

1 INTERVIEW WITH: Ilsa Hess, Marion Lewin (Hess), and Steven  
2 Hess

3 INTERVIEWER: Shelley Gordon

4 DATE:

5 PLACE:

6 TRANSCRIBERS: Gloria Hart and Marilyn Kerben  
7

8 MS. GORDON: Hello, my name is Shelley Gordon.  
9 I would like to ask you a few general questions about your  
10 experiences during the war. First of all, what is your name?

11 MARION LEWIN: Marion Lewin. My maiden name  
12 was Marion Hess.

13 MS. GORDON: And where are you from?

14 MARION LEWIN: I was born in Amsterdam,  
15 Holland, and now I live in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

16 MS. GORDON: And your name?

17 ILSA HESS: My name is Ilsa Hess. I was born  
18 in Germany, then I moved--lived in Amsterdam, and now I live  
19 in New York.

20 STEVEN HESS: And I'm Steven Hess. I'm  
21 Marion's twin brother, and I live in Rochester, New York.

22 MS. GORDON: Okay. I will continue by asking  
23 you two and your mother's questions at the same time.

24 Can you tell me, in general, your experience  
25 during the war when you felt the laws beginning to change

1 and what happened to you?

2 ILSA HESS: Well, we went 1937 from Germany  
3 to Holland. My husband was transferred by his company to  
4 the Dutch branch. Our children, Steven and Marion, twins,  
5 were born 1938 in Holland. And the danger of the Nazi regime  
6 in Germany came closer and closer, but it--we really didn't  
7 make any decisions because with two babies and a secure job,  
8 we just stayed on in Holland. And then our son, Steven, was  
9 a very weak child, and we just didn't dare to undertake any-  
10 thing drastic.

11 In 1940 it happened. In May, during a night,  
12 the Germans invaded Holland. We tried to escape by a boat  
13 to England but we were caught on the way to the boat by the  
14 police and sent back to Amsterdam. That's where the night-  
15 mare happened.

16 Over the years we went through many  
17 rot-se-as, which is the rounding up of Jews in the streets.  
18 We always managed somehow to get home again. And then my  
19 husband was drafted to work on the Oat-sis-sau-burg, which  
20 was a former theater, which was at that time used to round  
21 up the Jews to prepare them for transfer to Westerborg,  
22 the Dutch concentration camp.

23 My husband worked under Walter Suskind, who  
24 will be known to the whole world and whose memory still stands  
25 in Holland as a great hero of the Jewish community. They

1 selected my husband and many others, co-workers, because they  
2 all spoke fluently Dutch and German. And since the Germans  
3 came day and night, and some of the prisoners there only  
4 spoke Dutch or only spoke German, they needed these people  
5 just as helpers.

6 But even though it happened very often that  
7 we were torn from our home, landed on trucks going to the  
8 Gestapo office, and when they found out that the Germans  
9 needed their help in the Sau-burg, we were sent home again  
10 until there was no help any more. We were prepared to go  
11 underground, but even this was difficult because we would  
12 have had to be separated. We--it was impossible for people  
13 to hide two small children together with grownups, because  
14 you cannot keep children quiet. At that time they were maybe  
15 four years old, so we would have to be separated.

16 My husband, working at the Sau-burg, saw  
17 daily hundreds of children caught without their parents, and  
18 we figured the better solution would be to die together than  
19 to be separated.

20 One day during the night--in fact, at the  
21 moment I don't remember the special, the exact date--we  
22 were caught and we were sent to a central place, and from  
23 there we were shipped to Westerborg, as I mentioned before,  
24 to the Dutch concentration camp.

25 After having been there for a few weeks, the

1 Germans who worked in the Sau-burg could not get along with  
2 people who did not understand German, so we were packed on  
3 again on a train and sent back to Amsterdam. But at that  
4 time we did not have an apartment any more, which was looted  
5 ten minutes after we were taken away.

6 So we each stayed somewhere else. I stayed  
7 with the two children at a place and my husband at a different  
8 place. My children and I stayed exactly one night. We were  
9 picked up during the night and sent back to Westerborg. When  
10 my husband came in the morning to pick us up, we were gone.

11 And now I think that I'm almost a first. My  
12 husband volunteered to be sent back to the concentration  
13 camp. He went to Over-stum-von-furer-os-der-fin-den,  
14 who was a leader of the Dutch, of the German Gestapo, and  
15 asked him to be permitted to go to his concentration camp.  
16 He said in his German that he never saw such a crazy man who  
17 would do such a thing. And, in fact, he called in some of his  
18 co-workers to show them what had happened, that they never  
19 had a Jew who volunteered to go to the concentration camp.

20 He also mentioned that it would be very easy  
21 for my husband not to go because he had light blond hair,  
22 blue eyes, spoke perfect Dutch, spoke perfect German. And  
23 he just, he, himself, was almost puzzled. And to make a very,  
24 very sad story funny, he told my husband that he could take  
25 along whatever he wanted to, but there was nothing to take

1 along because everything had been taken away when they  
2 plundered our apartment.

3                   So my husband arrived in Westerborg two or  
4 three days later, and we were reunited, and we stayed in  
5 Westerborg for several months. It was what they tell now,  
6 after the war, one of the more bearable concentration camps,  
7 if you call it bearable, that every Tuesday a train was  
8 standing in the center of the camp going east, either to  
9 Auschwitz, to Theresienstadt or to Bergen-Belsen.

10                   We all had to work, but we saw each other  
11 almost every day, and this was already a consolation.

12                   MS. GORDON: Where were your children at this  
13 time?

14                   ILSA HESS: My children were with us in  
15 Westerborg. And some women and I volunteered to take care  
16 of the children, and we formed a little kindergarden. So  
17 we kept them busy and we taught them whatever we could,  
18 although my children still were pretty young. They were not  
19 even five years old. After--

20                   MS. GORDON: Just to backtrack for a moment,  
21 you had mentioned your husband's work in Holland and your  
22 experiences with the Dutch people. Can you tell us a little  
23 bit about that?

24                   ILSA HESS: Well, we are talking now about the  
25 experience during the war. When my husband worked in the

1 Sau-burg with Mr. Suskind, a few men, of whom Mr. Suskind was  
2 a chief, I would say, had formed a kind of an underground.  
3 And they managed to save hundreds of people--this is in  
4 the course of maybe one year--to slip them out of the  
5 Sau-burg, to send them into houses which were already  
6 vacated by people where they knew the Germans wouldn't look  
7 any more. Also sent them into the cache, which was a  
8 building only meant for babies. They sent people 50 years  
9 and older into the cache to nurse their babies, and they  
10 never would reappear into the Sau-burg again. So this way,  
11 hundreds of people were really saved, and some of them  
12 still may be alive today.

