

Yeah, you just look at me. We're here today, it's the 27th of January, with Lily Sassoon. John Angel Grant is on camera and producing it. I'm Anne Feibelman. And it's the interviews for The San Francisco Holocaust Oral History Project. Anything else we need there?

And we're in San Francisco.

We're in San Francisco.

Right, OK.

Speak up a little bit because I can't--

You can't hear me? OK. Lily, let's just start at the beginning of your story. Where were you born and when?

I was born in Yugoslavia, 1919.

And how many people were in your family?

In my family, I had three brothers and my parents.

Were you a religious family?

No. But it was a very religious community, Jewish community. But we were the less, right.

Did you belong to a synagogue?

Oh, yes.

And Lily, where did you go to school?

Oh, in the neighboring town, yeah.

Was it a mixed school?

Mixed school.

Not Jewish?

No, no. Where I was born, it was a little town. It's, like, I think in Russia they would call it shtetl, but something like that.

What was the name of the town in Yugoslavia?

Ada, A-D-A.

And what was the largest town nearby?

Maybe the capital of Yugoslavia. They were not really very large.

Oh, I was going to ask you what was your life like? Did you have friends who were not Jewish? What was it like?

Very few. We had it in the-- I had it when I was smaller. As we grew up, we always had less and less others, and we kept together. A Zionist organization started. And so we just more, like, we Jews got together.

And when was the first time you remember anything antisemitic?

Well, maybe always, I don't know. It was not really the first time. It was always there. We were very conscious of it. We knew it.

And what happened to your family?

My brothers, two of my brothers just died, disappeared. One disappeared. The other died during the war. And the third one died a few years ago in New York. From four of us, four siblings, two came to the States.

Now you went to school in Yugoslavia until when, until what age?

Until 1933, 14 years, 15 years old.

And what happened in 1933?

Well, it happened, the Anschluss with Austria. I think that was about '32, '33. So it started to-- things a little bit changed.

How?

Well, the people from Austria, a lot of refugees from Austria came also in our town. So we knew what's happening. And that's how it was changed.

But not, actually. But we still-- for a while, we were, from '32 to '39-- when the war started, when the Germans occupied Yugoslavia, we were quite comfortable there then. But we knew there was a lot of refugees-- a lot of refugees-- no, a lot of--

Refugees?

--refugees, I think in Italian, probably, a lot of refugees from Poland, from other places, Austria.

And what did your father do? We had a umbrella factory. And we were one of the well-to-do's in that little town.

And what happened to his factory after 1933?

When I went back, I went back about 15 years ago. And now it's some kind of factory. Because they had all the equipment, all the sewing machines, and whatever, so they put a factory there, not umbrella.

You continued to live there in Yugoslavia. And more and more refugees came. And then what happened?

Well, then in '39, it happened, the seven days' war, what we called, when the Germans just occupied it.

And what happened then?

Well, then that happened, the usual disaster. What all over the other places happened, exactly.

Tell me what you remember.

What I remember? Well, when the Germans came in, when the Germans occupied Yugoslavia, after a seven days' war, that was over, our relatives, our friends, just disappeared.

First, the people-- we said, well, he was a known communist, he was a rich man, he did this and that, so they disappeared. But day by day, the people just disappeared without any-- we couldn't even explain it, just disappeared.

And not only friends, but very close, always closer, closer to our family.

So we decided it is time that we go somewhere. We didn't know exactly where or what. And so we heard voices, voices always, just heard voices, news that the Italians were occupying, occupying Greece and Albania at that time, and a part of Yugoslavia, the southeast part of Yugoslavia.

So we thought that the Italians, it's really good. There people live almost like normal. So we tried that. And we succeeded.

Where did you go?

On, on the sea, on the Adriatic Sea, beautiful. People used to go there in the summer for recreation.

Did you tell anyone you were going?

Excuse me?

Did you tell your friends?

Oh, well, our family, of course. The family knew it. A matter of fact, we tried our parents to come.

