

An interview with Eva Greenspan. Would you like to start by talking about the time--

Before the arrival to Auschwitz? Is more about in the ghetto.

Well, would it be all right with you if we started with the ghetto? What do you want to talk about first?

I can start with the ghetto. From the ghetto? Yes. In the ghetto--

Which ghetto?

In Łódź ghetto-- I was with my whole family after they took away my brothers. And they went someplace else, what I didn't find until now.

How old were you?

I was that time about 14 when the ghetto start. I was about 14. And we start to work in the ghetto. And we passed the time about. End of the ghetto, I worked in a kitchen.

I'm sorry. I don't want to interrupt you. I should have done this at the beginning. Could you tell me what village you came from--

Łódź.

--and the names of the people in your family?

It's-- my mother was Feige Malka. My oldest brother was Jermo. My youngest brother was Yasiel. And I have a brother here. His name is Isaac. I have a sister, Gussie-- Guta. I have a sister, Sarah, who's younger than me, and myself. So we went to the ghetto.

My one brother went to Warsaw. And he is-- that's Yasiel. He didn't come back. My other brother was married. He had two children. And he went to Piotrków, where his wife's parents lived. And he vanished too. He is not anymore with us.

We live in the ghetto till 1944. We suffer. In the 1944, they took us to Auschwitz. In the ghetto, I'm not going to say too much in the ghetto because we suffer. My mother was sick. And my-- we had a cousin what came till last to us. She was a very sick girl.

And another cousin came to our house and all together. And we take care of them. And the doctors even said, don't let her into the house because she's very sick. She had a-- I forgot the name from the-- yeah, she had a typhus. And we took care of her.

Did you have medicine?

We didn't have medicine. We could-- whatever we can do it, what could do it for her. But she didn't survive. We was there. It was a young girl, from 20 years or 18 years-- from 18 to 20 years old. We was there. Thank god we keep my mother alive till we went to-- she was a sick woman too later on. We take care of her. And we took her to Auschwitz with us the 25th of-- the 21st of [POLISH] is in the fifth month.

That's May.

No, it wasn't May.

January, February, March, April, May?

May-- in June.

June?

June-- the 21st of June, we went to Auschwitz. We went, three sisters and my mother. One sister was nine years old. I was 16 or 17. My older sister was 19. They took us apart.

What happened when they came to get you in the ghetto?

We went by ourself because Rumkowski said, it's nothing what to do. You pack your packages and go to Auschwitz. But you're going to have very good. You're going to work there. And it's going to be beautiful there. Don't worry about it. Take your family and go. So we went with the last moment, while it already-- we went to Auschwitz.

Came to Auschwitz with the trains. We didn't have what to eat on the trains. We was packed like sardines-- worse there even than sardines. We didn't have where to sleep. We didn't have even where to go to the toilet. We had to put the bucket in the middle on the train and do everything for the living person can do in that bucket-- about 1,000 people, maybe, like sardines there. We came to Auschwitz.

How long were you on the train?

I don't know the time. I don't know. We were riding, riding, riding. We didn't know.

Many days?

I think so. I think so. When we came near by the Auschwitz, we went down from the train, my mother said, I think this is a crazy house. Where are we going to go? And we went, we went, we went down from the train. They gave us a bread. Everybody got a bread, all the families got a big bread. When we saw the crazy people on the other side of the-- no, onto the--

The platform?

--onto the-- not-- it wasn't a platform. This was the-- you know when you--

[NON-ENGLISH]

--this in Yiddish [YIDDISH]-- when you go around, and you build there, somebody shouldn't go through.

A barricade?

The barricades was-- it was the barricades. And we saw the people wearing just-- what you cover yourself with a blanket. So we got sorry for them. And we took the bread, throw them away the bread to them. So was our bread.

When we throw the bread, went to the wires, and they start to burning. And one girl wants to take that bread away. And she got caught in that wires. And she burned herself together with that bread. So when we saw that, we say, my mother is right. It's-- we are lost.

We went to the camp to-- there was a line. The Germans were standing inside like that-- the young people on this side, and the older people on this side. So my sister was nine years old. And she was staying with my mother.

We were afraid because the younger kids go together with the mothers. But she did not leave my mother because she was so attached to her. She was sleeping with her. She was everything-- she was the youngest in the family. She didn't want to go away. But a chance, somebody else moved in in the line.

And the German asked her, that's your mother? She said, no, that's not my mother. So I was standing under her, and I say, Sarah, tell him your age. Tell him, you're 17 years old.

