

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,910  
This is the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

2  
00:00:02,910 --> 00:00:05,790  
interview with Tania  
Rozmaryn, conducted

3  
00:00:05,790 --> 00:00:09,090  
by Gail Schwartz on  
February 23, 1997

4  
00:00:09,090 --> 00:00:10,890  
in Silver Spring, Maryland.

5  
00:00:10,890 --> 00:00:14,720  
This is tape number 3, Side A.

6  
00:00:14,720 --> 00:00:18,990  
So they kept on  
filling up that room.

7  
00:00:18,990 --> 00:00:20,940  
And we were standing there.

8  
00:00:20,940 --> 00:00:23,640  
And then, all of a sudden,  
there are a few sprinkles

9  
00:00:23,640 --> 00:00:27,950  
of water came down  
the shower heads.

10  
00:00:27,950 --> 00:00:31,580  
And we sort of, a little  
bit, washed ourselves.

11  
00:00:31,580 --> 00:00:33,020  
And another door opened.

12  
00:00:33,020 --> 00:00:34,880

And they told us go out.

13

00:00:34,880 --> 00:00:38,780

And there were piles of shoes and piles of clothes.

14

00:00:38,780 --> 00:00:43,250

And they told us grab something to wear.

15

00:00:43,250 --> 00:00:46,190

So all of these were women who were all naked?

16

00:00:46,190 --> 00:00:50,270

What was that like for you to see your mother like that?

17

00:00:50,270 --> 00:00:53,360

It was, for the first time, it was

18

00:00:53,360 --> 00:00:57,230

so humiliating to see my mother and other women

19

00:00:57,230 --> 00:00:59,600

trying to the nakedness.

20

00:00:59,600 --> 00:01:07,810

And myself, even as a girl, my mother never saw me naked.

21

00:01:07,810 --> 00:01:10,500

Except when I was a little girl.

22

00:01:10,500 --> 00:01:14,450

When I became a teenager, I would always lock my door.

23

00:01:14,450 --> 00:01:17,040

And it was terrible.

24

00:01:17,040 --> 00:01:20,280  
But again, they dehumanized us.

25

00:01:20,280 --> 00:01:30,130  
And we were just acting,  
just existing, and just doing

26

00:01:30,130 --> 00:01:32,510  
what we were told.

27

00:01:32,510 --> 00:01:35,380  
And that was the  
most horrible thing.

28

00:01:35,380 --> 00:01:39,460  
And this was their aim  
at the final solution,

29

00:01:39,460 --> 00:01:43,280  
first to dehumanize,  
and then to kill.

30

00:01:43,280 --> 00:01:47,570  
And they told us, here are piles  
of clothes and shoes, grab.

31

00:01:47,570 --> 00:01:48,890  
And it was so pathetic.

32

00:01:48,890 --> 00:01:51,710  
Like, a big woman would  
grab a small dress.

33

00:01:51,710 --> 00:01:55,790  
Or a tiny girl would  
grab a big coat.

34

00:01:55,790 --> 00:01:57,950  
And then, of course,  
we would switch.

35

00:01:57,950 --> 00:02:01,480

And they sent us into a barrack.

36

00:02:01,480 --> 00:02:06,100

And we had to lie down on the  
floor the first night, just

37

00:02:06,100 --> 00:02:06,940

like sardines.

38

00:02:06,940 --> 00:02:08,919

When one of-- my mother,  
my sister, and I,

39

00:02:08,919 --> 00:02:14,740

one fitted into the  
other with the knees.

40

00:02:14,740 --> 00:02:19,510

And holding each other,  
to keep each other where--

41

00:02:19,510 --> 00:02:22,960

the safety that we  
felt by being together.

42

00:02:22,960 --> 00:02:26,530

If you had to get  
up to go out, you

43

00:02:26,530 --> 00:02:29,730

were stepping on arms and legs.

44

00:02:29,730 --> 00:02:34,490

And in the morning, they  
would call Zahlappell.

45

00:02:34,490 --> 00:02:37,280

Everybody had to go  
out for roll call.

46

00:02:37,280 --> 00:02:38,750

We got up.

47

00:02:38,750 --> 00:02:42,980

And we would line  
up, five in a row.

48

00:02:42,980 --> 00:02:47,000

And my mother, usually, what  
she did from the first day,

49

00:02:47,000 --> 00:02:50,270

she would rake up with  
her hands, a pile of dirt

50

00:02:50,270 --> 00:02:51,980

and put me on top of it.

51

00:02:51,980 --> 00:02:57,110

So that my head should look  
even with all the other people

52

00:02:57,110 --> 00:02:59,030

in the row.

53

00:02:59,030 --> 00:03:00,680

And I would stand on this pile.

54

00:03:00,680 --> 00:03:04,970

And my head was as tall  
as everybody else's.

55

00:03:04,970 --> 00:03:09,140

And then we would just sit  
there in the barracks all day.

56

00:03:09,140 --> 00:03:13,790

They would give us a  
little watery coffee.

57

00:03:13,790 --> 00:03:16,680

And they would only take us out  
when they were punishing people

58

00:03:16,680 --> 00:03:19,970

or when they were  
hanging people.

59  
00:03:19,970 --> 00:03:22,670  
Once, I did not see  
it, but the people

60  
00:03:22,670 --> 00:03:24,290  
that were with us  
in the barracks

61  
00:03:24,290 --> 00:03:26,410  
told us, because they were so--

62  
00:03:26,410 --> 00:03:29,630  
Yeah, then we found out  
that the place where we went

63  
00:03:29,630 --> 00:03:30,950  
was not a shower room.

64  
00:03:30,950 --> 00:03:33,950  
It was actually the crematorium.

65  
00:03:33,950 --> 00:03:35,840  
But what happened  
was that there were

66  
00:03:35,840 --> 00:03:38,300  
so many people from the  
East and from the South

67  
00:03:38,300 --> 00:03:41,990  
being brought in to  
Stutthof that they couldn't

68  
00:03:41,990 --> 00:03:45,920  
fit in to gas everybody  
and to burn everybody

69  
00:03:45,920 --> 00:03:47,270  
in the crematorium.

70

00:03:47,270 --> 00:03:49,340

So they gave a few  
sprinkles of water

71

00:03:49,340 --> 00:03:53,210

and took us into barracks,  
thinking that in a while,

72

00:03:53,210 --> 00:03:55,940

in a few weeks or so,  
they will have us,

73

00:03:55,940 --> 00:04:00,260

they'll have time to  
kill us and to burn us.

74

00:04:00,260 --> 00:04:02,480

So some people in  
my barrack told us,

75

00:04:02,480 --> 00:04:06,560

because they were so  
overwhelmed with many Jews

76

00:04:06,560 --> 00:04:10,400

to kill, what they did,  
they would line up people.

77

00:04:10,400 --> 00:04:14,420

They would first line  
up a row of wooden logs,

78

00:04:14,420 --> 00:04:17,329

and then a row of people, and  
make the people walk and lie

79

00:04:17,329 --> 00:04:20,990

down on the logs, and  
then another row of logs,

80

00:04:20,990 --> 00:04:24,880

and then another row of people,  
and sprinkle with gasoline,

81  
00:04:24,880 --> 00:04:28,700  
and burn them alive.

82  
00:04:28,700 --> 00:04:30,730  
With us, we were  
sitting there, and we

83  
00:04:30,730 --> 00:04:32,890  
were waiting, essentially,  
until-- but we

84  
00:04:32,890 --> 00:04:36,460  
didn't know that, until  
they will loosen up

85  
00:04:36,460 --> 00:04:37,580  
in the crematorium.

86  
00:04:37,580 --> 00:04:39,587  
And it will come our turn.

87  
00:04:39,587 --> 00:04:41,420  
Were there other people  
there that you knew?

88  
00:04:41,420 --> 00:04:43,212  
Or was it just your  
mother and your sister?

89  
00:04:43,212 --> 00:04:44,680  
My mother and my sister.

90  
00:04:44,680 --> 00:04:47,320  
We didn't know many people,  
because they were all from

91  
00:04:47,320 --> 00:04:51,310  
the Kovno ghetto, and then  
they were from the other,

92  
00:04:51,310 --> 00:04:55,805



from Kovno, from Shavli, --eh--

93

00:04:55,805 --> 00:04:59,560

Zosle, but we didn't  
we didn't know them.

94

00:04:59,560 --> 00:05:02,520

Did people talk to each other?

95

00:05:02,520 --> 00:05:05,830

No, people were walking  
around like zombies.

96

00:05:05,830 --> 00:05:08,500

Go out, go out, come  
back, come back.

97

00:05:08,500 --> 00:05:13,380

I was-- again, I was  
sitting there, one evening,

98

00:05:13,380 --> 00:05:15,800

and I was singing.

99

00:05:15,800 --> 00:05:17,610

I was singing.

100

00:05:17,610 --> 00:05:21,150

And in every barrack, in  
the back of the barrack,

101

00:05:21,150 --> 00:05:27,690

was a room where the Kapo, the  
Kapo that took care of that

102

00:05:27,690 --> 00:05:29,310

barracks, they had a bed.

103

00:05:29,310 --> 00:05:31,900

And that's where she lived.

104

00:05:31,900 --> 00:05:33,770

And I didn't know that.

105  
00:05:33,770 --> 00:05:34,580  
I was sitting.

106  
00:05:34,580 --> 00:05:36,330  
And I'm singing.

107  
00:05:36,330 --> 00:05:38,870  
All of a sudden,  
the door opens up.

108  
00:05:38,870 --> 00:05:40,420  
And the Kapo woman,  
she comes in,

109  
00:05:40,420 --> 00:05:43,270  
she goes, who was singing here?

110  
00:05:43,270 --> 00:05:45,490  
And I didn't want anybody  
to take the blame.

111  
00:05:45,490 --> 00:05:47,880  
I knew I was going  
to be punished.

112  
00:05:47,880 --> 00:05:48,640  
And I stand up.

113  
00:05:48,640 --> 00:05:51,330  
I said, I was singing.

114  
00:05:51,330 --> 00:05:52,720  
"Come with me."

115  
00:05:52,720 --> 00:05:53,470  
I went with her.

116  
00:05:53,470 --> 00:05:56,960  
She takes me into her room  
in the back of the barracks.

117  
00:05:56,960 --> 00:06:00,670  
And I she opens, she  
opens the cupboard,

118  
00:06:00,670 --> 00:06:06,430  
takes out a big chunk of bread  
and a big chunk of margarine,

119  
00:06:06,430 --> 00:06:07,780  
slaps it on the bread.

120  
00:06:07,780 --> 00:06:11,580  
She says, "go, share  
it with your mother."

121  
00:06:11,580 --> 00:06:12,450  
I went back.

122  
00:06:12,450 --> 00:06:15,030  
And again, my  
mother looked at me

123  
00:06:15,030 --> 00:06:18,540  
as if I came from  
the other world.

124  
00:06:18,540 --> 00:06:19,760  
What had you been singing?

125  
00:06:19,760 --> 00:06:26,920

126  
00:06:26,920 --> 00:06:30,030  
I was-- I don't think I was  
singing the same song that I

127  
00:06:30,030 --> 00:06:31,560  
sang before.

128  
00:06:31,560 --> 00:06:37,810  
I was singing, I think, a curse

song that they-- but she didn't

129

00:06:37,810 --> 00:06:39,490  
understand what I was singing.

130

00:06:39,490 --> 00:06:44,170  
That they will be defeated.

131

00:06:44,170 --> 00:06:45,670  
And they will die.

132

00:06:45,670 --> 00:06:50,320  
And we'll survive and  
we'll still be liberated,

133

00:06:50,320 --> 00:06:53,110  
like in the olden  
times when Jews

134

00:06:53,110 --> 00:06:57,250  
were in desperation and  
in danger and liberated.

135

00:06:57,250 --> 00:06:58,970  
But it was very sad tune.

136

00:06:58,970 --> 00:07:01,400  
But how was it?

137

00:07:01,400 --> 00:07:04,340  
I don't even remember.

138

00:07:04,340 --> 00:07:05,820  
I remember [VOCALIZING].

139

00:07:05,820 --> 00:07:12,420

140

00:07:12,420 --> 00:07:15,080  
Something like this.

141

00:07:15,080 --> 00:07:16,620

Was this a song you had made up?

142

00:07:16,620 --> 00:07:18,550

Or was it a--

143

00:07:18,550 --> 00:07:20,210

I made that song up too.

144

00:07:20,210 --> 00:07:22,530

But that was a song  
that it was in anger.

145

00:07:22,530 --> 00:07:25,480

The other one was  
more philosophical.

146

00:07:25,480 --> 00:07:30,120

It was in the beginning  
that we came from home.

147

00:07:30,120 --> 00:07:34,580

And this was very, very anger.

148

00:07:34,580 --> 00:07:36,530

When you were singing  
in the barracks,

149

00:07:36,530 --> 00:07:38,360

were other women  
listening to you?

150

00:07:38,360 --> 00:07:42,000

They were all listening.

151

00:07:42,000 --> 00:07:46,650

I remember it the song was going  
that you should all go to hell,

152

00:07:46,650 --> 00:07:49,470

I will bury you nicely.

153

00:07:49,470 --> 00:07:53,550  
But you are calling us, Mach us  
shnell, Mach us shnell, Appell,

154  
00:07:53,550 --> 00:07:58,280  
but you are calling us,  
in meantime, to roll call.

155  
00:07:58,280 --> 00:08:02,182  
But eventually, we will  
survive, something.

156  
00:08:02,182 --> 00:08:03,390  
Can you sing that part of it?

157  
00:08:03,390 --> 00:08:07,790

158  
00:08:07,790 --> 00:08:09,360  
[SINGING IN YIDDISH]

159  
00:08:09,360 --> 00:08:23,230

160  
00:08:23,230 --> 00:08:28,760  
And then there was another  
song we used to sing about,

161  
00:08:28,760 --> 00:08:30,620  
at night, it was one night.

162  
00:08:30,620 --> 00:08:35,159  
I was sitting in my bunk.

163  
00:08:35,159 --> 00:08:40,850  
And that was way before  
and looking out outside,

164  
00:08:40,850 --> 00:08:42,500  
looking at the moon.

165  
00:08:42,500 --> 00:08:46,410

And saying and thinking  
that you are teasing me.

166  
00:08:46,410 --> 00:08:47,750  
You are so beautiful.

167  
00:08:47,750 --> 00:08:52,280  
And I am here all locked up.

168  
00:08:52,280 --> 00:08:57,620  
It was really, and again,  
hoping that would it be,

169  
00:08:57,620 --> 00:09:00,650  
would the day come that  
I'll be able to look at you

170  
00:09:00,650 --> 00:09:06,530  
and enjoy you and walk  
in the light of the moon?

171  
00:09:06,530 --> 00:09:09,925  
So here we were in  
Stutthof everyday,

172  
00:09:09,925 --> 00:09:13,130  
they say Appell, my  
mother raking up.

173  
00:09:13,130 --> 00:09:15,800  
One day, they came  
and they told us

174  
00:09:15,800 --> 00:09:22,380  
that they need 5,000 women  
to go to a labor camp

175  
00:09:22,380 --> 00:09:26,580  
to dig trenches for  
the army, because we

176  
00:09:26,580 --> 00:09:31,070  
knew that the Russians

were advancing.

177

00:09:31,070 --> 00:09:35,105

Do you want to ask me something  
or you want me to go on?

178

00:09:35,105 --> 00:09:36,480

The Russians were  
advancing, they

179

00:09:36,480 --> 00:09:39,350

said 5,000 women to labor camp.

180

00:09:39,350 --> 00:09:42,320

And they told us to  
line up, five in a row,

181

00:09:42,320 --> 00:09:44,180

in front of the gate.

182

00:09:44,180 --> 00:09:49,530

And at the gate, they will  
check who goes and who doesn't.

183

00:09:49,530 --> 00:09:52,020

At the gate, when  
we got closer, we

184

00:09:52,020 --> 00:09:54,360

saw there was the  
head of the camp,

185

00:09:54,360 --> 00:09:59,280

with a doberman, club in  
his hand, a gun in his belt,

186

00:09:59,280 --> 00:10:01,200

and some of the  
Kapos surrounding him

187

00:10:01,200 --> 00:10:03,300

with their guns and their belts.



188

00:10:03,300 --> 00:10:06,350

And as people were  
passing the gate,

189

00:10:06,350 --> 00:10:09,800

he was pulling out  
children and old people.

190

00:10:09,800 --> 00:10:14,980

This is where they pulled  
out my grandfather's wife

191

00:10:14,980 --> 00:10:16,947

with her little girl.

192

00:10:16,947 --> 00:10:19,280

And they were pulling these  
people out and throwing them

193

00:10:19,280 --> 00:10:20,390

in a pile.

194

00:10:20,390 --> 00:10:23,090

And immediately, there were  
wagons and taking them,

195

00:10:23,090 --> 00:10:27,320

and we knew already, up  
there to the crematorium.

196

00:10:27,320 --> 00:10:29,090

How did you know what  
the crematorium was?

197

00:10:29,090 --> 00:10:33,980

Because when we were there,  
people that where there before,

198

00:10:33,980 --> 00:10:36,470

they told us, you see, this  
is what they are doing.

199

00:10:36,470 --> 00:10:37,820  
This is what they'll take us.

200  
00:10:37,820 --> 00:10:41,710  
This is where they'll burn us.

201  
00:10:41,710 --> 00:10:44,850  
And here we are, we're  
lined up in five.

