

Interview with Yvonne and Martin Jacoby  
Holocaust Oral History Project  
Date: August 8, 1989 Place: San Francisco  
Interviewer: Evelyn Fielden  
Transcribers: Heidi H. Jamiel and Coleen R. Smith

I'm Evelyn Fielden interviewing Yvonne and Martin Jacoby  
at the Holocaust Center in San Francisco. It's  
August 8, 1989. Welcome to the program, Yvonne.

Q CAN YOU TELL ME PLEASE WHERE WERE YOU BORN  
AND WHEN WERE YOU BORN, IF YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT THAT?

A Well, I was born in Czechoslovakia in  
[Rotania] which is the eastern part of Czechoslovakia  
and I was born in October 20, 1918.

Q AND DID YOU GROW UP IN GREECE?

A I went to school there in only Czech school  
and I became a Czech school teacher.

Q AND DID YOU HAVE A LARGE FAMILY?

A Yes, we were five children and my parents  
and we all survived the war because none of them went to  
Auschwitz. They were all hiding or in labor camp.

Q SO HOW DID YOU SPEND YOUR TIME BEFORE THE  
WAR BEFORE ACTUALLY HITLER CAME AT THE TIME?

A Well, before Hitler came I was home in my  
parent's house till I was ten- years- old, and then I  
went to the city.

Q WHAT CITY?

A [Mookaje.]

Q IS IT A BIG CITY?

A It was considered a big city that time, but not now. I think it was. They had about 35,000 inhabitants.

Q I SEE.

A And I went to secondary school there and I went also to teacher's seminary Czech teacher's seminary.

Q DID YOU GO TO JEWISH SCHOOL OR WAS IT--

A No, this was only Czech.

Q ONLY CZECH?

A In fact they didn't even like to accept Jewish people Jewish students because as much as they were democratic, the Czech people, they still didn't want that a Jewish girl should teach a Czech language, but I was accepted because I was a good student.

I figured this is the closest way for me to make money. My parents at that time were not in such financial situation that they were able to help me, so I wanted to help them. My career as a school teacher didn't last very long.

Q LET ME JUST ASK YOU, MARTIN, WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

A In Czechoslovakia too not far away from her village the name is [Illshava.]

Q THAT'S ALL [Brotania.]

spelling  
spelling

A That's [Brotania] to but I lived most of my life in Bratislava. It is Pressburg Czechoslovakia the capitol of Slovakia.

Q YOU GREW UP WHAT WAS YOUR LANGUAGE SLOVAKIAN?

A Yeah, I grew up first of all the Yiddish language my language we spoke home then Hungarian.

Q HOW COME YOU SPOKE HUNGARIAN?

A Because this was part before the first World War was the spot of Hungary, and in the house we spoke Hungarian and Yiddish. Then I went to school in Bratislava in Pressburg, so my language was German.

Q REALLY?

A Yeah.

Q WAS IT A JEWISH SCHOOL OR A CZECH SCHOOL?

A No, it was not a Jewish school because it was a regular school. Elementary school was Hungarian when I was from six-years to ten-years-old. Then about 13-years-old I went to Bratislava, and there I made the gewerbeschule this is the--

Q PRIMARY SCHOOL?

A Like gymnasium and then I went to the handelschule which is--

Q LIKE TRADE SCHOOL?

A Yeah, trade school. Actually Business Administration.

Q DID YOU COME FROM A LARGE FAMILY?

A Yes.

Q HOW MANY BROTHERS AND SISTERS?

A We were on, for instance, on Seder evening we were 20. We were father and mother and three boys and three girls.

Q AND THEY ALL LIVED IN THAT AREA?

A My sister, the oldest sister, lived in Bratislava in Pressburg, and in fact I was with her since my 13th year till Hitler came. I lived in Bratislava.

Q WHERE DID YOU FINISH SCHOOL?

A In Bratislava.

Q I DIDN'T ASK YOU WHAT YEAR YOU WERE BORN DO YOU MIND TELLING ME?

A No, I'll tell you. I was last March 18th I had my 80th birthday.

Q OH, GOOD FOR YOU.

A Yeah, thank you.

Q THAT'S WONDERFUL.

A Yeah, 80-years-old.

Q SO YOU LIVED MOST OF THE TIME TILL HITLER TIME IN--

A In Pressburg in Czechoslovakia. By 1939 I had to move away from there. We were with Christian papers hiding. We went to Budapest to Hungary, and I

lived there a few years in hiding with Christian papers.

Q WHAT ABOUT YOUR PARENTS?

A Pardon me?

Q YOUR PARENTS, WHERE DID YOUR PARENTS GO?

A My mother died in 1939 so just in time.

Q RIGHT.

A And my father died in 1944, before the deportation, and we were lucky that he died. They were not deported after a few month, was about in February 1944. In March the Germans came to Hungary and that time it was Hungary now and--

MRS. JACOBY: April was the deportation.

MR. JACOBY: Yeah, in April started the deportation.

Q WHERE DID YOU HIDE?

MRS. JACOBY: This is a very long story.

MR. JACOBY: Long story.

Q WELL, TELL US ABOUT IT FROM THE BEGINNING.

MR. JACOBY: In 1939 I went to Hungary, but she lived that time in Hungary too.

Q DID YOU KNOW EACH OTHER AT THE TIME?

A Yeah, we knew each other when she was a little girl. She was 10-years-old and I was already 20-years-old and we--

MRS. JACOBY: He don't miss my brother.

MR. JACOBY: Yeah, I don't miss her brother.

Once I came home and it was next to our village, and they lived across the railway station and she was at the station there. I asked who is this little girl and her brother told me, "This is my sister." She said, "Kiss the hand," because it was usually the children greeted the elderly people kiss the hand.

So she was 10-years-old. She was a girl, and then I went to Bratislava and I forgot all about it and then we were reacquainted when in 19--

MRS. JACOBY: '38.

MR. JACONBY: '38 and I came home from Bratislava to visit for Passover. I saw her there, and we were acquainted.

Q AND WHEN DID YOU GET MARRIED?

MRS. JACOBY: In 1938 we got acquainted and I at that time was a school teacher, and he was living in Pressburg. Then in 1941 we got engaged, but the problems in Slovakia were so bad that most of the Slovakian Jews, who were able to do it; they were escaping to Budapest because the Budapest Jews had it the best.

The trouble started there only in 1944, so not only the Slovakian Jews but also the Polish Jews, who were trying to escape. Everybody was running to Budapest, because Budapest was a big city. It was easy to hide and then only the foreign Jews were persecuted there.

The Hungarian Jews didn't have it so bad till the deportation. We came from area [Rutania], which was given to Hungary only because Hungary was corroborating with the Germans. It was given back to them as a present. We were really not considered real Hungarians. We were like stepchildren.

Q DID YOU HAVE A PASSPORT?

A No.

Q IDENTIFICATION PAPERS?

A He didn't have because he came from Slovakia. He came to Bratislava, but all these people who lived in [Rotania], they became automatically Hungarian citizens. So we became Hungarian; we had to start learning Hungarian. Then when we were waiting for the war to be over and the war getting more complicated. We came over in 1941, and in 1942 we got married in Budapest.

Q WHERE?

A In Budapest.

Q IN BUDAPEST?

A Yeah.

Q I'D LIKE TO KNOW A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT HOW YOU WENT ABOUT HIDING?

MR. JACOBY: Hiding, okay, we got Christian papers and it was very hard for us, but we lived as Christians in Hungary in Budapest.

Q HOW DO YOU MEAN YOU GOT CHRISTIAN PAPERS?  
HOW DID YOU--

A For money we could have gotten everything.

Q FOR MONEY?

A Right.

MRS. JACOBY: The Jews were manufacturing  
Christian papers for those who wanted to hide for those  
who needed to hide.

Q WHO SOLD YOU THE CHRISTIAN PAPERS?

A The Jewish people.

Q AND YOU HAVE TO PAY THEM?

A Yeah.

MR. JACOBY: Yeah. We had to pay in order to get  
papers. We had to pay some money, not big money, but we  
had to pay for the papers; and we are hiding. It was  
very hard in Budapest in all the different apartments we  
had, and she had an aunt in Budapest. We lived there  
for a while, and then when the Nazis took over they took  
us to the --it's a whole long story how we excaped from  
them.

MRS. JACOBY: We took apartments and if one  
apartment became dangerous, we moved to another  
apartment, and from one apartment we were running to the  
other apartment; and then there was already a ghetto and  
we didn't want to go to the ghetto. We stayed out of  
the ghetto because from the ghetto they were taking



regularly transports to Auschwitz.

MR. JACOBY: Already when the Nazis took over--

MRS. JACOBY: Yes, Yes. Because I had two aunts living in the ghetto.

Q AND WHEN DID YOU FIRST KNOW ABOUT  
CONCENTRATION CAMPS LIKE AUSCHWITZ?

MR. JACOBY: It was a rumor, but we knew already, because when I left Czechoslovakia to Hungary I knew already they knew from Czechoslovakia the Jews deported the Jews already that time in 1942, in fact, my sister and brother-in-law, the whole family, was taken in 1942 to Auschwitz; and they were we never heard from them. Just a week after that or two weeks, we got married in 1942.

MRS. JACOBY: Yeah.

Q WHAT WAS YOUR PROFESSION AT THE TIME?

MR. JACOBY: I was a sales rep. I was working for one of the biggest refineries in Czechoslovakia. The name was [Krupergerrashov], and I had a good job. One day in 1939 was a man from Berlin came there. I had my office came over his name was [Detriect].

He introduced himself. He said, "Heil, Hitler," so I said, "Gutten Tag." He asked me for the key and I gave him the key. I asked him just if I can take my coat and my hat. He said, "Go ahead." I took my coat

and my hat, and I left my office and this was it. Since then I was living in hiding and then I tried to go to Hungary. It took me a few months until I got to Hungary.

Q YOU HAD MONEY?

A A little money.

Q WHAT KIND OF MONEY? HOW DID YOU--

A Yeah.

Q DID YOU HAVE JEWELRY OR GOLD?

A Yeah, we had quite a bit of jewelry because all of the money that we had we couldn't take any money. Then the laws in Czechoslovakia was that we couldn't take money away, not jewelry but we had hidden jewelry. What I did with the jewelry--we made holes in the wall, in the wall where we lived.

Q UH-HUH.

A We plastered it, we put the jewelry there, her rings and everything, and we plastered there. Then when we went to Hungary, she was on the border between Czechoslovakia and Hungary and that time I was still living in Bratislava.

So we met at the border and the police or Gendarmes were watching us, but for a few seconds they didn't watch so, I gave her my handkerchief, and I put in all my jewelry I had and she took it. I saved myself quite a bit of whatever I had there.

MRS. JACOBY: May I continue. All that jewelry, you see, my brothers, my father and my mother, they had--and before the Hungarians came, we had a bar and a restaurant and a brewery for slivovitz.

Q SOME KIND OF BRANDY?

A Yes, all that was taken away from my parents when the Hungarians came and we were left with just one room. The whole house was taken over by a Hungarian--

MR. JACOBY: [Arezato].

