

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:11,190

2  
00:00:11,190 --> 00:00:14,280  
This is the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3  
00:00:14,280 --> 00:00:19,590  
volunteer collection interview  
with Susanne Bennet conducted

4  
00:00:19,590 --> 00:00:27,830  
by Gail Schwartz on March  
22, 2012, in Washington, DC.

5  
00:00:27,830 --> 00:00:32,590  
This is track number one.

6  
00:00:32,590 --> 00:00:35,050  
What is your full name?

7  
00:00:35,050 --> 00:00:37,510  
It's Susanne Klejman Bennet.

8  
00:00:37,510 --> 00:00:39,110  
And where were you born?

9  
00:00:39,110 --> 00:00:41,140  
I was born in Warsaw, Poland.

10  
00:00:41,140 --> 00:00:42,270  
And when were you born?

11  
00:00:42,270 --> 00:00:44,620  
In August of 1938.

12  
00:00:44,620 --> 00:00:47,020  
August, what date?

13  
00:00:47,020 --> 00:00:48,450

August 11, 1938.

14  
00:00:48,450 --> 00:00:49,450  
1938.

15  
00:00:49,450 --> 00:00:52,580  
Now I know you have been  
interviewed previously.

16  
00:00:52,580 --> 00:00:57,570  
So we won't spend a lot of time  
on your wartime experiences.

17  
00:00:57,570 --> 00:01:00,510  
But I would like to get a  
sense of what happened to you

18  
00:01:00,510 --> 00:01:04,260  
and a sense of who  
your family was.

19  
00:01:04,260 --> 00:01:06,360  
How many generations  
back can you

20  
00:01:06,360 --> 00:01:08,475  
go with your family in Poland?

21  
00:01:08,475 --> 00:01:11,070

22  
00:01:11,070 --> 00:01:14,460  
Back to-- well, actually  
in the 17th century,

23  
00:01:14,460 --> 00:01:20,140  
my father's family came  
from Holland to Poland.

24  
00:01:20,140 --> 00:01:26,600  
This was during the time of the  
Spanish invasion of Holland.

25

00:01:26,600 --> 00:01:33,730

My mother's family were  
Lithuanian and Russian,

26

00:01:33,730 --> 00:01:37,610

but she herself  
was born in Poland.

27

00:01:37,610 --> 00:01:40,190

28

00:01:40,190 --> 00:01:41,490

Was she born in Warsaw?

29

00:01:41,490 --> 00:01:45,010

30

00:01:45,010 --> 00:01:46,480

You know, I'm not sure.

31

00:01:46,480 --> 00:01:48,090

I would have to look that up.

32

00:01:48,090 --> 00:01:51,160

I'm not sure.

33

00:01:51,160 --> 00:01:55,810

I did find-- a friend in Poland  
sent me a clipping once about

34

00:01:55,810 --> 00:02:00,910

a direct ancestor of my father's  
from mid-19th century who

35

00:02:00,910 --> 00:02:02,365

apparently was a very early--

36

00:02:02,365 --> 00:02:06,130

37

00:02:06,130 --> 00:02:08,860

owned factories,  
and very early on

38  
00:02:08,860 --> 00:02:19,350  
had actually helped his workers  
to lead somewhat better lives

39  
00:02:19,350 --> 00:02:21,570  
than they normally  
would have, and had

40  
00:02:21,570 --> 00:02:24,660  
been written about at  
some length as sort

41  
00:02:24,660 --> 00:02:26,305  
of an early reformer.

42  
00:02:26,305 --> 00:02:29,110

43  
00:02:29,110 --> 00:02:34,420  
And that's about it, because  
my parents were around

44  
00:02:34,420 --> 00:02:36,910  
in the early '30s when  
the war broke out.

45  
00:02:36,910 --> 00:02:38,890  
My mother was 31.

46  
00:02:38,890 --> 00:02:41,230  
And that was rather  
early to have

47  
00:02:41,230 --> 00:02:42,880  
bothered to talk  
to their parents

48  
00:02:42,880 --> 00:02:45,530  
about their own families.

49

00:02:45,530 --> 00:02:46,250

Right.

50

00:02:46,250 --> 00:02:48,560

Tell me your parents' names.

51

00:02:48,560 --> 00:02:51,980

They were John Jacob  
Klejman and Helena Klejman.

52

00:02:51,980 --> 00:02:55,160

And your father, do you know  
when your father was born?

53

00:02:55,160 --> 00:02:59,060

He was born in 1906  
in Sochocin, Poland.

54

00:02:59,060 --> 00:02:59,960

OK.

55

00:02:59,960 --> 00:03:03,110

And do you know the date,  
the date, the actual date?

56

00:03:03,110 --> 00:03:03,610

No?

57

00:03:03,610 --> 00:03:04,640

OK, that's all right.

58

00:03:04,640 --> 00:03:07,300

And your mother?

59

00:03:07,300 --> 00:03:10,660

April 29, 1906.

60

00:03:10,660 --> 00:03:13,480

My mother-- Oh boy,  
you know, I lost--

61

00:03:13,480 --> 00:03:15,100

I have a little  
booklet, if there's

62

00:03:15,100 --> 00:03:16,760

a way we can  
correct this later--

63

00:03:16,760 --> 00:03:17,510

Yeah, that's OK.

64

00:03:17,510 --> 00:03:19,810

--which I have been  
trying to find,

65

00:03:19,810 --> 00:03:21,745

that had all of these  
dates of things.

66

00:03:21,745 --> 00:03:23,620

And I've looked for it  
for the last two weeks

67

00:03:23,620 --> 00:03:25,078

and haven't been  
able to locate it.

68

00:03:25,078 --> 00:03:27,800

My mother was born in 1908.

69

00:03:27,800 --> 00:03:31,540

And what kind of work  
did your father do?

70

00:03:31,540 --> 00:03:35,350

My father had an art gallery.

71

00:03:35,350 --> 00:03:37,510

He was an art dealer,  
antiquities dealer,

72

00:03:37,510 --> 00:03:38,890

as it was called then.

73  
00:03:38,890 --> 00:03:39,640  
In Warsaw?

74  
00:03:39,640 --> 00:03:40,300  
In Warsaw.

75  
00:03:40,300 --> 00:03:43,290  
And my mother always  
worked with him.

76  
00:03:43,290 --> 00:03:45,070  
Did you have any siblings?

77  
00:03:45,070 --> 00:03:45,700  
No.

78  
00:03:45,700 --> 00:03:48,720  
Because I was born just  
before the war broke out,

79  
00:03:48,720 --> 00:03:49,880  
so I did not.

80  
00:03:49,880 --> 00:03:50,680  
But they did.

81  
00:03:50,680 --> 00:03:55,570  
They both had siblings, all  
of whom died, around 1943,

82  
00:03:55,570 --> 00:03:57,640  
or disappeared in 1943.

83  
00:03:57,640 --> 00:03:58,960  
Really?

84  
00:03:58,960 --> 00:04:01,760  
Was that part of the  
family also in Warsaw?

85

00:04:01,760 --> 00:04:02,500  
Yes.

86  
00:04:02,500 --> 00:04:05,620  
Everybody had been pushed  
into the ghetto, which

87  
00:04:05,620 --> 00:04:08,630  
was very, very small in  
Warsaw before the war

88  
00:04:08,630 --> 00:04:12,330  
and was vastly  
expanded by the Germans

89  
00:04:12,330 --> 00:04:15,390  
who took over a huge  
area of the neighborhood

90  
00:04:15,390 --> 00:04:19,350  
around the tiny little ghetto  
and then proceeded to pack it,

91  
00:04:19,350 --> 00:04:22,980  
not only with all the Jews  
they could get their hands

92  
00:04:22,980 --> 00:04:28,840  
on in Warsaw, but also brought  
people in from all over Poland.

93  
00:04:28,840 --> 00:04:31,280  
Now, obviously, since  
you were born in August

94  
00:04:31,280 --> 00:04:37,000  
of '38, your memories,  
the initial memories,

95  
00:04:37,000 --> 00:04:38,560  
of what happened--

96  
00:04:38,560 --> 00:04:40,390



or the initial  
information that you have

97  
00:04:40,390 --> 00:04:42,100  
must have come from your mother.

98  
00:04:42,100 --> 00:04:47,650  
So can you say anything  
that she told you

99  
00:04:47,650 --> 00:04:50,500  
that would pertain  
to when you were born

100  
00:04:50,500 --> 00:04:52,270  
and what happened after the--

101  
00:04:52,270 --> 00:04:55,570  
what the story of  
the experiences were?

102  
00:04:55,570 --> 00:04:59,820

103  
00:04:59,820 --> 00:05:02,520  
My mother and father  
both, my father

104  
00:05:02,520 --> 00:05:04,560  
never spoke about the war.

105  
00:05:04,560 --> 00:05:10,440  
My mother didn't speak  
about it very much either.

106  
00:05:10,440 --> 00:05:12,750  
In fact, one of the few  
times she talked about it

107  
00:05:12,750 --> 00:05:16,380  
was when my daughter was taking  
an ethics course in high school

108

00:05:16,380 --> 00:05:19,050  
and asked her some questions.

109

00:05:19,050 --> 00:05:20,890  
They never wanted  
to talk about it.

110

00:05:20,890 --> 00:05:26,140  
My mother's thing was  
that it was all passed.

111

00:05:26,140 --> 00:05:27,520  
You couldn't bring people back.

112

00:05:27,520 --> 00:05:29,050  
And there was simply no point.

113

00:05:29,050 --> 00:05:30,850  
The only things  
they did talk about

114

00:05:30,850 --> 00:05:35,050  
was that they refused to  
apply for any reparations

115

00:05:35,050 --> 00:05:37,060  
when that came up  
because they felt

116

00:05:37,060 --> 00:05:40,360  
that there was no way you  
could make reparations

117

00:05:40,360 --> 00:05:43,220  
for what had happened.

118

00:05:43,220 --> 00:05:46,680  
My father would sometimes talk  
a little bit about his family,

119

00:05:46,680 --> 00:05:52,570  
but it was always prewar

vacations, that sort of thing.

120  
00:05:52,570 --> 00:05:55,650  
So your family, obviously,  
before you were born,

121  
00:05:55,650 --> 00:05:57,270  
was a well-to-do family.

122  
00:05:57,270 --> 00:05:59,280  
And as you said,  
they took vacations,

123  
00:05:59,280 --> 00:06:02,880  
and they were  
upper-class or whatever.

124  
00:06:02,880 --> 00:06:03,780  
Well, middle.

125  
00:06:03,780 --> 00:06:04,330  
Upper-middle.

126  
00:06:04,330 --> 00:06:10,980  
Well, like most Jews of the  
professional class in Warsaw,

127  
00:06:10,980 --> 00:06:13,620  
they were educated abroad  
because the university

128  
00:06:13,620 --> 00:06:16,950  
had a tiny quota for Jews.

129  
00:06:16,950 --> 00:06:19,320  
So my father went  
to the Sorbonne.

130  
00:06:19,320 --> 00:06:25,140  
My mother went to Lausanne  
And my uncles, most of them

131

00:06:25,140 --> 00:06:27,630  
were educated actually  
in Germany, in Zwickau.

132  
00:06:27,630 --> 00:06:31,020  
Interesting.

133  
00:06:31,020 --> 00:06:33,450  
And so forth.

134  
00:06:33,450 --> 00:06:38,972  
So what do you know of what  
happened after you were born?

135  
00:06:38,972 --> 00:06:40,430  
Obviously, you  
don't remember this,

136  
00:06:40,430 --> 00:06:43,100  
but can you just kind  
of start the story

137  
00:06:43,100 --> 00:06:48,050  
about the early times of your  
life, the very early times,

138  
00:06:48,050 --> 00:06:49,320  
that you know of?

139  
00:06:49,320 --> 00:06:56,150  
When the Germans first took over  
the ghetto area and expanded it

140  
00:06:56,150 --> 00:06:58,700  
and pushed everybody  
in, my parents

141  
00:06:58,700 --> 00:07:03,560  
traded their house  
with a artist friend

142  
00:07:03,560 --> 00:07:10,710  
who had a duplex apartment

in a building which

143  
00:07:10,710 --> 00:07:13,150  
became part of the ghetto.

144  
00:07:13,150 --> 00:07:15,630  
He was not a Jew.

145  
00:07:15,630 --> 00:07:20,550  
And my father moved us  
and his whole family--

146  
00:07:20,550 --> 00:07:24,860  
his mother, his  
sisters, brothers,

147  
00:07:24,860 --> 00:07:32,080  
and a niece who was my  
generation, and my mother's

148  
00:07:32,080 --> 00:07:35,830  
mother-- into that  
duplex apartment.

149  
00:07:35,830 --> 00:07:39,750  
Was this in the fall  
of 1940, would you say?

150  
00:07:39,750 --> 00:07:42,750  
I am not totally clear.

151  
00:07:42,750 --> 00:07:44,895  
I think it was more  
like the fall of '39.

152  
00:07:44,895 --> 00:07:46,614  
The fall of '39, OK.

153  
00:07:46,614 --> 00:07:50,280

154  
00:07:50,280 --> 00:07:58,200

They were able to take some  
money and things with them so

155  
00:07:58,200 --> 00:08:01,650  
that they had the  
means of buying food

156  
00:08:01,650 --> 00:08:03,080  
and so forth for a while.

