

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,950

2
00:00:01,950 --> 00:00:04,830
This is the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3
00:00:04,830 --> 00:00:07,890
interview with Ruth
Cohen, conducted

4
00:00:07,890 --> 00:00:20,791
by Gail Schwartz on October
4, 2011, in Potomac, Maryland.

5
00:00:20,791 --> 00:00:24,200
[? North Bethesda ?]

6
00:00:24,200 --> 00:00:25,785
What is your full name?

7
00:00:25,785 --> 00:00:29,180
It's Ruth R Cohen.

8
00:00:29,180 --> 00:00:30,500
And the R stands for?

9
00:00:30,500 --> 00:00:31,190
Renee.

10
00:00:31,190 --> 00:00:33,369
And what name were
you born with?

11
00:00:33,369 --> 00:00:36,600
Well, Renee Ruth Cohen.

12
00:00:36,600 --> 00:00:37,770
Cohen is you maiden name?

13

00:00:37,770 --> 00:00:39,150
No, Friedman-- sorry.

14
00:00:39,150 --> 00:00:41,040
The name you're born
with was Friedman.

15
00:00:41,040 --> 00:00:41,850
Friedman, right.

16
00:00:41,850 --> 00:00:45,250
And where were you born
and when were you born?

17
00:00:45,250 --> 00:00:52,290
I was born on April 26, 1930,
in Mukachevo, Czechoslovakia.

18
00:00:52,290 --> 00:00:55,290

19
00:00:55,290 --> 00:00:57,430
You have been
interviewed before.

20
00:00:57,430 --> 00:00:57,930
Yes.

21
00:00:57,930 --> 00:01:01,140
So just to put this
post-Holocaust interview

22
00:01:01,140 --> 00:01:05,760
in a framework, I'm going to
summarize a little bit of where

23
00:01:05,760 --> 00:01:08,490
you were during the war.

24
00:01:08,490 --> 00:01:12,400
And then after that, we will
focus on your post-Holocaust--

25

00:01:12,400 --> 00:01:12,900

OK.

26

00:01:12,900 --> 00:01:15,270

--experience.

27

00:01:15,270 --> 00:01:21,540

You stayed in Mukachevo
until May or June of 1944,

28

00:01:21,540 --> 00:01:24,220

when your whole family,
your parents, your sister,

29

00:01:24,220 --> 00:01:28,020

your brother, and the rest of
your family, and the whole city

30

00:01:28,020 --> 00:01:31,680

was taken to Auschwitz.

31

00:01:31,680 --> 00:01:32,640

Right.

32

00:01:32,640 --> 00:01:37,380

And then, in October 1944,
you went to Nuremberg.

33

00:01:37,380 --> 00:01:37,980

Right.

34

00:01:37,980 --> 00:01:39,720

With any members of your family?

35

00:01:39,720 --> 00:01:40,460

My sister.

36

00:01:40,460 --> 00:01:40,960

Your sister.

37

00:01:40,960 --> 00:01:42,030

And her name?

38
00:01:42,030 --> 00:01:42,530
Terry.

39
00:01:42,530 --> 00:01:43,910
Terry.

40
00:01:43,910 --> 00:01:46,950
And you went to work in
a factory in Nuremberg?

41
00:01:46,950 --> 00:01:48,210
Right.

42
00:01:48,210 --> 00:01:53,640
And then, in February
1945, you went to Holysov

43
00:01:53,640 --> 00:01:55,600
to work in another factory?

44
00:01:55,600 --> 00:01:56,640
Right.

45
00:01:56,640 --> 00:02:00,080
And you were
liberated in Holysov.

46
00:02:00,080 --> 00:02:00,580
Right.

47
00:02:00,580 --> 00:02:01,860
OK.

48
00:02:01,860 --> 00:02:04,680
So I just want to ask
you a few questions

49
00:02:04,680 --> 00:02:08,699
before we do the post-Holocaust
part of the interview.

50
00:02:08,699 --> 00:02:12,660
How aware, as a
teenager, were you

51
00:02:12,660 --> 00:02:15,160
before you went away,
before you were taken away--

52
00:02:15,160 --> 00:02:16,310
I was 14.

53
00:02:16,310 --> 00:02:17,040
--in '44?

54
00:02:17,040 --> 00:02:20,490
But before that, how
aware, as a young girl,

55
00:02:20,490 --> 00:02:24,080
were you of what was happening?

56
00:02:24,080 --> 00:02:25,390
We were quite aware.

57
00:02:25,390 --> 00:02:27,710
Did your parents talk
about it with you?

58
00:02:27,710 --> 00:02:28,930
We talked about it.

59
00:02:28,930 --> 00:02:29,830
We lived it.

60
00:02:29,830 --> 00:02:30,900
We mourned it.

61
00:02:30,900 --> 00:02:33,902
We lived it, quite.

62

00:02:33,902 --> 00:02:37,180

63

00:02:37,180 --> 00:02:41,800

And so you had heard about
this man from Hitler, from--

64

00:02:41,800 --> 00:02:44,760

We heard about Hitler in 1938.

65

00:02:44,760 --> 00:02:47,190

'38 was when you
first heard about him.

66

00:02:47,190 --> 00:02:49,620

What language did
you speak at home?

67

00:02:49,620 --> 00:02:55,420

We spoke Hungarian, German,
and Hebrew, and some Yiddish.

68

00:02:55,420 --> 00:02:57,280

And was your family religious?

69

00:02:57,280 --> 00:02:58,690

Yes, they were.

70

00:02:58,690 --> 00:03:00,040

So they were quite observant?

71

00:03:00,040 --> 00:03:00,540

Yes.

72

00:03:00,540 --> 00:03:05,510

73

00:03:05,510 --> 00:03:08,600

What kind of work did
you do in Auschwitz?

74

00:03:08,600 --> 00:03:12,090

I was a messenger girl.

75

00:03:12,090 --> 00:03:13,650

Taking messages where?

76

00:03:13,650 --> 00:03:18,900

Taking messages from the gate,
from the SS guys to anyone who

77

00:03:18,900 --> 00:03:22,350

needed to receive the message.

78

00:03:22,350 --> 00:03:23,950

It could be the Blockalteste.

79

00:03:23,950 --> 00:03:25,900

It could be another officer.

80

00:03:25,900 --> 00:03:28,020

It could be anybody.

81

00:03:28,020 --> 00:03:30,900

And you were staying with your
mother and your grandmother

82

00:03:30,900 --> 00:03:32,670

and your sister all together--

83

00:03:32,670 --> 00:03:33,170

No.

84

00:03:33,170 --> 00:03:34,470

--in the barracks in Auschwitz?

85

00:03:34,470 --> 00:03:37,860

My mother, only
my sister, and I.

86

00:03:37,860 --> 00:03:38,460

Because--

87

00:03:38,460 --> 00:03:41,850
My mother and brother, and
we had some other children

88
00:03:41,850 --> 00:03:42,720
with us--

89
00:03:42,720 --> 00:03:44,830
Olga was killed the
same day we got there.

90
00:03:44,830 --> 00:03:49,040
The same day you arrived, OK.

91
00:03:49,040 --> 00:03:53,840
When you got to Holysov,
what kind of work

92
00:03:53,840 --> 00:03:55,610
did you do in the factory?

93
00:03:55,610 --> 00:04:00,930
It was some spool
winding for airplanes.

94
00:04:00,930 --> 00:04:02,510
This was a Siemens factory?

95
00:04:02,510 --> 00:04:03,950
Yeah.

96
00:04:03,950 --> 00:04:10,300
They were both Siemens, both
in Nuremberg and in Holysov.

97
00:04:10,300 --> 00:04:11,070
Both Siemens.

98
00:04:11,070 --> 00:04:12,780
So you did the same
kind of work in both.

99

00:04:12,780 --> 00:04:13,280
Yeah.

100
00:04:13,280 --> 00:04:16,730
And what was your health like
at that time, before liberation?

101
00:04:16,730 --> 00:04:18,300
It was bad.

102
00:04:18,300 --> 00:04:18,800
What?

103
00:04:18,800 --> 00:04:31,460
I got sick in about
January, mid-January 1945.

104
00:04:31,460 --> 00:04:33,080
But did you continue to work?

105
00:04:33,080 --> 00:04:36,020
I continued to work for
a while in Nuremberg.

106
00:04:36,020 --> 00:04:38,180
And we all had to stop
working in Nuremberg,

107
00:04:38,180 --> 00:04:44,360
because our camps were
being bombed constantly.

108
00:04:44,360 --> 00:04:46,810
There was no time to work.

109
00:04:46,810 --> 00:04:49,780
And then, when we
left to Holysov,

110
00:04:49,780 --> 00:04:52,150
I started to work
for a few weeks.

111
00:04:52,150 --> 00:04:54,190
And then I had to stop.

112
00:04:54,190 --> 00:04:55,210
Had to stop because?

113
00:04:55,210 --> 00:04:56,860
Because I couldn't sit.

114
00:04:56,860 --> 00:04:57,580
I couldn't--

115
00:04:57,580 --> 00:04:58,600
You were too sick?

116
00:04:58,600 --> 00:05:00,090
Yes.

117
00:05:00,090 --> 00:05:01,750
Do you know what you
had at that time?

118
00:05:01,750 --> 00:05:04,410
Well, now I do.

119
00:05:04,410 --> 00:05:06,710
I had tuberculosis on the spine.

120
00:05:06,710 --> 00:05:08,132
Oh, my.

121
00:05:08,132 --> 00:05:10,030
Yeah.

122
00:05:10,030 --> 00:05:11,270
And then you were liberated?

123
00:05:11,270 --> 00:05:12,745
Then I was liberated.

124

00:05:12,745 --> 00:05:13,510
Liberated.

125
00:05:13,510 --> 00:05:15,520
Let's take the
story from then on.

126
00:05:15,520 --> 00:05:20,410
Can you tell me about what
you remember about liberation?

127
00:05:20,410 --> 00:05:24,310
Well, a very interesting
story is that--

128
00:05:24,310 --> 00:05:28,020
it was two days before
the end of the war.

129
00:05:28,020 --> 00:05:31,120

130
00:05:31,120 --> 00:05:34,330
We were in the barracks, because
we weren't working anymore.

131
00:05:34,330 --> 00:05:39,570
I suppose the Germans knew that
the war was coming to an end.

132
00:05:39,570 --> 00:05:44,520
So they were all hiding.

133
00:05:44,520 --> 00:05:47,560
We didn't see any
Germans around.

134
00:05:47,560 --> 00:05:53,410
And somebody got up on
the cots and happened

135
00:05:53,410 --> 00:06:01,910
to notice from a window men

running down from the mountain.

136

00:06:01,910 --> 00:06:04,310

And so we watched for a while.

137

00:06:04,310 --> 00:06:10,170

And then somebody realized that
the men were carrying guns,

138

00:06:10,170 --> 00:06:12,720

and they were running.

139

00:06:12,720 --> 00:06:16,790

So the-- the point
was that they came.

140

00:06:16,790 --> 00:06:21,510

They unlocked the camp.

141

00:06:21,510 --> 00:06:22,740

They being?

142

00:06:22,740 --> 00:06:28,450

They being-- well, we found out
later, White Russian partisans.

143

00:06:28,450 --> 00:06:37,050

And well, they found the
Germans in their barracks

144

00:06:37,050 --> 00:06:45,910

and their rooms, wherever they
lived, and took them prisoners.

145

00:06:45,910 --> 00:06:47,890

They shot one of
them, because he

146

00:06:47,890 --> 00:06:54,860

didn't want to be a
prisoner, and told us

147

00:06:54,860 --> 00:06:58,340
that we're now free, but
we have to stay here,

148
00:06:58,340 --> 00:06:59,900
because it's not
the end of the war

149
00:06:59,900 --> 00:07:04,100
yet, although it'll be finished
very soon, within a few days.

150
00:07:04,100 --> 00:07:10,050
And the Americans will probably
come and open the gates for us,

151
00:07:10,050 --> 00:07:14,902
because they had to lock us in,
so that we're not in danger,

152
00:07:14,902 --> 00:07:15,860
which is what happened.

153
00:07:15,860 --> 00:07:17,660
Then just before
they left, they said,

154
00:07:17,660 --> 00:07:20,320
whoever wants to come
with us, can come with us.

155
00:07:20,320 --> 00:07:23,150

156
00:07:23,150 --> 00:07:27,150
We'll go back to our camp,
and they can stay there.

157
00:07:27,150 --> 00:07:34,070
At any rate, about 120
women of the 500 of--

158
00:07:34,070 --> 00:07:36,320

we were 500 of us.

159

00:07:36,320 --> 00:07:40,260

About 120 women went with them.

160

00:07:40,260 --> 00:07:42,926

Was this a factory
only of women?

161

00:07:42,926 --> 00:07:45,920

Yes.

162

00:07:45,920 --> 00:07:50,480

The camp consisted
of 250 Jewish women

163

00:07:50,480 --> 00:07:55,310

and 250 political prisoners.

164

00:07:55,310 --> 00:07:57,880

They were Polish, German--

165

00:07:57,880 --> 00:08:00,245

mostly Polish, then German.

166

00:08:00,245 --> 00:08:02,810

167

00:08:02,810 --> 00:08:07,640

So as I said, 120
women left with them.

168

00:08:07,640 --> 00:08:12,540

About three hours
later, 90 came back.

169

00:08:12,540 --> 00:08:15,390

They weren't Jews.

170

00:08:15,390 --> 00:08:21,940

And they were told that Jews
are not wanted in their camp.

171
00:08:21,940 --> 00:08:28,340
This was in the White
Russian partisans camp.

172
00:08:28,340 --> 00:08:29,240
So they came back.

173
00:08:29,240 --> 00:08:31,910
And I don't know
how they got in,

174
00:08:31,910 --> 00:08:34,100
because the doors were locked.

175
00:08:34,100 --> 00:08:36,049
But they did get in.

176
00:08:36,049 --> 00:08:41,580
And they told us the story of
what happened, which is that--

177
00:08:41,580 --> 00:08:43,890
this was on a Saturday.

178
00:08:43,890 --> 00:08:53,040
Friday night, some of the
Wehrmacht women went to a bar

179
00:08:53,040 --> 00:08:59,250
in Pilsen, which is about 30
kilometers away from Holysov,

180
00:08:59,250 --> 00:09:04,710
and told the bartenders,
or bartender,

181
00:09:04,710 --> 00:09:10,500
that the camp is
circled with cans of--

182
00:09:10,500 --> 00:09:14,210

183
00:09:14,210 --> 00:09:14,810
Explosives?

184
00:09:14,810 --> 00:09:17,900
Explosives, so
petroleum, or whatever,

185
00:09:17,900 --> 00:09:19,970
and that at 12:30
tomorrow morning,

186
00:09:19,970 --> 00:09:24,280
they're going to blow us up.

187
00:09:24,280 --> 00:09:27,280
So I guess word got
to these partisans.

