

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH STEPHANIE SUCHER

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1 Q. MAYBE TO START WITH, JUST SAY YOUR NAME, AND WHEN
2 AND WHERE YOU WERE BORN?

3 A. OKAY. MY NAME IS STEPHANIE SUCHER. AND I WAS BORN
4 IN REICHSTADT, NEDESILESIAN ON DECEMBER 3, 1917.

5 Q. AND, COULD YOU DESCRIBE A LITTLE BIT OF THE EARLY
6 YEARS OF YOUR LIFE, BEFORE ---

7 A. I LIVED AT REICHSTADT FOR ABOUT SIX YEARS. MY
8 FATHER AND MY UNCLE OWNED A FACTORY. THEY WERE IN
9 THE WEAVING BUSINESS. AND, IT WAS A VERY SMALL TOWN
10 IN THE LOWER PART OF SILESIA. THEN, IN ABOUT 1922,
11 1923, MY FATHER WAS SENT TO MIDDLE SILESIA. THE
12 TOWN WAS CALLED BRIEG, NOT VERY FAR FROM BRESLAU
13 WHICH IS THE MAIN CITY IN SILESIA, OR WAS THE MAIN
14 CITY IN SILESIA, CAPITOL OF SILESIA, AND OPENED UP
15 ANOTHER FACTORY.

16 Q. HE WAS SENT THERE?

17 A. HE WAS SENT THERE. HE AND HIS BROTHER WERE RUNNING
18 THE FACTORY IN REICHSTADT AND MY UNCLE SENT HIM TO
19 OPEN UP ANOTHER FACTORY. AND, HE DID SO, BUT, AFTER
20 ABOUT ONE YEAR THE INFLATION STRUCK. IN 1924, THE
21 INFLATION WAS AT IT'S HEIGHT SO, THE FACTORY HAD TO
22 CLOSE.

23 FORTUNATELY, MY MOTHER HAD A PROFESSION. SHE GRAD-
24 UATED FROM THE KINDERGARTEN SEMINARY AND HAD HER
25 DEGREE AND WAS ABLE TO OPEN UP A KINDERGARTEN. SHE

1 USED PART OF THE OLD FACTORY BUILDING AND MADE IT
2 INTO A KINDERGARTEN. THEY HAD QUITE A BIT OF GROUND
3 TO IT SO THERE WAS A GARDEN. AND, SHE ALSO ADDED A
4 SCHOOL, A VOCATIONAL SCHOOL TO THAT. SHE HAD WENT
5 BACK AND BECAME, WHAT IS CALLED IN GERMANY, JUGEND
6 LEHREN. SHE HAD ANOTHER DEGREE, SOMETHING LIKE
7 SOCIAL SERVICE DEGREE. AND, SHE OPENED UP A SCHOOL
8 FOR YOUNG GIRLS TO BE ABLE TO WORK WITH CHILDREN,
9 AND IN THE HOUSEHOLD. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY WERE
10 TRAINED.

11 Q. WAS THIS SCHOOL JEWISH?

12 A. NO, THIS WAS NOT A JEWISH SCHOOL, NO. THIS WAS FOR
13 THE POPULATION.

14 Q. WHAT WAS THE PERCENTAGE OF JEWS IN THAT TOWN?
15 WHAT'S THE NAME OF THAT TOWN?

16 A. BRIEG. B-R-I-E-G. OF COURSE, THE AREA WHERE I COME
17 FROM IS NOW POLISH. SO THE NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED.
18 THERE WAS A JEWISH COMMUNITY IN BRIEG, YES THERE
19 WAS. THERE WAS A TEMPLE, THERE WAS A PART-TIME
20 RABBI THERE AND A CANTOR. BUT AT THE TIME, WE WERE
21 QUITE ASSIMILATED. I KNOW WE WENT TO SYNAGOGUE ONCE
22 OR TWICE A YEAR.

23 Q. WHAT LANGUAGE DID YOU GROW UP SPEAKING?

24 A. GERMAN. THERE WAS NO YIDDISH SPOKEN IN MY FAMILY.
25 SO, IT WAS GERMAN AND THEN, I WENT TO HIGHSCHOOL

1 WHERE I LEARNED ENGLISH AND SOME LATIN.
2 BUT, BOTH OF US, WHEN WE WERE SMALLER, MY SISTER
3 AND I, MY SISTER IS SIX YEARS YOUNGER THAN I, WENT
4 TO THE VOLKSCHULE WE DID NOT GO TO A PRIVATE SCHOOL,
5 WHICH IS SAY, FIRST FOUR OR FIVE YEARS, THE REGULAR
6 SCHOOL FOR EVERYBODY. AND, IT WAS SORT OF -- MOST
7 PEOPLE THAT HAD A BIT MORE MONEY THAN THE USUAL
8 PEOPLE IN THE POPULATION SENT THEIR CHILDREN TO
9 PRIVATE SCHOOLS. BUT, MY MOTHER WAS A SOCIALIST AND
10 MY FATHER HAD NO DOUBTS ABOUT IT. I'M VERY GLAD I
11 WENT TOGETHER WITH ANYBODY AND EVERYBODY. THEN,
12 LATER ON, I WENT TO THE LOCAL HIGHSCHOOL AT THE
13 LATELL.
14 Q. WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO BE A JEW IN THAT COMMUNITY?
15 WHAT WAS YOUR RELATIONS WITH ---
16 A. I DON'T KNOW. I NEVER NOTICED THERE WAS ANY
17 DIFFERENCE.
18 Q. YOU DIDN'T IDENTIFY YOURSELF, DID YOU?
19 A. NO. I MELDED IN.
20 Q. SO, YOU HAD LOTS OF CHRISTIAN FRIENDS?
21 A. OH, YES. I HAD EVERYBODY COME HOME. I KNOW I HAD A
22 VERY GOOD FRIEND WHO WAS THE SON OF THE WOMAN THAT
23 CLEANED THE PUBLIC TOILETS, THAT USED TO COME UP AND
24 SPEND TIME WITH US. AND, JUST HAD A LOT OF FRIENDS.
25 I KNOW I TOOK SOME GYMNASIIC LESSONS AND MUSIC

1 LESSONS AND USED THE LOCAL LAKE TO DO MY ICE SKATING
2 ON, AND SKIIED ON THE HILLS. NO, I HAD NO FEELING
3 UNTIL THEN, UNTIL IT ACTUALLY HAPPENED.

4 Q. YOUR FAMILY WAS WHERE ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC LADDER?
5 YOU WERE MIDDLE CLASS?

6 A. WELL, MIDDLE-UPPER CLASS.

7 Q. MIDDLE TO UPPER CLASS?

8 A. YES, YES. NOW, DURING THE INFLATION, WE HAD A VERY
9 BAD SITUATION BECAUSE THERE WAS NO WAY ANYONE COULD
10 FIND ANY APARTMENTS OR HOUSES, WHERE TO LIVE. I
11 REMEMBER THE INFLATION, VIVIDLY, BECAUSE EVERY DAY
12 THE MONEY CHANGED.

13 BUT, MY FATHER WAS NOT REALLLY VERY WELL BECAUSE HE
14 SPENT FOUR YEARS IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR. HE WAS AN
15 OFFICER IN THE GERMAN ARMY. HE WAS BADLY WOUNDED IN
16 BELGIUM AND IN FRANCE ON THE MARCH TO PARIS AND HE
17 CAME HOME A BROKEN MAN. SO, ACTUALLY, MY FATHER WAS
18 NOT THE MAIN FIGURE IN MY FAMILY AT ALL, ANYMORE.

19 Q. HE WAS SPIRITUALLY BROKEN, PHYSICALLY ---

20 A. HE WAS SPIRITUALLY AND PHYSICALLY BROKEN, YES.
21 BOTH. AND, HE DIED 1930.

22 Q. YOU WERE HOW OLD?

23 A. I WAS THIRTEEN, MY SISTER WAS SEVEN, AND, WE ARE NOT
24 SURE HOW HE DIED BECAUSE MY MOTHER'S NOT ALIVE
25 ANYMORE. EITHER HE SHOT HIMSELF, OR HE WAS WANTING

1 TO SHOOT HIMSELF AND JUST DIED WITH A HEART ATTACK.
2 HE WAS A SICK MAN.

3 Q. SO, YOUR MEMORIES OF YOUR FATHER ARE MAINLY ---

4 A. NOT THE GREATEST. OBVIOUSLY, MY FATHER WAS SUPPOSED
5 TO BE, WAS ONCE A VERY JOLLY PERSON AND A VERY HAPPY
6 PERSON. AND, DUE TO THE WAR, AND DUE TO HIS WOUNDS
7 HE CAME HOME VERY DEPRESSED. AND, HE COULDN'T STAND
8 US AROUND, NO NOISE. I KNOW VERY WELL, I REMEMBER
9 THAT HE KEPT A REVOLVER IN HIS NIGHTSTAND AND, HE
10 HAD HIS OWN ROOM.

11 Q. WHAT WAS YOUR MOM LIKE?

12 A. MY MOTHER WAS A WONDERFUL PERSON. SHE WAS JUST LIKE
13 A SISTER TO US. AND, SHE WAS VERY SPIRITED AND VERY
14 HAPPY AND HAD A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR. SHE WAS
15 FIFTEEN YEARS YOUNGER THAN MY FATHER AND WE WERE
16 JUST LIKE SISTERS TO HER. WELL, I MEAN, WE DIDN'T
17 GET AWAY WITH THINGS. THERE WAS DAYS WE GOT THE
18 WOODEN SPOON ON OUR BEHIND. AND, SHE CURBED US WITH
19 THAT. BUT, BOTH OF US, MY SISTER AND I, HAVE THE
20 MOST WONDERFUL MEMORIES OF HER. SHE WAS A VERY
21 CAPABLE PERSON. SHE HAD A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR.
22 SHE TRIED TO MAKE LITTLE STORIES OUT OF THINGS AND
23 POEMS. SHE WAS JUST A JOY.

24 Q. SO, YOU HAD ONE YOUNGER SISTER?

25 A. I HAVE ONE YOUNGER SISTER.

1 Q. AND, HER NAME IS?

2 A. VANATTI.

3 Q. VANATTI. WHAT DID YOUR HOMELIFE FEEL LIKE TO YOU?
4 WHAT MEMORIES DO YOU HAVE?

5 A. I HAVE A VERY GOOD FEELING ABOUT MY HOMELIFE. I
6 REMEMBER MY VERY EARLY YEARS. WE HAD A VERY LARGE
7 HOUSE IN THE SMALL TOWN OF REICHSTADT. AND, I KNOW
8 I DID SOME HORRIBLE THINGS AND MY FATHER PUNISHED ME
9 SEVERLY. THAT I REMEMBER.

10 BUT, I REMEMBER MORESO, THE TIME IN BRIEG WHEN I
11 PLAYED WITH THE STREET KIDS AND SPENT A GREAT DEAL
12 OF TIME AT THE SCHOOL WITH MY MOTHER. I WENT WITH
13 HER TO MAKE VISITS TO THE DEPRIVED FAMILIES, SHE
14 TOOK ME ALONG. AND, I WAS VERY INTERESTED IN HER
15 WORK.

16 Q. SO, SHE WAS A REAL SOCIAL ---

17 A. YES, SHE WAS A SO-- YES. SHE BELONGED TO THE SOCIAL
18 DEMOCRATIC PARTY BUT SHE WAS NOT A CARD CARRYING
19 MEMBER.

20 Q. SO, SHE DID THESE THINGS JUST ON THE SIDE, JUST
21 BECAUSE SHE FELT THEY NEEDED TO BE DONE? VISITING,
22 ---

23 A. NO, THIS WAS PART OF HER SCHOOLING. SHE TOOK CARE
24 OF CHILDREN FROM WORKERS THAT CAME AFTER SCHOOL ALSO
25 TO BE IN THE BUILDING AND BETWEEN THE VOCATIONAL

1 SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN, THEY ALSO HAD CARE, WERE
2 TAKEN CARE OF. THEY WERE FED, AND THEY GOT HOT
3 COCOA, HOT CHOCOLATE, AND THEY DID THEIR HOMEWORK
4 UNDER SUPERVISION, AND THEY HAD GYMNASTICS AND DRAW-
5 ING. ALL THIS GOOD STUFF.

6 Q. WHEN DID YOU FIRST NOTICE THAT THINGS WERE NOT AS
7 THEY SHOULD BE?

8 A. WHEN MY MOTHER'S SCHOOL WAS CLOSED.

9 Q. WHICH WAS?

10 A. IT WAS, PROBABLY ABOUT 1934, '35.

11 Q. SO, YOU WERE ABOUT SEVENTEEN?

12 A. I WAS ABOUT SEVENTEEN. I CAN'T EXACTLY TELL YOU.
13 IT WAS ABOUT THAT TIME. THEY TOOK AWAY HER -- IT
14 WAS, THE SCHOOL HAD THE OKAY FROM THE STATE. IT'S
15 CALLED, IN GERMAN, STATTLICHKEIT ANERKANT, IT WAS
16 ACCEPTED BY THE STATE. THE SCHOOL WAS IN GOOD
17 STANDING. THEY TOOK AWAY THIS PRIVILEGE OF HERS AND
18 SHE COULDN'T FUNCTION. THEY CLOSED UP THE KINDER-
19 GARTEN, THE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, AND TOOK THE WHOLE
20 BUILDING.

21 SO, WHEN THIS HAPPENED, SHE COULDN'T FUNCTION THERE
22 ANYMORE. AND, THEN I KNEW. THEN I KNEW. I MEAN, I
23 DIDN'T HAVE TOO MUCH OF AN INKLING IN SCHOOL. I HAD
24 A LITTLE BIT OF PROBLEMS, BUT, NOT REALLY TREMEN-
25 DOUSLY.

1 Q. YOU MEAN, IN TERMS OF PEOPLE NOTICING THAT YOU WERE
2 A JEW, AND POINTING THAT OUT TO YOU?

3 A. RIGHT. I WASN'T CALLED THIS, ACTUALLY. I DON'T
4 EVER REMEMBER BEING CALLED A JEW. I KNOW THAT THE
5 MAID WE HAD HAD TO LEAVE US. I KNOW THAT. AND, I
6 KNOW THERE WERE RESTRICTIONS. BUT, I DON'T RECALL
7 IT AS MUCH AS MY LATER STUFF.
8 ANYHOW, SHE HAD TO CLOSE. SHE GOT A CALL FROM
9 BRESLAU, WHICH WAS THE NEARBY CAPITOL IN SILESIA,
10 AND, THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER AND THE FEDERATION,
11 I MEAN, THE SAME THING WHAT THE FEDERATION IS HERE
12 NOW, ASKED HER TO COME AND TAKE OVER THE JEWISH
13 GIRL'S HOME IN BRESLAU. WHICH WAS, AT THE TIME, AN
14 EXTENSION OF THE JEWISH ORPHANAGE. IT WAS ONLY TWO
15 HOUSES AWAY WHERE THE JEWISH ORPHANAGE WAS LOCATED.
16 AND, IT WAS A HOME ACTUALLY FOR GIRLS SIXTEEN AND
17 OVER TO COME THERE AND STAY AND PURSUE WHATEVER THEY
18 WANTED TO DO, WHATEVER SCHOOLING THEY HAD TO DO
19 AFTER THAT.
20 SO, THAT'S WHERE WE WENT AND, I RECALL THAT VERY
21 VIVIDLY. IT WAS IN BRESLAU ON THE GREPSHEN STRASSE,
22 51. SOME OF THE PEOPLE MIGHT REMEMBER THIS. I
23 WOULD LOVE TO CONNECT WITH SOME OF THE PEOPLE THAT I
24 MET THERE.
25 AND, MY SISTER AND I WERE ALLOWED TO HAVE ONE ROOM,

1 A VERY SMALL ROOM UP ON THE THIRD FLOOR. AND, SHE
2 WAS ABLE TO HAVE ONE ROOM FOR HERSELF. IT WAS A
3 KOSHER PLACE. IT ALSO HAD, LATER ON, TOOK CARE OF
4 THE MENSA FOR THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY BE-
5 CAUSE IN LATER YEARS, AND IN YEARS AFTER, OR PRETTY
6 SOON AFTER, THERE WERE NO KOSHER PLACES OPEN ANY-
7 MORE. THERE WAS NO KOSHER FOOD AVAILABLE. SO, THE
8 HOME ALSO SERVED AS THE MENSA FOR THE JEWISH THEO-
9 LOGICAL -- STUDENTS FROM THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

10 Q. WHAT IS THAT WORD YOU'RE SAYING?

11 A. MENSA. IT'S A FOOD PLACE, IT'S A EATING PLACE FOR
12 STUDENTS. SO, OF COURSE, THAT WAS GREAT BECAUSE WE
13 AT LEAST SAW SOME MEN. THAT'S WHEN ALL THE FUN
14 STARTED.

15 Q. WERE YOU GOING OUT TO SCHOOL SOMEWHERE, AT THAT
16 POINT?

17 A. YES. I WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE LATELL IN BRESLAU.

18 Q. WAS IT A PUBLIC SCHOOL?

19 A. IT WAS A PRIVATE SCHOOL. I COULDN'T GO TO PUBLIC
20 SCHOOL ANYMORE.

21 Q. OKAY, SO, YOU WERE GOING TO A PRIVATE SCHOOL AT THAT
22 TIME?

23 A. I HAD TO GO TO A PRIVATE CATHOLIC SCHOOL. THERE
24 WERE TWO JEWISH SCHOOLS WHICH I DIDN'T WANT TO GO
25 TO. IT'S VERY FOOLISH. I LEARNED BETTER LATER.

1 AND, I WAS READY FOR MY, IT'S CALLED MITTLE REIF
2 IT'S THE LAST STEP BEFORE THE ARBITURE.

3 Q. WHAT'S ARBITURE?

4 A. THAT'S WHEN YOU GRADUATE. IT'S SIMILAR TO THE JUN-
5 IOR HIGHSCHOOL HERE -- JUNIOR COLLEGE HERE. FOR THE
6 DEGREE OF A JUNIOR COLLEGE. OKAY? SO, I GRADUATED
7 ABOUT THE SAME, I WOULD SAY OF A HIGHSCHOOL HERE
8 WITH THE DEGREE THAT I HAD. BUT, IT WAS VERY DIFFI-
9 CULT ALREADY. THEN, IT BECAME VERY DIFFICULT IN
10 THAT SCHOOL, VERY DIFFICULT BECAUSE I HAD TO SIT ON
11 THE LAST BENCH IN SCHOOL. I WAS HIT BECAUSE I
12 DIDN'T LIFT MY ARM TO SAY "HEIL HITLER". I WAS
13 PUSHED DOWN THE STAIRS. THE SISTERS COULDN'T KEEP
14 ME THERE BECAUSE THEY HAD PROBLEMS KEEPING ME THERE.
15 I MEAN, THEY PROBABLY MIGHT HAVE, BUT THEY WERE
16 SCARED. SO, I LEFT IT WHEN I WAS SIXTEEN YEARS OLD.

17 Q. SO, YOU KNEW WHO HITLER WAS, AND YOU KNEW YOU
18 WEREN'T GOING TO LIFT YOUR ARM?

19 A. YES.

20 Q. HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?

21 A. I HAD TO -- BUT, I WAS FORCED TO LIFT MY ARM.

22 Q. HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT? WAS IT TALKED ABOUT AT HOME?

23 A. YES.

24 Q. EVERYBODY KNEW WHO HITLER WAS, AND WHAT WAS GOING
25 ON?

1 A. OF COURSE. HITLER CAME TO POWER IN 1933. I MEAN,
2 WE KNEW OF HIM BEFORE, BUT WE DIDN'T TAKE HIM SER-
3 IOUS.

4 Q. DID THE KIDS IN SCHOOL TALK ABOUT HITLER?

5 A. WELL, OF COURSE, BECAUSE THE WHOLE CURRICULUM WAS
6 ALSO SET UP, YOU KNOW, HIS NAME HAD TO BE TALKED
7 ABOUT, YOU HAD TO BE TAUGHT ABOUT.

8 Q. WAS HE TALKED ABOUT AS A GOOD MAN WHO WAS DOING ---

9 A. OH, YES, YES. HE WAS BRINGING THE COUNTRY BACK AND
10 GERMAN WAS A SUPER RACE AND THEY'RE GOING TO MAKE
11 WONDERFUL GERMANS OUT OF THEM AND THEY WERE GOING TO
12 BE SUPERSTARS.

13 Q. DID THEY SAY, DIRECTLY, ANTISEMITIC THINGS?

14 A. YES.

15 Q. THAT THEY WERE GOING TO GET RID OF THE JEWS?

16 A. YES, YES VERY MUCH SO. I REALLY THOUGHT THERE WAS
17 SOMETHING WRONG WITH US. I HAVE ALSO WRITTEN ABOUT
18 THAT. AND, IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME TO GET RID OF
19 THIS.

20 NOT VERY FAR FROM WHERE THE HOME WAS, THE JEWISH
21 MATRON HEIM, THE JEWISH GIRL'S HOME, WAS THE MAIN
22 BUILDING OF THE 'STURMER', WHICH WAS THE PUBLICATION
23 OF THE NAZIS. S-T-U-R-M-E-R AND, OUTSIDE IN THE
24 GLASS CASES, THEY EXHIBITED SOME OF THE CHARACITURES
25 OF JEWS. AND, I USED TO PASS THIS ALMOST ONCE OR

1 TWICE A DAY AND IT LEFT ME WITH A TERRIBLE FEAR
2 BECAUSE IN THE END, IT WAS SO IMPREGNATED INTO US
3 AND SO TALKED ABOUT CONTINUOUSLY, ALSO ON THE RADIO,
4 THAT I THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING VERY EVIL ABOUT
5 US, AND ALSO ABOUT OUR LOOKS.

6 Q. SO, YOU KIND OF HATED YOURSELF? YOU THOUGHT YOU
7 WERE AN EVIL ---

8 A. WELL, IT CUT ME DOWN TO A VERY SMALL PERSON. I HAD
9 NO FEELINGS FOR MYSELF, NOT THE GOOD FEELINGS ANYWAY
10 FOR MYSELF. I THOUGHT MAYBE THEY'RE RIGHT. MAYBE
11 THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH US. MAYBE WE ARE
12 CROOKS AND WE ARE NO GOOD AND, YOU KNOW, WE HAVE NO
13 PLACE IN THIS WORLD ANYMORE.

14 Q. DID YOU EVER DISCUSS THIS WITH YOUR MOTHER AND
15 SISTER?

16 A. WELL, FORTUNATELY, THE MINUTE I ENTERED THE HOME --
17 AND THE ATMOSPHERE WAS GOOD IN THERE BECAUSE MY
18 MOTHER WAS A VERY CHEERFUL PERSON AND EVEN IN THE
19 DEPRESSIVE YEARS, SHE WAS AN UP PERSON. SHE IN-
20 VENTED THINGS TO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN THAT WE WERE
21 HAPPY IN SOME WAY OR THE OTHER EVEN THOUGH WE HAD NO
22 -- THE FOOD SITUATION GOT TO BE VERY BAD. SINCE IT
23 WAS A KOSHER HOME, WE COULDN'T GET HARDLY ANYMORE
24 MEAT OR ANYTHING LIKE THIS. SO, WE LIVED ON RICE.
25 DIFFERENT KINDS OF RICE. AND HERE AND THERE, SOME-

1 TIMES A CHICKEN THAT CAME OUR WAY FROM ANOTHER
2 COUNTRY.

3 Q. GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE OF YOUR MOTHER INVENTING SOME-
4 THING TO KEEP YOU GOING.

5 A. OKAY. SHE INVENTED PARTIES. SHE'D PUT ON, FIRST OF
6 ALL, THE FRIDAY NIGHT MEAL WAS ALWAYS VERY NICE
7 BECAUSE THE STUDENTS FROM THE SEMINARY CAME TO EAT
8 WITH US AND PUT ON THE FRIDAY NIGHT. SO, WE WERE
9 REALLY LIKE AN ISLAND, ALMOST, THAT WE DIDN'T WORRY
10 OF WHAT WAS GOING ON OUTSIDE BECAUSE WE HAD A VERY
11 GOOD ATMOSPHERE THERE. ---

12 Q. AT LEAST FOR A FEW HOURS?

13 A. --- PEOPLE THAT CAME AND TOOK PART, WE WERE SOME-
14 TIMES THIRTY OR FORTY PEOPLE. THAT ADDED TO THIS
15 ATMOSPHERE. WE HAD A CANTOR COME IN THAT SANG
16 BEAUTIFUL AND SANG YIDDISH SONGS. AND, WE LEARNED
17 THEM AND WE FELL INTO IT AND IT WENT ALONG WITH US.
18 WE DANCED. I KNOW THAT I WAS THROWN OUT OF THE ROOM
19 ONCE BECAUSE I DECIDED TO DANCE ON THE TABLE, A
20 RUSSIAN DANCE. AND, WE GOT DRUNK WITH THE LITTLE
21 WINE WE HAD. AND, THE TEA WE DRANK THAT WAS STILL
22 AVAILABLE, OR THE HOT WATER. WE TOLD EACH OTHER
23 STORIES. WE FLIRTED WITH THE YOUNG GUYS. THIS WAS
24 THE ONLY WAY WE EVER SAW A MALE PERSON. THAT'S, BY
25 THE WAY, HOW I MET MY HUSBAND.

1 Q. REALLY?

2 A. YES, I Poured TEA OVER HIM.

3 Q. THEN? WHEN YOU WERE ABOUT SEVENTEEN?

4 A. SEVENTEEN OR EIGHTEEN, YES. YOU KNOW, THE YEARS
5 WENT ON. THERE ARE PERIODS THAT TOOK LONGER THAN I
6 CAN TELL RIGHT NOW. THERE ARE NOT MANY PERIODS BUT
7 THEY TOOK MONTHS.

8 YES, WE DID SOME TERRIBLE THINGS. IN FACT, WE HAD
9 AN AWFUL GOOD TIME WITH THOSE STUDENTS. I THINK
10 SOME YEARS BACK, I APOLOGIZED TO PROFESSOR URBACH,
11 WHO ALMOST BECAME THE PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL SOME TIME
12 AGO, BECAUSE ONE OF OUR TIMES WHEN WE DIDN'T KNOW
13 WHAT TO DO WITH OURSELVES, AND WANTED TO DO SOME-
14 THING, SOME KIND OF FUN, ON A RAINY DAY WHEN STU-
15 DENTS ARRIVED IN THEIR GALOSHES AND RAINCOATS, AND
16 LOTS OF CLOTHES, BECAUSE THE EASTERN PART OF GERMANY
17 WAS VERY COLD AT THAT TIME, THE WINTER TIME, WE
18 DECIDED TO SWITCH THE GALOSHES AND SEW UP THE SLEVES
19 OF THE STUDENTS' JACKETS. I THINK I STARTED THIS
20 PROBLEM AND A COUPLE OF MY FRIENDS, TWO OR THREE
21 THOUGHT IT A WONDERFUL IDEA.

22 SO, WE DECIDED TO DO THAT AND WAITED FOR THEM TO
23 LEAVE. WE WENT UP TO THE THIRD FLOOR AND THEN WE
24 LOOKED DOWN THE STAIRCASE TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED.
25 AND, OF COURSE, WE COULDN'T HELP IT. WE LAUGHED AND

1 LAUGHED AND LAUGHED. I KNEW PROFESSOR URBACH, AT
2 THAT TIME, HE WASN'T A PROFESSOR. HE WAS A DOSANT.
3 HE WAS VERY UNHAPPY BECAUSE HE COULDN'T FIND HIS
4 GALOSHES AND HE COULDN'T GET INTO HIS COAT. AND, OF
5 COURSE, THEY WERE USUALLY VERY MUCH IN A HURRY
6 BECAUSE THEY HAD A MILE OR SO TO WALK TO THE SEMI-
7 NARY AND HAD TO GET BACK TO THEIR CLASSES. THE
8 OTHERS HAD FITS ABOUT THAT. SO, THEN WE ALL LOOKED
9 OUT THE WINDOW AND SEE HOW THEY WALKED HOME BECAUSE
10 SOME ONLY FOUND ONE GALOSH. IT WAS QUITE A SCENE.
11 I REMEMBER IT VERY, VERY CLEARLY. I KNOW MY SISTER
12 AND I HAVE A VERY GOOD TIME BY TALKING ABOUT IT.
13 BUT, LATER ON, I DECIDED WHEN I HEARD THAT MR.
14 URBACH BECAME A VERY IMPORTANT MAN IN ISRAEL AND, I
15 THOUGHT TO MYSELF 'I REALLY SHOULD CALL HIM THE NEXT
16 TIME I'M IN ISRAEL AND APOLOGIZE'.

