

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:08,600

2  
00:00:08,600 --> 00:00:11,660  
This is the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3  
00:00:11,660 --> 00:00:16,250  
volunteer collection interview  
with Helen Schwartz, conducted

4  
00:00:16,250 --> 00:00:22,340  
by Gail Schwartz, on March  
1, 2010 in Silver Spring,

5  
00:00:22,340 --> 00:00:23,660  
Maryland.

6  
00:00:23,660 --> 00:00:27,060  
This is a post-Holocaust  
interview,

7  
00:00:27,060 --> 00:00:32,180  
and so I just wanted to give out  
some of your information first.

8  
00:00:32,180 --> 00:00:40,190  
You were born Hela Kirschner  
April 8, 1925 in Lodz, Poland.

9  
00:00:40,190 --> 00:00:47,270  
You were in the Lodz ghetto  
from 1939 to August 1944.

10  
00:00:47,270 --> 00:00:51,760  
Then you were in Auschwitz  
from August 1944,

11  
00:00:51,760 --> 00:00:56,610  
and then to Stutthof, to  
Praust, to many other places.

12

00:00:56,610 --> 00:00:59,840

And when you were on the march,  
towards the end of the war,

13

00:00:59,840 --> 00:01:04,996

you were liberated  
March 1945 near Gdansk.

14

00:01:04,996 --> 00:01:06,250

Yes.

15

00:01:06,250 --> 00:01:07,150

OK.

16

00:01:07,150 --> 00:01:10,450

So let's talk now what  
happened after that.

17

00:01:10,450 --> 00:01:13,340

Where did you go  
after liberation?

18

00:01:13,340 --> 00:01:18,480

After the liberation, there  
was a small group of women,

19

00:01:18,480 --> 00:01:22,240

and we were liberated  
by the Russians.

20

00:01:22,240 --> 00:01:24,680

They took very good care of us.

21

00:01:24,680 --> 00:01:28,930

They supplied us with food,  
with clothes, because we

22

00:01:28,930 --> 00:01:32,870

were almost clothesless.

23

00:01:32,870 --> 00:01:38,290

Nothing that we

had on was a sack.

24

00:01:38,290 --> 00:01:41,470

No shoes, no nothing.

25

00:01:41,470 --> 00:01:44,290

The Russians supplied  
us with everything

26

00:01:44,290 --> 00:01:49,300

they could, but it  
didn't take us long--

27

00:01:49,300 --> 00:01:53,680

we stayed in a group,  
maybe 8 or 10 women.

28

00:01:53,680 --> 00:01:57,440

Girls mostly, young women.

29

00:01:57,440 --> 00:02:06,040

And must be we ate too  
much food or the dirt,

30

00:02:06,040 --> 00:02:13,740

because we were invaded by lice.

31

00:02:13,740 --> 00:02:19,310

And two days, three days  
after, everybody fell sick.

32

00:02:19,310 --> 00:02:23,520

And being sick, the Russians  
were afraid to come near us.

33

00:02:23,520 --> 00:02:26,430

And we didn't know  
what was wrong with us

34

00:02:26,430 --> 00:02:31,020

because we probably  
had high temperature,

35

00:02:31,020 --> 00:02:38,040  
and none of the girls  
was probably normal

36

00:02:38,040 --> 00:02:40,900  
and didn't know what happening.

37

00:02:40,900 --> 00:02:44,490  
But when the Russians  
didn't come near us,

38

00:02:44,490 --> 00:02:48,750  
we kept on asking why  
don't we get any help

39

00:02:48,750 --> 00:02:52,530  
or anything to make us well.

40

00:02:52,530 --> 00:03:00,820  
And we were told either there  
were nurses or there were--

41

00:03:00,820 --> 00:03:03,100  
to this day, I don't  
know who the people

42

00:03:03,100 --> 00:03:05,380  
were who took care of us.

43

00:03:05,380 --> 00:03:09,370  
That we have typhus  
fever and nobody

44

00:03:09,370 --> 00:03:13,600  
want to come near us  
because they were afraid,

45

00:03:13,600 --> 00:03:17,740  
the military, that they  
might get sick too.

46

00:03:17,740 --> 00:03:22,390

There was one woman who  
had a daughter my age.

47  
00:03:22,390 --> 00:03:24,280  
You were 20 years  
old at the time.

48  
00:03:24,280 --> 00:03:25,330  
Yes.

49  
00:03:25,330 --> 00:03:29,320  
I was 20 years old  
at the time, yes.

50  
00:03:29,320 --> 00:03:33,970  
And there was one  
woman, as I say,

51  
00:03:33,970 --> 00:03:37,030  
and she spoke a little Russian.

52  
00:03:37,030 --> 00:03:44,030  
She ran out to get help so  
we can go to a hospital.

53  
00:03:44,030 --> 00:03:49,610  
Soon after, a wagon with a  
German came, a horse and wagon.

54  
00:03:49,610 --> 00:03:52,420  
And they put us all on a wagon.

55  
00:03:52,420 --> 00:03:55,330  
And supposingly we  
went to a hospital,

56  
00:03:55,330 --> 00:03:57,520  
but it wasn't a hospital.

57  
00:03:57,520 --> 00:04:05,350  
It was a school converted  
into a hospital,

58

00:04:05,350 --> 00:04:12,070  
because there were many other  
women from other areas--

59

00:04:12,070 --> 00:04:17,920  
which I still don't know  
where they came from--

60

00:04:17,920 --> 00:04:22,630  
and they put hay on the floor.

61

00:04:22,630 --> 00:04:26,080  
And we were laying on  
the hay with no pillows,

62

00:04:26,080 --> 00:04:27,670  
with no nothing.

63

00:04:27,670 --> 00:04:30,430  
But all we wanted is help.

64

00:04:30,430 --> 00:04:34,180  
The Russians did a lot for us.

65

00:04:34,180 --> 00:04:36,970  
Are you still near Gdansk  
still, at the time?

66

00:04:36,970 --> 00:04:38,500  
Yeah.

67

00:04:38,500 --> 00:04:42,945  
Yes, near the area  
where I was liberated.

68

00:04:42,945 --> 00:04:46,510

69

00:04:46,510 --> 00:04:50,560  
I can't account the  
time, but after a while,

70

00:04:50,560 --> 00:04:55,030

they took us to  
another place which

71

00:04:55,030 --> 00:05:00,070

was better than the hospital,  
the school hospital.

72

00:05:00,070 --> 00:05:06,450

And at that time, we saw  
already Russian doctors,

73

00:05:06,450 --> 00:05:08,350

Russian nurses.

74

00:05:08,350 --> 00:05:13,270

But the Russians were  
so bitter, so upset,

75

00:05:13,270 --> 00:05:21,910

that they couldn't even stand,  
if a German woman or man came

76

00:05:21,910 --> 00:05:25,720

to help, to be on the  
same floor at the time

77

00:05:25,720 --> 00:05:27,280

when they were there.

78

00:05:27,280 --> 00:05:32,020

Because the Russians suffered  
a lot, too, from the Germans.

79

00:05:32,020 --> 00:05:36,910

And supposingly, I  
have no idea, but we

80

00:05:36,910 --> 00:05:39,340

tried to figure out  
why the Russians were

81

00:05:39,340 --> 00:05:44,020  
so mad at the Germans.

82  
00:05:44,020 --> 00:05:50,241  
That after, when we  
came back to ourselves--

83  
00:05:50,241 --> 00:05:53,600  
we were sick for two months.

84  
00:05:53,600 --> 00:05:57,490  
So I [? can't account ?] the  
time when we felt better,

85  
00:05:57,490 --> 00:06:01,660  
but I assume maybe a  
month, maybe six weeks.

86  
00:06:01,660 --> 00:06:04,600  
We kept on asking  
why the Russians are

87  
00:06:04,600 --> 00:06:07,060  
so mad at the Germans.

88  
00:06:07,060 --> 00:06:12,830  
And they said, they killed  
our parents, our sisters,

89  
00:06:12,830 --> 00:06:16,950  
our brothers just as much  
as they killed your sisters

90  
00:06:16,950 --> 00:06:18,550  
and brothers.

91  
00:06:18,550 --> 00:06:25,240  
But after two months,  
we were released

92  
00:06:25,240 --> 00:06:32,430  
and we were asked  
where we want to go.



93  
00:06:32,430 --> 00:06:40,110  
So I said, I want to go back to  
Lodz to find out who survived.

94  
00:06:40,110 --> 00:06:43,200

95  
00:06:43,200 --> 00:06:50,340  
And Red Cross took  
us over at the time,

96  
00:06:50,340 --> 00:06:53,370  
and they brought  
us back to Lodz.

97  
00:06:53,370 --> 00:06:56,070  
Lodz was just as  
bad as the place

98  
00:06:56,070 --> 00:07:01,150  
we came from, which I don't  
know the name of the place,

99  
00:07:01,150 --> 00:07:02,180  
but was near Gdansk.

100  
00:07:02,180 --> 00:07:05,250

101  
00:07:05,250 --> 00:07:07,650  
We didn't have anybody.

102  
00:07:07,650 --> 00:07:14,970  
But I found a place  
which was for me

103  
00:07:14,970 --> 00:07:19,050  
to stay with some other people.

104  
00:07:19,050 --> 00:07:25,790  
And every day, we went to

check the list of the people

105  
00:07:25,790 --> 00:07:29,540  
who survived and  
who came from Lodz.

106  
00:07:29,540 --> 00:07:35,960  
So I found my sister and  
my brother also survived.

107  
00:07:35,960 --> 00:07:41,780  
But my sister came  
after to Lodz,

108  
00:07:41,780 --> 00:07:44,750  
but my brother  
remained in Germany

109  
00:07:44,750 --> 00:07:50,030  
because he was liberated  
by the Americans,

110  
00:07:50,030 --> 00:07:53,300  
and that was German territory.

111  
00:07:53,300 --> 00:07:59,560  
And where we were liberated  
was the Russian territory.

112  
00:07:59,560 --> 00:08:02,320  
Because England,  
Russia, everybody

113  
00:08:02,320 --> 00:08:07,135  
took a part of, I  
think, the country.

114  
00:08:07,135 --> 00:08:10,920

115  
00:08:10,920 --> 00:08:14,730  
Shortly after I was  
reunited with my sister--

116  
00:08:14,730 --> 00:08:20,150  
because knowing she probably  
checked the list where she was,

117  
00:08:20,150 --> 00:08:24,230  
I checked the list where I  
was, and we got to reunited.

118  
00:08:24,230 --> 00:08:26,960  
So I was with my  
sister shortly after.

119  
00:08:26,960 --> 00:08:29,260  
Is this still in Lodz?

120  
00:08:29,260 --> 00:08:32,299  
That was still in Lodz, yes.

121  
00:08:32,299 --> 00:08:39,179  
And we couldn't get in  
touch with my brother,

122  
00:08:39,179 --> 00:08:42,320  
but people who--

123  
00:08:42,320 --> 00:08:47,760  
I don't know if they were not  
sick or they were hiding--

124  
00:08:47,760 --> 00:08:52,540  
used to communicate, go places.

125  
00:08:52,540 --> 00:08:56,990  
So we sent a message  
through this person

126  
00:08:56,990 --> 00:09:03,250  
for my brother, who was in  
Ainring, near Feldafing,

127  
00:09:03,250 --> 00:09:07,440

in Germany that we both survive.

128

00:09:07,440 --> 00:09:11,030

We are only two  
sisters, and we survive.

129

00:09:11,030 --> 00:09:14,150

So he sent back a  
message with somebody.

130

00:09:14,150 --> 00:09:17,330

Not letters, because  
at that time,

131

00:09:17,330 --> 00:09:19,850

that was too early for mail.

132

00:09:19,850 --> 00:09:26,750

And it was such a mix up  
that it's hard to describe.

133

00:09:26,750 --> 00:09:32,090

But everybody just want  
to know who survived.

134

00:09:32,090 --> 00:09:35,260

That was the most  
important thing.

135

00:09:35,260 --> 00:09:37,620

So the brother sent  
back the message,

136

00:09:37,620 --> 00:09:44,880

and he said, I survived and I  
am in this particular place--

137

00:09:44,880 --> 00:09:49,830

which was Ainring,  
by Freilassing--

138

00:09:49,830 --> 00:09:54,840

if you could come

back to Germany so

139

00:09:54,840 --> 00:09:57,630

we can be all together.

140

00:09:57,630 --> 00:10:02,010

Shortly, when we

felt we can travel--

141

00:10:02,010 --> 00:10:04,520

and travel wasn't

that you took a ticket

142

00:10:04,520 --> 00:10:08,910

and you went on the

train or aeroplane.

143

00:10:08,910 --> 00:10:13,020

But travel, you had

to find somebody

144

00:10:13,020 --> 00:10:16,980

who took you from

one place to another

145

00:10:16,980 --> 00:10:22,140

until we reach the border

of Poland and Germany.

