

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:05,080

2

00:01:05,080 --> 00:01:08,860

I'm Barbara Barer and
it's Sunday April 2nd

3

00:01:08,860 --> 00:01:10,900

in Oakland, California.

4

00:01:10,900 --> 00:01:14,480

And I'm interviewing Miriam
Michaelis this morning.

5

00:01:14,480 --> 00:01:17,560

Now Miriam, how old are you now?

6

00:01:17,560 --> 00:01:19,810

I'm 60 years old.

7

00:01:19,810 --> 00:01:20,930

Where were you born?

8

00:01:20,930 --> 00:01:24,820

I was born in Germany,
Dusseldorf, 1928.

9

00:01:24,820 --> 00:01:29,530

And how many children
were in your family?

10

00:01:29,530 --> 00:01:31,377

Two sisters older sisters

11

00:01:31,377 --> 00:01:32,710

So you're the youngest of three.

12

00:01:32,710 --> 00:01:33,700

Right.

13

00:01:33,700 --> 00:01:35,540
And what did your father do?

14
00:01:35,540 --> 00:01:37,420
My father was a
mechanical engineer.

15
00:01:37,420 --> 00:01:39,700
He had a machine shop.

16
00:01:39,700 --> 00:01:42,310
And what was your
life like as a child?

17
00:01:42,310 --> 00:01:44,630
We had a wonderful life.

18
00:01:44,630 --> 00:01:46,765
We had a large family.

19
00:01:46,765 --> 00:01:49,870

20
00:01:49,870 --> 00:01:51,920
We had we joined
the Jewish center,

21
00:01:51,920 --> 00:01:54,370
we grew up in a
Jewish community,

22
00:01:54,370 --> 00:01:57,310
had a lot of friends,
a lot of relatives,

23
00:01:57,310 --> 00:02:01,240
and like anybody else very
normal until this happened.

24
00:02:01,240 --> 00:02:02,020
What's this?

25

00:02:02,020 --> 00:02:04,570

Tell me what happened,
or how you became aware

26

00:02:04,570 --> 00:02:06,550

that something happened.

27

00:02:06,550 --> 00:02:08,199

I was not aware of anything.

28

00:02:08,199 --> 00:02:11,050

One night they broke
into the apartment.

29

00:02:11,050 --> 00:02:11,980

They broke everything.

30

00:02:11,980 --> 00:02:15,160

That was the 9th
of November 1938.

31

00:02:15,160 --> 00:02:17,740

You were just living a
normal life, going to school.

32

00:02:17,740 --> 00:02:19,540

What kind of school
did you go to?

33

00:02:19,540 --> 00:02:23,410

At the end we could not
go to a regular school.

34

00:02:23,410 --> 00:02:24,940

We had to go to a Jewish school.

35

00:02:24,940 --> 00:02:26,170

We were not allowed.

36

00:02:26,170 --> 00:02:30,190

I think that happened
in 1937, a year before.

37

00:02:30,190 --> 00:02:32,940

But you started out going
to a regular public school?

38

00:02:32,940 --> 00:02:33,530

Yes.

39

00:02:33,530 --> 00:02:36,760

And then how did
you get shifted?

40

00:02:36,760 --> 00:02:38,425

What happened?

41

00:02:38,425 --> 00:02:40,550

We were just not allowed
to go to a regular school.

42

00:02:40,550 --> 00:02:43,880

We had to go only Jewish
teachers and Jewish children.

43

00:02:43,880 --> 00:02:45,555

It was like a synagogue.

44

00:02:45,555 --> 00:02:48,950

How did your parents
tell you about that?

45

00:02:48,950 --> 00:02:50,890

I really don't
remember too much.

46

00:02:50,890 --> 00:02:54,400

I knew only I was shifted and
I didn't think anything of it

47

00:02:54,400 --> 00:02:55,330

at that time.

48

00:02:55,330 --> 00:02:57,090

Were most of your

friends are Jewish?

49

00:02:57,090 --> 00:02:57,590

Yes.

50

00:02:57,590 --> 00:03:00,280

So they went with you.

51

00:03:00,280 --> 00:03:01,300

Right.

52

00:03:01,300 --> 00:03:04,360

I went to Hebrew school at
that time already anyway,

53

00:03:04,360 --> 00:03:06,460

so it was familiar surroundings.

54

00:03:06,460 --> 00:03:08,980

So that didn't seem like
such a big transition.

55

00:03:08,980 --> 00:03:11,080

No, that was not such
a big transition.

56

00:03:11,080 --> 00:03:14,300

So the major impact
was November 9th.

57

00:03:14,300 --> 00:03:16,210

Right.

58

00:03:16,210 --> 00:03:19,265

Tell me what happened that
night with the family.

59

00:03:19,265 --> 00:03:20,515

They came into the apartment--

60

00:03:20,515 --> 00:03:21,640

Who is they?

61
00:03:21,640 --> 00:03:24,670
The Nazis came
into the apartment

62
00:03:24,670 --> 00:03:26,720
and they just broke
up everything.

63
00:03:26,720 --> 00:03:28,810
That's why they call
it Kristallnacht.

64
00:03:28,810 --> 00:03:31,480
Had you seen Nazis
around before?

65
00:03:31,480 --> 00:03:32,000
Oh yes.

66
00:03:32,000 --> 00:03:33,850
We had seen them before.

67
00:03:33,850 --> 00:03:37,370
But I was not aware
as much at that time.

68
00:03:37,370 --> 00:03:39,370
And you know it was such
a shock you didn't even

69
00:03:39,370 --> 00:03:40,810
know what was happening.

70
00:03:40,810 --> 00:03:41,500
What did you do?

71
00:03:41,500 --> 00:03:43,960
What did your family do
when they came in the house?

72
00:03:43,960 --> 00:03:46,000

They just took my father
and we went upstairs

73
00:03:46,000 --> 00:03:48,250
to hide upstairs someplace.

74
00:03:48,250 --> 00:03:50,020
There was a big
apartment house and there

75
00:03:50,020 --> 00:03:53,720
was like a little rooms all
the way on the top floor.

76
00:03:53,720 --> 00:03:57,880
We went up there we stayed
there until they left.

77
00:03:57,880 --> 00:03:59,920
And what did they do
inside your house?

78
00:03:59,920 --> 00:04:02,350
Completely wrecked everything.

79
00:04:02,350 --> 00:04:05,950
So you and your mother
and sisters were upstairs?

80
00:04:05,950 --> 00:04:06,610
Right.

81
00:04:06,610 --> 00:04:11,470
And when was the last time you
saw your father that night?

82
00:04:11,470 --> 00:04:13,810
I never saw him again until
I came to this country.

83
00:04:13,810 --> 00:04:15,850
You had no idea.

84

00:04:15,850 --> 00:04:16,720

No.

85

00:04:16,720 --> 00:04:19,600

But in the meantime,
we had to go.

86

00:04:19,600 --> 00:04:22,840

We went to Holland and
a children's transport.

87

00:04:22,840 --> 00:04:27,520

How soon after Kristallnacht
did that happen?

88

00:04:27,520 --> 00:04:30,130

Within a few weeks, because
the Jewish committee

89

00:04:30,130 --> 00:04:33,950

tried to get all the
children out of Germany.

90

00:04:33,950 --> 00:04:36,040

So you and your sisters.

91

00:04:36,040 --> 00:04:38,350

No, only my middle sister.

92

00:04:38,350 --> 00:04:40,870

My older sister and my
mother stayed behind

93

00:04:40,870 --> 00:04:43,750

because they tried to
finish, sell as much

94

00:04:43,750 --> 00:04:45,520

and take as much
along as possible.

95

00:04:45,520 --> 00:04:48,050

96

00:04:48,050 --> 00:04:53,650

And so in the meantime, we
went into a children's home

97

00:04:53,650 --> 00:04:54,295

in Holland.

98

00:04:54,295 --> 00:04:55,940

It was all Jewish children.

99

00:04:55,940 --> 00:04:57,850

How did you get from
Germany to Holland?

100

00:04:57,850 --> 00:04:59,720

By train we were transported.

101

00:04:59,720 --> 00:05:01,120

A whole trainload of children--

102

00:05:01,120 --> 00:05:01,620

Right.

103

00:05:01,620 --> 00:05:05,350

--from Dusseldorf and
other parts of Germany?

104

00:05:05,350 --> 00:05:08,110

There were from all
different parts of Germany.

105

00:05:08,110 --> 00:05:10,700

And again were you
with your friends?

106

00:05:10,700 --> 00:05:12,910

No.

107

00:05:12,910 --> 00:05:14,530

Everybody was separated.

108
00:05:14,530 --> 00:05:16,250
Only with my one sister.

109
00:05:16,250 --> 00:05:18,130
That's all.

110
00:05:18,130 --> 00:05:21,040
And what happened when
you got to Holland?

111
00:05:21,040 --> 00:05:23,170
We came into a pretty nice home.

112
00:05:23,170 --> 00:05:26,740
Very strict, but so many
things happened at that time

113
00:05:26,740 --> 00:05:30,040
you didn't even realize
what was happening.

114
00:05:30,040 --> 00:05:31,630
But they were pretty nice to us.

115
00:05:31,630 --> 00:05:33,410
A Jewish family in Holland?

116
00:05:33,410 --> 00:05:34,070
No.

117
00:05:34,070 --> 00:05:35,740
It was like a nunnery.

118
00:05:35,740 --> 00:05:37,840
Oh, an institution.

119
00:05:37,840 --> 00:05:39,250
An institution.

120
00:05:39,250 --> 00:05:40,870

That's right.

121

00:05:40,870 --> 00:05:43,630

How much older is
your sister than you?

122

00:05:43,630 --> 00:05:44,980

Three years.

123

00:05:44,980 --> 00:05:47,050

So you were together.

124

00:05:47,050 --> 00:05:48,030

Right, but we had--

125

00:05:48,030 --> 00:05:51,220

You always think you're
going to see our parents,

126

00:05:51,220 --> 00:05:52,220

but we didn't even know.

127

00:05:52,220 --> 00:05:54,460

It was such confusion
with the whole thing.

128

00:05:54,460 --> 00:05:57,550

We had letters and they called.

129

00:05:57,550 --> 00:05:59,710

We found out in the
meantime that my father

130

00:05:59,710 --> 00:06:03,990

had gone to Cuba because he came
out of the concentration camp

131

00:06:03,990 --> 00:06:07,730

providing he leaves Germany
within five or 10 days.

132

00:06:07,730 --> 00:06:09,610

How long was he in the
concentration camp?

133
00:06:09,610 --> 00:06:10,980
About a couple of weeks.

134
00:06:10,980 --> 00:06:13,390
And you don't know
how he got out?

135
00:06:13,390 --> 00:06:15,590
My mother got him out somehow.

136
00:06:15,590 --> 00:06:17,465
But I was in the meantime
in Holland already.

137
00:06:17,465 --> 00:06:20,320
Was he quite a prominent member
of the community in Dusseldorf?

138
00:06:20,320 --> 00:06:22,790
Yes, he was very active.

139
00:06:22,790 --> 00:06:26,590
And I think that
helped him to get out.

140
00:06:26,590 --> 00:06:28,420
My mother had
connection money-wise

141
00:06:28,420 --> 00:06:29,830
and also she got him out.

142
00:06:29,830 --> 00:06:33,220
But she couldn't go
with him to Cuba.

143
00:06:33,220 --> 00:06:36,490
She didn't want to leave us in
Holland and my older sister.

144

00:06:36,490 --> 00:06:39,700

She could have gone with my
father but she didn't want to.

145

00:06:39,700 --> 00:06:42,400

She figured my father should
go ahead, settle everything

146

00:06:42,400 --> 00:06:44,770

in the meantime and
get things ready so

147

00:06:44,770 --> 00:06:46,690

that we can join him there.

148

00:06:46,690 --> 00:06:50,080

So how long did you
spend in the Netherlands?

149

00:06:50,080 --> 00:06:53,140

Till May.

150

00:06:53,140 --> 00:06:54,940

Did you go to school there?

151

00:06:54,940 --> 00:06:56,110

They had some school.

152

00:06:56,110 --> 00:06:57,760

We had to learn
the language first.

153

00:06:57,760 --> 00:07:01,120

I had some schooling,
but not a regular school.

154

00:07:01,120 --> 00:07:03,220

There just was in the place.

155

00:07:03,220 --> 00:07:06,490

How many children were there?

156

00:07:06,490 --> 00:07:07,700

Maybe 100 children.

157

00:07:07,700 --> 00:07:08,900

All German children.

158

00:07:08,900 --> 00:07:12,670

Yeah, all the same background.

159

00:07:12,670 --> 00:07:18,100

As a matter of fact, I just
ran into somebody the other day

160

00:07:18,100 --> 00:07:21,260

after 40 years I was
together with her.

161

00:07:21,260 --> 00:07:21,890

I found her.

162

00:07:21,890 --> 00:07:25,810

And she lived in New York about
10 blocks away from my house.

163

00:07:25,810 --> 00:07:27,710

How did you find here?

164

00:07:27,710 --> 00:07:31,420

She also tried to find out
somebody else in Holland,

165

00:07:31,420 --> 00:07:34,720

so it's very strange, but
anyway we found each other.

166

00:07:34,720 --> 00:07:35,870

You had been together.

167

00:07:35,870 --> 00:07:37,710

We were very close
together, yes.

168

00:07:37,710 --> 00:07:39,900

And you hadn't been in
touch in all those years.

169

00:07:39,900 --> 00:07:42,460

No.

170

00:07:42,460 --> 00:07:44,500

So what happened in May?

