

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:04,400

2
00:01:04,400 --> 00:01:05,580
OK, Barbara, you start.

3
00:01:05,580 --> 00:01:06,220
OK.

4
00:01:06,220 --> 00:01:09,770
Today's Wednesday,
December 18, 1991,

5
00:01:09,770 --> 00:01:12,080
in San Francisco, California.

6
00:01:12,080 --> 00:01:14,900
And I'm Barbara Barer,
continuing my interview

7
00:01:14,900 --> 00:01:16,640
with Miriam Samuels.

8
00:01:16,640 --> 00:01:21,260
And Laurie Sosna's on camera
doing the videotaping.

9
00:01:21,260 --> 00:01:24,470
So we were continuing on.

10
00:01:24,470 --> 00:01:28,880
You had just arrived
in "Ausch-whites."

11
00:01:28,880 --> 00:01:29,480
Auschwitz.

12
00:01:29,480 --> 00:01:32,000
Auschwitz.

13

00:01:32,000 --> 00:01:35,300
OK, when we arrived
in Auschwitz,

14
00:01:35,300 --> 00:01:38,510
they took us to the bathhouses.

15
00:01:38,510 --> 00:01:41,000
Can you describe your arrival?

16
00:01:41,000 --> 00:01:45,410
OK, when we arrived in
Auschwitz from trains

17
00:01:45,410 --> 00:01:49,445
that we were on for many
days and nights, in filth

18
00:01:49,445 --> 00:01:52,460
and in dirt and
hungry and thirsty,

19
00:01:52,460 --> 00:01:56,780
and when the train stopped,
they told us to get off.

20
00:01:56,780 --> 00:02:03,800
And there were Germans,
German SS men and women.

21
00:02:03,800 --> 00:02:06,770
Men and women both, and dogs.

22
00:02:06,770 --> 00:02:08,840
And they had nightsticks.

23
00:02:08,840 --> 00:02:13,680
And they were making us get
off the train real fast.

24
00:02:13,680 --> 00:02:15,965
Some people were very
weak and fell down.

25
00:02:15,965 --> 00:02:17,810
And they separated us.

26
00:02:17,810 --> 00:02:20,328

27
00:02:20,328 --> 00:02:20,870
I don't know.

28
00:02:20,870 --> 00:02:23,930
I think they separated the
young and healthy to one

29
00:02:23,930 --> 00:02:31,910
side, the old and mothers and
children to the other side.

30
00:02:31,910 --> 00:02:35,030
And they marched us off.

31
00:02:35,030 --> 00:02:36,620
You were alone, weren't you?

32
00:02:36,620 --> 00:02:42,750
I was completely alone, because
I was taken from Hungary.

33
00:02:42,750 --> 00:02:47,390
And I was not from that area.

34
00:02:47,390 --> 00:02:48,990
I didn't know anybody.

35
00:02:48,990 --> 00:02:50,790
I was completely alone.

36
00:02:50,790 --> 00:02:52,220
And I was just--

37
00:02:52,220 --> 00:02:54,480

I think I was spaced out.

38

00:02:54,480 --> 00:02:56,780

I just didn't know
what was going on.

39

00:02:56,780 --> 00:02:59,060

Well, they separated us.

40

00:02:59,060 --> 00:03:05,120

And they told us to go one to
the right, one to the left.

41

00:03:05,120 --> 00:03:08,840

And the SS man was
herding us along.

42

00:03:08,840 --> 00:03:14,630

And some of the people who--

43

00:03:14,630 --> 00:03:18,500

[COUGHS] --boy, am I
going to cough now?

44

00:03:18,500 --> 00:03:19,670

It's all right.

45

00:03:19,670 --> 00:03:24,290

Some of the people who were--

46

00:03:24,290 --> 00:03:25,640

haftlingen they called them.

47

00:03:25,640 --> 00:03:26,660

What did they call them?

48

00:03:26,660 --> 00:03:28,850

Haftlingen the captives.

49

00:03:28,850 --> 00:03:33,170

Like, some of the same people
as us, who were taken before,

50
00:03:33,170 --> 00:03:38,040
were also helping along to give
us direction, which way to go.

51
00:03:38,040 --> 00:03:40,990
They took us to the bathhouse.

52
00:03:40,990 --> 00:03:46,670
And on the bathhouse
it said, "Arbeit

53
00:03:46,670 --> 00:03:51,380
macht frei," "Work makes
you free," a big sign.

54
00:03:51,380 --> 00:03:54,800
Then, they told us
to go to the back

55
00:03:54,800 --> 00:03:58,520
and get undressed and drop--

56
00:03:58,520 --> 00:04:02,600
put our shoes in one place,
the clothes in the other.

57
00:04:02,600 --> 00:04:07,670
They were making us
do things pretty fast.

58
00:04:07,670 --> 00:04:12,260
Schnell, schnell, schnell,
means fast, fast, fast.

59
00:04:12,260 --> 00:04:16,880
And we couldn't have anything.

60
00:04:16,880 --> 00:04:19,730
We were completely naked.

61
00:04:19,730 --> 00:04:21,589

They told us to go in.

62
00:04:21,589 --> 00:04:26,570
And from the ceilings
were hanging clippers,

63
00:04:26,570 --> 00:04:28,640
hair clippers.

64
00:04:28,640 --> 00:04:31,670
And they had shaved our heads.

65
00:04:31,670 --> 00:04:34,366
Who shaved your heads?

66
00:04:34,366 --> 00:04:38,450
The people who were like us,
who came before, the haftlingen

67
00:04:38,450 --> 00:04:39,340
Other Jews?

68
00:04:39,340 --> 00:04:44,570
Other Jews or whoever
was in the camp.

69
00:04:44,570 --> 00:04:46,380
Women.

70
00:04:46,380 --> 00:04:46,880
No.

71
00:04:46,880 --> 00:04:47,660
No?

72
00:04:47,660 --> 00:04:49,790
It was just anybody.

73
00:04:49,790 --> 00:04:53,570
I don't think anybody had
in mind anything about women

74

00:04:53,570 --> 00:04:55,580
or men.

75

00:04:55,580 --> 00:04:58,520
I mean, after such
a misery, you don't

76

00:04:58,520 --> 00:05:01,910
think about that type of thing.

77

00:05:01,910 --> 00:05:03,740
Except sometimes you do.

78

00:05:03,740 --> 00:05:09,230
But I mean, it wasn't like
anybody looked at anybody.

79

00:05:09,230 --> 00:05:12,110
And they shaved
us, and then they

80

00:05:12,110 --> 00:05:16,580
had us take a shower, which
was also going through the room

81

00:05:16,580 --> 00:05:17,900
real fast.

82

00:05:17,900 --> 00:05:22,470
And then they sprayed us with
some type of a disinfectant.

83

00:05:22,470 --> 00:05:24,550
I remember, it was
hurting like crazy.

84

00:05:24,550 --> 00:05:26,000
It was biting.

85

00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:27,837
It was like a petrol --

86

00:05:27,837 --> 00:05:30,632

87

00:05:30,632 --> 00:05:33,710

like a [INAUDIBLE] or something.

88

00:05:33,710 --> 00:05:37,880

Some type of a
product like that.

89

00:05:37,880 --> 00:05:41,390

And then they gave us
a piece of clothing.

90

00:05:41,390 --> 00:05:43,580

And some of us got shoes.

91

00:05:43,580 --> 00:05:45,590

Some of us didn't.

92

00:05:45,590 --> 00:05:46,930

Did you get shoes?

93

00:05:46,930 --> 00:05:48,950

I got shoes.

94

00:05:48,950 --> 00:05:54,530

And we didn't get any underwear.

95

00:05:54,530 --> 00:05:58,940

And it was really a big
shock to us, all at once,

96

00:05:58,940 --> 00:06:00,140

being left like that.

97

00:06:00,140 --> 00:06:04,160

I think we were so bewildered
that, when we came out

98

00:06:04,160 --> 00:06:06,920

from there and they told
us to line up in four,

99
00:06:06,920 --> 00:06:11,240
we looked at each other and
we thought, are we crazy?

100
00:06:11,240 --> 00:06:12,170
Are they crazy?

101
00:06:12,170 --> 00:06:16,010
We couldn't understand how
one human being can do that

102
00:06:16,010 --> 00:06:18,170
to another.

103
00:06:18,170 --> 00:06:21,230
And then they told
us to line up,

104
00:06:21,230 --> 00:06:25,100
and then they counted
up 1,000 of us.

105
00:06:25,100 --> 00:06:26,990
There was a lot of people.

106
00:06:26,990 --> 00:06:30,230
They had us go to one block.

107
00:06:30,230 --> 00:06:34,250
A block was one of
those stalls where

108
00:06:34,250 --> 00:06:36,815
they put us on three layers--

109
00:06:36,815 --> 00:06:40,370

110
00:06:40,370 --> 00:06:43,580

the heavier on the bottom, then
the middle, and on the top.

111
00:06:43,580 --> 00:06:45,830
Just pieces of wood
in a building or?

112
00:06:45,830 --> 00:06:51,050
It was three-- it was
three-layered bunk beds,

113
00:06:51,050 --> 00:06:53,780
but they were bigger
than a bunk bed.

114
00:06:53,780 --> 00:06:57,440
There were five people one
way, five the other way,

115
00:06:57,440 --> 00:06:59,550
packed like sardines.

116
00:06:59,550 --> 00:07:02,060
And when one in the middle
wanted to turn over,

117
00:07:02,060 --> 00:07:06,320
everybody else had to,
because it was that tight.

118
00:07:06,320 --> 00:07:08,130
Except they put
more of us there.

119
00:07:08,130 --> 00:07:09,500
It was like 1,300.

120
00:07:09,500 --> 00:07:14,120
Because they were bringing
in so many people at the time

121
00:07:14,120 --> 00:07:15,800
that they didn't have

where to put them.

122

00:07:15,800 --> 00:07:19,645

123

00:07:19,645 --> 00:07:21,020

They took us for
the first night,

124

00:07:21,020 --> 00:07:24,050

because they didn't have
room, to Zigeunerlager,

125

00:07:24,050 --> 00:07:25,610

which was a Gypsy camp.

126

00:07:25,610 --> 00:07:28,410

Then, from there, they
took us to Lager Tsev

127

00:07:28,410 --> 00:07:31,550

and that was in Birkenau.

128

00:07:31,550 --> 00:07:34,970

Birkenau and Auschwitz
were one side--

129

00:07:34,970 --> 00:07:37,850

one next to the
other, the camps.

130

00:07:37,850 --> 00:07:39,260

They were pretty much the same.

131

00:07:39,260 --> 00:07:41,560

How did they move you
from one to the other?

132

00:07:41,560 --> 00:07:42,228

Walked.

133

00:07:42,228 --> 00:07:42,728

Walking?

134

00:07:42,728 --> 00:07:43,676

Walking, yeah.

135

00:07:43,676 --> 00:07:47,750

136

00:07:47,750 --> 00:07:52,250

Birkenau had a lot of
the crematoriums in them.

137

00:07:52,250 --> 00:07:58,790

And anyway, when we were there
for a certain length of time--

138

00:07:58,790 --> 00:08:00,450

Like, how long?

139

00:08:00,450 --> 00:08:02,670

Well, I was there
for three months.

140

00:08:02,670 --> 00:08:07,340

But when we were there maybe
a couple of weeks, they--

141

00:08:07,340 --> 00:08:09,770

we got very weak,
because we didn't--

142

00:08:09,770 --> 00:08:12,095

they didn't allow us to get
out to walk or anything.

143

00:08:12,095 --> 00:08:13,210

But how was the day?

144

00:08:13,210 --> 00:08:13,730

I mean--

145

00:08:13,730 --> 00:08:16,250

The day was mostly--

146

00:08:16,250 --> 00:08:19,460

we got, for breakfast,
coffee which was drugged.

147

00:08:19,460 --> 00:08:25,940

For lunch we got beet
soup or sugar beets--

148

00:08:25,940 --> 00:08:28,400

beet soup of some type.

149

00:08:28,400 --> 00:08:30,890

And because we were
in a destruction camp,

150

00:08:30,890 --> 00:08:33,020

it was the vernichtungslager.

151

00:08:33,020 --> 00:08:33,830

What's that?

152

00:08:33,830 --> 00:08:37,590

That means the camp to
be next to destroyed.

153

00:08:37,590 --> 00:08:40,340

So they didn't bother giving
us numbers of the arms.

154

00:08:40,340 --> 00:08:44,420

But they gave us numbers written
on our jackets, on our clothes.

155

00:08:44,420 --> 00:08:50,870

156

00:08:50,870 --> 00:08:54,630

Anyway, what they did
is, in the morning,

157

00:08:54,630 --> 00:08:58,460
we had to get up about 5
o'clock and stand appell.

158
00:08:58,460 --> 00:09:00,770
Appell was counting.

159
00:09:00,770 --> 00:09:03,300
We were standing
against the building.

160
00:09:03,300 --> 00:09:05,990
And there was more
of us, 1,300 people

161
00:09:05,990 --> 00:09:08,270
were more than the
building was wide.

162
00:09:08,270 --> 00:09:10,580
So inside, we would
have never fitted in.

163
00:09:10,580 --> 00:09:12,900
But because we
were three-layered,

164
00:09:12,900 --> 00:09:14,760
that's how we fit in.

165
00:09:14,760 --> 00:09:18,710
And we would stand there,
some days, from 5:00 or 6:00

166
00:09:18,710 --> 00:09:21,080
in the morning to 11:00.

167
00:09:21,080 --> 00:09:23,810
And we weren't supposed to move.

168
00:09:23,810 --> 00:09:25,310
Did you talk?

169

00:09:25,310 --> 00:09:26,630

We weren't supposed to.

170

00:09:26,630 --> 00:09:28,190

We were supposed
to be very quiet

171

00:09:28,190 --> 00:09:31,670

and just stand,
like, at attention.

172

00:09:31,670 --> 00:09:36,560

And standing still like
that, even when you're well,

173

00:09:36,560 --> 00:09:38,970

is very, very hard.

174

00:09:38,970 --> 00:09:42,520

But when you're hungry
and cold, it's even worse.

175

00:09:42,520 --> 00:09:46,100

So people were fainting
left and right.

176

00:09:46,100 --> 00:09:48,620

They would just
tip over and fall.

177

00:09:48,620 --> 00:09:52,530

The blockalteste, who was our
blockalteste inside the things,

178

00:09:52,530 --> 00:09:54,830

her name was Alice.

179

00:09:54,830 --> 00:09:57,740

She was a girl from--

180

00:09:57,740 --> 00:10:03,920

a Jewish girl from

Czechoslovakia, a Czech girl.

181

00:10:03,920 --> 00:10:08,780

And she said, if
somebody falls down,

182

00:10:08,780 --> 00:10:14,060

give him a big, hard
slap to wake them up.

183

00:10:14,060 --> 00:10:17,630

Because if they don't get up,
they're going to be killed.

184

00:10:17,630 --> 00:10:20,360

They're going to be shot,
or taken to the crematorium

185

00:10:20,360 --> 00:10:22,820

or just shot on the spot.

186

00:10:22,820 --> 00:10:27,380

So I remember how painful it
was to see somebody fall down,

187

00:10:27,380 --> 00:10:29,680

wanting to tip over.

188

00:10:29,680 --> 00:10:34,220

You have to slap their
face so that they could--

189

00:10:34,220 --> 00:10:36,920

so that they wouldn't be killed.

190

00:10:36,920 --> 00:10:41,410

Some people were so
upset and discouraged

191

00:10:41,410 --> 00:10:44,660

of the hardship that
was on them there

192

00:10:44,660 --> 00:10:50,660

that they went to the
electric wires and got killed.

193

00:10:50,660 --> 00:10:53,240

When they did that,
a lot of times,

194

00:10:53,240 --> 00:10:56,060

they punished the
blockalteste, the woman

195

00:10:56,060 --> 00:10:58,310

who was taking care of us.

196

00:10:58,310 --> 00:11:03,590

At one point, we saw a
lot of the blockalteste

197

00:11:03,590 --> 00:11:05,750

having to go through
the whole camp, which

198

00:11:05,750 --> 00:11:08,540

was quite large,
on their stomachs

199

00:11:08,540 --> 00:11:13,650

in the mud as a punishment--

200

00:11:13,650 --> 00:11:15,050

these women.

201

00:11:15,050 --> 00:11:17,000

So if somebody
says they were bad,

202

00:11:17,000 --> 00:11:19,110

I think they were
told what to do.

203

00:11:19,110 --> 00:11:23,000

And if they didn't do it, they
were punished very severely.

204
00:11:23,000 --> 00:11:28,005

205
00:11:28,005 --> 00:11:32,890
Then when about-- when I was
about there for two weeks,

206
00:11:32,890 --> 00:11:39,850
I befriended this woman,
Alice, the blockalteste.

207
00:11:39,850 --> 00:11:41,120
I just went to her.

208
00:11:41,120 --> 00:11:44,950
She had a little booth in the
front, a little bit bigger

209
00:11:44,950 --> 00:11:48,490
than a phone booth,
where she stayed.

210
00:11:48,490 --> 00:11:51,370
That was her office and
where she had her bed.

211
00:11:51,370 --> 00:11:54,820
And I told her, she had--

212
00:11:54,820 --> 00:12:00,370
her legs were swollen and full
of blue and black blotches

213
00:12:00,370 --> 00:12:02,380
on her legs.

214
00:12:02,380 --> 00:12:05,080
And I told her that
I'd massage her legs.

215

00:12:05,080 --> 00:12:08,110

And I had nothing
else what to do.

216

00:12:08,110 --> 00:12:10,370

I had nobody there.

217

00:12:10,370 --> 00:12:13,330

And because of that, she--

218

00:12:13,330 --> 00:12:14,800

I didn't ask for anything.

219

00:12:14,800 --> 00:12:17,920

She would give me, once in
a while, a piece of bread.

220

00:12:17,920 --> 00:12:28,000

Then, she came out and she
said that we need 200 women

221

00:12:28,000 --> 00:12:33,850

for carrying food, S-Kommando,
from one camp to the other.

222

00:12:33,850 --> 00:12:37,630

And so I volunteered right away.

223

00:12:37,630 --> 00:12:40,690

I knew that that would
be better than staying

224

00:12:40,690 --> 00:12:42,220

packed like sardines all day.

225

00:12:42,220 --> 00:12:43,960

Oh, we had this
appell twice a day,

226

00:12:43,960 --> 00:12:46,060

by the way-- in the
morning and in the evening.

227
00:12:46,060 --> 00:12:47,860
And in between,
what were you doing?

228
00:12:47,860 --> 00:12:51,430
We were laying in these bunks,
because there was really not

229
00:12:51,430 --> 00:12:52,540
enough room for us.

230
00:12:52,540 --> 00:12:56,470
Where did you get the
idea to massage her legs?

231
00:12:56,470 --> 00:12:57,430
I don't know.

232
00:12:57,430 --> 00:13:01,000
I guess I felt sorry
for her that she--

233
00:13:01,000 --> 00:13:05,340
a lot of people resented
the kapos, the blockalteste,

234
00:13:05,340 --> 00:13:08,620
as bad people.

235
00:13:08,620 --> 00:13:10,250
I didn't see it that way.

236
00:13:10,250 --> 00:13:12,970
I knew that because
from the time before,

237
00:13:12,970 --> 00:13:15,910
what I saw that was
happening in StanislawÅ³w,

238
00:13:15,910 --> 00:13:17,950

I knew that people, if
they want to survive,

239
00:13:17,950 --> 00:13:19,610
do all kinds of things.

240
00:13:19,610 --> 00:13:21,430
So if they were
rough with somebody,

241
00:13:21,430 --> 00:13:23,960
I knew it was not
because of a choice,

242
00:13:23,960 --> 00:13:28,270
but it was because she
had to, to survive.

243
00:13:28,270 --> 00:13:30,730
And she was already
there for a long time,

244
00:13:30,730 --> 00:13:34,430
for two or three years.

245
00:13:34,430 --> 00:13:42,478
So I went on the S-Kommando
between these 200 people.

246
00:13:42,478 --> 00:13:44,020
First of all,
everybody wanted to go.

247
00:13:44,020 --> 00:13:46,187
I was just going to say,
didn't everyone want to go?

248
00:13:46,187 --> 00:13:46,750
Oh, sure.

249
00:13:46,750 --> 00:13:49,090
But the ones who
were first or were

250
00:13:49,090 --> 00:13:51,340
picked up that
they're strong enough,

251
00:13:51,340 --> 00:13:52,690
that's the ones who went.

252
00:13:52,690 --> 00:13:54,940
Anyway, I was one
of those people.

253
00:13:54,940 --> 00:13:57,250
And we were carrying
food from the camp

254
00:13:57,250 --> 00:14:00,190
we were in, from Lager
Tsev they had a kitchen--

255
00:14:00,190 --> 00:14:03,440
to the Czech camp,
which was the next camp.

256
00:14:03,440 --> 00:14:04,810
And we had to go through a gate.

257
00:14:04,810 --> 00:14:11,290
Even between camps, there
were gates with their watch--

258
00:14:11,290 --> 00:14:14,380
the German standing
on the top, and there

259
00:14:14,380 --> 00:14:17,630
was all over sprinkles of them.

260
00:14:17,630 --> 00:14:21,640
And as we would walk
through the gate,

261

00:14:21,640 --> 00:14:25,870
we carried cans
of food or coffee

262
00:14:25,870 --> 00:14:27,303
that were like big garbage cans.

263
00:14:27,303 --> 00:14:28,220
It was taller than me.

264
00:14:28,220 --> 00:14:33,460
And I used to have to
bend to one side so that--

265
00:14:33,460 --> 00:14:35,050
to lift.

266
00:14:35,050 --> 00:14:39,490
And we had to tell the number,
as we were going through,

267
00:14:39,490 --> 00:14:41,300
that we went through
to the other camp.

268
00:14:41,300 --> 00:14:45,780
How far was the
[INAUDIBLE] camp?

269
00:14:45,780 --> 00:14:47,070
It was not far.

270
00:14:47,070 --> 00:14:51,420
It was a 10, 15-minute
walk each way.

271
00:14:51,420 --> 00:14:54,570
Then we left them the food.

272
00:14:54,570 --> 00:14:59,430
And we went back, picked up the
empty cans from the morning,

273

00:14:59,430 --> 00:15:01,740
and we did this twice a day.

274

00:15:01,740 --> 00:15:05,910
That gave us a chance to be
in the fresh air and walk.

275

00:15:05,910 --> 00:15:07,500
Though, air wasn't very fresh.

276

00:15:07,500 --> 00:15:12,580
And as we were walking one day,
as I say, we were spaced out.

277

00:15:12,580 --> 00:15:14,145
We didn't know what's going on.

278

00:15:14,145 --> 00:15:16,020
You also said you were
drugged in the coffee.

279

00:15:16,020 --> 00:15:17,040
And we were drugged.

280

00:15:17,040 --> 00:15:18,210
I mean, we were really--

281

00:15:18,210 --> 00:15:20,250
Like sedated?

282

00:15:20,250 --> 00:15:23,220
We were very subdued.

283

00:15:23,220 --> 00:15:26,850
I mean, like nobody
thought of anything.

284

00:15:26,850 --> 00:15:34,170
So as we were walking and I was
telling to the girl next to me,

285

00:15:34,170 --> 00:15:38,820
there was this black smoke
coming out of the chimneys,

286
00:15:38,820 --> 00:15:44,340
with this pungent smell
of bones and, you know?

287
00:15:44,340 --> 00:15:47,010
I couldn't-- I didn't
know what it was from.

288
00:15:47,010 --> 00:15:52,320
But I just said to her, I wonder
what they're burning there.

289
00:15:52,320 --> 00:15:56,070
The air was so heavy
with it, so smelly.

290
00:15:56,070 --> 00:16:00,600
And the SS men--

291
00:16:00,600 --> 00:16:04,170
they walked with us anyway, even
from one camp to the other--

292
00:16:04,170 --> 00:16:11,190
says, you dumbkopf meaning,
you stupid, don't you

293
00:16:11,190 --> 00:16:14,190
know it's your parents burning
and your sisters and brothers

294
00:16:14,190 --> 00:16:15,060
there.

295
00:16:15,060 --> 00:16:16,440
Anyway, he told us.

296
00:16:16,440 --> 00:16:20,970
That's when I first heard

that they're burning our--

297

00:16:20,970 --> 00:16:25,440

I mean, that that's
a crematorium.

298

00:16:25,440 --> 00:16:29,450

So that was when I was
maybe there about 2

299

00:16:29,450 --> 00:16:32,850

and 1/2 or 3 weeks.