13 In talking about the Dutch people, it was  
14 almost incredible what this small a nation did for the Jews.  
15 I think that they accepted, during the war, more Jews than  
16 the United States and Canada together. No soldier, no German  
17 soldier, no Gestapo was allowed to walk the streets in  
18 Amsterdam alone. They always had to go by twos or threes.  
19 They were afraid that they would be just pushed into one  
20 of the water channels, canals.

21 MS. GORDON: Thank you. Going back to the  
22 first camp that you were in, I find it very unusual that you  
23 were allowed to have children. But can you tell me what a  
24 typical day was like in the camp for you, and then maybe  
25 your children can speak of that as well.

1 ILSA HESS: Well, we are talking now about  
2 Westerborg.

3 MS. GORDON: Yes.

4 ILSA HESS: In Westerborg, there were relatively  
5 quite a few children, because the families were sent to  
6 Westerborg. And there was the first, I would say selection,  
7 not in the meaning of Auschwitz, but selection made who was  
8 to be sent away. Now, people--families with small children  
9 were always sent away first, because for two children they  
10 could keep two grownups in the camp who could work for the  
11 Germans. So at the end, what I understood--we never reached  
12 the end in Westerborg--there were hardly any children.  
13 There were only single people and people who had been there  
14 for many, many years.

15 The Germans had the, gave the impression,  
16 which later on no one believed any more, that they would  
17 make differences. Now, they would send Jews who had been in  
18 the First World War to Theresienstadt and told them it would  
19 be a reward. Unfortunately, most of these people were sent  
20 later on to Auschwitz and they went to their eternal reward.

21 MS. GORDON: Thank you. Now, Marion and Steve,  
22 can you tell me what you recall in those younger years of  
23 your life? How old were you and what do you remember?

24 MARION LEWIN: I was about five years old. I  
25 remember the night that we were picked up in Amsterdam. I

1 remember being awoken in the middle of the night; and I  
2 remember that we always had a custom in our family that my  
3 brother and I put out a wooden shoe--or perhaps it was  
4 a regular shoe--and in the morning it would have candies  
5 in it, chocolates and things like that; and the first thing  
6 I realized that this was a different awakening was that I  
7 looked at the shoe and there was no candy in it. And then  
8 I saw the soldier--I don't know how many soldiers there  
9 were, but I did see soldiers; and I saw that my mother was  
10 trying to do things, pack some things up very, very quickly.  
11 I immediately remember feeling very frightened, realizing  
12 that, that something very different and portentous was  
13 happening.

14 I remember the camps. One of the memories  
15 that sticks out most was in the evening when we would be  
16 left alone and my parents would be out, because people could  
17 stay out until a certain time when there was curfew. And  
18 I remember that I was always frightened when I didn't see my  
19 parents, and that as the time approached when I thought it  
20 was the curfew and I didn't see my mother, I would start  
21 screaming and screaming and wake everybody up. I also  
22 remember that there were a lot of rats in Westerborg, because  
23 I remember that I would lie in bed and all of a sudden these  
24 big animals would lurch across the bed and I was very  
25 frightened of them; and unto this day, when I see any kind

1 of an insect or a bug, I have an awful response.

2 MS. GORDON: And you, Steven?

3 STEVEN HESS: My sister and I were, I guess,  
4 about five or six at the time.

5 ILSA HESS: Five.

6 STEVEN HESS: Five, right. And the first  
7 memory I have is very clear still is the night we tried to  
8 escape and I--we were herded down to the street. It was quite  
9 dark, and I remember the vehicle distinctly. It was a green  
10 pickup truck. To this day I think it was a Ford. And we  
11 were put in the back under the tarpaulin. And my parents  
12 had arranged to try to reach the border for us to escape.  
13 And I remember at one point there were voices and the truck  
14 was stopped and we had been discovered and we had been  
15 told to get out of the truck and we were herded to a small  
16 collection area, waiting for a strange--I can visualize  
17 it still--a small German-type bus.

18 Is that correct, mom, by the way?

19 It was a vehicle. We got on and daddy spoke  
20 to the driver. And usually when you were rounded up and  
21 trying to escape, it was, it was immediate deportation and  
22 the death camps. But by one of several strokes of fortune  
23 that we encountered, my father knew the driver, because I  
24 can still visualize him talking to the driver, and he let  
25 us off in the middle of the night, and we returned to our

1 apartment. And I remember--that as long as I can remember,  
2 I always had flat feet, and I couldn't walk very well.  
3 And I remember my feet hurting and complaining that I just  
4 couldn't walk any more and my parents carrying and shoving  
5 and dragging me along.

6 And the next very vivid memory again is, for  
7 some strange reason--because my sister and I rarely discuss  
8 this business--the same night we were picked up, I remember  
9 all the noise and there were soldiers at the door, and we  
10 were herded into the streets and we were taken to a place that  
11 I seem to remember was called the Polo Grounds?

12 ILSA HESS: Yes.

13 STEVEN HESS: Yes, and it was cold and there  
14 was noise and confusion and it was dark, and my mother tried  
15 to make a bed for us with two suitcases. I remember there  
16 were two suitcases on each end to try and make a comfortable  
17 enclosure with a blanket or cloth on the ground so we could  
18 get some rest. And at that point we were taken away to  
19 Westerborg, which was actually a marshalling center.

20 It wasn't a--Westerborg originally was a  
21 Dutch concentration camp that the Dutch had set up to con-  
22 tain the German Jewish immigrants coming across the border.  
23 The Dutch weren't all that anxious for all these immigrants  
24 to get into town, so they had set up Westerborg. And the  
25 Germans, looking for efficient ways to go the other way,

1 had taken over the camp in '42, and it became a marshalling  
2 center for the concentration camps.

3 Westerborg is very dim in my mind. I seem to  
4 remember a lot just being alone and doing absolutely  
5 nothing, and some of my more vivid memories came later on  
6 when we went to Bergen-Belsen.

