

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,570

2
00:00:03,570 --> 00:00:06,780
This is the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3
00:00:06,780 --> 00:00:10,110
volunteer collection interview
with Helen Luksenburg,

4
00:00:10,110 --> 00:00:15,990
conducted by Esther Finder on
May 26, 1998 in Silver Spring.

5
00:00:15,990 --> 00:00:18,270
This interview is part
of the museum's project

6
00:00:18,270 --> 00:00:20,700
to interview Holocaust
survivors and witnesses who

7
00:00:20,700 --> 00:00:22,560
are volunteers with the museum.

8
00:00:22,560 --> 00:00:31,520
This is tape one, side A. I
want to thank you for doing

9
00:00:31,520 --> 00:00:32,780
an interview with us today.

10
00:00:32,780 --> 00:00:35,306
Let me ask you, what
was your name at birth?

11
00:00:35,306 --> 00:00:37,490
Hinda Chilewicz.

12
00:00:37,490 --> 00:00:39,110

Could you spell that for me?

13

00:00:39,110 --> 00:00:42,800

Hinda, or just the last name?

14

00:00:42,800 --> 00:00:43,750

Whatever.

15

00:00:43,750 --> 00:00:48,200

Hinda is H-I-N-D-A. Chilewicz--

16

00:00:48,200 --> 00:00:54,290

C-H-I-L-E-W-I-C-Z.

17

00:00:54,290 --> 00:00:56,000

I know you gave
testimony already

18

00:00:56,000 --> 00:00:58,803

for the Survivors of the Shoah
Visual History Foundation.

19

00:00:58,803 --> 00:01:01,220

And this is going to be an
interview about your liberation

20

00:01:01,220 --> 00:01:03,600

experience and your
post-Holocaust experience.

21

00:01:03,600 --> 00:01:07,280

I wanted to ask you, what
can you tell me about the day

22

00:01:07,280 --> 00:01:09,200

that you realized
that you were free?

23

00:01:09,200 --> 00:01:11,790

24

00:01:11,790 --> 00:01:14,190

That's really-- I
had a lot of guts.

25
00:01:14,190 --> 00:01:17,140
I didn't realize we
were marching again.

26
00:01:17,140 --> 00:01:21,970
They were sending us out
from one camp to the other.

27
00:01:21,970 --> 00:01:24,960
And we were four of us.

28
00:01:24,960 --> 00:01:28,920
And all of us were
from the same hometown.

29
00:01:28,920 --> 00:01:31,890
I was the youngest of the four.

30
00:01:31,890 --> 00:01:35,820
We were walking and
walking, and we realized

31
00:01:35,820 --> 00:01:37,290
the guards were already--

32
00:01:37,290 --> 00:01:40,290
the old guards, Hungarian.

33
00:01:40,290 --> 00:01:43,080
They didn't because the
young ones were already

34
00:01:43,080 --> 00:01:45,600
on the last front, fighting.

35
00:01:45,600 --> 00:01:47,950
And they didn't care.

36
00:01:47,950 --> 00:01:51,660

We stopped on a
farm, and we rested.

37
00:01:51,660 --> 00:01:53,760
And we told them, we'll
catch up with you.

38
00:01:53,760 --> 00:01:54,990
And they let us.

39
00:01:54,990 --> 00:01:56,970
So we're walking by ourself.

40
00:01:56,970 --> 00:01:58,620
And we realized
that we are walking

41
00:01:58,620 --> 00:02:01,380
on the road with civilians--

42
00:02:01,380 --> 00:02:02,520
Germans.

43
00:02:02,520 --> 00:02:05,220
So it must be the
end of the war,

44
00:02:05,220 --> 00:02:07,830
and we were not afraid anymore.

45
00:02:07,830 --> 00:02:11,430
And we stopped at the
roadside and rested.

46
00:02:11,430 --> 00:02:14,580
And a young German came by.

47
00:02:14,580 --> 00:02:18,000
And I remember stories
from my mother's stories

48
00:02:18,000 --> 00:02:21,480

when she was telling us that
a child could disarm a soldier

49
00:02:21,480 --> 00:02:23,280
after the First World War--

50
00:02:23,280 --> 00:02:25,110
that they didn't
have any guns, they

51
00:02:25,110 --> 00:02:26,910
didn't have any belts anymore.

52
00:02:26,910 --> 00:02:28,980
And he actually stopped.

53
00:02:28,980 --> 00:02:32,790
I guess we still looked halfway
decent because he stopped

54
00:02:32,790 --> 00:02:35,640
and started to flirt with us.

55
00:02:35,640 --> 00:02:37,800
He was a handsome guy--

56
00:02:37,800 --> 00:02:42,390
blue eyes, in uniform, but
he didn't have any arms,

57
00:02:42,390 --> 00:02:44,670
and he didn't have the belt on.

58
00:02:44,670 --> 00:02:49,440
So I realize, and I said to
him, do you know who we are?

59
00:02:49,440 --> 00:02:52,770
[GERMAN] We are Jewish girls.

60
00:02:52,770 --> 00:02:55,170
I don't exaggerate when I said--

61
00:02:55,170 --> 00:02:58,030
say that his eyes popped out.

62
00:02:58,030 --> 00:03:01,590
He was so brainwashed that he
thought that we are not human--

63
00:03:01,590 --> 00:03:03,930
that we really have
horns on our heads.

64
00:03:03,930 --> 00:03:07,330

65
00:03:07,330 --> 00:03:09,220
Can you tell me
where you had been

66
00:03:09,220 --> 00:03:14,630
and where you were at this point
when you encounter this German?

67
00:03:14,630 --> 00:03:16,090
This was-- the location was--

68
00:03:16,090 --> 00:03:19,450
I really don't know exactly
because they were shipping us

69
00:03:19,450 --> 00:03:21,520
from one place to the other.

70
00:03:21,520 --> 00:03:23,950
Originally, it was Ravensbruck.

71
00:03:23,950 --> 00:03:27,770
From Ravensbruck, they
send us someplace else.

72
00:03:27,770 --> 00:03:29,800
And the rest, we were walking.

73

00:03:29,800 --> 00:03:34,560

So that was some place in the complete North of Germany,

74

00:03:34,560 --> 00:03:39,190

like Reichshof, I think it was, by the lakes.

75

00:03:39,190 --> 00:03:46,390

It was on the border, almost on the Baltic, very north of--

76

00:03:46,390 --> 00:03:49,120

the north of-- all these--

77

00:03:49,120 --> 00:03:53,350

because it was a lot of fishing there, the lakes were there.

78

00:03:53,350 --> 00:03:55,160

I forgot what they named the lake.

79

00:03:55,160 --> 00:03:58,300

It's Mecklenburg, I think, the area, what we call--

80

00:03:58,300 --> 00:04:00,340

they called.

81

00:04:00,340 --> 00:04:03,560

Can I go back to the German?

82

00:04:03,560 --> 00:04:05,260

Yeah, just I would like to ask you,

83

00:04:05,260 --> 00:04:07,520

since you gave me the opportunity, who was with you?

84

00:04:07,520 --> 00:04:10,130

Can you give me the
names of the other ones?

85

00:04:10,130 --> 00:04:11,475

The name of the other women--

86

00:04:11,475 --> 00:04:16,810

Tola Cukier, [? Gutra ?]
[? Siegler, ?] and Etta

87

00:04:16,810 --> 00:04:18,589

Rotfeld.

88

00:04:18,589 --> 00:04:21,050

We are still in touch
with each other.

89

00:04:21,050 --> 00:04:23,440

We keep like sisters.

90

00:04:23,440 --> 00:04:28,240

One, that [? Gutra, ?] I never
seen her again because she

91

00:04:28,240 --> 00:04:29,920

lived someplace-- she moved--

92

00:04:29,920 --> 00:04:31,630

she went to Brazil or someplace.

93

00:04:31,630 --> 00:04:32,890

I never seen her.

94

00:04:32,890 --> 00:04:36,762

But the two others, one lives
in Kansas, and one lives now--

95

00:04:36,762 --> 00:04:38,470

she used to live in
New York, and now she

96

00:04:38,470 --> 00:04:42,040
lives in Nevada in Las Vegas.

97
00:04:42,040 --> 00:04:45,160
And we keep in touch constantly.

98
00:04:45,160 --> 00:04:48,430
Coming back to the German,
and I said to him--

99
00:04:48,430 --> 00:04:50,320
I wasn't afraid anymore.

100
00:04:50,320 --> 00:04:52,510
I realized I'm liberated.

101
00:04:52,510 --> 00:04:55,390
And I said to him,
we are Jewish girls,

102
00:04:55,390 --> 00:04:58,750
and [GERMAN] I wasn't
afraid anymore.

103
00:04:58,750 --> 00:04:59,710
And I told him that.

104
00:04:59,710 --> 00:05:02,610
He just walked away and
didn't say anything.

105
00:05:02,610 --> 00:05:04,820
Can you translate
what you said to him?

106
00:05:04,820 --> 00:05:05,320
Yes.

107
00:05:05,320 --> 00:05:06,430
You damn pig--

108
00:05:06,430 --> 00:05:08,720

German pig, I told him.

109
00:05:08,720 --> 00:05:12,130
Really, I realize now that
I had some-- what a nerve

110
00:05:12,130 --> 00:05:15,160
I had to say that to him.

111
00:05:15,160 --> 00:05:18,370
And because we didn't
know what was going on.

112
00:05:18,370 --> 00:05:20,510
We're just seeing the
civilians are running, too.

113
00:05:20,510 --> 00:05:26,376
We realize that this-- it's
the end, and we are free.

114
00:05:26,376 --> 00:05:28,750
Do you know when that was?

115
00:05:28,750 --> 00:05:36,790
I think it was around beginning
of May because the capitulation

116
00:05:36,790 --> 00:05:38,410
was May the 8th.

117
00:05:38,410 --> 00:05:42,250
This was maybe May the 2nd,
something, approximately--

118
00:05:42,250 --> 00:05:45,310
May the 3rd.

119
00:05:45,310 --> 00:05:47,200
Shall I continue?

120
00:05:47,200 --> 00:05:49,360

So we're walking
and walking again.

121
00:05:49,360 --> 00:05:52,750
And we came to a small town.

122
00:05:52,750 --> 00:05:56,320
And we rested on a bench.

123
00:05:56,320 --> 00:05:58,870
Two men-- three
men approached us

124
00:05:58,870 --> 00:06:01,120
because we were speaking Polish.

125
00:06:01,120 --> 00:06:04,810
And they started to
bless us and kiss us--

126
00:06:04,810 --> 00:06:07,330
that now they know where--

127
00:06:07,330 --> 00:06:11,170
they thought that we are Poles.

128
00:06:11,170 --> 00:06:15,700
And they-- know they know where
the good Polish girls were

129
00:06:15,700 --> 00:06:18,280
in concentration
camps, because some

130
00:06:18,280 --> 00:06:21,760
of the Poles, Polish
girls, were working

131
00:06:21,760 --> 00:06:23,470
on the farms in Germany.

132
00:06:23,470 --> 00:06:26,170

And they didn't want to have anything to do with the Poles.

133
00:06:26,170 --> 00:06:29,270
They could get out much more from the German soldiers.

134
00:06:29,270 --> 00:06:31,180
So they were so appreciative.

135
00:06:31,180 --> 00:06:37,210
And they took us immediately to the farm, gave up their room

136
00:06:37,210 --> 00:06:38,350
for us.

137
00:06:38,350 --> 00:06:40,570
They slept in the barn.

138
00:06:40,570 --> 00:06:45,790
And the German woman invited us for supper.

139
00:06:45,790 --> 00:06:47,680
And I will never forget the supper.

140
00:06:47,680 --> 00:06:51,760
It was a typical German meal.

141
00:06:51,760 --> 00:06:56,830
Was mashed potatoes, a pitcher of melted lard,

142
00:06:56,830 --> 00:07:02,110
pig lard, the fat, and a pitcher of milk.

143
00:07:02,110 --> 00:07:04,870
And after-- how starved we were, but I

144

00:07:04,870 --> 00:07:07,390

couldn't seeing
that combination,

145

00:07:07,390 --> 00:07:11,330

I immediately threw up.

146

00:07:11,330 --> 00:07:15,380

And I realize-- they
rush me to the hospital,

147

00:07:15,380 --> 00:07:17,050

and I had typhoid.

148

00:07:17,050 --> 00:07:19,610

The rest--

149

00:07:19,610 --> 00:07:22,580

I would like to ask you,
can you describe for me

150

00:07:22,580 --> 00:07:24,620

what you looked
like that you were

151

00:07:24,620 --> 00:07:28,370

able to make a German think
that you might be German?

152

00:07:28,370 --> 00:07:30,620

And you made the Poles think
that you might be Polish.

153

00:07:30,620 --> 00:07:33,890

Can you describe what you looked
like when you were liberated?

154

00:07:33,890 --> 00:07:36,530

I guess I had light hair.

155

00:07:36,530 --> 00:07:39,365

And I never looked typical,

if you can call it, "Jewish."

156
00:07:39,365 --> 00:07:41,960

157
00:07:41,960 --> 00:07:45,560
And the rest of them, they
were all pretty girls.

158
00:07:45,560 --> 00:07:49,340
We had very short hair,
and we were not dressed--

159
00:07:49,340 --> 00:07:51,440
I don't recall if I still was--

160
00:07:51,440 --> 00:07:56,240
I guess I was still wearing the
uniform, the stripes, because I

161
00:07:56,240 --> 00:08:00,560
didn't have anything
else to wear.

162
00:08:00,560 --> 00:08:04,070
And I guess we looked
halfway decent yet

163
00:08:04,070 --> 00:08:08,220
because he wanted
to flirt with us.

164
00:08:08,220 --> 00:08:09,320
That's all.

