

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,980

2
00:00:04,980 --> 00:00:08,039
This is the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3
00:00:08,039 --> 00:00:12,120
volunteer collection interview
with Maryla Korn, conducted

4
00:00:12,120 --> 00:00:19,410
by Gail Schwartz on September
9, 1998, in Washington DC.

5
00:00:19,410 --> 00:00:22,530
This interview is part
of the museum's project

6
00:00:22,530 --> 00:00:26,670
to interview Holocaust survivors
and witnesses who are also

7
00:00:26,670 --> 00:00:29,670
volunteers with the Museum.

8
00:00:29,670 --> 00:00:31,530
This is a follow
up interview that

9
00:00:31,530 --> 00:00:36,750
will focus on Maryla Korn's
post-Holocaust experiences.

10
00:00:36,750 --> 00:00:39,690
In preparation for
this interview,

11
00:00:39,690 --> 00:00:41,730
I read the summary
of the interview

12

00:00:41,730 --> 00:00:45,210

you conducted with Marin
Oschege for the Jewish Community

13

00:00:45,210 --> 00:00:51,810

Council of Greater
Washington on March 27, 1985.

14

00:00:51,810 --> 00:00:53,610

I will not ask you
to repeat everything

15

00:00:53,610 --> 00:00:55,110

you said in that interview.

16

00:00:55,110 --> 00:00:57,150

Instead, I will
use this interview

17

00:00:57,150 --> 00:01:00,540

as an opportunity to
follow up on that interview

18

00:01:00,540 --> 00:01:04,920

and focus on your
post-Holocaust experiences.

19

00:01:04,920 --> 00:01:12,260

This is tape number 1, side
A. What is your full name?

20

00:01:12,260 --> 00:01:17,840

Maryla Korn, I was
born Orgel, O-R-G-E-L.

21

00:01:17,840 --> 00:01:19,860

And Maryla is a nickname.

22

00:01:19,860 --> 00:01:26,790

My name, my official name
from birth was Maria.

23

00:01:26,790 --> 00:01:29,050
And what is your date of birth?

24
00:01:29,050 --> 00:01:33,900
June 10, 1938, in
Krakow, Poland.

25
00:01:33,900 --> 00:01:37,320
As I said, you have
been interviewed before.

26
00:01:37,320 --> 00:01:39,780
But just to put this
interview in a framework,

27
00:01:39,780 --> 00:01:44,010
let's summarize where
you were during the war.

28
00:01:44,010 --> 00:01:48,360
You were an only child from
a large extended family.

29
00:01:48,360 --> 00:01:54,180
Your father ran a family
business of lumber and flour

30
00:01:54,180 --> 00:01:57,310
mills in Kolbuszowa.

31
00:01:57,310 --> 00:02:02,700
Your father and grandfather,
in 1939, went to Tarnopol.

32
00:02:02,700 --> 00:02:07,980
Your grandfather died
in 1942 in Tarnopol.

33
00:02:07,980 --> 00:02:11,760
And your father
survived in Siberia.

34
00:02:11,760 --> 00:02:16,740

In late 1940 or early
1941, you and your mother

35
00:02:16,740 --> 00:02:21,630
first went to Wieliczka
and then to Bochnia.

36
00:02:21,630 --> 00:02:24,780
At one point, you were
hidden with a peasant family

37
00:02:24,780 --> 00:02:29,220
but returned to your mother,
because you cried so much.

38
00:02:29,220 --> 00:02:34,620
In the end of 1941 or early
1942, you went into the ghetto

39
00:02:34,620 --> 00:02:38,580
in Bochnia, where
later on, the men

40
00:02:38,580 --> 00:02:40,320
were separated from the women.

41
00:02:40,320 --> 00:02:44,400
And at one time, you had to
hide under a pile of mattresses.

42
00:02:44,400 --> 00:02:46,440
Your mother worked
outside the ghetto

43
00:02:46,440 --> 00:02:49,680
in a factory that produced
string shopping bags.

44
00:02:49,680 --> 00:02:51,360
You were too young for school.

45
00:02:51,360 --> 00:02:53,970
But you did take messages

outside of the ghetto

46

00:02:53,970 --> 00:02:57,120
and brought back food.

47

00:02:57,120 --> 00:03:02,730
In June of 1943, you left
the ghetto with your mother.

48

00:03:02,730 --> 00:03:06,000
It was liquidated soon after.

49

00:03:06,000 --> 00:03:09,480
Your grandfather was shot
in the cemetery in Bochnia

50

00:03:09,480 --> 00:03:12,960
and your grandmother
was taken to Auschwitz.

51

00:03:12,960 --> 00:03:19,317
Your uncle in the summer
'42, had been taken to Belzec

52

00:03:19,317 --> 00:03:20,150
and did not survive.

53

00:03:20,150 --> 00:03:24,090

54

00:03:24,090 --> 00:03:26,730
You traveled by
truck to the border.

55

00:03:26,730 --> 00:03:29,640
And then after that, at
night, by foot, and hid

56

00:03:29,640 --> 00:03:31,020
during the day.

57

00:03:31,020 --> 00:03:32,910

Your guides were paid partisans.

58

00:03:32,910 --> 00:03:37,770

And there were about 18 to
20 people in your group.

59

00:03:37,770 --> 00:03:39,510

You got to Kosice.

60

00:03:39,510 --> 00:03:42,270

But you were caught
by Czech collaborators

61

00:03:42,270 --> 00:03:45,060

and then were let go.

62

00:03:45,060 --> 00:03:47,700

You proceeded, with the help
of the Joint Distribution

63

00:03:47,700 --> 00:03:50,760

Committee to Hungary,
and was caught again

64

00:03:50,760 --> 00:03:52,830

and sent to prison in Budapest.

65

00:03:52,830 --> 00:03:56,070

But the Joint got you out.

66

00:03:56,070 --> 00:04:02,460

In July of 1943 you went to
Ouzoud in Hungary, stayed there

67

00:04:02,460 --> 00:04:05,340

until April 1944.

68

00:04:05,340 --> 00:04:07,140

While there, you
lived as a Christian.

69

00:04:07,140 --> 00:04:08,640

You went to mass.

70

00:04:08,640 --> 00:04:11,550

Your mother was able to bring
food to Polish Jews living

71

00:04:11,550 --> 00:04:13,230

in the farmhouse.

72

00:04:13,230 --> 00:04:20,130

And you had an accident
where your leg had gangrene.

73

00:04:20,130 --> 00:04:25,530

In April of '44, the Hungarian
Jews were being rounded up,

74

00:04:25,530 --> 00:04:29,370

and then the Polish foreign
Jews were being rounded up.

75

00:04:29,370 --> 00:04:32,730

You went to Budapest.

76

00:04:32,730 --> 00:04:36,300

Your mother had stolen
passes to get there.

77

00:04:36,300 --> 00:04:40,860

Then you went on to Bucharest
with the help of the Joint.

78

00:04:40,860 --> 00:04:42,690

You had heard about D-day.

79

00:04:42,690 --> 00:04:48,490

You were liberated in the
spring of 1945 by the Russians.

80

00:04:48,490 --> 00:04:50,970

You had almost boarded
a ship for Palestine,

81

00:04:50,970 --> 00:04:53,676
which was torpedoed later.

82

00:04:53,676 --> 00:04:56,820
You went back to Hungary,
lived in Budapest for a year,

83

00:04:56,820 --> 00:04:59,400
where you started first grade.

84

00:04:59,400 --> 00:05:01,920
When your mother went back to
Poland to check on the family,

85

00:05:01,920 --> 00:05:04,380
you stayed in a children's home.

86

00:05:04,380 --> 00:05:07,050
She found, in Poland, that your
father had been traumatized

87

00:05:07,050 --> 00:05:08,460
by his war experiences.

88

00:05:08,460 --> 00:05:11,340

89

00:05:11,340 --> 00:05:14,280
You visited your father in 1947.

90

00:05:14,280 --> 00:05:16,740
Your mother had set up a
business with your uncle

91

00:05:16,740 --> 00:05:19,290
in Vienna.

92

00:05:19,290 --> 00:05:23,970
In 1951, you went to
Israel, returned to Belgium.

93

00:05:23,970 --> 00:05:27,990
In 1952, your father
came to live with you.

94
00:05:27,990 --> 00:05:35,400
In 1959 to 1961, you lived in
Israel, went back to Belgium.

95
00:05:35,400 --> 00:05:39,720
And then in May of 1961, you
came to the United States

96
00:05:39,720 --> 00:05:44,310
and got married in
June of that year.

97
00:05:44,310 --> 00:05:46,560
Two corrections.

98
00:05:46,560 --> 00:05:51,240
One is I don't know
the exact date,

99
00:05:51,240 --> 00:05:54,630
but in July, we escaped,
as I said, on June--

100
00:05:54,630 --> 00:05:57,720
I know it was June 10, because
it was my fifth birthday.

101
00:05:57,720 --> 00:06:01,800
It was sometimes in
either August or September

102
00:06:01,800 --> 00:06:08,070
that all these prison stays
plus everything was true.

103
00:06:08,070 --> 00:06:13,260
So that we went to Kosice, we
went to this little village

104

00:06:13,260 --> 00:06:19,200
in Hungary, to Ouzoud
a little bit later.

105
00:06:19,200 --> 00:06:20,810
It wasn't July '43.

106
00:06:20,810 --> 00:06:23,340
It might have been late August.

107
00:06:23,340 --> 00:06:25,260
It might have been September.

108
00:06:25,260 --> 00:06:27,120
But it definitely was not July.

109
00:06:27,120 --> 00:06:29,590
That's too early
after all of this.

110
00:06:29,590 --> 00:06:33,150
The other one which I would like
to correct that in the winter

111
00:06:33,150 --> 00:06:35,820
of '46, after we had--

112
00:06:35,820 --> 00:06:39,540
after we had left Budapest,
we went to Prague,

113
00:06:39,540 --> 00:06:41,220
where we stayed a
couple of months.

114
00:06:41,220 --> 00:06:44,940
And then proceeded to
Belgium to Brussels.

115
00:06:44,940 --> 00:06:50,850
In the winter of '46, again,
whether it was December,

116

00:06:50,850 --> 00:06:54,570

whether it was January
'47, that I really cannot--

117

00:06:54,570 --> 00:06:57,480

but it was, I think,
it was December of '46.

118

00:06:57,480 --> 00:06:59,238

And the reason we
went to Belgium,

119

00:06:59,238 --> 00:07:00,780

it might have been,
as I always said,

120

00:07:00,780 --> 00:07:03,180

might have been Timbuktu,
because we had no family

121

00:07:03,180 --> 00:07:07,440

left was because my
mother's only surviving

122

00:07:07,440 --> 00:07:10,680

member of the family, which
was my maternal grandmother's

123

00:07:10,680 --> 00:07:13,720

sister had lived in
Antwerp before the war.

124

00:07:13,720 --> 00:07:15,450

She had survived in Brussels.

125

00:07:15,450 --> 00:07:17,400

And so we came to join her.

126

00:07:17,400 --> 00:07:18,600

That was the only reason.

127

00:07:18,600 --> 00:07:22,110

Now, the only person,
again, who survived the war

128
00:07:22,110 --> 00:07:27,700
was my mother's older brother,
who had gone from Poland.

129
00:07:27,700 --> 00:07:29,490
He had also gone to Hungary.

130
00:07:29,490 --> 00:07:31,620
And from Hungary, he
went back to Poland.

131
00:07:31,620 --> 00:07:36,510
And from Poland, in
1951, he left for Vienna.

132
00:07:36,510 --> 00:07:39,180
And this is where the
connection comes in.

133
00:07:39,180 --> 00:07:40,440
Thank you.

134
00:07:40,440 --> 00:07:42,935
Before we go on to the
post-Holocaust experiences,

135
00:07:42,935 --> 00:07:44,685
I just wanted to clarify
some more points.

136
00:07:44,685 --> 00:07:47,630

137
00:07:47,630 --> 00:07:49,890
In the summary of
that very early tape,

138
00:07:49,890 --> 00:07:52,470
it was said that your
paternal grandfather had

139
00:07:52,470 --> 00:07:55,920
a non-Jewish assistant
who took over the business

140
00:07:55,920 --> 00:07:57,650
and brought you
money in the ghetto.

141
00:07:57,650 --> 00:07:58,780
My maternal--

142
00:07:58,780 --> 00:07:59,940
This is your paternal.

143
00:07:59,940 --> 00:08:05,280
No, my maternal
grandfather, who later

144
00:08:05,280 --> 00:08:09,960
was killed in the cemetery in
Bochnia had a store in Krakow.

145
00:08:09,960 --> 00:08:11,850
They were from they
were from Lublin.

146
00:08:11,850 --> 00:08:15,360
And OK, let me say, my
grandfather's family was

147
00:08:15,360 --> 00:08:15,990
from Lublin.

148
00:08:15,990 --> 00:08:19,650
My grandmother's family was
a rabbinical family that

149
00:08:19,650 --> 00:08:21,630
was around the city of Krakow.

150
00:08:21,630 --> 00:08:26,640

That's how, in 1914, my
mother, and her older brother,

151
00:08:26,640 --> 00:08:28,500
and my grandparents
came back to Krakow.

152
00:08:28,500 --> 00:08:30,840
So this is where we have
the Lublin connection

153
00:08:30,840 --> 00:08:33,059
from my grandfather
and the Krakow

154
00:08:33,059 --> 00:08:35,309
connection from my grandmother.

155
00:08:35,309 --> 00:08:38,580
My grandfather had a
store for all those years

156
00:08:38,580 --> 00:08:43,799
that was in Krakow that was
oriental rugs and linoleum.

157
00:08:43,799 --> 00:08:46,800
He had always had an
assistant in that store.

158
00:08:46,800 --> 00:08:49,650
And it was, in some cases,
it was a shabbos goy.

159
00:08:49,650 --> 00:08:52,020
But in this case, it was
an assistant in the store.

160
00:08:52,020 --> 00:08:54,570
This was a young guy
by the name of Yuzik.

161
00:08:54,570 --> 00:08:57,540

Now, Yuzik was a very young man.

162

00:08:57,540 --> 00:08:59,230

What was his last name?

163

00:08:59,230 --> 00:09:00,790

That's a good question.

164

00:09:00,790 --> 00:09:02,670

I'm very bad at names.

165

00:09:02,670 --> 00:09:06,360

I can maybe get it out.

166

00:09:06,360 --> 00:09:09,900

Maybe later, OK, anyway,

Yuzik was his assistant.

167

00:09:09,900 --> 00:09:16,120

By the time war came, he was a young man and already married

168

00:09:16,120 --> 00:09:20,520

into, really, a totally primitive peasant family,

169

00:09:20,520 --> 00:09:22,470

who, during the war, could have helped.

170

00:09:22,470 --> 00:09:23,880

But they were too frightened.

171

00:09:23,880 --> 00:09:25,560

And they were too primitive to even know

172

00:09:25,560 --> 00:09:28,710

what on Earth they were doing.

173

00:09:28,710 --> 00:09:32,220

He was-- he took over

the store in Krakow

174

00:09:32,220 --> 00:09:36,220
when the Germans did not allow
Jews to own stores anymore.

175

00:09:36,220 --> 00:09:37,800
And he was the
exception to the rule,

176

00:09:37,800 --> 00:09:39,720
because what he
did during the war

177

00:09:39,720 --> 00:09:44,520
was to bring us suitcases
full of money into the ghetto.

178

00:09:44,520 --> 00:09:49,200
That's how we had money to
eat, to survive, and to,

179

00:09:49,200 --> 00:09:51,420
later on, to escape.

180

00:09:51,420 --> 00:09:55,440
And he is the one who kept
the store until after the war.

181

00:09:55,440 --> 00:09:57,840
And after the war,
interestingly enough,

182

00:09:57,840 --> 00:10:02,470
when my older uncle Lishek went
back from Hungary to Poland,

183

00:10:02,470 --> 00:10:04,890
he rejoined Yuzik
in that business.

184

00:10:04,890 --> 00:10:06,480
And they had a

business together,

185

00:10:06,480 --> 00:10:10,080
the same business that my
grandfather had before the war.

186

00:10:10,080 --> 00:10:11,760
At one point, by the
way, that business

187

00:10:11,760 --> 00:10:14,070
was on the main
square of Krakow,

188

00:10:14,070 --> 00:10:17,130
which was quite unusual,
because he was an Orthodox Jew.

189

00:10:17,130 --> 00:10:19,970
And Jews were not exactly
welcome on that main squared,

190

00:10:19,970 --> 00:10:20,610
per se.

191

00:10:20,610 --> 00:10:23,280
But anyway, my uncle
was in business

192

00:10:23,280 --> 00:10:26,267
was that Yuzik until my
uncle left for Vienna

193

00:10:26,267 --> 00:10:27,600
and gave him the whole business.

