

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:13,770

2

00:00:13,770 --> 00:00:18,000

And Nesse, I think that
a good place to start

3

00:00:18,000 --> 00:00:20,910

would be at the point
in the death march

4

00:00:20,910 --> 00:00:23,510

when you ended up in the barn.

5

00:00:23,510 --> 00:00:26,860

So if you could just
take me to that part.

6

00:00:26,860 --> 00:00:31,240

As I mentioned to you before,
after the death march,

7

00:00:31,240 --> 00:00:35,120

we wound up in a place
by the name of Chin³w.

8

00:00:35,120 --> 00:00:37,390

We were pushed into a barn.

9

00:00:37,390 --> 00:00:41,500

I do not know how many of us
were left dead on the road.

10

00:00:41,500 --> 00:00:45,160

We may have been about
600 when we arrived there.

11

00:00:45,160 --> 00:00:48,460

But through the three
weeks that we were there,

12

00:00:48,460 --> 00:00:52,060
there were more dead
bodies in the hole

13
00:00:52,060 --> 00:00:55,330
that they dug than
people in the barn.

14
00:00:55,330 --> 00:01:00,900
I tell you, it was just a
terrible, terrible sight.

15
00:01:00,900 --> 00:01:03,270
It came a point at
that time when I really

16
00:01:03,270 --> 00:01:06,940
prayed to be one of the dead.

17
00:01:06,940 --> 00:01:08,800
But that will was different.

18
00:01:08,800 --> 00:01:16,050
March 10th, 1945, we were
liberated by the Russian army.

19
00:01:16,050 --> 00:01:21,840
Actually, the Russians
were taking over that area,

20
00:01:21,840 --> 00:01:23,280
and they found us there.

21
00:01:23,280 --> 00:01:26,670

22
00:01:26,670 --> 00:01:30,150
Describe to me some of
the things that happened

23
00:01:30,150 --> 00:01:33,650
in that barn before they came.

24

00:01:33,650 --> 00:01:38,540

Before we've liberated,
or that particular day?

25

00:01:38,540 --> 00:01:40,970

No, before you were
liberated, leading up

26

00:01:40,970 --> 00:01:42,360

to that particular day.

27

00:01:42,360 --> 00:01:44,770

Leading up, OK.

28

00:01:44,770 --> 00:01:49,850

When we came in,
actually, to the barn,

29

00:01:49,850 --> 00:01:53,230

the Nazis ordered 50 women out.

30

00:01:53,230 --> 00:01:54,960

They gave them shovels.

31

00:01:54,960 --> 00:01:58,230

They told them to
dig two giant holes.

32

00:01:58,230 --> 00:02:00,600

We thought that we
were being lined up

33

00:02:00,600 --> 00:02:05,580

and shot, as in previous
times, that's what happened.

34

00:02:05,580 --> 00:02:08,850

But the Nazis had
different plans for us.

35

00:02:08,850 --> 00:02:11,100

One hole served as a bathroom.

36
00:02:11,100 --> 00:02:12,900
They put some sticks on.

37
00:02:12,900 --> 00:02:15,840
And the other hole
served as a grave.

38
00:02:15,840 --> 00:02:20,910
Every morning, the dead were
ordered to be taken out.

39
00:02:20,910 --> 00:02:24,570
They had to be undressed naked,
because the clothing could

40
00:02:24,570 --> 00:02:25,980
be recycled.

41
00:02:25,980 --> 00:02:29,580
But the people were
dumped into the hole.

42
00:02:29,580 --> 00:02:32,340
Food was given to
us, very little.

43
00:02:32,340 --> 00:02:34,460
You see, the
Germans did not get,

44
00:02:34,460 --> 00:02:38,440
at that point, allocation food
for us, for the prisoners.

45
00:02:38,440 --> 00:02:43,440
It was up to the village
to supply some food for us.

46
00:02:43,440 --> 00:02:49,220
People just died from
hunger, typhoid, dysentery.

47

00:02:49,220 --> 00:02:55,070

I tell you, the mountain of
bodies outside were dead.

48

00:02:55,070 --> 00:02:58,730

But the people inside
looked dead, also.

