

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,220

2
00:00:03,220 --> 00:00:05,310
OK, we're speaking
with Mrs. Elizabeth

3
00:00:05,310 --> 00:00:08,140
Lubell of Peekskill, New York.

4
00:00:08,140 --> 00:00:10,420
Mrs. Lubell, would you
like to start by telling us

5
00:00:10,420 --> 00:00:12,820
a little bit about your
childhood, and where were you

6
00:00:12,820 --> 00:00:15,280
born, the date of birth?

7
00:00:15,280 --> 00:00:17,162
What was your life like?

8
00:00:17,162 --> 00:00:20,980
I was born in 1920,
December the 9th.

9
00:00:20,980 --> 00:00:25,000
I lived in Budapest
with my parents.

10
00:00:25,000 --> 00:00:29,880
We had, I would
say, middle class.

11
00:00:29,880 --> 00:00:32,490
I would say my father
was a hard-working man.

12
00:00:32,490 --> 00:00:34,170

He was a traveling salesman.

13
00:00:34,170 --> 00:00:38,820
He went with a
bicycle from store

14
00:00:38,820 --> 00:00:40,830
to store, from town to town.

15
00:00:40,830 --> 00:00:43,980
Sometimes he took me with us.

16
00:00:43,980 --> 00:00:47,220
I would say I had
a happy childhood.

17
00:00:47,220 --> 00:00:52,240
And careless, happy life.

18
00:00:52,240 --> 00:00:55,780
Schools were very good.

19
00:00:55,780 --> 00:01:00,130
I went to elementary school and
then went to regular Gymnasium.

20
00:01:00,130 --> 00:01:03,370
And then I went to a
[GERMAN],, how do you say it?

21
00:01:03,370 --> 00:01:05,319
Commerce school.

22
00:01:05,319 --> 00:01:10,870
And everything went well
until Hitler came to power.

23
00:01:10,870 --> 00:01:12,340
Could be jump back a little?

24
00:01:12,340 --> 00:01:12,840
OK.

25
00:01:12,840 --> 00:01:13,590
Is that all right?

26
00:01:13,590 --> 00:01:14,190
Jump back.

27
00:01:14,190 --> 00:01:15,110
Jump back any time.

28
00:01:15,110 --> 00:01:16,360
What were you like as a child?

29
00:01:16,360 --> 00:01:18,610
And did you have some interests?

30
00:01:18,610 --> 00:01:19,820
As a child?

31
00:01:19,820 --> 00:01:21,070
Yes.

32
00:01:21,070 --> 00:01:23,470
Movie stars.

33
00:01:23,470 --> 00:01:26,660
I had interest--
as a little child,

34
00:01:26,660 --> 00:01:30,490
I was always
theatrically interested.

35
00:01:30,490 --> 00:01:34,810
All the school plays in
school, I was always present.

36
00:01:34,810 --> 00:01:38,830
And my parents were proudly
sitting there listening to me.

37

00:01:38,830 --> 00:01:44,020
And as I grew bigger and
more serious on that line,

38
00:01:44,020 --> 00:01:49,630
I went more into the theatrical
aspect of school plays

39
00:01:49,630 --> 00:01:52,730
and stuff like that.

40
00:01:52,730 --> 00:02:02,410
And it was very uneventful,
but it abruptly changed.

41
00:02:02,410 --> 00:02:07,150
So abruptly that I had a
diary, for instance, which

42
00:02:07,150 --> 00:02:09,509
I by coincidence found it.

43
00:02:09,509 --> 00:02:12,880
Because not so many documents
I found from my life.

44
00:02:12,880 --> 00:02:18,730
And as I was reading
the diary, today I

45
00:02:18,730 --> 00:02:21,230
was in love with this boy,
tomorrow I'm with that boy.

46
00:02:21,230 --> 00:02:26,050
So I lived, really,
like any teenagers.

47
00:02:26,050 --> 00:02:29,050
And all suddenly, when
Hitler came to power,

48
00:02:29,050 --> 00:02:32,620

and it started to come
the news, I personally

49
00:02:32,620 --> 00:02:37,930
immediately took it to my head.

50
00:02:37,930 --> 00:02:40,530
And it always went--

51
00:02:40,530 --> 00:02:42,550
the thought always
was in my head

52
00:02:42,550 --> 00:02:47,480
what will be if something
happens to my parents?

53
00:02:47,480 --> 00:02:49,810
I was very much
attached to them.

54
00:02:49,810 --> 00:02:54,673
And I was very much Papa's
girl, Papa's little girl.

55
00:02:54,673 --> 00:02:56,090
Did you have
brothers and sisters?

56
00:02:56,090 --> 00:03:00,640
I had my brother, who
lives in America right now.

57
00:03:00,640 --> 00:03:02,380
Almost met.

58
00:03:02,380 --> 00:03:06,970
And when Hitler came
to power, it abruptly

59
00:03:06,970 --> 00:03:09,160
changed my whole lifestyle.

60

00:03:09,160 --> 00:03:12,910

When I was reading in my diaries, from that little girl,

61

00:03:12,910 --> 00:03:17,140

you can see that there was no [GERMAN]..

62

00:03:17,140 --> 00:03:21,180

How do you say that it was-- it went from one year to another.

63

00:03:21,180 --> 00:03:22,030

Continuity?

64

00:03:22,030 --> 00:03:24,670

It immediately became serious.

65

00:03:24,670 --> 00:03:26,980

There, it was a childish little girl telling

66

00:03:26,980 --> 00:03:28,450

all kinds of little stories.

67

00:03:28,450 --> 00:03:31,490

And then all suddenly, I heard this one on the radio,

68

00:03:31,490 --> 00:03:34,180

I heard that one on the radio what will happen.

69

00:03:34,180 --> 00:03:38,290

Because in 1938, it started, the whole problem.

70

00:03:38,290 --> 00:03:42,910

And then of course, when my brother left for America,

71

00:03:42,910 --> 00:03:46,450

that changed a lot in
our lives and our life.

72
00:03:46,450 --> 00:03:47,365
Why did he leave?

73
00:03:47,365 --> 00:03:48,280
Did he know?

74
00:03:48,280 --> 00:03:52,660
Because in 1938, it was
the first political change

75
00:03:52,660 --> 00:03:53,980
in Austria, with Schuschnigg.

76
00:03:53,980 --> 00:03:56,800
You know, there was the--

77
00:03:56,800 --> 00:03:59,470
how did you-- what was
it Austria what happened,

78
00:03:59,470 --> 00:04:01,460
how do you call that?

79
00:04:01,460 --> 00:04:02,750
The Anschluss.

80
00:04:02,750 --> 00:04:04,780
The Anschluss, thank you.

81
00:04:04,780 --> 00:04:08,200
So with the Anschluss,
it was already

82
00:04:08,200 --> 00:04:10,150
everybody knew that
things will happen.

83
00:04:10,150 --> 00:04:14,560
And my brother had the foresight

that he asked our relatives--

84

00:04:14,560 --> 00:04:18,490
my mother had a brother
in America, in Kingston--

85

00:04:18,490 --> 00:04:20,550
and he asked for the affidavit.

86

00:04:20,550 --> 00:04:23,290
He got married in Poland.

87

00:04:23,290 --> 00:04:25,690
And they came to Hungary.

88

00:04:25,690 --> 00:04:28,600
And as a matter of fact,
I remember the last time

89

00:04:28,600 --> 00:04:33,115
when she, my sister-in-law,
called up her mother

90

00:04:33,115 --> 00:04:34,630
and said goodbye
because they are

91

00:04:34,630 --> 00:04:37,990
leaving tomorrow for America.

92

00:04:37,990 --> 00:04:39,660
In that time, we didn't--

93

00:04:39,660 --> 00:04:42,350
in 1938, you know,
it was the same story

94

00:04:42,350 --> 00:04:44,650
what was with the Germans.

95

00:04:44,650 --> 00:04:46,570
They said it can

never happen to us.

96

00:04:46,570 --> 00:04:50,210

It was something
entirely new in our life.

97

00:04:50,210 --> 00:04:52,090

Would think what would happen?

98

00:04:52,090 --> 00:04:55,210

But when that happened
in 1938, my brother left.

99

00:04:55,210 --> 00:05:01,570

And with that, it started
the decline in every way

100

00:05:01,570 --> 00:05:07,600

how we felt. And there was
always even so that we still

101

00:05:07,600 --> 00:05:08,930

had our normal life.

102

00:05:08,930 --> 00:05:12,730

But as the weeks and months
went by, more and more,

103

00:05:12,730 --> 00:05:15,010

it came the news from Germany.

104

00:05:15,010 --> 00:05:17,275

And a little bit here,
a little bit there.

105

00:05:17,275 --> 00:05:21,910

And we more and more realized
that we are looking forward

106

00:05:21,910 --> 00:05:22,960

for a sad time.

107

00:05:22,960 --> 00:05:26,140
Can we stay in the prewar
period for a minute?

108
00:05:26,140 --> 00:05:29,770
And can I ask you about your
family, the Jewish aspect

109
00:05:29,770 --> 00:05:31,570
of your family?

110
00:05:31,570 --> 00:05:33,490
Were they religious
or assimilated?

111
00:05:33,490 --> 00:05:37,300
We were conservative,
we kept every holiday.

112
00:05:37,300 --> 00:05:41,440
Every significant and
non-significant holiday.

113
00:05:41,440 --> 00:05:43,730
We did keep a kosher home.

114
00:05:43,730 --> 00:05:45,820
We were very much
Jewish-oriented.

115
00:05:45,820 --> 00:05:49,900
I had mostly, I would
say 90%, Jewish friends.

116
00:05:49,900 --> 00:05:53,500
And no Gentile boyfriend.

117
00:05:53,500 --> 00:05:58,940
And we kept the holidays,
we went to shul.

118
00:05:58,940 --> 00:06:03,070
So I would say I had my

confirmation in Budapest, which

119

00:06:03,070 --> 00:06:05,620

I had very nice memories from.

120

00:06:05,620 --> 00:06:09,220

And I would say we kept

a nice Jewish home.

121

00:06:09,220 --> 00:06:12,190

We were not Orthodox, but

we were rather conservative.

122

00:06:12,190 --> 00:06:14,800

123

00:06:14,800 --> 00:06:17,470

What else do you want

to know about that?

124

00:06:17,470 --> 00:06:18,760

That is what we care--

125

00:06:18,760 --> 00:06:19,720

I went to Hebrew--

126

00:06:19,720 --> 00:06:21,280

I mean, it's not Hebrew school.

127

00:06:21,280 --> 00:06:24,970

Because at that time in

Hungary, it was not like here.

128

00:06:24,970 --> 00:06:30,190

You have to take separate Jewish

lessons if you went to school.

129

00:06:30,190 --> 00:06:31,660

And that's what I did.

130

00:06:31,660 --> 00:06:33,580

And we had our own group.

131
00:06:33,580 --> 00:06:37,150
And we had our own
hall where we went.

132
00:06:37,150 --> 00:06:42,820
We kept, you know, socially
and in the artistic field,

133
00:06:42,820 --> 00:06:44,710
we kept up with
the Jewish place.

134
00:06:44,710 --> 00:06:50,260
And as the years went by,
1938, 1939, more and more,

135
00:06:50,260 --> 00:06:54,340
we had our own little
Zionist groups, you know.

136
00:06:54,340 --> 00:06:57,580
And talked a lot
about Palestine.

137
00:06:57,580 --> 00:06:59,320
And young people got together.

138
00:06:59,320 --> 00:07:03,800
But we didn't realize
the real tragedy

139
00:07:03,800 --> 00:07:07,750
what was facing us that time.

140
00:07:07,750 --> 00:07:13,240
So in that case, where were
you at this point, then?

141
00:07:13,240 --> 00:07:17,560
You were in business, studying
at the business school?

142

00:07:17,560 --> 00:07:20,290

Yes, after I finished
my business school,

143

00:07:20,290 --> 00:07:21,820

I got a job with a lawyer.

144

00:07:21,820 --> 00:07:24,220

And I, the whole
years, all the way

145

00:07:24,220 --> 00:07:29,680

on-- as a matter of fact, all
the way until the Germans came

146

00:07:29,680 --> 00:07:36,296

to Budapest, I was a
secretary with a lawyer.

147

00:07:36,296 --> 00:07:38,140

A Gentile lawyer?

148

00:07:38,140 --> 00:07:39,580

All of them were all Gentiles.

149

00:07:39,580 --> 00:07:41,440

But the interesting
part of it was

150

00:07:41,440 --> 00:07:43,900

that, toward the
end in Budapest,

151

00:07:43,900 --> 00:07:45,700

we had-- before they
made the ghetto,

152

00:07:45,700 --> 00:07:47,860

we had to wear the Jewish star.

153

00:07:47,860 --> 00:07:53,710

And the lawyer where I worked

was not in the Jewish section.

154
00:07:53,710 --> 00:07:56,290
And when I went there,
I took my star off

155
00:07:56,290 --> 00:07:59,440
so I could cross that
part to go to work.

156
00:07:59,440 --> 00:08:05,260
And that lawyer where I heard
was a very, very well-known

157
00:08:05,260 --> 00:08:05,890
lawyer.

158
00:08:05,890 --> 00:08:10,600
Not only because he had
higher connections, but also

159
00:08:10,600 --> 00:08:14,590
he was in the religious
field with nuns and priests.

160
00:08:14,590 --> 00:08:17,410
He was a very religious man.

161
00:08:17,410 --> 00:08:20,470
And one day, as I
was working there,

162
00:08:20,470 --> 00:08:23,350
and somebody rang the bell,
and I opened the bell,

163
00:08:23,350 --> 00:08:27,370
and I saw two of these so-called
Hungarian Nazis, who were worse

164
00:08:27,370 --> 00:08:29,470
sometimes than the Germans one.

165

00:08:29,470 --> 00:08:31,190

And I thought, well, that's it.

166

00:08:31,190 --> 00:08:32,020

They will take me.

167

00:08:32,020 --> 00:08:34,900

But they came and
they took my boss.

168

00:08:34,900 --> 00:08:37,299

Because he was in the religious.

169

00:08:37,299 --> 00:08:40,030

You know, they didn't like
very religious people, either.

170

00:08:40,030 --> 00:08:42,950

And they took him to
a concentration camp.

171

00:08:42,950 --> 00:08:46,150

And I, as a secretary, Jewish
secretary whom they didn't know

172

00:08:46,150 --> 00:08:47,080

stayed there.

173

00:08:47,080 --> 00:08:52,930

So that was a rather almost
humorous aspect of that case.

174

00:08:52,930 --> 00:08:56,920

So I stayed there for a
couple of months without him.

175

00:08:56,920 --> 00:09:01,000

And then things got
to be very dangerous.

176

00:09:01,000 --> 00:09:05,080

Then I knew the safe

number of that lawyer.

177

00:09:05,080 --> 00:09:10,840

That was right before
things got very serious.

