

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:42,800

2
00:00:42,800 --> 00:00:44,230
OK.

3
00:00:44,230 --> 00:00:50,026
Today is February 7, 2001.

4
00:00:50,026 --> 00:00:54,420
We are at the Peninsula
Temple Beth El.

5
00:00:54,420 --> 00:00:58,170
And we're interviewing
Marie Brandstetter.

6
00:00:58,170 --> 00:01:00,150
My name's Peter
Ryan, interviewer.

7
00:01:00,150 --> 00:01:02,600
Anne Green Saldinger
is doing the videotape.

8
00:01:02,600 --> 00:01:05,820

9
00:01:05,820 --> 00:01:10,150
Could we begin by my asking you
where and when you were born?

10
00:01:10,150 --> 00:01:13,020
I was born in Kalisz, Poland.

11
00:01:13,020 --> 00:01:16,660
And you want to
know my date, too?

12
00:01:16,660 --> 00:01:21,460
In January 20, 1933.

13
00:01:21,460 --> 00:01:23,310
And where is Kalisz?

14
00:01:23,310 --> 00:01:30,210
Kalisz is-- well, it's
in the part of Poland

15
00:01:30,210 --> 00:01:33,000
what used to belong to
Germany a long time ago.

16
00:01:33,000 --> 00:01:34,350
So it's western Poland.

17
00:01:34,350 --> 00:01:39,270
Yes, it's between Poznan,
somehow, and Lodz.

18
00:01:39,270 --> 00:01:41,700
That's the way I see it.

19
00:01:41,700 --> 00:01:45,030
I'm not exactly sure I
know how to explain it.

20
00:01:45,030 --> 00:01:49,590
But it's-- you
have to go on the--

21
00:01:49,590 --> 00:01:51,720
I don't know whether
it's west or south.

22
00:01:51,720 --> 00:01:54,120
But that's the only way I
know how to explain that.

23
00:01:54,120 --> 00:01:56,358
And how big a-- was
it a city or a town?

24

00:01:56,358 --> 00:01:57,150

Yes, it was a city.

25

00:01:57,150 --> 00:02:01,080

Actually, I was born in Blaszkki,
in the city of little town

26

00:02:01,080 --> 00:02:02,340

Blaszki between--

27

00:02:02,340 --> 00:02:04,530

that is between Kalisz and Lodz.

28

00:02:04,530 --> 00:02:07,870

But we-- after I was born, we
moved to the city of Kalisz.

29

00:02:07,870 --> 00:02:09,810

So my brother was
born there, too.

30

00:02:09,810 --> 00:02:13,140

So I just forget to say
that I'm born in Blaszkki.

31

00:02:13,140 --> 00:02:15,090

That's a small little tiny town.

32

00:02:15,090 --> 00:02:18,000

That's where most of my
families were born there,

33

00:02:18,000 --> 00:02:19,470

in that little town.

34

00:02:19,470 --> 00:02:22,050

How many were in your family?

35

00:02:22,050 --> 00:02:24,980

In my immediate family was
my brother, my mother, and I.

36

00:02:24,980 --> 00:02:26,520
That's just four.

37
00:02:26,520 --> 00:02:32,020
But my mother comes
from 14 children.

38
00:02:32,020 --> 00:02:35,790
And my father comes from
eight boys and two girls.

39
00:02:35,790 --> 00:02:38,730

40
00:02:38,730 --> 00:02:41,040
And what did your father do?

41
00:02:41,040 --> 00:02:44,250
The older brothers
that were in Poland,

42
00:02:44,250 --> 00:02:46,350
they owned a bus company.

43
00:02:46,350 --> 00:02:50,860
And that bus was going
from Kalisz to Lodz.

44
00:02:50,860 --> 00:02:52,180
That's what he did.

45
00:02:52,180 --> 00:02:54,520
Did he own it or did
he drive also or what?

46
00:02:54,520 --> 00:02:55,390
He didn't drive it.

47
00:02:55,390 --> 00:02:56,350
No, he owned it.

48
00:02:56,350 --> 00:02:58,990

But he used to take
sometimes go through

49
00:02:58,990 --> 00:03:03,490
from the office of Kalisz
to the office of Lodz

50
00:03:03,490 --> 00:03:05,330
and sometimes gone
for a whole day.

51
00:03:05,330 --> 00:03:08,980
And most of the time, he
was on the bus helping

52
00:03:08,980 --> 00:03:10,360
whatever he needed to do there.

53
00:03:10,360 --> 00:03:15,640
And that's what I
remember him doing.

54
00:03:15,640 --> 00:03:19,020
And what kind of a lodging
did you have there?

55
00:03:19,020 --> 00:03:22,150

56
00:03:22,150 --> 00:03:25,270
We didn't have a home, but
it was an apartment-like.

57
00:03:25,270 --> 00:03:27,490
I think that was
an apartment-like.

58
00:03:27,490 --> 00:03:29,350
And we lived right--

59
00:03:29,350 --> 00:03:35,530
in back of our apartment
was a big river.

60
00:03:35,530 --> 00:03:39,370
And it was the river--

61
00:03:39,370 --> 00:03:41,230
oh, just skip my mind.

62
00:03:41,230 --> 00:03:42,550
I have it in my book.

63
00:03:42,550 --> 00:03:45,130

64
00:03:45,130 --> 00:03:46,660
And I crossed the river.

65
00:03:46,660 --> 00:03:48,550
I can always remember
seeing a jail.

66
00:03:48,550 --> 00:03:50,380
And to the right
of that apartment

67
00:03:50,380 --> 00:03:53,320
I remember was a beautiful,
beautiful big park that we

68
00:03:53,320 --> 00:03:55,330
spent quite a bit in Kalisz.

69
00:03:55,330 --> 00:03:58,630

70
00:03:58,630 --> 00:04:00,620
You were older
than your brother?

71
00:04:00,620 --> 00:04:01,120
Yes.

72

00:04:01,120 --> 00:04:04,460

I am two and a half years
older than my brother.

73

00:04:04,460 --> 00:04:06,590

What were your parents' names?

74

00:04:06,590 --> 00:04:10,240

My mother's name was Ida Zelter.

75

00:04:10,240 --> 00:04:12,880

And her maiden name was Messer.

76

00:04:12,880 --> 00:04:18,149

My father's name
was Chaim Zelter.

77

00:04:18,149 --> 00:04:20,480

She came from a
family of 14 children.

78

00:04:20,480 --> 00:04:21,010

Yes.

79

00:04:21,010 --> 00:04:25,080

And where was she
age-wise in the 14?

80

00:04:25,080 --> 00:04:27,433

Oh, that's a difficult question.

81

00:04:27,433 --> 00:04:29,100

I never could find
out from all of them.

82

00:04:29,100 --> 00:04:33,940

I know that her brother
that died after her,

83

00:04:33,940 --> 00:04:37,840

he was one of the
oldest that survived.

84

00:04:37,840 --> 00:04:42,830

She was-- I think she-- no,
I'm really not sure exactly.

85

00:04:42,830 --> 00:04:46,600

But she was not the youngest,
and she was not the oldest.

86

00:04:46,600 --> 00:04:48,190

The oldest were all--

87

00:04:48,190 --> 00:04:49,300

they all perished.

88

00:04:49,300 --> 00:04:52,220

But she was one
somewhere in the middle.

89

00:04:52,220 --> 00:04:55,000

And your father, he came
from a family of eight?

90

00:04:55,000 --> 00:04:57,370

My father came a
family of eight.

91

00:04:57,370 --> 00:04:59,740

And he was the youngest
in the family--

92

00:04:59,740 --> 00:05:01,750

a family of eight
boys and two girls.

93

00:05:01,750 --> 00:05:04,640

But he was the
youngest of the family.

94

00:05:04,640 --> 00:05:06,055

Yes.

95

00:05:06,055 --> 00:05:07,180

There were eight boys and--

96

00:05:07,180 --> 00:05:08,347

And two girls.

97

00:05:08,347 --> 00:05:09,430

So there was a family of--

98

00:05:09,430 --> 00:05:10,030

Of 10.

99

00:05:10,030 --> 00:05:12,570

I see.

100

00:05:12,570 --> 00:05:15,860

What do you remember about
your early life there?

101

00:05:15,860 --> 00:05:20,270

Well, I know that
I had a happy life.

102

00:05:20,270 --> 00:05:21,470

It was a wonderful life.

103

00:05:21,470 --> 00:05:25,280

We had a very big family,
very close family.

104

00:05:25,280 --> 00:05:29,830

We all used to meet on Saturdays
and go to that beautiful park.

105

00:05:29,830 --> 00:05:31,330

We always get dressed up.

106

00:05:31,330 --> 00:05:34,660

And I think I was the
apple of my father's eye.

107

00:05:34,660 --> 00:05:36,190

And I didn't want

to have a brother

108
00:05:36,190 --> 00:05:37,420
even before he was born.

109
00:05:37,420 --> 00:05:39,280
I used to tell, I
don't want a brother.

110
00:05:39,280 --> 00:05:40,990
I'm going to throw
him in the ocean--

111
00:05:40,990 --> 00:05:44,350
in the river on the
balcony, off the balcony,

112
00:05:44,350 --> 00:05:46,480
but was very happy
after he came.

113
00:05:46,480 --> 00:05:49,690
It was a one-bedroom apartment.

114
00:05:49,690 --> 00:05:52,630
We were very happy.

115
00:05:52,630 --> 00:05:56,530
I really cannot remember
anything else that wasn't not

116
00:05:56,530 --> 00:05:57,580
but happy occasions.

117
00:05:57,580 --> 00:06:04,090
My father was a very soft-spoken
person, very gentle person.

118
00:06:04,090 --> 00:06:06,610
When we used to go
out on Saturdays,

119

00:06:06,610 --> 00:06:09,430
he made sure that Sam's
little shoe's on right,

120
00:06:09,430 --> 00:06:12,340
my pigtails would be with
the right bows on it,

121
00:06:12,340 --> 00:06:15,850
and my shirt would be buttoned
and all dressed would be--

122
00:06:15,850 --> 00:06:19,330
I always was dressed
up like a little doll.

123
00:06:19,330 --> 00:06:19,840
Yes.

124
00:06:19,840 --> 00:06:22,540
And we always used to
take a walk in the park.

125
00:06:22,540 --> 00:06:25,750
And they always took the same--

126
00:06:25,750 --> 00:06:29,350
that was the enjoyment of
Saturday walking into the park.

127
00:06:29,350 --> 00:06:34,510
Now-- and I also remember
when my brother was born.

128
00:06:34,510 --> 00:06:36,440
I'm two and a half
years older than him.

129
00:06:36,440 --> 00:06:40,640
But I remember the
day because my uncle,

130
00:06:40,640 --> 00:06:42,220

one of my mother's
brothers which was

131
00:06:42,220 --> 00:06:45,340
very close with my father, he--

132
00:06:45,340 --> 00:06:47,770
my mother had my
brother at home.

133
00:06:47,770 --> 00:06:50,920
And he told me that I'm going
to have a little brother.

134
00:06:50,920 --> 00:06:51,430
Let's go.

135
00:06:51,430 --> 00:06:53,472
We're going to wait for
your father on the corner

136
00:06:53,472 --> 00:06:55,330
and tell him the news
that he was born.

137
00:06:55,330 --> 00:06:58,440
And I remember just like
I would be there now.

138
00:06:58,440 --> 00:06:59,710
And I was two and a half.

139
00:06:59,710 --> 00:07:01,550
Was that exciting,
to tell him the news?

140
00:07:01,550 --> 00:07:02,050
Yes.

141
00:07:02,050 --> 00:07:04,240
We were standing on the
corners when he got off

142

00:07:04,240 --> 00:07:06,040
the bus to come home.

143

00:07:06,040 --> 00:07:08,890
I can even remember where he
walked, the street that he

144

00:07:08,890 --> 00:07:09,970
walked to our house.

145

00:07:09,970 --> 00:07:13,030
If they would take me back and
put me there on that street,

146

00:07:13,030 --> 00:07:16,090
I would go directly
to the place.

147

00:07:16,090 --> 00:07:18,400
And he loved me very much.

148

00:07:18,400 --> 00:07:21,460
And he picked me up and
carried me back to the house.

149

00:07:21,460 --> 00:07:24,660
And my uncle and him
were walking together.

150

00:07:24,660 --> 00:07:28,780
And he was all excited
about having another child.

151

00:07:28,780 --> 00:07:31,670
My uncle, that particular
one, my mother's brother,

152

00:07:31,670 --> 00:07:38,890
he was the one that was one of
the survivors in this family.

153

00:07:38,890 --> 00:07:40,000

One of the few?

154
00:07:40,000 --> 00:07:41,590
One of the few just--

155
00:07:41,590 --> 00:07:43,160
but he went to Russia.

156
00:07:43,160 --> 00:07:46,510
So they stayed in
a camp in Russia.

157
00:07:46,510 --> 00:07:49,240
Now, did you go to school
at all in that time?

158
00:07:49,240 --> 00:07:52,420
Yes, I was in a preschool.

159
00:07:52,420 --> 00:07:53,750
They used to call those--

160
00:07:53,750 --> 00:07:56,020
in Europe, they call
those kindergarten.

161
00:07:56,020 --> 00:07:57,670
But it was a preschool.

162
00:07:57,670 --> 00:07:59,470
It's--

163
00:07:59,470 --> 00:08:00,670
Before formal school.

164
00:08:00,670 --> 00:08:01,760
Before formal school.

165
00:08:01,760 --> 00:08:03,350
Right.

166

00:08:03,350 --> 00:08:04,620
Was your family Orthodox?

167
00:08:04,620 --> 00:08:05,130
No.

168
00:08:05,130 --> 00:08:06,340
No.

169
00:08:06,340 --> 00:08:08,770
My grandpa-- I never
met my grandpa.

170
00:08:08,770 --> 00:08:13,900
My grandpa from my mother's side
was a shammash in the temple.

171
00:08:13,900 --> 00:08:18,280
And I just received
from them a picture.

172
00:08:18,280 --> 00:08:20,590
The same cousin that gave
me my other pictures,

173
00:08:20,590 --> 00:08:22,570
he sent me a picture
of my grandpa--

174
00:08:22,570 --> 00:08:26,050
which I've never seen either--
is from my father's side.

175
00:08:26,050 --> 00:08:28,660
I never did ask
him what he does.

176
00:08:28,660 --> 00:08:31,870
It never entered my mind
to say, what did you do?

177
00:08:31,870 --> 00:08:34,570
So I don't know what he did.

178
00:08:34,570 --> 00:08:38,620
How far away was your father's
business from where you lived?

179
00:08:38,620 --> 00:08:40,059
In the same city.

180
00:08:40,059 --> 00:08:40,929
In the same city.

181
00:08:40,929 --> 00:08:43,780
And if one of the
buses would come by,

182
00:08:43,780 --> 00:08:46,780
they would all gather
in front of the office.

183
00:08:46,780 --> 00:08:49,840
I have pictures of many
in front of the office.

184
00:08:49,840 --> 00:08:52,870
And they might have
had an office in Lodz,

185
00:08:52,870 --> 00:08:55,797
too, because this is where
their destination was.

186
00:08:55,797 --> 00:08:57,130
So I don't know much about Lodz.

187
00:08:57,130 --> 00:08:59,350
But I do know that this--

188
00:08:59,350 --> 00:09:01,100
So really between
those two cities.

189
00:09:01,100 --> 00:09:02,350

Only between those two cities.

190
00:09:02,350 --> 00:09:02,933
Only between--

191
00:09:02,933 --> 00:09:08,290
On the way-- sometimes I
remember he was taking me.

192
00:09:08,290 --> 00:09:10,210
That's all before the war.

193
00:09:10,210 --> 00:09:12,730
He would take me along--

194
00:09:12,730 --> 00:09:15,820
and I'd love to go
with him on the bus--

195
00:09:15,820 --> 00:09:17,560
and drop me off
in Blaszkowski where I

196
00:09:17,560 --> 00:09:19,600
was born, where a
lot of our family

197
00:09:19,600 --> 00:09:22,510
lived, and picked me
up on the way back,

198
00:09:22,510 --> 00:09:25,150
because I even remember
how that city looked.

199
00:09:25,150 --> 00:09:28,428
It was one stop and one
stop only at the time.

200
00:09:28,428 --> 00:09:29,470
And he would drop me off.

201

00:09:29,470 --> 00:09:31,390

And my family would be
there picking me up.

202

00:09:31,390 --> 00:09:32,920

And I spend with
the cousins a day.

203

00:09:32,920 --> 00:09:37,000

And then on the way back
home, he'd pick me up.

204

00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:39,385

That's how that route ran.

205

00:09:39,385 --> 00:09:42,556

206

00:09:42,556 --> 00:09:47,120

So you were about five years
old when the war started?

207

00:09:47,120 --> 00:09:50,750

1933, I was a little over
five, almost five and a half.

208

00:09:50,750 --> 00:09:53,060

Five and a half.

209

00:09:53,060 --> 00:09:55,910

Was there much of a
Jewish community in--

210

00:09:55,910 --> 00:09:57,290

Very big Jewish community.

211

00:09:57,290 --> 00:09:59,810

Yes, Kalisz had a very
big Jewish community.

212

00:09:59,810 --> 00:10:02,240

I have a book on that.

213

00:10:02,240 --> 00:10:03,770

My aunt sent me--

214

00:10:03,770 --> 00:10:07,830

now, in my older years,
somebody sends me that.

215

00:10:07,830 --> 00:10:10,220

And somebody sends me
this from Kalisz, too.

216

00:10:10,220 --> 00:10:12,950

And then when I was in Yad
Vashem, I read up on Kalisz--

217

00:10:12,950 --> 00:10:17,030

very big Jewish community.

218

00:10:17,030 --> 00:10:18,290

Now, you weren't Orthodox.

219

00:10:18,290 --> 00:10:21,150

But you were religious?

220

00:10:21,150 --> 00:10:23,990

I don't think I would
call it that we were.

221

00:10:23,990 --> 00:10:25,580

I don't know.

222

00:10:25,580 --> 00:10:26,990

My grandma was.

223

00:10:26,990 --> 00:10:28,760

My mother's mother was.

224

00:10:28,760 --> 00:10:31,880

My mother's sisters and my
mother's-- and my mother,

225

00:10:31,880 --> 00:10:33,080
they always believed.

226
00:10:33,080 --> 00:10:35,000
They're very good believers.

227
00:10:35,000 --> 00:10:40,580
And they traditionally lighted
the candles on Sabbath.

228
00:10:40,580 --> 00:10:43,580
But I don't think my
father, my father himself,

229
00:10:43,580 --> 00:10:47,420
was the kind that would go
to the temple every Saturday

230
00:10:47,420 --> 00:10:50,690
or Friday night or whatever.

231
00:10:50,690 --> 00:10:51,230
No.

232
00:10:51,230 --> 00:10:55,010
Later on in the years, my
mother married another man that

233
00:10:55,010 --> 00:10:56,370
was very religious like that.

234
00:10:56,370 --> 00:10:56,710
But we--

235
00:10:56,710 --> 00:10:58,127
Your father wasn't
very religious.

236
00:10:58,127 --> 00:10:59,300
No, I don't think so.

237
00:10:59,300 --> 00:11:02,690

238
00:11:02,690 --> 00:11:06,230
And did some of the
brothers and sisters

239
00:11:06,230 --> 00:11:07,490
live in the same community?

240
00:11:07,490 --> 00:11:08,630
All of them.

241
00:11:08,630 --> 00:11:12,000
In that particular
apartment complex,

242
00:11:12,000 --> 00:11:14,940
my mother had one sister
and one brother living

243
00:11:14,940 --> 00:11:16,820
in the same complex.

244
00:11:16,820 --> 00:11:19,700
And my aunt went back
here after the war.

245
00:11:19,700 --> 00:11:23,420
Actually, she went
back in 1990 again.

246
00:11:23,420 --> 00:11:27,200
And that place, that particular
apartment where we lived,

247
00:11:27,200 --> 00:11:28,580
it was taken down.

248
00:11:28,580 --> 00:11:32,930
And there was an office put
into it-- so next to the park.

249

00:11:32,930 --> 00:11:35,780

But three brothers
and sisters, they

250

00:11:35,780 --> 00:11:40,760

lived together in it, two
sisters and one brother

251

00:11:40,760 --> 00:11:43,640

in that particular
apartment complex.

252

00:11:43,640 --> 00:11:46,580

Do you have any memories
of the outbreak of the war?

253

00:11:46,580 --> 00:11:47,720

Yes, I have--

254

00:11:47,720 --> 00:11:50,750

I just remember almost
everything about it.

255

00:11:50,750 --> 00:11:53,210

I know that my
father went to work.

256

00:11:53,210 --> 00:11:57,350

I do remember one thing, though,
before the war broke out.

257

00:11:57,350 --> 00:11:59,690

I used to love to
sleep with them in bed.

258

00:11:59,690 --> 00:12:02,480

And my father was a smoker.

259

00:12:02,480 --> 00:12:04,700

And he would lay in
the dark in the bed.

260

00:12:04,700 --> 00:12:06,143

And I would lay next to him.

261

00:12:06,143 --> 00:12:08,060

And he would like to
listen to the radio, what

262

00:12:08,060 --> 00:12:12,440

goes on, because everybody
kind of expected a war.

263

00:12:12,440 --> 00:12:13,770

They hoped it wouldn't happen.

264

00:12:13,770 --> 00:12:16,910

And I remember he would lay
there, listen to the last--

265

00:12:16,910 --> 00:12:19,520

9 o'clock would
be the last news.

266

00:12:19,520 --> 00:12:23,120

And one night, I
remember him saying.

267

00:12:23,120 --> 00:12:26,140

He says, this is all
very well, he says.

268

00:12:26,140 --> 00:12:28,400

I'm translating it from Yiddish.

269

00:12:28,400 --> 00:12:31,880

But this is not going
to help the situation.

270

00:12:31,880 --> 00:12:34,920

I hope there's not
going to be a war,

271

00:12:34,920 --> 00:12:37,460

but there's not much
chance of not being one.

272

00:12:37,460 --> 00:12:40,100

And I remember as a child,
it just lays in my head

273

00:12:40,100 --> 00:12:44,000

that he took his cigarette,
put it out, and went to sleep.

274

00:12:44,000 --> 00:12:47,180

I used to be a
spoiled little one.

275

00:12:47,180 --> 00:12:49,430

I liked to go in
between them and sleep,

276

00:12:49,430 --> 00:12:52,100

until they put me in
the bed across the room.

277

00:12:52,100 --> 00:12:53,598

When did that happen?

278

00:12:53,598 --> 00:12:54,890

All the time when I was little.

279

00:12:54,890 --> 00:12:55,390

Oh, I see.

280

00:12:55,390 --> 00:12:57,290

My brother was-- he was
staying in his crib.

281

00:12:57,290 --> 00:12:58,700

But me, I always--

282

00:12:58,700 --> 00:13:05,490

well, also, I had a
bedwetting problem.

283

00:13:05,490 --> 00:13:08,180

So as soon as I
would wet the bed

284
00:13:08,180 --> 00:13:10,420
and I fall asleep my
own place, and they

285
00:13:10,420 --> 00:13:11,420
would have to change it.

286
00:13:11,420 --> 00:13:13,230
So they let me stay for a while.

287
00:13:13,230 --> 00:13:18,410
And that really contributed
a lot of problems in my life

288
00:13:18,410 --> 00:13:20,210
later on during the war.

289
00:13:20,210 --> 00:13:22,500
Really, I was punished
for that and so forth.

290
00:13:22,500 --> 00:13:25,550
But this is later on.

291
00:13:25,550 --> 00:13:27,490
If you liked to
sleep between them,

292
00:13:27,490 --> 00:13:30,370
that gave you an incentive
to wet the bed, didn't it?

293
00:13:30,370 --> 00:13:31,070
No.

294
00:13:31,070 --> 00:13:32,233
I would wet my own bed.

295
00:13:32,233 --> 00:13:33,650

And that's when I
used to come in.

296
00:13:33,650 --> 00:13:35,150
I would say, I don't
want to-- yeah.

297
00:13:35,150 --> 00:13:37,550
If you wet your own bed, then
you got to sleep with them.

298
00:13:37,550 --> 00:13:37,970
Maybe.

299
00:13:37,970 --> 00:13:38,470
Maybe.

300
00:13:38,470 --> 00:13:40,790
Who knows?

301
00:13:40,790 --> 00:13:45,050
Not analyst-- I couldn't
say anything about that.

302
00:13:45,050 --> 00:13:47,680

303
00:13:47,680 --> 00:13:50,560
Tell me what you remember
about the outbreak of the war.

304
00:13:50,560 --> 00:13:54,070
One morning in 1938, September--

305
00:13:54,070 --> 00:13:57,670
I remember September
the first, I think--

306
00:13:57,670 --> 00:13:59,100
my father went to work.

307
00:13:59,100 --> 00:14:00,670

My mother said goodbye to him.

308

00:14:00,670 --> 00:14:02,780

And then the next thing,
she turned on the radio.

309

00:14:02,780 --> 00:14:06,190

And she heard that
Hitler invaded Poland.

310

00:14:06,190 --> 00:14:08,990

It was unbelievable.

311

00:14:08,990 --> 00:14:11,170

Everybody was-- she was
talking to everybody.

312

00:14:11,170 --> 00:14:13,130

And everybody was
scared to death.

313

00:14:13,130 --> 00:14:14,630

My husband's going
to go to the war.

314

00:14:14,630 --> 00:14:16,720

It was chaos.

315

00:14:16,720 --> 00:14:17,800

I remember it was chaos.

316

00:14:17,800 --> 00:14:19,060

I didn't get a word.

317

00:14:19,060 --> 00:14:21,520

I didn't get any
attention that day,

318

00:14:21,520 --> 00:14:25,150

because also there was
somebody at the door

319

00:14:25,150 --> 00:14:30,250
and delivering a
telegram, I think,

320
00:14:30,250 --> 00:14:34,180
telling that my father has been
drafted to the Polish army.

321
00:14:34,180 --> 00:14:37,090
And unfortunately, he
was the only one, only

322
00:14:37,090 --> 00:14:39,070
one of all the families.

323
00:14:39,070 --> 00:14:41,463
From my mother's side,
from my father's side,

324
00:14:41,463 --> 00:14:42,880
he was the only
one because he was

325
00:14:42,880 --> 00:14:47,340
the youngest of all the
families at the time.

326
00:14:47,340 --> 00:14:47,840
He was--

327
00:14:47,840 --> 00:14:48,820
Do you know how old he was then?

328
00:14:48,820 --> 00:14:49,450
Yes.

329
00:14:49,450 --> 00:14:52,210
I don't know how old he was
then, but I could add it.

330
00:14:52,210 --> 00:14:55,750
But he was born in 1905.

331

00:14:55,750 --> 00:14:59,220

No, my mother was born in 1908.

332

00:14:59,220 --> 00:15:00,160

He was born in 1905.

333

00:15:00,160 --> 00:15:01,330

Yes.

334

00:15:01,330 --> 00:15:02,530

Anyway, he went to work.

335

00:15:02,530 --> 00:15:05,530

And my mother was-- she started
crying because she heard

336

00:15:05,530 --> 00:15:07,660

that he was the only
one that was going

337

00:15:07,660 --> 00:15:08,950

to be taken into the army.

338

00:15:08,950 --> 00:15:12,640

339

00:15:12,640 --> 00:15:14,710

She cried all day long.

340

00:15:14,710 --> 00:15:17,110

And I couldn't figure
this at the time

341

00:15:17,110 --> 00:15:20,050

out, this whole situation.

342

00:15:20,050 --> 00:15:22,270

I was five and a half, almost.

343

00:15:22,270 --> 00:15:27,345

And she couldn't wait for him

to come home and tell him.

344

00:15:27,345 --> 00:15:28,720

She wishes he
wouldn't come home.

345

00:15:28,720 --> 00:15:30,595

She kept saying, I wish
he wouldn't come home

346

00:15:30,595 --> 00:15:31,570

so he can run away--

347

00:15:31,570 --> 00:15:33,820

at least save himself.

348

00:15:33,820 --> 00:15:37,960

But when he came home and she
told him and she told him,

349

00:15:37,960 --> 00:15:39,250

you know what?

350

00:15:39,250 --> 00:15:40,870

They don't even
have records of you.

351

00:15:40,870 --> 00:15:43,570

I'm sure you're not
even registered.

352

00:15:43,570 --> 00:15:46,000

Let's just take the
children and run away.

353

00:15:46,000 --> 00:15:51,020

Let's save ourselves, because
the news was very bad.

354

00:15:51,020 --> 00:15:52,030

And he said, no.

355

00:15:52,030 --> 00:15:54,250
He says, I can't do it.

356
00:15:54,250 --> 00:15:57,430
I need to go serve in the army.

357
00:15:57,430 --> 00:15:59,740
But she pleaded with him
and pleaded with him.

358
00:15:59,740 --> 00:16:03,370
He had two days to get ready.

359
00:16:03,370 --> 00:16:06,490
And I'll never forget
the day he finally left.

360
00:16:06,490 --> 00:16:07,270
She cried.

361
00:16:07,270 --> 00:16:07,960
I cried.

362
00:16:07,960 --> 00:16:09,760
And I kept telling
him, don't go.

363
00:16:09,760 --> 00:16:12,520
And now, he said, I want
you to take the children.

364
00:16:12,520 --> 00:16:14,050
And I want you to
save the children.

365
00:16:14,050 --> 00:16:15,130
And I want you to run.

366
00:16:15,130 --> 00:16:18,337
And wherever you can,
hide until this is over.

367

00:16:18,337 --> 00:16:19,420
He says, it won't be long.

368
00:16:19,420 --> 00:16:20,650
It will be over.

369
00:16:20,650 --> 00:16:22,270
That's all they ever hoped.

370
00:16:22,270 --> 00:16:23,950
It will be over.

371
00:16:23,950 --> 00:16:29,710
And he would not give
in on this situation

372
00:16:29,710 --> 00:16:31,913
to tell what mother
suggested, to run off.

373
00:16:31,913 --> 00:16:33,580
And they would never
know the difference

374
00:16:33,580 --> 00:16:35,440
because that's
what everybody did

375
00:16:35,440 --> 00:16:37,690
if they didn't want
to serve in this army,

376
00:16:37,690 --> 00:16:41,140
knowing they're going
to get killed, anyway.

377
00:16:41,140 --> 00:16:42,670
Well, my father left.

