

1 MR. STAHL: A. -- where most of the Jews, and  
2 especially the ones who came from Poland during the  
3 Second -- First World War. And we got there an  
4 apartment, and we lived most of the time -- we lived in  
5 Vienna in the same sections, more or less.

6 Q. Un-huh. Was it, was it a ghetto? Was it a  
7 Jewish community, or --

8 A. It wasn't a ghetto. But it was this part of  
9 Vienna where most of the Jews lived. The majority of  
10 them lived. Where the old-timers from Vienna, who lived  
11 in Vienna before the war, lived in different sections.  
12 And those people who run away during the war from the  
13 Russians and had the possibility of entering Vienna,  
14 which wasn't so easy, lived in the same section because  
15 they knew each other. The family lived together more or  
16 less in the same area. But it is not considered a  
17 ghetto. We did not have in Vienna any ghetto because  
18 Vienna was open.

19 Once we were there -- we were arriving in  
20 Vienna, we had all the rights because we came from the  
21 old countries. And Poland belonged to Austria at that  
22 time. So we had our rights. As a matter of fact, in 1916  
23 we were considered friendly people. And I wouldn't say  
24 we were received with open arms, but we were more or less  
25 as equals. And finally, we could become Austrian citi-

*Interviewed by Shelly Samuels and Irene  
Rotenberg - these are Nanette  
Stahl's parents. Poland - 9/4-84*

1 zens. And when my father became a citizen of Austria, I  
2 automatically became a citizen, too, because at that time  
3 I was under age -- before I was 10 years.

4 Q. Good. So how many people would you say were in  
5 the area that you lived in this Jewish community?

6 A. I would not be able to pinpoint exactly. We had  
7 about 200,000 Jews in Austria -- in Vienna. Mostly in  
8 Vienna. And I would say 150,000 should live in that same  
9 area.

10 Q. Okay. Okay, and Mrs. Stahl, what was the area  
11 that you grew up in Vienna? Was it the same area, or was  
12 it a different part?

13 MRS. STAHL: A. It was also in the Jewish  
14 quarters, as he would say. This part of Vienna was known  
15 where the Jews -- that's where you have the synagogue.  
16 Not only Jewish, also religious. The religious part was  
17 concentrated in that part of Vienna where -- so all our  
18 --

19 Most of the people who came from Poland  
20 were more or less religious. They concentrated and had  
21 their synagogue -- they more or less could keep the old  
22 Vienna as such. Of course, we did not know much about  
23 this. Viennese people -- they used to live there before  
24 we came. Many of them came from Czechoslovakia. A lot  
25 of them, years back. They did not keep any religious --

1 nothing.

2 But we kept up like this. The parents, of  
3 course, we spoke Yiddish, because all the parents knew  
4 German, so the main language was Yiddish. And slowly, as  
5 we grew older and we were capable and able to go to  
6 school, then we started to learn a little of life in  
7 Vienna like the others.

8 Of course, we had hard times. Very hard  
9 times until we got to that stage. We had bad living  
10 quarters. We had little to eat. The Committees helped a  
11 lot -- the Joint Committee helped a lot with the rations  
12 that they distributed to all those refugees. We were  
13 refugees. And slowly we kept on going upwards, and we  
14 slowly got --

15 Q. Acclimated?

16 A. -- acclimated. The German Jews, the Viennese  
17 Jews --

18 Q. Un-huh.

19 A. -- the difference was not so noticable. But  
20 still, we were the Polish, and they did not like us. Not  
21 only did the goyim Viennese, the Jews didn't like us  
22 either. They looked at us as intruders. Of course, we  
23 were not as clean as they were. We did not have the  
24 opportunities that they had. They called us dirty, and  
25 so on. They did not like us. But we managed to become

1 equal.

2 Q. Okay. And you left Vienna, both of you, in  
3 1938; is that correct?

4 MR. STAHL: A. 1938.

5 Q. Okay. Could you give me an idea about the time  
6 right before the Germans came, and right -- what your  
7 daily life was like right around then, and any  
8 differences that occurred in your normal living pattern  
9 when the Germans came?

10 A. I guess that we married in 1937. And we made  
11 our honeymoon trip to the United States. We lived here  
12 for half a year in New York. And at that time already,  
13 our relatives in New York asked us, "Would you consider  
14 remaining in New York because there is trouble somehow  
15 coming from Germany." Czechoslovakia was either going to  
16 be occupied or was already occupied. And they suggested  
17 eventually that we should remain, and they would try to  
18 help us staying in New York.

19 We did not accept because we just had,  
20 like I said, married. We bought a new apartment. We had  
21 everything -- it was new in our house. We bought new  
22 furniture -- anything. We had not even had a chance to  
23 use it. And it was for us inconceivable that we should  
24 remain in New York.

25 And besides this, the political situation

1 was there at that time that Mussolini was on our side  
2 with the Austrian government. And he would not allow --  
3 or he would influence Hitler not to come to Austria.

4 That really was a wrong idea, naturally.  
5 Especially hindsight -- it is very easy to establish  
6 that. But the majority of Jews did not feel that we were  
7 threatened at that time. It was the end of 1937.

8 By '38 in March, when we returned in  
9 August, let's say, to Vienna, in March '38, Hitler  
10 marched into Vienna. I had established myself -- I had a  
11 retail business as a furrier. And like I said, I was in  
12 my own business. As soon as Hitler came in, they started  
13 to give Commissars to every business man. Commissars in  
14 the sense that he took over the business. He was the  
15 only one who told you what to buy, what not to buy, what  
16 to sell, or what not to sell.

17 Q. Do you mean that they actually owned the  
18 business? They took the business away from you? Or, it  
19 was being managed for you, and you were just being  
20 directed. But you still had the rights to the business?

21 A. The business was not taken away from me. I,  
22 like I said, the Commissar had all the powers to do with  
23 my business. And I was, as long as I wanted to stay, to  
24 listen to him what I should do and what not to do. And  
25 mainly, the money part I could not withdraw money without

1 his consent from the bank. I could not deal without his  
2 consent.

3 And this was the first impulse or the main  
4 idea which came to my wife and to me that under circum-  
5 stances like that, that we had no future in Austria to  
6 stay longer.

7 And beside this, when it came once to a  
8 question with this Commissar -- I had parents which I had  
9 to give them money to live because they are old. He  
10 said, "This is not my business. I can give you only  
11 money to live for you. And your parents are not my  
12 obligation." Under circumstances like that, I knew from  
13 that moment on that we have no future there.

14 I -- I be threatened with my existence  
15 economically. And I saw what can come, and my main point  
16 was a soon as possible to get out.