188
00:09:27,280 --> 00:09:30,020
And this was around
11:30, when they

189
00:09:30,020 --> 00:09:32,170
ran down and opened the gates.

190
00:09:32,170 --> 00:09:36,400
And I guess they got rid of the
explosives, whatever they were.

191
00:09:36,400 --> 00:09:41,500
And so this is my liberation.

192
00:09:41,500 --> 00:09:44,740
Two days later, the
Americans did come in.

193
00:09:44,740 --> 00:09:47,980
Where does go when you
left-- went out of the gate?

194

00:09:47,980 --> 00:09:49,940
We didn't.

195
00:09:49,940 --> 00:09:52,760
Oh, they just opened the gate
and took away the explosives?

196
00:09:52,760 --> 00:09:53,720
Right.

197
00:09:53,720 --> 00:09:54,910
And you stayed--

198
00:09:54,910 --> 00:09:55,630
We stayed, right.

199
00:09:55,630 --> 00:09:57,050
--until the Americans came.

200
00:09:57,050 --> 00:09:58,240
Right.

201
00:09:58,240 --> 00:10:01,420
You are 15 at that point.

202
00:10:01,420 --> 00:10:02,410
I was 15, yes.

203
00:10:02,410 --> 00:10:05,140
What were your feelings then?

204
00:10:05,140 --> 00:10:07,286
Do you remember?

205
00:10:07,286 --> 00:10:09,270
Did you know what was happening?

206
00:10:09,270 --> 00:10:12,780
Well, we knew that
we were liberated.

207

00:10:12,780 --> 00:10:17,825
What did that mean to
you as a 15-year-old,

208
00:10:17,825 --> 00:10:19,250
a sick 15-year-old?

209
00:10:19,250 --> 00:10:21,150
What can I say?

210
00:10:21,150 --> 00:10:24,430
We were all dancing on the deck.

211
00:10:24,430 --> 00:10:25,350
You were dancing?

212
00:10:25,350 --> 00:10:25,850
Yeah.

213
00:10:25,850 --> 00:10:26,570
Were you, yeah.

214
00:10:26,570 --> 00:10:28,960
Yeah, not realizing any--

215
00:10:28,960 --> 00:10:32,230
we probably didn't even
think than that moment

216
00:10:32,230 --> 00:10:33,370
at that moment.

217
00:10:33,370 --> 00:10:34,780
What was the difference in age?

218
00:10:34,780 --> 00:10:35,770
What is the difference in age?

219
00:10:35,770 --> 00:10:37,150
My sister is seven years older.

220

00:10:37,150 --> 00:10:38,420
Oh, seven years older.

221
00:10:38,420 --> 00:10:39,940
So she was already 22.

222
00:10:39,940 --> 00:10:40,440
Yeah.

223
00:10:40,440 --> 00:10:42,050
Yeah.

224
00:10:42,050 --> 00:10:45,430
She was [? in it ?] almost.

225
00:10:45,430 --> 00:10:46,030
So you stayed.

226
00:10:46,030 --> 00:10:47,980
Then did you see the
American soldiers?

227
00:10:47,980 --> 00:10:48,850
Of course we did.

228
00:10:48,850 --> 00:10:49,610
They came in.

229
00:10:49,610 --> 00:10:51,730
They opened the gates.

230
00:10:51,730 --> 00:10:53,410
They let us stay there.

231
00:10:53,410 --> 00:10:58,590
Of course, they took all
the information necessary,

232
00:10:58,590 --> 00:11:01,620
I suppose for Red Cross
or for themselves.

233

00:11:01,620 --> 00:11:03,210

I'm not sure.

234

00:11:03,210 --> 00:11:04,740

And did you know
what had happened

235

00:11:04,740 --> 00:11:06,840

to the rest of your
family at that time?

236

00:11:06,840 --> 00:11:08,260

I knew right away.

237

00:11:08,260 --> 00:11:11,230

It just so happens that I knew
right away-- not my father.

238

00:11:11,230 --> 00:11:13,910

My father survived.

239

00:11:13,910 --> 00:11:16,260

And I even saw him in Auschwitz.

240

00:11:16,260 --> 00:11:21,480

But we knew right away
that my mother was--

241

00:11:21,480 --> 00:11:23,160

my mother and my
brother-- and we

242

00:11:23,160 --> 00:11:28,510

also had adopted two little
cousins to save them.

243

00:11:28,510 --> 00:11:31,120

Though we didn't.

244

00:11:31,120 --> 00:11:34,150

Where was your brother
in the order of children?

245
00:11:34,150 --> 00:11:35,910
He was a year and a
half younger than I.

246
00:11:35,910 --> 00:11:37,936
Oh, so he was the youngest.

247
00:11:37,936 --> 00:11:39,750
Yeah.

248
00:11:39,750 --> 00:11:41,780
He was 12 and 1/2.

249
00:11:41,780 --> 00:11:46,198
And these children
were about 11 and 9.

250
00:11:46,198 --> 00:11:47,240
They went with my mother.

251
00:11:47,240 --> 00:11:48,532
They all went with your mother.

252
00:11:48,532 --> 00:11:50,600
Yeah.

253
00:11:50,600 --> 00:11:53,500
So I knew right away.

254
00:11:53,500 --> 00:11:55,830
Is that something you
talked over with your sister

255
00:11:55,830 --> 00:11:58,358
while you were in the
camp, about your family?

256
00:11:58,358 --> 00:11:59,400
Well, we talked about it.

257

00:11:59,400 --> 00:12:01,900
But we really didn't believe it.

258
00:12:01,900 --> 00:12:04,955
We didn't want to believe
it, absolutely not.

259
00:12:04,955 --> 00:12:08,410
And my father was
also in Auschwitz.

260
00:12:08,410 --> 00:12:10,840
He sent us a message
to meet him once.

261
00:12:10,840 --> 00:12:11,340
So we did.

262
00:12:11,340 --> 00:12:14,720
So we knew he was fine.

263
00:12:14,720 --> 00:12:16,080
And then we met an uncle.

264
00:12:16,080 --> 00:12:21,710

265
00:12:21,710 --> 00:12:22,210
But--

266
00:12:22,210 --> 00:12:22,750
But.

267
00:12:22,750 --> 00:12:23,250
Yes.

268
00:12:23,250 --> 00:12:23,880
Yeah.

269
00:12:23,880 --> 00:12:25,850
So now the Americans have come.

270

00:12:25,850 --> 00:12:26,350

Right.

271

00:12:26,350 --> 00:12:28,230

And what did you do?

272

00:12:28,230 --> 00:12:29,750

After they took the information.

273

00:12:29,750 --> 00:12:30,890

They took the information.

274

00:12:30,890 --> 00:12:33,337

They treated us well.

275

00:12:33,337 --> 00:12:33,920

What did you--

276

00:12:33,920 --> 00:12:34,940

They fed us.

277

00:12:34,940 --> 00:12:36,740

--know about America
at that point?

278

00:12:36,740 --> 00:12:37,370

A lot.

279

00:12:37,370 --> 00:12:38,930

I have family here.

280

00:12:38,930 --> 00:12:40,160

You already had family?

281

00:12:40,160 --> 00:12:44,840

Yeah, we have family here
from late 1920s, early '30s.

282

00:12:44,840 --> 00:12:45,680

OK.

283
00:12:45,680 --> 00:12:46,460
So yes.

284
00:12:46,460 --> 00:12:50,060
What did America mean
to you as a 15-year-old?

285
00:12:50,060 --> 00:12:54,100
Well, not that I'll be here.

286
00:12:54,100 --> 00:12:56,810
But my family meant a lot.

287
00:12:56,810 --> 00:12:59,160
I mean--

288
00:12:59,160 --> 00:13:00,570
OK.

289
00:13:00,570 --> 00:13:02,440
--we knew about
them, about America.

290
00:13:02,440 --> 00:13:05,410
We know about Israel.

291
00:13:05,410 --> 00:13:08,120
Did you know any
English at that point?

292
00:13:08,120 --> 00:13:09,580
My sister did.

293
00:13:09,580 --> 00:13:13,270
I knew a few words, because we
started English in third grade,

294
00:13:13,270 --> 00:13:16,660
but not much else.

295
00:13:16,660 --> 00:13:21,197

So then, after the Americans
took the information from you--

296
00:13:21,197 --> 00:13:22,280
They took the information.

297
00:13:22,280 --> 00:13:23,320
They fed us.

298
00:13:23,320 --> 00:13:25,620
They stayed there,
and they fed us.

299
00:13:25,620 --> 00:13:27,430
And they were very
careful, because they

300
00:13:27,430 --> 00:13:32,480
have had bad experiences with
other camps, where they overfed

301
00:13:32,480 --> 00:13:34,210
people, and people died.

302
00:13:34,210 --> 00:13:34,900
Nobody died.

303
00:13:34,900 --> 00:13:36,190
Nobody got sick with us.

304
00:13:36,190 --> 00:13:38,750

305
00:13:38,750 --> 00:13:41,360
How did you
communicate with them?

306
00:13:41,360 --> 00:13:43,990
I don't ever remember
talking to them.

307
00:13:43,990 --> 00:13:46,545

But my sister probably did.

308
00:13:46,545 --> 00:13:47,970
Yeah, but there
were many people.

309
00:13:47,970 --> 00:13:52,840
We had Dutch girls who
spoke English quite well.

310
00:13:52,840 --> 00:13:56,382

311
00:13:56,382 --> 00:13:58,090
Well, many people spoke English.

312
00:13:58,090 --> 00:14:00,770
Were there many other
children your age?

313
00:14:00,770 --> 00:14:02,020
Not there.

314
00:14:02,020 --> 00:14:07,108
There, I was the
only one, in Holysov.

315
00:14:07,108 --> 00:14:14,230
In Auschwitz, we were, I
think, 10 or 12 of messengers.

316
00:14:14,230 --> 00:14:16,580
We took turns.

317
00:14:16,580 --> 00:14:19,810
That were approximately you age?

318
00:14:19,810 --> 00:14:22,010
There was one who
was 13 years old.

319
00:14:22,010 --> 00:14:23,750

Everybody was my
age or a year older.

320
00:14:23,750 --> 00:14:26,320

321
00:14:26,320 --> 00:14:36,440
And in Holysov, some women
left the camp and went looting.

322
00:14:36,440 --> 00:14:40,800
And problems did arise.

323
00:14:40,800 --> 00:14:42,370
Looting in the town, you mean?

324
00:14:42,370 --> 00:14:43,170
Mm-hm.

325
00:14:43,170 --> 00:14:47,960
But then the soldiers,
the American soldiers,

326
00:14:47,960 --> 00:14:51,570
warned everybody of the dangers.

327
00:14:51,570 --> 00:14:55,560
And it mostly stopped.

328
00:14:55,560 --> 00:14:58,070
But we only stayed there
for a month after that.

329
00:14:58,070 --> 00:14:59,993
We went back to my hometown.

330
00:14:59,993 --> 00:15:02,160
But you stayed in the
barracks that you had been in?

331
00:15:02,160 --> 00:15:03,710
Yeah, there was nobody.

332
00:15:03,710 --> 00:15:05,450
There was no place else to stay.

333
00:15:05,450 --> 00:15:06,932
Right.

334
00:15:06,932 --> 00:15:07,920
We stayed there.

335
00:15:07,920 --> 00:15:10,340
We were there.

336
00:15:10,340 --> 00:15:15,717
I don't really have memories
of what happened there

337
00:15:15,717 --> 00:15:16,550
while we were there.

338
00:15:16,550 --> 00:15:18,050
But I know we were there.

339
00:15:18,050 --> 00:15:20,900
I know we gave information.

340
00:15:20,900 --> 00:15:24,450
I suppose that's how my
family here found us.

341
00:15:24,450 --> 00:15:24,950
Oh.

342
00:15:24,950 --> 00:15:26,640
I suppose so.

343
00:15:26,640 --> 00:15:30,700
So then after the
month was over?

344
00:15:30,700 --> 00:15:32,690

Again, I don't remember exactly.

345

00:15:32,690 --> 00:15:34,640

But we boarded a train.

346

00:15:34,640 --> 00:15:35,690

I don't know where.

347

00:15:35,690 --> 00:15:36,880

I suppose in Pilsen.

348

00:15:36,880 --> 00:15:39,680

And I don't know how we
got there, or Prague.

349

00:15:39,680 --> 00:15:43,530

[LAUGHS] I have no,
no real memory of it.

350

00:15:43,530 --> 00:15:46,255

And it took us about a week
to get back to Mukachevo.

351

00:15:46,255 --> 00:15:47,380

You went back to Mukachevo.

352

00:15:47,380 --> 00:15:48,770

Oh yeah.

353

00:15:48,770 --> 00:15:52,250

And on the way home, we found
out that my father is alive,

354

00:15:52,250 --> 00:15:53,600

and he's back in Mukachevo.

355

00:15:53,600 --> 00:15:54,945

Don't ask me how.

356

00:15:54,945 --> 00:15:57,510

I have no idea.

357

00:15:57,510 --> 00:16:02,820

And so we went home and
did find my father living

358

00:16:02,820 --> 00:16:05,610

in my grandfather's--

359

00:16:05,610 --> 00:16:07,310

one of the apartments
in the house.

360

00:16:07,310 --> 00:16:10,820

361

00:16:10,820 --> 00:16:15,440

So did you saw non-Jewish
residents of Mukachevo

362

00:16:15,440 --> 00:16:16,790

when you returned?

363

00:16:16,790 --> 00:16:18,860

And if so, what did
they say to you?

364

00:16:18,860 --> 00:16:19,950

I didn't see any, no.

365

00:16:19,950 --> 00:16:20,450

You didn't.

366

00:16:20,450 --> 00:16:22,730

I didn't speak to
any, I should say.

367

00:16:22,730 --> 00:16:27,920

There was nobody
living in our house

368

00:16:27,920 --> 00:16:30,500

my father had tried to get into.

369

00:16:30,500 --> 00:16:32,600

I don't know whether
he did or not.

370

00:16:32,600 --> 00:16:35,298

But when my sister tried,
they didn't let her in.

371

00:16:35,298 --> 00:16:36,590

They didn't even open the door.

372

00:16:36,590 --> 00:16:37,430

The people that
were living there?

373

00:16:37,430 --> 00:16:38,410

In our house.

374

00:16:38,410 --> 00:16:40,040

Yeah.

375

00:16:40,040 --> 00:16:44,420

My grandfather's house
was different than ours.

376

00:16:44,420 --> 00:16:49,130

It had a main floor, and
then it had a main apartment

377

00:16:49,130 --> 00:16:52,590

on the main floor, where my
grandparents used to live.

378

00:16:52,590 --> 00:16:55,210

And upstairs where
three apartments.

379

00:16:55,210 --> 00:16:59,090

Now, the main floor was
occupied by Russian soldiers,

380

00:16:59,090 --> 00:17:02,380

because Russia
liberated Mukachevo.

381
00:17:02,380 --> 00:17:07,650
So Russian soldiers lived
in that big apartment.

382
00:17:07,650 --> 00:17:13,150
And upstairs, my father
took one of the apartments.

