

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,120

2  
00:00:04,120 --> 00:00:07,540  
This is a United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3  
00:00:07,540 --> 00:00:12,040  
interview of Liya Kaplinskaya.

4  
00:00:12,040 --> 00:00:18,520  
It is being conducted by  
Gail Schwartz on May 29, 2018

5  
00:00:18,520 --> 00:00:22,480  
and is taking place in  
Rockville, Maryland.

6  
00:00:22,480 --> 00:00:26,930  
This is track number one.

7  
00:00:26,930 --> 00:00:30,090  
What is your full name?

8  
00:00:30,090 --> 00:00:32,630  
My full name is Liya.

9  
00:00:32,630 --> 00:00:36,140  
In Russian, we usually  
have two parts of the name.

10  
00:00:36,140 --> 00:00:42,420  
The name, my own name, and the  
second, the name of my father.

11  
00:00:42,420 --> 00:00:49,100  
So in Russian it sounds  
Liya Naum Kaplinskaya.

12  
00:00:49,100 --> 00:00:54,350  
In America I'm Liya Kaplinskaya.

13  
00:00:54,350 --> 00:00:56,190  
And where were you born?

14  
00:00:56,190 --> 00:00:59,480  
I was born in Moscow in 1936.

15  
00:00:59,480 --> 00:01:01,340  
What day and what date?

16  
00:01:01,340 --> 00:01:04,970  
August, the third, 1936.

17  
00:01:04,970 --> 00:01:09,350  
OK, let's talk a little  
bit about your family.

18  
00:01:09,350 --> 00:01:13,260  
Who made up the  
members of your family?

19  
00:01:13,260 --> 00:01:15,740  
I was the first child.

20  
00:01:15,740 --> 00:01:19,940  
My father was Kaplinsky Naum.

21  
00:01:19,940 --> 00:01:24,710  
My mother was Ida Wolfson.

22  
00:01:24,710 --> 00:01:25,595  
They were working.

23  
00:01:25,595 --> 00:01:29,400

24  
00:01:29,400 --> 00:01:39,120  
They worked in the  
Ministry of Trade.

25  
00:01:39,120 --> 00:01:40,730

Maybe something like that.

26

00:01:40,730 --> 00:01:42,680

They worked for the government?

27

00:01:42,680 --> 00:01:43,400

Yes, yes.

28

00:01:43,400 --> 00:01:46,120

Absolutely.

29

00:01:46,120 --> 00:01:51,775

I was almost five years  
old when the war began.

30

00:01:51,775 --> 00:01:53,910

No, we'll get to that later.

31

00:01:53,910 --> 00:01:54,472

So later.

32

00:01:54,472 --> 00:01:55,055

Yeah, not now.

33

00:01:55,055 --> 00:02:02,630

So we were three and in  
1940, my sister was born.

34

00:02:02,630 --> 00:02:03,990

OK, and her name?

35

00:02:03,990 --> 00:02:05,910

Her name is Fania.

36

00:02:05,910 --> 00:02:12,020

OK, and were your  
parents also from Moscow?

37

00:02:12,020 --> 00:02:13,490

Were they born in Moscow?

38

00:02:13,490 --> 00:02:17,870  
No, no both of them  
were born in Russia,

39  
00:02:17,870 --> 00:02:19,805  
in different parts of Russia.

40  
00:02:19,805 --> 00:02:24,570  
Do you know the names of  
the cities, and the towns?

41  
00:02:24,570 --> 00:02:30,530  
My mother was born not far  
from the town [INAUDIBLE]..

42  
00:02:30,530 --> 00:02:35,750  
It's a village which  
was called Slavnoe.

43  
00:02:35,750 --> 00:02:41,890  
My father was born  
close to Mazyr.

44  
00:02:41,890 --> 00:02:43,250  
OK.

45  
00:02:43,250 --> 00:02:47,380  
And did your mother work  
also or just your father?

46  
00:02:47,380 --> 00:02:48,210  
Both of them.

47  
00:02:48,210 --> 00:02:49,390  
Both of them.

48  
00:02:49,390 --> 00:02:53,530  
In Russia, all women work.

49  
00:02:53,530 --> 00:02:58,690  
It was impossible to keep have  
only one person in the family

50

00:02:58,690 --> 00:02:59,600  
working.

51

00:02:59,600 --> 00:03:02,470  
How much education  
did they have?

52

00:03:02,470 --> 00:03:05,710  
Both of them had a  
higher education.

53

00:03:05,710 --> 00:03:06,880  
College level?

54

00:03:06,880 --> 00:03:09,280  
Yes, both of them.

55

00:03:09,280 --> 00:03:11,680  
And then your father worked  
for the Ministry of Trade,

56

00:03:11,680 --> 00:03:12,350  
you said.

57

00:03:12,350 --> 00:03:14,050  
And, my mother also.

58

00:03:14,050 --> 00:03:15,370  
And your mother also.

59

00:03:15,370 --> 00:03:17,050  
She was a counter.

60

00:03:17,050 --> 00:03:19,090  
She was an economist.

61

00:03:19,090 --> 00:03:20,980  
OK, and how did they meet?

62

00:03:20,980 --> 00:03:24,220  
Is that where they

met, in the office?

63  
00:03:24,220 --> 00:03:25,150  
It's awful.

64  
00:03:25,150 --> 00:03:28,250  
I never asked my mother.

65  
00:03:28,250 --> 00:03:32,600  
OK, did you live right  
in the center of Moscow?

66  
00:03:32,600 --> 00:03:34,960  
Yes, yes.

67  
00:03:34,960 --> 00:03:38,530  
At that time, it  
was only center.

68  
00:03:38,530 --> 00:03:41,610  
It was not a huge  
city as it is now.

69  
00:03:41,610 --> 00:03:43,000  
Yeah.

70  
00:03:43,000 --> 00:03:46,070  
And did you live in a  
house or an apartment?

71  
00:03:46,070 --> 00:03:48,220  
No, no.

72  
00:03:48,220 --> 00:03:49,600  
An apartment?

73  
00:03:49,600 --> 00:03:52,720  
It was a communal apartment.

74  
00:03:52,720 --> 00:03:58,180  
It was a small wooden  
house with two floors

75  
00:03:58,180 --> 00:04:08,110  
and there were 10 rooms  
in this apartment.

76  
00:04:08,110 --> 00:04:14,950  
In each room a family of  
two, three, four people.

77  
00:04:14,950 --> 00:04:15,920  
OK.

78  
00:04:15,920 --> 00:04:19,390  
And did you have aunts  
and uncles and cousins?

79  
00:04:19,390 --> 00:04:22,300  
Did you have other relatives?

80  
00:04:22,300 --> 00:04:23,320  
In Moscow?

81  
00:04:23,320 --> 00:04:26,920  
Yes, all of them came to Moscow.

82  
00:04:26,920 --> 00:04:29,530  
All the relatives of my parents.

83  
00:04:29,530 --> 00:04:35,950  
I had two uncles from  
the side of my father

84  
00:04:35,950 --> 00:04:39,400  
and with their families.

85  
00:04:39,400 --> 00:04:42,250  
And, yes two.

86  
00:04:42,250 --> 00:04:47,410  
And two sisters from  
my mother's family.

87

00:04:47,410 --> 00:04:51,040

One of them lived together  
with us, all of my life

88

00:04:51,040 --> 00:04:54,010

because she had no family.

89

00:04:54,010 --> 00:05:00,860

And the family of the  
second lived separately.

90

00:05:00,860 --> 00:05:11,050

91

00:05:11,050 --> 00:05:13,715

Not your relatives, OK.

92

00:05:13,715 --> 00:05:16,750

And so I have two families.

93

00:05:16,750 --> 00:05:20,410

From my father's, two  
uncles with families,

94

00:05:20,410 --> 00:05:22,330

from the side of my father.

95

00:05:22,330 --> 00:05:27,340

And two sisters from  
the side of my mother.

96

00:05:27,340 --> 00:05:31,280

One of them lived  
together with us.

97

00:05:31,280 --> 00:05:34,760

And the second lived separately.

98

00:05:34,760 --> 00:05:37,790

So this obviously was  
under communist rule.



99

00:05:37,790 --> 00:05:40,160

And so what about  
religion, being Jewish?

100

00:05:40,160 --> 00:05:41,260

No, no religion.

101

00:05:41,260 --> 00:05:43,690

Absolutely.

102

00:05:43,690 --> 00:05:44,980

No holidays?

103

00:05:44,980 --> 00:05:46,150

No?

104

00:05:46,150 --> 00:05:56,410

While I was a child, my aunts  
from my mother's sister's

105

00:05:56,410 --> 00:05:59,380

side spoke Jewish.

106

00:05:59,380 --> 00:05:59,950

Yiddish.

107

00:05:59,950 --> 00:06:06,670

Yiddish at home because they  
didn't want me to understand

108

00:06:06,670 --> 00:06:08,560

what they were talking about.

109

00:06:08,560 --> 00:06:13,340

But after I began to  
study German at school,

110

00:06:13,340 --> 00:06:14,925

I began to understand.

111

00:06:14,925 --> 00:06:16,315

And they stopped.

112  
00:06:16,315 --> 00:06:22,780  
It was the only Jewish  
side of our life.

113  
00:06:22,780 --> 00:06:26,270  
Did you know you were Jewish  
when you were very little?

114  
00:06:26,270 --> 00:06:29,140  
Oh, it's an  
interesting question.

115  
00:06:29,140 --> 00:06:32,830  
When you were very  
little, did you know?

116  
00:06:32,830 --> 00:06:35,090  
Well, I was a child.

117  
00:06:35,090 --> 00:06:36,820  
I didn't know anything.

118  
00:06:36,820 --> 00:06:41,320  
But when we returned from  
immigration to Moscow,

119  
00:06:41,320 --> 00:06:43,360  
it was 1943.

120  
00:06:43,360 --> 00:06:45,400  
I was seven.

121  
00:06:45,400 --> 00:06:54,790  
In our backyard, two boys  
came to me, and asked me.

122  
00:06:54,790 --> 00:06:55,700  
Repeat.

123  
00:06:55,700 --> 00:06:58,390

I will explain it  
to you after that.

124  
00:06:58,390 --> 00:07:04,600  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]  
because there are a lot

125  
00:07:04,600 --> 00:07:07,650  
of [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

126  
00:07:07,650 --> 00:07:09,760  
And I answered correctly.

127  
00:07:09,760 --> 00:07:13,840  
They were very surprised and  
after that they put it on me

128  
00:07:13,840 --> 00:07:15,330  
and said, all the same.

129  
00:07:15,330 --> 00:07:16,941  
She's a Jew.

130  
00:07:16,941 --> 00:07:20,940  
It was the first time that  
I learned that I'm not

131  
00:07:20,940 --> 00:07:21,945  
like all the others.

132  
00:07:21,945 --> 00:07:24,630

133  
00:07:24,630 --> 00:07:27,550  
So, what is your first memory.

134  
00:07:27,550 --> 00:07:32,080  
You were born in 1936.

135  
00:07:32,080 --> 00:07:36,760  
What is your first  
memory of the time

136  
00:07:36,760 --> 00:07:38,320  
spent when you were little?

137  
00:07:38,320 --> 00:07:39,550  
How old were you?

138  
00:07:39,550 --> 00:07:40,360  
About what?

139  
00:07:40,360 --> 00:07:42,250  
Well, just generally.

140  
00:07:42,250 --> 00:07:45,910  
Your first memories  
of childhood.

141  
00:07:45,910 --> 00:07:48,645  
Maybe four or five.

142  
00:07:48,645 --> 00:07:50,160  
OK, so that's in 1936.

143  
00:07:50,160 --> 00:07:52,230  
And 1940, 1941.

144  
00:07:52,230 --> 00:07:52,895  
Yes.

145  
00:07:52,895 --> 00:07:56,020  
What were those memories?

146  
00:07:56,020 --> 00:07:58,960  
What was it that you remember?

147  
00:07:58,960 --> 00:08:07,590  
Not special, maybe I remember  
the very last days of my summer

148  
00:08:07,590 --> 00:08:13,760  
being in the kindergarten,

in the suburb of Moscow.

149  
00:08:13,760 --> 00:08:19,940  
When my father came there  
and said that the war began.

150  
00:08:19,940 --> 00:08:22,670  
This is 1941 we're  
talking about.

151  
00:08:22,670 --> 00:08:26,030  
Yes, it was necessary  
to come home

152  
00:08:26,030 --> 00:08:32,480  
because they thought about  
the evacuation at that time.

153  
00:08:32,480 --> 00:08:34,230  
I remember it very well.

154  
00:08:34,230 --> 00:08:37,460  
But before that--

155  
00:08:37,460 --> 00:08:40,490  
You just went to school  
and played with friends.

156  
00:08:40,490 --> 00:08:41,330  
Sorry?

157  
00:08:41,330 --> 00:08:44,660  
Before that you just went to  
school and played with friends,

158  
00:08:44,660 --> 00:08:45,510  
right?

159  
00:08:45,510 --> 00:08:46,010  
No.

160  
00:08:46,010 --> 00:08:49,730

161  
00:08:49,730 --> 00:08:53,330  
That was the first memory  
you have, you said.

162  
00:08:53,330 --> 00:08:55,580  
The first very important memory.

163  
00:08:55,580 --> 00:08:56,580  
No, that's fine.

164  
00:08:56,580 --> 00:08:57,530  
Yeah.

165  
00:08:57,530 --> 00:09:01,740  
So your father came and  
then you went home with him.

166  
00:09:01,740 --> 00:09:02,997  
Then what happened?

167  
00:09:02,997 --> 00:09:11,420  
Very, very soon after that, he  
went as a volunteer to the army

168  
00:09:11,420 --> 00:09:16,400  
because he had very bad sight  
and he couldn't see anything

169  
00:09:16,400 --> 00:09:17,960  
without glasses.

170  
00:09:17,960 --> 00:09:21,170  
So he couldn't be mobilized.

171  
00:09:21,170 --> 00:09:26,930  
And when the Germans  
came close to Moscow,

172  
00:09:26,930 --> 00:09:32,920  
they begot the government

to persuade people

173  
00:09:32,920 --> 00:09:36,460  
that it's necessary  
to defend the country.

174  
00:09:36,460 --> 00:09:43,450  
And all of them who could,  
went to the volunteer army.

175  
00:09:43,450 --> 00:09:48,680  
Because nobody thought about  
their health at that time.

176  
00:09:48,680 --> 00:09:54,340  
And he went as a volunteer and  
all of the Moscow volunteer

177  
00:09:54,340 --> 00:09:58,650  
Army was surrounded by  
German's, not far from Moscow.

178  
00:09:58,650 --> 00:10:00,730  
And they destroyed all of them.

179  
00:10:00,730 --> 00:10:03,880  
Right, we're talking  
about June '41, June 1941.

180  
00:10:03,880 --> 00:10:10,240  
It was close to November,  
December of '41.

181  
00:10:10,240 --> 00:10:15,670  
But at that time the Ministry,  
where both of my parents

182  
00:10:15,670 --> 00:10:19,240  
worked, was  
evacuated to Siberia.

183  
00:10:19,240 --> 00:10:22,300  
And my mom, together

with both of us.

184  
00:10:22,300 --> 00:10:25,840  
My sister was less  
than one year.

185  
00:10:25,840 --> 00:10:27,985  
We went together to her job.

186  
00:10:27,985 --> 00:10:29,800  
Just the three of you went.

187  
00:10:29,800 --> 00:10:32,395  
Your father stayed in Moscow?