17 And another thing, it was another point  
18 which made it even for us easier and faster to go away  
19 from there. One day we went down with a valise with  
20 private belongings which my wife wanted to bring to her  
21 mother. So a man was standing downstairs, and that was  
22 the Commissar, and he told me, "What are you having in  
23 this valise?" I asked him, "Why are you interested in  
24 what I have? Who are you to ask me that?" He said, "I  
25 am your Commissar. And I want to know what you have.

1 And you will show it to me." He opened it then. It was  
2 private belongings. His idea was that I'm taking away  
3 merchandise to hide it so that when he would come, there  
4 would be nothing in the store. But he was satisfied with  
5 what he saw, and he said he will come an hour or two  
6 later and talk to me.

7 That was the second point which showed me  
8 under which circumstances I'm going to live from now on.  
9 Not my free -- not a free man anymore. And under circum-  
10 stances like that, I was not willing to stay in Vienna.  
11 Even I had all the new things which I had.

12 MRS. STAHL: A. It was a very sad feeling, you  
13 can imagine. There was a lot of fear in us. We --  
14 wherever we saw him walking in the street, you could see  
15 them marching the Jews in the street. And they would  
16 say, "Right, left. Right left." And they marched --  
17 they caught them in the street wherever they spotted  
18 them. And marched them all the way through town. And  
19 everyone was afraid to be caught, because many that they  
20 caught never, never appeared anymore. And the family  
21 never knew where they were and what happened to them.

22 They caught one of the first ones at a  
23 very famous Jewish restaurant. It was actually the only  
24 real kosher Jewish restaurant in that Jewish quarter  
25 where we all lived. Their son -- they had an only son

1 who was at that time about 19 -- walking in the street.  
2 They caught him. And the parents had no idea what  
3 happened until they sent ashes to them.

4 And when you knew the people, and you  
5 heard these things, the fear was tremendous. Every day  
6 we used to call each other and -- afraid to talk on the  
7 phone. But we always asked, "How is the mother? Is the  
8 mother all right?" This was the signal. When they said,  
9 "Yes, the mother is all right" then we knew that the  
10 family, whomever we called, that nothing had happened yet  
11 there.

12 And so this fear made us make up our mind  
13 definitely that we have to leave. And we -- to get a  
14 passport to leave was not so easy. There were lines all  
15 around half the town. They were unbelievable. And the  
16 S.S. -- they took care of the area. And they used to  
17 yell. And they acted -- the way they treated the people  
18 -- and you saw this. It just broke you down.

19 So we were lucky that there were some of  
20 their lawyers who were waiting for the moment to become  
21 somebody. For money they took over your case to get the  
22 passport, and they -- with them we could get in without  
23 standing in line. You paid them. And we got the pass-  
24 ports. And by September, as a matter of fact, the 20th  
25 of September, we left Vienna.



1 Q. In 1938?

2 A. Yes, 1938. He left his parents. I left my old  
3 mother. And we took out a brief case -- that was the  
4 usual luggage of all the runaways --

5 MR. STAHL: A. And a rain coat.

6 MRS. STAHL: A. -- a brief case and a rain coat.  
7 And that's all we -- no money. And that's how we left.  
8 We went to Germany because for most Jews there was no  
9 connection to get out. So we went to Germany. Germany  
10 had borders with France, Luxembourg --

11 MR. STAHL: A. Holland.

12 MRS. STAHL: A. -- yes, Holland, Belgium. So  
13 people just -- all the young people just left to look for  
14 a way to get out of -- and everyone went through Germany.

15 And we, we came to Germany and had -- and  
16 were delighted to see that you could walk in the streets  
17 without being caught. That the Germans, at that time,  
18 were much, much better to us than the Austrians. The  
19 Austrians were anti-Semites without Hitler, too. They  
20 didn't have to learn. The Germans were not. They  
21 learned that from the happenings. And slowly, slowly  
22 they developed.

23 But at the beginning, we were walking  
24 around free in Germany without fear. And -- there were  
25 little things, of course. We were looking for a place to

1 sleep. We met also his brother and his nephew, also who  
2 went before us also looking. We found that you could see  
3 everybody moving around like lost souls to look for a  
4 place, first of all, to sleep. And in fear not to be  
5 caught. But if they would catch you, they would send you  
6 back.

7 So we finally were lucky to find a boy who  
8 looked somehow to us trustworthy. And we decided we had  
9 no choice but to ask him. It was in the post office. We  
10 were trying to see if we got any telegram or anything  
11 from home. And we asked that boy would he know where we  
12 could sleep over? Of course, he knew what that meant.  
13 And he must have known that we were Jewish because who  
14 comes asking for --? And he said, well he would talk to  
15 his wife. He was standing very -- and he said, "Okay,  
16 you can come with us."

17 And we trusted him. He could have done  
18 with us anything he wanted. We trusted him. And he took  
19 us to his house. And he gave -- he divided -- he let us  
20 share his bed. He had a double bed with his wife. He  
21 let the two of us share his bed. So we slept, all the  
22 four of us in that bed.

23 MR. STAHL: A. The thing is, that he wanted to  
24 give us the whole bed. We did not accept it because I  
25 did not want him to sleep on the counterpart, the floor.

1 So was said that half of the bed would be for my side --  
2 for our side, and --.

3 We had our nephew, also, about 16 year-  
4 old-boy. He gave him, in the kitchen, a place on the  
5 floor. And he gave us breakfast the next day in the  
6 morning. And he did not want to accept any money. This  
7 was an occasion that is very hard to believe. But things  
8 like that happened, too. It showed that not all of the  
9 people in Germany were, at that time at least, so bad  
10 that like they turned out later on.

11 We come back to Austria. We just happened  
12 to live across the street from the headquarters of the  
13 Party. The Nazi Party had their headquarters across our  
14 street. And when Hitler marched in and the procession  
15 passed by, we were told and threatened not to look out  
16 through the windows and to pull down the shades. Our  
17 faced shouldn't be seen.

18 And this altogether gave us the inclination  
19 the sooner we are leaving, the better. And we did it.  
20 And we heard through a letter from a cousin of mine who  
21 went also to Germany and reached Paris through  
22 Soubrittan. And Soubrittan was on the frontier. And  
23 there was, naturally, in every hotel was a sign, "Jews  
24 and dogs are not allowed to enter."

25 But there was one place where the Jews

1 were accepted. There was a Jewish man who had con-  
2 nections with the S.S. We paid him money with the  
3 knowledge of the S.S. to cross the frontier. He brought  
4 us to the frontier. We were stripped to see if we had  
5 any valuables in our possession. We could take along 10  
6 marks, except the money we had to pay for the smuggler  
7 who made the connection with the S.S.