157  
00:08:03,080 --> 00:08:07,484

158  
00:08:07,484 --> 00:08:10,520  
One of my early memories  
is of my father's mother

159  
00:08:10,520 --> 00:08:16,940  
who was baking those little  
semi-round crescent cookies.

160  
00:08:16,940 --> 00:08:20,630  
So we must have been able to  
get flour at that point still.

161  
00:08:20,630 --> 00:08:23,180  
So who lived with you  
besides your parents?

162  
00:08:23,180 --> 00:08:27,260  
My parents, my grandmother  
on my mother's side.

163  
00:08:27,260 --> 00:08:29,900  
And my grandfather  
on my father's side

164  
00:08:29,900 --> 00:08:34,280  
died just before the war and was  
buried in the Jewish cemetery

165  
00:08:34,280 --> 00:08:35,659  
near the ghetto.

166  
00:08:35,659 --> 00:08:39,760  
He died a natural  
death before the war.

167  
00:08:39,760 --> 00:08:41,390  
Not natural, but  
I mean, you know.

168  
00:08:41,390 --> 00:08:41,890  
Yeah.

169  
00:08:41,890 --> 00:08:45,010

170  
00:08:45,010 --> 00:08:47,290  
So his mother, my  
father's mother,

171  
00:08:47,290 --> 00:08:54,440  
his three sisters, two  
brothers, the husband of one

172  
00:08:54,440 --> 00:08:58,460  
of the sisters, and the  
daughter of one of the sisters

173  
00:08:58,460 --> 00:09:04,680  
all moved in with us in  
this duplex apartment.

174  
00:09:04,680 --> 00:09:08,370  
My mother's mother would  
go every single day

175  
00:09:08,370 --> 00:09:14,070  
and visit her two brothers  
and their families who

176  
00:09:14,070 --> 00:09:17,230  
had moved into some  
other part of the ghetto.

177

00:09:17,230 --> 00:09:19,140

And one day, she simply  
didn't come back.

178

00:09:19,140 --> 00:09:22,540

She just disappeared.

179

00:09:22,540 --> 00:09:28,680

I found a reference to one  
of her brother's daughters

180

00:09:28,680 --> 00:09:33,000

in Ringelblum's diary  
about 12-year-old girl

181

00:09:33,000 --> 00:09:35,385

and her death is in there.

182

00:09:35,385 --> 00:09:36,260

It's one of the few--

183

00:09:36,260 --> 00:09:36,843

What was her--

184

00:09:36,843 --> 00:09:41,430

Her maiden name was Batlaj,  
which is a Lithuanian name,

185

00:09:41,430 --> 00:09:47,250

B-A-T-L-A-J, L being a Polish.

186

00:09:47,250 --> 00:09:48,675

It's an L with a diagonal--

187

00:09:48,675 --> 00:09:48,960

With a line through it.

188

00:09:48,960 --> 00:09:49,502

--through it.

189

00:09:49,502 --> 00:09:50,640



Right.

190  
00:09:50,640 --> 00:09:52,710  
So that that is--

191  
00:09:52,710 --> 00:10:00,320  
and the widow of one of the  
brothers of Henry Batlaj

192  
00:10:00,320 --> 00:10:05,000  
did survive the war with two  
children and ended up in France

193  
00:10:05,000 --> 00:10:08,390  
where my parents never  
really contacted anyone.

194  
00:10:08,390 --> 00:10:10,520  
They tried, but they couldn't.

195  
00:10:10,520 --> 00:10:13,710  
But in recent years,  
thanks to the internet,

196  
00:10:13,710 --> 00:10:17,120  
I've been able to find out  
that they eventually seem

197  
00:10:17,120 --> 00:10:18,800  
to have all become scientists.

198  
00:10:18,800 --> 00:10:24,320  
And one of the women, who by now  
must be the third generation,

199  
00:10:24,320 --> 00:10:26,480  
was actually visiting  
professor at Harvard

200  
00:10:26,480 --> 00:10:27,950  
about four or five years ago.

201

00:10:27,950 --> 00:10:30,090  
And I asked my mother  
if I could contact her.

202  
00:10:30,090 --> 00:10:31,350  
My mother just didn't want to.

203  
00:10:31,350 --> 00:10:32,810  
She didn't want to, you know--

204  
00:10:32,810 --> 00:10:37,910

205  
00:10:37,910 --> 00:10:46,910  
Anyway, my aunts on my father's  
side, and my cousin who

206  
00:10:46,910 --> 00:10:52,990  
was about 13, and the uncle,  
one uncle, the one who

207  
00:10:52,990 --> 00:10:57,730  
had been educated in Zwickau,  
one of his fellow engineering

208  
00:10:57,730 --> 00:11:00,160  
students was a  
German commandant.

209  
00:11:00,160 --> 00:11:05,580  
And they ran into each  
other in the ghetto.

210  
00:11:05,580 --> 00:11:12,750  
And he arranged for them to work  
in a factory outside the gates,

211  
00:11:12,750 --> 00:11:15,550  
which was supposed to be a  
slightly protected situation.

212  
00:11:15,550 --> 00:11:17,805  
So that every day they

would all go out to work.

213

00:11:17,805 --> 00:11:19,680

And then every day they'd  
be checked back in.

214

00:11:19,680 --> 00:11:21,550

My mother was part of the group.

215

00:11:21,550 --> 00:11:23,010

Oh, so was men and women?

216

00:11:23,010 --> 00:11:24,390

Yes.

217

00:11:24,390 --> 00:11:26,820

Probably not the same  
factories, I don't know.

218

00:11:26,820 --> 00:11:31,100

It was sewing, I think,  
for the case of the women.

219

00:11:31,100 --> 00:11:35,780

And one day they simply  
didn't come back, any of them.

220

00:11:35,780 --> 00:11:38,840

221

00:11:38,840 --> 00:11:42,590

My father-- I mean, I think my  
mother was under the impression

222

00:11:42,590 --> 00:11:45,082

that this man really had tried  
to protect them somewhat,

223

00:11:45,082 --> 00:11:46,790

but there was nothing  
that could be done.

224

00:11:46,790 --> 00:11:50,090

225

00:11:50,090 --> 00:11:52,310

And I don't know his name.

226

00:11:52,310 --> 00:11:54,600

But they simply would  
clear the factories out

227

00:11:54,600 --> 00:11:58,490

and send the next batch out  
was the way it was done.

228

00:11:58,490 --> 00:12:03,680

My mother, when that  
happened, which was beginning

229

00:12:03,680 --> 00:12:07,910

of '43, my father had sort of--

230

00:12:07,910 --> 00:12:09,830

I mean, no one really  
believed the Germans

231

00:12:09,830 --> 00:12:10,850

were going to do this.

232

00:12:10,850 --> 00:12:16,840

I mean, very few people left  
Poland when it was about

233

00:12:16,840 --> 00:12:18,795

to happen, because  
they just didn't--

234

00:12:18,795 --> 00:12:20,170

I mean, no one  
believed there was

235

00:12:20,170 --> 00:12:23,570

such a thing as an extermination  
program, obviously.

236  
00:12:23,570 --> 00:12:25,970  
So now, just to clarify,  
now we're in 19--

237  
00:12:25,970 --> 00:12:26,590  
'43.

238  
00:12:26,590 --> 00:12:30,550  
OK, but before that,  
do you have any--

239  
00:12:30,550 --> 00:12:32,380  
Well, before that, they--

240  
00:12:32,380 --> 00:12:36,220  
Or were you told anything  
about the years before '43?

241  
00:12:36,220 --> 00:12:36,850  
Yes.

242  
00:12:36,850 --> 00:12:42,640  
I mean, one of the first  
people that my father found

243  
00:12:42,640 --> 00:12:47,560  
killed in the ghetto was a  
close friend of his named Roman

244  
00:12:47,560 --> 00:12:51,590  
Kramsztyk, who was a very  
well-known Polish artist.

245  
00:12:51,590 --> 00:12:57,160  
And my father found his body  
with a portfolio of his chalk

246  
00:12:57,160 --> 00:13:00,190  
drawings, lying next to it.

247  
00:13:00,190 --> 00:13:04,480

And he managed to actually  
get that out of the ghetto.

248  
00:13:04,480 --> 00:13:06,760  
And it survived the war.

249  
00:13:06,760 --> 00:13:11,830  
He returned most of them  
to a distant relative

250  
00:13:11,830 --> 00:13:12,820  
of Kramsztyk's.

251  
00:13:12,820 --> 00:13:14,150  
I have a couple of them.

252  
00:13:14,150 --> 00:13:17,200

253  
00:13:17,200 --> 00:13:20,290  
He was the first person that--

254  
00:13:20,290 --> 00:13:22,780  
my father did talk about him--

255  
00:13:22,780 --> 00:13:27,340  
was the first person he knew  
that he saw dead in the ghetto.

256  
00:13:27,340 --> 00:13:30,340  
And Kramsztyk had  
done some drawings,

257  
00:13:30,340 --> 00:13:36,780  
which I have one of upstairs,  
of figures in the ghetto.

258  
00:13:36,780 --> 00:13:38,900  
I don't know how many  
of them survived,

259  
00:13:38,900 --> 00:13:45,040

but this one was of a woman  
lying either asleep or dead--

260  
00:13:45,040 --> 00:13:45,970  
it's unclear--

261  
00:13:45,970 --> 00:13:50,170  
on the steps of one of the  
buildings in the ghetto.

262  
00:13:50,170 --> 00:13:53,740  
And I was the model  
for the baby lying

263  
00:13:53,740 --> 00:13:59,360  
next to her, which it's hard  
to tell whether alive or dead

264  
00:13:59,360 --> 00:14:01,110  
in the drawing.

265  
00:14:01,110 --> 00:14:04,230  
I have it upstairs.

266  
00:14:04,230 --> 00:14:06,120  
So what were your first--

267  
00:14:06,120 --> 00:14:09,330  
do you have any  
memories of the ghetto?

268  
00:14:09,330 --> 00:14:13,660  
I remember brick  
walls being built,

269  
00:14:13,660 --> 00:14:16,140  
which was something  
that happened.

270  
00:14:16,140 --> 00:14:17,970  
I mean, I have since  
looked that up.

271  
00:14:17,970 --> 00:14:19,930  
Yeah, they did  
have 9-foot walls.

272  
00:14:19,930 --> 00:14:22,500  
But I did remember  
those walls going up.

273  
00:14:22,500 --> 00:14:26,310  
And at what point that  
happened, I'm not sure.

274  
00:14:26,310 --> 00:14:34,090  
I remember beggars  
on the streets

275  
00:14:34,090 --> 00:14:35,530  
coming into the buildings.

276  
00:14:35,530 --> 00:14:41,170  
I remember this was really an  
awful-- there was a man who

277  
00:14:41,170 --> 00:14:42,910  
came into our building to beg.

278  
00:14:42,910 --> 00:14:46,600  
And we had stairs  
in a building, which

279  
00:14:46,600 --> 00:14:50,500  
were very much like the  
kind of metal-edged stairs

280  
00:14:50,500 --> 00:14:53,373  
that you have in  
a lot of schools.

281  
00:14:53,373 --> 00:14:54,540  
You know, the old fashioned?

282  
00:14:54,540 --> 00:14:56,380



I remember them very distinctly.

283

00:14:56,380 --> 00:15:01,450

And the man upstairs from  
us shoved this poor guy

284

00:15:01,450 --> 00:15:02,440

down the stairs.

285

00:15:02,440 --> 00:15:03,580

And I remember that.

286

00:15:03,580 --> 00:15:04,870

I mean, that really--

287

00:15:04,870 --> 00:15:07,730

I asked my mother about  
it when I was a teenager.

288

00:15:07,730 --> 00:15:09,685

And she said, yes,  
it had happened.

289

00:15:09,685 --> 00:15:13,010

290

00:15:13,010 --> 00:15:16,220

You had this very large  
gap at the beginning

291

00:15:16,220 --> 00:15:18,260

between the people who  
considered themselves

292

00:15:18,260 --> 00:15:22,460

very middle class and the  
very, very poor people

293

00:15:22,460 --> 00:15:26,577

who were pushed in from  
the little ghettos outside.

294

00:15:26,577 --> 00:15:28,160  
And these people did  
not feel they had

295  
00:15:28,160 --> 00:15:29,480  
anything in common with them.

296  
00:15:29,480 --> 00:15:32,690  
And they were trying to  
keep what little they had

297  
00:15:32,690 --> 00:15:36,620  
for their own families,  
which was the case up there.

298  
00:15:36,620 --> 00:15:42,000  
But I remember my grandmother  
would actually apparently would

299  
00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:44,940  
give this man money and food.

300  
00:15:44,940 --> 00:15:46,940  
And then he went on upstairs.

301  
00:15:46,940 --> 00:15:49,350  
And this was what happened.

302  
00:15:49,350 --> 00:15:50,580  
So I remember that.

303  
00:15:50,580 --> 00:15:55,850

304  
00:15:55,850 --> 00:16:00,200  
I don't remember what's in  
these photographs of the dancing

305  
00:16:00,200 --> 00:16:01,465  
and all of this.

306  
00:16:01,465 --> 00:16:02,590

Don't remember that at all.

307  
00:16:02,590 --> 00:16:05,800  
So you were in the  
ghetto until when?

308  
00:16:05,800 --> 00:16:07,450  
Until '43.

