

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:46,070

2
00:00:46,070 --> 00:00:48,566
--an experience by itself.

3
00:00:48,566 --> 00:00:50,860
[INAUDIBLE]

4
00:00:50,860 --> 00:00:53,010
The train.

5
00:00:53,010 --> 00:00:58,360
The train ride-- you know,
I don't want to interrupt,

6
00:00:58,360 --> 00:01:03,350
but it wasn't until
I became a mother

7
00:01:03,350 --> 00:01:09,060
that the whole thing of my
mother sending us away and all

8
00:01:09,060 --> 00:01:14,070
that, did I realize what
it must have meant for her.

9
00:01:14,070 --> 00:01:15,090
Not until then.

10
00:01:15,090 --> 00:01:21,640
It never-- it just
occurred to us.

11
00:01:21,640 --> 00:01:24,520
Had you ever been
away from home?

12
00:01:24,520 --> 00:01:25,960
No.

13
00:01:25,960 --> 00:01:26,830
Can you say that--

14
00:01:26,830 --> 00:01:28,480
Not day camp.

15
00:01:28,480 --> 00:01:30,970
Are you asking me [INAUDIBLE]?

16
00:01:30,970 --> 00:01:33,130
Well, no.

17
00:01:33,130 --> 00:01:36,910
My sister and I were never
away from home by ourselves.

18
00:01:36,910 --> 00:01:42,010
We used to go-- for summer,
we used to go to a place where

19
00:01:42,010 --> 00:01:42,760
my mother--

20
00:01:42,760 --> 00:01:47,650
but we went with my mother and
housekeeper for the summer.

21
00:01:47,650 --> 00:01:49,570
But never by ourselves.

22
00:01:49,570 --> 00:01:53,075
No, there was no such
thing as a sleep-away camp.

23
00:01:53,075 --> 00:01:57,490
[LAUGHS] So no, we
will never away.

24
00:01:57,490 --> 00:01:59,020
It's so strange.

25

00:01:59,020 --> 00:02:05,110

It's so unreal now,
when I think back to it.

26

00:02:05,110 --> 00:02:07,120

Did you have any fun at all?

27

00:02:07,120 --> 00:02:11,734

Did you have a boyfriend
or anyone that you were--

28

00:02:11,734 --> 00:02:13,198

No.

29

00:02:13,198 --> 00:02:18,190

I must say-- I've said
that I was a child

30

00:02:18,190 --> 00:02:23,080

and then I was an adult.
I never was a teenager.

31

00:02:23,080 --> 00:02:26,110

Because all of a
sudden you grew up.

32

00:02:26,110 --> 00:02:32,710

You became an adult. So before
that, we were very-- you know,

33

00:02:32,710 --> 00:02:38,350

over here, I see 14, 15-year-old
boys and girls, especially now,

34

00:02:38,350 --> 00:02:41,410

they're already very mature.

35

00:02:41,410 --> 00:02:45,730

We were very immature
15, 16-year-olds.

36

00:02:45,730 --> 00:02:47,890

I mean, we had friends--

37

00:02:47,890 --> 00:02:51,280

boys and girls in [PLACE NAME].

38

00:02:51,280 --> 00:02:56,470

We used to have all kinds
of activities and all that.

39

00:02:56,470 --> 00:02:58,750

But I never had a boyfriend, no.

40

00:02:58,750 --> 00:03:02,710

Not until I came to
the United States,

41

00:03:02,710 --> 00:03:06,790

and neither did my sister.

42

00:03:06,790 --> 00:03:08,450

No.

43

00:03:08,450 --> 00:03:13,810

No, we were never teenagers.

44

00:03:13,810 --> 00:03:19,360

Did your mother visit you
while you were in Vilna?

45

00:03:19,360 --> 00:03:22,630

My mother came to visit
us a couple of times

46

00:03:22,630 --> 00:03:27,130

while the border was open.

47

00:03:27,130 --> 00:03:31,480

And it wasn't so bad for her
because she felt she was still

48

00:03:31,480 --> 00:03:33,700

in contact with us.