146

00:10:22,140 --> 00:10:26,670

And then somebody else

took us to the place

147

00:10:26,670 --> 00:10:30,390

where my brother was.

148

00:10:30,390 --> 00:10:37,150

We did survive the trip and

we came back to Germany.

149

00:10:37,150 --> 00:10:41,010

Which, nobody like

to be in Germany,

150  
00:10:41,010 --> 00:10:45,690  
but we had no other  
choice because we

151  
00:10:45,690 --> 00:10:48,390  
couldn't stay in Portla--

152  
00:10:48,390 --> 00:10:48,960  
I'm sorry.

153  
00:10:48,960 --> 00:10:50,340  
In Portland.

154  
00:10:50,340 --> 00:10:55,990  
We couldn't stay in Lodz  
because nobody was there.

155  
00:10:55,990 --> 00:11:00,100  
And the place which  
we lived was torn down

156  
00:11:00,100 --> 00:11:04,420  
because the place  
where we used to live

157  
00:11:04,420 --> 00:11:09,310  
was very close to  
the gates where

158  
00:11:09,310 --> 00:11:12,670  
the ghetto started in Lodz.

159  
00:11:12,670 --> 00:11:19,220  
So we reunited and  
we stayed in Ainring

160  
00:11:19,220 --> 00:11:21,125  
with my brother and my sister.

161  
00:11:21,125 --> 00:11:24,610

162  
00:11:24,610 --> 00:11:35,050  
We stayed there from '45 till  
I came to the United States

163  
00:11:35,050 --> 00:11:38,030  
in '49.

164  
00:11:38,030 --> 00:11:42,280  
There, I met my husband,  
and we got married.

165  
00:11:42,280 --> 00:11:46,060  
My sister met her husband  
in the four years,

166  
00:11:46,060 --> 00:11:47,780  
and my brother got married.

167  
00:11:47,780 --> 00:11:51,070  
So we all got  
married in Germany.

168  
00:11:51,070 --> 00:11:56,740  
And from Germany, the  
first chance anybody had,

169  
00:11:56,740 --> 00:12:00,130  
they want to go  
away from Germany.

170  
00:12:00,130 --> 00:12:09,350  
So we all registered to  
America, to Canada, to Israel.

171  
00:12:09,350 --> 00:12:16,500  
Whichever came first, we went.

172  
00:12:16,500 --> 00:12:18,290  
Were you in a DP camp?

173  
00:12:18,290 --> 00:12:18,800

Yes.

174

00:12:18,800 --> 00:12:20,240

All this time, these four years.

175

00:12:20,240 --> 00:12:22,070

All those four years, yes.

176

00:12:22,070 --> 00:12:26,360

Some people went  
to live privately,

177

00:12:26,360 --> 00:12:30,470

but we were in a camp.

178

00:12:30,470 --> 00:12:34,250

And we were by the Americans.

179

00:12:34,250 --> 00:12:40,160

So my husband registered  
for all the places

180

00:12:40,160 --> 00:12:43,910

which were available to go.

181

00:12:43,910 --> 00:12:46,160

He was a tailor.

182

00:12:46,160 --> 00:12:53,180

And my sister and her  
husband and my brother.

183

00:12:53,180 --> 00:12:56,570

So the first to leave  
Germany was my brother,

184

00:12:56,570 --> 00:12:59,010

because by choice.

185

00:12:59,010 --> 00:13:02,600

I don't know  
exactly how it work.



186  
00:13:02,600 --> 00:13:04,940  
And he went to Canada.

187  
00:13:04,940 --> 00:13:09,970  
And we were supposed  
to go shortly after.

188  
00:13:09,970 --> 00:13:14,680  
Then my sister and her  
husband went to Israel.

189  
00:13:14,680 --> 00:13:18,150

190  
00:13:18,150 --> 00:13:22,950  
And when they came to Israel,  
they came right into the war,

191  
00:13:22,950 --> 00:13:26,370  
because they came in '48.

192  
00:13:26,370 --> 00:13:33,540  
From the ship, my brother-in-law  
was taken to the army.

193  
00:13:33,540 --> 00:13:36,340  
And my sister was  
left all by herself,

194  
00:13:36,340 --> 00:13:44,670  
and very, very sick and  
discouraged because we

195  
00:13:44,670 --> 00:13:48,540  
left one war and came  
right into another war.

196  
00:13:48,540 --> 00:13:54,440  
And I stayed on in Germany  
because I had a child.

197

00:13:54,440 --> 00:13:58,550

I was the first one to have  
a child from my brother

198

00:13:58,550 --> 00:13:59,770

and sister.

199

00:13:59,770 --> 00:14:02,120

But your brother and  
sister were older than you?

200

00:14:02,120 --> 00:14:02,720

Yes.

201

00:14:02,720 --> 00:14:04,790

I was the youngest  
in the family,

202

00:14:04,790 --> 00:14:07,670

but I had a child the first.

203

00:14:07,670 --> 00:14:10,130

My child was born in '47.

204

00:14:10,130 --> 00:14:12,290

I married in '46.

205

00:14:12,290 --> 00:14:15,830

A year later, I had my daughter.

206

00:14:15,830 --> 00:14:22,760

And with children, nobody  
was very happy to take.

207

00:14:22,760 --> 00:14:26,280

Israel didn't want  
anybody with children.

208

00:14:26,280 --> 00:14:31,790

They took only young people,  
because there was a war

209

00:14:31,790 --> 00:14:36,890  
and they wanted people to  
go to war with no children.

210  
00:14:36,890 --> 00:14:40,385  
And by that time, my brother  
was already in Canada.

211  
00:14:40,385 --> 00:14:42,970

212  
00:14:42,970 --> 00:14:45,460  
And he said, be patient.

213  
00:14:45,460 --> 00:14:46,930  
Wait.

214  
00:14:46,930 --> 00:14:51,440  
And I'm trying to  
get you to Canada.

215  
00:14:51,440 --> 00:14:53,840  
That was my brother.

216  
00:14:53,840 --> 00:14:59,600  
Meantime, there was a  
opening to the United States.

217  
00:14:59,600 --> 00:15:03,230  
And we were very happy.

218  
00:15:03,230 --> 00:15:06,650  
At the time it was  
HIAS who was working

219  
00:15:06,650 --> 00:15:10,460  
to bring the people  
to the United States.

220  
00:15:10,460 --> 00:15:19,010  
But there was a nice  
family in Portland, Maine--

221

00:15:19,010 --> 00:15:23,210  
which at that time, I didn't  
even know what Maine was--

222

00:15:23,210 --> 00:15:29,060  
and they needed somebody to  
work in a clothing factory.

223

00:15:29,060 --> 00:15:32,510  
And my husband signed  
up as a tailor.

224

00:15:32,510 --> 00:15:37,010  
So we were chosen to  
go to Portland, Maine,

225

00:15:37,010 --> 00:15:40,910  
and we were very, very happy.

226

00:15:40,910 --> 00:15:47,870  
Came to Portland with a  
2 and 1/2 year old child.

227

00:15:47,870 --> 00:15:56,170  
And the man who signed up  
for us to come to Portland

228

00:15:56,170 --> 00:15:58,780  
was one of the nicest people.

229

00:15:58,780 --> 00:16:02,110  
He supplied us  
with an apartment.

230

00:16:02,110 --> 00:16:06,830  
My husband was right away  
paid 40-some dollars a week,

231

00:16:06,830 --> 00:16:09,010  
which I thought I  
am a millionaire

232

00:16:09,010 --> 00:16:18,880  
because 40-some dollars  
in '49 was a lot of money.

233  
00:16:18,880 --> 00:16:22,540  
And we were very happy  
to be in America.

234  
00:16:22,540 --> 00:16:26,980  
So my sister was in Israel,  
my brother was in Canada,

235  
00:16:26,980 --> 00:16:30,350  
and I was in America.

236  
00:16:30,350 --> 00:16:34,730  
We were not happy about it  
because we want to be together,

237  
00:16:34,730 --> 00:16:41,150  
so I was the one  
who was saying, I'm

238  
00:16:41,150 --> 00:16:43,250  
going to start doing something.

239  
00:16:43,250 --> 00:16:47,340  
Maybe I can bring  
you to America.

240  
00:16:47,340 --> 00:16:52,002  
My sister said, oh, I would  
like you to come to Israel.

241  
00:16:52,002 --> 00:16:56,430  
My brother said, I would  
like you to be in Canada.

242  
00:16:56,430 --> 00:17:00,890  
But it took a long time  
and everybody already

243  
00:17:00,890 --> 00:17:04,520

had settled in the  
places where they were.

244  
00:17:04,520 --> 00:17:08,960  
So my husband didn't want  
to leave Portland, Maine,

245  
00:17:08,960 --> 00:17:13,310  
and my sister didn't  
want to leave Israel,

246  
00:17:13,310 --> 00:17:16,050  
and my brother didn't  
want to leave Canada.

247  
00:17:16,050 --> 00:17:20,310  
So we were all separated.

248  
00:17:20,310 --> 00:17:22,859  
In Portland, I had  
a beautiful life.

249  
00:17:22,859 --> 00:17:25,780  
The people were so nice.

250  
00:17:25,780 --> 00:17:28,510  
And they were not all Jewish.

251  
00:17:28,510 --> 00:17:31,900  
Even the Gentile  
people, they accepted

252  
00:17:31,900 --> 00:17:38,530  
us like we were  
somebody special.

253  
00:17:38,530 --> 00:17:44,940  
There was quite a few  
families who came to Portland,

254  
00:17:44,940 --> 00:17:50,410  
but they didn't stay on because  
at that time, the people who

255  
00:17:50,410 --> 00:17:54,190  
came to Portland, they  
were single people.

256  
00:17:54,190 --> 00:17:57,700  
And for single  
people, there wasn't

257  
00:17:57,700 --> 00:18:02,050  
really much to do in Portland.

258  
00:18:02,050 --> 00:18:07,280  
And the majority  
left after a while,

259  
00:18:07,280 --> 00:18:12,190  
but three full  
families were left

260  
00:18:12,190 --> 00:18:14,125  
in Portland who had children.

261  
00:18:14,125 --> 00:18:16,680

262  
00:18:16,680 --> 00:18:25,590  
And I came in '49, and '51,  
my son was born in Portland.

263  
00:18:25,590 --> 00:18:28,260  
And I already had two children.

264  
00:18:28,260 --> 00:18:31,680  
And life was beautiful.

265  
00:18:31,680 --> 00:18:35,808  
And I realize what a beautiful  
place is to be in America.

266  
00:18:35,808 --> 00:18:38,500

267  
00:18:38,500 --> 00:18:42,650  
And as the years went  
by, I had another son,

268  
00:18:42,650 --> 00:18:45,600  
who was born in '57.

269  
00:18:45,600 --> 00:18:48,990  
And this was that, and we  
were all settled in Portland.

270  
00:18:48,990 --> 00:18:52,450

271  
00:18:52,450 --> 00:18:56,230  
After five years, my  
husband worked for this man

272  
00:18:56,230 --> 00:18:58,810  
who signed it up for us.

273  
00:18:58,810 --> 00:19:03,720  
In gratitude, he didn't  
want to leave him,

274  
00:19:03,720 --> 00:19:07,510  
but he always want  
to be on his own.

275  
00:19:07,510 --> 00:19:13,590  
So after five years, pay him  
back what this man did for us.

276  
00:19:13,590 --> 00:19:17,340  
In Portland, we  
opened a little shop

277  
00:19:17,340 --> 00:19:22,650  
for ourselves, which  
was tailoring clothing,

278



00:19:22,650 --> 00:19:24,930  
like mom and pop shop.

279  
00:19:24,930 --> 00:19:26,940  
And I helped my husband.

280  
00:19:26,940 --> 00:19:33,140  
And we were there  
for almost 40 years,

281  
00:19:33,140 --> 00:19:37,190  
until my husband took sick.

282  
00:19:37,190 --> 00:19:44,520  
And my husband died in 2000.

283  
00:19:44,520 --> 00:19:46,970  
And my kids,  
meantime, got married

284  
00:19:46,970 --> 00:19:50,670  
and moved away from Portland.

285  
00:19:50,670 --> 00:19:55,440  
After 2000, I was left  
by myself, and very

286  
00:19:55,440 --> 00:19:57,175  
few friends in Portland.

287  
00:19:57,175 --> 00:20:00,920

288  
00:20:00,920 --> 00:20:07,100  
I stayed on for another  
year in Portland, in Maine.

289  
00:20:07,100 --> 00:20:14,010  
And my daughter, who lived in  
Virginia at the time, said--

290  
00:20:14,010 --> 00:20:16,590

291  
00:20:16,590 --> 00:20:23,230  
and my son settled in New  
Jersey and already had families,

292  
00:20:23,230 --> 00:20:24,640  
my daughter has families.

