

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:52,060

2
00:01:52,060 --> 00:01:52,942
Oh.

3
00:01:52,942 --> 00:01:54,910
[CLAPPERBOARD CLAPS]

4
00:01:54,910 --> 00:01:55,860
That was good, Jim.

5
00:01:55,860 --> 00:01:59,350
That's why we wear the headset.

6
00:01:59,350 --> 00:02:00,290
This was good.

7
00:02:00,290 --> 00:02:02,650
It was just the beginning
that we didn't go--

8
00:02:02,650 --> 00:02:04,150
Right--

9
00:02:04,150 --> 00:02:05,560
For an hour without--

10
00:02:05,560 --> 00:02:07,030
Good catch, John.

11
00:02:07,030 --> 00:02:09,330
I didn't hear your questions.

12
00:02:09,330 --> 00:02:09,830
OK.

13
00:02:09,830 --> 00:02:10,330
OK.

14

00:02:10,330 --> 00:02:11,095

Let's just--

15

00:02:11,095 --> 00:02:11,720

I'll ask again.

16

00:02:11,720 --> 00:02:12,597

Ask again.

17

00:02:12,597 --> 00:02:13,430

Say right about now.

18

00:02:13,430 --> 00:02:16,430

19

00:02:16,430 --> 00:02:16,930

Now?

20

00:02:16,930 --> 00:02:18,490

Yes.

21

00:02:18,490 --> 00:02:22,210

We're interviewing Sara Gelender
for the Holocaust Oral History

22

00:02:22,210 --> 00:02:24,910

Project in San
Francisco, California.

23

00:02:24,910 --> 00:02:29,500

Today is September 23, 1992.

24

00:02:29,500 --> 00:02:31,300

I'm Peggy Coster.

25

00:02:31,300 --> 00:02:35,170

And the camera person
is David Sokolski.

26

00:02:35,170 --> 00:02:36,970

Sara, why don't you

start by describing

27

00:02:36,970 --> 00:02:39,490
the day the Germans invaded?

28

00:02:39,490 --> 00:02:41,840
This was from the beginning.

29

00:02:41,840 --> 00:02:42,340
Wasn't it?

30

00:02:42,340 --> 00:02:44,382
Yeah, I'm going to go into
more detail this time.

31

00:02:44,382 --> 00:02:47,090
Oh, I see.

32

00:02:47,090 --> 00:02:48,500
OK.

33

00:02:48,500 --> 00:02:52,400
So that was September 1939.

34

00:02:52,400 --> 00:02:55,670
And Germany invaded Poland.

35

00:02:55,670 --> 00:02:58,833
And specifically, I'm
talking about Warsaw.

36

00:02:58,833 --> 00:03:01,611

37

00:03:01,611 --> 00:03:10,200
Warsaw was attacked by the
Germans about in October--

38

00:03:10,200 --> 00:03:11,970
October.

39

00:03:11,970 --> 00:03:18,240
And the Polish resistance,
they were kind of sure

40
00:03:18,240 --> 00:03:21,320
that they can take
it, the aggression,

41
00:03:21,320 --> 00:03:23,630
and that they will
be able to defend.

42
00:03:23,630 --> 00:03:27,590
But this was no comparison
to the German power,

43
00:03:27,590 --> 00:03:29,970
to the German military power.

44
00:03:29,970 --> 00:03:34,490
So Warsaw was bombed-- was
about, they say, 500 planes,

45
00:03:34,490 --> 00:03:40,820
which were cruising
all over Warsaw.

46
00:03:40,820 --> 00:03:45,380
And it was a terrible--

47
00:03:45,380 --> 00:03:47,810
I still remember very
vividly the time.

48
00:03:47,810 --> 00:03:52,658
And most young man
were out of Warsaw

49
00:03:52,658 --> 00:03:57,140
because of the
German intervention

50
00:03:57,140 --> 00:04:00,260

giving them messages by radio--

51

00:04:00,260 --> 00:04:04,100

Polish language-- urging the
young men to leave because,

52

00:04:04,100 --> 00:04:08,030

otherwise, the Germans are
going to be taking them

53

00:04:08,030 --> 00:04:11,060

to a labor camp in Germany.

54

00:04:11,060 --> 00:04:15,980

So of course, everybody and
my four brothers left also.

55

00:04:15,980 --> 00:04:20,000

And so Warsaw was
really without any--

56

00:04:20,000 --> 00:04:22,710

there was nobody besides,
of course, the military,

57

00:04:22,710 --> 00:04:29,690

which was not a match to
the German military power.

58

00:04:29,690 --> 00:04:34,850

And we were-- in my
family specifically,

59

00:04:34,850 --> 00:04:37,850

my sister was there
with her child.

60

00:04:37,850 --> 00:04:40,100

And my sister-in-law,
my brother's wife,

61

00:04:40,100 --> 00:04:42,050

was also with her child.

62
00:04:42,050 --> 00:04:44,630
So we were all together
and, of course, my father

63
00:04:44,630 --> 00:04:47,000
and my mother.

64
00:04:47,000 --> 00:04:49,550
And bombing was very intense.

65
00:04:49,550 --> 00:04:53,090
And we were actually
mostly all in the cellar.

66
00:04:53,090 --> 00:04:54,920
All the people from
this whole building--

67
00:04:54,920 --> 00:04:57,240
this was a four-story building--

68
00:04:57,240 --> 00:04:59,780
everybody was in the cellar.

69
00:04:59,780 --> 00:05:03,320
And it was very frightening.

70
00:05:03,320 --> 00:05:07,940
It was intense bombing going
on for hours and hours.

71
00:05:07,940 --> 00:05:11,270
And we were sitting, as I
mentioned, in the cellar.

72
00:05:11,270 --> 00:05:13,270
But we went for some kind--

73
00:05:13,270 --> 00:05:17,090
I don't remember what the reason
was that my mother went up.

74

00:05:17,090 --> 00:05:22,850

And just after this, we got
a shrapnel into our window

75

00:05:22,850 --> 00:05:28,010

into our living room-- got
a huge hole in the wall.

76

00:05:28,010 --> 00:05:34,860

And we had a little bird,
my little niece's canary,

77

00:05:34,860 --> 00:05:38,970

in the cage because
the bird was killed.

78

00:05:38,970 --> 00:05:44,660

And after we decided, we
were sitting in the cellar.

79

00:05:44,660 --> 00:05:49,220

And we learned that a bomb
was found on our roof.

80

00:05:49,220 --> 00:05:53,360

And the bomb was from the
type which start a fire.

81

00:05:53,360 --> 00:05:56,190

So of course, we decided
we cannot stay here,

82

00:05:56,190 --> 00:06:02,600

because we will be
facing a terrible fire.

83

00:06:02,600 --> 00:06:04,220

So we decided to leave.

84

00:06:04,220 --> 00:06:08,570

We tried to get out of
this building, went out

85
00:06:08,570 --> 00:06:10,310
in the street.

86
00:06:10,310 --> 00:06:12,720
The sky was completely red.

87
00:06:12,720 --> 00:06:13,920
The street was on fire.

88
00:06:13,920 --> 00:06:16,430
Wherever you look
was just fire, fire.

89
00:06:16,430 --> 00:06:18,500
And the sky was red.

90
00:06:18,500 --> 00:06:21,950
And this was
September or October--

91
00:06:21,950 --> 00:06:26,090
September was very hot, happened
to be very hot there, too.

92
00:06:26,090 --> 00:06:32,150
And the heat-- the fire added
the intensity of the heat.

93
00:06:32,150 --> 00:06:35,930
And we didn't know where to
go, because wherever we look,

94
00:06:35,930 --> 00:06:37,340
everything was on fire.

95
00:06:37,340 --> 00:06:41,120
So the only way probably
where we can save ourselves

96
00:06:41,120 --> 00:06:41,930
is going to--

97

00:06:41,930 --> 00:06:43,860

the only where there
is no fire is probably

98

00:06:43,860 --> 00:06:47,390

at the river, this
river in Poland.

99

00:06:47,390 --> 00:06:51,050

But this was a very
long run to the river.

100

00:06:51,050 --> 00:06:52,040

So anyways, we try.

101

00:06:52,040 --> 00:06:55,130

We went to the street
and ran from one street

102

00:06:55,130 --> 00:06:56,420

to another street.

103

00:06:56,420 --> 00:07:03,200

Finally, we decided to go
into a house, a building.

104

00:07:03,200 --> 00:07:05,420

Poland buildings were
different than here.

105

00:07:05,420 --> 00:07:10,110

The building where
it was entered this--

106

00:07:10,110 --> 00:07:10,860

oh, boy.

107

00:07:10,860 --> 00:07:14,610

108

00:07:14,610 --> 00:07:15,720

How do I explain this?

109
00:07:15,720 --> 00:07:17,900
It's hard for me to explain--

110
00:07:17,900 --> 00:07:23,600
was actually the
stairs, kind of a hall,

111
00:07:23,600 --> 00:07:26,090
sort of, this building, a hall.

112
00:07:26,090 --> 00:07:28,940
And we were all, the whole
family, with the little kids,

113
00:07:28,940 --> 00:07:32,510
we were sitting there
on the steps of this--

114
00:07:32,510 --> 00:07:34,790
sitting there and waiting.

115
00:07:34,790 --> 00:07:39,680
We were waiting until the night
was over for the day, finally.

116
00:07:39,680 --> 00:07:43,040
In the morning, the
bombing stopped.

117
00:07:43,040 --> 00:07:47,780
So we then decided to
leave this area there

118
00:07:47,780 --> 00:07:51,470
and try to go to my
sister's apartment,

119
00:07:51,470 --> 00:07:54,390
because ours was on fire.

120

00:07:54,390 --> 00:07:56,840

So we were running
through the street.

121

00:07:56,840 --> 00:07:58,760

There was no bombing then.

122

00:07:58,760 --> 00:08:00,680

And we came to her place.

123

00:08:00,680 --> 00:08:04,310

Her place was safe still.

124

00:08:04,310 --> 00:08:08,030

And we all were there, the
whole family, all of us.

125

00:08:08,030 --> 00:08:10,190

She has a small place.

126

00:08:10,190 --> 00:08:14,660

And we realized that
everything is gone.

127

00:08:14,660 --> 00:08:18,890

Our whole-- we were living in
this since I was born in there.

128

00:08:18,890 --> 00:08:21,920

You are living for years
and years in the same place.

129

00:08:21,920 --> 00:08:26,150

And everything was gone with all
the belongings, with all this--

130

00:08:26,150 --> 00:08:33,059

with some items which you
cannot replace which are--

131

00:08:33,059 --> 00:08:35,169

you cannot replace.

132

00:08:35,169 --> 00:08:37,280

But this was not really--

133

00:08:37,280 --> 00:08:43,220

we didn't consider this
anything to worry about it,

134

00:08:43,220 --> 00:08:47,030

because the main thing was
just to save your life,

135

00:08:47,030 --> 00:08:48,920

because this was a war.

136

00:08:48,920 --> 00:08:54,750

So everybody was just
anxious just to save and not

137

00:08:54,750 --> 00:08:57,440

to think about belonging
and all the stuff.

138

00:08:57,440 --> 00:09:02,730

139

00:09:02,730 --> 00:09:07,060

And of course, we couldn't
stay with my sister

140

00:09:07,060 --> 00:09:08,580

because she has a small place.

141

00:09:08,580 --> 00:09:11,020

And we were all all of us.

142

00:09:11,020 --> 00:09:13,500

So we went to my
other sister's place.

143

00:09:13,500 --> 00:09:16,140

Her place also was safe.

144

00:09:16,140 --> 00:09:21,720

And we were staying
there trying--

145

00:09:21,720 --> 00:09:26,440

we decided the house,
of course, was gone.

146

00:09:26,440 --> 00:09:29,610

But the cellar still was
staying there because--

147

00:09:29,610 --> 00:09:32,820

and we had some fur coats.

148

00:09:32,820 --> 00:09:36,120

In Poland, a lot of
people have fur coats

149

00:09:36,120 --> 00:09:38,230

because the climate
was very cold.

150

00:09:38,230 --> 00:09:40,260

And it wasn't then
this what it is

151

00:09:40,260 --> 00:09:44,310

today, which is save the animals
and don't wear a fur coat.

152

00:09:44,310 --> 00:09:48,700

In those days, we didn't
think about these issues.

153

00:09:48,700 --> 00:09:50,820

So anyways, we had
my mother's fur coat

154

00:09:50,820 --> 00:09:54,420

and my my father's and
my two brothers' fur.

155

00:09:54,420 --> 00:09:56,880

So we decided we're just going
to go there to the cellar

156

00:09:56,880 --> 00:09:59,150

and take this.

157

00:09:59,150 --> 00:10:01,350

This probably is
still in condition

158

00:10:01,350 --> 00:10:04,260

that can be used,
we think, this one.

159

00:10:04,260 --> 00:10:06,960

And we did.

160

00:10:06,960 --> 00:10:08,340

We went there, of course.

161

00:10:08,340 --> 00:10:10,830

But everything was lost.

162

00:10:10,830 --> 00:10:15,150

And then it was
this shortly after--

163

00:10:15,150 --> 00:10:18,930

and of course, the Polacks
decided to give in.

164

00:10:18,930 --> 00:10:21,310

And they kind of capitulated.

165

00:10:21,310 --> 00:10:24,660

And the Germans took over
Warsaw and took over Poland

166

00:10:24,660 --> 00:10:26,460

altogether.

167

00:10:26,460 --> 00:10:33,270

And right away after start
all this restriction.

168

00:10:33,270 --> 00:10:37,290

There was 6 o'clock the--

169

00:10:37,290 --> 00:10:43,450

what is it-- this
limitation, not a--

170

00:10:43,450 --> 00:10:43,950

Curfew--

171

00:10:43,950 --> 00:10:44,692

Curfew, rather.

172

00:10:44,692 --> 00:10:45,192

Yeah.

173

00:10:45,192 --> 00:10:48,150

174

00:10:48,150 --> 00:10:50,725

But in the beginning, we
didn't know, we didn't expect,

175

00:10:50,725 --> 00:10:52,850

and we didn't feel that
the Germans are going to be

176

00:10:52,850 --> 00:10:54,890

against the point against Jews.

177

00:10:54,890 --> 00:10:57,000

We know that they
are against the Jews.

178

00:10:57,000 --> 00:10:58,850

But we didn't think
that it's going

179

00:10:58,850 --> 00:11:03,860
to come to this kind of things
which took place, which they're

180

00:11:03,860 --> 00:11:05,690
going to kill.

181

00:11:05,690 --> 00:11:09,290
But we realized
that we have to be--

182

00:11:09,290 --> 00:11:12,720
that the time is getting
the tough time for us,

183

00:11:12,720 --> 00:11:16,020
is getting hard because
the Germans were in Poland.

184

00:11:16,020 --> 00:11:18,380
My brothers didn't come back.

185

00:11:18,380 --> 00:11:20,780
They crossed the
border because Poland

186

00:11:20,780 --> 00:11:23,200
was divided between the
Germans and the Russians.

187

00:11:23,200 --> 00:11:24,200
They crossed the border.

188

00:11:24,200 --> 00:11:26,300
They went on the Russian side.

189

00:11:26,300 --> 00:11:27,120
They were there.

190

00:11:27,120 --> 00:11:31,778
And a lot of refugees, a
lot of people from Warsaw,

191
00:11:31,778 --> 00:11:36,470
escaped that went
on the Russian side.

192
00:11:36,470 --> 00:11:39,500
And I was just left
with my parents.

193
00:11:39,500 --> 00:11:41,250
And I was young.

194
00:11:41,250 --> 00:11:44,210
But I thought my
brothers were there.

195
00:11:44,210 --> 00:11:48,740
And I said, I don't feel that I
wanted to stay also in Warsaw.

196
00:11:48,740 --> 00:11:51,390
So I was kind of
anxious to leave.

197
00:11:51,390 --> 00:11:55,940
I leave and also try
to go to the border,

198
00:11:55,940 --> 00:11:59,630
go to the other side,
because the life was very--

199
00:11:59,630 --> 00:12:04,290
either way, it was very sad
with all the restriction,

200
00:12:04,290 --> 00:12:07,280
with the curfew,
and with other war.

201
00:12:07,280 --> 00:12:12,770
So most of the young people
tried to escape, not to stay.

202
00:12:12,770 --> 00:12:15,518
And I went with
my brother-in-law.

203
00:12:15,518 --> 00:12:18,050

204
00:12:18,050 --> 00:12:19,290
They had a little child.

205
00:12:19,290 --> 00:12:21,410
She was maybe three years old.

206
00:12:21,410 --> 00:12:23,300
And he went with me.

207
00:12:23,300 --> 00:12:25,380
He actually was
studying in Germany.

208
00:12:25,380 --> 00:12:27,860
He learned perfect
German language

209
00:12:27,860 --> 00:12:31,160
because he was studying to be
an engineer in Weimar, I think,

210
00:12:31,160 --> 00:12:33,620
the German university.

211
00:12:33,620 --> 00:12:35,090
So we went together.

212
00:12:35,090 --> 00:12:37,700
And we crossed--
which was already

213
00:12:37,700 --> 00:12:40,010
try to pretend that
you don't look Jewish,

214
00:12:40,010 --> 00:12:44,780
that you're not Jewish,
because we had to take

215
00:12:44,780 --> 00:12:48,770
this streetcar or the bus.

216
00:12:48,770 --> 00:12:50,510
And you were afraid,
are they going

217
00:12:50,510 --> 00:12:52,400
to look at you, the Germans?

218
00:12:52,400 --> 00:12:56,840
Some, they can just grab
you and throw you out.

219
00:12:56,840 --> 00:13:00,080
So he happened to not
look typical Jewish,

220
00:13:00,080 --> 00:13:02,630
but I think I look Jewish.

221
00:13:02,630 --> 00:13:05,750
So anyways, that
was also a whole--

222
00:13:05,750 --> 00:13:08,240
everything was then a problem.

223
00:13:08,240 --> 00:13:09,770
Everything was a big--

224
00:13:09,770 --> 00:13:12,260
things like that,
it was everything

225
00:13:12,260 --> 00:13:15,740
which was about life,

about surviving,

226

00:13:15,740 --> 00:13:19,620

about everyday things which
we never thought of it.

227

00:13:19,620 --> 00:13:21,750

And we went, finally.

228

00:13:21,750 --> 00:13:29,480

We got to a little town which
was away from the border still

229

00:13:29,480 --> 00:13:32,790

and actually a "rinch"--

230

00:13:32,790 --> 00:13:34,370

a "rinch."

231

00:13:34,370 --> 00:13:35,270

Like "rinch"?

232

00:13:35,270 --> 00:13:35,880

A "rinch"?

233

00:13:35,880 --> 00:13:37,400

R-I-N-C-H?

234

00:13:37,400 --> 00:13:39,300

"Rinch"?

235

00:13:39,300 --> 00:13:39,920

"Rinch"?

236

00:13:39,920 --> 00:13:41,210

A "rinch," isn't it?

237

00:13:41,210 --> 00:13:41,810

Like a farm?

238

00:13:41,810 --> 00:13:43,460

Like a farm-- a farm.

239

00:13:43,460 --> 00:13:44,900

Yeah, like a farm house.

240

00:13:44,900 --> 00:13:45,950

That's right.

241

00:13:45,950 --> 00:13:49,100

And the owner of this
house, the farmer,

242

00:13:49,100 --> 00:13:51,020

he's supposed to take
the group of people

243

00:13:51,020 --> 00:13:53,990

across the border
at the right time.

244

00:13:53,990 --> 00:13:56,630

And of course, you
had to pay him.

245

00:13:56,630 --> 00:13:59,160

And there was quite a
number of people there.

246

00:13:59,160 --> 00:14:00,020

And we were waiting.

247

00:14:00,020 --> 00:14:04,710

Every day was--
every night was not--

248

00:14:04,710 --> 00:14:06,500

the moon was full.

249

00:14:06,500 --> 00:14:11,480

There was too much light.

250

00:14:11,480 --> 00:14:16,340

So we were staying there
about probably for two weeks

251
00:14:16,340 --> 00:14:22,070
and waiting for the right
time to be able in the night

252
00:14:22,070 --> 00:14:23,450
to cross the border.

253
00:14:23,450 --> 00:14:26,180
Finally, we decided this
was quite a crossing.

254
00:14:26,180 --> 00:14:29,550
This was November, the
beginning of November.

255
00:14:29,550 --> 00:14:32,900
And it was a big field
and was partly frozen.

256
00:14:32,900 --> 00:14:36,440
And I was in high-heeled shoes.

257
00:14:36,440 --> 00:14:38,330
I never forget this.

258
00:14:38,330 --> 00:14:39,800
And here was a group of people.

259
00:14:39,800 --> 00:14:42,380
They were going quite
fast because they wanted--

260
00:14:42,380 --> 00:14:47,180
the time was important to
make it as soon as possible.

261
00:14:47,180 --> 00:14:49,940
I kept falling all the
time with my high heels.

262

00:14:49,940 --> 00:14:53,450

And the ground was partly
frozen, was not even.

263

00:14:53,450 --> 00:14:54,590

So it was terrible.

264

00:14:54,590 --> 00:14:56,630

And I was always left behind.

265

00:14:56,630 --> 00:14:58,820

My brother-in-law
was ahead of me.

266

00:14:58,820 --> 00:15:01,950

And he kind of
called me and say--

267

00:15:01,950 --> 00:15:02,450

I can't.

268

00:15:02,450 --> 00:15:03,530

I just was falling.

269

00:15:03,530 --> 00:15:08,200

And my knees were all bruised,
until I finally made it.

270

00:15:08,200 --> 00:15:09,560

Then we had to take--

271

00:15:09,560 --> 00:15:15,350

I think we had to take a boat to
go finally through the border.

272

00:15:15,350 --> 00:15:17,450

We came on the other
side, which was

273

00:15:17,450 --> 00:15:20,840

such a relief to see just
the Russian soldiers.

274
00:15:20,840 --> 00:15:23,300
But they were
afraid, because they

275
00:15:23,300 --> 00:15:25,160
were suspicious of
some people looking

276
00:15:25,160 --> 00:15:26,640
like they crossed the border.

277
00:15:26,640 --> 00:15:29,450
So they were sending you back.

278
00:15:29,450 --> 00:15:31,460
Why were they suspicious?

279
00:15:31,460 --> 00:15:32,780
They were sending people back?

280
00:15:32,780 --> 00:15:34,400
Back to Poland,
because they realized

281
00:15:34,400 --> 00:15:36,590
these are people
who want to escape.

282
00:15:36,590 --> 00:15:39,180
And they're coming
here for the refugees.

283
00:15:39,180 --> 00:15:42,140
There was such an influx
of refugees-- tremendous.

284
00:15:42,140 --> 00:15:44,600
They wanted to stop this.

285
00:15:44,600 --> 00:15:48,220
So I was looking like

a typical, really,

286

00:15:48,220 --> 00:15:53,230

refugee because I was
exhausted and my knees.

287

00:15:53,230 --> 00:15:58,240

But somehow, we were kind
of pretending that we are

288

00:15:58,240 --> 00:16:00,340

very much relaxed and quiet.

289

00:16:00,340 --> 00:16:04,870

And they let us go to the
train and went to the city.

290

00:16:04,870 --> 00:16:08,420

291

00:16:08,420 --> 00:16:11,540

I wanted to go back and ask a
few details about what we just

292

00:16:11,540 --> 00:16:13,280

covered.

293

00:16:13,280 --> 00:16:17,680

One is, could you talk about
some of the restrictions?

294

00:16:17,680 --> 00:16:20,150

What restrictions did they
impose and how quickly--

295

00:16:20,150 --> 00:16:20,870

German?

296

00:16:20,870 --> 00:16:21,370

Yeah.

297

00:16:21,370 --> 00:16:24,730

All the restrictions-- the
first thing, right away,

298
00:16:24,730 --> 00:16:29,050
all kind of on the
radio and printed,

299
00:16:29,050 --> 00:16:34,110
showing on the street,
print notice about the Jews.

300
00:16:34,110 --> 00:16:39,460
And then I don't really
recall exactly what

301
00:16:39,460 --> 00:16:41,950
was the restriction kind.

302
00:16:41,950 --> 00:16:44,200
But I know that if
you were staying

303
00:16:44,200 --> 00:16:50,110
for-- there were big lines
for bread for something.

304
00:16:50,110 --> 00:16:54,550
So if they saw a Jew thing, they
just got you out of this line.

305
00:16:54,550 --> 00:16:58,040
You're not supposed to
be here and you so and so

306
00:16:58,040 --> 00:17:00,280
and all these insults.

307
00:17:00,280 --> 00:17:04,270
And there was all kinds
of tremendous restriction

308
00:17:04,270 --> 00:17:06,670
from the Germans right

away in the beginning.

309

00:17:06,670 --> 00:17:10,339

That's why so many
Jews wanted to leave.

310

00:17:10,339 --> 00:17:12,140

But I don't recall.

311

00:17:12,140 --> 00:17:15,055

I cannot be specific, really,
about that because I really

312

00:17:15,055 --> 00:17:15,680

don't remember.

313

00:17:15,680 --> 00:17:17,560

It's so many years ago.

314

00:17:17,560 --> 00:17:19,240

I just can't remember this.

315

00:17:19,240 --> 00:17:23,530

But there were a lot, but
still not drastic enough

316

00:17:23,530 --> 00:17:25,660

to get all the Jews out.

317

00:17:25,660 --> 00:17:30,340

For example, my two
sisters still were staying.

318

00:17:30,340 --> 00:17:31,990

They had young kids,
so I don't know

319

00:17:31,990 --> 00:17:34,660

if they felt that maybe
this would be too difficult.

320

00:17:34,660 --> 00:17:37,030

My parents were staying, too.

321
00:17:37,030 --> 00:17:39,448
And a lot of my friends--

322
00:17:39,448 --> 00:17:40,240
I can't believe it.

323
00:17:40,240 --> 00:17:42,310
All my friends were staying.

324
00:17:42,310 --> 00:17:47,680
They're all gone, all young
people, my best girlfriends.

325
00:17:47,680 --> 00:17:49,210
And none of them--

326
00:17:49,210 --> 00:17:50,440
I don't know why--

327
00:17:50,440 --> 00:17:55,660
because as I said, the
Jews never could imagine--

328
00:17:55,660 --> 00:17:57,910
could think that
they're going to be

329
00:17:57,910 --> 00:17:59,860
put to death, all of them.

330
00:17:59,860 --> 00:18:01,540
Nobody expected this.

331
00:18:01,540 --> 00:18:04,180
So that's why people didn't--
still, that's your home.