300

00:16:32,850 --> 00:16:36,660

Then, more transports
were coming in.

301

00:16:36,660 --> 00:16:41,100

And as they were walking
through the barbed wires,

302

00:16:41,100 --> 00:16:43,710

they saw these--

303

00:16:43,710 --> 00:16:46,050

they saw us with
our heads shaven

304

00:16:46,050 --> 00:16:49,200

and looking drawn and awful.

305

00:16:49,200 --> 00:16:54,660

And they said-- and they
were not yet processed.

306

00:16:54,660 --> 00:16:59,700

And we heard them
say in Hungarian,

307

00:16:59,700 --> 00:17:02,400

it's a [HUNGARIAN] house,
which means it's a crazy--

308

00:17:02,400 --> 00:17:04,319

this is the crazy house.

309

00:17:04,319 --> 00:17:06,480

You see, people before--

310

00:17:06,480 --> 00:17:08,280

an hour later, they

looked the same.

311

00:17:08,280 --> 00:17:11,319

Before they knew

what was coming,

312

00:17:11,319 --> 00:17:14,790

they thought that

this is a crazy house.

313

00:17:14,790 --> 00:17:17,760

That's the way we looked.

314

00:17:17,760 --> 00:17:22,665

Anyway, I did this for--

315

00:17:22,665 --> 00:17:25,650

for a certain length of time.

316

00:17:25,650 --> 00:17:27,720

By the way, that

Czech camp, where

317

00:17:27,720 --> 00:17:31,482

they didn't have a kitchen,

they also kept them just

318

00:17:31,482 --> 00:17:32,190

for a short time.

319

00:17:32,190 --> 00:17:34,470

They didn't feel like they

need a kitchen for them.

320

00:17:34,470 --> 00:17:36,840

They were waiting
for crematoriums,

321

00:17:36,840 --> 00:17:40,837

just as they were waiting
for crematoriums for us.

322

00:17:40,837 --> 00:17:42,670

They didn't give us
numbers for that reason.

323

00:17:42,670 --> 00:17:45,930

It was called a
vernichtungslager, the camp

324

00:17:45,930 --> 00:17:49,140

to be destroyed first.

325

00:17:49,140 --> 00:17:51,360

Meaning the people in the
camp would be destroyed?

326

00:17:51,360 --> 00:17:54,690

The keep-- the people,
yeah, vernichters.

327

00:17:54,690 --> 00:17:56,460

So they didn't build
a kitchen for them.

328

00:17:56,460 --> 00:17:59,430

That's how come we had to
carry food there until--

329

00:17:59,430 --> 00:18:02,850

not enough, but just enough to--

330

00:18:02,850 --> 00:18:04,740

so that they'll survive to--

331

00:18:04,740 --> 00:18:06,360

so they can kill them again.

332

00:18:06,360 --> 00:18:08,880

333

00:18:08,880 --> 00:18:14,985

Then, when I was there about
close to three months, the--

334

00:18:14,985 --> 00:18:18,330

335

00:18:18,330 --> 00:18:25,260

one day, the SS came there
with their dogs again,

336

00:18:25,260 --> 00:18:28,170

men and women both.

337

00:18:28,170 --> 00:18:30,750

And they told for
the blockalteste,

338

00:18:30,750 --> 00:18:33,810

for the woman who
was inside, the kapo,

339

00:18:33,810 --> 00:18:35,970

to have us all undress.

340

00:18:35,970 --> 00:18:39,390

And we all had to get undressed
and come out naked and outside.

341

00:18:39,390 --> 00:18:41,610

As I say, there wasn't
enough room inside anyway.

342

00:18:41,610 --> 00:18:44,310

And they would not
come in, in the closed

343

00:18:44,310 --> 00:18:49,200
things with the prisoners,
what they call them.

344
00:18:49,200 --> 00:18:53,640
So when we came out, again,
with these nightsticks,

345
00:18:53,640 --> 00:18:57,630
they were, this way, this--
you know, you go this way.

346
00:18:57,630 --> 00:18:59,940
It just so happened
that at the time

347
00:18:59,940 --> 00:19:02,230
I had a temperature, because I--

348
00:19:02,230 --> 00:19:04,980
I don't know what
was wrong with me.

349
00:19:04,980 --> 00:19:08,190
But when I was carrying the
food that day, I fell down.

350
00:19:08,190 --> 00:19:09,150
I fainted.

351
00:19:09,150 --> 00:19:12,840
Somebody got me up
and got me going.

352
00:19:12,840 --> 00:19:15,300
So I was very flushed.

353
00:19:15,300 --> 00:19:18,180
And I was standing there naked.

354
00:19:18,180 --> 00:19:21,630
And I was sent to this side.

355

00:19:21,630 --> 00:19:28,230

And then they didn't let us
anymore into the barracks.

356

00:19:28,230 --> 00:19:35,640

We were separated-- about
200 of us, 200 or 250.

357

00:19:35,640 --> 00:19:40,560

And they had us
walk from this camp

358

00:19:40,560 --> 00:19:43,830

to another camp
completely naked.

359

00:19:43,830 --> 00:19:46,570

And what did you
think was happening?

360

00:19:46,570 --> 00:19:51,280

Well, we thought they might be
taking us to the crematorium.

361

00:19:51,280 --> 00:19:56,530

But to be very honest, I don't
know how anybody else felt.

362

00:19:56,530 --> 00:19:59,510

I didn't feel
frightened or anything.

363

00:19:59,510 --> 00:20:06,110

It was just like you gave up,
or whatever is coming is coming.

364

00:20:06,110 --> 00:20:08,500

They took us to this other camp.

365

00:20:08,500 --> 00:20:14,290

And again, we went
into a shower room.

366

00:20:14,290 --> 00:20:17,890

And there, they gave us
civilian clothes afterwards.

367

00:20:17,890 --> 00:20:21,925

And they gave us
bread and cheese.

368

00:20:21,925 --> 00:20:25,560

369

00:20:25,560 --> 00:20:29,760

So I remember I got a
turquoise blue dress--

370

00:20:29,760 --> 00:20:31,470

a flannel, with long sleeves.

371

00:20:31,470 --> 00:20:32,940

I will never forget
it, because I

372

00:20:32,940 --> 00:20:36,350

started to feel like
I'm a human being again.

373

00:20:36,350 --> 00:20:42,530

374

00:20:42,530 --> 00:20:45,090

And it was Tisha B'Av.

375

00:20:45,090 --> 00:20:48,050

376

00:20:48,050 --> 00:20:49,850

And all of these
Hungarian people--

377

00:20:49,850 --> 00:20:51,434

How did you keep track of
the dates and the holidays

378
00:20:51,434 --> 00:20:51,934
and things?

379
00:20:51,934 --> 00:20:53,345
I don't know.

380
00:20:53,345 --> 00:20:55,850
There were people there
who were for a longer time,

381
00:20:55,850 --> 00:20:58,970
and they kind of told
somebody and, you know,

382
00:20:58,970 --> 00:21:00,410
it kind of went from--

383
00:21:00,410 --> 00:21:01,520
and people counted.

384
00:21:01,520 --> 00:21:02,240
I don't know.

385
00:21:02,240 --> 00:21:04,130
But somehow they knew it.

386
00:21:04,130 --> 00:21:06,310
It was Tisha B'Av.

387
00:21:06,310 --> 00:21:07,898
Maybe they just
thought it Tisha B'Av.

388
00:21:07,898 --> 00:21:08,440
I don't know.

389
00:21:08,440 --> 00:21:13,460

390
00:21:13,460 --> 00:21:16,820

So the Hungarians were very
religious, most of them.

391
00:21:16,820 --> 00:21:19,790
And nobody would eat it.

392
00:21:19,790 --> 00:21:23,360
Now, and mind you,
we were very hungry.

393
00:21:23,360 --> 00:21:25,880
And the same day, they
loaded us on a train.

394
00:21:25,880 --> 00:21:26,520
Did you eat it?

395
00:21:26,520 --> 00:21:29,270
Nope, I didn't eat it.

396
00:21:29,270 --> 00:21:32,520
The same day, they
loaded us on a train,

397
00:21:32,520 --> 00:21:35,360
and they send us-- they
said we are going to work.

398
00:21:35,360 --> 00:21:39,190
And we had-- it still was
a cattle train, by the way.

399
00:21:39,190 --> 00:21:41,480
Nothing anything better.

400
00:21:41,480 --> 00:21:45,230
But here we had our
cheese and bread.

401
00:21:45,230 --> 00:21:48,620
Everybody had a pretty
good slice of cheese--

402

00:21:48,620 --> 00:21:52,440
of bread and Limburger cheese.

403

00:21:52,440 --> 00:21:53,930
But it doesn't
matter what it was

404

00:21:53,930 --> 00:21:57,650
like, as long as it was food.

405

00:21:57,650 --> 00:22:02,870
So we went on the train.

406

00:22:02,870 --> 00:22:06,110
And everybody chose me,
because nobody knew me,

407

00:22:06,110 --> 00:22:07,730
that I'm going to be honest.

408

00:22:07,730 --> 00:22:09,620
And everybody gave
me their portion

409

00:22:09,620 --> 00:22:11,660
of their bread and
cheese to keep for them

410

00:22:11,660 --> 00:22:13,763
until the stars come out.

411

00:22:13,763 --> 00:22:15,880
Wow.

412

00:22:15,880 --> 00:22:17,880
They didn't trust
themselves to keep it?

413

00:22:17,880 --> 00:22:19,320
Keep it, yeah.

414

00:22:19,320 --> 00:22:21,070

Because they were
so hungry, yeah.

415

00:22:21,070 --> 00:22:24,720

Yeah, so they gave it to me.

416

00:22:24,720 --> 00:22:29,760

And when the stars came
out, I gave everybody back

417

00:22:29,760 --> 00:22:32,050

their bread and their cheese.

418

00:22:32,050 --> 00:22:33,630

Three stars you watched for?

419

00:22:33,630 --> 00:22:35,280

Yes.

420

00:22:35,280 --> 00:22:36,450

And we ate it.

421

00:22:36,450 --> 00:22:41,790

And then I think the next
day we arrived in our camp.

422

00:22:41,790 --> 00:22:44,460

And it wasn't completely
built. We didn't see--

423

00:22:44,460 --> 00:22:47,670

just one building,
which was the kitchen.

424

00:22:47,670 --> 00:22:50,970

They had bunkers built
there, underground

425

00:22:50,970 --> 00:22:52,680

and were covered with grass.

426

00:22:52,680 --> 00:22:56,280
And it looked like it's
just a regular field.

427
00:22:56,280 --> 00:22:58,110
But there were barbed wires.

428
00:22:58,110 --> 00:23:01,200
So we helped-- somebody
before us helped

429
00:23:01,200 --> 00:23:04,170
to do some of the barbed wires.

430
00:23:04,170 --> 00:23:07,950
And then we had to build the
rest of the camp for the--

431
00:23:07,950 --> 00:23:08,700
for the men.

432
00:23:08,700 --> 00:23:11,310
What was in the bunkers?

433
00:23:11,310 --> 00:23:12,480
Nothing.

434
00:23:12,480 --> 00:23:17,400
They had like-- it was like
a room dug out of the ground.

435
00:23:17,400 --> 00:23:21,360
The top was covered with grass.

436
00:23:21,360 --> 00:23:27,570
And then you step down a step
or two, and you were inside.

437
00:23:27,570 --> 00:23:31,200
And on each side,
they had built,

438

00:23:31,200 --> 00:23:36,170
from wood, benches for
sleeping I think, like beds.

439
00:23:36,170 --> 00:23:39,772
Wider than benches, but
for sleeping, on each side.

440
00:23:39,772 --> 00:23:41,230
And there was a
walkway in between.

441
00:23:41,230 --> 00:23:42,790
So who was it used for?

442
00:23:42,790 --> 00:23:44,850
For us.

443
00:23:44,850 --> 00:23:45,960
They built it for us.

444
00:23:45,960 --> 00:23:47,850
Somebody else did it for us.

445
00:23:47,850 --> 00:23:48,660
Now, we--

446
00:23:48,660 --> 00:23:50,910
So they wouldn't know
anyone was there or--

447
00:23:50,910 --> 00:23:52,410
That's right.

448
00:23:52,410 --> 00:23:55,147
So then-- no, they brought us--

449
00:23:55,147 --> 00:23:56,730
Were you the first
ones to come there?

450
00:23:56,730 --> 00:23:58,720

Yeah, we were the first
ones to come there.

451
00:23:58,720 --> 00:24:00,190
It was completely new.

452
00:24:00,190 --> 00:24:04,080
We had to, in turn, build
the rest of the camp.

453
00:24:04,080 --> 00:24:08,500
This was just for us, for
a few that were finished.

454
00:24:08,500 --> 00:24:11,190
We had to dig out the
ground, get the ground out,

455
00:24:11,190 --> 00:24:17,080
and carry it on a
carrier made out of wood.

456
00:24:17,080 --> 00:24:19,650
One person in the front
and one in the back.

457
00:24:19,650 --> 00:24:22,620
Dig out the dirt, put
it there, and then carry

458
00:24:22,620 --> 00:24:26,880
it to form this room.

459
00:24:26,880 --> 00:24:30,360
And then they build it to--

460
00:24:30,360 --> 00:24:33,540
they took the same dirt
and covered the top with it

461
00:24:33,540 --> 00:24:36,816
and put grass on it.

462

00:24:36,816 --> 00:24:38,670

It's like digging a grave.

463

00:24:38,670 --> 00:24:43,980

Yes, but it was
underground housing like.

464

00:24:43,980 --> 00:24:45,163

This is men and women?

465

00:24:45,163 --> 00:24:46,080

Or were you all women?

466

00:24:46,080 --> 00:24:47,075

No, we were just women.

467

00:24:47,075 --> 00:24:48,242

Yeah, that's what I thought.

468

00:24:48,242 --> 00:24:48,742

Yeah.

469

00:24:48,742 --> 00:24:51,480

Yeah, first, when we came.

470

00:24:51,480 --> 00:24:54,150

So when we finished
building this--

471

00:24:54,150 --> 00:24:58,620

OK, when we first
came, they told

472

00:24:58,620 --> 00:25:01,290

us to come and stand in appell.

473

00:25:01,290 --> 00:25:04,750

And right away, the
thing was so different,

474

00:25:04,750 --> 00:25:06,990

because these were not SS men.

475

00:25:06,990 --> 00:25:10,770

These were people who came
back from the Russian front--

476

00:25:10,770 --> 00:25:13,960

officers and soldiers who--

477

00:25:13,960 --> 00:25:14,910

Germans?

478

00:25:14,910 --> 00:25:15,480

Germans.

479

00:25:15,480 --> 00:25:16,710

Mm-hmm.

480

00:25:16,710 --> 00:25:18,270

And they talked to us.

481

00:25:18,270 --> 00:25:23,190

They called us haftlingen

OK, which was--

482

00:25:23,190 --> 00:25:28,200

that's like a captured--

like, war prisoners type.

483

00:25:28,200 --> 00:25:32,040

And they already talked to

us about hygienic things

484

00:25:32,040 --> 00:25:33,450

and things like that.

485

00:25:33,450 --> 00:25:36,600

They asked if anybody

is menstruating.

486

00:25:36,600 --> 00:25:37,500

Was anyone?

487
00:25:37,500 --> 00:25:39,180
No.

488
00:25:39,180 --> 00:25:42,120
But they gave us pads anyway.

489
00:25:42,120 --> 00:25:47,370
So we felt a little bit
better, because we already

490
00:25:47,370 --> 00:25:50,940
were talked to like
we are a human being.

491
00:25:50,940 --> 00:25:53,740
They worked with us very hard.

492
00:25:53,740 --> 00:25:57,180
And as I was carrying these--

493
00:25:57,180 --> 00:25:59,180
the dirt, I was--

494
00:25:59,180 --> 00:26:00,240
In your turquoise dress?

495
00:26:00,240 --> 00:26:01,395
In my turquoise dress.

496
00:26:01,395 --> 00:26:04,340

497
00:26:04,340 --> 00:26:06,630
I also have curly hair.

498
00:26:06,630 --> 00:26:10,590
So even if my hair was
short, after three months,

499
00:26:10,590 --> 00:26:14,230

I already looked pretty human.

500

00:26:14,230 --> 00:26:23,610

So an officer, [NON-ENGLISH]--

501

00:26:23,610 --> 00:26:27,630

I don't know what you would
call him in the English things--

502

00:26:27,630 --> 00:26:33,894

came in, he said he wants
me to come with him.

503

00:26:33,894 --> 00:26:35,010

Or he looked for me.

504

00:26:35,010 --> 00:26:36,630

And I was trying to hide out.

505

00:26:36,630 --> 00:26:41,640

But you could see me a mile away
in my turquoise dress, I think.

506

00:26:41,640 --> 00:26:48,990

Anyway, finally, he came and
he told me, what is your name?

507

00:26:48,990 --> 00:26:49,860

And I told him.

508

00:26:49,860 --> 00:26:51,330

And he called me--

509

00:26:51,330 --> 00:26:55,650

instead of Miriam,
he called me Mariana.

510

00:26:55,650 --> 00:27:00,240

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

You're coming with me.

511

00:27:00,240 --> 00:27:03,040

And I was scared to death.

512

00:27:03,040 --> 00:27:05,440

What does he want with me?

513

00:27:05,440 --> 00:27:08,340

First of all, we were
scared more than anything

514

00:27:08,340 --> 00:27:11,130

that the Germans are
picking out Jewish girls,

515

00:27:11,130 --> 00:27:16,690

because we heard about that from
before, for their own pleasure.

516

00:27:16,690 --> 00:27:20,655

And that's what I was
afraid of, you know?

517

00:27:20,655 --> 00:27:25,870

So as I was walking beside
him through the camp,

518

00:27:25,870 --> 00:27:30,820

I saw another girl who
was much prettier than me.

519

00:27:30,820 --> 00:27:33,370

520

00:27:33,370 --> 00:27:42,460

And I said to him,
[NON-ENGLISH],,

521

00:27:42,460 --> 00:27:44,290

isn't she prettier than me?

522

00:27:44,290 --> 00:27:46,990

And he says, you want
her to come with you?

523

00:27:46,990 --> 00:27:48,100

And I said, yes.

524

00:27:48,100 --> 00:27:50,860

I didn't want-- [CHUCKLES]

It's a terrible thing

525

00:27:50,860 --> 00:27:55,900

to do to somebody, but

you want to save yourself.

526

00:27:55,900 --> 00:28:02,350

So he, [GERMAN],,

come on, [GERMAN]..

527

00:28:02,350 --> 00:28:04,150

She doesn't understand German.

528

00:28:04,150 --> 00:28:06,520

Hungarians didn't

speak Yiddish, so they

529

00:28:06,520 --> 00:28:10,240

didn't speak German either.

530

00:28:10,240 --> 00:28:16,330

So I told her in Hungarian,

he wants you to come with us.

531

00:28:16,330 --> 00:28:20,490

And then she looked at me

like she wanted to kill me.

532

00:28:20,490 --> 00:28:22,260

I don't know if

she knew that I--

533

00:28:22,260 --> 00:28:23,670

you know?

534

00:28:23,670 --> 00:28:25,690

And so we both went.

535

00:28:25,690 --> 00:28:29,920

They took us out of camp,
took us to his quarters,

536

00:28:29,920 --> 00:28:34,210

and he told us that we are going
to be his putzfrauen, which

537

00:28:34,210 --> 00:28:35,410

means cleaning women.

538

00:28:35,410 --> 00:28:38,910

539

00:28:38,910 --> 00:28:42,420

They didn't want to look at
the most awfulest people.

540

00:28:42,420 --> 00:28:44,190

They wanted to look
at somebody who

541

00:28:44,190 --> 00:28:46,680

looks a little bit more human.

542

00:28:46,680 --> 00:28:54,300

So she was his putz woman, and
I was for a lot bigger officer,

543

00:28:54,300 --> 00:28:56,157

because I spoke the language.

544

00:28:56,157 --> 00:28:58,740

We were never supposed to be in
the room when they were there.

545

00:28:58,740 --> 00:29:03,660

We cleaned their room,
cleaned their boots, and did--

546

00:29:03,660 --> 00:29:05,460

but not when they were there.

547

00:29:05,460 --> 00:29:09,750

When they were out on maneuvers,
then we had to do the work.

548

00:29:09,750 --> 00:29:13,000

And where were you
when they were there?

549

00:29:13,000 --> 00:29:15,690

We had to go to the
SS kitchen to work.

550

00:29:15,690 --> 00:29:17,250

So we did both.

551

00:29:17,250 --> 00:29:20,080

We cleaned their things.

552

00:29:20,080 --> 00:29:21,570

So once in a while--

553

00:29:21,570 --> 00:29:22,830

Where did you sleep then?

554

00:29:22,830 --> 00:29:24,227

Oh, we had to go back.

555

00:29:24,227 --> 00:29:24,810

You went back.

556

00:29:24,810 --> 00:29:26,430

Yeah, oh, they wouldn't let us.

557

00:29:26,430 --> 00:29:28,770

And we couldn't eat
their food either.

558

00:29:28,770 --> 00:29:31,650

No, we were just there for--

559

00:29:31,650 --> 00:29:32,350
for the--

560

00:29:32,350 --> 00:29:33,015
9:00 to 5:00.

561

00:29:33,015 --> 00:29:33,515
[CHUCKLES]

562

00:29:33,515 --> 00:29:35,130
9:00 to 5:00, and
then we went back

563

00:29:35,130 --> 00:29:37,500
and we had to eat
from the kitchen

564

00:29:37,500 --> 00:29:40,880
from what the haftlingen
ate, the watery soup--

565

00:29:40,880 --> 00:29:42,510
not their food.

566

00:29:42,510 --> 00:29:45,960
But still, it was better
than to go out and work

567

00:29:45,960 --> 00:29:51,660
with munition or in the fields
or clean up bombs or live

568

00:29:51,660 --> 00:29:52,270
munition.

569

00:29:52,270 --> 00:29:55,090
They did all of those things.

570

00:29:55,090 --> 00:29:58,710
So me and her worked there.

571

00:29:58,710 --> 00:29:59,910
And then they brought--

572
00:29:59,910 --> 00:30:04,860
they found-- OK, so that
was in the beginning.

573
00:30:04,860 --> 00:30:07,460
When you were in the kitchen,
who were you working with?

574
00:30:07,460 --> 00:30:10,230
With other people who they
chose to work in the kitchen.

575
00:30:10,230 --> 00:30:15,060
Also Jews, except there was
one Frenchman who was a chef.

576
00:30:15,060 --> 00:30:18,690
And there was one German
who was the overseer.

577
00:30:18,690 --> 00:30:23,790
There was a Jewish
bookkeeper there working.

578
00:30:23,790 --> 00:30:27,000
And the people who-- who were
doing the janitorial work--

579
00:30:27,000 --> 00:30:31,650
cleaning, the kitchen,
the dishes, the serving.

580
00:30:31,650 --> 00:30:37,812
I mean, we did everything--
peeling the vegetables.

581
00:30:37,812 --> 00:30:40,020
And they watched you that
you couldn't take any food.

582

00:30:40,020 --> 00:30:43,950

Oh, we not supposed to
ever touch anything.

583

00:30:43,950 --> 00:30:46,440

And we were well-taught not
to, because we were afraid

584

00:30:46,440 --> 00:30:47,800

that they are going to kill us.

585

00:30:47,800 --> 00:30:48,738

We were told.

586

00:30:48,738 --> 00:30:50,280

Wasn't it hard to
be around the food?

587

00:30:50,280 --> 00:30:52,740

Oh, once in a while, we
stuck a piece of raw potato

588

00:30:52,740 --> 00:30:55,590

in our mouth, or if there
was carrots, especially,

589

00:30:55,590 --> 00:31:00,420

or raw cabbage, which was a
big help, because we really

590

00:31:00,420 --> 00:31:01,170

needed that.

591

00:31:01,170 --> 00:31:03,780

592

00:31:03,780 --> 00:31:07,410

We had to go to work much
earlier than anybody else,

593

00:31:07,410 --> 00:31:09,990

because we had to serve
coffee for the soldiers

594
00:31:09,990 --> 00:31:11,760
before they went on
maneuvers, which was

595
00:31:11,760 --> 00:31:13,480
about 5 o'clock in the morning.

596
00:31:13,480 --> 00:31:16,770
We had to have the--

597
00:31:16,770 --> 00:31:18,630
the coffee made.

598
00:31:18,630 --> 00:31:21,540
They were big, copper kettles.

599
00:31:21,540 --> 00:31:25,530
It was for a big
military outpost.

