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HOLOCAUST MEDIA PROJECT

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INTERVIEW WITH: Hannah Naiman 65

INTERVIEWER:

DATE:

PLACE:

TRANSCRIBER: Robin Nodland

- 1 Q. Your name is?
- 2 A. My name is Hannah ox-en-hal-en-ler, my maiden name,  
3 and my married name is Naiman. Do you want me to  
4 spell it?
- 5 Q. No. You have it spelled here. And where are you  
6 from?
- 7 A. I am from zav-ee-el-chev, Poland. Presently I live  
8 in Tamarack, Florida.
- 9 Q. How old were you when the war started?
- 10 A. I was 18 years old.
- 11 Q. And what was your family, how many children?
- 12 A. We were five in the family, my mother and father, and  
13 I'm the only one left.
- 14 Q. And how many -- five children?
- 15 A. Five children. There were three brothers, me  
16 including two sisters. I was the eldest.
- 17 Q. You were the eldest?
- 18 A. Yeah. My two brothers, and sister, mother, and  
19 father perished in Auschwitz. They went in 1943.  
20 They were taken away from the ghetto to Auschwitz. I  
21 went in 1942, in February. I was drafted to labor  
22 camp, which was shim-burg-su-def-en-gow, and then we  
23 were transferred to the concentration camp in Graben,  
24 that was all su-def-en-gow. In 1944, the end of  
25 1944, they shipped us -- well, we walked for two

1 weeks towards Bergen-Belsen, and when we arrived, in  
2 '45, in January, in Bergen-Belsen, and you know what  
3 happened -- what was in Bergen-Belsen. I don't think  
4 I have to tell you. Now --

5 Q. What -- you don't have to tell me but --

6 A. Yeah, well.

7 Q. -- do you want to tell the tape?

8 A. Okay. All right. We didn't have any -- anything to  
9 do to work, but they dragged us through the woods,  
10 just make us move around, many starved -- starved  
11 from not having anything to eat or to drink. I  
12 survived thanks -- I met some friends. They were in  
13 the kitchen. They helped me out, and I survived. I  
14 -- in about February, as I recall, I developed  
15 typhus. It was stomach typhus. I was in a room, and  
16 we were in one bed. We were five gals. Every  
17 morning another one was dead. But somehow I  
18 survived. I was very -- I lost a lot of weight.

19 Went back to that place where my friend was, and  
20 she helped me out, and then we were liberated in  
21 1945, April 15th, to the English, and from then I was  
22 looking for my family, which nobody was -- I had one  
23 brother was survived, and I met him. Then later he  
24 came to me, to Bergen-Belsen, and in 1948 he  
25 immigrated to Israel, and I -- in 1950 I came to

1 United States. May 15, we came to United States. My  
2 brother -- my brother died in 1955. He was younger  
3 than I was.

4 Q. Yeah?

5 A. Yeah, he was two years younger than I was, and I'm  
6 left all by myself. There's only one -- one son of  
7 my brother's left. He lives now -- I brought him  
8 from Israel. He was all by himself, and now he's --  
9 went into -- send him to schools here. Now he lives  
10 in Montreal.

11 I married in 1946. My husband's name is Philip  
12 Naiman. He's also from zal-vee-air-cha. And we have  
13 two daughters. One lives in Arlington, Virginia, one  
14 lives in North Brunswick, New Jersey.

15 Q. Okay. Now let's -- that's more or less the full  
16 sweep?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Let's go back to your town.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. And when you first went to the ghetto.

21 A. Well, I wasn't in a ghetto. 1942, in February, there  
22 was no ghetto, but they took young people to labor  
23 camps.