332
00:18:04,180 --> 00:18:08,445
And especially people whose
house was not destroyed--

333
00:18:08,445 --> 00:18:09,820
so you're saying,
where I'm going

334
00:18:09,820 --> 00:18:12,112
to go, what I'm going to do,
how I'm going to go there.

335
00:18:12,112 --> 00:18:13,810
What will I be there?

336
00:18:13,810 --> 00:18:15,190
So they were staying.

337
00:18:15,190 --> 00:18:17,500
That's what's so
unfortunate, because that's

338
00:18:17,500 --> 00:18:21,370
why so many people find that.

339
00:18:21,370 --> 00:18:24,130
Did anybody try to
talk you out of going?

340
00:18:24,130 --> 00:18:26,320
Yes.

341
00:18:26,320 --> 00:18:29,230
My girlfriend was already
on the other side.

342
00:18:29,230 --> 00:18:32,480
My best girlfriend was on the
other side with her brother.

343
00:18:32,480 --> 00:18:35,080
Her brother was sort
of my boyfriend.

344
00:18:35,080 --> 00:18:36,130

And we were very young.

345

00:18:36,130 --> 00:18:38,110

We were 18 or 19 years old.

346

00:18:38,110 --> 00:18:40,990

So of course, having them
there and my brothers

347

00:18:40,990 --> 00:18:44,500

there-- so of course, I
insisted I have to go.

348

00:18:44,500 --> 00:18:45,190

I want to go.

349

00:18:45,190 --> 00:18:48,040

So my parents didn't want
to stop me, after all.

350

00:18:48,040 --> 00:18:52,820

So they just-- yeah, my
mother gave me her ring,

351

00:18:52,820 --> 00:18:55,690

which I exchanged for bread--
and I cannot forgive myself

352

00:18:55,690 --> 00:18:59,170

until now-- in Russia,
when we were in Russia.

353

00:18:59,170 --> 00:19:02,570

But they finally decided
once that was mine,

354

00:19:02,570 --> 00:19:04,960

that definitely I don't
want to stay there,

355

00:19:04,960 --> 00:19:07,540

so they couldn't stop me.

356

00:19:07,540 --> 00:19:09,670

And I left.

357

00:19:09,670 --> 00:19:11,680

What do you remember
of the German soldiers?

358

00:19:11,680 --> 00:19:15,560

What were their behavior, their
attitudes, things they'd do?

359

00:19:15,560 --> 00:19:17,260

Since I was not--

360

00:19:17,260 --> 00:19:20,920

I was a short time in
Germany, in Poland then,

361

00:19:20,920 --> 00:19:24,760

because after they
took over Poland,

362

00:19:24,760 --> 00:19:26,380

they were already bosses.

363

00:19:26,380 --> 00:19:30,520

You saw on the street many
of the German soldiers.

364

00:19:30,520 --> 00:19:32,770

And since I was a young
girl, some of them

365

00:19:32,770 --> 00:19:35,665

were smiling to me kind
of, trying to be friendly.

366

00:19:35,665 --> 00:19:40,090

367

00:19:40,090 --> 00:19:43,220

But as I said, in

November, I left already.

368

00:19:43,220 --> 00:19:47,090

So I was not in
this difficult time.

369

00:19:47,090 --> 00:19:50,650

So I was not in Poland already,
because I left in November.

370

00:19:50,650 --> 00:19:53,132

When they were being
smiling and friendly,

371

00:19:53,132 --> 00:19:55,090

was that a time when you
were wearing the star?

372

00:19:55,090 --> 00:19:56,160

Was the star after that?

373

00:19:56,160 --> 00:19:57,760

Oh, no, the star was after.

374

00:19:57,760 --> 00:19:59,530

The star was after.

375

00:19:59,530 --> 00:20:04,540

Probably in 1940,
they already had this

376

00:20:04,540 --> 00:20:07,240

for the Jews to put a star,
but not when I was there.

377

00:20:07,240 --> 00:20:11,050

I was there a short time,
as I said, maybe a month.

378

00:20:11,050 --> 00:20:14,320

After they take over-- they took
over in September or October.

379

00:20:14,320 --> 00:20:15,740

And I left in November.

380

00:20:15,740 --> 00:20:18,100

So this was just a month, about.

381

00:20:18,100 --> 00:20:20,890

And my best girlfriend
who left there--

382

00:20:20,890 --> 00:20:24,670

and unfortunately, they
came back to Poland

383

00:20:24,670 --> 00:20:28,300

after being there
for a few months.

384

00:20:28,300 --> 00:20:31,420

The conditions were very
difficult on the other side,

385

00:20:31,420 --> 00:20:33,400

because all these
refugees, we all

386

00:20:33,400 --> 00:20:36,910

were trying to get into the
same city, the same town.

387

00:20:36,910 --> 00:20:40,250

And there were no places
where to keep everybody,

388

00:20:40,250 --> 00:20:43,780

how to accommodate all
this influx of refugees.

389

00:20:43,780 --> 00:20:47,290

So she with her two
brothers decided to go back.

390

00:20:47,290 --> 00:20:49,510
They went back, and
they all perish.

391
00:20:49,510 --> 00:20:52,070
None of them survive.

392
00:20:52,070 --> 00:20:55,820
I have even in Polish
language a letter

393
00:20:55,820 --> 00:20:58,160
from her and from my
other two friends who

394
00:20:58,160 --> 00:21:02,335
wrote to me in Russia when
I was already in Siberia.

395
00:21:02,335 --> 00:21:03,710
What did they say
in the letters?

396
00:21:03,710 --> 00:21:08,120
Oh, it's a beautiful letter
in Polish, dated 1940--

397
00:21:08,120 --> 00:21:10,400
1940 or '41, even.

398
00:21:10,400 --> 00:21:13,280
Were they able to tell
the true conditions?

399
00:21:13,280 --> 00:21:16,490
They said that the conditions
are terrible, hard.

400
00:21:16,490 --> 00:21:18,560
We have a very hard
life, because there

401
00:21:18,560 --> 00:21:20,240

was short notice--

402

00:21:20,240 --> 00:21:21,650

shorter letters.

403

00:21:21,650 --> 00:21:25,810

And they just dream of being
together with me already.

404

00:21:25,810 --> 00:21:29,840

And they all think--

405

00:21:29,840 --> 00:21:31,410

one, she even mentioned to me.

406

00:21:31,410 --> 00:21:35,450

She says her husband,
as usual, he's

407

00:21:35,450 --> 00:21:38,270

optimistic that everything's
going to be fine.

408

00:21:38,270 --> 00:21:41,390

And everything was--
often, I read this letter

409

00:21:41,390 --> 00:21:43,250

from my three best girlfriends.

410

00:21:43,250 --> 00:21:45,200

They're all gone, all of them.

411

00:21:45,200 --> 00:21:47,960

Not even one survived.

412

00:21:47,960 --> 00:21:50,090

So this was this--

413

00:21:50,090 --> 00:21:52,350

not that I was smart.

414

00:21:52,350 --> 00:21:55,430

It turned out that I did
the right thing by escaping.

415

00:21:55,430 --> 00:21:59,070

But I didn't figure
out anything.

416

00:21:59,070 --> 00:22:00,680

Mine was just
strictly emotional,

417

00:22:00,680 --> 00:22:03,500

that there, I had my friends.

418

00:22:03,500 --> 00:22:07,727

And I couldn't just face this
life here as a very young girl.

419

00:22:07,727 --> 00:22:08,810

With all the restrictions.

420

00:22:08,810 --> 00:22:09,980

With all the restrictions.

421

00:22:09,980 --> 00:22:10,530

That's right.

422

00:22:10,530 --> 00:22:11,030

Yeah.

423

00:22:11,030 --> 00:22:13,220

Did you see any
atrocities on the street

424

00:22:13,220 --> 00:22:18,560

by the German soldiers or
the Poles towards the Jews?

425

00:22:18,560 --> 00:22:23,870

The Poles were very much working
together with the Germans.

426
00:22:23,870 --> 00:22:25,010
This was the tragedy.

427
00:22:25,010 --> 00:22:26,330
Talk about that.

428
00:22:26,330 --> 00:22:28,550
Very much the Polacks--

429
00:22:28,550 --> 00:22:30,530
unfortunately, this
is the truth, really.

430
00:22:30,530 --> 00:22:34,310
Maybe some Polacks will be not
wanting to hear this saying me.

431
00:22:34,310 --> 00:22:38,570
But this was the truth, that the
Polacks were very much helping,

432
00:22:38,570 --> 00:22:42,240
because the Jewish
population was about 10%,

433
00:22:42,240 --> 00:22:47,090
which was quite a large
part of the Polish citizens.

434
00:22:47,090 --> 00:22:49,370
3 and 1/2 million were Jews.

435
00:22:49,370 --> 00:22:53,270
And they were
playing the Polacks.

436
00:22:53,270 --> 00:22:58,250
They were envying of the Jews
who were sometimes prospering.

437
00:22:58,250 --> 00:22:59,120

They were envying.

438

00:22:59,120 --> 00:23:00,860

They were jealous.

439

00:23:00,860 --> 00:23:04,760

And the Jews were second-class
citizens, really, absolutely

440

00:23:04,760 --> 00:23:06,390

second-class citizens.

441

00:23:06,390 --> 00:23:10,610

They were not treated
as equal as the Poles.

442

00:23:10,610 --> 00:23:14,810

And the atrocity-- I don't
really remember strictly

443

00:23:14,810 --> 00:23:16,520

to tell any examples.

444

00:23:16,520 --> 00:23:20,000

I cannot mention because
I don't remember, really.

445

00:23:20,000 --> 00:23:25,190

And as I mentioned to you,
I left in this first month.

446

00:23:25,190 --> 00:23:28,430

They didn't come so
strong in the first month.

447

00:23:28,430 --> 00:23:32,840

But eventually, with every month
came a little harder and harder

448

00:23:32,840 --> 00:23:35,300

and more restriction and more--

449

00:23:35,300 --> 00:23:39,570
and eventually, the
ghetto, which was terrible.

450
00:23:39,570 --> 00:23:43,190
But this was '41, probably, '42.

451
00:23:43,190 --> 00:23:46,820
And then we were already
in Siberia there,

452
00:23:46,820 --> 00:23:51,180
because we were 1940--

453
00:23:51,180 --> 00:23:51,680
yeah.

454
00:23:51,680 --> 00:24:00,760
1940, the Russians took us
to Siberia 1940, summer.

455
00:24:00,760 --> 00:24:03,490
Yeah, I wish I could
remember some of the things

456
00:24:03,490 --> 00:24:05,440
to be more specific.

457
00:24:05,440 --> 00:24:09,520
But I just noticed was
a lot of restriction.

458
00:24:09,520 --> 00:24:13,150
It was-- let me think.

459
00:24:13,150 --> 00:24:17,540

460
00:24:17,540 --> 00:24:20,240
For any kind of
misbehavior, what

461

00:24:20,240 --> 00:24:23,120
they call, against the
Germans, right away,

462
00:24:23,120 --> 00:24:24,500
the Jews were punished.

463
00:24:24,500 --> 00:24:30,290
That's what they were saying in
this whole written statement.

464
00:24:30,290 --> 00:24:40,055
Then if anybody will orally or
physically insult any German,

465
00:24:40,055 --> 00:24:43,920
they right away take 10 or
15 people from this building.

466
00:24:43,920 --> 00:24:45,140
And they're going to shoot.

467
00:24:45,140 --> 00:24:47,060
This was right away, this.

468
00:24:47,060 --> 00:24:50,180
So everybody was really--

469
00:24:50,180 --> 00:24:54,120
we know we have to mind your
own business and be quiet.

470
00:24:54,120 --> 00:24:56,430
And this is amazing,
really, now when

471
00:24:56,430 --> 00:25:00,950
we think how all the Jews went
from every country in Europe

472
00:25:00,950 --> 00:25:02,750
without any kind of--

473

00:25:02,750 --> 00:25:06,218

474

00:25:06,218 --> 00:25:07,850

Resistance--

475

00:25:07,850 --> 00:25:09,680

With any kind of resistance.

476

00:25:09,680 --> 00:25:13,190

And they all went so
calmly, so trustfully,

477

00:25:13,190 --> 00:25:20,000

went to these places,
went into the trains,

478

00:25:20,000 --> 00:25:21,720

because nobody expected it.

479

00:25:21,720 --> 00:25:25,040

And maybe in the end, maybe some
people did expect, eventually.

480

00:25:25,040 --> 00:25:28,310

But a lot just went without
any resistance, really.

481

00:25:28,310 --> 00:25:30,730

This was so tragic.

482

00:25:30,730 --> 00:25:31,730

This was just--

483

00:25:31,730 --> 00:25:32,630

I don't know.

484

00:25:32,630 --> 00:25:33,950

It's incredible.

485

00:25:33,950 --> 00:25:36,680

You cannot even apprehend
it with your mind,

486
00:25:36,680 --> 00:25:41,120
to have a nerve to go to all
these countries in Europe

487
00:25:41,120 --> 00:25:45,770
and just take innocent people
out of their houses and take

488
00:25:45,770 --> 00:25:48,200
them to kill.

489
00:25:48,200 --> 00:25:50,120
I know my sister--

490
00:25:50,120 --> 00:25:53,060
just my son-in-law who went
with me-- not my son-in-law,

491
00:25:53,060 --> 00:25:54,650
my brother-in-law, I meant--

492
00:25:54,650 --> 00:25:57,830
my brother-in-law, who
went with me, he went back.

493
00:25:57,830 --> 00:26:00,590
And after all the Germans--
very shortly after,

494
00:26:00,590 --> 00:26:05,240
the Germans announced that they
were taking all the children

495
00:26:05,240 --> 00:26:07,160
out, little kids.

496
00:26:07,160 --> 00:26:08,870
And they were
collecting all these.

497

00:26:08,870 --> 00:26:10,907

And they came to my sister.

498

00:26:10,907 --> 00:26:11,990

And she had a little girl.

499

00:26:11,990 --> 00:26:13,573

She was maybe three
or four years old,

500

00:26:13,573 --> 00:26:15,350

maybe four years old.

501

00:26:15,350 --> 00:26:17,360

And the child was--

502

00:26:17,360 --> 00:26:20,930

you can imagine how a child
was in a terrible fright

503

00:26:20,930 --> 00:26:22,200

and a terrible--

504

00:26:22,200 --> 00:26:24,140

so she was crying and screaming.

505

00:26:24,140 --> 00:26:26,570

So anyways, her
father said he's going

506

00:26:26,570 --> 00:26:31,680

to go with her, because he said
he knows how to speak German.

507

00:26:31,680 --> 00:26:32,480

So he wanted to go.

508

00:26:32,480 --> 00:26:35,960

And they both were killed
right away, his little girl

509

00:26:35,960 --> 00:26:36,830
together with him.

510
00:26:36,830 --> 00:26:39,200
They were right
away killed, both.

511
00:26:39,200 --> 00:26:41,850
And my dear sister
actually survived.

512
00:26:41,850 --> 00:26:44,150
She left the ghetto.

513
00:26:44,150 --> 00:26:49,490
And she went on the
other side, Aryan side,

514
00:26:49,490 --> 00:26:51,570
and pretended that
she's not Jewish.

515
00:26:51,570 --> 00:26:53,870
She really didn't
look very much Jewish.

516
00:26:53,870 --> 00:27:01,400
And she actually survived
until the uprising in Warsaw.

517
00:27:01,400 --> 00:27:05,510
And then she was killed
by a bomb following this.

518
00:27:05,510 --> 00:27:06,740
And she was killed.

519
00:27:06,740 --> 00:27:11,480
So she survived till 1945.

520
00:27:11,480 --> 00:27:15,030
The uprising in Warsaw was just
before the end of the war--

521
00:27:15,030 --> 00:27:18,070
so tragically that she died.

522
00:27:18,070 --> 00:27:19,840
Yeah.

523
00:27:19,840 --> 00:27:24,940
You said people tried to appear
not Jewish and act not Jewish.

524
00:27:24,940 --> 00:27:25,690
Of course.

525
00:27:25,690 --> 00:27:26,710
How?

526
00:27:26,710 --> 00:27:28,600
How would you change
your behavior?

527
00:27:28,600 --> 00:27:32,060
My best girlfriend, she
colored her hair blonde.

528
00:27:32,060 --> 00:27:34,690
She wore a big cross.

529
00:27:34,690 --> 00:27:38,180
And she acted very much--

530
00:27:38,180 --> 00:27:40,150
she knows exactly how to--

531
00:27:40,150 --> 00:27:41,298
whatever how you call this.

532
00:27:41,298 --> 00:27:41,840
I don't know.

533
00:27:41,840 --> 00:27:42,965

Make the sign of the cross.

534
00:27:42,965 --> 00:27:45,610
That's right.

535
00:27:45,610 --> 00:27:49,750
And she made her business
to learn all this, kind of,

536
00:27:49,750 --> 00:27:50,560
to appear.

537
00:27:50,560 --> 00:27:52,930
And she survived
with her little girl.

538
00:27:52,930 --> 00:27:55,810
She had a girl about
five or six years old.

539
00:27:55,810 --> 00:27:57,440
And she survived.

540
00:27:57,440 --> 00:28:01,060
She survived the whole war.

541
00:28:01,060 --> 00:28:03,310
And she was never in
a concentration camp.

542
00:28:03,310 --> 00:28:05,140
But she's dead just the same.

543
00:28:05,140 --> 00:28:09,050

544
00:28:09,050 --> 00:28:13,760
Her husband was also taken
by the Germans and killed.

545
00:28:13,760 --> 00:28:15,490
She survived, this girl.

546
00:28:15,490 --> 00:28:17,140
And they survived the war.

547
00:28:17,140 --> 00:28:21,880
After, she married a Jewish
guy from Germany, a Jewish man.

548
00:28:21,880 --> 00:28:24,100
And she got pregnant.

549
00:28:24,100 --> 00:28:25,660
And she had this--

550
00:28:25,660 --> 00:28:27,530
and I met with her after I came.

551
00:28:27,530 --> 00:28:29,650
This was 1946.

552
00:28:29,650 --> 00:28:32,300
And I came back from
Russia to Poland.

553
00:28:32,300 --> 00:28:34,120
They sent us back.

554
00:28:34,120 --> 00:28:36,190
And I kind of--

555
00:28:36,190 --> 00:28:38,650
I don't know exactly
how I find out

556
00:28:38,650 --> 00:28:40,960
that she's in the same
little town where I was.

557
00:28:40,960 --> 00:28:42,670
And we got together.

558

00:28:42,670 --> 00:28:45,520
And you can imagine our reunion.

559
00:28:45,520 --> 00:28:47,740
She was a wonderful person.

560
00:28:47,740 --> 00:28:49,990
And she was advanced
pregnancy already.

561
00:28:49,990 --> 00:28:52,660
She was maybe eight months,
seven or eight months advanced

562
00:28:52,660 --> 00:28:53,710
pregnancy.

563
00:28:53,710 --> 00:28:58,060
And we were saying that from now
on, we have to keep absolutely

564
00:28:58,060 --> 00:29:01,870
to be together, that we
cannot part for any reason.

565
00:29:01,870 --> 00:29:03,070
We have to be in touch.

566
00:29:03,070 --> 00:29:06,190
And then eventually--
because they were leaving.

567
00:29:06,190 --> 00:29:10,480
Right away, they were
leaving, she with her husband

568
00:29:10,480 --> 00:29:12,100
and with her girl.

569
00:29:12,100 --> 00:29:16,810
Anyway, what it
was, they left to I

570

00:29:16,810 --> 00:29:22,382

don't remember exactly where,
probably one of the town--

571

00:29:22,382 --> 00:29:23,090

I don't know now.

572

00:29:23,090 --> 00:29:25,010

German?

573

00:29:25,010 --> 00:29:28,120

I don't know exactly,
because we were

574

00:29:28,120 --> 00:29:33,040

in the area which was taken
from Germany by Poland.

575

00:29:33,040 --> 00:29:35,980

Poland took Schlesian, I think.

576

00:29:35,980 --> 00:29:38,170

So they took back
from Poland which used

577

00:29:38,170 --> 00:29:40,850

to before belong to Poland.

578

00:29:40,850 --> 00:29:41,550

Silesia?

579

00:29:41,550 --> 00:29:42,170

Silesia.

580

00:29:42,170 --> 00:29:42,670

Exactly.

581

00:29:42,670 --> 00:29:43,480

That's right.

582

00:29:43,480 --> 00:29:43,980

Mm-hmm.

583

00:29:43,980 --> 00:29:46,840

584

00:29:46,840 --> 00:29:47,860

So she went there.

585

00:29:47,860 --> 00:29:49,720

She had her baby there.

586

00:29:49,720 --> 00:29:53,260

And they noticed there
was a German, I think so.

587

00:29:53,260 --> 00:29:55,390

And she was under with drugs.

588

00:29:55,390 --> 00:29:57,920

And she got a hemorrhage,
my girlfriend.

589

00:29:57,920 --> 00:29:58,510

And she died.

590

00:29:58,510 --> 00:30:00,020

She lost her life there.

591

00:30:00,020 --> 00:30:02,380

And he was left
with a little baby.

592

00:30:02,380 --> 00:30:04,640

It was a little boy.

593

00:30:04,640 --> 00:30:05,930

So many tragedies.

594

00:30:05,930 --> 00:30:07,580

So many tragedies.

595

00:30:07,580 --> 00:30:09,620

How was her husband
killed, the person?

596

00:30:09,620 --> 00:30:12,310

He was taken.

597

00:30:12,310 --> 00:30:14,690

They just came and took him.

598

00:30:14,690 --> 00:30:16,340

They were taking men.

599

00:30:16,340 --> 00:30:17,180

They just took him.

600

00:30:17,180 --> 00:30:17,990

He was a young man.

601

00:30:17,990 --> 00:30:19,400

They just took him and shot him.

602

00:30:19,400 --> 00:30:20,420

Oh, and shot him.

603

00:30:20,420 --> 00:30:21,110

And shot him.

604

00:30:21,110 --> 00:30:21,920

Yeah.

605

00:30:21,920 --> 00:30:22,670

He was killed.

606

00:30:22,670 --> 00:30:25,580

Was it pretty open that
they were doing this?

607

00:30:25,580 --> 00:30:27,920

I don't know exactly
if this was open.

608

00:30:27,920 --> 00:30:29,780

But I know that he was shot.

609

00:30:29,780 --> 00:30:30,620

They took him.

610

00:30:30,620 --> 00:30:33,290

And then he was shot,
and she was left.

611

00:30:33,290 --> 00:30:40,770

And when she left Warsaw, just
went on the Aryan side there.

612

00:30:40,770 --> 00:30:42,710

And this was the story of her.

613

00:30:42,710 --> 00:30:46,820

So anyway, eventually, she
also died so unnecessarily.

614

00:30:46,820 --> 00:30:51,680

And your brother-in-law and his
daughter, how were they killed?

615

00:30:51,680 --> 00:30:54,720

As I said, the German
soldier came to their house,

616

00:30:54,720 --> 00:30:58,880

to their place, the apartment,
to take the little girl.

617

00:30:58,880 --> 00:31:00,780

She was about four years old.

618

00:31:00,780 --> 00:31:07,820

And she was in a terrible
fright with terrible fear.

619

00:31:07,820 --> 00:31:10,590

She was screaming and

crying like a child

620

00:31:10,590 --> 00:31:13,040

will react seeing strange--

621

00:31:13,040 --> 00:31:15,350

especially soldiers

looking, too.

622

00:31:15,350 --> 00:31:19,107

And so her father said that

he's going to go with her.

623

00:31:19,107 --> 00:31:20,390

Were they shot?

624

00:31:20,390 --> 00:31:22,610

And they were both shot.

625

00:31:22,610 --> 00:31:27,540

They were both shot, the

child and him, right away.

626

00:31:27,540 --> 00:31:32,130

That was the news

what I got from people

627

00:31:32,130 --> 00:31:37,800

who are there living in the

same area with my sister.

628

00:31:37,800 --> 00:31:40,740

How did your sister handle that?

629

00:31:40,740 --> 00:31:44,490

I imagine this was terrible.

630

00:31:44,490 --> 00:31:47,820

But then in those

days, even when--

631

00:31:47,820 --> 00:31:52,110

I imagine so now, that your
survival was so important.

632
00:31:52,110 --> 00:31:54,420
Everybody wanted to survive.

633
00:31:54,420 --> 00:31:57,060
So I imagine that she
still wanted to survive,

634
00:31:57,060 --> 00:31:59,340
in spite of this terrible--

635
00:31:59,340 --> 00:32:00,990
and they were very--

636
00:32:00,990 --> 00:32:05,790
the first thing my two
sisters and my parents,

637
00:32:05,790 --> 00:32:08,610
they were terribly
worrying about us

638
00:32:08,610 --> 00:32:11,100
because, in the beginning,
we wrote to them.

639
00:32:11,100 --> 00:32:13,680
And I wrote that there
is terribly cold.

640
00:32:13,680 --> 00:32:15,630
Of course, it's Siberia.

641
00:32:15,630 --> 00:32:17,760
And they know how I was--

642
00:32:17,760 --> 00:32:20,550
you're hot, huh?

643
00:32:20,550 --> 00:32:21,840

You wanted to--

644

00:32:21,840 --> 00:32:23,130

No, that's OK.

645

00:32:23,130 --> 00:32:26,340

And they know that I have
trouble with my legs.

646

00:32:26,340 --> 00:32:28,710

I used to have trouble,
especially when it

647

00:32:28,710 --> 00:32:30,310

was very cold.

648

00:32:30,310 --> 00:32:31,920

So they were so--

649

00:32:31,920 --> 00:32:34,980

I got a letter from my
sisters and my parents.

650

00:32:34,980 --> 00:32:36,375

How are you doing?

651

00:32:36,375 --> 00:32:37,250

How are you standing?

652

00:32:37,250 --> 00:32:40,860

653

00:32:40,860 --> 00:32:45,630

How can you withstand
this terrible cold,

654

00:32:45,630 --> 00:32:49,450

because this was no comparison
to the winter in Poland.

655

00:32:49,450 --> 00:32:51,510

So they were so

concerned about us.

656

00:32:51,510 --> 00:32:52,710

How do you manage?

657

00:32:52,710 --> 00:32:55,011

How are you managing there?

658

00:32:55,011 --> 00:32:58,470

Themselves, they

had terrible life--

659

00:32:58,470 --> 00:33:00,790

hard condition of life.

660

00:33:00,790 --> 00:33:03,630

But they were very much--

661

00:33:03,630 --> 00:33:06,480

so that's why I imagine

my sister also--

662

00:33:06,480 --> 00:33:09,150

this was, of course, a

terrible tragedy to her.

663

00:33:09,150 --> 00:33:12,600

But in this time, you

heard this was killed.