309  
00:16:07,450 --> 00:16:08,500  
OK.

310  
00:16:08,500 --> 00:16:10,870  
And so by that  
time, you were five?

311  
00:16:10,870 --> 00:16:11,410  
Mm-hmm.

312  
00:16:11,410 --> 00:16:12,650  
Yeah.

313  
00:16:12,650 --> 00:16:15,860  
So do you just remember a  
sense of fearfulness or not

314  
00:16:15,860 --> 00:16:18,390  
up to that time?

315  
00:16:18,390 --> 00:16:19,440  
Not really.

316  
00:16:19,440 --> 00:16:20,200  
OK.

317  
00:16:20,200 --> 00:16:21,060  
Not really.

318  
00:16:21,060 --> 00:16:24,000  
I mean, there was  
very little food.

319

00:16:24,000 --> 00:16:28,430

What there was, obviously,  
my parents tried to give me.

320

00:16:28,430 --> 00:16:30,680

Do you remember being cold?

321

00:16:30,680 --> 00:16:32,360

No.

322

00:16:32,360 --> 00:16:32,990

I don't.

323

00:16:32,990 --> 00:16:39,770

But I do-- in '43, when my  
relatives didn't come back

324

00:16:39,770 --> 00:16:45,320

that day, my parents decided  
they had to get me out.

325

00:16:45,320 --> 00:16:47,510

And they made  
arrangements with--

326

00:16:47,510 --> 00:16:49,640

they had been able  
to stay in contact--

327

00:16:49,640 --> 00:16:50,570

I don't know how--

328

00:16:50,570 --> 00:16:55,520

with friends on the outside,  
who were not Jewish.

329

00:16:55,520 --> 00:17:01,360

And they arranged for one of  
them, Wladislaw Brezovsky, to--

330

00:17:01,360 --> 00:17:04,000

and he arranged with

a Polish policeman

331  
00:17:04,000 --> 00:17:08,900  
to come in and take me out.

332  
00:17:08,900 --> 00:17:10,190  
Do you remember that?

333  
00:17:10,190 --> 00:17:12,650  
That I do remember because  
my mother dressed me

334  
00:17:12,650 --> 00:17:16,280  
in this little white  
coat that she had.

335  
00:17:16,280 --> 00:17:19,010  
And I was very, very  
blonde and blue-eyed.

336  
00:17:19,010 --> 00:17:20,780  
I had white blonde hair.

337  
00:17:20,780 --> 00:17:22,390  
What language did you all speak?

338  
00:17:22,390 --> 00:17:22,890  
Polish.

339  
00:17:22,890 --> 00:17:24,230  
You spoke Polish, OK.

340  
00:17:24,230 --> 00:17:27,420  
But my parents knew French  
and German because of their--

341  
00:17:27,420 --> 00:17:27,920  
Studies.

342  
00:17:27,920 --> 00:17:30,710  
--their studies.

343

00:17:30,710 --> 00:17:35,060

And my father, I think,  
also knew Yiddish,

344

00:17:35,060 --> 00:17:36,990

but they never spoke it at home.

345

00:17:36,990 --> 00:17:39,010

But I think--

346

00:17:39,010 --> 00:17:40,270

Were they religious at all?

347

00:17:40,270 --> 00:17:41,047

No.

348

00:17:41,047 --> 00:17:41,630

They were not.

349

00:17:41,630 --> 00:17:42,070

They were not.

350

00:17:42,070 --> 00:17:44,560

So you don't know if they--  
they didn't observe any holidays

351

00:17:44,560 --> 00:17:45,370

or anything like that?

352

00:17:45,370 --> 00:17:45,870

No.

353

00:17:45,870 --> 00:17:47,800

Only my grandfather  
on my father's side,

354

00:17:47,800 --> 00:17:52,270

who, of course, died before the  
war, did observe the Sabbath.

355

00:17:52,270 --> 00:17:54,340

And that was about it.

356  
00:17:54,340 --> 00:17:57,820  
Because ever after we came  
out, my father would--

357  
00:17:57,820 --> 00:18:00,500

358  
00:18:00,500 --> 00:18:01,850  
only on Yom Kippur--

359  
00:18:01,850 --> 00:18:03,572  
but he would light  
the candles for him.

360  
00:18:03,572 --> 00:18:05,030  
And we still have  
his candlesticks.

361  
00:18:05,030 --> 00:18:07,100  
I don't know quite how  
they managed to survive.

362  
00:18:07,100 --> 00:18:08,838  
But I still have them.

363  
00:18:08,838 --> 00:18:11,130  
So there were no Passover  
Seders or anything like that?

364  
00:18:11,130 --> 00:18:11,840  
No.

365  
00:18:11,840 --> 00:18:13,760  
No.

366  
00:18:13,760 --> 00:18:16,970  
You have to remember that  
the Poles and the well-to-do

367  
00:18:16,970 --> 00:18:18,410

or middle-class  
Poles in Sweden--

368  
00:18:18,410 --> 00:18:19,440  
Very similar.

369  
00:18:19,440 --> 00:18:23,690  
--were extremely-- I mean, they  
considered themselves Poles.

370  
00:18:23,690 --> 00:18:27,890  
The more religious and  
orthodox were in the villages.

371  
00:18:27,890 --> 00:18:32,360  
And they had very little  
contact with them ever.

372  
00:18:32,360 --> 00:18:38,270  
And that was one reason that  
all of this was such a--

373  
00:18:38,270 --> 00:18:42,770

374  
00:18:42,770 --> 00:18:43,470  
Shock?

375  
00:18:43,470 --> 00:18:45,480  
--shock, I guess, to everybody.

376  
00:18:45,480 --> 00:18:46,980  
They had never  
thought of themselves

377  
00:18:46,980 --> 00:18:48,360  
as being particularly different.

378  
00:18:48,360 --> 00:18:49,735  
Except, of course,  
they knew they

379



00:18:49,735 --> 00:18:52,410  
were because of the  
quotas at the universities

380  
00:18:52,410 --> 00:18:54,430  
and all of this sort of thing.

381  
00:18:54,430 --> 00:18:55,950  
But in terms of everyday life.

382  
00:18:55,950 --> 00:18:59,890

383  
00:18:59,890 --> 00:19:03,510  
So you said your parents had  
the friend outside that--

384  
00:19:03,510 --> 00:19:06,810  
And he arranged with a Polish  
policeman, whom he knew,

385  
00:19:06,810 --> 00:19:08,608  
to come in and take me out.

386  
00:19:08,608 --> 00:19:09,900  
I'm not quite sure how it went.

387  
00:19:09,900 --> 00:19:12,540  
So you in a sense walked out?

388  
00:19:12,540 --> 00:19:13,260  
Walked out.

389  
00:19:13,260 --> 00:19:16,620  
And he at some  
point, that night,

390  
00:19:16,620 --> 00:19:20,550  
apparently, I spent somewhere  
that was like a cellar

391  
00:19:20,550 --> 00:19:21,690

because my coat--

392

00:19:21,690 --> 00:19:23,730

one of the things that  
my mother said afterward

393

00:19:23,730 --> 00:19:26,457

was that the friend  
who had arranged this

394

00:19:26,457 --> 00:19:28,290

said the next day that  
when he picked me up,

395

00:19:28,290 --> 00:19:30,090

my coat was very  
dirty, that I must

396

00:19:30,090 --> 00:19:31,650

have been sleeping somewhere.

397

00:19:31,650 --> 00:19:38,450

And he took me on a  
tram of some sort.

398

00:19:38,450 --> 00:19:39,240

You remember this?

399

00:19:39,240 --> 00:19:41,990

That I do remember because  
I threw up on the tram,

400

00:19:41,990 --> 00:19:45,480

and I was vastly embarrassed,  
got my coat dirty again.

401

00:19:45,480 --> 00:19:47,570

Do you remember saying  
goodbye to your parents?

402

00:19:47,570 --> 00:19:48,680

No.

403

00:19:48,680 --> 00:19:50,420

And they took me.

404

00:19:50,420 --> 00:19:52,880

And he somehow got  
me out, eventually,

405

00:19:52,880 --> 00:19:56,030

to the place where they had  
a little summer cottage.

406

00:19:56,030 --> 00:19:57,350

Which was where?

407

00:19:57,350 --> 00:19:58,610

In a place called--

408

00:19:58,610 --> 00:20:02,950

409

00:20:02,950 --> 00:20:03,450

OK.

410

00:20:03,450 --> 00:20:03,960

It's OK.

411

00:20:03,960 --> 00:20:04,710

It'll come back to me.

412

00:20:04,710 --> 00:20:04,860

It'll come back to you.

413

00:20:04,860 --> 00:20:05,360

I'm sorry.

414

00:20:05,360 --> 00:20:06,718

That's OK.

415

00:20:06,718 --> 00:20:08,010

But this is in the countryside?

416

00:20:08,010 --> 00:20:13,470

In the countryside across  
the street from a castle,

417

00:20:13,470 --> 00:20:16,330

which had belonged to some  
people my parents knew,

418

00:20:16,330 --> 00:20:18,930

which is how they had  
bought the little--

419

00:20:18,930 --> 00:20:21,690

and which ended up being  
the regional Gestapo

420

00:20:21,690 --> 00:20:22,930

headquarters for the area.

421

00:20:22,930 --> 00:20:25,154

And there I was across  
the road from it.

422

00:20:25,154 --> 00:20:30,730

423

00:20:30,730 --> 00:20:33,970

And it is crazy, I can't  
remember the name of the town

424

00:20:33,970 --> 00:20:37,280

because I just said  
it a few days ago.

425

00:20:37,280 --> 00:20:37,780

What time--

426

00:20:37,780 --> 00:20:40,540

It's about 13 miles  
outside Warsaw.

427

00:20:40,540 --> 00:20:44,450

When Warsaw burned a year or  
two later, we could see the--

428  
00:20:44,450 --> 00:20:44,950  
Smoke.

429  
00:20:44,950 --> 00:20:46,330  
--red sky.

430  
00:20:46,330 --> 00:20:50,820  
But April '43 was when  
the ghetto was destroyed.

431  
00:20:50,820 --> 00:20:51,910  
So you got out--

432  
00:20:51,910 --> 00:20:52,720  
Just before.

433  
00:20:52,720 --> 00:20:54,520  
Just before.

434  
00:20:54,520 --> 00:20:56,860  
And after my whole  
family had disappeared.

435  
00:20:56,860 --> 00:21:01,330  
My mother then, a few  
days after I got out--

436  
00:21:01,330 --> 00:21:02,110  
She was able?

437  
00:21:02,110 --> 00:21:06,570  
--she left with her work group.

438  
00:21:06,570 --> 00:21:12,360  
And the Polish woman who was  
checking people in and out

439  
00:21:12,360 --> 00:21:15,660  
turned out to be a high

school classmate of hers.

440

00:21:15,660 --> 00:21:19,200

And she said to my mother,  
just don't come back.

441

00:21:19,200 --> 00:21:19,740

Keep going.

442

00:21:19,740 --> 00:21:22,350

And I'll check you back in.

443

00:21:22,350 --> 00:21:24,540

Oh my.

444

00:21:24,540 --> 00:21:26,870

Of course, she had no way  
of contacting my father

445

00:21:26,870 --> 00:21:29,370

at that point, except they had  
agreed that if there was ever

446

00:21:29,370 --> 00:21:31,340

a chance for any of them,  
that they would just--

447

00:21:31,340 --> 00:21:31,840

Just go.

448

00:21:31,840 --> 00:21:33,745

--do this.

449

00:21:33,745 --> 00:21:34,870

He was still in the ghetto?

450

00:21:34,870 --> 00:21:35,995

He was still in the ghetto.

451

00:21:35,995 --> 00:21:39,500

My mother eventually  
went to several friends

452  
00:21:39,500 --> 00:21:41,970  
and stayed with them  
around the city.

453  
00:21:41,970 --> 00:21:46,860

454  
00:21:46,860 --> 00:21:49,930  
I know who some of them were.

455  
00:21:49,930 --> 00:21:56,480  
And then there were  
two couples who

456  
00:21:56,480 --> 00:22:01,380  
knew where I was  
and could sort of,

457  
00:22:01,380 --> 00:22:05,710  
if my parents contacted them,  
would be able to tell them.

458  
00:22:05,710 --> 00:22:10,450  
And my mother then,  
somehow or other,

459  
00:22:10,450 --> 00:22:20,680  
ended up working with a  
group of nuns who were trying

460  
00:22:20,680 --> 00:22:22,515  
to help people a little bit.

461  
00:22:22,515 --> 00:22:23,890  
And one of them died.

462  
00:22:23,890 --> 00:22:28,060  
And they gave my mother  
her habit to wear.

463  
00:22:28,060 --> 00:22:32,310

And a few days later,  
the nuns were rounded up.

464

00:22:32,310 --> 00:22:37,380

And my mother had this amazing  
story of which she told Holly

465

00:22:37,380 --> 00:22:39,030

in high school, my daughter.

466

00:22:39,030 --> 00:22:42,300

467

00:22:42,300 --> 00:22:46,770

There was a staging area in  
one of the suburbs of Warsaw--

468

00:22:46,770 --> 00:22:51,020

and I have the name upstairs,  
but I'd have to find it--

469

00:22:51,020 --> 00:22:53,720

from which people were shipped  
out to the concentration

470

00:22:53,720 --> 00:22:55,920

camps on the trains.

