

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:43,260

2  
00:00:43,260 --> 00:00:43,998  
Let's start?

3  
00:00:43,998 --> 00:00:51,180

4  
00:00:51,180 --> 00:00:55,140  
So tell us again why your  
mother didn't leave home.

5  
00:00:55,140 --> 00:00:59,110

6  
00:00:59,110 --> 00:01:01,990  
My mother didn't  
leave, first of all,

7  
00:01:01,990 --> 00:01:09,820  
because she wanted to see to it  
that my sister is able to leave

8  
00:01:09,820 --> 00:01:12,810  
and go to Belgium.

9  
00:01:12,810 --> 00:01:17,380  
And so she was waiting for that.

10  
00:01:17,380 --> 00:01:19,300  
However, there  
were other reasons.

11  
00:01:19,300 --> 00:01:21,880  
She was very apprehensive  
about leaving.

12  
00:01:21,880 --> 00:01:25,750  
She was apprehensive  
about leaving everything

13  
00:01:25,750 --> 00:01:27,970  
that she did.

14  
00:01:27,970 --> 00:01:29,920  
Not to any possessions  
because we didn't

15  
00:01:29,920 --> 00:01:32,200  
have any money or anything.

16  
00:01:32,200 --> 00:01:39,220  
But just of the house,  
and the bed, and you

17  
00:01:39,220 --> 00:01:41,710  
know, the people around her.

18  
00:01:41,710 --> 00:01:47,470  
And going to an unknown  
with absolutely nothing,

19  
00:01:47,470 --> 00:01:52,990  
with no ability to earn  
money, with no ability

20  
00:01:52,990 --> 00:01:55,330  
to support herself.

21  
00:01:55,330 --> 00:01:57,290  
My father didn't have  
the ability, either.

22  
00:01:57,290 --> 00:02:00,550  
I mean, it wasn't  
just that she didn't.

23  
00:02:00,550 --> 00:02:05,350  
But everybody felt that women  
and children, during the First

24  
00:02:05,350 --> 00:02:10,479

World War, it was also  
a war against Germany,

25

00:02:10,479 --> 00:02:14,440  
and yet, women and children  
were supposed to have been safe.

26

00:02:14,440 --> 00:02:20,620  
And people, they actually  
had the illusion, actually

27

00:02:20,620 --> 00:02:26,050  
the delusion, that  
the same thing

28

00:02:26,050 --> 00:02:27,820  
is going to happen  
during this war,

29

00:02:27,820 --> 00:02:32,110  
that women and children are  
not going to be bothered.

30

00:02:32,110 --> 00:02:40,030  
So she didn't feel that she  
was at the point of emergency

31

00:02:40,030 --> 00:02:41,290  
to leave.

32

00:02:41,290 --> 00:02:43,420  
But of course, her  
first concern was

33

00:02:43,420 --> 00:02:47,400  
to see to it that my  
sister is safe abroad.

34

00:02:47,400 --> 00:02:55,760

35

00:02:55,760 --> 00:02:59,390  
How did your father and how

did you feel about her staying

36  
00:02:59,390 --> 00:03:00,950  
behind?

37  
00:03:00,950 --> 00:03:03,140  
I felt terrible about it.

38  
00:03:03,140 --> 00:03:08,150  
And I was right feeling  
terrible because her experiences

39  
00:03:08,150 --> 00:03:09,740  
were horrendous.

40  
00:03:09,740 --> 00:03:12,830  
She had horrible experiences.

41  
00:03:12,830 --> 00:03:13,460  
She was--

42  
00:03:13,460 --> 00:03:15,620  
Could you tell me  
it again, saying--

43  
00:03:15,620 --> 00:03:16,920  
I need a complete sentence.

44  
00:03:16,920 --> 00:03:17,420  
Oh.

45  
00:03:17,420 --> 00:03:23,030  
So you felt horrible about  
your mother staying behind.

46  
00:03:23,030 --> 00:03:28,100  
I felt terrible about leaving  
my mother behind and knowing

47  
00:03:28,100 --> 00:03:34,040  
that she's going to remain  
under the German occupation.

48

00:03:34,040 --> 00:03:37,940

However, you know, there wasn't anything I could do about it.

49

00:03:37,940 --> 00:03:41,870

Because she made her decision.

50

00:03:41,870 --> 00:03:44,330

My sister made her decision.

51

00:03:44,330 --> 00:03:49,490

And I felt that there was nothing

52

00:03:49,490 --> 00:03:52,880

I could do to influence them to change it.

53

00:03:52,880 --> 00:03:55,277

So I had to leave.

54

00:03:55,277 --> 00:03:56,360

And how about your father?

55

00:03:56,360 --> 00:03:59,870

How did he feel about your mother staying behind?

56

00:03:59,870 --> 00:04:02,870

He was also heartbroken about it.

57

00:04:02,870 --> 00:04:09,200

But again, he certainly had no way of influencing her by,

58

00:04:09,200 --> 00:04:10,960

you know.

59

00:04:10,960 --> 00:04:14,660

And nobody knew what

was going to happen.

60

00:04:14,660 --> 00:04:16,790

And we thought that who knew?

61

00:04:16,790 --> 00:04:19,970

I mean, maybe she would be able to leave in a few months.

62

00:04:19,970 --> 00:04:22,329

Maybe she would be able to.

63

00:04:22,329 --> 00:04:26,630

And nobody knew, which was actually the safe thing.

64

00:04:26,630 --> 00:04:28,580

Well, you can advise somebody to leave,

65

00:04:28,580 --> 00:04:30,680

and then they can be caught by the Germans

66

00:04:30,680 --> 00:04:38,250

and shot on the border or arrested.

67

00:04:38,250 --> 00:04:40,760

You didn't know what's going to happen to people.

