1 00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:08,380

2

00:00:08,380 --> 00:00:11,320 This is the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

3

00:00:11,320 --> 00:00:18,340 volunteer collection interview with Sarah Ludwig, conducted

4

00:00:18,340 --> 00:00:22,690 by Gail Schwartz on August 19, 2013

5

00:00:22,690 --> 00:00:24,610 at the United States Holocaust Memorial

6

00:00:24,610 --> 00:00:27,340 Museum in Washington, DC.

7

00:00:27,340 --> 00:00:31,400 This track the number 1.

8

00:00:31,400 --> 00:00:33,290 What is your full name?

9

00:00:33,290 --> 00:00:34,970 Sarah Ludwig.

10

00:00:34,970 --> 00:00:37,570 And what was the name that you were born with?

11 $00:00:37.570 \rightarrow 0$

00:00:37,570 --> 00:00:41,210 Sarah Racimora.

12

00:00:41,210 --> 00:00:43,280 And where were you born? 13 00:00:43,280 --> 00:00:45,060 Radom, Poland.

14 00:00:45,060 --> 00:00:46,890 And when?

15 00:00:46,890 --> 00:00:52,470 I was born May 18, 1940.

16 00:00:52,470 --> 00:00:55,150 Let's talk a little bit about your family, your parents.

17 00:00:55,150 --> 00:00:56,470 Your father's name?

18 00:00:56,470 --> 00:00:58,700 Leon Racimora.

19

00:00:58,700 --> 00:01:01,590 And where-- was he originally from there?

20

00:01:01,590 --> 00:01:02,310 Yes, he was.

21

00:01:02,310 --> 00:01:06,120 What's the story of his family-a little bit about that.

22

---00:01:06,120 --> 00:01:08,690 His parents had a restaurant in Radom.

23

00:01:08,690 --> 00:01:12,210 Radom was a very big city in Poland,

24

00:01:12,210 --> 00:01:14,010 one of the largest cities.

00:01:14,010 --> 00:01:17,550 There was a large Jewish population there.

26

00:01:17,550 --> 00:01:20,400 Very close-knitted.

27

00:01:20,400 --> 00:01:23,430 They were very friendly, and most

28

00:01:23,430 --> 00:01:25,920 of the people who lived in Radom used

29

00:01:25,920 --> 00:01:30,190 to come to my grandparent's restaurant.

30

00:01:30,190 --> 00:01:31,200 I don't know the name.

31

00:01:31,200 --> 00:01:33,150 I would like to find out what the name was.

32

00:01:33,150 --> 00:01:34,410 We're still researching it.

33 00:01:34,410 --> 00:01:37,410

34 00:01:37,410 --> 00:01:40,990 They were very well--

35 00:01:40,990 --> 00:01:42,510 how can I put it--

36 00:01:42,510 --> 00:01:44,790 friendly with all the families.

37 00:01:44,790 --> 00:01:47,340 Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

Every family knew each other.

38

00:01:47,340 --> 00:01:52,050 Not only the parents, but also the children

39

00:01:52,050 --> 00:01:53,640 and the grandparents.

40

00:01:53,640 --> 00:01:59,430 So it was a very nice knit Jewish community.

41

00:01:59,430 --> 00:02:00,990 Was your father born in Radom?

42

00:02:00,990 --> 00:02:02,670 Yes, he was.

43

00:02:02,670 --> 00:02:07,620 1912-- May 20, 1912.

44

00:02:07,620 --> 00:02:13,370 And I think that he went to school up to high school

45

00:02:13,370 --> 00:02:14,850 in Radom.

46

00:02:14,850 --> 00:02:16,110 I'm not sure.

47

00:02:16,110 --> 00:02:19,680 My mother, whose name is Stella Szetiski,

48

00:02:19,680 --> 00:02:21,940 That was her maiden name.

49

00:02:21,940 --> 00:02:27,610 And when she married my father, she became Stella Racimora. 50 00:02:27,610 --> 00:02:31,620 Her Hebrew name was Esther Malka.

51 00:02:31,620 --> 00:02:32,453 And her family?

52

00:02:32,453 --> 00:02:33,870 What do you know about her family?

53

00:02:33,870 --> 00:02:38,910 Her family-- her mother was Devora Szetiski.

54

00:02:38,910 --> 00:02:42,720 Her father was Sam Szetiski.

55

00:02:42,720 --> 00:02:47,010 And she had-- she was the oldest daughter.

56

00:02:47,010 --> 00:02:52,300 Then she had a sister named Tova or Tobka.

57

00:02:52,300 --> 00:02:54,760 Then she had a brother.

58

00:02:54,760 --> 00:02:56,980 He was Shmulek.

59

00:02:56,980 --> 00:03:00,510 And then she had a younger sister, Fela,

60

00:03:00,510 --> 00:03:07,130 that we just found out yesterday who she was on the picture.

61 00:03:07,130 --> 00:03:15,300 Her brother was a Jewish policeman in Radom

62

00:03:15,300 --> 00:03:17,980 where the Germans kept touch with him

63

00:03:17,980 --> 00:03:21,820 to see what's going with the Jewish community.

64

00:03:21,820 --> 00:03:24,550 Shmulek was the one who took care of me.

65

00:03:24,550 --> 00:03:26,480 OK, we'll get to that in a minute.

66

00:03:26,480 --> 00:03:28,520 So you had a large extended family--

67 00:03:28,520 --> 00:03:29,020 Yes.

68 00:03:29,020 --> 00:03:30,190 --in Radom.

69

00:03:30,190 --> 00:03:33,485 And were your parents, do you know--

70

00:03:33,485 --> 00:03:35,110 obviously you weren't born at the time,

71

00:03:35,110 --> 00:03:37,900 but do you know if they were very religious, observant?

72 00:03:37,900 --> 00:03:38,410 Yes. 73 00:03:38,410 --> 00:03:41,800 They came from an orthodox background.

74 00:03:41,800 --> 00:03:44,510 And what were they, Zionists?

75

00:03:44,510 --> 00:03:47,462 Yes, well at that time they lived in Poland.

76

00:03:47,462 --> 00:03:49,670 I don't think that they were that aware about Israel,

77

00:03:49,670 --> 00:03:51,540 to be very honest with you.

78

00:03:51,540 --> 00:03:53,390 It was Palestine at that time.

79 00:03:53,390 --> 00:03:53,890 I got that.

80 00:03:53,890 --> 00:03:56,570 You weren't born, so I just didn't

81 00:03:56,570 --> 00:03:58,710 know what you found out later.

82 00:03:58,710 --> 00:04:04,160 So you had this large extended family and had the restaurant.

83 00:04:04,160 --> 00:04:07,550 Now you are born, you said, in 1940.

84 00:04:07,550 --> 00:04:08,080 Correct. 85 00:04:08,080 --> 00:04:12,310 OK, and what are your first memories?

86 00:04:12,310 --> 00:04:15,920 Very little, to be very honest with you.

87 00:04:15,920 --> 00:04:18,570 I was born in a very--

88 00:04:18,570 --> 00:04:21,310 The Germans had already invaded Poland obviously.

89

00:04:21,310 --> 00:04:22,089 Exactly.

90

00:04:22,089 --> 00:04:24,670 So you were born after the invasion.

91

00:04:24,670 --> 00:04:27,310 Exactly.

92

00:04:27,310 --> 00:04:30,730 The community in Radom did not believe that anything

93 00:04:30,730 --> 00:04:32,650

would happen to them.

94

00:04:32,650 --> 00:04:36,700 They just sat still, didn't do nothing about it.

95 00:04:36,700 --> 00:04:39,040 There was no warning they figured,

96 00:04:39,040 --> 00:04:41,140 Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

you know, they lived a nice life.

97 00:04:41,140 --> 00:04:43,060 They were happy with each other.

98 00:04:43,060 --> 00:04:45,670 There were [INAUDIBLE] they went to and everything else.

99

00:04:45,670 --> 00:04:52,760 Nothing will happen to us, until the Germans invaded Radom.

100 00:04:52,760 --> 00:04:55,340 This is in 1942?

101 00:04:55,340 --> 00:04:56,950 Yes.

102

00:04:56,950 --> 00:05:02,590 So did your parents tell you anything about your first two

103

00:05:02,590 --> 00:05:04,100 years of life?

104

00:05:04,100 --> 00:05:04,600 No, no.

105

00:05:04,600 --> 00:05:05,335 I was too young.

106

00:05:05,335 --> 00:05:06,460 No, no, you were too young.

107

00:05:06,460 --> 00:05:08,627 I'm just saying did your parents ever tell you later

108 00:05:08,627 --> 00:05:10,390 about those first two years?

109 00:05:10,390 --> 00:05:12,810 My mother never spoke about it.

110 00:05:12,810 --> 00:05:14,500 OK.

111 00:05:14,500 --> 00:05:18,640 My father was the one that was instrumental in setting up

112 00:05:18,640 --> 00:05:19,660 a society--

113 00:05:19,660 --> 00:05:26,310 a Radom society with all the survivors in New York

114 00:05:26,310 --> 00:05:27,880 presently, you know.

115 00:05:27,880 --> 00:05:30,830 And they used to get together on all the [INAUDIBLE]..

116 00:05:30,830 --> 00:05:34,370 And there were quite a few survivors that survived.

117 00:05:34,370 --> 00:05:39,040 And that's how they kept their memories about Radom.

118 00:05:39,040 --> 00:05:40,420 They became Zionists.

119 00:05:40,420 --> 00:05:44,440 They started sending money to Israel.

120 00:05:44,440 --> 00:05:48,055 They bought an ambulance for Israel, Magen David.

121 00:05:48,055 --> 00:05:50,820

122 00:05:50,820 --> 00:05:53,730 All right, so now the Germans invade,

123 00:05:53,730 --> 00:05:56,570 and then what happened in Radom.

124 00:05:56,570 --> 00:06:00,800 The Germans invaded, and of course they--

125 00:06:00,800 --> 00:06:01,780 The ghetto was set up.

126 00:06:01,780 --> 00:06:02,730 The ghetto was set up.

127 00:06:02,730 --> 00:06:04,610 So you were born in the ghetto?

128 00:06:04,610 --> 00:06:06,430 No, I was born in Radom.

129 00:06:06,430 --> 00:06:07,980 OK.

130 00:06:07,980 --> 00:06:09,990 The Germans invaded.

131 00:06:09,990 --> 00:06:13,590 We were all evacuated from Radom,

132 00:06:13,590 --> 00:06:23,880 and we went to Pionki, which was a labor camp. 133 00:06:23,880 --> 00:06:26,055 And how did you get there?

134 00:06:26,055 --> 00:06:27,180 Well, I couldn't get there.

135 00:06:27,180 --> 00:06:32,330 They didn't allow the children there to the labor camp.

136 00:06:32,330 --> 00:06:35,040 No children were allowed in the labor camp.

137 00:06:35,040 --> 00:06:36,400 So your parents left first?

138 00:06:36,400 --> 00:06:37,610 What--

139 00:06:37,610 --> 00:06:39,890 They left Radom.

140 00:06:39,890 --> 00:06:41,540 Your parents left together?

141 00:06:41,540 --> 00:06:42,690 Together.

142 00:06:42,690 --> 00:06:47,840 And we came to this big lot, and we were separated.

143 00:06:47,840 --> 00:06:52,880 The women were in one row, and the men were in the other row.

144 00:06:52,880 --> 00:06:55,700 And what they did, they tattooed us. 00:06:55,700 --> 00:06:57,660 Well, I think that's a little bit later.

146 00:06:57,660 --> 00:06:59,040 I think a little bit later.

147 00:06:59,040 --> 00:07:02,510 Let's move back in time.

148 00:07:02,510 --> 00:07:07,850 You were in the ghetto, and then--

149 00:07:07,850 --> 00:07:09,960 We evacuated from the ghetto.

150 00:07:09,960 --> 00:07:12,590 Yeah, but was your father taken away first?

151 00:07:12,590 --> 00:07:14,900 Did you mother-- was he taken away first?

152 00:07:14,900 --> 00:07:19,060

153 00:07:19,060 --> 00:07:19,892 Probably.

154 00:07:19,892 --> 00:07:21,440 Probably-- I don't recall.

155 00:07:21,440 --> 00:07:21,940 I was--

156 00:07:21,940 --> 00:07:22,710 No, I know.

157 00:07:22,710 --> 00:07:22,940 I know. 158 00:07:22,940 --> 00:07:24,620 I'm just saying this is information

159 00:07:24,620 --> 00:07:26,390 that gotten later on.

160 00:07:26,390 --> 00:07:28,030 So he was taken away.

161 00:07:28,030 --> 00:07:29,560 And then your mother--

162 00:07:29,560 --> 00:07:31,660 was she then taken away later?

163 00:07:31,660 --> 00:07:33,160 No my mother was with me.

164 00:07:33,160 --> 00:07:34,890 Stayed in--

165 00:07:34,890 --> 00:07:37,636 Radom until we were evacuated from Radom.

166 00:07:37,636 --> 00:07:38,136 OK.

167 00:07:38,136 --> 00:07:45,710

168 00:07:45,710 --> 00:07:49,970 So can you maybe just tell me more specifically

169 00:07:49,970 --> 00:07:53,180 what happened in Radom when you were in the ghetto 00:07:53,180 --> 00:07:55,860 and how your parents got out?

171 00:07:55,860 --> 00:07:57,420 OK.

172 00:07:57,420 --> 00:07:58,840 And your uncle, Shmulek.

173 00:07:58,840 --> 00:08:03,890 Shmulek was my mother's brother, and Shmulek

174 00:08:03,890 --> 00:08:09,040 was a Jewish policeman under the Nazis--

175 00:08:09,040 --> 00:08:11,690 under this thing.

176 00:08:11,690 --> 00:08:13,610 I could not go into the labor camp.

177

00:08:13,610 --> 00:08:16,350 No children were allowed in the labor camp.

178

00:08:16,350 --> 00:08:20,720 So Shmulek said to my father, I'll take care of Sarah.

179 00:08:20,720 --> 00:08:23,820 And he took care of me for quite a while.

180 00:08:23,820 --> 00:08:26,790 I don't know how long, to be very honest with you.

181 00:08:26,790 --> 00:08:30,140 Then the time came, and he called my father up, 182 00:08:30,140 --> 00:08:34,440 and he says, Leon, my position was diminished,

183 00:08:34,440 --> 00:08:36,500 and I cannot take care of Sarah anymore.

184 00:08:36,500 --> 00:08:39,530 Your father is now in Pionki, and you're in Radom.

185 00:08:39,530 --> 00:08:40,090 I see.

186 00:08:40,090 --> 00:08:40,590 Yes.

187 00:08:40,590 --> 00:08:44,370 And your mother is where?

188 00:08:44,370 --> 00:08:45,160 Pionki also.

189 00:08:45,160 --> 00:08:45,660 Yeah.

190 00:08:45,660 --> 00:08:47,380 Oh, so she left also.

191 00:08:47,380 --> 00:08:48,220 Right.