378
00:16:42,670 --> 00:16:46,420
And she said she's not going
to budge out of the house.

379

00:16:46,420 --> 00:16:50,140

She wouldn't budge from the house until he came back.

380

00:16:50,140 --> 00:16:52,990

Well, two days later after he left,

381

00:16:52,990 --> 00:16:55,810

two days later, he was still laying out in a field.

382

00:16:55,810 --> 00:16:58,570

They were all the people that came to register

383

00:16:58,570 --> 00:17:00,490

and be put with uniforms.

384

00:17:00,490 --> 00:17:01,570

The war was going on.

385

00:17:01,570 --> 00:17:03,610

How long did it take for Poland to be taken?

386

00:17:03,610 --> 00:17:05,530

It wasn't that long.

387

00:17:05,530 --> 00:17:07,329

He came home.

388

00:17:07,329 --> 00:17:09,740

And they didn't even know he was gone.

389

00:17:09,740 --> 00:17:12,440

So she says, now, let's do it.

390

00:17:12,440 --> 00:17:12,940

Let's do it.

391

00:17:12,940 --> 00:17:13,510

He came home.

392

00:17:13,510 --> 00:17:14,650

He shaved.

393

00:17:14,650 --> 00:17:15,940

He took a shower.

394

00:17:15,940 --> 00:17:18,190

And he went back,
because he was afraid.

395

00:17:18,190 --> 00:17:21,130

He kept saying to her,
if the Germans are not

396

00:17:21,130 --> 00:17:22,900

going to get us,
then somebody's going

397

00:17:22,900 --> 00:17:24,280

to get me from the Polish army.

398

00:17:24,280 --> 00:17:28,540

And I'll be dead one way or the
other if I don't do what they--

399

00:17:28,540 --> 00:17:30,770

he was not brave
in this situation.

400

00:17:30,770 --> 00:17:33,970

So he went back.

401

00:17:33,970 --> 00:17:37,890

And she told him, I'm not moving
from this house, she says.

402

00:17:37,890 --> 00:17:38,950

And this is how it was.

403

00:17:38,950 --> 00:17:41,870

We stayed there until 1940.

404

00:17:41,870 --> 00:17:44,350

But a lot of things
happened in between.

405

00:17:44,350 --> 00:17:48,010

He saw the bombed-out city.

406

00:17:48,010 --> 00:17:49,210

We went to Lodz.

407

00:17:49,210 --> 00:17:50,350

We ran to Lodz.

408

00:17:50,350 --> 00:17:54,130

We took the family bus and all
the family we could put in.

409

00:17:54,130 --> 00:17:55,360

We ran to Lodz.

410

00:17:55,360 --> 00:17:56,160

Then they bombed--

411

00:17:56,160 --> 00:17:56,980

Voluntarily?

412

00:17:56,980 --> 00:17:57,970

Yes, voluntarily.

413

00:17:57,970 --> 00:18:01,600

We took one of our buses
and put the family, as many

414

00:18:01,600 --> 00:18:03,190

of the family we could get in--

415

00:18:03,190 --> 00:18:04,180

ran to Lodz.

416
00:18:04,180 --> 00:18:05,620
This is after the war is over?

417
00:18:05,620 --> 00:18:07,180
No, this is still
during the war,

418
00:18:07,180 --> 00:18:10,600
while they were bombing our
city, while my father was

419
00:18:10,600 --> 00:18:11,770
in the army already.

420
00:18:11,770 --> 00:18:16,390
And then we came to Lodz--
didn't have where to stay.

421
00:18:16,390 --> 00:18:18,760
And they started
coming there bad.

422
00:18:18,760 --> 00:18:22,060
So all the family, we
just went right back home.

423
00:18:22,060 --> 00:18:23,890
When we came home,
that's when we

424
00:18:23,890 --> 00:18:26,230
found everything
shattered and bombed,

425
00:18:26,230 --> 00:18:29,350
but not as bad in our
city as it was in Lodz.

426
00:18:29,350 --> 00:18:34,240
But on the way driving home
from Lodz on the buses, we saw--

427

00:18:34,240 --> 00:18:37,540

that was only, what,
maybe a week or so later.

428

00:18:37,540 --> 00:18:43,780

We saw all these soldiers
walking like tired and broken

429

00:18:43,780 --> 00:18:48,690

down and shattered and all these
horses laying on the roads.

430

00:18:48,690 --> 00:18:50,640

They didn't have
highways in those days,

431

00:18:50,640 --> 00:18:53,940

just horses, the
horses that they

432

00:18:53,940 --> 00:18:55,920

were shot during the fight.

433

00:18:55,920 --> 00:19:00,540

And there was walking by
a battalion of soldiers.

434

00:19:00,540 --> 00:19:04,000

We found out later on that
one of them was my father.

435

00:19:04,000 --> 00:19:06,300

We were afraid to open the door.

436

00:19:06,300 --> 00:19:08,310

But he was afraid to--

437

00:19:08,310 --> 00:19:12,060

he didn't know who was inside,
because we were hiding.

438

00:19:12,060 --> 00:19:14,670

Everything was-- the
windows on the bus

439
00:19:14,670 --> 00:19:16,860
were kind of covered so
they wouldn't see who's

440
00:19:16,860 --> 00:19:18,990
inside if it were Germans.

441
00:19:18,990 --> 00:19:24,420
And later when we corresponded,
which comes very much later--

442
00:19:24,420 --> 00:19:27,840
when we were in Russia,
we corresponded with him.

443
00:19:27,840 --> 00:19:30,630
We found out that he
saw the bus that day.

444
00:19:30,630 --> 00:19:32,520
But he could have run off there.

445
00:19:32,520 --> 00:19:35,340
And again, he didn't take
a chance with this thing.

446
00:19:35,340 --> 00:19:36,750
He came back.

447
00:19:36,750 --> 00:19:38,250
We were ready.

448
00:19:38,250 --> 00:19:40,470
Well, that's the time he saw us.

449
00:19:40,470 --> 00:19:42,270
And where they were
going, I don't know.

450

00:19:42,270 --> 00:19:43,510
I cannot tell you.

451
00:19:43,510 --> 00:19:45,810
But I do know they looked
like they just went

452
00:19:45,810 --> 00:19:48,150
through a very heavy battle.

453
00:19:48,150 --> 00:19:51,960
And inside the bus, I do
remember somebody saying

454
00:19:51,960 --> 00:19:54,810
from the family, I hope--

455
00:19:54,810 --> 00:19:57,480
I wonder if Chaim is
between these soldiers.

456
00:19:57,480 --> 00:19:59,250
I wonder if Chaim is
between the soldiers.

457
00:19:59,250 --> 00:20:01,290
But nobody would open up.

458
00:20:01,290 --> 00:20:03,660
They covered these
windows in the bus.

459
00:20:03,660 --> 00:20:06,210
Only the bus driver got
to see how to drive.

460
00:20:06,210 --> 00:20:10,020
Nobody else could see out
much, unless you peeked out.

461
00:20:10,020 --> 00:20:13,020
Well, this is when we
came back to Poland.

462
00:20:13,020 --> 00:20:15,540
And again, my mother
stayed on and waited.

463
00:20:15,540 --> 00:20:20,010
But there was one sister of
hers which is still alive today.

464
00:20:20,010 --> 00:20:25,050
She was 18, almost
18, then, Sophie.

465
00:20:25,050 --> 00:20:27,270
She was also blonde,
just like myself

466
00:20:27,270 --> 00:20:29,350
and my mother and my brother.

467
00:20:29,350 --> 00:20:33,060
And we were the only ones
from the family left in town.

468
00:20:33,060 --> 00:20:35,040
And she kept telling,
we have to go.

469
00:20:35,040 --> 00:20:36,420
We have to go.

470
00:20:36,420 --> 00:20:38,520
But my mother says, no,
I'm going to sit here

471
00:20:38,520 --> 00:20:39,673
until Chaim comes home.

472
00:20:39,673 --> 00:20:41,590
All the other people had
left from the family?

473

00:20:41,590 --> 00:20:43,560

Everybody had left
from the families.

474

00:20:43,560 --> 00:20:44,220

They all left.

475

00:20:44,220 --> 00:20:46,750

Wherever they went, I
don't know at the time.

476

00:20:46,750 --> 00:20:47,790

But they were all--

477

00:20:47,790 --> 00:20:49,830

they left the town
so they would not

478

00:20:49,830 --> 00:20:52,530

be prosecuted from the Germans.

479

00:20:52,530 --> 00:20:55,890

Well, but we just didn't
sit home waiting for dad.

480

00:20:55,890 --> 00:20:58,740

My mother stayed on
that corner which

481

00:20:58,740 --> 00:21:01,170

I mentioned to you before.

482

00:21:01,170 --> 00:21:03,450

She stayed there
with us in one hand,

483

00:21:03,450 --> 00:21:06,870

my brother in the other
hand, 24 hours a night--

484

00:21:06,870 --> 00:21:07,580

I mean a day.

485

00:21:07,580 --> 00:21:08,580

Waiting for your father?

486

00:21:08,580 --> 00:21:12,660

Waiting for my father to get
off that and come back home,

487

00:21:12,660 --> 00:21:14,710

until my brother got very sick.

488

00:21:14,710 --> 00:21:17,100

He had the mumps.

489

00:21:17,100 --> 00:21:21,540

And in those days, mumps, I
understand they got infected.

490

00:21:21,540 --> 00:21:24,930

They got infected and had to
be operated so the pus would

491

00:21:24,930 --> 00:21:27,450

be taken out and whatever.

492

00:21:27,450 --> 00:21:30,030

And nobody-- she was
afraid to go to anybody.

493

00:21:30,030 --> 00:21:30,810

She took a chance.

494

00:21:30,810 --> 00:21:32,430

She went to this one doctor.

495

00:21:32,430 --> 00:21:33,990

He said he'll do it.

496

00:21:33,990 --> 00:21:36,270

He was not Jewish, but
he said he'll do it.

497

00:21:36,270 --> 00:21:39,810
But she has to promise to take
the child right that night out

498
00:21:39,810 --> 00:21:43,260
of here and out of town so
the Germans won't find out,

499
00:21:43,260 --> 00:21:45,450
because we didn't look Jewish.

500
00:21:45,450 --> 00:21:47,460
That's why we could stay.

501
00:21:47,460 --> 00:21:48,868
Nobody bothered us.

502
00:21:48,868 --> 00:21:50,910
The people in the town
knew, though, didn't they?

503
00:21:50,910 --> 00:21:53,490
Yeah, the people in the town,
the Polish people in the town,

504
00:21:53,490 --> 00:21:53,990
knew.

505
00:21:53,990 --> 00:21:55,800
But at that time, I
suppose they still

506
00:21:55,800 --> 00:21:57,670
didn't tell on each other.

507
00:21:57,670 --> 00:22:00,180
But there were no
Jews in town left.

508
00:22:00,180 --> 00:22:00,700
And we--

509

00:22:00,700 --> 00:22:03,150

And the doctor was not
supposed to treat--

510

00:22:03,150 --> 00:22:03,970

A Jewish person.

511

00:22:03,970 --> 00:22:04,470

Right.

512

00:22:04,470 --> 00:22:06,280

And he knew that we were Jewish.

513

00:22:06,280 --> 00:22:08,580

So he made mom
promise that she'll

514

00:22:08,580 --> 00:22:12,210

take us right out
of town, out, so he

515

00:22:12,210 --> 00:22:15,520

doesn't get caught on that.

516

00:22:15,520 --> 00:22:16,740

Well, she did.

517

00:22:16,740 --> 00:22:17,920

We didn't take much.

518

00:22:17,920 --> 00:22:21,330

I only had about five dresses
or six dresses, seven petticoats

519

00:22:21,330 --> 00:22:21,840

underneath.

520

00:22:21,840 --> 00:22:24,660

And she even took a chalice.

521

00:22:24,660 --> 00:22:27,000

And she took some silver

dollars that she pinned it

522

00:22:27,000 --> 00:22:27,990
between our legs.

523

00:22:27,990 --> 00:22:31,140
And she put all these dresses
on me and all these petticoats

524

00:22:31,140 --> 00:22:32,280
because I could walk.

525

00:22:32,280 --> 00:22:35,070
My brother, after
surgery, he couldn't.

526

00:22:35,070 --> 00:22:36,240
And my aunt was with us.

527

00:22:36,240 --> 00:22:37,860
And she took things.

528

00:22:37,860 --> 00:22:40,980
But I remember that particular
thing that she took,

529

00:22:40,980 --> 00:22:43,770
what she carried beside
my brother, was a chalice.

530

00:22:43,770 --> 00:22:45,090
She had a--

531

00:22:45,090 --> 00:22:46,620
I'm sure I pronounce it right.

532

00:22:46,620 --> 00:22:50,390
It's a [HEBREW],, what
you drink wine out of.

533

00:22:50,390 --> 00:22:52,650
She got for her wedding--

534
00:22:52,650 --> 00:22:53,540
how do you say it?

535
00:22:53,540 --> 00:22:54,270
A--

536
00:22:54,270 --> 00:22:54,900
Chalice.

537
00:22:54,900 --> 00:22:55,500
Chalice.

538
00:22:55,500 --> 00:22:56,520
There you go.

539
00:22:56,520 --> 00:22:58,770
And she wanted to
hold on to this thing

540
00:22:58,770 --> 00:23:00,853
because her parents gave
her that for her wedding.

541
00:23:00,853 --> 00:23:02,020
That meant something to her.

542
00:23:02,020 --> 00:23:03,360
It meant something to her.

543
00:23:03,360 --> 00:23:05,560
But it came in handy later on.

544
00:23:05,560 --> 00:23:08,400
Now, the aunt, the aunt is
the sister of your mother?

545
00:23:08,400 --> 00:23:09,570
Mother.

546
00:23:09,570 --> 00:23:12,000

That was my mother's
next-to-youngest sister.

547
00:23:12,000 --> 00:23:14,370
The youngest sister
was already gone.

548
00:23:14,370 --> 00:23:16,285
That comes later.

549
00:23:16,285 --> 00:23:18,160
This one didn't have a
boyfriend or anything,

550
00:23:18,160 --> 00:23:19,260
so she stayed with us.

551
00:23:19,260 --> 00:23:22,470
And all the time,
she stayed with us.

552
00:23:22,470 --> 00:23:29,430
When we came-- when we
went at night, we caught--

553
00:23:29,430 --> 00:23:31,440
my mother said, we're
going to catch a train.

554
00:23:31,440 --> 00:23:33,750
Wherever it's going,
we're going out that way.

555
00:23:33,750 --> 00:23:34,380
We don't know.

556
00:23:34,380 --> 00:23:36,120
We can't ask where it's going.

557
00:23:36,120 --> 00:23:38,880
There are soldiers all
over the train station.

558

00:23:38,880 --> 00:23:41,703

We're going to get on
this train and sit down.

559

00:23:41,703 --> 00:23:43,620

And wherever the train
takes-- if it takes you

560

00:23:43,620 --> 00:23:44,850

to Warsaw, fine.

561

00:23:44,850 --> 00:23:47,430

If it doesn't take you to
Warsaw, wherever it will go,

562

00:23:47,430 --> 00:23:47,930

we take.

563

00:23:47,930 --> 00:23:50,740

We can't stand on this train
station with him being--

564

00:23:50,740 --> 00:23:52,730

She didn't really have
a destination in mind.

565

00:23:52,730 --> 00:23:53,540

No.

566

00:23:53,540 --> 00:23:55,520

But she just wanted
out of the town.

567

00:23:55,520 --> 00:23:56,785

She was scared.

568

00:23:56,785 --> 00:23:59,035

Now, when you say there were
soldiers on the platform,

569

00:23:59,035 --> 00:24:00,535

were they German

soldiers or Polish?

570

00:24:00,535 --> 00:24:01,410

All German soldiers.

571

00:24:01,410 --> 00:24:02,720

No, all German soldiers.

572

00:24:02,720 --> 00:24:04,070

So the Germans had
already occupied the city?

573

00:24:04,070 --> 00:24:05,570

Yes, they already
occupied the city.

574

00:24:05,570 --> 00:24:06,560

Yes.

575

00:24:06,560 --> 00:24:07,200

And--

576

00:24:07,200 --> 00:24:10,500

Did you know if they had begun
to pick up Jewish people?

577

00:24:10,500 --> 00:24:12,200

Yes, because when
we were sitting

578

00:24:12,200 --> 00:24:14,090

in-- when we were
staying in town,

579

00:24:14,090 --> 00:24:18,890

we saw them throwing down
pamphlets, propaganda.

580

00:24:18,890 --> 00:24:20,990

We saw them throwing
candies in people.

581

00:24:20,990 --> 00:24:23,270

And the candies
would be poisonous.

582

00:24:23,270 --> 00:24:25,130

My mother wouldn't
let me touch anything.

583

00:24:25,130 --> 00:24:28,370

That's-- holding Sam on one
side and me on the other side,

584

00:24:28,370 --> 00:24:29,810

that was her life.

585

00:24:29,810 --> 00:24:32,810

And my aunt was
right there with us.

586

00:24:32,810 --> 00:24:35,098

But we left and we
got on this train.

587

00:24:35,098 --> 00:24:37,640

It happened to be-- we didn't
know where the train was going.

588

00:24:37,640 --> 00:24:39,500

But it was going to Warsaw.

589

00:24:39,500 --> 00:24:41,540

And the whole train--

590

00:24:41,540 --> 00:24:44,030

it seemed to us at that
time that the whole train

591

00:24:44,030 --> 00:24:47,450

was full of Gestapo
and German soldiers.

592

00:24:47,450 --> 00:24:48,705

And we didn't speak Yiddish.

593

00:24:48,705 --> 00:24:50,330

At that time, I
couldn't speak Yiddish.

594

00:24:50,330 --> 00:24:52,010

My mother only
spoke Polish to us.

595

00:24:52,010 --> 00:24:56,420

And my and only spoke Polish,
which was fortunate there, too.

596

00:24:56,420 --> 00:24:58,280

And now, my mother
needs to change

597

00:24:58,280 --> 00:25:01,850

my brother's dressing because he
told her within so many hours,

598

00:25:01,850 --> 00:25:03,650

you better take it because--

599

00:25:03,650 --> 00:25:06,800

so it won't get infected
again, to clean it.

600

00:25:06,800 --> 00:25:08,930

And she started taking
off his bandages

601

00:25:08,930 --> 00:25:12,230

when one of these
soldiers walked up to us.

602

00:25:12,230 --> 00:25:14,630

And he said-- he
took my brother,

603

00:25:14,630 --> 00:25:18,620

picked him up, and
started walking away.

604
00:25:18,620 --> 00:25:20,270
And my mother is just--

605
00:25:20,270 --> 00:25:21,743
she just was beside herself.

606
00:25:21,743 --> 00:25:22,910
She didn't know what to say.

607
00:25:22,910 --> 00:25:24,952
And my aunt kept telling
her, don't say anything.

608
00:25:24,952 --> 00:25:26,450
But I ran after the soldier.

609
00:25:26,450 --> 00:25:27,740
Give me back my brother.

610
00:25:27,740 --> 00:25:28,730
I want my brother back.

611
00:25:28,730 --> 00:25:30,380
In Polish, I was talking to him.

612
00:25:30,380 --> 00:25:31,700
And he didn't turn around.

613
00:25:31,700 --> 00:25:34,370
And I followed him all the
way wherever he was going.

614
00:25:34,370 --> 00:25:37,940
And that's when he
went into another car,

615
00:25:37,940 --> 00:25:43,730
set my brother down on a bench
somewhere there, like a table,

616

00:25:43,730 --> 00:25:46,250
and started changing
his dressing--

617
00:25:46,250 --> 00:25:48,950
changed his whole dressing,
picked him back up.

618
00:25:48,950 --> 00:25:50,570
And I'm screaming
there constantly.

619
00:25:50,570 --> 00:25:51,620
I want my brother back.

620
00:25:51,620 --> 00:25:53,030
I want my brother back.

621
00:25:53,030 --> 00:25:54,710
And I'm just there with him.

622
00:25:54,710 --> 00:25:58,100
He took my hand, my
brother on his arm,

623
00:25:58,100 --> 00:26:01,580
and brought him right
back to my mom's--

624
00:26:01,580 --> 00:26:06,420
put him on my mom's
knee, on her leg.

625
00:26:06,420 --> 00:26:07,370
It was unbelievable.

626
00:26:07,370 --> 00:26:09,190
She says, I can't believe it.

627
00:26:09,190 --> 00:26:11,540
I can't believe it that they
didn't know we were Jewish.

628

00:26:11,540 --> 00:26:13,123

It's like a miracle,
this whole thing.

629

00:26:13,123 --> 00:26:14,360

I didn't have to do anything.

630

00:26:14,360 --> 00:26:16,280

Well, this was one of--

631

00:26:16,280 --> 00:26:18,470

I think it was like a
miracle, because if they

632

00:26:18,470 --> 00:26:20,630

would have found out,
we would have not been--

633

00:26:20,630 --> 00:26:23,330

he couldn't have
done these things.

634

00:26:23,330 --> 00:26:24,873

We arrived in Warsaw.

635

00:26:24,873 --> 00:26:26,540

That's when we were
already on the road.

636

00:26:26,540 --> 00:26:27,650

We arrived in Warsaw.

637

00:26:27,650 --> 00:26:31,130

We could not get off that train.

638

00:26:31,130 --> 00:26:33,170

The soldiers were not
allowed to get off.

639

00:26:33,170 --> 00:26:36,410

We were not allowed to get off
because they were transporting

640
00:26:36,410 --> 00:26:38,540
Jews already like cattle.

641
00:26:38,540 --> 00:26:41,868
And there was crying,
and there was screaming.

642
00:26:41,868 --> 00:26:43,910
And there was screaming
from those little windows

643
00:26:43,910 --> 00:26:45,380
like you see in the cattle car.

644
00:26:45,380 --> 00:26:49,100
And it was absolutely
chaos on there.

645
00:26:49,100 --> 00:26:51,865
And we could just look out
the window and do nothing.

646
00:26:51,865 --> 00:26:53,240
And the soldiers
were not allowed

647
00:26:53,240 --> 00:26:55,400
to get off, because
the transports were

648
00:26:55,400 --> 00:26:59,210
going as fast as they were
filling these Jews up in there.

649
00:26:59,210 --> 00:27:01,730
So you can see it was
already quite late.

650
00:27:01,730 --> 00:27:07,250
It was already late in
1940 when we were there.

651

00:27:07,250 --> 00:27:10,970

And they didn't let us off.

652

00:27:10,970 --> 00:27:13,070

And it was terrible to see this.

653

00:27:13,070 --> 00:27:15,860

And I didn't understand
much at the time.

654

00:27:15,860 --> 00:27:17,510

When I think back--

655

00:27:17,510 --> 00:27:21,080

you see, all this came back
to me later on in my life.

656

00:27:21,080 --> 00:27:25,490

It was there, but I remember
it just like out of a movie,

657

00:27:25,490 --> 00:27:27,410

that these people
were screaming.

658

00:27:27,410 --> 00:27:30,710

And the Germans were screaming,
schnell, mach schnell,

659

00:27:30,710 --> 00:27:31,370

mach schnell.

660

00:27:31,370 --> 00:27:32,900

You dirty Jew,
they were calling.

661

00:27:32,900 --> 00:27:35,967

662

00:27:35,967 --> 00:27:36,800

I can't think of it.

663

00:27:36,800 --> 00:27:37,520

I speak German.

664

00:27:37,520 --> 00:27:39,860

I can think of any, because
it gets me very excited when

665

00:27:39,860 --> 00:27:41,730

I talk about this.

666

00:27:41,730 --> 00:27:44,120

But nighttime came and
everything went quiet.

667

00:27:44,120 --> 00:27:45,920

When the dark came,
everything went quiet.

668

00:27:45,920 --> 00:27:47,180

There were no more trains.

669

00:27:47,180 --> 00:27:48,680

They all left.

670

00:27:48,680 --> 00:27:50,930

They let us off the train.

671

00:27:50,930 --> 00:27:54,338

The soldiers got off,
and then we got off.

672

00:27:54,338 --> 00:27:56,380

And now, my mother says,
I don't know what to do.

673

00:27:56,380 --> 00:27:57,350

She says to my--

674

00:27:57,350 --> 00:27:58,460

and I don't know where.

675

00:27:58,460 --> 00:27:59,810
It was dark.

676
00:27:59,810 --> 00:28:01,400
Warsaw was bombed.

677
00:28:01,400 --> 00:28:04,530
So we don't know what
street or where to go.

678
00:28:04,530 --> 00:28:05,780
She says, I really don't know.

679
00:28:05,780 --> 00:28:07,910
So she just started
walking with us.

680
00:28:07,910 --> 00:28:09,580
She was holding on to--

681
00:28:09,580 --> 00:28:11,705
they would change off,
my aunt and my brother.

682
00:28:11,705 --> 00:28:13,080
And I would walk
with them along.

683
00:28:13,080 --> 00:28:13,900
It was dark.

684
00:28:13,900 --> 00:28:22,270
We heard this buggy with a horse
tramping and heard the noise.

685
00:28:22,270 --> 00:28:25,510
So my aunt says, let
me do the talking.

686
00:28:25,510 --> 00:28:28,870
She stopped him, this man
with that horse and buggy.

687

00:28:28,870 --> 00:28:32,020

And she said to him,
this is my sister.

688

00:28:32,020 --> 00:28:35,380

And one child is sick, and
the other one can't walk.

689

00:28:35,380 --> 00:28:38,590

And we don't know where
we are at the moment.

690

00:28:38,590 --> 00:28:40,150

Do you think you
could tell us where

691

00:28:40,150 --> 00:28:42,640

we can go at least find
some shelter overnight,

692

00:28:42,640 --> 00:28:45,910

my sick nephew and all that?

693

00:28:45,910 --> 00:28:47,380

Excuse me.

694

00:28:47,380 --> 00:28:49,240

And he said, OK.

695

00:28:49,240 --> 00:28:50,560

He knew that we were Jewish.

696

00:28:50,560 --> 00:28:52,810

I know.

697

00:28:52,810 --> 00:28:55,130

My aunt-- later on,
we talked about it.

698

00:28:55,130 --> 00:28:58,720

He knew that we were Jewish,
because usually Poles don't

699

00:28:58,720 --> 00:29:00,880

walk around in the middle
of the night to get--

700

00:29:00,880 --> 00:29:02,680

and we had no choice.

701

00:29:02,680 --> 00:29:03,580

So he took us.

702

00:29:03,580 --> 00:29:06,140

And he drove us up to a hotel.

703

00:29:06,140 --> 00:29:08,080

And that hotel
when we walked in--

704

00:29:08,080 --> 00:29:10,000

and he said to us, good luck.

705

00:29:10,000 --> 00:29:12,880

We knew that we were betrayed
right there, because we walked

706

00:29:12,880 --> 00:29:15,670

in and they were
singing and having

707

00:29:15,670 --> 00:29:17,770

a good time at
the bar, soldiers,

708

00:29:17,770 --> 00:29:20,980

all German soldiers
and some Gestapo, too,

709

00:29:20,980 --> 00:29:23,470

with the higher rank.

710

00:29:23,470 --> 00:29:24,880

We walked in like--

711
00:29:24,880 --> 00:29:28,130
my mother, my aunt and
my holding onto my--

712
00:29:28,130 --> 00:29:29,860
my aunt was holding
on to me, my mother

713
00:29:29,860 --> 00:29:31,630
holding on to my brother.

714
00:29:31,630 --> 00:29:32,500
And we walked in.

715
00:29:32,500 --> 00:29:34,840
And this one soldier
comes out of the bar.

716
00:29:34,840 --> 00:29:37,180
It's like yesterday.

717
00:29:37,180 --> 00:29:37,780
He comes in.

718
00:29:37,780 --> 00:29:40,700
He says, what can we do for you?

719
00:29:40,700 --> 00:29:43,627
And my mother says, I need some
shelter for these children.

720
00:29:43,627 --> 00:29:45,460
She says, it's dark
outside and I don't know

721
00:29:45,460 --> 00:29:48,220
where I am, all done in Polish.

722
00:29:48,220 --> 00:29:51,860
And he tried-- and he's German.

723

00:29:51,860 --> 00:29:55,540
But I think my mother must
have understood because Yiddish

724

00:29:55,540 --> 00:29:56,650
and German are so close.

725

00:29:56,650 --> 00:30:02,990
So anyway, she
answered him in Polish.

726

00:30:02,990 --> 00:30:05,390
He took out some
candies from his pocket.

727

00:30:05,390 --> 00:30:09,530
And he gave one to me, and
then he gave one to my brother.

728

00:30:09,530 --> 00:30:11,090
And my brother just
kept holding it.

729

00:30:11,090 --> 00:30:14,330
He didn't want-- he
was not well yet.

730

00:30:14,330 --> 00:30:16,160
And my aunt kept pinching me.

731

00:30:16,160 --> 00:30:18,320
Don't eat it, because
we knew already

732

00:30:18,320 --> 00:30:19,810
what candies can do these days.

733

00:30:19,810 --> 00:30:21,320
And maybe he knows
we are Jewish.

734

00:30:21,320 --> 00:30:22,772

We never took a chance on--

735

00:30:22,772 --> 00:30:24,980

she never took a chance with
her children, my mother.

736

00:30:24,980 --> 00:30:28,130

That's the wonderful
person she was.

737

00:30:28,130 --> 00:30:30,230

And my aunt, too, when she was--

738

00:30:30,230 --> 00:30:33,620

well, actually, my aunt now, I
think of her as my other mother

739

00:30:33,620 --> 00:30:36,420

because she was only a
few years older than me.

740

00:30:36,420 --> 00:30:40,220

But that's how I think of her.

741

00:30:40,220 --> 00:30:42,980

And she says, don't eat this
because it might be poison.

742

00:30:42,980 --> 00:30:44,390

But he didn't want to go away.

743

00:30:44,390 --> 00:30:47,360

He just stood there and stirred
and stirred and stirred.

744

00:30:47,360 --> 00:30:48,710

And we were just standing there.

745

00:30:48,710 --> 00:30:51,770

And it was just my mother
having that child in her hand

746

00:30:51,770 --> 00:30:52,310
was heavy.

747
00:30:52,310 --> 00:30:54,570
And we didn't get anywhere.

748
00:30:54,570 --> 00:31:00,230
So my aunt took my brother's
candy and she ate it.