383
00:17:13,150 --> 00:17:15,880
I don't remember who lived
in the other two apartments.

384
00:17:15,880 --> 00:17:16,869
Well, yes, I do.

385
00:17:16,869 --> 00:17:20,260
One of my old friends
and his mother

386
00:17:20,260 --> 00:17:22,510
lived in one of the apartments.

387
00:17:22,510 --> 00:17:26,334
I don't remember who lived
in the third apartment.

388
00:17:26,334 --> 00:17:27,598
And so you moved in there--

389
00:17:27,598 --> 00:17:28,140
We moved in--

390
00:17:28,140 --> 00:17:29,320
--you and your sister?

391
00:17:29,320 --> 00:17:30,920
--with my father, yes.

392
00:17:30,920 --> 00:17:32,701

And you father.

393

00:17:32,701 --> 00:17:34,550

Who was already living there.

394

00:17:34,550 --> 00:17:36,050

Right, when you got there.

395

00:17:36,050 --> 00:17:38,900

And how was your

health at the time?

396

00:17:38,900 --> 00:17:46,880

Well, my health was that

I was in terrible pain.

397

00:17:46,880 --> 00:17:50,710

That's how I knew

that something--

398

00:17:50,710 --> 00:17:52,580

That's how it manifested itself.

399

00:17:52,580 --> 00:17:53,840

Exactly.

400

00:17:53,840 --> 00:17:56,090

But I wasn't feeling sick.

401

00:17:56,090 --> 00:17:59,720

I just was in horrible

pain constantly.

402

00:17:59,720 --> 00:18:03,950

So as it happens,

psychologically, the pain

403

00:18:03,950 --> 00:18:05,250

stops when it has to.

404

00:18:05,250 --> 00:18:06,650

And it did.

405

00:18:06,650 --> 00:18:12,140
It stopped when we were bombed
in Nuremberg, until I got

406

00:18:12,140 --> 00:18:14,810
to Holysov and started to work.

407

00:18:14,810 --> 00:18:19,370
I had no pain for about
probably 10 days or so.

408

00:18:19,370 --> 00:18:23,180
And then it got
progressively worse.

409

00:18:23,180 --> 00:18:26,970
I don't remember being in pain
on the train coming home, where

410

00:18:26,970 --> 00:18:30,940
we had to stand for a week.

411

00:18:30,940 --> 00:18:32,860
We slept standing.

412

00:18:32,860 --> 00:18:34,530
Whatever we ate, I don't know.

413

00:18:34,530 --> 00:18:37,570
Or whatever was done, was being
done, was being done standing.

414

00:18:37,570 --> 00:18:38,500
It was so hard.

415

00:18:38,500 --> 00:18:40,900
Was this in one of these
cattle cars type of thing?

416

00:18:40,900 --> 00:18:41,410
No.

417
00:18:41,410 --> 00:18:42,300
No, it wasn't.

418
00:18:42,300 --> 00:18:44,500
It was a regular railway car?

419
00:18:44,500 --> 00:18:46,445
Right, right, right.

420
00:18:46,445 --> 00:18:47,320
But still you stood--

421
00:18:47,320 --> 00:18:51,340
But it was completely
mobbed, because everybody

422
00:18:51,340 --> 00:18:54,070
was going place, mostly home.

423
00:18:54,070 --> 00:18:57,600
Did you get any medical
attention after the war?

424
00:18:57,600 --> 00:18:59,545
After the war, of course.

425
00:18:59,545 --> 00:19:01,210
Not Immediately after.

426
00:19:01,210 --> 00:19:04,090
I even got medical
attention in the camps.

427
00:19:04,090 --> 00:19:06,160
I mean, I was in a--

428
00:19:06,160 --> 00:19:07,350
Infirmary?

429
00:19:07,350 --> 00:19:08,050

An infirmary.

430
00:19:08,050 --> 00:19:10,320
And I got probably
something like aspirin,

431
00:19:10,320 --> 00:19:12,300
which didn't help much.

432
00:19:12,300 --> 00:19:15,440
But it helped somewhat.

433
00:19:15,440 --> 00:19:16,490
At home, I got home.

434
00:19:16,490 --> 00:19:17,730
And I was kind of.

435
00:19:17,730 --> 00:19:19,790
OK for almost a month.

436
00:19:19,790 --> 00:19:23,820
And then I started
being in terrible pain.

437
00:19:23,820 --> 00:19:30,350
So I went to Budapest, to
the Children's Hospital

438
00:19:30,350 --> 00:19:33,140
in Budapest, spent
the month there,

439
00:19:33,140 --> 00:19:40,720
with being X-rayed two or three
times a day, every single day.

440
00:19:40,720 --> 00:19:42,000
But I'm still here.

441
00:19:42,000 --> 00:19:43,640
[LAUGHTER]

442
00:19:43,640 --> 00:19:47,550
And they couldn't
find what was wrong.

443
00:19:47,550 --> 00:19:51,040
They said, Oh, it's
something, whatever.

444
00:19:51,040 --> 00:19:53,620
Something-- they
couldn't find it.

445
00:19:53,620 --> 00:19:59,920
And naturally, from lying in
bed for a month, I felt better.

446
00:19:59,920 --> 00:20:01,790
And I went home.

447
00:20:01,790 --> 00:20:03,780
I went home for the holidays.

448
00:20:03,780 --> 00:20:05,920
So it was the end of August.

449
00:20:05,920 --> 00:20:07,380
I came home.

450
00:20:07,380 --> 00:20:12,860
I spent the holidays with
my father and sister.

451
00:20:12,860 --> 00:20:17,210
And then it started again.

452
00:20:17,210 --> 00:20:22,730
So somehow, my father arranged
with my aunt, who survived

453
00:20:22,730 --> 00:20:26,760
in Slovakia, near Bratislava.

454

00:20:26,760 --> 00:20:34,020

My mother's best friend had been
a doctor in the Jewish hospital

455

00:20:34,020 --> 00:20:36,040

in Bratislava.

456

00:20:36,040 --> 00:20:42,820

And my aunt was instrumental
in somehow arranging with them,

457

00:20:42,820 --> 00:20:46,750

that as soon as there was an
empty bed, they would take me.

458

00:20:46,750 --> 00:20:50,862

So I went from
Mukachevo to Rohovce,

459

00:20:50,862 --> 00:20:58,840

if you want to write it down,
where my aunt lived, and waited

460

00:20:58,840 --> 00:20:59,740

for a bed.

461

00:20:59,740 --> 00:21:03,080

This was around November--

462

00:21:03,080 --> 00:21:04,380

Of '45?

463

00:21:04,380 --> 00:21:06,510

Of '45.

464

00:21:06,510 --> 00:21:08,070

And they didn't
have a bed for me

465

00:21:08,070 --> 00:21:13,510

until March, so I stayed

at my aunt's house.

466
00:21:13,510 --> 00:21:14,860
Getting medical attention?

467
00:21:14,860 --> 00:21:16,080
No.

468
00:21:16,080 --> 00:21:18,030
But I was in bed.

469
00:21:18,030 --> 00:21:19,510
Then I mean, I was lying down.

470
00:21:19,510 --> 00:21:21,490
I don't remember going anywhere.

471
00:21:21,490 --> 00:21:23,780
But that's what had to happen.

472
00:21:23,780 --> 00:21:29,830
Because in the meantime, the
border in Mukachevo was closed,

473
00:21:29,830 --> 00:21:31,810
shut.

474
00:21:31,810 --> 00:21:35,795
If you wanted to leave, you
had to leave by December 31st.

475
00:21:35,795 --> 00:21:39,390
If you didn't leave by then,
then you couldn't leave.

476
00:21:39,390 --> 00:21:44,040
So my father and sister
decided to leave.

477
00:21:44,040 --> 00:21:45,320
So they weren't there.

478

00:21:45,320 --> 00:21:48,270

It was a good thing
that I was here.

479

00:21:48,270 --> 00:21:52,470

And so I waited until March.

480

00:21:52,470 --> 00:21:54,360

Did they come to you?

481

00:21:54,360 --> 00:21:55,785

I'm sure they came to see me.

482

00:21:55,785 --> 00:21:56,910

But they didn't stay there.

483

00:21:56,910 --> 00:21:59,520

They ended up near Prague.

484

00:21:59,520 --> 00:22:00,460

They went to Prague.

485

00:22:00,460 --> 00:22:00,720

Right.

486

00:22:00,720 --> 00:22:01,086

OK.

487

00:22:01,086 --> 00:22:01,878

And you stayed--OK.

488

00:22:01,878 --> 00:22:04,995

And I stayed there, because
we had this arrangement.

489

00:22:04,995 --> 00:22:06,210

Yeah.

490

00:22:06,210 --> 00:22:14,440

I got into the hospital,
I think, on March 16, '46,

491
00:22:14,440 --> 00:22:17,305
and left March 16, '47.

492
00:22:17,305 --> 00:22:18,930
So you were in the
hospital for a year.

493
00:22:18,930 --> 00:22:22,540
A whole year, exactly a year.

494
00:22:22,540 --> 00:22:24,710
And was your father and
your sister able to come?

495
00:22:24,710 --> 00:22:25,210
Yeah.

496
00:22:25,210 --> 00:22:26,418
Were they able to come visit?

497
00:22:26,418 --> 00:22:28,970
Either one or the other came to
see me at least once a month.

498
00:22:28,970 --> 00:22:34,420

499
00:22:34,420 --> 00:22:37,190
I mean, you were only 16.

500
00:22:37,190 --> 00:22:38,200
Right.

501
00:22:38,200 --> 00:22:42,640
16, 17-- your frame of mind--

502
00:22:42,640 --> 00:22:44,140
do you consider yourself strong?

503
00:22:44,140 --> 00:22:46,580

Well, I mean, were you a strong young woman at that time?

504
00:22:46,580 --> 00:22:47,872
You were still just a teenager.

505
00:22:47,872 --> 00:22:48,372
Strong.

506
00:22:48,372 --> 00:22:48,872
Strong.

507
00:22:48,872 --> 00:22:50,414
Strong mentally--
no, not physically.

508
00:22:50,414 --> 00:22:51,414
I know you were in pain.

509
00:22:51,414 --> 00:22:51,980
Yes.

510
00:22:51,980 --> 00:22:53,710
Yes.

511
00:22:53,710 --> 00:22:56,540
To be able to go through what you did at such a young age--

512
00:22:56,540 --> 00:22:57,040
Yeah.

513
00:22:57,040 --> 00:22:58,140
--and not with family.

514
00:22:58,140 --> 00:22:59,500
I mean, you were--

515
00:22:59,500 --> 00:23:01,430
Well, there was nothing that we could do.

516

00:23:01,430 --> 00:23:02,505

I mean, my aunt also--

517

00:23:02,505 --> 00:23:03,172

You aunt-- yeah.

518

00:23:03,172 --> 00:23:06,718

--came to see me frequently,
because she was--

519

00:23:06,718 --> 00:23:07,260

I don't know.

520

00:23:07,260 --> 00:23:10,330

I can't tell exactly--
about 20, 30 kilometers away

521

00:23:10,330 --> 00:23:11,530

from Bratislava.

522

00:23:11,530 --> 00:23:14,050

She did come to
see me frequently.

523

00:23:14,050 --> 00:23:17,590

And of course, there
were many other survivors

524

00:23:17,590 --> 00:23:19,350

in the hospital.

525

00:23:19,350 --> 00:23:21,400

So we sort of formed the family.

526

00:23:21,400 --> 00:23:26,310

There were lots of lovely
young people in Bratislava,

527

00:23:26,310 --> 00:23:34,110

Jewish people, who visited and
brought books and little gifts

528

00:23:34,110 --> 00:23:37,720
and their company constantly.

529

00:23:37,720 --> 00:23:40,720
Did you talk to the
other young people

530

00:23:40,720 --> 00:23:42,760
about what you all went
through at that time?

531

00:23:42,760 --> 00:23:44,240
I don't think so.

532

00:23:44,240 --> 00:23:47,630
I don't remember,
so I don't think so.

533

00:23:47,630 --> 00:23:50,140
I brought a diary,
and not once did

534

00:23:50,140 --> 00:23:53,200
I mention what I went through.

535

00:23:53,200 --> 00:23:55,303
The diary you wrote at the time?

536

00:23:55,303 --> 00:23:55,970
In the hospital.

537

00:23:55,970 --> 00:23:56,640
In the hospital?

538

00:23:56,640 --> 00:23:57,440
Right.

539

00:23:57,440 --> 00:23:59,110
And not once did I mention--

540

00:23:59,110 --> 00:24:01,030

It was just what you
were doing at that time.

541
00:24:01,030 --> 00:24:01,340
Right.

542
00:24:01,340 --> 00:24:01,490
Right.

543
00:24:01,490 --> 00:24:02,620
It was like a journal.

544
00:24:02,620 --> 00:24:03,120
Exactly.

545
00:24:03,120 --> 00:24:06,290

546
00:24:06,290 --> 00:24:08,690
Did you think about
what you had gone

547
00:24:08,690 --> 00:24:12,510
through in the previous
couple of years?

548
00:24:12,510 --> 00:24:14,194
I don't even think about it now.

549
00:24:14,194 --> 00:24:18,910
[LAUGHS] So you got good
care in the hospital?

550
00:24:18,910 --> 00:24:20,360
Well, it took them--

551
00:24:20,360 --> 00:24:22,070
A year?

552
00:24:22,070 --> 00:24:25,497
Almost three months to find
what was wrong with me.

553
00:24:25,497 --> 00:24:26,330
What was the matter?

554
00:24:26,330 --> 00:24:29,660
I had tuberculosis on the spine.

555
00:24:29,660 --> 00:24:33,620
And it took them a long
time to actually find out

556
00:24:33,620 --> 00:24:35,858
and then get to find
the cure for it.

557
00:24:35,858 --> 00:24:36,650
Which was medicine?

558
00:24:36,650 --> 00:24:39,200
They were to-- no.

559
00:24:39,200 --> 00:24:40,810
It was bed rest,
absolute bed rest.

560
00:24:40,810 --> 00:24:42,030
Just bed rest.

561
00:24:42,030 --> 00:24:43,450
But absolute bed rest.

562
00:24:43,450 --> 00:24:46,910
After the three months,
I was in a cast in bed

563
00:24:46,910 --> 00:24:50,865
for about 8 and 1/2 months.

564
00:24:50,865 --> 00:24:51,815
Whoa.

565

00:24:51,815 --> 00:24:53,240
Yeah.

566
00:24:53,240 --> 00:25:00,430
And nutritious food-- that
was the important thing--

567
00:25:00,430 --> 00:25:01,800
food and I suppose--

568
00:25:01,800 --> 00:25:06,310
I'm sure they gave me
vitamins and very good

569
00:25:06,310 --> 00:25:10,360
nutrition, which was first
thing the doctor said

570
00:25:10,360 --> 00:25:13,730
when he discovered
what was really wrong.