MRS. JACOBY: [Arezato], you know.

MR. JACOBY: Alien, we called him.

Q YEAH, WHO TRIED TO RADICATE THE JEWISH NAME?

A No, he took away from us, from my parents--

MR. JACOBY: The license.

MRS. JACOBY: The license and we didn't have anything left so, my brothers, before they were taken to the labor camps, my brother took all our jewelry and hid it in one of the--he picked up one stone in the--

MR. JACOBY: Kitchen.

MRS. JACOBY: Not in the kitchen, in the pantry and he hid it there and we all know where it is.

MR. JACOBY: He buried it there on the--in the floor.

MRS. JACOBY: By the way, after the war, I never went back to the place where my parents lived.

Q YOU DIDN'T?

A No. I just couldn't take it and I don't think it was even possible to go there because the Russians were there and they didn't let you go all the way to that village where my parents lived. They only let you go to the beginning of [Rutania], which was the name of that city was [Whosharwa], and futher they didn't let you go and I didn't even want to go but after the war my younger brother--when it was still possible to go there he back there and he started to dig and all the inhabitants, you know, the peasants came and stood around and watched him digging for the jewelry because they suspected that every Jew has jewelry and he dug, he couldn't find it and it was first of all, it was all dug out before he even started.

Q SOMEBODY HAD BEEN THERE BEFORE?

A Yes, they dug it out and looked for it and they couldn't find it and when he came there and he saw that all was dug out he didn't have too much of, you know--

Q TOO MUCH HOPE?

A Hope that he would find it but one day he said to himself, I'm still going to look for it and he did and he found it and he took it out without them noticing it and he brought it back to Budapest and he gave it to us, actually this money and the jewelry

helped us a lot to survive.

Q I'M SURE IT DID.

A Because you had to move from one place to the other and that was all a question of money.

Q SO, YOU MEAN WHEN SOMEBODY TOOK YOU IN, YOU HAD TO PAY?

A Yeah, but they didn't know that we are not Jewish. If they would have known that we are Jewish they wouldn't have taken us in.

Q THEY WOULDN'T HAVE?

A We came as Christians, you know.

MR. JACOBY: In Budapest we lived with Christian papers.

MRS. JACOBY: And if they would have known that we are Jewish they wouldn't have taken the chances, you know, because it was very risky for them and they were not such good friends of Jews to sacrifice themselves and sacrifice their whatever, life or whatever it is to help the Jews so in--this is the way we lived till 1940, when the Germans came in March 1944, then they really started to deport the Jews. Now the first Jews who had deported were the ones from [Rotania] and from those parts of Hungary which was given back to Hungary after 1939, you know.

Q I KNOW.

A So where my parents lived there, their

deportation started in April 1944.

Q YOUR PARENTS DID NOT GET CHRISTIAN PAPERS?

A No, no.

Q THEY DID NOT WANT TO OR THEY COULD NOT DO IT?

A Well, first of all, my mother was very sick. She died when she was 52.

MR. JACOBY: Just a few weeks before the depotation.

MRS. JACOBY: A few weeks before the deportation my father--I went home with my father and I had a sister, a younger sister, living with my father and he was in the labor camp like my older brothers, you know.

Q I WOULD LIKE YOU TO TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THAT.

A And my father said, "Let's go to the woods and hide in the woods in a village," and then he couldn't have had Christian papers, because everybody knew him, you know, and he didn't have the connections to get it and it would have been no use for him. So when they came to pick us up and take us to the ghetto, which was in the city where he lived, it was a little--

MR. JACOBY: Next village.

MRS. JACOBY: Next village--my father and me went to the ghetto. My sister didn't go. She hid in a peasant's house because her future husband, her fiance'

had a--

MR. JACOBY: [Quairdy].

MRS. JACOBY: A [Quairdy] in the village and he had most of the peasants working for him, you know, so one of the peasants hid her. She didn't come and everybody knew that she didn't come, to the ghetto and the same day my husband came home for a furlough from the labor camp, you know.

Q YEAH.

A So he came voluntarily with us. He didn't have to come, but he came because I went and he knew what a coward I am, you know, so he came with us. Well, there in the ghetto was very bad.

Q DID YOU HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT?

A No. It wasn't long enough. It was only one night and the next day they already put us on the train.

Q DID YOU KNOW WHERE YOU WERE GOING?

A Well, we knew and we didn't believe it. I didn't want to believe it, you know, and on that train there were a lot of Jews from all the vicinity of that little town and it was, you know, a train for cattle, but it was open, it wasn't a closed train like later on, they were closed train.

Q THERE WERE NO SLIDING DOORS?

A No, so my husband and my father stayed there and with me and we were so crowded that you couldn't

( step down, if you stepped down you stepped on a child. That's how crowded it was, you know. So my husband knew more, he suspected that this is it, you know, this is if not now, then there is no other chances to escape and fortunately I say fortunately, a Jew was dying in the back of the train and it was such a sensation that all the gendarmes, the Hungarian gendarmes went to the back of the train and then my husband took me and took off my star and pulled me down from the train.

MR. JACOBY: Let me explain it a little bit in detail.

Q OKAY.

( A That was a Sunday morning they took all the village. All the people on a train, a long train to [Moonkash]. It was a Summer platz.

Q AN ASSEMBLY PLACE?

A AN ASSEMBLY PLACE.

spelling  
MRS. JACOBY: From there, from [Moonkash], they had already the regular cattle trains--

MR. JACOBY: Yeah, yeah, and we all went to the train, the train was so crowded--it was a woman from the village--she had the food, whatever food she had--

MRS. JACOBY: In the house.

( MR. JACOBY: I couldn't step, I didn't have space so I had to step on the food so she started to scream. I told her, I don't have space for my foot, I have to



stand somewhere, one foot here. Anyway, in the mean time this Jew was dying--there was a sensation, they screamed, "A Jew is dying," and the police went to the back so, I realized now, there is one second opportunity for escape so, I told her she had her yellow star so I took off her yellow star and say, "You just jump, now from the train because in a few minutes we're going to--" I don't know where and I had a feeling we were going to be killed. So I told her don't worry I'll come after you--you just go, go away, go to the doctor. There was a Christian doctor and he was acquainted with me father-in-law and two days before I went to him and I gave him quite a bit of money. He should--

MRS. JACOBY: Pronounce.

MR. JACOBY: Pronounce this village, Typhus village, because that time if someone was in a village Typhus, they gave him a quarantine for about three weeks and I gave him the money. It was Friday night but then Saturday morning he couldn't make it anymore. Saturday morning they came, the gendarmes, announced and they arrested us--

MRS. JACOBY: They took us anyway.

MR. JACOBY: And that time I was on the train. I told her, "You go from here to the doctor, he will not throw you out." He was about a few hundred steps away and I put on my--

MRS. JACOBY: Yellow band.

MR. JACOBY: Yellow band because I was in a--

Q EXPLAIN TO US WHAT--

A A labor camp. I was from labor camp. I got a furlough for six month so I didn't have to go with her on the train but I went.

Q WHAT KIND OF A BANDAGE WAS IT?

A A yellow band because the Hungarian labor camp--we were soldiers in the army but all we had--

Q WAIT. YOU DIDN'T TELL US THAT. YOU WERE IN THE ARMY?

A Yes.

Q YOU DID NOT TELL US.

A I'll tell you. A few months before I had to go to the labor camp because there was a blackout, there was signs posted if a Jew doesn't go to the labor camp then the worst thing will happen to him.

Q THAT WAS DIRECTED TO WHO, TO JEWS?

A To all the Jews.

Q ALL THE JEWS?

A You have to go to the labor camps so I had to go to the labor camp. How I got the six month furlough is a story for itself.

Q I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR IT.

A Another story--it's a very interesting story, but anyway--I'll come back to that.

Q     YEAH.

A     I'll tell you how we escaped from the train. We jumped actually from the train a minute or half a minute before the train left--from the train we jumped. She jumped from this side and I jumped from the other side and the police came to me and said, "What are you doing here?" I told them, "I'm accompanying my family, my family's on the train, they are going away." So I put on my yellow band and my military cap, I had it in my pocket.

Q     YEAH.

A     I was prepared. So I told him--I looked at his face, "I am a soldier; I'm a Hungarian soldier; I just came here. He said, "Then get out of here." So I started running away and she was at the doctor and then at night I came after her. We after that--we went to--

MRS. JACOBY: My father--just a minute--my father remained on the train and went to Auschwitz. I went to the doctor's office and I knew it was open and I hid behind furniture.

MR. JACOBY: A closet.

MRS. JACOBY: He came out and I stuck my head out. When he saw me he almost--

MR. JACOBY: Fainted.

MRS. JACOBY: Fainted, because he was so scared, you know, I said to him, "Listen, I'm not going to stay

here, I'm gonna stay only until it gets dark and then my husband is gonna come and pick me up and we'll go away. You will not be in trouble. So he somehow felt a little obliged to us because we gave him the money before and besides that, he was a friend of my husband--of my father.

Q WHAT NATIONALITY WAS HE?

A Christian, he was a Christian.

Q YES, BUT WHAT NATIONALITY?

A Russian, you know, the population in [Rotania] was Russian, Russian and Hungarian mix, you know.

Q TO SOMEBODY WHO HAS NOT GROWN UP THERE OR LIVED THERE, IT'S A VERY CONFUSING SITUATION. THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING YOU.

A Yeah, right. Most of the population in [Rotania] was Russian, Ukraine, you know.

Q YES, YES.

A Yes, Ukraine, so he brought me a coffee and I stayed there till about 10 o'clock, 10 o'clock my husband came.

MR. JACOBY: I came there.

MRS. JACOBY: And picked me up.

MR. JACOBY: And we went to the woods and to the hills and all night finally, we went to the village where she lived and this peasant, who was working for

her father, knew us, so first of all we went to the haystack there and were sleeping for two days because after all those things we lived through we were so tired.

Q YOU WERE EXHAUSTED.

A And after that went down we told him the story. We run away from the--

Q YOU TOLD THE PEASANT, YOU MEAN?

A We told the peasant and we gave him money again and I told him, "Don't worry, I'm going back to the village and I'm going to get papers for her and I'll bring her over to Budapest," because that time in Budapest, they didn't deport yet the Jews and she was waiting there, but in the mean time, in the village they were looking for her sister because her sister was hiding. She didn't go to the deportation. So the Nazis, the Hungarian Nazis, knew that she is not there so--I heard that all the--what's the name of the--youth organizations--they will look over, comb the whole village and look for her sister and I was afraid they would find her there. So I brought her papers and--

Q WHAT PAPERS?

A I went to a girl in the office and I knew her from before. She was working at the office, I gave her--I don't know--I gave her money, she gave her a photography, I gave her a photography and she put on the

back of the photography her name, [Insomensmaria], that's a Russian name.

Q     YEAH.

A     And this was the whole paper. That she--is her name and it was still Friday. Friday, we found out that they are going to comb the whole village to look for her sister, so I told her, "Now, we have to move, we have to go away. So Friday night--

MRS. JACOBY: We got the outfits for me.

