

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:26,440

2
00:00:26,440 --> 00:00:32,290
My name is Beverly Kragen.
Today is September 17, 1984.

3
00:00:32,290 --> 00:00:37,180
I am here to interview
Helena Melnyczuk, who

4
00:00:37,180 --> 00:00:41,560
is a protector of
the Nazi Holocaust.

5
00:00:41,560 --> 00:00:44,740
This interview is taking
place as part of the project

6
00:00:44,740 --> 00:00:46,570
Faith in Humankind--

7
00:00:46,570 --> 00:00:50,139
Rescuers of Jews during
the Holocaust Conference.

8
00:00:50,139 --> 00:00:55,890

9
00:00:55,890 --> 00:00:59,230
What is your complete name?

10
00:00:59,230 --> 00:01:02,370
Helena Sophia Melnyczuk.

11
00:01:02,370 --> 00:01:04,470
Where and when were you born?

12
00:01:04,470 --> 00:01:13,752
On February 21, 1921
in [? Losice, ?]

13
00:01:13,752 --> 00:01:15,856
Poland at that time, it was.

14
00:01:15,856 --> 00:01:19,288

15
00:01:19,288 --> 00:01:20,830
Where were you living
during the war?

16
00:01:20,830 --> 00:01:23,580

17
00:01:23,580 --> 00:01:25,120
In Przemysl.

18
00:01:25,120 --> 00:01:29,420

19
00:01:29,420 --> 00:01:41,810
And then we fled in 1944 and
we were living in Vienna.

20
00:01:41,810 --> 00:01:44,530
And after the end of--

21
00:01:44,530 --> 00:01:46,860
during the war, yes.

22
00:01:46,860 --> 00:01:49,590
What were your parents names?

23
00:01:49,590 --> 00:01:53,730
My father's name
was [? Walhadum ?]

24
00:01:53,730 --> 00:01:57,900
[? Zahykavich, ?]
and my mother's name,

25

00:01:57,900 --> 00:02:01,230

[? Theodosia ?]

[? Zakykavich. ?]

26

00:02:01,230 --> 00:02:03,220

And what were their occupations?

27

00:02:03,220 --> 00:02:11,710

My father was a professor of
literature in primary school

28

00:02:11,710 --> 00:02:13,920

gymnasium.

29

00:02:13,920 --> 00:02:18,640

And my mother, she was a
teacher as well, but she--

30

00:02:18,640 --> 00:02:25,590

since she was a housewife,
since there were three kids, so

31

00:02:25,590 --> 00:02:29,310

she didn't work.

32

00:02:29,310 --> 00:02:30,840

Could you give
the names and ages

33

00:02:30,840 --> 00:02:33,100

of your brothers and sisters?

34

00:02:33,100 --> 00:02:35,890

Yes.

35

00:02:35,890 --> 00:02:36,740

I'm the oldest.

36

00:02:36,740 --> 00:02:39,550

37

00:02:39,550 --> 00:02:41,470

The second brother
is [? Volodymyr ?]

38
00:02:41,470 --> 00:02:53,530
[? Zahykavich, ?] and I think he
was born on November 27, 1923,

39
00:02:53,530 --> 00:03:01,840
Orest on January 30 or 31--

40
00:03:01,840 --> 00:03:15,340
[INAUDIBLE] in 1925, and
[? Christine, ?] April 11--

41
00:03:15,340 --> 00:03:19,420
April 8, 1936.

42
00:03:19,420 --> 00:03:21,910
She's much younger than I am--

43
00:03:21,910 --> 00:03:23,530
15 years.

44
00:03:23,530 --> 00:03:26,360
Did your family belong
to any particular church?

45
00:03:26,360 --> 00:03:31,180
Yes, we are Ukrainian Catholics.

46
00:03:31,180 --> 00:03:34,330
Before, it was called
Greek Catholics, but they--

47
00:03:34,330 --> 00:03:37,810
since it's confusion,
we are not Greeks.

48
00:03:37,810 --> 00:03:41,920
We are only of Byzantine right--

49
00:03:41,920 --> 00:03:43,660

Catholics of Byzantine right.

50
00:03:43,660 --> 00:03:46,750
It means that Pope is
still our superior,

51
00:03:46,750 --> 00:03:53,020
but now we call it
Ukrainian Catholics.

52
00:03:53,020 --> 00:03:55,780
How often did your
family attend church?

53
00:03:55,780 --> 00:04:00,490
Every Sunday and holidays--

54
00:04:00,490 --> 00:04:02,170
religious holidays.

55
00:04:02,170 --> 00:04:04,270
Were they involved in
politics in any way?

56
00:04:04,270 --> 00:04:07,300

57
00:04:07,300 --> 00:04:09,070
I wouldn't say, you know.

58
00:04:09,070 --> 00:04:13,510
My father didn't
belong to any party.

59
00:04:13,510 --> 00:04:23,620
He believed that the main
thing is to learn-- to learn.

60
00:04:23,620 --> 00:04:28,540
The politics might
confuse a person.

61

00:04:28,540 --> 00:04:32,770
[INAUDIBLE] and he was
preaching it to his students

62
00:04:32,770 --> 00:04:36,220
that they should learn
as much as possible,

63
00:04:36,220 --> 00:04:37,820
if they have the possibility.

64
00:04:37,820 --> 00:04:41,950

65
00:04:41,950 --> 00:04:43,810
Could you describe
the area in which you

66
00:04:43,810 --> 00:04:45,750
lived in when the war began?

67
00:04:45,750 --> 00:04:48,620

68
00:04:48,620 --> 00:04:58,180
Well, Przemyśl for Poland
was not a big country--

69
00:04:58,180 --> 00:05:02,300
33 million, or how many
there was at that time.

70
00:05:02,300 --> 00:05:07,030
So Przemyśl, I
could say it was not

71
00:05:07,030 --> 00:05:13,550
a small town, because we had
even a theater over there.

72
00:05:13,550 --> 00:05:18,190
There were three to four movie
theaters, and the Museum,

73
00:05:18,190 --> 00:05:20,890
and bishops--

74
00:05:20,890 --> 00:05:23,680
two bishops, Polish
and Ukrainian bishops--

75
00:05:23,680 --> 00:05:27,280
and four or more
high gymnasiums.

76
00:05:27,280 --> 00:05:31,060
In Europe, they call it
gymnasium, not high school,

77
00:05:31,060 --> 00:05:33,560
like here.

78
00:05:33,560 --> 00:05:38,410
There was even a Jewish
gymnasium, two Polish--

79
00:05:38,410 --> 00:05:41,410
two or three Polish gymnasiums,
two girls and one men,

80
00:05:41,410 --> 00:05:43,240
and two Ukrainian gymnasiums.

81
00:05:43,240 --> 00:05:46,720
So it was comparable
quite a big city, 56,000

82
00:05:46,720 --> 00:05:50,620
or 57,000 inhabitants.

83
00:05:50,620 --> 00:05:54,540
Well, but to compare it now
with other European countries--

84
00:05:54,540 --> 00:05:55,930

but to compare with American?

85

00:05:55,930 --> 00:06:01,240

Not compare, you know,
its a huge country.

86

00:06:01,240 --> 00:06:05,140

And we are living in
an apartment house.

87

00:06:05,140 --> 00:06:07,780

It [? never ?] old
house, but we were

88

00:06:07,780 --> 00:06:09,070

living in an apartment house.

89

00:06:09,070 --> 00:06:13,850

90

00:06:13,850 --> 00:06:17,780

[INAUDIBLE] yes, when
the war started--

91

00:06:17,780 --> 00:06:20,820

92

00:06:20,820 --> 00:06:29,210

I think it was six different--
six separate apartments,

93

00:06:29,210 --> 00:06:35,390

and all other apartments were
occupied by Jewish families,

94

00:06:35,390 --> 00:06:40,560

and we were the only family.

95

00:06:40,560 --> 00:06:43,190

That's why when the war
started the second time,

96

00:06:43,190 --> 00:06:47,570
when the Germans came, all the
Jews from the-- since they came

97
00:06:47,570 --> 00:06:49,370
to our apartment--

98
00:06:49,370 --> 00:06:50,570
I was not there--

99
00:06:50,570 --> 00:06:54,440
at that particular time,
in '41, I wasn't home.

100
00:06:54,440 --> 00:07:01,010
But as my parents told me
and my brother, all the--

101
00:07:01,010 --> 00:07:02,630
they were scared
because they already

102
00:07:02,630 --> 00:07:08,000
heard about those things which
were going on in Germany.

103
00:07:08,000 --> 00:07:10,100
So they came to us.

104
00:07:10,100 --> 00:07:12,350
And they were staying
with us for two or three

105
00:07:12,350 --> 00:07:15,200
days, about 30 people
in our apartment.

106
00:07:15,200 --> 00:07:16,750
It had three rooms.

107
00:07:16,750 --> 00:07:23,600
It was a typical middle class
family apartment, three rooms,

108
00:07:23,600 --> 00:07:26,870
and kitchen, pantry, bathroom.