194

00:10:27,600 --> 00:10:30,490
And the man died a couple
of years ago in Poland.

195

00:10:30,490 --> 00:10:33,430

196

00:10:33,430 --> 00:10:36,580

In the ghetto, are there any--

197

00:10:36,580 --> 00:10:39,370

were there any
sounds, or smells,

198

00:10:39,370 --> 00:10:42,160

or sights of the ghetto
that you still remember?

199

00:10:42,160 --> 00:10:47,830

Yes, and this is what, when
I went into Daniel's Den--

200

00:10:47,830 --> 00:10:49,940

This is the exhibit at
the Holocaust Museum.

201

00:10:49,940 --> 00:10:52,990

Museum, I could connect
to it even more,

202

00:10:52,990 --> 00:10:54,580

maybe, than some adults.

203

00:10:54,580 --> 00:10:56,830

I mean, the adults have
different memories of it.

204

00:10:56,830 --> 00:10:59,500

What struck me is--

205

00:10:59,500 --> 00:11:02,170

as much as it's, I think
it's wonderfully well done

206

00:11:02,170 --> 00:11:05,370

for the public and
to be palatable.

207

00:11:05,370 --> 00:11:07,630

OK, I mean, but
what was missing--

208
00:11:07,630 --> 00:11:10,570
I remember coming out and
somebody say to me, so?

209
00:11:10,570 --> 00:11:14,260
And my reaction was so where
is the overcrowding, the smell,

210
00:11:14,260 --> 00:11:17,210
the dirt, and everything
that went with it.

211
00:11:17,210 --> 00:11:20,950
So, yes there were these--

212
00:11:20,950 --> 00:11:22,930
maybe you don't realize
it when you're a child.

213
00:11:22,930 --> 00:11:25,060
But there was always
somebody around.

214
00:11:25,060 --> 00:11:27,790
I mean there was no such thing
as having a peaceful time.

215
00:11:27,790 --> 00:11:31,150
But then I was a three
or four-year-old child.

216
00:11:31,150 --> 00:11:33,010
You go with it.

217
00:11:33,010 --> 00:11:33,800
I don't remember.

218
00:11:33,800 --> 00:11:36,580
I must tell you, I asked
my mother a while back,

219
00:11:36,580 --> 00:11:39,200
because everybody asks
the same two questions.

220
00:11:39,200 --> 00:11:41,620
One was were you ever hungry?

221
00:11:41,620 --> 00:11:43,510
And I turned to my
mother and I said,

222
00:11:43,510 --> 00:11:45,280
I don't remember
ever being hungry.

223
00:11:45,280 --> 00:11:46,000
So she smiled.

224
00:11:46,000 --> 00:11:49,240
And she says, no wonder,
we paid almost was gold.

225
00:11:49,240 --> 00:11:50,980
Now, I don't know if
really it was gold.

226
00:11:50,980 --> 00:11:53,830
But she said, when there
was an apple available,

227
00:11:53,830 --> 00:11:57,550
we paid was gold that
you would have the apple.

228
00:11:57,550 --> 00:12:00,070
The money was there,
because of this Yuzik.

229
00:12:00,070 --> 00:12:02,290
And at the same time--

230

00:12:02,290 --> 00:12:05,320
and also there was money
for another reason.

231
00:12:05,320 --> 00:12:08,900
My paternal grandmother, at
the beginning of the war,

232
00:12:08,900 --> 00:12:12,970
when the men escaped,
and she was left with--

233
00:12:12,970 --> 00:12:18,400
in Kolbuszowa, she was left
with two daughters and two boys.

234
00:12:18,400 --> 00:12:21,220
Out of this group, only,
by the way, one survived.

235
00:12:21,220 --> 00:12:26,650
It's my uncle who is the head
of the enzyme research in Mount

236
00:12:26,650 --> 00:12:27,490
Sinai in New York.

237
00:12:27,490 --> 00:12:29,230
All the rest were killed.

238
00:12:29,230 --> 00:12:33,370
She brought to my mother half
of what my paternal grandfather

239
00:12:33,370 --> 00:12:34,330
had left her.

240
00:12:34,330 --> 00:12:36,070
So there was this money also.

241
00:12:36,070 --> 00:12:39,460
But the money really that made
us eat and everything else

242
00:12:39,460 --> 00:12:45,920
is definitely the one that Yuzik
was bringing into the ghetto.

243
00:12:45,920 --> 00:12:49,290
So this is why I don't
remember ever any hunger.

244
00:12:49,290 --> 00:12:50,650
I remember overcrowding.

245
00:12:50,650 --> 00:12:53,788
I remember these rooms
with these stacked up beds

246
00:12:53,788 --> 00:12:54,580
all over the place.

247
00:12:54,580 --> 00:12:55,497
There must have been--

248
00:12:55,497 --> 00:12:57,610
I don't know how many
people were in one bedroom.

249
00:12:57,610 --> 00:13:02,080
But I mean, stacked like
in the army, not one

250
00:13:02,080 --> 00:13:05,320
on top of the other, but
maybe four or five in height.

251
00:13:05,320 --> 00:13:07,390
They were building,
obviously, in height

252
00:13:07,390 --> 00:13:09,130
to leave space for the floor.

253
00:13:09,130 --> 00:13:10,450

That I remember.

254

00:13:10,450 --> 00:13:14,380

The interesting thing is in
1985, I went back to Poland

255

00:13:14,380 --> 00:13:17,290

with my father, who had
never been to Bochnia.

256

00:13:17,290 --> 00:13:19,630

And after visiting
the family where

257

00:13:19,630 --> 00:13:22,390

we had lived with them outside
of the ghetto for a while,

258

00:13:22,390 --> 00:13:26,320

I said to Marysia, who was 13
years older than I am, I said

259

00:13:26,320 --> 00:13:28,280

to her, take me to the ghetto.

260

00:13:28,280 --> 00:13:32,170

And then I will try
to find my own way.

261

00:13:32,170 --> 00:13:36,790

And interestingly enough,
I retraced the way

262

00:13:36,790 --> 00:13:39,100

to where the Judenrat was.

263

00:13:39,100 --> 00:13:42,200

And from there, I retraced
the house where we lived.

264

00:13:42,200 --> 00:13:43,150

And there it stood.

265

00:13:43,150 --> 00:13:45,820

And it stood the same way
that it was in my memory.

266

00:13:45,820 --> 00:13:48,280

Only thing different,
it's a two story house

267

00:13:48,280 --> 00:13:49,600

with an entrance on the side.

268

00:13:49,600 --> 00:13:50,890

And there it was.

269

00:13:50,890 --> 00:13:52,700

So these are the only memories.

270

00:13:52,700 --> 00:13:54,250

But there are no memories--

271

00:13:54,250 --> 00:13:56,110

there are memories
of being hidden.

272

00:13:56,110 --> 00:14:01,810

There are memories
of my grandmother,

273

00:14:01,810 --> 00:14:03,310

much more than my grandfather.

274

00:14:03,310 --> 00:14:04,870

My grandfather,
for some reason, I

275

00:14:04,870 --> 00:14:06,287

don't know whether
it's a question

276

00:14:06,287 --> 00:14:09,280

because he was separated
from us and whether a child--

277
00:14:09,280 --> 00:14:11,450
but I remember things
before entering the ghetto.

278
00:14:11,450 --> 00:14:13,100
So I can't figure that one out.

279
00:14:13,100 --> 00:14:19,720
But I remember my grandmother,
the way she was built.

280
00:14:19,720 --> 00:14:22,900
I remember-- those
things I remember.

281
00:14:22,900 --> 00:14:26,170
Overcrowding, and one
little kitchen that I think

282
00:14:26,170 --> 00:14:29,350
must have been a
closet, whatever it was.

283
00:14:29,350 --> 00:14:31,720
That's all the
memories out of that.

284
00:14:31,720 --> 00:14:33,670
Any particular smells?

285
00:14:33,670 --> 00:14:36,040
No, absolutely not.

286
00:14:36,040 --> 00:14:38,830
I mean, smells in the sense
that people were there.

287
00:14:38,830 --> 00:14:43,450
But I don't know why
my reaction, when

288

00:14:43,450 --> 00:14:47,080
I saw Daniel's Den, was where is
the smell, the dirt, et cetera.

289
00:14:47,080 --> 00:14:50,570
Because obviously there must
have been subconsciously some,

290
00:14:50,570 --> 00:14:51,460
but no.

291
00:14:51,460 --> 00:14:53,680
What were the sanitary
facilities like?

292
00:14:53,680 --> 00:14:55,180
Probably terrible.

293
00:14:55,180 --> 00:14:58,750
I mean, even until today, there
are no sanitary conditions.

294
00:14:58,750 --> 00:15:01,720
So when somebody says, was it
clean, how could it be clean?

295
00:15:01,720 --> 00:15:04,570
I mean, that's why there were--

296
00:15:04,570 --> 00:15:06,730
well, mice where that was maybe.

297
00:15:06,730 --> 00:15:08,500
But that's why there were lice.

298
00:15:08,500 --> 00:15:09,550
There were other things.

299
00:15:09,550 --> 00:15:12,730
I mean, but I don't
remember dirt.

300

00:15:12,730 --> 00:15:15,520

I just remember
that I left Bochnia

301

00:15:15,520 --> 00:15:17,200

with this wonderful little cold.

302

00:15:17,200 --> 00:15:20,080

And believe it or not,
my mother definitely not

303

00:15:20,080 --> 00:15:23,338

was flat foot shoes,
when she was flat--

304

00:15:23,338 --> 00:15:25,630

heeled shoes when she was
going crossing the mountains.

305

00:15:25,630 --> 00:15:29,350

What crossed their
minds, I don't know.

306

00:15:29,350 --> 00:15:32,310

Never remember, anything,
remember in Hungary,

307

00:15:32,310 --> 00:15:33,510

not having shoes.

308

00:15:33,510 --> 00:15:37,740

But again, that type, no
absolutely no memories

309

00:15:37,740 --> 00:15:41,400

of incredible hardship.

310

00:15:41,400 --> 00:15:44,670

What was the address of your--
the building in Bochnia?

311

00:15:44,670 --> 00:15:45,480

That I don't know.

312
00:15:45,480 --> 00:15:46,260
What street?

313
00:15:46,260 --> 00:15:47,080
I don't remember.

314
00:15:47,080 --> 00:15:48,420
I know where it is.

315
00:15:48,420 --> 00:15:51,250
But I don't know
the street number.

316
00:15:51,250 --> 00:15:54,295
What was the incident where
you hid under mattresses?

317
00:15:54,295 --> 00:15:55,110
They were coming.

318
00:15:55,110 --> 00:15:56,660
There was a program already--

319
00:15:56,660 --> 00:15:59,520
I mean, program, there was
an [? atzia ?] in the ghetto.

320
00:15:59,520 --> 00:16:02,760
And they were looking,
obviously, for children.

321
00:16:02,760 --> 00:16:04,740
They were coming either
for children, or women,

322
00:16:04,740 --> 00:16:05,550
or whatever.

323
00:16:05,550 --> 00:16:07,770
OK, if they didn't take
everybody together.

324
00:16:07,770 --> 00:16:09,480
They were coming
then for children.

325
00:16:09,480 --> 00:16:12,090
And my mother and
grandmother piled

326
00:16:12,090 --> 00:16:16,140
me on top of the first mattress
was all the other mattresses

327
00:16:16,140 --> 00:16:17,400
on top.

328
00:16:17,400 --> 00:16:19,480
And that's it.

329
00:16:19,480 --> 00:16:20,800
That's the episode.

330
00:16:20,800 --> 00:16:23,540
And when the [? atzia ?]
was over, they took me out.

331
00:16:23,540 --> 00:16:24,810
Do you remember this?

332
00:16:24,810 --> 00:16:26,130
That one I remember.

333
00:16:26,130 --> 00:16:28,650
I also remember a very
strange conversation

334
00:16:28,650 --> 00:16:31,230
which is not a question
that it haunts me.

335
00:16:31,230 --> 00:16:35,730
But I, very often, I think

about it, especially now

336
00:16:35,730 --> 00:16:39,300
that my mother is--

337
00:16:39,300 --> 00:16:41,008
maybe God should
have been good to her

338
00:16:41,008 --> 00:16:42,050
and she should have gone.

339
00:16:42,050 --> 00:16:43,763
She had a massive stroke.

340
00:16:43,763 --> 00:16:44,430
She's paralyzed.

341
00:16:44,430 --> 00:16:45,240
She cannot speak.

342
00:16:45,240 --> 00:16:47,860
And I said, to myself,
when somebody said, well,

343
00:16:47,860 --> 00:16:50,610
at that age, it's
natural that parents go.

344
00:16:50,610 --> 00:16:54,090
And I keep saying to myself,
this is not just a mother.

345
00:16:54,090 --> 00:16:57,030
This is a mother
plus the whole--

346
00:16:57,030 --> 00:17:01,710
My grandmother, this
conversation, whether, and it's

347
00:17:01,710 --> 00:17:02,640

not any--

348
00:17:02,640 --> 00:17:06,910
this is in the back-- my mother
confirmed it a long time back.

349
00:17:06,910 --> 00:17:08,910
And then she dropped
the conversation,

350
00:17:08,910 --> 00:17:10,200
didn't want to talk about it.

351
00:17:10,200 --> 00:17:13,319
My grandmother turned to her,
and this was her daughter.

352
00:17:13,319 --> 00:17:16,819
My mother was then
31, at the most, 32.

353
00:17:16,819 --> 00:17:18,300
She was born in 1912.

354
00:17:18,300 --> 00:17:22,569
So now, we're talking
about 1942, '43.

355
00:17:22,569 --> 00:17:25,530
OK, either she's 31 or she's 32.

356
00:17:25,530 --> 00:17:27,700
This was her child.

357
00:17:27,700 --> 00:17:33,360
And she said to her,
if they take Marylka,

358
00:17:33,360 --> 00:17:36,180
maybe you should
think about yourself.

359

00:17:36,180 --> 00:17:39,600
And she said, no, if they
take her, I will go with her.

360
00:17:39,600 --> 00:17:44,790
And this, I always remember
this, because it's normal.

361
00:17:44,790 --> 00:17:46,730
It's so normal.

362
00:17:46,730 --> 00:17:49,860
She said no, she would go.

363
00:17:49,860 --> 00:17:53,730
She never had,
thank God, to do it.

364
00:17:53,730 --> 00:17:56,270

365
00:17:56,270 --> 00:18:00,320
And I really think, I
mean, these are the years--

366
00:18:00,320 --> 00:18:03,170
it's the same age
as my children are.

367
00:18:03,170 --> 00:18:05,060
Would I react the same way?

368
00:18:05,060 --> 00:18:06,230
I guess so.

369
00:18:06,230 --> 00:18:08,160
I mean, my
grandmother adored me.

370
00:18:08,160 --> 00:18:11,040
OK, I always remember
things about it.

371

00:18:11,040 --> 00:18:13,730

But at the same
time, she thought,

372

00:18:13,730 --> 00:18:18,230

if somebody had to survive,
then let it be at least one.

373

00:18:18,230 --> 00:18:20,600

So that memory comes.

374

00:18:20,600 --> 00:18:26,895

And this, again, it must have
been sometime '42, early '43,

375

00:18:26,895 --> 00:18:27,395

whatever.

376

00:18:27,395 --> 00:18:29,693

377

00:18:29,693 --> 00:18:30,985

So that those are the memories.

378

00:18:30,985 --> 00:18:33,550

379

00:18:33,550 --> 00:18:36,490

How did your mother comfort
you living under these kind

380

00:18:36,490 --> 00:18:38,080

of very difficult conditions?

381

00:18:38,080 --> 00:18:40,720

Did she have a
certain way about her

382

00:18:40,720 --> 00:18:43,080

to comfort that
small child like you?

383

00:18:43,080 --> 00:18:45,280

No, I don't remember
her as being--

384

00:18:45,280 --> 00:18:46,990

I think I remember
my grandmother

385

00:18:46,990 --> 00:18:51,970

being the strength,
the caregiver,

386

00:18:51,970 --> 00:18:53,680

the person who was there.

387

00:18:53,680 --> 00:18:56,200

At the same time, I'm thinking.

388

00:18:56,200 --> 00:18:57,880

Again, my mother, born in 1912.

389

00:18:57,880 --> 00:19:01,740

So she was 27 years old
when we war started.

390

00:19:01,740 --> 00:19:05,440

Here is this upper middle
class, very comfortable,

391

00:19:05,440 --> 00:19:07,990

very well-off young woman.

392

00:19:07,990 --> 00:19:09,890

She married very, very well.

393

00:19:09,890 --> 00:19:11,800

OK, my grandparents
were middle class.