178

00:09:10,840 --> 00:09:14,530

Then I opened up the
safe and took out

179

00:09:14,530 --> 00:09:19,330

his lawyer's daughter's papers,
knowing if I have to run away,

180

00:09:19,330 --> 00:09:22,100

I will run away
with these papers.

181

00:09:22,100 --> 00:09:23,390

Which I did.

182

00:09:23,390 --> 00:09:27,370

Which I used, but that
happened later on.

183

00:09:27,370 --> 00:09:28,750

Do you want to tell me how?

184

00:09:28,750 --> 00:09:34,270

Well, first of all, I have
to tell you that we were--

185

00:09:34,270 --> 00:09:37,570

my father and mother
was Polish origin.

186

00:09:37,570 --> 00:09:43,240

And in 1941, when the Germans
were not occupying Hungary yet,

187

00:09:43,240 --> 00:09:44,450

they came out--

188

00:09:44,450 --> 00:09:47,650

they gave the order
to the Hungarians

189

00:09:47,650 --> 00:09:52,780

to deport all the
non-Hungarian citizens.

190

00:09:52,780 --> 00:09:55,810

And my father, in
spite of that, that he

191

00:09:55,810 --> 00:09:58,960

was as a Hungarian officer
in the Hungarian Army,

192

00:09:58,960 --> 00:10:04,420

and he had the Iron Cross,
and all that things,

193

00:10:04,420 --> 00:10:06,880

when the order came
out to deport--

194

00:10:06,880 --> 00:10:09,140

you know, there
was a time in 1941

195

00:10:09,140 --> 00:10:12,310

when all the non-Hungarian
citizens were deported

196

00:10:12,310 --> 00:10:15,126

from Hungary and from Budapest.

197

00:10:15,126 --> 00:10:17,770

And unfortunately,
we were among them.

198

00:10:17,770 --> 00:10:20,260

And unfortunately, we
were among them the

199

00:10:20,260 --> 00:10:22,540

very first day when
the deportations

200

00:10:22,540 --> 00:10:25,990

started, when we didn't
know yet what's going on.

201

00:10:25,990 --> 00:10:31,030

Then they came to our house
and they said, pack your bag,

202

00:10:31,030 --> 00:10:34,120

we will take you to
your own country.

203

00:10:34,120 --> 00:10:35,290

And you will work there.

204

00:10:35,290 --> 00:10:37,840

And you will survive
after the war.

205

00:10:37,840 --> 00:10:41,890

And that was in June, 1941.

206

00:10:41,890 --> 00:10:45,640

And they came to our house, and
they said, well, pack your bag

207

00:10:45,640 --> 00:10:46,180

and go.

208

00:10:46,180 --> 00:10:48,490

And how do you
pack your bag when

209

00:10:48,490 --> 00:10:50,690

you lived there a lifetime?

210

00:10:50,690 --> 00:10:53,680

So we cried, and my

mother cried, and I cried,

211
00:10:53,680 --> 00:10:55,120
and my fiance was there.

212
00:10:55,120 --> 00:10:58,510
So the guy who-- he
was new on the job.

213
00:10:58,510 --> 00:11:04,040
And he had a certain human
caring and sympathy to us.

214
00:11:04,040 --> 00:11:07,180
So he said, you know what,
I will take your father.

215
00:11:07,180 --> 00:11:09,100
So I'm sure you stay
here, and you'll

216
00:11:09,100 --> 00:11:11,920
have one day to pack your
bag and do whatever you want.

217
00:11:11,920 --> 00:11:13,510
And that's what he did.

218
00:11:13,510 --> 00:11:18,730
And in that one day, I had
a choice, and some people,

219
00:11:18,730 --> 00:11:22,780
some relatives told me,
well, you are young,

220
00:11:22,780 --> 00:11:25,930
go and hide before
they take you.

221
00:11:25,930 --> 00:11:28,420
But my father wrote a
letter that the family

222
00:11:28,420 --> 00:11:30,050
have to stay together.

223
00:11:30,050 --> 00:11:31,180
And please come.

224
00:11:31,180 --> 00:11:34,210
And whatever will be, we
will survive it together.

225
00:11:34,210 --> 00:11:38,620
So we packed our bag
and we went outside.

226
00:11:38,620 --> 00:11:42,190
We lived in a
house, four floors.

227
00:11:42,190 --> 00:11:46,150
And all the tenants were looking
and saying goodbye to us.

228
00:11:46,150 --> 00:11:48,250
Some of them cheering,
some of them jeering.

229
00:11:48,250 --> 00:11:51,310

230
00:11:51,310 --> 00:11:55,180
And that's how we were
deported to Poland that time.

231
00:11:55,180 --> 00:11:59,650
I say deported to Poland, which
is, again, it's easy to say.

232
00:11:59,650 --> 00:12:01,840
But how we were,
and what happened,

233

00:12:01,840 --> 00:12:04,420
and how we went there,
and how we walked,

234
00:12:04,420 --> 00:12:07,300
or whatever happened
in between, a lot

235
00:12:07,300 --> 00:12:12,810
of Hungarian so-called
Polish Hungarian origin

236
00:12:12,810 --> 00:12:14,910
got killed in
Kamieniec Podolski.

237
00:12:14,910 --> 00:12:16,980
That was a famous
town where they-- you

238
00:12:16,980 --> 00:12:19,020
heard about Kamieniec Podolski.

239
00:12:19,020 --> 00:12:22,110
So most of them who got
killed there, 40,000, they

240
00:12:22,110 --> 00:12:23,490
were all Hungarian origins.

241
00:12:23,490 --> 00:12:26,470

242
00:12:26,470 --> 00:12:29,440
But knowing my
parents knew Polish,

243
00:12:29,440 --> 00:12:32,590
they also hired a private buggy.

244
00:12:32,590 --> 00:12:35,770
And we had relatives in Kolomea.

245

00:12:35,770 --> 00:12:39,280

And we stayed-- we hid
back from the transport.

246

00:12:39,280 --> 00:12:41,290

Because we knew that
the transport is

247

00:12:41,290 --> 00:12:43,210

going to Kamieniec Podolski.

248

00:12:43,210 --> 00:12:45,050

And a lot of other
people escaped, too,

249

00:12:45,050 --> 00:12:48,800

but we went with that
buggy to Kolomea.

250

00:12:48,800 --> 00:12:51,440

And that's where we stayed.

251

00:12:51,440 --> 00:12:55,280

In Kolomea, that was that
time yet more or less normal

252

00:12:55,280 --> 00:12:59,750

life because the ghetto
was not instated.

253

00:12:59,750 --> 00:13:01,760

But of course,
after a year being

254

00:13:01,760 --> 00:13:04,520

in the ghetto and
losing people--

255

00:13:04,520 --> 00:13:06,900

it was over 20,000
people in Kolomea--

256

00:13:06,900 --> 00:13:09,950
and by the time I
escaped with a smuggler,

257
00:13:09,950 --> 00:13:13,340
there was only a
couple of hundred left.

258
00:13:13,340 --> 00:13:17,150
So that's when it was that I
said goodbye to my parents.

259
00:13:17,150 --> 00:13:19,900
And of course, I
never saw them again.

260
00:13:19,900 --> 00:13:23,020
And I started on
the road going back

261
00:13:23,020 --> 00:13:30,833
to Hungary, which was a
road to talk about a lot.

262
00:13:30,833 --> 00:13:32,750
Do you want to talk any
more about the ghetto,

263
00:13:32,750 --> 00:13:33,610
though, before?

264
00:13:33,610 --> 00:13:34,790
The ghetto we lived.

265
00:13:34,790 --> 00:13:36,550
And it was a whole year.

266
00:13:36,550 --> 00:13:39,070
Before the ghetto, we
lived in Kolomea yet.

267
00:13:39,070 --> 00:13:41,710
And when the ghetto came, of

course, like everybody else,

268

00:13:41,710 --> 00:13:43,220
we had to move in the ghetto.

269

00:13:43,220 --> 00:13:45,880
And we also had--
they said on the tape

270

00:13:45,880 --> 00:13:48,140
that three, four families
lived in the ghetto.

271

00:13:48,140 --> 00:13:50,450
Well, where we
went, it was rather

272

00:13:50,450 --> 00:13:52,570
five, six families
living in the ghetto.

273

00:13:52,570 --> 00:13:54,070
In a one-room place?

274

00:13:54,070 --> 00:13:55,960
In a one-room place, right.

275

00:13:55,960 --> 00:13:59,380
And then of course, some of
them got killed during the time.

276

00:13:59,380 --> 00:14:02,020
So it got less and less.

277

00:14:02,020 --> 00:14:06,590
And that's when I decided,
after a year being

278

00:14:06,590 --> 00:14:09,470
in Kolomea and about
half a year in the ghetto

279

00:14:09,470 --> 00:14:11,775
that it's time to go.

280
00:14:11,775 --> 00:14:13,400
Was there anything
while you were there

281
00:14:13,400 --> 00:14:16,752
that struck you and made--

282
00:14:16,752 --> 00:14:17,960
that stands out in your mind?

283
00:14:17,960 --> 00:14:19,790
Well, that was day
was what struck me

284
00:14:19,790 --> 00:14:23,750
because I was a young person
with a rather careless,

285
00:14:23,750 --> 00:14:25,490
a careful living.

286
00:14:25,490 --> 00:14:28,170
And all suddenly, you were
thrust into a situation.

287
00:14:28,170 --> 00:14:31,460
We went to work in the
morning because my father,

288
00:14:31,460 --> 00:14:35,210
being a military person,
and the Germans also

289
00:14:35,210 --> 00:14:37,280
gave him a job as a supervisor.

290
00:14:37,280 --> 00:14:39,650
And the other Jews
didn't like him

291

00:14:39,650 --> 00:14:40,985
because he was a supervisor.

292

00:14:40,985 --> 00:14:45,260
And they didn't like nobody
who supervised over other Jews.

293

00:14:45,260 --> 00:14:48,480
And so we worked
there for a time.

294

00:14:48,480 --> 00:14:51,920
As a matter of fact, I
worked in a kitchen preparing

295

00:14:51,920 --> 00:14:54,350
dinner for German officers.

296

00:14:54,350 --> 00:15:00,500
And my job was with three
other girls peeling potatoes.

297

00:15:00,500 --> 00:15:05,360
And in that time, hunger was
already a big, big aspect

298

00:15:05,360 --> 00:15:06,260
of ghetto life.

299

00:15:06,260 --> 00:15:09,750
Because you know that
people just died of hunger.

300

00:15:09,750 --> 00:15:15,680
So what we did, we got
permission for the peels

301

00:15:15,680 --> 00:15:17,300
to take home.

302

00:15:17,300 --> 00:15:21,227
And we had the peels for

whatever meal they made.

303

00:15:21,227 --> 00:15:22,310

You cooked them, I assume?

304

00:15:22,310 --> 00:15:24,110

We cooked the peels, right.

305

00:15:24,110 --> 00:15:28,466

But in order to have
something on the peels,

306

00:15:28,466 --> 00:15:32,530

we peeled the potatoes
in the kitchen take.

307

00:15:32,530 --> 00:15:37,160

And then we went home
and we peeled the peels.

308

00:15:37,160 --> 00:15:39,500

We made it so that
the peels were take.

309

00:15:39,500 --> 00:15:41,660

But then the Germans
came to eat and they

310

00:15:41,660 --> 00:15:46,170

said whoever will peel like that
take will have a punishment.

311

00:15:46,170 --> 00:15:47,760

So we couldn't do that.

312

00:15:47,760 --> 00:15:50,630

So from then on, we
had to eat the peels

313

00:15:50,630 --> 00:15:52,920

and not peel the peels.

314

00:15:52,920 --> 00:15:58,810

The other one what I
remember from the ghetto

315

00:15:58,810 --> 00:16:04,520

when we went out to
work and through work,

316

00:16:04,520 --> 00:16:06,240

we got to know
some other workers.

317

00:16:06,240 --> 00:16:10,280

Because this was German families
who moved into Jewish houses.

318

00:16:10,280 --> 00:16:13,070

And they renovated
it, redecorated it.

319

00:16:13,070 --> 00:16:16,190

And we worked on it to keep
it clean until their wife

320

00:16:16,190 --> 00:16:17,180

and children came.

321

00:16:17,180 --> 00:16:23,180

And we saw the mementos of a
life, you know, Jewish life.

322

00:16:23,180 --> 00:16:28,250

Sometimes we came into a house
where we saw the pots and pans

323

00:16:28,250 --> 00:16:30,230

yet as they carried them out.

324

00:16:30,230 --> 00:16:32,000

And we just had
to close our eyes

325

00:16:32,000 --> 00:16:34,050

and see what happened there.

326

00:16:34,050 --> 00:16:35,930

And we had to clean
up and make it

327

00:16:35,930 --> 00:16:38,330

ready for the German officers.

328

00:16:38,330 --> 00:16:45,140

And I was working there once
washing the floors with a pail,

329

00:16:45,140 --> 00:16:47,367

you know, a big pail of water.

330

00:16:47,367 --> 00:16:48,950

Because you were
asking me to tell you

331

00:16:48,950 --> 00:16:53,030

some mementos from the ghetto.

332

00:16:53,030 --> 00:16:55,490

And until that time,
you know, I knew that I

333

00:16:55,490 --> 00:16:57,020

was in danger and everything.

334

00:16:57,020 --> 00:16:59,870

But I didn't had
any personal contact

335

00:16:59,870 --> 00:17:03,710

with any physical punishment.

336

00:17:03,710 --> 00:17:04,970

Excuse me.

337

00:17:04,970 --> 00:17:09,230

Cleaning the floor and

almost finished it.

338

00:17:09,230 --> 00:17:13,040

He came in and he took the
pail and he kicked the pail.

339

00:17:13,040 --> 00:17:16,760

And he said, this is not clean
enough, to clean it again.

340

00:17:16,760 --> 00:17:21,140

So that was my first encounter
with a German officer.

341

00:17:21,140 --> 00:17:25,720

And as it happened to be
the German officer's wife

342

00:17:25,720 --> 00:17:32,930

who came back, she acted rather
humanely to the Jewish girls.

343

00:17:32,930 --> 00:17:36,270

It happens to be that--

344

00:17:36,270 --> 00:17:38,990

I don't know whether I should
mention it, everything.

345

00:17:38,990 --> 00:17:43,920

But she had some tendencies
about liking girls.

346

00:17:43,920 --> 00:17:50,160

And the question was whether
to use this situation

347

00:17:50,160 --> 00:17:54,150

to your advantage or not to
use it to your advantage.

348

00:17:54,150 --> 00:17:57,890

But sometimes, you

came to a point.

349

00:17:57,890 --> 00:18:00,345

You told me an incident
before about bread.

350

00:18:00,345 --> 00:18:02,510

That sometimes you
came to a point

351

00:18:02,510 --> 00:18:04,700

when the only thing
was in your mind

352

00:18:04,700 --> 00:18:09,560

was-- you are 20 years old and
somewhere along in the sky when

353

00:18:09,560 --> 00:18:12,110

you looked up, there is
a life yet for people.