MR. JACOBY: The peasant where we were hiding asked--we should give her a shawl and a little basket and--

MRS. JACOBY: A peasant outfit.

MR. JACOBY: A peasant outfit. At night she went from 8 o'clock till 2 o'clock in the morning from one village to--it was about 15 miles or 15 kilometers and the peasant took her there and in the middle of the night a few hours he says, "No, he is afraid, he doesn't go there." So she told him, "If you don't bring me to that station there, then I'm going to tell, if they catch me. I'm going to tell that you was hiding me and you will be in trouble just like me." So he took her there finally. In the morning I had my [Pooloshine]. With this I could have traveled.

Q     A PASS?

A     All right, my pass and then from there we

( went to [Setmar]. [Setmar] was a big city and then they started the deportation. They started that day. It was a Monday or something.

Q WAS THAT THE VILLAGE?

spelling  
A No, another village. It was a--we went by train to [Setmar]--was the city and we had a cousin there. So we stayed there for a few hours and from there we went to Budapest.

Q AND YOU WANTED TO TELL US THE STORY ABOUT--

A How I became--I was in labor camp. It was a forced labor camp and all the Jews were taken to the front, to Poland, to Russia, and somehow I managed always to become sick.

spelling  
( I had some--there is a bean, the name is [Ritzening] bean, (Ritzening) bean. Where they make some oil, [Ritangis] oil. I found out among the Jewish labor camp boys that you took this bean and you cut it and you smear it on the eye. The eye became swollen and red. It means that I'm sick and when I found out the next morning the whole company would go to Russia, so I became sick. I put my bean there [Indicating lower eyelid] and they took me to the hospital in the big city. They sent me to the hospital because they didn't want to send sick people to the front. From that hospital, I was there a week or two, they sent me back--the bean didn't work anymore. So I had to simulate epilepsy.

The bombs came and they went always to the shelters and this was a military hospital so, when it was--when people went to the shelters, I simulated epilepsy. I started to shake and scream and shake and they took me to the hospital and the doctor came and he looked at my eyes, you know, if somebody has epilepsy then the pupil doesn't--

Q DILATE?

A It doesn't react on light.

Q OH, I SEE.

A So he put the light--it was a flashlight in my eyes and says, "You don't do it the right way, you are going to be court-martialed because you are doing for yourself. You--

Q ASSIMILATE.

A Yeah, assimilate.

Q YES.

A So finally, I escaped from there--they send me to Budapest to another hospital among the crazy people--what kind--

Q PSYCHIATRIC?

A Psychiatric, yeah. What I lived through there I cannot explain it. Again, a few weeks there but finally they send me to--from there to [Zoomberg]. In it was Hungary but it belongs before to Yugoslavia. In there I made the same scene again. It was--they took me



to the hospital and a little episode. I had those beans there too, to make myself sick.

One day I knew that the doctor who comes in the hospital--they were suspicious that our eyes are always red only in the bottom because this bean you cannot put on top--on the bottom. So he told when he visited us--he checked on us, he told the nurse, "See this guy is simulating, he's doing it by himself," and I found out that he's going to look for those beans because he knew that those people did that. Next morning I was afraid to have this bean with me somewhere so I had it before--had it in a little tube--toothpaste, in a toothpaste tube.

Q CONTAINER?

A Yeah, container and nobody knew about it only me but everything was all right. It was about two weeks--then I heard that he's looking all over. He's looking up in the toothpaste tube because it happened already there, so somehow I took it out from there and I went to the toilet and I put this bean in the toilet and morning, when the doctor came in and looked at the toothpaste, he couldn't find it so this saved me. Anyway, to make a long story short, the Russians came already near our place and they had emptied the hospital and they asked all the people, "Who wants to go home for a few months to--" away from the hospital to heal

themselves--

MRS. JACOBY: To cure themselves.

MR. JACOBY: To cure themselves, why--I want to go there and they gave me for six months a furlough and then I was able to go with her before the deportation. It was just at that time.

Q WHAT YEAR WAS IT?

A 1944, in March, April, no, no, in February or March, in February.

Q YOU TALK ABOUT THE RUSSIANS.

A The Russians came near the front, the Russians came back from--

MRS. JACOBY: Poland.

MR. JACOBY: The Russian front came near to this--to Budapest, you know, it was near so--they were afraid they moved away from [Moonkash]--for the city they moved away the sick people to Budapest, so they didn't have space for all the sick people. They said, "Whoever wants to go home and cure themselves then they can go home." That was the reason why they let me go. They gave me six months furlough time.

Q AND HOW LONG WERE YOU IN THAT SORT OF ARMY?

MRS. JACOBY: Labor camp.

Q HOW LONG WERE YOU THERE?

A It was about a year. In 1943--from '43 and '44 about a year or year and a half I was from different

places but always when they send the people to the front I became sick. I did this with my eyes.

Q YOU'RE A VERY SMART MAN.

MRS. JACOBY: I'm sorry to interrupt you. Both of my older brothers were also in the labor camp and they were also sent to Russia.

Q WITH HIM?

A Not with him. In a different--they had different companies, also his two older brothers were sent to Russia in labor camp and they both died there. They froze to death, both his brothers.

MR. JACOBY: Both my brothers.

MRS. JACOBY: My brothers--when the Russians were moving back, you know, after conquering the Germans they were starting to move back to West--so my brothers came--they made those labor camp people also move back, you know, they didn't leave them to be liberated by the Russians. They moved them back so both of my brothers--one was going all the way Mauthausen, the other one hid some place and was liberated by the Russians.

Q WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR BROTHER IN MAUTHAUSEN?

A When he came to Mauthausen, my brother, he became sick. He got Typhus.

Q HOW OLD WAS HE?

A How old was he? That was in 1944, and he was born in 1912.

MR. JACOBY: 32.

MRS. JACOBY: What? No, more--12.

Q 32?

MR. JACOBY: 32.

MRS. JACOBY: Yeah, it was terrible there in Mauthausen. He was lucky when the Americans came or the Russian side, I don't know who liberated Mauthausen--he was still alive and after he was liberated he came back to Czechoslovakia. So I'm sorry to interrupt you but now I'm going to continue a little bit me.

So after we were--we came back to Budapest and we got some Christian papers and we were starting to hide, we were able to hide in--always I got sick. It was terrible to hide from one place to the other.

Q MAY I ASK YOU HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO FEED YOURSELF? WHERE DID YOU GET THE FOOD?

A For instance, I said to my husband, "I'm going to take a job as--"

MR. JACOBY: Servant, a maid.

MRS. JACOBY: As a servant, as a maid. So I used that paper that he gave me, I said, "I was a maid." I went to a Hungarian family and I said, "I was a maid." I had to get up 5 o'clock in the morning because she had so much company and she told me how to cook and how to clean properly and they always put on the English radio.

Q THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY?

A A Christian family, a very rich family who had a beautiful villa in Budapest. So she always asked me about my papers.

MR. JACOBY: Working papers.

MRS. JACOBY: Anybody who was a servant had a servant book and I didn't have it. I only had a paper that my name--was a Christian name.

Q EXCUSE ME. WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT A SERVANT BOOK THAT MEANS?

MR. JACOBY: Work book.

MRS. JACOBY: A working book where it says that you are a servant.

Q I SEE, AND THAT HAD TO BE SIGNED?

A Yeah, and I only had a Christian paper so she said, she figured out that I should get a--I should go to the police and get myself a legitimate paper that I am a servant and she insisted on that all the time. When I just saw that I couldn't get out of it I left them there and I ran away from there. I went back to look for my husband.

Q DID YOU KNOW WHERE HE WAS?

A Well, he was all over. He was by the [scientist] and he was in the ghetto. It was wherever he could spend the night. Then we decided there was a friend of ours we would take a room in a villa as Christians and the couple was a German couple, a doctor,

and he had a little girl. We took a room and we shared the room and she said to me, "Look you don't have any children," we didn't have much to eat, so she said, "You go out for dinner every day in a restaurant and bring something to eat." She said to me, "She looks very Jewish and she has a child and she doesn't want to go out." I didn't have any children yet, "I should go out."

Q     THEY WERE JEWS?

A     Yeah, yeah, they came from Germany.

MR. JACOBY: He was a dentist from Berlin, Dr. [Reich] was his name.

MRS. JACOBY: And that time we had an apartment before he went to labor camp, we had an apartment in Budapest, after we got married. When we gave it--when he went to the labor camp we gave up the apartment. Whatever we had left in the apartment like--

MR. JACOBY: Food.

MRS. JACOBY: Food, I gave to a woman who came from my village, a Christian woman, and she lived in Budapest and I gave it to her. She also--whatever we had left like pictures we gave it to her.

Q     FOR WHAT REASON? WHY DID YOU GIVE IT TO HER?

A     The pictures were very valuable to me. My parents--

Q FOR SAFE KEEPING?

A And everything else went to Auschwitz. So we gave it to her, the food--I don't know, I figure maybe we will need the food for when we were hiding. So one day I said to the friend of mine, "Look, why should I go every day and take off my star and look for food in a restaurant? I'm gonna go to that woman and bring home all the food that we have there. [Shmaultz,] you know, and flour and eggs, we will cook here. Why do we have to go out?" So she said, "All right." So, I said to her, "Listen if I don't come back till 3 o'clock then something happened to me."

MR. JACOBY: It was dangerous to walk as a Christian.

MRS. JACOBY: Without a star.

MR. JACOBY: Without papers.

Q YOU HAD CHRISTIAN PAPERS AND YET YOU PUT ON THE YELLOW STAR?

A Yeah, but I didn't have the star. I didn't have the star, but I was afraid they would look at me and they would see I had a Jewish face and they would catch me anyway. So I went to that woman and that woman had a nephew. He was a Nazi, a Hungarian Nazi, and he came to her house and he looked all over. He found those pictures of our family, you know, and he said, "Who are these people?" So she said, "These are people

from my village which I was friendly with. So when I came for the food he recognized me--that I was in those pictures and he right away knew that I am Jewish, you know, and she was waving to me that I should go away and I went away.

MR. JACOBY: When you were in that house he wasn't there yet--only you, you left.

MRS. JACOBY: He was there but she was waving to me that I shouldn't go in, so I walked away and I figured I was about far enough away and he was right there. He was there and he took me and he beat me up. He took my head and banged it against the wall and I was unconscious for a while. Then when I woke up, you know, he took me to the police, to the Hungarian police, and that was the end of it. When my husband came home and he saw that I didn't come back 3 o'clock he went to that woman, too. Now, you say what happened then.

MR. JACOBY: I was waiting for her. Three o'clock she didn't come back, and I knew it was dangerous for a Jew even though she didn't have Christian papers, she didn't have yellow star so it was dangerous.

She didn't come home. I told [Dr. Ryel], "What? I'm going to see where she is." I knew where she went. I'm going to see for her. He said, "It's very dangerous for you because you as a Jew, you can not go there." I



said, "I'll go there because without me I know that something is wrong."