49

00:02:58,730 --> 00:03:04,800

We were just living zombies,
skeletons covered with skin.

50

00:03:04,800 --> 00:03:10,770

And that particular day,
before the Russians found us,

51

00:03:10,770 --> 00:03:15,510

in the morning, when the women
that were in charge to take out

52

00:03:15,510 --> 00:03:20,460

the dead took the bodies
out, came back into the barn,

53

00:03:20,460 --> 00:03:24,610

and said to us, no guards.

54

00:03:24,610 --> 00:03:28,150

Some of the women said,
let's run to the village.

55

00:03:28,150 --> 00:03:30,460

Now, you know, we
couldn't even walk.

56

00:03:30,460 --> 00:03:31,990

We were so sick.

57

00:03:31,990 --> 00:03:36,670

Somebody else says, the SS men
are hiding behind the barn.

58

00:03:36,670 --> 00:03:41,730

The minute we start to walk,
they are going to shoot us.

59

00:03:41,730 --> 00:03:46,840

But we didn't know that
there were no more guards.

60

00:03:46,840 --> 00:03:48,190

They ran away.

61

00:03:48,190 --> 00:03:51,670

All day long, we
sat in that barn,

62

00:03:51,670 --> 00:03:55,960

not knowing that
our guards ran away.

63

00:03:55,960 --> 00:03:59,830

At night, we heard
the sound of boots.

64

00:03:59,830 --> 00:04:05,160

Now, you know, for us survivors,
the sound of boots, we shiver.

65

00:04:05,160 --> 00:04:07,680

And then, we heard
the Russian language,

66

00:04:07,680 --> 00:04:09,570

and there was the Russian Army.

67

00:04:09,570 --> 00:04:14,460

And the soldiers were telling
us that they took over the area.

68

00:04:14,460 --> 00:04:20,220

They cannot stay with us, but in
the next day or so, the backup

69

00:04:20,220 --> 00:04:24,380

units will come, the medics,
and they will help us.

70
00:04:24,380 --> 00:04:28,640
Now, that night, I
tell you, I cried.

71
00:04:28,640 --> 00:04:30,890
I remember, I cried.

72
00:04:30,890 --> 00:04:36,260
And 50 years, almost, from
March 10 until now, and I

73
00:04:36,260 --> 00:04:39,410
still don't know why I cried.

74
00:04:39,410 --> 00:04:43,340
Did I cry because I
felt sorry for me?

75
00:04:43,340 --> 00:04:48,990
Did I cry for my family
that was so brutally killed?

76
00:04:48,990 --> 00:04:53,420
You know, it was just
something that people said,

77
00:04:53,420 --> 00:04:57,110
you must have been very happy
when you were liberated.

78
00:04:57,110 --> 00:05:00,740
But I remember that
sadness in my heart,

79
00:05:00,740 --> 00:05:04,670
not knowing, not having
a home where to go to,

80
00:05:04,670 --> 00:05:05,855
not having a family.

81
00:05:05,855 --> 00:05:11,030

82
00:05:11,030 --> 00:05:14,660
So that night, they did
basically nothing for you

83
00:05:14,660 --> 00:05:17,460
except tell you you were free?

84
00:05:17,460 --> 00:05:21,380
Well, some soldiers
gave us a bite of bread.

85
00:05:21,380 --> 00:05:24,500
And they said to us, we are
afraid to give you food.

86
00:05:24,500 --> 00:05:28,400
If we give you too much,
you may get very sick.

87
00:05:28,400 --> 00:05:31,100
So don't run to the village.

88
00:05:31,100 --> 00:05:33,410
Don't eat too much.

89
00:05:33,410 --> 00:05:36,650
We are going to come with the
medics and tell you exactly.

90
00:05:36,650 --> 00:05:39,920
Now, many people,
right after liberation,

91
00:05:39,920 --> 00:05:42,410
died because they ate
the whole slice of bread.

92
00:05:42,410 --> 00:05:47,090

Our stomachs were so shrunken,
we couldn't digest anymore,

93
00:05:47,090 --> 00:05:49,070
too much food.

94
00:05:49,070 --> 00:05:51,640
So that's all they
did that night.

