

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,060

2
00:00:03,060 --> 00:00:06,030
This is a United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3
00:00:06,030 --> 00:00:09,270
interview with Dolly
Bestandig, conducted

4
00:00:09,270 --> 00:00:14,190
by Gail Schwartz
on July 27, 1997

5
00:00:14,190 --> 00:00:17,640
at the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum.

6
00:00:17,640 --> 00:00:23,390
This is tape number one side A.

7
00:00:23,390 --> 00:00:25,446
What is your full name?

8
00:00:25,446 --> 00:00:30,020
It's Dolly Hirsch Bestandig.

9
00:00:30,020 --> 00:00:33,110
And what is the name
that you were born with?

10
00:00:33,110 --> 00:00:35,060
Dolly Hirsch.

11
00:00:35,060 --> 00:00:36,530
Did you have a Hebrew name?

12
00:00:36,530 --> 00:00:39,780
Yes, it's Devorah.

13

00:00:39,780 --> 00:00:41,830

And where were you born?

14

00:00:41,830 --> 00:00:49,340

I was born in Vilna,
Lithuania, 24 of July of 1939.

15

00:00:49,340 --> 00:00:52,470

Let's talk a little
bit about your family,

16

00:00:52,470 --> 00:00:55,340

about your parents
or grandparents.

17

00:00:55,340 --> 00:00:57,620

Do you know and about
some of the generations

18

00:00:57,620 --> 00:00:59,340

that went before you?

19

00:00:59,340 --> 00:01:03,450

Yes, I know I was 11th
generation born in Vilna

20

00:01:03,450 --> 00:01:06,248

since the times of
the 17th century,

21

00:01:06,248 --> 00:01:08,040

from the times of the
[INAUDIBLE] of Vilna.

22

00:01:08,040 --> 00:01:11,740

My great, great grandparents
were the suffering--

23

00:01:11,740 --> 00:01:14,560

the people who wrote the
books and the whole mission

24

00:01:14,560 --> 00:01:17,810
for the [INAUDIBLE] Vilna.

25
00:01:17,810 --> 00:01:21,170
Our last name was
[PERSONAL NAME]

26
00:01:21,170 --> 00:01:22,040
or [PERSONAL NAME].

27
00:01:22,040 --> 00:01:26,040
I don't know how to
spell it correctly.

28
00:01:26,040 --> 00:01:32,070
And from my grandfather's side--
from my grandmother's side,

29
00:01:32,070 --> 00:01:38,390
she was a Gesundheit,
and she came from Warsaw.

30
00:01:38,390 --> 00:01:45,380
And she married this gentleman
growing up when she was 22

31
00:01:45,380 --> 00:01:47,480
and he was 70.

32
00:01:47,480 --> 00:01:55,520
She was his fourth wife, I used
to have uncles all over Europe,

33
00:01:55,520 --> 00:02:00,630
because his first children
went to Belgium, France,

34
00:02:00,630 --> 00:02:04,980
Czechoslovakia, and some
of them, like my mothers,

35
00:02:04,980 --> 00:02:06,900
they lived in Vilna.

36
00:02:06,900 --> 00:02:10,740

37
00:02:10,740 --> 00:02:13,000
What were your parents' names?

38
00:02:13,000 --> 00:02:15,850
My mother was Rachel--

39
00:02:15,850 --> 00:02:19,830
Rachel [PERSONAL NAME]---- and
my father was [PERSONAL NAME]

40
00:02:19,830 --> 00:02:22,340
Hirsch.

41
00:02:22,340 --> 00:02:28,070
He descended from
Germany to Lithuania,

42
00:02:28,070 --> 00:02:29,960
also a few generations back.

43
00:02:29,960 --> 00:02:32,570

44
00:02:32,570 --> 00:02:34,980
What kind of work
did your father do?

45
00:02:34,980 --> 00:02:39,310
My father was a physics
mathematic engineer--

46
00:02:39,310 --> 00:02:43,030
learned in Vilna and in Russia.

47
00:02:43,030 --> 00:02:48,480
Received a degree there,
even though in those times

48

00:02:48,480 --> 00:02:51,260

it was very difficult
to enter university.

49

00:02:51,260 --> 00:02:57,290

He did receive a degree there
as a physic mathematic engineer.

50

00:02:57,290 --> 00:02:59,420

Did he have any
brothers or sisters?

51

00:02:59,420 --> 00:03:01,960

Yes, he had a twin
sister that I didn't

52

00:03:01,960 --> 00:03:05,610

know because [INAUDIBLE].

53

00:03:05,610 --> 00:03:07,770

And what about your
mother's family--

54

00:03:07,770 --> 00:03:08,970

excuse me, your mother.

55

00:03:08,970 --> 00:03:09,990

Did she do work?

56

00:03:09,990 --> 00:03:11,570

Did she do anything?

57

00:03:11,570 --> 00:03:12,110

Yes.

58

00:03:12,110 --> 00:03:15,550

My mother was one of the best
concert players in Europe.

59

00:03:15,550 --> 00:03:18,950

She was a classic piano player.

60

00:03:18,950 --> 00:03:23,676

She won the Warsaw
prize of Chopin,

61

00:03:23,676 --> 00:03:28,720

and she started also in
the Conservatory of Paris

62

00:03:28,720 --> 00:03:31,010

some years before.

63

00:03:31,010 --> 00:03:33,745

They were in-- then she
met my father in Vilna

64

00:03:33,745 --> 00:03:36,040

when she came back
from the conservatory.

65

00:03:36,040 --> 00:03:43,820

And they married in 1938, and I
was born in the middle of 1939.

66

00:03:43,820 --> 00:03:44,990

How did your parents meet?

67

00:03:44,990 --> 00:03:47,060

Do you know that?

68

00:03:47,060 --> 00:03:48,170

Yes I do.

69

00:03:48,170 --> 00:03:51,530

I think my mother was in--

70

00:03:51,530 --> 00:03:55,520

she used to tell me she
was in like a reunion place

71

00:03:55,520 --> 00:03:57,200

for Jewish groups.

72

00:03:57,200 --> 00:04:02,820

And my father went there with
some friends, some engineers,

73

00:04:02,820 --> 00:04:05,320

from the university
that finished.

74

00:04:05,320 --> 00:04:06,490

And there they met.

75

00:04:06,490 --> 00:04:07,900

And he fell in love with--

76

00:04:07,900 --> 00:04:10,550

like she used to say
[SPEAKING HEBREW]..

77

00:04:10,550 --> 00:04:13,900

She used to say that he fell
in love first with her music,

78

00:04:13,900 --> 00:04:16,344

and then with her.

79

00:04:16,344 --> 00:04:18,120

That's what I know--

80

00:04:18,120 --> 00:04:21,060

that they met like I would say
a year before they got married,

81

00:04:21,060 --> 00:04:23,040

1937.

82

00:04:23,040 --> 00:04:26,890

They were both very
young-- the same age.

83

00:04:26,890 --> 00:04:29,050

How old were they?

84

00:04:29,050 --> 00:04:29,875

Around 22.

85

00:04:29,875 --> 00:04:34,510

86

00:04:34,510 --> 00:04:37,310

Were they very religious?

87

00:04:37,310 --> 00:04:39,550

My father was from
a line of persons

88

00:04:39,550 --> 00:04:41,140

who were not very religious.

89

00:04:41,140 --> 00:04:44,960

My mother and my grandmother
were very, very religious,

90

00:04:44,960 --> 00:04:50,690

direct descendants from
[INAUDIBLE] and the [INAUDIBLE]

91

00:04:50,690 --> 00:04:51,920

suffering.

92

00:04:51,920 --> 00:04:55,170

So they were very,
very religious.

93

00:04:55,170 --> 00:04:58,850

And until the day my
mother died, she remained.

94

00:04:58,850 --> 00:05:02,060

After the war, after
all that happened,

95

00:05:02,060 --> 00:05:05,756

she remained like a
wonderful [NON-ENGLISH]..

96
00:05:05,756 --> 00:05:07,960
How do you say
[NON-ENGLISH] in English?

97
00:05:07,960 --> 00:05:08,650
Faith.

98
00:05:08,650 --> 00:05:10,511
Faith, faith in God, yes.

99
00:05:10,511 --> 00:05:13,950

100
00:05:13,950 --> 00:05:17,580
Now you say you were
born in July of 1939,

101
00:05:17,580 --> 00:05:23,070
so why don't we first talk
about what your mother told

102
00:05:23,070 --> 00:05:25,720
you happened at that time,
because obviously you

103
00:05:25,720 --> 00:05:30,340
were an infant and were
young when the war was over.

104
00:05:30,340 --> 00:05:32,980
Can you just begin
as much as you

105
00:05:32,980 --> 00:05:35,140
can in chronological
order the story

106
00:05:35,140 --> 00:05:38,900
that your mother told you?

107
00:05:38,900 --> 00:05:41,160

She told me that
when I was born.

108
00:05:41,160 --> 00:05:43,640
I was born in a place
called [PLACE NAME]

109
00:05:43,640 --> 00:05:46,900
on the [INAUDIBLE].

110
00:05:46,900 --> 00:05:51,420
It's a name given in Russian,
in Lithuania for [INAUDIBLE]..

111
00:05:51,420 --> 00:05:54,970
But that was the name of the
hospital that still existed.

112
00:05:54,970 --> 00:05:57,435
And still received
Jews at that time.

113
00:05:57,435 --> 00:06:00,696
So I was born in this hospital.

114
00:06:00,696 --> 00:06:05,990
And since she was a concert
player all the day of her life,

115
00:06:05,990 --> 00:06:10,020
and she was not allowed to
change the baby's diapers

116
00:06:10,020 --> 00:06:12,530
and to cook and
things like that,

117
00:06:12,530 --> 00:06:15,540
my grandmother went
to live with them.

118
00:06:15,540 --> 00:06:18,880
They had a beautiful

apartment, she says, in Vilna,

119

00:06:18,880 --> 00:06:23,200
with Persian rugs and a
beautiful Steinway piano

120

00:06:23,200 --> 00:06:24,280
for her.

121

00:06:24,280 --> 00:06:27,358
And the one who
did the diaper, you

122

00:06:27,358 --> 00:06:29,110
know, the changing
of the diapers,

123

00:06:29,110 --> 00:06:32,090
she used to say
everything was my father,

124

00:06:32,090 --> 00:06:33,970
because she had to
practice the piano

125

00:06:33,970 --> 00:06:37,720
around 8 to 9 hours a day.

126

00:06:37,720 --> 00:06:40,960
And she said that my
father was very, very

127

00:06:40,960 --> 00:06:44,440
much in love with me, and
loved me very, very much.

128

00:06:44,440 --> 00:06:51,250
And then the war
started, and 1940, 41,

129

00:06:51,250 --> 00:06:54,180
when the Vilna Ghetto
opened, we were

130
00:06:54,180 --> 00:06:57,421
closed in the Vilna Ghetto.

131
00:06:57,421 --> 00:06:59,230
They were taken out.

132
00:06:59,230 --> 00:07:02,500
Did she say anything
anymore about what

133
00:07:02,500 --> 00:07:06,100
happened, how the war
started, where they were--

134
00:07:06,100 --> 00:07:09,310
any these stories about that?

135
00:07:09,310 --> 00:07:11,260
September 1939.

136
00:07:11,260 --> 00:07:12,430
Yes, yes.

137
00:07:12,430 --> 00:07:14,620
She said that they were
living in their house

138
00:07:14,620 --> 00:07:18,040
still at that time when they
Vilna Ghetto was closing.

139
00:07:18,040 --> 00:07:22,090
So they had to
move with like five

140
00:07:22,090 --> 00:07:26,710
or seven people more
in one apartment,

141
00:07:26,710 --> 00:07:29,760
and they were

very, very crowded.

142

00:07:29,760 --> 00:07:36,460

They went on the very old part
of the town, the Vilna Ghetto.

143

00:07:36,460 --> 00:07:39,640

There she became acquainted
with a partisan group--

144

00:07:39,640 --> 00:07:42,970

a very famous partisan
group that used to work

145

00:07:42,970 --> 00:07:47,620

and all the time that
were in the Vilna Ghetto.

146

00:07:47,620 --> 00:07:53,390

And she says that they
were all very, very afraid,

147

00:07:53,390 --> 00:07:58,330

but not until one
year after that, she

148

00:07:58,330 --> 00:08:00,880

heard that all the
engineers, and they

149

00:08:00,880 --> 00:08:04,780

were taking 100
physics and mathematics

150

00:08:04,780 --> 00:08:09,310

engineers to a famous
camp that the Germans made

151

00:08:09,310 --> 00:08:12,310

for to produce radio
communications,

152

00:08:12,310 --> 00:08:15,130

and that's where
they took my father.

153
00:08:15,130 --> 00:08:18,340
But my father said that they
were going to send me to a--

154
00:08:18,340 --> 00:08:21,505
I say me and my mother
and my grandmother--

155
00:08:21,505 --> 00:08:23,410
to any kind of transport.

156
00:08:23,410 --> 00:08:25,570
And people never came back.

157
00:08:25,570 --> 00:08:29,060
There he would go to
that place to work.

158
00:08:29,060 --> 00:08:33,280
So let's say that thanks
to him, we survived.

159
00:08:33,280 --> 00:08:38,070
We survived those 4 years until
we got into the concentration

160
00:08:38,070 --> 00:08:38,980
camp.

161
00:08:38,980 --> 00:08:41,400
So this was a camp made for--

162
00:08:41,400 --> 00:08:43,049
Did your mother
talk about what it

163
00:08:43,049 --> 00:08:46,380
was like to be a young woman
with a new baby and the war

164

00:08:46,380 --> 00:08:48,510
starting in September 1939?

165

00:08:48,510 --> 00:08:49,570
You were 2 months old.

166

00:08:49,570 --> 00:08:50,070
Yes.

167

00:08:50,070 --> 00:08:54,015
- Did she ever discuss with
you what it was like for her?

168

00:08:54,015 --> 00:08:56,520

169

00:08:56,520 --> 00:09:01,980
She used to tell me it was
very hard to be born, you know,

170

00:09:01,980 --> 00:09:08,280
like rich and wealthy and have
the liberty to go to Paris

171

00:09:08,280 --> 00:09:11,908
and visit her uncles and
study at the conservatory.

172

00:09:11,908 --> 00:09:13,200
And she finished the gymnasium.

173

00:09:13,200 --> 00:09:17,010
The gymnasium is like
college, I think, today.

174

00:09:17,010 --> 00:09:18,450
So she finished the gymnasium.

175

00:09:18,450 --> 00:09:20,100
She used to love to write.