17 Q. DID HE ACCEPT YOUR APOLOGY?

18 A. YES, HE DID. BUT, THAT WAS WHAT WE DID JUST TO KEEP
19 OUR SANITY. IT WASN'T A VERY NICE THING TO DO BUT,
20 THAT SORT OF KEPT US GOING FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF
21 DAYS, THREE DAYS, FOUR DAYS, AND ---

22 Q. UNTIL YOU THOUGHT OF SOMETHING ELSE TO DO?

23 A. UNTIL WE THOUGHT OF SOMETHING ELSE TO DO. THE
24 REASON WAS, WE ALSO DIDN'T HAVE A RADIO IN THE HOUSE
25 ANYMORE. WE HAD TO GIVE AWAY THE RADIOS. AND, SO,

1 WE DIDN'T REALLY KNOW THE NEWS. THERE WERE LOUD
2 SPEAKERS MOUNTED ON ALL THE CORNERS OF THE STREET,
3 ON THE BIG CORNERS. AND, THERE WAS CONTINUOUSLY
4 TALK BY GOEBBELS GOING THAT JEWS SHOULD BE TREATED
5 LIKE FLOWERS. AND, I REMEMBER THAT SO VIVIDLY LIKE
6 ---

7 Q. LIKE FLOWERS?

8 A. YES, LIKE FOR INSTANCE, CARNATIONS. 'LET US TREAT
9 THE JEWS LIKE FLOWERS. LET'S NOT WATER THEM
10 ANYMORE AND THEN THEY WILL DIE.' AND, THIS CAME
11 EVERY HOUR ON THE HOUR, I WOULD SAY, ON TO THE LOUD
12 SPEAKERS. AND, IT WAS A WEIRD THING BECAUSE IT HAS
13 BEEN VERY MUCH SO IMPRINTED IN MY MIND. THIS IS
14 SOMETHING I CAN HEAR, STILL TODAY. AND, OF COURSE,
15 THEN, THE CRYSTAL NIGHT.
16 NOW, I MET MY HUSBAND BEFORE WE GO INTO THE CRYSTAL
17 NIGHT. I MET MY HUSBAND WITH THE STUDENTS. HE WAS
18 A STUDENT THERE. CAME ORIGINALLY -- I MEAN HIS
19 FAMILY HAD -- HE WAS A JEW FROM POLAND. HE WAS BORN
20 IN POLAND IN HORADENKA. HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND
21 SISTERS AND BROTHERS MOVED FROM HORADENKA TO AUSTRIA
22 LIKE SO MANY POLISH JEWS DID.

23 Q. WHERE IS HORADENKA?

24 A. HORADENKA IS NEAR KOLOMIA.

25 Q. WHICH IS WHERE?

1 A. WHICH IS IN POLAND. IT IS NOW IN RUSSIA, IT HAS
2 CHANGED. AND, THEY IMIGRATED, THEY COULDN'T STAND
3 IT ANYMORE COUNTED ON ACCOUNT OF THE PROGRAMS AND
4 WENT TO VIENNA, AS MANY OTHER POLISH JEWS DID.
5 SPENT SOME VERY TOUGH YEARS IN VIENNA. COULDN'T
6 MAKE A LIVING.
7 AND WENT TO THE REST OF THE FAMILY THAT HAD GONE TO
8 DORTMUND, GERMANY, AND WENT TO MEET WITH THEM TO SEE
9 IF THEY COULD LIVE THERE, WHICH THEY DID.
10 SO, HE CAME FROM A VERY ORTHODOX FAMILY. HIS FATHER
11 AND MOTHER WANTED NOTHING BETTER FOR HIM BUT TO
12 BECOME A RABBI. HE HAD WENT TO HEDER AT A VERY
13 EARLY AGE. AND, THEN, WHEN THEY LIVED IN DORTMUND
14 WHEN HE WAS THIRTEEN, TO THE BRAUER YESHIVA IN
15 FRANKFORT AN MEIN. AND HE LIVED THERE.
16 SO, HE CAME AWAY FROM HOME QUITE EARLY, IN HIS TEEN
17 YEARS AND I THINK IT WAS NOT THE BEST THING FOR A
18 TEENAGE BOY, THIRTEEN YEARS OLD, TO LIVE AWAY FROM
19 HOME THOUGH HE HAS NEVER REALLY COMPLAINED ABOUT IT.
20 FROM THERE, HE THEN SPENT THE LAST PART OF HIS HIGH
21 SCHOOL IN DORTMUND IN BET HALUTZ. IN SAXON, LYPZIG.
22 HE WAS A ZIONIST THROUGH ALL HIS YOUNG YEARS. HE
23 BELONGED TO THE ZIONIST YOUTH GROUPS TO THE MIZ-
24 RACHI. HE WANTED TO GO TO ISRAEL.
25 Q. WHAT'S A BET HALUTZ?

1 A. IT'S A HOUSE FOR WORKERS. IT'S ALSO A HACHSHARA, A
2 PLACE FOR PROVIDING A PREPARATION FOR ISRAEL. SO,
3 THAT'S WHERE HE SPENT SOME TIME, ALSO.

4 Q. AND HE WAS HOW OLD WHEN HE WAS ---

5 A. WELL, HE GRADUATED FROM SCHOOL, I THINK WHEN HE WAS
6 SEVENTEEN. AND, THEN SPENT SOME YEARS ON HACHSHARA
7 ON THE PREPARATION FOR ISRAEL. AND THEN, HIS PAR-
8 ENTS WANTED HIM TO BECOME A RABBI THE WORST WAY.
9 THEN HE DECIDED TO APPLY AT THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL
10 SEMINARY IN BRESLAU. AND HE NEEDED TO HAVE SCHOLAR-
11 SHIPS. HE GOT A COMPLETE SCHOLARSHIP. THROUGH THAT
12 HE WENT ON THE BRAUER YESHIVA. AND, HE CAME TO
13 BRESLAU. HE WAS A VERY GOOD STUDENT. HE FINISHED
14 WITH CUM LAUDA. HE FINISHED RABINETTE WITH CUM
15 LAUDA. HE WAS THE LAST STUDENT GRADUATING FROM THE
16 JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN BRESLAU.

17 SO, WHEN HE CAME TO BRESLAU, AND, I HAVE TO GO BACK.
18 THAT'S HOW HE WAS IN BRESLAU. HE HAD A ROOM THAT HE
19 RENTED FOR LITTLE MONEY AND HE ATE AT OUR PLACE. HE
20 WAS VERY THIN. I KNOW HE HAD A BICYCLE. HE WAS
21 QUITE A BICYCLE RIDER. AND, I KNOW HE CHAINED IT ON
22 THE POST RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE JEWISH GIRL'S HOME
23 BECAUSE THAT'S HOW I COULD TELL HE WAS IN OR NOT IN.

24 Q. DID YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON HIM?

25 A. I HAD A CRUSH ON HIM, YES. HE WAS VERY GOOD LOOKING

1 AND HE HAD NICE MANNERS AND I BY HOOK OR CROOK, WAS
2 GOING TO GET HIM.

3 Q. SO, THAT WENT ON FOR HOW LONG WHEN YOU WERE LIVING
4 IN BRESLAU AND BEING A NAUGHTY ---

5 A. A NAUGHTY GIRL? THAT WENT ON UNTIL -- WELL, THERE
6 WAS ANOTHER THING. THEN, HE FINALLY, OF COURSE
7 COMMENTED TO ME AND WE HAD, WHAT WE CALLED SOME GOOD
8 TIMES TOGETHER. THE GOOD TIMES WERE THE FOLLOWING.
9 WE COULDN'T GO ANYWHERE. WE WERE CURFEWED. EIGHT
10 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING, WE HAD TO BE HOME. AND,
11 WE COULDN'T REALLY GO OUT MUCH ANYMORE, NEITHER.
12 BECAUSE ON THE BENCHES WE COULDN'T SIT BECAUSE JEWS
13 WERE NOT ALLOWED TO SIT ON BENCHES. AND, WE
14 COULDN'T SHOW OURSELVES ANYMORE. IF YOU LOOKED IN
15 ANY WAY JEWISH OR, PEOPLE KNEW YOU WERE JEWISH, YOU
16 WOULD GET SOMETHING THROWN AT YOU OR SLURS MADE
17 ABOUT YOU. IT WAS BAD. IT WAS NOT THE BEST TIME
18 BUT, HE INSISTED.

19 HE HAD TWO PROJECTS FOR ME. ALL HIS LIFE HE HAD
20 PROJECTS FOR ME. ONE PROJECT WAS TO PLAY CHESS WITH
21 ME AND THE OTHER PROJECT WAS TO TEACH ME HEBREW.
22 AND, THE CHESS, I DID NOT SUCCEED. THE HEBREW, I
23 MORESO SUCCEEDED. SO, IT WASN'T ALL LOST. THE
24 CHESS PLAYING, WE NEVER FINISHED. AND, FORTUNATELY,
25 WE HAD TWO SONS AND GIRLS THAT PLAYED CHESS WITH

1 HIM. AND, THE HEBREW, WE DID. NOW, WE HAD NOT
2 REALLY ANY TEXTBOOKS. HE USED THE TANAH. I KNOW WE
3 WENT -- STARTED TO TEACH ME. I HAVE NO BASIC LEARN-
4 ING ABOUT THIS AND I AM FOREVER THANKFUL THAT HE
5 KINDLED THIS INTO ME BECAUSE MANY, MANY, MANY YEARS
6 LATER, I WENT TO ISRAEL AND I WENT INTO THE ULPAN,
7 ULPANIM AND PICKED UP AS MUCH AS I COULD AND I STILL
8 DO. SO, HE LAID A PRETTY GOOD GROUND FLOOR.

9 Q. SO, THAT WAS YOUR DATES?

10 A. THOSE WERE MY DATES. HEBREW AND CHESS, YES. AND,
11 LATER ON -- WELL, OF COURSE THERE WAS SOME LOVE-
12 MAKING. YOU CAN'T BE WITH A YOUNG MAN, I MEAN, I
13 WAS NINETEEN ALREADY OR GOING ON TO NINETEEN YEARS
14 OLD AND HE WAS TWENTY AND OVER. WHEN A MAN AND A
15 WOMAN GETS TOGETHER, THERE'S SOME LOVEMAKING AND
16 THOSE WERE THE TIMES THAT WERE VERY NICE. THE ONLY
17 PROBLEM WAS, GOD FORBID, WHEN ONE GETS PREGNANT.
18 BECAUSE IN THAT DAY AND TIME THERE WERE NO PRECAU-
19 TIONS THAT COULD BE TAKEN.

20 Q. WHERE DID YOU FIND TO HAVE PRIVACY?

21 A. PRIVACY WE FOUND IN HIS ROOM. MY MOTHER WAS A VERY
22 LIBERAL PERSON. SHE HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO THAT. IT
23 WAS ALWAYS VERY COLD BECAUSE HE WAS TOO POOR TO HAVE
24 HEAT GOING SO WE ALWAYS WENT IN COATS. AND, HE WAS
25 ALSO VERY POOR. HE USED TO LIVE ON SARDINES BESIDES

1 THE FOOD THAT WE HAD AT THE HOME. SO THEN, MY
2 MOTHER TOOK GREAT LIKING TO HIM AND SHE ALWAYS HAD
3 SOMETHING HIDDEN AWAY. SHE WAS A MAGICIAN. SHE WAS
4 ABLE TO FIND FOOD SOMETIMES. LIKE, COFFEE BEANS
5 THAT YOU COULDN'T GET ANYWHERE. SHE HAD HERE AND
6 THERE SOME FRIENDS, I THINK IN GROCERY STORES. SHE
7 WAS VERY MUCH LIKED. AND, I THINK THINGS SOMETIMES
8 CAME TO HER.

9 I KNOW SHE HAD THIS ONE ROOM, AND I KNOW THERE WAS
10 ONE DRAWER THAT SHE STUFFED AWAY THINGS FOR OCCA-
11 SIONS. YOU KNOW, FOR JUST A REWARD TYPE THING. AND
12 THAT'S ACTUALLY HOW WE SURVIVED. WE LIVED ON THIS
13 TYPE OF THING. THERE MAY BE SOMETHING THAT COULD BE
14 FOUND. A PIECE OF CHOCOLATE -- I NEVER FORGOT THE
15 UNKOSHER BOLOGNA BECAUSE THE HOME WAS VERY KOSHER.
16 SHE WOULD NOT GET IT INTO THE KITCHEN. SHE WAS VERY
17 GOOD ABOUT THIS. BUT, THERE WAS A BUTCHER, NOT VERY
18 FAR FROM US AND I KNOW EVER SO OFTEN THERE WAS SOME
19 BOLOGNA IN THE DRAWER.

20 Q. WERE YOU SKINNY?

21 A. I WAS SKINNY. YES, FAIRLY SKINNY, YES.

22 Q. WERE YOU HUNGRY?

23 A. I CAN'T RECALL I WAS HUNGRY. I WAS HUNGRY TO SOME
24 EXTENT. I ATE THE RICE BECAUSE I WAS HUNGRY. BUT,
25 I COULDN'T STAND THE RICE AND I DON'T EAT IT TO THIS

1 DAY. I WILL EAT IT IF THERE'S NOTHING ELSE BECAUSE
2 WE HAD APPLE RICE AND CHERRY RICE, AND WE HAD PLAIN
3 RICE AND WE HAD RICE WITH I DON'T KNOW WHAT, AND
4 RAISINS IN IT. THAT WAS OUR STAPLE OF FOOD BECAUSE
5 THAT WAS AVAILABLE. AND, YOU CAN LIVE OFF IT. AND,
6 ALSO THERE WAS HARDLY ANY BUTTER AVAILABLE SO, WE
7 HAD BREAD. WE WERE ABLE TO GET BREAD, I THINK.
8 AND, SOME OF US SURVIVED ON THAT.

9 Q. SO, YOU WERE IN LOVE WITH?

10 A. MAX, MOYSHE.

11 Q. MOYSHE?

12 A. WELL, HIS GERMAN NAME WAS MAX AND HIS HEBREW NAME
13 WAS MOYSHE.

14 Q. WHAT DID YOU CALL HIM, MOST OF THE TIME?

15 A. I CALLED HIM MOYSHE.

16 Q. HOW LONG DID THAT GO ON, THAT PERIOD?

17 A. THAT WENT ON, ON AND OFF FOR QUITE A LONG TIME.
18 UNTIL FOUR WEEKS BEFORE THE CRYSTAL NIGHT.

19 Q. AND THEN WHAT HAPPENED?

20 A. HE WAS TAKEN OFF THE STREET, IN FACT, WE CAME HOME,
21 IT WAS BEFORE THE CURFEW, AND WE SAW A LOT OF PEOPLE
22 IN THE STREET AND COULDN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT IT WAS.
23 AND, THE NEXT -- HE TOOK ME HOME AND WE PARTED AND
24 THE NEXT DAY I HEARD THAT ALL THE POLISH JEWS WERE
25 PUSHED OUT, OVER THE BORDER. WHY? WE DIDN'T KNOW

1 FOR A LONG TIME WHY, DIDN'T KNOW. WE CALLED HIS
2 HOME, WHICH WAS DORTMUND. THE FATHER HAD IMIGRATED
3 SHORTLY BEFORE THIS. THEY HAD ONE AFFIDAVIT. AND
4 THE FATHER HAD IMIGRATED TO NEW YORK, TO AMERICA
5 BECAUSE THERE WERE SOME MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY THAT
6 HAD MANY YEARS BEFORE IMIGRATED FROM POLAND. CLOSE
7 FAMILY TIES WITH HIS MOTHER. SISTERS AND BROTHERS OF
8 HIS MOTHER. HIS MOTHER HAD TEN OR TWELVE SISTERS
9 AND BROTHERS.

10 Q. SO, WAS HE GOING TO GO AND MAKE ENOUGH MONEY FOR THE
11 REST OF THEM TO COME?

12 A. THAT'S RIGHT, THAT'S THE USUAL STORY. HE WAS GOING
13 TO PUT DOWN HIS FEET THERE, TRY TO FIND A BUSINESS
14 OF SOME KIND, COLLECT THE MONEY AND THEN CALL FOR
15 THEM. NOW, THERE WAS A QUOTA SYSTEM IN THE UNITED
16 STATES. THEREFORE ONLY HE COULD GO. HE WAS ABLE TO
17 DO IT AND HE WENT TO RELATIVES. NOW, HE HAD TO
18 WAIT, FIRST OF ALL FOR THE MONEY TO COME. SO, THERE
19 WAS ALSO AN AFFIDAVIT GIVEN FOR MOYSHE. BUT, HE
20 DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT THEN.

21 Q. WHAT WAS AN AFFIDAVIT?

22 A. AN AFFIDAVIT IS A PERMIT TO ASK FOR THE VISA. BE-
23 CAUSE THERE WAS A QUOTA NUMBER. AMERICA HAD A QUOTA
24 NUMBER FOR IMIGRANTS AND THIS IS WHAT RUINED SO
25 MANY. THAT'S WHY MILLIONS WERE KILLED.

1 Q. SO, THERE WAS AN AFFIDAVIT FOR MOYSHE, BUT NOBODY
2 KNEW ABOUT IT?

3 A. AT THAT TIME, WHEN HIS FATHER WENT OUT. HIS FATHER
4 WENT OUT AND THEN THE OTHER AFFIDAVIT CAME FROM ONE
5 OF THE OTHER RELATIVES. SO WE, AT THE TIME, DIDN'T
6 KNOW ABOUT IT. THE MOTHER AND THE TWO CHILDREN WERE
7 WAITING FOR THE FATHER TO PUT HIS FEET DOWN AND THEN
8 CALL FOR THEM.

9 SO, MOYSHE WAS SNAPPED UP, WAS TAKEN OFF THE
10 STREET AT THIS RATZIA. THAT'S WHAT WE CALLED IT IN
11 GERMAN, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS -- WHAT WAS GOING ON
12 TO TAKE THE POL'S OUT. THE REASON, LATER ON, WE
13 FOUND OUT, THAT THE POL'S WERE PULLED OUT BECAUSE
14 MOST OF THE POLISH JEWS THAT LIVED IN GERMANY DID
15 NOT SERVE IN THE POLISH ARMY AND DIDN'T HAVE WHAT'S
16 CALLED THE BURGERSHTEMPLE. A STAMP TO SAY THAT THEY
17 WERE GOOD CITIZENS OF POLAND. AND MOST OF THEM
18 DIDN'T HAVE THAT. I THINK MOST ALL OF THEM. THERE
19 WAS NOBODY THERE THAT I REMEMBER THAT HAD ONE OF
20 THOSE IN THEIR PASSPORT.

21 SO, THEY WERE SENT OFF THE STREETS AND OUT. AND MY
22 HUSBAND, HE WAS NOT MY HUSBAND THEN, BUT MOYSHE WAS
23 ABLE TO FIND A FRIEND OF OURS WAS -- STAYED DOWN IN
24 KATAVITZ. WHICH IS NOW CALLED KATAVICHE. IT'S THE
25 UPPER SILESIA BORDER BETWEEN POLAND AND GERMANY.

1 AND, HE TRIED NOT TO BE SENT TO HIS BIRTHPLACE.
2 THAT WAS THE IDEA. THEY TRIED TO SEND THEM BACK TO
3 THE PLACE OF BIRTH. HE COULDN'T SPEAK ANY POLISH
4 NEITHER. HE HAD NEVER SPOKE IN POLISH BECAUSE HE
5 WAS VERY YOUNG WHEN HE CAME TO VIENNA AND NOBODY
6 SPOKE POLISH, THEY SPOKE YIDDISH.

7 Q. WHAT WAS HIS THINKING IN TRYING TO KEEP FROM GOING
8 TO HIS BIRTHPLACE?

9 A. WELL, HIS THINKING WAS HE WON'T GO. HE TRIED NOT TO
10 GO. SO, HE ROAMED AROUND IN THE WOODS.

11 Q. WHY WAS HE TRYING NOT TO GO? WHAT DID HE THINK
12 WOULD HAPPEN?

13 A. WELL, HE COULDN'T STAND IT. THE JEWS HAD SUFFERED
14 ENOUGH IN POLAND. AND, HE KNEW IT WOULD BE MORE
15 SUFFERING BECAUSE THEY WERE NO FRIENDS OF THE JEWS.

16 Q. AND, IN TERMS OF THE BIGGER PICTURE OF WHY POLISH
17 JEWS WERE BEING PUSHED OUT, WAS THAT PART OF HIT-
18 LER'S ---

19 A. YES.

20 Q. --- THAT STEP OF JUST PUSHING JEWS OUT OF GERMANY,
21 RIGHT? ANY WAY THEY COULD?

22 A. ABSOLUTELY. WE KNOW NOW, THAT WAS. AND WE KNOW IT
23 WAS THE OVERTURE TO THE CRYSTAL NIGHT. BECAUSE FOUR
24 WEEKS LATER THE CRYSTAL NIGHT HAPPENED. WE KNOW
25 THIS NOW. THIS WAS ANOTHER FANTASTIC, GENIUS MIND

1 THAT THOUGHT OF THAT. AND, SO, IT HAPPENED. ANY-
2 HOW, HE TRIED WHEN THEY CROSSED THE BORDER, THE
3 POL'S DIDN'T WANT THEM EITHER. THAT'S VERY INTER-
4 ESTING. I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH IS KNOWN ABOUT THIS
5 NOW. THE POL'S STOOD WITH THE BAYONETS ON THE OTHER
6 SIDE AND WHEN THEY TRIED TO TURN BACK, THE GERMANS
7 AND THE NAZIS WERE THERE WITH THEIR GUNS.

8 Q. THEY WERE TRAPPED?

9 A. THEY WERE VERY MUCH TRAPPED AND IT WAS A VERY WOODED
10 AREA OF POLAND. HE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH. HE HELPED
11 OTHER PEOPLE CARRY THINGS. OLD PEOPLE AND SICK
12 PEOPLE. IT WAS BEDLAM.

13 WE HAD SOME FRIENDS IN KATAVITZ, WHICH IS THE GERMAN
14 BORDER TOWN WHICH IS POLISH NOW. AND, WE MADE A
15 PHONE CALL TO THEM AND TOLD THEM AFTER WE HEARD WHAT
16 HAPPENED. IT WAS THEN KNOWN. THE FOLLOWING DAY IT
17 WAS KNOWN WHAT HAD HAPPENED OF THE FOLLOWING NEXT.
18 SO, THE JEWISH COMMUNITY KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON. TO
19 LOOK AND SEE IF THEY COULD FIND HIM SOMEWHERE ROAM-
20 ING AROUND. AND, IT WAS INCREDIBLE THAT THAT ACT-
21 UALLY HAPPENED. THEY ACTUALLY FOUND HIM ROAMING
22 AROUND IN THE WOODS. WE DESCRIBED HIM AND WE GAVE
23 THE NAME AND THEY TOOK HIM AND HID HIM. SO, IT WAS
24 INCREDIBLE, THIS SITUATION.

25 Q. IT WAS A MIRACLE.

1 A. YES, IT WAS A MIRACLE. AND, THEY KEPT HIM IN THIS
2 ROOM THAT THEY HAD. HE COULD NOT GO OUT. AND, WE
3 WERE ABLE ---

4 Q. THESE WERE JEWS?

5 A. YES, THEY WERE JEWISH PEOPLE, YES. AND, I THINK
6 THEY LATER ON PERISHED. NOT THROUGH THIS, BUT,
7 LATER ON WHEN THE WHOLE THING BLEW UP. WE FOUND OUT
8 FROM THEM, THROUGH A PHONE CALL. WE HAD TO BE VERY
9 CAREFUL BECAUSE THE PHONES WERE TAPPED. SO, WE GAVE
10 DIFFERENT NAMES FOR DIFFERENT THINGS. WE HAVE LONG
11 MADE UP THAT LIST. YOU KNOW, WE WORKED WITH DIFFER-
12 ENT NAMES, DIFFERENT DESCRIPTIONS.
13 WE FOUND OUT HE WAS THERE. AND, HE DIDN'T KNOW
14 WHERE HIS MOTHER AND HIS SISTERS WENT. WE DIDN'T
15 KNOW THAT FOR A LONG TIME. I HAVE A LETTER HERE, AN
16 ORIGINAL LETTER THAT HIS SISTER WROTE FROM SPONGEN,
17 WHICH IS ALSO A BORDER TOWN, WHERE THEY HAD A HUGE
18 GROUP OF IMIGRANTS THAT STOPPED THERE IN A LAGER, IN
19 A HOLDING PLACE, UNDER VERY BAD CONDITIONS. SPONGEN
20 IN GERMAN IS BENCHEN. AND, THIS LETTER THAT I HAVE
21 HERE, TOOK TEN YEARS FOR US TO GET INTO OUR HANDS.
22 AND, THE LETTER IS TRANSLATED, ALSO, I MEAN, WE HAVE
23 IT TRANSLATED HERE. SO, MY GRANDKIDS AND MY CHIL-
24 DREN WOULD KNOW WHAT IT SAYS. HIS SISTER WAS THIR-
25 TEEN YEARS OLD -- OH, EXCUSE ME, THIS LETTER WAS NOT

1 TRANSLATED BEC-- YES, IT WAS TRANSLATED FOR HIS
2 FAMILY BUT IT WAS NOT TRANSLATED FOR US BECAUSE HIS
3 OLDER SISTER SARAH ALREADY SPOKE ENGLISH QUITE WELL.
4 AND DID IT WITH THE HELP OF A ENGLISH TEACHER IN THE
5 CAMP. AND, SHE WROTE IT IN ENGLISH, THAT'S RIGHT.
6 SO, IT WAS QUITE A THING. IT'S THIRTEEN PAGES.

7 Q. AND, IT'S ABOUT WHAT WAS GOING ON?

8 A. WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THE CAMP, YES. AND, I WROTE A
9 STORY SURROUNDING THIS LETTER AND INCLUDED THE LET-
10 TER AND THE PICTURE OF THE SISTERS.

11 NOW, MUCH LATER ON THEY THEN PERISHED, LATER ON.
12 EVERYBODY WAS SUPPOSED TO GO TO THE PLACE OF BIRTH.
13 THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO GO TO HORADENKA, WHICH WAS
14 QUITE A WAYS. THEY WERE SHOT LATER ON, IN THE
15 WOODS.

16 Q. 'THEY', WHO?

17 A. THE TWO SISTERS AND THE MOTHER WERE SHOT INTO THE
18 OPEN GRAVE. WE DIDN'T KNOW THIS UNTIL MANY YEARS
19 LATER FROM AN EYEWITNESS THAT KNEW HER. BECAUSE NO
20 MAIL WAS ARRIVED, OF COURSE, AND COULDN'T ARRIVE.
21 BECAUSE THEY WERE NO MORE.

22 Q. SO, AT THE TIME, YOU DIDN'T KNOW?

23 A. WE DIDN'T KNOW. WE DIDN'T KNOW. THIS IS THE ONLY
24 LETTER, WHICH MUCH LATER CAME OUT TO US. AND ALL
25 THE LETTERS THAT THE FATHER WROTE, NEVER ARRIVED,

1 THEY CAME BACK OR THERE WAS NO ANSWER TO THEM. SO,
2 THAT'S THE STORY OF THESE PEOPLE. ONLY EYEWITNESS
3 KNEW THAT THEY KNEW THAT THEY WERE SHOT INTO THE
4 GRAVES THAT THEY DUG. AND THAT WAS NOT VERY FAR --
5 VERY DENSE WOODS OF POLAND.

6 SO, AS MOYSHE WAS IN KATAVITZ, WE WERE ABLE, ONCE IN
7 A WHILE TO MAKE A PHONE CALL, DIFFERENT NAMES AND
8 VERY CAREFUL WHAT WE SAID. BUT HE DID SMUGGLE A
9 WEDDING RING, AN ENGAGEMENT RING TO ME WITH SOMEBODY
10 THAT CAME TO BRESLAU.

11 Q. SO, THERE WAS HOPE IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THIS?

12 A. YES, YOU KNOW, THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A WILL TO
13 LIVE AND YOU, TO THE LAST MINUTE YOU WILL HAVE THAT
14 WILL. I MEAN, IF YOU DON'T HAVE THIS, THERE IS
15 SOMETHING VERY WRONG WITH YOU. MOST PEOPLE HAVE A
16 TREMENDOUS WILL TO LIVE AND I KNOW OF PEOPLE THAT
17 HAVE BEEN IN CONCENTRATION CAMPS THAT HAVE A TREMEN-
18 DOUS WILL TO LIVE AND WILL DO ANYTHING TO LIVE. I
19 THINK IT'S AN INNATE THING IN A HUMAN BEING. THE
20 WANTING TO LIVE. THERE'S JUST A VERY FEW THAT CAN'T
21 MANAGE THAT.

22 BUT, HE SMUGGLED THIS PLAIN GOLD RING AND IT HAS AN
23 INSCRIPTION IN IT. HE WAS ABLE TO HAVE THAT DONE.
24 I IMAGINE THE PEOPLE THAT HAD KEPT HIM HAD DONE THIS
25 FOR HIM. SO, I GOT THE RING. IT SAYS 'MOYSHE' IN

1 IT. AND, LATER ON, WE PUT THE DATE OF OUR WEDDING.
2 I GOT A RING FOR HIM, IN THE MEANTIME, TOO, HOPING
3 THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO PICK IT UP, WHICH HE DID.
4 SO, THAT WAS VERY GLAMOROUS AND VERY WONDERFUL, AND
5 I WAS WALKING ON AIR, NOT KNOWING WHAT WAS GOING ON
6 OUTSIDE.

7 BUT, FOUR WEEKS AFTER THE POLS WERE SENT BACK TO
8 POLAND, ONE NIGHT I WOKE UP AND I HEARD THIS TREMEN-
9 DOUS NOISE. FIRST, I THOUGHT I WAS DREAMING ABOUT
10 GLASS BREAKING AND LOUD NOISES AND THE WINDOW, IT
11 WASN'T DARK OUTSIDE. THERE WAS FLAMES, LIKE FIRE
12 LIGHT. AND, I GOT UP -- I GOT UP, FINALLY. FIRST,
13 I THOUGHT I WAS DREAMING. I GOT UP AND I LOOKED OUT
14 AND I SAW THE MOST BIZARRE THING HAPPENING. SHOUT-
15 ING AND SCREAMING AND FIRE AND FEATHERS FLYING FROM
16 ONE END OF THE STREET TO THE OTHER SIDE. AND, AS IT
17 GOT LIGHTER AND LIGHTER, EARLIER IN THE MORNING, I
18 SAW THAT NAZIS AND BROWNSHIRTS, AND THE SS BLACK-
19 SHIRTS WAS DESTROYING STORES AND LIGHTING FIRES.