664

00:33:12,600 --> 00:33:15,840

That was killed, these people.

665

00:33:15,840 --> 00:33:18,240

You practically get

numb of this, too,

666

00:33:18,240 --> 00:33:21,132

because you hear just this

one or this disappeared.

667

00:33:21,132 --> 00:33:21,840

This disappeared.

668

00:33:21,840 --> 00:33:22,720

He was taken.

669

00:33:22,720 --> 00:33:23,940

This was taken.

670

00:33:23,940 --> 00:33:27,630

So you just get that that's
the reality of life now.

671

00:33:27,630 --> 00:33:29,040

That's where we lived now.

672

00:33:29,040 --> 00:33:32,700

So then it's just how can
I save myself, at least.

673

00:33:32,700 --> 00:33:36,060

So I imagine that that
was probably it was--

674

00:33:36,060 --> 00:33:38,160

that's how it--

675

00:33:38,160 --> 00:33:44,100

I know even we in Russia, we
were not in the danger of life.

676

00:33:44,100 --> 00:33:47,850

We were just living in a
very difficult condition,

677

00:33:47,850 --> 00:33:51,780

under very difficult
conditions, which we are not

678

00:33:51,780 --> 00:33:55,950

used to it, this terrible
cold and the physical work

679

00:33:55,950 --> 00:33:57,150
in the forest.

680
00:33:57,150 --> 00:33:58,650
But still, there were parents.

681
00:33:58,650 --> 00:34:00,000
And there were children.

682
00:34:00,000 --> 00:34:01,800
And they were
fighting about a piece

683
00:34:01,800 --> 00:34:04,680
of bread between the
parents and the children.

684
00:34:04,680 --> 00:34:05,310
This is mine.

685
00:34:05,310 --> 00:34:07,680
Don't touch this and don't--

686
00:34:07,680 --> 00:34:09,270
it's terrible.

687
00:34:09,270 --> 00:34:10,679
It's so strong.

688
00:34:10,679 --> 00:34:14,130
The survival instinct
is so tremendous strong,

689
00:34:14,130 --> 00:34:21,380
then you are willing to overlook
that I love these people.

690
00:34:21,380 --> 00:34:26,090
That's what the war
brought on us, yeah,

691
00:34:26,090 --> 00:34:30,139

the worse and terrible.

692

00:34:30,139 --> 00:34:32,540

So my dear, that's how it was.

693

00:34:32,540 --> 00:34:36,409

So what would you
wanted me to talk now?

694

00:34:36,409 --> 00:34:39,030

Well, I still wanted to ask a
couple of questions about life

695

00:34:39,030 --> 00:34:42,530

just before the war.

696

00:34:42,530 --> 00:34:44,173

People were worried because--

697

00:34:44,173 --> 00:34:45,590

people were worried,
weren't they,

698

00:34:45,590 --> 00:34:48,050

about Germany invading Poland?

699

00:34:48,050 --> 00:34:51,319

And when Czechoslovakia--
was taken--

700

00:34:51,319 --> 00:34:52,909

Was taken over, I
understand there

701

00:34:52,909 --> 00:34:57,190

were some attempts by the Poles
to get some of Czechoslovakia.

702

00:34:57,190 --> 00:35:00,270

How did that kind
of be reconciled

703

00:35:00,270 --> 00:35:03,500
with their own fear of being
taken over by Germany, anyway?

704
00:35:03,500 --> 00:35:08,700
Oh, the Polish people,
they're really amazing.

705
00:35:08,700 --> 00:35:11,690
I don't know if they
have any realistic ground

706
00:35:11,690 --> 00:35:13,970
to feel so sure that
they can withstand

707
00:35:13,970 --> 00:35:16,370
the aggression of
Germany, because when

708
00:35:16,370 --> 00:35:20,140
they will do as the French
did, which they called

709
00:35:20,140 --> 00:35:22,190
the Paris the "open city."

710
00:35:22,190 --> 00:35:24,703
There was no bombing,
and Paris survived.

711
00:35:24,703 --> 00:35:26,120
They should have
called this, too.

712
00:35:26,120 --> 00:35:28,730
But they thought that
they can withstand.

713
00:35:28,730 --> 00:35:31,430
And they were prepared to fight.

714
00:35:31,430 --> 00:35:33,920

And oh, they were
so bullish, really.

715
00:35:33,920 --> 00:35:35,640
They were.

716
00:35:35,640 --> 00:35:37,550
And that makes us
feel good, too.

717
00:35:37,550 --> 00:35:41,750
Or maybe it's the Polack,
maybe, that we will be able

718
00:35:41,750 --> 00:35:48,530
to-- aggression of the Germans,
we will be able to fight it

719
00:35:48,530 --> 00:35:54,050
and to remain free
people, because they kept

720
00:35:54,050 --> 00:35:55,303
on the radio--

721
00:35:55,303 --> 00:35:57,470
of course, we didn't have
television-- on the radio.

722
00:35:57,470 --> 00:35:59,390
And every time you
hear that we were

723
00:35:59,390 --> 00:36:02,930
in the news, that
we are under the--

724
00:36:02,930 --> 00:36:05,960

725
00:36:05,960 --> 00:36:09,650
what was the guy who was in
charge of the armed forces?

726
00:36:09,650 --> 00:36:13,130
That we will call and we will
withstand the German aggression

727
00:36:13,130 --> 00:36:15,560
and we will fight
and we will win.

728
00:36:15,560 --> 00:36:22,820
And that kind of made the
people feeling kind of better.

729
00:36:22,820 --> 00:36:24,140
They thought, maybe we will.

730
00:36:24,140 --> 00:36:26,700
Maybe Poland will be free.

731
00:36:26,700 --> 00:36:30,680
And of course, the Germans
were very well-prepared

732
00:36:30,680 --> 00:36:31,430
for this war.

733
00:36:31,430 --> 00:36:34,160
That's no question about it.

734
00:36:34,160 --> 00:36:37,160
And then the Poles--

735
00:36:37,160 --> 00:36:39,810
we had a lot of
refugees from Germany,

736
00:36:39,810 --> 00:36:45,560
a lot of Jewish refugees,
because then the year '38, '39.

737
00:36:45,560 --> 00:36:47,370
This was a lot already--

738

00:36:47,370 --> 00:36:50,330

the Crystal Night, the famous
Crystal Night in Germany

739

00:36:50,330 --> 00:36:54,740

and all this already,
the severe persecution.

740

00:36:54,740 --> 00:36:58,370

So a lot of German
Jews came to Poland.

741

00:36:58,370 --> 00:37:01,580

So Poland had a lot
of refugees then, too.

742

00:37:01,580 --> 00:37:07,520

And Austria-- Czechoslovakia was
taken without fight right away.

743

00:37:07,520 --> 00:37:08,840

And then--

744

00:37:08,840 --> 00:37:12,750

Do you remember the Poles trying
to get some of Czechoslovakia?

745

00:37:12,750 --> 00:37:14,660

I don't remember this.

746

00:37:14,660 --> 00:37:15,680

I don't know.

747

00:37:15,680 --> 00:37:16,760

They did?

748

00:37:16,760 --> 00:37:19,300

I don't remember, even.

749

00:37:19,300 --> 00:37:21,680

Then they had a

nerve, really, to take

750

00:37:21,680 --> 00:37:23,280

advantage of everything.

751

00:37:23,280 --> 00:37:25,310

So this, I don't remember.

752

00:37:25,310 --> 00:37:26,510

I don't remember this.

753

00:37:26,510 --> 00:37:30,350

I know that this taking of
Czechoslovakia was very quick.

754

00:37:30,350 --> 00:37:37,490

And after was the intervention
of this English British guy

755

00:37:37,490 --> 00:37:41,030

and trying to keep everybody.

756

00:37:41,030 --> 00:37:42,170

It's going to be peace.

757

00:37:42,170 --> 00:37:44,990

We give away Czechoslovakia,
but now it's going to be peace.

758

00:37:44,990 --> 00:37:46,700

We're going to avoid war.

759

00:37:46,700 --> 00:37:48,690

And that's what--
we had to do this,

760

00:37:48,690 --> 00:37:50,480

so don't feel bad about it.

761

00:37:50,480 --> 00:37:53,000

But the war-- it's peace now.

762

00:37:53,000 --> 00:37:54,890

We're going to have peace--

763

00:37:54,890 --> 00:37:55,550

so silly.

764

00:37:55,550 --> 00:37:57,630

And people wanted to
believe in it, too.

765

00:37:57,630 --> 00:37:59,030

So we said, OK.

766

00:37:59,030 --> 00:38:00,290

Let's take Czechoslovakia.

767

00:38:00,290 --> 00:38:02,270

Let's have peace.

768

00:38:02,270 --> 00:38:05,090

But that was just the beginning.

769

00:38:05,090 --> 00:38:08,190

So it wasn't.

770

00:38:08,190 --> 00:38:11,210

Do you remember when Germany
expelled the Jews and Poland

771

00:38:11,210 --> 00:38:13,805

wouldn't take them in so
they were kind of stuck

772

00:38:13,805 --> 00:38:16,260

in this little
narrow part of land?

773

00:38:16,260 --> 00:38:16,760

Yeah.

774

00:38:16,760 --> 00:38:18,440

This, I don't remember so clear.

775

00:38:18,440 --> 00:38:24,080

I met quite a few German Jews
here who, so desperate, came.

776

00:38:24,080 --> 00:38:28,730

And they were in a very
difficult, very difficult,

777

00:38:28,730 --> 00:38:33,200

really, life crisis.

778

00:38:33,200 --> 00:38:35,360

But they had to run away there.

779

00:38:35,360 --> 00:38:39,560

And they didn't know how
to arrange their future,

780

00:38:39,560 --> 00:38:41,960

if they can stay in Poland,
they're going to leave.

781

00:38:41,960 --> 00:38:44,630

Everybody was living
from day to day, really.

782

00:38:44,630 --> 00:38:45,800

There were no plans.

783

00:38:45,800 --> 00:38:47,990

You couldn't make any
plans because you didn't

784

00:38:47,990 --> 00:38:50,070

know what is going to be next.

785

00:38:50,070 --> 00:38:52,100

So I don't know, really.

786

00:38:52,100 --> 00:38:55,250

Eventually, what happened,
some probably German Jews

787
00:38:55,250 --> 00:38:59,180
left also Poland
as other refugees.

788
00:38:59,180 --> 00:39:04,460
But I'm not very
familiar with this type--

789
00:39:04,460 --> 00:39:06,990
with this time.

790
00:39:06,990 --> 00:39:11,700
So I cannot talk about that
because I don't know much.

791
00:39:11,700 --> 00:39:13,890
When you left for
the Russian zone,

792
00:39:13,890 --> 00:39:16,410
how long did it take
you to get there?

793
00:39:16,410 --> 00:39:21,510
It took us-- as I mentioned,
we had to wait about two weeks

794
00:39:21,510 --> 00:39:22,375
with those farmers.

795
00:39:22,375 --> 00:39:22,875
No.

796
00:39:22,875 --> 00:39:25,620
I mean from Warsaw
to the farmers.

797
00:39:25,620 --> 00:39:28,150
Oh, from Warsaw to farmers?

798

00:39:28,150 --> 00:39:36,300

We had to take a train, which
was very risky and very--

799

00:39:36,300 --> 00:39:39,070

we were so scared.

800

00:39:39,070 --> 00:39:42,750

I remember sitting in
the train and pretending

801

00:39:42,750 --> 00:39:46,860

that not to attract attention
to anybody's attention

802

00:39:46,860 --> 00:39:49,530

because we were so afraid,
because just the Polack can

803

00:39:49,530 --> 00:39:52,120

say, oh, she's Jewish.

804

00:39:52,120 --> 00:39:55,180

And then the German guy
can take you right away

805

00:39:55,180 --> 00:39:57,370

and get you out of
the train, really.

806

00:39:57,370 --> 00:40:03,910

So we were trying to be
so invisible, sort of,

807

00:40:03,910 --> 00:40:06,580

that nobody will pay
any attention to us.

808

00:40:06,580 --> 00:40:09,820

It was very, very, very tense--

809

00:40:09,820 --> 00:40:11,140

very tense.

810
00:40:11,140 --> 00:40:12,520
And I don't remember.

811
00:40:12,520 --> 00:40:16,420
Probably it was not a
long ride from this,

812
00:40:16,420 --> 00:40:21,020
because this was not right to
the border, just to the farmer

813
00:40:21,020 --> 00:40:21,520
there.

814
00:40:21,520 --> 00:40:24,330
So I don't remember
how long was the ride.

815
00:40:24,330 --> 00:40:25,300
I don't remember.

816
00:40:25,300 --> 00:40:27,850
And I just remember that we
are very scared, terribly

817
00:40:27,850 --> 00:40:30,060
frightened.

818
00:40:30,060 --> 00:40:33,580
I tried to-- I didn't
wear glasses then.

819
00:40:33,580 --> 00:40:39,280
And I had a kerchief,
kind of and tried to--

820
00:40:39,280 --> 00:40:41,260
although my Polish
language was excellent.

821

00:40:41,260 --> 00:40:43,570
I spoke very well Polish.

822
00:40:43,570 --> 00:40:44,860
And I don't know.

823
00:40:44,860 --> 00:40:45,880
But we were so afraid.

824
00:40:45,880 --> 00:40:48,820
We were afraid to
breathe, practically,

825
00:40:48,820 --> 00:40:54,280
even because they will notice
us and get us out of the train.

826
00:40:54,280 --> 00:40:55,630
But somehow, we were lucky.

827
00:40:55,630 --> 00:41:00,040
And we went to this farm
there to the farmers

828
00:41:00,040 --> 00:41:00,820
and stopped there.

829
00:41:00,820 --> 00:41:05,890
And there, we were waiting
quite a number of days for--

830
00:41:05,890 --> 00:41:06,570
yes?

831
00:41:06,570 --> 00:41:09,690
Did the Germans check your
papers while on the train?

832
00:41:09,690 --> 00:41:10,405
Pardon?

833
00:41:10,405 --> 00:41:11,780

Did the Germans
check your papers

834
00:41:11,780 --> 00:41:12,958
while you were on the train?

835
00:41:12,958 --> 00:41:14,250
This, I don't remember, really.

836
00:41:14,250 --> 00:41:16,810
We probably had some
tickets, probably.

837
00:41:16,810 --> 00:41:18,610
But I don't remember.

838
00:41:18,610 --> 00:41:22,690
Just kind of I have a
blank about this one.

839
00:41:22,690 --> 00:41:24,580
No paper-- we didn't have any.

840
00:41:24,580 --> 00:41:25,990
We have papers with "Jew."

841
00:41:25,990 --> 00:41:27,700
That will be the end of us.

842
00:41:27,700 --> 00:41:28,820
No, I don't think so.

843
00:41:28,820 --> 00:41:33,310
They were ordinary
soldiers, a few.

844
00:41:33,310 --> 00:41:36,740
And they just probably--
we just showed a ticket

845
00:41:36,740 --> 00:41:41,620
to someone who was

in charge of it.

846
00:41:41,620 --> 00:41:42,370
And that's all.

847
00:41:42,370 --> 00:41:43,260
This was about all.

848
00:41:43,260 --> 00:41:44,732
They didn't ask for papers.

849
00:41:44,732 --> 00:41:45,940
This was still the beginning.

850
00:41:45,940 --> 00:41:47,732
As I mentioned, this
was just the beginning

851
00:41:47,732 --> 00:41:50,350
of the German occupation.

852
00:41:50,350 --> 00:41:53,440
How did you spend that two
weeks on that farmer's land?

853
00:41:53,440 --> 00:41:55,090
Oh how did we spend?

854
00:41:55,090 --> 00:41:57,730
Yeah, this was a
long time for us.

855
00:41:57,730 --> 00:42:00,710
I think I with my
brother-in-law,

856
00:42:00,710 --> 00:42:02,470
we were playing some games.

857
00:42:02,470 --> 00:42:05,380
I don't remember what games we
were playing, because it was

858
00:42:05,380 --> 00:42:07,960
so long we were staying there.

859
00:42:07,960 --> 00:42:14,680
And we were sleeping in the
area on straw or something.

860
00:42:14,680 --> 00:42:17,110
They didn't have
beds for anybody.

861
00:42:17,110 --> 00:42:19,740
So this was so primitive--
terrible primitive--

862
00:42:19,740 --> 00:42:23,740
these two weeks
were But as I said,

863
00:42:23,740 --> 00:42:29,560
everything was OK as long as
we can go escape from here.

864
00:42:29,560 --> 00:42:31,900
So we put up with all
this inconvenience.

865
00:42:31,900 --> 00:42:37,030
This didn't-- we didn't
make an issue out of it.

866
00:42:37,030 --> 00:42:38,890
Did you have enough to eat?

867
00:42:38,890 --> 00:42:40,252
Probably.

868
00:42:40,252 --> 00:42:40,960
Yeah, I think so.

869
00:42:40,960 --> 00:42:45,010

We had to have some money with
us, of course, to buy some

870
00:42:45,010 --> 00:42:48,310
from the farmer, because
he charged for this also

871
00:42:48,310 --> 00:42:52,030
for the taking us across.

872
00:42:52,030 --> 00:42:56,380
So he had a fare for it, too.

873
00:42:56,380 --> 00:42:58,870
And yeah, we had
to buy there food--

874
00:42:58,870 --> 00:43:00,910
probably just mainly
not cook anything.

875
00:43:00,910 --> 00:43:02,140
I don't think so.

876
00:43:02,140 --> 00:43:06,460
And just waiting every night or
maybe tonight, maybe tonight--

877
00:43:06,460 --> 00:43:08,650
we were waiting till
the moon will be--

878
00:43:08,650 --> 00:43:11,950
because the nights were so--

879
00:43:11,950 --> 00:43:15,250
and all the stars and
the moon were so light.

880
00:43:15,250 --> 00:43:17,440
So they were afraid
that they can catch us.

881

00:43:17,440 --> 00:43:19,300

And then it's going
to take us all

882

00:43:19,300 --> 00:43:22,320

and right away can send
us to concentration camp

883

00:43:22,320 --> 00:43:24,370

or kill us right away.

884

00:43:24,370 --> 00:43:29,180

So we were waiting until he
decided, now, it's time to go.

885

00:43:29,180 --> 00:43:30,550

So let's go.

886

00:43:30,550 --> 00:43:33,760

And when he said, let's
go, it's go right away.

887

00:43:33,760 --> 00:43:37,060

And we were walking in
the night, which is dark.

888

00:43:37,060 --> 00:43:39,160

We choose the night dark.

889

00:43:39,160 --> 00:43:42,610

So it was very terrible, really.

890

00:43:42,610 --> 00:43:47,820

It's terrible, very
difficult even for my--

891

00:43:47,820 --> 00:43:50,850

I was a young girl, but
still with the high heels--

892

00:43:50,850 --> 00:43:52,680

to cross this big field.

893
00:43:52,680 --> 00:43:54,430
There was quite a
bit of walk there.

894
00:43:54,430 --> 00:43:55,290
Yeah.

895
00:43:55,290 --> 00:43:57,643
I remember this was very hard.

896
00:43:57,643 --> 00:43:59,700
Didn't the farmer
tell you to wear--

897
00:43:59,700 --> 00:44:01,830
give instructions like
what kind of shoes to wear?

898
00:44:01,830 --> 00:44:03,300
We didn't have any instruction.

899
00:44:03,300 --> 00:44:04,950
I didn't have any shoes.

900
00:44:04,950 --> 00:44:08,700
The first thing, everything what
I had was gone with the fire.

901
00:44:08,700 --> 00:44:11,580
So I was practically just
left what I had on myself.

902
00:44:11,580 --> 00:44:12,790
That's all.

903
00:44:12,790 --> 00:44:14,760
I didn't have
anything to change.

904
00:44:14,760 --> 00:44:17,940
Then since I wanted to go

away-- so my mother went

905

00:44:17,940 --> 00:44:20,070

with me to a few stores.

906

00:44:20,070 --> 00:44:24,630

There were still stores

which remained after

907

00:44:24,630 --> 00:44:27,570

and which were not bombed.

908

00:44:27,570 --> 00:44:31,680

So we went to buy a few things,

because I didn't have anything.

909

00:44:31,680 --> 00:44:37,250

And I just have this one pair of

shoes, which were these heels.

910

00:44:37,250 --> 00:44:39,390

In Poland, I never wore

the flat shoes, anyways.

911

00:44:39,390 --> 00:44:41,820

We didn't wear the flat shoes.

912

00:44:41,820 --> 00:44:46,320

Even in the winter, we wore

sometimes high, but also

913

00:44:46,320 --> 00:44:47,010

with heels--

914

00:44:47,010 --> 00:44:48,630

always with heels.

915

00:44:48,630 --> 00:44:51,270

You want to be in style,

especially when you

916

00:44:51,270 --> 00:44:55,050

are young like that.

917

00:44:55,050 --> 00:44:56,500

So I didn't have any.

918

00:44:56,500 --> 00:44:58,200

And I had to go with the shoes.

919

00:44:58,200 --> 00:45:00,420

I realize after that

this was terrible.

920

00:45:00,420 --> 00:45:03,980

Now, looking back at it, I don't
know how I did it altogether

921

00:45:03,980 --> 00:45:05,850

with these high heels.

922

00:45:05,850 --> 00:45:07,920

It was just awful.

923

00:45:07,920 --> 00:45:12,450

I finally ended-- we went to
Bialystok, the name of the city

924

00:45:12,450 --> 00:45:14,970

in the Russian side.

925

00:45:14,970 --> 00:45:18,780

Now, I think this belongs to

Russia, this part, Belorussia

926

00:45:18,780 --> 00:45:20,780

now--

927

00:45:20,780 --> 00:45:22,820

I think so.

928

00:45:22,820 --> 00:45:25,430

The White whatever

how is it in English--

929
00:45:25,430 --> 00:45:26,450
White Russian?

930
00:45:26,450 --> 00:45:29,870
White-- in Russian,
this is the Belorussia.

931
00:45:29,870 --> 00:45:32,403
But I don't know how
to say this in English.

932
00:45:32,403 --> 00:45:33,210
Belarus.

933
00:45:33,210 --> 00:45:34,050
How?

934
00:45:34,050 --> 00:45:34,910
Belarus.

935
00:45:34,910 --> 00:45:35,930
Oh, yeah, like that.

936
00:45:35,930 --> 00:45:37,320
Yeah.

937
00:45:37,320 --> 00:45:44,700
So anyways, yeah, I was a
picture really of terrible,

938
00:45:44,700 --> 00:45:45,710
because my knees.

939
00:45:45,710 --> 00:45:47,690
Oh my god.

940
00:45:47,690 --> 00:45:52,040
My four brothers were
there, my youngest.

941

00:45:52,040 --> 00:45:54,965

Of course, two of my
brothers were killed also

942

00:45:54,965 --> 00:45:57,050

in concentration camps.

943

00:45:57,050 --> 00:46:01,700

And two of my brothers
went with me to Siberia.

944

00:46:01,700 --> 00:46:04,910

But two, my youngest brother
and the oldest brother--

945

00:46:04,910 --> 00:46:08,240

my oldest brother,
when the Russians

946

00:46:08,240 --> 00:46:11,435

took over this part of
Poland, he got a very big--

947

00:46:11,435 --> 00:46:16,250

948

00:46:16,250 --> 00:46:19,700

what is that--
position, very high.

949

00:46:19,700 --> 00:46:20,930

He was very educated.

950

00:46:20,930 --> 00:46:24,110

He educated in
Paris in Sorbonne.

951

00:46:24,110 --> 00:46:27,470

And he spoke fluently
French, of course.

952

00:46:27,470 --> 00:46:31,620

And the Russians recognized

people with education.

953

00:46:31,620 --> 00:46:34,110

So the first thing,
he was a principal.

954

00:46:34,110 --> 00:46:38,030

Then he became a principal
from a high school there.

955

00:46:38,030 --> 00:46:41,930

And he was very much
involved with the Russians.

956

00:46:41,930 --> 00:46:45,680

And he was looking
forward to this Communism,

957

00:46:45,680 --> 00:46:50,240

really, because in Poland,
with his education,

958

00:46:50,240 --> 00:46:51,410

he couldn't do anything.

959

00:46:51,410 --> 00:46:55,890

With high education what he
had, he couldn't make a living.

960

00:46:55,890 --> 00:46:57,660

So he was looking
to be recognized.

961

00:46:57,660 --> 00:47:00,020

He thought the Communist
regime for giving him

962

00:47:00,020 --> 00:47:05,270

this opportunity, what he was
not having in Poland before.

963

00:47:05,270 --> 00:47:07,100

So there, he was recognized.

964
00:47:07,100 --> 00:47:10,970
And when the Germans
took it over,

965
00:47:10,970 --> 00:47:16,680
the city in which he was
established, was living,

966
00:47:16,680 --> 00:47:20,040
he was killed right away with
his wife, with his daughter,

967
00:47:20,040 --> 00:47:22,490
and with his wife's sister.

968
00:47:22,490 --> 00:47:27,090
They were all killed right
away when the Germans took over

969
00:47:27,090 --> 00:47:29,640
the city and came.

970
00:47:29,640 --> 00:47:32,730
So this was-- and the youngest
brother, my younger brother,

971
00:47:32,730 --> 00:47:34,740
was on the other side.

972
00:47:34,740 --> 00:47:36,750
But he decided to go back.

973
00:47:36,750 --> 00:47:38,830
He went back also to Poland.

974
00:47:38,830 --> 00:47:41,490
And he got married
and was in Auschwitz.

975
00:47:41,490 --> 00:47:44,580
And he was killed in Auschwitz.

976
00:47:44,580 --> 00:47:45,660
Yeah.

977
00:47:45,660 --> 00:47:48,790
So they, too-- and my
two sisters were also.

978
00:47:48,790 --> 00:47:50,040
Yeah.

979
00:47:50,040 --> 00:47:54,480
But I was with my two
brothers together.

980
00:47:54,480 --> 00:47:57,300
And we together went to--

981
00:47:57,300 --> 00:47:58,540
were sent.

982
00:47:58,540 --> 00:48:03,120
Although my brothers were very
much for me, they wanted me.

983
00:48:03,120 --> 00:48:05,460
They said, you don't
have to go really with us

984
00:48:05,460 --> 00:48:08,040
because we are
going now to a part.

985
00:48:08,040 --> 00:48:10,890
You don't know how terrible
life is going to be there.

986
00:48:10,890 --> 00:48:13,680
And this part-- we
were, of course,

987
00:48:13,680 --> 00:48:16,890

in the Russian part of
Poland, which was life

988
00:48:16,890 --> 00:48:20,220
was difficult because we were
so-- but we were free people.