293  
00:20:24,640 --> 00:20:27,290

294  
00:20:27,290 --> 00:20:33,680  
They asked me where do I want  
to go to be again together.

295  
00:20:33,680 --> 00:20:38,660  
So I decide I'm going to  
come near my daughter.

296  
00:20:38,660 --> 00:20:46,220  
And near my daughter, I didn't  
want to be in a single home

297  
00:20:46,220 --> 00:20:52,670  
again, so I have chosen to  
be in Leisure World, which

298  
00:20:52,670 --> 00:20:54,230  
I have no regrets.

299  
00:20:54,230 --> 00:20:56,330  
I'm very happy.

300  
00:20:56,330 --> 00:20:59,310  
And I made some new friends.

301  
00:20:59,310 --> 00:21:06,350  
And I been living,  
it's been nine years

302  
00:21:06,350 --> 00:21:11,680

since I came to live  
in Leisure World.

303  
00:21:11,680 --> 00:21:17,260  
And I hope, God willing, that  
I will have a few more years

304  
00:21:17,260 --> 00:21:20,125  
and enjoy life in Leisure World.

305  
00:21:20,125 --> 00:21:22,920

306  
00:21:22,920 --> 00:21:24,660  
Can we go back a  
little bit now, and I

307  
00:21:24,660 --> 00:21:26,010  
can ask you some questions?

308  
00:21:26,010 --> 00:21:26,800  
Yes, ma'am.

309  
00:21:26,800 --> 00:21:30,480  
Thank you for telling  
me your story.

310  
00:21:30,480 --> 00:21:33,750  
When you were liberated in '45--

311  
00:21:33,750 --> 00:21:35,490  
you're 20 years old--

312  
00:21:35,490 --> 00:21:37,350  
what did that mean to you?

313  
00:21:37,350 --> 00:21:42,100  
Do you remember what  
your feelings were?

314  
00:21:42,100 --> 00:21:49,350  
A feeling, it's very

hard for me to describe.

315  
00:21:49,350 --> 00:21:53,120  
You take a child, which I was--

316  
00:21:53,120 --> 00:21:57,060  
20 years is not a baby anymore.

317  
00:21:57,060 --> 00:22:06,800  
But you take a child who came  
out of the woods and lost.

318  
00:22:06,800 --> 00:22:11,900  
That's how I felt.  
With no parents.

319  
00:22:11,900 --> 00:22:19,220  
And before I united  
with my sister,

320  
00:22:19,220 --> 00:22:21,710  
life wasn't worth living.

321  
00:22:21,710 --> 00:22:24,750  
And I kept on asking,  
why did I survive?

322  
00:22:24,750 --> 00:22:30,600  
And what did I do for me to  
survive and not to others?

323  
00:22:30,600 --> 00:22:33,210  
Or my parents.

324  
00:22:33,210 --> 00:22:36,000  
It was very hard.

325  
00:22:36,000 --> 00:22:40,440  
But when I reunited with  
my sister and brother,

326  
00:22:40,440 --> 00:22:45,040

then life became  
a little better.

327  
00:22:45,040 --> 00:22:48,210  
And you were 14 years  
old when the war started.

328  
00:22:48,210 --> 00:22:53,220  
So you really lost a good  
part of your childhood.

329  
00:22:53,220 --> 00:23:00,562  
I had no, like they  
say now, a young--

330  
00:23:00,562 --> 00:23:02,255  
how do they call it?

331  
00:23:02,255 --> 00:23:03,940  
You mean the teenage years.

332  
00:23:03,940 --> 00:23:04,690  
Teenage years.

333  
00:23:04,690 --> 00:23:07,840  
I didn't have teenage years.

334  
00:23:07,840 --> 00:23:12,250  
At the time, I didn't even know  
what that means, teenage years.

335  
00:23:12,250 --> 00:23:16,990  
Because when we were in the  
ghetto, life was terrible.

336  
00:23:16,990 --> 00:23:23,060  
And thanks my brother,  
who he used to--

337  
00:23:23,060 --> 00:23:24,470  
I can say it now--

338

00:23:24,470 --> 00:23:33,300  
he used to steal potato  
peel and bring it home.

339  
00:23:33,300 --> 00:23:35,940  
So my mother cooked it.

340  
00:23:35,940 --> 00:23:40,310  
Every day, she made  
something else.

341  
00:23:40,310 --> 00:23:43,280  
Some people were  
not as fortunate.

342  
00:23:43,280 --> 00:23:49,100  
But my brother was a firemen,  
and in the ghetto, he was--

343  
00:23:49,100 --> 00:23:50,450  
well, we were working.

344  
00:23:50,450 --> 00:23:52,940  
I was working,  
too, in the ghetto.

345  
00:23:52,940 --> 00:23:58,100  
But I was working  
in a laundry where

346  
00:23:58,100 --> 00:24:03,110  
the German who  
stayed in the ghetto,

347  
00:24:03,110 --> 00:24:07,010  
we washed the clothes  
for the Germans.

348  
00:24:07,010 --> 00:24:09,770  
And I never had done  
anything because I

349  
00:24:09,770 --> 00:24:12,230

was the youngest at  
home, but I quickly

350

00:24:12,230 --> 00:24:17,060

learned how to iron, how  
to fold up the shirts,

351

00:24:17,060 --> 00:24:20,810

how to the socks,  
and everything.

352

00:24:20,810 --> 00:24:24,890

Because that was a special  
place, and not everybody

353

00:24:24,890 --> 00:24:30,060

was fortunate to work in the  
ghetto in a place like that.

354

00:24:30,060 --> 00:24:35,870

So I could get a portion of a  
little water soup, supposingly,

355

00:24:35,870 --> 00:24:40,050

but it was more water  
than anything in it.

356

00:24:40,050 --> 00:24:44,750

But my parents worked, and  
my sister, my brother worked.

357

00:24:44,750 --> 00:24:46,610

We all work.

358

00:24:46,610 --> 00:24:48,920

So that kept us alive.

359

00:24:48,920 --> 00:24:55,340

And having parents, that was  
another plus that we survive.

360

00:24:55,340 --> 00:24:57,080

In the ghetto--

361  
00:24:57,080 --> 00:25:00,320  
I hate to go into it--

362  
00:25:00,320 --> 00:25:06,490  
but life in the  
ghetto was unbearable.

363  
00:25:06,490 --> 00:25:10,750  
Kids my age, very few survived.

364  
00:25:10,750 --> 00:25:14,680  
I was fortunate to survive  
because, as I said it,

365  
00:25:14,680 --> 00:25:16,660  
I had my parents.

366  
00:25:16,660 --> 00:25:19,550  
And I didn't have  
myself to fight

367  
00:25:19,550 --> 00:25:24,180  
every day for that  
little piece of bread

368  
00:25:24,180 --> 00:25:33,850  
because my mother  
used to ration.

369  
00:25:33,850 --> 00:25:37,640  
She didn't eat, but  
she gave it to us.

370  
00:25:37,640 --> 00:25:40,660

371  
00:25:40,660 --> 00:25:43,350  
I don't want to talk about it.

372  
00:25:43,350 --> 00:25:45,475  
How did you find out what



happened to your parents?

373  
00:25:45,475 --> 00:25:49,870

374  
00:25:49,870 --> 00:25:57,370  
If anybody went to the Museum,  
upstairs in the Museum,

375  
00:25:57,370 --> 00:25:59,485  
there is a cattle train.

376  
00:25:59,485 --> 00:26:03,270

377  
00:26:03,270 --> 00:26:09,060  
Leaving the ghetto, we all  
went on those cattle trains,

378  
00:26:09,060 --> 00:26:17,470  
supposingly that we are going  
to another place of work.

379  
00:26:17,470 --> 00:26:21,120  
Better circumstances.

380  
00:26:21,120 --> 00:26:22,510  
Everything better.

381  
00:26:22,510 --> 00:26:29,150  
So we all were happy to  
leave the ghetto and to go.

382  
00:26:29,150 --> 00:26:31,360  
We thought we are  
going to go the train,

383  
00:26:31,360 --> 00:26:34,690  
but when we saw  
those cattle trains,

384  
00:26:34,690 --> 00:26:37,250

we looked at each other.

385

00:26:37,250 --> 00:26:40,180

And I went to my  
father and I said--

386

00:26:40,180 --> 00:26:44,260

I didn't go to my father  
because we all stayed together.

387

00:26:44,260 --> 00:26:50,150

And I said, Dad, what is  
that cattle train doing here?

388

00:26:50,150 --> 00:26:54,580

And he said, oh, they  
probably just stay in here,

389

00:26:54,580 --> 00:26:58,570

and the train for us  
is going to come soon.

390

00:26:58,570 --> 00:27:02,605

The train for us never came, and  
we went on this cattle train.

391

00:27:02,605 --> 00:27:05,690

392

00:27:05,690 --> 00:27:11,570

A night and a day after, when  
we embarked from that cattle

393

00:27:11,570 --> 00:27:14,170

train--

394

00:27:14,170 --> 00:27:17,750

I don't even think  
it took a minute.

395

00:27:17,750 --> 00:27:21,350

And it was so bad because  
half of the people

396

00:27:21,350 --> 00:27:27,760  
probably were dead who where  
in that train overnight.

397

00:27:27,760 --> 00:27:32,650

398

00:27:32,650 --> 00:27:33,730  
The smell.

399

00:27:33,730 --> 00:27:38,110  
And everybody relieve  
themselves standing.

400

00:27:38,110 --> 00:27:42,220  
You couldn't even sit down  
or lay down or whatever.

401

00:27:42,220 --> 00:27:46,440  
Everybody was in  
standing position.

402

00:27:46,440 --> 00:27:51,430  
So when they opened  
the door, we were

403

00:27:51,430 --> 00:27:55,390  
happy to run out as  
quick as we could.

404

00:27:55,390 --> 00:28:01,720  
And they made us to run out, but  
we stepped over other people.

405

00:28:01,720 --> 00:28:07,570  
My father said that the best  
place is to be in a corner,

406

00:28:07,570 --> 00:28:12,190  
because when we were  
on it, my father direct

407

00:28:12,190 --> 00:28:14,170  
us to go to the corner.

408

00:28:14,170 --> 00:28:16,320  
Maybe there is  
going to be better.

409

00:28:16,320 --> 00:28:18,880  
So we all stayed in the corner.

410

00:28:18,880 --> 00:28:25,120  
But when we came out, we  
had to kind of fall over

411

00:28:25,120 --> 00:28:29,150  
the people who were laying  
on top of each other.

412

00:28:29,150 --> 00:28:33,640  
And when we reached  
the outside, we

413

00:28:33,640 --> 00:28:38,390  
did not split  
[? for a minute ?] or second.

414

00:28:38,390 --> 00:28:40,040  
It went so quick.

415

00:28:40,040 --> 00:28:44,300  
My parents went one way  
and my sister, my brother,

416

00:28:44,300 --> 00:28:46,990  
went the other way.

417

00:28:46,990 --> 00:28:48,650  
OK?

418

00:28:48,650 --> 00:28:52,160  
Women were separate  
and men were separate.

419  
00:28:52,160 --> 00:28:54,970  
And they said that  
because we want

420  
00:28:54,970 --> 00:29:01,650  
to run back to my mother's  
side, my parents' side,

421  
00:29:01,650 --> 00:29:04,050  
they said, no, no,  
no, they go to work.

422  
00:29:04,050 --> 00:29:06,782  
You're going to  
see them tonight.

423  
00:29:06,782 --> 00:29:10,260  
So my mother said, no, don't go.

424  
00:29:10,260 --> 00:29:11,730  
Go to work.

425  
00:29:11,730 --> 00:29:13,850  
I'll see you tonight.

426  
00:29:13,850 --> 00:29:18,290  
But soon after we walked  
away from the cattle train,

427  
00:29:18,290 --> 00:29:21,420  
we saw the people  
on the other side,

428  
00:29:21,420 --> 00:29:22,970  
which looked to us like crazy.

429  
00:29:22,970 --> 00:29:28,700  
And we thought that we came  
to work in a crazy house.

430  
00:29:28,700 --> 00:29:33,230

And being young, I  
didn't realize we

431  
00:29:33,230 --> 00:29:35,630  
didn't know where we are going.

432  
00:29:35,630 --> 00:29:41,990  
We didn't know that such a  
thing exists like Auschwitz.

433  
00:29:41,990 --> 00:29:43,660  
We never heard the  
word Auschwitz.

434  
00:29:43,660 --> 00:29:49,220  
And that was another thing,  
the fuhrer from Auschwitz,

435  
00:29:49,220 --> 00:29:51,410  
which was a Jewish man--

436  
00:29:51,410 --> 00:29:52,940  
I forgot his name--

437  
00:29:52,940 --> 00:29:57,110  
he never said the truth  
where we are going.