17?

17.

And she said, I am 17 years old. So he smashed her in the face, and he say, oh, the Poles. They're so old and so small. And this-- he put her on the other side with us. We came on the other side-- me, and my other sister, three sisters.

And she was only nine?

She was only nine. She's here. She's going to come later to talk too. She's with me here. So we went together. They cut our hair. They took our clothes away. When we came out, we didn't recognized them. We hold by the hand the whole time. We were standing in the lines about everything. We was in one that--

Who was with you in line?

My sister-- my two sisters. My mother went to the gas chamber. We saw the gas chamber burning. When my mother went there, we saw the flames out. And we start to cry, took away.

You knew what was going on?

Yes, we-- that time, we knew what's going on. And my younger sister, we couldn't tell her, don't cry. It's-- we going to hold us. We going to be together. We couldn't help it. She cried for months. That was when we came to Auschwitz.

How was your mother?

My mother was 52 years old when she went to the-- and he was-- the German, the doctor, he was looking her maybe for 10 minutes. And he couldn't decide it where to send her. And he had to send her this side and this side. And he said, go this-- the left side. And she went.

After, came a German and say, he need 300 girls. We was standing very near him. He took us. He took us to a camp, Hambühren-Waldeslust. And we were there for three months like this.

What year was this?

This was 1944. In the ghetto, we left 1944. And he took us to Waldeslust-Hambühren, where we worked in a salt mine. We didn't have what to wear. We just has a dress on the-- the striped dresses.

And we worked in nighttime there-- me and my younger sister, when she was only nine years old. We worked there nights. And we mined the salt mine, with mines. Even you want to cross something, you cross with-- no, no, no, no, no. You crushed--

With machinery or stones?

No, when you throw something to explode.

Oh, dynamite?

The dynamite. And we crash with the dynamite. And we couldn't go out from the room where we did it. We are choking. The Wachmann said, no, you have to go in there after our Lagerälteste came and said, it's too hot in here. You cannot work like that in dresses. You have to take off your dresses. We was working there all naked. Was men there. Was about 60 girls of us.

When we came to the mine, the German came to us and said like this, I'm working here 45 years. I never saw a woman in here. That was the first time he say what woman is coming down here. That was in Hambühren-Waldeslust.

We worked there about three months. After three months, they didn't need us. They sent us to work, was 40 below zero over there in wintertime. And we work with picks, the ice-- to pick up the ice. And my sister was crying.

Even she said, I'm not going to survive. My hands are frozen to that pick-- because that pick was from metal-- metal. I'm not going to survive. I'm-- and she said it in Polish, [POLISH]. I don't know you understand. I'm not going to survive. I'm going to die here.

So I had on my foot something. I was wearing the-- we had wooden shoes. So I was wearing white linen. They gave us linen something. And I put it on her hands. And I say, don't worry, we going to survive. We have to survive. That's what I told her.

And an hour later, they said, let's go home. It's too cold. And they sent us home. Yeah. I want to say, once again, from the salt mine, we had a friend in the salt mine-- Italian man. He was a very good man to us, even he was Italian, he wasn't Jewish. He was working over there like electrician.

And when he saw us, he say, don't worry. I'm going to make every night-- I'm going to make an hour the electricity not going to work. And you're going to rest. He came to us every night. And he did it. We lay down every night for an hour doing nothing because it was dark. We couldn't work. He sabotaged. And we are very thankful to him because he really make something for us. That was a little.

We had a sister, the third sister of ours. She was very sick, very sick. And we took away from me and my sister. And we got a piece of meat, a piece of butter sometimes when we getting. We shared with her. And we kepted her alive. And she is now with us, thank god. We took care of her.

Did she work with you?

She didn't work with us.

Where was she?

She was in the camp. She didn't go to the salts mine. But she always said, I'm not going to work for the Germans. And she didn't want to work for them. And we was afraid to get hurt. And she was in the camp. She was working in a forest. In the forest, we was taking off the grass. And I don't know what they did with it. They piled it up. And we were working. They kepted us busy.

And she was sick in the center away from us, to Auschwitz because she was very sick. And we was crying and crying. Once you are standing and working in that forest too and a bus pass by. And I say to my sister, you know what? I think my Guta is coming home today. I had a feeling, she's coming.

We came-- for lunch, we went back to the camp. They took us back for lunch. That was when we was working in the forest. And the Blockälteste came down to us. And she said, Eva and Sarah, come forward to me. And she took us by the hands. And she sent us to a room. And my sister was sitting, coming back from Auschwitz.