68

00:04:40,760 --> 00:04:44,180

So you couldn't really just say, you must go.

69

00:04:44,180 --> 00:04:46,160

Because I know you must go.

70

00:04:46,160 --> 00:04:47,750

You couldn't say that.

71

00:04:47,750 --> 00:04:51,050  
You felt that these people  
maybe have a better instinct.

72  
00:04:51,050 --> 00:04:53,970  
Who knew?

73  
00:04:53,970 --> 00:04:56,300  
Good, good.

74  
00:04:56,300 --> 00:04:58,100  
Could we cut for just a second.

75  
00:04:58,100 --> 00:04:59,195  
Mark?

76  
00:04:59,195 --> 00:04:59,695  
OK.

77  
00:04:59,695 --> 00:05:03,860

78  
00:05:03,860 --> 00:05:05,590  
From my stepmother.

79  
00:05:05,590 --> 00:05:06,240  
You rolling?

80  
00:05:06,240 --> 00:05:06,740  
Yep.

81  
00:05:06,740 --> 00:05:07,652  
I am.

82  
00:05:07,652 --> 00:05:10,388

83  
00:05:10,388 --> 00:05:11,295  
One sec.

84  
00:05:11,295 --> 00:05:11,795

OK.

85

00:05:11,795 --> 00:05:14,490

86

00:05:14,490 --> 00:05:18,350

Why didn't your mother  
decide to leave with you?

87

00:05:18,350 --> 00:05:22,910

Well, my mother  
decided to stay as long

88

00:05:22,910 --> 00:05:29,810

to see to it that my sister had  
a chance to go back to Belgium.

89

00:05:29,810 --> 00:05:32,720

And you didn't know how long  
it would take to get a visa,

90

00:05:32,720 --> 00:05:35,870

and get the papers,  
and everything.

91

00:05:35,870 --> 00:05:37,440

That was one reason.

92

00:05:37,440 --> 00:05:42,410

The second reason was that  
she was totally, you know,

93

00:05:42,410 --> 00:05:43,592

unprepared--

94

00:05:43,592 --> 00:05:45,440

Look at John, please.

95

00:05:45,440 --> 00:05:48,350

It looked a lot like you  
were looking at the camera.

96



00:05:48,350 --> 00:05:49,310

The other reason was--

97

00:05:49,310 --> 00:05:51,390

Can we-- why don't  
we start all over?

98

00:05:51,390 --> 00:05:52,250

Oh.

99

00:05:52,250 --> 00:05:53,332

I'm sorry.

100

00:05:53,332 --> 00:05:54,540

And try and make eye contact.

101

00:05:54,540 --> 00:05:56,150

I know.

102

00:05:56,150 --> 00:05:57,080

I know.

103

00:05:57,080 --> 00:06:01,260

I was trying to find  
different way of putting it.

104

00:06:01,260 --> 00:06:02,605

I don't know.

105

00:06:02,605 --> 00:06:03,980

You don't need to  
find a new way.

106

00:06:03,980 --> 00:06:04,563

Just a minute.

107

00:06:04,563 --> 00:06:12,830

108

00:06:12,830 --> 00:06:14,650

It's going to get boring.

109

00:06:14,650 --> 00:06:17,210

110

00:06:17,210 --> 00:06:20,330

Hold on because I have  
to get my voice back.

111

00:06:20,330 --> 00:06:33,890

112

00:06:33,890 --> 00:06:42,130

My mother decided to stay  
in Warsaw with my sister

113

00:06:42,130 --> 00:06:44,870

to make sure that she  
has a chance to go back

114

00:06:44,870 --> 00:06:45,980

to Belgium as she wanted.

115

00:06:45,980 --> 00:06:49,460

116

00:06:49,460 --> 00:06:52,850

The other reason why she  
stayed was that she wanted--

117

00:06:52,850 --> 00:06:56,460

118

00:06:56,460 --> 00:06:59,570

the going was so uncertain.

119

00:06:59,570 --> 00:07:01,930

You didn't know  
where you're going,

120

00:07:01,930 --> 00:07:05,490

you didn't know what  
you're going to encounter.

121

00:07:05,490 --> 00:07:09,890

Whether you're going to be  
able to get through the border

122

00:07:09,890 --> 00:07:14,780

or not, get arrested or not,  
what would happen to you.

123

00:07:14,780 --> 00:07:17,540

And even after you  
reach your destination,

124

00:07:17,540 --> 00:07:18,815

you had no means of support.

125

00:07:18,815 --> 00:07:21,640

126

00:07:21,640 --> 00:07:25,530

And here in Warsaw,  
she had her friends,

127

00:07:25,530 --> 00:07:33,590

she had some of her family,  
her cousins, et cetera.

128

00:07:33,590 --> 00:07:35,780

She had people.

129

00:07:35,780 --> 00:07:37,970

She had her home.

130

00:07:37,970 --> 00:07:41,540

And it was very difficult  
to leave it all and just go

131

00:07:41,540 --> 00:07:44,420

into the unknown.

132

00:07:44,420 --> 00:07:57,350

And also, the general opinion  
was that the Germans--

133

00:07:57,350 --> 00:08:01,850

excuse me, I have to stop  
that-- that the Germans are not

134

00:08:01,850 --> 00:08:07,730

going to kill or arrest  
women and children

135

00:08:07,730 --> 00:08:13,100

because during the last war,  
the First World War, women

136

00:08:13,100 --> 00:08:18,230

and children were not really  
bothered to the extent

137

00:08:18,230 --> 00:08:19,280

that men were.

138

00:08:19,280 --> 00:08:21,815

They weren't killed,  
they weren't arrested.

139

00:08:21,815 --> 00:08:25,250

That was all  
concentrated on the men.