354

00:18:12,110 --> 00:18:17,300

And let's do whatever it's
possible, but let's survive.

355

00:18:17,300 --> 00:18:20,180

And it happens to be
that that woman helped me

356

00:18:20,180 --> 00:18:25,060

a lot to get easier
job, to get more food,

357

00:18:25,060 --> 00:18:27,910

until her husband
came to the picture.

358

00:18:27,910 --> 00:18:31,030

And then I lost my job.

359

00:18:31,030 --> 00:18:34,090

And then we had to go to

a factory where he worked.

360

00:18:34,090 --> 00:18:37,040

Some kind of-- if I remember correctly, I don't even know,

361

00:18:37,040 --> 00:18:39,980

I think something with an iron work or something.

362

00:18:39,980 --> 00:18:43,030

And the first day when I went there,

363

00:18:43,030 --> 00:18:45,740

we were rather abused that time there.

364

00:18:45,740 --> 00:18:50,350

And then what I decided that this is a good place maybe

365

00:18:50,350 --> 00:18:53,180

to run away or something, or make connections.

366

00:18:53,180 --> 00:18:54,970

And that's what I heard the first time,

367

00:18:54,970 --> 00:18:56,470

that there is somewhere a smuggler

368

00:18:56,470 --> 00:18:59,000

along, that it is possible.

369

00:18:59,000 --> 00:19:02,280

So I stayed in that factory and I worked there.

370

00:19:02,280 --> 00:19:04,460

We went out to get

back to the ghetto.

371

00:19:04,460 --> 00:19:07,360

And the ghetto was always
less, and less, and less.

372

00:19:07,360 --> 00:19:14,290

And my parents were always
less and less independent

373

00:19:14,290 --> 00:19:17,110

and more and more relied on me.

374

00:19:17,110 --> 00:19:22,090

So the roles reversed
between parents and children.

375

00:19:22,090 --> 00:19:25,420

And are not children
because it was only me.

376

00:19:25,420 --> 00:19:28,960

That it was me who directed
them what to do and how.

377

00:19:28,960 --> 00:19:32,470

Like for instance, when I had
to go to work with mother,

378

00:19:32,470 --> 00:19:35,920

the Germans looked up, and
mother got old very suddenly

379

00:19:35,920 --> 00:19:37,810

in the ghetto.

380

00:19:37,810 --> 00:19:41,830

And it happened, it coincided
with her menopause, too.

381

00:19:41,830 --> 00:19:44,900

So that was really a
hard thing because she

382
00:19:44,900 --> 00:19:47,110
acted sometimes very strange.

383
00:19:47,110 --> 00:19:49,420
And I was very much afraid.

384
00:19:49,420 --> 00:19:51,190
Everything fell on her.

385
00:19:51,190 --> 00:19:55,870
And she just couldn't digest
the tragedy which fell upon her.

386
00:19:55,870 --> 00:20:01,210
And I sometimes was the
one who had to lead her

387
00:20:01,210 --> 00:20:02,700
and say it will be good.

388
00:20:02,700 --> 00:20:05,000
And I remember, I pinched
her cheek sometimes

389
00:20:05,000 --> 00:20:07,960
so she would just
survive because maybe I

390
00:20:07,960 --> 00:20:11,270
made a little bit her hair so
that the Germans won't say,

391
00:20:11,270 --> 00:20:14,120
well, you are too old to work.

392
00:20:14,120 --> 00:20:16,990
So this was a couple of
memories from the ghetto.

393
00:20:16,990 --> 00:20:20,110
And then of course,

there was also memories

394

00:20:20,110 --> 00:20:26,920
that I met there a young man
who worked in a soup kitchen.

395

00:20:26,920 --> 00:20:31,630
And you know, when you are
20 years old, no matter

396

00:20:31,630 --> 00:20:33,700
what situation, you
are thrust into it,

397

00:20:33,700 --> 00:20:37,360
you always have a little
bit romantic space in you

398

00:20:37,360 --> 00:20:39,550
because that keeps you alive.

399

00:20:39,550 --> 00:20:42,160
And I met a young man
who was very kind to me.

400

00:20:42,160 --> 00:20:46,920
And he gave me always cake,
soups, and things like that.

401

00:20:46,920 --> 00:20:50,140
So I sometimes met him.

402

00:20:50,140 --> 00:20:51,550
But he had somebody else.

403

00:20:51,550 --> 00:20:53,140
I had somebody else.

404

00:20:53,140 --> 00:20:57,310
But there, it developed some
kind of rapport between us.

405

00:20:57,310 --> 00:20:59,480
And I remembered
him long after that.

406
00:20:59,480 --> 00:21:02,560
That was, of course,
my present husband.

407
00:21:02,560 --> 00:21:05,350
But I didn't know
at that time yet.

408
00:21:05,350 --> 00:21:09,070
But when it came the
time that the ghetto got

409
00:21:09,070 --> 00:21:13,220
from 20,000 to a couple of
hundred, I said, that's it.

410
00:21:13,220 --> 00:21:16,940
And I discussed it with
my mother the last day.

411
00:21:16,940 --> 00:21:22,220
And the last night,
when I knew that I'm

412
00:21:22,220 --> 00:21:31,715
leaving in the
morning, you know,

413
00:21:31,715 --> 00:21:36,230
we rather stayed away
from kissing, or touching,

414
00:21:36,230 --> 00:21:40,300
or something
because you changed.

415
00:21:40,300 --> 00:21:45,130
In order to survive,
you have to lose your--

416

00:21:45,130 --> 00:21:47,320

certain feelings
disappear from you.

417

00:21:47,320 --> 00:21:52,300

But that was the last night
and mother just touched me

418

00:21:52,300 --> 00:21:54,380

so because she had
her own thoughts.

419

00:21:54,380 --> 00:21:55,820

And I had my own thoughts.

420

00:21:55,820 --> 00:21:57,910

And the only thing
what I remember

421

00:21:57,910 --> 00:22:01,990

that I just wanted just
nobody should touch me

422

00:22:01,990 --> 00:22:05,350

and nobody should kiss
me, just to push it away

423

00:22:05,350 --> 00:22:07,580

because one more touch
and one more kiss,

424

00:22:07,580 --> 00:22:09,850

I'm not going to leave.

425

00:22:09,850 --> 00:22:12,310

And that was the reason.

426

00:22:12,310 --> 00:22:15,880

I never explained it to her,
I hope she understood it.

427

00:22:15,880 --> 00:22:22,270

Because when she wanted to touch
me, I just like pushed it away.

428
00:22:22,270 --> 00:22:26,440
And I did it in order that
I should be able to leave.

429
00:22:26,440 --> 00:22:30,070
And next before
I left, my father

430
00:22:30,070 --> 00:22:34,570
gave me that talisman,
which I carry with me.

431
00:22:34,570 --> 00:22:36,290
And I never, never leave it.

432
00:22:36,290 --> 00:22:39,010
Wherever I go, the
talisman goes with me.

433
00:22:39,010 --> 00:22:40,300
And somehow I don't--

434
00:22:40,300 --> 00:22:42,370
I'm not superstitious otherwise.

435
00:22:42,370 --> 00:22:47,440
But I truly believe that
that talisman saved me

436
00:22:47,440 --> 00:22:48,880
from a lot of situations.

437
00:22:48,880 --> 00:22:52,490
And when the time will
be that I have to go,

438
00:22:52,490 --> 00:22:58,660
then I have to decide which
of my children will have it.

439

00:22:58,660 --> 00:23:02,620

And that was the ghetto.

440

00:23:02,620 --> 00:23:03,610

And I went away.

441

00:23:03,610 --> 00:23:07,360

And I went back to Budapest,
where that time, even so

442

00:23:07,360 --> 00:23:11,510

that Hitler that was far
in advancing all over,

443

00:23:11,510 --> 00:23:15,080

but it was still not the ghetto.

444

00:23:15,080 --> 00:23:17,230

Only a couple of months later.

445

00:23:17,230 --> 00:23:19,090

Yeah, what year was this?

446

00:23:19,090 --> 00:23:23,890

I was there a whole year in
the ghetto, from 1941 to 1942.

447

00:23:23,890 --> 00:23:27,400

And I have to tell
you one incident there

448

00:23:27,400 --> 00:23:28,630

because that is an--

449

00:23:28,630 --> 00:23:32,100

I try not to go into
little details but that is.

450

00:23:32,100 --> 00:23:32,600

No, it's OK.

451

00:23:32,600 --> 00:23:33,100
It's fine.

452
00:23:33,100 --> 00:23:37,120
But this detail
was so remarkable

453
00:23:37,120 --> 00:23:40,300
that I have to mention it.

454
00:23:40,300 --> 00:23:46,540
After about 25 or 26 days,
the 20th day, they caught us.

455
00:23:46,540 --> 00:23:49,330
I think, did I mention it
or I didn't mention it?

456
00:23:49,330 --> 00:23:49,960
No.

457
00:23:49,960 --> 00:23:52,660
Or I told you that before.

458
00:23:52,660 --> 00:23:57,295
So we were walking at night
to reach Hungary from Poland

459
00:23:57,295 --> 00:23:58,000
to there.

460
00:23:58,000 --> 00:24:01,690
I mean, it was a long road, but
I cannot go into every aspect

461
00:24:01,690 --> 00:24:02,330
in it.

462
00:24:02,330 --> 00:24:04,360
But in any case, we
were walking at night

463

00:24:04,360 --> 00:24:06,760
and sleeping at day time.

464
00:24:06,760 --> 00:24:11,690
And that was just about
the last day before.

465
00:24:11,690 --> 00:24:15,020
We saw already the
Hungarian border.

466
00:24:15,020 --> 00:24:19,880
Then when somebody
probably who noticed

467
00:24:19,880 --> 00:24:23,295
us told it to the German guards,
and they came up with-- we

468
00:24:23,295 --> 00:24:27,290
were 10 of us who were
escaping from the ghetto.

469
00:24:27,290 --> 00:24:30,350
And they came up, the German
guard, and the shot everybody

470
00:24:30,350 --> 00:24:30,980
on sight.

471
00:24:30,980 --> 00:24:32,540
And I ran away that time.

472
00:24:32,540 --> 00:24:38,255
And it was laying
there a big tree,

473
00:24:38,255 --> 00:24:40,370
you know, eaten,
knocked from the moss.

474
00:24:40,370 --> 00:24:43,280
You know, hollow inside.

475
00:24:43,280 --> 00:24:48,090
That is a lot of
fate was in my life,

476
00:24:48,090 --> 00:24:51,620
but I have to strongly believe
that there must be something,

477
00:24:51,620 --> 00:24:56,290
somebody, somewhere, who
prepared that tree for me there

478
00:24:56,290 --> 00:25:01,220
where I went in that tree, in
that hollow tree was laying.

479
00:25:01,220 --> 00:25:02,210
And I was laying.

480
00:25:02,210 --> 00:25:04,640
And I was in the tree.

481
00:25:04,640 --> 00:25:08,300
And I just heard the shooting,
and crying, and saying, no, no,

482
00:25:08,300 --> 00:25:12,590
no until everything
was got quiet

483
00:25:12,590 --> 00:25:15,020
and I walked out from the tree.

484
00:25:15,020 --> 00:25:20,080
And what I saw was
only dead people.

485
00:25:20,080 --> 00:25:23,980
And I started to walk
because I think that time,

486

00:25:23,980 --> 00:25:28,030
that that's from that day
on, I was not quite right.

487
00:25:28,030 --> 00:25:30,470
And I think I was
singing or something.

488
00:25:30,470 --> 00:25:34,180
And I said, I'm going back to
mama, and how wonderful it is.

489
00:25:34,180 --> 00:25:38,140
And I stumbled by
accident over the smuggler

490
00:25:38,140 --> 00:25:40,030
who was also escaping.

491
00:25:40,030 --> 00:25:46,600
But not only that he was
getting shot, and escaping,

492
00:25:46,600 --> 00:25:49,620
and I found him, but everybody
had a little knapsack.

493
00:25:49,620 --> 00:25:52,270
You know, a little knapsack
where we had things.

494
00:25:52,270 --> 00:25:56,455
And he, in a big hurry,
instead of taking his knapsack,

495
00:25:56,455 --> 00:25:59,870
he took my knapsack, and
I am the one who survived.

496
00:25:59,870 --> 00:26:02,050
So there is little
incident what I sometimes

497

00:26:02,050 --> 00:26:05,460
wonder how that worked out.

498
00:26:05,460 --> 00:26:08,480
And so I found him,
but he was injured,

499
00:26:08,480 --> 00:26:11,390
and he said he
cannot do nothing.

500
00:26:11,390 --> 00:26:13,640
And he gave me his pocket knife.

501
00:26:13,640 --> 00:26:18,260
And in his thigh he was--
they probably was the shot.

502
00:26:18,260 --> 00:26:21,320
They shot at my back and
it went into his thigh,

503
00:26:21,320 --> 00:26:23,960
near the genital areas.

504
00:26:23,960 --> 00:26:25,580
And he gave me
that little knife,

505
00:26:25,580 --> 00:26:30,320
and he said that I have to take
that bullet out, which I did.

506
00:26:30,320 --> 00:26:32,780
And he was there for the night.

507
00:26:32,780 --> 00:26:35,120
And then he said,
write me that letter

508
00:26:35,120 --> 00:26:37,280
that you are here so
I can get my money.

509

00:26:37,280 --> 00:26:38,930

I won't get too
much, in any case.

510

00:26:38,930 --> 00:26:42,630

Because from the 10 of you,
you are the only one survived.

511

00:26:42,630 --> 00:26:46,010

So that's what the paper what
I showed you that I wrote him.

512

00:26:46,010 --> 00:26:47,730

And that was from the woods.

513

00:26:47,730 --> 00:26:51,320

This was the Hungarian
woods, in Korosmezo.

514

00:26:51,320 --> 00:26:51,840

That's how.

515

00:26:51,840 --> 00:26:52,715

Could you spell that?

516

00:26:52,715 --> 00:26:54,866

Korosmezo.

517

00:26:54,866 --> 00:26:56,630

Yeah, you can write it for me.

518

00:26:56,630 --> 00:26:58,160

Where shall-- but
how will I know?

519

00:26:58,160 --> 00:26:59,450

Here, I write down here.

520

00:26:59,450 --> 00:27:03,710

Koros-- this is a border town.

521
00:27:03,710 --> 00:27:05,690
Korosmezo.

522
00:27:05,690 --> 00:27:08,870
Ko-ros-me-zo.

523
00:27:08,870 --> 00:27:12,220
This is a border town.

524
00:27:12,220 --> 00:27:15,160
And from there, when
I am in Korosmezo,

525
00:27:15,160 --> 00:27:18,040
I am already in Hungary.

526
00:27:18,040 --> 00:27:19,780
So he said that--

527
00:27:19,780 --> 00:27:24,490
he covered me over with leaves
and he said, I don't feel good.