600
00:31:25,530 --> 00:31:28,020
Was there any resentment
amongst the other people

601
00:31:28,020 --> 00:31:31,630
that you were
getting to do this?

602
00:31:31,630 --> 00:31:33,500
I don't think so.

603
00:31:33,500 --> 00:31:38,020
I mean, everybody was assigned
what they were assigned.

604
00:31:38,020 --> 00:31:40,810
And as I say, I really
didn't have anybody

605
00:31:40,810 --> 00:31:43,510
that I really knew.

606

00:31:43,510 --> 00:31:47,000

Everybody knew me, but
I didn't know anybody.

607

00:31:47,000 --> 00:31:49,600

I became very good
friends with the girl that

608

00:31:49,600 --> 00:31:53,830

came with me, Nushi, and
we're still friends, and then

609

00:31:53,830 --> 00:31:55,390

her cousin.

610

00:31:55,390 --> 00:31:58,165

And anyway, that's going to--

611

00:31:58,165 --> 00:32:01,210

I'll explain a little bit
more about that after.

612

00:32:01,210 --> 00:32:09,520

But then came a transport from
Poland, straight from a ghetto.

613

00:32:09,520 --> 00:32:14,310

And it was Lodz.

614

00:32:14,310 --> 00:32:15,340

It was from Lodz.

615

00:32:15,340 --> 00:32:16,870

And this was only men.

616

00:32:16,870 --> 00:32:20,430

617

00:32:20,430 --> 00:32:24,370

Oh, and they also
send us 50 more women,

618
00:32:24,370 --> 00:32:27,010
who were from Poland.

619
00:32:27,010 --> 00:32:32,290
They also wanted me to become
their kapo, the blockal--

620
00:32:32,290 --> 00:32:35,320
for the whole women's
camp, because I don't know,

621
00:32:35,320 --> 00:32:38,530
they all wanted me, and
I didn't want to do it.

622
00:32:38,530 --> 00:32:40,150
As I say, I didn't know anybody.

623
00:32:40,150 --> 00:32:44,240
But they wanted me to do it,
because I was a stranger.

624
00:32:44,240 --> 00:32:48,580
And so you can fault
this person, you know?

625
00:32:48,580 --> 00:32:50,300
So I didn't want to do it.

626
00:32:50,300 --> 00:32:55,690
But then when these Polish
women came, one of them

627
00:32:55,690 --> 00:32:57,310
became a kapo.

628
00:32:57,310 --> 00:32:58,910
She was very good at it.

629
00:32:58,910 --> 00:33:00,280
And she had sisters with her.

630
00:33:00,280 --> 00:33:05,370

631
00:33:05,370 --> 00:33:10,380
And as I say, the
transport of men came.

632
00:33:10,380 --> 00:33:16,230
Then, we'd gotten
shoes that were pieces

633
00:33:16,230 --> 00:33:20,790
of wood on the bottom,
and then some kind

634
00:33:20,790 --> 00:33:24,240
of a very inexpensive
piece of cloth or leather

635
00:33:24,240 --> 00:33:28,800
put over it to make it as
shoes, with laces actually.

636
00:33:28,800 --> 00:33:32,930
And they kept our
feet from the wet,

637
00:33:32,930 --> 00:33:35,400
from the bottom, so
it was pretty good.

638
00:33:35,400 --> 00:33:39,660
I mean, we were off
the ground quite a bit.

639
00:33:39,660 --> 00:33:42,980
And so everybody got--

640
00:33:42,980 --> 00:33:46,340
this was already late
fall when the men came--

641

00:33:46,340 --> 00:33:48,470
got a pair of these shoes.

642

00:33:48,470 --> 00:33:55,980
And the men came, and I saw
a little man, without teeth,

643

00:33:55,980 --> 00:33:56,480
barefoot.

644

00:33:56,480 --> 00:33:59,210

645

00:33:59,210 --> 00:34:03,992
And I took my shoes and gave
it to him over the gate.

646

00:34:03,992 --> 00:34:05,200
I wasn't supposed to do that.

647

00:34:05,200 --> 00:34:08,355
My friend says to me,
why are you doing that?

648

00:34:08,355 --> 00:34:09,260
Winter is coming.

649

00:34:09,260 --> 00:34:10,880
You're going to freeze to death.

650

00:34:10,880 --> 00:34:13,400
And I said, I really don't care.

651

00:34:13,400 --> 00:34:17,210
How about if it would be
my brother or my father?

652

00:34:17,210 --> 00:34:20,389
And I gave him the shoes.

653

00:34:20,389 --> 00:34:26,389

Then-- I mean, people
were still human.

654
00:34:26,389 --> 00:34:28,005
We still were
thinking of others.

655
00:34:28,005 --> 00:34:31,010
So the whole time, you're
sleeping underground?

656
00:34:31,010 --> 00:34:34,290
Well, it was not ground,
it was underground.

657
00:34:34,290 --> 00:34:36,650
But we had wooden benches.

658
00:34:36,650 --> 00:34:41,989
The Red Cross, in the meantime,
delivered us blankets.

659
00:34:41,989 --> 00:34:44,090
They were supposed to
give everybody a blanket.

660
00:34:44,090 --> 00:34:46,590
But they gave every
third person a blanket--

661
00:34:46,590 --> 00:34:47,840
for three people, one blanket.

662
00:34:47,840 --> 00:34:50,460

663
00:34:50,460 --> 00:34:51,230
So--

664
00:34:51,230 --> 00:34:53,690
And you're in your turquoise
dress night and day?

665

00:34:53,690 --> 00:34:55,820

Yeah, that's all--
the only thing we had.

666

00:34:55,820 --> 00:34:59,460

We had no-- by the way,
here, we had no showers.

667

00:34:59,460 --> 00:35:03,890

We had no place to take
a bath, the whole farm.

668

00:35:03,890 --> 00:35:05,520

Where did you go
to the bathroom?

669

00:35:05,520 --> 00:35:11,660

They had built, on the premises,
on the border between the men's

670

00:35:11,660 --> 00:35:13,700

and women's camp--

671

00:35:13,700 --> 00:35:18,290

they had wires
across the middle--

672

00:35:18,290 --> 00:35:21,140

toilets that were boards.

673

00:35:21,140 --> 00:35:22,860

And you could go
from either side.

674

00:35:22,860 --> 00:35:25,370

So we could hear the men,
the men could hear us.

675

00:35:25,370 --> 00:35:29,240

There was also, there,
a barrel of dry chlorine

676

00:35:29,240 --> 00:35:31,940
inside of the bath--

677
00:35:31,940 --> 00:35:34,190
of this building.

678
00:35:34,190 --> 00:35:42,470
We used to use that to clean
ourselves as a disinfectant.

679
00:35:42,470 --> 00:35:44,600
Now, as winter was coming on--

680
00:35:44,600 --> 00:35:46,460
Well, what was the
point of having it all--

681
00:35:46,460 --> 00:35:49,100
like, not having a building,
but having it all covered?

682
00:35:49,100 --> 00:35:51,710
From the Germans' viewpoint.

683
00:35:51,710 --> 00:35:54,920
Well, first of all,
they didn't want to--

684
00:35:54,920 --> 00:36:03,210
they didn't want, from the air,
to show that they had camps.

685
00:36:03,210 --> 00:36:04,908
You see?

686
00:36:04,908 --> 00:36:06,450
And then they had
all the other camp?

687
00:36:06,450 --> 00:36:08,070
Yeah, well this was a satellite.

688

00:36:08,070 --> 00:36:09,630
It was Lager IV Kaufering.

689
00:36:09,630 --> 00:36:13,050
It was a satellite to
Buchenwald, I think.

690
00:36:13,050 --> 00:36:16,020

691
00:36:16,020 --> 00:36:19,290
But I'm not sure to which big
camp, but it was a satellite.

692
00:36:19,290 --> 00:36:22,620
There was about
12 or 14 of these.

693
00:36:22,620 --> 00:36:24,750
I was in Lager IV.

694
00:36:24,750 --> 00:36:27,360
It was called
Kaufering Lager IV.

695
00:36:27,360 --> 00:36:31,740
These people were divided into
groups, into individual camps.

696
00:36:31,740 --> 00:36:34,870
And one camp built the
next camp and the next camp

697
00:36:34,870 --> 00:36:36,550
and the next camp.

698
00:36:36,550 --> 00:36:40,560
And then as the camps were
overflowing and the German--

699
00:36:40,560 --> 00:36:46,470
most of the German people were
at war going for services.

700
00:36:46,470 --> 00:36:48,570
They needed farming.

701
00:36:48,570 --> 00:36:51,390
They needed to clean
and build the roads.

702
00:36:51,390 --> 00:36:53,850
They needed to do
factory work to build

703
00:36:53,850 --> 00:36:55,090
munitions and all of that.

704
00:36:55,090 --> 00:36:58,770
And all of that is
done by people like us.

705
00:36:58,770 --> 00:37:00,360
You see?

706
00:37:00,360 --> 00:37:03,600
Because I worked in the
kitchen and for the--

707
00:37:03,600 --> 00:37:07,740
as the cleaning woman, I
didn't do much of that.

708
00:37:07,740 --> 00:37:10,668
But that's what the
rest of them were doing.

709
00:37:10,668 --> 00:37:13,260
I see.

710
00:37:13,260 --> 00:37:18,150
But when snow started
falling there, we used to--

711
00:37:18,150 --> 00:37:23,250

we used to take our
clothes, rub it with snow,

712
00:37:23,250 --> 00:37:27,360
then rub it with this dry
chlorine to wash it off,

713
00:37:27,360 --> 00:37:30,030
shake it out, and
wash our bodies

714
00:37:30,030 --> 00:37:33,300
the same way in the snow.

715
00:37:33,300 --> 00:37:37,240
And we weren't very healthy or
fat, I'll tell you that much.

716
00:37:37,240 --> 00:37:41,160
And then we would
put it underneath us

717
00:37:41,160 --> 00:37:43,440
and sleep on it all night
so that in the morning

718
00:37:43,440 --> 00:37:44,280
we can wear it.

719
00:37:44,280 --> 00:37:47,650

720
00:37:47,650 --> 00:37:49,000
None of the women--

721
00:37:49,000 --> 00:37:51,220
the men, again, they--

722
00:37:51,220 --> 00:37:56,800
most of the men
there, I would say 70%

723

00:37:56,800 --> 00:38:00,130
died of typhoid in that camp.

724
00:38:00,130 --> 00:38:02,410
And none of the
women were affected,

725
00:38:02,410 --> 00:38:04,790
and you were next to each other.

726
00:38:04,790 --> 00:38:07,660
And it was just
because of how we women

727
00:38:07,660 --> 00:38:08,960
took care of ourselves.

728
00:38:08,960 --> 00:38:12,530

729
00:38:12,530 --> 00:38:17,710
It was winter, and
it was very cold.

730
00:38:17,710 --> 00:38:19,610
And as I say, we didn't
have the clothes.

731
00:38:19,610 --> 00:38:22,250
We didn't have any heat
or anything like that.

732
00:38:22,250 --> 00:38:25,660
And we didn't have the food
to keep us warm either.

733
00:38:25,660 --> 00:38:30,100
So when people went to work in--

734
00:38:30,100 --> 00:38:31,750
but as I say, the
men were dying.

735

00:38:31,750 --> 00:38:37,810
They were taking them out, dead
people, from wagons every day.

736

00:38:37,810 --> 00:38:39,760
They were just dying like flies.

737

00:38:39,760 --> 00:38:42,440

738

00:38:42,440 --> 00:38:44,990
So it was typhoid.

739

00:38:44,990 --> 00:38:49,660
And typhoid is
transferred through lice.

740

00:38:49,660 --> 00:38:51,520
And they closed up
the women's camp.

741

00:38:51,520 --> 00:38:54,970
So we couldn't even go now
anymore to work for the SS.

742

00:38:54,970 --> 00:38:58,090
They took people from a
clean camp to come there,

743

00:38:58,090 --> 00:39:01,290
so they wouldn't let us
anymore to work there.

744

00:39:01,290 --> 00:39:03,040
But how did the Red
Cross-- where did they

745

00:39:03,040 --> 00:39:05,140
come from to find it?

746

00:39:05,140 --> 00:39:07,518
The Red Cross didn't

direct come into camp.

747

00:39:07,518 --> 00:39:09,310

And what did they think
was going on there?

748

00:39:09,310 --> 00:39:13,750

Well, I think the Red
Cross came in and--

749

00:39:13,750 --> 00:39:16,840

actually, a couple of times.

750

00:39:16,840 --> 00:39:19,240

Once, they gave us the blankets.

751

00:39:19,240 --> 00:39:23,620

And from what I understood
between us-- people

752

00:39:23,620 --> 00:39:28,270

who worked certain places
knew that the Germans took all

753

00:39:28,270 --> 00:39:31,600

of the blankets for themselves
and for whoever they wanted to,

754

00:39:31,600 --> 00:39:35,350

and gave, for every
three people, one.

755

00:39:35,350 --> 00:39:40,300

They also brought us cigarettes
and canned, concentrated milk--

756

00:39:40,300 --> 00:39:45,010

that sweet milk, condensed milk.

757

00:39:45,010 --> 00:39:47,230

They also did the
same thing with that.

758

00:39:47,230 --> 00:39:51,220

They gave us, for three
people, one can of milk.

759

00:39:51,220 --> 00:39:53,710

But who did the Red Cross
think they were giving it to?

760

00:39:53,710 --> 00:39:55,570

They thought they
were giving it to us.

761

00:39:55,570 --> 00:39:58,030

But they were not allowed to--

762

00:39:58,030 --> 00:40:01,981

the Germans did not
allow them into camp.

763

00:40:01,981 --> 00:40:04,000

Did they know about the
concentration camps?

764

00:40:04,000 --> 00:40:07,060

Oh, yes, yes.

765

00:40:07,060 --> 00:40:09,760

At one point, when
we were in that camp,

766

00:40:09,760 --> 00:40:13,010

they sent some
people from Holland--

767

00:40:13,010 --> 00:40:18,910

they were Hollandians--
to delouse us so-called.

768

00:40:18,910 --> 00:40:22,870

769

00:40:22,870 --> 00:40:25,150

And these were men.

770

00:40:25,150 --> 00:40:30,750

And they brought soaps and
stuff like that for us to--

771

00:40:30,750 --> 00:40:32,920

to wash, but we
didn't have water.

772

00:40:32,920 --> 00:40:36,970

And then they got water in
the snow, bowls of water,

773

00:40:36,970 --> 00:40:39,160

and we washed in that.

774

00:40:39,160 --> 00:40:44,290

And I remember one
of these Hollandians

775

00:40:44,290 --> 00:40:49,150

gave me a bottle of, like,
after-bath splash or something

776

00:40:49,150 --> 00:40:50,060

like that.

777

00:40:50,060 --> 00:40:55,090

[CHUCKLES] Well, I think
you're so dehumanized that that

778

00:40:55,090 --> 00:40:55,970

was a big thing.

779

00:40:55,970 --> 00:40:56,650

I used it.

780

00:40:56,650 --> 00:40:58,012

Sure.

781

00:40:58,012 --> 00:40:59,830

[CHUCKLING]

782
00:40:59,830 --> 00:41:02,260
But it was funny, because
it was a big bottle

783
00:41:02,260 --> 00:41:03,680
of some type of a--

784
00:41:03,680 --> 00:41:04,180
[CHUCKLES]

785
00:41:04,180 --> 00:41:06,100
Perfumy stuff, yeah.

786
00:41:06,100 --> 00:41:06,860
Perfumy stuff.

787
00:41:06,860 --> 00:41:10,380

788
00:41:10,380 --> 00:41:13,620
Yeah, the Red Cross knew and--

789
00:41:13,620 --> 00:41:17,200
and they did-- they did,
in a way, try to help.

790
00:41:17,200 --> 00:41:19,050
But what is in all of--

791
00:41:19,050 --> 00:41:21,120
in a whole year, twice--

792
00:41:21,120 --> 00:41:24,120
once, a can of milk, with
four cigarettes-- you know,

793
00:41:24,120 --> 00:41:25,680
those samples--

794

00:41:25,680 --> 00:41:30,060
and a can of condensed
milk for three people.

795
00:41:30,060 --> 00:41:32,490
I'm sure they gave a
lot more to the Germans,

796
00:41:32,490 --> 00:41:36,210
except the Germans took it for
them-- took all of these things

797
00:41:36,210 --> 00:41:39,870
for themselves.

798
00:41:39,870 --> 00:41:41,770
Anyway, after a while, they--

799
00:41:41,770 --> 00:41:45,670
the Germans decided
that, yeah, as I say,

800
00:41:45,670 --> 00:41:48,150
the men were dying of typhoid.

801
00:41:48,150 --> 00:41:53,070
And me and two other girls,
we wouldn't-- the gates were

802
00:41:53,070 --> 00:41:56,310
closed between the two
camps, we couldn't get--

803
00:41:56,310 --> 00:42:00,660
decided to-- but there
wasn't electric between us.

804
00:42:00,660 --> 00:42:01,570
It was just--

805
00:42:01,570 --> 00:42:02,320
Barbed wire?

806

00:42:02,320 --> 00:42:03,840

Barbed wire.

807

00:42:03,840 --> 00:42:07,050

So we decided to go
over the barbed wire

808

00:42:07,050 --> 00:42:09,780

and wash the men's clothes.

809

00:42:09,780 --> 00:42:11,190

And we did.

810

00:42:11,190 --> 00:42:11,700

We went.

811

00:42:11,700 --> 00:42:17,370

There was-- I don't know,
somebody made a big fire.

812

00:42:17,370 --> 00:42:19,320

And one of those
people whom I gave

813

00:42:19,320 --> 00:42:22,440

the shoes-- he was one of
the people who was bringing

814

00:42:22,440 --> 00:42:25,830

the dirty clothes
and the things--

815

00:42:25,830 --> 00:42:30,120

and we would boil the clothes
and take with-- the Germans

816

00:42:30,120 --> 00:42:33,010

must have given
permission or something.

817

00:42:33,010 --> 00:42:33,840

I don't know.

818
00:42:33,840 --> 00:42:37,260
But we had to go
to the men's side.

819
00:42:37,260 --> 00:42:44,910
And after the lice were cooked,
they turned huge, big lice.

820
00:42:44,910 --> 00:42:48,270
And we had to, with brushes,
or with pieces of wood

821
00:42:48,270 --> 00:42:49,230
to scrape them off.

822
00:42:49,230 --> 00:42:52,570

823
00:42:52,570 --> 00:42:55,870
When we did that, we had
to take off our clothes

824
00:42:55,870 --> 00:42:58,840
and leave it behind,
as not to bring over

825
00:42:58,840 --> 00:43:03,970
the typhoid on the other side.

826
00:43:03,970 --> 00:43:05,350
We did that a few times.

827
00:43:05,350 --> 00:43:09,460
And then the Germans decided
that the women are not

828
00:43:09,460 --> 00:43:12,070
affected, and they sent
us to another camp.

829
00:43:12,070 --> 00:43:13,480

They sent us to Camp XI.

830

00:43:13,480 --> 00:43:18,160

831

00:43:18,160 --> 00:43:19,702

So it was very cold.

832

00:43:19,702 --> 00:43:21,160

It was in the middle
of the winter.

833

00:43:21,160 --> 00:43:24,910

And they took us,
told us to line up.

834

00:43:24,910 --> 00:43:26,560

We had to go through
the men's camp.

835

00:43:26,560 --> 00:43:27,100

When you just left
your clothes there,

836

00:43:27,100 --> 00:43:29,290

what did you put on
when you came back?

837

00:43:29,290 --> 00:43:31,570

Well, I think what
we did, the clothes

838

00:43:31,570 --> 00:43:34,560

that I washed from
the men, I used those.

839

00:43:34,560 --> 00:43:36,250

Oh, you put on-- yeah.

840

00:43:36,250 --> 00:43:36,950

Sorry, go ahead.

841

00:43:36,950 --> 00:43:39,520

842

00:43:39,520 --> 00:43:48,860

Then when we went, they took
us to this other camp, Camp XI.

843

00:43:48,860 --> 00:43:49,840

All the women?

844

00:43:49,840 --> 00:43:53,830

All the women, because the
women were not infected at all.

845

00:43:53,830 --> 00:43:59,770

We were completely immune to, it
seems like, to the whole thing.

846

00:43:59,770 --> 00:44:01,390

We went to Camp XI.

847

00:44:01,390 --> 00:44:07,240

And as we came into
camp, we saw four bodies

848

00:44:07,240 --> 00:44:13,960

hanging from the first
block, from first building.

849

00:44:13,960 --> 00:44:18,250

And the people who were
going with us-- now, by then,

850

00:44:18,250 --> 00:44:19,690

they turned SS.

851

00:44:19,690 --> 00:44:22,280

To run our concentration
camp, you had to turn SS.

852

00:44:22,280 --> 00:44:26,470

So all of those officers
we worked for became SS.

853
00:44:26,470 --> 00:44:32,170
I remember that one of
the officers, a hauptmann,

854
00:44:32,170 --> 00:44:36,400
which is quite a high
things, told me--

855
00:44:36,400 --> 00:44:38,020
I worked for him--

856
00:44:38,020 --> 00:44:42,250
to take off his
emblem from Wehrmacht,

857
00:44:42,250 --> 00:44:46,780
you know, his star,
whatever, he had his things,

858
00:44:46,780 --> 00:44:48,070
and put on an SS.

859
00:44:48,070 --> 00:44:51,020
And when he told me, he
had tears in his eyes.

860
00:44:51,020 --> 00:44:53,470
So some of them really--

861
00:44:53,470 --> 00:44:57,130
I mean, you can't
say it was everybody.

862
00:44:57,130 --> 00:44:59,470
But they carried out
the things because they

863
00:44:59,470 --> 00:45:01,060
didn't want to go to the front.

864
00:45:01,060 --> 00:45:02,770

Now, this was in
'44, I mind you.

865
00:45:02,770 --> 00:45:05,360
You have to know how far
the war was in already,

866
00:45:05,360 --> 00:45:07,930
what was happening to them.

867
00:45:07,930 --> 00:45:09,640
Were you never abused
by the officers?

868
00:45:09,640 --> 00:45:11,348
No, no.

869
00:45:11,348 --> 00:45:13,390
Were they punished if they
did, or what happened?

870
00:45:13,390 --> 00:45:14,380
Oh, yes.

871
00:45:14,380 --> 00:45:16,270
No, I would have been shot.

872
00:45:16,270 --> 00:45:24,310
Because that was-- it was
[NON-ENGLISH]---- what was it?

873
00:45:24,310 --> 00:45:28,420
It was race mixture, and
they were against that.

874
00:45:28,420 --> 00:45:30,940
First, they used Jewish
women, and they, themselves,

875
00:45:30,940 --> 00:45:32,940
had to shoot them.

876

00:45:32,940 --> 00:45:34,900

That's what I was afraid
of in the beginning.

877

00:45:34,900 --> 00:45:35,940

Yes.

878

00:45:35,940 --> 00:45:37,620

No, they didn't.

879

00:45:37,620 --> 00:45:40,680

I mean, there were
some very bad soldiers

880

00:45:40,680 --> 00:45:47,190

who pulled off our scarves
or wanted to do something.

881

00:45:47,190 --> 00:45:49,710

But they were not allowed to--

882

00:45:49,710 --> 00:45:53,910

especially the people who
worked in the SS kitchen.

883

00:45:53,910 --> 00:45:55,200

I mean, they wouldn't--

884

00:45:55,200 --> 00:45:57,180

I'm sure they wouldn't
have been punished.

885

00:45:57,180 --> 00:46:02,220

But they didn't abuse
anybody between us.

886

00:46:02,220 --> 00:46:05,480

887

00:46:05,480 --> 00:46:09,220

But they used to call us names
and [NON-ENGLISH] and stuff

888

00:46:09,220 --> 00:46:09,720
like that.

889

00:46:09,720 --> 00:46:13,560

890

00:46:13,560 --> 00:46:15,270
Where was I at?

891

00:46:15,270 --> 00:46:18,450
They took you, all the women,
from there to the next--

892

00:46:18,450 --> 00:46:20,340
Yeah, to block-- to XI.

893

00:46:20,340 --> 00:46:23,140
And as I said that,
we came in, and we saw

894

00:46:23,140 --> 00:46:24,480
all of those people hanging.

895

00:46:24,480 --> 00:46:26,980
And there it was different.

896

00:46:26,980 --> 00:46:28,390
We didn't do anything.

897

00:46:28,390 --> 00:46:30,090
It was winter.

898

00:46:30,090 --> 00:46:33,750
We were just kind of
sitting there for a while.