188  
00:10:32,395 --> 00:10:33,340  
Not in Moscow.

189  
00:10:33,340 --> 00:10:34,330  
He was in the army.

190  
00:10:34,330 --> 00:10:37,120

191  
00:10:37,120 --> 00:10:44,650  
And in December, all the  
letters stopped from him.

192  
00:10:44,650 --> 00:10:51,460  
And my mother began to write  
to understand what happened.

193  
00:10:51,460 --> 00:10:58,180  
And only in '42, she began  
to get the information.

194  
00:10:58,180 --> 00:11:01,960  
It was a special expression.

195  
00:11:01,960 --> 00:11:05,350  
He had disappeared and  
we have no information.



196  
00:11:05,350 --> 00:11:09,130

197  
00:11:09,130 --> 00:11:12,510  
So we went on without it.

198  
00:11:12,510 --> 00:11:14,185  
So you went to Siberia?

199  
00:11:14,185 --> 00:11:14,685  
Yes.

200  
00:11:14,685 --> 00:11:15,576  
Where in Siberia?

201  
00:11:15,576 --> 00:11:18,237  
Novosibirsk.

202  
00:11:18,237 --> 00:11:19,320  
And how did you get there?

203  
00:11:19,320 --> 00:11:21,060  
By train?

204  
00:11:21,060 --> 00:11:21,900  
Yes, by train.

205  
00:11:21,900 --> 00:11:24,045  
In a very, very long train.

206  
00:11:24,045 --> 00:11:26,032  
Do you remember the train ride?

207  
00:11:26,032 --> 00:11:26,670  
Yes.

208  
00:11:26,670 --> 00:11:29,380  
Tell me a little bit about it.

209

00:11:29,380 --> 00:11:38,820  
It was not a wagon, as  
we like to see the train.

210  
00:11:38,820 --> 00:11:45,090  
It was a special  
car for animals.

211  
00:11:45,090 --> 00:11:49,860  
And inside them,  
there were shelves.

212  
00:11:49,860 --> 00:11:57,420  
Three rows of shelves and  
a lot of people inside.

213  
00:11:57,420 --> 00:12:04,930  
And by that time, they  
began to bomb Moscow.

214  
00:12:04,930 --> 00:12:09,190  
And there was an  
order for everyone

215  
00:12:09,190 --> 00:12:14,470  
to remove the children  
from the city, who could,

216  
00:12:14,470 --> 00:12:17,160  
to the Asian part  
of the country.

217  
00:12:17,160 --> 00:12:20,410

218  
00:12:20,410 --> 00:12:23,540  
It was a very long,  
very long travel.

219  
00:12:23,540 --> 00:12:26,980  
Something like a week maybe.

220  
00:12:26,980 --> 00:12:28,540

What did your mother  
bring with her?

221  
00:12:28,540 --> 00:12:30,310  
Do you remember what  
your mother brought

222  
00:12:30,310 --> 00:12:32,500  
and what you brought  
to take with you?

223  
00:12:32,500 --> 00:12:35,440  
What did you take  
with you from home?

224  
00:12:35,440 --> 00:12:36,970  
You don't remember?

225  
00:12:36,970 --> 00:12:43,525  
I only know when we came back  
our room was almost empty.

226  
00:12:43,525 --> 00:12:44,620  
Was there enough food?

227  
00:12:44,620 --> 00:12:46,445  
Did you have enough  
food on the train?

228  
00:12:46,445 --> 00:12:46,990  
No, no.

229  
00:12:46,990 --> 00:12:48,530  
We didn't have enough food.

230  
00:12:48,530 --> 00:12:52,387  
But I don't remember  
the details.

231  
00:12:52,387 --> 00:12:53,470  
Well, you were very young.

232

00:12:53,470 --> 00:12:54,632  
Yeah.

233  
00:12:54,632 --> 00:12:56,515  
I don't remember.

234  
00:12:56,515 --> 00:12:59,860  
And do you know if you-- did you  
take anything special with you,

235  
00:12:59,860 --> 00:13:01,775  
a special toy or?

236  
00:13:01,775 --> 00:13:02,960  
No, no.

237  
00:13:02,960 --> 00:13:06,385  
It was in a hurry and  
everyone was very tense.

238  
00:13:06,385 --> 00:13:08,950

239  
00:13:08,950 --> 00:13:14,290  
Were there a lot of other  
children with you in the train?

240  
00:13:14,290 --> 00:13:15,520  
Were there other children?

241  
00:13:15,520 --> 00:13:19,360  
Yeah, there were children  
but I don't remember

242  
00:13:19,360 --> 00:13:21,890  
any special contact them.

243  
00:13:21,890 --> 00:13:25,120  
We were so afraid,  
so frightened,

244  
00:13:25,120 --> 00:13:28,645

that we were with our mother.

245

00:13:28,645 --> 00:13:30,700

And what kind of, do  
you remember anything

246

00:13:30,700 --> 00:13:33,250

your mother said  
to you, especially?

247

00:13:33,250 --> 00:13:36,070

Did your mother say anything?

248

00:13:36,070 --> 00:13:37,050

I don't remember.

249

00:13:37,050 --> 00:13:39,865

Was she crying or  
was she strong?

250

00:13:39,865 --> 00:13:45,490

Certainly, because it was an  
interruption of usual life

251

00:13:45,490 --> 00:13:49,030

and nobody knows  
what will be had.

252

00:13:49,030 --> 00:13:52,620

And she was very nervous  
because of my father.

253

00:13:52,620 --> 00:13:54,240

Yes.

254

00:13:54,240 --> 00:13:59,140

Where was your father's  
station and where was he?

255

00:13:59,140 --> 00:14:00,460

He was in the army, you said.

256

00:14:00,460 --> 00:14:02,980

257

00:14:02,980 --> 00:14:04,980

Where your father was?

258

00:14:04,980 --> 00:14:06,535

Do you know where he was?

259

00:14:06,535 --> 00:14:12,490

I know where the army  
was of volunteers.

260

00:14:12,490 --> 00:14:14,680

Where they were surrounded.

261

00:14:14,680 --> 00:14:17,320

I know it was Vyazma.

262

00:14:17,320 --> 00:14:23,770

All the Moscow volunteer army  
was surrounded, just straight

263

00:14:23,770 --> 00:14:25,900

off.

264

00:14:25,900 --> 00:14:29,335

So now, you said it took a week?

265

00:14:29,335 --> 00:14:31,420

Or something like  
that, maybe later.

266

00:14:31,420 --> 00:14:32,440

And then what?

267

00:14:32,440 --> 00:14:36,055

You get to Siberia  
and what happens?

268

00:14:36,055 --> 00:14:42,610

We went to Siberia and many

inhabitants of Novosibirsk

269  
00:14:42,610 --> 00:14:44,350  
were enclosed.

270  
00:14:44,350 --> 00:14:48,750  
And part of the houses,  
part of their apartments,

271  
00:14:48,750 --> 00:14:52,690  
houses mostly, because  
they were small houses,

272  
00:14:52,690 --> 00:14:55,720  
were given to evacuated people.

273  
00:14:55,720 --> 00:15:00,610  
And so, there were no  
police as you understand.

274  
00:15:00,610 --> 00:15:06,280  
And they were, I can't say they  
were aggressive, but not nice.

275  
00:15:06,280 --> 00:15:11,650

276  
00:15:11,650 --> 00:15:14,230  
Were there any of your friends  
that came with you then?

277  
00:15:14,230 --> 00:15:16,450  
Any other children  
that you knew?

278  
00:15:16,450 --> 00:15:17,445  
No, no.

279  
00:15:17,445 --> 00:15:19,000  
You did not know anybody.

280  
00:15:19,000 --> 00:15:19,795

Absolutely not.

281  
00:15:19,795 --> 00:15:21,580  
And your mother did  
not know anybody.

282  
00:15:21,580 --> 00:15:22,455  
Did she know anybody?

283  
00:15:22,455 --> 00:15:27,620  
Probably, my mother had because  
it was their organization where

284  
00:15:27,620 --> 00:15:29,230  
she worked before the war.

285  
00:15:29,230 --> 00:15:33,490  
And they worked together there.

286  
00:15:33,490 --> 00:15:38,470  
I remember only  
a very nice woman

287  
00:15:38,470 --> 00:15:43,630  
who lived in the big  
backyard of ours.

288  
00:15:43,630 --> 00:15:45,560  
She was also very creative.

289  
00:15:45,560 --> 00:15:50,560  
She was a musician and we  
continued this acquaintance

290  
00:15:50,560 --> 00:15:53,155  
when we came back.

291  
00:15:53,155 --> 00:15:56,230  
So now you have a place to live.

292  
00:15:56,230 --> 00:15:59,335  
And what do you do every day?



293  
00:15:59,335 --> 00:16:02,365  
I went to kindergarten.

294  
00:16:02,365 --> 00:16:03,680  
You went to kindergarten.

295  
00:16:03,680 --> 00:16:08,110  
Yes, and my sister was  
too small for that.

296  
00:16:08,110 --> 00:16:11,462  
She was there and she  
had a baby sitter.

297  
00:16:11,462 --> 00:16:14,830  
Yeah, and your  
mother went to work.

298  
00:16:14,830 --> 00:16:17,365  
And where did she work?

299  
00:16:17,365 --> 00:16:21,940  
In this organization,  
which was in Moscow.

300  
00:16:21,940 --> 00:16:25,250  
That had been moved to Siberia.

301  
00:16:25,250 --> 00:16:26,150  
OK.

302  
00:16:26,150 --> 00:16:29,020  
And so, you would come home.

303  
00:16:29,020 --> 00:16:30,580  
Did you have enough clothes?

304  
00:16:30,580 --> 00:16:31,750  
Were you warm enough?

305

00:16:31,750 --> 00:16:35,818

306

00:16:35,818 --> 00:16:36,955

I can't remember.

307

00:16:36,955 --> 00:16:39,080

OK, well, you were very young.

308

00:16:39,080 --> 00:16:40,110

I don't remember.

309

00:16:40,110 --> 00:16:44,950

One I remember, was that  
it was very cold in winter.

310

00:16:44,950 --> 00:16:51,615

And I remember the  
baby seat of my sister,

311

00:16:51,615 --> 00:16:55,680

who was going together  
with me to bring me

312

00:16:55,680 --> 00:16:57,880

to the kindergarten.

313

00:16:57,880 --> 00:17:07,010

And she had a bare leg,  
with only, I don't remember.

314

00:17:07,010 --> 00:17:10,329

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]  
just it's interesting.

315

00:17:10,329 --> 00:17:15,631

316

00:17:15,631 --> 00:17:18,869

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

317

00:17:18,869 --> 00:17:28,214

318  
00:17:28,214 --> 00:17:30,110  
A pair of boots.

319  
00:17:30,110 --> 00:17:31,790  
Boots?

320  
00:17:31,790 --> 00:17:37,790  
Boots, but boots but  
not from the skin.

321  
00:17:37,790 --> 00:17:39,080  
From the fur?

322  
00:17:39,080 --> 00:17:40,880  
The fur OK.

323  
00:17:40,880 --> 00:17:41,825  
That's all right.

324  
00:17:41,825 --> 00:17:43,270  
Wool.

325  
00:17:43,270 --> 00:17:43,770  
Wool boots.

326  
00:17:43,770 --> 00:17:44,665  
OK.

327  
00:17:44,665 --> 00:17:46,135  
Wool, something like that.

328  
00:17:46,135 --> 00:17:50,240  
Yeah, and did you play  
with the other children?

329  
00:17:50,240 --> 00:17:51,285  
In the kindergarten.

330  
00:17:51,285 --> 00:17:52,330

In the kindergarten.

331

00:17:52,330 --> 00:17:58,520

Yes, it was probably necessary  
for my mother, not only

332

00:17:58,520 --> 00:18:05,180

to give me place but they  
know I won't be afraid.

333

00:18:05,180 --> 00:18:07,220

Oh, I'm sorry.

334

00:18:07,220 --> 00:18:12,380

So, and they taught you  
how to write and to read.

335

00:18:12,380 --> 00:18:15,710

In school, what  
did they teach you?

336

00:18:15,710 --> 00:18:17,772

How to write and read?

337

00:18:17,772 --> 00:18:19,055

You just played?

338

00:18:19,055 --> 00:18:21,177

No, no.

339

00:18:21,177 --> 00:18:21,845

Play?

340

00:18:21,845 --> 00:18:27,455

Only play, to give meals  
and nothing special.

341

00:18:27,455 --> 00:18:28,040

Yeah.

342

00:18:28,040 --> 00:18:31,280

Was it a very

frightening time for you?

343

00:18:31,280 --> 00:18:33,260

Do you remember it  
being frightening?

344

00:18:33,260 --> 00:18:34,700

You were a little girl.

345

00:18:34,700 --> 00:18:37,295

Were you scared?

346

00:18:37,295 --> 00:18:40,190

When we came there, no.

347

00:18:40,190 --> 00:18:44,210

No, it was our everyday life.

348

00:18:44,210 --> 00:18:46,910

and I was not frightened.

349

00:18:46,910 --> 00:18:52,340

The only moment when  
my sister, the day

350

00:18:52,340 --> 00:18:58,280

of her birthday, the second  
birthday, she got sick,

351

00:18:58,280 --> 00:19:00,050

extremely, seriously.

352

00:19:00,050 --> 00:19:04,280

She went to the  
emergency and they

353

00:19:04,280 --> 00:19:09,800

said there's almost no  
hope she would be alive.

354

00:19:09,800 --> 00:19:17,610

And she spent two

months in the hospital.

355

00:19:17,610 --> 00:19:20,610

She stopped talking at all.

356

00:19:20,610 --> 00:19:23,010

When she came back she  
couldn't say anything.

357

00:19:23,010 --> 00:19:25,570

358

00:19:25,570 --> 00:19:28,682

It was awful for my  
mother, especially.

359

00:19:28,682 --> 00:19:29,830

It was awful.

360

00:19:29,830 --> 00:19:33,865

But all the rest, no.

361

00:19:33,865 --> 00:19:34,970

Did she recover?

362

00:19:34,970 --> 00:19:35,470

Yes.

363

00:19:35,470 --> 00:19:36,340

She did?

364

00:19:36,340 --> 00:19:37,880

Did she get her voice back?

365

00:19:37,880 --> 00:19:38,380

Yeah.

366

00:19:38,380 --> 00:19:39,125

She did speak?

367

00:19:39,125 --> 00:19:43,060

Yes, she did talk the normal way after that.

368  
00:19:43,060 --> 00:19:43,900  
Yeah.

369  
00:19:43,900 --> 00:19:48,040  
But it was a very difficult time for all of us.

370  
00:19:48,040 --> 00:19:51,300  
And all the rest, day by day.

371  
00:19:51,300 --> 00:19:52,960  
So each day went on.

372  
00:19:52,960 --> 00:19:56,470  
What did you do when you were not at school?

373  
00:19:56,470 --> 00:19:59,750  
Just play outside and?

374  
00:19:59,750 --> 00:20:02,610  
Play outside with the children.

375  
00:20:02,610 --> 00:20:03,500  
Yes.

376  
00:20:03,500 --> 00:20:05,430  
And you were there for how long?

377  
00:20:05,430 --> 00:20:06,245  
How long?

378  
00:20:06,245 --> 00:20:16,600  
We returned to Moscow in the summer of 1943.

379  
00:20:16,600 --> 00:20:20,680  
When that organization returned to Moscow,

380  
00:20:20,680 --> 00:20:22,115  
was allowed to return.