528
00:27:24,490 --> 00:27:26,680
So he left me with
my knapsack what

529
00:27:26,680 --> 00:27:28,060
I had a little sweater on it.

530
00:27:28,060 --> 00:27:30,190
It was cold in
the woods already.

531
00:27:30,190 --> 00:27:33,480
And he gave me an
onion, by the way.

532
00:27:33,480 --> 00:27:34,770
Which was very good.

533

00:27:34,770 --> 00:27:35,960
And he went away.

534
00:27:35,960 --> 00:27:37,610
And he said he will come for me.

535
00:27:37,610 --> 00:27:40,670
He will whistle a
certain way so I know.

536
00:27:40,670 --> 00:27:42,110
Because that was.

537
00:27:42,110 --> 00:27:45,170
So it was in the woods, but
people could still go there.

538
00:27:45,170 --> 00:27:48,135
And he said, when you
hear that whistle then

539
00:27:48,135 --> 00:27:50,230
tell that this is you.

540
00:27:50,230 --> 00:27:51,500
So and he went away.

541
00:27:51,500 --> 00:27:54,410
And he left me there 4 and 1/2--

542
00:27:54,410 --> 00:27:58,260
four days and one night, I
was in the woods by myself.

543
00:27:58,260 --> 00:28:00,920
So I was really--

544
00:28:00,920 --> 00:28:03,920
can you imagine a 20-year-old
girl in the woods, you know,

545
00:28:03,920 --> 00:28:05,720

rain or not rain on anything?

546

00:28:05,720 --> 00:28:09,620

And there was one incident
where something moved.

547

00:28:09,620 --> 00:28:11,210

I probably moved.

548

00:28:11,210 --> 00:28:17,330

And a peasant came there who was
taking lambs to eat, to graze,

549

00:28:17,330 --> 00:28:18,950

or whatever you call it.

550

00:28:18,950 --> 00:28:19,880

And he heard.

551

00:28:19,880 --> 00:28:23,090

And he come straight, he
came straight where I am.

552

00:28:23,090 --> 00:28:26,210

And I was just there
huddling there, covered

553

00:28:26,210 --> 00:28:27,470

with certain leaves there.

554

00:28:27,470 --> 00:28:29,990

And I heard the steps
closer and closer.

555

00:28:29,990 --> 00:28:32,780

And the only thing
what he did, he peed.

556

00:28:32,780 --> 00:28:34,710

And he peed on me.

557

00:28:34,710 --> 00:28:36,770

And I was just standing there.

558

00:28:36,770 --> 00:28:39,830

And well, that was
one of the incidents.

559

00:28:39,830 --> 00:28:43,950

And then people ask me, so
what did you eat for four days?

560

00:28:43,950 --> 00:28:46,940

I mean, well, you have to
eat for four days, which

561

00:28:46,940 --> 00:28:48,830

is not necessarily so.

562

00:28:48,830 --> 00:28:50,570

But I had that one onion.

563

00:28:50,570 --> 00:28:54,950

And then blueberries
grew that time.

564

00:28:54,950 --> 00:28:58,850

So when I felt safe enough in
the night, then I went around

565

00:28:58,850 --> 00:29:00,830

and I ate some blueberries.

566

00:29:00,830 --> 00:29:08,060

But the fourth night, I dreamed
about my fiance in Hungary

567

00:29:08,060 --> 00:29:08,990

at that time.

568

00:29:08,990 --> 00:29:10,955

And it was a beautiful
wedding and everything.

569

00:29:10,955 --> 00:29:15,314
And when I got up, and I was
in the situation, you know,

570
00:29:15,314 --> 00:29:20,090
in whatever I was in there, and
I looked up, I said, this is--

571
00:29:20,090 --> 00:29:21,260
I can't.

572
00:29:21,260 --> 00:29:24,860
There was a limit
what I could endure.

573
00:29:24,860 --> 00:29:27,430
And I said, well, I just
don't care anymore nothing

574
00:29:27,430 --> 00:29:29,570
when I heard the whistle.

575
00:29:29,570 --> 00:29:31,100
So little coincidences.

576
00:29:31,100 --> 00:29:31,850
And he did come.

577
00:29:31,850 --> 00:29:33,320
And I told him, where were you?

578
00:29:33,320 --> 00:29:35,090
I couldn't talk so
good to him because he

579
00:29:35,090 --> 00:29:38,300
didn't talk Hungarian, I
didn't talk so good Polish.

580
00:29:38,300 --> 00:29:41,110
But he said he was
sick, and I believe it.

581

00:29:41,110 --> 00:29:42,710

I'm not such a good surgeon.

582

00:29:42,710 --> 00:29:44,900

So he came for me the fifth day.

583

00:29:44,900 --> 00:29:47,470

584

00:29:47,470 --> 00:29:51,370

And he took me to a place where
I had to walk up on the top

585

00:29:51,370 --> 00:29:54,130

because even so
I was in Hungary,

586

00:29:54,130 --> 00:29:57,850

I think my husband explained
it, when they catch you there,

587

00:29:57,850 --> 00:30:01,250

then they immediately
send you back to Germany.

588

00:30:01,250 --> 00:30:08,870

So everybody was
afraid to hide you.

589

00:30:08,870 --> 00:30:13,520

So I was up there in
some kind of an attic,

590

00:30:13,520 --> 00:30:17,000

waiting for further instruction
to go deeper into Hungary.

591

00:30:17,000 --> 00:30:19,640

The deeper you got
into Hungary, the safer

592

00:30:19,640 --> 00:30:23,840

you were that they won't
give you over to the Germans.

593
00:30:23,840 --> 00:30:26,980
This was in 1942.

594
00:30:26,980 --> 00:30:30,730
And as I was walking
down the steps--

595
00:30:30,730 --> 00:30:32,860
because he told me
to come down, now

596
00:30:32,860 --> 00:30:35,030
is we are ready we
have a car and we

597
00:30:35,030 --> 00:30:40,370
will go to the next town,
which is Maramarossziget.

598
00:30:40,370 --> 00:30:42,770
And as I walked
down, I saw a figure

599
00:30:42,770 --> 00:30:45,830
on the bottom of the steps.

600
00:30:45,830 --> 00:30:49,130
And I didn't recognize quite.

601
00:30:49,130 --> 00:30:51,410
And people didn't recognize me.

602
00:30:51,410 --> 00:30:55,130
But when I wrote that letter,
you know, what I gave?

603
00:30:55,130 --> 00:30:59,120
My fiance, he himself came
all the way to the border town

604

00:30:59,120 --> 00:31:03,710

to bring the town, and that
was him standing downstairs.

605

00:31:03,710 --> 00:31:07,010

Well, I don't go into the
feelings and sentimental

606

00:31:07,010 --> 00:31:08,300

aspects of it.

607

00:31:08,300 --> 00:31:10,970

I'll leave that to
your imagination.

608

00:31:10,970 --> 00:31:17,110

But it was something to behold.

609

00:31:17,110 --> 00:31:19,750

And his life was, of
course, that time in danger.

610

00:31:19,750 --> 00:31:21,550

Because if they
would catch him, he

611

00:31:21,550 --> 00:31:25,080

would also be-- even so he
was a Hungarian citizen.

612

00:31:25,080 --> 00:31:29,680

But what I wanted to tell you,
what I don't want to leave out.

613

00:31:29,680 --> 00:31:33,020

As we wanted to go
to Maramarossziget.

614

00:31:33,020 --> 00:31:33,910

With that car.

615

00:31:33,910 --> 00:31:36,700

And from Maramarossziget,
you already are in Hungary,

616
00:31:36,700 --> 00:31:38,740
you can go with the
trains, cars, buses,

617
00:31:38,740 --> 00:31:39,700
whatever you want to.

618
00:31:39,700 --> 00:31:43,270
But until that time,
you were in danger.

619
00:31:43,270 --> 00:31:46,810
And there was a long row
in car before the bridge.

620
00:31:46,810 --> 00:31:52,810
When you passed the bridge, you
were already on my destination.

621
00:31:52,810 --> 00:31:55,150
There was a long line of cars.

622
00:31:55,150 --> 00:31:57,970
And on the beginning of
the car, the chauffeur

623
00:31:57,970 --> 00:32:00,940
looked out, the
one that was paid.

624
00:32:00,940 --> 00:32:03,280
And he said, we are in
trouble because they're

625
00:32:03,280 --> 00:32:06,100
checking the cars.

626
00:32:06,100 --> 00:32:08,500
And when I heard that
they're checking the cars,

627
00:32:08,500 --> 00:32:10,540
my first instinct
was to jump out.

628
00:32:10,540 --> 00:32:13,480
Because if they see me, the
way I looked, full with lice.

629
00:32:13,480 --> 00:32:15,670
I was full with
lice, by the way.

630
00:32:15,670 --> 00:32:17,350
My head was full of lice.

631
00:32:17,350 --> 00:32:20,290
I was dirty, I was
bleeding, I had wounds,

632
00:32:20,290 --> 00:32:23,260
I had all kinds of things
there from the woods.

633
00:32:23,260 --> 00:32:28,660
And if they catch him, he
would pay his life for it.

634
00:32:28,660 --> 00:32:30,520
So I wanted to jump
out from the car.

635
00:32:30,520 --> 00:32:34,850
And if that's the
way it has to be.

636
00:32:34,850 --> 00:32:36,100
And he was holding me back.

637
00:32:36,100 --> 00:32:42,160
And all suddenly, a
soldier comes to our car.

638

00:32:42,160 --> 00:32:44,170

Mind you, there was
a long line of cars

639

00:32:44,170 --> 00:32:47,530

there before us,
crossing the bridge.

640

00:32:47,530 --> 00:32:51,210

And he doesn't even
look in the back.

641

00:32:51,210 --> 00:32:54,300

And this was such a
remarkable incident

642

00:32:54,300 --> 00:32:56,140

that I will never forget it.

643

00:32:56,140 --> 00:32:57,650

And he doesn't
looks in the back.

644

00:32:57,650 --> 00:33:00,510

He just goes to the chauffeur,
and he says, you know,

645

00:33:00,510 --> 00:33:02,220

I lost my key.

646

00:33:02,220 --> 00:33:04,090

I can't even remember
what he said.

647

00:33:04,090 --> 00:33:05,862

That the license,
or my key, or if

648

00:33:05,862 --> 00:33:07,320

he said something
to the chauffeur,

649

00:33:07,320 --> 00:33:09,990
would you please
drive me to Korosmezo?

650
00:33:09,990 --> 00:33:11,620
And the chauffeur
said, of course.

651
00:33:11,620 --> 00:33:14,670
He was an officer of
the Hungarian Army.

652
00:33:14,670 --> 00:33:17,010
And the chauffeur
said, of course.

653
00:33:17,010 --> 00:33:20,400
And he came in and sat
next to the chauffeur.

654
00:33:20,400 --> 00:33:23,700
And as we walked by,
you know, the cars,

655
00:33:23,700 --> 00:33:29,010
and as we reached the
point where the guy checked

656
00:33:29,010 --> 00:33:31,260
everybody's car,
they just looked in

657
00:33:31,260 --> 00:33:33,360
and saw a Hungarian officer.

658
00:33:33,360 --> 00:33:35,010
And they just saluted.

659
00:33:35,010 --> 00:33:36,690
Then we went by.

660
00:33:36,690 --> 00:33:40,380
So to this day, to

this day, number one,

661
00:33:40,380 --> 00:33:42,270
I don't forget the incident.

662
00:33:42,270 --> 00:33:47,210
And number two, I don't
believe in supernatural.

663
00:33:47,210 --> 00:33:52,040
I cannot quite believe it, but
there is a tiny little doubt

664
00:33:52,040 --> 00:33:56,720
in me whether this was not some
kind of an angel sometimes.

665
00:33:56,720 --> 00:33:57,725
Because why would?

666
00:33:57,725 --> 00:34:00,980
I mean it is a coincidence
to be mentioned.

667
00:34:00,980 --> 00:34:02,360
Oh, yes, indeed.

668
00:34:02,360 --> 00:34:04,213
You know, you had
mentioned earlier

669
00:34:04,213 --> 00:34:05,630
when we were talking
that you were

670
00:34:05,630 --> 00:34:08,510
some type of an encounter
with Wallenberg?

671
00:34:08,510 --> 00:34:09,254
Yeah.

672

00:34:09,254 --> 00:34:11,429
Well, that came later.

673
00:34:11,429 --> 00:34:11,929
Yes.

674
00:34:11,929 --> 00:34:14,360
Because when I came--

675
00:34:14,360 --> 00:34:16,739
then I came back to Hungary.

676
00:34:16,739 --> 00:34:18,650
And in Hungary, as
I said, that time

677
00:34:18,650 --> 00:34:22,489
was from 1941, from
1942 in the ghetto.

678
00:34:22,489 --> 00:34:25,940
And that time, Germany
still didn't occupy Hungary.

679
00:34:25,940 --> 00:34:27,350
And was no ghetto yet.

680
00:34:27,350 --> 00:34:28,489
It was my aunt there.

681
00:34:28,489 --> 00:34:29,900
And she asked me what it was.

682
00:34:29,900 --> 00:34:33,170
And what she didn't believe
I ate potato peels and stuff

683
00:34:33,170 --> 00:34:34,280
like that.

684
00:34:34,280 --> 00:34:37,400
But as we closed into

the year, more and more

685
00:34:37,400 --> 00:34:40,460
Germans came to
Hungary, until finally

686
00:34:40,460 --> 00:34:43,940
on the main street of Hungary,
the Germans marched in.

687
00:34:43,940 --> 00:34:47,420
And that was the end.

688
00:34:47,420 --> 00:34:49,350
Hungary was occupied by Germany.

689
00:34:49,350 --> 00:34:51,960
And you know Horthy,
Horthy was there.

690
00:34:51,960 --> 00:34:55,100
So he went away with his white
horse and stuff like that.

691
00:34:55,100 --> 00:34:57,710
But he tried, as a matter
of fact, to save the Jews.

692
00:34:57,710 --> 00:35:03,230
But he was too weak to do
anything on that respect.

693
00:35:03,230 --> 00:35:04,700
And then the Germans came in.

694
00:35:04,700 --> 00:35:06,800
And then of course,
Germans took over

695
00:35:06,800 --> 00:35:08,510
like they took over
the other countries.

696

00:35:08,510 --> 00:35:09,785

And then it came the ghetto.

697

00:35:09,785 --> 00:35:12,370

698

00:35:12,370 --> 00:35:14,800

And knowing what the
ghetto is because I

699

00:35:14,800 --> 00:35:17,950

had a little bit of
experience before.

700

00:35:17,950 --> 00:35:23,500

So I said, I am not going
to go in the ghetto.

701

00:35:23,500 --> 00:35:25,840

And as I said, I worked
with that lawyer,

702

00:35:25,840 --> 00:35:30,400

and I had these papers from
this lawyer's daughter,

703

00:35:30,400 --> 00:35:33,220

what I stole from the safe.

704

00:35:33,220 --> 00:35:34,180

And I said, I'm not.