I came there and this woman was looking from the window, and she showed me I shouldn't go there because of dangers. I was going up and down. A man, a strong man, came and he asked me, "Who are you?" I told him my name was a Christian name, of course. "What are you doing here?" I told him, "I'm walking here. I'm looking for somebody," and he grabbed my hand. He says, "Son, you are Jewish, and we are going to call the police because you are Jewish and you don't have a star."

57 thing  
This was the biggest sin to have a Jew without a star, (Gladys) star. So he was, "Let's go to the police," and he grabbed my hand. I went with him for about 10, 15 minutes. I felt a little bit loose that he did them. I started to run away from him and was running and screaming.

MRS. JACOBY: He was screaming.

MR. JACOBY: He was screaming, "Catch him, catch him." In about a few minutes maybe 30 or 40 boys, they were running after me and they caught me; and they wanted to kill me. I told them, "don't do anything, I'm only Jewish. I'm not a thief. I didn't do anything. I didn't do any crime. I'm only Jewish." This was my sin.

Somehow they didn't do anything, but the man called the police and the police came and they took me. We have to come to the police. Not all the police were Nazis. He was nice.

Q     THEY WERE HUNGARIAN?

A     The Hungarian police, yeah. I ask him, "I don't know where my wife is. She was here. They took her somewhere. I don't know where it is. I have to go after her but let me go." "No," he says, "I cannot because I would have let you go but this man when he called the police he will find out that I let you go." So I gave--I wanted to give him money. He didn't want to take.

In the mean time he took me to the police headquarters there in his village. It was a suburb of Budapest. When I came in there, and they open the door, and I saw her there sitting there, it was the happiest day of my life. This only this I wanted to go to find out where she is, because I knew if I was not there she was lost. That time every day they took people from all over. They took them to the station, to the border from there to Auschwitz.

MRS. JACOBY: Transport.

MR. JACOBY: Transport to Auschwitz.

Q     YOU KNEW THAT THEY WERE GOING THERE?

A     That we knew already. That we heard about

Auschwitz. We didn't know that they were killing people in Auschwitz.

Q YOU DID NOT KNOW THAT?

A No, we didn't know for sure. We heard something but we didn't know.

Q WHAT DID YOU THINK HAPPENED IN AUSCHWITZ, AT THAT TIME?

MRS. JACOBY: I'll tell you. Let's hear me. I thought that we will work there and after the war is going to be over, they will send us home. That's what I believed. I just could not believe that they killing people, and they put in gas chambers.

This was so far away from everybody that nobody believed it, and nobody came back from there to tell us. Mayby some people came back, but the news didn't come to us; so we didn't believe.

MR. JACOBY: One of her cousins, excuse me, wrote a postcard from Auschwitz. The name was [Valsvy]. I'm sure you heard about that just the name was [Valsvy], and she wrote it was in June already after the deportation.

Q '44?

A '44, yes. Just we are here, we have everything. Everything is okay, and in the mean time the next day they were gassed.

MRS. JACOBY: They made them write those.

MR. JACOBY: Forced them to write them.

MRS. JACOBY: So when this happened, we were in one night at the police station. After that one night they took us to a gathering place in Budapest, where all the Jews whom they caught without stars--

MR. JACOBY: Without papers, too.

MRS. JACOBY: Or without papers, they kept them there and besides Jews there were all kinds of people there like people who helped Jews, people who were married to Jews or just plain criminals and prostitutes, and everybody was there.

MR. JACOBY: There were five thousand people in a box there.

Q DID THEY IN HUNGARY MAKE ANY DISTINCTION BETWEEN THOSE PEOPLE WHO WERE HALF JEWS WHO HAD JUST ONE--

MRS. JACOBY: I'll tell you how, what distinction they made. So there we were in a room and every time they came to ask they made lists, and they make transports to Auschwitz. So they came in and they said--

MR. JACOBY: They called my name, (Yachovabich) not Jacoby, it was (Yachovabich).

MRS. JACOBY: So they asked for Martin (Yachovabich). He said, "He left already."

MR. JACOBY: There were so many people like that

spelling  
spelling

we fooled them. We said, "Oh, he left a few days ago." They didn't know that.

MRS. JACOBY: In the end they saw that people are cheating, so they got the idea they emptied all the rooms, and they put everybody in the backyard.

MR. JACOBY: And they checked everyone.

MRS. JACOBY: And they checked everybody individually.

Q FOR PAPERS?

MRS. JACOBY: For papers so anybody who had some papers which were not so kosher--to Auschwitz.

Q BUT YOU HAD CHRISTIAN PAPERS?

A Yeah, but Christian papers was not enough.

MR. JACOBY: Now wait a minute. When the police took us to there on the way, he didn't realize I had false papers, Christian papers. I through them out. He didn't realize it, so I came there without papers.

MRS. JACOBY: He didn't have any--

MR. JACOBY: Because I knew that they would find out that the papers were not mine. I was afraid of them. I got lucky.

MRS. JACOBY: We didn't have any papers there, and then when we saw that they taking constantly transports to Auschwitz. We didn't know what to do. The men were separated, and the women were separated, I found my brother there too, who was also hiding up from

the window; and I saw my brother there, so he had a different story.

One day they also had there Communist who were in there who were there three, four years, and because they were there three, four years they were already worked in the office. One of those men saw us and saw how we always--

MR. JACOBY: We stick together.

MRS. JACOBY: Stuck to each other and--

MR. JACOBY: Let me explain. The Jewish community in Budapest send soup every day for the Jews who want kosher, want soup; so they saw that when the women were separated and the men were separated, and they saw this opportunity when we were there. We went for the food, we were always talking and were together.

MRS. JACOBY: We were able to talk.

MR. JACOBY: Yeah, and he knew that we are so close to each other, so he offered us some help for money, of course, and the help was that from there from this--how do you call it?

MRS. JACOBY: Gathering place.

MR. JACOBY: Yeah, there was about five thousand people, and they send the people to another camp near the border.

Q THE NON-JEWS?

MR. JACOBY: the non-Jews, yeah. All Jews send

to Auschwitz.

MRS. JACOBY: He said to us, "All be nonJews. I'll send your wife to a women's camp as a Christian, and you'll go to a man's camp also as a Christian." Well, we gave him whatever money we had and always say to him he was still nice even though he did it only for money, but he was still nice that he wanted to help us.

MR. JACOBY: He saved us.

Q IF YOU STILL HAD MONEY, HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO HIDE IT THIS LONG?

MR. JACOBY: I had it in my coat always here (indicating shoulder) sewn in always took out some money. It was hiding.

Q THEY NEVER SEARCHED YOU?

A No, no. They didn't search the coat.

MRS. JACOBY: I think that was all the last money we had. We didn't have money after that, so thid was the way that we went to a Hungarian city as Christians. In Hungary there is a beautiful lake called (Balitone).

MR. JACOBY: (Bratinswager).

MRS. JACOBY: When I passed by I said to myself, "I will have to come here when I'll be a free woman." Of course, I never went, so I went to the Christian camp; and he went to the men's camp. He had a different name and I had a different name, because this guy in the office took a name who ran away from that camp, and gave

it to me.

MR. JACOBY: This boy who helped us.

MRS. JACOBY: Yes, who helped us and gave him another name, and we were there in that concentration camp. It was about five miles away from each other, and he used to write to me or in that camp and I wrote to him. The director came one day and he says to me, "Who writes these letters?" I says, "I write it to my fiancée."

I didn't want to say that this is my husband. He said to me, "What school did you go to?" I don't know what I told him. He said one day, "Would you like to--" He saw that I have a nice hand writing, so he said to me, "Would you like to work in the office?" I said, "Of course, I would like to work in the office."

That saved me because every time they inquired from Budapest who is this woman whose name I was wearing I put her documents on the bottom and so this is the way we stayed there. He ran away from there back to Budapest.

MR. JACOBY: Another story.

Q DID YOU HAVE PAPERS THEN? DID THEY GIVE YOU PAPERS? YOU JUST HAD THE NAME?

MRS. JACOBY: Just the name, and I came in and this director interviewed everybody who came from Budapest. When I said that name--he was so smart--he



remembered that woman was running away from there, run away from there a few months ago. He said to me, "This girl is lying." Just two weeks before or a week before, there was a Jewish woman there and they caught her lying; so they right away sent her to Auschwitz.

He somehow--he felt sorry for me. When he offered me that I should work in the office, I worked very hard because I wanted him to like me. I really worked hard. I did everything possible what he ask me. Every night he said to me, I should put on the radio for him, the English radio. When the English radio came on he sent me out. He didn't let me listen.

Q HE WAS HUNGARIAN, RIGHT?

A He was Hungarian. His wife was Jewish and his mother-in-law was Jewish and he saved his wife and he saved his mother-in-law, but he knew I was Jewish.

MR. JACOBY: He suspected.

MRS. JACOBY: He suspected. I had the feeling that he knew that I am Jewish. There was in the office another girl whose husband was Jewish, and she also worked there in the office. Then the Russian came, and they were only three miles away.

He didn't know what to do with that camp. There were people like me who were with Christian papers and there were Jewish women who were married to--no--Christian women married to Jewish man, there were

prostitutes there and--

Q POLITICAL PRISONERS?

MRS. JACOBY: Political prisoners, yeah. He had this camp and he didn't know what to do with it. He said to me when they he had to you know get rid of the camp. He said to me, so he took these political prisoners and the Christian women who were married to Jews. He sent them in a train to Austria and I said to him, "I cannot go to Austria." He said, "I know you cannot go to Austria."

"What do you want to do?" I said, "I want to go back to Budapest," because I knew that my husband was hiding somewhere in Budapest. There was one girl I was friendly with and she was there because her husband was Jewish. She said to me, "I have a lot of papers. I'll give you half of my papers and tell him that he should sent me also to Budapest."

I went to him and he liked me so I said to him, "Send this woman with me to Budapest." He got very angry. He gives me a chance to go to Budapest, and I have the chutzpah to ask him that he should send this girl. I said, "But this girl has papers, and she'll give me half of her papers." Finally he agreed.

She gave me half of her papers, she went in the end of the train; and I was in the beginning of the train and we came to Budapest. When we came to Budapest

that was the first time the Nazis were already took over Budapest.

Q WAS IT IN '44?

A '44 in December. The people were lying on the floor dead like dogs. All Jewish people.

MR. JACOBY: Dozens and dozens of people.

Q IN THE TRAIN YOU MEAN?

A Not in the train in the streets. There was no food there was nothing. She said to me, "Come to my house." I said, "How can I go to your house, if you were caught because you helped a Jew or whatever it was." I didn't know what to do I didn't know where my husband is.

I didn't know anything, so I remembered that my brother is hiding in Budapest. My younger brother was hiding in Budapest. He had a Christian girlfriend so I said to myself, "I'm going there," and she took me there. When they saw me they almost colapsed because they were hiding. She was hiding him and--

Q YOU HAD HER ADDRESS SO YOU KNEW--

A Yes, I knew where she was, and she was hiding my brother and when she saw me then, she got so scarred. I said to her, "Listen I'm not going to stay here. Just do me one favor, let me sleep here one night and find out where my husband is. That's all I want from you." She was a very nice woman. A very

beautiful, nice woman.