989
00:48:20,220 --> 00:48:22,800
We could do and live
completely free,

990
00:48:22,800 --> 00:48:28,560
without any kind of harassment
and any kind of imposing

991
00:48:28,560 --> 00:48:30,810
on us any kind of restriction.

992
00:48:30,810 --> 00:48:33,540
But they said, so why don't
you go out from the train?

993
00:48:33,540 --> 00:48:36,120
And they won't even notice
that you are not here.

994
00:48:36,120 --> 00:48:37,620
And you remain here.

995
00:48:37,620 --> 00:48:39,450
And then you're going
to go back to Poland.

996
00:48:39,450 --> 00:48:40,740
Where was here?

997
00:48:40,740 --> 00:48:44,910
Here is beyond the train,
going from the Russian city--

998
00:48:44,910 --> 00:48:47,350
from the Poland city,
actually, in Russia.

999

00:48:47,350 --> 00:48:51,120

This was on the train, which
the train had to take us out

1000

00:48:51,120 --> 00:48:53,070

of Poland, out of this.

1001

00:48:53,070 --> 00:48:54,660

This was the train to Siberia.

1002

00:48:54,660 --> 00:48:57,330

The train, actually, to
Siberia was not one train.

1003

00:48:57,330 --> 00:48:58,950

It was a lot of--

1004

00:48:58,950 --> 00:49:03,030

from Poland to Siberia
was a tremendous distance.

1005

00:49:03,030 --> 00:49:04,380

So there was boat.

1006

00:49:04,380 --> 00:49:07,590

There were trains.

1007

00:49:07,590 --> 00:49:10,470

The way to get there, it
took probably three weeks

1008

00:49:10,470 --> 00:49:11,220

to get to Siberia.

1009

00:49:11,220 --> 00:49:14,400

This was a long,
long stretch of way.

1010

00:49:14,400 --> 00:49:18,970

But we were on the train going
out, leaving this part of--

1011
00:49:18,970 --> 00:49:21,770
this city, specifically,
leaving the part and going

1012
00:49:21,770 --> 00:49:24,050
I don't remember
where, but going out.

1013
00:49:24,050 --> 00:49:25,801
And so my brothers
thought that I

1014
00:49:25,801 --> 00:49:29,980
will do better staying there
and going back to Poland.

1015
00:49:29,980 --> 00:49:31,180
What city?

1016
00:49:31,180 --> 00:49:32,410
Bialystok.

1017
00:49:32,410 --> 00:49:33,980
Bialy-- Galos-- whatever.

1018
00:49:33,980 --> 00:49:34,480
Bialystok.

1019
00:49:34,480 --> 00:49:35,080
Bialystok.

1020
00:49:35,080 --> 00:49:36,730
That's the name of the city.

1021
00:49:36,730 --> 00:49:39,430
But I don't know why I
said no, I don't want it.

1022
00:49:39,430 --> 00:49:42,130
I was just kind of
afraid to be alone there.

1023

00:49:42,130 --> 00:49:45,470

And here, I felt, anyways,
I was with my two brothers.

1024

00:49:45,470 --> 00:49:47,740

So I decided, no.

1025

00:49:47,740 --> 00:49:49,570

Otherwise, I will have the same.

1026

00:49:49,570 --> 00:49:52,160

The same will happen to me
what's happened to everybody.

1027

00:49:52,160 --> 00:49:52,890

So I don't know.

1028

00:49:52,890 --> 00:49:57,220

This was just-- maybe this was
predestined for me to survive.

1029

00:49:57,220 --> 00:49:59,290

So I didn't want this.

1030

00:49:59,290 --> 00:50:00,520

And they said, you know what?

1031

00:50:00,520 --> 00:50:03,490

And my sister-in-law
had a fur coat

1032

00:50:03,490 --> 00:50:06,350

which was left there
in the city there.

1033

00:50:06,350 --> 00:50:08,380

So she says, you can
take the fur coat

1034

00:50:08,380 --> 00:50:10,780

and sell it so you can

have some money, too.

1035
00:50:10,780 --> 00:50:12,160
And why don't you go out?

1036
00:50:12,160 --> 00:50:12,880
We are young.

1037
00:50:12,880 --> 00:50:15,520
Don't go with us, because we
don't know where we're going.

1038
00:50:15,520 --> 00:50:18,460
Who knows what a horrible
life is going to be there?

1039
00:50:18,460 --> 00:50:19,507
And for some reason--

1040
00:50:19,507 --> 00:50:20,590
I don't know what it was--

1041
00:50:20,590 --> 00:50:21,757
I said, no, I don't want it.

1042
00:50:21,757 --> 00:50:22,750
I want to go, too.

1043
00:50:22,750 --> 00:50:23,960
And I went with them.

1044
00:50:23,960 --> 00:50:26,830
And it turned out that
we were the ones who

1045
00:50:26,830 --> 00:50:30,620
did the right thing,
really, because we survived.

1046
00:50:30,620 --> 00:50:32,260
Yeah.

1047

00:50:32,260 --> 00:50:36,160

So that's the part of the story.

1048

00:50:36,160 --> 00:50:41,000

Now, when you left to go
across the river to Poland,

1049

00:50:41,000 --> 00:50:43,690

how did you find this farmer who
would kind of take you across?

1050

00:50:43,690 --> 00:50:44,440

I don't know this.

1051

00:50:44,440 --> 00:50:46,780

My brother-in-law
somehow found it.

1052

00:50:46,780 --> 00:50:47,760

So I don't know this.

1053

00:50:47,760 --> 00:50:50,070

I don't know the details,
because the details,

1054

00:50:50,070 --> 00:50:51,550

they escape my mind.

1055

00:50:51,550 --> 00:50:54,610

But he found this place that
this guy, probably somebody,

1056

00:50:54,610 --> 00:50:57,700

told him about because a
lot of people were leaving.

1057

00:50:57,700 --> 00:50:58,900

And he knew about it.

1058

00:50:58,900 --> 00:51:01,900

And we were destined to go
to this place to this farmer.

1059
00:51:01,900 --> 00:51:02,950
That's what we know.

1060
00:51:02,950 --> 00:51:05,000
But I don't know exactly
the little detail.

1061
00:51:05,000 --> 00:51:07,142
I don't know exactly
how this was, really.

1062
00:51:07,142 --> 00:51:09,100
Well, the two weeks that
you spend on the farm,

1063
00:51:09,100 --> 00:51:12,768
on the ranch, did you have
to spend it kind out of sight

1064
00:51:12,768 --> 00:51:14,810
so that the neighbors
didn't know you were there?

1065
00:51:14,810 --> 00:51:16,893
And did everybody know you
were there and it was--

1066
00:51:16,893 --> 00:51:19,030
I don't remember
seeing any neighbors.

1067
00:51:19,030 --> 00:51:20,620
This was a farm.

1068
00:51:20,620 --> 00:51:22,870
Mainly, we were
just in his place.

1069
00:51:22,870 --> 00:51:26,170
We were not free to
walk around and go--

1070

00:51:26,170 --> 00:51:27,370

no, not this.

1071

00:51:27,370 --> 00:51:29,860

We were just strictly
there in his area.

1072

00:51:29,860 --> 00:51:31,990

They're sitting there.

1073

00:51:31,990 --> 00:51:35,320

And he actually brought the
food for us. if we pay him.

1074

00:51:35,320 --> 00:51:42,040

And you are not free to walk
around and go and try to visit.

1075

00:51:42,040 --> 00:51:45,830

Oh, no, we were strictly
there, sitting there.

1076

00:51:45,830 --> 00:51:48,730

And that's all about and just
sitting and waiting until--

1077

00:51:48,730 --> 00:51:50,530

waiting for every night,
oh, maybe tonight.

1078

00:51:50,530 --> 00:51:51,250

Maybe tonight.

1079

00:51:51,250 --> 00:51:54,430

And that's how it was going
out for quite a few days.

1080

00:51:54,430 --> 00:51:55,310

Mm-hmm.

1081

00:51:55,310 --> 00:51:58,310

How many of you were there?

1082
00:51:58,310 --> 00:52:00,938
I don't remember exactly, but
it was a large group of people.

1083
00:52:00,938 --> 00:52:01,480
I don't know.

1084
00:52:01,480 --> 00:52:03,190
Maybe 15.

1085
00:52:03,190 --> 00:52:04,660
Any small children?

1086
00:52:04,660 --> 00:52:07,580
No, I don't remember
any children.

1087
00:52:07,580 --> 00:52:10,060
I don't remember any children.

1088
00:52:10,060 --> 00:52:11,940
Some little detail--
I'm surprised I

1089
00:52:11,940 --> 00:52:16,060
remember this much, really,
because you know how

1090
00:52:16,060 --> 00:52:18,290
I'm going back over 50 years.

1091
00:52:18,290 --> 00:52:20,500
That's a long time, really.

1092
00:52:20,500 --> 00:52:22,990
So yeah, it's a funny
thing that I don't remember

1093
00:52:22,990 --> 00:52:24,850
things what it was last week.

1094

00:52:24,850 --> 00:52:25,840

I don't remember.

1095

00:52:25,840 --> 00:52:30,080

And here, I remember vividly
things which go back 50 years.

1096

00:52:30,080 --> 00:52:32,050

It's amazing, really.

1097

00:52:32,050 --> 00:52:35,020

But apparently, I
don't know what it is.

1098

00:52:35,020 --> 00:52:35,770

But I do remember.

1099

00:52:35,770 --> 00:52:39,670

Whatever I tell you is exactly
as I remember it was there.

1100

00:52:39,670 --> 00:52:42,740

And I know this was
exactly as I said, really.

1101

00:52:42,740 --> 00:52:43,320

From here.

1102

00:52:43,320 --> 00:52:49,595

1103

00:52:49,595 --> 00:52:50,095

OK.

1104

00:52:50,095 --> 00:52:53,440

1105

00:52:53,440 --> 00:52:56,890

So what town did you go to
once you crossed the river.

1106

00:52:56,890 --> 00:52:59,956
As I said, Bialystok.

1107
00:52:59,956 --> 00:53:00,740
Oh, sorry.

1108
00:53:00,740 --> 00:53:01,550
I knew that.

1109
00:53:01,550 --> 00:53:02,300
Bialystok.

1110
00:53:02,300 --> 00:53:03,620
Yeah.

1111
00:53:03,620 --> 00:53:06,050
Now, did you know anybody there?

1112
00:53:06,050 --> 00:53:07,710
How did you find
out where to go?

1113
00:53:07,710 --> 00:53:11,330
We went to where
my brothers were.

1114
00:53:11,330 --> 00:53:15,310
And they found one
family, a wonderful family

1115
00:53:15,310 --> 00:53:17,220
who took them in.

1116
00:53:17,220 --> 00:53:17,720
Yeah.

1117
00:53:17,720 --> 00:53:23,570
So they were four, and
they took this family--

1118
00:53:23,570 --> 00:53:24,800
wonderful people.

1119
00:53:24,800 --> 00:53:25,710
They took them in.

1120
00:53:25,710 --> 00:53:27,560
So when I came--

1121
00:53:27,560 --> 00:53:29,660
so I went, of course,
to my brothers.

1122
00:53:29,660 --> 00:53:31,670
So I was there, too.

1123
00:53:31,670 --> 00:53:33,150
And after my one--

1124
00:53:33,150 --> 00:53:35,780

1125
00:53:35,780 --> 00:53:39,440
actually, yes, my
oldest brother, his wife

1126
00:53:39,440 --> 00:53:41,870
was with us with his child.

1127
00:53:41,870 --> 00:53:45,380
But eventually, after--
she was a registered nurse.

1128
00:53:45,380 --> 00:53:50,720
But after she also
went illegally also

1129
00:53:50,720 --> 00:53:55,010
through the border to join
her husband, so she went.

1130
00:53:55,010 --> 00:53:56,570
She came to us, too.

1131

00:53:56,570 --> 00:54:01,160

And then my other brother,
his fiancée came also.

1132

00:54:01,160 --> 00:54:04,940

And we all were
there, all of us.

1133

00:54:04,940 --> 00:54:06,500

So it was terrible.

1134

00:54:06,500 --> 00:54:08,820

It was too crowded.

1135

00:54:08,820 --> 00:54:10,580

And I got sick.

1136

00:54:10,580 --> 00:54:15,020

I was running a temperature,
and they just didn't know.

1137

00:54:15,020 --> 00:54:18,830

And we had some
doctors who were also

1138

00:54:18,830 --> 00:54:22,490

refugees from the other side.

1139

00:54:22,490 --> 00:54:25,620

And they didn't know
what is-- in those days,

1140

00:54:25,620 --> 00:54:27,530

they didn't have
antibiotics, though.

1141

00:54:27,530 --> 00:54:29,270

They didn't know what
causes the fever.

1142

00:54:29,270 --> 00:54:32,600

And I was running

a fever for weeks.

1143
00:54:32,600 --> 00:54:34,580
And they couldn't
just figure out.

1144
00:54:34,580 --> 00:54:37,910
And the conditions, they
were so crowded there.

1145
00:54:37,910 --> 00:54:41,510
And we had about
10 people or more

1146
00:54:41,510 --> 00:54:44,840
to make a dinner for all of us.

1147
00:54:44,840 --> 00:54:47,600
It was a very difficult time--

1148
00:54:47,600 --> 00:54:49,110
very difficult.

1149
00:54:49,110 --> 00:54:55,850
So eventually, my oldest
brother heard that we decided--

1150
00:54:55,850 --> 00:54:58,340
because the Russian
government offered us

1151
00:54:58,340 --> 00:55:00,680
citizen if you wanted to accept.

1152
00:55:00,680 --> 00:55:02,270
And we didn't want it.

1153
00:55:02,270 --> 00:55:04,260
So we were not
talking to each other.

1154
00:55:04,260 --> 00:55:06,640

He was so angry with
us that we refused.

1155
00:55:06,640 --> 00:55:08,790
We wanted to go back to Germany.

1156
00:55:08,790 --> 00:55:10,812
So we didn't talk to each other.

1157
00:55:10,812 --> 00:55:12,770
This was the brother that
went to the Sorbonne?

1158
00:55:12,770 --> 00:55:17,900
Uh-huh, the oldest brother, and
because he couldn't understand.

1159
00:55:17,900 --> 00:55:20,270
They offer you citizen.

1160
00:55:20,270 --> 00:55:22,460
You can be in a free country.

1161
00:55:22,460 --> 00:55:26,460
To him, Communism was not
the worst form of government.

1162
00:55:26,460 --> 00:55:28,880
He rather was pleased with it.

1163
00:55:28,880 --> 00:55:36,260
So he just saw us as
committing the biggest

1164
00:55:36,260 --> 00:55:38,660
stupidity in our
life, this wanting

1165
00:55:38,660 --> 00:55:40,355
to go back to the Germans.

1166
00:55:40,355 --> 00:55:43,490

But we said we
didn't want to get,

1167
00:55:43,490 --> 00:55:45,380
because the Russian
offered us citizen.

1168
00:55:45,380 --> 00:55:48,110
And then we could have gone
to another place and not

1169
00:55:48,110 --> 00:55:49,640
necessarily Siberia.

1170
00:55:49,640 --> 00:55:54,270
We could go to a place where
the life was much easier.

1171
00:55:54,270 --> 00:55:58,370
But we didn't want it because
we are afraid they will never

1172
00:55:58,370 --> 00:56:00,510
allow us to go back.

1173
00:56:00,510 --> 00:56:01,940
So we refused definitely.

1174
00:56:01,940 --> 00:56:04,070
And since we refused,
they didn't trust us.

1175
00:56:04,070 --> 00:56:07,790
So they sent us far
away to Siberia, then

1176
00:56:07,790 --> 00:56:13,910
the place where they sent out
the people who are political.

1177
00:56:13,910 --> 00:56:15,920
So anyway, so we didn't
talk to each other.

1178
00:56:15,920 --> 00:56:18,980
My brother was very
hurt and very angry.

1179
00:56:18,980 --> 00:56:22,610
This was a horrible atmosphere,
with all this in this one room,

1180
00:56:22,610 --> 00:56:24,440
mostly all of us.

1181
00:56:24,440 --> 00:56:27,980
And finally, he moved
out with his wife,

1182
00:56:27,980 --> 00:56:31,490
with his little girl and
the sister of his wife--

1183
00:56:31,490 --> 00:56:33,200
moved to another
city where he got

1184
00:56:33,200 --> 00:56:39,620
to be this principal
of a high school.

1185
00:56:39,620 --> 00:56:40,970
And she was a registered nurse.

1186
00:56:40,970 --> 00:56:44,450
She was a very
qualified nurse, really.

1187
00:56:44,450 --> 00:56:46,070
And that was the end of us.

1188
00:56:46,070 --> 00:56:49,140
That's how we-- we didn't even
say goodbye to each other.

1189

00:56:49,140 --> 00:56:51,350
This was the end of us.

1190
00:56:51,350 --> 00:56:53,060
It's very tragic.

1191
00:56:53,060 --> 00:56:54,350
And I was just left.

1192
00:56:54,350 --> 00:56:56,750
And my youngest
brother, as I mentioned,

1193
00:56:56,750 --> 00:57:01,250
he wanted to go to a university.

1194
00:57:01,250 --> 00:57:03,320
And after, he decided--

1195
00:57:03,320 --> 00:57:05,600
for some reason I don't know--

1196
00:57:05,600 --> 00:57:09,980
he went back to his parents,
back to Warsaw, to Poland--

1197
00:57:09,980 --> 00:57:14,310
was taken to Auschwitz
and died in Auschwitz.

1198
00:57:14,310 --> 00:57:18,120
So I was just with my two
brothers and with my sisters--

1199
00:57:18,120 --> 00:57:20,610
one of my brothers, as I
mentioned, got married.

1200
00:57:20,610 --> 00:57:22,110
His fiancée came.

1201
00:57:22,110 --> 00:57:23,250

So they got married.

1202
00:57:23,250 --> 00:57:28,770
And we all went together
through this long voyage

1203
00:57:28,770 --> 00:57:34,330
to our destination, which was
Siberia and this place there.

1204
00:57:34,330 --> 00:57:38,170
Was it possible to have
a traditional wedding

1205
00:57:38,170 --> 00:57:39,220
at that time?

1206
00:57:39,220 --> 00:57:41,410
No.

1207
00:57:41,410 --> 00:57:45,820
The wedding was when we
were still in Bialystok.

1208
00:57:45,820 --> 00:57:48,760
So we made them a little party.

1209
00:57:48,760 --> 00:57:52,510
But the people who let
us in, who took us in,

1210
00:57:52,510 --> 00:57:54,820
were so friendly
and so good-hearted

1211
00:57:54,820 --> 00:57:58,780
people that they wanted--
they did whatever they could

1212
00:57:58,780 --> 00:58:03,820
to make our life kind of easy as
possible, possible-- wonderful

1213
00:58:03,820 --> 00:58:04,370
people.

1214
00:58:04,370 --> 00:58:06,190
They're all gone, of course.

1215
00:58:06,190 --> 00:58:11,540
So we had maybe a few
better things to eat.

1216
00:58:11,540 --> 00:58:14,650
And this was the
whole party, about.

1217
00:58:14,650 --> 00:58:16,600
And they went together.

1218
00:58:16,600 --> 00:58:18,220
Yes.

1219
00:58:18,220 --> 00:58:22,810
And of course, the other
brother of mine was not married.

1220
00:58:22,810 --> 00:58:25,360
But he got married in Russia
and I got married in Russia.

1221
00:58:25,360 --> 00:58:29,980
He found his wife in the same
place where I got my husband.

1222
00:58:29,980 --> 00:58:30,580
Yes.

1223
00:58:30,580 --> 00:58:32,410
She was not from Warsaw.

1224
00:58:32,410 --> 00:58:33,970
She's alive, a matter of fact.

1225

00:58:33,970 --> 00:58:36,500
She's in Israel.

1226
00:58:36,500 --> 00:58:37,930
She's alive.

1227
00:58:37,930 --> 00:58:41,958
And my husband's brother
is also in Israel.

1228
00:58:41,958 --> 00:58:44,398
Mm-hmm.

1229
00:58:44,398 --> 00:58:45,380
Yeah.

1230
00:58:45,380 --> 00:58:49,050
How did you get enough
food for all these people?

1231
00:58:49,050 --> 00:58:49,740
Oh, there?

1232
00:58:49,740 --> 00:58:52,230
Oh, there was-- oh, don't ask.

1233
00:58:52,230 --> 00:58:53,610
And I was young.

1234
00:58:53,610 --> 00:58:54,930
I was very hungry.

1235
00:58:54,930 --> 00:58:58,690
And I hated this whole thing.

1236
00:58:58,690 --> 00:59:01,395
Whatever you could, it
was not enough to feed

1237
00:59:01,395 --> 00:59:04,110
a group like that like we were.

1238

00:59:04,110 --> 00:59:06,580

And I was very
hungry, I remember.

1239

00:59:06,580 --> 00:59:08,580

It's a funny thing that
I remember little things

1240

00:59:08,580 --> 00:59:09,850

like that.

1241

00:59:09,850 --> 00:59:10,680

But I remember.

1242

00:59:10,680 --> 00:59:16,350

And I urged my brother that
we should move out, because it

1243

00:59:16,350 --> 00:59:17,850

was terrible, the cooking.

1244

00:59:17,850 --> 00:59:19,620

And I was really very--

1245

00:59:19,620 --> 00:59:21,240

I was very hungry there.

1246

00:59:21,240 --> 00:59:24,910

There was not enough
food, not enough bread.

1247

00:59:24,910 --> 00:59:29,280

We were maybe 10 people
together, all young people.

1248

00:59:29,280 --> 00:59:33,200

And especially at a time when
you know the food is scarce,

1249

00:59:33,200 --> 00:59:37,680

your demand, it's much
bigger than normal.

1250
00:59:37,680 --> 00:59:39,960
When you have a
refrigerator full of food,

1251
00:59:39,960 --> 00:59:42,000
you don't feel ever hunger.

1252
00:59:42,000 --> 00:59:44,160
But then you really
feel how hungry

1253
00:59:44,160 --> 00:59:46,330
because the food is so limited.

1254
00:59:46,330 --> 00:59:49,800
So it was very difficult,
really, a very difficult time.

1255
00:59:49,800 --> 00:59:52,350
But we realized that if
you are just refugees,

1256
00:59:52,350 --> 00:59:55,260
you were just living
from day to day.

1257
00:59:55,260 --> 00:59:57,360
And there were the Germans.

1258
00:59:57,360 --> 00:59:59,940
Here, we didn't know
what's going to happen.

1259
00:59:59,940 --> 01:00:04,560
This was such a
time of a terrible--

1260
01:00:04,560 --> 01:00:10,800
what is the worst word--
of nothing steady, nothing

1261

01:00:10,800 --> 01:00:14,580
what you can count on
it of changes, of goals

1262
01:00:14,580 --> 01:00:16,980
better from day to day.

1263
01:00:16,980 --> 01:00:20,550
It's a very difficult time,
really, for all of us.

1264
01:00:20,550 --> 01:00:23,640
But thanks to our
age, we were young.

1265
01:00:23,640 --> 01:00:26,220
So we could survive,
really, because a lot

1266
01:00:26,220 --> 01:00:29,520
of older people in
Russia, they just

1267
01:00:29,520 --> 01:00:33,270
couldn't survive
this lack of food

1268
01:00:33,270 --> 01:00:38,250
and this climate,
the severe climate.

1269
01:00:38,250 --> 01:00:42,090
So a lot of just older
people, they really--

1270
01:00:42,090 --> 01:00:43,240
natural death.

1271
01:00:43,240 --> 01:00:44,805
But they--

1272
01:00:44,805 --> 01:00:46,380
How did being young

help you survive?

1273

01:00:46,380 --> 01:00:47,810

Did it mean you could do more?

1274

01:00:47,810 --> 01:00:50,910

Or exactly how did being
young help you survive?

1275

01:00:50,910 --> 01:00:53,640

Your real body's stronger.

1276

01:00:53,640 --> 01:00:55,920

Your body apparently
is strong, still,

1277

01:00:55,920 --> 01:00:58,860

and can withstand better than--

1278

01:00:58,860 --> 01:01:00,540

that's how I understand.

1279

01:01:00,540 --> 01:01:01,800

They didn't know.

1280

01:01:01,800 --> 01:01:02,850

We had the same--

1281

01:01:02,850 --> 01:01:09,280

we were on the same
responsibility and the same

1282

01:01:09,280 --> 01:01:10,440

just as the Russian people.

1283

01:01:10,440 --> 01:01:11,730

We had to work.

1284

01:01:11,730 --> 01:01:14,430

There was nothing
different for us.

1285

01:01:14,430 --> 01:01:15,390

They had to work.

1286

01:01:15,390 --> 01:01:16,560

We had to work.

1287

01:01:16,560 --> 01:01:19,170

And we had duration,
hard duration,

1288

01:01:19,170 --> 01:01:21,210

with very little food.

1289

01:01:21,210 --> 01:01:23,370

And that's what it had to be.

1290

01:01:23,370 --> 01:01:27,300

Of course, wherever we had
any kinds where we can change,

1291

01:01:27,300 --> 01:01:31,350

we changed our clothing
for food and watch.

1292

01:01:31,350 --> 01:01:32,490

We had a watch.

1293

01:01:32,490 --> 01:01:35,760

Oh, they give you a
watch in Russia was--

1294

01:01:35,760 --> 01:01:38,820

this was the least what
we wanted to part with.

1295

01:01:38,820 --> 01:01:41,220

But we had to part with a watch.

1296

01:01:41,220 --> 01:01:45,840

Whatever we had, we gave it
away for potatoes, flour, just

1297

01:01:45,840 --> 01:01:51,420

for being able to
not to be hungry.

1298

01:01:51,420 --> 01:01:53,820

Was there a black market?

1299

01:01:53,820 --> 01:01:57,960

Not officially a black market
because this was illegal.

1300

01:01:57,960 --> 01:02:01,140

But of course, this
was a black market.

1301

01:02:01,140 --> 01:02:07,050

But for example, I was
working in Russia after--

1302

01:02:07,050 --> 01:02:11,730

from this war, they transferred
'41 when Germany declared war

1303

01:02:11,730 --> 01:02:13,140

on Russia.

1304

01:02:13,140 --> 01:02:16,620

So then they changed,
the Russians, towards us,

1305

01:02:16,620 --> 01:02:18,870

because then the
Germans were the enemy.

1306

01:02:18,870 --> 01:02:21,750

And we were the ones who
escaped from the enemy.

1307

01:02:21,750 --> 01:02:28,410

So they allowed us to leave this
place where we were in forest

1308

01:02:28,410 --> 01:02:30,120
and go to the city.

1309
01:02:30,120 --> 01:02:32,890
So we were transferred
to the city.