I say, how did you make it? She say, it was 3 o'clock in the night when I went to the Abzahlung. Every day, they have a-- no, they was counting us, the Abzahlung. I say, my life is nothing worth.

So I'm going to-- I went to the German, and I said to him, I have two sisters in Waldeslust-Hambühren. And I'm healthy now, and I want to go to them back. So he hollered down there and he wrote down her name. And that's why she came back to us, to the camp.

I want to go back now-- I forgot-- to the mine. We are working about 60 girls in the mine. And we had a forelady with us, a very beautiful girl, beautiful girl. She was my friend for years from Łódź. And she has a figure, gorgeous figure, a beautiful girl. She's not-- she doesn't live anymore.

And we were standing and working in the mine. And we heard a soldier-- he was a very young German. And he want to make love with her in the mine. And she didn't let him do it. She said, oh, no.

So I was standing and working. And I didn't know what's happen. He came to me and he hit me so much, they took me right away back to camp and the Lagerführer.

And we had a German Lagerführer and a Jew German girl. But she loves us. She was very proud of us. We are-- they called me the Working Girl. She say, and that girl who got hurt with something. She went to the Lagerführer. And she told him for what he hit me because the girl didn't want to make love with him.

Why did he hit you?

No-- so he hit me because he was nervous.

So angry?

He was so angry, so he hit me. Second to morning, I didn't know what's happened because I felt it. I didn't know he hit me. I didn't know what happen at all. So she came to me. She said, the Lagerführer sent him away. I said, what's happen? What's the fuss? Because I was unconscious when they took me away from there. She told me the story what's happened. It was in the salt mine.

After then, we went by foot from Bergen-Belsen, from Hambühren-Waldeslust to Bergen-Belsen. And on the way, we-- our Lagerführer stopped where he lives. And some girl-- I don't know she wrote it down or she memorized it where he lived. And after-- and she memorize it where he lived. And that's it.

We went farther, to Bergen-Belsen. Came to Bergen-Belsen-- what I can tell you? Was very miserable. Was so miserable, was about 2,000-3,000 girls in one room on the floor, laying on the floor, nothing to eat again.

My sister got very sick. I went to find water. I found a river with very dirty water. And I lay down. I had a glass. I had something in my hands. And I put up, I put it with a string, that pot with a pot what I had. And I put it on a string. And I let myself down there. And I pick up all the dirt and everything. I brought it to my sister. And she dranked it, what that would be the best medicine. She had typhus that time.

And my other sister had diarrhea. I had about five inches, my foot was shorter than the other-- five inches. I couldn't walk. And I heard somebody told me-- I had a friend working in a kitchen. And I want to help my sister because she wants just to have meat, meat. And I couldn't walk. So I took around my sister like that.

And I went humping to that kitchen. And I went to my friend. And I told him, you have to give me something. My sister is very, very sick. And she wants just meat, meat. So he was a good man. And he gave me that meat. And I gave it to her.

And they-- and we were laying on the floor. We didn't work in Bergen-Belsen. All of a sudden, we heard that we are liberated. We are liberated. What can I tell you?

Do you remember the day you were liberated?

I think the 8th or the 15th, I don't remember.

No, no, what happened that day, I mean.

What happened that day when we were liberated? We were so happy, we are crying. We didn't laugh, we are crying. Everybody was hollering. We made it, we made it. Like we said every day, we're going to live through. We have to made it. We have to say-- tell the world what's happen. And we are very happy.

And I had to do with my sister. She was very sick. In that time, they wanted to take her to the hospital. We was so afraid, we didn't want to give her away. So me and her friends, us living around there-- and she was very sick.

All of a sudden, we turn around, she's not there. She went back. We went back to the room. She wasn't there. We were standing and standing and looking for her. They took her away. They took her away to a hospital someplace. And we didn't know where and when. But that was the England. We were liberated by the English people.

So a rabbi came on the ground. And he was-- had speeches. He had speeches and was talking. And I said to him, Rabbi, I had a sister. And they took her away. He said to me, my Kind, you know what? Now, you're free. You're going to find each other. Don't worry about it. You're going to be OK. That was there.

I want to say, we were given-- my younger sister, she was lucky. When she got something from somebody, we shared all the way-- with other people, were very sick. I shared with so many people everything-- not just with my sisters, but with everything. Maybe that's why we alive now. That's my story, guess so.

