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Interview With RACHEL ZOLOWICZ
Holocaust Oral History Project

Date: July 10, 1991

Place: San Francisco, California

Interviewers: Tammy Neirman, Jill Needham, John Grant

Transcriber: Karen Barron

Q TODAY IS JULY 10, 1991. AND WE ARE HERE AT THE HOLOCAUST HISTORY PROJECT OF SAN FRANCISCO. AND WE ARE INTERVIEWING RACHEL ZOLOWICZ. AND MY NAME IS TAMMY NEIRMAN. AND WE ARE ASSISTED BY JILL NEEDHAM AND JOHN GRANT.

AND, RACHEL, WE'D LIKE YOU TO START TELLING US YOUR NAME AND THE DAY YOU WERE BORN AND WHERE YOU WERE BORN. AND BEGIN TO TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR CHILDHOOD.

A Okay. My name is Rachel Zolowicz. And I am born 7-15-26 in Poland in Ozorkow.

Q CAN YOU SPELL THAT FOR ME?

A Yes. Ozorkow. O-Z-O-R-K-O-W. Ozorkow. And this was in Poland. A small town near Lodz. And my father, he was a cutter and a tailor. We have a shop. My father used to keep three people working in the shop. And with himself. And my mother used to help out. My father used to be-- I do not know-- maybe 46 years old when the war broke out, and my mother maybe two years younger. I do not know exactly. And we used to live, not in our house, but in a rented house, two rooms, and make a comfortable living. We been never rich, but we did make a comfortable living. And we been a very close family. A family of eight: six kids and my father and mother. Three brothers and three sisters. And my three brothers, they vanish in the war. We never saw them.

And my parents too. And I have two sisters and me, three, are alive. One is in Israel and one I brought here from Israel.

And now go back to my home where we used to make a comfortable living. I used to be in sixth grade when the war broke out. And I used to be 13 year old when the Germans came in 1939.

Q OKAY. CAN YOU TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT LIKE WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE BEFORE THE WAR? YOUR SCHOOL, THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

A On the school?

Q YES.

A Yes. I used to go to school. I used to go to a Polish school because we used to live in a Polish neighborhood. So I know quite a lot of Polish. And before the war we used to be very good friends with the Polish people, with everything, and nice neighbors. Everything was nice before the war. And we used to make a nice living. We do not need nothing of nobody. Everything was fine. But when the war broke out everything turns. The Polish people became half Germans. And it was-- it was no good. And then from 1939 and 1940 they make a ghetto in the same town. And they put us to the ghetto in 1940. And we been in the ghetto in 1941. And when we been in the ghetto we had to work for the German Vermocht. This is more the German-- Vermocht. Now I speak German again. This is for the-- like the Whitehouse. For the

Germans, for the soldiers. We used to work. We used to work. My father used to work up there. And we give our whole shop the machines and everything-- they took everything away from us. And we give to one big place. This was like a factory. And we all have to work up there. And we make the clothes for the Germans, like for the SS people. And I used to work and everybody have to work. I used to sew on buttons. And we work up there. And every morning they used to count us. In between we used to be very hungry. Not enough to eat. Everybody used to get a little ration. And if somebody use to work, got a little more. But it was very poor. Not enough to eat.

Q HOW DID YOU-- WHAT WAS YOUR LIVING
QUARTERS LIKE IN THE GHETTO?

A Where was we living?

Q YES.

A When we were at the ghetto we used to live in one room, 20 people not related. Strange people. And one toilet. Downstairs in the yard. Very inconvenient. On top of this, no food. This was the main thing, was the food. We used to starve. And everybody got swollen and people die in the streets. But if -- we thought maybe some day it is going to change. But this never change.

Q WHAT GHETTO WAS THIS? WAS LIST THE LODZ
GHETTO?

A No, the Ozorkow ghetto.

And we used to work together. And then one day we hear they need a transport. And, say, they need five hundred people. And they been missing one person. And they come up and they took my father away. They took my father away. And before this they count us that call everybody on the they count us. This was before this. This was maybe two weeks before. They call everybody. This was -- each time they call everybody to a big place and they count us on the place where a school was, empty school, in the yard in the school. And they count. They used to count all the time. Or some Jewish person did not -- run away or something. They used to take my mother, the two children and everybody, all families, all Jewish families, and we used to stay up there and stay. And then come one German, a Nazi, and he used to have a cane on his arm, and he used to hold by the other side of the cane and he used to make like a-- grab by the neck. You go on this side, you go on this side, you go on this side. He grab my two brothers. I used to have a little brother which was-- one was five and one was seven. And they grabbed the two little brothers. And there was a huge truck, what mothers used to stay with the little kids, with little babies, born babies, and they grab the kids and they throw on the truck like they throw garbage, like they throw garbage. Some kids got so battered, they die right away by throwing them. They throw very tall truck with kids, with small kids. And then they

take them away. And then they start another. And the mothers were screaming, crying terrible. And the bigger kids they put just on the other side. They put on the other side. They take away. So my mother, when they took away the two kids my mother don't let them. She hold them. So he-- the SS man give her over her head and said, "All right, you want to go to die to the gas chamber, go ahead!" And he hit her over the head. And my mother say, "Yes!," and she went with the two kids. She went with the two kids. And we never saw her again. Some people say they been the whole night over there in the school, they got nothing to eat. Some people say -- we have tried to find out -- to say they took them right away to Auschwitz to the gas chambers. So we never saw our mother again. But then they took my father away. They come up where he used to work in the factory. And he used to be such a good worker. He used to have people working for him, just all people. They he used to teach them how to sew these pants and sew these coats. And my father, the cutter, he used to be like an (eldest), like a manager. And they took him away. And we did not know they took him away not to come back anymore. They took him away. It was two weeks later. And we did not see him. He never come back. In two weeks they took away four people from the family. And then we were left with our brothers. So every morning we used to go -- six o'clock we have to get up, and they used to count us. They used to

count us by number right away. And by seven o'clock we have to be in the factory to work. And my brothers and three sisters, the older brother still was with us. I used to have an older brother four years older-- and the three sisters, we used to go to work. If we work a whole day with very little food, without food, and we come home. We get very little ration. Thousands of people die. They lay in the streets. And used to be there was typhus. Every second person got typhus. And dysentery. This is some sickness, you go out, you breathe. Very horrible sickness. They used to be sick. One sister used to be sick, very sick. But she is in Israel. And then I think we work up there half a year's more in Ozorkow. And then one day they come and they start counting us. They start counting us. And after the counting usually they take us to work. But this time they did not take us. They say, "You stay whatever you are wherever you stand, you sit down." And we sit down. And then my brother they sent back up to the house where we used to live up there in the ghetto. And we sit down, and we sit 'til morning, a whole day and and a whole night, just the three sisters. I mean, all Jewish people around. And they send a few people around to clean up after we leave. And we did not know. In the morning came some big trucks, and they sent us to Lodz. Lodz, this was another town-- I do not know-- it was an hour ride when you-- we used to go by-- we used to go by train. It was an hour ride up

there. This was another town, a big town. And they sent us up there. They sent us to a jail, a horrible jail. Nothing except nothing on the floor. Just floors. I do not-- floors. Just dirty. Very dirty, filthy. And we stay in this jail a day and a night and without my brother. And it was bad. It was so miserable.

Q YOU WERE STILL WITH YOUR SISTERS?

A Yes, we stay with my sisters. I was happy I was still with my sisters. And now I was almost-- I was 14 years this time. And I have to take care of my two sisters. There was no-- nothing to eat. Was miserable.

From there they took us-- they took us-- say they going to give us work and we are going to work, we are going to get food enough. So they give everybody-- they give-- take families. They give everybody small-- small rooms, very tiny room. And when we get a very tiny room we get-- and then they say, "Tomorrow morning everybody where to stay here and here." This was Lodz. And then they took us to resort where they used to-- from stroh. They used to make for stroh boots. They used to make like-- they take the stroh -- they used to make like -- not ponytails. I call this--

Q RIBBONS?

A You know, girls wear them in the hair when they are small. I used to wear them. Braces. From the stroh. They used to make braces. So my sisters both work

where they make the braces. And I work, too. I used to work, so I work sewing. But I used to sew shoes, big shoes, for the soldiers. Where the soldiers when it is cold, in ice, when they walk around watching the offices. I do not know what they watch. So they wear these overshoes, stroh boots, big one, over the shoes. So, anyhow, we used to work. We used to work up there for, I guess, one year. At night. And then they brought my brother to Lodz to our ghetto.

Q

HOW LONG HAD IT BEEN SINCE YOU SAW HIM?

A

We been separate for, I guess, three

year.

And they used to send my brother clean up the-- after they take out all Jewish people. And they have to clean up the houses and everything, and whatever is left, to put them in place and everything. And he was very much beaten up, my brother. He was so beaten up his foot was open. You could go look inside very deep. I don't know what they do. They cut his feet or whatever. I don't know. And he was very sick. And he start to working a tailor resort. And other resort started working. And he used to work up there and he used to live with us. So I was happy. Whatever, I say, now maybe we are going to be together. But didn't take long. So they separate us again. Didn't take long. They make the apeal. And they make the apeal, and everybody have to go down, and they count all the time the people. They count. The German come

and the Holocaust and everything. Everybody have to go down. Everybody, from the houses, all Jewish people. And they count them. They count them. And when they count them they used to take them right away on trucks.

Q WAS THIS AT ANY TIME OR ALWAYS IN THE MORNING?

A No. This was any time. And lots of Jewish people run away to save themselves, whatever somebody can. And we save ourself for a while. It been about two weeks. And we save ourself. This was in Lodz. This was up there used to grow. The Germans used to grow up there lots of vegetables, potatoes. And the potatoes been tall. So we used to lie down in the field. We used to lie about two weeks safe up there. So they didn't took us. They took other people. We used to live with our cousin. And they took our cousin. We never see her again. They took other people. They tell you, "You have to go out. We have to count you." Except they count, they put them on big trucks, they took them away. They took them to the gas chambers. And this they used to do every few days because they need so-- so much people to send away to the gas chambers, so much Jewish people to send away to the gas chambers.

Q AT THIS TIME DID YOU KNOW THAT THAT IS WHERE PEOPLE WERE GOING?

A No. No, we did not know. No. They used to

send-- they used to tell us, "Well, the old people, they are going to go work, farmwork." And then we have farm work so we did not save ourself. They used to speak through loud speakers in German to say, "Whoever is safe, whoever is going to come out, whoever will come out, we are going to send you to farm, work on a farm. And you are going to have enough to eat, all sisters and brothers. And you are going to get reunited with your families what is missing now." Liars, cheaters. And then my brothers and we three sisters, we went straight out to them.

And then they sent us to-- they sent us to another jail where lots of people have been waiting already. And then up there we stay maybe-- I do not know-- maybe few days without food, without everything. And then they put us on trains. They put us on trains, on closed trains. And they put so many people on the trains. So-- but we decide whatever going to be, even to die, to die together with our brothers, because he was the oldest, he was the smartest. And he went, so we all went on the train. And the train was going about a week long. No windows, nothing. Just closed trains. And the people was dying. It is so squeezed in. One person stay on top the other. One person. When one person have to sit down, all people have to sit down. But all people fall. Nobody could sit down. So people been stay inside. And we have to go in the toilet just where you stay. You cannot put down

your pants. There was no place. Everything the way you used to stay, everything. Used to smell horrible. People used to stay dead, stay up dead. They could not lie, fall down, they could not lie down. People get very sick. And then the whole train with people. By the time we came up there to Auschwitz-- we went to Auschwitz. By the time we came up to Auschwitz we used to be how many thousand to five hundred, barely what they could stay or walk because for the whole week we did not get nothing. And we were so weak in the feet. You fall asleep and everything. But for some reason we went through. We been through. And they push us off the train. And we got a little area when we came to Auschwitz. But we see the big crematoriums. All the time we see the, like the burning, the crematoriums. But we did not know this. Some people used to come, used to tell us. They been talking about this. Some Germans used to holler-- when they used to holler at us when we used to-- they say, "Well, you go to the gas chamber! You are going to be burned!" And we took from them, but we did not believe them because they been like the dogs to us. And, anyhow, we came to Auschwitz. And then in Auschwitz they took everything away of us. They say-- they say through the loud speakers, "Take everything with you. You take everything with you. Anybody have any money, every little thing, because you are going to use this, you are going to spend up there. There are going to be stores. You

are going to live on the farm. You are going to be with your parents, happy, together." And whatever somebody have.

I used to have, I guess, maybe about four hundred dollars. But my parents used to save up-- save, save their whole life probably. And my mother used to give me, "This is for the rainy day. Don't spend," she say. "This is for the rainy day." And I used to have safeties into the stuff somewhere. And I took out this and I took this with me. And, of course, up there when we came they took everything away of us. And we have to take off our clothes. All naked.

I used to wear a little ring when I was ten. I have an operation. I have tonsil operation. And after the operation my grandmother-- she got a white gold ring and she make for me a little ring. I was ten years old. But my name was on it. A beautiful gold ring. And I wore this. This was to me very dear because I did not have a grandfather. Used just have a grandmother, and my parents. But this was very dear. And they just came, they cut open the ring. They grab everything. They look in, somebody have gold teeth, they pull off the gold teeth from the mouth. And they led us all naked. And, of course, we were up there again a few days without food. Half people die. And then they put us in lines. One person here, there the other. And then came, I guess, Himmler. I guess his name was Himmler, I guess. Himmler. Or another name. I think Himmler. Not Himmler. It has been

three-- three guys up there. And one from them cane. And the same thing with the cane, the long cane. And he hold by the end of the cane and with the handle he grab the necks.

"Here! You go here! You go here! You go here!" And he formed two lines. And in the two lines. He form the two lines. So he took away my brother. We did not know. They took him away because he have to stay where the men stay. But the three sisters, we been together. And he took away one of my sisters, my middle sister. But she is in Israel. She live in Israel. But he took her away because she was skinny, very skinny, and she was a little girl. So we don't supposed to say nothing. And they ask all the time, "Who is here with the sisters? Who is your family?" They just turn apart-- they don't want two sisters together. They don't want any family together. So we did not say nothing. But my sister run. I do not know this was from God. She ran over naked from the other line. It was so far to there like across the street. And she ran over naked to us to our line. She was with the people they sent to the gas chamber. And she ran over to us. I don't know how nothing happened to them, how they did not see her-- because they would shoot her right away-- how they did not kill her. And she went over to us. So we been very very happy. We hold our hands so fast. We did not say nothing. And I do not know, every minute I thought, 'They are going to take us all three, kill us for this.' But, thank

God, they didn't. They didn't see or something. I don't know.