202  
00:10:44,850 --> 00:10:51,040  
It was my mother,  
my sister, myself,

203  
00:10:51,040 --> 00:10:57,340  
two friends of my mother's,  
Rita and Basia [? Shahor. ?]

204  
00:10:57,340 --> 00:10:59,180  
And the five of us are going.

205  
00:10:59,180 --> 00:11:00,790  
And I'm the youngest.

206  
00:11:00,790 --> 00:11:03,130  
And here again, now,  
this is something

207  
00:11:03,130 --> 00:11:05,660  
that I talked about it.

208  
00:11:05,660 --> 00:11:06,700  
I taught about it.

209  
00:11:06,700 --> 00:11:09,190  
I wrote about it.

210  
00:11:09,190 --> 00:11:10,300  
I can't explain it.

211  
00:11:10,300 --> 00:11:13,570  
Because the only

thing is that if you

212

00:11:13,570 --> 00:11:17,290  
believe in God and in an  
angel, this is what happened.

213

00:11:17,290 --> 00:11:21,660  
Because there was no way  
that somebody could beg.

214

00:11:21,660 --> 00:11:23,320  
And you are familiar  
with the stories,

215

00:11:23,320 --> 00:11:27,230  
that somebody could beg for  
his life and be effective.

216

00:11:27,230 --> 00:11:28,690  
There was no way.

217

00:11:28,690 --> 00:11:31,270  
They would-- somebody would  
start talking or begging,

218

00:11:31,270 --> 00:11:33,150  
they threw, they  
send the doberman,

219

00:11:33,150 --> 00:11:37,090  
or either shoot the person, or  
send the doberman, ripped up

220

00:11:37,090 --> 00:11:38,080  
to pieces.

221

00:11:38,080 --> 00:11:47,560  
And I was very shy, very timid,  
very insecure little girl.

222

00:11:47,560 --> 00:11:51,220  
And here we are,  
crossing the gate.

223

00:11:51,220 --> 00:11:53,770  
And he grabs me out of the five.

224

00:11:53,770 --> 00:11:57,490  
And he throws me on the  
pile with the children

225

00:11:57,490 --> 00:12:03,430  
and the women, the old women  
and the young children.

226

00:12:03,430 --> 00:12:07,380  
And here is the moment that  
I, well, I have to believe it

227

00:12:07,380 --> 00:12:10,050  
was the hand of an  
angel or of God.

228

00:12:10,050 --> 00:12:11,280  
I got up.

229

00:12:11,280 --> 00:12:13,050  
And I walk over,  
straight to the head

230

00:12:13,050 --> 00:12:17,380  
of the camp, the Lagerfuhrer,  
and I look at him.

231

00:12:17,380 --> 00:12:17,980  
I was little.

232

00:12:17,980 --> 00:12:27,760  
He was tall, red hair, freckles  
on his face, gray, watery eyes.

233

00:12:27,760 --> 00:12:29,620  
And I look at him up.

234

00:12:29,620 --> 00:12:35,650

And I said in German, I said,  
"I am not a little girl.

235  
00:12:35,650 --> 00:12:37,270  
I am a teenager.

236  
00:12:37,270 --> 00:12:38,740  
I am very strong.

237  
00:12:38,740 --> 00:12:40,360  
And I worked already before.

238  
00:12:40,360 --> 00:12:41,140  
And I can work.

239  
00:12:41,140 --> 00:12:44,117  
And there is my  
mother and my sister."

240  
00:12:44,117 --> 00:12:45,700  
I didn't know what  
would happen to me.

241  
00:12:45,700 --> 00:12:48,450  
It's just that something,  
somebody took me

242  
00:12:48,450 --> 00:12:51,120  
and brought me in front of him.

243  
00:12:51,120 --> 00:12:56,450  
And I looked at his eyes up,  
and I see a flicker there.

244  
00:12:56,450 --> 00:13:00,710  
At that moment, he  
grabbed me by my neck,

245  
00:13:00,710 --> 00:13:06,770  
pushed me through the gate,  
yelling [SPEAKING GERMAN],, OK,

246

00:13:06,770 --> 00:13:09,970  
little girl, run to your mother.

247  
00:13:09,970 --> 00:13:13,940  
When I came on the other side of  
the gate, my mother, everybody,

248  
00:13:13,940 --> 00:13:18,130  
my friends, they all  
grabbed me and hugged me

249  
00:13:18,130 --> 00:13:24,940  
and kissed me, literally,  
that I came from the dead.

250  
00:13:24,940 --> 00:13:26,440  
We marched.

251  
00:13:26,440 --> 00:13:31,740  
And then they took us  
with trucks to Poland,

252  
00:13:31,740 --> 00:13:41,890  
to a place called [? Dyrbek. ?]  
In [? Dyrbek, ?] they had

253  
00:13:41,890 --> 00:13:43,960  
barracks prepared for us.

254  
00:13:43,960 --> 00:13:48,880  
But not like for human beings,  
barracks like for horses.

255  
00:13:48,880 --> 00:13:50,380  
They were circular.

256  
00:13:50,380 --> 00:13:56,110  
And they were divided by  
poles, where every triangle was

257  
00:13:56,110 --> 00:13:59,440  
placed another to stand.

258

00:13:59,440 --> 00:14:05,950

And in the center,  
there was an iron stove.

259

00:14:05,950 --> 00:14:08,140

And they put-- there  
was straw on the floor.

260

00:14:08,140 --> 00:14:10,060

And they put us there.

261

00:14:10,060 --> 00:14:13,930

And, oh, no, no,  
no, first, we were.

262

00:14:13,930 --> 00:14:15,910

We went to [? Malchin, ?]  
but no, this

263

00:14:15,910 --> 00:14:18,220

was in the second labor camp.

264

00:14:18,220 --> 00:14:20,940

They had pitched tents for us.

265

00:14:20,940 --> 00:14:25,870

And in every tent, there were  
10 women, 5 on each side.

266

00:14:25,870 --> 00:14:28,360

And every morning, we got up.

267

00:14:28,360 --> 00:14:34,130

And they took us  
to dig trenches,

268

00:14:34,130 --> 00:14:38,180

not for soldiers, but  
cylindrical trenches.

269

00:14:38,180 --> 00:14:40,370

And then they would

camouflage it.

270

00:14:40,370 --> 00:14:44,270

And they were along  
the line from south

271

00:14:44,270 --> 00:14:47,720

to north, hoping that when  
the Russian tanks would come,

272

00:14:47,720 --> 00:14:50,780

they would plunge  
into those trenches.

273

00:14:50,780 --> 00:14:53,270

It was very hard  
work, because we

274

00:14:53,270 --> 00:14:56,750

had to work with picks  
and with shovels.

275

00:14:56,750 --> 00:15:00,770

And to dig those cylindrical  
trenches, I think,

276

00:15:00,770 --> 00:15:05,360

they started from five feet all  
the way down to, I would say,

277

00:15:05,360 --> 00:15:07,460

one foot at the bottom.

278

00:15:07,460 --> 00:15:09,720

Again, where did you  
get the strength?

279

00:15:09,720 --> 00:15:10,950

I don't know.

280

00:15:10,950 --> 00:15:14,840

I really don't know  
where the strength come.



281  
00:15:14,840 --> 00:15:17,630  
And nobody died of fatigue.

282  
00:15:17,630 --> 00:15:20,000  
There were many women  
that died there.

283  
00:15:20,000 --> 00:15:32,460  
It was a epidemic of, not  
typhus, at the time, but

284  
00:15:32,460 --> 00:15:34,020  
Diphtheria?

285  
00:15:34,020 --> 00:15:37,680  
Diphtheria, right, that many  
women died of diphtheria.

286  
00:15:37,680 --> 00:15:39,810  
Now, where is this that  
we're talking about it?

287  
00:15:39,810 --> 00:15:46,170  
It was a name called  
[? Dyrbek ?] in Poland.

288  
00:15:46,170 --> 00:15:47,270  
Near where?

289  
00:15:47,270 --> 00:15:54,430  
It was not far from  
Poznania, which is Poznan.

290  
00:15:54,430 --> 00:15:56,310  
And we worked there.

291  
00:15:56,310 --> 00:15:59,050  
In the beginning, it was OK.

292  
00:15:59,050 --> 00:16:03,520  
And we worked the

trenches, and every day.

293

00:16:03,520 --> 00:16:08,330

And then it was, again, the  
latrine, it was like a board.

294

00:16:08,330 --> 00:16:09,730

And it was a hole.

295

00:16:09,730 --> 00:16:11,860

And anybody who  
needed, would go.

296

00:16:11,860 --> 00:16:12,910

And they would watch you.

297

00:16:12,910 --> 00:16:14,757

If you're sitting  
a little too long,

298

00:16:14,757 --> 00:16:16,090

they would come and clobber you.

299

00:16:16,090 --> 00:16:18,640

It would all open.

300

00:16:18,640 --> 00:16:21,610

And of course,  
there was no food.

301

00:16:21,610 --> 00:16:23,080

What kind of food did we have?

302

00:16:23,080 --> 00:16:27,760

During the morning, they  
gave us a brown bowl,

303

00:16:27,760 --> 00:16:29,660

like you have in the  
Holocaust Museum.

304

00:16:29,660 --> 00:16:31,360

And I looked at those bowls.

305

00:16:31,360 --> 00:16:32,350

I went with friends.

306

00:16:32,350 --> 00:16:34,510

I was telling them  
what we did with it.

307

00:16:34,510 --> 00:16:37,420

In the morning, they would  
give us a little coffee,

308

00:16:37,420 --> 00:16:38,730

or whatever it was.

309

00:16:38,730 --> 00:16:42,550

And again, a bread that we had  
to divide, a slice of bread.

310

00:16:42,550 --> 00:16:44,950

And then when we came  
back at night, again,

311

00:16:44,950 --> 00:16:47,180

they would cook  
some kind of a meal.

312

00:16:47,180 --> 00:16:51,380

Sometimes, they would throw  
in a piece of horse meat.

313

00:16:51,380 --> 00:16:54,910

And if you were lucky enough  
to find a little chunk of horse

314

00:16:54,910 --> 00:16:58,420

meat in your soup, you really  
felt that you'll live forever.

315

00:16:58,420 --> 00:17:02,640

316

00:17:02,640 --> 00:17:04,170  
How did you keep yourself clean?

317

00:17:04,170 --> 00:17:05,670  
OK, here we go.

318

00:17:05,670 --> 00:17:08,730  
Once in a while,  
they brought water.

319

00:17:08,730 --> 00:17:11,160  
And we would go  
with the same bowl

320

00:17:11,160 --> 00:17:13,560  
that we had our  
coffee and soup, they

321

00:17:13,560 --> 00:17:15,210  
would give us water in the bowl.

322

00:17:15,210 --> 00:17:17,619  
And we would wash  
our bodies in it.

323

00:17:17,619 --> 00:17:19,410  
And we finished  
washing our bodies,

324

00:17:19,410 --> 00:17:21,810  
we would wash up  
our panties in it.

325

00:17:21,810 --> 00:17:24,180  
And then the next morning,  
we would have coffee in it

326

00:17:24,180 --> 00:17:28,770  
again and have our coffee  
without thinking twice.

327

00:17:28,770 --> 00:17:31,950

At home, I remember  
my mother, let's say,

328  
00:17:31,950 --> 00:17:33,960  
she would make hot chocolate.

329  
00:17:33,960 --> 00:17:38,110  
And my sister would  
take a sip from my cup,

330  
00:17:38,110 --> 00:17:40,960  
I would not touch that  
cup again or the glass.

331  
00:17:40,960 --> 00:17:43,450  
She touched it with her mouth.

332  
00:17:43,450 --> 00:17:48,580  
And here I was washing  
my panties in a bowl

333  
00:17:48,580 --> 00:17:53,910  
that I was later eating  
from and drinking my coffee.

334  
00:17:53,910 --> 00:17:55,020  
And then it--

335  
00:17:55,020 --> 00:17:57,270  
How many changes of  
clothing did you have?

336  
00:17:57,270 --> 00:18:00,270  
Nothing, whatever we had on.

337  
00:18:00,270 --> 00:18:02,920  
That's what we wore.

338  
00:18:02,920 --> 00:18:04,720  
That was it.

339  
00:18:04,720 --> 00:18:07,870

And at that time, they gave me--

340

00:18:07,870 --> 00:18:11,500

I had grabbed a pair  
of leather shoes

341

00:18:11,500 --> 00:18:13,640

when we came out  
of the gas chamber.

342

00:18:13,640 --> 00:18:17,560

But at that point, the shoes  
were already torn completely.

343

00:18:17,560 --> 00:18:20,380

So they gave me a  
pair of wooden clogs.

344

00:18:20,380 --> 00:18:22,800

And I just couldn't  
walk in them.

345

00:18:22,800 --> 00:18:28,120

And I would sprain my ankle,  
but I would still walk on.

346

00:18:28,120 --> 00:18:31,990

Then, winter was approaching.

347

00:18:31,990 --> 00:18:34,180

And they took us  
to another place,

348

00:18:34,180 --> 00:18:39,490

called [? Malchin. ?] In  
[? Malchin, ?] they had those

349

00:18:39,490 --> 00:18:43,150

plywood barracks for us  
that was meant for horses.

350

00:18:43,150 --> 00:18:45,880

And they are triangles.

351  
00:18:45,880 --> 00:18:51,190  
But the divider was, let's  
say, high as your head,

352  
00:18:51,190 --> 00:18:52,610  
because so the horses wouldn't.

353  
00:18:52,610 --> 00:18:56,510  
But all the way on the bottom,  
it was like one circular thing.

354  
00:18:56,510 --> 00:19:00,400  
And we got down, my mother,  
my sister on the straw.

355  
00:19:00,400 --> 00:19:04,102  
And this is-- and it started  
to get colder and colder.

356  
00:19:04,102 --> 00:19:05,560  
And we would get  
up in the morning.

357  
00:19:05,560 --> 00:19:08,950  
And then my mother would  
stuff in some straw

358  
00:19:08,950 --> 00:19:11,710  
in the coat that I was wearing,  
in the front and in the back,

359  
00:19:11,710 --> 00:19:13,090  
and with a little--

360  
00:19:13,090 --> 00:19:16,580  
with a string tie it  
at the waist line,

361  
00:19:16,580 --> 00:19:19,330  
so that it would keep us warm.

362

00:19:19,330 --> 00:19:21,460  
And then my mother,  
when it was really cold,

363  
00:19:21,460 --> 00:19:25,900  
what my mother did for us,  
she would take us outside,

364  
00:19:25,900 --> 00:19:30,010  
when it was snow  
and make us strip.

365  
00:19:30,010 --> 00:19:34,360  
And with snow, she would rub  
our bodies, our hands, arms,

366  
00:19:34,360 --> 00:19:36,580  
and feet for circulation.

367  
00:19:36,580 --> 00:19:39,910  
And after that, when we got  
dressed, we felt so warm.

368  
00:19:39,910 --> 00:19:41,680  
We felt so good.

369  
00:19:41,680 --> 00:19:46,820  
And we started working  
again on the trenches there.

370  
00:19:46,820 --> 00:19:48,960  
And it was already very cold.

371  
00:19:48,960 --> 00:19:53,090  
It was November, December '44.

372  
00:19:53,090 --> 00:19:55,040  
The earth was frozen.

373  
00:19:55,040 --> 00:20:01,190  
And we kept on working until  
January the 18th, 1945.



374

00:20:01,190 --> 00:20:03,900

Did you get any  
kind of frostbite?

375

00:20:03,900 --> 00:20:08,690

No, no, miraculously we didn't.

376

00:20:08,690 --> 00:20:11,360

Because this is what my  
mother used to do always,

377

00:20:11,360 --> 00:20:14,570

rub our hands, our  
fingers, we didn't even

378

00:20:14,570 --> 00:20:18,210

have gloves, even nothing.

379

00:20:18,210 --> 00:20:22,050

Then January the 18th,  
it was already snowing.

380

00:20:22,050 --> 00:20:23,190

And it was winter.

381

00:20:23,190 --> 00:20:25,740

And it was below zero.

382

00:20:25,740 --> 00:20:28,290

And they told us to line up.

383

00:20:28,290 --> 00:20:31,260

And they gave everyone  
a loaf of bread.

384

00:20:31,260 --> 00:20:34,140

And they said that we're  
going to march north,

385

00:20:34,140 --> 00:20:35,790

back to Stutthof.

386

00:20:35,790 --> 00:20:37,940

And then we found  
out, we heard already,

387

00:20:37,940 --> 00:20:41,400

the Russian katyushas shooting.

388

00:20:41,400 --> 00:20:44,970

And so we knew already that  
the Russians are coming close.

389

00:20:44,970 --> 00:20:47,790

And they wanted us  
back to Stutthof.

390

00:20:47,790 --> 00:20:53,310

What we didn't know was that on  
the road, as we were walking,

391

00:20:53,310 --> 00:20:55,110

it was snowing.

392

00:20:55,110 --> 00:20:59,890

And then some days, we've  
marched for over a week.

393

00:20:59,890 --> 00:21:03,150

Some days, it was  
not snowing anymore.

394

00:21:03,150 --> 00:21:04,950

The sun was shining.

395

00:21:04,950 --> 00:21:07,920

And the snow was sparkling.

396

00:21:07,920 --> 00:21:09,910

But it was so frosty.