571
00:25:13,730 --> 00:25:17,480

572
00:25:17,480 --> 00:25:21,830
So that's-- and I did
get better from that.

573
00:25:21,830 --> 00:25:23,420
And then the year is up.

574
00:25:23,420 --> 00:25:25,160
An then?

575
00:25:25,160 --> 00:25:31,330
I went to a sanatorium
for three months.

576
00:25:31,330 --> 00:25:31,970
Where was that?

577

00:25:31,970 --> 00:25:33,981
In the Tatry, Tatry Mountains.

578
00:25:33,981 --> 00:25:34,481
OK.

579
00:25:34,481 --> 00:25:37,778

580
00:25:37,778 --> 00:25:42,500
And so that was the end
of the summer, I suppose.

581
00:25:42,500 --> 00:25:45,150

582
00:25:45,150 --> 00:25:46,830
I think I went home.

583
00:25:46,830 --> 00:25:48,765
After the hospital, I went home.

584
00:25:48,765 --> 00:25:49,695
I went home to my--

585
00:25:49,695 --> 00:25:50,320
To your father.

586
00:25:50,320 --> 00:25:52,690
--to my father.

587
00:25:52,690 --> 00:25:55,720
And then from there, I
went to the Tatry Mountains

588
00:25:55,720 --> 00:26:03,810
for three months, then came
back to Zatec, which was near

589
00:26:03,810 --> 00:26:07,470
Prague, which is
where they lived.

590
00:26:07,470 --> 00:26:11,530
And I didn't work.

591
00:26:11,530 --> 00:26:14,180
My sister worked.

592
00:26:14,180 --> 00:26:15,530
My father was--

593
00:26:15,530 --> 00:26:17,450
I don't know what we lived on.

594
00:26:17,450 --> 00:26:20,630

595
00:26:20,630 --> 00:26:30,250
And around the end
of January of '48,

596
00:26:30,250 --> 00:26:34,720
my aunt, either
she picked me up,

597
00:26:34,720 --> 00:26:38,590
or I must have gone there
by myself to her house.

598
00:26:38,590 --> 00:26:43,120
And we traveled around
central Europe for a month.

599
00:26:43,120 --> 00:26:48,940
She took me to many places.

600
00:26:48,940 --> 00:26:50,840
Now, your schooling
had stopped at 14.

601
00:26:50,840 --> 00:26:51,990
Completely.

602
00:26:51,990 --> 00:26:53,060
By age 14.

603
00:26:53,060 --> 00:26:54,540
Right, right.

604
00:26:54,540 --> 00:26:56,738
There was no such thing
as tutoring or anything

605
00:26:56,738 --> 00:26:57,405
in the hospital.

606
00:26:57,405 --> 00:27:00,820

607
00:27:00,820 --> 00:27:01,860
I read a lot.

608
00:27:01,860 --> 00:27:06,320
And I taught myself
how to speak Russian.

609
00:27:06,320 --> 00:27:09,860
And I read a lot.

610
00:27:09,860 --> 00:27:14,010
That was the main
occupation, but no schooling.

611
00:27:14,010 --> 00:27:16,220
That was-- yeah.

612
00:27:16,220 --> 00:27:18,440
Were you at school, to
go back to the wartime,

613
00:27:18,440 --> 00:27:20,870
up to the time you were
taken away to Auschwitz?

614

00:27:20,870 --> 00:27:22,030
Had you-- to the age of--

615
00:27:22,030 --> 00:27:24,470
About a month before that--

616
00:27:24,470 --> 00:27:25,170
--at school?

617
00:27:25,170 --> 00:27:25,670
Right.

618
00:27:25,670 --> 00:27:27,680
We went to school until March--

619
00:27:27,680 --> 00:27:28,330
'44.

620
00:27:28,330 --> 00:27:29,070
'44.

621
00:27:29,070 --> 00:27:29,570
OK.

622
00:27:29,570 --> 00:27:30,070
Right.

623
00:27:30,070 --> 00:27:31,630
OK, so you were 14.

624
00:27:31,630 --> 00:27:34,070
Right.

625
00:27:34,070 --> 00:27:36,370
Never got a diploma,
I mean, because it

626
00:27:36,370 --> 00:27:42,530
was the eighth grade, which
was the end of that school

627

00:27:42,530 --> 00:27:43,040
session--

628
00:27:43,040 --> 00:27:43,940
not session.

629
00:27:43,940 --> 00:27:46,280
But it's like in middle school.

630
00:27:46,280 --> 00:27:49,000
But we did get diplomas there.

631
00:27:49,000 --> 00:27:50,180
But we never did.

632
00:27:50,180 --> 00:27:51,310
Because we didn't finish.

633
00:27:51,310 --> 00:27:52,393
Because you didn't finish.

634
00:27:52,393 --> 00:27:53,210
Right.

635
00:27:53,210 --> 00:27:54,950
So now you're traveling
with your aunt.

636
00:27:54,950 --> 00:27:56,360
And you said you--

637
00:27:56,360 --> 00:28:01,580
Yeah, so let's say traveled all
of February or all of March.

638
00:28:01,580 --> 00:28:02,370
I'm not sure.

639
00:28:02,370 --> 00:28:05,060
All of February.

640

00:28:05,060 --> 00:28:08,180
And after we came back--

641
00:28:08,180 --> 00:28:09,350
she did come back with me.

642
00:28:09,350 --> 00:28:10,790
We came back.

643
00:28:10,790 --> 00:28:13,670
We got ready to come here.

644
00:28:13,670 --> 00:28:16,010
We left in April '48.

645
00:28:16,010 --> 00:28:17,210
April '48.

646
00:28:17,210 --> 00:28:19,390
OK, how did your
father arrange that?

647
00:28:19,390 --> 00:28:20,380
Do you know?

648
00:28:20,380 --> 00:28:24,030
My family here
arranged it, actually.

649
00:28:24,030 --> 00:28:25,000
They sponsored you?

650
00:28:25,000 --> 00:28:25,900
They sponsored us.

651
00:28:25,900 --> 00:28:27,700
They sent us tickets.

652
00:28:27,700 --> 00:28:31,990
My sister arranged
the visa in Prague.

653

00:28:31,990 --> 00:28:36,217

I guess she got the
passport, the visa, whatever.

654

00:28:36,217 --> 00:28:37,800

How did you feel
about leaving Europe?

655

00:28:37,800 --> 00:28:40,380

656

00:28:40,380 --> 00:28:43,620

No, no problem.

657

00:28:43,620 --> 00:28:45,920

Not at all.

658

00:28:45,920 --> 00:28:52,575

I didn't miss it as a
homeland, not at all.

659

00:28:52,575 --> 00:28:58,180

And were you fearful of
going to America, or eager?

660

00:28:58,180 --> 00:29:01,290

Well, we all were very
excited about seeing my aunt,

661

00:29:01,290 --> 00:29:02,720

my uncle, my whole family.

662

00:29:02,720 --> 00:29:03,890

We had family.

663

00:29:03,890 --> 00:29:06,580

So it was more a matter of
seeing family rather than going

664

00:29:06,580 --> 00:29:07,160

to America?

665
00:29:07,160 --> 00:29:07,660
Right.

666
00:29:07,660 --> 00:29:11,120
And we knew that we
were going to live here.

667
00:29:11,120 --> 00:29:12,290
We had choices before.

668
00:29:12,290 --> 00:29:13,810
We could have gone
to Israel, too.

669
00:29:13,810 --> 00:29:16,180
But we chose to come here.

670
00:29:16,180 --> 00:29:20,370
We have family in Israel also.

671
00:29:20,370 --> 00:29:21,790
And we could have
gone there also.

672
00:29:21,790 --> 00:29:24,490
But I guess my father
and sister decided

673
00:29:24,490 --> 00:29:25,560
that we were coming here.

674
00:29:25,560 --> 00:29:28,070

675
00:29:28,070 --> 00:29:31,940
Did he keep up his religious
observance immediately

676
00:29:31,940 --> 00:29:32,720
after the war?

677

00:29:32,720 --> 00:29:34,820
Not to the same extent.

678
00:29:34,820 --> 00:29:38,970
But yes, but not
to the same extent.

679
00:29:38,970 --> 00:29:41,410
So you came to
the United States.

680
00:29:41,410 --> 00:29:42,770
How did you get here?

681
00:29:42,770 --> 00:29:43,860
By boat.

682
00:29:43,860 --> 00:29:44,772
From?

683
00:29:44,772 --> 00:29:46,540
From Le Havre.

684
00:29:46,540 --> 00:29:48,410
Do you remember the
name of the boat?

685
00:29:48,410 --> 00:29:49,070
I do.

686
00:29:49,070 --> 00:29:55,293
But they can't find
it on the computer.

687
00:29:55,293 --> 00:29:56,210
I'll have to fight it.

688
00:29:56,210 --> 00:29:59,865
Because yesterday, I found
a piece of paper that--

689
00:29:59,865 --> 00:30:01,830

You say the name of
the boat, you don't--

690
00:30:01,830 --> 00:30:03,470
It's the SS Washington.

691
00:30:03,470 --> 00:30:05,581
Oh, the SS Washington--

692
00:30:05,581 --> 00:30:07,110
OK, very appropriate.

693
00:30:07,110 --> 00:30:07,910
Yes.

694
00:30:07,910 --> 00:30:10,020
And you landed--

695
00:30:10,020 --> 00:30:10,610
In New York.

696
00:30:10,610 --> 00:30:11,240
In New York.

697
00:30:11,240 --> 00:30:11,740
Right.

698
00:30:11,740 --> 00:30:15,050

699
00:30:15,050 --> 00:30:17,120
Any special feelings
when you landed?

700
00:30:17,120 --> 00:30:21,540
Yeah, it was quite special.

701
00:30:21,540 --> 00:30:25,820
We arrived around 5 o'clock.

702
00:30:25,820 --> 00:30:27,570

They told us that very soon, we were going

703
00:30:27,570 --> 00:30:30,360
to pass the Statue of Liberty.

704
00:30:30,360 --> 00:30:33,940
So of course, everybody was up on decks.

705
00:30:33,940 --> 00:30:36,942
And that was most-- most--

706
00:30:36,942 --> 00:30:38,310
yeah, I guess I cried.

707
00:30:38,310 --> 00:30:39,910
Right.

708
00:30:39,910 --> 00:30:42,675
The Statue of Liberty meant something to you at that age.

709
00:30:42,675 --> 00:30:44,692
No only at that age.

710
00:30:44,692 --> 00:30:46,000
And to everybody.

711
00:30:46,000 --> 00:30:47,890
Yeah, yeah.

712
00:30:47,890 --> 00:31:02,133
I suppose that that's how we expressed our joy--

713
00:31:02,133 --> 00:31:02,800
Joy and relief--

714
00:31:02,800 --> 00:31:03,225
--and relief.

715
00:31:03,225 --> 00:31:04,183
--and everything, yeah.

716
00:31:04,183 --> 00:31:06,330
Yeah, yeah.

717
00:31:06,330 --> 00:31:09,715
And even now, when I see
the Statue of Liberty,

718
00:31:09,715 --> 00:31:10,965
I still have the same feeling.

719
00:31:10,965 --> 00:31:11,660
I'm sure.

720
00:31:11,660 --> 00:31:12,490
It doesn't go away.

721
00:31:12,490 --> 00:31:13,640
I'm sure.

722
00:31:13,640 --> 00:31:15,020
I'm sure.

723
00:31:15,020 --> 00:31:17,890
And it was Pesach.

724
00:31:17,890 --> 00:31:20,550

725
00:31:20,550 --> 00:31:23,660
We arrived on the
first day of Pesach.

726
00:31:23,660 --> 00:31:25,920
We had the first
Seder on the ship.

727
00:31:25,920 --> 00:31:26,420
Oh, really.

728
00:31:26,420 --> 00:31:28,610
And there was a
Seder on the ship.

729
00:31:28,610 --> 00:31:30,590
What was that like?

730
00:31:30,590 --> 00:31:31,670
It was very nice.

731
00:31:31,670 --> 00:31:34,580
We're very, very proper.

732
00:31:34,580 --> 00:31:35,455
Everybody was Jewish.

733
00:31:35,455 --> 00:31:36,538
Everybody knew what to do.

734
00:31:36,538 --> 00:31:38,060
So it was all
refugees on the boat?

735
00:31:38,060 --> 00:31:39,450
Of course.

736
00:31:39,450 --> 00:31:43,310
And the only
difference was, from

737
00:31:43,310 --> 00:31:46,880
what I was used to what
was there, is that--

738
00:31:46,880 --> 00:31:50,070
I don't know how
familiar you are.

739
00:31:50,070 --> 00:31:53,840
But we had celery for karpas--

740
00:31:53,840 --> 00:31:55,180
Karpas, yeah.

741
00:31:55,180 --> 00:31:56,916
--rather than--

742
00:31:56,916 --> 00:31:57,430
Parsley.

743
00:31:57,430 --> 00:31:59,690
--parsley.

744
00:31:59,690 --> 00:32:02,050
And that was a big difference.

745
00:32:02,050 --> 00:32:09,940
Anyway, my family
here, whoever is left,

746
00:32:09,940 --> 00:32:11,980
is still ultra-orthodox.

747
00:32:11,980 --> 00:32:14,110
Oh, OK.

748
00:32:14,110 --> 00:32:18,360
So two of my cousins walked
from Brooklyn to meet us.

749
00:32:18,360 --> 00:32:20,080
Oh, my.

750
00:32:20,080 --> 00:32:22,930
And another cousin
from the Bronx

751
00:32:22,930 --> 00:32:25,100
came by train, or however.

752
00:32:25,100 --> 00:32:28,060
I mean, they were not religious.

753
00:32:28,060 --> 00:32:32,920
But these cousins were
the son and son-in-law

754
00:32:32,920 --> 00:32:35,042
of my aunt and uncle.

755
00:32:35,042 --> 00:32:37,000
Is this on your mother's
side or father's side?

756
00:32:37,000 --> 00:32:38,000
My mother's side.

757
00:32:38,000 --> 00:32:41,628
My father's side-- my aunt
in the Bronx was not--

758
00:32:41,628 --> 00:32:43,920
she may have been religious,
but the children were not.

759
00:32:43,920 --> 00:32:46,200
So you had--

760
00:32:46,200 --> 00:32:46,760
Family.

761
00:32:46,760 --> 00:32:48,940
--relatives from both
sides, from your mother

762
00:32:48,940 --> 00:32:49,210
and your father?

763
00:32:49,210 --> 00:32:49,480
Right.

764
00:32:49,480 --> 00:32:50,188
Wasn't that nice?

765
00:32:50,188 --> 00:32:50,710
Yeah.

766
00:32:50,710 --> 00:32:52,030
Yeah.

767
00:32:52,030 --> 00:32:58,390
And of course, we'd walk back
with my cousins to Brooklyn.

768
00:32:58,390 --> 00:33:02,470
All our luggage had
to stay on the ship.

769
00:33:02,470 --> 00:33:04,720
And I don't know
if it was Shabbat.