And from then on they took us to some place in the cement jail. It is like a jail like everybody have to go to get a bath. They cut our hair, everybody's hair they cut very short like men's hair, like crewcuts. Everybody. And I have long hair, very long hair, braces. And my two sisters have braces. And they cut off our hair, naked. And they give everybody after this-- they put something on us. I do not know what they put on, so lice don't form or something. Some very smelly, ugly. I do not know. Something from a bottle. I don't know what this was. So they put this on our heads, our backs, whatever. After so many people, the lice -- they took everything-- our clothes-- they took everything away and they give us some old-- I got an old green long dress, and my sister, she got another dress, just a dress. My other sister got a dress. No underwear, no nothing. And then they took us to the barracks. And I used to be in Auschwitz, and my sisters in Oswiecim-- Auschwitz-- Oswiecim. And this was at Oswiecim. And once a day they let us out to the toilets. They have outside toilets. And I don't remember whether they have a wash place up there to wash. I do not remember. And once a day we got to eat. So they took all out and they count everybody. And they form lines by ten people. But we have nothing to eat then. So they give one like -- it is not a pot. It is just one dish. One deep dish. And they give it

the first one, the first one give a drink, the second one -- we been so hungry. You have to give to the second one. The second give a bigger drink. The third one give a bigger drink. And you come to the last one-- somebody is ten -- there is nothing more in the dish. She got no more. And this is it. And the same was with everybody. So we been up there maybe about-- maybe three weeks we been up there. Of course, we got hit. And each time you have to go out she used to have such a big whip. The SS woman, she used to have such a big stick. And the end of the stick was a rubber-- a very long rubber. And she used to hit us, used to hit us. Was a red SS woman. Was red. Used to have red hair. And she was mean. She was very mean to us. And they count us. And then we went back in and we sleep on the board. We sleep on a very small place. It was rough board. From wood. And the wood was not even-- not smooth. Just the wood was like, you know, like raw wood with splinters and everything. No pillows, no-- nothing to cover. It was like this we used to lay. And we used to lay together. And we used to lay six on such a bed. Like on a single bed. When one person turn, all people have to turn because so little place. And when just a little move she was outside. She used to pass. She used to hit right away. It was very stuff, very hard. And then my sister, she ran out from the barrack one day. Been so hungry, and I started swell. And my middle sister went out

and she still -- I do not know-- she stole from somebody, I guess, a little cup like this. And they been gone with the supervisor. So she just dish the soup deep and grab a little soup and came in to us to give to me. So she chased her and she hit her so much she almost blind her. The blood was running from her eye so bad. She hit her in the eye, I guess. So bad. And swelled up. And she took her out and she did not give her for two days nothing. She not supposed to have for two days any soup.

So, after this, three week we been there in Auschwitz. And when-- then they took us to apeal to count us. And they told us, "Now we going to take you to work. We all going to take you to work." And this time we did not know what has happened to our parents. We did not know what is happened to our brothers. And we used to work from-- we used to work to the-- to the street-- no, this was not the streetcar. This was where you go overnight on the-- I forgot. The train in German again. (Strassenbahn). (Strassenbahn).

Q Autobahn?

A No. I speak German here. I am so messed up.

So, the Autobahn, they took us. We have to walk for about five miles to the Autobahn. It was very hot. So hot, thirsty. So hot. So we were walking one way, and the

other way some men been walking. And when the men been walking with bricks, carry lots of brick-like things. Just carry. And I recognize my brother after so many weeks, so many times, after so long. Maybe after four weeks I recognize my brother. And my brother call out the names and he say, "Are you together? Are you alive?" So she hit him over the head. I do not know whether he hear me or he hear we are alive or something. I don't know. And this was the last time we ever saw our brother. We never saw him again, like other family. So any hour, we walk to the (Strassenbahn). And we went up. And up there everybody got a piece of bread. And then from up there. And then from there we went to Bergen-Belsen. We became to Bergen-Belsen. And in Bergen-Belsen they have some like tents. It is not a house. It is just bricks, like brick walls. They have to let us in up there. And we been sleeping on the floor. And to eat, I guess, I guess we got once a day a little soup. And the soup was from potato skin. But we were happy to get this little soup. So we stay in the brick house. Like a brick house. We stay for three weeks. And then after the three weeks they took us out and they took us-- like they took us to-- to-- they took us to bathe. We took hot showers. Then we go to the very hot showers. And then again they give us the-- they put on us such stuff, smelly stuff, all over the body. And they try to cut the hair, whose hair grow a little bit or

something again. And then they took us to a big place again in Bergen-Belsen. And we used to stay up there in such a tents like barracks. Not barracks. Just when you go camping. Tents we used to stay. Nothing. Just-- just big tents. Such big tents. Nothing on the floor. Nothing. But every day we used to get a little soup. And we used to-- could go out. Where we going to go. The soldiers was watching us all over. And we been up there maybe-- I do not know how long. Four weeks. And from there they sent us to Salzburg. And from there one day they came and now they say, "You going to go to work, you going to go to work you going to get some food, and now you going to be happy." So they came and took us again. They took us-- they took us-- I do not remember. They took us on the close trains or they took us on-- on -- I do not know. And they took us up there. And up there they put us in big barracks, very long barracks, and six people on a barrack. It was very uncomfortable. And nothing-- no covers, no nothing. And in the morning-- six o'clock in the morning they wake us up and we have to go. We have to-- once a day we could wash ourself. Very cold water like ice. It was wintertime already. Pieces of ice. And we used to stay in the apeal. And lots of women, they used to have the periods. It was so cold, no shoes, no nothing. When the blood used to run you could see blood. I was too young. I did not have my period yet. But all the older women, like you could see such

a long pieces blood hanging down because it was so cold, the blood didn't-- ran down, could not run down very fast on the floor. And the blood used to freeze from the woman. It was so cold. And we used to stay barefooted. And they used to count us and count us and count us. And our feet used to stick to the ground from the cold. When we stay they tell us to walk. So we could not walk. We have to rip off our feet to walk. So then we walk maybe about seven o'clock. We walks about five miles. I do not know-- maybe five miles or a little more to a factory-- to a munitions factory. And they used to make us work in the ammunitions factory. And then they make us work in the ammunitions factory. And a German come over and he say in German, "I am the master, and I am going to show you how this work. And everybody have to work. If the machine gets broken," he say, "it is going to be your fault. You are going to be killed." And I used to be short. And artificial floors so we can reach the machines. And I used to make the little bullets. I used to work and I used to make the little one for the guns. The bullets, gun bullets, we have to make. And we have to make so much a day. So much. And used to stay to work. And sometimes the machine got broken. If the machine got broken she used to come over, the officer. This is the SS woman. She used to come over and hit us over the head. "Why do you broke the machine?" We did not broke. Just something-- sometimes-- sometimes happen

sometimes. And then he used to come over and he used to fix the machine. So I used to work, and my other sister, in the ammunitions factory.

And still, airplanes used to come in. This was not German airplanes. Just the enemy's airplanes. I do not know. Or Polish airplanes or Russians or whatever. And they tell us, "You stay inside and just keep working." And they all, the SS men and the SS women, they all ran out to save themselves. But we used to stay and work, just in the ammunition factory. It was so dangerous. And here they used to throw the bombs from up there. And they got killed. Lots of female got killed. We been the lucky one, we did not got killed. And my little sister, she-- what I brought her here. She is here. She used to be very cute. So good looking. So one SS woman, she lost her husband, and she pick up my sister and she say, "You going to work with me." And the whole time when we been in Germany, even we used to work in the ammunition factory maybe a year and a half, she used to work in the kitchen, my sister. But she used to stay in a different place, not with us. And she used to wear shoes. She have a pair of shoes, she have a dress. And she used to work in the kitchen. I don't know. She used to cut potatoes or clean potatoes or help in the kitchen. And the SS woman used to like her very much. And she say, you know, "I going to adopt you." And she used to take her to her house. We didn't

know. We did not see my sister the whole time. We did not see her one single time.

When I was very swollen I couldn't go to work. I-- my whole body was swollen.

And they put the very sick people, they put in the-- they put us in a hospital barracks. Hospital barracks, this is not-- it is like-- not a hospital. Before a hospital. They have certain things what they can help meanwhile the person. So they put me inside. And they say they cannot help, in the day they put them to the gas chambers.

So, my sister, every day we did not see her, but she used to look through the window where we go to work in the morning. But she used to see us. But one day she did not see me because I was laying. I did not care anymore I die or I live. So they took me and they put me up there. So my sister, she used to know I probably am up there to take out to the gas chamber. So she used to-- she come in up there and she brought a little soup and she gave it to me and she told me, "Please, if you can walk, walk back to the barrack," she told me. "Walk back to the barrack because tomorrow they are going to take all sick female to the gas chamber. Don't stay here. Please," she say. She don't supposed to talk to us. Nobody is supposed to know me. She is my sister. So then I eat the little soup and I went back. And everybody ask me, "What is happened? What is happened?" And I told them. I

told them, "I am better. I am fine. I want to go back to work." So I went in the morning to work. I was so sick. I could not walk. I could not walk. I couldn't work. I could not do nothing. So the guy what he used to fix the machine, all of a sudden he became sorry for me. And he says to me in German, he say, "Look, you so swollen, you so sick," he say, and my dress was turn -- I do not know, all open, the dress. And he say, "Look," he say in German to me, "tomorrow I going to bring thread and a needle, you going to sew up your dress. Don't say nothing. I am going to put this in the side. And I put a little piece of bread here. But don't talk to me, don't say thank you. Don't say nothing. Take the little bread nobody see. And take the needle home. When you go to the barracks you sew up your dress." Young man. I don't know how young he was. Maybe 28 years old. I do not know. He used to be up there. He used to fix the machines. German, of course. So, thanks to this gentleman, I lived through, because every second day he used to put a piece of bread. Every second day. And he don't supposed to do this. And we used to work very very hard up there. We used to work so hard without food with the sickness, and work one and a half year up there without end. And we did not know from my parents, we did not know from nobody.

And one day when I got better I decide I going to go and steal some potato skin. Because we used to have such

stuff up there what we used to steal pieces wood we used to bring home for when we went to work and they let us out to the toilet. So we went to the guard base, so we pick up pieces wood. Sometimes somebody throw out something to eat. Something. Anything. I am so hungry. So one day I decide I am going to go up there and I am going to steal some potato skins because I saw the day before I went some potato skins. So I went up there and I pick up some potato skins, but I do not have where to put. And I have a long dress. And I rip off from the bottom of the dress and I put the potato skin inside. And when I come back some other Jewish person squeal on me. I went to the toilet and I brought back something from when I was outside. And she came over to me and she say, "What you brought?"

And I say, "Nothing."

"Well, I want to see what you brought because I kill you right here." So I show it to her, the potato skin. She took the potato skin with the potatoes and she say, "You go back and take this back from where you got them." And when I come back she hit me so much. Everybody-- she call all girls-- on the apeal. Everybody to stay to look. I do not know. Five hundred girls used to work up there and look the way she beat me. She used to beat me over my head here, my whole body. She used to beat me so hard I could not get up on my feet. I was bleeding from all over. I was bleeding. Then

she say, "Now you have enough potato skin. I don't think you hungry now." Well, after she beat me, then she order me to go to work. After went to work, and I stayed by the machine, but I was bleeding, and the bleed went on the little bullets. And that she don't like it, so she sent me. She said, "You go wash off the dirty blood, your dirty, rotten, Jewish blood you wash off." And I went in and I wash myself. And I come in and I stayed, work again. And this been gone on-- going on for the whole time, without shoes, hungry. And my sister been sick with dysentery, I been sick. And everybody was sick. It was a very bad camp up there. This was Zalcnedel. Camp's name was Zalcnedel. And up there we work very very hard for one, one and a half year. And then this was already 1944, I guess, and end in 1944. So we did not know, but we saw some Germans that are out-- that are in because he was at our camp. And then, was like a yard, and then the other side was a camp. But this was not a camp. This was special barracks for the SS women, SS men. And my little sister used to work there. And my sister, she don't supposed to come in to us because they don't supposed to know I have a sister. So once in a while she used to-- was nice. She used to come in with a few potatoes. She used to bake them. And she brought in once in a while three potatoes, two potatoes. Once in a while. Whatever she can. And the other Jewish girls, they are very jealous. And they say they are going to squeal on us if we don't give

what we have. And if she brought one, two potatoes I give one to the other girls. And they been mean and they used to say, "Well, do you have a sister? And your sister gives you to eat, both of you, and we starve. And there not other three sisters live through this. They separate everybody. And why are you alive?" The Jewish girls. And the Jewish girls alone been mad, I do not blame them. And they hit us. They used to hit us. They used to push us around. They used to give everybody the soup. We have to stay the last one because they always used to say, "Well, you not hungry. Your sister always bring you something. We are the hungry one." We used to stay the last one. Sometimes we don't got anymore little soup. They don't give it to us because they give out everything already. And this pass too.

So then 1945 my sister brought in once two potatoes. And she say, "I do not know." she say, "but, I do not know how to read German, but I think something is going on with the Russian with"-- my sister told us, "and pretty soon the war is going to be finished and we are going to be together." And my sister told me this. I mean, this never went into my head. Never. Never. Because we do not believe anymore it is going to come such a time. So, anyhow, 1945; I guess in March. So the German woman took my sister away. She took her to her house to Braunschweig. This was Auschwitz. And she took my sister to Braunschweig. I do not know how far

away this was. And she took her to her house because she want to adopt her. She like her very much. Her husband got killed in the war and she lived with old mother, so she took my sister away.

And then all of a sudden some-- we hear some-- the Germans say, "Don't move! Just stay right where you stay! Where you stay inside in the barracks!" They come in. Say, "If anybody move, we are going to shoot you."

And we have no windows. You could not see what is going on. But we hear-- they used to bomb the whole night. Bomb. You can bomb, bomb, bomb. We used to see. And fire we see. They did not know Jewish people been up there, whoever done this. Or the Russian. Or, I do not know who. But in the morning we saw already the German-- the Germans ran away. They ran. They ran away. And we did not see-- still we didn't see no American. We did not see nobody. And we been afraid. And we didn't got to eat. Nobody come to take us out to count us. But something-- some case, if they kill us, they kill us. We are through. And we went in. And they say, "We are going to run into the kitchen." She was go now. Somebody going to go up there. They going to kill us. They went into the kitchen and they didn't find nobody. So all German people ran away. They took with them my sister. So we all went out. And then all of a sudden the gate open up and some American come in. Some American soldiers come in. And when the American

soldiers come in I was very sick. I could not walk because I was all swollen. I do not know why. From hunger my whole body was swole. And my sister was sick. And lots of us, lots of-- lots of girls just been at girl camp been very sick. And when they were so sick-- when they were so sick, so they took them to a hospital. They took them to a hospital. So in Germany I was in the same hospital. And we been laying in the hospital up there. And we got good food and we got better.