397

00:21:09,910 --> 00:21:13,710

And at that time, I  
always, every day, all day,

398  
00:21:13,710 --> 00:21:15,830  
I was thinking in  
those days when

399  
00:21:15,830 --> 00:21:22,200  
I would go cross-country skiing  
and come home with my breath

400  
00:21:22,200 --> 00:21:26,490  
would freeze my scarf,  
coming home to a warm meal,

401  
00:21:26,490 --> 00:21:28,230  
and the nights when  
my father would

402  
00:21:28,230 --> 00:21:30,480  
come with the horses  
and the sleighs.

403  
00:21:30,480 --> 00:21:35,610  
And we would go around,  
sleighbing around the area.

404  
00:21:35,610 --> 00:21:38,880  
And here I was,  
walking, marching.

405  
00:21:38,880 --> 00:21:43,890  
And what happened was that  
if somebody stayed behind,

406  
00:21:43,890 --> 00:21:46,870  
they would immediately  
shoot them.

407  
00:21:46,870 --> 00:21:50,430  
And as we were marching,  
on both sides of the road,

408  
00:21:50,430 --> 00:21:51,630  
it was full of snow.

409  
00:21:51,630 --> 00:21:53,850  
But the snow wasn't white.

410  
00:21:53,850 --> 00:21:55,440  
There were bodies.

411  
00:21:55,440 --> 00:21:58,370  
And there was  
blood, human blood,

412  
00:21:58,370 --> 00:22:02,070  
on both sides of the road.

413  
00:22:02,070 --> 00:22:04,860  
And we were walking on  
the sides of the road,

414  
00:22:04,860 --> 00:22:06,400  
because in the  
middle of the road,

415  
00:22:06,400 --> 00:22:11,040  
the Germans, the civilians and  
the military, were retreating.

416  
00:22:11,040 --> 00:22:13,140  
So they were in the  
middle of the road.

417  
00:22:13,140 --> 00:22:16,320  
And we were walking in  
the snow on both sides.

418  
00:22:16,320 --> 00:22:19,680  
And we saw other groups  
marching, in front of us,

419  
00:22:19,680 --> 00:22:22,080  
ahead of us,  
everybody going north.

420

00:22:22,080 --> 00:22:27,450  
And they pushed us all to go  
towards Stutthof, to go back

421  
00:22:27,450 --> 00:22:29,370  
to the concentration camp.

422  
00:22:29,370 --> 00:22:31,860  
Nights, they would put us up.

423  
00:22:31,860 --> 00:22:34,500  
Once, they put us  
up in a school.

424  
00:22:34,500 --> 00:22:37,740  
Once, they put us up in a barn.

425  
00:22:37,740 --> 00:22:41,250  
In the barn, it was so cold.

426  
00:22:41,250 --> 00:22:44,280  
When we slept in the barn, in  
the morning, we would get up.

427  
00:22:44,280 --> 00:22:46,170  
And people would  
be frozen there.

428  
00:22:46,170 --> 00:22:52,350  
And they would pull out  
frozen bodies from the barn.

429  
00:22:52,350 --> 00:22:56,700  
Once, I remember, we  
slept over in a barn.

430  
00:22:56,700 --> 00:22:58,710  
And we were so hungry.

431  
00:22:58,710 --> 00:23:02,170  
And saw that we were  
so near a village.

432

00:23:02,170 --> 00:23:04,230

I didn't tell my  
mother or my sister.

433

00:23:04,230 --> 00:23:06,810

We were so hungry.

434

00:23:06,810 --> 00:23:11,130

I ran out of camp  
into a farmer's house.

435

00:23:11,130 --> 00:23:14,730

And I told them that I am  
very, very hungry, if they

436

00:23:14,730 --> 00:23:16,590

could give me something.

437

00:23:16,590 --> 00:23:20,220

And they cut off two  
large slices of bread

438

00:23:20,220 --> 00:23:22,140

and put some fat on it.

439

00:23:22,140 --> 00:23:25,470

And I stuck it in  
the bosom of my coat.

440

00:23:25,470 --> 00:23:30,270

And I ran out of the house  
to run back to the camp.

441

00:23:30,270 --> 00:23:33,120

And all of a sudden,  
I saw a German soldier

442

00:23:33,120 --> 00:23:36,450

spotting a girl like  
me at another house,

443

00:23:36,450 --> 00:23:39,510

shooting her down  
dead in the snow.

444  
00:23:39,510 --> 00:23:40,810  
I waited a while.

445  
00:23:40,810 --> 00:23:43,260  
And I said, well,  
he'll probably kill me.

446  
00:23:43,260 --> 00:23:46,830  
But somehow, I managed  
to crawl back into camp

447  
00:23:46,830 --> 00:23:51,780  
and to share the bread with  
my mother and my sister.

448  
00:23:51,780 --> 00:23:54,600  
One night, we were very lucky.

449  
00:23:54,600 --> 00:23:56,740  
What was your mother's  
response to the fact

450  
00:23:56,740 --> 00:23:58,690  
you took such a chance?

451  
00:23:58,690 --> 00:24:02,130  
Well, she was very  
angry with me.

452  
00:24:02,130 --> 00:24:05,220  
And she made me and my  
sister eat most of the bread.

453  
00:24:05,220 --> 00:24:07,020  
She wouldn't touch it.

454  
00:24:07,020 --> 00:24:10,860  
And most of the time, when  
we got our portions of bread,

455

00:24:10,860 --> 00:24:13,530

she would cut off half  
of it and split it

456

00:24:13,530 --> 00:24:15,570

between my sister and me.

457

00:24:15,570 --> 00:24:21,861

Never ever eating her portion  
of bread that she had gotten.

458

00:24:21,861 --> 00:24:23,790

How was her health?

459

00:24:23,790 --> 00:24:25,410

Oh, she was healthy.

460

00:24:25,410 --> 00:24:26,147

She was strong.

461

00:24:26,147 --> 00:24:26,730

You could see.

462

00:24:26,730 --> 00:24:28,080

She is now 95.

463

00:24:28,080 --> 00:24:30,600

And physically,  
she is beautiful.

464

00:24:30,600 --> 00:24:33,850

No arthritis, no  
diabetes, she was never,

465

00:24:33,850 --> 00:24:38,160

not a day in the hospital,  
as long as I know her.

466

00:24:38,160 --> 00:24:41,410

But Alzheimer's disease  
caught up with her.



467

00:24:41,410 --> 00:24:47,610

So the night that  
they took us to a--

468

00:24:47,610 --> 00:24:50,550

oh, it was a stable.

469

00:24:50,550 --> 00:24:51,390

It wasn't a stable.

470

00:24:51,390 --> 00:24:54,110

It was a barn for cows.

471

00:24:54,110 --> 00:24:57,040

And it was warm  
because of the cows.

472

00:24:57,040 --> 00:24:59,580

And at night, we  
huddled up to the cows.

473

00:24:59,580 --> 00:25:01,920

And in the morning,  
we took some milk.

474

00:25:01,920 --> 00:25:04,830

Then, when they came,  
and [MUMBLING] nobody,

475

00:25:04,830 --> 00:25:06,750

I don't think, they  
caught anybody.

476

00:25:06,750 --> 00:25:08,070

And everybody was so happy.

477

00:25:08,070 --> 00:25:10,320

Nobody froze to  
death that night.

478

00:25:10,320 --> 00:25:13,980

And again, every night, my

mother would, in the morning,

479

00:25:13,980 --> 00:25:16,890  
or at night, she would  
wake us up, go outside,

480

00:25:16,890 --> 00:25:19,500  
and she would rub  
our limbs with snow

481

00:25:19,500 --> 00:25:24,450  
to improve the circulation.

482

00:25:24,450 --> 00:25:26,100  
And we were so hungry.

483

00:25:26,100 --> 00:25:30,730  
And as we walked, I remember,  
once, I looked up at the hill.

484

00:25:30,730 --> 00:25:35,230  
And I saw a house there,  
a farmer, and the wife.

485

00:25:35,230 --> 00:25:38,980  
And there was smoke  
coming out of the chimney.

486

00:25:38,980 --> 00:25:42,700  
And the woman ran out of  
the house in short sleeves.

487

00:25:42,700 --> 00:25:45,250  
I said, oh my God,  
she's not cold?

488

00:25:45,250 --> 00:25:46,530  
It's below zero.

489

00:25:46,530 --> 00:25:49,720  
It must be so warm  
inside that she ran out

490

00:25:49,720 --> 00:25:52,670  
to get to throw out the refuse.

491

00:25:52,670 --> 00:25:56,140  
And I visualized  
myself, what I would

492

00:25:56,140 --> 00:26:00,550  
give to be in a little house  
like this with the fire

493

00:26:00,550 --> 00:26:04,090  
going, and warm, and  
something to eat.

494

00:26:04,090 --> 00:26:04,750  
Why?

495

00:26:04,750 --> 00:26:07,680  
Why is it happening to us?

496

00:26:07,680 --> 00:26:10,980  
And one day, as we  
walked past by villages,

497

00:26:10,980 --> 00:26:14,640  
we would rummage  
through the garbage.

498

00:26:14,640 --> 00:26:19,220  
And once, my mother  
found a marrow bone.

499

00:26:19,220 --> 00:26:21,010  
And my sister was the weakest.

500

00:26:21,010 --> 00:26:24,480  
And she gave it to my sister  
to suck on the marrow bone.

501

00:26:24,480 --> 00:26:26,923  
And when she was through

with it, she gave it to me.

502

00:26:26,923 --> 00:26:28,340

And then she didn't  
throw it away.

503

00:26:28,340 --> 00:26:31,790

She held it, maybe she could  
still scrape off something

504

00:26:31,790 --> 00:26:34,850

from the bone with her  
teeth the following day.

505

00:26:34,850 --> 00:26:40,040

And then one day, I remember, we  
found in the trash, we found--

506

00:26:40,040 --> 00:26:42,050

it looked like lungs.

507

00:26:42,050 --> 00:26:44,900

I don't know what it  
was from, an animal.

508

00:26:44,900 --> 00:26:46,840

And we were sucking on it.

509

00:26:46,840 --> 00:26:47,540

It was raw.

510

00:26:47,540 --> 00:26:48,690

And it was red.

511

00:26:48,690 --> 00:26:50,600

And we were sucking on it.

512

00:26:50,600 --> 00:26:52,990

We were so hungry.

513

00:26:52,990 --> 00:26:54,170

And we kept on marching.

514  
00:26:54,170 --> 00:26:58,820  
And we saw people die on  
both sides of the road.

515  
00:26:58,820 --> 00:27:03,020  
But my mother was  
pushing us ahead.

516  
00:27:03,020 --> 00:27:08,000  
We should never be at the end  
of-- then, I saw one girl.

517  
00:27:08,000 --> 00:27:09,620  
Her mother was so weak.

518  
00:27:09,620 --> 00:27:11,870  
And she put the string  
through the bowl,

519  
00:27:11,870 --> 00:27:16,700  
through the brown bowl that we  
would drink our coffee or eat.

520  
00:27:16,700 --> 00:27:18,620  
And she put the  
mother on the bowl.

521  
00:27:18,620 --> 00:27:21,380  
And with the string,  
she was pulling her.

522  
00:27:21,380 --> 00:27:23,150  
And the mother was  
sitting on that bowl.

523  
00:27:23,150 --> 00:27:25,820  
And she pulled  
her over the snow.

524  
00:27:25,820 --> 00:27:28,040  
I never know what  
happened to it.

525  
00:27:28,040 --> 00:27:31,340  
Then, one other peculiar  
thing happened to us,

526  
00:27:31,340 --> 00:27:33,020  
which I can't explain again.

527  
00:27:33,020 --> 00:27:36,530  
We were walking up  
a hill, in a forest,

528  
00:27:36,530 --> 00:27:40,220  
near the river of Visla.

529  
00:27:40,220 --> 00:27:44,060  
And it was so cold, maybe it  
was the fifth or sixth day.

530  
00:27:44,060 --> 00:27:49,130  
And my sister was always,  
she used to get hysterical.

531  
00:27:49,130 --> 00:27:52,670  
And after the war, you can  
imagine that, not only her,

532  
00:27:52,670 --> 00:27:56,300  
but even I, with  
all my being strong,

533  
00:27:56,300 --> 00:27:58,690  
I suffered very severe post--

534  
00:27:58,690 --> 00:28:03,580

535  
00:28:03,580 --> 00:28:07,460  
post-traumatic stress syndrome.

536  
00:28:07,460 --> 00:28:11,840  
And that, and there were

anxiety attacks that I had.

537

00:28:11,840 --> 00:28:13,130

But my sister was worse.

538

00:28:13,130 --> 00:28:16,600

But I was strong, all the  
time, when we were marching.

539

00:28:16,600 --> 00:28:19,100

And the one day,  
we were marching.

540

00:28:19,100 --> 00:28:23,560

And my sister rested  
against a tree.

541

00:28:23,560 --> 00:28:25,230

And she says, I'm  
not going anymore.

542

00:28:25,230 --> 00:28:28,290

Let them kill me, because  
everybody who was left behind

543

00:28:28,290 --> 00:28:30,000

was shot to death.

544

00:28:30,000 --> 00:28:31,770

She said, no, let them kill me.

545

00:28:31,770 --> 00:28:32,640

I'm not going.

546

00:28:32,640 --> 00:28:34,350

And everybody's  
already in front.

547

00:28:34,350 --> 00:28:36,390

And here, the last,  
the Germans that

548

00:28:36,390 --> 00:28:40,938  
were coming from behind to  
see who is left to kill.

549  
00:28:40,938 --> 00:28:41,730  
And we are begging.

550  
00:28:41,730 --> 00:28:42,540  
She says, you go.

551  
00:28:42,540 --> 00:28:43,040  
You go.

552  
00:28:43,040 --> 00:28:43,830  
I'm not going.

553  
00:28:43,830 --> 00:28:44,700  
Let them kill me.

554  
00:28:44,700 --> 00:28:47,130  
And my mother I said,  
no, we are not going.

555  
00:28:47,130 --> 00:28:49,410  
We will stay with you,  
whatever will happen.

556  
00:28:49,410 --> 00:28:53,070  
And the last German that came  
from the rear, he came over,

557  
00:28:53,070 --> 00:28:55,740  
and he said, what's  
going on here?

558  
00:28:55,740 --> 00:28:57,630  
And my sister said,  
well, I don't care.

559  
00:28:57,630 --> 00:28:59,430  
I can't go on anymore.

560



00:28:59,430 --> 00:29:03,300  
She was very pretty, dark  
hair, beautiful eyes.

561  
00:29:03,300 --> 00:29:04,400  
I can't go on anymore.

562  
00:29:04,400 --> 00:29:06,750  
Kill me like you  
kill everybody else.

563  
00:29:06,750 --> 00:29:07,470  
I can't.

564  
00:29:07,470 --> 00:29:08,920  
That's enough.

565  
00:29:08,920 --> 00:29:11,590  
He looked at her, he says,  
oh no, you want to die?

566  
00:29:11,590 --> 00:29:13,030  
No way.

567  
00:29:13,030 --> 00:29:18,820  
He took out, from his pocket,  
a piece of cake and an apple.

568  
00:29:18,820 --> 00:29:20,180  
And he gave it to her.

569  
00:29:20,180 --> 00:29:24,100  
And he gave her a smack  
with the butt of the rifle.

570  
00:29:24,100 --> 00:29:26,020  
And he said, you better go.

571  
00:29:26,020 --> 00:29:27,580  
I'm not going to kill you.

572  
00:29:27,580 --> 00:29:30,810

And we went on.

573

00:29:30,810 --> 00:29:32,100

And we went.

574

00:29:32,100 --> 00:29:34,860

And then, we came  
closer to a place

575

00:29:34,860 --> 00:29:37,410

where we saw there  
was a lot of blood.

576

00:29:37,410 --> 00:29:38,910

It was off the road.

577

00:29:38,910 --> 00:29:40,950

And they took us there.

578

00:29:40,950 --> 00:29:44,420

We didn't know where it was.

579

00:29:44,420 --> 00:29:49,310

And they took us in  
there to a big, big barn.

580

00:29:49,310 --> 00:29:51,380

And people were  
there and distraught.

581

00:29:51,380 --> 00:29:52,880

And they were dying.

582

00:29:52,880 --> 00:29:56,090

And then we realized, every  
morning, there was lots of lice

583

00:29:56,090 --> 00:29:56,840

there.

584

00:29:56,840 --> 00:29:59,810

And every morning,

people would die.

585  
00:29:59,810 --> 00:30:02,420  
And they had a special  
group of people

586  
00:30:02,420 --> 00:30:05,390  
to pull out the cadavers there.

587  
00:30:05,390 --> 00:30:07,260  
And there was a big, open pit.

588  
00:30:07,260 --> 00:30:12,080  
And every day they would  
add to the dead people.

589  
00:30:12,080 --> 00:30:13,670  
My mother took one look.

590  
00:30:13,670 --> 00:30:17,330  
And there were around  
600 or 800 people.

591  
00:30:17,330 --> 00:30:20,240  
And she said, oh no,  
we were still healthy.

592  
00:30:20,240 --> 00:30:24,020  
And my mother was exposed,  
when she was young,

593  
00:30:24,020 --> 00:30:26,290  
during World War 1 to typhus.

594  
00:30:26,290 --> 00:30:30,500  
And my sister had typhus  
in Å»eÅ¼mor But I didn't.

595  
00:30:30,500 --> 00:30:34,880  
And the typhus, people  
were dying of typhus.

596

00:30:34,880 --> 00:30:37,230

And my mother-- so the  
lice were, of course,

597

00:30:37,230 --> 00:30:40,880

the lice were  
spreading the typhus.