165
00:08:09,320 --> 00:08:13,640
I never was a Muselmann
like just skin and bones.

166
00:08:13,640 --> 00:08:16,730
I never got to that
point, because I remember

167

00:08:16,730 --> 00:08:19,760
my father always told me--

168

00:08:19,760 --> 00:08:22,310
this makes me cry each time--

169

00:08:22,310 --> 00:08:24,860
that I would be the
one who survived.

170

00:08:24,860 --> 00:08:26,990
I never was a big eater.

171

00:08:26,990 --> 00:08:29,120
I was satisfied with anything.

172

00:08:29,120 --> 00:08:31,410
He always said,
somebody has to survive,

173

00:08:31,410 --> 00:08:34,880
and you will be the one, because
you are smart, you are pretty,

174

00:08:34,880 --> 00:08:37,309
and you will be the
one who survive.

175

00:08:37,309 --> 00:08:40,780
I always remember that.

176

00:08:40,780 --> 00:08:43,030
Here, pause for a moment and
let you collect yourself.

177

00:08:43,030 --> 00:08:51,570

178

00:08:51,570 --> 00:08:53,310
[INAUDIBLE]

179

00:08:53,310 --> 00:08:54,960
You were telling
me that your father

180
00:08:54,960 --> 00:08:58,710
had thought that you would be
the one that would survive.

181
00:08:58,710 --> 00:09:01,200
Because also when they--

182
00:09:01,200 --> 00:09:04,890
in 1943, when they gathered us--

183
00:09:04,890 --> 00:09:09,120
twice they gathered
us at the stadium.

184
00:09:09,120 --> 00:09:10,665
1942?

185
00:09:10,665 --> 00:09:13,240
No, that was 1942.

186
00:09:13,240 --> 00:09:17,540
They gathered us in this
stadium, and they separated us.

187
00:09:17,540 --> 00:09:20,310
Finally, we stayed
there for a whole day.

188
00:09:20,310 --> 00:09:22,950
Then my father said,
maybe they will be--

189
00:09:22,950 --> 00:09:25,080
get tired and send us all home.

190
00:09:25,080 --> 00:09:27,660
Tables were set
up alphabetically.

191

00:09:27,660 --> 00:09:30,840

I remember we approached
the table about 10 o'clock

192

00:09:30,840 --> 00:09:32,160

at night.

193

00:09:32,160 --> 00:09:37,600

And immediately, they separate
my brother and me, said raus

194

00:09:37,600 --> 00:09:38,400

to go home.

195

00:09:38,400 --> 00:09:40,470

And they retain my parents.

196

00:09:40,470 --> 00:09:42,460

And I started to cry.

197

00:09:42,460 --> 00:09:45,640

I said I didn't want to go.

198

00:09:45,640 --> 00:09:48,150

So my father said,
somebody has to survive.

199

00:09:48,150 --> 00:09:50,070

Gave me the key
to the apartment,

200

00:09:50,070 --> 00:09:52,540

and he said, "Go home."

201

00:09:52,540 --> 00:09:56,190

Fortunately enough,
we had connections.

202

00:09:56,190 --> 00:10:00,240

My mother's brother was working
in the Central Committee.

203

00:10:00,240 --> 00:10:04,140

And through somebody, they
detained them in buildings.

204

00:10:04,140 --> 00:10:07,980

And I remember it was
raining, pouring rain,

205

00:10:07,980 --> 00:10:11,640

like God was crying with us.

206

00:10:11,640 --> 00:10:12,930

So I came home.

207

00:10:12,930 --> 00:10:15,660

And I think we had
different covers.

208

00:10:15,660 --> 00:10:18,390

For the summer, it was
like lacy on the bed.

209

00:10:18,390 --> 00:10:21,870

And for the winter, we had
velour, green velour covers.

210

00:10:21,870 --> 00:10:25,140

So I took these two covers
and gave it to a militiaman

211

00:10:25,140 --> 00:10:28,230

to give it to my parents that
they could cover themselves

212

00:10:28,230 --> 00:10:30,030

at least from the rain.

213

00:10:30,030 --> 00:10:33,420

He never delivered it.

214

00:10:33,420 --> 00:10:37,710

But fortunate enough, through

the connections, they got out.

215

00:10:37,710 --> 00:10:40,530

They were digging out
a hole in the basement,

216

00:10:40,530 --> 00:10:42,480

and they got through that day.

217

00:10:42,480 --> 00:10:44,640

So they lasted another year.

218

00:10:44,640 --> 00:10:46,810

They were home.

219

00:10:46,810 --> 00:10:50,970

But I remember his words when
he said to me, go, Hinda-- they

220

00:10:50,970 --> 00:10:52,440

called me Hinda.

221

00:10:52,440 --> 00:10:54,375

Go, because somebody
has to survive.

222

00:10:54,375 --> 00:11:00,090

223

00:11:00,090 --> 00:11:05,250

When did you realize that
the war was in fact over?

224

00:11:05,250 --> 00:11:08,700

At the moment when
I was walking still,

225

00:11:08,700 --> 00:11:11,830

and nobody-- we were not--
nobody watched us anymore.

226

00:11:11,830 --> 00:11:14,730

We just walked away
from the column.

227
00:11:14,730 --> 00:11:17,460
And these old guards
didn't care anymore.

228
00:11:17,460 --> 00:11:21,270
They seen what is going on.

229
00:11:21,270 --> 00:11:25,230
They wanted to save
their own skin.

230
00:11:25,230 --> 00:11:29,940
And so I wind up in the
hospital with typhoid.

231
00:11:29,940 --> 00:11:33,420
I don't remember what
happened from that time on.

232
00:11:33,420 --> 00:11:36,020
But we were liberated
a few days later.

233
00:11:36,020 --> 00:11:37,980
The Russians were liberate.

234
00:11:37,980 --> 00:11:42,000
I was liberated by the Russians.

235
00:11:42,000 --> 00:11:46,150
And my friends-- two
of us had typhoid.

236
00:11:46,150 --> 00:11:47,770
And two of us--

237
00:11:47,770 --> 00:11:51,060
the two others were all right.

238

00:11:51,060 --> 00:11:54,360
Well, immediately, they
took over an apartment.

239
00:11:54,360 --> 00:11:56,340
We were not afraid
anymore of the Germans.

240
00:11:56,340 --> 00:11:58,560
The Germans were afraid of us.

241
00:11:58,560 --> 00:12:01,050
And we didn't have
any power at all,

242
00:12:01,050 --> 00:12:02,680
but they were afraid of us.

243
00:12:02,680 --> 00:12:05,140
And I remember a neighbor
came in and said,

244
00:12:05,140 --> 00:12:09,540
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] Was a
big deal to have real tea

245
00:12:09,540 --> 00:12:12,910
because they all have
ersatz during the war.

246
00:12:12,910 --> 00:12:14,560
And they wanted to help us.

247
00:12:14,560 --> 00:12:16,720
And one woman-- I didn't
have a pair of shoes.

248
00:12:16,720 --> 00:12:18,550
I didn't have anything.

249
00:12:18,550 --> 00:12:21,900
We walked into her apartment,
and we took some clothes.

250
00:12:21,900 --> 00:12:23,670
I remember a robe.

251
00:12:23,670 --> 00:12:26,370
And a woman gave
me shoes because I

252
00:12:26,370 --> 00:12:29,130
didn't have any shoes to wear.

253
00:12:29,130 --> 00:12:33,700
And they tried to be nice to us.

254
00:12:33,700 --> 00:12:38,100
We had our own apartment, but
it was very difficult to leave,

255
00:12:38,100 --> 00:12:40,860
because the Russians
were telling us

256
00:12:40,860 --> 00:12:46,020
[RUSSIAN] Polish girls,
you have to go back home.

257
00:12:46,020 --> 00:12:48,570
And they wanted to
send us home with a--

258
00:12:48,570 --> 00:12:51,240

259
00:12:51,240 --> 00:12:55,230
they were-- what to say?

260
00:12:55,230 --> 00:12:59,280
Demolishing
everything in Germany

261
00:12:59,280 --> 00:13:02,280
and sending machinery

and everything back

262
00:13:02,280 --> 00:13:04,530
on trucks to Russia.

263
00:13:04,530 --> 00:13:07,350
So they were telling
us to go with cattle.

264
00:13:07,350 --> 00:13:11,100
They were sending the cattle
from Germany to Russia--

265
00:13:11,100 --> 00:13:13,605
that we should go with
the cattle to Poland.

266
00:13:13,605 --> 00:13:17,910
I said I never was near
a cow or something.

267
00:13:17,910 --> 00:13:19,380
We refused.

268
00:13:19,380 --> 00:13:24,100
But I have to get
back to the hospital.

269
00:13:24,100 --> 00:13:26,940
I don't know how long
I was in the hospital.

270
00:13:26,940 --> 00:13:28,890
I don't have the slightest idea.

271
00:13:28,890 --> 00:13:34,860
But later, they gave
us a whole villa.

272
00:13:34,860 --> 00:13:41,905
And [? Gutra ?] and I were
in the villa to recuperate.

273

00:13:41,905 --> 00:13:43,780

I want you to stay with
the hospital for just

274

00:13:43,780 --> 00:13:45,610

another moment and
tell me how you

275

00:13:45,610 --> 00:13:46,980

were treated in the hospital.

276

00:13:46,980 --> 00:13:48,430

And who else was
in the hospital?

277

00:13:48,430 --> 00:13:50,030

Who were the other patients?

278

00:13:50,030 --> 00:13:52,280

I don't remember because
I had a high fever.

279

00:13:52,280 --> 00:13:54,430

I don't know what was
going on in that hospital.

280

00:13:54,430 --> 00:13:59,320

I remember just that
I have a lot of--

281

00:13:59,320 --> 00:14:04,450

I was hallucinating because
I remember now [INAUDIBLE] I

282

00:14:04,450 --> 00:14:06,910

think that he came to visit me.

283

00:14:06,910 --> 00:14:08,230

I really don't remember.

284

00:14:08,230 --> 00:14:11,132

I had high fever, and I

don't remember anything what

285

00:14:11,132 --> 00:14:12,340

was going on in the hospital.

286

00:14:12,340 --> 00:14:16,143

287

00:14:16,143 --> 00:14:17,810

When the Russians
came, can you tell me,

288

00:14:17,810 --> 00:14:22,010

how did they treat
the other survivors

289

00:14:22,010 --> 00:14:23,600

that you might have seen?

290

00:14:23,600 --> 00:14:27,170

I really don't know
because I didn't

291

00:14:27,170 --> 00:14:29,682

see the liberation, actual
liberation, because I

292

00:14:29,682 --> 00:14:30,515

was in the hospital.

293

00:14:30,515 --> 00:14:34,090

294

00:14:34,090 --> 00:14:39,440

So I didn't actually see how
the Russian behave with us.

295

00:14:39,440 --> 00:14:45,110

But in that one experience I
had, that I was in that villa,

296

00:14:45,110 --> 00:14:46,880

and we felt better already.

297

00:14:46,880 --> 00:14:49,130

And we put on the
door-- we were afraid

298

00:14:49,130 --> 00:14:51,410

that the Russians will rape us.

299

00:14:51,410 --> 00:14:55,190

So we put on the
door "quarantine"--

300

00:14:55,190 --> 00:14:57,110

that they would be
afraid to come in.

301

00:14:57,110 --> 00:15:01,120

Was right across from
the hospital, a villa.

302

00:15:01,120 --> 00:15:03,320

Why were you worried about
the Russians raping you?

303

00:15:03,320 --> 00:15:08,370

Because they were soldiers,
and they were hungry.

304

00:15:08,370 --> 00:15:10,130

They didn't see a woman maybe--

305

00:15:10,130 --> 00:15:15,080

who knows how many months they
were fighting on the front?

306

00:15:15,080 --> 00:15:20,870

So one afternoon,
two soldiers go by.

307

00:15:20,870 --> 00:15:21,830

And we went in--

308

00:15:21,830 --> 00:15:24,770

I was in the
window, looking out.

309

00:15:24,770 --> 00:15:30,170

And they stopped and
started to talk to us.

310

00:15:30,170 --> 00:15:33,440

And one looked-- was a captain.

311

00:15:33,440 --> 00:15:36,590

And one looked
very Jewish to me.

312

00:15:36,590 --> 00:15:38,000

He was short and had--

313

00:15:38,000 --> 00:15:41,900

I hate to say it, but he
had a typical Jewish nose.

314

00:15:41,900 --> 00:15:46,700

So I said very quietly to him,
[RUSSIAN] That's the Russian.

315

00:15:46,700 --> 00:15:47,990

Are you a Jew?

316

00:15:47,990 --> 00:15:49,250

In Russian.

317

00:15:49,250 --> 00:15:53,600

He didn't answer me,
and they walked away.

318

00:15:53,600 --> 00:15:56,210

Middle of the night is
a knock at the door--

319

00:15:56,210 --> 00:15:58,280

on the window.

320
00:15:58,280 --> 00:16:01,130
And he tells me,
yes, I am a Jew.

321
00:16:01,130 --> 00:16:02,990
And what can I do for you?

322
00:16:02,990 --> 00:16:07,910
I didn't want to admit in
front of my other comrade.

323
00:16:07,910 --> 00:16:11,150
I said, please, help us
to get out from here.

324
00:16:11,150 --> 00:16:14,980
We don't have any
communication how to get out.

325
00:16:14,980 --> 00:16:17,960
And the Russians
want us to leave.

326
00:16:17,960 --> 00:16:21,810
So he arranged for us that--

327
00:16:21,810 --> 00:16:24,140
they were dismantling
everything--

328
00:16:24,140 --> 00:16:29,885
that another Jewish general was
going with trucks to Szczecin.