899

00:46:33,750 --> 00:46:36,620
The war was pretty
much coming to--

900

00:46:36,620 --> 00:46:39,000

to an end, like in Russia.

901
00:46:39,000 --> 00:46:41,340
It already did.

902
00:46:41,340 --> 00:46:47,420
And they, themselves,
are pretty confused.

903
00:46:47,420 --> 00:46:49,020
You could see.

904
00:46:49,020 --> 00:46:52,004
So you were in a barracks now?

905
00:46:52,004 --> 00:46:53,385
Yeah, we were in barracks.

906
00:46:53,385 --> 00:46:56,130

907
00:46:56,130 --> 00:46:58,440
Not too many things
happened there,

908
00:46:58,440 --> 00:47:05,640
except for, after a
while, they gave us

909
00:47:05,640 --> 00:47:08,160
less and less food,
because I guess

910
00:47:08,160 --> 00:47:10,230
they didn't have it either.

911
00:47:10,230 --> 00:47:12,480
And we didn't work.

912
00:47:12,480 --> 00:47:18,590
We just kind of did small
things, like in the camp.

913
00:47:18,590 --> 00:47:20,340
And you had no
idea about anybody

914
00:47:20,340 --> 00:47:21,810
in your family or anything.

915
00:47:21,810 --> 00:47:25,140
Well, I knew-- oh, I knew by
then that I don't have my--

916
00:47:25,140 --> 00:47:26,380
nobody lives.

917
00:47:26,380 --> 00:47:27,450
How did you know?

918
00:47:27,450 --> 00:47:33,810
When I was in Auschwitz, I saw
a friend of mine who was married

919
00:47:33,810 --> 00:47:34,840
and had a small child.

920
00:47:34,840 --> 00:47:38,670
And my mother took her child
and carried it for her.

921
00:47:38,670 --> 00:47:41,910
So when they were
separating the people,

922
00:47:41,910 --> 00:47:46,040
they put her one side, and
my mother to the other side,

923
00:47:46,040 --> 00:47:48,660
where the women with
the children went.

924
00:47:48,660 --> 00:47:52,890

So by then, I knew that
she isn't alive, my mother.

925
00:47:52,890 --> 00:47:55,620
And, of course, I knew about
my-- the rest of the family

926
00:47:55,620 --> 00:47:58,690
from before, that
they're not alive.

927
00:47:58,690 --> 00:48:01,740
So when was the last
time you saw your mother?

928
00:48:01,740 --> 00:48:04,530
I saw my mother when
I was in Hungary.

929
00:48:04,530 --> 00:48:07,350
She came to see me once.

930
00:48:07,350 --> 00:48:09,720
But afterwards, I
heard that she was

931
00:48:09,720 --> 00:48:12,780
being beaten, because she
didn't want to tell where I was.

932
00:48:12,780 --> 00:48:14,970
She was afraid that they're
going to bring me back

933
00:48:14,970 --> 00:48:19,740
and that the gendarmes
would abuse me.

934
00:48:19,740 --> 00:48:23,550
So actually, you were
asking, was I abused?

935
00:48:23,550 --> 00:48:24,900

Was I raped?

936

00:48:24,900 --> 00:48:26,880

The reason I wasn't
is because I think

937

00:48:26,880 --> 00:48:31,260

I had a very smart mother who
had a very watchful eye over me

938

00:48:31,260 --> 00:48:36,330

and gave me a lot of
courage and things

939

00:48:36,330 --> 00:48:38,835

to know of how to take
care of myself to--

940

00:48:38,835 --> 00:48:40,650

to avoid some of these things.

941

00:48:40,650 --> 00:48:46,390

942

00:48:46,390 --> 00:48:49,720

Then came spring, you know?

943

00:48:49,720 --> 00:48:52,930

And it was rainy and muddy.

944

00:48:52,930 --> 00:48:55,240

And we were very hungry.

945

00:48:55,240 --> 00:48:57,430

And the Germans were
disappearing little

946

00:48:57,430 --> 00:49:01,390

by little, the
SS, from the camp.

947

00:49:01,390 --> 00:49:02,650

And then in--

948

00:49:02,650 --> 00:49:05,500

Did you form friendships
in those situations?

949

00:49:05,500 --> 00:49:07,420

Well, I have--

950

00:49:07,420 --> 00:49:10,600

I, personally, have the
two friends-- the one that

951

00:49:10,600 --> 00:49:15,220

came with me and her cousin.

952

00:49:15,220 --> 00:49:18,850

The people I worked with
I knew, but I didn't

953

00:49:18,850 --> 00:49:21,890

know the other people at all.

954

00:49:21,890 --> 00:49:27,220

I also, while I was in this
camp and working for the SS,

955

00:49:27,220 --> 00:49:28,580

I got very sick.

956

00:49:28,580 --> 00:49:32,470

I had some type of
a throat infection.

957

00:49:32,470 --> 00:49:38,200

And-- it's hard to explain.

958

00:49:38,200 --> 00:49:39,610

Inside of my--

959

00:49:39,610 --> 00:49:42,290

I ran a high temperature.

960
00:49:42,290 --> 00:49:47,210
And we had a doctor
who was from--

961
00:49:47,210 --> 00:49:52,106
he was a chief of staff
at some big hospital in--

962
00:49:52,106 --> 00:49:56,240
in a Romanian city,
I don't remember.

963
00:49:56,240 --> 00:49:59,260
And he was over 70 years old.

964
00:49:59,260 --> 00:50:05,992
He was allowed into the women's
camp once in a while to--

965
00:50:05,992 --> 00:50:10,300
to see if somebody is sick,
because we were working.

966
00:50:10,300 --> 00:50:14,830
And by the time I came home
from work, it was dark.

967
00:50:14,830 --> 00:50:16,490
And he took my temperature.

968
00:50:16,490 --> 00:50:17,380
And it was very high.

969
00:50:17,380 --> 00:50:20,350
He said, that's not
possible, you couldn't work.

970
00:50:20,350 --> 00:50:21,460
You have to go.

971
00:50:21,460 --> 00:50:25,600

They didn't give you permission
to stay back too often

972
00:50:25,600 --> 00:50:28,700
from work, because
then they probably

973
00:50:28,700 --> 00:50:31,540
wouldn't have gotten to
look at anybody, just

974
00:50:31,540 --> 00:50:33,280
for serious things.

975
00:50:33,280 --> 00:50:36,220
So I went to work the next day.

976
00:50:36,220 --> 00:50:38,320
And I came back.

977
00:50:38,320 --> 00:50:41,140
And this time, I came back--

978
00:50:41,140 --> 00:50:44,080
I came back a
little bit earlier.

979
00:50:44,080 --> 00:50:46,960
And he examined me again.

980
00:50:46,960 --> 00:50:49,120
My temperature was even higher.

981
00:50:49,120 --> 00:50:52,690
And I had some type
of an infection

982
00:50:52,690 --> 00:50:57,310
in my throat that was like
an egg, a blew-up something.

983
00:50:57,310 --> 00:50:58,120

I don't know what.

984

00:50:58,120 --> 00:51:01,370

I never heard of
anything like that.

985

00:51:01,370 --> 00:51:06,220

And he told me that
it's life-threatening.

986

00:51:06,220 --> 00:51:08,750

And he had a little
manicure scissors,

987

00:51:08,750 --> 00:51:14,710

which he, on matches,
sterilized, wiped it off, and--

988

00:51:14,710 --> 00:51:18,010

that was for the next day, when
the sun came out, because there

989

00:51:18,010 --> 00:51:21,520

was limited of everything.

990

00:51:21,520 --> 00:51:24,550

And I was sitting on
a chair and outside.

991

00:51:24,550 --> 00:51:28,210

He put a piece of
wood inside my mouth,

992

00:51:28,210 --> 00:51:29,710

and he cut the thing out.

993

00:51:29,710 --> 00:51:36,260

994

00:51:36,260 --> 00:51:40,430

And I think I started
feeling weak from that on.

995

00:51:40,430 --> 00:51:45,250

I mean, I lost a lot of
energy, it seems to me like.

996

00:51:45,250 --> 00:51:48,680

And he put me separately.

997

00:51:48,680 --> 00:51:53,660

They had, like, a sick house.

998

00:51:53,660 --> 00:51:55,520

But he put me
completely separately,

999

00:51:55,520 --> 00:51:57,420

because he said it's contagious.

1000

00:51:57,420 --> 00:51:58,550

I don't know what it was.

1001

00:51:58,550 --> 00:52:00,020

I still don't know.

1002

00:52:00,020 --> 00:52:05,150

But I know that I
had to hold whatever

1003

00:52:05,150 --> 00:52:07,490

he had there in my hands.

1004

00:52:07,490 --> 00:52:08,870

I was his assistant.

1005

00:52:08,870 --> 00:52:11,780

His assistant, yeah.

1006

00:52:11,780 --> 00:52:13,940

This doctor also did
something else for me.

1007

00:52:13,940 --> 00:52:17,180

From hard work, I--

1008
00:52:17,180 --> 00:52:19,430
I still have the scars here--

1009
00:52:19,430 --> 00:52:22,250
from ladling food
and from heavy work,

1010
00:52:22,250 --> 00:52:28,790
I developed growths in my
hands, and on here, too.

1011
00:52:28,790 --> 00:52:34,740
Thick, red things that
were very painful.

1012
00:52:34,740 --> 00:52:37,550
And so I went--

1013
00:52:37,550 --> 00:52:39,620
by then he-- because--

1014
00:52:39,620 --> 00:52:43,190
he brought a German
doctor to show my case,

1015
00:52:43,190 --> 00:52:44,150
but he did it with him.

1016
00:52:44,150 --> 00:52:47,540
So they gave him a little
bit more instruments,

1017
00:52:47,540 --> 00:52:50,720
what to work with,
and some medication.

1018
00:52:50,720 --> 00:52:53,870
I think they gave him a
surgical knife or something,

1019

00:52:53,870 --> 00:52:57,170
because he used it on me after.

1020
00:52:57,170 --> 00:53:00,260
When I got these
things on my hands--

1021
00:53:00,260 --> 00:53:02,240
now, I had to go back to work.

1022
00:53:02,240 --> 00:53:07,700
This was just kind of
after-work type of things.

1023
00:53:07,700 --> 00:53:14,060
He already had a light-- a
light bulb in his things.

1024
00:53:14,060 --> 00:53:19,970
And he, I remember, made
a cross on my finger,

1025
00:53:19,970 --> 00:53:24,320
cut out the thing, put in
a lot of gauze, wrapped it.

1026
00:53:24,320 --> 00:53:28,520
And he did-- cleaned off
the sides of my hands.

1027
00:53:28,520 --> 00:53:29,870
Cut off, almost like--

1028
00:53:29,870 --> 00:53:31,880
Like calluses or something?

1029
00:53:31,880 --> 00:53:35,270
Well, they called
it [NON-ENGLISH]..

1030
00:53:35,270 --> 00:53:39,030
They called it, like, wild
growth, some type of a growth.

1031
00:53:39,030 --> 00:53:40,520
I guess it's calluses.

1032
00:53:40,520 --> 00:53:44,750
But it was not in your
normal place, you see?

1033
00:53:44,750 --> 00:53:47,000
It was from a ladle.

1034
00:53:47,000 --> 00:53:53,030
I would serve 500 meals
a day, so I had these.

1035
00:53:53,030 --> 00:53:57,410
Anyway, he-- especially
this I remember.

1036
00:53:57,410 --> 00:53:59,120
I couldn't believe
it, because I looked

1037
00:53:59,120 --> 00:54:02,450
how he cut out one
section, the next section.

1038
00:54:02,450 --> 00:54:06,230
And then he stuck
so much gauze in it

1039
00:54:06,230 --> 00:54:08,540
that I couldn't believe
it, it can get in there.

1040
00:54:08,540 --> 00:54:11,270
And he wrapped it, and he
said, you can go back to work.

1041
00:54:11,270 --> 00:54:14,030

1042

00:54:14,030 --> 00:54:17,230
So I had those type
of incidents, you see?

1043
00:54:17,230 --> 00:54:18,940
And I suppose other
people did, too.

1044
00:54:18,940 --> 00:54:21,910

1045
00:54:21,910 --> 00:54:30,180
Anyway, sometime around
the middle of April,

1046
00:54:30,180 --> 00:54:37,890
they told us to get
out, get lined up,

1047
00:54:37,890 --> 00:54:43,710
and they started marching
us from this Lager XI.

1048
00:54:43,710 --> 00:54:48,540
And they marched us for days,
here and there and back.

1049
00:54:48,540 --> 00:54:49,560
Just aimless marching?

1050
00:54:49,560 --> 00:54:50,490
Aimlessly.

1051
00:54:50,490 --> 00:54:51,504
And there was--

1052
00:54:51,504 --> 00:54:52,379
How old were you now?

1053
00:54:52,379 --> 00:54:53,000
About 18?

1054

00:54:53,000 --> 00:54:53,500
19?

1055
00:54:53,500 --> 00:54:55,540
Oh, no, at this time I was--

1056
00:54:55,540 --> 00:54:58,250

1057
00:54:58,250 --> 00:54:59,270
I was 19.

1058
00:54:59,270 --> 00:55:00,480
No, I was 20.

1059
00:55:00,480 --> 00:55:00,980
20 already.

1060
00:55:00,980 --> 00:55:03,050
I was 20, yeah.

1061
00:55:03,050 --> 00:55:04,190
I was 20.

1062
00:55:04,190 --> 00:55:08,030
Anyway, they marched
us from place to place.

1063
00:55:08,030 --> 00:55:11,420
When we started out, there
was as many SS people

1064
00:55:11,420 --> 00:55:14,150
as there was of us.

1065
00:55:14,150 --> 00:55:17,390
I think the Russians
were coming from one

1066
00:55:17,390 --> 00:55:22,080
side, the Americans
from another,

1067
00:55:22,080 --> 00:55:23,450
and they were going south.

1068
00:55:23,450 --> 00:55:25,910
I remember we were going
south, for some reason,

1069
00:55:25,910 --> 00:55:28,190
because as we were going,
the weather was milder.

1070
00:55:28,190 --> 00:55:30,950

1071
00:55:30,950 --> 00:55:32,510
And people were disappearing.

1072
00:55:32,510 --> 00:55:34,130
I think some people ran away.

1073
00:55:34,130 --> 00:55:35,480
Some of them were killed.

1074
00:55:35,480 --> 00:55:37,820
Some of them ran away
with Germans, though,

1075
00:55:37,820 --> 00:55:40,100
to be their witnesses.

1076
00:55:40,100 --> 00:55:42,620
They said, we'll hide you
until the war is over,

1077
00:55:42,620 --> 00:55:46,230
but you have to witness that I
was a good guy type of thing.

1078
00:55:46,230 --> 00:55:48,410
It was a lot of that.

1079

00:55:48,410 --> 00:55:51,140

Anyway, we were--
the planes were

1080

00:55:51,140 --> 00:55:53,720

flying very low over our heads.

1081

00:55:53,720 --> 00:55:55,820

From which nationality,
the planes?

1082

00:55:55,820 --> 00:55:57,620

American, French.

1083

00:55:57,620 --> 00:56:00,080

We were going toward--

1084

00:56:00,080 --> 00:56:04,020

and they still looked for
a place where to kill us.

1085

00:56:04,020 --> 00:56:07,772

They brought us to--

1086

00:56:07,772 --> 00:56:11,270

to Dachau, I think.

1087

00:56:11,270 --> 00:56:15,050

They brought us to Dachau, and
they brought us underground.

1088

00:56:15,050 --> 00:56:17,180

And they were so filled
up to kill their own,

1089

00:56:17,180 --> 00:56:20,800

that they couldn't
find a place for us.

1090

00:56:20,800 --> 00:56:24,020

You see, they wanted to
get rid of the witnesses.

1091
00:56:24,020 --> 00:56:25,590
Why didn't they just shoot you?

1092
00:56:25,590 --> 00:56:27,090
But where would they hide--

1093
00:56:27,090 --> 00:56:27,990
bury us?

1094
00:56:27,990 --> 00:56:30,390
I mean, they had to have a--

1095
00:56:30,390 --> 00:56:31,620
to dispose of us.

1096
00:56:31,620 --> 00:56:34,710
It wasn't so easy.

1097
00:56:34,710 --> 00:56:37,300
As the planes were
flying overhead,

1098
00:56:37,300 --> 00:56:42,640
we didn't hide because
we wanted to be seen.

1099
00:56:42,640 --> 00:56:48,060
But the Germans told us, run
to all sides and lie down.

1100
00:56:48,060 --> 00:56:48,900
And I didn't.

1101
00:56:48,900 --> 00:56:52,440
And a German SS woman
hit me over my breast

1102
00:56:52,440 --> 00:56:53,940
so that she cut it.

1103

00:56:53,940 --> 00:56:57,330
When I went to the doctor,
he says, oh, you had surgery?

1104
00:56:57,330 --> 00:57:00,840
I mean, it's quite a good cut.

1105
00:57:00,840 --> 00:57:03,360
That was a woman, I mind
you, because I didn't

1106
00:57:03,360 --> 00:57:05,500
jump right down to lie down.

1107
00:57:05,500 --> 00:57:08,730
Anyway, they were
taking us from place

1108
00:57:08,730 --> 00:57:11,682
to place, like, go
faster or go slower.

1109
00:57:11,682 --> 00:57:13,140
How did you get
that taken care of?

1110
00:57:13,140 --> 00:57:13,740
I didn't.

1111
00:57:13,740 --> 00:57:14,698
It just healed on its--

1112
00:57:14,698 --> 00:57:16,062
It just healed on its own.

1113
00:57:16,062 --> 00:57:18,510
[CHUCKLES] Who got anything to--

1114
00:57:18,510 --> 00:57:22,605
things were just-- nature
had to cure you, mostly.

1115

00:57:22,605 --> 00:57:25,140

1116

00:57:25,140 --> 00:57:30,510

Anyway, then when we were
walking maybe a week,

1117

00:57:30,510 --> 00:57:34,380

we came to a place where--

1118

00:57:34,380 --> 00:57:37,650

and most of the SS
were disappearing.

1119

00:57:37,650 --> 00:57:39,390

There were less than half left.

1120

00:57:39,390 --> 00:57:42,120

Miriam, when you're walking like
that, where did food come from?

1121

00:57:42,120 --> 00:57:43,780

Where did you eat?

1122

00:57:43,780 --> 00:57:47,580

Well, first of
all, sometimes they

1123

00:57:47,580 --> 00:57:49,960

gave us food, because they--

1124

00:57:49,960 --> 00:57:51,900

they had to have food, too.

1125

00:57:51,900 --> 00:57:53,010

And sometimes they didn't.

1126

00:57:53,010 --> 00:57:55,530

And in that case, they would
give us a slice of bread.

1127

00:57:55,530 --> 00:57:57,780

You mean, like, food would
come on trucks behind them?

1128
00:57:57,780 --> 00:57:58,300
Or what--

1129
00:57:58,300 --> 00:58:02,050
Well, I don't-- to be
very honest, I don't know.

1130
00:58:02,050 --> 00:58:02,550
Yeah.

1131
00:58:02,550 --> 00:58:04,180
I can't remember.

1132
00:58:04,180 --> 00:58:05,680
I can't remember eating.

1133
00:58:05,680 --> 00:58:06,570
Right, oh.

1134
00:58:06,570 --> 00:58:10,320
So I-- [CHUCKLES] I
really couldn't tell you.

1135
00:58:10,320 --> 00:58:16,140
But I think they must have
brought food along or something

1136
00:58:16,140 --> 00:58:16,890
with them.

1137
00:58:16,890 --> 00:58:21,090
If they cleaned out the
camp, if they left it,

1138
00:58:21,090 --> 00:58:22,980
they must have brought
food with them.

1139
00:58:22,980 --> 00:58:26,470

And there was an awful
lot of SS with us.

1140
00:58:26,470 --> 00:58:29,140
So as we were going,
we slept in outside.

1141
00:58:29,140 --> 00:58:32,490
It was in the middle
of April, mostly.

1142
00:58:32,490 --> 00:58:35,130
We came to this place in--

1143
00:58:35,130 --> 00:58:36,280
after about a week.

1144
00:58:36,280 --> 00:58:38,520
And we saw other transports
in the front of us, some

1145
00:58:38,520 --> 00:58:39,390
in the back of us.

1146
00:58:39,390 --> 00:58:40,800
There was just--

1147
00:58:40,800 --> 00:58:44,370
I think most of the people
who were in a certain area,

1148
00:58:44,370 --> 00:58:45,900
they did this to.

1149
00:58:45,900 --> 00:58:48,900
They didn't want to leave
them behind to be freed,

1150
00:58:48,900 --> 00:58:51,360
so they took them as
far as they could,

1151

00:58:51,360 --> 00:58:53,430
until they were surrounded.

1152
00:58:53,430 --> 00:58:56,510

1153
00:58:56,510 --> 00:58:59,210
So we came to this place.

1154
00:58:59,210 --> 00:59:00,560
They told us to go into--

1155
00:59:00,560 --> 00:59:03,050
they were barracks,
like, military barracks--

1156
00:59:03,050 --> 00:59:07,740
to go into the barracks and
stay there for two hours.

1157
00:59:07,740 --> 00:59:09,020
Not to come out.

1158
00:59:09,020 --> 00:59:11,630
If you come out, you'll be shot.

1159
00:59:11,630 --> 00:59:14,810
So we went in, waited
for the two hours.

1160
00:59:14,810 --> 00:59:17,150
We saw that what was going on.

1161
00:59:17,150 --> 00:59:19,775
We weren't that stupid
to see that the war--

1162
00:59:19,775 --> 00:59:22,310
that they're losing the war.

1163
00:59:22,310 --> 00:59:24,140
But they were also very upset.

1164
00:59:24,140 --> 00:59:26,750
And we were very
afraid that we'll be--

1165
00:59:26,750 --> 00:59:29,420

1166
00:59:29,420 --> 00:59:31,110
they'll kill us.

1167
00:59:31,110 --> 00:59:34,980
Killing was no
big deal for them.

1168
00:59:34,980 --> 00:59:37,910
So we went in.

1169
00:59:37,910 --> 00:59:40,820
And two hours
later, we came out.

1170
00:59:40,820 --> 00:59:43,070
There was not a
German to be seen.

1171
00:59:43,070 --> 00:59:44,450
There was nobody.

1172
00:59:44,450 --> 00:59:47,450
Just us.

1173
00:59:47,450 --> 00:59:52,580
And we waited maybe
an hour or so longer.

1174
00:59:52,580 --> 00:59:54,360
And outside, we were running.

1175
00:59:54,360 --> 00:59:55,550
We didn't know what.

1176

00:59:55,550 --> 00:59:57,810

Now, what do you do?

1177

00:59:57,810 --> 00:59:58,860

Where do you go?

1178

00:59:58,860 --> 01:00:02,540

I mean, there's nobody there.

1179

01:00:02,540 --> 01:00:08,210

About an hour later, about 2
o'clock in the afternoon or so,

1180

01:00:08,210 --> 01:00:12,740

came in two Jeeps with
five soldiers on it.

1181

01:00:12,740 --> 01:00:14,060

That's it.

1182

01:00:14,060 --> 01:00:16,460

We were freed by five Americans.

1183

01:00:16,460 --> 01:00:19,460

Five American soldiers.

1184

01:00:19,460 --> 01:00:21,440

And then they apologized.

1185

01:00:21,440 --> 01:00:23,270

They are sorry they're so late.

1186

01:00:23,270 --> 01:00:27,560

But they had to make a
bridge across a river, which

1187

01:00:27,560 --> 01:00:29,360

was next to that place.

1188

01:00:29,360 --> 01:00:30,667

I don't know.

1189
01:00:30,667 --> 01:00:31,750
Some of us went to see it.

1190
01:00:31,750 --> 01:00:33,590
Would you believe that?

1191
01:00:33,590 --> 01:00:35,960
After all of that--

1192
01:00:35,960 --> 01:00:37,730
Five guys come in and--

1193
01:00:37,730 --> 01:00:39,710
And free us.

1194
01:00:39,710 --> 01:00:43,850
I remember I was
standing there, gazing.

1195
01:00:43,850 --> 01:00:44,960
Some people cried.

1196
01:00:44,960 --> 01:00:46,820
Some ran to the
soldiers and wanted

1197
01:00:46,820 --> 01:00:50,330
to hug them, tell them
what was happening.

1198
01:00:50,330 --> 01:00:53,420
I just stood there, and
I couldn't believe it.

1199
01:00:53,420 --> 01:00:58,220
Five soldiers and two Jeeps.