24 Q. Who's "they"?

25 A. The Germans, the Nazis. That was forced labor camp.

1 First I was hiding.

2 Q. Where were you hiding?

3 A. I was hiding in a basement, and that was the story.  
4 My sister walked on the street, and they -- she was  
5 much younger than I was. She was -- I was at that  
6 time about 18. She must have been about 12 years  
7 old. And they arrested her. My mother saw that they  
8 arrested her, and she ran out, and she said they  
9 shouldn't take her, let her go, because they look for  
10 me. So they arrested my mother, send her away. That  
11 was a-doo-lok-cauld, and it was a town of Sosnowiec.  
12 And they kept her there 'til -- 'til I would come.  
13 If not, they would send her away to labor camp.

14 My mother was only about 38 years old, very  
15 young woman. Well, I had to go because I didn't want  
16 my mother should be sent away.

17 Q. And how did you know that they wanted this exchange?  
18 I mean, who told you?

19 A. They -- they did say that if I come, they'll let my  
20 mother go.

21 Q. Who did they say that to?

22 A. The Nazis, the Gestapo.

23 Q. Who'd they say that to?

24 A. That's what they let know, everybody in town knew,  
25 because it was -- zal-vee-air-cha wasn't such a big

1 town, but they knew, they let them all know that if I  
2 don't come, they would send my mother away, and I  
3 didn't want this to happen.

4 So then I went to that meeting place, where they  
5 gathered, you know, whoever wanted to go to the camp  
6 -- not wanted; they were forced -- we were forced to  
7 go. So they took me, and send me -- that was  
8 Sosnowiec. That was a town next to us. And there  
9 was a meeting place where they send everybody into  
10 camps, to labor camps. So when I came there, I met  
11 my mother, and they let my mother go and they send me  
12 away.

13 I went to shim-burg --

14 Q. Now, let's go back. Did you see your mother there?

15 A. Yes, I did see her.

16 Q. And --

17 A. My mother wasn't too happy that I came.

18 Q. Yeah.

19 A. She wasn't happy. But I didn't want my mother should  
20 go to a labor camp. She had the other children still  
21 home, and my father was still home. So they took me,  
22 and they let her go. But it wasn't for too long.  
23 And I still received packages, because in labor camp  
24 we could receive from home packages.

25 We walked, and it was cold in Germany. Flax

1           rais-ter, they had flax for -- for thread, but this  
2           was the raw flax from the fields. We worked six days  
3           a week in the fields. The 7th day we had to unload.  
4           They were bringing carloads with coal, you know, what  
5           they had for heating purposes, and that's what we had  
6           to do on Sundays.

7           Q.     On the six days, what did you do?

8           A.     We worked in the fields. We gathered the flax, and  
9           we tied it in bundles, and then we had to load it on  
10          trucks, you know, on wagons, and this went to the  
11          factory, where they put it in water, until this got  
12          all rotten. So they took it out and was putting --  
13          also people, our people were doing this, putting it  
14          in ovens, and they were drying it. And then it was  
15          in an upstairs, another factory, went to machines.  
16          When it took from that flax, it came up. When they  
17          put where the machines, it came off like scales, and  
18          from that they made the yarn.

19          Q.     And you'd never done any work like that before?

20          A.     Never in my life, never.

21          Q.     And were men and women working in the fields?

22          A.     No, just women, just women. And also, there were  
23          also French soldiers. They were -- what do you call  
24          them? They were called the French soldiers. How do  
25          you call them?

1 Q. I don't know.

2 A. No, they were caught from the Army.

3 Q. Cauv-yen-ta?

4 A. No, from the Army. They were French soldiers. They  
5 had like --

6 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Prisoner, prisoner of war.

7 A. Prison of war, right, they were prisoners of war,  
8 right.

9 Q. Oh.

10 A. They did also some work, but we weren't allowed to be  
11 in contact with them. We went -- you know, if we  
12 went to town, let's say, to help bring some food to  
13 the camp, we weren't allowed to walk on the  
14 sidewalk. We had to walk on the street. If I had a  
15 toothache, I wasn't allowed to go to a dentist. If I  
16 went, they pulled my tooth. They wouldn't fill my  
17 cavity. If you were sick, there was nothing to help  
18 you, and we were constantly on the guard.