394

00:19:11,800 --> 00:19:13,510

But that, that other
one, although they

395
00:19:13,510 --> 00:19:18,350
were in a village, and they
didn't know how to live.

396
00:19:18,350 --> 00:19:20,560
I always think they lived
like 17th, 18th century,

397
00:19:20,560 --> 00:19:22,420
the fact is they
were very wealthy.

398
00:19:22,420 --> 00:19:23,200
There she was.

399
00:19:23,200 --> 00:19:27,640
Suddenly, she's left
alone with a baby.

400
00:19:27,640 --> 00:19:30,950
And the war starts, and then
all the things that happen.

401
00:19:30,950 --> 00:19:34,980
So at 27, a baby.

402
00:19:34,980 --> 00:19:37,590
OK, a young mother, but a baby.

403
00:19:37,590 --> 00:19:41,920
32, then she goes
all through this.

404
00:19:41,920 --> 00:19:45,550
I really wonder where
the strength came in.

405
00:19:45,550 --> 00:19:47,980
She's an extraordinarily
strong woman.

406

00:19:47,980 --> 00:19:50,320

Now, whether the
strength came from that

407

00:19:50,320 --> 00:19:53,070

or whether this was
the character, well,

408

00:19:53,070 --> 00:19:54,920

who was there to know?

409

00:19:54,920 --> 00:19:57,910

She is she is until
today very difficult,

410

00:19:57,910 --> 00:20:03,220

but an extraordinarily
self-reliant--

411

00:20:03,220 --> 00:20:05,140

when everybody, for
example, in Hungary,

412

00:20:05,140 --> 00:20:06,700

when we were there
already, people

413

00:20:06,700 --> 00:20:08,300

were going back
to Czechoslovakia.

414

00:20:08,300 --> 00:20:11,577

See, Czechoslovakia, by then,
and Poland were already clear.

415

00:20:11,577 --> 00:20:13,660

I mean, the Hungarian Jews
were being taken there.

416

00:20:13,660 --> 00:20:16,510

But nobody was looking
anymore almost--

417

00:20:16,510 --> 00:20:19,690
if I can say, of course, they're
always looking for Polish Jews.

418
00:20:19,690 --> 00:20:22,300
But the fact is that
there were now--

419
00:20:22,300 --> 00:20:24,490
Czechoslovakia was
emptied of Jews.

420
00:20:24,490 --> 00:20:25,900
Some people were going back.

421
00:20:25,900 --> 00:20:27,790
And she says, I'm
not going backward.

422
00:20:27,790 --> 00:20:29,770
I'm going forward.

423
00:20:29,770 --> 00:20:32,740
And until today, she says
she put herself and me

424
00:20:32,740 --> 00:20:35,080
through unnecessary
hardship in some way,

425
00:20:35,080 --> 00:20:38,060
because she could have stayed
in Hungary at that point

426
00:20:38,060 --> 00:20:40,780
and be fine without putting--

427
00:20:40,780 --> 00:20:42,538
but she was going forward.

428
00:20:42,538 --> 00:20:43,330
She was going for--

429

00:20:43,330 --> 00:20:44,580

She wanted to go to Palestine.

430

00:20:44,580 --> 00:20:48,820

She just wanted to get
out and to survive.

431

00:20:48,820 --> 00:20:51,280

You look at some of the
movies like Europa Europa,

432

00:20:51,280 --> 00:20:53,697

some crazy things happened
why somebody survived.

433

00:20:53,697 --> 00:20:55,780

I don't believe that anybody
survived because they

434

00:20:55,780 --> 00:20:57,970

were so darn smart.

435

00:20:57,970 --> 00:21:00,400

They survived because
either they were lucky,

436

00:21:00,400 --> 00:21:02,290

or whether they were
in the right place,

437

00:21:02,290 --> 00:21:03,850

or whatever happened.

438

00:21:03,850 --> 00:21:09,510

And in her case, she had
an incredible perseverance.

439

00:21:09,510 --> 00:21:10,200

Let it go.

440

00:21:10,200 --> 00:21:11,670

Don't worry, machine

will pick up.

441
00:21:11,670 --> 00:21:15,240

442
00:21:15,240 --> 00:21:17,430
Did you have a favorite
toy in the ghetto?

443
00:21:17,430 --> 00:21:20,010
No, oh, yes, I had
a favorite toy.

444
00:21:20,010 --> 00:21:22,380
But I don't know what
it's called a toy.

445
00:21:22,380 --> 00:21:25,220
And this episode is in--

446
00:21:25,220 --> 00:21:27,540
I said it on the show
I was interviewing.

447
00:21:27,540 --> 00:21:29,250
Sure, I'm not sure
whether it was there.

448
00:21:29,250 --> 00:21:33,900
My grandfather managed, in the
very early times of our being

449
00:21:33,900 --> 00:21:35,970
in the ghetto, to bring me--

450
00:21:35,970 --> 00:21:39,420
I don't know what to call,
a tricycle, or whatever.

451
00:21:39,420 --> 00:21:41,500
It was a little--

452

00:21:41,500 --> 00:21:46,470
well, it's called a
[POLISH] in Polish, which

453
00:21:46,470 --> 00:21:49,020
was a board with two wheels.

454
00:21:49,020 --> 00:21:50,970
And then you pushed on it.

455
00:21:50,970 --> 00:21:52,710
Anyway, whatever it's called.

456
00:21:52,710 --> 00:21:56,160
And I had it in the ghetto,
which there were no toys.

457
00:21:56,160 --> 00:21:58,080
There was absolutely nothing.

458
00:21:58,080 --> 00:22:00,360
And I guess there
were maybe toys

459
00:22:00,360 --> 00:22:01,590
that people had brought in.

460
00:22:01,590 --> 00:22:03,660
But nobody talked about toys.

461
00:22:03,660 --> 00:22:10,740
And one of the Jewish policemen,
who I understand now, I just

462
00:22:10,740 --> 00:22:13,980
heard a couple of months
ago that he finally died,

463
00:22:13,980 --> 00:22:15,570
should have.

464
00:22:15,570 --> 00:22:19,460

He was very much collaborating
with the Germans.

465
00:22:19,460 --> 00:22:21,480
He was scaring everybody off.

466
00:22:21,480 --> 00:22:27,120
And he's the one who, by the
way, when my grandfather was

467
00:22:27,120 --> 00:22:33,180
being taken to the
cemetery to be shot,

468
00:22:33,180 --> 00:22:43,700
even gave him, hit him in his
face and tore off his arm,

469
00:22:43,700 --> 00:22:45,510
here, from his suit,
thinking that he

470
00:22:45,510 --> 00:22:46,590
had some money in there.

471
00:22:46,590 --> 00:22:49,080
Because he kept saying
that [INAUDIBLE]

472
00:22:49,080 --> 00:22:50,520
had to have some money with him.

473
00:22:50,520 --> 00:22:53,400

474
00:22:53,400 --> 00:22:56,310
There was a book written, by the
way, after the war about him.

475
00:22:56,310 --> 00:23:01,290
And it said for
eternal disgrace.

476

00:23:01,290 --> 00:23:05,130

In Polish, it says
[POLISH],, for eternal--

477

00:23:05,130 --> 00:23:09,435

I mean, for a eternal
disgrace, for eternal [POLISH]..

478

00:23:09,435 --> 00:23:12,690

479

00:23:12,690 --> 00:23:19,920

And he came to take away this
bicycle, whatever you call it,

480

00:23:19,920 --> 00:23:20,830

that I had.

481

00:23:20,830 --> 00:23:23,178

And so my grandfather said
to him, please, leave it.

482

00:23:23,178 --> 00:23:24,470

The children have nothing here.

483

00:23:24,470 --> 00:23:25,387

The child has nothing.

484

00:23:25,387 --> 00:23:25,980

Leave it.

485

00:23:25,980 --> 00:23:27,397

So he says, what's
the difference?

486

00:23:27,397 --> 00:23:28,860

He won't survive anyway.

487

00:23:28,860 --> 00:23:30,660

So that was--

488

00:23:30,660 --> 00:23:31,410
What was his name?

489
00:23:31,410 --> 00:23:35,540

490
00:23:35,540 --> 00:23:40,620
Rothkopf, Marion Rothkopf.

491
00:23:40,620 --> 00:23:45,480
I remember when I wrote
this, I told her the name.

492
00:23:45,480 --> 00:23:47,790
And then I said,
wrong, wrong, wrong.

493
00:23:47,790 --> 00:23:49,110
This was another policeman.

494
00:23:49,110 --> 00:23:50,190
But that one was OK.

495
00:23:50,190 --> 00:23:51,180
It's Rothkopf.

496
00:23:51,180 --> 00:23:56,640
And Rothkopf came, believe
it or not, came to Belgium.

497
00:23:56,640 --> 00:23:57,430
And survived.

498
00:23:57,430 --> 00:24:04,590
And lived that very well and has
just died of cancer in Belgium.

499
00:24:04,590 --> 00:24:06,660
How did you take
messages out again,

500
00:24:06,660 --> 00:24:08,280

you were such a small child--

501
00:24:08,280 --> 00:24:09,630
Can I just go back?

502
00:24:09,630 --> 00:24:13,260
He changed his name from
Rothkopf to Rogovski.

503
00:24:13,260 --> 00:24:14,880
And he lived in Belgium.

504
00:24:14,880 --> 00:24:19,290
So that's his family under
the name of Rogovski.

505
00:24:19,290 --> 00:24:21,330
Sorry, OK.

506
00:24:21,330 --> 00:24:22,290
You were very small.

507
00:24:22,290 --> 00:24:24,840
How is it that you took
messages out of the ghetto

508
00:24:24,840 --> 00:24:25,860
and brought back food?

509
00:24:25,860 --> 00:24:28,350
Because I was small, I
could get under the fence,

510
00:24:28,350 --> 00:24:31,680
or I could go somewhere
where adults couldn't.

511
00:24:31,680 --> 00:24:33,900
That was basically
the whole idea.

512
00:24:33,900 --> 00:24:37,200

I mean, it wasn't because
I walked through the gates

513
00:24:37,200 --> 00:24:37,860
of the ghetto.

514
00:24:37,860 --> 00:24:40,710
It was because underneath, they
had dug, probably, something.

515
00:24:40,710 --> 00:24:41,760
And this is how--

516
00:24:41,760 --> 00:24:44,190
this is how we also escaped,
at night, from the ghetto,

517
00:24:44,190 --> 00:24:47,490
to the outside, to be taken
by truck to the Carpathian

518
00:24:47,490 --> 00:24:49,260
Mountains, because
we had to go under.

519
00:24:49,260 --> 00:24:51,960
I mean, nobody opened the
gates of the ghetto for us.

520
00:24:51,960 --> 00:24:53,260
What kind of fence was this?

521
00:24:53,260 --> 00:24:54,920
What was it made out of?

522
00:24:54,920 --> 00:24:56,920
Was it barbed wire?

523
00:24:56,920 --> 00:24:59,460
I don't remember what it was.

524
00:24:59,460 --> 00:25:02,870

But I think that there
was barbed wire on top.

525
00:25:02,870 --> 00:25:07,900
But somehow, I think it was--

526
00:25:07,900 --> 00:25:09,480
either, I think it was wood.

527
00:25:09,480 --> 00:25:10,710
It was the wood.

528
00:25:10,710 --> 00:25:11,903
I don't remember the fence.

529
00:25:11,903 --> 00:25:13,570
I remember that there
was a fence there.

530
00:25:13,570 --> 00:25:15,840
I don't remember what it was.

531
00:25:15,840 --> 00:25:18,900
And what kind of messages
did you take out?

532
00:25:18,900 --> 00:25:19,740
Whatever they had.

533
00:25:19,740 --> 00:25:20,860
What did I--

534
00:25:20,860 --> 00:25:21,510
I didn't read.

535
00:25:21,510 --> 00:25:23,350
I didn't write, whatever it was.

536
00:25:23,350 --> 00:25:25,340
How did you know where to go?

537

00:25:25,340 --> 00:25:28,980
That how do I know after
all these years to remember

538
00:25:28,980 --> 00:25:30,210
where the house was?

539
00:25:30,210 --> 00:25:32,670
I don't know, maybe somebody
waited on the other side

540
00:25:32,670 --> 00:25:35,200
immediately and picked
it up, whatever it was.

541
00:25:35,200 --> 00:25:36,240
I have no idea.

542
00:25:36,240 --> 00:25:37,780
And then you brought food back.

543
00:25:37,780 --> 00:25:39,110
Yeah, whenever we could.

544
00:25:39,110 --> 00:25:41,280
That's the story my
mother, with this apple.

545
00:25:41,280 --> 00:25:44,070
Whenever there was something
I brought or somebody

546
00:25:44,070 --> 00:25:46,290
else brought, but
whenever I could,

547
00:25:46,290 --> 00:25:50,030
if I had an apple or something,
I guess I brought it was me.

548
00:25:50,030 --> 00:25:53,340
These stories my mother
told me later on.

549
00:25:53,340 --> 00:25:55,680
Do you have a memory of
doing this or is this just--

550
00:25:55,680 --> 00:25:57,420
No, absolutely no
memory of this.

551
00:25:57,420 --> 00:25:58,612
That I have no memory.

552
00:25:58,612 --> 00:25:59,820
I have memory of many things.

553
00:25:59,820 --> 00:26:01,340
But I don't have
a memory of that.

554
00:26:01,340 --> 00:26:03,720
Have a memory of running
away with this Marysia, who

555
00:26:03,720 --> 00:26:07,313
was 13 years older, when one
day, the Germans were coming.

556
00:26:07,313 --> 00:26:08,480
And she took me by the hand.

557
00:26:08,480 --> 00:26:12,830
And we were running, because
she my mother said, get her out.

558
00:26:12,830 --> 00:26:14,730
That I remember.

559
00:26:14,730 --> 00:26:18,150
What is your very first memory?

560
00:26:18,150 --> 00:26:20,460
Very difficult to say what

are my first memories.

561
00:26:20,460 --> 00:26:23,010
I don't know what are
my first memories.

562
00:26:23,010 --> 00:26:24,750
At this point, maybe
they were there.

563
00:26:24,750 --> 00:26:26,940
Maybe 20 years ago,
there were some.

564
00:26:26,940 --> 00:26:29,010
Absolutely no memory.

565
00:26:29,010 --> 00:26:31,380
Your uncle was part of the
resistance in the ghetto.

566
00:26:31,380 --> 00:26:32,940
Do you know what he did?

567
00:26:32,940 --> 00:26:33,720
I don't know.

568
00:26:33,720 --> 00:26:35,010
This was a young group.

569
00:26:35,010 --> 00:26:37,060
This was 1942.

570
00:26:37,060 --> 00:26:40,110
They were all working in
the Judenrat downstairs,

571
00:26:40,110 --> 00:26:42,390
because everybody
wanted some pull, tried

572
00:26:42,390 --> 00:26:44,918

to put their kids
into a position

573
00:26:44,918 --> 00:26:46,210
so that they wouldn't be taken.

574
00:26:46,210 --> 00:26:47,933
They had still these illusions.

575
00:26:47,933 --> 00:26:50,100
And I know that they were
counterfeiting some stuff,

576
00:26:50,100 --> 00:26:52,260
whatever they were doing.

577
00:26:52,260 --> 00:26:55,680
And then he was taken,
he was taken in 1942.

578
00:26:55,680 --> 00:26:57,420
Just to back up a
little bit, do you

579
00:26:57,420 --> 00:26:59,850
remember being hidden
with that peasant family?

580
00:26:59,850 --> 00:27:04,410
No, I remember the
story being forever told

581
00:27:04,410 --> 00:27:07,480
that if I had been quiet, I
would have been in that place.

582
00:27:07,480 --> 00:27:10,500
And I would probably
have survived there.

583
00:27:10,500 --> 00:27:12,060
It turns out that
the story I was

584
00:27:12,060 --> 00:27:16,240
told about this little girl that
was with me, which I told 15,

585
00:27:16,240 --> 00:27:19,200
20 years ago was totally false.

586
00:27:19,200 --> 00:27:22,350
The story was she was
put there by her parents.

587
00:27:22,350 --> 00:27:25,620
I was put there by my
mother, or by, at least,

588
00:27:25,620 --> 00:27:30,030
by these people with
whom we lived in--

589
00:27:30,030 --> 00:27:33,940
I'm sorry, in Bochnia,
Marysia and her parents.

590
00:27:33,940 --> 00:27:38,790
OK, they took me
to this farmhouse.

591
00:27:38,790 --> 00:27:40,980
And that baby was there already.

592
00:27:40,980 --> 00:27:42,690
Her parents were in Bochnia.

593
00:27:42,690 --> 00:27:44,520
So were her grandparents.

594
00:27:44,520 --> 00:27:47,700
She was good, year old
baby, sat under the table.