438  
00:29:57,110 --> 00:30:04,650  
And our transport was the  
last one leaving the ghetto

439  
00:30:04,650 --> 00:30:12,280  
except the people who were  
hiding and didn't want to go.

440  
00:30:12,280 --> 00:30:17,380  
And the one who were hiding  
cleaned up the ghetto.

441  
00:30:17,380 --> 00:30:20,940  
And we didn't know about that.

442

00:30:20,940 --> 00:30:28,000

So that was the last time,  
on that cattle train,

443

00:30:28,000 --> 00:30:30,880

that I saw my parents.

444

00:30:30,880 --> 00:30:34,170

When your children  
were growing up,

445

00:30:34,170 --> 00:30:37,120

did you tell them your story?

446

00:30:37,120 --> 00:30:38,770

Or did you wait?

447

00:30:38,770 --> 00:30:40,990

No, I did not tell them.

448

00:30:40,990 --> 00:30:41,570

No.

449

00:30:41,570 --> 00:30:42,070

No.

450

00:30:42,070 --> 00:30:44,770

Because?

451

00:30:44,770 --> 00:30:47,830

I was telling my  
children very little,

452

00:30:47,830 --> 00:30:50,840

because when they  
were young, I didn't

453

00:30:50,840 --> 00:30:58,270

want to tell them the  
truth because I was afraid

454

00:30:58,270 --> 00:31:07,300  
that they might grow up  
with antisemite feeling.

455  
00:31:07,300 --> 00:31:10,790  
And I didn't want  
that to my children.

456  
00:31:10,790 --> 00:31:14,800  
When they were old enough--

457  
00:31:14,800 --> 00:31:18,270  
people used to write  
books, I was suggested

458  
00:31:18,270 --> 00:31:23,440  
to write a book too, but I  
never want to talk about that

459  
00:31:23,440 --> 00:31:25,370  
or write about that.

460  
00:31:25,370 --> 00:31:30,280  
So I used to get them a  
book, and I said, read that.

461  
00:31:30,280 --> 00:31:34,270  
And I felt as long it's not  
their mother and father,

462  
00:31:34,270 --> 00:31:36,860  
it won't hurt them as much.

463  
00:31:36,860 --> 00:31:41,860  
But when they understood,  
they didn't ask any questions.

464  
00:31:41,860 --> 00:31:42,840  
No.

465  
00:31:42,840 --> 00:31:46,250  
And I have very  
intelligent children.



466  
00:31:46,250 --> 00:31:48,370  
My daughter is a social worker.

467  
00:31:48,370 --> 00:31:52,270  
My son is working for the court.

468  
00:31:52,270 --> 00:31:55,700  
He is an attorney.

469  
00:31:55,700 --> 00:31:57,800  
And my youngest son is a doctor.

470  
00:31:57,800 --> 00:32:01,850  
So I did very well  
with my children.

471  
00:32:01,850 --> 00:32:04,820  
When your children  
were your age,

472  
00:32:04,820 --> 00:32:07,030  
when things started to get bad--

473  
00:32:07,030 --> 00:32:10,340  
for instance, you were  
14 when the war started--

474  
00:32:10,340 --> 00:32:12,260  
when your children  
turned 14, did

475  
00:32:12,260 --> 00:32:16,160  
that trigger any responses in  
you when you looked at them

476  
00:32:16,160 --> 00:32:18,500  
and thinking, well,  
when I was 14--

477  
00:32:18,500 --> 00:32:19,200  
No.

478  
00:32:19,200 --> 00:32:19,700  
No.

479  
00:32:19,700 --> 00:32:24,050  
I was happy that  
they had everything.

480  
00:32:24,050 --> 00:32:27,500  
I could give them everything.

481  
00:32:27,500 --> 00:32:29,250  
No, no, no.

482  
00:32:29,250 --> 00:32:33,810

483  
00:32:33,810 --> 00:32:38,480  
My feeling, I never gave--

484  
00:32:38,480 --> 00:32:40,820  
I don't know how to say it.

485  
00:32:40,820 --> 00:32:43,860  
I never expressed that.

486  
00:32:43,860 --> 00:32:45,200  
Yeah, but I meant inside.

487  
00:32:45,200 --> 00:32:47,240  
Did you feel inside?

488  
00:32:47,240 --> 00:32:53,210  
I was happy that my children  
didn't have to go through.

489  
00:32:53,210 --> 00:32:56,850  
That I'm living in  
a beautiful country.

490  
00:32:56,850 --> 00:33:00,890

And I was always hoping  
that never, never

491  
00:33:00,890 --> 00:33:03,290  
again would I live  
through any war.

492  
00:33:03,290 --> 00:33:06,180

493  
00:33:06,180 --> 00:33:09,390  
Were you overprotective of  
your children, do you think?

494  
00:33:09,390 --> 00:33:10,200  
Yes.

495  
00:33:10,200 --> 00:33:10,980  
Oh, yes.

496  
00:33:10,980 --> 00:33:11,880  
Oh, yes.

497  
00:33:11,880 --> 00:33:14,310  
My children never  
had a babysitter

498  
00:33:14,310 --> 00:33:16,770  
because I didn't trust anybody.

499  
00:33:16,770 --> 00:33:17,970  
Oh, yes.

500  
00:33:17,970 --> 00:33:21,773  
This I got to admit.

501  
00:33:21,773 --> 00:33:23,190  
What were you  
afraid of what would

502  
00:33:23,190 --> 00:33:27,270  
happen if you had a babysitter?

503  
00:33:27,270 --> 00:33:31,380  
Always my thought that  
I might come back--

504  
00:33:31,380 --> 00:33:34,080  
because I was  
working, but I tried

505  
00:33:34,080 --> 00:33:37,110  
to be home when the kids  
were home from school.

506  
00:33:37,110 --> 00:33:39,930  
But always my thought was--

507  
00:33:39,930 --> 00:33:47,680  
because in the ghetto, they used  
to go around and pick people.

508  
00:33:47,680 --> 00:33:51,530  
So let's say, if a small  
child was left home

509  
00:33:51,530 --> 00:33:55,320  
and the parents were working  
in the ghetto, they came back

510  
00:33:55,320 --> 00:33:58,530  
and they found no child.

511  
00:33:58,530 --> 00:33:59,950  
I was protected.

512  
00:33:59,950 --> 00:34:02,070  
And I don't want to  
go into the ghetto

513  
00:34:02,070 --> 00:34:05,700  
because we were hiding then.

514  
00:34:05,700 --> 00:34:08,699

It was unbearable.

515  
00:34:08,699 --> 00:34:09,420  
OK?

516  
00:34:09,420 --> 00:34:10,285  
The ghetto life.

517  
00:34:10,285 --> 00:34:13,420

518  
00:34:13,420 --> 00:34:16,560  
I don't want to talk  
about that too much.

519  
00:34:16,560 --> 00:34:20,790  
But overprotective, yes,  
because I was afraid--

520  
00:34:20,790 --> 00:34:22,139  
Something might happen to them.

521  
00:34:22,139 --> 00:34:27,330  
That while I'm not home,  
something might happen.

522  
00:34:27,330 --> 00:34:32,156  
And that was for a  
long time with me.

523  
00:34:32,156 --> 00:34:36,139  
What did the United  
States mean to you?

524  
00:34:36,139 --> 00:34:37,790  
The world.

525  
00:34:37,790 --> 00:34:39,420  
Everything.

526  
00:34:39,420 --> 00:34:40,380  
Everything.

527  
00:34:40,380 --> 00:34:41,156  
Freedom.

528  
00:34:41,156 --> 00:34:42,239  
How did you know about it?

529  
00:34:42,239 --> 00:34:44,159  
Happiness.

530  
00:34:44,159 --> 00:34:47,429  
How did I know about  
the United States?

531  
00:34:47,429 --> 00:34:49,650  
I came and live.

532  
00:34:49,650 --> 00:34:52,065  
Before, I didn't  
know about America.

533  
00:34:52,065 --> 00:34:53,190  
OK, so that's what I meant.

534  
00:34:53,190 --> 00:34:55,567  
When you were in--

535  
00:34:55,567 --> 00:34:57,150  
you didn't know much  
about it, but you

536  
00:34:57,150 --> 00:34:59,400  
knew you wanted to come  
to the United States.

537  
00:34:59,400 --> 00:35:00,420  
Oh, yes.

538  
00:35:00,420 --> 00:35:01,110  
Because?

539

00:35:01,110 --> 00:35:06,840  
Because what I knew at the  
time about United States,

540  
00:35:06,840 --> 00:35:08,700  
it's a beautiful country.

541  
00:35:08,700 --> 00:35:10,710  
Freedom.

542  
00:35:10,710 --> 00:35:14,820  
Everybody can live the  
way they want to live.

543  
00:35:14,820 --> 00:35:20,454  
And everybody can be rich.

544  
00:35:20,454 --> 00:35:23,010  
That's what they said.

545  
00:35:23,010 --> 00:35:25,398  
So when you put your foot  
down on American soil

546  
00:35:25,398 --> 00:35:26,190  
for the first time.

547  
00:35:26,190 --> 00:35:27,990  
Oh, I kissed the soil.

548  
00:35:27,990 --> 00:35:28,590  
Did you?

549  
00:35:28,590 --> 00:35:30,582  
Yes, I did.

550  
00:35:30,582 --> 00:35:31,494  
Yes, yes.

551  
00:35:31,494 --> 00:35:34,470

552

00:35:34,470 --> 00:35:37,690

Did you come by boat  
to the United States?

553

00:35:37,690 --> 00:35:38,190

Yes.

554

00:35:38,190 --> 00:35:38,760

Yeah.

555

00:35:38,760 --> 00:35:41,120

General Stewart, yes.

556

00:35:41,120 --> 00:35:41,780

Yeah.

557

00:35:41,780 --> 00:35:45,620

Yeah, it was a military ship.

558

00:35:45,620 --> 00:35:46,900

Yeah.

559

00:35:46,900 --> 00:35:50,730

And I forget so many things,  
but General Stewart I

560

00:35:50,730 --> 00:35:51,720

have never forgotten.

561

00:35:51,720 --> 00:35:52,220

Yeah.

562

00:35:52,220 --> 00:35:54,090

And so coming to  
the United States--

563

00:35:54,090 --> 00:35:56,370

Coming to the  
United States, yes.

564

00:35:56,370 --> 00:35:59,810



565  
00:35:59,810 --> 00:36:02,190  
And when did you  
become a citizen?

566  
00:36:02,190 --> 00:36:04,600  
In '55.

567  
00:36:04,600 --> 00:36:06,060  
And what was that like?

568  
00:36:06,060 --> 00:36:13,410  
Oh, freedom, happiness,  
everything you can wish for.

569  
00:36:13,410 --> 00:36:21,350  
I think people who  
went through a time

570  
00:36:21,350 --> 00:36:26,090  
as I went through  
appreciate every bit.

571  
00:36:26,090 --> 00:36:29,850

572  
00:36:29,850 --> 00:36:34,230  
And I have never  
forgotten my past,

573  
00:36:34,230 --> 00:36:37,050  
though I don't talk about it.

574  
00:36:37,050 --> 00:36:39,290  
But it's always with me.

575  
00:36:39,290 --> 00:36:42,260

576  
00:36:42,260 --> 00:36:43,660  
How is it always with you?

577

00:36:43,660 --> 00:36:46,150  
Do you think about it every day?

578

00:36:46,150 --> 00:36:50,270  
It's always with me, in a way.

579

00:36:50,270 --> 00:36:51,900  
I will give you an example.

580

00:36:51,900 --> 00:36:54,780  
When we had that little  
shop in Portland,

581

00:36:54,780 --> 00:37:00,440  
Maine, if somebody came in  
and said, do this, do this,

582

00:37:00,440 --> 00:37:06,950  
do that, we did more than  
the person ask for but ask

583

00:37:06,950 --> 00:37:10,820  
less than somebody  
else would ask for.

584

00:37:10,820 --> 00:37:16,700  
And we used to  
have customers who

585

00:37:16,700 --> 00:37:20,250  
used to say-- my husband's name  
was Adam-- they used to say,

586

00:37:20,250 --> 00:37:24,530  
Adam, is that all?

587

00:37:24,530 --> 00:37:26,530  
You should charge more.

588

00:37:26,530 --> 00:37:31,340  
And my husband used to say,

I should charge nothing

589  
00:37:31,340 --> 00:37:34,230  
because I want to give  
back to America what

590  
00:37:34,230 --> 00:37:35,780  
America gave to us.

591  
00:37:35,780 --> 00:37:41,800

592  
00:37:41,800 --> 00:37:46,080  
Did you become more  
religious, less religious?

593  
00:37:46,080 --> 00:37:47,640  
No, less religious.

594  
00:37:47,640 --> 00:37:49,130  
Because of what  
you went through?

595  
00:37:49,130 --> 00:37:49,770  
Yeah.