She had a Jewish husband who was also in the labor camp, but he wasn't home and she liked my brother. She said, "Okay." They let me sleep there one night and next morning she went to--she found the [Dr. [Reich], who was originally hiding with us and she found out where he is. He was already on the Swiss legation because the Americans didn't have any--

MR. JACOBY: Diplomatic.

MRS. JACOBY: Diplomatic relationships with Hungary. The British didn't have, the Swedish didn't have and all these legations were the Swiss legations.

Q THE SWISS TOOK CARE OF ALL--

MRS. JACOBY: Took care of all these people.

MR. JACOBY: The American people.

MRS. JACOBY: How he came to that legation that he has to tell you, because that's a story for itself, how he went there.

Q WILL YOU TAKE OVER, MARTIN?

MR. JACOBY: Yeah, right. I guess it was October 1944. I was running away from a camp. She was in the girl's camp, and I was in the boy's camp.

Q THAT'S THE ONE WHICH WAS FIVE MILES APART?

A Five miles apart, yeah, and I got letters from her and I told there was only one policeman there it was easy to escape but the policeman was always with

guns loaded and we have to make up with him to escape. I told him I'm getting packages from my fiancée. She send me packages. I'll give you cigarettes, but I want to go to the train station because there I'm going to get a package for me.

You are going to get cigarettes from me. There was another guy--gypsy guy, and with him together we went at 12 o'clock at night we went a few miles away about five, six miles. We went to the station.

Q ON FOOT?

A Yeah, and we didn't come back. He was waiting for us in the camp there but we didn't come back from there. We went to Budapest again the same thing happened to us. We ask changed papers with the Christian guy this gypsy guy had been 20 different kind of papers from parents and working papers took half of his papers in my to me and he left half of the papers and went.

Q UNDER WHAT NAME WERE THESE PAPERS, I MEAN DID THEY HAVE--

A On his name and this gypsy guy he was alien he was not Jewish but he was there.

MRS. JACOBY: He committed some kind of a crime.

MR. JACOBY: So I told him if you give me the papers and we go together to Budapest, I'm going to give you a few suits, and I give you everything and so he

believed me and I did it. He gave me half of his papers and he kept half of his papers, and when the train arrived in the mean time I had some money because she was sending me packages and from Budapest, I got some packages and a little money to--

Q AND YOU ALWAYS GOT THE PACKAGES?

A Yeah, little a few packages not every time, but I got little packages, cigarettes, whatever so I gave it to him. We took the train from [Jure] was the name [Jure] to Budapest, and we arrived in Budapest.

Budapest was a big city and I told him the next morning at 10 o'clock we are going to meet there at the department store. There we are going to meet and I give you everything that I promised you, and I went to her brother. I knew where her brother's girlfriend was there, and I told them don't worry I'll find some, place where to live where to hide.

At 10 o'clock at the night, somebody knocks at the door, and my brother-in-law goes out and says, "Martin, somebody is looking for you." Whose looking for me? Who knows that I'm here? This guy was after when I get out of the train from the sun. He was waiting for me and found out where I go and we went.

Q FOLLOWED YOU?

A Yeah, and he started to scream I cheat on him and if he wanted to get money from me and if I don't

give him enough money, that he's going to the police and he told me I knew that you have Jewish blood in your veins. You are a Jew. You didn't tell me that you are a Jew and I'm going.

So I said, "Listen. I promised you tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock I'll be there at the department store. I'll bring you everything I promised you, but you go home and if you don't if you go to the police I'll tell them that you gave me the papers and you will be in trouble too anyway." Next morning I gave him what I promised him. I gave him a few suits--

Q YOU MENTIONED THAT.

A Yeah, because we had an aunt in Budapest and they still were not deported. I went there, but I couldn't live there so I took everything and--

Q WHERE DID YOU GET THE SUITS FROM?

A What?

MRS. JACOBY: The suits.

Q THE SUITS YOU GAVE HIM.

A My suits was there at my aunt's house. I had about four or five suits and I gave him about two suits and I gave him--

Q OH, I SEE. I WANTED TO ASK YOU IN THAT CAMP YOU WERE YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO WEAR UNIFORM OR ANYTHING? YOU COULD KEEP YOUR OWN CLOTHING?

A No, nothing.

MRS. JACOBY: He worked the man they make work on the fields and I had a job in the office. I didn't have to go to work but the men were working on the fields.

Q I JUST WONDERED, BECAUSE WHEN YOU COULD ESCAPE LIKE THAT, WHAT WOULD YOU WEAR?

MRS. JACOBY: No, no. Only what we had on.

MR. JACOBY: And in October the Nazis took over the Hungarian Nazis took over 15th of October, and then I saw there's no place any more to go. I don't know what to do so there was a little street in Budapest that was our street there was a glass manufacturer.

It's about two-, three-story house a big house, and they were hiding Jews. There was as a Swiss legation put a sign that this belongs to the Swiss Embassey, and that's why I came there; but how I came there all the Jews wanted to go there. Already in this building was about two thousand Jews as Swiss citizens.

The Nazis didn't have a right to go in there because the Swiss Embassy put a big sign this housing belongs to the Swiss Embassy. It's a Swiss house and I was trying to get in to thin Swiss house but it was locked. It was a little door and was hundreds of people were there, and they couldn't take in more than was it was too crowded. Then the Nazis the Hungarian Nazis came in there. They blocked off the street one side, the other side and there was hundreds of people. They



took them all to the station and from there to Auschwitz.

I was running to the entrance of the Swiss Embassy. I was before a member of the [Misrachy] organization [Misrachy] in Bratislava. For 15 years I was working there. They knew me for a long time, and I was running to this place and then one Nazi was running after me. I was about 10 steps or 15 steps before that door and I screamed, "Open the door. This is [Yachocovich]. I'm from the [Misrachy]." They knew me already from the [Misrachy].

They opened the door and then the Nazi came after me. It was really a matter of 10, 15 steps but they open the door and they let me in and he couldn't go there anymore. Then when I came in I got a lot of friends there. I'm from the [Mischrachy], and they knew me from before so we were on the attic.

We had a little machine who manufactured those Swiss passports. What was a Swiss passport? Only a form and we made there by the hundreds if not thousands we manufactured those passports empty just the [fragerborgen]. How do you call that?

Q THE QUESTIONNAIRE?

A The questionnaire, yeah. There was a man who made stamps he was really an artist. He made the Swiss stamps and everything, and we made by the hundreds and

thousands. We gave out to the people who gave them to the Jewish people who want to save themselves with papers as Swiss citizens because they were--

Q DID THEY NEED A PHOTOGRAPH AT ALL OR--

A No, without photograph nothing only a Swiss stamp and like a [shoots pass] they called them.

Q SAFETY PASSPORTS?

A Safety passports, yeah, and we were there one night. The police came from, not from the street, from the next building from the attic. All has to go down.

Q ON THE GROUND FLOOR?

A Yeah, on the ground floor. I thought now we are going to be killed, because they came with guns about four, five police.

MRS. JACOBY: Nazis, Hungarian Nazis.

MR. JACOBY: There was a man. He was friendly from the Rumanian Embassy, and he was friendly with the General [Winkleman] was the commander in Budapest of the Nazis of the German Nazi and he called them up and the police disappeared.

They couldn't do anything but December the 9th in the mean time they were looking for people who the main Embassy in Budapest the Swiss Embassy the Swiss legation were looking for four people. Four Young people who know languages. They would watch whoever wants to come

in, in the Embassy there, because in the Embassy they were hundreds of people hiding too.

Q IN THE SWISS EMBASSY?

A In the real Swiss Embassy, yeah, in the [friehaspass] in [suberstck] there was this and ever morning, and they chose from the [Misrachy] one. It was me and from the other faction four people, and we went every morning with a policeman the policeman took us from there.

Q HUNGARIAN POLICEMAN.

A Yeah, Hungarian policeman took us there to the embassy and we were watching in a door. There was a little--behind a door--behind a gate and they're checking everybody who comes in, if he's entitled to go into the embassy because people came in and they disappeared. They were hiding it was a big building, so it was a few days like that. In 9th of December a man came in in the basement of what is this?

Q GLASS FACTORY?

A Yeah, glass factory, and he through in a bomb and he killed about 15 Jews there and that day I didn't want to go. I was in the embassy and the ambassador from Switzerland his name was [Lutz] I know very well German. I spoke to him German, counseling the ambassador. He was a Counsel. I told him the story what's going on there--no, I should go back to the, to

this--

Q GLASS FACTORY?

A Glass factory. What happened--I begged him he should let us there in this little space we will stay there over night just to let us have that. So after begging him very much, he allowed us to stay there in the embassy. We stayed all four boys. We were living there it was 9th of December, it was a few days.

Q WAS IT OUTSIDE?

A No, inside.

MRS. JACOBY: No, inside at the entrance.

MR. JACOBY: At the entrance in the--behind the gate-- Q RIGHT.

A Was a little room where they checked everybody.

Q AT THE ENTRANCE?

A Yeah, so I stayed with the other four boys at the embassy there. If I would have a million dollars, I would have given it just for that I was there, but I got there. She found out, this woman found out--

MRS. JACOBY: My brothers girlfriend found out.

MR. JACOBY: Yeah, where I am and she came in the embassy there.

Q OKAY.

A This was the second--

MRS. JACOBY: No, she went by herself.

MR. JACOBY: No, no--yeah.

Q THE GIRLFRIEND?

A Yeah.

MR. JACOBY: Yeah, and this was the second happiest day of my life, that she came there.

MRS. JACOBY: She told me where he is and then I went there and took some--

MR. JACOBY: I begged the Counsel that they should allow her--

MRS. JACOBY: It took some begging of Counsel, you know, to let me in too. He let me in and there we stayed.

MR. JACOBY: We stayed till the liberation.

MRS. JACOBY: Till the liberation.

MR. JACOBY: The 18th of January.

MRS. JACOBY: That was the day--that day already no trains came into Budapest, Budapest was all surrounded by the--

MR. JACOBY: By the Russians.

MRS. JACOBY: By the Russians and they bombed Budapest for six weeks.

MR. JACOBY: Day and night.

MRS. JACOBY: Day and night and we stayed on the second floor without windows and without anything.

MR. JACOBY: With no windows. Anytime we were together in a little space and we heard a bomb come, the

noise was "ZZZZZZZZ" and boom. I told her--

MRS. JACOBY: This is it, this is it.

MR. JACOBY: I know we are going to die. Not once, a few times when the bomb fell in, but thank God we didn't die. We survived.

Q HOW MANY OF YOU WERE THERE IN THE LEGATION?

A Well, I want to tell her that. You see, in legation where personal friends of the Swiss--

MR. JACOBY: Counsel.

MRS. JACOBY: Counsel. These were prominent Hungarian Jews.

MR. JACOBY: The Jewish community.

MRS. JACOBY: Yeah, they had they brought their beds, and food, and cans, and they prepared themselves to stay there for years.

