

I'm starting now?

Yes.

I was born in Poland, Radom, a mother, father, three sisters, two brothers. The name of them was [? Motl, ?] which he is alive. He survived. Yuml-- Yumel, he is not survived. He is killed. A sister, a younger than me, Blume, not survived, Maria, not survived, mother Tove, killed. Father, Mendel, killed. Just the seven people in the family to survives.

September the 8th-- the war starts September the 1st. September the 8th, of all three sisters of ours, me included, was injured. I was badly injured. I have a quarter of my foot was taken away from the bombs because they bombed before they marched in into Radom. I've been in hospital for close to a year. After that, I had internal trauma. I couldn't walk for two years. I didn't walk. After that, came out. And we got to leave the home what we was born and raised to go to a ghetto.

How old were you?

I been 23 years older. We came to the ghetto six weeks later, staying in the ghetto. The police came. There was ghetto Jewish police.

Is this Warsaw?

No, Radom. Radom. They came to the ghetto. And they said, as everyone, young men, got to stay outside by 12 o'clock. And everyone going to be deported-- deported from Poland to Germany, to coal-- where they digging out the coals?

Coal mines.

Coal mines. My father, mother, and me took the two sons, like my two brothers, we started to hide with them. After the hiding, we went down a few steps, my father fell down and gone dead. He died right away. We lost the father six weeks being in the ghetto. A year after that, my mother died.

And we've been five children still around-- mine two brothers and include me been working in a place for [INAUDIBLE] people. My two sisters, they was working in a laundromat. A few weeks after that, it was in January, they said, nobody goes out because we went out in the Polish side from the ghetto, on the Polish. We went out on the Polish side.

They said, nobody goes out before they will select. Luckily, the 100 people what I was including the two brothers, we been the selected from. And we went out. My two sisters no. We returned in evening back to the ghetto after the work. I didn't find no more the two sisters. Till now, no more. Left us two brothers and myself.

A few weeks later, they said, no more ghetto. They start to build exactly like in a concentration camp barracks. And they moved us over there. My two brothers been working like shoemaker. And I been helping in the kitchen to cook for them, for the 100-- 96 people, mens. Four women was working in the kitchen.

One time, came a policeman, the Jewish policeman, and he said, the SS needs one because I was Friedman in the time, maiden name Friedman. One from the Friedmans, from the two brothers, got to stand up one. Call my older brother, but he's alive. And he wants to go. Came the younger one, and he said, I speak better German. You better stay and I go. He went and never came back. I don't know where they took him or for what they took him, never came back.

After that, just a little while later, they said, nobody goes to the barracks. Everyone stays outside because you will receive [NON-ENGLISH]. You know the [NON-ENGLISH], the dresses in the stripes, white-blue stripes, little uniform, the uniforms? And nobody takes nothing. We didn't got nothing, anyhow. Nobody takes nothing. And every one of you will receive-- we called, in German, they call [NON-ENGLISH]. You're going to receive a [NON-ENGLISH]. And tomorrow, you going away by trains.

We knew where we going. Or still, they fool us. And we are-- they need work over there. People for go and go on working. So they took us out. We been three days and three nights walking by foot. We came to a little town. And there, they select us, again select. When we been maybe 800 people, came out 500.

From the 500 people, they took away the mens on one side, the womens on the other side. I lost my brother already. This brother would survive I've been just with him. I lost my brother. I was just with the womens. From there, we came to Auschwitz.

In Auschwitz, again, they took us to a bath. They said that before we go and get into the barracks, we got to take a shower. We was 500 womens by the time we-- 500 womens came out 150 from us, 150. Take out the hair, everything, 150-- and the same thing, the [NON-ENGLISH]. Like that, not this, what we got, they give us others.

I had the dress, the [NON-ENGLISH] what I got was one arm and one not. I took this arm and I make me a bra to hold me better the body. This dress was for me the nightgown. This dress was for me the towel for the morning when I washed the face. This dress was for me to dress. This was in Auschwitz already. This was for three months. After three months, I received the number. You want it the number too?

Sure.