598

00:30:40,880 --> 00:30:44,240

And my mother looked around,  
she said, no, no we cannot.

599

00:30:44,240 --> 00:30:46,260

Let's see if there is  
any other place here

600

00:30:46,260 --> 00:30:49,010

we could lay down our heads.

601

00:30:49,010 --> 00:30:51,680

And there was a  
little barrack there.

602

00:30:51,680 --> 00:30:54,770

And in the barrack, this  
must have been army barracks.

603

00:30:54,770 --> 00:30:59,180

And that barrack there  
was like a army washroom.

604

00:30:59,180 --> 00:31:01,850

They had long troughs.

605

00:31:01,850 --> 00:31:08,360

And they had long pipes  
overhead with faucets.

606

00:31:08,360 --> 00:31:10,370

So we assumed that  
this is probably

607

00:31:10,370 --> 00:31:13,250

where the army would go  
in to wash themselves.

608  
00:31:13,250 --> 00:31:15,640  
My mother, in the trough,  
there was no water.

609  
00:31:15,640 --> 00:31:17,330  
Anyway, she said the  
troughs was empty.

610  
00:31:17,330 --> 00:31:19,290  
She said this is where  
we're going to sleep.

611  
00:31:19,290 --> 00:31:22,940  
We're not going to sleep  
with the straw, and the lice,

612  
00:31:22,940 --> 00:31:24,440  
and the typhus.

613  
00:31:24,440 --> 00:31:25,400  
So we were there.

614  
00:31:25,400 --> 00:31:28,700  
And every day, they  
took out dead people.

615  
00:31:28,700 --> 00:31:31,400  
And they started  
sending us to work,

616  
00:31:31,400 --> 00:31:35,570  
those that were  
healthy, to dig trenches

617  
00:31:35,570 --> 00:31:38,320  
for soldiers at this point.

618  
00:31:38,320 --> 00:31:39,560  
We went every day.

619

00:31:39,560 --> 00:31:40,800

And we came back.

620

00:31:40,800 --> 00:31:44,960

And every day, the pit  
was getting fuller.

621

00:31:44,960 --> 00:31:47,870

They would put some  
disinfectant and keep

622

00:31:47,870 --> 00:31:52,340

the pit open for people  
for the next morning.

623

00:31:52,340 --> 00:31:56,000

And then, one of my  
friends, my mother's

624

00:31:56,000 --> 00:31:59,390

friends, the one that was with  
the five, she was a nurse.

625

00:31:59,390 --> 00:32:02,240

Somehow, there  
was a Krankenstube

626

00:32:02,240 --> 00:32:04,160

It was like a hospital.

627

00:32:04,160 --> 00:32:09,050

And they had one room  
there for the nurses.

628

00:32:09,050 --> 00:32:11,900

And she, somehow,  
she got in there.

629

00:32:11,900 --> 00:32:14,750

And she took all of us in there.

630

00:32:14,750 --> 00:32:23,510

And we had-- it  
was two-tier beds.

631  
00:32:23,510 --> 00:32:25,280  
And this is-- we  
used to go to work.

632  
00:32:25,280 --> 00:32:28,640  
But when we came back, we  
came to that place to sleep.

633  
00:32:28,640 --> 00:32:29,750  
And it was nice.

634  
00:32:29,750 --> 00:32:33,770  
The floor was, there were boards  
on the floor, and it was clean.

635  
00:32:33,770 --> 00:32:37,790  
And one day, as we were digging  
the ditches, the trenches,

636  
00:32:37,790 --> 00:32:39,800  
I felt feverish.

637  
00:32:39,800 --> 00:32:42,380  
And I came home,  
back to the place.

638  
00:32:42,380 --> 00:32:46,940  
And I was totally unconscious.

639  
00:32:46,940 --> 00:32:50,720  
And I didn't know  
what happened to me.

640  
00:32:50,720 --> 00:32:53,000  
What is the name of the  
location that you're at?

641  
00:32:53,000 --> 00:32:56,040  
Location was Prost.

642

00:32:56,040 --> 00:33:00,480

And the Russians called it the  
Toten Camp, the death camp.

643

00:33:00,480 --> 00:33:05,430

What happened was that  
everybody went to Stutthof.

644

00:33:05,430 --> 00:33:07,710

And Stutthof was overwhelmed.

645

00:33:07,710 --> 00:33:10,440

They didn't have enough  
room in the crematorium

646

00:33:10,440 --> 00:33:11,380

to burn the people.

647

00:33:11,380 --> 00:33:14,700

So the first thing they did,  
they had boats on the Baltic.

648

00:33:14,700 --> 00:33:16,470

So they filled up the  
boats with people.

649

00:33:16,470 --> 00:33:17,820

And they sank them.

650

00:33:17,820 --> 00:33:21,030

And then they had no more boats  
for the rest of the people.

651

00:33:21,030 --> 00:33:27,390

So they told everybody to divert  
them to this place, to Prost.

652

00:33:27,390 --> 00:33:30,780

In Prost, they had  
a marker airport.

653

00:33:30,780 --> 00:33:32,970



They had airplanes  
made of cardboard.

654  
00:33:32,970 --> 00:33:37,410  
So the Allies should  
think that if they

655  
00:33:37,410 --> 00:33:40,710  
would bombard the place,  
so they would think

656  
00:33:40,710 --> 00:33:42,750  
that this is a real airport.

657  
00:33:42,750 --> 00:33:46,260  
And then maybe, nearby, a  
real airport would be saved.

658  
00:33:46,260 --> 00:33:49,250  
And they were, of course,  
Nazis in the place,

659  
00:33:49,250 --> 00:33:52,740  
the German military  
were there are all over.

660  
00:33:52,740 --> 00:33:54,660  
And then I was unconscious.

661  
00:33:54,660 --> 00:33:58,350  
I didn't know, anymore,  
what happened to me.

662  
00:33:58,350 --> 00:34:00,580  
And then I woke up.

663  
00:34:00,580 --> 00:34:03,430  
At one point, I woke up.

664  
00:34:03,430 --> 00:34:07,060  
And my mother and my  
sister were dragging me.

665

00:34:07,060 --> 00:34:09,070  
And I couldn't catch my breath.

666

00:34:09,070 --> 00:34:11,620  
And then my mother covered me.

667

00:34:11,620 --> 00:34:15,340  
And I saw boards flying  
all over the place.

668

00:34:15,340 --> 00:34:18,469  
And I lost consciousness again.

669

00:34:18,469 --> 00:34:25,040  
Until one day, I opened my eyes.

670

00:34:25,040 --> 00:34:29,460  
And I saw I was in a  
bed, with a feather bed,

671

00:34:29,460 --> 00:34:35,389  
white, linen,  
pillows, pillow cases.

672

00:34:35,389 --> 00:34:39,010  
I touched my hair, my head,  
my hair was shaved off.

673

00:34:39,010 --> 00:34:40,969  
I started to scream.

674

00:34:40,969 --> 00:34:44,690  
And as I was screaming, my  
mother and my sister came in.

675

00:34:44,690 --> 00:34:47,300  
And they started kissing, and  
hugging me, and telling me

676

00:34:47,300 --> 00:34:53,510  
that we were liberated on  
March 23, 1945 by the Russians.

677

00:34:53,510 --> 00:34:57,440  
And then they told me what had  
happened, what had transpired.

678

00:34:57,440 --> 00:35:02,120  
That I became stricken  
with typhus, and in typhus,

679

00:35:02,120 --> 00:35:03,370  
you have a crisis.

680

00:35:03,370 --> 00:35:04,800  
You either make  
it, or you don't.

681

00:35:04,800 --> 00:35:07,430  
And this is how  
many people died.

682

00:35:07,430 --> 00:35:09,470  
And then, my sister  
and the friends

683

00:35:09,470 --> 00:35:14,840  
were telling me that my mother  
would sneak out from the camp,

684

00:35:14,840 --> 00:35:16,250  
from this Prost.

685

00:35:16,250 --> 00:35:19,295  
And she would go to the  
roads, where the German army,

686

00:35:19,295 --> 00:35:20,930  
they would rest overnight.

687

00:35:20,930 --> 00:35:22,250  
And they had their kitchens.

688

00:35:22,250 --> 00:35:24,380

And they had the ambulances.

689  
00:35:24,380 --> 00:35:25,100  
She would go.

690  
00:35:25,100 --> 00:35:26,570  
She would cover herself up.

691  
00:35:26,570 --> 00:35:31,520  
And she would beg for something  
to eat or aspirin, something.

692  
00:35:31,520 --> 00:35:36,440  
And then she would sneak in back  
to the camp and try to save me.

693  
00:35:36,440 --> 00:35:39,320  
And then what happened,  
when the Germans saw

694  
00:35:39,320 --> 00:35:41,510  
that the Russians  
are advancing, they

695  
00:35:41,510 --> 00:35:47,300  
decided they put dynamite in  
the camp and around the camp

696  
00:35:47,300 --> 00:35:52,340  
to blow up, not to leave  
any remnants, not to leave

697  
00:35:52,340 --> 00:35:55,850  
traces of that death camp.

698  
00:35:55,850 --> 00:35:58,790  
There was one Hungarian  
woman, a girl,

699  
00:35:58,790 --> 00:36:02,820  
that worked for the  
head of the Nazis.

700

00:36:02,820 --> 00:36:06,190

And when she saw what happened,  
she went to him, she says,

701

00:36:06,190 --> 00:36:09,040

look, the war is over.

702

00:36:09,040 --> 00:36:11,710

The Russians are advancing.

703

00:36:11,710 --> 00:36:15,760

What will you gain by  
killing all these people?

704

00:36:15,760 --> 00:36:17,110

Do one good gesture.

705

00:36:17,110 --> 00:36:19,120

She said, 10 minutes  
before you're

706

00:36:19,120 --> 00:36:23,660

going to dynamite the  
place, open the gates.

707

00:36:23,660 --> 00:36:29,330

And let the people who can still  
walk, let them save themselves.

708

00:36:29,330 --> 00:36:31,200

So he said, OK.

709

00:36:31,200 --> 00:36:32,970

10 minutes before, she went in.

710

00:36:32,970 --> 00:36:34,530

And they announced,  
whoever can run,

711

00:36:34,530 --> 00:36:38,730

in 10 minutes they're going to  
explode the place, to dynamite.

712  
00:36:38,730 --> 00:36:42,780  
And this is when my mother  
and my sister grabbed me.

713  
00:36:42,780 --> 00:36:43,920  
And they dragged me.

714  
00:36:43,920 --> 00:36:48,270  
And this is when the explosion  
occurred that I woke up.

715  
00:36:48,270 --> 00:36:52,650  
And then I went back  
into unconsciousness.

716  
00:36:52,650 --> 00:36:59,100  
Not many were saved, because  
most of the people were sick,

717  
00:36:59,100 --> 00:37:02,070  
emaciated, or  
stricken with typhus.

718  
00:37:02,070 --> 00:37:05,280  
I think from the 800 people  
that were there, maybe

719  
00:37:05,280 --> 00:37:07,920  
around 30 saved themselves.

720  
00:37:07,920 --> 00:37:10,050  
And then, when  
the Russians came,

721  
00:37:10,050 --> 00:37:12,450  
they took everybody  
to a village.

722  
00:37:12,450 --> 00:37:15,600  
And they kicked out  
the peasants there.

723

00:37:15,600 --> 00:37:19,740

And they gave us to live  
in those houses, when

724

00:37:19,740 --> 00:37:24,350

they woke up, and I saw  
that we are liberated,

725

00:37:24,350 --> 00:37:25,695

and I survived the typhus.

726

00:37:25,695 --> 00:37:35,730

727

00:37:35,730 --> 00:37:37,890

This is tape 3,  
side B. And I just

728

00:37:37,890 --> 00:37:41,220

wanted to ask you one small  
question before we continued.

729

00:37:41,220 --> 00:37:43,410

I think that you had said  
that when you were ill,

730

00:37:43,410 --> 00:37:46,740

your mother went to get  
some supplies for you

731

00:37:46,740 --> 00:37:50,040

and that you crossed the  
road to the Russian Army.

732

00:37:50,040 --> 00:37:52,260

Did you want to collect that?

733

00:37:52,260 --> 00:37:54,070

No, no it was a mistake.

734

00:37:54,070 --> 00:37:55,870

It was not the Russian army.

735  
00:37:55,870 --> 00:37:59,910  
These were the Germans that  
were retreating back to Germany

736  
00:37:59,910 --> 00:38:01,870  
from the Russian frontlines.

737  
00:38:01,870 --> 00:38:04,680  
OK, now, you're on  
this wonderful bed

738  
00:38:04,680 --> 00:38:06,900  
with the wonderful  
pillows and so forth.

739  
00:38:06,900 --> 00:38:11,180  
Yes, and I tried  
to get off the bed.

740  
00:38:11,180 --> 00:38:12,010  
And I couldn't.

741  
00:38:12,010 --> 00:38:14,430  
I must have weighed 40 pounds.

742  
00:38:14,430 --> 00:38:16,620  
My legs were spindly.

743  
00:38:16,620 --> 00:38:18,900  
My arms were thin.

744  
00:38:18,900 --> 00:38:20,250  
And I just couldn't move.

745  
00:38:20,250 --> 00:38:24,570  
But there was enough  
food in that place

746  
00:38:24,570 --> 00:38:27,540  
and that my mother and  
my sister nourished me.



747  
00:38:27,540 --> 00:38:32,940  
And we stayed there, probably,  
for another six weeks.

748  
00:38:32,940 --> 00:38:35,520  
After that, the Russians came.

749  
00:38:35,520 --> 00:38:42,730  
And they took us with trucks  
to a Polish city called ToruÅ,,.

750  
00:38:42,730 --> 00:38:44,090  
ToruÅ,,.

751  
00:38:44,090 --> 00:38:46,910  
It's in central Poland.

752  
00:38:46,910 --> 00:38:48,890  
But of course, at  
that point, it was

753  
00:38:48,890 --> 00:38:53,030  
under the Russian  
jurisdiction and occupation.

754  
00:38:53,030 --> 00:38:56,900  
And they took us to a DP camp.

755  
00:38:56,900 --> 00:39:03,660  
And they placed us there  
in primitive housing.

756  
00:39:03,660 --> 00:39:07,350  
And they told us this  
is a transit camp.

757  
00:39:07,350 --> 00:39:12,760  
They are going to take us  
back home, back to Smorgonie.

758  
00:39:12,760 --> 00:39:15,520

And when we heard that,  
we were devastated,

759  
00:39:15,520 --> 00:39:19,030  
because we knew that there  
was nobody there, all

760  
00:39:19,030 --> 00:39:19,900  
the relatives.

761  
00:39:19,900 --> 00:39:21,170  
And there is nothing left.

762  
00:39:21,170 --> 00:39:23,860  
And there are gentiles  
living in our houses.

763  
00:39:23,860 --> 00:39:27,400  
And my father was dead and  
all the relatives were killed.

764  
00:39:27,400 --> 00:39:29,680  
And we didn't want to go there.

765  
00:39:29,680 --> 00:39:32,170  
But they had barbed  
wire surrounded.

766  
00:39:32,170 --> 00:39:35,470  
And they wouldn't let us out.

767  
00:39:35,470 --> 00:39:38,140  
There was once one  
positive thing, though,

768  
00:39:38,140 --> 00:39:42,760  
what happened there, that nobody  
died after the liberation,

769  
00:39:42,760 --> 00:39:45,490  
because they didn't  
have much food for us.

770

00:39:45,490 --> 00:39:46,690

So they gave us bread.

771

00:39:46,690 --> 00:39:48,490

They had potatoes for us.

772

00:39:48,490 --> 00:39:52,850

And little by little, we  
started eating normal food,

773

00:39:52,850 --> 00:39:59,170

whereas, under occupation,  
under the British or the United

774

00:39:59,170 --> 00:40:03,010

States Army, which they weren't  
aware at that time, they came,

775

00:40:03,010 --> 00:40:06,730

they liberated the people  
from the concentration camps

776

00:40:06,730 --> 00:40:12,720

in the Bergen-Belsen,  
and others, in Munich.

777

00:40:12,720 --> 00:40:18,280

And they gave them immediately  
food and chocolate.

778

00:40:18,280 --> 00:40:21,220

And they all started  
grabbing and eating.

779

00:40:21,220 --> 00:40:22,510

And they died.

780

00:40:22,510 --> 00:40:25,990

Like my grandfather,  
Zeyde [? Beryl, ?] he

781

00:40:25,990 --> 00:40:27,580

survived the war.

782

00:40:27,580 --> 00:40:30,220

The people told us  
that he survived

783

00:40:30,220 --> 00:40:35,080

the war acting as a shoemaker.

784

00:40:35,080 --> 00:40:38,590

And he was liberated.

785

00:40:38,590 --> 00:40:42,250

And after liberation,  
he started eating.

786

00:40:42,250 --> 00:40:43,310

He was liberated.

787

00:40:43,310 --> 00:40:44,230

He was in Dachau.

788

00:40:44,230 --> 00:40:45,040

He was liberated.

789

00:40:45,040 --> 00:40:47,210

People came and told us,  
we know your grandfather.

790

00:40:47,210 --> 00:40:49,240

He was liberated, look for him.

791

00:40:49,240 --> 00:40:51,790

And my mother went to  
Munich to look for him.

792

00:40:51,790 --> 00:40:53,530

And people told  
us that he started

793

00:40:53,530 --> 00:40:56,770

eating after the liberation.