192 00:08:48,220 --> 00:08:51,730 So you were by yourself with your uncle in the Radom ghetto.

193 00:08:51,730 --> 00:08:52,560 Right.

194

00:08:52,560 --> 00:08:55,090 OK, and so then he contacted your father.

195

00:08:55,090 --> 00:08:58,330 And he said, Leon, my job was diminished,

196

00:08:58,330 --> 00:09:01,870 and I cannot take care of Sarah anymore.

197

00:09:01,870 --> 00:09:04,720 You have to find a solution to take care of Sarah.

198 00:09:04,720 --> 00:09:07,450

199 00:09:07,450 --> 00:09:11,500 My father was a very industrious human being--

200 00:09:11,500 --> 00:09:13,850 knew how to solve problems.

201 00:09:13,850 --> 00:09:17,230 He called one of his friends, and he says, listen guys.

202 00:09:17,230 --> 00:09:20,420 We gotta get Sarah into Pionki.

203 00:09:20,420 --> 00:09:27,300 So they managed to get a truck, and in the truck

204 00:09:27,300 --> 00:09:32,440 with potato sacks, they put me in a potato sack.

205 00:09:32,440 --> 00:09:37,280 And my father caught me on this truck

206

00:09:37,280 --> 00:09:39,630 and smuggled me into Pionki.

207

00:09:39,630 --> 00:09:41,790 They threw you out in the potato sack.

208

00:09:41,790 --> 00:09:44,800 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

209

00:09:44,800 --> 00:09:48,728 And put me in a potato sack, and someone threw the potato sack

210

00:09:48,728 --> 00:09:49,270 at my father.

211

00:09:49,270 --> 00:09:50,270 Into your father's arms.

212 00:09:50,270 --> 00:09:51,910 To catch it-- right, exactly.

213 00:09:51,910 --> 00:09:53,390 And they--

214 00:09:53,390 --> 00:09:56,040 Now when you say your uncle called your father

215 00:09:56,040 --> 00:09:57,940 and so forth, what do you mean by that?

216 00:09:57,940 --> 00:10:00,190 Well, he let him know that he couldn't take care of me

217 00:10:00,190 --> 00:10:00,310 anymore.

218 00:10:00,310 --> 00:10:01,810 You don't know how he contacted him.

219 00:10:01,810 --> 00:10:02,520 I have no idea.

220 00:10:02,520 --> 00:10:04,562 No, I have no idea how they contacted each other.

221 00:10:04,562 --> 00:10:06,250 I know it's all layered, of course.

222

00:10:06,250 --> 00:10:09,700 I don't know, but he contacted my father that he cannot take

223

00:10:09,700 --> 00:10:15,190 care of me anymore-- that it was his responsibility to get me

224

00:10:15,190 --> 00:10:17,580 into the labor camp.

225

00:10:17,580 --> 00:10:19,190 Because children were not allowed.

226

00:10:19,190 --> 00:10:21,560 It was only adults.

227 00:10:21,560 --> 00:10:23,450 So now you're there.

228 00:10:23,450 --> 00:10:29,620 We're there-- took me out of a potato sack, and I was there.

229 00:10:29,620 --> 00:10:33,880 They obviously had some kind of a room where

230 00:10:33,880 --> 00:10:39,880 my father and mother stayed, and I lived there with my parents.

231 00:10:39,880 --> 00:10:42,310 And the only thing that my parents said to me-- they said,

232 00:10:42,310 --> 00:10:48,910 Sarah, when you hear the footsteps of boots,

233 00:10:48,910 --> 00:10:50,800 those are Germans.

234 00:10:50,800 --> 00:10:54,010 You have to make sure that you hide under the bed

235 00:10:54,010 --> 00:10:55,340 so they will not discover.

236

00:10:55,340 --> 00:10:58,714 Because you're really are not allowed to be here.

237

00:10:58,714 --> 00:11:05,230 And that's how I survives that whole era in Pionki.

238 00:11:05,230 --> 00:11:08,710 Do you have any memories of being under the bed?

239 00:11:08,710 --> 00:11:12,820 I remember-- that I remember.

240 00:11:12,820 --> 00:11:14,140 What was it like? 241 00:11:14,140 --> 00:11:15,160 What was it like?

242

00:11:15,160 --> 00:11:19,510 It was scary as a young child to say to you,

243

00:11:19,510 --> 00:11:24,380 you can't-- you can't play when you hear those footsteps.

244

00:11:24,380 --> 00:11:28,420 And my mother made sure that I understood what was going on.

245

00:11:28,420 --> 00:11:30,730 I wasn't a rebellious child.

246

00:11:30,730 --> 00:11:31,903 I listened.

247

00:11:31,903 --> 00:11:33,570 My mother said you gotta do that, Sarah,

248

00:11:33,570 --> 00:11:36,030 if you want to survive.

249

00:11:36,030 --> 00:11:41,030 And whenever I heard footsteps and the boots of the Germans,

250 00:11:41,030 --> 00:11:43,880 I hid under the bed.

251 00:11:43,880 --> 00:11:45,790 And they obviously never found you.

252 00:11:45,790 --> 00:11:47,950 No, no.

253 00:11:47,950 --> 00:11:50,920 That's why I'm here telling the story.

254 00:11:50,920 --> 00:11:54,080 What kind of work did your parents do in Pionki?

255

00:11:54,080 --> 00:11:58,270 My father worked for his parents in the restaurant.

256 00:11:58,270 --> 00:12:01,000 I told you they had a

I told you they had a restaurant in Radom.

257

00:12:01,000 --> 00:12:01,560 No, no, no.

258 00:12:01,560 --> 00:12:02,560 In Pionki.

259 00:12:02,560 --> 00:12:06,910 In Pionki he went into the food business.

260 00:12:06,910 --> 00:12:12,780 He went out and he bought food, and he started a kitchen

261 00:12:12,780 --> 00:12:15,380 in Pionki to feed the people that

262 00:12:15,380 --> 00:12:17,742 were there in the labor camp.

263 00:12:17,742 --> 00:12:19,200 And your mother did the same thing.

264 00:12:19,200 --> 00:12:21,640 Yeah, they worked together.

265

00:12:21,640 --> 00:12:23,720 And so you were there for--

_ _ _ _

266 00:12:23,720 --> 00:12:25,600 so do you have any memories of what you did

267

00:12:25,600 --> 00:12:27,760 when you weren't under the bed?

268

00:12:27,760 --> 00:12:28,260 I don't.

269

00:12:28,260 --> 00:12:29,170 No memories.

270

00:12:29,170 --> 00:12:31,910 Of course you were very young.

271 00:12:31,910 --> 00:12:32,470 No.

272 00:12:32,470 --> 00:12:33,340 I had no toys.

273 00:12:33,340 --> 00:12:34,570 I know that.

274

00:12:34,570 --> 00:12:40,420 It's not like I had maybe a doll or something, you know.

275 00:12:40,420 --> 00:12:42,280 I had nothing, no.

276 00:12:42,280 --> 00:12:46,230 It was survival of the fittest.

277 00:12:46,230 --> 00:12:48,510 Did you ever go outside the room?

278 00:12:48,510 --> 00:12:49,320 I don't remember.

279 00:12:49,320 --> 00:12:52,150 You don't remember.

280 00:12:52,150 --> 00:12:55,210 If you tell me describe the room,

281 00:12:55,210 --> 00:12:57,970 I couldn't describe it, to be very honest with you.

282 00:12:57,970 --> 00:13:00,880 Because my mother never spoke about it.

283 00:13:00,880 --> 00:13:01,730 Later, yeah.

284 00:13:01,730 --> 00:13:04,330 Yeah, later.

285 00:13:04,330 --> 00:13:07,480 But do you have any sense that it was a scary time for you?

286 00:13:07,480 --> 00:13:08,570 Oh, absolutely.

287 00:13:08,570 --> 00:13:09,337 Absolutely.

288 00:13:09,337 --> 00:13:10,170 You have that sense.

289 00:13:10,170 --> 00:13:11,740 Oh, sure. 290 00:13:11,740 --> 00:13:12,490 Absolutely.

291 00:13:12,490 --> 00:13:17,320 OK, so you're there when you're 2 and 3 and possibly 4.

292 00:13:17,320 --> 00:13:20,650 And is there anything else you want to say about Pionki?

293 00:13:20,650 --> 00:13:23,740 Your parents stayed for how long?

294 00:13:23,740 --> 00:13:27,820 In Pionki we were how long?

295 00:13:27,820 --> 00:13:31,420 I know you didn't leave until probably August '44.

296 00:13:31,420 --> 00:13:35,340 But did your father leave before that?

297 00:13:35,340 --> 00:13:37,910 But from Pionki I went to Auschwitz, didn't I?

298 00:13:37,910 --> 00:13:38,410 Yes.

299 00:13:38,410 --> 00:13:39,760 Yes, that's what I'm saying.

300 00:13:39,760 --> 00:13:43,470 So you were there from '42 to '44.

301 00:13:43,470 --> 00:13:45,290

> This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

No, not that long.

302

00:13:45,290 --> 00:13:48,420 Yeah, OK, '42 to '44.

303

00:13:48,420 --> 00:13:50,530 Do you remember leaving Pionki?

304

00:13:50,530 --> 00:13:51,030 No.

305

00:13:51,030 --> 00:13:51,750 You don't.

306

00:13:51,750 --> 00:13:52,650 I don't remember.

307

00:13:52,650 --> 00:13:56,160 And then the three of you were taken to Auschwitz--

308

00:13:56,160 --> 00:13:58,740 your mother, your father, and you.

309

00:13:58,740 --> 00:14:02,080 Not really no.

310

00:14:02,080 --> 00:14:07,780 I was taken to Auschwitz, but before we went to Auschwitz,

311 00:14:07,780 --> 00:14:10,010 they tattooed us.

312 00:14:10,010 --> 00:14:12,150 They put numbers on our arms.

313 00:14:12,150 --> 00:14:13,910 You sure that wasn't in Auschwitz?

314 00:14:13,910 --> 00:14:18,620 No, before we went into Auschwitz.

315 00:14:18,620 --> 00:14:21,350 The tattooing began before we went to Auschwitz.

316 00:14:21,350 --> 00:14:23,930

317 00:14:23,930 --> 00:14:26,490 Do you know where that was?

318 00:14:26,490 --> 00:14:27,040 Auschwitz?

319 00:14:27,040 --> 00:14:27,670 No, no, no.

320 00:14:27,670 --> 00:14:29,220 Where-- the tattooing took place.

321 00:14:29,220 --> 00:14:29,730 Right here.

322 00:14:29,730 --> 00:14:30,870 No, no, no.

323 00:14:30,870 --> 00:14:32,250 The city or the town.

324 00:14:32,250 --> 00:14:32,910 The city?

325 00:14:32,910 --> 00:14:36,040 Probably Radom.

326 00:14:36,040 --> 00:14:40,230 They evacuated all of Radom. 327 00:14:40,230 --> 00:14:43,910 You went from Radom to Pionki, from Pionki to Auschwitz.

328 00:14:43,910 --> 00:14:44,410 Right.

329 00:14:44,410 --> 00:14:45,460 From what I understand.

330 00:14:45,460 --> 00:14:46,500 OK.

331 00:14:46,500 --> 00:14:49,970 But before we entered Auschwitz, we were tattooed.

332 00:14:49,970 --> 00:14:52,450 OK, we can talk about that a little later.

333 00:14:52,450 --> 00:14:55,080 So now three of you are leaving together

334 00:14:55,080 --> 00:14:59,760 from Radom to going on your way to Auschwitz,

335 00:14:59,760 --> 00:15:03,420 and you said before you got to Auschwitz, they put on a tattoo

336 00:15:03,420 --> 00:15:04,458 on your arm.

337 00:15:04,458 --> 00:15:05,750 What was that like for a child.

338 00:15:05,750 --> 00:15:06,760 Do you remember that? 339 00:15:06,760 --> 00:15:07,552 Getting the tattoo?

340 00:15:07,552 --> 00:15:08,400 I remember that.

341 00:15:08,400 --> 00:15:11,520 Standing in line--

there was a big line.

342

00:15:11,520 --> 00:15:13,500 I remember my mother--

343

00:15:13,500 --> 00:15:16,380 they put a tattoo on my mother's hand first,

344

00:15:16,380 --> 00:15:21,800 and then my mother held me, and they touched me.

345 00:15:21,800 --> 00:15:23,080 And you got a number.

346

00:15:23,080 --> 00:15:23,990 Yes.

347

00:15:23,990 --> 00:15:25,055 What was the number?

348

00:15:25,055 --> 00:15:26,520 Do you know what the number is?

349 00:15:26,520 --> 00:15:27,380 Do you remember?

350 00:15:27,380 --> 00:15:28,910 What the number is?

351 00:15:28,910 --> 00:15:30,345 We have it somewhere, you know.

352

00:15:30,345 --> 00:15:30,970 You don't know.

353

00:15:30,970 --> 00:15:31,750 Yeah.

354

00:15:31,750 --> 00:15:32,330 Yeah.

355

00:15:32,330 --> 00:15:37,940 So what was the trip like between Pionki and Auschwitz?

356

00:15:37,940 --> 00:15:42,410 The trip was they got cattle cars--

357

00:15:42,410 --> 00:15:47,360 trains that the Germans used to take cattle

358

00:15:47,360 --> 00:15:49,460 to different places.

359

 $00:15:49,460 \rightarrow 00:15:53,510$ And all of us had to go into those cattle trains.

360 00:15:53,510 --> 00:15:54,635 That I remember distinctly.

361 00:15:54,635 --> 00:15:55,640 You do remember.

362 00:15:55,640 --> 00:15:56,825 That I remember.

363 00:15:56,825 --> 00:15:58,200 With your mother and your father?

364 00:15:58,200 --> 00:16:00,080 My mother and my father--

365 00:16:00,080 --> 00:16:02,190 our whole family.

366 00:16:02,190 --> 00:16:03,880 Was it more relatives?

367 00:16:03,880 --> 00:16:05,750 Yeah, my grandparents.

368 00:16:05,750 --> 00:16:07,940 My grandparents, all of us.

369 00:16:07,940 --> 00:16:10,700 It was very crowded, smelly.

370 00:16:10,700 --> 00:16:14,210 There were no facilities for bathrooms.

371 00:16:14,210 --> 00:16:17,010 There was no air coming in or anything like that.

372 00:16:17,010 --> 00:16:18,810 This is August 1944.

373 00:16:18,810 --> 00:16:19,790 Right.

374 00:16:19,790 --> 00:16:24,290 And they took us to Auschwitz from there.

375 00:16:24,290 --> 00:16:27,680 Now when we got to Auschwitz, we were separated. 00:16:27,680 --> 00:16:31,760 The children went to the kinder house in Auschwitz.

377

00:16:31,760 --> 00:16:38,250 My mother-- we found out now that she was in Czechoslovakia.

378

00:16:38,250 --> 00:16:40,180 We did some research.