705

00:35:34,180 --> 00:35:36,850

And my aunt said, well,
come with us and everything.

706

00:35:36,850 --> 00:35:39,400

She said, by the way,
that time, she said, now I

707

00:35:39,400 --> 00:35:42,820

know what you told me what

went on in the ghetto.

708
00:35:42,820 --> 00:35:44,380
I can believe it now more.

709
00:35:44,380 --> 00:35:46,660
And as the year went
by, she believed me,

710
00:35:46,660 --> 00:35:48,130
unfortunately, more and more.

711
00:35:48,130 --> 00:35:53,230
She was a very lovely lady,
very nice aunt what I had.

712
00:35:53,230 --> 00:35:55,000
So they all went
to ghetto, and I

713
00:35:55,000 --> 00:35:57,170
went with the Catholic papers.

714
00:35:57,170 --> 00:35:59,560
Do you know where
the Balaton is?

715
00:35:59,560 --> 00:36:01,240
That's a lake, Balaton Lake.

716
00:36:01,240 --> 00:36:04,840
I was working with my friend,
with a Hungarian friend

717
00:36:04,840 --> 00:36:08,410
of mine, as a maid and a nurse.

718
00:36:08,410 --> 00:36:11,140
One week, I was the maid
and she was the nurse.

719
00:36:11,140 --> 00:36:14,320

And one week, I was the
nurse and she was the maid.

720
00:36:14,320 --> 00:36:18,100
And we worked there a month
with my papers what I had.

721
00:36:18,100 --> 00:36:19,330
And she had other papers.

722
00:36:19,330 --> 00:36:21,460
As Catholic, we went
to church, and I

723
00:36:21,460 --> 00:36:25,630
learned to pray, and all
stuff, and with the children.

724
00:36:25,630 --> 00:36:30,160
And one day, a policeman
comes to our house

725
00:36:30,160 --> 00:36:32,440
and checks our papers.

726
00:36:32,440 --> 00:36:35,410
And checked her paper
and checked my paper.

727
00:36:35,410 --> 00:36:37,330
And just said, OK.

728
00:36:37,330 --> 00:36:41,170
We will check it out, and we'll
come for you in the morning.

729
00:36:41,170 --> 00:36:45,100
And I knew that they
will check out my papers.

730
00:36:45,100 --> 00:36:47,320
This was an aristocrat,
what I worked.

731
00:36:47,320 --> 00:36:50,260
He had a fund, you
know, that lawyers.

732
00:36:50,260 --> 00:36:52,870
So I knew that they will
know it that this are--

733
00:36:52,870 --> 00:36:56,380
that I am not the daughter
from that aristocratic man.

734
00:36:56,380 --> 00:36:58,990
So I said to my
friend, Monica, I said,

735
00:36:58,990 --> 00:37:02,350
you know what, they will
know that we have papers,

736
00:37:02,350 --> 00:37:04,360
let's run away.

737
00:37:04,360 --> 00:37:07,030
And we went out to the
railroad in the night.

738
00:37:07,030 --> 00:37:08,800
I had four children there.

739
00:37:08,800 --> 00:37:10,550
And the parents
were somewhere else.

740
00:37:10,550 --> 00:37:11,750
So I tucked them in.

741
00:37:11,750 --> 00:37:14,170
And I hoped nothing will
happen to the children.

742

00:37:14,170 --> 00:37:16,480

And we went through the window.

743

00:37:16,480 --> 00:37:18,940

And we went to the
railroad station.

744

00:37:18,940 --> 00:37:20,680

And at the railroad
station, we met

745

00:37:20,680 --> 00:37:25,800

the same guy who came that
day for us for our papers.

746

00:37:25,800 --> 00:37:28,360

And that was the
end of our freedom.

747

00:37:28,360 --> 00:37:30,010

They caught both of us.

748

00:37:30,010 --> 00:37:32,170

And that's how we
went from camp to camp

749

00:37:32,170 --> 00:37:35,170

to camp to camp that
I was that time.

750

00:37:35,170 --> 00:37:37,360

That was in 1943.

751

00:37:37,360 --> 00:37:38,660

So two years.

752

00:37:38,660 --> 00:37:40,160

These were all
Hungarian work camps?

753

00:37:40,160 --> 00:37:42,100

These were all
Hungarian work camps.

754
00:37:42,100 --> 00:37:44,410
Only that one Organization
[? Dot, ?] which

755
00:37:44,410 --> 00:37:46,210
was near the Austrian border.

756
00:37:46,210 --> 00:37:48,110
And I ran away
from most of them,

757
00:37:48,110 --> 00:37:51,040
by the way, because I had
the experience already.

758
00:37:51,040 --> 00:37:55,850
I cannot go every aspect of camp
life, it will take too long.

759
00:37:55,850 --> 00:37:58,570
But if you want something
to know, I can tell you.

760
00:37:58,570 --> 00:38:01,723
I had many, many incidents.

761
00:38:01,723 --> 00:38:02,890
Which one or two stands out?

762
00:38:02,890 --> 00:38:04,720
The one which stays
is Wallenberg,

763
00:38:04,720 --> 00:38:08,650
the one what stands out.

764
00:38:08,650 --> 00:38:12,430
We were in-- that was, I
think it was at Sarvar.

765
00:38:12,430 --> 00:38:15,340

You see, my memory
is failing me, too.

766
00:38:15,340 --> 00:38:20,760
What Wallenberg
did, he had a truck.

767
00:38:20,760 --> 00:38:23,530
And he had a list of names.

768
00:38:23,530 --> 00:38:24,060
Right.

769
00:38:24,060 --> 00:38:27,000
And he went to these camps.

770
00:38:27,000 --> 00:38:29,310
Because from these camps,
you know, like for instance,

771
00:38:29,310 --> 00:38:32,700
in Sarvar, where we were, there
was a camp when the war was

772
00:38:32,700 --> 00:38:34,830
full written, goodbye, goodbye.

773
00:38:34,830 --> 00:38:37,920
Because from Sarvar, they went
to the German concentration

774
00:38:37,920 --> 00:38:38,590
camps.

775
00:38:38,590 --> 00:38:42,040
This was a collective camp,
where they collected people.

776
00:38:42,040 --> 00:38:43,380
When they had enough, you know.

777
00:38:43,380 --> 00:38:45,420

Because they didn't take
just from the people.

778
00:38:45,420 --> 00:38:46,470
That didn't pay.

779
00:38:46,470 --> 00:38:48,790
When they were more,
then they took them away.

780
00:38:48,790 --> 00:38:51,960
So this was a camp where
from there on, there

781
00:38:51,960 --> 00:38:53,130
was only one way.

782
00:38:53,130 --> 00:38:57,150
So Wallenberg with his truck
and his men went to these camps

783
00:38:57,150 --> 00:38:58,650
with a list.

784
00:38:58,650 --> 00:39:01,050
At that time, they
still acknowledged, you

785
00:39:01,050 --> 00:39:03,940
know, Wallenberg's authority.

786
00:39:03,940 --> 00:39:07,110
So he came to the camp, and
we were all standing there,

787
00:39:07,110 --> 00:39:09,810
and the German guard-- not the
German, the Hungarian guard

788
00:39:09,810 --> 00:39:10,990
came with him.

789

00:39:10,990 --> 00:39:16,020
And he said, this list what I
am reading, all stand forward.

790
00:39:16,020 --> 00:39:23,990
Because this is under the
Swiss Schutz protection.

791
00:39:23,990 --> 00:39:25,450
And he had that list.

792
00:39:25,450 --> 00:39:28,940
And I was in the Swiss house,
that's how he knowing my name.

793
00:39:28,940 --> 00:39:31,980
I think I mentioned to
you that I was there.

794
00:39:31,980 --> 00:39:34,550
So he comes and reads the list.

795
00:39:34,550 --> 00:39:35,960
And people stand forward.

796
00:39:35,960 --> 00:39:38,570
And then he comes near me.

797
00:39:38,570 --> 00:39:40,760
And I remember his
face and everything.

798
00:39:40,760 --> 00:39:43,340
We called him the
angel of the Jews

799
00:39:43,340 --> 00:39:46,130
because he saved so many Jews.

800
00:39:46,130 --> 00:39:50,030
He stand before me and he
says, are you Margit so-and-so.

801

00:39:50,030 --> 00:39:53,570

And I was a little,
I guess I was stupid.

802

00:39:53,570 --> 00:39:55,940

Because I didn't
wanted to say nothing

803

00:39:55,940 --> 00:39:57,640

because I went after the rules.

804

00:39:57,640 --> 00:39:59,270

So I am not that.

805

00:39:59,270 --> 00:40:04,070

And the girl next kicked me
and said, so why don't you

806

00:40:04,070 --> 00:40:07,670

say that you are
Margit so-and-so?

807

00:40:07,670 --> 00:40:10,520

I said, yes, yes, I
am Margit so-and-so.

808

00:40:10,520 --> 00:40:12,560

He says, well, why
don't you step forward?

809

00:40:12,560 --> 00:40:14,360

He tells me, Wallenberg.

810

00:40:14,360 --> 00:40:17,990

Why does it take so long
to recognize your name?

811

00:40:17,990 --> 00:40:19,760

And I stood forward.

812

00:40:19,760 --> 00:40:23,210

And they took us in the bus, and

they took us back to Budapest.

813
00:40:23,210 --> 00:40:28,610
And that was one encounter I
had with Wallenberg in person.

814
00:40:28,610 --> 00:40:30,260
And I went back to Budapest.

815
00:40:30,260 --> 00:40:32,840
And now, I didn't
had again papers.

816
00:40:32,840 --> 00:40:38,360
So the other things what I
had from my father, you know,

817
00:40:38,360 --> 00:40:40,853
they wore these gold watches.

818
00:40:40,853 --> 00:40:41,770
A pocket watch, right.

819
00:40:41,770 --> 00:40:42,635
It was a chain.

820
00:40:42,635 --> 00:40:45,170

821
00:40:45,170 --> 00:40:46,460
And I had that chain.

822
00:40:46,460 --> 00:40:47,990
I had that gold chain.

823
00:40:47,990 --> 00:40:51,640
And I sewed it in in my-- not my
girdle, I didn't wear a girdle,

824
00:40:51,640 --> 00:40:53,160
but what holds the stockings.

825

00:40:53,160 --> 00:40:56,150

How do you call that?

826

00:40:56,150 --> 00:40:56,810

Garter belt.

827

00:40:56,810 --> 00:40:57,480

Garter belt.

828

00:40:57,480 --> 00:40:58,070

Right.

829

00:40:58,070 --> 00:41:01,100

And I sewed that of the
garter belt around it.

830

00:41:01,100 --> 00:41:03,710

And for that garter
belt, I bought the papers

831

00:41:03,710 --> 00:41:05,420

what I still have home.

832

00:41:05,420 --> 00:41:07,550

This is the papers
what I showed you.

833

00:41:07,550 --> 00:41:13,460

And with that papers, I lived
in one of the Christian--

834

00:41:13,460 --> 00:41:15,530

I never went to the ghetto.

835

00:41:15,530 --> 00:41:16,520

I rented a house.

836

00:41:16,520 --> 00:41:20,750

And Budapest was very,
very hard bombed.

837

00:41:20,750 --> 00:41:26,950
And of course, between bombing
and the Germans coming to where

838
00:41:26,950 --> 00:41:29,120
we went in the basement--

839
00:41:29,120 --> 00:41:30,580
how do you call that?

840
00:41:30,580 --> 00:41:31,400
The bomb shelters.

841
00:41:31,400 --> 00:41:32,510
The bomb shelters.

842
00:41:32,510 --> 00:41:34,790
We were-- between that
and that, I sometimes

843
00:41:34,790 --> 00:41:35,810
walked on the streets.

844
00:41:35,810 --> 00:41:38,660
The bombs were falling, the
dead people were around me.

845
00:41:38,660 --> 00:41:41,900
But I felt safer there
than in the bomb shelter.

846
00:41:41,900 --> 00:41:45,740
Because the more it bombed,
the more and more Germans came.

847
00:41:45,740 --> 00:41:48,140
They had nothing better to do.

848
00:41:48,140 --> 00:41:51,020
And the more and more
came to the shelter,

849

00:41:51,020 --> 00:41:54,860
and took out people, and
took them out to the Danube.

850
00:41:54,860 --> 00:41:59,318
And the Danube was floating
with thousands of dead people.

851
00:41:59,318 --> 00:42:00,860
As a matter of fact,
I will tell you.

852
00:42:00,860 --> 00:42:02,720
Remind me if I
forget it because I

853
00:42:02,720 --> 00:42:05,060
have to tell you a
very important incident

854
00:42:05,060 --> 00:42:07,310
after the war with that.

855
00:42:07,310 --> 00:42:09,060
Remind me for that.

856
00:42:09,060 --> 00:42:12,500
So now, what did
I tell you before?

857
00:42:12,500 --> 00:42:13,680
The Danube was--

858
00:42:13,680 --> 00:42:14,450
Oh, yes.

859
00:42:14,450 --> 00:42:19,240
So January 18th, we were
liberated by the Russians.

860
00:42:19,240 --> 00:42:22,010
And January 16th,
they still came,

861
00:42:22,010 --> 00:42:25,250
the Germans, looking for Jews.

862
00:42:25,250 --> 00:42:28,100
And one of them,
when they came in

863
00:42:28,100 --> 00:42:30,020
and I was there in the shelter--

864
00:42:30,020 --> 00:42:32,180
I couldn't walk
anymore on the street

865
00:42:32,180 --> 00:42:34,970
because it was just really 100%.

866
00:42:34,970 --> 00:42:38,323
Because the bombs were
falling like anything.

867
00:42:38,323 --> 00:42:39,740
And there, I made
an acquaintance.

868
00:42:39,740 --> 00:42:43,730
You see, I must to tell
you one other aspects here.

869
00:42:43,730 --> 00:42:45,750
What I don't like
to go into that.

870
00:42:45,750 --> 00:42:49,610
But it may be
sometimes embarrassing.

871
00:42:49,610 --> 00:42:55,800
But I said, after the ghetto
that I came back, I said,

872

00:42:55,800 --> 00:42:58,810
I have to survive.

873
00:42:58,810 --> 00:43:04,610
Standing or laying,
but I will survive.

874
00:43:04,610 --> 00:43:06,920
Was no morality left in me.

875
00:43:06,920 --> 00:43:10,490
Even so I was brought up in a
house where if I wasn't home

876
00:43:10,490 --> 00:43:13,580
by 8 o'clock, my father was
walking before the house,

877
00:43:13,580 --> 00:43:15,560
you know.

878
00:43:15,560 --> 00:43:21,470
And there was one
guy who said, well--

879
00:43:21,470 --> 00:43:26,330
I think, I am almost sure
that he knew I was Jewish.

880
00:43:26,330 --> 00:43:28,640
But he somehow got
a liking to me.

881
00:43:28,640 --> 00:43:33,640
And he said that if I am
nice, he will be nice.