794  
00:40:56,770 --> 00:40:58,180  
And he died there.

795  
00:40:58,180 --> 00:41:01,090  
But his name was  
[? Danishevski. ?]

796  
00:41:01,090 --> 00:41:03,430  
So they assumed  
that he was Polish.

797  
00:41:03,430 --> 00:41:06,550  
And they buried him  
in a Polish cemetery.

798  
00:41:06,550 --> 00:41:09,760  
So later on, a year  
later, my mother went.

799  
00:41:09,760 --> 00:41:11,200  
She found the rabbi in Munich.

800  
00:41:11,200 --> 00:41:13,210  
She went to the Polish cemetery.

801  
00:41:13,210 --> 00:41:14,210  
She dug him up.

802  
00:41:14,210 --> 00:41:17,500  
He was in a Polish cemetery  
with a cross over his grave.

803  
00:41:17,500 --> 00:41:20,010  
And she took him and buried  
him in the Jewish cemetery

804  
00:41:20,010 --> 00:41:20,510  
in Munich.

805  
00:41:20,510 --> 00:41:23,260

806  
00:41:23,260 --> 00:41:24,530  
So here we were.

807  
00:41:24,530 --> 00:41:27,570  
And the Russians had  
absolutely no excuses for us.

808  
00:41:27,570 --> 00:41:28,560  
We had to go to work.

809  
00:41:28,560 --> 00:41:32,490  
Here I was, two months after  
typhus, and we had to go.

810  
00:41:32,490 --> 00:41:36,930  
First, they took us  
to a lumber yard,

811  
00:41:36,930 --> 00:41:38,880  
where they were cutting boards.

812  
00:41:38,880 --> 00:41:43,530  
And I had to stand there all  
day and sawed those boards.

813  
00:41:43,530 --> 00:41:46,160  
And I was so weak, I would fall.

814  
00:41:46,160 --> 00:41:47,640  
And I couldn't catch my breath.

815  
00:41:47,640 --> 00:41:50,130  
And I was sure that I would die.

816  
00:41:50,130 --> 00:41:54,780  
And then, at other times,  
they sent us to a flour mill.

817  
00:41:54,780 --> 00:41:58,590  
And I had to drag  
those sacks of flours.

818  
00:41:58,590 --> 00:42:01,890  
Again, I was sure that  
I wouldn't make it.

819  
00:42:01,890 --> 00:42:04,350  
But somehow, I recuperated.

820  
00:42:04,350 --> 00:42:06,560  
And I survived.

821  
00:42:06,560 --> 00:42:10,460  
And then, at that time,  
people who survived

822  
00:42:10,460 --> 00:42:15,050  
would go from one DP  
camp to another to see,

823  
00:42:15,050 --> 00:42:18,890  
to check if there were  
relatives, if anybody survived.

824  
00:42:18,890 --> 00:42:24,590  
One day, a couple of Polish  
soldiers came into the DP camp.

825  
00:42:24,590 --> 00:42:27,890  
And they were Jewish  
in Polish uniforms.

826  
00:42:27,890 --> 00:42:30,740  
And they said they were  
in the Polish army.

827  
00:42:30,740 --> 00:42:33,650  
And they were together  
with the Russians

828  
00:42:33,650 --> 00:42:36,320  
helping liberate Poland.

829

00:42:36,320 --> 00:42:39,440  
And that's why they  
were in the Polish army.

830  
00:42:39,440 --> 00:42:42,560  
And they were looking  
for relatives, if anybody

831  
00:42:42,560 --> 00:42:44,418  
heard, this one that one.

832  
00:42:44,418 --> 00:42:45,210  
And we didn't know.

833  
00:42:45,210 --> 00:42:47,540  
Then they said, what  
are you doing here?

834  
00:42:47,540 --> 00:42:50,270  
And we said, well, the  
Russians liberated us.

835  
00:42:50,270 --> 00:42:56,130  
And now, they want to  
send us back to Smorgonie

836  
00:42:56,130 --> 00:42:57,780  
So he said, what, are you crazy?

837  
00:42:57,780 --> 00:43:00,210  
Why would you let them  
take you back to Smorgonie.

838  
00:43:00,210 --> 00:43:05,700  
Why don't you come to Poland,  
to Lodz, or to Warsaw?

839  
00:43:05,700 --> 00:43:09,270  
Because they are not under  
the Russian jurisdiction.

840  
00:43:09,270 --> 00:43:12,720  
And they are representatives



from the HIAS

841  
00:43:12,720 --> 00:43:16,620  
and from the American Joint  
Distribution Committee.

842  
00:43:16,620 --> 00:43:21,650  
And they help refugees there.

843  
00:43:21,650 --> 00:43:26,780  
And my mother said, how are  
we going to get out from here,

844  
00:43:26,780 --> 00:43:27,710  
barbed wire?

845  
00:43:27,710 --> 00:43:29,270  
They said, we'll help you.

846  
00:43:29,270 --> 00:43:32,700  
So my mother said to us,  
girls, what are we going to do?

847  
00:43:32,700 --> 00:43:35,180  
And my sister said, let's go.

848  
00:43:35,180 --> 00:43:39,110  
And I said, no, I don't  
think we should go.

849  
00:43:39,110 --> 00:43:40,340  
I want to go.

850  
00:43:40,340 --> 00:43:42,320  
We don't have--  
our father is dead.

851  
00:43:42,320 --> 00:43:43,587  
We don't have any relatives.

852  
00:43:43,587 --> 00:43:44,420  
We don't have money.

853  
00:43:44,420 --> 00:43:45,920  
We don't have anything.

854  
00:43:45,920 --> 00:43:47,420  
How are we going to live?

855  
00:43:47,420 --> 00:43:48,890  
I want to go back to Russia.

856  
00:43:48,890 --> 00:43:50,740  
I want to get an education.

857  
00:43:50,740 --> 00:43:53,000  
And in Russia,  
education is free.

858  
00:43:53,000 --> 00:43:54,980  
I want to go back to Russia.

859  
00:43:54,980 --> 00:43:56,420  
And then, my mother  
and my sister

860  
00:43:56,420 --> 00:43:58,460  
started, they said, wow--

861  
00:43:58,460 --> 00:43:59,820  
what are you all alone--

862  
00:43:59,820 --> 00:44:01,610  
no, we're all going.

863  
00:44:01,610 --> 00:44:02,990  
And then we made up a time.

864  
00:44:02,990 --> 00:44:04,040  
The soldiers came.

865  
00:44:04,040 --> 00:44:05,250  
They cut the barbed wire.

866  
00:44:05,250 --> 00:44:08,570  
It was in the fall.

867  
00:44:08,570 --> 00:44:11,570  
It must have been  
October or November.

868  
00:44:11,570 --> 00:44:13,470  
It was freezing rain.

869  
00:44:13,470 --> 00:44:15,680  
So how long were  
you in this DP camp?

870  
00:44:15,680 --> 00:44:18,800  
In this DP camp, we  
were there from--

871  
00:44:18,800 --> 00:44:20,210  
we were liberated in March.

872  
00:44:20,210 --> 00:44:22,820  
And then we were  
two months in Prost.

873  
00:44:22,820 --> 00:44:26,480  
And then, March,  
April, May, and maybe,

874  
00:44:26,480 --> 00:44:33,200  
in June, we were in that from  
June until October or November,

875  
00:44:33,200 --> 00:44:37,640  
we were in the DP camp, in  
the Russian transit camp.

876  
00:44:37,640 --> 00:44:38,210  
They came.

877  
00:44:38,210 --> 00:44:40,760

And it was a cold  
night, freezing rain.

878  
00:44:40,760 --> 00:44:42,110  
They cut the barbed wire.

879  
00:44:42,110 --> 00:44:44,610  
And they took us to  
the train station.

880  
00:44:44,610 --> 00:44:46,220  
And there were  
hundreds and hundreds

881  
00:44:46,220 --> 00:44:49,160  
of people waiting for  
a train, because it

882  
00:44:49,160 --> 00:44:52,600  
was right after the war,  
trains were irregular.

883  
00:44:52,600 --> 00:44:54,410  
And when they came,  
people were all over.

884  
00:44:54,410 --> 00:44:56,300  
You couldn't get in.

885  
00:44:56,300 --> 00:45:00,110  
So a train, we waited for  
hours, and a train finally came.

886  
00:45:00,110 --> 00:45:03,230  
And people were  
hanging from the steps,

887  
00:45:03,230 --> 00:45:04,940  
holding onto the banisters.

888  
00:45:04,940 --> 00:45:06,430  
How, where are going to go?

889

00:45:06,430 --> 00:45:09,680

He said, never mind,  
he says, hop up.

890

00:45:09,680 --> 00:45:15,380

We'll help you get on top  
of the roof off the wagon.

891

00:45:15,380 --> 00:45:18,660

We got on top of that freight--

892

00:45:18,660 --> 00:45:22,390

no it wasn't the freight,  
it was passenger train.

893

00:45:22,390 --> 00:45:23,810

And we got on top of the roof.

894

00:45:23,810 --> 00:45:25,890

And the roof was slanted.

895

00:45:25,890 --> 00:45:29,960

But there were several little  
chimneys for ventilation,

896

00:45:29,960 --> 00:45:32,340

because it was a  
passenger train.

897

00:45:32,340 --> 00:45:33,580

And it was snowing.

898

00:45:33,580 --> 00:45:35,690

And it was raining.

899

00:45:35,690 --> 00:45:36,988

And we had no choice.

900

00:45:36,988 --> 00:45:38,780

This was you, your  
mother, and your sister?

901  
00:45:38,780 --> 00:45:39,780  
My mother and my sister.

902  
00:45:39,780 --> 00:45:42,890  
And we lied down  
flat on our stomach.

903  
00:45:42,890 --> 00:45:45,900  
And we held on to those  
chimneys for dear life,

904  
00:45:45,900 --> 00:45:50,420  
all through the night, with  
snow and rain falling on us.

905  
00:45:50,420 --> 00:45:54,830  
And in the morning,  
we came to Lodz.

906  
00:45:54,830 --> 00:45:55,910  
We came to Lodz.

907  
00:45:55,910 --> 00:45:58,970  
And there was already many Jews.

908  
00:45:58,970 --> 00:46:03,560  
And there was a place  
for the refugees to come,

909  
00:46:03,560 --> 00:46:05,510  
a big place to sleep over.

910  
00:46:05,510 --> 00:46:07,850  
And they were  
feeding the people.

911  
00:46:07,850 --> 00:46:09,620  
And my mother looked  
around, and she

912  
00:46:09,620 --> 00:46:12,200  
saw there were

already organizations

913  
00:46:12,200 --> 00:46:18,650  
organizing from religious and  
non-religious organizations.

914  
00:46:18,650 --> 00:46:19,610  
And she looked around.

915  
00:46:19,610 --> 00:46:24,920  
And they were like sort of,  
they initiated like kibbutzim,

916  
00:46:24,920 --> 00:46:28,070  
communal living and  
preparing the people,

917  
00:46:28,070 --> 00:46:34,430  
and preparing them for going  
to Israel and making Aliyah.

918  
00:46:34,430 --> 00:46:38,510  
And my mother looked around, and  
she said, well, I'm not going--

919  
00:46:38,510 --> 00:46:40,940  
she found a religious kibbutz.

920  
00:46:40,940 --> 00:46:42,440  
She said, I'm not  
going to let you

921  
00:46:42,440 --> 00:46:45,890  
go in a non-religious kibbutz,  
because people at this point

922  
00:46:45,890 --> 00:46:47,630  
are very demoralized.

923  
00:46:47,630 --> 00:46:49,810  
And there was a lot of--

924

00:46:49,810 --> 00:46:52,240  
many girls were  
pregnant and all these.

925  
00:46:52,240 --> 00:46:54,650  
She said, you're not  
going there, took us

926  
00:46:54,650 --> 00:46:56,870  
to a religious kibbutz.

927  
00:46:56,870 --> 00:46:58,400  
And they took us in.

928  
00:46:58,400 --> 00:47:02,600  
And my mother went to  
work in the kitchen

929  
00:47:02,600 --> 00:47:07,040  
where all the refugees that came  
back from Russia and all over.

930  
00:47:07,040 --> 00:47:08,960  
And here is an  
interesting story.

931  
00:47:08,960 --> 00:47:12,620  
She was in the kitchen cooking,  
and baking, and serving

932  
00:47:12,620 --> 00:47:14,030  
the people wholeheartedly.

933  
00:47:14,030 --> 00:47:16,910  
And then I remember we didn't  
have food in the kibbutz.

934  
00:47:16,910 --> 00:47:19,640  
So she would come and bring  
us food, but not enough

935  
00:47:19,640 --> 00:47:21,110  
to share with the others.



936  
00:47:21,110 --> 00:47:25,820  
So she made us lie in bed and  
cover ourselves with a blanket

937  
00:47:25,820 --> 00:47:28,190  
and eat underneath the  
blanket, because there

938  
00:47:28,190 --> 00:47:31,920  
wasn't enough to share  
with everybody else.

939  
00:47:31,920 --> 00:47:32,880  
So she was there.

940  
00:47:32,880 --> 00:47:34,940  
And one day, people  
were coming and going.

941  
00:47:34,940 --> 00:47:39,860  
And then she sees a young  
man sitting there and crying.

942  
00:47:39,860 --> 00:47:41,940  
And she gave him a  
bowl of potatoes,

943  
00:47:41,940 --> 00:47:45,680  
of soup, whatever it was,  
she said, eat young man, eat.

944  
00:47:45,680 --> 00:47:49,250  
He said, I can't eat, this is  
Lodz, this was my hometown.

945  
00:47:49,250 --> 00:47:51,770  
My parents, my  
sisters, my brother,

946  
00:47:51,770 --> 00:47:53,180  
all my relatives lived here.

947

00:47:53,180 --> 00:47:54,950

He said, now I come  
back from Russia,

948

00:47:54,950 --> 00:47:57,950

he was in Russia during the  
war, there is nobody here.

949

00:47:57,950 --> 00:47:59,420

How can I eat?

950

00:47:59,420 --> 00:48:01,080

And he was crying.

951

00:48:01,080 --> 00:48:03,620

And my mother sat  
down next to him.

952

00:48:03,620 --> 00:48:05,420

And she was talking  
to him, and she was

953

00:48:05,420 --> 00:48:06,950

telling him, look, we all lost.

954

00:48:06,950 --> 00:48:07,730

And we all--

955

00:48:07,730 --> 00:48:08,930

Thank God we survived.

956

00:48:08,930 --> 00:48:11,450

And we have to start a new life.

957

00:48:11,450 --> 00:48:12,860

And she comforted him.

958

00:48:12,860 --> 00:48:13,760

And he ate.

959

00:48:13,760 --> 00:48:16,610

And here I, to make  
a long story short,

960  
00:48:16,610 --> 00:48:20,120  
two years later, he was  
a member of our kibbutz.

961  
00:48:20,120 --> 00:48:22,820  
And he married my older sister.

962  
00:48:22,820 --> 00:48:24,640  
And they live in Israel now.

963  
00:48:24,640 --> 00:48:26,540  
As a matter of fact,  
next week, they

964  
00:48:26,540 --> 00:48:29,510  
celebrate his 80th birthday.

965  
00:48:29,510 --> 00:48:31,520  
And so my mother would  
come to the kibbutz.

966  
00:48:31,520 --> 00:48:34,730  
And we really had no food.

967  
00:48:34,730 --> 00:48:37,850  
Absolutely, what we had  
was bread, and we had oil,

968  
00:48:37,850 --> 00:48:39,020  
and we had onions.

969  
00:48:39,020 --> 00:48:41,450  
And we would saute the  
onions with the oil

970  
00:48:41,450 --> 00:48:42,650  
and spread it on the bread.

971  
00:48:42,650 --> 00:48:44,450

And this is what we ate.

972  
00:48:44,450 --> 00:48:46,220  
And everybody in the  
kibbutz had to go

973  
00:48:46,220 --> 00:48:49,730  
to work, to have an income.

974  
00:48:49,730 --> 00:48:53,870  
So they call this a  
kibbutz, even at Lodz?

975  
00:48:53,870 --> 00:48:55,700  
What is your  
brother-in-law's name?

976  
00:48:55,700 --> 00:49:01,370  
Moshe [? Yamnick. ?] And  
so we had to go to work.

977  
00:49:01,370 --> 00:49:04,010  
And everybody had to  
do something in order

978  
00:49:04,010 --> 00:49:05,180  
to sustain the kibbutz.

979  
00:49:05,180 --> 00:49:08,810  
Because at that time, yet,  
we didn't get any support

980  
00:49:08,810 --> 00:49:15,020  
from the American  
charity groups.

981  
00:49:15,020 --> 00:49:18,410  
When you say kibbutz, were you  
also staying in the same area?

982  
00:49:18,410 --> 00:49:21,470  
It was like an apartment,  
with several bedrooms.

983  
00:49:21,470 --> 00:49:23,780  
And they were two  
bedrooms for girls

984  
00:49:23,780 --> 00:49:25,130  
and two bedrooms for boys.

985  
00:49:25,130 --> 00:49:27,080  
And they put up bunk beds.

986  
00:49:27,080 --> 00:49:29,278  
And then we had like,  
let's say, the dining room.

987  
00:49:29,278 --> 00:49:30,320  
This is where we all ate.

988  
00:49:30,320 --> 00:49:34,970  
And we learned a lot, Jewish  
history, and Hebrew language,

989  
00:49:34,970 --> 00:49:37,460  
and Zionism, and Bible.