But they said we are old people. Nobody will touch us. You know how they said, we didn't do anything bad to anybody. So why should they be at old? But then, of course, they were killed.

So we escaped. And we lived quite nicely in this town, in this resort. We lived about two months, and that was from May to August, September, maybe even more than two months. And it was really almost like a normal life, normal life. And we were taking sun on the beach all day, and so it was. Really, the Italians were.

What was the name of the town?

The town Castelnovo.

And then what happened?

Well, and then, one day, the authorities--

The drinks woman is here.

Oh. A drink? Oh.

Thanks.

OK.

Some water for you.

Thank you.

Didn't know what you wanted.

You OK?

I'm fine, thanks.

Oh, that's good.

Yes.

So one day, the authorities decided that they should pick us all up and ship us to a kind of concentration camp, I think, in Albania. That was the closest spot, always the Italians. From one day to the other, of course, we didn't have much time to think about. If you want to go, nobody asked of us.

So when we got there-- and this was a real, like, improvised, it was a military camp, really. And this looked exactly like the camps what we was seeing on television with the three-tier beds and so. But they didn't treated us bad. So the living conditions were, of course, terrible.

What were they like?

What was it?

What were the living conditions like?

Well these barracks, these were just military barracks without any infrastructure or anything, just empty barracks with these three-- oh, they call it-- one bed on the top of it they were, just on the ground. So it was September, October, that was the rainy season. And it was just mud, mud all over.

And we ate. Everybody had, somehow, money. And we could buy things.

And was the security strict?

No, not at all. Oh, was interesting. When we arrived in that camp, of course, physically, I mean, we were OK. Nobody bothered us. And we had a little bit to eat, where to sleep, luckily.

But when we arrived, everybody got two blankets. To me, it is even now very interesting, two military blankets. And the next morning, somehow, the blankets arrived.

And we could have 5, we could have 10. We could make like a mat. We did it like that so it would be a nice soft mattress. It just started.

But every day, somehow, something arrived, something better happened. The commandant of the camp, he was a general. And he just loved our children, all the children.

And he just sat down and let the children come. And he brought candy to them every day. And so that was a nice thing.

But he was our friend. We felt, really, that he was our friend. Let's say somebody got seriously sick, like an appendix, my cousin. He sent her in the nearest military hospital, and not only her, but her mother went with her for about two weeks. I don't know how they did. The minute somebody got seriously sick, he was to the hospital for a few days, and so on. So that was, I think, very humanely treated.

Was he Italian?

Hmm?

Was he an Italian or an Albanian?

[INAUDIBLE] Albanian, but these were the Italian occupation forces in Albania.

Mhm. And can you remember what your life was like? How old were you?

I was 21 then.

So what did you do all day? Did you have to work?

No, we didn't have to work, no. Nothing special. No, we cooked for ourselves. We got the potatoes and cabbage and whatever. And every week, a different four women did the cooking for ourselves.

And what did the men do? Did they work? Or do you remember what they did?

The men tried to make the life as comfortable as they could for them, for us, for their family, for themselves, and little things, they built little tables, little chairs, you know, what--

Was your whole family there?

No, just me and my husband.

Where were your parents?

Well, my father-- my mother died a few years before-- I mean, a few months before the war with Yugoslavia. But my father was still at home then when we were in Italy. And he had, in his business, he had connections in Milan with an industrialist.

And he wrote him, my children are in Italy. Oh, no, that was later. No, not yet, when we came to Italy. No, that was later.

And your brothers?

My brothers? Well, they were in working camps. The Hungarian had these working battalions.

Battalions, battalions?

Battalions. And they were taken in these working battalions. That they worked behind, not like a soldier. They didn't have arms, of course. But they did the other work. So one disappeared. And the other one came back, who I told you before that he was living in New York.

The one who disappeared, do you know what happened to him?

Well, not exactly. They were working on the Russian front and who killed him, I don't know, not really. I never went to [INAUDIBLE]. My brother told me something. And I didn't want to hear, or he didn't want to tell me.

Now your husband was someone you had grown up with?