8 And with 10 marks we were brought over to  
9 the frontier. And after going on the streets for a mile  
10 about --

11 MRS. STAHL: A. At night.

12 MR. STAHL: A. -- at night, a car approached  
13 us with shiners on, that is bright lights, that should be  
14 the sign to us to stop him. And he asked us for the name  
15 of who sent us. And he took us -- seven people into one  
16 car. My wife was sitting in the front near the driver.  
17 And he kept his arm around her. The rest were men. And  
18 she was the only woman with us. That should like, in  
19 case somebody stops the car, that it is a love affair.  
20 And it just happened at that time -- what was his name?

21 MRS. STAHL: A. Chamberlain.

22 MR. STAHL: A. Chamberlain signed an agreement  
23 with Germany, and the French soldiers got drunk and made  
24 parties --

25 MRS. STAHL: A. At the borders.

1 MR. STAHL: A. -- at the borders, so when we  
2 came with a woman in the front seat, we passed very  
3 quickly. And we were happy to arrive in Paris. In Paris  
4 we had --

5 Q. -- I just want to recap for a moment. I would  
6 like for you to say what the city that you were from --  
7 in Germany -- that you sent to from, and then you went to  
8 Saarbrucken. So what was the city in Germany? And then  
9 go back.

10 MR. STAHL: A. I had a very nice experience  
11 which shows how many people were trapped in Germany, just  
12 like we were trapped in Austria, because we relied on  
13 somebody, Like Mussolini did. He will protect, not only  
14 the Jews, but the Austrians mainly.

15 In Germany, and this was in Mannheim,  
16 Mannheim is a big city where a lot of Jews lived. And we  
17 arrived on Rosh Hashana. And we went to school. It was  
18 my wife and I, and my brother and my nephew. And they  
19 saw that there were strangers in town. The President,  
20 after the services, called us over and asked us from  
21 where are you. And we told him that we are from Vienna.  
22 So he told us he would like to see us the following day  
23 for lunch -- to come to his house.

24 After services, we came to him like he  
25 invited us. And he asked us, "From where are you from

1 Vienna? Why are you running? From what are you run-  
2 ning?" I looked at him as if he wouldn't be for real. I  
3 asked him, "Where are you living, in Germany? And you  
4 ask me why I am running from Vienna? We are running away  
5 from the Nazis. And you, living already for a couple of  
6 years in Germany, and you asking me why we are running  
7 away?"

8 So he said, "We have no experience some-  
9 thing bad. I was -- I was an officer, a high officer in  
10 Germany." And he showed me his whole regalia with his  
11 swords and all his decorations he got during the war.  
12 And he has a big business. He was one of the biggest  
13 businessmen in furniture. And he said, "We have no  
14 trouble with them."

15 So then I told him, "Then you are lucky so  
16 far. As soon as Hitler came in, they took away my  
17 business immediately. And I don't see any future to live  
18 here. And we are going away. And that's why we are  
19 here. From here on, we are looking for a way to cross  
20 overseas." Because we had -- I was told a neighbor was  
21 in Vienna at that time, which I knew when he was a young  
22 man. And he was a Nazi. But as a neighbor, he gave me  
23 the good advice. He said, "If you go away from Vienna,  
24 don't stay any place in Europe. Go overseas, as far as  
25 you can."

1 I knew what he meant. I saw the situ-  
2 ation. And my main purpose was to reach France. And  
3 from there, as soon as possible, to go the United States  
4 because we had family in the United States. And I  
5 explained it to him. And he said, "Well, then we had had  
6 a bad experience." In Mannheim at that time he did not  
7 have such bad experience. And was the President of the  
8 Jews.

9 And I saw that he had a point at that time  
10 because we walked out in the streets. Nobody bothered us  
11 in Germany while they bothered me not directly, but I saw  
12 the people. I was -- my window -- pointing toward the  
13 street. And we saw a lot of people just snatched from  
14 the street. And they made them into groups. And they  
15 made them marching to places where they took them later  
16 on to camps. This I did not see at this time in Germany.  
17 And I knew that made him somehow not to understand why we  
18 are running away.

19 And later on it showed the people who run,  
20 the sooner they run, they were still alive. The ones who  
21 remained and did not want to part with their possessions  
22 or thought because they were high officers in the German  
23 army that they will be spared. All this was in vain,  
24 naturally. And I wonder what happened to this man.

25 Q. Okay. And how did you get from there, from

1 Mannheim, it was to Saarburg, right?

2 A. Saarbrucken.

3 Q. Saarbrucken, okay. From Mannheim to  
4 Saarbrucken -- how did that happen?

5 A. From Saarbrucken it was very easy to be -- we  
6 went with the railroad.

7 MRS. STAHL: A. People who knew already how to  
8 go and where to go and what to do. There were people  
9 whose relatives -- people in Vienna whose relatives made  
10 it and wrote to their relatives how they made it. Those  
11 people gave the name and address of the smuggler that we  
12 spoke about, Dr. Flocksner was his name, and he -- he was  
13 the one who --

14 MR. STAHL: A. Arranged --

15 MRS. STAHL: A. So, in order to get to him, he  
16 was in Saarbrucken. Actually Saarland and next to  
17 Saarbrucken. So they knew -- they wrote us from Vienna  
18 to get in touch with him -- to go to Saarbrucken and get  
19 in touch with this man. And he will be the one to help  
20 us further. And that's how we got to Saarbrucken. And  
21 that's how we got to him, and to the Gestappo, and  
22 further on. This was -- everybody was looking for a way  
23 out. And everybody who knew something would give it to  
24 the next to know how to -- that's how --

25 MR. STAHL: A. Escape.



1 MRS. STAHL: A. -- that's how we got out; that's  
2 how we made it through Germany.

3 Q. Okay. So then you arrived in France. Where  
4 did you arrive in France? And what was the first thing  
5 that happened to you once you crossed the border?

6 MR. STAHL: A. When we arrived in France, the  
7 man, the owner of the car, first of all wanted to be  
8 paid. We told him that we paid the man in Saarbrucken,  
9 and he told us that we have nothing to pay anymore. And  
10 besides this, the S.S. stripped us and allowed us only 10  
11 marks to be taken along with us. So we don't have any  
12 money.

13 This didn't set by him, so he said in-  
14 stead, "Give me your ring. Give me your watch." Any-  
15 thing that's valuable we were to give him. Knowing that  
16 we are going to be stripped, we did not take along any  
17 rings and any watches.