176

00:09:20,100 --> 00:09:24,330

She used to write very, very
nicely, even in Spanish.

177

00:09:24,330 --> 00:09:27,900

She wrote the few years
that she lived in Mexico.

178

00:09:27,900 --> 00:09:32,850

And she said that it
was very difficult

179

00:09:32,850 --> 00:09:35,460

and my father used to
work as an engineer,

180

00:09:35,460 --> 00:09:38,160

and she used to give
concert, and they used

181

00:09:38,160 --> 00:09:40,170

to go to beautiful concert.

182

00:09:40,170 --> 00:09:45,210

And to live like any
young couple, really nice.

183

00:09:45,210 --> 00:09:53,030

Maybe because of that and
the work in those five

184

00:09:53,030 --> 00:09:57,860

terrible years, is that my
mother suffered a change

185

00:09:57,860 --> 00:10:03,590

that a lot of people
that were in a poor,

186

00:10:03,590 --> 00:10:08,690

let's say in a poor environment,
had a strength that she

187

00:10:08,690 --> 00:10:12,450
didn't have to support.

188
00:10:12,450 --> 00:10:14,880
Because she left
the concentration

189
00:10:14,880 --> 00:10:17,580
camp very sick mentally--

190
00:10:17,580 --> 00:10:20,910
very, very sick mentally.

191
00:10:20,910 --> 00:10:23,820
And she suffered
very, very much and I

192
00:10:23,820 --> 00:10:29,280
think that even though my father
would think that he would have

193
00:10:29,280 --> 00:10:33,540
maybe had survived if he
would have been a stronger

194
00:10:33,540 --> 00:10:38,850
person, worker of the land
or worker of a factory

195
00:10:38,850 --> 00:10:42,450
or a person who had
starvation or poor.

196
00:10:42,450 --> 00:10:46,350
But since they were
from another side,

197
00:10:46,350 --> 00:10:54,030
let's say the privileged people,
they couldn't [INAUDIBLE]..

198
00:10:54,030 --> 00:10:56,800
Now I'm going to start

speaking Spanish.

199

00:10:56,800 --> 00:10:59,040

They couldn't support, you know?

200

00:10:59,040 --> 00:11:02,830

They received the
lacking of everything

201

00:11:02,830 --> 00:11:04,330

a human being should have.

202

00:11:04,330 --> 00:11:07,210

So maybe that's why
I think for her,

203

00:11:07,210 --> 00:11:11,350

my father it was very
difficult to survive

204

00:11:11,350 --> 00:11:16,090

because of the environment being
so, so terrible after being--

205

00:11:16,090 --> 00:11:17,905

after living so nicely.

206

00:11:17,905 --> 00:11:20,460

207

00:11:20,460 --> 00:11:25,290

How was she able to feed
you when the war started

208

00:11:25,290 --> 00:11:27,480

and when you moved
into the ghetto?

209

00:11:27,480 --> 00:11:30,900

Did she talk about the
availability of food?

210

00:11:30,900 --> 00:11:34,190

Yes, the food
availability was terrible.

211

00:11:34,190 --> 00:11:36,450

My mother was shot twice.

212

00:11:36,450 --> 00:11:43,340

Twice she was shot by a German
who was walking on a horse.

213

00:11:43,340 --> 00:11:47,210

Because once in
the Vilna Ghetto,

214

00:11:47,210 --> 00:11:49,040

and once in the
ghetto where they

215

00:11:49,040 --> 00:11:51,115

put the engineers near Minsk.

216

00:11:51,115 --> 00:11:53,770

217

00:11:53,770 --> 00:11:57,610

She saw the wires, but
she could, you know,

218

00:11:57,610 --> 00:11:59,440

like jump the wires.

219

00:11:59,440 --> 00:12:01,420

And there was a
field of potatoes,

220

00:12:01,420 --> 00:12:04,510

and once there was
a field of beets.

221

00:12:04,510 --> 00:12:08,050

So she decided that she
needed to steal something

222
00:12:08,050 --> 00:12:11,390
to make me something to eat.

223
00:12:11,390 --> 00:12:13,090
So twice she was shot.

224
00:12:13,090 --> 00:12:14,990
She just fell down.

225
00:12:14,990 --> 00:12:19,070
She touched herself
and she came back.

226
00:12:19,070 --> 00:12:21,840
The food was terrible--
the lacking of the food.

227
00:12:21,840 --> 00:12:25,625
There was no milk for me.

228
00:12:25,625 --> 00:12:29,990
Until I was seven
years old, I never

229
00:12:29,990 --> 00:12:34,590
touch any glass of milk, sugar.

230
00:12:34,590 --> 00:12:36,890
Just hard bread.

231
00:12:36,890 --> 00:12:38,510
That's what she said
she used to fill

232
00:12:38,510 --> 00:12:43,730
me, and a little bit of soup
that she made with water

233
00:12:43,730 --> 00:12:47,360
and potatoes and some
other vegetable that's

234
00:12:47,360 --> 00:12:50,120
used to soak the bread.

235
00:12:50,120 --> 00:12:53,300
And that's what I
was fed until I was--

236
00:12:53,300 --> 00:12:55,130
well, until after
the concentration

237
00:12:55,130 --> 00:12:56,720
camps and everything.

238
00:12:56,720 --> 00:12:59,730
Very difficult the
lacking of the food.

239
00:12:59,730 --> 00:13:04,140
And she risked, I would say,
very, very much of her life,

240
00:13:04,140 --> 00:13:07,910
so I should be able to survive.

241
00:13:07,910 --> 00:13:12,500
My father did too, because
he was even offered something

242
00:13:12,500 --> 00:13:17,030
that my mother used to tell me
many, many times that he was

243
00:13:17,030 --> 00:13:23,940
offered by one of the
German guards in the prison

244
00:13:23,940 --> 00:13:27,180
that they made for
these hundred engineers.

245

00:13:27,180 --> 00:13:31,510

They made a prison
camp near Minsk.

246

00:13:31,510 --> 00:13:34,510

And one of the guards
took a liking on him,

247

00:13:34,510 --> 00:13:38,250

and he offered him to
let him a door open

248

00:13:38,250 --> 00:13:42,650

and go to Vienna or to Siberia.

249

00:13:42,650 --> 00:13:49,540

That's not very far from there,
if you wanted to run out.

250

00:13:49,540 --> 00:13:52,450

And he said I can't
leave my daughter.

251

00:13:52,450 --> 00:13:55,870

I cannot leave my mother nor--

252

00:13:55,870 --> 00:13:59,610

my grandmother was
killed after Warsaw.

253

00:13:59,610 --> 00:14:03,100

And I can't leave my
wife, and I won't do it.

254

00:14:03,100 --> 00:14:06,740

So let's say that he did
have a chance to escape,

255

00:14:06,740 --> 00:14:08,910

but just couldn't do it.

256

00:14:08,910 --> 00:14:12,560

Maybe he could have also escaped

with the partisans, you know.

257

00:14:12,560 --> 00:14:15,910

In Vilna, there was a very
big group of partisans

258

00:14:15,910 --> 00:14:18,170

from what I've read about them.

259

00:14:18,170 --> 00:14:23,750

And he was young, he was strong.

260

00:14:23,750 --> 00:14:28,890

But he decided that
family was first,

261

00:14:28,890 --> 00:14:31,630

and I have to be
grateful for that.

262

00:14:31,630 --> 00:14:35,800

You were talking about
the partisans in Vilna.

263

00:14:35,800 --> 00:14:38,230

Did your parents work
with any of them,

264

00:14:38,230 --> 00:14:41,830

and if so, what kind
of work did they do?

265

00:14:41,830 --> 00:14:44,160

My mother worked
with a partisan group

266

00:14:44,160 --> 00:14:49,800

giving out pamphlets and going
to the bunkers that they made,

267

00:14:49,800 --> 00:14:50,610

yes?

268

00:14:50,610 --> 00:14:54,520
And giving them things that they
needed so that people who were

269

00:14:54,520 --> 00:14:57,120
known and who were looked for.

270

00:14:57,120 --> 00:15:00,650
Like they'd say one day a little
bit of water, one day a piece

271

00:15:00,650 --> 00:15:01,520
of hard bread.

272

00:15:01,520 --> 00:15:04,310

273

00:15:04,310 --> 00:15:11,060
Something-- underground they
had bunkers underground,

274

00:15:11,060 --> 00:15:15,070
and since she wanted to
be helpful, she did that.

275

00:15:15,070 --> 00:15:16,940
She went to see
what they needed,

276

00:15:16,940 --> 00:15:20,410
and she tried to
bring them something.

277

00:15:20,410 --> 00:15:22,300
There were the partisans
who were in hiding

278

00:15:22,300 --> 00:15:23,590
that she brought supplies to.

279

00:15:23,590 --> 00:15:25,120
In hiding, yes, exactly.

280
00:15:25,120 --> 00:15:27,940
These were the partisans
who were in hiding, yes.

281
00:15:27,940 --> 00:15:31,510
And your father, did he do
any work for the partisans?

282
00:15:31,510 --> 00:15:32,320
No, he didn't.

283
00:15:32,320 --> 00:15:36,280
He was taken right away by
the Germans to work for them.

284
00:15:36,280 --> 00:15:39,190
They knew that he was a
physics mathematics engineer

285
00:15:39,190 --> 00:15:40,600
of radio communication.

286
00:15:40,600 --> 00:15:46,780
My father was the first
inventor in Vilna of somehow--

287
00:15:46,780 --> 00:15:49,660
of a movie camera.

288
00:15:49,660 --> 00:15:51,400
It was like not a movie camera.

289
00:15:51,400 --> 00:15:55,870
Was like the first
movement of television

290
00:15:55,870 --> 00:15:58,660
that went around
Poland and Russia,

291
00:15:58,660 --> 00:16:02,380

with a few others [INAUDIBLE],,
because my mother remembered

292

00:16:02,380 --> 00:16:06,730
that before she got married,
he was talking to her that they

293

00:16:06,730 --> 00:16:09,950
had invented somehow
something that you

294

00:16:09,950 --> 00:16:13,780
could be vision the
person-- you could see them.

295

00:16:13,780 --> 00:16:16,630
Like a movie camera--

296

00:16:16,630 --> 00:16:20,000
not a still camera like a
photograph, but a camera

297

00:16:20,000 --> 00:16:23,230
that had some kind of movement.

298

00:16:23,230 --> 00:16:25,150
Of course, it was
the very beginning

299

00:16:25,150 --> 00:16:30,130
and probably wasn't
developed until much later,

300

00:16:30,130 --> 00:16:33,700
but it was the beginning,
and that was his dream

301

00:16:33,700 --> 00:16:36,700
to do something more for the
engineering and the movement

302

00:16:36,700 --> 00:16:39,280
of films or something like that.

303
00:16:39,280 --> 00:16:42,100
Was the grandmother that was
with you your mother's mother

304
00:16:42,100 --> 00:16:43,820
or your father's mother?

305
00:16:43,820 --> 00:16:45,490
No, my mother's mother.

306
00:16:45,490 --> 00:16:48,010
But my father's
mother and father

307
00:16:48,010 --> 00:16:54,775
died in Vilna a few years
before they get married.

308
00:16:54,775 --> 00:16:57,540
Only his sister was alive.

309
00:16:57,540 --> 00:17:02,580
Now who else was in the ghetto
with you besides your parents

310
00:17:02,580 --> 00:17:04,050
and your grandmother?

311
00:17:04,050 --> 00:17:06,030
Did you have aunts
and uncles and cousins

312
00:17:06,030 --> 00:17:07,880
with you in the ghetto?

313
00:17:07,880 --> 00:17:10,500
Yes, as many as my
mother remember,

314
00:17:10,500 --> 00:17:14,319
there were 90 people from the

family from my mother's side.

315

00:17:14,319 --> 00:17:15,680

Very, very much.

316

00:17:15,680 --> 00:17:22,660

The Gesundheits, the
Horowitz, and the [INAUDIBLE]..

317

00:17:22,660 --> 00:17:27,859

And one sister--
not really sister.

318

00:17:27,859 --> 00:17:30,850

My grandmother was very
rich, very wealthy.

319

00:17:30,850 --> 00:17:33,540

When my mother was
three years old,

320

00:17:33,540 --> 00:17:36,795

my grandfather died, because
he married her when he was 17

321

00:17:36,795 --> 00:17:38,940

and she was 22.

322

00:17:38,940 --> 00:17:41,550

So he passed away
right away, and he

323

00:17:41,550 --> 00:17:47,950

left her a business
of many centuries,

324

00:17:47,950 --> 00:17:49,870

where they used to make
[INAUDIBLE] and books.

325

00:17:49,870 --> 00:17:53,090

And [SPANISH] we say in Spanish.

326

00:17:53,090 --> 00:17:57,070

How do you call it in English--
where you print books?

327

00:17:57,070 --> 00:17:58,930

Printer shop?

328

00:17:58,930 --> 00:17:59,620

Publish?

329

00:17:59,620 --> 00:18:01,180

A publisher.

330

00:18:01,180 --> 00:18:03,010

That's right, a publisher.

331

00:18:03,010 --> 00:18:06,520

And so she had a lot of--

332

00:18:06,520 --> 00:18:14,870

nave children from her husband's
children and grandsons,

333

00:18:14,870 --> 00:18:17,050

and daughters and
sons from her husband

334

00:18:17,050 --> 00:18:18,640

that were older than she was.

335

00:18:18,640 --> 00:18:21,250

They were all around Europe,
and they didn't need the money,

336

00:18:21,250 --> 00:18:22,960

so they left her.

337

00:18:22,960 --> 00:18:28,330

So she was a very
good hearted person.

338

00:18:28,330 --> 00:18:33,810

She had a lot of
cousins and children

339

00:18:33,810 --> 00:18:37,720

from her sisters and
brothers who were not rich.

340

00:18:37,720 --> 00:18:40,080

So she head up to
the [INAUDIBLE],,

341

00:18:40,080 --> 00:18:43,050

and they grew up the
sisters of my mother.

342

00:18:43,050 --> 00:18:46,560

One of them especially--
that was Golda--

343

00:18:46,560 --> 00:18:49,530

just like she,
Rachel Gesundheit,

344

00:18:49,530 --> 00:18:53,010

she married to a
very special man.

345

00:18:53,010 --> 00:18:57,420

They were killed during the
war, and also their boy,

346

00:18:57,420 --> 00:18:59,310

who should be my age.

347

00:18:59,310 --> 00:19:05,901

He was a very
famous astroman, no.

348

00:19:05,901 --> 00:19:10,560

How do you say somebody
who studies the stars?

349

00:19:10,560 --> 00:19:12,840
Astrophysicist or astronomer?