20 Q. WERE YOU ON A MAIN STREET?

21 A. I WAS ON PRETTY MUCH OF A MAIN STREET, YES. AND,
22 COULDN'T QUITE UNDERSTAND, WAS SCARED. AND, TO THIS
23 DAY, I'M TERRIBLY SCARED OF FIRES AND OF SIRENS.
24 THE SIRENS WENT CONTINUOUSLY.
25 SO, I WENT DOWNSTAIRS, DRESSED, MY SISTER AND I AND

1 EVERYBODY ALREADY WAS DOWN. WE COULDN'T GO OUT.
2 NOBODY DARED TO GO OUT. AND, SINCE WE DIDN'T HAVE A
3 RADIO, WE REALLY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON.
4 WHAT HAPPENED, I WAS WORKING AT THIS TIME, ALREADY.
5 I WORKED SINCE I WASN'T ABLE TO GO TO ANY OTHER
6 SCHOOL, I DID ALL MY LEARNING AT THE JOB. I WORKED
7 IN THE LAB OF THE JEWISH HOSPITAL IN BRESLAU. I DID
8 MOST OF MY LEARNING PERIOD RIGHT THERE DOING THE
9 THINGS, AND BEING TAUGHT THERE. I HAD SOME PRIVATE
10 LESSONS HERE AND THERE. IT WAS A HOP, SKIP, AND
11 JUMP EDUCATION. BUT, I WAS AT THE JEWISH HOSPITAL
12 AND I ALREADY WORKED IN THE LAB. I WAS ABLE TO WORK
13 AND DO SOME OF THE THINGS. AND, WHEN I CAME, I WAS
14 CRAZY, TO THIS DAY, I CAN'T THINK. I TOOK MY BIKE
15 AND DROVE THROUGH THE TOWN TO THE JEWISH HOSPITAL
16 WHICH WAS ON THE OTHER SIDE.

17 Q. THE NEXT DAY?

18 A. THE SAME DAY. BUT, I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THERE, AND
19 YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THERE, THAT'S
20 WHEN YOU GO. MY SISTER WOULDN'T MOVE OUT. MY
21 MOTHER SAID I SHOULDN'T GO. I SAID "NO, NO, I HAVE
22 TO WORK, THEY NEED ME".
23 SO, WHEN I GOT THERE, THE NAZIS WERE ALREADY THERE
24 WITH ME, THEY CAME AT THE SAME TIME OR WAY BEFORE
25 AND THEY STOOD IN FRONT OF THE OPERATING ROOMS WAIT-

1 ING FOR THE DOCTORS TO COME OUT, THEY TOOK THEM FROM
2 THERE AND THEY SEARCHED ALL THE BEDS FOR THE JEWISH
3 PATIENTS THAT WENT TO THE HOSPITAL TO HIDE IN THE
4 BEDS, YOU KNOW, GO TO BED. THERE WAS NO MEN LEFT.
5 SO, SINCE I WAS A WOMAN, THEY LET ME INTO THE LAB
6 AND I WORKED IN THE LAB, JUST LIKE EVERY OTHER DAY.
7 IF YOU HAVE TO WORK, YOU HAVE TO WORK. I CAN'T
8 BELIEVE IT, TO THIS DAY, THAT I WENT THOSE DAYS,
9 THROUGH ALL THIS, TO BE ON DUTY.

10 Q. THIS MAY BE HARD TO ANSWER, BUT, WHAT WERE YOU
11 THINKING?

12 A. I DON'T KNOW, YOU KNOW, YOU DON'T THINK VERY MUCH IN
13 SITUATIONS LIKE THIS. YOU JUST DO.

14 Q. YOU JUST ACTED?

15 A. YES. YOU DON'T THINK. YOU JUST THINK THAT'S WHAT
16 YOU HAVE TO DO NOW. YOU KNOW, THIS PATIENT HAS TO
17 HAVE DONE THIS, THIS, THIS. I DON'T KNOW, IT PROBA-
18 BLY WAS MUCH BETTER FOR ME TO DO THIS THAN STAYING
19 HOME. YOU REALLY DON'T THINK THAT MUCH. YOU JUST,
20 LIKE A PROPELLER, YOU JUST GO. YOU JUST KEEP GOING.
21 WELL, I DON'T EVER FORGET THE RUTHLESSNESS THAT,
22 WHEN DOCTORS CAME OUT OF OPERATING ROOMS, THEY WERE
23 TAKEN RIGHT THEN AND THERE. AND, THIS IS STILL IN
24 MY MIND, THIS I STILL CAN SEE, VERY CLEARLY, IN
25 COLOR.

1 Q. SO, THEN WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

2 A. WELL, THEN, THE FOLLOWING DAY, THEY WERE TRYING
3 DESPERATELY ON THE SAME DAY TO BURN THE SYNAGOGUES.
4 THEY WERE ABLE TO DO THE SMALL ONES BUT, BRESLAU HAD
5 A VERY LARGE BEAUTIFUL SYNAGOGUE WITH A COPPER DOME.
6 IT WAS ONE OF THE VERY WELL KNOWN BIG SYNAGOGUE.
7 THE BUILDING WAS BRICK, SO, THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO
8 SET IT ON FIRE. SO, THEY TRIED THE WHOLE DAY TO SET
9 IT ON FIRE. THE FOLLOWING DAY, THEY FINALLY BOMBED
10 IT. AND, IT WENT TO PIECES. IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL
11 SYNAGOGUE. SO, THE OTHERS THEY RUINED. ALL THE
12 JEWISH STORES WERE DEVASTATED. THEY WERE EITHER
13 BURNED OR BROKEN UP IN PIECES.
14 BUT, THE WORST THING WAS TO SEE JEWS BEING PULLED
15 THROUGH THE STREETS. TO SEE BOOKS BEING HEAPED INTO
16 SMALL MOUNTAINS AND PUT ON FIRE. TO HAVE JEWS CLEAN
17 UP THE STREETS, SCRUB THEM. TO HAVE OLD MEN, PIOUS
18 MEN, HAVE THEIR BEARDS CUT OFF, OR THEIR PAYOS.
19 IT'S HARD TO DESCRIBE. IT WAS SUCH A BIZARRE, SUCH
20 A HAPPENING THAT, REALLY, WE COULDN'T QUITE UNDER-
21 STAND. WE JUST COULD LOOK WITH HORROR AT IT. THERE
22 WAS NOTHING WE COULD DO. WE HID OURSELVES. THEY
23 DIDN'T COME INTO OUR BUILDING. THERE WERE ONLY
24 WOMEN IN THIS BUILDING. THEY, MAINLY, WANTED THE
25 MEN FIRST. THAT WAS WHEN THE MEN WERE TAKEN TO

1 CONCENTRATION CAMPS.

2 ACTUALLY, WHAT ALL STARTED THIS CRYSTAL NIGHT WAS
3 THE DEATH OF A MAN IN FRANCE, IN PARIS, WHO WAS WITH
4 THE GERMAN GIZANSCHFT, WITH THE GERMAN DIPLOMAT
5 CORPS, AND WHO WAS SUPPOSEDLY SHOT AT, OR KILLED BY
6 A JEW WITH THE NAME OF GREENSPAN, I THINK. WHICH, I
7 DON'T BELIEVE TO THIS DAY.

8 IT WAS A PUT-UP THING. THE CRYSTAL NIGHT WAS TOO
9 WELL ORGANIZED. IT COULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED ON A
10 MOMENT'S NOTICE. WE KNEW THEN THAT THE NAZIS AND
11 THE SS PEOPLE IN THE STREET THAT DID THE DAMAGES AND
12 DID THE ATROCITIES WERE NOT PEOPLE THAT HAD LIVED IN
13 THIS PARTICULAR TOWN. THEY CHANGED PEOPLE AROUND
14 BECAUSE THEY FEARED THAT MAYBE SOME OF THE PEOPLE,
15 SOME OF THE NAZIS, SOME OF THE SS MEN MIGHT JUST
16 KNOW A JEW THAT THEY WOULDN'T LIKE TO DO THAT TO, OR
17 THEY WOULDN'T LIKE TO REALLY DO THIS TO THE PEOPLE
18 THAT THEY MAYBE LIVED NEXTDOOR TO. SO, THEY MADE
19 SURE WEEKS BEFORE, OR MAYBE MONTHS BEFORE THAT THEY
20 HAD ALL BEEN AUSGETAUSHED, THEY HAD ALL BEEN CHANGED
21 OVER.

22 Q. WHAT WAS GOING ON WITH YOUR MOTHER AND SISTER WITHIN
23 THE HOME?

24 A. WE STAYED IN THE HOME THEN. AND, THERE WAS NOTHING
25 WE COULD DO AT THIS POINT. WE HAD TO CLOSE THE

1 CURTAINS AND BOLT THE DOOR AND WE JUST KEPT QUIET.
2 WE JUST WAITED.

3 Q. DID YOU HAVE A BIG STOCK OF FOOD, OR WERE YOU RA-
4 TIONING IT?

5 A. NO. WE DID NOT HAVE A BIG STOCK OF FOOD. WE ATE,
6 MORE OR LESS, WHAT WE HAD BECAUSE WE DID NOT PREPARE
7 FOR SUCH A THING.

8 THE FOLLOWING DAY, OR TWO OR THREE DAYS LATER, SINCE
9 THERE WERE NO MEN IN OUR HOUSE, WE VENTURED OUT.

10 AND, I DID GO TO WORK. NOW, THEY NEVER STOPPED ME.

11 MY SISTER WOULDN'T GO OUT. MY SISTER WOULDN'T GO TO

12 SCHOOL ANYMORE NEITHER. BECAUSE SHE HAD MORE OF A

13 WHAT YOU WOULD CALL A 'JEWISH LOOK'. SHE HAD VERY

14 BLACK HAIR, LONG BRAIDS, DARK EYES, I MEAN, SHE JUST

15 WOULDN'T GO OUT OF THE HOUSE. SHE WENT TO BED.

16 SHE COULDN'T GO TO SCHOOL ANYMORE, ANYWAY. IT WAS

17 OUT. THEY HAD A JEWISH SCHOOL WHICH WAS JUST QUICK-

18 LY PUT TOGETHER AND DIDN'T HAVE THE BEST TEACHERS.

19 I MEAN, WHOEVER THERE WAS, YOU KNOW, IT CHANGED A

20 GREAT DEAL BECAUSE SINCE THE MEN WERE TAKEN TO

21 CONCENTRATION CAMPS, ONE ALWAYS LEFT AND HE WAS

22 REPLACED WITH ANOTHER PERSON. THERE WAS NO CONTIN-

23 UATION OF THINGS THERE. SO, SHE DECIDED SHE

24 WOULDN'T GO TO SCHOOL ANYMORE. I THINK SHE HAD

25 ABOUT FIVE YEARS OF SCHOOL MAYBE, OF REAL SCHOOL.

1 SHE TURNED OUT TO BE QUITE A PERSON FOR IT. HER
2 SCHOOL WAS ALMOST NOT THERE.

3 Q. WERE YOU CLOSE TO YOUR SISTER?

4 A. NO. SHE WAS SIX YEARS YOUNGER. SHE WAS AN ENTIRELY
5 DIFFERENT PERSON. SHE WAS VERY MUCH IN MY WAY
6 BECAUSE I HAD TO SHARE A ROOM WITH HER AND SHE WAS A
7 MESS, AND I TRIED TO KEEP THE ROOM VERY NEAT. SHE
8 THREW EVERYTHING UNDER THE BED AND I DIDN'T LIKE
9 THAT. SHE WAS A DREAMER AND I WAS MORE ON THIS
10 EARTH THAN SHE WAS. WE DIDN'T LIKE EACH OTHERS
11 COMPANY AT ALL, NOT VERY MUCH. BUT, MUCH LATER, WE
12 BECAME VERY CLOSE FRIENDS. IN OUR TEENS, THEN, OR
13 AFTER OUR TEENS. AND, WE STILL ARE VERY BEST
14 FRIENDS WITH EACH OTHER. SO, THIS CHANGED A GREAT
15 DEAL BUT, AT THE TIME, TO HAVE SOMEBODY THAT'S SIX
16 YEARS YOUNGER IS REALLY A NUISANCE. AND, NOT ALWAYS
17 QUITE ON THIS EARTH.

18 SO, ACTUALLY, SHE JUST WAS ABLE TO LIE IN BED AND
19 DREAM. SHE WENT TO BED WHEN IT GOT TOO BAD. SHE
20 DID THAT. AND, THAT'S MARVELOUS. I COULDN'T GO TO
21 BED, I WAS DANCING AROUND, UP AND DOWN THE STAIRS,
22 AND WORRIED, AND THIS TYPE OF THING.

23 Q. HOW LONG WAS THIS GOING ON, THAT YOU WERE GOING TO
24 WORK AFTER THE CRYSTAL NIGHT?

25 A. UNTIL 1939.

1 Q. AND, WHEN DID THE CRYSTAL NIGHT HAPPEN?

2 A. I THINK '36.

3 Q. REALLY? SO FOR THREE YEARS YOU WERE STILL THERE,
4 STILL GOING TO WORK AND EVERYTHING?

5 A. NO, THE CRYSTAL NIGHT WAS IN '38, I BELIEVE. THE
6 11TH OF NOVEMBER, 1938. YES. AND FROM THAT DAY ON,
7 WE KNEW THAT THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE END. WE
8 KNEW THAT. I MEAN, WE KNEW THAT BUT WE COULDN'T DO
9 MUCH ABOUT IT ANYMORE, UNFORTUNATELY. UNFOR-
10 TUNATELY, WE NEVER TOOK IT, WE NEVER REALLY TOOK IT
11 THAT SERIOUS FROM THE BEGINNING ON. FROM '33 ON, WE
12 SAID "AH, NOTHING CAN HAPPEN". YOU KNOW, HITLER
13 STARTED IN 1924. SO, FROM THEN ON, WE FELT THIS IS
14 SERIOUS. BUT, THEN IT WAS TOO LATE. WE COULDN'T
15 FIND OUR WAY OUT. WE HAD NOBODY THAT WE COULD ASK
16 TO VOUCHE FOR US. THERE WAS TWO OPPORTUNITIES ONLY.
17 ONE WAS TO GO TO SHANGHAI, AND ---

18 Q. DID YOU KNOW PEOPLE WHO WERE DOING THAT?

19 A. YES.

20 Q. HOW DID THEY GO?

21 A. THAT, I CAN'T TELL YOU, HOW THEY WENT.

22 Q. SO, THAT WAS ONE ---

23 A. BUT, THERE WAS A WAY. I DON'T THINK, FOR A SHORT
24 TIME, YOU DIDN'T NEED A VISA. OR, TO CUBA. AND,
25 THAT DIDN'T LAST VERY LONG NEITHER.

1 Q. DID YOU DISCUSS THOSE OPPORTUNITIES WITH YOUR
2 MOTHER?

3 A. WE DISCUSSED IT. MY MOTHER HAD A POSSIBILITY TO GO
4 TO URAGUAY. MY MOTHER BECAME A WIDOW WHEN SHE WAS
5 THIRTY-FIVE. WHEN SHE WAS IN BRESLAU, SHE BE-
6 FRIENDED A DOCTOR, VERY FINE MAN, WHO WAS ALSO OUR
7 DOCTOR. WE CALLED HIM UNCLE DOCTOR. AND, HE WAS A
8 WIDOWER AND HE REALLY WANTED TO MARRY HER. HE HAD
9 AN OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO URAGUAY. HE HAD SONS THERE.
10 AND, SHE WOULD NOT WANT TO DO THAT BECAUSE SHE WAS
11 AFRAID TO LEAVE US, AND SHE WASN'T SURE HE WANTED US
12 TO GO ALONG. AND, HE ONLY COULD GIVE HER ONE AFFI-
13 DAVIT. AND, IT WAS A PITY, IT WAS REALLY A PITY
14 BECAUSE SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BE SAVED, YOU
15 KNOW, SAVE HERSELF. BECAUSE, IT WAS TOO LATE THEN,
16 AFTER WE LEFT. SO, HE WENT. SHE HAD NO WAY OF
17 GETTING OUT.

18 THERE WAS ONE WAY OF GETTING OUT, ONE WAY FOR YOUNG
19 GIRLS TO BECOME DOMESTIC SERVANTS IN ENGLAND. BUT,
20 YOU HAD TO HAVE A GUARANTOR. YOU HAD TO HAVE SOME-
21 BODY THAT GUARANTEED FOR YOU EITHER A JOB OR GUARAN-
22 TEED TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.

23 NOW, CHILDREN UNDER A CERTAIN AGE, I WOULD SAY
24 UNDER SIXTEEN, COULD GO ON THE CHILDREN TRANSPORT
25 OUT, IF THEY HAD A PERSON TO GUARANTEE FOR THEM.

1 NOW, MY SISTER NEEDED TO GET OUT BECAUSE SHE WAS
2 ALREADY IN A STATE THAT -- WELL, PSYCHOLOGY, SHE WAS
3 HAVING PROBLEMS BECAUSE SHE WOULDN'T GO OUT. I
4 NEEDED TO GET OUT, BUT, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS
5 HAPPENING TO MOYSHE. SO, HERE WAS NUMBER ONE. WE
6 WERE IN A VERY BAD SITUATION, IN A VERY BAD SITUA-
7 TION. I MEAN, IT WAS A DAY TO DAY THING.
8 ONE DAY, THEY CAME AND KNOCKED ON THE DOOR AND
9 LOOKED FOR ALL THE SILVER. MY MOTHER HAD BROUGHT
10 HER WHOLE SILVER THAT SHE HAD GOTTEN WHEN SHE WAS
11 MARRIED, OR WAS THE FAMILY SILVER. AND THEY TOOK
12 EVERYTHING AND LEFT A SPOON OR FORK, OR SOMETHING
13 LIKE THIS. OR, THEY CAME AND HARASSED US FOR THIS
14 OR THAT. MY MOTHER HAD TO GO TO THE POLICE CONTIN-
15 UOUSLY, GIVE THINGS TO THE POLICE. THE PASSPORTS
16 WERE STAMPED WITH A 'J', AND SO ON AND SO FORTH.
17 WELL, THERE WAS A WAY, THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMI-
18 NARY MORE OR LESS STILL EXISTED. MY HUSBAND WAS
19 ABLE TO GET AN AFFIDAVIT. MY MOTHER WENT TO STUT-
20 GART TO THE AMERICAN CONSULANT. SHE PUT SOME MONEY
21 INTO SOME OF THE PAPERS OF MY HUSBAND'S THAT SHE WAS
22 ABLE TO GET FROM HIM, OR, I DON'T KNOW FROM WHO.
23 THEY WERE SOME PAPERS SAYING THAT HE HAD AN AFFI-
24 DAVIT. I BELIEVE IT CAME TO HIS ADDRESS WHERE HE
25 USED TO LIVE AND THE PEOPLE KNEW US. IT CAME INTO

1 OUR HANDS. WITH THIS PAPER, AND ALSO THE PAPER FROM
2 THE CONSULANT THAT HIS PAPERS WERE READY, SHE WENT
3 TO STUTGART. I KNOW SHE TOOK A TRAIN, WOULD NOT
4 SLEEP, SHE WOULD NOT LET GO OF THOSE PAPERS. THEY
5 WERE LIKE GOLD. AND, TOLD THE OFFICER AT THE CONSU-
6 LANT THAT SHE WAS MAX SUCHER'S MOTHER, AND SHE CAME
7 FOR THE PERMIT FOR THE VISA. AND, SHE HANDED HIM
8 THE PAPERS AND PUT MONEY IN BETWEEN THE PAPERS. SHE
9 WAS ABLE TO GET THE OKAY FOR HIM TO LEAVE. THEN SHE
10 WAS SO SCARED TO FALL ASLEEP, OR SOMETHING, WITH
11 THIS STAMPED DOCUMENT, THAT SHE SAT UP THE WHOLE
12 NIGHT TRAVELING BACK TO BRESLAU, AND WE SMUGGLED IT
13 WITH SOMEBODY TO HIM.

14 SO THAT WAS HOW HE WAS ABLE TO GET SEVEN DAYS OF
15 PERMIT, A SEVEN DAY PERMIT TO COME TO BRESLAU AND TO
16 STAY SEVEN DAYS THERE. IT WAS MAYBE ONLY FIVE.
17 FIVE OR SEVEN DAYS. AND, THEN IMMEDIATELY LEAVE.
18 AND, OF COURSE, IF HE DIDN'T LEAVE, THEY WOULD SEIZE
19 HIM AGAIN.

20 IN THE FIVE DAYS, HE WAS ABLE TO FINISH HIS SMICHA,
21 THAT MEANS HE FINISHED HIS STUDIES. HE DID HIS
22 EXAMINATION. HE BECAME A RABBI AND A TEACHER. HE
23 WAS NOT ABLE TO GO HOME BECAUSE IN DORTMUND, THE
24 PLACE WHERE THE PARENTS LIVED, THE APARTMENT WAS
25 SEALED BY THE GERMAN NAZIS OF THE CITY AND HE WASN'T

1 ABLE TO GET INTO IT, ANYWAY. AND, HE WOULD HAVE
2 RISKED THIS TRIP. SO, HE HAD NO CLOTHES. SO,
3 BEFORE HE CAME, WE KNEW THAT HE WAS GOING TO COME,
4 MY MOTHER AND I WENT TO SEE IF WE COULD GET SOME
5 CLOTHES FOR HIM. WE KNEW HE WAS VERY THIN. HE WAS
6 FAIRLY TALL, BUT HE WAS THIN. AND, WE GOT TOGETHER
7 A WHOLE SUITCASE OF STUFF FOR HIM.

8 THE WORST THING IS WE HAD TO GET MARRIED BECAUSE
9 THAT ALSO ASSURED MY BEING ABLE TO GET OUT. ALSO
10 THAT I WANTED TO GET MARRIED. SO, THIS WAS THE
11 HARDEST THING BECAUSE WHAT HAPPENED IS I HAD TO GIVE
12 MY GERMAN PASSPORT UP BECAUSE THERE WAS A LAW IN
13 GERMANY THAT EXISTED THAT A WOMEN AND A MAN THAT GET
14 MARRIED, IF THEY DON'T HAVE THE SAME NATIONALITY,
15 LIKE IF THE MAN WOULD BE POLISH, THE WOMAN HAD TO
16 TAKE ON THE POLISH NATIONALITY. NOW, I COULDN'T
17 HAVE DONE THAT BECAUSE THE POLS WOULDN'T GIVE ME
18 THEIR NATIONALITY.

19 Q. WAS THAT FOR JEWS ONLY, OR FOR EVERYONE?

20 A. NO, THIS WAS A LAW IN EUROPE. THIS WAS A LAW IN
21 EUROPE AND AT THE TIME IN GERMANY. THAT IF YOU
22 MARRY SOMEBODY WITH A DIFFERENT NATIONALITY, YOU
23 HAVE TO TAKE ON THE MAN'S NATIONALITY. SO, THAT WAS
24 OUT COMPLETELY.

25 SO, THEY TOOK MY GERMAN PASSPORT AWAY AND THEY GAVE

1 ME A STATELESS PASSPORT WHICH I STILL HAVE, WHICH IS
2 A MUSEUMS PIECE. IT'S NOT GOOD FOR A THING BECAUSE
3 YOU CAN'T EVEN ENTER A COUNTRY UNLESS YOU HAVE A
4 VISA WITH A SPECIAL THING IN IT. YOU HAVE NO
5 RIGHTS. IT'S JUST A MATTER OF IDENTIFICATION,
6 THAT'S WHAT IT IS. IT'S NOT AN ANZEN PASS, THAT'S A
7 DIFFERENT PASSPORT. THAT'S A PASSPORT THAT YOU CAN
8 GO EVERYWHERE. BUT, THIS STATELESS PASSPORT WAS
9 LIKE NOTHING.

10 Q. WHY DID THEY GIVE YOU THAT RATHER THAN A POLISH
11 PASSPORT?

12 A. BECAUSE MY HUSBAND, HE WAS NOT CONSIDERED A POL
13 ANYMORE. SINCE HE DIDN'T SERVE IN THE ARMY.

14 Q. WAS HE ALSO AN ANZEN?

15 A. NO, HE HAS A POLISH PASSPORT WHICH WOULD NOT HAVE
16 BEEN USED IN GERMANY THOUGH, OR ANYWHERE ELSE. HE
17 HAD HIS VISA IN IT, STAMPED INTO IT. BUT, IT IS OF
18 NO VALUE. IT WAS OF NO VALUE TO HIM ANYMORE. BUT,
19 A STATELESS IS MUCH WORSE THAN THAT BECAUSE AS NO
20 GOVERNMENT WOULD VOUCH FOR YOU. WITH A STATELESS
21 PASSPORT, NO GOVERNMENT WANTS YOU TO STAY THERE
22 NEITHER.

23 Q. BUT AT THE SAME TIME, TO GET OUT, YOU DID HAVE TO BE
24 MARRIED TO HIM?

25 A. WELL, I DIDN'T HAVE TO BUT I WANTED TO. WE HAD THE

1 IDEA AND IT WAS FOR MY ADVANTAGE, ALSO. SO, WE HAD
2 TO GET MARRIED AND IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO GET ALL
3 THE PAPERS. GERMANY IS KNOWN FOR THEIR PAPER SHUF-
4 FLING AND THEIR PAPER DRAGGING. I HAD THEM BUT,
5 SOME OF HIS WERE DIFFICULT TO COME BY. BUT, WE
6 FINALLY MADE IT BECAUSE WE HAD TO BE MARRIED BY THE
7 STATE BEFORE WE COULD GET MARRIED BY THE RABBI. SO,
8 WE WERE ABLE TO GET MARRIED AND I WROTE A WHOLE
9 STORY ABOUT OUR WEDDING DAY. WE HAD TO GET TO THE
10 CITY HALL AND WE STOOD IN FRONT OF THIS MAN THAT WAS
11 GOING TO MARRY US BY THE STATE AND BY THE NATIONAL-
12 ISTIC STATE OF GERMANY, LOOKING AT THE PICTURE OF
13 ADOLF HITLER. AND, THAT TOOK PLACE AND WE JUST
14 SHIVERED, WE JUST SHIVERED, REALLY. I STILL HAVE
15 THE FEELING, AND I KNOW FOR A LONG TIME FELT, STAND-
16 ING THERE BEING PRONOUNCED MAN AND WIFE UNDER THE
17 CONDITIONS.

18 WHEN WE GOT HOME, MY MOTHER, WHO WAS A MAGICIAN, HAD
19 LAID OUT THE TABLE WITH ALL KIND OF GOODIES.

20 Q. GOD KNOWS WHERE SHE HAD GOTTEN THEM ALL FROM?

21 A. WE DIDN'T ASK. AND, THE HUPA I THINK WAS A TABLE
22 CLOTH. NOTHING WAS AVAILABLE ANYMORE. ONE OF HIS
23 TEACHERS WAS STILL AVAILABLE. HE DID THE MARRIAGE
24 CEREMONY. MY SISTER'S BIRD, SHE HAD ALWAYS A LITTLE
25 CANARY, STARTED TO SING WHILE WE WERE UNDER THE

1 HUPA. FOUR OF HIS COLLEAGUES HELD THE FOUR
2 STICKS OF THE HUPA. SOME OF THEM HAD ALREADY
3 COME BACK FROM CONCENTRATION CAMPS. THEY HAD
4 RELEASED THEM BECAUSE THEY WERE ABLE TO GET OUT THE
5 FOLLOWING DAY. THEY WERE ALL SHAVED, THEY HAD
6 THEIR HAIR SHAVED OFF.

7 WE SAT AT THE BIG DINING ROOM, WHICH WAS A LONG
8 DINING ROOM WITH A LONG TABLE. AND, SHE HAD THINGS
9 ON THE TABLE, WHERE SHE GOT THEM, WHO GAVE THEM TO
10 HER WAS WONDERFUL. MY UNCLE CAME. WAS THE ONLY
11 MEMBER OF MY FAMILY THAT WAS ABLE TO COME. AND, MY
12 WEDDING GIFTS WERE TWO SEFER TORAHS, WHICH HE SAVED
13 IN THE TOWN OF MY BIRTH IN THE SYNAGOGUE OF THE TOWN
14 OF MY BIRTH WHILE IT WAS BURNING.

15 Q. FROM THE CRYSTAL NIGHT?

16 A. FROM THE CRYSTAL NIGHT, YES. AND, THOSE TWO, FORTU-
17 NATELY, THEY WERE SMALL SEFER TORAHS, I WAS ABLE TO
18 TAKE THEM WITH ME WHEN I LEFT, AFTER A WHILE. THEY
19 WERE SLIGHTLY SINGED. THE MANTELS OF THE TORAH
20 WERE SINGED. BUT, OTHERWISE THEY WERE ALTOGETHER
21 AND THOSE SEFER TORAHS ARE NOW IN TWO SYNAGOGUES.
22 ONE IS IN BETH AM IN LOS ALTOS HILLS, AND THE OTHER
23 ONE IS AT THE SYNAGOGUE IN BOLDER, COLORADO IN THE
24 ARON, AND BOTH ARE BEING USED.