1200
01:00:58,220 --> 01:01:01,010
No guns, no nothing, you know?

1201

01:01:01,010 --> 01:01:03,200
That's a war?

1202
01:01:03,200 --> 01:01:07,460
Just didn't seem possible.

1203
01:01:07,460 --> 01:01:10,472
Anyway, then the same--

1204
01:01:10,472 --> 01:01:11,180
So you were free.

1205
01:01:11,180 --> 01:01:13,100
What were you supposed to do?

1206
01:01:13,100 --> 01:01:13,910
Yeah.

1207
01:01:13,910 --> 01:01:16,010
And here they tell us--
the first thing they

1208
01:01:16,010 --> 01:01:19,670
told us, don't go into town.

1209
01:01:19,670 --> 01:01:22,140
Don't go for food.

1210
01:01:22,140 --> 01:01:24,140
You're not allowed to go,
because there is still

1211
01:01:24,140 --> 01:01:27,230
a lot of SS in the
surrounding areas

1212
01:01:27,230 --> 01:01:30,140
and you'll be killed--
which is probably so.

1213
01:01:30,140 --> 01:01:32,010
Don't go-- because

we were ready to go.

1214
01:01:32,010 --> 01:01:35,120
Some people took off, and
they went to some restaurant--

1215
01:01:35,120 --> 01:01:36,620
I should have brought
that picture--

1216
01:01:36,620 --> 01:01:38,870
and they stole all
of the tablecloths.

1217
01:01:38,870 --> 01:01:44,690
And we all made ourselves skirts
out of them, by hand, you know?

1218
01:01:44,690 --> 01:01:47,660
They were blue and
white checkers.

1219
01:01:47,660 --> 01:01:52,497
[CHUCKLES] Everybody had
a skirt made out of that.

1220
01:01:52,497 --> 01:01:54,080
Where did you get
needles and threads?

1221
01:01:54,080 --> 01:01:58,220
Oh, somehow some--
they got it, I suppose.

1222
01:01:58,220 --> 01:02:01,250
They went around
to the next town.

1223
01:02:01,250 --> 01:02:02,810
They figured, now
we are free, and we

1224
01:02:02,810 --> 01:02:05,480

can do what we want--
the people who got freed.

1225
01:02:05,480 --> 01:02:07,620
I didn't go.

1226
01:02:07,620 --> 01:02:09,920
I just-- I couldn't believe it.

1227
01:02:09,920 --> 01:02:12,950
I was-- I think I was stunned.

1228
01:02:12,950 --> 01:02:14,480
They also--

1229
01:02:14,480 --> 01:02:16,548
Did the soldiers bring
food or anything?

1230
01:02:16,548 --> 01:02:17,840
No, they didn't bring anything.

1231
01:02:17,840 --> 01:02:18,507
Just five guys--

1232
01:02:18,507 --> 01:02:20,660
They just told us, don't
go to town because--

1233
01:02:20,660 --> 01:02:22,910
but I think the next
day I went to town,

1234
01:02:22,910 --> 01:02:26,420
and I saw the bakery
is open and people are

1235
01:02:26,420 --> 01:02:28,040
standing in line to get bread.

1236
01:02:28,040 --> 01:02:30,120
We couldn't even do that.

1237
01:02:30,120 --> 01:02:31,820
First of all, we
didn't have the money.

1238
01:02:31,820 --> 01:02:35,480
Secondary, they
wouldn't give it to us.

1239
01:02:35,480 --> 01:02:40,040
And the soldiers told us
not to get into the stores

1240
01:02:40,040 --> 01:02:42,050
or beg for anything or anything.

1241
01:02:42,050 --> 01:02:44,930
Why?

1242
01:02:44,930 --> 01:02:45,830
That was our--

1243
01:02:45,830 --> 01:02:47,120
Orders.

1244
01:02:47,120 --> 01:02:48,440
Those were the orders.

1245
01:02:48,440 --> 01:02:52,808
The next day, more soldiers
came in, and they brought food.

1246
01:02:52,808 --> 01:02:53,600
OK, I'll tell you--

1247
01:02:53,600 --> 01:02:56,480
What language did they speak?

1248
01:02:56,480 --> 01:03:00,200
There were, among us,
people who spoke English.

1249

01:03:00,200 --> 01:03:03,020

And I don't know, people
communicate somehow.

1250

01:03:03,020 --> 01:03:05,150

You see hungry people,
you give them food.

1251

01:03:05,150 --> 01:03:06,013

Right.

1252

01:03:06,013 --> 01:03:07,430

But do you know
what they gave us?

1253

01:03:07,430 --> 01:03:10,570

Their own rations.

1254

01:03:10,570 --> 01:03:14,410

They took some of
their breakfasts--

1255

01:03:14,410 --> 01:03:17,200

I don't know, whatever they had.

1256

01:03:17,200 --> 01:03:19,710

They gave us--

1257

01:03:19,710 --> 01:03:24,830

I remember we got
powdered eggs, bacon--

1258

01:03:24,830 --> 01:03:27,040

which we didn't eat, by the way.

1259

01:03:27,040 --> 01:03:31,390

It was in little
cans, like a tuna can,

1260

01:03:31,390 --> 01:03:34,480

and it was wrapped with paper.

1261

01:03:34,480 --> 01:03:38,140

And we didn't have
where to prepare it.

1262

01:03:38,140 --> 01:03:41,710

So little fires were made
and outside on the lawns.

1263

01:03:41,710 --> 01:03:45,610

These barracks were mostly
offices, SS offices,

1264

01:03:45,610 --> 01:03:49,610

and where the SS stayed--
lived or something.

1265

01:03:49,610 --> 01:03:50,780

So it was a lot of papers.

1266

01:03:50,780 --> 01:03:55,915

And then we moved in into an
office, in an office building.

1267

01:03:55,915 --> 01:03:57,280

It was full of paper.

1268

01:03:57,280 --> 01:03:59,240

I wish I would have
saved some of it.

1269

01:03:59,240 --> 01:04:00,730

But at the time,
you don't think.

1270

01:04:00,730 --> 01:04:02,920

But there were people
who spoke English.

1271

01:04:02,920 --> 01:04:04,960

Because I remember,
one man came out

1272

01:04:04,960 --> 01:04:08,260
and he gave a full
report about everybody

1273
01:04:08,260 --> 01:04:10,810
who should be sought after.

1274
01:04:10,810 --> 01:04:18,560
And he knew all of the facts
and figures and all of that.

1275
01:04:18,560 --> 01:04:20,560
So we got freed.

1276
01:04:20,560 --> 01:04:26,810
And little by little, we
started getting a little-- still

1277
01:04:26,810 --> 01:04:30,340
with rations, what
the soldiers had.

1278
01:04:30,340 --> 01:04:34,240
And people were running from
one place, where they got free,

1279
01:04:34,240 --> 01:04:37,820
to the other to see if they
can find some relatives.

1280
01:04:37,820 --> 01:04:41,980
My girlfriend, that's Nushi
who I said was my friend,

1281
01:04:41,980 --> 01:04:44,980
she and the barber
fell in love in camp,

1282
01:04:44,980 --> 01:04:48,670
and then they found each other.

1283
01:04:48,670 --> 01:04:49,990
He came to our camp.

1284
01:04:49,990 --> 01:04:53,470
And we insisted that we
sleep between them, so--

1285
01:04:53,470 --> 01:04:55,000
[CHUCKLING]

1286
01:04:55,000 --> 01:04:57,970
We were very proper.

1287
01:04:57,970 --> 01:05:04,390
And then about-- we got
freed, and somehow people got

1288
01:05:04,390 --> 01:05:07,000
lipstick, and they--

1289
01:05:07,000 --> 01:05:08,890
Do remember the date?

1290
01:05:08,890 --> 01:05:11,350
It was May the 1st I got freed.

1291
01:05:11,350 --> 01:05:12,730
1944.

1292
01:05:12,730 --> 01:05:14,020
1945.

1293
01:05:14,020 --> 01:05:14,920
'45.

1294
01:05:14,920 --> 01:05:16,810
May the 1st.

1295
01:05:16,810 --> 01:05:22,450
And a few days, things
were humming like.

1296
01:05:22,450 --> 01:05:24,040

People got radios.

1297

01:05:24,040 --> 01:05:25,750

And we could listen to the news.

1298

01:05:25,750 --> 01:05:33,160

And there was still war, but
the war is just about over.

1299

01:05:33,160 --> 01:05:37,840

I think when the war was
over was the 9th in Europe

1300

01:05:37,840 --> 01:05:41,260

or something-- the 9th of
May, and this was the 1st.

1301

01:05:41,260 --> 01:05:50,050

And Czech military came to
the camp where we were in.

1302

01:05:50,050 --> 01:05:56,410

And they said, anybody who is
Czech and wants to go back,

1303

01:05:56,410 --> 01:05:57,970

we'll take you.

1304

01:05:57,970 --> 01:06:01,000

They came with trucks,
with military trucks.

1305

01:06:01,000 --> 01:06:05,160

And they'll give you
until tomorrow to decide.

1306

01:06:05,160 --> 01:06:08,125

The people who were Czech
registered and most of them

1307

01:06:08,125 --> 01:06:09,970

had left.

1308

01:06:09,970 --> 01:06:11,980

Well, actually, a
lot of them didn't,

1309

01:06:11,980 --> 01:06:16,180

because they were
afraid to travel.

1310

01:06:16,180 --> 01:06:18,520

But I did leave with
that first transport.

1311

01:06:18,520 --> 01:06:22,460

But before I left-- and her
cousin also was leaving.

1312

01:06:22,460 --> 01:06:25,300

She also got a boyfriend
who was from our area,

1313

01:06:25,300 --> 01:06:26,860

and he was Czech.

1314

01:06:26,860 --> 01:06:30,490

But this is Hungarian,
she's Hungarian.

1315

01:06:30,490 --> 01:06:38,260

So we said that we would not
leave until Nushi, my friend,

1316

01:06:38,260 --> 01:06:43,300

and her barber fiancÃ©, or boy
that she was in love with,

1317

01:06:43,300 --> 01:06:44,410

get married.

1318

01:06:44,410 --> 01:06:48,250

And we got together, we found a
rabbi, and we got them married,

1319

01:06:48,250 --> 01:06:49,870
and we left.

1320
01:06:49,870 --> 01:06:51,190
How did you get a boyfriend?

1321
01:06:51,190 --> 01:06:53,650
I mean, all the time in the
camps you were separated,

1322
01:06:53,650 --> 01:06:54,500
I thought, or--

1323
01:06:54,500 --> 01:06:59,380
Well, you see, as I told you, we
were chosen as cleaning women.

1324
01:06:59,380 --> 01:07:01,480
He was chosen as a barber.

1325
01:07:01,480 --> 01:07:04,360
And while she was back
cleaning the booths--

1326
01:07:04,360 --> 01:07:05,270
they couldn't talk.

1327
01:07:05,270 --> 01:07:06,100
He was Polish.

1328
01:07:06,100 --> 01:07:07,330
She was Hungarian.

1329
01:07:07,330 --> 01:07:10,690
And they couldn't-- they didn't
have a language in common.

1330
01:07:10,690 --> 01:07:13,120
And I was their interpreter.

1331
01:07:13,120 --> 01:07:20,050
Actually, what happened

is, when he came from Lodz,

1332
01:07:20,050 --> 01:07:24,910
he was a very modern,
non-observant Jew.

1333
01:07:24,910 --> 01:07:31,870
And he thought that God is
doing this to him because he--

1334
01:07:31,870 --> 01:07:35,150
because he is not
practicing Judaism.

1335
01:07:35,150 --> 01:07:37,950
So he promised, the first
Jewish girl that he meets,

1336
01:07:37,950 --> 01:07:39,340
he'll marry.

1337
01:07:39,340 --> 01:07:43,990
He comes to camp
and meets me, OK?

1338
01:07:43,990 --> 01:07:45,220
And he tells me this.

1339
01:07:45,220 --> 01:07:48,520
He says he wants to marry me.

1340
01:07:48,520 --> 01:07:50,768
And now, we're both in camp.

1341
01:07:50,768 --> 01:07:52,810
We don't know if we're
going to live or anything,

1342
01:07:52,810 --> 01:07:54,220
but he tells me this.

1343
01:07:54,220 --> 01:07:57,533

And so I introduce him to my
girlfriend who works with me.

1344
01:07:57,533 --> 01:07:58,360
[CHUCKLING]

1345
01:07:58,360 --> 01:08:03,610
And I said, you suit each other
much more than you and me.

1346
01:08:03,610 --> 01:08:07,540
And I told everybody that I
have a fianc  , an American,

1347
01:08:07,540 --> 01:08:09,180
because--

1348
01:08:09,180 --> 01:08:10,270
as to shake off.

1349
01:08:10,270 --> 01:08:12,670
People were trying
to get somebody,

1350
01:08:12,670 --> 01:08:14,380
because people lost
their families,

1351
01:08:14,380 --> 01:08:17,080
and they wanted
to have somebody.

1352
01:08:17,080 --> 01:08:18,189
Didn't you want somebody?

1353
01:08:18,189 --> 01:08:22,420
No, I didn't, because
I think I already

1354
01:08:22,420 --> 01:08:24,220
went through this once before.

1355

01:08:24,220 --> 01:08:26,920

I guess maybe I was
afraid of losing somebody

1356

01:08:26,920 --> 01:08:29,109

and not to get to know
somebody well enough.

1357

01:08:29,109 --> 01:08:30,534

I don't know, but I--

1358

01:08:30,534 --> 01:08:32,770

I was an exception to the rule.

1359

01:08:32,770 --> 01:08:35,830

Because her cousin
also found somebody

1360

01:08:35,830 --> 01:08:37,790

who was interested in me.

1361

01:08:37,790 --> 01:08:41,170

And so I gave him something
to take to this other girl,

1362

01:08:41,170 --> 01:08:43,689

because he was driving a truck.

1363

01:08:43,689 --> 01:08:45,040

And they also got married.

1364

01:08:45,040 --> 01:08:48,370

And they live in New
York, and we visit them.

1365

01:08:48,370 --> 01:08:53,859

So both of these couples are
married, happily married.

1366

01:08:53,859 --> 01:08:56,319

So you got them married before
you left for Czechoslovakia?

1367

01:08:56,319 --> 01:08:57,250

Before we left.

1368

01:08:57,250 --> 01:09:01,656

Then when we left
to Czechoslovakia,

1369

01:09:01,656 --> 01:09:02,364

through Germany--

1370

01:09:02,364 --> 01:09:04,406

So you all went-- three
women and their husbands?

1371

01:09:04,406 --> 01:09:05,055

No, just two.

1372

01:09:05,055 --> 01:09:05,555

Just her.

1373

01:09:05,555 --> 01:09:06,609

Just two.

1374

01:09:06,609 --> 01:09:08,500

The one that got
married stayed behind,

1375

01:09:08,500 --> 01:09:12,490

because her husband was
Polish and she was Hungarian.

1376

01:09:12,490 --> 01:09:15,609

But we wouldn't leave them
if they're not married.

1377

01:09:15,609 --> 01:09:18,640

1378

01:09:18,640 --> 01:09:23,350

So they were the first married
couple, I think, in camp.

1379

01:09:23,350 --> 01:09:24,220

I mean, you know?

1380

01:09:24,220 --> 01:09:25,149

Yeah.

1381

01:09:25,149 --> 01:09:31,569

So then we left, and we
traveled with the Czechs

1382

01:09:31,569 --> 01:09:36,040

about three days I think,
because roads were bombed out

1383

01:09:36,040 --> 01:09:39,399

in Germany and all kinds
of things happened.

1384

01:09:39,399 --> 01:09:43,870

And then we came to Pilsen.

1385

01:09:43,870 --> 01:09:44,500

To where?

1386

01:09:44,500 --> 01:09:46,000

Pilsen.

1387

01:09:46,000 --> 01:09:50,710

That's on the border between
Germany and Czechoslovakia.

1388

01:09:50,710 --> 01:09:52,180

You heard of Pilsner beer?

1389

01:09:52,180 --> 01:09:53,439

Mm-hmm.

1390

01:09:53,439 --> 01:09:54,670

That's the same Pilsen.

1391

01:09:54,670 --> 01:09:55,690

Mm-hmm.

1392

01:09:55,690 --> 01:09:57,580

It's very close to the border.

1393

01:09:57,580 --> 01:09:59,890

When we crossed the
border on the trucks,

1394

01:09:59,890 --> 01:10:05,260

we all got off of the trucks
and kissed the ground.

1395

01:10:05,260 --> 01:10:11,870

Then, they took us to
a big hotel in Pilsen.

1396

01:10:11,870 --> 01:10:16,170

It was kind of late by
the time we got there.

1397

01:10:16,170 --> 01:10:22,730

And I remember looking at the
plush, red carpeting and velvet

1398

01:10:22,730 --> 01:10:25,370

settees, all of the things.

1399

01:10:25,370 --> 01:10:31,550

And we are dirty and
out of camp, look like--

1400

01:10:31,550 --> 01:10:37,100

[CHUCKLES] And after so
many days of transportation,

1401

01:10:37,100 --> 01:10:39,860

going on trucks
and walking and--

1402

01:10:39,860 --> 01:10:41,720

where the roads were bad.

1403

01:10:41,720 --> 01:10:46,520

Anyway, we came to this place,
in the evening, and each of us

1404

01:10:46,520 --> 01:10:50,840

got a big mug of
beer, Pilsner beer.

1405

01:10:50,840 --> 01:10:54,680

That beer doesn't have-- some
of it doesn't have much alcohol.

1406

01:10:54,680 --> 01:10:58,130

The black beer, especially,
is very rich, very good.

1407

01:10:58,130 --> 01:10:59,840

We all had beer.

1408

01:10:59,840 --> 01:11:04,070

And then they served
us a real Czech dinner.

1409

01:11:04,070 --> 01:11:09,770

Kluski which is like
dumplings, with meat sauce.

1410

01:11:09,770 --> 01:11:11,930

Not much meat, but meat sauce.

1411

01:11:11,930 --> 01:11:13,160

And we went to sleep.

1412

01:11:13,160 --> 01:11:18,142

In the morning, they brought
us coffee and rolls in bed.

1413

01:11:18,142 --> 01:11:20,600

You didn't get sick from eating
it after being so starving?

1414

01:11:20,600 --> 01:11:22,610

No, we didn't
get-- well, I don't

1415
01:11:22,610 --> 01:11:23,900
think they gave us that much.

1416
01:11:23,900 --> 01:11:27,980
But just the same,
they treated us.

1417
01:11:27,980 --> 01:11:32,900
Thinking of it, of how
we must have looked

1418
01:11:32,900 --> 01:11:36,050
and how we were treated, I
think they're wonderful people

1419
01:11:36,050 --> 01:11:40,320
to do that in a hotel.

1420
01:11:40,320 --> 01:11:45,060
And from there, now we
are already in the Czech--

1421
01:11:45,060 --> 01:11:46,980
on Czech territory.

1422
01:11:46,980 --> 01:11:48,570
The soldiers left us behind.

1423
01:11:48,570 --> 01:11:51,690
They said, take the train, you
don't have to pay for tickets,

1424
01:11:51,690 --> 01:11:53,640
and everybody can go home.

1425
01:11:53,640 --> 01:11:57,000
Or if you don't have
a home, go to Prague.

1426

01:11:57,000 --> 01:12:01,050
And some agency is going
to take care of you there.

1427
01:12:01,050 --> 01:12:02,940
Most of us went to Prague.

1428
01:12:02,940 --> 01:12:05,340
How did you know you
didn't have a home anymore?

1429
01:12:05,340 --> 01:12:06,960
Well, I did.

1430
01:12:06,960 --> 01:12:08,540
Well, but to get home--

1431
01:12:08,540 --> 01:12:09,540
you see, the war isn't--

1432
01:12:09,540 --> 01:12:10,040
[INAUDIBLE]

1433
01:12:10,040 --> 01:12:13,167
Yeah, we went to Prague.

1434
01:12:13,167 --> 01:12:15,000
You see, first of all,
we didn't have money.

1435
01:12:15,000 --> 01:12:19,440
We didn't-- you had to go
someplace to get some help.

1436
01:12:19,440 --> 01:12:23,520
So we went to Prague,
and they waited--

1437
01:12:23,520 --> 01:12:25,950
we came to a high school.

1438
01:12:25,950 --> 01:12:27,610

They put us in a high school.

1439

01:12:27,610 --> 01:12:29,160

We stayed there for--

1440

01:12:29,160 --> 01:12:32,285

the war-- still was

clearing up after the war--

1441

01:12:32,285 --> 01:12:33,480

well, for a long time after.

1442

01:12:33,480 --> 01:12:35,857

There was no food.

1443

01:12:35,857 --> 01:12:38,190

We stayed in this high school,

and they set up a kitchen

1444

01:12:38,190 --> 01:12:41,410

for us, and they fed us.

1445

01:12:41,410 --> 01:12:44,092

They put up beds

and stuff like that.

1446

01:12:44,092 --> 01:12:45,300

I don't know how they did it.

1447

01:12:45,300 --> 01:12:49,620

It's like here for some type

of an emergency, the same way.

1448

01:12:49,620 --> 01:12:53,610

I met a lot of people that

I knew there, and, you know?

1449

01:12:53,610 --> 01:12:56,070

The meantime, the

military were coming back

1450

01:12:56,070 --> 01:12:59,100

from the Russian front, and
they were stationed in Prague.

1451
01:12:59,100 --> 01:13:00,330
I met a cousin there.

1452
01:13:00,330 --> 01:13:04,450

1453
01:13:04,450 --> 01:13:08,370
And all kinds of
things happened to me.

1454
01:13:08,370 --> 01:13:10,890
Somebody who was in love
with me and I didn't know

1455
01:13:10,890 --> 01:13:12,660
came and found me there.

1456
01:13:12,660 --> 01:13:14,910
People that were
looking for people

1457
01:13:14,910 --> 01:13:17,970
came to look to these centers.

1458
01:13:17,970 --> 01:13:20,790
Now, Prague was one
of the cities that

1459
01:13:20,790 --> 01:13:26,790
was most helpful, because
they had these agencies where,

1460
01:13:26,790 --> 01:13:29,880
if somebody was sick,
they got medical care,

1461
01:13:29,880 --> 01:13:33,390
or they were sent
to schools if they

1462

01:13:33,390 --> 01:13:37,200

were in the middle of an
education and wanted to stay.

1463

01:13:37,200 --> 01:13:39,330

I mean, you had an opportunity.

1464

01:13:39,330 --> 01:13:42,390

They also gave you clothes,
and they gave you some money.

1465

01:13:42,390 --> 01:13:45,390

1466

01:13:45,390 --> 01:13:46,380

That type of stuff.

1467

01:13:46,380 --> 01:13:49,770

Were you looking for--
who were you looking for?

1468

01:13:49,770 --> 01:13:52,330

I didn't ask for anybody.

1469

01:13:52,330 --> 01:13:55,110

I was just looking if
I'll find somebody.

1470

01:13:55,110 --> 01:13:57,430

I did find people that--

1471

01:13:57,430 --> 01:14:01,660

the way you look is you ask,
have you seen such and such?

1472

01:14:01,660 --> 01:14:03,660

Or if you knew somebody,
do you know if anybody

1473

01:14:03,660 --> 01:14:04,920

who lives from my family?

1474

01:14:04,920 --> 01:14:07,770

You know, that type of stuff.

1475

01:14:07,770 --> 01:14:11,100

Anyway, I stayed
there for three--

1476

01:14:11,100 --> 01:14:12,150

for two weeks.

1477

01:14:12,150 --> 01:14:15,420

And then this boy who thought--

1478

01:14:15,420 --> 01:14:16,920

well, he thought
that he was in love

1479

01:14:16,920 --> 01:14:21,030

with me, I didn't even know it,
took me to the International

1480

01:14:21,030 --> 01:14:24,330

House where people were
living there from the United--

1481

01:14:24,330 --> 01:14:28,650

who were caught during the
war from the United States,

1482

01:14:28,650 --> 01:14:30,690

from England, from--

1483

01:14:30,690 --> 01:14:32,310

they still couldn't get home.

1484

01:14:32,310 --> 01:14:35,160

1485

01:14:35,160 --> 01:14:39,330

Though, from there, there
were some military planes

1486

01:14:39,330 --> 01:14:42,240

for American citizens,
to take them home.

1487

01:14:42,240 --> 01:14:45,270

And the reason I know
that, because a young man

1488

01:14:45,270 --> 01:14:50,130

by the name of
[? Beir ?] from New York

1489

01:14:50,130 --> 01:14:53,730

offered me the opportunity to
marry him and go with him home,

1490

01:14:53,730 --> 01:14:54,900

and then I can divorce him.