140

00:08:25,250 --> 00:08:29,570

So therefore, I guess, taking  
all this into consideration,

141

00:08:29,570 --> 00:08:33,740

she decided to stay in  
Warsaw and not leave.

142

00:08:33,740 --> 00:08:39,270

And how did you and your  
father respond to that?

143

00:08:39,270 --> 00:08:40,260

Who?

144

00:08:40,260 --> 00:08:41,280

You and your father.

145

00:08:41,280 --> 00:08:42,640

Oh, me and my father.

146

00:08:42,640 --> 00:08:45,180

Oh.

147

00:08:45,180 --> 00:08:47,880

Well, we were quite  
distressed, of course.

148

00:08:47,880 --> 00:08:52,860

Because I personally,  
and my father did,

149

00:08:52,860 --> 00:08:56,790

too, realized the danger  
that she was putting herself

150

00:08:56,790 --> 00:09:00,960

into because she was still  
under the German occupation.

151

00:09:00,960 --> 00:09:03,550

And the Germans were  
totally unpredictable.

152

00:09:03,550 --> 00:09:06,630

I mean, if anything, they  
were predictable to the worst

153

00:09:06,630 --> 00:09:09,270

extent.

154

00:09:09,270 --> 00:09:12,810

So we were very distressed.

155

00:09:12,810 --> 00:09:15,360

But there was no way  
of persuading her.

156  
00:09:15,360 --> 00:09:19,260  
Because at that moment,  
she had made up her mind

157  
00:09:19,260 --> 00:09:23,520  
that she had to see my  
sister out of the country.

158  
00:09:23,520 --> 00:09:25,080  
That was her aim.

159  
00:09:25,080 --> 00:09:27,540  
And the second reason,  
as I explained,

160  
00:09:27,540 --> 00:09:31,530  
was that she was very  
uncertain where she was going.

161  
00:09:31,530 --> 00:09:35,040  
So there was no way  
of persuading her.

162  
00:09:35,040 --> 00:09:37,395  
And there was also  
another reason.

163  
00:09:37,395 --> 00:09:40,380

164  
00:09:40,380 --> 00:09:46,200  
People thought that they  
could leave at any time.

165  
00:09:46,200 --> 00:09:49,800  
They thought, OK, things are  
not going to change much.

166  
00:09:49,800 --> 00:09:51,780  
If we are not leaving  
now, maybe I'll

167

00:09:51,780 --> 00:09:57,390

be able to live in two months,  
three months, or so, you know.

168

00:09:57,390 --> 00:10:03,330

So it wasn't such a final  
thing, final decision yet.

169

00:10:03,330 --> 00:10:08,340

The situation was such, the  
Germans created the ghetto

170

00:10:08,340 --> 00:10:12,870

in Warsaw right away, the  
Jewish people were not

171

00:10:12,870 --> 00:10:15,820

able to go outside the ghetto.

172

00:10:15,820 --> 00:10:21,510

And afterwards, after  
the ghetto uprising,

173

00:10:21,510 --> 00:10:24,180

the ghetto was burned  
during the ghetto operation.

174

00:10:24,180 --> 00:10:25,540

There was nothing left.

175

00:10:25,540 --> 00:10:28,560

And everybody was  
either killed or tried

176

00:10:28,560 --> 00:10:33,450

to hide on the Polish  
side, on the Aryan side.

177

00:10:33,450 --> 00:10:36,200

This was the case  
with my mother.

178

00:10:36,200 --> 00:10:37,200  
And how did she survive?

179  
00:10:37,200 --> 00:10:42,180

180  
00:10:42,180 --> 00:10:46,200  
During the time that  
the ghetto was formed--

181  
00:10:46,200 --> 00:10:48,390  
I don't know whether I  
should go through her being

182  
00:10:48,390 --> 00:10:50,490  
a teacher and teaching in  
the underground schools,

183  
00:10:50,490 --> 00:10:51,270  
because you--

184  
00:10:51,270 --> 00:10:54,870  
Sure, sure, but briefly.

185  
00:10:54,870 --> 00:10:56,070  
She was--

186  
00:10:56,070 --> 00:10:57,740  
So start with how  
does your mother--

187  
00:10:57,740 --> 00:10:59,220  
my mother survived by.

188  
00:10:59,220 --> 00:11:02,430  
My mother survived the ghetto.

189  
00:11:02,430 --> 00:11:04,230  
During the time  
of the ghetto, she

190  
00:11:04,230 --> 00:11:08,700



was a teacher and teaching  
in the underground schools.

191  
00:11:08,700 --> 00:11:11,880  
After the ghetto was  
destroyed, she left.

192  
00:11:11,880 --> 00:11:14,400

193  
00:11:14,400 --> 00:11:16,950  
For a while, she was working  
in the Schulz factory,

194  
00:11:16,950 --> 00:11:20,730  
I went through this also.

195  
00:11:20,730 --> 00:11:22,500  
After the ghetto  
was destroyed, she

196  
00:11:22,500 --> 00:11:27,240  
was given a Polish identity.

197  
00:11:27,240 --> 00:11:36,930  
And she stayed in an  
attic of a Polish house,

198  
00:11:36,930 --> 00:11:42,030  
where she was hiding and  
unable to go outside at all.

199  
00:11:42,030 --> 00:11:50,700  
And she stayed there until the  
Soviet army entered Poland.

200  
00:11:50,700 --> 00:11:52,676  
And then where did she go?

201  
00:11:52,676 --> 00:11:55,620  
Well, then she  
was a free person.

202

00:11:55,620 --> 00:11:56,820

Then she was a free person.

203

00:11:56,820 --> 00:12:00,900

204

00:12:00,900 --> 00:12:08,490

She became a member  
of the committee

205

00:12:08,490 --> 00:12:12,330

for refugees in Poland.