379

00:16:40,180 --> 00:16:42,410 Yeah.

380

00:16:42,410 --> 00:16:44,760 Do remember the arrival in Auschwitz at all?

381

00:16:44,760 --> 00:16:47,270 Do you have any memories of that as a child?

382 00:16:47,270 --> 00:16:48,680 Yeah, very young child.

383

00:16:48,680 --> 00:16:51,210 I couldn't tell you specifically.

384 00:16:51,210 --> 00:16:56,130 All I knew that we were on this train for quite a few days.

385 00:16:56,130 --> 00:16:56,970 It was smelly.

386 00:16:56,970 --> 00:16:59,170 I couldn't wait to get out of there.

387 00:16:59,170 --> 00:17:03,120 And the next thing I knew we were in Auschwitz. 388 00:17:03,120 --> 00:17:07,109 And then I was separated from my mother, my father.

389 00:17:07,109 --> 00:17:08,700 And I was taken to the kinder house.

390

00:17:08,700 --> 00:17:12,359 Was your mother our father able to say goodbye to you?

391 00:17:12,359 --> 00:17:14,490 I don't remember specifics.

392 00:17:14,490 --> 00:17:16,170 I really don't.

393

00:17:16,170 --> 00:17:18,119 I'm sure that we have and everything else,

394

00:17:18,119 --> 00:17:20,109 you know what I mean?

395

00:17:20,109 --> 00:17:22,920 OK, so now you're in the children's house.

396 00:17:22,920 --> 00:17:25,760 What memories do you have of that?

397 00:17:25,760 --> 00:17:27,319 None.

398 00:17:27,319 --> 00:17:30,530 None whatsoever, to be very honest with you.

399 00:17:30,530 --> 00:17:31,700 Who took care of me?

400

00:17:31,700 --> 00:17:33,620 We were discussing it.

401 00:17:33,620 --> 00:17:36,590 I had no idea who took care of the children in Auschwitz.

402 00:17:36,590 --> 00:17:39,410

403 00:17:39,410 --> 00:17:42,100 And what did you do?

404 00:17:42,100 --> 00:17:43,400 What did we do?

405 00:17:43,400 --> 00:17:44,560 I couldn't tell you.

406 00:17:44,560 --> 00:17:47,797 I don't remember, to be very honest with--

407 00:17:47,797 --> 00:17:49,130 Were there people who helped me?

408 00:17:49,130 --> 00:17:50,390 I don't know.

409 00:17:50,390 --> 00:17:53,510 But we found out later on when we went on the internet

410 00:17:53,510 --> 00:17:56,450 some more information that we know now

411 00:17:56,450 --> 00:17:58,430 what was happening to me. 412 00:17:58,430 --> 00:17:59,450 Which was?

413 00:17:59,450 --> 00:18:04,340 Which was the Russians came in.

414 00:18:04,340 --> 00:18:06,500 Oh, this is towards the end.

415 00:18:06,500 --> 00:18:07,000 OK.

416 00:18:07,000 --> 00:18:09,300 And but the Russians were instrumental enough

417 00:18:09,300 --> 00:18:13,440 to bring in help to care for the kids there.

418 00:18:13,440 --> 00:18:19,530 So they brought nannies, and some of the prisoners

419

00:18:19,530 --> 00:18:22,200 that were in prison in Auschwitz,

420

00:18:22,200 --> 00:18:27,300 they were helping to take care of the kids.

421 00:18:27,300 --> 00:18:29,866 They made sure that the children were taken care of.

422 00:18:29,866 --> 00:18:33,338

423 00:18:33,338 --> 00:18:35,605 And so you remember the Russians? 424 00:18:35,605 --> 00:18:37,980 I don't remember the Russians, but I knew there was help.

425 00:18:37,980 --> 00:18:39,930 There were people who helped us.

426 00:18:39,930 --> 00:18:42,060 You know, there were women who helped us

427 00:18:42,060 --> 00:18:43,710 if we needed anything.

428 00:18:43,710 --> 00:18:45,420 You ask me, what did they feed you?

429 00:18:45,420 --> 00:18:46,980 I don't know.

430 00:18:46,980 --> 00:18:47,820 Did you sleep?

431 00:18:47,820 --> 00:18:48,960 I don't know.

432 00:18:48,960 --> 00:18:53,880 But they were adults there to supervise us,

433 00:18:53,880 --> 00:18:56,670 because the Russians were there.

434 00:18:56,670 --> 00:18:59,550 And the other children were just as young as you?

435 00:18:59,550 --> 00:19:00,490 They were all ages. 436 00:19:00,490 --> 00:19:00,990 All ages.

437 00:19:00,990 --> 00:19:02,580 They were all ages.

438 00:19:02,580 --> 00:19:06,240 Do you have any memories of any of these children?

439 00:19:06,240 --> 00:19:06,870 Not really.

440 00:19:06,870 --> 00:19:07,740 No.

441 00:19:07,740 --> 00:19:09,870 What language did you speak?

442 00:19:09,870 --> 00:19:12,810 I spoke Polish, and

I spoke Yiddish.

443

00:19:12,810 --> 00:19:13,470 Yiddish, OK.

444

00:19:13,470 --> 00:19:15,630 Yeah, those two languages.

445

00:19:15,630 --> 00:19:17,260 OK.

446

00:19:17,260 --> 00:19:23,390 So now the Russians have come, so it's January, obviously '45.

447 00:19:23,390 --> 00:19:27,405 And you hadn't-- did you see your parents?

448 00:19:27,405 --> 00:19:29,790 Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

Do you know if you saw your parents when you went--

449 00:19:29,790 --> 00:19:30,980 Didn't see anyone, no.

450 00:19:30,980 --> 00:19:33,720 In children's house-- while you were in children's house.

451 00:19:33,720 --> 00:19:34,428 Until liberation.

452 00:19:34,428 --> 00:19:36,240 What happened with-until liberation.

453 00:19:36,240 --> 00:19:38,510 What happened with your parents?

454 00:19:38,510 --> 00:19:41,897 Did they tell you later after you were separated?

455

00:19:41,897 --> 00:19:43,980 When you went to Auschwitz and you were separated,

456

00:19:43,980 --> 00:19:45,438 you went into the children's house.

457

00:19:45,438 --> 00:19:46,830 What happened to your parents?

458

00:19:46,830 --> 00:19:48,750 Well, I know that my father was in Dachau.

459 00:19:48,750 --> 00:19:51,450 00:19:51,450 --> 00:19:54,970 And my mother, we found out

that she was in Czechoslovakia--

461

00:19:54,970 --> 00:19:58,380 through research now that we found out.

462

00:19:58,380 --> 00:19:59,880 That's where she was sent.

463

00:19:59,880 --> 00:20:00,610 She was sent.

464

00:20:00,610 --> 00:20:03,360 So they did not stay, and you were the only want to stay.

465

00:20:03,360 --> 00:20:04,290 In Auschwitz.

466

00:20:04,290 --> 00:20:06,240 What about grandparents and aunts and uncles?

467 00:20:06,240 --> 00:20:09,850

468 00:20:09,850 --> 00:20:12,880 My father's parents perished.

469 00:20:12,880 --> 00:20:13,450 In Auschwitz.

470 00:20:13,450 --> 00:20:15,070 Yeah, in Auschwitz.

471 00:20:15,070 --> 00:20:19,120 And my mother's father survived.

472 00:20:19,120 --> 00:20:20,500 His wife did not survive.

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

473 00:20:20,500 --> 00:20:21,715 Devora did not survive.

474 00:20:21,715 --> 00:20:26,920

475 00:20:26,920 --> 00:20:31,840 My mother had-- she was the oldest of four children,

476 00:20:31,840 --> 00:20:34,060 so she survived.

477 00:20:34,060 --> 00:20:38,310 Her sister, Tobka, survived.

478 00:20:38,310 --> 00:20:43,270 Shmulek, that saved me, he was the policeman.

479 00:20:43,270 --> 00:20:45,490 He did not survive.

480 00:20:45,490 --> 00:20:47,470 He had gone to Asuchwitz?

481 00:20:47,470 --> 00:20:48,800 I have no idea.

482 00:20:48,800 --> 00:20:52,960 I have no idea where he landed, but he did not survive.

483 00:20:52,960 --> 00:20:57,370 Then there was a younger sister that we found out

484 00:20:57,370 --> 00:20:58,430 about yesterday-- 00:20:58,430 --> 00:20:59,350 Fela.

486 00:20:59,350 --> 00:21:03,340 She was in the picture, and I used to say to Betsy,

487 00:21:03,340 --> 00:21:04,450 I have to find out.

488 00:21:04,450 --> 00:21:08,430 This was my mother's younger sister.

489 00:21:08,430 --> 00:21:09,190 Her name was Fela.

490 00:21:09,190 --> 00:21:10,990 We found out about it yesterday.

491 00:21:10,990 --> 00:21:14,140

492 00:21:14,140 --> 00:21:17,160 So now it's liberation time.

493 00:21:17,160 --> 00:21:22,150 You're being taken care of by Russian nannies.

494 00:21:22,150 --> 00:21:23,430 And then what happened?

495 00:21:23,430 --> 00:21:25,980 Then what happened?

496 00:21:25,980 --> 00:21:28,720 The children were evacuated from Auschwitz.

497 00:21:28,720 --> 00:21:30,480 Do you know about how many? 498

00:21:30,480 --> 00:21:31,330 I have no idea.

499

00:21:31,330 --> 00:21:32,580 I couldn't give you a numbers.

500

00:21:32,580 --> 00:21:33,180 No, I know.

501 00:21:33 180 -->

00:21:33,180 --> 00:21:34,620 I know.

502

00:21:34,620 --> 00:21:39,870 I was put in a kinder house in Krakow,

503

00:21:39,870 --> 00:21:46,350 and my mother was liberated from Czechoslovakia.

504 00:21:46,350 --> 00:21:51,060 At that time, the Jewish community put out lists.

505 00:21:51,060 --> 00:21:54,030 There was a list of all the men that survived.

506 00:21:54,030 --> 00:21:57,160 There was a list of all the women that survived,

507 00:21:57,160 --> 00:21:59,380 and a list of all the children that survived

508 00:21:59,380 --> 00:22:03,060 and where you could locate them.

509 00:22:03,060 --> 00:22:04,470 My mother was instrumental. 510 00:22:04,470 --> 00:22:18,930 She got on the train, and she was on the way to Krakow,

511 00:22:18,930 --> 00:22:22,380 not knowing there was a man from Radom there.

512 00:22:22,380 --> 00:22:23,100 On the train?

513 00:22:23,100 --> 00:22:24,560 On the train.

514 00:22:24,560 --> 00:22:29,340 And he said to her, Stella, your father is here.

515 00:22:29,340 --> 00:22:30,900 And she said, my father?

516 00:22:30,900 --> 00:22:33,570 She didn't know that he survived.

517 00:22:33,570 --> 00:22:36,210 She got off the train.

518 00:22:36,210 --> 00:22:40,590 They met by this train station, and they walked together

519 00:22:40,590 --> 00:22:43,020 to the orphanage.

520 00:22:43,020 --> 00:22:46,250

521 00:22:46,250 --> 00:22:49,640 They saw my name on the list. 522 00:22:49,640 --> 00:22:52,070 They knew-- she had known you were in this orphanage.

523 00:22:52,070 --> 00:22:53,750 Right.

524 00:22:53,750 --> 00:22:54,860 From the list.

525 00:22:54,860 --> 00:23:00,410 It was divided in a very reasonable way

526 00:23:00,410 --> 00:23:04,730 where the survivors could find their relatives.

527 00:23:04,730 --> 00:23:10,880 And my grandfather and my mom came to Krakow.

528 00:23:10,880 --> 00:23:14,810 In the orphanage, they were prepared already for survivors

529 00:23:14,810 --> 00:23:17,945 to come and claim the children.

530 00:23:17,945 --> 00:23:22,920

531 00:23:22,920 --> 00:23:25,290 They lined you up.

532 00:23:25,290 --> 00:23:27,810 My mother walked in, and my grandfather walked in.

533 00:23:27,810 --> 00:23:30,500 534 00:23:30,500 --> 00:23:34,220 I haven't seen my mother in a long time.

535 00:23:34,220 --> 00:23:35,910 I recognized her.

536 00:23:35,910 --> 00:23:37,640 And I said, mamushka.

537 00:23:37,640 --> 00:23:41,240 That's Polish for mother.

538 00:23:41,240 --> 00:23:42,827 And that's how they found me.

539 00:23:42,827 --> 00:23:46,650

540 00:23:46,650 --> 00:23:48,165 What was the name of the orphanage?

541 00:23:48,165 --> 00:23:49,540 Do you know where it was located?

542 00:23:49,540 --> 00:23:51,088 I don't know.

543 00:23:51,088 --> 00:23:51,630 I don't know.

544 00:23:51,630 --> 00:23:52,975 It was in Krakow.

545 00:23:52,975 --> 00:23:53,660 In Krakow.

546 00:23:53,660 --> 00:23:56,160 In Krakow, you know. 547 00:23:56,160 --> 00:23:59,970 I don't know how many surviving children were there.

548 00:23:59,970 --> 00:24:01,680 I have no idea.

549 00:24:01,680 --> 00:24:03,630 We didn't research it yet.

550 00:24:03,630 --> 00:24:06,420 We're still researching it.

551 00:24:06,420 --> 00:24:11,820 So after that very emotional reunion, what happened?

552 00:24:11,820 --> 00:24:15,990 What happened-- we found out that my father was

553 00:24:15,990 --> 00:24:21,750 very sick when he was liberated from Dachau by the Americans.

554 00:24:21,750 --> 00:24:25,120 And the Red Cross took care of him.

555 00:24:25,120 --> 00:24:28,980 He was in the hospital, and they brought him back

556 00:24:28,980 --> 00:24:31,740 to good health.

557 00:24:31,740 --> 00:24:35,010 There was a sergeant there, a Jewish sergeant.

558 00:24:35,010 --> 00:24:38,060 And he took a liking to my dad.

559

00:24:38,060 --> 00:24:40,250 And he said to him, you know, Leon?

560

00:24:40,250 --> 00:24:43,440 I'm going to be stationed in Germany.

561

00:24:43,440 --> 00:24:46,380The name of the town was FÃ¹/4rstenfeldbruck.

562

00:24:46,380 --> 00:24:48,910 I don't know if I'm pronouncing it correctly.

563

00:24:48,910 --> 00:24:51,090 And he says, I'm going to give you a house there.

564

00:24:51,090 --> 00:24:54,532 I want you to stay there until you relocate

565 00:24:54,532 --> 00:24:55,490 with your whole family.

566 00:24:55,490 --> 00:24:58,400

567 00:24:58,400 --> 00:25:00,888 And he says, you'll do some jobs for me.

568 00:25:00,888 --> 00:25:02,180 You know, like what can you do?

569 00:25:02,180 --> 00:25:05,840 My father said whatever you want me to do, I'll do it.