596  
00:37:49,770 --> 00:37:51,630  
Why is that?

597  
00:37:51,630 --> 00:37:53,250  
I don't know.

598  
00:37:53,250 --> 00:38:01,440  
Being young, my mother was  
religious more than my father.

599  
00:38:01,440 --> 00:38:06,990  
Maybe because I didn't come  
for a very orthodox home.

600  
00:38:06,990 --> 00:38:10,650  
But God was always with me.

601

00:38:10,650 --> 00:38:22,940

And I used to say to myself,  
why couldn't I have my parents?

602

00:38:22,940 --> 00:38:27,020

Why did they had to  
go the way they went?

603

00:38:27,020 --> 00:38:30,140

604

00:38:30,140 --> 00:38:32,780

I always said, it  
would be so nice

605

00:38:32,780 --> 00:38:37,010

if I could have  
a grave to go to.

606

00:38:37,010 --> 00:38:43,120

And that was with  
me all the time.

607

00:38:43,120 --> 00:38:44,960

Oh, please, I can't talk.

608

00:38:44,960 --> 00:38:47,730

609

00:38:47,730 --> 00:38:50,270

Have you been back  
to Poland at all?

610

00:38:50,270 --> 00:38:51,270

No.

611

00:38:51,270 --> 00:38:52,380

Would you want to go?

612

00:38:52,380 --> 00:38:52,890

No.

613  
00:38:52,890 --> 00:38:54,780  
Why not?

614  
00:38:54,780 --> 00:38:59,960  
Because the Poles were even  
worse than the Germans.

615  
00:38:59,960 --> 00:39:08,880  
In beginning, we lived  
in, like, in a court.

616  
00:39:08,880 --> 00:39:12,200  
You know, houses were around.

617  
00:39:12,200 --> 00:39:13,665  
And we had, like, a janitor.

618  
00:39:13,665 --> 00:39:16,320

619  
00:39:16,320 --> 00:39:20,610  
He was the first one who  
threw stones into the house

620  
00:39:20,610 --> 00:39:24,180  
when the Germans came in.

621  
00:39:24,180 --> 00:39:25,490  
No.

622  
00:39:25,490 --> 00:39:26,835  
I have no desire.

623  
00:39:26,835 --> 00:39:30,210

624  
00:39:30,210 --> 00:39:31,920  
But America is my home.

625  
00:39:31,920 --> 00:39:34,710

I grew up in America.

626  
00:39:34,710 --> 00:39:42,525  
Are there any sights  
today or sounds or smells

627  
00:39:42,525 --> 00:39:46,740  
that trigger memories  
of the past for you?

628  
00:39:46,740 --> 00:39:51,240  
If you hear something or smell  
something or see something

629  
00:39:51,240 --> 00:39:53,700  
that triggers a  
memory from the past?

630  
00:39:53,700 --> 00:39:56,390

631  
00:39:56,390 --> 00:39:58,830  
It's always with me.

632  
00:39:58,830 --> 00:40:09,570  
So it's when a holiday comes  
and I remember my parents.

633  
00:40:09,570 --> 00:40:10,750  
That's hard.

634  
00:40:10,750 --> 00:40:12,280  
That's the hardest part.

635  
00:40:12,280 --> 00:40:17,200

636  
00:40:17,200 --> 00:40:20,950  
Are you angry that you  
had to go through what

637  
00:40:20,950 --> 00:40:23,060

you did when other  
people, for instance, who

638  
00:40:23,060 --> 00:40:27,290  
were living in the United  
States didn't have to?

639  
00:40:27,290 --> 00:40:28,930  
No.

640  
00:40:28,930 --> 00:40:35,570  
Because now that we  
have so many wars since

641  
00:40:35,570 --> 00:40:43,460  
and I sit at the table  
and eat and realize

642  
00:40:43,460 --> 00:40:47,720  
that there's so much  
going on in the world,

643  
00:40:47,720 --> 00:40:49,670  
I don't blame anybody.

644  
00:40:49,670 --> 00:40:52,890  
Because I cannot do anything.

645  
00:40:52,890 --> 00:40:57,170  
So I think of the  
people, they probably

646  
00:40:57,170 --> 00:41:01,280  
couldn't do-- maybe  
they could do something,

647  
00:41:01,280 --> 00:41:04,280  
but they couldn't stop the war.

648  
00:41:04,280 --> 00:41:08,600  
They stopped the war when  
time came to stop the war.

649

00:41:08,600 --> 00:41:09,740

Yes.

650

00:41:09,740 --> 00:41:14,960

Maybe they could stop  
it a little earlier,

651

00:41:14,960 --> 00:41:16,220

but that's life.

652

00:41:16,220 --> 00:41:18,830

No, I'm not angry.

653

00:41:18,830 --> 00:41:19,970

No.

654

00:41:19,970 --> 00:41:21,870

I think about it.

655

00:41:21,870 --> 00:41:25,340

Because every time when I  
watch television and see what's

656

00:41:25,340 --> 00:41:33,620

going on in the world, I think  
back of myself and I said,

657

00:41:33,620 --> 00:41:35,630

why don't I do something?

658

00:41:35,630 --> 00:41:36,290

But I can't.

659

00:41:36,290 --> 00:41:39,380

660

00:41:39,380 --> 00:41:42,800

But I give to DACA.

661

00:41:42,800 --> 00:41:49,060

I do everything in



my power to help.

662  
00:41:49,060 --> 00:41:52,100  
And thank God for that.

663  
00:41:52,100 --> 00:41:53,930  
Do you receive reparations?

664  
00:41:53,930 --> 00:41:54,890  
Yes.

665  
00:41:54,890 --> 00:41:56,558  
And what are your  
feelings about that?

666  
00:41:56,558 --> 00:41:59,550

667  
00:41:59,550 --> 00:42:01,590  
I wish I wouldn't, but--

668  
00:42:01,590 --> 00:42:04,320

669  
00:42:04,320 --> 00:42:06,150  
I don't get back what I lost.

670  
00:42:06,150 --> 00:42:09,260

671  
00:42:09,260 --> 00:42:14,200  
And that makes me feel  
better when I say to myself,

672  
00:42:14,200 --> 00:42:16,940  
I lost so much.

673  
00:42:16,940 --> 00:42:22,280  
Money is not everything.

674  
00:42:22,280 --> 00:42:27,950

If I could buy back with  
the money, I would have.

675  
00:42:27,950 --> 00:42:35,163  
So money is OK, but I  
don't live by the money.

676  
00:42:35,163 --> 00:42:38,061

677  
00:42:38,061 --> 00:42:42,390  
Money is not everything for me.

678  
00:42:42,390 --> 00:42:43,560  
Maybe I'm different.

679  
00:42:43,560 --> 00:42:45,640  
I don't know.

680  
00:42:45,640 --> 00:42:46,290  
I don't know.

681  
00:42:46,290 --> 00:42:56,030

682  
00:42:56,030 --> 00:42:57,530  
Well, we talked  
about whether you're

683  
00:42:57,530 --> 00:43:02,390  
more comfortable around those  
who survived the war than those

684  
00:43:02,390 --> 00:43:03,750  
who didn't have to.

685  
00:43:03,750 --> 00:43:06,620  
No, I'm comfortable  
around anybody.

686  
00:43:06,620 --> 00:43:10,250

687

00:43:10,250 --> 00:43:12,260

Do you think you'd  
be a different person

688

00:43:12,260 --> 00:43:16,850

today than you are  
if you hadn't gone

689

00:43:16,850 --> 00:43:19,160

through what you went through?

690

00:43:19,160 --> 00:43:24,360

Here you were a young  
woman on your own,

691

00:43:24,360 --> 00:43:27,090

surviving unspeakable  
conditions.

692

00:43:27,090 --> 00:43:29,250

You must have had  
an inner strength.

693

00:43:29,250 --> 00:43:30,883

Do you think you  
would be different

694

00:43:30,883 --> 00:43:32,800

if you weren't tested  
the way you were tested?

695

00:43:32,800 --> 00:43:34,450

I don't know.

696

00:43:34,450 --> 00:43:35,370

I don't know.

697

00:43:35,370 --> 00:43:43,320

But one thing I know,  
that I'm very sensible.

698

00:43:43,320 --> 00:43:48,300  
And I try to help  
everybody I can help.

699  
00:43:48,300 --> 00:43:51,030  
I am the first one who will--

700  
00:43:51,030 --> 00:43:56,770  
which people used to  
make remarks about me.

701  
00:43:56,770 --> 00:43:58,620  
I didn't realize.

702  
00:43:58,620 --> 00:44:00,320  
Why are you doing that?

703  
00:44:00,320 --> 00:44:02,160  
And I say, I didn't know.

704  
00:44:02,160 --> 00:44:03,930  
I'm doing it.

705  
00:44:03,930 --> 00:44:08,610  
But people say, oh, you  
don't have to do that.

706  
00:44:08,610 --> 00:44:09,530  
But I do it.

707  
00:44:09,530 --> 00:44:10,780  
You mean to help other people?

708  
00:44:10,780 --> 00:44:13,940  
Yes, yes, yes.

709  
00:44:13,940 --> 00:44:14,830  
Yeah.

710  
00:44:14,830 --> 00:44:16,210  
I have a little problem.

711

00:44:16,210 --> 00:44:19,540

I used to work for  
the-- not work,

712

00:44:19,540 --> 00:44:28,750

but volunteered for the  
Museum, but I have a problem

713

00:44:28,750 --> 00:44:32,620

with my feet, which at  
the time, it bothered me,

714

00:44:32,620 --> 00:44:33,950

but not as much.

715

00:44:33,950 --> 00:44:38,080

And I had to stop because  
I had back surgery.

716

00:44:38,080 --> 00:44:42,910

But I always am thinking,  
even at my age now,

717

00:44:42,910 --> 00:44:47,620

which I'm older now than--

718

00:44:47,620 --> 00:44:52,360

when I first came, I was so  
happy because I was always

719

00:44:52,360 --> 00:44:55,380

thinking, what to do?

720

00:44:55,380 --> 00:44:57,820

How can I pay back?

721

00:44:57,820 --> 00:45:03,070

I always want to pay back  
to the beautiful America.

722

00:45:03,070 --> 00:45:09,365

So they said, oh, why not

volunteering for the Museum?

723

00:45:09,365 --> 00:45:10,240

The Holocaust Museum.

724

00:45:10,240 --> 00:45:12,100

Holocaust Museum, yes.

725

00:45:12,100 --> 00:45:14,840

So I said, sure, why not.

726

00:45:14,840 --> 00:45:17,830

So I couldn't do  
it for too long.

727

00:45:17,830 --> 00:45:19,920

What kind of work did you do?

728

00:45:19,920 --> 00:45:22,702

I was at the desk.

729

00:45:22,702 --> 00:45:23,410

Visitor services.

730

00:45:23,410 --> 00:45:24,190

Visitors.

731

00:45:24,190 --> 00:45:25,740

Yeah, yeah.

732

00:45:25,740 --> 00:45:26,980

Yeah.

733

00:45:26,980 --> 00:45:28,450

And I enjoyed it.

734

00:45:28,450 --> 00:45:32,590

And I love to do, even now,  
I love to do for people.

735

00:45:32,590 --> 00:45:36,230

What's your feeling when  
you walk into that building?

736  
00:45:36,230 --> 00:45:39,250  
I become numb.

737  
00:45:39,250 --> 00:45:43,270  
I really cannot say how I feel.

738  
00:45:43,270 --> 00:45:44,380  
I went upstairs.

739  
00:45:44,380 --> 00:45:48,550  
When I saw the train,  
it bothered me a little.

740  
00:45:48,550 --> 00:45:51,870  
But that was only once  
that I went upstairs,

741  
00:45:51,870 --> 00:45:55,000  
and I didn't go back there.

742  
00:45:55,000 --> 00:45:59,370  
But when I am with people, all  
I want to do is help people.

743  
00:45:59,370 --> 00:46:04,200

744  
00:46:04,200 --> 00:46:06,360  
What were your thoughts  
during the Eichmann Trial?

745  
00:46:06,360 --> 00:46:10,430

746  
00:46:10,430 --> 00:46:17,930  
It didn't help me personal  
because I couldn't bring back

747  
00:46:17,930 --> 00:46:20,180

anybody.

748  
00:46:20,180 --> 00:46:25,820  
If we could switch and bring  
back the people who were lost,

749  
00:46:25,820 --> 00:46:28,090  
probably I would  
feel good about that.

750  
00:46:28,090 --> 00:46:38,690  
But as I say, I don't think  
I have hate in myself.

751  
00:46:38,690 --> 00:46:40,100  
And I'm happy about that.

752  
00:46:40,100 --> 00:46:42,895  
I don't want to hate.

753  
00:46:42,895 --> 00:46:46,970  
I have white friends,  
Black friends,

754  
00:46:46,970 --> 00:46:51,320  
everybody who is a mensch.