109
00:07:26,870 --> 00:07:29,660
And so, it was--

110
00:07:29,660 --> 00:07:32,780
to compare with-- quite--

111
00:07:32,780 --> 00:07:35,870
with other people,
it was quite good.

112
00:07:35,870 --> 00:07:46,950
And well, what else would
you like me to describe?

113
00:07:46,950 --> 00:07:53,220
I was-- the war started
in 1939 I just--

114
00:07:53,220 --> 00:07:59,730
at that time, I finished
my high school, gymnasium.

115
00:07:59,730 --> 00:08:05,870
And was prepared to go to
study journalism in Warsaw.

116
00:08:05,870 --> 00:08:10,370
But, of course,
everything in September,

117
00:08:10,370 --> 00:08:14,330
all my dreams were shattered.

118
00:08:14,330 --> 00:08:16,592
Your family was the
only non-Jewish family

119
00:08:16,592 --> 00:08:17,300

in this building.

120
00:08:17,300 --> 00:08:18,015
In this building.

121
00:08:18,015 --> 00:08:20,390
The other buildings around,
where they were predominantly

122
00:08:20,390 --> 00:08:21,265
Jewish or non-Jewish?

123
00:08:21,265 --> 00:08:22,515
I think mixed.

124
00:08:22,515 --> 00:08:23,630
Mixed.

125
00:08:23,630 --> 00:08:24,140
Yes.

126
00:08:24,140 --> 00:08:25,760
There was not really
a Jewish section.

127
00:08:25,760 --> 00:08:27,050
No, absolutely.

128
00:08:27,050 --> 00:08:29,000
There was one Jewish section.

129
00:08:29,000 --> 00:08:31,400
It was even called Jewish Town.

130
00:08:31,400 --> 00:08:34,234
There was one Jewish
section in Przemysl.

131
00:08:34,234 --> 00:08:37,110

132

00:08:37,110 --> 00:08:41,450
But most-- I think that
many Jews were living there.

133
00:08:41,450 --> 00:08:45,680
But there was no
ghetto like it was

134
00:08:45,680 --> 00:08:50,430
formed during the German times.

135
00:08:50,430 --> 00:08:51,480
They were formed.

136
00:08:51,480 --> 00:08:54,010
They were living everywhere.

137
00:08:54,010 --> 00:08:56,920
Did your parents discuss among
themselves and their friends

138
00:08:56,920 --> 00:08:58,470
what was happening to the Jews?

139
00:08:58,470 --> 00:09:02,280

140
00:09:02,280 --> 00:09:05,630
I think so, of course.

141
00:09:05,630 --> 00:09:08,420
I guess what I'm asking
is were they aware

142
00:09:08,420 --> 00:09:10,010
of what was happening?

143
00:09:10,010 --> 00:09:10,770
They were.

144
00:09:10,770 --> 00:09:11,880
They were aware.

145
00:09:11,880 --> 00:09:15,640

146
00:09:15,640 --> 00:09:17,590
Was there one specific
incident that you

147
00:09:17,590 --> 00:09:20,640
can think of that made you aware
of the persecution of the Jews?

148
00:09:20,640 --> 00:09:23,690

149
00:09:23,690 --> 00:09:27,410
The first thing which
struck us, when they told

150
00:09:27,410 --> 00:09:33,420
Jews to wear those
bands with a star.

151
00:09:33,420 --> 00:09:39,420
It was something we never saw
before, we never heard before.

152
00:09:39,420 --> 00:09:42,590
So it was the first
thing which struck us.

153
00:09:42,590 --> 00:09:46,710
And then, at first they
were not living in ghetto,

154
00:09:46,710 --> 00:09:50,090
but after a while
they formed ghetto.

155
00:09:50,090 --> 00:09:54,050
And it was as well
something strange.

156

00:09:54,050 --> 00:09:57,230

157

00:09:57,230 --> 00:09:59,870

During the Middle
Ages they had ghettos,

158

00:09:59,870 --> 00:10:04,320

but it was 20th century.

159

00:10:04,320 --> 00:10:06,930

Did you ever see any
children being beaten?

160

00:10:06,930 --> 00:10:07,430

No.

161

00:10:07,430 --> 00:10:10,850

162

00:10:10,850 --> 00:10:14,110

Did you see any signs stating
not to buy or do business

163

00:10:14,110 --> 00:10:14,610

with Jews?

164

00:10:14,610 --> 00:10:17,750

165

00:10:17,750 --> 00:10:25,340

I-- no, I do not
remember such a thing.

166

00:10:25,340 --> 00:10:26,960

When did you and
your family decide

167

00:10:26,960 --> 00:10:28,168

that they were going to help?

168

00:10:28,168 --> 00:10:33,570

169

00:10:33,570 --> 00:10:36,930

To help this specific family--

170

00:10:36,930 --> 00:10:40,875

I must tell you that
our family was always--

171

00:10:40,875 --> 00:10:44,640

172

00:10:44,640 --> 00:10:48,690

we were known that we
are friends with Jews.

173

00:10:48,690 --> 00:10:54,750

The first-- I think our
first apartment in Przemysl.

174

00:10:54,750 --> 00:10:58,200

It was in the building--

175

00:10:58,200 --> 00:11:03,180

in a small-- it was in
[INAUDIBLE],, a small building.

176

00:11:03,180 --> 00:11:06,210

And half of the
building occupied by--

177

00:11:06,210 --> 00:11:08,490

was occupied by
the Jewish family,

178

00:11:08,490 --> 00:11:12,010

by this family, this boy
whom we rescued afterwards,

179

00:11:12,010 --> 00:11:13,230

the Schefflers.

180

00:11:13,230 --> 00:11:16,050

They were our
immediate neighbors.

181

00:11:16,050 --> 00:11:18,810

And we were very
friendly with them,

182

00:11:18,810 --> 00:11:21,370

really very, very good friends.

183

00:11:21,370 --> 00:11:26,330

They were very good
people, as I remember.

184

00:11:26,330 --> 00:11:29,280

Mr. Scheffler and
Mrs. Scheffler,

185

00:11:29,280 --> 00:11:30,960

they were very good people.

186

00:11:30,960 --> 00:11:34,200

Maybe because they had children
who were already grown up.

187

00:11:34,200 --> 00:11:35,760

They did not have grandchildren.

188

00:11:35,760 --> 00:11:37,020

And they liked us.

189

00:11:37,020 --> 00:11:38,400

We were small at that time.

190

00:11:38,400 --> 00:11:41,790

Really I was five or six years.

191

00:11:41,790 --> 00:11:44,260

My brother, Orest,
was just born.

192

00:11:44,260 --> 00:11:47,310

So very often we were
playing with them.

193

00:11:47,310 --> 00:11:48,750

We were staying in their house.

194

00:11:48,750 --> 00:11:50,790

Their older boys
took care of us.

195

00:11:50,790 --> 00:11:52,590

They were telling us stories.

196

00:11:52,590 --> 00:11:56,160

And the age of Scheffler,
when we rescued,

197

00:11:56,160 --> 00:12:01,090

he was student in
Ukrainian gymnasium.

198

00:12:01,090 --> 00:12:04,410

Because in Polish
gymnasium, they

199

00:12:04,410 --> 00:12:08,030

were giving hard time,
Jews hard time, sometimes,

200

00:12:08,030 --> 00:12:12,330

this chauvinism, Polish
chauvinism was famous.

201

00:12:12,330 --> 00:12:16,230

And my family was known of that.

202

00:12:16,230 --> 00:12:21,010

Even my father's father, who was
as well a gymnasium professor

203

00:12:21,010 --> 00:12:25,260

in [PLACE NAME],, was
known as a father of Jews.

204
00:12:25,260 --> 00:12:31,230
Once, I remember it
was in 1936 or '37,

205
00:12:31,230 --> 00:12:36,990
somebody sent us a paper,
a Jewish paper from Lviv.

206
00:12:36,990 --> 00:12:40,830
And there was an article about
my grandfather, Professor

207
00:12:40,830 --> 00:12:45,720
Victor Zahaikiewicz, how he
was saving Jewish boys when

208
00:12:45,720 --> 00:12:52,800
they were tormented by youths
in school or on the streets.

209
00:12:52,800 --> 00:13:01,080
And so he was very honored
by Jews, my grandfather.

210
00:13:01,080 --> 00:13:03,480
And it was my father as well.

211
00:13:03,480 --> 00:13:06,120
He got it from his house.

212
00:13:06,120 --> 00:13:14,300
And so he-- we always had plenty
of Jewish friends, I must say.

213
00:13:14,300 --> 00:13:19,700
How did other members of
your family and your friends

214
00:13:19,700 --> 00:13:23,580
react to what you were

doing to help Jews?

215

00:13:23,580 --> 00:13:28,550

Well, our family, we
were all prepared.

216

00:13:28,550 --> 00:13:30,740

And there were
only a few friends

217

00:13:30,740 --> 00:13:38,150

whom we could trust when we
were saving, because it was--

218

00:13:38,150 --> 00:13:40,650

that when you were
saving the Jewish family

219

00:13:40,650 --> 00:13:44,720

you were subjected to
the same persecution.