7 MS. GORDON: Okay, we will get to that.

8 Now, Mrs. Hess, can you tell me about what  
9 you recall on your deportation from Westerborg to the  
10 next camp?

11 ILSA HESS: Just hold it a second. I have to  
12 catch my thoughts.

13 MS. GORDON: It's okay. And also what you  
14 remember about your experiences and feelings at that time.

15 ILSA HESS: We knew that we couldn't stay  
16 in Westerborg. We were told that we would have to go on  
17 one of the next transports. My husband found someone in  
18 Westerborg who was one of the Jewish elders, that means he  
19 had been there before Westerborg became a concentration camp.  
20 He was one of the German--German Jews who were sent to  
21 Westerborg as kind of--how do you call these camps?

22 STEVEN HESS: What, Westerborg?

23 ILSA HESS: Yeah.

24 STEVEN HESS: It was a marshalling yard. It  
25 was a transportation center.

1 ILSA HESS: No, it was not.

2 STEVEN HESS: Westerborg? Sure. Westerborg  
3 functioned as the--as the--as a center to gather--

4 ILSA HESS: It was not meant to be a  
5 concentration camp.

6 STEVEN HESS: No, no, no, no. Originally  
7 it was an immigration camp set up by the Dutch to handle  
8 the refugees coming from Germany.

9 ILSA HESS: Oh.

10 STEVEN HESS: After the German invasion, they  
11 were looking for facilities to get the Jews out of Holland  
12 and they took over Westerborg and turned it into a distribu-  
13 tion center for Dutch Jews.

14 ILSA HESS: So, my husband knew one of these  
15 camp elders and he asked him whether he could do anything  
16 for us. He said I cannot do anything. You will have to  
17 leave. The only thing I might be able to do, instead  
18 that you go on the train to Theresienstadt--

19 STEVEN HESS: Or Auschwitz.

20 ILSA HESS: --Or Auschwitz, it might be  
21 possible for me to get you on a train to Bergen-Belsen. Now,  
22 at that time very little was known of Bergen-Belsen. And  
23 by the way, I have to correct myself. I talked about the  
24 trains going east. Bergen-Belsen was not going east, Bergen-  
25 Belsen was near Hanover in Germany. My husband thought for

1 a little while. Since we knew that Theresienstadt was one  
2 of the camps offered as a reward to a lot of Jews, but all  
3 of a sudden he also realized that it would be far away from  
4 any place we knew; and since we knew Germany very well, he  
5 just out, without even thinking, maybe only realizing--  
6 without even realizing what he was saying, he said I want to  
7 go to Bergen-Belsen.

8 This was for almost two years a big mistake;  
9 but had he chosen Theresienstadt, the three of us--my husband,  
10 unfortunately, died two years ago--the three of us would  
11 not be sitting here to tell the tale because we would have  
12 been transported--deported right away from Theresienstadt to  
13 Auschwitz; and this would have been the end of a mother and  
14 her two children. So, on the 15th of February, 1944, in  
15 the middle of the night--in fact, it was our anniversary--  
16 we were on a train to Bergen-Belsen.

17 It's very difficult for me to describe now  
18 how it looked like. I even think it was nighttime. I  
19 only heard barking dogs, a lot of screaming and a lot of  
20 crying and a lot of shouting. We were torn out of the trains,  
21 and I think there were about a thousand people on the train,  
22 and we were distributed in all kinds of directions. We  
23 couldn't see anything. The only thing, as morning came, we  
24 saw barracks, barracks, barracks. And except for our trans-  
25 port, hardly a word of German or Dutch. There were a lot of

1 Greeks, speaking mostly Span-yo-lish, or what is--  
2 Li-be-do, Li-bo-ti? What's the Turkish speak? Span-yo-lish  
3 and French, and we found ourselves in some terrible, terrible,  
4 dirty, long, dark, wet, cold barracks.

5 MS. GORDON: Can you tell me what it was like  
6 in Bergen-Belsen?

7 ILSA HESS: To start off, to give a description  
8 of Bergen-Belsen, it was a nightmare. We had to sleep in the  
9 barracks, two together on a single wooden cot, but not the  
10 American cot size. There was hardly any food. Each day we  
11 got one centimeter of bread and one bowl of turnip soup, and  
12 in the morning we got something, brownish water. It was warm  
13 and I remember that I never drank it. I used it to wash my  
14 children with.

15 STEVEN HESS: You might mention a-pel every  
16 morning.

17 ILSA HESS: Every morning around between  
18 four and five, there was a roll call. They called it  
19 a-pel. Everyone had to come out of the barracks, men,  
20 women and children, and stand for up to three and four hours;  
21 because if the count did not check, they had to start all  
22 over again.

23 From these masses of wretched people, they  
24 would select the work commandoes. People who were very very  
25 sick were not spared. One had to prove that you had over 103

1 temperature. In fact, one or two doctors had to prove it,  
2 that you could stay in the barrack for a day. The only  
3 people left in the barracks were very old women who had to  
4 take care of the children who were running around. Between--  
5 the whole camp maybe had three or four latrines for thousands  
6 of people, so I do not have to describe this situation. They  
7 also had maybe one or two concrete sinks where the water  
8 was running, sometimes once a week and sometimes never. The  
9 camp was full of lice. People suffered from dysentery.  
10 People were in a horrible, horrible shape.

11 MS. GORDON: Can you tell me what kind of  
12 work you did in the camp?

13 ILSA HESS: Yes. Now, there were all kinds  
14 of work within the camp. Most men had to dig ditches. No  
15 one knew for what until much later. The ditches were  
16 supposed to be for the German SS to go into hiding as soon  
17 as they heard an airplane.

18 STEVEN HESS: The trenches.

19 ILSA HESS: Trenches, right. Lots of men  
20 and women, among them myself, we had to work in tremendous  
21 shoe camps. They were far outside the camp, out of the reach  
22 of the camp. We were marched there, always in rows of five.  
23 In these shoe camps they had collected millions and millions  
24 of pairs of shoes from all over Germany and all over the  
25 concentration camp. These shoes were taken away from Jews

1 who had died or were gassed in Auschwitz and they were all  
2 sent to Bergen-Belsen to be recut, resliced, resorted for the  
3 use of the German Army. We all got razor-sharp knives to cut  
4 the useable leather off the heels and we got big, mostly  
5 old helmets to separate the useable parts and non-useable  
6 parts. Now, we had a system here too. Most of the useable  
7 parts never reached the helmets for the parts to be used.  
8 We sliced it all up as soon as we were not watched.

9 (End of side A, Tape No. 93.)