570 00:25:05,840 --> 00:25:11,030 But this young man was an American sergeant,

571 00:25:11,030 --> 00:25:12,290

and he says, don't worry.

572

00:25:12,290 --> 00:25:13,610 I'll take care of you.

573

00:25:13,610 --> 00:25:16,280 And you just stay in this house until you

574 00:25:16,280 --> 00:25:19,240 gather your whole family.

575 00:25:19,240 --> 00:25:21,540 And that's what my father did.

576 00:25:21,540 --> 00:25:25,630 My father found out through the Red Cross that he survived,

577

00:25:25,630 --> 00:25:27,610 and he was in this town in Germany--

578 00:25:27,610 --> 00:25:29,692 in Filston Fellbrook.

579 00:25:29,692 --> 00:25:33,570 And so she took me and my grandfather,

580 00:25:33,570 --> 00:25:37,042 and we went to meet my father.

581 00:25:37,042 --> 00:25:39,290 You said she took me. 00:25:39,290 --> 00:25:40,250 My mother.

583

00:25:40,250 --> 00:25:42,450 My mother, my grandfather, and I--

584 00:25:42,450 --> 00:25:43,250 Yeah, went to--

585 00:25:43,250 --> 00:25:47,360 We went to $F\tilde{A}^{1/4}$ rstenfeldbruck to my father's house,

586 00:25:47,360 --> 00:25:49,790 and we were reunited there.

587

00:25:49,790 --> 00:25:53,300 Do you have memories of that time?

588 00:25:53,300 --> 00:25:55,430 I just know that we went there, you know,

589

00:25:55,430 --> 00:25:58,430 because afterwards my parents told me exactly what happened.

590 00:25:58,430 --> 00:25:58,640 That's what I'm saying.

591 00:25:58,640 --> 00:25:59,973 You don't have memories of the--

592 00:25:59,973 --> 00:26:02,090 I don't have memories of it, but I remember

593 00:26:02,090 --> 00:26:05,930 that we went back to Germany. 00:26:05,930 --> 00:26:08,820 My mother's sister, Topa, survived.

595

00:26:08,820 --> 00:26:10,580 And she found out that, too.

596 00:26:10,580 --> 00:26:14,930 So she came to FÃ¹/₄rstenfeldbruck, too.

597

00:26:14,930 --> 00:26:15,930 How do I know this?

598

00:26:15,930 --> 00:26:20,310 Because I have all pictures with all there.

599

00:26:20,310 --> 00:26:23,250 And we stayed there for quite awhile.

600 00:26:23,250 --> 00:26:27,460

601 00:26:27,460 --> 00:26:29,020 Was it summer of '45?

602 00:26:29,020 --> 00:26:31,060 Do you have any idea?

603 00:26:31,060 --> 00:26:31,960 Yeah, I think so.

604 00:26:31,960 --> 00:26:33,190 It must have been '45.

605 00:26:33,190 --> 00:26:33,810 Yeah.

606 00:26:33,810 --> 00:26:36,040 Yeah, it was '45. 607 00:26:36,040 --> 00:26:37,580 So you stayed there.

608 00:26:37,580 --> 00:26:38,830 We stayed there.

609 00:26:38,830 --> 00:26:44,550 Then, of course, my father was the youngest child

610 00:26:44,550 --> 00:26:47,050 in the rest of our family.

611 00:26:47,050 --> 00:26:51,190 Before the war, his oldest sister, Ruth,

612 00:26:51,190 --> 00:26:56,320 married an older man, and she left for the United States.

613 00:26:56,320 --> 00:26:58,490 So she wasn't even involved in the Holocaust.

614 00:26:58,490 --> 00:27:01,150 Right.

615 00:27:01,150 --> 00:27:02,140 She had a brother--

616 00:27:02,140 --> 00:27:05,140 my father had a brother, Morris.

617 00:27:05,140 --> 00:27:08,060 And he decided-- he married in Poland.

618 00:27:08,060 --> 00:27:12,360 And he took his wife, and they went to Belgium. 619 00:27:12,360 --> 00:27:14,730 They settled in Belgium.

620 00:27:14,730 --> 00:27:17,930 Then he had another sister, Rivka.

621 00:27:17,930 --> 00:27:20,880 Rivka married a young man, and they made aliyah.

622 00:27:20,880 --> 00:27:22,310 They went to Israel.

623 00:27:22,310 --> 00:27:23,490 And they settled in Israel.

624 00:27:23,490 --> 00:27:26,080

625 00:27:26,080 --> 00:27:30,730 My father was the only one left for the Holocaust.

626 00:27:30,730 --> 00:27:35,120 My Aunt Ruth, who lived in the United States, called Poland.

627 00:27:35,120 --> 00:27:37,810 And she said to her father, Dad, why don't you

628 00:27:37,810 --> 00:27:40,030 come to the United States?

629 00:27:40,030 --> 00:27:41,770 It's very nice here.

630 00:27:41,770 --> 00:27:43,510 Well my grandfather had a beard. 631 00:27:43,510 --> 00:27:46,575 He was Orthodox Jew and everything else, you know.

632 00:27:46,575 --> 00:27:48,000 He was very pious.

633

00:27:48,000 --> 00:27:52,270 And Ruth invited grandpa to stay with her.

634

00:27:52,270 --> 00:27:55,995 So he came to the United States, and he stayed here.

635

00:27:55,995 --> 00:27:57,370 He didn't like the United States.

636

00:27:57,370 --> 00:28:02,260 However, he changed his whole image.

637

00:28:02,260 --> 00:28:04,390 He shaved his beard.

638

00:28:04,390 --> 00:28:06,690 He came back to Poland just with a little mustache.

639

00:28:06,690 --> 00:28:08,650 I have a picture of it.

640

00:28:08,650 --> 00:28:12,460 And he came back to Poland.

641

00:28:12,460 --> 00:28:14,570 Had he been wise enough, he would

642

00:28:14,570 --> 00:28:20,270 have said "kindalach, we're

going to the United States."

643

00:28:20,270 --> 00:28:22,220 They were very comfortable.

644 00:28:22,220 --> 00:28:24,710 This was their home, Poland.

645

00:28:24,710 --> 00:28:28,040 And they figured no one is going to touch them.

646

00:28:28,040 --> 00:28:33,000 So he came back to Poland, and, of course,

647

00:28:33,000 --> 00:28:35,300 we were all involved in the Holocaust.

648

00:28:35,300 --> 00:28:39,950 You know, my father's father perished,

649

00:28:39,950 --> 00:28:42,410 and his mother, Chaya, perished.

650

00:28:42,410 --> 00:28:45,718 I don't know what happened to them exactly,

651

00:28:45,718 --> 00:28:46,760 but they did not survive.

652 00:28:46,760 --> 00:28:49,280

653 00:28:49,280 --> 00:28:52,700 My grandfather-- my mother's father-- survived.

654 00:28:52,700 --> 00:28:55,475 His wife, Devora did not survive.

655 00:28:55,475 --> 00:28:57,980

656 00:28:57,980 --> 00:29:01,160 Shmulek, of course, did not survive as I told you,

657 00:29:01,160 --> 00:29:06,800 and my mother's youngest sister did not survive.

658 00:29:06,800 --> 00:29:10,920 So now you're all together in Germany.

659 00:29:10,920 --> 00:29:12,798 In Germany.

660 00:29:12,798 --> 00:29:13,590 Where did you stay.

661 00:29:13,590 --> 00:29:15,298 And we were all well and everything else.

662 00:29:15,298 --> 00:29:17,730

663 00:29:17,730 --> 00:29:19,920 His brother, Morris, contact him.

664 00:29:19,920 --> 00:29:22,020 He lives in Belgium.

665 00:29:22,020 --> 00:29:24,900 He was in the pocketbook business there.

666

00:29:24,900 --> 00:29:27,450 Then we crossed into Brussels.

667 00:29:27,450 --> 00:29:30,480 He had two children, and Morris said to him, Leon,

668 00:29:30,480 --> 00:29:31,800 why don't you come to Belgium?

669 00:29:31,800 --> 00:29:33,870 Stay with us.

670 00:29:33,870 --> 00:29:36,340 My father wanted to see his family.

671 00:29:36,340 --> 00:29:43,510

672 00:29:43,510 --> 00:29:45,250 So we traveled to Belgium.

673 00:29:45,250 --> 00:29:47,990 So were you ever in a DP camp in Germany?

674 00:29:47,990 --> 00:29:48,490 No.

675 00:29:48,490 --> 00:29:49,120 You never were.

676 00:29:49,120 --> 00:29:50,560 No.

677 00:29:50,560 --> 00:29:56,440 We traveled to Belgium, and my father settled down.

678 00:29:56,440 --> 00:30:00,760 We got a nice apartment, and he worked for his brother

679

00:30:00,760 --> 00:30:02,380 for two years.

680 00:30:02,380 --> 00:30:04,210 He was very prosperous, Morris--

681

00:30:04,210 --> 00:30:06,910 the big factory, pocketbook factory.

682

00:30:06,910 --> 00:30:11,050 He had two sons, and I had a good time with my cousins.

683

00:30:11,050 --> 00:30:12,453 Albert and--

684

00:30:12,453 --> 00:30:13,870 So you have memories of that time.

685

00:30:13,870 --> 00:30:14,870 Yes, that I do.

686

00:30:14,870 --> 00:30:16,660 Yeah, that I do.

687

00:30:16,660 --> 00:30:19,520 And we stayed in Belgium for 2 years.

688

00:30:19,520 --> 00:30:21,870 Now you still have the tattoo on your arm at that point.

689 00:30:21,870 --> 00:30:22,370 Yes.

690 00:30:22,370 --> 00:30:24,520 I'll tell you later on what happened with that.

691 00:30:24,520 --> 00:30:28,350

692 00:30:28,350 --> 00:30:31,650 Rivka calls Morris, and she says what do you

693

00:30:31,650 --> 00:30:33,900 mean keeping Leon in Belgium?

694

00:30:33,900 --> 00:30:35,770 I want to see him.

695

00:30:35,770 --> 00:30:37,682 So of course he speaks to my father.

696

00:30:37,682 --> 00:30:39,390 And my father was like the wandering Jew.

697

00:30:39,390 --> 00:30:41,460 He wanted to see his whole family.

698

00:30:41,460 --> 00:30:44,770 So Rivka says, Leon, you survived, you come to Israel.

699

00:30:44,770 --> 00:30:53,540

700

00:30:53,540 --> 00:30:57,340 So we picked up again, and we went to Israel.

701 00:30:57,340 --> 00:30:59,200 OK, this was when?

702 00:30:59,200 --> 00:31:03,500 This must have been after Israel became a state.

703

00:31:03,500 --> 00:31:04,060 After '48.

704

00:31:04,060 --> 00:31:04,560 Yes.

705

00:31:04,560 --> 00:31:06,290 After '48.

706

00:31:06,290 --> 00:31:10,380 And we lived with Rivka for quite a while.

707

00:31:10,380 --> 00:31:11,920 She had a nice house.

708

00:31:11,920 --> 00:31:12,860 Where in Israel?

709 00:31:12,860 --> 00:31:14,420 In Tel Aviv.

710 00:31:14,420 --> 00:31:15,890 Tel Aviv.

711 00:31:15,890 --> 00:31:19,390 And the government at that time was building the shikun.

712 00:31:19,390 --> 00:31:21,040 Know what shikun is?

713 00:31:21,040 --> 00:31:25,700 OK-- for survivors of the Holocaust.

714 00:31:25,700 --> 00:31:28,530 So we lived with Rivka for quite a while 715 00:31:28,530 --> 00:31:30,970 until the shikun was ready.

716 00:31:30,970 --> 00:31:33,470 The shikun was built in Giv'at Rambam,

717 00:31:33,470 --> 00:31:36,980 which is just the outskirts of Tel Aviv.

718 00:31:36,980 --> 00:31:40,960 Once it was ready, we moved to Giv'at Rambam.

719 00:31:40,960 --> 00:31:42,730 And you had to learn Hebrew.

720 00:31:42,730 --> 00:31:43,260 Yes.

721 00:31:43,260 --> 00:31:46,340 Now I switch--

722 00:31:46,340 --> 00:31:50,000 I spoke Polish, I spoke Yiddish, I spoke French.

723 00:31:50,000 --> 00:31:50,570 From Belgium.

724 00:31:50,570 --> 00:31:51,590 From Belgium.

725 00:31:51,590 --> 00:31:52,970 Fluent in French.

726 00:31:52,970 --> 00:31:59,290 So my father says, you know, there's a school in Jaffa. 727 00:31:59,290 --> 00:32:01,240 The outskirts of Tel Aviv.

728 00:32:01,240 --> 00:32:04,770 I want Sarah to go and

not to forget French.

729

00:32:04,770 --> 00:32:06,520 It's a nice language, and it sounds

730

00:32:06,520 --> 00:32:08,350 good and everything else.

731

00:32:08,350 --> 00:32:10,932 Well, Rivka was very angry that-- she

732

00:32:10,932 --> 00:32:11,890 goes, what do you mean?

733 00:32:11,890 --> 00:32:13,100 You're in Israel.

734 00:32:13,100 --> 00:32:16,180 She's got to speak Hebrew.

735 00:32:16,180 --> 00:32:17,620 So my father let it go.

736

00:32:17,620 --> 00:32:22,350 He didn't push it, and I got enrolled in school,

737 00:32:22,350 --> 00:32:23,770 and I went to school in Israel.

738 00:32:23,770 --> 00:32:27,640 We lived in Israel for five years, 00:32:27,640 --> 00:32:30,520 and I spoke Hebrew fluently.

740 00:32:30,520 --> 00:32:32,800 So I spoke Yiddish.

741 00:32:32,800 --> 00:32:33,970 I still spoke Polish.

742 00:32:33,970 --> 00:32:36,520 I still remember that.

743 00:32:36,520 --> 00:32:40,212 French-- I'm starting to forget.

744 00:32:40,212 --> 00:32:41,170 And, of course, Hebrew.

745 00:32:41,170 --> 00:32:43,690

746 00:32:43,690 --> 00:32:46,720 Well, things were changing in the United States

747 00:32:46,720 --> 00:32:49,851 at that time under Roosevelt.

748 00:32:49,851 --> 00:32:51,190 That was in the '50s.

749 00:32:51,190 --> 00:32:52,030 Yes.

750 00:32:52,030 --> 00:32:57,280 First he did not allow the people from Poland to come in.

751 00:32:57,280 --> 00:32:58,990 There was a quota. 00:32:58,990 --> 00:33:02,530 It's not like now-anyone can come in.

753

00:33:02,530 --> 00:33:08,580 And we had to wait.

754 00:33:08,580 --> 00:33:14,030 One year, Rivka calls us to Belgium, and she says--

755

00:33:14,030 --> 00:33:15,270 no, no, to Israel.

756 00:33:15,270 --> 00:33:16,720 I'm sorry, to Israel.