25 Q. AND, THOSE BELONG TO YOUR GRANDDAUGHTER?

1 A. YES. THEY BELONG TO MY GRANDDAUGHTERS. THEY WERE
2 GIVEN FROM ME TO THEM AT THEIR BAR MITZVAH. BUT, IF
3 THEY EVER MOVE, THEY WILL TAKE THEM WITH THEM.
4 WHEREVER THEY RESIDE, THEY WILL BE IN THE SYNAGOGUE
5 OF THEIR TOWN OR OF THEIR VILLAGE. AND, THEY WILL
6 FORM A BOND.

7 SO, BOTH SEFER TORAHS, ONE GOT A NEW MANTEL BECAUSE
8 IT WAS SINGED. ONE OF THE CONGREGANTS IN BOLDER
9 WOVE A BEAUTIFUL MANTEL. AND, I THINK THE ONE IN
10 BETHAM HAS A NEW ONE TOO. THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE
11 ORPHANS.

12 Q. SO, YOU DID ALL OF THAT IN FIVE DAYS?

13 A. OH YES, THE FIVE DAYS. WE WERE ABLE TO FIND A PLACE
14 WHERE WE COULD BE TOGETHER WHERE NOBODY ELSE WOULD
15 BOTHER US FOR ONE NIGHT. AFTER THAT NIGHT, I
16 BROUGHT MY HUSBAND TO HAMBURG ON THE TRAIN SO HE
17 COULD REACH HIS SHIP THAT WE HAD BOOKED TO GO TO THE
18 UNITED STATES. THAT NIGHT, WE COULD NOT FIND A
19 PLACE TO SLEEP. IT WAS ALWAYS FORBODEN, JEWS FOR-
20 BIDDEN, WHEREVER WE TRIED TO GO. SO, WE FINALLY
21 WENT INTO THE RED LIGHT DISTRICT OF HAMBURG BECAUSE
22 WE FIGURED THE PIMPS AND THE PROSTITUTES WOULDN'T
23 MIND US AROUND.

24 Q. HOW HAD YOU GOTTEN TO HAMBURG, HOW FAR AWAY WAS
25 THAT? ON THE TRAIN?

1 A. OH YES, THAT WAS PROBABLY A FIVE, SIX, SEVEN HOUR
2 RIDE ON THE TRAIN.

3 Q. SO, YOU WERE STILL ABLE TO TRAVEL? WERE YOU CON-
4 STANTLY BEING CHECKED FOR WHETHER YOU WERE A JEW?

5 A. WE WERE CHECKED.

6 Q. WERE YOU WEARING A STAR?

7 A. NO, WE DIDN'T HAVE THE STAR THEN, YET. THAT CAME
8 AFTERWARDS, RIGHT SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, YES. BUT, YOU
9 KNOW, THEY ALWAYS COULD TELL IF WE WERE JEWS OR NOT.
10 THERE WAS A LOT OF -- WHEN YOU SAT DOWN, FOR IN-
11 STANCE, WHAT WE CALLED THE KUPAY IN THE TRAIN. IF
12 SOMEBODY ELSE WANTED THE SEAT, THEY'D SAY "JEW, GET
13 UP". SO, YOU'D NEVER KNOW. YOU'D SIT THERE AND
14 HOLD YOUR BREATH.

15 THEN, THE SHIP WAITED ON THE NEXT DAY. I BROUGHT
16 HIM TO THE SHIP AND THE WORST THING WAS I HAD TO GET
17 BACK NOW. I HAD TO TAKE THE TRAIN BACK TO BRESLAU
18 AND I DON'T RECALL THAT TRIP BACK. IT MUST HAVE
19 BEEN TERRIBLE. I MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE, I DON'T KNOW.
20 IT'S ALL BLACK, THIS PERIOD, MY TRIP BACK. I CAN'T
21 RECALL THIS TRIP BACK. I WAS FRIGHTENED, I KNOW
22 THAT. BECAUSE, I SAID, "WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO
23 ME NOW?".

24 THE MINUTE I WAS BACK HOME, I HAD TO SHOW MYSELF AT
25 THE GESTAPO. FIRST OF ALL THEY TOOK MY PASSPORT.

1 SO, IN THIS STATELESS PASSPORT, THEY PRINTED IN THAT
2 I HAD ONLY SIX WEEKS TO REMAIN IN GERMANY. IN SIX
3 WEEKS, THEY WILL PICK ME UP FOR MAUTHAUSEN, THE
4 CONCENTRATION CAMP, ONE OF MANY. A NOTORIOUS ONE,
5 ALSO. MOST OF THEM WERE NOTORIOUS. AND, EVERYDAY I
6 WOULD HAVE TO COME TO THE GESTAPO AND SHOW MYSELF.
7 EVERYDAY THEY WOULD GIVE ME A TIME IN THE MORNING.
8 THIS WAS NUMBER ONE THING. IT WAS A VERY FEARFUL
9 SITUATION BECAUSE I HAD NOWHERE TO GO.

10 THAT'S WHEN I REMEMBERED I HAD AN UNCLE IN ENGLAND
11 AND I KNEW THAT ENGLAND NEEDED DOMESTIC SERVANTS.
12 WE KNEW THAT THIS WOULD BE MY ONLY HOPE TO GET A
13 PLACE TO BE A DOMESTIC SERVANT AND THEN POSSIBLY SEE
14 THAT MY SISTER GETS OUT TOO, MY MOTHER WORKED ON
15 THAT. WE WORKED FEVERISHLY ON THAT.

16 Q. WHAT DID YOU DO?

17 A. NOW, FIRST OF ALL, THE MAIL SITUATION WAS VERY TOUGH
18 FOR US BECAUSE IN THE MEANTIME, WHAT HAPPENED TO US
19 ALSO, AND I DIDN'T MENTION THAT, JEWS HAD TO ADD
20 NAMES, DIFFERENT NAMES TO THEIR SURNAMES, TO THEIR
21 FIRST NAMES. ALL JEWISH WOMEN HAD TO PUT THE NAME
22 SARAH NEXT TO THEIR FIRST NAME AND ALL JEWISH MEN,
23 THE NAME ISRAEL.

24 Q. AND IT WAS PUNISHABLE, IF YOU DIDN'T DO THAT?

25 A. PUNISHABLE BY THE WORST. THE PUNISHMENT FOR THE

1 JEW'S WAS ALWAYS THE WORST. THERE WAS NO EASY PUN-
2 ISHMENT. WE DID THAT. NOW, EVERY LETTER, THE
3 SENDER HAD TO SHOW THIS NAME. THE REASON FOR THIS
4 WAS THAT THEY IMMEDIATELY KNEW THAT THIS LETTER
5 CAME FROM A JEW AND IT WAS OPENED. IT WAS ALWAYS
6 OPENED. MAYBE LATER ON, I'LL SHOW YOU ONE OF MY
7 LETTERS, WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE WHEN IT WAS OPENED.
8 SO, WE HAD TO WATCH VERY CAREFUL HOW WE WROTE THINGS
9 OUT AND SO ON. WE GOT A LETTER GOING WITH MY UNCLE
10 IN LONDON WHO WAS AN ENGINEER AND HAD A VERY GOOD
11 JOB THERE.

12 Q. YOUR MOTHER'S BROTHER?

13 A. YES, MY MOTHER'S BROTHER WHO SURFACED ONCE IN A
14 WHILE. HE WAS VERY MUCH OUT OF THE JEWISH GROUPS.
15 HE WAS A VERY SELFISH PERSON ALL HIS LIFE. VERY
16 CLEVER. AND, ALWAYS HAD VERY GOOD JOBS LIKE, WORKED
17 FOR MERCEDES BENZ AS AN ENGINEER. HAD A DOCTORATE
18 IN ENGINEERING. A VERY GOOD JOB.
19 SO, WE BEGGED HIM TO FIND SOMEWHERE, A PLACE FOR ME.
20 EVEN IF THEY WOULDN'T PAY ME ANYTHING. JUST SO I
21 WORKED THERE FOR MY KEEPS. AND, HE ACTUALLY CAME UP
22 WITH SOMETHING. AND, I HAD A PERSON.
23 THEN, MY SISTER WAS ACCEPTED BECAUSE THEY WERE WOR-
24 RIED ABOUT HER HEALTH, HER PSYCHOLOGICAL STATE OF
25 MIND, HAD A GUARANTOR, HAD A PERSON WHO WOULD GUA-

1 RANTEE FOR HER NOT TO TAKE ENGLISH HELP, NOT TO
2 HAVE THE GOVERNMENT WORRY ABOUT HER. IN OTHER
3 WORDS, THERE WERE MEN THERE OR A PERSON, OR A WOMAN
4 WHO WOULD PUT X-AMOUNT OF POUNDS TO TAKE CARE OF HER
5 IN CASE SHE COULD MANAGE WHEREVER SHE WAS GOING TO
6 GO TO.

7 Q. AND, YOUR UNCLE ARRANGED THAT, TOO?

8 A. NO. THAT WAS ARRANGED THROUGH THE JEWISH FEDERA-
9 TION. THAT'S A JEWISH OUTFIT THAT ARRANGED THAT.
10 I THINK IT COULD HAVE BEEN THE B'NAI B'RITH, BUT,
11 I'M NOT SURE.

12 Q. SO, THIS WAS APRIL OF '39?

13 A. THAT WAS APRIL '39. MAYBE IT WAS MARCH '39 BECAUSE
14 I WAS MARRIED THE 20TH OF JANUARY AND THE 25TH MY
15 HUSBAND LEFT. THE 20TH OF JANUARY I GOT MARRIED,
16 THE 25TH HE LEFT AND THEN SIX WEEKS, NO, IT HAD TO
17 BE, IT WAS SIX WEEKS LATER, ANYWAY. I WAS ABLE TO
18 GET THE JOB AND MY SISTER WAS TAKEN ONTO THIS CHIL-
19 DREN'S TRANSPORT. I WAS ASKED TO CHAPERON THE
20 TRANSPORT OUT.

21 NOW, WITH A STATELESS PASSPORT, I COULDN'T GO
22 THROUGH HOLLAND. I HAD TO LEAVE THROUGH ENGLAND
23 DIRECTLY FROM HAMBURG. THE CHILDREN'S TRANSPORT
24 WENT THROUGH HOLLAND. AT THE BORDER OF HOLLAND I
25 LEFT THE TRANSPORT AND SOMEBODY ELSE CAME INTO IT

1 FROM HOLLAND. I TOOK THEM TO THE BORDER, A VERY
2 NOTORIOUS BORDER, BY THE WAY. TERRIBLE THINGS HAP-
3 PENED THERE. SO, I TOOK THE GROUP OF CHILDREN. IT
4 WAS THE LAST DAY OF MY SIX WEEKS, SOMEWHERE IN MARCH
5 OR SOMETHING.

6 MY MOTHER BROUGHT US BOTH TO THE STATION IN THE
7 MORNING. I MET THE GROUP OF KIDS AND I DIDN'T HAVE
8 ANY FEELINGS. EVERY DAY, EVERY MINUTE THERE WAS
9 SOMETHING ELSE TO WORRY OR THINK ABOUT. I CAN'T
10 BELIEVE SHE SENT BOTH OF US. A MOTHER SENDING HER
11 CHILDREN OUT AND AWAY, NEVER TO KNOW IF SHE'S GOING
12 TO SEE US AGAIN, BUT, SHE DID A WONDERFUL THING TO
13 DO THAT. SHE KNEW THIS WAS THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY.
14 SHE HAD MORE INSIGHT AND PROBABLY MORE KNOW-HOW THAN
15 WE KNEW SHE HAD. AND, BEFORE WE LEFT WE SAT DOWN
16 AND MADE A CODE. WE WROTE LETTERS IN CODE. FOR
17 INSTANCE, I REMEMBER SOME OF IT, HITLER WAS 'AUNT
18 GERTRUDE'. WE NEVER COULD MENTION THAT NAME, HIT-
19 LER. HITLER OR NAZIS WERE 'AUNT GERTRUDE'. MONEY
20 WAS SUBSTITUTED BY 'PHOTOS'. SO, WE MADE A WHOLE
21 VOCABULARY OF DIFFERENT NAMES.

22 Q. DID YOU WRITE IT DOWN, OR DID YOU JUST MEMORIZE IT?

23 A. I MEMORIZED SOME OF IT, YES. SOME OF IT, I MIGHT
24 STILL FIND SOMEWHERE. BUT, WE MEMORIZED THAT WELL
25 BECAUSE WE HAD TO. YOU CAN NOT MAKE A DICTIONARY

1 OUT OF IT. SO, THAT CAME IN QUITE HANDY BECAUSE WE
2 WERE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER TO SOME
3 EXTENT, EVEN THOUGH THE LETTERS WERE OPENED.

4 Q. WERE YOU FRIGHTENED TRAVELING BY YOURSELF?

5 A. NO. YOU DON'T GET FRIGHTENED ABOUT THOSE THINGS
6 ANYMORE. YOU JUST DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE FRIGHT-
7 ENED. YOU REALIZE THAT THERE'S NO TIME. IT COMES
8 AND YOU GO.

9 NOW, WHEN I TOOK THE CHILDREN, I REMEMBER THAT. IT
10 WAS REALLY AMAZING BECAUSE THEY WERE IN GOOD HUMOR
11 AND IN GOOD MOOD. IT'S AMAZING HOW WONDERFUL CHIL-
12 DREN CAN GET USED TO TIMES AS SUCH AND GET THROUGH
13 IT. I DON'T REALLY THINK THAT THEY KNEW AT THE TIME
14 WHAT REALLY HAPPENED. BUT, I KNOW WE LEFT AND I
15 THINK THE TRAIN WAS JUST ABOUT STARTING. IT WAS
16 ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES ON THE WAY WHEN THEY STARTED
17 PULLING EVERYTHING DOWN. THE SUITCASES AND STARTED
18 TO EAT. AND THIS AND THAT, AND THIS ONE HAD THAT --
19 I LET THEM -- SO WHAT.

20 WHEN WE ARRIVED AT THE BORDER IN HOLLAND AT THE
21 GERMAN BORDER TOWN, I CHANGED TRAINS AND THOSE CHIL-
22 DREN HAD TO GET OUT. NOW, I HEARD FROM MY SISTER
23 LATER THAT IT WAS A TERRIBLE SITUATION AND I HAVE
24 WRITTEN AND I HAVE CHRONICLED THIS ALSO.

25 IT WAS THE MOST NOTORIOUS BORDER TO CROSS. I THINK

1 THEY HAD THE MOST SADISTIC PERSONNEL IN THE BORDER
2 STATION THAT THEY COULD POSSIBLY FIND. BOYS AND
3 GIRLS HAD TO UNDRRESS IN FRONT OF EACH OTHER. NAKED
4 THEY HAD TO STAND THERE. THE LITTLE TRINKETS THE
5 GIRLS HAD AROUND THEIR ARMS OR THEIR NECKS WERE TORN
6 OFF THEM. MY SISTER HAD A LITTLE BRACELET WITH A
7 MOGEN DAVID ON IT. IT WAS TORN OFF. THEY SINGLED
8 MY SISTER OUT. I DON'T KNOW WHY. SHE WAS A VERY
9 PRETTY GIRL, SHE HAD BLACK BRAIDS, BEAUTIFUL EYES.
10 SHE HAD A LITTLE SUITCASE. HER SUITCASE WAS PICKED
11 TO PUT AN IRON ROD THROUGH IT. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY
12 RAPED HER SUITCASE.

13 OTHER KIDS HAD TO OPEN THEIR SUITCASES. THINGS WERE
14 TAKEN AWAY FROM THEM. THEY WERE RIDICULED. THEY
15 WERE LAUGHED ABOUT. THEY WERE SO ASHAMED ALREADY,
16 TO STAND THERE, THAT IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE THING.
17 THIS HAS NOT REALLY COME OUT IN BOOKS, REALLY.
18 THERE ARE OTHER INSTANCES SUCH AS THIS. I KNOW THAT
19 WHEN MY SISTER ARRIVED IN ENGLAND, FIRST OF ALL, SHE
20 WAS NOT PICKED UP FROM VICTORIA STATION. EVERYBODY
21 WAS PICKED UP BUT HER.

22 Q. HOW OLD WAS SHE?

23 A. SHE WAS FIFTEEN. AND, FIFTEEN, AT THAT TIME, FOR A
24 GERMAN GIRL, A GERMAN JEWISH GIRL, IS A YOUNG AGE.
25 THEY WERE NOT AS SOPHISTICATED AS THEY ARE RIGHT

1 NOW. THEY WERE REALLY STILL CHILDREN. SHE DIDN'T
2 KNOW WHO WOULD COME FOR HER BECAUSE EVERYBODY WAS
3 PICKED UP AND EVERYBODY PICKED SOMEBODY NICE LOOK-
4 ING. IT WAS A VERY TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE FOR HER.
5 WHEN SHE WAS PICKED UP BY A WOMAN IN A SORY, A
6 LOVELY WOMAN PICKED HER UP. THEY CALLED HER MATRON.
7 SHE WAS TAKEN TO A HOME IN MADEVILLE, IT'S PART OF
8 LONDON. IT WAS A HOME FOR JEWISH GIRLS THAT WERE
9 STRANDED, OR THAT NEEDED CARE, THAT NEEDED TO GO TO
10 SCHOOL. THAT WERE SAVED, ACTUALLY. ACTUALLY, LIKE
11 AN ORPHANAGE, NOT QUITE AS BAD.

12 Q. AND, THIS WAS JUST ENGLISH PEOPLE WITH BIG HEARTS,
13 WHO WERE DOING THIS?

14 A. NO, THESE WERE ENGLISH PEOPLE WHO HAD A CERTAIN
15 AMOUNT OF MONEY GUARANTEED FOR THEM. BUT, WE KNEW
16 AT THE TIME, WE HAD A FEELING WHO THE PERSON WAS
17 THAT GUARANTEED. NEVER REVEALED HIM OR HERSELF.
18 AND, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. I'M AFRAID TO MENTION THAT
19 NAME. I MUCH RATHER NOT BECAUSE IT WAS A VERY WELL
20 KNOWN JEWISH MAN.

21 Q. AND, YOU HAVE A FEELING, YOU'LL NEVER KNOW FOR SURE,
22 BUT YOU HAVE A FEELING?

23 A. OH, YES, YES, YES.

24 Q. YOU FOUND OUT?

25 A. BUT, IT'S NO USE TO OPEN THIS UP NOW. I WOULDN'T

1 WANT TO DO DAMAGE TO ANYBODY NEITHER. JUST THAT SHE
2 WAS ABLE TO GET OUT. BUT, SHE HAS NEVER MET THIS
3 PERSON. A LOT OF THE KIDS HAVE MET THEIR PEOPLE OR
4 GONE TO THEIR HOMES.

5 SHE WAS IN A SIMILAR SITUATION LIKE WHAT YOU CALL AN
6 ORPHANAGE. WELL, WHEN MATRON CAME AND PICKED HER UP
7 AND TOOK HER, OF COURSE, SHE HARDLY SPOKE ENGLISH,
8 ALSO. SHE HAD HARDLY ANY ENGLISH. SHE DIDN'T GO TO
9 SCHOOL. SHE DIDN'T SPEAK. THE FIRST THING SHE DID
10 WAS WENT TO BED, IN THIS HOME, AND WOULDN'T GET UP.
11 FOR THREE DAYS, SHE WOULDN'T GET UP. THEY BROUGHT
12 HER SOME FOOD.

13 FIRST OF ALL, SHE WAS AFRAID SHE WAS IN AN ORPHANAGE
14 BECAUSE SHE USED TO VISIT SOMEBODY IN THE ORPHANAGE
15 IN BRESLAU, THE JEWISH ORPHANAGE AND SHE WAS HORRI-
16 FIED BY THE PLACE. SO, THAT'S THE FIRST THING, WHEN
17 SHE WALKED INTO THIS PLACE, THAT SHE WAS GOING TO
18 COME TO AN ORPHANAGE. AND, IT FRIGHTENED HER, SO
19 SHE WOULDN'T GET UP. SO, THIS WOMAN DID THE BEST
20 THING FOR HER THAT SHE COULD DO. SHE GOT HER OUT OF
21 BED. SHE WAS A STRICT PERSON AND SHE TOLD HER THAT
22 SHE CAN'T BE IN BED, THAT SHE HAS TO COME DOWN TO
23 EAT, OR THERE'S NO FOOD, AND GOT HER ON THE RIGHT
24 TRACK. SHE WAS LOVING, BUT SHE WAS STRICT. SHE WAS
25 A BRAHMIAN, HAD A MARK. MY SISTER, TO THIS DAY

1 REMEMBERS THE RED MARK ON HER FOREHEAD. AND, WAS
2 WONDERFUL TO HER. THEY WERE ABLE TO FORM A VERY
3 CLOSE RELATIONSHIP. A VERY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP.
4 AND, MY SISTER SAW HER MANY YEARS LATER, STILL. SHE
5 UNFORTUNATELY DIED A TERRIBLE DEATH WITH CANCER.
6 BUT, DUE TO THIS WOMAN, SHE WAS ABLE TO MAINTAIN
7 HERSELF AND DO WHAT SHE WAS DOING, AND GET OUT OF
8 HER DEPRESSIONS.

9 AND, UNFORTUNATELY, SHORTLY AFTER THE BEGINNING OF
10 THE SECOND WORLD WAR, THEY WERE BOMBED OUT. SHE WAS
11 FORTUNATE, SHE WAS ONE OF THE FEW THAT WAS ABLE TO
12 SIT UNDER THE STAIRCASE AND WAS ABLE TO SURVIVE THE
13 BOMBING.

14 AFTER THAT, SHE BECAME A STREET PERSON. THERE WAS
15 NO PLACE FOR HER ANYMORE. NOW, MATRON LIVED ANOTHER
16 FEW YEARS AND SHE STAYED IN TOUCH WITH HER BUT, MY
17 SISTER WAS A STREET PERSON. AND, FOR A LONG TIME,
18 SHE DID VARIOUS DEALS. SHE SANG FOR THE SALVATION
19 ARMY 'ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS'. SO, SHE WAS GET-
20 TING BUNS AND TEA, TEA AND BUNS. AND, SHE WAS ABLE
21 TO WORK HERE AND THERE. NO SOONER DID SHE GET A
22 JOB, THE PLACE WAS BOMBED OUT. SHE LIVED IN THE
23 UNDERGROUND FOR A LONG TIME, IN THE UNDERGROUND
24 STATION. SUBWAY WAS CALLED UNDERGROUND IN ENGLAND.
25 IN PENINGTON STATION.

1 Q. WERE THERE A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE DOING THE SAME
2 THING?

3 A. YES. SHE SAID IT WAS WONDERFUL DOWN THERE. THEY
4 HAD EVERYTHING. THE SALVATION ARMY CAME AND BROUGHT
5 THINGS AND, SHE SAID THEY WERE WONDERFUL. AND, THE
6 LIBRARIAN CAME AND BROUGHT BOOKS. THEY PUT ON LIT-
7 TLE PLAYS AND EVER SO OFTEN, THEY WENT UP TO GET
8 AIR, THEN THEY CAME BACK DOWN. IT SAVED HER.
9 LATER ON, SHE WENT INTO THE ENGLISH LAND ARMY AND
10 FELL TREES OUT IN THE COUNTRY. AND, WHEN THE WAR
11 FINISHED, SHE WAS TAKEN INTO THE AMERICAN ARMY. SHE
12 WAS TAKEN INTO THE THIRD ARMY WITH GENERAL PATTON.
13 FIRST, SHE TRAINED IN FRANCE AS AN INTERPRETER AND
14 WAS NEVER TO REVEAL THAT SHE CAME FROM GERMANY. SHE
15 WORE A UNIFORM.

16 Q. WOULD SHE HAVE BEEN SEEN AS A ---

17 A. SHE WAS A CID, IN THE CIVIL INTELLIGENCE DIVISION.
18 SHE WAS ATTACHED TO PATTON'S ARMY, THE THIRD ARMY.
19 SHE OPENED DACHAU WITH HIM.

20 Q. WHY WAS SHE NEVER TO REVEAL THAT SHE WAS FROM GER-
21 MANY?

22 A. BECAUSE SHE WORKED LIKE A SPY. SHE LISTENED TO
23 PHONE CALLS, SHE OPENED MAIL, SHE INTERPRETED.

24 Q. FOR THE AMERICANS, AGAINST THE GERMANS?

25 A. YES. WELL, THE WAR WAS OVER THEN.

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Q. THE WAR WAS OVER?

A. YES, BUT THERE WAS STILL -- SHE CAME IN WITH THE FIRST CONVOY IN APRIL WHEN AMERICA CAME IN. SHE CAME IN WITH THE THIRD ARMY.

Q. WAS THAT BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO?

A. SHE WANTED TO FIND OUR MOTHER, YES. THAT WAS WHAT WAS BEHIND IT. SHE HAD NEVER, YOU KNOW, THAT LOOSE.

Q. WAS THAT WHY SHE HAD GOTTEN INTO THE AMERICAN ARMY IN THE FIRST PLACE?

A. YES.

Q. THAT WAS THE DRIVING FORCE?

A. SHE FOUND OUT IN ENGLAND THAT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE AND ALL DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES, YOU KNOW, WITH DORMAGING, WITH INTERPRETING. SO, SINCE SHE HAD A GOOD RECORD WITH THE LAND ARMY AND, WHATEVER, SHE'S ALSO A VERY GOOD LIAR. YOU LEARN TO DO THIS WHEN YOU ARE A REFUGEE AND YOU TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF ALL THIS TIME. SO, SHE WAS ABLE TO GET IN AND SHE WAS TRAINED IN PARIS WITH THE THIRD ARMY AND CAME IN ON THE FIRST CONVOY.

Q. WAS THE ENGLISH ARMY SO THAT SHE COULD HAVE A REGULAR BITE TO EAT, AND HAVE A REGULAR -- WHY HAD SHE DONE THAT?

A. WHEN SHE WAS IN THE LAND ARMY? NO. THEY STOLE A LOT. WELL, THEY LIVED WITH FARMERS VERY OFTEN AND

1 FARMERS HAVE USUALLY SOME FOOD AND SO, THEY WERE
2 ABLE ---

3 Q. WHY HAD SHE GONE INTO THE LAND ARMY THOUGH?

4 A. BECAUSE SHE WAS HUNGRY. BECAUSE SHE NEEDED TO DO
5 SOMETHING. SHE HAD A VERY DIFFICULT JOB. SHE WAS
6 FAILING TREES AND PULLING THEM DOWN THE RIVER AND IT
7 WAS A TOUGH JOB.

8 THEN, THERE WAS AN AMERICAN OFFICER'S CAMP NEARBY
9 AND THEY USED TO BE VERY NICE AND SEND THEM SOME
10 STUFF, HERE AND THERE. CHOCOLATES, WHICH THEY
11 LOVED, AND, YOU KNOW, IT WAS DIFFICULT. BUT, THEY
12 LEARNED TO STEAL. I KNOW THEY STOLE THE FARMER'S
13 FOOD.

14 Q. CAN WE BACK UP NOW TO YOU TRANSFERRING AWAY FROM THE
15 TRANSPORT?

16 A. YES. I WENT FROM HAMBURG TO ENGLAND TO SOUTHAMPTON
17 AND MY UNCLE MET ME AT VICTORIA STATION. I REMEM-
18 BERED HIM, BUT I HAD NOT REALLY CLOSE CONTACT WITH
19 HIM. REAL RED-HAIRED MAN, AND INTERESTING, A LOT OF
20 FUN.

21 BUT, HE TOOK ME TO MY JOB IN EDGEWEAR, LONDON EDGE-
22 WEAR WHICH WAS AT THAT TIME WAS THE LAST STATION OF
23 THE UNDERGROUND GOING OUT THIS WAY. TOOK ME TO MRS.
24 COOPER IN EDGEWEAR ON NUMBER SEVEN, LABITCLOSE.
25 AND, SHE WAS A VERY NICE JEWISH LADY AND PAID ME

1 HARDLY ANYTHING BUT, HAD REALLY NOT THE RESOURCES OF
2 EVEN PAYING ME VERY MUCH. SHE DID IT OUT OF THE
3 GOODNESS OF HER HEART, SHE, HERSELF WAS AN IMIGRANT
4 FROM POLAND OR RUSSIA. SO, SHE UNDERSTOOD AND SHE
5 LET ME SLEEP IN THEIR SALONE WHICH SHE HARDLY EVER
6 USED BECAUSE IT WAS VERY COLD AND AT THAT TIME, THEY
7 HEATED ALL THE ROOMS WITH FIREPLACES. AND, SHE
8 SHOWED ME AROUND AND I WAS ABLE TO CONVERSE WITH HER
9 IN ENGLISH BUT, SHE WAS ABLE TO WORK HER YIDDISH OUT
10 WITH ME, AND GERMAN ALSO. BUT, I WAS ABLE TO SPEAK
11 ENGLISH. I HAD ENOUGH ENGLISH AT THAT TIME, NOT
12 VERY WELL, BUT, I COULD GET AROUND.

13 AND, HERE I WAS. IN THE MORNING I HAD TO GET THE
14 KIPPERS READY, WHICH I DESPISED. I HAD TO GET USED
15 TO ALL THE DIFFERENT FOODS AND BRING IN THE COAL AND
16 SET UP THE STOVE AND GET ALL THE FIREPLACES GOING
17 AND, EVERYTHING WAS DONE ON KNEES. THAT'S WHY THERE
18 WERE SO MANY DOMESTIC SERVANT JOBS AVAILABLE. BE-
19 CAUSE, NO ENGLISH PERSON WANTS TO BE A DOMESTIC
20 SERVANT. EVERYTHING HAD TO BE DONE ON KNEES. THEY
21 HAD NOTHING WITH STICKS. AND, THE FRONT STEPS HAD
22 TO BE CHAULKED RED EVERY WEEK, ONCE AND, ALL THE
23 WINDOWS OUTSIDE HAD TO BE WASHED, NEVERMIND THE
24 INSIDE, BUT, THE OUTSIDE HAD TO BE VERY CLEAN.