1491

01:14:54,900 --> 01:14:55,740

[CHUCKLES]

1492

01:14:55,740 --> 01:14:58,080

Of course, I didn't take his
offer, because I thought,

1493

01:14:58,080 --> 01:15:01,290

I'm free now, I don't have
to do things like that.

1494

01:15:01,290 --> 01:15:04,800

Though, he was a very nice man.

1495

01:15:04,800 --> 01:15:06,570

And he was very
sincere about it.

1496

01:15:06,570 --> 01:15:11,250

He did leave a few days later
from that International House.

1497

01:15:11,250 --> 01:15:16,560

They still were getting
things on tickets-- food--

1498
01:15:16,560 --> 01:15:17,640
while I was in Prague.

1499
01:15:17,640 --> 01:15:19,470
And in the International
House, the people

1500
01:15:19,470 --> 01:15:25,770
were giving up some of their
meat and protein food for us,

1501
01:15:25,770 --> 01:15:30,570
because the doctor said
that we need to be built up.

1502
01:15:30,570 --> 01:15:31,560
That was in Prague.

1503
01:15:31,560 --> 01:15:35,110
Then, I went to Hungary.

1504
01:15:35,110 --> 01:15:40,470
I was in Budapest, but
that wasn't the same.

1505
01:15:40,470 --> 01:15:43,050
And why did you go to Hungary?

1506
01:15:43,050 --> 01:15:43,800
To get home.

1507
01:15:43,800 --> 01:15:45,360
I was going to go home.

1508
01:15:45,360 --> 01:15:48,270
And what we did is we
just got on a train,

1509
01:15:48,270 --> 01:15:50,880

and we were riding free.

1510
01:15:50,880 --> 01:15:54,120
And we took our chances.

1511
01:15:54,120 --> 01:15:59,010
Because while riding on the
train from Pilsen to Prague,

1512
01:15:59,010 --> 01:16:00,870
I had to jump off the train--

1513
01:16:00,870 --> 01:16:05,790
train, because there were
Russian soldiers on the train.

1514
01:16:05,790 --> 01:16:10,920
And luckily, I was with three
young kids-- three young men,

1515
01:16:10,920 --> 01:16:12,420
actually.

1516
01:16:12,420 --> 01:16:17,010
I put on that bandana that
my mother told me to do.

1517
01:16:17,010 --> 01:16:19,690
And it was getting dark.

1518
01:16:19,690 --> 01:16:23,220
And I got on the
train in Pilsen.

1519
01:16:23,220 --> 01:16:30,000
And there were no seats, because
the Russian soldiers tore out

1520
01:16:30,000 --> 01:16:32,800
all the seats so they could
sleep, I think, on the floors

1521

01:16:32,800 --> 01:16:33,300
or whatever.

1522
01:16:33,300 --> 01:16:35,920

1523
01:16:35,920 --> 01:16:37,770
So there were no seats,
but except for one

1524
01:16:37,770 --> 01:16:41,730
by the door or something
that opens up, a seat.

1525
01:16:41,730 --> 01:16:43,830
And a Russian soldier
was sitting there.

1526
01:16:43,830 --> 01:16:46,650
And because it was
dark and the lights

1527
01:16:46,650 --> 01:16:48,102
were broken or whatever--

1528
01:16:48,102 --> 01:16:49,560
I don't know, there
was no lights--

1529
01:16:49,560 --> 01:16:52,620

1530
01:16:52,620 --> 01:16:55,410
says to me, babushka, sit down.

1531
01:16:55,410 --> 01:16:57,450
He gave me his seat.

1532
01:16:57,450 --> 01:16:59,460
And I sat there.

1533
01:16:59,460 --> 01:17:02,550

And when the light came out,
he saw I have a young face,

1534
01:17:02,550 --> 01:17:04,260
I'm not an old woman.

1535
01:17:04,260 --> 01:17:07,170

1536
01:17:07,170 --> 01:17:09,020
I got real frightened.

1537
01:17:09,020 --> 01:17:13,290
He was coming at me, and
I jumped off the train.

1538
01:17:13,290 --> 01:17:14,790
Hm, alone.

1539
01:17:14,790 --> 01:17:15,290
Alone.

1540
01:17:15,290 --> 01:17:17,640
And then I got to Prague.

1541
01:17:17,640 --> 01:17:21,060
I somehow got into
Prague and took the--

1542
01:17:21,060 --> 01:17:23,490
well, I knew the language.

1543
01:17:23,490 --> 01:17:28,350
And I took the regular
buses and I got someplace

1544
01:17:28,350 --> 01:17:33,330
where I got together with
the rest of the people.

1545
01:17:33,330 --> 01:17:35,980
So you did-- it was dangerous.

1546
01:17:35,980 --> 01:17:38,130
That's why a lot
of women did not

1547
01:17:38,130 --> 01:17:40,860
go at that time, when
the war just ended.

1548
01:17:40,860 --> 01:17:43,500
They stayed in Germany.

1549
01:17:43,500 --> 01:17:46,350
But I was very
anxious to find out.

1550
01:17:46,350 --> 01:17:49,230
I still was hoping that
maybe my mother is alive.

1551
01:17:49,230 --> 01:17:51,090
Maybe somebody came back.

1552
01:17:51,090 --> 01:17:54,690
And if they would, they-- people
always go where they came from,

1553
01:17:54,690 --> 01:17:57,330
I thought, to their home.

1554
01:17:57,330 --> 01:17:58,740
So I went.

1555
01:17:58,740 --> 01:18:00,240
I wanted to get home.

1556
01:18:00,240 --> 01:18:01,420
But it wasn't easy.

1557
01:18:01,420 --> 01:18:03,210
It's not like now
you take a plane.

1558
01:18:03,210 --> 01:18:05,670
You have to hop from
one train to another

1559
01:18:05,670 --> 01:18:10,975
and hope that that railroad
goes there or the train track--

1560
01:18:10,975 --> 01:18:16,110
that the train tracks, a lot
of places were bombed out,

1561
01:18:16,110 --> 01:18:19,210
and you couldn't get there.

1562
01:18:19,210 --> 01:18:24,550
So anyway, I came home.

1563
01:18:24,550 --> 01:18:31,150
And I found that somebody
who I went to school with

1564
01:18:31,150 --> 01:18:32,950
was taking apart--

1565
01:18:32,950 --> 01:18:36,010
taking off the
windows of my house.

1566
01:18:36,010 --> 01:18:38,260
And I asked him, [INAUDIBLE],,
why are you doing that?

1567
01:18:38,260 --> 01:18:41,630
And he says, I fought
for this country,

1568
01:18:41,630 --> 01:18:45,700
so I can do anything I want to.

1569
01:18:45,700 --> 01:18:47,500

If I want this
house, I'll take it.

1570
01:18:47,500 --> 01:18:51,760

1571
01:18:51,760 --> 01:18:54,310
After all of this, it was
like somebody sticking--

1572
01:18:54,310 --> 01:18:57,910
a friend, supposed to have
been-- a knife in my heart,

1573
01:18:57,910 --> 01:18:59,050
you know?

1574
01:18:59,050 --> 01:19:01,900
Then I stayed over
at a neighbor's house

1575
01:19:01,900 --> 01:19:05,710
for overnight, one night.

1576
01:19:05,710 --> 01:19:10,510
And some of the neighbors came
and gave me some souvenirs

1577
01:19:10,510 --> 01:19:16,690
from what was once upon
a time my family's, mine.

1578
01:19:16,690 --> 01:19:21,700
Nothing in jewelry or anything,
just embroidery that I did

1579
01:19:21,700 --> 01:19:25,270
and some--

1580
01:19:25,270 --> 01:19:31,120
they used to have a lot of fancy
embroideries and ritual things

1581

01:19:31,120 --> 01:19:32,980
and stuff like that.

1582

01:19:32,980 --> 01:19:37,330
I took all of that and I left.

1583

01:19:37,330 --> 01:19:43,300
They were talking about going
to Romania at that time.

1584

01:19:43,300 --> 01:19:44,860
Because through Romania--

1585

01:19:44,860 --> 01:19:48,880
Romania wasn't as affected
as the rest of the country.

1586

01:19:48,880 --> 01:19:51,990
And they said, if
you go to Bucharest,

1587

01:19:51,990 --> 01:19:54,760
that there is an Israeli
agency and that you

1588

01:19:54,760 --> 01:19:58,525
might be able to go to
Israel, to Palestine at the--

1589

01:19:58,525 --> 01:19:59,710
Palestine.

1590

01:19:59,710 --> 01:20:04,780
So everybody, at
that time, was going.

1591

01:20:04,780 --> 01:20:10,200
And they also were giving
a big sum of money.

1592

01:20:10,200 --> 01:20:13,540
There was a Jewish agency there

that was handing out money

1593

01:20:13,540 --> 01:20:15,030

to all the people who--

1594

01:20:15,030 --> 01:20:20,530

who came back from the camp, so
they can go or start something.

1595

01:20:20,530 --> 01:20:22,900

I don't know.

1596

01:20:22,900 --> 01:20:25,580

My husband got some,
too, as a matter of fact.

1597

01:20:25,580 --> 01:20:28,840

I think it was,
like, 1,000 whatever

1598

01:20:28,840 --> 01:20:32,620

they have in Romania, which
probably would be like \$100,

1599

01:20:32,620 --> 01:20:35,020

I suppose.

1600

01:20:35,020 --> 01:20:36,520

So I was going to go there.

1601

01:20:36,520 --> 01:20:42,380

And again, I'm traveling
with these three--

1602

01:20:42,380 --> 01:20:44,350

two young men, actually.

1603

01:20:44,350 --> 01:20:46,900

One was younger than
me, one was older,

1604

01:20:46,900 --> 01:20:50,680

which I befriended on the way.

1605

01:20:50,680 --> 01:20:54,940

It's kind of a protection
not to be by yourself.

1606

01:20:54,940 --> 01:20:59,890

And then we stayed wherever
there was some place for people

1607

01:20:59,890 --> 01:21:00,800

like us to stay.

1608

01:21:00,800 --> 01:21:02,410

So there was a
place in Kirahaus,

1609

01:21:02,410 --> 01:21:07,330

which is about 3 kilometers
from where my husband is.

1610

01:21:07,330 --> 01:21:11,290

We stayed overnight
there, because that was

1611

01:21:11,290 --> 01:21:13,750

close to the Romanian border.

1612

01:21:13,750 --> 01:21:16,570

And then we would go to the
town where my husband lives,

1613

01:21:16,570 --> 01:21:20,590

because from there,
they would hire somebody

1614

01:21:20,590 --> 01:21:24,460

to take you to Romania.

1615

01:21:24,460 --> 01:21:28,360

So early in the
morning, I already

1616

01:21:28,360 --> 01:21:30,010
heard that my husband is alive.

1617

01:21:30,010 --> 01:21:31,330
I knew them.

1618

01:21:31,330 --> 01:21:33,700
And his brother, and
I thought maybe my--

1619

01:21:33,700 --> 01:21:37,570
I also was going there because
my aunt was his aunt, too,

1620

01:21:37,570 --> 01:21:38,620
and she had children.

1621

01:21:38,620 --> 01:21:40,790
I thought maybe some
of them survived.

1622

01:21:40,790 --> 01:21:42,030
So I was going to look for--

1623

01:21:42,030 --> 01:21:43,750
for my aunt and my cousins.

1624

01:21:43,750 --> 01:21:45,580
On your mother's
side of the family?

1625

01:21:45,580 --> 01:21:49,270
Yeah, my mother's sister.

1626

01:21:49,270 --> 01:21:54,010
So I went there and came
to my husband's house.

1627

01:21:54,010 --> 01:22:00,050
And my brother-in-law was
davening with his tfellin in.

1628

01:22:00,050 --> 01:22:03,280

And there was a whole
bunch of men, no women,

1629

01:22:03,280 --> 01:22:06,070

except for my sister-in-law.

1630

01:22:06,070 --> 01:22:08,050

And right away,
they started talking

1631

01:22:08,050 --> 01:22:13,570

that I'm getting married as soon
as I walked in, in the house.

1632

01:22:13,570 --> 01:22:16,780

You knew him from before?

1633

01:22:16,780 --> 01:22:19,090

Kind of, not really.

1634

01:22:19,090 --> 01:22:23,542

I knew him when we were
kids, not well or anything.

1635

01:22:23,542 --> 01:22:25,750

I used to play with his
brother, the younger brother,

1636

01:22:25,750 --> 01:22:27,460

because he's the same age.

1637

01:22:27,460 --> 01:22:29,990

What was the reunion like when
you walked into the house?

1638

01:22:29,990 --> 01:22:31,930

Oh, they were happy to see me.

1639

01:22:31,930 --> 01:22:34,390

And I think they
planned everything out

1640
01:22:34,390 --> 01:22:35,287
before I got there.

1641
01:22:35,287 --> 01:22:36,370
They heard that I'm alive.

1642
01:22:36,370 --> 01:22:37,450
They knew you were alive.

1643
01:22:37,450 --> 01:22:38,992
But they didn't know
you were coming?

1644
01:22:38,992 --> 01:22:41,830
Yeah, they knew that I
was in the next town.

1645
01:22:41,830 --> 01:22:44,500
Somehow, it was very
close, so, you know?

1646
01:22:44,500 --> 01:22:47,530

1647
01:22:47,530 --> 01:22:52,740
So it was, I think, Thursday
morning when I got there.

1648
01:22:52,740 --> 01:22:57,050
And I said, don't be
stupid, don't be ridiculous.

1649
01:22:57,050 --> 01:23:00,820
I'm going to Romania
because that's where I--

1650
01:23:00,820 --> 01:23:02,860
I want to go to Palestine.

1651
01:23:02,860 --> 01:23:05,870
So my brother-in-law,

first of all,

1652

01:23:05,870 --> 01:23:09,280
he pretended that he can't talk
when he has the tfellin on.

1653

01:23:09,280 --> 01:23:13,600
Then he took me in
the garden for a walk,

1654

01:23:13,600 --> 01:23:16,210
while he still has the
tfellin on and can't talk.

1655

01:23:16,210 --> 01:23:20,800
The meantime, the rest
of the men and my husband

1656

01:23:20,800 --> 01:23:26,290
took these two guys, hired
for him-- them a guide

1657

01:23:26,290 --> 01:23:30,130
and took them across
the border to Romania.

1658

01:23:30,130 --> 01:23:32,800
So here I'm left,
and my husband.

1659

01:23:32,800 --> 01:23:37,690
And my brother-in-law
says to me, you're family,

1660

01:23:37,690 --> 01:23:40,330
and I'm not going to let you
go two days before Shabbat.

1661

01:23:40,330 --> 01:23:42,550
Where are you going
to be for Shabbat?

1662

01:23:42,550 --> 01:23:47,440

And you have to relax
and you've been--

1663
01:23:47,440 --> 01:23:49,600
we already have an
established home here,

1664
01:23:49,600 --> 01:23:51,910
and I'm married and all of that.

1665
01:23:51,910 --> 01:23:54,610
He says, if I wouldn't be
married, I'd marry you.

1666
01:23:54,610 --> 01:23:57,130
You know, I always
loved you type of thing.

1667
01:23:57,130 --> 01:24:00,100

1668
01:24:00,100 --> 01:24:03,700
And he says, Bill
my brother is going

1669
01:24:03,700 --> 01:24:04,870
to go with you to Romania.

1670
01:24:04,870 --> 01:24:06,310
He already was there.

1671
01:24:06,310 --> 01:24:07,390
He'll take you there.

1672
01:24:07,390 --> 01:24:09,160
Why do you need to
go with strangers?

1673
01:24:09,160 --> 01:24:14,920

1674
01:24:14,920 --> 01:24:17,800

And I said, look, I'm
not ready for marriage.

1675
01:24:17,800 --> 01:24:20,140
I don't want to talk about it.

1676
01:24:20,140 --> 01:24:21,520
But stay for Shabbat.

1677
01:24:21,520 --> 01:24:23,650
OK, I'll stay for Shabbat.

1678
01:24:23,650 --> 01:24:26,548
Friday morning, my
husband comes in, and I--

1679
01:24:26,548 --> 01:24:28,090
because there was
a lot of men, there

1680
01:24:28,090 --> 01:24:30,100
was no place for me to
sleep except in the room

1681
01:24:30,100 --> 01:24:33,220
with my brother-in-law
and his wife.

1682
01:24:33,220 --> 01:24:37,000
So they're in one bed,
I'm in the next one.

1683
01:24:37,000 --> 01:24:44,020
And I'm still in bed,
and my husband comes in.

1684
01:24:44,020 --> 01:24:47,410
And he says to me,
[NON-ENGLISH]----

1685
01:24:47,410 --> 01:24:50,140
which is an endearing
word, right?

1686
01:24:50,140 --> 01:24:53,590
He said, my brothers
and I decided

1687
01:24:53,590 --> 01:24:56,300
that we should get married.

1688
01:24:56,300 --> 01:24:59,680
And I said, what?

1689
01:24:59,680 --> 01:25:03,140
I haven't even been
there 24 hours.

1690
01:25:03,140 --> 01:25:09,520
And I said, tell your brothers
that you can marry each other.

1691
01:25:09,520 --> 01:25:10,575
I'm not marrying anybody.

1692
01:25:10,575 --> 01:25:11,075
[LAUGHTER]

1693
01:25:11,075 --> 01:25:13,330
Forget it.

1694
01:25:13,330 --> 01:25:19,660
In the meantime, his brother,
his older brother, who was--

1695
01:25:19,660 --> 01:25:23,650
he thought-- told me he was
in love with me all his life--

1696
01:25:23,650 --> 01:25:28,180
comes in and he says, my wife
doesn't know how to bake,

1697
01:25:28,180 --> 01:25:32,470
but won't you please bake a

cake for your engagement party?

1698

01:25:32,470 --> 01:25:35,140

1699

01:25:35,140 --> 01:25:37,090

Engagement party?

1700

01:25:37,090 --> 01:25:39,580

What are you talking about?

1701

01:25:39,580 --> 01:25:42,160

Anyway, all of the men gathered.

1702

01:25:42,160 --> 01:25:46,240

And they all talked to me
that my father and my mother

1703

01:25:46,240 --> 01:25:48,610

promised that I would marry him.

1704

01:25:48,610 --> 01:25:49,990

It's not so.

1705

01:25:49,990 --> 01:25:53,490

My husband still says that's--

1706

01:25:53,490 --> 01:25:55,480

that she said it at some point.

1707

01:25:55,480 --> 01:25:58,360

I know my father-in-law
used to hold me on his lap,

1708

01:25:58,360 --> 01:26:01,600

and he said, one day you're
going to be my daughter.

1709

01:26:01,600 --> 01:26:06,430

But anyway, this is Friday.

1710

01:26:06,430 --> 01:26:07,790
I can't go anyplace.

1711
01:26:07,790 --> 01:26:09,370
There is no-- there is no--

1712
01:26:09,370 --> 01:26:12,040
I can't leave.

1713
01:26:12,040 --> 01:26:18,490
But I figured, well,
I'll just say no.

1714
01:26:18,490 --> 01:26:22,810
And my older brother
was asked to--

1715
01:26:22,810 --> 01:26:26,800
to court me, to go for a walk in
the garden and stuff like that,

1716
01:26:26,800 --> 01:26:30,120
so maybe if I talked to
him I'll change my mind.

1717
01:26:30,120 --> 01:26:32,110
[LAUGHTER]

1718
01:26:32,110 --> 01:26:35,500
So we go in the garden,
and they had a lot--

1719
01:26:35,500 --> 01:26:40,780
like an orchard-- walnut
trees and all kinds of trees.

1720
01:26:40,780 --> 01:26:45,760
My husband goes with
a ring in his mouth,

1721
01:26:45,760 --> 01:26:49,450
hanging down from a
walnut tree, trying

1722
01:26:49,450 --> 01:26:54,970
to get me to put the
ring on my finger.

1723
01:26:54,970 --> 01:26:55,690
[CHUCKLES]

1724
01:26:55,690 --> 01:26:56,355
Like a monkey.

1725
01:26:56,355 --> 01:26:57,840
[LAUGHS] Like a monkey.

1726
01:26:57,840 --> 01:27:01,030

1727
01:27:01,030 --> 01:27:03,730
I had a big laugh, and I--

1728
01:27:03,730 --> 01:27:06,700
no way.

1729
01:27:06,700 --> 01:27:13,047
Then, they still had invited
people from all over--

1730
01:27:13,047 --> 01:27:13,630
For the party.

1731
01:27:13,630 --> 01:27:15,790
--for the party,
for Saturday night.

1732
01:27:15,790 --> 01:27:18,880
Now, mind you, there were
very few Jewish people here,

1733
01:27:18,880 --> 01:27:22,900
but the men who got freed
before from the Russians,

1734

01:27:22,900 --> 01:27:25,390

because they were in
the army and their work

1735

01:27:25,390 --> 01:27:26,200

camps were there.

1736

01:27:26,200 --> 01:27:30,190

There was a lot of
men, but no women.

1737

01:27:30,190 --> 01:27:33,485

So anyway, it was very--

1738

01:27:33,485 --> 01:27:35,390

it was very disturbing to me.

1739

01:27:35,390 --> 01:27:38,500

I didn't know what to
do, whom to turn to.

1740

01:27:38,500 --> 01:27:41,230

What do you do in that?

1741

01:27:41,230 --> 01:27:44,057

My sister-in-law's
father was there, too.

1742

01:27:44,057 --> 01:27:44,890

He was an older man.

1743

01:27:44,890 --> 01:27:47,110

And I thought, I'll talk to him.

1744

01:27:47,110 --> 01:27:51,100

And he says, well,
what's wrong with him?

1745

01:27:51,100 --> 01:27:54,610

Why wouldn't you marry him?

1746

01:27:54,610 --> 01:27:56,890
And stuff like that.

1747
01:27:56,890 --> 01:28:01,430
And they promised me
diamonds and jewelry

1748
01:28:01,430 --> 01:28:05,500
and a good life and everything--
the whole family did.

1749
01:28:05,500 --> 01:28:07,360
My brother-in-law
also gave me choices.

1750
01:28:07,360 --> 01:28:09,610
He says, if you don't
want to marry one,

1751
01:28:09,610 --> 01:28:13,840
I have three more
brothers to choose from.

1752
01:28:13,840 --> 01:28:16,900
But I have to marry one of them.

1753
01:28:16,900 --> 01:28:21,550
Anyway, they wanted
me to say yes.

1754
01:28:21,550 --> 01:28:26,170
So Saturday morning, my
husband and an older man,

1755
01:28:26,170 --> 01:28:31,510
who was supposed to have
been my father's friend,

1756
01:28:31,510 --> 01:28:35,320
say, let's go, there is
somebody who has a vineyard.

1757
01:28:35,320 --> 01:28:37,450

And he was a friend
of my family,

1758
01:28:37,450 --> 01:28:39,610
and I should go and
talk to that man.

1759
01:28:39,610 --> 01:28:45,430
And tried to convince me that
I should really marry him.

1760
01:28:45,430 --> 01:28:48,550
So I agreed to go
to see that man,

1761
01:28:48,550 --> 01:28:51,010
because he was a
friend of the family.

1762
01:28:51,010 --> 01:28:53,460
And we came there.

1763
01:28:53,460 --> 01:28:55,300
And this man says--

1764
01:28:55,300 --> 01:28:56,850
and we talked to him.

1765
01:28:56,850 --> 01:28:59,220
He says, you know, she
needs a long vacation.

1766
01:28:59,220 --> 01:29:00,750
She needs to go
to a [? Koran, ?]

1767
01:29:00,750 --> 01:29:03,570
which is a recovery
place, you know,

1768
01:29:03,570 --> 01:29:07,020
because I just got out of a
horrible concentration camp.

1769
01:29:07,020 --> 01:29:10,450
No time to get
married at this time.

1770
01:29:10,450 --> 01:29:14,460
He said, she should go to
that, and she should first

1771
01:29:14,460 --> 01:29:19,710
get herself so she can
decide what she wants.

1772
01:29:19,710 --> 01:29:20,850
And he makes all of this.

1773
01:29:20,850 --> 01:29:26,250
And in the meantime, he gave,
for the party, a lot of wine.

1774
01:29:26,250 --> 01:29:28,245
Or that's what they
came for, I guess.

1775
01:29:28,245 --> 01:29:34,290
Now, I hear they want to get
me drunk so I'll say yes.

1776
01:29:34,290 --> 01:29:35,460
This is a Saturday.