1310
01:02:32,890 --> 01:02:33,390
Yeah.

1311
01:02:33,390 --> 01:02:38,970
So that's conditions that were
a little bit easy, because I

1312
01:02:38,970 --> 01:02:42,060
didn't have to work outside.

1313
01:02:42,060 --> 01:02:43,800
so why did I bring this up?

1314
01:02:43,800 --> 01:02:45,300
I don't remember.

1315
01:02:45,300 --> 01:02:48,270
In Bialystok, did you go to
the black market to get food?

1316
01:02:48,270 --> 01:02:48,920
Oh.

1317
01:02:48,920 --> 01:02:49,420
Yeah.

1318
01:02:49,420 --> 01:02:51,390
In Bialystok was a
black market in there.

1319
01:02:51,390 --> 01:02:54,510
All the Russian soldiers,
you can buy them.

1320
01:02:54,510 --> 01:02:57,360

They have plenty of rubles,
but they didn't have anything.

1321
01:02:57,360 --> 01:02:58,830
They didn't have a watch.

1322
01:02:58,830 --> 01:03:03,150
The watch was such a tremendous
thing what you can buy.

1323
01:03:03,150 --> 01:03:07,140
And other things--
especially, actually, watches.

1324
01:03:07,140 --> 01:03:10,920
People crossing the border,
they were bringing watches

1325
01:03:10,920 --> 01:03:16,230
from Warsaw, which they could
get it for a reasonable price

1326
01:03:16,230 --> 01:03:22,710
and sell them there to some
of the Russian highest-rank

1327
01:03:22,710 --> 01:03:24,810
military man who had money.

1328
01:03:24,810 --> 01:03:27,630
So they would be-- oh,
they were so anxious to get

1329
01:03:27,630 --> 01:03:28,500
all these goodies.

1330
01:03:28,500 --> 01:03:29,760
Mm-hmm.

1331
01:03:29,760 --> 01:03:33,400
Do you remember the Russians
trading for anything?

1332

01:03:33,400 --> 01:03:35,280

What I'm thinking
of is in two places,

1333

01:03:35,280 --> 01:03:40,483

I read of Russian soldiers
buying nightgowns and wearing

1334

01:03:40,483 --> 01:03:41,400

them as evening gowns.

1335

01:03:41,400 --> 01:03:42,120

Exactly.

1336

01:03:42,120 --> 01:03:44,250

Oh, yeah, that's
right, even mine

1337

01:03:44,250 --> 01:03:47,880

because I had some
pajamas which were nylon.

1338

01:03:47,880 --> 01:03:49,470

They couldn't believe it.

1339

01:03:49,470 --> 01:03:51,840

You sleep in this kind of--

1340

01:03:51,840 --> 01:03:52,980

they couldn't believe it.

1341

01:03:52,980 --> 01:03:57,030

They said, we're going to wear
this for going out, for going--

1342

01:03:57,030 --> 01:04:00,540

or our nightgowns, which
were nylon nightgowns.

1343

01:04:00,540 --> 01:04:02,380

And they were so impressed.

1344

01:04:02,380 --> 01:04:05,718

Oh, they were so poor.

1345

01:04:05,718 --> 01:04:08,010

They didn't know-- the place
where we were in a forest,

1346

01:04:08,010 --> 01:04:11,720

they didn't know what is really
a Jew, because they never

1347

01:04:11,720 --> 01:04:14,120

met a Jewish person.

1348

01:04:14,120 --> 01:04:16,640

And they didn't even
know that we are Jewish.

1349

01:04:16,640 --> 01:04:18,530

They know that we are
refugees from Poland,

1350

01:04:18,530 --> 01:04:20,600

but they didn't know, really.

1351

01:04:20,600 --> 01:04:24,800

And they were very
friendly people.

1352

01:04:24,800 --> 01:04:27,167

But they couldn't
help us because they

1353

01:04:27,167 --> 01:04:28,250

didn't have anything, too.

1354

01:04:28,250 --> 01:04:29,570

So they couldn't help us.

1355

01:04:29,570 --> 01:04:32,900

And all the men were
in the military.

1356

01:04:32,900 --> 01:04:36,140

And the women had to work hard.

1357

01:04:36,140 --> 01:04:37,510

And they were envious.

1358

01:04:37,510 --> 01:04:40,910

They said, your men are so good.

1359

01:04:40,910 --> 01:04:44,030

They bring water for
you from the well.

1360

01:04:44,030 --> 01:04:47,240

And they chopped the
wood for me for fire.

1361

01:04:47,240 --> 01:04:49,460

You have such a good man.

1362

01:04:49,460 --> 01:04:50,360

Oh my.

1363

01:04:50,360 --> 01:04:52,720

They were so--
they just wanted--

1364

01:04:52,720 --> 01:04:57,050

they just had an eye on our
men, really, the Russian women.

1365

01:04:57,050 --> 01:05:01,160

Some of them were very pretty,
very pretty, nice, good-looking

1366

01:05:01,160 --> 01:05:02,180

girls.

1367

01:05:02,180 --> 01:05:04,390

But anyways, this was
not our problem, really.

1368
01:05:04,390 --> 01:05:08,130

1369
01:05:08,130 --> 01:05:10,670
But as I said, we kind of--

1370
01:05:10,670 --> 01:05:14,720
in spite of this
terrible, hard life.

1371
01:05:14,720 --> 01:05:18,230
My husband, he was sick, as
I mentioned previously here,

1372
01:05:18,230 --> 01:05:20,280
pneumonia.

1373
01:05:20,280 --> 01:05:22,770
Two or three times, he
got pneumonia in Russia

1374
01:05:22,770 --> 01:05:26,200
from this hard work what
he was working here.

1375
01:05:26,200 --> 01:05:31,040
Yeah, it was a very, very
difficult life because we

1376
01:05:31,040 --> 01:05:33,590
had-- there was no privacy.

1377
01:05:33,590 --> 01:05:36,420
We had one room about
30 people in one room--

1378
01:05:36,420 --> 01:05:39,680
man, woman, everybody together.

1379
01:05:39,680 --> 01:05:48,050
And you couldn't-- there

were no facilities for people

1380
01:05:48,050 --> 01:05:52,255
in the night if
you have to use--

1381
01:05:52,255 --> 01:05:54,540
you didn't have a
bathroom or nothing.

1382
01:05:54,540 --> 01:05:58,250
It was-- now, I'm looking back.

1383
01:05:58,250 --> 01:06:00,320
My god, it was so--

1384
01:06:00,320 --> 01:06:02,780
one bed was so close
to the other bed.

1385
01:06:02,780 --> 01:06:09,410
And that's how-- and I'm
going to work and coming back.

1386
01:06:09,410 --> 01:06:12,260
And it was a hard
life, very hard.

1387
01:06:12,260 --> 01:06:15,320
But we survived.

1388
01:06:15,320 --> 01:06:17,330
And that's the main thing,
that we did survive.

1389
01:06:17,330 --> 01:06:18,940
We came back to Poland.

1390
01:06:18,940 --> 01:06:21,070
We started a new life.

1391
01:06:21,070 --> 01:06:23,800

In Bialystok, what was your job?

1392

01:06:23,800 --> 01:06:27,320

I didn't work in Bialystok.

1393

01:06:27,320 --> 01:06:28,670

The Russians didn't--

1394

01:06:28,670 --> 01:06:31,630

No, there was not even--

1395

01:06:31,630 --> 01:06:34,830

I don't think that they had
all of the ration cards.

1396

01:06:34,830 --> 01:06:35,700

I don't remember.

1397

01:06:35,700 --> 01:06:39,660

I think there was a free market,
still, because this was just

1398

01:06:39,660 --> 01:06:41,220

the beginning.

1399

01:06:41,220 --> 01:06:44,910

I don't remember that the
Russian gave us a ration card.

1400

01:06:44,910 --> 01:06:46,800

This, I don't remember.

1401

01:06:46,800 --> 01:06:47,610

But I didn't work.

1402

01:06:47,610 --> 01:06:48,860

They didn't force you to work.

1403

01:06:48,860 --> 01:06:50,290

There, you had to work.

1404

01:06:50,290 --> 01:06:52,680

But then, no.

1405

01:06:52,680 --> 01:06:53,980

My brothers didn't work.

1406

01:06:53,980 --> 01:06:57,450

They were just-- what they were doing, they were speculating.

1407

01:06:57,450 --> 01:07:00,120

They were buying things in one place

1408

01:07:00,120 --> 01:07:04,496

and going to another place and selling them on the bazaar.

1409

01:07:04,496 --> 01:07:08,070

That's what they were doing and making a few dollars.

1410

01:07:08,070 --> 01:07:10,860

That's what-- the money, of course,

1411

01:07:10,860 --> 01:07:14,310

was right away ruble, not Polish money.

1412

01:07:14,310 --> 01:07:18,150

And that was the-- but how could you find a role?

1413

01:07:18,150 --> 01:07:20,610

This was impossible even to look, probably, for work.

1414

01:07:20,610 --> 01:07:22,290

I don't think so.

1415

01:07:22,290 --> 01:07:26,503

And anyways, no, nobody

of us-- my sister-in-law,

1416
01:07:26,503 --> 01:07:27,170
she was a nurse.

1417
01:07:27,170 --> 01:07:27,910
She was working.

1418
01:07:27,910 --> 01:07:29,160
She was working in a hospital.

1419
01:07:29,160 --> 01:07:29,940
Yeah.

1420
01:07:29,940 --> 01:07:32,280
And my brother, oldest
brother, was working.

1421
01:07:32,280 --> 01:07:38,730
But then everybody else
was speculating or just

1422
01:07:38,730 --> 01:07:41,070
doing nothing from
day to day until--

1423
01:07:41,070 --> 01:07:45,850
we were there till 1940 in June.

1424
01:07:45,850 --> 01:07:48,210
So we were there
quite a few months,

1425
01:07:48,210 --> 01:07:55,230
from November till the next
year, 1940-- from November

1426
01:07:55,230 --> 01:08:01,400
'39 till 1940, June, which
was quite a few months.

1427
01:08:01,400 --> 01:08:02,370

We were there in June.

1428
01:08:02,370 --> 01:08:06,525
They took us-- there was
this offer us the citizen.

1429
01:08:06,525 --> 01:08:07,640
We didn't want it.

1430
01:08:07,640 --> 01:08:10,320
So they organized
the whole thing.

1431
01:08:10,320 --> 01:08:14,190
And all these refugees were
taken out from the cities.

1432
01:08:14,190 --> 01:08:15,660
The Polish family of--

1433
01:08:15,660 --> 01:08:17,430
the family you lived
with in Bialystok,

1434
01:08:17,430 --> 01:08:18,555
were they Polish or Jewish?

1435
01:08:18,555 --> 01:08:19,630
No, they were Jewish.

1436
01:08:19,630 --> 01:08:21,310
Oh, no.

1437
01:08:21,310 --> 01:08:23,955
No Polack will take all
these Jewish people in.

1438
01:08:23,955 --> 01:08:26,040
No, a Jewish very
wonderful family--

1439
01:08:26,040 --> 01:08:32,760

Jewish family, very caring
and really wonderful people.

1440
01:08:32,760 --> 01:08:36,750
There was a daughter and
her husband and her father

1441
01:08:36,750 --> 01:08:38,250
and mother.

1442
01:08:38,250 --> 01:08:40,859
They were themselves
maybe five or six people.

1443
01:08:40,859 --> 01:08:44,740
And they took a bunch of us in.

1444
01:08:44,740 --> 01:08:50,850
Yeah, there was-- but there was
the time when we didn't know

1445
01:08:50,850 --> 01:08:51,899
is it a war.

1446
01:08:51,899 --> 01:08:52,745
Is it after the war?

1447
01:08:52,745 --> 01:08:54,120
We didn't know
what the time was.

1448
01:08:54,120 --> 01:08:56,729
Our country didn't
exist anymore.

1449
01:08:56,729 --> 01:08:57,870
Poland didn't exist.

1450
01:08:57,870 --> 01:09:01,529
This was our
motherland, our country.

1451

01:09:01,529 --> 01:09:03,960
Poland didn't exist.

1452
01:09:03,960 --> 01:09:06,779
So you just start your
life again with a refugee.

1453
01:09:06,779 --> 01:09:08,880
And you didn't know really
what the right thing

1454
01:09:08,880 --> 01:09:10,200
to do-- go back.

1455
01:09:10,200 --> 01:09:12,100
One day, we thought
we're going to go back.

1456
01:09:12,100 --> 01:09:15,840
Then the next day, actually,
my two brothers want to go back

1457
01:09:15,840 --> 01:09:16,810
and I want to go back.

1458
01:09:16,810 --> 01:09:18,479
We definitely want to go back.

1459
01:09:18,479 --> 01:09:19,560
To Warsaw.

1460
01:09:19,560 --> 01:09:20,200
Pardon?

1461
01:09:20,200 --> 01:09:21,069
To Warsaw.

1462
01:09:21,069 --> 01:09:21,990
To Warsaw back.

1463
01:09:21,990 --> 01:09:22,500
Yeah.

1464
01:09:22,500 --> 01:09:26,899
But this man who was
taking the people back,

1465
01:09:26,899 --> 01:09:29,939
he took my girlfriend
and her two brothers

1466
01:09:29,939 --> 01:09:31,170
and another group of people.

1467
01:09:31,170 --> 01:09:32,729
He couldn't take anymore.

1468
01:09:32,729 --> 01:09:34,260
So he said he's
going to come back.

1469
01:09:34,260 --> 01:09:35,970
Then he's going to
take another group.

1470
01:09:35,970 --> 01:09:39,420
And we were signing up to go
with him in another group.

1471
01:09:39,420 --> 01:09:40,814
Meantime, they were caught.

1472
01:09:40,814 --> 01:09:43,950

1473
01:09:43,950 --> 01:09:48,973
A few-- my girlfriend with her
brothers, kind of they were--

1474
01:09:48,973 --> 01:09:50,640
I don't know if you
can call this lucky.

1475
01:09:50,640 --> 01:09:56,910

But they could cross
the Polish border.

1476
01:09:56,910 --> 01:09:58,230
And the others were caught.

1477
01:09:58,230 --> 01:10:00,930
And they were jailed.

1478
01:10:00,930 --> 01:10:03,010
So the guy didn't come back.

1479
01:10:03,010 --> 01:10:04,890
So we didn't have
anybody to take us.

1480
01:10:04,890 --> 01:10:05,980
So that's what it was.

1481
01:10:05,980 --> 01:10:09,830
So that's why we decided
whatever's going to be--

1482
01:10:09,830 --> 01:10:11,670
que sera, sera.

1483
01:10:11,670 --> 01:10:13,440
That's what we decided.

1484
01:10:13,440 --> 01:10:17,340
And we decided apparently
the right things to do.

1485
01:10:17,340 --> 01:10:21,330
Yeah, I'm so heartbroken
that more of our people

1486
01:10:21,330 --> 01:10:23,760
didn't do this, didn't escape.

1487
01:10:23,760 --> 01:10:25,800
That's so terrible.

1488
01:10:25,800 --> 01:10:30,540
But nobody in their
wildest imagination could

1489
01:10:30,540 --> 01:10:32,400
picture things which happened--

1490
01:10:32,400 --> 01:10:34,110
the concentration camp.

1491
01:10:34,110 --> 01:10:40,170
Nobody could think of it's
going to take place, nobody.

1492
01:10:40,170 --> 01:10:43,860
Otherwise, the
majority will leave.

1493
01:10:43,860 --> 01:10:46,920
That was the--

1494
01:10:46,920 --> 01:10:51,570
You say it took you three
weeks to get to Siberia?

1495
01:10:51,570 --> 01:10:52,800
Oh, yeah, probably.

1496
01:10:52,800 --> 01:10:53,580
Yeah.

1497
01:10:53,580 --> 01:10:55,380
We went by train.

1498
01:10:55,380 --> 01:10:57,720
The train was also
not a passenger train.

1499
01:10:57,720 --> 01:11:00,600
It was just the--

1500

01:11:00,600 --> 01:11:01,100

how is it?

1501

01:11:01,100 --> 01:11:03,260

The-- how you call

the train for--

1502

01:11:03,260 --> 01:11:04,280

Freight cars?

1503

01:11:04,280 --> 01:11:05,120

Pardon?

1504

01:11:05,120 --> 01:11:05,960

Freight cars?

1505

01:11:05,960 --> 01:11:06,680

Freight cars.

1506

01:11:06,680 --> 01:11:07,730

That's right.

1507

01:11:07,730 --> 01:11:08,518

Yeah.

1508

01:11:08,518 --> 01:11:10,560

Did they give you seats

or any kind of amenities?

1509

01:11:10,560 --> 01:11:13,490

No, there was just--

1510

01:11:13,490 --> 01:11:15,840

there were no seats set

down for single people.

1511

01:11:15,840 --> 01:11:18,890

There was just one

platform there.

1512

01:11:18,890 --> 01:11:21,830

And you brought with
you-- you brought whatever

1513
01:11:21,830 --> 01:11:25,430
you had, blanket, whatever
you accumulated in Russia

1514
01:11:25,430 --> 01:11:27,590
and Poland there in the place.

1515
01:11:27,590 --> 01:11:29,690
So you brought it with you.

1516
01:11:29,690 --> 01:11:31,940
So you were just lying
like that, because we

1517
01:11:31,940 --> 01:11:34,070
spent many nights on the train.

1518
01:11:34,070 --> 01:11:34,980
The train was going.

1519
01:11:34,980 --> 01:11:36,800
It was not a very fast train.

1520
01:11:36,800 --> 01:11:38,420
I don't think so.

1521
01:11:38,420 --> 01:11:40,880
And they were stopping
at different places

1522
01:11:40,880 --> 01:11:43,760
and gave us food for this
plan for how many people,

1523
01:11:43,760 --> 01:11:44,870
the bread--

1524
01:11:44,870 --> 01:11:47,420
mostly was just bread.

1525
01:11:47,420 --> 01:11:50,150
There was no luxury,
nothing fancy.

1526
01:11:50,150 --> 01:11:51,500
Enough water?

1527
01:11:51,500 --> 01:11:54,050
Water and bread,
that probably was--

1528
01:11:54,050 --> 01:11:57,830
if you give money,
when they stop,

1529
01:11:57,830 --> 01:12:00,620
you could take around
and go someplace,

1530
01:12:00,620 --> 01:12:04,670
if you have enough time to maybe
go and buy something and bring.

1531
01:12:04,670 --> 01:12:10,910
But most of the time, there was
not very long station to stay.

1532
01:12:10,910 --> 01:12:13,310
They try to kind of
keep going, because,

1533
01:12:13,310 --> 01:12:18,590
after all, that was a time
really of wartime, kind of.

1534
01:12:18,590 --> 01:12:24,530
And anyways, 1940-- no, this was
1941, when the Germans declared

1535
01:12:24,530 --> 01:12:25,290
war on Russians.

1536

01:12:25,290 --> 01:12:30,020

So that was already
the really tragedy.

1537

01:12:30,020 --> 01:12:34,790

That was when all these terrible
things what happened there.

1538

01:12:34,790 --> 01:12:38,840

And Germans were proceeding
from city to city,

1539

01:12:38,840 --> 01:12:40,280

taking over, taking over.

1540

01:12:40,280 --> 01:12:42,822

They were planning
already to be in Moscow.

1541

01:12:42,822 --> 01:12:44,780

They were going, because
the resistance was not

1542

01:12:44,780 --> 01:12:47,090

very strong in the beginning.

1543

01:12:47,090 --> 01:12:51,350

So they were really
continuing and progressing

1544

01:12:51,350 --> 01:12:53,750

deeper and deeper into Russia.

1545

01:12:53,750 --> 01:12:54,650

Yeah.

1546

01:12:54,650 --> 01:12:59,780

So then this condition for
us was very hard, really.

1547

01:12:59,780 --> 01:13:01,250

How long were you on the train?

1548
01:13:01,250 --> 01:13:01,820
Pardon?

1549
01:13:01,820 --> 01:13:03,200
How long were you on this train?

1550
01:13:03,200 --> 01:13:04,160
Do you remember?

1551
01:13:04,160 --> 01:13:04,970
On the train?

1552
01:13:04,970 --> 01:13:08,480
Because after the
train, we took a boat.

1553
01:13:08,480 --> 01:13:10,400
And I don't know
exactly how long, too,

1554
01:13:10,400 --> 01:13:13,970
is the boat ride because,
apparently, to go there,

1555
01:13:13,970 --> 01:13:16,970
you have to take the boat, too.

1556
01:13:16,970 --> 01:13:17,870
That's what we did.

1557
01:13:17,870 --> 01:13:20,660
I remember distinctly
where we took the boat.

1558
01:13:20,660 --> 01:13:23,600
What conditions on the boat
did they give you to live in?

1559
01:13:23,600 --> 01:13:24,650
This, I don't remember.

1560

01:13:24,650 --> 01:13:26,780

The condition of the boat,
I don't remember at all.

1561

01:13:26,780 --> 01:13:28,710

I remember we were on the boat.

1562

01:13:28,710 --> 01:13:31,130

But the detail about
the condition, I can't--

1563

01:13:31,130 --> 01:13:32,210

I don't recall this.

1564

01:13:32,210 --> 01:13:33,320

No, I don't recall.

1565

01:13:33,320 --> 01:13:36,230

And how long we were on
the boat, I don't remember.

1566

01:13:36,230 --> 01:13:39,770

But after the boat, we
went again on the train.

1567

01:13:39,770 --> 01:13:46,740

And finally, when we arrive
there, there was a little--

1568

01:13:46,740 --> 01:13:50,490

all farmland, just farmers.

1569

01:13:50,490 --> 01:13:52,950

And when they give us
there the first food,

1570

01:13:52,950 --> 01:13:54,690

nobody wanted to eat.

1571

01:13:54,690 --> 01:13:56,420

And they were laughing.

1572

01:13:56,420 --> 01:14:02,190

They said, [RUSSIAN],,
which means, if you don't

1573

01:14:02,190 --> 01:14:06,150

get used to it, you will die.

1574

01:14:06,150 --> 01:14:09,390

They were laughing from
us because, oh, that

1575

01:14:09,390 --> 01:14:10,770

tastes horrible.

1576

01:14:10,770 --> 01:14:13,830

The fish smells horrible.

1577

01:14:13,830 --> 01:14:16,197

I still remember we said,
oh, they stink, the fish.

1578

01:14:16,197 --> 01:14:17,280

How can you eat this fish?

1579

01:14:17,280 --> 01:14:18,870

It's just terrible.

1580

01:14:18,870 --> 01:14:22,540

It was just yep,
you get used to it.

1581

01:14:22,540 --> 01:14:23,770

You get used to it.

1582

01:14:23,770 --> 01:14:25,020

You haven't got anything else.

1583

01:14:25,020 --> 01:14:26,250

You have to eat.

1584

01:14:26,250 --> 01:14:29,580

Oh, we were in the beginning
kind of still remember

1585
01:14:29,580 --> 01:14:31,950
the good things--

1586
01:14:31,950 --> 01:14:33,810
you don't understand Jewish?

1587
01:14:33,810 --> 01:14:34,650
No, you don't.

1588
01:14:34,650 --> 01:14:36,390
Well, go ahead and
say it, though.

1589
01:14:36,390 --> 01:14:38,700
No, this is a whole
song what we used

1590
01:14:38,700 --> 01:14:42,460
to sing in Russia about
our life in Russia.

1591
01:14:42,460 --> 01:14:47,520
This was so-- then when the
Russians get us with this song,

1592
01:14:47,520 --> 01:14:50,850
we could get 15 years in jail.

1593
01:14:50,850 --> 01:14:56,940
There's such a critic of the
Communism of their regime,

1594
01:14:56,940 --> 01:14:58,540
of their government.

1595
01:14:58,540 --> 01:14:59,950
Oh, it was just terrible.

1596
01:14:59,950 --> 01:15:00,840

Yeah.

1597

01:15:00,840 --> 01:15:03,330

Go ahead and sing it
and then translate.

1598

01:15:03,330 --> 01:15:05,850

Oh, you don't-- that's
good when you understand.

1599

01:15:05,850 --> 01:15:07,380

It's a very funny song.

1600

01:15:07,380 --> 01:15:09,630

But you have to-- you don't
understand Jewish, either.

1601

01:15:09,630 --> 01:15:10,620

[HEBREW]

1602

01:15:10,620 --> 01:15:11,580

Huh?

1603

01:15:11,580 --> 01:15:12,810

[HEBREW]

1604

01:15:12,810 --> 01:15:13,800

What?

1605

01:15:13,800 --> 01:15:14,850

Sing it.

1606

01:15:14,850 --> 01:15:16,232

Oh, sing it?

1607

01:15:16,232 --> 01:15:17,190

Really, you understand?

1608

01:15:17,190 --> 01:15:17,490

Yeah.

1609

01:15:17,490 --> 01:15:18,823
I wish that you will understand.

1610
01:15:18,823 --> 01:15:19,740
This will be nice.

1611
01:15:19,740 --> 01:15:21,390
And then you sing
it in English, too.

1612
01:15:21,390 --> 01:15:23,120
[SINGING IN HEBREW]

1613
01:15:23,120 --> 01:15:54,210

1614
01:15:54,210 --> 01:15:57,600
That means that when I was
living in Poland, I used to--

1615
01:15:57,600 --> 01:16:02,100
I didn't want to eat
oranges from Jaffa,

1616
01:16:02,100 --> 01:16:03,720
the Israeli oranges.

1617
01:16:03,720 --> 01:16:08,910
I was so choosy about.

1618
01:16:08,910 --> 01:16:15,690
But when I came here to
Russia, here in Russia,

1619
01:16:15,690 --> 01:16:17,460
the lice eating me--

1620
01:16:17,460 --> 01:16:20,580
the lice, [HEBREW],,
which is the lice--

1621
01:16:20,580 --> 01:16:25,770

and the bedbugs-- is it bedbugs?

1622

01:16:25,770 --> 01:16:27,120

Bedbugs.

1623

01:16:27,120 --> 01:16:28,950

They're eating me.

1624

01:16:28,950 --> 01:16:31,830

So I give you back.

1625

01:16:31,830 --> 01:16:35,640

And that's what--

you may get to--

1626

01:16:35,640 --> 01:16:38,130

you go to hell

with your country.

1627

01:16:38,130 --> 01:16:40,140

And maybe I shouldn't

even have this on this.

1628

01:16:40,140 --> 01:16:41,280

No, that's OK.

1629

01:16:41,280 --> 01:16:42,960

Go to hell with your country.

1630

01:16:42,960 --> 01:16:46,200

We want to go back, back to

Poland, back to our land,

1631

01:16:46,200 --> 01:16:47,850

back home, back home.