350
00:19:12,840 --> 00:19:14,640
Astronomer.

351
00:19:14,640 --> 00:19:17,250
Yeah, he was a very
famous astronomer.

352
00:19:17,250 --> 00:19:20,220
His name was Shia
Gesundheit, and he

353
00:19:20,220 --> 00:19:23,880
discovered a
historical [INAUDIBLE],,

354
00:19:23,880 --> 00:19:27,300
and it's still in the papers.

355
00:19:27,300 --> 00:19:30,360
And all of them were killed.

356
00:19:30,360 --> 00:19:34,500
But she adopted her as a baby,
and she grew up with my mother

357
00:19:34,500 --> 00:19:35,220
like a sister.

358
00:19:35,220 --> 00:19:36,720
She married her
off, my grandmother.

359
00:19:36,720 --> 00:19:38,820
My grandmother did everything.

360
00:19:38,820 --> 00:19:42,210
So she used to help
her family, because she

361

00:19:42,210 --> 00:19:46,620
came from a very big
family, not wealthy at all.

362
00:19:46,620 --> 00:19:51,070
One of the brothers, five
brothers of this girl, Rachel,

363
00:19:51,070 --> 00:19:53,790
who grew up with my
mother like a sister and I

364
00:19:53,790 --> 00:19:58,770
have pictures that I'm going
to send you-- both of them.

365
00:19:58,770 --> 00:20:05,370
These uncles wen to Cuba in the
year 1920-something, in 1930.

366
00:20:05,370 --> 00:20:09,366
And those were the people
who found me in Sweden

367
00:20:09,366 --> 00:20:11,330
and brought me to America.

368
00:20:11,330 --> 00:20:13,250
We'll get to that in a moment.

369
00:20:13,250 --> 00:20:16,940
I just want to clarify
something with you.

370
00:20:16,940 --> 00:20:20,480
When you and your family
went into the ghetto,

371
00:20:20,480 --> 00:20:25,670
your father was able to
stay with you for how long?

372
00:20:25,670 --> 00:20:27,890

Until 1994.

373
00:20:27,890 --> 00:20:29,330
1944.

374
00:20:29,330 --> 00:20:32,360
1944, I'm sorry.

375
00:20:32,360 --> 00:20:35,700
So you do lived together.

376
00:20:35,700 --> 00:20:39,930
In 3 different ghettos.

377
00:20:39,930 --> 00:20:43,370
We lived in the ghetto in
Vilna, we lived in the ghetto

378
00:20:43,370 --> 00:20:45,650
in Minsk, and we
lived in the ghetto

379
00:20:45,650 --> 00:20:48,380
that they made especially
for the engineers.

380
00:20:48,380 --> 00:20:52,400
How long did you stay
in the Vilna Ghetto?

381
00:20:52,400 --> 00:20:56,750
I would say 1932,
the end of 1933.

382
00:20:56,750 --> 00:20:57,800
1942.

383
00:20:57,800 --> 00:21:00,518
1942.

384
00:21:00,518 --> 00:21:01,880
I'm sorry.

385
00:21:01,880 --> 00:21:06,480
And then you went to--
your family went to Minsk?

386
00:21:06,480 --> 00:21:09,980
To the ghetto in Minsk,
and from there they

387
00:21:09,980 --> 00:21:11,600
made the special ghetto--

388
00:21:11,600 --> 00:21:15,530
no, from the ghetto in
Vilna to this ghetto made

389
00:21:15,530 --> 00:21:16,880
for the engineers.

390
00:21:16,880 --> 00:21:20,170
And where was the
second ghetto located?

391
00:21:20,170 --> 00:21:25,010
It must have been
very near of Minsk,

392
00:21:25,010 --> 00:21:27,530
because we stayed there
until the Germans started

393
00:21:27,530 --> 00:21:33,140
to lose the war with the
Russians from the end of 1944.

394
00:21:33,140 --> 00:21:35,930
Then they sent this to Minsk,
and from the ghetto in Minsk

395
00:21:35,930 --> 00:21:39,400
we were sent to the
concentration camp.

396

00:21:39,400 --> 00:21:41,740

So the second ghetto
was near Minsk.

397

00:21:41,740 --> 00:21:45,060

And was that your
whole extended family--

398

00:21:45,060 --> 00:21:47,490

all those people that
were in the Vilna Ghetto?

399

00:21:47,490 --> 00:21:49,830

Or who went with you
to that second ghetto?

400

00:21:49,830 --> 00:21:56,994

No, my father, my
mother, and me.

401

00:21:56,994 --> 00:21:59,770

That's all.

402

00:21:59,770 --> 00:22:04,270

Because he said he was
he wouldn't come with us.

403

00:22:04,270 --> 00:22:07,570

So they took the families
of these 100 engineers.

404

00:22:07,570 --> 00:22:12,310

It's very strange, but
there used to live there--

405

00:22:12,310 --> 00:22:15,310

a few years ago he passed away--

406

00:22:15,310 --> 00:22:20,470

one of the engineers that
survived with my family--

407

00:22:20,470 --> 00:22:24,190
that used to go, one
of the 100 engineers.

408
00:22:24,190 --> 00:22:26,650
Must have had a
name and a place.

409
00:22:26,650 --> 00:22:30,160
Must be written someplace,
because a lot of people

410
00:22:30,160 --> 00:22:32,875
knew about this coming
for the engineers, where

411
00:22:32,875 --> 00:22:34,780
they were working
for the Germans

412
00:22:34,780 --> 00:22:38,220
to make radio communications.

413
00:22:38,220 --> 00:22:41,970
What was it like for your mother
to have to leave her relatives

414
00:22:41,970 --> 00:22:46,156
and just go with
you and your father?

415
00:22:46,156 --> 00:22:48,910
It was very, very hard.

416
00:22:48,910 --> 00:22:53,320
I think that was like the
beginning of falling down

417
00:22:53,320 --> 00:22:55,230
for her, you know?

418
00:22:55,230 --> 00:22:59,610
When she used to speak about

it, she used to cry so much.

419

00:22:59,610 --> 00:23:03,680

To remember her youth so
much in Zakopane and Paris

420

00:23:03,680 --> 00:23:07,440

and [PLACE NAME] and my
father, and how he loved her,

421

00:23:07,440 --> 00:23:11,190

and her beautiful cousins
and their beautiful aunts

422

00:23:11,190 --> 00:23:15,150

and the big [NON-ENGLISH] from
Vilna from so many generations.

423

00:23:15,150 --> 00:23:19,680

She was third generation born
in Vilna, 11 generation born

424

00:23:19,680 --> 00:23:22,980

from a very, very big family.

425

00:23:22,980 --> 00:23:27,420

And she was like
falling apart in pieces.

426

00:23:27,420 --> 00:23:30,120

And the truth is
that the one who

427

00:23:30,120 --> 00:23:33,750

helped her to survive the
whole time was my father.

428

00:23:33,750 --> 00:23:39,300

They say he was the strong one,
and she was the very weak one.

429

00:23:39,300 --> 00:23:41,050

It should have been

maybe on the contrary,

430

00:23:41,050 --> 00:23:45,600

because she was a very
well brought up girl,

431

00:23:45,600 --> 00:23:48,900

with a very nice [NON-ENGLISH]
with a lot of money.

432

00:23:48,900 --> 00:23:54,070

And all that in Europe was
so strange at that time.

433

00:23:54,070 --> 00:23:58,405

But she was starting to
fall down and fall down,

434

00:23:58,405 --> 00:24:01,900

until she got to the degrees
of the washing of the bathrooms

435

00:24:01,900 --> 00:24:05,620

and the making of things in
Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen

436

00:24:05,620 --> 00:24:07,240

that she told me.

437

00:24:07,240 --> 00:24:09,970

There with was
like a degradation

438

00:24:09,970 --> 00:24:14,260

that she never could surpass,
even though she survived.

439

00:24:14,260 --> 00:24:17,860

I would say that a person
who survived was never,

440

00:24:17,860 --> 00:24:21,890

never the person

left at their house.

441

00:24:21,890 --> 00:24:25,000

Not only had [INAUDIBLE] and the
things that she had to do with

442

00:24:25,000 --> 00:24:25,740

her works--

443

00:24:25,740 --> 00:24:31,480

the dirty work and the bathrooms
and the factories and the slave

444

00:24:31,480 --> 00:24:32,800

factories.

445

00:24:32,800 --> 00:24:38,870

It's just that she just said
that there was a lot of times

446

00:24:38,870 --> 00:24:40,790

that she told me,
and I felt when

447

00:24:40,790 --> 00:24:43,340

I was a young girl very bad--

448

00:24:43,340 --> 00:24:49,610

was that somehow she blamed
me, because I was alive.

449

00:24:49,610 --> 00:24:54,920

That she wanted to go on,
because it came to a point

450

00:24:54,920 --> 00:24:57,595

when we went out from
Bergen-Belsen not

451

00:24:57,595 --> 00:24:59,720

from Auschwitz,
from Bergen-Belsen

452

00:24:59,720 --> 00:25:03,260

that somebody told
her that my father

453

00:25:03,260 --> 00:25:06,770

was taken to the gas chambers
the day before the liberation.

454

00:25:06,770 --> 00:25:09,620

455

00:25:09,620 --> 00:25:12,030

And she said, well, I
don't want to live anymore,

456

00:25:12,030 --> 00:25:13,610

and she was going
to do something

457

00:25:13,610 --> 00:25:17,120

to herself when somebody stopped
and said but your daughter.

458

00:25:17,120 --> 00:25:19,790

She's the only child here alive.

459

00:25:19,790 --> 00:25:21,440

We all lost our children.

460

00:25:21,440 --> 00:25:25,370

So let's say that
in the later years,

461

00:25:25,370 --> 00:25:31,160

I felt like if I may have
been, but not because she

462

00:25:31,160 --> 00:25:33,220

wanted to [INAUDIBLE].

463

00:25:33,220 --> 00:25:37,844

Because, you know, I was there,

so she had to go on living.

464

00:25:37,844 --> 00:25:42,100

465

00:25:42,100 --> 00:25:45,580

So you then went to
the ghetto in Minsk.

466

00:25:45,580 --> 00:25:46,090

Yes.

467

00:25:46,090 --> 00:25:47,447

That was the third ghetto.

468

00:25:47,447 --> 00:25:48,530

That was the third ghetto.

469

00:25:48,530 --> 00:25:51,440

And how long did
you and your family

470

00:25:51,440 --> 00:25:55,360

stay in Minsk, and what did
your father do at the time?

471

00:25:55,360 --> 00:26:00,460

In Minsk there was somehow like
it's a [? slave ?] ghetto also.

472

00:26:00,460 --> 00:26:03,850

But there he had to do what
everybody else did, you know?

473

00:26:03,850 --> 00:26:06,600

474

00:26:06,600 --> 00:26:10,010

Work the trains-- they
used to make, you know,

475

00:26:10,010 --> 00:26:13,000

lines, train lines?

476

00:26:13,000 --> 00:26:13,810

Railroad tracks.

477

00:26:13,810 --> 00:26:14,920

The railroad tracks.

478

00:26:14,920 --> 00:26:18,740

And what else did he--

479

00:26:18,740 --> 00:26:21,670

she told me that he
did there in Minsk.

480

00:26:21,670 --> 00:26:27,100

The railroad tracks,
and I have no idea.

481

00:26:27,100 --> 00:26:32,870

Since they dismounted
this engineering ghetto--

482

00:26:32,870 --> 00:26:35,810

the Germans-- so they
put everybody there

483

00:26:35,810 --> 00:26:38,240

in the Minsk ghetto.

484

00:26:38,240 --> 00:26:41,840

During 1944, they
were losing their war,

485

00:26:41,840 --> 00:26:45,140

so they didn't give him
a special task, you know?

486

00:26:45,140 --> 00:26:47,750

Just imagine the
task that everybody

487

00:26:47,750 --> 00:26:50,420
had to do there, you
know? if They work hard,

488
00:26:50,420 --> 00:26:51,530
they would survive.

489
00:26:51,530 --> 00:26:53,840
They would go in
the next transport.

490
00:26:53,840 --> 00:26:55,700
And your mother was
able to stay with you,

491
00:26:55,700 --> 00:26:57,650
or did she have to work
in the Minsk ghetto?

492
00:26:57,650 --> 00:27:00,260
No she had to work,
and I stayed there

493
00:27:00,260 --> 00:27:04,610
in that room with a very old
lady that they found there.

494
00:27:04,610 --> 00:27:06,230
She had to go and work.

495
00:27:06,230 --> 00:27:08,060
What kind of work did she do?

496
00:27:08,060 --> 00:27:09,920
I can't remember,
because I think

497
00:27:09,920 --> 00:27:13,640
that the clothing and
the brushes and things

498
00:27:13,640 --> 00:27:17,070
like that she made in

the concentration camp.

499

00:27:17,070 --> 00:27:21,720

And in Minsk, I have no idea
what kind of work she did.

500

00:27:21,720 --> 00:27:23,270

I can't remember that.

501

00:27:23,270 --> 00:27:25,590

And then what happened?

502

00:27:25,590 --> 00:27:28,830

By the end of 1944--

503

00:27:28,830 --> 00:27:33,210

by the end of let's
say winter of 1944,

504

00:27:33,210 --> 00:27:39,150

we were put in some wagons
to the concentration

505

00:27:39,150 --> 00:27:41,660

camp of Auschwitz.

506

00:27:41,660 --> 00:27:45,890

I still remember
today being so young.

507

00:27:45,890 --> 00:27:48,350

I was what, 5 years old?

508

00:27:48,350 --> 00:27:50,900

I remember that packed train.

509

00:27:50,900 --> 00:27:53,750

It's absolutely unbelievable.

510

00:27:53,750 --> 00:27:58,966

Friday I was here,
crossing the [INAUDIBLE],,

511
00:27:58,966 --> 00:28:01,860
and my daughter and my
son-in-law and my husband

512
00:28:01,860 --> 00:28:03,300
went ahead of me.

513
00:28:03,300 --> 00:28:06,220
Somehow we got lost.

514
00:28:06,220 --> 00:28:10,315
And there were some
[INAUDIBLE] young kids.

515
00:28:10,315 --> 00:28:14,030
And I had to ask
somebody to hold my hand,

516
00:28:14,030 --> 00:28:19,380
because it was like living it in
again, because we were stuffed.

517
00:28:19,380 --> 00:28:22,830
We couldn't breathe.

518
00:28:22,830 --> 00:28:24,030
We were stuffed.

519
00:28:24,030 --> 00:28:28,670
There was no water for
days and days and days.

520
00:28:28,670 --> 00:28:31,750
People were dying down me.