381  
00:20:22,115 --> 00:20:24,630

382  
00:20:24,630 --> 00:20:26,610  
When the Germans were out put.

383  
00:20:26,610 --> 00:20:29,822  
So obviously, your parents were  
members of the Communist Party,

384  
00:20:29,822 --> 00:20:30,322  
obviously.

385  
00:20:30,322 --> 00:20:33,150  
No, never.

386  
00:20:33,150 --> 00:20:36,660  
It was not necessary.

387  
00:20:36,660 --> 00:20:42,840  
Usually the people who  
would like to have a career,

388  
00:20:42,840 --> 00:20:45,180  
it was necessary for them.

389  
00:20:45,180 --> 00:20:46,595  
But not for everybody.

390  
00:20:46,595 --> 00:20:49,605  
Just to have a  
regular job, yeah.

391  
00:20:49,605 --> 00:20:56,810  
But when you are young,  
probably most of all,

392



00:20:56,810 --> 00:21:01,610  
have to be the member of  
the Komsomol organization.

393  
00:21:01,610 --> 00:21:08,160  
Because when you  
entered the new job

394  
00:21:08,160 --> 00:21:12,030  
or were looking for  
a new job, or went

395  
00:21:12,030 --> 00:21:15,190  
to the Institute or  
something like that,

396  
00:21:15,190 --> 00:21:19,800  
we have a very long form.

397  
00:21:19,800 --> 00:21:24,890  
Where you should write  
everything about you.

398  
00:21:24,890 --> 00:21:30,090  
The fifth point was  
your nationality.

399  
00:21:30,090 --> 00:21:35,435  
So, then you know,  
whether you were a Jew.

400  
00:21:35,435 --> 00:21:38,300  
Because your  
nationality is Jewish.

401  
00:21:38,300 --> 00:21:39,410  
Yes, is Jewish.

402  
00:21:39,410 --> 00:21:46,790  
It was necessary to fulfill it  
and there was a special line,

403  
00:21:46,790 --> 00:21:50,190

are you a member of the  
Komsomol Organization?

404  
00:21:50,190 --> 00:21:55,070  
And if you're not, the  
first question was why.

405  
00:21:55,070 --> 00:21:58,085  
So it was much calmer to be.

406  
00:21:58,085 --> 00:21:59,240  
Yes, of course.

407  
00:21:59,240 --> 00:22:00,650  
Of course, Yeah.

408  
00:22:00,650 --> 00:22:03,500  
But at that point when  
you were there in Siberia,

409  
00:22:03,500 --> 00:22:05,235  
you did not know  
you were Jewish.

410  
00:22:05,235 --> 00:22:06,410  
No, no.

411  
00:22:06,410 --> 00:22:10,520  
And nobody was interested  
in it really there.

412  
00:22:10,520 --> 00:22:14,990  
Because it seems to  
me that in Moscow,

413  
00:22:14,990 --> 00:22:19,160  
in St. Petersburg  
in the Central City,

414  
00:22:19,160 --> 00:22:25,135  
this question was much more  
sharp than in the province.

415

00:22:25,135 --> 00:22:29,660

416

00:22:29,660 --> 00:22:33,470

At least when we  
finished the school

417

00:22:33,470 --> 00:22:37,430

and I had a gold medal  
and my husband also.

418

00:22:37,430 --> 00:22:43,910

But you always  
knew that you want

419

00:22:43,910 --> 00:22:47,220

to be accepted to  
the University.

420

00:22:47,220 --> 00:22:51,920

To the best institute.

421

00:22:51,920 --> 00:23:01,090

And when I finished  
the school it was '54.

422

00:23:01,090 --> 00:23:04,550

It was a year after  
Stalin's death

423

00:23:04,550 --> 00:23:11,570

and that year they  
began to accept Jewish.

424

00:23:11,570 --> 00:23:15,890

Not for the very best  
department or institute

425

00:23:15,890 --> 00:23:23,300

but if your parents were  
killed during the war,

426

00:23:23,300 --> 00:23:29,580  
especially at the front,  
then you have some advantage.

427  
00:23:29,580 --> 00:23:32,070  
It was the first year.

428  
00:23:32,070 --> 00:23:34,380  
Let's get back to Siberia.

429  
00:23:34,380 --> 00:23:35,920  
So, you're there.

430  
00:23:35,920 --> 00:23:38,205  
You're going to school  
and then you said to--

431  
00:23:38,205 --> 00:23:39,270  
To the kindergarten.

432  
00:23:39,270 --> 00:23:40,110  
To the kindergarten.

433  
00:23:40,110 --> 00:23:44,220  
And then, did your mother  
have contact with your father

434  
00:23:44,220 --> 00:23:46,575  
at all when she was in Siberia?

435  
00:23:46,575 --> 00:23:53,150  
The last letter from him  
was from October '41.

436  
00:23:53,150 --> 00:23:54,100  
October '41.

437  
00:23:54,100 --> 00:23:56,632

438  
00:23:56,632 --> 00:23:57,770  
Then nothing more.

439  
00:23:57,770 --> 00:24:00,930  
So then.

440  
00:24:00,930 --> 00:24:03,360  
So then, she hears that  
she's supposed to move back

441  
00:24:03,360 --> 00:24:07,536  
to Moscow with you all in 1943?

442  
00:24:07,536 --> 00:24:08,145  
Who?

443  
00:24:08,145 --> 00:24:09,172  
Your mother.

444  
00:24:09,172 --> 00:24:11,550  
Certainly, because  
the organization.

445  
00:24:11,550 --> 00:24:12,777  
Was moving back.

446  
00:24:12,777 --> 00:24:13,860  
Was moving back to Moscow.

447  
00:24:13,860 --> 00:24:16,750  
OK, so then, did you  
take a train again?

448  
00:24:16,750 --> 00:24:17,480  
Yes.

449  
00:24:17,480 --> 00:24:18,105  
The same thing.

450  
00:24:18,105 --> 00:24:22,035  
But I don't remember  
what kind of train.

451

00:24:22,035 --> 00:24:23,610  
Well, that's OK.

452  
00:24:23,610 --> 00:24:24,270  
That's OK.

453  
00:24:24,270 --> 00:24:26,490  
Were you excited  
about going back

454  
00:24:26,490 --> 00:24:28,905  
to Moscow or you were too young?

455  
00:24:28,905 --> 00:24:35,200  
Not because it is Moscow  
because I remembered not

456  
00:24:35,200 --> 00:24:36,450  
too much about Moscow.

457  
00:24:36,450 --> 00:24:38,117  
Not too much because  
you were so little.

458  
00:24:38,117 --> 00:24:39,270  
OK.

459  
00:24:39,270 --> 00:24:42,465  
For us, it was important  
to be close to our mother.

460  
00:24:42,465 --> 00:24:44,260  
Of course, of course.

461  
00:24:44,260 --> 00:24:46,770  
So the three of you  
go back to Moscow

462  
00:24:46,770 --> 00:24:49,310  
and you go back to your home?

463  
00:24:49,310 --> 00:24:50,115

Yes.

464  
00:24:50,115 --> 00:24:52,650  
And what was there  
when you got there?

465  
00:24:52,650 --> 00:24:53,730  
Do you remember that?

466  
00:24:53,730 --> 00:24:54,535  
Do you remember?

467  
00:24:54,535 --> 00:24:55,200  
Yes, Yes.

468  
00:24:55,200 --> 00:24:58,260  
I remember that.

469  
00:24:58,260 --> 00:25:03,610  
It was a big apartment, as  
I told you, a long corridor.

470  
00:25:03,610 --> 00:25:10,200  
And we were at one  
end of this corridor.

471  
00:25:10,200 --> 00:25:19,260  
We had a very small room for  
three of us and one of my aunts

472  
00:25:19,260 --> 00:25:23,060  
lived in another part  
of this corridor.

473  
00:25:23,060 --> 00:25:29,220  
And we had a lot  
of neighbors there.

474  
00:25:29,220 --> 00:25:34,040  
Not everyone returned  
by that time to Moscow

475

00:25:34,040 --> 00:25:41,580  
but soon the apartment was full.

476  
00:25:41,580 --> 00:25:46,850  
And I remember the first salute.

477  
00:25:46,850 --> 00:25:49,420

478  
00:25:49,420 --> 00:25:52,007  
Fireworks.

479  
00:25:52,007 --> 00:25:52,510  
Fireworks?

480  
00:25:52,510 --> 00:25:53,010  
Yeah.

481  
00:25:53,010 --> 00:25:56,990

482  
00:25:56,990 --> 00:26:05,690  
They were the first big  
cities which were taken back

483  
00:26:05,690 --> 00:26:08,780  
by the Red Army.

484  
00:26:08,780 --> 00:26:13,670  
And they decided  
to have fireworks.

485  
00:26:13,670 --> 00:26:15,830  
It was very interesting.

486  
00:26:15,830 --> 00:26:21,200  
And on the day of  
their victory, they

487  
00:26:21,200 --> 00:26:25,430  
do huge, huge fireworks there.



488

00:26:25,430 --> 00:26:32,350

And then I remember  
that everyone was joyful

489

00:26:32,350 --> 00:26:36,430

and my mother was crying.

490

00:26:36,430 --> 00:26:43,795

And I understood that day that  
my father wouldn't come back.

491

00:26:43,795 --> 00:26:44,710

He did not survive?

492

00:26:44,710 --> 00:26:50,560

Namely, that day because  
the most part of the men

493

00:26:50,560 --> 00:26:53,970

returned today by that time.

494

00:26:53,970 --> 00:26:57,690

I remember it very well  
because I was looking at her.

495

00:26:57,690 --> 00:26:59,610

She was crying.

496

00:26:59,610 --> 00:27:00,720

It was awful.

497

00:27:00,720 --> 00:27:03,945

498

00:27:03,945 --> 00:27:06,780

And she had not heard  
from him since 1941.

499

00:27:06,780 --> 00:27:08,740

She had not heard from him.

500

00:27:08,740 --> 00:27:09,240  
Yes, yes.

501  
00:27:09,240 --> 00:27:14,210  
But she tried to find  
some trade but couldn't.

502  
00:27:14,210 --> 00:27:16,350  
So he did not survive.

503  
00:27:16,350 --> 00:27:20,590  
Do you know where he died or  
did you have any information?

504  
00:27:20,590 --> 00:27:21,090  
No.

505  
00:27:21,090 --> 00:27:26,850  
No but as we know all  
the Volunteer Army

506  
00:27:26,850 --> 00:27:32,170  
was surrounded in one place.

507  
00:27:32,170 --> 00:27:33,760  
Probably it was there.

508  
00:27:33,760 --> 00:27:36,880  
It was not far from Moscow.

509  
00:27:36,880 --> 00:27:39,820  
And I went to the  
kindergarten after that.

510  
00:27:39,820 --> 00:27:40,320  
In Moscow.

511  
00:27:40,320 --> 00:27:43,630  
And my sister, also in Moscow.

512  
00:27:43,630 --> 00:27:49,750  
It was not close to our

house but this kindergarten

513  
00:27:49,750 --> 00:27:55,150  
belonged to the ministry  
of this organization.

514  
00:27:55,150 --> 00:28:01,840  
So, I returned home  
every day and my sister

515  
00:28:01,840 --> 00:28:05,590  
was there during  
five days of the week

516  
00:28:05,590 --> 00:28:11,860  
because she was too small  
to bring home and then back.

517  
00:28:11,860 --> 00:28:14,860  
Five days she was there.

518  
00:28:14,860 --> 00:28:22,690  
And in 1944, I went to  
school and this school

519  
00:28:22,690 --> 00:28:26,800  
was the next building  
to this kindergarten

520  
00:28:26,800 --> 00:28:31,770  
because it was convenient for  
my mother to bring both of us

521  
00:28:31,770 --> 00:28:32,270  
there.

522  
00:28:32,270 --> 00:28:35,410

523  
00:28:35,410 --> 00:28:36,400  
So then you went.

524

00:28:36,400 --> 00:28:38,815  
Did you know there was a  
war going on in Europe?

525  
00:28:38,815 --> 00:28:40,480  
Yes, certainly.

526  
00:28:40,480 --> 00:28:42,600  
The war was all around.

527  
00:28:42,600 --> 00:28:47,990  
Our life was in the war time.

528  
00:28:47,990 --> 00:28:51,002  
Certainly.

529  
00:28:51,002 --> 00:28:52,590  
And what did you know of it?

530  
00:28:52,590 --> 00:28:53,350  
What did you know?

531  
00:28:53,350 --> 00:28:56,557  
Did you know of a  
man named Hitler?

532  
00:28:56,557 --> 00:29:01,440  
Probably, I know  
this name but it

533  
00:29:01,440 --> 00:29:07,900  
was very interesting in 1945,  
after the end of the war.

534  
00:29:07,900 --> 00:29:12,480

535  
00:29:12,480 --> 00:29:19,940  
It was a day when a huge  
column of German soldiers

536  
00:29:19,940 --> 00:29:26,110

were going along the street  
in the center of the city.

537  
00:29:26,110 --> 00:29:33,630  
And I remember that  
many women brought them

538  
00:29:33,630 --> 00:29:36,160  
bread or something like that.

539  
00:29:36,160 --> 00:29:38,400  
And for me, it was awful.

540  
00:29:38,400 --> 00:29:43,010  
I looked at them and I  
thought they killed my father.

541  
00:29:43,010 --> 00:29:43,860  
Right, right.

542  
00:29:43,860 --> 00:29:47,255

543  
00:29:47,255 --> 00:29:50,540  
The life of people  
was different.

544  
00:29:50,540 --> 00:29:55,320  
So, when you would see a German  
soldier on the street, what did

545  
00:29:55,320 --> 00:29:56,565  
you feel like as a child?

546  
00:29:56,565 --> 00:30:00,640

547  
00:30:00,640 --> 00:30:01,900  
Were you scared?

548  
00:30:01,900 --> 00:30:06,025  
Was it a frightening sign

to see a German soldier?

549  
00:30:06,025 --> 00:30:06,580  
No, no.

550  
00:30:06,580 --> 00:30:07,747  
Because they left you alone?

551  
00:30:07,747 --> 00:30:11,150

552  
00:30:11,150 --> 00:30:14,360  
I can't remember.

553  
00:30:14,360 --> 00:30:20,630  
They were very poor  
and very unhappy.

554  
00:30:20,630 --> 00:30:25,770  
And certainly they were not  
aggressive at that time.

555  
00:30:25,770 --> 00:30:34,310  
But probably for me it was like  
animals or something like that.

556  
00:30:34,310 --> 00:30:36,845

557  
00:30:36,845 --> 00:30:39,780  
So, how was your  
mother's state of mind?

558  
00:30:39,780 --> 00:30:41,760  
Was she able to do her work?

559  
00:30:41,760 --> 00:30:43,440  
Was she able to?

560  
00:30:43,440 --> 00:30:46,065  
She has no other way to live.

561

00:30:46,065 --> 00:30:49,050

To hold you two girls, to  
hold the family together.

562

00:30:49,050 --> 00:30:51,420

And what about  
extended relatives?

563

00:30:51,420 --> 00:30:54,320

Did they come back also?

564

00:30:54,320 --> 00:30:59,730

One of my aunts was together  
with us in the recreation

565

00:30:59,730 --> 00:31:01,020

and we lived together.

566

00:31:01,020 --> 00:31:10,110

So the other sister  
of my mother,

567

00:31:10,110 --> 00:31:13,710

she has grown in heaviness.

568

00:31:13,710 --> 00:31:20,640

Just before, maybe less  
than a year before the war,

569

00:31:20,640 --> 00:31:27,840

her only daughter died  
because of diphtheria.