206

00:12:12,330 --> 00:12:18,630

And when we found out  
that she was alive,

207

00:12:18,630 --> 00:12:23,760

through some kind of  
a radio broadcast,

208

00:12:23,760 --> 00:12:25,980

my father made  
attempts right away

209

00:12:25,980 --> 00:12:28,200

to get a visa for  
her, of course.

210

00:12:28,200 --> 00:12:31,380

She left Poland to go to Sweden.

211

00:12:31,380 --> 00:12:33,330

She stayed in  
Sweden for a while.

212

00:12:33,330 --> 00:12:36,840

And came to New York in 1946.

213

00:12:36,840 --> 00:12:38,010

Was it '46?

214  
00:12:38,010 --> 00:12:38,820  
I don't remember.

215  
00:12:38,820 --> 00:12:40,150  
It was, yeah.

216  
00:12:40,150 --> 00:12:42,600  
OK.

217  
00:12:42,600 --> 00:12:45,000  
John, before you go on,  
I'm just curious how--

218  
00:12:45,000 --> 00:12:47,640

219  
00:12:47,640 --> 00:12:51,840  
The time was all the war  
time, all the war years.

220  
00:12:51,840 --> 00:12:57,000  
We did have  
correspondence with--

221  
00:12:57,000 --> 00:12:59,370  
you could correspond  
with people in ghetto.

222  
00:12:59,370 --> 00:13:01,020  
So as a matter of  
fact, I still have

223  
00:13:01,020 --> 00:13:03,360  
some of her ghetto letters.

224  
00:13:03,360 --> 00:13:05,850  
And I have one  
letter from ghetto

225  
00:13:05,850 --> 00:13:08,550  
from my aunt, which is really  
a very interesting letter,

226

00:13:08,550 --> 00:13:14,700

you could see, with all the  
censored parts burned out.

227

00:13:14,700 --> 00:13:18,670

Practically half of the  
letters is all black.

228

00:13:18,670 --> 00:13:23,900

But you were able to correspond  
with people from ghetto.

229

00:13:23,900 --> 00:13:28,910

So we knew that where she was.

230

00:13:28,910 --> 00:13:31,400

And she was getting our  
letters, some of them.

231

00:13:31,400 --> 00:13:36,360

Well, not all of them,  
but some of them, anyhow.

232

00:13:36,360 --> 00:13:37,170

OK.

233

00:13:37,170 --> 00:13:43,080

Let's go back to you in Vilna.

234

00:13:43,080 --> 00:13:47,220

How did you get a visa?

235

00:13:47,220 --> 00:13:50,340

How did you get out?

236

00:13:50,340 --> 00:13:54,510

Well, I got a visa on the  
basis of my father's visa.

237

00:13:54,510 --> 00:13:59,520

My father was on the list

and I was his daughter,

238

00:13:59,520 --> 00:14:04,430

so I was given a  
visa as his daughter.

239

00:14:04,430 --> 00:14:08,960

It wasn't a special visa for  
me, it's just as a daughter.

240

00:14:08,960 --> 00:14:15,830

And as I think I explained  
to you, after my father left

241

00:14:15,830 --> 00:14:24,950

under the assumed name, went  
to Japan, a few weeks later,

242

00:14:24,950 --> 00:14:28,310

I left with a group of people  
through the Trans-Siberian

243

00:14:28,310 --> 00:14:36,780

Express to Vladivostok  
through Korea to Japan.

244

00:14:36,780 --> 00:14:39,394

And that's where  
I met my father.

245

00:14:39,394 --> 00:14:40,370

Great.

246

00:14:40,370 --> 00:14:42,920

Did anything happen on the  
Trans-Siberian Railroad?

247

00:14:42,920 --> 00:14:45,680

Did you have to give up  
rubles in Vladivostok?

248

00:14:45,680 --> 00:14:48,590

No, this was all paid for.

249  
00:14:48,590 --> 00:14:49,790  
It was arranged.

250  
00:14:49,790 --> 00:14:52,040  
It was paid to the  
Intourist, which

251  
00:14:52,040 --> 00:14:56,870  
was a Soviet kind of a  
company, travel company.

252  
00:14:56,870 --> 00:15:00,180  
It was paid up here  
in United States.

253  
00:15:00,180 --> 00:15:02,180  
So it was all paid.

254  
00:15:02,180 --> 00:15:04,190  
The transportation was paid.

255  
00:15:04,190 --> 00:15:07,430  
We had our meals on the train.

256  
00:15:07,430 --> 00:15:10,310  
We slept on the train.

257  
00:15:10,310 --> 00:15:14,390  
There were two  
levels, like benches.

258  
00:15:14,390 --> 00:15:16,910  
And you slept on these benches.

259  
00:15:16,910 --> 00:15:22,200  
And it was all--

260  
00:15:22,200 --> 00:15:28,430  
the entire train was  
actually full of refugees.

261

00:15:28,430 --> 00:15:31,700

First, we went to Moscow,  
where we stayed in a hotel

262

00:15:31,700 --> 00:15:33,260

for a week.

263

00:15:33,260 --> 00:15:39,440

And then I remember, in  
Moscow, I sold all my dresses

264

00:15:39,440 --> 00:15:41,060

because I didn't  
have any money and I

265

00:15:41,060 --> 00:15:42,920

wanted to go to the opera.

266

00:15:42,920 --> 00:15:46,760

So I took a chance  
because would I

267

00:15:46,760 --> 00:15:50,720

have been caught selling  
dresses on the black market,

268

00:15:50,720 --> 00:15:54,300

I would have been arrested  
and never heard from again.

269

00:15:54,300 --> 00:15:55,400

So I was worried.