521
00:28:31,750 --> 00:28:36,750
My mother put me on top of
one, on top of another person,

522
00:28:36,750 --> 00:28:42,750
and she was trying

to somehow save--

523

00:28:42,750 --> 00:28:47,310
the whole time was
like her task was

524

00:28:47,310 --> 00:28:51,780
not that she should survive,
that I should survive.

525

00:28:51,780 --> 00:28:57,850
And somehow-- I am a
very fervent believer

526

00:28:57,850 --> 00:28:59,480
in [SPEAKING HEBREW].

527

00:28:59,480 --> 00:29:04,640
I have the faith that there
is a special God above us.

528

00:29:04,640 --> 00:29:10,270
And I'm a living
miracle, you know?

529

00:29:10,270 --> 00:29:13,300
That we really [INAUDIBLE].

530

00:29:13,300 --> 00:29:17,290
How could the Jews survive
the passing and the crossing

531

00:29:17,290 --> 00:29:20,300
of the Red Sea?

532

00:29:20,300 --> 00:29:24,780
I don't have to read that
story, because I feel

533

00:29:24,780 --> 00:29:27,870
that I do believe in miracles.

534

00:29:27,870 --> 00:29:33,030

I don't have to ask
myself where was God.

535

00:29:33,030 --> 00:29:36,880

I know that He was with
me through this thing.

536

00:29:36,880 --> 00:29:39,550

Because I feel that
I'm a living miracle.

537

00:29:39,550 --> 00:29:41,470

How could I survive?

538

00:29:41,470 --> 00:29:45,110

How could I?

539

00:29:45,110 --> 00:29:49,370

Your father was with
you in the [INAUDIBLE]??

540

00:29:49,370 --> 00:29:50,640

Yes.

541

00:29:50,640 --> 00:29:51,380

Yes.

542

00:29:51,380 --> 00:29:53,160

In Auschwitz, yes.

543

00:29:53,160 --> 00:29:55,600

And then we were separated.

544

00:29:55,600 --> 00:29:58,960

The second travel that
we had from Auschwitz

545

00:29:58,960 --> 00:30:04,210

to Bergen-Belsen, there
we were only women.

546

00:30:04,210 --> 00:30:07,000

OK, so you're in
the railroad car,

547

00:30:07,000 --> 00:30:13,170

and you then arrive
at Auschwitz.

548

00:30:13,170 --> 00:30:25,790

We arrived in Auschwitz around
November or December of 1944,

549

00:30:25,790 --> 00:30:27,200

October maybe of 1944.

550

00:30:27,200 --> 00:30:29,630

We went there only 2 months.

551

00:30:29,630 --> 00:30:35,120

That entrance to Auschwitz,
it's unbelievable.

552

00:30:35,120 --> 00:30:38,510

Until today, I don't
remember if it was

553

00:30:38,510 --> 00:30:40,820

at Bergen-Belsen or Auschwitz.

554

00:30:40,820 --> 00:30:47,180

But I do remember that my
grandmother gave my mother

555

00:30:47,180 --> 00:30:51,170

and advice in the Vilna Ghetto.

556

00:30:51,170 --> 00:30:53,810

Since she was a
very wealthy woman,

557

00:30:53,810 --> 00:30:56,960

and I would say a
very wise woman,

558
00:30:56,960 --> 00:31:00,650
I survived thanks
to her jewelry.

559
00:31:00,650 --> 00:31:11,790
I had like a sponge with
what do you take a shower--

560
00:31:11,790 --> 00:31:13,560
a [INAUDIBLE] sponge.

561
00:31:13,560 --> 00:31:17,820
And she opened it up,
because she said to my mother

562
00:31:17,820 --> 00:31:21,310
if the Germans want to
know if we have jewelry,

563
00:31:21,310 --> 00:31:23,800
they're going to
take us out there.

564
00:31:23,800 --> 00:31:25,980
And if you think you
can swallow it and then

565
00:31:25,980 --> 00:31:30,210
go to the bathroom and things
like that, don't do it.

566
00:31:30,210 --> 00:31:32,800
Put a [INAUDIBLE]--

567
00:31:32,800 --> 00:31:35,370
[INAUDIBLE] they used
to tell me at that time.

568
00:31:35,370 --> 00:31:40,265
In her bath sponge, put a few
diamonds and a few emeralds.

569

00:31:40,265 --> 00:31:43,580

570

00:31:43,580 --> 00:31:48,600

And leave them inside,
and there will come a time

571

00:31:48,600 --> 00:31:53,810

when you can probably open it
and change it for something.

572

00:31:53,810 --> 00:31:58,790

And my mother did that, and
until we came to Bergen-Belsen,

573

00:31:58,790 --> 00:32:02,490

I still had it.

574

00:32:02,490 --> 00:32:06,330

Because when they undressed
us, that I remember very well,

575

00:32:06,330 --> 00:32:08,730

and they shaved my--

576

00:32:08,730 --> 00:32:12,660

we were standing in those
famous lines, you know--

577

00:32:12,660 --> 00:32:16,470

right to live, and left
to die, and since they

578

00:32:16,470 --> 00:32:22,100

used to change them, you never
knew which one was to live

579

00:32:22,100 --> 00:32:23,970

and which one was to die.

580

00:32:23,970 --> 00:32:27,900

So my mother looked--

581
00:32:27,900 --> 00:32:30,540
she looked like
strong, you know?

582
00:32:30,540 --> 00:32:34,150
She was very pretty, but
besides that, she looked strong.

583
00:32:34,150 --> 00:32:37,160
She made her cheeks
more stronger.

584
00:32:37,160 --> 00:32:43,890
She put on me like that like
older people, younger glowing.

585
00:32:43,890 --> 00:32:46,490
I don't know what she did.

586
00:32:46,490 --> 00:32:50,270
But she somehow knew which
was the line for to live,

587
00:32:50,270 --> 00:32:53,390
and she saw where
they took the women

588
00:32:53,390 --> 00:32:56,480
with a small, small children
that they had been carrying.

589
00:32:56,480 --> 00:32:57,680
She never carried me.

590
00:32:57,680 --> 00:32:58,670
She made me walk.

591
00:32:58,670 --> 00:33:01,800

592
00:33:01,800 --> 00:33:07,690

So she made me walk,
and somehow they

593
00:33:07,690 --> 00:33:11,680
put her on the
line of the living,

594
00:33:11,680 --> 00:33:14,065
where there were no
children, only women.

595
00:33:14,065 --> 00:33:17,920

596
00:33:17,920 --> 00:33:21,631
And they let her through
with me in the hem.

597
00:33:21,631 --> 00:33:23,740
So that's how I came to survive.

598
00:33:23,740 --> 00:33:26,260
Then they took us to a shower.

599
00:33:26,260 --> 00:33:28,450
They took her, too.

600
00:33:28,450 --> 00:33:30,110
We're talking about Auschwitz.

601
00:33:30,110 --> 00:33:32,470
Yes.

602
00:33:32,470 --> 00:33:36,950
Then they took my
mother to a place

603
00:33:36,950 --> 00:33:39,630
where they shaved their heads.

604
00:33:39,630 --> 00:33:42,840
And then they gave

her a uniform,

605

00:33:42,840 --> 00:33:48,530

and she took one for
me-- a long, long jacket.

606

00:33:48,530 --> 00:33:53,310

It was like a long dress
for me, with a jacket only.

607

00:33:53,310 --> 00:33:56,800

Not the pants,
because I'm growing.

608

00:33:56,800 --> 00:34:01,510

And then they tattooed
her hands, and somehow--

609

00:34:01,510 --> 00:34:06,280

I don't know what she did,
but they didn't tattoo mine.

610

00:34:06,280 --> 00:34:10,270

It's very, very funny
that they did hers.

611

00:34:10,270 --> 00:34:14,199

And I saw that young girls
doing it, but mine didn't.

612

00:34:14,199 --> 00:34:17,239

Maybe they thought that
I wasn't going to live.

613

00:34:17,239 --> 00:34:19,420

Maybe they thought they
were going to send me

614

00:34:19,420 --> 00:34:21,550

to the gas chambers right away.

615

00:34:21,550 --> 00:34:22,239

I don't know.

616
00:34:22,239 --> 00:34:24,400
They just passed me through.

617
00:34:24,400 --> 00:34:29,190

618
00:34:29,190 --> 00:34:35,580
And when they took her to
the showers for the living,

619
00:34:35,580 --> 00:34:39,179
not for the dead,
for the gas chambers.

620
00:34:39,179 --> 00:34:42,570
I had that sponge,
and somehow they

621
00:34:42,570 --> 00:34:43,860
didn't take it away from me.

622
00:34:43,860 --> 00:34:45,690
They took everything.

623
00:34:45,690 --> 00:34:50,105
My mother was so worried
about her degree--

624
00:34:50,105 --> 00:34:56,820
her piano degree-- and some
documents that the whole time

625
00:34:56,820 --> 00:34:58,590
she held the documents.

626
00:34:58,590 --> 00:35:01,500
But there she had to
leave them a little while.

627
00:35:01,500 --> 00:35:06,240
In the meantime, we took the

bath and the disinfection.

628

00:35:06,240 --> 00:35:08,245

I think baths were
for disinfection.

629

00:35:08,245 --> 00:35:09,620

They said they
were going to give

630

00:35:09,620 --> 00:35:12,180

it back your things
on the way out,

631

00:35:12,180 --> 00:35:16,640

and that's when they
didn't give you anything.

632

00:35:16,640 --> 00:35:18,010

They give you a little plate.

633

00:35:18,010 --> 00:35:24,438

I will remember that,
earthenware, metal plate.

634

00:35:24,438 --> 00:35:27,190

Somehow my mother get
a spoon, because I

635

00:35:27,190 --> 00:35:30,380

remember that's where my
mother used to feed me

636

00:35:30,380 --> 00:35:31,220

the garbage can.

637

00:35:31,220 --> 00:35:36,430

I was many months
in the garbage can.

638

00:35:36,430 --> 00:35:42,150

Each time she saw an SS man,
she taught me a word in Jewish

639
00:35:42,150 --> 00:35:45,930
that's says SS [NON-ENGLISH].

640
00:35:45,930 --> 00:35:49,628
And I knew it was time to
go into that garbage can.

641
00:35:49,628 --> 00:35:52,770

642
00:35:52,770 --> 00:35:55,830
She went to work for many
hours in a concentration camp.

643
00:35:55,830 --> 00:35:57,420
When she came back,
she took me out

644
00:35:57,420 --> 00:35:59,730
of that garbage
can just at night.

645
00:35:59,730 --> 00:36:03,390

646
00:36:03,390 --> 00:36:06,660
Those were the first
few months in Auschwitz.

647
00:36:06,660 --> 00:36:09,630
Then too many people
came to Auschwitz.

648
00:36:09,630 --> 00:36:12,930
Somehow there was no room.

649
00:36:12,930 --> 00:36:13,980
Where was your father?

650
00:36:13,980 --> 00:36:16,400
Did you see him at all?

651
00:36:16,400 --> 00:36:19,740
No, not at all.

652
00:36:19,740 --> 00:36:25,791
But my mother knew that he was
transferred to Bergen-Belsen.

653
00:36:25,791 --> 00:36:28,440

654
00:36:28,440 --> 00:36:31,170
When we leave,
how, I don't know.

655
00:36:31,170 --> 00:36:37,680
She says that one day being in
Auschwitz, she went to the wire

656
00:36:37,680 --> 00:36:40,970
when they divided the
men from the woman,

657
00:36:40,970 --> 00:36:43,070
and she found one
of those engineers.

658
00:36:43,070 --> 00:36:49,070
And he said yes, he's with
us, and we are being moved.

659
00:36:49,070 --> 00:36:53,710
We're being moved next week or
next month to Bergen-Belsen,

660
00:36:53,710 --> 00:36:55,640
and maybe you would--

661
00:36:55,640 --> 00:36:57,290
and that's what happened.

662
00:36:57,290 --> 00:37:02,550

Because the last time that my
mother changed in Bergen-Belsen

663
00:37:02,550 --> 00:37:06,750
with one of the capos
was for a package

664
00:37:06,750 --> 00:37:09,030
of cigarettes from my father.

665
00:37:09,030 --> 00:37:13,770
And she gave it to one of
the friends through the wire.

666
00:37:13,770 --> 00:37:16,620

667
00:37:16,620 --> 00:37:19,710
And she changed it
once a month for me

668
00:37:19,710 --> 00:37:23,010
to have a piece of dark bread.

669
00:37:23,010 --> 00:37:26,880
So in Auschwitz, your
mother did any work?

670
00:37:26,880 --> 00:37:28,230
What did she do?

671
00:37:28,230 --> 00:37:29,790
She worked in a shop--

672
00:37:29,790 --> 00:37:37,890
that they had a slave shop for
to make uniforms for the war--

673
00:37:37,890 --> 00:37:42,120
on a sewing machine,
and sewing by hand.

674

00:37:42,120 --> 00:37:44,640

675

00:37:44,640 --> 00:37:47,370

She worked on something
very hard, I don't know.

676

00:37:47,370 --> 00:37:51,420

Moving stones-- something that
had to do with the railroads

677

00:37:51,420 --> 00:37:58,130

also, since it seems she was
a strong physical person.

678

00:37:58,130 --> 00:38:01,350

So they made her work very hard.

679

00:38:01,350 --> 00:38:04,010

But that's also
one of the things

680

00:38:04,010 --> 00:38:08,140

that helped me to survive,
because if she wouldn't have

681

00:38:08,140 --> 00:38:13,390

come one day, let's say it would
have been a week or something,

682

00:38:13,390 --> 00:38:17,140

nobody would have taken me
out of that garbage can.

683

00:38:17,140 --> 00:38:21,170

At that time already,
there were no children--

684

00:38:21,170 --> 00:38:22,670

no children at all.

685

00:38:22,670 --> 00:38:25,010

So you were the only

child that you saw?

686

00:38:25,010 --> 00:38:27,960

In that barrack, yes.

687

00:38:27,960 --> 00:38:31,300

Until I came to New

York, not to Sweden--

688

00:38:31,300 --> 00:38:35,800

I don't know why in Sweden

I don't remember children,

689

00:38:35,800 --> 00:38:39,930

even though I was in a hospital

for children in Sweden.

690

00:38:39,930 --> 00:38:42,750

I don't remember--

I never thought

691

00:38:42,750 --> 00:38:45,600

that another child existed.

692

00:38:45,600 --> 00:38:49,770

And I also thought

until very, very--

693

00:38:49,770 --> 00:38:55,430

my late 20s-- that

I thought that that

694

00:38:55,430 --> 00:39:00,425

was the way one should live,

and that I was somehow small.