882
00:43:33,640 --> 00:43:37,230
And said, I will be as
nice as you want me to be.

883
00:43:37,230 --> 00:43:39,390
And when the guy came to check--

884
00:43:39,390 --> 00:43:41,430
because they checked the
papers who is Jewish,

885
00:43:41,430 --> 00:43:42,690
who is not Jewish.

886
00:43:42,690 --> 00:43:44,880
And there was
another family there.

887
00:43:44,880 --> 00:43:48,960
A woman, a husband, a woman
and her husband, and a son.

888
00:43:48,960 --> 00:43:53,520
A nice, fat,
beautiful-looking Jewish boy.

889
00:43:53,520 --> 00:43:56,700
And she was with papers,
and I was with papers.

890
00:43:56,700 --> 00:43:59,430
And somehow, one Jew
recognized the other one,

891
00:43:59,430 --> 00:44:03,930
somehow by feeling, or
by look, or by eyes.

892
00:44:03,930 --> 00:44:07,237
There was some kind of
rapport that one Jew

893
00:44:07,237 --> 00:44:08,160
knew the other Jew.

894
00:44:08,160 --> 00:44:16,950
But one aspect of this, which
is maybe nobody told you.

895
00:44:16,950 --> 00:44:18,570
Or maybe they did.

896
00:44:18,570 --> 00:44:20,100
There was an aspect to it.

897
00:44:20,100 --> 00:44:23,250
When one Jew was
caught, then they

898
00:44:23,250 --> 00:44:30,010
had the tendency,
unfortunately, if I was caught,

899
00:44:30,010 --> 00:44:32,640
then you should be caught, too.

900
00:44:32,640 --> 00:44:37,020
I don't going to cite
psychological reasoning.

901
00:44:37,020 --> 00:44:40,470
But may be there is a reasoning
what there is an answer to it.

902
00:44:40,470 --> 00:44:43,530
And then the German
guy came, when

903
00:44:43,530 --> 00:44:46,590
that Nazi came to
check the papers,

904
00:44:46,590 --> 00:44:49,945
they saw the boy was
standing beside me.

905
00:44:49,945 --> 00:44:51,440
Oh, it runs out?

906
00:44:51,440 --> 00:44:51,940
Yes.

907
00:44:51,940 --> 00:44:58,050

908
00:44:58,050 --> 00:45:03,510
Oh, yes, so in any case, so as
I said, they came, these Nazis.

909
00:45:03,510 --> 00:45:05,810
The Hungarian Nazis,
what they called

910
00:45:05,810 --> 00:45:10,080
it's the Nyilaskeresz, that
was the Hungarian name.

911
00:45:10,080 --> 00:45:14,550
They were sometimes more
brutal and more perverse

912
00:45:14,550 --> 00:45:17,490
than the Germans,
if you can be more.

913
00:45:17,490 --> 00:45:18,910
You said Linka, Linka guard?

914
00:45:18,910 --> 00:45:20,550
Nyilas, Nyilasok.

915
00:45:20,550 --> 00:45:22,500
No, Linkas was in Romania.

916
00:45:22,500 --> 00:45:23,914
This was the Nyilasok, yes.

917
00:45:23,914 --> 00:45:24,414
Sorry, OK.

918
00:45:24,414 --> 00:45:25,122
Now I'm confused.

919

00:45:25,122 --> 00:45:27,900

So when he came to
this couple, what I

920

00:45:27,900 --> 00:45:30,330

told you, that mother,
and father, and son,

921

00:45:30,330 --> 00:45:35,430

and take their papers, and they
did not accept their papers.

922

00:45:35,430 --> 00:45:37,300

And they took them out.

923

00:45:37,300 --> 00:45:39,240

And of course, as I
told you at that time,

924

00:45:39,240 --> 00:45:42,270

there was no-- there was
such a big bombardment

925

00:45:42,270 --> 00:45:44,760

that they didn't had time
to take them to the Danube.

926

00:45:44,760 --> 00:45:47,550

So they shot them all, too,
mother, father, and son.

927

00:45:47,550 --> 00:45:49,620

I found that out later.

928

00:45:49,620 --> 00:45:52,290

I didn't know that they were
shot right before the house.

929

00:45:52,290 --> 00:45:54,720

But that was not the
end of the story.

930

00:45:54,720 --> 00:45:59,670
As they walked out,
they looked at me.

931
00:45:59,670 --> 00:46:03,660
And I knew that in
that moment, in that--

932
00:46:03,660 --> 00:46:05,120
how do they say that in English?

933
00:46:05,120 --> 00:46:07,550
There comes a moment of--

934
00:46:07,550 --> 00:46:08,480
Moment of truth.

935
00:46:08,480 --> 00:46:10,780
Moment of truth.

936
00:46:10,780 --> 00:46:14,720
In that moment of truth, I
didn't know, will they tell me?

937
00:46:14,720 --> 00:46:18,600
Well, if they take
me, she's Jewish, too.

938
00:46:18,600 --> 00:46:21,200
Or they will say that or
they will not say that.

939
00:46:21,200 --> 00:46:24,910
But in order to save
that moment of truth--

940
00:46:24,910 --> 00:46:29,005
you see, everybody had
a blanket or a quilt.

941
00:46:29,005 --> 00:46:31,900
Or we called it
different, not quilt.

942
00:46:31,900 --> 00:46:34,540
And in that moment,
when they took them out,

943
00:46:34,540 --> 00:46:37,390
I thought, I have to--
you see, that time, I

944
00:46:37,390 --> 00:46:39,280
escaped from so
many things already

945
00:46:39,280 --> 00:46:41,890
that I had a little
bit of experience.

946
00:46:41,890 --> 00:46:46,840
And I was far from that naive
already, what I was before.

947
00:46:46,840 --> 00:46:51,590
I said to the guy, who
was standing beside me,

948
00:46:51,590 --> 00:46:55,420
I said, oh, these
people, these Jews--

949
00:46:55,420 --> 00:46:56,950
I used the word--

950
00:46:56,950 --> 00:46:59,590
they had a very nice blanket,
and I don't have one.

951
00:46:59,590 --> 00:47:02,715
Can I have it?

952
00:47:02,715 --> 00:47:06,880
It startled the guy
who checked my paper.

953

00:47:06,880 --> 00:47:12,040

Because you know, before
I even gave him my papers,

954

00:47:12,040 --> 00:47:15,700

the other guy said, well, you
don't have to check her out.

955

00:47:15,700 --> 00:47:17,770

She will have the new
blanket from the Jew,

956

00:47:17,770 --> 00:47:19,870

and I will check her out.

957

00:47:19,870 --> 00:47:22,540

And he didn't even had
my papers in his hand.

958

00:47:22,540 --> 00:47:24,370

Because my papers was even so.

959

00:47:24,370 --> 00:47:25,270

I have it with me.

960

00:47:25,270 --> 00:47:26,200

And they were not--

961

00:47:26,200 --> 00:47:31,600

I was a prostitute according
to that kind of papers I had.

962

00:47:31,600 --> 00:47:34,820

And I certainly acted
sometimes accordingly.

963

00:47:34,820 --> 00:47:38,350

So that's another story, again.

964

00:47:38,350 --> 00:47:42,400

But in any case, they went
away, and they took them out,

965
00:47:42,400 --> 00:47:43,450
and they shot them.

966
00:47:43,450 --> 00:47:47,850
Now, I have to interject
here now a scene.

967
00:47:47,850 --> 00:47:52,560
These people whom they
shot before the house,

968
00:47:52,560 --> 00:47:55,150
she had a brother.

969
00:47:55,150 --> 00:47:58,080
And after the war, when we
were still in that house,

970
00:47:58,080 --> 00:48:03,060
the brother came to pick
up whatever they had.

971
00:48:03,060 --> 00:48:07,650
And then they said, I heard
that there was somebody here,

972
00:48:07,650 --> 00:48:12,200
some shiksa here who said, who
took away my dead brothers whom

973
00:48:12,200 --> 00:48:14,250
they shot before the
house, the [INAUDIBLE]..

974
00:48:14,250 --> 00:48:17,060
I want to confront that woman.

975
00:48:17,060 --> 00:48:20,040
And I was still-- because
that time was still

976

00:48:20,040 --> 00:48:21,520
not safe to go out.

977
00:48:21,520 --> 00:48:24,210
But even so that the
Russians took already over,

978
00:48:24,210 --> 00:48:27,190
the Germans sometimes
came back and forth.

979
00:48:27,190 --> 00:48:31,770
So it was not safe yet
to give yourself away.

980
00:48:31,770 --> 00:48:32,760
And I never did it.

981
00:48:32,760 --> 00:48:34,020
Some people did it.

982
00:48:34,020 --> 00:48:35,340
They gave themselves away.

983
00:48:35,340 --> 00:48:37,720
And then the Germans came
back, that was the end of them.

984
00:48:37,720 --> 00:48:40,110
I never-- I still didn't.

985
00:48:40,110 --> 00:48:42,840
Because I knew that they come.

986
00:48:42,840 --> 00:48:47,700
Budapest is two
parts, Buda and Pest.

987
00:48:47,700 --> 00:48:51,120
And in Buda was the Germans
and Pest was the Russians.

988

00:48:51,120 --> 00:48:52,500
And they went back and forth.

989
00:48:52,500 --> 00:48:56,370
And it took two, three weeks
until finally, the Russians

990
00:48:56,370 --> 00:48:58,800
took over.

991
00:48:58,800 --> 00:49:02,220
So he wanted to confront me
that who is that who took her?

992
00:49:02,220 --> 00:49:05,220
And to tell me certain things.

993
00:49:05,220 --> 00:49:09,180
And when he came there
and was confronted me.

994
00:49:09,180 --> 00:49:13,020
And it was even so that time
that the Russians were there

995
00:49:13,020 --> 00:49:14,740
already, and I was still afraid.

996
00:49:14,740 --> 00:49:17,730
I said, just don't make
too much commotion.

997
00:49:17,730 --> 00:49:19,500
I did that to save my life.

998
00:49:19,500 --> 00:49:22,630
I'm Jewish, too.

999
00:49:22,630 --> 00:49:24,010
We talked there sometimes.

1000
00:49:24,010 --> 00:49:28,686

And he said, well, in that case, I understand it.

1001
00:49:28,686 --> 00:49:32,620
So that was the after effect of that case.

1002
00:49:32,620 --> 00:49:37,240
So in any case, we were there in that shelter

1003
00:49:37,240 --> 00:49:42,980
all the way until January 18th in the night.

1004
00:49:42,980 --> 00:49:45,070
One Russian guy comes down.

1005
00:49:45,070 --> 00:49:47,050
You see, I talk about the Russians

1006
00:49:47,050 --> 00:49:49,960
so much because the Russians are the ones who liberated us.

1007
00:49:49,960 --> 00:49:52,930
If not the Russians, I'm not here.

1008
00:49:52,930 --> 00:49:54,070
This is 1945 already?

1009
00:49:54,070 --> 00:49:56,992
This is-- no, that is 19--

1010
00:49:56,992 --> 00:49:57,960
'45.

1011
00:49:57,960 --> 00:50:00,730
'45, January 18th.

1012

00:50:00,730 --> 00:50:07,470
So my war lasted
from 1941 to 1945.

1013
00:50:07,470 --> 00:50:12,430
So I was 4 and 1/2
years wherever.

1014
00:50:12,430 --> 00:50:14,740
So when the first
Russians came in.

1015
00:50:14,740 --> 00:50:18,090
And mind you, I was still
with Catholic papers there.

1016
00:50:18,090 --> 00:50:23,490
When the first Russians
came in, somehow, you know--

1017
00:50:23,490 --> 00:50:26,490
in any case, that they saw
already with the bombardment

1018
00:50:26,490 --> 00:50:29,340
is just catching these
parents and everything.

1019
00:50:29,340 --> 00:50:34,400
I am quite sure that I was
mentally really not right.

1020
00:50:34,400 --> 00:50:36,330
And understandably so.

1021
00:50:36,330 --> 00:50:39,150
So I was really, really
on the end of my line.

1022
00:50:39,150 --> 00:50:42,190
I couldn't take too
much more anymore.

1023

00:50:42,190 --> 00:50:44,850

And when I saw
the first Russian,

1024

00:50:44,850 --> 00:50:47,510

I sat there with other
young people around there,

1025

00:50:47,510 --> 00:50:49,390

wherever we were
living in the shelter.

1026

00:50:49,390 --> 00:50:52,020

And that was in the basement,
of course, and half of it

1027

00:50:52,020 --> 00:50:53,950

was bombed and everything.

1028

00:50:53,950 --> 00:50:55,770

And I wanted to
run to that Russian

1029

00:50:55,770 --> 00:50:57,660

and kiss him from top to toe.

1030

00:50:57,660 --> 00:50:59,790

And I'm free, I'm free.

1031

00:50:59,790 --> 00:51:01,140

You know, in the movies?

1032

00:51:01,140 --> 00:51:02,670

And they were holding me back.

1033

00:51:02,670 --> 00:51:05,790

And they said, don't you know
what the Russians are doing?

1034

00:51:05,790 --> 00:51:08,580

They did a lot of
raping, you know that.

1035

00:51:08,580 --> 00:51:11,950

And they didn't care whether
their 18-year-old or 88 years

1036

00:51:11,950 --> 00:51:12,450

old.

1037

00:51:12,450 --> 00:51:13,800

They didn't care.

1038

00:51:13,800 --> 00:51:17,880

But the difference it was
that the first fighting

1039

00:51:17,880 --> 00:51:21,600

group who fights
for a city is always

1040

00:51:21,600 --> 00:51:25,500

the elite of the military.

1041

00:51:25,500 --> 00:51:27,960

And they do not do any raping.

1042

00:51:27,960 --> 00:51:29,820

They are not the
one who does it.

1043

00:51:29,820 --> 00:51:33,180

The occupying troops
are the one who does it.

1044

00:51:33,180 --> 00:51:35,280

When all kind of
when it was free.

1045

00:51:35,280 --> 00:51:38,220

Free robbery, free raping,
you could do everything.

1046

00:51:38,220 --> 00:51:42,750

But the first elite group

didn't do too much raping.

1047
00:51:42,750 --> 00:51:44,040
But I wanted to go out.

1048
00:51:44,040 --> 00:51:47,400
And then the girl
next to me, he said,

1049
00:51:47,400 --> 00:51:50,400
what are you so happy about
to see the Russian wasn't--

1050
00:51:50,400 --> 00:51:53,180
what, you know, she started.

1051
00:51:53,180 --> 00:51:55,390
Because she really
didn't know who I am.

1052
00:51:55,390 --> 00:51:58,620
She just knew hi, my
name is [HUNGARIAN]..

1053
00:51:58,620 --> 00:52:01,560
So he was holding me
back and I didn't go.

1054
00:52:01,560 --> 00:52:03,390
But the second
day-- because there

1055
00:52:03,390 --> 00:52:08,100
came more and more Russians to
the basement looking for men,

1056
00:52:08,100 --> 00:52:11,160
you know, who was hiding also.