770
00:33:04,720 --> 00:33:07,690
But they let me carry
my pocketbook, which

771
00:33:07,690 --> 00:33:09,790
is interesting.

772
00:33:09,790 --> 00:33:12,620
Anyway, I did carry
my pocketbook.

773
00:33:12,620 --> 00:33:16,870
And we walked back
from 21st Street.

774
00:33:16,870 --> 00:33:19,620

775
00:33:19,620 --> 00:33:21,150
Is that where you landed?

776
00:33:21,150 --> 00:33:22,065
I think.

777

00:33:22,065 --> 00:33:23,070

Or Pier 21.

778

00:33:23,070 --> 00:33:25,530

Pier 21, I don't think
it's on 21st Street.

779

00:33:25,530 --> 00:33:26,785

I think it's further up.

780

00:33:26,785 --> 00:33:29,664

I can't remember.

781

00:33:29,664 --> 00:33:32,020

I think it's--

782

00:33:32,020 --> 00:33:35,890

From the after the war was over
till the time you landed here,

783

00:33:35,890 --> 00:33:41,170

did your father talk about your
mother or about your brother?

784

00:33:41,170 --> 00:33:42,390

Or did he just kind of--

785

00:33:42,390 --> 00:33:42,890

We didn't.

786

00:33:42,890 --> 00:33:44,670

--close up?

787

00:33:44,670 --> 00:33:45,265

Yeah.

788

00:33:45,265 --> 00:33:46,150

Yeah, he did.

789

00:33:46,150 --> 00:33:46,810

We all did.

790
00:33:46,810 --> 00:33:48,670
You did talk among yourselves?

791
00:33:48,670 --> 00:33:49,380
No, no, no.

792
00:33:49,380 --> 00:33:50,390
You did not?

793
00:33:50,390 --> 00:33:51,460
No.

794
00:33:51,460 --> 00:33:52,680
We all closed up.

795
00:33:52,680 --> 00:33:53,430
You closed up.

796
00:33:53,430 --> 00:33:55,030
Like I think everybody else did.

797
00:33:55,030 --> 00:33:55,850
Yeah, right.

798
00:33:55,850 --> 00:33:56,650
Yeah.

799
00:33:56,650 --> 00:33:59,020
I'm sure that my mother and
my brother were mentioned.

800
00:33:59,020 --> 00:34:00,990
But we didn't talk
about what happened

801
00:34:00,990 --> 00:34:04,800
to them or my grandmother
or the rest of the family.

802
00:34:04,800 --> 00:34:09,949

I mean, my father was
of eight children.

803
00:34:09,949 --> 00:34:11,290
One was here.

804
00:34:11,290 --> 00:34:12,469
All the others were there.

805
00:34:12,469 --> 00:34:15,949
So there were six other
people who did not survive--

806
00:34:15,949 --> 00:34:16,449
Survive.

807
00:34:16,449 --> 00:34:19,260
--with their families.

808
00:34:19,260 --> 00:34:24,710
Altogether, there were 58
people, my mother and father.

809
00:34:24,710 --> 00:34:25,620
That you lost.

810
00:34:25,620 --> 00:34:27,949
Yeah.

811
00:34:27,949 --> 00:34:29,540
I'm sure we mentioned everybody.

812
00:34:29,540 --> 00:34:33,139
But we never talked
about what happened.

813
00:34:33,139 --> 00:34:36,380
I can't even remember
telling my father about what

814
00:34:36,380 --> 00:34:37,572
happened in Auschwitz.

815
00:34:37,572 --> 00:34:38,280
I don't remember.

816
00:34:38,280 --> 00:34:39,370
It doesn't mean that I didn't.

817
00:34:39,370 --> 00:34:40,324
I just don't remember.

818
00:34:40,324 --> 00:34:41,510
Yeah.

819
00:34:41,510 --> 00:34:44,739
So now you walked to your
relatives' apartment.

820
00:34:44,739 --> 00:34:47,949
We walked to their house, and
it was the first day of Pesach.

821
00:34:47,949 --> 00:34:49,400
Right.

822
00:34:49,400 --> 00:34:55,330
And we had the second Seder.

823
00:34:55,330 --> 00:34:56,699
Second Seder.

824
00:34:56,699 --> 00:35:00,685
And of course, I
can't even imagine--

825
00:35:00,685 --> 00:35:02,268
if that's bothering
you, just move it.

826
00:35:02,268 --> 00:35:03,672
That's OK.

827

00:35:03,672 --> 00:35:07,860
I can't even
imagine how amazing.

828
00:35:07,860 --> 00:35:10,290
I felt. I don't know
how my father felt--

829
00:35:10,290 --> 00:35:11,570
I'm sure equally so.

830
00:35:11,570 --> 00:35:14,460

831
00:35:14,460 --> 00:35:20,060
And at the Seder, I remember
it was an ultra orthodox Seder.

832
00:35:20,060 --> 00:35:21,710
I loved every minute of it.

833
00:35:21,710 --> 00:35:24,370
But I sat there
crying all along.

834
00:35:24,370 --> 00:35:25,546
Of course.

835
00:35:25,546 --> 00:35:27,322
Yeah, also it was my birthday.

836
00:35:27,322 --> 00:35:27,822
Oh!

837
00:35:27,822 --> 00:35:30,590

838
00:35:30,590 --> 00:35:37,260
So it was a very, very,
very emotional day.

839
00:35:37,260 --> 00:35:38,636

A real day of liberation--

840
00:35:38,636 --> 00:35:39,136
Yeah.

841
00:35:39,136 --> 00:35:40,108
--of being rescued.

842
00:35:40,108 --> 00:35:41,570
Yeah.

843
00:35:41,570 --> 00:35:46,700
And then we stayed living at
my aunt and uncle's house for--

844
00:35:46,700 --> 00:35:48,815
this was April, until almost--

845
00:35:48,815 --> 00:35:50,240
almost or until July.

846
00:35:50,240 --> 00:35:52,895
I don't remember when.

847
00:35:52,895 --> 00:35:55,900

848
00:35:55,900 --> 00:35:59,740
Somehow, because apartments
were unbelievably

849
00:35:59,740 --> 00:36:02,680
hard to get at that time--

850
00:36:02,680 --> 00:36:05,950
you had to either know somebody
or had to have money to pay,

851
00:36:05,950 --> 00:36:11,440
as they said, under the
table, to get an apartment,

852

00:36:11,440 --> 00:36:13,960
even if there was an empty one.

853

00:36:13,960 --> 00:36:17,800
So what happened was
we shared an apartment

854

00:36:17,800 --> 00:36:24,250
with an old Russian couple who
lived in a private house, lived

855

00:36:24,250 --> 00:36:25,000
upstairs.

856

00:36:25,000 --> 00:36:27,850
It wasn't their house, but
they occupied the apartment.

857

00:36:27,850 --> 00:36:29,110
And we shared it with them.

858

00:36:29,110 --> 00:36:31,600
We had the room, a bedroom.

859

00:36:31,600 --> 00:36:33,640
I guess we had two bedrooms.

860

00:36:33,640 --> 00:36:36,145
And we had the use
of the bathroom

861

00:36:36,145 --> 00:36:37,270
and the use of the kitchen.

862

00:36:37,270 --> 00:36:40,230

863

00:36:40,230 --> 00:36:42,150
We lived there for
a little while.

864

00:36:42,150 --> 00:36:43,935
I can't remember how long.

865
00:36:43,935 --> 00:36:45,570
And I started to work.

866
00:36:45,570 --> 00:36:49,056

867
00:36:49,056 --> 00:36:52,290
Where did I work?

868
00:36:52,290 --> 00:36:56,670
In a t-shirt factory.

869
00:36:56,670 --> 00:36:58,030
I don't know how I got the job.

870
00:36:58,030 --> 00:37:04,970
But again, everything was
arranged with a Jewish owner,

871
00:37:04,970 --> 00:37:08,700
who was willing to hire people.

872
00:37:08,700 --> 00:37:14,220
My father got a job also
with a man from Mukachevo,

873
00:37:14,220 --> 00:37:15,900
who was also--

874
00:37:15,900 --> 00:37:20,370
he had been here for many years
and established the factory.

875
00:37:20,370 --> 00:37:27,340
My father became a tie
presser, a necktie presser,

876
00:37:27,340 --> 00:37:31,460
which was a terrible

come-down for him.

877
00:37:31,460 --> 00:37:33,440
But he did it.

878
00:37:33,440 --> 00:37:37,060
I mean, I just know that
he was not happy about it.

879
00:37:37,060 --> 00:37:41,770
But we all survived.

880
00:37:41,770 --> 00:37:43,480
Did your sister get a job?

881
00:37:43,480 --> 00:37:44,860
My sister wasn't here yet.

882
00:37:44,860 --> 00:37:48,965
She didn't get here for six
months, six months later.

883
00:37:48,965 --> 00:37:50,650
And that was a little story.

884
00:37:50,650 --> 00:37:56,350
She went to get our visa, and
she left one piece of paper

885
00:37:56,350 --> 00:37:57,660
at home.

886
00:37:57,660 --> 00:38:02,750
So she had to go back to Zatec
and back again immediately.

887
00:38:02,750 --> 00:38:08,960
And the line was 1,000
different numbers.

888
00:38:08,960 --> 00:38:12,160
She was 1,000 numbers behind us.

889
00:38:12,160 --> 00:38:17,731
So she got there by Sukkot.

890
00:38:17,731 --> 00:38:22,280
And yeah, she got a job also.

891
00:38:22,280 --> 00:38:23,867
Did you think about
going to school?

892
00:38:23,867 --> 00:38:25,200
Or you just thought about your--

893
00:38:25,200 --> 00:38:25,770
I went.

894
00:38:25,770 --> 00:38:29,360
I immediately went to school
to learn English immediately.

895
00:38:29,360 --> 00:38:29,860
Oh, OK.

896
00:38:29,860 --> 00:38:32,580
Of course, nobody
would speak to me

897
00:38:32,580 --> 00:38:35,360
in any other
language but English.

898
00:38:35,360 --> 00:38:36,520
They insisted.

899
00:38:36,520 --> 00:38:41,480
And they made me read English,
even before I went to school,

900
00:38:41,480 --> 00:38:44,170
which was the easier part.

901

00:38:44,170 --> 00:38:45,620
So where did you go to school?

902

00:38:45,620 --> 00:38:47,040
Was it Americanization?

903

00:38:47,040 --> 00:38:47,540
To Erasmus.

904

00:38:47,540 --> 00:38:47,790
Erasmus Hall.

905

00:38:47,790 --> 00:38:49,940
Oh, you went to a regular
public high school.

906

00:38:49,940 --> 00:38:51,155
High school, right.

907

00:38:51,155 --> 00:38:52,137
So I did that.

908

00:38:52,137 --> 00:38:54,470
And then they had the English
as a second language also.

909

00:38:54,470 --> 00:38:57,780
So language, yeah.

910

00:38:57,780 --> 00:39:02,550
And that was about my
only formal education

911

00:39:02,550 --> 00:39:05,440
here, that I
finished high school.

912

00:39:05,440 --> 00:39:06,360
yeah?

913

00:39:06,360 --> 00:39:13,750

After I finished high school,
I went to some private thing,

914
00:39:13,750 --> 00:39:19,420
where I learned how to do typing
and steno, which I never used.

915
00:39:19,420 --> 00:39:20,427
It's not me.

916
00:39:20,427 --> 00:39:21,830
[LAUGHTER]

917
00:39:21,830 --> 00:39:32,480
And so I have this job
working in the t-shirt,

918
00:39:32,480 --> 00:39:35,350
men's t-shirt factory.

919
00:39:35,350 --> 00:39:39,170
And I met a lifelong
friend there.

920
00:39:39,170 --> 00:39:41,720
We're still friends.

921
00:39:41,720 --> 00:39:44,940
But after a short while,
they were laying people off.

922
00:39:44,940 --> 00:39:46,920
And they fired me.

923
00:39:46,920 --> 00:39:48,430
So I had to find something else.

924
00:39:48,430 --> 00:39:59,310
And I worked for a place
called Barton's, a candy store.

925
00:39:59,310 --> 00:40:02,420

Again, I got the job
because either my aunt,

926
00:40:02,420 --> 00:40:05,760
uncle, somebody, knew the
clients who owned the place.

927
00:40:05,760 --> 00:40:07,350
So I got a job there.

928
00:40:07,350 --> 00:40:12,110
I worked there for, I don't
know, six, seven months.

929
00:40:12,110 --> 00:40:16,310
And then I couldn't stand it.

930
00:40:16,310 --> 00:40:21,860
So I again, through
a friend, I got a job

931
00:40:21,860 --> 00:40:24,695
at an insurance office.

932
00:40:24,695 --> 00:40:30,240

933
00:40:30,240 --> 00:40:33,940
No, I got a job with my
cousin in his office,

934
00:40:33,940 --> 00:40:39,270
a real estate office,
where I learned

935
00:40:39,270 --> 00:40:49,060
some skills, office skills, how
to deal with people, whatever.

936
00:40:49,060 --> 00:40:55,300
And when I left that, I got
this job in the insurance office

937
00:40:55,300 --> 00:40:57,100
doing bookkeeping.

938
00:40:57,100 --> 00:40:59,410
They actually taught
me how to do it.

939
00:40:59,410 --> 00:41:02,440

940
00:41:02,440 --> 00:41:05,150
And when I realized
that they were really

941
00:41:05,150 --> 00:41:09,890
taking advantage of me,
because they would make me

942
00:41:09,890 --> 00:41:13,315
stay a while later.

943
00:41:13,315 --> 00:41:16,130
And then I would have
to go to their house,

944
00:41:16,130 --> 00:41:21,370
and they would send me home
at 3:00 in the morning.

945
00:41:21,370 --> 00:41:23,140
Because they were teaching me.

946
00:41:23,140 --> 00:41:27,100
it was a lot unfairness.

947
00:41:27,100 --> 00:41:32,860
I quit that, and I got a job
at the Educational Alliance,

948
00:41:32,860 --> 00:41:34,355
which was a social work agency.

949

00:41:34,355 --> 00:41:37,030

950

00:41:37,030 --> 00:41:43,130

I was a cashier and doing
some kind of bookkeeping.

951

00:41:43,130 --> 00:41:45,770

And when I left that--

952

00:41:45,770 --> 00:41:52,880

because they were also
letting people go.

953

00:41:52,880 --> 00:41:56,660

And there was a man
who had six children,

954

00:41:56,660 --> 00:41:58,340

and he needed the job.

955

00:41:58,340 --> 00:42:04,840

I had seniority, but one of the
bookkeepers said, why don't I

956

00:42:04,840 --> 00:42:05,420

leave?

957

00:42:05,420 --> 00:42:07,820

I'm more than happy to do it.

958

00:42:07,820 --> 00:42:11,630

So I left and then
found a job at the New

959

00:42:11,630 --> 00:42:23,052

School for Social Research,
where I stayed until '56.