25 Q. HARD WORK?

1 A. HARD WORK, HARD WORK. BUT, I ATE. NOT VERY WELL, I
2 WAS HUNGRY THERE BECAUSE SHE WAS NOT A WEALTHY
3 PERSON AND, I HAD TO STEAL A COUPLE OF TIMES.
4 CRACKERS, AND THINGS LIKE THAT. I WAS HUNGRY, AND I
5 REALLY DIDN'T HAVE ANY MONEY. MY DAY OFF WAS
6 WEDNESDAY AND I WROTE A STORY ON WEDNESDAY.

7 Q. DID SHE HAVE A FAMILY? WAS THERE ANYBODY AROUND FOR
8 YOU TO TALK TO?

9 A. MY SISTER. WELL, MY UNCLE WAS BUSY. HE HAD LOVE
10 AFFAIRS GOING. SO, HE WAS NOT THAT INTERESTED IN ME.
11 I COULDN'T ASK MORE OF HIM. I MEAN, HE SAVED MY
12 LIFE, SO TO SPEAK.

13 Q. SO, YOU WERE IN CONTACT WITH YOUR SISTER?

14 A. YES, BUT, I HAD A TERRIBLE DEAL WITH THE TELEPHONE
15 BECAUSE I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT THE CALLS WERE SO
16 EXPENSIVE. AND, YOU KNOW, YOU CAN'T JUST USE THE
17 TELEPHONE. SO, I GOT INTO HOT WATER ABOUT THAT.

18 Q. BECAUSE YOU USED THE TELEPHONE AND CHALKED UP SOME
19 EXPENSIVE CALLS?

20 A. NOT REALLY VERY MANY, BUT A FEW I DID, YES. SO, I
21 OFFERED TO PAY HER BACK WITH WHATEVER I HAD. I
22 LEARNED THE HARD WAY. YOU DON'T USE SOMEBODY'S
23 TELEPHONE JUST LIKE THAT. BUT, I MET MY SISTER ON
24 MY DAY OFF WHICH WAS WEDNESDAY.

25 Q. YOU WENT TO THE ORPHANAGE?

1 A. I DON'T WANT TO CALL IT ORPHANAGE. SHE CALLED IT
2 THE HOSTAL. TOOK THE UNDERGROUND, LEARNED HOW TO DO
3 ALL THOSE THINGS. AND, MET HER THERE AND USUALLY
4 WALKED TO HYDE PARK, IT WAS NOT THAT FAR FROM HER.
5 WE LOVED IT. THEY HAD A LITTLE TEA HOUSE IN HYDE
6 PARK AND IN THE LITTLE CAFE, THE TEA HOUSE, ON THE
7 TABLES WERE BEAUTIFUL PASTRIES SET UP. AND, THEY
8 HAD THE HONOR SYSTEM THERE GOING. IF YOU TAKE ONE,
9 YOU PAY FOR ONE. WE DROOLED OVER THOSE THINGS. TO
10 THIS DAY, I CAN'T GO BY PASTRIES. AND, HONEST TO
11 GOODNESS, I STOLE ONE. WE HAD REALLY NO MONEY. WE
12 PAID FOR TWO, BUT, WE ATE THREE. I HAD THE ONLY
13 MONEY. I HAD TO HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO GET ME BACK ON
14 THE UNDERGROUND AND VANITTI AND I ATE TWO THERE.
15 THEN, WHEN WE LEFT, WE LOOKED AND THERE WERE TWO
16 MORE THERE. AND I SAID, "DO YOU THINK ANYBODY WOULD
17 KNOW IF I TAKE ONE?" SHE SAID "ONE DOESN'T DO THAT
18 HERE". I SAID "BUT, I'M SO DARN HUNGRY, I WON'T
19 MAKE IT UNTIL I GET HOME". SO, WITHOUT HER LOOKING,
20 I TOOK ONE OF THOSE BEAUTIFUL PASTRIES AND SQUASHED
21 IT IN MY HAND AND WE CALMLY WALKED ACROSS THE LAWN
22 AND OUT OF HYDE PARK. AND AT THE EDGE OF IT COMING
23 THROUGH THE GATE, I SAID TO HER "YOU KNOW, YOU CAN
24 HAVE HALF OF THIS, A LITTLE CRUSHED BUT WE CAN EAT
25 THIS NOW". AND SHE SAID "YOU STOLE IT?" I SAID

1 "WELL, I CAN'T HELP IT, I'M TOO HUNGRY, I WON'T MAKE
2 IT HOME. I MEAN, I WON'T MAKE IT ALL THE WAY TO
3 EDGEWEAR AND I KNOW THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME TO EAT
4 THERE WHEN I COME HOME BECAUSE SHE'S PROBABLY FIN-
5 IShed WITH HER DINNER AND EVERYTHING". SO, THIRTEEN
6 YEARS LATER, I REPLACED THIS PIECE OF PASTRY.

7
8 Q. NO? YOU WENT BACK AND BOUGHT ONE?

9 A. NO. I WENT BACK WITH MY YOUNGEST DAUGHTER AND I
10 SAID "LET'S GO TO HYDE PARK AND LET'S GO TO THE TEA
11 HOUSE. I HAVE TO REPAY ONE OF THE PASTRIES". BUT,
12 WHAT I DID IS I PAID FOR THREE INSTEAD OF TWO.

13 Q. THAT HAD BOTHERED YOU ALL OF THOSE YEARS?

14 A. WELL, IT DIDN'T BOTHER ME BUT, I KNOW IT WAS SOME-
15 THING RIGHT AND I WANTED TO DO JUSTICE TO IT. SO, I
16 WROTE A STORY ABOUT IT, ABOUT THE PASTRY OF HYDE
17 PARK.

18 AND, OF COURSE THE LIONS PLACE WAS OUR PLACE, THE
19 UTMOST TO GO TO LIONS. WELL, WHEN I CAME BACK TO
20 ENGLAND, I SAW LIONS AND I SAID "HOW CAN ANYBODY EAT
21 AT LIONS"? BUT, FOR US, FOOD WAS A VERY IMPORTANT
22 THING, FOOD WAS. FOOD IS A VERY IMPORTANT THING.
23 I KNOW MRS. COOPER'S OLDER CHILDREN LIVED AROUND AND
24 USED TO TORTURE ME. I KNOW I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THE
25 WORD 'DISGRACE' WAS IN MY ENGLISH VOCABULARY SO, THE
OLDEST DAUGHTER WHO DIDN'T LIVE THERE ANYMORE BUT

1 CAME TO INSPECT THINGS TOLD ME THAT THE BATHROOM WAS
2 A DISGRACE. SO, I SAID TO HER "WHAT IS A DISGRACE"?
3 SO, NOW I KNOW WHAT A DISGRACE IS. I DIDN'T THINK
4 IT WAS A DISGRACE. AND, ALSO THE DOUBLE BEDS. WE
5 WERE NOT USED TO DOUBLE BEDS AT ALL AND HOW TO MAKE
6 A DOUBLE BED, THAT'S A DIFFERENT STORY.

7 Q. WHY WERE THEY SO MEAN TO YOU?

8 A. I THINK THEY DIDN'T REALLY THINK I NEEDED TO BE
9 THERE. SEE, THE OLDEST SON WAS STILL LIVING THERE
10 TOO AND THAT MIGHT HAVE BOTHERED THE SISTER. I WAS
11 REALLY BENEATH THAT. I MEAN, THEY WERE ALREADY
12 ANGLESIZED WHERE THE MOTHER WAS REALLY A NICE PER-
13 SON. I SNITCHED THE CRACKERS FROM HER SOMETIMES
14 BECAUSE I WAS HUNGRY. AND, WHEN I CAME BACK TO
15 ENGLAND, I TRIED TO CALL HER AND TALK TO HER BUT,
16 THERE WAS NO ANSWER ANYMORE. THERE'S NOBODY LIVING
17 THERE ANYMORE. SHE MUST BE EITHER DEAD OR GONE.
18 SO, I COULDN'T TALK TO HER.
19 BUT THEN THE WAR STARTED. I WAS THERE AND THAT
20 MEANT I MIGHT NEVER GET OUT. SO, THE SECOND WORLD
21 WAR STARTED AND THAT NIGHT, THE NIGHT BEFORE, MY
22 MOTHER TALKED TO ME ON THE PHONE. SHE TALKED TO ME
23 ON THE PHONE AND, I HAD ANOTHER GAL WITH ME. THE
24 DAUGHTER OF A FRIEND OF MY MOTHER'S. WE WERE TALK-
25 ING TO HER ON THE PHONE. SHE CALLED BECAUSE I THINK

1 THEY KNEW THAT THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN.

2 ALSO, I HAD ALREADY A VISA. ABOUT THAT TIME, MAYBE
3 TWO DAYS BEFORE THE WAR, I WENT TO THE CONSULANT,
4 AMERICAN CONSULANT. MY VISA ARRIVED. MY HUSBAND
5 SENT ME A VISA FROM AMERICA.

6 HE HAD FOUND A JOB. HE PLAYED THE VIOLIN FOR MAJOR
7 BOWS. NOW, YOU MAY NOT KNOW MAJOR BOWS BUT, DO YOU
8 REMEMBER THE 'INK SPOTS', THE GROUP THAT WAS CALLED
9 THE 'INK SPOTS'? WELL, MAJOR BOWS WAS AN AMATEUR
10 HOUR, AN ORIGINAL AMATEUR HOUR. BUT, ALSO HAD A
11 UNIT OF MUSICIANS AND ROAD WHEEL ACTS THAT WENT
12 AROUND THE COUNTRY. WELL, MY HUSBAND ONCE PLAYED A
13 VIOLIN. NOT REALLY VERY WELL, BUT HE PLAYED A
14 VIOLIN LIKE EVERY JEWISH BOY HAD TO PLAY A VIOLIN.
15 AND, HE KNEW HOW TO HANDLE THE VIOLIN.

16 SO, SOMEBODY SOMEHOW RELATED TO ME, YOU KNOW, YOU
17 FIND ALL KIND OF RELATIVES IN SUCH A SITUATION, WAS
18 OFFERING TO PUT AN AFFIDAVIT FOR ME OUT. AND, THEN
19 I NEEDED THREE AFFIDAVITS. CAN YOU IMAGINE A PERSON
20 -- I WAS TWENTY-ONE YEARS OLD AND I WAS PRODUCTIVE.
21 I WAS ABLE TO WORK. I NEEDED THREE AFFIDAVITS TO
22 COME INTO THE COUNTRY.

23 Q. THREE AFFIDAVITS FROM PEOPLE IN AMERICA?

24 A. YES. THREE AFFIDAVITS, THREE DIFFERENT PEOPLE FOR
25 ONE PERSON TWENTY-ONE YEARS OLD. SO I WOULDN'T EVER

1 ASK THE UNITED STATES FOR WELFARE ASSISTANCE OR
2 ANYTHING ELSE.

3 Q. GOD FORBID.

4 A. GOD FORBID. UNTIL I WILL BE A CITIZEN, AT LEAST
5 FIVE YEARS.

6 SO, HE WAS ABLE TO GET THE THREE AFFIDAVITS AND,
7 THEREFORE GOT A VISA. I WENT IN FRONT OF THE AMERI-
8 CAN COUNSEL IN BLOOMSBERRY PLACE, GRAVENO PLACE,
9 EXCUSE ME. AND HE SAID TO ME "TRY TO GET A TICKET
10 IMMEDIATELY". I DIDN'T REALIZE IT AT THAT TIME.
11 "TRY TO GET A TICKET IMMEDIATELY, BECAUSE OTHERWISE,
12 YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GET OUT." SO, I SAID "HOW WILL
13 I GET THE TICKET, I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO MONEY". SO
14 HE SAID "DO ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING TO SEE IF YOU
15 CAN GET A TICKET".

16 SO I DIDN'T EVEN GO HOME. I GOT THE VISA AND I GOT
17 OVER TO BLOOMSBERRY. BLOOMSBERRY HOUSE TOOK CARE OF
18 A LOT OF JEWISH IMMIGRATION THINGS. AND, I ASKED
19 THEM TO LOAN ME THE MONEY FOR THE TICKET BECAUSE I
20 HAD NO MONEY ON ME. I MEAN, I HAD A WEEKLY CHECK
21 THAT DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING. WOULD HAVE NEVER BROUGHT
22 ME OUT. I SAID "I HAVE TO GET OUT. MY HUSBAND IS
23 THERE AND I AM HERE AND WE'LL SEND YOU THE MONEY BIT
24 BY BIT". WELL, THEY SAID TO ME "WELL, MAYBE YOUR
25 HUSBAND CAN SEND THE MONEY FOR AT LEAST HALF THE

1 AMOUNT". SO, I THINK THEY SENT A CABLE AND HE DID
2 BORROW HALF THE AMOUNT. AND, THAT WAS SENT TO THEM.
3 I KNOW, I WENT RIGHT TO THE SHIP'S LINE FROM THE
4 BLOOMSBERRY HOUSE AND GOT THE TICKET. IT WAS IN-
5 CREDIBLE. I WORKED OVERTIME, REALLY. MY LAST MONEY
6 WAS SPENT. I HAD NO MONEY FOR THE UNDERGROUND TO GO
7 HOME. SO, I HAD TO GET BACK TO BLOOMSBERRY HOUSE
8 AND I SAID "GIVE ME THE MONEY SO I CAN GO BACK".
9 WHICH THEY DID.

10 THEN, I HAD ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS MADE. I LEFT
11 SEPTEMBER 10. THE WAR WAS DECLARED AND I HAD TO GET
12 TO THE SHIP. THE SHIP LEAVES FROM SOUTHAMPTON, IT
13 DOESN'T LEAVE FROM LONDON. IT HAS TO LEAVE FROM A
14 PORT. SO, I HAD TO GET ON THE TRAIN IN LONDON.
15 MY UNCLE WAS NICE ENOUGH -- AND, ALSO THE BLACK OUT
16 WAS ON ALREADY. THE BLACK OUT, AND THE FIRST AIR
17 RAID WAS ON. I MEAN, ALL THE TIME WE WERE WAITING
18 FOR THIS, THERE WAS ALL KIND OF THINGS HAPPENING.
19 THE ENGLISH WERE DIGGING FOR SHELTERS. THE BARAGE
20 BALLOONS WENT UP.

21 Q. WHAT ARE BARAGE BALLOONS?

22 A. THOSE WERE THE BALLOONS THEY THOUGHT COULD KEEP THE
23 BOMBS AWAY. THEY DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING LATER ON.
24 THEY WERE LIKE BIG ZEPELINS. ALL AROUND THE CITY OF
25 LONDON. THEY FLOATED IN THE AIR. AND, I REMEMBER

1 ONE NIGHT, THE NIGHT BEFORE THE WAR WAS DECLARED, OR
2 THE NIGHT THE WAR WAS DECLARED, MRS. COOPER AND I
3 COOKED JAM ALL NIGHT. SECURED THE WINDOWS WITH TAPE
4 AND BLACK OUTS. IT WAS A VERY DIFFICULT TIME.
5 NOT ONLY THAT, I BECAME, AGAIN, AN ENEMY ALIEN. THIS
6 TIME BECAUSE I WAS GERMAN. I HAD TO GO EVERYDAY AND
7 SHOW MYSELF, IN EDGEWEAR. THAT WAS THE MOST HORRI-
8 BLE FEELING. ALL OF A SUDDEN I BECAME A GERMAN
9 AGAIN. IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE SITUATION. IT FELT SO
10 AWFUL, I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE I WAS. LIKE A MAN, A
11 PERSON WITHOUT A COUNTRY.
12 SO, SOMEHOW I MADE IT. I STAYED A NIGHT AT MY
13 UNCLE'S HOUSE. PITCH BLACK DARK, YOU HAD TO GET
14 USED TO THIS DARKNESS. YOU LATER ON DO, YOU WORK
15 WITH THE STARS VERY WELL, IF THERE ARE STARS. AND,
16 I LEFT ALMOST ALL MY BELONGINGS. I DIDN'T HAVE VERY
17 MANY BELONGINGS. I TOOK THE SEFER TORAHS. I DIDN'T
18 CARE, I HAD MY DRESS ON AND MY COAT ON. NOTHING
19 CARED. YOU DON'T CARE FOR THOSE THINGS ANYMORE, IT
20 DOESN'T MATTER. HE TOOK ME TO THE TRAIN THE FOLLOW-
21 ING DAY. ALSO, AIR RAID AGAIN. BLACK OUTS AGAIN.
22 I MADE IT TO THE SHIP. IT WAS THE 'ACRITANIA'. IT
23 WAS THE LAST SHIP THAT LEFT AS A PASSENGER SHIP FROM
24 THE SHORES. IT WAS A SHIP THE AMERICANS WERE CALLED
25 HOME ON. AND, IT WENT WITH TWO DESTROYERS ON EACH

1 SIDE, AND ON A ZIG-ZAG COURSE. SO I, OF COURSE, HAD
2 A THIRD CLASS TICKET. I SLEPT RIGHT OVER THE EN-
3 GINES AND THEY WOULD STOP AT NIGHT, AND I PRAYED,
4 PLEASE JUST GO, GO. I DIDN'T CARE. I WASN'T AFRAID
5 OF BOMBS, I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT SUBMARINES. IT DIDN'T
6 FAZE ME. I JUST WANTED TO GO. YOU KNOW, YOU JUST
7 DON'T EVEN THINK. IT WAS TERRIBLY CROWDED AND YOU
8 IMAGINE, THIRD CLASS IS NOT THE BEST PLACE EVER
9 ASKED FOR. FOUR OR FIVE PEOPLE IN ONE OF THOSE
10 LITTLE CABINS. AND, IT TOOK MUCH LONGER THAN THE
11 USUAL CROSSING BECAUSE ON ACCOUNT OF THE ZIG-ZAG
12 COURSE AND WE HAD THOSE BIG DESTROYERS AND OF COURSE
13 WE DIDN'T SAIL AT NIGHT.

14 SO, I FINALLY ARRIVED IN NEW YORK, AND WOULDN'T YOU
15 KNOW ON THE SHABBOS. SO SINCE MY HUSBAND'S FAMILY
16 WAS VERY ORTHODOX, THIS WAS AN ABSOLUTE NO, NO. HOW
17 CAN ANYONE HAVE THE HUTZPAH TO ARRIVE ON A SHABBOS?
18 ON A SHIP THAT GOES, DON'T THEY KNOW ANY BETTER?
19 NO, THEY DON'T KNOW ANY BETTER. SO, WE HAD TO
20 FABRICATE. IT WAS WONDERFUL TO SEE MY HUSBAND
21 AGAIN. I HAD NO PROBLEMS GETTING OFF.

22 Q. HE WAS WAITING FOR YOU?

23 A. HE WAS WAITING FOR ME, YES. WE CABLED, YES, HE WAS
24 WAITING FOR ME. AND, HE HAD TWO DOLLARS AND I HAD
25 TWO DOLLARS AND WE HAD TO GO AND FIND A PLACE TO

1 LIVE.

2 Q. WHERE WAS HE STAYING?

3 A. HE STAYED WITH HIS FAMILY, HE WAS PART OF HIS FAM-
4 ILY. AND, WE REALLY HAD TO GET A ROOM SOMEWHERE.
5 THEY LIVED ON THE EAST SIDE, EAST SIDE NEW YORK, AND
6 THEN IN WILLIAMSBURG IN BROOKLYN, ALSO ON THE EAST
7 SIDE. I CARED LESS. AND I NEEDED TO GET A JOB,
8 ALSO.

9 SO, HERE WE HAD FOUR DOLLARS. WELL, FOUR DOLLARS
10 WAS MORE THEN THAN NOW. SO, FIRST HE SAID TO ME,
11 "YOU TELL THEM THAT YOU CAME YESTERDAY AND WE JUST
12 WENT SOMEWHERE. TO YOUR AUNT'S OR TO THIS ONE, I
13 DON'T KNOW WHAT". WE FABRICATED THE STORY, I STILL
14 THINK IT'S VERY FUNNY.

15 SO, WE WENT TO WILLIAMSBURG WHICH IS IN BROOKLYN.
16 I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD OF ENGLISH. I DIDN'T
17 UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY SPOKE THERE. I WAS HORRIFIED.
18 I THOUGHT I COULD REALLY SPEAK IN ENGLISH, KING'S
19 ENGLISH. "WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?" I COULDN'T UNDER-
20 STAND THE PUSHCART PEOPLE, WHAT THEY WERE SELLING.
21 I SAID "WHAT IS IT, WHAT LANGUAGE ARE THEY SPEAK-
22 ING"? I DIDN'T KNOW YIDDISH NEITHER. I LEARNED AS
23 MUCH LATER BECAUSE I LOVED IT.

24 Q. SO, ALL YOU USED WAS AMERICAN ENGLISH AND YIDDISH,
25 PROBABLY, RIGHT?

1 A. THAT'S ALL. AND, YOU NEVER UNDERSTAND ANY OF THE
2 VENDERS. THE PUSHCART VENDERS ANYHOW, BECAUSE THEY
3 HAVE THEIR OWN LANGUAGE. AND, THIS WAS VERY DIFFI-
4 CULT.

5 SO, WE RENTED ONE ROOM WITH ONE BIG BED AND A THOU-
6 SAND COCK ROACHES. THE BATHROOM WAS ON THE
7 FLOOR.

8 Q. THE BATHROOM ON THE FLOOR, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

9 A. SOMEWHERE, YES. ON THE STAIRCASE SOMEWHERE. NOT IN
10 THE ROOM, OF COURSE. WE HAD ONE BURNER THAT WE
11 COULD COOK ON.

12 Q. HOW DID YOU DO IT WITH THAT FOUR DOLLARS?

13 A. I DID IT. WE PAID THE RENT. LUCKILY, THE FAMILY
14 HAD SOME FOOD FOR THE FIRST FEW DAYS FOR US. WE
15 COULD EAT THERE. WE COULDN'T BUY ANYTHING. WE
16 WALKED A LOT. MY HUSBAND, BOTH SHOES OF HIS, THE
17 ONLY PAIR HE HAD, HAD HUGE HOLES IN THEM. AND, HE
18 USED TO STICK CHEWING GUM INTO IT.

19 Q. WHAT WAS HE DOING THERE IN AMERICA?

20 A. NOW, HE WAS THROUGH WITH MAJOR BOWS AND HE DID MAKE
21 SOME MONEY SO HE WAS ABLE TO HELP HIMSELF AND BUY
22 SOME THINGS TO WEAR. ALL THROUGH THIS TIME, THAT
23 YEAR THAT WE DIDN'T SEE EACH OTHER, HE HAD TO SUR-
24 VIVE THIS WAY. BUT, HE ALSO LEARNED ENGLISH. HE
25 SAT IN MOVIES, HE SPENT A LOT OF MONEY ON MOVIES.

1 AND, THAT'S HOW HE LEARNED, LOOKING AT FILMS. BE-
2 CAUSE HE HEARD THE SPEAKING, BECAUSE WITH HIS FAM-
3 ILY, HE SPOKE YIDDISH. HE NEVER HAD ANY ENGLISH IN
4 SCHOOL BECAUSE HE TOOK ALL LANGUAGES. LATIN AND
5 GREEK, AND HEBREW. SO, HE HAD TO REALLY LEARN FROM
6 SCRATCH.

7 I REMEMBER, I WENT IMMEDIATELY TO WORK. PRACTICALLY
8 THE FOLLOWING DAY, WORKING CLEANING HOUSES.

9 Q. HOW DID YOU FIND THE HOUSE?

10 A. MY FATHER-IN-LAW WAS ALREADY IN THE STATES. HE
11 WENT, YOU REMEMBER? BUT, HE LIVED IN A CELLAR HOLE.
12 WHAT HE DID WAS HE SORTED SACKS. SACKS FROM RICE
13 AND GRAIN AND STUFF. SORTED THEM, AND THEN WE SOLD
14 THEM.

15 Q. WAS YOUR HUSBAND CLOSE WITH HIS FATHER?

16 A. I DON'T THINK ANYBODY WAS CLOSE TO HIM. HE WAS A
17 VERY QUIET MAN, A VERY NICE MAN. THIS WAS A MIXED-
18 MARRIAGE, HIS MARRIAGE AT THAT TIME. HE WAS MUCH
19 OLDER THAN HIS WIFE. HIS MOTHER, THE WIFE OF BENJA-
20 MIN, BENJAMIN WAS THE FATHER, WAS A VERY FUN-LOVING
21 PERSON. LOVED TO GO TO OPERAS AND PLAYS, AND A
22 BEAUTIFUL PERSON. I HAVE AN OLDER DAUGHTER THAT
23 LOOKS LIKE HER. SHE'S REALLY GORGEOUS, BEAUTIFUL.
24 THEY WERE COMPLETELY MIS-MATCHED.

25 Q. MOYSHE'S MOTHER?

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A. MOYSHE'S MOTHER.

Q. I SEE, WAS THE LIVELY ONE?

A. YES, YES, YES. MY MOTHER WAS TOO, BUT, EVERYBODY LOVED HER. I KNOW THAT WHEN HIS FAMILY THAT I KNOW NOW, SOME OF THE FAMILY IN ISRAEL, THEY ADORED HER BECAUSE SHE ALWAYS LOOKED VERY NICE AND VERY FUN-LOVING AND LOVED MUSIC AND SO ON.

SO, HE LIVED AND HE WAS HORRIFIED THAT I WOULD WORK FOR JEWISH PEOPLE IN A HOUSEHOLD. HE SAID "THAT CAN'T BE, THAT MUST NOT BE. A YIDDISH'S KIND MUZ ARBEITEN FOR YIDDS?" THAT WAS A NO, NO. I DIDN'T CARE. TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I DIDN'T CARE. IT WAS A VERY FUNNY SITUATION. SHE HAD BIG BOYS, THEY WERE MEN ALREADY.

Q. HOW DID YOU GET THE POSITION?

A. GOD, I DON'T KNOW.

Q. YOU JUST GOT IT SOMEHOW?

A. I JUST GOT IT SOMEHOW. I PROBABLY WENT TO A PLACE WHERE THEY HAD IT LISTED. IT WAS A HORRIBLE LONG RIDE ON THE STREET CAR AND IT WAS VERY COLD. AND, SHE WAS A MEAN LADY. SHE KEPT ME ALL THE DISHES FROM THE NIGHT BEFORE AND IT WAS ALWAYS OVERFLOWING FROM THE WHOLE DAY BEFORE. THAT WAS THE FIRST THING I HAD TO FACE. THEN, I HAD TO IRON THE UNDERSHORTS, THE UNDERWEAR OF THE BOYS, I HAD TO IRON THEM. IT

1 WAS REAL CRAZY. EVERYTHING HAD TO BE JUST SO. SHE
2 WAS MEAN, BUT WHO CARED, I HAD A JOB, AND I GOT
3 MONEY. I DIDN'T KNOW. AMERICA WAS A NEW COUNTRY TO
4 ME. I DIDN'T KNOW WHO'S WHAT AND WHAT'S WHAT. SO,
5 I TELL YOU ONE THING. YOU LEARN TO ADJUST VERY
6 QUICKLY IN SITUATIONS IF YOU'VE EVER BEEN A REFUGEE.

7 Q. SURVIVAL TECHNIQUES?

8 A. YES. IT'S WONDERFUL TO LEARN TO DO THIS BUT, I
9 COULD FIND A DIFFERENT WAY OF TEACHING. BUT, I
10 DON'T RESENT THIS, THAT THE WOMAN WAS MEAN, OR NOT
11 MEAN. I LEARNED TO DO THINGS. MAYBE I DIDN'T DO
12 THINGS RIGHT. NOT FOR HER SAKE, ANYWAY.

13 Q. WHAT DID SHE THINK OF YOU BEING A JEWISH REFUGEE?

14 A. SHE DIDN'T THINK ANYTHING. SHE DIDN'T ASK ANY QUES-
15 TIONS. SHE DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO KNOW, TO TELL YOU
16 THE TRUTH. SHE DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW.

17 SO, THAT DIDN'T LAST VERY LONG BECAUSE HIS FATHER
18 WAS VERY ADAMANT THAT I CHANGE MY JOB. SO, THERE
19 WERE THREE BROTHERS IN THE FAMILY THAT WERE SUB-
20 CONTRACTORS OF CHILDREN'S UNDERWEAR PRODUCTION. ON
21 JAMAICA AVENUE IN A PLACE THAT WOULD BURN DOWN ANY
22 MINUTE. YOU KNOW, IMMEDIATELY IF THERE WAS THE
23 SLIGHTEST SPARK, RICKETY OLD BUILDING. SO, THEY
24 TOOK ME ON. I NEVER WORKED ON A POWER MACHINE, A
25 POWER SEWING MACHINE. IT'S REALLY FRIGHTENING WHEN

1 YOU FIRST GET ON ONE. I WASN'T VERY GOOD AT SEWING,
2 FIRST THING. BUT, I SAID I KNEW.

3 Q. THESE WEREN'T BROTHERS OF MOYSHE?

4 A. NO, THEY WERE FAR, FAR COUSINS. YOU KNOW, YOU DIG
5 UP THOSE PEOPLE. AND, THE REST OF THE FAMILY WORKED
6 THERE. SOME OF THEM. YOU SEE, THOSE WERE IMIGRANTS
7 THAT WORKED THERE.