My Auschwitz number is A24586. And we received that number. And we received that number. I don't remember how long, two months or three months later. They took us out from Auschwitz, calls Ludwigsfelde, Ludwigsfelde. In this little Ludwigsfelde, I've been since Christmas till beginning April. Underground for airplanes we've been working.

In April, I don't remember, the first, second, or beginning April, because I was for three weeks, close to three weeks, in another barrack. Anyhow, they took us out from this Ludwigsfelde, from the airplane underground. And they took us calls Ravensbrück. Ravensbrück. Again, Ravensbrück was even worse like Auschwitz. Worse like Auschwitz. There was more dead like life. We didn't get life anyhow no more. Oh, there was terrible.

Anyhow, there, I been from the beginning April till the 23rd of April. The United States start to come in packages to give us, a little fruit the first time they give us. And everyone was. I was with another lady from my town. And she said, don't even open. Don't eat. When you didn't die till now, this package is going to make you to die. And that was true. A lot, a lot of people from this food-- not from this food, because they were overeating. Not the food. The food was good. Over the overeating, because they been hungry, they died there. They died like flies, they died.

And luckily, I listened to that lady. And she said, don't eat. When you survived till now, you can see, now, they came out something, somewhere, a little help for us, maybe, we will survive. Don't eat. We got this package. And the Russian give us a package too. I've been carrying around this package maybe for two weeks. And I didn't open.

Later on came over the microphone a report, as 500 womens like we to stand in line. And we got to sign up in another place. We didn't know where we going. We just push ourself to go out. Maybe this, we go out from here. In another place, going to be better. We didn't know. Anyhow, when we came closely to sign up, we are going, where they take us, they took away because I got that number. I got a number hanging here. I got a number pinning here. I got the number pinning on that side. All kind of numbers, I got around.

And every place gave you another number. Like Auschwitz is this number. This was still the Auschwitz number. Or where just they took us, we had another number. They took away from us that numbers. This, they couldn't took away.

But the hanging number, they took away from us, took away the numbers. And we said, well, what you going to do now with us? No numbers no more. They said, you going to another lager, to another. They took us to a men's lager. We saw the mens far away. And we said, what they doing now with us, that we in the men's, to a men's lager? I been 30 pounds at that time. My weight--

30 kilos?

--was 30 pounds.

30 kilos or 30 pounds?

30 pounds was my weight, 30 pounds, because Sweden goes in pounds, not in kilos-- 30 pounds. Anyhow, they tell us, I didn't know Sweden. I never heard about Sweden in Poland. I heard America. They tell us, a Sweden's government coming to take us out. We been sitting three days and three nights outside and waiting. We freeze to death because was freezing nights in April and no clothes. We said, here, we're going to die. And we're not going to no barracks, no nothing, no nothing here.

Finally, we survived. Swedish king came, not king-- Bernadotte. You heard about that. And they took us out. Half of us died on the way from [INAUDIBLE]. Half of us died on the way. Luckily, I am the survivor from them. I came to Sweden, I make sure to see everything from the beginning, to know sure.

Luckily, I came to Sweden, they took me right away to a hospital because the weight. They took me, they hold me six week in the hospital for just feeding me. A Jewish Swedish family come to visit because they themselves were lost from families being in Poland. They came to see me. Anyhow, I was lying in this bed, and lying, lying. A man came to me, Swedish man. And he said, what is your name?

And I said-- he said, well, I will help you to find somebody. And I said, well, it would be nice of him. I had no hope. Then he said, how about when I sign out, and I'm going to take you over to my house. I say, this is another miracle. When miracles exist, maybe it's another miracle for me.

Anyhow, he signed out. And he said, he is responsible for me. And he took me out. He was a family man-- was with a wife, a child. And he took me out. And he hold me till I really ask already for work because I wanted to go to work because I met some girls what I survived with them. And they've been working already.

Do you remember their names?

The girls?

Yeah.

Yes, I-- one was Hannah. But I've been with her together the whole time around the concentration camp. The other was like Regina in my way to say, like in Poland. And they've been dressed already. I've been dressed a little bit-- do you know what the lady gave it to me, Mrs. [? Schein, ?] what she gave it to me from her?