270

00:15:55,400 --> 00:15:58,130

But I mean, I was  
young, I thought

271

00:15:58,130 --> 00:16:01,310

I was going into freedom,  
and I was just so

272

00:16:01,310 --> 00:16:03,350

exhilarated, I didn't care.

273

00:16:03,350 --> 00:16:09,050

Just wanted to see the  
opera and go places.

274

00:16:09,050 --> 00:16:12,020

So you weren't afraid on  
the Trans-Siberian Railroad?

275

00:16:12,020 --> 00:16:13,265

No, I was not afraid.

276

00:16:13,265 --> 00:16:13,940

Not at all.

277

00:16:13,940 --> 00:16:22,330

278

00:16:22,330 --> 00:16:24,660

I thought you had to  
leave your suitcase behind

279

00:16:24,660 --> 00:16:26,285

and stuff, how did  
you have your stuff?

280

00:16:26,285 --> 00:16:27,900

Well, that happened.

281

00:16:27,900 --> 00:16:28,890

Yeah.

282

00:16:28,890 --> 00:16:35,640

You see, when we were on the  
first segment of our escape

283

00:16:35,640 --> 00:16:40,770

from Warsaw, when we were  
in this house of the guide,

284

00:16:40,770 --> 00:16:46,380



of the peasant guide, Polish  
peasant guide, after you know,

285  
00:16:46,380 --> 00:16:48,780  
we established that  
the ice was too thin

286  
00:16:48,780 --> 00:16:51,270  
and it was so hard  
to get across,

287  
00:16:51,270 --> 00:16:55,140  
the guy said, well we just  
have too many suitcases.

288  
00:16:55,140 --> 00:17:01,470  
It's just too heavy to drive  
across the ice these suitcases.

289  
00:17:01,470 --> 00:17:05,400  
And so we decided to  
leave a suitcase behind.

290  
00:17:05,400 --> 00:17:08,069  
And a lady with  
whom we traveled,

291  
00:17:08,069 --> 00:17:11,190  
who was more or less  
more of an adult

292  
00:17:11,190 --> 00:17:17,310  
said that she's going to give  
me enough clothes for whatever I

293  
00:17:17,310 --> 00:17:18,190  
need.

294  
00:17:18,190 --> 00:17:22,380  
And that she advises me to  
leave my suitcase behind.

295  
00:17:22,380 --> 00:17:24,000

So I said, OK.

296  
00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:25,480  
And I left my suitcase behind.

297  
00:17:25,480 --> 00:17:29,190  
I was left with nothing  
when I arrived in Vilna.

298  
00:17:29,190 --> 00:17:33,460  
I don't remember whether  
she gave me anything or not.

299  
00:17:33,460 --> 00:17:33,960  
OK.

300  
00:17:33,960 --> 00:17:44,080

301  
00:17:44,080 --> 00:17:46,930  
Could you go over again and  
pretend as though you're

302  
00:17:46,930 --> 00:17:48,910  
telling me for the first time?

303  
00:17:48,910 --> 00:17:51,430  
Why did your father have  
to disguise himself?

304  
00:17:51,430 --> 00:17:54,410  
Why was he in such  
grave danger in Vilna?

305  
00:17:54,410 --> 00:18:00,910  
Well, my father, who  
was a Jewish journalist,

306  
00:18:00,910 --> 00:18:03,460  
was also a lecturer.

307  
00:18:03,460 --> 00:18:07,000

And as a lecturer,  
he traveled all

308  
00:18:07,000 --> 00:18:12,340  
over small towns and cities  
of Poland and gave lectures.

309  
00:18:12,340 --> 00:18:16,930  
Well, there were no movies,  
there were no any kind

310  
00:18:16,930 --> 00:18:17,710  
of entertainment.

311  
00:18:17,710 --> 00:18:23,440  
And his lectures were mostly  
on literature and politics.

312  
00:18:23,440 --> 00:18:26,230  
And his lectures were  
very well-attended.

313  
00:18:26,230 --> 00:18:30,580  
He was very popular  
and very well-known.

314  
00:18:30,580 --> 00:18:33,890  
His face was very well-known.

315  
00:18:33,890 --> 00:18:37,330  
He was well-known  
by friends and foe.

316  
00:18:37,330 --> 00:18:44,830  
And since he was a socialist  
and Social Democrat,

317  
00:18:44,830 --> 00:18:49,330  
his views were distinctly  
anti-communist.

318  
00:18:49,330 --> 00:18:54,940  
And the communists actually

were gunning for him.

319

00:18:54,940 --> 00:18:56,490

And they were looking for him.

320

00:18:56,490 --> 00:19:00,040

There were a lot of agents,  
just scattered all over,

321

00:19:00,040 --> 00:19:03,520

trying to find him  
and arrest him.

322

00:19:03,520 --> 00:19:07,960

So that when we were  
in Vilna and Kovno,

323

00:19:07,960 --> 00:19:12,460

it was obvious that if he  
appears any place in public

324

00:19:12,460 --> 00:19:17,960

as Baruch Schaffner,  
he would be arrested.

325

00:19:17,960 --> 00:19:29,320

So that our underground got  
false identity papers for him.

326

00:19:29,320 --> 00:19:32,080

His name became Isaac Braude.

327

00:19:32,080 --> 00:19:36,715

He grew a beard and a mustache  
and he went into hiding.

328

00:19:36,715 --> 00:19:42,290

329

00:19:42,290 --> 00:19:44,850

He left you back  
in Vilna, correct?

330

00:19:44,850 --> 00:19:45,350

No, no.

331

00:19:45,350 --> 00:19:46,660

I was in Kovno.

332

00:19:46,660 --> 00:19:47,210

Kovno, sorry.

333

00:19:47,210 --> 00:19:49,130

I was in Kaunas.