171

00:07:44,500 --> 00:07:50,080

In May, my mother and my older
sister who stayed in Germany

172

00:07:50,080 --> 00:07:53,440

boarded the Saint Louis,
and the Saint Louis

173

00:07:53,440 --> 00:07:56,090

stopped in Cherbourg in France.

174

00:07:56,090 --> 00:08:01,840

And my middle sister and myself
came from Holland by train

175

00:08:01,840 --> 00:08:04,360

to join my mother on the boat.

176

00:08:04,360 --> 00:08:06,065

And what was the destination?

177

00:08:06,065 --> 00:08:06,565

Cuba.

178

00:08:06,565 --> 00:08:09,530

179

00:08:09,530 --> 00:08:11,530

And what happened
when it got to Cuba?

180

00:08:11,530 --> 00:08:12,490
We couldn't land.

181
00:08:12,490 --> 00:08:13,720
Why?

182
00:08:13,720 --> 00:08:15,590
It was a propaganda
from Germany.

183
00:08:15,590 --> 00:08:19,300
1,000 Jews on the water,
nobody wants them.

184
00:08:19,300 --> 00:08:24,250
I don't understand exactly
what the propaganda was.

185
00:08:24,250 --> 00:08:28,630
To show that there are so many
Jews, nobody wants the Jews.

186
00:08:28,630 --> 00:08:30,640
The Germans were in
cahoots with the Cubans?

187
00:08:30,640 --> 00:08:32,320
Right.

188
00:08:32,320 --> 00:08:36,610
So that would validate that the
Germans weren't the only ones.

189
00:08:36,610 --> 00:08:37,809
Right.

190
00:08:37,809 --> 00:08:40,480
So where did the
boat go from Cuba?

191
00:08:40,480 --> 00:08:41,770
Was it a German boat?

192
00:08:41,770 --> 00:08:43,390
Yes, German.

193
00:08:43,390 --> 00:08:44,473
Everything German.

194
00:08:44,473 --> 00:08:46,390
So they knew they were
going to take you there

195
00:08:46,390 --> 00:08:48,160
but they knew they
weren't going to land.

196
00:08:48,160 --> 00:08:49,390
Somehow.

197
00:08:49,390 --> 00:08:50,770
The passengers didn't know.

198
00:08:50,770 --> 00:08:51,640
No, but the crew.

199
00:08:51,640 --> 00:08:52,570
The crew, right.

200
00:08:52,570 --> 00:08:56,050

201
00:08:56,050 --> 00:08:59,170
And then Holland.

202
00:08:59,170 --> 00:09:03,190
You went back to
Holland from Cuba?

203
00:09:03,190 --> 00:09:10,090
Yes, we went back and 250
people went to France, Belgium,

204
00:09:10,090 --> 00:09:11,320

England and Holland.

205

00:09:11,320 --> 00:09:13,630

Each country took 250 people.

206

00:09:13,630 --> 00:09:15,580

Did it ever stop in
the United States?

207

00:09:15,580 --> 00:09:17,860

No.

208

00:09:17,860 --> 00:09:22,577

Roosevelt only gave some money,
he didn't accept the people.

209

00:09:22,577 --> 00:09:23,410

President Roosevelt.

210

00:09:23,410 --> 00:09:24,933

But they were asked?

211

00:09:24,933 --> 00:09:26,350

Yeah, but they
wouldn't let us in.

212

00:09:26,350 --> 00:09:28,060

And the United States wouldn't.

213

00:09:28,060 --> 00:09:28,703

Would not.

214

00:09:28,703 --> 00:09:30,370

They just gave a
certain amount of money

215

00:09:30,370 --> 00:09:33,760

per person, so
something to start out.

216

00:09:33,760 --> 00:09:37,000

So how long were you traveling

around on the Saint Louis?

217

00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:39,850

I think with about
two or three weeks.

218

00:09:39,850 --> 00:09:45,370

I think we were in Cuba in the
Harbor About a week or 10 days.

219

00:09:45,370 --> 00:09:46,870

And your father was in Cuba.

220

00:09:46,870 --> 00:09:51,640

He was in Cuba, he came with
a little boat to our boat,

221

00:09:51,640 --> 00:09:54,640

but he couldn't come on the
boat and we couldn't get off.

222

00:09:54,640 --> 00:09:55,780

You just saw him.

223

00:09:55,780 --> 00:09:57,400

Right.

224

00:09:57,400 --> 00:10:00,340

Oh, the anguish.

225

00:10:00,340 --> 00:10:01,690

There was a lot of excitement.

226

00:10:01,690 --> 00:10:03,425

Some people committed suicide.

227

00:10:03,425 --> 00:10:05,050

They didn't want to
go back to Germany.

228

00:10:05,050 --> 00:10:09,400

Some people jumped over

because most people knew

229

00:10:09,400 --> 00:10:12,040

where they're going to go to.

230

00:10:12,040 --> 00:10:15,590

So that was a very

sad situation.

231

00:10:15,590 --> 00:10:17,440

So where were you let off?

232

00:10:17,440 --> 00:10:19,150

Holland.

233

00:10:19,150 --> 00:10:20,800

With your mother and sisters?

234

00:10:20,800 --> 00:10:24,100

My mother, my two

sisters, and Holland

235

00:10:24,100 --> 00:10:29,620

interned us at that time

because it was already starting.

236

00:10:29,620 --> 00:10:35,680

And I think it was a few

weeks later, it was 1939,

237

00:10:35,680 --> 00:10:38,990

we stayed there

for a few months.

238

00:10:38,990 --> 00:10:41,650

In a camp, or what

kind of situation?

239

00:10:41,650 --> 00:10:44,320

It was an internment camp.

240

00:10:44,320 --> 00:10:48,020

We were able to get in and
out, but we had no place to go,

241
00:10:48,020 --> 00:10:49,480
so we stayed there more or less.

242
00:10:49,480 --> 00:10:52,580

243
00:10:52,580 --> 00:10:54,410
We had hope that
we could go back.

244
00:10:54,410 --> 00:10:56,260
We tried to go to
England or someplace,

245
00:10:56,260 --> 00:10:58,070
but we just couldn't get out.

246
00:10:58,070 --> 00:11:01,210
We had no way of
getting anyplace.

247
00:11:01,210 --> 00:11:07,190
And then Germany came into
Holland and that was the end.

248
00:11:07,190 --> 00:11:07,880
What happened?

249
00:11:07,880 --> 00:11:10,970

250
00:11:10,970 --> 00:11:12,230
They invaded Holland.

251
00:11:12,230 --> 00:11:13,580
And how did they gather you up?

252
00:11:13,580 --> 00:11:14,660
What was the process?

253
00:11:14,660 --> 00:11:16,100
What was the situation?

254
00:11:16,100 --> 00:11:18,840
They found they
were all Jews there.

255
00:11:18,840 --> 00:11:23,180
And they used that as
a way to send everybody

256
00:11:23,180 --> 00:11:25,580
to a concentration
camp back to Germany.

257
00:11:25,580 --> 00:11:27,920
And all the Dutch people,
all the Dutch Jews

258
00:11:27,920 --> 00:11:34,490
were sent to Westerbork-- that
was the name of the place.

259
00:11:34,490 --> 00:11:38,030
And the German Jews were
brought back to Germany?

260
00:11:38,030 --> 00:11:41,120
Yes, they were sent from
there either to Auschwitz,

261
00:11:41,120 --> 00:11:44,220
Bergen-Belsen, Buchenwald,
all these places.

262
00:11:44,220 --> 00:11:47,150
So what happened to you?

263
00:11:47,150 --> 00:11:49,910
We stayed quite a while
because my mother kept saying,

264

00:11:49,910 --> 00:11:53,330

my husband is an
American citizen,

265

00:11:53,330 --> 00:11:56,180

you cannot touch us
and this and that.

266

00:11:56,180 --> 00:11:58,680

My father got through Red
Cross a lot of letters,

267

00:11:58,680 --> 00:12:01,880

so he knew we were alive,
he knew where we were,

268

00:12:01,880 --> 00:12:06,350

but he was not a citizen, so
he couldn't send the papers.

269

00:12:06,350 --> 00:12:10,970

But they did send us then to
Bergen-Belsen, all four of us.

270

00:12:10,970 --> 00:12:13,580

271

00:12:13,580 --> 00:12:14,990

From Westerbork.

272

00:12:14,990 --> 00:12:17,180

Tell me what it was
like in Bergen-Belsen.

273

00:12:17,180 --> 00:12:24,830

Bergen-Belsen was just
like big wooden buildings.

274

00:12:24,830 --> 00:12:28,550

And everybody got one bunk bed.

275

00:12:28,550 --> 00:12:29,638

And you see it happened.

276

00:12:29,638 --> 00:12:32,180

You didn't even know what was
happening because you were just

277

00:12:32,180 --> 00:12:34,790

like a number.

278

00:12:34,790 --> 00:12:36,260

They took everything away from.

279

00:12:36,260 --> 00:12:37,280

We had some clothing.

280

00:12:37,280 --> 00:12:38,000

Nothing.

281

00:12:38,000 --> 00:12:40,010

We had to work in a factory.

282

00:12:40,010 --> 00:12:42,590

What kind of work?

283

00:12:42,590 --> 00:12:45,560

They had a lot of
silkworms from Italy where

284

00:12:45,560 --> 00:12:47,780

we had to take the silk out.

285

00:12:47,780 --> 00:12:51,470

And then they had a lot
of uniforms where we

286

00:12:51,470 --> 00:12:53,060

had to cut out the good parts.

287

00:12:53,060 --> 00:12:55,460

Or they had shoes where we
had to cut out the good part.

288

00:12:55,460 --> 00:12:58,220
All dirty work, very dirty work.

289

00:12:58,220 --> 00:12:59,810
You were just a little girl.

290

00:12:59,810 --> 00:13:01,340
But everybody had to work.

291

00:13:01,340 --> 00:13:03,020
Everybody worked.

292

00:13:03,020 --> 00:13:04,690
There was nothing else.

293

00:13:04,690 --> 00:13:07,370
And were you together
with your sisters?

294

00:13:07,370 --> 00:13:14,390
Yeah, we were together
until I think it was April.

295

00:13:14,390 --> 00:13:15,890
It was coming close to the end.

296

00:13:15,890 --> 00:13:18,260
We could hear the
planes coming already,

297

00:13:18,260 --> 00:13:22,460
and we were surrounded by the
English and the American Army.

298

00:13:22,460 --> 00:13:24,920
And then they tried
to ship us away.

299

00:13:24,920 --> 00:13:28,280
And then we were liberated
in Hillersleben on the way

300

00:13:28,280 --> 00:13:31,800
to Auschwitz.

301

00:13:31,800 --> 00:13:37,520
What was the life like, the
daily routine in Bergen-Belsen?

302

00:13:37,520 --> 00:13:39,920
You got up.

303

00:13:39,920 --> 00:13:43,280
You had to go get
called at appell.

304

00:13:43,280 --> 00:13:44,510
You had to stand a line.

305

00:13:44,510 --> 00:13:48,590
They counted you and then they
took you to the factories.

306

00:13:48,590 --> 00:13:51,320
There were factories
within the camp.

307

00:13:51,320 --> 00:13:53,990
And who were supervised by?

308

00:13:53,990 --> 00:13:54,665
By the Germans.

309

00:13:54,665 --> 00:13:59,730

310

00:13:59,730 --> 00:14:01,830
And then you came
back home at night.

311

00:14:01,830 --> 00:14:03,210
And the next day the same thing.

312

00:14:03,210 --> 00:14:04,592
Every day the same thing.

313
00:14:04,592 --> 00:14:06,300
You went and were
counted in the morning,

314
00:14:06,300 --> 00:14:09,340
you went to the factory,
came back at night.

315
00:14:09,340 --> 00:14:11,670
How long did do this?

316
00:14:11,670 --> 00:14:15,210
I stayed in Bergen-Belsen.
about 16 months,

317
00:14:15,210 --> 00:14:18,370
until we were liberated.

318
00:14:18,370 --> 00:14:19,980
Was there ever any hope?

319
00:14:19,980 --> 00:14:21,870
Or what did you think about?

320
00:14:21,870 --> 00:14:24,730
I was young and you didn't know.

321
00:14:24,730 --> 00:14:26,730
You didn't even think.

322
00:14:26,730 --> 00:14:30,360
You just took day by day.

323
00:14:30,360 --> 00:14:33,550
Did your mother ever tell
you what it was like for her?

324
00:14:33,550 --> 00:14:35,832
My mother had passed away there.

325
00:14:35,832 --> 00:14:36,540
In Bergen-Belsen.

326
00:14:36,540 --> 00:14:37,290
Yeah.

327
00:14:37,290 --> 00:14:39,240
What happened?

328
00:14:39,240 --> 00:14:41,520
Starvation, like everybody else.

329
00:14:41,520 --> 00:14:43,080
How old was she?

330
00:14:43,080 --> 00:14:44,790
My mother was
about 60 years old.

331
00:14:44,790 --> 00:14:47,670

332
00:14:47,670 --> 00:14:50,790
Were you with her
when she was failing?

333
00:14:50,790 --> 00:14:51,360
No.

334
00:14:51,360 --> 00:14:53,190
How are you separated?

335
00:14:53,190 --> 00:14:56,130
I went to work and
that was the end.

336
00:14:56,130 --> 00:14:59,088
I came home at night and
she wasn't there anymore.

337

00:14:59,088 --> 00:14:59,880
They took her away.