Was this Swedish woman?

Swedish-- Swedish Jewish, yeah, Jewish family, nice family. And I started to ask about Mr. [? Schein, ?] He was very fair, that man, very nice, like a father. And he said, OK I put you, do you want, at the same factory where they work? I say, I wouldn't mind. I would like because they are there. And I liked to work there. He said, and you're still going to stay in our house with us? I say, yeah, if you want it. Even I going to make money, I say, I am willing to pay for the place. And I like to stay with you. Anyhow, he--

Got the job?

Got me the job. He got me the job, it was a textile factory. I start to work there, I start to dress myself, I start to be a mensch already a little bit. And I still been with this family for a year and a half. So we stayed--

Where in Sweden was it?

This was Sweden-- No, no, no, no, no. Sweden--

Stockholm is the only city I know.

Sweden-- Norrkoping, Sweden, Norrkoping. This family was there. After this year and a half, the lady, Mrs. [? Schein ?] start to get pregnant. And I saw they are talking, they need a maid in the house. And they need a place where I've been sleeping. And I said to Mr. [? Schein, ?] please, may I have a place where I could live. Because with that girl what I survived with that. And she wants me to stay with her in the same place. And I will be always with you.

And it was like that. I came for Shabbos to this family. Later on, when I refused the Shabbos, when they come Shabbos, they brought me the whole Shabbos in my house, this family. Never will forget that. And later on, I went to Boras, Sweden, to visit another friend of mine from the same town when we've been born.

And I met this fellow, my husband. I met him over there. Can you believe, three days later we've been engaged? And eight days later, I married that man. I didn't know his name. When somebody asked me, what is his name? I said, wait a minute. Let me take out his name because I got in the pocket. And I tell you the one I married. Thanks god we are married 36 years, and happily married.

Our son was born in Sweden for us. He was 18 months old, I found my brother in camp, this. He searched me, searched me all over around. He found me. He found my brother. I found him. I said, now, we're going to leave Sweden. I want to emigrate to Canada because I want to be with my brother. We emigrate to Canada. My husband started work there. The child was 18 months old, what was [INAUDIBLE].

And we maked our home in Canada, Toronto, Canada. 13 years later, in Canada, my husband and two sisters in Baltimore, United States, we came to a bar mitzvah to one of his sisters. And they said, one of the two sisters, one said, I had a dream, my mother came to us. They were nine children at home. We are nine children. We are just survived three. Let's all stay together in the same stones.

Three months later, I got papers. And I had papers to emigrate from Toronto to the United States, in Baltimore. We sold the house. And children-- well, the son went-- was in grade eight by the time being. My daughter was grade one, a small child. Grade one, I took him out for school, let's go to the United States.

We settled in United States, in Baltimore. Now, our home is in Baltimore. The son is a doctor. He's married. He got three children. My daughter is married. Maybe you notice, this is our son. And he said, I going to meet you later. This is the son-in-law. My daughter is married to him. He's a scientist computing, she a speech therapist. And they have a child too. This is my end of life.

How, when your brother found you, did he call you, or did he write you, or what?

When my brother found me, he looked a year and a half all over around were Jews people survived, where our people alive, because people was all over around. People went back to Poland. People went back. Anyhow, over the Red Cross, he heard, as a lot of people came, there was not Israel by that time being, or they came Cyprus because they wanted to emigrate to Palestine. He looked there.

And there, he found some names what they know me. And they said that I am alive. Just they don't know where I am. He started to look in every one corner. Where the Jews from the concentration camp, people went out. And he came with the same, searching me to Sweden. And he found me in Sweden in this Mr. [? Schein, ?] what I've been living by there.

This brought me-- one time, he came home for supper, he brought me a little card with the sign of my brother. And he said, look, [? Raquel-- ?] they called me [? Raquel ?] then-- look, [? Raquel, ?] can you recognize the sign? And I faint right away, I faint before I answered him yes. I fell on the floor. And later on, he said, well, you recognize it? I said, what I am not mistake is my oldest brother? In this was why right away, we've been in contact. I'm sorry, let me find a chair.