595
00:27:47,700 --> 00:27:48,630

Didn't do anything.

596

00:27:48,630 --> 00:27:49,860

I was three years old.

597

00:27:49,860 --> 00:27:52,500

And I screamed my head
off, I wanted my mommy.

598

00:27:52,500 --> 00:27:54,630

So I was taken away.

599

00:27:54,630 --> 00:27:58,800

We were always told that
she had survived there.

600

00:27:58,800 --> 00:28:03,900

And then, after the war,
vanished, somehow vanished.

601

00:28:03,900 --> 00:28:07,560

Well, the story's a little
bit stranger than fiction.

602

00:28:07,560 --> 00:28:10,020

She was kept there
for a short time.

603

00:28:10,020 --> 00:28:14,430

My mother and grandparents and
her parents and grandparents

604

00:28:14,430 --> 00:28:16,530

were hidden together
in this attic

605

00:28:16,530 --> 00:28:19,980

of this farmhouse in Bochnia.

606

00:28:19,980 --> 00:28:23,040

She was then returned
to her parents

607

00:28:23,040 --> 00:28:27,330

and given, again,
to somebody else.

608

00:28:27,330 --> 00:28:28,890

Her parents died.

609

00:28:28,890 --> 00:28:31,380

Her grandparents died.

610

00:28:31,380 --> 00:28:35,790

She survived the war being
adopted by this Polish family.

611

00:28:35,790 --> 00:28:39,600

And she lived in Bochnia
until '61 not knowing

612

00:28:39,600 --> 00:28:43,740

at all about this episode
with this other little girl.

613

00:28:43,740 --> 00:28:47,610

When she started writing a book,
she came to the United States,

614

00:28:47,610 --> 00:28:51,420

when she started writing
the book in Bochnia,

615

00:28:51,420 --> 00:28:53,460

she went to these
people where we live,

616

00:28:53,460 --> 00:28:55,530

Marysia and her
parents, who told her

617

00:28:55,530 --> 00:28:58,590

about this other child that
had been there with her.

618

00:28:58,590 --> 00:29:02,280
And she, about two
years ago, contacted me

619
00:29:02,280 --> 00:29:04,710
and tried to get my side of it.

620
00:29:04,710 --> 00:29:07,200
Then she called my mother,
who tried to explain

621
00:29:07,200 --> 00:29:08,640
to her what had happened.

622
00:29:08,640 --> 00:29:12,120
And that's when, I think,
we got the story straight.

623
00:29:12,120 --> 00:29:15,240
So we were together
like 24 hours.

624
00:29:15,240 --> 00:29:18,150
But she stayed there
a little bit longer.

625
00:29:18,150 --> 00:29:20,700
And she was converted
to Christianity.

626
00:29:20,700 --> 00:29:22,410
And then, she went to Israel.

627
00:29:22,410 --> 00:29:24,390
And the parents were
wonderful people

628
00:29:24,390 --> 00:29:26,490
who gave her education,
everything else.

629
00:29:26,490 --> 00:29:29,040
Then she went to Israel,

then she came to America,

630
00:29:29,040 --> 00:29:32,310
she married a very
religious Jew.

631
00:29:32,310 --> 00:29:33,760
She has two children.

632
00:29:33,760 --> 00:29:35,310
He just, the husband, died.

633
00:29:35,310 --> 00:29:37,140
And she lives now in New York.

634
00:29:37,140 --> 00:29:38,255
But she did convert.

635
00:29:38,255 --> 00:29:41,550
So at least that side of
the story I had right there.

636
00:29:41,550 --> 00:29:43,330
What is her last
name, her family name?

637
00:29:43,330 --> 00:29:49,750
Wineberg, Lucia Wineberg,
Weisberg, I'm sorry,

638
00:29:49,750 --> 00:29:52,180
Weisberg, Lucia.

639
00:29:52,180 --> 00:29:54,270
And she lives in New York.

640
00:29:54,270 --> 00:29:56,480
And that's why we're
getting the story straight,

641
00:29:56,480 --> 00:29:58,110
because she's writing a book.

642
00:29:58,110 --> 00:30:00,350
I'm not.

643
00:30:00,350 --> 00:30:04,190
When you left the ghetto, you
were approximately five years--

644
00:30:04,190 --> 00:30:06,890
This was couple of days
before my birthday.

645
00:30:06,890 --> 00:30:10,490
I was five while walking the
mountains, crossing the border.

646
00:30:10,490 --> 00:30:15,060
What did your mother tell
you why you were leaving?

647
00:30:15,060 --> 00:30:18,240
Nothing, absolutely nothing.

648
00:30:18,240 --> 00:30:20,530
Did you take anything
special with you?

649
00:30:20,530 --> 00:30:22,620
No, my mother didn't
even take clothing,

650
00:30:22,620 --> 00:30:24,570
because she thought that
since she was taking

651
00:30:24,570 --> 00:30:28,830
was her, sewn into
her underwear,

652
00:30:28,830 --> 00:30:32,880
she was taking was her gold and
some diamonds, that she would,

653

00:30:32,880 --> 00:30:35,400

by the time she
crosses into Hungary,

654

00:30:35,400 --> 00:30:37,680

she would be able to
buy the whole world.

655

00:30:37,680 --> 00:30:39,510

So nothing.

656

00:30:39,510 --> 00:30:42,240

Were there any other young
children along with you?

657

00:30:42,240 --> 00:30:44,290

There were no young children.

658

00:30:44,290 --> 00:30:45,560

But I was the only one.

659

00:30:45,560 --> 00:30:47,850

Not only that, but I
had the whooping cough.

660

00:30:47,850 --> 00:30:49,830

[COUGHS] Excuse me.

661

00:30:49,830 --> 00:30:53,280

And everybody was
scared of taking me.

662

00:30:53,280 --> 00:30:55,890

And then came this crazy story,
whether it's true or not,

663

00:30:55,890 --> 00:30:58,568

maybe a doctor can confirm
it, somebody say, don't worry,

664

00:30:58,568 --> 00:31:00,110

once you will get

into the mountains,

665

00:31:00,110 --> 00:31:01,350

the whooping cough will stop.

666

00:31:01,350 --> 00:31:02,620

It turned out that

they did stop,

667

00:31:02,620 --> 00:31:05,120

but whether was the mountains,

or whether it was sheer luck,

668

00:31:05,120 --> 00:31:05,940

I don't know.

669

00:31:05,940 --> 00:31:07,730

How did you keep

up with the group?

670

00:31:07,730 --> 00:31:09,330

You said you had

to walk by night.

671

00:31:09,330 --> 00:31:11,400

I was much better

than they were.

672

00:31:11,400 --> 00:31:12,882

This was the whole story--

673

00:31:12,882 --> 00:31:14,340

my mother always

said that when she

674

00:31:14,340 --> 00:31:18,360

was at the bottom of a

hill, and I was on the top,

675

00:31:18,360 --> 00:31:19,890

and I saw that

she couldn't come,

676

00:31:19,890 --> 00:31:22,180

I would run down, pick
her up and drag her up.

677

00:31:22,180 --> 00:31:27,180

So children, obviously, have
more resistance than adults.

678

00:31:27,180 --> 00:31:28,960

Were you frightened?

679

00:31:28,960 --> 00:31:30,430

I don't remember that.

680

00:31:30,430 --> 00:31:33,450

Look , I was brought
up in fright.

681

00:31:33,450 --> 00:31:34,860

My whole childhood
was in fright.

682

00:31:34,860 --> 00:31:36,030

So what was fright?

683

00:31:36,030 --> 00:31:39,645

I mean, I'm sure that
it wasn't the way my--

684

00:31:39,645 --> 00:31:41,020

I mean, that's
for sure, it's not

685

00:31:41,020 --> 00:31:42,895

the way my granddaughter
is being brought up.

686

00:31:42,895 --> 00:31:43,860

But what was fright?

687

00:31:43,860 --> 00:31:45,030

It was all relative.

688
00:31:45,030 --> 00:31:47,840
It was abnormal to start with.

689
00:31:47,840 --> 00:31:50,490
This was not a normal way
of living, or bringing up

690
00:31:50,490 --> 00:31:51,730
children, or for anything.

691
00:31:51,730 --> 00:31:52,770
So what's normal?

692
00:31:52,770 --> 00:31:53,820
I don't know.

693
00:31:53,820 --> 00:31:57,960
But no, I don't
remember any fright.

694
00:31:57,960 --> 00:32:00,130
Do you remember
sleeping with the cows?

695
00:32:00,130 --> 00:32:01,080
Yeah.

696
00:32:01,080 --> 00:32:03,540
What's that like?

697
00:32:03,540 --> 00:32:06,360
I guess, again, you
take a child camping,

698
00:32:06,360 --> 00:32:08,110
and what's the reaction?

699
00:32:08,110 --> 00:32:10,490
So they-- so they go camp--

700

00:32:10,490 --> 00:32:14,220
you see, these things
were coming so regularly,

701
00:32:14,220 --> 00:32:18,880
so progressively, it
was just a way of life.

702
00:32:18,880 --> 00:32:20,220
It didn't make any difference.

703
00:32:20,220 --> 00:32:24,330
My mother tells of
a story, we were

704
00:32:24,330 --> 00:32:28,890
being hidden in a bush
on our way to Romania.

705
00:32:28,890 --> 00:32:33,240
We're being hidden at night in
a bush on the railroad station

706
00:32:33,240 --> 00:32:34,680
in order to wait for the train.

707
00:32:34,680 --> 00:32:37,680
So somebody had to come to
pick us, put us into that bush,

708
00:32:37,680 --> 00:32:40,380
and then had to take us
out to get us on the train.

709
00:32:40,380 --> 00:32:42,240
Well, my mother got frightened.

710
00:32:42,240 --> 00:32:44,220
And I was the one who
was calming her, saying

711
00:32:44,220 --> 00:32:46,710
everything will be all right.

712
00:32:46,710 --> 00:32:50,400
You cannot take it
by normal standards.

713
00:32:50,400 --> 00:32:53,010
There are no normal
standards in this.

714
00:32:53,010 --> 00:32:54,380
Was not a normal upbringing.

715
00:32:54,380 --> 00:32:56,120
This was not a
normal way of life.

716
00:32:56,120 --> 00:32:59,820
And this was not
normal reaction.

717
00:32:59,820 --> 00:33:00,570
That's about it.

718
00:33:00,570 --> 00:33:04,680
That's the best that I
can say about this one.

719
00:33:04,680 --> 00:33:06,880
Did you snuggle up to the cows?

720
00:33:06,880 --> 00:33:07,950
Or were they just often--

721
00:33:07,950 --> 00:33:09,690
I can't remember anything.

722
00:33:09,690 --> 00:33:11,120
They were just there.

723
00:33:11,120 --> 00:33:11,880
They were there.

724

00:33:11,880 --> 00:33:13,588

And you knew that you
had to sleep there.

725

00:33:13,588 --> 00:33:16,290

726

00:33:16,290 --> 00:33:18,960

When you were caught by
the Czech collaborators,

727

00:33:18,960 --> 00:33:22,950

did you, as a child,
know the danger of that?

728

00:33:22,950 --> 00:33:26,850

No, I remember being in
a cell with my mother.

729

00:33:26,850 --> 00:33:29,820

I remember being, then, into
the main hall there where there

730

00:33:29,820 --> 00:33:35,220

was making some selection, which
then turned out to be a very

731

00:33:35,220 --> 00:33:36,690

poignant and interesting one.

732

00:33:36,690 --> 00:33:38,070

But again, I didn't remember.

733

00:33:38,070 --> 00:33:43,220

734

00:33:43,220 --> 00:33:46,400

There was a group that had
left before us in which there

735

00:33:46,400 --> 00:33:48,530

was half of a family

and with us was

736
00:33:48,530 --> 00:33:50,330
the other half of the family.

737
00:33:50,330 --> 00:33:54,380
And the other group was
then selected that day,

738
00:33:54,380 --> 00:33:57,480
and was sent back to
Poland, and was shot.

739
00:33:57,480 --> 00:33:59,990
So with us was one half.

740
00:33:59,990 --> 00:34:02,040
I know the husband was with us.

741
00:34:02,040 --> 00:34:04,270
And I think the son was with us.

742
00:34:04,270 --> 00:34:07,290
And on the other end was the--

743
00:34:07,290 --> 00:34:09,530
but he was much older
than I was, the son.

744
00:34:09,530 --> 00:34:11,233
And on the other--

745
00:34:11,233 --> 00:34:13,400
in the other group was the
mother with the daughter.

746
00:34:13,400 --> 00:34:14,608
And they were all taken back.

747
00:34:14,608 --> 00:34:17,719
And they were shot, which
was a normal type of a thing.

748

00:34:17,719 --> 00:34:22,139
Again, I don't know whether my
mother was this calming person,

749

00:34:22,139 --> 00:34:25,719
or whether it was the
way of life that was.

750

00:34:25,719 --> 00:34:28,960
Mystery, I would suspect
it's a combination.

751

00:34:28,960 --> 00:34:31,600

752

00:34:31,600 --> 00:34:35,170
When you got to
Ouzoud in Hungary

753

00:34:35,170 --> 00:34:38,739
and you lived as a Christian,
what did that mean to you?

754

00:34:38,739 --> 00:34:41,920
How much-- did you feel
very Jewish before that?

755

00:34:41,920 --> 00:34:43,270
Did you know you were Jewish?

756

00:34:43,270 --> 00:34:45,100
I knew I was Jewish
all the way through.

757

00:34:45,100 --> 00:34:47,199
There was no-- the
funny thing was

758

00:34:47,199 --> 00:34:50,350
that my mother was playing
this Catholic, wearing a cross,

759

00:34:50,350 --> 00:34:55,690

sending me to church
on Sunday, and playing

760

00:34:55,690 --> 00:34:59,500

this Catholic having no
knowledge of what Catholicism,

761

00:34:59,500 --> 00:35:05,350

and then not wanting to eat
pork because that wasn't what

762

00:35:05,350 --> 00:35:06,530

she was used to.

763

00:35:06,530 --> 00:35:10,120

So you have these conflicts.

764

00:35:10,120 --> 00:35:11,860

I mean, this was--

765

00:35:11,860 --> 00:35:12,490

this was odd.

766

00:35:12,490 --> 00:35:16,720

The whole thing, really,
sometimes sounds crazy.

767

00:35:16,720 --> 00:35:19,630

My mother also
went and connected

768

00:35:19,630 --> 00:35:21,070

with the Hungarian Jews.

769

00:35:21,070 --> 00:35:24,040

There was an orthodox
butcher there.

770

00:35:24,040 --> 00:35:26,770

And the Polish Jews,
including my mother,

771
00:35:26,770 --> 00:35:29,150
were telling them
what was happening.

772
00:35:29,150 --> 00:35:31,150
And of course, they
didn't believe it.

773
00:35:31,150 --> 00:35:32,050
It was odd.

774
00:35:32,050 --> 00:35:35,370
Yes, of course I always
knew that I was Jewish.

775
00:35:35,370 --> 00:35:37,880
I never said it to anybody.

776
00:35:37,880 --> 00:35:40,270
But there was
never any question.

777
00:35:40,270 --> 00:35:54,330

778
00:35:54,330 --> 00:35:57,390
This is a continuation of
United States Holocaust Memorial

779
00:35:57,390 --> 00:36:01,170
Museum volunteer collection
interview with Maryla Korn.

780
00:36:01,170 --> 00:36:04,890
This is tape number
1, side B. And you

781
00:36:04,890 --> 00:36:06,630
were talking about living--

782
00:36:06,630 --> 00:36:09,060

knowing that you were
Jewish but living

783
00:36:09,060 --> 00:36:11,220
and your mother
living as Christians

784
00:36:11,220 --> 00:36:15,010
and what your
reaction to that was.

785
00:36:15,010 --> 00:36:17,860
I remember I was going, my
mother sending me on Sunday

786
00:36:17,860 --> 00:36:21,000
to the church, wonderful.

787
00:36:21,000 --> 00:36:23,230
What was that like for you?

788
00:36:23,230 --> 00:36:24,370
I remember going.

789
00:36:24,370 --> 00:36:27,580
It didn't affect me
one way or another.

790
00:36:27,580 --> 00:36:29,800
The only way, maybe,
subconsciously it

791
00:36:29,800 --> 00:36:32,170
affected me, because
I remember, always,

792
00:36:32,170 --> 00:36:37,960
even after the war, as
very Jewish as I am,

793
00:36:37,960 --> 00:36:41,620
I mean, by any standards.

794

00:36:41,620 --> 00:36:44,020

I could go into a
church and not feel

795

00:36:44,020 --> 00:36:47,410

that I was violating
anybody's space

796

00:36:47,410 --> 00:36:50,290

or they were violating mine.