MR. JACOBY: For a long time.

MRS. JACOBY: We didn't have anything. We just came without anything. Then there were the employees of the American legation, who were Jewish, but they stayed there because it was safe. Some British and English American citizens, which unfortunately, somehow didn't go away in time from Hungary, they were also there.

MR. JACOBY: Hundreds of people, maybe about 150, 200 people.

Q HOW DID YOU GET FOOD?

A We didn't have food. You see, we didn't

have anything.

MR. JACOBY: The [Mizrahees] send us an apple a day. An apple and a little speck, a little fat, a little piece of pork.

MRS. JACOBY: You know what speck is?

Q YEAH, YEAH, BACON.

A Yeah, bacon.

MR. JACOBY: A piece of--we ate a little all day and we were starving. We didn't know what to eat, but--

Q YOU MEAN THE OTHERS DIDN'T GIVE YOU--

A No, no.

MR. JACOBY: There was in the beginning one man. He was very religious and he had soup, kosher soup, so I told him I was in the [Ishwa] myself and he--I got acquainted with him so he gave me the beginning every day a little soup.

MRS. JACOBY: And the worst thing was that we couldn't wash, you know, and we couldn't clean ourselves.

Q WAS THERE A BATHROOM, A TOILET OR ANYTHING?

A There was but there was so many people, you know, hiding there. We were happy that we were in there because we didn't have to run after anymore hiding. We didn't have to have papers from one day to the other, so we stayed there till the Russians came. The Russians

came January 18, 1945, and we were liberated then.

Q IN THIS STORY THE ONLY THING I'M MISSING--

A Yes.

Q IS YOU NEVER MENTION THE SWEDES, NOW,  
[WAUNENBERG], YOU KNOW?

A Oh, yes, you see he met [Waunenbergs] many  
times.

Q I'D LIKE YOU TO TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT  
IT.

A Okay, yeah, right. I was in the Swiss  
embassy from October or November till January the 18th.

Q YEAH.

A I was there and [Waunenbergs] used to come  
for business there to the Swiss Embassy because the  
Sedes had the same buildings, a few buildings, Swiss  
building, Swede buildings, Swedish buildings, yeah. He  
gave such [Schutzpetzer] for a lot of people, too. He  
came always for buisness there. I don't know what they  
did, but I saw him very often at the Swiss Embassy and I  
knew that he saved alot of Jews, that's the truth. He  
saved alot of Jews, he gave them the Swedish  
[Schutzpetzer.]

Q YEAH.

A It was a piece of paper without a picture,  
just the name. He explained to the police there, to the  
Nazis, those are citizens. We are going to take them



after the war to Sweden.

MRS. JACOBY: May I say something? You see that time in Hungary, the Swiss pronounced this house as a Swiss house.

Q THEY COULD DO THAT?

A Yeah, the--

MR. JACOBY: The Swedish to.

MRS. JACOBY: The Swedish said, the same thing, you know. He said, "This is a Swedish house." He gave to all the people who were hiding there Swedish papers. So that's how many Hungarian Jews survived.

MR. JACOBY: In fact he went to this train. From there whenever they took people to a transport to Auschwitz, the name was [Auschwava], the border town from Hungary. So he went to that station and he took from the train--he had a list--oh, this is a Swedish citizen. This is--

Q SO, YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT [WAUNENBERG]?

A [Waunenberg], yeah. He did it, yeah.

Q SO YOU ACTUALLY SAW HIM?

A I saw him a few times. Of course, I didn't know what business--I was only a little employee there watching the people who came in there and we were-- In the embassy there were a lot of rooms, we had about 15 people sleeping on the floor like herrings together. Yeah, but we knew that in a few days we would be

liberated.

Q YOU KNEW THAT?

A Yeah, we hoped.

MRS. JACOBY: Well, it was liberated. Budapest was liberated. You know, there is Buda and Pest, and in between there is the Danube. Pest was liberated. On Buda was the war going on three more months.

Q OH.

A They were shooting--Buda was on hills and from the hills they were shooting down to Pest.

Q THE EMBASSY OR THE LEGATION, IT WAS IN--

A Pest, yeah. In Pest there was a woman. Her husband was a employee at the British Embassy or the American Embassy and she survived in Auschwitz with two children. She went out one day after the liberation for food, you know, for something and she was shot from Buda.

MR. JACOBY: The bullets, they were flying in the air.

MRS. JACOBY: Yeah.

MR. JACOBY: We saw the people when the Nazis took over in October 15th in Budapest. We were still-- before I went into hiding.

Q WHAT YEAR?

A In '44.

MRS. JACOBY: In '44.

MR. JACOBY: Yeah, in '44. They were shooting people on the street. Hundreds of people were lying just--and boys, 14, 15 year boys, they had guns. They saw a Jew they shot him to death.

MRS. JACOBY: And also from those houses--you see, these Hungarian Nazis, they didn't honor these Swiss and Swedish houses. They took the Jews out--took them to the Danube, you know, shot them and they fell into the Danube.

MR. JACOBY: It's unbelievable what they did. I had my close friends together and they took them to--at night to the Danub, the bridge was broken.

Q IT WAS ALREADY BOMBED?

A Bombed, yeah. It was one piece where they took him there to the end. They came to the end, they shot him into the Danub.

MRS. JACOBY: One of those boys survived because he knew how to swim.

MR. JACOBY: Yeah, yeah.

MRS. JACOBY: He made believe that he's dead, and he fell into the water before they shot him.

Q IT WASN'T IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER WAS IT?

A Oh, yes. It was in January.

Q HE WOULD HAVE FROZEN TO DEATH?

A Well--

MR. JACOBY: It was in December.

MRS. JACOBY: In December.

MR. JACOBY: My friend was shot there too, but his cousin was there and he saw that what if people when they come to the end they shot him so, before they shot him he jumped into the Danub and he swam out a little bit and the police caught him.

The police, not all the police, were Nazis and they pitied him and they took him to police headquarters and they dried him there and he survived. He's still living in New York and he told me the story about his cousin, who was my friend. He was shot in the Danub, but this was not once it was almost every night. They took transports always 15, 20 people to the Danub. They shot him.

MRS. JACOBY: Or to transport into Auschwitz.

Q AND YOU KNEW, AT THAT TIME, IT WAS GOING TO AUSCHWITS?

A No, we still didn't know what was going on in Auschwitz. We still didn't know.

Q BUT THAT THE TRAINS WERE SENT TO AUSCHWITZ?

A Yeah, but we didn't know one thing.

MRS. JACOBY: Yeah, right, but we did not know about gas chambers.

MR. JACOBY: We heard that they make soap from the people who died.

MRS. JACOBY: Rumors, rumors.

MR. JACOBY: But I didn't believe it. Normal people couldn't believe that me sister and brother-in-law and family went there. We never heard from them. My friend who came back, it was my brother-in-law, was walking--transport for working in the morning and one Nazi took his cap, some reason he didn't like him and his cap. He through it in the gutter on the side and my brother-in-law went to pick it up and he was shot. He told him that he wanted to escape, he went to escape the roadway.

MRS. JACOBY: One thing that I forgot to mention, you know, and this was very significant of the way--the kind of man my husband is.

I told you that my sister stayed there in the village, and she didn't go to the ghetto and when I took the Christian papers and the Christian, the peasant outfit and I came to Budapest, I knew that she was there and she's there alone. There were no Jews anymore in the city, and I just felt very sorry for her. I figured that one day they would find her and they'll send her to Auschwitz.

MR. JACOBY: And she was hiding in the barn in the barn the--

MRS. JACOBY: In the barn that peasant dug out a hole, and she was hiding there in the hole.

MR. JACOBY: And then it was--

MRS. JACOBY: When they looked for her, she was hiding in the hole.

MR. JACOBY: She was in there and covered with straw. She was there, not all day only, when somebody came and the peasant didn't know who it was so she was there.

MRS. JACOBY: Yeah, so why I started to mention this to you is my husband got himself a false paper, to go back to our village, which was--false, the paper was false. He took all my clothes, peasant clothes and my papers my Christian papers and he went down to that village where my parents lived. It was very dangerous because there were no Jews.

He was really risking himself, and I was so young and I felt so sorry for him. I didn't even realize that I'm risking my husband for my sister, but I did it. He came there first of all, he doesn't see well at night, and he came at night and he had to find the place where she was hiding. Finally, he found her and gave her my papers and gave her my--

MR. JACOBY: Outfit.

MRS. JACOBY: Outfit and she made it to Budapest, and that's how he saved her.

MR. JACOBY: She saw me at night that I came after her, she said, "That God send me." She was crying. She knew she was alone there, and anyway with the same

way she came from the village to Budapest, put on her shawls, black shawls.

MRS. JACOBY: And in Budapest she was hiding on Christian papers and she survived.

Q WHAT YEAR WAS THAT, WHEN YOU WENT BACK TO THE VILLAGE?

A It was 1944.

MR. JACOBY: '44, wait a minute, it must be in--

MRS. JACOBY: October.

MR. JACOBY: April, wait a minute.

MRS. JACOBY: No, No.

MR. JACOBY: In May.

MRS. JACOBY: No, not May.

MR. JACOBY: Wait a minute. It was before they started the deportation from Hungary.

MRS. JACOBY: Yeah, I think June, June or May.

MR. JACOBY: It was about May or June, I went for her. She was there by herself, and I pitied her; and I wanted to save her, but I saved her. But you forgot to tell how you saved me.

MRS. JACOBY: Yeah.

MR. JACOBY: In the complex there when they--

MRS. JACOBY: When they took out all the Jews from the rooms, you know, when they suspected--

Q WAIT, WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

A In Budapest and that gathering place.

Q THE SWISS--

A No, not the Swiss, the Hungarian. When they suspected that the Jews are lying, when they call their names and they say, he left already, that they are lying. They had the idea that they got everybody out in the backyard and they went--

MR. JACOBY: To check the papers.

MRS. JACOBY: To check individually. It started 8 o'clock in the morning, and it was going on all day. It was already 6 o'clock and it was already dark.

MR. JACOBY: Late.

MRS. JACOBY: And there was a group of people Hungarian women, who were married to Jewish men; they still don't know what to do with them, you know, if send them to Auschwitz or not to send them to Auschwitz. The men were in labor camps and these were only women.

All of a sudden I heard one of the officials said to the other, "Listen, we don't know what to do with these people. Send them back to their rooms, and we'll find out later on what to do with them." When I heard that, you know, and there were only very few people left, I grabbed my husband and I went in their line and that's--

MR. JACOBY: This is when she saved my life.

MRS. JACOBY: And that's how I saved him and that's how we went back. There were no more Jews



anymore there, there were only two of us and that's when that man, I told you who, was--

MR. JACOBY: Helped us.

MRS. JACOBY: Helped us when he knew that there were no more Jews only two of us, then he came over and offered us his help.

MR. JACOBY: Such little episodes.

Q NOT A LITTLE EPISODE, A BIG EPISODE.

A But we are here.

Q TELL ME A LITTLE BIT ABOUT LIBERATION. WHAT HAPPENED AFTER LIBERATION?