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1 MS. GORDON: Marion and Steve, I know you were  
2 still very young at this time. Tell me what you remember  
3 about Bergen-Belsen.

4 MARION LEWIN: I do have some quite vivid  
5 memories of Belsen. First of all, I do remember the general  
6 bleak, cold lay of the land, how very cold it was and how very  
7 barren and how very wet and uncomfortable I felt all the time.  
8 I remember certainly what we ate or the only things that were  
9 there to eat, which was basically kohlrabies, which in the  
10 beginning of the war was still -- I think it was called tur-  
11 nips, a kind of, a kind of turnip. In the beginning of the  
12 war they were cooked, and near the end of the war they -- we  
13 ate them raw. And then this cold coffee that we used to  
14 wash ourselves.

15 I remember that even though that was the only  
16 thing to eat, that very often I didn't even eat that because  
17 I didn't feel like eating it.

18 MS. GORDON: How old were you again at this  
19 time?

20 MARION LEWIN: I was six years old. I remember  
21 ai-pel, because as a six-year-old the idea of every day  
22 standing totally still for hours and hours was something that  
23 was very difficult to do.

24 MS. GORDON: Ai-pel, you mean the selection?  
25 Or you mean the roll call?

1                   MARION LEWIN: The roll call where every  
2 morning everyone had to stand in line and where they selected  
3 the, the work commandos. I remember that somehow we were  
4 told by my mother and my father that it was best for us not  
5 to say very much because anything that we would say or that  
6 people would hear us say maybe would be misunderstood or  
7 misconstrued. And so we tended to be very silent.

8                   But my brother and I developed a secret  
9 language. We called it the Hoo-la-foo language, and we still  
10 remember it. And for the whole time in the concentration  
11 camp, whenever we spoke to each other, we only spoke in this  
12 special language.

13                   I certainly remember the lice because they  
14 were all over. And they made a very interesting crackling  
15 sound when you kill them. And my brother and I would spend  
16 many hours every day killing these lice. And my mother tells  
17 a wonderful story that when she was sent to the shoe camp  
18 to work, she left us with an old woman who was supposedly our  
19 babysitter. And when she used to come back, the babysitter  
20 would complain that we were rather uninteresting children  
21 because all we did was play with lice. And my mother came to  
22 our defense, as always, and said, well, give them something  
23 better to play with and they won't play with the lice.

24                   I remember the enormous number of dead bodies,  
25 that somehow just seeing thousands of bodies was something

1 that I thought was an everyday happening. And I remember  
2 there was always a tremendous conversation about who would  
3 get the jacket or the shoes or whatever the dead body had on.  
4 And people really watched other people die and to some degree  
5 like vultures would, would try to grab whatever was on that  
6 body that may be of some use.

7 MS. GORDON: What impact did that experience,  
8 those experiences of seeing people die, do you think had on  
9 you at the time and that you still carry with you today?

10 MARION LEWIN: Well, I think when you were as  
11 young as I was, somehow those were, my first memories I  
12 thought this was what life was all about, and so that I  
13 didn't have anything to compare it with. It was only after  
14 the war that I realized that certainly this was not what life  
15 was all about.

16 Talking about the dead bodies, when I came to  
17 America and went to school, I had a girlfriend, and I went  
18 home with her one day. And she told me that her grandfather  
19 had died, and she told me all about the special arrangements  
20 that were made for his funeral. And I had two reactions that  
21 I talked to her about. One was America must be a very rich  
22 country, where they spend so much money to bury one person.  
23 And I said in the Jewish religion they never bury just one  
24 person at a time. They wait 'til there are about a thousand  
25 of them, and then they pile them up and throw them in a grave.

1 And I remember this girl never called me up again, because  
2 I think, I'm sure that her mother thought that I was off  
3 limits.

4 MS. GORDON: She probably could not understand  
5 what you were talking about.

6 MARION LEWIN: I'm sure; I'm sure. I remember  
7 certainly my father. And my father was tortured when he got  
8 to Belsen. I'm not that clear on the details. I'm sure my  
9 mother can fill you in on that. But he was in a sick bay.  
10 And a sick bay was really the place of, of final rest or  
11 unrest. Because if you were in a sick bay over a weekend,  
12 or more than a week, they would just take you away and you  
13 were never seen again.

14 MS. GORDON: Do you remember what was wrong  
15 with him?

16 STEVEN HESS: Well, my father, who was a rather  
17 scrappy individual and probably would have been the prototype  
18 Aryan had he not been Jewish, was a resister from the be-  
19 ginning until the end, to a point where it was not really in  
20 his interest any more. And he was, again because he spoke  
21 fluent German, and probably they never could understand why  
22 a blond, blue-eyed man was on the wrong side of the fence,  
23 they put him in charge of a work party. And the whole thing  
24 in the camps was basic survival and self preservation. So  
25 one of the means to this was to, as soon as the guards would

1 turn their back, what everybody would sort of slack off. And  
2 my father had this system where when the Germans were  
3 inattentive, he would instruct his work party to just slack  
4 off and just save their calories, whatever, and energies.  
5 And then at, as soon as they, the Germans would pay attention  
6 again, he would start screaming, yelling "get to work", and  
7 really put on a good show for them.

8                   And one time he got caught, and they basically  
9 beat the life out of him. And they submerged him in a pit  
10 of human sewage up to his neck for a long time. And he really  
11 basically was dead, but what was left of him was put into the  
12 sick bay and for some reason he, he survived. There is no  
13 reason for this at all, but he did survive.

14                   MS. GORDON; Marion?

15                   MARION LEWIN: I wanted to add something about  
16 my father at that time. I used to visit him in the sick bay,  
17 and you could hear the people to the right and left of him.  
18 Everyone had a death rattle because they were all near death.  
19 And I remember I was very intrigued what that noise was about.  
20 And my father described to me what it was. And somehow he  
21 almost joked with me and said, well, you know, you're not in  
22 this sick bay to survive. But I remember that he used to  
23 talk to me, and he mentioned one day, he asked what, what  
24 would you like if you ever survived. And I said, well, one  
25 day I would like to see a whole loaf of bread. And he said

1 that if we ever survived, he would make sure that I would  
2 see a whole loaf of bread every day.

3 I also wanted to mention that as sick as he  
4 was with all his bones broken, whenever I visited him he  
5 wanted me to help him shave because he felt that he never  
6 wanted to look demeaned and always felt that you should look  
7 your best in no matter what condition you were. And so I  
8 would always hold up a mirror and he would shave with some  
9 cold coffee.