95
00:05:51,640 --> 00:05:55,360

96
00:05:55,360 --> 00:05:58,720
Did you talk with the other
girls or you just cried,

97
00:05:58,720 --> 00:06:01,970
or do you remember
what other people did?

98
00:06:01,970 --> 00:06:05,410
There were different reactions.

99
00:06:05,410 --> 00:06:08,260
Some people jumped for joy.

100
00:06:08,260 --> 00:06:09,920
Some people applauded.

101
00:06:09,920 --> 00:06:12,400
I heard applause
to the Russians.

102
00:06:12,400 --> 00:06:14,710
The people that knew
how to speak Russian

103
00:06:14,710 --> 00:06:17,800
had a little conversation,
trying to find out

104

00:06:17,800 --> 00:06:20,920
if other places were liberated.

105
00:06:20,920 --> 00:06:29,260
Don't forget, I was from 13 to
17, from the age of 13 to 17,

106
00:06:29,260 --> 00:06:34,670
ghetto concentration camp,
labor camp, death march.

107
00:06:34,670 --> 00:06:40,530
I wasn't really educated
enough to understand

108
00:06:40,530 --> 00:06:42,056
what was happening.

109
00:06:42,056 --> 00:06:45,180

110
00:06:45,180 --> 00:06:50,750
Now, describe to me
your physical condition.

111
00:06:50,750 --> 00:06:53,640
What did you look like?

112
00:06:53,640 --> 00:06:56,910
I tell you what I looked like.

113
00:06:56,910 --> 00:07:01,240
I weighed at
liberation, 69 pounds.

114
00:07:01,240 --> 00:07:03,580
I'm not a very short lady.

115
00:07:03,580 --> 00:07:06,700
I don't know how tall I was
at that time, how much I

116

00:07:06,700 --> 00:07:10,360
grew during the war.

117
00:07:10,360 --> 00:07:14,900
I am 5' 4" and 1/2 now.

118
00:07:14,900 --> 00:07:19,080
Can you imagine 69 pounds?

119
00:07:19,080 --> 00:07:22,950
My face was swollen, because
I was beaten up severely

120
00:07:22,950 --> 00:07:24,870
on the death march.

121
00:07:24,870 --> 00:07:27,750
My hands had frostbite.

122
00:07:27,750 --> 00:07:30,960
My toes were black from frost.

123
00:07:30,960 --> 00:07:37,170
I had one dress, a blanket that
was wrapped around my body.

124
00:07:37,170 --> 00:07:39,660
Between the blanket
and the dress my,

125
00:07:39,660 --> 00:07:43,440
bod- body was wrapped
around with straw.

126
00:07:43,440 --> 00:07:46,260
Somehow, we found
straw on the ground,

127
00:07:46,260 --> 00:07:48,900
and we tried to insulate
ourselves with it.

128

00:07:48,900 --> 00:07:52,270

129

00:07:52,270 --> 00:07:58,360

Let me tell you how I saw myself
a few days after liberation.

130

00:07:58,360 --> 00:08:05,690

I have not seen myself in the
mirror for almost two years.

131

00:08:05,690 --> 00:08:12,500

A few days after we were free,
the Russians carried us bodily,

132

00:08:12,500 --> 00:08:16,100

actually, to the village,
put us in little houses

133

00:08:16,100 --> 00:08:20,270

until the makeshift
hospital was made.

134

00:08:20,270 --> 00:08:25,860

And as I was laying in one of
those houses on a straw sack,

135

00:08:25,860 --> 00:08:29,880

I saw a door with a window pane.

136

00:08:29,880 --> 00:08:32,190

And I thought, I'm free.

137

00:08:32,190 --> 00:08:37,289

Let me look outside, how
the free world looks.

138

00:08:37,289 --> 00:08:40,929

But as I looked through
that little window pane,

139

00:08:40,929 --> 00:08:43,620

I saw a reflection--

140
00:08:43,620 --> 00:08:47,850
a reflection of the
most horrible thing

141
00:08:47,850 --> 00:08:49,740
that anyone can imagine--

142
00:08:49,740 --> 00:08:55,260
a skeleton covered with
skin, with big blue eyes.