And when you were in the camps, what did you do during the day? Did you work? Or did they--

Well, being in Auschwitz, even exists a hell and what people say you going to hell, there was forced like a hell. You get beaten for nothing. I get beaten one time being in block 8 because the blanket what they gave me, the blanket was-- I don't know-- not just I didn't know, nobody, of course, didn't know what to do with that blanket. Take this blanket to cover you up because you are cold. Or this blanket to put on on the straw what they put you-- you know, not to scratch you the skin. You didn't know what would. Anyhow, one night, one evening, I took this blanket. And I went outside.

Shook it out?

And shook it out. The girl what she was over this block beat me one time to death. For what? Because I shook. Next day, she makes everyone in the barrack to do the same thing.

To shake it out?

To shake it out. And a night before, she beat me to death, to death. In the morning, when we waked up, 5:00 in the morning, it was an Appell. You know an Appell before? We stand up and they counting. And nothing is lost or nothing to hide, but there was no place to hide, except you died on the place and you couldn't walk out. There was the counting.

Later on they start to send us to work. The work was on a field, stones. You took the stones from here to there to here. Next day, you went to the same place, you took from here to here. Next day, you came, you took from here to here, next day to here. And this was the work just to punish you.

And when a girl or a man from the German people, they watched us, they saw, are you not bending, after, after, after, after, after, after, after, they shoot you. They kill you. Came out 100, came back 80, came back 85. That's depends the day. And this was the hell. This was the hell. A miracle you survived. I am now a wife, a mother, a grandmother. And I live.

So how many people were in a block, just sleeping?

How many people were? 500, for 200 people is in a block? That's for sure.

Did you have a bed of any kind? Just the straw on the ground?

This was done. And they run up and up-- three, three, three.

Three bunks. It's like that, yeah.

I always was in the-- I always--

You wanted the top bunk?

Yeah, not to be on them. Was a hell where are you a [INAUDIBLE]. How we survived, not one time, I said to my husband, and we are eating, why we always remember the parents? We don't remember. We are old now. We still remember the time when we been young with the parents. We say, my god, when our parents would be here to see how we cooking now, how we washing now, how we washing the clothes, they would never die. They wouldn't like to die.

Tell me something about your childhood.

The childhood was lovely, especially mine. Like I always say to my children, I say, you're looking at me, you'll never know I got a mother just for talking. Or you never saw, you never know. You can even not believe me I got a father because you didn't see it. Like I say sometime, believe me, I been a loving child.

Well, my mother and father just the same like you are now. We had a nice home. We had a nice family. Had beautiful,

settled family. Well, Europe was always nice area, like the children like running. Not one was missing by the table, sitting, eating supper together. We've been seven people. And seven people must put us up there. Could be one potato for all seven. But all seven was by the table. We were a nice, nice family because we always remember the family. And we always were not forget it.

Did you go to a Jewish school?

I went to a Jewish school. I went to the Polish school. I know Polish. I know Jewish. We were there. Sure. Sure.

Are you still religious now?

Yes, I hold in the Judaism. Yes, I'm still religious the way I've been raised. And thanks god I did to my children the same thing. They belongs to shuls. My son donating a lot of money to their shul, a lot of money, a lot of giving. I am proud of that. And every holiday and everything, we are always together. I kept a nice home.

Do your children live in Baltimore too?

One, like my son in law, he lives in Silver Spring because they are working in Washington. But any little holiday, they are by my table. For any little Jewish-- just the holiday arrived, like a Jewish holiday, they are by my table. And the High Holidays, like Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, he is going to shul together with us. He's almost my son.

Anyway, I said to him, I said, my son is a rabbi. He's not a rabbi, he's a doctor. Oh, he holds him in the religion, very, very much, very much. A Seder, everything-- everything, every one little old Jewish thing. Oh, yeah, this the German didn't take from us. We suffered for that. But we are still with it, very much.