10 MS. GORDON: Not only that, but I think if  
11 you appear to be in healthier condition, you were more likely  
12 to be taken for work and considered for survival.

13 Mrs. Hess?

14 ILVA HESS: About this beating. Hundreds of  
15 people were brutally beaten and tortured every day. But  
16 about this beating, I have to say that I recognized my husband  
17 only by the jacket he was wearing. And there was absolutely  
18 nothing to do. There was not even water to wash his wounds.  
19 And it is almost a miracle. People always ask us, how come  
20 you survived. And I do not know why. It was not luck, it  
21 was not special strength, it was not special treatment, it  
22 was not special food. I just think we survived to tell the  
23 tale.

24 And I personally had mi-ter fever. We had lot,  
25 a lot of doctors from Holland, from Germany, from France, from

1 Belgium, and no one ever had heard of it, except one Greek  
2 doctor. I even remember his name. His name was Dr. Allaloof.  
3 He was the only doctor who ever had heard of mi-ter fever.  
4 And it's a kind of malaria which develops in the tropics,  
5 and I must have caught the bug. And due to this doctor --  
6 he didn't have any instruments, he didn't, there was no  
7 antibiotics at that time, he didn't have anything -- I  
8 survived.

9                   But my daughter talked before about death. And  
10 I, as a grown up person, and my husband, we very often talked  
11 about it because we just could not imagine that a family of  
12 four would ever survive this -- I cannot even call it a living  
13 hell -- this dying hell. But I have to say that we almost  
14 were jealous of people who were dying, and we found that at  
15 that time as a tremendous neutralizer. The moment someone  
16 closed their eyes forever, there was absolute peace on their  
17 faces. There was no horror, no fear, no tears. It was just  
18 a picture of rest.

19                   Now, I worked in this shoe camp for many  
20 months until one day we heard a rumor that a sniper had hit  
21 the barrack where my children were left behind. And when we  
22 came back this evening from work, someone told me that in  
23 our barrack someone had died, was hit by a strafing. I was  
24 frantic to get back to the barrack and see what had happened  
25 to my children. So when I went ,when I came back to the

1 barrack., an old woman approached me and told me that my  
2 children are very disobedient, because she told me they,  
3 when they heard the alarm, they should have stayed with them  
4 in the barrack. But my children ran out and went into hiding  
5 under both the concrete things. And that was their salvation,  
6 because when I came to our sleeping hut, the sniper had hit  
7 our pillow. So they sure would have been hit if they wouldn't  
8 have run away.

9                   So I think fate all along has been pretty  
10 good to us. But I swore to myself, no matter what, no beating,  
11 no fruitless days, nothing can get me out of this camp again.  
12 I will stay and work in the camp no matter what I have to do.  
13 So I approached some elders whether they had some jobs for  
14 me within the camp. But no one really did it. And then I,  
15 one day one of the doctors, because my son was pretty sick --  
16 in fact, he had undergone a mastoid operation before we went,  
17 before we were taken to Westerborg. and the same sickness  
18 had started on his other ear. And since there was no instru-  
19 ment and no antibiotics, they kept him in the sick bay. And  
20 one doctor told me they could use a cleaning woman in the  
21 sick bay. And he approached a German S.S. man whether I  
22 could be his cleaning woman.

23                   Now, I hope that the listeners don't believe  
24 that the Germans were so good to the doctors. They only were  
25 good to some of the doctors because they used them for their

1 own health. Typhoid fever, spotted typhoid, dysentery, and  
2 the most horrible sicknesses were rampant within the camp,  
3 and the Germans were afraid that they themselves would catch  
4 it. So they always consulted two or three of these very  
5 good doctors, and they tried to keep them healthy. Besides,  
6 in our camp they had a group of Hungarian Jews which indi-  
7 rectly were sold by Germany for exchange. They were sold  
8 against tanks and trucks, and tanks. And other war material.  
9 So the Germans tried very much to keep these Hungarian Jews  
10 alive, so they consulted these doctors every couple of weeks.

11 So then my job as a cleaning woman started.  
12 I had to start at 3:30 in the morning. And the first person  
13 I met at 3:30 was the same S.S. man. And his first question  
14 every morning was how many dead we had, how many people had  
15 died during the night. And very often he would tell me that  
16 there were just not enough. That the night, the next night  
17 had to be better.

18 So as my daughter told already, the dead were  
19 really piling up in heaps in Bergen-Belsen.

20 MS. GORDON: Did you see what they did with  
21 the dead? Did they bury the dead?

22 ILVA HESS: No, we don't --

23 MARION LEWIN: They were, they were just  
24 thrown in huge ditches. And they --

25 STEVEN HESS: Rows, around the barracks.

1 Basically, what happened was that if somebody was near the  
2 end, they became a veritable commodity, because they had a  
3 certain amount of clothing on them. And so anyone who died  
4 would be stripped right away, so basically you had quite a  
5 lot of naked bodies. The average person -- I think my sister  
6 and I probably weighed perhaps thirty, forty pounds, my  
7 father perhaps ninety pounds. So you basically had just  
8 emaciated skeletons. So these people were just grabbed by  
9 the legs and arms and tossed onto the pile.

10 And I remember vividly learning to count on  
11 bodies. Tommy, one of the other surviving children, who  
12 I just happened -- met last night again after forty years --  
13 we were kind of that -- we were outside and had nothing to  
14 do, and learned essentially to count on bodies. And they  
15 were just, they were in rows and just rotting until the  
16 liberation, at which time they were buried by bulldozers  
17 by the British.

18 MS. GORDON: Steve, can you tell me, you and  
19 Marion, as young children in the camps, did you play all the  
20 time or did you have work to do or responsibilities? How  
21 did you stay out of trouble?

22 STEVEN HESS: Basically the trouble was there  
23 and you couldn't stay out of it. But what I remember, and  
24 it would be -- I remember snatches and images and pictures.  
25 It would be wrong to think or to say that a six-year-old can

1 remember the feelings or the psychological impact of it. But  
2 I remember it was a very bleak landscape. And everything,  
3 it was mud. There was sand and dust and mud, and all brown,  
4 and terribly cold all the time. And we were always wet and  
5 always hungry. But even I seem to remember after a while  
6 you only get so hungry, you don't get any worse. So you  
7 reach a peak of simply --

8                   We were alone most of the time. I remember  
9 walking around a lot and really being on our own with no  
10 inputs one way or the other. I remember one instance we were  
11 chased by the guards because they, they either built a new  
12 barrack or they repaired one. And they were glazing the  
13 windows. And of course we had no toys or anything like that.  
14 And I, and I believe it was Tommy, we took some glazing  
15 compound off the windows to play with like clay. And we were  
16 chased by the guards, and of course ran like hell. But  
17 basically it was just being alone and waiting for nothing  
18 to happen.