143
00:08:55,260 --> 00:08:59,270
And as I turned around to
look whose reflection I saw,

144
00:08:59,270 --> 00:09:03,180
I realized that
was my reflection.

145
00:09:03,180 --> 00:09:04,310
This is how I looked.

146
00:09:04,310 --> 00:09:14,230

147
00:09:14,230 --> 00:09:16,390
Where did you think
that you would

148
00:09:16,390 --> 00:09:20,590
go in those first few days?

149
00:09:20,590 --> 00:09:25,690
A few days later, I was taken
to that makeshift hospital that

150
00:09:25,690 --> 00:09:30,030
was set up in the little
village of Chin³w.

151
00:09:30,030 --> 00:09:34,200

I was there with
typhoid, dysentery,

152
00:09:34,200 --> 00:09:39,720
treatment for my toes,
my scar on my face,

153
00:09:39,720 --> 00:09:42,120
my wound at that time.

154
00:09:42,120 --> 00:09:44,190
I was there for six weeks.

155
00:09:44,190 --> 00:09:46,930
I was there the longest.

156
00:09:46,930 --> 00:09:50,800
Then, the people that were
in charge of the hospital

157
00:09:50,800 --> 00:09:54,310
called me in that little room
that they called an office.

158
00:09:54,310 --> 00:09:57,580
And they said to me,
now, you can leave.

159
00:09:57,580 --> 00:10:03,860
And I looked at them, and
I said, where do I go?

160
00:10:03,860 --> 00:10:06,260
I don't have anyone to call.

161
00:10:06,260 --> 00:10:07,580
I don't have a home.

162
00:10:07,580 --> 00:10:09,230
I don't have a country.

163
00:10:09,230 --> 00:10:11,620

I don't have a family.

164

00:10:11,620 --> 00:10:15,000

So the person at the desk looked
at the woman in back of me.

165

00:10:15,000 --> 00:10:17,220

And they asked her,
where are you from?

166

00:10:17,220 --> 00:10:19,350

She said from Lithuania.

167

00:10:19,350 --> 00:10:23,550

So they assigned
me to be her ward.

168

00:10:23,550 --> 00:10:27,180

Because I was 17,
I was under age,

169

00:10:27,180 --> 00:10:30,330

I became this woman's ward.

170

00:10:30,330 --> 00:10:33,060

Stranger-- I never
met her before.

171

00:10:33,060 --> 00:10:35,150

She was very kind.

172

00:10:35,150 --> 00:10:39,230

And that's how we started
out on the journey,

173

00:10:39,230 --> 00:10:44,190

supposedly to go
back to Lithuania.

174

00:10:44,190 --> 00:10:48,990

You could not buy a ticket and
travel wherever you wanted.

175

00:10:48,990 --> 00:10:52,395

You had to go where the
trains were going to.

176

00:10:52,395 --> 00:10:56,560

Trains were traveling
east and west.

177

00:10:56,560 --> 00:11:00,010

Russian armies were traveling.

178

00:11:00,010 --> 00:11:03,610

They were taking all
kinds of machinery

179

00:11:03,610 --> 00:11:06,400

from Germany towards Russia.

180

00:11:06,400 --> 00:11:08,470

And we had those freight trains.

181

00:11:08,470 --> 00:11:11,860

Wait, you have to
put in a new roll.

182

00:11:11,860 --> 00:11:13,570

Camera roll two is up.

183

00:11:13,570 --> 00:11:16,690

Slate two is up.

184

00:11:16,690 --> 00:11:17,619

[INAUDIBLE]

185

00:11:17,619 --> 00:11:22,210

186

00:11:22,210 --> 00:11:27,370

OK, let's back up, and tell
me how the trains were going

187

00:11:27,370 --> 00:11:28,540
and how you--

188
00:11:28,540 --> 00:11:34,120
OK, so I wound up with
this lady whose ward I was.

189
00:11:34,120 --> 00:11:38,110
And we had to hop
different trains,

190
00:11:38,110 --> 00:11:42,070
because there was no way
that you could buy a ticket

191
00:11:42,070 --> 00:11:45,790
or go directly to Lithuania,
where we were planning to go.