19 But then in 1943, when Hitler formed the  
20 concentration camps, we were shipped to another camp  
21 called Graben that was also in su-den-ten-gow.  
22 Su-den-ten-gow means near Czechoslovakia, Germany and  
23 Czechoslovakia border.

24 There they took all our belongings away, nothing  
25 left. We were sent to work, and when we came back,



1 everything was gone. Not even a tooth brush. All  
2 they gave us is wooden shoes and the dress that I had  
3 on and an apron, was an apron because from that flax,  
4 this was tearing the clothes. So they gave an  
5 apron. It was like clothes -- but this wasn't  
6 important, what they gave.

7 Q. Yeah, it is important. Details are important.

8 A. It's an apron like they used to cover -- I forget  
9 what. It's like a canvas.

10 Q. Yeah.

11 A. So this wouldn't go through. And we worked there  
12 'til 1943 'til 1944, when the Russians -- this was  
13 already the Russians and the English came already  
14 closer, that we found out later, because we didn't  
15 know anything was going on. So they shipped us.  
16 They told us we had to walk, and this was in January,  
17 and we walked in the snow. At night we slept on the  
18 road -- you know, off the road we slept, just on the  
19 snow. That's how we lay.

20 And so one night we were four girls, we decided  
21 that we were going to try -- went back to the woods,  
22 would try to run away. So one night we were crawling  
23 on our all fours to the woods, but trucks were  
24 passing by, and the headlights were shining on us,  
25 and they saw that we were crawling. They were

1 shooting, but, you know, the truck passed by very  
2 fast and -- so they didn't see us.

3 Then we crawled back to the ditches, and we  
4 walked like this for two weeks. Then they put us on  
5 cattle wagons, so don't --

6 Q. Wait a minute. So instead of escaping, you crawled  
7 back?

8 A. That's right, we crawled back in the ditches. Then  
9 they put us on cattle wagons. During the day we  
10 weren't allowed -- we were standing -- the cattle  
11 wagons were on the side. We weren't allowed to  
12 travel, only at night, but we were just like  
13 cattles. They didn't give us any food. If they gave  
14 bread, so they were throwing it, and everybody was  
15 hungry. Everybody was grabbing. Nobody cared if the  
16 other one gets two or one, they get nothing. And  
17 that's how we were on the road another week. We were  
18 on the road more than three weeks, almost four weeks,  
19 until finally we came to Bergen-Belsen.

20 They stripped us of everything, and it was in  
21 the cold, and they called the selection, you know,  
22 they checked us. So they chased us in, and we had to  
23 take showers, and drop everything on a table. And  
24 the clothes would go in an oven to disinfect, and,  
25 you know, when it came out, everybody tried to grab

1 something. We couldn't grab it, but if you grab  
2 something, then they chased us out, outside to count,  
3 and we were all wet. We didn't dry off, and it was  
4 in January. It was freezing. That's where we were  
5 staying until, you know, we were quite a few hundred  
6 girls, all young girls.

7 Then finally they brought -- counted us, they  
8 boarded us in a room, and we had to lay on the  
9 floor. And, you know, each one was laying. If you  
10 had to go out at night, you know, to relieve  
11 yourself, if you walk, you were stepping on people.  
12 Everybody was pinching you. You didn't want to.

13 Well, one night I was trying to go out, and I  
14 came out, and there were outside toilets, just the  
15 outside like patrols. And they were full, couldn't  
16 get in, and I needed to go, needed to relieve  
17 myself. It's a natural thing. So I sat behind the  
18 barracks. So there was even a Jewish girl, but she  
19 was from bel-jin, with a big stick, and she was  
20 hitting me so hard, I was bleeding. I couldn't walk  
21 back in because I was doing it. Well, this was one  
22 thing.

23 Finally I got back, and I got very sick, you  
24 know, because there was no water. You couldn't wash  
25 yourself. The water they said was poisoned. They

1 didn't want -- the bread was poisoned. What we did,  
2 we went to the ditches, and that green water, we took  
3 a little with our hands, and I tore off from my  
4 undershirt a piece and let it sift through, and  
5 that's what I drank, and from there I got my typhus.