797

00:36:50,290 --> 00:36:52,270

It really, it doesn't--

798

00:36:52,270 --> 00:36:54,770

I worked then, later
on, in Georgetown

799

00:36:54,770 --> 00:36:56,350

in the campus ministry.

800

00:36:56,350 --> 00:36:59,440

And to me, going to a
mass or going to a church

801

00:36:59,440 --> 00:37:02,670

was not something that
was either foreign

802

00:37:02,670 --> 00:37:06,040

or that was forbidden.

803

00:37:06,040 --> 00:37:07,750

Maybe it opens up some horizons.

804

00:37:07,750 --> 00:37:08,830

Who knows?

805

00:37:08,830 --> 00:37:11,360

Did you join in the prayers
when you were a child?

806

00:37:11,360 --> 00:37:13,090

I don't remember
joining in prayers.

807

00:37:13,090 --> 00:37:15,580

I know I remember knowing
them a little bit,

808

00:37:15,580 --> 00:37:20,520

but not joining in prayers, no.

809

00:37:20,520 --> 00:37:22,770

What was the story
or just a little bit

810

00:37:22,770 --> 00:37:26,150

of background about the
accident with your leg?

811

00:37:26,150 --> 00:37:29,670

Well, barefoot, no
shoes in the village.

812

00:37:29,670 --> 00:37:31,470

And we had to go and
pick up the water.

813

00:37:31,470 --> 00:37:36,570

At that point, my mother, and
her girlfriend, and husband,

814

00:37:36,570 --> 00:37:40,470

at the time, and
the son, Bernard,

815

00:37:40,470 --> 00:37:43,840

who is now in Canada, who is two
or three years older than I am.

816

00:37:43,840 --> 00:37:45,720

We all lived together.

817

00:37:45,720 --> 00:37:49,830
And the two children were sent
to pick up water at the well.

818
00:37:49,830 --> 00:37:53,940
And he pushed me or whatever
when I was barefoot.

819
00:37:53,940 --> 00:37:56,130
And I stepped on
a piece of glass.

820
00:37:56,130 --> 00:37:57,220
And it cut me.

821
00:37:57,220 --> 00:37:59,370
And from that, came,
basically, what could

822
00:37:59,370 --> 00:38:02,520
have been a serious gangrene.

823
00:38:02,520 --> 00:38:05,520
And the only thing
that saved it is

824
00:38:05,520 --> 00:38:10,200
that they managed to take me
to a doctor after a while.

825
00:38:10,200 --> 00:38:13,590
And he opened it up,
still have the scar

826
00:38:13,590 --> 00:38:14,940
on the bottom of my foot.

827
00:38:14,940 --> 00:38:15,990
And he drained it.

828
00:38:15,990 --> 00:38:17,920
And that was it.

829

00:38:17,920 --> 00:38:20,100

So that's the story of that one.

830

00:38:20,100 --> 00:38:22,560

Until today, whenever
we see each other,

831

00:38:22,560 --> 00:38:25,830

I always say to him,
you push me on a bottle.

832

00:38:25,830 --> 00:38:29,040

Do you remember that time as
being a very difficult time?

833

00:38:29,040 --> 00:38:31,950

No, I don't remember
it as being difficult,

834

00:38:31,950 --> 00:38:34,030

because we were in this village.

835

00:38:34,030 --> 00:38:36,300

My mother was working
in the fields.

836

00:38:36,300 --> 00:38:39,240

Whatever food we had was--

837

00:38:39,240 --> 00:38:41,720

and it wasn't the pressure
of being in a ghetto.

838

00:38:41,720 --> 00:38:44,910

So compared to the
ghetto, this was--

839

00:38:44,910 --> 00:38:48,900

it was another normal
phase of living.

840

00:38:48,900 --> 00:38:52,620

Did you know about a man
named Hitler at that time?

841
00:38:52,620 --> 00:38:54,070
Can't remember if I knew it.

842
00:38:54,070 --> 00:38:56,400
I knew, certainly, that
they were the Germans.

843
00:38:56,400 --> 00:38:59,235
I don't know whether I
knew what Hitler, per se.

844
00:38:59,235 --> 00:39:01,110
What did German-- what
did the word "Germans"

845
00:39:01,110 --> 00:39:02,330
represent to you?

846
00:39:02,330 --> 00:39:04,440
Represented the
horror of being scared

847
00:39:04,440 --> 00:39:08,940
and of being the ones
who are doing something

848
00:39:08,940 --> 00:39:10,500
that was terribly wrong.

849
00:39:10,500 --> 00:39:15,560
But it's very difficult.
This is about children.

850
00:39:15,560 --> 00:39:18,030
OK, either they
lived a normal life,

851
00:39:18,030 --> 00:39:20,550
because they were
hidden somewhere,

852
00:39:20,550 --> 00:39:22,800
as abnormal as it was.

853
00:39:22,800 --> 00:39:24,610
But it was a way of life.

854
00:39:24,610 --> 00:39:27,090
Remember, I was 18 months
old when it all started.

855
00:39:27,090 --> 00:39:30,570
So does a 5-year-old
child now know

856
00:39:30,570 --> 00:39:33,840
who is, let's say, I
don't know, not that I

857
00:39:33,840 --> 00:39:36,570
want to compare it
to, that is Bush,

858
00:39:36,570 --> 00:39:38,460
or Reagan, or even Clinton?

859
00:39:38,460 --> 00:39:39,680
I doubt it.

860
00:39:39,680 --> 00:39:42,420
Maybe somebody, the name--

861
00:39:42,420 --> 00:39:44,850
but it doesn't affect you.

862
00:39:44,850 --> 00:39:48,570
The name, I'm sure it was
discussed royally around,

863
00:39:48,570 --> 00:39:50,730
but no, it didn't.

864
00:39:50,730 --> 00:39:52,590
Did you know you
were having problems

865
00:39:52,590 --> 00:39:53,710
because you were Jewish.

866
00:39:53,710 --> 00:39:56,112
Yes, that was no question there.

867
00:39:56,112 --> 00:39:57,570
Were you angry that
you were Jewish

868
00:39:57,570 --> 00:39:59,028
because you had
all these problems?

869
00:39:59,028 --> 00:40:01,630
No, it never affected
me until today.

870
00:40:01,630 --> 00:40:03,180
The other question
which I was always

871
00:40:03,180 --> 00:40:05,010
asked, do I feel
guilty that I survived?

872
00:40:05,010 --> 00:40:09,180
Excuse me, how does a 5-year-old
feel guilty that they survived?

873
00:40:09,180 --> 00:40:11,280
I suspect that the
older generation

874
00:40:11,280 --> 00:40:14,370
can feel guilty if they
could not, like my mother,

875

00:40:14,370 --> 00:40:16,900
could not influence her
parents to run away with us.

876
00:40:16,900 --> 00:40:18,330
Then you can start feeling--

877
00:40:18,330 --> 00:40:20,730
what does a child, 5-year-old
child, feel guilty about?

878
00:40:20,730 --> 00:40:24,300

879
00:40:24,300 --> 00:40:27,200
And then, in April '44,
you went to Budapest.

880
00:40:27,200 --> 00:40:28,190
And what was that like?

881
00:40:28,190 --> 00:40:29,450
What was life like there?

882
00:40:29,450 --> 00:40:31,400
Budapest, life was
about as normal

883
00:40:31,400 --> 00:40:33,230
as the abnormality could be.

884
00:40:33,230 --> 00:40:35,610
We lived in a small
room with my mother.

885
00:40:35,610 --> 00:40:38,300
We went every day to
the Jewish Community,

886
00:40:38,300 --> 00:40:41,760
which was established by the
Joint, where there was lunch,

887
00:40:41,760 --> 00:40:44,930
which was a dinner given out.

888
00:40:44,930 --> 00:40:45,950
We were all there.

889
00:40:45,950 --> 00:40:48,410
There was a small
school for the children.

890
00:40:48,410 --> 00:40:50,300
There was none of the hiding.

891
00:40:50,300 --> 00:40:53,530
There was none of the--

892
00:40:53,530 --> 00:40:56,270
if there was trauma before,
there was none of that.

893
00:40:56,270 --> 00:41:00,080
That was a very,
very peaceful time.

894
00:41:00,080 --> 00:41:03,710
You had said that the Joint
was of infinite help to you.

895
00:41:03,710 --> 00:41:05,270
How did they get to you?

896
00:41:05,270 --> 00:41:06,910
Or how did your
mother get to them?

897
00:41:06,910 --> 00:41:08,450
What was the means
of connection?

898
00:41:08,450 --> 00:41:11,210
How they got to us,
because I suspect

899
00:41:11,210 --> 00:41:13,250
that the escape
route from Poland

900
00:41:13,250 --> 00:41:17,785
to Czechoslovakia to Hungary
was established in collaboration

901
00:41:17,785 --> 00:41:18,410
with the Joint.

902
00:41:18,410 --> 00:41:20,390
As much as the people
had to pay for it,

903
00:41:20,390 --> 00:41:22,010
it was established by the Joint.

904
00:41:22,010 --> 00:41:24,230
So they knew exactly
who was coming through.

905
00:41:24,230 --> 00:41:29,450
Once we came out of
the prison in Kosice,

906
00:41:29,450 --> 00:41:33,650
they immediately
took care of us.

907
00:41:33,650 --> 00:41:34,970
So they reached out to you.

908
00:41:34,970 --> 00:41:37,490
It wasn't a question of your
mother reaching out to them.

909
00:41:37,490 --> 00:41:38,870
Yes, that's right.

910
00:41:38,870 --> 00:41:39,530

They knew.

911
00:41:39,530 --> 00:41:41,180
And without them, we
wouldn't have survived.

912
00:41:41,180 --> 00:41:42,200
There's just no question.

913
00:41:42,200 --> 00:41:43,370
This was a question of food.

914
00:41:43,370 --> 00:41:45,110
This was a question--

915
00:41:45,110 --> 00:41:47,900
at any time, they were
the support group that

916
00:41:47,900 --> 00:41:50,290
was there, from food to any--

917
00:41:50,290 --> 00:41:52,670
remember, no money, no nothing.

918
00:41:52,670 --> 00:41:54,770
Anything was done was
done by the Joint.

919
00:41:54,770 --> 00:41:57,380
Definitely the escape
from Hungary to Romania

920
00:41:57,380 --> 00:41:58,730
was all Joint.

921
00:41:58,730 --> 00:42:02,930
The support in
Romania was all Joint.

922
00:42:02,930 --> 00:42:04,130
They were a blessing.

923
00:42:04,130 --> 00:42:09,860
I mean, there's no
question of what they did.

924
00:42:09,860 --> 00:42:12,110
You were six years old,
I guess, in Bucharest.

925
00:42:12,110 --> 00:42:15,530
Did you feel very much older
than that, do you think?

926
00:42:15,530 --> 00:42:18,320
I suspect our childhood was
taken away from all of us.

927
00:42:18,320 --> 00:42:20,360
Of course, any
experience like this

928
00:42:20,360 --> 00:42:25,880
is going to produce a very
different type of a child.

929
00:42:25,880 --> 00:42:28,790
So absolutely, there
is no question--

930
00:42:28,790 --> 00:42:30,240
older to what?

931
00:42:30,240 --> 00:42:32,000
What do you compare it to?

932
00:42:32,000 --> 00:42:34,370
I can compare it a little
bit to my granddaughter,

933
00:42:34,370 --> 00:42:34,980
at this point.

934

00:42:34,980 --> 00:42:37,280
But what do you compare it
when you have nothing to--

935
00:42:37,280 --> 00:42:44,720
but we were grown up beyond
our natural age, of course.

936
00:42:44,720 --> 00:42:47,790

937
00:42:47,790 --> 00:42:49,500
Did you know, then,
that everybody

938
00:42:49,500 --> 00:42:50,850
didn't live like you did?

939
00:42:50,850 --> 00:42:53,483
Or did you think the whole
world lived like you did?

940
00:42:53,483 --> 00:42:54,900
I don't think that
you compare it.

941
00:42:54,900 --> 00:42:57,270
I don't think that
you think about it.

942
00:42:57,270 --> 00:43:01,230
I mean, does anybody
think, even if you take,

943
00:43:01,230 --> 00:43:02,940
now, a child somewhere,
does that child

944
00:43:02,940 --> 00:43:06,570
think that he or she lives
differently than somebody else?

945
00:43:06,570 --> 00:43:09,120

946
00:43:09,120 --> 00:43:12,450
Describe what it was
like, or if you remember,

947
00:43:12,450 --> 00:43:14,700
trying to get on this
boat that, unfortunately,

948
00:43:14,700 --> 00:43:16,080
was later torpedoed.

949
00:43:16,080 --> 00:43:20,310
We were sent from Bucharest
to Constanta by train.

950
00:43:20,310 --> 00:43:22,800
Then, we ended up
in these warehouses

951
00:43:22,800 --> 00:43:25,080
where everybody
slept on the floor.

952
00:43:25,080 --> 00:43:28,890
Then, I remember going to
this boat and my mother

953
00:43:28,890 --> 00:43:30,570
being the last one
to be pushed off.

954
00:43:30,570 --> 00:43:32,310
The man saying to
her, it won't make it.

955
00:43:32,310 --> 00:43:33,990
Don't get hysterical.

956
00:43:33,990 --> 00:43:36,330
So we were taken back
by train to Bucharest

957
00:43:36,330 --> 00:43:38,730
with my mother later
saying that she thought

958
00:43:38,730 --> 00:43:42,680
that was the end of her
and of us, because she

959
00:43:42,680 --> 00:43:43,680
didn't have the support.

960
00:43:43,680 --> 00:43:46,030
Then this boat was sunk.

961
00:43:46,030 --> 00:43:49,220
And a while later, a
second attempt was made.

962
00:43:49,220 --> 00:43:50,880
So we went back to Constanta.

963
00:43:50,880 --> 00:43:53,310
But we never made it on a boat.

964
00:43:53,310 --> 00:43:56,250
And all of those
who made that route

965
00:43:56,250 --> 00:43:59,070
ended up, of course, in Cyprus.

966
00:43:59,070 --> 00:44:01,406
But we never made it after that.

967
00:44:01,406 --> 00:44:03,630
Do you know the name
of the first boat?

968
00:44:03,630 --> 00:44:06,600
It starts with an M.
And you can find it,

969
00:44:06,600 --> 00:44:08,850
because it's a very well--

970
00:44:08,850 --> 00:44:11,790
I think it's called
the [? Mercour. ?] OK,

971
00:44:11,790 --> 00:44:13,290
I think that that's what it is.

972
00:44:13,290 --> 00:44:15,510
Somehow, it's in
the back of my mind.

973
00:44:15,510 --> 00:44:19,230
It's the [? Mercour, ?]
and it is, you can find it.

974
00:44:19,230 --> 00:44:25,950
This is either late '44
or very beginning '45.

975
00:44:25,950 --> 00:44:28,020
But it's a historic.

976
00:44:28,020 --> 00:44:30,660
It's the [? Mercour, ?]
that's what it is.

977
00:44:30,660 --> 00:44:34,800
Did your mother talk a lot
about your father at that time?

978
00:44:34,800 --> 00:44:39,240
You had been separated from
him since you were an infant.

979
00:44:39,240 --> 00:44:43,140
No, she didn't she
didn't, absolutely not.

980

00:44:43,140 --> 00:44:46,530
I don't remember ever
anything coming into.

981
00:44:46,530 --> 00:44:48,150
This was not a conversation.

982
00:44:48,150 --> 00:44:49,470
Did you ask about a father?

983
00:44:49,470 --> 00:44:50,670
I don't think I did.

984
00:44:50,670 --> 00:44:53,250
Everybody had abnormal
circumstances.

985
00:44:53,250 --> 00:44:56,190
Either there was a husband,
or there was a wife,

986
00:44:56,190 --> 00:44:58,350
or there was a child,
or there was somebody.

987
00:44:58,350 --> 00:45:01,590
Who ever saw full families
except those friends of ours

988
00:45:01,590 --> 00:45:03,450
who ended up in Canada?

989
00:45:03,450 --> 00:45:06,030
I mean, everything
was disjointed.

990
00:45:06,030 --> 00:45:09,630
Never remember
talking about him.

991
00:45:09,630 --> 00:45:12,060
At the time of
liberation, what did that

992
00:45:12,060 --> 00:45:15,090
mean to a seven-year-old,
almost seven-year-old.

993
00:45:15,090 --> 00:45:16,920
It's an incredible memory.

994
00:45:16,920 --> 00:45:19,230
We were in the basement
of this wonderful house

995
00:45:19,230 --> 00:45:22,320
where we lived, bombs
falling all over the place.

996
00:45:22,320 --> 00:45:25,290
Just one neighborhood,
I remember, destroyed.