192
00:11:45,790 --> 00:11:50,110
Trains were going east
and west and north.

193
00:11:50,110 --> 00:11:52,840
And those were trains
that the Russian armies

194
00:11:52,840 --> 00:11:57,640
were moving from one site to
the other, also freight trains

195
00:11:57,640 --> 00:12:01,790
that machinery was taken
from Germany to Russia.

196
00:12:01,790 --> 00:12:04,960
So we hopped those trains.

197
00:12:04,960 --> 00:12:07,690
They allowed us to do so.

198
00:12:07,690 --> 00:12:11,150
And we went from one

place to another.

199

00:12:11,150 --> 00:12:15,790

We wound up in the
city of Łódź, Poland.

200

00:12:15,790 --> 00:12:18,580

By that time, it
was May, already.

201

00:12:18,580 --> 00:12:23,470

I remember well because I was
still on one of those trains

202

00:12:23,470 --> 00:12:25,600

when the war stopped.

203

00:12:25,600 --> 00:12:27,990

So I know it was May.

204

00:12:27,990 --> 00:12:34,470

When we arrived in the
small area of Łódź,

205

00:12:34,470 --> 00:12:40,740

that shelter that they had,
there were already help set up.

206

00:12:40,740 --> 00:12:44,100

We human beings are
really wonderful people.

207

00:12:44,100 --> 00:12:46,770

There was the Red
Cross, Christian Relief,

208

00:12:46,770 --> 00:12:52,440

the HIAS are helping,
giving us a little food,

209

00:12:52,440 --> 00:12:57,450

telling us where we can
go for to sleep over.

210
00:12:57,450 --> 00:13:03,000
In that large room, I remember
there were big posters around,

211
00:13:03,000 --> 00:13:08,310
where you were supposed
to sign in and let

212
00:13:08,310 --> 00:13:10,890
people know where
you're from in case

213
00:13:10,890 --> 00:13:14,430
somebody from your family
comes through the place,

214
00:13:14,430 --> 00:13:17,510
they should know
if you're there.

215
00:13:17,510 --> 00:13:20,820

216
00:13:20,820 --> 00:13:22,660
What did you find?

217
00:13:22,660 --> 00:13:29,710
OK, one day, as I looked at that
poster, and it said Lithuania,

218
00:13:29,710 --> 00:13:33,730
I signed my name somewhere
on the bottom of that poster.

219
00:13:33,730 --> 00:13:35,200
All night, I was wondering.

220
00:13:35,200 --> 00:13:38,410
I said, who is going to
bend down and read it

221

00:13:38,410 --> 00:13:40,310
on the bottom of the poster?

222
00:13:40,310 --> 00:13:44,890
Now you can see I was
17, but not too wise.

223
00:13:44,890 --> 00:13:47,850
So the next morning, I
was so anxious to get back

224
00:13:47,850 --> 00:13:53,220
to that shelter and to sign
my name up high, where people

225
00:13:53,220 --> 00:13:55,590
could see it on eye level.

226
00:13:55,590 --> 00:13:59,460
And I was writing my
name, Nesse Galperin--

227
00:13:59,460 --> 00:14:01,830
that was my maiden name.

228
00:14:01,830 --> 00:14:06,870
A lady was standing next to
me and asked me-- she said,

229
00:14:06,870 --> 00:14:09,650
which Galperin are
you from Å iauliai?

230
00:14:09,650 --> 00:14:11,960
I don't remember you.

231
00:14:11,960 --> 00:14:17,300
You see, we had a Galperin,
a shoemaker, a tailor,

232
00:14:17,300 --> 00:14:19,910
and my parents
had a dairy store.

233
00:14:19,910 --> 00:14:21,830
They sold butter and milk.

234
00:14:21,830 --> 00:14:23,870
And I told her, I
said, I'm Galperin

235
00:14:23,870 --> 00:14:25,970
from the dairy business.

236
00:14:25,970 --> 00:14:28,460
Oh, she said, Nesse, that's you.

237
00:14:28,460 --> 00:14:30,690
You look so bad.