49
00:03:33,700 --> 00:03:36,910
But then, I'd say after
about two or three months,

50
00:03:36,910 --> 00:03:39,160
they closed the borders.

51
00:03:39,160 --> 00:03:44,260
And that's when she
really realized that she

52
00:03:44,260 --> 00:03:46,500
couldn't stay alone there.

53
00:03:46,500 --> 00:03:49,060
And I guess having the
house didn't mean--

54
00:03:49,060 --> 00:03:52,270
and besides, they took over
the house anyway at that time.

55
00:03:52,270 --> 00:03:54,010
They moved in.

56
00:03:54,010 --> 00:03:56,980
And she just couldn't
be by herself anymore,

57
00:03:56,980 --> 00:03:59,080
and the housekeeper.

58
00:03:59,080 --> 00:04:03,190
So she decided to smuggle
across the border.

59
00:04:03,190 --> 00:04:06,940
So she packed up a few things,
like some of the few things

60
00:04:06,940 --> 00:04:09,910

that I've shown you.

61
00:04:09,910 --> 00:04:14,770
And there were people
who were smuggling you

62
00:04:14,770 --> 00:04:17,950
across the border for
money at certain points.

63
00:04:17,950 --> 00:04:20,709
And she traveled to that point.

64
00:04:20,709 --> 00:04:22,270
She took with her
just what she could

65
00:04:22,270 --> 00:04:28,030
carry with her, on her back or
with her hands, in her arms.

66
00:04:28,030 --> 00:04:32,920
And she paid one
of the persons--

67
00:04:32,920 --> 00:04:37,720
I don't recall how much money,
but it was a lot of money.

68
00:04:37,720 --> 00:04:41,290
And they tried to
smuggle these--

69
00:04:41,290 --> 00:04:44,260
take people across the
border during the night.

70
00:04:44,260 --> 00:04:46,300
They knew exactly
when the sentries

71
00:04:46,300 --> 00:04:48,700
were changing and all that.

72
00:04:48,700 --> 00:04:53,500
And lo and behold, they
were almost caught.

73
00:04:53,500 --> 00:04:58,720
So they had to run
back to the farm house

74
00:04:58,720 --> 00:05:02,020
and wait till they had
another opportunity.

75
00:05:02,020 --> 00:05:05,110
In the meantime, it was
sort of like in the fall

76
00:05:05,110 --> 00:05:09,580
or early winter, and it
turned very cold and rainy.

77
00:05:09,580 --> 00:05:11,860
And my mother took sick.

78
00:05:11,860 --> 00:05:17,290
She got pneumonia so that
she couldn't try again.

79
00:05:17,290 --> 00:05:21,460
And she was at the person's
house for about a couple

80
00:05:21,460 --> 00:05:24,400
of weeks until she got better.

81
00:05:24,400 --> 00:05:28,570
And then they tried again
and they were successful.

82
00:05:28,570 --> 00:05:30,620
And she joined us.

83

00:05:30,620 --> 00:05:36,100

We were living in that
communal [INAUDIBLE] But she

84

00:05:36,100 --> 00:05:39,820

couldn't join us there because
that was just for single people

85

00:05:39,820 --> 00:05:40,580

for [PLACE NAME].

86

00:05:40,580 --> 00:05:45,940

So she got herself a
little room in Vilna.

87

00:05:45,940 --> 00:05:47,720

And she stayed there.

88

00:05:47,720 --> 00:05:49,160

And we used to go.

89

00:05:49,160 --> 00:05:52,500

That's how we used to
spend a lot of time too.

90

00:05:52,500 --> 00:05:56,200

We used to go to my mother's
room and spend with her.

91

00:05:56,200 --> 00:05:58,660

You know, walk or--

92

00:05:58,660 --> 00:06:02,350

a lot of times, also,
she said that there

93

00:06:02,350 --> 00:06:04,450

was a shortage of food.