471

00:22:55,920 --> 00:22:58,390

And the nuns were about  
to be shipped out.

472

00:22:58,390 --> 00:23:01,620

And one of the Germans  
on the platform

473

00:23:01,620 --> 00:23:06,500

said to the Mother Superior  
that one of the commandants

474

00:23:06,500 --> 00:23:08,840

was a Catholic and she  
should go and talk to him



475  
00:23:08,840 --> 00:23:12,150  
and see if he could help her.

476  
00:23:12,150 --> 00:23:14,960  
And my mother describes  
literally having her foot

477  
00:23:14,960 --> 00:23:19,020  
on the bottom rung  
of the train car

478  
00:23:19,020 --> 00:23:21,720  
when the Mother Superior came  
running down the station,

479  
00:23:21,720 --> 00:23:26,700  
waving this little slip of  
paper saying that they could go.

480  
00:23:26,700 --> 00:23:30,270  
So I had 13 nuns show up on  
the doorstep of the place

481  
00:23:30,270 --> 00:23:32,800  
where I was, out in the country.

482  
00:23:32,800 --> 00:23:36,450  
And I had apparently  
the sense not to--

483  
00:23:36,450 --> 00:23:38,910  
I recognized my mother,  
but I had the sense

484  
00:23:38,910 --> 00:23:42,930  
not to say anything  
about the fact

485  
00:23:42,930 --> 00:23:45,263  
that she was-- call her my  
mother or anything like that.

486

00:23:45,263 --> 00:23:46,222

Even at that young age.

487

00:23:46,222 --> 00:23:48,053

Because, of course,  
the nuns didn't know.

488

00:23:48,053 --> 00:23:49,470

Well, I wasn't  
that young anymore.

489

00:23:49,470 --> 00:23:50,053

You were five.

490

00:23:50,053 --> 00:23:51,720

I was five.

491

00:23:51,720 --> 00:23:55,770

And you had been absolutely  
told what you could not say.

492

00:23:55,770 --> 00:23:57,028

And we were very aware of it.

493

00:23:57,028 --> 00:23:58,320

Did you keep your name Susanna?

494

00:23:58,320 --> 00:23:59,070

No.

495

00:23:59,070 --> 00:24:00,520

What was your new name?

496

00:24:00,520 --> 00:24:01,830

Yes, I kept Susanna.

497

00:24:01,830 --> 00:24:03,060

Yeah.

498

00:24:03,060 --> 00:24:05,250

But I had the name of the nanny.

499  
00:24:05,250 --> 00:24:07,830  
And I have no idea  
what that was anymore.

500  
00:24:07,830 --> 00:24:09,510  
But it was a Polish.

501  
00:24:09,510 --> 00:24:12,090

502  
00:24:12,090 --> 00:24:13,200  
And

503  
00:24:13,200 --> 00:24:15,900  
Because the Polish nanny  
was now your mother?

504  
00:24:15,900 --> 00:24:16,530  
Technically.

505  
00:24:16,530 --> 00:24:17,850  
Yes.

506  
00:24:17,850 --> 00:24:20,220  
But I had the sense to  
say nothing apparently.

507  
00:24:20,220 --> 00:24:23,760  
And my mother claimed, when she  
was telling Holly this story,

508  
00:24:23,760 --> 00:24:27,810  
that I had dreamt the night  
before that she was coming,

509  
00:24:27,810 --> 00:24:29,370  
and I had said  
that to the nanny.

510  
00:24:29,370 --> 00:24:32,040  
Well, chances are, I probably

dreamt that a lot of times,

511

00:24:32,040 --> 00:24:36,550

but that time it stuck  
in somebody's head.

512

00:24:36,550 --> 00:24:38,270

They stayed with us  
for several weeks.

513

00:24:38,270 --> 00:24:40,270

But obviously, we didn't  
have all that much food

514

00:24:40,270 --> 00:24:41,060

and so forth.

515

00:24:41,060 --> 00:24:46,100

And then the nuns went on  
to a convent somewhere.

516

00:24:46,100 --> 00:24:47,480

Including your mother?

517

00:24:47,480 --> 00:24:53,300

Not including my mother,  
who had at that point,

518

00:24:53,300 --> 00:24:57,410

she had developed  
very bad rheumatism

519

00:24:57,410 --> 00:25:00,680

from lying on stone floors.

520

00:25:00,680 --> 00:25:03,770

So she was ill enough that she  
had a good excuse, apparently,

521

00:25:03,770 --> 00:25:05,900

to say that she couldn't  
go on with them.

522

00:25:05,900 --> 00:25:07,800

And, of course, they  
knew she wasn't a nun.

523

00:25:07,800 --> 00:25:10,550

I mean, they had taken  
her in, given her the--

524

00:25:10,550 --> 00:25:12,000

Yeah, right.

525

00:25:12,000 --> 00:25:13,800

So the fact that she  
just wanted to stay

526

00:25:13,800 --> 00:25:15,540

there didn't seem  
that odd to them,

527

00:25:15,540 --> 00:25:17,420

even though they didn't  
know she was Jewish.

528

00:25:17,420 --> 00:25:20,030

529

00:25:20,030 --> 00:25:23,200

My father got out after--

530

00:25:23,200 --> 00:25:24,507

So she stayed, she stayed--

531

00:25:24,507 --> 00:25:25,090

So she stayed.

532

00:25:25,090 --> 00:25:25,780

With you?

533

00:25:25,780 --> 00:25:26,380

With me.

534

00:25:26,380 --> 00:25:27,100  
Oh.

535  
00:25:27,100 --> 00:25:32,268  
My father got out during the  
uprising, the ghetto uprising,

536  
00:25:32,268 --> 00:25:33,060  
through the sewers.

537  
00:25:33,060 --> 00:25:36,530  
April '43, he did.

538  
00:25:36,530 --> 00:25:38,960  
And then he, again, he  
went to more or less

539  
00:25:38,960 --> 00:25:42,620  
the same people my mother  
had gone to, to hide out.

540  
00:25:42,620 --> 00:25:46,290  
And when the embassy  
had this information,

541  
00:25:46,290 --> 00:25:49,260  
they actually knew the couple  
that he was with the most time.

542  
00:25:49,260 --> 00:25:50,430  
And they described this.

543  
00:25:50,430 --> 00:25:54,020  
I was amazed about it.

544  
00:25:54,020 --> 00:25:57,440  
And he had several  
very close escapes.

545  
00:25:57,440 --> 00:26:00,230  
At one point, he had to jump  
out of a second floor window

546

00:26:00,230 --> 00:26:02,090

into the back of  
a garbage truck.

547

00:26:02,090 --> 00:26:03,180

Oh my god.

548

00:26:03,180 --> 00:26:08,480

--as it drove by and managed  
to convince the truck driver

549

00:26:08,480 --> 00:26:11,630

that he was a British  
parachutist who

550

00:26:11,630 --> 00:26:15,110

had ended up parachuting  
in, and he was there

551

00:26:15,110 --> 00:26:17,660

to help free Poland.

552

00:26:17,660 --> 00:26:20,750

So he was not turned in.

553

00:26:20,750 --> 00:26:25,880

And don't know how he  
did that, but he was--

554

00:26:25,880 --> 00:26:29,510

And he did not come to  
where my mother and I were

555

00:26:29,510 --> 00:26:32,630

until the Russians  
came into Warsaw.

556

00:26:32,630 --> 00:26:36,200

And at that point, he  
was able to get out.

557

00:26:36,200 --> 00:26:40,480

But he was in Warsaw  
until the end of the war,

558  
00:26:40,480 --> 00:26:45,240  
and hiding in various places,  
including for a while,

559  
00:26:45,240 --> 00:26:48,390  
he was in the basement of,  
it was a company called

560  
00:26:48,390 --> 00:26:51,630  
Wedel, which was  
the best chocolate

561  
00:26:51,630 --> 00:26:53,520  
factory in Poland,  
which was recently

562  
00:26:53,520 --> 00:26:56,140  
bought by Cadbury's of England.

563  
00:26:56,140 --> 00:26:59,640  
And they hid him in the  
basement of their store, which

564  
00:26:59,640 --> 00:27:05,050  
was near where his former  
antique shop had been.

565  
00:27:05,050 --> 00:27:10,150  
And one of the sisters,  
of the Wedel sisters,

566  
00:27:10,150 --> 00:27:15,020  
would bring him water and  
so forth periodically.

567  
00:27:15,020 --> 00:27:18,620  
And then one day, a bomb fell  
and sort of cut the cellar

568  
00:27:18,620 --> 00:27:19,220



in half.

569

00:27:19,220 --> 00:27:22,670

And she was actually killed  
on the other side of the--

570

00:27:22,670 --> 00:27:26,220

and he eventually  
dug his way out.

571

00:27:26,220 --> 00:27:27,660

I mean, it was just--

572

00:27:27,660 --> 00:27:30,870

My parents-- my mother, because  
my father would never talk

573

00:27:30,870 --> 00:27:33,240

about it, but my mother  
basically said that who

574

00:27:33,240 --> 00:27:38,230

survived and who didn't  
was simply chance, or luck,

575

00:27:38,230 --> 00:27:45,650

or something completely, no  
rhyme or reason to who did

576

00:27:45,650 --> 00:27:46,880

and who didn't.

577

00:27:46,880 --> 00:27:49,790

Now, was your mother  
blonde and blue-eyed also?

578

00:27:49,790 --> 00:27:50,390

No.

579

00:27:50,390 --> 00:27:50,630

OK.

580

00:27:50,630 --> 00:27:51,130  
No.

581  
00:27:51,130 --> 00:27:51,920  
She was dark?

582  
00:27:51,920 --> 00:27:54,830  
She had dark hair  
and brown eyes.

583  
00:27:54,830 --> 00:27:57,800  
OK, so the two of you  
are out in the country.

584  
00:27:57,800 --> 00:28:01,550  
Were you able to move around  
the roads, in the roads?

585  
00:28:01,550 --> 00:28:02,307  
Well, I--

586  
00:28:02,307 --> 00:28:03,140  
Or did you have to--

587  
00:28:03,140 --> 00:28:08,870  
I mean, my nanny and I went  
to the little local town

588  
00:28:08,870 --> 00:28:12,442  
to buy things at the farmer's  
markets and so forth.

589  
00:28:12,442 --> 00:28:13,400  
They were just markets.

590  
00:28:13,400 --> 00:28:15,650  
They weren't called  
farmer's markets.

591  
00:28:15,650 --> 00:28:20,960  
And I went during the  
day to a small school,

592

00:28:20,960 --> 00:28:23,060

sort of through  
the woods that was

593

00:28:23,060 --> 00:28:26,270

in the basement  
of a local church.

594

00:28:26,270 --> 00:28:29,840

And the younger children were  
ostensibly raising rabbits.

595

00:28:29,840 --> 00:28:31,820

And the older children  
were actually studying.

596

00:28:31,820 --> 00:28:34,450

But they were not allowed  
to use Polish textbooks.

597

00:28:34,450 --> 00:28:38,030

So if there was a problem they  
thought the Germans were coming

598

00:28:38,030 --> 00:28:40,910

to check up, they would  
shove the textbooks

599

00:28:40,910 --> 00:28:42,765

under the rabbit hutches.

600

00:28:42,765 --> 00:28:45,100

Were probably not very  
attractive by the time

601

00:28:45,100 --> 00:28:46,893

we were finished.

602

00:28:46,893 --> 00:28:48,685

They were supposed to  
use German textbooks,

603

00:28:48,685 --> 00:28:49,810  
is that what you're saying?

604  
00:28:49,810 --> 00:28:50,840  
Yeah.

605  
00:28:50,840 --> 00:28:53,090  
And I have a photograph  
somewhere still

606  
00:28:53,090 --> 00:28:55,310  
of the priesthood  
in that church, who

607  
00:28:55,310 --> 00:28:56,420  
thought I was Catholic.

608  
00:28:56,420 --> 00:28:58,070  
It was not a problem.

609  
00:28:58,070 --> 00:29:01,070  
Did you know, or did  
it mean anything to you

610  
00:29:01,070 --> 00:29:03,440  
at that very young age,  
about being Jewish?

611  
00:29:03,440 --> 00:29:04,020  
Did you know you were Jewish?

612  
00:29:04,020 --> 00:29:04,520  
No.

613  
00:29:04,520 --> 00:29:06,875  
I only knew that I was not  
supposed to say who I was.

614  
00:29:06,875 --> 00:29:10,910  
I was not supposed to give  
my name, my real name, which

615

00:29:10,910 --> 00:29:14,030

I knew, or my parents'  
names or anything

616

00:29:14,030 --> 00:29:15,470

about our circumstances.

617

00:29:15,470 --> 00:29:19,530

I was supposed to only say  
that the nanny was my mother

618

00:29:19,530 --> 00:29:23,610

and to give that name.

619

00:29:23,610 --> 00:29:25,770

I think even small  
children, when they're

620

00:29:25,770 --> 00:29:30,380

living in situation  
that is that extreme,

621

00:29:30,380 --> 00:29:32,330

understand a lot  
more about what they

622

00:29:32,330 --> 00:29:34,160

are and aren't supposed to--

623

00:29:34,160 --> 00:29:36,710

And if you think back to  
the fact that in the 19,

624

00:29:36,710 --> 00:29:40,520

well, even in the 20th  
century, fairly small children

625

00:29:40,520 --> 00:29:44,810

would be sent out to work in  
the factories and the fields

626

00:29:44,810 --> 00:29:45,410

and so forth.