A After liberation I became right away pregnant.

Q OH.

A And I had my daughter, my old--

Q IN BUDAPEST?

A In Budapest, yes. She was born in Budapest, and I think the fact that we were able to survive was that we did not have any children.

MR. JACOBY: Of course.

MRS. JACOBY: Because if you have children, how can you hide? We stayed there and he remained working for the Americans. Then the Americans came and took over the Swiss legation and we stayed there till 1947, because he worked for the Americans.

MR. JACOBY: For three years I worked for the

American Embassy in Budapest, yes.

MRS. JACOBY: And it was very--traveling was very hard, and she was a little girl. We thought that because he's on the American Embassy, that we will come faster to America.

Q YEAH.

A But it was just the opposite. First of all, the Hungarians did not have any quota, and we were not Hungarians; we were Czechs, so we stayed till 1947. In 1947 we saw that it doesn't move, we went back to Czechoslovakia and we went back to Prague. We had to register again on the American Embassy, and that's why we came only in 1949.

MR. JACOBY: In 1949. When I went back to Budapest, to Czechoslovakia, I had a very good job.

MRS. JACOBY: Before the war.

MR. JACOBY: Before the war and they took me over there. I had a very good job. There I was the representative of the [Kauroppeergazashauft].

Q THE OIL COMPANY?

A Yeah, all right, they renamed it [Stineoveereck].

Q WHEN THE RUSSIANS TOOK IT OVER?

A Of course.

MR. JACOBY: Yeah, the Russians took over. I worked for them for about two years, till '49.

MRS. JACOBY: In '49, let me tell you what happened in '49. The Russians, the Czech communists came from house to house, and asked everybody to join the communist party. The Jews were going away and leaving Czechoslovakia and going to Israel. Everybody went away.

If somebody had a chance to go to England or America, they went to America, but because we came to Czechoslovakia so late 1947, the American Embassy didn't call us yet. In May we didn't want to join the communist party. In May the Jews were leaving constantly, they were only very few Jews. We decided to go away.

MR. JACOBY: Excuse me, for a second. That time it was the communist took over Czechoslovakia, I don't know if you remember. It was the oust--administer the Secretary of State was [Mazeek], the son of--

Q YES.

A They pushed him out of the window and he died. That time I saw what's going on. I don't want to stay here anymore, so I left everything--I sign it they owe me a lot of money there, because the law was that time the communist law. You cannot make more commission than ten thousand kronas. Ten thousand kronas was maybe a thousand dollars or something a month.

I was working. I made much more, but I have to

leave the money there. Only ten thousand kronas which was enough to make a living, and then when I asked for permission to leave the country, I had to sign that I don't want from them anything, just to let me out and that's why we came to Vienna.

Q YOU WENT TO VIENNA?

A We went to Vienna with our passport.

MRS. JACOBY: Because--

MR. JACOBY: And from Vienna we went to--

MRS. JACOBY: We went to Vienna because we were under quota, and we knew that we have a chance to come to America, only our number didn't come up yet.

MR. JACOBY: We have to stay there.

MRS. JACOBY: We had to wait till September there in Czechoslovakia and I said to my husband, "If we wait till September, we wouldn't be able to get out anymore." That's how we went to Vienna, and we went there to the American Embassy and they took over the papers to Vienna.

Q And it was in 19--

A '49, and in 1949, in October we got the chance to come, and that's how we came to this best, this country.

MR. JACOBY: We appreciate to be here.

Q HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN MARRIED, NOW?

A 47 years was last--two weeks ago.

MR. JACOBY: Yeah, July.

MRS. JACOBY: July 26, was 47 years.

Q AND HOW MANY CHILDREN DO YOU HAVE?

A We have two children. The one who was born in Budapest, she lives here in San Francisco. The younger one was born 11 years later, and she lives in New York. They're very nice children and they're both very--

MR. JACOBY: That's the reason why we are here.

MRS. JACOBY: They are educated and they are all right.

Q NOW, HOW MANY MEMBERS OF YOUR COMBINED FAMILIES DO YOU THINK YOU'VE LOST IN--

A Lost?

Q IN AUSCHWITZ.

A Lost? We lost my family. Luckily my father died before and my mother died in '39, but the rest of the family were all in Auschwitz.

MRS. JACOBY: You have to say how many sisters and brothers you had.

MR. JACOBY: How many? I had three sisters and two brothers. One sister survived and but she lost her husband. She lost her children, and she became sick and unfortunately, a year ago she committed suicide.

Q OH, I'M SORRY.

A She lived in Pittsburg. She became her

sickness--she couldn't get rid of her sickness, and she was sick.

MRS. JACOBY: She was very depressed over this.

MR. JACOBY: Depressed. She was operated in Budapest after the war, just after the war, and her neck and I don't know.

MRS. JACOBY: She was never herself anymore.

MR. JACOBY: She was sick all the time, and she committed suicide. This is the only sister I had from our family. So, we don't from the 20 we were 16 back from our nearest family from the children. The brothers and sisters and children, nephews and nieces.

Q AND HOW ABOUT--

A And from my family, my mother, I told you, died before the deportation came so, my father went away and we were all young--our older--my brothers and my sister we were all young, and we were all hiding and we survived.

Q ALL OF YOU SURVIVED? YOU DIDN'T LOSE ANY MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY?

A Not my brothers, no. I lost aunts and uncles and that but--

Q YOUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY?

A My three brothers and my sister and me, we survived. They were not married. Only my oldest brother was married and I was married, but they didn't

have any children and we didn't have any children. It was easier to hide.

MR. JACOBY: Among my brother-in-laws, one was killed in Auschwitz as I explained you. He was killed because he wanted to escape.

Q YES.

A Yeah, the other was working in the gas chambers and the gas chambers was three months after three months they knew they--after three months they killed him and the third one was in labor camp, Yugoslavia. A Hungarian labor camp and the Hungarian Nazis killed a whole company.

About 250 people all the Jewish soldiers actually were not soldiers, but they were under the Hungarian Army as forced labor camp. They were shot to death all of them. The whole thing because the commander was a Nazi and they shot him.

MRS. JACOBY: And your last brother died in Russia.

MR. JACOBY: In--yeah, my brother--one--

MRS. JACOBY: The youngest one.

MR. JACOBY: The youngest one, yeah.

MRS. JACOBY: He froze to death.

MR. JACOBY: Yeah. A friend of mine came back from there, and he gave me his cards and his picture, his card and he met him there. It was in [Mashcauncks]

and he told him there--why don't you get together and be a--but he had frozen to death. The toes from the feet and hands were frozen, and he said, "Let me--I'll never be again--" and he died there. So, this was the rest of the family.

MRS. JACOBY: You know, I was called from the Holocaust library already for so many years, and we always--I said to my husband that, "We really don't belong here, because we were not in Germany." Although our story, for us, it was bad; but I always thought that those people who went to Germany to Auschwitz, that they went through much, much, more than we did.

MR. JACOBY: Yeah, we--

Q YOU CAN'T COMPARE ANYTHING AND NOBODY COMPARES ANYBODY WITH ANYBODY ELSE. YOUR STORY IS SO TREMENDOUS.

A We lived in the summer--I'll tell you there is a professor--[airigot] man, he always has a class and we go there--and said and it's true--no matter how many stories you hear and how many films you see, and how many books you read, you cannot imagine what people lived through a day in Auschwitz and my hobby is reading Jewish History.

I love Jewish History and I have dozens of books from Auschwitz from the Holocaust, dozens of books. I have in fact, some day all the books they will come to



this Holocaust library. I read and everything fits in so much in like gloves, when I read this story and the other story--so I remember this was everything that they write about was hundred percent right.

MRS. JACOBY: I just want to say something about my children. You know when they were small they never asked us anything about what we went through. If by any chance they heard us discussing it with our friends, you know, when we got together with the friends in our house or in their house, everybody started to tell their, story when they over heard something they always walked away and they never inquired about it.

I was always surprised because the children were intelligent children, and they didn't want to know what was happening to us. Now when my daughter comes, when she comes to us, she always brings us--brings him a book or me from the Holocaust. She always looks for the Holocaust and she's very interested. One day I said to her, "Andrea, how come when you were small, you were never interested in what happened to us?" She said, "It hurts so much that she just couldn't take it."

Q DID YOU EVER START TELLING HER AT AN EARLY AGE AT ALL?

A No, they never asked. If I started to tell, they were starting to cry. So, I stopped.

Q WELL, THANK YOU BOTH FOR SHARING.

A This was only in a--

MRS. JACOBY: Nut-shell.

MR. JACOBY: In a nut-shell.

Q I'M SURE, I'M SURE YOU COULD TALK FOR WEEKS.

A But the feeling--

MR. JACOBY: But the detail, how lucky we were, I don't know if you call it luck that we survived, I don't know. But how lucky we were and so many times, how I escaped from one camp, the other camp and how we did it--

MRS. JACOBY: It was all luck, all luck.

MR. JACOBY: Just right when the earth quake was, I remember when I was in one camp when the Americans came to bomb Budapest and Hungary. We were looking on the plane saying we are begging they shoot at us, especially when we were in the summer platz in Budapest. We were begging they should come and bomb the whole camp, that we should be able to get out but they didn't come.

When they came in the end in 1944, and the people begged them they should bomb Auschwitz, they did not, not Auschwitz. But the effect that is around Auschwitz, they bombed it. I have a few books I'm sure you have them here too. Her cousin is in London and he survived Auschwitz too. In fact he was on television a few weeks ago and he has a friend, he's out of--what is his name?

He was here and he writes a book--"Auschwitz and the Allies". I'm sure you have that book too.

Q I'M SURE.

A You will see, I forgot--just don't remember his name. I spoke to him, his best friend of her cousin. There he wrote a few books about five, six books and I have all his books, and I have a lot of books from Auschwitz. What they went through, you cannot describe that.

Q NO.

A You know, they say they were like animals. I told him, don't insult animals.

Q THAT'S RIGHT.

A Don't insult them, they did such inhuman things.

MRS. JACOBY: Thank you very much for listening to our story.

Q THANK YOU.

A If you have anymore questions, please--

Q I HAVE MANY, MANY MORE QUESTIONS, BUT I DON'T THINK WE HAVE MANY, MANY MORE HOURS BECAUSE WE HAVE ANOTHER INTERVIEW.

CAMERA MAN: We can actually run on a little bit, because we have a cancelation in the next slot.

Q OH, WE DO? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO INTERVIEW NOW AT 5:30?

CAMERA MAN: That's correct, that's correct.

Q OH, THAT'S WONDERFUL. WELL--

A You can ask questions.

MRS. JACOBY: You can ask too. Did you listen?

CAMERA MAN: Oh, absolutely.

Q THIS IS A VERY PERSONAL QUESTION, I DON'T  
EXPECT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO ANSWER--

A Yeah.

Q DID YOU EVER LOSE YOUR FAITH IN GOD?

A Yes. That's a very good question.

MR. JACOBY: Yes, a very important question.

I'll tell you frankly, I was in the [Ushery], you know  
what the [Ushery] is?