19                   MARION LEWIN: I have one other memory was  
20 that one, for a birthday one year, my brother and I received  
21 a sandwich each with chocolate sprinkles. In Dutch you call  
22 that Ha-hel-fah, which is a wonderful delicacy. And I don't  
23 know if I can even begin to describe the wonder of having  
24 a whole sandwich. My brother and I ate the sandwich, I think,  
25 over about a two-month period, where every night we would

1 take about twenty crumbs and eat it. Because, of course,  
2 it was something that was so special we didn't want to have  
3 it go away. And we learned sometime afterwards that my  
4 father had sold his wedding ring in order to buy those slices  
5 of bread.

6 I also remember the day that there was this  
7 sniper in the barracks. And everyone screaming and screaming.  
8 And I think I dragged my brother into a place that looked  
9 safer. And I remember you just heard all the bullets and  
10 saw all the bullets and basically were just frantically  
11 trying to run around finding a place where we would be safe.

12 STEVEN HESS: One interesting, and I think  
13 sometimes you might laugh at it now -- wasn't funny at the  
14 time -- we shared a bed. And the bed was a pallet actually.  
15 It was bunks, and they were two or three -- three or four  
16 high. And one thing I remember was that there were wooden  
17 slats across, but there weren't enough slats to cover the  
18 whole bottom of the bed. So one of your prized possessions  
19 was if you had enough slats to keep your body on top of it  
20 so you wouldn't sag. And I seem to remember you had to have  
21 at least four slats to get in there. And I shared a bed with  
22 some old woman -- maybe, well, everyone looked old, but a  
23 woman. And one morning I was all wet, and I was terribly  
24 embarrassed, I thought that I had wet my bed, although this  
25 poor woman -- it turned out the woman had done it. Obviously,

1 humanity completely leaves you at those times. But those  
2 are the kind of things that you tend to remember.

3 MS. GORDON: Mrs. Hess, can you tell me what  
4 you recall about the, your deportation from Bergen-Belsen?

5 ILVA HESS: We slowly realized -- in fact,  
6 there was an underground communication which was called EPA,  
7 Jewish Press Agency, that people who had worked outside the  
8 camp had heard some snitches of news. And I personally was  
9 once drafted to clean up a German Nazi's house outside the  
10 camp with three other Dutch women. Since I was the only one  
11 who could read and speak Dutch, I saw a German newspaper and  
12 I told these women in Dutch if they would watch out that no  
13 one would see me, I would read the newspaper and I would tell  
14 them later on what happened or what was written in the news-  
15 paper.

16 So I read the newspaper. And the Germans sure  
17 would not put down that they were losing the war, but in  
18 between the lines you could see that things were not going  
19 too well, which was good news to us. Looking backwards, I  
20 do not know how we really reacted to it. I only know I was  
21 a little bit afraid to share this news with these women because  
22 it would have been very easy to be found out who had worked  
23 outside the camp. But I shared it with my husband. And I  
24 told him that I think that sooner or later we either would  
25 be killed, liberated, or just die before we would see the end

1 of the tunnel.

2 Well, one day -- it was exactly on April the  
3 9th, 1945 -- a group of our co-prisoners were told that they  
4 had to leave the camp and that they could just carry what  
5 they were wearing -- we didn't have much more.-- and they  
6 were leaving the camp by train. And so it was on April  
7 the 9th, they were leaving not knowing where to go -- where  
8 they were going. On April the 10th, a group of about five  
9 or six hundred people, among them my husband and my two  
10 children, also were told that we would leave the camp. My  
11 husband at that time weighed maybe ninety-six pounds, but his  
12 spirit was still there. He couldn't walk, but he could talk.  
13 So he still was convinced that we would not survive,  
14 especially not after the Germans told us we would go by  
15 train, direction east, to be gassed.

16 So we were loaded into trains. I --

17 STEVEN HESS: Cattle cars.

18 ILVA HESS: Cattle cars. And after a night  
19 of -- what is it, travelling or --

20 STEVEN HESS: Well, on the rails.

21 ILVA HESS: -- on the night of the rails, our  
22 train stopped and there was the other train which had left  
23 the day before. And they were told not that they would be  
24 gassed, but that they would be driven into the Elbe to be  
25 drowned.

1 MS. GORDON: What does that mean, to be driven  
2 into the Elbe?

3 ILVA HESS: That means that it would be the  
4 last stop.

5 MARION LEWIN: I think what it meant was that  
6 they just had the intention of plunging the whole train into  
7 the river and it was -- instead of the gas chamber, to meet  
8 another type of death.

9 STEVEN HESS: This, by the way, was just a  
10 few days before the liberation of the camp by the British  
11 in April, '45.

12 ILVA HESS: But at that time we didn't know  
13 that the camp would be liberated within a few days. Anyway,  
14 they kept us into this camp, trains, going criss-cross  
15 through Germany. I think that this was one of the last trains  
16 ever to roll through Germany. No one knew where we were  
17 going. We stopped --

18 STEVEN HESS: All the time.

19 ILVA HESS: We stopped all the time. It was  
20 cattle cars. We had about fifty-eight people in a car. The  
21 only thing we got at the last stop were raw turnips to eat,  
22 nothing to drink. And people would -- how do you call it?  
23 They would eat and do in the same box.

24 MS. GORDON: I understand what you mean. Then  
25 you were liberated from the train?

1 ILVA HESS: No, no. Once the train stopped  
2 and they opened up a small slit, my husband jumped out, and  
3 a few other men. And the most -- it was the most horrifying  
4 thing. Planes were flying overhead --

5 STEVEN HESS: Being strafed.

6 ILVA HESS: Huh?

7 STEVEN HESS: Being strafed.

8 ILVA HESS: -- strafing our train because  
9 they thought -- they were allied planes, and they thought  
10 these were German supply trains. So we laid down somewhere  
11 in potato fields and grass. And wherever we stopped we ran  
12 out of the trains, we started to make a fire and to start to  
13 cook some grass, some potato we could find. And by the time  
14 it was to be ready to be eaten, the train left again.