627  
00:29:45,410 --> 00:29:47,390  
And they'd be able to do it.

628  
00:29:47,390 --> 00:29:49,660  
And I know, when we  
were living in India,

629  
00:29:49,660 --> 00:29:52,790  
and we visited Kashmir,  
there were five-year-olds

630  
00:29:52,790 --> 00:29:55,640  
sitting there, weaving  
rugs, because their fingers

631  
00:29:55,640 --> 00:29:56,960  
were so small.

632  
00:29:56,960 --> 00:29:59,060  
And they can learn  
to follow a pattern,

633  
00:29:59,060 --> 00:30:01,770  
and they can know  
what they're doing.

634  
00:30:01,770 --> 00:30:07,257  
There's a lot that children can  
do when it's expected of them.

635  
00:30:07,257 --> 00:30:08,840  
Do you have memories  
of whether or not

636  
00:30:08,840 --> 00:30:11,526  
it was a very frightening  
time for you or?

637  
00:30:11,526 --> 00:30:13,478  
No.

638

00:30:13,478 --> 00:30:16,880

The time in the  
country was quite nice.

639

00:30:16,880 --> 00:30:20,330

I do remember being  
in the, very vividly,

640

00:30:20,330 --> 00:30:26,450

when we were in the marketplace  
one day, and this little town,

641

00:30:26,450 --> 00:30:32,790

that a couple of bombs fell,  
and a goat had its legs cut off.

642

00:30:32,790 --> 00:30:35,270

I mean, it was this memory  
of this goat lying there,

643

00:30:35,270 --> 00:30:38,000

bleeding all over the place.

644

00:30:38,000 --> 00:30:43,350

And I must have been about  
six years old at that point.

645

00:30:43,350 --> 00:30:45,320

And we were aware of the  
fact that we were not

646

00:30:45,320 --> 00:30:48,050

supposed to be out  
too much in the fields

647

00:30:48,050 --> 00:30:52,310

or anything like that, because  
the Germans would sometime--

648

00:30:52,310 --> 00:30:55,280

but at that point, it  
was an occupied country,

649

00:30:55,280 --> 00:30:58,820

so it was not that  
the Germans were

650

00:30:58,820 --> 00:31:00,790

strafing the fields  
as much as they did

651

00:31:00,790 --> 00:31:02,430

at the beginning of the war.

652

00:31:02,430 --> 00:31:05,090

Right, right.

653

00:31:05,090 --> 00:31:06,860

And I have no idea  
why they happened

654

00:31:06,860 --> 00:31:09,210

to attack that small  
market town that day.

655

00:31:09,210 --> 00:31:11,330

Maybe some bombs just  
fell by accident,

656

00:31:11,330 --> 00:31:14,250

and they meant to be bombing  
Warsaw or something like that.

657

00:31:14,250 --> 00:31:15,980

Did you have any  
friends your age?

658

00:31:15,980 --> 00:31:16,480

Yes.

659

00:31:16,480 --> 00:31:20,150

Yeah, there were--  
my nanny's sister,

660

00:31:20,150 --> 00:31:24,600

who came regularly to visit us,



had a little girl my age named

661

00:31:24,600 --> 00:31:26,000

ElÅ¼unia --

662

00:31:26,000 --> 00:31:27,660

Elizabeth.

663

00:31:27,660 --> 00:31:31,260

And so she would be around  
to play with, and then

664

00:31:31,260 --> 00:31:33,055

the children at the school--

665

00:31:33,055 --> 00:31:33,930

But you would never--

666

00:31:33,930 --> 00:31:34,110

--at the church.

667

00:31:34,110 --> 00:31:35,260

--tell them your story?

668

00:31:35,260 --> 00:31:35,760

No.

669

00:31:35,760 --> 00:31:36,260

No.

670

00:31:36,260 --> 00:31:37,070

No.

671

00:31:37,070 --> 00:31:38,190

But nobody talked.

672

00:31:38,190 --> 00:31:42,190

We all knew not to talk anyway,  
in general, because even

673

00:31:42,190 --> 00:31:44,290

the children who  
were not Jewish were

674  
00:31:44,290 --> 00:31:48,200  
aware of who the Germans were  
and what they were doing.

675  
00:31:48,200 --> 00:31:50,940

676  
00:31:50,940 --> 00:31:58,190  
So then comes '44, and Warsaw  
is invaded and destroyed.

677  
00:31:58,190 --> 00:32:01,283  
And you said you saw in the  
distance, you saw the flames.

678  
00:32:01,283 --> 00:32:03,200  
We saw the red-- no, we  
didn't see the flames.

679  
00:32:03,200 --> 00:32:04,340  
We saw red sky.

680  
00:32:04,340 --> 00:32:05,350  
Red sky.

681  
00:32:05,350 --> 00:32:07,790  
And that, I imagine,  
was frightening to you.

682  
00:32:07,790 --> 00:32:10,208  
Did you know what was happening?

683  
00:32:10,208 --> 00:32:12,250  
Of course, your mother  
was with you, fortunately.

684  
00:32:12,250 --> 00:32:14,162  
My mother was with  
me at that point.

685

00:32:14,162 --> 00:32:16,370

And we knew that it wasn't  
good, but we didn't really

686

00:32:16,370 --> 00:32:17,910

know what was happening.

687

00:32:17,910 --> 00:32:21,200

And then what  
happened after that?

688

00:32:21,200 --> 00:32:23,930

Once my father came  
and the war was over,

689

00:32:23,930 --> 00:32:25,460

we moved back to Warsaw.

690

00:32:25,460 --> 00:32:29,910

My father reopened his gallery,  
although in a different place.

691

00:32:29,910 --> 00:32:31,730

They started to look  
for their family.

692

00:32:31,730 --> 00:32:34,360

693

00:32:34,360 --> 00:32:36,850

The fact that he reopened  
it under his own name,

694

00:32:36,850 --> 00:32:39,420

they thought would be helpful,  
the people would know where

695

00:32:39,420 --> 00:32:42,120

they were, would find them.

696

00:32:42,120 --> 00:32:46,720

And they worked through the Red

Cross trying to find people.

697  
00:32:46,720 --> 00:32:49,322  
But nobody was found.

698  
00:32:49,322 --> 00:32:53,090

699  
00:32:53,090 --> 00:32:54,710  
So you lost your relatives?

700  
00:32:54,710 --> 00:32:57,410

701  
00:32:57,410 --> 00:33:02,870  
Everyone except  
this one aunt, who

702  
00:33:02,870 --> 00:33:08,330  
had been sent out very early,  
who was working on a farm, who

703  
00:33:08,330 --> 00:33:11,750  
eventually came to the States.

704  
00:33:11,750 --> 00:33:15,305  
But otherwise, everybody in  
my grandparents' generation,

705  
00:33:15,305 --> 00:33:19,190  
in my parents' generation,  
and mine, in my generation,

706  
00:33:19,190 --> 00:33:21,140  
they were--

707  
00:33:21,140 --> 00:33:22,035  
well, among others--

708  
00:33:22,035 --> 00:33:24,860

709

00:33:24,860 --> 00:33:26,330

And this was very interesting.

710

00:33:26,330 --> 00:33:29,150

At the end of my mother's life--  
and she was almost 100 when she

711

00:33:29,150 --> 00:33:30,650

died--

712

00:33:30,650 --> 00:33:34,460

she suddenly told  
me about this cousin

713

00:33:34,460 --> 00:33:38,060

of hers, a child of  
one of her uncles,

714

00:33:38,060 --> 00:33:39,710

whom she had never  
mentioned before,

715

00:33:39,710 --> 00:33:42,080

ever, because she really  
didn't talk about her family

716

00:33:42,080 --> 00:33:43,460

very much.

717

00:33:43,460 --> 00:33:47,090

And apparently,  
he was at Oxford.

718

00:33:47,090 --> 00:33:48,560

He was about 20.

719

00:33:48,560 --> 00:33:50,600

And when the war broke  
out, he came back

720

00:33:50,600 --> 00:33:53,810

to be with his

family, her uncles.

721

00:33:53,810 --> 00:33:57,160

So his last name would  
have been [? Batlaj. ?]

722

00:33:57,160 --> 00:34:01,884

And he was killed early on,  
or disappeared early on.

723

00:34:01,884 --> 00:34:04,420

You didn't really know what  
happened to most people.

724

00:34:04,420 --> 00:34:06,250

They just sort of  
weren't there one day.

725

00:34:06,250 --> 00:34:10,250

726

00:34:10,250 --> 00:34:13,190

Now, people came back, thinking  
they'd be with their families,

727

00:34:13,190 --> 00:34:16,710

not realizing what was  
going to happen, of course.

728

00:34:16,710 --> 00:34:17,650

So what did that mean?

729

00:34:17,650 --> 00:34:19,250

I mean, you're a  
little girl still.

730

00:34:19,250 --> 00:34:23,060

What did that mean  
that the war is over?

731

00:34:23,060 --> 00:34:24,980

Do you have any  
memories of that time?

732  
00:34:24,980 --> 00:34:26,239  
Well, yes.

733  
00:34:26,239 --> 00:34:27,463  
I do remember some things.

734  
00:34:27,463 --> 00:34:28,880  
For one thing, I  
remember somebody

735  
00:34:28,880 --> 00:34:32,040  
giving me chocolate, which  
I'd never seen before.

736  
00:34:32,040 --> 00:34:34,880  
And I remember being given  
a banana, of all things,

737  
00:34:34,880 --> 00:34:37,040  
by somebody, which I, again,  
had never seen before.

738  
00:34:37,040 --> 00:34:38,126  
Seen before.

739  
00:34:38,126 --> 00:34:40,810

740  
00:34:40,810 --> 00:34:45,340  
The street where the  
gallery was was fairly wide.

741  
00:34:45,340 --> 00:34:50,820  
And one day, there were  
obviously no streetlights,

742  
00:34:50,820 --> 00:34:55,800  
but there were police who  
were really not real police,

743  
00:34:55,800 --> 00:34:58,710

but they would be out there  
directing traffic and so forth.

744  
00:34:58,710 --> 00:34:59,880  
And they did have guns.

745  
00:34:59,880 --> 00:35:01,920  
And of course, there were  
no buses to speak of,

746  
00:35:01,920 --> 00:35:04,470  
so people drove around,  
mostly in trucks

747  
00:35:04,470 --> 00:35:08,742  
with seats going this way  
that they would sit in.

748  
00:35:08,742 --> 00:35:12,340  
And in this case, there was  
a police woman with a gun,

749  
00:35:12,340 --> 00:35:18,000  
and the truck wouldn't stop  
when she was directing it.

750  
00:35:18,000 --> 00:35:19,440  
So she proceeded to shoot.

751  
00:35:19,440 --> 00:35:23,220  
And in some obscure  
way, the bullet

752  
00:35:23,220 --> 00:35:25,050  
went right through a  
whole row of people

753  
00:35:25,050 --> 00:35:26,250  
sitting on these seats.

754  
00:35:26,250 --> 00:35:29,010  
And there was a pharmacy  
in our building,



755

00:35:29,010 --> 00:35:32,340  
and people were being  
brought in to be treated,

756

00:35:32,340 --> 00:35:34,530  
and screaming and  
blood everywhere.

757

00:35:34,530 --> 00:35:39,120  
And that really stayed with me  
too, because I was right there.

758

00:35:39,120 --> 00:35:43,390  
But by that time, I was  
six or seven years old.

759

00:35:43,390 --> 00:35:49,150  
During the war, when you  
would see a German soldier,

760

00:35:49,150 --> 00:35:53,020  
was that a frightening  
sight for you?

761

00:35:53,020 --> 00:35:56,950  
You knew you were not supposed  
to go anywhere near them.

762

00:35:56,950 --> 00:35:59,140  
It was the dogs that  
were so frightening more

763

00:35:59,140 --> 00:36:01,510  
than the Germans,  
because they would always

764

00:36:01,510 --> 00:36:06,120  
have these braces of dogs  
with them on leashes.

765

00:36:06,120 --> 00:36:10,290  
And we were all terrified of the

dogs, who would just be sicced

766

00:36:10,290 --> 00:36:12,150  
on people right and left.

767

00:36:12,150 --> 00:36:15,540  
And I've always,  
to this day, really

768

00:36:15,540 --> 00:36:17,010  
had a fear of German Shepherds.

769

00:36:17,010 --> 00:36:17,920  
And I love dogs.

770

00:36:17,920 --> 00:36:19,800  
I have no problem with dogs.

771

00:36:19,800 --> 00:36:23,070  
But I cannot stand being  
around German Shepherds.

772

00:36:23,070 --> 00:36:26,500  
They were just the  
one dog that was--

773

00:36:26,500 --> 00:36:30,120  
it was more the dogs  
than anything else,

774

00:36:30,120 --> 00:36:32,430  
because they were always  
in front of the soldiers,

775

00:36:32,430 --> 00:36:35,070  
so you barely even were  
aware of the soldier

776

00:36:35,070 --> 00:36:37,860  
behind that group of dogs.

777

00:36:37,860 --> 00:36:42,150

And they would always have  
two or three on leashes

778  
00:36:42,150 --> 00:36:44,140  
right in front of them.