749
00:31:00,230 --> 00:31:01,940
And then she says, go ahead.

750
00:31:01,940 --> 00:31:03,380
Eat it.

751
00:31:03,380 --> 00:31:04,160
We can't help it.

752
00:31:04,160 --> 00:31:05,640
He won't go away.

753
00:31:05,640 --> 00:31:06,560
So we ate it.

754
00:31:06,560 --> 00:31:07,620
It turned out to be OK.

755
00:31:07,620 --> 00:31:11,420
Now, he says to us,
I will call somebody

756
00:31:11,420 --> 00:31:14,287
to find you someplace
to stay overnight.

757
00:31:14,287 --> 00:31:16,370
But you make sure you're
out there in the morning.

758
00:31:16,370 --> 00:31:18,170
And my mother said, yes.

759
00:31:18,170 --> 00:31:22,520
So he called the clerk over
from somewhere and says,

760
00:31:22,520 --> 00:31:26,690
find these people someplace
to stay overnight.

761
00:31:26,690 --> 00:31:30,930
And the place that they
gave us was like a closet.

762
00:31:30,930 --> 00:31:33,560
I have a walk-in closet
now looks just like that.

763
00:31:33,560 --> 00:31:34,580
In the same hotel?

764
00:31:34,580 --> 00:31:36,050
In the same hotel.

765
00:31:36,050 --> 00:31:37,290
It was pitch dark out there.

766
00:31:37,290 --> 00:31:38,720
We didn't even know if
we were on a street.

767
00:31:38,720 --> 00:31:40,303
Everything was bombed
out so we didn't

768
00:31:40,303 --> 00:31:42,350
know what street we're on.

769
00:31:42,350 --> 00:31:48,890
And he told us--

770
00:31:48,890 --> 00:31:52,400
told them to take care of us

and give them something to eat.

771

00:31:52,400 --> 00:31:54,500

They look like they
need something to eat.

772

00:31:54,500 --> 00:31:56,210

And this is what they did.

773

00:31:56,210 --> 00:31:59,390

My mother-- and the rest of the
night, she didn't go to sleep.

774

00:31:59,390 --> 00:32:01,070

My brother and I went to sleep.

775

00:32:01,070 --> 00:32:03,830

But I understand the rest of
the night was very, very quiet.

776

00:32:03,830 --> 00:32:06,770

But before we went to
sleep, she was telling me,

777

00:32:06,770 --> 00:32:08,930

you better go to
sleep because we

778

00:32:08,930 --> 00:32:10,732

have to leave here very early.

779

00:32:10,732 --> 00:32:12,440

It's going to be dark
when we leave here.

780

00:32:12,440 --> 00:32:15,560

And we're going to go--
a lot of walking to do.

781

00:32:15,560 --> 00:32:16,880

But it was daylight.

782

00:32:16,880 --> 00:32:18,410
And it was wintertime, though.

783
00:32:18,410 --> 00:32:22,160
And it was quiet in the
hotel, no more singing--

784
00:32:22,160 --> 00:32:23,600
was everything quiet.

785
00:32:23,600 --> 00:32:27,260
Any idea what month this was?

786
00:32:27,260 --> 00:32:32,900
I think it was
sometimes February or--

787
00:32:32,900 --> 00:32:39,350
it was cold still, February
or March, still wintertime,

788
00:32:39,350 --> 00:32:42,450
because whatever comes up next--

789
00:32:42,450 --> 00:32:43,400
1940.

790
00:32:43,400 --> 00:32:45,260
1940.

791
00:32:45,260 --> 00:32:45,930
1940.

792
00:32:45,930 --> 00:32:46,430
Yes.

793
00:32:46,430 --> 00:32:49,370

794
00:32:49,370 --> 00:32:50,570
The war was almost--

795

00:32:50,570 --> 00:32:51,625
was over with Poland.

796

00:32:51,625 --> 00:32:53,000
They already had
captured Poland.

797

00:32:53,000 --> 00:32:56,300

798

00:32:56,300 --> 00:32:58,910
From there that
morning, she woke us up.

799

00:32:58,910 --> 00:32:59,870
We got dressed.

800

00:32:59,870 --> 00:33:01,898
We were still with
those heavy petticoats

801

00:33:01,898 --> 00:33:03,440
and the heavy
everything still on us.

802

00:33:03,440 --> 00:33:05,450
So it kept us warm.

803

00:33:05,450 --> 00:33:07,430
And we were going.

804

00:33:07,430 --> 00:33:10,430
And she said that
we're going to go

805

00:33:10,430 --> 00:33:13,610
until we find somebody--
she said to find somebody

806

00:33:13,610 --> 00:33:15,410
to tell us what we can do.

807

00:33:15,410 --> 00:33:19,160

Well, they knew
my aunt was young.

808

00:33:19,160 --> 00:33:22,340

They knew they're very
close to the River Bug.

809

00:33:22,340 --> 00:33:24,320

And the River Bug--
across the Bug,

810

00:33:24,320 --> 00:33:29,240

if you can get yourself across,
the other side is Russia.

811

00:33:29,240 --> 00:33:30,035

So actually--

812

00:33:30,035 --> 00:33:30,710

She knew that.

813

00:33:30,710 --> 00:33:31,730

Yeah, she knew that.

814

00:33:31,730 --> 00:33:33,060

My aunt knew that.

815

00:33:33,060 --> 00:33:38,870

So we know that Russia
is divided between--

816

00:33:38,870 --> 00:33:41,490

at that time when
we were going--

817

00:33:41,490 --> 00:33:44,780

I haven't been back to
Poland and I don't care to--

818

00:33:44,780 --> 00:33:50,460

we didn't have too far to go

to get to some sort of a border

819

00:33:50,460 --> 00:33:56,210

there and to get
to that River Bug.

820

00:33:56,210 --> 00:33:59,990

And from there, we always hoped
that somebody will be there

821

00:33:59,990 --> 00:34:03,800

to take us across to Russia,
because the Germans were

822

00:34:03,800 --> 00:34:04,520

in back of us.

823

00:34:04,520 --> 00:34:06,260

And the Bolsheviks
were in front of us.

824

00:34:06,260 --> 00:34:09,179

At the time, I didn't
know one from the other.

825

00:34:09,179 --> 00:34:13,710

But later on in life, I
realized that's what it was.

826

00:34:13,710 --> 00:34:15,230

And she says,
we're going to go--

827

00:34:15,230 --> 00:34:17,030

as much as we can
walk, we're going

828

00:34:17,030 --> 00:34:20,810

to walk towards
whatever that border is.

829

00:34:20,810 --> 00:34:23,210

And it was daylight almost

when we started walking.

830

00:34:23,210 --> 00:34:25,070

It was cold, but we walked.

831

00:34:25,070 --> 00:34:28,250

And they changed off of
holding my brother and then--

832

00:34:28,250 --> 00:34:28,969

Could he walk?

833

00:34:28,969 --> 00:34:30,230

Or he had to be carried still?

834

00:34:30,230 --> 00:34:30,730

No.

835

00:34:30,730 --> 00:34:33,170

No, I can't remember.

836

00:34:33,170 --> 00:34:34,760

We might have
been, but I can't--

837

00:34:34,760 --> 00:34:37,110

just somehow, I can't
remember that part.

838

00:34:37,110 --> 00:34:38,449

All I know, the next thing--

839

00:34:38,449 --> 00:34:40,940

maybe because I stayed
that night at that hotel,

840

00:34:40,940 --> 00:34:42,080

we were also scared.

841

00:34:42,080 --> 00:34:47,060

And we got up so early, it was
dark that I cannot put this

842
00:34:47,060 --> 00:34:47,639
together.

843
00:34:47,639 --> 00:34:52,100
But I do know the next
thing I know from my memory,

844
00:34:52,100 --> 00:34:55,580
I recall that I was at
the border at the Bug,

845
00:34:55,580 --> 00:34:57,200
at the River Bug.

846
00:34:57,200 --> 00:35:01,020
And there were 13 other
people besides us,

847
00:35:01,020 --> 00:35:05,320
13 altogether people,
that wanted to cross.

848
00:35:05,320 --> 00:35:06,620
And my mother went up.

849
00:35:06,620 --> 00:35:09,190
And she says, look,
I've got two kids.

850
00:35:09,190 --> 00:35:10,867
And I want to cross,
too, because I

851
00:35:10,867 --> 00:35:11,950
don't want to stay behind.

852
00:35:11,950 --> 00:35:13,790
I don't want to be
left behind here.

853
00:35:13,790 --> 00:35:18,850

So they said, we'll try to get
you on this little rowing boat.

854
00:35:18,850 --> 00:35:19,870
And that's what we did.

855
00:35:19,870 --> 00:35:21,970
We got on that boat.

856
00:35:21,970 --> 00:35:25,600
And as soon as they--
it was very dangerous

857
00:35:25,600 --> 00:35:28,370
because there were too many
people on that little boat.

858
00:35:28,370 --> 00:35:31,240
But they crammed us
in as much as we can.

859
00:35:31,240 --> 00:35:34,780
And they started rowing.

860
00:35:34,780 --> 00:35:36,220
And I fell in the water.

861
00:35:36,220 --> 00:35:39,040
And that's when I knew it
was good in winter, too.

862
00:35:39,040 --> 00:35:41,570
I started screaming,
help me, help me.

863
00:35:41,570 --> 00:35:43,900
And my mother started
screaming, help my child.

864
00:35:43,900 --> 00:35:45,940
And people would
close their mouth.

865

00:35:45,940 --> 00:35:48,070

And they would try to get me.

866

00:35:48,070 --> 00:35:50,890

But they couldn't, because

I was coming up and down.

867

00:35:50,890 --> 00:35:52,230

And I couldn't swim.

868

00:35:52,230 --> 00:35:54,790

And with all these clothes,

I was in the water.

869

00:35:54,790 --> 00:35:57,070

It was so heavy.

870

00:35:57,070 --> 00:35:59,870

All I can remember-- screaming,
mama, help me, help me.

871

00:35:59,870 --> 00:36:01,770

And she kept screaming, too.

872

00:36:01,770 --> 00:36:06,010

Well, the next thing I knew,
somebody pulled me out.

873

00:36:06,010 --> 00:36:09,190

When they pulled me out

and put me next to my mom,

874

00:36:09,190 --> 00:36:12,550

I was just frozen,
absolutely frozen.

875

00:36:12,550 --> 00:36:17,080

And my mother's mouth was
held so she couldn't scream,

876

00:36:17,080 --> 00:36:19,390

because they were afraid

that they shouldn't hear us

877

00:36:19,390 --> 00:36:19,930
back there.

878

00:36:19,930 --> 00:36:21,440
And the Bolsheviks
didn't let us in.

879

00:36:21,440 --> 00:36:24,100
The Russians really didn't
want anybody, especially

880

00:36:24,100 --> 00:36:25,570
if you were with a man.

881

00:36:25,570 --> 00:36:28,960
If a man was behind you, another
man, they would not let in.

882

00:36:28,960 --> 00:36:32,240
Women and children, they
didn't bother so much.

883

00:36:32,240 --> 00:36:32,740
That's--

884

00:36:32,740 --> 00:36:33,640
Why not the men?

885

00:36:33,640 --> 00:36:34,210
Do you know?

886

00:36:34,210 --> 00:36:35,500
I don't know why not the men.

887

00:36:35,500 --> 00:36:38,170
I cannot explain it to you
because I'll tell you why.

888

00:36:38,170 --> 00:36:40,360
I'm saying this

because when we got off

889

00:36:40,360 --> 00:36:44,075

that boat, off that

little boat, rowing boat,

890

00:36:44,075 --> 00:36:45,700

everybody went in

different directions.

891

00:36:45,700 --> 00:36:47,200

Nobody knew where

they were going.

892

00:36:47,200 --> 00:36:48,560

It was already a little warmer.

893

00:36:48,560 --> 00:36:50,620

The sun was already shining.

894

00:36:50,620 --> 00:36:51,820

We had to dry off.

895

00:36:51,820 --> 00:36:54,280

And my mother had to take

all this one at a time off

896

00:36:54,280 --> 00:36:55,120

and get me dry.

897

00:36:55,120 --> 00:36:57,010

And then we rested a little bit.

898

00:36:57,010 --> 00:36:58,450

And we started walking.

899

00:36:58,450 --> 00:36:59,950

My mother says, I don't know.

900

00:36:59,950 --> 00:37:01,390

I'm going to walk

this direction.

901
00:37:01,390 --> 00:37:03,015
Looks-- that's where
I'm going to walk.

902
00:37:03,015 --> 00:37:05,170
And my aunt-- and her,
she was young, too.

903
00:37:05,170 --> 00:37:07,090
That's where we started walking.

904
00:37:07,090 --> 00:37:12,040
Well, way in back of us,
there were two men walking.

905
00:37:12,040 --> 00:37:14,770
And these Bolsheviks in
front of us started--

906
00:37:14,770 --> 00:37:18,160
we could see them shooting,
not trying to hit us,

907
00:37:18,160 --> 00:37:20,180
but shooting at us.

908
00:37:20,180 --> 00:37:23,500
And my mother just-- she can't
believe it that they were

909
00:37:23,500 --> 00:37:24,580
so mean--

910
00:37:24,580 --> 00:37:28,240
here you are coming away from
one mean person into Russia--

911
00:37:28,240 --> 00:37:31,630
that they would kill women
and children just walking.

912

00:37:31,630 --> 00:37:33,210

And it was going
on for about 15,

913

00:37:33,210 --> 00:37:38,500

20 minutes like that when she
sat him down on the ground

914

00:37:38,500 --> 00:37:40,480

and told me to sit down to rest.

915

00:37:40,480 --> 00:37:41,500

And she looked behind.

916

00:37:41,500 --> 00:37:44,260

And there are two
men, oh, I don't

917

00:37:44,260 --> 00:37:46,060

know, maybe 1,000 yards away.

918

00:37:46,060 --> 00:37:47,110

But they were walking.

919

00:37:47,110 --> 00:37:50,830

As much as we were walking, they
were keeping their distance.

920

00:37:50,830 --> 00:37:52,630

That's who they
were shooting at.

921

00:37:52,630 --> 00:37:54,730

They didn't want them
to cross the border.

922

00:37:54,730 --> 00:37:58,150

How did the Russians know
that there are not Germans?

923

00:37:58,150 --> 00:37:59,740

They wouldn't just let anybody.

924

00:37:59,740 --> 00:38:01,900

But women and
children, they did.

925

00:38:01,900 --> 00:38:03,880

My mother waited until
they came up close.

926

00:38:03,880 --> 00:38:05,980

And my mother says,
what are you doing?

927

00:38:05,980 --> 00:38:07,750

They're not shooting
me and the children.

928

00:38:07,750 --> 00:38:09,790

They're trying to get
you out of the way.

929

00:38:09,790 --> 00:38:11,680

Please go someplace else.

930

00:38:11,680 --> 00:38:15,070

You're going to jeopardize
two children and two women

931

00:38:15,070 --> 00:38:17,920

here just because
you want to trail us.

932

00:38:17,920 --> 00:38:20,200

They didn't want to do it,
but they stayed behind.

933

00:38:20,200 --> 00:38:21,910

And we started walking again.

934

00:38:21,910 --> 00:38:24,370

I remember my mother
arguing with them.

935

00:38:24,370 --> 00:38:26,230
And they stayed behind.

936
00:38:26,230 --> 00:38:27,790
They stopped shooting.

937
00:38:27,790 --> 00:38:28,930
There was no shooting.

938
00:38:28,930 --> 00:38:32,020
We walked and walked the
rest of the day that day.

939
00:38:32,020 --> 00:38:39,190
It was another day that it's
unbelievable in my life.

940
00:38:39,190 --> 00:38:41,290
We came not too far--

941
00:38:41,290 --> 00:38:44,020
we were not too far
from the town of Kovel.

942
00:38:44,020 --> 00:38:47,680
Kovel is White
Russia, Belorussia.

943
00:38:47,680 --> 00:38:49,510
And that's-- we walked.

944
00:38:49,510 --> 00:38:53,260
And then by that time, my
mother started asking in Polish

945
00:38:53,260 --> 00:38:54,130
to these people--

946
00:38:54,130 --> 00:38:58,090
Polish and White Russian's very
close in the language, Russian,

947

00:38:58,090 --> 00:39:00,610
too, for that matter--

948
00:39:00,610 --> 00:39:02,930
where can I go and take
my children to rest?

949
00:39:02,930 --> 00:39:05,090
She says, I just came
across the border.

950
00:39:05,090 --> 00:39:08,200
So they would tell her,
there's this town, Kovel.

951
00:39:08,200 --> 00:39:10,370
You walk as much as you can.

952
00:39:10,370 --> 00:39:13,060
If you get there, you
have some way to-- you'll

953
00:39:13,060 --> 00:39:16,840
see there's so many of
you Polish people there.

954
00:39:16,840 --> 00:39:19,930
There's a temple that's
packed with people--

955
00:39:19,930 --> 00:39:21,610
big, big, huge temple.

956
00:39:21,610 --> 00:39:23,530
And that's what we headed for.

957
00:39:23,530 --> 00:39:26,110
And we stayed there.

958
00:39:26,110 --> 00:39:30,700
When we got there, we
had a bench like a pew

959

00:39:30,700 --> 00:39:33,610

like you call whatever
it's called now.

960

00:39:33,610 --> 00:39:34,780

To me, it was a bench.

961

00:39:34,780 --> 00:39:37,160

And she made my brother
lay down and myself.

962

00:39:37,160 --> 00:39:40,360

And this was our
territory for three weeks,

963

00:39:40,360 --> 00:39:42,340

a little more than three weeks.

964

00:39:42,340 --> 00:39:44,500

We could find some food there.

965

00:39:44,500 --> 00:39:48,250

My aunt meanwhile took some
stuff and went back to Poland.

966

00:39:48,250 --> 00:39:50,200

She went back to Poland,
believe it or not.

967

00:39:50,200 --> 00:39:50,700

Why?

968

00:39:50,700 --> 00:39:52,450

She was young--
because she wanted

969

00:39:52,450 --> 00:39:55,810

to convince the rest of the
family, if she could find them,

970

00:39:55,810 --> 00:39:58,990

to come also to Russia because

nobody's going to survive.

971
00:39:58,990 --> 00:39:59,950
And she found them.

972
00:39:59,950 --> 00:40:00,640
She found them.

973
00:40:00,640 --> 00:40:03,330
She found everyone, including--
the only one that wasn't there

974
00:40:03,330 --> 00:40:04,260
was my father.

975
00:40:04,260 --> 00:40:07,650
He was trying to
cross Bug again.

976
00:40:07,650 --> 00:40:10,275
Every time-- he tried
to cross three times.

977
00:40:10,275 --> 00:40:11,400
And each time, he was shot.

978
00:40:11,400 --> 00:40:13,590
And the last time, he
was very badly wounded.

979
00:40:13,590 --> 00:40:17,100
So he went back to the
family, tried to get to us,

980
00:40:17,100 --> 00:40:19,500
because he knew
that we went across.

981
00:40:19,500 --> 00:40:20,730
I don't know how they knew.

982
00:40:20,730 --> 00:40:23,100

But I think with these
people coming in--

983
00:40:23,100 --> 00:40:26,070
I'll tell you why, because
in that particular town,

984
00:40:26,070 --> 00:40:28,560
the whole town was full
of refugees from Poland.

985
00:40:28,560 --> 00:40:30,780
And everybody knew everybody.

986
00:40:30,780 --> 00:40:33,990
So when they go back,
I saw this family.

987
00:40:33,990 --> 00:40:36,362
My aunt went back,
tried to persuade

988
00:40:36,362 --> 00:40:37,320
the rest of her family.

989
00:40:37,320 --> 00:40:39,660
They kept saying, no,
we're not going to go.

990
00:40:39,660 --> 00:40:43,500
Grandmother, her sisters, her
brothers-in-law, her brothers,

991
00:40:43,500 --> 00:40:44,700
nobody wanted to budge.

992
00:40:44,700 --> 00:40:46,890
The children-- they
all had children.

993
00:40:46,890 --> 00:40:48,505
Every one of those
in the families

994
00:40:48,505 --> 00:40:50,880
had children, some of them
teenagers, some of them little

995
00:40:50,880 --> 00:40:51,570
ones.

996
00:40:51,570 --> 00:40:53,250
Do you know where
she found them?

997
00:40:53,250 --> 00:40:56,130
She found them in--

998
00:40:56,130 --> 00:40:57,180
she told me.

999
00:40:57,180 --> 00:41:02,610
I think I have it somewhere
in my book the name of--

1000
00:41:02,610 --> 00:41:06,240
I think she found
them near Lodz ghetto

1001
00:41:06,240 --> 00:41:09,540
before the ghetto was made
into a ghetto, somewhere

1002
00:41:09,540 --> 00:41:11,490
nearby right there.

1003
00:41:11,490 --> 00:41:13,830
And she maybe was--

1004
00:41:13,830 --> 00:41:15,720
I'm not sure exactly
where she found them.

1005
00:41:15,720 --> 00:41:19,320
But all she-- she came

back telling my mother

1006
00:41:19,320 --> 00:41:21,090
that they wouldn't budge.

1007
00:41:21,090 --> 00:41:22,860
And she already knew
what we went through.

1008
00:41:22,860 --> 00:41:26,250
She came back to stay
with my mother and us.

1009
00:41:26,250 --> 00:41:29,380
She promised my mother that
she'll try to come back.

1010
00:41:29,380 --> 00:41:29,940
And she did.

1011
00:41:29,940 --> 00:41:32,070
She came back almost
three weeks later.

1012
00:41:32,070 --> 00:41:34,950
But in these three weeks,
while we were sitting there

1013
00:41:34,950 --> 00:41:36,780
doing nothing and millions--

1014
00:41:36,780 --> 00:41:39,270
to me, it was millions
in those days.

1015
00:41:39,270 --> 00:41:41,010
It probably was thousands.

1016
00:41:41,010 --> 00:41:43,320
But to me, it was
millions as a child.

1017

00:41:43,320 --> 00:41:44,580
People were arriving.

1018
00:41:44,580 --> 00:41:47,010
And they all settled
in that town--

1019
00:41:47,010 --> 00:41:50,520
no place to settle but either
in temple or whether we went

1020
00:41:50,520 --> 00:41:51,180
someplace else.

1021
00:41:51,180 --> 00:41:53,670
That, I don't know.

1022
00:41:53,670 --> 00:41:57,150
And between all these people,
she found her brother--

1023
00:41:57,150 --> 00:41:58,230
my mother--

1024
00:41:58,230 --> 00:42:02,670
with his girlfriend and her
sister with her boyfriend.

1025
00:42:02,670 --> 00:42:05,000
And they were the
youngest of the family.

1026
00:42:05,000 --> 00:42:06,750
Those two were the
youngest of the family.

1027
00:42:06,750 --> 00:42:09,720
But they were very close
as brother and sister.

1028
00:42:09,720 --> 00:42:13,230
And she said to them, nuh-uh,
I found you, she says.

1029
00:42:13,230 --> 00:42:15,597
You're not going to live
like this, she says.

1030
00:42:15,597 --> 00:42:16,430
I'm your mother now.

1031
00:42:16,430 --> 00:42:17,940
I'm going to marry you off.

1032
00:42:17,940 --> 00:42:20,196
So that's when the--

1033
00:42:20,196 --> 00:42:21,100
Chalice--

1034
00:42:21,100 --> 00:42:22,410
Chalice came in hand.

1035
00:42:22,410 --> 00:42:23,820
She sold it.

1036
00:42:23,820 --> 00:42:26,460
There was the biggest
wedding you've ever seen,

1037
00:42:26,460 --> 00:42:29,700
not just of those two, of
the brother and sister,

1038
00:42:29,700 --> 00:42:31,710
but also of other couples.

1039
00:42:31,710 --> 00:42:33,630
They made a huge chuppah.

1040
00:42:33,630 --> 00:42:34,920
They found a rabbi.

1041
00:42:34,920 --> 00:42:37,500

And that's what-- they
made a wedding that night.

1042
00:42:37,500 --> 00:42:42,000
And my sister-- my
mother's sister,

1043
00:42:42,000 --> 00:42:45,150
the one that went across the
border back, came back one day

1044
00:42:45,150 --> 00:42:47,760
after that wedding.

1045
00:42:47,760 --> 00:42:49,650
And she married them off.

1046
00:42:49,650 --> 00:42:51,370
And she felt, now,
I'm going to rest

1047
00:42:51,370 --> 00:42:54,700
at ease knowing that you two are
married, because whether they

1048
00:42:54,700 --> 00:42:56,490
were religious or
not, that's how

1049
00:42:56,490 --> 00:42:58,830
they believed in those days.

1050
00:42:58,830 --> 00:43:01,470
Those brother and
sister are the ones

1051
00:43:01,470 --> 00:43:04,530
that got saved, because
they also came to Russia.

1052
00:43:04,530 --> 00:43:08,190
Those brother and sister lived
all their lives after the war

1053
00:43:08,190 --> 00:43:09,450
in Israel.

1054
00:43:09,450 --> 00:43:11,700
And they're gone, too.

1055
00:43:11,700 --> 00:43:13,980
The cousins-- the
children are there.

1056
00:43:13,980 --> 00:43:15,742
But it made my mother
feel very good.

1057
00:43:15,742 --> 00:43:16,950
But that's all we could stay.

1058
00:43:16,950 --> 00:43:18,600
As soon as my
mother came back, we

1059
00:43:18,600 --> 00:43:19,920
heard that Hitler's coming in.

1060
00:43:19,920 --> 00:43:22,050
He's invading on Russia.

1061
00:43:22,050 --> 00:43:24,900
So we have to move further.

1062
00:43:24,900 --> 00:43:27,252
And we started running again.

1063
00:43:27,252 --> 00:43:28,210
That's when we really--

1064
00:43:28,210 --> 00:43:30,940
During that three weeks
that you were in this town,

1065

00:43:30,940 --> 00:43:34,350
do you remember the Russians
bothering you or harassing you?

1066
00:43:34,350 --> 00:43:37,780
No, I don't remember anything
because at that time,

1067
00:43:37,780 --> 00:43:41,940
I was already between Poles
again, between people again.

1068
00:43:41,940 --> 00:43:43,980
I do know we didn't
have much food.

1069
00:43:43,980 --> 00:43:46,012
It was very difficult
of everything,

1070
00:43:46,012 --> 00:43:47,970
because they couldn't
feed-- because everything

1071
00:43:47,970 --> 00:43:50,310
was taken away from them, too.

1072
00:43:50,310 --> 00:43:55,530
But in White Russia, I don't
remember any prosecuting us

1073
00:43:55,530 --> 00:43:57,630
at the time when we were there.

1074
00:43:57,630 --> 00:44:00,970
So that part, I don't know.

1075
00:44:00,970 --> 00:44:03,960
But I do know that my
mother always held on to us

1076
00:44:03,960 --> 00:44:06,540
so we couldn't get lost, so

nobody could take us away.

1077

00:44:06,540 --> 00:44:07,520

Was your brother getting
better by this time?

1078

00:44:07,520 --> 00:44:08,770

Yes, he was getting better.

1079

00:44:08,770 --> 00:44:10,680

As a matter of fact,
he was almost healed.

1080

00:44:10,680 --> 00:44:14,530

It was an infection that
really needed to be--

1081

00:44:14,530 --> 00:44:15,420

the pus taken out.

1082

00:44:15,420 --> 00:44:17,400

And he was healed.

1083

00:44:17,400 --> 00:44:19,920

That's when my mother and aunt
decided we would have to run.

1084

00:44:19,920 --> 00:44:22,920

But my uncle that got married
and my other end that got

1085

00:44:22,920 --> 00:44:26,790

married, they just took off
with themselves together.

1086

00:44:26,790 --> 00:44:29,880

We knew that they're
going to be OK.

1087

00:44:29,880 --> 00:44:32,730

They couldn't travel with us
because there were men in this.

1088

00:44:32,730 --> 00:44:35,640

We felt that as women,
we'll do better.

1089

00:44:35,640 --> 00:44:39,690

My mother always felt as women,
we'll do better on our own

1090

00:44:39,690 --> 00:44:43,130

than having men with
us, which turned out we

1091

00:44:43,130 --> 00:44:45,000

just-- that's exactly
what turned out to be,

1092

00:44:45,000 --> 00:44:48,080

because once you found
yourself a space in Russia

1093

00:44:48,080 --> 00:44:51,250

and you would settle down
and you could find some food

1094

00:44:51,250 --> 00:44:54,300

and whatever, they would take
the men into the Russian army.

1095

00:44:54,300 --> 00:44:56,220

They want them to
become citizens.

1096

00:44:56,220 --> 00:44:58,380

They could have used
every man on the front.

1097

00:44:58,380 --> 00:45:00,170

They lost.

1098

00:45:00,170 --> 00:45:03,050

And that's how the
man, the Polish man,

1099

00:45:03,050 --> 00:45:04,580
would hide out, too.

1100

00:45:04,580 --> 00:45:07,050
Not so much the women--
they could care less--

1101

00:45:07,050 --> 00:45:08,390
but the men.

1102

00:45:08,390 --> 00:45:10,970
And they wanted us to
become citizens, too,

1103

00:45:10,970 --> 00:45:14,880
even during running, because
one year out of running,

1104

00:45:14,880 --> 00:45:18,170
we stayed nine months
in the Ural Mountains.

1105

00:45:18,170 --> 00:45:22,340
And that's where I started
school, in Russian school.

1106

00:45:22,340 --> 00:45:25,610
But to make the story,
we have run away

1107

00:45:25,610 --> 00:45:27,380
from-- we went further.

1108

00:45:27,380 --> 00:45:29,990
And that's how we started
spending our time at--

1109

00:45:29,990 --> 00:45:32,210
Now, when you say "run
away," how did you run?

1110

00:45:32,210 --> 00:45:33,200

Well, we walked.

1111
00:45:33,200 --> 00:45:37,250
We walked to-- always, we
walked to the direction

1112
00:45:37,250 --> 00:45:39,260
where a train would stop.

1113
00:45:39,260 --> 00:45:42,290
They always had cattle
trains going by.

1114
00:45:42,290 --> 00:45:45,650
And they would always stop
to fill up with whatever

1115
00:45:45,650 --> 00:45:47,160
they filled up-- water.

1116
00:45:47,160 --> 00:45:49,730
I remember seeing
water being filled up.