757

00:33:16,720 --> 00:33:21,310 And she says, things have changed in the United States.

758 00:33:21,310 --> 00:33:23,860 The Polish quota was lifted.

759

00:33:23,860 --> 00:33:26,950 I'm coming to tell you all about it, Leon.

760

00:33:26,950 --> 00:33:30,220 So Ruth took a trip to Israel--

761 00:33:30,220 --> 00:33:31,810 the first trip.

762

00:33:31,810 --> 00:33:34,420 And she sat down, and she told us

763

00:33:34,420 --> 00:33:37,780 that now you can come to the United States, 00:33:37,780 --> 00:33:40,210 as long as you have a sponsor.

765

 $00:33:40,210 \rightarrow 00:33:43,720$ And she said to my father, I'm going to be your sponsor.

766

00:33:43,720 --> 00:33:45,760 So when you come to the United States,

767

00:33:45,760 --> 00:33:47,170 I'll take care of you, Leon.

768

00:33:47,170 --> 00:33:47,710 Don't worry.

769

00:33:47,710 --> 00:33:49,900 You'll move in with me.

770

00:33:49,900 --> 00:33:55,180 My aunt lived in the Bronx on Walton Avenue--

771

00:33:55,180 --> 00:33:59,740 beautiful building and one-bedroom apartment.

772

00:33:59,740 --> 00:34:02,920 She says you move in with me.

773

00:34:02,920 --> 00:34:03,760 You move in with me.

774 00:34:03,760 --> 00:34:05,300 So we moved in with--

775 00:34:05,300 --> 00:34:06,190 So you left Israel.

776 00:34:06,190 --> 00:34:09,219 How did you feel

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about leaving Israel?

777

00:34:09,219 --> 00:34:10,699 I liked Israel.

778

00:34:10,699 --> 00:34:14,480 That was my best memories of my life.

779

00:34:14,480 --> 00:34:16,210 I was sad to leave Israel.

780

00:34:16,210 --> 00:34:19,199 By then I was already bat mitzvah.

781

00:34:19,199 --> 00:34:23,350 I had my bat mitzvah in Israel, and by then I was I think 13.

782

00:34:23,350 --> 00:34:23,889 13, yeah.

783

00:34:23,889 --> 00:34:25,449 13 years old.

784

00:34:25,449 --> 00:34:27,550 And we left Israel.

785

00:34:27,550 --> 00:34:30,610 When you were in Israel, did you mix with any other refugee

786

00:34:30,610 --> 00:34:32,590 children from the Holocaust?

787

00:34:32,590 --> 00:34:33,190 No.

788 00:34:33,190 --> 00:34:35,203 Did you talk to your young friends

789 00:34:35,203 --> 00:34:36,370 about what you went through?

790 00:34:36,370 --> 00:34:38,300 No, no, no, no.

791 00:34:38,300 --> 00:34:38,840 You did not.

792 00:34:38,840 --> 00:34:44,330 No, I just concentrated with the Hebrew, having a lot of fun.

793 00:34:44,330 --> 00:34:48,370 I had a lot of friends in Israel and learned the language.

794 00:34:48,370 --> 00:34:51,100 Did you speak about your Holocaust experiences

795 00:34:51,100 --> 00:34:53,409 at that time with your parents?

796 00:34:53,409 --> 00:34:54,250 No.

797 00:34:54,250 --> 00:34:56,048 My mother never spoke about it.

798 00:34:56,048 --> 00:34:56,840 Your mother didn't.

799 00:34:56,840 --> 00:34:57,757 My mother never spoke.

800 00:34:57,757 --> 00:34:58,880 What about your father?

801 00:34:58,880 --> 00:35:01,390 My father was busy earning a living,

802

00:35:01,390 --> 00:35:05,280 and we just didn't have time to dwell on it, you know?

803

00:35:05,280 --> 00:35:07,060 So you were moving on.

804

00:35:07,060 --> 00:35:08,390 With your life.

805 00:35:08,390 --> 00:35:09,970 So now you leave Israel.

806

00:35:09,970 --> 00:35:12,310 You come to the United States and live with your aunt.

807

00:35:12,310 --> 00:35:14,830 Right, we lived with my aunt for a year,

808

00:35:14,830 --> 00:35:23,050 and my mother's sister, Toni, had a wonderful position

809

00:35:23,050 --> 00:35:25,570 with a garment--

810

00:35:25,570 --> 00:35:27,770 what do you call it--

811

00:35:27,770 --> 00:35:28,270 factory.

812 00:35:28,270 --> 00:35:31,710

813 00:35:31,710 --> 00:35:35,130 Her husband that she married was--

814

00:35:35,130 --> 00:35:38,850 I had an uncle in the AFL.

815 00:35:38,850 --> 00:35:42,960 And he was prominent

to get him a job there.

816

00:35:42,960 --> 00:35:46,260 And my aunt got a job in the garment district.

817

00:35:46,260 --> 00:35:50,595 Became very well known-- she traveled all

818

00:35:50,595 --> 00:35:53,400 through the country, the United States,

819

00:35:53,400 --> 00:35:55,970 to see what the factories were manufacturing.

820

00:35:55,970 --> 00:35:57,990 And she was in charge.

821

00:35:57,990 --> 00:36:01,320 At that time, my mother was a terrific seamstress,

822

00:36:01,320 --> 00:36:03,720 and she said, Stella, do you want a job?

823

00:36:03,720 --> 00:36:04,770 And my mother said, yes.

824 00:36:04,770 --> 00:36:05,687

What am I going to do.

00:36:05,687 --> 00:36:07,290 I'm going to sit around here?

826 00:36:07,290 --> 00:36:10,690 So she got her a job there, and she became the sample maker

827 00:36:10,690 --> 00:36:12,480 there.

828 00:36:12,480 --> 00:36:15,840 They manufactured robes, and then they

829 00:36:15,840 --> 00:36:18,180 went into the dress business.

830 00:36:18,180 --> 00:36:21,930 So my mother always made the sample dress.

831 00:36:21,930 --> 00:36:23,790 From the sample dress, my mother had

832 00:36:23,790 --> 00:36:28,710 to supervise the people in the factory in Manhattan

833 00:36:28,710 --> 00:36:32,700 to make sure that the product that they made

834 00:36:32,700 --> 00:36:35,630 was equivalent to the sample.

835 00:36:35,630 --> 00:36:38,050 And so she was in charge of that.

836 00:36:38,050 --> 00:36:40,290 And where did you go to school? 837 00:36:40,290 --> 00:36:40,920 In New York?

838 00:36:40,920 --> 00:36:41,420 Mm-hmm.

839 00:36:41,420 --> 00:36:43,480 I went to the public school.

840 00:36:43,480 --> 00:36:44,230 The public school.

841 00:36:44,230 --> 00:36:45,570 Public school, yeah.

842 00:36:45,570 --> 00:36:46,920 And what was that like?

843 00:36:46,920 --> 00:36:48,130 In the Bronx.

844 00:36:48,130 --> 00:36:48,630 Well--

845 00:36:48,630 --> 00:36:50,810 Were there other refugee children in your class?

846 00:36:50,810 --> 00:36:51,553 No, no.

847 00:36:51,553 --> 00:36:52,470 You were the only one.

848 00:36:52,470 --> 00:36:52,970 Yeah.

849 00:36:52,970 --> 00:36:54,797 Did the kids ask about your experience? 850 00:36:54,797 --> 00:36:56,130 This is what I want to tell you.

851 00:36:56,130 --> 00:36:59,200

852 00:36:59,200 --> 00:37:04,590 I was in public school in the Bronx, one of 35 kids

853 00:37:04,590 --> 00:37:05,970 in a classroom.

854 00:37:05,970 --> 00:37:08,940 I'm a teacher, so that I can tell you from the education

855 00:37:08,940 --> 00:37:17,820 point of view, it was in a kind of educational situation

856 00:37:17,820 --> 00:37:21,660 for a child that just came out of the Holocaust.

857 00:37:21,660 --> 00:37:24,570 I had a number on my hand.

858 00:37:24,570 --> 00:37:29,220 In those days in New York, they never taught the Holocaust.

859 00:37:29,220 --> 00:37:33,443 It was mandated, like in the state of New Jersey.

860 00:37:33,443 --> 00:37:34,860 And the kids looked at the number,

861 00:37:34,860 --> 00:37:37,660 and they said, Sarah, what's that number on your hand?

862

00:37:37,660 --> 00:37:39,530 And I said, well, let me tell you.

863 00:37:39,530 --> 00:37:42,730 I was in the Holocaust in Germany,

864

00:37:42,730 --> 00:37:44,950 and a German put this number on me.

865 00:37:44,950 --> 00:37:47,080 I wasn't Sarah Racimora.

866 00:37:47,080 --> 00:37:48,550 I was this number.

867 00:37:48,550 --> 00:37:51,570 That's how they referred to me.

868 00:37:51,570 --> 00:37:53,410 You're talking crazy.

869 00:37:53,410 --> 00:37:55,780 There was no such thing as the Holocaust.

870 00:37:55,780 --> 00:37:58,280 New York never taught the Holocaust.

871 00:37:58,280 --> 00:38:01,880 This was in 1954.

872 00:38:01,880 --> 00:38:03,980 Those kids were never educated.

873 00:38:03,980 --> 00:38:05,280 Never heard the word. 874 00:38:05,280 --> 00:38:08,240 What's Holocaust.

875 00:38:08,240 --> 00:38:11,720 Well, I didn't like to talk about it,

876 00:38:11,720 --> 00:38:14,450 and I went to my parents, and I said, you know what?

877 00:38:14,450 --> 00:38:17,510 I have to have this number removed.

878

00:38:17,510 --> 00:38:21,800 Because I am just too inundated with questions that I cannot

879

00:38:21,800 --> 00:38:24,110 answer.

880

00:38:24,110 --> 00:38:27,220 So we went to Mountain View hospital.

881

00:38:27,220 --> 00:38:32,180 They got a surgeon, and unfortunately, the surgeon

882

00:38:32,180 --> 00:38:33,140 got sick.

883 00:38:33,140 --> 00:38:35,600 And they brought someone else.

884 00:38:35,600 --> 00:38:37,220 Did a lousy job with this.

885 00:38:37,220 --> 00:38:41,390 This should have been just that thin stripe.

886 00:38:41,390 --> 00:38:45,530 And that's why I have a scar here.

887 00:38:45,530 --> 00:38:46,610 I had it removed.

888 00:38:46,610 --> 00:38:51,740 I felt better, because the kids stopped talking about it.

889 00:38:51,740 --> 00:38:58,550 I went to my education in New York, finished high school,

890 00:38:58,550 --> 00:39:02,740 and then I met my husband.

891 00:39:02,740 --> 00:39:04,780 How did I meet my husband?

892 00:39:04,780 --> 00:39:06,430 I went to Moodus, Connecticut.

893 00:39:06,430 --> 00:39:08,140 Did you hear of that place?

894 00:39:08,140 --> 00:39:10,420 It was a place where young people

895 00:39:10,420 --> 00:39:15,340 were able to meet young Jewish young men.

896 00:39:15,340 --> 00:39:18,010 And I went with a friend of mine.

897 00:39:18,010 --> 00:39:20,320 I took courses at Hunter College,

898 00:39:20,320 --> 00:39:22,990 and then we went for a week to Moodus, Connecticut

899 00:39:22,990 --> 00:39:25,870 to meet some guys.

900 00:39:25,870 --> 00:39:31,880 We got there, and we didn't meet anyone a whole week.

901 00:39:31,880 --> 00:39:33,280 And then I said--

902 00:39:33,280 --> 00:39:35,140 Sunday we were supposed to leave.

903 00:39:35,140 --> 00:39:38,240 We had a cab take us there.

904 00:39:38,240 --> 00:39:39,770 So I said to my friend, Brenda--

905 00:39:39,770 --> 00:39:41,750 I said, you know, I'm hungry.

906 00:39:41,750 --> 00:39:44,140 Let's go to the dining room, because I

907 00:39:44,140 --> 00:39:46,790 feel like a salami sandwich.

908 00:39:46,790 --> 00:39:50,520 So we went down, and I stood in line.

909 00:39:50,520 --> 00:39:52,120

> This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

And there was a young man there.

910 00:39:52,120 --> 00:39:55,073 And he says, hi, how are you?

911 00:39:55,073 --> 00:39:55,990

What are you ordering?

912

00:39:55,990 --> 00:39:57,610 I said a salami sandwich.

913

00:39:57,610 --> 00:39:59,260 He says, me, too.

914

00:39:59,260 --> 00:40:01,390 He says, I'm here with my friends.

915

00:40:01,390 --> 00:40:06,040 He came with a 4 or 5 of his friends from New Jersey.

916 00:40:06,040 --> 00:40:08,020 They were ready to meet new people.

917

00:40:08,020 --> 00:40:11,230 He says why don't you come over to the table and sit with us?

918 00:40:11,230 --> 00:40:12,040 Get your sandwich.

919

00:40:12,040 --> 00:40:13,660 So Brenda and I got our sandwiches.

920

00:40:13,660 --> 00:40:18,370 We sat down with them, and we got to talking.

921 00:40:18,370 --> 00:40:19,960

922

00:40:19,960 --> 00:40:22,160 You have an accent.

923 00:40:22,160 --> 00:40:24,670 I said, well, I'm from Israel.

924 00:40:24,670 --> 00:40:26,070 He says, you're from Israel?

925

00:40:26,070 --> 00:40:26,980 I said yes.

926 00:40:26,980 --> 00:40:28,670 You have an accent.

927

00:40:28,670 --> 00:40:31,540 I said, well, can you understand me?

928 00:40:31,540 --> 00:40:34,310 I can still speak English?

929

00:40:34,310 --> 00:40:38,050 And he made a derogatory comment about Israel,

930 00:40:38,050 --> 00:40:40,540 and I was very angry.

931 00:40:40,540 --> 00:40:41,860 I'm a rebel.

932

00:40:41,860 --> 00:40:43,850 I picked up the bottle of wine, and I

933

00:40:43,850 --> 00:40:47,060 was ready to hit him with the bottle.

934 00:40:47,060 --> 00:40:49,885 My husband, Billy-later on we got married.

935 00:40:49,885 --> 00:40:50,980 He grab my hand.

936 00:40:50,980 --> 00:40:52,780 He says, put that bottle down.

937 00:40:52,780 --> 00:40:54,700 He's not worth it.

938 00:40:54,700 --> 00:40:57,130 Well, we sat and we spent the evening with his friends.

939 00:40:57,130 --> 00:41:00,790 We had a very nice evening, and then the next day we

940 00:41:00,790 --> 00:41:04,420 were leaving Moodus, Connecticut, Banner lodge.

941 00:41:04,420 --> 00:41:06,520 I don't think it exists anymore.

942 00:41:06,520 --> 00:41:11,290 And Billy says, you know what?

943 00:41:11,290 --> 00:41:12,140 I'll take you home.

944 00:41:12,140 --> 00:41:12,870 Would you?