8 THEY TOOK ME ON AND THEY PUT ME ON COLD, LIKE I WAS
9 HERE NOT KNOWING, ON ONE OF THOSE POWER SEWING
10 MACHINES. SO, I SAID, "OH YES, I KNOW HOW TO DO
11 THIS". YES, BUT, THEN I WOULD WHISPER TO SOMEBODY
12 NEXTDOOR, YOU KNOW, "CAN YOU SHOW ME?" WHEN THIS
13 THING BROKE, THE THREAD, I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO THREAD
14 THE NEEDLE BECAUSE IT WAS DIFFERENT.

15 ANYHOW, WHAT I DID IS I SEWED TOGETHER THE SHOULDER
16 SEAMS ON TOP OF CHILDREN'S PETTICOATS ALL DAY LONG.
17 YOU WERE ALLOWED TO GO TO THE BATHROOM ONCE, I
18 THINK, OR SO. AND, ONE OF THE BROTHERS WOULD ALWAYS
19 STAND IN FRONT OF THE BATHROOM DOOR AND WATCH THE
20 CLOCK, HOW LONG YOU SPEND IN THE BATHROOM. I'LL
21 NEVER FORGET THAT.

22 THE WORSE THING WAS THEY COULDN'T UNDERSTAND, THEY
23 WERE HORRIFIED WITH ME. TO THIS DAY, I HEAR THEM
24 SAY "A YIDDESHES KIND UN ES KENNISHT SHMUSEN YID-
25 DISH?" (A YIDDISH'S KIN AND SHE CANNOT SPEAK YID-

1 DISH?) AS SUCH A THING SHOULD HAPPEN TO THEM? YOU
2 KNOW, SO, I DECIDED IT'S TIME TO LEARN THE YIDDISH.
3 I KNEW THE GERMAN. MY YIDDISH IS NOT THE GREATEST
4 BUT I CAN WORK IT OUT AND MAKE MYSELF UNDERSTOOD.
5 SO, I PIECED IT TOGETHER AND THEY JUST COULDN'T GET
6 OVER THAT.

7 Q. WHAT COULDN'T THEY GET OVER?

8 A. SUCH A PERSON THAT CAN NOT SPEAK YIDDISH WOULD WORK
9 FOR HIM. THIS WAS BEYOND THEM. SO, I SAID "WELL,
10 I'LL LEARN".

11 THEY GAVE ME TWO BIG BUNDLES OF THE FRONTS OF THE
12 PETTICOATS AND THE BACKS. ONE LEFT AND ONE RIGHT.
13 AND, THEN YOU TAKE ONE UP, THE NEXT UP, PUT THEM
14 TOGETHER AND ZOOMED THEM UP AND YOU MAKE THE SEAM.
15 WELL, I DON'T UNDERSTAND. I ALWAYS HAD SOME LEFT
16 OVER.

17 Q. OF ONE OR THE OTHER?

18 A. OF ONE OR THE OTHER. YES. SO, OBVIOUSLY, SOME KIDS
19 WORE BOTH FRONTS OR BOTH BACKS. THERE'S A VERY
20 SLIGHT DIFFERENCE. I WOULD NEVER TELL THEM THAT. I
21 HAD AN APRON ON AND I HAD A POCKET IN IT AND I
22 STUFFED ALL THOSE RAGS IN THE POCKET AND I HAD MORE
23 RAGS TO TAKE HOME. USE THEM FOR HANDKERCHIEFS.
24 THAT WAS TERRIBLE.

25 I HAD THAT JOB FOR A WHILE AND WHEN MY HUSBAND

1 FINALLY GOT A PULPIT IN CALIFORNIA, HE SAID "DON'T
2 GIVE UP THIS JOB, I MUST FIRST SEE IF THIS IS OKAY
3 FOR ME". THIS WONDERFUL JOB THAT I GOT \$.35 AN HOUR,
4 DON'T GIVE IT UP.

5 I ALSO HAD TO GET INTO THE UNION AND I HAD NO MONEY
6 TO PAY THE UNION, WHICH, AT THAT TIME WAS \$20 OR
7 SOMETHING. I AM IN THE GARMENT'S UNION. I STILL
8 HAVE A CARD. I WENT TO THE UNION AND I STOOD IN
9 FRONT OF DUBINSKY AND PLEADED MY CASE THAT I COULD
10 STUTTER OFF THIS UNION BOOK. SO, HE TOLD ME I COULD
11 STUTTER IT OFF AT SO MUCH A MONTH FOR THE BOOK.

12 Q. WHAT IS THE BOOK?

13 A. YOU HAVE TO HAVE A UNION BOOK. IT'S LIKE A MEMBER-
14 SHIP CARD.

15 Q. WHO WAS THIS MAN?

16 A. DUBINSKY.

17 Q. WHO WAS THAT?

18 A. HE WAS THE PRESIDENT OF THE GARMENT UNION. I STOOD
19 THERE IN FRONT TO PLEAD MY CASE. I'LL NEVER FORGET
20 THAT. THEY ALLOWED ME TO DO THIS.

21 Q. YOU MEAN, TO GET IT WITHOUT PAYING THE FULL PRICE
22 FOR IT, INITIALLY? PAY IT OFF?

23 A. YES, PAY IT OFF BIT BY BIT. I PAID IT OFF, INSTALL-
24 MENTS.

25 Q. BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T WORK UNLESS YOU HAD IT, RIGHT?

1 A. YES, IT WAS A UNION SHOP THEN, ALREADY. AND, THE
2 UNIONS WERE NOT THAT OLD. SO, I HAVE A UNION CARD.
3 THAT WAS IN 1939.

4 Q. ALL OF THAT HAPPENED IN 1939?

5 A. WELL, CONTINUALLY THINGS HAPPENED. SO, I FINALLY
6 WORKED WITH JEWISH PEOPLE AND SOME OF THE FAMILY
7 WORKED THERE. SO, EITHER I WAS ON THE POWER MACHINE
8 AND THEN I WAS A FINISHER. A FINISHER TAKES OFF THE
9 THREADS THAT ARE LEFT. THEN, I FOLDED. THEN I WAS
10 A FOLDER, I FOLDED THE STUFF.

11 Q. WAS THAT STEPS UP, OR WAS THAT JUST SIDEWAYS? WAS
12 IT BETTER TO BE A FINISHER?

13 A. NO. I THINK THE POWER MACHINES HAD PREFERENCE.
14 BUT, I GUESS THEY FOUND OUT HOW BAD I AM. THEY
15 CAUGHT ON TO IT, MISSING PIECES. BUT, IT WAS A
16 TERRIBLE PLACE, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN CONDEMNED NOWA-
17 DAYS. WE WOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED TO WORK IN A PLACE
18 LIKE THIS.

19 Q. DID YOU KEEP TO YOURSELF?

20 A. NO, I NEVER KEPT TO MYSELF. I HAVE A WAY OF GETTING
21 QUITE WELL ALONG WITH PEOPLE AND IT DOESN'T MATTER
22 TO ME WHAT THEY ARE. THANK GOODNESS, I NEVER KEPT
23 TO MYSELF. I TALK TO PEOPLE. AND, THEY WERE REALLY
24 QUITE NICE TO ME. THE THREE MEN, I COULDN'T WARM UP
25 TO THEM. IT WASN'T NECESSARY. BUT, SOME OF THE

1 PEOPLE THAT WORKED THERE WERE VERY HELPFUL. THEY
2 WERE VERY NICE. THEY KEPT TOGETHER, YOU KNOW. NOW,
3 ONE WORKED THERE, A DISTANT COUSIN OF MY HUSBAND'S,
4 WORKED THERE FOR A LONG TIME AND SHE BECAME A VERY
5 FINE TEACHER AND TAUGHT, AND YOU KNOW, I HAVE MET
6 SOME OF THE PEOPLE BACK.

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8 Q. SO, YOU EVENTUALLY JOINED YOUR HUSBAND IN CALI-
9 FORNIA?

10 A. YES. HE FINALLY CALLED ME AND SAID "YES, I GUESS I
11 WILL KEEP THIS JOB." SO IS SAID "HOW AM I GOING TO
12 GET OUT THERE? WE DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY." I WAS
13 STILL SURROUNDED BY COCK ROACHES AND. HE SAID "I
14 DON'T KNOW. THE CHEAPEST WAY OUT IS THE GREYHOUND
15 BUS." I SAID "OH, THAT SOUNDS REAL GOOD, I'LL SEE
16 AMERICA". I TOOK THE GREYHOUND BUS BUT, I NEVER
17 REALIZED IT WAS FIVE NIGHTS AND FIVE DAYS NO THE
18 SAME BUS AND I TOOK ONE SUITCASE OF SOMETHING, WE
19 DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING ANYWAY, YOU KNOW, WITH ME.
20 AND, I HAD NEVER ANY CHANGE WITH ME. I DIDN'T
21 REALIZE I WOULD GO THROUGH DAY AND NIGHT AND DAY AND
22 NIGHT. SO, WHEN I CAME TO CALIFORNIA, IT WAS FEB-
23 RUARY, I THINK, AND I WAS SO HOT. I TOOK EVERYTHING
24 OFF ME. PEOPLE THOUGHT I'M CRAZY. BECAUSE IT WAS
25 COLD IN THE EAST. IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO GET USED TO
IT.

1 THEN, I HAD TO LOOK HALF-WAY DECENT. THERE WAS A
2 CONGREGATION THERE. AND, I BECAME PREGNANT REAL
3 QUICK. THEN, IT'S ANOTHER LONG STORY.

4 Q. SO, YOU HAD FOUR CHILDREN, AND THEY'VE ALL DONE
5 QUITE WELL FOR THEMSELVES. A NUTRITIONIST, AND A
6 MANAGER FOR MERRILL LYNCH, AND A SOCIAL WORKER, AND
7 AN OPTOMETRIST? I WANTED TO KNOW WHAT GOT TALKED
8 ABOUT WHEN THEY WERE KIDS AND WHAT FEELINGS YOU
9 THINK THEY HAD ABOUT YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND'S EXPERI-
10 ENCES?

11 A. WE TALKED ALWAYS AT THE DINNER TIME, WHEN WE WERE
12 ALL TOGETHER. I INSISTED UPON BEING TOGETHER AT ONE
13 TIME IN THE DAY TIME. THAT ONE TIME WAS DINNER
14 TIME, USUALLY. WE FELT VERY STRONGLY, AND SO DID
15 THEY, I THINK BECAUSE, THEY WERE WONDERING WHERE ALL
16 THEIR GRANDPARENTS WENT. SO, THAT HAD TO BE AN-
17 SWERED. AND, IT WAS ANSWERED AND THERE WAS EVERY
18 BIT OF TRUTH SPOKEN WITH IT. THEY WERE NOT IN
19 HEAVEN. WE TOLD THEM WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM. WHEN
20 THEY ASKED QUESTIONS, THEY WERE READY TO HEAR THE
21 RIGHT ANSWERS. SO, YES, THEY KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO
22 US.

23 Q. DID THEY HAVE NIGHTMARES OR ANYTHING?

24 A. NO, NOBODY HAS NIGHTMARES. THEY SLEEP VERY WELL.

25 Q. ANOTHER THING IS A SYNDROME AMONG CHILDREN OF SURVI-

1 VORS, IS THAT THEY FEEL LIKE THEY CAN NEVER LIVE UP
2 TO THEIR HEROIC PARENTS WHO SURVIVED THE WORST POS-
3 SIBLE THING THAT WE KNOW OF?

4 A. THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION. I REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW
5 THEY FEEL ABOUT IT. ONE WOULD REALLY HAVE TO TALK
6 TO THEM BECAUSE THERE MIGHT BE TIMES THAT THEY HAVE
7 QUALMS ABOUT THAT. IT'S A GOOD QUESTION THAT I
8 WOULD LIKE TO ASK THEM MYSELF, I HAVEN'T. THEY HAVE
9 BEEN MANAGING THEMSELVES VERY WELL. THEY ARE VERY
10 JEWISH, IF THERE'S SUCH A THING AS BEING VERY JEW-
11 ISH. THEY ARE ACTIVE IN VARIOUS JEWISH ORGANIZA-
12 TIONS. THEY HAVE BEEN TO ISRAEL, AND IF THEY
13 HAVEN'T, THEY WILL GO. AND, THEY SUPPORT JEWISH
14 CAUSES.

15 Q. YOUR GRANDCHILDREN ALSO ARE VERY ACTIVELY JEWISH AND
16 AWARE OF YOUR STORY?

17 A. YES. MY GRANDCHILDREN ARE. I WON'T REALLY LET THEM
18 FORGET BECAUSE TWO HAVE THE SEFER TORAHS NOW. THEY
19 KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. I SPOKE FROM THE PULPIT. IN
20 FACT, I WAS THE MAIN SPEAKER AT BOTH OF THEIR BAR
21 MITZVAH, AND EXPLAINED TO THE CONGREGATION WHAT THEY
22 WERE ALL ABOUT. I ASKED THEM TO BE KIND TO THE
23 TORAH. SO, THEY HEARD ME, MY WHOLE FAMILY HEARD ME.
24 THE GRANDCHILDREN ARE, IN FACT, THE REASON I'M WRIT-
25 ING ABOUT IT. THE CAUSE OF IT IS MY OLDEST GRAND-

1 DAUGHTER WHO WAS ASKED IN SUNDAY SCHOOL IN COLORADO
2 TO INTERVIEW AN OLDER JEWISH PERSON. NOW, IT DIDN'T
3 HAVE TO BE ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST. SHE THOUGHT THE
4 NEAREST TO HER WOULD BE GRANDMA. WELL, I HAPPENED
5 TO BE IN COLORADO, BUT ONLY FOR A VERY FEW DAYS.
6 SO, I SAID TO HER "WELL, NAOMI, YOU DON'T WRITE VERY
7 FAST, AND I HAVE A LOT TO TELL. HOW WOULD IT BE IF
8 I TALK IT ON TAPE?" AND SHE SAID "THAT'S A VERY
9 GOOD IDEA, GRANDMA." I SAID "WELL, ASK YOUR TEACHER
10 IF THIS WILL BE ALL RIGHT TO DO SO, AND THEN YOU CAN
11 TAKE IT OVER AND WRITE IT DOWN." SO, IT WAS AC-
12 CEPTED AND I MADE THE TAPES AND MY HUSBAND WAS NOT
13 CAPABLE OF DOING THAT. HE COULD NOT MAKE A TAPE OF
14 IT. IT WAS JUST TOO PAINFUL FOR HIM TO DO THIS. HE
15 NEVER WROTE ABOUT IT, NEITHER. WE HAVE HALF OF A
16 TAPE, NOTHING OF SIGNIFICANCE ON THIS TAPE.
17 I MADE THE TAPES AND WHEN I HEARD THEM, MY DAUGHTER
18 HAD THEM TRANSLITERATED AT THE UNIVERSITY IN COLO-
19 RADO, IN ENGLISH. I MEAN, IT IS IN ENGLISH ANYWAY,
20 BUT I MEAN, FROM THE TAPE TO PAPER. I COULDN'T
21 BELIEVE HOW AWFUL IT IS. IT SOUNDS LIKE THE DAY I
22 CAME TO AMERICA. IT WAS JUST UGLY, WHAT I WAS
23 TALKING ABOUT. I GUESS THE EMOTIONS CARRY YOU AWAY
24 WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT IT. SO, THAT'S WHEN I STARTED
25 TO WRITE. THAT'S ACTUALLY WHEN I STARTED TO WRITE.

- 1 Q. HOW MANY YEARS AGO WAS THAT?
- 2 A. JUST ABOUT TWO AND A HALF YEARS AGO.
- 3 Q. REALLY? AND, WAS THAT THE FIRST TIME THAT YOU HAD
- 4 DELVED INTO IT LIKE THAT?
- 5 A. INTO THAT. I DID AT CAL STATE WHEN I TOOK A COURSE
- 6 THERE IN ENGLISH, THIS PARTICULAR TEACHER WANTED
- 7 WRITINGS. I STARTED.
- 8 Q. AND, YOU ALSO DISCUSSED IT WITH YOUR CHILDREN WHEN
- 9 THEY WERE SMALL, RIGHT?
- 10 A. OH, YES, I DISCUSSED IT. THERE WAS NOTHING THAT WAS
- 11 HARBORED IN MY BODY. IT WAS TALKED ABOUT, YOU BET.
- 12 I MADE SURE OF THAT.
- 13 WHEN HE TOLD ME I SHOULD WRITE, HE THOUGHT IT WAS
- 14 OKAY, IT WAS GOOD. I SHOULD KEEP DOING THIS, SO, I
- 15 HAD A BOOST THERE.
- 16 Q. THAT WAS YOUR CAL STATE TEACHER WHO ENCOURAGED YOU?
- 17 A. YES.
- 18 Q. SO, YOU JUST STARTED WRITING TWO AND A HALF YEARS
- 19 AGO?
- 20 A. YES. I NEVER HAD ANY TIME BEFORE. IT'S A FOOLISH
- 21 THING TO SAY, THAT YOU DIDN'T HAVE TIME BEFORE.
- 22 BUT, I HAD CHILDREN AND I HAD WORK AND I HAD THIS
- 23 AND I HAD WORK FOR THE JEWISH.
- 24 Q. VOLUNTEER WORK?
- 25 A. A LOT OF VOLUNTEER WORK, A LOT OF VOLUNTEER WORK,

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YES.

Q. MAINLY FOR JEWISH CAUSES, RIGHT?

A. ONLY.

Q. ONLY FOR JEWISH CAUSES?

A. WELL, I DID WALK FOR THE MARCH OF DIMES, AND THINGS LIKE THIS, YOU KNOW. BUT, YES. VERY MUCH SO. IN FACT, I HAVE CONSIDERED GOING TO ISRAEL BUT, IT'S JUST THAT I HAVE TOO MUCH FAMILY HERE.

Q. TO LIVE IN ISRAEL, YOU MEAN?

A. YES. I GO EVERY TWO YEARS AND I SPEND THREE TO SIX MONTHS THERE.

Q. HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED ANY ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES?

A. OH, YES, OH YES, DEAR. MY CHILDREN HAVE IN THE SCHOOLS. OH YES, ONE OF THEM SAID "MY GOD, YOU'RE JEWISH, WHY DON'T YOU HAVE ANY HORNS ON YOUR HEAD?" OH YES, IN HAYWARD YES. MY SON STAN HAD A BIG FIGHT WITH SOMEBODY WHO CALLED HIM A DIRTY JEW. IT WENT ON FOR TWO DAYS, THIS FIGHT. THE PRINCIPAL FINALLY CALLED ME TO SCHOOL. I SAID "WELL, YOU CALL AN ASSEMBLY. YOU CAN DO THAT. NOBODY WANTS TO BE CALLED ANYTHING, NOT EVEN THIS. THERE'S NO NEED FOR THIS, EITHER". AND, WE FOUGHT, YES. OH, YES. WE FOUGHT IN HAYWARD.

Q. WAS THERE A JEWISH COMMUNITY IN HAYWARD?

1 A. SURE. HAYWARD'S IN SALEAMOND, MORE OR LESS. THE
2 MAIN TEMPLE IS IN SALEAMOND CASTLE VALLEY. CASTLE
3 VALLEY HAS A SMALL TEMPLE. OH YES.

4 Q. HAVE YOU HAD MANY NON-JEWISH FRIENDS IN THIS COUN-
5 TRY, OR HAVE YOU MAINLY BEEN INVOLVED IN JEWISH
6 FRIENDSHIPS?

7 A. YES, I HAVE NON-JEWISH FRIENDS. PEOPLE I WORK WITH
8 AT SCHOOL ARE VERY FRIENDLY. AND, THE PRINCIPLE I
9 HAD IN THE SCHOOL IN HAYWARD WAS A VERY DEVOUT
10 CATHOLIC, INSISTED THAT I PUT THE HANNAKAH THING
11 ON. AND THEN IT GOT SO THAT I WAS THE HANNAKAH LADY
12 OF HANNAKAH. WENT TO TWENTY SCHOOLS IN HAYWARD.
13 BUT, I THINK THEY COULD SAY WE CAN PUT CHRISTMAS ON
14 TOO, YOU KNOW. I'M NOT REALLY FOR THAT, TO TELL YOU
15 THE TRUTH. I WISH NONE OF IT WOULD GO INTO SCHOOLS.
16 BUT, SINCE IT'S NOT EVEN A RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY. AND,
17 I SAID THAT, VERY LOUDLY.

18 Q. SO, YOU'RE FOR THE COMPLETE SEPARATION OF SCHOOL AND
19 STATE?

20 A. OH, YES.

21 Q. RELIGION AND STATE, RATHER?

22 A. YES. IF YOU CAN'T HAVE ONE, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE THE
23 OTHER, NEITHER. BUT, HE INSISTED AND THE WHOLE
24 AUDITORIUM WAS FULL OF CHILDREN.

25 Q. CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT YOU'VE

1 TOLD ME ABOUT? THE THINGS YOU DO NOW RELATED TO THE
2 HOLOCAUST. YOU WRITE SHORT STORIES ABOUT YOUR
3 EXPERIENCE IN THE HOLOCAUST, DO YOU GET SUPPORT FOR
4 THAT?

5 A. YES, I DO. BUT, I ALSO WRITE ABOUT OTHERS. I HAVE
6 A VERY GOOD FRIEND WHO IS MUCH OLDER THAN I WHO HAS
7 TOLD ME MANY THINGS.

8 Q. ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST? YOU MEAN ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S
9 EXPERIENCES?

10 A. YES. AND, I THINK IT NEEDED TO BE PUT DOWN, I ASKED
11 HER AND SHE SAID OKAY. BUT, SHE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE
12 IT. AND, IT'S INCREDIBLE. SHE CAME OUT OF AUSCH-
13 WITZ. AND, SHE COMES ORIGINALLY FROM HUNGARY. AND,
14 I FEEL THAT SOME OF THOSE STORIES, I MEAN THEY'RE
15 REALLY HEROES, SOME OF THOSE PEOPLE, THEY'RE REALLY
16 HEROES. WE ALL ARE HEROES TO SOME EXTENT. THAT
17 NEEDS TO BE DOWN. THE MORE WE WRITE ABOUT IT, THE
18 BETTER. LET EVERYBODY READ ABOUT IT. AND, I'M IN A
19 WRITING GROUP AND I'M GOING INTO FOOTHILL COLLEGE,
20 START AT FOOTHILL, NOW. YOU KNOW, THERE'S ALL KINDS
21 OF PEOPLE IN THERE. MOST PEOPLE CAN'T UNDERSTAND
22 THAT THIS ACTUALLY HAPPENED.

23 Q. EVEN PEOPLE THAT YOU TELL ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES,
24 THEY HAVE A HARD TIME BELIEVING?

25 A. WELL, IF I TELL THEM, BUT RIGHT NOW, WE USUALLY HAVE

1 A SMITHER OF JEWISH PEOPLE AROUND, YOU KNOW. SOME-
2 TIMES, I WONDER IF THEY UNDERSTAND IT. BUT, I TELL
3 YOU, IT JUST ISN'T KNOWN. IT IS UNBELIEVABLE TO
4 SOME PEOPLE. THEY CAN'T SEEM TO COPE WITH THIS AT
5 ALL. AND, THEY DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT. THEY DON'T
6 WANT TO HEAR IT. THAT, I CAME TO THAT.

7 Q. YOU'VE TRIED TO TELL PEOPLE AND HAD THEM SAY "STOP"?

8 A. WELL, IF WE'RE A GROUP OF TWENTY-FIVE OR THIRTY
9 PEOPLE SITTING THERE, AND YOU SEE, A MANUSCRIPT IS
10 BEING READ. EITHER I READ IT OR WHOEVER IS IN
11 CHARGE READS IT, OKAY? TO THEM, THEY NEVER HEARD OF
12 IT.

13 Q. DO PEOPLE WALK OUT OF THE DOOR?

14 A. NO. NOBODY HAS EVER WALKED OUT.

15 Q. THEY'VE JUST NEVER HEARD OF IT?

16 A. THEY CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S TRUE.

17 Q. ARE THESE PEOPLE YOU CONSIDER RELATIVELY WELL EDU-
18 CATED?

19 A. YES. THEY'RE TEACHERS AND ALL HAVE VERY GOOD POSI-
20 TIONS. A LOT OF TEACHERS IN THERE.

21 Q. DO YOU THINK ANYTHING COULD HAVE HAPPENED DIFFER-
22 ENTLY? DO YOU THINK IF THE WORLD WOULD HAVE REACTED
23 DIFFERENTLY?

24 A. YES. IF AMERICA WOULD HAVE INTERVENED, IT WOULD
25 HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT. AND, THEY COULD HAVE ---

1 Q. DO YOU THINK THEY WERE BASICALLY ANTI-SEMITIC, THE
2 COUNTRY?

3 A. I DON'T KNOW BECAUSE I DIDN'T LIVE HERE AND I DON'T
4 KNOW WHAT IT WAS AT THE TIME. YES, THEY COULD HAVE.
5 THE STATES PEOPLE COULD HAVE. THE PRESIDENT HAD THE
6 MIGHT TO DO THAT WITH HIS CABINET. HE DIDN'T HAVE
7 TO ASK THE PEOPLE ABOUT SUCH A THING. BUT, I THINK
8 THEY KNEW. THEY THOUGHT THE BAD THING WOULD GO
9 AWAY, YOU KNOW.

10 Q. I WANTED TO FIND OUT ABOUT YOU BEING REUNITED WITH
11 YOUR SISTER. HOW, AND WHEN, AND WHERE?

12 A. OH, THAT WAS NOT UNTIL -- I DIDN'T SEE HER BACK
13 UNTIL, I THINK WE WERE SEVEN YEARS AWAY FROM EACH
14 OTHER.

15 Q. DID YOU HAVE ANY OPPORTUNITY TO WRITE TO HER?

16 A. YES, BUT, SHE NEVER WROTE BACK. SINCE SHE PAINTS,
17 SHE WON'T WRITE. SHE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO SPELL.
18 SHE HAD FOUR OR FIVE YEARS OF SCHOOL AND IT WAS A
19 HERE AND THERE SCHOOL, YOU KNOW. NOTHING FOR HER.
20 SHE WAS FORCED TO SIT ON A SEAT. THAT'S WHAT IT
21 WAS.

22 BUT, WHAT SHE DID WHEN SHE WAS IN ENGLAND, WHEN SHE
23 WAS THERE AND SHE COULDN'T SPEAK ENGLISH EITHER, SHE
24 WAS ABLE, WITH HER TALENT TO TELL THE BOBBY, YOU
25 KNOW, THE POLICEMEN IN ENGLAND, THAT SHE LOST HER

1 WAY. THEN SHE PAINTED EVERYTHING DOWN, SHE DREW
2 EVERYTHING DOWN AND THEN SHE KNEW HOW TO TAKE HER
3 HOME.

4 Q. SO, THAT'S HOW SHE DEVELOPED HER PAINTING ABILITY?

5 A. WELL, NO. SHE ALWAYS HAD IT. IT RUNS IN MY FAMILY.
6 THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT HAVE TALENT.

7 Q. SO, DID SHE MAKE HER WAY TO THE STATES FINALLY, OR
8 WHAT HAPPENED?

9 A. I WAS ABLE TO GET HER HERE AND THAT'S QUITE A STORY.
10 WE NEEDED FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR HER TO COME OVER.
11 SHE'S ALWAYS OUT OF MONEY. I'M SURE THE ARMY DIDN'T
12 PAY SO WELL.

13 SHE WAS ABLE TO GET A SHIP BACK FROM ENGLAND. SHE
14 WAS IN GERMANY AT THE TIME. THERE WAS A RAILROAD
15 STRIKE ON IN FRANCE AT THE TIME AND EVERYTHING HAD
16 TO BE DONE FAST, AGAIN. SO, I NEEDED FIVE HUNDRED
17 DOLLARS. WELL, MY GOD, MY HUSBAND HAD JUST OPENED A
18 SMALL BUSINESS. WE HAD ALL THOSE KIDS AND NO FIVE
19 HUNDRED DOLLARS. YOU KNOW, FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS WAS
20 A LOT OF MONEY.

21 SO, I WENT TO THE JEWISH FEDERATION IN OAKLAND AND
22 ASKED THEM TO LOAN THE MONEY, MAKE A LOAN FOR FIVE
23 HUNDRED DOLLARS. " WE HAVE A BUSINESS AND WE'RE
24 RESPECTABLE PEOPLE, WE'LL PAY THIS OFF IN ONE MONTH
25 OR SIX WEEKS" WE SAID. IT WAS A VERY SHORT PER-

1 IOD. THEY COULDN'T GIVE IT TO ME.

2 SO, I BELONGED TO THE HADASA. I WAS VERY ACTIVE IN
3 THE HADASA, I BECAME A HADASA PRESIDENT, AND, I KNEW
4 THERE WAS A WOMAN THERE THAT WAS QUITE WEALTHY AND
5 SINGLE. AND, IT WAS TERRIBLE BECAUSE I BECAME A
6 SCHNORE.