338
00:14:59,880 --> 00:15:02,490

339
00:15:02,490 --> 00:15:04,070
And you don't know
where she was.

340
00:15:04,070 --> 00:15:06,400
No.

341
00:15:06,400 --> 00:15:08,750
Were people going
to the gas chamber?

342
00:15:08,750 --> 00:15:11,360
Not in Bergen-Belsen.

343
00:15:11,360 --> 00:15:13,460
That was a work camp.

344
00:15:13,460 --> 00:15:18,750
They had many different
camps, many different ones.

345
00:15:18,750 --> 00:15:22,340
So were some people selected to
go to one place or the other?

346
00:15:22,340 --> 00:15:24,347
You had no choice of selection.

347
00:15:24,347 --> 00:15:26,180
You were just told
that's what you're doing,

348
00:15:26,180 --> 00:15:27,170
that's where you go.

349
00:15:27,170 --> 00:15:32,480

But they selected able-bodied
people to go to Bergen-Belsen?

350
00:15:32,480 --> 00:15:34,190
Were there men
there, women there?

351
00:15:34,190 --> 00:15:38,780

352
00:15:38,780 --> 00:15:41,930
There were some men there,
some women there, children.

353
00:15:41,930 --> 00:15:45,710
Everything together.

354
00:15:45,710 --> 00:15:50,110
Were any children
ever born there?

355
00:15:50,110 --> 00:15:51,760
No.

356
00:15:51,760 --> 00:15:56,110
Were there ever any like upbeat
days or anything good ever

357
00:15:56,110 --> 00:16:00,550
happen or anecdotes of any--

358
00:16:00,550 --> 00:16:02,020
One day was like the other day.

359
00:16:02,020 --> 00:16:06,820
You just got up, counted, go to
work, come home, go to sleep.

360
00:16:06,820 --> 00:16:10,360
Same thing all over again.

361
00:16:10,360 --> 00:16:12,670

And you were with
children your age?

362
00:16:12,670 --> 00:16:14,260
Some, yeah.

363
00:16:14,260 --> 00:16:15,513
But you just worked.

364
00:16:15,513 --> 00:16:16,180
You didn't know.

365
00:16:16,180 --> 00:16:20,690
You became like an
animal more or less.

366
00:16:20,690 --> 00:16:22,880
Was there any contact
with your father?

367
00:16:22,880 --> 00:16:25,240
No, none whatsoever.

368
00:16:25,240 --> 00:16:26,290
We didn't know anything.

369
00:16:26,290 --> 00:16:27,010
He didn't know.

370
00:16:27,010 --> 00:16:28,390
Nobody knew anything.

371
00:16:28,390 --> 00:16:31,010
What about other members of
the family like your aunt

372
00:16:31,010 --> 00:16:33,080
and uncle, grandparents?

373
00:16:33,080 --> 00:16:35,590
A lot of people didn't come out.

374

00:16:35,590 --> 00:16:36,850

Some went before.

375

00:16:36,850 --> 00:16:40,470

Some went to Shanghai,
some went to South America

376

00:16:40,470 --> 00:16:42,040

or wherever they
were able to go to.

377

00:16:42,040 --> 00:16:44,680

It was a problem.

378

00:16:44,680 --> 00:16:45,820

Some left before.

379

00:16:45,820 --> 00:16:48,310

Some they didn't want to wait.

380

00:16:48,310 --> 00:16:49,360

it's very hard.

381

00:16:49,360 --> 00:16:52,640

My father felt he
had small children,

382

00:16:52,640 --> 00:16:54,190

it's hard to move, to get up.

383

00:16:54,190 --> 00:16:56,590

Hitler will die before
us and all this.

384

00:16:56,590 --> 00:17:00,670

385

00:17:00,670 --> 00:17:03,850

A lot of people went to
England from Germany.

386

00:17:03,850 --> 00:17:05,770

As a matter of fact,
they have a reunion now

387

00:17:05,770 --> 00:17:08,390

in England 50 years.

388

00:17:08,390 --> 00:17:10,869

A lot of children.

389

00:17:10,869 --> 00:17:14,310

So it happened
pretty fast for you.

390

00:17:14,310 --> 00:17:18,170

It goes so fast, you don't
even realize what's going on.

391

00:17:18,170 --> 00:17:20,920

also with the boat,
with the Saint Louis,

392

00:17:20,920 --> 00:17:23,810

so many things happened.

393

00:17:23,810 --> 00:17:26,619

What's your most vivid
memory of being on the boat?

394

00:17:26,619 --> 00:17:30,220

395

00:17:30,220 --> 00:17:33,610

Joining my mother and going
to see my father again soon.

396

00:17:33,610 --> 00:17:36,040

The anticipation, the
excitement, the joy.

397

00:17:36,040 --> 00:17:36,550

That's it.

398

00:17:36,550 --> 00:17:38,500

Coming back to
normal life again.

399

00:17:38,500 --> 00:17:41,390

I have a family.

400

00:17:41,390 --> 00:17:44,410

That's what it amounted to.

401

00:17:44,410 --> 00:17:46,610

How do you deal
with the feelings?

402

00:17:46,610 --> 00:17:50,120

You just learn to deal with
it, you just accept it.

403

00:17:50,120 --> 00:17:52,440

You have no choice, right?

404

00:17:52,440 --> 00:17:56,120

405

00:17:56,120 --> 00:18:00,000

You just hope there's always
a better day coming up.

406

00:18:00,000 --> 00:18:01,940

And you just learn
to have no choice.

407

00:18:01,940 --> 00:18:03,560

You have to accept it.

408

00:18:03,560 --> 00:18:07,010

Tell me about the plane
flying over Bergen-Belsen,

409

00:18:07,010 --> 00:18:08,540

what you thought then.

410

00:18:08,540 --> 00:18:11,720

We knew it was coming to an end.

411

00:18:11,720 --> 00:18:14,600

Was there any communication
with the outside world?

412

00:18:14,600 --> 00:18:16,310

None.

413

00:18:16,310 --> 00:18:17,450

Gossip?

414

00:18:17,450 --> 00:18:20,600

A little gossip,
yes, but you heard

415

00:18:20,600 --> 00:18:23,780

that the war was
going to be over soon

416

00:18:23,780 --> 00:18:24,950

and they're pretty close.

417

00:18:24,950 --> 00:18:25,910

We heard shooting.

418

00:18:25,910 --> 00:18:28,250

We heard a lot of
things going on.

419

00:18:28,250 --> 00:18:31,480

But you were so involved
with work and work and work

420

00:18:31,480 --> 00:18:34,010

that you don't even
know what's going on.

421

00:18:34,010 --> 00:18:37,760

Were you ever
treated very cruelly?

422
00:18:37,760 --> 00:18:40,040
No.

423
00:18:40,040 --> 00:18:40,880
Very strict.

424
00:18:40,880 --> 00:18:44,180
You just followed the rules
and regulations and that's

425
00:18:44,180 --> 00:18:45,050
about all.

426
00:18:45,050 --> 00:18:50,160
Did anybody ever not follow
the rules and regulations?

427
00:18:50,160 --> 00:18:50,660
No.

428
00:18:50,660 --> 00:18:54,650
Everybody more or less
wanted to be quiet,

429
00:18:54,650 --> 00:18:58,490
just because you knew if you
step to the side, forget it.

430
00:18:58,490 --> 00:19:01,970
You know very well
what's going to happen.

431
00:19:01,970 --> 00:19:05,330
Did you ever see any
evidence of that?

432
00:19:05,330 --> 00:19:06,860
Not actually.

433
00:19:06,860 --> 00:19:10,280
Being pushed and shoved

around, yes, but not really

434

00:19:10,280 --> 00:19:11,420
severely beaten.

435

00:19:11,420 --> 00:19:12,650
That's all.

436

00:19:12,650 --> 00:19:15,680
Were there ever any sexual
overtures to the women?

437

00:19:15,680 --> 00:19:16,680
Yes.

438

00:19:16,680 --> 00:19:18,620
Did you have
experiences like that?

439

00:19:18,620 --> 00:19:22,070
No, but I heard about it that
they did come in at night,

440

00:19:22,070 --> 00:19:24,860
the Germans.

441

00:19:24,860 --> 00:19:28,880
And some brought food and
everything else and figured,

442

00:19:28,880 --> 00:19:30,320
you know--

443

00:19:30,320 --> 00:19:31,190
They were favors.

444

00:19:31,190 --> 00:19:33,050
Right.

445

00:19:33,050 --> 00:19:37,670
So tell me about what
happened with the liberation.

446
00:19:37,670 --> 00:19:39,560
Yes, we were on the train.

447
00:19:39,560 --> 00:19:40,500
The train stopped.

448
00:19:40,500 --> 00:19:42,500
You were on the train
going from where to where?

449
00:19:42,500 --> 00:19:44,710
From Bergen-Belsen to Auschwitz

450
00:19:44,710 --> 00:19:46,370
Oh, you were on your
way to Auschwitz.

451
00:19:46,370 --> 00:19:48,400
Do you know why you
were going there?

452
00:19:48,400 --> 00:19:50,150
Why the change?

453
00:19:50,150 --> 00:19:56,540
We heard that the war was
almost over, so they wanted--

454
00:19:56,540 --> 00:19:59,990
they were coming too close to
Bergen-Belsen, the British army

455
00:19:59,990 --> 00:20:02,660
or English army, I don't
remember which one,

456
00:20:02,660 --> 00:20:04,360
but whatever they
were coming too close,

457
00:20:04,360 --> 00:20:06,710

so they wanted us
out of the way.

458
00:20:06,710 --> 00:20:13,250
So we were in the train
and somehow all of a sudden

459
00:20:13,250 --> 00:20:16,580
I remember the Germans were
taking off their uniforms

460
00:20:16,580 --> 00:20:18,020
and running.

461
00:20:18,020 --> 00:20:20,660
So they knew that's the
end because they didn't

462
00:20:20,660 --> 00:20:24,170
want to be caught by the
British or American Army,

463
00:20:24,170 --> 00:20:26,720
so they just threw
the uniforms away.

464
00:20:26,720 --> 00:20:29,590
They left us alone.

465
00:20:29,590 --> 00:20:32,240
The train stopped.

466
00:20:32,240 --> 00:20:36,740
So then we knew
that was the end.

467
00:20:36,740 --> 00:20:38,210
And then they came.

468
00:20:38,210 --> 00:20:40,490
They liberated us.

469

00:20:40,490 --> 00:20:41,310
Who came?

470
00:20:41,310 --> 00:20:44,490
The British Army.

471
00:20:44,490 --> 00:20:46,910
What did they do with you?

472
00:20:46,910 --> 00:20:49,730
Describe that event.

473
00:20:49,730 --> 00:20:53,540
There was so much
excitement that we just

474
00:20:53,540 --> 00:20:55,880
were looking at the
Germans the way they ran,

475
00:20:55,880 --> 00:20:58,040
and they took off their
uniforms and ran away

476
00:20:58,040 --> 00:20:59,882
and they just ran
in their underwear.

477
00:20:59,882 --> 00:21:01,340
They just didn't
want to be caught.

478
00:21:01,340 --> 00:21:05,360

479
00:21:05,360 --> 00:21:07,818
And then the British
boarded the train?

480
00:21:07,818 --> 00:21:08,360
That's right.

481

00:21:08,360 --> 00:21:09,560
They boarded the train.

482
00:21:09,560 --> 00:21:14,420
They tried to explain who they
were and what had happened.

483
00:21:14,420 --> 00:21:17,840
As a matter of fact, they
said Roosevelt died yesterday.

484
00:21:17,840 --> 00:21:22,140
It was the day after
President Roosevelt died.

485
00:21:22,140 --> 00:21:24,980
And they tried to give
us food, but first they

486
00:21:24,980 --> 00:21:25,940
had to clean us up.

487
00:21:25,940 --> 00:21:28,940
We were completely
all infested being

488
00:21:28,940 --> 00:21:32,680
in a train for a couple of weeks
without water, anything, hardly

489
00:21:32,680 --> 00:21:33,180
anything.

490
00:21:33,180 --> 00:21:38,460

491
00:21:38,460 --> 00:21:43,050
Then they put us into some
kind of hotel they used,

492
00:21:43,050 --> 00:21:44,865
and they got all the doctors.

493

00:21:44,865 --> 00:21:47,540

Somewhere between
Bergen-Belsen and Auschwitz.

494

00:21:47,540 --> 00:21:49,620

It was, I think, Hillersleben.

495

00:21:49,620 --> 00:21:53,550

That was near I think near
Magdeburg or some little town.

496

00:21:53,550 --> 00:21:56,700

They brought us there
by trucks and then

497

00:21:56,700 --> 00:21:58,410

they got all the facilities.

498

00:21:58,410 --> 00:21:59,910

I think they put
us into a hospital.

499

00:21:59,910 --> 00:22:02,610

They cleaned us up, they gave
us new clothing, examined us,

500

00:22:02,610 --> 00:22:05,310

and they started us
slowly with food.

501

00:22:05,310 --> 00:22:07,620

Were you still together
with both your sisters?

502

00:22:07,620 --> 00:22:10,230

Yes.

503

00:22:10,230 --> 00:22:14,790

And then from there we
were sent back to Holland

504

00:22:14,790 --> 00:22:17,970

because we had some property
we thought maybe we could find

505

00:22:17,970 --> 00:22:19,800
and we didn't know where to go.

506

00:22:19,800 --> 00:22:21,600
Because we did
come from Holland,

507

00:22:21,600 --> 00:22:23,520
then we figured we'd
go back to Holland.

508

00:22:23,520 --> 00:22:27,360
And the Jewish committee sent
us to different families.