I forgot one thing. I want to tell you this. This was important. This was 1939. Can I go back?

Q YES.

A This was 1939. When the war broke out and they start burning the Jewish shools, they start-- all Jewish shools been burning. This was Yom Kippur. This was Yom Kippur time. And was planning and the (yamka) and the (talis), you know, was staying, praying. And the Germans used to look-- German soldiers used to looks for Jewish people. So they come in. They took out my father. And they say, "This was your last prayer what you pray!" And they took out my father. They took him in the yard. And they took my brother, and they say-- and they took the whole family and they spread them around like they form-- they form and spread them around. And they say to my father, "You have to. You going to dig your own grave!" They say this to my brother, too. "You and you, you, going to dig your own grave! And your family have

to stay and to look on to this!" So they start-- they start digging the grave. And they dig, they dig. They say the grave have to be five feet. I don't know. Five feet deep and so-- so long. So my father and my mother-- my mother was staying with the kids. We all used to look my father and his (talis) he used to wear and dig the grave. And my brother used to dig the grave. And then he used to come and check enough long, enough deep. Then he went away. And all of a sudden some airplanes come and they start bomb-- bombarding the whole town. The whole house. The whole town where we used to live. This was before the ghetto. Supposed to move into the ghetto. And then my father went away like my brother. Otherwise, they would shoot them right away. And then, of course, then he went-- he went. Then other soldiers came and they took him to work. And we used to work the whole time. We used to work. We still -- before the ghetto they used to come in every morning, take us out, take us to the-- to the German kitchens to peel potatoes, to wash, to clean, to do. All-- everybody used to work. My mother, the children, everybody have to work. And the food was very, very, very-- no food. This was the worst thing, no food. And the beating.

Then go back after the war when the Germans come in. They put me in a hospital. And I was in the hospital for a while. Then I got better. And when I went out to the hospital was very good because used to be American kitchens

and they used to feed us three times a day. And this been in Zalcwegel. Be in Zalcwegel. And then they give us already-- they give us the places to live. And we used to live, four, five girls in the house. Not in the house. I don't know. Maybe in the room. And then three times a day we used to go to eat. And they used to cook very good for us, very good food. But this did not take long. Then the-- then the people came, the Germans-- no. The English people came and the Russian people came because they fight together in the war. And then they split up. Somehow they split up, you know. This belong to the Russian, this side, and this belong to the American, and this belong to the English. So I happen to be on the Russian side. And day before we got enough to eat, we got everything. And a day later, soon the Russian go in. I couldn't go any more to the English. I just been allowed to go so-- so far on the Russian side for my sisters. And there we did not have nothing to eat right away. They give us a tiny peace of bread with a piece of salami. And they form a little camp. This was a Ukraine camp. And the Ukraine did not like the English. And three times a day we used to go up there And we get a little soup. Soup from potatoes. And we did not get-- right away we did not have to eat again. And this was after the war. After the war we did not have to eat. This was maybe three months after the war we still been hungry. We did not have to eat. And we used to have the same

clothes where we wear in the concentration camp. So one day two Jewish boys came, and one was sisters. This happened to be my cousin, a fourth cousin. And he used to have two sisters by the same name, Sniatkiewicz. My home name is Sniatkiewicz. And my husband is Zolowicz. But from home is Sniatkiewicz. And he saw somewhere in Red Cross the name. So he came to look for his sisters. He thought he find his sisters, he find us. And he find up there maybe 50 Jewish girls. And we all been starving. Three months after the war is finish we have nothing to eat. Nothing. No clothes, nothing. And him been-- like by the Germans. The Ukraine people been so bad to us, just like the Germans. So he say we live already in Frankfurt-- Frankfurt -- and we have everything to eat, and, you know, you know, the UNRA is to help the Jewish people. This was an organization was just to help the Jewish people. This was a Jewish organization which used to help all people from concentration camp after the war.

Q UNRA?

Q Yes, the UNRA. Yes. Thank you. Used to help all Jewish people. And he say, "We are up here in Frankfurt and we have a Jewish camp and we get to eat and we get rations every week, and we start to live already like people. Sick people, they go to hospitals. But I like to take you, all of you. But how I going to take you?" He say, "I

have no money, I have no tickets. One way I can take you," he say, "if you have to stay outside the train. And when the train start moving I going to have open the windows." And he came with a friend. "And we going to pull you in. There is a possibility you can get killed," he say. "Otherwise you have to go inside and they are going to throw you out because you have no tickets." The Germans. So we stay outside. And when the train start was the whistle, the train is going to leave, they start pull us into the window. And we came to Frankfurt. When we came to Frankfurt I still save a piece of bread from up there because I thought, you know, maybe I going to be hungry there. So I still have a piece of bread. So, gone with the dinner. So when we came up there, like we came to heaven. We came up there and we went to the UNRA. And the UNRA gave us a room. Us three children. Me and my two sisters. And we have a girlfriend with us. And she give us a room and she say, "This don't going to be your room. But this going to be a room"-- "this is a room that belong to two"-- or-- "to three boys, and they work now by the American army. They work in Frankfurt. And just for the weekend they are coming here. So until we find a place for you you can stay here in this place because they don't come through the week. They come through the weekend. They work up there." And you run into this room, it was little closet with food. And we eat up the whole food. We were so hungry. We wash ourself and

we feed already like human being as to give us something-- clothes. And not beds, but the coverings, Army covers, and such little beds like not real beds, Army covers. And we sleep up there for a whole week. And the end of the week somebody knock on the door and open the door. So the guys get out. We live up there. They come in. And he say-- one guy say, "What you do here?" And I being the oldest one, I say, "I live here." I say, "This is our house, and please get out," I say, "because the UNRA give us this until she going to find another house." And the two guys come in, and one guy say to the other one, "Leave the girls here. We find another place to sleep." And we stay up there until morning. And in the morning they get-- come in and we go out. We go out and we went back to the UNRA, and the UNRA find us our place.

And my husband, he used to work with the American GI's. He used to work in the kitchen. And each time there were leftovers, food leaves over-- they used to work in Frankfurt. He used to bring over the leftovers. Leftovers. Lots of food. So when they bring over the leftovers, my husband was, and give out the food. And I came over. I said, "Why should we three stay in the line. One going to stay." And when I come over I say, "Please," -- with a little bucket, I said, "Please give me for three people." And he say to his friend, he said, "Look at her. She is so small and she want to eat for three people." And he laugh. And I

said, "Look, I have two sisters." And he said, "I do not believe you." And he say, "Why don't bring your sisters?" And I say, "Why should they stand in the line?" Why can't you give me? Why can't you believe me?" And he say, "I do not going to believe you." And he say -- the friend say, "Why don't give it to her? If she said so, she bring a big bucket, so she probably have three people, two sisters." And little by little I got to know him, and this was my husband. So for a few weeks, and then I brought my sisters. He meet my sisters, and he believe me. So he don't say anymore nothing. And we used to stay in Zalcwedel, and the UNRA used to support us, used to give us food, used to give us clothes. And my husband, he used to get-- once a week he used to get a ration. He used to live up there in Frankfurt. And once a week he used to come to the camp to help the Jewish people. And the whole week he used to live up there because it was a long ride, an hour ride to work. And he used to like to live in Frankfurt. So one day he came back and he came to us and he say or I know a German woman who would wash his clothes, his uniform. Used to wear a uniform from the Army, a navy blue uniform. -- to wash his clothes, he say. And all I can talk German or I can talk to her and tell her-- tell her I would give her coffee-- coffee was a very big thing in Germany after the war. I would bring her coffee and cigarettes for this after she wash my clothes. And for coffee

you could buy anything, and cigarettes. I did not smoke. My sister did not smoke. So I say, yes, I going to talk to her. And I took the clothes and I wash the clothes, and I iron the clothes. Then he came back for the clothes. He brought the whole suitcase. A little suitcase with cigarettes. And he have coffee, he have candies. He got a ration. And he gave it to me. He said, "Take it to the German woman. Thank you very much." And I never say I done this. I was ashamed. So, meanwhile, I have something. So I took the coffee and I exchange to German people. I went and exchange-- she gave me-- one gave me some-- some bread, the other one give me some fruits. And I exchange this whole thing. And for the cigarettes I got some clothes. So, for a while he used to do this. And then one day, it was before a holiday, and he say he wants to meet the German woman what she do such a good job. He want to give her a gift because she do a really good job. She do for him the job, she do for his friend the job. And I do not know what to do, see. I have been the German woman. And I say, "Is this so important?" And he say, "It is very important because she really do a good job." And I say, "Well, we been going through so much. You are Jewish, I am Jewish," I say, "I do not know what is so important to give gifts to German people." And he say, "This is mine and it is up to me. She does me a big favor." And I tell him. I tell him I do not have no German woman. And he says, "Who does the

job?" And I say, "I am the one. I do the job." And he did not believe me. And then my sister say, "Yes, this is my sister. And we helped her. We wash every week. We wash clothes for you and your friend, and we never want to tell you." My sister, she is ashamed. So from then on we knew each other. And he says, "I want to buy you a gift." And I say, "Well, I need a pair of shoes. But my sisters need shoes, too." And he said to me, "So what"-- So what do you want me to buy, three pair of shoes? I cannot afford to buy more like one pair of shoes." And I told him, "Well, if you cannot afford this, it is too bad." I say, "We don't need no shoes because we all need shoes or we all don't going to have shoes." So he don't say nothing. He went away. In a few weeks later he came with three pair of shoes, every three. And then we start to know each other a little closer. As closer. And then whatever he wants to take me to a movie I say, "If you have tickets for three movies. We going to go together. If not, we cannot go. I can never leave my sisters. We have been going through so much in our lives. We been so separated. And now you cannot-- you cannot take me away from my sisters. Never in my life. I going to be my whole life with my sisters." And he say, "It is up to you." And I say, "All right." And we didn't go to the movies. So he say, "I have one ticket. Whoever I find, I take her to"-- I said, "I do not mind. I don't care."

And before this. Going back, my little sister was

with the German woman. And I went back to the German woman and try to get my sister. And I have a very hard time to get back my sister. She save her-- she save my sister by a family, by her family. And I have such a hard time to get my sister back, a very hard time. And then I have to answer, I have to sign. I never going to squeals on her, I never going to say nothing. She was bad because she was the worst SS woman what can be in this camp. And she was so good to my sister. And the same woman beat me many many time. But I done this for my sister. I say, "All right, I not going to say nothing. I not going to do nothing." And she give me back my sister.

Q WHEN DID YOU TRY TO FIND YOUR SISTER AGAIN? WHEN DID YOU TRY TO GET YOUR SISTER BACK?

A When I try to get my sister back?

Q YES.

A I try to get my sister back right away after the war. After the war --

Q BEFORE YOU MET YOUR HUSBAND, BEFORE--

A No. It was before. Before. Right after the war. If you been in-- she was in Braunschweig. And we been in Zalcwedel. Yes, we was in Zalcwedel still. And I tried to get her back. And then we been up there-- they sent us from Zalcwedel to (Hollandorf). It was a small place, a very small place. And we used to live up there for a while in

the woods. And I try to get back my sister. But I got her back. I have a very hard time to get her back because she say she kept it-- all the war and everything, she was not hungry and everything, and she deserve now to have my sister. So I took her back. I thought I never going to get her back. And then I knew my husband almost a year. And then he move back to Zalchaim. He move back, and then we got married. Then we used to live with the two neighbors, Jewish neighbors. And she say, "Well, it would be nice if you two get married. You can be together like this. You live here, and he lives in Frankfurt, and it is not fair like this, see." So we got married in Germany in Zalcwadel up there.

Q WHAT YEAR IS THIS?

A 1946. Actually, 1945 we married in (skaldarmsheim). This is (skaldarmsheim). This is the-- I am thinking German again. City Hall. German City Hall. It is (skaldarmsheim).

So we end in 1945.

We marry in the beginning of 1945, the American camp. End of 1945 we marry in German-- like in City Hall. And then 1946 we marry with the Jewish rabbi with the (hooper), everything. Jewish. So and then we live in Germany.

Q DID YOUR SISTERS LIVE WITH YOU?

A Yes. We live in Germany for another five years. My husband work for the American army. He work. And

then they try to come to this country because my husband used to work for the army. And he have good papers. Said he used to work in a supply room where they supply clothes for the Army. And the-- then we make papers to come here. So took a long time. And we came here. We came here and we came to Trenton, New Jersey.

And up there starts the trouble again because when we came here I was-- I was, I guess, 23 or 24 years old. I have a child, two year old child. And my husband used to work he make very little money. I guess, 19 dollars a week. Very little to live on. And this time was the war with the Korea.

Q KOREAN?

A Korea. This was the war. And they sent him papers they are going to take him because he is of age to take him. They are going to take him. And then they did not take him because we sent, you know, we have a child. So they didn't take him. But was very little to live on, the money. And I went to work. Where can I work. I don't know the language. I don't know today the language. To this time I do not know English at all. So I met a Jewish lady. I went on the bus. And it was so hot. And she said to me-- she said to me, "This is your child?" And I say, "Yes." And she asked me the nationality. And I said, "I am Jewish." And she said, "I am Jewish, too." And she say, "Where are you going?" And I say, "I am going to look for some apartment or some work. I

do not know." And the kid was crying. It was so hot. New Jersey gets very hot in the summertime. And I used to live in Trenton, New Jersey. She said, "I live not far. Why don't you get off with me together, and I take you to my house. Your kid is going to cool off a little bit. I will give a bottle milk the baby, and we can talk a little bit. I make you lunch." And I say, "All right." I went with the lady. A very beautiful lady. We became very close friends then. She is a very beautiful person.

And she used to work for Israel. Used to do a lot for Israel. Her husband was a manager for Israel. Israel bonds and everything. And her husband.

And I came up and she give the baby some milk. And she let me give a bath for the baby, you know. And she let me lie down the baby, and the baby fell asleep. And she make me lunch. And she call up her husband.

And they used to have a very big store. They used to have chain stores from -- hardware chain stores. They were very wealthy people. And then next to them used to be a very huge place. And they used to call this In and Out Club just for men. Not just men. Just very wealthy people like from town or from the City Hall, like everybody used to come nights up there. Just men. And they used to play cards, they used to play the pool tables. They used to have diner.

She was chairman over this. And she say, "Well,

maybe we can use some young people like you here. Do you have an apartment?" Which, an old man live up there, but he cannot do the work anymore. So we are going to give you the apartment, and you are going to get, still, money every month. And you are going to get the apartment for nothing. And you will going to clean every morning the club where the people come at night. Every morning. By eight o'clock you have to be done.