1057
00:52:11,160 --> 00:52:15,030
And that young man
who stood beside me.

1058

00:52:15,030 --> 00:52:20,750

And he said-- you know,
that was up on the floor,

1059

00:52:20,750 --> 00:52:24,810

it was a department store.

1060

00:52:24,810 --> 00:52:28,400

And in the department
store, they had honey left.

1061

00:52:28,400 --> 00:52:31,170

And food was a big
thing that time.

1062

00:52:31,170 --> 00:52:34,680

And he comes to me, and he says,
before yet the Russians came,

1063

00:52:34,680 --> 00:52:36,540

he said, you know what?

1064

00:52:36,540 --> 00:52:41,260

There is a big, big
container of honey there.

1065

00:52:41,260 --> 00:52:44,730

We will go up there, and I
will give you a lot of honey.

1066

00:52:44,730 --> 00:52:48,970

And honey, this was
gold at that time.

1067

00:52:48,970 --> 00:52:52,750

And that was already after
that incident with the Germans,

1068

00:52:52,750 --> 00:52:55,250

so I said, now, I
don't need him anymore.

1069

00:52:55,250 --> 00:52:59,290
But as he said, you know what,
I will give you the honey.

1070
00:52:59,290 --> 00:53:00,700
I saved your life.

1071
00:53:00,700 --> 00:53:04,120
But he knew already that the
Russians are on the corner.

1072
00:53:04,120 --> 00:53:08,000
But when it comes to
it, will you save mine?

1073
00:53:08,000 --> 00:53:09,430
Oh, how can I save it?

1074
00:53:09,430 --> 00:53:11,980
He said, you know
how you can save it.

1075
00:53:11,980 --> 00:53:15,220
So he knew who I was.

1076
00:53:15,220 --> 00:53:17,590
Because he wouldn't ask
me that question then

1077
00:53:17,590 --> 00:53:19,840
whether I can save
your life or not.

1078
00:53:19,840 --> 00:53:23,980
So when the Russians came
in, when they were already

1079
00:53:23,980 --> 00:53:30,130
in looking for Hungarian
soldiers or non-Jews,

1080
00:53:30,130 --> 00:53:33,820
you know, he came

to me, and he said,

1081
00:53:33,820 --> 00:53:35,470
help me to get out of here.

1082
00:53:35,470 --> 00:53:38,210
I helped you, you help me.

1083
00:53:38,210 --> 00:53:40,900
And I did help him to escape.

1084
00:53:40,900 --> 00:53:44,650
Whether I did it right
or wrong, but I did it.

1085
00:53:44,650 --> 00:53:46,090
And he did escape.

1086
00:53:46,090 --> 00:53:47,920
I don't know what happened.

1087
00:53:47,920 --> 00:53:50,140
Well, in any case, then
the Russians came in.

1088
00:53:50,140 --> 00:53:52,990
And then of course, I
don't know whether you

1089
00:53:52,990 --> 00:53:56,830
know about the aspect to
how the Russians behaved.

1090
00:53:56,830 --> 00:54:00,190
I mean, it was soup
kitchens again.

1091
00:54:00,190 --> 00:54:03,430
And it was again
standing in the line.

1092
00:54:03,430 --> 00:54:07,780

It was all the ruins.

1093
00:54:07,780 --> 00:54:09,130
And I had nobody.

1094
00:54:09,130 --> 00:54:11,170
I just walked on the
streets, you know,

1095
00:54:11,170 --> 00:54:15,160
and sawing people coming
out from the ghetto.

1096
00:54:15,160 --> 00:54:19,630
And everybody said, oh, Jancika,
[HUNGARIAN],, Jurika, and I

1097
00:54:19,630 --> 00:54:21,850
went there, and I had nobody.

1098
00:54:21,850 --> 00:54:23,890
Because everybody died.

1099
00:54:23,890 --> 00:54:26,800
So I said, well, I
will look for my aunt.

1100
00:54:26,800 --> 00:54:31,300
You know, that aunt
who didn't believe me?

1101
00:54:31,300 --> 00:54:33,340
They were in the ghetto.

1102
00:54:33,340 --> 00:54:38,650
And they were the rich
aunts in the family

1103
00:54:38,650 --> 00:54:40,510
because they had a
house in Hungary.

1104

00:54:40,510 --> 00:54:44,450
And that was like having a
house in New York that time.

1105
00:54:44,450 --> 00:54:46,940
So they had some
six, seven rooms.

1106
00:54:46,940 --> 00:54:48,815
And that was an awful
lot of room in Hungary.

1107
00:54:48,815 --> 00:54:53,790
Here, people who works can have
four rooms, too, it's nothing.

1108
00:54:53,790 --> 00:54:56,160
So in any case,
they did survive.

1109
00:54:56,160 --> 00:54:57,620
And I did go to them.

1110
00:54:57,620 --> 00:55:00,320
And it was a big,
beautiful reunion.

1111
00:55:00,320 --> 00:55:02,060
Of course, they took
away their house,

1112
00:55:02,060 --> 00:55:03,650
and they took away
their apartment,

1113
00:55:03,650 --> 00:55:07,460
and they gave them the room
where the maid used to live.

1114
00:55:07,460 --> 00:55:09,680
And there, where the
maid used to live,

1115

00:55:09,680 --> 00:55:12,320
there I was living
for them for a while

1116
00:55:12,320 --> 00:55:14,765
until they got another
room attached to it.

1117
00:55:14,765 --> 00:55:16,400
They got back their own room.

1118
00:55:16,400 --> 00:55:17,810
Not the house, just the room.

1119
00:55:17,810 --> 00:55:22,130
Because the Russians, of course,
won't give them back the house.

1120
00:55:22,130 --> 00:55:27,140
And what was life, you will
ask me, after the bombardment,

1121
00:55:27,140 --> 00:55:29,090
after the Russians came in?

1122
00:55:29,090 --> 00:55:30,440
It was a tough life.

1123
00:55:30,440 --> 00:55:33,380
It was, first of all,
the first days were--

1124
00:55:33,380 --> 00:55:35,810
the first week,
rather, after the war.

1125
00:55:35,810 --> 00:55:37,740
It was also interesting.

1126
00:55:37,740 --> 00:55:39,550
You know, we lived
on the fourth floor

1127

00:55:39,550 --> 00:55:41,870

when we didn't go
to the shelter.

1128

00:55:41,870 --> 00:55:44,300

And after the
so-called fighting,

1129

00:55:44,300 --> 00:55:47,160

I went up on the fourth
floor, looked out the window,

1130

00:55:47,160 --> 00:55:50,240

because I was more
or less like free.

1131

00:55:50,240 --> 00:55:54,990

Because after five years, you
felt, well, mommy, I survived.

1132

00:55:54,990 --> 00:55:57,440

And I was rather
careless that time.

1133

00:55:57,440 --> 00:55:59,220

And I went, and I
looked out the window

1134

00:55:59,220 --> 00:56:01,340

because I wanted to
see what is a war.

1135

00:56:01,340 --> 00:56:03,080

You see, this is
not a war like here.

1136

00:56:03,080 --> 00:56:07,670

They drop an atomic bomb, and
everybody's boom, finished.

1137

00:56:07,670 --> 00:56:12,320

There, they are fighting,
you know, corner to corner.

1138
00:56:12,320 --> 00:56:15,710
And I went up on the
window, and I looked down.

1139
00:56:15,710 --> 00:56:18,260
I saw this one is Germans,
and this one is Russian,

1140
00:56:18,260 --> 00:56:19,190
they are shooting.

1141
00:56:19,190 --> 00:56:21,020
And I look out of the window.

1142
00:56:21,020 --> 00:56:22,040
So they shot up.

1143
00:56:22,040 --> 00:56:23,810
And they almost
shot my head off.

1144
00:56:23,810 --> 00:56:26,930
So I got well, because
I didn't know better.

1145
00:56:26,930 --> 00:56:27,530
Right.

1146
00:56:27,530 --> 00:56:30,620
So I went back until
things subsided.

1147
00:56:30,620 --> 00:56:32,720
That time, houses
were closed yet,

1148
00:56:32,720 --> 00:56:34,880
and Russians were
standing all over.

1149
00:56:34,880 --> 00:56:37,910

And slowly, slowly,
life got back to it.

1150
00:56:37,910 --> 00:56:39,320
You couldn't buy nothing.

1151
00:56:39,320 --> 00:56:41,780
And as I said, I was
secretary of a lawyer.

1152
00:56:41,780 --> 00:56:44,660
And I had to make something.

1153
00:56:44,660 --> 00:56:49,440
Money didn't mean anything, and
I had nothing anymore to sell.

1154
00:56:49,440 --> 00:56:53,870
The only thing it is to
work and get food for it.

1155
00:56:53,870 --> 00:56:58,490
And the lawyer where I worked,
whom I worked before once,

1156
00:56:58,490 --> 00:56:59,870
he took me back.

1157
00:56:59,870 --> 00:57:02,300
You know, some people
came to advise us,

1158
00:57:02,300 --> 00:57:07,070
and they gave him eggs,
and bread, or pork fat,

1159
00:57:07,070 --> 00:57:07,740
or whatever.

1160
00:57:07,740 --> 00:57:10,040
They gave him, he
gave me part of it

1161

00:57:10,040 --> 00:57:12,230
as a payment to the secretary.

1162

00:57:12,230 --> 00:57:16,460
Until things can get
back to more or less--

1163

00:57:16,460 --> 00:57:18,440
I couldn't call it
normal because this

1164

00:57:18,440 --> 00:57:20,920
was far from normal.

1165

00:57:20,920 --> 00:57:26,540
I met one day a friend of
our father and mother who did

1166

00:57:26,540 --> 00:57:29,240
survive, her family
didn't survive.

1167

00:57:29,240 --> 00:57:32,460
But her house, her
room was bombed.

1168

00:57:32,460 --> 00:57:34,470
And she lived in a small room.

1169

00:57:34,470 --> 00:57:37,290
And her living room got
a full hit from the bomb.

1170

00:57:37,290 --> 00:57:39,640
And it had a hole in the middle.

1171

00:57:39,640 --> 00:57:42,810
And so I lived in the little
room but in that house.

1172

00:57:42,810 --> 00:57:45,240
And she was very attached

to me because I was young,

1173
00:57:45,240 --> 00:57:46,350
and I walked.

1174
00:57:46,350 --> 00:57:51,210
You see, Budapest has many, many
beautiful, beautiful bridges,

1175
00:57:51,210 --> 00:57:53,950
which were all bombed,
all the bridges.

1176
00:57:53,950 --> 00:57:56,910
So people went through
the Danube back to Buda

1177
00:57:56,910 --> 00:57:59,790
to get potatoes or flowers.

1178
00:57:59,790 --> 00:58:01,750
So I sometimes brought it back.

1179
00:58:01,750 --> 00:58:04,110
So she was attached
to me because she

1180
00:58:04,110 --> 00:58:08,280
knew that being young, I
will bring something also.

1181
00:58:08,280 --> 00:58:13,390
And by the way, that time,
there was another incident

1182
00:58:13,390 --> 00:58:20,020
what maybe I will tell you
certain main aspects of it.

1183
00:58:20,020 --> 00:58:24,670
That there was a couple of
days after things settled down,

1184

00:58:24,670 --> 00:58:29,700

there was a so-called
free looting.

1185

00:58:29,700 --> 00:58:31,050

Free looting.

1186

00:58:31,050 --> 00:58:34,350

So people went with big bags
in these big department stores.

1187

00:58:34,350 --> 00:58:37,260

And whatever they found,
they put it in the bag,

1188

00:58:37,260 --> 00:58:38,430

and they took it home.

1189

00:58:38,430 --> 00:58:39,270

It was free loot.

1190

00:58:39,270 --> 00:58:42,270

The Russians stood there and
told you so take it, take it.

1191

00:58:42,270 --> 00:58:44,100

If you went out
empty-handed, they

1192

00:58:44,100 --> 00:58:46,830

sent you back to take something.

1193

00:58:46,830 --> 00:58:48,900

So I'm living there
in that house,

1194

00:58:48,900 --> 00:58:53,580

where above it was
a department store.

1195

00:58:53,580 --> 00:58:56,910

And in this department store, I

thought I will go looting, too.

1196
00:58:56,910 --> 00:58:57,547
Why not?

1197
00:58:57,547 --> 00:58:58,380
The other people go.

1198
00:58:58,380 --> 00:59:01,620
But I didn't prepare myself
with the proper looting.

1199
00:59:01,620 --> 00:59:03,600
I didn't have the bag,
I didn't have the knife,

1200
00:59:03,600 --> 00:59:04,900
I didn't have the scissor.

1201
00:59:04,900 --> 00:59:08,820
So I was not quite made
for this looting business.

1202
00:59:08,820 --> 00:59:11,910
And there was a big,
giant man there cutting

1203
00:59:11,910 --> 00:59:13,500
materials and everything.

1204
00:59:13,500 --> 00:59:14,520
And I was just there.

1205
00:59:14,520 --> 00:59:18,510
If they make me, I was
some 85 or 90 pounds.

1206
00:59:18,510 --> 00:59:21,930
If they gave me a push, you
know, I would just fall down.

1207
00:59:21,930 --> 00:59:25,080

And they said, if you want
to live, you better go away.

1208
00:59:25,080 --> 00:59:26,670
But I wanted to loot.

1209
00:59:26,670 --> 00:59:29,310
So I went down
where the food was.

1210
00:59:29,310 --> 00:59:31,710
And there in the
food, people went also

1211
00:59:31,710 --> 00:59:34,690
and took the silverware
and whatever it is.

1212
00:59:34,690 --> 00:59:38,460
And finally, one
guy lifted me up

1213
00:59:38,460 --> 00:59:40,950
and put me on a bag of flour.

1214
00:59:40,950 --> 00:59:43,440
And he said, you'll stay
here if you want to be alive.

1215
00:59:43,440 --> 00:59:44,950
Because they were strong people.

1216
00:59:44,950 --> 00:59:48,838
And I was just the wind
could blow me away that time.

1217
00:59:48,838 --> 00:59:49,880
And I was still in there.

1218
00:59:49,880 --> 00:59:51,390
And people took everything.

1219

00:59:51,390 --> 00:59:54,750
And I stood there
on the bag of flour

1220
00:59:54,750 --> 00:59:56,640
until everything was looted out.

1221
00:59:56,640 --> 00:59:58,470
And I stood there
with the bag of flour.

1222
00:59:58,470 --> 01:00:00,750
Of course, I couldn't
take the bag of flour.

1223
01:00:00,750 --> 01:00:04,140
And that was full with pickles,
and jams, and everything,

1224
01:00:04,140 --> 01:00:05,460
and on me.

1225
01:00:05,460 --> 01:00:08,410
But I still was sitting
on a bag of flour.

1226
01:00:08,410 --> 01:00:09,270
So what did I do?