220

00:13:44,720 --> 00:13:46,700

They would be killed
and we would be killed.

221

00:13:46,700 --> 00:13:50,270

Everybody from the household
would be killed together,

222

00:13:50,270 --> 00:13:54,860

would be shot, that they
found that they were.

223

00:13:54,860 --> 00:13:57,205

Well, no, people are not--

224

00:13:57,205 --> 00:14:02,430

what was-- they
never criticized us.

225

00:14:02,430 --> 00:14:03,590

It was our business.

226
00:14:03,590 --> 00:14:08,010

227
00:14:08,010 --> 00:14:10,650
Did the members of your church
know what you were doing?

228
00:14:10,650 --> 00:14:11,150
Yes.

229
00:14:11,150 --> 00:14:13,880

230
00:14:13,880 --> 00:14:16,590
Did anyone ever threatened to
turn you into the authorities?

231
00:14:16,590 --> 00:14:22,140
Yes, our housekeeper.

232
00:14:22,140 --> 00:14:25,290
My mother died-- and my sister--

233
00:14:25,290 --> 00:14:28,530
my mother died in 1942.

234
00:14:28,530 --> 00:14:33,540
So, we-- I didn't know what--

235
00:14:33,540 --> 00:14:35,430
I didn't know how
to cook or what.

236
00:14:35,430 --> 00:14:38,070
Well, there was nothing
to cook from anyway.

237
00:14:38,070 --> 00:14:41,290
Somebody had to take
care of the house.

238

00:14:41,290 --> 00:14:47,280

And there was a woman.

239

00:14:47,280 --> 00:14:53,670

She was a housekeeper
in, I think,

240

00:14:53,670 --> 00:14:58,470

one of the German officials, one
of the high German officials.

241

00:14:58,470 --> 00:15:01,880

And she did something wrong.

242

00:15:01,880 --> 00:15:04,380

And maybe my brother
knows this better.

243

00:15:04,380 --> 00:15:08,380

And she did not come on
time or I don't know.

244

00:15:08,380 --> 00:15:11,400

Anyway, this German
official wanted to send her

245

00:15:11,400 --> 00:15:14,490

for work for Germany.

246

00:15:14,490 --> 00:15:19,260

The Germans, they-- they
took people, not only Jews,

247

00:15:19,260 --> 00:15:21,660

but many Ukrainians
and other people.

248

00:15:21,660 --> 00:15:25,578

They just took them and sent
to Germany to work in the--

249

00:15:25,578 --> 00:15:27,120

took from the street,
from the house,

250
00:15:27,120 --> 00:15:29,130
or wherever they
had possibility,

251
00:15:29,130 --> 00:15:33,510
from the streets very often,
and they sent them to Germany

252
00:15:33,510 --> 00:15:37,320
to work in the factories.

253
00:15:37,320 --> 00:15:40,410
So, this German
official, he said

254
00:15:40,410 --> 00:15:46,770
that he will send this
Maria to Germany for work.

255
00:15:46,770 --> 00:15:53,400
But my father, he was working
in Ukrainian Relief Committee.

256
00:15:53,400 --> 00:15:55,980
Maybe you don't know, but
there were relief committees.

257
00:15:55,980 --> 00:15:58,710
They were-- it was Jewish
Relief Committee as well,

258
00:15:58,710 --> 00:16:03,960
if you read the story about
this committee in Lodz.

259
00:16:03,960 --> 00:16:05,640
It was covered a
couple of weeks ago

260
00:16:05,640 --> 00:16:09,600

in New York Times, a huge article about this Lodz story.

261
00:16:09,600 --> 00:16:13,230
So, he was working in the [? Belfer ?] section.

262
00:16:13,230 --> 00:16:15,960
She came to my father and was begging him

263
00:16:15,960 --> 00:16:17,160
if you could help her.

264
00:16:17,160 --> 00:16:20,520

265
00:16:20,520 --> 00:16:22,500
And father was talking to this man

266
00:16:22,500 --> 00:16:26,190
and said that we need a housekeeper

267
00:16:26,190 --> 00:16:28,260
since our mother died.

268
00:16:28,260 --> 00:16:30,990
So, she was our housekeeper.

269
00:16:30,990 --> 00:16:35,940
And she was a beastly person.

270
00:16:35,940 --> 00:16:40,500
Very pious, praying always, but not always praying

271
00:16:40,500 --> 00:16:44,940
comes along with goodness, natural goodness.

272

00:16:44,940 --> 00:16:49,410
And anyway,
sometimes-- once I told

273
00:16:49,410 --> 00:16:52,230
her to do something
in the house,

274
00:16:52,230 --> 00:16:56,230
to do some cleaning or what,
but she did not want to do it.

275
00:16:56,230 --> 00:17:05,550
And she said to my father that
if I will give her any orders--

276
00:17:05,550 --> 00:17:08,130
that I shouldn't
give her any orders--

277
00:17:08,130 --> 00:17:12,450
that she would give
us to the authorities.

278
00:17:12,450 --> 00:17:16,945
She was going to
confession quite often.

279
00:17:16,945 --> 00:17:18,900
At first, my father
was talking--

280
00:17:18,900 --> 00:17:23,380
speaking to her confessor,
whom he knew very well.

281
00:17:23,380 --> 00:17:28,290
And then we to hold her-- my
father told her and my brother,

282
00:17:28,290 --> 00:17:33,870
Maria, if you will give us up,
your fate is the same as ours,

283

00:17:33,870 --> 00:17:36,013

and even maybe
you will be shot--

284

00:17:36,013 --> 00:17:38,430

you will be the first who will
be shot because you did not

285

00:17:38,430 --> 00:17:42,660

give us up immediately.

286

00:17:42,660 --> 00:17:44,325

You did not go to
the authorities

287

00:17:44,325 --> 00:17:47,220

and told immediately
that they are with us.

288

00:17:47,220 --> 00:17:51,420

So, she shut her mouth and
never mentioned it before.

289

00:17:51,420 --> 00:17:56,840

But otherwise, for
example, across our house,

290

00:17:56,840 --> 00:17:59,040

because it was the
other-- then we--

291

00:17:59,040 --> 00:18:02,960

during the war, in '42, we
moved from this other apartment

292

00:18:02,960 --> 00:18:10,670

to the other because
it was ruined.

293

00:18:10,670 --> 00:18:14,030

Not ruined completely,
but shelling

294

00:18:14,030 --> 00:18:18,020
destroyed something in some
rooms in the apartment.

295

00:18:18,020 --> 00:18:20,930
So we moved to the
other apartment.

296

00:18:20,930 --> 00:18:29,090
And across this apartment,
we were living till the end,

297

00:18:29,090 --> 00:18:34,520
there was a police station,
Ukrainian police station.

298

00:18:34,520 --> 00:18:37,490
And the chief of the
police knew about that.

299

00:18:37,490 --> 00:18:41,120
He was a school friend
of Edek Scheffler.

300

00:18:41,120 --> 00:18:46,260
And my father told him in case
he notices anything suspicious

301

00:18:46,260 --> 00:18:48,620
so he would let us know.

302

00:18:48,620 --> 00:18:51,080
The Schefflers could
escape or somehow we

303

00:18:51,080 --> 00:18:53,960
could camouflage this.

304

00:18:53,960 --> 00:19:00,080
So, otherwise, except of
Maria, nobody threatened us.

305

00:19:00,080 --> 00:19:02,990
So there were quite
a few people living--

306
00:19:02,990 --> 00:19:11,060
except of us, my father,
sister, and Orest.

307
00:19:11,060 --> 00:19:15,950
I was, at that time,
I was in [INAUDIBLE]..

308
00:19:15,950 --> 00:19:19,400
Some time I was living at home.

309
00:19:19,400 --> 00:19:22,220
Some time I was in [INAUDIBLE].

310
00:19:22,220 --> 00:19:23,790
I wanted to be an actress.

311
00:19:23,790 --> 00:19:28,160
So I was in actor
school over there.

312
00:19:28,160 --> 00:19:33,230
And there was,
besides our family,

313
00:19:33,230 --> 00:19:38,180
there was Professor [? Petru, ?]
escapee from the Soviet Union.

314
00:19:38,180 --> 00:19:40,160
Excuse me, this is in
your apartment building

315
00:19:40,160 --> 00:19:41,035
you're talking about?

316
00:19:41,035 --> 00:19:42,590
No, in our house.

317

00:19:42,590 --> 00:19:43,910

In our apartment.

318

00:19:43,910 --> 00:19:45,770

In our apartment--
not our house.

319

00:19:45,770 --> 00:19:50,090

I say our apartment, because
it was not our house.

320

00:19:50,090 --> 00:19:53,900

Professor [? Petru, ?]
and then there

321

00:19:53,900 --> 00:19:57,650

was a friend of my
brother, Orest, as well.

322

00:19:57,650 --> 00:20:00,990

He was-- he knew about that.

323

00:20:00,990 --> 00:20:04,040

And he was living with
us because he went

324

00:20:04,040 --> 00:20:08,240

to school there in Przemysl.