18 But I had somebody, a friend of mine in  
19 Paris, who also went out early enough from Vienna to come  
20 to Paris. So I told him to bring us to a certain hotel.  
21 And I went up to the man and asked him to give me a  
22 certain amount of money, which I brought to the man who  
23 has the car. And that satisfied him.

24 MRS. STAHL: A. The other fellows had some kind  
25 of jewelry or whatever they had. They gave it to him.

1 You know, the fear was terrific because if this driver  
2 gets mad at us, we have nothing to pay to him, he can  
3 just go to the next policeman and say, "Here you have a  
4 full car of people. You can have them." And what Paris  
5 did, whoever they caught, they sent them right back. The  
6 French were very nasty to us.

7 MR. STAHL: A. This is also a very interesting  
8 point. That when you arrived in Paris, at that time if  
9 you are caught as a refugee from Germany, they send you  
10 immediately back to from where you came. But when you  
11 had the chance to reach the Austrian Consular, who was  
12 recognized by France at that time not as a Hitler, but  
13 the old country consular was recognized by France. And  
14 when you came to him and showed him the passport which  
15 was stamped with a "J" meaning "Jew", they knew that we  
16 were refugees. That we run away from Hitler.

17 And he gave us about three weeks stamp which  
18 entitled us to go to the police and the police gave us an  
19 extension of staying there for that period time without  
20 harrassing us. Once we were there, naturally, we  
21 immediately went to the American Consul telling them that  
22 we arrived here --

23 MRS. STAHL: We had applied. We had applied in  
24 Vienna before we left Vienna. Everyone went to the  
25 American Consul and everybody applied. We had applied,

1 too. So we came to Vienna. And the American Consul had  
2 sent the papers from Vienna to Paris so they had the  
3 papers -- the applications. But, of course, you had to  
4 wait until your quota comes in. So we -- the consul knew  
5 that we applied. And on account of that, they gave us a  
6 letter to the police saying that we have applied for a  
7 visa. And when our quota will arrive, we will get the  
8 visas. With this letter, coming to the police, they will  
9 give you four weeks.

10 And you have -- so everybody went to the  
11 police. And the police were quite nasty to us. They  
12 made fun of us. And everybody was running and rushing  
13 and waiting to enter. And they made fun of that.

14 So we are lucky. We had four weeks in our  
15 pocket. And we can walk around free without being afraid  
16 that the police -- they could -- the men did not look  
17 like the Parisians. Shall I say -- so they, the women --  
18 they could -- you could dress up. But the men, they --.

19 So when you have those four weeks in our pocket, we  
20 were very happy because we could walk around free.

21 Q. How did the women dress up to fit in and look  
22 like a Parisian? Can you tell me that?

23 A. No special dress up. Some clothes -- while we  
24 were away, we did leave some of our luggage at home in  
25 Vienna asking them once we arrive some place where we can

1 have an address, to send us some packages, which they  
2 did. At that time they still could. Later on, of  
3 course, the whole thing didn't work any more.

4 So everybody got packages along with some  
5 regular clothes. In Paris not everybody was high  
6 courtier, and you know, normal. So a woman did not stick  
7 out to the policemen, while the men rather did.

8 So we -- we had those four weeks. After  
9 four weeks, then a new story began. We had, again, to  
10 find something to bring to the police -- you couldn't go  
11 just to the police and say, "Give me." You had to come  
12 with a letter from somewhere. There was the Committee  
13 who would give us -- they were the Jewish Committee. I  
14 think the Joint also had to do with it. And they gave us  
15 letter saying something about these people will go when  
16 they have the next, the next, in the near future they  
17 will leave, and so on. And you come with this letter,  
18 and they will give you four more weeks.

19 And so this went on for a year that we --  
20 and sometimes they gave you only two weeks and not always  
21 they were in the mood to give you four. And so this went  
22 on for a year until the war broke out. And then they  
23 took them away.

24 MR. STAHL: A. Before that, during the year in  
25 which we lived in Paris, I was one of the few lucky ones.

1 We had somebody in Paris who lived -- who came from  
2 Poland before the war broke out. And he established  
3 himself as a furrier. And I knew that he was there. And  
4 with his help, I could work and earn some money so that I  
5 didn't have to beg for money and send -- eventually send  
6 some money to my parents which were naturally in need.  
7 And they were very happy to hear from us.

8 The trouble was only that if you were  
9 caught working, it was danger for the man who gave the  
10 possibility to work. And you, yourself, was immediately  
11 shipped out back to Germany. And we had many occasions  
12 where we had some visitors from the police because there  
13 was a concierge in the big house -- there was a lady who  
14 take care of the house, and she was always like a --

15 MRS. STAHL: Spy.

16 MR. STAHL: -- spying for the police. If there  
17 was any movement of strangers or so, she was immediately  
18 supposed to give the information to the police. And the  
19 police is coming to observe and see what's going on. And  
20 when we heard the knock on the door, I was immediately in  
21 fancy clothes, sitting playing cards with the man, not in  
22 working clothes. So there was no doubt about it that I  
23 was working.

24 But this was very -- I was -- very, very  
25 few people who can manage that, because I had one friend,

1 one relative who was in the same line like I was of work.  
2 They must give -- while the French police weren't  
3 friendly to the Jews, and to every, and especially not  
4 against, when it was in connection with Jews. As a  
5 matter of fact, they tried to make us look silly. We  
6 were in the hundreds over there. We had to stay in in  
7 the morning. And you didn't want to be caught without  
8 valid visa or stay in town, so you came very early.

9 And we had to stay and there was a big  
10 police office with a big yard. They opened, let's say at  
11 6:00 in the morning, or 7:00. We were standing around at  
12 5:00 or sometimes it's 4:00. And then we had to run in  
13 order to reach in time to get the family to stay here.  
14 You couldn't make it in time, you had to go home without.  
15 And you were always in danger of this. You didn't want  
16 it to happen to you. So you had here people who were 60,  
17 70 and 80 years old. And youngsters from 15 and 20.  
18 They, naturally, were running faster. And they were  
19 standing line in a spot here, and were laughing if those  
20 who were crippled or old and couldn't run as fast as the  
21 youngsters.

22 But there were a Committee of the Jews who  
23 lived there for longer periods of time, they mostly came  
24 from Russia or Poland, and they established themselves in  
25 Paris at that time. And they were very, very good to

1 those refugees. They arranged kitchens which they  
2 operated by themselves and by the women. And they cooked  
3 and they gave bread, unlimited bread with --

4 MRS. STAHL: A. Mustard.

5 MR. STAHL: A. -- mustard, and with that you  
6 could fill yourself up. They gave soup, too. And they  
7 give sometimes other things, too. But bread you could  
8 have unlimited. And if you didn't get anything else, you  
9 were not hungry when you ate the bread.