960

00:42:23,052 --> 00:42:25,010

And you were all still
living in that apartment

961
00:42:25,010 --> 00:42:26,310
with your father?

962
00:42:26,310 --> 00:42:28,290
Oh, I'm sorry.

963
00:42:28,290 --> 00:42:28,790
No.

964
00:42:28,790 --> 00:42:29,915
Oh, you had moved out.

965
00:42:29,915 --> 00:42:33,400

966
00:42:33,400 --> 00:42:35,130
You mean in the
shared department?

967
00:42:35,130 --> 00:42:35,630
Yeah.

968
00:42:35,630 --> 00:42:36,860
No.

969
00:42:36,860 --> 00:42:37,370
I'm sorry.

970
00:42:37,370 --> 00:42:38,990
I forgot.

971
00:42:38,990 --> 00:42:43,200
We shared-- we stayed there
for, oh, less than a year.

972
00:42:43,200 --> 00:42:47,624
And then the Kleins,
the Barton people--

973
00:42:47,624 --> 00:42:50,025

[SNEEZE] that's my husband.

974

00:42:50,025 --> 00:42:50,650

He has a cold--

975

00:42:50,650 --> 00:42:55,760

976

00:42:55,760 --> 00:42:57,170

left their apartment.

977

00:42:57,170 --> 00:42:59,750

They were moving
from their apartment.

978

00:42:59,750 --> 00:43:04,880

And they offered
us their apartment.

979

00:43:04,880 --> 00:43:08,390

So we moved there.

980

00:43:08,390 --> 00:43:11,490

We only stayed with that
couple for maybe nine months,

981

00:43:11,490 --> 00:43:13,700

maybe a year, or less than that.

982

00:43:13,700 --> 00:43:20,120

At any rate, we moved
to a few blocks away.

983

00:43:20,120 --> 00:43:23,220

And then I got married.

984

00:43:23,220 --> 00:43:24,030

Oh.

985

00:43:24,030 --> 00:43:25,280

How did you meet your husband?

986
00:43:25,280 --> 00:43:28,467
At the Educational Alliance.

987
00:43:28,467 --> 00:43:29,550
He was working there also?

988
00:43:29,550 --> 00:43:30,050
No.

989
00:43:30,050 --> 00:43:33,750
No, he was still in school.

990
00:43:33,750 --> 00:43:36,610
He was graduating, as a matter
of fact, when I met him.

991
00:43:36,610 --> 00:43:38,672
And then he was
inducted in the army.

992
00:43:38,672 --> 00:43:39,172
OK.

993
00:43:39,172 --> 00:43:40,350
And his name?

994
00:43:40,350 --> 00:43:41,750
Ben Cohen.

995
00:43:41,750 --> 00:43:42,600
Ben Cohen.

996
00:43:42,600 --> 00:43:45,130
And when did you get married?

997
00:43:45,130 --> 00:43:55,380
In December 1952.

998
00:43:55,380 --> 00:43:56,477
He went in the army.

999

00:43:56,477 --> 00:43:57,310

He went in the army.

1000

00:43:57,310 --> 00:43:59,630

And you stayed where you were.

1001

00:43:59,630 --> 00:44:00,850

I stayed here.

1002

00:44:00,850 --> 00:44:03,240

I stayed wherever I was living.

1003

00:44:03,240 --> 00:44:07,270

And my father died in '53.

1004

00:44:07,270 --> 00:44:13,000

And because he died, my husband
got a compassionate transfer.

1005

00:44:13,000 --> 00:44:15,250

He was transferred to
Governors Island, in--

1006

00:44:15,250 --> 00:44:16,690

Oh.

1007

00:44:16,690 --> 00:44:18,610

--Manhattan.

1008

00:44:18,610 --> 00:44:22,560

So he lived at home.

1009

00:44:22,560 --> 00:44:24,030

And you continued to work?

1010

00:44:24,030 --> 00:44:29,380

And I continued to work until
I had my first baby, in '56.

1011

00:44:29,380 --> 00:44:31,450

In '56.

1012
00:44:31,450 --> 00:44:34,570
And then from then on, do
you have other children?

1013
00:44:34,570 --> 00:44:35,250
I have three.

1014
00:44:35,250 --> 00:44:35,920
Three children.

1015
00:44:35,920 --> 00:44:36,420
Right.

1016
00:44:36,420 --> 00:44:36,920
OK.

1017
00:44:36,920 --> 00:44:38,890
In the meantime, I'd
work at the new school,

1018
00:44:38,890 --> 00:44:41,850
and I attended many,
many, many classes.

1019
00:44:41,850 --> 00:44:48,240
I never got a diploma, but that
was basically my education.

1020
00:44:48,240 --> 00:44:50,050
And so you stayed in New York--

1021
00:44:50,050 --> 00:44:51,430
Yeah, until--

1022
00:44:51,430 --> 00:44:52,900
--from then on?

1023
00:44:52,900 --> 00:44:58,750
--until four years ago.

1024

00:44:58,750 --> 00:45:01,595
And what kind of work did
your husband do in New York

1025
00:45:01,595 --> 00:45:03,960
when he got out of the army?

1026
00:45:03,960 --> 00:45:06,720
He had his bachelor's.

1027
00:45:06,720 --> 00:45:09,930
And then, when he was in the
army, he got his master's.

1028
00:45:09,930 --> 00:45:10,610
In?

1029
00:45:10,610 --> 00:45:11,820
In business.

1030
00:45:11,820 --> 00:45:12,800
Oh, OK.

1031
00:45:12,800 --> 00:45:14,040
And he was an accountant.

1032
00:45:14,040 --> 00:45:20,490
He had his own firm, And
then, when my kids grew up,

1033
00:45:20,490 --> 00:45:22,590
I went back to work.

1034
00:45:22,590 --> 00:45:24,840
Doing what?

1035
00:45:24,840 --> 00:45:26,720
I started doing bookkeeping.

1036
00:45:26,720 --> 00:45:31,750
And I ended up
being asked to do--

1037
00:45:31,750 --> 00:45:38,710
I was the controller of the
company in the garment center,

1038
00:45:38,710 --> 00:45:40,710
of all places.

1039
00:45:40,710 --> 00:45:42,640
And I stayed there
until I retired.

1040
00:45:42,640 --> 00:45:45,170

1041
00:45:45,170 --> 00:45:48,845
And then you moved to
the Washington area--

1042
00:45:48,845 --> 00:45:51,260
In 20--

1043
00:45:51,260 --> 00:45:52,220
2007?

1044
00:45:52,220 --> 00:45:55,340
Seven, right.

1045
00:45:55,340 --> 00:45:57,253
Well, let's talk a little--

1046
00:45:57,253 --> 00:45:57,920
That's my story.

1047
00:45:57,920 --> 00:45:58,760
That's your story.

1048
00:45:58,760 --> 00:46:01,310
And I just have a few questions.

1049
00:46:01,310 --> 00:46:03,480

When your children
were growing up,

1050
00:46:03,480 --> 00:46:07,220
did they ask you or did you
talk about what you went through

1051
00:46:07,220 --> 00:46:09,680
and the fact that there
weren't that many relatives,

1052
00:46:09,680 --> 00:46:10,560
and who you lost?

1053
00:46:10,560 --> 00:46:11,518
Yeah, of course we did.

1054
00:46:11,518 --> 00:46:12,018
You did?

1055
00:46:12,018 --> 00:46:12,530
I did.

1056
00:46:12,530 --> 00:46:13,340
You did tell them?

1057
00:46:13,340 --> 00:46:15,110
My husband is an American-born.

1058
00:46:15,110 --> 00:46:21,230
So it was I. And my
friend, my closest friend,

1059
00:46:21,230 --> 00:46:28,830
who I met in hospital in
Bratislava, and her friend.

1060
00:46:28,830 --> 00:46:30,220
It was the three of us.

1061
00:46:30,220 --> 00:46:33,063

1062
00:46:33,063 --> 00:46:34,230
Did she come to the United--

1063
00:46:34,230 --> 00:46:35,620
Survivors, yes.

1064
00:46:35,620 --> 00:46:37,130
They both came to
the United States?

1065
00:46:37,130 --> 00:46:37,630
yeah.

1066
00:46:37,630 --> 00:46:39,220
And their names are?

1067
00:46:39,220 --> 00:46:40,870
Well, there were two Susies.

1068
00:46:40,870 --> 00:46:43,367
One was black Susie,
and one was red Susie.

1069
00:46:43,367 --> 00:46:44,860
[LAUGHS]

1070
00:46:44,860 --> 00:46:49,950
And we stayed friends until
the end of their lives.

1071
00:46:49,950 --> 00:46:52,810
So our children
grew up with them

1072
00:46:52,810 --> 00:46:55,930
and grew up with their
children and matter

1073
00:46:55,930 --> 00:46:57,670
of fact, my
daughter's best friend

1074
00:46:57,670 --> 00:47:03,870
is red Susie's oldest child.

1075
00:47:03,870 --> 00:47:07,740
They're still good friends.

1076
00:47:07,740 --> 00:47:09,330
So you did speak
to your children,

1077
00:47:09,330 --> 00:47:10,910
when they were
relatively young--

1078
00:47:10,910 --> 00:47:11,410
Yeah.

1079
00:47:11,410 --> 00:47:13,110
--about what you
had gone through?

1080
00:47:13,110 --> 00:47:16,740
Well, I believe that
whatever they asked,

1081
00:47:16,740 --> 00:47:21,640
I answered, which is what I
really do with most people.

1082
00:47:21,640 --> 00:47:24,150
I don't know.

1083
00:47:24,150 --> 00:47:27,930
Are you more comfortable being
with other people who went

1084
00:47:27,930 --> 00:47:31,940
through similar
wartime experiences?

1085
00:47:31,940 --> 00:47:33,420

No, I'm not.

1086
00:47:33,420 --> 00:47:34,383
I must say, I am not.

1087
00:47:34,383 --> 00:47:35,550
Would you prefer to be with?

1088
00:47:35,550 --> 00:47:36,750
No.

1089
00:47:36,750 --> 00:47:40,080
I'm not more comfortable
or less comfortable.

1090
00:47:40,080 --> 00:47:43,290
But somehow, when
you meet someone

1091
00:47:43,290 --> 00:47:45,380
who had your
experience, you have

1092
00:47:45,380 --> 00:47:49,170
this immediate camaraderie.

1093
00:47:49,170 --> 00:47:51,270
But it doesn't mean
that one is more--

1094
00:47:51,270 --> 00:47:54,300
that I am more
comfortable with them.

1095
00:47:54,300 --> 00:47:58,110
But there is an immediate--

1096
00:47:58,110 --> 00:47:58,710
Connection.

1097
00:47:58,710 --> 00:48:00,800
--connection.

1098
00:48:00,800 --> 00:48:04,060
But most of my friends
are not survivors--

1099
00:48:04,060 --> 00:48:04,560
Are not.

1100
00:48:04,560 --> 00:48:06,985
--of the war, except for my--

1101
00:48:06,985 --> 00:48:08,190
Those two women.

1102
00:48:08,190 --> 00:48:11,720
Well, three women, but
two of them, because they

1103
00:48:11,720 --> 00:48:13,340
lived in Jersey.

1104
00:48:13,340 --> 00:48:14,720
We lived in New York.

1105
00:48:14,720 --> 00:48:17,093
My third friend lives
in Boston, [? she-- ?]

1106
00:48:17,093 --> 00:48:17,840
Oh.

1107
00:48:17,840 --> 00:48:20,690
So it wasn't the same thing.

1108
00:48:20,690 --> 00:48:24,620
I mean, she and I and her
husband were great friends.

1109
00:48:24,620 --> 00:48:28,280
But the children were not
involved with their children.

1110
00:48:28,280 --> 00:48:30,380
How is your health now?

1111
00:48:30,380 --> 00:48:30,980
I'm fine.

1112
00:48:30,980 --> 00:48:34,294
The tuberculosis of
the spine got cured?

1113
00:48:34,294 --> 00:48:36,160
Well, that got cured.

1114
00:48:36,160 --> 00:48:39,563
It actually never gets cured,
but it's totally arrested.

1115
00:48:39,563 --> 00:48:40,230
It's in control.

1116
00:48:40,230 --> 00:48:40,550
No.

1117
00:48:40,550 --> 00:48:41,270
It's arrested.

1118
00:48:41,270 --> 00:48:42,103
It's not in control.

1119
00:48:42,103 --> 00:48:44,060
It doesn't get worse.

1120
00:48:44,060 --> 00:48:50,910
It's nonexistent unless
it would reignite itself,

1121
00:48:50,910 --> 00:48:53,940
which it hasn't done.

1122
00:48:53,940 --> 00:48:58,491
Ben, this is Gail Schwartz.

1123
00:48:58,491 --> 00:48:59,110
This is her.

1124
00:48:59,110 --> 00:49:02,170

1125
00:49:02,170 --> 00:49:07,040
Are there any sights and/or
sounds that remind you--

1126
00:49:07,040 --> 00:49:09,990
Not anymore, but there were.

1127
00:49:09,990 --> 00:49:10,490
Like what?

1128
00:49:10,490 --> 00:49:12,350
Like an airplane going by.

1129
00:49:12,350 --> 00:49:13,790
But not anymore.

1130
00:49:13,790 --> 00:49:15,890
How long did that go on for?

1131
00:49:15,890 --> 00:49:19,137
I can't tell exactly,
but a bunch of years.

1132
00:49:19,137 --> 00:49:20,720
Even when coming to
the United States?

1133
00:49:20,720 --> 00:49:22,260
Oh, sure.

1134
00:49:22,260 --> 00:49:22,760
Of course.

1135
00:49:22,760 --> 00:49:24,710

And what would you do
when that happened?

1136
00:49:24,710 --> 00:49:25,770
Nothing.

1137
00:49:25,770 --> 00:49:27,820
You'd think.

1138
00:49:27,820 --> 00:49:28,400
You'd feel.

1139
00:49:28,400 --> 00:49:29,050
You'd think.

1140
00:49:29,050 --> 00:49:30,110
But that's it.

1141
00:49:30,110 --> 00:49:30,770
I didn't duck.

1142
00:49:30,770 --> 00:49:32,030
You didn't duck.

1143
00:49:32,030 --> 00:49:32,730
No.

1144
00:49:32,730 --> 00:49:37,590
Any smells that evoked
what happened to you?

1145
00:49:37,590 --> 00:49:38,540
No.

1146
00:49:38,540 --> 00:49:41,000
No.

1147
00:49:41,000 --> 00:49:44,980
But that was real
for a long time.

1148

00:49:44,980 --> 00:49:47,570
Tell me about
becoming a citizen.

1149
00:49:47,570 --> 00:49:48,470
It was exciting.

1150
00:49:48,470 --> 00:49:49,670
What was that like?

1151
00:49:49,670 --> 00:49:51,980
One of my uncles here--

1152
00:49:51,980 --> 00:49:54,050
well, it was different
than it is now.

1153
00:49:54,050 --> 00:49:56,570
We didn't have to study for it.