7 Q. WHAT'S THAT MEAN?

8 A. A SCHNORE? IT'S A BEGGAR. AND, I ASKED HER IF SHE
9 WOULD LET ME HAVE FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND I GAVE
10 HER EXACTLY FOUR WEEKS OR FIVE WEEKS, YOU WILL HAVE
11 THE WHOLE MONEY BACK. BECAUSE WE WERE IN A TRANSI-
12 TION BECAUSE WE HAD JUST BOUGHT THIS BUSINESS. AND,
13 WHEN YOU HAVE FOUR LITTLE KIDS, YOU HAVE TO HAVE
14 FOOD ON THE TABLE.

15 I KNEW IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE TO GET HER
16 OVER HERE. ALSO, MY HUSBAND PROMISED THIS TO MY
17 MOTHER, THAT HE NOT ONLY WOULD TAKE CARE OF ME, BUT,
18 ALSO HER. BECAUSE MY MOTHER WAS VERY CONCERNED
19 ABOUT HER BECAUSE MY SISTER IS A DREAMER. SO, I
20 FINALLY GOT BACK. IT WAS CABLED OVER. SHE GOT IT
21 AND WE PICKED HER UP A WEEK OR TWO LATER IN HER ARMY
22 UNIFORM. SO ON AND SO FORTH, FROM THE RAILROAD
23 STATION IN OAKLAND. BUT, I'VE NEVER FORGIVEN THE
24 JEWISH FEDERATION FOR THAT. AND, I WAS ON THE BOARD
25 OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION IN OAKLAND. AND, THEY

1 QUESTIONED ME, HOW MUCH I WOULD PAY. I SAID,
2 "YOU'RE NOT GOING TO QUESTION ME BECAUSE I DIDN'T
3 QUESTION YOU NEITHER. YOU DIDN'T COME UP, WHEN MY
4 SISTER NEEDED TO COME HERE, YOU DIDN'T TRUST ME." I
5 SAID "I PAY MY -- " IT WAS A TERRIBLE THING. I
6 WALKED OUT OF THE WHOLE MEETING AND I WAS ON THE
7 BOARD. I WAS ANGRY BECAUSE FIRST OF ALL, I DON'T
8 LIKE TO BE QUESTIONED ABOUT MY DONATIONS. EVERYBODY
9 MORE OR LESS KNOWS WHAT THEY CAN GIVE. AND, I KNOW
10 I CRIED ALL THE WAY HOME, I WAS SO UPSET.

11 Q. SO, YOUR SISTER CAME AND SHE ESTABLISHED HERSELF IN
12 CALIFORNIA?

13 A. WELL, WE ESTABLISHED HER. WE TOOK HER INTO OUR
14 LITTLE TRACT HOUSE, WITH ONE BATHROOM AND KIDS.
15 AND, SHE CAME FROM ENGLAND WITH ONE SUITCASE. THE
16 SAME SUITCASE WITH THE HOLE IN THE MIDDLE. AND, IN
17 HER UNIFORM AND NOT MUCH CLOTHES. NOT MANY CLOTHES,
18 ARMY CLOTHES. FATIGUES AND STUFF LIKE THAT.
19 THE DAY AFTER SHE CAME, SHE SAID THAT SHE WOULD LIKE
20 TO GO HORSEBACK RIDING. SO, MY HUSBAND LOOKED AT
21 HER AND SAID, 'GOD, WHAT KIND OF SCHMUK DO WE HAVE HERE?' FIRST OF
22 ALL, WHEN SHE FIRST CAME, SHE ATE EVERYTHING UNDER
23 THE SUN AND SHE GOT DEATHLY ILL. BECAUSE THE FOOD.
24 I THINK SHE ATE A HALF A POUND OF BUTTER AND I DON'T
25 KNOW HOW MANY EGGS AND BANANAS.

1 Q. JUST BECAUSE SHE'D BEEN DEPRIVED OF IT?

2 A. WELL, THE FOOD WAS, YES. THEN, SHE GOT DEATHLY ILL
3 AND WE HAD TO CALL THE DOCTOR. AND, JUST ONE BATH-
4 ROOM WITH ALL THOSE PEOPLE. SHE USED THE BACK YARD
5 AT NIGHT. SHE BROUGHT HARDLY ANYTHING BUT, SHE
6 BROUGHT FEENAMINTS. DO YOU KNOW WHAT FEENAMINTS IS?

7 Q. (NEGATIVE GESTURE)

8 A. IT'S WHEN YOU'RE CONSTIPATED. YOU CHEW THAT STUFF.
9 IT'S ALL IN THE COATING. SO, DAVID WAS TWO YEARS
10 OLD, AND VERY NAUGHTY, I THINK. HE CRAWLED OUT OF
11 HIS BED AND WENT INTO HER SUITCASE AND SAW THESE AND
12 THOUGHT THEY WERE CANDIES AND ATE THE WHOLE BOX OF
13 FEENAMINTS. ONLY THE OUTSIDE OF IT, OF COURSE,
14 BECAUSE IT WAS SWEET. ANYHOW, SHE THOUGHT IT WAS
15 HORRIBLE TO BE PUT TOGETHER WITH ALL THOSE KIDS.
16 SHE STARTED TO PAINT ALL THE WALLS OF MY HOUSE, WITH
17 MURALS, YES. BUT, SINCE WE HAD NO MONEY FOR OIL
18 PAINT, WHICH IS EXPENSIVE, SHE DID WATER PAINTS. IT
19 WAS AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE.

20 Q. WERE YOU FEELING TOLERANT OF HER, OR WOULD YOU GET
21 ANGRY?

22 A. NO, NO. YOU WORK ALL DAY, YOU HAVE ALL THOSE KIDS
23 RUNNING AROUND.

24 Q. SHE WAS LIKE ONE MORE KID TO TAKE CARE OF?

25 A. WELL, IN A WAY. BUT, ALSO, THE FOLLOWING DAY, SHE

1 NEEDED TO GO HORSEBACK RIDING. FIVE DOLLARS TO GO
2 HORSEBACK RIDING? WHAT IS THIS? WE HAD NO MONEY.
3 WHEN SHE FIRST CAME OFF THE TRAIN, MY HUSBAND TOOK
4 HER TO SAN FRANCISCO AND GOT HER A DRESS AND SOME
5 THINGS AND TOOK HER OUT. IT WAS ALL LIKE SHANGRI
6 LAI TO HER, YOU SEE.

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8 Q. SO, SHE LANDED, SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, SHE LANDED
9 A HUSBAND AND BECAME A PAINTER?

10 A. YES. A HUSBAND SHE LANDED ON ACCOUNT OF US. YES.

11 Q. OH, YOU INTRODUCED HER?

12 A. WELL, MY HUSBAND COULDN'T STAND IT ANYMORE. ONE OF
13 THOSE DAYS, ON A SUNDAY, HE SAID "I'M GOING TO TAKE
14 YOU DOWN TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER IN OAKLAND
15 AND, I KNOW THEY HAVE A DANCE OR SOMETHING GOING ON
16 IN THE AFTERNOON. YOU BOTH STAY THERE AND I'LL GO
17 TO A MOVIE." I SAID "I'M NOT GOING TO STAY THERE,
18 WHAT AM I GOING TO STAY THERE FOR?" HE SAID "NO,
19 NO. YOU STAY AND WATCH VANITTI." AND SO, WE WENT.
20 HE DROPPED US OFF AND HE WENT TO THE MOVIE. I SAT
21 THERE AND SAID "OH MY GOD, ALL THOSE BAR MITZVAH
22 BOYS HERE". IT WAS TERRIBLE.

23 Q. WHAT DID SHE MEAN BY THAT?

24 A. WELL, THEY WERE ALL YOUNG LOOKING.

25 Q. OH, THEY WERE ABOUT THIRTEEN YEARS OLD?

 A. NO, NO. THEY WERE OLDER BUT SHE SAID THEY ALL

1 LOOKED LIKE BAR MITZVAH BOYS. SHE WAS IN THE ARMY,
2 YOU KNOW. SHE HAD CAPTAINS, AND SHE HAD, YOU KNOW.
3 SO, SHE HAD SOME EXPERIENCE, DON'T FORGET. SHE WAS
4 A STREET GIRL FOR A LONG TIME. SO, I SAID "VANITTI,
5 STOP THAT. WE HAVE TO SIT HERE. WE CAN'T GO ANY-
6 WHERE." IT WAS, AT THAT TIME, THE JEWISH COMMUNITY
7 CENTER WAS IN A TERRIBLE NEIGHBORHOOD, MANY YEARS
8 AGO. AND, SO WE SAT. AND, ALL OF A SUDDEN JERRY
9 WALKS IN. HE HAD JUST BROKEN UP, I THINK, WITH A
10 GIRLFRIEND, OR SOMETHING, AND FELL ON TO VANITTI.
11 VERY NICE LOOKING MAN. THAT DID IT. I HAD TO WAIT
12 FOR MY HUSBAND TO COME PICK ME UP. THEY HAD A
13 WONDERFUL TIME. SHE DIDN'T GET HOME UNTIL THREE IN
14 THE MORNING.

15 Q. AND, HE WAS DOLLINGER?

16 A. IN MY CLOTHES.

17 Q. IN YOUR CLOTHES? AND HE WAS DOLLINGER?

18 A. DOLLINGER, YES. AND, IT JUST WAS SHARED LIKE THIS.
19 AND THEN THEY SPENT WEEKS AND DAYS ON MY GREEN COUCH
20 IN THE FRONT ROOM. THERE WAS NOWHERE TO GO. MY
21 HUSBAND AND I TOOK THE ---

22 Q. YOU WERE SO GOOD TO HER?

23 A. WELL, I'M SO GLAD THAT HAPPENED. WE DIDN'T KNOW
24 WHAT WOULD HAPPEN.

25 Q. BUT, SHE DIDN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE PAST. SHE

1 WASN'T AS ABLE TO DO THAT AS YOU WERE?

2 A. OH YES, SHE'S STARTING NOW, LATELY. SHE FINALLY
3 TOLD ME A STORY ABOUT WHEN SHE OPENED DACHAU. SHE
4 OPENED DACHAU. AND SHE GOT VERY ILL FROM IT, YES.
5 SHE WAS THE FIRST ONE THAT OPENED IT. SHE WAS
6 LOOKING FOR MY MOTHER. WHEN SHE SAW IT, SHE DIDN'T
7 WANT TO EVER MEET HER AGAIN.

8 Q. DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR MOTHER HAD GONE TO DACHAU?

9 A. NO. WE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE SHE WAS.

10 Q. DID YOU EVER FIND OUT?

11 A. I KNOW FROM AN EYE-WITNESS THAT SHE WENT TO AUSCH-
12 WITZ. BUT, SHE HAD CYANIDE ON HER BECAUSE THE
13 JEWISH HOSPITAL IN BRESLAU GAVE IT FREELY AROUND TO
14 PEOPLE -- SEE, SHE ALREADY BECAME THEN A LICENSED
15 NURSE, ALSO. SO, SHE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL.
16 HER HOME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE BECAME AN OLD AGED HOME
17 BECAUSE THOSE PEOPLE WERE NOT ALLOWED TO GO OUT.
18 THAT WAS ANOTHER THING WITH THE UNITED STATES. YOU
19 HAD TO BE PERFECTLY WELL TO GET INTO THE STATES. I
20 HAD VERY BAD NAILS THAT HAVE BEEN SHOT, I MEAN,
21 RUINED. AND, THEY NOTICED THAT.

22 Q. WHY? MALNUTRITION?

23 A. YES. I WAS BORN DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR IN '17
24 AND IT PROBABLY COME FROM THAT.

25 Q. FROM NOT BEING FED THE RIGHT THINGS?

1 A. WELL, THERE WAS THE HUNGER SITUATION, THE HUNGER
2 YEARS.
3 Q. HOW ARE YOU, OTHERWISE, PHYSICALLY?
4 A. FINE. THAT'S WHAT KEISER TELLS ME.
5 Q. DO YOU EVER HAVE NIGHTMARES, OR BAD DREAMS, OR HAVE
6 YOU WORKED MOST OF THAT OUT?
7 A. NO, I WORK MOST OF THAT OUT BECAUSE I SPEAK ABOUT
8 IT.
9 Q. YOU THINK ABOUT IT AND YOU TALK ABOUT IT?
10 A. RARELY, RARELY. I HAVE A FEW THINGS LEFT. WHEN I
11 HEAR A SIREN, I GET VERY UPSET. I GET VERY NERVOUS
12 WITH SIRENS.
13 Q. AND FIRES ALSO?
14 A. FIRES, I'M TERRIFIED OF FIRES. TERRIFIED.
15 Q. AND THAT'S FROM THE CRYSTAL NIGHT?
16 A. YES. IT COMES FROM THAT PERIOD. AND, ALSO, I CAN'T
17 GO TO THE POLICE STATION. I HAVE A TERRIBLE TIME.
18 OR, ANY OF THE BEUROCRATIC PLACES WHERE I HAVE TO
19 SHOW MYSELF BECAUSE, WHEN I WENT EVERYDAY TO SHOW
20 MYSELF AT THE GESTAPO, THEY PLAYED HAVOC WITH ME.
21 THEY CALLED ME A BIRD, AND SAID "WE CAN DO ANYTHING
22 WE WANT WITH YOU", EVERYDAY. YOU SEE, I HAD TO GO
23 EVERYDAY FOR SIX WEEKS, EVERYDAY. AND, I CRIED ALL
24 THE WAY BACK HOME. IT WAS JUST GRUESOME. YOU KNOW,
25 THE BIG BLACK BOOTS AND ALL THE STUFF, I CAN JUST

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SEE THAT STUFF.

Q. THEY REALLY EXPLOITED THE SITUATION FOR ALL IT WAS WORTH?

A. OH, YES. OH, YES.

Q. WEREN'T YOU EVER SCARED, I MEAN, DID YOU HEAR ABOUT WOMEN BEING RAPED OR ANYTHING, WHEN YOU WERE GOING BACK AND FORTH TO WORK?

A. IT WASN'T TALKED ABOUT. EVEN NOW, I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS. THEY HAD TO EAT. THEY HAD CHILDREN THERE, THEY HAD TO FEED THEM SOMETHING.

Q. YOU MEAN WOMEN SLEEPING WITH OTHERS?

A. YES, A LOT OF WOMEN.

Q. WHEN DID YOU FIND OUT THE EXTENT OF WHAT HAPPENED IN CONCENTRATION CAMPS? WHEN YOU CAME HERE, OR WHEN WAS THAT?

A. WELL, FIRST OF ALL, I HAD CONTACT WITH PEOPLE SINCE I WORKED WITH THE JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS, I HAD A LOT OF CONTACT WITH PEOPLE THAT CAME. ALSO, PEOPLE THAT CAME FROM SHANGHAI.

Q. HERE, WHEN YOU WERE IN THIS COUNTRY?

A. YES. BECAUSE WHEN WE WERE THERE, WE DIDN'T REALLY KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON THERE. I ONLY KNEW THAT THEY HAD SHAVED THEIR HEADS.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE FOUR MEN THAT CAME TO YOUR WEDDING,

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OR THE FEW MEN THAT HAD SHAVEN HEADS?

A. THEY WOULDN'T TALK.

Q. DO YOU THINK THAT'S BECAUSE, I MEAN, IN RETROSPECT,
DO YOU THINK THAT'S BECAUSE THEY ---

A. SCARED. NO, BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO LEAVE. THEY
DIDN'T WANT TO GO BACK. THEY WERE AFRAID SOMEBODY
WAS LISTENING.

Q. DID THEY END UP GOING BACK TO THE CONCENTRATION
CAMPS?

A. WE NEVER SAID ANYTHING BECAUSE NO MATTER WHERE WE
WERE. SEE, THE PHONES WERE BUGGED, AND YOU NEVER
KNOW WERE SOMEONE THERE THAT WAS GOING TO LISTEN TO
US. WE WERE REALLY LIKE IN A PRISON. THEY TOOK OUR
RADIO'S AWAY. OUR SILVER, OUR GOOD PAINTINGS, OUR
CARPETS, PERSIAN RUGS. THEY TOOK EVERYTHING AWAY.
GOEBBELS BROADCASTED, YOU KNOW, AND EXACTLY THAT'S
THE WAY IT WAS. IF THEY DIDN'T WATER US, WE WOULD
GO TO PITS. YOU KNOW, "LEAVE THEM AND LET THEM
DIE."

Q. BUT, DURING THAT PERIOD, YOU WERE REALLY MORE AB-
SORBED IN DAY TO DAY SURVIVAL, NOT THINKING ABOUT
THE FUTURE OF THE JEWS, OR THINKING THAT THE JEWS
WERE BEING EXTERMINATED? YOU WERE JUST CONSTANTLY
THINKING ABOUT THE SITUATION?

A. THAT'S RIGHT. JUST LIVE ONE DAY AT A TIME. THAT'S

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WHAT YOU DO. YOU DON'T MAKE ANY PLANS.

Q. SO, YOU DIDN'T FIND OUT THAT JEWS WERE REALLY BEING EXTERMINATED?

A. WELL, WHEN I SAW WHAT I SAW AT THE CRYSTAL NIGHT, I MEAN, WHEN I WAS THERE, AND ALL WHAT HAPPENED, I WAS SORT OF IN THE MIDDLE OF IT. THAT WAS A PRETTY BIG SHOCK. BUT, THEN, MAYBE I DIDN'T WANT TO THINK ANY FURTHER. I JUST HAD TO LIVE DAY BY DAY.

Q. WHEN WAS IT? SO, WHEN YOU CAME TO AMERICA, YOU STARTED TO FIGURE OUT THAT MILLIONS OF JEWS HAD BEEN EXTERMINATED?

A. WELL, I KNEW THAT THAT WAS WHAT THE FATE OF THE JEWS WAS. I KNEW THAT AND I KNEW THAT I MIGHT NOT SEE SOME OF THE PEOPLE ANYMORE. BUT, YOU KNOW, YOU HAVE TO PUSH IT AWAY IN ORDER TO LIVE IT THAT DAY. I HAD TO GET WORK, I HAD TO FIND SOMETHING, I HAD TO MAKE MONEY, I HAD TO, YOU KNOW, WE WERE SO THIRSTY FOR DRINKS, FOR JUICES AND STUFF, I WANTED TO DO THAT. AND, IT WAS JUST A SURVIVAL TECHNIQUE. TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, IF YOU WANTED TO SURVIVE, WHAT COMES FIRST, COMES FIRST. AND, ONE DAY, I SAID I WILL BE ABLE TO WRITE IT SOMEDAY. BUT, FIRST I HAVE TO RAISE CHILDREN AND I HAVE TO GO TO WORK.

Q. SO, WHEN YOU DID LEARN THE FULL EXTENT OF IT, IT WASN'T A SHOCK OR A SURPRISE TO YOU? IN A SENSE YOU

1 HAD KNOWN ALL ALONG?

2 A. I KNEW ALL ALONG. YOU KNOW, YOU HAVE IN THE BACK OF
3 YOUR MIND, YOU HAVE A STORAGE PLACE. AND, IT WAS
4 ALL STORED. IT'S JUST AS CRYSTAL CLEAR NOW AS IT
5 WAS THEN. MAYBE MORESO.

6 Q. HOW DO YOU THINK YOU DEVELOPED SUCH GOOD SURVIVAL
7 TECHNIQUES?

8 A. WE'RE JUST SURVIVORS, I THINK. BECAUSE, YOU KNOW,
9 MY FATHER FOUGHT IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR AND MY
10 MOTHER BECAME A WIDOWER WHEN SHE WAS THIRTY-FIVE,
11 SHE WAS A SURVIVOR. AND, SHE FENDED FOR HERSELF.
12 THERE WAS HARDLY ANY MONEY FOR HER THERE AND SHE
13 BUILT UP THE SCHOOL AND SO ON. I THINK MAYBE, WE
14 GOT THAT THROUGH OUR MOTHER. WE'RE KIND OF TOUGH.
15 AND, YOU HAVE TO, BUT YOU CAN'T GET TOO TOUGH.
16 THERE'S A LIMIT THERE. I MEAN, TOUGH AND TOUGH TO
17 SURVIVE. BUT, YOU HAVE TO BE SOFT SOMEWHERE ELSE.
18 I WORKED WITH SENIOR PROGRAMS AND I GO INTO THE
19 HOMES WHERE THEY ARE SHUT-IN AND I JUST FINISHED THE
20 HANNAKAH, DOING THINGS. I LIKE TO DO NICE THINGS.
21 I DON'T WANT TO SIT HERE AND STEW SO, IF I WRITE IT,
22 IT'S OUT AND DONE WITH. THEN, IT CAN BE PASSED ON.
23 I THINK IT NEEDS TO. MY TEENAGE YEARS ARE NOW.
24 I'LL TELL YOU VERY FRANKLY, I LIVE THROUGH MY TEEN-
25 AGE YEARS NOW BECAUSE I ENJOY LIFE IMMENSELY. BE-

1 CAUSE BEFORE THAT, I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE.

2 Q. YOU DIDN'T HAVE A YOUTH?

3 A. NO, I DIDN'T. SEE, MY SISTER WAS YOUNGER. AND, SHE
4 HAD A BALL IN THE ARMY. SHE WAS VERY GOOD LOOKING
5 AND SHE HAD ALL THE OTHER MEN AROUND HER. SHE WAS
6 ABLE TO. THOUGH, SHE ENDED UP WITH A TERRIBLE
7 STOMACH ACHE SITUATION. AFTER SHE OPENED UP DACHAU
8 SHE COULDN'T SLEEP SO, SHE HAD THE LIGHT ON ALL
9 NIGHT. AND, EVEN WHEN SHE CAME TO US SHE HAD THIS
10 LIGHT SITUATION. AND, THEN, FINALLY SOME YEARS AGO,
11 SHE GOT TERRIBLE STOMACH ACHES AND THEY FINALLY MADE
12 EXPLORATORY OPERATION AND THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG.
13 AND, SINCE THEN, IT STOPPED.

14 SO, WHEN SHE TOLD ME HER STORY -- ONE DAY, GOD, WE
15 WENT TO A MOVIE AND IT WAS A REAL RAINY DAY AND
16 THERE WAS A COFFEE SHOP NEARBY, IT WAS REAL GLOOMY.
17 I FINALLY SAID TO HER, I SAID "VANATTI, TELL ME
18 ONCE, AND I WILL NOT EVER ASK YOU AGAIN. WHAT
19 HAPPENED IN DACHAU?" SO, I TOOK ALL THE PAPER
20 NAPKINS FROM ALL THE PLACES BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW
21 WHERE TO WRITE. SHE SAID "YOU PROMISE ME NOT TO ASK
22 ME AGAIN?"

23 Q. WAS THAT RECENTLY?

24 A. YES. LAST WINTER.

25 Q. WHAT DID SHE TELL YOU?

1 A. WELL, I CAN READ IT TO YOU, IT'S SO SHORT, IF YOU
2 WANT.

3 Q. IT MUST BE HORRIBLE.

4 A. SHE HAD HOPED TO FIND MY MOTHER. SHE SAW THE SKELE-
5 TONS, I MEAN, THEY HAD TO BURY THEM, YOU KNOW. THE
6 S.S. HAD TO BURY THEM. AND, THE INMATES WERE ALL
7 EUPHORIC. THEY ALL LOOKED ALIKE. THE SUNKEN IN
8 EYES, THE VERY REDDISH CHEEBONES, OUT. THEY WERE
9 ALL REAL GIGGLY, REAL EUPHORIC FROM THE HUNGER. MEN
10 AND WOMEN, YOU COULDN'T EVEN TELL THE DIFFERENCE IN
11 THE STRIPED OUTFITS THEY HAD ON. AND SHE SAID SHE
12 WAS SUPPOSED TO TRANSLATE THINGS FROM THEM. AND,
13 THEY WERE SO EUPHORIC AND SO GIGGLY, SHE SAID IT WAS
14 FRIGHTENING. IT WAS, TO SEE THIS, AND THE STENCH IN
15 THE CAMP, YOU KNOW, BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T BURY ANY-
16 BODY. IT WAS NOT TO BE BELIEVED. AND, SHE SAID
17 "YOU KNOW, I SAW IN EVERY PERSON THAT WALKED AROUND
18 THERE, MOTHER. AND I THOUGHT, "IS THAT MAYBE MOTHER?
19 OR IS THIS MAYBE MOTHER, OR IS THIS?" AND SHE
20 FINALLY SAID THAT DAY, "I DON'T WANT TO MEET
21 MOTHER". SHE WAS AFRAID. SHE WAS AFRAID. "I DON'T
22 WANT TO MEET HER." SHE DID THE CRAZIEST THING, SHE
23 WENT OUT DANCING WITH THE G.I.'S. SHE WAS TWENTY-
24 ONE YEARS OLD. SHE SAID "I'M TWENTY-ONE YEARS OLD.
25 I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ELSE." SO, SHE WENT DANCING

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IN THE EVENINGS WITH THE G.I.'S.

Q. IT SOUNDS IN A WAY, LIKE HER GOING TO SLEEP BACK IN BRIEG?

A. YES, YES.

Q. SHUT THE DOOR?

A. YES, SHUT THE DOOR. SHE SAID SHE JUST COULDN'T MANAGE IT.

Q. AND YET, HER WORKING WITH ALL JEWISH MEN?

A. YES. SHE'S A VERY MYSTIC PERSON. AND, SHE BELIEVES THAT SHE LIVED IN THIS TIME. SHE IS A DREAMER. AND, SHE'S A VERY MYSTIC PERSON.

Q. THE SHUTTLE, SHE TAKES THE SHUTTLE?

A. YES, AND ORIGINALLY WE COME FROM THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN AREA OR THE POLISH AREA, I THINK PART OF IT GOES BACK TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA. AND, SHE HAS CAPTURED IT. AND SHE AND THE CZECHO SINGER, I MEAN, SHE WOULD LIKE TO SIT IN HEAVEN RIGHT NEXT TO THE CZECHO SINGER. AND, YOU WOULD LIKE TO MEET HER, SHE'S A VERY WARM PERSON, AND VERY BLUE, BLUE EYES.

Q. SHE SHOULD BE A SINGER.

A. WHEN I LEFT FROM BRESLAU TO THE TRAIN STATION, MY MOTHER RETURNED TO THE HOME. THE S.S. PEOPLE WERE THERE TO PICK ME UP.

Q. JUST AS PLANNED, AFTER THE SIX WEEKS WAS UP?

A. OH YES, THEY'RE VERY EXACT, YES. MY MOTHER WROTE

1 TO ME IN CODE, THE FIRST LETTER I RECEIVED IN
2 ENGLAND THAT "TANTE GERTRUDE, AUNT GERTRUDE WANT-
3 ED TO SAY GOODBYE TO YOU BUT, SHE WAS SO SORRY
4 THAT SHE DIDN'T FIND YOU WHEN SHE CAME TO KNOCK
5 ON THE DOOR. YOU HAD GONE."

6 Q. I WONDER WHAT YOUR MOTHER HAD TOLD THEM?

7 A. I HAD GONE.

8 Q. AND, "TANTE GERTRUDE" WAS "HITLER" IN YOUR CODE,
9 RIGHT?

10 A. YES.

11 Q. SO, IF YOU HADN'T GOTTEN OUT THAT DAY?

12 A. OH, I WAS GOING TO MAUTHAUSEN, I KNEW THAT. I KNOW
13 THE PLACE AND EVERYTHING.

14 Q. WAS THAT A TRANSIT CAMP?

15 A. NO, THAT WAS A PRETTY BAD CAMP, ONE OF THE, NOT
16 THE BETTER ONES, IF THERE IS SUCH A THING. I CAN
17 SHOW IT TO YOU ON THE MAP. I'M TRYING TO BE
18 PRETTY ACCURATE. WHEN I WRITE, SOMETIMES I CAN
19 FICTIONIZE BUT, WHEN IT COMES TO PLACES.

20 Q. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE, ANY OTHER MOMENTS THAT
21 YOU THINK REALLY CAPTURE SOMETHING ABOUT THE
22 WHOLE BUSINESS FOR YOU?

23 A. WELL, I HAD IN MY FAMILY, SOME VERY UNHAPPY
24 SITUATIONS HAPPENING TOO. MY FIRST COUSIN AND
25 HER CHILD, HER HUSBAND STAYED FOR THE BERLIN JEWS

1 COMMUNITY. YOU REMEMBER THAT. THEY REMAINED
2 THERE. HE HAD TO BE STAINED AND TAKEN CARE OF
3 THEN. HIS WIFE, A GORGEOUS WOMAN, AND THE TEN
4 YEAR OLD CHILD, MARY ANN, WERE TAKEN ONTO ONE OF
5 THOSE FREIGHT CARS. AND, NEVER GOT ANYWHERE. A
6 CARD WAS FOUND, THAT IS 'THE POSTCARD THAT FLIES
7 IN THE WIND', I HAVE MADE A STORY OF THAT. THE
8 CARD WAS WRITTEN BY THE CHILD, THAT "MOMMY AND I
9 ARE ON THIS TRAIN". AND, THE CARD WAS FOUND.
10 NOW, I WOVE A STORY AROUND THIS, LIKE A FAIRY
11 TALE, WHEN THIS CARD FLIES, AND HOW IT CAME BACK.
12 IT CAME TO THE GRANDPARENTS, AND THE OTHER FAMILY
13 WHO WAS HIDDEN IN BELGIUM DURING THE WAR, IN A
14 STABLE. AND, THE RED CROSS, WHEN THEY RETURNED
15 TO BELGIUM AFTER THE WAR WAS OVER, TO BRESLAU,
16 THE RED CROSS BROUGHT THIS TO THEM AND IT SAID
17 THAT THE CARD WAS THROWN OUT OF THE TRAIN, THE
18 TRAINS THAT CARRY JUST ANIMALS.