How did you find your brother?

How did I find my-- I didn't find him. They said, there's a man by the name that's there that's goes-- because he went to look for me. Nothing yet. Yeah, my older sister went to look for my brother. That I don't remember what to say because I didn't find him, my older sister find him. And we are searching for people after that, and there, and there, and there-- all over.

And we went-- we saw one man. The first day, we say, the men are leaving too. We are so surprised to see it, to see a man, because we are all girls, women. Well, I forgot about the thing not to say because I didn't want to go back already to that. That's going to be an hour. That's this--

How did you leave the camp?

How did I leave the camp?

I find my husband. I went looking for my brother and I find a husband. He was very good to us. And he had a sister too in Belgium. And this is-- we were-- I was-- after three months in camp, being in camp, we were to Belgium. And we didn't left for it-- we were crossing the border by ourselves.

You stayed in Bergen-Belsen for three months?

For three months.

And the British took care of you? Who took care of you?

The British, yeah. No, they didn't took care. I was working already. And I was working in a-- to make a few cents. I was working in a laundry. My husband worked in a laundry to buy something.

When we left to Belgium, I was wearing a blouse what I found the pillowcase from a hospital, blue-white. And I make it myself like a blouse because I didn't have what to wear. And I make a skirt from a tent. From a tent, the skirt was like that. I didn't have what to wear.

And we went go to-- from there, from Germany, we went across the border to Belgium, is easy. We find somebody who we give them a few dollars what we have because we are working that time. Then he took us through the border.

So when came to Belgium, I saw a market. I saw a market with bread, beautiful fruit. I said to my husband, look it, it's all free now. We can eat everything what is this. That's for us. So we bought a bread. And we bought some pears.

When went on the train, my husband said to me, why don't you eat it? I said, I cannot eat it. I didn't even touch it. I brought everything to my sister-in-law. I didn't even-- I couldn't even touch it. I was so excited to see that, oh, we are living that. And I didn't touch nothing. I came to my sister-in-law. She was very happy.

And I made my life there for seven years.

In Belgium?

In Belgium. I had a girl there. I had my daughter there in Brussels. And I came to United States '51-- 1951. And since then, we are in the United States, and make a living, retired, sick, and that's it.

When you went to the ghetto, was your father with you?

No my father died three years before.

What about grandparents? Did you have grandparents?

My-- yes, I had grandparents. But they didn't live in Łódź.

Where were they?

They died too before the war.

Before the ghetto?

Before the ghetto, yeah. They died before the ghetto. Mine-- from my father's side, they die nice few years before the ghetto. And from my mother's side, the same thing-- the same thing.

What about aunts and uncles?

Aunts and uncles, they vanish in the crematoriums.

Do you know-- were they with you in the ghetto? Do you know where they were?

Yeah, I was with them in the ghetto, sure. My cousin, so many cousins I had, and whole family was-- our family maybe about 50 people or after-- even more. Everybody vanished in the ghetto-- in the camps.

So the only--

The only what left in my family--

--are you and your sisters?

No, we have a cousin and he-- what we met him now.

Just now for the--

No, not for the first time. We have another cousin in Florida who are living. We have a--

Brother, my father.

Yeah, and I said, I have a brother. And that's all. That's our family. In Israel, we have cousins. We have cousins in Israel.

Who left Europe?

No, they used-- they lived in Israel before--

Before the war?

--before the war. The one cousin, he left by foot to Israel when he was 13 years old. And I met him for the

first time when I went to Israel. This was in 1969 or 1970. For the first time, I met him in Israel. And when I came to Israel, to the Wailing Wall, I start to cry. And so I say, I live through so much. And I live to see that. That has to be ours forever and ever. That's part of it. That's my story.

Where do you live now, in Brooklyn?

Now, I live in Brooklyn.

And where does your brother live?

My brother lives in Manhattan.

Before that, you were standing with your friend.

Then they came to the bread from the corner-- on the corner. And we wanted pass the street. We passing. He say, stay. A car is coming. So a motorcycle hit me. And he throw me away. He come to me. He say, come on, I'm going to take you. I see such a beautiful man. He was a tall, handsome guy. I figure--

The man on the motorcycle?

The man on motor, he's a very handsome man. So he stopped the car. And he took me to a doctor to see or I'm OK or something. It's not happen with me, it's nothing is broken. I say, no, I'm OK.

So when he stops the car, and I should go into the car, he left his motorcycle on the street. Well, he helped me and took me into the car. And I went into-- so I had so much hair already. So I figure, such a handsome guy, I go to brush my hair, everything together.