1632

01:16:47,850 --> 01:16:51,960

And we are-- there's a

specific in Jewish, [HEBREW]..

1633

01:16:51,960 --> 01:16:53,820

I don't know how

to translate this.

1634

01:16:53,820 --> 01:16:57,090

And we say, you go to
hell with your country.

1635

01:16:57,090 --> 01:16:59,040

And we want to go back home.

1636

01:16:59,040 --> 01:17:00,900

And we were singing like that.

1637

01:17:00,900 --> 01:17:05,700

When they will hear this,
oh, that's terrible disgrace.

1638

01:17:05,700 --> 01:17:09,540

Yeah, we were so-- we wanted to
all go back home, go back home.

1639

01:17:09,540 --> 01:17:11,820

We were suffering.

1640

01:17:11,820 --> 01:17:16,170

We were deprived of so many
things leaving and such.

1641

01:17:16,170 --> 01:17:22,230

And actually, we were
missing our families

1642

01:17:22,230 --> 01:17:24,750

and our place and our country.

1643

01:17:24,750 --> 01:17:26,730

This was still our country.

1644

01:17:26,730 --> 01:17:29,830

And we were missing our
family and our life there.

1645

01:17:29,830 --> 01:17:32,410

So we just want to go back.

1646
01:17:32,410 --> 01:17:35,230
Back, back-- that's what
we are singing in the song.

1647
01:17:35,230 --> 01:17:35,730
That's good.

1648
01:17:35,730 --> 01:17:38,200
With somebody understanding
Jewish, that's a funny song.

1649
01:17:38,200 --> 01:17:41,520
But if you don't understand,
the translation is losing--

1650
01:17:41,520 --> 01:17:43,380
in the translation,
you lose the effect

1651
01:17:43,380 --> 01:17:45,780
of the whole of
the song, really.

1652
01:17:45,780 --> 01:17:49,560
But I cannot really say
anything bad now about Russians

1653
01:17:49,560 --> 01:17:52,110
because they treat us the
same as they treat their own

1654
01:17:52,110 --> 01:17:53,790
citizens.

1655
01:17:53,790 --> 01:17:54,700
We have to work.

1656
01:17:54,700 --> 01:17:56,010
Everybody has to work there.

1657

01:17:56,010 --> 01:17:57,870
There is not privilege.

1658
01:17:57,870 --> 01:17:59,250
Maybe they are the privilege.

1659
01:17:59,250 --> 01:18:03,330
There was the Khrushchev
and the other,

1660
01:18:03,330 --> 01:18:06,150
the gang of these
high societies.

1661
01:18:06,150 --> 01:18:08,580
They still have
the high society.

1662
01:18:08,580 --> 01:18:10,380
But anyways, you have to work.

1663
01:18:10,380 --> 01:18:13,500
And we were not used
to this kind of work.

1664
01:18:13,500 --> 01:18:16,850

1665
01:18:16,850 --> 01:18:22,130
This was strictly physical
work and with so little food,

1666
01:18:22,130 --> 01:18:24,610
deprived of all this protein--

1667
01:18:24,610 --> 01:18:30,920
all vitamins just not
a thing, not a thing.

1668
01:18:30,920 --> 01:18:34,640
I remember vividly, once
the Americans were sending--

1669

01:18:34,640 --> 01:18:38,300
after Americans were
sending to help,

1670

01:18:38,300 --> 01:18:41,240
the Americans were sending a
lot of stuff for the Russians.

1671

01:18:41,240 --> 01:18:43,100
Oh, my, my.

1672

01:18:43,100 --> 01:18:46,940
All this-- the
Russian even them,

1673

01:18:46,940 --> 01:18:50,120
they were sending the Americans
to the Russian military.

1674

01:18:50,120 --> 01:18:52,805
And some of them were selling
this on the black market,

1675

01:18:52,805 --> 01:18:55,640
all kind of stuff, food--

1676

01:18:55,640 --> 01:18:59,300

1677

01:18:59,300 --> 01:19:02,300
for example, SPAM
and other things

1678

01:19:02,300 --> 01:19:05,420
like that with just
cans, whole cans.

1679

01:19:05,420 --> 01:19:08,130
So you could see there
on the black market

1680

01:19:08,130 --> 01:19:10,490

all this American food.

1681

01:19:10,490 --> 01:19:15,590

Anyways, they were sending
strictly for these refugees

1682

01:19:15,590 --> 01:19:21,080

some, because this was a
time that the Russians wanted

1683

01:19:21,080 --> 01:19:25,160

to mobilize our men
for the military.

1684

01:19:25,160 --> 01:19:27,230

But after, there was
an intervention--

1685

01:19:27,230 --> 01:19:30,050

I don't know whose, the
Jewish-American Jews maybe--

1686

01:19:30,050 --> 01:19:33,140

was an intervention that they
were very much against this,

1687

01:19:33,140 --> 01:19:34,580

because there was
such a slaughter

1688

01:19:34,580 --> 01:19:37,590

of the Jews in Europe.

1689

01:19:37,590 --> 01:19:38,840

So they didn't want it--

1690

01:19:38,840 --> 01:19:41,330

these people are the refugees--

1691

01:19:41,330 --> 01:19:45,170

to mobilize to go, because
my brother was mobilized.

1692

01:19:45,170 --> 01:19:48,570

And we already said
goodbye to him.

1693

01:19:48,570 --> 01:19:50,390

And after, he came back.

1694

01:19:50,390 --> 01:19:53,110

They sent him back.

1695

01:19:53,110 --> 01:19:56,650

But they tried to mobilize
our people, our men,

1696

01:19:56,650 --> 01:19:57,880

to go to the military.

1697

01:19:57,880 --> 01:20:01,090

But somehow, thanks
to some intervention,

1698

01:20:01,090 --> 01:20:04,760

they were, after, released.

1699

01:20:04,760 --> 01:20:07,780

And they were not taken anymore.

1700

01:20:07,780 --> 01:20:13,510

So the Americans were
sending peanut butter.

1701

01:20:13,510 --> 01:20:15,160

That was such a--

1702

01:20:15,160 --> 01:20:16,840

I never ate peanut
butter in Poland.

1703

01:20:16,840 --> 01:20:19,120

We didn't have this in
Poland, peanut butter.

1704

01:20:19,120 --> 01:20:23,380
And that was such a wonderful--

1705

01:20:23,380 --> 01:20:25,390
we got a jar.

1706

01:20:25,390 --> 01:20:28,240
Everybody got a jar
of peanut butter

1707

01:20:28,240 --> 01:20:33,230
from this committee who was
organizing the whole thing.

1708

01:20:33,230 --> 01:20:35,800
And this was food
which I never ate.

1709

01:20:35,800 --> 01:20:37,480
And in Russia, you're
supposed to eat

1710

01:20:37,480 --> 01:20:39,250
peanut butter with
something, with bread,

1711

01:20:39,250 --> 01:20:40,720
and eat very limited.

1712

01:20:40,720 --> 01:20:43,330
And I ate the whole
jar sitting like that,

1713

01:20:43,330 --> 01:20:45,790
without bread, without
nothing, the whole jar.

1714

01:20:45,790 --> 01:20:48,820
I got so violently sick after.

1715

01:20:48,820 --> 01:20:50,368
I ate the whole jar

of peanut butter.

1716
01:20:50,368 --> 01:20:51,160
Can you believe it?

1717
01:20:51,160 --> 01:20:53,860
So much fat, so much oil--

1718
01:20:53,860 --> 01:20:55,390
and my body was absolutely--

1719
01:20:55,390 --> 01:20:57,880
I never ate this kind of thing.

1720
01:20:57,880 --> 01:21:01,330
I was so violently
that for a long time,

1721
01:21:01,330 --> 01:21:03,670
I couldn't even look
at peanut butter,

1722
01:21:03,670 --> 01:21:07,900
because I always remember
how I ate the whole jar

1723
01:21:07,900 --> 01:21:09,190
of this peanut butter.

1724
01:21:09,190 --> 01:21:11,920
But it was so good, I
just couldn't stop eating.

1725
01:21:11,920 --> 01:21:13,750
And I couldn't take it.

1726
01:21:13,750 --> 01:21:15,790
The hunger was terrible
on me, the hunger.

1727
01:21:15,790 --> 01:21:19,300
I was so impulsive with this.

1728
01:21:19,300 --> 01:21:22,150
It's affected me
in a terrible way.

1729
01:21:22,150 --> 01:21:24,700
And it was this argument
with my husband,

1730
01:21:24,700 --> 01:21:27,790
because he could take
hunger very well.

1731
01:21:27,790 --> 01:21:32,530
He kind of portioned his
bread, not to eat at once.

1732
01:21:32,530 --> 01:21:34,270
So he took separate his bread.

1733
01:21:34,270 --> 01:21:36,250
I took separate my ration.

1734
01:21:36,250 --> 01:21:38,240
And I ate it right away.

1735
01:21:38,240 --> 01:21:43,540
So this hunger was
terrible, working on mine.

1736
01:21:43,540 --> 01:21:45,400
When you lived with
all these people in all

1737
01:21:45,400 --> 01:21:48,310
these different towns,
did anybody ever steal

1738
01:21:48,310 --> 01:21:49,920
somebody else's bread or--

1739
01:21:49,920 --> 01:21:51,890

Oh, you had to be very careful.

1740
01:21:51,890 --> 01:21:53,500
Of course.

1741
01:21:53,500 --> 01:21:55,970
How did you take precautions?

1742
01:21:55,970 --> 01:21:57,970
How would I take-- because
we ate it right away.

1743
01:21:57,970 --> 01:22:01,150
We didn't have
anything extra already.

1744
01:22:01,150 --> 01:22:02,890
Whatever you got, you always--

1745
01:22:02,890 --> 01:22:03,670
you got the bread.

1746
01:22:03,670 --> 01:22:05,260
You got a pound of bread a day.

1747
01:22:05,260 --> 01:22:07,270
That's not very much.

1748
01:22:07,270 --> 01:22:08,780
The bread was very heavy there.

1749
01:22:08,780 --> 01:22:09,790
I don't know.

1750
01:22:09,790 --> 01:22:11,560
So you got this pound of bread.

1751
01:22:11,560 --> 01:22:13,830
So it was a little piece,
so you ate it right away.

1752

01:22:13,830 --> 01:22:16,580
You never had left over, really.

1753
01:22:16,580 --> 01:22:18,220
So that was just
the time when we

1754
01:22:18,220 --> 01:22:22,540
were living in this
community with the 30 people,

1755
01:22:22,540 --> 01:22:27,790
because after 1941, when they
allowed us to go to the city,

1756
01:22:27,790 --> 01:22:29,860
then we were living separately.

1757
01:22:29,860 --> 01:22:32,470
We were living together
with my brothers.

1758
01:22:32,470 --> 01:22:34,300
When you and your
husband were courting,

1759
01:22:34,300 --> 01:22:38,280
you were living in this big
room with however many people.

1760
01:22:38,280 --> 01:22:39,980
How did you actually court?

1761
01:22:39,980 --> 01:22:40,480
Yeah.

1762
01:22:40,480 --> 01:22:41,300
How did we court?

1763
01:22:41,300 --> 01:22:41,800
Oh, boy.

1764

01:22:41,800 --> 01:22:45,400
It was not very romantic,
although with my young age,

1765
01:22:45,400 --> 01:22:50,170
I was very much a romantic
in spite of this whole thing.

1766
01:22:50,170 --> 01:22:52,120
I mean the beginning,
especially,

1767
01:22:52,120 --> 01:22:57,190
I was kind of romantic
inclination, kind of.

1768
01:22:57,190 --> 01:23:00,940
I still was-- and he was
a very good-looking guy.

1769
01:23:00,940 --> 01:23:04,060
So I kind of had an eye
on him right away, really.

1770
01:23:04,060 --> 01:23:08,050
But he was-- he didn't pay
attention to anything--

1771
01:23:08,050 --> 01:23:09,080
to anything, anybody.

1772
01:23:09,080 --> 01:23:11,120
He was a hard-working man.

1773
01:23:11,120 --> 01:23:11,960
And he came home.

1774
01:23:11,960 --> 01:23:13,810
He just wanted to lie in bed.

1775
01:23:13,810 --> 01:23:15,010
Sometimes, it's wasteful.

1776

01:23:15,010 --> 01:23:16,630

Sometimes, it wasn't.

1777

01:23:16,630 --> 01:23:19,570

He was a very serious and
one of the best working men.

1778

01:23:19,570 --> 01:23:22,840

The Russians
appreciated that he was

1779

01:23:22,840 --> 01:23:25,180

the [RUSSIAN],,
which means someone

1780

01:23:25,180 --> 01:23:27,130

who makes double his dorm.

1781

01:23:27,130 --> 01:23:29,450

And he was one of them, really.

1782

01:23:29,450 --> 01:23:32,410

So he was not very
romantic, really.

1783

01:23:32,410 --> 01:23:33,460

No.

1784

01:23:33,460 --> 01:23:38,080

But I was-- see, but
they were two brothers.

1785

01:23:38,080 --> 01:23:41,710

And I felt so sorry for them
because they were so-- they

1786

01:23:41,710 --> 01:23:42,700

didn't have any money.

1787

01:23:42,700 --> 01:23:44,020

They didn't have anything.

1788

01:23:44,020 --> 01:23:46,930

And I just felt so bad because
sometimes they didn't even

1789

01:23:46,930 --> 01:23:50,620

have money to buy this
bread and buy this.

1790

01:23:50,620 --> 01:23:52,440

Whatever, you had to buy.

1791

01:23:52,440 --> 01:23:54,257

They don't give you for free.

1792

01:23:54,257 --> 01:23:55,340

So they didn't have money.

1793

01:23:55,340 --> 01:24:01,630

I felt so bad that sometimes I
just offered them some rubles

1794

01:24:01,630 --> 01:24:03,850

because I know they
don't-- this was terrible.

1795

01:24:03,850 --> 01:24:08,720

1796

01:24:08,720 --> 01:24:12,950

And that was-- because
they were waiting always

1797

01:24:12,950 --> 01:24:16,880

for this guy, for the
cashier, to come and pay them

1798

01:24:16,880 --> 01:24:17,570

for the work.

1799

01:24:17,570 --> 01:24:19,940

But sometimes, the cashier
didn't come in time.

1800
01:24:19,940 --> 01:24:25,100
It was terrible, not like in a
democratic system when you have

1801
01:24:25,100 --> 01:24:26,937
to pay your worker right away.

1802
01:24:26,937 --> 01:24:28,520
Seriously, sometimes
they didn't come.

1803
01:24:28,520 --> 01:24:32,750
And here, the worker didn't
have money to buy food.

1804
01:24:32,750 --> 01:24:35,400
And this was terrible.

1805
01:24:35,400 --> 01:24:36,510
So I don't know.

1806
01:24:36,510 --> 01:24:38,600
They were such nice young men.

1807
01:24:38,600 --> 01:24:40,430
I felt so sorry for them.

1808
01:24:40,430 --> 01:24:43,430
How come you always had
rubles, but they didn't always?

1809
01:24:43,430 --> 01:24:45,260
Because my brothers--
I told you this--

1810
01:24:45,260 --> 01:24:48,260
they were all speculating
back in Bialystok.

1811
01:24:48,260 --> 01:24:54,320
So they had a few

rubles, not to the point

1812

01:24:54,320 --> 01:24:57,300

that they could spend lavishly.

1813

01:24:57,300 --> 01:25:02,510

But we were not so left without
any kind of-- like they were.

1814

01:25:02,510 --> 01:25:04,080

They didn't have
anything, really.

1815

01:25:04,080 --> 01:25:05,420

And we somehow still had--

1816

01:25:05,420 --> 01:25:06,920

I don't know.

1817

01:25:06,920 --> 01:25:12,800

This was all-- I always think
about I depend on my brother.

1818

01:25:12,800 --> 01:25:15,140

I wasn't on my own.

1819

01:25:15,140 --> 01:25:17,030

I was with them.

1820

01:25:17,030 --> 01:25:21,840

But somehow, it was
a very hard life,

1821

01:25:21,840 --> 01:25:26,840

especially the time when we
were living in this commune,

1822

01:25:26,840 --> 01:25:27,860

sort of--

1823

01:25:27,860 --> 01:25:31,820

very, very difficult life.

1824
01:25:31,820 --> 01:25:35,120
And then people were-- and it
doesn't have anything to do

1825
01:25:35,120 --> 01:25:37,520
with cleanliness
to having lice--

1826
01:25:37,520 --> 01:25:39,020
doesn't have anything to do.

1827
01:25:39,020 --> 01:25:44,690
You can be very clean, and you
get the lice just terrible.

1828
01:25:44,690 --> 01:25:46,380
So people had lice.

1829
01:25:46,380 --> 01:25:48,140
And I had lice.

1830
01:25:48,140 --> 01:25:51,410
I shook my head, and the
lice were falling out.

1831
01:25:51,410 --> 01:25:53,310
It was terrible.

1832
01:25:53,310 --> 01:25:57,950
And as I mentioned, some
people were perfectly clean.

1833
01:25:57,950 --> 01:26:00,680
Some people who were dirty
didn't have any lice.

1834
01:26:00,680 --> 01:26:03,680
So it doesn't have anything
to do with cleanliness.

1835
01:26:03,680 --> 01:26:05,390

They even mention now today--

1836

01:26:05,390 --> 01:26:07,370

I heard this on the
television-- the school

1837

01:26:07,370 --> 01:26:09,500

to some of these kids now.

1838

01:26:09,500 --> 01:26:11,910

So they mention also this.

1839

01:26:11,910 --> 01:26:14,030

They kind of accentuate it.

1840

01:26:14,030 --> 01:26:16,490

It doesn't have anything
to do with cleanliness.

1841

01:26:16,490 --> 01:26:19,857

But somehow, some kids attract.

1842

01:26:19,857 --> 01:26:20,690

Some people have it.

1843

01:26:20,690 --> 01:26:22,100

Some people don't.

1844

01:26:22,100 --> 01:26:25,100

But anyways, that
was very, very--

1845

01:26:25,100 --> 01:26:30,810

it was a part also of
this difficult life there.

1846

01:26:30,810 --> 01:26:32,600

What kind of a
wedding did you have?

1847

01:26:32,600 --> 01:26:34,200

Oh, my wedding.

1848
01:26:34,200 --> 01:26:36,410
Oh my god.

1849
01:26:36,410 --> 01:26:37,490
It was nothing.

1850
01:26:37,490 --> 01:26:40,190
We had to walk to the city hall.

1851
01:26:40,190 --> 01:26:43,070
There was about-- I
walked a 10-miles walk.

1852
01:26:43,070 --> 01:26:45,050
We were walking, both.

1853
01:26:45,050 --> 01:26:49,790
And we came to this guy to
the city hall to register.

1854
01:26:49,790 --> 01:26:51,170
And he registered us.

1855
01:26:51,170 --> 01:26:52,880
And after, we
asked him if he can

1856
01:26:52,880 --> 01:26:56,790
write for us to get a little bit
bread, because we were hungry

1857
01:26:56,790 --> 01:26:59,140
and we walked so far.

1858
01:26:59,140 --> 01:26:59,950
He was laughing.

1859
01:26:59,950 --> 01:27:01,655
He says, if I can
write "bread," I

1860

01:27:01,655 --> 01:27:04,400

will write for myself
first, not for you.

1861

01:27:04,400 --> 01:27:06,690

He says, I cannot
write anything.

1862

01:27:06,690 --> 01:27:09,290

So we had to walk back.

1863

01:27:09,290 --> 01:27:11,360

And it was so hard.

1864

01:27:11,360 --> 01:27:14,510

It was nothing, was no--

1865

01:27:14,510 --> 01:27:20,930

my brother registered also with
his girl, registered before.

1866

01:27:20,930 --> 01:27:22,250

And then we registered.

1867

01:27:22,250 --> 01:27:24,840

And we didn't have any wedding.

1868

01:27:24,840 --> 01:27:28,190

We didn't have any
religious wedding, nothing,

1869

01:27:28,190 --> 01:27:29,810

just registered there.

1870

01:27:29,810 --> 01:27:36,380

After when we were in
Germany after the war,

1871

01:27:36,380 --> 01:27:40,910

we registered, because my
son was born in Germany.

1872

01:27:40,910 --> 01:27:43,170

Then we kind of--

1873

01:27:43,170 --> 01:27:46,430

but my sister-in-law was
so anxious for me to have

1874

01:27:46,430 --> 01:27:47,510

a wedding--

1875

01:27:47,510 --> 01:27:49,820

a religious wedding, she says.

1876

01:27:49,820 --> 01:27:52,400

We never had a religious--
we never had any wedding.

1877

01:27:52,400 --> 01:27:53,450

We just registered.

1878

01:27:53,450 --> 01:27:58,070

And this piece of paper kept us
in a union, a very happy union.

1879

01:27:58,070 --> 01:28:02,330

He was a wonderful man,
wonderful guy, good man.

1880

01:28:02,330 --> 01:28:05,450

And we had a very good
marriage, but a very hard life,

1881

01:28:05,450 --> 01:28:06,870

of course--

1882

01:28:06,870 --> 01:28:11,860

very difficult life, especially
from all the suffering,

1883

01:28:11,860 --> 01:28:13,420

he was not well.

1884

01:28:13,420 --> 01:28:16,210

He was sick.

1885

01:28:16,210 --> 01:28:18,870

But I have the best
memory of my marriage.

1886

01:28:18,870 --> 01:28:21,850

And he's gone already 12 years.

1887

01:28:21,850 --> 01:28:25,050

He was 62 years
old when he died.

1888

01:28:25,050 --> 01:28:30,900

So that's-- so how far we go?

1889

01:28:30,900 --> 01:28:33,930

It's already 7:30, almost.

1890

01:28:33,930 --> 01:28:36,373

So what else would
you want to know?

1891

01:28:36,373 --> 01:28:38,040

Well, once you were
married, how did you

1892

01:28:38,040 --> 01:28:40,740

get any privacy in this big
room with all these people?

1893

01:28:40,740 --> 01:28:43,230

That's a good question.

1894

01:28:43,230 --> 01:28:45,270

Oh, how did you get--

1895

01:28:45,270 --> 01:28:46,470

I don't know, really.

1896

01:28:46,470 --> 01:28:49,560
Somehow, we got.

1897
01:28:49,560 --> 01:28:50,560
Did it matter?

1898
01:28:50,560 --> 01:28:52,498
Did it reach a point
where it didn't matter

1899
01:28:52,498 --> 01:28:53,790
whether you had privacy or not?

1900
01:28:53,790 --> 01:28:55,260
Exactly.

1901
01:28:55,260 --> 01:28:58,460
There were quite a
few couples in this.

1902
01:28:58,460 --> 01:29:00,920
Quite a few couples, there were.

1903
01:29:00,920 --> 01:29:04,550
And nobody paid attention
to you, to them.

1904
01:29:04,550 --> 01:29:06,260
Everybody did
whatever they wanted.

1905
01:29:06,260 --> 01:29:08,140
And that's about all
what it was to it.

1906
01:29:08,140 --> 01:29:09,320
We were not discussing.

1907
01:29:09,320 --> 01:29:12,080
We were not making any
rules what is allowed,

1908

01:29:12,080 --> 01:29:12,980
what is not allowed.

1909
01:29:12,980 --> 01:29:14,630
Everybody did what they wanted.

1910
01:29:14,630 --> 01:29:17,110
Back on the air.

1911
01:29:17,110 --> 01:29:19,600
You know how people need to
have a little bit of privacy?

1912
01:29:19,600 --> 01:29:22,350
They just need a little bit
of time to just be alone.

1913
01:29:22,350 --> 01:29:26,720
Was there some way that
you were able to do this,

1914
01:29:26,720 --> 01:29:28,390
even living among
this group of people

1915
01:29:28,390 --> 01:29:30,780
where you always
had to be together?

1916
01:29:30,780 --> 01:29:33,430
There was very
little privacy there.

1917
01:29:33,430 --> 01:29:36,490
Your privacy was just your bed.

1918
01:29:36,490 --> 01:29:39,430
That's about the only area
which is your private.

1919
01:29:39,430 --> 01:29:46,630
But after where my husband had
to go and live in the forest,

1920
01:29:46,630 --> 01:29:48,545
then we were not
married, really.

1921
01:29:48,545 --> 01:29:49,420
We were just friends.

1922
01:29:49,420 --> 01:29:54,640
And he was having
his living quarters

1923
01:29:54,640 --> 01:29:56,410
right in the forest there.

1924
01:29:56,410 --> 01:29:58,690
And I was left on the base--

1925
01:29:58,690 --> 01:30:01,270
no different, because
they didn't consider me

1926
01:30:01,270 --> 01:30:04,277
such a worker.

1927
01:30:04,277 --> 01:30:05,110
So they didn't care.

1928
01:30:05,110 --> 01:30:06,340
So I was left there.

1929
01:30:06,340 --> 01:30:09,100
So I used to go to visit him.

1930
01:30:09,100 --> 01:30:11,470
I used to go to the forest.

1931
01:30:11,470 --> 01:30:15,490
And this was sometime after
work, which was night.

1932

01:30:15,490 --> 01:30:17,290
And it was so light.

1933
01:30:17,290 --> 01:30:18,495
It's amazing.

1934
01:30:18,495 --> 01:30:21,520
There was a lot of
snow, everything white.

1935
01:30:21,520 --> 01:30:23,890
And I was not afraid to
go through the forest

1936
01:30:23,890 --> 01:30:29,230
and to his place
where he was there.

1937
01:30:29,230 --> 01:30:31,720
I'm looking back, because
I said, boy, today,

1938
01:30:31,720 --> 01:30:35,950
I'm not as brave, because
I wanted to see him.

1939
01:30:35,950 --> 01:30:41,410
So I was walking all the way
from my base to his place

1940
01:30:41,410 --> 01:30:43,330
there in the forest.

1941
01:30:43,330 --> 01:30:46,900
But as I mentioned,
after '41, we all

1942
01:30:46,900 --> 01:30:53,020
were leaving this place
there and going to the city.

1943
01:30:53,020 --> 01:30:56,290
We went to the city,

which was already private.

1944

01:30:56,290 --> 01:30:59,170

Then you have your
privacy, really.

1945

01:30:59,170 --> 01:31:06,100

But you still have the
same miserable lifestyle.

1946

01:31:06,100 --> 01:31:11,974

But at least you were not
living in a commune, kind of.

1947

01:31:11,974 --> 01:31:14,790

Yeah.

1948

01:31:14,790 --> 01:31:17,110

When did you first hear--

1949

01:31:17,110 --> 01:31:20,250

what would the Russians
tell you about the war?

1950

01:31:20,250 --> 01:31:23,820

Did you think you were
getting genuine war news?