1777
01:29:35,460 --> 01:29:37,770
And you walk from one
town to the other.

1778
01:29:37,770 --> 01:29:39,810
And they got me to--

1779
01:29:39,810 --> 01:29:46,000
I think I drank the same amount
as they did, every one of them.

1780

01:29:46,000 --> 01:29:49,500
And as we were walking home,
they were drunk like skunks,

1781
01:29:49,500 --> 01:29:50,662
and I wasn't.

1782
01:29:50,662 --> 01:29:52,470
[CHUCKLING]

1783
01:29:52,470 --> 01:29:54,330
So we came back.

1784
01:29:54,330 --> 01:29:58,050
And I said,
unconditionally, no way am

1785
01:29:58,050 --> 01:30:00,030
I getting engaged or married.

1786
01:30:00,030 --> 01:30:01,680
That's it.

1787
01:30:01,680 --> 01:30:03,135
But they already had a band.

1788
01:30:03,135 --> 01:30:06,780

1789
01:30:06,780 --> 01:30:09,600
They had all of
the people there.

1790
01:30:09,600 --> 01:30:12,495
And they tell the
people, OK, she says no.

1791
01:30:12,495 --> 01:30:14,970
You know, no is no.

1792
01:30:14,970 --> 01:30:17,280
But in the meantime,

the people--

1793

01:30:17,280 --> 01:30:18,900

there was things to eat.

1794

01:30:18,900 --> 01:30:20,440

People didn't have food.

1795

01:30:20,440 --> 01:30:21,990

There was things to
eat and to drink,

1796

01:30:21,990 --> 01:30:24,270

so they stayed, still,
a little bit longer.

1797

01:30:24,270 --> 01:30:26,430

And I left the room.

1798

01:30:26,430 --> 01:30:27,690

And I'd been in outside.

1799

01:30:27,690 --> 01:30:31,210

And they all-- my
brother-in-law,

1800

01:30:31,210 --> 01:30:35,970

my husband, his wife her father,
all came out to talk to me.

1801

01:30:35,970 --> 01:30:38,370

And when they talked
to me, they were

1802

01:30:38,370 --> 01:30:41,670

trying to convince me of
all of the nice things.

1803

01:30:41,670 --> 01:30:44,280

You're going to get the
same gold watch as Ella got.

1804

01:30:44,280 --> 01:30:47,460

You're going to get
the same thing as so.

1805

01:30:47,460 --> 01:30:51,510

They told me stories, they
found my aunt's jewelry,

1806

01:30:51,510 --> 01:30:53,130

and it's all going to be mine.

1807

01:30:53,130 --> 01:30:55,140

And I don't know, they just--

1808

01:30:55,140 --> 01:30:57,600

and I can live in
my aunt's house,

1809

01:30:57,600 --> 01:31:00,390

which was a very large house.

1810

01:31:00,390 --> 01:31:04,950

And anyway, and I still say no.

1811

01:31:04,950 --> 01:31:09,090

I'm still in outside, and
I hear a plate breaking.

1812

01:31:09,090 --> 01:31:12,480

That means, in Jewish, a tnoyim.

1813

01:31:12,480 --> 01:31:13,710

It's an engagement party.

1814

01:31:13,710 --> 01:31:17,610

They break a plate and
everybody yells, mazel tov!

1815

01:31:17,610 --> 01:31:18,870

[CHUCKLING]

1816

01:31:18,870 --> 01:31:22,350

And I still say no.

1817
01:31:22,350 --> 01:31:25,470
Anyway, somehow I got in.

1818
01:31:25,470 --> 01:31:30,000
And they were dancing,
and everybody got drunk.

1819
01:31:30,000 --> 01:31:32,850
They had Gypsy music.

1820
01:31:32,850 --> 01:31:38,250
And I was engaged,
just like that.

1821
01:31:38,250 --> 01:31:41,160
I was engaged.

1822
01:31:41,160 --> 01:31:44,790
I still-- I went
swimming, and I wouldn't

1823
01:31:44,790 --> 01:31:48,350
let my husband come in, in the
water, when I was in the water.

1824
01:31:48,350 --> 01:31:51,900
[CHUCKLES] Well,
mind you, I didn't

1825
01:31:51,900 --> 01:31:53,940
live through teenage years.

1826
01:31:53,940 --> 01:31:54,440
Right.

1827
01:31:54,440 --> 01:31:57,030

1828
01:31:57,030 --> 01:32:00,450
There was nobody older to tell

me anything, how to behave

1829
01:32:00,450 --> 01:32:01,450
or anything.

1830
01:32:01,450 --> 01:32:06,750
So for the next Friday--

1831
01:32:06,750 --> 01:32:11,730
Friday, the following,
comes this man

1832
01:32:11,730 --> 01:32:14,850
who put me in the
International House in Prague

1833
01:32:14,850 --> 01:32:17,160
because he heard I got engaged.

1834
01:32:17,160 --> 01:32:20,430
So he took off from the
army-- he got leave.

1835
01:32:20,430 --> 01:32:22,180
And somebody else
followed me who thought

1836
01:32:22,180 --> 01:32:23,160
was in love with me.

1837
01:32:23,160 --> 01:32:28,380
And these two men both
come because I got engaged.

1838
01:32:28,380 --> 01:32:31,498
And they come.

1839
01:32:31,498 --> 01:32:32,790
There was no other place to go.

1840
01:32:32,790 --> 01:32:36,360
There were no hotels, just

where-- to my husband's house.

1841

01:32:36,360 --> 01:32:39,930

And they both want to claim me.

1842

01:32:39,930 --> 01:32:43,620

So it was very funny,
because the guy

1843

01:32:43,620 --> 01:32:45,510

was a friend of my
brother-in-law's

1844

01:32:45,510 --> 01:32:47,410

who was in love with me.

1845

01:32:47,410 --> 01:32:48,830

I didn't know about it actually.

1846

01:32:48,830 --> 01:32:53,400

1847

01:32:53,400 --> 01:32:56,110

And I said, [Personal
name] aren't you

1848

01:32:56,110 --> 01:32:58,140

going to congratulate me?

1849

01:32:58,140 --> 01:33:01,140

I accepted that I'm engaged.

1850

01:33:01,140 --> 01:33:06,570

And he reaches out, like that,
and cries while he's doing it.

1851

01:33:06,570 --> 01:33:07,080

Oh, boy.

1852

01:33:07,080 --> 01:33:07,890

A soldier.

1853
01:33:07,890 --> 01:33:09,180
Yeah.

1854
01:33:09,180 --> 01:33:13,740
And I couldn't figure it out.

1855
01:33:13,740 --> 01:33:19,320
Then I find out that he and my
brother-in-law made a bet when

1856
01:33:19,320 --> 01:33:20,040
they were--

1857
01:33:20,040 --> 01:33:22,170
when I was 14 years
old, which one

1858
01:33:22,170 --> 01:33:24,810
is going to marry me-- he or he?

1859
01:33:24,810 --> 01:33:27,690
My brother-in-law or him?

1860
01:33:27,690 --> 01:33:29,070
So that's some--

1861
01:33:29,070 --> 01:33:29,910
Some story.

1862
01:33:29,910 --> 01:33:30,750
--story.

1863
01:33:30,750 --> 01:33:36,360
And the other guy says,
engagement don't mean anything.

1864
01:33:36,360 --> 01:33:38,730
She's in love with me.

1865
01:33:38,730 --> 01:33:41,700
And he's going to stay there,

that Shabbat, at their house.

1866
01:33:41,700 --> 01:33:43,980
Can't imagine how
uncomfortable I was--

1867
01:33:43,980 --> 01:33:44,730
three men.

1868
01:33:44,730 --> 01:33:47,610
Yeah.

1869
01:33:47,610 --> 01:33:53,270
Anyway, finally they both
left the following Sunday.

1870
01:33:53,270 --> 01:33:58,970
But then I still didn't
want to get married.

1871
01:33:58,970 --> 01:34:01,760
But I didn't want to stay
there, because the Russians were

1872
01:34:01,760 --> 01:34:02,360
there.

1873
01:34:02,360 --> 01:34:04,640
They were getting more
and more settled in there.

1874
01:34:04,640 --> 01:34:06,710
I said, no, I'm not
going to stay here.

1875
01:34:06,710 --> 01:34:12,020
I'm going back wherever
the other people are.

1876
01:34:12,020 --> 01:34:14,970
I feel safer there, because
something is going to happen.

1877

01:34:14,970 --> 01:34:17,273

We can go to Palestine.

1878

01:34:17,273 --> 01:34:19,190

And I wanted to go to
Palestine all that time.

1879

01:34:19,190 --> 01:34:22,410

What was this fear
of the Russians?

1880

01:34:22,410 --> 01:34:28,820

Well, first of all, you
didn't have any freedom.

1881

01:34:28,820 --> 01:34:32,060

At our wedding, they got into--

1882

01:34:32,060 --> 01:34:35,420

they took pictures, and
I don't have one picture,

1883

01:34:35,420 --> 01:34:38,540

because they were
in every picture,

1884

01:34:38,540 --> 01:34:40,040

and I left in the meantime.

1885

01:34:40,040 --> 01:34:46,880

But, I mean, they were just--
you were just afraid of them.

1886

01:34:46,880 --> 01:34:48,350

You were afraid of communism.

1887

01:34:48,350 --> 01:34:51,050

And they were also
spies all the time.

1888

01:34:51,050 --> 01:34:52,550

If we went in a

restaurant and there

1889

01:34:52,550 --> 01:34:56,310
was a Russian sitting behind us,
we thought he was spying on us.

1890

01:34:56,310 --> 01:34:58,460
We were afraid of
going to Siberia.

1891

01:34:58,460 --> 01:35:02,300
A lot of people
did go that I knew.

1892

01:35:02,300 --> 01:35:04,340
So there was that fear.

1893

01:35:04,340 --> 01:35:06,020
So when were you married?

1894

01:35:06,020 --> 01:35:06,980
Six weeks later.

1895

01:35:06,980 --> 01:35:09,950

1896

01:35:09,950 --> 01:35:11,890
Anyway, we were married.

1897

01:35:11,890 --> 01:35:15,220
So the six weeks you spent at
your brother-in-law's house?

1898

01:35:15,220 --> 01:35:16,400
Yes.

1899

01:35:16,400 --> 01:35:21,110
No, in the meantime, I
still wanted to go back

1900

01:35:21,110 --> 01:35:23,570
to my hometown, so I'll have--

1901

01:35:23,570 --> 01:35:27,500

I thought, I'll go there,
and I'll have time to think.

1902

01:35:27,500 --> 01:35:30,200

But my husband followed me.

1903

01:35:30,200 --> 01:35:32,030

There's no getting away.

1904

01:35:32,030 --> 01:35:34,190

Anyway, we got married.

1905

01:35:34,190 --> 01:35:36,810

Oh, well, let's make--

1906

01:35:36,810 --> 01:35:39,110

let's clarify something.

1907

01:35:39,110 --> 01:35:41,870

I wasn't ready for marriage.

1908

01:35:41,870 --> 01:35:43,910

I really liked him.

1909

01:35:43,910 --> 01:35:46,520

And I figured, all of
the other men that--

1910

01:35:46,520 --> 01:35:48,080

or people that, so far--

1911

01:35:48,080 --> 01:35:51,800

I didn't know that many that
I know-- he is the best catch.

1912

01:35:51,800 --> 01:35:54,950

So it wasn't like I--

1913

01:35:54,950 --> 01:35:59,480

I just was not quite ready for
getting married at the time.

1914
01:35:59,480 --> 01:36:02,930
I didn't know where I am
at, where I'm going to go,

1915
01:36:02,930 --> 01:36:05,600
or what's going to happen to me.

1916
01:36:05,600 --> 01:36:08,570
And I was trying
to think logically,

1917
01:36:08,570 --> 01:36:11,930
which doesn't always work.

1918
01:36:11,930 --> 01:36:13,760
But my husband
convinced me that--

1919
01:36:13,760 --> 01:36:16,950
I said, I want to leave, and
he says, then in that case,

1920
01:36:16,950 --> 01:36:17,780
let's get married.

1921
01:36:17,780 --> 01:36:19,280
Because what do you think?

1922
01:36:19,280 --> 01:36:21,170
We don't have money
for one hotel room.

1923
01:36:21,170 --> 01:36:23,750
You think we'll be
able to get two?

1924
01:36:23,750 --> 01:36:26,840
See, we were still
on the old tradition

1925

01:36:26,840 --> 01:36:29,105

that people don't live
together before marriage.

1926

01:36:29,105 --> 01:36:30,480

Oh, sure.

1927

01:36:30,480 --> 01:36:33,290

So we got married.

1928

01:36:33,290 --> 01:36:36,920

And then the High
Holidays roll along.

1929

01:36:36,920 --> 01:36:40,190

And we weren't about
to leave there.

1930

01:36:40,190 --> 01:36:45,890

When the holidays was over, I
said, we are going right now.

1931

01:36:45,890 --> 01:36:47,180

And we did.

1932

01:36:47,180 --> 01:36:50,030

The borders were closing.

1933

01:36:50,030 --> 01:36:52,190

And I was already pregnant.

1934

01:36:52,190 --> 01:36:55,970

I got pregnant right
away after I got married.

1935

01:36:55,970 --> 01:37:00,260

And we went on our bellies
across the border to Romania,

1936

01:37:00,260 --> 01:37:03,110

because the flares
were going up.

1937
01:37:03,110 --> 01:37:06,070
But luckily, because they
were still in the field--

1938
01:37:06,070 --> 01:37:08,180
the corn and the
stuff like that--

1939
01:37:08,180 --> 01:37:09,830
you could hide.

1940
01:37:09,830 --> 01:37:12,370
So Saturday night, we took off.

1941
01:37:12,370 --> 01:37:13,760
We went to Romania.

1942
01:37:13,760 --> 01:37:17,480
In Romania, we came
Sunday morning.

1943
01:37:17,480 --> 01:37:20,060
And I took all of
those things with me

1944
01:37:20,060 --> 01:37:24,320
that the people from my
town gave me, because those

1945
01:37:24,320 --> 01:37:25,550
were precious things to me.

1946
01:37:25,550 --> 01:37:28,200

1947
01:37:28,200 --> 01:37:29,940
And went out, had
some family there,

1948
01:37:29,940 --> 01:37:31,980
and we stayed overnight there.

1949
01:37:31,980 --> 01:37:35,370
Then we took a wagon
and we traveled.

1950
01:37:35,370 --> 01:37:39,450
It took us three
weeks to get to--

1951
01:37:39,450 --> 01:37:43,290
to Germany back.

1952
01:37:43,290 --> 01:37:47,130
The reason it took us that
long is because, by then, you

1953
01:37:47,130 --> 01:37:49,920
had to have a passport already.

1954
01:37:49,920 --> 01:37:51,750
And the money wasn't good.

1955
01:37:51,750 --> 01:37:54,630
They were changing the money.

1956
01:37:54,630 --> 01:37:57,810
So it took us three
weeks, because we

1957
01:37:57,810 --> 01:38:01,530
were jumping off the
trains and jumping on,

1958
01:38:01,530 --> 01:38:03,090
jumping into train stations.

1959
01:38:03,090 --> 01:38:06,030
It's a very long story,
but we got to Germany.

1960
01:38:06,030 --> 01:38:10,410
And by the time we came,

most of the camps, DP camps,

1961

01:38:10,410 --> 01:38:12,690
were filled.

1962

01:38:12,690 --> 01:38:18,240
So anyway, we wanted to go--

1963

01:38:18,240 --> 01:38:20,070
we told them we wanted
to go to Palestine.

1964

01:38:20,070 --> 01:38:22,530
They said there is a
kibbutz, that we'll probably

1965

01:38:22,530 --> 01:38:23,770
be accepted.

1966

01:38:23,770 --> 01:38:26,410
But they just accept
unmarried people.

1967

01:38:26,410 --> 01:38:28,650
So we went in
there as unmarried.

1968

01:38:28,650 --> 01:38:31,140
We lived separately for a while.

1969

01:38:31,140 --> 01:38:32,070
And you're pregnant.

1970

01:38:32,070 --> 01:38:34,020
And I'm pregnant.

1971

01:38:34,020 --> 01:38:37,350
Until I told one woman that--

1972

01:38:37,350 --> 01:38:40,900
she was telling me that they
called me the [NON-ENGLISH],,

1973
01:38:40,900 --> 01:38:45,120
and they called him the Czech,
meaning I am a Hungarian

1974
01:38:45,120 --> 01:38:47,160
and he's a Czech.

1975
01:38:47,160 --> 01:38:49,680
And so they said, you're
spending too much time

1976
01:38:49,680 --> 01:38:51,984
with that Czech.

1977
01:38:51,984 --> 01:38:54,800
[CHUCKLES]

1978
01:38:54,800 --> 01:38:58,400
Anyway, so it was that type
of a thing in the beginning.

1979
01:38:58,400 --> 01:39:02,244
Then when they found
out, they gave us a room.

1980
01:39:02,244 --> 01:39:03,540
Now, where are you now?

1981
01:39:03,540 --> 01:39:05,330
You're in a DP camp?

1982
01:39:05,330 --> 01:39:07,400
Now we are in a DP camp--

1983
01:39:07,400 --> 01:39:07,953
In Germany.

1984
01:39:07,953 --> 01:39:08,495
--in Germany.

1985

01:39:08,495 --> 01:39:09,350
Which city?

1986
01:39:09,350 --> 01:39:14,450
And this was in Zeilsheim
um main by Frankfurt.

1987
01:39:14,450 --> 01:39:18,200
And we are staying on
a kibbutz [? yahut. ?]

1988
01:39:18,200 --> 01:39:18,932
And explain that.

1989
01:39:18,932 --> 01:39:19,640
What do you mean?

1990
01:39:19,640 --> 01:39:22,460
A kibbutz [? yahut ?]
means a mixture of people.

1991
01:39:22,460 --> 01:39:24,800
You can be religious or non--

1992
01:39:24,800 --> 01:39:27,090
or free.

1993
01:39:27,090 --> 01:39:30,710
Some people were having
kosher food, some did not.

1994
01:39:30,710 --> 01:39:32,510
Who set up the kibbutz?

1995
01:39:32,510 --> 01:39:35,720
Well, some people who
were Zionists set it up.

1996
01:39:35,720 --> 01:39:38,210
Instead of being in
camp in the same place,

1997

01:39:38,210 --> 01:39:40,490
they set it up as a kibbutz.

1998
01:39:40,490 --> 01:39:43,850
And people who had some
professions or knowledge

1999
01:39:43,850 --> 01:39:47,960
of something were teaching the
other people how to do things.

2000
01:39:47,960 --> 01:39:53,630
Like, my husband was teaching
metal work and drawing things

2001
01:39:53,630 --> 01:39:58,450
for some of the people who
were interested in that

2002
01:39:58,450 --> 01:40:04,160
when they come to Israel, so
they can have a profession.

2003
01:40:04,160 --> 01:40:06,360
People were teaching different--

2004
01:40:06,360 --> 01:40:08,390
were learning different
professions there.

2005
01:40:08,390 --> 01:40:11,540
And we are also trying
to sustain ourselves.

2006
01:40:11,540 --> 01:40:17,060
And we practiced the things
just like in a kibbutz--

2007
01:40:17,060 --> 01:40:21,425
the working, the dancing, the
singing, the togetherness,

2008
01:40:21,425 --> 01:40:22,670

you know?

2009

01:40:22,670 --> 01:40:25,040

Not everybody separate.

2010

01:40:25,040 --> 01:40:26,786

Who organized it?

2011

01:40:26,786 --> 01:40:27,650

Some Zionists?

2012

01:40:27,650 --> 01:40:30,140

Some of the people
who were there.

2013

01:40:30,140 --> 01:40:32,348

And then they became, like,
the elders of the things.

2014

01:40:32,348 --> 01:40:33,057

German people or?

2015

01:40:33,057 --> 01:40:34,340

No, no, no, no, no, no.

2016

01:40:34,340 --> 01:40:36,560

No, our people,
our people, yeah.

2017

01:40:36,560 --> 01:40:41,810

But it was in a German
military outpost.

2018

01:40:41,810 --> 01:40:45,080

The building was a
military outpost.

2019

01:40:45,080 --> 01:40:49,355

So we were accepted there,
and we stayed there.

2020

01:40:49,355 --> 01:40:53,300

2021
01:40:53,300 --> 01:40:55,220
My husband was
teaching, as I said.

2022
01:40:55,220 --> 01:40:58,137
What did you have to
do to be accepted?

2023
01:40:58,137 --> 01:40:59,720
First of all, you
had to be a Zionist.

2024
01:40:59,720 --> 01:41:01,262
You had to be one
of those people who

2025
01:41:01,262 --> 01:41:02,840
was interested of
going to Israel

2026
01:41:02,840 --> 01:41:07,190
and work for Israel,
unselfishly, for the group,

2027
01:41:07,190 --> 01:41:09,620
not for yourself.

2028
01:41:09,620 --> 01:41:11,420
We learned Hebrew a little.

2029
01:41:11,420 --> 01:41:12,320
We had classes.

2030
01:41:12,320 --> 01:41:15,020

2031
01:41:15,020 --> 01:41:17,570
And I worked in
the kitchen a lot.

2032

01:41:17,570 --> 01:41:20,330

2033

01:41:20,330 --> 01:41:22,970

And I washed the floors
and the staircases

2034

01:41:22,970 --> 01:41:26,150

and all of those things.

2035

01:41:26,150 --> 01:41:28,700

You know, just lived there.

2036

01:41:28,700 --> 01:41:34,650

And my first child was still
born while I was there.

2037

01:41:34,650 --> 01:41:36,500

We had a curfew.

2038

01:41:36,500 --> 01:41:39,770

The place was watched so
nobody can go in or out.

2039

01:41:39,770 --> 01:41:41,210

We had curfew.

2040

01:41:41,210 --> 01:41:44,120

What do you mean was stillborn?

2041

01:41:44,120 --> 01:41:47,200

No, no, when my daughter was
born, I was still in that camp.

2042

01:41:47,200 --> 01:41:48,200

Oh, she was still there.

2043

01:41:48,200 --> 01:41:48,700

Oh, OK.

2044

01:41:48,700 --> 01:41:50,690

I was still in the kibbutz.

2045
01:41:50,690 --> 01:41:53,330
As a matter of fact, I
walked from the kibbutz,

2046
01:41:53,330 --> 01:41:56,960
when I got in labor, to
the hospital in Germany--

2047
01:41:56,960 --> 01:42:05,330
I mean, in Hoechst,
which was, oh, I think

2048
01:42:05,330 --> 01:42:07,980
it was about 4 or 5 miles.

2049
01:42:07,980 --> 01:42:09,410
It was a long way.

2050
01:42:09,410 --> 01:42:11,840
But they said that
if I walk, I'm

2051
01:42:11,840 --> 01:42:13,570
going to have an easier birth.

2052
01:42:13,570 --> 01:42:16,730
I came there, and I was
in labor for 26 hours.

2053
01:42:16,730 --> 01:42:19,520
Nothing happened.

2054
01:42:19,520 --> 01:42:22,640
And then I think I was
unconscious for about

2055
01:42:22,640 --> 01:42:26,600
five hours, I was told.

2056
01:42:26,600 --> 01:42:33,110
And they didn't take care

of me in this hospital.

2057

01:42:33,110 --> 01:42:38,780

Then, the midwife or whoever
is delivering babies there,

2058

01:42:38,780 --> 01:42:41,510

the nurse, called
the doctor and said

2059

01:42:41,510 --> 01:42:44,840

that I'm unconscious
for a long time, better

2060

01:42:44,840 --> 01:42:46,400

do something about me.

2061

01:42:46,400 --> 01:42:49,580

And so they had to have
permission from the UN.

2062

01:42:49,580 --> 01:42:51,490

Well, I don't know
if it's the UN.

2063

01:42:51,490 --> 01:42:52,490

It was called the UNRRA.

2064

01:42:52,490 --> 01:42:56,150

I think it has something
to do with the UN.

2065

01:42:56,150 --> 01:43:00,500

International-- yeah,
I think it's the UN--

2066

01:43:00,500 --> 01:43:04,280

thinks that they had to
take my baby in pieces.

2067

01:43:04,280 --> 01:43:07,400

They said, the baby is dead,
it's never going to be born.

2068
01:43:07,400 --> 01:43:12,950
And they have the frau on
their UNRRA team, the number,

2069
01:43:12,950 --> 01:43:14,000
you know?

2070
01:43:14,000 --> 01:43:20,120
Because they paid for the
care of us, of me there.

2071
01:43:20,120 --> 01:43:22,160
And that's when I woke up.