325

00:20:08,240 --> 00:20:12,230

And later on, my husband,
my fiance at that time,

326

00:20:12,230 --> 00:20:15,410

and not even fiance, a
friend of my brother.

327

00:20:15,410 --> 00:20:18,080

And so, there were
quite a few people

328

00:20:18,080 --> 00:20:20,070

living in the same house.

329

00:20:20,070 --> 00:20:21,450

And they knew about that.

330

00:20:21,450 --> 00:20:23,960

And yeah, nobody wanted to.

331

00:20:23,960 --> 00:20:26,567

332

00:20:26,567 --> 00:20:28,150

All right, I'm a
little confused here.

333

00:20:28,150 --> 00:20:28,670

Yes.

334

00:20:28,670 --> 00:20:32,760

You moved from-- in
1942 you moved to--

335

00:20:32,760 --> 00:20:33,260

Another--

336

00:20:33,260 --> 00:20:35,180

--an apartment across
from the police station.

337

00:20:35,180 --> 00:20:36,490

Yes.

338

00:20:36,490 --> 00:20:38,750

And describe to me--
this is the building

339

00:20:38,750 --> 00:20:44,420

that your neighbor was, the
boy who you eventually rescued?

340

00:20:44,420 --> 00:20:46,160

No.

341
00:20:46,160 --> 00:20:54,980
He was-- the building where
we were living together with

342
00:20:54,980 --> 00:20:57,830
Schefflers, it was in--

343
00:20:57,830 --> 00:21:10,584
we were living in that
building in 1920--

344
00:21:10,584 --> 00:21:12,000
Let me count.

345
00:21:12,000 --> 00:21:16,330
I came to Przemysl when
I was three years old.

346
00:21:16,330 --> 00:21:26,680
I was born-- in 1924 till
1929 or something like that.

347
00:21:26,680 --> 00:21:30,280
We were quite-- , moving
quite a few times,

348
00:21:30,280 --> 00:21:32,350
changing our apartment.

349
00:21:32,350 --> 00:21:35,750
Then we moved to another
apartment, then to the other.

350
00:21:35,750 --> 00:21:46,750
And in '39-- so, in
between 1923 and 1929,

351
00:21:46,750 --> 00:21:49,810
we were living in
the same building

352

00:21:49,810 --> 00:21:52,210
where Schefflers were living.

353
00:21:52,210 --> 00:21:54,370
They were our neighbors.

354
00:21:54,370 --> 00:21:58,720
And afterwards, they were still
living in the same building

355
00:21:58,720 --> 00:22:01,240
and we moved to the
other apartments.

356
00:22:01,240 --> 00:22:03,490
And then they came
to you for help?

357
00:22:03,490 --> 00:22:04,790
Yes, they came to us.

358
00:22:04,790 --> 00:22:05,710
I understand.

359
00:22:05,710 --> 00:22:07,570
Now, the present
building that you

360
00:22:07,570 --> 00:22:10,120
were living in, this is not
the same building that you

361
00:22:10,120 --> 00:22:12,290
described with all the
other families were Jews?

362
00:22:12,290 --> 00:22:12,790
Yes.

363
00:22:12,790 --> 00:22:13,930
Yes, it is.

364

00:22:13,930 --> 00:22:14,770
Yes.

365
00:22:14,770 --> 00:22:16,390
It is not the same.

366
00:22:16,390 --> 00:22:17,410
It is not the same.

367
00:22:17,410 --> 00:22:18,570
It is not the same.

368
00:22:18,570 --> 00:22:19,540
Yes.

369
00:22:19,540 --> 00:22:22,120
It was-- the other
was [? Borski ?] 47.

370
00:22:22,120 --> 00:22:25,395
It was [? Tarnowski ?] 7.

371
00:22:25,395 --> 00:22:27,560
OK, so this present building--

372
00:22:27,560 --> 00:22:28,060
Yes.

373
00:22:28,060 --> 00:22:31,030
--where you helped the
Scheffler boy and these others.

374
00:22:31,030 --> 00:22:31,900
Yes.

375
00:22:31,900 --> 00:22:35,860
Could you describe that
immediate building to me?

376
00:22:35,860 --> 00:22:38,342
A pity I didn't brought
a picture of it.

377
00:22:38,342 --> 00:22:41,110

378
00:22:41,110 --> 00:22:42,370
Have you been in Europe?

379
00:22:42,370 --> 00:22:43,990
Have you seen these
old buildings.

380
00:22:43,990 --> 00:22:45,100
How it's more--

381
00:22:45,100 --> 00:22:46,610
I'm referring more
to the neighbors.

382
00:22:46,610 --> 00:22:54,550
Neighbors, across from us,
there was Professor [? Azmora ?]

383
00:22:54,550 --> 00:22:57,040
living, a Polish family.

384
00:22:57,040 --> 00:22:59,710
Downstairs, I do not
even know who was

385
00:22:59,710 --> 00:23:01,810
living downstairs and upstairs.

386
00:23:01,810 --> 00:23:04,390
Maybe Orest knows better.

387
00:23:04,390 --> 00:23:06,550
I do not remember.

388
00:23:06,550 --> 00:23:07,455
I think the people--

389

00:23:07,455 --> 00:23:10,060

390

00:23:10,060 --> 00:23:11,410
they were new people.

391

00:23:11,410 --> 00:23:14,045
I don't know who was
living in our apartment

392

00:23:14,045 --> 00:23:16,720
when we came to this apartment.

393

00:23:16,720 --> 00:23:19,420
I think upstairs there was
still one Jewish family

394

00:23:19,420 --> 00:23:20,650
living when we came.

395

00:23:20,650 --> 00:23:23,620

396

00:23:23,620 --> 00:23:25,360
But I cannot tell you.

397

00:23:25,360 --> 00:23:27,360
Do you think the non-Jewish
people knew that you

398

00:23:27,360 --> 00:23:31,176
were housing this Jewish boy?

399

00:23:31,176 --> 00:23:34,500
No, we couldn't tell anybody.

400

00:23:34,500 --> 00:23:35,520
No.

401

00:23:35,520 --> 00:23:39,760
I don't even know if the
Polish-- this Professor

402
00:23:39,760 --> 00:23:41,400
[? Azmora ?] knew about that.

403
00:23:41,400 --> 00:23:43,600
Mrs. [? Azmora, ?] maybe
she knew about that.

404
00:23:43,600 --> 00:23:46,305
But I have to ask Orest.

405
00:23:46,305 --> 00:23:47,430
You have to ask my brother.

406
00:23:47,430 --> 00:23:50,400
Maybe they moved already,
because afterwards, they

407
00:23:50,400 --> 00:23:53,520
moved-- the [? Azmoras ?]
moved from the building.

408
00:23:53,520 --> 00:23:55,200
And yes?

409
00:23:55,200 --> 00:23:57,120
I was just wondering
if you felt threatened

410
00:23:57,120 --> 00:24:01,200
by Maria and other people
who might have known?

411
00:24:01,200 --> 00:24:06,630
Only by Maria, but well,
when she knew that she's

412
00:24:06,630 --> 00:24:10,180
in the same position with us.

413
00:24:10,180 --> 00:24:13,590
Who initiated the

helping behavior?

414
00:24:13,590 --> 00:24:14,890
I think my father.

415
00:24:14,890 --> 00:24:17,230
He was the head of the family.

416
00:24:17,230 --> 00:24:19,620
And the decision
belonged to him.

417
00:24:19,620 --> 00:24:22,870
We are still young at that time.

418
00:24:22,870 --> 00:24:26,560
Did the Schefflers
boy come to you?

419
00:24:26,560 --> 00:24:30,590
He came-- you do not know
the story, how it happened?

420
00:24:30,590 --> 00:24:31,250
No.

421
00:24:31,250 --> 00:24:33,670
Well, it was quite
a horror story.

422
00:24:33,670 --> 00:24:34,720
Excuse me one minute.

423
00:24:34,720 --> 00:24:36,595
I want to make sure the
tape doesn't run out.

424
00:24:36,595 --> 00:24:55,530

425
00:24:55,530 --> 00:24:58,080
You were about to tell me the

story of how the Scheffler's

426

00:24:58,080 --> 00:24:59,650

boy came to your family.

427

00:24:59,650 --> 00:25:01,380

Yes.

428

00:25:01,380 --> 00:25:04,050

Well, it was in 19--

429

00:25:04,050 --> 00:25:08,890

September, I think, 1943.

430

00:25:08,890 --> 00:25:17,070

They-- I presume they
started to liquidate ghetto.

431

00:25:17,070 --> 00:25:20,220

He was living in
ghetto at that time.

432

00:25:20,220 --> 00:25:27,240

And it was evening, dark,
maybe 9:00, or 10:00, or what.

433

00:25:27,240 --> 00:25:29,850

I heard a knock on the door.

434

00:25:29,850 --> 00:25:32,280

And I went to the--

435

00:25:32,280 --> 00:25:34,740

opened the door to the corridor.