1117
00:45:49,730 --> 00:45:52,370
And there were always
hundreds of thousands

1118
00:45:52,370 --> 00:45:54,063
of people on those
tracks sitting there.

1119
00:45:54,063 --> 00:45:55,730
But they would let
you get on the train?

1120
00:45:55,730 --> 00:45:56,810
They would let us get on.

1121
00:45:56,810 --> 00:46:02,060
The tracks-- the cattle cars
were always empty going.

1122

00:46:02,060 --> 00:46:05,210

But they would not leave
empty once they stop.

1123

00:46:05,210 --> 00:46:07,093

People would push
themselves to get off.

1124

00:46:07,093 --> 00:46:08,510

Wherever it was
going, people were

1125

00:46:08,510 --> 00:46:11,270

going in whatever direction.

1126

00:46:11,270 --> 00:46:14,510

We got on one of those, too.

1127

00:46:14,510 --> 00:46:20,960

And that's another episode
that happened to be that night.

1128

00:46:20,960 --> 00:46:23,270

Everybody was pushing and they--

1129

00:46:23,270 --> 00:46:24,290

clumsy me.

1130

00:46:24,290 --> 00:46:27,080

They pushed me underneath the
railroad, underneath the--

1131

00:46:27,080 --> 00:46:28,370

my mother couldn't find.

1132

00:46:28,370 --> 00:46:29,360

She was screaming.

1133

00:46:29,360 --> 00:46:30,500

My aunt was screaming.

1134

00:46:30,500 --> 00:46:31,760
My brother was crying.

1135
00:46:31,760 --> 00:46:33,740
And everybody was screaming,
pushing themselves

1136
00:46:33,740 --> 00:46:35,180
into the car.

1137
00:46:35,180 --> 00:46:37,580
And we wanted to get on there.

1138
00:46:37,580 --> 00:46:40,100
But my aunt couldn't get
on until she finds me.

1139
00:46:40,100 --> 00:46:42,200
She pulled me away seconds--

1140
00:46:42,200 --> 00:46:44,150
seconds before that
train took off.

1141
00:46:44,150 --> 00:46:46,100
And people were
hanging on every place.

1142
00:46:46,100 --> 00:46:49,340
And my mother said, there
is somewhere-- somewhere

1143
00:46:49,340 --> 00:46:51,110
an angel over our head.

1144
00:46:51,110 --> 00:46:53,570
This is the second episode
that happened-- actually,

1145
00:46:53,570 --> 00:46:57,740
the third, including
the one in the hotel.

1146

00:46:57,740 --> 00:47:03,350

And since then on, I think I
heard my mother say "angel."

1147

00:47:03,350 --> 00:47:05,120

Even so, I couldn't believe--

1148

00:47:05,120 --> 00:47:07,730

I don't know whether we
believed in angels or whatever.

1149

00:47:07,730 --> 00:47:09,380

I kept thinking that
I have an angel.

1150

00:47:09,380 --> 00:47:11,450

Me, I have an
angel over my head.

1151

00:47:11,450 --> 00:47:13,850

And I love angels.

1152

00:47:13,850 --> 00:47:17,690

But we had to wait until
the next one came along.

1153

00:47:17,690 --> 00:47:19,003

And we got on there.

1154

00:47:19,003 --> 00:47:20,420

We didn't know
where it was going.

1155

00:47:20,420 --> 00:47:22,160

We turned out in a place.

1156

00:47:22,160 --> 00:47:23,240

That's where it stopped.

1157

00:47:23,240 --> 00:47:26,720

I can't remember the name, but
I know it didn't look too bad.

1158
00:47:26,720 --> 00:47:29,660
My mother said, if we can
establish ourselves here, find

1159
00:47:29,660 --> 00:47:33,620
some work, and hang out for the
war here until the war is over

1160
00:47:33,620 --> 00:47:36,260
and go back to
Poland, we'll stay.

1161
00:47:36,260 --> 00:47:39,470
And this is where we
stayed maybe two weeks.

1162
00:47:39,470 --> 00:47:43,820
And all of a sudden, during
one night-- we found shelter.

1163
00:47:43,820 --> 00:47:44,420
Excuse me.

1164
00:47:44,420 --> 00:47:46,790
Overnight one night
on a Friday night--

1165
00:47:46,790 --> 00:47:50,300
I'll never forget-- the Russians
liked to do this to the Jews,

1166
00:47:50,300 --> 00:47:53,450
anyway, the Communists
at the time.

1167
00:47:53,450 --> 00:47:55,160
They like to do it
on their Sabbath

1168
00:47:55,160 --> 00:47:59,000
or on a Saturday
or a Friday night.

1169
00:47:59,000 --> 00:48:01,820
They came and started
knocking at all these doors.

1170
00:48:01,820 --> 00:48:03,530
I hear the biggest commotion.

1171
00:48:03,530 --> 00:48:05,600
Get up, get up, you're
being evacuated.

1172
00:48:05,600 --> 00:48:06,590
Get up.

1173
00:48:06,590 --> 00:48:07,560
Everybody was sleeping.

1174
00:48:07,560 --> 00:48:10,730
It was about 12:00 or 11
o'clock at night at the time.

1175
00:48:10,730 --> 00:48:13,980
And everybody didn't
know what's going on.

1176
00:48:13,980 --> 00:48:16,280
And that's when they
took us on buses.

1177
00:48:16,280 --> 00:48:17,900
We traveled two days on--

1178
00:48:17,900 --> 00:48:23,000
not buses, on
trucks, trucks filled

1179
00:48:23,000 --> 00:48:28,820
with people towards the
train and took us to Siberia.

1180
00:48:28,820 --> 00:48:31,400

That's where they transported
us all, whoever they

1181
00:48:31,400 --> 00:48:33,440
could round up, to Siberia.

1182
00:48:33,440 --> 00:48:34,608
By rounding up, I think--

1183
00:48:34,608 --> 00:48:36,650
when I look back at these
things, by rounding up,

1184
00:48:36,650 --> 00:48:41,150
there were never any
men on these places

1185
00:48:41,150 --> 00:48:43,520
where we used to stay
because all the men would

1186
00:48:43,520 --> 00:48:44,930
be hiding out.

1187
00:48:44,930 --> 00:48:46,700
And then we came to Siberia.

1188
00:48:46,700 --> 00:48:48,080
It was cold.

1189
00:48:48,080 --> 00:48:49,500
My mother got a--

1190
00:48:49,500 --> 00:48:55,250
a barrack must have been a
block long, big, big barrack.

1191
00:48:55,250 --> 00:48:58,250
Empty-- everybody
was on the floor.

1192
00:48:58,250 --> 00:49:01,370

That's where our domain
was, on the floor.

1193
00:49:01,370 --> 00:49:03,140
Everybody had their
little corner.

1194
00:49:03,140 --> 00:49:06,680
Cold-- by that time, we really
didn't have any clothes anymore

1195
00:49:06,680 --> 00:49:08,130
much to worry about.

1196
00:49:08,130 --> 00:49:09,080
And the shoes--

1197
00:49:09,080 --> 00:49:10,760
What happened to your dresses?

1198
00:49:10,760 --> 00:49:14,750
Oh, my mother had to-- for the
two weeks and the three weeks

1199
00:49:14,750 --> 00:49:15,770
where she wasn't--

1200
00:49:15,770 --> 00:49:18,980
the three weeks or whatever
we were in Kovel and then

1201
00:49:18,980 --> 00:49:21,440
the two weeks where
we went into the next,

1202
00:49:21,440 --> 00:49:23,640
she traded each
one for some food.

1203
00:49:23,640 --> 00:49:27,050
She traded for food or
for some of-- mostly,

1204

00:49:27,050 --> 00:49:34,040

I remember she traded for flour
so she can make some [POLISH],,

1205

00:49:34,040 --> 00:49:36,920

how you say-- macaroni
and make her own noodles

1206

00:49:36,920 --> 00:49:39,380

and stuff like that to
give the children to eat.

1207

00:49:39,380 --> 00:49:41,240

So you were getting food.

1208

00:49:41,240 --> 00:49:42,620

Food was not so bad.

1209

00:49:42,620 --> 00:49:44,570

We had once a day
food, for sure.

1210

00:49:44,570 --> 00:49:46,220

But you were getting colder.

1211

00:49:46,220 --> 00:49:48,260

But now, when we got
to this big barrack,

1212

00:49:48,260 --> 00:49:49,700

things were getting worse.

1213

00:49:49,700 --> 00:49:52,050

But everybody-- my mother
was fortunate, too.

1214

00:49:52,050 --> 00:49:55,430

She got into where--

1215

00:49:55,430 --> 00:49:57,080

she got a job there.

1216

00:49:57,080 --> 00:50:00,470

She was the head of
letting everybody shower.

1217

00:50:00,470 --> 00:50:03,480

But they all had to take
their turn every day.

1218

00:50:03,480 --> 00:50:04,650

And that's where she was.

1219

00:50:04,650 --> 00:50:06,510

And if I wanted to
warm up in Siberia,

1220

00:50:06,510 --> 00:50:08,340

I would get into the
shower, because that's

1221

00:50:08,340 --> 00:50:11,320

one good thing it was in
that big, big barrack.

1222

00:50:11,320 --> 00:50:12,360

They had hot water?

1223

00:50:12,360 --> 00:50:13,200

They had hot water.

1224

00:50:13,200 --> 00:50:14,130

Yes.

1225

00:50:14,130 --> 00:50:17,010

But we didn't want to
stay there because it

1226

00:50:17,010 --> 00:50:18,750

was no life, absolutely.

1227

00:50:18,750 --> 00:50:22,200

Sleeping on the ground with
5,000 or 10,000 other people

1228
00:50:22,200 --> 00:50:25,320
in the same place, we
needed to go further

1229
00:50:25,320 --> 00:50:27,790
to situate ourselves.

1230
00:50:27,790 --> 00:50:30,728
So my mother decided to take one
night with my aunt to take us

1231
00:50:30,728 --> 00:50:32,520
and told us, in the
morning, we're leaving.

1232
00:50:32,520 --> 00:50:34,320
We're going to go
during the night,

1233
00:50:34,320 --> 00:50:36,060
and we're going to run away.

1234
00:50:36,060 --> 00:50:42,900
Put some warm rags on our legs
over the shoes at the time.

1235
00:50:42,900 --> 00:50:46,483
And we started out with snow
up to I don't know where.

1236
00:50:46,483 --> 00:50:47,370
You were walking?

1237
00:50:47,370 --> 00:50:48,060
We were walking.

1238
00:50:48,060 --> 00:50:51,000
And she did find
out where to walk,

1239
00:50:51,000 --> 00:50:53,740

because she wanted to
know, where do we walk?

1240
00:50:53,740 --> 00:50:56,310
Towards the railroad tracks.

1241
00:50:56,310 --> 00:50:58,860
And we were always-- when
we get to a railroad track,

1242
00:50:58,860 --> 00:51:01,170
we know we can get on
one of those trains

1243
00:51:01,170 --> 00:51:03,248
because they always stop.

1244
00:51:03,248 --> 00:51:04,290
There's a mass of people.

1245
00:51:04,290 --> 00:51:07,290
They used to stop really
for either taking on coal

1246
00:51:07,290 --> 00:51:09,270
or taking on water again.

1247
00:51:09,270 --> 00:51:11,190
And this is where you go to--

1248
00:51:11,190 --> 00:51:13,860
when you used to run to a
railroad track over there,

1249
00:51:13,860 --> 00:51:16,125
you always see
millions of people

1250
00:51:16,125 --> 00:51:18,250
standing on the tracks
trying to do the same thing.

1251

00:51:18,250 --> 00:51:20,190
That's how we got
transportation.

1252
00:51:20,190 --> 00:51:22,250
Would there be any food
at the railroad track?

1253
00:51:22,250 --> 00:51:22,750
No.

1254
00:51:22,750 --> 00:51:26,340
No, everything from then
on was everything downhill.

1255
00:51:26,340 --> 00:51:28,570
It was very, very hard.

1256
00:51:28,570 --> 00:51:30,990
But at that camp,
you were given food?

1257
00:51:30,990 --> 00:51:31,950
We used to be fed.

1258
00:51:31,950 --> 00:51:33,270
We used to be fed once a day.

1259
00:51:33,270 --> 00:51:33,840
Yes.

1260
00:51:33,840 --> 00:51:36,630
I don't remember exactly
what, but we used to get I do

1261
00:51:36,630 --> 00:51:38,190
know once a day, bread.

1262
00:51:38,190 --> 00:51:41,250
Once a day, we used to
get a slice of bread.

1263

00:51:41,250 --> 00:51:43,440
And that was very
important in those days.

1264
00:51:43,440 --> 00:51:45,330
But we ran away.

1265
00:51:45,330 --> 00:51:50,170
And just before we got to the
railroad track, they found us.

1266
00:51:50,170 --> 00:51:52,050
And they took us back.

1267
00:51:52,050 --> 00:51:55,740
They didn't punish my mom
for trying to run off.

1268
00:51:55,740 --> 00:51:58,260
But they said, you're not
going to run away again.

1269
00:51:58,260 --> 00:52:00,330
And my mother said, she will.

1270
00:52:00,330 --> 00:52:04,590
So we went back for
another few weeks.

1271
00:52:04,590 --> 00:52:05,603
And she tried again.

1272
00:52:05,603 --> 00:52:06,270
And we got away.

1273
00:52:06,270 --> 00:52:08,040
That second time, we got away.

1274
00:52:08,040 --> 00:52:10,550
That's when we caught a--

1275
00:52:10,550 --> 00:52:11,850

I keep saying "train."

1276
00:52:11,850 --> 00:52:16,260
Yeah, one of those railroad--

1277
00:52:16,260 --> 00:52:17,897
one of those cattle trains.

1278
00:52:17,897 --> 00:52:19,480
And we didn't know
where it was going.

1279
00:52:19,480 --> 00:52:21,220
But it turned out it was going--

1280
00:52:21,220 --> 00:52:23,580
see, Siberia at the
point where we were

1281
00:52:23,580 --> 00:52:26,280
was very close to
the Ural Mountains.

1282
00:52:26,280 --> 00:52:30,210
And so we ended up in
Asbest, the city of Asbest

1283
00:52:30,210 --> 00:52:31,350
in the Ural Mountains.

1284
00:52:31,350 --> 00:52:33,505
And I even remember
the Sverdlovsk Oblast,

1285
00:52:33,505 --> 00:52:34,380
they used to call it.

1286
00:52:34,380 --> 00:52:35,730
That's the county.

1287
00:52:35,730 --> 00:52:38,190
And that's where

we kind of settled.

1288
00:52:38,190 --> 00:52:39,630
They gave us a little--

1289
00:52:39,630 --> 00:52:42,660
my mother found one
room for all four of us.

1290
00:52:42,660 --> 00:52:46,320
And I can't tell you what
we went through over there.

1291
00:52:46,320 --> 00:52:48,030
That's when I went to school.

1292
00:52:48,030 --> 00:52:48,870
I started school.

1293
00:52:48,870 --> 00:52:50,267
We had to-- couldn't stay home.

1294
00:52:50,267 --> 00:52:51,600
My mother found something to do.

1295
00:52:51,600 --> 00:52:54,540
I think she worked at some
kind of an asbestos factory

1296
00:52:54,540 --> 00:52:55,740
at the time.

1297
00:52:55,740 --> 00:52:57,300
My aunt worked with her.

1298
00:52:57,300 --> 00:52:59,580
We idled doing
nothing the whole day.

1299
00:52:59,580 --> 00:53:02,820
So she wanted us into school
no matter what it took.

1300
00:53:02,820 --> 00:53:04,980
And we didn't have any
clothing much at all.

1301
00:53:04,980 --> 00:53:07,680
And the winters were
bad there, absolutely.

1302
00:53:07,680 --> 00:53:09,540
Still was winter-- it was cold.

1303
00:53:09,540 --> 00:53:11,400
It was very cold.

1304
00:53:11,400 --> 00:53:13,020
Your brother, was
he in school, too?

1305
00:53:13,020 --> 00:53:16,420
Yes, he went to
school, too, just

1306
00:53:16,420 --> 00:53:19,050
to go for a kindergarten
type of a thing just

1307
00:53:19,050 --> 00:53:20,620
to keep with other kids.

1308
00:53:20,620 --> 00:53:21,120
And--

1309
00:53:21,120 --> 00:53:22,930
Were you able to get any coats?

1310
00:53:22,930 --> 00:53:23,730
No.

1311
00:53:23,730 --> 00:53:25,350
I used to run down to school.

1312

00:53:25,350 --> 00:53:27,480

I remember running
down that mountain.

1313

00:53:27,480 --> 00:53:30,390

And the teacher
knew that I would

1314

00:53:30,390 --> 00:53:33,240

come with rags on my
feet, cold, no coat,

1315

00:53:33,240 --> 00:53:35,310

run really fast to
get into the class,

1316

00:53:35,310 --> 00:53:37,890

and she'd always put
me next to this heater.

1317

00:53:37,890 --> 00:53:40,110

And she saved a seat
for me because I

1318

00:53:40,110 --> 00:53:42,210

was one of the refugees
that we really didn't

1319

00:53:42,210 --> 00:53:44,320

have anything left anymore.

1320

00:53:44,320 --> 00:53:48,990

And my aunt-- and
she would leave--

1321

00:53:48,990 --> 00:53:49,890

no.

1322

00:53:49,890 --> 00:53:51,885

The teacher would
always let me sit

1323

00:53:51,885 --> 00:53:53,250
in that corner next to the--

1324
00:53:53,250 --> 00:53:55,290
which I wish she wouldn't have
at those times because my feet

1325
00:53:55,290 --> 00:53:56,300
are still frozen today.

1326
00:53:56,300 --> 00:53:59,850
I have a lot of
problems with my feet.

1327
00:53:59,850 --> 00:54:02,700
Sitting next to a heater after
you run on the snow barefooted,

1328
00:54:02,700 --> 00:54:04,950
it doesn't do much good.

1329
00:54:04,950 --> 00:54:06,660
But this is what
she meant very well.

1330
00:54:06,660 --> 00:54:09,360
And this is how I stayed
there for nine months.

1331
00:54:09,360 --> 00:54:10,110
We stayed there.

1332
00:54:10,110 --> 00:54:12,420
When the summer came,
it was cold summers.

1333
00:54:12,420 --> 00:54:14,925
It wasn't hot
summers It was very--

1334
00:54:14,925 --> 00:54:15,870
this is a cold area.

1335

00:54:15,870 --> 00:54:19,200

This is right near
Siberia, so it's not that--

1336

00:54:19,200 --> 00:54:20,250

but they had summers.

1337

00:54:20,250 --> 00:54:21,720

And they had warm days.

1338

00:54:21,720 --> 00:54:25,420

And we stayed
through the summer.

1339

00:54:25,420 --> 00:54:27,690

My mother organized
where she could--

1340

00:54:27,690 --> 00:54:30,240

we had something
more to eat by then.

1341

00:54:30,240 --> 00:54:34,463

But my aunt, she found
a man she wanted--

1342

00:54:34,463 --> 00:54:36,630

she found a young man that
they were going to marry.

1343

00:54:36,630 --> 00:54:38,760

There were eight
brothers of them, too.

1344

00:54:38,760 --> 00:54:43,258

And four of them were with
this one man that she met.

1345

00:54:43,258 --> 00:54:44,550

And they wanted to get married.

1346

00:54:44,550 --> 00:54:45,890

So my mother said, OK.

1347
00:54:45,890 --> 00:54:46,890
You want to get married?

1348
00:54:46,890 --> 00:54:47,490
Fine.

1349
00:54:47,490 --> 00:54:49,960
That means we cannot
travel together anymore.

1350
00:54:49,960 --> 00:54:52,620
So she married her
off in that town.

1351
00:54:52,620 --> 00:54:53,838
And she went with--

1352
00:54:53,838 --> 00:54:56,130
she had to go with her husband,
because the husband was

1353
00:54:56,130 --> 00:54:57,190
with other brothers.

1354
00:54:57,190 --> 00:55:00,150
And they didn't want to be
found because, again, they

1355
00:55:00,150 --> 00:55:02,800
wanted to take these
men into the army.

1356
00:55:02,800 --> 00:55:05,080
And sure enough, they didn't
want to go into the army,

1357
00:55:05,080 --> 00:55:06,095
in the Russian army.

1358
00:55:06,095 --> 00:55:07,220

So they always had to hide.

1359

00:55:07,220 --> 00:55:08,020

They were Polish Jews.

1360

00:55:08,020 --> 00:55:08,520

Yes.

1361

00:55:08,520 --> 00:55:09,670

They were all Polish Jews.

1362

00:55:09,670 --> 00:55:12,400

They were actually from
a town not far from us.

1363

00:55:12,400 --> 00:55:15,090

How did they manage
not to get drafted?

1364

00:55:15,090 --> 00:55:16,750

They had to be hiding out.

1365

00:55:16,750 --> 00:55:18,580

They really had
to be hiding out.

1366

00:55:18,580 --> 00:55:21,460

I don't know how they managed.

1367

00:55:21,460 --> 00:55:26,740

But all I know that
after that, I had a coat.

1368

00:55:26,740 --> 00:55:28,450

We were a little bit better off.

1369

00:55:28,450 --> 00:55:31,430

Well, I used to have a
meal, at least, a day.

1370

00:55:31,430 --> 00:55:35,450

And my mother says,

we can't stay here.

1371
00:55:35,450 --> 00:55:37,630
This is getting
harder and harder.

1372
00:55:37,630 --> 00:55:39,532
The winters were so bad.

1373
00:55:39,532 --> 00:55:40,990
And we're coming
to another winter.

1374
00:55:40,990 --> 00:55:43,720
We don't have what to
eat and what to wear.

1375
00:55:43,720 --> 00:55:44,920
We're going to go further.

1376
00:55:44,920 --> 00:55:47,590
We'll go with the rest of the
crowds of women are running.

1377
00:55:47,590 --> 00:55:51,280
And that's what we
started running again.

1378
00:55:51,280 --> 00:55:53,800
We went this time on
one of those trains.

1379
00:55:53,800 --> 00:55:59,380
Well, we went on--

1380
00:55:59,380 --> 00:56:03,190
I wanted to mention to you
that I was also between--

1381
00:56:03,190 --> 00:56:10,330
when we were going
between Siberia,

1382

00:56:10,330 --> 00:56:13,510
we caught a train that
ended up in Moscow before we

1383

00:56:13,510 --> 00:56:15,310
came to the Ural Mountains.

1384

00:56:15,310 --> 00:56:17,840
And that train
left us off there--

1385

00:56:17,840 --> 00:56:19,285
made everybody get off.

1386

00:56:19,285 --> 00:56:21,160
And there, we didn't
know what to do, either.

1387

00:56:21,160 --> 00:56:24,940
And that was the day Stalin
declared war on Germany.

1388

00:56:24,940 --> 00:56:28,810
And we walked to the Red Square.

1389

00:56:28,810 --> 00:56:31,870
As shabby as we looked,
we walked there.

1390

00:56:31,870 --> 00:56:34,480
It wasn't too far, I remember--
not too bad of a walk

1391

00:56:34,480 --> 00:56:36,130
because everything wasn't--

1392

00:56:36,130 --> 00:56:39,670
and there were thousands of
people in the square waiting

1393

00:56:39,670 --> 00:56:40,810
for him to come and speak.

1394
00:56:40,810 --> 00:56:41,852
And I saw him personally.

1395
00:56:41,852 --> 00:56:42,768
I couldn't believe it.

1396
00:56:42,768 --> 00:56:45,190
My mother said, she's not
going to miss it for anything.

1397
00:56:45,190 --> 00:56:47,880
Hungry or not, she says,
we are going to wait there

1398
00:56:47,880 --> 00:56:48,730
until he comes out.

1399
00:56:48,730 --> 00:56:52,540
And they were shouting as he
was talking for his country.

1400
00:56:52,540 --> 00:56:55,660
We have to protect our country
and Russia and whatever.

1401
00:56:55,660 --> 00:56:59,387
I can't remember-- unbelievable.

1402
00:56:59,387 --> 00:57:00,970
There were so many
people that I don't

1403
00:57:00,970 --> 00:57:05,410
know why they didn't steal a
few of us kids in those days.

1404
00:57:05,410 --> 00:57:07,600
But they didn't
need any more kids.

1405
00:57:07,600 --> 00:57:10,181

They had enough
troubles with their own.

1406
00:57:10,181 --> 00:57:14,920
By nighttime, when it was
dark, everybody was gone.

1407
00:57:14,920 --> 00:57:16,150
And he was finished talking.

1408
00:57:16,150 --> 00:57:17,560
He talked for two hours.

1409
00:57:17,560 --> 00:57:19,420
I'll never forget that.

1410
00:57:19,420 --> 00:57:22,000
And we went back
to the station--

1411
00:57:22,000 --> 00:57:24,730
station-- back to the tracks
to find somewhere to go.

1412
00:57:24,730 --> 00:57:28,630
That's when we ended up
in the Ural Mountains.

1413
00:57:28,630 --> 00:57:31,810
I also want to tell you when
I lived in the Ural Mountains,

1414
00:57:31,810 --> 00:57:35,320
we didn't know any-- by
that time, we didn't know.

1415
00:57:35,320 --> 00:57:37,930
But when I came to
Siberia, I wrote a letter.

1416
00:57:37,930 --> 00:57:41,410
Polish-- I didn't even
know my alphabet that well.

1417
00:57:41,410 --> 00:57:43,660
But I did my best
way I know how.

1418
00:57:43,660 --> 00:57:45,460
I told my aunt to help me.

1419
00:57:45,460 --> 00:57:47,050
And I wrote a letter to Stalin.

1420
00:57:47,050 --> 00:57:49,180
I had an answer from them.

1421
00:57:49,180 --> 00:57:52,730
And I just had this--

1422
00:57:52,730 --> 00:57:54,640
if we knew that any
of this meant anything

1423
00:57:54,640 --> 00:57:57,640
these days to have something
to document like that.

1424
00:57:57,640 --> 00:58:03,610
He answered me that he cannot
help me to let my father come

1425
00:58:03,610 --> 00:58:06,280
in because, like I said, the
Bolsheviks wouldn't let him in.

1426
00:58:06,280 --> 00:58:08,210
So they were shooting at him.

1427
00:58:08,210 --> 00:58:10,960
And he finally would sneak
away from the Germans

1428
00:58:10,960 --> 00:58:12,610
and try to cross the border.

1429
00:58:12,610 --> 00:58:15,050
But the Bolsheviks wouldn't
let him into Russia.

1430
00:58:15,050 --> 00:58:16,510
So that's how he
couldn't come in.

1431
00:58:16,510 --> 00:58:18,670
They were very close,
and the borders

1432
00:58:18,670 --> 00:58:22,720
were very, very, very tight.

1433
00:58:22,720 --> 00:58:23,762
So how old were you?

1434
00:58:23,762 --> 00:58:24,970
You wrote a letter to Stalin?

1435
00:58:24,970 --> 00:58:26,755
I wrote-- I was over six.

1436
00:58:26,755 --> 00:58:30,850
Yes, I was already, I
think, almost seven.

1437
00:58:30,850 --> 00:58:35,770
And I wrote to him in
Polish, because I only

1438
00:58:35,770 --> 00:58:38,020
knew Polish at the time still.

1439
00:58:38,020 --> 00:58:41,350
He answered a very
brief little note.

1440
00:58:41,350 --> 00:58:43,270
I don't know if it

was sent out by--

1441
00:58:43,270 --> 00:58:44,510
I can't remember that.

1442
00:58:44,510 --> 00:58:45,880
But I know I had a note.

1443
00:58:45,880 --> 00:58:48,730
And my aunt, up to this day,
she couldn't believe this.

1444
00:58:48,730 --> 00:58:51,400
She still would talk about
it that he answered me.

1445
00:58:51,400 --> 00:58:55,670
In the midst of war and chaos,
he managed to answer me,

1446
00:58:55,670 --> 00:59:00,040
telling me that he's
very sorry, that he's

1447
00:59:00,040 --> 00:59:04,480
got no jurisdiction over Poland,
and some more in this way.

1448
00:59:04,480 --> 00:59:07,540
And he says he knows--

1449
00:59:07,540 --> 00:59:08,260
what a hypocrite.

1450
00:59:08,260 --> 00:59:11,210
He knows that kids should
have their father and mother

1451
00:59:11,210 --> 00:59:11,710
with them.

1452
00:59:11,710 --> 00:59:14,860

But it's war, and
there's nothing he

1453
00:59:14,860 --> 00:59:16,270
can do to bring my father in.

1454
00:59:16,270 --> 00:59:19,210
And I hope after this is
over, I'll find my father.

1455
00:59:19,210 --> 00:59:20,980
That's-- something like that.

1456
00:59:20,980 --> 00:59:22,420
But we never saved it.

1457
00:59:22,420 --> 00:59:24,962
During all this time, did
you have any communication

1458
00:59:24,962 --> 00:59:25,670
with your father?

1459
00:59:25,670 --> 00:59:28,372
No, but we knew where he was.

1460
00:59:28,372 --> 00:59:29,080
How did you know?

1461
00:59:29,080 --> 00:59:31,540
Because people when
they came into Kovel,

1462
00:59:31,540 --> 00:59:33,860
when we were in White
Russia, they would say,

1463
00:59:33,860 --> 00:59:37,690
oh, we just saw your family
in so and such place.

1464
00:59:37,690 --> 00:59:38,800

They won't budge.

1465

00:59:38,800 --> 00:59:39,550

They won't budge.

1466

00:59:39,550 --> 00:59:41,717

They say the war is going
to be over in a few weeks.

1467

00:59:41,717 --> 00:59:43,990

They don't want to
go-- a few months.

1468

00:59:43,990 --> 00:59:46,300

They don't want to
run away from home.

1469

00:59:46,300 --> 00:59:48,910

And we knew whether my
father was there or not

1470

00:59:48,910 --> 00:59:51,760

because he was very
well-known, too,

1471

00:59:51,760 --> 00:59:55,750

because of the bus company.

1472

00:59:55,750 --> 00:59:59,630

And people that rode the bus
used to know him and so forth.

1473

00:59:59,630 --> 01:00:01,790

So I imagine that's
probably why.

1474

01:00:01,790 --> 01:00:06,050

But we knew-- until
we went into Siberia.

1475

01:00:06,050 --> 01:00:09,260

From that moment on, we didn't
hear anymore about anything.

1476
01:00:09,260 --> 01:00:12,210
We didn't even know what
was going on from then on.