755  
00:46:51,320 --> 00:46:53,420  
Nice, human.

756  
00:46:53,420 --> 00:46:56,390  
I like it.

757  
00:46:56,390 --> 00:46:59,540  
I don't care who they are.

758  
00:46:59,540 --> 00:47:01,040  
If you walk down  
the street and you

759  
00:47:01,040 --> 00:47:04,470  
hear somebody speaking



in Polish, let's say,

760

00:47:04,470 --> 00:47:06,500

does it catch your ear?

761

00:47:06,500 --> 00:47:07,530

No.

762

00:47:07,530 --> 00:47:08,800

No.

763

00:47:08,800 --> 00:47:10,670

No.

764

00:47:10,670 --> 00:47:11,350

I don't care.

765

00:47:11,350 --> 00:47:13,610

I don't even want to hear it.

766

00:47:13,610 --> 00:47:14,700

You don't want to hear it.

767

00:47:14,700 --> 00:47:15,200

No.

768

00:47:15,200 --> 00:47:17,300

What about German?

769

00:47:17,300 --> 00:47:18,530

The same thing.

770

00:47:18,530 --> 00:47:25,130

But I have never shown  
that that bothers me.

771

00:47:25,130 --> 00:47:26,720

No.

772

00:47:26,720 --> 00:47:30,020

I wouldn't be in Germany if

you paid me and I wouldn't

773

00:47:30,020 --> 00:47:32,040  
be in Poland if you paid me.

774

00:47:32,040 --> 00:47:33,350  
So you have no desire.

775

00:47:33,350 --> 00:47:35,420  
No, not at all.

776

00:47:35,420 --> 00:47:40,310  
Because Poland said  
that if you come back--

777

00:47:40,310 --> 00:47:43,580  
if you have property  
and you come back

778

00:47:43,580 --> 00:47:47,180  
and you live in Poland, you're  
going to have all privileges.

779

00:47:47,180 --> 00:47:50,780  
I said, you have the  
property and everything,

780

00:47:50,780 --> 00:47:54,550  
I don't even want to.

781

00:47:54,550 --> 00:47:58,660  
But the Germans,  
when I get my check,

782

00:47:58,660 --> 00:48:04,870  
I say it's nothing in  
comparison what I lost.

783

00:48:04,870 --> 00:48:09,500

784

00:48:09,500 --> 00:48:12,830

During the '60s and '70s,  
with the civil rights movement

785  
00:48:12,830 --> 00:48:18,410  
here in the United  
States, I know

786  
00:48:18,410 --> 00:48:20,870  
you were raising young children,  
obviously, at the time.

787  
00:48:20,870 --> 00:48:23,450  
But this was a  
story of people who

788  
00:48:23,450 --> 00:48:25,190  
were deprived of  
their rights just

789  
00:48:25,190 --> 00:48:27,090  
like you were deprived of it.

790  
00:48:27,090 --> 00:48:30,420  
Did you relate in anyway to  
the civil rights movement?

791  
00:48:30,420 --> 00:48:34,070  
Being in Portland and  
just watching television--

792  
00:48:34,070 --> 00:48:41,360  
because when you watch something  
and you're not next to it,

793  
00:48:41,360 --> 00:48:43,550  
it's a different feeling.

794  
00:48:43,550 --> 00:48:46,040  
At least, this is how I feel.

795  
00:48:46,040 --> 00:48:48,150  
I don't know about other people.

796  
00:48:48,150 --> 00:48:49,655  
I can only say about myself.

797  
00:48:49,655 --> 00:48:52,400

798  
00:48:52,400 --> 00:48:57,680  
I feel everybody should  
have their rights,

799  
00:48:57,680 --> 00:49:04,130  
but what you see on television  
can only aggravate you,

800  
00:49:04,130 --> 00:49:07,880  
but you have no power  
of doing anything.

801  
00:49:07,880 --> 00:49:11,420  
And that what  
always bothered me.

802  
00:49:11,420 --> 00:49:13,440  
I was powerless.

803  
00:49:13,440 --> 00:49:21,650  
And when I came here and I  
was near the White House,

804  
00:49:21,650 --> 00:49:26,270  
I said, oh, someday I'm  
going to say it what I feel.

805  
00:49:26,270 --> 00:49:34,260  
But as you get older, you  
get slower and you mellow.

806  
00:49:34,260 --> 00:49:38,060  
And you are different  
person when you're old

807  
00:49:38,060 --> 00:49:40,040

or when you're young.

808  
00:49:40,040 --> 00:49:43,130  
When you're young,  
you got all that will

809  
00:49:43,130 --> 00:49:46,290  
and that power you  
think you have.

810  
00:49:46,290 --> 00:49:48,650  
Back now, I'm too old.

811  
00:49:48,650 --> 00:49:51,650

812  
00:49:51,650 --> 00:49:57,260  
Living in Portland-- well,  
let me just say this.

813  
00:49:57,260 --> 00:49:59,550  
Many Holocaust survivors  
came to New York.

814  
00:49:59,550 --> 00:50:01,480  
You know, came to  
the big cities.

815  
00:50:01,480 --> 00:50:02,440  
Right, right.

816  
00:50:02,440 --> 00:50:04,070  
So there was that grouping.

817  
00:50:04,070 --> 00:50:05,900  
But you didn't have  
that in Portland.

818  
00:50:05,900 --> 00:50:07,320  
No, no.

819  
00:50:07,320 --> 00:50:11,020

So how did you keep  
your identity there

820  
00:50:11,020 --> 00:50:12,590  
when there were not people--

821  
00:50:12,590 --> 00:50:18,020  
I was just one of  
so many thousands.

822  
00:50:18,020 --> 00:50:23,100  
I wasn't any different  
than anybody in Portland.

823  
00:50:23,100 --> 00:50:25,490  
Everybody respect everybody.

824  
00:50:25,490 --> 00:50:28,580  
Maine is a beautiful state.

825  
00:50:28,580 --> 00:50:30,395  
I didn't encounter any--

826  
00:50:30,395 --> 00:50:31,340  
Any anitsemitism.

827  
00:50:31,340 --> 00:50:32,420  
Anything.

828  
00:50:32,420 --> 00:50:34,340  
Not I. I don't know.

829  
00:50:34,340 --> 00:50:35,420  
Maybe it was.

830  
00:50:35,420 --> 00:50:37,670  
But not toward me.

831  
00:50:37,670 --> 00:50:40,100  
Did a lot of people ask  
you about your background?

832

00:50:40,100 --> 00:50:42,480

About your experiences?

833

00:50:42,480 --> 00:50:48,600

Very intelligent people  
used to talk about it.

834

00:50:48,600 --> 00:50:56,390

And most of the time,  
I said I respect you,

835

00:50:56,390 --> 00:50:59,690

but I prefer not  
to talk about it.

836

00:50:59,690 --> 00:51:06,140

But they were bankers  
or higher-ranking people

837

00:51:06,140 --> 00:51:12,620

who understood the Holocaust  
better than an average person.

838

00:51:12,620 --> 00:51:17,450

And if they want to know,  
I wasn't talking to them

839

00:51:17,450 --> 00:51:19,670

about it.

840

00:51:19,670 --> 00:51:24,600

Maybe it wasn't right,  
but this is how I am.

841

00:51:24,600 --> 00:51:28,170

So you have never, in a sense,  
talked publicly to groups.

842

00:51:28,170 --> 00:51:29,270

No, no.

843

00:51:29,270 --> 00:51:32,940

I did talk here to schools.

844  
00:51:32,940 --> 00:51:37,370  
But when I came  
back, I was sick.

845  
00:51:37,370 --> 00:51:39,020  
Because a few times--

846  
00:51:39,020 --> 00:51:41,390  
When you say "here," what  
do you mean by "here?"

847  
00:51:41,390 --> 00:51:42,125  
In Silver Spring.

848  
00:51:42,125 --> 00:51:43,000  
Oh, in Silver Spring.

849  
00:51:43,000 --> 00:51:45,200  
Yes.

850  
00:51:45,200 --> 00:51:50,150  
A friend of mine who lives in  
the same building where I am,

851  
00:51:50,150 --> 00:51:53,210  
she came before the war.

852  
00:51:53,210 --> 00:51:56,885  
Her grandchildren go to  
schools in Silver Spring,

853  
00:51:56,885 --> 00:51:59,450  
and she asked me,  
Helen, would you

854  
00:51:59,450 --> 00:52:02,100  
like to come and  
talk to the kids?

855  
00:52:02,100 --> 00:52:07,550



Which are 9-,  
10-year-olds, 11-year-olds.

856  
00:52:07,550 --> 00:52:11,480  
And I said, OK, I will.

857  
00:52:11,480 --> 00:52:13,460  
I did a few times.

858  
00:52:13,460 --> 00:52:16,970  
Three or four times.

859  
00:52:16,970 --> 00:52:22,370  
And I came home and I said, no,  
I'm not going to do it anymore.

860  
00:52:22,370 --> 00:52:31,760  
Because beforehand, I was  
told, don't say it too much,

861  
00:52:31,760 --> 00:52:35,690  
because they are too  
young to understand.

862  
00:52:35,690 --> 00:52:39,530  
And when I start talking,  
kind of goes out.

863  
00:52:39,530 --> 00:52:42,080  
Like, flows like water.

864  
00:52:42,080 --> 00:52:47,630  
And I had to think, oh, don't  
say this, don't say that.

865  
00:52:47,630 --> 00:52:50,940  
And it took too much out of me.

866  
00:52:50,940 --> 00:52:55,380  
So after few times, I  
said, no, I cannot do it.

867

00:52:55,380 --> 00:52:57,950

868

00:52:57,950 --> 00:52:59,200

What about your grandchildren?

869

00:52:59,200 --> 00:53:00,783

Have you talked to  
your grandchildren?

870

00:53:00,783 --> 00:53:02,770

No.

871

00:53:02,770 --> 00:53:04,720

They ask me, I answer.

872

00:53:04,720 --> 00:53:09,660

And they ask very little  
because they know how I feel.

873

00:53:09,660 --> 00:53:10,160

How painful.

874

00:53:10,160 --> 00:53:11,740

Yeah, how painful it is.

875

00:53:11,740 --> 00:53:12,790

Yes.

876

00:53:12,790 --> 00:53:15,040

Did you have to wear a  
yellow star in the ghetto?

877

00:53:15,040 --> 00:53:17,810

Absolutely.

878

00:53:17,810 --> 00:53:20,210

What was your feelings  
about wearing a yellow star?

879

00:53:20,210 --> 00:53:20,710

Oh.

880  
00:53:20,710 --> 00:53:25,975

881  
00:53:25,975 --> 00:53:31,990  
In beginning, and having  
parents, and being the youngest

882  
00:53:31,990 --> 00:53:38,740  
child, I felt different.

883  
00:53:38,740 --> 00:53:40,900  
I felt protected.

884  
00:53:40,900 --> 00:53:42,350  
I felt safe.

885  
00:53:42,350 --> 00:53:43,570  
I felt good.

886  
00:53:43,570 --> 00:53:51,540  
So the star in beginning was  
like, oh, like a little game.

887  
00:53:51,540 --> 00:53:54,910  
It may be because  
my parents didn't

888  
00:53:54,910 --> 00:54:00,070  
dwell into us as much, either.

889  
00:54:00,070 --> 00:54:04,390  
There was a time before they  
closed the ghetto that you

890  
00:54:04,390 --> 00:54:07,660  
could go any place you wanted.

891  
00:54:07,660 --> 00:54:10,330  
You could leave the ghetto.

892

00:54:10,330 --> 00:54:13,750  
And the only place you  
could go was to Russia.

893  
00:54:13,750 --> 00:54:19,570  
So my father said, I don't  
want to go to Russia.

894  
00:54:19,570 --> 00:54:21,970  
My father was a very  
intelligent man,

895  
00:54:21,970 --> 00:54:25,040  
and he spoke a few languages.

896  
00:54:25,040 --> 00:54:29,140  
And at the time, I thought he  
is the smartest in the world.

897  
00:54:29,140 --> 00:54:32,200  
But it turned out he  
wasn't that smart,

898  
00:54:32,200 --> 00:54:35,130  
because he made a  
mistake of staying on,

899  
00:54:35,130 --> 00:54:37,510  
not to go any place.

900  
00:54:37,510 --> 00:54:42,790  
So my father said, no, I'm  
not going to the Russians.

901  
00:54:42,790 --> 00:54:47,440  
And we kids used to  
say, oh, why not?

902  
00:54:47,440 --> 00:54:48,400  
Another place.

903  
00:54:48,400 --> 00:54:49,780  
Excitement.

904  
00:54:49,780 --> 00:54:51,340  
And he said, oh, no.

905  
00:54:51,340 --> 00:54:55,960  
The Russians are not  
as intelligent, not

906  
00:54:55,960 --> 00:54:59,920  
as educated as the Germans are.