945 00:41:12,870 --> 00:41:14,660 I said, I live in the Bronx, right

00:41:14,660 --> 00:41:16,867 across the street from Yankee Stadium.

947

00:41:16,867 --> 00:41:18,200 Well, he says, I know that area.

948 00:41:18,200 --> 00:41:18,800

Don't worry.

949

00:41:18,800 --> 00:41:20,700 I'll get you home safe.

950 00:41:20 700

00:41:20,700 --> 00:41:26,090 So Brenda took a cab home, because we paid for that,

951

00:41:26,090 --> 00:41:29,510 and he took me home.

952

00:41:29,510 --> 00:41:31,070 And that's the history.

953

00:41:31,070 --> 00:41:33,200 After that was a romance.

954

00:41:33,200 --> 00:41:39,360 We dated for a year or so, and he says, you know,

955

00:41:39,360 --> 00:41:42,000 I really want you to move to New Jersey.

956 00:41:42,000 --> 00:41:44,280 You can continue education.

957 00:41:44,280 --> 00:41:50,160 So I switched colleges, and I went to New York State.

958 00:41:50,160 --> 00:41:52,780 Was a teaching college.

959

00:41:52,780 --> 00:41:55,470 Now, it's Kean University.

960 00:41:55,470 --> 00:41:59,460 And I finished my education and my degree

961 00:41:59,460 --> 00:42:01,980 certified in New Jersey, Kindergarten

962 00:42:01,980 --> 00:42:04,530 through eighth grade.

963 00:42:04,530 --> 00:42:09,240 And I got a position in Scotch Plains-Fanwood teaching

964 00:42:09,240 --> 00:42:11,160 third grade.

965 00:42:11,160 --> 00:42:14,730 I taught there for a year, a year and a half.

966 00:42:14,730 --> 00:42:17,920 And I became pregnant with my daughter Debbie.

967 00:42:17,920 --> 00:42:20,997 So I had to stop teaching.

968 00:42:20,997 --> 00:42:22,580 And I said, Billy, can I hire someone?

969 00:42:22,580 --> 00:42:25,660 There was a very nice woman living next to us 00:42:25,660 --> 00:42:28,650 in the apartment house.

971 00:42:28,650 --> 00:42:30,980 And she said she was willing to take care of Debbie

972 00:42:30,980 --> 00:42:33,360 while I went to work.

973 00:42:33,360 --> 00:42:35,750 My husband says no one is going to take over my daughter.

974 00:42:35,750 --> 00:42:37,640 You stay home.

975 00:42:37,640 --> 00:42:40,260 So I had to give up teaching.

976 00:42:40,260 --> 00:42:42,390 And I stayed home and I raised my daughter.

977 00:42:42,390 --> 00:42:45,060

978 00:42:45,060 --> 00:42:47,490 Later on, we saved enough money.

979 00:42:47,490 --> 00:42:49,950 We lived in the village for quite a while.

980 00:42:49,950 --> 00:42:53,370 We lived there for 10 years, and we bought a house

981 00:42:53,370 --> 00:42:54,800 in Livingston, New Jersey--

982 00:42:54,800 --> 00:42:58,380 a very affluent community, a Jewish community.

983 00:42:58,380 --> 00:43:02,940 And we're there now for 40 years.

984 00:43:02,940 --> 00:43:05,880 My daughter lives in Manalapan.

985 00:43:05,880 --> 00:43:09,600 She has two children-- boys.

986 00:43:09,600 --> 00:43:14,220 They are now in college at the University of Indiana.

987 00:43:14,220 --> 00:43:17,190 They both decided to go to the same college.

988 00:43:17,190 --> 00:43:19,530 Cody is a senior.

989 00:43:19,530 --> 00:43:21,510 Tyler is a freshman.

990 00:43:21,510 --> 00:43:24,330 She just took out the car, she's not even home.

991 00:43:24,330 --> 00:43:31,230 And my son became a spinal surgeon in Baltimore--

992 00:43:31,230 --> 00:43:34,810 has a very nice group of doctors.

993 00:43:34,810 --> 00:43:38,280 Does a lot of traveling throughout the world educating 994 00:43:38,280 --> 00:43:42,540 other doctors in orthopedic surgery.

995 00:43:42,540 --> 00:43:43,600 He went to China.

996 00:43:43,600 --> 00:43:45,790 He went to Japan.

997 00:43:45,790 --> 00:43:48,070 He does a lot of traveling.

998 00:43:48,070 --> 00:43:49,650 And he has two children--

999 00:43:49,650 --> 00:43:51,960 Katie, a little princess.

1000 00:43:51,960 --> 00:43:55,020 Katie is now 11.

1001 00:43:55,020 --> 00:43:58,530 Ethan is 13.

1002 00:43:58,530 --> 00:44:00,960 And they both go to private schools,

1003 00:44:00,960 --> 00:44:04,180 because the Baltimore school system is not that great.

1004 00:44:04,180 --> 00:44:06,270 So they're both in two different schools.

1005 00:44:06,270 --> 00:44:07,980 They're not in the same school.

1006 00:44:07,980 --> 00:44:12,030 Katie goes to an all girls school where my daughter-in-law

1007 00:44:12,030 --> 00:44:16,650 graduated from, and Ethan is in the school from--

1008 00:44:16,650 --> 00:44:19,530 very big school from kindergarten

1009 00:44:19,530 --> 00:44:21,450 through high school.

1010 00:44:21,450 --> 00:44:22,890 And that whole school--

1011 00:44:22,890 --> 00:44:26,100 money was donated by Jewish families.

1012 00:44:26,100 --> 00:44:27,450 How do I know?

1013 00:44:27,450 --> 00:44:29,490 Every building has a Jewish name.

1014 00:44:29,490 --> 00:44:34,185 We went to visit the school to see where Ethan was.

1015 00:44:34,185 --> 00:44:35,310 Very, very, very nice life.

1016 00:44:35,310 --> 00:44:38,190 Now they're traveling by bikes.

1017 00:44:38,190 --> 00:44:40,500 They are in Switzerland and going through all

00:44:40,500 --> 00:44:42,310 the other countries.

1019 00:44:42,310 --> 00:44:44,010 Going to be away for two weeks.

1020 00:44:44,010 --> 00:44:44,940 So I'll see them.

1021 00:44:44,940 --> 00:44:46,700 Let's talk a little bit about your story.

1022 00:44:46,700 --> 00:44:50,550

1023 00:44:50,550 --> 00:44:54,830 Do you think about your wartime experiences-- the Holocaust--

1024 00:44:54,830 --> 00:44:59,630 more now that so many years have passed, or is it less?

1025 00:44:59,630 --> 00:45:02,570 Absolutely.

1026 00:45:02,570 --> 00:45:05,090 For a very long time, I was busy with my career,

1027 00:45:05,090 --> 00:45:09,230 raising my kids, and I just put everything aside.

1028 00:45:09,230 --> 00:45:11,330 I didn't want to think about it.

1029 00:45:11,330 --> 00:45:12,860 My father put the video.

1030 00:45:12,860 --> 00:45:15,710

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

After he made a video with Steven Spielberg,

1031 00:45:15,710 --> 00:45:18,830 we showed it to my children.

1032 00:45:18,830 --> 00:45:21,290 We spoke about it, and whenever Dad

1033 00:45:21,290 --> 00:45:23,130 came to visit me in New Jersey--

1034 00:45:23,130 --> 00:45:25,910 he lived in New York at that time.

1035 00:45:25,910 --> 00:45:27,530 My mother had died.

1036 00:45:27,530 --> 00:45:31,820 He remarried a Holocaust survivor, his second wife.

1037 00:45:31,820 --> 00:45:35,150 And he used to visit, so everything else was fine.

1038 00:45:35,150 --> 00:45:41,490 And we didn't discuss it that much.

1039 00:45:41,490 --> 00:45:45,180 Years later-recently I picked up,

1040 00:45:45,180 --> 00:45:50,180 and I said I have to do something about it.

1041 00:45:50,180 --> 00:45:53,280 And this is why I get involved being a teacher, 1042 00:45:53,280 --> 00:45:58,710 being involved in teaching about the Holocaust.

1043 00:45:58,710 --> 00:46:00,360 I learned from my father's video--

1044 00:46:00,360 --> 00:46:03,160 which I know you have a copy of that here--

1045 00:46:03,160 --> 00:46:05,850 the whole story how he saved me.

1046 00:46:05,850 --> 00:46:11,370 And this was the basic of my foundation for these PowerPoint

1047 00:46:11,370 --> 00:46:13,430 sessions.

1048 00:46:13,430 --> 00:46:17,490 I contacted my good friend, Elizabeth Bess,

1049 00:46:17,490 --> 00:46:23,240 who is a principal at a very prestigious reform temple.

1050 00:46:23,240 --> 00:46:26,980 And we got together, and we wrote this program.

1051 00:46:26,980 --> 00:46:29,530 And now what we're doing--

1052 00:46:29,530 --> 00:46:32,670 we are managing to go out and talk

00:46:32,670 --> 00:46:38,040 about the Holocaust in a very, very educational way,

1054

00:46:38,040 --> 00:46:42,630 and also in a creative way-let children learn about it,

1055

00:46:42,630 --> 00:46:44,730 walking out of one of these sessions

1056

00:46:44,730 --> 00:46:47,320 that they can go home and say to the parents,

1057

00:46:47,320 --> 00:46:49,470 this is what we are doing.

1058

00:46:49,470 --> 00:46:51,120 A lot of people in the United States--

1059 00:46:51,120 --> 00:46:53,790 even though they belong to a synagogue,

1060 00:46:53,790 --> 00:46:59,060 they are not that educated in the Holocaust.

1061 00:46:59,060 --> 00:47:00,950 So this is what we are doing now.

1062 00:47:00,950 --> 00:47:05,060 That's why we came out here, Elizabeth and I--

1063 00:47:05,060 --> 00:47:07,310 to seek more information.

1064 00:47:07,310 --> 00:47:08,930

We found that a lot of information

1065 00:47:08,930 --> 00:47:13,250 yesterday, as I told you, about my family.

1066 00:47:13,250 --> 00:47:17,000 And we are writing a whole curriculum for the Holocaust

1067 00:47:17,000 --> 00:47:20,610 programs that we're going to be doing.

1068 00:47:20,610 --> 00:47:23,150 Do you think you were at an advantage being

1069

00:47:23,150 --> 00:47:27,050 so young and not remembering, as opposed to if you had been

1070 00:47:27,050 --> 00:47:30,740 older during the Holocaust?

1071 00:47:30,740 --> 00:47:31,490 I can't tell you.

1072 00:47:31,490 --> 00:47:33,560 It would just be a guess.

1073 00:47:33,560 --> 00:47:35,660 My whole survival is--

1074 00:47:35,660 --> 00:47:38,550 I use the word when I speak to my students,

1075 00:47:38,550 --> 00:47:39,980 it was [SPEAKING YIDDISH].

00:47:39,980 --> 00:47:41,530 A lot of them don't know the word.

1077 00:47:41,530 --> 00:47:42,800 It's a Yiddish word.

1078 00:47:42,800 --> 00:47:48,430 And I said, I guess I was chosen to survive to tell the story

1079 00:47:48,430 --> 00:47:53,430 and to come here and teach you about the Holocaust,

1080 00:47:53,430 --> 00:47:55,150 so you can share it with your parents.

1081 00:47:55,150 --> 00:47:57,730

1082 00:47:57,730 --> 00:48:02,450 Many of these children are not Jewish where we go.

1083 00:48:02,450 --> 00:48:05,395 We go to many affluent day schools.

1084 00:48:05,395 --> 00:48:08,100

1085 00:48:08,100 --> 00:48:10,110 Some of them are Jewish, some aren't.

1086 00:48:10,110 --> 00:48:12,600 Some don't know anything about the Holocaust.

1087 00:48:12,600 --> 00:48:15,540 But the main thing that Elizabeth and I see

1088

00:48:15,540 --> 00:48:19,740 is that we are reaching that population.

1089

00:48:19,740 --> 00:48:23,400 When they walk out of one of our sessions,

1090

00:48:23,400 --> 00:48:29,130 they say, Sarah, we learned so much today

1091 00:48:29,130 --> 00:48:31,080

that we didn't know before.

1092

00:48:31,080 --> 00:48:33,510 I had them write evaluation.

1093

00:48:33,510 --> 00:48:37,200 We went-- I don't know if you're familiar with the Princeton Day

1094

00:48:37,200 --> 00:48:38,940 School in Jersey.

1095

00:48:38,940 --> 00:48:41,880 Very affluent school.

1096

00:48:41,880 --> 00:48:44,100 My cousin's daughter teaches there,

1097 00:48:44,100 --> 00:48:46,260 which is a big plus also.

1098 00:48:46,260 --> 00:48:52,330 She set a class up for us to give our spiel.

1099 00:48:52,330 --> 00:48:55,300

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy. The kids were mesmerized.

1100

00:48:55,300 --> 00:48:56,050 They walked out.

1101 00:48:56,050 --> 00:48:57,280 They wrote evaluations.

1102 00:48:57,280 --> 00:48:58,990 What did they want to know?

1103 00:48:58,990 --> 00:49:03,570 The most-- tell us more stories about your father.

1104 00:49:03,570 --> 00:49:05,850 He knew exactly what happened.

1105 00:49:05,850 --> 00:49:09,290 They loved the stories where he put me in a potato sack

1106 00:49:09,290 --> 00:49:10,080 and he threw me.

1107 00:49:10,080 --> 00:49:11,840 They're what happened to you?

1108 00:49:11,840 --> 00:49:12,620 Did you survive?

1109 00:49:12,620 --> 00:49:15,710 I said, well, I'm here telling the story.

1110 00:49:15,710 --> 00:49:22,370 It was very personal, and we are getting very successful.

1111 00:49:22,370 --> 00:49:24,170 We're working very hard. 1112 00:49:24,170 --> 00:49:25,370 That's wonderful.

1113 00:49:25,370 --> 00:49:28,850 Do you feel that you are two people, one on the outside

1114 00:49:28,850 --> 00:49:30,710 and one on inside?

1115 00:49:30,710 --> 00:49:32,750 You can say that.

1116 00:49:32,750 --> 00:49:35,330 I would never describe it, but it's possible.

1117 00:49:35,330 --> 00:49:36,950 Absolutely.

1118 00:49:36,950 --> 00:49:39,890 I have a lot of feelings that are hidden within me.

1119 00:49:39,890 --> 00:49:40,740 Yes, absolutely.

1120 00:49:40,740 --> 00:49:43,320 And to the outside world, you somebody different.

1121 00:49:43,320 --> 00:49:45,020 Right, a different face.

1122 00:49:45,020 --> 00:49:46,470 Different face, yeah.

1123 00:49:46,470 --> 00:49:49,180 Yeah.

1124 00:49:49,180 --> 00:49:51,230 What were your thoughts--

1125

00:49:51,230 --> 00:49:54,220 do you remember your thoughts during the Eichmann trial?