So, it was wintertime, very cold. So, I used to take the kid, put in a box, in a carton, and tie him around me with string. And throw a bottle of milk and put on a pool table. And I and my husband used to clean every morning a huge place. Huge. Used to have 18 windows, venetian blinds. And we have to work in front, too, in front to clean the snow wintertime. And the snow was to the knees. So we wrap our feet with newspapers. We did not have the best shoes. And we clean. We have to clean up. Otherwise, if somebody fall. They are going to sue the club because the snow was not cleaned up. So I and my husband used to clean every morning before my husband went to work. My husband went to work-- was seven o'clock because he have to take buses. So we get up four o'clock, both of us, and we clean the club, and then we clean the front, the snow. It was very hard, very difficult. But we did have to eat because the people nights they used to leave some bread, they used to left some sardines. The men,

they used to left some food. Whatever used to be left over they tell us to throw out. We did not throw out. We took everything to our house. So we have to eat. This was one good thing. And my husband used to work. And one day my husband went to work, he got very sick. And some kind of explosion. And I do not know. My husband got very sick, and they have to keep him six weeks in the hospital. Keep him six weeks in the hospital, and I have to do the whole work by myself. It was so hard on me. It was so difficult, very very hard.

And then a Polish lady used to read the papers. A guy got-- he got so hit by the explosion. And since our name was Zolowicz in Polish, so they talk-- it is a Polish name. My husband's name is Zolowicz. This is a Polish name. So even the priest from the church came to visit him at the hospital. He came to visit him in the hospital. The lady-- the Polish lady used to help me out a lot. She used to help me out a lot. She used to-- her husband used to take me to the hospital, and she used to help me go shopping. Take me in the car. And she used to keep my child sometimes. And she used to help me lots. And then little by little my husband find another job. And then from then on we start little by little. And I used to go always to help my husband. I used to go clean houses, whatever somebody told me. And I used to make-- a dollar was lots of money an hour. Sometimes I used to make three dollars a day. And I used to take -- whatever I

been to work, I tell them I have a little kid and I have to take the baby with me. And everybody agree. And I used to make sometimes the same that my husband used to make, 19. And I used to make another 19. And we start save a little. Little every week. Until we got an apartment. Until we can move out from this place where we live because it was too hard.

And little by little, I mean, you know, we came to live like people. We have an apartment. My husband did not drink. I do not drink. And we don't smoke. Just, the thing is. I was sick. I was sick my whole life. I was sick when I got married. I was sick. In 1946, 1947 I want to take my life because I was so sick. I was very sick. I was-- I have-- my trouble, my stomach. I used to have in German, in German. I used to have some kind of infection in my whole stomach. I could not take any food. Whatever I took come back. And I was very sick. And I was suffering all the years. I was suffering. My stomach was very bad. And I was in Germany hospitalized several times. And Frankfurt. And I was hospitalized in America. And then they operate me in 1951. Operate me. And they open me up. And meanwhile they find gallbladder. Not gallstones. Gallbladder. Tiny white stones. They give me whole-- like a little watch. They give me home like in a-- in the coffee pots. A little coffee pot. Tiny white stuff. Just white skin. And they took everything

out from me. And he look in my stomach, too. And he said, "You have a very bad ulcer." And I suffer my whole life from this. And all the time depressed, depressed, depressed, depressed.

And, I do not know, maybe one of the days I like to go, maybe I can go-- I like to go-- I like to go-- I like to go to Auschwitz to see. It is impossible to find next grave. But to see-- to see where my parents vanished. And it is still in the back of my mind, my older brother. I do not know why. But I don't-- I do not think my parents live. I do not think the young kids live. But my older brother, it is back-- all the time I been thinking about this. He live somewhere. And all the time I been thinking, 'Why he don't look for us?' I cannot understand, because we came from such a close family. And I wrote to the Red Cross, to the Pole. I wrote five letters. I got one letter back. And they say he live four weeks before the war ended. They say say he used to be in a camp in Bergen-Belsen. He used to live up in Bergen-Belsen. In the camp he used to be. And I have no trace.

And I like to find somebody from my family. I like to find very much somebody. And since we came from such a close family. And now what I have left over, thank God I have two sons, and I have a husband.

I have a good husband. He is-- he been suffering,

too, a lot because he been going through a lot, too, with the camp, with everything. And, matter of fact, a year ago he just have open heart surgery.

And I suffer my whole life. I have a heart condition and other troubles. And it is something without the end. It is not a end to this. I have been trying to go to doctors. I am trying to go to psychiatrist. And it is not such a thing somebody is going to come talk me out of this. Well, it is past. Hitler is not coming any more. This is not going to be any more, can't be any more. That is not such a thing. We have to watch out so it is never going to be such a thing. And second, there is not a thing we can forget. I don't know who. But I can never forget this in my heart, life, never. Just because we are Jewish people we suffer so much. Even I did not look like Jewish when I was young. I was blonde. Blonde hair and everything. But just because my parents be Jewish, my grandmother, my whole family been Jewish, just because we are Jewish we have so much trouble and everything. So this why I like-- I liked to be memorized. I was Jewish, and a good Jew. And what happened to all Jewish people. Most of the European Jewish people all suffer. One live here. She is not so sick. The other one is very sick. The third one die. That the way it goes. And this the way I want to say: one of these days I want to come over and I want to give my story because it is important to me. It is

important to me so my children know this. And my children. And it is important to me so if something happen -- so the Jewish don't go like we used to go. We used to go like-- say to the young kids -- they say, 'You go to sleep like this. We used to-- we used to go -- just like say to young kids, 'Go to sleep,' and the kids listen. 'Go to sleep.' They used to tell us, "Go! We going to kill you!" We going to do this. We been afraid. We been afraid to open up our mouth. We got killed anyhow, we got hit anyhow. But the Jewish people been never at fault. They been afraid. Their whole life they been afraid. They never stand up for their rights. And they never should forget this. Never. Never. Because we never know even the soldier, Hitler, the soldier in the burning. They sold everything. In my book, maybe he is killed. But in my book there are thousands and thousands and thousands like he. Thousands. Is he dead or somewhere else live? It is always-- it is going to be all the time like this if the Jewish people are going to live like this. So it is up to the Jewish people. And we all should never forget-- never forget what happened.

1939, Jewish people before as the war. They used to live poor people, rich people, very people. Everybody used to live. Everybody used to make a living in Poland. But then the German come in. We did not-- we be no more people. We have no more rights to walk where people walk. And right

away, five years, five years they kill us. Little by little they kill us out.

Q WHEN YOU WERE-- AFTER THE WAR YOU WERE LIVING IN GERMANY, WHAT WAS THE RESPONSE OF THE GERMANS TO YOU?

A After the war?

Q YES.

A After the war I been in Germany because I went waiting to go away. We supposed to go to Israel actually. We all supposed to go to Israel. But I got married 1945. 1946 I got married. And my two sisters, they went to Israel because they used to go to school, to Jewish school in the-- and somebody up there used to send all kids, all youngest kids left over, to Israel. And my sister say, "Since you marry, why you don't stay here?" And my husband, he did not agree to go to Israel. He said, "I do not going to go to Israel," he say. I do not go to Israel. If I going to go," he say, "I want to go to America. And if you want to go with your sister, you welcome." So I went with my husband. And then what is happened, my sisters came to Israel, what happened. Was the war up there. They took my sisters to the war right away. They been starving. They did not have to eat. One sister, she went with the-- she went straight and she went with the kids. The other sister, she went way the-- she went to the mountain. And she went, like, black. She went

with the ship which they shoot on the ship. They sent back the ship. She went with the aliya-- I forgot how you call this. I forgot. And they been in Cypria, they been to Italy. They did not let them into Israel. She didn't live legal. The young one went legal. The other one, she could not go legal anymore. So they went anyhow. And I was in Germany still. I was waiting until they shipped me out to this country.

Q AND HOW DID THE GERMANS TREAT YOU AFTER THE WAR IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, IN THE COMMUNITY WHERE YOU WERE?

A Well, in Germany after the war, well, they been afraid a little bit. They don't say. They been afraid. They keep their mouth shut. But they didn't like us very much. They didn't like us then and they didn't like us now. They didn't like us. And some German-- some Germans, they make believe they didn't know nothing was going on. I used to live with a German woman, in one room with a German woman-- no. This was after the war. Yes, this was after the war. -- with a German woman, which, I used to pay my own rent. And I rent a room in Linz. One room, one single room. And she said, "You can cook in my kitchen and use my toilet. And you just have the one room for you and for your husband and your kid to sleep." And I pay her a fee. And I remember like today I used to live in Linz. And she have a grandchild maybe five years old. And I was sitting in the dining room. I asked her I can sit because I did not have a table because I

want to write a letter to my sister to Israel. And she said, "Yes, you can." And I was sitting in the dining room writing the letter. And the little boy open up a drawer, and the door fall hohlenlychen, swastikas, falls swastikas. And they have flags with the swastikas. And he pull out one. When I saw he pull out one I got up and I start shaking. And I open up the whole drawer and the whole drawer was full with swastikas and with-- full with swastikas and with flags, German flags. Full, a whole big drawer. And when I saw this I start shaking so bad. I got so sick. I got chest pains. I got so sick and I start crying. And she come in, she saw this-- I saw this. And she say, "Look, I just took over my daughter." She lives with the daughter and the daughter have this home, and she have no husband. "And my daughter say she is going to get married. She want you to move out." The same day. And I move out next day. And I was afraid to say to anybody because she told me, "Look, if anybody going to know about this"-- because I ask her. I say, "Why you saving this? For whom?" I asked her in German. I speak very well German, and I asked her in German, "Why you saving this? For whom? You think there is going to come another Hitler?" And she say, "Yes, there is going to come another Hitler. The war is not finished. And if you going to mention, just say to anybody," she say, "so you don't going to live very long here in Germany." So I was afraid. I never mentioned to nobody. I was afraid to say. And

from then on we move-- we move to Frankfurt. And Frankfurt we live with my girlfriend, we live eight people, two little rooms with two kids. But I live so long until they ship us out to America.

Thank God for this, I have two nice sons, two good sons. I have a good husband. But it could be better. Can be better. We are getting older. And the sickness. And this is it. We been gone through a lot. So much. How much I tell the story, how much it is I do not think I tell half because I just can't memorize it. So it makes me nervous. It make me very nervous. Before I came here I took two nerve pills. Not one, two I took because I do take pills, see. I take for my heart. I take for everything. I take 12 pills a day every single day. And today I doubled up so I could tell the story. And I am very happy. I tell how much I can.

Q HOW DO YOU FEEL NOW YOUR CHILDREN HAVE DEALT WITH THIS? DO YOU FEEL THAT THEY STILL STRUGGLE A LOT OR DO YOU FEEL THAT THEY UNDERSTAND YOU?

A Yes. My kids struggle because of me. I give myself to blame because my oldest son, he is a very nervous-- he is a very bright boy. He is very smart. He used to be-- he don't work anymore. He used to teach English. He is an English major. And he used to work not now. He is not working now. Ten-- more like ten years. He work up there five years. And as the (hundespont) to work is not fun. They used

to break his car. They used to-- and he have -- ninth grade he used to teach history. And they used to hit him. He used to come home with stitches. And the principal say to him, "Look, here is a bet, if -- they are going to come. And just keep lock the door all the time. If they come in or something, hit back first, and then come into the office," they used to tell him. Because the children nine year-- they are ninth grade. They don't have-- they have to sit to learn. They have to sit something else to do. So he never could get in right grades. So the parents come over, "Why my kid don't have good grades?" And he had to say, "Why don't he have good grades? Because they don't learn." So the next day they broke his car. They broke the antenna. So he taught up there five years. And he got out from up there. He did not teach anymore. He is not a serviceman.

Q WHAT I MEANT TO ASK IS HOW DO YOU THINK WHAT YOUR EXPERIENCES WERE DURING THE WAR, HOW DO YOU THINK THAT HAS AFFECTED YOUR CHILDREN?

A How has it affected? Very much. My children are nervous. They are very nervous. And it is a thing-- it is-- it is a thing when the children been younger, I have lots of trouble with them. I could not raise my children. I was so nervous I could not raise them. Every word, every second word was, you know, when I used to give the food, when they didn't eat, so I say, "You don't know

what hunger mean! I was your age I was in concentration camp, starving. I was starved for a piece of bread. I was swole." Right away I used to throw up the whole story. I could not help myself, see. And I used to be very mad. Mad, mad, mad. Very nervous. And so my oldest son, he is very nervous. My other son, too. They are nervous. They are very good kids, very good kids. One live in Atlanta, Georgia. And one live here in San Francisco. But they are very good kids. One have two children already, and he raise him Jewish, which, I am very happy. And I hope the other one going to have a child, going to raise Jewish, too. Because, after all, I came from a very Jewish home; not very religious, but Jewish. Very Jewish.

Q CAN YOU TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT HOW YOUR FAMILY WAS JEWISH? DID YOU GO TO SYNAGOGUE? YOU MENTIONED THAT YOUR FATHER WORE A--

A Yes. Well, my father he used to go to synagogue. Not every day. But he used to go every Saturday. Saturday was Saturday. Saturday was everything closed, closed the whole thing, Saturday. Nobody was working in that house. Saturday we prepare for Saturday. And Saturday he went to synagogue, Friday nights and Saturday morning. And we used to keep up very much the holidays. And Sunday I used to work. But, since we used to live in a Polish neighborhood, so they did not like we work Sundays. So they used to send in Polish

police and-- you know, so you could not do-- they would give us tickets if we work Sunday. So we did not. We did not fight with them. And Saturday you don't work, and now you are going to work on Sundays. So we did not work. But, besides this, my father, every morning he used to (dubnenhom), and my brother used to (dubnenhom). You had to put the (pilam) on his forehead, you remember, like today. And my mother used to teach us Jewish. I used to go to special Jewish school. For girls you call this. Every day you used to go from three to four. And my grandmother was a very religious person. Her husband was like a rabbi. I don't know. You are too young to know this. He used to -- when a chicken in Jewish is not kosher -- something happen to chicken when a chicken break a leg or something. Some spot or something. So you have to go to the rabbi to ask or you are allowed to use the chicken. When the chicken break a leg, and a red spot or something, a blood spot or something.

So this what my grandfather used to do. Very very religious home. Friday-- all shoes have to be cleaned Friday for Saturday. The braces, everybody, my mother used to comb the kids and make braces, nice braces for the kids so Saturday they don't comb their hair. And this was a real Jewish house. And this happen. This left over in me. I light candles every Friday. I used to go to Jewish school before the war.