6 And I was laying -- they put us in one room.  
7 There were four, five girls in one bed, and all I  
8 wanted -- if I had a little coffee or something, this  
9 was the greatest thing. And I was -- I was always on  
10 the heavy side, always chubby side, and there I was  
11 thin as a stick.

12 I was laying there -- the other girls, every  
13 morning another one was dead, so they put another one  
14 in. I woke up, another one was dead. I was there --  
15 I don't recall how many days or weeks I was laying  
16 there. Finally, I didn't want to stay anymore. They  
17 gave me an old coat and a pair of shoes, big shoes,  
18 and my friend was -- she was staying, she was in  
19 charge of one of the rooms where there were a lot of  
20 people in. So I wanted to walk to her. It wasn't  
21 far, maybe two blocks away. I walked from morning  
22 until night. That's how slow. I couldn't walk. I  
23 was after the typhus. My legs -- I have heavy legs.  
24 My legs were sticks.

25 I finally came there, and she gave me something

1 to eat. And I sat down, and, well, this was a great  
2 thing that she let me sit down on the floor, near  
3 where she was -- she had a bunker there and with a  
4 curtain, and if I could sit near, on the floor, this  
5 was already a privilege. I was a privileged person.

6 Finally, I came to myself a little bit because  
7 in that room, they had brought the Germans'  
8 children. They were somehow through the Red Cross,  
9 and they had for them different food, like cream of  
10 fa-reen or something like this. So that friend of  
11 mine could give me something, you know, steal from  
12 there a little bit that I should come to myself.

13 When I came to myself, I started walking out a  
14 little bit. And I had a cousin with me. She was  
15 only about 13 years old, blonde, I can see her now,  
16 like a Swedish girl, blue eyes. And she was sitting  
17 on the ground -- well, there were many sitting, you  
18 know. There were corpses laying all over, and people  
19 were looking between the corpses if you could find a  
20 piece of bread. And it was horrible.

21 And she said to me -- she stuck her tongue out,  
22 and it was like leather, so dry. She said, I need a  
23 little water, she said to me in Polish, little water,  
24 please. So I said, stay here, I'm going to try to  
25 get. I couldn't get. Finally, I brought that green

1 water, I sifted through my shirt. When I came, she  
2 was dead already. She died. Beautiful gal, gorgeous  
3 gal.

4 Well, this lays in my mind all my life. As long  
5 as I'm going to live, I'm going to remember that,  
6 from her. All my life.

7 Q. Do you have nightmares about that?

8 A. Many times.

9 Q. Yeah.

10 A. But I don't want to -- many times I wouldn't want to  
11 think about it, and I cannot believe myself that I  
12 went through all this.

13 Q. Yeah.

14 A. I can't. I don't like to watch on television all  
15 the --

16 Q. Yeah.

17 A. -- skeletons and the horror pictures, and I really  
18 can't believe, this really is a nightmare.

19 Q. Yeah.

20 A. I can't believe to this day.

21 Q. Now, what happened to your family?

22 A. My family, my parents -- my younger brother was also  
23 taken by the Nazis first. Yeah, when I was in camp,  
24 I was yet in labor camp, my brother was taken, my  
25 middle brother was taken to -- also to the Nazis, and

1 they were building barracks for the people. And when  
2 he found out that I was taken, he knew where I was.  
3 My parents wrote him. You could still correspond at  
4 that time. It wasn't yet a ghetto, and it wasn't yet  
5 a concentration camp, where I was, so he through  
6 Polish people who worked with him, he gave them bread  
7 and margarine, they should mail it to me. Then one  
8 day one of the Polish people told the Nazis that he  
9 is sending for him. They took him and send him to  
10 Auschwitz, and he was gone, for dead.