It's interesting. So many people I've talked to, when I asked, they said, they don't believe in God anymore. Some people believe the same as when they grew up, like you.

Well, let me tell you that way. To talk about God, I always mention, thanks god. Like even Saturday was such a bad day, and I know on Sunday, I have to come here because I arrive Sunday. I have to come here. And I said, look it, God was not with us. But that time being, even now, maybe, we find somebody is, he still gives so bad weather for us.

But thanks god he gives us good days for three days, very good. And so I mention God for every little thing because I hold the religion on. I holding on very much to religion. Yes, I didn't step away, nothing. I never said, that's no God or that they to thank, as God could be upstairs and see how would [INAUDIBLE], brutally they killed. And he couldn't stop them. So I don't know think that to believe or not.

I don't know myself.

Just like I say, I been raised in a way to believe. And I give this to my children. And my children is part of that, that they are. I give it to them. And they are teach their children to be the same thing or still, when you going back, how could they say, 10,000 people daily go in the fires, going in Auschwitz day and night, was dark the sky. How could he say that? Why he punished us so much?

That's the question.

Did we do much wrong? We didn't wrong. We was not stealers here. Now, the generation is more stealers, like we've been. We didn't got to eat, we didn't steal even. We were nice, nice poor people. Poor are good. And I don't know why we had a punishment like that. So I don't know what to say. I don't know. I cannot answer it. Like I say, I believe because I've been raised that way. But when you-- [AUDIO OUT].

Well, if I-- I cannot say that. I cannot. I cannot bring out that because for every little thing, I say, thank god. Thank god you feel better. Thank god you came home safe. I don't know. I don't know is that hard.

When you were in the camps, when they had the appeal, what did you talk about with the people on the lines? What did you talk about at night?

Well, I tell you something, just till we going to find somebody if we survived or there was-- we didn't get the view for surviving, no. Because we saw too many people dying. We saw too many shooting. And we know, oh, he shot him now. Next, I'm going to be anyhow because he shot him or her for nothing, just for nothing. So far for the same nothing, I can be next. So we didn't care too much. For one thing, but we prayed.

And we are still mad, still mad. Why? I remember. I been to this in Auschwitz. The United States, our planes, the other airplanes came to bomb Germany. Why they didn't bomb Auschwitz? Why they didn't bomb the concentration camp? We was not afraid of death.

Like two years ago, I've been in Miami. And I got a bit sickened. A man sit close to me. And all of a sudden, he noticed my number. And he said, oh, you've been in the camp? I said, yeah. He said where? It is a Auschwitz camp? It's here. I said, well, I been through there. I said, what, for visiting? I said, well, after the war, I visited.

Or even in the war, I've been a pilot, but I carried the bombs. And I passed Auschwitz. I say, did you see it? Said, yeah. I said, why you didn't bomb it? You been afraid to kill us? Wouldn't I die better from the American bombs? Says, I told him, wouldn't I die more happily from the American bombs like from the Germans foot, or guns, or crematorium?

What did he say?

He didn't answer. He said, oh, we got other orders. This was the answer. We had other orders. I say, maybe I would die. Maybe 10 others would survive. But you could bomb. Why you didn't bomb the tracks when they carried us to Auschwitz or the other death camps? You carried the bombs to other tracks. These tracks was not important. Couldn't you do that? Well, he didn't answer me too much of that. He said, one thing what he answered, we had other orders. That's all.

Anything else about the camps that you can tell about the living conditions? How often did you ever get to wash? Did they let you wash?

No. Sometimes, they could wake us up 4:00 in the morning, everyone go wash the hair. The hair. We didn't got the hair. Or luckily, I don't know why, they left in Auschwitz with a little bit hair, just a little bit. And this, I had the punishment, a big punishment because they left me the hair. I couldn't get the side my little piece of bread-- well bread, I couldn't get not in another place, either-- or a little bit soup. I could find in another place too when I had a cousin. And she gave out the food. And she noticed me. I stay in the side when she got a little bit, she gave me all that. And with the hair, I couldn't do nothing for it because they recognized me. I couldn't do nothing. And that's why it was the punishment, because they left me the hair.