997
00:45:25,290 --> 00:45:28,980
And then, a sunshine,
a day of sunshine,

998
00:45:28,980 --> 00:45:33,260
where everybody came
out, and candies,

999
00:45:33,260 --> 00:45:34,920
or whatever the
darn thing was that

1000
00:45:34,920 --> 00:45:37,410
was flying out
from those planes.

1001
00:45:37,410 --> 00:45:41,280
And the scream out of
everybody don't touch it

1002
00:45:41,280 --> 00:45:43,800
and don't eat it,
because they didn't

1003
00:45:43,800 --> 00:45:46,650
know whether it was poison,
wasn't poison, or whatever.

1004
00:45:46,650 --> 00:45:49,800
That's the memory of
this incredible bombing

1005
00:45:49,800 --> 00:45:52,470
before, never heard
the bombs before.

1006
00:45:52,470 --> 00:45:56,130
So this was the first time,
shaking of the whole thing.

1007
00:45:56,130 --> 00:45:58,530
Little houses, I mean,
don't get any idea,

1008
00:45:58,530 --> 00:45:59,730
these were not fortresses.

1009
00:45:59,730 --> 00:46:01,200
These were not even buildings.

1010
00:46:01,200 --> 00:46:03,270
These were small homes
where there were, maybe,

1011
00:46:03,270 --> 00:46:06,480
two apartments, or
whatever, three apartments.

1012
00:46:06,480 --> 00:46:08,250
And then this bombing.

1013
00:46:08,250 --> 00:46:11,100
And then this wonderful day.

1014
00:46:11,100 --> 00:46:15,750

And then the coming
in of the Russians.

1015
00:46:15,750 --> 00:46:19,120
And I don't remember
anybody being frightened.

1016
00:46:19,120 --> 00:46:22,170
But my mother says
that they were shaking,

1017
00:46:22,170 --> 00:46:26,250
because to them, the
memory of the Russians,

1018
00:46:26,250 --> 00:46:29,520
before the war, that type of a
memory, scared of the Russians

1019
00:46:29,520 --> 00:46:30,570
as can be.

1020
00:46:30,570 --> 00:46:33,060
And my mother decided,
my uncle, by that

1021
00:46:33,060 --> 00:46:35,400
time, the one who
had survived, Lishek,

1022
00:46:35,400 --> 00:46:38,580
came from Hungary
to us to Romania,

1023
00:46:38,580 --> 00:46:40,240
before going back to Poland.

1024
00:46:40,240 --> 00:46:42,740
And he said, are
you to stay here?

1025
00:46:42,740 --> 00:46:43,870
What are you going to do?

1026
00:46:43,870 --> 00:46:45,840
And she said, I'm
going back to Budapest.

1027
00:46:45,840 --> 00:46:48,690
I'm escape-- I'm going back
away from the Russians.

1028
00:46:48,690 --> 00:46:50,820
So she took me by train.

1029
00:46:50,820 --> 00:46:54,360
And we went back in an
uproar, in a tumult.

1030
00:46:54,360 --> 00:46:57,210
I mean, just got on
the train and went,

1031
00:46:57,210 --> 00:47:02,100
and went from Bucharest
back to Budapest.

1032
00:47:02,100 --> 00:47:03,780
The Russians were there.

1033
00:47:03,780 --> 00:47:06,210
But there was a much
larger Jewish community,

1034
00:47:06,210 --> 00:47:08,610
friends from Poland
that had escaped,

1035
00:47:08,610 --> 00:47:10,000
and they were all there.

1036
00:47:10,000 --> 00:47:11,550
So there was a support group.

1037
00:47:11,550 --> 00:47:13,800

And that's why we stayed a
little bit longer, and then

1038
00:47:13,800 --> 00:47:16,692
went to Czechoslovakia.

1039
00:47:16,692 --> 00:47:18,150
Let's go back a
little bit, when it

1040
00:47:18,150 --> 00:47:23,230
was the bombing
before the liberation,

1041
00:47:23,230 --> 00:47:26,000
what did you do
during that time?

1042
00:47:26,000 --> 00:47:27,840
Lived totally a normal life.

1043
00:47:27,840 --> 00:47:33,700
I remember going by streetcar
or walking to the Jewish house

1044
00:47:33,700 --> 00:47:36,820
where there was the school,
and there was this food,

1045
00:47:36,820 --> 00:47:40,240
and there were these friends
that were getting together.

1046
00:47:40,240 --> 00:47:43,210
Living totally,
definitely, not a

1047
00:47:43,210 --> 00:47:45,370
frightened life, if
that's what you mean.

1048
00:47:45,370 --> 00:47:47,140
I mean at the time

of the bombing.

1049

00:47:47,140 --> 00:47:49,150

Did you go into a bomb shelter?

1050

00:47:49,150 --> 00:47:51,730

No, this was a basement
of this little house.

1051

00:47:51,730 --> 00:47:53,470

There were no bomb shelters.

1052

00:47:53,470 --> 00:47:54,580

This was the basement.

1053

00:47:54,580 --> 00:47:56,140

Every house had a basement.

1054

00:47:56,140 --> 00:47:58,270

So they packed up
into the basement.

1055

00:47:58,270 --> 00:48:00,010

If something had
fallen, we would all

1056

00:48:00,010 --> 00:48:01,630

have been blown to pieces.

1057

00:48:01,630 --> 00:48:04,390

Small houses, I
mean, not exactly--

1058

00:48:04,390 --> 00:48:05,405

no, not shelters.

1059

00:48:05,405 --> 00:48:08,030

What did your mother say to you
during the time of the bombing?

1060

00:48:08,030 --> 00:48:10,113

I don't remember anything

except being frightened,

1061
00:48:10,113 --> 00:48:11,740
because that was noisy.

1062
00:48:11,740 --> 00:48:13,580
That I remember.

1063
00:48:13,580 --> 00:48:16,710
Did you know that
you might get killed?

1064
00:48:16,710 --> 00:48:18,280
Or was it just the noise?

1065
00:48:18,280 --> 00:48:20,500
Well, you certainly got scared.

1066
00:48:20,500 --> 00:48:22,710
I was always afraid of thunder.

1067
00:48:22,710 --> 00:48:26,100
I think that that thunder was
connected to this bombing.

1068
00:48:26,100 --> 00:48:28,515
I mean, when after the war,
when there was thunder,

1069
00:48:28,515 --> 00:48:29,640
I would go under the table.

1070
00:48:29,640 --> 00:48:32,510
And I would wait there
for the thunder pass.

1071
00:48:32,510 --> 00:48:35,220
Probably, that's the connection.

1072
00:48:35,220 --> 00:48:38,160
But no, nothing
else beside that.

1073
00:48:38,160 --> 00:48:42,510
During these years, did you
have an attachment, again,

1074
00:48:42,510 --> 00:48:45,880
to something special, a
toy, or doll, or something?

1075
00:48:45,880 --> 00:48:48,390
No, to my mother.

1076
00:48:48,390 --> 00:48:51,930
Wouldn't let go of her,
physically and emotionally,

1077
00:48:51,930 --> 00:48:52,984
wouldn't let go.

1078
00:48:52,984 --> 00:48:55,590

1079
00:48:55,590 --> 00:48:56,805
Was a security blanket.

1080
00:48:56,805 --> 00:49:04,180

1081
00:49:04,180 --> 00:49:09,130
So liberation meant candy
falling from the sky.

1082
00:49:09,130 --> 00:49:11,230
What else did it mean to you?

1083
00:49:11,230 --> 00:49:14,580
Nothing else,
absolutely nothing,

1084
00:49:14,580 --> 00:49:18,120
nothing else at that point.

1085

00:49:18,120 --> 00:49:20,945

Interestingly
enough, the scare--

1086

00:49:20,945 --> 00:49:25,890

if there was scare, if one can
go into psychological analysis,

1087

00:49:25,890 --> 00:49:31,310

if there was scare, that scare
was a normal part of living.

1088

00:49:31,310 --> 00:49:32,840

This was not a consciousness.

1089

00:49:32,840 --> 00:49:33,920

This was a child.

1090

00:49:33,920 --> 00:49:36,100

This was not a conscious way.

1091

00:49:36,100 --> 00:49:39,440

And maybe my mother's, and the
presence there, maybe, that

1092

00:49:39,440 --> 00:49:44,630

was, again, more than
just a security blanket.

1093

00:49:44,630 --> 00:49:46,250

I have-- I mean, I
am sure that they

1094

00:49:46,250 --> 00:49:48,830

can start writing all kinds
of books, as long as they

1095

00:49:48,830 --> 00:49:52,370

don't start going into
it more than it was.

1096

00:49:52,370 --> 00:49:54,140

I think there was
basically nothing there,

1097
00:49:54,140 --> 00:49:59,210
except a character build
up, a different, probably,

1098
00:49:59,210 --> 00:50:02,720
a different development
type of thing.

1099
00:50:02,720 --> 00:50:09,050
My daughter, who is a very
bright lawyer, says to me now,

1100
00:50:09,050 --> 00:50:16,070
mom, I was thinking, you have
a way of surviving instinct

1101
00:50:16,070 --> 00:50:18,380
in you is so strong.

1102
00:50:18,380 --> 00:50:21,200
And that has to go
back to this childhood

1103
00:50:21,200 --> 00:50:23,390
where you build up these walls.

1104
00:50:23,390 --> 00:50:25,760
And these walls are
these protective walls.

1105
00:50:25,760 --> 00:50:27,860
Now, they are not
walls for emotion.

1106
00:50:27,860 --> 00:50:34,340
But they are definitely
walls of survival.

1107
00:50:34,340 --> 00:50:35,990
So that build a character.

1108
00:50:35,990 --> 00:50:40,100
But there is not anything else
in there that I can imagine,

1109
00:50:40,100 --> 00:50:42,170
except if somebody really
wants to write books

1110
00:50:42,170 --> 00:50:43,580
about child psychology.

1111
00:50:43,580 --> 00:50:47,650

1112
00:50:47,650 --> 00:50:51,392
When your mother went back to
Poland to check on the family,

1113
00:50:51,392 --> 00:50:52,850
and you were put
in this children's

1114
00:50:52,850 --> 00:50:55,915
home for a temporary time,
was that very traumatic?

1115
00:50:55,915 --> 00:50:56,540
Very traumatic.

1116
00:50:56,540 --> 00:51:00,150
To be separated from your
mother for the first time.

1117
00:51:00,150 --> 00:51:01,550
My mother did not understand it.

1118
00:51:01,550 --> 00:51:04,970
This is something that is
absolutely fascinating to me.

1119
00:51:04,970 --> 00:51:09,020

There was a Jewish home
in Budapest established

1120
00:51:09,020 --> 00:51:11,690
for children like
myself and for children

1121
00:51:11,690 --> 00:51:14,360
who were orphans, who
were then starting

1122
00:51:14,360 --> 00:51:16,370
to come out from all sides.

1123
00:51:16,370 --> 00:51:19,940
OK, my mother decided that
that wasn't good enough

1124
00:51:19,940 --> 00:51:21,110
for her daughter.

1125
00:51:21,110 --> 00:51:27,350
She had to put me into this
fancy Hungarian home, which

1126
00:51:27,350 --> 00:51:31,400
was called [FRENCH],,
in good, old French.

1127
00:51:31,400 --> 00:51:33,770
And it was on the
hills of Budapest.

1128
00:51:33,770 --> 00:51:35,730
And it was this
fancy, fancy thing.

1129
00:51:35,730 --> 00:51:38,510
Except that this
fancy thing was too

1130
00:51:38,510 --> 00:51:43,190
fancy for a child who had had

no discipline, who had had--

1131
00:51:43,190 --> 00:51:43,987
what discipline?

1132
00:51:43,987 --> 00:51:45,320
I mean, who was disciplining me?

1133
00:51:45,320 --> 00:51:47,700
I mean, I was rolling with
the punches, as they say.

1134
00:51:47,700 --> 00:51:50,180
OK, whatever had to
be done was done.

1135
00:51:50,180 --> 00:51:52,700
I mean, this is where the
maturity of this child came in.

1136
00:51:52,700 --> 00:51:55,490
Also, extremely
attached to mother.

1137
00:51:55,490 --> 00:51:57,860
Plus, those children
in the Jewish home

1138
00:51:57,860 --> 00:52:00,380
had the same background,
a little bit, that I had,

1139
00:52:00,380 --> 00:52:02,390
not these kids where she put me.

1140
00:52:02,390 --> 00:52:05,240
So she thought she was
doing me this big favor.

1141
00:52:05,240 --> 00:52:11,570
And I was absolutely miserable,
everything else, for all

1142
00:52:11,570 --> 00:52:14,030
that duration that I was there.

1143
00:52:14,030 --> 00:52:16,390
When she came to pick me
up, I must have given her

1144
00:52:16,390 --> 00:52:17,910
a horrendous time, because--

1145
00:52:17,910 --> 00:52:21,260
and I must tell you, until
today, now, unfortunately,

1146
00:52:21,260 --> 00:52:22,040
she cannot speak.

1147
00:52:22,040 --> 00:52:25,980
But whenever I was going back,
whenever I was talking to her,

1148
00:52:25,980 --> 00:52:28,580
I always said to
her, how could you?

1149
00:52:28,580 --> 00:52:30,980
How didn't you
think that you don't

1150
00:52:30,980 --> 00:52:34,400
put a child into these
type of circumstances?

1151
00:52:34,400 --> 00:52:37,250
Because this was
not a normal child.

1152
00:52:37,250 --> 00:52:40,130
No, it was not a
normal childhood.

1153
00:52:40,130 --> 00:52:43,295

And her reaction was I did
what I thought was the best.

1154
00:52:43,295 --> 00:52:45,170
I wanted to put you into
this wonderful home.

1155
00:52:45,170 --> 00:52:47,780
So I messed it up.

1156
00:52:47,780 --> 00:52:53,000
But that, oh, yes, that has
a very strong impact on me.

1157
00:52:53,000 --> 00:52:54,170
There's no question.

1158
00:52:54,170 --> 00:52:56,240
How long was she gone for?

1159
00:52:56,240 --> 00:52:58,260
It wasn't a question of
how long she was gone.

1160
00:52:58,260 --> 00:53:02,330
She lived in Budapest
in this one room.

1161
00:53:02,330 --> 00:53:04,620
And she was going back
and forth to Poland.

1162
00:53:04,620 --> 00:53:07,230
This wasn't a one time episode.

1163
00:53:07,230 --> 00:53:15,040
And I remember this almost
like close to a school year.

1164
00:53:15,040 --> 00:53:17,800
And then she-- look,
she went back to Poland

1165

00:53:17,800 --> 00:53:19,690
to see if anybody survived.

1166

00:53:19,690 --> 00:53:21,870
She knew that my grandparents
had not survived.

1167

00:53:21,870 --> 00:53:22,840
How did she know that?

1168

00:53:22,840 --> 00:53:24,670
She knew it immediately,
she told me,

1169

00:53:24,670 --> 00:53:26,750
after she had reached Krakow--

1170

00:53:26,750 --> 00:53:27,850
after she had reached--

1171

00:53:27,850 --> 00:53:31,390
when we left Bochnia,
she says by the time

1172

00:53:31,390 --> 00:53:35,740
she only she reached
Budapest, she already

1173

00:53:35,740 --> 00:53:38,510
knew that Bochnia ghetto
had been liquidated.

1174

00:53:38,510 --> 00:53:40,580
So she knew about that.

1175

00:53:40,580 --> 00:53:43,300
Circumstances, she
learned after the war.

1176

00:53:43,300 --> 00:53:47,400

1177

00:53:47,400 --> 00:53:50,960

But she went back to see
whether everybody survived.

1178

00:53:50,960 --> 00:53:52,190

Then she went back to Yuzik.

1179

00:53:52,190 --> 00:53:53,690

And she got money from him.

1180

00:53:53,690 --> 00:53:56,090

He was the only
miracle on Earth.

1181

00:53:56,090 --> 00:53:57,620

Everybody said to
her, forget it.

1182

00:53:57,620 --> 00:53:59,520

They kill the Jews when
they go back there.

1183

00:53:59,520 --> 00:54:01,160

And she says,
Yuzik will be fine.

1184

00:54:01,160 --> 00:54:03,500

And Yuzik gave her a lot
of money for that time.

1185

00:54:03,500 --> 00:54:05,110

Yuzik also gave her some--

1186

00:54:05,110 --> 00:54:07,130

there is a memento that
I just brought back.

1187

00:54:07,130 --> 00:54:09,025

I was cleaning up
my parents' home,

1188

00:54:09,025 --> 00:54:11,150

because I don't know how
much longer my father will

1189
00:54:11,150 --> 00:54:11,910
be in the apartment.

1190
00:54:11,910 --> 00:54:13,493
I brought things
that meant something.