94

00:06:04,450 --> 00:06:08,710

So you had to stand on line
for everything that there was--

95

00:06:08,710 --> 00:06:12,830

bread, anything that
they might have.

96

00:06:12,830 --> 00:06:15,010

So used to spend a
lot of time standing

97

00:06:15,010 --> 00:06:18,880

on line to get some food.

98

00:06:18,880 --> 00:06:20,650

Now, when she came
and visited you

99

00:06:20,650 --> 00:06:23,800

and left, what were
those comings and goings

100

00:06:23,800 --> 00:06:24,880

or the partings like?

101

00:06:24,880 --> 00:06:25,540

Tough, tough.

102

00:06:25,540 --> 00:06:27,100

Very bad.

103

00:06:27,100 --> 00:06:28,360

Because each time--

104

00:06:28,360 --> 00:06:30,130

Could you start it as
a complete thought?

105

00:06:30,130 --> 00:06:31,630

Yes.

106

00:06:31,630 --> 00:06:35,890

Well, my mother used
to come to visit us.

107

00:06:35,890 --> 00:06:39,370

Her coming was, of
course, wonderful.

108

00:06:39,370 --> 00:06:43,330

And she used to bring us some
food, some goodies, because she

109

00:06:43,330 --> 00:06:45,700

was still able to get there.

110

00:06:45,700 --> 00:06:49,340

But then when she
had to go, each time

111

00:06:49,340 --> 00:06:50,590

was like the last time.

112

00:06:50,590 --> 00:06:52,990

That we wouldn't see her again.

113

00:06:52,990 --> 00:06:54,220

So it was very rough.

114

00:06:54,220 --> 00:06:57,850

And that's what
I think made it--

115

00:06:57,850 --> 00:07:01,400

even, I think, before
they closed the border

116

00:07:01,400 --> 00:07:06,580

she was thinking of just
not going back one day.

117

00:07:06,580 --> 00:07:08,680

But she never got to do that.

118

00:07:08,680 --> 00:07:11,170

And she did it the hard way.

119

00:07:11,170 --> 00:07:14,160

And one day she just packed
up and left the house.

120

00:07:14,160 --> 00:07:14,660

She left.

121

00:07:14,660 --> 00:07:17,600

The housekeeper was a
much an older woman.

122

00:07:17,600 --> 00:07:19,900

She couldn't do it.

123

00:07:19,900 --> 00:07:22,750

She was a distant
relative of ours

124

00:07:22,750 --> 00:07:27,190

who came to live with my mother
when my father passed away.

125

00:07:27,190 --> 00:07:29,170

And she stayed on.

126

00:07:29,170 --> 00:07:30,693

So and she--

127

00:07:30,693 --> 00:07:31,360

Did she survive?

128

00:07:31,360 --> 00:07:32,930

She did not survive.

129

00:07:32,930 --> 00:07:34,070

She did not survive.

130

00:07:34,070 --> 00:07:36,850

She was left living in our home.

131

00:07:36,850 --> 00:07:40,300

The Russians let her stay there.

132
00:07:40,300 --> 00:07:43,090
But then our town was--

133
00:07:43,090 --> 00:07:48,850
then the war broke out between
the Russians and the Germans,

134
00:07:48,850 --> 00:07:51,850
when the wars they
were fighting.

135
00:07:51,850 --> 00:07:56,770
So our town was changing
hands constantly.

136
00:07:56,770 --> 00:07:59,260
Germans, Russians.

137
00:07:59,260 --> 00:08:05,040
And during one of the German
occupations, she was killed--

138
00:08:05,040 --> 00:08:07,795
the housekeeper.

139
00:08:07,795 --> 00:08:09,449
Do you have a picture of her?

140
00:08:09,449 --> 00:08:12,690

141
00:08:12,690 --> 00:08:14,550
I don't have--

142
00:08:14,550 --> 00:08:19,100
I had a picture of her
sort of in a little window,

143
00:08:19,100 --> 00:08:20,920
and I can't remember

where I had it.