779  
00:36:44,140 --> 00:36:48,240  
Any other fearful times  
that you had during the war

780  
00:36:48,240 --> 00:36:49,560  
that you recall?

781  
00:36:49,560 --> 00:36:55,500

782  
00:36:55,500 --> 00:36:56,610  
No.

783  
00:36:56,610 --> 00:36:59,340  
You were very wound  
up and very careful.

784  
00:36:59,340 --> 00:37:01,620  
I mean, you really were.

785  
00:37:01,620 --> 00:37:05,240  
I was away from my parents  
for almost three years,

786  
00:37:05,240 --> 00:37:09,030  
when you add it all up, because  
my mother didn't show up

787  
00:37:09,030 --> 00:37:12,520  
until she got out around '43.

788  
00:37:12,520 --> 00:37:17,970  
She didn't show up until  
two and a half years later.

789  
00:37:17,970 --> 00:37:20,056

My father three years later.

790  
00:37:20,056 --> 00:37:22,050  
Did you know who she  
was when she came?

791  
00:37:22,050 --> 00:37:22,620  
I did.

792  
00:37:22,620 --> 00:37:23,980  
Apparently, I did.

793  
00:37:23,980 --> 00:37:26,040  
And that was the one thing  
my mother did tell me,

794  
00:37:26,040 --> 00:37:31,050  
that I knew who she was,  
but didn't call her by name.

795  
00:37:31,050 --> 00:37:34,350  
So there was a fairly long time  
between the time they got me

796  
00:37:34,350 --> 00:37:38,160  
out and the time that I  
actually saw them again,

797  
00:37:38,160 --> 00:37:39,780  
and my father even longer.

798  
00:37:39,780 --> 00:37:43,110  
Even longer, yeah.

799  
00:37:43,110 --> 00:37:47,860  
Were there any celebrations  
when the war was over?

800  
00:37:47,860 --> 00:37:50,440  
Not that I can remember.

801  
00:37:50,440 --> 00:37:52,840

They were fortunate  
in that my father had

802  
00:37:52,840 --> 00:37:55,690  
had a lot of diplomats,  
foreign diplomats,

803  
00:37:55,690 --> 00:37:58,220  
as clients before the war.

804  
00:37:58,220 --> 00:38:01,090  
And some of them had  
taken things out for them

805  
00:38:01,090 --> 00:38:03,430  
when the war broke out, or  
kept them, returned them

806  
00:38:03,430 --> 00:38:06,460  
after the war.

807  
00:38:06,460 --> 00:38:09,700  
A friend of theirs came  
back as an ambassador

808  
00:38:09,700 --> 00:38:11,380  
from one of the  
Scandinavian countries.

809  
00:38:11,380 --> 00:38:14,928  
And he arranged for us to  
get visas to go to Sweden,

810  
00:38:14,928 --> 00:38:15,970  
which is how we ended up.

811  
00:38:15,970 --> 00:38:18,390  
Oh.

812  
00:38:18,390 --> 00:38:22,180  
We waited for a quota  
number to come to the States

813

00:38:22,180 --> 00:38:24,370

for four years, but  
we were in Sweden

814

00:38:24,370 --> 00:38:27,360

for three of those years, and  
then in Mexico for nine months.

815

00:38:27,360 --> 00:38:27,860

OK.

816

00:38:27,860 --> 00:38:29,610

When did you leave Warsaw?

817

00:38:29,610 --> 00:38:34,300

818

00:38:34,300 --> 00:38:36,490

We left in '47.

819

00:38:36,490 --> 00:38:37,420

To go to Sweden?

820

00:38:37,420 --> 00:38:38,690

To go to Sweden.

821

00:38:38,690 --> 00:38:41,170

So between the end of the  
war and '47, you were going

822

00:38:41,170 --> 00:38:42,820

to school and--

823

00:38:42,820 --> 00:38:47,740

I don't really remember going  
to school in Warsaw itself,

824

00:38:47,740 --> 00:38:51,340

although I do have a  
school book kicking around,

825

00:38:51,340 --> 00:38:53,560  
so I must have been.

826  
00:38:53,560 --> 00:38:55,390  
And I definitely  
want to first grade

827  
00:38:55,390 --> 00:39:00,970  
because when we went to  
Sweden, I did first grade over,

828  
00:39:00,970 --> 00:39:02,600  
because I was learning  
a new language.

829  
00:39:02,600 --> 00:39:03,230  
Yeah.

830  
00:39:03,230 --> 00:39:04,600  
Yeah.

831  
00:39:04,600 --> 00:39:06,980  
But you obviously saw the  
destruction in Warsaw?

832  
00:39:06,980 --> 00:39:07,480  
Yeah.

833  
00:39:07,480 --> 00:39:08,320  
How terrible.

834  
00:39:08,320 --> 00:39:08,965  
But I hadn't--

835  
00:39:08,965 --> 00:39:10,090  
To a young child, that is--

836  
00:39:10,090 --> 00:39:12,820  
--I hadn't known anything  
except destruction really,

837  
00:39:12,820 --> 00:39:15,280

so it didn't seem  
that different to me,

838  
00:39:15,280 --> 00:39:17,290  
except when I was  
in the country,

839  
00:39:17,290 --> 00:39:19,970  
because the war started  
when I was only one.

840  
00:39:19,970 --> 00:39:21,850  
So I had never  
really seen anything

841  
00:39:21,850 --> 00:39:28,288  
that wasn't in ruins, except  
when I was in the country.

842  
00:39:28,288 --> 00:39:32,970

843  
00:39:32,970 --> 00:39:34,755  
And that life was all right.

844  
00:39:34,755 --> 00:39:36,130  
I mean, we had  
this little house.

845  
00:39:36,130 --> 00:39:40,080  
We had chickens, which I  
remember feeding regularly.

846  
00:39:40,080 --> 00:39:41,070  
That was my job.

847  
00:39:41,070 --> 00:39:44,320  
And we had a well.

848  
00:39:44,320 --> 00:39:48,130  
We had a cellar with a  
little rug and a table



849

00:39:48,130 --> 00:39:54,190

over it, where you could hide  
when there were air raids.

850

00:39:54,190 --> 00:39:57,790

But actually there weren't  
any in the country when

851

00:39:57,790 --> 00:40:01,480

we were there, partly because I  
think the Gestapo headquarters

852

00:40:01,480 --> 00:40:03,490

right across the  
road, so they were not

853

00:40:03,490 --> 00:40:06,350

about to start bombing  
that particular area.

854

00:40:06,350 --> 00:40:11,760

But we did have a bomb cellar,  
which was the usual root cellar

855

00:40:11,760 --> 00:40:13,580

type of cellar.

856

00:40:13,580 --> 00:40:15,080

But you say you  
never had to use it?

857

00:40:15,080 --> 00:40:17,270

And we never really used it.

858

00:40:17,270 --> 00:40:19,318

I mean, we used it  
to store things.

859

00:40:19,318 --> 00:40:20,360

We didn't have very much.

860

00:40:20,360 --> 00:40:22,370

I mean, we had some bread.

861  
00:40:22,370 --> 00:40:24,690  
We had access to bread  
somehow or other,

862  
00:40:24,690 --> 00:40:31,100  
and we ate a lot of bread with  
onions and slices of onion.

863  
00:40:31,100 --> 00:40:33,440  
We had eggs from the chickens.

864  
00:40:33,440 --> 00:40:38,090  
Certainly didn't have milk  
ever, that I can remember.

865  
00:40:38,090 --> 00:40:40,350  
But this was, again,  
in the country.

866  
00:40:40,350 --> 00:40:43,270  
So we had vegetables.

867  
00:40:43,270 --> 00:40:44,740  
So now you hear  
you're going to be

868  
00:40:44,740 --> 00:40:47,136  
going to this foreign country.

869  
00:40:47,136 --> 00:40:49,130  
And to a young child,  
what does that mean?

870  
00:40:49,130 --> 00:40:50,850  
Was it upsetting?

871  
00:40:50,850 --> 00:40:51,400  
No.

872  
00:40:51,400 --> 00:40:53,830

We traveled a lot  
during the years

873  
00:40:53,830 --> 00:40:56,050  
we were in Sweden  
because my father just

874  
00:40:56,050 --> 00:40:58,040  
started up his business again.

875  
00:40:58,040 --> 00:41:00,698  
So we would go with him  
on some of his trips.

876  
00:41:00,698 --> 00:41:02,240  
And they had friends  
all over Europe.

877  
00:41:02,240 --> 00:41:04,270  
No, I meant when you  
were told in Poland

878  
00:41:04,270 --> 00:41:05,520  
that you're going to now have  
to move to another country.

879  
00:41:05,520 --> 00:41:06,440  
Oh, no.

880  
00:41:06,440 --> 00:41:06,940  
No.

881  
00:41:06,940 --> 00:41:09,207  
I'm not aware of being  
worried about it at all.

882  
00:41:09,207 --> 00:41:10,790  
Because you had your  
parents with you.

883  
00:41:10,790 --> 00:41:13,720  
I had moved so many times  
by that time already.

884  
00:41:13,720 --> 00:41:16,780  
It wasn't as if one more move  
was going to be any different.

885  
00:41:16,780 --> 00:41:20,020  
But I counted up once,  
by the time I was 11,

886  
00:41:20,020 --> 00:41:21,800  
I had moved 13 times.

887  
00:41:21,800 --> 00:41:29,110  
So it wasn't a problem.

888  
00:41:29,110 --> 00:41:33,790  
Did any Jews come back to  
Warsaw after the war was over?

889  
00:41:33,790 --> 00:41:34,940  
People did.

890  
00:41:34,940 --> 00:41:37,960  
And I know that some  
of my parents' friends

891  
00:41:37,960 --> 00:41:40,870  
went back to their places,  
only to be murdered

892  
00:41:40,870 --> 00:41:42,940  
by the people who had  
taken over their apartments

893  
00:41:42,940 --> 00:41:46,720  
or houses or businesses.

894  
00:41:46,720 --> 00:41:50,090  
But did your parents feel  
that they were in danger?

895  
00:41:50,090 --> 00:41:51,560

They felt they had to get out.

896

00:41:51,560 --> 00:41:55,460

I mean, what happened was that  
the couple who were mentioned

897

00:41:55,460 --> 00:42:00,620

in this thing in this book that  
I came across on the internet,

898

00:42:00,620 --> 00:42:03,890

that the Polish embassy  
sent me an excerpt

899

00:42:03,890 --> 00:42:09,710

from, they were sort of  
like godparents or were

900

00:42:09,710 --> 00:42:13,190

my parents' closest friends,  
and he was the head conservator

901

00:42:13,190 --> 00:42:16,490

at the national museum.

902

00:42:16,490 --> 00:42:18,800

And they were Catholic.

903

00:42:18,800 --> 00:42:25,410

And she was out walking  
after the war, shopping,

904

00:42:25,410 --> 00:42:27,480

going to buy food.

905

00:42:27,480 --> 00:42:30,360

And a man came along and  
shoved her into the gutter

906

00:42:30,360 --> 00:42:34,140

and said to her, apparently,  
so, you old Jewess,

907

00:42:34,140 --> 00:42:37,250

you survived the war,  
we'll get you yet.

908

00:42:37,250 --> 00:42:41,030

And she apparently went  
immediately to my parents

909

00:42:41,030 --> 00:42:42,530

and said, OK, you've  
got to get out.

910

00:42:42,530 --> 00:42:45,870

It's never going to change here.

911

00:42:45,870 --> 00:42:50,860

Because the anti-Semitism  
was so strong in Poland.

912

00:42:50,860 --> 00:42:56,710

And they got out pretty much  
before the communist government

913

00:42:56,710 --> 00:43:00,510

took over, but very  
shortly before.

914

00:43:00,510 --> 00:43:02,310

And I'm not sure  
about the dates.

915

00:43:02,310 --> 00:43:06,280

I do have the passports and  
so forth from that period.

916

00:43:06,280 --> 00:43:08,400

I just haven't really  
looked at them.

917

00:43:08,400 --> 00:43:09,570

I have to do that.

918

00:43:09,570 --> 00:43:12,490

I mean, I have to get  
all the dates straight.

919

00:43:12,490 --> 00:43:14,190

And I found that some of--

920

00:43:14,190 --> 00:43:16,110

But approximately 1946?

921

00:43:16,110 --> 00:43:17,754

1947.

922

00:43:17,754 --> 00:43:18,254

Oh, '47.

923

00:43:18,254 --> 00:43:19,620

Seven.

924

00:43:19,620 --> 00:43:21,150

But I have to look at them.

925

00:43:21,150 --> 00:43:21,960

I do have them.

926

00:43:21,960 --> 00:43:24,990

I managed to misplace  
all these papers recently

927

00:43:24,990 --> 00:43:27,030

because I was trying  
to clear the house out

928

00:43:27,030 --> 00:43:29,370

and shoved things around.

929

00:43:29,370 --> 00:43:35,400

And when my mother died,  
almost four years ago now,

930

00:43:35,400 --> 00:43:40,080

and I moved a lot of her things

into the house and just sort

931  
00:43:40,080 --> 00:43:42,470  
of everything got confused.

932  
00:43:42,470 --> 00:43:44,760  
Where in Sweden did you settle?

933  
00:43:44,760 --> 00:43:45,353  
In Stockholm.

934  
00:43:45,353 --> 00:43:45,895  
In Stockholm.