No, no, he was from a different town.

And you were married before?

I got married just-- we were married in March. And the war started. The Germans occupied in May. So we were just two months married.

And how long were you in Albania?

We were there a few months, from September to November, two, three months, something like this. And then this commandant suggested that we send a petition to Mussolini that here are children and older folks, older people. And the

living condition is very unhealthy, now that the winter is coming, winter season, the rainy season. So they should transfer us to Italy, in where is there are-- because this was not a camp for refugees. This was a military camp.

And in fact, after we waited about six weeks or so, a telegram came. He was the happiest people, the happiest man, the general. He is right now in front of me, showed us the telegram from Mussolini, signed from Mussolini, that you will be transferred very soon to Italy.

And that happened. And we waited for a convoy. That came after two, three weeks. And we were transferred to Italy in this refugee camp that was built for this purpose.

And where in Italy was the camp?

It was the south very close to Sicily. The name of the camp is Ferramonti Tarsia. Tarsia was the closest little town. And the camp was Ferramonti di Tarsia, of Tarsia.

And this town was close to the capital in Calabria. Cosenza was the capital of this capital, the biggest-- oh, yeah. So it was in the south.

And what was that camp like?

The camp was, like, very neat when we arrived there. There were about 2,000 refugees there more or less, 1,800, something like that. And they were nicely white barracks, white were barracks.

All the single persons, and they were about 30 in a barracks. The families, these barracks were divided different. I mean, they were just like little apartments, two room and a kitchenette, like, separate entrance. And if the family were just husband and wife, they got one room to each couple. If they had children, then they had the whole thing, the children in one room and the parents in the other, a little kitchen.

And how did-- oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

OK. This was a family. And we cooked for ourselves. We could buy. There was a spaccio. There was a place there where you could buy potatoes and those things.

And the persons who were just one by who didn't have relatives with them, I think they had it a little bit harder. There was a kitchen in the community, they call it, community kitchen that they cooked.

Now from the beginning, from the very first day, we were subsidized for the government. We had seven liras. Now I don't know how much you could buy now for that. But anyway, we had that seven liras a day.

And I mean, singles, who lived by themselves, who didn't have relatives with them, they gave these seven liras and bought their lunch and their dinner with it. So that how much it was worth, that 7 liras.

And how did the Italians treat you? How were you treated?

Absolutely very humanistic. Over the commandant, there was a civilian and a military government in the camp, in every camp. Oh, and they were really, really very nice.

When we met them around the camp, they had a big hello, and a little smile, and come star, signora. They even asked how are you, a lady, or something like that, very, absolutely.

We had a cultural life. We had concerts. There was an opera singer there from Zagabria, from Zagreb. And we had a choir. We had a temple. Friday night, Saturday morning, something like that.

Now did you know what was going on in the rest of Europe?

Yes, a little bit. We could listen-- I mean, we couldn't listen to the radio, of course. But somehow, somebody got a radio somehow.

And so we knew some things. We didn't know all the things, but something. It didn't look so good.

Were you in contact with your father?

Yes, at the beginning. And then they took him away also.

Where?

I don't know where they took him. One day, they just killed him. I had no idea where he was taken. I don't think he lived too long, because he was old and sick.

But what I started before, that he had this business connection in Milan. And he wrote him that my children are in Italy now. So this-- he was a count-- he sent us a letter right away that either to tell him what do we need, and he would send. And of course, before we even send the letter, at the same time, a big package arrived with sugar and canned milk. And a few packages arrived, two, three, during the year when we were at camp.

Other interesting thing is that when we arrived the first night at the camp, and we came to order this little room. At night, it was dark outside. And somebody was knocking on the window, on our window. And we could see that is a military there, a soldier.

So my husband said just don't turn around. And he was insisting, knocking on the window. And he said, come out to my husband.

And I thought this is the last time I see him. We said goodbye. I thought that they will shoot him or something.

Well, in a few minutes, he came back with an armload of canned milk and beans and these cans, sugar, a little bit. That's why he was called out.