238
00:14:30,690 --> 00:14:34,250
And when I looked at that
woman, I recognized her.

239
00:14:34,250 --> 00:14:36,920
She was a strong
lady before the war.

240
00:14:36,920 --> 00:14:40,610
But mentally, she
was not quite there.

241
00:14:40,610 --> 00:14:43,490
And the next thing out
of that woman's mouth

242
00:14:43,490 --> 00:14:47,820
was, oh, I was with
your mother in the camp.

243
00:14:47,820 --> 00:14:49,800
I said, how can that be?

244
00:14:49,800 --> 00:14:54,300
My mom was separated from me

in the concentration camp.

245

00:14:54,300 --> 00:14:58,680

She said, yes, they took a
little bit stronger women

246

00:14:58,680 --> 00:15:01,860

to another camp.

247

00:15:01,860 --> 00:15:05,550

And she's right now
in a little shelter

248

00:15:05,550 --> 00:15:09,270

in this and this small
village, near the border

249

00:15:09,270 --> 00:15:11,870

of Poland and Germany.

250

00:15:11,870 --> 00:15:16,370

When I heard that, I
couldn't believe the woman,

251

00:15:16,370 --> 00:15:19,640

because I knew she
wasn't mentally stable.

252

00:15:19,640 --> 00:15:23,960

But still, I thought,
maybe it is true.

253

00:15:23,960 --> 00:15:30,500

So I go to my lady
whose ward I am.

254

00:15:30,500 --> 00:15:31,460

Her name was Hannah.

255

00:15:31,460 --> 00:15:34,390

I said, Hannah, we
have to go back--

256

00:15:34,390 --> 00:15:36,800

back to the German border.

257

00:15:36,800 --> 00:15:38,660

She said, you're crazy, child.

258

00:15:38,660 --> 00:15:40,190

Who goes back?

259

00:15:40,190 --> 00:15:42,560

Everybody goes forward.

260

00:15:42,560 --> 00:15:46,280

I said, but somebody told
me that my mom is alive,

261

00:15:46,280 --> 00:15:49,220

and she's there in that village.

262

00:15:49,220 --> 00:15:51,260

She said, I'm not
going with you.

263

00:15:51,260 --> 00:15:53,750

She took out the piece
of paper that stated

264

00:15:53,750 --> 00:15:55,700

that she's in charge of me.

265

00:15:55,700 --> 00:15:57,380

She tore it to pieces.

266

00:15:57,380 --> 00:15:59,540

She said, now go to the desk.

267

00:15:59,540 --> 00:16:01,520

Tell them you're 18 years old.

268

00:16:01,520 --> 00:16:03,810

They'll give you

another document.

269

00:16:03,810 --> 00:16:05,720

And if you want to go, go.

270

00:16:05,720 --> 00:16:09,800

So everybody's traveling east.

271

00:16:09,800 --> 00:16:11,540

I'm traveling west.

272

00:16:11,540 --> 00:16:14,450

I arrived in that
little village.

273

00:16:14,450 --> 00:16:16,840

I found the shelter.

274

00:16:16,840 --> 00:16:20,500

I walked in, and there were
ladies from my hometown

275

00:16:20,500 --> 00:16:22,550

that I recognized.

276

00:16:22,550 --> 00:16:24,800

And after they
asked me who I was,

277

00:16:24,800 --> 00:16:30,760

because they could not recognize
me, they said, oh, Nesse,

278

00:16:30,760 --> 00:16:36,700

your mom heard that you were
alive and you were in L^Ãdz.

279

00:16:36,700 --> 00:16:38,260

She went to look for you.

280

00:16:38,260 --> 00:16:39,310

Can you imagine?

281
00:16:39,310 --> 00:16:40,600
She went one way.

282
00:16:40,600 --> 00:16:42,370
I came the other.

283
00:16:42,370 --> 00:16:44,890
Took me about two
or three weeks--

284
00:16:44,890 --> 00:16:46,600
I really don't remember--

285
00:16:46,600 --> 00:16:50,610
to get back in L^Àdz, where
I was reunited with my mom.

286
00:16:50,610 --> 00:16:55,040

287
00:16:55,040 --> 00:16:58,670
Tell me about the moments of
getting reunited with your mom.