1477
01:00:12,210 --> 01:00:13,940
But we did know
that we didn't want

1478
01:00:13,940 --> 01:00:16,310
to stay in Siberia,
even near Siberia

1479
01:00:16,310 --> 01:00:19,580
in Asbest in Ural Mountains.

1480
01:00:19,580 --> 01:00:21,030
And we headed out to go--

1481
01:00:21,030 --> 01:00:23,870
we traveled-- traveled.

1482
01:00:23,870 --> 01:00:26,810
We ran a long time,
for one month only,

1483
01:00:26,810 --> 01:00:32,420
before we came and off and on,
off and on on a cattle train

1484
01:00:32,420 --> 01:00:35,750
with very little food,
very little ways to relieve

1485
01:00:35,750 --> 01:00:37,880
yourself, and very
little ways to have water

1486
01:00:37,880 --> 01:00:41,420
because those cattle cars were
so packed with people, who ever

1487

01:00:41,420 --> 01:00:44,720
could get on it, that it
was unbelievable that they

1488
01:00:44,720 --> 01:00:46,640
would just not throw you off.

1489
01:00:46,640 --> 01:00:50,420
And it was chaos on those
things because everybody

1490
01:00:50,420 --> 01:00:54,130
wanted to go further
away from Germany.

1491
01:00:54,130 --> 01:00:57,260
Now, there are other
people that didn't do that.

1492
01:00:57,260 --> 01:00:58,010
They settled.

1493
01:00:58,010 --> 01:01:02,300
And if you were like my other
aunt and uncle, the one that--

1494
01:01:02,300 --> 01:01:05,420
I had two uncles and one aunt--

1495
01:01:05,420 --> 01:01:08,870
yes, mother's sister--
the two that she married

1496
01:01:08,870 --> 01:01:13,500
and another one that
they found later on,

1497
01:01:13,500 --> 01:01:20,610
stay near Leningrad, which
is near St. Petersburg now.

1498
01:01:20,610 --> 01:01:24,590
Was it-- no, near Stalingrad,

staying in a German camp

1499

01:01:24,590 --> 01:01:26,930
there later on during
the rest of the war.

1500

01:01:26,930 --> 01:01:29,992
They were in German
concentration camps near--

1501

01:01:29,992 --> 01:01:32,450
that's when they thought they
were going to conquer Russia.

1502

01:01:32,450 --> 01:01:33,710
That's why they put--

1503

01:01:33,710 --> 01:01:35,180
and I have a
Russian friend here.

1504

01:01:35,180 --> 01:01:38,260
And that was almost the Ukraine.

1505

01:01:38,260 --> 01:01:41,370
So that's how it was.

1506

01:01:41,370 --> 01:01:42,620
And they told us afterwards.

1507

01:01:42,620 --> 01:01:43,400
They survived.

1508

01:01:43,400 --> 01:01:44,490
They told us afterwards.

1509

01:01:44,490 --> 01:01:47,510
So there was from
the whole family

1510

01:01:47,510 --> 01:01:50,510
that everyone that went

to Russia survived.

1511
01:01:50,510 --> 01:01:51,290
We were lucky.

1512
01:01:51,290 --> 01:01:52,640
We all survived.

1513
01:01:52,640 --> 01:01:54,380
We had it bad, but we survived.

1514
01:01:54,380 --> 01:01:56,570
But everybody that stayed
behind, there was not one

1515
01:01:56,570 --> 01:01:58,026
survived.

1516
01:01:58,026 --> 01:02:03,050
Now, you went from Siberia
to the Ural Mountains?

1517
01:02:03,050 --> 01:02:04,310
To the Ural Mountains.

1518
01:02:04,310 --> 01:02:06,410
And your mother worked
in an asbestos--

1519
01:02:06,410 --> 01:02:07,620
Asbestos kind of factory.

1520
01:02:07,620 --> 01:02:08,120
Yes.

1521
01:02:08,120 --> 01:02:11,830
That's why the town of
Asbest was called Asbest.

1522
01:02:11,830 --> 01:02:12,723
It was a big town.

1523

01:02:12,723 --> 01:02:13,640

It's still on the map.

1524

01:02:13,640 --> 01:02:16,580

And your aunt had already left?

1525

01:02:16,580 --> 01:02:19,640

And there, that's where
she found her husband.

1526

01:02:19,640 --> 01:02:21,050

And she got married.

1527

01:02:21,050 --> 01:02:23,090

And they went in
different directions.

1528

01:02:23,090 --> 01:02:27,080

I think they stayed behind and
we left, because life for us

1529

01:02:27,080 --> 01:02:28,160

was very, very bad.

1530

01:02:28,160 --> 01:02:29,150

Where did you go?

1531

01:02:29,150 --> 01:02:30,660

And how did you get there?

1532

01:02:30,660 --> 01:02:32,645

Well, that's when we
went back to the--

1533

01:02:32,645 --> 01:02:34,550

that's the only way
we knew how to get.

1534

01:02:34,550 --> 01:02:38,390

We went back to
the tracks, found

1535

01:02:38,390 --> 01:02:41,120

the train, whichever direction
it was going to go again.

1536

01:02:41,120 --> 01:02:43,070

We ended up-- that's
where we ended up.

1537

01:02:43,070 --> 01:02:46,190

We came into Uzbekistan.

1538

01:02:46,190 --> 01:02:47,870

We were a long time on the road.

1539

01:02:47,870 --> 01:02:49,250

That was very--

1540

01:02:49,250 --> 01:02:53,150

I remember days and days,
people were dying on the road.

1541

01:02:53,150 --> 01:02:55,700

And you have to go down
to relieve yourself.

1542

01:02:55,700 --> 01:02:57,860

You couldn't even do
that because they only

1543

01:02:57,860 --> 01:03:01,910

stopped to take on water or
whatever in different places.

1544

01:03:01,910 --> 01:03:04,590

And if you got down on time
and didn't come back on time,

1545

01:03:04,590 --> 01:03:05,520

that's it--

1546

01:03:05,520 --> 01:03:07,160

end, no more.

1547
01:03:07,160 --> 01:03:08,433
Mother doesn't find you.

1548
01:03:08,433 --> 01:03:09,350
Sister won't find you.

1549
01:03:09,350 --> 01:03:10,308
Brother won't find you.

1550
01:03:10,308 --> 01:03:12,170
That's it.

1551
01:03:12,170 --> 01:03:15,800
So everybody was
kind of starving.

1552
01:03:15,800 --> 01:03:16,637
People were dying.

1553
01:03:16,637 --> 01:03:17,720
All the people were dying.

1554
01:03:17,720 --> 01:03:18,950
And the kids were screaming.

1555
01:03:18,950 --> 01:03:20,660
Little kids were crying.

1556
01:03:20,660 --> 01:03:25,280
It was constantly like
this on those trains.

1557
01:03:25,280 --> 01:03:27,320
Every time I think about
it, it just gives me

1558
01:03:27,320 --> 01:03:29,510
the chills, because
this is how--

1559

01:03:29,510 --> 01:03:34,040
I just myself cannot believe
that all this cold and hunger

1560
01:03:34,040 --> 01:03:35,630
that we survived.

1561
01:03:35,630 --> 01:03:38,720
My mother, my brother,
and I, we survived.

1562
01:03:38,720 --> 01:03:41,420
But when we came to
Kazakhstan, by that time,

1563
01:03:41,420 --> 01:03:44,840
I mentioned to you
that we had a coat.

1564
01:03:44,840 --> 01:03:45,800
I had a coat.

1565
01:03:45,800 --> 01:03:47,090
My brother had a little coat.

1566
01:03:47,090 --> 01:03:49,610
We had some old shoes on.

1567
01:03:49,610 --> 01:03:52,850
We were in the same--

1568
01:03:52,850 --> 01:03:55,520
wealthy at the time with having
a little something to wear.

1569
01:03:55,520 --> 01:03:57,790
But when we arrived
to Uzbekistan,

1570
01:03:57,790 --> 01:04:00,110
that was the first place--

1571

01:04:00,110 --> 01:04:01,910
Now, was that south?

1572
01:04:01,910 --> 01:04:03,770
Yes, that's where
it was warm already.

1573
01:04:03,770 --> 01:04:07,980
They didn't have those
harsh winters like-- yeah.

1574
01:04:07,980 --> 01:04:10,100
You didn't know you were
going there, though.

1575
01:04:10,100 --> 01:04:11,210
No, we didn't know.

1576
01:04:11,210 --> 01:04:18,150
But in Uzbeks, they wear
those little kippahs.

1577
01:04:18,150 --> 01:04:19,670
What do you call
them in English?

1578
01:04:19,670 --> 01:04:21,080
Like a turban?

1579
01:04:21,080 --> 01:04:21,740
Not turban.

1580
01:04:21,740 --> 01:04:28,190
They wear little beanies
like the Jewish people wear.

1581
01:04:28,190 --> 01:04:29,660
They constantly
have a little hat

1582
01:04:29,660 --> 01:04:32,830
on because they were
religious Muslims.

1583
01:04:32,830 --> 01:04:35,630
At the time, I didn't know
what a Muslim was, either.

1584
01:04:35,630 --> 01:04:38,150
But I do know it
was not bad there.

1585
01:04:38,150 --> 01:04:39,417
We only stayed there two days.

1586
01:04:39,417 --> 01:04:41,750
They wouldn't let us stay in
Kazakhstan-- in Uzbekistan.

1587
01:04:41,750 --> 01:04:45,800
So we went back on the train,
on one of those trains.

1588
01:04:45,800 --> 01:04:48,125
And that time, we
had an idea where

1589
01:04:48,125 --> 01:04:51,440
it was going, out of
Uzbekistan to Kazakhstan.

1590
01:04:51,440 --> 01:04:55,460
And this is where we remained
for the rest of the war.

1591
01:04:55,460 --> 01:04:58,010
We came to Kazakhstan in
the middle of the night,

1592
01:04:58,010 --> 01:04:59,240
12 o'clock at night.

1593
01:04:59,240 --> 01:05:02,788
And when that train emptied
itself, the whole train,

1594

01:05:02,788 --> 01:05:03,830

all these people got out.

1595

01:05:03,830 --> 01:05:05,990

But they all laid down
right at the tracks there.

1596

01:05:05,990 --> 01:05:07,400

And everybody went to sleep.

1597

01:05:07,400 --> 01:05:09,740

Fresh air-- it was
a nice evening.

1598

01:05:09,740 --> 01:05:12,290

And we had our little coats on.

1599

01:05:12,290 --> 01:05:16,280

So my brother was sleeping
in my mother's arms.

1600

01:05:16,280 --> 01:05:17,850

And I would put--

1601

01:05:17,850 --> 01:05:19,820

no more aunt with us, you see.

1602

01:05:19,820 --> 01:05:23,300

And I did put my
head on her knees.

1603

01:05:23,300 --> 01:05:25,520

And we fell asleep like
this, my mother sitting.

1604

01:05:25,520 --> 01:05:26,995

And we all fell asleep.

1605

01:05:26,995 --> 01:05:27,870

Would you believe it?

1606

01:05:27,870 --> 01:05:30,860

When I got up, I didn't have
anything but underwear on.

1607

01:05:30,860 --> 01:05:33,890

They took everything and stole
everything off me, everything

1608

01:05:33,890 --> 01:05:35,340

off my brother.

1609

01:05:35,340 --> 01:05:39,110

And we were in such deep
sleep, such worn-out sleep,

1610

01:05:39,110 --> 01:05:41,510

that nobody felt anything.

1611

01:05:41,510 --> 01:05:44,300

And my mother started
crying and screaming.

1612

01:05:44,300 --> 01:05:46,190

My kids, they're naked.

1613

01:05:46,190 --> 01:05:48,890

There are no clothes.

1614

01:05:48,890 --> 01:05:51,460

It was unbelievable
what she did that night.

1615

01:05:51,460 --> 01:05:54,480

In the morning, we
couldn't believe it.

1616

01:05:54,480 --> 01:05:57,260

So these people, they
gathered something,

1617

01:05:57,260 --> 01:06:00,980

anything just to cover us up
and with so many thousands

1618
01:06:00,980 --> 01:06:03,980
of people sitting
on those tracks.

1619
01:06:03,980 --> 01:06:07,550
But it was not too bad because
at least it was not so cold,

1620
01:06:07,550 --> 01:06:09,290
like where we came now.

1621
01:06:09,290 --> 01:06:12,470

1622
01:06:12,470 --> 01:06:15,470
15 of us walked into--

1623
01:06:15,470 --> 01:06:19,760
they had little-- in Kazakhstan,
it's hard to explain.

1624
01:06:19,760 --> 01:06:20,690
They don't have--

1625
01:06:20,690 --> 01:06:23,330
I never-- we went to a kolkhoz.

1626
01:06:23,330 --> 01:06:27,590
A kolkhoz is a collective
farm in Russian.

1627
01:06:27,590 --> 01:06:29,750
And that's-- we
figured it's quiet.

1628
01:06:29,750 --> 01:06:31,490
We'll sit out the war.

1629
01:06:31,490 --> 01:06:36,980
So 15 of us-- my mother, myself,
my brother, and altogether

1630

01:06:36,980 --> 01:06:40,970
15 people, men and women and
so forth, got off that train.

1631

01:06:40,970 --> 01:06:43,340
And we headed for
that particular place.

1632

01:06:43,340 --> 01:06:46,160
Somebody said, if you
set out at kolkhoz,

1633

01:06:46,160 --> 01:06:47,660
then you survive the war.

1634

01:06:47,660 --> 01:06:49,820
If you survive there,
you'll survive the war.

1635

01:06:49,820 --> 01:06:51,590
You're going to be
able to go back home.

1636

01:06:51,590 --> 01:06:53,480
And that's why we didn't
want to run anymore.

1637

01:06:53,480 --> 01:06:57,110
It was just no way
to run anymore.

1638

01:06:57,110 --> 01:06:59,630
My mother-- there were 15.

1639

01:06:59,630 --> 01:07:03,770
And the place we were in,
it was made out of mud,

1640

01:07:03,770 --> 01:07:05,178
doesn't have windows.

1641

01:07:05,178 --> 01:07:05,720
I don't know.

1642
01:07:05,720 --> 01:07:08,720
It's like made out of clay
would be the exact word.

1643
01:07:08,720 --> 01:07:11,510
A kolkhoz doesn't have
windows because they never

1644
01:07:11,510 --> 01:07:14,930
had winter over there,
particularly that part,

1645
01:07:14,930 --> 01:07:18,650
and was fortunately
a little river.

1646
01:07:18,650 --> 01:07:20,120
We bathed in the river.

1647
01:07:20,120 --> 01:07:21,530
We ate out of the river.

1648
01:07:21,530 --> 01:07:24,200
We did everything
out of that water.

1649
01:07:24,200 --> 01:07:28,670
But that took its
toll, too, because we

1650
01:07:28,670 --> 01:07:33,020
started getting typhoid,
every one of the 15 people,

1651
01:07:33,020 --> 01:07:34,490
one at a time.

1652
01:07:34,490 --> 01:07:38,510
And we were having--

1653

01:07:38,510 --> 01:07:40,670

I think my mother
and I, the strongest,

1654

01:07:40,670 --> 01:07:42,440

we were the last ones.

1655

01:07:42,440 --> 01:07:45,260

And then I'll say there was
another lady with two more

1656

01:07:45,260 --> 01:07:47,000

children.

1657

01:07:47,000 --> 01:07:50,450

During this time while we
were there was very bad, too.

1658

01:07:50,450 --> 01:07:51,920

We didn't have food.

1659

01:07:51,920 --> 01:07:57,470

The people that live in
Kazakhstan were short people.

1660

01:07:57,470 --> 01:08:00,140

They were oriental-looking,
with a million little braids,

1661

01:08:00,140 --> 01:08:00,680

the women.

1662

01:08:00,680 --> 01:08:02,030

And there were no men.

1663

01:08:02,030 --> 01:08:02,780

There were no men.

1664

01:08:02,780 --> 01:08:03,380

Only women?

1665

01:08:03,380 --> 01:08:04,400
Only women.

1666
01:08:04,400 --> 01:08:06,830
They were all gone to the army.

1667
01:08:06,830 --> 01:08:09,890
And then came a little
warmer time, summertime.

1668
01:08:09,890 --> 01:08:14,135
At the time when we arrived
there, they went to the fields

1669
01:08:14,135 --> 01:08:16,430
to see if they could
plant some things.

1670
01:08:16,430 --> 01:08:21,020
And they would make their
lodging in the fields.

1671
01:08:21,020 --> 01:08:22,698
So they wouldn't
come back from--

1672
01:08:22,698 --> 01:08:24,740
that's why we could stay
in some of their places,

1673
01:08:24,740 --> 01:08:25,760
you understand.

1674
01:08:25,760 --> 01:08:28,109
So when they came
back-- but fortunately,

1675
01:08:28,109 --> 01:08:30,050
it was a warm country.

1676
01:08:30,050 --> 01:08:34,069
But we all stayed in
one little place, a room

1677
01:08:34,069 --> 01:08:35,779
half the size of this.

1678
01:08:35,779 --> 01:08:38,180
That's when a lady delivered,
I remember, a baby.

1679
01:08:38,180 --> 01:08:40,819
My mother was the
oldest one, so she

1680
01:08:40,819 --> 01:08:42,140
helped her deliver the baby.

1681
01:08:42,140 --> 01:08:43,710
The baby couldn't
survive because we

1682
01:08:43,710 --> 01:08:44,960
didn't food to give it to eat.

1683
01:08:44,960 --> 01:08:47,300
And she didn't have
food to feed it.

1684
01:08:47,300 --> 01:08:50,029
And the baby didn't
survive and, one at a time,

1685
01:08:50,029 --> 01:08:52,430
died in that place of typhoid.

1686
01:08:52,430 --> 01:08:55,580
So the only ones that
survived out of 15 people

1687
01:08:55,580 --> 01:09:00,270
was a lady with two children
and my mother with two children.

1688
01:09:00,270 --> 01:09:02,120

But when I got my--

1689
01:09:02,120 --> 01:09:04,010
first, my mother got typhoid.

1690
01:09:04,010 --> 01:09:04,670
She got up.

1691
01:09:04,670 --> 01:09:06,140
Then I got typhoid.

1692
01:09:06,140 --> 01:09:09,109
And when I got up, I
started screaming and crying

1693
01:09:09,109 --> 01:09:12,950
because she shaved my hair off
because I was full with lice.

1694
01:09:12,950 --> 01:09:14,390
And typhoid, you
have to-- if you

1695
01:09:14,390 --> 01:09:17,330
are with lice because you're
in conditions like that,

1696
01:09:17,330 --> 01:09:19,600
you have to burn your hair.

1697
01:09:19,600 --> 01:09:21,600
First, you've got to just
burn-- take this hair.

1698
01:09:21,600 --> 01:09:22,370
Shave them off.

1699
01:09:22,370 --> 01:09:24,950
And she did the best she knew
how to shave off my hair.

1700
01:09:24,950 --> 01:09:26,290

I looked horrible.

1701
01:09:26,290 --> 01:09:27,859
I never forgave her for that.

1702
01:09:27,859 --> 01:09:30,080
But she kept telling
me, why are you crying?

1703
01:09:30,080 --> 01:09:31,700
She says, hair can grow back.

1704
01:09:31,700 --> 01:09:33,660
But if you would have been--

1705
01:09:33,660 --> 01:09:37,189
thank god that you woke up
from the coma of typhoid.

1706
01:09:37,189 --> 01:09:39,470
We had stomach typhoid.

1707
01:09:39,470 --> 01:09:43,340
And then my brother got
it, but we all survived.

1708
01:09:43,340 --> 01:09:46,250
Well, sitting in
that place was being

1709
01:09:46,250 --> 01:09:50,479
very bad, because there was
no food, no food whatsoever.

1710
01:09:50,479 --> 01:09:55,040
The only thing I remember having
once in a while over there

1711
01:09:55,040 --> 01:09:58,550
was wild scallions
that they grow,

1712

01:09:58,550 --> 01:10:01,220
little onions, green onions.

1713
01:10:01,220 --> 01:10:04,660
And they seem to grow
over there because it

1714
01:10:04,660 --> 01:10:07,170
was next to a river,
quite a bit of this.

1715
01:10:07,170 --> 01:10:08,920
But after this, you
wanted to drink a lot.

1716
01:10:08,920 --> 01:10:12,340
So you're more blowing
up than anything.

1717
01:10:12,340 --> 01:10:16,300
But one day, that
lady and my mother,

1718
01:10:16,300 --> 01:10:19,580
we kind of stuck
together with the kids.

1719
01:10:19,580 --> 01:10:21,522
She said, let's go
to a next kolkhoz

1720
01:10:21,522 --> 01:10:23,230
and see maybe we can
bring something back

1721
01:10:23,230 --> 01:10:24,063
to eat for the kids.

1722
01:10:24,063 --> 01:10:28,090
While they were gone, we kids
were fending for ourselves.

1723
01:10:28,090 --> 01:10:30,940

And I took a walk one
day with the rest--

1724
01:10:30,940 --> 01:10:33,670
with the other two
kids and my brother

1725
01:10:33,670 --> 01:10:34,970
to search for some food.

1726
01:10:34,970 --> 01:10:37,600
And I got bitten by a scorpion.

1727
01:10:37,600 --> 01:10:40,000
And I was doing
screaming and dancing

1728
01:10:40,000 --> 01:10:43,840
on that particular place
where I got bitten on my leg

1729
01:10:43,840 --> 01:10:45,800
where some of these
little ladies saw me.

1730
01:10:45,800 --> 01:10:48,590
And they knew exactly
what's happening to me.

1731
01:10:48,590 --> 01:10:50,320
They threw me on the ground.

1732
01:10:50,320 --> 01:10:53,100
They started sucking
out the venom out of me.

1733
01:10:53,100 --> 01:10:55,540
I survived that one,
too, believe it or not.

1734
01:10:55,540 --> 01:10:57,790
It was unbelievable.

1735

01:10:57,790 --> 01:11:00,100

And then they had
some buttermilk.

1736

01:11:00,100 --> 01:11:02,108

And then they put
buttermilk on it.

1737

01:11:02,108 --> 01:11:04,150

And they used to wash
their hair with buttermilk.

1738

01:11:04,150 --> 01:11:06,400

They used to make their own
buttermilk, if they could,

1739

01:11:06,400 --> 01:11:10,240

and wash their hair because it
made their black hair shine--

1740

01:11:10,240 --> 01:11:12,780

very, very shiny
used to be, the hair.

1741

01:11:12,780 --> 01:11:14,870

Now, your mother wasn't
working during this time.

1742

01:11:14,870 --> 01:11:15,370

No.

1743

01:11:15,370 --> 01:11:18,570

No, there was no place to
work-- was nothing to do, just

1744

01:11:18,570 --> 01:11:21,700

to wait out the war and starve.

1745

01:11:21,700 --> 01:11:23,770

And there were many
nights I cried myself

1746

01:11:23,770 --> 01:11:26,950
to sleep at night,
absolutely many nights.

1747
01:11:26,950 --> 01:11:28,180
I kept praying.

1748
01:11:28,180 --> 01:11:30,700
I said, why can't I have
at least something to eat?

1749
01:11:30,700 --> 01:11:32,420
I know I have to live
in this condition,

1750
01:11:32,420 --> 01:11:33,520
but something to eat.

1751
01:11:33,520 --> 01:11:36,100

1752
01:11:36,100 --> 01:11:38,440
About a week later, she
came back, my mother,

1753
01:11:38,440 --> 01:11:39,580
with that other lady.

1754
01:11:39,580 --> 01:11:41,740
I can't remember her name.

1755
01:11:41,740 --> 01:11:44,980
And then they couldn't
find any food.

1756
01:11:44,980 --> 01:11:50,380
They came back with such
bleeding feet, so worn out.

1757
01:11:50,380 --> 01:11:54,580
Walking barefoot
on this dry desert

1758

01:11:54,580 --> 01:11:58,010

where the rocks and stuff,
they really were a mess.

1759

01:11:58,010 --> 01:12:00,170

That's when my mother
and her decided

1760

01:12:00,170 --> 01:12:02,620

we've got to get out of there.

1761

01:12:02,620 --> 01:12:07,270

We got up one day.

1762

01:12:07,270 --> 01:12:10,180

And she says, we're going
to go into the next town

1763

01:12:10,180 --> 01:12:12,550

that we can find some food.

1764

01:12:12,550 --> 01:12:14,770

But we're going to
go all together.

1765

01:12:14,770 --> 01:12:16,390

And that's what we did.

1766

01:12:16,390 --> 01:12:18,610

We started walking
into the mountains.

1767

01:12:18,610 --> 01:12:23,560

We knew the next town over there
is not as warm as this place

1768

01:12:23,560 --> 01:12:25,550

where we are now.

1769

01:12:25,550 --> 01:12:27,490

But we didn't have
much clothing left.

1770
01:12:27,490 --> 01:12:30,280
And certainly, we
didn't have any shoes.

1771
01:12:30,280 --> 01:12:32,620
We started walking.

1772
01:12:32,620 --> 01:12:35,110
And it took us two days
over these mountains.

1773
01:12:35,110 --> 01:12:35,890
We walk.

1774
01:12:35,890 --> 01:12:39,790
And we didn't have any food, but
the kids couldn't walk anymore.

1775
01:12:39,790 --> 01:12:42,730
I don't know how the ladies
made it, but the kids couldn't.

1776
01:12:42,730 --> 01:12:46,450
We were all about
the same-age kids.

1777
01:12:46,450 --> 01:12:49,850
And so she-- we saw a dead--

1778
01:12:49,850 --> 01:12:53,350
I have to tell you this
because it's very important.

1779
01:12:53,350 --> 01:12:56,780
We saw a dead mule full
with maggots sitting on it.

1780
01:12:56,780 --> 01:13:00,610
And my mother said, we are going
to do something about this.

1781

01:13:00,610 --> 01:13:02,170
We're going to eat this.

1782
01:13:02,170 --> 01:13:03,220
And I said, no way.

1783
01:13:03,220 --> 01:13:07,624
I'm going to die right
now, and you cannot make--

1784
01:13:07,624 --> 01:13:10,120
this is as much as I would
have gone for that thing.

1785
01:13:10,120 --> 01:13:11,930
But she had matches.

1786
01:13:11,930 --> 01:13:13,750
She cut something off, pulled--

1787
01:13:13,750 --> 01:13:17,170
I remember seeing her pulling
off a piece of this meat

1788
01:13:17,170 --> 01:13:21,290
and bringing some wood and
boiling this over the fire.

1789
01:13:21,290 --> 01:13:23,290
And she says, you're going
to take some of that.

1790
01:13:23,290 --> 01:13:24,470
You're going to eat it.

1791
01:13:24,470 --> 01:13:26,678
I'm sure she didn't cut off
the one with the maggots.

1792
01:13:26,678 --> 01:13:28,910
But she said, you're
going to eat it.

1793

01:13:28,910 --> 01:13:31,870

And we're not moving until
you kids eat something.

1794

01:13:31,870 --> 01:13:34,780

You can't go any more longer
without food like that.

1795

01:13:34,780 --> 01:13:37,480

Looking at me now, you
wouldn't believe it, right?

1796

01:13:37,480 --> 01:13:39,700

But she insisted.

1797

01:13:39,700 --> 01:13:40,930

We didn't budge.

1798

01:13:40,930 --> 01:13:42,670

And we didn't want to eat it.

1799

01:13:42,670 --> 01:13:46,300

But she insisted that
us kids would eat it.

1800

01:13:46,300 --> 01:13:47,908

They ate.

1801

01:13:47,908 --> 01:13:48,580

She ate.

1802

01:13:48,580 --> 01:13:50,230

And she ate a dead
mouse, too, when

1803

01:13:50,230 --> 01:13:53,950

she found it, because that was
the only way she could survive.

1804

01:13:53,950 --> 01:13:54,910

I wouldn't touch it.

1805

01:13:54,910 --> 01:13:57,190

My brother wouldn't hear of it.

1806

01:13:57,190 --> 01:13:58,235

But she made us.

1807

01:13:58,235 --> 01:13:59,860

And she said, either

you're doing this,

1808

01:13:59,860 --> 01:14:01,235

or we're going to

die right here.

1809

01:14:01,235 --> 01:14:03,800

We can't go any further.

1810

01:14:03,800 --> 01:14:04,600

I swallowed it.

1811

01:14:04,600 --> 01:14:05,260

I ate it.

1812

01:14:05,260 --> 01:14:06,880

And I made it--

1813

01:14:06,880 --> 01:14:10,690

took a few bites

out of that somehow.

1814

01:14:10,690 --> 01:14:12,490

She says, now, we can go on.

1815

01:14:12,490 --> 01:14:14,650

And we came into this--

1816

01:14:14,650 --> 01:14:17,770

two days later, we came

into the next town.

1817

01:14:17,770 --> 01:14:22,420

Over there was already cold,
the town that had-- sometimes,

1818
01:14:22,420 --> 01:14:23,760
it used to snow there.

1819
01:14:23,760 --> 01:14:24,700
It was cold.

1820
01:14:24,700 --> 01:14:27,970

1821
01:14:27,970 --> 01:14:30,310
They didn't have right
papers to stay in that town,

1822
01:14:30,310 --> 01:14:34,360
to be registered so we can
get once a week some bread.

1823
01:14:34,360 --> 01:14:36,730
They had to go back all
the way to the kolkhoz

1824
01:14:36,730 --> 01:14:37,990
over the mountains again.

1825
01:14:37,990 --> 01:14:40,720
The two women left us
children on the doorstep

1826
01:14:40,720 --> 01:14:43,310
of some building.

1827
01:14:43,310 --> 01:14:45,310
And they had to go back
to get the right papers,

1828
01:14:45,310 --> 01:14:47,290
in order when they
come back again,

1829

01:14:47,290 --> 01:14:48,400
they could be registered.

1830
01:14:48,400 --> 01:14:52,180
And maybe we can get once a week
food, once a week bread, once

1831
01:14:52,180 --> 01:14:55,300
a week something or housing.

1832
01:14:55,300 --> 01:14:56,950
They did go back--
left us children.

1833
01:14:56,950 --> 01:14:59,860
We used to eat out
of the garbage then.

1834
01:14:59,860 --> 01:15:02,530
By the time they came
back, there was a lady.

1835
01:15:02,530 --> 01:15:03,670
I will never forget.