When I brush my hair together, I look at my hands, I have full blood in my hands. And I start to cry, and how. And I was so hysterical that time when I saw this, so I was quiet. Didn't hurt me.

He took me to the doctor. And I had a bit of hair on my head. And the doctor cut out my hair and make me a whole turban on my head. I had a way to-- oh, I don't know what it was.

Come and come, I said to my friend, I don't want to go in because my sister just came home from the hospital. And she going to see me, it's going to be-- they pushed me off of my pitch-- we had the two beds, the bunk beds. The bunk beds on the top, she shouldn't see me. I couldn't have that. So my--

You had bandages on-- all over your head?

I had a turban on my head. I didn't cry for the turban, I cry for my few hairs what they cut it back down. I didn't have hair. So that time, my husband heard that was an accident and heard it was me. He came to me. And he brought me my lipstick.

And I was black and blue for weeks. I couldn't move, no sight after this. After, he came, and we met, we talked. And he told me, he wants to take me to Belgium. And my sister say, yes, go. Maybe when you're going to go, you're going to take us after. So we went to Belgium, and that's it. And that was it when we left Germany.

He had a family in Belgium?

Yeah, a sister.

He was from Belgium originally?

No, no. His sister left Europe-- Łódź about 50 years ago, 60 years ago, I think.

Before she--



Before the-- long before--

Long before the war.

--the war, yeah.

So you all went to Belgium?

No, just me and my husband.

What about your two sisters?

My one sister was with me. From Germany, she came. She was standing-- she was staying a few months with me. So she has a boyfriend there in Germany. He took her back from Germany-- to Germany. They was in Zeilsheim. The other sister got marry with a friend of my husband's to Germany. And they stood in Zeilsheim. And I was in Belgium.

After, we met together in United States, all three of us, with my brother. My brother was the first one to come to New York. I think so. He came in '49, yeah. He was the first one. After, my sister came. And the older sister came before me. I was the last one to come to United States. And we met all together here. And we are living since then.

Two of you in New York, one in Florida, and one?

One in Saint Louis.

And Saint Louis.

Yeah-- three in New York-- my brother--

Yes, and you.

--my sister. Oh, you have a sister there.

One sister is-- she is most of the time in Florida.

Oh, I see.

Yeah, and me with my family and the other.

Can you go back and talk a little bit about walking from the salt mine to Bergen-Belsen? How long did that take?

I don't even know. I don't even know. I think took more than a day. Took more than a day. Worst part was in the salt mine where we were working.

Why? Why was it the worst?

Because we were young kids. We come home from the salt, we had our skin covered with salt. They gave us showers in the night and it didn't help. And the digging, we make such beautiful rooms in that salt so-- in the salt mine, gorgeous room there, young kids, 60 girls. It was very hard.

I want to go back when my younger sister and they took my mother to Auschwitz, to the gas chamber, she was a baby for nine years. She was cry. I said that, I think.

That's OK.

She was so crying, day and night. I want my mother. I want-- how am I going to live without Ma? She was crying. Oh, I'm going-- with who I'm going to sleep? With who I'm going to sleep? She was crying. It was very heartbreaking, very heartbreaking.

And now, when you come together, and you have the speeches, and you see, I think we're going to do something for that world, that world going to listen to us and going to remember what we went through. That's my--

How is your sister now?

One sister, we-- sick. And the brother, he's sick. We all are sick. My eldest sister had a heart attack. My brother had heart attack. I had a heart attack. I was on the other side already too, very sick. So we living with the day, day, and day, and day.

The youngest one who was nine, has she been all right emotionally? She seems to have had the hardest time.

She had the hardest time. Emotionally now-- yeah, yeah, she's fine. She's here. She's here. She wanted to come.

Yes, she should come.

Who took her away? Leah took her away. Yeah, they went back to hotel and some makeup.

Tell me more about what you did in the ghetto. You were in the ghetto for three years?

In the ghetto--

Did you all work?

Yes. In the ghetto, I didn't have bread.

Did Isaac, your brother-- did he leave the ghetto before you did?

Yes, they took him away. My brother works in the ghetto very hard to make a living, to get a piece of bread. He was working by taking out-- what I can tell you-- the shit. Because in Europe, you had the toilets outside. And you had to take out the shits to put on the-- how you say that? When you want something to the--

And you had to shovel it, and move it, and take it to a sewer?