1951

01:31:23,820 --> 01:31:25,130

Very little news, really--

1952

01:31:25,130 --> 01:31:27,000

we had some radios.

1953

01:31:27,000 --> 01:31:30,280

And I don't know.

1954

01:31:30,280 --> 01:31:32,190

We never spoke to the--

1955

01:31:32,190 --> 01:31:35,080

they didn't know more, the

Russians, than we, I think so.

1956

01:31:35,080 --> 01:31:39,360

And we had through
the radios news.

1957

01:31:39,360 --> 01:31:43,080

And they still were
very optimistic,

1958

01:31:43,080 --> 01:31:47,520

although they were
getting a terrible beating

1959

01:31:47,520 --> 01:31:49,450

in the beginning, really.

1960

01:31:49,450 --> 01:31:51,200

But they were very
optimistic that they're

1961

01:31:51,200 --> 01:32:03,330

going to eventually that
they're going to win.

1962

01:32:03,330 --> 01:32:06,300

And there was such
admiration for Stalin.

1963

01:32:06,300 --> 01:32:11,640

Stalin's name is on
everybody's song.

1964

01:32:11,640 --> 01:32:14,933

And everything was Stalin--

1965

01:32:14,933 --> 01:32:15,850

tremendous admiration.

1966

01:32:15,850 --> 01:32:19,650

He was like God, just
like God, Stalin.

1967

01:32:19,650 --> 01:32:24,700

And well, the life was going on.

1968

01:32:24,700 --> 01:32:27,520

But there was such corruption.

1969

01:32:27,520 --> 01:32:31,570

Everybody was stealing--
terrible corruption.

1970

01:32:31,570 --> 01:32:32,070

Yeah.

1971

01:32:32,070 --> 01:32:34,890

People were stealing
left and right

1972

01:32:34,890 --> 01:32:36,990

and tried to sell
and help themselves

1973

01:32:36,990 --> 01:32:42,000

to be able to buy some food.

1974

01:32:42,000 --> 01:32:46,560

So it was-- in the place
where I was to work,

1975

01:32:46,560 --> 01:32:54,330

you were sewing women's
blouses, sort of,

1976

01:32:54,330 --> 01:32:59,940

making from texture
which was knitted.

1977

01:32:59,940 --> 01:33:02,310

There were machines
we were working.

1978

01:33:02,310 --> 01:33:04,170

And you are sewing this.

1979

01:33:04,170 --> 01:33:05,670

You are taking home the work.

1980

01:33:05,670 --> 01:33:07,770

And then you never brought back.

1981

01:33:07,770 --> 01:33:09,840

Everybody was trying.

1982

01:33:09,840 --> 01:33:12,610

And there was not organization.

1983

01:33:12,610 --> 01:33:15,260

It was so disorganized.

1984

01:33:15,260 --> 01:33:19,230

Everybody was stealing
and just after going,

1985

01:33:19,230 --> 01:33:24,360

selling this on the market,
trading this for something.

1986

01:33:24,360 --> 01:33:29,820

It was a very, very hard--

1987

01:33:29,820 --> 01:33:31,680

of course, the
climate was the same

1988

01:33:31,680 --> 01:33:33,870

because this was still Siberia.

1989

01:33:33,870 --> 01:33:35,640

It was just that
we had our place.

1990

01:33:35,640 --> 01:33:38,430

1991

01:33:38,430 --> 01:33:39,870
So that was the difference.

1992
01:33:39,870 --> 01:33:44,430
And the food, you couldn't buy
anything for money, really.

1993
01:33:44,430 --> 01:33:46,710
It was very limited with ration.

1994
01:33:46,710 --> 01:33:49,320
And the store didn't
have any extra food.

1995
01:33:49,320 --> 01:33:54,540
Occasionally, something
was showing up in a store.

1996
01:33:54,540 --> 01:33:59,400
There were lanes--
lines, long lines.

1997
01:33:59,400 --> 01:34:03,692
People were waiting for hours
then in this cold weather.

1998
01:34:03,692 --> 01:34:04,900
And I was staying there, too.

1999
01:34:04,900 --> 01:34:06,720
And they all were
screaming at me.

2000
01:34:06,720 --> 01:34:07,500
You go home.

2001
01:34:07,500 --> 01:34:10,770
You're going to freeze, because
I was not dressed like they

2002
01:34:10,770 --> 01:34:12,570
were dressed, so warm.

2003

01:34:12,570 --> 01:34:16,140

And I was so anxious
also to get this bread.

2004

01:34:16,140 --> 01:34:20,140

So I was staying in the
line for hours and hours

2005

01:34:20,140 --> 01:34:24,210

finally to get this pound
they were selling sometimes.

2006

01:34:24,210 --> 01:34:27,600

Occasionally, they were
selling some sausage,

2007

01:34:27,600 --> 01:34:33,840

which was such a tremendous
novelty and such an attraction.

2008

01:34:33,840 --> 01:34:37,980

It was a very, very,
very difficult time

2009

01:34:37,980 --> 01:34:41,130

for the Russian people,
really, a very difficult time,

2010

01:34:41,130 --> 01:34:44,740

because everything was
going for the military.

2011

01:34:44,740 --> 01:34:46,330

So they were deprived, really.

2012

01:34:46,330 --> 01:34:49,170

The stores were empty,
didn't have any food.

2013

01:34:49,170 --> 01:34:53,370

And the men, they
were all mobilized.

2014

01:34:53,370 --> 01:34:56,280

It was a hard
period of time then.

2015

01:34:56,280 --> 01:35:00,030

2016

01:35:00,030 --> 01:35:03,780

When the war started
turning against the Germans,

2017

01:35:03,780 --> 01:35:05,430

did you believe the reports?

2018

01:35:05,430 --> 01:35:09,980

Or did you think it
was just propaganda?

2019

01:35:09,980 --> 01:35:11,390

We kind of didn't question this.

2020

01:35:11,390 --> 01:35:13,120

We tried to believe.

2021

01:35:13,120 --> 01:35:15,410

Yeah, this was happy days.

2022

01:35:15,410 --> 01:35:20,600

'44 was already determining
the war already, about 1944.

2023

01:35:20,600 --> 01:35:22,160

So this was very happy.

2024

01:35:22,160 --> 01:35:23,780

We heard on the radio.

2025

01:35:23,780 --> 01:35:27,380

This was wonderful
news that the Germans

2026

01:35:27,380 --> 01:35:30,900
are getting beaten back.

2027
01:35:30,900 --> 01:35:34,790
And of course, the Germans
were in Stalingrad.

2028
01:35:34,790 --> 01:35:39,110
They were surrounding
Stalingrad for so long.

2029
01:35:39,110 --> 01:35:41,960
I don't know if they finally
took Stalingrad or not.

2030
01:35:41,960 --> 01:35:42,913
I don't think so.

2031
01:35:42,913 --> 01:35:43,955
They did take Stalingrad.

2032
01:35:43,955 --> 01:35:44,780
Yeah.

2033
01:35:44,780 --> 01:35:48,020
And then Leningrad,
they were occupying--

2034
01:35:48,020 --> 01:35:53,300
was surrounded by the Germans
for about almost two years,

2035
01:35:53,300 --> 01:35:55,280
more than a year,
a year and a half.

2036
01:35:55,280 --> 01:35:58,790
And people were eating
cats and dogs, even.

2037
01:35:58,790 --> 01:36:00,860
There were so many
people dying because they

2038
01:36:00,860 --> 01:36:04,030
couldn't bring any food
because they were surrounded.

2039
01:36:04,030 --> 01:36:07,130
Leningrad was completely
surrounded by the Germans.

2040
01:36:07,130 --> 01:36:08,210
But they didn't get it.

2041
01:36:08,210 --> 01:36:09,050
They didn't get in.

2042
01:36:09,050 --> 01:36:13,560
Finally, they were pushed back.

2043
01:36:13,560 --> 01:36:16,490
So this was a very
difficult time, really.

2044
01:36:16,490 --> 01:36:20,240
And you couldn't complain
much on your condition

2045
01:36:20,240 --> 01:36:24,720
because the whole
country was suffering.

2046
01:36:24,720 --> 01:36:28,610
So they didn't count,
your personal--

2047
01:36:28,610 --> 01:36:31,070
didn't count at all.

2048
01:36:31,070 --> 01:36:36,120
And it was a very
hard time, really.

2049
01:36:36,120 --> 01:36:39,750

I look back.

2050
01:36:39,750 --> 01:36:40,880
But somehow, I was--

2051
01:36:40,880 --> 01:36:41,540
I don't know.

2052
01:36:41,540 --> 01:36:47,210
I was never sick there,
really, in this terrible cold.

2053
01:36:47,210 --> 01:36:50,250
And somehow, I don't remember
ever getting a cold there,

2054
01:36:50,250 --> 01:36:53,270
which was so unique, really.

2055
01:36:53,270 --> 01:36:57,320
And my husband, he was
sick quite a few times

2056
01:36:57,320 --> 01:37:01,850
and very seriously sick,
terribly serious sick.

2057
01:37:01,850 --> 01:37:03,650
Mm-hmm.

2058
01:37:03,650 --> 01:37:06,380
And that's how the--

2059
01:37:06,380 --> 01:37:10,250
and then 1945, the war
was-- no, in 1944, they

2060
01:37:10,250 --> 01:37:13,880
transferred us completely on
the south of Russia, really.

2061
01:37:13,880 --> 01:37:19,450

And that's what is
Kharkiv, Ukraine, which

2062
01:37:19,450 --> 01:37:22,360
is a nice, good part
of Russia, really.

2063
01:37:22,360 --> 01:37:26,830
Ukraine-- the climate was
similar to the climate

2064
01:37:26,830 --> 01:37:28,210
in Poland.

2065
01:37:28,210 --> 01:37:31,660
And there already, food
was much more available.

2066
01:37:31,660 --> 01:37:33,940
The men were all--

2067
01:37:33,940 --> 01:37:38,660
besides the work, which the
work was not very difficult--

2068
01:37:38,660 --> 01:37:43,030
the whole bunch of people,
the men, they organized.

2069
01:37:43,030 --> 01:37:46,810
They were going to one bazaar,
to another bazaar, buying

2070
01:37:46,810 --> 01:37:48,250
and selling.

2071
01:37:48,250 --> 01:37:52,900
And every one of us
started gaining weight.

2072
01:37:52,900 --> 01:37:54,730
We ate much better.

2073

01:37:54,730 --> 01:37:58,390

There were a lot of bazaars,
open bazaar selling.

2074

01:37:58,390 --> 01:37:59,380

You could buy food.

2075

01:37:59,380 --> 01:38:03,400

You could buy
milk, eggs, butter.

2076

01:38:03,400 --> 01:38:06,790

Somehow, suddenly-- I am
talking about Ukraine now,

2077

01:38:06,790 --> 01:38:10,540

which is different than
this north Siberia.

2078

01:38:10,540 --> 01:38:13,880

So there, the conditions
were much improved.

2079

01:38:13,880 --> 01:38:15,130

But they finally decided--

2080

01:38:15,130 --> 01:38:17,740

in the beginning,
I think, of '44,

2081

01:38:17,740 --> 01:38:20,050

they decided to really
transfer the refugees,

2082

01:38:20,050 --> 01:38:23,650

because there were a lot
of people really dying.

2083

01:38:23,650 --> 01:38:25,990

So the Russians finally--

2084

01:38:25,990 --> 01:38:28,990

probably under somebody's
intervention, too.

2085
01:38:28,990 --> 01:38:33,310
So they transferred us, which
also was a long, long schlep

2086
01:38:33,310 --> 01:38:36,550
to Ukraine, a long time.

2087
01:38:36,550 --> 01:38:39,820
And we're having our own--

2088
01:38:39,820 --> 01:38:40,715
[PEGGY SNEEZES]

2089
01:38:40,715 --> 01:38:41,215
Bless you.

2090
01:38:41,215 --> 01:38:42,085
Excuse me.

2091
01:38:42,085 --> 01:38:43,300
Mm.

2092
01:38:43,300 --> 01:38:47,590
We're having our
own just one room

2093
01:38:47,590 --> 01:38:50,080
for us, separately our room.

2094
01:38:50,080 --> 01:38:57,770
And this was already different--

2095
01:38:57,770 --> 01:39:01,120
much improvement in
life, really, from--

2096
01:39:01,120 --> 01:39:01,690
When--

2097

01:39:01,690 --> 01:39:02,550

Yes?

2098

01:39:02,550 --> 01:39:05,800

When did you first hear of
the concentration camps?

2099

01:39:05,800 --> 01:39:09,580

Oh, we didn't really hear,
really, till the end almost.

2100

01:39:09,580 --> 01:39:12,610

This news were never kind of--

2101

01:39:12,610 --> 01:39:14,350

we never heard about it.

2102

01:39:14,350 --> 01:39:18,670

But really, towards
the end, we heard.

2103

01:39:18,670 --> 01:39:23,710

And still, we were still
sure that people survived it.

2104

01:39:23,710 --> 01:39:26,420

Not everyone is gone.

2105

01:39:26,420 --> 01:39:30,490

And when we came back to
Poland, we couldn't believe it.

2106

01:39:30,490 --> 01:39:35,470

And we went to this
organization, Jewish,

2107

01:39:35,470 --> 01:39:38,350

which right away took care,
they have a list of people who

2108

01:39:38,350 --> 01:39:40,810

survived, which was the list.

2109
01:39:40,810 --> 01:39:43,810
There was nobody from
my family on the list.

2110
01:39:43,810 --> 01:39:48,520
This was back in Poland,
when we came back in 1946.

2111
01:39:48,520 --> 01:39:50,770
Did you go out of your way
to discover the conditions

2112
01:39:50,770 --> 01:39:51,670
in the camps?

2113
01:39:51,670 --> 01:39:52,960
No.

2114
01:39:52,960 --> 01:39:53,890
No, we didn't.

2115
01:39:53,890 --> 01:39:55,600
We were in Poland.

2116
01:39:55,600 --> 01:40:01,240
And this was very
hard to the Polacks.

2117
01:40:01,240 --> 01:40:05,380
When they saw our coming back,
they said, oh, so many of you

2118
01:40:05,380 --> 01:40:07,660
are back?

2119
01:40:07,660 --> 01:40:12,640
They were so unfriendly to
this small group of Jews

2120
01:40:12,640 --> 01:40:14,620
coming back, very unfriendly.

2121
01:40:14,620 --> 01:40:18,650

2122
01:40:18,650 --> 01:40:19,440
And I don't know.

2123
01:40:19,440 --> 01:40:22,440
It didn't occur to us to go.

2124
01:40:22,440 --> 01:40:26,370
Nobody was talking then about
a concentration camp to visit,

2125
01:40:26,370 --> 01:40:27,730
because it was so fresh.

2126
01:40:27,730 --> 01:40:31,410
It was just 1946, right
away after the war.

2127
01:40:31,410 --> 01:40:33,720
I don't know.

2128
01:40:33,720 --> 01:40:36,263
We never heard about it.

2129
01:40:36,263 --> 01:40:37,680
Have you ever gone
to one of the--

2130
01:40:37,680 --> 01:40:39,420
No, I never went.

2131
01:40:39,420 --> 01:40:42,850
I still wanted to go to
Poland, but I don't think so

2132
01:40:42,850 --> 01:40:44,970
I will ever go,
because it's not--

2133

01:40:44,970 --> 01:40:46,175

I don't want to go alone.

2134

01:40:46,175 --> 01:40:47,550

I would like to
go with somebody.

2135

01:40:47,550 --> 01:40:51,900

And I cannot find anybody
who will go with me.

2136

01:40:51,900 --> 01:40:55,080

So even if I ever
go with a group,

2137

01:40:55,080 --> 01:40:56,670

I still would like
to have someone--

2138

01:40:56,670 --> 01:41:01,050

strictly a friend--
to go with me.

2139

01:41:01,050 --> 01:41:02,040

I would like it.

2140

01:41:02,040 --> 01:41:03,770

I still would like
to go to Warsaw,

2141

01:41:03,770 --> 01:41:06,300

although Warsaw is
completely different now

2142

01:41:06,300 --> 01:41:08,620

than it was before.

2143

01:41:08,620 --> 01:41:09,790

And I don't know.

2144

01:41:09,790 --> 01:41:13,768

It still is a little

bit the sentiment,

2145
01:41:13,768 --> 01:41:15,810
because there are such
good memories of my family

2146
01:41:15,810 --> 01:41:19,080
there, of everybody being--

2147
01:41:19,080 --> 01:41:22,740
but I don't think so I
will ever be able to do it,

2148
01:41:22,740 --> 01:41:23,970
to go for a visit.

2149
01:41:23,970 --> 01:41:26,340
I doubt it.

2150
01:41:26,340 --> 01:41:27,270
It doesn't look like--

2151
01:41:27,270 --> 01:41:30,410

2152
01:41:30,410 --> 01:41:32,230
unfortunately,
doesn't look like.

2153
01:41:32,230 --> 01:41:34,980

2154
01:41:34,980 --> 01:41:39,780
And when we came back, actually,
I was interested to find out.

2155
01:41:39,780 --> 01:41:43,710
And they told me
that one survived,

2156
01:41:43,710 --> 01:41:47,040
one woman, the name

of my maiden name,

2157

01:41:47,040 --> 01:41:50,070

which was probably
married to my brother.

2158

01:41:50,070 --> 01:41:51,690

And I don't know why.

2159

01:41:51,690 --> 01:41:55,170

I didn't-- I was not interested
to get in touch with this

2160

01:41:55,170 --> 01:41:56,460

person.

2161

01:41:56,460 --> 01:42:00,310

And until this day, I don't
know anything about it.

2162

01:42:00,310 --> 01:42:03,210

She told me that it was
one which was probably

2163

01:42:03,210 --> 01:42:05,070

married to my younger brother.

2164

01:42:05,070 --> 01:42:08,220

And they were maybe
both taken to Auschwitz.

2165

01:42:08,220 --> 01:42:09,360

And she survived.

2166

01:42:09,360 --> 01:42:12,270

And he died in Auschwitz.

2167

01:42:12,270 --> 01:42:14,170

And I said, what
do I care for her?

2168

01:42:14,170 --> 01:42:15,720

She's not there.

2169

01:42:15,720 --> 01:42:18,630

That was so childish,
so silly of me.

2170

01:42:18,630 --> 01:42:21,930

Now, I don't know how I did it.

2171

01:42:21,930 --> 01:42:27,930

But it was still
very much I cannot--

2172

01:42:27,930 --> 01:42:32,760

I cannot really myself
cannot figure this out,

2173

01:42:32,760 --> 01:42:36,240

why I didn't show any kind of
interest to get in touch with

2174

01:42:36,240 --> 01:42:36,960

her.

2175

01:42:36,960 --> 01:42:40,350

She would probably tell
me a lot of things.

2176

01:42:40,350 --> 01:42:43,770

But I just disregarded this.

2177

01:42:43,770 --> 01:42:48,030

And I said, I don't want it if
nobody from my family is alive.

2178

01:42:48,030 --> 01:42:50,180

So what do I care?

2179

01:42:50,180 --> 01:42:52,630

And nobody was alive.

2180

01:42:52,630 --> 01:42:55,200

That's what it was.

2181

01:42:55,200 --> 01:42:58,820

Do you remember the day you
first heard about the camps?

2182

01:42:58,820 --> 01:43:01,730

No, I don't remember the day--

2183

01:43:01,730 --> 01:43:03,840

exactly day, I don't remember.

2184

01:43:03,840 --> 01:43:06,080

Of course, after we heard.

2185

01:43:06,080 --> 01:43:08,930

And we took this--

2186

01:43:08,930 --> 01:43:12,230

no, my girlfriend
whom I told you

2187

01:43:12,230 --> 01:43:15,830

that she was out of the
ghetto and she was on the--

2188

01:43:15,830 --> 01:43:16,610

she survived.

2189

01:43:16,610 --> 01:43:18,200

She told me a lot.

2190

01:43:18,200 --> 01:43:20,660

But she was not in any
concentration camp.

2191

01:43:20,660 --> 01:43:23,570

She was out of the
ghetto with her daughter.

2192

01:43:23,570 --> 01:43:24,620

And she did survive.

2193
01:43:24,620 --> 01:43:29,900

2194
01:43:29,900 --> 01:43:33,440
She pretended she's not
Jewish, and she kind of

2195
01:43:33,440 --> 01:43:35,120
got away with it.

2196
01:43:35,120 --> 01:43:36,485
She colored her hair blonde.

2197
01:43:36,485 --> 01:43:39,540

2198
01:43:39,540 --> 01:43:43,125
And she did survive,
but she also died later.

2199
01:43:43,125 --> 01:43:45,930

2200
01:43:45,930 --> 01:43:46,950
What time it is?

2201
01:43:46,950 --> 01:43:47,680
It's almost 8:00.

2202
01:43:47,680 --> 01:43:52,970

2203
01:43:52,970 --> 01:43:57,050
When you were in Russia,
were you always aware

2204
01:43:57,050 --> 01:43:59,510
of the possibility
of spies repeating

2205

01:43:59,510 --> 01:44:00,800
what you said to the--

2206
01:44:00,800 --> 01:44:02,420
Absolutely.

2207
01:44:02,420 --> 01:44:03,870
I was not so much aware.

2208
01:44:03,870 --> 01:44:06,380
But I was talking a lot about--

2209
01:44:06,380 --> 01:44:07,250
they all tell me.

2210
01:44:07,250 --> 01:44:12,710
My husband always warned me,
you better control your--

2211
01:44:12,710 --> 01:44:15,410
beware what you talk, because
you will end it eventually.

2212
01:44:15,410 --> 01:44:17,360
And I'd say, why are
you talking like that?

2213
01:44:17,360 --> 01:44:20,720
I would always compare how it
was in Poland and how is here.

2214
01:44:20,720 --> 01:44:23,300
And we had
everything, our bands.

2215
01:44:23,300 --> 01:44:25,880
We have this and we
that you don't have.

2216
01:44:25,880 --> 01:44:29,870
And he says-- they
forced my husband

2217

01:44:29,870 --> 01:44:39,190

to listen to people
who talk against

2218

01:44:39,190 --> 01:44:45,430

and then to tell them
who it is to show.

2219

01:44:45,430 --> 01:44:50,200

They were practically forcing
him to take a role like that,

2220

01:44:50,200 --> 01:44:53,170

to listen carefully
to all these people

2221

01:44:53,170 --> 01:45:01,510

and to hear if anyone is against
Communism, against Russia.

2222

01:45:01,510 --> 01:45:04,600

Of course, he never
told them anything.

2223

01:45:04,600 --> 01:45:05,720

How do you even know?

2224

01:45:05,720 --> 01:45:06,400

Yeah.

2225

01:45:06,400 --> 01:45:08,050

But he was terrible.

2226

01:45:08,050 --> 01:45:09,730

He was in agony, practically.

2227

01:45:09,730 --> 01:45:12,190

He's, look at what
they wanted me to do.

2228

01:45:12,190 --> 01:45:14,050

How can I get out of it?

2229
01:45:14,050 --> 01:45:16,120
They told him that he
can be punished if he

2230
01:45:16,120 --> 01:45:20,450
won't cooperate with them.

2231
01:45:20,450 --> 01:45:22,260
So this was very
serious, really.

2232
01:45:22,260 --> 01:45:24,200
How did he get out of it?

2233
01:45:24,200 --> 01:45:24,800
I don't know.

2234
01:45:24,800 --> 01:45:26,620
I don't remember
really how he got out.

2235
01:45:26,620 --> 01:45:29,617
But I know that he was very
depressed and very sad.

2236
01:45:29,617 --> 01:45:30,700
And he says, I don't know.

2237
01:45:30,700 --> 01:45:33,520
What can I do now?

2238
01:45:33,520 --> 01:45:35,690
He was very much--

2239
01:45:35,690 --> 01:45:38,320
because we all were talking
against the Russians, really.

2240
01:45:38,320 --> 01:45:40,210
We all were talking.

2241

01:45:40,210 --> 01:45:43,810

So how can he
denounce and tell them

2242

01:45:43,810 --> 01:45:45,220

that I was talking about it?

2243

01:45:45,220 --> 01:45:47,620

And every one of us, the
feeling of every one of us,

2244

01:45:47,620 --> 01:45:51,310

was against Russia.

2245

01:45:51,310 --> 01:45:53,350

I don't know if we
were justified or not.

2246

01:45:53,350 --> 01:45:56,770

But we were because our
conditions were so bad.

2247

01:45:56,770 --> 01:45:58,900

We didn't realize that,
actually, the Russians

2248

01:45:58,900 --> 01:46:01,000

would save our life,
really, that we would

2249

01:46:01,000 --> 01:46:05,170

have to be thankful to them
because they gave us the chance

2250

01:46:05,170 --> 01:46:06,610

to survive.

2251

01:46:06,610 --> 01:46:08,620

Otherwise, we would be all dead.

2252

01:46:08,620 --> 01:46:12,820

But we just were thinking of

the good life, what it was back

2253

01:46:12,820 --> 01:46:14,770
in Poland and the
terrible conditions

2254

01:46:14,770 --> 01:46:17,680
as they are what
we are facing now.

2255

01:46:17,680 --> 01:46:20,470
And to me, this was
childish, really.

2256

01:46:20,470 --> 01:46:22,870
We were all talking,
oh, the Russians.

2257

01:46:22,870 --> 01:46:25,540
That's not good, and
this is not good.

2258

01:46:25,540 --> 01:46:29,780
And he said he just couldn't
hear these things, really.

2259

01:46:29,780 --> 01:46:34,030
So he was in a very difficult--
and he was very depressed.

2260

01:46:34,030 --> 01:46:36,220
And he says, how can I get out?

2261

01:46:36,220 --> 01:46:39,320
They asked him because he
was one of the best workers.

2262

01:46:39,320 --> 01:46:42,040
So that's why they felt that,
oh, he's the best worker.

2263

01:46:42,040 --> 01:46:45,530
So he's the right type to ask

him to do things like that.

2264

01:46:45,530 --> 01:46:46,820

And they promised him--

2265

01:46:46,820 --> 01:46:48,200

I don't know.

2266

01:46:48,200 --> 01:46:50,710

But this was a very
difficult time, really,

2267

01:46:50,710 --> 01:46:54,640

for him because, of course, he
didn't want to denounce anybody

2268

01:46:54,640 --> 01:46:59,260

because you denounce, then
the person will go to jail.

2269

01:46:59,260 --> 01:47:01,120

So he knew what it's going to--

2270

01:47:01,120 --> 01:47:04,090

and by telling that he
never heard anything,

2271

01:47:04,090 --> 01:47:08,620

they won't get away from him.

2272

01:47:08,620 --> 01:47:10,960

So this was a very
hard time for him.