334

00:19:49,130 --> 00:19:50,980

Kovno is in Polish,  
you say it Kovno.

335

00:19:50,980 --> 00:19:52,950

But it's Kaunas in Lithuanian.

336

00:19:52,950 --> 00:19:56,990

337

00:19:56,990 --> 00:20:00,530

When he left you, what  
was your departure like?

338

00:20:00,530 --> 00:20:01,400

Did you cry?

339

00:20:01,400 --> 00:20:03,710

Well, no, he didn't  
leave, actually.

340

00:20:03,710 --> 00:20:05,510

I had to take him.

341

00:20:05,510 --> 00:20:13,190

He went with a friend of his  
whose wife was a friend of mine

342

00:20:13,190 --> 00:20:14,960

into hiding together.

343

00:20:14,960 --> 00:20:18,650

And both I and his wife, Paula--

344

00:20:18,650 --> 00:20:21,140

this is this friend's

wife, Paula--

345

00:20:21,140 --> 00:20:24,200

found a little place

for him about an hour

346

00:20:24,200 --> 00:20:28,310

from Kaunas in a small town.

347

00:20:28,310 --> 00:20:29,700

And it wasn't a town.

348

00:20:29,700 --> 00:20:34,850

It was like a farm place,

a farming community,

349

00:20:34,850 --> 00:20:38,150

outside of Kaunas,

about an hour.

350

00:20:38,150 --> 00:20:41,120

And we had to get there by bus.

351

00:20:41,120 --> 00:20:43,370

Not only did we go

by bus, but we also

352

00:20:43,370 --> 00:20:45,830

had to-- when we

visited them, we

353

00:20:45,830 --> 00:20:50,360

had to cross a forest, which

was full of Soviet soldiers.

354

00:20:50,360 --> 00:20:52,850

It was very dangerous,  
actually, to do.

355

00:20:52,850 --> 00:20:54,320

However, that's what we did.

356

00:20:54,320 --> 00:20:57,350

After we established  
them in this hut,

357

00:20:57,350 --> 00:21:05,240

we had to bring them papers,  
news, food, and all the things

358

00:21:05,240 --> 00:21:06,890

that they needed.

359

00:21:06,890 --> 00:21:09,260

So we visited them quite often.

360

00:21:09,260 --> 00:21:12,570

It wasn't like I parted from him  
and I didn't see him anymore.

361

00:21:12,570 --> 00:21:15,287

I was his lifeline.

362

00:21:15,287 --> 00:21:17,870

I mean, how about when you got  
on the Trans-Siberian Railroad,

363

00:21:17,870 --> 00:21:20,330

where was your father then?

364

00:21:20,330 --> 00:21:22,910

When I got out of the  
Trans-Siberian Railroad,

365

00:21:22,910 --> 00:21:24,330

that was Vladivostok.

366

00:21:24,330 --> 00:21:24,890  
No, no.

367  
00:21:24,890 --> 00:21:26,720  
Where was your father?

368  
00:21:26,720 --> 00:21:27,610  
In Japan.

369  
00:21:27,610 --> 00:21:28,610  
He was already in Japan?

370  
00:21:28,610 --> 00:21:29,110  
Yeah.

371  
00:21:29,110 --> 00:21:29,990  
He left ahead of me.

372  
00:21:29,990 --> 00:21:31,610  
Right, so how was that--

373  
00:21:31,610 --> 00:21:34,100  
when he left ahead  
of you, how was that?

374  
00:21:34,100 --> 00:21:38,360  
Well, I was together  
with a lot of friends.

375  
00:21:38,360 --> 00:21:45,390  
I was together with Paula,  
the one that, you know, was--

376  
00:21:45,390 --> 00:21:46,820  
OK.

377  
00:21:46,820 --> 00:21:48,380  
What I'm asking  
about you is were you

378  
00:21:48,380 --> 00:21:50,360  
worried for your father's



safety when he left?

379

00:21:50,360 --> 00:21:52,010

I was worried all the time.

380

00:21:52,010 --> 00:21:54,320

When he arrived  
in Japan already.

381

00:21:54,320 --> 00:21:55,020

No.

382

00:21:55,020 --> 00:21:57,230

So we need to go again,  
and you need to say,

383

00:21:57,230 --> 00:21:59,720

I was worried about my father.

384

00:21:59,720 --> 00:22:01,370

You have to give me the subject.

385

00:22:01,370 --> 00:22:04,100

I was very worried  
about my father

386

00:22:04,100 --> 00:22:06,410

until he left the Soviet Union.

387

00:22:06,410 --> 00:22:09,030

I mean, he left Lithuania,  
the Soviet Union,

388

00:22:09,030 --> 00:22:12,020

whatever you want to call it.

389

00:22:12,020 --> 00:22:13,130

That's when I was worried.

390

00:22:13,130 --> 00:22:15,980

I wasn't worried about  
him once he left.

391  
00:22:15,980 --> 00:22:19,460  
And once I knew he was going  
toward Japan, because that was

392  
00:22:19,460 --> 00:22:21,470  
he was going towards safety.

393  
00:22:21,470 --> 00:22:22,790  
Not toward danger.

394  
00:22:22,790 --> 00:22:25,220  
He was escaping from danger.

395  
00:22:25,220 --> 00:22:28,580  
So I was delighted that he left.

396  
00:22:28,580 --> 00:22:31,070  
And how was your  
reunion in Japan?

397  
00:22:31,070 --> 00:22:36,630  
In Japan, well, there was, of  
course, a very joyful reunion,

398  
00:22:36,630 --> 00:22:38,390  
as you may expect.

399  
00:22:38,390 --> 00:22:41,930  
And I was absolutely  
exhilarated because I

400  
00:22:41,930 --> 00:22:44,360  
felt that I achieved freedom.