1154
00:49:56,570 --> 00:50:01,232
It's what you know and what
you knew from living here.

1155
00:50:01,232 --> 00:50:01,940
I can't remember.

1156
00:50:01,940 --> 00:50:03,377
Was it five years after you--

1157
00:50:03,377 --> 00:50:04,460
Five years almost exactly.

1158
00:50:04,460 --> 00:50:05,810
--when you left?

1159
00:50:05,810 --> 00:50:07,790
My uncle was my witness.

1160
00:50:07,790 --> 00:50:10,100
And I think my husband
was my witness.

1161
00:50:10,100 --> 00:50:12,230
Uh-huh.

1162
00:50:12,230 --> 00:50:14,090
But it wasn't a big
deal like it is now.

1163
00:50:14,090 --> 00:50:17,060
Now, I understand,
it's really a big deal.

1164
00:50:17,060 --> 00:50:19,010
You have to pass tests.

1165
00:50:19,010 --> 00:50:20,260
We were asked a few questions.

1166
00:50:20,260 --> 00:50:22,130
What does it feel
like to be a citizen?

1167
00:50:22,130 --> 00:50:23,322
Great.

1168
00:50:23,322 --> 00:50:25,490
An accomplishment.

1169
00:50:25,490 --> 00:50:30,620
Well, on that note, then,
do you feel European?

1170
00:50:30,620 --> 00:50:32,150
Do you feel Czech?

1171
00:50:32,150 --> 00:50:33,980
What do you--

1172
00:50:33,980 --> 00:50:36,620
I don't feel European,
and I don't feel Czech.

1173

00:50:36,620 --> 00:50:44,720

I have some sort of joy in
Czech people's accomplishments,

1174

00:50:44,720 --> 00:50:50,620

such as tennis
players, musicians.

1175

00:50:50,620 --> 00:50:52,340

But at this point,
that's about it.

1176

00:50:52,340 --> 00:50:53,030

You don't feel--

1177

00:50:53,030 --> 00:50:53,380

Not any more.

1178

00:50:53,380 --> 00:50:53,970

--yourself.

1179

00:50:53,970 --> 00:50:55,920

Not any more.

1180

00:50:55,920 --> 00:51:00,060

Did you miss the country at
all when you first got here?

1181

00:51:00,060 --> 00:51:01,470

No, there was no one to miss.

1182

00:51:01,470 --> 00:51:01,725

Honestly--

1183

00:51:01,725 --> 00:51:02,470

There was no person--

1184

00:51:02,470 --> 00:51:03,595

--there was no one to miss.

1185

00:51:03,595 --> 00:51:05,560

My aunt from there
went to Israel.

1186
00:51:05,560 --> 00:51:09,610
And there was no one there.

1187
00:51:09,610 --> 00:51:12,990
What language do you think in?

1188
00:51:12,990 --> 00:51:16,050
I think in English, but when
I speak the other languages,

1189
00:51:16,050 --> 00:51:18,040
I think in those languages.

1190
00:51:18,040 --> 00:51:20,610
So you're still fluent in other?

1191
00:51:20,610 --> 00:51:21,776
Fluent?

1192
00:51:21,776 --> 00:51:22,276
No.

1193
00:51:22,276 --> 00:51:24,060
[LAUGHS]

1194
00:51:24,060 --> 00:51:27,240
I didn't speak Hebrew
for about 30 years

1195
00:51:27,240 --> 00:51:30,530
before I started to
speak Hebrew again.

1196
00:51:30,530 --> 00:51:32,476
Because you had
learned it as a child?

1197
00:51:32,476 --> 00:51:32,976
yeah.

1198
00:51:32,976 --> 00:51:36,495
And my education was in
Hebrew, complete Hebrew.

1199
00:51:36,495 --> 00:51:38,100
Oh, you didn't go
to a public school.

1200
00:51:38,100 --> 00:51:39,820
You went to a Jewish school?

1201
00:51:39,820 --> 00:51:41,213
I went to a Hebrew school.

1202
00:51:41,213 --> 00:51:41,880
A Hebrew school.

1203
00:51:41,880 --> 00:51:44,020
It was not Jewish.

1204
00:51:44,020 --> 00:51:45,686
It was a Hebrew Gymnasium.

1205
00:51:45,686 --> 00:51:46,560
Oh, I see.

1206
00:51:46,560 --> 00:51:47,880
That's what it was called.

1207
00:51:47,880 --> 00:51:48,750
Yeah, OK.

1208
00:51:48,750 --> 00:51:49,910
So my whole education--

1209
00:51:49,910 --> 00:51:51,360
All your classes--

1210
00:51:51,360 --> 00:51:55,380
All, everything-- math, history.

1211
00:51:55,380 --> 00:51:57,750
English was English.

1212
00:51:57,750 --> 00:52:00,010
But everything
else was in Hebrew.

1213
00:52:00,010 --> 00:52:02,430
So I was really, really fluent.

1214
00:52:02,430 --> 00:52:06,080
I was also really
fluent in German.

1215
00:52:06,080 --> 00:52:09,960
I did most of my reading
in German, but not after.

1216
00:52:09,960 --> 00:52:11,046
Not--

1217
00:52:11,046 --> 00:52:13,213
Well, on that note, what
do you think about Germany?

1218
00:52:13,213 --> 00:52:13,616
What are your thoughts--

1219
00:52:13,616 --> 00:52:14,020
Now?

1220
00:52:14,020 --> 00:52:14,687
--about Germany?

1221
00:52:14,687 --> 00:52:16,800
Yes.

1222
00:52:16,800 --> 00:52:17,840
Have you been there?

1223

00:52:17,840 --> 00:52:18,500
No.

1224
00:52:18,500 --> 00:52:19,430
I won't be there.

1225
00:52:19,430 --> 00:52:20,950
Why not?

1226
00:52:20,950 --> 00:52:22,400
I can't.

1227
00:52:22,400 --> 00:52:23,120
I don't want to.

1228
00:52:23,120 --> 00:52:24,180
I can't.

1229
00:52:24,180 --> 00:52:25,710
Ben, we've been all over Europe.

1230
00:52:25,710 --> 00:52:29,710
But I couldn't get near Germany.

1231
00:52:29,710 --> 00:52:32,040
When I did, I was--

1232
00:52:32,040 --> 00:52:33,790
we didn't.

1233
00:52:33,790 --> 00:52:36,710
We made plans to go.

1234
00:52:36,710 --> 00:52:44,830
At one point, we were driving
from France till Italy.

1235
00:52:44,830 --> 00:52:50,470
And we were going to go take
a route through Austria.

1236

00:52:50,470 --> 00:52:53,897
And we had to change plans,
because I just wouldn't.

1237
00:52:53,897 --> 00:52:55,480
So you haven't been
to Austria either?

1238
00:52:55,480 --> 00:52:56,080
No.

1239
00:52:56,080 --> 00:52:57,872
So Austria and Germany,
you will not go to?

1240
00:52:57,872 --> 00:52:58,520
Right.

1241
00:52:58,520 --> 00:52:59,810
Right.

1242
00:52:59,810 --> 00:53:01,030
No.

1243
00:53:01,030 --> 00:53:03,130
Now, the people in
Germany, well, I

1244
00:53:03,130 --> 00:53:05,090
have a different
feeling about them.

1245
00:53:05,090 --> 00:53:08,530
I mean, I know what
the oldsters did.

1246
00:53:08,530 --> 00:53:15,130
And I don't have
1,000% faith in--

1247
00:53:15,130 --> 00:53:19,490
or I shouldn't say faith, but
trust in the younger ones.

1248
00:53:19,490 --> 00:53:25,020
But I met many younger
German people, many.

1249
00:53:25,020 --> 00:53:32,560
And if they were real,
then they were wonderful.

1250
00:53:32,560 --> 00:53:36,430
I just can't trust
in my head that they

1251
00:53:36,430 --> 00:53:39,670
were absolutely real in their--

1252
00:53:39,670 --> 00:53:45,870
or honest in their
behavior, in what they said.

1253
00:53:45,870 --> 00:53:49,460
But all the young
German people I met

1254
00:53:49,460 --> 00:53:53,210
were great people, good people.

1255
00:53:53,210 --> 00:53:56,780
I met many before,
and I met several

1256
00:53:56,780 --> 00:53:59,270
at the Holocaust Museum.

1257
00:53:59,270 --> 00:54:04,410
And every one of them
was more than great.

1258
00:54:04,410 --> 00:54:08,346
But these are the youngsters,
30-year-old, 40-year-olds.

1259

00:54:08,346 --> 00:54:11,520

1260

00:54:11,520 --> 00:54:13,070

How does it feel
to speak German?

1261

00:54:13,070 --> 00:54:15,110

I don't.

1262

00:54:15,110 --> 00:54:16,190

You purposely don't.

1263

00:54:16,190 --> 00:54:17,370

I purposely don't.

1264

00:54:17,370 --> 00:54:21,890

I have friends in New
York, Austrian friends, who

1265

00:54:21,890 --> 00:54:23,160

would speak to me in German.

1266

00:54:23,160 --> 00:54:24,970

And I would answer
them in English.

1267

00:54:24,970 --> 00:54:28,560

I knew they
understood-- not Jewish.

1268

00:54:28,560 --> 00:54:29,880

They understood.

1269

00:54:29,880 --> 00:54:31,530

They can speak to me.

1270

00:54:31,530 --> 00:54:33,060

But I wouldn't speak.

1271

00:54:33,060 --> 00:54:34,320

And here, too.

1272
00:54:34,320 --> 00:54:38,140
I won't do any
translation in German.

1273
00:54:38,140 --> 00:54:41,080
So if you met a German tourist
at the Holocaust Museum,

1274
00:54:41,080 --> 00:54:42,368
you would speak in English.

1275
00:54:42,368 --> 00:54:43,356
They speak English.

1276
00:54:43,356 --> 00:54:44,773
Yeah, yeah, I'm
saying you would--

1277
00:54:44,773 --> 00:54:46,450
Yeah, let them
speak my language.

1278
00:54:46,450 --> 00:54:54,310
I definitely-- I still feel very
much the same way about that.

1279
00:54:54,310 --> 00:54:56,970
So you have traveled a
lot in Europe, you said?

1280
00:54:56,970 --> 00:54:57,700
Oh, yeah.

1281
00:54:57,700 --> 00:54:58,200
Yeah.

1282
00:54:58,200 --> 00:54:59,370
But we never went--

1283
00:54:59,370 --> 00:55:00,640
To Austria or Germany?

1284
00:55:00,640 --> 00:55:01,280
Right.

1285
00:55:01,280 --> 00:55:03,463
That's because of me,
not because of the rest

1286
00:55:03,463 --> 00:55:04,005
of my family.

1287
00:55:04,005 --> 00:55:04,603
Right.

1288
00:55:04,603 --> 00:55:05,680
Right.

1289
00:55:05,680 --> 00:55:08,970
And I don't understand
how many of my friends

1290
00:55:08,970 --> 00:55:11,100
have gone to, you know, Germany.

1291
00:55:11,100 --> 00:55:14,740
But if you can do it,
fine, more power to you.

1292
00:55:14,740 --> 00:55:15,900
I can't.

1293
00:55:15,900 --> 00:55:17,430
Have you been to Israel?

1294
00:55:17,430 --> 00:55:19,050
Yeah, many, many,
many, many times.

1295
00:55:19,050 --> 00:55:21,105
What does that mean to you?

1296

00:55:21,105 --> 00:55:22,020
Oh, kind of--

1297
00:55:22,020 --> 00:55:23,010
Yes.

1298
00:55:23,010 --> 00:55:24,434
Of course.

1299
00:55:24,434 --> 00:55:29,104
Yeah, many times.

1300
00:55:29,104 --> 00:55:33,275
And do you speak Hebrew
there when you're--

1301
00:55:33,275 --> 00:55:36,100
When I'm there, I would
like to speak Hebrew.

1302
00:55:36,100 --> 00:55:38,990
But my friends want
to speak English.

1303
00:55:38,990 --> 00:55:41,450
So it goes back and forth.

1304
00:55:41,450 --> 00:55:45,090
But I speak more Hebrew
here than I speak--

1305
00:55:45,090 --> 00:55:47,570
[LAUGHTER]

1306
00:55:47,570 --> 00:55:53,560
Do you think you would have
been a different person if you

1307
00:55:53,560 --> 00:55:56,470
had not gone through what--

1308
00:55:56,470 --> 00:55:56,970

Well--

1309

00:55:56,970 --> 00:55:57,340

--you had to?

1310

00:55:57,340 --> 00:55:58,510

--I'm sure I would have.

1311

00:55:58,510 --> 00:55:59,710

In what sense?

1312

00:55:59,710 --> 00:56:03,560

First of all, I would have had my education, first of all.

1313

00:56:03,560 --> 00:56:07,670

I would have had a profession, which I don't.

1314

00:56:07,670 --> 00:56:09,110

Of course, I would have been.

1315

00:56:09,110 --> 00:56:11,060

And I wouldn't have had--

1316

00:56:11,060 --> 00:56:14,850

I would have had my parents for a long time.

1317

00:56:14,850 --> 00:56:17,020

But I meant psychologically, do you think it had--

1318

00:56:17,020 --> 00:56:18,390

Well, that is--

1319

00:56:18,390 --> 00:56:21,480

--affected you, that you would have been a different person

1320

00:56:21,480 --> 00:56:22,710

today?

1321
00:56:22,710 --> 00:56:25,510
Did it make you stronger?

1322
00:56:25,510 --> 00:56:29,170
I was brought up to be strong.

1323
00:56:29,170 --> 00:56:31,020
My family was strong.

1324
00:56:31,020 --> 00:56:32,040
My mother was strong.

1325
00:56:32,040 --> 00:56:34,010
My father was strong.

1326
00:56:34,010 --> 00:56:36,080
My family was.

1327
00:56:36,080 --> 00:56:39,980
How did your parents
grow you that way?

1328
00:56:39,980 --> 00:56:40,890
I don't know.

1329
00:56:40,890 --> 00:56:43,100
I really don't
know, but they did.

1330
00:56:43,100 --> 00:56:44,540
They really did.

1331
00:56:44,540 --> 00:56:46,565
Did that help you
in good stead when

1332
00:56:46,565 --> 00:56:49,010
you went through
terrible, terrible times?

1333

00:56:49,010 --> 00:56:54,070
Probably, including
my sister, who

1334
00:56:54,070 --> 00:57:00,290
was as intelligent as could be--

1335
00:57:00,290 --> 00:57:05,240
she's not as emotionally
healthy as I am.

1336
00:57:05,240 --> 00:57:07,790
She's a very strong person, too.

1337
00:57:07,790 --> 00:57:14,120
She had her problems, but
aside from those problems, very

1338
00:57:14,120 --> 00:57:21,200
strong, very capable, probably
much more so than I am, or was.

1339
00:57:21,200 --> 00:57:23,480
Were you an independent child?

1340
00:57:23,480 --> 00:57:27,680
Did you do things
before the war started?