509

00:22:27,360 --> 00:22:30,690
And we stayed there,
very nice people,

510

00:22:30,690 --> 00:22:33,810
until we were able to find
out if my father was alive,

511

00:22:33,810 --> 00:22:36,870
where he was, and we found
out through the Red Cross

512

00:22:36,870 --> 00:22:39,660
that my father had gone
to the United States.

513

00:22:39,660 --> 00:22:41,190
How did the Red Cross do this?

514

00:22:41,190 --> 00:22:42,690
You checked in?

515

00:22:42,690 --> 00:22:44,290
We checked in with
the Red Cross.

516
00:22:44,290 --> 00:22:47,490
They asked us where we have
family, where they went to,

517
00:22:47,490 --> 00:22:49,320
and somehow they
got the information.

518
00:22:49,320 --> 00:22:51,870
And my father knew
the war was over,

519
00:22:51,870 --> 00:22:53,400
maybe his family someplace.

520
00:22:53,400 --> 00:22:55,230
He also checked with
the Red Cross and

521
00:22:55,230 --> 00:22:59,130
that's how we got in contact
and we came to this country.

522
00:22:59,130 --> 00:23:01,740

523
00:23:01,740 --> 00:23:02,610
The three of you?

524
00:23:02,610 --> 00:23:06,120
All of us together, right.

525
00:23:06,120 --> 00:23:10,110
And then we couldn't get passage
right away we went over Sweden,

526
00:23:10,110 --> 00:23:12,300
came to this country
and joined my father.

527
00:23:12,300 --> 00:23:15,700

It was kind of strange
to come to a normal life.

528
00:23:15,700 --> 00:23:20,070
It took us really to get used
to because my father was used

529
00:23:20,070 --> 00:23:22,560
to a regular life,
three meals a day,

530
00:23:22,560 --> 00:23:26,190
you go to bed at a certain
time, you start going to work.

531
00:23:26,190 --> 00:23:30,480
But after a while everything
went back to normal.

532
00:23:30,480 --> 00:23:32,070
Where was he living?

533
00:23:32,070 --> 00:23:33,120
In New York City.

534
00:23:33,120 --> 00:23:34,530
In an apartment by himself?

535
00:23:34,530 --> 00:23:35,700
Right.

536
00:23:35,700 --> 00:23:37,170
He got in a larger apartment.

537
00:23:37,170 --> 00:23:38,660
We joined him then.

538
00:23:38,660 --> 00:23:42,000
How did he find out about your
mother's death, do you know?

539
00:23:42,000 --> 00:23:43,130

Through the Red Cross.

540

00:23:43,130 --> 00:23:43,680

Everything.

541

00:23:43,680 --> 00:23:45,420

The Red Cross was fabulous.

542

00:23:45,420 --> 00:23:46,500

They really did a lot.

543

00:23:46,500 --> 00:23:49,380

544

00:23:49,380 --> 00:23:52,680

So how old were you when you
landed in the United States.

545

00:23:52,680 --> 00:23:56,370

Oh, I must have been 17, 18?

546

00:23:56,370 --> 00:23:59,700

547

00:23:59,700 --> 00:24:01,980

But I made a lot of good
friends here in this country.

548

00:24:01,980 --> 00:24:04,338

The country was good to us.

549

00:24:04,338 --> 00:24:05,880

You went to school
when you got here?

550

00:24:05,880 --> 00:24:07,580

No, I had to go to work.

551

00:24:07,580 --> 00:24:09,210

What kind of work?

552

00:24:09,210 --> 00:24:12,270
I went into millinery,
making hats.

553
00:24:12,270 --> 00:24:16,680
So I met a lot of nice people,
nice people to work with.

554
00:24:16,680 --> 00:24:19,650
Was a custom shop
on fifth Avenue.

555
00:24:19,650 --> 00:24:21,870
And what did your sisters do?

556
00:24:21,870 --> 00:24:25,050
My sister became a dressmaker.

557
00:24:25,050 --> 00:24:27,990
And my other sister didn't
want to work for anybody.

558
00:24:27,990 --> 00:24:32,050
She opened up a dressmaker
supply store in the Bronx.

559
00:24:32,050 --> 00:24:32,940
She sold material.

560
00:24:32,940 --> 00:24:34,770
She liked that.

561
00:24:34,770 --> 00:24:36,960
I didn't like the idea
of having a business.

562
00:24:36,960 --> 00:24:42,000
I just wanted to go to work and
meet people, friends and all.

563
00:24:42,000 --> 00:24:44,010
I didn't want to be tied down.

564

00:24:44,010 --> 00:24:45,390

Did your father remarry?

565

00:24:45,390 --> 00:24:46,170

No.

566

00:24:46,170 --> 00:24:48,030

How long did he live?

567

00:24:48,030 --> 00:24:55,320

He passed away 1965.

568

00:24:55,320 --> 00:24:58,650

So have you talked much
about your experiences

569

00:24:58,650 --> 00:25:00,530

during the war?

570

00:25:00,530 --> 00:25:01,080

Yes.

571

00:25:01,080 --> 00:25:03,070

Listen, it happened.

572

00:25:03,070 --> 00:25:05,370

We have to accept
it and we got to be

573

00:25:05,370 --> 00:25:07,230

grateful to be here, right?

574

00:25:07,230 --> 00:25:10,330

The lucky ones are here.

575

00:25:10,330 --> 00:25:14,340

What do you think is important
for the future generations

576

00:25:14,340 --> 00:25:16,500

to know about the kinds

of things you experienced?

577

00:25:16,500 --> 00:25:19,130

To really know what
really can happen in life.

578

00:25:19,130 --> 00:25:21,970

579

00:25:21,970 --> 00:25:24,488

That you are a
well-established family and--

580

00:25:24,488 --> 00:25:25,030

That's right.

581

00:25:25,030 --> 00:25:27,610

Things can happen
and you have to be--

582

00:25:27,610 --> 00:25:29,180

Was your family religious?

583

00:25:29,180 --> 00:25:30,790

Yes.

584

00:25:30,790 --> 00:25:33,730

As a matter of fact, my mother
would not eat meat or anything

585

00:25:33,730 --> 00:25:34,807

in the camp.

586

00:25:34,807 --> 00:25:36,640

She wouldn't, And
everybody said she should.

587

00:25:36,640 --> 00:25:37,690

She refused to eat.

588

00:25:37,690 --> 00:25:40,430

589
00:25:40,430 --> 00:25:43,070
And how is your religion
or religious feelings

590
00:25:43,070 --> 00:25:45,440
affected by your experiences?

591
00:25:45,440 --> 00:25:47,430
I'm still religious.

592
00:25:47,430 --> 00:25:49,190
I still believe in God.

593
00:25:49,190 --> 00:25:51,380
And I'm grateful.

594
00:25:51,380 --> 00:25:53,110
And we got to accept it.

595
00:25:53,110 --> 00:25:58,010
We have to still appreciate
everything every day.

596
00:25:58,010 --> 00:25:59,835
And still count your blessings.

597
00:25:59,835 --> 00:26:01,580

598
00:26:01,580 --> 00:26:05,660
Are you ever haunted
by your memories?

599
00:26:05,660 --> 00:26:07,820
In the beginning,
yes, but not anymore

600
00:26:07,820 --> 00:26:10,970
because I have too many good
things now happening to me--

601

00:26:10,970 --> 00:26:15,260

family, friends,
relatives-- so I'm still

602

00:26:15,260 --> 00:26:18,650

very grateful for everything.

603

00:26:18,650 --> 00:26:21,620

I learned to appreciate
little things like nature

604

00:26:21,620 --> 00:26:22,520

and everything else.

605

00:26:22,520 --> 00:26:27,160

606

00:26:27,160 --> 00:26:34,870

What do you think was the worst
time for you, the worst period?

607

00:26:34,870 --> 00:26:37,090

Coming back to normal life.

608

00:26:37,090 --> 00:26:37,990

The adjustment?

609

00:26:37,990 --> 00:26:40,000

What was it like?

610

00:26:40,000 --> 00:26:46,240

Three meals a day, taking
a shower, having clothes--

611

00:26:46,240 --> 00:26:48,130

real clothes-- things like that.

612

00:26:48,130 --> 00:26:49,550

Little things.

613

00:26:49,550 --> 00:26:52,900

What was hard about it?

614
00:26:52,900 --> 00:26:55,300
And adjustment to accept it.

615
00:26:55,300 --> 00:26:57,070
Because you lived
for, I don't know,

616
00:26:57,070 --> 00:26:59,515
I lived like this
for about four years.

617
00:26:59,515 --> 00:27:02,080

618
00:27:02,080 --> 00:27:08,890
And to see flowers, all
these things to see again.

619
00:27:08,890 --> 00:27:11,090
Growing things.

620
00:27:11,090 --> 00:27:13,360
Are you close with
your sisters now?

621
00:27:13,360 --> 00:27:15,760
Pretty close, yes.

622
00:27:15,760 --> 00:27:18,100
Do you think that
the shared experience

623
00:27:18,100 --> 00:27:21,010
that you were each
impacted the same way,

624
00:27:21,010 --> 00:27:24,470
or were your lives
affected differently?

625

00:27:24,470 --> 00:27:26,140
Different.

626
00:27:26,140 --> 00:27:29,230
I'm still very grateful
for everything, I think.

627
00:27:29,230 --> 00:27:31,880

628
00:27:31,880 --> 00:27:34,250
I don't know how to
say it, but some people

629
00:27:34,250 --> 00:27:35,330
turn a little bitter.

630
00:27:35,330 --> 00:27:38,800
They feel they were
shortchanged in life.

631
00:27:38,800 --> 00:27:40,430
I'm grateful.

632
00:27:40,430 --> 00:27:41,870
And what are your sisters like?

633
00:27:41,870 --> 00:27:45,040

634
00:27:45,040 --> 00:27:46,790
One sister works very hard.

635
00:27:46,790 --> 00:27:48,370
She enjoys work and
she has a family.

636
00:27:48,370 --> 00:27:50,920

637
00:27:50,920 --> 00:27:54,730
And my other sister who

is still in New York,

638

00:27:54,730 --> 00:27:56,920

she enjoys life now.

639

00:27:56,920 --> 00:27:58,160

She also lost the husband.

640

00:27:58,160 --> 00:28:01,420

She's lucky to have met another
man who is very good to her.

641

00:28:01,420 --> 00:28:03,490

She married again.

642

00:28:03,490 --> 00:28:06,940

And she takes it
also day by day.

643

00:28:06,940 --> 00:28:11,680

When you first married, was
your husband also a survivor?

644

00:28:11,680 --> 00:28:16,600

No, he came to this
country before the war.

645

00:28:16,600 --> 00:28:21,730

I think he came on last boat
from Germany to this country.

646

00:28:21,730 --> 00:28:23,000

Were you from the same town?

647

00:28:23,000 --> 00:28:25,745

No, he came from
the southern part,

648

00:28:25,745 --> 00:28:26,995

I came from the northern part.

649

00:28:26,995 --> 00:28:29,530

650
00:28:29,530 --> 00:28:31,900
When I came to this country,
I met a lot of people

651
00:28:31,900 --> 00:28:33,640
from the same background,
which is great.

652
00:28:33,640 --> 00:28:36,640
And I still have these
friends in New York.

653
00:28:36,640 --> 00:28:38,300
All the same background.

654
00:28:38,300 --> 00:28:41,020
And yet somehow you always
run into some people.

655
00:28:41,020 --> 00:28:44,700
You have that common experience.

656
00:28:44,700 --> 00:28:46,900
Right.

657
00:28:46,900 --> 00:28:50,710
Do you think anyone else
can appreciate, no matter

658
00:28:50,710 --> 00:28:53,370
how much they read or hear--

659
00:28:53,370 --> 00:28:54,730
I don't know.

660
00:28:54,730 --> 00:28:55,690
It's hard to say.

661
00:28:55,690 --> 00:28:58,530

662
00:28:58,530 --> 00:29:01,270
What I'd like to try
and get a feeling for

663
00:29:01,270 --> 00:29:07,110
is what you're left with.

664
00:29:07,110 --> 00:29:11,430
What it was like
for you personally.

665
00:29:11,430 --> 00:29:15,030
I only think about the
good part, that I'm here,

666
00:29:15,030 --> 00:29:18,690
I have a wonderful
family in this country.

667
00:29:18,690 --> 00:29:21,000
I just stopped working.

668
00:29:21,000 --> 00:29:25,440
I'm grateful to do the things
now I never was able to do.

669
00:29:25,440 --> 00:29:29,160
I do a lot of things, I plan
to do a lot of things now.

670
00:29:29,160 --> 00:29:34,630
I want to give my time, do
things for others, help others.

671
00:29:34,630 --> 00:29:36,120
Do you think that
affected the way

672
00:29:36,120 --> 00:29:38,550
you raised your own children?

673

00:29:38,550 --> 00:29:39,760
We appreciate.

674
00:29:39,760 --> 00:29:42,810
I taught my children to
appreciate every day, enjoy

675
00:29:42,810 --> 00:29:44,640
everything.

676
00:29:44,640 --> 00:29:48,090
And tried to give
them certain values.

677
00:29:48,090 --> 00:29:50,280
And family's very important.

678
00:29:50,280 --> 00:29:53,100
And did you ever have
a deep down under fear

679
00:29:53,100 --> 00:29:54,960
that they might
have the same fate?

680
00:29:54,960 --> 00:29:57,920

681
00:29:57,920 --> 00:29:58,580
Never, no.