436

00:25:34,740 --> 00:25:38,205

And there was Edek
standing at the door.

437

00:25:38,205 --> 00:25:41,910

He pushed me into the
room, into the corridor,

438
00:25:41,910 --> 00:25:45,800
small corridor and
said, [? Halushu-- ?]

439
00:25:45,800 --> 00:25:48,920
that's my nickname--

440
00:25:48,920 --> 00:25:50,230
give me the key to the cellar.

441
00:25:50,230 --> 00:25:53,370

442
00:25:53,370 --> 00:25:57,360
And I went automatically.

443
00:25:57,360 --> 00:25:59,190
I went to the kitchen.

444
00:25:59,190 --> 00:26:01,710
I took the keys to the cellar.

445
00:26:01,710 --> 00:26:05,430
I don't know if I
went to the room

446
00:26:05,430 --> 00:26:11,100
and told my father that Edek
Scheffler is here or just took

447
00:26:11,100 --> 00:26:14,700
the keys to the cellar,
went with him to the cellar.

448
00:26:14,700 --> 00:26:17,400
And I noticed that there
is a young woman with him.

449
00:26:17,400 --> 00:26:18,990
He said that's my wife.

450

00:26:18,990 --> 00:26:24,150

I didn't know that he married,
but he married in ghetto.

451

00:26:24,150 --> 00:26:26,260

And opened the cellar for him.

452

00:26:26,260 --> 00:26:28,950

And they went into the cellar.

453

00:26:28,950 --> 00:26:34,140

And the cellar-- you
know how they are.

454

00:26:34,140 --> 00:26:37,380

Not like here,
you have the room.

455

00:26:37,380 --> 00:26:39,030

There's a whole covered room.

456

00:26:39,030 --> 00:26:42,090

The cellar in Europe, in
their apartment houses,

457

00:26:42,090 --> 00:26:45,360

they were just partitions.

458

00:26:45,360 --> 00:26:52,270

You could see through the
wall, the wooden walls,

459

00:26:52,270 --> 00:26:53,910

you can see to
the other cellars.

460

00:26:53,910 --> 00:26:58,530

So it was not a
safe place to stay.

461

00:26:58,530 --> 00:27:02,460

But in the cellar, people

were keeping coal and wood.

462

00:27:02,460 --> 00:27:04,680

Because there was no
central heating, so

463

00:27:04,680 --> 00:27:09,750

we had keep our coal for winter.

464

00:27:09,750 --> 00:27:16,510

And then I think I came and
said Edek Scheffler came

465

00:27:16,510 --> 00:27:17,900

with his wife.

466

00:27:17,900 --> 00:27:19,610

And probably there was--

467

00:27:19,610 --> 00:27:24,450

we were talking about
that, what should we do.

468

00:27:24,450 --> 00:27:26,810

Or maybe we called
them upstairs.

469

00:27:26,810 --> 00:27:29,150

Maybe my father
called them upstairs.

470

00:27:29,150 --> 00:27:29,940

I'm not sure.

471

00:27:29,940 --> 00:27:33,110

It's so many years, 40 years.

472

00:27:33,110 --> 00:27:34,560

And I go.

473

00:27:34,560 --> 00:27:38,660

But this, I clearly

remember, when

474

00:27:38,660 --> 00:27:42,890

he said, [? Halushu, ?] you
give me the keys to the cellar.

475

00:27:42,890 --> 00:27:44,420

Did you ask him why?

476

00:27:44,420 --> 00:27:47,020

No, I didn't ask him.

477

00:27:47,020 --> 00:27:50,070

Well, I knew that he needed it.

478

00:27:50,070 --> 00:27:51,350

He escaped.

479

00:27:51,350 --> 00:27:54,470

But afterwards, he came up.

480

00:27:54,470 --> 00:27:58,790

Either they came this
evening upstairs.

481

00:27:58,790 --> 00:28:00,350

They came.

482

00:28:00,350 --> 00:28:03,350

And we were asking
him the details.

483

00:28:03,350 --> 00:28:06,170

And details were quite gruesome.

484

00:28:06,170 --> 00:28:10,190

They started to shoot
people in ghetto.

485

00:28:10,190 --> 00:28:13,340

And they were loading
them on the cars.

486
00:28:13,340 --> 00:28:18,230
And somehow they--
he and his wife,

487
00:28:18,230 --> 00:28:19,790
either they played or they--

488
00:28:19,790 --> 00:28:22,310

489
00:28:22,310 --> 00:28:29,930
by miracle they pretended
that they are killed.

490
00:28:29,930 --> 00:28:36,050
So they took them to the
cemetery, SS, that people,

491
00:28:36,050 --> 00:28:38,450
and threw them over there.

492
00:28:38,450 --> 00:28:42,230
So they came out from this.

493
00:28:42,230 --> 00:28:45,860
Because they were coming,
bringing back and forth the new

494
00:28:45,860 --> 00:28:47,120
corpses.

495
00:28:47,120 --> 00:28:49,490
They crawled out from the--

496
00:28:49,490 --> 00:28:51,500
from the corpses.

497
00:28:51,500 --> 00:28:53,750
And they came to our house.

498

00:28:53,750 --> 00:28:58,430
It was as well a very risky--

499
00:28:58,430 --> 00:29:02,480
everything was risky, but
there was a police hour.

500
00:29:02,480 --> 00:29:04,910
I think 9:00 or what.

501
00:29:04,910 --> 00:29:08,330
So, you couldn't
appear on the street

502
00:29:08,330 --> 00:29:14,120
without German identification
because you could be shot.

503
00:29:14,120 --> 00:29:18,320
But somehow, God help
them to come to our house.

504
00:29:18,320 --> 00:29:23,780
And so that's how they escaped.

505
00:29:23,780 --> 00:29:31,640
And I think they stayed maybe
for a day or two in the cellar.

506
00:29:31,640 --> 00:29:36,020
But since we realized it's
dangerous to keep them

507
00:29:36,020 --> 00:29:37,760
in the cellar because--

508
00:29:37,760 --> 00:29:39,620
it was still, of course, summer.

509
00:29:39,620 --> 00:29:44,270
People were not going
so often to the cellar.

510

00:29:44,270 --> 00:29:47,975

But still, we had to bring
them food over there.

511

00:29:47,975 --> 00:29:52,190

And somebody would notice this
unusual movement between cellar

512

00:29:52,190 --> 00:29:54,780

and our apartment.

513

00:29:54,780 --> 00:29:58,910

And so we decided to--

514

00:29:58,910 --> 00:30:02,180

yes, it was impossible to
keep them in the cellar,

515

00:30:02,180 --> 00:30:04,670

but on the other hand,
it was impossible to keep

516

00:30:04,670 --> 00:30:07,040

them open in the apartment.

517

00:30:07,040 --> 00:30:10,440

But we had pantry.

518

00:30:10,440 --> 00:30:13,370

I think the pantry was the
size of this small kitchen

519

00:30:13,370 --> 00:30:16,980

over here, they had it.

520

00:30:16,980 --> 00:30:20,810

And there was a huge cooper--

521

00:30:20,810 --> 00:30:21,800

as we call it--

522

00:30:21,800 --> 00:30:22,790
commode, or what.

523
00:30:22,790 --> 00:30:24,680
A trunk, a huge trunk.

524
00:30:24,680 --> 00:30:29,720
And in this trunk
we put the mattress.

525
00:30:29,720 --> 00:30:36,410
And my father was a biblio man.

526
00:30:36,410 --> 00:30:38,030
He had plenty of books.

527
00:30:38,030 --> 00:30:40,730
And we had a big library.

528
00:30:40,730 --> 00:30:43,550
But still there was no
place for all his books.

529
00:30:43,550 --> 00:30:47,040
And part of them, it
was in this pantry.

530
00:30:47,040 --> 00:30:49,880
So, my brother built
some kind of camouflage

531
00:30:49,880 --> 00:30:54,310
from books so they could
hide in case of something,

532
00:30:54,310 --> 00:30:56,030
after those books.

533
00:30:56,030 --> 00:31:00,020
They were sleeping over
there in this pantry.

534

00:31:00,020 --> 00:31:02,750

During the day, they
were more or less

535

00:31:02,750 --> 00:31:08,060

moving freely since
all the household

536

00:31:08,060 --> 00:31:12,320

people knew about them.

537

00:31:12,320 --> 00:31:19,040

They wouldn't sit all
the time in their pantry.

538

00:31:19,040 --> 00:31:25,760

She was, this Edek's wife,
she was helping sometimes.

539

00:31:25,760 --> 00:31:29,960

Maria told her to do some
chores, to peel potatoes,

540

00:31:29,960 --> 00:31:32,060

or sweep the floor, or what.

541

00:31:32,060 --> 00:31:33,360

She took advantage of it.

542

00:31:33,360 --> 00:31:35,480

But on the other hand,
when I think nowadays,

543

00:31:35,480 --> 00:31:39,230

it was better for her to be
occupied for a young girl.

544

00:31:39,230 --> 00:31:41,390

She was a young
girl at that time.

545

00:31:41,390 --> 00:31:44,630

And she was always

in good humor.