When you were in the camp, how long were you there? How long?

In the camp, a year and a half, I think. And then from there, you could make a petition to the government again that the conditions in the camp, we invented. We could go to the doctor who gave us a certificate that our lung is not so healthy, so it is dangerous to our health.

And they send us to confino libero. We were confined to a little town. And there we went from the camp. Not all of them, mostly families, but also single person, also single men. Yeah.

So we were staying in this little town. And we were lucky that this little town was even more south from the camp. Because those people who were sent to the North, more North, the Southern part of Italy, of course, you know that it was liberated first. Because they went up and up. So many of them perished who were sent to this free confinement. I think I can translate it this way.

What was the name of your town, Lily?

Where we were sent? Castrovillari.

And did you have your own apartment?

Well, we had a room. We rented a room in a very, small town. And most of them, maybe they could not-- they rented already. When they said that we had the permission to leave the camp, it seemed to me now like a travel agency. They

gave us the tickets for the train.

They said, somebody will wait for you on the station. You have a room rented for you. I swear this is true. And that's how it happened, exactly. And And to the train, and we arrived to that little town, and somebody was waiting for us.

He excused himself that he didn't come with a car. He just came by-- no, it was very close. He said it is a half hour walking.

So that was OK, too. We had a view almost like that from our room.

Incredible.

Incredible. Incredible.

Now what did you do in this town? Could your husband work?

No, no. And a regulation was that he has to go every day, every morning to the police, that he is present there. We couldn't go anywhere from that little town. It was confined. It got confined.

So for the first week, he had to go every morning. I didn't, only him. The next week, oh, you can come twice a week. And the week follows, oh, you can come once a month. And I mean, that how it went.

Oh, sorry.

We were the best friends with the doctor. With the-- how you call it-- even with the fascist authority there, you know? We were just friends. They invited us for dinner or for Christmas dinner, for Easter dinner. We were the guest of honor.

I'm not inventing this. This is the honest truth.

And they knew you were Jewish?

Huh?

They knew that you were Jewish?

Of course, they knew. Of course, they knew. They got our things from the camp that we are arriving there. There were maybe four or five more Jews there.

One was from Rome. He was an Italian. He was interned in that, he was sent to this confino because he was communist. So he was in there.

Were you afraid?

We knew that we are fine at that moment. But what will be tomorrow? We didn't know what can come, you see? Nobody was there to protect. We didn't have any rights, or we were not citizens. They could do whatever they do.

And that was always in our thoughts. What will be tomorrow? What will we wake up tomorrow? So that was the terror. That was that feeling.

Did you know of any people who were taken away?

No, we didn't know anything anymore from that part of Europe, from our home. We didn't know much. But some of our friends wrote us through the camp.



They were in a camp in Germany. But they were military prisoners, not civil. They were made prisoners during the war. So that was different. They could write us. And they asked for and we were sending them food packages from the camp, from our camp.

We could buy. My husband worked in the post office. And he went to the next town every day to pick up the mail. And of course, he could buy this and that. So we sent to the German, we sent packages to those military prisoners.

Incredible.

Mhm.

Now how long were you in the town, in the confine?

In that confine? Well, we were there till one night. Well, OK, before that it was also another significant thing. So when the Germans came one night in, I mean, the soldiers who were wounded, they came for a night there to stay there with I don't know how many truckload of Germans.

They were all bandaged like mummies. We saw them sitting. They're all in bandages from here to there.

But then the priest who had a little house a few miles out of the thing, he said, come, come out to my house. Because we never know. Somebody of those Germans might ask is there any Jews here. So if somebody might even say, yes, there is a Jew.

So we went for a week or so in that little cottage. Until one morning, somebody came from this little town that the Americans arrived. So we ran to the town. And-- [CRYING]

Lily, when you went to the town, what did you see?

And there were these two American soldiers, two and motorcycle. They looked like angels. So they asked if there are some Jews here. So we said, yes, we are.

I don't know what other happened. That was the end of it, I guess. The next day looked beautiful.