144
00:08:20,920 --> 00:08:23,810

145
00:08:23,810 --> 00:08:26,150
Let's go back to--

146
00:08:26,150 --> 00:08:29,720
I was going to keep that out.

147
00:08:29,720 --> 00:08:30,640
I have her picture.

148
00:08:30,640 --> 00:08:33,830
It's a lovely house.

149
00:08:33,830 --> 00:08:36,320
Let's go back to the
rumors on how you

150
00:08:36,320 --> 00:08:37,740
were going to get out of Vilna.

151
00:08:37,740 --> 00:08:42,380
Did you realize-- did you
have the sense that you really

152
00:08:42,380 --> 00:08:45,890
needed to get out once the
Russians came into Vilna?

153
00:08:45,890 --> 00:08:48,650
We had a sense that--

154
00:08:48,650 --> 00:08:50,930
when the Russians
came in to Vilna,

155
00:08:50,930 --> 00:08:54,170
and how they
occupied Vilna was--

156
00:08:54,170 --> 00:08:56,750
back, when they
came back again--

157
00:08:56,750 --> 00:09:04,100
was when they had left Vilna and
they gave it back to Lithuania,

158
00:09:04,100 --> 00:09:07,670
they left a garrison of troops.

159
00:09:07,670 --> 00:09:12,080
And what was happening
during that period,

160
00:09:12,080 --> 00:09:18,260
there used to be some incidents,
like a Russian soldier was

161
00:09:18,260 --> 00:09:21,860
beaten up or one or
two incidents where

162
00:09:21,860 --> 00:09:23,600
they were killed.

163
00:09:23,600 --> 00:09:28,880
And it used to be publicized
a lot in the papers.

164
00:09:28,880 --> 00:09:33,170
And then one time that I think a
couple of soldiers were killed,

165
00:09:33,170 --> 00:09:38,630
and they found it as an excuse
to come back into the city

166
00:09:38,630 --> 00:09:41,390
and reoccupy it.

167

00:09:41,390 --> 00:09:47,270
So when they came in to Vilna
was a very memorable day.

168
00:09:47,270 --> 00:09:53,450
That was the day Menachem
Begin, the former prime minister

169
00:09:53,450 --> 00:09:57,530
of Israel, who was
with us in our group.

170
00:09:57,530 --> 00:10:01,460
Because they fled the Germans.

171
00:10:01,460 --> 00:10:04,240
They won in Warsaw.

172
00:10:04,240 --> 00:10:10,020
So they fled, he and his wife
and a number of other people.

173
00:10:10,020 --> 00:10:12,060
And they were with all of us.

174
00:10:12,060 --> 00:10:15,060
We lived in the same [INAUDIBLE]

175
00:10:15,060 --> 00:10:17,270
So one--

176
00:10:17,270 --> 00:10:23,450
Could you start with when
the Russians came back in?

177
00:10:23,450 --> 00:10:24,770
He made a speech, right?

178
00:10:24,770 --> 00:10:25,290
Yes.

179
00:10:25,290 --> 00:10:28,610

Well, when the Russians
came back into Vilna,

180
00:10:28,610 --> 00:10:32,660
it was a day when he
was making a speech.

181
00:10:32,660 --> 00:10:34,290
We don't know who "he" is.

182
00:10:34,290 --> 00:10:34,790
Oh, I see.

183
00:10:34,790 --> 00:10:37,400
Say, "one of our group."

184
00:10:37,400 --> 00:10:41,820
Our leader, Menachem Begin,
who was the leader of--

185
00:10:41,820 --> 00:10:42,320
Start again.

186
00:10:42,320 --> 00:10:44,810
Yes, OK.

187
00:10:44,810 --> 00:10:50,210
When the Russians marched into
Vilna again, it was on the day

188
00:10:50,210 --> 00:10:57,080
that our leader, Menachem
Begin, former prime minister

189
00:10:57,080 --> 00:11:00,470
of Israel, was making a speech.