And when I met my husband he was not-- he did not come from no religious home. And when I marry him the first year I said, "Look, in our house we used to fast in Kippur a half a day, the kids." And he say, "I do not going to fast." And I say -- I used to have a neighbor downstairs -- and I went down to the neighbor and I beg him, I said, "Mr. Sigbigort, I like my husband fast, too. And, if you talk to him, he have such respect for you." He used to take my husband every Saturday to the synagogue. And my husband don't come from the Jewish home at all. He is Jewish, but they didn't know much Jewishness. He used to live in Warsaw, so he took him with him to synagogue. And the first year, the first half day, and next year we fast the whole day on Kippur. And we try, and I try to keep a Jewish house. And I try to raise these children Jewish. I did. My children went to Jewish -- to the Hebrew school. They graduate from Hebrew school. They been bar mitzvah here. And my children-- my older son, Jack, he used to teach every Saturday. He used to here on Fourteenth Avenue, the congregation with the children, he used to teach the children every Saturday. He sit down with them every Saturday. He is very good in this. And the other two, they are very-- they know Jewish better like I know English. I am very proud. And he have two children. And both-- both have been circumcised. Even the wife is not-- is not Jewish. And every Yom Kippur, every Rosh Hoshana, he goes

to the school. He fathers-- he sent -- a little kid he send to Jewish school. He is 40 years old. He sent him to preschool, to Jewish school. I am very proud. And I hope how long I am going to live, then he going to keep up the Jewishness because it is very important because it is so little Jewish left over. And a lot of Jewish people, especially here, I'm very disappointed in such a nice city, such a big city, some people that are Jewish and are afraid to say they are Jewish. Not even they are afraid, they are shamed to say they are Jewish. And this is just a-- It is a big town here. And there are very few Jewish people. But they should know a little Jewish, they should know they are Jewish. But not too many people, they don't want to. They don't know how long-- how long we have little Jewish people, how long we have Israel, and the fight for us and everything. We are human, too. Otherwise, the best people where I live, (ridenona) is deep in the ground. It is a swastika. Deep in the ground. It is just in the sidewalk. Deep in the sidewalk. Deep in. It is not on top like Scrabble. It is deep in. A deep big swastika right on the corner of (Oche Ven) and Middlebrook. So -- they like us so much, so this is why we should stand up, be all together, all Jewish people.

Q WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD IN POLAND WHAT--
DID YOU EXPERIENCE ANTI-SEMITISM AT THAT TIME?

A Yes, I did.

Q HOW WAS THAT?

A Yes, I did. Yes. Well, we used to live in a Polish neighborhood. So they-- lots of gentiles used to have a lot of favors of my father. So my father used to have a little. He used to have like a little shop. A shop for himself. He used to have three people working for him. And he used to cut-- he used to get from a other town. He used to live in Ozorkow, and this was Lodz. He used to get from Lodz, he used to bring very big material, very-- and my father used to cut this, and then we used to sew this. And this used to go for export and import. Go back to the factory. And the factory used to ship this for export, to import to England. But my father used to be the cutter. He used to cut this. And there was left-over material, small pieces. And before the war most of the Polish people used to work in the factories. Jewish people did not work in factories in Poland. Just most Polish people. And so my father used to have left over these pieces. He used to make pants, little jackets for the kids. Used to make them cheap, very cheap. And then where we used to live, used to live maybe 30 Polish people in our house. And we been one Jew until the war broke out. And then the whole-- we used to live in a Polish neighborhood. And the whole street used to live about nine Jewish people. And the rest used to be gentiles. But with us they been not so bad. But they used to come in school. I used to go to Polish

school. So in Polish, Rachel, it is (Rahala). And there been sometimes so anti-semitic-- (Rahala) is a Polish name. So when was the Polish -- they have sessions when was the religion, they have Polish religion in the school, they have Polish religion. And it was so cold outside, so they allowed us to stay in the class when they have the religion, the class religion. The Polish kids. So they put us in the last-- in the last, and they say, "Well, you can sit here in the last line where nobody sees. You can make your lists or something. Be very quiet so you can be in the warm, not in the cold." So I say, "Fine." I was happy. So one nun come to me, a Polish nun. And she say, "What is your name?" And I say, "Rachela, Rachela Sniatkiewicz." Rachela Sniatkiewicz, this is, too, Polish. But I cannot help it. This was my father's name. And Rahala-- so she says-- she look at me and she say, "You know," she say, "I do not know why you all Jewish like to have the Polish names. You say your father's name. You say your name is Sniatkiewicz, and you say Rachela. Rachela," she say, "this is a Polish name. And this name came from our holy-- this is like a Jewish-- Rachela, (Ruhu.) This is from the Bible." And she say, "This come from the Bible. How come you, you know, you do not believe in Jesus. How come you have such a name?" And she was real angry with me. I did not understand this everything. But she was angry with me. So they been-- they been-- they been a lot of bad Polish people.

They didn't like the Jewish people at all. But they live with them because Jewish people been smart. And they can have-- they have business and everything. Like now. Now they are back. The Jewish people have come back because Jewish people have good heads. They know how to turn around. They know what to do. But it has been lots of (undersmitz) in the Jewish, lots. And when the German come in, so all Polish people, all the neighbors, all of a sudden they became (Polestoich). (Polestoich), this means half German and half Polish. All of a sudden. They used to-- everybody ran to the Germans, to the German soldiers, with flowers. Like this, there been no Polish. And then when all of a sudden they been Germans, and they hate us, they squeal on us. Hit Jewish people. And very very bad.

Q WHEN YOU-- KIND OF TO SKIP FORWARD A LITTLE BIT.

WHEN THE AMERICANS CAME INTO THE CAMP TO LIBERATE THE CAMP, DO YOU REMEMBER ANY CONVERSATIONS OR ANY INTERACTION WITH THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS?

A With the American soldiers?

Q YES.

A Well, then the American come in. So the first day they took me to the hospital. And the soldiers where they took me to the hospital, one soldier took off a little bracelet, and he gave it to me. He say, "If you ever

come to America, you look me up." He say, "I am a doctor." Listen to this. And I say, "All right." But I was so sick and I didn't bother. I didn't care.

But this was a little silver bracelet. And he said, "See this? My mother give it to me. And she say when I come from the war I am going to live-- this is luck. this is good luck," he say, "from my mother. And I give it to you, so I hope you are going to get well one of these days and you are going to come to America. And when you come to America, you come visit me."

And it just happened, I come to America, and I come to New Jersey where this doctor, Dr. Robinson, Aaron Robinson, used to live in this same town. And I was sick. And-- I do not know. I was sick. I have an operation. And my stomach, my gallbladder. And then after the operation I have still to go to the doctor because they let me home with the stitches. And when they let me home with the stitches I do not have nobody to watch my child. And I was very sick. This way they cut me. And I was very sick. And I do not have who to watch my child. And I used to live where the street, the cars went both sides.

And my little boy, he was two years old. And he went out. And I forgot, and I ran after him. And the whole stitches open up, and I can look into my stomach. And they rush me right away-- the neighbors, I guess-- to the

hospital. And they have to sew me up again. And I was another three weeks in the hospital. Then when I came home from the hospital I came home again with stitches because I cannot-- "I cannot leave the child," I say. "I want to go home." And my husband have to go to work. So I went home. And they told me to see a very good doctor, Dr. Robinson, Dr. Aaron Robinson. And he was in the war. He is a very very good doctor. And he is Jewish. The main thing, he is Jewish. He understand when you Jewish. So when I heard the word Jewish, everything Jewish. I was hungry for Jewish. So I say, "All right, you going to make an appointment to this doctor." And this time I didn't know-- I have some kind of hospitalization. And I call up the doctor and I ask the nurse I can come because I have this hospitalization. And the nurse say, "Yes, you can come." She make me an appointment. And I went to this doctor. And he check me, check me. Take off everything. And I used to wear this little bracelet what he gave it to me. And this was so many-- so many years. This was how many-- six years maybe. And then after he check me he sit back and he don't say nothing. And I was scared. And he say, "You can put on your clothes." And I put on my clothes. And I was very scared because he stopped talking. And I do not say nothing. I was waiting. What he is going to tell me. And he said to me, "Where you got this bracelet?" And I say, "I got this from a soldier?" And he said, "Where you got this

from a soldier." And I say, "Well, after the war I was very sick. And I was-- and they took me to a hospital in Frankfurt." I was in a hospital barracks. This is before a hospital in Germany. "Right after the war," I say. "And they took me in Frankfurt, a hospital. And some soldier doctor came to see me after-- came to visit me and to check me, and he gave me this for good luck." And he looked at me. He don't say nothing. And then what he say-- he say, "Good luck." And he told me if I come sometimes to New Jersey I can look him up. But I do not know-- I never know his name. I never know where he live. I don't know. But he was a doctor.

And then he say to me, he say, "I am the doctor. I gave it to you, the bracelet, when you were so sick, and I told you good luck." And he asked me, "What else he told you?" And I say, "He told me this he got from his mother when he went to the war. And his mother told him to wear all the time." And this is the good luck charm when he gave it to me. "Because of this you are going to get well. And if you come sometimes to America, you look up me." And I told him this. And say, "I am the doctor." In another way he asked me if I am married. And he invited us for Saturday, me and my husband. And we brought the child with us. And he invite me. And he became my doctor.

He was my doctor maybe seven years. And then he got sick. He became spinal meningitis. He went to Washington. He

got sick and became spinal meningitis, and he die up there. He even did not make to go home. A young doctor, 37 years old. I still have his newspaper at home. But he was-- he was-- he was very good. He was-- seven years he was my doctor. He never took a cent off me. Never. He was so good. He was so good. He was my child's doctor. He was my husband's doctor. Never took a cent off me.

Q THERE WAS A FEW THINGS I WAS NOT COMPLETELY CLEAR ABOUT.

YOU SAID THAT YOU WORKED IN A MUNITIONS FACTORY IN GERMANY?

A Yes.

Q THAT WAS THE PLACE THAT YOU WORKED AT WHILE YOU WERE IN THE CONCENTRATION CAMP, OR THAT WAS ANOTHER TIME?

A No. No. This was-- they sent us from the camps-- in the concentration camp when I work in the-- they sent us-- they took us from-- they took us from-- from Auschwitz to Bergen-Belsen, and from Bergen-Belsen they took us to Zaltzwegel. And in Zaltzwegel was the ammunition factory. And I was working up there. Maybe one and a half year. Because I was-- looking, people would go and dress like I am now dressed, nice. And, my gosh, I wear just a dress, nothing else. My gosh, people-- I was so anxious to see the people dressed, you know. Like human beings. And this was a

sunny day. And I say, my gosh, we used to work once like this. But this never come. But we used to work up there very hard. Very hard. And no food. Nights, we used to work nighttime. And every few minutes we used to run in where there used to be a place where they used to wash the little bullet sometimes. I do not know why. There was a black vater. And put on my face and take my dress and wipe off very fast, my dress, so, you know, so my eyes been open so I do not fall asleep and don't cut off my hands. So, if I fall asleep. I slip into my hands. Because this used to be a big piece of-- fire. And this was a very big machine where the fire used to turn to put on the machine and cutting some pieces, such pieces to put in the bullet. And then an empty bullet, and then just cut off this empty bullet. Used to go forward. And the bullet used to fit in just in the shell, in the empty shell. And this used to form a bullet. And if I put in my hand, it chop off my hand, see. So I want to be awake. And it was very difficult. Hungry, tired, cold, and awake. But we did.

Q YOU SAID YOU WOULD STEAL WOOD WHEN YOU WOULD STEAL POTATO SKINS OR WHATEVER YOU WOULD FIND. WHAT DID YOU USE THE WOOD FOR?

A Wood? Well, we used pieces of wood, leaves, whatever was on the garbage, whatever they used to throw out on the garbage. Was a toilet. And the toilet was a

garbage they used to throw out. So, the little wood. And up there was a big wooden-- what was supposed to heat a wooden stove in the barrack. But we didn't supposed to heat any time, never. So everybody used to steal a piece of something for nights we make a fire. And somebody have a stolen potato or a little potato skins, whatever could cook on this.

Q I SEE.

A So everybody used to steal. And they have to catch me. I been the one, I got caught. So. But so many that didn't steal, that didn't get caught, and they maybe live, that didn't get to live through the war. Lots, lots. Everybody got killed. Came from a very very big family. My parents, brothers, sisters, everybody killed, everybody killed from the whole family. Big family. Brothers, sisters, everybody.

Q I WANTED TO KNOW THE NAMES OF YOUR FAMILY. WHAT WERE YOUR PARENTS' NAMES AND YOUR BROTHERS' AND SISTERS' NAMES?

A Of my brothers and sisters?

Q YES.

A Or my parents' names?

Q WHAT WERE YOUR PARENTS' NAMES?

A My parents was Sniatkiewicz. My father's name was Sniatkiewicz.

Q CAN YOU SPELL THAT?

A S-N-I-A-T-K-I-E-W-I-C-Z.

Maybe I can write this for you better. Can I mark down somewhere?

Q SURE. AND WE WILL HAVE THIS ON THE FILM, TOO.

A Sniatkiewicz. Isn't that something? It is very hard to read.

Q WHAT WERE THEIR FIRST NAMES?

A My father's name was like Ishuah. (Shuah) is like Ishuah. My son name is Ishuah. Ishuah.

Q AND YOUR MOTHER'S NAME?

A My mother's name was Miriam.

Q AND YOU HAVE THREE BROTHERS?

A I have three brothers, yes. One brother's name was-- was David. And one little-- the other brother's name was Aaron. And one little brother's name was Simon.

Q AND WERE THEY OLDER THAN YOU OR YOUNGER THAN YOU?

A No. Younger.

Q THEY WERE ALL YOUNGER?

A Yes. I was the oldest from the girls. And then my brother was older; four years older, he is. Four or five. I do not know. And my other was two years younger. And the other was two years. And one brother was five years. And the other brother was seven years. And then my mother used to

have three brothers. And families, whole families: kids, grandchildren, and everything. And my father used to have two sisters married, the same thing, with families. Then grandmothers, whatever.

Q WHAT WERE YOUR SISTERS' NAMES?

A My sisters' name?

Q YES.

A From her husband or--

Q HER FIRST NAME.

A First name is Golda. Golda. Like Golda Meier. Golda. And the other one is Renya. It is Rifka. Renya.

The miserable German woman, she used to call her Renata. She used to give her a German name, Renata. And I used to come and say, "I want my sister back!" And she say, "She is not here! She is not here!" They would never give me back her.

Q DO YOU REMEMBER THE NAME OF THE GERMAN WOMAN?

A No, I do not.

Q AND WHAT ARE YOUR SONS' NAMES?

A My sons' name?

Q YES.

THERE IS THE ONE IN SAN FRANCISCO?

A It is Jack Zolowicz. And the other one is David Zolowicz. He lives in Atlanta, Georgia. Peachtree

city. Peachtree city.

Q AND YOUR HUSBAND WAS POLISH. WAS HE IN A CAMP AS WELL?

A No. My husband is Jewish.

Q IS HE FROM POLAND?

A He is from Poland, yes. He is from Warsaw.

Q AND HE WAS WORKING FOR THE AMERICANS WHEN YOU MET HIM?