288
00:16:58,670 --> 00:17:02,180
I tell you exactly how it
was, because I'll never

289
00:17:02,180 --> 00:17:04,880
ever forget that.

290
00:17:04,880 --> 00:17:08,869
When I came to L^Àdz
the second time,

291
00:17:08,869 --> 00:17:12,800
that is looking
already for my mom,

292
00:17:12,800 --> 00:17:17,150
there was already an organized

committee at the train station.

293

00:17:17,150 --> 00:17:21,560

There were women that came
and actually bodily showed you

294

00:17:21,560 --> 00:17:23,829

where the shelter was.

295

00:17:23,829 --> 00:17:27,910

And there was a redheaded woman
from my home town standing

296

00:17:27,910 --> 00:17:29,440

there at the train.

297

00:17:29,440 --> 00:17:32,530

And when she saw me,
she said, Nesse, I'm

298

00:17:32,530 --> 00:17:34,610

going to take you
to your mother.

299

00:17:34,610 --> 00:17:36,160

I said, how do you know me?

300

00:17:36,160 --> 00:17:38,440

She said, yes, we heard
that you were here

301

00:17:38,440 --> 00:17:40,510

and you went to look for her.

302

00:17:40,510 --> 00:17:44,210

And we thought you
would come back.

303

00:17:44,210 --> 00:17:47,840

She took me up two flights
or three flights of stairs.

304

00:17:47,840 --> 00:17:49,220
I don't remember anymore.

305
00:17:49,220 --> 00:17:53,900
Here, I could hardly move my
feet, because they were frozen.

306
00:17:53,900 --> 00:17:56,570
I don't know how I
walked up those stairs.

307
00:17:56,570 --> 00:17:58,350
She knocked on the door.

308
00:17:58,350 --> 00:18:02,480
She said, Mrs. Galperin, I
brought you your daughter.

309
00:18:02,480 --> 00:18:04,010
And the woman left.

310
00:18:04,010 --> 00:18:07,940
And what I remember,
the door opening up,

311
00:18:07,940 --> 00:18:09,500
and there was no lights.

312
00:18:09,500 --> 00:18:10,770
I don't know why.

313
00:18:10,770 --> 00:18:14,690
Maybe it was still bombed there.

314
00:18:14,690 --> 00:18:16,580
It was a candle burning.

315
00:18:16,580 --> 00:18:17,960
And there was my mother.

316
00:18:17,960 --> 00:18:22,490
She looked frail, but

she looked the same.

317

00:18:22,490 --> 00:18:28,340

She, from the age of 45 to
46, she didn't change, really.

318

00:18:28,340 --> 00:18:31,500

But she did not recognize me.

319

00:18:31,500 --> 00:18:33,570

My head was still shaved.

320

00:18:33,570 --> 00:18:38,810

My face was still swollen,
wrapped around with rags.

321

00:18:38,810 --> 00:18:45,380

And at that point, I still
had very terrible clothes on.

322

00:18:45,380 --> 00:18:48,410

Some Russian soldier
gave me an old coat.

323

00:18:48,410 --> 00:18:51,430

I had a pair of men's shoes on.

324

00:18:51,430 --> 00:18:57,420

And I just remember her
saying, OK, take off your coat.

325

00:18:57,420 --> 00:18:58,590

And here's my mother.

326

00:18:58,590 --> 00:19:01,170

I was so anxious to hug her.

327

00:19:01,170 --> 00:19:04,890

And after I took off all
that junk from me, she said,

328

00:19:04,890 --> 00:19:07,740

I did not recognize
you, my child.

329
00:19:07,740 --> 00:19:11,850
And needless to say,
we were very lucky.

330
00:19:11,850 --> 00:19:17,400
So few found mothers
and found children.

331
00:19:17,400 --> 00:19:18,900
I was really very lucky.

332
00:19:18,900 --> 00:19:23,260

333
00:19:23,260 --> 00:19:27,620
Now, I want to go back and
ask you specific things

334
00:19:27,620 --> 00:19:31,110
about getting liberated
and getting disinfected.