190
00:11:00,470 --> 00:11:06,260
And it was a speech
all about how

191
00:11:06,260 --> 00:11:11,450

we're going to get
to Israel one day,

192
00:11:11,450 --> 00:11:15,710
and now we're going to build
the land and free the Jews.

193
00:11:15,710 --> 00:11:20,900
And a very nationalistic
and Zionistic speech.

194
00:11:20,900 --> 00:11:24,410
And he was a fantastic speaker.

195
00:11:24,410 --> 00:11:25,520
Very fiery.

196
00:11:25,520 --> 00:11:27,080
And all of a sudden--

197
00:11:27,080 --> 00:11:32,030
there must have been like about
500 people or more in the hall.

198
00:11:32,030 --> 00:11:36,920
And someone got on the
stage and handed him a note.

199
00:11:36,920 --> 00:11:38,150
And he read the note.

200
00:11:38,150 --> 00:11:41,750
Put the note in his pocket.

201
00:11:41,750 --> 00:11:45,290
And all of a sudden, he
became even more fiery,

202
00:11:45,290 --> 00:11:49,010
more enthusiastic.

203
00:11:49,010 --> 00:11:51,470

And he is speaking.

204

00:11:51,470 --> 00:11:55,160

And he ended his
speech, and he asked

205

00:11:55,160 --> 00:12:00,290

us to stand up and
sing "Hatikvah."

206

00:12:00,290 --> 00:12:02,360

"Hatikvah" is the
national anthem,

207

00:12:02,360 --> 00:12:04,610

the Jewish national anthem.

208

00:12:04,610 --> 00:12:06,350

And we all looked at each other.

209

00:12:06,350 --> 00:12:08,700

What's going on here?

210

00:12:08,700 --> 00:12:09,410

We got up.

211

00:12:09,410 --> 00:12:11,060

We sang the anthem.

212

00:12:11,060 --> 00:12:13,490

And he asked us to leave.

213

00:12:13,490 --> 00:12:17,300

And when we got out, there
were the Russian tanks rolling

214

00:12:17,300 --> 00:12:19,520

through the streets of Vilna.

215

00:12:19,520 --> 00:12:21,560

And the note that
was given to him

216
00:12:21,560 --> 00:12:26,630
was to get out of there because
they felt that they were going

217
00:12:26,630 --> 00:12:30,560
to arrest him immediately.

218
00:12:30,560 --> 00:12:33,620
But they did not
arrest him immediately.

219
00:12:33,620 --> 00:12:35,690
They arrested him
a few months later.

220
00:12:35,690 --> 00:12:37,460
Actually, arrested
him on the day

221
00:12:37,460 --> 00:12:42,440
we left for the United
States, in August.

222
00:12:42,440 --> 00:12:46,250
This must have happened--
this is sometime

223
00:12:46,250 --> 00:12:50,270
like in March, the occupation.

224
00:12:50,270 --> 00:12:51,230
Great.

225
00:12:51,230 --> 00:12:54,695
Let's go back to the rumors, and
you would go here and go there.

226
00:12:54,695 --> 00:12:56,570
And then finally you
heard about the Japanese

227

00:12:56,570 --> 00:12:57,778
and the whole Sugihara story.

228
00:12:57,778 --> 00:12:58,850
Yes.

229
00:12:58,850 --> 00:13:04,640
Well, the whole existence
while we were in Vilna

230
00:13:04,640 --> 00:13:08,390
was trying to get out,
trying to get somewhere.

231
00:13:08,390 --> 00:13:12,920
My sister and I were
luckier than most people was

232
00:13:12,920 --> 00:13:16,910
because we did get in touch
with our families in the United

233
00:13:16,910 --> 00:13:18,020
States.

234
00:13:18,020 --> 00:13:21,110
And the families here,
aunts and uncles,

235
00:13:21,110 --> 00:13:27,560
were working very hard to try in
all different ways to help us.

236
00:13:27,560 --> 00:13:29,240
They sent us a little money.

237
00:13:29,240 --> 00:13:32,540
They were not very rich
people, but they tried to help.