11 So then my younger brother, I had my youngest  
12 and my sister, my mother, my father, they were  
13 already in 1943 in the ghetto. They shipped them to  
14 Auschwitz, the Nazis, and I know for a fact because  
15 my husband, my husband -- my husband, he was from the  
16 same town -- and my brother-in-law went together,  
17 they were shipped the same time, and they told me,  
18 that was my older brother, my younger brother, my  
19 sister, my mother and father, and they made a  
20 selection, and my father was still a young man. This  
21 was in 1943. He was in 1900 born, so he was 43 years  
22 old.

23 They put him on the side because he was tall,  
24 strong. He had red head, red hair, red little beard,  
25 and they put him on the side with my older brother.

1 He should go to work. But he saw that they put my  
2 mother, my younger brother and my sister on the side  
3 where they go to a crematorium. He said he doesn't  
4 want to live, and he joined them, and they put them  
5 in the gas chambers, they gased them. I'm talking  
6 like -- I don't know how I can say that. It's very  
7 hard to say it. But my older brother was sent to --

8 Q. Labor?

9 A. Labor -- on labor, yeah, the older one, and he was --  
10 he was in fife-tike-en, as far as I remember,  
11 gors-hose-en, and Buchenwald, I think. There he was  
12 liberated.

13 Now, in 1945, I was liberated in Bergen-Belsen.

14 Q. What were you doing in Bergen-Belsen?

15 A. I -- I was shipped, when I went with the cattle cars,  
16 you know.

17 Q. But you weren't working in Bergen-Belsen?

18 A. Well, they send us -- like I said before, they send  
19 us to the woods, like, you know, commander, a group  
20 of girls, and there wasn't any work. All we had to  
21 do is carry from one place a tree to another place  
22 all day long, on the way. You know, there were  
23 fields with potatoes, with other vegetables, and the  
24 girls, if they ran out -- they wanted to go, you  
25 know, to the field, so there were Hungarian



1 soldiers. They worked for the Nazis. They shot them  
2 there dead, so you couldn't go out. I'm taking one  
3 after another, I don't know. It's --

4 Q. It's alright.

5 A. It gets very confused. So anyway, I was there until  
6 we were liberated in Bergen-Belsen. And then in  
7 Bergen-Belsen, after the liberation --

8 Q. Yeah. Who liberated you?

9 A. The English, the English Army came in.

10 Q. They marched in?

11 A. Yes, they came in one day, and, you know, the Germans  
12 started to run away, but they couldn't run anymore  
13 because the English were already surrounding them.  
14 But see this camp, the Bergen-Belsen, was all under  
15 -- with mines. They knew that the English -- Allies  
16 already come, close by. And all the bread,  
17 everything was poisoned. And they tried to run away,  
18 but the English surrounded them and they couldn't.

19 Then they told the English that there are mines  
20 around Bergen-Belsen, and the bread -- there was one  
21 doctor, his name was Dr. Kut-ski, he was a Nazi, he  
22 was a Gestapo, but he told the English everything.  
23 That's why they let him go in later day. He was, you  
24 know, paroled or whatever you call it. And then they  
25 found where the mines are, because if not everything

1 would have blown up.

2 And then also there were Russian prisoner of war  
3 there, too. And they really did to the Nazis -- they  
4 cut them in pieces, all the Nazis.

5 Q. The Russians?

6 A. Yes, they did. They were the only ones that could do  
7 it.

8 Q. The Jews did not?

9 A. No, the Jews -- first of all, they were so weak, and  
10 a Jew doesn't have a heart to do it. No matter how  
11 much the Nazis did to us, they didn't have a heart to  
12 do it. And they were very weak, everybody was very  
13 weak. They were already -- men, also, but they were  
14 on a different side. We couldn't see them. So I was  
15 liberated in 1945, in April.

16 Q. Let's go back to the Russians.

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. What did they do? They turned on the Germans?