Q YES.

A The Rabbic Seminary, the seminary in  
Bratislava. I was ten semesters, about five years  
there. I was religious, I was religious persuaded,  
religious and all my days I was not too religious but  
after Auschwitz, I lost my faith in the religion. I  
lost my faith because people who were there I knew them  
the Rabbis from our village.

I had a lot of friends very religious people.  
They screamed from the crematoriums, don't believe there  
isn't any God there isn't. I don't say I'm not an  
unbeliever, I believe in something but I don't believe  
that a god knew about what happened there because if he,

or she, or it, or whatever it is would have known such things it wouldn't be able to condone this. I lost belief in the religion. I still go holidays to Schul.

MRS. JACOBY: That's only tradition, right.

MR. JACOBY: Yeah, tradition but I don't believe in that God or such a thing was saving us or because Jewish History, and now I tell this again; if people of the Jewish--people would have known Jewish History, there would be at least half of the people or a few million people saved would have been saved, because if they would have known that from the crusades and from the Spanish inquisitions, and all what happened.

( Ming  
The Jews were never saved. They went to the gas chambers and they said, ["Smizrealal"], but they were not saved and if they would have known that such things happened, they would do everything and they wouldn't believe--they wouldn't go in like sheep. The truth is they didn't go in like sheep. They say only because they were dogs before the gas chambers and people knew already what was going on and if they didn't go in they had their wild dogs and they tore them apart. They tore--

MRS. JACOBY: But what would have happened--more Jews would have been trying to hide.

Q ESCAPE?

A And try to escape if they would have known

what is coming.

MR. JACOBY: I don't believe, I don't say I don't believe in God, I believe in something. I studied my [Monadis] and I studied a lot of [Indoeshe] and beside that, I have dozens of books. I do all the time--she says, "I'm going to sleep with the books and I get up with the books."

I read a lot and I see that the religion is really man-made and I don't believe that God, if there is such a thing, that He asks from us we should do this or that. Because this is something that my mother said, "We don't know what God is, we will never know this is a mystery." I believe in faith.

Q YES.

A I believe in faith because--

MRS. JACOBY: What was the next question?

Q WELL, THE FACT THAT YOU WERE SAVED BOTH OF YOU MANAGED TO SURVIVE THIS. WHAT DO YOU ATTRIBUTE THAT TO? DO YOU EVER THINK ABOUT THAT--WHY?

A Why we survived?

MRS. JACOBY: I think it was luck.

MR. JACOBY: Of course, if you believe in luck, you have to believe in something.

Q RIGHT.

A Because if you go and play cards, and some day you win and win and win and sometimes you lose, it

must be something. A luck which is but, there is something that regulated, that I don't know that.

MRS. JACOBY: I think it was only luck. It wasn't the goodness of the Christians. Because when they took our village, the peasants offered their wagons and horses to take the Jews to the ghetto--

MR. JACOBY: They were happy that they got rid of us.

MRS. JACOBY: You know, what it meant for a peasant to lose a days work. That was a big deal, but they all wanted us to go away and not come back. When we came back they were sorry that we came back.

Q THAT WAS A SMALL VILLAGE, RIGHT?

A Yes, that was a small--but it was all over like that.

Q OH, IN THOSE LITTLE VILLAGES WERE THERE A LOT OF JEWS? WHAT WAS THE PERCENTAGE, DO YOU THINK?

A No, there were--what hurt me so much about the Christians, is that I'll tell you. Let's see, I was a school teacher and there were school teachers, Christians, who were friends of mine.

MR. JACOBY: Before Hitler.

MRS. JACOBY: Before the deportation came, and I wasn't able to teach anymore. I went back to my father's and mother's house, and those were friends of mine and they, I don't know how they knew what's coming,

but they said, you know, once I went with the train and I went somewhere and I met one of these people, who I thought they are friends of mine.

MR. JACOBY: Colleagues.

MRS. JACOBY: Colleagues, and he says to me, "Do you know one day they're just gonna take you, and you're not gonna exist anymore?" I said to myself, how is this possible? How--what was he talking about? How can he say that to me, to a friend, even if it's true? That's why I never went back there and I had no desire to see anybody there. My mother is burried in Budapest. I couldn't even go back to Budapest because every time I meet--it's not nice to say--but, it's true, you know--

Q UH-HUH.

A Everytime I meet a Hungarian who is not Jewish, something turns in my stomach.

MR. JACOBY: We saw those things what was going on, how against, how anti--I'm not talking about anti-Semitic, it's not anti-Semitic, it's anti-Jewish. When I was in labor camp among the Christians, I was the only Jew there. They didn't know, of course, that I'm Jewish, whenever somebody did something wrong, oh, this is Jewish work.

They were so anti-Jewish in their blood, their behavior, everything. The Hungarian, and not only the Hungarian, all over Europe it was like that. I'm not



( talking about the Western, Holland, Belgium, France they were civilized.

Q FRANCE?

A Well, some of them of course--

MRS. JACOBY: No, we were only talking about those people where we lived, like where I lived they were Ukraines they were so hateful. They were they thought that if the Jews will leave this is gonna be heaven to them. Now comes heaven because the Jews are leaving, but it wasn't heaven.

Q DID YOU AFTER LIBERATION, DID YOU WHEN YOU LIVED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THEN DID YOU GET INTO CONTACT WITH RUSSIANS AT ALL, YOU MUST HAVE.

( A Well, we saw Russians there but actually the Russians came only in 1949, and by then we were already leaving. I was there for a visit in 1968 and my brother, my oldest brother the one who was in Mauthausen--

Q YES.

( A He didn't, he stayed with his wife in Prague. He lived in Prague till he died four years ago so 1968, I went to visit him. I don't even know, but we actually, we didn't have a chance to meet the Russians there because in 1968, that was about two days before [Dupcheck], had to go--so the Russians--after two days later the Russians came in so I wasn't there anymore and

in 1949, it was only Czechs who were communist, who forced the other people to become communist.

Q DID YOU FIND THAT THE CZECHS WERE ANTI-SEMITIC, WHEN YOU LIVED THERE?

A They were but--

MRS. JACOBY: They were too intelligent to show it.

MR. JACOBY: Not open when I was in the Czech Army, the captain of the army called me in once and he asked me--I was 21 years old, and he asked me, "Do you know anything about the boys that are communists here? Because a lot of Jews aren't communists." I told him, "I don't know any Jew communists." I didn't even know at that time what communist means, but they were anti-Semitic. They were intelligent enough.

Q YEAH.

A And you talk about the Russians. I'll tell you a story about how the Russians liberated us. I was again working at the American Embassy, that time it was Swiss Embassy and before that was the war was going on in Budapest all over and they were shooting and was all night and all day shooting and bombs fell.

One morning about o'clock in the morning she said to me, "What's going on it's quiet, it's quiet, nothing--" so we didn't know what's going on. No shooting nothing at 8 o'clock in the morning. One

( Russian soldier banged the door, the gate at the Embassy, and they knew that I know languages, and I know a little bit Russian, Czech, so, they told me, "Go down stairs." All right, "I'll go down." I opened the gate and the Russian soldier maybe 17 years old held his [Stommy] gun to my breast and said I tell him, "Don't shoot, we are here not enemies, we are here Jews, Jews hiding in the embassy here."

Spelling  
( He came up the stairs, was winding stairs, came up there and he was shooting in the air and she thought I was shot. Anyway, he came up the stairs and after him a few more, and among the four boys who were in the embassy, there, there was one boy [Sherdbody], his name, had a nice leather coat and one soldier, Russian soldier came to him and said, "Give me this coat." The embassy was--what can he do?

He took his gun and said, "Give me this coat," he couldn't help it, he took his coat and he gave it to him. In the mean time I found another one--an officer, a lieutenant, or something, was Czech, so, I spoke with him. I told him, "Look here what this guy did, this soldier, this Russian soldier took away from my friend a leather coat." He called him, "What you do? Give him back right away," but because he was an officer, he give him back his coat, so he gave him back his coat.

( When he went away a few steps further, he came to

him back, to back this soldier and said give me back your coat, otherwise I blow you out your gut out so, he came back. This is how the Russians behaved that time.

MRS. JACOBY: You asked me about the Czechs, if they were anti-Semitic. I went to a Czech school, you know, from first grade all the way up to the teachers seminary, and there were very few Jews in the whole school. There were about six hundred--

MR. JACOBY: Students.

MRS. JACOBY: Students in the school and in my class there were only four Jewish girls and in the whole school there were about ten Jewish people and I never in all those years I was there, I never felt that they accepted me.

Q OKAY.

A I always felt, even though I was a better student than they were, I knew more than they did. They never accepted me as a Czech.

MR. JACOBY: As an equal.

MRS. JACOBY: As an equal to them.

Q YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS THEN EITHER, AMONG THE CHRISTIANS?

A I did have but--

MR. JACOBY: Not too close.

MRS. JACOBY: Not too close.

Q DID THEY TEACH RELIGION IN YOUR SCHOOL?

A What?

Q DID THEY TEACH RELIGION, DID YOU HAVE AN HOUR, A WEEK OF RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION?

A Well, the Czech's were very liberal about that.

Q YEAH.

A You see, the Czechs had a section which was called that they were not religious, no religion--they had no religion. There were many Czechs like our professors who had to when they were putting down their names and everything where they were born, no religion, so, there was--they were not too, they were not too religious.

The Czechs but this was mostly like a national thing. They didn't like the idea that a Jew should teach Czech language. It wasn't like that in the other schools like if you wanted to go to the university in Prague there was no problem or you wanted to go--

MR. JACOBY: Officially.

MRS. JACOBY: There was no problem officially, there was no anti-Semitism and they even there was no problem, let's say if I would have instead of going to the teachers seminary, I would have studied law or a doctor, I had no problem to go to the University. It was only because in the teachers seminary, you became a Czech teacher, and this is what bothered them but they

were, I think--I like Czechs in spite of all that what happened. I think of them well.

Q DO YOU THINK IT WAS DIFFERENT IN PRAGUE ALL TOGETHER FROM THE LITTLE VILLAGES YOU GREW UP IN THAT MADE ANY DIFFERENCE IN PRAGUE?

Spelling  
A No. I had an uncle that lived in Prague and they took all the Jews, and they took them to [Telazeen] and we never heard about them.

Q YOU KNOW, THERE WAS A TREMENDOUS, JEWISH COMMUNITY IN PRAGUE?

A Yes.

MR. JACOBY: My company the [Kraubererguaershauff], they had seven directors it was a big company. The day the Nazis took over, they were all shot because a rumor that they transferred money to America or something all the seven directors were shot.

Q WERE THEY JEWISH, THERE?

A Jews, yeah, Jews, all Jews, all the Jewish directors, the others took over.

Q YEAH.

MRS. JACOBY: But this was not--this had not too much to do with the Czechs.

MR. JACOBY: No, this is the Nazis did it, the Germans did it.

Q HE WAS ALREADY ON TO THE GERMANS.

A Yeah, of course, the Germans. I'm talking

about the Germans.