And then, from that moment on, we were free. We could go to the-- we didn't want to go much. Because that town was free. But you go a little bit further, and there was a front, always.

So we didn't. But we moved a little bit as the American advanced, we moved. I and my--

What was life like after the liberation? Was it hard?

Well, it was hard because there was no money. There was the IRO, we called it. "IRO," is that I-R-O. What it stands for, I don't know. But they have, the refugees, refugee organization. What is the I?

International.

International, of course, refugee organization there. And we registered there. And we were-- which was the other organization? It still exists, I think, in New York, that brought us over.

The Joint?

Joint?

Yes.

Those are the two-- I think that we were registered and they helped us.

Now did you go back to Yugoslavia?

Oh, yeah. Because we lived in Italy, you see. And of course, we went back many times, not always to my town. I went once and I didn't want to go back more.

I mean, after--

After, we are.

And after you were liberated in Italy, did you come to America or what?

No, well, we were liberated by 1944, '45 maybe? And we came here in '51.

What did you do?

In Rome, we lived in Rome in between.

And what was life like there?

Well, we wanted to come to the States, of course. In Italy, you can't have a working permit, who is not Italian, you see? Not like here, even a immigrant as comes. No, you couldn't work there. So it was really just a transition, I think.

Lily, I'd like to hear from you some specific stories about the war, things you remember that were frightening, or good moments.

You see, luckily, we were in this internment camp. And we don't really, we were never too close except when the Germans bombarded Sarajevo, our town where we were during these seven days' war. That was when I lived through a bombardment.

And then, of course, when we escaped from Sarajevo, that Yugoslavian town, Sarajevo, down South to where the Italians were occupying, that was a very critical. Because in the train, we heard that they are just pulling out people and they disappeared. And we thought that might happen to us, too. But to die either in town, or to try to escape, we didn't have much choice there.

And relatively, we were comfortable, I mean. Except that feeling that today is fine, but what will be tomorrow? What will bring tomorrow? Well. The horrors of the war, I couldn't even-- I can't say the human, the physical, the actual horrors of the war except that bombardment.

What was the bombardment like? Tell me about that.

Well, we were just in the cellar. And there was two or three of them. During the seven day war in Sarajevo, there were a few of them. That was scary.

And what about when, in your own experience, were there things that you remember in Italy or in Albania, just incidences, little stories that you remember that happened to you?

Oh, I remember a very interesting also, I think. Well, in this camp, when we were in the camp, and I told you usually the director and the colonel, the commandant of the camp, they were very nice. But one day, we were just standing, women, in the front of our capannone, how you call it-- where we had our room.

We're just nothing. And this, like, a delegation, the commandant, the director of the camp with the four soldiers behind, very official. And they came in towards us. I thought, well, this is the end, now, you know. Everything there, you are

thinking this is the end, you see?

And they ask my name, Lily Sasson. And I am-- and so the director come separate. Did you have an abortion?

Because I had some infection. And somebody saw the doctor, the doctor of another refugee, our friend. He came to visit me, or to come two, three days to give me medication. And somebody, I don't know if the soldier or the military man, I mean, from outside, or somebody who was talking, who was telling them what's happening really around, I guess there always was somebody like that, you know what I mean?

So he said, did you have an abortion? I said no. Why? Because if you had an abortion, you will go to prison. And they took me to the infirmary, examined if I had an abortion. Because that was a crime.

I didn't. And everything was good. They apologized, that everything was just fine. But if I would have an abortion that would be a crime that I would be punished for.

See? To kill a Jewish fetus would be a terrible crime there. [CRYING] In the meantime, there were millions of children killed there.

It's the end. Makes no sense, does it?

How they came this officially, a delegation of eight military, and the director, and the commandant. And they said, here, here there was committed a terrible crime. We have to investigate it because somebody made an abortion.

What else do you remember? That's a good story.

I don't know. That's it already, I think.

Were you afraid for your husband?