682
00:29:58,580 --> 00:29:59,590
I don't think about it.

683
00:29:59,590 --> 00:30:07,180

684
00:30:07,180 --> 00:30:08,030
You never know.

685
00:30:08,030 --> 00:30:11,320
You have to be prepared for

everything right in life.

686

00:30:11,320 --> 00:30:12,850

What about your current husband?

687

00:30:12,850 --> 00:30:16,150

Is he a survivor?

688

00:30:16,150 --> 00:30:21,340

As a matter of fact, he
was in the same camp.

689

00:30:21,340 --> 00:30:27,480

Somehow his parents
and my father in Cuba

690

00:30:27,480 --> 00:30:29,210

were the best of friends.

691

00:30:29,210 --> 00:30:31,130

What a coincidence.

692

00:30:31,130 --> 00:30:33,860

And I just met him at
the gathering somehow

693

00:30:33,860 --> 00:30:37,280

and we found out we had
the same background.

694

00:30:37,280 --> 00:30:41,600

Many things very odd
just so happened.

695

00:30:41,600 --> 00:30:43,870

I thought I didn't believe
it when I first met him.

696

00:30:43,870 --> 00:30:48,620

697

00:30:48,620 --> 00:30:51,410

Because it was a small
group of people in Cuba

698
00:30:51,410 --> 00:30:55,940
from all the German Jews
they somehow stayed together.

699
00:30:55,940 --> 00:30:57,860
So everybody knew each
other, but it just so

700
00:30:57,860 --> 00:30:59,630
happened that my
father and his parents

701
00:30:59,630 --> 00:31:02,620
were the best of friends.

702
00:31:02,620 --> 00:31:04,690
And now you've made
another major adjustment,

703
00:31:04,690 --> 00:31:07,420
leaving all your family,
friends in New York

704
00:31:07,420 --> 00:31:09,710
and moving out to California.

705
00:31:09,710 --> 00:31:10,210
Right.

706
00:31:10,210 --> 00:31:12,190
But I think I made a
very good decision.

707
00:31:12,190 --> 00:31:13,390
I'm very happy here.

708
00:31:13,390 --> 00:31:16,190
Met wonderful people.

709

00:31:16,190 --> 00:31:20,507

And I think it was
the right choice.

710

00:31:20,507 --> 00:31:22,090

And you can always
visit your friends.

711

00:31:22,090 --> 00:31:23,710

Oh sure, that's no problem.

712

00:31:23,710 --> 00:31:26,080

They'll come and visit us.

713

00:31:26,080 --> 00:31:28,060

We can always do that.

714

00:31:28,060 --> 00:31:30,550

That's the least.

715

00:31:30,550 --> 00:31:35,620

The interesting thing in
talking with you is I'm

716

00:31:35,620 --> 00:31:40,930

not feeling a lot of pain
or bitterness from you.

717

00:31:40,930 --> 00:31:43,240

Do you think it's
because you were

718

00:31:43,240 --> 00:31:45,760

so young you don't understand?

719

00:31:45,760 --> 00:31:48,010

Or it's your personality
and how you deal with it?

720

00:31:48,010 --> 00:31:49,690

I think it's personality.

721

00:31:49,690 --> 00:31:51,390

Because I know I
met a lot of people

722

00:31:51,390 --> 00:31:53,350

who are my age who
are very bitter,

723

00:31:53,350 --> 00:31:56,020

who feel they were shortchanged.

724

00:31:56,020 --> 00:31:58,120

But I've learned one
thing, and my mother,

725

00:31:58,120 --> 00:31:59,590

my parents taught
me always to be

726

00:31:59,590 --> 00:32:01,690

grateful for every little thing.

727

00:32:01,690 --> 00:32:06,160

And that's my attitude,
to appreciate everything.

728

00:32:06,160 --> 00:32:07,390

Enjoy.

729

00:32:07,390 --> 00:32:10,040

It's past, it happened,
but to be grateful

730

00:32:10,040 --> 00:32:11,950

what I now have today.

731

00:32:11,950 --> 00:32:15,125

So even though the pain at
the time was very real--

732

00:32:15,125 --> 00:32:15,625

Yes.

733

00:32:15,625 --> 00:32:17,428

--you're not dwelling on it.

734

00:32:17,428 --> 00:32:19,670

No.

735

00:32:19,670 --> 00:32:22,030

Do you think that's good
advice for someone else?

736

00:32:22,030 --> 00:32:23,290

I think so.

737

00:32:23,290 --> 00:32:23,980

It happened.

738

00:32:23,980 --> 00:32:26,150

It's over.

739

00:32:26,150 --> 00:32:29,500

Sure, you have to remember,
you have to be aware of it,

740

00:32:29,500 --> 00:32:31,990

but take day by day.

741

00:32:31,990 --> 00:32:33,600

Enjoy.

742

00:32:33,600 --> 00:32:36,090

We're here to tell.

743

00:32:36,090 --> 00:32:38,530

You think it's important
that it's told?

744

00:32:38,530 --> 00:32:39,790

Absolutely.

745

00:32:39,790 --> 00:32:41,470

Should be told.

746
00:32:41,470 --> 00:32:43,870
And what difference do
you think it will make?

747
00:32:43,870 --> 00:32:44,770
To be aware.

748
00:32:44,770 --> 00:32:48,820
It should never
happen again, I hope.

749
00:32:48,820 --> 00:32:50,327
That's the only
way to look at it.

750
00:32:50,327 --> 00:32:51,410
So you have to work at it.

751
00:32:51,410 --> 00:32:52,580
It should not happen.

752
00:32:52,580 --> 00:32:55,171
How do you work at it?

753
00:32:55,171 --> 00:33:00,430
The closeness of people
together to prevent this.

754
00:33:00,430 --> 00:33:03,250
You told me before we started
recording there had been

755
00:33:03,250 --> 00:33:05,380
papers and books and documents.

756
00:33:05,380 --> 00:33:05,910
Right.

757
00:33:05,910 --> 00:33:07,990
Can you tell me what they are?

758

00:33:07,990 --> 00:33:09,310

When we were liberated--

759

00:33:09,310 --> 00:33:11,890

760

00:33:11,890 --> 00:33:12,640

Yes, that's right.

761

00:33:12,640 --> 00:33:15,220

We were liberated by
the American Army.

762

00:33:15,220 --> 00:33:19,150

They gave us our
identification papers.

763

00:33:19,150 --> 00:33:21,790

Then even I have from Westerbork
a piece of paper where

764

00:33:21,790 --> 00:33:23,230

I took a shower once a week.

765

00:33:23,230 --> 00:33:25,800

They stamped us so
we were able to go.

766

00:33:25,800 --> 00:33:32,170

I have all different
passports with the red J

767

00:33:32,170 --> 00:33:34,280

that we were Jewish.

768

00:33:34,280 --> 00:33:35,890

All different
papers I have left.

769

00:33:35,890 --> 00:33:38,950

I'd like to donate that.

770

00:33:38,950 --> 00:33:41,890

Because that's real evidence.

771

00:33:41,890 --> 00:33:43,210

Oh yes.

772

00:33:43,210 --> 00:33:47,320

The name of the camp,
everything is printed on.

773

00:33:47,320 --> 00:33:49,420

And you hung on to those things.

774

00:33:49,420 --> 00:33:51,790

Somehow, yes.

775

00:33:51,790 --> 00:33:55,610

I'm usually not
attached to things.

776

00:33:55,610 --> 00:33:58,300

But you knew it was
going to be important.

777

00:33:58,300 --> 00:34:00,850

What kind of books do you have?

778

00:34:00,850 --> 00:34:05,020

They're some books printed in
Holland from during the war,

779

00:34:05,020 --> 00:34:08,620

after the war, all
this happenings.

780

00:34:08,620 --> 00:34:09,820

What kind of information?

781

00:34:09,820 --> 00:34:12,630

All the information about
camp, and as a matter of fact

782

00:34:12,630 --> 00:34:20,060

pictures in the camps,
descriptions, names.

783

00:34:20,060 --> 00:34:21,260

All different.

784

00:34:21,260 --> 00:34:25,280

I know a lot of books are
being written right now.

785

00:34:25,280 --> 00:34:27,260

You donated it at all.

786

00:34:27,260 --> 00:34:28,710

Yes.

787

00:34:28,710 --> 00:34:32,449

I like to give it
to them just to show

788

00:34:32,449 --> 00:34:34,130

that it really happened.

789

00:34:34,130 --> 00:34:36,800

Because some people still
don't believe it happened.

790

00:34:36,800 --> 00:34:40,250

What do think when people
come out like this?

791

00:34:40,250 --> 00:34:41,940

I don't know.

792

00:34:41,940 --> 00:34:47,239

Unbelievable is all I can say.

793

00:34:47,239 --> 00:34:51,449

For you, you can't deny what--

794

00:34:51,449 --> 00:34:51,949
Right.

795
00:34:51,949 --> 00:34:54,929
But they think it can't
happen, that it didn't happen,

796
00:34:54,929 --> 00:34:56,580
but there's enough proof.

797
00:34:56,580 --> 00:34:58,610
I'm not the only one, right?

798
00:34:58,610 --> 00:34:59,750
There are many more.

799
00:34:59,750 --> 00:35:01,910
Is there any other
family that survived,

800
00:35:01,910 --> 00:35:03,180
like aunts and uncles?

801
00:35:03,180 --> 00:35:07,820

802
00:35:07,820 --> 00:35:09,380
No.

803
00:35:09,380 --> 00:35:12,650
Any family in Israel?

804
00:35:12,650 --> 00:35:18,140
Some family like second cousins
or so, but otherwise my mother

805
00:35:18,140 --> 00:35:19,760
came from a very big family.

806
00:35:19,760 --> 00:35:22,020
There's nobody left.

807

00:35:22,020 --> 00:35:24,380

And my father also.

808

00:35:24,380 --> 00:35:27,110

There's only some family
who went to Shanghai

809

00:35:27,110 --> 00:35:30,110

and are here now
in San Francisco.

810

00:35:30,110 --> 00:35:32,660

Have you ever been
back to Dusseldorf?

811

00:35:32,660 --> 00:35:33,290

No.

812

00:35:33,290 --> 00:35:34,250

Would you go?

813

00:35:34,250 --> 00:35:35,210

There's no need for me.

814

00:35:35,210 --> 00:35:38,060

There's no need.

815

00:35:38,060 --> 00:35:40,400

Right?

816

00:35:40,400 --> 00:35:44,710

They threw us out, so
why should we go back?

817

00:35:44,710 --> 00:35:46,600

There are other places to visit.

818

00:35:46,600 --> 00:35:49,750

819

00:35:49,750 --> 00:35:52,510

Is there anything
else that I haven't

820
00:35:52,510 --> 00:35:55,720
asked that you would like
to talk about or tell me

821
00:35:55,720 --> 00:35:59,500
about that I didn't
think to ask?

822
00:35:59,500 --> 00:36:01,400
I'm trying to think.

823
00:36:01,400 --> 00:36:05,140
So many things happened
but it's still in my mind.

824
00:36:05,140 --> 00:36:09,040
Even a little
vignette or one day's

825
00:36:09,040 --> 00:36:12,250
events, something you recall.

826
00:36:12,250 --> 00:36:15,340
I guess the only thing when we
were liberated how wonderful

827
00:36:15,340 --> 00:36:17,250
the American soldiers were.

828
00:36:17,250 --> 00:36:22,150
It really was an
unbelievable experience.

829
00:36:22,150 --> 00:36:26,440
And the one thing when all
the German soldiers ran away.

830
00:36:26,440 --> 00:36:27,820
That was an experience.

831

00:36:27,820 --> 00:36:30,590

832

00:36:30,590 --> 00:36:37,040

And time, days, months didn't
mean anything at that time.

833

00:36:37,040 --> 00:36:38,620

Did you ever talk to the Nazis?

834

00:36:38,620 --> 00:36:41,510

835

00:36:41,510 --> 00:36:42,130

No.

836

00:36:42,130 --> 00:36:45,110

We were prisoners and that's it.

837

00:36:45,110 --> 00:36:47,540

You just want to be left alone.

838

00:36:47,540 --> 00:36:50,740

Some people maybe did,
but I had no desire.

839

00:36:50,740 --> 00:36:51,650

And I was young.

840

00:36:51,650 --> 00:36:53,530

I was too involved.

841

00:36:53,530 --> 00:36:55,030

You did what you were told.

842

00:36:55,030 --> 00:36:55,690

That's right.

843

00:36:55,690 --> 00:36:57,070

That's all.

844

00:36:57,070 --> 00:36:58,570

You do what you're
told and you go

845

00:36:58,570 --> 00:36:59,890

and your march and that's it.

846

00:36:59,890 --> 00:37:01,330

That's about all you do.

847

00:37:01,330 --> 00:37:03,970

Were you ever sick?

848

00:37:03,970 --> 00:37:06,460

I think we all had
jaundice somehow,

849

00:37:06,460 --> 00:37:07,660

but there was no treatment.

850

00:37:07,660 --> 00:37:09,670

You don't remember.

851

00:37:09,670 --> 00:37:12,190

You don't think
about those things.

852

00:37:12,190 --> 00:37:14,560

You've been in good health
the rest of your life.

853

00:37:14,560 --> 00:37:15,640

Very good health.

854

00:37:15,640 --> 00:37:17,140

No problem, thank God.

855

00:37:17,140 --> 00:37:22,150

856

00:37:22,150 --> 00:37:23,950

But somehow you
always run into it.