Not to a sewer, to sewers and to parks, to put it.

Do they put it on carts and take it someplace?

That's right. That's my brother was working.

And who paid him?

Who paid him? They paid him with food. They didn't pay him with money. I don't think so they paid him with money.

The Germans gave food for the people who worked?

That's right. That's right.

Germans or it's council.

It's-- in the ghetto, we had a president and a government--

Jewish?

--a Jewish-- Jewish people, what they was carrying the whole place. They were working for the place. I worked-- I was registered to go away because to get \$12 a month to send to home, they should have to live for something.

So when I registered to go away to Germany, I met a friend. And he said to me, well-- and I was crying. When I registered, I came-- going home, I was crying. I met a friend, he say, why you crying? What's the matter?

I said, I just registered to go to Germany to get the \$12 for my mother and the other kids. They have to live for something. He said, what did you do? I said, I registered.

He say, you're not going to go. I say, why? He say, you're not going to go. You don't know what's happen there? I said, no. He must have known. So he say, I'm going right away to my brother. You're going to start to work. And we going to say, we need you here.

And he went to his brother. His brother had a kitchen. There was kitchens for so many-- every block had a kitchen, what people came and took food from that kitchen. So he say, you're going to go work in the kitchen. So I say, OK. OK.

So he sent me-- he took me to the kitchen. And he say, I have to scrub potatoes. And I didn't know how to scrub-- even I was 16 or 17 years old, I don't know how to scrub potatoes because my mother never let us do it-- anything in the house.

And I sat down and scrub potatoes. So the woman come over what was over everybody. And she said, the potato going to cook in your hand till you're going to clean that, till you're going to scrub it. I start to cry. So my friend came in, he saw. He took from everybody with the-- of the people, he put in mine--

Pile?

--pile to see if it's more. And I was working like this a few weeks. After, he promoted me, and I gave out the soups. Had to work. I was working the kitchen already, not peeling potatoes, and be somebody else's. And after, they changed me to another kitchen, to another kitchen.

And some-- once, they gave me to-- we had work for suppers, kitchen work. People were sick people or people who was working very hard to get suppers. That time, they came to that kitchen where I was working.

And all of a sudden, they say, I'm too young to work in a kitchen. They took me to a resort, to work in a resort. I went to work to-- in a resort from-- to make some work for horses. You know what they make, putting on on the horse?

Harness?

Like the horse belong it--

The leather?

The leather.

Harness.

Yes.

And I worked there for two weeks. So our president Rumkowski came and said, the girls what work in the kitchen, please, come down. So we went down. He took us out from over there and took us to a machine.

It was a resort place. It was-- so he took care of us. He brought us to eat. And he took care of us. Till the last minute, I was standing in [NON-ENGLISH] with him. I went for my family. I went away because I could help them this way with food and with something.

Where-- this wasn't in the ghetto? Where was this?

This was in the ghetto. But this was away from the ghetto, it was like a suburbs. That's what it was, the suburbs. So he took us over there and put up a kitchen, put up everything. And I could help them from over there because I had to eat. And I had some things what they couldn't get.

So I brought them home. I lived there till the last day, he said, I cannot do any more for you. And you have to go home and do whatever you want to do. Or you want to go to away? He didn't know where we going to go, we going to go to Auschwitz or someplace. Or you want to stay in the ghetto and get killed-- that's what he told us. So I came home.

This is president of the--

That's the president--

--council?

--of the ghetto, Rumkowski. Maybe you heard about him. So we went with him on the same train to Auschwitz. They took him down in the middle, on the road, and they killed him right away. They killed him, the president from the ghetto. In this way, the ghetto finished.

So we stopped our-- my sister used to work with kids in a-- not school, a kindergarten-- the older one. My mother was home. She worked too because we sent her to work, or no, she would be sent away to some place what we would never find her.

So she worked too. She worked in a resort, where she was cutting some schmattas, in a schmatta resort, what we called it. When I came home from when the president said, you have to go your way and do whatever you want to do, my mother said, let's pray. And we went to Auschwitz. We didn't know we going to Auschwitz.

When she told you to pack, you just--

Yeah we didn't know where to go. And if we're going to work, we work for Germany. When we came to the trains, we saw already where we going. We were so dumb. We didn't know nothing. We didn't know nothing. Nothing.

I had a cousin what he was working in the underground in the ghetto. And they caught him and they hanged them in the middle of the street, a cousin of mine. Redlich-- his name is Redlich. A lot of people-- he's well-known in the underground movement. So they hanged him in middle the place, the middle ground in the ghetto. They caught him. And that was our life.