15 It was -- I cannot -- I think these small  
16 stories are very important. They have been buried now over  
17 and over and over again for the last forty years. Everyone  
18 wrote and told what everyone was doing and no one ever told  
19 a story what we were thinking or how we were feeling.

20 Maybe it was our absolute strength and the  
21 closeness of our family, and the absolute emotional reward  
22 that we will not give up on each other, no matter what-- we  
23 would die together or live together -- which kept us going.  
24 Because there was absolutely no reason.

25 I have to jump a few years. And I remember

1 that our relatives in America told us that my husband was  
2 already on the I.S. list as dead, and that only my children  
3 and myself were listed as surviving.

4 Well, going back to the train, this was one of  
5 another -- it was another nightmare with two small children  
6 and fifty-six grownups. This train kept on rolling for ten  
7 days, day and night. In fact, it was -- which we only heard  
8 later on in America -- the train which was lost. I think  
9 stories have been written about this train. About six  
10 hundred people died on this train -- on both trains, I must  
11 say. The one who left before. And their bodies were just  
12 thrown out of the train.

13 STEVEN HESS: At the next stop.

14 ILVA HESS: At the next stop. And ten men got  
15 up and prayed. And then it went on and on for the next stop  
16 to throw out the bodies.

17 STEVEN HESS: Reminded -- there was a typhoid  
18 epidemic, because people were dropping like flies from  
19 typhoid.

20 ILVA HESS: We -- eighty percent of us had  
21 typhoid fever. I had it too. And this is a very contagious  
22 sickness even in a private room in a hospital. So imagine  
23 to have this in a cattle car.

24 Finally, after thirteen days, on the 23rd of  
25 April, 1945, at five o'clock in the morning, the train

1 stopped. It stopped for a little longer than it used to do  
2 the last ten days. My husband opened the -- how do you call  
3 it?

4 STEVEN HESS: The door.

5 ILVA HESS: -- opened the door and looked out  
6 and it was daylight. He jumped out of the train and he saw  
7 a man standing in a kind of a -- it looked to him a small  
8 forest. He -- normally he wouldn't have dared, because the  
9 moment someone was leaving, leaving a train, the S.S. guards  
10 would jump out and threaten to shoot. But no S.S. man  
11 jumped out. So my husband walked towards this man and he  
12 looked at him and he saw a Russian uniform.

13 My husband put up his arms and said, "Do  
14 you speak English?" And the Russian said something he didn't  
15 understand. He said, "Parlez vous Francais?" And the  
16 Russian mumbled something he didn't understand. And he said,  
17 "Sprechen ze Deutch?" And the Russian shook his head. And  
18 he said something; "Do you speak Yiddish?", which my husband

19

20 (END OF TAPE, SECOND TAPE MISSING)

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1 AUDIO TAPE # ~~99~~ 108

Interview with Mrs. and Children (Marion and Steven)

2 Marion had nothing distinguishable to say!!

Reporter/Transcriber: Larry Filkoff

3 c/o Accurate Court Reporters

East Hartford, Connecticut

4 This transcript begins exactly where the audio tape started,  
5 in the middle of a question by the interviewer (hereinafter  
designated as QUESTION:

6 QUESTION: --- where this took place and where you  
7 went from there prior to coming to the United States.

8 A Then the Russian soldier told us that we were  
9 liberated. The German guards had been taken prisoners.  
10 We could leave the train and the place where our train  
11 was liberated was called TROY-BITS. It is a very small  
12 town near LARJ-ITSCH.

13 So, the doors were opened. I can't even say that  
14 they were laughing or smiling or otherwise, all from all  
15 the people who jumped out of the plane (sic). I think  
16 we just were all too weak, too worn out to enjoy the first  
17 few moments and everyone only had one thought--food, and  
18 food became the next killer of many people. They ran  
19 into the village and got -- Most of the houses were either  
20 empty or only inhabited by women and children and old people  
21 because the men, the German men, were either at the front  
22 or taken prisoners. So, everyone went into all the stores,  
23 emptied all the shelves and came back to the train with all  
24 the food.

25 Since I could not leave my children alone my husband

1 took a partner, a young Hungarian woman and they went  
2 together to hunt for food for us and then my husband and  
3 this young lady came back to the train and after about  
4 ten minutes I said "What are we really doing here at the  
5 train?" It was just like a prisoner, like a -- (INAUDIBLE,  
6 NOT-IMPORTANT TO TEXT DISCUSSION) worst condition. Right.

7 We didn't know where to go until we saw that all  
8 the people were running toward the village.

9 It was very difficult for us to run since my husband  
10 still was extremely weak, my children hardly could walk  
11 and I was wracked with about 102 temperature. But, we  
12 also made it into TROY-BITS. We got into a small house  
13 with two rooms and -- two real beds and a kitchen and the  
14 first thing I did was take some water and put it on a  
15 coal stove to get some hot water to wash and I hardly had  
16 put my husband and the children -- had taken care of my  
17 husband and the children; someone knocked at the door and  
18 there were two Russian soldiers to arrest my husband and  
19 I couldn't imagine what the reason was. They had watched  
20 my husband and since because of his blonde hair and his  
21 perfect German they thought he would be a German Gentile  
22 hiding among the Jews who were liberated from a concentration  
23 camp and they wanted to arrest him.

24 It took some time to convince them that he was Jewish  
25 and finally they left and we went on with the task of washing  
ourselves and see to our first meal.

1           Now it would take too long to tell the story of  
2 TROY-BITS because we stayed there for ten glorious weeks.  
3 We had food. We could sleep and the only nightmare we  
4 had was the Russians. Not the Russians that were our  
5 liberators. We loved them. We were grateful to them.  
6 They loved children but at night they went from door to  
7 door raping every woman in sight and we never knew whether  
8 to admire their strength or whether to hate them for that.  
9 They would hate. They would rape the women in front of  
10 their husbands. It was just something no one could  
11 fight, but we tried never to leave our house and only stay  
12 within our two or three rooms. My husband would go every  
13 morning and fetch some food and that was our life for  
14 ten weeks.

15           Now the Russians were deadly afraid that they would  
16 catch the typhoid fever. They would make housecalls every  
17 day. They would go from house to house and room to room  
18 and see whether anyone would be in bed sick. As soon as  
19 they would see someone with fever they would take them  
20 to quarantine; shave their hair. They were afraid they  
21 would catch it. And keep them there until they were either  
22 better or dead.