857
00:37:23,950 --> 00:37:26,080
The amazing part
is now that I run

858
00:37:26,080 --> 00:37:29,800
into people I haven't
seen in 40 years somehow.

859
00:37:29,800 --> 00:37:31,150
That's the amazing part.

860
00:37:31,150 --> 00:37:34,470
What do you talk about?

861
00:37:34,470 --> 00:37:37,780
When you meet someone you
haven't seen in 40 years,

862
00:37:37,780 --> 00:37:41,250
what kinds of things
do you focus on?

863
00:37:41,250 --> 00:37:42,720
What happened in the meantime.

864
00:37:42,720 --> 00:37:48,150
Where they went, how they ended
up, and what they're doing now.

865
00:37:48,150 --> 00:37:52,740
And we don't talk too much
about the camp actually.

866
00:37:52,740 --> 00:37:55,305
More or less what happened
afterwards, about the family,

867
00:37:55,305 --> 00:38:00,020
how they re-established
themselves.

868
00:38:00,020 --> 00:38:04,220
And they're content and
happy and satisfied.

869
00:38:04,220 --> 00:38:07,790
To be grateful again,
that's the bottom line.

870
00:38:07,790 --> 00:38:10,060
To be here to tell the story.

871
00:38:10,060 --> 00:38:13,550

872
00:38:13,550 --> 00:38:17,140
So when you say so
many things happened--

873
00:38:17,140 --> 00:38:19,780
Everything happened so fast.

874
00:38:19,780 --> 00:38:22,990
Did it seem like a long time,
16 months in Bergen-Belsen?

875
00:38:22,990 --> 00:38:26,290
That doesn't seem so fast.

876
00:38:26,290 --> 00:38:28,240
Yes, but so many
different things happen.

877
00:38:28,240 --> 00:38:34,450
People come, people go, you see
this happening that happening.

878
00:38:34,450 --> 00:38:36,370
Did you see people
die around you?

879
00:38:36,370 --> 00:38:38,050

Oh sure.

880
00:38:38,050 --> 00:38:41,750
Die a natural death?

881
00:38:41,750 --> 00:38:45,250
It was only natural death, just
more or less from starvation.

882
00:38:45,250 --> 00:38:46,780
Starvation, that's about it.

883
00:38:46,780 --> 00:38:50,050

884
00:38:50,050 --> 00:38:51,350
There was very little food.

885
00:38:51,350 --> 00:38:52,780
I mean, just about to survive.

886
00:38:52,780 --> 00:38:55,060
What did you eat?

887
00:38:55,060 --> 00:38:58,210
I think we got a slice of
bread and then we always

888
00:38:58,210 --> 00:39:00,490
had some kind of soup--

889
00:39:00,490 --> 00:39:02,583
water, vegetables, whatever.

890
00:39:02,583 --> 00:39:03,250
That's about it.

891
00:39:03,250 --> 00:39:05,320
That's what we lived on.

892
00:39:05,320 --> 00:39:06,190

That's all.

893

00:39:06,190 --> 00:39:08,570

Sometimes there
was a little meat.

894

00:39:08,570 --> 00:39:13,660

A lot of vegetables
soups, water and bread.

895

00:39:13,660 --> 00:39:14,410

That's about all.

896

00:39:14,410 --> 00:39:17,280

897

00:39:17,280 --> 00:39:23,140

Was there any practice
of Judaism in the camp?

898

00:39:23,140 --> 00:39:25,410

Did you know if it was Passover?

899

00:39:25,410 --> 00:39:27,030

No, none whatsoever.

900

00:39:27,030 --> 00:39:28,440

Every day was a day.

901

00:39:28,440 --> 00:39:29,970

No, we didn't think either.

902

00:39:29,970 --> 00:39:31,440

You knew one thing.

903

00:39:31,440 --> 00:39:34,390

You go to work, come home, go
to work, and that's about it.

904

00:39:34,390 --> 00:39:38,130

No you didn't take notice
of anything like that.

905

00:39:38,130 --> 00:39:40,570

You didn't know it was
Monday or Friday or Saturday.

906

00:39:40,570 --> 00:39:41,580

I didn't mean a thing.

907

00:39:41,580 --> 00:39:44,502

You knew it was winter or
summer, that's about all.

908

00:39:44,502 --> 00:39:45,960

It's a little warmer
in the summer.

909

00:39:45,960 --> 00:39:47,940

It wasn't as cold.

910

00:39:47,940 --> 00:39:49,560

But that's it.

911

00:39:49,560 --> 00:39:53,760

So how do you perpetuate your
Judaism now since that time?

912

00:39:53,760 --> 00:40:00,090

913

00:40:00,090 --> 00:40:02,820

I don't know how to
explain it to you,

914

00:40:02,820 --> 00:40:09,370

but we just have to
be strong, right?

915

00:40:09,370 --> 00:40:10,550

You know better than I do.

916

00:40:10,550 --> 00:40:12,130

You have to be very strong.

917
00:40:12,130 --> 00:40:15,200
And each experience
makes you stronger.

918
00:40:15,200 --> 00:40:17,030
You have to remember
you're a Jew.

919
00:40:17,030 --> 00:40:18,350
You have to work together.

920
00:40:18,350 --> 00:40:21,707

921
00:40:21,707 --> 00:40:23,540
See that's what happened
to a lot of people.

922
00:40:23,540 --> 00:40:26,480
They forgot that they were Jews.

923
00:40:26,480 --> 00:40:28,400
That's a whole problem too.

924
00:40:28,400 --> 00:40:29,900
You cannot forget
that you're a Jew.

925
00:40:29,900 --> 00:40:33,340

926
00:40:33,340 --> 00:40:38,440
But after for five
years of nothing,

927
00:40:38,440 --> 00:40:41,680
of not any Jewish
practices or anything,

928
00:40:41,680 --> 00:40:43,090
how do you come back to it?

929
00:40:43,090 --> 00:40:47,450
Oh, you come back, you
come back very fast.

930
00:40:47,450 --> 00:40:51,190
You know who you are, who
you were, who your family is.

931
00:40:51,190 --> 00:40:53,960
And then my father
was a religious man.

932
00:40:53,960 --> 00:40:57,400
We came back, we
had our holidays,

933
00:40:57,400 --> 00:41:01,180
and some friends
shared together.

934
00:41:01,180 --> 00:41:03,530
And you just fall
right back into it.

935
00:41:03,530 --> 00:41:07,290
How did you learn
to speak English?

936
00:41:07,290 --> 00:41:09,180
I went to night school.

937
00:41:09,180 --> 00:41:11,190
And I know my father
used to put on the radio

938
00:41:11,190 --> 00:41:14,100
to listen to talk stations
to hear the sound of--

939
00:41:14,100 --> 00:41:16,880
That's very good.

940

00:41:16,880 --> 00:41:21,640

We went to the
movies and you learn.

941

00:41:21,640 --> 00:41:23,560

We had to learn Dutch
when we came to Holland,

942

00:41:23,560 --> 00:41:26,080

you so you just learn.

943

00:41:26,080 --> 00:41:28,750

Once you're in a country,
it's easy to pick up.

944

00:41:28,750 --> 00:41:32,800

You go to work, you
read, you go to school.

945

00:41:32,800 --> 00:41:35,452

Learn a little bit.

946

00:41:35,452 --> 00:41:39,520

Do you feel a particular
bonding with your sisters having

947

00:41:39,520 --> 00:41:41,000

been together through this?

948

00:41:41,000 --> 00:41:41,500

No.

949

00:41:41,500 --> 00:41:44,950

950

00:41:44,950 --> 00:41:48,460

We were together but we were not
that much together in the camp.

951

00:41:48,460 --> 00:41:50,650

Everybody was so--

952

00:41:50,650 --> 00:41:52,450

I don't know how to
explain it to you.

953

00:41:52,450 --> 00:41:53,830

Everybody went their way.

954

00:41:53,830 --> 00:41:55,610

My sisters worked
someplace else.

955

00:41:55,610 --> 00:41:57,250

I worked someplace else.

956

00:41:57,250 --> 00:41:59,290

We saw each other.

957

00:41:59,290 --> 00:42:01,990

And when you weren't working
at the end of the day,

958

00:42:01,990 --> 00:42:03,640

did you just fall into bed.

959

00:42:03,640 --> 00:42:05,200

That's about it.

960

00:42:05,200 --> 00:42:07,870

No leisure time?

961

00:42:07,870 --> 00:42:09,310

There was nothing to do.

962

00:42:09,310 --> 00:42:10,340

What did you do?

963

00:42:10,340 --> 00:42:11,920

There's nothing else to do.

964

00:42:11,920 --> 00:42:14,030

There was just a

barrack with your bed,

965

00:42:14,030 --> 00:42:15,820

which was like three tiers.

966

00:42:15,820 --> 00:42:16,750

You just went to bed.

967

00:42:16,750 --> 00:42:17,585

That's all.

968

00:42:17,585 --> 00:42:18,460

There's nothing else.

969

00:42:18,460 --> 00:42:20,377

There was no sitting
room, there was no chair,

970

00:42:20,377 --> 00:42:22,390

there was nothing.

971

00:42:22,390 --> 00:42:24,040

You either worked or slept.

972

00:42:24,040 --> 00:42:25,990

Right.

973

00:42:25,990 --> 00:42:27,210

That's all you could do.

974

00:42:27,210 --> 00:42:36,060

975

00:42:36,060 --> 00:42:38,310

But it's 50 years now, right?

976

00:42:38,310 --> 00:42:41,340

977

00:42:41,340 --> 00:42:42,990

Goes fast.

978
00:42:42,990 --> 00:42:46,140
Was there ever any resistance?

979
00:42:46,140 --> 00:42:48,210
Were you aware of
any resistance?

980
00:42:48,210 --> 00:42:48,710
No.

981
00:42:48,710 --> 00:42:53,060

982
00:42:53,060 --> 00:42:56,330
But there's nothing
you could do anyway.

983
00:42:56,330 --> 00:42:57,620
Nothing.

984
00:42:57,620 --> 00:43:01,460
But there were so many
ups and downs for you,

985
00:43:01,460 --> 00:43:06,020
the hope of getting on the ship,
coming across the Atlantic--

986
00:43:06,020 --> 00:43:09,710
When you get into a
situation, you just accept it.

987
00:43:09,710 --> 00:43:10,340
That's all.

988
00:43:10,340 --> 00:43:12,330
There's nothing you
can do about it, right?

989
00:43:12,330 --> 00:43:12,830
Well.

990

00:43:12,830 --> 00:43:14,180

That's what you did.

991

00:43:14,180 --> 00:43:15,650

Other people committed suicide.

992

00:43:15,650 --> 00:43:20,090

Yeah, but you know everybody
is a different nature.

993

00:43:20,090 --> 00:43:23,300

But each situation
makes it like stronger

994

00:43:23,300 --> 00:43:26,940

to accept more and more.

995

00:43:26,940 --> 00:43:30,950

You go through it and hope,
there's all this hope.

996

00:43:30,950 --> 00:43:35,723

Well, it's really quite
inspiring to listen to you.

997

00:43:35,723 --> 00:43:37,140

You just have to
hope and you have

998

00:43:37,140 --> 00:43:39,560

to be strong and keep together.

999

00:43:39,560 --> 00:43:40,070

That's all.

1000

00:43:40,070 --> 00:43:40,970

Work together.

1001

00:43:40,970 --> 00:43:43,950

The only way.

1002

00:43:43,950 --> 00:43:47,290

Do you think there was
anything in particular

1003

00:43:47,290 --> 00:43:51,550

that helped you to survive,
of was the circumstances?

1004

00:43:51,550 --> 00:43:52,900

Family.

1005

00:43:52,900 --> 00:43:55,120

Upbringing.

1006

00:43:55,120 --> 00:43:57,550

How did that help you?

1007

00:43:57,550 --> 00:43:59,790

To be stronger, to accept it.

1008

00:43:59,790 --> 00:44:04,590

1009

00:44:04,590 --> 00:44:06,010

We had a wonderful family life.

1010

00:44:06,010 --> 00:44:09,610

My parents were very close.

1011

00:44:09,610 --> 00:44:11,860

And maybe that helped.

1012

00:44:11,860 --> 00:44:14,080

I really don't know.

1013

00:44:14,080 --> 00:44:16,750

Some people can take it,
some are a little stronger

1014

00:44:16,750 --> 00:44:19,190

than others.

1015
00:44:19,190 --> 00:44:23,140
So I just really don't know.

1016
00:44:23,140 --> 00:44:29,200
So before we go off the
air, so to speak, tell me

1017
00:44:29,200 --> 00:44:32,860
if there's something
more, something else

1018
00:44:32,860 --> 00:44:35,650
you'd like to share that
I didn't pick up on.

1019
00:44:35,650 --> 00:44:40,240

1020
00:44:40,240 --> 00:44:44,900
All I can say, again, to be
grateful to be in this country.

1021
00:44:44,900 --> 00:44:47,680
It was very good to
me, to my family,

1022
00:44:47,680 --> 00:44:48,895
and to our wonderful family.

1023
00:44:48,895 --> 00:44:51,470

1024
00:44:51,470 --> 00:44:53,380
What would you tell
your grandchildren

1025
00:44:53,380 --> 00:44:57,110
about your experiences?

1026
00:44:57,110 --> 00:44:58,170
What would I tell them?

1027
00:44:58,170 --> 00:45:03,920

1028
00:45:03,920 --> 00:45:07,170
That's hard.

1029
00:45:07,170 --> 00:45:11,610
Be careful how you say it.

1030
00:45:11,610 --> 00:45:14,430
Always remember you're a Jew.