10 And besides that, they were friendly. And  
11 they wanted to be of help. They arranged also a Commit-  
12 tee which gave you letters of recommendation to the  
13 police, which otherwise was like saying that he knows you  
14 and you are a fine man. You are not going to be a burden  
15 to the city. And that you are going to overseas, and you  
16 are waiting only until you get the visa, which I could  
17 prove from the American Consul.

18 But the American Consul as such was at  
19 that time I wouldn't say not friendly; they were not in a  
20 rush.

21 MRS. STAHL: A. Well, they had their orders.

22 MR. STAHL: A. They -- they knew that we are in  
23 danger. They knew that if we were to return to Vienna  
24 that our next move is to a concentration camp. But they  
25 didn't rush up giving us visas. And my wife had two

1 brothers living in New York for many years. And they  
2 came before in the '20's. But they were not rich. And  
3 you had to show the Consul that you have rich relatives  
4 in the United States when you come -- to support you.  
5 That was the criteria. If he is not rich enough, and he  
6 had to make him show a bank statement, you were not  
7 accepted. And you did not get your visa.

8 And under the conditions we lived here, we  
9 lived until the war broke out. That was in '39 after the  
10 -- all the Jews -- the men in Paris were immediately  
11 notified to come to the stadium in Paris with the most  
12 important things you had in your bags. And we should  
13 take along some silverware and a blanket and the most  
14 important thing that you need for yourself, a toothbrush.  
15 And to arrive in the stadium. The women were not touched  
16 at that time. They could stay in the places where they  
17 lived. And from here on, my wife will take over --

18 MRS. STAHL: A. Funny man.

19 MR. STAHL: A. -- I was not free at that time.

20 MRS STAHL: A. They took them all into the  
21 stadium. It was a camp. They had no barracks, no  
22 anything. They just had an open place.

23 MR. STAHL: A. But in the meantime we stayed  
24 for a few weeks. And then in Paris, in the stadium. And  
25 it was interesting. Paris we heard many times planes



1 overhead. We had so many troops already before we were  
2 in the stadium. And our idea was, or they told us to go  
3 under the seats of the stadium where we were sitting.  
4 And this stadium, it was concrete, and this would give us  
5 shelter. I mean cover against the --

6 MRS. STAHL: A. Bombs.

7 MR. STAHL: A. -- bombs. But it was naturally  
8 clear to me that once bombs were being dropped, it will  
9 not be protection for me. And I did not care later on if  
10 there was an alert or not. If I was sleeping or laying  
11 on the concrete with my cover -- blanket -- and I didn't  
12 move. I said to myself whatever is going to happen, will  
13 happen.

14 After three weeks, they sent us to South  
15 France.

16 Q. I want you to tell me, how many men were in the  
17 stadium with you? It was obviously an open stadium from  
18 what you've said. That's what I was going to ask you  
19 before. And were they all ages? And were they, you  
20 know, mostly also refugees from other places outside of  
21 France?

22 A. Yes. As soon as we arrived in the camp, we  
23 realized that through the war, or declaration of war  
24 against Germany, France did not make any distinction  
25 anymore between Czechoslovakians, Polish, or Austrian or

1 Germans. And we had all of them in the same camp.

2 I would not be able to estimate how many  
3 Jews were there. But I knew many of them which I knew  
4 either through the Committee which I met that at the  
5 place we were eating together, or in the hotels. There  
6 was a certain group of hotels which housed all those  
7 refugees.

8 So we get acquainted, we were friends.  
9 And I knew where all of them were concentrated in the  
10 camp. And it just happened that we arrived also at that  
11 time before a Rosh Hashana in the camp. And --

12 MRS. STAHL: A. What's the matter? Well, shall  
13 I continue? When in the camp they had no kosher food.  
14 They had no possibility of praying. It was prevented.

15 MR. STAHL: A. This was not in camp yet. This  
16 was still in the stadium. And we were standing there.  
17 And here it is Rosh Hashana.

18 MRS. STAHL: A. Maybe we could take a pause.  
19 How long were you in the stadium?

20 MR. STAHL: A. Over three weeks. It just  
21 happened, as a religious man when it comes to Rosh  
22 Hashana, everybody's in a special stage. Mentally,  
23 religious rites -- it means everything to a religious  
24 man. Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur means --. And here I  
25 left my wife in Paris. And I knew either through a

1 miracle -- I did not know how the American Consul would  
2 react. As long as I was already over a year and I could  
3 not get my visa.

4 Now I leave my wife in Paris without  
5 money, as a stranger in Paris, not knowing what's going  
6 to happen. I don't know what happen to her. So  
7 naturally it was very hard for me to bear.

8 And here during Rosh Hashana we found out  
9 that we have a rabbi from Vienna in our midst. And he  
10 was naturally appointed to pray as a rabbi. And the old  
11 men --. And we were crying like women, or children, no  
12 matter how you want to say it. But it was a good  
13 service. And so we did the following day. And we had  
14 Yom Kippur on the day over there and until we begin --  
15 until they got the instruction to bring us in by train to  
16 take the men to camp.

17 That was in South France. And they  
18 brought us to a meadow. There was nothing prepared.  
19 There was nothing -- housing, except they had brought --  
20 we had to put up tents. And we slept according to tents.  
21 We had small ones and big ones. We chould chose in  
22 groups. And we were sleeping there. And we stayed there  
23 for quite awhile until -- but at the same time while we  
24 are in tents, living in tents, they started building the  
25 barracks, wooden barracks. Among the population in

1 France over there, there were mechanics. And they took  
2 people who -- mechanics, whoever were able to build and  
3 be able to work on the barracks.

4 So we built our barracks ourselves. And  
5 then we had permanent housing at the sametime winter  
6 broke in. And we were very glad that we had the barracks  
7 already because the tents were some blown away through  
8 the wind. And at the same time, I run out of food  
9 inasmuch as I wanted to keep kosher.

10 MRS. STAHL: A. I used to send him packages. I  
11 sent him a sleeping bag. And I sent him packages from  
12 Paris so he had something to keep him going. So that all  
13 the wives whose husbands were caught tried to do the same  
14 thing. In that way, he could keep going until they had  
15 some help.