570

00:31:27,840 --> 00:31:31,950

And when they came  
back it was too late

571

00:31:31,950 --> 00:31:35,910

for them to have another baby.

572

00:31:35,910 --> 00:31:41,980

So all her life she was

very depressed and crying.

573

00:31:41,980 --> 00:31:43,050

And so on.

574

00:31:43,050 --> 00:31:45,580

575

00:31:45,580 --> 00:31:46,330

I'm sorry.

576

00:31:46,330 --> 00:31:49,140

577

00:31:49,140 --> 00:31:51,870

And she was a doctor.

578

00:31:51,870 --> 00:31:55,360

She was a pediatrician  
before the war.

579

00:31:55,360 --> 00:31:59,940

And she and her husband  
were relocated to Almaty

580

00:31:59,940 --> 00:32:01,920

in Kazakhstan.

581

00:32:01,920 --> 00:32:05,010

And after the death  
of her daughter,

582

00:32:05,010 --> 00:32:07,830

she couldn't work  
with the children

583

00:32:07,830 --> 00:32:16,130

and she changed not the  
preparation, but the direction.

584

00:32:16,130 --> 00:32:21,890

And she became a physiotherapist



until the end of her life.

585

00:32:21,890 --> 00:32:30,010

And because she had no  
children, I and my sister

586

00:32:30,010 --> 00:32:33,710

were the only children  
for the family.

587

00:32:33,710 --> 00:32:39,432

And all of them tried to help  
my mother as much as they could.

588

00:32:39,432 --> 00:32:41,918

So, things just went on.

589

00:32:41,918 --> 00:32:42,710

You went to school.

590

00:32:42,710 --> 00:32:45,500

591

00:32:45,500 --> 00:32:48,650

You knew there was war  
going on in other countries.

592

00:32:48,650 --> 00:32:49,315

I'm sorry?

593

00:32:49,315 --> 00:32:53,450

So you did know there was a war  
going on in other countries?

594

00:32:53,450 --> 00:32:54,410

Absolutely.

595

00:32:54,410 --> 00:32:55,970

You did know.

596

00:32:55,970 --> 00:32:59,000

You did not know?

597  
00:32:59,000 --> 00:32:59,970  
You did not know?

598  
00:32:59,970 --> 00:33:05,000  
There was no contract  
with the other countries.

599  
00:33:05,000 --> 00:33:05,690  
Any radio?

600  
00:33:05,690 --> 00:33:08,292  
Did your mother have a radio?

601  
00:33:08,292 --> 00:33:15,514  
Yes, but the Soviet  
radio is special so,

602  
00:33:15,514 --> 00:33:16,943  
all around it missed.

603  
00:33:16,943 --> 00:33:17,860  
It was all controlled.

604  
00:33:17,860 --> 00:33:19,120  
It was all controlled.

605  
00:33:19,120 --> 00:33:20,120  
Yeah.

606  
00:33:20,120 --> 00:33:24,140  
So you did not know,  
let's say in 1944 or '43,

607  
00:33:24,140 --> 00:33:27,320  
there was a war  
going on in Europe?

608  
00:33:27,320 --> 00:33:29,878  
We know, we know how the war.

609

00:33:29,878 --> 00:33:31,170  
The Germans had invaded Poland.

610  
00:33:31,170 --> 00:33:33,580  
Yes.

611  
00:33:33,580 --> 00:33:34,790  
Everything, we know.

612  
00:33:34,790 --> 00:33:36,215  
I bet you did know.

613  
00:33:36,215 --> 00:33:36,950  
No, no.

614  
00:33:36,950 --> 00:33:40,050  
I didn't understand  
your question.

615  
00:33:40,050 --> 00:33:45,260  
We always knew what is  
going on with the war

616  
00:33:45,260 --> 00:33:49,100  
but there were no contacts.

617  
00:33:49,100 --> 00:33:50,322  
No contacts.

618  
00:33:50,322 --> 00:33:56,240  
No, the first foreigners  
which we saw in Moscow

619  
00:33:56,240 --> 00:34:01,465  
was the Youth Festival in 1957.

620  
00:34:01,465 --> 00:34:02,270  
Oh my goodness.

621  
00:34:02,270 --> 00:34:03,290  
OK.

622

00:34:03,290 --> 00:34:04,460

No foreigners.

623

00:34:04,460 --> 00:34:08,360

We're still back  
in 1943 and 1944.

624

00:34:08,360 --> 00:34:11,909

And then, the war is over.

625

00:34:11,909 --> 00:34:15,402

Then the war is over in 1945.

626

00:34:15,402 --> 00:34:21,080

Whether it was in Europe, no.

627

00:34:21,080 --> 00:34:22,790

It was in the--

628

00:34:22,790 --> 00:34:25,460

629

00:34:25,460 --> 00:34:27,340

It was over earlier for you.

630

00:34:27,340 --> 00:34:32,387

It was over earlier for Russia.

631

00:34:32,387 --> 00:34:34,110

Yes.

632

00:34:34,110 --> 00:34:37,350

They came to Europe,  
it seems to me,

633

00:34:37,350 --> 00:34:42,729

after the end of the territory  
of the Soviet Union in '44.

634

00:34:42,729 --> 00:34:51,350

635  
00:34:51,350 --> 00:34:54,290  
Life goes on for you.

636  
00:34:54,290 --> 00:35:02,300  
And 1945 comes and the  
whole World War 2 is over.

637  
00:35:02,300 --> 00:35:05,288  
And you knew that.

638  
00:35:05,288 --> 00:35:05,915  
Certainly.

639  
00:35:05,915 --> 00:35:09,650  
Did you know anything about  
an atomic bomb or you didn't?

640  
00:35:09,650 --> 00:35:11,690  
Did you know anything,  
you were young.

641  
00:35:11,690 --> 00:35:14,190  
You are only about  
nine years old.

642  
00:35:14,190 --> 00:35:14,690  
About what?

643  
00:35:14,690 --> 00:35:15,830  
So you were very young.

644  
00:35:15,830 --> 00:35:17,870  
The atomic bomb.

645  
00:35:17,870 --> 00:35:18,560  
Yes.

646  
00:35:18,560 --> 00:35:20,215  
You knew about that?

647

00:35:20,215 --> 00:35:20,855

Yes.

648

00:35:20,855 --> 00:35:24,680

OK and did you  
feel very Russian?

649

00:35:24,680 --> 00:35:26,815

Did you feel Russian or Jew?

650

00:35:26,815 --> 00:35:28,190

You said you didn't  
know you were

651

00:35:28,190 --> 00:35:31,720

Jewish until a little later.

652

00:35:31,720 --> 00:35:36,160

It's difficult to  
say because probably

653

00:35:36,160 --> 00:35:45,520

until the end of school my  
Jewish nationality didn't

654

00:35:45,520 --> 00:35:49,760

interfere with my  
life, only after.

655

00:35:49,760 --> 00:35:53,720

Only after the end of school.

656

00:35:53,720 --> 00:35:57,830

Do you remember hearing anything  
about concentration camps

657

00:35:57,830 --> 00:35:58,640

and what happened?

658

00:35:58,640 --> 00:35:58,885

Yes.

659

00:35:58,885 --> 00:36:00,020  
When did you hear that?

660  
00:36:00,020 --> 00:36:03,191

661  
00:36:03,191 --> 00:36:05,855  
Or your mother must've heard.

662  
00:36:05,855 --> 00:36:11,475  
I think after the end of the  
war and maybe not immediately.

663  
00:36:11,475 --> 00:36:12,470  
Right, right.

664  
00:36:12,470 --> 00:36:13,780  
I mean, you were young.

665  
00:36:13,780 --> 00:36:14,420  
Later, later.

666  
00:36:14,420 --> 00:36:16,945

667  
00:36:16,945 --> 00:36:19,060  
Do you remember your  
mother's reaction?

668  
00:36:19,060 --> 00:36:22,680  
Do you remember how  
she felt about that?

669  
00:36:22,680 --> 00:36:27,135  
When she heard what  
happened to all the Jews?

670  
00:36:27,135 --> 00:36:28,800  
It was much later.

671  
00:36:28,800 --> 00:36:30,100  
Much, much later.

672  
00:36:30,100 --> 00:36:30,900  
Much later.

673  
00:36:30,900 --> 00:36:32,935  
Certainly.

674  
00:36:32,935 --> 00:36:37,730  
So now it's 1946, 1947.

675  
00:36:37,730 --> 00:36:40,105  
You're at school.

676  
00:36:40,105 --> 00:36:44,205  
Yes, we changed the  
place, [?of living?].

677  
00:36:44,205 --> 00:36:47,415  
Did you stay in Moscow?

678  
00:36:47,415 --> 00:36:56,540  
Not in this house  
because it was in '45,

679  
00:36:56,540 --> 00:37:05,720  
the brother of my father knew  
that a woman in his house

680  
00:37:05,720 --> 00:37:13,720  
was looking for the opportunity  
to be divided with her parents.

681  
00:37:13,720 --> 00:37:19,270  
And as we have two  
rooms of our own,

682  
00:37:19,270 --> 00:37:21,840  
he organized this changing.

683  
00:37:21,840 --> 00:37:27,276  
And we went close  
to my mother's work



684  
00:37:27,276 --> 00:37:31,060  
in the very center of Moscow.

685  
00:37:31,060 --> 00:37:34,750  
It was a big stone building.

686  
00:37:34,750 --> 00:37:37,810  
It was also a big  
communal apartment

687  
00:37:37,810 --> 00:37:46,730  
but there was a guest there  
and in spite of the fact,

688  
00:37:46,730 --> 00:37:54,100  
we got two big rooms which  
they divided into two parts.

689  
00:37:54,100 --> 00:37:58,330  
And not separate  
but nevertheless,

690  
00:37:58,330 --> 00:38:02,440  
it was much easier  
for her to live there.

691  
00:38:02,440 --> 00:38:07,150  
But the first years  
after the war,

692  
00:38:07,150 --> 00:38:12,250  
we had a stove in our room.

693  
00:38:12,250 --> 00:38:23,170  
And a lot of wooden pieces  
and no central warming

694  
00:38:23,170 --> 00:38:24,250  
in the house.

695  
00:38:24,250 --> 00:38:34,900

And there were a lot of  
not mice, the big animals.

696  
00:38:34,900 --> 00:38:35,620  
Mouse is little.

697  
00:38:35,620 --> 00:38:36,735  
A rat.

698  
00:38:36,735 --> 00:38:38,470  
Rat.

699  
00:38:38,470 --> 00:38:43,210  
And a lot of rats  
everywhere and I remember.

700  
00:38:43,210 --> 00:38:47,140  
I remember it for all my life.

701  
00:38:47,140 --> 00:38:53,960  
Close to this stove,  
there was also

702  
00:38:53,960 --> 00:38:58,880  
a pile of wood to be dried.

703  
00:38:58,880 --> 00:39:03,800  
And suddenly a rat was there.

704  
00:39:03,800 --> 00:39:08,975  
And the special device  
who had to catch the rat--

705  
00:39:08,975 --> 00:39:09,965  
A trap.

706  
00:39:09,965 --> 00:39:11,880  
Was too small for her.

707  
00:39:11,880 --> 00:39:15,620  
She was not killed  
and she began to cry.

708  
00:39:15,620 --> 00:39:20,120  
And I remember my mother  
took this wooden piece

709  
00:39:20,120 --> 00:39:21,530  
and killed it.

710  
00:39:21,530 --> 00:39:22,920  
It was awful.

711  
00:39:22,920 --> 00:39:26,030  
Especially when you're  
a child and you see it.

712  
00:39:26,030 --> 00:39:29,450  
And understand she  
was dangerous for us.

713  
00:39:29,450 --> 00:39:32,060  
I remember in the  
kindergarten, there

714  
00:39:32,060 --> 00:39:39,190  
was a girl who was  
sleeping at home.

715  
00:39:39,190 --> 00:39:39,940  
Can I continue?

716  
00:39:39,940 --> 00:39:40,990  
Yeah.

717  
00:39:40,990 --> 00:39:42,850  
She was sleeping  
at home at night

718  
00:39:42,850 --> 00:39:46,780  
and the rat ate a piece of her.

719  
00:39:46,780 --> 00:39:48,580  
Yeah.

720  
00:39:48,580 --> 00:39:50,810  
And she was absent  
for a long time.

721  
00:39:50,810 --> 00:39:53,120  
She went to the hospital.

722  
00:39:53,120 --> 00:39:57,220  
And so we were afraid of them.

723  
00:39:57,220 --> 00:40:00,350  
So I remember this, seeing this.

724  
00:40:00,350 --> 00:40:00,900  
I can image.

725  
00:40:00,900 --> 00:40:03,040  
I can imagine.

726  
00:40:03,040 --> 00:40:06,070  
So now it's 1946, '47.

727  
00:40:06,070 --> 00:40:08,210  
You're going to school.

728  
00:40:08,210 --> 00:40:09,070  
What was next?

729  
00:40:09,070 --> 00:40:11,575

730  
00:40:11,575 --> 00:40:13,500  
Very important event?

731  
00:40:13,500 --> 00:40:16,120  
The next change, yeah.

732  
00:40:16,120 --> 00:40:19,290  
Probably it was the  
end of the school.

733  
00:40:19,290 --> 00:40:20,035  
The school.

734  
00:40:20,035 --> 00:40:22,780  
I got the gold medal.

735  
00:40:22,780 --> 00:40:26,740  
And it was a year after  
that they took Stalin.

736  
00:40:26,740 --> 00:40:29,705  
And they opened the Kremlin.

737  
00:40:29,705 --> 00:40:33,010

738  
00:40:33,010 --> 00:40:35,530  
And it was the  
first time when they

739  
00:40:35,530 --> 00:40:39,340  
decided to organize a ball.

740  
00:40:39,340 --> 00:40:45,190  
A ball for the children  
who got medals.

741  
00:40:45,190 --> 00:40:48,640  
It was very impressive,  
very impressive.

742  
00:40:48,640 --> 00:40:56,710  
And after that, it was  
necessary to enter the Institute

743  
00:40:56,710 --> 00:40:59,260  
after the end of the school.

744  
00:40:59,260 --> 00:41:05,860  
And when you have a  
medal, you could not

745  
00:41:05,860 --> 00:41:11,730  
pass the exams, only the talk.

746  
00:41:11,730 --> 00:41:22,310  
We did do some research, and I  
was accepted to the Institute

747  
00:41:22,310 --> 00:41:25,670  
without problem really.

748  
00:41:25,670 --> 00:41:28,650  
But there were a  
lot of departments.

749  
00:41:28,650 --> 00:41:33,920  
It was a very famous Institute,  
the Moscow Power Institute.

750  
00:41:33,920 --> 00:41:35,610  
It was a huge one.

751  
00:41:35,610 --> 00:41:39,020  
And the head of  
the Institute was

752  
00:41:39,020 --> 00:41:44,630  
the wife of Malenkov, Malenkov  
who was a prime minister.

753  
00:41:44,630 --> 00:41:49,460  
So it was a rich  
institute but we

754  
00:41:49,460 --> 00:41:55,970  
knew that if you wanted  
as Jew, to be accepted,

755  
00:41:55,970 --> 00:42:02,030  
you have no right to choose the  
very prestigious department.

756

00:42:02,030 --> 00:42:05,330  
So nevertheless I was accepted.

757  
00:42:05,330 --> 00:42:15,330  
And from that year they  
began to give pensions

758  
00:42:15,330 --> 00:42:20,500  
for the children whose parents  
were killed during the war.