A For the Americans, yes. He was working in Germany as a DP. He was working as a DP. And he work up there. He got up there a suit to wear. And he used to work up there.

Q WHILE YOU WERE IN THE CAMPS, I KNOW YOU WERE MOVED AROUND A LOT, BUT DID ANY FRIENDSHIPS OR ANY RELATIONSHIPS DEVELOP BESIDES YOU AND YOUR SISTERS? DID YOU GET TO KNOW ANYONE ELSE?

A Relationships between whom?

Q JUST THE OTHER WOMEN. ANY FRIENDSHIPS DEVELOP?

A No. No. No. We-- of course we developed-- friendships developed. I have lots of friends. They are married now. And the old friend, they are married. Many young kids my age. And they are all married. Some live in France, some live in Israel, some live in New York. I want to

visit them. I went about ten years ago to visit them. We are friends.

Q CAN YOU REMEMBER ANY INSTANCES WHILE YOU WERE IN THE CAMP OF HELPING EACH OTHER OUT IN DIFFERENT WAYS?

A Helping each other out?

Q YES.

A See, camp was a very hard story to help each other out because everybody has so much trouble. Everybody have so much trouble. Nobody else been thinking about nothing else. We just had to catch a piece of bread. We had to catch something. We had to catch something to wear, or something. Nobody-- nobody been thinking to help somebody else.

See, if I went to sleep-- so I used to have such wooden shoes I used to have wooden shoes. And -- like they wear in Holland. So, I do not know -- it was given to me. I used to wear two wooden shoes. And I put the shoes under my head so nobody steal them. And I get up in the morning and I don't have the shoes. Somebody stole them. If I say -- like we used to get sliced bread. So I cut off the slice and I make four pieces. And I say this I going to eat now, this lunchtime, this six o'clock, and this at night. And this bread was very small. And I cannot take it. I just eat little, I have to eat the whole piece. And I was hungry then. You couldn't-- and if you save a piece of bread, somebody

always went and stole the piece of bread. So you didn't have nothing.

It has been very rough. And how much I describe and how much I tell, this is not a quarter even, what I tell. It is very hard to memorize. Don't forget, so many years. And I have been going through so many sickness and everything together. And I do not know how much-- how I remember this much.

Yesterday night I tried to memorize in what camps I were. And I was in-- the last camps I was at Zaltzweiger. I give the camp. I wrote them-- I write so many camps. I wrote on September 1, September 1939 the war broke out. I was in Ozorkow. And then I was in the ghetto. Ozorkow, this is the place where I was born. Then I was in the ghetto. They took us 1941 to the ghetto in Ozorkow. They kept us to 1942. Then in August they keep us 1942. Then in August they took us to Lodz. 1944 we used to work in Lodz. We used to make the stroh head, stroh shoes, whatever. And then they took us 1944-- they took us to Bergen-Belsen not-- for not too long. They took us to Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen. And they took us to Mothausen too. In Mothausen we stay a short time, not too long. Mothausen, the camp, this was-- everything burned-- it was a burned camp. It was all empty. Nothing else. No food, no nothing. And then I was in Hollandorf. Then I was in Braunschweig. Then I was in Hollandorf. And then we moved to

Trenton, Trenton, New Jersey. Then from Trenton we came here to San Francisco. I used to live in Trenton, New Jersey, ten years. And then we came here because my child was sick, my younger child was sick. And they say it is good for asthma, I do not know. So I came here.

Q I WANTED TO KNOW IF YOUR EXPERIENCE DURING THE WAR CHANGED YOUR IDEAS ABOUT JUDAISM.

A No. No. Never. Matter of fact, no.

Q OR ABOUT GOD?

A No. No. I just have a discussion just yesterday because yesterday somebody came up from Israel. And I told them-- tomorrow -- I wait so long, but tomorrow I am going to go for an interview. And he say, "If you are so religious"-- it is funny. I give him some tea, and he wanted tea with milk, something. And he grab the spoon. I have two drawers. And he grab the spoon from one drawer. And he mixed his milk with the tea. And I say, "You shouldn't take from this here." And he say, "What is up there? It is holiday. What is this?" And I say, "These I use for the meat, not for milk. It is for meat." And he say, "You are crazy," he told me. Not a young guy. He was a friend of ours. Older man. And he said, "Look, where God was when they kill your parents, when they kill your little brothers, when you were so hungry, beaten to death in a concentration camp? Where was God then? You going to tell me there was a god? Why not God help you

then, the Jewish God, you know?" And this hurts. So I told him, I told him, "Well," I say, "so many people-- see, because you do wrong things because you are wrong. This why I suffer," I said. I told him, "It is like parents do wrong, kids suffer. When kids do wrong, parents suffer." I say, "And I cannot help it. I am raised like this. And I am going to die like this. You believe in what you believe, and I am going to believe in what I believe." And then he start telling me, "Your husband is crazy, too, because he, you know, he should not believe what you believe. He should believe in what he believe. They kill his parents. They kill his whole family." And nobody ever can change me; not me, and not my two sons. Even he marry gentile. Nobody can marry-- change them. This is forever, and this is inside. It is in my heart inside. Just happen Jewish-- the whole lives you just have to suffer so. Maybe one of these days if you get back maybe-- I do not know, maybe Israel going to be a little easier. People don't have to talk a lot about everything: how the Jewish suffer in Israel. Going to be good. If it has been quiet up there I had be the first one to go up there to Israel because I was up there. I was up there three weeks. And I like it. I like it. Feel free. And say, this is our. This is our. We belong here. Just now it is not so good. So, no camps, no anything can change me. I am like this and I am going to die like this. I know I am Jewish, and I am all over

Jewish. So--

Q I HAVE A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS, IF I MAY. I MAY BE REPEATING SOME OF THE THINGS THAT YOU TALKED ABOUT, SO FORGIVE ME IF I DO THAT.

A It is all right.

Q WAS YOUR FAMILY A RELIGIOUS FAMILY?

A Not too-- religious, yes. Religious, yes. We keep our holidays. And my father, he don't go every day to the synagogue, but he used the (dubnenhom). We have a Jewish home.

Q CAN YOU TELL ME, WHAT WAS THE DAY LIKE IN WHICH YOU WERE TAKEN FROM THE PLACE WHERE YOU NORMALLY LIVED IN YOUR TOWN AND PUT INTO THE GHETTO THAT WAS MADE IN YOUR TOWN? CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THAT DAY WAS LIKE? WAS EVERYBODY MOVED INTO THE GHETTO IN ONE DAY OR DID THAT TAKE A PERIOD OF DAYS OR WEEKS FOR PEOPLE TO BE MOVED INTO THE GHETTO?

A No. No. No. Tell us by this and this day everybody have to be out. They give us very short notice. Maybe one or two days notice. We have to be out.

Q OUT OF YOUR HOUSE?

A Yes, out of our house, yes. And then we are not allowed to take any machine with us. We used to have three sewing machines, and sewing machines used to be a big thing. And the sewing machines, they say they have to go to the-- to the factory where they used to work, everybody used

to work for the GI's. We cannot take it. This goes separate, the machines. We have a very huge table, like a tailor table. It is a special table. It is very thick and very long. But my father used to cut the material. This used to go up there. This could not take it. So still we shoulder one machine. We brought one machine back, and we took one back with us besides the three machines. But my father thought he can sew a little bit in the ghetto maybe to make something, maybe, so we can have a little bread or something. But he couldn't do it. They didn't let us do it. He couldn't do it.

Q WAS HE ABLE TO GET THOSE MACHINES INTO THE GHETTO?

A Yes.

Q HE DID?

A One machine.

Q AND DID THE GERMANS DISCOVER THE MACHINE AND TAKE IT AWAY?

A No, they did not discover. They never discovered, no.

Q IT WAS JUST TOO HARD TO HAVE A BUSINESS IN THE GHETTO?

A No. You did not think about business. But even for ourself, because used to be three kids-- three brothers. And for the kids, our father used to make our coats and the clothes and everything. Even for us just to

help, to have a machine would be a good thing. So we smuggle one machine. And this machine we brought. We brought this. This machine we saved when the war just broke out. So we put this machine out in a -- like we have outside like a little garage. And this was saved all the time. Even now-- I don't know now. But when the war broke out they say-- they used to say they are going to take everything away. So my mother used to have like from her mother, candle light-- candle light-- this silver, silver things and everything. So we used to have a little garage. So my father dig very deep and put in a little thing where they keep sour pickles. In a barrel. All kind of things worth something. And he bury this. Nobody knew. Maybe still up there today. I don't know.

Q CAN YOU TELL US WHAT A TYPICAL DAY WAS LIKE IN THE GHETTO? WHAT DID YOU DO FIRST THING IN THE MORNING AND WHAT DID THE DAY CONSIST OF?

A What did the day consist of?

Q YES.

A Well, in the ghetto, first thing in the morning you have to get up early in the morning. And seven o'clock they used to count us. It was at they count us. A they count us, this is they count us where they used to count us. Old people work. We used to stay in the lines, and they used to count us to work. And then we went to work. We went to work. Everybody have to work. Who doesn't work, they took

away. So, since my father was like a boss, so he work out for everybody: cut, work and cut. So I used to sew buttons, my other sisters used to sew buttons. My brother used to sew by the machine. And my two little brothers used to take like stuff from here, like pockets from pants, and turn over the pockets on the right side if they been on the left side. My father make for everybody. And my mother used to work across the street. She used to work for factory. She sew together tiny pieces for big hoods for coats, Army coats. I don't know. Everybody have to work. And the sick people they used to take out. All sick people. You don't mind the work. Just was no food. We been starving.

Q WERE YOU LEFT TO YOUR OWN DEVICES TO FIND FOOD? DID YOU HAVE TO FIND YOUR OWN FOOD WHEN YOU WERE LIVING IN THE GHETTO?

A No. They give us-- they give us -- once a week they give us very little. Very little food. Once a week only.

Q WHAT KIND OF FOOD? WHAT DID THEY GIVE YOU?

A I do not know. For the whole family they give us a little bread, maybe two pounds, and they give us a few pounds of potatoes. And they did not have anymore potatoes. I do not know. Very little. Very-- was low food. People have been dying.

Q AND WATER, WHERE DID YOU GET THAT?

A Water. We got the water. Water we got.

Q WAS THERE A FOUNTAIN?

A No. Water in the yard. Was such a thing, I think, the water. I do not know. Water we have. But the main thing was the food. We been starving. And we been in Bergen-Belsen and we been living in such a barracks. And up there was a little (dresglas). It was growing wild leaves. We used to eat the leaves. And they say this is wild, you get poison. I do not know. I never poison myself. We used to find pieces bread, green, so green from mold, you know, and we used to eat this. And we used to find lots of names, like Hungarian names, and other names on the wall that people had been there. They used to scratch names.

Q IN THE GHETTO IN YOUR HOME DOWN THERE WERE THERE GUARDS? WAS IT ROPED OFF WITH WIRE? WERE THERE GUARDS THERE?

A In the ghetto?

Q IN THE ONE IN YOUR HOMETOWN?

A In the hometown in the ghetto, yes. There should have been guards. You couldn't get out in the street. It has been a little ghetto and we could not go nowhere. We have to stay in this little ghetto. We did not stay because we went in the morning to work. And I notice we came back, nights they count us so nobody ran away. And they come to

count us daytime. Nobody ran away. And thousands of people die. Thousands of people died for hunger. Nobody realize in this country what kind of -- realize in this country what kind of-- so if they want to know a man or he is Jewish, they let down his pants, and they see he is Jewish and they kill him.

Q DID YOU SEE PEOPLE KILLED IN THE GHETTO?

A Thousands.

Q YOU SAW THOUSANDS KILLED?

A Yes. Thousands of people. Laying in the streets. It is scary. Scary. You walk-- you walk -- most of the people, you have to walk. Then they took some people to kill-- to clean up those people. They don't bury him. They throw him in a ditch somewhere. I do not know what they do with them. So skinny. It is scary. With their teeth out. Very scary. If you didn't-- if you didn't know, it is going to come an end. When we came here to this country people say we have hard depression: we have beans to eat. The people here say, oh, you come from up there. How you like this country? And you say, we like this country very much. But they say, 'Don't think we have here so rosey. We have a depression. String beans we have to eat three times a week.' And I just look up on the person, and I say, "String beans? String beans? How many people got killed in your family? None." String beans. We been dying. No comparison. And we go

to sleep nights, and they drag us out -- the nights they come in, they knock on the door, they open the door, and they take out people for no reason, for nothing, and they kill them.

And the Russians, the Russians been just the same like the Germans. Just the same. No different. And the Russian come in one day, we did not have to eat. They make us work like donkeys. They make us go the first day. Every piece of scrap was what, and shrapnels and everything, we have to pick up from fields from all over, from yards, from field. And they have big trucks where we used to throw this on the trucks. Piece of scraps like this from everything. From airplanes, from everything. And they used to collect this, pieces, the Russians. One day emergency been up there. Didn't have to do nothing. Everything, it was fine, and we have good food. Next day the Russians come in, we have no food, we have to go to work. Just the same like with the Germans. Exactly. So things got away from them. We been lucky.

Q DURING THE TIME OF THE GHETTO WAS THERE ANY ACTIVITY BY PEOPLE LIVING IN THE GHETTO AGAINST THE GERMANS? WAS THERE ANY KIND OF UNDERGROUND OR ASSISTANCE, RESISTANCE, OR WERE ANY GERMANS EVER KILLED BY PEOPLE IN THE GHETTO?

A Very little. Very little. Because the Jewish people, a lot of people stay -- like they stay in the

woods and they try. And they try, not so much to kill the people, but they try to save themselves in the woods and to steal a little food or something. But they see a German soldier. And they know the German soldier is going to kill them. They try to kill the German soldier. But they don't have with what to kill. It was very bad. They would do something, but they been so afraid. They been so afraid. If maybe all Jewish people if they go together, well, they couldn't do it without everything. They need guns. They needed machine guns, they needed everything. Nighttime, for nothing, they put the old people-- they call, say there is going to be they count us. So they form a very huge circle, and in the middle they hang five young people, maybe 18 years, 20 years, 21 years. For no reason they hang him. And the mothers and the sister, everybody over there. And they don't supposed to cry. They supposed to sing. They make them sing, for nothing. And then they say, 'Look, this going to happen to all of you, whoever going to run away.' So they done such a thing. It is unbelievable. How much I described, how much I described, you can never describe what they used to do. But they used to do. They been so mean. So miserable.

And lots of German people, they say they didn't know, they did not believe. And this-- I saw once-- I watched a television, and up there was a German, and he lived through-- he say he been in the army, in the German Army, and

he say he didn't see this, he did not believe what they tell. He did not believe. He did not believe. And even here-- people here, they did not believe. Lots of people did not believe what was happened in the German camp, what was going on up there.