16 MR. STAHL: A. So the food which my wife sent  
17 me consisted from sometimes of a piece of cake, and  
18 mostly contained sardines and fish, which kept me alive  
19 more or less. But want to keep kosher so that under the  
20 conditions that existed I wouldn't be able to continue to  
21 go on because I saw that it was not going to end today or  
22 tomorrow. This will be -- we have already been in the  
23 war. I saw that Poland was already conquered. And this  
24 will be a long, drawn-out situation.

25 And I intended, or I wanted to keep alive.

1 The government supplied the camp with food, but it was  
2 trafe. And when I felt that I would not be able to  
3 continue under the conditions, I went to the place  
4 already where it serves food -- soup and meats -- not  
5 koshered meat. And I was standing in line. And while I  
6 was there, a man came over, which I knew from Vienna. He  
7 was the doctor of the camp. And he asked me, "What are  
8 you doing here?"

9 "Don't you see what I'm doing," I told  
10 him. "I'm standing for my ration. I am hungry. And I  
11 have nothing to eat except what I can get from here."

12 So he said, "You don't have to stay here.  
13 I am the doctor of the camp. And I have sardines and  
14 other kosher food which you can share with me. And I  
15 sent a letter to Rothchild in Paris telling him that we  
16 have here so many Jews, telling him that we have so many  
17 kosher Jews which can't live with the food that is  
18 supplied by the government."

19 And he asked Rothchild he should help us  
20 by sending us food including all the ingredients to cook  
21 with. And within a week he got the reply that he was  
22 willing to do that. And we got supplied within three  
23 weeks.

24 And this doctor appointed me to be in  
25 charge of the kitchen. My brother was a good cook in the

1 sense that he can -- he was able to cook. So I was the  
2 -- overseer. He was the actual cook. And we had as soon  
3 -- it went from mouth to mouth that there was going to be  
4 a kosher kitchen. We had 20 people in the same day. We  
5 already had our menu established everyday to feed 50.  
6 And it grew by the day.

7 Eventually we could not supply, and we  
8 send them away. We said we haven't got the facilities.  
9 We don't get that much anymore. And the cook, my  
10 brother, couldn't handle more than 50.

11 But from then on, it was easier to live.  
12 I could already have my minyon. I had my kosher food. I  
13 had a group of people which you could communicate. And  
14 we had already a kind of life in a camp which is a camp  
15 life, but it was possible to exist.

16 Q. Can you describe for me what a typical day was  
17 like for you when you were there?

18 A. A typical day would be very simple. I had my  
19 obligations to God and to the rest of the community which  
20 I supplied with food.

21 So we started immediately with when I got  
22 up in the morning. I would built our own stove with clay  
23 and some stones which was with a big pot that fit in  
24 that. As soon as we got up, we make hot and put water  
25 into it. And we went to minyon. After we finished that,

1 we immediately start to make some coffee, some bread.  
2 And we ate as soon as we finished this part, like a  
3 restaurant.

4 And then we would start on the next meal,  
5 and that was lunch. And knowing that we had to do it,  
6 and I had a good understanding with my brother, we would  
7 plan on what kind of a meal. And we would -- I told him  
8 what I have in our storage so that we could make. And we  
9 planned our meals. We had like a restaurant there.

10 And later on we would manage -- we had a  
11 lot of academicians in our midst. And we would invite  
12 them for evening classes. We studied a little bit of  
13 French. We had lectures on astronomy -- all kind of  
14 lectures for everybody who wanted to give a lecture and  
15 for anybody who wanted to listen. We had in the evening  
16 a big group of people together and that our minds should  
17 be a little bit also active, beside eating.

18 Q. Besides your brother, did you know anybody else  
19 when you came to the camp? Did you make friends with a  
20 lot of other men, or --

21 A. Yes. We were already through that -- that we  
22 had our minyon established. A minyon to which every  
23 religious Jew means a lot. They pray together, and they  
24 become one group. Besides this we knew of each other  
25 from Paris. And I knew some -- many from Vienna. We

1 were already friends. By being together and eating  
2 together and listening to lectures together, you become  
3 one group of people which liked each other's company.  
4 And we were very friendly.

5 And that kept us alive and alert and not  
6 giving up our hope, which was very, very important. And  
7 at that time I got already also a letter from which I got  
8 from my wife. And my brother from one of our relatives  
9 from my side, Stahl, who lived in --

10 MRS. STAHL: A. Los Angeles? No, Milwaukee.

11 MR. STAHL: A. -- Milwaukee. And this man was  
12 rich enough. And he send for my brother because he was  
13 the first one to ask for it. He sent him the affidavit  
14 and was accepted by the Consul -- the American Consul --  
15 who did not live any more in Paris, but was also already  
16 went to South France.

17 And my brother was the first one to leave  
18 the camp. He left before me. He left camp, and he went.  
19 So we had to look for a new cook. But I was very glad he  
20 went including his son.

21 In the meantime, I got a letter from my  
22 wife that she got in touch with a friend we knew in the  
23 United States. We, like I said, in '37 we got married.  
24 And we made our honeymoon to the United States on a ship.  
25 It was the usual way at that time to go. Not on an



1 airplane, but on a ship. And you -- and the trip was  
2 about 14 days. And we naturally were looking for a  
3 kosher. And there were a few tables assigned for the  
4 people who want to have a kosher meal. And we met a  
5 woman and her husband at the same table who lived in New  
6 York. He was a lawyer, and she was a millinery, but she  
7 was a lawyer person, too.

8 So since my wife found out that her  
9 brother is not rich enough to send us affidavits,  
10 although he sent us the affidavits but was not accepted  
11 by the American Consul, she wrote to this woman telling  
12 us our stage -- that she is alone in Paris and that I was  
13 interned in camp. And the Consul does not accept the  
14 bank statement from her brother -- if she could not help  
15 in sending us an affidavit for us additional.

16 We knew that she was able to do. And she  
17 answered naturally in a way that if she could help out.

18 Now you may continue.

19 MRS. STAHL: A. We became very friendly. And  
20 she was very religious and a very frank person. And when  
21 I wrote to her, she immediately went and got in touch  
22 with my brother. And she was willing to send us -- she  
23 was childless -- they were childless. And there -- I  
24 knew that she was doing very well in her business and he  
25 in his so that her papers would be good. And that she

1 did, very efficient and very fast we got from her the  
2 papers.

3 And I had to go to the Consul in  
4 Marseille. I had to go from Paris to Marseille which was  
5 an awful ride because the war was on, and the train was  
6 full of soldiers. And here I am alone among a carfull of  
7 soldiers. I was frightened to death. And coming to  
8 Marseille I was looking for a place. It was already  
9 evening, and I couldn't do anything. I had to sleep over  
10 someplace. Finding a place all by myself -- it was  
11 terrible.