546
00:31:44,630 --> 00:31:49,220
So she took everything,
I think, cheerfully.

547
00:31:49,220 --> 00:31:51,740
We're talking a lot and so on.

548
00:31:51,740 --> 00:31:57,950
During the holidays we
have such a tradition,

549
00:31:57,950 --> 00:32:04,430
Ukrainian tradition,
that on Christmas Eve

550
00:32:04,430 --> 00:32:07,820
we had holy supper.

551
00:32:07,820 --> 00:32:12,170
So we were sitting all
together at the table.

552
00:32:12,170 --> 00:32:16,230
So we are sharing with
them all the goods we had.

553
00:32:16,230 --> 00:32:18,870
We had very little because
we were on the rations

554
00:32:18,870 --> 00:32:22,900
as well during the
German occupation.

555
00:32:22,900 --> 00:32:26,160
We didn't ever got
on our rations,

556
00:32:26,160 --> 00:32:30,750
food rations-- we didn't
have any, for example, fat,

557
00:32:30,750 --> 00:32:32,760
any meat.

558
00:32:32,760 --> 00:32:36,730
If we wanted to eat
it, from time to time

559
00:32:36,730 --> 00:32:39,810
we had to buy it on
the black market.

560
00:32:39,810 --> 00:32:45,480
And well, since sometimes
it was quite harsh.

561
00:32:45,480 --> 00:32:49,360
When my mother was
living she knew how to,

562
00:32:49,360 --> 00:32:53,280
for example, trade things, how
to sell things from the house

563
00:32:53,280 --> 00:32:54,330
and buy it.

564
00:32:54,330 --> 00:32:56,430
But I didn't know how to do it.

565
00:32:56,430 --> 00:33:00,690
But there were good people,
peasants, who knew my father.

566
00:33:00,690 --> 00:33:02,550
My father was
helping them since he

567
00:33:02,550 --> 00:33:05,340
was in this welfare department.

568
00:33:05,340 --> 00:33:09,840

He was saving people,
many people from going--

569
00:33:09,840 --> 00:33:13,530
being sent to Germany to work.

570
00:33:13,530 --> 00:33:16,740
So, sometimes they
brought either a chicken

571
00:33:16,740 --> 00:33:18,250
or maybe a few eggs.

572
00:33:18,250 --> 00:33:19,470
Somehow we survived.

573
00:33:19,470 --> 00:33:23,010
And I think we were all slim
and trim and much more healthier

574
00:33:23,010 --> 00:33:24,998
than now.

575
00:33:24,998 --> 00:33:27,040
But you also had two extra
mouths in your house--

576
00:33:27,040 --> 00:33:27,480
Yes.

577
00:33:27,480 --> 00:33:27,760
--to feed.

578
00:33:27,760 --> 00:33:28,260
Yes.

579
00:33:28,260 --> 00:33:30,340
Did you have any extra
rations for them?

580
00:33:30,340 --> 00:33:30,925
No.

581
00:33:30,925 --> 00:33:32,550
So you were just
dividing your rations.

582
00:33:32,550 --> 00:33:35,050
Yeah, sure.

583
00:33:35,050 --> 00:33:40,200
But those rations were so
small, so nobody cared.

584
00:33:40,200 --> 00:33:41,940
It was natural.

585
00:33:41,940 --> 00:33:45,300
I cannot understand how
people are greedy right now.

586
00:33:45,300 --> 00:33:46,410
They are so greedy.

587
00:33:46,410 --> 00:33:49,260
Everybody wants
everything for yourself.

588
00:33:49,260 --> 00:33:51,750
This is not
understandable for me.

589
00:33:51,750 --> 00:33:55,240
We have to share things
with other people.

590
00:33:55,240 --> 00:33:57,810
So, that's how they
stayed with us.

591
00:33:57,810 --> 00:34:05,670
And sometimes there were
even such comical scenes.

592

00:34:05,670 --> 00:34:11,880
My father, he was studying
in, before the war were first,

593
00:34:11,880 --> 00:34:14,520
he was studying in Vienna.

594
00:34:14,520 --> 00:34:20,489
And he met some of
his old acquaintances.

595
00:34:20,489 --> 00:34:24,659
And he was in, as well,
in the Austrian army

596
00:34:24,659 --> 00:34:30,270
from the old times,
from that period.

597
00:34:30,270 --> 00:34:39,139
And besides, the mayor,
that vice mayor, or how

598
00:34:39,139 --> 00:34:43,260
do you say, the substitute
of the mayor, a German,

599
00:34:43,260 --> 00:34:45,780
he was as well a
professor of arts.

600
00:34:45,780 --> 00:34:49,989
And my father was
friends with him.

601
00:34:49,989 --> 00:34:54,644
So, we had to invite two
or three Germans to--

602
00:34:54,644 --> 00:34:57,660

603
00:34:57,660 --> 00:34:58,500

during the holidays.

604

00:34:58,500 --> 00:35:01,060

605

00:35:01,060 --> 00:35:06,280

And Edek Scheffler, he
was really something.

606

00:35:06,280 --> 00:35:14,640

There was a glass door between
a small corridor, like--

607

00:35:14,640 --> 00:35:17,520

I will describe it.

608

00:35:17,520 --> 00:35:19,890

Here was a small corridor.

609

00:35:19,890 --> 00:35:21,420

Here was this pantry.

610

00:35:21,420 --> 00:35:22,530

And they were living.

611

00:35:22,530 --> 00:35:23,730

A small corridor.

612

00:35:23,730 --> 00:35:33,230

Here was bathroom
and here [UKRAINIAN]..

613

00:35:33,230 --> 00:35:35,160

A [UKRAINIAN], a water closet.

614

00:35:35,160 --> 00:35:35,940

The bathroom.

615

00:35:35,940 --> 00:35:37,890

Bathroom, yes.

616

00:35:37,890 --> 00:35:41,460

And here was the
door to our bedroom.

617

00:35:41,460 --> 00:35:43,710

And here the door
to the kitchen.

618

00:35:43,710 --> 00:35:48,450

And over this door
of our bedroom,

619

00:35:48,450 --> 00:35:50,910

there was a glass window.

620

00:35:50,910 --> 00:35:52,960

So Edek climbed on the door.

621

00:35:52,960 --> 00:35:55,470

And he was looking through
the glass door who is there.

622

00:35:55,470 --> 00:35:58,710

And afterwards, we were
making different remarks

623

00:35:58,710 --> 00:36:01,080

about that and that.

624

00:36:01,080 --> 00:36:06,100

So, somehow nobody knew
that they are here.

625

00:36:06,100 --> 00:36:08,850

Nobody suspected if.

626

00:36:08,850 --> 00:36:10,350

This is when you
were having Germans

627

00:36:10,350 --> 00:36:11,350

to your home for dinner?

628

00:36:11,350 --> 00:36:11,850

Yes.

629

00:36:11,850 --> 00:36:12,960

And he was watching them.

630

00:36:12,960 --> 00:36:14,430

Yes, he was watching them.

631

00:36:14,430 --> 00:36:21,060

And so afterwards we were
making remarks about them.

632

00:36:21,060 --> 00:36:26,460

And once it a funny
thing happened.

633

00:36:26,460 --> 00:36:30,330

As I told you, they were
moving freely around the house.

634

00:36:30,330 --> 00:36:32,340

And my friend came to visit me.

635

00:36:32,340 --> 00:36:34,290

She was already married.

636

00:36:34,290 --> 00:36:39,520

And she-- somehow she
came into the kitchen.

637

00:36:39,520 --> 00:36:42,210

Usually, it is--
here, in America,

638

00:36:42,210 --> 00:36:45,090

kitchen is the room where
guests even come to the kitchen.

639

00:36:45,090 --> 00:36:47,110

And over there in
Europe, kitchen

640
00:36:47,110 --> 00:36:51,300
was the room where the
maid was, occupied by maid,

641
00:36:51,300 --> 00:36:54,000
and mother when she was cooking.

642
00:36:54,000 --> 00:36:56,520
But Irene, she went
into the kitchen.

643
00:36:56,520 --> 00:37:01,650
And then she came and
said, who is that girl

644
00:37:01,650 --> 00:37:03,960
sweeping the floor
in your kitchen?

645
00:37:03,960 --> 00:37:05,370
And I was so shocked.

646
00:37:05,370 --> 00:37:09,180
I never told her
that we keep them.

647
00:37:09,180 --> 00:37:12,540
I said, oh, it's
Kristen's friend.

648
00:37:12,540 --> 00:37:14,250
Kristin was seven years old.

649
00:37:14,250 --> 00:37:20,430
How could be Edek Scheffler's
wife be a friend of Kristen's?

650
00:37:20,430 --> 00:37:23,160
Somehow she understood
maybe something.

651

00:37:23,160 --> 00:37:27,580
And she never-- she did
not require an explanation.

652
00:37:27,580 --> 00:37:33,300
It was the only time that they
were notice by a stranger.