907  
00:54:59,920 --> 00:55:05,590  
My father felt the Germans  
will do no harm to us.

908  
00:55:05,590 --> 00:55:10,840  
Because he was going back  
before the first war.

909  
00:55:10,840 --> 00:55:13,570  
I think the first  
war, the Germans

910  
00:55:13,570 --> 00:55:15,370  
were better than the Russians.

911  
00:55:15,370 --> 00:55:18,500  
I don't know the  
history as well.

912  
00:55:18,500 --> 00:55:24,350  
And when the father  
said no, it was no.

913  
00:55:24,350 --> 00:55:27,115  
How much schooling did you have?

914  
00:55:27,115 --> 00:55:32,200

915  
00:55:32,200 --> 00:55:33,540  
Through high school?

916  
00:55:33,540 --> 00:55:34,580  
No, no.

917  
00:55:34,580 --> 00:55:35,500  
Not high school.

918  
00:55:35,500 --> 00:55:37,960  
Like junior high school.

919  
00:55:37,960 --> 00:55:42,820  
Because when I came  
to this country

920  
00:55:42,820 --> 00:55:47,140  
and I tried to go to night  
school, but the same thing,

921  
00:55:47,140 --> 00:55:51,070  
I couldn't go  
because I had a child

922  
00:55:51,070 --> 00:55:53,530  
and didn't want to  
leave the child.

923  
00:55:53,530 --> 00:55:57,630  
And my husband was working,  
so he had the priority.

924  
00:55:57,630 --> 00:56:03,880  
So I said, you go to night  
school and I will be OK.

925  
00:56:03,880 --> 00:56:09,010  
So I was tested from a  
very nice gentleman who

926  
00:56:09,010 --> 00:56:14,380  
was a teacher in high school,  
and he said the ability

927

00:56:14,380 --> 00:56:19,070  
at the time, I had  
like high school.

928  
00:56:19,070 --> 00:56:21,160  
So I don't know.

929  
00:56:21,160 --> 00:56:23,510  
I don't know where it came from.

930  
00:56:23,510 --> 00:56:27,610  
But as little school I  
had, it was in comparison

931  
00:56:27,610 --> 00:56:28,540  
to high school.

932  
00:56:28,540 --> 00:56:29,620  
Back in Poland, you mean?

933  
00:56:29,620 --> 00:56:30,120  
Yes.

934  
00:56:30,120 --> 00:56:31,140  
The schooling in Poland.

935  
00:56:31,140 --> 00:56:32,160  
Yes.

936  
00:56:32,160 --> 00:56:33,410  
And how did you learn English?

937  
00:56:33,410 --> 00:56:36,540

938  
00:56:36,540 --> 00:56:39,570  
Just from talking to people.

939  
00:56:39,570 --> 00:56:41,650  
Never any specific  
lessons or anything?

940

00:56:41,650 --> 00:56:42,570

Oh, no, no.

941

00:56:42,570 --> 00:56:43,620

No.

942

00:56:43,620 --> 00:56:49,830

And my daughter, she picked  
up being two and a half.

943

00:56:49,830 --> 00:56:53,310

By four, she spoke  
perfect English.

944

00:56:53,310 --> 00:56:56,180

So I picked up  
probably from her.

945

00:56:56,180 --> 00:56:59,463

946

00:56:59,463 --> 00:57:01,380

Do you think the Holocaust  
could happen again?

947

00:57:01,380 --> 00:57:05,660

948

00:57:05,660 --> 00:57:07,525

Boy, I hope it never does.

949

00:57:07,525 --> 00:57:10,980

950

00:57:10,980 --> 00:57:19,220

But I think the world  
learned a lesson,

951

00:57:19,220 --> 00:57:27,050

that no country will allow  
that something like that



952

00:57:27,050 --> 00:57:28,870  
should happen again.

953

00:57:28,870 --> 00:57:32,940  
Iran is a threat.

954

00:57:32,940 --> 00:57:36,860  
I'm not a politician,  
but a little I'm

955

00:57:36,860 --> 00:57:40,370  
listening to everybody.

956

00:57:40,370 --> 00:57:45,530  
I think he is more--

957

00:57:45,530 --> 00:57:46,610  
how should I say?

958

00:57:46,610 --> 00:57:52,760  
He is more mouth than action.

959

00:57:52,760 --> 00:57:54,380  
Yes.

960

00:57:54,380 --> 00:57:59,210  
And it might turn  
out that I am right,

961

00:57:59,210 --> 00:58:06,380  
because what my sister told  
me about the war with Israel

962

00:58:06,380 --> 00:58:14,190  
with the Arabs at the  
time, they know nothing.

963

00:58:14,190 --> 00:58:18,180

964

00:58:18,180 --> 00:58:19,585

That was in '48.

965

00:58:19,585 --> 00:58:22,900

966

00:58:22,900 --> 00:58:25,590

OK.

967

00:58:25,590 --> 00:58:27,260

Who knew nothing?

968

00:58:27,260 --> 00:58:30,050

The Arabs.

969

00:58:30,050 --> 00:58:31,940

It was only talk.

970

00:58:31,940 --> 00:58:34,880

Oh, I see.

971

00:58:34,880 --> 00:58:36,650

I don't want to go into.

972

00:58:36,650 --> 00:58:38,060

Your sister and brother's names.

973

00:58:38,060 --> 00:58:40,670

Your sister's name.

974

00:58:40,670 --> 00:58:41,360

First name?

975

00:58:41,360 --> 00:58:41,870

Yeah.

976

00:58:41,870 --> 00:58:42,500

Rachel.

977

00:58:42,500 --> 00:58:43,550

Rachel.

978  
00:58:43,550 --> 00:58:45,315  
And my brother's name David.

979  
00:58:45,315 --> 00:58:45,815  
David.

980  
00:58:45,815 --> 00:58:50,270

981  
00:58:50,270 --> 00:58:52,370  
Have you been to Israel?

982  
00:58:52,370 --> 00:58:54,410  
Five times.

983  
00:58:54,410 --> 00:58:57,510  
What does it mean to you?

984  
00:58:57,510 --> 00:58:58,250  
Coming home.

985  
00:58:58,250 --> 00:59:00,870

986  
00:59:00,870 --> 00:59:02,150  
I loved it.

987  
00:59:02,150 --> 00:59:06,900  
I would go more times, but  
since I had the back surgery,

988  
00:59:06,900 --> 00:59:09,170  
I cannot walk.

989  
00:59:09,170 --> 00:59:14,570  
I walk, but I cannot go  
to Israel without walking.

990  
00:59:14,570 --> 00:59:18,320  
And I don't want to  
go on a chair, so.

991  
00:59:18,320 --> 00:59:28,140  
The last time, I  
think it was in '06.

992  
00:59:28,140 --> 00:59:28,640  
Yeah.

993  
00:59:28,640 --> 00:59:31,530

994  
00:59:31,530 --> 00:59:38,050  
Because my husband and I were  
planning to go together again.

995  
00:59:38,050 --> 00:59:41,260  
That would have  
been the fifth time.

996  
00:59:41,260 --> 00:59:44,880  
I was four times  
with my husband.

997  
00:59:44,880 --> 00:59:51,690  
And since we were talking about  
it, I said, OK, I go by myself.

998  
00:59:51,690 --> 00:59:54,360  
It wasn't like I  
was with my husband,

999  
00:59:54,360 --> 00:59:58,770  
but I was happy to see Israel.

1000  
00:59:58,770 --> 01:00:01,560  
And every time, looks  
a little better.

1001  
01:00:01,560 --> 01:00:04,860

1002  
01:00:04,860 --> 01:00:08,520

Do you get together with  
other survivors over there?

1003  
01:00:08,520 --> 01:00:09,640  
In Israel?

1004  
01:00:09,640 --> 01:00:10,350  
No.

1005  
01:00:10,350 --> 01:00:10,850  
No.

1006  
01:00:10,850 --> 01:00:14,130

1007  
01:00:14,130 --> 01:00:19,230  
Living in Maine, I was  
very little in contact

1008  
01:00:19,230 --> 01:00:21,780  
with any of survivors.

1009  
01:00:21,780 --> 01:00:25,050  
And that's why I don't  
know anybody in [? here ?]

1010  
01:00:25,050 --> 01:00:29,230  
when you told me about  
somebody who was from Lodz.

1011  
01:00:29,230 --> 01:00:30,330  
I'm surprised.

1012  
01:00:30,330 --> 01:00:36,580

1013  
01:00:36,580 --> 01:00:39,220  
Well, is there anything  
we haven't covered?

1014  
01:00:39,220 --> 01:00:40,510  
Anything you wanted to say?

1015  
01:00:40,510 --> 01:00:45,190  
Oh, darling, we could sit  
here probably for days

1016  
01:00:45,190 --> 01:00:48,220  
and I wouldn't cover everything.

1017  
01:00:48,220 --> 01:00:54,860  
Because when I talk about the  
ghetto, I really get sick.

1018  
01:00:54,860 --> 01:00:58,690

1019  
01:00:58,690 --> 01:01:03,820  
It was five years  
of a experience

1020  
01:01:03,820 --> 01:01:08,080  
that I don't wish it, like  
they used to say, on a dog.

1021  
01:01:08,080 --> 01:01:12,410

1022  
01:01:12,410 --> 01:01:17,600  
And after the war,  
everything was beautiful.

1023  
01:01:17,600 --> 01:01:20,480  
Maine is a beautiful country.

1024  
01:01:20,480 --> 01:01:24,990  
Not country, but  
place to live in.

1025  
01:01:24,990 --> 01:01:28,670  
And America is a beautiful  
country to be in.

1026  
01:01:28,670 --> 01:01:32,260

Yeah, I'm very proud  
to be an American.

1027  
01:01:32,260 --> 01:01:33,080  
I am.

1028  
01:01:33,080 --> 01:01:35,965  
I consider myself an American.

1029  
01:01:35,965 --> 01:01:37,340  
I was going just  
to ask you that.

1030  
01:01:37,340 --> 01:01:38,960  
You're not Polish?

1031  
01:01:38,960 --> 01:01:40,760  
Absolutely not.

1032  
01:01:40,760 --> 01:01:41,560  
No.

1033  
01:01:41,560 --> 01:01:42,630  
I am an American.

1034  
01:01:42,630 --> 01:01:43,130  
Yeah.

1035  
01:01:43,130 --> 01:01:45,800

1036  
01:01:45,800 --> 01:01:51,020  
How did you impart Jewish  
tradition or Jewish culture

1037  
01:01:51,020 --> 01:01:53,810  
to your children when  
you were growing up?

1038  
01:01:53,810 --> 01:01:54,770  
Or did you?

1039

01:01:54,770 --> 01:01:55,350

Oh, yes.

1040

01:01:55,350 --> 01:01:55,470

Yeah.

1041

01:01:55,470 --> 01:01:56,270

Oh, yes.

1042

01:01:56,270 --> 01:01:57,050

How did you do--

1043

01:01:57,050 --> 01:01:57,590

Oh, yes.

1044

01:01:57,590 --> 01:01:59,360

We had Hebrew schools.

1045

01:01:59,360 --> 01:02:01,920

We had synagogues in Portland.

1046

01:02:01,920 --> 01:02:04,820

Oh, sure.

1047

01:02:04,820 --> 01:02:08,590

My kids, my boys  
and my daughter,

1048

01:02:08,590 --> 01:02:12,290

are better in Hebrew  
than I am, because I lost

1049

01:02:12,290 --> 01:02:15,290

the years which I have learned.

1050

01:02:15,290 --> 01:02:19,760

And when I learned when I was  
a little girl, was Yiddish.

1051

01:02:19,760 --> 01:02:22,580

And Yiddish is not Hebrew.



1052  
01:02:22,580 --> 01:02:25,730  
So they are wonderful in Hebrew.

1053  
01:02:25,730 --> 01:02:27,620  
When comes a holiday--

1054  
01:02:27,620 --> 01:02:31,910  
and I always am  
with my children--

1055  
01:02:31,910 --> 01:02:35,360  
when my daughter takes  
the Seder she reads it,

1056  
01:02:35,360 --> 01:02:39,500  
I say, oh, God,  
it's so beautiful.

1057  
01:02:39,500 --> 01:02:42,230  
And I shep nachas from my kids.

1058  
01:02:42,230 --> 01:02:43,280  
Yeah.

1059  
01:02:43,280 --> 01:02:47,510  
My kids had the  
outmost of everything

1060  
01:02:47,510 --> 01:02:50,570  
I could give it to them.

1061  
01:02:50,570 --> 01:02:59,080  
Because as you ask me, all I  
could do, what I didn't have,

1062  
01:02:59,080 --> 01:03:03,890  
I was happy that they had that.

1063  
01:03:03,890 --> 01:03:07,445  
And education was priority.