12 And I got these papers and brought them to  
13 the Consul. And they accepted the papers. And they  
14 promised me the visa and told me to come the next day.

15 The reason the Consulate moved to  
16 Marseille with all the papers and all was because people  
17 were so naive at that time. They thought that if Hitler  
18 would ever attack France, he could never make it that far  
19 that he should come to the south. So they went all to  
20 the south. And so that's why I had to go there.

21 And when the told me to come the next day,  
22 I started crying. I said, "I'm alone here. And I don't  
23 know where to go and what to do. I have to have the  
24 visa. I have to get my husband out." And the secretary  
25 there, she took pity on me. And she said, "Okay, wait."

1 And they gave me the visa.

2 And I let him know that I have it, and he  
3 has to get out. So I let him know that I have the visa.  
4 And they wouldn't let him out from camp. But the  
5 Committee was very helpful. First of all, they gave us  
6 the tickets. And with the tickets and with the visa I  
7 came to Marseille to the harbor and to the boats. And he  
8 was sent from the camp to the harbor. They wouldn't let  
9 him free. He got on the police division. He was brought  
10 there. And we met in a hotel there. And the Committee  
11 paid for that.

12 And from there on we left together to the  
13 States. It was about the last boat -- one before the  
14 last boats that could get through. And this one was all  
15 had already.

16 MR. STAHL: A. On the common water.

17 Q. So this was before 1940 -- before the Germans  
18 occupied France that you left? What was the month? That  
19 was the last boat before -- I see. I see.

20 MRS. STAHL: A. Afterwards, when the war broke  
21 out, we were on the way yet actually. And when the war  
22 broke out -- we came here in February, 1940. And that  
23 was short. Our journey through life, through a part of  
24 our life.

25 Is there anything else that you wanted to

1 know?

2 Q. Yes.

3 MRS. STAHL: A. Oh, now you have some questions?

4 Q. Okay. I want to ask you, Mr. Stahl, first if  
5 you kept in contact with any of the men that you met in  
6 the camp afterwards or after you left for the States?  
7 And then the same thing for you, Mrs. Stahl. Any of the  
8 friends that you made in Paris while you were living  
9 there, if you kept in contact with them at all?

10 MR. STAHL: A. I kept in contact with a few  
11 people which I met by chance in New York later on when I  
12 recognized them on the street. Then I, naturally, had  
13 contact with my brother. I knew a few people who were --  
14 I met also by change. But not too many which I --.

15 It was happened that when the Germans came  
16 over the line, and they knew that France was defeated,  
17 they opened the gates of the camp and they told the  
18 people to run. How can you run when you don't have no  
19 money, no language, not knowing how to go? When I was in  
20 there, I did not know this part. I did not even know the  
21 part of France it is.

22 But they gave them instructions to go.  
23 And naturally to go --

24 MRS. STAHL: A. Foreign Legion.

25 MR. STAHL: A. -- to Foreign Legion, and one

1 way up to the Port of Marseille. To reach Marseille  
2 because many ships with French people who run away or  
3 many which wanted to go also overseas. And that was the  
4 port which they eventually have a chance to go.

5 And one managed -- my friends -- one of my  
6 friends managed to come to Spain which from later on from  
7 Spain he managed to come to the United States. And that  
8 was another stepping stone. But he was lucky to reach  
9 it. That was the majority could not make it. Many --  
10 while they were in camp they were not saved by that.  
11 They were caught by the Germans later on and were sent to  
12 camp.

13 MRS. STAHL: A. I didn't make any friends  
14 there, really. I -- there was one girl that was actually  
15 a friend of his family that we had met in Paris. She was  
16 Czechoslovakian, but she lived in Vienna. And we became  
17 friends with her when he left, and I stayed alone in the  
18 hotel. I was petrified, frightened to be alone. And  
19 this girl lived in another hotel also alone. So we got  
20 together and we lived together -- moved together into  
21 that hotel. Of course, a cheap hotel. And that was  
22 actually my --.

23 We had made some friends, also friends of  
24 his -- a couple with a child, who lived in Paris already  
25 from before. They had come from Poland. This family I

1 was also friendly-- friendly before. We used to visit.  
2 And we invited them, then they invited us.

3 So it was this family and this girl. We  
4 were together so that I could go on and not being so  
5 lonely. But otherwise we did not have any real friends  
6 to speak of.

7 Q. So you lost contact with all of these people  
8 afterwards? There was no one that you maintained any  
9 contact with?

10 A. This one -- this girl. She had a brother in  
11 Denver, and she went to Denver. She got married there.  
12 And after -- it would be she came visiting to Isreal. We  
13 were already in Isreal then. So she came, and she  
14 visited us in Isreal.

15 That's the only --. The other couple that  
16 lived already in France from before, her husband was sent  
17 to the camp -- to the concentration camp in Auschwitz.  
18 And she never saw him again. I kept on writing to her  
19 from New York after, when the war were over. And the  
20 French people were then very, very great need. They had  
21 nothing -- no clothes, you know. I used to send her  
22 packages with clothes and all kinds of things.

23 And then I lost contact with her and what  
24 happened to her. She wrote to me that she was hoping and  
25 waiting for him to come back because there were people

1 who came back and told her that they saw him the last  
2 day before the Nazis gave up. They still saw him alive.  
3 So she was waiting for him and was very much disappointed  
4 he never came home. So that was that.

5 Q. And also to understand where you were living by  
6 yourself in Paris -- how did you survive financially?

7 A. Well, when I think of it, I don't know myself.  
8 I bought one meal, the main meal -- the lunch was the  
9 main meal. You know, in Europe the main is actually  
10 lunch. We went to the soup kitchen, as you call it, that  
11 the Committee supplied for us. And we got there and had  
12 bread, potatoes, and sometimes meat. This was the main  
13 meal.

14 Otherwise, I couldn't even tell you. And I  
15 try to think; I don't know. I really don't know. But  
16 anything else I don't know. I don't know where I got the  
17 money from. I've forgotten. The whole thing was for-  
18 gotten. But I know that I was in distress. But the food  
19 apparently didn't mean much to me or else I would know  
20 what else I ate.

21 Q. In terms of the place that you stayed, did you  
22 pay money for that or where did that come from? The  
23 place that you said that you were living with this other  
24 young woman?