401  
00:22:44,360 --> 00:22:48,560  
Japan to us was freedom  
out of Hitler's domination,

402  
00:22:48,560 --> 00:22:50,870  
out of the Soviet  
domination, I mean

403  
00:22:50,870 --> 00:22:52,850  
it was something unbelievable.

404  
00:22:52,850 --> 00:22:54,650  
I mean, free world.

405  
00:22:54,650 --> 00:22:57,500  
Well, didn't compare  
with coming to America.

406  
00:22:57,500 --> 00:23:06,080  
But still, it was incredibly  
wonderful to be in the world.

407  
00:23:06,080 --> 00:23:11,390  
Before you go on, John, earlier,  
Mary, you had a story about--

408  
00:23:11,390 --> 00:23:13,010  
Oh, OK.

409  
00:23:13,010 --> 00:23:16,940  
Well, I did miss telling  
you about, really,

410  
00:23:16,940 --> 00:23:22,070  
the most traumatic part  
of my father's hiding.

411  
00:23:22,070 --> 00:23:26,630  
That is that to get  
papers, exit papers,

412  
00:23:26,630 --> 00:23:30,980  
he had to go back to Kaunas  
from this little town.

413  
00:23:30,980 --> 00:23:34,610  
And I had to take  
him into an office

414

00:23:34,610 --> 00:23:39,050  
of a Soviet governmental office,  
where they were interrogating

415  
00:23:39,050 --> 00:23:42,680  
people prior to giving  
them permissions

416  
00:23:42,680 --> 00:23:51,830  
and stamp their papers for  
exiting the Soviet Union.

417  
00:23:51,830 --> 00:23:54,950  
When I had to take him there,  
you had to be there in person.

418  
00:23:54,950 --> 00:23:56,120  
You just couldn't do it.

419  
00:23:56,120 --> 00:23:59,820  
You couldn't go and get  
it for him in his name.

420  
00:23:59,820 --> 00:24:00,890  
I had to bring.

421  
00:24:00,890 --> 00:24:03,170  
He had to be there.

422  
00:24:03,170 --> 00:24:05,840  
And I had to bring  
him over there.

423  
00:24:05,840 --> 00:24:08,930  
And he had to stay  
in the waiting room.

424  
00:24:08,930 --> 00:24:12,740  
Stand, actually because there  
were no seats or anything.

425  
00:24:12,740 --> 00:24:14,630  
Crowded with people.

426  
00:24:14,630 --> 00:24:17,540  
Crowded with Soviet agents,  
who were just looking

427  
00:24:17,540 --> 00:24:20,790  
for people like that to arrest.

428  
00:24:20,790 --> 00:24:26,000  
And this took sometimes hours.

429  
00:24:26,000 --> 00:24:29,960  
And each hour to me  
was like an eternity.

430  
00:24:29,960 --> 00:24:33,530  
Because I was just  
petrified that any minute,

431  
00:24:33,530 --> 00:24:36,980  
somebody is going to  
grab him and arrest him.

432  
00:24:36,980 --> 00:24:41,090  
So to go through this and  
wait with him, [MUMBLING],,

433  
00:24:41,090 --> 00:24:42,920  
I was in one end  
of the room, he was

434  
00:24:42,920 --> 00:24:44,280  
on the other end of the room.

435  
00:24:44,280 --> 00:24:47,840  
We just didn't even look  
at each other, of course.

436  
00:24:47,840 --> 00:24:51,510  
But this was a just very  
horrifying experience for me,

437

00:24:51,510 --> 00:24:55,340  
very traumatic, and  
very, very stressful.

438  
00:24:55,340 --> 00:25:03,320  
For each such visit to the  
offices of the Soviet officials

439  
00:25:03,320 --> 00:25:08,330  
was an absolute horror for me.

440  
00:25:08,330 --> 00:25:09,750  
I hate to do this to you.

441  
00:25:09,750 --> 00:25:12,710  
But can you tell me one  
more time with my father?

442  
00:25:12,710 --> 00:25:15,560  
You kept saying he, and  
we don't know who he is.

443  
00:25:15,560 --> 00:25:17,780  
Oh.

444  
00:25:17,780 --> 00:25:19,140  
The same thing?

445  
00:25:19,140 --> 00:25:19,700  
Yeah.

446  
00:25:19,700 --> 00:25:20,908  
How am I going to go through?

447  
00:25:20,908 --> 00:25:24,120  
But a little shorter,  
a little shorter.

448  
00:25:24,120 --> 00:25:26,180  
Where do I start?

449  
00:25:26,180 --> 00:25:29,980

And at the end of the story,  
tell me that he got a visa.

450  
00:25:29,980 --> 00:25:33,500  
That you were successful.

451  
00:25:33,500 --> 00:25:38,150  
Tell the end of the story, how  
he traveled through Russia?

452  
00:25:38,150 --> 00:25:42,260  
No, no, just tell me that  
you brought your father

453  
00:25:42,260 --> 00:25:46,610  
to the office, you were  
scared, but in the end,

454  
00:25:46,610 --> 00:25:48,020  
he got the visa that he needed.

455  
00:25:48,020 --> 00:25:48,990  
Oh, OK.

456  
00:25:48,990 --> 00:25:49,490  
OK.

457  
00:25:49,490 --> 00:25:52,250

458  
00:25:52,250 --> 00:25:57,730  
I wish I knew this and before,  
that I need to say my father

459  
00:25:57,730 --> 00:25:59,360  
and repeat it, OK.

460  
00:25:59,360 --> 00:26:02,210  
One of the most dangerous,  
one of the most troubling.