The Red Cross used to sent packages. We receive nothing. Did we receive? Never. We receive nothing.

Q WHAT WERE THE SONGS THAT THEY WOULD MAKE THE PEOPLE SING DURING THE HANGING? WHAT KIND OF SONG DID THEY MAKE THEM SING?

A German songs.

Q GERMAN SONGS?

A Yes.

Q POPULAR FOLK SONGS, OR WHAT KIND OF SONGS?

A German songs from Nazi-- from the-- German song, Army songs.

Q NAZI SONGS?

A Nazi songs.

Q ANTI-SEMITIC SONGS?

A Anti-semitic songs. Nazi songs. Most Nazi songs. We used to sing like "Give me (mein) hand, give me (mein) hand, (mein) hand hand. He will go again. Give me your hand and we are going against England because we go against England." We have everything already, so we go against

England.

All kinds of songs they used to make us sing. And even barely, Hitler barely-- they going to have the whole land, everything they are going to have. I do not see now such a big division now with skin heads, everything here. I don't like it. I do not like it, and I'm afraid. This with him start in Poland.

Q WHAT WAS THE POPULATION OF YOUR TOWN BEFORE THE WAR, AND WHAT PERCENTAGE WAS JEWISH AND WHAT PERCENTAGE WAS NOT JEWISH?

A Well, the population up there-- there's been lots of Jewish people. I don't know the population. Maybe three thousand. Maybe three thousand. And maybe a thousand nonJewish. It has been more Jewish people than nonJewish people. And then except on the farms-- on the farms they have old nonJewish people, Polish people. But the farmers, there were not so bad. The farmers been different people. Lots of farmers, people, they used to say-- they used to save Jewish people in the war. They used to save, they used to help them. They been afraid. But they used to do it. But people where they used to live down close by.

Q HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN--

A Anti-semitic. More anti-semitic.

Q WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS, THAT THE

FARMERS WERE LESS ANTI-SEMITIC THAN THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN THE TOWNS?

A Because-- I do not know. Because as the farmers-- they used to go in the morning, they used to work. They used to have their cows. They used to know one thing. They work the whole week. Then once a week they used to bake bread and other things-- chickens-- and they brought them to the town. And in the town the Jewish people-- most of the Jewish member would buy the things, eggs, and the chickens for the Saturday. And they used to make a living from the Jewish people. And they used to buy cows for the Jewish meat and everything. So they been not so anti-semitic. But the people where they used to live in town, they used to be always jealous because -- I cannot recall. One person working in the factory before the war, even the Jewish-- the person what been the poorest Jewish did not work in the factory. Just the gentiles used to work in the factories. They get up five o'clock and they work from five to five. That was the working day. And the Jewish people, they find other way of living. They used to find other way. They used to have a little store. They used to sell something, they used to buy something. They used to be-- dress, they used to live good and live better. Of course, we have a lot of very poor people, too. But a Jewish person used to turn around and live a little better like the other member. And, like the Polish

people, like they work a whole week like donkeys. Friday they get their pay, the check, so they went Friday to the bar and they stay the whole night Friday, and the whole day Saturday, whole night Sunday, and Monday morning they don't have a cent. They used to come up to Monday morning, used to send her little girl bread, a pot of potato. We never buy on the pound. We used to buy 24 pound. We have a pot of potatoes to cook for dinner, and they have nothing for dinner for the kids. They used to live a life like we. Jewish people did not go to drink the whole night, the whole day like they used to. They used to get the money and live it up for two days, and the rest of the week they used to starve. And then they be jealous. Jewish people managed to save. If they make ten dollars, they used to save a dollar. And little by little in some they have very save. Used to have rich families, and they used to pass on to the kids. They used to have business and they used to be business people. And the gentiles, they don't have-- their heads been for stuff. They couldn't do what Jewish people do. Like now Poland, Lech Walesa became the president. What is going on up there? They starve. And if some Jewish people come up there right now, right now some Jewish people come up there, they bring some material, they bring some things up there, Poland could being rich like used to be. A rich Poland, with lots of Jewish people. The Polish could buy if the-- the Jewish could buy if the Pole-- I do

not know. They should go over there. Some should go over there to open some business up there.

Polish people are working people. They work very hard. They work like donkeys. They don't know nothing, just working. And work is very good. Here people, they don't want to work. But up there they want to work. So if somebody is rich and take the money right now and go to Poland to open up anything and to hire these Polish people, he can make a fortune, work out something, yes. And work out something to sell to the Polish people. And to sell anything, they can make money. Because they can work. But they don't have their heads. They don't have-- they are stupid. They thought they going to be good without the Jewish people, but they are not.

Q DID YOU HAVE POLISH FRIENDS BEFORE THE
WAR?

A Yes. Lots of Polish friends.

Q LIKE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

A Yes.

I know the Polish religion. I wish I do not know. But I know the Polish religion like I know my four fingers because I used to go to the Polish school. Because the Jewish school-- first of all, in our town was not a Jewish school. It was a private school. So Jewish girls-- it was a private school for Jewish boys, like Hyder, and like here, like it was the Jewish girls, private, too. So once an hour for the

Jewish girls -- I used to go to private schools for Jewish girls. My brother used to go to hyder. He used to go-- how you call here-- was not quite (echva), but they used to teach lots of Jewish. Private, too. And to school-- to regular school. I went to Polish school. It was very religious-- the Polish religion. I used to sit on the religion, so I used to watch and memorize. And I memorized. And every day in the morning we have to take the Polish-- the Polish-- what do you say in the morning?

Q PRAYER?

A The prayer. Jewish people have to say the Polish prayers in the school every morning and every day before we go home. They used to make us say it. And then it was not-- a small town, not too many Jewish. But the Jewish used to live good. Everybody used to be dressed. And everybody used to have a meal for tomorrow. And if somebody used to be so poor and don't have a home-- homeless people, there still was something for the homeless people where they go they can sleep over tonight, two nights, even a whole week. It was something special for those people. And if they walk around-- they say they don't want to work-- some people from other towns, they come to our house they don't accept a piece of bread if you give it, they want the money. They didn't want the bread, not like people here. They starve in the street. Like in the rich country people sleep in the

street and starve. They don't work. Kill, kill, kill, kill, kill.

Q I NEED A CLARIFICATION.

WERE YOU ALSO IN THE GHETTO IN LODZ?

A Yes.

Q HOW MUCH TIME WERE YOU IN THE LODZ GHETTO?

A I was in the Lodz ghetto from about two years. From 1942 to 1944, actually. Yes. Two years.

Q CAN YOU TELL US WHAT A TYPICAL DAY WAS LIKE IN THE LODZ GHETTO AND HOW THAT WAS LIKE THE GHETTO IN YOUR HOMETOWN YOU WERE IN FIRST?

A The Lodz ghetto was the same thing. We came to Lodz, we have to work. Everybody have to work. So I used to work in a stroh resort. This was like in a stroh factory. And my two sisters, too, work in the stroh. And we used to go up there like-- I do not know-- eight o'clock starts, to five o'clock. And we used to get one soup a day. But we used to work very hard. My sisters, they used to make braces, very big braces. I don't know how long. Very big. Very big braces. Big. Very, very long. She could hardly pick it up. And this used to go for shoes. Then they used to make shoes-- big shoes so they can slip in, the soldiers, on the shoes, on their own shoes. That is stroh shoes when they walk night. When they watch -- I do not know -- whatever. And

we used to work for the stroh. Then five o'clock we came home. It was-- if it was something to eat-- sometimes we would be brought home. We got a little soup. Everybody got a soup a day. So in the soup sometimes you find a piece of potato, little, sometimes you find two pieces potato. There was not a whole potato, just two slices potato. So if you did not eat the whole day and you save the potato with a little soup, you brought this home. And then we add water to this. And then-- I do not know. If we buy potato skins-- potato skins was very expensive. I think-- I do not know. Was a dollar three or something. Not a dollar. But it was a lot. It was like a lot for and a half-- for a potato skin. If you bought the potato skin and you add to the soup and we cook the soup. And we make a big pot for this with water. And bread, you only get one bread for four people, two pounds. For the whole week. So what is happened, we were very close family, four people. So I was very swole. And I do not know-- they say in the ghetto if there was a little bottles with oil. If a little bottle oil, if somebody can drink-- I stopped walking in the ghetto. I couldn't walk for hunger. And they say if you give this little bottle of drink, this help you walking. I don't know what this was, maybe Vitamin B or A. But such a bottle cost a dollar. Cost a whole bread. So we have to give away the whole bread, all four people, for a week, to get this little-- tiny little bottle. So we give--

every week we give-- the bread we got, we got two pounds, and we give a behalf a pound until we pay this. The blackmail has come, and they have this-- but the dealing with Germans or who knows. This was in the ghetto, Lodz. And you get this little bottle, and this little bottle don't do nothing anyhow.

And if somebody was a shoemaker-- I used to have a girlfriend, and her father was a shoemaker. And I did not have no shoes. And she used to wear such good shoes, and I used to look at her all the time. And I look at her shoes and I say, "You so lucky to have a father who is a shoemaker." And she say to me, "He make you a pair of shoes for a bread." And I came home, and I told my brother. And my brother say, "Look, shoes are very important. We all don't have shoes. We going to try to be a week without bread." And I say, "How we going to survive? We are so hungry. We are so swole. How we going to survive?" And he say, "We have to survive somehow." And when my brother said this, this was like gold. He said something, this is it. So I went to the shoemaker with my brother to the friend-- to the girlfriend's father. And he say, yes, this going to cost you a bread. And he make for me the shoe. He did not give it to me before. Soon we got the bread, we went straight up and give the bread for the shoe. And we been hungry the whole week. We starve. We starve is not enough. And we used to work with stroh. So sometimes the

stroh was not so-- like the stroh have little kernels-- not the stroh and the stroh grow, have little kernels. Corn. This is corn. So sometimes they did not take out when they take out the corn, when they beat the corn, and sometimes been left over. So I used to sit up there when I have an hour was lunchtime. Can eat lunch. It was nothing to eat for lunch. So I used to sit up there when I have an hour was lunchtime. You can eat lunch-- there was nothing to eat for lunch, so I used to smuggle a little where the old (strohs) where. And I used to look through, look through for the old kernels. And I used to find a whole kernel which was inside with a few grains. And I used to be so lucky. I used to find ten such a kernels. If they catch me, they kill me up there. And I used to find 20. And I smuggled this home. And I took out every kernels and I beat up with the hammer. And this put this in a pot and make a little soup from this. It was so horrible. It was so horrible. How can I explain to you. It is not explained.

Then in-- in 1939, I guess, the German-- the German Jewish came from Germany-- 1938 or 1939. And when they came they still came with everything from Germany. But with their clothes, with their big beautiful leather suitcases, they came to Poland. They came on their own. They all came to Poland. To the ghetto they brought gold, they brought everything. So I met a German woman, and she say she need

somebody to wash clothes. And I told her, "Look, we used to have at home a cleaning place. We used to have in the home"-- I call this a cleaning place, I call it. And I know how to wash clothes, because I want the job. And I say, "But what you going to pay me?" And she say to me, "I going to give you -- I going to give you? Beets. From the beets, the leaves. A few leaves I going to give you. I going to give you like a pound of leaves from the beets. And you come to me, you go to clean my house-- my room. And you going to wash the whole clothes." I come to her, and I work a whole day. Then was one day. Saturday I did the work up there in the ghetto. So I came to her, I work a whole Saturday. I washed the whole clothes by hand. And I do everything, whatever she tell me to do. And then when I go home she just give me a few leave, not a pound leaves. And they cook dinner, regular dinner they cook beets, regular beets with potatoes together. And I was starving-- I thought I was going to fall down. They did not give me a spoon. One spoon they did not give me. I work-- a whole day I work. I do not know how old. I was probably 14 and a half years old. The Jewish people, Jewish Germans, but they brought everything. And then they blackmail in the ghetto. They blackmail. Some people been-- they work for German people. They work for the Germans. And with the Germans they used to do business. The Germans used to give them food, and they used to give the Germans gold. With the

Germans even-- with the German what they stay near to gate where they let in the Jewish, let out the Jewish, catch the Jewish. Lots of people been like this. And those Germans happened to live in one little room, but they have everything. They have beets, they have potatoes, they have bread. They have everything. But, so mean, so mean. It is not enough to say. How could they do it? I was so young. And they been cooking the soup, and both of them sit down and they eat the soup. And I was staying and washing and washing on such a desk. White clothes. A whole big thing. And I could not rinse out. Did not have -- rinse like this, you know, by hand. And she come over and she say, "Look! The water is still running. You did not rinse out good. You lie to me! You don't have home cleaning this!" She used to holler at me. And I used to say, "Yes, we have!" And she say, "How come you don't know how to rinse out good?" And I say, "Because I do not have the strength. I cannot do it." And she say, "Well, you not going to do the right job-- because I have to hang this in the house. You have to hang the clothes. This going to drip. If you not going to do the right thing, even you work a whole day, I am not going to give you the beets." And I work for these a whole day, for a pound-- I weighed on the scale a pound.

I come home with this night. I have to pass-- I have to pass a bridge. And under the bridge the Germans used

to go with the-- with the guns, you know. Like this. And after nine you don't supposed to walk anymore, otherwise, they shoot. They shoot up. The Jewish people not supposed to walk after nine. They went outside, the Germans. But I were to walk over the bridge that still been inside. And I walk over. It was ten after nine one night. And I say, "Oh, this is it. Now they are going to kill me with the miserable like this." And I walk. And one soldier stay and look at me, and he work on this, work on this. And he stand, look at me. And I do not say nothing. Just my legs, my hands was shaking. I was shaking so. Like I cannot explain to you how I was shaking because I know this is my end. And my poor family waiting home so I going to bring the few leaves. But, for some reason he could not do it. And he call up-- he call up in German and he say, "You lucky," he say, "You lucky. For some reason I could not shoot you. You walk ten minutes after nine. You not supposed to walk here. You knew it. But I could not shoot you." And I pass the bridge. He did not shoot me, you know. And I came home with this little-- little leaves, and I start cooking the soup.