990  
00:49:37,460 --> 00:49:42,200  
And this is where they  
started teaching us Hebrew,

991  
00:49:42,200 --> 00:49:44,360  
the beginners, and I answer.

992  
00:49:44,360 --> 00:49:47,130  
They said, oh, I had  
a poor vocabulary.

993  
00:49:47,130 --> 00:49:52,080  
But like I said, my diction,  
my accent was terrific.

994  
00:49:52,080 --> 00:49:54,740  
So every day, I graduated

to a different group.

995

00:49:54,740 --> 00:49:57,920

And then I became a teacher.

996

00:49:57,920 --> 00:50:01,380

What was that like for you  
to come back to studying?

997

00:50:01,380 --> 00:50:03,480

It was just wonderful.

998

00:50:03,480 --> 00:50:08,257

I wanted to absorb, to absorb as  
much as possible for the years

999

00:50:08,257 --> 00:50:08,840

that I missed.

1000

00:50:08,840 --> 00:50:11,240

Because I always,  
always wanted to,

1001

00:50:11,240 --> 00:50:14,060

that's why I wanted  
to go back to Russia.

1002

00:50:14,060 --> 00:50:15,910

And then, we had to go to work.

1003

00:50:15,910 --> 00:50:19,280

And one day, on a Friday,  
somebody came, a Jewish family,

1004

00:50:19,280 --> 00:50:22,220

they needed someone to clean  
up the house for Shabbat.

1005

00:50:22,220 --> 00:50:23,750

And they sent me.

1006

00:50:23,750 --> 00:50:25,520

And I went to that house.

1007

00:50:25,520 --> 00:50:26,870

And I cleaned the floors.

1008

00:50:26,870 --> 00:50:28,130

And I wash the dishes.

1009

00:50:28,130 --> 00:50:29,830

And I clean the toilet.

1010

00:50:29,830 --> 00:50:31,160

And I was crying.

1011

00:50:31,160 --> 00:50:33,320

I said, here I am liberated.

1012

00:50:33,320 --> 00:50:37,950

If my father would see me doing  
this, but I have no choice,

1013

00:50:37,950 --> 00:50:39,320

I have to do it.

1014

00:50:39,320 --> 00:50:42,380

And then I found out, they  
ask anybody in the kibbutz,

1015

00:50:42,380 --> 00:50:45,470

from the girls, who wants  
to do the laundry would

1016

00:50:45,470 --> 00:50:48,650

get a extra special treat.

1017

00:50:48,650 --> 00:50:52,040

Extra bread, and she could  
buy herself a herring.

1018

00:50:52,040 --> 00:50:54,980

And I volunteered  
to do the laundry,

1019  
00:50:54,980 --> 00:50:58,280  
because I wanted to have  
an extra piece of bread

1020  
00:50:58,280 --> 00:51:01,250  
and an extra piece of herring.

1021  
00:51:01,250 --> 00:51:05,810  
And we were there in Lodz.

1022  
00:51:05,810 --> 00:51:08,840  
Was your mother staying with  
you in this little kibbutz area?

1023  
00:51:08,840 --> 00:51:10,580  
No, no my mother was away.

1024  
00:51:10,580 --> 00:51:16,130  
She slept where she was, in that  
transit camp for the refugees.

1025  
00:51:16,130 --> 00:51:17,150  
She slept there.

1026  
00:51:17,150 --> 00:51:21,380  
And she was cooking there for  
the people and serving there.

1027  
00:51:21,380 --> 00:51:21,950  
And then--

1028  
00:51:21,950 --> 00:51:24,200  
But you and your sister  
were in the kibbutz.

1029  
00:51:24,200 --> 00:51:26,490  
And then something happened.

1030  
00:51:26,490 --> 00:51:29,450  
And at that time, after  
liberation, you really



1031  
00:51:29,450 --> 00:51:32,780  
don't think that you could  
die, because if somebody

1032  
00:51:32,780 --> 00:51:35,990  
died of their appendix, I  
said, that's impossible.

1033  
00:51:35,990 --> 00:51:39,110  
I mean that person survived  
the concentration camp.

1034  
00:51:39,110 --> 00:51:40,490  
How could this person die?

1035  
00:51:40,490 --> 00:51:41,660  
It's impossible.

1036  
00:51:41,660 --> 00:51:43,580  
You felt invincible.

1037  
00:51:43,580 --> 00:51:45,690  
You felt that they are  
going to live forever

1038  
00:51:45,690 --> 00:51:48,730  
and nothing frightened you.

1039  
00:51:48,730 --> 00:51:51,610  
And then, we were  
in the kibbutz.

1040  
00:51:51,610 --> 00:51:58,390  
And somebody came, and they told  
us that way up, near Gdansk,

1041  
00:51:58,390 --> 00:52:01,280  
there was a Russian compound.

1042  
00:52:01,280 --> 00:52:03,850  
And they took girls there.

1043  
00:52:03,850 --> 00:52:08,080  
And they keep them as  
concubines in that village.

1044  
00:52:08,080 --> 00:52:12,400  
And the girls are miserable,  
if anybody could do something

1045  
00:52:12,400 --> 00:52:15,140  
for these girls, volunteers.

1046  
00:52:15,140 --> 00:52:15,820  
I volunteer.

1047  
00:52:15,820 --> 00:52:17,200  
I go.

1048  
00:52:17,200 --> 00:52:22,930  
And another boy, and that  
boy's sister lived near Gdansk.

1049  
00:52:22,930 --> 00:52:25,210  
So we knew that  
we will get there.

1050  
00:52:25,210 --> 00:52:27,040  
And we can stay  
overnight with her.

1051  
00:52:27,040 --> 00:52:32,260  
And then we could take a  
train to get to the village.

1052  
00:52:32,260 --> 00:52:35,140  
I went there with this boy.

1053  
00:52:35,140 --> 00:52:36,280  
We met his sister.

1054  
00:52:36,280 --> 00:52:37,300  
We stayed overnight.

1055

00:52:37,300 --> 00:52:38,930

The next day, we took the train.

1056

00:52:38,930 --> 00:52:40,030

We went to the village.

1057

00:52:40,030 --> 00:52:42,850

We walked, from the  
train to the village,

1058

00:52:42,850 --> 00:52:45,400

must have been around 8 miles.

1059

00:52:45,400 --> 00:52:48,840

We came to the village  
towards evening.

1060

00:52:48,840 --> 00:52:51,180

And we went into  
a farmer's house.

1061

00:52:51,180 --> 00:52:53,203

And we told him we are hungry.

1062

00:52:53,203 --> 00:52:54,870

And we told him that  
we heard that there

1063

00:52:54,870 --> 00:52:56,170

are Russians in the compound.

1064

00:52:56,170 --> 00:53:00,370

And they keep Jewish  
girls as slaves.

1065

00:53:00,370 --> 00:53:06,520

Could you possibly-- could  
you steal yourselves, sneak in

1066

00:53:06,520 --> 00:53:08,320

and have someone come here.

1067  
00:53:08,320 --> 00:53:11,080  
We want to find out  
what's happening there.

1068  
00:53:11,080 --> 00:53:13,660  
She went, the farmer's  
wife, she gave us food.

1069  
00:53:13,660 --> 00:53:16,930  
She gave us two rooms  
to sleep separately.

1070  
00:53:16,930 --> 00:53:17,590  
And she went.

1071  
00:53:17,590 --> 00:53:19,570  
And she brought  
one of the girls.

1072  
00:53:19,570 --> 00:53:21,260  
And we asked her  
what is happening.

1073  
00:53:21,260 --> 00:53:25,150  
She says they are about 20  
girls kept by the Russians.

1074  
00:53:25,150 --> 00:53:26,320  
And one was pregnant.

1075  
00:53:26,320 --> 00:53:28,990  
She was the daughter of a rabbi.

1076  
00:53:28,990 --> 00:53:29,990  
One was pregnant.

1077  
00:53:29,990 --> 00:53:32,620  
This was the sister of the  
girl that came to talk to us.

1078  
00:53:32,620 --> 00:53:35,600

And she said we need  
to get out of here.

1079  
00:53:35,600 --> 00:53:36,610  
It's impossible.

1080  
00:53:36,610 --> 00:53:39,250  
They are going to take  
us with them to Russia.

1081  
00:53:39,250 --> 00:53:42,310  
See what you can do for us.

1082  
00:53:42,310 --> 00:53:44,560  
We walked back to the  
train, like eight miles,

1083  
00:53:44,560 --> 00:53:47,460  
we went back to  
the sister's house.

1084  
00:53:47,460 --> 00:53:48,800  
And we stayed overnight.

1085  
00:53:48,800 --> 00:53:49,910  
And then we took a train.

1086  
00:53:49,910 --> 00:53:52,940  
It was a freight train  
and went back to Lodz.

1087  
00:53:52,940 --> 00:53:53,840  
We came to Lodz.

1088  
00:53:53,840 --> 00:53:55,430  
And we told him what happened.

1089  
00:53:55,430 --> 00:53:57,980  
And we said we have to  
do something for them.

1090  
00:53:57,980 --> 00:53:58,970

And we made a meeting.

1091  
00:53:58,970 --> 00:54:01,070  
And we decided that  
we were going to make

1092  
00:54:01,070 --> 00:54:03,470  
fake documents for the girls.

1093  
00:54:03,470 --> 00:54:06,620  
And I was going alone to  
deliver the documents.

1094  
00:54:06,620 --> 00:54:08,360  
And it was already winter.

1095  
00:54:08,360 --> 00:54:09,470  
It was snow.

1096  
00:54:09,470 --> 00:54:11,630  
It was freezing.

1097  
00:54:11,630 --> 00:54:15,260  
And at that time, I decided  
I will go by myself.

1098  
00:54:15,260 --> 00:54:16,820  
It was a Thursday.

1099  
00:54:16,820 --> 00:54:21,440  
And the boy that went with  
me the first time, there

1100  
00:54:21,440 --> 00:54:26,390  
was some kind of a  
Zionist gathering taking

1101  
00:54:26,390 --> 00:54:31,340  
place in Sosnowiec,  
not far from Lodz.

1102  
00:54:31,340 --> 00:54:35,150

And there were four volunteers,  
three boys and one girl.

1103  
00:54:35,150 --> 00:54:38,270  
And this boy that  
was with me, he said,

1104  
00:54:38,270 --> 00:54:39,590  
he was going with them.

1105  
00:54:39,590 --> 00:54:40,640  
And that was Thursday.

1106  
00:54:40,640 --> 00:54:41,540  
And I went.

1107  
00:54:41,540 --> 00:54:43,160  
And I made a big muff.

1108  
00:54:43,160 --> 00:54:45,140  
And I sewed in  
all the documents.

1109  
00:54:45,140 --> 00:54:46,160  
And I went.

1110  
00:54:46,160 --> 00:54:48,800  
And it was winter.

1111  
00:54:48,800 --> 00:54:51,740  
It was snow drifts.

1112  
00:54:51,740 --> 00:54:52,980  
It was terrible.

1113  
00:54:52,980 --> 00:54:54,590  
But I'm going.

1114  
00:54:54,590 --> 00:54:56,300  
And I took a freight  
train, again.

1115

00:54:56,300 --> 00:54:57,590

I came to Gdansk.

1116

00:54:57,590 --> 00:55:00,560

I found the house of his  
sister and her friend.

1117

00:55:00,560 --> 00:55:02,300

His sister is now in Australia.

1118

00:55:02,300 --> 00:55:06,140

The friend lives in  
Teaneck, New Jersey.

1119

00:55:06,140 --> 00:55:08,720

You are 17 and 1/2 years old.

1120

00:55:08,720 --> 00:55:10,670

I found the girls.

1121

00:55:10,670 --> 00:55:11,510

I went to sleep.

1122

00:55:11,510 --> 00:55:13,440

In the morning, I got up.

1123

00:55:13,440 --> 00:55:15,110

And I went to the train.

1124

00:55:15,110 --> 00:55:16,340

I took a train.

1125

00:55:16,340 --> 00:55:18,830

And I went to the  
nearest village.

1126

00:55:18,830 --> 00:55:21,200

And then I had to  
walk for eight miles.

1127

00:55:21,200 --> 00:55:23,210



And I got there in  
the late afternoon.

1128  
00:55:23,210 --> 00:55:25,910  
And it was a blizzard.

1129  
00:55:25,910 --> 00:55:27,430  
The snow was drifting.

1130  
00:55:27,430 --> 00:55:28,610  
And I'm walking.

1131  
00:55:28,610 --> 00:55:31,270  
And the snow is coming to  
my knees and to my hips.

1132  
00:55:31,270 --> 00:55:34,820  
And I'm walking, and  
walking, and walking.

1133  
00:55:34,820 --> 00:55:36,830  
And out of breath, and I stop.

1134  
00:55:36,830 --> 00:55:37,880  
And I'm breathing.

1135  
00:55:37,880 --> 00:55:38,930  
And I stop.

1136  
00:55:38,930 --> 00:55:41,810  
I didn't think I would die,  
because nobody, after you're

1137  
00:55:41,810 --> 00:55:43,220  
liberated, how can you die?

1138  
00:55:43,220 --> 00:55:47,540  
You don't die, especially, you  
have to help somebody, right?

1139  
00:55:47,540 --> 00:55:51,800  
And all of a sudden, I saw

the lights from the village

1140  
00:55:51,800 --> 00:55:52,640  
from far.

1141  
00:55:52,640 --> 00:55:56,130  
They were twinkling  
against white snow.

1142  
00:55:56,130 --> 00:56:01,460  
And on the last leg, I made  
it with my last breath.

1143  
00:56:01,460 --> 00:56:03,920  
And they came to that farmhouse.

1144  
00:56:03,920 --> 00:56:04,610  
I slept.

1145  
00:56:04,610 --> 00:56:07,340  
In the morning, I told  
the farmer's wife, again,

1146  
00:56:07,340 --> 00:56:11,210  
to come and to ask one  
of the girls to come.

1147  
00:56:11,210 --> 00:56:12,200  
She came.

1148  
00:56:12,200 --> 00:56:14,690  
And I gave her the  
fake documents.

1149  
00:56:14,690 --> 00:56:16,580  
And she was in seventh heaven.

1150  
00:56:16,580 --> 00:56:19,850  
And that day, I walked  
back to the station,

1151  
00:56:19,850 --> 00:56:21,500

the blizzard already stopped.

1152  
00:56:21,500 --> 00:56:24,970  
And it was like a path that  
they went with a sleigh,

1153  
00:56:24,970 --> 00:56:26,480  
so you could go.

1154  
00:56:26,480 --> 00:56:29,330  
And I came back.

1155  
00:56:29,330 --> 00:56:33,710  
Maybe, I left on Wednesday,  
because I came back on Friday

1156  
00:56:33,710 --> 00:56:34,790  
to the kibbutz.

1157  
00:56:34,790 --> 00:56:38,510  
And I saw that everybody  
was in mourning.

1158  
00:56:38,510 --> 00:56:42,050  
What happened was that  
these four people that were

1159  
00:56:42,050 --> 00:56:49,810  
going on a bus, or a truck, they  
were going to the convention.

1160  
00:56:49,810 --> 00:56:52,090  
They were stopped  
by Polish, they

1161  
00:56:52,090 --> 00:56:56,140  
were called AK,  
were anti-semites.

1162  
00:56:56,140 --> 00:56:58,570  
And they took them  
out to the forest.

1163

00:56:58,570 --> 00:57:01,320

And they killed them,  
all four of them.

1164

00:57:01,320 --> 00:57:03,630

And that Friday, they were  
brought back right away

1165

00:57:03,630 --> 00:57:04,440

to the kibbutz.

1166

00:57:04,440 --> 00:57:08,010

When I walked into the kibbutz,  
in one of the bedrooms,

1167

00:57:08,010 --> 00:57:11,213

they had their  
coffins there open.

1168

00:57:11,213 --> 00:57:11,880

And I walked in.

1169

00:57:11,880 --> 00:57:15,820

And one of them was the  
boy that was with me.

1170

00:57:15,820 --> 00:57:19,590

And I looked, and I said,  
if I wasn't going back

1171

00:57:19,590 --> 00:57:21,540

with the documents,  
I probably would have

1172

00:57:21,540 --> 00:57:25,080

volunteered to go with them.

1173

00:57:25,080 --> 00:57:26,790

It was very tragic.

1174

00:57:26,790 --> 00:57:30,000

And we were there

for a few months.

1175  
00:57:30,000 --> 00:57:33,220  
And then they told  
us that they have

1176  
00:57:33,220 --> 00:57:37,430  
but people from the  
Bricha, this were Israelis,

1177  
00:57:37,430 --> 00:57:42,720  
that they risked their life  
to take the people from Poland

1178  
00:57:42,720 --> 00:57:47,470  
into Germany, and  
specifically, into the British

1179  
00:57:47,470 --> 00:57:50,900  
or the American zone.

1180  
00:57:50,900 --> 00:57:54,860  
And they told us to get  
ready, that one night we

1181  
00:57:54,860 --> 00:57:58,280  
would be taken by the Bricha.

1182  
00:57:58,280 --> 00:58:01,730  
They came to take us, and  
first, we went by trucks.

1183  
00:58:01,730 --> 00:58:04,790  
And then, we went into--  
they took us on the border

1184  
00:58:04,790 --> 00:58:06,470  
into a little house.

1185  
00:58:06,470 --> 00:58:10,070  
And they gave each and every  
one of us a fictitious name.