695

00:39:00,425 --> 00:39:08,720

696

00:39:08,720 --> 00:39:11,090

This is tape 1,

side B, and you were

697

00:39:11,090 --> 00:39:13,070

talking about what
you thought and what

698

00:39:13,070 --> 00:39:16,570

it's like to be a child.

699

00:39:16,570 --> 00:39:23,380

And you see I grew up with
fear and I grew up in darkness,

700

00:39:23,380 --> 00:39:29,160

so I thought life was to live in
a dark place, in a humid place.

701

00:39:29,160 --> 00:39:33,060

Everything was gray, and
everything was black.

702

00:39:33,060 --> 00:39:35,550

There were no colors.

703

00:39:35,550 --> 00:39:40,200

In the beginning of those
times during my years,

704

00:39:40,200 --> 00:39:42,360

I thought life was like that.

705

00:39:42,360 --> 00:39:45,480

Life was gray, life was black.

706

00:39:45,480 --> 00:39:50,766

Life was to be one small
one with only grown ups.

707

00:39:50,766 --> 00:39:59,840

At night, I only heard crying
and crying, and people dying.

708

00:39:59,840 --> 00:40:01,340

Nobody was ever born.

709
00:40:01,340 --> 00:40:06,380
I never knew that
people had to be born.

710
00:40:06,380 --> 00:40:09,670
I was very, very
afraid the whole time.

711
00:40:09,670 --> 00:40:14,120
I never spoke for one more
until I came to Sweden.

712
00:40:14,120 --> 00:40:21,520
My mother thought that
maybe I had a disease,

713
00:40:21,520 --> 00:40:24,340
and I wasn't going to speak.

714
00:40:24,340 --> 00:40:26,740
The truth is that they
did they didn't know yet

715
00:40:26,740 --> 00:40:33,690
in Sweden that I had a
terrible fall in [PLACE NAME]

716
00:40:33,690 --> 00:40:36,090
or in Auschwitz or
in Bergen-Belsen,

717
00:40:36,090 --> 00:40:39,900
or probably I fell in-- the
they got those tremendously

718
00:40:39,900 --> 00:40:44,340
big garbage cans, so they
threw something on top of me.

719
00:40:44,340 --> 00:40:49,720
Because I had a fall
and it opened up here

720
00:40:49,720 --> 00:40:52,730
on part of my inside lip--

721
00:40:52,730 --> 00:40:55,570
inside mouth.

722
00:40:55,570 --> 00:41:00,730
And that's why I didn't eat
too much food, because anyway,

723
00:41:00,730 --> 00:41:04,120
if I drank that
soup, it went halfway

724
00:41:04,120 --> 00:41:06,534
through the nose and
half on the inside.

725
00:41:06,534 --> 00:41:09,500

726
00:41:09,500 --> 00:41:13,150
And I couldn't speak
well because of that.

727
00:41:13,150 --> 00:41:15,770
So I was speaking at all.

728
00:41:15,770 --> 00:41:17,030
I wasn't crying.

729
00:41:17,030 --> 00:41:19,150
I don't remember myself.

730
00:41:19,150 --> 00:41:24,170
I remember hearing their
cries day and night,

731
00:41:24,170 --> 00:41:29,870
and I remember everything is
gray, and everything is back,

732
00:41:29,870 --> 00:41:33,170
and now I understand
everything was suffering.

733
00:41:33,170 --> 00:41:35,330
I was afraid of the dark.

734
00:41:35,330 --> 00:41:39,120
I was put in that garbage
can for months and months.

735
00:41:39,120 --> 00:41:42,780
I was afraid of the wetness
that I had around me,

736
00:41:42,780 --> 00:41:46,360
the terrible cold, the
terrible-- at night,

737
00:41:46,360 --> 00:41:50,160
the crying of people,
crying of people, you know.

738
00:41:50,160 --> 00:41:54,690
The shouts of the Germans, the
terrible shouts of the Germans.

739
00:41:54,690 --> 00:41:57,630
All those dogs-- I remember
those terrible dogs.

740
00:41:57,630 --> 00:42:00,490

741
00:42:00,490 --> 00:42:04,520
But I thought life
was like that.

742
00:42:04,520 --> 00:42:06,980
Maybe that also
helped me to survive,

743

00:42:06,980 --> 00:42:11,050

because I didn't
know any other life.

744

00:42:11,050 --> 00:42:14,620

I didn't know children existed.

745

00:42:14,620 --> 00:42:17,620

I didn't know the sun existed.

746

00:42:17,620 --> 00:42:22,220

For me, it was always
dark, always night.

747

00:42:22,220 --> 00:42:26,000

But I do know that there
was something about us.

748

00:42:26,000 --> 00:42:31,730

Yes, I do believe with all my
heart [INAUDIBLE] that there is

749

00:42:31,730 --> 00:42:36,710

a God who looks for us, and
if somehow I survived and all

750

00:42:36,710 --> 00:42:40,730

my family and my wonderful
father, wonderful mother--

751

00:42:40,730 --> 00:42:45,590

all of them passed away, the
beautiful [INAUDIBLE] of 90

752

00:42:45,590 --> 00:42:47,930

people passed away--

753

00:42:47,930 --> 00:42:51,320

is because there
is hand that helped

754

00:42:51,320 --> 00:42:53,540

me to survive for something.

755

00:42:53,540 --> 00:42:56,630

I don't know if I'm doing
in this world good or bad,

756

00:42:56,630 --> 00:42:59,750

if I'm intelligent or
not-- probably I'm not.

757

00:42:59,750 --> 00:43:04,640

But somehow it was agreed
that I should survive,

758

00:43:04,640 --> 00:43:06,970

because I would always
think this would

759

00:43:06,970 --> 00:43:10,280

be the last day of my life.

760

00:43:10,280 --> 00:43:14,210

Because my suffering didn't
end yet with the war.

761

00:43:14,210 --> 00:43:17,780

It's my duty as an adopted
because [INAUDIBLE] never

762

00:43:17,780 --> 00:43:19,490

had a family.

763

00:43:19,490 --> 00:43:27,570

But I decided that not
Hitler and not the Germans

764

00:43:27,570 --> 00:43:29,070

would win the war.

765

00:43:29,070 --> 00:43:30,390

We won it.

766

00:43:30,390 --> 00:43:33,060

We are alive, yes.

767

00:43:33,060 --> 00:43:36,570

And I'm sad we will be
forever, and they are gone.

768

00:43:36,570 --> 00:43:37,530

I'm so sorry.

769

00:43:37,530 --> 00:43:39,135

But they are gone,
and we are alive.

770

00:43:39,135 --> 00:43:44,300

771

00:43:44,300 --> 00:43:47,270

When you were in Auschwitz,
you said your mother-- would

772

00:43:47,270 --> 00:43:51,790

she put you in this garbage
can every day in the morning?

773

00:43:51,790 --> 00:43:53,660

Every day.

774

00:43:53,660 --> 00:43:57,170

So they couldn't find me when
they came to look for children

775

00:43:57,170 --> 00:43:58,850

and send them to
the gas chamber.

776

00:43:58,850 --> 00:44:02,110

By that time she already
knew about the gas chambers.

777

00:44:02,110 --> 00:44:03,260

She knew about the ovens.

778

00:44:03,260 --> 00:44:05,970

779

00:44:05,970 --> 00:44:10,890

She had seen them from far away,
and she had seen the clothing

780

00:44:10,890 --> 00:44:11,820

that they take away.

781

00:44:11,820 --> 00:44:15,090

She had seen the [INAUDIBLE]
parts of teeth and things

782

00:44:15,090 --> 00:44:15,630

like that.

783

00:44:15,630 --> 00:44:18,570

She has seen the hair, where
they put the hair together

784

00:44:18,570 --> 00:44:21,420

to send it to other
parts of Germany.

785

00:44:21,420 --> 00:44:24,290

786

00:44:24,290 --> 00:44:25,290

She was also working.

787

00:44:25,290 --> 00:44:26,970

I remember one time
she told me she

788

00:44:26,970 --> 00:44:31,440

was working with something
about shoes, feeling [INAUDIBLE]

789

00:44:31,440 --> 00:44:33,690

or manufacturing shoes.

790

00:44:33,690 --> 00:44:35,677

So you stayed in
the garbage can--

791

00:44:35,677 --> 00:44:36,260

The whole day.

792

00:44:36,260 --> 00:44:38,280

The whole day, and
then she would come--

793

00:44:38,280 --> 00:44:40,260

12 to 13 hours.

794

00:44:40,260 --> 00:44:44,100

And where was the garbage can
in relation to your barracks?

795

00:44:44,100 --> 00:44:46,050

In the door of the barracks--

796

00:44:46,050 --> 00:44:47,940

in the inside of the
door of the barracks.

797

00:44:47,940 --> 00:44:50,660

798

00:44:50,660 --> 00:44:52,587

I don't know what
kind of garbage

799

00:44:52,587 --> 00:44:53,670

they used to put in there.

800

00:44:53,670 --> 00:44:56,370

I have no idea.

801

00:44:56,370 --> 00:44:58,610

I remember one
time seeing bones,

802

00:44:58,610 --> 00:45:00,620
but maybe they were not bones.

803

00:45:00,620 --> 00:45:02,220
Maybe it was something else.

804

00:45:02,220 --> 00:45:03,870
I just can't remember.

805

00:45:03,870 --> 00:45:05,940
And you were
wearing this jacket.

806

00:45:05,940 --> 00:45:08,420
That's all.

807

00:45:08,420 --> 00:45:09,860
And then when you
would sleep, you

808

00:45:09,860 --> 00:45:11,310
would sleep with your mother?

809

00:45:11,310 --> 00:45:15,080
Yes, she would take me up
in the barrack, where we

810

00:45:15,080 --> 00:45:21,320
slept like 8 grown ups and me.

811

00:45:21,320 --> 00:45:29,320
One with her legs to here,
one with the legs that way,

812

00:45:29,320 --> 00:45:33,780
north to south, and 4 in
one barrack and 4-- it's

813

00:45:33,780 --> 00:45:36,600
like a 8 people in one barrack.

814

00:45:36,600 --> 00:45:38,135
But at least we
were not so cold.

815
00:45:38,135 --> 00:45:40,800

816
00:45:40,800 --> 00:45:44,250
And I had my sponge
the whole time.

817
00:45:44,250 --> 00:45:46,490
I just couldn't believe it.

818
00:45:46,490 --> 00:45:52,130
Nobody even cared to
take it away from me,

819
00:45:52,130 --> 00:45:54,760
and somehow that's
how I survived.

820
00:45:54,760 --> 00:45:58,350
That's how my mother fed me.

821
00:45:58,350 --> 00:46:00,300
I don't know how, but even--

822
00:46:00,300 --> 00:46:02,460
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

823
00:46:02,460 --> 00:46:04,520
How did she feed you?

824
00:46:04,520 --> 00:46:08,530
She took out one
diamond at a time,

825
00:46:08,530 --> 00:46:11,640
and she changed it for a whole
loaf of bread instead of one

826

00:46:11,640 --> 00:46:13,070
piece that they gave everybody.

827
00:46:13,070 --> 00:46:18,480
Because the food was
only enough to survive.

828
00:46:18,480 --> 00:46:21,290
I don't remember
how many calories,

829
00:46:21,290 --> 00:46:23,420
but it was like 60 calories.

830
00:46:23,420 --> 00:46:24,920
I can't remember exactly.

831
00:46:24,920 --> 00:46:27,830
But it was just enough
for a grown up to survive.

832
00:46:27,830 --> 00:46:29,250
That's all.

833
00:46:29,250 --> 00:46:31,290
So even though you
weren't speaking,

834
00:46:31,290 --> 00:46:32,935
you could understand--

835
00:46:32,935 --> 00:46:33,880
Yiddish very well.

836
00:46:33,880 --> 00:46:35,370
Yiddish, and you
could understand

837
00:46:35,370 --> 00:46:36,620
what other people were saying.

838
00:46:36,620 --> 00:46:37,490

Yiddish and Russian.

839

00:46:37,490 --> 00:46:39,530

My mother spoke to me
in Yiddish and Russian,

840

00:46:39,530 --> 00:46:41,660

and then she changed for Polish.

841

00:46:41,660 --> 00:46:44,690

And in Mexico, she
went back to Yiddish.

842

00:46:44,690 --> 00:46:47,210

Because today I
speak 7 languages.

843

00:46:47,210 --> 00:46:52,100

Not very well, but I
do speak 7 languages.

844

00:46:52,100 --> 00:46:55,000

So this is what happened
during the day in Auschwitz

845

00:46:55,000 --> 00:46:57,340

for how long?

846

00:46:57,340 --> 00:47:06,790

Until the beginning of 1945,
around January of 1945,

847

00:47:06,790 --> 00:47:10,870

the last four months we
spent in Bergen-Belsen.

848

00:47:10,870 --> 00:47:13,870

Somehow there was no
room, so the people

849

00:47:13,870 --> 00:47:16,870

that they thought
that were stronger,

850
00:47:16,870 --> 00:47:20,110
they moved them to Bergen-Belsen
to do a special job.

851
00:47:20,110 --> 00:47:21,790
I can't remember the job.

852
00:47:21,790 --> 00:47:24,220
I can't remember my mother
speaking about a job.

853
00:47:24,220 --> 00:47:28,570
I think it was the same
thing-- a factory manufacturing

854
00:47:28,570 --> 00:47:33,580
clothing and shoes and something
that has to do with that.

855
00:47:33,580 --> 00:47:36,100

856
00:47:36,100 --> 00:47:38,980
How did you get from
Auschwitz to Bergen-Belsen?

857
00:47:38,980 --> 00:47:41,580
In another train,
a cattle train.

858
00:47:41,580 --> 00:47:44,400
All the same trains.

859
00:47:44,400 --> 00:47:47,280
Very crowded.

860
00:47:47,280 --> 00:47:51,750
Again, you know, my mother
thought, well, maybe now

861
00:47:51,750 --> 00:47:55,374

we're moving to a better place.

862

00:47:55,374 --> 00:47:58,460

She thought we were just moving
to another concentration camp

863

00:47:58,460 --> 00:47:59,960

into Germany.

864

00:47:59,960 --> 00:48:03,080

Maybe also we were moved
because Bergen-Belsen

865

00:48:03,080 --> 00:48:06,890

was more in Germany--
on the German side.

866

00:48:06,890 --> 00:48:10,350

So maybe the
Germans in the war--

867

00:48:10,350 --> 00:48:12,720

were losing the war
already at that time,

868

00:48:12,720 --> 00:48:14,900

so maybe that's why they
moved a lot of people

869

00:48:14,900 --> 00:48:16,355

from Auschwitz [INAUDIBLE].

