10:52,540
And it wasn't so depressing
because you were together

1258

01:10:52,540 --> 01:10:54,430
with many people.

1259

01:10:54,430 --> 01:10:56,740
You saw families.

1260

01:10:56,740 --> 01:11:00,190
It wasn't that we
had to be surrounded.

1261

01:11:00,190 --> 01:11:05,950
It wasn't that we have been
hearing the gas chamber

1262

01:11:05,950 --> 01:11:09,490
or smelled the smoke of the gas.

1263

01:11:09,490 --> 01:11:13,330
Here, we were fighting
for our own independence.

1264
01:11:13,330 --> 01:11:16,240
It was a very different
kind of feeling.

1265
01:11:16,240 --> 01:11:18,110
It wasn't easy.

1266
01:11:18,110 --> 01:11:19,540
It was not pleasant.

1267
01:11:19,540 --> 01:11:22,150
But not to compare.

1268
01:11:22,150 --> 01:11:25,360
You didn't feel helpless
as you had before?

1269
01:11:25,360 --> 01:11:26,290
No, no.

1270
01:11:26,290 --> 01:11:28,420
Not helpless, not at all.

1271
01:11:28,420 --> 01:11:30,640
We had faith in our soldiers.

1272
01:11:30,640 --> 01:11:32,530
We had faith in HaShem.

1273
01:11:32,530 --> 01:11:35,170
In God.

1274
01:11:35,170 --> 01:11:41,680
But it was difficult.
Food was very poor.

1275
01:11:41,680 --> 01:11:45,610
And the main problem

in Jerusalem was water.

1276

01:11:45,610 --> 01:11:50,420

They used to give out a
bucket of water per family.

1277

01:11:50,420 --> 01:11:54,500

That's how difficult it was.

1278

01:11:54,500 --> 01:11:57,635

And for the time being,
school was closed.

1279

01:11:57,635 --> 01:12:00,560

1280

01:12:00,560 --> 01:12:02,360

Were you still living
in the orphanage?

1281

01:12:02,360 --> 01:12:03,352

Still in the orphanage.

1282

01:12:03,352 --> 01:12:05,060

But you weren't having
classes in school?

1283

01:12:05,060 --> 01:12:07,970

We had no classes
because we were attacked.

1284

01:12:07,970 --> 01:12:11,570

And they were afraid to
have children walking

1285

01:12:11,570 --> 01:12:14,210

in street in those days.

1286

01:12:14,210 --> 01:12:20,490

Children walking to school, even
on the bus, it was not safe.

1287

01:12:20,490 --> 01:12:24,050
But after a while, they
reopened back the school.

1288
01:12:24,050 --> 01:12:27,560
I left Jerusalem
during that siege.

1289
01:12:27,560 --> 01:12:34,070
With an armored car they took
down some children to Tel Aviv

1290
01:12:34,070 --> 01:12:36,830
because they felt that
it is very dangerous

1291
01:12:36,830 --> 01:12:38,570
to be in Jerusalem.

1292
01:12:38,570 --> 01:12:43,140
And Esther, my sister, by that
time was working in Tel Aviv.

1293
01:12:43,140 --> 01:12:44,660
So I went there.

1294
01:12:44,660 --> 01:12:47,630
So she was not in
the school with you?

1295
01:12:47,630 --> 01:12:49,610
She wasn't in the
school with me.

1296
01:12:49,610 --> 01:12:52,010
She was only for one year.

1297
01:12:52,010 --> 01:12:54,950
And she learned to sew.

1298
01:12:54,950 --> 01:12:57,900
She went to a vocational school.

1299

01:12:57,900 --> 01:13:00,750

And I went to a
regular gymnasium.

1300

01:13:00,750 --> 01:13:01,250

Oh.

1301

01:13:01,250 --> 01:13:04,250

So Esther did not go to the
same school in Jerusalem

1302

01:13:04,250 --> 01:13:04,920

that you did?

1303

01:13:04,920 --> 01:13:05,420

No.

1304

01:13:05,420 --> 01:13:07,080

Not to the same school.

1305

01:13:07,080 --> 01:13:07,820

No.

1306

01:13:07,820 --> 01:13:09,420

But she was in Jerusalem?

1307

01:13:09,420 --> 01:13:09,920

She was.

1308

01:13:09,920 --> 01:13:12,620

And she was in the
same dormitory.

1309

01:13:12,620 --> 01:13:15,770

But they established
for girls who

1310

01:13:15,770 --> 01:13:21,390

were unable to do spiritual kind
of things or scholastic things,

1311

01:13:21,390 --> 01:13:24,650
who were more
broken from the war.

1312
01:13:24,650 --> 01:13:28,180
And Esther was-- even
though she's much brighter.

1313
01:13:28,180 --> 01:13:31,590
And for her, learning
is very easy,

1314
01:13:31,590 --> 01:13:34,970
while I have to
work on my studies

1315
01:13:34,970 --> 01:13:37,430
all the time, all my life.

1316
01:13:37,430 --> 01:13:41,340
Still she just couldn't
go back to the books.

1317
01:13:41,340 --> 01:13:45,720
And they found that it's the
best thing for certain girls

1318
01:13:45,720 --> 01:13:48,660
to be busy with
their hands instead

1319
01:13:48,660 --> 01:13:50,100
of being busy with their mind.

1320
01:13:50,100 --> 01:13:52,740
So you were separated
from Esther again?

1321
01:13:52,740 --> 01:13:55,320
I was separated from Esther--

1322
01:13:55,320 --> 01:13:58,470
the first time separated after.

1323
01:13:58,470 --> 01:14:01,800
Because in the camp,
after the camp,

1324
01:14:01,800 --> 01:14:04,410
she was in the sanatorium.

1325
01:14:04,410 --> 01:14:10,710
But I was not really
separated, because we

1326
01:14:10,710 --> 01:14:12,450
were both in Budapest.

1327
01:14:12,450 --> 01:14:14,430
Here, we were also
not separated.

1328
01:14:14,430 --> 01:14:18,180
We lived together
in the dormitory.

1329
01:14:18,180 --> 01:14:22,500
But then we were separated
because once she learned

1330
01:14:22,500 --> 01:14:25,620
her profession,
sewing, she got the job

1331
01:14:25,620 --> 01:14:27,720
and she went to Tel Aviv.

1332
01:14:27,720 --> 01:14:31,480
Also, you have to know
that after a certain age,

1333
01:14:31,480 --> 01:14:33,860
they didn't keep the
girls in the dormitory.

1334

01:14:33,860 --> 01:14:35,270

We have to turn the tape.

1335

01:14:35,270 --> 01:14:36,820

OK.

1336

01:14:36,820 --> 01:14:38,000