1227
01:00:09,270 --> 01:00:12,210
I had one and only dress,
and I took the flour,

1228
01:00:12,210 --> 01:00:16,080
and I put it in my heel
like this, in there.

1229
01:00:16,080 --> 01:00:19,080
And I went all the way, walked
that way to my landlady.

1230
01:00:19,080 --> 01:00:22,130
And I said, here, we have

flour, we make bread from it.

1231

01:00:22,130 --> 01:00:24,930

Which we took out the glass,
and we did make bread from it.

1232

01:00:24,930 --> 01:00:27,930

But after a while, it
was not humorous anymore

1233

01:00:27,930 --> 01:00:30,810

with the soup kitchens
and everything.

1234

01:00:30,810 --> 01:00:33,840

And that got to--

1235

01:00:33,840 --> 01:00:36,660

I lived that time, I
went away from my aunt,

1236

01:00:36,660 --> 01:00:38,880

and I lived in a
friends of mine.

1237

01:00:38,880 --> 01:00:43,600

The same friend who was
together with me in the camp.

1238

01:00:43,600 --> 01:00:47,170

I went to that house, and
I lived, and you know,

1239

01:00:47,170 --> 01:00:50,230

there was-- they call
it belated reaction.

1240

01:00:50,230 --> 01:00:52,930

When you know you
survived, when you

1241

01:00:52,930 --> 01:00:56,800

know well five years went

away, you survived alone,

1242
01:00:56,800 --> 01:00:58,490
but you survived.

1243
01:00:58,490 --> 01:01:00,430
And then after
that, when you know

1244
01:01:00,430 --> 01:01:05,740
that it comes that psychological
for what, and for whom,

1245
01:01:05,740 --> 01:01:07,180
and for why?

1246
01:01:07,180 --> 01:01:12,200
And that was on the fourth
floor where I lived that time.

1247
01:01:12,200 --> 01:01:14,420
And it was in December.

1248
01:01:14,420 --> 01:01:21,650
And I was just alone,
just I came to a point

1249
01:01:21,650 --> 01:01:24,980
that I need help, which
I, of course, didn't get.

1250
01:01:24,980 --> 01:01:26,450
Psychological help.

1251
01:01:26,450 --> 01:01:29,630
So I opened the window and
I went on the windowsill.

1252
01:01:29,630 --> 01:01:33,380
And I thought, well, many
people did that, by the way.

1253

01:01:33,380 --> 01:01:34,940
I was not the only one.

1254
01:01:34,940 --> 01:01:37,650
And I said, well,
let's finish it up.

1255
01:01:37,650 --> 01:01:41,340
And my landlady, who
was a very nice lady,

1256
01:01:41,340 --> 01:01:45,020
she came into the
room, and she says,

1257
01:01:45,020 --> 01:01:47,420
Elizabeth, you must be crazy.

1258
01:01:47,420 --> 01:01:49,670
You are opening the window
and the whole heat what

1259
01:01:49,670 --> 01:01:51,880
I put up here, it goes away.

1260
01:01:51,880 --> 01:01:55,070
I mean, I don't heat here that
you open here the windows.

1261
01:01:55,070 --> 01:01:58,370
And I am standing on the
window ledge, jumping.

1262
01:01:58,370 --> 01:02:00,620
And I got very mad.

1263
01:02:00,620 --> 01:02:01,540
And I went there.

1264
01:02:01,540 --> 01:02:05,780
And I got so mad that I went to
her and I started to hit her.

1265

01:02:05,780 --> 01:02:09,960
And I hit her and I hit her,
and she kneeled down beside me.

1266

01:02:09,960 --> 01:02:12,050
And she said, oh, Elizabeth.

1267

01:02:12,050 --> 01:02:14,120
Don't do that, don't do that.

1268

01:02:14,120 --> 01:02:17,120
She did that and said
that just to bring me back

1269

01:02:17,120 --> 01:02:20,090
from the ledge.

1270

01:02:20,090 --> 01:02:22,100
It was a nice lady.

1271

01:02:22,100 --> 01:02:26,810
So after that, I said, well,
OK, let's start living.

1272

01:02:26,810 --> 01:02:31,850
And I went to the soup
kitchen and I asked for a job

1273

01:02:31,850 --> 01:02:33,620
in the soup kitchen.

1274

01:02:33,620 --> 01:02:36,470
And in there, there's
so many incidents.

1275

01:02:36,470 --> 01:02:39,960
So many incidents happened there
during the war, after the war,

1276

01:02:39,960 --> 01:02:42,230
during the bombing,
in the ghetto,

1277
01:02:42,230 --> 01:02:44,120
where it is interesting.

1278
01:02:44,120 --> 01:02:48,440
But as I told it to Henry, you
cannot go into every aspects.

1279
01:02:48,440 --> 01:02:50,710
OK, well you can tell any
ones that you would like to.

1280
01:02:50,710 --> 01:02:55,490
Well, what is really standing
out, I told you with the--

1281
01:02:55,490 --> 01:03:00,290
so one day, when I went
to home to my landlady,

1282
01:03:00,290 --> 01:03:04,250
I met-- you see, I was
working with the lawyer.

1283
01:03:04,250 --> 01:03:08,680
And in that law office,
I met a young Jewish man

1284
01:03:08,680 --> 01:03:10,810
who also survived the war.

1285
01:03:10,810 --> 01:03:12,900
And who met me in
that soup kitchen.

1286
01:03:12,900 --> 01:03:15,850
He went not for soups
because he was that time

1287
01:03:15,850 --> 01:03:19,210
in the black market business.

1288

01:03:19,210 --> 01:03:21,250

And he started to
make-- that time, people

1289

01:03:21,250 --> 01:03:23,950

made only money because there
was no businesses, nothing,

1290

01:03:23,950 --> 01:03:25,390

there was only black markets.

1291

01:03:25,390 --> 01:03:29,380

And he started the black market
business very successfully.

1292

01:03:29,380 --> 01:03:34,940

And he always had an eye on me,
but I was not too interested.

1293

01:03:34,940 --> 01:03:38,810

But after the war, when
he gave me a proposition,

1294

01:03:38,810 --> 01:03:41,030

he said, you know what,
I mean, what is that?

1295

01:03:41,030 --> 01:03:42,320

You work in the soup kitchen.

1296

01:03:42,320 --> 01:03:43,910

I have money.

1297

01:03:43,910 --> 01:03:45,530

You will come and live with me.

1298

01:03:45,530 --> 01:03:48,200

And we will see what we will do.

1299

01:03:48,200 --> 01:03:52,980

I probably would have become
what papers I had before.

1300

01:03:52,980 --> 01:03:54,840

And I said, OK.

1301

01:03:54,840 --> 01:03:58,500

And I went to my landlady
and I had, as I said,

1302

01:03:58,500 --> 01:03:59,880

one dress, which I watched.

1303

01:03:59,880 --> 01:04:01,800

It was full with flowers.

1304

01:04:01,800 --> 01:04:04,560

And I said to her, well, I
have a date with that man.

1305

01:04:04,560 --> 01:04:08,820

And he was standing
down with the car.

1306

01:04:08,820 --> 01:04:11,010

I lived on the second
floor that time.

1307

01:04:11,010 --> 01:04:11,510

[INAUDIBLE]

1308

01:04:11,510 --> 01:04:14,160

And I told it to my
landlady, he's waiting.

1309

01:04:14,160 --> 01:04:17,040

And my landlady said, OK, well--
because she wanted something

1310

01:04:17,040 --> 01:04:18,300

from it, too.

1311

01:04:18,300 --> 01:04:21,100

And I opened the
window and I said,

1312
01:04:21,100 --> 01:04:22,710
I'm coming down five minutes.

1313
01:04:22,710 --> 01:04:24,570
As I said, I had one dress.

1314
01:04:24,570 --> 01:04:30,760
And I went down to go on a road
what could end like Madame X

1315
01:04:30,760 --> 01:04:31,870
or who knows what.

1316
01:04:31,870 --> 01:04:33,850
I don't know what
would have become.

1317
01:04:33,850 --> 01:04:36,700
But as I walked
down the steps going

1318
01:04:36,700 --> 01:04:40,900
to the guy who was waiting for
me at the house before the car,

1319
01:04:40,900 --> 01:04:43,750
a Russian soldier
comes up the steps.

1320
01:04:43,750 --> 01:04:45,850
And I see a Russian
soldier, and I run.

1321
01:04:45,850 --> 01:04:48,730
Because I had incidents with
a Russian soldier, which

1322
01:04:48,730 --> 01:04:50,080
I didn't tell you.

1323
01:04:50,080 --> 01:04:52,660

Which I wrote about it,
if you are interested,

1324
01:04:52,660 --> 01:04:56,320
a jar of pickles were--

1325
01:04:56,320 --> 01:05:00,220
you know, the Russians
did there plenty.

1326
01:05:00,220 --> 01:05:03,070
So when I saw a Russian, I run.

1327
01:05:03,070 --> 01:05:05,530
This was my experience.

1328
01:05:05,530 --> 01:05:08,720
And the Russian guy tells
me, well, Elizabeth,

1329
01:05:08,720 --> 01:05:10,360
don't you recognize me?

1330
01:05:10,360 --> 01:05:13,660
And I didn't recognize
him because he

1331
01:05:13,660 --> 01:05:15,910
was a Partisan uniform
with a red star.

1332
01:05:15,910 --> 01:05:17,920
To me, that was Russian.

1333
01:05:17,920 --> 01:05:21,830
So then I looked at
him and then I saw.

1334
01:05:21,830 --> 01:05:24,130
And I went back with
him to my landlady.

1335

01:05:24,130 --> 01:05:26,990
And landlady opened the
house and the door and said,

1336
01:05:26,990 --> 01:05:29,342
are you crazy bringing
a Russian here?

1337
01:05:29,342 --> 01:05:30,490
Because she knew.

1338
01:05:30,490 --> 01:05:33,580
Said, he's not a Russian, he's
not a Russian, he's Jewish.

1339
01:05:33,580 --> 01:05:35,320
And I know him from the ghetto.

1340
01:05:35,320 --> 01:05:38,440
And then he said, but
he's waiting downstairs

1341
01:05:38,440 --> 01:05:39,200
with the car.

1342
01:05:39,200 --> 01:05:42,930
And I said, but you
know, it's interesting.

1343
01:05:42,930 --> 01:05:45,290
And I don't want to be
sentimental about it.

1344
01:05:45,290 --> 01:05:48,880
And we are old enough not to be.

1345
01:05:48,880 --> 01:05:53,550
But you know, five years
I fought for my life,

1346
01:05:53,550 --> 01:05:56,350
and in the minute he
came into my life,

1347
01:05:56,350 --> 01:05:58,140
I said, well, that's it for me.

1348
01:05:58,140 --> 01:05:59,700
That's it.

1349
01:05:59,700 --> 01:06:01,650
Now take over.

1350
01:06:01,650 --> 01:06:04,320
And he did.

1351
01:06:04,320 --> 01:06:06,090
And that was how we met.

1352
01:06:06,090 --> 01:06:08,040
Now what do you ask me now?

1353
01:06:08,040 --> 01:06:09,600
What do you want to know more?

1354
01:06:09,600 --> 01:06:12,040
I think you should
probably do it.

1355
01:06:12,040 --> 01:06:13,500
I think.

1356
01:06:13,500 --> 01:06:15,010
And then of course, we waited.

1357
01:06:15,010 --> 01:06:19,860
And then we went to Vienna.

1358
01:06:19,860 --> 01:06:22,380
And from Vienna, we
went to the consulate.

1359
01:06:22,380 --> 01:06:25,000
And the consulate said,

the quota is closed.

1360
01:06:25,000 --> 01:06:27,390
And then all
suddenly, my brother

1361
01:06:27,390 --> 01:06:30,150
kept sending me
affidavits and everything.

1362
01:06:30,150 --> 01:06:32,090
And meanwhile, I
got pregnant, too.

1363
01:06:32,090 --> 01:06:36,780
And we thought we settled down
in Vienna like many other Jews.

1364
01:06:36,780 --> 01:06:39,380
But then one day, the
consulate writes me a letter,

1365
01:06:39,380 --> 01:06:40,830
the Polish quota is open.

1366
01:06:40,830 --> 01:06:46,162
So the Polish quota is
open, let's go to America.

1367
01:06:46,162 --> 01:06:48,370
Well, you mentioned something
about a trip to Israel.

1368
01:06:48,370 --> 01:06:49,328
That was just to visit?

1369
01:06:49,328 --> 01:06:51,960
The trip to Israel was
before, when we knew already

1370
01:06:51,960 --> 01:06:53,130
that we come to America.

1371

01:06:53,130 --> 01:06:55,630

And we had brothers
that time in Israel.

1372

01:06:55,630 --> 01:06:56,760

So we went to Israel.

1373

01:06:56,760 --> 01:06:59,880

As a matter of fact, Barbara,
our daughter, the first move

1374

01:06:59,880 --> 01:07:01,600

that she made was in Israel.

1375

01:07:01,600 --> 01:07:03,210

So that was the
trip before we go.

1376

01:07:03,210 --> 01:07:08,940

But one thing I want to
tell you more in the tape

1377

01:07:08,940 --> 01:07:12,250

because that was
also a nice incident.

1378

01:07:12,250 --> 01:07:15,460

We came with the Mauritania.

1379

01:07:15,460 --> 01:07:20,350

And when you're nearing
the Statue of Liberty,

1380

01:07:20,350 --> 01:07:23,680

the captain, and
especially at that time--

1381

01:07:23,680 --> 01:07:25,420

by the way, we were
one of the last

1382

01:07:25,420 --> 01:07:28,240

who didn't go to Ellis Island.

1383

01:07:28,240 --> 01:07:30,490

Before us, they still
went to Ellis Island.

1384

01:07:30,490 --> 01:07:33,310

When we came, it was not
Ellis Island anymore.

1385

01:07:33,310 --> 01:07:35,680

So there were two incidents
what I want to tell you.

1386

01:07:35,680 --> 01:07:38,290

So when we were on
the boat, and we

1387

01:07:38,290 --> 01:07:41,230

were nearing the
Statue of Liberty,

1388

01:07:41,230 --> 01:07:48,930

and the captain of the
boat was reading there,

1389

01:07:48,930 --> 01:07:51,330

you know, give me
your tired, your poor.

1390

01:07:51,330 --> 01:07:54,820

And we're standing, Andy and I,
and he had his story to tell.

1391

01:07:54,820 --> 01:07:56,190

And I had my story.

1392

01:07:56,190 --> 01:07:57,422

And I was pregnant.

1393

01:07:57,422 --> 01:07:58,380

And we went to America.

1394

01:07:58,380 --> 01:08:00,360

And we were holding hands.

1395

01:08:00,360 --> 01:08:02,610

And looking at the

Statue of Liberty.

1396

01:08:02,610 --> 01:08:08,220

And I said, well, we made it.

1397

01:08:08,220 --> 01:08:10,610

That's the end of the story.

1398

01:08:10,610 --> 01:08:13,462