1126 00:49:54,220 --> 00:49:58,020 You were a young adult. Do you have any--

1127 00:49:58,020 --> 00:50:01,410 what your feelings were when Eichmann went on trial?

1128 00:50:01,410 --> 00:50:06,060 Well, I knew Eichmann went on trial, what he did exactly.

1129 00:50:06,060 --> 00:50:09,870 I had very, very good feelings that he was captured,

1130 00:50:09,870 --> 00:50:11,880 to be very honest with you.

1131 00:50:11,880 --> 00:50:16,770 And I hope that more of those people

1132 00:50:16,770 --> 00:50:19,590 would be captured and taught a lesson--

1133 00:50:19,590 --> 00:50:22,110 that that should never happen again.

1134 00:50:22,110 --> 00:50:23,640 Do you think it could happen again?

1135 00:50:23,640 --> 00:50:24,990 Absolutely. 1136 00:50:24,990 --> 00:50:27,510 Betsy and I would were just discussing it.

1137 00:50:27,510 --> 00:50:28,710 Absolutely.

1138 00:50:28,710 --> 00:50:31,740 With the way the world is now, anyone

1139 00:50:31,740 --> 00:50:33,450 can come into the United States.

1140 00:50:33,450 --> 00:50:38,370 We had to wait until our visas were cleared.

1141 00:50:38,370 --> 00:50:44,470 We could have been here earlier in the United States.

1142 00:50:44,470 --> 00:50:45,340 There was a quota.

1143 00:50:45,340 --> 00:50:47,230 They have no quotas now.

1144 00:50:47,230 --> 00:50:53,260 Anyone can come to the United States, unfortunately.

1145 00:50:53,260 --> 00:50:56,140

1146 00:50:56,140 --> 00:50:58,720 What was it like when you became a citizen?

1147 00:50:58,720 --> 00:50:59,470 It was marvelous. 1148 00:50:59,470 --> 00:51:02,810 I was a senior in high school.

1149 00:51:02,810 --> 00:51:08,590 My father made sure that he knew about the Constitution.

1150 00:51:08,590 --> 00:51:12,100 I sat down and I prompted them.

1151 00:51:12,100 --> 00:51:17,530 My father at that time started to read the New York Times.

1152 00:51:17,530 --> 00:51:23,860 He went to Taft High School, took some lessons in English

1153 00:51:23,860 --> 00:51:27,670 with my mother, and we went for citizen papers 5 years

1154 00:51:27,670 --> 00:51:28,840 afterwards.

1155 00:51:28,840 --> 00:51:30,680 Very proud.

1156 00:51:30,680 --> 00:51:32,930 That specific day-do you remember?

1157 00:51:32,930 --> 00:51:33,430 Yeah.

1158 00:51:33,430 --> 00:51:34,790 I was very proud.

1159 00:51:34,790 --> 00:51:38,750 It was a big room somewhere downtown in Manhattan, 1160 00:51:38,750 --> 00:51:40,430 I don't remember exactly.

1161 00:51:40,430 --> 00:51:46,785 And it was a big group of people who became citizens.

1162 00:51:46,785 --> 00:51:50,070 I was very proud.

1163 00:51:50,070 --> 00:51:54,720 When your children were your age when

1164 00:51:54,720 --> 00:51:57,750 they were infants and young children and 2 years old

1165 00:51:57,750 --> 00:52:00,270 and 4 years, all the ages that you

1166 00:52:00,270 --> 00:52:02,490 were when you went through all that terrible time,

1167 00:52:02,490 --> 00:52:10,630 did that bring up feelings for you for the wartime?

1168 00:52:10,630 --> 00:52:12,580 No, no.

1169 00:52:12,580 --> 00:52:16,420 I separated myself psychologically.

1170 00:52:16,420 --> 00:52:20,948 I was a mother of children born in the United States.

00:52:20,948 --> 00:52:22,990 Yeah, but I meant, for instance, when they were 2

1172 00:52:22,990 --> 00:52:24,520 and when they were 4, you were going

1173 00:52:24,520 --> 00:52:26,120 through such terrible times yourself.

1174 00:52:26,120 --> 00:52:27,090 It did not bring up--

1175 00:52:27,090 --> 00:52:29,290 No, I never discussed it with them.

1176 00:52:29,290 --> 00:52:30,520 No, I didn't mean discuss it.

1177 00:52:30,520 --> 00:52:32,910 Did it bring up emotionally--

1178 00:52:32,910 --> 00:52:36,080 when I was 2, when I was 4, this is what happened to me.

1179 00:52:36,080 --> 00:52:37,870 No, no.

1180 00:52:37,870 --> 00:52:39,940 I just set it aside.

1181 00:52:39,940 --> 00:52:42,940 How much did you tell them when they were growing up

1182 00:52:42,940 --> 00:52:44,800 about your experience?

00:52:44,800 --> 00:52:48,490 Well, it didn't come to discussing the Holocaust

1184

00:52:48,490 --> 00:52:51,625 until my father was interviewed by Steven Spielberg.

1185

00:52:51,625 --> 00:52:52,540 Oh, OK.

1186 00:52:52,540 --> 00:52:54,970 And my father came to the house.

1187 00:52:54,970 --> 00:53:00,187 He still lived in New York and showed my father's interview.

1188

00:53:00,187 --> 00:53:01,270 So that's when it started.

1189 00:53:01,270 --> 00:53:03,130 That's when they really learned.

1190 00:53:03,130 --> 00:53:04,210 I think by that time--

1191 00:53:04,210 --> 00:53:09,360 I think Debbie and Steven, they were maybe 4th or 5th graders,

1192 00:53:09,360 --> 00:53:11,050 not before that.

1193 00:53:11,050 --> 00:53:12,010 Nothing before that.

1194 00:53:12,010 --> 00:53:12,510 No.

1195 00:53:12,510 --> 00:53:13,940 They knew nothing about your life.

1196

00:53:13,940 --> 00:53:14,440 No.

1197 00:53:14,440 --> 00:53:15,670 Your wartime life.

1198 00:53:15,670 --> 00:53:16,720 No.

1199 00:53:16,720 --> 00:53:17,470 What do you feel--

1200 00:53:17,470 --> 00:53:23,020 Well, they knew that I was born in Poland during the war.

1201 00:53:23,020 --> 00:53:25,510 They knew that, just that.

1202 00:53:25,510 --> 00:53:28,130 They didn't ask me details.

1203 00:53:28,130 --> 00:53:30,660 You know, then of course as they got older, they studied it,

1204 00:53:30,660 --> 00:53:33,310 and they knew what was happening.

1205 00:53:33,310 --> 00:53:35,740 Later on they asked me questions when they got older.

1206 00:53:35,740 --> 00:53:39,860

1207 00:53:39,860 --> 00:53:47,800 And are there any sights or sounds or smells 1208 00:53:47,800 --> 00:53:51,340 that bring back memories of the war time?

1209 00:53:51,340 --> 00:53:52,780 Well, I told you.

1210 00:53:52,780 --> 00:53:54,520 Traveling in those cattle cars--

1211 00:53:54,520 --> 00:53:56,080 I was just going to say for instance.

1212 00:53:56,080 --> 00:53:56,580 Yes, that.

1213 00:53:56,580 --> 00:53:57,600 Absolutely.

1214 00:53:57,600 --> 00:54:01,150 No, no, no but are there any sounds today

1215 00:54:01,150 --> 00:54:04,860 or smells today that trigger that experience.

1216 00:54:04,860 --> 00:54:06,960 Nothing, no, no.

1217 00:54:06,960 --> 00:54:10,180

1218 00:54:10,180 --> 00:54:10,960 Oh, dogs.

1219 00:54:10,960 --> 00:54:13,120 Yes, I am fearful of dogs.

00:54:13,120 --> 00:54:14,990 Thank you, Betsy.

1221 00:54:14,990 --> 00:54:15,490 Yeah.

1222 00:54:15,490 --> 00:54:17,428 You're fearful of the dogs because?

1223 00:54:17,428 --> 00:54:20,010

1224 00:54:20,010 --> 00:54:22,830 At times the Germans sometimes walked around

1225 00:54:22,830 --> 00:54:26,280 with a dog in Radom.

1226 00:54:26,280 --> 00:54:30,970

1227 00:54:30,970 --> 00:54:33,930 And so even today when you see any dog?

1228 00:54:33,930 --> 00:54:37,130 No, it's nothing major, you know what I'm saying to you?

1229 00:54:37,130 --> 00:54:39,590 It's just that I don't like dogs.

1230 00:54:39,590 --> 00:54:41,419 You don't.

1231 00:54:41,419 --> 00:54:43,690 Yeah, yeah.

1232 00:54:43,690 --> 00:54:46,400 Do you think you would have been a different person

1233

00:54:46,400 --> 00:54:51,080 today if you hadn't had the childhood that you had?

1234

00:54:51,080 --> 00:54:53,600 Absolutely, I'm sure.

1235

00:54:53,600 --> 00:54:54,920 I'm sure.

1236

00:54:54,920 --> 00:54:55,910 In what sense?

1237

00:54:55,910 --> 00:54:57,050 In what sense?

1238

00:54:57,050 --> 00:55:00,050 Oh, I would have been brought up completely differently,

1239

00:55:00,050 --> 00:55:00,740 you know?

1240

00:55:00,740 --> 00:55:04,870 I wouldn't have missed all those young years

1241

00:55:04,870 --> 00:55:09,370 that I missed being fearful, remembering that I

1242 00:55:09,370 --> 00:55:11,470 had to hide under the bed.

1243 00:55:11,470 --> 00:55:12,790 I wouldn't experience that.

1244 00:55:12,790 --> 00:55:16,200 1245 00:55:16,200 --> 00:55:19,650 It probably would have been a more positive kind of growing

1246 00:55:19,650 --> 00:55:21,500 up, to be very honest with you.

1247 00:55:21,500 --> 00:55:23,490 A happier growing up--

1248 00:55:23,490 --> 00:55:26,790 not being fearful of what would happen.

1249 00:55:26,790 --> 00:55:27,630 Not being cautious.

1250 00:55:27,630 --> 00:55:31,470

1251 00:55:31,470 --> 00:55:33,470 It would have been a completely different story.

1252 00:55:33,470 --> 00:55:36,110 Absolutely.

1253 00:55:36,110 --> 00:55:41,040 How has this affected you spiritually, religiously?

1254 00:55:41,040 --> 00:55:46,880 Well religiously, once my father made the tape

1255 00:55:46,880 --> 00:55:52,720 with Steven Spielberg, he came back to Judaism.

1256 00:55:52,720 --> 00:55:56,080 He used to go to shul Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

when he lived in Florida.

1257 00:55:56,080 --> 00:56:00,920 Every Saturday morning, he'd gather a couple of his friends.

1258 00:56:00,920 --> 00:56:02,110 They got in the car.

1259 00:56:02,110 --> 00:56:03,900 They went to services.

1260 00:56:03,900 --> 00:56:06,220 Holidays he loved to observe.

1261 00:56:06,220 --> 00:56:09,770 I used to make all the holidays, and he

1262 00:56:09,770 --> 00:56:11,230 used to come to my house.

1263 00:56:11,230 --> 00:56:13,930 And we celebrated all the holidays.

1264 00:56:13,930 --> 00:56:17,350 That was the pinnacle of happiness.

1265 00:56:17,350 --> 00:56:17,910 He remembers.

1266 00:56:17,910 --> 00:56:20,990 He used to say remember when your grandmother made

1267 00:56:20,990 --> 00:56:22,870 this stuff, you know?

1268 00:56:22,870 --> 00:56:25,120 His memories came back. 1269 00:56:25,120 --> 00:56:27,340 | grandfather did the same time, too.

1270 00:56:27,340 --> 00:56:29,980 I mean, Passover was beautiful, because my grandfather

1271 00:56:29,980 --> 00:56:32,030 had a beautiful voice.

1272 00:56:32,030 --> 00:56:35,960 And at the end of the Seder, we used to sit with the Haggadah

1273 00:56:35,960 --> 00:56:38,470 and he used to sing the songs.

1274 00:56:38,470 --> 00:56:40,480 My kids still remember that.

1275 00:56:40,480 --> 00:56:42,760 They used to-- he said to me the other day

1276 00:56:42,760 --> 00:56:48,100 I remember when great grandpa was singing all

1277 00:56:48,100 --> 00:56:49,800 these songs from the Haggadah.

1278 00:56:49,800 --> 00:56:51,760 He had a beautiful voice.

1279 00:56:51,760 --> 00:56:53,990 And of course my kids were going to Hebrew school,

1280 00:56:53,990 --> 00:56:55,210 so they joined with them. 1281 00:56:55,210 --> 00:56:57,550 So you kept up a religious life.

1282 00:56:57,550 --> 00:56:59,190 Yes, absolutely.

1283 00:56:59,190 --> 00:57:02,040 Do you feel totally assimilated in the United States?

1284 00:57:02,040 --> 00:57:03,120 Yes, absolutely.

1285 00:57:03,120 --> 00:57:03,620 You do.

1286 00:57:03,620 --> 00:57:06,135 Yes.

1287 00:57:06,135 --> 00:57:07,490 In a very positive way.

1288 00:57:07,490 --> 00:57:09,020 I mean, we've lived in Livingston

1289 00:57:09,020 --> 00:57:14,480 now for over 40 years in a very Jewish community.

1290 00:57:14,480 --> 00:57:15,455 I know a lot of people.

1291 00:57:15,455 --> 00:57:17,930 I have taught at a lot of temples--

1292 00:57:17,930 --> 00:57:23,810 not only conservative, but reform temples also. Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

1293 00:57:23,810 --> 00:57:30,085 So I'm very well aware of the Jewish religious life.

1294 00:57:30,085 --> 00:57:31,460 We've been members at the temple.

1295

00:57:31,460 --> 00:57:36,350 My kids were bar mitzvah'd and bat mitzvah'd at Beth Shalom.

1296 00:57:36,350 --> 00:57:41,900 My grandchildren, we had them up at the bimah, naming them.

1297 00:57:41,900 --> 00:57:44,190 You know, very involved.

1298

00:57:44,190 --> 00:57:47,650 What are your thoughts about Germany today?

1299

00:57:47,650 --> 00:57:51,560 That's very interesting that you ask that.

1300

00:57:51,560 --> 00:57:55,560 I have very negative feelings against Germany.

1301 00:57:55,560 --> 00:57:56,700 Absolutely.

1302 00:57:56,700 --> 00:58:01,980 My grandson, Cody, which just on a trip

1303 00:58:01,980 --> 00:58:10,660 this summer in some of the European countries.

00:58:10,660 --> 00:58:11,660 And what he said to me--

1305 00:58:11,660 --> 00:58:14,480 Grandma, I'm going to go to Poland.

1306 00:58:14,480 --> 00:58:16,730 I want to see Auschwitz.

1307 00:58:16,730 --> 00:58:19,970 He went to Poland, and I hadn't had time to discuss with him,

1308 00:58:19,970 --> 00:58:22,970 because he's so busy getting ready to go back to school.