935  
00:43:45,895 --> 00:43:49,350  
Yeah, a friend of ours, who  
was with the Dutch Red Cross,

936  
00:43:49,350 --> 00:43:52,630  
had an apartment in Stockholm,  
which he wasn't using.

937  
00:43:52,630 --> 00:43:55,110  
And so it's in these  
pictures, so that

938  
00:43:55,110 --> 00:44:00,750  
was the apartment we lived in  
on [? Rindergarten ?] in '52.

939  
00:44:00,750 --> 00:44:06,010  
And I went to the  
local elementary school

940  
00:44:06,010 --> 00:44:07,950  
for four years.

941  
00:44:07,950 --> 00:44:09,430  
Did you pick up the language?

942  
00:44:09,430 --> 00:44:10,790  
Very, very quickly.



943  
00:44:10,790 --> 00:44:12,880  
And in fact, it was funny,  
there was somewhere I

944  
00:44:12,880 --> 00:44:15,280  
used to have a clipping.

945  
00:44:15,280 --> 00:44:17,290  
Someone took a picture  
of me and wrote up

946  
00:44:17,290 --> 00:44:24,340  
a piece for a local newspaper  
about a typical Swedish girl

947  
00:44:24,340 --> 00:44:26,950  
playing outside in  
the wonderful weather.

948  
00:44:26,950 --> 00:44:29,810  
And then they discovered  
afterward that I wasn't.

949  
00:44:29,810 --> 00:44:33,700  
But I have the picture and  
the little clipping somewhere,

950  
00:44:33,700 --> 00:44:35,620  
my mother took it.

951  
00:44:35,620 --> 00:44:38,710  
Were there any other children  
that you played with who

952  
00:44:38,710 --> 00:44:40,150  
were refugees, who were--

953  
00:44:40,150 --> 00:44:41,605  
No.

954  
00:44:41,605 --> 00:44:43,800

No, there were no  
children to speak of.

955  
00:44:43,800 --> 00:44:47,760  
There was one boy who  
then went with his family

956  
00:44:47,760 --> 00:44:50,310  
to the United States.

957  
00:44:50,310 --> 00:44:56,130  
But he was four or five  
years older than I am.

958  
00:44:56,130 --> 00:44:59,940  
And he was actually,  
his father was Yugoslav,

959  
00:44:59,940 --> 00:45:01,120  
mother was Polish.

960  
00:45:01,120 --> 00:45:03,490  
And eventually, his father  
died during the war.

961  
00:45:03,490 --> 00:45:05,510  
And eventually, they  
moved to New York.

962  
00:45:05,510 --> 00:45:08,470  
And I did see them periodically.

963  
00:45:08,470 --> 00:45:10,150  
And there were  
some other children

964  
00:45:10,150 --> 00:45:15,950  
who are friends of my parents  
who were born after the war.

965  
00:45:15,950 --> 00:45:19,650  
But except for  
Janek this one boy,

966  
00:45:19,650 --> 00:45:21,870  
I didn't know any who were--

967  
00:45:21,870 --> 00:45:24,570  
Did the Swedish  
children ask you--

968  
00:45:24,570 --> 00:45:26,280  
[PHONE RINGING]

969  
00:45:26,280 --> 00:45:28,840  
Do you want to get that?

970  
00:45:28,840 --> 00:45:30,400  
I'm so sorry I missed that call.

971  
00:45:30,400 --> 00:45:34,550

972  
00:45:34,550 --> 00:45:35,600  
Did my parents--

973  
00:45:35,600 --> 00:45:39,860  
No, no I was asking if the  
other children questioned you.

974  
00:45:39,860 --> 00:45:40,950  
No, I don't think so.

975  
00:45:40,950 --> 00:45:44,900  
I don't really remember any  
of that, ever being asked.

976  
00:45:44,900 --> 00:45:47,390  
Yeah, I learned Swedish  
very, very quickly.

977  
00:45:47,390 --> 00:45:51,260  
And I spoke it,  
apparently, perfectly.

978

00:45:51,260 --> 00:45:58,230

And children aren't  
that curious.

979

00:45:58,230 --> 00:46:00,230

Well, also you were very  
young, eight years old,

980

00:46:00,230 --> 00:46:01,050

or nine years old.

981

00:46:01,050 --> 00:46:01,550

Yeah.

982

00:46:01,550 --> 00:46:03,140

Yeah.

983

00:46:03,140 --> 00:46:04,250

And--

984

00:46:04,250 --> 00:46:06,180

So you felt comfortable  
in Stockholm?

985

00:46:06,180 --> 00:46:06,680

Yeah.

986

00:46:06,680 --> 00:46:07,910

I loved the school.

987

00:46:07,910 --> 00:46:10,440

And every summer, the  
Swedish government

988

00:46:10,440 --> 00:46:14,390

arranges for children-- or did  
then-- to go to summer camp.

989

00:46:14,390 --> 00:46:15,860

Depending on their  
health, they'd

990

00:46:15,860 --> 00:46:18,440

send you to the mountains  
or the seashore or something

991

00:46:18,440 --> 00:46:20,370

like that.

992

00:46:20,370 --> 00:46:22,460

And so I did that.

993

00:46:22,460 --> 00:46:24,770

One memory I have, which  
is sort of an odd one,

994

00:46:24,770 --> 00:46:27,800

but for America,  
it's interesting.

995

00:46:27,800 --> 00:46:31,930

The very first  
African-American I ever saw

996

00:46:31,930 --> 00:46:35,230

was Paul Robeson, who  
came to give a concert

997

00:46:35,230 --> 00:46:38,580

and marched in the  
May Day parade.

998

00:46:38,580 --> 00:46:40,080

Of course, I didn't know--

999

00:46:40,080 --> 00:46:43,230

we went to the concert,  
actually, and I heard him sing.

1000

00:46:43,230 --> 00:46:47,070

But in retrospect, that  
seems sort of amazing now.

1001

00:46:47,070 --> 00:46:50,850

But at the time, it was not.

1002  
00:46:50,850 --> 00:46:54,590

1003  
00:46:54,590 --> 00:46:55,785  
It was not that.

1004  
00:46:55,785 --> 00:46:59,990  
And my parents knew people in  
Sweden from before the war.

1005  
00:46:59,990 --> 00:47:03,040  
And there were a  
few of their friends

1006  
00:47:03,040 --> 00:47:06,220  
who went to Sweden  
after the war that we--

1007  
00:47:06,220 --> 00:47:08,470  
mostly women,  
mostly older women.

1008  
00:47:08,470 --> 00:47:12,100  
And most of them lived  
in these little pensions.

1009  
00:47:12,100 --> 00:47:15,220  
Their families were gone.

1010  
00:47:15,220 --> 00:47:20,100  
And this aunt who survived  
was living in one of them.

1011  
00:47:20,100 --> 00:47:22,380  
She didn't live with us then.

1012  
00:47:22,380 --> 00:47:23,460  
Did you miss Poland?

1013  
00:47:23,460 --> 00:47:26,130

1014  
00:47:26,130 --> 00:47:27,690  
I don't think so, particularly.

1015  
00:47:27,690 --> 00:47:31,050  
Sweden was a wonderful  
place for children.

1016  
00:47:31,050 --> 00:47:32,430  
There was lots to do.

1017  
00:47:32,430 --> 00:47:37,930  
And I don't know  
if I was aware of--

1018  
00:47:37,930 --> 00:47:40,540  
I think I was very  
introspective because I

1019  
00:47:40,540 --> 00:47:42,700  
had grown up without  
not really playing

1020  
00:47:42,700 --> 00:47:43,930  
with children very much.

1021  
00:47:43,930 --> 00:47:46,270  
And then after the war,  
I was mostly with adults,

1022  
00:47:46,270 --> 00:47:49,600  
except for school, where I  
had a perfectly good time,

1023  
00:47:49,600 --> 00:47:52,000  
because my parents really  
didn't know families

1024  
00:47:52,000 --> 00:47:55,550  
with children because  
there weren't any children.

1025

00:47:55,550 --> 00:47:57,490

And I think in some  
ways, they didn't really

1026

00:47:57,490 --> 00:48:06,230

know very much about bringing  
up children either, as a result.

1027

00:48:06,230 --> 00:48:09,230

Did the Swedish teachers ask  
you about your background?

1028

00:48:09,230 --> 00:48:10,620

No.

1029

00:48:10,620 --> 00:48:12,490

No.

1030

00:48:12,490 --> 00:48:14,060

So how much did--  
well, I guess you

1031

00:48:14,060 --> 00:48:16,400

don't know how much they knew.

1032

00:48:16,400 --> 00:48:18,890

No, I don't at all.

1033

00:48:18,890 --> 00:48:25,170

And you know that Sweden  
had managed to stay neutral,

1034

00:48:25,170 --> 00:48:28,890

while really in some ways  
cooperating with the Germans.

1035

00:48:28,890 --> 00:48:30,640

And they probably  
didn't particularly much

1036

00:48:30,640 --> 00:48:34,080

want to be reminded



about any of it anyway.

1037  
00:48:34,080 --> 00:48:37,410  
When we then went to  
Mexico for nine months,

1038  
00:48:37,410 --> 00:48:41,250  
my father wanted to study  
pre-Colombian archeology.

1039  
00:48:41,250 --> 00:48:41,970  
And they were--

1040  
00:48:41,970 --> 00:48:44,400  
So that would be 1951?

1041  
00:48:44,400 --> 00:48:46,210  
1949, '49.

1042  
00:48:46,210 --> 00:48:47,220  
Oh, so you were in--

1043  
00:48:47,220 --> 00:48:48,010  
By that time.

1044  
00:48:48,010 --> 00:48:49,020  
You were in Sweden?

1045  
00:48:49,020 --> 00:48:50,190  
We were there four years.

1046  
00:48:50,190 --> 00:48:52,350  
But it doesn't quite  
work in terms of,

1047  
00:48:52,350 --> 00:48:54,090  
because it overlaps years.

1048  
00:48:54,090 --> 00:48:57,660  
So it's four years total, but  
it doesn't quite work in even

1049

00:48:57,660 --> 00:49:01,350

years because it doesn't--

1050

00:49:01,350 --> 00:49:04,023

And how did he get  
passage to Mexico?

1051

00:49:04,023 --> 00:49:04,690

Well, actually--

1052

00:49:04,690 --> 00:49:04,950

And papers?

1053

00:49:04,950 --> 00:49:06,575

--the same man, who  
had been ambassador

1054

00:49:06,575 --> 00:49:08,310

to Poland, Sweden's  
ambassador to Poland,

1055

00:49:08,310 --> 00:49:09,810

became the ambassador to Mexico.

1056

00:49:09,810 --> 00:49:11,670

So he arranged for us to--

1057

00:49:11,670 --> 00:49:13,110

Klaus Festerling.

1058

00:49:13,110 --> 00:49:15,810

And he arranged for  
us to get visas.

1059

00:49:15,810 --> 00:49:17,970

And there they had  
a number of friends

1060

00:49:17,970 --> 00:49:21,300

who had survived the war,  
who had gone to Mexico.

1061

00:49:21,300 --> 00:49:22,440

Directly from Poland?

1062

00:49:22,440 --> 00:49:23,310

From Poland.

1063

00:49:23,310 --> 00:49:24,210

And--

1064

00:49:24,210 --> 00:49:24,990

What city in--

1065

00:49:24,990 --> 00:49:26,850

--one of them-- in Mexico City.

1066

00:49:26,850 --> 00:49:32,010

And one of them, the

18-year-old daughter of one

1067

00:49:32,010 --> 00:49:37,530

of the families, I had

English lessons with her

1068

00:49:37,530 --> 00:49:41,780

at the same time that I

went to seventh grade.

1069

00:49:41,780 --> 00:49:44,810

I jumped from fourth in Sweden

to seventh in the American

1070

00:49:44,810 --> 00:49:48,020

School in Mexico City,

because the Swedish schools

1071

00:49:48,020 --> 00:49:51,932

were very far in advance

of American schools,

1072

00:49:51,932 --> 00:49:53,390

in terms of what

you were learning.

1073  
00:49:53,390 --> 00:49:56,930  
So I took an exam, and they  
stuck me in seventh grade.

1074  
00:49:56,930 --> 00:49:59,450  
So now you know Polish,  
you know Swedish,

1075  
00:49:59,450 --> 00:50:00,710  
you're learning English--

1076  
00:50:00,710 --> 00:50:01,390  
And Spanish.

1077  
00:50:01,390 --> 00:50:02,900  
And Spanish.

1078  
00:50:02,900 --> 00:50:04,880  
But I've really  
forgotten the Swedish.

1079  
00:50:04,880 --> 00:50:07,148  
I can still read it,  
but I haven't spoken it

1080  
00:50:07,148 --> 00:50:07,940  
in all these years.

1081  
00:50:07,940 --> 00:50:08,390  
No, but at the time.

1082  
00:50:08,390 --> 00:50:09,020  
At the time, I did.

1083  
00:50:09,020 --> 00:50:09,560  
At the time, right.

1084  
00:50:09,560 --> 00:50:10,170  
At the time, I did.

1085

00:50:10,170 --> 00:50:11,870  
So now you're doing  
English and Spanish.