759  
00:42:20,500 --> 00:42:26,420  
So I have, it was not a  
big sum, nevertheless,

760  
00:42:26,420 --> 00:42:29,750  
it bode some help  
for our mother.

761  
00:42:29,750 --> 00:42:31,430  
Yeah, OK.

762  
00:42:31,430 --> 00:42:34,332  
And you stayed there studying?

763  
00:42:34,332 --> 00:42:37,205  
Yes, it was almost six years.

764  
00:42:37,205 --> 00:42:41,660

765  
00:42:41,660 --> 00:42:44,752  
So you were how old when you  
graduate, when you finished?

766  
00:42:44,752 --> 00:42:45,370  
How?

767  
00:42:45,370 --> 00:42:47,150  
How old were you  
when you finished?

768

00:42:47,150 --> 00:42:52,820

769

00:42:52,820 --> 00:42:54,910

About 23.

770

00:42:54,910 --> 00:42:58,032

And what did you study?

771

00:42:58,032 --> 00:43:04,670

Electrical engineering  
was my designation.

772

00:43:04,670 --> 00:43:08,835

And when I began to work,  
I changed the direction

773

00:43:08,835 --> 00:43:09,710

for computer service.

774

00:43:09,710 --> 00:43:13,820

775

00:43:13,820 --> 00:43:16,775

So you went to work  
after you graduated?

776

00:43:16,775 --> 00:43:20,120

Yes, but you  
couldn't choose what

777

00:43:20,120 --> 00:43:24,860

you like because  
every person who

778

00:43:24,860 --> 00:43:28,610

graduated from the  
high school had

779

00:43:28,610 --> 00:43:36,740

to work three years at the  
place where you'll be sent.



780

00:43:36,740 --> 00:43:43,670

And the main idea was  
to get work in Moscow,

781

00:43:43,670 --> 00:43:49,610

not to be sent to another  
part of the country.

782

00:43:49,610 --> 00:43:53,710

And so we have not a big  
choice, first of all.

783

00:43:53,710 --> 00:43:57,490

And the second, it  
was a time where

784

00:43:57,490 --> 00:44:00,760

you had to remember your age.

785

00:44:00,760 --> 00:44:06,640

Because first of all,  
there was a huge number

786

00:44:06,640 --> 00:44:16,000

of organizations with the  
secret, special secret

787

00:44:16,000 --> 00:44:17,950

allowance.

788

00:44:17,950 --> 00:44:22,540

And there was no interest there.

789

00:44:22,540 --> 00:44:27,130

But nevertheless I  
stayed in Moscow.

790

00:44:27,130 --> 00:44:32,995

And I go to the Institute of the  
organization of coal industry.

791

00:44:32,995 --> 00:44:37,070

792  
00:44:37,070 --> 00:44:42,140  
And as it was not a very  
important organization,

793  
00:44:42,140 --> 00:44:44,940  
there were a lot  
of Jewish there.

794  
00:44:44,940 --> 00:44:46,910  
A lot of Jews.

795  
00:44:46,910 --> 00:44:50,834  
So, the atmosphere  
there was very pleasant.

796  
00:44:50,834 --> 00:44:51,710  
Yeah.

797  
00:44:51,710 --> 00:44:54,650  
Did you do anything  
Jewishly at home?

798  
00:44:54,650 --> 00:44:55,670  
Did your mother?

799  
00:44:55,670 --> 00:44:57,650  
Your mother did not do anything?

800  
00:44:57,650 --> 00:44:59,097  
Absolutely not.

801  
00:44:59,097 --> 00:44:59,890  
Secretly?

802  
00:44:59,890 --> 00:45:02,245  
Only the line in my passport.

803  
00:45:02,245 --> 00:45:03,330  
That was the only thing?

804  
00:45:03,330 --> 00:45:03,830  
Only.

805  
00:45:03,830 --> 00:45:05,160  
No Sabbath candles?

806  
00:45:05,160 --> 00:45:05,660  
No, no.

807  
00:45:05,660 --> 00:45:06,160  
No wine?

808  
00:45:06,160 --> 00:45:06,930  
No, no.

809  
00:45:06,930 --> 00:45:11,030  
I suppose they didn't  
know it themselves.

810  
00:45:11,030 --> 00:45:12,020  
Not my mother.

811  
00:45:12,020 --> 00:45:13,790  
Not her sisters.

812  
00:45:13,790 --> 00:45:20,180  
Because the Soviet power  
from the very beginning.

813  
00:45:20,180 --> 00:45:25,640  
Religious is the old  
time, not for us.

814  
00:45:25,640 --> 00:45:26,140  
Right.

815  
00:45:26,140 --> 00:45:29,430  
So then you started  
working you said.

816  
00:45:29,430 --> 00:45:31,125

And then what happened?

817  
00:45:31,125 --> 00:45:35,140  
Before that, it was a  
very different experience.

818  
00:45:35,140 --> 00:45:41,000  
In 1957, when I graduated  
there were three years.

819  
00:45:41,000 --> 00:45:43,060  
When you were 21.

820  
00:45:43,060 --> 00:45:44,717  
No, no.

821  
00:45:44,717 --> 00:45:45,450  
'57?

822  
00:45:45,450 --> 00:45:51,170  
'57 was a Jew Youth Festival,  
International Youth.

823  
00:45:51,170 --> 00:45:53,270  
You were 21 then.

824  
00:45:53,270 --> 00:45:53,770  
No.

825  
00:45:53,770 --> 00:45:56,065  
It was '57.

826  
00:45:56,065 --> 00:45:58,750  
I thought you were born in '36.

827  
00:45:58,750 --> 00:46:00,435  
When were you born?

828  
00:46:00,435 --> 00:46:01,875  
I was in '36.

829

00:46:01,875 --> 00:46:02,800  
Yeah, '36.

830  
00:46:02,800 --> 00:46:09,340  
But this International  
Festival was in 1957.

831  
00:46:09,340 --> 00:46:10,120  
When you were 21.

832  
00:46:10,120 --> 00:46:15,615

833  
00:46:15,615 --> 00:46:17,790  
I didn't understand, sorry.

834  
00:46:17,790 --> 00:46:20,310  
I thought about this one.

835  
00:46:20,310 --> 00:46:27,900  
And a lot of foreigners came to  
Moscow from various countries.

836  
00:46:27,900 --> 00:46:40,140  
And there was the place then,  
I met my future husband,

837  
00:46:40,140 --> 00:46:43,080  
when we were schoolchildren.

838  
00:46:43,080 --> 00:46:48,740  
Because we had a very bad  
teacher in our school.

839  
00:46:48,740 --> 00:46:51,330  
A very bad teacher in physics.

840  
00:46:51,330 --> 00:46:57,190  
And I understood that even if  
I would have the gold medal,

841  
00:46:57,190 --> 00:47:00,270

I would have no  
knowledge in physics.

842  
00:47:00,270 --> 00:47:03,510

So it was necessary  
to get some knowledge.

843  
00:47:03,510 --> 00:47:08,130

And in the Moscow festival,  
in Moscow University,

844  
00:47:08,130 --> 00:47:16,310

every department had the special  
circle for the school children.

845  
00:47:16,310 --> 00:47:21,422

And the physics department.

846  
00:47:21,422 --> 00:47:22,280

Physics department.

847  
00:47:22,280 --> 00:47:26,330

Physics department had  
the special studies

848  
00:47:26,330 --> 00:47:29,270

for schoolchildren.

849  
00:47:29,270 --> 00:47:33,920

And I went there to get some  
knowledge, real knowledge,

850  
00:47:33,920 --> 00:47:35,300

in physics.

851  
00:47:35,300 --> 00:47:39,500

And there I met  
my future husband.

852  
00:47:39,500 --> 00:47:43,010

So the next time  
we met in Camden,

853

00:47:43,010 --> 00:47:46,310

because he also  
had the gold medal.

854

00:47:46,310 --> 00:47:51,410

And after the end  
of the school, we

855

00:47:51,410 --> 00:47:56,780

met in this huge meeting  
for Middle East, in Camden.

856

00:47:56,780 --> 00:48:00,270

And after that we began  
to meet regularly.

857

00:48:00,270 --> 00:48:08,300

So in 1957, when  
there was a festival

858

00:48:08,300 --> 00:48:14,100

of the youth in Moscow, we  
tried to get everywhere.

859

00:48:14,100 --> 00:48:17,120

And to see as much as possible.

860

00:48:17,120 --> 00:48:18,620

It was in summer.

861

00:48:18,620 --> 00:48:21,845

We were free.

862

00:48:21,845 --> 00:48:24,150

Did you speak any English?

863

00:48:24,150 --> 00:48:25,290

Then?

864

00:48:25,290 --> 00:48:27,005

I studied German in school.

865

00:48:27,005 --> 00:48:28,920

German.

866

00:48:28,920 --> 00:48:33,210

He studied English  
but I, German.

867

00:48:33,210 --> 00:48:40,705

And when we went, there  
was a special park,

868

00:48:40,705 --> 00:48:43,120

a great park in Moscow.

869

00:48:43,120 --> 00:48:54,010

When your delegation organized  
concerts for public and there

870

00:48:54,010 --> 00:48:55,690

was an allegation from Israel.

871

00:48:55,690 --> 00:48:58,260

872

00:48:58,260 --> 00:49:01,290

And certainly we went there.

873

00:49:01,290 --> 00:49:04,800

Both of them were Jewish Jews.

874

00:49:04,800 --> 00:49:08,910

And after the end  
of the concert,

875

00:49:08,910 --> 00:49:14,040

the members of the delegation  
went to speak with the people.

876

00:49:14,040 --> 00:49:19,020

And you can't imagine  
what has happened there



877  
00:49:19,020 --> 00:49:23,880  
because the Soviet  
Jewish never, never

878  
00:49:23,880 --> 00:49:27,710  
saw other people from Israel.

879  
00:49:27,710 --> 00:49:35,490  
And they tried to get  
something, a handkerchief, ties,

880  
00:49:35,490 --> 00:49:41,290  
some signs and they  
reminded me of animals.

881  
00:49:41,290 --> 00:49:44,860  
They were so excited  
that they began

882  
00:49:44,860 --> 00:49:49,510  
to take apart their dressing.

883  
00:49:49,510 --> 00:49:52,360  
But these people  
were so frightened.

884  
00:49:52,360 --> 00:49:54,790  
It was awful to see.

885  
00:49:54,790 --> 00:49:58,180  
I'll never forget it.

886  
00:49:58,180 --> 00:50:01,930  
It was not only  
shameful, these people

887  
00:50:01,930 --> 00:50:04,870  
couldn't control their behavior.

888  
00:50:04,870 --> 00:50:10,660  
Because it was the first time  
that they see Jewish people.

889  
00:50:10,660 --> 00:50:13,042  
But it was very  
interesting to experience.

890  
00:50:13,042 --> 00:50:15,280  
Yeah, I can imagine.

891  
00:50:15,280 --> 00:50:22,540  
We saw a lot of delegation  
from various countries

892  
00:50:22,540 --> 00:50:30,280  
but there was a special event  
because many Russian girls

893  
00:50:30,280 --> 00:50:35,800  
were very excited  
seeing the black people.

894  
00:50:35,800 --> 00:50:40,300  
And they behave awful,  
awful because after the end

895  
00:50:40,300 --> 00:50:46,990  
of this festival, there was  
born a lot of black children.

896  
00:50:46,990 --> 00:50:53,560  
And they organized this  
special home for the children.

897  
00:50:53,560 --> 00:50:57,510  
When you're there absolutely  
unexpected things happen.

898  
00:50:57,510 --> 00:51:00,600

899  
00:51:00,600 --> 00:51:02,423  
It was a great event really.

900

00:51:02,423 --> 00:51:06,220

901

00:51:06,220 --> 00:51:11,010

Then on to the end  
of the Institute.

902

00:51:11,010 --> 00:51:18,500

And you have to work three years  
in a place where you were sent.

903

00:51:18,500 --> 00:51:22,950

And after that you  
can stop working there

904

00:51:22,950 --> 00:51:27,165

and choose something  
else if you want.

905

00:51:27,165 --> 00:51:30,305

And so what did you do?

906

00:51:30,305 --> 00:51:37,370

I changed the Institute but  
what was very interesting,

907

00:51:37,370 --> 00:51:43,370

some part of the Institute  
have a secret job,

908

00:51:43,370 --> 00:51:46,880

my second place working.

909

00:51:46,880 --> 00:51:56,580

And it was limited but special  
big factory, a big difference.

910

00:51:56,580 --> 00:52:06,500

And each organization had  
a special a department.

911

00:52:06,500 --> 00:52:15,120

The head of the Physics

Department was a member of KGB

912

00:52:15,120 --> 00:52:17,540  
or [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH].

913

00:52:17,540 --> 00:52:20,140

914

00:52:20,140 --> 00:52:25,760

So not everyone  
could be accepted.

915

00:52:25,760 --> 00:52:30,430

But if you were accepted,  
it was something.

916

00:52:30,430 --> 00:52:34,465

Not the main direction  
but it's something.

917

00:52:34,465 --> 00:52:38,430

918

00:52:38,430 --> 00:52:41,430

It was not a secret  
job certainly.

919

00:52:41,430 --> 00:52:46,530

Something, two or three years  
and returned to the first place

920

00:52:46,530 --> 00:52:48,360

after that.

921

00:52:48,360 --> 00:52:53,640

And I visited the main  
part of the country

922

00:52:53,640 --> 00:52:57,990

because we worked for the  
automation of the coal

923

00:52:57,990 --> 00:52:59,850  
industry.

924  
00:52:59,850 --> 00:53:06,630  
And had to go to  
the mines to bring

925  
00:53:06,630 --> 00:53:10,520  
the products of our creation.

926  
00:53:10,520 --> 00:53:12,310  
I was in Kazakhstan.

927  
00:53:12,310 --> 00:53:15,570  
I was in Ukraine.

928  
00:53:15,570 --> 00:53:20,350  
I was in the far east.

929  
00:53:20,350 --> 00:53:23,510  
So it was interesting.

930  
00:53:23,510 --> 00:53:26,760  
It was not abroad  
but nevertheless,

931  
00:53:26,760 --> 00:53:28,345  
in a different part  
of the country.

932  
00:53:28,345 --> 00:53:29,910  
When did you get married?

933  
00:53:29,910 --> 00:53:31,800  
What year?

934  
00:53:31,800 --> 00:53:36,090  
Just after the end  
of the institution.

935  
00:53:36,090 --> 00:53:39,525  
In Russia it's very

early not a few years.

936  
00:53:39,525 --> 00:53:41,460  
So what year was that?

937  
00:53:41,460 --> 00:53:43,410  
What year was that?

938  
00:53:43,410 --> 00:53:46,155  
It was in 1959.

939  
00:53:46,155 --> 00:53:48,390  
And your husband's name?

940  
00:53:48,390 --> 00:53:55,320  
Vladimir [? Yentoff. ?]  
He had a special story

941  
00:53:55,320 --> 00:53:56,490  
that's interesting.

942  
00:53:56,490 --> 00:53:58,560  
I'll tell you.

943  
00:53:58,560 --> 00:54:03,550  
He was a very famous scientist.

944  
00:54:03,550 --> 00:54:04,860  
Write that.

945  
00:54:04,860 --> 00:54:11,400  
He was involved in physics  
from the very childhood.

946  
00:54:11,400 --> 00:54:20,010  
And he got the first  
place in every Olympiads

947  
00:54:20,010 --> 00:54:23,230  
for school children in Physics.