25 A. Yes. We lived in -- what they called it -- a

1 furnished room. They have in Paris besides the hotels,  
2 they have places where they rent just furnished room.  
3 Where you --. We were not allowed to cook in those  
4 rooms. We have to be quiet and be good girls because the  
5 owner of the place, she kept a very good eye on everyone  
6 of her --. As a matter of fact, she threw some out that  
7 she did not like. So we stayed there.

8 And the Committee gave us a certain amount  
9 to pay for the rent.

10 Q. This is something I wish you would talk to me  
11 about, just to clear up again, about the Committee and  
12 how -- who they were exactly, and how everybody came in  
13 contact with them?

14 A. The Committee consisted of Russian Jews who  
15 were well-to-do and felt -- to help. They helped us.  
16 They helped with the food. They helped to keep us. They  
17 gave courses in French. They had us come a few times  
18 each week and give these French courses. And they helped  
19 with the rent.

20 I guess that the Joint Committee gave a  
21 part, too. I'm not sure, but I think they did.

22 And that's how we struggled through. We  
23 did not live in luxury. We just kept alive. That's all.

24 Q. Before I go on to afterwards to the ending of  
25 this experience, is there anything else either one of you



1 want to say about this period that you feel you haven't  
2 had a chance to talk about?

3 MR. STAHL: A. In connection with that, the  
4 only thing that bothered me -- and I found out later on  
5 that our President in the United States, while he was so  
6 good --

7 MRS. STAHL: A. Roosevelt.

8 MR. STAHL: A. -- Roosevelt, to the Jews in --.  
9 Not particularly to the Jews. He was a good President  
10 for the United States. He did not realize or he didn't  
11 want to do anything about it. It must have been clear to  
12 him at that time that if somebody's running away from the  
13 Germans even if he's a Jew, and there is a quota which he  
14 had to eventually or the State Department had to keep.

15 But there was -- I don't want to talk  
16 about politics, but there was no doubt about the plight  
17 of hundreds of thousands of people --

18 MRS. STAHL: A. Millions.

19 MR. STAHL: A. Well, we're talking this case,  
20 I'm talking especial about the Jews because while other  
21 people were also suffering through Hitler, we were the  
22 first ones. And that was the motive. All his fight was  
23 against the Jews. And that he wanted to erase us as a  
24 people.

25 And it must have been clear to the United

1 States President, including the rest of the Jews here  
2 that there are people here wandering all over the world.  
3 And that there must be a special effort to be done.

4 And I did not realize -- I mean, I could  
5 not see it. And I couldn't understand later on why when  
6 there was -- when the Russions overrun, let's say,  
7 Czechoslovakia or Hungary, that they took away the quota.  
8 And they let in all the people who else were political  
9 refugees, and they gave them a chance to come to the  
10 United States.

11 Here my wife had two brothers in New York,  
12 established in business. They were not rich enough to  
13 showing a statement from the bank which is big enough to  
14 satisfy them. And they did not give us a visa. If I  
15 could -- if we would have gotten the visa in time, we  
16 could have, naturally, been the happiest people. And we  
17 couldn't have to suffer for so many months -- more than a  
18 year and half.

19 And we, naturally, are not the only ones.  
20 There were hundreds of thousands of other people, Jews,  
21 who went in the same similar situation. And we were not  
22 helped.

23 And I think this is something which I  
24 don't know, I didn't read about it. But later on I found  
25 out that Roosevelt, while he was a very good President

1 and did a lot for the United States as such. for the Jews  
2 he didn't go out of his way to help.

3 Q. Anything from you, Mrs. Stahl?

4 MRS. STAHL: A. No, nothing special.

5 Q. How do you cope with -- do you talk about your  
6 experience at all to people, or do you not talk about it?  
7 You said before that you had blocked out some things. So  
8 is this something -- is the experience something that you  
9 talk to people about, or you have talked to people about  
10 frequently, or is it something that rarely comes up?

11 A. No, I don't. I don't like to go back to that  
12 period. I made a line over it. And I don't want to go  
13 back. As a matter of fact, our children didn't know  
14 really what -- how and what we went through for a long  
15 time. And it was only in the last few years that they --  
16 after they kept asking and wanting to know, and wanting  
17 us to tell them, that we kept on telling them and  
18 explaining to them so they do know now. They know now.

19 I did not consider ourselves as that  
20 unforunate. As bad as it was when I heard what really  
21 went on. And what people relly suffered. What we saw  
22 and what we heard so that I did not consider myself as  
23 really important. It was not good. We suffered, but it  
24 is not to compare to what really happened.

25 So I don't feel that there is so much to

1 talk about. It's over with. We -- thank God we survived  
2 without going through the holocaust, which is --. It's  
3 not really something big to talk about, and I don't --

4 MR. STAHL: A. For me, the same thing. I don't  
5 like to talk about it much. I did not want to burden the  
6 children with our story of suffering.

7 But when it comes occassionally and we  
8 talk about it, naturally I have to mention the worst  
9 situation I went through in my life. That was two times.  
10 When I had to leave my parents, not penniless, but  
11 without money. And leaving them not knowing when the  
12 next I would be able to help them to live. They, thank  
13 God, were helped by a sister who lived in Isreal. And  
14 they got there with a visa into Palestine at that time.  
15 And they were saved to Isreal. And thank God I know at  
16 least where they are buried. As soon as I arrived in  
17 Isreal of my own choice, I bought plots next to them, and  
18 --.

19 But this is one thing which was the worst  
20 thing that happened to me, naturally was to leave my  
21 parents in such a situation. Not knowing what was going  
22 to happen to me, and not knowing what was going to happen  
23 to them. That was the worst experience in my life of  
24 that dimension.

25 And the second one was when I had to leave

1 my wife. And also not knowing what was going to happen  
2 to me. And what was going to happen to her.

3 But among all those things, we are the  
4 most fortunate among the survivors from Hitler than  
5 others one which don't know where they are or what  
6 happened to them. So we don't consider ourself as heros  
7 or to tell stories about it. But we suffered in our way.

8 And I choose to live with my wife in  
9 Isreal because I think that this is -- we have to learn a  
10 lesson from Hitler. That we have to come to Isreal not  
11 only at a time when we are thrown out, when our lives is  
12 in danger. We should consider, as Jews, to live in  
13 Isreal on our own free will, and our own free choice of  
14 time. Not everybody can go any time. There must be so  
15 many visas economically and so on. But we should go to  
16 Isreal on our own will in our own time and choosing and  
17 not being thrown out.

18 Q. Is there anything else that you would like to  
19 say?

20 MRS. STAHL: A. We are very happy now is Isreal.  
21 We like it. We live with Jews and have made friends  
22 here. It's a very satisfactory life. And we're happy.  
23 Thank God.