1031
00:45:14,430 --> 00:45:16,350
Don't deny it.

1032
00:45:16,350 --> 00:45:17,250
And work at it.

1033
00:45:17,250 --> 00:45:21,810

1034
00:45:21,810 --> 00:45:23,490
How old are your
grandchildren now?

1035
00:45:23,490 --> 00:45:24,090
None.

1036
00:45:24,090 --> 00:45:25,380
Don't have any yet.

1037
00:45:25,380 --> 00:45:34,690

1038
00:45:34,690 --> 00:45:38,180
That's all I can say.

1039
00:45:38,180 --> 00:45:40,490
And I hope it
won't happen again.

1040
00:45:40,490 --> 00:45:42,580
That's the only way.

1041
00:45:42,580 --> 00:45:46,600
Because you have
to learn, we have

1042
00:45:46,600 --> 00:45:50,365
to learn that this is
being prevented somehow.

1043
00:45:50,365 --> 00:45:56,770

1044
00:45:56,770 --> 00:46:00,340
But you see when you're
in a camp like this, even

1045
00:46:00,340 --> 00:46:03,370
16 months, two years, one
year, there's nothing.

1046
00:46:03,370 --> 00:46:04,660
It just passes.

1047
00:46:04,660 --> 00:46:06,700
You don't think.

1048
00:46:06,700 --> 00:46:08,860
You don't think of the time.

1049
00:46:08,860 --> 00:46:11,250
You don't think of the next day?

1050
00:46:11,250 --> 00:46:13,870
I just like just go.

1051
00:46:13,870 --> 00:46:16,220
Was the work very, very hard?

1052

00:46:16,220 --> 00:46:20,740
It wasn't that hard, but it was
very dirty and very monotonous,

1053
00:46:20,740 --> 00:46:21,725
very boring.

1054
00:46:21,725 --> 00:46:25,220

1055
00:46:25,220 --> 00:46:27,220
You're being watched constantly.

1056
00:46:27,220 --> 00:46:32,710

1057
00:46:32,710 --> 00:46:36,140
You just keep doing
things like a machine.

1058
00:46:36,140 --> 00:46:37,510
That's what it amounted to.

1059
00:46:37,510 --> 00:46:40,630
You know you have to do it,
and you do it, and you do it.

1060
00:46:40,630 --> 00:46:43,600

1061
00:46:43,600 --> 00:46:45,970
Were you mostly with
children your age?

1062
00:46:45,970 --> 00:46:50,200
No, it was all mixed up.

1063
00:46:50,200 --> 00:46:54,550
There was no ages, children,
grownups, old or younger.

1064
00:46:54,550 --> 00:46:55,450

They just counted.

1065

00:46:55,450 --> 00:46:58,480

A certain amount of people
went a certain direction.

1066

00:46:58,480 --> 00:46:59,980

Everything was being counted.

1067

00:46:59,980 --> 00:47:02,020

Did you always work
at the same job?

1068

00:47:02,020 --> 00:47:03,170

Pretty much, yeah.

1069

00:47:03,170 --> 00:47:06,970

1070

00:47:06,970 --> 00:47:10,360

And women were
separate from the man?

1071

00:47:10,360 --> 00:47:16,120

You know something, I don't
think that they separated us.

1072

00:47:16,120 --> 00:47:19,210

First they tried but it was
just so much confusion there,

1073

00:47:19,210 --> 00:47:20,090

that didn't matter.

1074

00:47:20,090 --> 00:47:24,487

1075

00:47:24,487 --> 00:47:26,320

It's been a long time,
but I still remember.

1076

00:47:26,320 --> 00:47:29,010

1077
00:47:29,010 --> 00:47:31,650
But you got to make the
best out of every situation.

1078
00:47:31,650 --> 00:47:32,400
It's the only way.

1079
00:47:32,400 --> 00:47:33,615
Otherwise, you can't survive.

1080
00:47:33,615 --> 00:47:37,670

1081
00:47:37,670 --> 00:47:41,120
Thank you for coming and
sharing this with us.

1082
00:47:41,120 --> 00:47:42,870
It's very important.

1083
00:47:42,870 --> 00:47:44,750
Yeah, it's good.

1084
00:47:44,750 --> 00:47:47,370
Everybody should know
what really happened.

1085
00:47:47,370 --> 00:47:48,320
That's all I can say.

1086
00:47:48,320 --> 00:47:51,000
It really happened.

1087
00:47:51,000 --> 00:47:54,700
That's about all I can say.

1088
00:47:54,700 --> 00:47:58,460
Because I'm really
not the only one.

1089

00:47:58,460 --> 00:48:02,590

There are many more
survivors, right?

1090

00:48:02,590 --> 00:48:07,000

Until people come forth and
tell the personal experience,

1091

00:48:07,000 --> 00:48:08,740

it's just an anecdote.

1092

00:48:08,740 --> 00:48:09,560

That's true.

1093

00:48:09,560 --> 00:48:10,370

That's true.

1094

00:48:10,370 --> 00:48:11,320

That's true.

1095

00:48:11,320 --> 00:48:14,680

But for some people
it's hard to talk about.

1096

00:48:14,680 --> 00:48:17,590

Some I know, they can't.

1097

00:48:17,590 --> 00:48:20,650

They try to avoid it.

1098

00:48:20,650 --> 00:48:23,200

So you have to everybody
accept it a different way.

1099

00:48:23,200 --> 00:48:24,190

Right.

1100

00:48:24,190 --> 00:48:27,010

I know people who been
invited to participate--

1101

00:48:27,010 --> 00:48:30,520

And they can't
talk about it, no.

1102

00:48:30,520 --> 00:48:35,620

But I'm sure there are quite a
few more you'll be able to find

1103

00:48:35,620 --> 00:48:36,340

once it's--

1104

00:48:36,340 --> 00:48:41,650

But anyway, let's hope it's
not going to happen again.

1105

00:48:41,650 --> 00:48:43,463

That's all.

1106

00:48:43,463 --> 00:48:44,380

That's the only thing.

1107

00:48:44,380 --> 00:48:45,775

That's all I can say.

1108

00:48:45,775 --> 00:48:47,600

It was nice meeting you.

1109

00:48:47,600 --> 00:48:48,920

Thank you.

1110

00:48:48,920 --> 00:48:50,020

Thank you for doing this.

1111

00:48:50,020 --> 00:48:50,820

OK, you're welcome.

1112

00:48:50,820 --> 00:48:53,980

1113

00:48:53,980 --> 00:48:57,010

We're just starting at
the end of the tape,

1114
00:48:57,010 --> 00:49:00,160
picking up where we stopped.

1115
00:49:00,160 --> 00:49:04,090
Miriam, I wanted
to ask you what it

1116
00:49:04,090 --> 00:49:06,670
was like when you first
got to Bergen-Belsen,

1117
00:49:06,670 --> 00:49:09,370
left Holland and were
transported there.

1118
00:49:09,370 --> 00:49:14,350
Can you remember your arrival,
your initial impression?

1119
00:49:14,350 --> 00:49:18,360
It was a very
startling experience.

1120
00:49:18,360 --> 00:49:21,060
The train stopped.

1121
00:49:21,060 --> 00:49:23,370
And all of a sudden
we looked out

1122
00:49:23,370 --> 00:49:25,170
and we were
surrounded by Germans

1123
00:49:25,170 --> 00:49:32,310
with a rifle that gave us one
sign that was not very good.

1124
00:49:32,310 --> 00:49:34,740
We were called out.

1125

00:49:34,740 --> 00:49:39,660
We had to drop off all our
belongings and start marching.

1126
00:49:39,660 --> 00:49:42,180
And we knew where
we were heading.

1127
00:49:42,180 --> 00:49:43,620
Where were you heading?

1128
00:49:43,620 --> 00:49:45,660
To the camps.

1129
00:49:45,660 --> 00:49:47,340
We didn't know
really that we were

1130
00:49:47,340 --> 00:49:49,650
going to the camp like this.

1131
00:49:49,650 --> 00:49:51,360
Did you know that
there were camps where

1132
00:49:51,360 --> 00:49:52,920
people were being exterminated?

1133
00:49:52,920 --> 00:49:53,678
Oh yes.

1134
00:49:53,678 --> 00:49:55,470
Did you know what kind
of camp you were in?

1135
00:49:55,470 --> 00:50:00,830
We had no idea, but we
knew it wasn't good.

1136
00:50:00,830 --> 00:50:03,350

1137

00:50:03,350 --> 00:50:06,495

And from that day on, you
were just like a number.

1138

00:50:06,495 --> 00:50:09,170

1139

00:50:09,170 --> 00:50:11,480

Was it any comfort
being with people

1140

00:50:11,480 --> 00:50:14,270

you've been with or with family?

1141

00:50:14,270 --> 00:50:16,610

It was such a
shocking experience

1142

00:50:16,610 --> 00:50:21,780

that somehow you
forgot everything.

1143

00:50:21,780 --> 00:50:24,198

You're just wondering
what's going to happen,

1144

00:50:24,198 --> 00:50:25,365

what's going to be tomorrow?

1145

00:50:25,365 --> 00:50:28,180

1146

00:50:28,180 --> 00:50:30,700

What was it like seeing
all those soldiers when

1147

00:50:30,700 --> 00:50:31,690

you got off?

1148

00:50:31,690 --> 00:50:32,740

Speechless.

1149

00:50:32,740 --> 00:50:33,790
Everybody was speechless.

1150
00:50:33,790 --> 00:50:35,670
It was quiet.

1151
00:50:35,670 --> 00:50:38,080
You could hear a pin drop.

1152
00:50:38,080 --> 00:50:40,760
Were they lined up?

1153
00:50:40,760 --> 00:50:43,300
Surrounded, with
dogs and rifles.

1154
00:50:43,300 --> 00:50:44,200
With dogs--

1155
00:50:44,200 --> 00:50:46,540
And rifles.

1156
00:50:46,540 --> 00:50:48,400
And what did you have to do?

1157
00:50:48,400 --> 00:50:52,300
Just get out of the train,
drop all your belongings

1158
00:50:52,300 --> 00:50:55,870
and start marching
towards the camp.

1159
00:50:55,870 --> 00:50:58,030
And we had to march
maybe for a couple hours

1160
00:50:58,030 --> 00:50:59,020
until we got there.

1161
00:50:59,020 --> 00:51:02,500

1162
00:51:02,500 --> 00:51:06,130
Did you have a number on
from being in the camp?

1163
00:51:06,130 --> 00:51:09,940
No, we did not get a number
because my father was--

1164
00:51:09,940 --> 00:51:15,010
My mother had thought that
he came to the United States

1165
00:51:15,010 --> 00:51:18,340
and he was American citizen.

1166
00:51:18,340 --> 00:51:22,150
And somehow she insisted
that we were citizens,

1167
00:51:22,150 --> 00:51:24,530
but we couldn't prove it.

1168
00:51:24,530 --> 00:51:27,550
So they kept us in
different places

1169
00:51:27,550 --> 00:51:29,980
and thought maybe
that we could be

1170
00:51:29,980 --> 00:51:32,410
exchanged for German prisoners.

1171
00:51:32,410 --> 00:51:33,820
But somehow it
didn't go through,

1172
00:51:33,820 --> 00:51:37,750
and that's why we
did not get a number.

1173

00:51:37,750 --> 00:51:41,680
You asked me when we were
off camera what I thought

1174
00:51:41,680 --> 00:51:42,720
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1175
00:51:42,720 --> 00:51:43,450
Right.

1176
00:51:43,450 --> 00:51:46,780
What do you think other
people think life is like?

1177
00:51:46,780 --> 00:51:51,850
I don't think they can
visualize it actually.

1178
00:51:51,850 --> 00:51:54,370
Because you were just a number.

1179
00:51:54,370 --> 00:51:58,600
You just had a barrack
where you went to

1180
00:51:58,600 --> 00:52:02,170
and you had a small little
space, your bed, bunk bed,

1181
00:52:02,170 --> 00:52:04,810
and that's it.

1182
00:52:04,810 --> 00:52:08,560
You went to work, went to sleep,
went to work, went to sleep.

1183
00:52:08,560 --> 00:52:09,640
That's it.

1184
00:52:09,640 --> 00:52:12,250
And you said they told you
when to go to the toilet.

1185

00:52:12,250 --> 00:52:13,450

Yeah, that's right.

1186

00:52:13,450 --> 00:52:15,430

You had times when to go
to the bathroom, which

1187

00:52:15,430 --> 00:52:18,400

was holes in the ground.

1188

00:52:18,400 --> 00:52:21,220

And when you wash yourself.

1189

00:52:21,220 --> 00:52:24,190

You were just programmed.

1190

00:52:24,190 --> 00:52:26,590

We were just told
what to do whenever.

1191

00:52:26,590 --> 00:52:27,590

Like a robot.

1192

00:52:27,590 --> 00:52:31,780

Right, that's about it.

1193

00:52:31,780 --> 00:52:33,520

When you ate, what
did you eat out of?

1194

00:52:33,520 --> 00:52:34,420

Were there tables?

1195

00:52:34,420 --> 00:52:35,170

Where did you eat?

1196

00:52:35,170 --> 00:52:36,580

Was there a dining hall?

1197

00:52:36,580 --> 00:52:37,990

We didn't have tables.

1198
00:52:37,990 --> 00:52:39,490
We didn't have a dining hall.

1199
00:52:39,490 --> 00:52:42,370
Just on your lap.

1200
00:52:42,370 --> 00:52:43,570
Out of a tin cup?

1201
00:52:43,570 --> 00:52:45,340
That's right, we had tin cups.