1086  
00:50:11,870 --> 00:50:14,750  
I ended up actually  
eventually, years later,

1087  
00:50:14,750 --> 00:50:17,930  
being assistant Scandinavian  
cataloguer at Harvard

1088  
00:50:17,930 --> 00:50:21,410  
because of all of this.

1089  
00:50:21,410 --> 00:50:25,580  
after getting a master's in  
library science after college.

1090  
00:50:25,580 --> 00:50:28,160  
And, again, to travel,  
to leave one country

1091  
00:50:28,160 --> 00:50:30,350  
and go to another country,  
you just accepted.

1092  
00:50:30,350 --> 00:50:31,790  
You were with your parents.

1093  
00:50:31,790 --> 00:50:35,060  
There was no--  
you weren't upset?

1094  
00:50:35,060 --> 00:50:35,780  
Well, you know--

1095  
00:50:35,780 --> 00:50:36,680  
Or questioning?

1096  
00:50:36,680 --> 00:50:37,220  
Or why do--

1097

00:50:37,220 --> 00:50:37,970

--they had lived--

1098

00:50:37,970 --> 00:50:38,720

--we have to move?

1099

00:50:38,720 --> 00:50:42,710

--a very cosmopolitan  
life, as many educated Jews

1100

00:50:42,710 --> 00:50:45,290

before the war did, because  
they were educated abroad.

1101

00:50:45,290 --> 00:50:47,810

They knew all of these  
languages already.

1102

00:50:47,810 --> 00:50:52,130

They had friends all over the  
place, people that they knew.

1103

00:50:52,130 --> 00:50:56,180

I mean, I do remember walking  
in Paris at some point when

1104

00:50:56,180 --> 00:51:01,370

I was, I don't know, nine  
or something, and hearing

1105

00:51:01,370 --> 00:51:05,460

someone speaking German and  
getting really frightened.

1106

00:51:05,460 --> 00:51:08,130

But generally, people did  
not bother to speak German,

1107

00:51:08,130 --> 00:51:09,270

even if they were German.

1108

00:51:09,270 --> 00:51:10,770

If they were wandering  
around Paris,

1109  
00:51:10,770 --> 00:51:13,960  
they would make an effort  
not to, for obvious reasons.

1110  
00:51:13,960 --> 00:51:15,800  
So you didn't really  
hear it very much.

1111  
00:51:15,800 --> 00:51:17,680  
Yeah.

1112  
00:51:17,680 --> 00:51:24,090  
But in Sweden and in Mexico,  
again, just to reiterate,

1113  
00:51:24,090 --> 00:51:26,130  
your parents did not  
talk about the war?

1114  
00:51:26,130 --> 00:51:26,640  
No.

1115  
00:51:26,640 --> 00:51:27,390  
And you didn't--

1116  
00:51:27,390 --> 00:51:29,025  
No.

1117  
00:51:29,025 --> 00:51:29,900  
It was a new chapter.

1118  
00:51:29,900 --> 00:51:32,870  
The friend, Wladislaw  
Brezovsky, who had gotten me out

1119  
00:51:32,870 --> 00:51:41,200  
of the ghetto, had a British  
citizenship as well as Polish.

1120

00:51:41,200 --> 00:51:45,830

And after the war, because  
he worked for a British firm.

1121

00:51:45,830 --> 00:51:47,890

And after he got  
out of Auschwitz,

1122

00:51:47,890 --> 00:51:51,790

with a number tattooed on  
his arm, he went to London.

1123

00:51:51,790 --> 00:51:54,490

And we went a number of  
times and visited him.

1124

00:51:54,490 --> 00:51:59,620

I sort of thought of him  
as my adoptive grandfather.

1125

00:51:59,620 --> 00:52:04,330

He claims I cheated at checkers  
when I was seven years old.

1126

00:52:04,330 --> 00:52:06,850

And somewhere in here.

1127

00:52:06,850 --> 00:52:09,690

1128

00:52:09,690 --> 00:52:14,160

Well, pictures may be upstairs.

1129

00:52:14,160 --> 00:52:16,410

I do have a picture of him.

1130

00:52:16,410 --> 00:52:21,120

These were the people who  
hid my father, the Kuharskys.

1131

00:52:21,120 --> 00:52:23,970

And I was really  
furious with Yad Vashem,



1132  
00:52:23,970 --> 00:52:28,350  
because when I went, my younger  
son was New York Times bureau

1133  
00:52:28,350 --> 00:52:31,960  
chief in Jerusalem, and  
I went to Yad Vashem,

1134  
00:52:31,960 --> 00:52:32,870  
which was a mistake.

1135  
00:52:32,870 --> 00:52:33,640  
I shouldn't have.

1136  
00:52:33,640 --> 00:52:37,320  
The photographs were godawful.

1137  
00:52:37,320 --> 00:52:39,110  
And I went to the  
Polish section,

1138  
00:52:39,110 --> 00:52:43,130  
and I wanted to put  
their names in with the--

1139  
00:52:43,130 --> 00:52:45,450  
And they said, well,  
are they still alive?

1140  
00:52:45,450 --> 00:52:48,420  
And at that time,  
they weren't anymore.

1141  
00:52:48,420 --> 00:52:50,170  
And they said, well,  
if they're not alive,

1142  
00:52:50,170 --> 00:52:51,170  
we're not interested.

1143  
00:52:51,170 --> 00:52:54,740

We only want people whom we can  
give a certificate to and have

1144  
00:52:54,740 --> 00:52:56,252  
a ceremony and so forth.

1145  
00:52:56,252 --> 00:52:57,710  
And if they're not,  
we don't really

1146  
00:52:57,710 --> 00:53:00,640  
want to put their name in.

1147  
00:53:00,640 --> 00:53:04,330  
And my feeling was if you were  
a righteous Gentile, which

1148  
00:53:04,330 --> 00:53:08,280  
is what they called it, it  
shouldn't matter whether you

1149  
00:53:08,280 --> 00:53:13,560  
were alive or not, if you had  
helped people during the war.

1150  
00:53:13,560 --> 00:53:14,940  
So now you're in Mexico.

1151  
00:53:14,940 --> 00:53:17,110  
And how long did  
you stay in Mexico?

1152  
00:53:17,110 --> 00:53:20,220  
We were-- here we  
are in Mexico--

1153  
00:53:20,220 --> 00:53:21,360  
nine months.

1154  
00:53:21,360 --> 00:53:21,930  
Oh.

1155

00:53:21,930 --> 00:53:22,590  
Yeah.

1156  
00:53:22,590 --> 00:53:28,440  
And then so I went only  
partly to seventh grade.

1157  
00:53:28,440 --> 00:53:34,710  
And then we came here.

1158  
00:53:34,710 --> 00:53:37,880  
So, again, in Mexico,  
nobody questioned you?

1159  
00:53:37,880 --> 00:53:38,720  
The other children?

1160  
00:53:38,720 --> 00:53:39,428  
Well, in Mexico--

1161  
00:53:39,428 --> 00:53:41,000  
I mean, now you're even older.

1162  
00:53:41,000 --> 00:53:42,110  
I'm older.

1163  
00:53:42,110 --> 00:53:45,470  
And, no, nobody  
cared in the school.

1164  
00:53:45,470 --> 00:53:48,920  
But, of course, there  
were some Polish families

1165  
00:53:48,920 --> 00:53:52,310  
there that my parents knew.

1166  
00:53:52,310 --> 00:53:55,170  
The girl who was teaching  
me English, for example,

1167  
00:53:55,170 --> 00:53:56,960

who was sort of a late teen.

1168

00:53:56,960 --> 00:53:58,490

But nobody talked about the war.

1169

00:53:58,490 --> 00:54:02,700

Nobody wanted to talk about it.

1170

00:54:02,700 --> 00:54:05,220

And the same thing in

Sweden, they were-- here's

1171

00:54:05,220 --> 00:54:06,010

Diego Rivera.

1172

00:54:06,010 --> 00:54:07,440

I went off to--

1173

00:54:07,440 --> 00:54:09,715

watched him paint portraits.

1174

00:54:09,715 --> 00:54:10,965

He was a friend of my parents.

1175

00:54:10,965 --> 00:54:18,290

1176

00:54:18,290 --> 00:54:20,580

As you're saying, people

did not want to talk.

1177

00:54:20,580 --> 00:54:22,220

Nobody wanted to talk about it.

1178

00:54:22,220 --> 00:54:25,190

And since then, in

recent years, I've

1179

00:54:25,190 --> 00:54:27,800

heard from people

who went to Israel

1180

00:54:27,800 --> 00:54:29,885  
and who tried to talk about it.

1181

00:54:29,885 --> 00:54:32,090  
And nobody wanted to know.

1182

00:54:32,090 --> 00:54:34,460  
Everybody wanted to just  
talk about the future,

1183

00:54:34,460 --> 00:54:36,950  
and they didn't want to  
know what had happened.

1184

00:54:36,950 --> 00:54:40,500  
And so people stopped  
talking about it.

1185

00:54:40,500 --> 00:54:42,480  
I think in the  
case of my parents,

1186

00:54:42,480 --> 00:54:46,420  
my father never ever  
talked about it.

1187

00:54:46,420 --> 00:54:47,440  
How was their health?

1188

00:54:47,440 --> 00:54:50,050

1189

00:54:50,050 --> 00:54:53,620  
My mother, after the war,  
when we were living in Sweden,

1190

00:54:53,620 --> 00:54:55,120  
slept an awful lot.

1191

00:54:55,120 --> 00:54:56,710  
I think she was  
extremely depressed,

1192  
00:54:56,710 --> 00:54:58,030  
but I wasn't aware of that.

1193  
00:54:58,030 --> 00:55:01,310  
I mean, I didn't  
know what it was.

1194  
00:55:01,310 --> 00:55:02,700  
She slept a huge amount.

1195  
00:55:02,700 --> 00:55:06,370

1196  
00:55:06,370 --> 00:55:12,420  
My father was always very  
quiet, very involved in his--

1197  
00:55:12,420 --> 00:55:17,060  
that's an old picture of my  
parents in god knows where.

1198  
00:55:17,060 --> 00:55:19,540

1199  
00:55:19,540 --> 00:55:20,040  
They--

1200  
00:55:20,040 --> 00:55:24,510

1201  
00:55:24,510 --> 00:55:26,770  
I was asking about  
your father's health.

1202  
00:55:26,770 --> 00:55:27,970  
His health was all right.

1203  
00:55:27,970 --> 00:55:31,870  
He had a bullet fragment in  
his back, which didn't really

1204

00:55:31,870 --> 00:55:33,220  
bother him.

1205

00:55:33,220 --> 00:55:37,780  
And he never told me  
how he got it either.

1206

00:55:37,780 --> 00:55:39,990  
But a very odd thing happened.

1207

00:55:39,990 --> 00:55:44,630  
He developed Alzheimer's  
and had to retire in '76.

1208

00:55:44,630 --> 00:55:47,620  
And eventually, they  
moved down here,

1209

00:55:47,620 --> 00:55:52,110  
and he was part of an NIH  
study, because in those days,

1210

00:55:52,110 --> 00:55:56,070  
they didn't realize how  
common Alzheimer's was.

1211

00:55:56,070 --> 00:55:59,520  
And the one proviso was that  
at the death of the person,

1212

00:55:59,520 --> 00:56:04,110  
we were to allow an  
autopsy of the brain.

1213

00:56:04,110 --> 00:56:07,110  
The doctor called me, who  
did the autopsy afterward,

1214

00:56:07,110 --> 00:56:09,210  
and he said, was  
my father a boxer.

1215

00:56:09,210 --> 00:56:11,160  
And I said no.

1216  
00:56:11,160 --> 00:56:14,160  
And he said, well, he has  
brain damage of the type which

1217  
00:56:14,160 --> 00:56:17,040  
only a boxer or somebody that'd  
been hit in the head a lot

1218  
00:56:17,040 --> 00:56:18,760  
would have.

1219  
00:56:18,760 --> 00:56:22,320  
And that's probably what  
caused the Alzheimer's.

1220  
00:56:22,320 --> 00:56:24,050  
Now, my father never  
mentioned anything.

1221  
00:56:24,050 --> 00:56:28,045  
It could only have  
happened during the war.

1222  
00:56:28,045 --> 00:56:29,420  
But he had never  
talked about it.

1223  
00:56:29,420 --> 00:56:30,200  
He never talked about it.

1224  
00:56:30,200 --> 00:56:30,700  
Ever.

1225  
00:56:30,700 --> 00:56:33,880  
And whenever I would  
ask him questions,

1226  
00:56:33,880 --> 00:56:36,520  
he would say, well, when  
I retire and I have time,



1227  
00:56:36,520 --> 00:56:39,280  
because they worked six  
days a week in the gallery.

1228  
00:56:39,280 --> 00:56:41,090  
And then they traveled a lot.

1229  
00:56:41,090 --> 00:56:44,470  
And by that time, I was gone  
anyway and had my own family.

1230  
00:56:44,470 --> 00:56:46,910  
He said, when I retire,  
we'll talk about all of this,

1231  
00:56:46,910 --> 00:56:51,200  
and I'll tell you all-- and  
then he got Alzheimer's.

1232  
00:56:51,200 --> 00:56:55,510  
And

1233  
00:56:55,510 --> 00:56:56,800  
Well, let's stop for a moment.

1234  
00:56:56,800 --> 00:56:58,850  
And we'll start in the  
United States then.

1235  
00:56:58,850 --> 00:57:00,400  
OK.