23           Now, I had the typhoid fever and I knew their routine  
24 already so the moment I saw them coming or heard them coming  
25 I managed, even with 102 fever, to either scrub the floor  
or clean windows that no one could imagine that I would  
be sick and this saved my life again.

4

1           After about ten weeks we were notified that we  
2 were picked up by the Americans. Hurray! Hurray! and one  
3 beautiful day they came with big trucks, the American Army  
4 to get us out of TROY-BITS, and I would have liked to tell  
5 you -- I would like to say that this was the end of our  
6 horrible story but the story still had a pretty bitter  
7 in-between.

8           First we were taken by the Americans to LIFE-TISCH,  
9 to an old army camp because they really didn't know what  
10 to do with all these hundreds, thousands of people, Jews  
11 and Gentiles alike who all of a sudden marched back and  
12 forth through Germany. So, we stayed in this camp and  
13 slept again on cots and straw until they got us trains  
14 to go back to Holland. I don't remember how many days it  
15 took. I only remember that the train didn't have windows  
16 and we were in this train for three or four days until  
17 we finally reached Holland.

18           So, we thought we could go back to Amsterdam but  
19 this was not so because the Dutch government all of a sudden  
20 faced with thousands of people coming back, not only Jews  
21 but Gentiles from all over Europe said, "Now you are not  
22 stateless any more. Now you are German again and we have  
23 to take you to a camp." So, they took us to an old  
24 monastery near the German border where we were again locked  
25 up and stayed until some of our Jewish Dutch co-prisoners,  
lawyers from Bergen-Belsen intervened and we finally could  
trek back to Amsterdam.

1           STEVEN HESS: Also at that time my father was called  
 2 by the British to be a witness at the Belsen trials, which  
 3 actually was a satellite trial of the ~~Nuremberg~~ trials,  
 4 so -- LOON-A-BERG. So, after our trip to Holland he was  
 5 picked up by the British in High style and asked to be a  
 6 witness.

7           One little vignette I remember much later coming to  
 8 America and eating in my first restaurant and my total  
 9 disbelief that there was bread on the table and I stuffed  
 10 my pockets with this bread and after we had left the  
 11 restaurant I showed everybody what I had -- my spoils.  
 12 I had my pockets stuffed full of bread.

13           MRS. HESS: I don't think it was bread. He is just  
 14 being very proper. It was really a roll of toilet paper--  
 15 which he hadn't seen in three years.

16           QUESTION: When did you come to the United States?

17           A We arrived in the United States on January 1, 1947.  
 18 It was the worst snowstorm in the history of New York at  
 19 that time and it was -- What was it?

20           STEVEN HESS: We lost our money, too.

21           MRS. HESS: Lost our money and papers and everything.

22           QUESTION: I would just like to close by asking you  
 23 a few very specific questions. If you could go back over  
 24 all of this how would you say -- Do you feel that you were  
 25 changed in any way, your thinking, your feeling? How has  
 that -- How has this experience effected you today?

1 Are you still having recall? Nightmares? What -- Naturally,  
 2 what bitterness may you feel or not feel or do you --  
 3 How do you cope with it today? Or, do you block a lot  
 4 of this out? Do you discuss ~~it with your children and~~  
 5 with other people?

6 A Maybe a reason that we survived is the way we  
 7 function, we as a family. We can discuss everything.  
 8 We can talk about everything. I do not think that I  
 9 was left with any hatred, bitterness, complexes, traumas.

10 It was a happening in our lives which we did not  
 11 call for. Someone, a terrible tragedy made a decision  
 12 for us and it is nothing what we could fight so we survived  
 13 it and we just look to a future. We do not look back  
 14 so much.

15 The only thing we do -- We think back and in this  
 16 respect I have to agree with Elie Wiesel-- We have a  
 17 different language. Train doesn't mean for us a transportation  
 18 to a beautiful vacation spot. It means to us Bergen-Belsen,  
 19 WERS-TER-VAWG, Auschwitz, Theresienstadt. A selection to  
 20 us is a word which doesn't have a meaning it has for the  
 21 normal people and this is just another way, another day  
 22 in our lives. I doesn't have -- You know, I do not talk  
 23 about all the people. I only can talk about myself.

24 My husband and myself, we could discuss everything.  
 25 We talked about death. We talked about life and even if  
 we didn't talk at all we understood each other and I think  
 this is the language of the survivors and that is the whole  
 thing about it..

1           It is not what we wrote down. It is just what we  
 2 went through and it is a trejedy that so little about the  
 3 happenings of the last forty years really is inscribed  
 4 into the Book of Life. It was not only a horror story,  
 5 it was a story of a tremendous human experience. It was  
 6 a story of what a human being really can survive.

7           I, myself, always had the feeling, when I got up  
 8 in the morning -- I do not know from what, maybe from  
 9 some sleep, -- and I told myslef "if they do not kill me  
 10 I will survive the whole German Army" and maybe that is  
 11 the reason I really did survive.

12           QUESTION: What is your reaction to the comment that  
 13 the Jews went like sheep to the slaughter?

14           A     Well, this is a reaction I never can understand.  
 15 I think the first I heard about .... was by Hannah Arendt.  
 16 But, Hannah Arendt never went to a concentration comap so  
 17 she can only write something she doesn't know anything  
 18 about.

19           If a policeman is attacked by a man with a gun  
 20 usually the : pliceman is killed, is shot to death. Now  
 21 imagine hundreds of defenseless Jews pressed against a  
 22 wall and having twenty or thirty German S.S. men in front  
 23 of them with drawn pistols and guns. This answers the story.

24           QUESTION: Finally, how do you feel about Isreal?  
 25 Does it re present anything to you today? Do you wish ,  
 obviously, it had been there before the war?

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A My comment about Isreal is -- and I think it is the greatest compliment I have to make-- Without Isreal we, besides the people who went to Isreal, we in America and all over the world never would have survived the last forty years. We would not have been killed and we could walk around and we could eat and could sleep, but emotionally we would have been a broken people. When Isreal kept our strength, gave us hope and, no matter what, whether we live there or do not live there, the thought and the idea to have Isreal has been the most important part of our life and I mean of our life because as survivors the next step was Isreal, being there or being here.

QUESTION: I want to thank you, Mr. Hess and your children, Marion and Steven for spending this time with us today. Thanks again.

E N D O F A U D I O T A P E  
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