948

00:54:23,230 --> 00:54:29,610  
And so he couldn't imagine  
a life without physics.

949  
00:54:29,610 --> 00:54:36,030  
And when he got his gold medal  
he went to the University,

950  
00:54:36,030 --> 00:54:39,910  
to the physician department.

951  
00:54:39,910 --> 00:54:40,690  
Physics.

952  
00:54:40,690 --> 00:54:44,380  
Physics department and  
they loaned him because

953  
00:54:44,380 --> 00:54:50,020  
of Olympiads, but  
he wasn't accepted.

954  
00:54:50,020 --> 00:54:57,120  
And he told the person  
it was not exam's,

955  
00:54:57,120 --> 00:55:01,640  
it was the talk because  
he had the middle.

956  
00:55:01,640 --> 00:55:05,405  
And he said I can't  
accept you too.

957  
00:55:05,405 --> 00:55:07,960  
Because he was Jewish.

958  
00:55:07,960 --> 00:55:10,730  
He didn't explain the reason.

959  
00:55:10,730 --> 00:55:13,475  
But he has his form.

960

00:55:13,475 --> 00:55:15,230

I'm saying it was  
because he was.

961

00:55:15,230 --> 00:55:17,170

But there was not only that.

962

00:55:17,170 --> 00:55:28,040

His father was arrested  
in 1941 because he

963

00:55:28,040 --> 00:55:29,870

immigrated with his mother.

964

00:55:29,870 --> 00:55:40,820

And his father was, to that  
general he was the army person.

965

00:55:40,820 --> 00:55:46,230

And it was a huge  
number of arrests,

966

00:55:46,230 --> 00:55:52,950

which began in '37 until  
the end of life of Stalin.

967

00:55:52,950 --> 00:55:55,530

So he had two disadvantages.

968

00:55:55,530 --> 00:55:58,710

He was a Jew and his  
father was arrested.

969

00:55:58,710 --> 00:56:02,010

So, he was told, we  
can't accept you.

970

00:56:02,010 --> 00:56:04,500

And then he said,  
OK, I will pass

971

00:56:04,500 --> 00:56:11,080



through exams with all  
the rest of the children.

972  
00:56:11,080 --> 00:56:13,480  
And this person looked at him.

973  
00:56:13,480 --> 00:56:16,340  
I don't advise you to do it.

974  
00:56:16,340 --> 00:56:19,220  
The result will be the same.

975  
00:56:19,220 --> 00:56:24,670  
So he went to the  
Institute of Oil and Gas

976  
00:56:24,670 --> 00:56:31,000  
and graduated and went to  
the Graduate School there.

977  
00:56:31,000 --> 00:56:36,650  
And after that he  
got the degree.

978  
00:56:36,650 --> 00:56:37,610  
The second degree.

979  
00:56:37,610 --> 00:56:41,350  
And we have two scientist  
degrees in Russia.

980  
00:56:41,350 --> 00:56:47,980  
The first after the graduate  
school and the second

981  
00:56:47,980 --> 00:56:50,300  
was Doctor of Science.

982  
00:56:50,300 --> 00:56:54,520  
So he was a member of  
correspondents of Academy

983

00:56:54,520 --> 00:56:57,260  
now, of science later.

984  
00:56:57,260 --> 00:57:02,560  
But after the end of the  
Institute of Oil and Gas,

985  
00:57:02,560 --> 00:57:07,600  
he went to the mathematical  
department of the University

986  
00:57:07,600 --> 00:57:09,730  
and was accepted there.

987  
00:57:09,730 --> 00:57:13,620  
It was another time already.

988  
00:57:13,620 --> 00:57:19,020  
It graduated from the University  
also, as a mathematician.

989  
00:57:19,020 --> 00:57:21,465  
So he had a long way.

990  
00:57:21,465 --> 00:57:24,695  
Did you talk about coming  
to the United States at all?

991  
00:57:24,695 --> 00:57:26,610  
No, no.

992  
00:57:26,610 --> 00:57:28,770  
How we got here,  
I'll explain to you.

993  
00:57:28,770 --> 00:57:34,780  
When our daughter graduated  
and her husband also,

994  
00:57:34,780 --> 00:57:40,080  
they studied in the same group  
in the chemical department

995  
00:57:40,080 --> 00:57:42,502  
of Moscow University.

996  
00:57:42,502 --> 00:57:44,340  
When was your daughter born?

997  
00:57:44,340 --> 00:57:47,910  
She was born in 1964.

998  
00:57:47,910 --> 00:57:53,990  
And a son in 1969.

999  
00:57:53,990 --> 00:57:57,350  
When she graduated from  
the Moscow University

1000  
00:57:57,350 --> 00:58:03,740  
and began to work  
already, her friend,

1001  
00:58:03,740 --> 00:58:08,280  
also from the University  
but she was a mathematician,

1002  
00:58:08,280 --> 00:58:13,340  
she got in contact with  
an American scientist.

1003  
00:58:13,340 --> 00:58:17,330  
And this professor  
came to Moscow,

1004  
00:58:17,330 --> 00:58:19,490  
to the Moscow University.

1005  
00:58:19,490 --> 00:58:26,020  
And said I would like  
to accept some students.

1006  
00:58:26,020 --> 00:58:31,720  
I understood all of them, all of  
you, had a very good education.

1007  
00:58:31,720 --> 00:58:34,900  
I would like to  
invite some of them.

1008  
00:58:34,900 --> 00:58:39,430  
So she, both of them, my  
daughter and her husband,

1009  
00:58:39,430 --> 00:58:41,830  
went here to the  
Catholic University

1010  
00:58:41,830 --> 00:58:43,890  
to the chemical department.

1011  
00:58:43,890 --> 00:58:46,780  
It was the first child.

1012  
00:58:46,780 --> 00:58:49,570  
The second was another story.

1013  
00:58:49,570 --> 00:58:52,690  
My husband organized  
the conference

1014  
00:58:52,690 --> 00:58:57,820  
in Moscow, an international  
conference, by hydrodynamics.

1015  
00:58:57,820 --> 00:59:04,480  
And one of the professors there  
was from Penn State University.

1016  
00:59:04,480 --> 00:59:10,240  
And it was necessary at the  
end of their working day,

1017  
00:59:10,240 --> 00:59:13,690  
to show them Moscow, to  
invite them to the theater,

1018

00:59:13,690 --> 00:59:14,680  
to the concert.

1019  
00:59:14,680 --> 00:59:18,880  
And so he used my  
son and his friends

1020  
00:59:18,880 --> 00:59:22,540  
to spend the time in the  
evening together with them.

1021  
00:59:22,540 --> 00:59:26,240  
And soon after coming  
back, this professor

1022  
00:59:26,240 --> 00:59:32,900  
wrote my father that if I have  
the grant only for three years,

1023  
00:59:32,900 --> 00:59:36,910  
if your son is ready to go be  
a graduate student for three

1024  
00:59:36,910 --> 00:59:37,780  
years.

1025  
00:59:37,780 --> 00:59:39,430  
I am ready to take them.

1026  
00:59:39,430 --> 00:59:43,050  
So my son went to Penn State.

1027  
00:59:43,050 --> 00:59:46,210  
And after that  
the children began

1028  
00:59:46,210 --> 00:59:51,610  
to persuade my husband  
that its necessary

1029  
00:59:51,610 --> 00:59:55,030  
to think about  
going to work here.

1030  
00:59:55,030 --> 00:59:59,200  
But he was not ready  
and for six years,

1031  
00:59:59,200 --> 01:00:06,010  
he spent half a year in Moscow  
and half a year here teaching

1032  
01:00:06,010 --> 01:00:09,250  
students, back and here.

1033  
01:00:09,250 --> 01:00:14,900  
And in 2008, it was clear  
that he had a cancer.

1034  
01:00:14,900 --> 01:00:18,000

1035  
01:00:18,000 --> 01:00:24,840  
And then we went here because  
our good friend in Moscow,

1036  
01:00:24,840 --> 01:00:30,150  
she was an oncologist, said  
you have no time to think.

1037  
01:00:30,150 --> 01:00:34,410  
It is if you are going to  
have a treatment in America,

1038  
01:00:34,410 --> 01:00:37,960  
immediately you have to go here.

1039  
01:00:37,960 --> 01:00:42,340  
And he got some treatment.

1040  
01:00:42,340 --> 01:00:48,230  
And maybe a year and a half  
additional time to live.

1041  
01:00:48,230 --> 01:00:51,260

1042  
01:00:51,260 --> 01:00:52,280  
He passed away when?

1043  
01:00:52,280 --> 01:00:52,850  
In 2000?

1044  
01:00:52,850 --> 01:00:53,350  
Yeah.

1045  
01:00:53,350 --> 01:00:54,470  
In 2010?

1046  
01:00:54,470 --> 01:00:56,430  
2008.

1047  
01:00:56,430 --> 01:00:56,930  
Eight, OK.

1048  
01:00:56,930 --> 01:00:58,587  
He passed away in 2008.

1049  
01:00:58,587 --> 01:01:04,640  
So during six or seven  
years, we spent half a year.

1050  
01:01:04,640 --> 01:01:06,775  
At the very end of half a year.

1051  
01:01:06,775 --> 01:01:09,160  
And then after he passed  
away, you stayed here?

1052  
01:01:09,160 --> 01:01:09,886  
Yeah.

1053  
01:01:09,886 --> 01:01:10,705  
You just stayed.

1054  
01:01:10,705 --> 01:01:13,645

I sold my apartment  
and came here.

1055  
01:01:13,645 --> 01:01:14,370  
And came here.

1056  
01:01:14,370 --> 01:01:17,335  
So you've been here since 2008?

1057  
01:01:17,335 --> 01:01:25,707  
Permanently, yes, 2009.

1058  
01:01:25,707 --> 01:01:28,760  
OK, can we just talk about  
some of your feelings?

1059  
01:01:28,760 --> 01:01:30,560  
Some of your thoughts?

1060  
01:01:30,560 --> 01:01:31,205  
Here?

1061  
01:01:31,205 --> 01:01:32,420  
Well, just generally.

1062  
01:01:32,420 --> 01:01:33,755  
Do you feel Russian?

1063  
01:01:33,755 --> 01:01:36,435

1064  
01:01:36,435 --> 01:01:37,490  
Oh, it's a good question.

1065  
01:01:37,490 --> 01:01:45,420

1066  
01:01:45,420 --> 01:01:52,520  
I can't feel Russian because  
I was reminded all my life

1067



01:01:52,520 --> 01:01:55,040  
that I'm not Russian.

1068  
01:01:55,040 --> 01:01:57,320  
There was a very  
interesting episode,

1069  
01:01:57,320 --> 01:02:02,930  
when my husband, because he  
had special security back

1070  
01:02:02,930 --> 01:02:09,350  
at the Institute where  
he worked for a long time

1071  
01:02:09,350 --> 01:02:13,340  
because he was a Jew,  
only because of that,

1072  
01:02:13,340 --> 01:02:16,940  
he was forbidden to  
leave the country.

1073  
01:02:16,940 --> 01:02:20,630  
The first time, it was an  
international conference

1074  
01:02:20,630 --> 01:02:22,520  
in Poland.

1075  
01:02:22,520 --> 01:02:24,170  
Something '87.

1076  
01:02:24,170 --> 01:02:26,930

1077  
01:02:26,930 --> 01:02:29,540  
Not early.

1078  
01:02:29,540 --> 01:02:34,730  
And after the collapse  
of the Soviet Union.

1079

01:02:34,730 --> 01:02:40,340

And they had a label at the  
conference and a scientist,

1080

01:02:40,340 --> 01:02:44,060

I don't remember from  
what country, went to him,

1081

01:02:44,060 --> 01:02:47,430

saw the label and said,  
oh I know your works.

1082

01:02:47,430 --> 01:02:51,350

I am happy to get  
acquainted with you.

1083

01:02:51,350 --> 01:02:55,440

And they began to talk  
and after that he said,

1084

01:02:55,440 --> 01:03:00,380

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] It's  
details of my explanation.

1085

01:03:00,380 --> 01:03:02,900

And absolutely,  
automatically, he

1086

01:03:02,900 --> 01:03:06,080

doesn't think about  
how he answered in Jew.

1087

01:03:06,080 --> 01:03:10,400

And he told me  
when I saw a great,

1088

01:03:10,400 --> 01:03:14,990

he understood what I answered.

1089

01:03:14,990 --> 01:03:17,870

Because here, it's  
another answer.

1090

01:03:17,870 --> 01:03:22,015

And this person thought a bit  
and said, from what country

1091

01:03:22,015 --> 01:03:23,366

are you?

1092

01:03:23,366 --> 01:03:26,420

A great from Russia.

1093

01:03:26,420 --> 01:03:32,010

Is it possible to be at the same  
time the Jew and the Russian?

1094

01:03:32,010 --> 01:03:39,440

In Russia nobody could quite  
imagine such a question.

1095

01:03:39,440 --> 01:03:42,470

It's impossible.

1096

01:03:42,470 --> 01:03:45,818

So, it's my answer  
for your question.

1097

01:03:45,818 --> 01:03:46,610

Do you feel Jewish?

1098

01:03:46,610 --> 01:03:49,692

1099

01:03:49,692 --> 01:03:57,410

Yes, but only because  
it was minority there.

1100

01:03:57,410 --> 01:04:00,610

Suppressed minority.

1101

01:04:00,610 --> 01:04:05,120

We never could forget it there.

1102

01:04:05,120 --> 01:04:10,040  
Here, only here, the first  
time I go to the synagogue.

1103  
01:04:10,040 --> 01:04:11,815  
Oh, really?

1104  
01:04:11,815 --> 01:04:18,920  
And only here I, alone,  
went on the Jewish holidays.

1105  
01:04:18,920 --> 01:04:20,210  
So it was all new to you.

1106  
01:04:20,210 --> 01:04:23,155  
When you came here  
it was all new?

1107  
01:04:23,155 --> 01:04:24,305  
Yes, absolutely.

1108  
01:04:24,305 --> 01:04:26,227  
When you came here?

1109  
01:04:26,227 --> 01:04:30,590  
Again, the new story.

1110  
01:04:30,590 --> 01:04:36,320  
When my husband was  
teaching in Moscow,

1111  
01:04:36,320 --> 01:04:41,090  
there was such a story  
at this Institute.

1112  
01:04:41,090 --> 01:04:46,360  
When the student  
graduated the Institute,

1113  
01:04:46,360 --> 01:04:50,120  
they have at least,  
the best people,

1114

01:04:50,120 --> 01:04:52,470  
were at the top of the list.

1115

01:04:52,470 --> 01:04:55,700  
And they can choose  
the first work.

1116

01:04:55,700 --> 01:05:01,910  
Where they can go to work  
after they graduated.

1117

01:05:01,910 --> 01:05:07,070  
The better was your marks.

1118

01:05:07,070 --> 01:05:10,010  
That's how you  
weigh in this list.

1119

01:05:10,010 --> 01:05:17,700  
And it was after the end  
of the Institute of Power.

1120

01:05:17,700 --> 01:05:21,705  
And many youth began  
to visit synagogues

1121

01:05:21,705 --> 01:05:23,510  
during the Jewish holidays.

1122

01:05:23,510 --> 01:05:26,690  
Not in sight, but  
all around they

1123

01:05:26,690 --> 01:05:30,200  
were dancing, singing songs.

1124

01:05:30,200 --> 01:05:38,030  
And the people from the Komsomol  
organization of this Institute

1125

01:05:38,030 --> 01:05:43,850  
went there and made pictures

of every one of their students

1126  
01:05:43,850 --> 01:05:45,620  
who was there.