653
00:37:33,300 --> 00:37:36,690
And the other time I
was a little scared--

654
00:37:36,690 --> 00:37:39,720
yes, I was scared,
quite scared, when

655
00:37:39,720 --> 00:37:41,700
there was a knock at
the door, and I opened,

656
00:37:41,700 --> 00:37:44,370
there were two German soldiers.

657
00:37:44,370 --> 00:37:49,140
And I thought this is it.

658
00:37:49,140 --> 00:37:51,780
But they asked
somebody's address.

659
00:37:51,780 --> 00:37:53,220
Because we were living--

660
00:37:53,220 --> 00:37:58,500
our house was the last house
before the German part.

661
00:37:58,500 --> 00:38:00,930
They had their part
of the town there.

662
00:38:00,930 --> 00:38:04,650
So, this was their

last house where

663

00:38:04,650 --> 00:38:06,833

ordinary people were living.

664

00:38:06,833 --> 00:38:07,750

So, they were looking.

665

00:38:07,750 --> 00:38:12,660

So we directed them

to the other building.

666

00:38:12,660 --> 00:38:18,540

But otherwise, everything

went smooth, smooth, smooth,

667

00:38:18,540 --> 00:38:20,970

until we left.

668

00:38:20,970 --> 00:38:26,130

And a couple of days after we

left, the Soviet army came in.

669

00:38:26,130 --> 00:38:27,330

So they were free.

670

00:38:27,330 --> 00:38:33,870

671

00:38:33,870 --> 00:38:38,460

Describe for me when they

actually left and why.

672

00:38:38,460 --> 00:38:39,270

When?

673

00:38:39,270 --> 00:38:42,660

When the Scheffler

and his wife left.

674

00:38:42,660 --> 00:38:46,050

I cannot describe it because

we left before they left.

675
00:38:46,050 --> 00:38:47,130
Yes.

676
00:38:47,130 --> 00:38:51,780
There was-- that Soviet
army was approaching,

677
00:38:51,780 --> 00:38:56,310
was already approaching,
coming closer to our town.

678
00:38:56,310 --> 00:38:59,325
And everybody who was--

679
00:38:59,325 --> 00:39:02,530

680
00:39:02,530 --> 00:39:04,360
many Ukrainians,
they had to leave.

681
00:39:04,360 --> 00:39:10,180
My brother, my older brother,
was arrested by the Soviets

682
00:39:10,180 --> 00:39:11,345
when they were in--

683
00:39:11,345 --> 00:39:14,440

684
00:39:14,440 --> 00:39:17,110
our part of the town--
there is another story.

685
00:39:17,110 --> 00:39:22,570
Our town was
divided in two parts

686
00:39:22,570 --> 00:39:25,450

because there was a river
coming through the town.

687
00:39:25,450 --> 00:39:28,630

And one part--
this river was a--

688
00:39:28,630 --> 00:39:33,040
division was between Germany--

689
00:39:33,040 --> 00:39:35,260
or part of Poland--

690
00:39:35,260 --> 00:39:36,580
it was Poland at that time--

691
00:39:36,580 --> 00:39:39,940

692
00:39:39,940 --> 00:39:45,580
Poland occupied by German
and by Soviet Union.

693
00:39:45,580 --> 00:39:48,580
So part of our town
belonged to Soviet Union.

694
00:39:48,580 --> 00:39:52,240
And the other part, over
the river, after the bridge,

695
00:39:52,240 --> 00:39:53,410
belonged to--

696
00:39:53,410 --> 00:39:56,870
was under German occupation.

697
00:39:56,870 --> 00:40:01,910
So we were living for two
years under Soviet occupation.

698
00:40:01,910 --> 00:40:10,810

And when they left in '41,
oh, this is another story,

699
00:40:10,810 --> 00:40:12,250
doesn't belong to that.

700
00:40:12,250 --> 00:40:19,690
But you can find it in the
history book or wherever,

701
00:40:19,690 --> 00:40:23,000
how they were--

702
00:40:23,000 --> 00:40:24,640
what they were doing there.

703
00:40:24,640 --> 00:40:27,970
And coming there, the
secret police, how they

704
00:40:27,970 --> 00:40:29,990
were killing people, and so on.

705
00:40:29,990 --> 00:40:34,360
And we were on the list to be--

706
00:40:34,360 --> 00:40:37,450
not to be killed, but to
be transported to Siberia.

707
00:40:37,450 --> 00:40:44,500
Many of Ukrainian intelligentsia
they transported to--

708
00:40:44,500 --> 00:40:49,930
they took to the concentration
camps in Siberia.

709
00:40:49,930 --> 00:40:51,040
And they arrested.

710
00:40:51,040 --> 00:40:51,880

My brother.

711
00:40:51,880 --> 00:40:57,670
My brother, older brother,
[? Volodymyr, ?] he was--

712
00:40:57,670 --> 00:41:02,500
he and couple, three of his
friends, they wanted to--

713
00:41:02,500 --> 00:41:09,760
they heard something that
there's Ukrainian army forming

714
00:41:09,760 --> 00:41:13,111
on the other side of--

715
00:41:13,111 --> 00:41:15,800
in the other side
of [PLACE NAME]..

716
00:41:15,800 --> 00:41:19,840
And so, they wanted to join
the Ukrainian army to fight

717
00:41:19,840 --> 00:41:25,300
the Russians, the Bolsheviks.

718
00:41:25,300 --> 00:41:28,660
And they were trying to escape.

719
00:41:28,660 --> 00:41:29,560
They were arrested.

720
00:41:29,560 --> 00:41:32,680
Were caught, arrested, and
they were sent to Siberia.

721
00:41:32,680 --> 00:41:35,560
And he was in
concentration camp,

722

00:41:35,560 --> 00:41:38,920
[? Volodymyr, ?] [INAUDIBLE].

723
00:41:38,920 --> 00:41:45,130
And so, there was no chance
for us to stay in Przemyśl.

724
00:41:45,130 --> 00:41:47,190
We would be arrested
immediately.

725
00:41:47,190 --> 00:41:52,300
And so we, like many
of our other families,

726
00:41:52,300 --> 00:41:54,940
we just decided to emigrate.

727
00:41:54,940 --> 00:41:58,240
So we moved-- my
father's brother was

728
00:41:58,240 --> 00:42:00,850
living at that time in Krakow.

729
00:42:00,850 --> 00:42:06,590
And my friend was
living in Prague.

730
00:42:06,590 --> 00:42:09,190
And he said maybe we
would move to Prague.

731
00:42:09,190 --> 00:42:12,520
There were many-- there
was quite an immigration,

732
00:42:12,520 --> 00:42:14,020
Ukraine immigration in Prague.

733
00:42:14,020 --> 00:42:17,290
There was a free Ukrainian
university in Prague.

734
00:42:17,290 --> 00:42:20,050
So maybe my father
could get a job.

735
00:42:20,050 --> 00:42:22,750
And so nobody
imagined that the war

736
00:42:22,750 --> 00:42:28,330
would go so fast that Prague
pretty soon would be occupied.

737
00:42:28,330 --> 00:42:40,150
Anyway, we just left everything
behind, took couple of things

738
00:42:40,150 --> 00:42:42,610
with us, and left Przemysl.

739
00:42:42,610 --> 00:42:46,750
Because German
army already left.

740
00:42:46,750 --> 00:42:51,130
And the Bolsheviks
were approaching.

741
00:42:51,130 --> 00:42:54,220
So we said goodbye
to Schefflers.

742
00:42:54,220 --> 00:42:58,210
They had nothing
more to be afraid of.

743
00:42:58,210 --> 00:43:01,180
Maria was staying
as well behind.

744
00:43:01,180 --> 00:43:05,530
She was living somewhere not
very far away from Przemysl

745
00:43:05,530 --> 00:43:07,060
in some village.

746
00:43:07,060 --> 00:43:09,370
So, she had the
family over there.

747
00:43:09,370 --> 00:43:13,210
And we left.

748
00:43:13,210 --> 00:43:21,490
Boy, it was, I think it was
June, probably June '44.

749
00:43:21,490 --> 00:43:25,780
And two or three days
later, the Soviet army came.

750
00:43:25,780 --> 00:43:28,280
So, they came out and so on.

751
00:43:28,280 --> 00:43:31,030
And they managed somehow.

752
00:43:31,030 --> 00:43:36,020
I think they went first
to Hungary because they

753
00:43:36,020 --> 00:43:38,570
had some family here.

754
00:43:38,570 --> 00:43:43,130
Mrs. Scheffler's brother or some
cousins were living in Hungary.

755
00:43:43,130 --> 00:43:45,800
And then they went--
they came to Germany

756
00:43:45,800 --> 00:43:49,760
and they were as well in

displaced persons in Bavaria,

757

00:43:49,760 --> 00:43:52,250

as we were in the
displaced persons camp.

758

00:43:52,250 --> 00:43:53,530

And he found us.

759

00:43:53,530 --> 00:43:58,850

Edek, he was always trying
to keep in touch with us.

760

00:43:58,850 --> 00:44:01,520

He really felt like a--

761

00:44:01,520 --> 00:44:04,040

absolutely like a family.