And even in 1943, the ghetto-- the Jews in the ghettos didn't know that Auschwitz was a death camp?

Maybe, they know. I didn't know. No, we didn't know. We just know, it's a work camp. We didn't know nothing about a death camp. It's-- till we came to Auschwitz, we didn't know nothing about it. Because we didn't have a radio--

You didn't have radios in the ghetto?

We didn't have newspapers, we didn't have nothing. Nothing. We were living like pigs--

In '41.

--like pigs. We didn't have nothing. So we didn't know. Really, we didn't know. When we came to Auschwitz and looked down from the trains, my mother said, it looks like a crazy house. Because everybody was in the blankets. They didn't have what to wear, and they took from the double beds, what you have with double beds. We didn't have nothing, just straw on the beds. And the breeches, we call them-- there was wood, just wood and straw. We had to go to the bathrooms in a group.

In the ghetto or in Auschwitz?

In Auschwitz.

In Auschwitz.

We had to go in a group to the bathroom. They brought us back, and they took us there. We couldn't go by ourselves.

Were you able to talk to each other while you were working?

Yes. Yes. We were able to talk, but he shouldn't see it. I was a lucky girl too. When I was in Waldeslust-Hambühren with my sisters, there was a German-- I have to say the truth too-- was a German, very nice man. He ask us, and we are three sisters, and I-- we said, yes, we are three sisters.

And he said to us, I just left three sisters like you at home. And he was very good to me. When they give us out the long dresses, they were very long the dresses. The girls care they should look nice. They shorten the dresses there. I said, no, I'm not going to shorten it. Who cares how I am look? I'm warmer like this. My dress can be long.

So he brought me belt. He brought me mirror. And he brought me something to put on my head. And he said to me, put it on. And make sure that you dress. And after he gave me the mirror, he say, don't you look better like that? I says, yes, for what I need it?

He says, wear it. And I wear it. After, he said to me, every lunch, come in this place, and you're going to get a lunch from me. His lunch, he gave away to me. That's how I have to say the truth too. re he know the whole--

Where did-- where was this?

That in Hambühren-Waldeslust.

Yes, but where in the mine were you able-- was he able to give you a lunch?

That wasn't in the mine. That was where he was working in the forest-- in the forest. He called me away. And he-- I sat him there under a tree. And he had call my sisters one after another. And we share.

And I have a cousin with me too that time. All four of us share that soup what he brought us. So that's helped a lot too. And I think he was something to do with a Jewish family, that guy, because he knew the whole Jewish [NON-ENGLISH].

The what?

The ABC, the Jewish ABC. He talked to me, he said the whole ABC, the Jewish ABC. So I think, maybe, I would love to find him. I don't know his name. And I don't know where.

Oh, you didn't know his name?

No. We had man, something like this, we got to live through. He was a very good man to us, I can say. He took me to work to all best places, sometimes, because we didn't work all the time in the mine. We work-- we went to bakery to help them to carry home the flour and to the camp, we should have something to eat, all the girls. So he took us and he gave us a piece of bread. And he was really, I can say, stealing for me and give it to me.

If he had been caught, what would have happened to him?

When I would be caught?

If he had been caught.

If he been caught? He would go to the front. He would be not anymore in the camp. Because they had good in the camps, the soldiers. They didn't go to the front if-- how they in camp. He really was a good man just maybe because he looked at us like-- of his through three sisters.

That's one bit. But the other ones wasn't so good. They was like murders to us, with the guns. And if we didn't want to do something or what, they pick with you with the gun right away so it's-- 1 in 1,000,000 was a good one.

What language did you speak with the soldiers? British soldiers.

What kind Jew doesn't speak German?

I didn't know that, really?

Yeah.

Because of Yiddish, you speak?

Yiddish, it sounds like German. You spoke a broken German. We spoke. We spoke to them. And they spoke to us. And the cousin what-- who was with me, she is living. She's in New York too.

She was a very sick girl. They took her out lung-- one lung in Germany. She is living with one lung now, my cousin. She's married off now, her son, Faisel. She's with us. We were holding ourself four together.

But that girl that my cousin got so beaten to-- not from the German-- from Hungary, the soldiers-- came soldiers from Hungarian. And we trespass because we were looking something to eat.

I escaped. And she got caught. And they beaten her so up, she had to go to the hospital. And they took out one lung. Thank god she's living, she has two children. And the doctor say, she's never going to have children. And she had it. She has two-- a girl and a boy.