1836
01:15:03,670 --> 01:15:07,810
We all spent our time in the
evening near the garbage can

1837
01:15:07,810 --> 01:15:09,220
where they throw out food.

1838
01:15:09,220 --> 01:15:10,900
They used to throw
out some-- people

1839
01:15:10,900 --> 01:15:13,750
had some food, potato peels.

1840
01:15:13,750 --> 01:15:18,190
And we would just eat it
and anything we could find.

1841

01:15:18,190 --> 01:15:22,630

By the time my mother came
back, I already had dysentery

1842

01:15:22,630 --> 01:15:24,110

from eating out of the garbage.

1843

01:15:24,110 --> 01:15:26,890

So now, she says, I'm going
to put you in the hospital.

1844

01:15:26,890 --> 01:15:28,270

They had a hospital there.

1845

01:15:28,270 --> 01:15:30,062

She says, I'm going to
see if they're going

1846

01:15:30,062 --> 01:15:31,480

to take you into the hospital.

1847

01:15:31,480 --> 01:15:33,370

And they did confirm
it was dysentery.

1848

01:15:33,370 --> 01:15:34,840

And she says, at least--

1849

01:15:34,840 --> 01:15:35,560

please go.

1850

01:15:35,560 --> 01:15:38,200

At least you will
have something to eat.

1851

01:15:38,200 --> 01:15:40,000

And this is how I decided, OK.

1852

01:15:40,000 --> 01:15:43,330

Then I'll go to the hospital
if they're going to feed me.

1853

01:15:43,330 --> 01:15:45,640

Two days later, I still
was laying there another--

1854

01:15:45,640 --> 01:15:47,682

they wouldn't give me
anything because they don't

1855

01:15:47,682 --> 01:15:49,060

give anything with dysentery.

1856

01:15:49,060 --> 01:15:50,308

So I ran away.

1857

01:15:50,308 --> 01:15:51,350

And would you believe it?

1858

01:15:51,350 --> 01:15:52,270

I survived that, too.

1859

01:15:52,270 --> 01:15:53,562

I ran away out of the hospital.

1860

01:15:53,562 --> 01:15:56,050

1861

01:15:56,050 --> 01:15:59,770

Then she found a little
place for us, a room

1862

01:15:59,770 --> 01:16:03,250

with this other lady.

1863

01:16:03,250 --> 01:16:09,880

And she had-- the lady's was
the boy was the older one.

1864

01:16:09,880 --> 01:16:12,340

In my family, I
was the older one.

1865

01:16:12,340 --> 01:16:17,590
So they'd send us up to get
our weekly bread one afternoon.

1866
01:16:17,590 --> 01:16:19,030
We were hungry.

1867
01:16:19,030 --> 01:16:19,930
It was cold.

1868
01:16:19,930 --> 01:16:21,680
And it snowed that day.

1869
01:16:21,680 --> 01:16:25,630
So in Russia, you have
to go stay in line.

1870
01:16:25,630 --> 01:16:28,270
And she told us the bread we're
going to get is going to be

1871
01:16:28,270 --> 01:16:29,350
next week's.

1872
01:16:29,350 --> 01:16:30,250
But we need it now.

1873
01:16:30,250 --> 01:16:31,910
We have to eat something.

1874
01:16:31,910 --> 01:16:34,210
But you could get next
week and next week, too,

1875
01:16:34,210 --> 01:16:36,460
as long as you stay in line.

1876
01:16:36,460 --> 01:16:41,020
So we used up our
last week's already.

1877
01:16:41,020 --> 01:16:43,090

So he and I went up.

1878

01:16:43,090 --> 01:16:44,680

And in Russia, when
you stay in line,

1879

01:16:44,680 --> 01:16:47,230

it's not just a line where
you stay here in America.

1880

01:16:47,230 --> 01:16:49,960

You stay-- you keep
each other warm

1881

01:16:49,960 --> 01:16:51,340

because you stay a whole day.

1882

01:16:51,340 --> 01:16:53,800

So you're inside almost
like glued together.

1883

01:16:53,800 --> 01:16:55,633

You get out of here and
you get out of line,

1884

01:16:55,633 --> 01:16:57,133

you want to do
something, forget it.

1885

01:16:57,133 --> 01:16:58,150

You don't get back in.

1886

01:16:58,150 --> 01:17:00,160

There's no way you get back in.

1887

01:17:00,160 --> 01:17:03,870

We stayed a whole day there,
two kids holding our breath,

1888

01:17:03,870 --> 01:17:06,070

practically, not being
able to go to the bathroom,

1889

01:17:06,070 --> 01:17:09,830

not being able to eat,
and freezing cold.

1890

01:17:09,830 --> 01:17:10,510

We stayed there.

1891

01:17:10,510 --> 01:17:11,930

We got our bread.

1892

01:17:11,930 --> 01:17:12,910

We were so happy.

1893

01:17:12,910 --> 01:17:16,030

We were coming down that
hill, running down that hill.

1894

01:17:16,030 --> 01:17:17,410

The mother's going to be happy.

1895

01:17:17,410 --> 01:17:18,702

His mother's going to be happy.

1896

01:17:18,702 --> 01:17:20,380

We're going to have
some bread tonight.

1897

01:17:20,380 --> 01:17:21,490

Somebody attacked us.

1898

01:17:21,490 --> 01:17:24,640

Two kids attacked us, took
our bread, beat us up,

1899

01:17:24,640 --> 01:17:26,140

and we came home beaten up.

1900

01:17:26,140 --> 01:17:29,770

That was the day of our bread.

1901

01:17:29,770 --> 01:17:33,640

1902
01:17:33,640 --> 01:17:36,610
On and on and on, these
things were just going.

1903
01:17:36,610 --> 01:17:38,330
But then my mother got sick.

1904
01:17:38,330 --> 01:17:39,520
She got malaria.

1905
01:17:39,520 --> 01:17:41,980
And she couldn't
take care of us.

1906
01:17:41,980 --> 01:17:44,450
So she was laying in
some sort of a basement.

1907
01:17:44,450 --> 01:17:46,540
I can't even tell
you what it looked

1908
01:17:46,540 --> 01:17:47,860
like because it was only--

1909
01:17:47,860 --> 01:17:50,830
and the lady would take
care of her, her friend

1910
01:17:50,830 --> 01:17:52,940
that we survived all together.

1911
01:17:52,940 --> 01:17:54,818
She said to us, to my
brother and myself,

1912
01:17:54,818 --> 01:17:56,110
you have to go to an orphanage.

1913
01:17:56,110 --> 01:17:57,980

I can't do this anymore.

1914

01:17:57,980 --> 01:18:02,320

I'm sick, you're hungry, and
you get food in the orphanage.

1915

01:18:02,320 --> 01:18:03,670

And I didn't want to go.

1916

01:18:03,670 --> 01:18:05,780

But she says, you're
being selfish.

1917

01:18:05,780 --> 01:18:07,390

You have to take
your brother and go.

1918

01:18:07,390 --> 01:18:10,960

So the orphanage was across
the street, almost like--

1919

01:18:10,960 --> 01:18:13,390

I keep saying there was
something in between, some kind

1920

01:18:13,390 --> 01:18:14,710

of a ravine in between.

1921

01:18:14,710 --> 01:18:16,420

My mother would be on that side.

1922

01:18:16,420 --> 01:18:18,807

And to cross to go
to the orphanage,

1923

01:18:18,807 --> 01:18:20,140

I would have to cross something.

1924

01:18:20,140 --> 01:18:21,680

It would be on the other side.

1925

01:18:21,680 --> 01:18:23,260

I don't remember street names.

1926

01:18:23,260 --> 01:18:26,522

At that point, I
really don't remember.

1927

01:18:26,522 --> 01:18:27,730

And we went to the orphanage.

1928

01:18:27,730 --> 01:18:30,820

And she was staying with
the lady in that place.

1929

01:18:30,820 --> 01:18:32,860

That friend of hers
would take care of her.

1930

01:18:32,860 --> 01:18:35,480

But later on, that
friend caught malaria.

1931

01:18:35,480 --> 01:18:38,110

And she died because
she also had dysentery.

1932

01:18:38,110 --> 01:18:38,680

And she died.

1933

01:18:38,680 --> 01:18:41,380

So my mother was kind of
left alone there, too.

1934

01:18:41,380 --> 01:18:43,480

How big was the orphanage?

1935

01:18:43,480 --> 01:18:48,460

The orphanage didn't have any
Jewish people or Polish people

1936

01:18:48,460 --> 01:18:49,210

or whatever.

1937

01:18:49,210 --> 01:18:51,190
It was all Russian.

1938
01:18:51,190 --> 01:18:54,550
In one room, they kept
them locked up on the--

1939
01:18:54,550 --> 01:18:57,460
and I swear I'll
never forget that.

1940
01:18:57,460 --> 01:18:59,440
In one room, they had
a bunch of children

1941
01:18:59,440 --> 01:19:03,790
that used to be cannibals,
because they were Chechens.

1942
01:19:03,790 --> 01:19:04,540
I'll never forget.

1943
01:19:04,540 --> 01:19:07,240
They were Chechens.

1944
01:19:07,240 --> 01:19:08,200
It's called Chechnya.

1945
01:19:08,200 --> 01:19:11,230
But over there, they
call them Chechens.

1946
01:19:11,230 --> 01:19:13,540
They would never
let them be near us.

1947
01:19:13,540 --> 01:19:16,390
They could never be near us.

1948
01:19:16,390 --> 01:19:20,530
That was an orphanage that
everybody got assignments.

1949

01:19:20,530 --> 01:19:23,050

Oh, by the way, we went
with the two other children

1950

01:19:23,050 --> 01:19:25,510

that survived.

1951

01:19:25,510 --> 01:19:30,130

And I had a bed that I was
sharing with that girl.

1952

01:19:30,130 --> 01:19:33,880

And my brother was with the boy.

1953

01:19:33,880 --> 01:19:35,387

I remember her name.

1954

01:19:35,387 --> 01:19:37,720

I can't remember his, but I
remember her name was Becky.

1955

01:19:37,720 --> 01:19:40,650

And Rebecca, they
used to call her then.

1956

01:19:40,650 --> 01:19:42,370

And I would start
wetting the bed.

1957

01:19:42,370 --> 01:19:45,130

No, first of all, we
had assignments to us.

1958

01:19:45,130 --> 01:19:52,720

And when those assignments came
for us, I was supposed to--

1959

01:19:52,720 --> 01:19:56,482

I forgot what you call this,
that you carry two buckets.

1960

01:19:56,482 --> 01:19:57,940

Yoke.

1961

01:19:57,940 --> 01:19:58,840

Yoke.

1962

01:19:58,840 --> 01:20:00,190

A yoke.

1963

01:20:00,190 --> 01:20:02,630

We were supposed to bring
water from, oh, a half

1964

01:20:02,630 --> 01:20:06,140

a mile away out of the ground
because everything was frozen.

1965

01:20:06,140 --> 01:20:08,390

That's how we were supposed--
that was our assignment,

1966

01:20:08,390 --> 01:20:09,020

to bring--

1967

01:20:09,020 --> 01:20:12,050

every other day, we're
supposed to bring the water.

1968

01:20:12,050 --> 01:20:16,850

But being so undernourished
and so vulnerable

1969

01:20:16,850 --> 01:20:19,930

for every disease at the
time, I couldn't handle it.

1970

01:20:19,930 --> 01:20:22,010

I did, but I couldn't handle it.

1971

01:20:22,010 --> 01:20:25,605

So I decided I am not--

1972

01:20:25,605 --> 01:20:27,230

after being punished
so much-- you see,

1973
01:20:27,230 --> 01:20:29,520
I shared a bed with her.

1974
01:20:29,520 --> 01:20:34,460
And I wet with my
bed not wanting to.

1975
01:20:34,460 --> 01:20:37,610
I did it all until I
was about 12 years old.

1976
01:20:37,610 --> 01:20:38,780
I would wet my bed.

1977
01:20:38,780 --> 01:20:43,040
She would change places with
me, thinking by drying it out,

1978
01:20:43,040 --> 01:20:44,240
I will not get punished.

1979
01:20:44,240 --> 01:20:45,760
But the spots are still there.

1980
01:20:45,760 --> 01:20:48,020
So I used to get--
they knew it was me.

1981
01:20:48,020 --> 01:20:51,890
So they didn't want-- so
they put me on a bench

1982
01:20:51,890 --> 01:20:52,970
without clothes.

1983
01:20:52,970 --> 01:20:54,260
And that's a whole night.

1984
01:20:54,260 --> 01:20:56,510

So the more they did
it, the more I wet.

1985
01:20:56,510 --> 01:20:59,750
I was a nervous child,
and that's all I could do.

1986
01:20:59,750 --> 01:21:01,190
I couldn't get better.

1987
01:21:01,190 --> 01:21:02,540
So I gave up my--

1988
01:21:02,540 --> 01:21:04,260
I decided I'm not
going to give up.

1989
01:21:04,260 --> 01:21:05,510
I'm not going to take this.

1990
01:21:05,510 --> 01:21:09,410
I'll give up my bread and my
daily food for somebody else

1991
01:21:09,410 --> 01:21:11,180
to take my chores.

1992
01:21:11,180 --> 01:21:15,020
At the time-- I am sorry, but
my tears are getting in my eyes.

1993
01:21:15,020 --> 01:21:20,380
And somebody else took
my job to do this.

1994
01:21:20,380 --> 01:21:22,818
And I ran home to
mom, back to her.

1995
01:21:22,818 --> 01:21:24,360
And I said, I don't
want to go there.

1996

01:21:24,360 --> 01:21:25,140

I'm cold.

1997

01:21:25,140 --> 01:21:26,330

And I don't want to sleep.

1998

01:21:26,330 --> 01:21:28,820

She says, I can't help
you, either, at the time.

1999

01:21:28,820 --> 01:21:30,260

How about your brother?

2000

01:21:30,260 --> 01:21:31,550

My brother was there.

2001

01:21:31,550 --> 01:21:32,510

He was all right there.

2002

01:21:32,510 --> 01:21:36,830

He was too young to be able to--

2003

01:21:36,830 --> 01:21:41,660

they took mostly advantage of
the older kids that could help.

2004

01:21:41,660 --> 01:21:43,640

They didn't do it
just purposely for me.

2005

01:21:43,640 --> 01:21:45,140

But they just did it--

2006

01:21:45,140 --> 01:21:46,340

you have to do your chores.

2007

01:21:46,340 --> 01:21:49,230

But I couldn't do it anymore.

2008

01:21:49,230 --> 01:21:53,840

So my mother said, somebody

stopped by before the-- that

2009

01:21:53,840 --> 01:21:55,640
was before--

2010

01:21:55,640 --> 01:21:58,730
after her friend died,
somebody stopped by.

2011

01:21:58,730 --> 01:22:00,770
They knew that
she's laying there.

2012

01:22:00,770 --> 01:22:02,210
Some of the refugees knew it.

2013

01:22:02,210 --> 01:22:04,730
So they stopped by to visit her.

2014

01:22:04,730 --> 01:22:06,620
And they brought her
something to eat.

2015

01:22:06,620 --> 01:22:09,320
And she says,
somebody brought me--

2016

01:22:09,320 --> 01:22:11,570
brought you a little coat.

2017

01:22:11,570 --> 01:22:12,740
They found it somewhere.

2018

01:22:12,740 --> 01:22:17,480
And she says, I can't wait
to give it to you, a coat.

2019

01:22:17,480 --> 01:22:18,440
And I was so happy.

2020

01:22:18,440 --> 01:22:20,107
She says, but you

have to go back there.

2021

01:22:20,107 --> 01:22:21,990

She says, you have no other way.

2022

01:22:21,990 --> 01:22:24,620

I don't want you running on
the streets and starving.

2023

01:22:24,620 --> 01:22:26,990

At least of a day,
you can get something.

2024

01:22:26,990 --> 01:22:29,240

Well, I listened to
mom all the time.

2025

01:22:29,240 --> 01:22:30,440

I'm the good person.

2026

01:22:30,440 --> 01:22:33,170

And I went back there,
and I had that coat.

2027

01:22:33,170 --> 01:22:35,420

I was happy it kept me warm.

2028

01:22:35,420 --> 01:22:39,020

And they decided
instead of punishing me,

2029

01:22:39,020 --> 01:22:40,910

they saw they
couldn't get anywhere.

2030

01:22:40,910 --> 01:22:42,750

They thought-- I didn't stop.

2031

01:22:42,750 --> 01:22:45,350

They thought to do the
opposite, put me someplace

2032

01:22:45,350 --> 01:22:46,550
where it's warm.

2033
01:22:46,550 --> 01:22:51,080
They figured maybe that will
stop for me wetting myself.

2034
01:22:51,080 --> 01:22:55,430
And they put me in the
infirmary and on the floor

2035
01:22:55,430 --> 01:22:57,470
and with a little
heater in the middle.

2036
01:22:57,470 --> 01:22:59,790
There's quite a few
of us were sleeping.

2037
01:22:59,790 --> 01:23:01,040
And I didn't take my coat off.

2038
01:23:01,040 --> 01:23:02,780
I wouldn't take my coat off.

2039
01:23:02,780 --> 01:23:04,700
So I was so close to that.

2040
01:23:04,700 --> 01:23:07,190
I fell asleep, and I didn't
wet the bed that night.

2041
01:23:07,190 --> 01:23:08,420
That's true.

2042
01:23:08,420 --> 01:23:12,140
But my coat caught on fire
from the little heater.

2043
01:23:12,140 --> 01:23:14,030
And the next thing I
know, I found myself

2044

01:23:14,030 --> 01:23:15,320
rolling in the snow.

2045

01:23:15,320 --> 01:23:17,810
I didn't even know
what happened.

2046

01:23:17,810 --> 01:23:18,500
They threw me.

2047

01:23:18,500 --> 01:23:21,200
They picked me up, and the
smoke overwhelmed them.

2048

01:23:21,200 --> 01:23:23,270
And they picked me up
and threw me in the snow.

2049

01:23:23,270 --> 01:23:25,460
And they rolled me
outside in the snow.

2050

01:23:25,460 --> 01:23:27,530
And this is when I
looked and I started

2051

01:23:27,530 --> 01:23:28,940
crying not because I survived.

2052

01:23:28,940 --> 01:23:31,410
I started crying because
my coat was gone.

2053

01:23:31,410 --> 01:23:33,320
And I think that was
the last time I ever

2054

01:23:33,320 --> 01:23:36,530
wet the bed over there.

2055

01:23:36,530 --> 01:23:37,380
It was warm.

2056
01:23:37,380 --> 01:23:37,940
That helped.

2057
01:23:37,940 --> 01:23:41,120
It did help.

2058
01:23:41,120 --> 01:23:42,327
But mother had--

2059
01:23:42,327 --> 01:23:44,660
Couldn't have been too warm
if they put you in the snow.

2060
01:23:44,660 --> 01:23:45,350
Well, yeah.

2061
01:23:45,350 --> 01:23:50,300
But it was warm in the
room, yes, in the infirmary.

2062
01:23:50,300 --> 01:23:53,900
What I'm saying is that I
think that kind of cured me.

2063
01:23:53,900 --> 01:23:55,790
And I think I took--

2064
01:23:55,790 --> 01:23:57,380
I got over all my fears.

2065
01:23:57,380 --> 01:24:00,530
And I don't think I was ever
scared again from that moment

2066
01:24:00,530 --> 01:24:02,720
on.

2067
01:24:02,720 --> 01:24:05,660
I think by then, I was already,
I think, 11 years old--

2068

01:24:05,660 --> 01:24:07,250

not quite 11, maybe 10.

2069

01:24:07,250 --> 01:24:11,990

2070

01:24:11,990 --> 01:24:14,750

These friends that kept
looking after my mom,

2071

01:24:14,750 --> 01:24:17,210

even though she was
laying there all alone,

2072

01:24:17,210 --> 01:24:19,760

someone asked about her--

2073

01:24:19,760 --> 01:24:22,830

came in another friend
from another town.

2074

01:24:22,830 --> 01:24:25,630

And he asked about her.

2075

01:24:25,630 --> 01:24:28,670

A person she never
met asked about her.

2076

01:24:28,670 --> 01:24:30,890

Have you heard of this woman
with such and such name?

2077

01:24:30,890 --> 01:24:33,170

And this is how it went
on all during Russia

2078

01:24:33,170 --> 01:24:34,400

when everybody was running.

2079

01:24:34,400 --> 01:24:36,200

Maybe you heard
such and such name.

2080
01:24:36,200 --> 01:24:39,050
It's like after the war, maybe
you know this one is alive

2081
01:24:39,050 --> 01:24:39,830
or this.

2082
01:24:39,830 --> 01:24:43,340
Well, during the war in
Russia, they also would ask,

2083
01:24:43,340 --> 01:24:45,650
oh, I just came from
such and such place.

2084
01:24:45,650 --> 01:24:48,170
Maybe you know such and
such person that survived.

2085
01:24:48,170 --> 01:24:49,640
Maybe you would know.

2086
01:24:49,640 --> 01:24:51,410
But this happened
to be that somebody

2087
01:24:51,410 --> 01:24:53,600
came in looking for my mom.

2088
01:24:53,600 --> 01:24:57,950
And her sister sent
out these messages

2089
01:24:57,950 --> 01:25:01,010
because her sister
was good-off by now.

2090
01:25:01,010 --> 01:25:03,240
By now, she was
already better-off.

2091

01:25:03,240 --> 01:25:06,530

So she wanted to find her
sister and the children.

2092

01:25:06,530 --> 01:25:08,705

And my mother was
constantly with malaria.

2093

01:25:08,705 --> 01:25:10,080

Either one day,
she'd get better.

2094

01:25:10,080 --> 01:25:12,950

And then right away,
she'd get malaria again.

2095

01:25:12,950 --> 01:25:18,650

And somebody told that she
knows somebody by that name.

2096

01:25:18,650 --> 01:25:19,820

And they took that man.

2097

01:25:19,820 --> 01:25:21,470

They took that man to her.

2098

01:25:21,470 --> 01:25:24,950

And he told her that
your sister is alive

2099

01:25:24,950 --> 01:25:27,500

and they are not
too far from here.

2100

01:25:27,500 --> 01:25:30,920

But you're sick, and I don't
know how you can get there.

2101

01:25:30,920 --> 01:25:32,180

And how are your kids?

2102

01:25:32,180 --> 01:25:33,410

She wanted to know.

2103
01:25:33,410 --> 01:25:35,240
But I'll tell you
what we can do.

2104
01:25:35,240 --> 01:25:40,010
We can let your kids at
least come to the place.

2105
01:25:40,010 --> 01:25:43,550
And then maybe they will
find a way of getting you

2106
01:25:43,550 --> 01:25:45,350
out when you feel better.

2107
01:25:45,350 --> 01:25:47,630
First, let's get those
kids out of here.

2108
01:25:47,630 --> 01:25:50,210
So when I came to
see mom, she told me,

2109
01:25:50,210 --> 01:25:51,500
you've got to do something.

2110
01:25:51,500 --> 01:25:53,970
And she says, this is dangerous,
but you have to do it.

2111
01:25:53,970 --> 01:25:55,590
And I have no choice.

2112
01:25:55,590 --> 01:25:57,230
They told her
exactly how to do it

2113
01:25:57,230 --> 01:25:58,550
and what they're going to do.

2114
01:25:58,550 --> 01:26:02,120

It turned out to be it was
a very good friend of--

2115
01:26:02,120 --> 01:26:04,550
this, I have to tell you.

2116
01:26:04,550 --> 01:26:05,480
My mother told me.

2117
01:26:05,480 --> 01:26:07,172
She says, you are
going to go tonight.

2118
01:26:07,172 --> 01:26:09,380
And you're not going to tell
your brother that you're

2119
01:26:09,380 --> 01:26:11,300
going away because
I don't want them

2120
01:26:11,300 --> 01:26:13,130
to get in trouble over there.

2121
01:26:13,130 --> 01:26:17,470
You are going to go to the
station again, to the tracks.

2122
01:26:17,470 --> 01:26:19,660
You're going to take a train--

2123
01:26:19,660 --> 01:26:23,380
that's how she told me--
that goes in this direction--

2124
01:26:23,380 --> 01:26:24,910
here she is, facing me--

2125
01:26:24,910 --> 01:26:28,360
that goes in this direction,
not that goes in this direction.

2126

01:26:28,360 --> 01:26:30,280
That was how it was told to her.

2127
01:26:30,280 --> 01:26:32,380
You'll get on that train,
the first train that's

2128
01:26:32,380 --> 01:26:34,840
going to come going
in that direction.

2129
01:26:34,840 --> 01:26:37,630
And you'll get off
at the first stop

2130
01:26:37,630 --> 01:26:42,580
after going the whole night
at the first stop that

2131
01:26:42,580 --> 01:26:44,337
stops in the morning.

2132
01:26:44,337 --> 01:26:45,670
And I want you to get off there.

2133
01:26:45,670 --> 01:26:46,750
I said, no way.

2134
01:26:46,750 --> 01:26:48,200
I'm not doing this.

2135
01:26:48,200 --> 01:26:51,170
I've survived so much with
you and with my brother.

2136
01:26:51,170 --> 01:26:53,020
I'm not going to go
get lost someplace.

2137
01:26:53,020 --> 01:26:54,820
I just didn't want to do it.

2138

01:26:54,820 --> 01:26:56,020
She says, you must.

2139
01:26:56,020 --> 01:26:58,120
There's no way out for us
because they cannot come

2140
01:26:58,120 --> 01:27:00,310
and get us.

2141
01:27:00,310 --> 01:27:01,630
They couldn't come and get us.

2142
01:27:01,630 --> 01:27:03,280
They have no way of
coming to get us.

2143
01:27:03,280 --> 01:27:06,460
And you need to be the
first one to do this.

2144
01:27:06,460 --> 01:27:08,620
Well, I went to the train.

2145
01:27:08,620 --> 01:27:10,180
It was nighttime.

2146
01:27:10,180 --> 01:27:12,458
And I went to the train tracks.

2147
01:27:12,458 --> 01:27:14,500
And sure enough, I'm
sitting there on the ground.

2148
01:27:14,500 --> 01:27:16,690
And I said, uh-uh,
I'm going back.

2149
01:27:16,690 --> 01:27:18,230
I'm not doing this.

2150
01:27:18,230 --> 01:27:20,290

And I got up and I
started walking back

2151
01:27:20,290 --> 01:27:22,630
towards wherever my mother was.

2152
01:27:22,630 --> 01:27:26,470
I heard the whistle
from the train coming.

2153
01:27:26,470 --> 01:27:27,970
And I stood on.

2154
01:27:27,970 --> 01:27:32,380
And next thing I know, I
got on that cattle car.

2155
01:27:32,380 --> 01:27:33,880
And there was a lot
of people there.

2156
01:27:33,880 --> 01:27:36,970
I found myself a little corner.

2157
01:27:36,970 --> 01:27:39,520
And I kept dozing off.

2158
01:27:39,520 --> 01:27:40,420
I kept dozing off.

2159
01:27:40,420 --> 01:27:43,300
And I didn't want to miss
where he's going to stop,

2160
01:27:43,300 --> 01:27:46,120
because when you're
that tired, you

2161
01:27:46,120 --> 01:27:49,480
could go in a very deep sleep
and not wake up sometimes, too.

2162

01:27:49,480 --> 01:27:51,740

So all night long, I
tried to stay awake

2163

01:27:51,740 --> 01:27:53,380

so I can remember
how to get off.

2164

01:27:53,380 --> 01:27:56,590

And down there, when I got
off, just like she told me,

2165

01:27:56,590 --> 01:27:59,260

there was a man that
recognized me because he

2166

01:27:59,260 --> 01:28:01,570

knew my father, recognized me.

2167

01:28:01,570 --> 01:28:04,930

He was from the same
town as my aunt.

2168

01:28:04,930 --> 01:28:07,022

Later on, he was
here in America.

2169

01:28:07,022 --> 01:28:08,230

We found him here in America.

2170

01:28:08,230 --> 01:28:10,000

It's unbelievable.

2171

01:28:10,000 --> 01:28:11,840

He knocked on my shoulder.

2172

01:28:11,840 --> 01:28:13,220

He did like this.

2173

01:28:13,220 --> 01:28:15,790

And he said, are you Manya?

2174

01:28:15,790 --> 01:28:16,750
I said, yes.

2175
01:28:16,750 --> 01:28:18,460
He says, I recognize
you anywhere.

2176
01:28:18,460 --> 01:28:20,740
You look just like
your father, he said.

2177
01:28:20,740 --> 01:28:24,250
He took me home to his place.

2178
01:28:24,250 --> 01:28:27,610
They were a little better
off than the rest of us--

2179
01:28:27,610 --> 01:28:31,120
nourished me for one week,
bought me some clothes,

2180
01:28:31,120 --> 01:28:34,060
and sent me off on a
journey to my aunt.

2181
01:28:34,060 --> 01:28:37,360
And she lived in
Tashkent at the time--

2182
01:28:37,360 --> 01:28:38,950
Chimkent.

2183
01:28:38,950 --> 01:28:40,150
In Kazakhstan is Chimkent.

2184
01:28:40,150 --> 01:28:45,423
Tashkent is Uzbekistan.

2185
01:28:45,423 --> 01:28:46,465
And we lived in Chimkent.

2186

01:28:46,465 --> 01:28:50,530
She lived in-- when I
got there, I did get--

2187
01:28:50,530 --> 01:28:53,410
I had the most unbelievable
ride on a truck

2188
01:28:53,410 --> 01:28:56,200
that I don't know how I
survived getting there

2189
01:28:56,200 --> 01:28:58,180
on the back of a truck,
cold and everything.

2190
01:28:58,180 --> 01:28:59,090
But I got there.

2191
01:28:59,090 --> 01:29:00,910
And she was so happy to have me.

2192
01:29:00,910 --> 01:29:04,930
And I explained to her exactly
where mom is and where Sam was.

2193
01:29:04,930 --> 01:29:07,110
And they tried their best.

2194
01:29:07,110 --> 01:29:08,860
And they brought mom
and Sam out of there.

2195
01:29:08,860 --> 01:29:10,570
That's how we got up again.

2196
01:29:10,570 --> 01:29:13,270
And they were better
off, because we set out

2197
01:29:13,270 --> 01:29:14,740
with them the war.

2198

01:29:14,740 --> 01:29:17,260

She had two-- she
had twins then.

2199

01:29:17,260 --> 01:29:20,530

And we went home together.