No, [INAUDIBLE] in a situation that it was very, very-- a very unique situation. You took it from one day to the other, you see. And we just hoped that tomorrow will be just as good as today and we live through the day or the night. Even in the camp, when everything seemed so-- we were so well off, let's say, how you call it.

When you were put in the first camp--

In Albania.

--in Albania, did you have to leave all your possessions, or did you take everything?

Yeah, we could only take a small valise. Yes.

What did you do?

We left there with the landlady, where we rented the room. It was not much. But we could take only just a small-- that's what they told us. what was is.

What did you think would happen?

Oh, we didn't know what will happen. We thought that every change, what could-- every change for the worse. We couldn't hope that oh, it must be for the better.

Lily, what did you learn? How did your war make you a different person?

Well, I don't-- made me a different person, but I mean, I don't know if otherwise I would be the same, if I-- you know.

I'm timid, I think. I just-- I know the power is always somewhere else.

I don't if it really made me different. I don't know. It probably did.

And when you came to America, did you have children?

Yes, my son was born in Italy. Yeah. He was five when we came here.

Yeah.

And we went to work right away. In Italy, I was taking a course from ORT, O-R-T, and so I learned sewing. I'm a music teacher now. But I didn't know the language. So when I come here, I said, can I teach without knowing one word in English.

So I took a course of sewing and pattern making from ORT. And that's what I did in New York. We arrived in New York. And I went to work in a factory.

My husband, for a while, was packaging, something. Later, he got a better job. And he was sent as a purchasing agent to Italy, back to Italy. So we went back to Italy, textile purchasing agent.

How did you end up in California?

Oh, my son was here.

Lily, do you think that the way you raised your son was influenced--

I asked. I asked him. He said, I don't know any difference. Maybe, you know, because we didn't suffer through all that German type of camp, you see, maybe it was not. He didn't-- he think he had a normal.

What do you think was the one thing that saved you? Was it luck? Or what do you think?

What? Oh, that saved me? Oh, just luck, just luck, nothing else. You can't explain it all, you see.

In Italy, just intuition, not even. For me, because some people said, oh, they will not touch us. They will touch everybody. They will kill everybody.

They all-- they had their home and maybe their small children. They didn't want to move. Where do I go? And we were young. And we were just, let's go.

So that was one thing, I guess, that we had the courage to try. It was not a sure thing. We didn't know what is on the other side. But we said we know what is here.

Lily, do you want to show us what you brought today?

Yes.

You want me--

Let's see. If you just hold it-- tell me where, John.

OK. Yeah, that's fine. And just try to hold it still. And why don't you tell us what that is, Lily?

Well, this is a group in the refugee camp in Italy in Ferramonti, where there were about 1,800 refugees from all over Europe, and not only Jews. And this is a group from Sarajevo. These are all Jews from Sarajevo.

I'm going to point you out. You hold it. You hold it. And this is Lily right here with the tailored jacket and a white shirt and a bag on her lap.

Yes.

OK, got it.

And some of the men have ties, as you can see.

Yes.

All right.

What else would you like to show us, Lily?

Well, from Israel, a group from Yugoslavia sent a certificate of gratitude to the Italian government for the help they gave us, to the population. This is really a gratitude to the Italian population for the help they gave us and that we saved our life during.

How do you feel about the Italians?

The Italians? I love them. I owe my life to them. [CRYING]

I just remember when, let's say, when we arrived to Italy. And this group of about 300 Yugoslavs went from, let's say to the train station-- we arrived with a boat. And we had to walk a few streets, or I don't know how many streets to the train station that would take us to the camp.

Well, the Italians came out from they house and they looked this group. And the women were crying. They ran to us with bread, with fruit, with piece of cheese.

And we saw them crying when they see this group. What happened to you, but you are just people like us! And they were cursing their government. And they were cursing everything.

And we got to the train. Before we went to the train that took us from the boat to the camp, and before we went onto the train, we had a freshly baked loaf of bread, white, beautiful, fantastic Italian bread, freshly. Because I think in a hurry. They gave order to the-- it was warm, yes? They gave order to the bakery, here is a group of 300 that will have a six-hour train ride. And they gave a piece of fruit and that piece, a loaf of bread.