870

00:48:16,355 --> 00:48:21,800

Or maybe to fill in Auschwitz
more quickly, I don't know.

871

00:48:21,800 --> 00:48:25,560

That history can tell you,
but I really don't know.

872

00:48:25,560 --> 00:48:29,950

But then that train was
absolutely terrible--

873
00:48:29,950 --> 00:48:32,710
the shouts and the
agony and the people

874
00:48:32,710 --> 00:48:34,390
dying-- the thirst
of the people.

875
00:48:34,390 --> 00:48:36,280
In the darkness again.

876
00:48:36,280 --> 00:48:38,380
I want used to
already the darkness.

877
00:48:38,380 --> 00:48:40,980
I thought life was
dark and black.

878
00:48:40,980 --> 00:48:46,105
But the shouting and those
people one on top of the other.

879
00:48:46,105 --> 00:48:49,720
Excuse me, the people making
their necessities there

880
00:48:49,720 --> 00:48:51,580
in front of everybody.

881
00:48:51,580 --> 00:48:57,260
The terrible smell,
terrible, terrible smell.

882
00:48:57,260 --> 00:49:02,950
Yesterday my children told me
that they got a good lesson

883
00:49:02,950 --> 00:49:05,310
in life.

884

00:49:05,310 --> 00:49:09,020
They have to be clean, and
their bathroom has to be clean.

885
00:49:09,020 --> 00:49:13,180
And my daughter says that
her house has to be clean

886
00:49:13,180 --> 00:49:16,270
and fixed, and her
clothing has to be.

887
00:49:16,270 --> 00:49:21,610
Because after the war, until
today when I go to work,

888
00:49:21,610 --> 00:49:23,780
if I'm in the
middle of the work,

889
00:49:23,780 --> 00:49:27,370
let's say and I drink
coffee at school, yes?

890
00:49:27,370 --> 00:49:32,670
If one drop falls on my
clothing, coffee or something.

891
00:49:32,670 --> 00:49:36,270
I have to do something
to change that blouse.

892
00:49:36,270 --> 00:49:38,930
I have to do it.

893
00:49:38,930 --> 00:49:41,540
When Pesach coming, and
Rosh Hashanah, since I

894
00:49:41,540 --> 00:49:44,740
have no family at all,
I am always inviting--

895

00:49:44,740 --> 00:49:45,740
I have a lot of friends.

896
00:49:45,740 --> 00:49:49,820
I will have 20 to 30 people
and cooking like crazy.

897
00:49:49,820 --> 00:49:52,730
Like my daughter says, so
it could be 3:00 or 4:00

898
00:49:52,730 --> 00:49:53,990
in the morning.

899
00:49:53,990 --> 00:49:57,140
I have to clean up the kitchen
and clean up the dishes.

900
00:49:57,140 --> 00:49:59,670

901
00:49:59,670 --> 00:50:01,770
I can't stand the dirt.

902
00:50:01,770 --> 00:50:04,280
I just can't stand it.

903
00:50:04,280 --> 00:50:06,150
It's impossible to live with it.

904
00:50:06,150 --> 00:50:08,790

905
00:50:08,790 --> 00:50:13,810
A psychologist would say
it s a complex somehow.

906
00:50:13,810 --> 00:50:19,210
But those dark smells
and the dirt and the dirt

907
00:50:19,210 --> 00:50:22,380

on top of the dirt.

908

00:50:22,380 --> 00:50:27,590

When you were in that garbage
can, what did you think of?

909

00:50:27,590 --> 00:50:29,980

You were five years old.

910

00:50:29,980 --> 00:50:31,480

Did you think of songs?

911

00:50:31,480 --> 00:50:33,520

Did you think of music?

912

00:50:33,520 --> 00:50:35,770

I didn't know it existed.

913

00:50:35,770 --> 00:50:38,960

I knew it existed, music.

914

00:50:38,960 --> 00:50:40,980

I never knew that
it there was a toy.

915

00:50:40,980 --> 00:50:44,280

I never knew that was
another child alive.

916

00:50:44,280 --> 00:50:47,040

I thought that's
how life should be--

917

00:50:47,040 --> 00:50:53,970

in dark, humid space with people
outside crying and shouting

918

00:50:53,970 --> 00:50:56,550

and their bodies all around.

919

00:50:56,550 --> 00:50:59,070

One day they took us

out, and that was already

920
00:50:59,070 --> 00:51:00,870
in Bergen-Belsen.

921
00:51:00,870 --> 00:51:04,310
One of the girls, I
don't know what they did.

922
00:51:04,310 --> 00:51:08,970
So they put them naked
and hanging and everybody

923
00:51:08,970 --> 00:51:13,050
should stay like four or five
hours in the cold with nothing

924
00:51:13,050 --> 00:51:16,300
on, you know--

925
00:51:16,300 --> 00:51:19,350
to see how they were punished.

926
00:51:19,350 --> 00:51:24,480
And so I thought that's life.

927
00:51:24,480 --> 00:51:25,960
Life is to cry.

928
00:51:25,960 --> 00:51:31,570
Life is never to grow up,
or just be born maybe.

929
00:51:31,570 --> 00:51:36,040
I thought that people
were born like me small,

930
00:51:36,040 --> 00:51:39,760
and some people were born big.

931
00:51:39,760 --> 00:51:43,477
I had a mother, but no

nobody else had a mother.

932

00:51:43,477 --> 00:51:46,159

933

00:51:46,159 --> 00:51:47,870

Your mother was very musical.

934

00:51:47,870 --> 00:51:50,450

Did she ever sing
or hum some melodies

935

00:51:50,450 --> 00:51:53,570

to you when you
were in Auschwitz?

936

00:51:53,570 --> 00:51:57,710

No, never.

937

00:51:57,710 --> 00:51:59,760

Never, never, never.

938

00:51:59,760 --> 00:52:02,960

She just used to, I
remember, to embrace me,

939

00:52:02,960 --> 00:52:06,580

tell me that she loved me,
and my father loved me.

940

00:52:06,580 --> 00:52:11,080

And she also had a lot of
faith that we would survive--

941

00:52:11,080 --> 00:52:13,450

the three of us.

942

00:52:13,450 --> 00:52:18,110

Until the last days, she always
thought we would survive.

943

00:52:18,110 --> 00:52:23,900

And maybe from that she
got like a little strength

944
00:52:23,900 --> 00:52:27,350
to do the work, because
they asked terrible works

945
00:52:27,350 --> 00:52:28,370
that she did.

946
00:52:28,370 --> 00:52:31,120
Because not everything
she told me, I'm sure,

947
00:52:31,120 --> 00:52:34,520
but she did terrible
works with bodies also.

948
00:52:34,520 --> 00:52:35,780
She had to do something.

949
00:52:35,780 --> 00:52:40,350
I don't really know what.

950
00:52:40,350 --> 00:52:43,590
She never mentioned her
piano, her love for her music.

951
00:52:43,590 --> 00:52:46,380
That she mentioned after.

952
00:52:46,380 --> 00:52:48,990
Did you go in the same
railroad car with your father

953
00:52:48,990 --> 00:52:50,320
to Bergen-Belsen?

954
00:52:50,320 --> 00:52:50,820
No.

955
00:52:50,820 --> 00:52:54,360

956

00:52:54,360 --> 00:52:59,903

But somehow they took them, too,
because he passed away there,

957

00:52:59,903 --> 00:53:01,650

not in Auschwitz.

958

00:53:01,650 --> 00:53:03,700

So now you've arrived
at Bergen-Belsen,

959

00:53:03,700 --> 00:53:04,920

and where did they place you?

960

00:53:04,920 --> 00:53:07,950

I was 6 years old already.

961

00:53:07,950 --> 00:53:10,175

More, no?

962

00:53:10,175 --> 00:53:10,960

More than 6?

963

00:53:10,960 --> 00:53:11,460

No?

964

00:53:11,460 --> 00:53:12,780

You were 5 1/2.

965

00:53:12,780 --> 00:53:16,260

966

00:53:16,260 --> 00:53:18,810

And you arrived
in Bergen-Belsen,

967

00:53:18,810 --> 00:53:22,020

and did you go through any kind
of selection process again?

968

00:53:22,020 --> 00:53:22,770

Again.

969

00:53:22,770 --> 00:53:24,660

Again, the same
selection process.

970

00:53:24,660 --> 00:53:29,000

And my mother,
again she passed it.

971

00:53:29,000 --> 00:53:32,150

I think she moved from
the line once or twice

972

00:53:32,150 --> 00:53:33,870

there in Bergen-Belsen.

973

00:53:33,870 --> 00:53:34,370

Why?

974

00:53:34,370 --> 00:53:35,070

I don't know.

975

00:53:35,070 --> 00:53:37,370

Maybe she had a
special intuition.

976

00:53:37,370 --> 00:53:38,660

I don't know.

977

00:53:38,660 --> 00:53:40,490

Maybe they were in
a hurry, so they

978

00:53:40,490 --> 00:53:44,270

didn't look at why
some people were

979

00:53:44,270 --> 00:53:46,910

changing from line to line.

980

00:53:46,910 --> 00:53:50,000

Maybe that's what it was.

981

00:53:50,000 --> 00:53:53,990

The food when terrible
in Bergen-Belsen.

982

00:53:53,990 --> 00:53:58,610

I remember my mother
being so, so skinny.

983

00:53:58,610 --> 00:54:04,640

Terrible-- and everybody
being so, so skinny.

984

00:54:04,640 --> 00:54:10,610

Like I saw bones in the garbage
cans, and bones walking around.

985

00:54:10,610 --> 00:54:13,220

And everybody was
shaved, and everybody

986

00:54:13,220 --> 00:54:16,700

had those terrible
numbers my mother had.

987

00:54:16,700 --> 00:54:27,090

And those weird stones,
gray stones where we walked.

988

00:54:27,090 --> 00:54:29,310

And there was a
time I had no shoes,

989

00:54:29,310 --> 00:54:33,500

and my mother made me something
out of I don't know what--

990

00:54:33,500 --> 00:54:41,680

to wear as shoes, because it
was January, February of 1945.

991

00:54:41,680 --> 00:54:45,670

And then there was a
very famous rabbi that

992

00:54:45,670 --> 00:54:49,310

survived from Bergen-Belsen.

993

00:54:49,310 --> 00:54:53,940

And so how we came
to Mexico, too.

994

00:54:53,940 --> 00:54:59,370

His name was [PERSONAL NAME]
from a very famous line

995

00:54:59,370 --> 00:55:03,160

of rabbis that made rabbi--

996

00:55:03,160 --> 00:55:06,495

in Mexico that was
taken [INAUDIBLE] Jews.

997

00:55:06,495 --> 00:55:09,330

998

00:55:09,330 --> 00:55:15,570

And I remember that he used
to send messages to the people

999

00:55:15,570 --> 00:55:18,290

that we were going to survive,
and we're going to survive,

1000

00:55:18,290 --> 00:55:20,640

and we were going to survive.

1001

00:55:20,640 --> 00:55:25,920

And somehow those messages
came to the woman side,

1002

00:55:25,920 --> 00:55:30,960

and gave people at the

last few months courage.

1003

00:55:30,960 --> 00:55:36,630

Because there was the moment
that my mother told me later

1004

00:55:36,630 --> 00:55:40,530

that they said that the
food in Bergen-Belsen

1005

00:55:40,530 --> 00:55:47,430

was going to be poisoned,
because the Germans didn't want

1006

00:55:47,430 --> 00:55:50,120

the English army to
know what happened.

1007

00:55:50,120 --> 00:55:54,120

Because we were liberated
the 15th of April 1945

1008

00:55:54,120 --> 00:55:56,790

by the English,
not the Americans.

1009

00:55:56,790 --> 00:55:59,470

1010

00:55:59,470 --> 00:56:04,450

And somehow the
rabbi send an order,

1011

00:56:04,450 --> 00:56:09,160

try not to eat the
soup the last few days.

1012

00:56:09,160 --> 00:56:11,770

Try to eat only
the piece of bread

1013

00:56:11,770 --> 00:56:16,840

that they give you, at

not the water, I think.

1014
00:56:16,840 --> 00:56:19,480
And a lot of people did that.

1015
00:56:19,480 --> 00:56:23,198
They were completely starving.

1016
00:56:23,198 --> 00:56:26,180
A lot of people I
remember died afterwards,

1017
00:56:26,180 --> 00:56:28,820
my mother told me,
because of the chocolates

1018
00:56:28,820 --> 00:56:34,340
that the English gave them,
and tried to eat much more

1019
00:56:34,340 --> 00:56:35,754
than what they could.

1020
00:56:35,754 --> 00:56:38,360

1021
00:56:38,360 --> 00:56:43,250
What did you do during
the day in Bergen-Belsen?

1022
00:56:43,250 --> 00:56:46,850
She put me again in
that famous garbage can.

1023
00:56:46,850 --> 00:56:49,040
Maybe it was not a garbage can.

1024
00:56:49,040 --> 00:56:52,460
She used to say it
was a garbage can.

1025
00:56:52,460 --> 00:56:56,630

It was not full of water,
so it was not for water.

1026
00:56:56,630 --> 00:56:58,370
But like for dry things.

1027
00:56:58,370 --> 00:57:02,090
But it was probably garbage,
because it was a lot of paper

1028
00:57:02,090 --> 00:57:08,060
there, and a lot of
tools that somehow they

1029
00:57:08,060 --> 00:57:10,920
worked with in camp.

1030
00:57:10,920 --> 00:57:15,100
And somehow I had a feeling of
bumps there, of something cold

1031
00:57:15,100 --> 00:57:15,600
there.

1032
00:57:15,600 --> 00:57:18,290

1033
00:57:18,290 --> 00:57:22,315
I used to be in that dark
place again the whole day.

1034
00:57:22,315 --> 00:57:26,150
My mother used to work
12 and 13 hours a day,

1035
00:57:26,150 --> 00:57:29,630
since they called up
at 4:00 in the morning.

1036
00:57:29,630 --> 00:57:33,570
Then at 6:00 in the morning,
like one or two hours

1037

00:57:33,570 --> 00:57:35,030

I had to stand in line.

1038

00:57:35,030 --> 00:57:38,960

I stood in line with her.

1039

00:57:38,960 --> 00:57:43,700

And then when they
said to start to march,

1040

00:57:43,700 --> 00:57:48,170

she would put me in that can,
and close it with something,

1041

00:57:48,170 --> 00:57:49,220

I don't know.

1042

00:57:49,220 --> 00:57:52,340

And said I shouldn't move
until she comes to pick me up.