1191
00:54:13,493 --> 00:54:17,120
My mother has a level of
Chinese porcelain table

1192
00:54:17,120 --> 00:54:20,120
that I have here
that was given to her

1193
00:54:20,120 --> 00:54:22,460
when she was a little
girl, four, five years old

1194
00:54:22,460 --> 00:54:25,520
by my grandfather who
loved to collect antiques.

1195
00:54:25,520 --> 00:54:29,000
And it was-- either it was
part of a set of children toys,

1196
00:54:29,000 --> 00:54:31,190
or whatever, it's
a wonderful piece.

1197
00:54:31,190 --> 00:54:33,470
And this Yuzik gave
her after the war,

1198
00:54:33,470 --> 00:54:34,670
because he had it at home.

1199
00:54:34,670 --> 00:54:36,230
And it had survived.

1200
00:54:36,230 --> 00:54:40,160
So she brought that back.

1201
00:54:40,160 --> 00:54:42,470
But she went coming
back and forth.

1202
00:54:42,470 --> 00:54:43,670
She knew she wasn't coming--

1203
00:54:43,670 --> 00:54:46,160
I asked her once, why
didn't we go back to Poland?

1204
00:54:46,160 --> 00:54:48,260
And she said, because
going back to Poland

1205
00:54:48,260 --> 00:54:52,470
meant going to a country
covered with blood.

1206
00:54:52,470 --> 00:54:55,170
And so she had
absolutely no intention,

1207
00:54:55,170 --> 00:54:58,200
no matter what my
father was going to do,

1208
00:54:58,200 --> 00:55:00,270
she wasn't going
to go back there.

1209
00:55:00,270 --> 00:55:05,710
He had the choice of either
staying there or joining us.

1210
00:55:05,710 --> 00:55:07,780
But she wasn't going
back to be, definitely

1211
00:55:07,780 --> 00:55:10,210
not because he was there.

1212
00:55:10,210 --> 00:55:17,260
This was-- she was a very
strong woman, very strong woman.

1213
00:55:17,260 --> 00:55:21,180
Messed up life, but
a very strong woman.

1214
00:55:21,180 --> 00:55:23,730
How did your unhappiness
manifest itself

1215
00:55:23,730 --> 00:55:24,840
in this children's home?

1216
00:55:24,840 --> 00:55:26,370
How did you act it out?

1217
00:55:26,370 --> 00:55:27,605
I was impossible.

1218
00:55:27,605 --> 00:55:28,980
The other thing
which I remember,

1219
00:55:28,980 --> 00:55:33,540
which is absolutely crazy,
there were no bathrooms.

1220
00:55:33,540 --> 00:55:38,010
There were these night
pots under some beds.

1221
00:55:38,010 --> 00:55:40,320
And somebody must have
decided that they were

1222
00:55:40,320 --> 00:55:42,160
going to put me into trouble.

1223
00:55:42,160 --> 00:55:48,290
So every night, they
would turn over this pot.

1224
00:55:48,290 --> 00:55:49,700
Well, who got punished?

1225
00:55:49,700 --> 00:55:52,910
The one under whose bed it was.

1226
00:55:52,910 --> 00:55:54,580
That one never
climbed out of bed.

1227
00:55:54,580 --> 00:55:56,940
So I was miserable.

1228
00:55:56,940 --> 00:56:00,710
I was just-- I remember
being miserable there, not

1229
00:56:00,710 --> 00:56:03,320
having anybody that
could understand

1230
00:56:03,320 --> 00:56:06,270
the need of this child.

1231
00:56:06,270 --> 00:56:11,760
This was a traumatized
6, 7-year-old child.

1232
00:56:11,760 --> 00:56:14,180
Now, you're asking
me whether I was--

1233
00:56:14,180 --> 00:56:17,390
whether I was changed by
the war, by the experiences,

1234
00:56:17,390 --> 00:56:18,740

of course we were.

1235
00:56:18,740 --> 00:56:20,240
In a very different
way, probably,

1236
00:56:20,240 --> 00:56:25,410
as long as I was with my mother,
that was one type of thing.

1237
00:56:25,410 --> 00:56:27,650
But then you pull
this child away,

1238
00:56:27,650 --> 00:56:29,900
and there must be
some incredible trauma

1239
00:56:29,900 --> 00:56:30,740
going in there.

1240
00:56:30,740 --> 00:56:32,780
So wasn't exactly
the easiest one.

1241
00:56:32,780 --> 00:56:35,030
But I remember the
day that I was told

1242
00:56:35,030 --> 00:56:36,980
she was coming to pick me up.

1243
00:56:36,980 --> 00:56:39,740
I jumped to my cubby,
and took everything out,

1244
00:56:39,740 --> 00:56:43,202
and prepared it to go.

1245
00:56:43,202 --> 00:56:45,410
Did she come and visit you,
though, through the year?

1246

00:56:45,410 --> 00:56:49,460
No, she didn't come to visit me.

1247

00:56:49,460 --> 00:56:52,940
I understand that
she came to see me.

1248

00:56:52,940 --> 00:57:01,360
But she wasn't-- she did
not come to talk to me.

1249

00:57:01,360 --> 00:57:08,310
Except, I think once, and I very
often ask her why, even, this.

1250

00:57:08,310 --> 00:57:10,822
And she said, because
everybody was saying

1251

00:57:10,822 --> 00:57:12,030
it's easier for the children.

1252

00:57:12,030 --> 00:57:15,230

1253

00:57:15,230 --> 00:57:17,470
Question mark.

1254

00:57:17,470 --> 00:57:19,240
So did she write to you?

1255

00:57:19,240 --> 00:57:20,175
Or did you--

1256

00:57:20,175 --> 00:57:23,860
No, I knew-- look, I don't know.

1257

00:57:23,860 --> 00:57:31,680
You see, this whole episode
is, again, a very blurred one.

1258

00:57:31,680 --> 00:57:34,420

It's an interesting part,
which, I think-- look,

1259

00:57:34,420 --> 00:57:36,040

she was going
through some trauma.

1260

00:57:36,040 --> 00:57:37,190

There's no question.

1261

00:57:37,190 --> 00:57:40,960

She must have been going through
some kind of a hell of a time

1262

00:57:40,960 --> 00:57:43,490

at that point on her own.

1263

00:57:43,490 --> 00:57:51,100

Young woman, OK, suddenly, and
there's this whole destruction.

1264

00:57:51,100 --> 00:57:53,200

What were your thoughts
about your father, then?

1265

00:57:53,200 --> 00:57:56,350

Nothing, absolutely no thoughts.

1266

00:57:56,350 --> 00:57:58,150

Don't even try, because
there isn't any.

1267

00:57:58,150 --> 00:57:59,380

There was no thought.

1268

00:57:59,380 --> 00:58:00,940

Did you have any picture of him?

1269

00:58:00,940 --> 00:58:03,730

No, he had an only
picture of us which

1270

00:58:03,730 --> 00:58:07,360

were taken in 1939 that he
carried through to Russia

1271

00:58:07,360 --> 00:58:08,550

and then brought back.

1272

00:58:08,550 --> 00:58:12,970

Nope, didn't have any idea, and
didn't ask, and didn't matter.

1273

00:58:12,970 --> 00:58:15,838

1274

00:58:15,838 --> 00:58:18,950

Don't forget, there
were all the losses.

1275

00:58:18,950 --> 00:58:20,550

There were all of
these people that

1276

00:58:20,550 --> 00:58:24,360

meant so much, my grandmother,
my grandfather, my--

1277

00:58:24,360 --> 00:58:27,150

we lived, with us lived
my grandfather's sister

1278

00:58:27,150 --> 00:58:29,450

and his daughter--
and her daughter.

1279

00:58:29,450 --> 00:58:32,010

OK, they died together
with my grandmother.

1280

00:58:32,010 --> 00:58:33,840

Those were the losses.

1281

00:58:33,840 --> 00:58:38,910

The loss was not somebody that didn't exist in my memory, just

1282
00:58:38,910 --> 00:58:39,480
not there.

1283
00:58:39,480 --> 00:58:44,170

1284
00:58:44,170 --> 00:58:46,570
Did you go to school while you were in this orphanage?

1285
00:58:46,570 --> 00:58:50,860
Yes, my one normal school year in Hungary.

1286
00:58:50,860 --> 00:58:53,020
Absolutely, and did very well in Hungarian.

1287
00:58:53,020 --> 00:58:55,600
How were you-- was language difficult?

1288
00:58:55,600 --> 00:58:57,970
Incredible, I spoke always Polish at home

1289
00:58:57,970 --> 00:59:01,000
with my mother and my grandparents.

1290
00:59:01,000 --> 00:59:04,750
I learned Hungarian like--

1291
00:59:04,750 --> 00:59:07,730
my mother said, overnight, when we were the first time.

1292
00:59:07,730 --> 00:59:11,620
Went to Romania, overnight, forgot Hungarian

1293
00:59:11,620 --> 00:59:12,970
and learned Romanian.

1294
00:59:12,970 --> 00:59:16,450
Supposedly went out to play
and said something to my mother

1295
00:59:16,450 --> 00:59:17,350
in Hungarian.

1296
00:59:17,350 --> 00:59:19,180
Came back, and she
said something to me,

1297
00:59:19,180 --> 00:59:20,110
and it was blank.

1298
00:59:20,110 --> 00:59:21,170
It had gone.

1299
00:59:21,170 --> 00:59:22,420
So there was Romanian.

1300
00:59:22,420 --> 00:59:25,390
Came back to Hungary,
forgot Romanian,

1301
00:59:25,390 --> 00:59:28,210
although I understand it,
because I speak fluent French,

1302
00:59:28,210 --> 00:59:29,530
and learned Hungarian.

1303
00:59:29,530 --> 00:59:31,810
And did wonderfully
well in school.

1304
00:59:31,810 --> 00:59:39,050
Always spoke German, somehow,
by osmosis, always spoke that.

1305
00:59:39,050 --> 00:59:42,180
When did your mother
speak to her family?

1306
00:59:42,180 --> 00:59:43,280
Did she speak Yiddish?

1307
00:59:43,280 --> 00:59:44,480
Nope, always Polish.

1308
00:59:44,480 --> 00:59:47,630
We always spoke Polish.

1309
00:59:47,630 --> 00:59:51,650
Now, in 1951, you
went to Israel.

1310
00:59:51,650 --> 00:59:57,500
In 1951-- in 1946, we went
from Budapest, from Hungary,

1311
00:59:57,500 --> 01:00:00,950
to Czechoslovakia, not knowing
which way we were going.

1312
01:00:00,950 --> 01:00:04,490
It turned out that
my mother's aunt,

1313
01:00:04,490 --> 01:00:07,910
from my grandmother's sister
had survived in Belgium

1314
01:00:07,910 --> 01:00:08,870
with her husband.

1315
01:00:08,870 --> 01:00:10,670
Her only son had been killed.

1316
01:00:10,670 --> 01:00:12,920
And she lived, at that

point, in Brussels.

1317
01:00:12,920 --> 01:00:16,070
How they got connected,
I have no idea.

1318
01:00:16,070 --> 01:00:20,150
That's where we went
in the winter of '46

1319
01:00:20,150 --> 01:00:22,280
and stayed in Belgium.

1320
01:00:22,280 --> 01:00:26,360
And my mother did very well,
businesswise, any other way.

1321
01:00:26,360 --> 01:00:30,560
And then, in 1947, I
went to visit my father

1322
01:00:30,560 --> 01:00:32,030
for the first time.

1323
01:00:32,030 --> 01:00:35,260
Tell me about that.

1324
01:00:35,260 --> 01:00:39,040
Stranger in my life.

1325
01:00:39,040 --> 01:00:41,520
I knew he was my father.

1326
01:00:41,520 --> 01:00:45,000
There was also my aunt, his
sister, and her husband,

1327
01:00:45,000 --> 01:00:46,425
and then there was
already a baby.

1328
01:00:46,425 --> 01:00:48,300

They all, by the way,
live, now, in New York.

1329
01:00:48,300 --> 01:00:49,170
My uncle died.

1330
01:00:49,170 --> 01:00:52,000
But my aunt and my
cousin are in New York.

1331
01:00:52,000 --> 01:00:53,700
And there was also
my younger uncle, who

1332
01:00:53,700 --> 01:00:58,490
had survived also in New York.

1333
01:00:58,490 --> 01:01:02,700
All physicians and
all in this country.

1334
01:01:02,700 --> 01:01:04,650
But they came much later here.

1335
01:01:04,650 --> 01:01:06,630
And so I went there.

1336
01:01:06,630 --> 01:01:10,370
I visited with him.

1337
01:01:10,370 --> 01:01:14,630
He was an intruder into my life.

1338
01:01:14,630 --> 01:01:15,420
I mean, if my--

1339
01:01:15,420 --> 01:01:19,810
I think it would have been
much easier on all of us,

1340
01:01:19,810 --> 01:01:22,390
if this had been

a stepfather, he

1341

01:01:22,390 --> 01:01:25,960
would have taken a different
attitude to this child,

1342

01:01:25,960 --> 01:01:27,160
because it wasn't his.

1343

01:01:27,160 --> 01:01:30,760
So he would have been either
more careful or more whatever.

1344

01:01:30,760 --> 01:01:33,640
This one was a
very loving person

1345

01:01:33,640 --> 01:01:36,370
whom I didn't want in my
life, because he thought

1346

01:01:36,370 --> 01:01:37,630
he could act as my father.

1347

01:01:37,630 --> 01:01:38,860
And I didn't need a father.

1348

01:01:38,860 --> 01:01:40,960
I had a mother who
had been everything.

1349

01:01:40,960 --> 01:01:45,670
So who needed this person
coming into the life

1350

01:01:45,670 --> 01:01:48,610
of this 9-year-old?

1351

01:01:48,610 --> 01:01:51,520
I mean, there you have
all the personality

1352

01:01:51,520 --> 01:01:53,320
conflicts that come in.

1353
01:01:53,320 --> 01:01:54,940
My mother was everything for me.

1354
01:01:54,940 --> 01:01:56,950
And suddenly-- and my
father is, until today,

1355
01:01:56,950 --> 01:01:58,690
an extraordinarily
difficult man,

1356
01:01:58,690 --> 01:02:01,900
who thinks he lives in the
17th century and everybody owes

1357
01:02:01,900 --> 01:02:03,070
him--

1358
01:02:03,070 --> 01:02:04,375
he's the father figure.

1359
01:02:04,375 --> 01:02:06,610
Well, it isn't exactly so.

1360
01:02:06,610 --> 01:02:07,510
He wasn't there.

1361
01:02:07,510 --> 01:02:09,340
He was no father figure.

1362
01:02:09,340 --> 01:02:10,990
And he tried to be
the father figure.

1363
01:02:10,990 --> 01:02:15,640
So try that one for
a very confusing time

1364
01:02:15,640 --> 01:02:19,220

in everybody's life, I think.

1365
01:02:19,220 --> 01:02:22,800
Anyway, he went
in '51 to Israel.

1366
01:02:22,800 --> 01:02:23,945
And we joined him.

1367
01:02:23,945 --> 01:02:26,000
Oh, you went to
join him in Israel.

1368
01:02:26,000 --> 01:02:29,540
We went to join him, thinking
we would stay in Israel.

1369
01:02:29,540 --> 01:02:31,070
And my mother took one look.

1370
01:02:31,070 --> 01:02:33,720
This was, historically,
the Tzena,

1371
01:02:33,720 --> 01:02:36,800
the worst time in Israel.

1372
01:02:36,800 --> 01:02:40,500
We went in July,
wonderful time to go.

1373
01:02:40,500 --> 01:02:45,470
I mean, the heat, and the sand,
and the dirt, and the no food.

1374
01:02:45,470 --> 01:02:48,890
What did Israel mean to you
at that age, you were 13?

1375
01:02:48,890 --> 01:02:52,700
It didn't mean anything to
me, because my parents were,

1376

01:02:52,700 --> 01:02:55,130

not my mother, nor my
father were any big Zionist.

1377

01:02:55,130 --> 01:02:58,880

To them, Israel was
always the sands.

1378

01:02:58,880 --> 01:03:01,490

The [? Haludsniks ?] went there.

1379

01:03:01,490 --> 01:03:03,470

It wasn't their way of life.

1380

01:03:03,470 --> 01:03:05,210

It wasn't their mentality.

1381

01:03:05,210 --> 01:03:07,580

It was wonderful to have it.

1382

01:03:07,580 --> 01:03:10,910

She had wanted to
go there in '44.

1383

01:03:10,910 --> 01:03:12,890

But this was no '44.

1384

01:03:12,890 --> 01:03:14,100

She was doing very well.

1385

01:03:14,100 --> 01:03:16,670

We were living very
nicely in Belgium,

1386

01:03:16,670 --> 01:03:19,850

going skiing, going
summer vacationing.