There was not much bread for Italians. It was famine. And it was not much to eat there. But they still gave us. So that was another incident that I can't forget.

Any other incident that you think of that you would like to tell people?

I don't know right now. I can't.

Let's see what else you've got.

Yes!

OK.

Well, this is from France. I had a brother-in-law in Paris who was a rabbi in the Sephardic temple, San Lazare temple. And he got it from somewhere. And I think it was auctioned or something.

And this is the-- how you call it?

Stamp?

Yes, what they stamped the armbands, what the Jews had to wear in Paris, in France. So I got this one.

And--

Would you hold that against your chest there so I can get a shot?

You can see that on the stamp it says Juif backwards.

Yes.

Because when it's printed, it would be backwards.

Aha. Yes.

Did you have an armband?

No, never. We didn't have that. But they already started wearing it in [PLACE NAME] before we escaped to Italy. But I didn't go out. So I didn't wear it. But they already wore that little star.

Did your father wear it?

Well, my father was in a different town. I didn't see my father after the war at all, during the war or after. I don't know if he wore it or not. I think they wore it in their town, Hungary. That became Hungary, that part of Yugoslavia, after the seven day war, of course, became Hungary.

Your brother, you saw him again in America?

Yes. In New York, we lived there for a while.

But you didn't see him in Italy?

In New York?

In Italy? Oh, no. He was not in Italy. No, he wasn't in Italy.

What did he do during the war?

He was behind the front, behind the working-- I think they call it working battalions that went to the soldiers, but they were not armed. They did other work there. And in Russia, he got prisoner in Russia.

And because, of course, he was Jewish. So he had a different treatment. It was not a prisoner, a prison. It was also like an internment that they couldn't leave. But they were not treated like enemies in Russia, not a Hungarian soldier or enemy. They knew that they were forced in this battalion.

Hmm. Let's see. Is there anything else--

That's all, I think.

--that we should look at?

That's all.

OK. Good. That's a beautiful-- the picture is just wonderful.

Yeah, I think it is. It is very interesting.

Do you still go to Italy now?

Well, I went a few times to Italy or to Israel.

You go back. Do you have relatives in--

I have in Israel, not in Italy, no.

In Israel, where in Israel?

In Israel, in Tel Aviv, in Bat Yam, Netanya.

That's nice. That's nice.

I went there a few times, especially when we lived in Italy. It was so close from Italy then.

Lily, is there anything else you would like to add, you would like to tell people about the war, or the future?

I didn't think about it. If I would have thought about it, maybe I could have. Well, let's just hope, let's just hope it will never. And I believe it can. It can be this will be never again.

Lily, thank you. Thank you for telling us your story.

Thank you.

It's very important. And you had a very, very wonderful way of telling it.

Thank you.

And it's a great help to future generations, you know?

Thank you.

It is. It's good. John, anything?

No, I have nothing to add.

OK. I think that's it, Lily.

[LAUGHS]

You did a good job! Thank you.

You asked me how did I spend my time in it?

Let's see. We might want to get this. OK?

Rolling.

Sorry, yeah.

So I took lessons, Italian lessons.

So there was an Italian--

And so did other people. My husband is Sephardic. And they speak Spanish. So for him, it was easy, because Italian is very similar to Spanish. So he was talking a lot, right away he was. But I had to learn.

So there was a refugee who taught you?

Yeah, yeah, who was from Trieste. And there, they spoke [INAUDIBLE]. They were also from Hungary. But they lived for many years in Trieste, in Italy. So he knew very well.

What else did you speak?

What else?

What other language?

Oh, I speak Hungarian, of course, and Yugoslavian. Those are, like, my mother languages. And Italian is now my first, of course, better than any of the others, I guess, or the same in English.

You have a beautiful English.

[LAUGHS]

Thank you, Lily.

You're welcome.

Let me ask you one thing.