1043

00:57:52,340 --> 00:57:53,600

And I wouldn't move.

1044

00:57:53,600 --> 00:57:56,410

How are you able the age
of five to stand quiet

1045

00:57:56,410 --> 00:58:00,034

for hours in a pail?

1046

00:58:00,034 --> 00:58:02,504

I will never understand.

1047

00:58:02,504 --> 00:58:05,640

I will never, as long
as I live, understand

1048

00:58:05,640 --> 00:58:10,960

how could a child not
move in a sitting position

1049

00:58:10,960 --> 00:58:14,600

or in probably like a
feral position for hours

1050

00:58:14,600 --> 00:58:17,850

and hours with that little
piece of bread that she left?

1051

00:58:17,850 --> 00:58:21,560

1052

00:58:21,560 --> 00:58:25,890

Maybe I slept many hours.

1053

00:58:25,890 --> 00:58:27,810

Maybe I was--

1054

00:58:27,810 --> 00:58:32,820

I remember being afraid, being
afraid because it was a closed

1055

00:58:32,820 --> 00:58:37,815

place and a dark place, and
nobody would come for hours

1056

00:58:37,815 --> 00:58:40,360

to pick me up.

1057

00:58:40,360 --> 00:58:43,060

No, I meant-- you
said you would have

1058

00:58:43,060 --> 00:58:46,080

to stand in line on her lapel.

1059

00:58:46,080 --> 00:58:51,560

No nothing, just holding
my mother instead.

1060

00:58:51,560 --> 00:58:54,930

Maybe because many hours
I have to be there sitting

1061
00:58:54,930 --> 00:59:00,260
on the floor in some position
of that terrible garbage

1062
00:59:00,260 --> 00:59:05,400
can that was made out of wood.

1063
00:59:05,400 --> 00:59:11,730
What I remember was those
terrible places with holes

1064
00:59:11,730 --> 00:59:15,420
that you had to go in
the morning around 4:00.

1065
00:59:15,420 --> 00:59:19,650
So if you had
typhus or diarrhea,

1066
00:59:19,650 --> 00:59:22,800
they would inspect you.

1067
00:59:22,800 --> 00:59:25,830
So my mother didn't
put me in that place

1068
00:59:25,830 --> 00:59:27,990
where they used to
go, like a bathroom.

1069
00:59:27,990 --> 00:59:35,340
But she put me on the floor
on the side in that stall.

1070
00:59:35,340 --> 00:59:38,950
And then they used
to wash with, I don't

1071
00:59:38,950 --> 00:59:40,920
know what they called it--

1072

00:59:40,920 --> 00:59:44,290
the water with something.

1073
00:59:44,290 --> 00:59:46,120
Was she able to
wash you every day

1074
00:59:46,120 --> 00:59:48,010
in Auschwitz and
in Bergen-Belsen?

1075
00:59:48,010 --> 00:59:50,410
I don't know.

1076
00:59:50,410 --> 00:59:52,506
Maybe with a little
bit of small something.

1077
00:59:52,506 --> 00:59:55,290
I don't know.

1078
00:59:55,290 --> 00:59:56,430
I don't think so.

1079
00:59:56,430 --> 00:59:58,980

1080
00:59:58,980 --> 01:00:06,000
Because the remembrance of dirt
and the garbage and the smell,

1081
01:00:06,000 --> 01:00:09,880
it in my memory
too strong today.

1082
01:00:09,880 --> 01:00:12,600
So I don't really know.

1083
01:00:12,600 --> 01:00:16,020
So you were in Bergen-Belsen
from the end of January

1084

01:00:16,020 --> 01:00:16,800
until April.

1085
01:00:16,800 --> 01:00:17,860
April 15.

1086
01:00:17,860 --> 01:00:20,300
And what was April
15th like for you?

1087
01:00:20,300 --> 01:00:24,630

1088
01:00:24,630 --> 01:00:28,860
I would say it was a different
morning from all the mornings

1089
01:00:28,860 --> 01:00:35,850
in my life, because the night
before I heard my mother

1090
01:00:35,850 --> 01:00:39,990
and everybody there shouting
the English arrived,

1091
01:00:39,990 --> 01:00:41,950
the English arrived,
the English arrived.

1092
01:00:41,950 --> 01:00:43,050
The Germans are running.

1093
01:00:43,050 --> 01:00:44,730
The Germans are running.

1094
01:00:44,730 --> 01:00:50,730
Most of the camp guards and the
dogs and SS men and everybody

1095
01:00:50,730 --> 01:00:51,750
left.

1096

01:00:51,750 --> 01:00:59,010
I think Bergen-Belsen was found
with very few of the guards,

1097
01:00:59,010 --> 01:01:01,170
very, very few.

1098
01:01:01,170 --> 01:01:02,940
They got afraid of the English.

1099
01:01:02,940 --> 01:01:08,280
And I remember the night before
stinking like a pile of fire,

1100
01:01:08,280 --> 01:01:09,765
because they were
burning papers.

1101
01:01:09,765 --> 01:01:12,800

1102
01:01:12,800 --> 01:01:19,040
And everybody had a feeling
that we're being freed.

1103
01:01:19,040 --> 01:01:21,290
We are going to be freed.

1104
01:01:21,290 --> 01:01:24,860
It's really happening, because
my mother didn't put me back

1105
01:01:24,860 --> 01:01:26,660
in that garbage can.

1106
01:01:26,660 --> 01:01:29,270
And I stayed with
her in the morning,

1107
01:01:29,270 --> 01:01:33,440
and nobody came for the
call at 4:00 in the morning.

1108

01:01:33,440 --> 01:01:36,770

And suddenly we had
not like shouting.

1109

01:01:36,770 --> 01:01:39,890

1110

01:01:39,890 --> 01:01:45,470

And other people coming
in with other uniforms,

1111

01:01:45,470 --> 01:01:48,710

were not the uniforms
we were used to seeing.

1112

01:01:48,710 --> 01:01:50,720

There was another
SS man that they

1113

01:01:50,720 --> 01:01:54,800

thought they should be
careful that she could see me.

1114

01:01:54,800 --> 01:02:00,325

It was other people, and
people shouting and embracing.

1115

01:02:00,325 --> 01:02:06,140

And I do remember my mother
embracing somebody and falling

1116

01:02:06,140 --> 01:02:10,070

to the floor to thank him,
and kissing his hands.

1117

01:02:10,070 --> 01:02:13,310

Probably it was a soldier,
I don't know who it was.

1118

01:02:13,310 --> 01:02:14,290

Not a soldier.

1119

01:02:14,290 --> 01:02:16,730
Later she told me
it was the chaplain,

1120
01:02:16,730 --> 01:02:19,100
and his name was Greenbaum.

1121
01:02:19,100 --> 01:02:23,050
He was like the rabbi that
came with the English.

1122
01:02:23,050 --> 01:02:26,380
He was called the chaplain, I
don't know what you call him.

1123
01:02:26,380 --> 01:02:30,040
He was a religious
person from England

1124
01:02:30,040 --> 01:02:31,910
that came with the army.

1125
01:02:31,910 --> 01:02:34,730
And she was embracing
him, kissing and kissing

1126
01:02:34,730 --> 01:02:36,716
their hands, and
I didn't know why

1127
01:02:36,716 --> 01:02:39,310
she was kissing the
hands, something I'd never

1128
01:02:39,310 --> 01:02:41,440
seen in those few years.

1129
01:02:41,440 --> 01:02:48,740
Sort of kissing and kissing and
crying very, very, very hard,

1130
01:02:48,740 --> 01:02:55,300
like crying in a different

way, you know/ and then all

1131
01:02:55,300 --> 01:02:58,810
the people started
running and embracing.

1132
01:02:58,810 --> 01:03:05,790
And the shoutings and the
soldiers and the trucks,

1133
01:03:05,790 --> 01:03:09,721
like a chaos went, you know?

1134
01:03:09,721 --> 01:03:12,670
I said, what's happening?

1135
01:03:12,670 --> 01:03:17,874
Like I was used to one
kind of world, you know?

1136
01:03:17,874 --> 01:03:23,668
That same everything was and the
lying in the dark and the dirt.

1137
01:03:23,668 --> 01:03:28,500
And suddenly everybody
started running crazy, crazy.

1138
01:03:28,500 --> 01:03:32,490
And there was some women that
didn't look like they were

1139
01:03:32,490 --> 01:03:33,930
women, the kapos, you know.

1140
01:03:33,930 --> 01:03:36,475

1141
01:03:36,475 --> 01:03:40,050
They looked like six
different people,

1142

01:03:40,050 --> 01:03:42,233
different kinds of humanity.

1143
01:03:42,233 --> 01:03:45,550

1144
01:03:45,550 --> 01:03:51,660
And then what I remember most
is that my mother was smiling.

1145
01:03:51,660 --> 01:03:55,030

1146
01:03:55,030 --> 01:03:58,720
And then there was
the wires, and there

1147
01:03:58,720 --> 01:04:00,910
was the closed, the wires.

1148
01:04:00,910 --> 01:04:03,100
They opened them up.

1149
01:04:03,100 --> 01:04:07,090
And the men were running
to the women, and the women

1150
01:04:07,090 --> 01:04:10,340
to the men, in that wire.

1151
01:04:10,340 --> 01:04:13,250
And my mother saw some
friends of my father,

1152
01:04:13,250 --> 01:04:15,050
and she started
to ask about him,

1153
01:04:15,050 --> 01:04:17,870
because she knew that
two days before, she

1154

01:04:17,870 --> 01:04:20,613
sent the package of cigars.

1155
01:04:20,613 --> 01:04:22,280
That was the only
thing that they wanted

1156
01:04:22,280 --> 01:04:23,720
to give her for her last time.

1157
01:04:23,720 --> 01:04:28,170

1158
01:04:28,170 --> 01:04:33,220
And so her friend came and
said he was taken yesterday

1159
01:04:33,220 --> 01:04:37,550
the gas chambers,
and then he died.

1160
01:04:37,550 --> 01:04:40,895
She shouldn't wait for him.

1161
01:04:40,895 --> 01:04:48,510
And I would say that that's when
my mother completely changed.

1162
01:04:48,510 --> 01:04:52,320
That's when she
broke down, and she

1163
01:04:52,320 --> 01:04:54,785
didn't want to live anymore.

1164
01:04:54,785 --> 01:04:59,960
And she said she wasn't going to
live, she had what for to live.

1165
01:04:59,960 --> 01:05:04,680
She just couldn't
support anymore.

1166

01:05:04,680 --> 01:05:07,740

And all her family were
gone, and she was all alone,

1167

01:05:07,740 --> 01:05:09,130

and she didn't want to survive.

1168

01:05:09,130 --> 01:05:10,875

She didn't want to
see Vilna again.

1169

01:05:10,875 --> 01:05:15,060

1170

01:05:15,060 --> 01:05:21,740

So that's when
like a real miracle

1171

01:05:21,740 --> 01:05:27,530

happened, when another
person, another human being,

1172

01:05:27,530 --> 01:05:32,030

came and told her that I
was there, standing there.

1173

01:05:32,030 --> 01:05:33,770

See that garbage can?

1174

01:05:33,770 --> 01:05:36,890

That's more or less
precisely where I was.

1175

01:05:36,890 --> 01:05:39,860

1176

01:05:39,860 --> 01:05:45,500

And I was standing there, and
that's where the people were.

1177

01:05:45,500 --> 01:05:47,330

I was like, you

know, in the side,

1178
01:05:47,330 --> 01:05:50,870
very afraid to be able to walk.

1179
01:05:50,870 --> 01:05:52,890
The light was out.

1180
01:05:52,890 --> 01:05:55,200
She said but what are
you talking about?

1181
01:05:55,200 --> 01:05:57,030
She said, you have a daughter.

1182
01:05:57,030 --> 01:05:59,340
Who else do you
see with a child?

1183
01:05:59,340 --> 01:06:02,690
Absolutely no children.

1184
01:06:02,690 --> 01:06:05,290
But absolutely, I never
saw another child.

1185
01:06:05,290 --> 01:06:08,110

1186
01:06:08,110 --> 01:06:10,510
So she said no, no,
I don't want to live.

1187
01:06:10,510 --> 01:06:14,770

1188
01:06:14,770 --> 01:06:18,820
And I think she tried--

1189
01:06:18,820 --> 01:06:21,790
before she passed
away in [INAUDIBLE],,

1190
01:06:21,790 --> 01:06:26,760
she tried to explain to
me many times why she

1191
01:06:26,760 --> 01:06:29,080
didn't want to live anymore.

1192
01:06:29,080 --> 01:06:30,840
She just didn't want to.

1193
01:06:30,840 --> 01:06:34,050
Because she saw me, and she
said, OK, she would survive.

1194
01:06:34,050 --> 01:06:35,250
She would go on.

1195
01:06:35,250 --> 01:06:37,650
[INAUDIBLE]

1196
01:06:37,650 --> 01:06:41,580
But at the last moment, they
mentioned that somehow--

1197
01:06:41,580 --> 01:06:46,770
somehow they made her
understand that she had to.

1198
01:06:46,770 --> 01:06:47,730
She had to survive.

1199
01:06:47,730 --> 01:06:50,840
She had to go with me.

1200
01:06:50,840 --> 01:06:56,540
She forgot who she
was, but she was like--

1201
01:06:56,540 --> 01:07:01,100
she was in this
state of, I don't

1202

01:07:01,100 --> 01:07:07,100

know, between being
absolutely crazy

1203

01:07:07,100 --> 01:07:13,070

and wanting to run
away from reality

1204

01:07:13,070 --> 01:07:17,690

and have to face the
reality that was me.

1205

01:07:17,690 --> 01:07:24,100

1206

01:07:24,100 --> 01:07:31,170

It took about a day or
two to pic me up there.

1207

01:07:31,170 --> 01:07:34,220

I stood standing there.

1208

01:07:34,220 --> 01:07:37,810

The police officers came and
the nurses came and they fed me.

1209

01:07:37,810 --> 01:07:39,820

They gave me a little coat.

1210

01:07:39,820 --> 01:07:44,876

I don't know where they took
a little coat from children.

1211

01:07:44,876 --> 01:07:49,010

And they put me some
shoes, and they gave me--

1212

01:07:49,010 --> 01:07:51,260

I don't know if it was a
chocolate bar or something.

1213

01:07:51,260 --> 01:07:54,370

It was something sweet
that I never used to taste.

1214

01:07:54,370 --> 01:07:57,100

They realized I wasn't
speaking at all.

1215

01:07:57,100 --> 01:08:00,446

I wasn't crying at all.

1216

01:08:00,446 --> 01:08:03,960

I wasn't saying one word.