1186

00:58:10,070 --> 00:58:13,010

And told us that we were--

1187

00:58:13,010 --> 00:58:15,340

told us each and every

one, where we were born.

1188

00:58:15,340 --> 00:58:18,800

And of course, they told us that

we were born in West Germany.

1189

00:58:18,800 --> 00:58:20,840

So they would,

the Germans, if we

1190

00:58:20,840 --> 00:58:23,600

come on the Russian

side of Germany,

1191

00:58:23,600 --> 00:58:25,310

the East Germany,

because first, we

1192

00:58:25,310 --> 00:58:27,500

had to get into

East Germany, to,

1193

00:58:27,500 --> 00:58:32,600

if they would catch us, to

tell them that we are citizens,

1194

00:58:32,600 --> 00:58:34,010

because we were born--

1195

00:58:34,010 --> 00:58:37,070

this one said in Munich,

and this one said in Peking,

1196

00:58:37,070 --> 00:58:38,650

wherever fake documents.

1197

00:58:38,650 --> 00:58:39,650

What was your name?

1198  
00:58:39,650 --> 00:58:41,550  
And where were you born?

1199  
00:58:41,550 --> 00:58:44,920  
I was born in Frankfurt am Mein.

1200  
00:58:44,920 --> 00:58:47,810  
And I don't know  
what my name was.

1201  
00:58:47,810 --> 00:58:48,890  
And we started out.

1202  
00:58:48,890 --> 00:58:51,500  
And we came to a little,  
as I said, on the border.

1203  
00:58:51,500 --> 00:58:55,250  
And the border police were,  
of course, bought off.

1204  
00:58:55,250 --> 00:58:57,770  
And then, in the middle of  
the night, we left that house.

1205  
00:58:57,770 --> 00:59:01,460  
And we had to go across  
the Carpathian Mountains.

1206  
00:59:01,460 --> 00:59:06,470  
The snow was devastating  
and climbing.

1207  
00:59:06,470 --> 00:59:08,930  
And there were so many  
people that they fell.

1208  
00:59:08,930 --> 00:59:10,880  
And they said, after  
the concentration camp,

1209

00:59:10,880 --> 00:59:12,500

I cannot go on anymore.

1210

00:59:12,500 --> 00:59:15,950

And everybody held everybody  
else through the night.

1211

00:59:15,950 --> 00:59:20,550

And in the morning, We  
got to East Germany.

1212

00:59:20,550 --> 00:59:23,480

When we came to East  
Germany, there were trucks.

1213

00:59:23,480 --> 00:59:28,100

And they took us to Magdebourg  
first, and then to Halle.

1214

00:59:28,100 --> 00:59:33,890

And then from Halle,  
they took us to Berlin.

1215

00:59:33,890 --> 00:59:36,590

And in Berlin, we  
crossed the border

1216

00:59:36,590 --> 00:59:40,100

to the American occupied zone.

1217

00:59:40,100 --> 00:59:43,120

And from there, they  
took us to a small town

1218

00:59:43,120 --> 00:59:45,380

near Munich called Poking.

1219

00:59:45,380 --> 00:59:49,850

And this is-- they had already  
there, in one big barracks,

1220

00:59:49,850 --> 00:59:52,790



they had already  
an existing group

1221  
00:59:52,790 --> 00:59:57,890  
that was before us in Lodz, that  
they were in the kibbutz there.

1222  
00:59:57,890 --> 01:00:00,230  
And they took us in there.

1223  
01:00:00,230 --> 01:00:02,370  
And we joined the kibbutz there.

1224  
01:00:02,370 --> 01:00:07,710  
But the tragedy, the Jewish  
tragedy doesn't end there.

1225  
01:00:07,710 --> 01:00:10,620  
Because when we  
came, those people

1226  
01:00:10,620 --> 01:00:13,750  
went to Israel illegally.

1227  
01:00:13,750 --> 01:00:15,340  
And they went to Israel.

1228  
01:00:15,340 --> 01:00:22,810  
And they shipped them all to  
a kibbutz which is infamous,

1229  
01:00:22,810 --> 01:00:25,920  
Kfar Etzion was named.

1230  
01:00:25,920 --> 01:00:26,970  
And they were there.

1231  
01:00:26,970 --> 01:00:31,920  
And then when the war broke out,  
the Arabs slaughtered them all.

1232  
01:00:31,920 --> 01:00:35,790

The children, some of  
their sons survived.

1233  
01:00:35,790 --> 01:00:39,030  
And I have met some of them,  
the children of these people

1234  
01:00:39,030 --> 01:00:42,370  
that were in our kibbutz.

1235  
01:00:42,370 --> 01:00:44,890  
When you got to  
the American zone,

1236  
01:00:44,890 --> 01:00:47,360  
what did that mean to you?

1237  
01:00:47,360 --> 01:00:52,570  
Well, it finally meant  
that we are free,

1238  
01:00:52,570 --> 01:00:58,000  
free to be Jews, free to  
be Zionists, free to learn,

1239  
01:00:58,000 --> 01:01:01,900  
free to have courses,  
free to have meetings,

1240  
01:01:01,900 --> 01:01:04,820  
free to have conferences.

1241  
01:01:04,820 --> 01:01:11,060  
And hope that  
eventually, the Americans

1242  
01:01:11,060 --> 01:01:13,700  
would help us get to Israel.

1243  
01:01:13,700 --> 01:01:16,400  
We didn't even think  
of going to America,

1244

01:01:16,400 --> 01:01:18,170

because each and  
every one, we said,

1245

01:01:18,170 --> 01:01:20,945

we survived the Holocaust  
to go to America?

1246

01:01:20,945 --> 01:01:23,390

Who would want to go to America?

1247

01:01:23,390 --> 01:01:25,710

We want to go back to Israel.

1248

01:01:25,710 --> 01:01:29,140

And we stayed in the kibbutz.

1249

01:01:29,140 --> 01:01:29,882

And then--

1250

01:01:29,882 --> 01:01:31,840

Are you still with your  
mother and your sister?

1251

01:01:31,840 --> 01:01:35,780

My mother| and my sister,  
we stayed in the kibbutz.

1252

01:01:35,780 --> 01:01:43,770

And then, a cousin of mine, from  
Vilnius, arrived with his wife.

1253

01:01:43,770 --> 01:01:48,270

And we found out that they are  
in a DP camp near Stuttgart,

1254

01:01:48,270 --> 01:01:53,850

which was called Pocking  
which was called,

1255

01:01:53,850 --> 01:01:57,600

it was near Stuttgart, and

what was the name of it?

1256

01:01:57,600 --> 01:02:04,120

1257

01:02:04,120 --> 01:02:12,490

It was between  
Stuttgart and Munich.

1258

01:02:12,490 --> 01:02:15,310

And he urged us,  
he said, what are

1259

01:02:15,310 --> 01:02:17,080

you going to be in the kibbutz?

1260

01:02:17,080 --> 01:02:19,150

Come stay with us.

1261

01:02:19,150 --> 01:02:23,020

Just two of us, we survived,  
you survived, come with us.

1262

01:02:23,020 --> 01:02:28,570

And we came to his  
place, to that DP camp.

1263

01:02:28,570 --> 01:02:31,720

1264

01:02:31,720 --> 01:02:35,710

And they had, there,  
they had big--

1265

01:02:35,710 --> 01:02:41,110

they had plans there where the  
Germans were producing turbines

1266

01:02:41,110 --> 01:02:44,500

for ships and for  
heavy industry.

1267

01:02:44,500 --> 01:02:50,070  
And they had a little  
settlement where--

1268  
01:02:50,070 --> 01:02:51,760  
for the German workers.

1269  
01:02:51,760 --> 01:02:53,980  
So when the Americans  
came, they kicked them out.

1270  
01:02:53,980 --> 01:02:57,580  
And this settlement, it  
turned into a DP camp.

1271  
01:02:57,580 --> 01:02:58,690  
So it was wonderful.

1272  
01:02:58,690 --> 01:03:02,490  
It was houses,  
two-family houses.

1273  
01:03:02,490 --> 01:03:05,500  
And everybody had an apartment  
there, where they lived.

1274  
01:03:05,500 --> 01:03:06,600  
So we came.

1275  
01:03:06,600 --> 01:03:09,240  
And our cousin got  
an apartment for us.

1276  
01:03:09,240 --> 01:03:11,000  
And we were there.

1277  
01:03:11,000 --> 01:03:14,750  
And at that time, we really  
had very little food,

1278  
01:03:14,750 --> 01:03:17,930  
only care packages that we got.

1279

01:03:17,930 --> 01:03:20,210

And one night, Friday  
night, I remember,

1280

01:03:20,210 --> 01:03:23,150

we were sitting in  
our room, lit candles,

1281

01:03:23,150 --> 01:03:26,780

and we were singing Shabbat  
songs, my mother, my sister,

1282

01:03:26,780 --> 01:03:28,220

and myself.

1283

01:03:28,220 --> 01:03:30,440

And somebody  
knocked on the door.

1284

01:03:30,440 --> 01:03:31,460

A neighbor came in.

1285

01:03:31,460 --> 01:03:35,850

And he says, my name is  
[? Frierman. ?] And he says,

1286

01:03:35,850 --> 01:03:39,110

I was a teacher in the  
Hebrew Tachkemoni in Krakow

1287

01:03:39,110 --> 01:03:39,920

before the war.

1288

01:03:39,920 --> 01:03:44,110

This was a very  
prestigious Jewish--

1289

01:03:44,110 --> 01:03:49,250

it was like a yeshiva for boys.

1290

01:03:49,250 --> 01:03:51,380

And he said, now,

we are organizing--

1291

01:03:51,380 --> 01:03:54,860

we have organized here  
a school, because there

1292

01:03:54,860 --> 01:03:56,880

are many Jews from the  
concentration camp,

1293

01:03:56,880 --> 01:03:58,740

no little children survived.

1294

01:03:58,740 --> 01:04:00,590

But they are Jews  
that come from Russia,

1295

01:04:00,590 --> 01:04:01,920

and they have small children.

1296

01:04:01,920 --> 01:04:03,410

So we have a little school.

1297

01:04:03,410 --> 01:04:07,160

He said, I heard you sing  
[? Smiris. ?] Who are you?

1298

01:04:07,160 --> 01:04:08,430

Where do you come from?

1299

01:04:08,430 --> 01:04:09,710

We told him.

1300

01:04:09,710 --> 01:04:11,990

He said-- and my sister  
already had a job.

1301

01:04:11,990 --> 01:04:18,140

She worked, already, there for  
the Jewish agency in that camp.

1302

01:04:18,140 --> 01:04:20,270

It was the [? Forit ?]  
Seidlung, right,

1303  
01:04:20,270 --> 01:04:23,000  
this DP camp was called  
the [? Forit ?] Seidlung,

1304  
01:04:23,000 --> 01:04:24,180  
in Heidenheim.

1305  
01:04:24,180 --> 01:04:27,350  
Right, the name of the  
place was Heidenheim.

1306  
01:04:27,350 --> 01:04:30,920  
And the place was the  
[? Forit ?] Seidlung.

1307  
01:04:30,920 --> 01:04:34,940  
And he said, you  
speak Hebrew so well.

1308  
01:04:34,940 --> 01:04:37,310  
He said, why don't you  
come and be a teacher?

1309  
01:04:37,310 --> 01:04:38,980  
I said, what are  
you talking about?

1310  
01:04:38,980 --> 01:04:41,670  
I have fourth grade I finished.

1311  
01:04:41,670 --> 01:04:42,720  
I can't be a teacher.

1312  
01:04:42,720 --> 01:04:44,060  
What will I teach?

1313  
01:04:44,060 --> 01:04:45,390  
He said, look, you'll teach--

1314



01:04:45,390 --> 01:04:48,850  
the first grade, you'll  
teach them what you know.

1315  
01:04:48,850 --> 01:04:50,950  
And then, of course,  
he said, look,

1316  
01:04:50,950 --> 01:04:52,900  
if you will be a  
teacher by us, you'll

1317  
01:04:52,900 --> 01:04:55,390  
get an extra care package.

1318  
01:04:55,390 --> 01:04:58,150  
I said, OK, if you  
want me, I'm going.

1319  
01:04:58,150 --> 01:04:59,710  
The next day, I went there.

1320  
01:04:59,710 --> 01:05:03,220  
And I was installed  
as the Hebrew teacher.

1321  
01:05:03,220 --> 01:05:05,440  
And I found so--

1322  
01:05:05,440 --> 01:05:07,090  
found it so fascinating.

1323  
01:05:07,090 --> 01:05:09,070  
I always wanted to be a teacher.

1324  
01:05:09,070 --> 01:05:12,250  
Whenever I was a little girl,  
we were playing something,

1325  
01:05:12,250 --> 01:05:14,890  
and everybody said, let's  
play house, let's play store,

1326

01:05:14,890 --> 01:05:16,270

I said, no, let's play school.

1327

01:05:16,270 --> 01:05:18,190

I'll be the teacher.

1328

01:05:18,190 --> 01:05:21,850

And I started teaching  
in that school.

1329

01:05:21,850 --> 01:05:25,150

And I also helped  
organize a youth group

1330

01:05:25,150 --> 01:05:29,080

for Bnei Akiva for the  
orthodox organization.

1331

01:05:29,080 --> 01:05:30,740

And then somebody came to me.

1332

01:05:30,740 --> 01:05:35,080

And they said, we want you  
to organize a youth group

1333

01:05:35,080 --> 01:05:37,930

on the British zone  
in Bergen-Belsen.

1334

01:05:37,930 --> 01:05:40,480

And if you will  
be there, you may

1335

01:05:40,480 --> 01:05:43,180

be able to get a legal  
certificate for you

1336

01:05:43,180 --> 01:05:46,300

and one for your mother,  
because the British promised us

1337

01:05:46,300 --> 01:05:51,850

that they will give us  
100,000 certificates for Jews

1338  
01:05:51,850 --> 01:05:55,750  
to go into Israel  
legally after the war.

1339  
01:05:55,750 --> 01:05:59,290  
So I said, well, I have to go.

1340  
01:05:59,290 --> 01:06:01,690  
I went to Bergen-Belsen  
all by myself.

1341  
01:06:01,690 --> 01:06:04,190  
I didn't know anybody there.

1342  
01:06:04,190 --> 01:06:06,450  
But there was a  
kibbutz from Mizrachi.

1343  
01:06:06,450 --> 01:06:07,360  
So I went there.

1344  
01:06:07,360 --> 01:06:09,760  
They set me up  
with another girl.

1345  
01:06:09,760 --> 01:06:13,510  
But I didn't-- I kept  
started organizing a kibbutz.

1346  
01:06:13,510 --> 01:06:14,920  
And I didn't work with them.

1347  
01:06:14,920 --> 01:06:16,378  
They were cleaning  
and doing there.

1348  
01:06:16,378 --> 01:06:19,280  
And I didn't feel  
free to eat with them.

1349

01:06:19,280 --> 01:06:22,010

So here I was starving again.

1350

01:06:22,010 --> 01:06:24,830

And every Shabbat,  
the kids would come.

1351

01:06:24,830 --> 01:06:27,140

And so I organized a group.

1352

01:06:27,140 --> 01:06:31,280

And then, somebody heard that  
I have organized a group.

1353

01:06:31,280 --> 01:06:34,570

And they came to me, they  
said, we have a school here.

1354

01:06:34,570 --> 01:06:36,670

Would you like, you speak  
Hebrew, would you like--

1355

01:06:36,670 --> 01:06:37,900

I tell the same thing.

1356

01:06:37,900 --> 01:06:39,400

I said, the fourth grade.

1357

01:06:39,400 --> 01:06:41,950

But I don't--

1358

01:06:41,950 --> 01:06:44,410

I was teaching already,  
one year, first grade.

1359

01:06:44,410 --> 01:06:45,970

If you want me, I'll come.

1360

01:06:45,970 --> 01:06:48,220

And there, it was a  
sophisticated school.

1361

01:06:48,220 --> 01:06:50,260

They had already a  
high school there.

1362

01:06:50,260 --> 01:06:54,910

And the principal  
was the a real--

1363

01:06:54,910 --> 01:06:59,770

He was a principal in a  
school before the war.

1364

01:06:59,770 --> 01:07:01,240

When did you get  
to Bergen-Belsen?

1365

01:07:01,240 --> 01:07:10,625

Bergen-Belsen was in the 1957.

1366

01:07:10,625 --> 01:07:11,125

'47?

1367

01:07:11,125 --> 01:07:13,310

'47, right, in 1947.

1368

01:07:13,310 --> 01:07:14,930

Thanks for that correction.

1369

01:07:14,930 --> 01:07:17,600

In '47, and I was there.

1370

01:07:17,600 --> 01:07:20,510

And then, well, I was there.

1371

01:07:20,510 --> 01:07:21,390

And I was teaching.

1372

01:07:21,390 --> 01:07:25,130

And I was-- and then  
I met some girls.

1373

01:07:25,130 --> 01:07:27,950  
And they worked in a kitchen.

1374  
01:07:27,950 --> 01:07:29,480  
They had a nice apartment.

1375  
01:07:29,480 --> 01:07:31,430  
And they used to  
invite me for Shabbat.

1376  
01:07:31,430 --> 01:07:33,920  
So I was already, I was  
teaching in the school.

1377  
01:07:33,920 --> 01:07:35,570  
And I even made a play.

1378  
01:07:35,570 --> 01:07:39,620  
And the principal there, the  
high school was Dr. Lubliner.

1379  
01:07:39,620 --> 01:07:41,940  
And he saw that they  
wanted to learn.