And the conditions with living there, this is the way they wanted to be. Sometimes, they didn't let you wash. Even you wanted, they didn't let you wash. Like I told you, had this dress, this [INAUDIBLE] was for me the towel, the sheet, the cover, this everything. Was for me-- this dress what I got on me. In this state only they let you wash. And sometimes, they wake you up 3:00 in the morning. Everyone go wash face. The way they wanted to do to you, not the way you wanted to do it.

Just to make you suffer.

Just to make you suffer. They just look for faces to make you suffer, how much miserable you been. They make you more and more. We didn't care.

How often did you eat? How often did they give you something to eat?

Tell you a story?

Yeah.

I mentioned Ludwigsfelde, right? This was [INAUDIBLE] airplanes. And I've been working there since-- of course, we arrived there over Christmas Eve because they start to sing the Christmas songs.

I've been there till beginning April what they called it. Anyhow, we've been working for the airplanes, for machines to take apart the machines. This was the work. And one time was three minutes. And after the hour, before we got to go for the piece of bread-- the piece of bread was half of this little bag, the piece of bread.

And I said, well, it's three minutes to 12:00. I going to run to the ladies' room. In there, they going to give me the sign to go for the bread. I will not return to the machine. No, but I going to go to the line right away. I figured out this. I did it that way because they need to go to the washroom. I figured out that way. I came back with a piece of bread.

There was a German supervisor there after us. He came to me. And he said, [GERMAN]? He said, where did you get it? He took it off my hand. And he said, you'll be punished today, tomorrow, and after tomorrow not to go for bread. Say, why? Why you took me away this? Because I noticed that you left three minutes before the bell was ringing.

He took me away for-- when he would took out a gun, he shoot me there, didn't hurt me at all. And he hurt me three days with not having nothing, just a girl what I've been sleeping with her, I tell you. When she got this piece of bread, she gave me a little bit for that three days. This was a punishment?

No, I can't. They punished you in each way they just could. He was the same thing like I am, this supervisor. He just was a German. Oh, he was in the jail before. And he supervised us because we are-- we been stronger, like criminals, like him. He was a German. I was a Jew. He punished.

Another time, I got in the same line, a German girl, but she been discovered a Jew from the third generation, her mother was married. Her grandmother was married to a Jewish man. Later on, her mother was married to a German. And she was married to a German. Well, they discovered the third generation. And they discovered her. And she got to suffer being a Jew, the same like I am. The same, she got better from me because after all, she been a German. Or she been with the yellow star, the same thing like I am.

One time, she came to me, and she say, to give her a tool from this what I've been working. I say, listen, take it or give me back. Because I need it. When you're going to take me away, I haven't got. And they going to punish me why I got the tool. She said, she going to give me bread. I give her the tool.

A few hours later, I go to her, I said, see, I gave it to you. I was nice to you. Why you didn't bring me bread? She said, I never give you bread because I need it. I say, well, miss, I am plenty punished. Why you punish me now not to give me back this tool?

And she said, you're a [GERMAN]. To me, [GERMAN]. I said, how can you tell me? I know, I am the [GERMAN] because I cannot go away from that. Or you stay here, the same [GERMAN] like I am. A German lady passed by what she looked after that the work goes on. And she told her, I told her, [GERMAN]. This lady came to me. And she punished me for five days the bread. For five days, took me away the bread.

Because the German who had taken your tool told her--

Told her, yeah.

--that you had said [GERMAN]?

Yeah. And I said, no, I said, because she told me [GERMAN], go away from me, because that's my tool, I said. It's mine. She belies, talking nice to me. I borrow her just for a little while, or not to take me away completely. Because she chased me away. She said, [GERMAN].



And I said, how you can express yourself on me [GERMAN] when you have the same star, the same yellow star like I got? How can she now say German? Oh, didn't -- It didn't help her anyhow. It didn't help me nothing. They punished us. They punished us. It's impossible to talk. It's impossible. We always live with it. We always remember that. We always sleep with that. We always got dream with that, always. It's going on with our life.