1127  
01:05:45,620 --> 01:05:48,080  
And after that,  
the best students

1128  
01:05:48,080 --> 01:05:51,350  
went to the very bottom.

1129  
01:05:51,350 --> 01:05:56,960  
And I was lucky because  
we needed the people

1130  
01:05:56,960 --> 01:06:02,810  
with such profession to  
pick applied mathematics.

1131  
01:06:02,810 --> 01:06:10,280  
I know about this story  
when it took to our office.

1132  
01:06:10,280 --> 01:06:16,140  
But I remember, there were  
several Jewish people there.

1133  
01:06:16,140 --> 01:06:19,330  
They were always  
depressed after that.

1134  
01:06:19,330 --> 01:06:23,325  
So, it's the answer  
for your question.

1135  
01:06:23,325 --> 01:06:25,300  
What are your thoughts  
about Germany?

1136  
01:06:25,300 --> 01:06:29,390  
Do you have any  
thoughts about Germany?

1137  
01:06:29,390 --> 01:06:36,030  
Yes, for many years I couldn't  
imagine I could go there.

1138  
01:06:36,030 --> 01:06:42,780  
I couldn't hear the speech.

1139  
01:06:42,780 --> 01:06:44,220  
Now it's better.

1140  
01:06:44,220 --> 01:06:46,330  
It's not so sharp.

1141  
01:06:46,330 --> 01:06:50,320  
But for many years  
I couldn't hear it

1142  
01:06:50,320 --> 01:06:59,170  
because all the films from my  
childhood with German speech.

1143  
01:06:59,170 --> 01:07:01,670  
The pronunciation.

1144  
01:07:01,670 --> 01:07:04,850  
It was in my ear  
because I studied German

1145  
01:07:04,850 --> 01:07:09,380  
at school but only  
after that I understood

1146  
01:07:09,380 --> 01:07:13,700  
that our pronunciation  
was, as you like my accent,

1147  
01:07:13,700 --> 01:07:17,412  
just the same it  
was with German.

1148  
01:07:17,412 --> 01:07:21,020

So, I understand you volunteer  
at the United States Holocaust

1149  
01:07:21,020 --> 01:07:21,980  
Memorial Museum.

1150  
01:07:21,980 --> 01:07:24,160  
What do you do there?

1151  
01:07:24,160 --> 01:07:30,050  
We usually talk with the  
visitors in the information

1152  
01:07:30,050 --> 01:07:32,620  
desk and close to the elevator.

1153  
01:07:32,620 --> 01:07:35,210

1154  
01:07:35,210 --> 01:07:37,255  
So your in visitor services.

1155  
01:07:37,255 --> 01:07:37,755  
Yes.

1156  
01:07:37,755 --> 01:07:41,825  
Yeah, and do you do  
any translating at all?

1157  
01:07:41,825 --> 01:07:43,190  
From time to time.

1158  
01:07:43,190 --> 01:07:44,915  
From Russian or from?

1159  
01:07:44,915 --> 01:07:46,555  
From Russian to English.

1160  
01:07:46,555 --> 01:07:47,690  
Yeah.

1161



01:07:47,690 --> 01:07:53,160  
Are you more comfortable  
with people who lived through

1162

01:07:53,160 --> 01:07:56,490  
the war like you did as opposed  
to those of us who lived

1163

01:07:56,490 --> 01:07:58,605  
in the United States and didn't?

1164

01:07:58,605 --> 01:08:00,105  
Once more.

1165

01:08:00,105 --> 01:08:06,480  
Are you more comfortable with  
people who lived in Europe,

1166

01:08:06,480 --> 01:08:11,520  
who lived in Russia,  
than someone who didn't?

1167

01:08:11,520 --> 01:08:15,930  
Not because of the mentality  
but because it's easier for me

1168

01:08:15,930 --> 01:08:16,590  
to understand.

1169

01:08:16,590 --> 01:08:21,090  
Michelin and Margaret I  
understand much better

1170

01:08:21,090 --> 01:08:24,359  
than the native American.

1171

01:08:24,359 --> 01:08:26,029  
I can't explain it.

1172

01:08:26,029 --> 01:08:33,149  
Maybe it's not so fast but  
I meet Margaret every day,

1173

01:08:33,149 --> 01:08:34,740  
every week.

1174

01:08:34,740 --> 01:08:38,220  
And there is no problem  
for me to understand her

1175

01:08:38,220 --> 01:08:43,500  
but when the people are  
talking fast at the Museum,

1176

01:08:43,500 --> 01:08:48,750  
at the information desk,  
I can't understand.

1177

01:08:48,750 --> 01:08:49,580  
Only an idea.

1178

01:08:49,580 --> 01:08:53,784  
What language do you  
speak in to Margaret?

1179

01:08:53,784 --> 01:08:55,069  
Oh, it's very interesting.

1180

01:08:55,069 --> 01:08:56,779  
I try to speak English.

1181

01:08:56,779 --> 01:08:58,100  
She tries to speak Russian.

1182

01:08:58,100 --> 01:09:01,534

1183

01:09:01,534 --> 01:09:04,620  
Do you feel at  
home in the Museum?

1184

01:09:04,620 --> 01:09:06,005  
Are you comfortable?

1185

01:09:06,005 --> 01:09:08,570  
Absolutely.

1186  
01:09:08,570 --> 01:09:12,645  
When you walk into the building,  
do you have a special feeling?

1187  
01:09:12,645 --> 01:09:18,830  
If I come, if the people address  
me at the information desk

1188  
01:09:18,830 --> 01:09:25,460  
and speak very fast, sometimes  
I need help with somebody close

1189  
01:09:25,460 --> 01:09:26,069  
to me.

1190  
01:09:26,069 --> 01:09:28,060  
But not regularly.

1191  
01:09:28,060 --> 01:09:31,580  
But I just meant when you  
walk into the building,

1192  
01:09:31,580 --> 01:09:33,649  
do you feel like you're at home?

1193  
01:09:33,649 --> 01:09:36,100  
Do you feel like it's  
a strange building?

1194  
01:09:36,100 --> 01:09:37,429  
No, not strange.

1195  
01:09:37,429 --> 01:09:38,570  
You're comfortable?

1196  
01:09:38,570 --> 01:09:43,084  
Yes, but I have seven years  
or something like that.

1197

01:09:43,084 --> 01:09:45,830

What made you  
decide to volunteer?

1198

01:09:45,830 --> 01:09:47,930

It was the idea of my daughter.

1199

01:09:47,930 --> 01:09:50,314

Oh, what did she say?

1200

01:09:50,314 --> 01:09:54,109

It's reasonable because  
the main problem

1201

01:09:54,109 --> 01:09:58,600

for me now is the very limited  
contact with English speaking

1202

01:09:58,600 --> 01:09:59,100

people.

1203

01:09:59,100 --> 01:10:02,210

1204

01:10:02,210 --> 01:10:05,930

And it is necessary for  
me to understand it.

1205

01:10:05,930 --> 01:10:09,270

There it's the only  
opportunity for me.

1206

01:10:09,270 --> 01:10:12,390

1207

01:10:12,390 --> 01:10:17,250

Because it's difficult to  
find people around to get

1208

01:10:17,250 --> 01:10:19,290

acquainted with them.

1209

01:10:19,290 --> 01:10:32,030  
And I am very confused inside  
because certainly if I feel

1210  
01:10:32,030 --> 01:10:35,270  
relaxed, I could find people.

1211  
01:10:35,270 --> 01:10:40,790  
But I am very tense to  
address because I'm always

1212  
01:10:40,790 --> 01:10:43,250  
afraid not to understand.

1213  
01:10:43,250 --> 01:10:47,570

1214  
01:10:47,570 --> 01:10:51,120  
Have you been back to Russia?

1215  
01:10:51,120 --> 01:10:53,815  
Have you gone back to Russia?

1216  
01:10:53,815 --> 01:11:02,510  
Yes actually, last time  
I was there in 2012

1217  
01:11:02,510 --> 01:11:04,815  
and don't want to go no more.

1218  
01:11:04,815 --> 01:11:05,315  
Because?

1219  
01:11:05,315 --> 01:11:12,355

1220  
01:11:12,355 --> 01:11:20,990  
First of all, I have  
only two close friends

1221  
01:11:20,990 --> 01:11:24,050  
who are left there now.

1222  
01:11:24,050 --> 01:11:32,530  
But probably because the  
situation, the air there.

1223  
01:11:32,530 --> 01:11:34,350  
The haters.

1224  
01:11:34,350 --> 01:11:37,020  
You feel it at every step.

1225  
01:11:37,020 --> 01:11:39,350  
Foreigners.

1226  
01:11:39,350 --> 01:11:44,810  
All the world is a  
mess, I tell you.

1227  
01:11:44,810 --> 01:11:49,760  
Maybe you can understand.

1228  
01:11:49,760 --> 01:11:52,770  
My mother had a brother.

1229  
01:11:52,770 --> 01:11:55,250  
Should I still go on?

1230  
01:11:55,250 --> 01:12:00,950  
He was a student  
of the Institute

1231  
01:12:00,950 --> 01:12:04,420  
in the end of the '20s.

1232  
01:12:04,420 --> 01:12:11,350  
And was involved in the Zionist  
movement and was arrested.

1233  
01:12:11,350 --> 01:12:14,320  
And went to the  
concentration camp,

1234

01:12:14,320 --> 01:12:16,380

to the Asian part  
of the country.

1235

01:12:16,380 --> 01:12:20,030

1236

01:12:20,030 --> 01:12:27,300

There in the camp, he  
met a beautiful woman who

1237

01:12:27,300 --> 01:12:30,780

got there by the same reason.

1238

01:12:30,780 --> 01:12:33,480

They fell in love.

1239

01:12:33,480 --> 01:12:39,660

They had a baby who was  
together with them in the camp.

1240

01:12:39,660 --> 01:12:43,050

And when she was  
pregnant the second time,

1241

01:12:43,050 --> 01:12:47,490

she began to starve  
to get the permission

1242

01:12:47,490 --> 01:12:50,750

to leave for Palestine.

1243

01:12:50,750 --> 01:12:53,460

And then she got  
this permission.

1244

01:12:53,460 --> 01:12:58,290

And she left with the child,  
being pregnant, to Palestine

1245

01:12:58,290 --> 01:13:01,150

and he was left in the camp.

1246  
01:13:01,150 --> 01:13:04,960  
In a year, he repeated  
the same experience

1247  
01:13:04,960 --> 01:13:10,050  
and also got the permission  
to go over there.

1248  
01:13:10,050 --> 01:13:15,160  
They had a very difficult  
time as newcomers.

1249  
01:13:15,160 --> 01:13:18,820  
And in five years, she died.

1250  
01:13:18,820 --> 01:13:25,060  
She passed away because of  
starvation, being pregnant.

1251  
01:13:25,060 --> 01:13:29,620  
And he was left  
with the children.

1252  
01:13:29,620 --> 01:13:35,320  
And to the end, by the  
time of the end of the war,

1253  
01:13:35,320 --> 01:13:40,630  
it was dangerous for  
my mom and your sister

1254  
01:13:40,630 --> 01:13:42,400  
to have the correspondence.

1255  
01:13:42,400 --> 01:13:47,860  
It was dangerous for them  
because in every end-cap

1256  
01:13:47,860 --> 01:13:53,320  
and every form you have to  
fulfill going to the new job,



1257

01:13:53,320 --> 01:13:54,370  
to the Institute.

1258

01:13:54,370 --> 01:13:57,520  
There was a line, do you  
have relatives abroad?

1259

01:13:57,520 --> 01:14:01,580  
In every form, everywhere.

1260

01:14:01,580 --> 01:14:04,060  
And so it was then  
I remember, when

1261

01:14:04,060 --> 01:14:11,310  
my mother was broken the  
letters from him because it was

1262

01:14:11,310 --> 01:14:14,010  
dangerous to keep it at home.

1263

01:14:14,010 --> 01:14:22,530  
So in 1962, he went with  
his second wife to Moscow

1264

01:14:22,530 --> 01:14:26,700  
by private visit  
through a tourist.

1265

01:14:26,700 --> 01:14:31,860  
And I wasn't in  
Moscow at the time.

1266

01:14:31,860 --> 01:14:33,000  
It was the summer.

1267

01:14:33,000 --> 01:14:34,830  
We were at vacation.

1268

01:14:34,830 --> 01:14:38,700  
And my mother, and  
my sister, met them.

1269  
01:14:38,700 --> 01:14:46,290  
And I came to Moscow the day  
before they were leaving back.

1270  
01:14:46,290 --> 01:14:49,470  
And my mother told  
me about it and I

1271  
01:14:49,470 --> 01:14:55,230  
went to the relatives of his  
wife, to meet them there.

1272  
01:14:55,230 --> 01:14:59,640  
It was the last  
evening for them.

1273  
01:14:59,640 --> 01:15:04,620  
And it was the time of  
protests of Eichmann in Israel.

1274  
01:15:04,620 --> 01:15:11,190  
And I asked him before  
that when I was in Moscow.

1275  
01:15:11,190 --> 01:15:18,600  
He was eager to visit his  
sisters, three sisters,

1276  
01:15:18,600 --> 01:15:23,940  
and to see how they  
live but all of them

1277  
01:15:23,940 --> 01:15:26,040  
lived in the  
communal apartments.

1278  
01:15:26,040 --> 01:15:31,740  
And they were afraid  
to invite foreigners.

1279  
01:15:31,740 --> 01:15:35,080  
He was so upset.

1280  
01:15:35,080 --> 01:15:39,520  
He was so depressed  
by this situation.

1281  
01:15:39,520 --> 01:15:46,720  
It was this state when I  
saw him and when I asked him

1282  
01:15:46,720 --> 01:15:50,170  
about the process of  
Eichmann, I didn't

1283  
01:15:50,170 --> 01:15:58,090  
know about those days in  
Moscow before I came here,

1284  
01:15:58,090 --> 01:16:01,000  
and suddenly he became  
with such color.

1285  
01:16:01,000 --> 01:16:03,700  
And cried, what  
are you asking me?

1286  
01:16:03,700 --> 01:16:05,650  
You live in  
[?precious?] country.

1287  
01:16:05,650 --> 01:16:07,090  
Do you understand it?

1288  
01:16:07,090 --> 01:16:13,930  
You were afraid of the walls  
and you ask me about Eichmann?

1289  
01:16:13,930 --> 01:16:21,500  
So, you can understand.

1290  
01:16:21,500 --> 01:16:24,590  
What was your  
reaction with the fall

1291

01:16:24,590 --> 01:16:29,825  
of communism in 1989, 1990?

1292

01:16:29,825 --> 01:16:35,520  
We were happy but nobody  
knows what will be had.

1293

01:16:35,520 --> 01:16:38,110

1294

01:16:38,110 --> 01:16:39,880  
At that time we were happy.

1295

01:16:39,880 --> 01:16:45,115  
We couldn't believe but we  
were afraid of the future.

1296

01:16:45,115 --> 01:16:47,675

1297

01:16:47,675 --> 01:16:48,290  
Yeah.

1298

01:16:48,290 --> 01:16:50,130  
Have you been to Israel?

1299

01:16:50,130 --> 01:16:50,630  
Yes.

1300

01:16:50,630 --> 01:16:59,240  
I was there twice and I saw the  
granddaughters of my uncles.

1301

01:16:59,240 --> 01:17:01,580  
Do you have any grandchildren?

1302

01:17:01,580 --> 01:17:02,165  
Yes.