335
00:19:31,110 --> 00:19:32,960
Did they give you a toothbrush?

336
00:19:32,960 --> 00:19:35,640
Tell me about little
things like that.

337
00:19:35,640 --> 00:19:37,100
[LAUGHS] OK, I'll tell you.

338
00:19:37,100 --> 00:19:40,130
You know, I have a little bit
of a problem with the word

339
00:19:40,130 --> 00:19:42,050
"liberation."

340

00:19:42,050 --> 00:19:46,160
You know, we are grateful to
every soldier that came in,

341
00:19:46,160 --> 00:19:48,800
whether it was French
or English or Russian

342
00:19:48,800 --> 00:19:51,500
or our wonderful
American soldiers that

343
00:19:51,500 --> 00:19:55,550
came in and talked to
us like human beings.

344
00:19:55,550 --> 00:19:59,600
But really, did anybody
send armies to liberate us?

345
00:19:59,600 --> 00:20:01,220
They found us there.

346
00:20:01,220 --> 00:20:04,400
Whether it was in the
American zone or the French,

347
00:20:04,400 --> 00:20:06,890
they found that in those camps.

348
00:20:06,890 --> 00:20:09,140
Now in my particulars,
I told you,

349
00:20:09,140 --> 00:20:11,360
the first units went through.

350
00:20:11,360 --> 00:20:14,660
They really gave us crumbs
of bread, I remember just,

351
00:20:14,660 --> 00:20:18,460
and saying, we don't

have ourselves.

352

00:20:18,460 --> 00:20:22,270

And we don't want to give you
too much so you don't get sick.

353

00:20:22,270 --> 00:20:26,140

Now, as I told you
before, the next day,

354

00:20:26,140 --> 00:20:29,320

the few that were a
little bit healthier

355

00:20:29,320 --> 00:20:32,220

had walked to the village.

356

00:20:32,220 --> 00:20:34,450

I really don't
know whether it was

357

00:20:34,450 --> 00:20:37,330

a mile or a mile and a half.

358

00:20:37,330 --> 00:20:38,530

We could see the village.

359

00:20:38,530 --> 00:20:41,450

It was within walking distance.

360

00:20:41,450 --> 00:20:43,760

I personally could not walk.

361

00:20:43,760 --> 00:20:46,940

A Russian soldier
carried me on his arms

362

00:20:46,940 --> 00:20:49,640

and brought me to
that little house.

363

00:20:49,640 --> 00:20:53,030

After being in that
little house for two days,

364
00:20:53,030 --> 00:20:55,400
where we were given a
little bit of food--

365
00:20:55,400 --> 00:20:59,870
they stopped in every house and
gave a little bit of soup a few

366
00:20:59,870 --> 00:21:01,550
times a day--

367
00:21:01,550 --> 00:21:05,930
then, that makeshift
hospital was created.

368
00:21:05,930 --> 00:21:10,010
I remember they brought
me into the hospital.

369
00:21:10,010 --> 00:21:16,120
I remember them shaving
my hair, all over my body.

370
00:21:16,120 --> 00:21:20,910
I remember a burning
sensation of DDT

371
00:21:20,910 --> 00:21:24,540
or some other kind
of disinfectant.

372
00:21:24,540 --> 00:21:29,260
And then, I didn't remember
anything else for three days.

373
00:21:29,260 --> 00:21:31,610
I was unconscious.

374
00:21:31,610 --> 00:21:37,290
When I woke up, I remember

the Russian doctor

375

00:21:37,290 --> 00:21:44,920

asking me my name, my age, where
I'm from, and holding my hands

376

00:21:44,920 --> 00:21:48,820

and giving me hope
that I'm free,

377

00:21:48,820 --> 00:21:54,830

that I'll be OK, that
they'll take care of me.

378

00:21:54,830 --> 00:21:57,710

I don't remember
any toothbrushes.

379

00:21:57,710 --> 00:22:02,285

I don't remember any luxuries
at all in that little hospital.

380

00:22:02,285 --> 00:22:05,160

381

00:22:05,160 --> 00:22:12,040

We're about to run out, so we
should put another roll on.

382

00:22:12,040 --> 00:22:21,000