Have you written any of this down?

I really didn't, no. I didn't because when it comes to talk, my children ask me a lot of times. Ma, why you don't give us all your story? Ma, why don't-- I said, told me, to my daughter told me, hurts me so much when I start to talk, it's better I say not. Because I start to talking, I start to cry. Then what is the use? I said it. Just let go. It's fine when that's in me. Why I got to give it to you? Well, now, it's good. Well, then not I know because that's good for them. It's good for them. I don't care no more for me. Now, what I'm take care for them, for their children. It's not normal happen again this thing.

Right. It's important for you children to have your personal experiences.

Right. Right. Right. Should never, never happen to nobody, this, what we passed. I would appreciate a copy to give to my children.

Yes, you'll get a copy.

Yeah, to give to my children. My children doesn't know that story that I told you, the everything. Then I didn't tell you the whole story. To talk to her, I got to talk the life, what I passed, a day and a night, and I'm not going to be finished. I just told her the-- in everything just a little bit. Because this went from 1939 to 1945, the life, the hell and the life like that.

Do you have any more stories that you want to say?

Is it not enough?

Just as long as I have more tape, you can talk. Any special friends that you had?

Well, friends, we've been always friendly, and we got always nice people around. [INAUDIBLE]. Even somebody survived, you cannot recognize not one. I didn't find not one here. Do you know, from the family, I knew I will not. It's no chance to find one after 40-42 years. Do I got-- or I said, at least, maybe, survivors together with me, each other, will some recognize. You think I recognize somebody? Not one. My husband didn't recognize nobody. Yeah, from here, from the United States-- friend, neighbors, what they came together with me. Oh, from far away, what we've been together. And they in the concentration camp, even in Sweden.

The people who helped you in Sweden, did you stay in touch with them, the [? Scheins? ?]

The people what I've been in Sweden since I left Sweden to Canada, I been in touch with them twice. And that's it. Now, I still hope--

Are they still alive?

I don't know. I still hope-- they were young people. I still hope I will go to Sweden to visit, not just them, to visit whole Sweden because Sweden was a beautiful country for us, beautiful country, beautiful. They did for us what they could do. They support us. They give us work right away. Beautiful country, beautiful country. Like when we left Sweden, when we left them one girl, Sweden, we will never forget you. That's it. Beautiful.

Well, it would be wonderful for you if you could go back.

We will go back. I talked with my husband. We going to go back. I don't know if this year or coming here, oh, we're going to go to Sweden, visit soon.

Is your husband Swedish?

No, he is the same thing. [BOTH TALKING]

Yes, he's a survivor too?

He's a survivor too. Yeah. Like I told you, I met him, I didn't know him, we married in eight days. Eight days, from the one Monday to the next Sunday.

So God was good to you then.

He met me. He asked me to I am free. He saw me by a friend of a really nice friend at home and his from Sweden. And I was over there eating supper. He saw me. And he asked me right away. You are free? I said, well, I have a friend. It not-- I am-- I have got a husband, or something, or a husband from before? I said, no, I am fair. I didn't have a husband come before. Never been engaged before. Or I know from this disengagement will not come nothing because I saw and they shot him. So I say, I am free.

And I said, why you ask me? How about you? He said, well, I am free too. I have a friend, a girlfriend, a boyfriend, for everything, I am free. For family, I am free, to get married. And this was the first talk. Next day, he saw me again by this friend. And he said, would you like to come over and see my home where I live? I say, why not?

And so my friend what I was staying in there, she took me over there. And he was living nice, working in a factory. And the factory supplied them with that place to live. And later on, he said, you know what? I like you talking, and I like your work, and I like your that, and I like your that. You are free. I am free. You want a home? I am-- I want. I want it, a home. How about we get engaged?

I said, well, my mother used to say always to us, children, when you going to survive the war, you are punished being Jewish, being a Jew. Don't you go on another way. Stay Jewish if you will survive. Stay Jewish always. So when a Jew will come to you, don't ask what you're doing. Just take it. I said, well I remember these words.