It is not-- whatever we tell is not enough. Whatever I tell is not enough. Because I been going through so much. I just cannot memorize. And it is hard to believe a person can go through so much and still live a normal life. My life I do not call exact normal. Because I do not have one

good day. If I should say the truth. I have one good day. Every single day I have something else in my life. One good day. One healthy day. And every day I have the picture. Every day I have the picture. And every day I ask myself questions, why. What I done I was so young. What I done to have such a life. What I done. Why they kill my parents. Every day I ask myself this. I went to a psychiatrist. I went all over. They operated me. And they operated on my gallbladder, and they open up higher because they want to see my stomach. A very big operation. It was six hours. And Dr. Ladher operated me in New Jersey in 1951. And he said he never in his life-- he say he is 56 years, he say he is doctor, and he never in his life have such a patient like me. In the whole operation, he say, I have been telling him the whole story what I been going through. I didn't know. I was put to sleep. And I been telling the whole story. When he come in after the operation I was still asleep. And when I wake up, he say,-- he say, "Rachel, everything is past." He say, "You never going to be in a concentration camp. You been going through so much," he say. "You been going through so much, unbelievable what you been going through." And I could not talk. I was still nauseated. And my husband asked him, he say, "How you know, Doctor? " And he say, "Because Rachel, she talk on the whole operation. She tell everything what was in her life, what she been going through. It is just unbelievable." And I do not

know-- maybe other people, they can tell everything. But it is-- a right human being, he can never never believe what I went through. A lot, more like a lot. And I never believe in my life I going to be different. I try to change so many times, and it doesn't work. I try to do everything. It doesn't work. Just stays with me and lives with me. Wherever I go, whatever I do, how I going to knock out this from my head, I cannot-- I can't. Something-- if somebody just put this in my head and just-- it stick inside. What my parents do, my parents never been-- never been in some kind of organization. They were that way. They work an honest living, they earn an honest living. What I do? I was so young. I was sixth grader. What I do in this life? And why? And I cannot forgive myself. Especially when I am sick, when I need-- when I really need a mother. Even I'm not young anymore. I am old. But I still feel I need. I need my mother. I do not know why. So it is not easy. It is very hard. Vanished. I used to have a father, a good man, such a good man. He used to do lots of good: fed poor people. He used to do the same, my mother. Used to come wintertime, she used to send me because I was the oldest one. For winter we always have storage for food and coal. Like the man come in and cut up wood for burn for the whole winter. (Wardensol). With the (warden), wood cut up wood for wintertime. We used to have such a garage. It was full. And my mother used to

send me in the cold days-- in the snow day we donate the bucket, say, "Bucket coal, and go across the street to the Jewish lady. She have six kids, too," she say. And they live in-- see, you can see up in the snow in the wintertime such marks on the windows from the frost. She still don't have a little fire in the house. She used to send me with the full bucket with coals. I would not carry this. She used to send me. They used to send me a bucket of potatoes, she used to send me. My mother was such a good person. She try to -- hard to help up people. Why. Why. Why they kill her. What they want of her, her life. And the war years, it is not a trace. If I could go to a grave, die, cry, say, here is my mother, she die with a normal life, with a normal death, or she die, she was sick, she have to die. But she was not sick. My father was not sick. He was 46 years old. My mother was 43 or 44 years old. They been healthy people. And they just vanish like in the forest. And it is hell. Your whole life it is hell. And now I am still just praying for my kids so my kids have a decent life because my life is gone already. In a few years, in another few years.

Q SO DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR PARENTS DIED?
YOU HAVE NO IDEA?

A I guess my father, I guess, die in Poznan, Poland. Somebody told me my father die in Poznan, Poland. He was very sick in Rotherham. I guess my father

die. And my brother die in Buchenwald. And the kids, my mother-- I don't know-- from, I guess, the gas chamber. I wish I know where they die. I can go to the grave. It is lost. But what can you do?

Q IT IS VERY BRAVE OF YOU TO SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US. IT IS BRAVE OF YOU. AND I ADMIRE YOUR COURAGE TO TELL YOUR STORY.

A Whatever I tell, it is more to tell. Lots. But-- it is hard. It is very hard. It is not easy. It is not easy.

Q MAY I ASK YOU A COUPLE MORE QUESTIONS?

A Yes, please.

Q YOU SAID YOU WERE IN (HOLLANDORF)?

A Yes.

Q Did you talk about that place at all?
Could you tell us a little about that?

A Hollandorf.

Q (HOLLANDORF)?

A Yes. When we come in-- I do not know, for some reason they put us in in Hollandorf. And they put us in-- not too many girls-- Hollandorf. To spend in the woods. And they put us in-- I do not know, maybe-- maybe 30 girls. And they been two-- just wood, some-- like two barracks, one barrack and a second barrack. And when we come into this Hollandorf, this was in the woods. And up there before must

be some place-- I do not know-- for soldiers or for-- I don't know. Because every little room have a little red light outside. And one bed stays in every little room. And have a red light. And I do not know. This was special house for soldiers, or up there was just like street girls with -- special for soldiers or something. Something must be up there. I don't know. No stuff. No nothing. But we don't stay too long up there. We stay maybe three months up there. And the food, we got to go to the-- to another camp, to the-- I forgot where. To another camp. And we got food up there. Not much food. They been very mean to us. Ukraine. And far away. Maybe about five, six blocks farther away was Ukraine-- this was not a concentration camp. Like after the concentration camp. They have nice barracks. And they live nice and everything. But they find out we-- and we supposed to get food from them, and we did not get it. We just-- we just got-- we went morning, we got a piece of bread. We got some coffee, some black coffee. And for dinner we got slice bread and one slice salami and a little soup. And nights we got two slice bread and some coffee. They been very mean to us, very mean, the Ukraine people. And in this Hollandorf, I mean, we didn't do nothing up there. I remember I used to take my sisters and walk around and look for-- look for something, look for berries, anything to grow, everything to eat. We been constantly hungry up there. Until these two guys come

over and they say, in Frankfurt -- not in Frankfurt-- yes, in Frankfurt, in Frankfurt live already. They dress. And we have enough to eat. And then in they count us is larger, and all Jewish people. And there is UNRA that give clothes for the people and food for the people of that left over from the camps. You know, it is left over from the camps. So I did not know him. I say, "Can you take us, you know? We been such a few girls. We like to go up there because here we going to starve like in concentration camp, or they going to kill us because they been so mean to us, or we going to starve here." And he say, "Well, I have no money, I have no tickets. If I could take you through the window on the train. We are going to have open the windows this summer, so we going to try to help you. Otherwise, maybe you can go through the door. I do not know." So when the whistle blow he try-- he help us. He took me, he took my sisters, other girls-- they help all girls. We went up there. And we went -- from up there we went-- from up there we went to Zaltzwegel. And at Zaltzwegel we have already-- we got to eat already up there. And from up there we went to Braunschweig. From Braunschweig we went to Frankfurt.

Q HOW LONG WERE YOU IN ALL THOSE DIFFERENT PLACES?

A Not long. Not too long. We been in the woods maybe two, three weeks. And then in one place we came

there, been something. A burned up-- a burned up camp. Nothing. Nothing grow. But we went to Braunschweig. There been some camp. Just Polish people. And we didn't want to stay up there. We want to go where Jewish people are. So we went to Frankfurt. And at Frankfurt then we came-- it was olfrent. We got to eat already and to drink, and they gave us clothes. And we stay up there to the rest-- until we came to America, until we came here, America.

Q YOU TRAVEL BY TRAIN BETWEEN ALL THESE PLACES THAT YOU DESCRIBED?

A Yes.

Q YOU MENTIONED THE LADY WHO HAD THE DRAWER WITH THE NAZI FLAGS AND SWASTIKAS. DO YOU REMEMBER HER NAME?

A Her name? I know-- I remember the street.

Q DO YOU REMEMBER THE STREET ADDRESS?

A Yes.

Q CAN YOU TELL US THAT?

A Ourstrasse, 16 (Hechs), Ourstrasse 16. And her name was Mrs. Beckle. What was her name? I don't know. I did know the name. I forgot. The name was Mrs. Beckle. This I know for sure was (Hechs) Ourstrasse 16. And with No. Mrs. Beckle.

Q BEFORE WE STARTED DOING THE INTERVIEW TODAY YOU TALKED A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE REASONS THAT YOU DID

THE INTERVIEW TODAY, THAT YOU WANTED TO DO THE INTERVIEW. DO YOU WANT TO ADD ANYMORE TO THAT OR SAY ANYTHING ABOUT WHY YOU DID THE INTERVIEW?

A Yes. Yes. I did the interview because I have two sons, and one son is married to a gentile. And I hope and I pray the kids going to be Jewish. So far they are circumcized. And the little boy goes to Jewish school. He is four years old. Goes to preschool, to Jewish preschool. And I try every Saturday. I light candles, and I try to take the kids Saturday -- to my house Friday night. So the kid put on the (yamka), and he knows it is (Shabis). You cannot blow out the candles because it is (Shabis). He take-- it is a holiday. He cannot blow out the candles. It is (Shabis). Because he likes birthdays. It is not a birthday. It is a holiday. And I try. I try so hard. Try very hard. So the kids be Jewish. And I want to-- my kids remember. And so other kids supposed to remember. They been sometimes people suffer so much because they are Jewish. And my sons, they are very happy. I told them I am going to go, and they say, yes, you should go. It is one of these days it is either going to be here. My son want to come over and give a look and see. It is very important to me. And it is important to lots of young kids because there are so many young kids, teenagers, what-- even the parents are screw up. But the parents never tell them what has been going on and everything. And it is a more

thing. The kids should know what has been going on. Maybe if they know, maybe they keep-- maybe Jewishness together, maybe.

When I came from New Jersey here I was very disappointed because it is so few Jewish places where Jewish kids can come together or Jewish people come together. Very few. And I met some people what are Jewish. I came from a mixture, I came. Jewish and German -- and Jewish/German. They say they are French, everything. Not Jewish, just French, German, they say, American. Everything they give you. What are you? And you can read on their face they are Jewish. You can see by their walk they are Jewish. And they would not say they are Jewish. Come one holiday, just Yom Kippur, though, they memorize a little bit and they came to the synagogue. Otherwise, they don't come to the synagogue the year round.

Still have any questions for me?

Q IS THERE ANYTHING MORE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD?

A What would I want to add. I want to add I am thankful to you folks for listen to my story. And I hope this going to help me too a little bit maybe. And it is a big thing for me because I going to have a clear conscience because of this, because I tell my story. And one of these days, maybe if not my kids, maybe somebody else going to have

a chance to look at this, what the Jewish people been going through for no reason. So I am very thankful to you.

Q WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR IT. IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE. IT TOOK A LOT OF COURAGE.

A And you took your time.

And I never know I going to be here. And I never know I going to come because each time I did make plans, and I could not come. I couldn't come. How you going to do it? How am I going to do it? It is so hard. It is so-- I do not know. I done it. I done it somehow. I do not know. And yesterday I say to myself I going to take two nerve pills before I go, and I have to do it. And I did it. I am happy about this. It is like you go to psychiatrist. You go very nervous, and you talk a little about your troubles, and then for a while you get a little better. So, I believe, even if my kid don't go to, maybe other Jewish people, other Jewish kids going to see such a story and going to get interested and going to read such a thing. People do not believe it all. And this is a very-- some people don't understand, but this is a very very important thing for the Jewish people. So many Jewish people vanished for nothing-- How much they got beaten for no reason, for nothing, for no reason, every movement. Everything. Just enough -- not enough to describe. I even don't know-- how I did today because this was not such an easy thing. But I will be happy for this, whatever I did.

Q YOU DID VERY WILL, I BELIEVE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

A I tried to.

Q YES.

A I been going through for 13 year in my life, I so good. Going to synagogue, a happy home; never never-- I never think whoever think of food. A happy home, a happy-- happy parents. A home where really-- like God likes to have. Saturday dress up, Saturday morning dress up, go to the synagogue Saturday. Friday night all shoes for Saturday was staying in a line, shine up for Saturday. And the clothes, everything. Such a beautiful living. This was all -- in such a short time was all-- everything burned. Everything was not-- for nothing. I be forgive such motives. How can I forgive such a thing? Never. Never. I do not want to forget. And I cannot forget, even I want to. It is hard. How many nights I do not sleep. In the nights I wake up, I scream, I holler, I am afraid. They are chasing us, they take us. A whole time I have dreams about the concentration camp, how many times my husband wake me up: scream, cry, holler, and the next day I am so broken I can hardly get out of bed. I am so miserable, depressed. It is not an easy life. It is very hard. I do not know. I look here at people. For some people they say, well, this was. We have to forget. This never going to come back. And with some people they just stick. I mean,

it is a thing that sticks. It sticks with you, grows with you. How much you want to forget. Just don't go out. We can't do it. It is very difficult to do. I went myself. I went to all kind of different places. Of course, my doctor say on top of this, because I am so-- I am so nervous and everything, and I have such miserable days everything have to do with this because I do not know-- maybe I am a different person. I do not know. But I cannot let this go. I can't. I try to. I cannot. I am hurt. I am hurt inside. And I ask myself a thousand times why me, why me. I came from a happy home, happy home, Jewish home. No. No, it is enough. I do not want to come back.

Q WE REALLY APPRECIATE WHAT YOU HAVE DONE TODAY.

A No. It is-- it is too much depressing. I cannot do it. It is too much for me. How much I like to, but I cannot.

Q ARE YOU READY TO STOP?

A When they are done.

My husband never went. He say it is too depressing. And he just don't-- maybe one of these days maybe he going to come too. I do not know. And my doctor say my whole depression, my whole everything came from this. And it is so hard. Just medication cannot help. I tried. I try everything. Try to take medication. Now I am on 12 pills a

day. I used to belong to Mount Zion Hospital. And up there he wrote about me. He wrote a paper about me for the doctors. He wrote some paper about me for the doctors. I forgot. Or Dr. Kleinhoffer from Mount Zion Hospital. And he wrote about me a paper. Because when I came here I was in the outpatient clinic. And he wrote a paper about me. I was very sick. And I was very depressed. And I used to go to a psychiatrist every week. And then he wrote a paper about me to the doctors.

Her name was Frau Beckle. The German lady's. What she have the swastika, Frau Beckle. This is Mr. Beckle. German. It is Frau Beckle.

Q GREAT. THANKS.

A Yes. Frau Beckle. She used to live at Ourstrasse, 16 Hechst Ourstrasse near Frankfurt.

Q THANKS FOR DIGGING THAT OUT.

A I used to think I know because I used to hate her so much. When she chase me out. One day she chase me out with a small child because I saw this miserable, rotten swastikas after I been going through so much. He pull out one, and he put -- a little boy, he put over his hand, and he used to make, "Hail Hitler! Hail Hitler." And I used to sit and write. And now I look at this, and I look at the drawer, and I say, "Oh! Oh!" And I say, "What is this?" And I was not afraid. Maybe if she come in with a gun she kill me, the woman. But I was not afraid. And I run to the store very

nervous. Pay back. I would kill her. I don't know. So nervous. And I just pull out the whole drawer and turn them over. The whole drawer was with swastikas and with flags, German flags. Her husband was a-- he was one of the SS men. Killed or executing. I do not know. It was such a joke. Such an old lady. And I used to pay her and everything. I used to pay her. I used to keep clean her house, used to do everything for her. And this was after the war, after the war, after-- this was maybe a year after the war. Such a miserable woman.

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