2200

01:29:20,530 --> 01:29:22,290

And this is some of my--

2201

01:29:22,290 --> 01:29:24,040

there were so many
other things in between

2202

01:29:24,040 --> 01:29:25,840

that I can't think
of it right now.

2203

01:29:25,840 --> 01:29:26,560

But--

2204

01:29:26,560 --> 01:29:28,180

How were they able
to have it better?

2205

01:29:28,180 --> 01:29:29,350

Were they able to work?

2206

01:29:29,350 --> 01:29:31,690

Well, they stayed out the war.

2207

01:29:31,690 --> 01:29:33,590

Later on, towards
the end of the war,

2208

01:29:33,590 --> 01:29:35,140

we knew it's going
to be over soon.

2209

01:29:35,140 --> 01:29:36,040

I don't know how.

2210

01:29:36,040 --> 01:29:38,270

I was too young
to know all that.

2211

01:29:38,270 --> 01:29:40,930

But somehow, they knew.

2212

01:29:40,930 --> 01:29:44,680

The brothers found a place that
somebody took them into work.

2213

01:29:44,680 --> 01:29:48,850

And they worked in a
tannery at the time

2214

01:29:48,850 --> 01:29:52,150

because during
the war in Russia,

2215

01:29:52,150 --> 01:29:56,080

if you could survive
the cold and the hunger,

2216

01:29:56,080 --> 01:29:59,895

they didn't bother us women
and children-- not as much men.

2217

01:29:59,895 --> 01:30:01,270

They were hiding
out because they

2218

01:30:01,270 --> 01:30:03,100

didn't want to go to the army.

2219

01:30:03,100 --> 01:30:05,320

But everything-- they
took everything away

2220

01:30:05,320 --> 01:30:06,460

from the people.

2221

01:30:06,460 --> 01:30:08,770

They wanted everything
up in front.

2222

01:30:08,770 --> 01:30:11,393

They wanted so desperately
to win the war that they took

2223

01:30:11,393 --> 01:30:13,060

everything away from
the people that you

2224

01:30:13,060 --> 01:30:15,370

couldn't-- and my
brother from one night,

2225

01:30:15,370 --> 01:30:17,410

he went out to try to get
some water for my mom.

2226

01:30:17,410 --> 01:30:19,250

My mother loved to drink water.

2227

01:30:19,250 --> 01:30:21,040

And we could never find it.

2228

01:30:21,040 --> 01:30:23,680

In a cold night, he went
out to look for some water

2229

01:30:23,680 --> 01:30:25,120

when he was already seven years.

2230

01:30:25,120 --> 01:30:29,170

He found 300 rubles sitting
there on the ground.

2231

01:30:29,170 --> 01:30:31,510

You couldn't buy
anything with 300 rubles

2232

01:30:31,510 --> 01:30:35,770

because there was no such thing
as stores and go out and buy.

2233
01:30:35,770 --> 01:30:37,720
Where my aunt was,
they had a bazaar.

2234
01:30:37,720 --> 01:30:40,570
Bazaar is like--

2235
01:30:40,570 --> 01:30:41,470
Antique place.

2236
01:30:41,470 --> 01:30:42,320
No.

2237
01:30:42,320 --> 01:30:42,820
Market.

2238
01:30:42,820 --> 01:30:45,580
They call it-- yeah, it's
like a farmer's market.

2239
01:30:45,580 --> 01:30:47,020
A bazaar is a farmer's market.

2240
01:30:47,020 --> 01:30:49,360
They call it in Russia a bazaar.

2241
01:30:49,360 --> 01:30:51,190
There, he found
something to eat.

2242
01:30:51,190 --> 01:30:54,410
But where we were in this
particular place was nothing.

2243
01:30:54,410 --> 01:30:56,410
It was just unbelievable.

2244
01:30:56,410 --> 01:30:57,670
It's just like they never--

2245

01:30:57,670 --> 01:30:59,590

I don't know how they
even survived there.

2246

01:30:59,590 --> 01:31:04,400

So it was very difficult--
very difficult to live there.

2247

01:31:04,400 --> 01:31:06,680

So my aunt and her brothers--

2248

01:31:06,680 --> 01:31:09,190

my uncle and his brothers,
they worked in a tannery.

2249

01:31:09,190 --> 01:31:10,270

So they made some money.

2250

01:31:10,270 --> 01:31:13,220

And they were able to buy
things for themselves.

2251

01:31:13,220 --> 01:31:15,520

That's why when we moved
in with them afterwards,

2252

01:31:15,520 --> 01:31:18,130

we all lived in the
same room, of course.

2253

01:31:18,130 --> 01:31:20,110

And after she had
the twins, we still

2254

01:31:20,110 --> 01:31:25,310

lived in the same
four square walls.

2255

01:31:25,310 --> 01:31:26,920

But we were together.

2256

01:31:26,920 --> 01:31:29,440

And we were not so-- that's

when I went to Polish school.

2257

01:31:29,440 --> 01:31:32,920

I started going back to
Polish school and so forth.

2258

01:31:32,920 --> 01:31:37,943

My language was good in Russian,
so I wanted to remember Polish.

2259

01:31:37,943 --> 01:31:38,860

I don't know what for.

2260

01:31:38,860 --> 01:31:40,630

I never went back to
Poland to do this.

2261

01:31:40,630 --> 01:31:44,740

But that's how we
survived the war.

2262

01:31:44,740 --> 01:31:45,820

We set out the war.

2263

01:31:45,820 --> 01:31:50,360

And after the war was
over, from that moment on,

2264

01:31:50,360 --> 01:31:53,770

my mother kept having
off and on malaria.

2265

01:31:53,770 --> 01:31:57,520

And it took us one month to
get home also on cattle trains.

2266

01:31:57,520 --> 01:32:01,750

But we were sent with
food and stuff already--

2267

01:32:01,750 --> 01:32:02,600

not much.

2268

01:32:02,600 --> 01:32:04,690

But at least home was--

2269

01:32:04,690 --> 01:32:06,280

to go back to Poland.

2270

01:32:06,280 --> 01:32:07,940

You went back to your hometown?

2271

01:32:07,940 --> 01:32:10,930

No, we did not go

back to my hometown.

2272

01:32:10,930 --> 01:32:12,160

We ended up--

2273

01:32:12,160 --> 01:32:13,655

Where did you get

that food from?

2274

01:32:13,655 --> 01:32:14,530

Was that government--

2275

01:32:14,530 --> 01:32:17,110

The government was already

sending us and taking things

2276

01:32:17,110 --> 01:32:18,040

on loan.

2277

01:32:18,040 --> 01:32:20,658

And if we wanted to go back to

Poland, we went back to Poland.

2278

01:32:20,658 --> 01:32:22,450

They couldn't feed

everybody there, anyway,

2279

01:32:22,450 --> 01:32:25,150

in this country

that lost so much.

2280

01:32:25,150 --> 01:32:27,040

So most of us wanted
to go back home.

2281

01:32:27,040 --> 01:32:29,540

And by that time, women--

2282

01:32:29,540 --> 01:32:33,610

one of my uncle's brothers
married a Russian Jewish lady.

2283

01:32:33,610 --> 01:32:36,790

So there was more family
to go back and so on.

2284

01:32:36,790 --> 01:32:41,140

And meanwhile, he lost a brother
that died of dysentery, too.

2285

01:32:41,140 --> 01:32:45,070

So who could survive
got back home.

2286

01:32:45,070 --> 01:32:46,210

We survived.

2287

01:32:46,210 --> 01:32:48,220

And a lot of miracles
happened in my life.

2288

01:32:48,220 --> 01:32:51,280

And I believe I had really
an angel over my shoulder.

2289

01:32:51,280 --> 01:32:54,130

My mother always kept
saying, we have had an angel

2290

01:32:54,130 --> 01:32:56,230

over our shoulder
that I could bring

2291

01:32:56,230 --> 01:32:59,470
two kids into such
environments and survive

2292
01:32:59,470 --> 01:33:00,840
seven years like that.

2293
01:33:00,840 --> 01:33:03,410
It was unbelievable.

2294
01:33:03,410 --> 01:33:05,800
We came back to Poland.

2295
01:33:05,800 --> 01:33:10,510
And we came back to Katowice,
the town of Katowice.

2296
01:33:10,510 --> 01:33:12,850
And that's where
most of the trains

2297
01:33:12,850 --> 01:33:17,120
came back from all over Russia,
the cattle trains and people

2298
01:33:17,120 --> 01:33:17,620
in it.

2299
01:33:17,620 --> 01:33:20,620
And it's like the station.

2300
01:33:20,620 --> 01:33:25,210
And that's as far as the
Russian trains will go.

2301
01:33:25,210 --> 01:33:27,767
And that's where we found
that we have another--

2302
01:33:27,767 --> 01:33:30,100
that's when my mother found
she had another brother that

2303

01:33:30,100 --> 01:33:31,480
survived Russia.

2304

01:33:31,480 --> 01:33:36,910
And he's the one that later on
lived in Canada here, Montreal.

2305

01:33:36,910 --> 01:33:38,550
He passed away just a year ago.

2306

01:33:38,550 --> 01:33:43,980

2307

01:33:43,980 --> 01:33:48,730
When she found out she
found him, so the wife

2308

01:33:48,730 --> 01:33:50,000
and him took us.

2309

01:33:50,000 --> 01:33:54,012
He was the best
friend of my father.

2310

01:33:54,012 --> 01:33:54,970
My father would never--

2311

01:33:54,970 --> 01:33:56,060
I have pictures of him.

2312

01:33:56,060 --> 01:33:58,303
And if you look in my
book, he's holding my hand.

2313

01:33:58,303 --> 01:33:59,470
My father's holding my hand.

2314

01:33:59,470 --> 01:34:01,092
We're walking always together.

2315

01:34:01,092 --> 01:34:02,050

He was the best friend.

2316

01:34:02,050 --> 01:34:05,503

But it didn't turn out to be
like he promised my father.

2317

01:34:05,503 --> 01:34:07,420

He told-- my father asked
him, please look out

2318

01:34:07,420 --> 01:34:08,320

for my wife and kids.

2319

01:34:08,320 --> 01:34:11,200

But he took his wife and
child, and they ran off first.

2320

01:34:11,200 --> 01:34:14,200

And we've never seen them since.

2321

01:34:14,200 --> 01:34:16,240

But we found each other.

2322

01:34:16,240 --> 01:34:17,440

Where did you find him?

2323

01:34:17,440 --> 01:34:20,410

In one of those towns
where we arrived.

2324

01:34:20,410 --> 01:34:23,263

And my aunt-- there
were friends, people.

2325

01:34:23,263 --> 01:34:24,430

There were people they knew.

2326

01:34:24,430 --> 01:34:27,370

They knew that my family
got killed in Treblinka.

2327

01:34:27,370 --> 01:34:29,050

Nobody survived.

2328
01:34:29,050 --> 01:34:31,270
When I heard my
father didn't survive,

2329
01:34:31,270 --> 01:34:36,340
that really blew my mind
because I just didn't care.

2330
01:34:36,340 --> 01:34:40,180
All this going through, not
seeing him again, it just--

2331
01:34:40,180 --> 01:34:41,050
I didn't care.

2332
01:34:41,050 --> 01:34:44,350
I was old enough to
understand everything by then.

2333
01:34:44,350 --> 01:34:47,830
So my aunt and her--

2334
01:34:47,830 --> 01:34:52,180
my uncle and my aunt, the
one that we found there,

2335
01:34:52,180 --> 01:34:52,750
they took us.

2336
01:34:52,750 --> 01:34:55,780
And they had a house
that somebody gave it

2337
01:34:55,780 --> 01:35:00,220
to them to rent to stay in
well after they're coming back.

2338
01:35:00,220 --> 01:35:03,280
It wasn't in the town where we
were born or where we lived.

2339

01:35:03,280 --> 01:35:04,870

But this is where
most of the people

2340

01:35:04,870 --> 01:35:06,880

kind of stuck around
until they found

2341

01:35:06,880 --> 01:35:10,240

their destinations to their
own towns back, to find--

2342

01:35:10,240 --> 01:35:11,670

You weren't inside of Poland.

2343

01:35:11,670 --> 01:35:12,170

Oh yeah.

2344

01:35:12,170 --> 01:35:14,090

It wasn't Poland.

2345

01:35:14,090 --> 01:35:16,242

And so we stayed with my aunt.

2346

01:35:16,242 --> 01:35:17,200

We're just three of us.

2347

01:35:17,200 --> 01:35:18,158

We stayed with my aunt.

2348

01:35:18,158 --> 01:35:20,050

And my mother got sick again.

2349

01:35:20,050 --> 01:35:23,350

We only were there
less than two weeks.

2350

01:35:23,350 --> 01:35:24,610

Mother got sick again.

2351

01:35:24,610 --> 01:35:26,680

And when she used
to get the malaria,

2352
01:35:26,680 --> 01:35:28,660
she used to get into a coma.

2353
01:35:28,660 --> 01:35:33,100
And it just takes a few
days for her to really come.

2354
01:35:33,100 --> 01:35:36,100
So she took us two kids,
my brother and myself,

2355
01:35:36,100 --> 01:35:38,260
and put us in a kibbutz.

2356
01:35:38,260 --> 01:35:41,800
In that time, thee were
kibbutzim from Israel.

2357
01:35:41,800 --> 01:35:42,940
They call them "madrihim."

2358
01:35:42,940 --> 01:35:46,195
They call them the
leaders, whatever

2359
01:35:46,195 --> 01:35:48,070
kids they could find
that survived the Jewish

2360
01:35:48,070 --> 01:35:52,780
and taking them away to put them
in these groups of kibbutzim.

2361
01:35:52,780 --> 01:35:55,150
And I don't know
whether you know.

2362
01:35:55,150 --> 01:35:57,370
But in those days,
it was called--

2363
01:35:57,370 --> 01:36:00,520
kibbutzim will be Hashomer
Hatzair, the name of the--

2364
01:36:00,520 --> 01:36:02,110
would be the left wing.

2365
01:36:02,110 --> 01:36:04,210
Ehud will be the right wing.

2366
01:36:04,210 --> 01:36:05,710
Dror will be the left wing.

2367
01:36:05,710 --> 01:36:08,480
And whatever they can get,
all the kids they could find,

2368
01:36:08,480 --> 01:36:10,828
they put them in
these different--

2369
01:36:10,828 --> 01:36:14,590
they're different parties,
but all going to one goal

2370
01:36:14,590 --> 01:36:19,090
to go to send to Israel,
to survive and to pick

2371
01:36:19,090 --> 01:36:21,770
as many as they can save.

2372
01:36:21,770 --> 01:36:23,750
So my aunt went
and put my brother

2373
01:36:23,750 --> 01:36:27,310
and myself to one
of these kibbutzim.

2374
01:36:27,310 --> 01:36:29,140

Two weeks later, the
kibbutz took off.

2375
01:36:29,140 --> 01:36:30,400
My mother didn't know.

2376
01:36:30,400 --> 01:36:32,560
She was still in a coma.

2377
01:36:32,560 --> 01:36:35,980
Two weeks later, the
kibbutz went to Germany.

2378
01:36:35,980 --> 01:36:39,680
And we didn't want to
go, but I had no choice.

2379
01:36:39,680 --> 01:36:40,580
We were in a kibbutz.

2380
01:36:40,580 --> 01:36:41,560
Nobody came to see us.

2381
01:36:41,560 --> 01:36:44,200
I didn't want to bother my aunt.

2382
01:36:44,200 --> 01:36:46,930
And so we went off,
and we went to Germany.

2383
01:36:46,930 --> 01:36:48,490
It took us a whole night.

2384
01:36:48,490 --> 01:36:51,550
They transported us and hid us.

2385
01:36:51,550 --> 01:36:54,970
But we came to Germany
across the border.

2386
01:36:54,970 --> 01:36:57,580
There, we came into a

big, big, big, big--

2387

01:36:57,580 --> 01:37:02,920

I cannot describe how many
kids were there of all Jewish

2388

01:37:02,920 --> 01:37:06,010

surviving kids that
they have rounded up.

2389

01:37:06,010 --> 01:37:09,190

And they were going to
transport to Israel.

2390

01:37:09,190 --> 01:37:11,540

And that's where we stayed.

2391

01:37:11,540 --> 01:37:13,660

And the UNRRA took over.

2392

01:37:13,660 --> 01:37:18,880

The American took
over that place.

2393

01:37:18,880 --> 01:37:20,950

And they helped
with the Israeli--

2394

01:37:20,950 --> 01:37:23,260

not at that time--
the Palestinian people

2395

01:37:23,260 --> 01:37:27,930

that work with them and
teach them and grill them.

2396

01:37:27,930 --> 01:37:29,180

That's what we're going to do.

2397

01:37:29,180 --> 01:37:30,263

We're all going to Israel.

2398

01:37:30,263 --> 01:37:32,200
We're going to-- we're
going to have someday

2399
01:37:32,200 --> 01:37:33,250
a country of our own.

2400
01:37:33,250 --> 01:37:35,620
And this is how it
was in the kibbutz

2401
01:37:35,620 --> 01:37:37,750
in that particular camp.

2402
01:37:37,750 --> 01:37:39,760
But my mother didn't
know where we want.

2403
01:37:39,760 --> 01:37:42,040
But I want to tell
you before I forget,

2404
01:37:42,040 --> 01:37:44,860
we took these two
children with us

2405
01:37:44,860 --> 01:37:48,160
back to Poland, the two
children that survived with us.

2406
01:37:48,160 --> 01:37:49,750
We put them--

2407
01:37:49,750 --> 01:37:51,220
That the mother had died, huh?

2408
01:37:51,220 --> 01:37:52,900
That the mother had died.

2409
01:37:52,900 --> 01:37:55,240
We put them on a transport.

2410

01:37:55,240 --> 01:37:57,820
My mother put them because she
couldn't handle us, let alone

2411
01:37:57,820 --> 01:37:58,990
them, too.

2412
01:37:58,990 --> 01:38:01,600
She put them-- we always--
we took them back with us

2413
01:38:01,600 --> 01:38:02,980
from Russia.

2414
01:38:02,980 --> 01:38:04,180
They traveled with us.

2415
01:38:04,180 --> 01:38:07,810
As soon as we arrived in
Poland, we gave them into hands.

2416
01:38:07,810 --> 01:38:11,530
Like my aunt gave us
into a different group,

2417
01:38:11,530 --> 01:38:13,630
we gave them in a
group at the time.

2418
01:38:13,630 --> 01:38:15,920
And that group took
off for Israel.

2419
01:38:15,920 --> 01:38:18,498
So we knew that these
children were safe.

2420
01:38:18,498 --> 01:38:19,540
And they're with a group.

2421
01:38:19,540 --> 01:38:22,510
And I never heard
from them again.

2422
01:38:22,510 --> 01:38:24,580
It's a shame because
they were too

2423
01:38:24,580 --> 01:38:26,380
young to do anything about it.

2424
01:38:26,380 --> 01:38:29,020
And if they remembered,
I don't know.

2425
01:38:29,020 --> 01:38:31,358
So they went to Israel.

2426
01:38:31,358 --> 01:38:33,400
My mother wanted to make
sure that these kids are

2427
01:38:33,400 --> 01:38:35,260
safe and gone.

2428
01:38:35,260 --> 01:38:39,350
What part of Germany were
you in, in this camp?

2429
01:38:39,350 --> 01:38:44,360
First, I arrived to
Bremerhaven in Berlin--

2430
01:38:44,360 --> 01:38:45,950
Tempelhof.

2431
01:38:45,950 --> 01:38:48,620
In Tempelhof we stayed
there for three weeks.

2432
01:38:48,620 --> 01:38:50,090
And then we came to--

2433
01:38:50,090 --> 01:38:52,430
we crossed the border to Berlin.

2434
01:38:52,430 --> 01:38:55,040
And then we came in to the
American zone in Berlin.

2435
01:38:55,040 --> 01:38:58,040
And then as the Jewish
people picked us up

2436
01:38:58,040 --> 01:39:01,380
and they put us into a camp,
it wasn't too far from Ulm.

2437
01:39:01,380 --> 01:39:03,950
But they were all
in Niederschlesien,

2438
01:39:03,950 --> 01:39:09,680
which is in Bayern part of
Germany, which is near Munich,

2439
01:39:09,680 --> 01:39:11,330
near Stuttgart, all this.

2440
01:39:11,330 --> 01:39:12,620
That's called Bayern.

2441
01:39:12,620 --> 01:39:13,330
Niederschlesien.

2442
01:39:13,330 --> 01:39:15,540
It's called-- in German,
it's called Niederschlesien,

2443
01:39:15,540 --> 01:39:18,590
that part of Germany.

2444
01:39:18,590 --> 01:39:20,930
And we were in one
of those camps there.

2445
01:39:20,930 --> 01:39:23,900

But my mother didn't know where
we were, what happened to us.

2446
01:39:23,900 --> 01:39:27,200
After surviving all
this, she lost us.

2447
01:39:27,200 --> 01:39:29,460
And this is already
after the war.

2448
01:39:29,460 --> 01:39:30,230
It was chaos.

2449
01:39:30,230 --> 01:39:31,430
You can't find anybody.

2450
01:39:31,430 --> 01:39:33,920
If you found anybody by--

2451
01:39:33,920 --> 01:39:36,140
who knew where two kids went?

2452
01:39:36,140 --> 01:39:37,370
They found so many kids.

2453
01:39:37,370 --> 01:39:39,530
And that was a
children's camp or--

2454
01:39:39,530 --> 01:39:40,930
It was only a children's camp.

2455
01:39:40,930 --> 01:39:41,590
Only children.

2456
01:39:41,590 --> 01:39:42,650
Only children.

2457
01:39:42,650 --> 01:39:45,200
I can't imagine how many--

2458

01:39:45,200 --> 01:39:48,350

I can't imagine even how to tell
you how many kids were there.

2459

01:39:48,350 --> 01:39:50,240

What language would
they speak to you there?

2460

01:39:50,240 --> 01:39:51,330

All different languages.

2461

01:39:51,330 --> 01:39:54,170

They tried to teach
us to speak Hebrew.

2462

01:39:54,170 --> 01:39:56,870

From the moment they brought
us there, for as long as

2463

01:39:56,870 --> 01:40:01,580

we would have to wait to be
transported back to Palestine--

2464

01:40:01,580 --> 01:40:06,230

illegally, of course--
we knew we were grilled

2465

01:40:06,230 --> 01:40:10,430

and we were everything
taught to us in Hebrew.

2466

01:40:10,430 --> 01:40:11,840

We learned that way.

2467

01:40:11,840 --> 01:40:13,070

We didn't waste time.

2468

01:40:13,070 --> 01:40:15,170

And we didn't have
such thing as play.

2469

01:40:15,170 --> 01:40:16,820

Soon as they got us
into those camps,

2470
01:40:16,820 --> 01:40:19,550
they put us in the classes.

2471
01:40:19,550 --> 01:40:22,730
And there were people that
would teach us our names,

2472
01:40:22,730 --> 01:40:25,010
how to pronounce,
and what's going

2473
01:40:25,010 --> 01:40:27,380
to happen to the next
few years in our life

2474
01:40:27,380 --> 01:40:30,680
and blah, blah, on like this.

2475
01:40:30,680 --> 01:40:33,140
Well, it came the day-- we
were there already two months.

2476
01:40:33,140 --> 01:40:37,130
And it came the day that they're
sending the transport out

2477
01:40:37,130 --> 01:40:41,540
to one of the illegal
ships to go to Israel.

2478
01:40:41,540 --> 01:40:44,330
And they had about 21 trucks.

2479
01:40:44,330 --> 01:40:49,190
I can remember seeing
them go and go and go.

2480
01:40:49,190 --> 01:40:51,292
And they put these kids by--

2481

01:40:51,292 --> 01:40:53,000

whatever they could
remember their names,

2482

01:40:53,000 --> 01:40:57,620

they put all these children
by their alphabetical names

2483

01:40:57,620 --> 01:40:59,000

on those tracks.

2484

01:40:59,000 --> 01:41:02,270

So number-one track would
have A and on and on.

2485

01:41:02,270 --> 01:41:04,670

But I was a Z. So
you know I would

2486

01:41:04,670 --> 01:41:06,710

be on the end of the trucks.

2487

01:41:06,710 --> 01:41:09,980

My brother and I
were Z's, Zilver.

2488

01:41:09,980 --> 01:41:13,190

You were able to stay
together with your brother?

2489

01:41:13,190 --> 01:41:15,440

At that moment, I was able
to stay with him together,

2490

01:41:15,440 --> 01:41:19,610

yes, because she put us
both into the kibbutz.

2491

01:41:19,610 --> 01:41:22,220

Anyway, we went.

2492

01:41:22,220 --> 01:41:25,220

We got loaded on the trucks.

2493

01:41:25,220 --> 01:41:27,320

And it took a while
before those trucks--

2494

01:41:27,320 --> 01:41:31,850

to load so many trucks
of kids, it takes time.

2495

01:41:31,850 --> 01:41:34,070

And the instructions
that we had,

2496

01:41:34,070 --> 01:41:36,320

all the what's going
to happen, how are we

2497

01:41:36,320 --> 01:41:38,450

going to survive if
we do get on a ship,

2498

01:41:38,450 --> 01:41:40,520

and blah, blah--
the same thing that

2499

01:41:40,520 --> 01:41:43,760

was told to us when I
went later on the exodus.

2500

01:41:43,760 --> 01:41:46,640

This was not the exodus
we were going on.

2501

01:41:46,640 --> 01:41:48,950

But meanwhile, my mother
came across the border.

2502

01:41:48,950 --> 01:41:52,130

My aunt was absolutely
sorry that she did this.

2503

01:41:52,130 --> 01:41:55,250

But they came across
the border to Germany.

2504
01:41:55,250 --> 01:41:57,620
They never went
home to Poland, back

2505
01:41:57,620 --> 01:41:59,310
to where they wanted to go.

2506
01:41:59,310 --> 01:42:03,020
They came searching
for us, for the kids.

2507
01:42:03,020 --> 01:42:05,060
Did they have a way to find you?

2508
01:42:05,060 --> 01:42:08,030
Well, my mother went
from camp to camp,

2509
01:42:08,030 --> 01:42:10,610
from every children's
camp that was possible,

2510
01:42:10,610 --> 01:42:12,230
until she came to this one.

2511
01:42:12,230 --> 01:42:14,600
But listen how she found me.

2512
01:42:14,600 --> 01:42:18,410
She went into this camp after--
this was her last children's

2513
01:42:18,410 --> 01:42:19,100
camp to go to.

2514
01:42:19,100 --> 01:42:22,100
They had a few camps like that,
but not as big as this one.

2515

01:42:22,100 --> 01:42:24,500
Later on, they combined them
more into the bigger camps.

2516
01:42:24,500 --> 01:42:29,060
As soon as they sent children
out, more kids would come.

2517
01:42:29,060 --> 01:42:32,510
A lot of kids survived
that from the Polish people

2518
01:42:32,510 --> 01:42:36,660
that kept them, from the
camps, without the parents.

2519
01:42:36,660 --> 01:42:38,180
And they needed to
be taken care of.

2520
01:42:38,180 --> 01:42:39,230
So these were orphans--

2521
01:42:39,230 --> 01:42:41,025
All orphans, orphans, unless--

2522
01:42:41,025 --> 01:42:42,650
probably later on,
they found families.

2523
01:42:42,650 --> 01:42:46,640
But at this moment,
everybody was an orphan there

2524
01:42:46,640 --> 01:42:49,790
from different part of--
from Czechoslovakia,

2525
01:42:49,790 --> 01:42:52,910
from Hungary, from
different languages

2526
01:42:52,910 --> 01:42:57,530

they spoke and on and
on like this and kids

2527

01:42:57,530 --> 01:43:01,880
from Russia that were closer
to Poland and so forth.

2528

01:43:01,880 --> 01:43:04,550
We were all loaded
up on the trucks.

2529

01:43:04,550 --> 01:43:07,850
And once trucks started moving,
the first one started moving,

2530

01:43:07,850 --> 01:43:11,162
then my mother had the last
camp to go to, this one.

2531

01:43:11,162 --> 01:43:12,620
They told her, this
was a big camp.

2532

01:43:12,620 --> 01:43:14,037
And if you cannot
find them there,

2533

01:43:14,037 --> 01:43:15,650
we don't know where to help you.

2534

01:43:15,650 --> 01:43:17,360
So she came.

2535

01:43:17,360 --> 01:43:20,510
And as she was walking in
the gate and they opened up

2536

01:43:20,510 --> 01:43:21,620
the gates--

2537

01:43:21,620 --> 01:43:24,350
they kept us under
these big camp gates--

2538
01:43:24,350 --> 01:43:26,780
the first truck
started going out.

2539
01:43:26,780 --> 01:43:28,200
I could still hear her voice.

2540
01:43:28,200 --> 01:43:30,980
She kept screaming,
Manya, Manya.

2541
01:43:30,980 --> 01:43:32,765
She called my brother Shlamech.

2542
01:43:32,765 --> 01:43:36,020
Manya, Shlamech,
are you on there?

2543
01:43:36,020 --> 01:43:36,980
The first truck went.

2544
01:43:36,980 --> 01:43:38,840
The next went,
and the next went.

2545
01:43:38,840 --> 01:43:40,580
I didn't even hear
this because we

2546
01:43:40,580 --> 01:43:43,910
were way somewhere on the end.

2547
01:43:43,910 --> 01:43:46,130
I didn't even hear where
she came to the end.

2548
01:43:46,130 --> 01:43:47,640
Some of my friends--

2549
01:43:47,640 --> 01:43:49,250
we were all talking.

2550
01:43:49,250 --> 01:43:50,670
And some of my friends--

2551
01:43:50,670 --> 01:43:53,360
I hear some lady screaming
out your name out there.

2552
01:43:53,360 --> 01:43:55,370
And when I looked out,
of course, my mother--

2553
01:43:55,370 --> 01:43:58,910
she took us off before the
truck went out that gate.

2554
01:43:58,910 --> 01:44:00,110
How's that?

2555
01:44:00,110 --> 01:44:01,820
And that's how we went.

2556
01:44:01,820 --> 01:44:04,100
And then we stayed-- we moved.

2557
01:44:04,100 --> 01:44:06,680
She took us to the
next camp where

2558
01:44:06,680 --> 01:44:10,050
we had to stay as a refugee,
as a displaced person.