238
00:13:32,540 --> 00:13:36,020
And as I said, they got
in touch [INAUDIBLE]..

239
00:13:36,020 --> 00:13:43,160
And they found that our
papers were in Germany.

240
00:13:43,160 --> 00:13:52,580
And also they found out
that if we could get a visa

241
00:13:52,580 --> 00:13:58,850
to get to Japan, they
might be able to arrange

242
00:13:58,850 --> 00:14:03,380
for the affidavits
to be sent to Japan.

243
00:14:03,380 --> 00:14:08,700
But there was no way to
us to get visas to Japan.

244
00:14:08,700 --> 00:14:11,810
We didn't know about Mr.
Sugihara or anything.

245
00:14:11,810 --> 00:14:16,580
So as I was saying before, I
believe that they were all--

246
00:14:16,580 --> 00:14:17,403
I'm sorry.

247
00:14:17,403 --> 00:14:19,070
We don't know that
you said that before.

248
00:14:19,070 --> 00:14:20,480
Oh, didn't say that.

249
00:14:20,480 --> 00:14:23,630
This is all brand new.

250

00:14:23,630 --> 00:14:27,170
Think of the audience hearing
it for the very first time.

251
00:14:27,170 --> 00:14:28,250
First time, right.

252
00:14:28,250 --> 00:14:31,270
Get me a drink, OK?

253
00:14:31,270 --> 00:14:33,790
OK, any time.

254
00:14:33,790 --> 00:14:36,040
Well, while we were
in Vilna, of course,

255
00:14:36,040 --> 00:14:37,930
we spent a lot of
our time trying

256
00:14:37,930 --> 00:14:41,230
to find ways how to get out.

257
00:14:41,230 --> 00:14:44,530
And there were rumors
all over the place

258
00:14:44,530 --> 00:14:48,770
about that you could
get a visa to go

259
00:14:48,770 --> 00:14:50,410
to one country or the other--

260
00:14:50,410 --> 00:14:52,510
Curacao or Japan.

261
00:14:52,510 --> 00:14:56,450
But we-- No, I'm sorry.

262
00:14:56,450 --> 00:14:57,340

That's the wrong way.

263
00:14:57,340 --> 00:14:58,850
That's OK.

264
00:14:58,850 --> 00:15:01,630
There were rumors
going around that you

265
00:15:01,630 --> 00:15:03,700
could go to different places.

266
00:15:03,700 --> 00:15:07,840
And when we went, they
were just a dead end.

267
00:15:07,840 --> 00:15:10,390
And then we heard
a rumor that there

268
00:15:10,390 --> 00:15:14,920
was this Japanese diplomat
in Kovno giving out rumors

269
00:15:14,920 --> 00:15:16,030
to go to Japan.

270
00:15:16,030 --> 00:15:16,660
I'm sorry.

271
00:15:16,660 --> 00:15:18,570
You said "rumors
going to Japan."

272
00:15:18,570 --> 00:15:19,990
Rumor?

273
00:15:19,990 --> 00:15:23,020
You said rumors going to
Japan instead of visas.

274
00:15:23,020 --> 00:15:24,230

Oh, visas!

275

00:15:24,230 --> 00:15:25,480

OK.

276

00:15:25,480 --> 00:15:27,010

All right, shall we start again?

277

00:15:27,010 --> 00:15:27,880

Yeah.

278

00:15:27,880 --> 00:15:28,390

OK.

279

00:15:28,390 --> 00:15:30,345

Let's start with the new angle.

280

00:15:30,345 --> 00:15:32,800

Why don't you just
tell me how did

281

00:15:32,800 --> 00:15:35,530

you hear about Sugihara visas?

282

00:15:35,530 --> 00:15:36,705

Hold on one second.

283

00:15:36,705 --> 00:15:40,110

Just give me one second.

284

00:15:40,110 --> 00:15:41,040

Oh, yeah?

285

00:15:41,040 --> 00:15:43,540

Yeah, we get that.