329
00:16:29,885 --> 00:16:32,890
Szczecin is now
in Poland already.

330
00:16:32,890 --> 00:16:35,990
That used to be Germany.

331

00:16:35,990 --> 00:16:41,480
That he will arrange for
us to go and to take us

332
00:16:41,480 --> 00:16:44,210
to Poland, all four of us.

333
00:16:44,210 --> 00:16:46,640
So we left the hospital.

334
00:16:46,640 --> 00:16:52,400
We went back to the apartment,
where [? Gutra ?] and Tola was.

335
00:16:52,400 --> 00:16:58,700
And, no, it was Etta and Tola.
[? Gutra ?] was with me sick.

336
00:16:58,700 --> 00:17:02,030
We were in the quarantine.

337
00:17:02,030 --> 00:17:04,369
And we felt better.

338
00:17:04,369 --> 00:17:08,180
We left that villa and
went to be with them.

339
00:17:08,180 --> 00:17:09,420
And we told them.

340
00:17:09,420 --> 00:17:10,140
I don't know.

341
00:17:10,140 --> 00:17:12,200
We gathered some
stuff that we had,

342
00:17:12,200 --> 00:17:14,540
some junk, to take with us.

343
00:17:14,540 --> 00:17:18,829

And we were supposed to meet him at the Hungarian girl's

344

00:17:18,829 --> 00:17:25,130
apartment, place, and he will come there and pick us up.

345

00:17:25,130 --> 00:17:25,849
What happened?

346

00:17:25,849 --> 00:17:27,859
He never showed up.

347

00:17:27,859 --> 00:17:33,620
And we left Tola with this stuff there because--

348

00:17:33,620 --> 00:17:35,750
and we went back to the apartment.

349

00:17:35,750 --> 00:17:38,480
And next morning, we came back.

350

00:17:38,480 --> 00:17:40,730
We had some kind of a-- we gathered

351

00:17:40,730 --> 00:17:44,060
some clothes or something that the Germans gave us.

352

00:17:44,060 --> 00:17:46,880
So we had a suitcase.

353

00:17:46,880 --> 00:17:49,010
Was too heavy to walk so far with it,

354

00:17:49,010 --> 00:17:54,170
so we left Tola there to be in that Hungarian girl's

355

00:17:54,170 --> 00:17:55,460
apartment.

356

00:17:55,460 --> 00:17:59,540
And by the time we came back the
next day, she was hysterical.

357

00:17:59,540 --> 00:18:02,375
He arrived middle of the
night, and he was drunk.

358

00:18:02,375 --> 00:18:04,940

359

00:18:04,940 --> 00:18:08,000
And he wanted to
really rape her.

360

00:18:08,000 --> 00:18:09,830
And she was-- he was so drunk--

361

00:18:09,830 --> 00:18:12,170
she doesn't remember that, even.

362

00:18:12,170 --> 00:18:14,570
He was so drunk
that she started--

363

00:18:14,570 --> 00:18:16,370
she had a beautiful
voice, and she

364

00:18:16,370 --> 00:18:20,630
started to sing him a lullaby.

365

00:18:20,630 --> 00:18:21,740
And he fell asleep.

366

00:18:21,740 --> 00:18:27,200
She was engaged, she said,
and maybe her fiancé is alive.

367

00:18:27,200 --> 00:18:30,510

And she wants to be for him.

368

00:18:30,510 --> 00:18:33,530

And he fell asleep.

369

00:18:33,530 --> 00:18:36,890

By the time we came in
the morning, he was up.

370

00:18:36,890 --> 00:18:39,530

He took-- we went on the truck.

371

00:18:39,530 --> 00:18:42,380

He didn't remember
anything what happened.

372

00:18:42,380 --> 00:18:45,110

At least this is the
version of what she told us.

373

00:18:45,110 --> 00:18:47,480

I wasn't there.

374

00:18:47,480 --> 00:18:50,180

And he took us to Poland.

375

00:18:50,180 --> 00:18:54,020

When we arrived in
Poland in Szczecin,

376

00:18:54,020 --> 00:18:57,290

we had to get on a train
to go to Sosnowiec.

377

00:18:57,290 --> 00:18:58,670

You can't imagine.

378

00:18:58,670 --> 00:19:02,030

People were hanging
from the doorways

379

00:19:02,030 --> 00:19:04,580
and from the roof and
everything, going back.

380

00:19:04,580 --> 00:19:06,830
I don't know how we
got on the train.

381

00:19:06,830 --> 00:19:08,960
We arrived in Sosnowiec.

382

00:19:08,960 --> 00:19:11,870
And the girl, who
lives now in Toronto--

383

00:19:11,870 --> 00:19:13,940
her name is Hanka
[? Pesa-- ?] was.

384

00:19:13,940 --> 00:19:17,940
I don't remember now
the married name.

385

00:19:17,940 --> 00:19:19,080
And she was waiting.

386

00:19:19,080 --> 00:19:22,760
She's the only one who
escaped from our camp.

387

00:19:22,760 --> 00:19:24,560
And she was at the station.

388

00:19:24,560 --> 00:19:28,190
And right away, she said to
me, you have where to go.

389

00:19:28,190 --> 00:19:31,370
Your cousins are here already.

390

00:19:31,370 --> 00:19:33,440
That I had a home

where to go in.

391

00:19:33,440 --> 00:19:36,440

My friend, Etta,
her uncle survived.

392

00:19:36,440 --> 00:19:37,370

He was hidden.

393

00:19:37,370 --> 00:19:41,450

He was one of the richest men
in our city, Mr. [? Ostrick. ?]

394

00:19:41,450 --> 00:19:44,630

He was hidden during the war.

395

00:19:44,630 --> 00:19:48,230

And right away, he took over
his buildings and thing,

396

00:19:48,230 --> 00:19:50,420

and she had a home where to go.

397

00:19:50,420 --> 00:19:52,620

The two others went to Katowice.

398

00:19:52,620 --> 00:19:55,640

They didn't have where to stay.

399

00:19:55,640 --> 00:20:00,500

So I really lost
contact with them.

400

00:20:00,500 --> 00:20:02,630

I was in Poland.

401

00:20:02,630 --> 00:20:03,980

It was very painful.

402

00:20:03,980 --> 00:20:06,710

Everything reminded
you of something.

403

00:20:06,710 --> 00:20:10,190

I went back to our apartment.

404

00:20:10,190 --> 00:20:12,440

Nothing-- I couldn't
even recognize.

405

00:20:12,440 --> 00:20:16,610

So old and dilapidated,
and I didn't

406

00:20:16,610 --> 00:20:22,370

recognize even the street,
because it was all changed.

407

00:20:22,370 --> 00:20:26,270

But I stayed with my cousins.

408

00:20:26,270 --> 00:20:27,800

They all went to work.

409

00:20:27,800 --> 00:20:31,790

And I was the one who
had to cook and clean.

410

00:20:31,790 --> 00:20:33,560

And I felt like Cinderella.

411

00:20:33,560 --> 00:20:36,860

412

00:20:36,860 --> 00:20:39,890

But after two months, my
cousin who was here once.

413

00:20:39,890 --> 00:20:41,030

You met her.

414

00:20:41,030 --> 00:20:45,770

She was engaged, and her fiance
said, we are not staying here.

415
00:20:45,770 --> 00:20:50,030
We are all going
back to Germany.

416
00:20:50,030 --> 00:20:51,890
Before I let you
go back to Germany,

417
00:20:51,890 --> 00:20:55,070
I wanted to ask you
what attempts you made--

418
00:20:55,070 --> 00:20:57,350
when you came back
to your hometown,

419
00:20:57,350 --> 00:21:00,830
what attempts did you make
to find loved ones-- people

420
00:21:00,830 --> 00:21:03,260
that you knew before
the war happened?

421
00:21:03,260 --> 00:21:08,030
The purpose of coming back home
was that if anybody survived,

422
00:21:08,030 --> 00:21:10,040
that will be the meeting place.

423
00:21:10,040 --> 00:21:13,040
I didn't have any
hopes for my parents,

424
00:21:13,040 --> 00:21:17,100
because in Ravensbruck, somebody
who knew my parents had seen

425
00:21:17,100 --> 00:21:20,330
them went back on the
transport to Auschwitz

426
00:21:20,330 --> 00:21:23,570
with the liquidation
of the ghetto.

427
00:21:23,570 --> 00:21:26,570
She told me when I
saw her in Ravensbruck

428
00:21:26,570 --> 00:21:29,210
that she saw my parents
going to the gas chamber.

429
00:21:29,210 --> 00:21:30,410
She knew my father.

430
00:21:30,410 --> 00:21:32,030
So I didn't have
any hope for them.

431
00:21:32,030 --> 00:21:34,520
But I was hoping that
maybe my brother,

432
00:21:34,520 --> 00:21:36,710
who was just one
year younger than I--

433
00:21:36,710 --> 00:21:41,520
maybe he survived
because he was in a camp.

434
00:21:41,520 --> 00:21:48,110
So can I go back to how we
were-- how they took us?

435
00:21:48,110 --> 00:21:48,610
No.

436
00:21:48,610 --> 00:21:51,590
What did you find out
about your brother?

437

00:21:51,590 --> 00:21:55,840

My brother, when I came
back, somebody who worked

438

00:21:55,840 --> 00:22:00,670

in the kitchen told me that
two weeks before liberation,

439

00:22:00,670 --> 00:22:03,370

they sent him out as
a [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

440

00:22:03,370 --> 00:22:07,060

as a underage, to another camp.

441

00:22:07,060 --> 00:22:11,080

And he died there just two
weeks before liberation.

442

00:22:11,080 --> 00:22:14,050

He died from starvation.

443

00:22:14,050 --> 00:22:16,630

When you went back
to your home, how

444

00:22:16,630 --> 00:22:19,280

were you treated by your former
neighbors and other people

445

00:22:19,280 --> 00:22:21,010

in town?

446

00:22:21,010 --> 00:22:23,500

How we were treated
by our neighbors?

447

00:22:23,500 --> 00:22:24,940

You're still alive?

448

00:22:24,940 --> 00:22:27,760

You survived?

449
00:22:27,760 --> 00:22:30,790
There were not too
happy to see us.

450
00:22:30,790 --> 00:22:34,370
It was very-- as I said
before, very painful.

451
00:22:34,370 --> 00:22:36,500
Everything reminded
me of something--

452
00:22:36,500 --> 00:22:38,200
go walking on the street.

453
00:22:38,200 --> 00:22:42,070
But the first thing, I
guess-- every city did it--

454
00:22:42,070 --> 00:22:46,720
that they form a
Jewish committee.

455
00:22:46,720 --> 00:22:49,450
And everybody signed
their name because that's

456
00:22:49,450 --> 00:22:51,580
how people found each other--

457
00:22:51,580 --> 00:22:56,140
registering who still was alive.

458
00:22:56,140 --> 00:22:58,090
So I put my name down.

459
00:22:58,090 --> 00:23:00,640
But I didn't see my
brother's name at all.

460
00:23:00,640 --> 00:23:03,910

He never came back.

461
00:23:03,910 --> 00:23:06,970
And after being
there for two months,

462
00:23:06,970 --> 00:23:11,500
we visited each other,
Etta and I and my cousins.

463
00:23:11,500 --> 00:23:14,920
Every time-- like
my cousin's friend,

464
00:23:14,920 --> 00:23:20,920
who was a partner in a
factory with my uncle,

465
00:23:20,920 --> 00:23:26,710
he had a big apartment in
one of the newest buildings.

466
00:23:26,710 --> 00:23:30,250
And he survived because he
was hidden during the war.

467
00:23:30,250 --> 00:23:32,140
So when my cousin, who's--

468
00:23:32,140 --> 00:23:33,460
she is now his wife.

469
00:23:33,460 --> 00:23:35,950
He passed away five years ago.

470
00:23:35,950 --> 00:23:37,750
She married him.

471
00:23:37,750 --> 00:23:41,200
And because she was
working as a secretary

472

00:23:41,200 --> 00:23:43,090
in the office of the factory.

473
00:23:43,090 --> 00:23:45,790
And we all worked during
the war in the factory

474
00:23:45,790 --> 00:23:47,860
because we had to
have affidavits

475
00:23:47,860 --> 00:23:52,150
that are employed from the
time you were 14 years old.

476
00:23:52,150 --> 00:23:56,320
So he's a great man,
had a big apartment.

477
00:23:56,320 --> 00:24:01,420
And everybody who came went to
[? Izak ?] [? Gleitman. ?] So

478
00:24:01,420 --> 00:24:07,060
later, my cousin [? Heniek ?]
came back, survived.

479
00:24:07,060 --> 00:24:09,370
[? Izak's ?] sister
[? Sala ?] survived.

480
00:24:09,370 --> 00:24:12,580
We had a lot of people, and
I had to cook for everyone

481
00:24:12,580 --> 00:24:13,285
and go shopping.

482
00:24:13,285 --> 00:24:17,070

483
00:24:17,070 --> 00:24:20,040
Did any of your family's

possessions survive?

484

00:24:20,040 --> 00:24:25,800

Nothing, because everything
what we had valuable,

485

00:24:25,800 --> 00:24:29,340

my mother, living through
the First World War,

486

00:24:29,340 --> 00:24:33,420

was very nervous because we
lived most on the border,

487

00:24:33,420 --> 00:24:34,390

on German border.

488

00:24:34,390 --> 00:24:41,400

It was just maybe 20 kilometers
from the border, maybe more.

489

00:24:41,400 --> 00:24:44,670

I'm not-- at the
time, I wasn't so--

490

00:24:44,670 --> 00:24:45,630

didn't know much.

491

00:24:45,630 --> 00:24:48,540

I was too young still.

492

00:24:48,540 --> 00:24:50,700

So she got very nervous.