1380  
01:07:41,940 --> 01:07:42,970  
I wanted to know.

1381  
01:07:42,970 --> 01:07:44,520  
He took me under his wing.

1382  
01:07:44,520 --> 01:07:47,660  
And he started teaching me.

1383  
01:07:47,660 --> 01:07:48,470  
He was teaching me.

1384  
01:07:48,470 --> 01:07:49,640  
And I was absorbing.

1385  
01:07:49,640 --> 01:07:52,790  
Every book he gave

me, I would absorb.

1386  
01:07:52,790 --> 01:07:56,740  
And then we were there.

1387  
01:07:56,740 --> 01:08:00,880  
And then they said, well, soon,  
soon, you'll get certificates.

1388  
01:08:00,880 --> 01:08:03,100  
And my mother came in 1947.

1389  
01:08:03,100 --> 01:08:05,180  
And she was with me.

1390  
01:08:05,180 --> 01:08:08,900  
And my sister, my sister,  
no, my sister didn't come.

1391  
01:08:08,900 --> 01:08:11,240  
My sister was married  
in '47, because that's

1392  
01:08:11,240 --> 01:08:12,920  
where she met her husband.

1393  
01:08:12,920 --> 01:08:15,500  
And her husband had a  
brother that was in Israel

1394  
01:08:15,500 --> 01:08:17,090  
from before the war.

1395  
01:08:17,090 --> 01:08:18,260  
And he came to visit them.

1396  
01:08:18,260 --> 01:08:21,800  
And then he put my  
sister on his passport,

1397  
01:08:21,800 --> 01:08:25,550  
that he said the authorities

that he found a minor daughter.

1398

01:08:25,550 --> 01:08:27,109

And he took her  
to Israel legally.

1399

01:08:27,109 --> 01:08:29,720

And then it took another  
year for my brother-in-law

1400

01:08:29,720 --> 01:08:32,029

to get into Israel illegally.

1401

01:08:32,029 --> 01:08:34,760

And here I was with my  
mother in Bergen-Belsen.

1402

01:08:34,760 --> 01:08:36,020

And we were waiting.

1403

01:08:36,020 --> 01:08:38,330

And then it was already '48.

1404

01:08:38,330 --> 01:08:40,250

And then it was the exodus.

1405

01:08:40,250 --> 01:08:42,710

It was so tragic.

1406

01:08:42,710 --> 01:08:46,520

And then, it came '48.

1407

01:08:46,520 --> 01:08:48,620

And we were already  
happy that we

1408

01:08:48,620 --> 01:08:54,450

were going, now, after the war,  
we're going to go to Israel.

1409

01:08:54,450 --> 01:08:59,300

And at that time, as I was going



to these two girls that I met,

1410  
01:08:59,300 --> 01:09:00,800  
one of them was getting married.

1411  
01:09:00,800 --> 01:09:05,160  
And they fixed me up with  
somebody which I didn't like.

1412  
01:09:05,160 --> 01:09:06,870  
I didn't like that person.

1413  
01:09:06,870 --> 01:09:11,100  
And I came home, and  
the next Saturday,

1414  
01:09:11,100 --> 01:09:13,260  
they made him sit with me  
on the bus or whatever.

1415  
01:09:13,260 --> 01:09:14,189  
My mother took me.

1416  
01:09:14,189 --> 01:09:16,560  
And my mother was my God.

1417  
01:09:16,560 --> 01:09:19,050  
I would never contradict her.

1418  
01:09:19,050 --> 01:09:19,710  
And we came.

1419  
01:09:19,710 --> 01:09:23,550  
And my mother said to me,  
she said, you met someone,

1420  
01:09:23,550 --> 01:09:26,010  
his name is Mandel Rozmaryn.

1421  
01:09:26,010 --> 01:09:27,550  
You're going to marry him.

1422

01:09:27,550 --> 01:09:30,240

And I said, no,  
I don't know him.

1423

01:09:30,240 --> 01:09:31,710

And I don't want him.

1424

01:09:31,710 --> 01:09:33,270

And he's not my type.

1425

01:09:33,270 --> 01:09:34,350

And I want to study.

1426

01:09:34,350 --> 01:09:36,779

And I want-- and  
she said, look, he's

1427

01:09:36,779 --> 01:09:39,930

the only family that  
survived Auschwitz,

1428

01:09:39,930 --> 01:09:43,710

the father, and the mother,  
three sisters, and a brother.

1429

01:09:43,710 --> 01:09:45,420

And they were already  
in Bergen-Belsen.

1430

01:09:45,420 --> 01:09:46,979

They started doing business.

1431

01:09:46,979 --> 01:09:48,149

And they were ready--

1432

01:09:48,149 --> 01:09:50,189

she said, look, we  
don't have anybody.

1433

01:09:50,189 --> 01:09:52,160

And they have already business.

1434  
01:09:52,160 --> 01:09:53,609  
And they have a home.

1435  
01:09:53,609 --> 01:09:54,510  
And they have money.

1436  
01:09:54,510 --> 01:09:55,560  
You'll be in a family.

1437  
01:09:55,560 --> 01:09:57,300  
I said, no, I don't want him.

1438  
01:09:57,300 --> 01:09:59,440  
She took me by the hand,  
Saturday afternoon.

1439  
01:09:59,440 --> 01:10:01,680  
And she says, you are  
going to meet him.

1440  
01:10:01,680 --> 01:10:05,137  
And if not, she said-- and  
she took me as we walked.

1441  
01:10:05,137 --> 01:10:06,720  
And I said, no, I  
don't want to marry.

1442  
01:10:06,720 --> 01:10:08,095  
She said, if you  
won't marry him.

1443  
01:10:08,095 --> 01:10:09,990  
I'll go home and commit suicide.

1444  
01:10:09,990 --> 01:10:11,010  
And I was frightened.

1445  
01:10:11,010 --> 01:10:14,460  
Later on I learned that she  
whenever she wanted something

1446

01:10:14,460 --> 01:10:16,500  
for me, she threatened.

1447

01:10:16,500 --> 01:10:19,440  
And lo and behold,  
we got engaged.

1448

01:10:19,440 --> 01:10:22,810  
And I said, but I  
want to go to Israel.

1449

01:10:22,810 --> 01:10:24,660  
He says, we all want  
to go to Israel.

1450

01:10:24,660 --> 01:10:27,890  
But we decided to  
go to America first.

1451

01:10:27,890 --> 01:10:33,150  
And in 1949, January  
4, I married this man.

1452

01:10:33,150 --> 01:10:35,520  
Then, I had, right away, a Son.

1453

01:10:35,520 --> 01:10:39,870  
And in 1950, we came  
to the United States

1454

01:10:39,870 --> 01:10:42,600  
without money,  
without a language,

1455

01:10:42,600 --> 01:10:45,420  
without relatives,  
without anybody.

1456

01:10:45,420 --> 01:10:49,470  
The HIAS took us  
in for a few weeks.

1457

01:10:49,470 --> 01:10:53,420  
My son was eight months old.

1458  
01:10:53,420 --> 01:10:56,090  
I went out, I didn't  
know what to do.

1459  
01:10:56,090 --> 01:11:01,280  
I got some cornflakes, which  
I started boiling for him.

1460  
01:11:01,280 --> 01:11:03,590  
And then they gave  
us an apartment

1461  
01:11:03,590 --> 01:11:06,320  
in Crown Heights  
on Lincoln Place.

1462  
01:11:06,320 --> 01:11:08,960  
And they said for a few  
months, we'll pay rent.

1463  
01:11:08,960 --> 01:11:13,640  
And you have to find a place  
to work and pay your own rent.

1464  
01:11:13,640 --> 01:11:17,520  
And here we were, didn't  
speak a word of English.

1465  
01:11:17,520 --> 01:11:20,280  
I didn't-- no  
many, no relatives.

1466  
01:11:20,280 --> 01:11:23,800  
My husband got a job, somebody  
worked in a slaughterhouse

1467  
01:11:23,800 --> 01:11:25,080  
as a shochet.

1468  
01:11:25,080 --> 01:11:28,770

So they took him in to be a  
supervisor there of the kosher

1469  
01:11:28,770 --> 01:11:31,860  
meat, but paid  
very, very little.

1470  
01:11:31,860 --> 01:11:38,030  
And I had to go to  
work, what should I do?

1471  
01:11:38,030 --> 01:11:40,610  
So somebody was there,  
somebody that we

1472  
01:11:40,610 --> 01:11:45,363  
knew that worked in a shop  
sewing patches for coats.

1473  
01:11:45,363 --> 01:11:46,530  
He said, why don't you come?

1474  
01:11:46,530 --> 01:11:48,360  
I'll teach you how to sew.

1475  
01:11:48,360 --> 01:11:50,550  
And you'll still  
work in the shop.

1476  
01:11:50,550 --> 01:11:52,370  
I went there.

1477  
01:11:52,370 --> 01:11:53,870  
And he taught me how to sew.

1478  
01:11:53,870 --> 01:11:55,400  
And I sat there.

1479  
01:11:55,400 --> 01:11:56,420  
I sewed patches.

1480  
01:11:56,420 --> 01:11:59,150

And I made \$35 a week.

1481

01:11:59,150 --> 01:12:02,390

And my son was already  
over a year old.

1482

01:12:02,390 --> 01:12:03,560

And I would leave him alone.

1483

01:12:03,560 --> 01:12:05,900

And then my mother-in-law  
would come and pick him up.

1484

01:12:05,900 --> 01:12:07,790

And he would stay with her.

1485

01:12:07,790 --> 01:12:09,530

And it was so miserable.

1486

01:12:09,530 --> 01:12:11,900

We had very little food.

1487

01:12:11,900 --> 01:12:13,950

And the apartment was boiling.

1488

01:12:13,950 --> 01:12:16,430

I remember the first  
time we weren't used to.

1489

01:12:16,430 --> 01:12:18,950

And there was no  
balconies there.

1490

01:12:18,950 --> 01:12:22,050

I laid in the bath with  
cold water all night.

1491

01:12:22,050 --> 01:12:22,970

I though I would--

1492

01:12:22,970 --> 01:12:25,980

we didn't even have

money to buy a fan.

1493

01:12:25,980 --> 01:12:33,300

And they worked in the shop  
for several years, until '57.

1494

01:12:33,300 --> 01:12:34,660

And I was depressed.

1495

01:12:34,660 --> 01:12:39,910

And I was suffering from  
post-traumatic stress

1496

01:12:39,910 --> 01:12:41,050

syndromes.

1497

01:12:41,050 --> 01:12:44,240

I was suffering from anxieties.

1498

01:12:44,240 --> 01:12:46,450

But I didn't know what it was.

1499

01:12:46,450 --> 01:12:49,330

All of a sudden, I felt  
I was dying, and sweats,

1500

01:12:49,330 --> 01:12:51,460

and this, and dizziness.

1501

01:12:51,460 --> 01:12:53,620

And I was afraid to  
walk out in the street.

1502

01:12:53,620 --> 01:12:58,110

But I had to go on to shop  
and to cook for my son.

1503

01:12:58,110 --> 01:13:02,680

And in '54, I gave  
birth to my other son,

1504

01:13:02,680 --> 01:13:04,150



which I didn't plan on.

1505

01:13:04,150 --> 01:13:04,840

But he came.

1506

01:13:04,840 --> 01:13:08,140

Of course, in those days,  
you didn't make abortions.

1507

01:13:08,140 --> 01:13:09,160

And I was crying.

1508

01:13:09,160 --> 01:13:12,190

And I said, if my  
father would see me now,

1509

01:13:12,190 --> 01:13:14,740

why did I survive the  
concentration camp?

1510

01:13:14,740 --> 01:13:16,490

What am I?

1511

01:13:16,490 --> 01:13:17,710

What is it?

1512

01:13:17,710 --> 01:13:19,790

What am I here for?

1513

01:13:19,790 --> 01:13:23,500

And I said, no way, I have  
to do something with my life.

1514

01:13:23,500 --> 01:13:25,150

That's what I survived.

1515

01:13:25,150 --> 01:13:26,240

I went to night school.

1516

01:13:26,240 --> 01:13:32,690

I started learning English  
until '57, I knew already.

1517  
01:13:32,690 --> 01:13:37,480  
And then, I said to my husband,  
and my mother had come already

1518  
01:13:37,480 --> 01:13:40,250  
also from Germany.

1519  
01:13:40,250 --> 01:13:44,938  
And she had remarried  
a cousin of my husband.

1520  
01:13:44,938 --> 01:13:47,230  
Her name is [? Cilla ?]  
[? Altman. ?] And they had come

1521  
01:13:47,230 --> 01:13:47,730  
also.

1522  
01:13:47,730 --> 01:13:51,680  
I went through until  
they came in '56.

1523  
01:13:51,680 --> 01:13:54,890  
And I said to my husband  
and to my mother, I said,

1524  
01:13:54,890 --> 01:13:57,260  
my mother was helping me  
cooking, and cleaning,

1525  
01:13:57,260 --> 01:13:58,640  
and doing everything.

1526  
01:13:58,640 --> 01:14:01,010  
I said, I have to do  
something with my life.

1527  
01:14:01,010 --> 01:14:03,050  
For three years, I was teaching.

1528  
01:14:03,050 --> 01:14:05,230

I want to become a teacher.

1529

01:14:05,230 --> 01:14:06,950

They said, who is  
going to take you?

1530

01:14:06,950 --> 01:14:10,280

I said, we'll see, maybe, maybe.

1531

01:14:10,280 --> 01:14:13,070

I took a deep breath and they  
went to Yeshiva University

1532

01:14:13,070 --> 01:14:15,110

Teacher's Institute.

1533

01:14:15,110 --> 01:14:17,000

And I made an appointment  
with the principal,

1534

01:14:17,000 --> 01:14:19,640

Rabbi [? Feigelson ?]

And I come in.

1535

01:14:19,640 --> 01:14:23,520

And I said, I want  
to become a teacher.

1536

01:14:23,520 --> 01:14:27,040

And he says to me, you  
want to become a teacher,

1537

01:14:27,040 --> 01:14:28,850

do you have a high  
school diploma?

1538

01:14:28,850 --> 01:14:29,950

I said, no.

1539

01:14:29,950 --> 01:14:32,470

Do you have a grade  
school diploma?

1540

01:14:32,470 --> 01:14:34,040

I said, no.

1541

01:14:34,040 --> 01:14:35,840

He said, so what  
do you want here?

1542

01:14:35,840 --> 01:14:37,790

I said, look, I have  
two small children.

1543

01:14:37,790 --> 01:14:39,260

And I work very hard.

1544

01:14:39,260 --> 01:14:40,520

Give me a chance.

1545

01:14:40,520 --> 01:14:45,320

If you will see that I am not  
doing, then I will bow out.

1546

01:14:45,320 --> 01:14:46,848

Please give me a chance.

1547

01:14:46,848 --> 01:14:48,140

He said, you are the first one.

1548

01:14:48,140 --> 01:14:49,370

But I will give you a chance.

1549

01:14:49,370 --> 01:14:54,200

1550

01:14:54,200 --> 01:14:56,660

Rabbi [? Feigelson ?]  
gave me a chance.

1551

01:14:56,660 --> 01:15:01,730

And I started going three  
nights a week by subway

1552

01:15:01,730 --> 01:15:07,030  
from Crown Heights to  
Lexington and 34th Street

1553  
01:15:07,030 --> 01:15:09,320  
to Teacher's  
Institute for Women.

1554  
01:15:09,320 --> 01:15:11,660  
And I said day  
and night I didn't

1555  
01:15:11,660 --> 01:15:13,245  
know how to read the Bible.

1556  
01:15:13,245 --> 01:15:14,870  
I didn't know how to  
read commentaries.

1557  
01:15:14,870 --> 01:15:16,850  
But I know how to read Yiddish.

1558  
01:15:16,850 --> 01:15:19,730  
So I bought, I still have,  
a whole set of Bibles

1559  
01:15:19,730 --> 01:15:21,690  
with the Yiddish  
translation, with Russia

1560  
01:15:21,690 --> 01:15:23,930  
Yiddish translation.

1561  
01:15:23,930 --> 01:15:27,200  
And I studied day and night.

1562  
01:15:27,200 --> 01:15:31,040  
To make a long story short,  
I graduated summa cum laude

1563  
01:15:31,040 --> 01:15:32,240  
after three years.

1564

01:15:32,240 --> 01:15:34,070

But when I came  
in, all the girls

1565

01:15:34,070 --> 01:15:35,840

came straight from high school.

1566

01:15:35,840 --> 01:15:36,920

And where am I?

1567

01:15:36,920 --> 01:15:38,610

What am I doing here?

1568

01:15:38,610 --> 01:15:39,470

I graduated.

1569

01:15:39,470 --> 01:15:43,010

And then he told  
me that I have to--

1570

01:15:43,010 --> 01:15:46,970

we have to go to get nine  
credits in psychology

1571

01:15:46,970 --> 01:15:49,730

in education in a regular  
university, otherwise,

1572

01:15:49,730 --> 01:15:53,780

we wouldn't get our  
teacher's license.

1573

01:15:53,780 --> 01:15:57,740

So at that time, in  
1960, we moved to Queens.

1574

01:15:57,740 --> 01:15:59,720

And I went to Queens College.

1575

01:15:59,720 --> 01:16:03,390

And I got my bachelor's  
degree in education.

1576

01:16:03,390 --> 01:16:08,800

And in 1960, I got my  
first job as a teacher.

1577

01:16:08,800 --> 01:16:10,000