19 Q. CATTLE CARS?

20 A. CATTLE CARS, YES. AND, IT WAS FOUND. AND, YOU
21 KNOW, THOSE TRAINS DIDN'T GO ANYWHERE. THEY WERE
22 LEFT ON A DEAD RAIL. SO, I WROTE A STORY ON
23 THAT. AND, SEE, THIS COUSIN, THEY WERE HIDDEN,
24 IN A TERRIBLE SITUATION IN BRUSSELS, NOT IN BRUS-
25 SELS, THEY COULDN'T BE IN BRUSSELS, YOU KNOW.

1 SO, THEY WERE IN A STABLE, NEXT TO A PEASANT
2 PLACE. NOBODY COULD SEE THEM.

3 SO, AT NIGHT, THEY WENT TO COLLECT MUSHROOMS TO
4 EAT. AND, THIS IS A LONG STORY TOO. THE PARENTS
5 GOT ILL WITH PNEUMONIA AND MY COUSIN HAD TO WORK
6 BECAUSE SHE HAD TO MAKE SOME MONEY AND GET SOME
7 FOOD SO, SHE WAS FOLLOWED IN BRUSSELS, AND SHE
8 COLLAPSED.

9 SHE WAS A THERAPIST AND, SHE WORKED FOR SOME OF
10 THE PEOPLE AND THEY WANTED HER TO STAY WITH THEM.
11 YOU SEE, BRUSSELS WAS A BIT DIFFERENT, THE SITUA-
12 TION, I MEAN, THEY HATED THE GERMANS WHEN THEY
13 CAME IN. SO, SHE GOT A WHOLE NEW CARD IDENTITY,
14 A WHOLE NEW IDENTIFICATION FOR A LOT OF MONEY.
15 AND, SHE WAS ABLE TO WORK WITH SOME PEOPLE BUT,
16 SHE HAD TO LEAVE AT 3:00 IN THE MORNING BECAUSE
17 PEOPLE IN THIS HAMLET, WHERE SHE WAS, WERE NOT
18 ALLOWED -- SHE WOULDN'T WANT THEM TO SEE HER
19 BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE THERE.
20 SO, SHE COLLAPSED AND SOMEBODY DID FOLLOW HER, I
21 THINK SOME KIND OF NAZI OFFICIAL OR SOMETHING
22 LIKE THIS, AND SHE COLLAPSED IN FRONT OF THE DOOR
23 OF ONE OF HER PATIENTS AND THEY FOUND HER AND SHE
24 WAS VERY ILL. SHE HAD BLEEDING OF THE KIDNEYS
25 AND THE STOMACH.

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Q. DID SHE MAKE IT?

A. SHE MADE IT. SHE'S STILL IN BELGIUM. I SAW HER THIS SUMMER, YES.

Q. SHE HAD CHRISTIAN PATIENTS, YOU SAID?

A. YES.

Q. AND, THEY HELPED HER?

A. YES, THEY HELPED HER TO SOME EXTENT, YES. YOU SEE, THAT WAS A DIFFERENT SITUATION.

Q. BUT THEN, SHE WOULD GO BACK TO THE STABLE?

A. BUT, YOU SEE, SHE WOULD HAVE TO HAVE THE YELLOW STAR ON TOO, AND SHE DIDN'T. YES, SHE HAD TO GO BACK TO THE STABLE, YES. SHE WAS LAID UP THERE AND SHE COULDN'T MAKE ANY MONEY. IT WAS TERRIBLE, I MEAN, SHE HAD TO SURVIVE FOUR YEARS.

Q. IN THAT SITUATION, IN THE STABLES?

A. YES.

Q. SO, SHE LIVED IN THE STABLES AND SHE WENT BACK AND SERVED HER PATIENTS?

A. HER PARENTS. AND, THEY BOTH HAD PNEUMONIA. SHE ASKED THE FARMERS. SEE, BELGIUM IS THE BALONES AND THE BELGIUMS. THERE'S QUITE A FEW NAZIS IN BELGIUM, A LOT OF NAZIS IN BELGIUM. THEY ARE ALSO VERY STINGY, SOME OF THE FARMERS THERE. SO, SHE BEGGED THE FARMERS THAT WERE NEAR THERE. SHE WALKED AROUND, SHE WANTED THE LEFT OVER OF THE

1 MILK AFTER IT WAS PROCESSED, WHICH IS VERY THIN.
2 AND, SHE WANTED MONEY FOR THIS. IT WAS VERY
3 DIFFICULT, IT WAS TERRIBLE. SHE LEARNED TO COOK
4 ALL KINDS OF THINGS OUT OF NOTHING. SHE MADE
5 CHEESE OUT OF THIS THIN MILK. SO, IT WAS DIFFI-
6 CULT, VERY DIFFICULT. VERY DIFFICULT.

7 Q. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THAT YOU WANT TO BE RECORDED?

8 A. WELL, I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT IT SHOULD NEVER BE
9 FORGOTTEN. I THINK, MORE THAN EVER, IT SHOULD BE
10 OUT BECAUSE PEOPLE TEND TO WANT TO FORGET IT.
11 NOT SO MUCH THE SURVIVORS, THOUGH SOME OF THEM
12 TO, I THINK THEY DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT,
13 THEY DON'T WANT TO BE REMINDED OF IT, AND I DON'T
14 BLAME THEM. BUT, I THINK THE WORLD MUST KNOW
15 BECAUSE, AND I CAN TELL YOU WHY I FEEL, MAYBE NOT
16 NAZIS, BUT ANOTHER ORGANIZATION, OR ANOTHER GROUP
17 OF PEOPLE, MAYBE WILL INITIATE SOMETHING LIKE THE
18 NAZIS DID, SOMEDAY. AND, WHAT I HAVE SEEN IN
19 SOME OF THE SCHOOLS ON T.V. TEENAGE BOYS AND
20 GIRLS, THEY WEAR THE SWASTIK AROUND THE NECK, THEY
21 CARVE THEM INTO THE DESKS. IT'S HERO WORSHIPPING
22 AGAIN. AND, YOU NEVER KNOW. I'VE REALLY SEEN THIS,
23 AND IT'S VERY FRIGHTENING. THEY ADDRESS MY WITH
24 'HEIL HITLER'.

25 Q. KIDS DID? IN SCHOOLS THAT YOU SPOKE TO?

1 A. YES. NO, I DIDN'T SPEAK THERE, I WORKED THERE.
2 Q. BECAUSE THEY KNEW YOU WERE JEWISH?
3 A. YES. BECAUSE I WEAR MOGEN DAVID ON ME. AND, I
4 ALWAYS WEAR IT. I WEAR IT OUT MOST OF THE TIME.
5 Q. IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
6 A. AND, YOU KNOW, I TALKED TO THE PRINCIPAL. I SAID
7 "I'M SORRY, I'M NOT GOING TO WORK HERE." AND,
8 WHEN I ONCE WORKED, I WORKED ON A STEADY BASIS,
9 THAT WAS WHEN I SUBSTITUTED. BUT, WHEN I WORKED
10 ON A STEADY BASIS, I WORKED IN A SCHOOL AND WHEN
11 I CAME OUT AND HAD YARD DUTY, A HUGE SWASTIK WAS
12 ON A WALL, I MEAN, SIX FEET BIG. I HAD THE YARD
13 DUTY OUT THERE. I GOT SICKER AND SICKER AND
14 SICKER LOOKING AT THE THING. SO, I SAID TO THE
15 JANITOR, I CAN'T WORK UNDER THOSE CONDITIONS.
16 PLEASE CALL THE PAINTERS TO HAVE THIS MOVED AWAY.
17 HE SAID, "WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME INSTEAD?" WELL,
18 I DIDN'T TAKE THAT VERY FAR. I SAW THE PRINCIPAL
19 AND HE SAID "ABSOLUTELY, IT'S GOING TO BE DOWN
20 TOMORROW. YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAY." I TOLD HIM
21 THOSE WERE UNWORKABLE CONDITIONS FOR ME. I CAN'T
22 STAY ON THIS PLAYGROUND THIS WAY. AND, I TOLD
23 HIM AND I GUESS HE HAD IT OUT WITH THE JANITOR.
24 BUT, I MEAN, THOSE ARE THINGS THAT YOU SEE ALL
25 OVER THE PLACE. I MEAN, CASTOR VALLEY HAD THEIR

1 KLU KLUX KLAN RALLY. WALNUT CREEK HAD A NEO NAZI
2 PARTY GOING THERE, AND STUFF LIKE THIS. THEY
3 ASKED US THAT TIME AT THE FEDERATION NOT TO BE
4 NEAR THEM. I WASN'T SO SURE ABOUT THIS. I
5 STAYED AWAY BUT, YOU KNOW, THERE ARE THINGS GOING
6 ON. WE NEVER KNOW. WE CANNOT FORGET. WE HAVE
7 TO BE VOCAL. I MEAN, I'M GOING TO SCHOOLS. I
8 PUT MY FOOT IN, I ASKED THEM "WHY DON'T YOU
9 INVITE ME?"

10 Q. HIGHSCHOOLS, MAINLY?

11 A. YES, JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGHSCHOOLS. THE OTHERS ARE
12 NOT REALLY THAT NEEDED. I MEAN, I DON'T THINK IT
13 WOULD BE FITTING INTO THAT.

14 Q. HOW DO THE KIDS REACT?

15 A. THEY'RE FLABERGASTED. THEY READ THE DIARY OF ANN
16 FRANKS, AND THAT'S -- HAVE YOU EVER LOOKED IN THE
17 TEXTBOOKS ABOUT HOW MUCH IS WRITTEN IN THE JUNIOR
18 HIGHSCHOOL?

19 Q. HARDLY ANYTHING?

20 A. HARDLY ANYTHING, YES. A FEW LINES. I FEEL VERY
21 STRONGLY. IF I GO INTO COLORADO, FOR INSTANCE,
22 TO THIS SCHOOL WHICH IS A PREP HIGHSCHOOL.

23 Q. THE ONE WHERE YOUR GRANDDAUGHTER IS?

24 A. YES.

25 Q. ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGHSCHOOL?

1 A. YES, COLORADO ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGHSCHOOL. THIS
2 TIME, I WILL BE THERE FOR A WHOLE WEEK. AND, I
3 WILL ROAM AROUND ON THE CAMPUS SO THEY CAN COME
4 AND TALK TO ME.

5 Q. IT WILL BE LIKE A SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE?

6 A. YES, SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE, YES. I KNOW ONCE, I
7 SPOKE AT WILBURN HERE, THE JUNIOR HIGHSCHOOL.
8 JUST BECAUSE MY GRANDDAUGHTER WAS IN THIS CLASS.
9 AND, THEY ASKED QUESTIONS. THEY HAD NO IDEA, I
10 MEAN, NO IDEA. AND, HIGHSCHOOLS DON'T NEITHER.
11 THEY REALLY DON'T.

12 MY WRITING GROUP WHO I MEAN, NOT THE JEWISH
13 PEOPLE, AND I WONDER SOMETIMES ABOUT THAT. BUT,
14 THE OTHERS HAD NO IDEA, NO IDEA. AND, THERE WERE
15 SOME TEACHERS, AT LEAST FIVE TEACHERS IN THERE.
16 NO IDEA. COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT THIS HAPPENED.

17 Q. THEY HAD NEVER EVEN KNOWN ABOUT CONCENTRATION CAMPS?

18 A. OH, YES.

19 Q. BUT, THE EXTENT OF THE ATROCITY?

20 A. WHAT HAPPENS REALLY TO PEOPLE. TO EACH OF US
21 SOMETHING ELSE HAPPENED. THERE WERE A VERY FEW OF
22 US THAT CAME OUT WITHOUT SCARS.

23 I HAVE MET PEOPLE WHO HAVE ERASED THEIR NUMBERS,
24 HAVE HAD SURGERY TO GET RID OF THEIR NUMBER. I
25 FEEL VERY GUILTY THAT I DON'T HAVE A NUMBER. DO

1 YOU KNOW THAT? I REALLY DO. IT'S JUST A STRANGE
2 THING. YOU THINK, YOU MUST BE OUT OF YOUR MIND,
3 YOU KNOW. BUT, I FEEL I SHOULD HAVE A NUMBER. I
4 KNOW THAT I HAVE BEEN WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD
5 NUMBERS. AND, I KNOW THAT SOME OF THEM HAVE BEEN
6 SURGICALLY REMOVED. IN FACT, I WROTE A POEM
7 ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT. AND, I WONDER SOME-
8 TIMES. IT'S A BADGE OF COURAGE.

9 BUT, ON THE OTHER SENSE, IF THEY WANT IT REMOVED,
10 THEY SHOULD HAVE IT REMOVED. I KNOW PEOPLE, I'VE
11 BEEN AROUND WITH SOME OF THE PEOPLE. I GET
12 AROUND WITH A LOT OF PEOPLE, I KNOW THAT HAVE
13 GONE THROUGH MURDER BUT, THEY WOULDN'T TALK ABOUT
14 IT.

15 THIS LADY THAT I KNOW HERE WAS EIGHTY-TWO, THREE
16 YEARS OLD, HAS GONE THROUGH MURDER. I HAVE WRIT-
17 TEN A LITTLE STORY ON SOMETHING ABOUT THIS. NOW,
18 SHE TALKS AND PEOPLE WALK AWAY FROM HER. THEY
19 DON'T WANT TO HEAR HER. SHE CONTINUOUSLY TALKS
20 ABOUT THIS. AND I SAY SHE NEEDS TO TALK ABOUT
21 THIS. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. YOU SHOULD KNOW
22 ALL THAT YOU CAN DO. I MEAN, YOU HAVE TO KNOW
23 ABOUT THIS BECAUSE YOU KNOW, ONE DAY, THAT MIGHT
24 JUST RETURN. BECAUSE, WE ALWAYS SAID "AH, THIS
25 WILL NEVER HAPPEN". AND, WE WAITED AND WE WAITED

1 AND WE WAITED, AND IT HAPPENED. I WOULDN'T TRUST
2 A GOVERNMENT ANYMORE. JUST ONE LUNATIC CAN TURN
3 THE WHOLE GOVERNMENT.

4 Q. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF REAGAN?

5 A. I DON'T KNOW, I HAVE NO WAY TO TELL. I DIDN'T VOTE
6 FOR HIM BUT, WHO KNOWS.

7 Q. BUT, YOU ARE JUST IN GENERAL MISTRUSTFUL OF GOVERN-
8 MENTS NOW?

9 A. I THINK SO, I THINK SO. I FEEL GOOD IF I'M IN
10 ISRAEL AND ISRAEL HAS A LOT OF PROBLEMS. BUT, I
11 FEEL VERY GOOD THERE EVEN DURING THE WARS THAT I
12 WAS THERE. I FEEL LIKE I'M WITH MY PEOPLE. AND,
13 ONE OR THE OTHER, IF THEY DIDN'T HAVE PROBLEMS AT
14 THIS TIME, THEY HAD AT THE PROGRAMS. IF IT
15 WASN'T THE PROGRAMS, IT WAS THE OTHER PART. NO
16 MATTER WHERE, THEY ALL HAD THEIR SHARE. MOST OF
17 THEM. AND, THEY HAVE THE MOST WONDERFUL CHIL-
18 DREN, THEY'RE LOVED AND THEY'RE TAKEN CARE OF.
19 AND FAMILY LIFE IS THEIR LIFE. IT'S IMPORTANT.
20 I MEAN, THERE'S LOTS OF PROBLEMS THERE, MANY
21 PROBLEMS. I'D RATHER BE THERE. I FEEL MORE
22 COMFORTABLE WITH ALL THE MARSHAL GUARDS THERE. I
23 COULD SLEEP THERE VERY WELL.

24 Q. DO YOU EVER THINK OF MAKING THAT YOUR HOME?

25 A. I'D LIKE TO. ONE OF MY SONS IS THINKING OF MAYBE

1 GETTING A PLACE THERE IN JERUSALEM. I HAVE TO
2 PROBABLY GO BACK AND FORTH BECAUSE I HAVE GRAND-
3 CHILDREN, YES. SOME OF MY FAMILY IS ALL GONE.
4 YOU CERTAINLY CONCENTRATE ON YOUR GRANDCHILDREN
5 AND YOUR CHILDREN. AND, THAT'S A LONG COMMUTE.
6 I HAD A TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE THIS SUMMER. I HAVE
7 A COUSIN IN BRUSSEL AND SHE INSISTED ON GOING TO
8 MUNICH WITH ME. AND, I SAID ONLY FOR TWO DAYS.

9 Q. BRUSSELS SHE LIVES IN?

10 A. YES, IN BRUSSELS. SHE HAS A FRIEND THAT IS A
11 RESTORER ON SOME -- HE'S NOT JEWISH AND HE'S A
12 RESTORER ON SOME OF THE ARTIFACTS AND CHURCHES
13 AND CASTLES IN MUNICH. THERE'S NEVERENDING CAS-
14 TLES THERE.

15 AND, SHE SAID LET'S GO TO MUNICH. IT'S WONDER-
16 FUL, IT'S GORGEOUS, IT'S MARVELOUS. I SAID, I
17 DON'T REALLY WANT TO GO TO GERMANY, I JUST DON'T
18 WANT TO. I WAS IN FRANCE FOR A FEW DAYS WITH MY
19 COUSIN, WHICH WAS FINE.

20 THEN, IT TURNED OUT -- AND, I DON'T SEE HER VERY
21 MUCH BECAUSE SHE WON'T COME HERE. SO, THEN I
22 SPENT TWO AND A HALF WEEKS IN MUNICH. I WAS
23 PLUMB OUT OF MY MIND. I WROTE A STORY AND IT'S
24 CALLED 'THE S TRAIN'. SHE INSISTED UPON ME GOING
25 TO SEE ALL THE CASTLES. AND, IT'S A BEAUTIFUL

1 SURROUNDING. BUT, WHEN THIS 'S TRAIN', IT'S
2 CALLED 'S TRAIN', IT'S A VERY QUICK TRAIN THAT
3 GOES FROM MUNICH OUT TOWARDS THE OUTLINE DIS-
4 TRICTS, THE TRAIN STOPPED AT VARIOUS STATIONS AND
5 I WATCHED FOR THE STATION THAT WE HAD TO GET OUT.
6 AND, ALL OF A SUDDEN THE TRAIN STOPS AND IT SAID
7 DACHAU ON IT. WELL, YOU KNOW, I THOUGHT I WOULD
8 FAINT. I GOT SO HOT AND SO MISERABLE AND SO SICK
9 THAT I JUST SHOOK. AND, SHE HAD FALLEN ASLEEP.
10 SHE'S A BIT OLDER THAN I. I SAID, "WHAT AM I
11 DOING, WHAT AM I DOING HERE?" AND, THEN, THE
12 NEXT STATION WE GOT OUT. AND ALL THE STREETS
13 WERE CALLED DACHAU STREET. DACHAU THIS AND DAC-
14 HAU CANAL, YOU KNOW, ALL THIS KIND OF STUFF. WE
15 GO TO THE CASTLE AND I SAID "WHY ARE WE HERE,
16 WHY? LET'S GO HOME, PLEASE. I CANNOT STAND TO
17 SEE, I CAN SMELL THE CAMP." I SAID "THIS IS THE
18 CAMP MY SISTER OPENED". SEE, DACHAU ITSELF HAS A
19 CASTLE, ALSO. AND IT'S A BEAUTIFUL AREA. BUT, I
20 SAID "I JUST CAN'T".
21 AND SO, WHEN I FINALLY CAME HOME, I WASN'T HERE
22 ONE DAY AND I WROTE ABOUT IT BECAUSE I HAD TO GET
23 IT OUT OF MY SYSTEM. SHE TOOK ALONG BREAD TO
24 FEED THE SWANS AND DUCKS AND I SAID "YOU KNOW,
25 NOT FAR FROM HERE THERE USE TO BE PEOPLE STARVING

1 TO DEATH, IN THE MIDST OF DACHAU". SO, I WROTE A
2 DEAL ON THIS. SHE NEVER SAW IT. I'M AFRAID THIS
3 WAS THE LAST TIME I WOULD SEE HER.

4 Q. SHE WAS A CHRISTIAN?

5 A. NO, SHE WAS A JEW AND SHE DOES A LOT FOR ISRAEL.
6 SHE LEFT A WHOLE APARTMENT TO THE JNF. NO. BUT,
7 IT'S FUNNY. NOW, SHE WAS IN BRUSSELS AND SHE WAS
8 THERE. NOW, SHE SAW IT FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE
9 AND IT MIGHT BE AN AGE SITUATION ALREADY. I HAVE
10 THAT FEELING AND I FIGURED WELL -- AND, I WAS
11 NEVER SO GLAD. I TOOK THE TRAIN BACK TO PARIS
12 BECAUSE I LEFT FROM PARIS AND I WAS NEVER SO GLAD
13 TO SEE -- WE WENT THROUGH STRASBOURG TO SEE
14 FRIENDS. I WAS NOT COMFORTABLE, I WAS SO MISER-
15 ABLE THAT YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT. I WAS ALMOST
16 SICK. IT WAS A TERRIBLE SITUATION. I DON'T KNOW
17 WHY I DID THIS. I DON'T KNOW WHY I STAYED TWO
18 AND A HALF WEEKS, I DON'T KNOW. BECAUSE SHE JUST
19 BEGGED AND BEGGED ME. BUT, NEVER AGAIN. IT WAS
20 VERY HARD TO GET BACK. I WEAR THIS THING OUT ALL
21 THE TIME.

22 Q. YOUR MOGEN DAVID?

23 A. YES, ALL THE TIME, RIGHT THERE, OUT OF FEAR THEY
24 WILL SAY SOMETHING TO ME. IT'S SORT OF LIKE A
25 SHIELD. AND, SOMEBODY SAID TO ME "OH, YOU SPEAK

1 VERY WONDERFUL GERMAN". AND I SAID, "WELL, I WAS
2 ONCE A GERMAN. THEY DIDN'T ALLOW ME TO BE ONE.
3 I ALWAYS HAD TO PUT SOMETHING IN IT." AND THEN,
4 I FELT MISERABLE. I MEAN, I JUST COULDN'T SAY
5 ANYTHING AND I BECAME NOT VERY CIVIL. IT'S NOT
6 SO BAD NOW, IT IS WONDERFUL NOW, LOOK AT GERMANY,
7 YOU KNOW, THEY'RE DOING, VERY WELL, GERMANY.
8 THAT'S ANOTHER THING, THEY'RE WAY UP, WAY UP.
9 THE MONEY THAT'S SPENT THERE, THE STORES, I MEAN,
10 IT'S INCREDIBLE.

11 AND HERE, I WAS IN THE SHADOW OF DACHAU AND A FEW
12 OTHER PLACES, YOU KNOW. MY SISTER SAID THAT
13 BEFORE THEY BURIED THE PEOPLE IN DACHAU, BEFORE
14 THEY DID THAT, THEY INSISTED ON ALL OF THE TOWN
15 OF HAMLET, OF DACHAU, THEY PULLED THEM ALL IN.
16 CHILDREN, BABIES, EVERYTHING, TO GO BY ALL THE
17 MOUNTAINS OF SKELETONS AND THE STINK AND THE
18 SMELL. BECAUSE, THEY SAID THEY DIDN'T KNOW THAT
19 THERE WAS SUCH A THING IN THE BACK OF THEIR
20 PLACES. SHE SAID, WE'LL SHOW YOU, WE'LL SHOW
21 YOU. AND, VANITTI SAID IT WAS REALLY SOMETHING.
22 SHE SAID, YOU COME AND SEE. SO, THEY TOOK THEM
23 IN. EVERYONE OF THEM, THEY ROUNDED UP EVERYBODY.

24 Q. THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS DID THAT?

25 A. YES. BECAUSE THEY TOLD THEM "WE DIDN'T KNOW

1 THERE WAS SUCH A THING." HE SAID "WELL, WELL,
2 WE'LL LET YOU KNOW, SO NOW YOU'LL KNOW." THEY
3 DIDN'T SEE THE SMOKE? MY SISTER SAID IT WAS
4 INCREDIBLE. SHE STILL WON'T TALK ABOUT IT AT
5 ALL, NOT AT ALL, UNLESS SOMEBODY REALLY ASKS HER.
6 IT'S A HEAVY TRIP.

7 Q. SO, YOU'RE GOING TO READ A POEM NOW, THAT YOU'VE
8 WRITTEN ABOUT?

9 A. IT'S A PROSE. IT'S CALLED "THE LULLABYE".

10 A SHARP KNOCK ON THE DOOR, VOICES,

11 "OPEN THE DOOR".

12 NOT AGAIN, TURN OFF THE LIGHT, RUN UP THE
13 STAIRS INTO THE ATTIC. HURRY, HIDE UNDER THE
14 OLD DESK."

15 "WHY?"

16 "THEY'RE HERE AGAIN!"

17 "WHO ARE THEY?"

18 "MEN IN BROWN SHIRTS AND TALL BOOTS ON THEIR
19 FEET."

20 "WHY DO THEY COME SO OFTEN?"

21 TO DESTROY US. TO TAKE US TO FARAWAY PLACES
22 AND LEAVE US THERE."

23 "WHAT DID WE DO?"

24 "THEY SAY WE KILLED THEIR GOD, RUINED THEIR
25 ECONOMY, STEAL, CHEAT, AND HAVE EVIL FACES."

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"IS THIS TRUE?"

"HUSH."

ANOTHER KNOCK. THEIR BOOTS ARE ON THE STEPS.
VOICES, COMMANDS, LAUGHTER.

"WHEN MUST WE LEAVE?" "SHA, SHA, BE STILL
MY PRECIOUS CHILD. CLOSE YOUR EYES. SLEEP
WILL GENTLY ROCK YOU IN THE CRADLE FILLED WITH
DREAMS. THE MICE AND RATS WILL SING AND NIBBLE
ON YOUR TOES."

THEY CAME AGAIN AND AGAIN, KNOCKING, SCREAMING,
LAUGHING. FANATICS, MONSTERS. AND, THEY TOOK
HER AND THE PRECIOUS CHILD. THE MICE AND RATS
STAYED.

THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER.

I REMEMBER OUR ATTIC, THAT'S WHY THIS CAME TO ME.
MY MOTHER HID STUFF IN THE ATTIC AND STUFF, YOU
KNOW.

Q. I LIKE THAT THAT YOU SAID. "IS IT TRUE?" BE-
CAUSE YOU WONDERED, IN A WAY WHETHER IT WAS TRUE.
WHEN ALL OF THAT WAS HAPPENING, YOU THOUGHT "MAY-
BE I AM A BAD, DIRTY JEW, IF THEY SAY SO FORCE-
FULLY THAT I AM."

A. YES, AFTER YOU HEAR THIS, AFTER IT'S DRUMMED INTO
YOU, THEN, YOU WONDER IF YOUR NOSE IS THAT

1 CROOKED AND IF YOU HAVE SUCH EVIL MOUTH, AND YOUR
2 EYES DON'T GET TOGETHER AND A HORRIBLE LAUGHING
3 FACE. I CAN SEE THE PICTURES OF THIS STURMER
4 BUILDING EVERYDAY, ANOTHER ONE AT THE NEWSPAPER,
5 FULL OF IT.

6 Q. YOU CAN STILL SEE THOSE?

7 A. OH YES, I CAN STILL SEE THOSE, YES. AND, I SAW
8 HITLER, MYSELF. AND, WHEN THEY CAME BY, THEY
9 PLAYED THEIR WONDERFUL SONG "WHEN THE JEWISH
10 BLOOD SPURTS OFF THE KNIFE, THEN THINGS WILL GO
11 MUCH BETTER". THIS WAS IT. I WROTE A STORY
12 ABOUT WHEN HE CAME TO TOWN AND I HAD TO SEE HIM.
13 AT THE MOMENT, WHEN THEY MARCHED BY, THE MELODY GOES
14 LA-NA-DEN, DA DA DA DA DEE (HUM). I REMEMBER THAT
15 SONG. CAN YOU IMAGINE? YOU'RE DEVASTATED. YOU
16 THINK YOU MUST BE IN THE GUTTER.

17 Q. SOMEHOW, PART OF YOU DIDN'T THINK THAT? SOMEHOW
18 PART OF YOU WANTED TO KNOW WHY?

19 A. NO, BECAUSE WE HAD A LOT OF COMMUNICATION. OUR
20 MOTHER AND THE PEOPLE THAT WENT IN AND OUT OF THE
21 HOME. THERE WAS A LOT OF TALKING. WE WEREN'T
22 ALONE. THIS IS THE WORST, YOU SEE. WE ALWAYS
23 HAD SOME PEOPLE AROUND US SO WE COULD TALK OUT.
24 SO, WE HAD TO WATCH WHERE WE TALKED.

25 Q. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE IN THERE? (INDICATING MATER-

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IALS)

A. THIS IS ABOUT THE NUMBERS ON YOUR ARM, WHEN I SAID
THAT I WISHED I HAD ONE.

SOMEBODY ASKED ME "DO YOU HAVE A NUMBER?"

"NO, I DON'T FEEL HAPPY ABOUT THAT. I SHOULD
HAVE HAD ONE ON MY WRIST. INSTEAD, I CARRY
THE TATTOO IN MY HEART.

MY FRIEND WAS A NUMBER 1921, ETERNALLY ETCHED INTO
A FOREARM."

AND, THAT'S JUST ONE STANZA. I DON'T DO ANY
RHYMING. I WANTED TO WRITE ABOUT A VERY GOOD FRIEND
OF MINE BUT, SHE NEVER WOULD TELL THE WHOLE STORY
NEITHER.

LET'S TAKE A BREAK.