461  
00:26:02,210 --> 00:26:06,220

462

00:26:06,220 --> 00:26:09,970

One of the most  
stressful experiences

463

00:26:09,970 --> 00:26:14,500

that I had regarding  
my father's safety

464

00:26:14,500 --> 00:26:21,100

was when I had to bring him  
over to the Soviet bureaus

465

00:26:21,100 --> 00:26:25,810

for interrogation by the  
Soviet officials prior to their

466

00:26:25,810 --> 00:26:30,740

giving my father the  
exit visa and permits

467

00:26:30,740 --> 00:26:33,850

to travel through Soviet Union.

468

00:26:33,850 --> 00:26:37,360

This took place in Kaunas.

469

00:26:37,360 --> 00:26:41,860

I had to bring my father to  
a waiting room full of people

470

00:26:41,860 --> 00:26:46,090

and full of, actually,  
Soviet agents, who were just

471

00:26:46,090 --> 00:26:52,060

waiting for a chance to pounce  
at somebody and arrest him.

472

00:26:52,060 --> 00:26:57,910

And this waiting in  
this room was sometimes



473  
00:26:57,910 --> 00:27:00,850  
as long as a couple of  
hours or many hours,

474  
00:27:00,850 --> 00:27:04,840  
and each minute was an eternity.

475  
00:27:04,840 --> 00:27:08,650  
Well, I went through this.

476  
00:27:08,650 --> 00:27:12,070  
And this was, really, a  
horrifying experience,

477  
00:27:12,070 --> 00:27:14,140  
very, very stressful for me.

478  
00:27:14,140 --> 00:27:17,270  
And for my father,  
needless to say, as well.

479  
00:27:17,270 --> 00:27:21,220  
However, at the end, he  
did get all his papers.

480  
00:27:21,220 --> 00:27:24,130  
My father did get  
all his papers.

481  
00:27:24,130 --> 00:27:27,850  
And he was able to travel  
under this assumed identity

482  
00:27:27,850 --> 00:27:32,710  
through Soviet Union to  
Japan, where I followed him

483  
00:27:32,710 --> 00:27:34,270  
a few weeks later.

484  
00:27:34,270 --> 00:27:37,900

And we met in Japan.

485

00:27:37,900 --> 00:27:40,695

What did you expect  
to find in Japan?

486

00:27:40,695 --> 00:27:42,680

I mean, you had never  
been to Japan before.

487

00:27:42,680 --> 00:27:43,300

No.

488

00:27:43,300 --> 00:27:45,260

What did you think?

489

00:27:45,260 --> 00:27:46,180

Well it was very--

490

00:27:46,180 --> 00:27:48,500

I expected a very  
exotic country.

491

00:27:48,500 --> 00:27:50,350

Of course, you see  
the kimonos and you

492

00:27:50,350 --> 00:27:52,150

see the Japanese people.

493

00:27:52,150 --> 00:27:55,720

But I remember one thing  
about Japan there was.

494

00:27:55,720 --> 00:27:59,970

I was absolutely enchanted  
by the little babies who

495

00:27:59,970 --> 00:28:04,840

were sitting in their  
mother's [? obo ?] in the back

496

00:28:04,840 --> 00:28:06,230  
and looking out.

497  
00:28:06,230 --> 00:28:09,820  
And she was just walking  
around as if nothing happened.

498  
00:28:09,820 --> 00:28:11,320  
They were just enchanting.

499  
00:28:11,320 --> 00:28:15,040  
I thought the Japanese babies  
were the most beautiful babies

500  
00:28:15,040 --> 00:28:17,830  
in the world.

501  
00:28:17,830 --> 00:28:21,160  
Tell me what happened to you,  
what was the unusual incident

502  
00:28:21,160 --> 00:28:22,930  
that you had in Japan.

503  
00:28:22,930 --> 00:28:24,090  
Yeah.

504  
00:28:24,090 --> 00:28:26,080  
I would have really  
been very enchanted

505  
00:28:26,080 --> 00:28:30,460  
with Japan because  
of the freedom

506  
00:28:30,460 --> 00:28:34,180  
that I felt of  
myself, being so free.

507  
00:28:34,180 --> 00:28:37,690  
However, I had one very  
unpleasant experience.

508

00:28:37,690 --> 00:28:42,190

I was walking down  
a hilly street,

509

00:28:42,190 --> 00:28:46,450

clutching with my clutch  
bag under my arm, when

510

00:28:46,450 --> 00:28:54,310

a Japanese fellow on a  
bicycle racing down the street

511

00:28:54,310 --> 00:28:58,150

just grabbed my bag  
and flew off with it.

512

00:28:58,150 --> 00:29:02,680

I had in my bag  
most of my papers,

513

00:29:02,680 --> 00:29:05,800

all my old photographs,  
some money, et cetera.

514

00:29:05,800 --> 00:29:12,850

Luckily, my visa, American  
visa, and my exit papers

515

00:29:12,850 --> 00:29:16,720

from Lithuania where  
left in the hotel.

516

00:29:16,720 --> 00:29:19,810

So this is all that  
I had left, actually.

517

00:29:19,810 --> 00:29:22,660

I went to the police  
station over there

518

00:29:22,660 --> 00:29:25,120

and wanted to make a report.

519

00:29:25,120 --> 00:29:26,500

And I did make a report.

520

00:29:26,500 --> 00:29:27,790

And I was waiting over there.

521

00:29:27,790 --> 00:29:29,560

But I heard such  
horrible screams

522

00:29:29,560 --> 00:29:37,240

of people being beaten  
that I left just

523

00:29:37,240 --> 00:29:41,410

without inquiring any  
further as to what happened,

524

00:29:41,410 --> 00:29:43,750

if anything would  
happen, if I would ever

525

00:29:43,750 --> 00:29:48,330

recover my pocketbook.

526

00:29:48,330 --> 00:29:50,780

We're at the end of the tape.

527

00:29:50,780 --> 00:31:14,000