493

00:24:50,700 --> 00:24:54,900

And when the World War
broke out, my father--

494

00:24:54,900 --> 00:24:59,370

I remember seeing on September
the 1st the Polish army

495

00:24:59,370 --> 00:25:03,360
retreating, walking
back beaten already.

496
00:25:03,360 --> 00:25:05,700
So we stood outside
on a Friday night

497
00:25:05,700 --> 00:25:07,740
and were giving them coffee.

498
00:25:07,740 --> 00:25:10,170
And my mother was very nervous.

499
00:25:10,170 --> 00:25:13,500
And my father came
home on Sunday.

500
00:25:13,500 --> 00:25:16,020
He said, it's a train
going to DziaÅ,oszyce.

501
00:25:16,020 --> 00:25:18,930
My mother was born
in a small town.

502
00:25:18,930 --> 00:25:23,760
And over there, my
grandfather had a building.

503
00:25:23,760 --> 00:25:25,980
And her older
sister lived there.

504
00:25:25,980 --> 00:25:30,510
So he put us on a train
to go to DziaÅ,oszyce.

505
00:25:30,510 --> 00:25:34,440
And he was supposed to
follow us because it

506
00:25:34,440 --> 00:25:39,670

was right after the 1st, and
to collect money, and so on.

507
00:25:39,670 --> 00:25:42,060
So we never went too far.

508
00:25:42,060 --> 00:25:44,640
We get to Wolbrom.

509
00:25:44,640 --> 00:25:48,030
No, we didn't even
get to Wolbrom.

510
00:25:48,030 --> 00:25:53,250
The train was going
through a woods, forest.

511
00:25:53,250 --> 00:25:57,010
And all of a sudden, we see fire
from both sides of the forest--

512
00:25:57,010 --> 00:25:58,970
the Poles and the
Germans fighting.

513
00:25:58,970 --> 00:26:00,240
We had to get off.

514
00:26:00,240 --> 00:26:02,880
We didn't even take
anything with us

515
00:26:02,880 --> 00:26:05,120
because it was a short trip.

516
00:26:05,120 --> 00:26:06,790
No sandwiches, nothing.

517
00:26:06,790 --> 00:26:10,140
I remember my mother took
a couple bottles of wine.

518

00:26:10,140 --> 00:26:15,060
And we had this hard sugar,
and no food, actually.

519
00:26:15,060 --> 00:26:17,680
And my brother fainted.

520
00:26:17,680 --> 00:26:19,290
I was the oldest of three.

521
00:26:19,290 --> 00:26:22,710
I had my younger brother
and a sister, Blinka,

522
00:26:22,710 --> 00:26:27,360
who was four years younger
than I. He couldn't take it,

523
00:26:27,360 --> 00:26:29,770
and he fainted.

524
00:26:29,770 --> 00:26:34,830
So my mother asked a woman
across the compartment,

525
00:26:34,830 --> 00:26:37,080
was eating bread, a sandwich.

526
00:26:37,080 --> 00:26:40,230
She asked if she would
give him a piece of bread.

527
00:26:40,230 --> 00:26:45,720
She cut away the crust from her
sandwich and gave it to him--

528
00:26:45,720 --> 00:26:48,660
not even a piece of
bread, just the crust.

529
00:26:48,660 --> 00:26:50,730
And we had to get off,
and we're walking.

530
00:26:50,730 --> 00:26:54,180
And my mother remembered
that a neighbor's parents

531
00:26:54,180 --> 00:26:55,440
lived in Wolbrom.

532
00:26:55,440 --> 00:26:58,080
I guess it wasn't
too far to walk.

533
00:26:58,080 --> 00:27:00,330
So we knocked at the door.

534
00:27:00,330 --> 00:27:03,900
And they recognized my
mother, and they let us in.

535
00:27:03,900 --> 00:27:05,400
They were two old people.

536
00:27:05,400 --> 00:27:08,070
Next morning, the Germans
knocked at the door.

537
00:27:08,070 --> 00:27:12,150
And I remember asking,
[GERMAN] Are here men?

538
00:27:12,150 --> 00:27:14,110
My mother spoke good German.

539
00:27:14,110 --> 00:27:15,870
And she said to
them that we have

540
00:27:15,870 --> 00:27:21,120
just an old man and a young
child, who is 11 years old.

541
00:27:21,120 --> 00:27:25,320

I guess he was 11 or 12 at the time, my brother Mumek.

542
00:27:25,320 --> 00:27:29,070
So they left us, but we had to leave that house

543
00:27:29,070 --> 00:27:31,140
and go to the marketplace.

544
00:27:31,140 --> 00:27:33,360
And we saw something.

545
00:27:33,360 --> 00:27:38,370
Everybody from all sides, they took,

546
00:27:38,370 --> 00:27:40,890
they gathered the people to get to the marketplace

547
00:27:40,890 --> 00:27:42,550
as a gathering place.

548
00:27:42,550 --> 00:27:45,510
I didn't know what they will do to us at the time.

549
00:27:45,510 --> 00:27:49,950
But somebody came over and told that one of my uncles

550
00:27:49,950 --> 00:27:51,150
had a car over there.

551
00:27:51,150 --> 00:27:54,100
That was a big deal, to have a car before the war.

552
00:27:54,100 --> 00:27:56,760
And they found the car, and there was blood in it.

553

00:27:56,760 --> 00:28:00,780

So my mother got hysterical
that they killed her brother.

554

00:28:00,780 --> 00:28:03,540

But it wasn't-- he survived.

555

00:28:03,540 --> 00:28:07,110

Not survived the war, but at
the time, he was alive still.

556

00:28:07,110 --> 00:28:08,210

We met a lot of people.

557

00:28:08,210 --> 00:28:14,850

And finally, by horse and
buggy, we came to DziaÅ,oszyce.

558

00:28:14,850 --> 00:28:18,960

And we all stayed in that house.

559

00:28:18,960 --> 00:28:20,790

And it was a madhouse.

560

00:28:20,790 --> 00:28:22,860

All my cousins were there.

561

00:28:22,860 --> 00:28:24,930

All my aunts were there.

562

00:28:24,930 --> 00:28:27,120

And they're screaming,
and they're eating.

563

00:28:27,120 --> 00:28:28,320

And the little boys--

564

00:28:28,320 --> 00:28:32,070

I remember I had a lot
of younger cousins.

565

00:28:32,070 --> 00:28:35,310
I remember how they were--
they never wanted to eat,

566
00:28:35,310 --> 00:28:38,400
and how they had to
push to eat the bananas

567
00:28:38,400 --> 00:28:42,670
and things because bananas
was a big deal in Poland.

568
00:28:42,670 --> 00:28:44,670
And I remember what
they used to make.

569
00:28:44,670 --> 00:28:47,190
I used to go to visit my aunt.

570
00:28:47,190 --> 00:28:50,610
She used to make like a banana
mash, an orange squeeze,

571
00:28:50,610 --> 00:28:52,600
and a piece of chocolate.

572
00:28:52,600 --> 00:28:54,140
And that's what they liked.

573
00:28:54,140 --> 00:28:54,870
And they give.

574
00:28:54,870 --> 00:28:58,110
Here, the war was
on two, three days,

575
00:28:58,110 --> 00:29:00,870
and what was going on
how starved they were.

576
00:29:00,870 --> 00:29:03,060
We didn't have bread, nothing.

577

00:29:03,060 --> 00:29:06,090

Somebody had to get up,
a few people, 3 o'clock

578

00:29:06,090 --> 00:29:08,670

in the morning and stay
in line to get bread what

579

00:29:08,670 --> 00:29:11,760

was made like from sawdust.

580

00:29:11,760 --> 00:29:14,610

And how these children--
we were all hungry,

581

00:29:14,610 --> 00:29:20,180

but I was the least composed,
and I wasn't carrying on.

582

00:29:20,180 --> 00:29:22,430

I was older than they were.

583

00:29:22,430 --> 00:29:25,040

I was 13 at the time.

584

00:29:25,040 --> 00:29:30,650

But they were five years old,
four years old, six years old.

585

00:29:30,650 --> 00:29:33,510

We stayed there.

586

00:29:33,510 --> 00:29:41,090

We stayed there for a
couple of months [INAUDIBLE]

587

00:29:41,090 --> 00:29:43,200

Actually, I have to
pause to change tapes,

588

00:29:43,200 --> 00:29:45,140

so let's take a break right now.

589
00:29:45,140 --> 00:29:51,760

590
00:29:51,760 --> 00:29:54,250
This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

591
00:29:54,250 --> 00:29:57,010
Memorial Museum Volunteer
Collection interview

592
00:29:57,010 --> 00:29:58,630
with Helen Luksenburg.

593
00:29:58,630 --> 00:30:01,360
This is tape one,
side B. And you

594
00:30:01,360 --> 00:30:03,643
were telling me about
your family's possessions.

595
00:30:03,643 --> 00:30:04,560
What happened to them?

596
00:30:04,560 --> 00:30:09,330

597
00:30:09,330 --> 00:30:12,210
The possessions--
as I said before,

598
00:30:12,210 --> 00:30:13,950
that we went to DziaÅ,oszyce.

599
00:30:13,950 --> 00:30:20,190
And everything we took with
us because the possessions--

600
00:30:20,190 --> 00:30:24,480
the jewelry,

silverware, fabrics.

601
00:30:24,480 --> 00:30:26,610
Because my father
was in textile,

602
00:30:26,610 --> 00:30:28,080
we had a lot of fabrics.

603
00:30:28,080 --> 00:30:32,100
And then we all took it
and hid it in the basement,

604
00:30:32,100 --> 00:30:37,410
because in 1935, I think, it
was a flat in DziaÅ,oszyce.

605
00:30:37,410 --> 00:30:41,820
And the basement and from the
building was filled with dirt.

606
00:30:41,820 --> 00:30:45,120
So the whole family brought
all the possessions,

607
00:30:45,120 --> 00:30:48,930
and they hid it in the
dirt in the basement.

608
00:30:48,930 --> 00:30:53,370
So we were left with nothing,
even not able to sell something

609
00:30:53,370 --> 00:30:53,900
for bread.

610
00:30:53,900 --> 00:30:57,950

611
00:30:57,950 --> 00:31:01,370
You didn't tell me what
happened to your sister.

612

00:31:01,370 --> 00:31:03,710

My sister was the youngest one.

613

00:31:03,710 --> 00:31:06,140

And she was born in 1930.

614

00:31:06,140 --> 00:31:10,266

So she was just nine years old.

615

00:31:10,266 --> 00:31:12,080

Yeah, she was nine years.

616

00:31:12,080 --> 00:31:17,240

But she went straight-- she was too young to be sent to work.

617

00:31:17,240 --> 00:31:20,220

And she went with the liquidation with my parents

618

00:31:20,220 --> 00:31:23,930

to Auschwitz.

619

00:31:23,930 --> 00:31:26,900

I also wanted to ask you if you had witnessed

620

00:31:26,900 --> 00:31:29,120

any acts of retaliation or retribution

621

00:31:29,120 --> 00:31:32,790

against Germans or German collaborators?

622

00:31:32,790 --> 00:31:37,280

I personally didn't witness anything,

623

00:31:37,280 --> 00:31:41,390

because when I came to Poland--

624

00:31:41,390 --> 00:31:45,350

right after I was liberated,
we went back to Poland.

625

00:31:45,350 --> 00:31:48,030

And I was in Poland
for a couple months.

626

00:31:48,030 --> 00:31:51,740

So by the time I
came back to Germany,

627

00:31:51,740 --> 00:31:53,990

life was being
normalized already.

628

00:31:53,990 --> 00:31:55,490

So I didn't have--

629

00:31:55,490 --> 00:31:58,620

maybe the anger was still there.

630

00:31:58,620 --> 00:32:00,740

But I didn't have any--

631

00:32:00,740 --> 00:32:05,390

I didn't come across
anybody to do it.

632

00:32:05,390 --> 00:32:10,340

And I wasn't capable
of hurting anybody.

633

00:32:10,340 --> 00:32:12,830

You mentioned that when you
came back to your hometown,

634

00:32:12,830 --> 00:32:14,600

other people started
to come back.

635

00:32:14,600 --> 00:32:16,625

Can you tell me about
some of the reunions

636
00:32:16,625 --> 00:32:18,500
and what you talked
about when you met again?

637
00:32:18,500 --> 00:32:21,230

638
00:32:21,230 --> 00:32:24,050
Every day, we walked.

639
00:32:24,050 --> 00:32:27,470
And we were walking
on the street.

640
00:32:27,470 --> 00:32:28,940
We met somebody.

641
00:32:28,940 --> 00:32:33,710
I even found out about
my future husband--

642
00:32:33,710 --> 00:32:34,880
that he is alive--

643
00:32:34,880 --> 00:32:36,770
when I came back to Poland.

644
00:32:36,770 --> 00:32:38,780
I was walking on Mojaevska.

645
00:32:38,780 --> 00:32:43,370
I noticed-- I forgot his name.

646
00:32:43,370 --> 00:32:46,850
And I knew him, that
he was in our camp.

647
00:32:46,850 --> 00:32:49,350
He lives in Richmond now.

648
00:32:49,350 --> 00:32:52,160
Hendle-- Hendleman--
[? Hendler-- ?] David

649
00:32:52,160 --> 00:32:53,390
[? Hendler ?] was his name.

650
00:32:53,390 --> 00:32:54,800
Now I remember.

651
00:32:54,800 --> 00:32:59,240
And I came, I asked him, I
said during your travels,

652
00:32:59,240 --> 00:33:04,160
did you come across to
see Welek Luksenburg?

653
00:33:04,160 --> 00:33:09,500
He said, yes, the last time
I saw him was in Flossenburg.

654
00:33:09,500 --> 00:33:15,500
And so just common sense and
logic, I told, Flossenburg?

655
00:33:15,500 --> 00:33:18,710
That was in April 1945.

656
00:33:18,710 --> 00:33:22,940
I said the chances are
that maybe he survived.

657
00:33:22,940 --> 00:33:26,070
I had just a hint of
it, but I wasn't sure.

658
00:33:26,070 --> 00:33:28,790
And he said, he told
me that he was--

659

00:33:28,790 --> 00:33:31,970
they were being shipped
out from Flossenburg.

660
00:33:31,970 --> 00:33:37,940
And he ran out from the
line because he remembered

661
00:33:37,940 --> 00:33:41,900
that to go on the trip
again without water, that he

662
00:33:41,900 --> 00:33:44,900
saw some empty bottle
in the wash barrack.

663
00:33:44,900 --> 00:33:48,750
And he ran back to fill
that bottle with water.

664
00:33:48,750 --> 00:33:51,200
By the time he came
back-- this is already--

665
00:33:51,200 --> 00:33:53,250
David didn't know that.

666
00:33:53,250 --> 00:33:56,720
But my husband told me
that that bottle of water

667
00:33:56,720 --> 00:33:58,670
saved his life,
because by the time

668
00:33:58,670 --> 00:34:02,390
he came back, the
transport left already.

669
00:34:02,390 --> 00:34:05,700
And he wanted to get out from
Flossenburg for any price.

670

00:34:05,700 --> 00:34:10,250
It was just torture there.

671
00:34:10,250 --> 00:34:12,889
He found out after
the war that they

672
00:34:12,889 --> 00:34:16,460
put all the transport in
a barn, poured gasoline,

673
00:34:16,460 --> 00:34:18,515
and burned them all alive.

674
00:34:18,515 --> 00:34:21,620

675
00:34:21,620 --> 00:34:24,332
So if you know what that
means, [NON-ENGLISH]

676
00:34:24,332 --> 00:34:26,389
Translate for me, please.

677
00:34:26,389 --> 00:34:28,760
[NON-ENGLISH] means,
what is your fate?

678
00:34:28,760 --> 00:34:32,460

679
00:34:32,460 --> 00:34:34,110
But you had told me
a few minutes ago

680
00:34:34,110 --> 00:34:37,380
that some of your family and
friends from your hometown

681
00:34:37,380 --> 00:34:38,219
came back.

682

00:34:38,219 --> 00:34:41,280
Your reunions with them--
what were they like?

683
00:34:41,280 --> 00:34:44,850
Slowly, everybody-- my
mother came from a family

684
00:34:44,850 --> 00:34:47,790
of 11 brothers and sisters.

685
00:34:47,790 --> 00:34:51,630
We were a very large
family and very close.

686
00:34:51,630 --> 00:34:54,150
My personal-- I never
had really very--

687
00:34:54,150 --> 00:34:56,730
my cousins were my friends.

688
00:34:56,730 --> 00:34:59,610
From all of this
family, who were maybe

689
00:34:59,610 --> 00:35:05,730
250 people or 300 people in the
close family, only six of us

690
00:35:05,730 --> 00:35:07,830
survived.

691
00:35:07,830 --> 00:35:09,480
And we all wait--

692
00:35:09,480 --> 00:35:14,800
two sisters-- Henia came
back, and I came back,

693
00:35:14,800 --> 00:35:16,290
so there were four of us.

694

00:35:16,290 --> 00:35:18,990

We were very happy
to see each other.

695

00:35:18,990 --> 00:35:22,710

And the fifth was
someplace in a camp.

696

00:35:22,710 --> 00:35:25,590

We found her later in Germany.

697

00:35:25,590 --> 00:35:28,140

And the sixth, the
oldest, whose--

698

00:35:28,140 --> 00:35:32,940

his name is Harry [? Brogress. ?]
He's about 85 years old today.

699

00:35:32,940 --> 00:35:35,010

I just spoke to
him a few days ago.

700

00:35:35,010 --> 00:35:36,480

He lives in Brooklyn.

701

00:35:36,480 --> 00:35:39,180

He was in Russia during the war.

702

00:35:39,180 --> 00:35:41,070

But after the war, we all met.

703

00:35:41,070 --> 00:35:47,520

Even we went [INAUDIBLE]
to find each other,

704

00:35:47,520 --> 00:35:54,885

to find out who survived, was
a big thing to-- and I remember

705

00:35:54,885 --> 00:35:56,370

even we--

706
00:35:56,370 --> 00:35:58,950
there were right away
weddings after the war.

707
00:35:58,950 --> 00:36:03,120
I remember going to a
wedding right after the war.

708
00:36:03,120 --> 00:36:06,690
And everybody was very
happy to see each other--

709
00:36:06,690 --> 00:36:11,920
that at least some
of us survived.

710
00:36:11,920 --> 00:36:14,610
When did you begin to
realize the full extent

711
00:36:14,610 --> 00:36:15,480
of the genocide?

712
00:36:15,480 --> 00:36:20,590

713
00:36:20,590 --> 00:36:25,560
When I realized, I remember my
parents looking at newspaper.

714
00:36:25,560 --> 00:36:31,590
We knew about Hitler because
from newspapers before the war.

715
00:36:31,590 --> 00:36:34,440
I always was interested
what was going on, even

716
00:36:34,440 --> 00:36:35,760
being very young.

717

00:36:35,760 --> 00:36:38,770
I remember caricatures
in the paper--

718
00:36:38,770 --> 00:36:42,420
Jews with long noses.

719
00:36:42,420 --> 00:36:46,830
We used to get The Moment,
a Jewish newspaper.

720
00:36:46,830 --> 00:36:50,580
And I remember
because I was born

721
00:36:50,580 --> 00:36:55,740
so close to the German border
when the German people--

722
00:36:55,740 --> 00:36:58,530
the Jews were shipped to Poland.

723
00:36:58,530 --> 00:37:01,050
Mostly the ones who
were born in Poland--

724
00:37:01,050 --> 00:37:04,170
they put them on
the border, and we

725
00:37:04,170 --> 00:37:06,600
had to open shared
apartments with them.

726
00:37:06,600 --> 00:37:09,270

727
00:37:09,270 --> 00:37:11,700
And that was in 1938.

728
00:37:11,700 --> 00:37:16,080
I remember the
Anschluss, what a German

729
00:37:16,080 --> 00:37:21,360
had with Vienna and with
Austria and how the Viennese--

730
00:37:21,360 --> 00:37:23,280
the Austrian people were.

731
00:37:23,280 --> 00:37:29,490
So I can remember the
history from the late '30s.

732
00:37:29,490 --> 00:37:31,830
I was 10 years
old, 11 years old,

733
00:37:31,830 --> 00:37:34,380
but I was always
interested, and always

734
00:37:34,380 --> 00:37:37,210
was politics talked
in our house.

735
00:37:37,210 --> 00:37:39,280
So I knew what was going on.

736
00:37:39,280 --> 00:37:43,770
But my mother never believed
that such a cultural country

737
00:37:43,770 --> 00:37:46,770
like the Germans
could do anything.

738
00:37:46,770 --> 00:37:48,700
One thing she was very happy--

739
00:37:48,700 --> 00:37:50,130
the outcome of the--

740
00:37:50,130 --> 00:37:51,510

even during the war--

741
00:37:51,510 --> 00:37:53,580
that they was [GERMAN].

742
00:37:53,580 --> 00:37:55,680
That they wouldn't
touch me, that they

743
00:37:55,680 --> 00:37:57,810
wouldn't rape the Jewish girls.

744
00:37:57,810 --> 00:37:59,400
Being a mother, that's how--

745
00:37:59,400 --> 00:38:01,980
that was very important to her.

746
00:38:01,980 --> 00:38:03,810
Because she said--

747
00:38:03,810 --> 00:38:06,390
I have to explain
what was [GERMAN]..

748
00:38:06,390 --> 00:38:08,970
[GERMAN] mean that we
were not a pure race.

749
00:38:08,970 --> 00:38:11,590

750
00:38:11,590 --> 00:38:14,760
We were the "shameful race."

751
00:38:14,760 --> 00:38:18,500
That's what they consider us.

752
00:38:18,500 --> 00:38:22,740
Maybe there was something
going on, not officially.

753

00:38:22,740 --> 00:38:30,090

But officially, no German
touch a Jewish woman or girl.

754

00:38:30,090 --> 00:38:32,534

Otherwise, his life
would be shortened, too.

755

00:38:32,534 --> 00:38:36,410

756

00:38:36,410 --> 00:38:38,720

But the extent of
the genocide-- when

757

00:38:38,720 --> 00:38:42,560

did you realize how
many Jews were killed?

758

00:38:42,560 --> 00:38:45,560

You see, was everything
so systematic.

759

00:38:45,560 --> 00:38:48,440

It didn't come at one time.

760

00:38:48,440 --> 00:38:56,210

It started with that we
had martial law applied.

761

00:38:56,210 --> 00:38:58,640

And we couldn't walk on--

762

00:38:58,640 --> 00:39:01,080

go on certain streets.

763

00:39:01,080 --> 00:39:05,780

They put the armbands on us
with the blue star, David's--

764

00:39:05,780 --> 00:39:08,060

Mogen David.

765
00:39:08,060 --> 00:39:10,880
They started to ration us.

766
00:39:10,880 --> 00:39:16,490
We had to give up
electrical appliances.

767
00:39:16,490 --> 00:39:19,070
Women had to give
up the fur coats.

768
00:39:19,070 --> 00:39:20,780
We had to give up jewelry--

769
00:39:20,780 --> 00:39:22,250
everything systematic.

770
00:39:22,250 --> 00:39:24,170
And what they did, the Germans--

771
00:39:24,170 --> 00:39:26,510
they didn't want to
dirty their hands.

772
00:39:26,510 --> 00:39:30,830
So immediately-- I wasn't there,
but my father was telling me,

773
00:39:30,830 --> 00:39:33,740
because we were
going on the train--

774
00:39:33,740 --> 00:39:36,350
he was telling me that
they gathered in the--

775
00:39:36,350 --> 00:39:39,260
when they marched into the
Sosnowiec, they gathered.

776
00:39:39,260 --> 00:39:46,100

It was a-- in Polish
I know how to say.

777
00:39:46,100 --> 00:39:51,020

778
00:39:51,020 --> 00:39:52,370
[POLISH]

779
00:39:52,370 --> 00:39:55,094
Tell me--

780
00:39:55,094 --> 00:39:57,350
[NON-ENGLISH]

781
00:39:57,350 --> 00:40:01,190
I had asked you about a word.

782
00:40:01,190 --> 00:40:03,572
If you could please
translate that into English?

783
00:40:03,572 --> 00:40:05,030
If you can't, I'll
take the Polish.

784
00:40:05,030 --> 00:40:06,155
We'll worry about it later.

785
00:40:06,155 --> 00:40:07,070
I know.

786
00:40:07,070 --> 00:40:10,610
The Germans gave out
orders that all the men

787
00:40:10,610 --> 00:40:12,800
had to register immediately.

788
00:40:12,800 --> 00:40:17,160
And they gathered
them in a big hall.

789
00:40:17,160 --> 00:40:21,590
They pointed right away
the head of the committee

790
00:40:21,590 --> 00:40:23,540
of the Judenrat--

791
00:40:23,540 --> 00:40:25,760
of the Jewish community.

792
00:40:25,760 --> 00:40:29,850
And he was a past president
of the Jewish community,

793
00:40:29,850 --> 00:40:31,760
so he became the head.

794
00:40:31,760 --> 00:40:33,410
So he gave out--

795
00:40:33,410 --> 00:40:37,770
they gave him orders, and
he applied the orders to us.

796
00:40:37,770 --> 00:40:42,690
So all the men had to
register immediately.

797
00:40:42,690 --> 00:40:46,940
And my father was telling
me that he was walking

798
00:40:46,940 --> 00:40:49,830
every day to the city hall.

799
00:40:49,830 --> 00:40:53,160
And he-- and turn around
for a whole month.

800
00:40:53,160 --> 00:40:55,460
Finally, he came one day.

801
00:40:55,460 --> 00:40:58,700
And they called it off.

802
00:40:58,700 --> 00:41:03,080
When I arrive, I missed
my father tremendously.

803
00:41:03,080 --> 00:41:06,350
And I didn't have any
communications to get from

804
00:41:06,350 --> 00:41:07,710
DziaÅ,oszyce.

805
00:41:07,710 --> 00:41:10,460
So somebody gave me a
ride on a horse and buggy,

806
00:41:10,460 --> 00:41:12,290
and I arrived at home.

807
00:41:12,290 --> 00:41:14,870
I didn't recognize my father.

808
00:41:14,870 --> 00:41:16,220
He looked like Gandhi.

809
00:41:16,220 --> 00:41:17,660
He was bald.

810
00:41:17,660 --> 00:41:20,690
As long as I knew him,
he was always bald.

811
00:41:20,690 --> 00:41:23,760
Shrunk-- lost a lot of weight.

812
00:41:23,760 --> 00:41:26,220
And I couldn't believe
this is my father.

813

00:41:26,220 --> 00:41:29,360

And he was so scared
of his own shadow

814

00:41:29,360 --> 00:41:33,890

even, because when the German
marched into Sosnowiec,

815

00:41:33,890 --> 00:41:36,770

he was having a
beer with a friend.

816

00:41:36,770 --> 00:41:39,920

And on their motorcycles,
they marched in.

817

00:41:39,920 --> 00:41:45,140

They said, halt. So he ran into
a building where they knew him,

818

00:41:45,140 --> 00:41:47,300

and they opened
the door for him.

819

00:41:47,300 --> 00:41:50,930

You know, they
were the big doors.

820

00:41:50,930 --> 00:41:53,600

The other man was
shot on the spot.

821

00:41:53,600 --> 00:41:54,680

He never recovered.

822

00:41:54,680 --> 00:41:58,070

My father never
recovered from that.

823

00:41:58,070 --> 00:42:02,240

So he was really afraid
of his own shadow.

824

00:42:02,240 --> 00:42:06,230

We took over, my mother
and I, for everything.

825

00:42:06,230 --> 00:42:08,780

And I came in.

826

00:42:08,780 --> 00:42:11,840

We had credenzas--
credenza in the kitchen.

827

00:42:11,840 --> 00:42:15,500

We didn't have cabinet built
in like we have it here.

828

00:42:15,500 --> 00:42:17,420

So I opened the cabinet.

829

00:42:17,420 --> 00:42:20,420

It was so much bread.

830

00:42:20,420 --> 00:42:21,200

So much bread.

831

00:42:21,200 --> 00:42:24,980

I said, why-- for whom
did you save this?

832

00:42:24,980 --> 00:42:29,420

Penicillin what was going on it.

833

00:42:29,420 --> 00:42:31,610

Was everything mildew.

834

00:42:31,610 --> 00:42:33,500

He said, for you children.

835

00:42:33,500 --> 00:42:37,635

I was saving it for
when you come home.

836

00:42:37,635 --> 00:42:40,670
He used to get up every morning,
3 o'clock in the morning,

837
00:42:40,670 --> 00:42:44,810
stay in line to get
some bread for--

838
00:42:44,810 --> 00:42:49,910
and to remain there for
her children and for his.

839
00:42:49,910 --> 00:42:51,830
But we could never
use that bread

840
00:42:51,830 --> 00:42:54,590
because it was all mildew.

841
00:42:54,590 --> 00:42:57,170
That was the beginning
[INAUDIBLE] of my father.

842
00:42:57,170 --> 00:43:06,500

843
00:43:06,500 --> 00:43:12,050
You mentioned that you had heard
that the man who was to become

844
00:43:12,050 --> 00:43:14,057
your husband survived.

845
00:43:14,057 --> 00:43:15,890
Can you tell me-- let's
go back a little bit

846
00:43:15,890 --> 00:43:18,800
and tell me how
you met this man.

847
00:43:18,800 --> 00:43:19,805
That's a long story.

848
00:43:19,805 --> 00:43:23,960

849
00:43:23,960 --> 00:43:25,520
He worked in my hometown.

850
00:43:25,520 --> 00:43:29,540
He was from nearby city
of Dabrowa Gornicza.

851
00:43:29,540 --> 00:43:32,300
During the war, he
worked in our city.

852
00:43:32,300 --> 00:43:35,090
His friend-- his
cousin was my friend.

853
00:43:35,090 --> 00:43:39,230
And he looked like
a typical Aryan--

854
00:43:39,230 --> 00:43:41,330
blonde.

855
00:43:41,330 --> 00:43:45,050
And I wanted to meet him,
so she never introduced me.

856
00:43:45,050 --> 00:43:47,000
I was a teenager.

857
00:43:47,000 --> 00:43:53,780
And one day, somebody who worked
in our factory brought him in.

858
00:43:53,780 --> 00:43:57,890
He was supposed to bring him
in and introduce him to me,

859
00:43:57,890 --> 00:43:58,850

but he just--

860
00:43:58,850 --> 00:44:02,690
I remember that he
brought him to the machine

861
00:44:02,690 --> 00:44:04,670
where I was sitting, working.

862
00:44:04,670 --> 00:44:07,760
And across from me
was my cousin Hadasa.

863
00:44:07,760 --> 00:44:11,450
And we started to giggle because
we knew why he was there.

864
00:44:11,450 --> 00:44:12,500
He doesn't remember.

865
00:44:12,500 --> 00:44:15,110
He doesn't remember two
young girls giggling.

866
00:44:15,110 --> 00:44:16,790
He never introduced him.

867
00:44:16,790 --> 00:44:19,910
But fate is again interfering.

868
00:44:19,910 --> 00:44:22,490

869
00:44:22,490 --> 00:44:25,130
I was sent to the camp.

870
00:44:25,130 --> 00:44:27,950
And through the fence,
there was a men's camp

871
00:44:27,950 --> 00:44:28,970
and a woman's camp.

872
00:44:28,970 --> 00:44:31,160
We worked-- the men were
building the factories,

873
00:44:31,160 --> 00:44:32,990
and we worked in the factory.

874
00:44:32,990 --> 00:44:37,430
There were about 1,000
men and 600 women.

875
00:44:37,430 --> 00:44:40,220
I see him, that he
is through the fence.

876
00:44:40,220 --> 00:44:41,390
I see him there.

877
00:44:41,390 --> 00:44:43,860
He's in the same camp.

878
00:44:43,860 --> 00:44:45,740
And how did we meet?

879
00:44:45,740 --> 00:44:48,920
I didn't have the nerve to--

880
00:44:48,920 --> 00:44:52,370
wasn't even personal thing to
do that you could touch or talk

881
00:44:52,370 --> 00:44:53,390
to somebody.

882
00:44:53,390 --> 00:44:55,520
Was a fence between us.

883
00:44:55,520 --> 00:44:58,050
But one day, we
ran out of water.

884

00:44:58,050 --> 00:45:01,310

Something was wrong
with our wash barrack.

885

00:45:01,310 --> 00:45:04,670

So we had to use the back door
of the men's wash barrack.

886

00:45:04,670 --> 00:45:07,760

I come into the wash
barrack, and he is there,

887

00:45:07,760 --> 00:45:09,980

washing his clothes.

888

00:45:09,980 --> 00:45:13,010

And a friend of his was
there, Henig [? Meinheimer. ?]

889

00:45:13,010 --> 00:45:15,950

He introduced us.

890

00:45:15,950 --> 00:45:17,870

And from that time
on, he used to come

891

00:45:17,870 --> 00:45:19,730

to the fence to talk to me.

892

00:45:19,730 --> 00:45:22,770

Not every day, but
whenever it was safe,

893

00:45:22,770 --> 00:45:24,260

we'd talk to each other.

894

00:45:24,260 --> 00:45:27,210

And I remember once
they opened the gates,

895

00:45:27,210 --> 00:45:30,800

and they let us mingle

with each other.

896
00:45:30,800 --> 00:45:34,160
And the Germans
were all around us--

897
00:45:34,160 --> 00:45:38,390
the Gestapo, watching us.

898
00:45:38,390 --> 00:45:40,090
And he said to me, you see?

899
00:45:40,090 --> 00:45:42,770
We'll survive, and
I will marry you.

900
00:45:42,770 --> 00:45:44,360
And I touched his forehead.

901
00:45:44,360 --> 00:45:45,980
I thought that he is not sane.

902
00:45:45,980 --> 00:45:47,173
He has a high temperature.

903
00:45:47,173 --> 00:45:48,590
He doesn't know
what he's talking.

904
00:45:48,590 --> 00:45:52,220

905
00:45:52,220 --> 00:45:53,190
But he survived.

906
00:45:53,190 --> 00:45:54,690
Tell me about your
reunion with him.

907
00:45:54,690 --> 00:45:59,070

908

00:45:59,070 --> 00:46:04,280
After leaving Poland, we came--

909

00:46:04,280 --> 00:46:11,490
I went with my-- my cousin's
fiance took a group of people.

910

00:46:11,490 --> 00:46:12,800
And we were leaving Poland.

911

00:46:12,800 --> 00:46:14,250
It was too painful.

912

00:46:14,250 --> 00:46:16,490
And on top of that,
they wanted that I

913

00:46:16,490 --> 00:46:19,700
had to register because
I was born in 1926

914

00:46:19,700 --> 00:46:21,410
to go to the Polish Army.

915

00:46:21,410 --> 00:46:22,880
I said that's what I need?

916

00:46:22,880 --> 00:46:25,580
The Polish army, to serve?

917

00:46:25,580 --> 00:46:30,410
So he gathered-- he took his
sister, his brother, a cousin,

918

00:46:30,410 --> 00:46:32,300
two cousins, and me.

919

00:46:32,300 --> 00:46:34,500
And we took-- we
didn't have any money.

920

00:46:34,500 --> 00:46:35,990
We didn't have any visas.

921
00:46:35,990 --> 00:46:38,750
We didn't have any
passports, no tickets.

922
00:46:38,750 --> 00:46:41,060
We got on the train,
and they arrested us

923
00:46:41,060 --> 00:46:43,910
on the border of Slovakia.

924
00:46:43,910 --> 00:46:46,850
And I remember they took us off.

925
00:46:46,850 --> 00:46:48,650
I have even a
notebook still, what

926
00:46:48,650 --> 00:46:50,810
I have the addresses
and everything on it--

927
00:46:50,810 --> 00:46:52,940
the names.

928
00:46:52,940 --> 00:46:53,990
And they arrested us.

929
00:46:53,990 --> 00:46:55,400
They didn't put us in a jail.

930
00:46:55,400 --> 00:46:58,490
They put us in like a school.

931
00:46:58,490 --> 00:47:01,930
And I think I was in
Brno and Bratislava.

932
00:47:01,930 --> 00:47:05,280

In Bratislava, I met
somebody who us-- took us out

933
00:47:05,280 --> 00:47:08,000
to a kosher
restaurant right away.

934
00:47:08,000 --> 00:47:11,300
And he left.

935
00:47:11,300 --> 00:47:12,380
Menahem left.

936
00:47:12,380 --> 00:47:15,990
He said, I am going to
Prague to make arrangement.

937
00:47:15,990 --> 00:47:16,970
He came back.

938
00:47:16,970 --> 00:47:20,960
He said, let's get on the
train, and we'll go to Prague.

939
00:47:20,960 --> 00:47:24,860
Prague-- we had-- at 6 o'clock,
every one of us had a bottle

940
00:47:24,860 --> 00:47:30,650
of vodka under the arm to
bribe the guards on the border,

941
00:47:30,650 --> 00:47:32,840
because there were Russians
there on the border--

942
00:47:32,840 --> 00:47:35,060
Czechoslovakia to Germany.

943
00:47:35,060 --> 00:47:40,310
And as I'm getting
on the streetcar,

944

00:47:40,310 --> 00:47:44,210

somebody recognized
me in Prague.

945

00:47:44,210 --> 00:47:48,710

My name during the war
was Hilda, Germanized.

946

00:47:48,710 --> 00:47:55,820

And she said, Hilda, Hilda, do
you know that Welek is alive?

947

00:47:55,820 --> 00:48:00,760

I wanted to jump off
the-- she was my overseer.

948

00:48:00,760 --> 00:48:03,140

She was a Czech
girl from Prague.

949

00:48:03,140 --> 00:48:04,400

I said, I don't believe it.

950

00:48:04,400 --> 00:48:04,970

Really?

951

00:48:04,970 --> 00:48:06,650

So where can I find out?

952

00:48:06,650 --> 00:48:09,720

She said, in the
Joint Distribution.

953

00:48:09,720 --> 00:48:11,580

So I started to cry.

954

00:48:11,580 --> 00:48:15,410

And I said, I thought
he is working there.

955

00:48:15,410 --> 00:48:19,010

And I started to cry and said

to Menahem, I don't want to go.

956

00:48:19,010 --> 00:48:21,470

He said, we have an appointment
at 6 o'clock on the border,

957

00:48:21,470 --> 00:48:22,490

and you better go.

958

00:48:22,490 --> 00:48:26,340

I promise you I will come
back and look for him.

959

00:48:26,340 --> 00:48:27,230

He really did.

960

00:48:27,230 --> 00:48:29,360

A couple of days
later, he came back,

961

00:48:29,360 --> 00:48:33,380

but nobody knew about him
in the joint distribution.

962

00:48:33,380 --> 00:48:36,770

He went there to find--

963

00:48:36,770 --> 00:48:39,830

to visit a friend.

964

00:48:39,830 --> 00:48:43,040

But he used to--

965

00:48:43,040 --> 00:48:44,540

I found it out later.

966

00:48:44,540 --> 00:48:48,530

A few days, maybe a few weeks
later, I was in Germany.

967

00:48:48,530 --> 00:48:52,130

In one room, we were seven

people sleeping on the floor.

968

00:48:52,130 --> 00:48:55,190

Everybody was-- the
doors were always open.

969

00:48:55,190 --> 00:48:59,960

Every survivor-- nobody
slept on the street homeless.

970

00:48:59,960 --> 00:49:01,730

Everybody shared.

971

00:49:01,730 --> 00:49:03,540

And the same was in the camps.

972

00:49:03,540 --> 00:49:07,700

The comradeship was great.

973

00:49:07,700 --> 00:49:09,030

We needed each other.

974

00:49:09,030 --> 00:49:10,340

We didn't have any family.

975

00:49:10,340 --> 00:49:11,450

We knew what our--

976

00:49:11,450 --> 00:49:14,760

977

00:49:14,760 --> 00:49:17,100

well, what our life will be.

978

00:49:17,100 --> 00:49:22,110

979

00:49:22,110 --> 00:49:24,060

I went out once--

980

00:49:24,060 --> 00:49:25,740

didn't have what to wear at all.

981

00:49:25,740 --> 00:49:28,890

These shoes what the German woman-- so the first rain,

982

00:49:28,890 --> 00:49:29,490

I lost them.

983

00:49:29,490 --> 00:49:30,780

They didn't fit right.

984

00:49:30,780 --> 00:49:35,130

But my cousin Hadasa had clothes still from home.

985

00:49:35,130 --> 00:49:36,270

I even ask her.

986

00:49:36,270 --> 00:49:39,750

I said, how come you have-- you made the same dress?

987

00:49:39,750 --> 00:49:41,130

Was a knit dress.

988

00:49:41,130 --> 00:49:42,720

She said, no, this is my clothes.

989

00:49:42,720 --> 00:49:47,400

Where she was in camp, they didn't take away the clothes.

990

00:49:47,400 --> 00:49:51,270

Where I was, we went out there, and they--

991

00:49:51,270 --> 00:49:54,360

my camp became-- in the beginning was labor camp.

992

00:49:54,360 --> 00:49:56,640
And after, it became
a concentration camp.

993
00:49:56,640 --> 00:49:59,580
We were incorporated
into Auschwitz.

994
00:49:59,580 --> 00:50:03,490
We were a branch of Auschwitz
because the assessment in camp

995
00:50:03,490 --> 00:50:04,020
tattooed us.

996
00:50:04,020 --> 00:50:06,690

997
00:50:06,690 --> 00:50:09,720
And they took away all
our civilian clothes.

998
00:50:09,720 --> 00:50:13,650
We were wearing
just the stripes.

999
00:50:13,650 --> 00:50:15,540
So she shared with
me the clothes.

1000
00:50:15,540 --> 00:50:17,670
Once I went out in Weiden--

1001
00:50:17,670 --> 00:50:20,610
that was Weiden
Oberpfalz, in Germany.

1002
00:50:20,610 --> 00:50:24,810
I went out, and I recognized
so many people who knew me.

1003
00:50:24,810 --> 00:50:26,550
And I was ashamed to go out.

1004
00:50:26,550 --> 00:50:28,750
I didn't have what
to wear at all.

1005
00:50:28,750 --> 00:50:31,020
So I am in the
apartment by myself--

1006
00:50:31,020 --> 00:50:33,600
apartment-- one room.

1007
00:50:33,600 --> 00:50:39,090
And somebody-- oh, they came.

1008
00:50:39,090 --> 00:50:40,290
People were traveling.

1009
00:50:40,290 --> 00:50:41,760
I have to back it up really.

1010
00:50:41,760 --> 00:50:44,070
People with traveling
after the war because

1011
00:50:44,070 --> 00:50:45,660
was no communication.

1012
00:50:45,660 --> 00:50:50,350
Most places had registries
of people who survived.

1013
00:50:50,350 --> 00:50:53,130
And they were looking at list.

1014
00:50:53,130 --> 00:50:57,990
Three girls came who were from
Bendin to that cousin's, I

1015
00:50:57,990 --> 00:50:58,740
think.

1016
00:50:58,740 --> 00:51:00,720
And we started to talk.

1017
00:51:00,720 --> 00:51:06,840
And they were telling
about some shoemaker

1018
00:51:06,840 --> 00:51:08,910
for two packs of
cigarettes, because we

1019
00:51:08,910 --> 00:51:13,140
used to get from Onnera
food and some clothing--

1020
00:51:13,140 --> 00:51:15,660
what there was for big people.

1021
00:51:15,660 --> 00:51:18,720
People paid here a lot of
money, and they gave us

1022
00:51:18,720 --> 00:51:22,260
anything they send to Europe
what was not wearable,

1023
00:51:22,260 --> 00:51:24,570
even-- big shoes and things.

1024
00:51:24,570 --> 00:51:27,750
Yes, one thing I had from
the Onnera I was wearing

1025
00:51:27,750 --> 00:51:30,257
is white nurse's
shoes for my wedding.

1026
00:51:30,257 --> 00:51:32,245
Those were my wedding shoes.

1027
00:51:32,245 --> 00:51:35,280

1028
00:51:35,280 --> 00:51:39,600
And we received cigarettes also.

1029
00:51:39,600 --> 00:51:42,790
So the Germans were so hungry
for good coffee, for thing--

1030
00:51:42,790 --> 00:51:44,340
and you're bartering.

1031
00:51:44,340 --> 00:51:46,650
Was bartering because
we gave them this,

1032
00:51:46,650 --> 00:51:49,320
and they gave us-- like we
used to get that white bread.

1033
00:51:49,320 --> 00:51:50,640
We didn't like the white bread.

1034
00:51:50,640 --> 00:51:52,140
The Germans loved
the white bread.

1035
00:51:52,140 --> 00:51:56,070
So we exchanged for
regular rye bread, or.

1036
00:51:56,070 --> 00:52:06,850
So he-- what was I saying
about actually clothes?

1037
00:52:06,850 --> 00:52:09,070
Yes, the three girls
come in and start

1038
00:52:09,070 --> 00:52:12,070
to talk about that for a pack
of cigarettes, so they say

1039

00:52:12,070 --> 00:52:15,790
had shoes made,
whole dresses made.

1040
00:52:15,790 --> 00:52:18,005
And she mentioned two names--

1041
00:52:18,005 --> 00:52:21,800
Ada [? Comuniska ?] and
[? Braja ?] [? Comuniska. ?]

1042
00:52:21,800 --> 00:52:24,670
I said, who are they?

1043
00:52:24,670 --> 00:52:25,630
And Bayreuth.

1044
00:52:25,630 --> 00:52:27,680
They live in Bayreuth.

1045
00:52:27,680 --> 00:52:30,160
He said, oh, are
they with their--

1046
00:52:30,160 --> 00:52:32,860
had Ada found a husband?

1047
00:52:32,860 --> 00:52:37,300
And an uncle is
there and a cousin.

1048
00:52:37,300 --> 00:52:38,450
Who is the cousin?

1049
00:52:38,450 --> 00:52:39,360
Welek Luksenburg.

1050
00:52:39,360 --> 00:52:42,000

1051
00:52:42,000 --> 00:52:44,370
How did I remember the names?

1052
00:52:44,370 --> 00:52:51,090
Because being in Ravensbruck,
a friend of mine mentioned--

1053
00:52:51,090 --> 00:52:54,810
introduced me, because she
knew that I know Willy.

1054
00:52:54,810 --> 00:52:56,740
We were in the same camp.

1055
00:52:56,740 --> 00:52:59,550
And she knew his
cousins from Bendin.

1056
00:52:59,550 --> 00:53:02,280
So we all were together
with the transport.

1057
00:53:02,280 --> 00:53:04,680
We were on the same
transports on the trains

1058
00:53:04,680 --> 00:53:07,860
going to Ravensbruck and
the people from Auschwitz.

1059
00:53:07,860 --> 00:53:11,220
So she introduced
me in Ravensbruck

1060
00:53:11,220 --> 00:53:13,170
that they are his cousins.

1061
00:53:13,170 --> 00:53:16,440
So having a good memory,
I remember the names.

1062
00:53:16,440 --> 00:53:19,230
So I wrote a little note.

1063

00:53:19,230 --> 00:53:22,860
And I said, if he wants
to get in touch with me,

1064
00:53:22,860 --> 00:53:24,840
that's where I am
and the address I

1065
00:53:24,840 --> 00:53:28,770
don't-- [? Milkstrasser ?]
something, Weiden and so on.

1066
00:53:28,770 --> 00:53:30,840
He said-- and again,
they said to me,

1067
00:53:30,840 --> 00:53:32,850
he is right now in Prague.

1068
00:53:32,850 --> 00:53:35,070
All the girls were after him.

1069
00:53:35,070 --> 00:53:37,575
So they knew all his moves.

1070
00:53:37,575 --> 00:53:40,510

1071
00:53:40,510 --> 00:53:42,840
So he said, he's
right now in Prague,

1072
00:53:42,840 --> 00:53:46,110
but he should be back by
Wednesday or Thursday.

1073
00:53:46,110 --> 00:53:47,220
So I wrote that note.

1074
00:53:47,220 --> 00:53:48,660
And they gave him the note.

1075

00:53:48,660 --> 00:53:52,980
Thursday, Friday, Saturday--
we didn't have any phone.

1076
00:53:52,980 --> 00:53:54,250
I don't hear from him.

1077
00:53:54,250 --> 00:53:55,830
I guess he forgot me.

1078
00:53:55,830 --> 00:53:59,310
I didn't know how he feels.

1079
00:53:59,310 --> 00:54:04,410
So come Sunday, and I'm by
myself in that little room.

1080
00:54:04,410 --> 00:54:09,030
And a cousin said,
throw down the key.

1081
00:54:09,030 --> 00:54:11,220
And I said, I will get--

1082
00:54:11,220 --> 00:54:13,240
but she couldn't
hold on anymore.

1083
00:54:13,240 --> 00:54:15,030
She said, guess who's here?

1084
00:54:15,030 --> 00:54:17,340
He received that note,
and he took a train

1085
00:54:17,340 --> 00:54:20,370
and was coming to see me.

1086
00:54:20,370 --> 00:54:23,280

1087
00:54:23,280 --> 00:54:25,630

So I got very nervous,
couldn't find the key.

1088
00:54:25,630 --> 00:54:27,960
Had to knock at the
neighbor to get the key.

1089
00:54:27,960 --> 00:54:29,820
And I was sitting on the--

1090
00:54:29,820 --> 00:54:31,830
it was dark.

1091
00:54:31,830 --> 00:54:34,130
That was on the
third floor, I think.

1092
00:54:34,130 --> 00:54:37,410
I was sitting on the
edge of the window sill.

1093
00:54:37,410 --> 00:54:39,420
I almost fell off.

1094
00:54:39,420 --> 00:54:40,470
And he comes in.

1095
00:54:40,470 --> 00:54:44,400
He was dressed, I remember,
in a brown suit, long jacket.

1096
00:54:44,400 --> 00:54:45,240
Looked very good.

1097
00:54:45,240 --> 00:54:47,300
The hair was starting
to grow in here.

1098
00:54:47,300 --> 00:54:47,800
You see?

1099
00:54:47,800 --> 00:54:50,340

Here's a picture.

1100

00:54:50,340 --> 00:54:53,765

And he said right away-- he
gave me a watch, a men's watch.

1101

00:54:53,765 --> 00:54:55,140

And he said, want
to get married?

1102

00:54:55,140 --> 00:54:59,240

1103

00:54:59,240 --> 00:55:01,730

So we didn't have anything.

1104

00:55:01,730 --> 00:55:02,990

But he had to wait.

1105

00:55:02,990 --> 00:55:05,930

He lived with an uncle, and
he was like the chauffeur

1106

00:55:05,930 --> 00:55:06,830

for the uncle.

1107

00:55:06,830 --> 00:55:09,170

And the uncle didn't
want him to get married

1108

00:55:09,170 --> 00:55:12,510

because he needed him.

1109

00:55:12,510 --> 00:55:19,070

So we had to wait till 1946 to--

1110

00:55:19,070 --> 00:55:20,960

the uncle went to America.

1111

00:55:20,960 --> 00:55:24,260

He had a sister in America--
the first transport what was

1112
00:55:24,260 --> 00:55:27,620
legally going to America,
with the survive--

1113
00:55:27,620 --> 00:55:30,650
with the DP, Displaced Persons.

1114
00:55:30,650 --> 00:55:33,800
And left him an old Ford.

1115
00:55:33,800 --> 00:55:35,510
So we sold the Ford.

1116
00:55:35,510 --> 00:55:39,240
It took about seven,
eight months by the time

1117
00:55:39,240 --> 00:55:40,970
we organized everything.

1118
00:55:40,970 --> 00:55:45,050
We sold the Ford and
made the wedding.

1119
00:55:45,050 --> 00:55:46,980
The wedding was about 50 people.

1120
00:55:46,980 --> 00:55:50,390
My friend's father
had two rooms,

1121
00:55:50,390 --> 00:55:52,940
so it was more room than we--

1122
00:55:52,940 --> 00:55:54,890
I cooked for my own wedding.

1123
00:55:54,890 --> 00:55:56,690
I almost fainted
before the wedding

1124

00:55:56,690 --> 00:56:02,720
because I was fasting, according
to Jewish tradition as a bride.

1125

00:56:02,720 --> 00:56:05,040
And we got married.

1126

00:56:05,040 --> 00:56:09,650
We didn't have nothing
but each other.

1127

00:56:09,650 --> 00:56:10,820
Was very important.

1128

00:56:10,820 --> 00:56:12,770
A lot of marriages
were going on right

1129

00:56:12,770 --> 00:56:15,680
after because everybody
wanted to have a home

1130

00:56:15,680 --> 00:56:17,270
to start building a life.

1131

00:56:17,270 --> 00:56:19,880

1132

00:56:19,880 --> 00:56:24,740
When you were reunited with
your husband and other--

1133

00:56:24,740 --> 00:56:27,033
when you got together with
survivors, other survivors

1134

00:56:27,033 --> 00:56:28,700
in general, what kinds
of things did you

1135

00:56:28,700 --> 00:56:32,000
talk about in those first days?

1136
00:56:32,000 --> 00:56:39,630
Mostly we were talking about
our past, our experiences.

1137
00:56:39,630 --> 00:56:41,030
It's still going on.

1138
00:56:41,030 --> 00:56:44,480
When survivors meet
now, sooner or later,

1139
00:56:44,480 --> 00:56:46,880
we wind up talking about it.

1140
00:56:46,880 --> 00:56:47,810
It never fails.

1141
00:56:47,810 --> 00:56:52,980

1142
00:56:52,980 --> 00:56:58,240
I know that they are going to
make now a film about DP camps.

1143
00:56:58,240 --> 00:57:01,600
I didn't have the
experience of DP camp,

1144
00:57:01,600 --> 00:57:07,500
because I promised myself
that I will never be

1145
00:57:07,500 --> 00:57:09,600
with so many people together.

1146
00:57:09,600 --> 00:57:13,320
I couldn't wait to be separated,
not to be with 30 women

1147
00:57:13,320 --> 00:57:15,840
together.

1148
00:57:15,840 --> 00:57:17,790
It was just-- I
promised myself, I

1149
00:57:17,790 --> 00:57:21,840
will never live with so
many women again together.

1150
00:57:21,840 --> 00:57:27,300
And I never considered
even going to a DP camp.

1151
00:57:27,300 --> 00:57:29,100
I was lucky when
I came to Poland.

1152
00:57:29,100 --> 00:57:30,090
I had cousins.

1153
00:57:30,090 --> 00:57:34,470
And when I came to Germany,
the Jewish community

1154
00:57:34,470 --> 00:57:36,210
gave us a room in a hotel.

1155
00:57:36,210 --> 00:57:40,140
So I was there with my cousin
Hadasa, who shared a room.

1156
00:57:40,140 --> 00:57:41,460
Later she got married.

1157
00:57:41,460 --> 00:57:44,070
I got married.

1158
00:57:44,070 --> 00:57:47,070
And life started to
be, but we always

1159
00:57:47,070 --> 00:57:49,140

talked about our experiences.

1160
00:57:49,140 --> 00:57:50,040
It never failed.

1161
00:57:50,040 --> 00:57:50,910
It never stop.

1162
00:57:50,910 --> 00:58:00,500

1163
00:58:00,500 --> 00:58:04,340
You said there were a lot
of marriages after the war.

1164
00:58:04,340 --> 00:58:07,580
Were there different
standards after the war--

1165
00:58:07,580 --> 00:58:09,650
religious standards
or moral standards

1166
00:58:09,650 --> 00:58:12,750
or just traditions
after the war?

1167
00:58:12,750 --> 00:58:18,170
See, a lot of marriages
were not good matches.

1168
00:58:18,170 --> 00:58:20,990
There were a lot of older
men and younger girls.

1169
00:58:20,990 --> 00:58:25,472
But we didn't have anything--
a lot of sacrifices.

1170
00:58:25,472 --> 00:58:27,180
I don't know how
these-- maybe there were

1171

00:58:27,180 --> 00:58:30,980
divorces or unhappy marriages.

1172

00:58:30,980 --> 00:58:33,500
Some people made money already.

1173

00:58:33,500 --> 00:58:35,390
They were doing
business, and they

1174

00:58:35,390 --> 00:58:38,510
wanted to impress with
the [GERMAN] they used

1175

00:58:38,510 --> 00:58:44,060
to call the Swiss watches,
men's watches, and the boots,

1176

00:58:44,060 --> 00:58:46,200
leather boots, they
were wearing and giving.

1177

00:58:46,200 --> 00:58:49,310
And some girls went for it.

1178

00:58:49,310 --> 00:58:53,600
And they were not some people
were more educated or more

1179

00:58:53,600 --> 00:58:55,850
intelligent, and
the others weren't.

1180

00:58:55,850 --> 00:58:58,850
I could never see that.

1181

00:58:58,850 --> 00:58:59,900
I had to some--

1182

00:58:59,900 --> 00:59:01,760
the most important
thing was to some

1183
00:59:01,760 --> 00:59:05,270
to have something in common
with the next person--

1184
00:59:05,270 --> 00:59:09,830
to be compatible and be
able to talk, to discuss.

1185
00:59:09,830 --> 00:59:10,820
And we had a lot of--

1186
00:59:10,820 --> 00:59:12,350
I was always involved.

1187
00:59:12,350 --> 00:59:16,350
They form right away after
the war organizations.

1188
00:59:16,350 --> 00:59:20,450
And I was very involved
in the Zionist Movement.

1189
00:59:20,450 --> 00:59:26,080
And my plans were to go
to Is-- to Palestine.

1190
00:59:26,080 --> 00:59:30,910
I myself received papers to go
to America in my maiden name

1191
00:59:30,910 --> 00:59:33,490
from a cousin of my father.

1192
00:59:33,490 --> 00:59:34,600
But I was already--

1193
00:59:34,600 --> 00:59:38,770
I wouldn't want to leave Willy
behind, so I just tore them up.

1194
00:59:38,770 --> 00:59:40,480

And I didn't know
the man good enough

1195
00:59:40,480 --> 00:59:42,570
to bother him to
send me other papers.

1196
00:59:42,570 --> 00:59:50,250

1197
00:59:50,250 --> 00:59:52,530
Besides getting married,
what other steps

1198
00:59:52,530 --> 00:59:54,690
did you take to
rebuild your life?

1199
00:59:54,690 --> 00:59:57,600
Did you try to get
more education?

1200
00:59:57,600 --> 01:00:00,810
First of all, I
went to art school.

1201
01:00:00,810 --> 01:00:04,000

1202
01:00:04,000 --> 01:00:09,280
I was involved with Zionism.

1203
01:00:09,280 --> 01:00:12,280
We always had a cousin,
like a second cousin,

1204
01:00:12,280 --> 01:00:14,680
who was much older
than me and was--

1205
01:00:14,680 --> 01:00:17,230
he always was involved
in politics and things.

1206
01:00:17,230 --> 01:00:19,700
And I used to have
discussions with him.

1207
01:00:19,700 --> 01:00:23,050
And I went to art,
too, because I always

1208
01:00:23,050 --> 01:00:24,880
remember during
the war, my mother

1209
01:00:24,880 --> 01:00:28,300
sent me to take a
course in sewing.

1210
01:00:28,300 --> 01:00:31,480
We had the machine at home, but
I didn't know how to use it.

1211
01:00:31,480 --> 01:00:35,080
Because she always said to
me, you should never need it,

1212
01:00:35,080 --> 01:00:36,040
but you should know.

1213
01:00:36,040 --> 01:00:39,470
You never know what
life can bring.

1214
01:00:39,470 --> 01:00:41,140
So here, I had plans to go.

1215
01:00:41,140 --> 01:00:46,090
Didn't have any-- to wind up
someplace, in Palestine or in--

1216
01:00:46,090 --> 01:00:49,090
America wasn't on my
mind at all at the time.

1217
01:00:49,090 --> 01:00:52,640

1218
01:00:52,640 --> 01:00:55,720
And here, I had to
have some kind of a--

1219
01:00:55,720 --> 01:00:57,950
to make-- to be able to work.

1220
01:00:57,950 --> 01:01:03,220
So I took that course, the arts
course, to know how to sew.

1221
01:01:03,220 --> 01:01:07,060
My first job in America,
I was doing alterations.

1222
01:01:07,060 --> 01:01:07,840
It helped me.

1223
01:01:07,840 --> 01:01:12,970

1224
01:01:12,970 --> 01:01:17,890
But [? Isrek, ?] my cousin,
came one day and said,

1225
01:01:17,890 --> 01:01:19,540
we are going to Palestine.

1226
01:01:19,540 --> 01:01:23,890
That was that time the War
of Independence going on.

1227
01:01:23,890 --> 01:01:26,110
And I said-- are you packed?

1228
01:01:26,110 --> 01:01:27,790
I said, no, not yet.

1229

01:01:27,790 --> 01:01:29,560
I will wait.

1230
01:01:29,560 --> 01:01:32,930
Because I realize we just
got out from one hell--

1231
01:01:32,930 --> 01:01:33,430
the war.

1232
01:01:33,430 --> 01:01:38,530
He was 23 years old, and he
would be drafted right away.

1233
01:01:38,530 --> 01:01:41,540
I don't know today
if he would be alive.

1234
01:01:41,540 --> 01:01:44,380
He would be-- have
to be in four wars.

1235
01:01:44,380 --> 01:01:47,110
Because we, the
survivors, were fighting

1236
01:01:47,110 --> 01:01:50,380
for the independence of Israel.

1237
01:01:50,380 --> 01:01:53,920
We contributed to it a lot.

1238
01:01:53,920 --> 01:01:56,980
And so I said, I wait one day.

1239
01:01:56,980 --> 01:01:59,230
So he was doing a
little bit business.

1240
01:01:59,230 --> 01:02:00,850
I didn't let him do anything.

1241

01:02:00,850 --> 01:02:04,150
We had some money-- because
unfortunately, it sounds awful,

1242
01:02:04,150 --> 01:02:05,970
but the black
market was going on.

1243
01:02:05,970 --> 01:02:09,590

1244
01:02:09,590 --> 01:02:11,750
You had to survive.

1245
01:02:11,750 --> 01:02:15,530
And that was the only
thing going on in Germany.

1246
01:02:15,530 --> 01:02:19,490
So somebody, a friend,
used to give him--

1247
01:02:19,490 --> 01:02:23,060
he used to go to Munich
and bring stockings.

1248
01:02:23,060 --> 01:02:28,940
And the man knew his father,
so he gave him credit.

1249
01:02:28,940 --> 01:02:33,020
Even after-- we came
back once in 1962.

1250
01:02:33,020 --> 01:02:37,710
We went the first trip we
could afford to go to Israel.

1251
01:02:37,710 --> 01:02:39,770
And we visited Mr.
[? Weitzman. ?]

1252
01:02:39,770 --> 01:02:41,670

And he told him,
what a fool you were.

1253
01:02:41,670 --> 01:02:43,670
You knew you were
going to Israel--

1254
01:02:43,670 --> 01:02:44,670
to America.

1255
01:02:44,670 --> 01:02:47,270
And you came and paid me?

1256
01:02:47,270 --> 01:02:48,650
He said, how could--

1257
01:02:48,650 --> 01:02:50,660
to pay what he owed him.

1258
01:02:50,660 --> 01:02:52,370
He said, you didn't
have to come.

1259
01:02:52,370 --> 01:02:54,660
I would never maybe
see you in your life.

1260
01:02:54,660 --> 01:02:56,540
He said, but I
couldn't face you today

1261
01:02:56,540 --> 01:03:00,470
if I wanted to see you again
if I wouldn't be honest and pay

1262
01:03:00,470 --> 01:03:06,030
you for the merchandise
what you gave me on credit.

1263
01:03:06,030 --> 01:03:07,760
So he did a little bit business.

1264

01:03:07,760 --> 01:03:10,550
And after, I said to
him, that's enough.

1265
01:03:10,550 --> 01:03:14,060
I was afraid if he would
be arrested or something--

1266
01:03:14,060 --> 01:03:15,680
would be blacklisted,
and we wouldn't

1267
01:03:15,680 --> 01:03:18,740
be able to leave Germany.

1268
01:03:18,740 --> 01:03:21,680
He also had offered a big--

1269
01:03:21,680 --> 01:03:29,270
people always trusted him
and his ability, his honesty.

1270
01:03:29,270 --> 01:03:39,320
Somebody gave him a whole yard
with bombed planes and a villa.

1271
01:03:39,320 --> 01:03:43,730
And he could be a
multimillionaire in Germany.

1272
01:03:43,730 --> 01:03:47,580
But I said, I will not
live on that forsaken land.

1273
01:03:47,580 --> 01:03:50,030
I wanted-- I was ready
to divorce him if he

1274
01:03:50,030 --> 01:03:52,580
wants to remain in Germany.

1275
01:03:52,580 --> 01:03:58,385
I will not bear children

on that forsaken land.

1276

01:03:58,385 --> 01:04:00,290

So we left.

1277

01:04:00,290 --> 01:04:03,400

He was once in Munich and was--

1278

01:04:03,400 --> 01:04:05,665

we didn't have any papers to go.

1279

01:04:05,665 --> 01:04:09,080

But the war was going
on, and I was afraid

1280

01:04:09,080 --> 01:04:11,310

that he would be
drafted in the army.

1281

01:04:11,310 --> 01:04:12,710

So we waited out.

1282

01:04:12,710 --> 01:04:16,560

Once he's in Munich,
and he sees a line--

1283

01:04:16,560 --> 01:04:18,560

as you stood in line,
you didn't ask what

1284

01:04:18,560 --> 01:04:20,990

the line is for till later.

1285

01:04:20,990 --> 01:04:25,560

And they said,
registering to America.

1286

01:04:25,560 --> 01:04:27,050

So he registered.

1287

01:04:27,050 --> 01:04:30,920

Two months later,

they called us.

1288
01:04:30,920 --> 01:04:34,705
And they said, they send
[INAUDIBLE] to Hamburg.

1289
01:04:34,705 --> 01:04:37,580

1290
01:04:37,580 --> 01:04:42,200
That was like going through
all the tests and everything.

1291
01:04:42,200 --> 01:04:44,810
They took X-rays.

1292
01:04:44,810 --> 01:04:46,250
And he is listed--

1293
01:04:46,250 --> 01:04:49,970
the X-ray is-- people
whose X-ray wasn't clear,

1294
01:04:49,970 --> 01:04:51,830
they put it out.

1295
01:04:51,830 --> 01:04:53,240
And he went back.

1296
01:04:53,240 --> 01:04:56,510
And I thought that we'll
not be able to leave

1297
01:04:56,510 --> 01:05:01,520
because he had bronchitis and a
touch of on the lung something.

1298
01:05:01,520 --> 01:05:04,340
But they made a bigger
X-ray and showed

1299
01:05:04,340 --> 01:05:06,230

that it was nothing,
just calcification

1300
01:05:06,230 --> 01:05:09,650
on the bronchial tubes.

1301
01:05:09,650 --> 01:05:13,110
So we arrived in Washington.

1302
01:05:13,110 --> 01:05:15,245
Our papers were
to Washington, DC.

1303
01:05:15,245 --> 01:05:18,630

1304
01:05:18,630 --> 01:05:20,640
And--

1305
01:05:20,640 --> 01:05:22,590
When did you come to Washington?

1306
01:05:22,590 --> 01:05:27,300
We left we arrived here on
Labor Day Weekend, 1949,

1307
01:05:27,300 --> 01:05:28,605
September the 2nd.

1308
01:05:28,605 --> 01:05:32,610

1309
01:05:32,610 --> 01:05:33,480
Pause now.

1310
01:05:33,480 --> 01:05:36,500
We're going to pause now,
so I can change the tape.

1311
01:05:36,500 --> 01:05:40,000