19 A. Yes, they did. See, the English, they couldn't  
20 handle it, you know, at once everything. They had  
21 lots -- because they came in the camp, they found  
22 corpses, you know, they were all loads of corpses,  
23 hundreds and hundreds, because they had in Bergen-  
24 Belsen -- they had a crematorium, but not for live  
25 people, for dead people. And one -- only one body

1           could go in. So the corpses were laying, hundreds  
2           and hundreds, because which were dying from hunger,  
3           from starvation, and from dehydration.

4           Q.       Disease?

5           A.       And disease, that's right. But when the English came  
6           in, then when all the sicknesses begun, because the  
7           English Army didn't have the right food. They had  
8           fat food, what they had for the Army, and they were  
9           giving out that fat food for all the people, and, you  
10          know, the stomachs were -- they couldn't take it.  
11          Most of the people, more than before, died after when  
12          the English came in because they didn't have the  
13          right food. If you are very ill, you can't eat, you  
14          know -- if you don't eat for a week, you can't eat.

15          Q.       Right.

16          A.       You have to eat very light food.

17          Q.       Right. Tea, toast.

18          A.       Right. And they didn't have it. Many of them died  
19          from that.

20          Q.       So tell me about the Russians turning on the Germans.

21          A.       Yes, they did.

22          Q.       With what?

23          A.       They cut out every part of their bodies. I saw it  
24          with my own eyes. They did. They had -- and I don't  
25          blame them because they treated them very bad, too,

1 the Russians, worse than the English prisoners or the  
2 French prisoners. The Russian prisoners they treated  
3 very bad.

4 Q. So they took revenge?

5 A. They did, they take revenge, until the English Army,  
6 you know, they couldn't control everything because it  
7 was a chaos, and then they -- it was order, you  
8 know. They had order, and they took them, the  
9 Germans, as prisoners, and that what had happened.

10 Q. Now, when the English came in, did you speak with the  
11 English? Did they want to know what happened?

12 A. No, they didn't. I don't remember. First of all, I  
13 didn't speak English. I didn't know any English. I  
14 spoke German, I spoke Polish, I spoke Yiddish, but I  
15 didn't speak English.

16 No, they didn't. They had plenty of things to  
17 do, but then they send us out to a nearby town. It  
18 was called dee-polz. And they gave like five or six  
19 girls a house. And we were getting provision, you  
20 know, food, until they -- we were staying there for  
21 about five, six weeks, and we got food and we were  
22 nourishing, and then we also had lots of help,  
23 because this was near the Holland border, where  
24 dee-polz was, German/Holland border. And there where  
25 the Army, that was the un-der-son Army, that was the

1 Polish -- what was it, the Polish general,  
2 un-der-son.

3 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Un-ders?

4 A. Un-ders, un-ders. And he formed that group in  
5 England. They fought the Nazis. And there I met a  
6 man, a friend -- he's not alive anymore -- which I  
7 knew from our town, from zav-ee-el-cha. His name was  
8 jev-al, and he was in the army. And he used to bring  
9 us meat and food, and I was cooking. Whoever came, I  
10 tried to help out, they should be fed. As a matter  
11 of fact, I have one friend, which now he's the head  
12 of the red -- red-mor-gan-dav-id in Israel. You  
13 know, that's -- that's just like the Red Cross here  
14 in Israel.

15 Q. Oh, okay.

16 A. It's called the red-mor-gan-dav-id. And he's the  
17 head now. He came to that camp where we were in  
18 dee-polz. He was a skeleton, and we took, the girls,  
19 all -- we took, I took him in. He wanted food,  
20 meat. I said, I'm not going to give you any. I gave  
21 him toast and tea, and we put him on a bunker, and he  
22 remained there for a few days, until I brought him  
23 back to life. As a matter of fact, in 1970 I was in  
24 Israel, and he waited for me. He said to his wife  
25 that I saved his life. If I would have fed him with

1 that fat --

2 Q. Yeah.

3 A. -- fatty food, he wouldn't be alive now.

4 Q. He would have perished.

5 A. That's right, he would have perished. Right. So we  
6 remained in dee-polz there for about five, six  
7 weeks. Then they shipped us back to Bergen-Belsen,  
8 and it was already formed, a committee, you know,  
9 Jewish people. It was under the English -- under the  
10 oon-raul, it was called. I don't know if you heard  
11 of it. It was an organization, American/English, and  
12 also the joint, the joint -- you know what the joint  
13 is?