762

00:44:04,040 --> 00:44:07,220

And he always, always trusted.

763

00:44:07,220 --> 00:44:12,920

And we as well,
we felt him as a--

764

00:44:12,920 --> 00:44:21,440

our feelings were as our
close family, since such--

765

00:44:21,440 --> 00:44:26,960

we are sharing together
many horrible things.

766

00:44:26,960 --> 00:44:30,800

And then in '46 they
arrived, I think.

767

00:44:30,800 --> 00:44:33,710

I have a picture.

768

00:44:33,710 --> 00:44:41,240

It was-- I gave it to, I think
to, as well, over to Mrs.--

769
00:44:41,240 --> 00:44:46,230
to this-- now where
is this picture?

770
00:44:46,230 --> 00:44:51,980
Oh, this is Edek Scheffler, how
he looked, two of his pictures.

771
00:44:51,980 --> 00:44:54,630

772
00:44:54,630 --> 00:44:56,130
Where are the
Schefflers living now?

773
00:44:56,130 --> 00:44:58,580
Now they are living
in Giv'atayim--

774
00:44:58,580 --> 00:45:02,030
Giv'atayim in Israel.

775
00:45:02,030 --> 00:45:05,570
And I hope I have their--

776
00:45:05,570 --> 00:45:08,170
no, I don't have their address.

777
00:45:08,170 --> 00:45:09,670
But you still keep
in close contact?

778
00:45:09,670 --> 00:45:13,940
Yes, I will write to
him after all of this--

779
00:45:13,940 --> 00:45:14,670
all this story.

780

00:45:14,670 --> 00:45:16,350
I will tell him about that.

781
00:45:16,350 --> 00:45:18,440
What happened to your
brother who went to Siberia?

782
00:45:18,440 --> 00:45:21,260
Well, it was as well a miracle.

783
00:45:21,260 --> 00:45:26,960
In 19-- I think '42, or what--?

784
00:45:26,960 --> 00:45:31,190
Yes, or, maybe
Orest will remember.

785
00:45:31,190 --> 00:45:35,270
I am already getting
senile, being 63.

786
00:45:35,270 --> 00:45:38,500
You can start being--

787
00:45:38,500 --> 00:45:41,810
I'm forgetting years and names.

788
00:45:41,810 --> 00:45:46,180
Anyway, there was amnesty.

789
00:45:46,180 --> 00:45:51,110
Stalin gave amnesty when they
formed Polish army under--

790
00:45:51,110 --> 00:45:55,100
maybe you heard
about General Anders.

791
00:45:55,100 --> 00:45:59,570
When they started-- in '41,
they started again this war

792

00:45:59,570 --> 00:46:01,970
with Germany.

793
00:46:01,970 --> 00:46:07,370
They were trying to form
a Polish division or what.

794
00:46:07,370 --> 00:46:10,970
And he was-- my
brother was released.

795
00:46:10,970 --> 00:46:17,090
Of course, this is another
story which I will not tell.

796
00:46:17,090 --> 00:46:20,660
But there are
always good people.

797
00:46:20,660 --> 00:46:23,960
The world is not
without good people.

798
00:46:23,960 --> 00:46:26,090
Good people helped
him to survive.

799
00:46:26,090 --> 00:46:32,160
Because he was sick with
typhoid fever and so on.

800
00:46:32,160 --> 00:46:33,200
He was in Israel.

801
00:46:33,200 --> 00:46:37,500
He joined the Polish
army and was in Israel.

802
00:46:37,500 --> 00:46:41,900
And then eventually he went
to England, to Scotland.

803
00:46:41,900 --> 00:46:45,050

Over there, he married
a Scottish girl.

804
00:46:45,050 --> 00:46:49,040
And now, we are living in
the same house in Grant Park.

805
00:46:49,040 --> 00:46:52,160
So everything-- it
was a happy end.

806
00:46:52,160 --> 00:46:54,280
But my poor mother, she never--

807
00:46:54,280 --> 00:46:57,950
she didn't live that
long to learn about that.

808
00:46:57,950 --> 00:47:04,640
Because we learned about that,
that he is alive and well in,

809
00:47:04,640 --> 00:47:06,680
I think, 1947.

810
00:47:06,680 --> 00:47:12,900
He found us, our address
through Red Cross and so on.

811
00:47:12,900 --> 00:47:17,690
And we made contact in 1947.

812
00:47:17,690 --> 00:47:25,070
And he was arrested
in February '40.

813
00:47:25,070 --> 00:47:30,390
Yes, '40, yes, I
think is year, 1940.

814
00:47:30,390 --> 00:47:32,640
Earlier you mentioned
that when you were

815
00:47:32,640 --> 00:47:34,090
housing a great many people--

816
00:47:34,090 --> 00:47:34,590
Yes.

817
00:47:34,590 --> 00:47:37,350
--that one of them was
your fiancee and husband.

818
00:47:37,350 --> 00:47:39,540
Now, he's my husband, yes.

819
00:47:39,540 --> 00:47:40,860
This man is Jewish?

820
00:47:40,860 --> 00:47:42,030
No.

821
00:47:42,030 --> 00:47:45,180
When we were housing--

822
00:47:45,180 --> 00:47:47,880
when we were housing--

823
00:47:47,880 --> 00:47:50,370
on [? Tarnowski ?]
Street, I said--

824
00:47:50,370 --> 00:47:55,410
I told you that not only us
were living in this apartment,

825
00:47:55,410 --> 00:48:00,300
except with us was living
Professor Petru, whom--

826
00:48:00,300 --> 00:48:02,130
my father was a good soul.

827

00:48:02,130 --> 00:48:04,620

And this Professor
Petru has no place.

828

00:48:04,620 --> 00:48:08,520

It was this, as well, always
housing was always a problem.

829

00:48:08,520 --> 00:48:10,390

He didn't have no place to live.

830

00:48:10,390 --> 00:48:12,570

So, he just was living with us.

831

00:48:12,570 --> 00:48:16,080

He was teaching as
well in high school.

832

00:48:16,080 --> 00:48:22,740

And then my brother's
friend and another friend,

833

00:48:22,740 --> 00:48:26,730

that's my husband now, when he--

834

00:48:26,730 --> 00:48:28,190

he had an apartment.

835

00:48:28,190 --> 00:48:30,170

But something happened
to his apartment.

836

00:48:30,170 --> 00:48:33,250

And then he didn't
have a place to live.

837

00:48:33,250 --> 00:48:34,930

So, he was living in this house.

838

00:48:34,930 --> 00:48:37,900

And he knew the
Schefflers as well.

839

00:48:37,900 --> 00:48:40,842

So your family was known
for having a lot of people

840

00:48:40,842 --> 00:48:41,550

living with them.

841

00:48:41,550 --> 00:48:41,640

Yes.

842

00:48:41,640 --> 00:48:43,265

And a lot of traffic
coming in and out.

843

00:48:43,265 --> 00:48:46,010

Yes.

844

00:48:46,010 --> 00:48:48,720

A friendly family.

845

00:48:48,720 --> 00:48:49,220

Well.

846

00:48:49,220 --> 00:48:59,420

847

00:48:59,420 --> 00:49:01,220

In what way has
your war experience

848

00:49:01,220 --> 00:49:04,040

affected your religious beliefs
and political involvement

849

00:49:04,040 --> 00:49:06,550

today?

850

00:49:06,550 --> 00:49:07,150

Pardon me?

851

00:49:07,150 --> 00:49:08,440

In what way?

852

00:49:08,440 --> 00:49:13,830

Has the war experience affected
your religious beliefs?

853

00:49:13,830 --> 00:49:15,890

I don't know if it's effected.

854

00:49:15,890 --> 00:49:17,930

I'm quite a religious person.

855

00:49:17,930 --> 00:49:23,170

Sometimes my husband is laughing
that I am too religious.

856

00:49:23,170 --> 00:49:24,550

I'm going every day to church.

857

00:49:24,550 --> 00:49:26,560

I was in church already today.

858

00:49:26,560 --> 00:49:32,060

But I am not religious--

859

00:49:32,060 --> 00:49:39,270

for example, there is,
among us Ukrainians,

860

00:49:39,270 --> 00:49:42,600

we are talking about a
recent pope who is Polish

861

00:49:42,600 --> 00:49:45,870

and who always stressing
Polish affairs and so on.

862

00:49:45,870 --> 00:49:48,120

And he-- he's not--

863

00:49:48,120 --> 00:49:51,330

for us Ukrainians,

he's not that good.

864

00:49:51,330 --> 00:49:53,910

This is our story,
Ukrainians' story.

865

00:49:53,910 --> 00:50:00,450

I'm trying to-- we have faults.

866

00:50:00,450 --> 00:50:03,060

We are human and
we all have faults.

867

00:50:03,060 --> 00:50:08,110

When somebody criticizes
somebody too much,

868

00:50:08,110 --> 00:50:09,990

then I'm trying to--

869

00:50:09,990 --> 00:50:14,990

I think that's my
religious belief, is--

870

00:50:14,990 --> 00:50:22,000