1387

01:03:19,850 --> 01:03:24,140

My mother took me skiing
in the winter of '47, OK.

1388

01:03:24,140 --> 01:03:27,170

I mean, we were a
normal type of a life,

1389

01:03:27,170 --> 01:03:30,980

whatever normal meant at the
time, was being established.

1390

01:03:30,980 --> 01:03:34,460

And she came to Israel and
she said, I survived one war.

1391

01:03:34,460 --> 01:03:36,320

I'm not staying here.

1392

01:03:36,320 --> 01:03:38,180

And so she took me
back to Belgium.

1393

01:03:38,180 --> 01:03:41,870

And my father, at that time,
was working already in Israel.

1394

01:03:41,870 --> 01:03:44,990

And she said to him,
I'm not staying.

1395

01:03:44,990 --> 01:03:47,330

So we went back to Belgium.

1396

01:03:47,330 --> 01:03:48,570

Did he stay in Israel?

1397

01:03:48,570 --> 01:03:51,560

He stayed in Israel until
he could make it to Belgium

1398

01:03:51,560 --> 01:03:53,810

now that he realized that
my mother wasn't going to do

1399

01:03:53,810 --> 01:03:55,670

anything about being there.

1400
01:03:55,670 --> 01:03:58,187

1401
01:03:58,187 --> 01:03:59,770
How long did you
stay there in Israel?

1402
01:03:59,770 --> 01:04:02,810
A couple, I think, two months.

1403
01:04:02,810 --> 01:04:05,420
And then we came
back to Belgium.

1404
01:04:05,420 --> 01:04:06,860
And he joined us.

1405
01:04:06,860 --> 01:04:09,510
And I was going to school.

1406
01:04:09,510 --> 01:04:12,380
I was having
totally normal life.

1407
01:04:12,380 --> 01:04:15,950
When I came to Belgium, I
was already in second grade.

1408
01:04:15,950 --> 01:04:19,790
But because of, again, a new
language, French, compared

1409
01:04:19,790 --> 01:04:24,140
to, a year earlier,
Hungarian, I was somehow

1410
01:04:24,140 --> 01:04:26,330
between first and second grade.

1411
01:04:26,330 --> 01:04:28,920

I lost-- I didn't
lose that much.

1412
01:04:28,920 --> 01:04:29,420
But I lost.

1413
01:04:29,420 --> 01:04:33,890
I graduated from high school,
I was 19, rather than 17, 18.

1414
01:04:33,890 --> 01:04:36,020
I went through the
normal schooling.

1415
01:04:36,020 --> 01:04:37,400
We lived in Brussels.

1416
01:04:37,400 --> 01:04:40,940
My mother was doing economically
very well, quite a business

1417
01:04:40,940 --> 01:04:44,630
woman, quite a businesswoman.

1418
01:04:44,630 --> 01:04:48,930
And so we lived a normal life.

1419
01:04:48,930 --> 01:04:55,320
He could not stay in
Belgium, because he was not

1420
01:04:55,320 --> 01:04:56,290
a business man.

1421
01:04:56,290 --> 01:04:57,690
He was not a diamondtier.

1422
01:04:57,690 --> 01:05:00,800
He had difficulty getting
permission to stay.

1423
01:05:00,800 --> 01:05:02,460

Belgium had a very
difficult thing,

1424
01:05:02,460 --> 01:05:04,980
he could have joined
a wife and daughter.

1425
01:05:04,980 --> 01:05:07,680
But he did not get his
papers to stay in Belgium.

1426
01:05:07,680 --> 01:05:12,000
Ended up, anyway, in 1953,
as soon as he came in,

1427
01:05:12,000 --> 01:05:15,450
ended up in Germany
in Frankfurt,

1428
01:05:15,450 --> 01:05:18,840
where my uncle from Vienna
had established a business,

1429
01:05:18,840 --> 01:05:20,640
thinking that instead
of being in Vienna,

1430
01:05:20,640 --> 01:05:22,873
he would move to
Germany, because he

1431
01:05:22,873 --> 01:05:23,790
had a heart condition.

1432
01:05:23,790 --> 01:05:26,450
And he wanted to go to
Baden Leisure Center.

1433
01:05:26,450 --> 01:05:27,232
Couldn't do it.

1434
01:05:27,232 --> 01:05:28,440
It wasn't doing him any good.

1435
01:05:28,440 --> 01:05:29,730
So he went back to Vienna.

1436
01:05:29,730 --> 01:05:32,010
And my father took
over that business

1437
01:05:32,010 --> 01:05:35,280
that was part my
uncle part my mother.

1438
01:05:35,280 --> 01:05:36,640
And so he stayed in Germany.

1439
01:05:36,640 --> 01:05:38,820
And this is where
they are until today,

1440
01:05:38,820 --> 01:05:42,510
because after I got married,
in '61, my mother had,

1441
01:05:42,510 --> 01:05:44,670
as I called it, no more excuses.

1442
01:05:44,670 --> 01:05:47,490
And she joined him in Germany.

1443
01:05:47,490 --> 01:05:50,500
You said your mother
took you skiing in 1947.

1444
01:05:50,500 --> 01:05:56,840
How does one go from one kind
of life, difficult wartime,

1445
01:05:56,840 --> 01:05:59,570
to then going skiing
in such a short time?

1446
01:05:59,570 --> 01:06:06,620

I guess being young, I guess,
being in a normal type of a--

1447
01:06:06,620 --> 01:06:09,560

1448
01:06:09,560 --> 01:06:12,650
you see, forgetting something,
it still was not normal.

1449
01:06:12,650 --> 01:06:17,210
It was still-- everybody around
us were Holocaust survivors.

1450
01:06:17,210 --> 01:06:19,460
Everybody started
to redo their life.

1451
01:06:19,460 --> 01:06:21,920
A lot of second marriages
from young people

1452
01:06:21,920 --> 01:06:24,030
who had lost their
first families.

1453
01:06:24,030 --> 01:06:29,540
A lot of new babies
born in '46, '45, '46.

1454
01:06:29,540 --> 01:06:32,340
A life that takes
over, I guess it's

1455
01:06:32,340 --> 01:06:36,720
a survival, animal
survival that was in there.

1456
01:06:36,720 --> 01:06:39,590
How did the Jews that
came to America, how

1457
01:06:39,590 --> 01:06:42,860

come that they started
leading lives as if--

1458
01:06:42,860 --> 01:06:45,830
not as if nothing had
happened, but went

1459
01:06:45,830 --> 01:06:47,940
on living much more
normal lives, by the way,

1460
01:06:47,940 --> 01:06:50,180
than we lived in Europe.

1461
01:06:50,180 --> 01:06:52,430
I am totally convinced
that the ones who

1462
01:06:52,430 --> 01:06:57,050
came to America in
the '46 ended up

1463
01:06:57,050 --> 01:06:59,610
leading much more normal lives.

1464
01:06:59,610 --> 01:07:01,280
Some of them went bonkers.

1465
01:07:01,280 --> 01:07:08,550
I don't have a single friend in
Belgium whose parents survive.

1466
01:07:08,550 --> 01:07:12,820
OK, get that one, because
that one is interesting.

1467
01:07:12,820 --> 01:07:16,780
That one of the parents, or both
parents, or whoever, very few

1468
01:07:16,780 --> 01:07:18,470
had both parents
that had survived.

1469
01:07:18,470 --> 01:07:20,710
OK, except if they
went in Russia.

1470
01:07:20,710 --> 01:07:24,130
That there was no nervous
breakdown somewhere.

1471
01:07:24,130 --> 01:07:26,440
There wasn't one.

1472
01:07:26,440 --> 01:07:29,890
OK, some more seriously,
some less seriously.

1473
01:07:29,890 --> 01:07:31,340
They were all affected.

1474
01:07:31,340 --> 01:07:33,880
And I think that the ones that
came to America, from what I

1475
01:07:33,880 --> 01:07:36,580
see, were much less affected.

1476
01:07:36,580 --> 01:07:40,030
They had to incorporate
into this normal society.

1477
01:07:40,030 --> 01:07:41,080
Europe was not normal.

1478
01:07:41,080 --> 01:07:44,010
And it's normal until today.

1479
01:07:44,010 --> 01:07:48,510
You went back to Israel
from 1959 to 1961?

1480
01:07:48,510 --> 01:07:49,650
How did that come about?

1481
01:07:49,650 --> 01:07:55,950
Because by that time, I was
21 years old, very strong

1482
01:07:55,950 --> 01:07:58,010
feeling toward Israel.

1483
01:07:58,010 --> 01:07:59,010
How did that come about?

1484
01:07:59,010 --> 01:08:01,230
Lot Jewish organizations
in Belgium,

1485
01:08:01,230 --> 01:08:05,670
first to open the akiva,
then to the general Zionist.

1486
01:08:05,670 --> 01:08:08,380
Even though your parents
were not Zionists.

1487
01:08:08,380 --> 01:08:12,010
But they were-- my mother was
deep-- my mother is deeply,

1488
01:08:12,010 --> 01:08:13,770
deeply, deeply Jewish.

1489
01:08:13,770 --> 01:08:18,540
It was one thing going to
Israel and living in a kibbutz.

1490
01:08:18,540 --> 01:08:21,180
And it was another to
have the feeling, totally

1491
01:08:21,180 --> 01:08:25,010
two different entities in
here we're talking about.

1492

01:08:25,010 --> 01:08:27,990
I mean, I went to a
kibbutz when I was in '59.

1493
01:08:27,990 --> 01:08:31,500
And I looked at this, and
I said, get me out of here.

1494
01:08:31,500 --> 01:08:33,390
Although I was in a
Jewish organization

1495
01:08:33,390 --> 01:08:35,430
when that was the
mentality, I knew

1496
01:08:35,430 --> 01:08:37,660
this was not my cup of tea.

1497
01:08:37,660 --> 01:08:42,060
This isn't-- I mean,
maybe this collectivism.

1498
01:08:42,060 --> 01:08:43,090
I don't know what it is.

1499
01:08:43,090 --> 01:08:47,040
I mean, I wasn't
even trying to think.

1500
01:08:47,040 --> 01:08:49,439
I went there with
very strong feeling.

1501
01:08:49,439 --> 01:08:53,399
We have wonderful friends
and family that were there.

1502
01:08:53,399 --> 01:08:56,770
People that-- my mother had
a friend from childhood,

1503
01:08:56,770 --> 01:08:59,370

she was my aunt Ruth.

1504

01:08:59,370 --> 01:09:03,177

She had passed through
Romania with her family

1505

01:09:03,177 --> 01:09:04,010

while we were there.

1506

01:09:04,010 --> 01:09:06,689

And they met in
this Jewish kitchen

1507

01:09:06,689 --> 01:09:08,490

when they were serving dinner.

1508

01:09:08,490 --> 01:09:09,569

This was my family.

1509

01:09:09,569 --> 01:09:13,270

My family was not blood related.

1510

01:09:13,270 --> 01:09:14,520

I wasn't brought up with them.

1511

01:09:14,520 --> 01:09:16,439

They were the people
who had been with me

1512

01:09:16,439 --> 01:09:21,850

and who had been part of
my surrounding in a way.

1513

01:09:21,850 --> 01:09:22,590

So I went there.

1514

01:09:22,590 --> 01:09:24,660

And I had the best
time of my life.

1515

01:09:24,660 --> 01:09:28,810

This was the happiest

time of my life.

1516

01:09:28,810 --> 01:09:32,970

I always regretted
that I didn't--

1517

01:09:32,970 --> 01:09:34,710

that I didn't stay in Israel.

1518

01:09:34,710 --> 01:09:39,600

Because first of all,
I went to Tel Aviv,

1519

01:09:39,600 --> 01:09:43,470

where everybody surrounding
me were what is called

1520

01:09:43,470 --> 01:09:46,745

the wealthy Tel Aviv society.

1521

01:09:46,745 --> 01:09:48,370

Some who were there
from before the war

1522

01:09:48,370 --> 01:09:50,160

and had done very, very well.

1523

01:09:50,160 --> 01:09:53,640

And others had done very
well already after the war.

1524

01:09:53,640 --> 01:09:55,650

This was the golden youth.

1525

01:09:55,650 --> 01:10:00,130

For the first time, remember
something, I'm 21 years old.

1526

01:10:00,130 --> 01:10:03,300

The boys did not survive
the war in Europe.

1527

01:10:03,300 --> 01:10:04,980
It's the girls that survived.

1528
01:10:04,980 --> 01:10:08,400
If there was a group,
it was mostly girls.

1529
01:10:08,400 --> 01:10:14,160
The boys were either, they were
going into the diamond business

1530
01:10:14,160 --> 01:10:17,920
and had no education, or
there were people much older

1531
01:10:17,920 --> 01:10:18,540
than I was.

1532
01:10:18,540 --> 01:10:20,707
And there, you have these
disproportionate marriages

1533
01:10:20,707 --> 01:10:24,510
of people 10, 15 years older,
because there was not--

1534
01:10:24,510 --> 01:10:26,990
I call it the pool of young men.

1535
01:10:26,990 --> 01:10:29,970
OK, there was much more
a pool of young women

1536
01:10:29,970 --> 01:10:31,500
that were coming into age.

1537
01:10:31,500 --> 01:10:35,220
I had, basically,
nobody to date that I

1538
01:10:35,220 --> 01:10:39,030
felt that's what I
wanted to have around me.

1539
01:10:39,030 --> 01:10:40,915
Some of my friends
started going to school.

1540
01:10:40,915 --> 01:10:41,790
But they were my age.

1541
01:10:41,790 --> 01:10:43,530
These were babies.

1542
01:10:43,530 --> 01:10:46,560
There were no-- there
was no way that I

1543
01:10:46,560 --> 01:10:50,760
was going to find somebody
that, subconsciously,

1544
01:10:50,760 --> 01:10:53,130
that I wanted to marry,
that I wanted to go out.

1545
01:10:53,130 --> 01:10:54,990
Israel was another ball game.

1546
01:10:54,990 --> 01:10:58,560
There was this incredible
world that opened up

1547
01:10:58,560 --> 01:11:01,860
with these wonderful young
men that were studying already

1548
01:11:01,860 --> 01:11:04,890
in America, that were coming
back for vacation to their home

1549
01:11:04,890 --> 01:11:06,990
from MIT and everywhere else.

1550
01:11:06,990 --> 01:11:08,610

It was another world.

1551

01:11:08,610 --> 01:11:11,880

That's why a lot of
Belgian Jews, or Polish,

1552

01:11:11,880 --> 01:11:13,230

got married in England.

1553

01:11:13,230 --> 01:11:17,523

Because there, there was
this group of young men

1554

01:11:17,523 --> 01:11:18,440

where you could marry.

1555

01:11:18,440 --> 01:11:20,070

But then, there
was British Jews,

1556

01:11:20,070 --> 01:11:24,300

which is not exactly, again,
what the Polish Jews were--

1557

01:11:24,300 --> 01:11:25,473

our mentality was used.

1558

01:11:25,473 --> 01:11:26,640

Do you know what I'm saying?

1559

01:11:26,640 --> 01:11:31,710

This is where-- so Israel was
this wonderful, wonderful--

1560

01:11:31,710 --> 01:11:34,360

I had the time of my life.

1561

01:11:34,360 --> 01:11:38,550

I went to ulpan,
started learning Hebrew.

1562

01:11:38,550 --> 01:11:42,270

And then my mother decided that
she was getting me back home.

1563
01:11:42,270 --> 01:11:45,510
So she got me back
in the summer.

1564
01:11:45,510 --> 01:11:46,980
It was very hot.

1565
01:11:46,980 --> 01:11:49,080
And I was very happy to
go back home, except I

1566
01:11:49,080 --> 01:11:50,850
thought it was for two months.

1567
01:11:50,850 --> 01:11:54,510
And once I got to Belgium,
my mother said, forget it.

1568
01:11:54,510 --> 01:11:56,070
You're not going back.

1569
01:11:56,070 --> 01:11:59,180
So I went and I worked in--

1570
01:11:59,180 --> 01:12:01,590
I spoke English at
the time, already.

1571
01:12:01,590 --> 01:12:05,100
I had been to England
for one summer

1572
01:12:05,100 --> 01:12:06,660
and learned all the
languages, also,

1573
01:12:06,660 --> 01:12:07,990
in school for all these things.

1574

01:12:07,990 --> 01:12:09,220
So I was fluent in English.

1575
01:12:09,220 --> 01:12:10,470
I had no problem.

1576
01:12:10,470 --> 01:12:14,040
And I went, I worked for
Shell company as a secretary.

1577
01:12:14,040 --> 01:12:17,490
Made money, put it
away, bought a ticket,

1578
01:12:17,490 --> 01:12:19,590
and went back to Israel.

1579
01:12:19,590 --> 01:12:21,494