1064

01:03:07,445 --> 01:03:10,210

1065

01:03:10,210 --> 01:03:15,340

And they had the outmost  
whatever they could learn.

1066

01:03:15,340 --> 01:03:16,400

The most of it.

1067

01:03:16,400 --> 01:03:19,670

1068

01:03:19,670 --> 01:03:22,400

Do you ever dream  
about your experiences?

1069

01:03:22,400 --> 01:03:23,510

Oh, yeah.

1070

01:03:23,510 --> 01:03:26,180

Oh, yeah.

1071

01:03:26,180 --> 01:03:27,405

My parents, mostly.

1072

01:03:27,405 --> 01:03:31,700

1073

01:03:31,700 --> 01:03:37,350

As old I am, I still  
miss my parents.

1074

01:03:37,350 --> 01:03:37,850

Of course.

1075

01:03:37,850 --> 01:03:40,570

They're your parents.

1076

01:03:40,570 --> 01:03:46,381

And I keep on saying to

myself, how stupid can you get?

1077

01:03:46,381 --> 01:03:54,280

You are 85 [? already. ?] The  
parents wouldn't be alive.

1078

01:03:54,280 --> 01:03:58,050

But I do miss them.

1079

01:03:58,050 --> 01:04:04,570

And that's why I cannot talk,  
because every time I say

1080

01:04:04,570 --> 01:04:08,620

"mother" and "father," I choke.

1081

01:04:08,620 --> 01:04:11,200

I don't know it's me or--

1082

01:04:11,200 --> 01:04:16,840

I don't know it's normal or not  
normal, but that's what I am.

1083

01:04:16,840 --> 01:04:19,945

Is there any message you wanted  
to leave for your grandchildren

1084

01:04:19,945 --> 01:04:21,850

before we finish?

1085

01:04:21,850 --> 01:04:25,428

Anything you'd like to  
say to them about life?

1086

01:04:25,428 --> 01:04:28,230

1087

01:04:28,230 --> 01:04:30,280

What I want to--

1088

01:04:30,280 --> 01:04:33,360

and I always tell

my grandchildren

1089

01:04:33,360 --> 01:04:35,790

that I'm proud of them.

1090

01:04:35,790 --> 01:04:36,950

Hello, hello, hello.

1091

01:04:36,950 --> 01:04:40,770

1092

01:04:40,770 --> 01:04:53,430

That my kids, their parents,  
gave them as much goodness

1093

01:04:53,430 --> 01:05:00,760

as I gave my kids, and they  
inherited something good.

1094

01:05:00,760 --> 01:05:07,060

And they should be proud of  
their parents and grandparents.

1095

01:05:07,060 --> 01:05:08,750

That's what I tell them.

1096

01:05:08,750 --> 01:05:10,430

They know about it.

1097

01:05:10,430 --> 01:05:13,250

And they are very proud.

1098

01:05:13,250 --> 01:05:16,560

Grandpa, Grandma was  
everything for them.

1099

01:05:16,560 --> 01:05:20,430

And Grandma's still  
everything for them.

1100

01:05:20,430 --> 01:05:21,670

And they are for me, too.

1101  
01:05:21,670 --> 01:05:26,850

1102  
01:05:26,850 --> 01:05:30,080  
Have they seen any  
of your interviews?

1103  
01:05:30,080 --> 01:05:33,002  
Have they watched, your  
children or your grandchildren,

1104  
01:05:33,002 --> 01:05:33,960  
watched your interview?

1105  
01:05:33,960 --> 01:05:35,810  
Mm-mm.

1106  
01:05:35,810 --> 01:05:36,500  
Why not?

1107  
01:05:36,500 --> 01:05:38,660  
Or you don't want them to?

1108  
01:05:38,660 --> 01:05:40,490  
No, I don't want them to.

1109  
01:05:40,490 --> 01:05:41,300  
You didn't.

1110  
01:05:41,300 --> 01:05:46,260  
Because on this tape,  
I'm talking and crying.

1111  
01:05:46,260 --> 01:05:52,400  
And I don't wanted  
them to see me crying.

1112  
01:05:52,400 --> 01:05:56,530  
When I am with  
them, I don't want

1113

01:05:56,530 --> 01:06:00,100  
that they should have a feeling  
that their grandparents are

1114

01:06:00,100 --> 01:06:02,620  
different.

1115

01:06:02,620 --> 01:06:05,755  
I didn't have any grandparents.

1116

01:06:05,755 --> 01:06:11,230  
I had my grandparents,  
but when I was little,

1117

01:06:11,230 --> 01:06:13,080  
I hardly remembered them.

1118

01:06:13,080 --> 01:06:16,020

1119

01:06:16,020 --> 01:06:18,290  
Your husband is a survivor also.

1120

01:06:18,290 --> 01:06:18,920  
Yes, yes.

1121

01:06:18,920 --> 01:06:22,320  
And just very quickly,  
where is he from?

1122

01:06:22,320 --> 01:06:25,080  
Not far from Lodz, Tuszyn.

1123

01:06:25,080 --> 01:06:29,030  
That was a small  
little town near Lodz.

1124

01:06:29,030 --> 01:06:31,420  
And I met him in Germany.

1125

01:06:31,420 --> 01:06:32,900

Right, in the DP camp, you said.

1126  
01:06:32,900 --> 01:06:33,580  
Yeah, yeah.

1127  
01:06:33,580 --> 01:06:34,080  
Yeah.

1128  
01:06:34,080 --> 01:06:37,110  
And just generally, where  
was he during the war?

1129  
01:06:37,110 --> 01:06:39,010  
The same thing.

1130  
01:06:39,010 --> 01:06:40,167  
He went through camps.

1131  
01:06:40,167 --> 01:06:41,500  
He went through different camps?

1132  
01:06:41,500 --> 01:06:42,040  
Yeas.

1133  
01:06:42,040 --> 01:06:42,540  
Yeah.

1134  
01:06:42,540 --> 01:06:45,160

1135  
01:06:45,160 --> 01:06:47,680  
About his family, did--

1136  
01:06:47,680 --> 01:06:52,580  
Yeah, there were nine children.

1137  
01:06:52,580 --> 01:06:57,490  
So three, with him,  
four brothers survive.

1138  
01:06:57,490 --> 01:06:59,560

But none of the sisters.

1139  
01:06:59,560 --> 01:07:05,230  
And the sisters' and brothers'  
children, nobody survive.

1140  
01:07:05,230 --> 01:07:11,680  
And he was always talking,  
because one of his sisters

1141  
01:07:11,680 --> 01:07:16,950  
gave a couple boys, two  
children-- she had two boys,

1142  
01:07:16,950 --> 01:07:21,150  
and she gave him away to a Pole.

1143  
01:07:21,150 --> 01:07:25,530  
And she gave him whatever  
gold or whatever money,

1144  
01:07:25,530 --> 01:07:33,230  
and he was supposed to  
keep the boys as non-Jews.

1145  
01:07:33,230 --> 01:07:39,690  
And that's what my husband  
was always talking about.

1146  
01:07:39,690 --> 01:07:43,680  
Not talking to  
anybody, but he always

1147  
01:07:43,680 --> 01:07:47,910  
used to say, oh, I will  
never forget the scene when

1148  
01:07:47,910 --> 01:07:52,560  
I saw the two boys, when  
the Poles brought them,

1149  
01:07:52,560 --> 01:07:56,370  
when the Germans came



to collect the kids.

1150  
01:07:56,370 --> 01:07:58,080  
And he couldn't do anything.

1151  
01:07:58,080 --> 01:08:01,020

1152  
01:08:01,020 --> 01:08:06,760  
My husband was working  
also in the ghetto.

1153  
01:08:06,760 --> 01:08:09,100  
I didn't know him at that time.

1154  
01:08:09,100 --> 01:08:13,750  
But he says that he  
saw the Poles who

1155  
01:08:13,750 --> 01:08:19,359  
held the two boys bring  
them to the Germans,

1156  
01:08:19,359 --> 01:08:22,700  
and they threw  
them on the wagon.

1157  
01:08:22,700 --> 01:08:26,220  
And he saw the boys but  
couldn't do anything.

1158  
01:08:26,220 --> 01:08:30,630  
And that was  
haunting him always.

1159  
01:08:30,630 --> 01:08:33,915  
Did you and your husband talk  
about your wartime experiences

1160  
01:08:33,915 --> 01:08:34,880  
all the time?

1161

01:08:34,880 --> 01:08:35,720  
Very little.

1162  
01:08:35,720 --> 01:08:36,319  
Very little?

1163  
01:08:36,319 --> 01:08:37,520  
Very little.

1164  
01:08:37,520 --> 01:08:39,410  
But it came up.

1165  
01:08:39,410 --> 01:08:45,680  
Like we were talking about boys,  
children, when I had my boys.

1166  
01:08:45,680 --> 01:08:53,560  
He used to say, oh, my sister's  
boys would be 20, 30, whatever.

1167  
01:08:53,560 --> 01:08:57,359  
And he will say, and  
I will never forget.

1168  
01:08:57,359 --> 01:09:01,960  
Because it bothered  
him that he saw them--

1169  
01:09:01,960 --> 01:09:02,930  
And couldn't help.

1170  
01:09:02,930 --> 01:09:04,580  
And couldn't help.

1171  
01:09:04,580 --> 01:09:09,390  
That's what was  
always on his mind.

1172  
01:09:09,390 --> 01:09:13,250  
Not the parents, not other  
things, but the two boys

1173

01:09:13,250 --> 01:09:15,710  
the sister gave to that Pole.

1174  
01:09:15,710 --> 01:09:22,720  
That's why Poles-- and my  
husband felt the same way--

1175  
01:09:22,720 --> 01:09:25,479  
Poles were just as  
bad as the Germans.

1176  
01:09:25,479 --> 01:09:31,160  
Maybe even worse,  
in some instances.

1177  
01:09:31,160 --> 01:09:37,290  
But before I was liberated,  
there were Poles who went--

1178  
01:09:37,290 --> 01:09:38,990  
oh, I forget the name.

1179  
01:09:38,990 --> 01:09:45,580  
Which the Poles  
converted into Germans,

1180  
01:09:45,580 --> 01:09:48,229  
and they were  
helping the Germans,

1181  
01:09:48,229 --> 01:09:50,640  
and they were soldiers.

1182  
01:09:50,640 --> 01:09:59,640  
So I had a easy time before  
the liberation that one

1183  
01:09:59,640 --> 01:10:00,730  
of the Poles--

1184  
01:10:00,730 --> 01:10:05,400  
and I knew because I could  
hear the Polish language

1185  
01:10:05,400 --> 01:10:06,540  
from far away.

1186  
01:10:06,540 --> 01:10:09,330  
We never were close to anybody.

1187  
01:10:09,330 --> 01:10:13,680  
And I knew, I used to say,  
oh, they speak Polish,

1188  
01:10:13,680 --> 01:10:17,760  
because do you expect the  
Germans to speak German.

1189  
01:10:17,760 --> 01:10:26,460  
And at the very end, they  
said, whoever can hide--

1190  
01:10:26,460 --> 01:10:29,775  
this was the last.

1191  
01:10:29,775 --> 01:10:30,275  
Hide.

1192  
01:10:30,275 --> 01:10:32,870

1193  
01:10:32,870 --> 01:10:38,240  
Because maybe they were  
afraid that after the war,

1194  
01:10:38,240 --> 01:10:43,340  
somebody will point a finger  
and say, oh, you were a soldier.

1195  
01:10:43,340 --> 01:10:50,210  
So they said in Polish,  
whoever can hide.

1196  
01:10:50,210 --> 01:10:53,870  
Well, it won't do any

good to say it in Polish,

1197  
01:10:53,870 --> 01:10:56,666  
but they said it.

1198  
01:10:56,666 --> 01:11:00,300  
And that's all I  
heard about them.

1199  
01:11:00,300 --> 01:11:01,950  
But there were worse.

1200  
01:11:01,950 --> 01:11:06,530

1201  
01:11:06,530 --> 01:11:10,820  
As I say, we can talk and  
talk and never come to an end.

1202  
01:11:10,820 --> 01:11:14,000  
But how long was I talking?

1203  
01:11:14,000 --> 01:11:17,000  
I'm surprised about myself.

1204  
01:11:17,000 --> 01:11:21,650  
I said I'm not going to say  
anything, but I said it, right?

1205  
01:11:21,650 --> 01:11:25,750  
Well, thank you so much  
for doing this interview.

1206  
01:11:25,750 --> 01:11:26,937  
OK.

1207  
01:11:26,937 --> 01:11:28,430  
You're welcome.

1208  
01:11:28,430 --> 01:11:31,910  
This concludes the United  
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

1209

01:11:31,910 --> 01:11:37,080

volunteer collection

interview with Helen Schwartz.

1210

01:11:37,080 --> 01:11:41,000