1341
00:57:27,680 --> 00:57:29,000
An Independent.

1342
00:57:29,000 --> 00:57:30,703
Independent in what sense?

1343
00:57:30,703 --> 00:57:32,120
Do things on your
own, or were you

1344
00:57:32,120 --> 00:57:34,440
more dependent on your parents?

1345

00:57:34,440 --> 00:57:34,940
I was 14.

1346
00:57:34,940 --> 00:57:35,982
As a young-- I'm trying--

1347
00:57:35,982 --> 00:57:36,920
I was 14.

1348
00:57:36,920 --> 00:57:39,170
But during-- up to that
time, is what I meant.

1349
00:57:39,170 --> 00:57:41,310
Dependent in what sense?

1350
00:57:41,310 --> 00:57:43,760
I mean, they had to support me.

1351
00:57:43,760 --> 00:57:44,728
They did support me.

1352
00:57:44,728 --> 00:57:45,270
That was no--

1353
00:57:45,270 --> 00:57:46,940
No, I meant but
in doing things--

1354
00:57:46,940 --> 00:57:47,830
In doing things?

1355
00:57:47,830 --> 00:57:49,233
You know, on your own.

1356
00:57:49,233 --> 00:57:52,340
I was a good student.

1357
00:57:52,340 --> 00:57:53,570
I didn't need help with--

1358

00:57:53,570 --> 00:57:53,970
So they didn't hover--

1359
00:57:53,970 --> 00:57:54,470
--studies.

1360
00:57:54,470 --> 00:57:56,110
--over you, or
anything like that?

1361
00:57:56,110 --> 00:57:58,690
No, no, neither my
mother nor my father.

1362
00:57:58,690 --> 00:58:02,090
There were not the kind.

1363
00:58:02,090 --> 00:58:05,440
So you felt you could handle.

1364
00:58:05,440 --> 00:58:06,782
And you certainly did.

1365
00:58:06,782 --> 00:58:08,390
yeah.

1366
00:58:08,390 --> 00:58:11,060
Well, my sister
helped, I must say.

1367
00:58:11,060 --> 00:58:12,050
Because she was there.

1368
00:58:12,050 --> 00:58:13,250
Whether she helped or not--

1369
00:58:13,250 --> 00:58:14,417
The fact that she was there.

1370
00:58:14,417 --> 00:58:15,300
--she was there.

1371
00:58:15,300 --> 00:58:15,860
Right.

1372
00:58:15,860 --> 00:58:21,820
Did you or do you feel you
lost part of your childhood?

1373
00:58:21,820 --> 00:58:23,690
Of course, I did--

1374
00:58:23,690 --> 00:58:28,310
not part, all of
it, from eight on.

1375
00:58:28,310 --> 00:58:30,375
Right, from 1938, yeah.

1376
00:58:30,375 --> 00:58:31,320
Yeah.

1377
00:58:31,320 --> 00:58:35,450
Because life changed
completely after that.

1378
00:58:35,450 --> 00:58:36,540
So that's too bad.

1379
00:58:36,540 --> 00:58:39,150

1380
00:58:39,150 --> 00:58:41,250
So of course, I would
have been different.

1381
00:58:41,250 --> 00:58:43,412
Well, that would have
been very different.

1382
00:58:43,412 --> 00:58:50,160

1383

00:58:50,160 --> 00:59:00,850
When your children were your
age, let's say 8 through 15,

1384
00:59:00,850 --> 00:59:05,710
starting at 8 until 15, did it
bring back memories for you--

1385
00:59:05,710 --> 00:59:06,310
No, I don't.

1386
00:59:06,310 --> 00:59:07,450
--of what you had
to go through--

1387
00:59:07,450 --> 00:59:07,870
No.

1388
00:59:07,870 --> 00:59:10,210
--from the ages of 8 to 15, of
what they were going through--

1389
00:59:10,210 --> 00:59:10,660
No, no.

1390
00:59:10,660 --> 00:59:11,110
--from their ages?

1391
00:59:11,110 --> 00:59:11,818
It's interesting.

1392
00:59:11,818 --> 00:59:12,908
I never thought about it.

1393
00:59:12,908 --> 00:59:13,950
It never occurred to me--

1394
00:59:13,950 --> 00:59:14,742
It didn't trigger--

1395
00:59:14,742 --> 00:59:19,580
--until I heard-- no, until

I heard that some people did

1396
00:59:19,580 --> 00:59:20,590
feel that way.

1397
00:59:20,590 --> 00:59:21,952
No, never.

1398
00:59:21,952 --> 00:59:23,400
So you never compared--

1399
00:59:23,400 --> 00:59:24,020
No.

1400
00:59:24,020 --> 00:59:25,970
--this is where I was?

1401
00:59:25,970 --> 00:59:28,760
No.

1402
00:59:28,760 --> 00:59:29,880
it's really interesting.

1403
00:59:29,880 --> 00:59:34,362
When it hit me that I didn't,
I found it very interesting.

1404
00:59:34,362 --> 00:59:41,450

1405
00:59:41,450 --> 00:59:45,860
Did your children feel they were
different than their friends

1406
00:59:45,860 --> 00:59:48,620
who had grandparents,
both sets of grandparents?

1407
00:59:48,620 --> 00:59:52,820
I can't speak for my sons, but
I can speak for my daughter,

1408

00:59:52,820 --> 00:59:54,490

who-- yeah, she--

1409

00:59:54,490 --> 00:59:57,640

1410

00:59:57,640 --> 01:00:06,490

she and my friend's daughter
became sort of sisters.

1411

01:00:06,490 --> 01:00:13,810

And my daughter feels that
her, Renee's mother Susie,

1412

01:00:13,810 --> 01:00:14,365

was family.

1413

01:00:14,365 --> 01:00:17,127

I mean, that's what it was.

1414

01:00:17,127 --> 01:00:18,210

Of course, becomes family.

1415

01:00:18,210 --> 01:00:19,270

Yeah.

1416

01:00:19,270 --> 01:00:22,540

Because they, too,
didn't have grandparents.

1417

01:00:22,540 --> 01:00:26,210

My sons never-- my sons
are a different world.

1418

01:00:26,210 --> 01:00:31,330

But yeah, my daughter
definitely felt the loss.

1419

01:00:31,330 --> 01:00:32,860

They had grandparents.

1420

01:00:32,860 --> 01:00:35,012
They had my husband's
mother and father.

1421
01:00:35,012 --> 01:00:36,220
Right, fortunately they had--

1422
01:00:36,220 --> 01:00:36,720
Right.

1423
01:00:36,720 --> 01:00:40,204
Not for terribly
long, but they did.

1424
01:00:40,204 --> 01:00:45,358
But yeah, they did feel
different because of that.

1425
01:00:45,358 --> 01:00:47,400
They were so far different,
because I raised them

1426
01:00:47,400 --> 01:00:49,140
differently.

1427
01:00:49,140 --> 01:00:55,390
I have different values than
most of their friends' parents

1428
01:00:55,390 --> 01:00:57,197
did.

1429
01:00:57,197 --> 01:00:57,780
In what sense?

1430
01:00:57,780 --> 01:01:02,700
Oh, well, I was more strict.

1431
01:01:02,700 --> 01:01:04,860
They couldn't watch all
the television they wanted.

1432

01:01:04,860 --> 01:01:09,590
They couldn't be out at
night all they wanted.

1433
01:01:09,590 --> 01:01:11,650
And yeah, they didn't like that.

1434
01:01:11,650 --> 01:01:15,360
But life is life.

1435
01:01:15,360 --> 01:01:17,460
What kind of work
do your children do?

1436
01:01:17,460 --> 01:01:20,530

1437
01:01:20,530 --> 01:01:26,410
My oldest one is a
vascular surgeon.

1438
01:01:26,410 --> 01:01:29,320
My daughter here
is a researcher.

1439
01:01:29,320 --> 01:01:33,550
And the youngest one
is doing acupuncture.

1440
01:01:33,550 --> 01:01:37,970
But he has a degree
in the neurosciences,

1441
01:01:37,970 --> 01:01:40,145
which he chose not to do.

1442
01:01:40,145 --> 01:01:41,270
And did they have children?

1443
01:01:41,270 --> 01:01:41,830
Do you have grandchildren?

1444

01:01:41,830 --> 01:01:42,450
Yes.

1445
01:01:42,450 --> 01:01:44,380
Yeah, eight of them.

1446
01:01:44,380 --> 01:01:47,020
Ooh, now, do they know?

1447
01:01:47,020 --> 01:01:48,440
What's the age range?

1448
01:01:48,440 --> 01:01:49,640
Are they little?

1449
01:01:49,640 --> 01:01:51,610
26 to 10.

1450
01:01:51,610 --> 01:01:52,110
OK.

1451
01:01:52,110 --> 01:01:55,060
And they're totally
aware of what you--

1452
01:01:55,060 --> 01:01:56,010
Of course.

1453
01:01:56,010 --> 01:01:56,720
--lived through?

1454
01:01:56,720 --> 01:01:56,990
Of course.

1455
01:01:56,990 --> 01:01:57,907
Did they question you?

1456
01:01:57,907 --> 01:02:00,110
Or did they question you
when they were younger?

1457

01:02:00,110 --> 01:02:04,490
Mostly my grandchildren
here, my daughter's children.

1458
01:02:04,490 --> 01:02:11,890

1459
01:02:11,890 --> 01:02:16,180
My youngest one
is most sensitive.

1460
01:02:16,180 --> 01:02:18,190
The oldest one, he's 19.

1461
01:02:18,190 --> 01:02:23,030

1462
01:02:23,030 --> 01:02:25,410
They go to JDS.

1463
01:02:25,410 --> 01:02:29,656
So that he went
to Auschwitz and--

1464
01:02:29,656 --> 01:02:30,450
On the march, yeah.

1465
01:02:30,450 --> 01:02:31,850
--on the-- no.

1466
01:02:31,850 --> 01:02:33,180
Not the March of the Living.

1467
01:02:33,180 --> 01:02:33,420
No.

1468
01:02:33,420 --> 01:02:34,212
But the other trip.

1469
01:02:34,212 --> 01:02:35,670
They go senior year.

1470
01:02:35,670 --> 01:02:37,000
Right.

1471
01:02:37,000 --> 01:02:46,970
And he was totally, totally
distracted when he went to--

1472
01:02:46,970 --> 01:02:48,770
Auschwitz?

1473
01:02:48,770 --> 01:02:50,210
Auschwitz was their third stop.

1474
01:02:50,210 --> 01:02:51,480
The first one was Majdanek.

1475
01:02:51,480 --> 01:02:51,980
Majdanek.

1476
01:02:51,980 --> 01:02:53,510
No, the second one was Majdanek.

1477
01:02:53,510 --> 01:02:56,960
The first one was
one of the other.

1478
01:02:56,960 --> 01:02:58,180
Just give me some names.

1479
01:02:58,180 --> 01:02:58,820
Theresienstadt?

1480
01:02:58,820 --> 01:02:59,705
No, no, no.

1481
01:02:59,705 --> 01:03:03,910
He-- that was the
last one he did.

1482
01:03:03,910 --> 01:03:08,012
Between Majdanek, and Auschwitz.

1483
01:03:08,012 --> 01:03:09,464
Oh, I can't remember.

1484
01:03:09,464 --> 01:03:12,490
But he was totally,
totally destroyed.

1485
01:03:12,490 --> 01:03:14,670
You don't mean
Auschwitz II, Birkenau?

1486
01:03:14,670 --> 01:03:15,720
No, no, no.

1487
01:03:15,720 --> 01:03:16,973
A totally different--

1488
01:03:16,973 --> 01:03:19,620
Another one of the
camps near Majdanek.

1489
01:03:19,620 --> 01:03:22,020
Yeah.

1490
01:03:22,020 --> 01:03:23,790
Majdanek was where my family--

1491
01:03:23,790 --> 01:03:24,562
In Lublin.

1492
01:03:24,562 --> 01:03:25,270
Lublin in Poland.

1493
01:03:25,270 --> 01:03:28,030
Yeah, but my family,
part of my family was--

1494
01:03:28,030 --> 01:03:28,990
We went there.

1495

01:03:28,990 --> 01:03:32,580
--in '41 or so.

1496
01:03:32,580 --> 01:03:33,910
But the other one--

1497
01:03:33,910 --> 01:03:34,800
Treblinka?

1498
01:03:34,800 --> 01:03:36,416
Treblinka, thank you.

1499
01:03:36,416 --> 01:03:41,020
He was beside himself.

1500
01:03:41,020 --> 01:03:43,150
But he doesn't talk about it.

1501
01:03:43,150 --> 01:03:44,940
He wrote to me
when he was there.

1502
01:03:44,940 --> 01:03:45,440
Did he?

1503
01:03:45,440 --> 01:03:53,170
He has a-- he wrote me an
amazing email, actually.

1504
01:03:53,170 --> 01:03:57,390
And then, when he went to
Auschwitz, he described that,

1505
01:03:57,390 --> 01:04:00,540
and I'll talk to you
about it when I see you.

1506
01:04:00,540 --> 01:04:02,540
Of course, I saw him, and
he never mentioned it.

1507
01:04:02,540 --> 01:04:03,390

Really?

1508

01:04:03,390 --> 01:04:06,920

I just asked him this
summer when he was home.

1509

01:04:06,920 --> 01:04:08,100

He never said anything.

1510

01:04:08,100 --> 01:04:09,760

Now, OK, we will.

1511

01:04:09,760 --> 01:04:10,310

Yeah, yeah.

1512

01:04:10,310 --> 01:04:12,460

Never will, probably.

1513

01:04:12,460 --> 01:04:14,212

It's too painful.

1514

01:04:14,212 --> 01:04:18,210

And I dread my
youngest granddaughter,

1515

01:04:18,210 --> 01:04:20,230

when she will be going there.

1516

01:04:20,230 --> 01:04:23,560

I don't even know that
I want her to go there.

1517

01:04:23,560 --> 01:04:29,600

But my oldest granddaughter,
who is now 13, she'll do fine.

1518

01:04:29,600 --> 01:04:30,930

She'll be fine.

1519

01:04:30,930 --> 01:04:33,140

But they know all about it.

1520

01:04:33,140 --> 01:04:36,120

And they go to JDS, so
they study it there.

1521

01:04:36,120 --> 01:04:41,090

They have gone to
the Holocaust Museum.

1522

01:04:41,090 --> 01:04:44,030

They're part of the family.

1523

01:04:44,030 --> 01:04:49,537

And the others, I don't know
how much they care or not.

1524

01:04:49,537 --> 01:04:50,120

But they know.

1525

01:04:50,120 --> 01:04:53,042

1526

01:04:53,042 --> 01:04:54,760

And they come here, of course.

1527

01:04:54,760 --> 01:04:58,810

They went to the
Holocaust Museum.

1528

01:04:58,810 --> 01:04:59,830

They know all about it.

1529

01:04:59,830 --> 01:05:02,640

They know a lot about it.

1530

01:05:02,640 --> 01:05:07,000