286

00:15:43,540 --> 00:15:44,040

Gee.

287

00:15:44,040 --> 00:15:49,970

288
00:15:49,970 --> 00:15:52,640
OK.

289
00:15:52,640 --> 00:15:58,430
And then we heard a rumor that
there was a Japanese diplomat

290
00:15:58,430 --> 00:16:04,200
giving out visas to go to Japan.

291
00:16:04,200 --> 00:16:10,020
And my sister and I decided to
go to Kovno and try to get one.

292
00:16:10,020 --> 00:16:11,970
Because we felt if
we get to Japan,

293
00:16:11,970 --> 00:16:16,230
we might be able to get
affidavits sent to Japan

294
00:16:16,230 --> 00:16:19,020
and get an American visa.

295
00:16:19,020 --> 00:16:22,740
So we went to one
of the offices.

296
00:16:22,740 --> 00:16:26,130
Got a permit to go to Kovno.

297
00:16:26,130 --> 00:16:28,140
And we took the train.

298
00:16:28,140 --> 00:16:32,730
And we got there, to
the Japanese consulate,

299
00:16:32,730 --> 00:16:37,110
and there were lines around the

block, other people were there.

300
00:16:37,110 --> 00:16:42,240
We waited there all day
long and we couldn't get in.

301
00:16:42,240 --> 00:16:44,400
But we had to take
the train back

302
00:16:44,400 --> 00:16:46,890
because we couldn't
stay overnight.

303
00:16:46,890 --> 00:16:47,850
We went back.

304
00:16:47,850 --> 00:16:52,430
And then a couple of days later,
we tried again, the same thing.

305
00:16:52,430 --> 00:16:58,260
And that time, we took an
earlier train to get there.

306
00:16:58,260 --> 00:17:01,710
And we-- it was the
same thing again.

307
00:17:01,710 --> 00:17:04,270
We couldn't get in.

308
00:17:04,270 --> 00:17:07,990
A few days later,
we tried again.

309
00:17:07,990 --> 00:17:10,770
And each time, we had to
get a different permit.

310
00:17:10,770 --> 00:17:12,300
We couldn't go on
the same permit.

311
00:17:12,300 --> 00:17:14,730
The permits were also expensive.

312
00:17:14,730 --> 00:17:17,130
We didn't have too much money.

313
00:17:17,130 --> 00:17:20,715
The last time we went, the
third time that we went,

314
00:17:20,715 --> 00:17:26,369
it was getting very
close to a crucial date.

315
00:17:26,369 --> 00:17:32,340
Because our family
from New York wired us

316
00:17:32,340 --> 00:17:38,130
that they could
get tickets for us

317
00:17:38,130 --> 00:17:46,140
on the Trans-Siberian
Railroad for a certain date

318
00:17:46,140 --> 00:17:51,150
if we could get the visa.

319
00:17:51,150 --> 00:17:53,760
And it was getting very
close to that date.

320
00:17:53,760 --> 00:17:57,420
And if we didn't get the
visa, we couldn't get on it.

321
00:17:57,420 --> 00:18:01,410
So my sister and I
got up even earlier.

322

00:18:01,410 --> 00:18:04,320

And we got there,
we stood on line.

323

00:18:04,320 --> 00:18:07,950

And each time,
people used to go--

324

00:18:07,950 --> 00:18:11,240

the building that the embassy--

325

00:18:11,240 --> 00:18:13,770

it was just a house, actually.

326

00:18:13,770 --> 00:18:16,530

It was sort of a ground
floor, and then his office

327

00:18:16,530 --> 00:18:18,630

was upstairs.

328

00:18:18,630 --> 00:18:22,560

So people used to
line up and then come,

329

00:18:22,560 --> 00:18:25,590

and you lined up on the
stairs until you were

330

00:18:25,590 --> 00:18:27,540

able to get into his office.

331

00:18:27,540 --> 00:18:31,770

And each time a person went into
the office, the door would open

332

00:18:31,770 --> 00:18:33,450

and then there would be a push.