1309 00:58:22,970 --> 00:58:26,870

1310 00:58:26,870 --> 00:58:27,950 He saw the world.

1311 00:58:27,950 --> 00:58:29,660 He saw what the world is like, nothing

1312 00:58:29,660 --> 00:58:31,520 like in the United States--

1313 00:58:31,520 --> 00:58:34,890 different ways of living.

1314 00:58:34,890 --> 00:58:38,590 He visited a lot of countries, had a terrific experience

1315 00:58:38,590 --> 00:58:44,810 through a very nice program that the college ran for students. 00:58:44,810 --> 00:58:49,150 And he spent, I think, a month or so in Europe--

1317 00:58:49,150 --> 00:58:50,940 his private school.

1318 00:58:50,940 --> 00:58:53,100 I haven't had a chance to talk to him.

1319 00:58:53,100 --> 00:58:55,320 Have you been back to Poland?

1320 00:58:55,320 --> 00:58:57,360 Yes, I went on the March of the Living.

1321 00:58:57,360 --> 00:58:58,740 You did.

1322 00:58:58,740 --> 00:59:03,330 And before I went there, I called my daughter up,

1323 00:59:03,330 --> 00:59:05,670 and I said, Debbie, I can't go by myself.

1324 00:59:05,670 --> 00:59:07,350 I need you to go with me.

1325 00:59:07,350 --> 00:59:10,080 She said let me check with my boss.

1326 00:59:10,080 --> 00:59:12,690 And I said, Debbie, is going to be only a week.

1327 00:59:12,690 --> 00:59:15,450 The March of the Living went to Poland first 1328 00:59:15,450 --> 00:59:17,550 and then to Israel.

1329 00:59:17,550 --> 00:59:22,710 And the man that led this group of students,

1330 00:59:22,710 --> 00:59:25,770 I had his children at day school where I taught.

1331 00:59:25,770 --> 00:59:30,090 And Joe called me up, and he said, Sarah, why don't you

1332 00:59:30,090 --> 00:59:32,880 come with me to Israel?

1333 00:59:32,880 --> 00:59:35,430 Not to Israel, I'm sorry-- to Poland.

1334 00:59:35,430 --> 00:59:37,380 And I said, Debbie can afford only one

1335 00:59:37,380 --> 00:59:39,540 week to be away from her job.

1336 00:59:39,540 --> 00:59:42,570 Is it OK if we just come to Poland with you?

1337 00:59:42,570 --> 00:59:44,460 He says absolutely.

1338 00:59:44,460 --> 00:59:47,790 He had two survivors, myself and another man--

1339 00:59:47,790 --> 00:59:49,260 an older man.

1340 00:59:49,260 --> 00:59:51,720 And it was a marvelous, marvelous trip.

1341 00:59:51,720 --> 00:59:54,690 Good experience.

1342 00:59:54,690 --> 00:59:56,570 And I said, Debbie, you have to come with me,

1343 00:59:56,570 --> 01:00:00,776 because this is the l'dor v'dor.

1344 01:00:00,776 --> 01:00:04,000 And we only went to Poland.

1345 01:00:04,000 --> 01:00:05,110 And to Auschwitz.

1346 01:00:05,110 --> 01:00:06,520 Well, we went to--

1347 01:00:06,520 --> 01:00:07,860 we did Poland, the whole thing.

1348 01:00:07,860 --> 01:00:08,360 Right.

1349 01:00:08,360 --> 01:00:12,350 So when you were in Auschwitz, did it stimulate any memories?

1350 01:00:12,350 --> 01:00:12,850 No.

1351 01:00:12,850 --> 01:00:13,350 No.

1352

01:00:13,350 --> 01:00:16,450 When we went to Auschwitz, I just

1353 01:00:16,450 --> 01:00:18,670 said-- he says, Mom, you sit down.

1354 01:00:18,670 --> 01:00:20,290 Debbie was my photographer.

1355 01:00:20,290 --> 01:00:23,290 She took all the pictures of our trip to Poland.

1356 01:00:23,290 --> 01:00:26,320 And for my birthday, she gave me an album of all the pictures.

1357 01:00:26,320 --> 01:00:29,230 We visited a school in Poland--

1358 01:00:29,230 --> 01:00:31,870 a Jewish school.

1359 01:00:31,870 --> 01:00:35,460 Had a marvelous experience talking to the rabbi who

1360 01:00:35,460 --> 01:00:37,930 was in charge of the school.

1361 01:00:37,930 --> 01:00:38,935 Talked to the teachers.

1362 01:00:38,935 --> 01:00:42,000

1363 01:00:42,000 --> 01:00:43,620 They were teaching Hebrew there.

1364 01:00:43,620 --> 01:00:44,490 Beautiful.

1365 01:00:44,490 --> 01:00:47,500 Was there any familiarity when we were in Auschwitz?

1366 01:00:47,500 --> 01:00:49,400 Did anything look familiar to you?

1367 01:00:49,400 --> 01:00:49,900 No.

1368 01:00:49,900 --> 01:00:50,400 No.

1369 01:00:50,400 --> 01:00:51,104

1370 01:00:51,104 --> 01:00:53,760 It was just the building, and I didn't go into the building,

1371 01:00:53,760 --> 01:00:54,510 to be very honest.

1372 01:00:54,510 --> 01:00:55,330 I couldn't do it.

1373 01:00:55,330 --> 01:00:56,080 You did not go in.

1374 01:00:56,080 --> 01:00:57,510 I couldn't do it.

1375 01:00:57,510 --> 01:00:59,730 Debbie says, Mom, you sit here outside.

1376 01:00:59,730 --> 01:01:01,980 I'm going to go in, and I'll take all the pictures. 1377 01:01:01,980 --> 01:01:03,510 Don't worry about it.

1378 01:01:03,510 --> 01:01:04,650 She did a marvelous job.

1379 01:01:04,650 --> 01:01:05,760 I have a terrific album.

1380 01:01:05,760 --> 01:01:11,850

1381 01:01:11,850 --> 01:01:14,500 What about-- and you say Germany.

1382 01:01:14,500 --> 01:01:17,700 Do you have very negative feelings?

1383 01:01:17,700 --> 01:01:18,960 Oh, absolutely.

1384 01:01:18,960 --> 01:01:20,910 Do you get reparations?

1385 01:01:20,910 --> 01:01:21,520 Yes I do.

1386 01:01:21,520 --> 01:01:22,530 You do.

1387 01:01:22,530 --> 01:01:23,880 Yes.

1388 01:01:23,880 --> 01:01:25,800 Did your parents get reparations?

1389 01:01:25,800 --> 01:01:26,820 Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

Well, what happened.

1390 01:01:26,820 --> 01:01:30,390 My father applied for himself, and my mother

1391 01:01:30,390 --> 01:01:34,020 said she doesn't want any of that dirty money.

1392 01:01:34,020 --> 01:01:37,290 She said Leon, do not fill out the papers for me.

1393 01:01:37,290 --> 01:01:39,990 She was very, very strict.

1394

01:01:39,990 --> 01:01:41,740 So my mother never got reparation.

1395 01:01:41,740 --> 01:01:45,800 My father got reparation, and I gave reparations.

1396

01:01:45,800 --> 01:01:46,500 It's something.

1397

01:01:46,500 --> 01:01:50,130 He was working now with the Israeli government

1398

01:01:50,130 --> 01:01:52,560 where they want to give reparations

1399

01:01:52,560 --> 01:01:57,310 for people who are older.

1400

01:01:57,310 --> 01:02:00,850 And Israel is trying to work out something with Germany. 1401 01:02:00,850 --> 01:02:04,670 I haven't heard anything yet.

1402 01:02:04,670 --> 01:02:07,775 Are you more comfortable around survivors?

1403 01:02:07,775 --> 01:02:09,150 Well, I have nothing to do with--

1404 01:02:09,150 --> 01:02:13,470 I mean, with the survivors, it was only my father's friends

1405 01:02:13,470 --> 01:02:14,380 when I used to come.

1406 01:02:14,380 --> 01:02:17,027 No, but in today's world, when you meet with survivors,

1407 01:02:17,027 --> 01:02:17,610 are you more--

1408 01:02:17,610 --> 01:02:19,020 If I meet them fine.

1409 01:02:19,020 --> 01:02:21,390 It's not that I'm more comfortable.

1410 01:02:21,390 --> 01:02:22,940 With them then.

1411 01:02:22,940 --> 01:02:23,890 Them, no.

1412 01:02:23,890 --> 01:02:27,100 01:02:27,100 --> 01:02:30,640 There's no distinction between survivors and Americans.

1414 01:02:30,640 --> 01:02:31,540 I'm an American.

1415 01:02:31,540 --> 01:02:33,910 I'm an educator.

1416 01:02:33,910 --> 01:02:36,660 You know, I don't do well about the survival,

1417 01:02:36,660 --> 01:02:38,830 to be very honest with you.

1418 01:02:38,830 --> 01:02:42,690 I couldn't wait to come to Washington to the Holocaust

1419 01:02:42,690 --> 01:02:43,500 Museum.

1420 01:02:43,500 --> 01:02:48,180 My father was the first one when the Holocaust Museum opened,

1421 01:02:48,180 --> 01:02:49,920 with his friends.

1422 01:02:49,920 --> 01:02:53,280 They got a bus of all the survivors from Radom

1423 01:02:53,280 --> 01:02:55,590 and they came to Washington, DC.

1424 01:02:55,590 --> 01:02:56,530 He made sure of that.

1425 01:02:56,530 --> 01:02:57,727 He was a doer.

1426 01:02:57,727 --> 01:03:01,550

1427 01:03:01,550 --> 01:03:06,690 Before we close, are there any messages to your grandchildren

1428

01:03:06,690 --> 01:03:08,070 you would like to leave--

1429

01:03:08,070 --> 01:03:11,370 a message or anything you'd like to say to them for the future?

1430

01:03:11,370 --> 01:03:15,440 Well, I told my grandchildren--

1431

01:03:15,440 --> 01:03:20,870 my granddaughter came back from camp, and I called her up,

1432 01:03:20,870 --> 01:03:22,940 and I Katie, how was camp?

1433 01:03:22,940 --> 01:03:23,980 How did you do?

1434 01:03:23,980 --> 01:03:25,850 Grandma, it was terrific.

1435 01:03:25,850 --> 01:03:28,970 I said, Katie, I want you to know I'm going with my friend

1436 01:03:28,970 --> 01:03:32,630 to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC.

1437 01:03:32,630 --> 01:03:34,850 Grandma, that's terrific. 1438 01:03:34,850 --> 01:03:39,530 And I said, when I come back, we will make a date,

1439 01:03:39,530 --> 01:03:42,800 and you and Ethan and daddy and mommy

1440 01:03:42,800 --> 01:03:45,560 are going to go with me to the Holocaust Museum,

1441 01:03:45,560 --> 01:03:49,670 because I want to show you some things and some pictures that

1442 01:03:49,670 --> 01:03:54,320 are now in the newspapers that I didn't even know.

1443 01:03:54,320 --> 01:03:57,680 I said, I'm going with a friend of mine, Elizabeth Bess--

1444 01:03:57,680 --> 01:03:59,030 very good friend of mine.

1445 01:03:59,030 --> 01:04:02,030 We're going to do a lot of research there.

1446 01:04:02,030 --> 01:04:04,615 And when I come back, I'm going to show you all the things.

1447 01:04:04,615 --> 01:04:06,200 Oh, Grandma, that's terrific.

1448 01:04:06,200 --> 01:04:08,510 I can't wait to see it.

1449

01:04:08,510 --> 01:04:12,280 She was very enthusiastic about it.

1450 01:04:12,280 --> 01:04:14,512 So I will pass--

1451 01:04:14,512 --> 01:04:16,730 how can I say--

1452 01:04:16,730 --> 01:04:23,270 these feelings, but positive feelings about what

1453 01:04:23,270 --> 01:04:24,410 I have learned over this.

1454 01:04:24,410 --> 01:04:27,430

1455 01:04:27,430 --> 01:04:29,770 What you have learned.

1456 01:04:29,770 --> 01:04:30,550 What did I learn?

1457 01:04:30,550 --> 01:04:31,310 Yes.

1458 01:04:31,310 --> 01:04:38,510 I learned that it could happen again.

1459 01:04:38,510 --> 01:04:43,390 But don't look away and say that happened many years ago.

1460 01:04:43,390 --> 01:04:44,710 You lived through it.

1461 01:04:44,710 --> 01:04:46,300 You survived it. 1462 01:04:46,300 --> 01:04:48,362 You were able to come to the Holocaust Museum

1463 01:04:48,362 --> 01:04:49,195 and tell your story.

1464 01:04:49,195 --> 01:04:51,770

1465 01:04:51,770 --> 01:04:54,400 I am not that sure that it wouldn't happen again,

1466 01:04:54,400 --> 01:04:58,720 to be very honest with you, the way the world is going now,

1467 01:04:58,720 --> 01:05:00,810 unfortunately.

1468 01:05:00,810 --> 01:05:03,660 I'm very pessimistic, to be very honest for you,

1469 01:05:03,660 --> 01:05:07,890 to see there are no quotas to come into the United States.

1470 01:05:07,890 --> 01:05:09,960 We had to wait all that time in order

1471 01:05:09,960 --> 01:05:13,020 to come here after the Holocaust.

1472 01:05:13,020 --> 01:05:18,760 Roosevelt had a quota for the Polish quota.

1473

01:05:18,760 --> 01:05:20,320 Now there's no quotas.

1474 01:05:20,320 --> 01:05:22,740 Anyone can come in.

1475 01:05:22,740 --> 01:05:26,120 The border's so open.

1476 01:05:26,120 --> 01:05:30,740 All you hear on TV and anywhere that you go--

1477 01:05:30,740 --> 01:05:34,250 all the atrocities that are happening, unfortunately--

1478 01:05:34,250 --> 01:05:37,630 every day it's a new gimmick.

1479 01:05:37,630 --> 01:05:42,700 Robbing people, killing people--

1480 01:05:42,700 --> 01:05:47,130 the world is terrible now, and I'm very sad about it.

1481 01:05:47,130 --> 01:05:51,830

1482 01:05:51,830 --> 01:05:53,620 Let's hope this interview contributes

1483 01:05:53,620 --> 01:05:57,340 to something positive with you telling your story.

1484 01:05:57,340 --> 01:05:58,970 Thank you very much.

1485 01:05:58,970 --> 01:06:00,540 I really appreciate it.

1486 01:06:00,540 --> 01:06:03,190 Well, thank you for doing the interview.

1487 01:06:03,190 --> 01:06:03,820 My pleasure.

1488 01:06:03,820 --> 01:06:06,520

1489 01:06:06,520 --> 01:06:09,730 This concludes the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

1490 01:06:09,730 --> 01:06:13,500 interview with Sarah Ludwig.

1491 01:06:13,500 --> 01:06:14,000