2559
01:44:10,050 --> 01:44:14,690
And that was on the Danube
in Ulm, also near Munich.

2560
01:44:14,690 --> 01:44:18,460
It's a big town, but that
particular town, Ulm,

2561
01:44:18,460 --> 01:44:21,440

is on the Danube River there.

2562

01:44:21,440 --> 01:44:23,390

And we were there.

2563

01:44:23,390 --> 01:44:24,780

I went to school there.

2564

01:44:24,780 --> 01:44:28,360

I finished Hebrew
high school there.

2565

01:44:28,360 --> 01:44:30,680

I went to a nursing
school there.

2566

01:44:30,680 --> 01:44:35,660

Even though everybody thought
I was 25, I was only, what 14--

2567

01:44:35,660 --> 01:44:38,770

not even 14, 12 when I was--

2568

01:44:38,770 --> 01:44:41,780

I wasn't 16 until I
came to this country.

2569

01:44:41,780 --> 01:44:46,430

And I went and got--
for nine months,

2570

01:44:46,430 --> 01:44:50,970

I had a degree of
learning to be a nurse.

2571

01:44:50,970 --> 01:44:52,520

I helped at the
office over there

2572

01:44:52,520 --> 01:44:54,590

at the hospital infirmary.

2573

01:44:54,590 --> 01:44:55,490
And I did very well.

2574
01:44:55,490 --> 01:44:56,870
And it kept me busy.

2575
01:44:56,870 --> 01:45:01,940
I kept-- until one day, I
had a girlfriend which she--

2576
01:45:01,940 --> 01:45:03,980
my mother decided
to get married.

2577
01:45:03,980 --> 01:45:06,020
And my girlfriend's
father decided

2578
01:45:06,020 --> 01:45:07,340
to get married to somebody.

2579
01:45:07,340 --> 01:45:12,330
And we were just so kids that
we lost one of our mother

2580
01:45:12,330 --> 01:45:16,100
or father, we didn't want to
have anybody else in our lives.

2581
01:45:16,100 --> 01:45:17,720
We didn't want to
have a stranger.

2582
01:45:17,720 --> 01:45:18,380
And I didn't.

2583
01:45:18,380 --> 01:45:21,860
I was old enough to understand I
didn't want that now stepfather

2584
01:45:21,860 --> 01:45:23,610
or anything.

2585

01:45:23,610 --> 01:45:29,970

So one day, she joined another
kibbutz, which they called them

2586

01:45:29,970 --> 01:45:31,320

in those days.

2587

01:45:31,320 --> 01:45:33,470

And she said she's
going to Palestine.

2588

01:45:33,470 --> 01:45:35,550

And she says-- and she left.

2589

01:45:35,550 --> 01:45:37,520

And I was really
lonesome without--

2590

01:45:37,520 --> 01:45:40,520

where I go, because we were
just so close in our situation,

2591

01:45:40,520 --> 01:45:43,160

except for her, her
father survived.

2592

01:45:43,160 --> 01:45:44,840

And for me, my mother survived.

2593

01:45:44,840 --> 01:45:46,340

But they all get married.

2594

01:45:46,340 --> 01:45:47,660

Now, they found spouses.

2595

01:45:47,660 --> 01:45:51,390

And I-- as a teenager,
when I think back,

2596

01:45:51,390 --> 01:45:54,000

that was wrong of me because
she went through enough.

2597
01:45:54,000 --> 01:45:55,430
She needed to get
married and have

2598
01:45:55,430 --> 01:45:58,160
somebody in her life,
when I think back

2599
01:45:58,160 --> 01:45:59,420
about all this stuff.

2600
01:45:59,420 --> 01:46:01,550
But she said she was--

2601
01:46:01,550 --> 01:46:05,360
How long were you living at
that displaced persons camp?

2602
01:46:05,360 --> 01:46:07,860
We came there in 1945.

2603
01:46:07,860 --> 01:46:11,270
And I didn't leave
that place until--

2604
01:46:11,270 --> 01:46:13,130
I didn't come to
America until 1950.

2605
01:46:13,130 --> 01:46:15,060
But I was one year
in Bad Aibling--

2606
01:46:15,060 --> 01:46:17,720
so I think four years.

2607
01:46:17,720 --> 01:46:21,020

2608
01:46:21,020 --> 01:46:22,980
Your brother was there,

too, at that time?

2609

01:46:22,980 --> 01:46:23,480

Yes.

2610

01:46:23,480 --> 01:46:24,063

All that time?

2611

01:46:24,063 --> 01:46:25,280

We all were living together.

2612

01:46:25,280 --> 01:46:26,180

And that's where--

2613

01:46:26,180 --> 01:46:27,145

You stayed together as a family.

2614

01:46:27,145 --> 01:46:28,040

Yeah, as a family.

2615

01:46:28,040 --> 01:46:29,750

What were the
conditions like there?

2616

01:46:29,750 --> 01:46:30,510

It wasn't bad.

2617

01:46:30,510 --> 01:46:31,230

It wasn't bad.

2618

01:46:31,230 --> 01:46:32,450

It was very crowded.

2619

01:46:32,450 --> 01:46:36,080

And we had to share one room
with a stepfather and mother

2620

01:46:36,080 --> 01:46:38,570

and whatever.

2621

01:46:38,570 --> 01:46:39,860

And then we got--

2622

01:46:39,860 --> 01:46:43,430
the food came from the US.

2623

01:46:43,430 --> 01:46:44,610
Did you have enough food?

2624

01:46:44,610 --> 01:46:46,480
Yes, we had enough food
there after the war

2625

01:46:46,480 --> 01:46:50,480
with displaced persons, except
living was not the best.

2626

01:46:50,480 --> 01:46:53,607
Clothing and things would come
from families from America

2627

01:46:53,607 --> 01:46:54,440
and stuff like that.

2628

01:46:54,440 --> 01:46:55,730
That was after the war.

2629

01:46:55,730 --> 01:46:57,050
It wasn't too bad.

2630

01:46:57,050 --> 01:46:58,250
That was the good times.

2631

01:46:58,250 --> 01:47:00,743
Now, you were learning
how to be a nurse.

2632

01:47:00,743 --> 01:47:02,660
I was learning-- first,
I was learning Hebrew.

2633

01:47:02,660 --> 01:47:03,812
And I needed to be--

2634
01:47:03,812 --> 01:47:06,020
I was getting of age where
I needed to be graduating.

2635
01:47:06,020 --> 01:47:07,580
I studied very hard.

2636
01:47:07,580 --> 01:47:08,720
And I spoke Hebrew.

2637
01:47:08,720 --> 01:47:10,790
And I still do very well.

2638
01:47:10,790 --> 01:47:13,530
And my brother went
to school there.

2639
01:47:13,530 --> 01:47:18,050
And he went to cheder
there because that's

2640
01:47:18,050 --> 01:47:19,520
how life was there.

2641
01:47:19,520 --> 01:47:22,310
But I wasn't happy when
my girlfriend left.

2642
01:47:22,310 --> 01:47:23,610
And I wasn't really happy--

2643
01:47:23,610 --> 01:47:26,702
my mother was not married yet.

2644
01:47:26,702 --> 01:47:28,160
She was going--
and I was not going

2645
01:47:28,160 --> 01:47:29,993
to be there when she's
going to get married.

2646

01:47:29,993 --> 01:47:32,870

That's-- from the time when
I took that train to Russia

2647

01:47:32,870 --> 01:47:35,150

by myself, I was
all independent.

2648

01:47:35,150 --> 01:47:38,600

I didn't need anybody, and
I went every place myself.

2649

01:47:38,600 --> 01:47:41,330

I got a visa from
America that I can

2650

01:47:41,330 --> 01:47:44,630

come to America to
my uncle's to stay

2651

01:47:44,630 --> 01:47:48,050

here, one of my
father's brothers.

2652

01:47:48,050 --> 01:47:50,960

But I couldn't come with my
brother because I was a minor

2653

01:47:50,960 --> 01:47:51,840

and he was a minor.

2654

01:47:51,840 --> 01:47:53,930

We couldn't travel together.

2655

01:47:53,930 --> 01:47:56,220

And at that time--

2656

01:47:56,220 --> 01:47:59,940

so they sent me off
on a ship alone.

2657

01:47:59,940 --> 01:48:01,760

That's what I
described in the book.

2658

01:48:01,760 --> 01:48:07,100

When I got to Bremerhaven and
I was ready to board a ship,

2659

01:48:07,100 --> 01:48:07,940

they took me off.

2660

01:48:07,940 --> 01:48:10,790

And they said, I'm too
young to travel alone.

2661

01:48:10,790 --> 01:48:13,500

I'm a minor, and I have
to be sent back to camp.

2662

01:48:13,500 --> 01:48:15,380

So they sent me back to camp.

2663

01:48:15,380 --> 01:48:17,550

Instead of sending
me home to mom,

2664

01:48:17,550 --> 01:48:24,510

because mother was already
married, they sent me back--

2665

01:48:24,510 --> 01:48:26,430

I'm actually running
ahead of myself,

2666

01:48:26,430 --> 01:48:31,590

because this was already after--

2667

01:48:31,590 --> 01:48:34,070

this when I went back
was after the exodus.

2668

01:48:34,070 --> 01:48:37,710

You see, when I was with mom

and before she got married,

2669

01:48:37,710 --> 01:48:40,170

my girlfriend went
off and she went off.

2670

01:48:40,170 --> 01:48:43,590

And one day out of
the blue, they all

2671

01:48:43,590 --> 01:48:46,860

appeared-- the whole kibbutz
appeared on the ground

2672

01:48:46,860 --> 01:48:49,740

in the park in our town, Ulm.

2673

01:48:49,740 --> 01:48:52,590

So she came home to
say hi to her father.

2674

01:48:52,590 --> 01:48:54,300

She came by to say hello to me.

2675

01:48:54,300 --> 01:48:56,447

And she says-- I say,
where are you going?

2676

01:48:56,447 --> 01:48:57,780

I say, where did you run off to?

2677

01:48:57,780 --> 01:48:59,220

Where are you going?

2678

01:48:59,220 --> 01:49:01,180

She said she's going to Israel--

2679

01:49:01,180 --> 01:49:02,340

at the time, Palestine.

2680

01:49:02,340 --> 01:49:04,305

And I say, why by yourself?

2681
01:49:04,305 --> 01:49:05,680
You don't know
what you're doing.

2682
01:49:05,680 --> 01:49:08,100
We were all young kids then.

2683
01:49:08,100 --> 01:49:10,890
She said, I don't want to be
here when father gets married.

2684
01:49:10,890 --> 01:49:13,260
And I want to take it on my own.

2685
01:49:13,260 --> 01:49:14,378
She says, you want to go?

2686
01:49:14,378 --> 01:49:16,170
Just like that, she
says to me, want to go?

2687
01:49:16,170 --> 01:49:17,550
I say, yes.

2688
01:49:17,550 --> 01:49:18,210
I went home.

2689
01:49:18,210 --> 01:49:19,560
And I took whatever I had on.

2690
01:49:19,560 --> 01:49:20,730
I put on, and I left.

2691
01:49:20,730 --> 01:49:23,220
I said, mom, I'm
going to Palestine.

2692
01:49:23,220 --> 01:49:26,220
And there's little
she could stop me.

2693

01:49:26,220 --> 01:49:28,800

I went out there where
they were all sleeping

2694

01:49:28,800 --> 01:49:31,500

in the park for overnight.

2695

01:49:31,500 --> 01:49:33,210

They gave me a name.

2696

01:49:33,210 --> 01:49:38,080

They grilled me what my
new name is going to be.

2697

01:49:38,080 --> 01:49:40,920

And they told me what
I'm going to go through

2698

01:49:40,920 --> 01:49:42,030

to get to Palestine.

2699

01:49:42,030 --> 01:49:43,440

We're going on a big ship.

2700

01:49:43,440 --> 01:49:46,650

We're going to be a lot
of people on the ship.

2701

01:49:46,650 --> 01:49:49,420

We're going to try
to jump in the water.

2702

01:49:49,420 --> 01:49:51,660

This was all that one
night, the whole thing.

2703

01:49:51,660 --> 01:49:53,400

When we get to the
Palestine shores,

2704

01:49:53,400 --> 01:49:56,430

we're going to

jump in the water.

2705

01:49:56,430 --> 01:49:59,200

The Jews on that side
will be in the water,

2706

01:49:59,200 --> 01:50:01,740

try to rescue as many
people, because the British

2707

01:50:01,740 --> 01:50:04,303

are going to not let us
in and on and on and on.

2708

01:50:04,303 --> 01:50:05,970

All night, it took
that grilling for me.

2709

01:50:05,970 --> 01:50:06,960

And I was off.

2710

01:50:06,960 --> 01:50:08,100

That's where I went--

2711

01:50:08,100 --> 01:50:10,230

didn't even give it
a second thought.

2712

01:50:10,230 --> 01:50:13,290

So I went with her.

2713

01:50:13,290 --> 01:50:15,630

And of course, the
more kids they pick up,

2714

01:50:15,630 --> 01:50:17,040

the better it was for them.

2715

01:50:17,040 --> 01:50:18,900

So when I went with
her, next thing,

2716

01:50:18,900 --> 01:50:22,260

I found myself going
across the French border

2717

01:50:22,260 --> 01:50:23,850

and being in Marseille.

2718

01:50:23,850 --> 01:50:29,280

And there, we hid out for two
weeks underground kind of,

2719

01:50:29,280 --> 01:50:30,180

hiding out.

2720

01:50:30,180 --> 01:50:31,480

But we had food.

2721

01:50:31,480 --> 01:50:33,330

We drank a lot of
milk-- was not milk.

2722

01:50:33,330 --> 01:50:34,800

It was condensed milk.

2723

01:50:34,800 --> 01:50:37,230

That's where I really
started getting the--

2724

01:50:37,230 --> 01:50:40,290

and we stayed there for two
weeks waiting for the ship

2725

01:50:40,290 --> 01:50:42,540

to come in to Marseille
to get the ship.

2726

01:50:42,540 --> 01:50:44,730

And we were taught Hebrew again.

2727

01:50:44,730 --> 01:50:47,140

And we were grilled about
what's going to happen

2728

01:50:47,140 --> 01:50:49,320

and what we're going to
do when we get to Israel.

2729

01:50:49,320 --> 01:50:51,390

And if we-- this kibbutz--

2730

01:50:51,390 --> 01:50:54,600

that was a kibbutz
called Dror this time.

2731

01:50:54,600 --> 01:50:58,600

It was the left wing,
I would call it.

2732

01:50:58,600 --> 01:51:00,600

They were right and left,
because the right ones

2733

01:51:00,600 --> 01:51:01,392

were the religious.

2734

01:51:01,392 --> 01:51:04,140

And the left one were
non-religious Jews.

2735

01:51:04,140 --> 01:51:06,660

And they said, when
we get to Israel,

2736

01:51:06,660 --> 01:51:09,720

if we make it to
Palestine, then we're

2737

01:51:09,720 --> 01:51:11,610

going to be going to the Negev.

2738

01:51:11,610 --> 01:51:14,910

And we will have a kibbutz
called Mishmar HaNegev.

2739

01:51:14,910 --> 01:51:16,080

And it's there today.

2740

01:51:16,080 --> 01:51:18,760

Let me tell you,
it's there today.

2741

01:51:18,760 --> 01:51:21,600

And this is how we were taught
what was going to happen.

2742

01:51:21,600 --> 01:51:23,610

Well, I got on the ship.

2743

01:51:23,610 --> 01:51:26,040

And if I thought I
had it bad in Russia,

2744

01:51:26,040 --> 01:51:28,620

that was really unbelievable.

2745

01:51:28,620 --> 01:51:32,130

4,500 people were on that ship.

2746

01:51:32,130 --> 01:51:33,450

The ship was so old--

2747

01:51:33,450 --> 01:51:36,600

and at that time, I found out--
not until I came to America

2748

01:51:36,600 --> 01:51:38,100

and I wrote my book
that I found out

2749

01:51:38,100 --> 01:51:39,870

that ship come from Baltimore.

2750

01:51:39,870 --> 01:51:44,070

It had two times to go back
before it can go forward

2751

01:51:44,070 --> 01:51:47,940

to pick us up in France.

2752

01:51:47,940 --> 01:51:48,870

It was so bad.

2753

01:51:48,870 --> 01:51:51,570

And what it was, it had--

2754

01:51:51,570 --> 01:51:55,110

instead of lodging where you
could sleep down somewhere,

2755

01:51:55,110 --> 01:51:56,257

it had these--

2756

01:51:56,257 --> 01:51:57,840

I don't know how to
explain it to you.

2757

01:51:57,840 --> 01:51:59,970

You know how you see those
pictures from the camps

2758

01:51:59,970 --> 01:52:02,730

that people are all laying
on these beds like--

2759

01:52:02,730 --> 01:52:04,160

what do you call these flat--

2760

01:52:04,160 --> 01:52:04,860

Bunks.

2761

01:52:04,860 --> 01:52:07,620

No, like flat wooden--

2762

01:52:07,620 --> 01:52:08,505

and they could only--

2763

01:52:08,505 --> 01:52:09,005

Shelf.

2764

01:52:09,005 --> 01:52:10,770

Shelves like-- yes, shelves.

2765

01:52:10,770 --> 01:52:13,050

That's how this
ship was built for--

2766

01:52:13,050 --> 01:52:15,150

the ship only could
carry 600 people.

2767

01:52:15,150 --> 01:52:18,510

But 4,500 people
were on that ship.

2768

01:52:18,510 --> 01:52:21,550

That was just unbelievable.

2769

01:52:21,550 --> 01:52:24,570

So I found my way up to the top.

2770

01:52:24,570 --> 01:52:27,010

And I stayed on top
all the way through.

2771

01:52:27,010 --> 01:52:28,870

And I could see
what was going on.

2772

01:52:28,870 --> 01:52:32,490

And I had this
little tiny space.

2773

01:52:32,490 --> 01:52:34,410

It was made out of iron.

2774

01:52:34,410 --> 01:52:36,780

And it was just
hurting me terribly,

2775

01:52:36,780 --> 01:52:39,690

but that's where I would

stay and sleep at night.

2776

01:52:39,690 --> 01:52:43,557

And from that moment on, my
mother didn't know where I was.

2777

01:52:43,557 --> 01:52:44,640

My brother wasn't with me.

2778

01:52:44,640 --> 01:52:46,840

I didn't take my
brother this time.

2779

01:52:46,840 --> 01:52:52,050

And the first day we were
out, we saw the first frigate

2780

01:52:52,050 --> 01:52:53,370

after us.

2781

01:52:53,370 --> 01:52:58,500

By the time we were on the
sixth day, we had at least seven

2782

01:52:58,500 --> 01:53:00,120

of them behind us.

2783

01:53:00,120 --> 01:53:01,470

And of course, they stopped us.

2784

01:53:01,470 --> 01:53:04,770

We never made it
close enough to jump.

2785

01:53:04,770 --> 01:53:05,860

The British stopped us.

2786

01:53:05,860 --> 01:53:09,150

But the only way my mother
knew that I survived,

2787

01:53:09,150 --> 01:53:11,340

because I used to
sing when I was young,

2788
01:53:11,340 --> 01:53:14,700
I sang the "Hatikvah"
through the radio.

2789
01:53:14,700 --> 01:53:18,030
Whole Europe knew what happened
to the ship at the time

2790
01:53:18,030 --> 01:53:20,900
because the exodus was a
very big problem there.

2791
01:53:20,900 --> 01:53:23,100
That was the last
and only ship that

2792
01:53:23,100 --> 01:53:25,200
had so many people
and the last ship

2793
01:53:25,200 --> 01:53:27,660
that they had to declare
the state of Israel,

2794
01:53:27,660 --> 01:53:31,680
because it was the kind-- the
only ship that they sent back.

2795
01:53:31,680 --> 01:53:35,640
And she knew that I was
alive, so that was fine.

2796
01:53:35,640 --> 01:53:41,010
I stayed in the same
clothes for three months.

2797
01:53:41,010 --> 01:53:42,690
There were no showers.

2798
01:53:42,690 --> 01:53:43,740

There was nothing.

2799

01:53:43,740 --> 01:53:44,670

We didn't get off.

2800

01:53:44,670 --> 01:53:45,960

We wouldn't get off the ship.

2801

01:53:45,960 --> 01:53:49,410

After they-- I have

to tell you this.

2802

01:53:49,410 --> 01:53:52,390

When we-- the

wall-- as you know,

2803

01:53:52,390 --> 01:53:53,640

I don't know about the exodus.

2804

01:53:53,640 --> 01:53:54,750

You know how much the--

2805

01:53:54,750 --> 01:53:57,960

one of the complete

walls fell out.

2806

01:53:57,960 --> 01:54:00,210

So now, we are being

towed into Haifa.

2807

01:54:00,210 --> 01:54:01,590

We have to get off in Haifa.

2808

01:54:01,590 --> 01:54:03,870

And they put us on

three ships because they

2809

01:54:03,870 --> 01:54:08,550

put 1,500 people on each

ship, on each British ship.

2810

01:54:08,550 --> 01:54:10,650

And they told us
we are sent in--

2811
01:54:10,650 --> 01:54:12,750
some of us would
get off and fought.

2812
01:54:12,750 --> 01:54:14,790
They had to take
the wounded off.

2813
01:54:14,790 --> 01:54:18,240
They fought us with hot water
bottle-- with hot hoses--

2814
01:54:18,240 --> 01:54:21,900
with hoses not that
hot, but warm hoses.

2815
01:54:21,900 --> 01:54:23,940
And we threw at them
potatoes and cans.

2816
01:54:23,940 --> 01:54:26,190
That's our fight.

2817
01:54:26,190 --> 01:54:29,160
A ricochet was near
the captain's--

2818
01:54:29,160 --> 01:54:32,420
one of those officers died
on the ship and Jewish

2819
01:54:32,420 --> 01:54:36,360
and ricocheted a bullet right
through this side of this leg.

2820
01:54:36,360 --> 01:54:37,650
But I was OK.

2821
01:54:37,650 --> 01:54:40,260
When I got off in

Haifa, we could see them

2822

01:54:40,260 --> 01:54:43,187
on Mount Carmel, Jews
singing and screaming to us.

2823

01:54:43,187 --> 01:54:43,770
We could hear.

2824

01:54:43,770 --> 01:54:45,090
That was middle of the night.

2825

01:54:45,090 --> 01:54:46,590
And they told us,
the British, we're

2826

01:54:46,590 --> 01:54:48,960
going to board there
and go to Cyprus,

2827

01:54:48,960 --> 01:54:50,820
like all the other Jews went.

2828

01:54:50,820 --> 01:54:53,490
But that's not how
it would turn out.

2829

01:54:53,490 --> 01:54:55,050
Eight hours into
the journey-- it

2830

01:54:55,050 --> 01:54:58,110
only takes six hours for
them to go to Cyprus.

2831

01:54:58,110 --> 01:54:59,610
Eight hours into
the journey, and we

2832

01:54:59,610 --> 01:55:01,380
know we are going to Cyprus.

2833

01:55:01,380 --> 01:55:05,460
We found out that we are
being sent back to Germany.

2834
01:55:05,460 --> 01:55:08,280
And that's when we got
different grilling again.

2835
01:55:08,280 --> 01:55:10,350
We are not to get off the ship.

2836
01:55:10,350 --> 01:55:12,120
We are to fight our way.

2837
01:55:12,120 --> 01:55:14,160
No matter who dies,
who gets sick,

2838
01:55:14,160 --> 01:55:16,410
we're not getting off that ship.

2839
01:55:16,410 --> 01:55:17,490
And this is how it was.

2840
01:55:17,490 --> 01:55:20,610
When we arrived in
France, they came with--

2841
01:55:20,610 --> 01:55:21,300
they fed us.

2842
01:55:21,300 --> 01:55:26,760
The French Jewish organization
over there brought us food.

2843
01:55:26,760 --> 01:55:31,260
And when we are on the ocean
and when we are going to France,

2844
01:55:31,260 --> 01:55:32,910
we were protesting.

2845

01:55:32,910 --> 01:55:35,310

They would feed us
cereal with maggots in it

2846

01:55:35,310 --> 01:55:38,610

and with worms in it,
anything to get off that ship.

2847

01:55:38,610 --> 01:55:41,610

But we did not budge.

2848

01:55:41,610 --> 01:55:46,740

And this is how I came
to be on the exodus.

2849

01:55:46,740 --> 01:55:49,450

After they sent us
finally back to Germany,

2850

01:55:49,450 --> 01:55:50,490

we went back to France.

2851

01:55:50,490 --> 01:55:52,560

But that's where we
started out from.

2852

01:55:52,560 --> 01:55:55,200

But they wanted to send us
all the way back to Germany,

2853

01:55:55,200 --> 01:55:57,600

because we wouldn't
get off in France.

2854

01:55:57,600 --> 01:56:01,380

They made another German
camp just for these kids.

2855

01:56:01,380 --> 01:56:04,290

And they were already
negotiating the--

2856

01:56:04,290 --> 01:56:07,892

they would almost-- like
Israel was almost there,

2857
01:56:07,892 --> 01:56:09,600
the country was almost
going to be there.

2858
01:56:09,600 --> 01:56:12,540
It didn't take much
longer after that.

2859
01:56:12,540 --> 01:56:14,550
And then we were told
that the first ones--

2860
01:56:14,550 --> 01:56:16,943
besides the Cyprus
people from Cyprus,

2861
01:56:16,943 --> 01:56:18,360
we are the first
ones from Germany

2862
01:56:18,360 --> 01:56:20,970
that are going back
on regular transport

2863
01:56:20,970 --> 01:56:25,020
if the state does become Israel.

2864
01:56:25,020 --> 01:56:27,780
But when I got back to
camp, my aunt, the one

2865
01:56:27,780 --> 01:56:31,410
that we survived during the war,
she was there waiting for me.

2866
01:56:31,410 --> 01:56:32,670
I got off the ship.

2867
01:56:32,670 --> 01:56:35,230
So she finally forced

you to get off the ship.

2868

01:56:35,230 --> 01:56:35,730

Yes.

2869

01:56:35,730 --> 01:56:38,370

In Bremerhaven,
we had no choice.

2870

01:56:38,370 --> 01:56:40,890

In Germany, we had no choice.

2871

01:56:40,890 --> 01:56:44,940

Everybody was singing
and crying and fighting.

2872

01:56:44,940 --> 01:56:45,810

But we got off.

2873

01:56:45,810 --> 01:56:49,260

And they took us on
transports to a certain camp

2874

01:56:49,260 --> 01:56:53,520

that was built special for this
occasion with the 4,500 people

2875

01:56:53,520 --> 01:56:55,120

that are coming back.

2876

01:56:55,120 --> 01:56:57,180

And my aunt was there.

2877

01:56:57,180 --> 01:56:58,313

And she took me out.

2878

01:56:58,313 --> 01:57:00,480

She said, I'm going to take
you out in a little shop

2879

01:57:00,480 --> 01:57:02,610

and buy you some clothes.

2880
01:57:02,610 --> 01:57:04,050
But she took me out.

2881
01:57:04,050 --> 01:57:05,670
She bought me something to wear.

2882
01:57:05,670 --> 01:57:06,960
And I got cleaned up.

2883
01:57:06,960 --> 01:57:07,950
And I got fed.

2884
01:57:07,950 --> 01:57:11,820
And off on a train, she
sent me home to mom.

2885
01:57:11,820 --> 01:57:13,170
She says, that's enough.

2886
01:57:13,170 --> 01:57:15,360
You're going back to the
camp where mother is.

2887
01:57:15,360 --> 01:57:18,870
And that's when I went on
a regular visa to America.

2888
01:57:18,870 --> 01:57:21,600
But I still got sent
back there, too.

2889
01:57:21,600 --> 01:57:27,870
So I ended up-- when they sent
me back from going on my own--

2890
01:57:27,870 --> 01:57:30,840
like they wanted me to go to
America from the big ship.

2891
01:57:30,840 --> 01:57:32,940
They sent me back to

another orphanage,

2892

01:57:32,940 --> 01:57:34,980

which was international.

2893

01:57:34,980 --> 01:57:37,770

It was the biggest
orphanage in Germany.

2894

01:57:37,770 --> 01:57:41,880

But there were kids there
from all over the world also

2895

01:57:41,880 --> 01:57:45,180

that ran away and got
saved during the time.

2896

01:57:45,180 --> 01:57:48,090

But there were also Black
children there, Black babies.

2897

01:57:48,090 --> 01:57:50,070

They had a special house
with just Black babies

2898

01:57:50,070 --> 01:57:51,420

from the officers.

2899

01:57:51,420 --> 01:57:53,220

And there were a lot of Jewish.

2900

01:57:53,220 --> 01:57:54,990

Every nationality
you want to mention

2901

01:57:54,990 --> 01:57:57,870

was there, kids that
survived the wars

2902

01:57:57,870 --> 01:57:59,820

and so forth and so
forth that could go.

2903

01:57:59,820 --> 01:58:01,620

The only could--
the Czechoslovakians

2904

01:58:01,620 --> 01:58:03,240

could go to Australia.

2905

01:58:03,240 --> 01:58:06,540

And the Jewish kids
could go to America

2906

01:58:06,540 --> 01:58:08,940

if they have visas and so on.

2907

01:58:08,940 --> 01:58:10,860

And everybody was
going out to Canada.

2908

01:58:10,860 --> 01:58:12,900

And that's how they were
transporting these kids

2909

01:58:12,900 --> 01:58:13,942

into different countries.

2910

01:58:13,942 --> 01:58:14,910

And that was where?

2911

01:58:14,910 --> 01:58:18,010

In Bad Aibling,
which is near Munich.

2912

01:58:18,010 --> 01:58:21,970

It's called the Children's
Home of Bad Aibling.

2913

01:58:21,970 --> 01:58:24,820

We have quite a
bit on that, too.

2914

01:58:24,820 --> 01:58:28,210

From that moment-- from

then on, that's it.

2915

01:58:28,210 --> 01:58:29,260

I came to America.

2916

01:58:29,260 --> 01:58:30,490

And I came--

2917

01:58:30,490 --> 01:58:31,900

Well, that's a
good time to stop.

2918

01:58:31,900 --> 01:58:32,900

We need to take a break.

2919

01:58:32,900 --> 01:58:33,490

Yes.

2920

01:58:33,490 --> 01:58:36,100

I'm almost finished, anyway.

2921

01:58:36,100 --> 01:59:36,064