1202
00:52:45,340 --> 00:52:47,290
That's about it.

1203
00:52:47,290 --> 00:52:48,830
Spoons?

1204
00:52:48,830 --> 00:52:49,600
I guess.

1205
00:52:49,600 --> 00:52:50,800
I don't remember really.

1206
00:52:50,800 --> 00:52:52,660
But I must have had a spoon.

1207
00:52:52,660 --> 00:52:53,410
Very little.

1208
00:52:53,410 --> 00:52:56,620

1209
00:52:56,620 --> 00:52:58,910
As little as possible.

1210
00:52:58,910 --> 00:53:01,810
So what do you think the
misconception is for people

1211

00:53:01,810 --> 00:53:04,600
who've never experienced it?

1212

00:53:04,600 --> 00:53:06,790
In their minds, what
is it that they--

1213

00:53:06,790 --> 00:53:09,700
I don't think you
can visualize that.

1214

00:53:09,700 --> 00:53:10,240
No way.

1215

00:53:10,240 --> 00:53:12,340
We didn't have a
dining room like people

1216

00:53:12,340 --> 00:53:15,310
or chairs or tables.

1217

00:53:15,310 --> 00:53:15,880
That's it.

1218

00:53:15,880 --> 00:53:17,020
There was nothing.

1219

00:53:17,020 --> 00:53:18,130
You lined up.

1220

00:53:18,130 --> 00:53:24,550
We lined up for your food then
maybe you sat on your bed.

1221

00:53:24,550 --> 00:53:26,230
What did you wear?

1222

00:53:26,230 --> 00:53:27,850
We had some clothes.

1223

00:53:27,850 --> 00:53:29,020

But we didn't get uniforms.

1224
00:53:29,020 --> 00:53:31,750

1225
00:53:31,750 --> 00:53:34,280
I maybe had two
sets of clothing.

1226
00:53:34,280 --> 00:53:35,050
That's about it.

1227
00:53:35,050 --> 00:53:36,850
I don't remember.

1228
00:53:36,850 --> 00:53:37,720
I was growing.

1229
00:53:37,720 --> 00:53:41,620
I had some wooden shoes,
a few socks, something.

1230
00:53:41,620 --> 00:53:43,030
Who did the laundry?

1231
00:53:43,030 --> 00:53:44,350
There was no laundry.

1232
00:53:44,350 --> 00:53:47,380
You didn't wash.

1233
00:53:47,380 --> 00:53:52,350
We had outside some
cold running water.

1234
00:53:52,350 --> 00:53:53,230
We didn't have soap.

1235
00:53:53,230 --> 00:53:56,210
There was nothing there.

1236

00:53:56,210 --> 00:53:58,250
That's why it's very
hard for anybody

1237
00:53:58,250 --> 00:54:00,980
to visualize what it was like.

1238
00:54:00,980 --> 00:54:04,800
You just lived like a number,
that's all, like I say again.

1239
00:54:04,800 --> 00:54:06,210
Did you interact
with each other?

1240
00:54:06,210 --> 00:54:07,370
Did you talk?

1241
00:54:07,370 --> 00:54:07,940
I guess.

1242
00:54:07,940 --> 00:54:11,960
Was there ever any
fun, any light moments?

1243
00:54:11,960 --> 00:54:13,730
No, you made fun sometimes.

1244
00:54:13,730 --> 00:54:15,980
We tried to burn some
of the work which

1245
00:54:15,980 --> 00:54:17,150
we were supposed to do.

1246
00:54:17,150 --> 00:54:20,510
When the Germans look the
way we put it in the boiler.

1247
00:54:20,510 --> 00:54:22,610
When we had to cut some
materials that we just

1248

00:54:22,610 --> 00:54:27,410

didn't want to do, we
just put it in the fire.

1249

00:54:27,410 --> 00:54:29,270

Sometimes it just
had to do something

1250

00:54:29,270 --> 00:54:32,340

which wasn't
supposed to be done,

1251

00:54:32,340 --> 00:54:36,260

or just to get a little change.

1252

00:54:36,260 --> 00:54:41,550

How did the guards treat you?

1253

00:54:41,550 --> 00:54:43,650

Distance.

1254

00:54:43,650 --> 00:54:45,270

I kept my distance.

1255

00:54:45,270 --> 00:54:47,370

You have to look
them in the eye?

1256

00:54:47,370 --> 00:54:50,400

No desire.

1257

00:54:50,400 --> 00:54:53,600

I tried to stay as far
as possible from them.

1258

00:54:53,600 --> 00:54:54,680

Distance again.

1259

00:54:54,680 --> 00:54:57,320

1260

00:54:57,320 --> 00:55:01,470
What do you think the mistake
is that some people make,

1261
00:55:01,470 --> 00:55:04,730
survivors who don't
want to remember

1262
00:55:04,730 --> 00:55:07,250
or don't want to talk about it?

1263
00:55:07,250 --> 00:55:13,830
I guess somehow they
just can't forget.

1264
00:55:13,830 --> 00:55:17,070
They feel they got
short changed that they

1265
00:55:17,070 --> 00:55:20,940
had to be the ones who had to
go through this experience.

1266
00:55:20,940 --> 00:55:22,320
They said, why was it me?

1267
00:55:22,320 --> 00:55:27,030

1268
00:55:27,030 --> 00:55:33,040
And they feel very
bad, very hurt inside.

1269
00:55:33,040 --> 00:55:33,540
Bitter.

1270
00:55:33,540 --> 00:55:36,050

1271
00:55:36,050 --> 00:55:38,770
I think it's hard not to be.

1272

00:55:38,770 --> 00:55:41,950

But there's all this,
you know, I'm here.

1273

00:55:41,950 --> 00:55:45,970

Like I said before, I'm
here with a good life

1274

00:55:45,970 --> 00:55:48,580

to be grateful.

1275

00:55:48,580 --> 00:55:52,230

And people who survived,
how they've done,

1276

00:55:52,230 --> 00:55:55,390

what they've made of their
life without any education?

1277

00:55:55,390 --> 00:55:56,650

They did pretty good.

1278

00:55:56,650 --> 00:56:01,460

Because if you want something
badly enough you can do it.

1279

00:56:01,460 --> 00:56:03,550

You can do anything.

1280

00:56:03,550 --> 00:56:06,850

You just have to make up
your mind you want to do it.

1281

00:56:06,850 --> 00:56:09,760

And I know you told me you
were widowed very suddenly

1282

00:56:09,760 --> 00:56:11,570

with two young children.

1283

00:56:11,570 --> 00:56:13,720

Right.

1284

00:56:13,720 --> 00:56:17,110

Tell me how you think your
past experiences helped

1285

00:56:17,110 --> 00:56:17,970

you deal with that.

1286

00:56:17,970 --> 00:56:21,220

I think each situation
makes you stronger.

1287

00:56:21,220 --> 00:56:26,050

You just want to do it, you have
a family, and you can do it.

1288

00:56:26,050 --> 00:56:29,260

And if you do things together,
that's the bottom line.

1289

00:56:29,260 --> 00:56:31,030

You work together at it.

1290

00:56:31,030 --> 00:56:33,820

My children and me, we
all worked together.

1291

00:56:33,820 --> 00:56:36,520

We did things together
and made us stronger.

1292

00:56:36,520 --> 00:56:38,230

Do you think you
were better equipped

1293

00:56:38,230 --> 00:56:39,820

to deal with that loss?

1294

00:56:39,820 --> 00:56:40,570

Maybe.

1295

00:56:40,570 --> 00:56:42,040

Maybe.

1296
00:56:42,040 --> 00:56:44,020
I think so.

1297
00:56:44,020 --> 00:56:50,420
Because I learned
to cope, to accept.

1298
00:56:50,420 --> 00:56:52,700
You said you became
very independent.

1299
00:56:52,700 --> 00:56:53,720
You have to.

1300
00:56:53,720 --> 00:56:55,280
That's right.

1301
00:56:55,280 --> 00:56:57,080
You have to do
things for yourself,

1302
00:56:57,080 --> 00:57:00,980
you have to have nobody to
turn to, you learn to do it.

1303
00:57:00,980 --> 00:57:04,472
If you want to do
it, it can be done.

1304
00:57:04,472 --> 00:57:05,930
You just have to
make up your mind.

1305
00:57:05,930 --> 00:57:08,520

1306
00:57:08,520 --> 00:57:10,160
You have to be strong.

1307
00:57:10,160 --> 00:57:11,030
Yeah, strong.

1308
00:57:11,030 --> 00:57:12,980
Right.

1309
00:57:12,980 --> 00:57:15,840
But whatever you make up
your mind you can do it.

1310
00:57:15,840 --> 00:57:16,820
Anybody can do it.

1311
00:57:16,820 --> 00:57:20,300
Do you think there was
ever anything that you,

1312
00:57:20,300 --> 00:57:22,580
or did you ever think
that you promised yourself

1313
00:57:22,580 --> 00:57:26,030
if you ever got out that
you would do with your life

1314
00:57:26,030 --> 00:57:26,990
or not ever do?

1315
00:57:26,990 --> 00:57:31,220
I think I was too young
to think about it, really.

1316
00:57:31,220 --> 00:57:33,290
Too young.

1317
00:57:33,290 --> 00:57:34,310
One day at a time.

1318
00:57:34,310 --> 00:57:36,020
Right.

1319
00:57:36,020 --> 00:57:41,538
Those days were different when
you were 11, 12, 13 years old.

1320
00:57:41,538 --> 00:57:42,830
You didn't have the experience.

1321
00:57:42,830 --> 00:57:45,680
They were different times.

1322
00:57:45,680 --> 00:57:48,140
All you want is your family.

1323
00:57:48,140 --> 00:57:50,690
That's the part you're
concerned about.

1324
00:57:50,690 --> 00:57:54,470

1325
00:57:54,470 --> 00:57:56,755
So did it help to
have your family--

1326
00:57:56,755 --> 00:57:58,880
Well, I guess it must have
helped in this situation

1327
00:57:58,880 --> 00:58:00,400
that you knew they were alive.

1328
00:58:00,400 --> 00:58:04,090
Oh yes, I always hoped that
my father someday we'll

1329
00:58:04,090 --> 00:58:07,180
be back with my father again.

1330
00:58:07,180 --> 00:58:09,340
You always hope.

1331
00:58:09,340 --> 00:58:11,070
That's one thing.

1332

00:58:11,070 --> 00:58:13,090

Meanwhile, you knew
your sisters were there.

1333

00:58:13,090 --> 00:58:13,840

Oh, that's right.

1334

00:58:13,840 --> 00:58:17,350

I had my sisters and my mother.

1335

00:58:17,350 --> 00:58:20,450

So it's not going to
be forever, right?

1336

00:58:20,450 --> 00:58:22,810

We always hoped that one
of these days the war

1337

00:58:22,810 --> 00:58:24,670

will be over.

1338

00:58:24,670 --> 00:58:26,710

And we were happy
just we're waiting

1339

00:58:26,710 --> 00:58:29,110

for those American
planes to come in.

1340

00:58:29,110 --> 00:58:31,780

That's all we were hoping for.

1341

00:58:31,780 --> 00:58:35,620

Because even all along we
could hear planes coming

1342

00:58:35,620 --> 00:58:38,350

and we could see they
were not German planes,

1343

00:58:38,350 --> 00:58:41,830

that something was happening.

1344

00:58:41,830 --> 00:58:46,600

And then you went to Holland,
and who did you live with?

1345

00:58:46,600 --> 00:58:50,320

Oh, I lived with a very
nice Catholic family.

1346

00:58:50,320 --> 00:58:51,890

They treated me wonderful.

1347

00:58:51,890 --> 00:58:52,910

They were very good.

1348

00:58:52,910 --> 00:58:56,260

I felt like I was one of them.

1349

00:58:56,260 --> 00:58:59,590

They dressed me, they
clothed me until I

1350

00:58:59,590 --> 00:59:02,110

was able to find
where my father was.

1351

00:59:02,110 --> 00:59:04,510

And then I went came
to the United States

1352

00:59:04,510 --> 00:59:05,950

and joined him here.

1353

00:59:05,950 --> 00:59:08,290

Did you ever have any
contact with that family?

1354

00:59:08,290 --> 00:59:14,590

I kept writing, but then after
a while they passed away.

1355

00:59:14,590 --> 00:59:17,120

But they were really

very good to me.

1356

00:59:17,120 --> 00:59:19,970

They tried their utmost.

1357

00:59:19,970 --> 00:59:21,460

And that makes you want--

1358

00:59:21,460 --> 00:59:24,800

Yes, I really wish someday

I can help somebody

1359

00:59:24,800 --> 00:59:26,232

and do the same thing.

1360

00:59:26,232 --> 00:59:27,940

Under different

circumstances, of course.

1361

00:59:27,940 --> 00:59:28,790

Right.

1362

00:59:28,790 --> 00:59:30,410

Absolutely.

1363

00:59:30,410 --> 00:59:32,230

So that's why now I

don't work anymore.

1364

00:59:32,230 --> 00:59:34,520

I really like to

give time off myself

1365

00:59:34,520 --> 00:59:38,660

to do something to help people.

1366

00:59:38,660 --> 00:59:39,200

Very good.

1367

00:59:39,200 --> 00:59:40,310

Thank you, Miriam, very much.

1368

00:59:40,310 --> 00:59:40,570

You're welcome.

1369

00:59:40,570 --> 00:59:41,540

It was a pleasure.

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00:59:41,540 --> 00:59:43,330

Thank you.

1371

00:59:43,330 --> 01:01:49,000