1303

01:17:02,165 --> 01:17:02,892  
You do?

1304  
01:17:02,892 --> 01:17:04,478  
I have five.

1305  
01:17:04,478 --> 01:17:05,645  
You have five grandchildren?

1306  
01:17:05,645 --> 01:17:07,265  
This is the youngest.

1307  
01:17:07,265 --> 01:17:10,255  
OK, and do they live?

1308  
01:17:10,255 --> 01:17:15,032  
The eldest brother  
lives in California.

1309  
01:17:15,032 --> 01:17:17,750

1310  
01:17:17,750 --> 01:17:24,380  
Next, the sister  
just now graduated.

1311  
01:17:24,380 --> 01:17:29,840  
They will be June eighth  
graduation at MIT.

1312  
01:17:29,840 --> 01:17:33,380  
And now, right now  
she's in Mexico

1313  
01:17:33,380 --> 01:17:36,015  
teaching the children there.

1314  
01:17:36,015 --> 01:17:37,620  
Do you talk to  
your grandchildren

1315  
01:17:37,620 --> 01:17:40,030  
about your experience  
when you were a child?

1316  
01:17:40,030 --> 01:17:43,290  
It is not interesting for them.

1317  
01:17:43,290 --> 01:17:50,740  
I understand now the  
former life of your elders,

1318  
01:17:50,740 --> 01:17:53,790  
it's interesting for you  
when you are not young.

1319  
01:17:53,790 --> 01:17:58,320  
And as a rule, by that  
time, there's nobody to ask.

1320  
01:17:58,320 --> 01:17:59,520  
I know.

1321  
01:17:59,520 --> 01:18:02,830  
They agree with me.

1322  
01:18:02,830 --> 01:18:03,340  
Yeah.

1323  
01:18:03,340 --> 01:18:07,825  
I try sometimes and I see  
that it is not interesting.

1324  
01:18:07,825 --> 01:18:09,820  
Are your grandchildren  
fluent in Russian?

1325  
01:18:09,820 --> 01:18:13,712

1326  
01:18:13,712 --> 01:18:16,030  
They can speak, all of them.

1327  
01:18:16,030 --> 01:18:16,900  
Can speak Russian?

1328  
01:18:16,900 --> 01:18:19,280  
And the two of them  
I have in Boston.

1329  
01:18:19,280 --> 01:18:23,190  
They speak without problems.

1330  
01:18:23,190 --> 01:18:25,350  
But they couldn't write.

1331  
01:18:25,350 --> 01:18:32,610  
But my granddaughter in Boston,  
she took the special courses,

1332  
01:18:32,610 --> 01:18:35,520  
being in Brandeis University.

1333  
01:18:35,520 --> 01:18:38,760  
And she can speak  
and she can write.

1334  
01:18:38,760 --> 01:18:43,290  
And she has probably the best  
tradition among all of them.

1335  
01:18:43,290 --> 01:18:45,150  
Did any of the  
grandchildren, were they

1336  
01:18:45,150 --> 01:18:46,290  
brought up religiously?

1337  
01:18:46,290 --> 01:18:50,202  
Did they go to Sunday  
school or have bar mitzvahs?

1338  
01:18:50,202 --> 01:18:50,910  
It's interesting.

1339  
01:18:50,910 --> 01:18:55,680  
My Boston children visited the  
Jewish school, Sunday Jewish

1340  
01:18:55,680 --> 01:18:58,475  
School.

1341  
01:18:58,475 --> 01:18:59,970  
Bar and bat mitzvahs?

1342  
01:18:59,970 --> 01:19:02,560  
Did any of them have a bar  
mitzvah or bat mitzvah?

1343  
01:19:02,560 --> 01:19:03,380  
Yes, both of them.

1344  
01:19:03,380 --> 01:19:05,100  
Both of them.

1345  
01:19:05,100 --> 01:19:11,310  
But here, my daughter explained  
to me, such is the tradition.

1346  
01:19:11,310 --> 01:19:16,920  
All Saturdays were  
used for painting,

1347  
01:19:16,920 --> 01:19:23,780  
for visiting Russian  
circles here.

1348  
01:19:23,780 --> 01:19:31,670  
Yes and she said, if  
I went down on Sundays

1349  
01:19:31,670 --> 01:19:35,510  
to the Jewish  
school, I have no--

1350  
01:19:35,510 --> 01:19:37,560  
We can't at all.

1351  
01:19:37,560 --> 01:19:40,430  
It was the main



reason, not because she

1352  
01:19:40,430 --> 01:19:42,290  
had rejected the idea.

1353  
01:19:42,290 --> 01:19:45,020  
Not because there was no time.

1354  
01:19:45,020 --> 01:19:49,885  
Do you feel that the  
Holocaust could happen again?

1355  
01:19:49,885 --> 01:19:51,090  
I am afraid.

1356  
01:19:51,090 --> 01:19:57,590  
I am afraid because  
the hate is very high.

1357  
01:19:57,590 --> 01:20:08,380  
It may be not in such  
size as it was in Germany.

1358  
01:20:08,380 --> 01:20:11,320  
It was the only  
country, Germany,

1359  
01:20:11,320 --> 01:20:19,760  
who accepted the past  
as something awful.

1360  
01:20:19,760 --> 01:20:25,100  
In Russia, in Ukraine, in  
Belarus, a lot of people

1361  
01:20:25,100 --> 01:20:27,397  
were killed by  
the native people.

1362  
01:20:27,397 --> 01:20:30,620

1363

01:20:30,620 --> 01:20:36,105  
I'm not sure Holocaust as  
a whole but the hatred.

1364  
01:20:36,105 --> 01:20:39,610

1365  
01:20:39,610 --> 01:20:42,652  
I can't understand why.

1366  
01:20:42,652 --> 01:20:47,260  
Why this tradition is so alive.

1367  
01:20:47,260 --> 01:20:50,500  
When you were talking  
so much about refugees

1368  
01:20:50,500 --> 01:20:53,230  
now, from the different  
countries, when

1369  
01:20:53,230 --> 01:20:55,720  
you hear about that and  
when you read about that,

1370  
01:20:55,720 --> 01:20:57,910  
does it bring back  
memories for you?

1371  
01:20:57,910 --> 01:21:03,080  
I mean you had to leave  
quickly to go to Siberia.

1372  
01:21:03,080 --> 01:21:04,250  
It wasn't a choice.

1373  
01:21:04,250 --> 01:21:06,400  
You were forced out.

1374  
01:21:06,400 --> 01:21:09,310  
Does it bring back any  
memories of childhood?

1375  
01:21:09,310 --> 01:21:12,520  
When you hear about  
refugees today?

1376  
01:21:12,520 --> 01:21:15,255

1377  
01:21:15,255 --> 01:21:17,153  
It's another kind.

1378  
01:21:17,153 --> 01:21:17,925  
Yes.

1379  
01:21:17,925 --> 01:21:18,675  
It's another kind.

1380  
01:21:18,675 --> 01:21:20,180  
It is another kind, right.

1381  
01:21:20,180 --> 01:21:25,500  
Because we had no aggression.

1382  
01:21:25,500 --> 01:21:30,100  
We were always the victims.

1383  
01:21:30,100 --> 01:21:36,550  
Always, but when I read it  
today in the Washington Post

1384  
01:21:36,550 --> 01:21:42,370  
about the situation in  
Germany, with Muslims,

1385  
01:21:42,370 --> 01:21:43,810  
they're very aggressive.

1386  
01:21:43,810 --> 01:21:49,300  
And they change the  
situation in the country.

1387  
01:21:49,300 --> 01:21:54,100

It's not German aggression  
but well, its difficult for me

1388  
01:21:54,100 --> 01:22:00,640  
because it is a theme I try not  
to discuss with my daughter.

1389  
01:22:00,640 --> 01:22:04,370  
She is more Democratic.

1390  
01:22:04,370 --> 01:22:12,170  
She is sure that we are here,  
and most of the Russian Jewish

1391  
01:22:12,170 --> 01:22:16,970  
are here, because they were  
accepted by American embassy

1392  
01:22:16,970 --> 01:22:18,365  
as refugees.

1393  
01:22:18,365 --> 01:22:21,390

1394  
01:22:21,390 --> 01:22:23,630  
But we were not aggressive.

1395  
01:22:23,630 --> 01:22:24,180  
Yeah.

1396  
01:22:24,180 --> 01:22:26,350  
Are you an American citizen?

1397  
01:22:26,350 --> 01:22:27,045  
Yeah.

1398  
01:22:27,045 --> 01:22:30,270  
What was that like to become a  
citizen of the United States?

1399  
01:22:30,270 --> 01:22:32,340  
Do you remember that day?

1400  
01:22:32,340 --> 01:22:34,890  
Yes, I remember  
that day certainly.

1401  
01:22:34,890 --> 01:22:38,850  
It was, just a minute,  
just the minute.

1402  
01:22:38,850 --> 01:22:46,230  
I had got a green card in 2000.

1403  
01:22:46,230 --> 01:22:49,145  
So it was 2005.

1404  
01:22:49,145 --> 01:22:50,830  
2005, you became a citizen.

1405  
01:22:50,830 --> 01:22:51,330  
Certainly.

1406  
01:22:51,330 --> 01:22:53,200  
What was the ceremony  
like for you?

1407  
01:22:53,200 --> 01:22:56,247  
Was it a very emotional?

1408  
01:22:56,247 --> 01:22:59,720  
Yes, certainly.

1409  
01:22:59,720 --> 01:23:05,610  
It was very emotional and  
it was very interesting.

1410  
01:23:05,610 --> 01:23:08,085  
And your husband  
became a citizen also?

1411  
01:23:08,085 --> 01:23:10,064  
Two months before  
he passed away.

1412  
01:23:10,064 --> 01:23:17,015

1413  
01:23:17,015 --> 01:23:18,890  
Well, is there anything  
we haven't talked

1414  
01:23:18,890 --> 01:23:22,130  
about that you wanted to say?

1415  
01:23:22,130 --> 01:23:24,820  
Any memories that  
you have or any?

1416  
01:23:24,820 --> 01:23:28,220  
Probably, I will  
recall a lot of things.

1417  
01:23:28,220 --> 01:23:30,260  
Any messages to  
your grandchildren

1418  
01:23:30,260 --> 01:23:32,570  
that you wanted to say to them?

1419  
01:23:32,570 --> 01:23:35,715

1420  
01:23:35,715 --> 01:23:39,550  
It is not very  
interesting for them.

1421  
01:23:39,550 --> 01:23:45,340  
Sometimes when I can,  
by the way of our talk,

1422  
01:23:45,340 --> 01:23:50,850  
to remember some thing, but  
it is too far from them.

1423  
01:23:50,850 --> 01:23:54,220

1424  
01:23:54,220 --> 01:23:56,380  
They have very  
active lifestyles.

1425  
01:23:56,380 --> 01:23:57,470  
Wonderful.

1426  
01:23:57,470 --> 01:23:58,900  
Yeah, that's wonderful.

1427  
01:23:58,900 --> 01:24:02,440  
I'm happy about that every day.

1428  
01:24:02,440 --> 01:24:07,090  
I thank my faith that my  
children and my grandchildren

1429  
01:24:07,090 --> 01:24:09,395  
are here not there.

1430  
01:24:09,395 --> 01:24:11,460  
Everyday.

1431  
01:24:11,460 --> 01:24:15,230  
Though there is no Stalin  
now and no depression now,

1432  
01:24:15,230 --> 01:24:17,680  
it's nevertheless.

1433  
01:24:17,680 --> 01:24:21,350  
This country is  
going like a circle.

1434  
01:24:21,350 --> 01:24:25,290

1435  
01:24:25,290 --> 01:24:27,895  
And I can't  
understand the people.

1436  
01:24:27,895 --> 01:24:31,740

1437  
01:24:31,740 --> 01:24:36,000  
I used to be ruled.

1438  
01:24:36,000 --> 01:24:41,145  
It is here when--

1439  
01:24:41,145 --> 01:24:45,590  
It was interesting,  
my eldest grandson

1440  
01:24:45,590 --> 01:24:48,680  
was four when they came here.

1441  
01:24:48,680 --> 01:24:57,940  
And they rented the downstairs  
close to the University,

1442  
01:24:57,940 --> 01:25:00,410  
where they were a  
graduate student.

1443  
01:25:00,410 --> 01:25:09,210  
And all our savings were spent  
to buy the tickets for them.

1444  
01:25:09,210 --> 01:25:11,970  
Our professor's savings.

1445  
01:25:11,970 --> 01:25:19,210  
And suddenly, it was a  
basement and the floor

1446  
01:25:19,210 --> 01:25:21,860  
was covered with carpet.

1447  
01:25:21,860 --> 01:25:26,810  
And suddenly I saw  
him with scissors.



1448  
01:25:26,810 --> 01:25:29,630  
He was doing a hole.

1449  
01:25:29,630 --> 01:25:33,540  
And I imagine that absolutely,  
without minding it,

1450  
01:25:33,540 --> 01:25:36,930  
and they had to pay for that.

1451  
01:25:36,930 --> 01:25:39,376  
And I cried in Russian.

1452  
01:25:39,376 --> 01:25:41,960  
You are a very bad child!

1453  
01:25:41,960 --> 01:25:44,990  
It is special to go to Russia.

1454  
01:25:44,990 --> 01:25:50,270  
He spent one year  
here before this talk.

1455  
01:25:50,270 --> 01:25:53,090  
Before I came and saw.

1456  
01:25:53,090 --> 01:26:00,620  
He looked at me and said, you  
shouldn't say so bad words

1457  
01:26:00,620 --> 01:26:02,390  
to a child.

1458  
01:26:02,390 --> 01:26:07,750  
Only bad people  
speak such a way.

1459  
01:26:07,750 --> 01:26:10,420  
He spent only one year here.

1460

01:26:10,420 --> 01:26:17,350  
It's impossible to listen  
such words in Russian.

1461  
01:26:17,350 --> 01:26:19,450  
He is a person.

1462  
01:26:19,450 --> 01:26:21,160  
He's an individual.

1463  
01:26:21,160 --> 01:26:22,920  
There, you are a crowd.

1464  
01:26:22,920 --> 01:26:26,420  
A crowd, right.

1465  
01:26:26,420 --> 01:26:30,960  
A lot of special expressions.

1466  
01:26:30,960 --> 01:26:36,300  
Why are you not all  
the same as the others?

1467  
01:26:36,300 --> 01:26:37,800  
Why do you think you are better?

1468  
01:26:37,800 --> 01:26:41,270

1469  
01:26:41,270 --> 01:26:43,485  
It's the answer  
for your question.

1470  
01:26:43,485 --> 01:26:47,410

1471  
01:26:47,410 --> 01:26:49,810  
I am happy, really,  
to live here.

1472  
01:26:49,810 --> 01:26:53,555

1473  
01:26:53,555 --> 01:26:55,880  
Well, that's a wonderful  
note to end on, that you're

1474  
01:26:55,880 --> 01:26:57,590  
happy that you're here.

1475  
01:26:57,590 --> 01:27:00,290  
Yeah.

1476  
01:27:00,290 --> 01:27:02,291  
You are right!

1477  
01:27:02,291 --> 01:27:03,575  
It's a very good end!

1478  
01:27:03,575 --> 01:27:07,190  
A good note to end on.

1479  
01:27:07,190 --> 01:27:10,460  
This concludes the United  
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

1480  
01:27:10,460 --> 01:27:15,550  
interview with Liya,  
Liya Kaplinskaya.

1481  
01:27:15,550 --> 01:27:18,000