1217

01:08:03,960 --> 01:08:06,240

And like 24 or 48
hours happened,

1218

01:08:06,240 --> 01:08:09,300

and I still wasn't
saying anything.

1219

01:08:09,300 --> 01:08:12,630

I was almost not moving.

1220

01:08:12,630 --> 01:08:16,270

They went out to find who
was my mother, you know?

1221

01:08:16,270 --> 01:08:19,120

1222

01:08:19,120 --> 01:08:23,680

And so they brought her back.

1223

01:08:23,680 --> 01:08:25,270

Excuse me one second.

1224

01:08:25,270 --> 01:08:26,640

I need a Kleenex.

1225

01:08:26,640 --> 01:08:30,000

1226
01:08:30,000 --> 01:08:33,840
Let's see if I find one here.

1227
01:08:33,840 --> 01:08:36,069
Could I go out one second?

1228
01:08:36,069 --> 01:08:42,971

1229
01:08:42,971 --> 01:08:47,580
So that was the liberation
day, and like two

1230
01:08:47,580 --> 01:08:51,430
days passed before my mother
realized that I was alive

1231
01:08:51,430 --> 01:08:57,840
and I was there, and she had
something to go on living for.

1232
01:08:57,840 --> 01:09:01,350
And then this strange
thing happened.

1233
01:09:01,350 --> 01:09:03,990
She said, I'm not
going back to Vilna.

1234
01:09:03,990 --> 01:09:05,770
I'm not going back to Poland.

1235
01:09:05,770 --> 01:09:10,710
I'm not going back to that, to
those places I used to live.

1236
01:09:10,710 --> 01:09:11,850
Not anymore.

1237
01:09:11,850 --> 01:09:16,710

And there were in Bergen-Belsen
some Czechoslovakian girls,

1238
01:09:16,710 --> 01:09:18,270
three sisters.

1239
01:09:18,270 --> 01:09:24,510
One was like 20, one was
22, and one was like 18--

1240
01:09:24,510 --> 01:09:27,149
between 18 and 25.

1241
01:09:27,149 --> 01:09:33,102
These three sisters, they
were like political prisoners

1242
01:09:33,102 --> 01:09:33,810
in Bergen-Belsen.

1243
01:09:33,810 --> 01:09:41,640
They were Catholic, and they
had no mother and father.

1244
01:09:41,640 --> 01:09:45,270
They were taken and killed.

1245
01:09:45,270 --> 01:09:50,490
And they needed-- they heard
that the King of Sweden

1246
01:09:50,490 --> 01:09:56,760
took all the children,
the youngsters, in Sweden,

1247
01:09:56,760 --> 01:09:59,460
to cure them, to feed them.

1248
01:09:59,460 --> 01:10:05,150
And then if they wanted to
stay and live in Sweden,

1249

01:10:05,150 --> 01:10:08,510
he offered the
castle in Gothenburg

1250
01:10:08,510 --> 01:10:10,920
to the survivors
of Bergen-Belsen.

1251
01:10:10,920 --> 01:10:14,690
I don't know if true survivors
of the concentration camp,

1252
01:10:14,690 --> 01:10:17,240
but I can't remember.

1253
01:10:17,240 --> 01:10:19,920
Maybe some were from all
the concentration camps.

1254
01:10:19,920 --> 01:10:22,070
I can't remember exactly.

1255
01:10:22,070 --> 01:10:25,610
What I do remember is that these
three girls came to my mother,

1256
01:10:25,610 --> 01:10:33,000
and they said, you see, to go
to Sweden we need their mother.

1257
01:10:33,000 --> 01:10:37,810
We need one grown up to
say she would go with us.

1258
01:10:37,810 --> 01:10:41,950
Could you say that you have
four children for the others?

1259
01:10:41,950 --> 01:10:46,610
Give your name, we'll
give you our name.

1260
01:10:46,610 --> 01:10:50,510

Besides, I was very, very sick.

1261

01:10:50,510 --> 01:10:53,110

I had the beginning of typhus.

1262

01:10:53,110 --> 01:10:55,110

I had tuberculosis.

1263

01:10:55,110 --> 01:10:58,090

I had this open palate.

1264

01:10:58,090 --> 01:11:01,900

I had a problem in my
heart that is permanent,

1265

01:11:01,900 --> 01:11:06,190

so I really needed a
very good hospital.

1266

01:11:06,190 --> 01:11:10,300

And my mother thought that was
the best place, since the king

1267

01:11:10,300 --> 01:11:15,510

was going to help us.

1268

01:11:15,510 --> 01:11:17,410

So we went--

1269

01:11:17,410 --> 01:11:23,540

Before we go on, you said these
three young women came to you.

1270

01:11:23,540 --> 01:11:26,600

I just wanted to ask
you a little bit more

1271

01:11:26,600 --> 01:11:28,940

before we leave and go
into Sweden, before we

1272

01:11:28,940 --> 01:11:30,740

get to Sweden--

1273

01:11:30,740 --> 01:11:32,750
the role of other
women-- you said

1274

01:11:32,750 --> 01:11:36,470
that when your mother wanted
to give up after liberation,

1275

01:11:36,470 --> 01:11:40,250
one of the women said
you have this child.

1276

01:11:40,250 --> 01:11:42,680
What was your experience
with the other women

1277

01:11:42,680 --> 01:11:44,970
in Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen?

1278

01:11:44,970 --> 01:11:47,190
Did they talk to you?

1279

01:11:47,190 --> 01:11:49,740
Were they a help to you?

1280

01:11:49,740 --> 01:11:50,790
They were a help.

1281

01:11:50,790 --> 01:11:55,860
They used to touch me every
day, because every one of them

1282

01:11:55,860 --> 01:11:57,810
had lost a little child.

1283

01:11:57,810 --> 01:12:01,050
So at one point it was
terrible, because they

1284

01:12:01,050 --> 01:12:03,990

used to come and
touch me, and they

1285
01:12:03,990 --> 01:12:08,100
used to say you are really
living, and you are a child,

1286
01:12:08,100 --> 01:12:11,070
and you are a child,
and you are living.

1287
01:12:11,070 --> 01:12:14,220
And they used to cry, maybe
remembering their children

1288
01:12:14,220 --> 01:12:15,780
that didn't survive.

1289
01:12:15,780 --> 01:12:17,250
But they used to--

1290
01:12:17,250 --> 01:12:19,590
all the women wanted to help me.

1291
01:12:19,590 --> 01:12:23,220
All the woman wanted to have me.

1292
01:12:23,220 --> 01:12:26,550
So somehow they wanted to
take me from my mother,

1293
01:12:26,550 --> 01:12:30,840
too, because it happened
later in Sweden in the castle

1294
01:12:30,840 --> 01:12:32,220
where we lived.

1295
01:12:32,220 --> 01:12:33,870
My mother had a
terrible problem.

1296

01:12:33,870 --> 01:12:36,510

Every night I had to go and
sleep with somebody else.

1297

01:12:36,510 --> 01:12:40,350

1298

01:12:40,350 --> 01:12:44,190

But I would say that
all the women were

1299

01:12:44,190 --> 01:12:50,130

very much in love with me, very
surprised that I was alive,

1300

01:12:50,130 --> 01:12:53,760

and wanted to have
me to go on living.

1301

01:12:53,760 --> 01:12:56,280

Because I would say that
there were times when

1302

01:12:56,280 --> 01:12:59,760

I was more dead than alive.

1303

01:12:59,760 --> 01:13:00,630

I didn't eat.

1304

01:13:00,630 --> 01:13:03,420

I didn't move, I didn't talk.

1305

01:13:03,420 --> 01:13:08,560

I think I went, let's
say, to the bathroom.

1306

01:13:08,560 --> 01:13:15,690

I just was like somehow afraid
of somebody being there.

1307

01:13:15,690 --> 01:13:17,730

Were you attached
to any other women,

1308

01:13:17,730 --> 01:13:20,520

or was it just your mother
that you felt close to?

1309

01:13:20,520 --> 01:13:24,610

Did you have a relationship
in Auschwitz or Bergen-Belsen

1310

01:13:24,610 --> 01:13:25,978

with anybody else?

1311

01:13:25,978 --> 01:13:28,190

No.

1312

01:13:28,190 --> 01:13:28,760

No.

1313

01:13:28,760 --> 01:13:32,510

She used to embrace me
and hold me very close,

1314

01:13:32,510 --> 01:13:35,330

and talked very nice
to me, and told me

1315

01:13:35,330 --> 01:13:39,320

about beautiful times
and beautiful weather,

1316

01:13:39,320 --> 01:13:43,400

and then about Zakopane when
she used to go with her cousins

1317

01:13:43,400 --> 01:13:48,800

there to skate, to sporting,
or when she went to Paris.

1318

01:13:48,800 --> 01:13:52,630

She used to speak to me
like she was living still

1319

01:13:52,630 --> 01:13:54,460
in another world.

1320
01:13:54,460 --> 01:13:57,530
But other women-- did
you feel especially

1321
01:13:57,530 --> 01:14:00,394
close to any other woman
besides your mother?

1322
01:14:00,394 --> 01:14:02,858
No.

1323
01:14:02,858 --> 01:14:03,358
Never.

1324
01:14:03,358 --> 01:14:06,330

1325
01:14:06,330 --> 01:14:09,090
On a more basic level, how
did you go to the bathroom

1326
01:14:09,090 --> 01:14:11,310
when you were in
the garbage can?

1327
01:14:11,310 --> 01:14:13,660
Probably there.

1328
01:14:13,660 --> 01:14:18,900
Probably that's why I
felt so wet at time.

1329
01:14:18,900 --> 01:14:19,890
I couldn't go out.

1330
01:14:19,890 --> 01:14:22,530
It was very big.

1331
01:14:22,530 --> 01:14:26,520

I was-- when I came
out from Auschwitz,

1332
01:14:26,520 --> 01:14:31,390
they told me that
I was the size--

1333
01:14:31,390 --> 01:14:36,020
the weight of a child of
probably a year, a few kilos,

1334
01:14:36,020 --> 01:14:37,440
that's all.

1335
01:14:37,440 --> 01:14:40,830
And the size of the tall--

1336
01:14:40,830 --> 01:14:42,960
no more than a two
or three year child.

1337
01:14:42,960 --> 01:14:44,220
No more.

1338
01:14:44,220 --> 01:14:47,023
Did you ever try to climb
out of the garbage can?

1339
01:14:47,023 --> 01:14:49,490
Yes, I did.

1340
01:14:49,490 --> 01:14:51,120
Were you successful?

1341
01:14:51,120 --> 01:14:52,572
Never.

1342
01:14:52,572 --> 01:14:54,480
No, never.

1343
01:14:54,480 --> 01:14:58,650
I think I gave up on

that a few days or weeks

1344

01:14:58,650 --> 01:14:59,670
after the beginning.

1345

01:14:59,670 --> 01:15:03,250

1346

01:15:03,250 --> 01:15:07,060
All right, now we're back
at that these 3 young women

1347

01:15:07,060 --> 01:15:10,360
come to your mother and ask if
she would pose as their mother,

1348

01:15:10,360 --> 01:15:11,140
too.

1349

01:15:11,140 --> 01:15:14,800
Yeah, that's how
we entered Sweden.

1350

01:15:14,800 --> 01:15:17,020
Because you had to
go to a place where

1351

01:15:17,020 --> 01:15:19,130
they told you who you are.

1352

01:15:19,130 --> 01:15:22,770
And you said your name
and my mother did it.

1353

01:15:22,770 --> 01:15:26,770
And she said our name and where
we came from and everything.

1354

01:15:26,770 --> 01:15:28,720
And they asked her do
you want to go back

1355

01:15:28,720 --> 01:15:31,900
to Poland, to
Lithuania, to Vilna?

1356
01:15:31,900 --> 01:15:33,410
She says no.

1357
01:15:33,410 --> 01:15:37,645
So she told them I have
have 3 more daughters here.

1358
01:15:37,645 --> 01:15:40,120
This and this are their names.

1359
01:15:40,120 --> 01:15:43,810
And I have one very sick one,
a very young child, very sick

1360
01:15:43,810 --> 01:15:44,410
one.

1361
01:15:44,410 --> 01:15:46,090
And the king of
Sweden said that he

1362
01:15:46,090 --> 01:15:52,680
would receive every sick person
and every sick young girl.

1363
01:15:52,680 --> 01:15:55,980
Your mother now was what 28, 29?

1364
01:15:55,980 --> 01:15:57,060
How old was she?

1365
01:15:57,060 --> 01:15:58,520
Yeah, around 28 I would say.

1366
01:15:58,520 --> 01:16:01,400

1367
01:16:01,400 --> 01:16:02,915

Yes, 28, 29.

1368
01:16:02,915 --> 01:16:03,415
Yes.

1369
01:16:03,415 --> 01:16:06,330

1370
01:16:06,330 --> 01:16:14,347
And so they took us to
Sweden, and there in Sweden--

1371
01:16:14,347 --> 01:16:15,430
How did you get to Sweden?

1372
01:16:15,430 --> 01:16:18,274

1373
01:16:18,274 --> 01:16:21,834
On a special train.

1374
01:16:21,834 --> 01:16:24,264
How did we get to Sweden?

1375
01:16:24,264 --> 01:16:25,500
How did we get to Sweden?

1376
01:16:25,500 --> 01:16:28,420

1377
01:16:28,420 --> 01:16:31,400
I can remember
that train and all.

1378
01:16:31,400 --> 01:16:33,580
I remember the
hospital in Sweden.

1379
01:16:33,580 --> 01:16:37,122
When we went to
Sweden, I remember

1380

01:16:37,122 --> 01:16:38,080
with these three-- yes.

1381

01:16:38,080 --> 01:16:40,340
Yes, I think it
was in the train--

1382

01:16:40,340 --> 01:16:45,850
a train of people, where
you sit like in the bus.

1383

01:16:45,850 --> 01:16:48,100
Train-- regular train.

1384

01:16:48,100 --> 01:16:52,100
And the army of Sweden
came to pick us up,

1385

01:16:52,100 --> 01:16:59,110
but we were not allowed to
go out by your own, you see.

1386

01:16:59,110 --> 01:17:04,810
We were taken in the border
straight to the hospital.

1387

01:17:04,810 --> 01:17:08,630
There I was separated from
my mother for the first time

1388

01:17:08,630 --> 01:17:10,600
in all my life.

1389

01:17:10,600 --> 01:17:16,300
Because the train was
only women, no men.

1390

01:17:16,300 --> 01:17:23,070
Only women and young
girls, and me as a child.

1391

01:17:23,070 --> 01:17:26,288

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection