

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,240

2  
00:00:04,240 --> 00:00:07,330  
This is a United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3  
00:00:07,330 --> 00:00:12,670  
volunteer collection interview  
with Ruth Greifer conducted

4  
00:00:12,670 --> 00:00:19,840  
by Gail Schwartz on August 4,  
1998, in Alexandria, Virginia.

5  
00:00:19,840 --> 00:00:23,860  
This interview is part  
of the museum's project

6  
00:00:23,860 --> 00:00:27,940  
to interview Holocaust survivors  
and witnesses who are also

7  
00:00:27,940 --> 00:00:30,880  
volunteers with the museum.

8  
00:00:30,880 --> 00:00:33,040  
This is a follow  
up interview that

9  
00:00:33,040 --> 00:00:38,080  
will focus on Ruth Greifer's  
post-Holocaust experiences.

10  
00:00:38,080 --> 00:00:41,020  
In preparation for  
this interview,

11  
00:00:41,020 --> 00:00:43,840  
I read the summary  
of the interview

12

00:00:43,840 --> 00:00:52,060  
you conducted with me for the  
museum on December 15, 1994.

13

00:00:52,060 --> 00:00:54,370  
I will not ask you  
to repeat everything

14

00:00:54,370 --> 00:00:56,260  
you said in that interview.

15

00:00:56,260 --> 00:00:58,120  
Instead, I will  
use this interview

16

00:00:58,120 --> 00:01:01,630  
as an opportunity to  
follow up on that interview

17

00:01:01,630 --> 00:01:06,130  
and focus on your  
post-Holocaust experiences.

18

00:01:06,130 --> 00:01:15,250  
This is tape number 1, side  
A. What is your full name?

19

00:01:15,250 --> 00:01:18,220  
Ruth Elizabeth Greifer.

20

00:01:18,220 --> 00:01:19,510  
And your maiden name.

21

00:01:19,510 --> 00:01:22,300  
Dahl, D-A-H-L.

22

00:01:22,300 --> 00:01:25,370  
And where were you born,  
and when were you born?

23

00:01:25,370 --> 00:01:34,180  
I was born May 30, 1922,

in Gelsenkirchen, Germany.

24

00:01:34,180 --> 00:01:37,540

As I said, you've been interviewed before,

25

00:01:37,540 --> 00:01:40,390

but just to put this interview in a framework, let's

26

00:01:40,390 --> 00:01:43,900

summarize where you were during the war.

27

00:01:43,900 --> 00:01:47,050

You were the youngest of three children,

28

00:01:47,050 --> 00:01:51,760

and in 1938, your father's cattle business was desecrated.

29

00:01:51,760 --> 00:01:55,180

And in the spring, your father moved the family

30

00:01:55,180 --> 00:01:59,380

and the furniture to Valkenburg near Maastricht, Holland,

31

00:01:59,380 --> 00:02:02,260

where your mother's family was from.

32

00:02:02,260 --> 00:02:07,930

On May 10, 1940, Holland was overrun by the Germans.

33

00:02:07,930 --> 00:02:10,509

You and your family had to register as Jews

34

00:02:10,509 --> 00:02:12,610

and wear a star.

35

00:02:12,610 --> 00:02:17,830

In June of 1942, the Germans  
ordered the Jews to move.

36

00:02:17,830 --> 00:02:20,770

You were sick, but you  
pretended to continue to be sick

37

00:02:20,770 --> 00:02:23,350

and were in bed for a  
few months, wearing--

38

00:02:23,350 --> 00:02:26,060

putting white  
powder on your face.

39

00:02:26,060 --> 00:02:30,040

Then you move to a  
series of houses.

40

00:02:30,040 --> 00:02:35,380

You were liberated on  
September 17, 1944.

41

00:02:35,380 --> 00:02:39,040

And unfortunately your brother  
died two days before liberation

42

00:02:39,040 --> 00:02:45,070

in a work camp, and your mother  
lost her entire Dutch family.

43

00:02:45,070 --> 00:02:51,130

In the spring of 1948, you  
came to the United States.

44

00:02:51,130 --> 00:02:52,810

I just wanted to  
clarify a few things

45

00:02:52,810 --> 00:02:55,720

before we go on to the  
post-Holocaust experience.

46  
00:02:55,720 --> 00:02:59,020  
How would you describe  
yourself as a teenager.

47  
00:02:59,020 --> 00:03:02,770  
You were 16 years old in 1938.

48  
00:03:02,770 --> 00:03:04,900  
Were you very  
independent at that time?

49  
00:03:04,900 --> 00:03:09,840

50  
00:03:09,840 --> 00:03:11,640  
No, I don't think so.

51  
00:03:11,640 --> 00:03:14,310  
I'm dependent very  
much on my parents.

52  
00:03:14,310 --> 00:03:21,360  
I had a very demanding  
father and a most

53  
00:03:21,360 --> 00:03:26,415  
wonderful, loving,  
warm, caring mother.

54  
00:03:26,415 --> 00:03:29,460

55  
00:03:29,460 --> 00:03:35,070  
What I can only remember  
even when I moved to Holland,

56  
00:03:35,070 --> 00:03:39,370  
there were Jewish dancers,  
and my brother would go.

57

00:03:39,370 --> 00:03:41,970

But because I wasn't  
even 18 years old,

58

00:03:41,970 --> 00:03:45,030

my father would never even  
let me go to those dances

59

00:03:45,030 --> 00:03:48,580

because that's the  
way I was raised.

60

00:03:48,580 --> 00:03:54,000

And I was a strict  
mother also because I

61

00:03:54,000 --> 00:03:55,770

didn't know any better.

62

00:03:55,770 --> 00:04:01,500

And my daughters can tell you,  
I raised them rather strictly.

63

00:04:01,500 --> 00:04:06,480

And I said, well, you can do it  
better when you have children

64

00:04:06,480 --> 00:04:08,160

because I didn't  
know any better.

65

00:04:08,160 --> 00:04:11,310

66

00:04:11,310 --> 00:04:14,850

Did you mind being alone when--

67

00:04:14,850 --> 00:04:18,060

again, previous to 1938,  
did you-- as a youngster,

68

00:04:18,060 --> 00:04:22,960

did you-- or a young teenager--  
did you mind being by yourself?

69  
00:04:22,960 --> 00:04:25,120  
Or did you always  
need people nearby?

70  
00:04:25,120 --> 00:04:28,120  
Were you that type of child?

71  
00:04:28,120 --> 00:04:32,440  
Well, I was used to  
having children--

72  
00:04:32,440 --> 00:04:35,020  
girlfriends when  
I was in Germany.

73  
00:04:35,020 --> 00:04:37,520  
But when I moved to  
Holland, first of all,

74  
00:04:37,520 --> 00:04:39,280  
I didn't know the people.

75  
00:04:39,280 --> 00:04:43,030  
And the times had  
changed so much that we

76  
00:04:43,030 --> 00:04:46,810  
were pretty much on our own.

77  
00:04:46,810 --> 00:04:47,770  
Absolutely.

78  
00:04:47,770 --> 00:04:52,120  
Did you have a favorite  
holiday growing up.

79  
00:04:52,120 --> 00:04:54,860  
I would say Hanukkah  
was my favorite holiday.

80

00:04:54,860 --> 00:04:56,420

Why not?

81

00:04:56,420 --> 00:04:57,710

We lit the candles.

82

00:04:57,710 --> 00:04:58,570

We had latkes.

83

00:04:58,570 --> 00:05:00,490

We had presents.

84

00:05:00,490 --> 00:05:03,040

This was a joyous time.

85

00:05:03,040 --> 00:05:04,420

It was a wonderful time.

86

00:05:04,420 --> 00:05:05,170

Oh, yes.

87

00:05:05,170 --> 00:05:07,870

And we celebrated  
every holiday because I

88

00:05:07,870 --> 00:05:14,290  
was raised in an orthodox house,  
and we had beautiful holidays

89

00:05:14,290 --> 00:05:16,210

with the family, very warm.

90

00:05:16,210 --> 00:05:18,565

My mother was an  
extremely warm person.

91

00:05:18,565 --> 00:05:21,610

92

00:05:21,610 --> 00:05:26,050

Oh, yes, we-- I was raised in



a strictly Jewish environment.

93

00:05:26,050 --> 00:05:28,630

94

00:05:28,630 --> 00:05:32,230

You were not with your family  
in those different houses

95

00:05:32,230 --> 00:05:33,250

during the war.

96

00:05:33,250 --> 00:05:39,130

What do you think kept you going  
during those days in hiding?

97

00:05:39,130 --> 00:05:41,680

Well, the reason that  
we weren't together was

98

00:05:41,680 --> 00:05:45,700

done on purpose because  
in case one of the parties

99

00:05:45,700 --> 00:05:48,310

would have been  
discovered, at least

100

00:05:48,310 --> 00:05:51,430

we were-- not all of us  
would have been destroyed.

101

00:05:51,430 --> 00:05:54,610

What kept me going?

102

00:05:54,610 --> 00:05:55,885

That's a good question.

103

00:05:55,885 --> 00:05:58,930

104

00:05:58,930 --> 00:06:01,360

We always look to be liberated.

105

00:06:01,360 --> 00:06:05,350

The day really didn't come soon  
enough, and every day that--

106

00:06:05,350 --> 00:06:08,440

the longer we had to  
wait, it was drudgery,

107

00:06:08,440 --> 00:06:10,735

and it was worries.

108

00:06:10,735 --> 00:06:17,050

And it was sorrow, and it was  
just being away from everything

109

00:06:17,050 --> 00:06:24,460

from the world and being  
with strangers all the time.

110

00:06:24,460 --> 00:06:27,430

There's a time that  
you need for yourself.

111

00:06:27,430 --> 00:06:30,640

There's a time that  
you want to go on

112

00:06:30,640 --> 00:06:32,650

and you want to go  
forth with your life,

113

00:06:32,650 --> 00:06:35,680

but we were held  
back all these years.

114

00:06:35,680 --> 00:06:44,060

And plans that I had, I always  
wanted to go to America.

115

00:06:44,060 --> 00:06:45,730

And I guess that

is-- that's what

116  
00:06:45,730 --> 00:06:51,140  
I was grabbing and striving  
for for being liberated

117  
00:06:51,140 --> 00:06:59,890  
and just go and do things for  
myself and go to a new country

118  
00:06:59,890 --> 00:07:07,960  
and just meet people and be with  
people and lead a Jewish life

119  
00:07:07,960 --> 00:07:11,540  
and strive for a better future.

120  
00:07:11,540 --> 00:07:14,620  
So when did you first  
have those feelings

121  
00:07:14,620 --> 00:07:16,300  
about wanting to  
come to America?

122  
00:07:16,300 --> 00:07:19,225  
Was it when you were still  
living in Germany, when

123  
00:07:19,225 --> 00:07:20,350  
you were living in Holland?

124  
00:07:20,350 --> 00:07:23,440  
When-- do you remember when  
those feelings first arose?

125  
00:07:23,440 --> 00:07:29,830  
I just felt even before we went  
into hiding that there really

126  
00:07:29,830 --> 00:07:34,240  
wasn't a future for young  
Jewish people in Holland.

127  
00:07:34,240 --> 00:07:40,720  
And that stayed with  
me most of the time.

128  
00:07:40,720 --> 00:07:42,130  
This is what I lived for.

129  
00:07:42,130 --> 00:07:47,200  
I wanted to go to America and  
start a new life for myself.

130  
00:07:47,200 --> 00:07:49,330  
Why America?

131  
00:07:49,330 --> 00:07:51,190  
First of all, I  
had a sister here,

132  
00:07:51,190 --> 00:07:56,380  
and my sister was the one  
that put in the papers for me

133  
00:07:56,380 --> 00:07:59,720  
and sent what they  
called at that affidavit.

134  
00:07:59,720 --> 00:08:05,350  
And I felt that this is what--

135  
00:08:05,350 --> 00:08:07,600  
I thought this was best for me.

136  
00:08:07,600 --> 00:08:08,920  
But now thinking back--

137  
00:08:08,920 --> 00:08:11,890

138  
00:08:11,890 --> 00:08:16,390  
no, thinking back after  
all this time and having--

139  
00:08:16,390 --> 00:08:19,600  
and looked at my  
parents, I don't

140  
00:08:19,600 --> 00:08:22,210  
know what I was  
thinking about how

141  
00:08:22,210 --> 00:08:26,740  
forceful I was and thought  
about myself that I left my two

142  
00:08:26,740 --> 00:08:28,958  
old parents by themselves.

143  
00:08:28,958 --> 00:08:31,650

144  
00:08:31,650 --> 00:08:34,460  
Really and truly, I don't know.

145  
00:08:34,460 --> 00:08:36,360  
I don't know if I  
could do it again.

146  
00:08:36,360 --> 00:08:38,595  
But at that time, I was so--

147  
00:08:38,595 --> 00:08:41,200

148  
00:08:41,200 --> 00:08:44,049  
I needed to do that for Ruth.

149  
00:08:44,049 --> 00:08:48,435  
And I left.

150  
00:08:48,435 --> 00:08:51,180  
I-- really I've  
never regretted it.

151

00:08:51,180 --> 00:08:54,910

Yes I regret it now  
that I left my parents,

152

00:08:54,910 --> 00:08:57,570

but at that time, no,  
I did not regret it.

153

00:08:57,570 --> 00:09:01,060

I went full force  
going to America

154

00:09:01,060 --> 00:09:05,790

and starting a new life  
as hard as it was, but I--

155

00:09:05,790 --> 00:09:11,970

I'm grateful that I did that  
for me and my future family.

156

00:09:11,970 --> 00:09:13,980

When you were in  
hiding in Holland,

157

00:09:13,980 --> 00:09:17,900

did you ever think of eventually  
going back to Germany to live?

158

00:09:17,900 --> 00:09:18,860

Never.

159

00:09:18,860 --> 00:09:20,030

I would have never--

160

00:09:20,030 --> 00:09:24,650

we wouldn't never, never thought  
about going back to Germany.

161

00:09:24,650 --> 00:09:30,340

Who would want to live in  
a country that persecuted

162

00:09:30,340 --> 00:09:32,390  
the Jews, killed so many Jews?

163  
00:09:32,390 --> 00:09:33,830  
No.

164  
00:09:33,830 --> 00:09:41,090  
I remember that before  
my dad came to America,

165  
00:09:41,090 --> 00:09:45,660  
he wanted to go to  
the graves in Germany.

166  
00:09:45,660 --> 00:09:48,380  
And he had a passport.

167  
00:09:48,380 --> 00:09:51,890  
Had to have a passport to go  
over there for three days.

168  
00:09:51,890 --> 00:09:54,890  
He went in the morning,  
and he couldn't even

169  
00:09:54,890 --> 00:09:57,110  
stand to stay there overnight.

170  
00:09:57,110 --> 00:10:00,140  
It just bothered him so  
much that he came back

171  
00:10:00,140 --> 00:10:01,940  
to Holland the same day.

172  
00:10:01,940 --> 00:10:04,760  
He just-- it just--

173  
00:10:04,760 --> 00:10:09,380  
You can't live in a country that  
has murdered all your family.

174

00:10:09,380 --> 00:10:12,440

If you have a place  
to go, then that's

175

00:10:12,440 --> 00:10:14,780

where you go, where you  
are-- where you're liked,

176

00:10:14,780 --> 00:10:16,310

where you're wanted.

177

00:10:16,310 --> 00:10:21,770

You don't go to a country that  
has destroyed all your dreams

178

00:10:21,770 --> 00:10:26,890

and all your family.

179

00:10:26,890 --> 00:10:28,600

That's the way I feel.

180

00:10:28,600 --> 00:10:32,570

I would have never gone  
back to Germany to live, no.

181

00:10:32,570 --> 00:10:35,550

I had one cousin that  
went back to Germany.

182

00:10:35,550 --> 00:10:37,310

He went to Israel.

183

00:10:37,310 --> 00:10:39,230

Didn't-- did not like Israel.

184

00:10:39,230 --> 00:10:42,490

But the only reason that  
he went back to Germany,

185

00:10:42,490 --> 00:10:45,510

he was an only child, and  
he had very wealthy parents.



186

00:10:45,510 --> 00:10:47,420

So when he came back,  
he knew that there

187

00:10:47,420 --> 00:10:51,200

was a lot of money waiting for  
him, and that's the reason why.

188

00:10:51,200 --> 00:10:53,630

Otherwise, he's  
the only one that

189

00:10:53,630 --> 00:10:56,090

ever moved back to Germany.

190

00:10:56,090 --> 00:10:57,800

And do you feel this  
way despite the fact

191

00:10:57,800 --> 00:11:03,120

that your first 16 years  
were spent in Germany?

192

00:11:03,120 --> 00:11:04,830

Yes.

193

00:11:04,830 --> 00:11:06,990

That's only a small  
part of my life.

194

00:11:06,990 --> 00:11:09,610

195

00:11:09,610 --> 00:11:12,610

Don't forget the 16  
years were chopped up

196

00:11:12,610 --> 00:11:13,990

when Hitler came into--

197

00:11:13,990 --> 00:11:19,010

when Hitler came

into power in 1933.

198  
00:11:19,010 --> 00:11:22,630  
So I was 11 years old when  
Hitler came into power.

199  
00:11:22,630 --> 00:11:31,150  
So I never had the joy or  
the happiness of a child

200  
00:11:31,150 --> 00:11:33,880  
with a happy youth.

201  
00:11:33,880 --> 00:11:36,670  
No, we had a solid home.

202  
00:11:36,670 --> 00:11:41,320  
That we had, and we had  
a solid Jewish community.

203  
00:11:41,320 --> 00:11:43,120  
But joyous, no.

204  
00:11:43,120 --> 00:11:45,295  
It wasn't happy.

205  
00:11:45,295 --> 00:11:46,840  
I don't think it was.

206  
00:11:46,840 --> 00:11:48,520  
No.

207  
00:11:48,520 --> 00:11:50,680  
Absolutely not.

208  
00:11:50,680 --> 00:11:53,110  
You had said in your  
previous interview

209  
00:11:53,110 --> 00:11:55,270  
that at the time  
of liberation, you

210  
00:11:55,270 --> 00:11:57,250  
were too afraid to come  
out for three days.

211  
00:11:57,250 --> 00:11:57,860  
Right.

212  
00:11:57,860 --> 00:12:01,840  
Why is that, or why was that?

213  
00:12:01,840 --> 00:12:07,840  
The house that we were in  
was centered in the middle.

214  
00:12:07,840 --> 00:12:09,580  
At that time, the--

215  
00:12:09,580 --> 00:12:11,500  
[PHONE RINGING] let me take it.

216  
00:12:11,500 --> 00:12:15,970  
The American soldiers  
came across the--

217  
00:12:15,970 --> 00:12:18,670

218  
00:12:18,670 --> 00:12:24,180  
See, they came across the--

219  
00:12:24,180 --> 00:12:24,830  
excuse me.

220  
00:12:24,830 --> 00:12:28,720

221  
00:12:28,720 --> 00:12:35,010  
They came across the  
land behind our house,

222

00:12:35,010 --> 00:12:41,160  
and the Germans were sitting  
on top of a coal mountain.

223  
00:12:41,160 --> 00:12:42,720  
So they were sitting there.

224  
00:12:42,720 --> 00:12:45,930  
There was shooting  
over our house

225  
00:12:45,930 --> 00:12:52,620  
towards the infantry and the  
tanks that were coming in.

226  
00:12:52,620 --> 00:12:58,830  
And the reason that we were  
afraid, one never knows--

227  
00:12:58,830 --> 00:13:01,810  
Yes, the Americans  
moved forward.

228  
00:13:01,810 --> 00:13:04,320  
You never knew if they were  
going to be thrown back.

229  
00:13:04,320 --> 00:13:07,020  
And if they would have  
been thrown back, we--

230  
00:13:07,020 --> 00:13:08,910  
where would we have been?

231  
00:13:08,910 --> 00:13:10,620  
We would have been  
under German--

232  
00:13:10,620 --> 00:13:12,570  
under the Germans again.

233  
00:13:12,570 --> 00:13:15,960  
So the reason that

we did not come out,

234

00:13:15,960 --> 00:13:19,740

we wanted to make sure  
that the Americans were

235

00:13:19,740 --> 00:13:25,470

past us for a while before to  
come out and said here we are.

236

00:13:25,470 --> 00:13:28,350

What did you do during  
those three days?

237

00:13:28,350 --> 00:13:32,565

Oh, I was downstairs  
in a potato bin.

238

00:13:32,565 --> 00:13:35,640

That's where I sat  
most of the time

239

00:13:35,640 --> 00:13:37,950

because we were very,  
very scared with all

240

00:13:37,950 --> 00:13:40,290

the shooting that was going on.

241

00:13:40,290 --> 00:13:44,610

And the people upstairs  
bought me some food,

242

00:13:44,610 --> 00:13:48,120

and I was just too  
scared to even move.

243

00:13:48,120 --> 00:13:52,320

Because after you've been  
in hiding for so long,

244

00:13:52,320 --> 00:13:56,040

you cannot jeopardize

three days.

245

00:13:56,040 --> 00:14:00,600

I felt the three days were  
worth it for me to make sure

246

00:14:00,600 --> 00:14:03,100

that I was safe.

247

00:14:03,100 --> 00:14:06,520

And I've never regretted it.

248

00:14:06,520 --> 00:14:09,190

What did you do with yourself  
during those three days?

249

00:14:09,190 --> 00:14:10,570

You just sit.

250

00:14:10,570 --> 00:14:13,040

You just lay in a  
potato bin and wait.

251

00:14:13,040 --> 00:14:14,690

You don't do anything.

252

00:14:14,690 --> 00:14:18,010

You just-- there  
are people that have

253

00:14:18,010 --> 00:14:21,370

been in hiding underneath the  
floors for years and years

254

00:14:21,370 --> 00:14:21,940

and years.

255

00:14:21,940 --> 00:14:24,640

Here I was in a potato  
bin for three days

256

00:14:24,640 --> 00:14:29,590

and prayed and prayed  
to God that this

257  
00:14:29,590 --> 00:14:34,660  
was our safety before we  
exposed ourselves to the world.

258  
00:14:34,660 --> 00:14:37,120  
How big was the potato bin?

259  
00:14:37,120 --> 00:14:38,350  
I could curl up in it.

260  
00:14:38,350 --> 00:14:41,080  
It was big enough for me.

261  
00:14:41,080 --> 00:14:43,000  
But at that time--

262  
00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:46,180  
in those days, you don't  
care what you look like.

263  
00:14:46,180 --> 00:14:48,280  
You don't care  
what you feel like.

264  
00:14:48,280 --> 00:14:50,838  
You just care that  
this is the safety

265  
00:14:50,838 --> 00:14:52,630  
that you're looking  
forward to and that you

266  
00:14:52,630 --> 00:14:55,210  
don't make a mistake.

267  
00:14:55,210 --> 00:14:57,880  
And this is the way it was.

268  
00:14:57,880 --> 00:14:58,510

You learn.

269

00:14:58,510 --> 00:15:01,150

You learn a lot  
when you have to.

270

00:15:01,150 --> 00:15:03,790

How did you keep yourselves  
clean in the potato bin?

271

00:15:03,790 --> 00:15:07,120

Oh, you just don't change  
clothes for three days.

272

00:15:07,120 --> 00:15:09,430

You just go to the  
bathroom if you

273

00:15:09,430 --> 00:15:11,920

can and then go right back in.

274

00:15:11,920 --> 00:15:15,550

You don't think about  
changing clothing or anything.

275

00:15:15,550 --> 00:15:20,500

When you're in hiding, that  
is the least of your worries.

276

00:15:20,500 --> 00:15:25,060

Hygiene is not always  
the greatest thing.

277

00:15:25,060 --> 00:15:27,610

How did you relieve  
yourself in the basement?

278

00:15:27,610 --> 00:15:30,760

Oh, I think I went up--

279

00:15:30,760 --> 00:15:33,700

there was no bathroom,  
and you run up



280  
00:15:33,700 --> 00:15:36,400  
take a chance that  
nobody is there.

281  
00:15:36,400 --> 00:15:38,637  
And you come down,  
and you go back in.

282  
00:15:38,637 --> 00:15:40,220  
Who was with you  
down in the basement?

283  
00:15:40,220 --> 00:15:40,720  
Nobody.

284  
00:15:40,720 --> 00:15:43,150

285  
00:15:43,150 --> 00:15:44,170  
Nobody.

286  
00:15:44,170 --> 00:15:45,580  
I was there by myself.

287  
00:15:45,580 --> 00:15:48,360  
You don't mind  
being by yourself.

288  
00:15:48,360 --> 00:15:50,830  
And those-- at that  
time in your life,

289  
00:15:50,830 --> 00:15:55,670  
you don't mind anything if  
your safety is concerned.

290  
00:15:55,670 --> 00:15:57,080  
Really.

291  
00:15:57,080 --> 00:16:02,500  
You learn to live just the

way it is at that time,

292

00:16:02,500 --> 00:16:09,100  
and perhaps you look forward  
to greater times in your life.

293

00:16:09,100 --> 00:16:11,980  
How did you know to  
stay the three days?

294

00:16:11,980 --> 00:16:23,350  
Well-- the first people that  
we stayed with told us they

295

00:16:23,350 --> 00:16:26,590  
already got word how  
many days the Americans

296

00:16:26,590 --> 00:16:29,000  
were right around the house.

297

00:16:29,000 --> 00:16:34,210  
So after three days, we thought  
it was time for us to come out.

298

00:16:34,210 --> 00:16:38,230  
You came out, and what  
was the first thing

299

00:16:38,230 --> 00:16:40,720  
that you did when you came out?

300

00:16:40,720 --> 00:16:45,700  
Well, the underground person  
came and got me and reunited me

301

00:16:45,700 --> 00:16:46,870  
with my parents.

302

00:16:46,870 --> 00:16:48,940  
Yeah, but even before that.

303

00:16:48,940 --> 00:16:52,810  
Here you come out, you've been  
in hiding for all these years,

304  
00:16:52,810 --> 00:16:58,678  
you come out, and you know  
the Americans have saved you--

305  
00:16:58,678 --> 00:17:00,220  
Well, these were  
not very happy times

306  
00:17:00,220 --> 00:17:03,010  
either because a lot  
of the soldiers were--

307  
00:17:03,010 --> 00:17:04,210  
got hurt.

308  
00:17:04,210 --> 00:17:11,000  
And they would come into the  
house and off the street.

309  
00:17:11,000 --> 00:17:12,730  
They took them into  
the house, and they

310  
00:17:12,730 --> 00:17:16,569  
waited for the Red Cross  
to come in and take

311  
00:17:16,569 --> 00:17:17,800  
them and all of that.

312  
00:17:17,800 --> 00:17:20,200  
And let me tell  
you, the first thing

313  
00:17:20,200 --> 00:17:23,500  
that these people that  
got hurt were calling

314  
00:17:23,500 --> 00:17:27,310

and you wouldn't believe  
they called for their mother.

315  
00:17:27,310 --> 00:17:31,630  
These big tall men  
in uniform with guns

316  
00:17:31,630 --> 00:17:35,020  
and whatever they carried  
and they were wounded

317  
00:17:35,020 --> 00:17:38,050  
and they were standing  
there or laying on the floor

318  
00:17:38,050 --> 00:17:42,670  
and waiting to be carried away,  
they called for their mother.

319  
00:17:42,670 --> 00:17:44,170  
It's unbelievable.

320  
00:17:44,170 --> 00:17:47,380  
Now these were not all that  
happy-- those happy days.

321  
00:17:47,380 --> 00:17:48,820  
Absolutely not.

322  
00:17:48,820 --> 00:17:52,996  
There were too many people  
that got hurt for us.

323  
00:17:52,996 --> 00:17:54,770  
For us, to liberate us.

324  
00:17:54,770 --> 00:17:57,520  
They got hurt to liberate us.

325  
00:17:57,520 --> 00:17:59,740  
And you have to  
feel and you have

326

00:17:59,740 --> 00:18:05,080

to be very grateful that these  
people made those sacrifices.

327

00:18:05,080 --> 00:18:07,580

I did not dance to the streets.

328

00:18:07,580 --> 00:18:08,200

No.

329

00:18:08,200 --> 00:18:09,100

No, no.

330

00:18:09,100 --> 00:18:10,750

This was all very quiet.

331

00:18:10,750 --> 00:18:14,070

This was all very quiet.

332

00:18:14,070 --> 00:18:14,740

Yeah.

333

00:18:14,740 --> 00:18:16,900

It was very serious.

334

00:18:16,900 --> 00:18:19,715

Oh, yes.

335

00:18:19,715 --> 00:18:22,240

Did the world look  
any different now

336

00:18:22,240 --> 00:18:25,180

that you knew that you wouldn't  
have to be in hiding anymore

337

00:18:25,180 --> 00:18:29,409

that the war was over for you?

338

00:18:29,409 --> 00:18:29,909

No.

339

00:18:29,909 --> 00:18:33,970

When we came back, there  
were a lot of worries.

340

00:18:33,970 --> 00:18:36,670

When we came back, we didn't  
have a chair to sit on

341

00:18:36,670 --> 00:18:40,910

and a bed to sleep in, and  
we didn't have anything.

342

00:18:40,910 --> 00:18:44,210

And we didn't know anything  
about our families.

343

00:18:44,210 --> 00:18:49,180

And this was all--

344

00:18:49,180 --> 00:18:52,600

you started from scratch.

345

00:18:52,600 --> 00:18:55,150

But I meant here you  
were a young woman.

346

00:18:55,150 --> 00:18:56,110

You had been in hiding.

347

00:18:56,110 --> 00:18:58,540

Your life was in danger  
for all those years.

348

00:18:58,540 --> 00:19:00,370

You had to move  
from house to house.

349

00:19:00,370 --> 00:19:01,450

Right.

350

00:19:01,450 --> 00:19:03,610

And then you come  
up onto the street,

351  
00:19:03,610 --> 00:19:06,230  
and you don't have  
to do that anymore.

352  
00:19:06,230 --> 00:19:10,810  
That's true, but I had  
nobody to celebrate with.

353  
00:19:10,810 --> 00:19:11,350  
No.

354  
00:19:11,350 --> 00:19:13,000  
These were all people.

355  
00:19:13,000 --> 00:19:16,450  
Yes they were good, but they  
were-- there was not that joy.

356  
00:19:16,450 --> 00:19:17,830  
No.

357  
00:19:17,830 --> 00:19:22,840  
No, we had to start from  
scratch, and we went on.

358  
00:19:22,840 --> 00:19:30,440  
And I can't remember anything  
that exuberant or anything

359  
00:19:30,440 --> 00:19:30,980  
like that.

360  
00:19:30,980 --> 00:19:35,300  
It was all very  
quiet, all very--

361  
00:19:35,300 --> 00:19:38,150  
no, people were not--  
yes, people were happy,

362

00:19:38,150 --> 00:19:45,770

but there were a lot of losses  
and not only human beings.

363

00:19:45,770 --> 00:19:48,170

And they were  
losses whose people

364

00:19:48,170 --> 00:19:51,500

lost their houses or  
the houses were shot up.

365

00:19:51,500 --> 00:19:54,950

This was all very serious.

366

00:19:54,950 --> 00:19:56,990

We were-- this was war.

367

00:19:56,990 --> 00:19:59,030

This is absolutely war.

368

00:19:59,030 --> 00:20:04,400

We were in the middle  
of a war, and, no, I

369

00:20:04,400 --> 00:20:08,540

can't remember  
this-- all this joy.

370

00:20:08,540 --> 00:20:13,590

Did you feel at that time that  
for you the war was over on--

371

00:20:13,590 --> 00:20:14,310

at that time?

372

00:20:14,310 --> 00:20:18,410

373

00:20:18,410 --> 00:20:19,860

I don't know.



374

00:20:19,860 --> 00:20:22,850

I don't know because

I really don't

375

00:20:22,850 --> 00:20:27,650

know how many-- yes, probably

for me the war was over,

376

00:20:27,650 --> 00:20:32,420

but then there was the struggle  
about whom are we waiting for.

377

00:20:32,420 --> 00:20:37,040

Who is coming back if any?

378

00:20:37,040 --> 00:20:43,070

It was-- no, I don't

remember being that joyous.

379

00:20:43,070 --> 00:20:44,660

Absolutely not.

380

00:20:44,660 --> 00:20:49,190

We had to carry so many years  
of hardship on our shoulders

381

00:20:49,190 --> 00:20:52,760

that, no, I can't

remember all of that.

382

00:20:52,760 --> 00:20:54,830

Absolutely not.

383

00:20:54,830 --> 00:20:57,710

When you got back

to your parents,

384

00:20:57,710 --> 00:21:00,617

did you tell them what--

385

00:21:00,617 --> 00:21:03,200

I know they knew what you went

through in the sense of hiding,

386

00:21:03,200 --> 00:21:07,970  
but you do-- did you really tell  
them about the details of what

387

00:21:07,970 --> 00:21:08,930  
you experienced?

388

00:21:08,930 --> 00:21:11,270  
Did you talk about  
that with them?

389

00:21:11,270 --> 00:21:14,390  
We compared because  
their experience I think

390

00:21:14,390 --> 00:21:17,420  
was worse than mine.

391

00:21:17,420 --> 00:21:20,780  
First of all, my father  
had a terrible time

392

00:21:20,780 --> 00:21:27,350  
being in hiding because being an  
outdoor man like I said before.

393

00:21:27,350 --> 00:21:32,540  
My mother had a worse  
time having kept kosher.

394

00:21:32,540 --> 00:21:38,480  
And in the morning, just  
when these people had bacon,

395

00:21:38,480 --> 00:21:40,160  
it would nauseate her.

396

00:21:40,160 --> 00:21:42,440  
She couldn't-- she  
could literally--

397

00:21:42,440 --> 00:21:47,390

she ate to keep alive because  
when she came out of hiding,

398

00:21:47,390 --> 00:21:49,820

she only weighed 80-some pounds.

399

00:21:49,820 --> 00:21:56,270

And they looked awful.

400

00:21:56,270 --> 00:22:00,545

Both of them looked  
drawn, awful.

401

00:22:00,545 --> 00:22:04,260

402

00:22:04,260 --> 00:22:07,230

The people were good  
to them, but having

403

00:22:07,230 --> 00:22:12,540

been in hiding and having  
this pressure on your mind

404

00:22:12,540 --> 00:22:18,150

all these years, it showed  
more on them, a lot more

405

00:22:18,150 --> 00:22:21,855

on them than it showed on  
me because I was young.

406

00:22:21,855 --> 00:22:24,210

I can get over it.

407

00:22:24,210 --> 00:22:27,930

But those two never got over it.

408

00:22:27,930 --> 00:22:31,650

My mother never did,  
and my father never

409

00:22:31,650 --> 00:22:36,930  
did either because having  
lost most of his family

410

00:22:36,930 --> 00:22:40,650  
and having my mother's family  
and having lost their oldest

411

00:22:40,650 --> 00:22:47,220  
son, my dad would go and  
stand at the railroad station

412

00:22:47,220 --> 00:22:52,320  
day after day and nobody  
that he remembered came back,

413

00:22:52,320 --> 00:22:54,330  
and it just took its toll.

414

00:22:54,330 --> 00:22:56,730  
When did your family find  
out about your brother?

415

00:22:56,730 --> 00:22:59,280

416

00:22:59,280 --> 00:23:03,270  
We got through the Red Cross.

417

00:23:03,270 --> 00:23:08,400  
I don't really remember when,  
but as soon as possible,

418

00:23:08,400 --> 00:23:13,050  
they gave us all the news  
about mother, sisters,

419

00:23:13,050 --> 00:23:15,360  
and about my brother.

420

00:23:15,360 --> 00:23:22,410

And my mother really never,  
never recovered, just did not.

421  
00:23:22,410 --> 00:23:25,050

422  
00:23:25,050 --> 00:23:27,090  
I remember when it was V-E--

423  
00:23:27,090 --> 00:23:30,150  
was it V-E Day?

424  
00:23:30,150 --> 00:23:33,180  
I had done a lot  
of volunteer work

425  
00:23:33,180 --> 00:23:35,820  
with the people that  
came back, and you

426  
00:23:35,820 --> 00:23:38,700  
had to get all these shots.

427  
00:23:38,700 --> 00:23:42,510  
I got typhoid, para-typhoid,  
and all of that,

428  
00:23:42,510 --> 00:23:48,060  
and I remember it was  
V-E Day, and everybody

429  
00:23:48,060 --> 00:23:53,080  
was jumping on the street and  
I was in bed with a high fever.

430  
00:23:53,080 --> 00:23:53,705  
From the shots?

431  
00:23:53,705 --> 00:23:54,800  
From the shots.

432  
00:23:54,800 --> 00:23:57,330

So couldn't even par--

433  
00:23:57,330 --> 00:24:02,360  
I couldn't even participate  
in the celebrations.

434  
00:24:02,360 --> 00:24:04,980  
You were 22 years old when  
you came out from hiding?

435  
00:24:04,980 --> 00:24:05,480  
Right.

436  
00:24:05,480 --> 00:24:07,700  
Did you feel 22?

437  
00:24:07,700 --> 00:24:10,150  
I've never felt my age.

438  
00:24:10,150 --> 00:24:13,740  
I've always felt very young.

439  
00:24:13,740 --> 00:24:15,630  
I still do.

440  
00:24:15,630 --> 00:24:21,640  
And-- no, I felt very young.

441  
00:24:21,640 --> 00:24:25,540  
I-- in fact, I had  
a very good time.

442  
00:24:25,540 --> 00:24:28,600  
I was walking down the street,  
and there were all these--

443  
00:24:28,600 --> 00:24:31,960  
Valkenburg was a rest  
resort, and there

444  
00:24:31,960 --> 00:24:33,470  
were all these soldiers.

445  
00:24:33,470 --> 00:24:35,690  
And one soldier  
comes over to me,

446  
00:24:35,690 --> 00:24:37,450  
we're having this dance tonight.

447  
00:24:37,450 --> 00:24:39,992  
Oh, but you're coming,  
too, and I said

448  
00:24:39,992 --> 00:24:41,200  
I don't know how you'll come.

449  
00:24:41,200 --> 00:24:44,140  
Well, he told me that I had  
to go to a certain place,

450  
00:24:44,140 --> 00:24:47,920  
and I would get papers  
if I was safe whatever

451  
00:24:47,920 --> 00:24:49,710  
that meant at the time.

452  
00:24:49,710 --> 00:24:51,250  
And I would--

453  
00:24:51,250 --> 00:24:52,360  
I did go.

454  
00:24:52,360 --> 00:24:57,880  
And let me tell you after the  
war, I did a lot of dancing.

455  
00:24:57,880 --> 00:24:59,050  
I was invited.

456  
00:24:59,050 --> 00:25:06,770  
I met a lot of interesting  
people, and I had a good time.

457  
00:25:06,770 --> 00:25:09,230  
So you didn't in  
a sense feel older

458  
00:25:09,230 --> 00:25:11,480  
than what you were because  
of the very difficult times

459  
00:25:11,480 --> 00:25:12,188  
you went through?

460  
00:25:12,188 --> 00:25:13,320  
No.

461  
00:25:13,320 --> 00:25:14,450  
No.

462  
00:25:14,450 --> 00:25:16,580  
I've always felt young.

463  
00:25:16,580 --> 00:25:19,300  
Did you have-- when you  
found out about your brother

464  
00:25:19,300 --> 00:25:21,050  
and when you found out  
about your mother's

465  
00:25:21,050 --> 00:25:23,000  
family and your  
father's family, did

466  
00:25:23,000 --> 00:25:25,842  
you have any thoughts  
of retaliation

467  
00:25:25,842 --> 00:25:26,675  
against the Germans?

468  
00:25:26,675 --> 00:25:27,170  
No.



469  
00:25:27,170 --> 00:25:27,670  
No.

470  
00:25:27,670 --> 00:25:29,840  
Because I wouldn't  
know where to start.

471  
00:25:29,840 --> 00:25:31,850  
I wouldn't know where to go.

472  
00:25:31,850 --> 00:25:35,330  
And-- no.

473  
00:25:35,330 --> 00:25:37,910  
There's just nothing  
that we could

474  
00:25:37,910 --> 00:25:41,750  
have done to rectify  
what I would have done.

475  
00:25:41,750 --> 00:25:44,117  
I would have probably  
made it worse,

476  
00:25:44,117 --> 00:25:46,700  
and I would-- whatever I would  
have done would have been worse

477  
00:25:46,700 --> 00:25:47,560  
for my parents.

478  
00:25:47,560 --> 00:25:51,510  
So we just let it go.

479  
00:25:51,510 --> 00:25:54,420  
There's nothing you can do.

480  
00:25:54,420 --> 00:25:55,520  
Absolutely not.

481  
00:25:55,520 --> 00:26:01,410

482  
00:26:01,410 --> 00:26:05,490  
When the war-- when you got  
back after being in hiding,

483  
00:26:05,490 --> 00:26:07,365  
did you--

484  
00:26:07,365 --> 00:26:09,240  
you said you obviously  
talked to your parents

485  
00:26:09,240 --> 00:26:10,380  
about what you went through.

486  
00:26:10,380 --> 00:26:10,880  
Right.

487  
00:26:10,880 --> 00:26:13,620  
Did you talk about that  
with your Jewish friends

488  
00:26:13,620 --> 00:26:16,168  
and your non-Jewish  
friends in Valkenburg?

489  
00:26:16,168 --> 00:26:23,350

490  
00:26:23,350 --> 00:26:28,710  
They were not-- there  
were not Jewish friends.

491  
00:26:28,710 --> 00:26:30,270  
None of them came back.

492  
00:26:30,270 --> 00:26:32,860

493

00:26:32,860 --> 00:26:39,540  
Most of the people that  
went, there was nobody left.

494  
00:26:39,540 --> 00:26:45,610  
We had non-Jewish friends,  
and we talked about that.

495  
00:26:45,610 --> 00:26:47,700  
And they were very  
understanding,

496  
00:26:47,700 --> 00:26:50,790  
and they were very supportive.

497  
00:26:50,790 --> 00:26:53,850  
But nobody can't put--

498  
00:26:53,850 --> 00:26:57,390  
you can put yourself in  
the shoes of somebody

499  
00:26:57,390 --> 00:27:02,620  
that has been in hiding or has  
been gone to a concentration

500  
00:27:02,620 --> 00:27:03,120  
camp.

501  
00:27:03,120 --> 00:27:05,520  
It's very difficult  
for other people

502  
00:27:05,520 --> 00:27:09,300  
to understand what  
you went through.

503  
00:27:09,300 --> 00:27:15,710  
And we didn't have  
any Jewish friends

504  
00:27:15,710 --> 00:27:18,530  
because they were all gone.

505  
00:27:18,530 --> 00:27:22,220  
The friends that we had  
were some of the friends

506  
00:27:22,220 --> 00:27:24,650  
that we had before.

507  
00:27:24,650 --> 00:27:30,380  
But there was nobody left.

508  
00:27:30,380 --> 00:27:32,900  
How does a 22-year-old  
young woman

509  
00:27:32,900 --> 00:27:36,610  
absorb that, that her Jewish  
friends will never come back?

510  
00:27:36,610 --> 00:27:40,710

511  
00:27:40,710 --> 00:27:43,800  
You have no other choice.

512  
00:27:43,800 --> 00:27:48,630  
You are exposed to a new world.

513  
00:27:48,630 --> 00:27:50,550  
You don't have friends.

514  
00:27:50,550 --> 00:27:53,760  
I had-- yes, I had girlfriends.

515  
00:27:53,760 --> 00:27:56,370  
All my girlfriends were Gentile.

516  
00:27:56,370 --> 00:28:00,830  
I did not have a Jewish  
girlfriend there.

517

00:28:00,830 --> 00:28:02,880

There was-- there's  
just nobody there,

518

00:28:02,880 --> 00:28:07,830

and that's why I decided  
that the future for me--

519

00:28:07,830 --> 00:28:11,250

the Jewish future for me  
would not be in Holland.

520

00:28:11,250 --> 00:28:17,760

And that's why I decided that  
I needed to be in America where

521

00:28:17,760 --> 00:28:18,840

my sister was.

522

00:28:18,840 --> 00:28:21,900

523

00:28:21,900 --> 00:28:27,080

You don't have a lot of  
Jewish friends now in Holland.

524

00:28:27,080 --> 00:28:30,140

When I went back,  
I talked to people

525

00:28:30,140 --> 00:28:34,190

that were 85 years old who had  
survived by being in hiding,

526

00:28:34,190 --> 00:28:37,760

but nobody came back from  
the concentration camps.

527

00:28:37,760 --> 00:28:40,400

Nobody.

528

00:28:40,400 --> 00:28:43,670

What about your German

## Jewish girlfriends

529

00:28:43,670 --> 00:28:47,180  
whom you had grown up with  
as a child when you found out

530

00:28:47,180 --> 00:28:49,880  
that they weren't coming back  
or did you find that out?

531

00:28:49,880 --> 00:28:52,160  
I found out that  
they were all gone.

532

00:28:52,160 --> 00:28:53,300  
Nobody came back.

533

00:28:53,300 --> 00:28:54,890  
I didn't have a lot of Jew--

534

00:28:54,890 --> 00:28:59,630  
there were just about a handful,  
and none of them came back.

535

00:28:59,630 --> 00:29:01,850  
They were all killed.

536

00:29:01,850 --> 00:29:04,580  
And that's why I  
decided this is not--

537

00:29:04,580 --> 00:29:06,840  
I'm not staying here anymore.

538

00:29:06,840 --> 00:29:08,390  
I have to go to Germany--

539

00:29:08,390 --> 00:29:12,020  
to America.

540

00:29:12,020 --> 00:29:16,040  
It wasn't easy to come

into this country, but--

541

00:29:16,040 --> 00:29:18,860  
and I postponed it a couple  
of times because I really

542

00:29:18,860 --> 00:29:21,260  
had guilt feelings  
leaving my parents.

543

00:29:21,260 --> 00:29:24,930  
But then I decided  
if I want to go,

544

00:29:24,930 --> 00:29:27,590  
I had-- this is the  
time for me to go.

545

00:29:27,590 --> 00:29:34,130  
And I took the bull  
by the horn and left.

546

00:29:34,130 --> 00:29:35,967  
Before you left, did you feel--

547

00:29:35,967 --> 00:29:37,550  
how would you have  
described yourself?

548

00:29:37,550 --> 00:29:38,870  
Were you Jewish?

549

00:29:38,870 --> 00:29:39,550  
Were you Dutch?

550

00:29:39,550 --> 00:29:40,580  
Were you German?

551

00:29:40,580 --> 00:29:44,080  
How would you have  
described yourself?

552

00:29:44,080 --> 00:29:51,380  
I was Jewish all the way because  
it nearly cost me my life.

553  
00:29:51,380 --> 00:29:57,990  
And I was Jewish all the way.

554  
00:29:57,990 --> 00:30:00,480  
I was never German.

555  
00:30:00,480 --> 00:30:02,790  
I don't want to be German and--

556  
00:30:02,790 --> 00:30:05,310

557  
00:30:05,310 --> 00:30:07,980  
I really was without a country.

558  
00:30:07,980 --> 00:30:11,070  
Like the Germans did, they  
took our nationality away,

559  
00:30:11,070 --> 00:30:13,560  
and I never became a Dutch Jew.

560  
00:30:13,560 --> 00:30:19,230  
So I really had no nationality.

561  
00:30:19,230 --> 00:30:24,990  
Even so, I came over  
under the German quota.

562  
00:30:24,990 --> 00:30:28,230  
But when Hitler took  
our nationality away,

563  
00:30:28,230 --> 00:30:30,360  
we were nationless.

564  
00:30:30,360 --> 00:30:32,940  
We didn't belong anywhere.



565

00:30:32,940 --> 00:30:39,660

And that's why I was so  
eager to become an American.

566

00:30:39,660 --> 00:30:42,660

In fact, I was thinking about  
when I came to this country

567

00:30:42,660 --> 00:30:47,640

to join the army and become  
an American immediately.

568

00:30:47,640 --> 00:30:52,920

I didn't do that, but I  
had this in mind very much.

569

00:30:52,920 --> 00:30:54,490

This is what I wanted to be.

570

00:30:54,490 --> 00:31:00,480

I wanted to become an American  
the worst way, immediately.

571

00:31:00,480 --> 00:31:05,550

You were 26 years old  
when you left Europe.

572

00:31:05,550 --> 00:31:06,990

And you were leaving  
your parents,

573

00:31:06,990 --> 00:31:11,310

and you said you had  
different thoughts about that.

574

00:31:11,310 --> 00:31:13,980

You had to leave your parents  
when you went into hiding--

575

00:31:13,980 --> 00:31:14,515

Oh, yes.

576

00:31:14,515 --> 00:31:15,390

And live by yourself.

577

00:31:15,390 --> 00:31:20,640

Did that bring that back to you  
leaving them this time again,

578

00:31:20,640 --> 00:31:23,235

bringing back the painful time  
of having to leave them before?

579

00:31:23,235 --> 00:31:24,180

No.

580

00:31:24,180 --> 00:31:26,630

No, not at all.

581

00:31:26,630 --> 00:31:31,440

When we separated during  
hiding, we did it on purpose,

582

00:31:31,440 --> 00:31:38,220

and we did it to strengthen  
our family life, our family

583

00:31:38,220 --> 00:31:40,180

expectancy.

584

00:31:40,180 --> 00:31:44,400

And you just have to--

585

00:31:44,400 --> 00:31:48,340

586

00:31:48,340 --> 00:31:55,720

I tell you, life is  
so hard at the time

587

00:31:55,720 --> 00:31:59,620

that you don't think  
about niceties and shall

588

00:31:59,620 --> 00:32:01,810

I do this and shall I do that.

589

00:32:01,810 --> 00:32:07,240

You do it for the  
safety of the family

590

00:32:07,240 --> 00:32:09,850

of each individual person.

591

00:32:09,850 --> 00:32:14,740

And war times are hard.

592

00:32:14,740 --> 00:32:19,270

War times are very  
difficult. And they

593

00:32:19,270 --> 00:32:25,400

make you a different person  
than what you're used to be.

594

00:32:25,400 --> 00:32:33,870

But you thank goodness we came  
on top of it and we survived

595

00:32:33,870 --> 00:32:39,220

and we can talk about it.

596

00:32:39,220 --> 00:32:41,957

What did you mean by saying it  
makes you a different person

597

00:32:41,957 --> 00:32:42,790

than you used to be?

598

00:32:42,790 --> 00:32:44,707

What were you before,  
and what were you later.

599

00:32:44,707 --> 00:32:47,245

I was a spoiled brat.

600

00:32:47,245 --> 00:32:50,510

I was the youngest  
child in the family,

601

00:32:50,510 --> 00:32:55,990

and I was spoiled rotten.

602

00:32:55,990 --> 00:33:00,910

And in every way, I  
was absolutely spoiled.

603

00:33:00,910 --> 00:33:03,250

I was the youngest  
in the family.

604

00:33:03,250 --> 00:33:03,870

My--

605

00:33:03,870 --> 00:33:04,630

[PHONE RINGING]

606

00:33:04,630 --> 00:33:06,430

Mother and sister--  
he'll get it.

607

00:33:06,430 --> 00:33:11,040

My brother and sister  
would spoil me.

608

00:33:11,040 --> 00:33:12,700

My parents would spoil me.

609

00:33:12,700 --> 00:33:16,020

If you talked to my family now,  
they know I was spoiled rotten.

610

00:33:16,020 --> 00:33:23,620

611

00:33:23,620 --> 00:33:24,926

Are you still there?

612

00:33:24,926 --> 00:33:25,738

Still here.

613

00:33:25,738 --> 00:33:26,550

OK.

614

00:33:26,550 --> 00:33:27,175

Oh, I can--

615

00:33:27,175 --> 00:33:27,748

I can't--

616

00:33:27,748 --> 00:33:30,560

617

00:33:30,560 --> 00:33:31,820

Can I talk?

618

00:33:31,820 --> 00:33:38,600

I learned-- I used to play  
the piano by ear and at a very

619

00:33:38,600 --> 00:33:44,100

early age, and I had piano  
lessons for a very long time.

620

00:33:44,100 --> 00:33:45,380

And it was very much--

621

00:33:45,380 --> 00:33:47,930

I was an accomplished  
piano player.

622

00:33:47,930 --> 00:33:54,860

But I tell you the truth that  
the war has left so many scars

623

00:33:54,860 --> 00:33:59,420

that I have never picked it up.

624

00:33:59,420 --> 00:34:05,930

I don't play the piano  
anymore, and I have never

625  
00:34:05,930 --> 00:34:10,850  
felt that I wanted to go back  
to where the war made me stop.

626  
00:34:10,850 --> 00:34:16,159  
So this is one scar that I  
have that I regret very much,

627  
00:34:16,159 --> 00:34:21,170  
but I have never  
been in the mood

628  
00:34:21,170 --> 00:34:27,139  
or willing to sit down and  
play like I did before.

629  
00:34:27,139 --> 00:34:32,449  
That's one big scar that  
I have, and it's something

630  
00:34:32,449 --> 00:34:34,650  
that will always be with me.

631  
00:34:34,650 --> 00:34:35,780  
I loved the piano.

632  
00:34:35,780 --> 00:34:37,850  
My mother played the piano.

633  
00:34:37,850 --> 00:34:42,170  
And there was thought that  
I was going big places,

634  
00:34:42,170 --> 00:34:46,670  
far, but the war has hurt--

635  
00:34:46,670 --> 00:34:51,409  
left so many wounds,  
left so many scars

636

00:34:51,409 --> 00:34:57,139

that I have never been able  
to get back to the piano.

637

00:34:57,139 --> 00:35:02,090

And this is something  
that I had you give up.

638

00:35:02,090 --> 00:35:07,490

Maybe in my next life  
I'll be a pianist.

639

00:35:07,490 --> 00:35:11,150

What did playing the  
piano represent to you?

640

00:35:11,150 --> 00:35:13,370

Oh, it just came from within.

641

00:35:13,370 --> 00:35:15,630

I was-- I just loved it.

642

00:35:15,630 --> 00:35:17,570

I loved to learn.

643

00:35:17,570 --> 00:35:19,110

I loved the music.

644

00:35:19,110 --> 00:35:22,010

I still-- I'm a  
big music admirer.

645

00:35:22,010 --> 00:35:27,470

And I was always highly  
musically inclined.

646

00:35:27,470 --> 00:35:34,640

But then the war took so much  
away from me, took so much

647

00:35:34,640 --> 00:35:36,440

my lifestyle changed.

648  
00:35:36,440 --> 00:35:38,990  
Don't forget I had a  
beautiful lifestyle

649  
00:35:38,990 --> 00:35:40,860  
while I was in Germany.

650  
00:35:40,860 --> 00:35:45,140  
It's not a lifestyle when  
I lived in Pittsburgh.

651  
00:35:45,140 --> 00:35:51,710  
I shared a room with a lady  
and worked as a seamstress

652  
00:35:51,710 --> 00:35:54,290  
to make my own living.

653  
00:35:54,290 --> 00:35:55,250  
You have to change.

654  
00:35:55,250 --> 00:35:59,960  
You have to flow they  
way your life goes.

655  
00:35:59,960 --> 00:36:02,870  
I didn't have--

656  
00:36:02,870 --> 00:36:05,420  
I didn't have a piano  
for all these years,

657  
00:36:05,420 --> 00:36:09,049  
and I absolutely  
didn't want it anymore.

658  
00:36:09,049 --> 00:36:25,210

659  
00:36:25,210 --> 00:36:27,600  
This is a continuation of



the United States Holocaust

660  
00:36:27,600 --> 00:36:29,880  
Memorial Museum  
volunteer collection

661  
00:36:29,880 --> 00:36:31,650  
interview with Ruth Greifer.

662  
00:36:31,650 --> 00:36:36,270  
This is tape number 1, side B.

663  
00:36:36,270 --> 00:36:40,590  
Oh, don't forget, where  
I lived in Germany,

664  
00:36:40,590 --> 00:36:47,790  
I lived in a big house with  
a parlor where the piano was.

665  
00:36:47,790 --> 00:36:51,630  
And even when we  
moved to Holland,

666  
00:36:51,630 --> 00:36:53,340  
we still moved the piano.

667  
00:36:53,340 --> 00:36:57,130  
But then in comparison  
when I came to America

668  
00:36:57,130 --> 00:37:04,230  
and had to share a bedroom with  
a person, there was no piano,

669  
00:37:04,230 --> 00:37:09,780  
and after all these  
years, I absolutely had--

670  
00:37:09,780 --> 00:37:11,920  
the desire was gone.

671

00:37:11,920 --> 00:37:14,910

It just had too  
many interruptions,

672

00:37:14,910 --> 00:37:21,210

and it just didn't fit  
my personality anymore.

673

00:37:21,210 --> 00:37:24,570

Have you touched any  
piano keys since then?

674

00:37:24,570 --> 00:37:25,150

Yes.

675

00:37:25,150 --> 00:37:29,640

Bernie surprised me with the  
piano, and he bought one.

676

00:37:29,640 --> 00:37:35,770

And we had it here  
for a couple of years.

677

00:37:35,770 --> 00:37:42,228

It had lost its charm  
and had lost it's--

678

00:37:42,228 --> 00:37:48,190

it just was not the same,  
so it's not here anymore.

679

00:37:48,190 --> 00:37:49,860

It's gone.

680

00:37:49,860 --> 00:37:53,940

You had said a few minutes  
ago that the war had

681

00:37:53,940 --> 00:37:57,340

left many scars and one of  
them was not playing the piano.

682

00:37:57,340 --> 00:37:57,840

Right.

683

00:37:57,840 --> 00:37:59,507

What are other scars  
can you talk about?

684

00:37:59,507 --> 00:38:04,460

685

00:38:04,460 --> 00:38:08,830

Well, the scars of  
having lost the family.

686

00:38:08,830 --> 00:38:12,220

We used to be such  
a big, warm family,

687

00:38:12,220 --> 00:38:16,000

loving, getting  
together for holidays,

688

00:38:16,000 --> 00:38:18,610

getting together for  
birthdays, and doing

689

00:38:18,610 --> 00:38:20,950

all these wonderful things.

690

00:38:20,950 --> 00:38:24,730

I admired my mother for  
being so warm and loving

691

00:38:24,730 --> 00:38:26,185

and a giving person.

692

00:38:26,185 --> 00:38:29,690

693

00:38:29,690 --> 00:38:31,650

Well, let me tell you something.

694

00:38:31,650 --> 00:38:37,580

When I came to America and  
saw what kind of lifestyle

695  
00:38:37,580 --> 00:38:42,620  
the teenagers had in  
comparison to mine,

696  
00:38:42,620 --> 00:38:47,720  
you can't compare my  
life to the lifestyle

697  
00:38:47,720 --> 00:38:51,470  
that the people have  
here in America.

698  
00:38:51,470 --> 00:38:56,750  
I remember that my sister  
bought tickets for a prom.

699  
00:38:56,750 --> 00:38:58,580  
I didn't know what a prom was.

700  
00:38:58,580 --> 00:39:01,010  
I've never been to a prom.

701  
00:39:01,010 --> 00:39:05,510  
She bought a ticket, and I  
could watch other people having

702  
00:39:05,510 --> 00:39:07,400  
a wonderful time at a prom.

703  
00:39:07,400 --> 00:39:11,480  
This was-- everything was  
very new to me, something

704  
00:39:11,480 --> 00:39:14,120  
that I've never been exposed to.

705  
00:39:14,120 --> 00:39:21,110  
And-- but don't forget I was  
already older when I came here.

706

00:39:21,110 --> 00:39:25,630

I never had these  
joyous occasions.

707

00:39:25,630 --> 00:39:31,370

You can never catch up on what  
you have lost in your life.

708

00:39:31,370 --> 00:39:35,540

You just have to go on  
and make the best of it

709

00:39:35,540 --> 00:39:40,010

and try to fit in.

710

00:39:40,010 --> 00:39:46,250

I remember when I came to  
America and I was dating,

711

00:39:46,250 --> 00:39:50,390

and these young men said  
to me I was so different.

712

00:39:50,390 --> 00:39:53,570

Yes, absolutely, I  
was entirely different

713

00:39:53,570 --> 00:39:58,230

than they had met before.

714

00:39:58,230 --> 00:40:03,530

I've never had all these  
happy times for so many years,

715

00:40:03,530 --> 00:40:09,995

and it made you  
more serious, more--

716

00:40:09,995 --> 00:40:12,910

717

00:40:12,910 --> 00:40:17,620

well, I had to fight  
for living in every way.

718  
00:40:17,620 --> 00:40:21,610  
I had to fight for living  
for when I was in Europe

719  
00:40:21,610 --> 00:40:23,120  
and I came to America.

720  
00:40:23,120 --> 00:40:27,010  
And I was all by myself, and  
I had to fight for a living.

721  
00:40:27,010 --> 00:40:31,660  
I was a much more serious  
person than other people were.

722  
00:40:31,660 --> 00:40:34,000  
Life made me that way.

723  
00:40:34,000 --> 00:40:35,800  
Any other scars from the war?

724  
00:40:35,800 --> 00:40:41,920

725  
00:40:41,920 --> 00:40:45,020  
The scars will be  
there all my life.

726  
00:40:45,020 --> 00:40:48,700  
I will never lose the  
scars in comparison to--

727  
00:40:48,700 --> 00:40:52,165  
if I compare my life  
to other people's lives

728  
00:40:52,165 --> 00:41:00,925  
that I met, that I am with,  
I'm a much more serious person.

729

00:41:00,925 --> 00:41:04,840

I can't talk about  
all the happy times

730

00:41:04,840 --> 00:41:08,080

that they had when they  
grew up and how they met

731

00:41:08,080 --> 00:41:12,280

and all the people that they  
know and everything else.

732

00:41:12,280 --> 00:41:16,970

These-- the scars will  
always be with me.

733

00:41:16,970 --> 00:41:20,950

What did you expect to  
find in the United States?

734

00:41:20,950 --> 00:41:22,930

Before you arrived,  
what did you think

735

00:41:22,930 --> 00:41:28,180

you would see or experience  
when you got here?

736

00:41:28,180 --> 00:41:30,800

What did I expect?

737

00:41:30,800 --> 00:41:35,010

Well, I knew that my  
sister opened her house.

738

00:41:35,010 --> 00:41:39,270

It was sister and brother-in-law  
and opened her house to me.

739

00:41:39,270 --> 00:41:42,620

I stayed there to  
learn the American life

740

00:41:42,620 --> 00:41:46,070  
because the American life was  
entirely different from what

741

00:41:46,070 --> 00:41:48,740  
I was used to.

742

00:41:48,740 --> 00:41:49,340  
First--

743

00:41:49,340 --> 00:41:52,250  
But what did you when you  
were-- before you got here, what

744

00:41:52,250 --> 00:41:56,130  
did you think it would be like?

745

00:41:56,130 --> 00:41:58,320  
I don't know.

746

00:41:58,320 --> 00:42:01,080  
I knew that I had to go to work.

747

00:42:01,080 --> 00:42:05,460  
And I knew I had  
to be on my own.

748

00:42:05,460 --> 00:42:12,490  
But there was a Jewish life  
here that I was very much--

749

00:42:12,490 --> 00:42:14,050  
that I very much wanted.

750

00:42:14,050 --> 00:42:17,200

751

00:42:17,200 --> 00:42:20,230  
I know when I came  
to Pittsburgh,

752



00:42:20,230 --> 00:42:26,200  
there were Jewish women's or  
young women's organizations

753

00:42:26,200 --> 00:42:27,520  
that I could join.

754

00:42:27,520 --> 00:42:29,620  
Something-- when I  
was in Holland, there

755

00:42:29,620 --> 00:42:31,480  
was nothing Jewish around.

756

00:42:31,480 --> 00:42:33,100  
There were no Jewish people.

757

00:42:33,100 --> 00:42:35,440  
There were no Jewish  
organizations.

758

00:42:35,440 --> 00:42:39,970  
There was nothing there for  
me, especially where I was.

759

00:42:39,970 --> 00:42:44,140  
Probably if I would have gone  
to Amsterdam, the bigger cities,

760

00:42:44,140 --> 00:42:49,660  
I probably would have gotten  
a more support lifestyle.

761

00:42:49,660 --> 00:42:53,320  
So there would have been maybe  
organizations and support.

762

00:42:53,320 --> 00:42:57,070  
But in the little towns where  
I lived, there was nothing.

763

00:42:57,070 --> 00:43:01,750  
Why didn't you go to Amsterdam

instead of the United States?

764

00:43:01,750 --> 00:43:06,970

I would have been alone  
again, and I felt that--

765

00:43:06,970 --> 00:43:11,020

I heard so many wonderful  
things about the United States.

766

00:43:11,020 --> 00:43:13,960

My sister and brother-in-law  
opened their arms to me.

767

00:43:13,960 --> 00:43:17,860

They wanted me to come  
and start a new life.

768

00:43:17,860 --> 00:43:21,820

And I never even gave it a  
thought to stay in Holland.

769

00:43:21,820 --> 00:43:27,340

I just zeroed  
right into America.

770

00:43:27,340 --> 00:43:30,220

What you did is an  
incredible accomplishment

771

00:43:30,220 --> 00:43:34,090

to come to a new country  
to start a new life.

772

00:43:34,090 --> 00:43:37,138

Did you have any doubts that  
you would be able to do that?

773

00:43:37,138 --> 00:43:40,630

774

00:43:40,630 --> 00:43:44,350

There was no time for

that, no time for doubts.

775

00:43:44,350 --> 00:43:52,460

There was only time to go  
forward to start a new life.

776

00:43:52,460 --> 00:43:56,770

I had so many years  
of losing time,

777

00:43:56,770 --> 00:44:02,200

losing everything that's good.

778

00:44:02,200 --> 00:44:05,070

There was nothing  
happy all these years

779

00:44:05,070 --> 00:44:11,310

that I just looked forward  
to a completely new life.

780

00:44:11,310 --> 00:44:13,920

What was your English  
like when you got here?

781

00:44:13,920 --> 00:44:16,530

My English was pretty good.

782

00:44:16,530 --> 00:44:20,490

I learned English in school.

783

00:44:20,490 --> 00:44:22,860

We were liberated  
by the Americans,

784

00:44:22,860 --> 00:44:27,750

and I did pretty well.

785

00:44:27,750 --> 00:44:28,530

Absolutely.

786

00:44:28,530 --> 00:44:29,760

Yes.

787

00:44:29,760 --> 00:44:32,880

Now you said when you  
went out on dates,

788

00:44:32,880 --> 00:44:34,600

the young men said  
you were different.

789

00:44:34,600 --> 00:44:35,100

Oh, yes.

790

00:44:35,100 --> 00:44:37,620

In what way were you different  
than the other young women

791

00:44:37,620 --> 00:44:38,760

they have been with?

792

00:44:38,760 --> 00:44:40,080

I don't know.

793

00:44:40,080 --> 00:44:42,555

I was me.

794

00:44:42,555 --> 00:44:47,160

I can't tell you because I had  
nothing to compare it with.

795

00:44:47,160 --> 00:44:49,230

I probably was more serious.

796

00:44:49,230 --> 00:44:53,190

I probably-- I was  
so eager to learn,

797

00:44:53,190 --> 00:44:59,130

eager to see, eager  
to do anything

798

00:44:59,130 --> 00:45:00,870

I'd missed all these years.

799

00:45:00,870 --> 00:45:03,070

Like I said, I loved music.

800

00:45:03,070 --> 00:45:04,065

I loved the theater.

801

00:45:04,065 --> 00:45:07,030

802

00:45:07,030 --> 00:45:09,810

When I came to America  
and I didn't have a date

803

00:45:09,810 --> 00:45:12,720

and I would go to  
the Ice Capades

804

00:45:12,720 --> 00:45:16,755

by myself on the cheapest  
ticket that I could get,

805

00:45:16,755 --> 00:45:19,530

I was like a sponge  
that I want to just

806

00:45:19,530 --> 00:45:24,150

take all this stuff in over  
the years that I had missed.

807

00:45:24,150 --> 00:45:28,230

And for me, it was the  
arts, and it was music

808

00:45:28,230 --> 00:45:35,730

and just to see new  
things, stuff that I had

809

00:45:35,730 --> 00:45:38,310

missed over all these years.

810

00:45:38,310 --> 00:45:41,970  
And it was unbelievable for me.

811  
00:45:41,970 --> 00:45:47,190  
I'd rather did without food  
than not going to see a show.

812  
00:45:47,190 --> 00:45:51,900  
When you were with these young  
men or other contemporaries,

813  
00:45:51,900 --> 00:45:54,720  
did you really tell  
them in earnest

814  
00:45:54,720 --> 00:45:58,180  
what you had been through  
and your feelings in hiding?

815  
00:45:58,180 --> 00:46:00,850  
I don't think I  
ever brought it up.

816  
00:46:00,850 --> 00:46:05,110  
I wanted to be just  
like everybody else.

817  
00:46:05,110 --> 00:46:10,630  
I did not bother  
them with my drudgery

818  
00:46:10,630 --> 00:46:13,300  
or my what I been through.

819  
00:46:13,300 --> 00:46:17,360  
I don't think I even  
told them who I was.

820  
00:46:17,360 --> 00:46:21,760  
They knew-- I had a  
name, and I was a female.

821  
00:46:21,760 --> 00:46:24,730

But they probably  
heard an accent,

822  
00:46:24,730 --> 00:46:29,680  
but they never really went  
into what background is yours.

823  
00:46:29,680 --> 00:46:30,370  
No.

824  
00:46:30,370 --> 00:46:31,090  
Never.

825  
00:46:31,090 --> 00:46:32,940  
So you didn't tell  
and they didn't ask?

826  
00:46:32,940 --> 00:46:34,180  
No.

827  
00:46:34,180 --> 00:46:35,920  
No.

828  
00:46:35,920 --> 00:46:36,530  
Not at all.

829  
00:46:36,530 --> 00:46:39,280

830  
00:46:39,280 --> 00:46:41,830  
Do you have any  
nostalgia for Holland?

831  
00:46:41,830 --> 00:46:45,040

832  
00:46:45,040 --> 00:46:46,900  
Yes.

833  
00:46:46,900 --> 00:46:48,900  
I'm grateful.

834

00:46:48,900 --> 00:46:51,770

I'm absolutely--  
first of all, yes,

835

00:46:51,770 --> 00:46:55,290

I have a nostalgia for  
Holland because my mother.

836

00:46:55,290 --> 00:47:00,440

Always loved to go to  
my grandfather's house.

837

00:47:00,440 --> 00:47:03,770

I went there on vacation-- my  
grandfather, my grandmother,

838

00:47:03,770 --> 00:47:06,650

and my two maiden aunts.

839

00:47:06,650 --> 00:47:12,860

And, oh, it was a treat  
to go to their house

840

00:47:12,860 --> 00:47:16,970

because it was full of  
antiques from top to bottom,

841

00:47:16,970 --> 00:47:21,800

and I'm proud to say I've  
never broken anything.

842

00:47:21,800 --> 00:47:26,730

I was used to being  
around it, and I loved it.

843

00:47:26,730 --> 00:47:28,580

I loved the food  
that they cooked.

844

00:47:28,580 --> 00:47:30,500

They were very good cooks.

845



00:47:30,500 --> 00:47:41,000  
And nostalgic, yes, because  
Holland saved my life.

846  
00:47:41,000 --> 00:47:44,480  
It was the Dutch people  
that came forward

847  
00:47:44,480 --> 00:47:47,690  
and to save my life.

848  
00:47:47,690 --> 00:47:50,150  
Otherwise, I wouldn't  
be sitting here

849  
00:47:50,150 --> 00:47:54,170  
because their life was  
at stake just like mine.

850  
00:47:54,170 --> 00:47:58,460  
So, yes, I'm very nostalgic  
about Holland very much.

851  
00:47:58,460 --> 00:48:03,615  
I love the people, and  
I love the country.

852  
00:48:03,615 --> 00:48:07,970

853  
00:48:07,970 --> 00:48:13,010  
But this country has  
been so good to me.

854  
00:48:13,010 --> 00:48:17,770  
I absolutely adore America.

855  
00:48:17,770 --> 00:48:20,320  
To what do you attribute  
the Dutch people

856  
00:48:20,320 --> 00:48:22,340  
saving a young woman like you?

857  
00:48:22,340 --> 00:48:26,780

858  
00:48:26,780 --> 00:48:30,100  
Why did people save me?

859  
00:48:30,100 --> 00:48:35,200  
I guess that is very  
difficult to say.

860  
00:48:35,200 --> 00:48:41,310  
What was the reason to put  
their life at stake and for me?

861  
00:48:41,310 --> 00:48:44,950

862  
00:48:44,950 --> 00:48:51,260  
Probably also their  
love for their country.

863  
00:48:51,260 --> 00:48:59,590  
I think they loved their own  
country so much that this was--

864  
00:48:59,590 --> 00:49:04,120  
they hated Germany so  
badly because of what

865  
00:49:04,120 --> 00:49:09,370  
Germany stood for at that  
time that I guess they--

866  
00:49:09,370 --> 00:49:12,370

867  
00:49:12,370 --> 00:49:14,260  
that's the only answer I have.

868  
00:49:14,260 --> 00:49:18,050

869

00:49:18,050 --> 00:49:21,950

But I have so much to be  
thankful for to Holland.

870

00:49:21,950 --> 00:49:25,640

Yes, Holland has a  
very, very soft spot

871

00:49:25,640 --> 00:49:29,190

in our hearts, all our hearts.

872

00:49:29,190 --> 00:49:35,410

My Bernie, my husband, the  
children, when we went back,

873

00:49:35,410 --> 00:49:36,850

they loved Holland.

874

00:49:36,850 --> 00:49:39,370

They loved it, the country.

875

00:49:39,370 --> 00:49:41,290

They loved the sights.

876

00:49:41,290 --> 00:49:43,630

They loved everything about it.

877

00:49:43,630 --> 00:49:50,050

But I've never, never regretted  
not to be in Holland, never.

878

00:49:50,050 --> 00:49:51,270

This is my home.

879

00:49:51,270 --> 00:49:53,020

This is my country.

880

00:49:53,020 --> 00:50:00,220

And this is everything  
I want and I need.

881  
00:50:00,220 --> 00:50:03,040  
What was the first  
sight that you saw when

882  
00:50:03,040 --> 00:50:04,380  
you came to the United States?

883  
00:50:04,380 --> 00:50:06,820  
Do you remember what  
the first thing you saw?

884  
00:50:06,820 --> 00:50:07,630  
Yes.

885  
00:50:07,630 --> 00:50:14,680  
I got off the ship, New  
Amsterdam in New York.

886  
00:50:14,680 --> 00:50:22,670  
To experience New York,  
having been a small town girl

887  
00:50:22,670 --> 00:50:26,710  
all my life, was indescribable.

888  
00:50:26,710 --> 00:50:29,870

889  
00:50:29,870 --> 00:50:32,260  
The skyscrapers--

890  
00:50:32,260 --> 00:50:38,860

891  
00:50:38,860 --> 00:50:43,510  
The cars, the  
traffic, the people,

892  
00:50:43,510 --> 00:50:49,485  
the way they are  
dressed, the way they--

893

00:50:49,485 --> 00:50:51,570

I can't believe to tell you.

894

00:50:51,570 --> 00:50:53,560

It was-- I was in awe.

895

00:50:53,560 --> 00:50:57,270

I didn't know what  
to say, what to do.

896

00:50:57,270 --> 00:51:01,290

My brother-in-law and  
sister picked me up,

897

00:51:01,290 --> 00:51:06,030

and we stayed at the San  
Moritz on Central Park.

898

00:51:06,030 --> 00:51:13,530

Coming from Europe, it was  
unbelievable, unbelievable.

899

00:51:13,530 --> 00:51:16,080

They wanted to show  
me what they had

900

00:51:16,080 --> 00:51:23,020

accomplished in all these years  
that they were in America.

901

00:51:23,020 --> 00:51:27,180

And it really was an  
unbelievable sight,

902

00:51:27,180 --> 00:51:28,560

unbelievable.

903

00:51:28,560 --> 00:51:30,360

I can't describe it to you.

904

00:51:30,360 --> 00:51:33,637

It was wonderful.

905  
00:51:33,637 --> 00:51:35,220  
What was it like to  
put your foot down

906  
00:51:35,220 --> 00:51:38,190  
for the first time  
on American soil?

907  
00:51:38,190 --> 00:51:44,173  
Well, I thought-- well,  
I have mixed feelings.

908  
00:51:44,173 --> 00:51:45,465  
Don't forget I left my parents.

909  
00:51:45,465 --> 00:51:47,980

910  
00:51:47,980 --> 00:51:54,220  
It was joy, happiness,  
and sadness.

911  
00:51:54,220 --> 00:51:57,010  
It's not that I didn't have  
anybody to leave behind.

912  
00:51:57,010 --> 00:52:02,380  
Those two old people were still  
back there, and here I was.

913  
00:52:02,380 --> 00:52:03,940  
And I was scared.

914  
00:52:03,940 --> 00:52:09,160  
It's very scary to  
come to a new country

915  
00:52:09,160 --> 00:52:15,400  
and start a new life not  
knowing where, how, and what.

916

00:52:15,400 --> 00:52:20,290  
But New York is still  
an indescribable city.

917  
00:52:20,290 --> 00:52:26,100  
If I go there after I've lived  
here all these years or I--

918  
00:52:26,100 --> 00:52:31,880

919  
00:52:31,880 --> 00:52:37,680  
Arrive there but everybody to  
me was very friendly, very,

920  
00:52:37,680 --> 00:52:42,470  
very heartwarming,  
and just wonderful.

921  
00:52:42,470 --> 00:52:45,470  
What language do  
you think in today?

922  
00:52:45,470 --> 00:52:46,850  
English.

923  
00:52:46,850 --> 00:52:49,490  
When did that begin to happen?

924  
00:52:49,490 --> 00:52:50,720  
I don't know.

925  
00:52:50,720 --> 00:52:54,530  
Bernie said I still  
count in German.

926  
00:52:54,530 --> 00:52:56,178  
Then I think I do.

927  
00:52:56,178 --> 00:52:56,720  
I don't know.

928

00:52:56,720 --> 00:52:57,220  
In fact--

929  
00:52:57,220 --> 00:53:01,680

930  
00:53:01,680 --> 00:53:03,600  
This morning, I  
saw a little animal

931  
00:53:03,600 --> 00:53:07,350  
and I couldn't think  
of the English word.

932  
00:53:07,350 --> 00:53:10,380  
So little bug.

933  
00:53:10,380 --> 00:53:12,870  
No, I told you when  
I got off the boat,

934  
00:53:12,870 --> 00:53:16,590  
my sister said to me we don't  
speak anything but English.

935  
00:53:16,590 --> 00:53:23,450  
So I have not spoken  
German that much anymore.

936  
00:53:23,450 --> 00:53:27,280  
And I'm sorry to say I do  
not speak it as fluent.

937  
00:53:27,280 --> 00:53:28,790  
I should keep it up but I don't.

938  
00:53:28,790 --> 00:53:29,920  
What about Dutch?

939  
00:53:29,920 --> 00:53:32,360  
Lost it completely.

940



00:53:32,360 --> 00:53:35,600  
I don't have any occasion.

941  
00:53:35,600 --> 00:53:38,720  
I would think if I'd  
be there a week or two,

942  
00:53:38,720 --> 00:53:41,870  
I'd be back in the swing of  
things but not right now.

943  
00:53:41,870 --> 00:53:43,140  
I understand it.

944  
00:53:43,140 --> 00:53:46,975  
I can read it but speaking no.

945  
00:53:46,975 --> 00:53:51,980  
When would you say that you felt  
assimilated into American life?

946  
00:53:51,980 --> 00:54:00,310

947  
00:54:00,310 --> 00:54:04,750  
It didn't take me very long  
because I had a lot of help.

948  
00:54:04,750 --> 00:54:08,470  
My sister's friends  
helped along.

949  
00:54:08,470 --> 00:54:11,230  
They were wonderful to me.

950  
00:54:11,230 --> 00:54:17,160  
And I think having  
married Bernie,

951  
00:54:17,160 --> 00:54:24,360  
I give him a lot of credit for  
being the husband that he is

952

00:54:24,360 --> 00:54:31,230

and helping me along,  
becoming Americanized.

953

00:54:31,230 --> 00:54:33,960

I just feel completely  
Americanized.

954

00:54:33,960 --> 00:54:36,840

955

00:54:36,840 --> 00:54:39,460

I don't know.

956

00:54:39,460 --> 00:54:42,960

I don't speak German  
unless I really have to.

957

00:54:42,960 --> 00:54:44,470

And your husband is American?

958

00:54:44,470 --> 00:54:44,970

Yes.

959

00:54:44,970 --> 00:54:48,740

960

00:54:48,740 --> 00:54:52,580

Do you think you would be a  
different adult now if you

961

00:54:52,580 --> 00:54:54,260

hadn't gone through  
the experience

962

00:54:54,260 --> 00:54:55,490

that you did during the war?

963

00:54:55,490 --> 00:54:58,000

964

00:54:58,000 --> 00:54:59,080  
I don't know.

965  
00:54:59,080 --> 00:55:03,580  
I really don't have any idea  
what it would have made of me.

966  
00:55:03,580 --> 00:55:06,170

967  
00:55:06,170 --> 00:55:10,190  
I know that I had to work  
hard to support myself.

968  
00:55:10,190 --> 00:55:10,690  
And--

969  
00:55:10,690 --> 00:55:19,262

970  
00:55:19,262 --> 00:55:23,405  
I made a lot of good friends  
here who helped me along.

971  
00:55:23,405 --> 00:55:31,340  
I had some very good examples  
of young Jewish women.

972  
00:55:31,340 --> 00:55:40,770  
And I always was a  
joiner and was accepted.

973  
00:55:40,770 --> 00:55:48,830  
And that helped me very much  
to feel good in this country

974  
00:55:48,830 --> 00:55:52,300  
and to especially--

975  
00:55:52,300 --> 00:55:56,500  
I mean in Jewish organizations.

976

00:55:56,500 --> 00:55:59,900  
I always loved to work.

977  
00:55:59,900 --> 00:56:03,460  
So do you think you'd be  
the same type of adult today

978  
00:56:03,460 --> 00:56:05,340  
if you hadn't gone  
through what you did?

979  
00:56:05,340 --> 00:56:10,930

980  
00:56:10,930 --> 00:56:13,010  
I don't know.

981  
00:56:13,010 --> 00:56:14,740  
I don't know what  
kind of lifestyle

982  
00:56:14,740 --> 00:56:16,570  
I would had in Germany.

983  
00:56:16,570 --> 00:56:18,280  
I don't know whom  
I would married.

984  
00:56:18,280 --> 00:56:21,190  
If I married, I don't  
know where I lived

985  
00:56:21,190 --> 00:56:25,210  
and what it would be like.

986  
00:56:25,210 --> 00:56:32,080  
But living here,  
having married Bernie,

987  
00:56:32,080 --> 00:56:38,170  
having moved into this  
town, and having been active

988

00:56:38,170 --> 00:56:43,720

not only in Hadassah  
but in our synagogue

989

00:56:43,720 --> 00:56:47,650

and be part of the  
Jewish community,

990

00:56:47,650 --> 00:56:49,960

I'm perfectly happy here.

991

00:56:49,960 --> 00:56:57,840

I have no intentions to move  
anywhere or do anything.

992

00:56:57,840 --> 00:57:04,520

I think that this  
is ideal for me.

993

00:57:04,520 --> 00:57:08,240

Are there any sights that  
you come across or sounds

994

00:57:08,240 --> 00:57:11,120

that you smell today that bring  
back those years in hiding?

995

00:57:11,120 --> 00:57:19,430

996

00:57:19,430 --> 00:57:21,310

Not really.

997

00:57:21,310 --> 00:57:23,990

No.

998

00:57:23,990 --> 00:57:24,890

Not at all.

999

00:57:24,890 --> 00:57:28,350

1000

00:57:28,350 --> 00:57:33,860

I speak with one-- the lady  
that is still lives in Canada,

1001

00:57:33,860 --> 00:57:41,000

and we talk about the time that  
we were in her home in hiding.

1002

00:57:41,000 --> 00:57:43,280

Who is this woman?

1003

00:57:43,280 --> 00:57:45,740

Her name is Katie Robertson.

1004

00:57:45,740 --> 00:57:48,410

She lives in Canada.

1005

00:57:48,410 --> 00:57:53,480

She is 80 years old and  
single, never been married

1006

00:57:53,480 --> 00:57:55,730

and lives all alone by herself.

1007

00:57:55,730 --> 00:57:59,750

She has no family here at all.

1008

00:57:59,750 --> 00:58:05,120

But we talk about old times.

1009

00:58:05,120 --> 00:58:10,490

And-- but she also  
turned a leaf over.

1010

00:58:10,490 --> 00:58:14,300

She left Holland as a Christian.

1011

00:58:14,300 --> 00:58:19,850

She came to Canada  
and worked as a nurse

1012

00:58:19,850 --> 00:58:25,250  
and has absolutely no desire  
to move back to Holland.

1013  
00:58:25,250 --> 00:58:30,350  
She does-- she did go back  
because she has family there,

1014  
00:58:30,350 --> 00:58:35,030  
but moving back, never.

1015  
00:58:35,030 --> 00:58:40,490  
She's perfectly  
happy here in Canada.

1016  
00:58:40,490 --> 00:58:47,320  
When your children were  
teenagers and older,

1017  
00:58:47,320 --> 00:58:51,790  
did it remind you of the time  
when your life was in danger.

1018  
00:58:51,790 --> 00:58:52,750  
Did it reinforce it?

1019  
00:58:52,750 --> 00:58:56,580  
Did it bring it back more when  
your children were the same age

1020  
00:58:56,580 --> 00:58:57,257  
that you were?

1021  
00:58:57,257 --> 00:59:02,290  
Yes, I was thinking where  
I was and what I was doing.

1022  
00:59:02,290 --> 00:59:06,370  
But they were so happy  
with their lifestyle

1023  
00:59:06,370 --> 00:59:11,920  
here that I didn't bring

it up because why should I

1024  
00:59:11,920 --> 00:59:16,630  
make them feel unhappy if  
they have a happy life here.

1025  
00:59:16,630 --> 00:59:19,630  
I would never would  
do that to them.

1026  
00:59:19,630 --> 00:59:22,750  
I would never say, well,  
when I was your age,

1027  
00:59:22,750 --> 00:59:25,960  
look where I was and I couldn't  
do this and I couldn't do that.

1028  
00:59:25,960 --> 00:59:27,640  
No, I don't do that.

1029  
00:59:27,640 --> 00:59:29,560  
I don't compare myself.

1030  
00:59:29,560 --> 00:59:31,270  
I want them to have--

1031  
00:59:31,270 --> 00:59:35,050  
I wanted them to be happy with  
what we were able to give them.

1032  
00:59:35,050 --> 00:59:39,540

1033  
00:59:39,540 --> 00:59:43,140  
Are you angry that you had  
to have that kind of a young

1034  
00:59:43,140 --> 00:59:46,890  
adulthood, teenage years, young  
adulthood, and others didn't?

1035



00:59:46,890 --> 00:59:50,170

1036  
00:59:50,170 --> 00:59:55,330  
I never took it that way  
because I was not exceptional.

1037  
00:59:55,330 --> 00:59:57,100  
I was not the only one.

1038  
00:59:57,100 --> 01:00:01,600  
Everybody that I grew up  
with, everybody that I knew

1039  
01:00:01,600 --> 01:00:04,450  
had the same  
problems that I did.

1040  
01:00:04,450 --> 01:00:08,880  
As long as I wasn't  
alone, no, not at all.

1041  
01:00:08,880 --> 01:00:12,430

1042  
01:00:12,430 --> 01:00:17,530  
Why should I be different  
from everybody else?

1043  
01:00:17,530 --> 01:00:26,080  
I'm happy I survived and to  
able to go on with my life

1044  
01:00:26,080 --> 01:00:29,900  
and to raise a happy family.

1045  
01:00:29,900 --> 01:00:32,920  
But, no, I never went back.

1046  
01:00:32,920 --> 01:00:36,520  
I never said to the girls,  
well, you went to high school

1047

01:00:36,520 --> 01:00:39,820

and you had a prom and you  
had this and that and things

1048

01:00:39,820 --> 01:00:40,690

that I never had.

1049

01:00:40,690 --> 01:00:41,680

No.

1050

01:00:41,680 --> 01:00:43,850

I never made them feel bad.

1051

01:00:43,850 --> 01:00:48,685

I just let it slide by.

1052

01:00:48,685 --> 01:00:50,260

When did you tell  
them about what

1053

01:00:50,260 --> 01:00:54,490

you went through with the  
teenager and young adult?

1054

01:00:54,490 --> 01:01:00,495

Well, they knew because I would  
go and speak in high school.

1055

01:01:00,495 --> 01:01:04,900

When Carla was in high school,  
I was one of the speakers,

1056

01:01:04,900 --> 01:01:08,690

and later on, I would  
go and speak at school.

1057

01:01:08,690 --> 01:01:11,350

So they all-- they  
knew that this mother

1058

01:01:11,350 --> 01:01:13,480

was different from

the other mothers.

1059  
01:01:13,480 --> 01:01:17,690  
But I was always called  
upon to go and speak.

1060  
01:01:17,690 --> 01:01:22,840  
And so they knew that  
their mother was different.

1061  
01:01:22,840 --> 01:01:25,450  
Had you told them in  
detail exactly what

1062  
01:01:25,450 --> 01:01:26,845  
you experienced in those years.

1063  
01:01:26,845 --> 01:01:29,470  
Not really, not for  
a long time, no.

1064  
01:01:29,470 --> 01:01:31,750  
But they know now.

1065  
01:01:31,750 --> 01:01:35,080  
I don't remember when we  
sat down and we talked,

1066  
01:01:35,080 --> 01:01:41,020  
but they know exactly  
what makes mother tick,

1067  
01:01:41,020 --> 01:01:44,140  
and she's still different  
[? They tell me ?]..

1068  
01:01:44,140 --> 01:01:47,821  
I don't think you ever  
outgrow whatever--

1069  
01:01:47,821 --> 01:01:50,140  
what your youth was like really.

1070

01:01:50,140 --> 01:01:53,290

I don't think you ever do.

1071

01:01:53,290 --> 01:01:57,670

Do you feel that you were more overprotective, more vigilant

1072

01:01:57,670 --> 01:02:02,560

because of the dangerous times you lived through.

1073

01:02:02,560 --> 01:02:07,570

No, not overprotective but more strict.

1074

01:02:07,570 --> 01:02:11,500

I gave my kids curfews to come home to,

1075

01:02:11,500 --> 01:02:15,460

and they tell me I was a very strict mother.

1076

01:02:15,460 --> 01:02:17,430

Why do you think you were that way?

1077

01:02:17,430 --> 01:02:19,030

I was brought up that way.

1078

01:02:19,030 --> 01:02:23,020

I was raised that way, and I didn't know any better.

1079

01:02:23,020 --> 01:02:25,250

If I would have to do it over again,

1080

01:02:25,250 --> 01:02:28,150

I probably wouldn't be as strict as I was.

1081

01:02:28,150 --> 01:02:30,340  
But I was brought  
up that way and--

1082  
01:02:30,340 --> 01:02:36,960

1083  
01:02:36,960 --> 01:02:42,330  
I felt some of the American kids  
were brought up a little bit

1084  
01:02:42,330 --> 01:02:45,090  
too--

1085  
01:02:45,090 --> 01:02:46,170  
what shall I say--

1086  
01:02:46,170 --> 01:02:51,290

1087  
01:02:51,290 --> 01:02:55,640  
Maybe not as respectful  
enough as some do.

1088  
01:02:55,640 --> 01:03:01,710  
I don't know, but  
I have learned.

1089  
01:03:01,710 --> 01:03:07,080  
As you've gotten older, do you  
think more about those years.

1090  
01:03:07,080 --> 01:03:09,420  
I've mellowed in my age.

1091  
01:03:09,420 --> 01:03:11,050  
Absolutely, yes.

1092  
01:03:11,050 --> 01:03:12,330  
I'm mellowed.

1093  
01:03:12,330 --> 01:03:15,465

I'm more lenient, and--

1094  
01:03:15,465 --> 01:03:18,700

1095  
01:03:18,700 --> 01:03:27,710  
but-- no, I really don't  
think back that much.

1096  
01:03:27,710 --> 01:03:31,160  
Right now I look  
forward to the few years

1097  
01:03:31,160 --> 01:03:35,330  
that Bernie and I  
have, and I want

1098  
01:03:35,330 --> 01:03:43,460  
to enjoy as much getting  
older and have some problems

1099  
01:03:43,460 --> 01:03:46,690  
that crop up with old age.

1100  
01:03:46,690 --> 01:03:51,230  
It's more important to us  
right now than thinking back.

1101  
01:03:51,230 --> 01:03:52,160  
Really?

1102  
01:03:52,160 --> 01:03:55,700  
I think our health is more  
important at this point

1103  
01:03:55,700 --> 01:03:57,440  
in our lives.

1104  
01:03:57,440 --> 01:04:00,710  
How often do you think  
about your late teenage,

1105

01:04:00,710 --> 01:04:03,560  
early 20s years?

1106  
01:04:03,560 --> 01:04:04,910  
Not much.

1107  
01:04:04,910 --> 01:04:06,170  
Not much, just--

1108  
01:04:06,170 --> 01:04:08,450  
I have such a busy life here.

1109  
01:04:08,450 --> 01:04:18,700  
Between the-- my life is  
entwined with the museum,

1110  
01:04:18,700 --> 01:04:20,770  
very much so.

1111  
01:04:20,770 --> 01:04:25,040  
And I'm involved  
in the synagogue.

1112  
01:04:25,040 --> 01:04:29,470  
I'm involved with other things.

1113  
01:04:29,470 --> 01:04:40,765  
And my life is so full that I  
don't dwell on my background.

1114  
01:04:40,765 --> 01:04:43,060  
I just look forward.

1115  
01:04:43,060 --> 01:04:47,466  
Yes, I can't say I--

1116  
01:04:47,466 --> 01:04:50,890  
it's all gone and I'm  
not thinking about it,

1117  
01:04:50,890 --> 01:04:58,480  
but my life is so full

of today and tomorrow

1118  
01:04:58,480 --> 01:05:05,260  
that thinking back  
is hard sometimes.

1119  
01:05:05,260 --> 01:05:08,140  
It's difficult, especially  
when you go and speak.

1120  
01:05:08,140 --> 01:05:10,060  
You have to start  
all over again.

1121  
01:05:10,060 --> 01:05:13,220

1122  
01:05:13,220 --> 01:05:16,950  
And it hurts.

1123  
01:05:16,950 --> 01:05:21,720  
And other people  
look at you and think

1124  
01:05:21,720 --> 01:05:24,600  
look what she has gone through.

1125  
01:05:24,600 --> 01:05:29,310  
But you have to go and tell the  
world because the world needs

1126  
01:05:29,310 --> 01:05:30,630  
to know.

1127  
01:05:30,630 --> 01:05:33,570  
But otherwise, I  
look forward what's

1128  
01:05:33,570 --> 01:05:36,330  
going to happen to  
us when we get older.

1129



01:05:36,330 --> 01:05:39,490  
And that's just as important.

1130  
01:05:39,490 --> 01:05:41,950  
Why does the world need to know?

1131  
01:05:41,950 --> 01:05:46,900  
Well, there not that many  
of us that have survived.

1132  
01:05:46,900 --> 01:05:50,520  
And the world needs  
to know what happened

1133  
01:05:50,520 --> 01:05:52,530  
to us during those years.

1134  
01:05:52,530 --> 01:05:55,380  
Because look at the museum.

1135  
01:05:55,380 --> 01:06:01,150  
They are only 40 some of  
survivors that are volunteers,

1136  
01:06:01,150 --> 01:06:02,370  
and we're all--

1137  
01:06:02,370 --> 01:06:05,610  
if I look at them, we're  
all very, very different,

1138  
01:06:05,610 --> 01:06:09,450  
very different backgrounds.

1139  
01:06:09,450 --> 01:06:13,440  
The world needs to know because  
this is part of history,

1140  
01:06:13,440 --> 01:06:18,810  
and this is a very, very  
different history that has--

1141

01:06:18,810 --> 01:06:21,660  
I don't say it's  
never happened before,

1142  
01:06:21,660 --> 01:06:24,990  
but it happened to  
the Jewish people

1143  
01:06:24,990 --> 01:06:30,870  
in so many different countries  
and how deeply we are hurt.

1144  
01:06:30,870 --> 01:06:34,860  
We are hurt so deeply  
how many few people

1145  
01:06:34,860 --> 01:06:40,560  
have survived and can talk about  
it and should talk about it.

1146  
01:06:40,560 --> 01:06:44,130  
And then the generation,  
the next generation

1147  
01:06:44,130 --> 01:06:48,090  
should talk about  
it, what happened.

1148  
01:06:48,090 --> 01:06:52,740  
That-- it goes into  
history just like we're

1149  
01:06:52,740 --> 01:06:55,035  
talking about history,  
what happened to Moses

1150  
01:06:55,035 --> 01:06:57,450  
and what happened  
to the other people.

1151  
01:06:57,450 --> 01:06:58,050  
Same thing.

1152

01:06:58,050 --> 01:07:01,730

1153

01:07:01,730 --> 01:07:04,370

It's very, very important.

1154

01:07:04,370 --> 01:07:07,740

1155

01:07:07,740 --> 01:07:11,430

Have your political  
views been influenced

1156

01:07:11,430 --> 01:07:15,210

by living under the government  
that you did in Germany

1157

01:07:15,210 --> 01:07:17,110

and then experiencing--

1158

01:07:17,110 --> 01:07:20,380

I've never been  
really into politics.

1159

01:07:20,380 --> 01:07:23,760

I don't like politics.

1160

01:07:23,760 --> 01:07:28,250

Ever since Hitler, I  
do not like politics.

1161

01:07:28,250 --> 01:07:32,880

1162

01:07:32,880 --> 01:07:35,290

I have to know what  
goes on in the world.

1163

01:07:35,290 --> 01:07:39,430

I have to know what is  
being done here in America,

1164

01:07:39,430 --> 01:07:42,100  
but as a favorite subject no.

1165  
01:07:42,100 --> 01:07:44,860  
I despise politics.

1166  
01:07:44,860 --> 01:07:48,290  
I just don't like it.

1167  
01:07:48,290 --> 01:07:50,750  
Your particular views  
though, do you--

1168  
01:07:50,750 --> 01:07:54,600  
how would you characterize that.

1169  
01:07:54,600 --> 01:07:55,100  
Well--

1170  
01:07:55,100 --> 01:07:59,860

1171  
01:07:59,860 --> 01:08:02,650  
I like the freedom.

1172  
01:08:02,650 --> 01:08:04,860  
I like the freedom  
here in America--

1173  
01:08:04,860 --> 01:08:09,110

1174  
01:08:09,110 --> 01:08:09,950  
More or less.

1175  
01:08:09,950 --> 01:08:14,590

1176  
01:08:14,590 --> 01:08:17,260  
Well, we need politics.

1177

01:08:17,260 --> 01:08:20,260  
We need this country  
needs to survive,

1178  
01:08:20,260 --> 01:08:28,490  
but I'm really  
not into politics.

1179  
01:08:28,490 --> 01:08:30,710  
What are your  
thoughts about Israel?

1180  
01:08:30,710 --> 01:08:32,689  
Oh, I think Israel is wonderful.

1181  
01:08:32,689 --> 01:08:38,090  
We have to do as much as we can  
for Israel so that it survives.

1182  
01:08:38,090 --> 01:08:42,529  
I remember that when people  
came out of concentration camps

1183  
01:08:42,529 --> 01:08:44,870  
and they had no  
family, at least it

1184  
01:08:44,870 --> 01:08:52,310  
was a country that opened its  
arms to those lonely people

1185  
01:08:52,310 --> 01:08:57,210  
that were pushed away from  
every corner of the world.

1186  
01:08:57,210 --> 01:09:01,430  
And I think Israel  
is a country that we

1187  
01:09:01,430 --> 01:09:07,760  
have to support that  
should be there always,

1188

01:09:07,760 --> 01:09:10,140  
not only for the  
poor and the need

1189  
01:09:10,140 --> 01:09:16,130  
it for people that want to go  
and live there, help out, make

1190  
01:09:16,130 --> 01:09:19,684  
this country bigger,  
make this country more--

1191  
01:09:19,684 --> 01:09:23,389

1192  
01:09:23,389 --> 01:09:25,865  
bring knowledge to this country.

1193  
01:09:25,865 --> 01:09:30,109

1194  
01:09:30,109 --> 01:09:33,590  
I think it's a country that  
we as Jews need forever.

1195  
01:09:33,590 --> 01:09:37,390

1196  
01:09:37,390 --> 01:09:39,479  
You feel that will always  
be necessary to have--

1197  
01:09:39,479 --> 01:09:40,700  
Oh, I would think so.

1198  
01:09:40,700 --> 01:09:43,450  
I would think it's a  
necessity for the Jews

1199  
01:09:43,450 --> 01:09:49,680  
to have a place to go, which  
they should call their own.

1200  
01:09:49,680 --> 01:09:50,409  
They don't--

1201  
01:09:50,409 --> 01:09:54,640

1202  
01:09:54,640 --> 01:09:56,500  
They have their  
own problems, and I

1203  
01:09:56,500 --> 01:09:58,750  
wish they wouldn't have  
all these problems.

1204  
01:09:58,750 --> 01:10:02,560  
But I don't know how  
this can be solved.

1205  
01:10:02,560 --> 01:10:09,875  
But, yes, Israel is  
there forever in my mind.

1206  
01:10:09,875 --> 01:10:12,000  
Do you think that there  
will ever come a time again

1207  
01:10:12,000 --> 01:10:17,410  
when the Jews would  
need an Israel to go to?

1208  
01:10:17,410 --> 01:10:18,670  
I hope not.

1209  
01:10:18,670 --> 01:10:19,640  
I hope not.

1210  
01:10:19,640 --> 01:10:26,440  
I hope that we survivors  
have suffered enough,

1211  
01:10:26,440 --> 01:10:28,720  
that they don't

need another place

1212  
01:10:28,720 --> 01:10:40,910  
to run to because we Jews  
have given 6 million Jews that

1213  
01:10:40,910 --> 01:10:44,640  
should never be forgotten.

1214  
01:10:44,640 --> 01:10:47,680  
It's too many.

1215  
01:10:47,680 --> 01:10:48,540  
Absolutely.

1216  
01:10:48,540 --> 01:10:52,930

1217  
01:10:52,930 --> 01:10:56,830  
You expressed your feelings  
about Germany before

1218  
01:10:56,830 --> 01:10:59,500  
and not wanting to go  
back there to live.

1219  
01:10:59,500 --> 01:11:02,980  
What were your thoughts during  
the Eichmann trial in Israel?

1220  
01:11:02,980 --> 01:11:03,490  
During what?

1221  
01:11:03,490 --> 01:11:07,460  
The Eichmann trial in Israel.

1222  
01:11:07,460 --> 01:11:09,170  
The Eichmann trial?

1223  
01:11:09,170 --> 01:11:11,220  
Do you remember how you  
felt during that time?



1224  
01:11:11,220 --> 01:11:20,020  
Well, for me, I don't  
have time for Germans.

1225  
01:11:20,020 --> 01:11:30,340  
Germans really don't  
live in my vocabulary.

1226  
01:11:30,340 --> 01:11:34,225  
Even so, I have friends that  
think they are friends of mine.

1227  
01:11:34,225 --> 01:11:40,100

1228  
01:11:40,100 --> 01:11:46,250  
Anything that has to do  
with concentration camps

1229  
01:11:46,250 --> 01:11:54,140  
and killing of Jews, they  
should not have the--

1230  
01:11:54,140 --> 01:12:05,320  
not privacy-- should not have  
any time to live on this world.

1231  
01:12:05,320 --> 01:12:12,580  
Anybody that killed or was  
involved in killing Jews

1232  
01:12:12,580 --> 01:12:16,480  
should not live on this  
world to my estimation.

1233  
01:12:16,480 --> 01:12:19,620

1234  
01:12:19,620 --> 01:12:29,930  
Because they were-- they  
had too much in their minds

1235

01:12:29,930 --> 01:12:34,130

to destroy us, which  
they will never do.

1236

01:12:34,130 --> 01:12:35,580

We hope to be strong.

1237

01:12:35,580 --> 01:12:37,500

We tried to be strong.

1238

01:12:37,500 --> 01:12:40,220

And if we raise our  
children to be strong,

1239

01:12:40,220 --> 01:12:44,945

maybe we can get back some of  
all the people that we lost.

1240

01:12:44,945 --> 01:12:48,070

1241

01:12:48,070 --> 01:12:49,600

That's way I feel.

1242

01:12:49,600 --> 01:12:52,090

Anything that has  
to do with Germany--

1243

01:12:52,090 --> 01:12:56,845

my husband bought  
a Volkswagen. We

1244

01:12:56,845 --> 01:12:59,080

nearly had a divorce  
over that one.

1245

01:12:59,080 --> 01:13:01,060

I wouldn't sit in it.

1246

01:13:01,060 --> 01:13:04,210

Absolutely not.

1247

01:13:04,210 --> 01:13:07,330

So it's been a hard life.

1248

01:13:07,330 --> 01:13:11,050

It's been a hard life, but you  
have to make the best of it.

1249

01:13:11,050 --> 01:13:13,810

And I don't dwell on it.

1250

01:13:13,810 --> 01:13:17,380

I don't forget about it,  
but I don't dwell on it.

1251

01:13:17,380 --> 01:13:19,660

I make a happy time  
for my children,

1252

01:13:19,660 --> 01:13:24,540

and this is what we need for me.

1253

01:13:24,540 --> 01:13:29,000