And you are Jewish. I go for you. You are a survivor the same like I. You are suffering the same like I. You are losing the same like I. And we married in eight days, just eight days took it. I even didn't-- I didn't remember his name. When somebody asked me, who are you getting married?

And thanks god came out a beautiful family from that. We are happily married the whole time. We always been working together. Hardworking because we didn't get nothing, till we came back on the feet a little bit. And like I told you, came two children to us, two beautiful children. And they are happily married, four grandchildren, thanks god. Yes. I am rich now. Just one thing, that's over, and over, and over talking what, why? Why? Why?

OK. Anything else? I won't turn it off if you've got anything you want to add.

What else? Well, you hang out. I can talk if you want to. Just I don't know.

I tell you from that time, I tell you, in the concentration camp, how was the concentration camp. I told you. And then you know. It was.

If you want. You said no here, do you want to be interviewed when you return home? Do you want to be interviewed by another oral historian, someone like me when you go home to make another tape? If you think of other things, would you like someone to make another tape with you?

That's enough, I think. I think that's enough. OK. Well, you--

You talked about the bad part and got to the good part. I would hate to go back to the bad part.

The bad part, right. Better the good part. Let's go talk to the good part. We are retired now. We saved up a little money. So we have a nice-- we got a nice home. We enjoying. Enjoy the family, we enjoy the children.

How did your husband end up in Sweden the same way you did? Basically the--

The same factory. We been working the same factory.

So you saw them first at the factory?

No, no. I've been working in a sew textile factory before I met him. And when I come to him, I married, in his place, where he showed me the room where he'd been living, I met him there. I married there. And my first child, son, was born there. And I raised him in the same room for 18 months till we left.

Later, I've been working by textile before, like I told you, the family, gave me in a factory from textile when I know the work already. And when I come to my husband, this was Boras, Sweden, Boras. When I come to my husband, he was working in a factory like that. So after a few days marriage, I continue work. We both working there. We have a nice home.

Was there a rabbi there to marry you, a Swedish rabbi? Or was it a Polish?

We married before just by a plain rabbi, like I came to him. And I didn't want to stay apart because I didn't no place got to stay apart. When I came from this town to this town, I got to be with him. So I said today, what I am arriving to you, [YIDDISH], like in Yiddish, [YIDDISH].

Like you have to be married, yeah.

Get married. I say, when we going to get married, right the same day, when I arrive, it's going to be nice for both of you, it's going to be nice for God. I mention God already. That's going to be nice, I say, for everyone because like the style now to live together, that was not my style by that time. Anyhow, we married that way by a just plain rabbi from the city. He was a shochet, not a rabbi. You know what a shochet is?

Yes.

Yeah, by a shochet. After nine months, nine months till we had the papers from Poland and we are both free, we've been not married before. Sweden couldn't give out just a marriage license because you go and you say you want to marry this man, now, a marriage license, you can't get married. No. You got to be completely free. And this take time.

They look for us in Poland. Finally, how they found my papers, I don't know. They found it as I am free. And they send it to me. My husband, they couldn't find. They couldn't find. So they accepted how his name, his occupation, his everything, how he was registered coming to Sweden. After this, three weeks, after these papers, when we received that we are both free, they give us our marriage license.

Nine month, we been married, or I been Friedman, he'd been Weisfeld. Or we've been in the Jewish way married. In the Jewish way, we been married. But then, after the nine months, what I told you, the papers arrived, that we are both free to get married, then we get the marriage license. And then I took over the name of Weisfeld. So we went over the same ceremony again. In Sweden, you get a engagement one ring. See, this, the engagement ring in Sweden. This is the marriage ring. And when he married me the first time, and the second time when we went to the marriage to get the Swedish--

Your Swedish marriage.

--yeah, the Swedish. I took off and he married me again with the same thing. And I never took it off.

That's interesting.

That's it. So we really got married twice. So that's my son in law my daughter's husband. He is holding this computer. And he took off today. Yes, I'm done. OK?

OK. Thank you very much.

OK, thank you very much.

It's wonderful. I loved it.