So when something like that happened, and when someone was beaten and was so sick, she needed surgery, they didn't just kill that person?

This was-- that surgery, she had surgery after the liberation.

Oh, oh.

After the liberation, she had the surgery. Before, she was just beaten. And she was going around like that. Maybe when it would be helped that time, somebody would help her, she wouldn't lose the lung. She would have it. Give us quite a bit in hospital. When I left to Belgium, I left her in the hospital.

Did-- how did you find the cousin? The cousin wasn't with you.

The cousin was-- no. She wasn't with me. They took her to Italy to recover. She was about 15--

What's her name?

Mudovnik-- Karen Mudovnik now from the husband. She is Boyde from home. She was-- and they took her to Italy to a home where you recover. She was there about 15 years, I think. I think so about 15 years or 10 or 15 years.

She came to the United States. She stood in my house for three months. I let her in with husband and two kids. She stayed for three months in my house. I went away to sleep to friends in the nighttime. And I gave her up my house when I met her here in the United States because she is like a sister to us. We lived together. The whole time in the ghetto, she was with us. And in the camps, she was with us too.

And where does she live now?

She lives in New York so near me, not far from me. She has already grandchildren, thank god.

Do you have grandchildren?

No, I don't. My daughter was-- I don't want to say.

How old are they?

Going to kill me when I'm--

You have a daughter?

Yes, I do have a daughter.

How old is she?

She's 35.

Oh, OK.

She's a good girl. She's not bad. She's a very, very good girl. She works very hard with the second generation too. She's taking interest in the second generation. That's all.

And she's here with you today?

She is not here. And she called me already three times at home. And she's sorry she couldn't be here because she's working in a place. And just that place, a computer break down, and she couldn't go away. She had to take care of the work by hand, not by the computer. So the boss say, sorry, you cannot go.

So she called me, I say twice. In daytime, she picked me up. Last night, 12 o'clock in the night, she say, I have to talk to you. Are you emotional? Are you crying? What are you doing? Don't cry. And don't take it so serious, she said to me. And that's it.

Was she born in Europe?

She was born in Belgium.

Belgium, you told me that.

In 1948, when the Israel-- the state, together, 1st of May.

Oh, yes.

What they had, that's the 35. She's going to be 35 years old.

I want to go back and ask you what you remember about the train--

About the train?

--when you were on the train. You told me about the bucket in the middle. But do you remember anybody who had a small child and what happened, how people took care of very small children-- if they had to stand up?

Our neighbor came with a small children-- with a small child. We were living together, my neighbor. And her aunt came with the same train with me. She said to her aunt, you old, take my kid. I want to live. And she gave them away-- she gave that kid to them.

On the train?

On the-- not on the train--

After.

--when we went-- after, when we went down from the train. And they then took from her that small baby. And she went to the gas chamber with them. And the woman just die not too long ago in Canada. She was living in Canada.

So the woman lived?

The woman lived. And she remarried. And she remarried.

Wait, wait, not-- this is your neighbor, young neighbor?

That's the neighbor, yeah. She remarried. And she die a couple years ago of cancer.

Do you remember how she took care of the child on the train? You were too young to notice?

Not that I was too young. We were in our own misery. We took care one of each other. We took care of our mother, nobody should do something to her. We are looking around to the people too. We saw somebody was crying, we cried with them. The whole train was crying. We was packed. We couldn't move. We were sitting quite squeezed to each other.

That particular girl with the kid, I know very good. And I know how it end. But she was my neighbor too. And coming down from Auschwitz, I'm never going to forget that-- never, never going to forget that. When we throw that bread and that whole thing start to burn, the bread in the camp, it was so tragic. It was so tragic, that woman.

We living. We remember it. And we going to remember it till we going to die. We're never going to forget. That's-- we dreaming, and dreaming, and dreaming. But that could happen. What we went through and we are still living, we make the best of it. That's it.

After you came to the United States, did you ever go back to any of these places?

No. I never went back.

You don't want to.

I don't want. I don't want to. I was watching. I always watch on television the stories. And I got too hysterical watching them. So my daughter turn off the television all the time. She didn't let me. She didn't let me watch it. So now, came together. It's long time ago. We survive, we live, and we never forget it. And we



cannot tell everything what's happen, either. We cannot tell everything what's happen.

Are you thinking about something right now that you haven't talked about before?

I think of many things that I didn't say it.