2273

01:47:10,960 --> 01:47:18,760

And he took it very seriously,
I remember, very seriously--

2274

01:47:18,760 --> 01:47:23,320

just was hard to handle.

2275

01:47:23,320 --> 01:47:26,260

And my brother
and his wife, they

2276
01:47:26,260 --> 01:47:30,600
had a child there in
Russia, born there.

2277
01:47:30,600 --> 01:47:33,660
And then they have
actually two kids.

2278
01:47:33,660 --> 01:47:35,370
The second child,
their daughter,

2279
01:47:35,370 --> 01:47:40,350
was born in 1945, just
after the war was over.

2280
01:47:40,350 --> 01:47:43,620
The war was already
over, and she was born.

2281
01:47:43,620 --> 01:47:49,770
And when we left Russia, she
was about a few months old, six

2282
01:47:49,770 --> 01:47:52,170
or seven months old.

2283
01:47:52,170 --> 01:47:55,320
Now, she's a
grandmother already.

2284
01:47:55,320 --> 01:47:56,330
She's 46.

2285
01:47:56,330 --> 01:47:57,970
She's a grandmother.

2286
01:47:57,970 --> 01:47:58,650
Yeah.

2287

01:47:58,650 --> 01:48:00,790

She lives in Israel.

2288

01:48:00,790 --> 01:48:01,770

She's in Israel.

2289

01:48:01,770 --> 01:48:03,330

Yeah.

2290

01:48:03,330 --> 01:48:06,610

And yeah, they
have two children.

2291

01:48:06,610 --> 01:48:11,400

And when we came back to
Poland, we left Poland.

2292

01:48:11,400 --> 01:48:14,590

And my brother decided to stay.

2293

01:48:14,590 --> 01:48:18,750

He was staying because he has
two kids, two little kids.

2294

01:48:18,750 --> 01:48:20,760

So he kind of--

2295

01:48:20,760 --> 01:48:28,410

and we were already so
burdened with our life,

2296

01:48:28,410 --> 01:48:30,960

with facing all this difficulty.

2297

01:48:30,960 --> 01:48:33,940

And here, he got--

2298

01:48:33,940 --> 01:48:38,770

when he came to Poland, He got
an apartment, a place to live.

2299

01:48:38,770 --> 01:48:39,850
And he got a job.

2300
01:48:39,850 --> 01:48:41,370
He decided to stay.

2301
01:48:41,370 --> 01:48:43,710
And he was staying in Poland.

2302
01:48:43,710 --> 01:48:44,880
And we all left.

2303
01:48:44,880 --> 01:48:45,990
We left right away.

2304
01:48:45,990 --> 01:48:49,250
In 1946, we left.

2305
01:48:49,250 --> 01:48:50,690
And he was staying.

2306
01:48:50,690 --> 01:48:55,370
And finally, he left Poland, I
think so, in 1960, probably--

2307
01:48:55,370 --> 01:48:56,930
went to Israel.

2308
01:48:56,930 --> 01:48:58,530
Did he have to escape?

2309
01:48:58,530 --> 01:48:59,030
He escaped.

2310
01:48:59,030 --> 01:49:00,260
Yeah.

2311
01:49:00,260 --> 01:49:03,710
This was a short time when the
Poles allowed Jewish people

2312

01:49:03,710 --> 01:49:06,410
to leave, a very short time.

2313
01:49:06,410 --> 01:49:10,850
So he kind of took the
family and went to Israel.

2314
01:49:10,850 --> 01:49:13,850
And he was a bookkeeper.

2315
01:49:13,850 --> 01:49:18,530
And he was working for
the government in Israel

2316
01:49:18,530 --> 01:49:21,675
in this capacity
as a bookkeeper.

2317
01:49:21,675 --> 01:49:24,790

2318
01:49:24,790 --> 01:49:26,530
When you were in
Russia, were you

2319
01:49:26,530 --> 01:49:30,020
forced to attend political
indoctrination meetings?

2320
01:49:30,020 --> 01:49:31,480
No.

2321
01:49:31,480 --> 01:49:34,300
No, I don't remember.

2322
01:49:34,300 --> 01:49:35,570
I really don't remember.

2323
01:49:35,570 --> 01:49:38,950
I don't think so we were
forced to attend political--

2324

01:49:38,950 --> 01:49:44,410
there was not much, because they
were so absorbed with the war

2325
01:49:44,410 --> 01:49:49,600
that I don't think so
they paid much attention

2326
01:49:49,600 --> 01:49:51,320
to the political aspect of it.

2327
01:49:51,320 --> 01:49:54,070
I don't think so, because
then the war was--

2328
01:49:54,070 --> 01:49:57,010
the main thing was the war.

2329
01:49:57,010 --> 01:49:59,380
I don't remember, anyways.

2330
01:49:59,380 --> 01:50:03,820
I don't-- maybe this
was, but I don't know.

2331
01:50:03,820 --> 01:50:08,550
If it was, we, of course,
were obligated to attend.

2332
01:50:08,550 --> 01:50:09,880
Yeah. it was, definitely.

2333
01:50:09,880 --> 01:50:11,770
But I don't remember this.

2334
01:50:11,770 --> 01:50:14,920
But I'm sure that we
had to attend just

2335
01:50:14,920 --> 01:50:19,860
for that we are solid--

2336

01:50:19,860 --> 01:50:22,570

2337

01:50:22,570 --> 01:50:23,303

what is the word?

2338

01:50:23,303 --> 01:50:24,130

Solid citizens?

2339

01:50:24,130 --> 01:50:27,910

Not just solid citizens,

no, that we kind of share

2340

01:50:27,910 --> 01:50:33,114

with them their political--

2341

01:50:33,114 --> 01:50:35,950

2342

01:50:35,950 --> 01:50:39,530

sort of that we share it, that

we are not opposing to it.

2343

01:50:39,530 --> 01:50:46,010

We have to pretend that we

are also feeling the same way.

2344

01:50:46,010 --> 01:50:50,590

But as I said, really,

now looking back,

2345

01:50:50,590 --> 01:50:53,170

I'm very grateful

to the Russians,

2346

01:50:53,170 --> 01:50:54,850

because they didn't kill us.

2347

01:50:54,850 --> 01:50:57,670

They allowed us to stay alive.

2348

01:50:57,670 --> 01:51:06,580

And they helped us to save our
life, just a few more to them.

2349

01:51:06,580 --> 01:51:09,640

I don't know not too many
refugees were there altogether,

2350

01:51:09,640 --> 01:51:12,160

Jewish refugees in Russia.

2351

01:51:12,160 --> 01:51:16,780

And after we came to Poland, the
Haganah, the Israeli Haganah,

2352

01:51:16,780 --> 01:51:21,130

was trying to get all
Jews out from Poland.

2353

01:51:21,130 --> 01:51:24,180

They were organizing
this illegal--

2354

01:51:24,180 --> 01:51:29,440

yeah, they actually wanted
the Jews will go to Israel.

2355

01:51:29,440 --> 01:51:32,760

But Israel still
was not independent.

2356

01:51:32,760 --> 01:51:36,660

This was 1946, '47.

2357

01:51:36,660 --> 01:51:39,630

Israel got independent,
I think so, in '48--

2358

01:51:39,630 --> 01:51:40,300

'48.

2359

01:51:40,300 --> 01:51:40,980

Yeah.

2360

01:51:40,980 --> 01:51:44,880

So Israel was still not
an independent country.

2361

01:51:44,880 --> 01:51:48,750

But the Haganah was trying
to get all these refugees.

2362

01:51:48,750 --> 01:51:54,740

My husband's two
brothers went with them.

2363

01:51:54,740 --> 01:51:57,120

They went, but they
couldn't get to Israel.

2364

01:51:57,120 --> 01:51:59,550

They went on to Cyprus.

2365

01:51:59,550 --> 01:52:02,940

They were on Cyprus in 1947.

2366

01:52:02,940 --> 01:52:07,620

And when the war
broke out, they were--

2367

01:52:07,620 --> 01:52:10,650

when they declared
independence in '48,

2368

01:52:10,650 --> 01:52:12,420

they were all allowed to go in.

2369

01:52:12,420 --> 01:52:14,770

But then the war
broke out right away.

2370

01:52:14,770 --> 01:52:17,580

And one of his brothers was
killed right away in the war.

2371

01:52:17,580 --> 01:52:22,080

He survived in Russia, survived
the whole war, and came there.

2372

01:52:22,080 --> 01:52:24,030

And he was killed.

2373

01:52:24,030 --> 01:52:27,480

And his body was--

2374

01:52:27,480 --> 01:52:32,340

he was terrible, brutally cut,
the body by the Arabs there.

2375

01:52:32,340 --> 01:52:34,230

And they were all killed.

2376

01:52:34,230 --> 01:52:39,180

He was about 26 years
old, a young man.

2377

01:52:39,180 --> 01:52:42,180

And he was right away--

2378

01:52:42,180 --> 01:52:42,720

yeah.

2379

01:52:42,720 --> 01:52:47,080

But we were thinking
to go to Israel.

2380

01:52:47,080 --> 01:52:48,400

But somehow, I don't know.

2381

01:52:48,400 --> 01:52:50,640

We changed our mind.

2382

01:52:50,640 --> 01:52:59,460

And we went to
Paris from Germany.

2383

01:52:59,460 --> 01:53:03,270

After the war, when you were in

Poland, what town were you in?

2384

01:53:03,270 --> 01:53:08,350

As I said, we were in the
time this near Schlesian.

2385

01:53:08,350 --> 01:53:08,850

Schlesian?

2386

01:53:08,850 --> 01:53:10,725

How you said-- you
named this before.

2387

01:53:10,725 --> 01:53:13,340

2388

01:53:13,340 --> 01:53:16,470

You are using an
English name for--

2389

01:53:16,470 --> 01:53:16,970

Oh, Silesia.

2390

01:53:16,970 --> 01:53:17,315

Silesia.

2391

01:53:17,315 --> 01:53:17,857

That's right.

2392

01:53:17,857 --> 01:53:22,130

It's near Schlesian when they
took it back from the Germans.

2393

01:53:22,130 --> 01:53:24,660

So this was the part.

2394

01:53:24,660 --> 01:53:29,350

This was the south of
Poland, where they took it.

2395

01:53:29,350 --> 01:53:35,120

We went to a small

town, a small town

2396

01:53:35,120 --> 01:53:40,040
where the town was occupied
mostly by German families.

2397

01:53:40,040 --> 01:53:44,390
And they were this expatriation.

2398

01:53:44,390 --> 01:53:48,560
The Germans were leaving,
going to Germany,

2399

01:53:48,560 --> 01:53:52,700
because it was under
Polish now occupation

2400

01:53:52,700 --> 01:53:54,440
or belonged to the Poland.

2401

01:53:54,440 --> 01:53:55,980
So they were all leaving.

2402

01:53:55,980 --> 01:54:00,020
So we were-- they
gave us-- my husband

2403

01:54:00,020 --> 01:54:04,370
and myself, they gave us
a place, one around there.

2404

01:54:04,370 --> 01:54:07,490
And there was living a woman,
a German woman, with a child.

2405

01:54:07,490 --> 01:54:14,210
And her husband was
someplace in Russian front.

2406

01:54:14,210 --> 01:54:16,340
Actually the war was
over, but her husband

2407

01:54:16,340 --> 01:54:19,370

was still-- so he maybe
was killed altogether.

2408

01:54:19,370 --> 01:54:21,110

So we had to live
together with her.

2409

01:54:21,110 --> 01:54:24,580

Oh, boy, this was
a terrible time.

2410

01:54:24,580 --> 01:54:26,600

How did you deal with that?

2411

01:54:26,600 --> 01:54:27,770

Just terrible.

2412

01:54:27,770 --> 01:54:28,710

In one room.

2413

01:54:28,710 --> 01:54:31,940

Can you believe it, what a time?

2414

01:54:31,940 --> 01:54:36,140

She was sleeping-- her
bed was a double bed

2415

01:54:36,140 --> 01:54:37,590

or a queen-sized bed.

2416

01:54:37,590 --> 01:54:39,860

So it was for my
husband and myself.

2417

01:54:39,860 --> 01:54:43,190

She was sleeping on
the couch there by.

2418

01:54:43,190 --> 01:54:44,900

And just her little
girl was sleeping

2419
01:54:44,900 --> 01:54:47,360
in a little, small bed.

2420
01:54:47,360 --> 01:54:50,810
And we were all in
the same one room.

2421
01:54:50,810 --> 01:54:55,860
And we hated each
other as much as--

2422
01:54:55,860 --> 01:54:56,460
I don't know.

2423
01:54:56,460 --> 01:54:59,550
This was just nothing but hate.

2424
01:54:59,550 --> 01:55:02,160
She hated us terribly.

2425
01:55:02,160 --> 01:55:04,650
And once, she ran
out on the street.

2426
01:55:04,650 --> 01:55:09,810
And she started screaming that
my husband wanted to hit her.

2427
01:55:09,810 --> 01:55:11,210
So she screamed.

2428
01:55:11,210 --> 01:55:13,220
She was screaming.

2429
01:55:13,220 --> 01:55:14,660
And I guess the--

2430
01:55:14,660 --> 01:55:17,540
but we had so much
hate for the Germans

2431

01:55:17,540 --> 01:55:20,450

that we couldn't control
ourselves, really.

2432

01:55:20,450 --> 01:55:23,460

And she was very
clean, very clean.

2433

01:55:23,460 --> 01:55:27,420

And this one room was spotless
clean, the place, really.

2434

01:55:27,420 --> 01:55:32,810

And she had a tiny kind of side
of this room for the kitchen,

2435

01:55:32,810 --> 01:55:34,070

a little--

2436

01:55:34,070 --> 01:55:35,570

and that's how she managed.

2437

01:55:35,570 --> 01:55:39,140

And the water was-- in
the hall was the faucet

2438

01:55:39,140 --> 01:55:40,760

and the water in the hall.

2439

01:55:40,760 --> 01:55:43,940

And she kept the place
so nice, so clean--

2440

01:55:43,940 --> 01:55:47,300

just amazing, really.

2441

01:55:47,300 --> 01:55:51,710

But it was a terrible time
until we got rid of her.

2442

01:55:51,710 --> 01:55:54,500

And she finally left.

2443
01:55:54,500 --> 01:55:58,880
And she probably was
thinking, boy, Hitler

2444
01:55:58,880 --> 01:56:01,230
should have killed these
Jews who came, these two.

2445
01:56:01,230 --> 01:56:03,170
Why are they alive still?

2446
01:56:03,170 --> 01:56:06,600
This was probably her thought.

2447
01:56:06,600 --> 01:56:09,360
Yeah.

2448
01:56:09,360 --> 01:56:13,110
Did the child have
this big hatred also?

2449
01:56:13,110 --> 01:56:14,340
The child, I don't know.

2450
01:56:14,340 --> 01:56:18,850
They didn't-- the mother was
angry, so the child was angry.

2451
01:56:18,850 --> 01:56:20,910
He just noticed the
mother was so angry

2452
01:56:20,910 --> 01:56:22,200
and expressed her anger.

2453
01:56:22,200 --> 01:56:26,160
So the child right away got the
same feeling towards us, too,

2454
01:56:26,160 --> 01:56:27,310
that she hated us.

2455
01:56:27,310 --> 01:56:28,860
This was a little girl.

2456
01:56:28,860 --> 01:56:30,210
Oh, was such a--

2457
01:56:30,210 --> 01:56:36,660
asking really too much of us to
stay in this one room with her.

2458
01:56:36,660 --> 01:56:41,250
And finally, as I
said, they organized.

2459
01:56:41,250 --> 01:56:44,010
The Jews somehow organized.

2460
01:56:44,010 --> 01:56:47,160
They got a place not
far from us where

2461
01:56:47,160 --> 01:56:54,150
they had this meeting together
of the Jewish refugees

2462
01:56:54,150 --> 01:56:58,080
and talking about leaving
Poland and talking

2463
01:56:58,080 --> 01:57:03,550
about our experience and
shared our life together.

2464
01:57:03,550 --> 01:57:04,650
This was a good place.

2465
01:57:04,650 --> 01:57:07,050
Most of the time, we
were over there, rather.

2466
01:57:07,050 --> 01:57:10,350

And even they had some cooking.

2467

01:57:10,350 --> 01:57:13,260

So you kind of were
engaged in some

2468

01:57:13,260 --> 01:57:17,290

making, preparing something, and
spending most of the days just

2469

01:57:17,290 --> 01:57:17,790

with them.

2470

01:57:17,790 --> 01:57:21,630

Nobody was working, of course,
and just waiting for the time

2471

01:57:21,630 --> 01:57:23,460

to leave Poland.

2472

01:57:23,460 --> 01:57:25,620

And yeah, my husband,
when we just came

2473

01:57:25,620 --> 01:57:28,785

and we found out that
nobody survived, he says,

2474

01:57:28,785 --> 01:57:30,210

Poland's not for us.

2475

01:57:30,210 --> 01:57:33,160

It's a big cemetery in Poland.

2476

01:57:33,160 --> 01:57:36,000

And that's not a place for
us to build a new life.

2477

01:57:36,000 --> 01:57:37,110

We are leaving.

2478

01:57:37,110 --> 01:57:39,300

And I didn't want to
really leave because I

2479
01:57:39,300 --> 01:57:40,660
wanted to be with my brother.

2480
01:57:40,660 --> 01:57:43,680
My brother decided to stay.

2481
01:57:43,680 --> 01:57:46,950
And so I felt, we're
going to part now?

2482
01:57:46,950 --> 01:57:48,580
It's so few of us.

2483
01:57:48,580 --> 01:57:50,820
So I would rather-- but
my husband said, no, we're

2484
01:57:50,820 --> 01:57:51,870
not staying in Poland.

2485
01:57:51,870 --> 01:57:53,710
It's out of question.

2486
01:57:53,710 --> 01:57:54,683
We cannot stay.

2487
01:57:54,683 --> 01:57:55,350
I don't want it.

2488
01:57:55,350 --> 01:57:56,220
I hate the--

2489
01:57:56,220 --> 01:57:57,390
I don't like the Polacks.

2490
01:57:57,390 --> 01:57:59,680
I don't want to stay in Poland.

2491

01:57:59,680 --> 01:58:01,080
And that's what it's--

2492
01:58:01,080 --> 01:58:05,200
and we left with this--

2493
01:58:05,200 --> 01:58:06,510
they were organizing.

2494
01:58:06,510 --> 01:58:09,420
The Haganah was organizing
the train and everything

2495
01:58:09,420 --> 01:58:13,350
to go to Czechoslovakia
and to remain there

2496
01:58:13,350 --> 01:58:17,340
for a little while in Prague,
then to go to Austria.

2497
01:58:17,340 --> 01:58:21,570
We were staying in the
Rothschild home there, staying.

2498
01:58:21,570 --> 01:58:22,410
It was a mess.

2499
01:58:22,410 --> 01:58:25,660
There were hundreds and
hundreds of refugees.

2500
01:58:25,660 --> 01:58:28,710
So we were staying
there to wait, waiting

2501
01:58:28,710 --> 01:58:32,950
until we can go farther.

2502
01:58:32,950 --> 01:58:33,640
Yeah.

2503

01:58:33,640 --> 01:58:37,300

Do you recall any pogroms
in post-war Poland?

2504

01:58:37,300 --> 01:58:40,210

There were pogroms,
but we were not there.

2505

01:58:40,210 --> 01:58:42,100

There were some.

2506

01:58:42,100 --> 01:58:42,670

There were.

2507

01:58:42,670 --> 01:58:45,520

There were people who were
traveling on the train.

2508

01:58:45,520 --> 01:58:48,550

And they were taken
out from the train.

2509

01:58:48,550 --> 01:58:50,030

They were terrible.

2510

01:58:50,030 --> 01:58:55,310

Yeah, practically pogroms
again in Poland, really.

2511

01:58:55,310 --> 01:58:57,790

Really, Polacks were
not very pleased to see

2512

01:58:57,790 --> 01:59:01,950

these Jewish people coming back.

2513

01:59:01,950 --> 01:59:05,470

That was very, very unfortunate.

2514

01:59:05,470 --> 01:59:07,675

But this was the truth.

2515

01:59:07,675 --> 01:59:10,530

2516

01:59:10,530 --> 01:59:14,940

Of course, I am very glad that
I left, no question about.

2517

01:59:14,940 --> 01:59:20,920

That's not even
required to mention.

2518

01:59:20,920 --> 01:59:26,270

But yeah.

2519

01:59:26,270 --> 01:59:29,390

I'm just sorry that we spent
so many years in Poland.

2520

01:59:29,390 --> 01:59:34,430

We never thought of going,
leaving Poland and going out

2521

01:59:34,430 --> 01:59:35,330

of Europe--

2522

01:59:35,330 --> 01:59:37,400

never occurred to us, really.

2523

01:59:37,400 --> 01:59:38,760

You mean before the war.

2524

01:59:38,760 --> 01:59:39,460

Before the war.

2525

01:59:39,460 --> 01:59:40,730

Yeah.

2526

01:59:40,730 --> 01:59:44,475

This was such-- still,
people were living.

2527

01:59:44,475 --> 01:59:46,100

How did you deal with
it, because there

2528
01:59:46,100 --> 01:59:49,600
was a lot of pre-war
antisemitism, too.

2529
01:59:49,600 --> 01:59:50,660
Oh.

2530
01:59:50,660 --> 01:59:52,850
And what do you
recall about that in--

2531
01:59:52,850 --> 01:59:53,375
In Poland?

2532
01:59:53,375 --> 01:59:54,620
Mm-hmm.

2533
01:59:54,620 --> 01:59:57,560
There was very, very
strong antisemitism.

2534
01:59:57,560 --> 01:59:58,130
Yeah.

2535
01:59:58,130 --> 01:59:59,463
Did you experience any yourself?

2536
01:59:59,463 --> 02:00:07,310
My youngest brother was expelled
from university because he--

2537
02:00:07,310 --> 02:00:09,410
the first thing,
the Jewish students

2538
02:00:09,410 --> 02:00:11,450
have to be standing
on the left side.

2539

02:00:11,450 --> 02:00:14,830
They were not allowed to sit.

2540
02:00:14,830 --> 02:00:16,480
So they were standing.

2541
02:00:16,480 --> 02:00:19,030
And he once made a remark.

2542
02:00:19,030 --> 02:00:22,590
The professor made a
remark against Jews.

2543
02:00:22,590 --> 02:00:25,000
So my brother said something.

2544
02:00:25,000 --> 02:00:27,460
He was expelled
from the university.

2545
02:00:27,460 --> 02:00:32,070
And here, his whole
education was ruined.

2546
02:00:32,070 --> 02:00:32,880
Yeah.

2547
02:00:32,880 --> 02:00:35,520
So there definitely was.

2548
02:00:35,520 --> 02:00:40,900
And all the Jews tried to be
very, very assimilated, really.

2549
02:00:40,900 --> 02:00:43,890
We spoke just Polish.

2550
02:00:43,890 --> 02:00:49,170
And this was not
awareness, really.

2551
02:00:49,170 --> 02:00:52,670

We didn't live a really
Jewish life, really.

2552
02:00:52,670 --> 02:00:56,300

2553
02:00:56,300 --> 02:00:57,920
Was your religion
important to you?

2554
02:00:57,920 --> 02:00:59,910
Oh, yeah, important
to my parents.

2555
02:00:59,910 --> 02:01:01,100
Yeah, definitely.

2556
02:01:01,100 --> 02:01:04,130
My parents were observing.

2557
02:01:04,130 --> 02:01:07,440
And we have all the holidays
very much observing.

2558
02:01:07,440 --> 02:01:07,940
Yeah.

2559
02:01:07,940 --> 02:01:11,390
The Jews, they were
assimilated to a certain degree

2560
02:01:11,390 --> 02:01:14,960
with language.

2561
02:01:14,960 --> 02:01:19,130
But the religion still
was very important.

2562
02:01:19,130 --> 02:01:21,800
We were rather
Conservative with religion.

2563

02:01:21,800 --> 02:01:24,440
We were not even Reform,
I don't think so.

2564
02:01:24,440 --> 02:01:26,190
We had a kosher--

2565
02:01:26,190 --> 02:01:28,910
there was kosher home.

2566
02:01:28,910 --> 02:01:36,680
And every holiday was very
much observed and very serious

2567
02:01:36,680 --> 02:01:40,070
observing-- and
going Saturday a day

2568
02:01:40,070 --> 02:01:43,910
of not working and
going to the synagogue.

2569
02:01:43,910 --> 02:01:45,680
So it's much even
more than here,

2570
02:01:45,680 --> 02:01:50,480
really, than here in
America, the Jews.

2571
02:01:50,480 --> 02:01:54,170
But we still were--

2572
02:01:54,170 --> 02:01:57,380
yeah, a lot of
Jewish are, as they

2573
02:01:57,380 --> 02:01:59,720
say, the people of the book--

2574
02:01:59,720 --> 02:02:03,425
always to learn, try to
educate the children.

2575
02:02:03,425 --> 02:02:06,350

2576
02:02:06,350 --> 02:02:10,460
My sister graduated
from high school.

2577
02:02:10,460 --> 02:02:13,190
The other one was attending law.

2578
02:02:13,190 --> 02:02:16,170
My brother was
educated in Paris.

2579
02:02:16,170 --> 02:02:18,570
He couldn't get to
university in Poland,

2580
02:02:18,570 --> 02:02:21,680
so he went to
university in Paris.

2581
02:02:21,680 --> 02:02:23,000
And he graduated.

2582
02:02:23,000 --> 02:02:26,960
So the education
was very important.

2583
02:02:26,960 --> 02:02:32,080
And people-- of course, this was
very limited on the university.

2584
02:02:32,080 --> 02:02:34,820
It was very hard for Jews
to get into university,

2585
02:02:34,820 --> 02:02:41,870
because a very limited
number of this could.

2586

02:02:41,870 --> 02:02:48,080
But in Warsaw, the
life of the American--

2587
02:02:48,080 --> 02:02:52,910
in life, the Jews in big
cities, like in Warsaw--

2588
02:02:52,910 --> 02:02:59,210
so the life was better probably
than in the small, little towns

2589
02:02:59,210 --> 02:03:02,210
when it was very
poor with poverty.

2590
02:03:02,210 --> 02:03:08,957
Somehow, in the big city
was the life better, really.

2591
02:03:08,957 --> 02:03:10,040
We'd probably better stop.

2592
02:03:10,040 --> 02:03:10,880
Yeah.

2593
02:03:10,880 --> 02:03:12,290
Thank you very much.

2594
02:03:12,290 --> 02:03:13,880
Thank you very much, too.

2595
02:03:13,880 --> 02:03:15,820
Thank you.

2596
02:03:15,820 --> 02:03:41,000