14 Q. No.

15 A. That was part of the U.J.A.

16 Q. Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

17 A. Yeah, it was helping out the people in  
18 concentration. And we -- that's how we stayed  
19 there. And we got cards, you know, rationing cards,  
20 and we got the food, until we came to the states in  
21 1945, in May. I met my husband. We got married in  
22 Germany in 1946, and we came over to United States.

23 Q. You know, some of the people that we've interviewed,  
24 they say that I met my husband in the camp -- not the  
25 camp, in the -- after we were liberated, we got

1 married. There's that whole idea of starting again,  
2 starting a family.

3 A. Yes, it is.

4 Q. Making a new life.

5 A. Well, my husband I knew from the same town. My  
6 husband was -- is older than I am, and he was a  
7 partner with my father in business, so I knew him  
8 from back home. And we got married, and of course  
9 it's a new life we formed. My older daughter was  
10 born in Bergen-Belsen.

11 Q. It's amazing that --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- you could be so malnourished, so skinny --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- so weak, and then two --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- two years later have a baby.

18 A. It is very -- it's amazing. I met one lady which I  
19 befriended in New Jersey, which I left -- I left  
20 before, and she was a psychologist, and she said,  
21 Hannah, I envy you, and I don't know how, after all  
22 this which you went through that you can raise a  
23 family, and it's just -- it's just amazing, like  
24 nothing happened. See, I don't believe it --

25 (Tape turned over.)

1 A. Well, it is amazing because even if I didn't want --  
2 I don't want to forget, and I'll never forget it, but  
3 somehow human nature -- I don't know. I don't  
4 understand myself. I'm not psychologist. I don't --  
5 I don't know why, and somehow we started a new life.  
6 I don't know how.

7 My kids, you know, went to college, and we  
8 worked very hard. We came to United States. My  
9 husband was always in business. He didn't know the  
10 language. He didn't have a trade, so whatever we  
11 could, we scraped together, and we bought a farm, and  
12 we lived on a farm. We raised chickens. He never  
13 knew what a chicken with a neck is. Never in my  
14 life, and never me. I never knew about it. But we  
15 did, we struggled. We worked very hard, day and  
16 night. We saved -- we gave our kids whatever we  
17 didn't have, my own kids should have. We send them  
18 through college. They went on scholarships, part  
19 scholarship.

20 My daughter works for the Council of  
21 International Education. She's a director of  
22 campuses. My younger daughter is an accountant.  
23 She's married. She lives now in Arlington, Virginia  
24 here. They do -- they're very intelligent girls,  
25 they're doing very well. And that's the product of



1 it.

2 Of course my kids know what it is, what we went  
3 through, that they belong to the new generation of  
4 survivors. They're active, too.

5 Q. What do you -- why do you think you survived, other  
6 than luck?

7 A. Why? Well, determination. I thought maybe, if I  
8 stay alive, I would be alive, I'll still have my  
9 family, which I was very disappointed. My whole  
10 family, I'm the only one. My brother died in Isreal  
11 very young, and this was also consequence from the --  
12 from the camp, and I have nobody, except, you know,  
13 cousins --

14 Q. Yes.

15 A. -- second cousins. But from the immediate family, I  
16 have nobody. Nobody -- there is no way I can tell  
17 you how and how we could survive and raise a family,  
18 bring a family -- bring children in this world and  
19 after all this what we went through. I guess it's  
20 human nature, and the body works differently, and --  
21 I don't know. I don't know if anybody could tell,  
22 any scientist or anything that could tell why and how  
23 this happened, how the body can -- the body is very  
24 strong, it can survive all these things, no matter  
25 how weak you are. It does.

1 Q. Thank you.

2 A. You're very --

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(INTERVIEW CONCLUDED)

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