2072
01:43:22,160 --> 01:43:23,600
I was unconscious
for a long time,

2073
01:43:23,600 --> 01:43:25,475
but I woke up when I
heard that they're going

2074
01:43:25,475 --> 01:43:27,950
to take my child in pieces.

2075
01:43:27,950 --> 01:43:30,920
And I started
screaming so that they

2076
01:43:30,920 --> 01:43:32,930
would hear me on the phone.

2077
01:43:32,930 --> 01:43:37,380
Started screaming, they
want to kill my-- my baby!

2078
01:43:37,380 --> 01:43:41,720
I want a whole baby,
not a baby in pieces.

2079
01:43:41,720 --> 01:43:50,150

So they performed-- they
performed a C-section on me.

2080
01:43:50,150 --> 01:43:53,780
And from what they
told me, I was--

2081
01:43:53,780 --> 01:43:56,060
that six people, after
I was strapped down,

2082
01:43:56,060 --> 01:43:56,990
had to hold me down.

2083
01:43:56,990 --> 01:43:59,420
I was so--

2084
01:43:59,420 --> 01:44:04,580
I was tearing the
stirrups and everything.

2085
01:44:04,580 --> 01:44:08,450
I wouldn't lie still.

2086
01:44:08,450 --> 01:44:12,860
And after the surgery,
I got an infection,

2087
01:44:12,860 --> 01:44:15,770
because they operated with--

2088
01:44:15,770 --> 01:44:18,260
Friday-- this was
Saturday morning--

2089
01:44:18,260 --> 01:44:20,300
Friday is their
operating day, and I

2090
01:44:20,300 --> 01:44:23,720
think the instruments
weren't cleaned or anything.

2091

01:44:23,720 --> 01:44:27,020

And they performed surgery
on me with dirty instruments

2092

01:44:27,020 --> 01:44:27,920

and I got infected.

2093

01:44:27,920 --> 01:44:30,530

2094

01:44:30,530 --> 01:44:33,510

And I couldn't move.

2095

01:44:33,510 --> 01:44:34,790

I couldn't move my hands.

2096

01:44:34,790 --> 01:44:37,890

I was lying there.

2097

01:44:37,890 --> 01:44:42,890

By the way, they went--
after the operation,

2098

01:44:42,890 --> 01:44:48,050

because it was curfew there, my
husband came Saturday morning.

2099

01:44:48,050 --> 01:44:50,000

And the doctor
who operated on me

2100

01:44:50,000 --> 01:44:54,020

said that, your baby is dead.

2101

01:44:54,020 --> 01:44:59,570

And my husband took her by
the collar, by her jacket

2102

01:44:59,570 --> 01:45:02,330

or whatever she had on,
he said, she is not dead.

2103

01:45:02,330 --> 01:45:04,460

My baby is not dead.

2104

01:45:04,460 --> 01:45:07,310

You are a liar.

2105

01:45:07,310 --> 01:45:13,580

And while she was telling
that to my husband,

2106

01:45:13,580 --> 01:45:16,430

a nun came in, and
a couple of nuns

2107

01:45:16,430 --> 01:45:19,730

behind her, with
this beautiful baby,

2108

01:45:19,730 --> 01:45:21,140

a little red bow in her hair.

2109

01:45:21,140 --> 01:45:25,040

It was my baby.

2110

01:45:25,040 --> 01:45:27,890

What they did,
they gave me ether.

2111

01:45:27,890 --> 01:45:31,940

I remember that part, when
they told me to count backward.

2112

01:45:31,940 --> 01:45:35,630

And I think because
of the long labor,

2113

01:45:35,630 --> 01:45:38,120

the baby turned
blue or something.

2114

01:45:38,120 --> 01:45:43,280

And instead of reviving her,

they threw her out into--

2115
01:45:43,280 --> 01:45:48,260
outside, I think, on
a table or whatever.

2116
01:45:48,260 --> 01:46:00,000
And the nuns go there to serve
us very early in the morning,

2117
01:46:00,000 --> 01:46:01,340
like 5:30 or something.

2118
01:46:01,340 --> 01:46:07,100
Before they start their
duties, they go to the chapel.

2119
01:46:07,100 --> 01:46:10,250
And they walk by
there, and they saw

2120
01:46:10,250 --> 01:46:13,280
this baby lying on the table.

2121
01:46:13,280 --> 01:46:16,460
So they picked it up, you know?

2122
01:46:16,460 --> 01:46:21,140
And I think they felt like maybe
they still can revive the baby.

2123
01:46:21,140 --> 01:46:24,200
They took the baby
and wrapped it.

2124
01:46:24,200 --> 01:46:29,750
And they rinsed her
stomach, they said,

2125
01:46:29,750 --> 01:46:34,730
with a half a liter of
tea, which is half a quart

2126

01:46:34,730 --> 01:46:36,440
of black tea.

2127

01:46:36,440 --> 01:46:38,300
That's what they told me.

2128

01:46:38,300 --> 01:46:40,130
They rinsed her stomach.

2129

01:46:40,130 --> 01:46:44,270
And then she started
crying, and she was OK.

2130

01:46:44,270 --> 01:46:47,210
They cleaned her up, and
they brought her, while,

2131

01:46:47,210 --> 01:46:49,760
at the same time, while the
doctor was telling my husband

2132

01:46:49,760 --> 01:46:52,490
that the baby is dead.

2133

01:46:52,490 --> 01:46:55,640
So that's how much care
they gave of Jewish children

2134

01:46:55,640 --> 01:46:57,800
in Germany.

2135

01:46:57,800 --> 01:47:04,370
Then, after that, as
I say, I got infected.

2136

01:47:04,370 --> 01:47:07,640
And I was in a ward.

2137

01:47:07,640 --> 01:47:08,930
There was all kinds of people.

2138

01:47:08,930 --> 01:47:11,540

2139

01:47:11,540 --> 01:47:14,240

The nurse would uncover me.

2140

01:47:14,240 --> 01:47:16,490

And the doctors would
make their morning rounds

2141

01:47:16,490 --> 01:47:21,460

and just have a look
from far away and go by.

2142

01:47:21,460 --> 01:47:24,040

And nobody paid too
much attention to me.

2143

01:47:24,040 --> 01:47:26,930

My husband would come every
day and wipe my lips--

2144

01:47:26,930 --> 01:47:29,135

they were burned--
with a wet cloth.

2145

01:47:29,135 --> 01:47:32,090

2146

01:47:32,090 --> 01:47:36,440

And there, they didn't give
you any food if you didn't

2147

01:47:36,440 --> 01:47:38,600

go to the bathroom first.

2148

01:47:38,600 --> 01:47:41,880

That was the-- their policy.

2149

01:47:41,880 --> 01:47:47,870

I don't know if it was just
for new mothers or whatever.

2150

01:47:47,870 --> 01:47:49,550

But then when they
came out-- when

2151

01:47:49,550 --> 01:47:51,800

they came to take
out my stitches,

2152

01:47:51,800 --> 01:47:56,660

the seventh day, I think, they
take out the first stitches?

2153

01:47:56,660 --> 01:48:01,060

The same doctor who did the
surgery, I think, came with--

2154

01:48:01,060 --> 01:48:07,340

with her little things
where she puts the things.

2155

01:48:07,340 --> 01:48:10,940

And she started taking out
two and three stitches.

2156

01:48:10,940 --> 01:48:15,170

And the thing-- my whole
stomach opened up and burst.

2157

01:48:15,170 --> 01:48:20,630

And the pus started
running over.

2158

01:48:20,630 --> 01:48:24,025

2159

01:48:24,025 --> 01:48:26,840

And she started ringing
for the nurses to come.

2160

01:48:26,840 --> 01:48:29,270

And they brought
towels and sheets

2161

01:48:29,270 --> 01:48:33,920

and surrounded me, because

I was just, I think--

2162

01:48:33,920 --> 01:48:36,200

I felt a great release.

2163

01:48:36,200 --> 01:48:37,490

I had a high temperature.

2164

01:48:37,490 --> 01:48:43,040

Nobody took-- cared

one way or another.

2165

01:48:43,040 --> 01:48:46,610

Anyway, I felt a big relief.

2166

01:48:46,610 --> 01:48:50,900

I felt like I can

lift my arm now.

2167

01:48:50,900 --> 01:48:56,750

But they took me on a

gurney, covered me up.

2168

01:48:56,750 --> 01:48:58,490

Didn't put me together again--

2169

01:48:58,490 --> 01:49:03,860

just the way I was, with all

of-- took away the wet things.

2170

01:49:03,860 --> 01:49:06,170

Covered me up, took me to--

2171

01:49:06,170 --> 01:49:08,840

to the infectious

ward, which, in turn,

2172

01:49:08,840 --> 01:49:11,780

the nuns were in charge of.

2173

01:49:11,780 --> 01:49:13,490

And there, they didn't
put me in a room.

2174

01:49:13,490 --> 01:49:14,945

They put me in a
bathroom to die.

2175

01:49:14,945 --> 01:49:18,200

2176

01:49:18,200 --> 01:49:23,370

The bathroom was the type of
bathroom where they kept linen.

2177

01:49:23,370 --> 01:49:24,890

It wasn't used as a bathroom.

2178

01:49:24,890 --> 01:49:28,100

It was used more like a
storage room, a linen room.

2179

01:49:28,100 --> 01:49:34,040

And they wheeled me in, in
there, and turned off the light

2180

01:49:34,040 --> 01:49:35,420

and left.

2181

01:49:35,420 --> 01:49:37,460

Nobody gave me any medication.

2182

01:49:37,460 --> 01:49:40,940

Nobody gave me any--

2183

01:49:40,940 --> 01:49:43,160

I mean, I wasn't taken care of.

2184

01:49:43,160 --> 01:49:48,080

They just put me
in there to die.

2185

01:49:48,080 --> 01:49:51,260

In the morning, the nuns
came in, and I asked them,

2186

01:49:51,260 --> 01:49:52,810

can I have some breakfast?

2187

01:49:52,810 --> 01:49:54,560

And they were very
surprised, because they

2188

01:49:54,560 --> 01:49:56,990

put me there to die.

2189

01:49:56,990 --> 01:50:01,550

But because my stomach opened up
and all of that thing came out,

2190

01:50:01,550 --> 01:50:03,140

I felt better.

2191

01:50:03,140 --> 01:50:06,830

So now they have
to find me a bed.

2192

01:50:06,830 --> 01:50:10,970

So they find me a bed where
there is three other women.

2193

01:50:10,970 --> 01:50:14,730

I'm the fourth.

2194

01:50:14,730 --> 01:50:18,810

And the doctor goes and she--

2195

01:50:18,810 --> 01:50:20,340

and they put in--

2196

01:50:20,340 --> 01:50:25,468

then they go and they put
in drainage pipes in me.

2197

01:50:25,468 --> 01:50:27,510

Then they used-- I don't
know what they have now,

2198

01:50:27,510 --> 01:50:31,050

they used to have glass.

2199

01:50:31,050 --> 01:50:34,590

One on the top, one on
the bottom of my stomach,

2200

01:50:34,590 --> 01:50:37,560

to drain the pus.

2201

01:50:37,560 --> 01:50:41,700

And I remember, all
around me, the sheets

2202

01:50:41,700 --> 01:50:44,725

were all green from this--

2203

01:50:44,725 --> 01:50:48,210

from the infection.

2204

01:50:48,210 --> 01:50:50,760

And to keep the
infection in control,

2205

01:50:50,760 --> 01:50:52,920

they told my husband,
a couple of days

2206

01:50:52,920 --> 01:50:57,450

later, that I need alcohol,
any type of alcohol he can get,

2207

01:50:57,450 --> 01:51:01,662

but I need a whole
quart of alcohol a day.

2208

01:51:01,662 --> 01:51:03,120

In the meantime,

I didn't know what

2209

01:51:03,120 --> 01:51:06,420
was going on with my child,
because I couldn't see her,

2210

01:51:06,420 --> 01:51:09,630
because I had an infection.

2211

01:51:09,630 --> 01:51:13,740
My husband told me the baby
was still in the hospital.

2212

01:51:13,740 --> 01:51:16,530
And we were on the kibbutz.

2213

01:51:16,530 --> 01:51:19,510
There was nobody really
to take care of her.

2214

01:51:19,510 --> 01:51:21,550
Finally, he went,
goes to see her,

2215

01:51:21,550 --> 01:51:24,450
and she's all covered in rash.

2216

01:51:24,450 --> 01:51:27,167
So he takes the baby
home and doesn't

2217

01:51:27,167 --> 01:51:29,250
know what to do with her
or with what to feed her.

2218

01:51:29,250 --> 01:51:32,070

2219

01:51:32,070 --> 01:51:38,360
And I don't know how he
goes to buy mother's milk.

2220

01:51:38,360 --> 01:51:43,560
We had no formula or anything
to feed the baby with.

2221
01:51:43,560 --> 01:51:48,840
And it was in the
end of May, so--

2222
01:51:48,840 --> 01:51:51,680
or in June, then it
was already June--

2223
01:51:51,680 --> 01:51:54,180
people were eating strawberries,
and she was allergic to it.

2224
01:51:54,180 --> 01:51:57,510
Again, she gets infected.

2225
01:51:57,510 --> 01:52:01,230
I had a friend who had a
baby three weeks older.

2226
01:52:01,230 --> 01:52:03,240
And after she nursed her child--

2227
01:52:03,240 --> 01:52:04,620
but she also lived in kibbutz.

2228
01:52:04,620 --> 01:52:07,860
The food wasn't so
great, and so she

2229
01:52:07,860 --> 01:52:10,840
didn't have enough
for two children,

2230
01:52:10,840 --> 01:52:12,340
but she would feed
her a little bit.

2231
01:52:12,340 --> 01:52:19,930
Otherwise, she just lived on

tea and sugar for five weeks.

2232

01:52:19,930 --> 01:52:24,160

And my husband would
buy milk, skim milk--

2233

01:52:24,160 --> 01:52:26,380

that's all they had--

2234

01:52:26,380 --> 01:52:29,560

on the black market and
bathe her in it to make

2235

01:52:29,560 --> 01:52:31,420

her wounds heal.

2236

01:52:31,420 --> 01:52:34,570

That's my-- of
course, I didn't know,

2237

01:52:34,570 --> 01:52:36,220

because he wouldn't
tell me anything,

2238

01:52:36,220 --> 01:52:39,250

because it would
get me very upset.

2239

01:52:39,250 --> 01:52:43,780

The nuns also suggested that
they bring me food from home,

2240

01:52:43,780 --> 01:52:45,340

because their food
wasn't so good

2241

01:52:45,340 --> 01:52:48,130

and there wasn't so
much of it or whatever.

2242

01:52:48,130 --> 01:52:49,720

Or they didn't
want to feed a Jew.

2243
01:52:49,720 --> 01:52:52,010
I don't know what it was.

2244
01:52:52,010 --> 01:52:56,860
So they would-- my
husband, in a kibbutz--

2245
01:52:56,860 --> 01:52:59,560
and as I said, there
wasn't very much--

2246
01:52:59,560 --> 01:53:01,090
would bring me food.

2247
01:53:01,090 --> 01:53:05,200
My brother would go, and he
sold his hat and whatever

2248
01:53:05,200 --> 01:53:09,430
he had to get a chicken
and have it killed

2249
01:53:09,430 --> 01:53:11,120
and make me chicken soup or--

2250
01:53:11,120 --> 01:53:13,600
Your brother-in-law also
came to the kibbutz?

2251
01:53:13,600 --> 01:53:14,100
Yeah.

2252
01:53:14,100 --> 01:53:16,180
Yeah.

2253
01:53:16,180 --> 01:53:19,540
So that's the brother
that lives now in Alameda.

2254
01:53:19,540 --> 01:53:21,490
But he tried to help that way.

2255
01:53:21,490 --> 01:53:25,510

2256
01:53:25,510 --> 01:53:28,930
So food was brought mostly
from there every day.

2257
01:53:28,930 --> 01:53:30,940
And my husband had to walk--

2258
01:53:30,940 --> 01:53:32,200
4 or 5 miles?

2259
01:53:32,200 --> 01:53:35,340
--miles, yeah.

2260
01:53:35,340 --> 01:53:38,940
So all of this was
going on, and they

2261
01:53:38,940 --> 01:53:40,900
didn't know whether I'm
going to get better.

2262
01:53:40,900 --> 01:53:42,300
He had to go on
the black market,

2263
01:53:42,300 --> 01:53:44,250
first, and buy some alcohol.

2264
01:53:44,250 --> 01:53:46,680
Sometimes it was
rubbing alcohol.

2265
01:53:46,680 --> 01:53:50,580
Sometimes it was regular
whiskey of some type-- whatever

2266
01:53:50,580 --> 01:53:51,480
there was available.

2267
01:53:51,480 --> 01:53:54,180
Sometimes it was champagne.

2268
01:53:54,180 --> 01:53:56,430
Now, what they did
with this alcohol is

2269
01:53:56,430 --> 01:54:02,070
the nuns would mix it with
eggs and put it in a teakettle,

2270
01:54:02,070 --> 01:54:06,750
put it on my chest, and
I just drank it down.

2271
01:54:06,750 --> 01:54:09,211
The eggs were there so it
wouldn't burn my throat.

2272
01:54:09,211 --> 01:54:09,711
Hmm.

2273
01:54:09,711 --> 01:54:12,540

2274
01:54:12,540 --> 01:54:18,150
So that kept the infection
from getting worse.

2275
01:54:18,150 --> 01:54:21,100
Then, one day the
doctor examines me.

2276
01:54:21,100 --> 01:54:25,170
She sees my belly is
very big or whatever.

2277
01:54:25,170 --> 01:54:27,090
They go put me back
to sleep, and they're

2278

01:54:27,090 --> 01:54:29,730
going to do more surgery on me.

2279
01:54:29,730 --> 01:54:31,560
While I was asleep,
I was relaxed,

2280
01:54:31,560 --> 01:54:34,560
and I emptied my bladder.

2281
01:54:34,560 --> 01:54:37,380
They were going to operate.

2282
01:54:37,380 --> 01:54:45,330
The reason was that, I
guess, I was in pain,

2283
01:54:45,330 --> 01:54:49,740
and it was painful to go
on a bed pan or whatever.

2284
01:54:49,740 --> 01:54:53,490
And that caused the
distention in your belly.

2285
01:54:53,490 --> 01:54:58,710
Yeah, so anyway, after then--

2286
01:54:58,710 --> 01:55:00,600
we had a doctor on the kibbutz.

2287
01:55:00,600 --> 01:55:05,250
And he went to the
German doctors,

2288
01:55:05,250 --> 01:55:08,430
and he said, if you are
not going to do something

2289
01:55:08,430 --> 01:55:13,680
about this Jewish woman, I'll
see to it that you pay for it.

2290

01:55:13,680 --> 01:55:14,690

Enough is enough.

2291

01:55:14,690 --> 01:55:16,560

I mean, they saw that I--

2292

01:55:16,560 --> 01:55:19,320

I'm not being treated right.

2293

01:55:19,320 --> 01:55:22,860

So they told him that if

I could get penicillin,

2294

01:55:22,860 --> 01:55:25,290

they could help me.

2295

01:55:25,290 --> 01:55:30,330

So my husband had to go to a
chaplain, an American chaplain,

2296

01:55:30,330 --> 01:55:33,780

to somebody that was in
contact with my family here--

2297

01:55:33,780 --> 01:55:38,100

a chaplain and a newspaper
woman from New York, who

2298

01:55:38,100 --> 01:55:42,120

was a correspondent in the war.

2299

01:55:42,120 --> 01:55:46,980

And they, in turn, let
my family know here.

2300

01:55:46,980 --> 01:55:51,837

And they, I don't know how,
got somehow penicillin.

2301

01:55:51,837 --> 01:55:54,045

These were your uncles,
like, your mother's brothers?

2302
01:55:54,045 --> 01:55:55,320
Brothers.

2303
01:55:55,320 --> 01:55:56,940
They got penicillin for me.

2304
01:55:56,940 --> 01:55:59,880
Then they were giving
penicillin every five hours.

2305
01:55:59,880 --> 01:56:01,510
It wasn't the same as now.

2306
01:56:01,510 --> 01:56:04,380

2307
01:56:04,380 --> 01:56:08,280
And so I got penicillin.

2308
01:56:08,280 --> 01:56:10,470
Now, the German
doctors in the hospital

2309
01:56:10,470 --> 01:56:12,648
were supposed to give it to me.

2310
01:56:12,648 --> 01:56:14,190
They didn't give me
the whole amount.

2311
01:56:14,190 --> 01:56:16,170
They gave me once or twice.

2312
01:56:16,170 --> 01:56:18,570
And they wanted to be
specially treated for that.

2313
01:56:18,570 --> 01:56:20,460
They got paid.

2314

01:56:20,460 --> 01:56:24,630
My husband had to give them
cigarettes, coffee that he

2315
01:56:24,630 --> 01:56:26,400
bought on the black market.

2316
01:56:26,400 --> 01:56:28,800
And we didn't have
much with what to buy.

2317
01:56:28,800 --> 01:56:31,950
But to save my life,
he had to do it.

2318
01:56:31,950 --> 01:56:34,215
After five weeks, I got
out of the hospital.

2319
01:56:34,215 --> 01:56:37,380

2320
01:56:37,380 --> 01:56:40,740
And I still had my glass
pipes in my stomach,

2321
01:56:40,740 --> 01:56:43,920
because I was still running.

2322
01:56:43,920 --> 01:56:48,190
But I was better to
get out of there.

2323
01:56:48,190 --> 01:56:50,370
And besides, they
didn't have room for me.

2324
01:56:50,370 --> 01:56:53,880
Anyway, after five weeks,
I got out of the hospital.

2325
01:56:53,880 --> 01:56:57,220
And I came home, and my

baby was-- weighed less than

2326

01:56:57,220 --> 01:57:00,287
at birth at five weeks.

2327

01:57:00,287 --> 01:57:01,245
Took her to the doctor.

2328

01:57:01,245 --> 01:57:03,820

2329

01:57:03,820 --> 01:57:08,250
And the doctor told me,
you have to nurse her,

2330

01:57:08,250 --> 01:57:09,390
but if not, she'll die.

2331

01:57:09,390 --> 01:57:12,290

2332

01:57:12,290 --> 01:57:18,060
After five weeks, I didn't
have anything to nurse with.

2333

01:57:18,060 --> 01:57:20,480
And I had an infection.

2334

01:57:20,480 --> 01:57:23,730
I still had some infection.

2335

01:57:23,730 --> 01:57:28,550
So I would get up at 4 o'clock
in the morning, go for a walk

2336

01:57:28,550 --> 01:57:31,160
before she wakes up
so I could nurse her,

2337

01:57:31,160 --> 01:57:33,500
because that kind
of stimulated me.

2338
01:57:33,500 --> 01:57:38,270
I also ate herring and
drank a lot of beer.

2339
01:57:38,270 --> 01:57:41,120
I blew up like a
balloon from the whole--

2340
01:57:41,120 --> 01:57:44,420
from that type of
things, because I

2341
01:57:44,420 --> 01:57:47,000
wanted to be able to nurse her.

2342
01:57:47,000 --> 01:57:49,460
And I did nurse
her for 10 months.

2343
01:57:49,460 --> 01:57:50,300
Really?

2344
01:57:50,300 --> 01:57:52,070
The milk came back?

2345
01:57:52,070 --> 01:57:56,540
Yeah, well, not in
abundance, but it came back.

2346
01:57:56,540 --> 01:57:59,760
It came back.

2347
01:57:59,760 --> 01:58:02,780
But it took an awful
lot of work to do that.

2348
01:58:02,780 --> 01:58:07,070
Then, the same German doctors
wanted me to sign a certificate

2349
01:58:07,070 --> 01:58:12,770

for them that they were good--

2350

01:58:12,770 --> 01:58:15,590
that they were treating
the Jewish people well

2351

01:58:15,590 --> 01:58:17,210
in the hospital.

2352

01:58:17,210 --> 01:58:19,460
Because it looks
like the hospital

2353

01:58:19,460 --> 01:58:22,010
then thinks the court
started, and they were

2354

01:58:22,010 --> 01:58:24,560
SS people who took care of me.

2355

01:58:24,560 --> 01:58:26,550
Wow.

2356

01:58:26,550 --> 01:58:30,590
I mean, the chief of
staff is an SS man.

2357

01:58:30,590 --> 01:58:31,670
So--

2358

01:58:31,670 --> 01:58:33,110
Did you sign?

2359

01:58:33,110 --> 01:58:34,660
No.

2360

01:58:34,660 --> 02:00:36,000