333

00:18:33,450 --> 00:18:36,480

You know, people
would try to get in.

334

00:18:36,480 --> 00:18:40,140
And we were standing on line.

335

00:18:40,140 --> 00:18:43,780
And it was like about 3:00
or 4:00 in the afternoon.

336

00:18:43,780 --> 00:18:45,420
And we were getting
pretty close.

337

00:18:45,420 --> 00:18:48,780
We were at the
bottom of the steps.

338

00:18:48,780 --> 00:18:53,820
But the office was
closing at 5:00 or 5:30.

339

00:18:53,820 --> 00:18:56,850
And we saw that it
was getting too close,

340

00:18:56,850 --> 00:18:59,620
that we will probably
not be able to get in.

341

00:18:59,620 --> 00:19:03,360
So at one point where
the door opened,

342

00:19:03,360 --> 00:19:08,160
I grabbed my sister's hand
and we just ran up the stairs.

343

00:19:08,160 --> 00:19:10,110
And we tried to get in.

344

00:19:10,110 --> 00:19:12,940
And of course, we tried
to cross the line.

345

00:19:12,940 --> 00:19:16,890
So they pushed us down
and we were right back

346
00:19:16,890 --> 00:19:19,200
in the bottom of the steps.

347
00:19:19,200 --> 00:19:23,490
And then a few more times
people went in and out.

348
00:19:23,490 --> 00:19:26,640
And we were coming up
maybe two or three steps.

349
00:19:26,640 --> 00:19:31,560
But still, we felt we were
not going to make it that day.

350
00:19:31,560 --> 00:19:34,140
Finally, we took
the courage again

351
00:19:34,140 --> 00:19:37,470
and we ran up those stairs.

352
00:19:37,470 --> 00:19:42,660
And I just put my foot right
in the door, as they say.

353
00:19:42,660 --> 00:19:46,770
And I was holding
on to my sister.

354
00:19:46,770 --> 00:19:50,260
And we got in to the room.

355
00:19:50,260 --> 00:19:55,500
And we were the last people
who got the visa that day.

356
00:19:55,500 --> 00:19:56,400
So--

357
00:19:56,400 --> 00:20:01,650
Can you tell me, so you start
with getting into the room.

358
00:20:01,650 --> 00:20:05,220
Start with how did
you get into the room.

359
00:20:05,220 --> 00:20:08,208
It has to be shorter though
because it's much too long.

360
00:20:08,208 --> 00:20:08,750
That's right.

361
00:20:08,750 --> 00:20:09,870
How did we--

362
00:20:09,870 --> 00:20:11,580
So you pushed your
way into the room.

363
00:20:11,580 --> 00:20:14,280
And then tell me about
your interactions with--

364
00:20:14,280 --> 00:20:17,160
--with Dr. [PERSONAL NAME]
and Mr. Sugihara.

365
00:20:17,160 --> 00:20:18,220
OK.

366
00:20:18,220 --> 00:20:21,250
And there is--

367
00:20:21,250 --> 00:20:25,200
I don't realize, but I am
trying to tell you sort

368
00:20:25,200 --> 00:20:27,030

of everything that happened.

369
00:20:27,030 --> 00:20:29,376
And I don't realize
that it's too long.

370
00:20:29,376 --> 00:20:31,440
Yeah, we need like
30 second answers.

371
00:20:31,440 --> 00:20:32,830
Oh, OK.

372
00:20:32,830 --> 00:20:37,680
Well, I'm usually
not a big talker.

373
00:20:37,680 --> 00:20:39,390
Shall we go?

374
00:20:39,390 --> 00:20:43,770
When my sister and I got into
the room, we were breathless

375
00:20:43,770 --> 00:20:47,760
and we were scared stiff.

376
00:20:47,760 --> 00:20:50,940
Because at that time we
were really very scared

377
00:20:50,940 --> 00:20:55,810
of all kinds of authorities.

378
00:20:55,810 --> 00:20:58,140
And then we got in.

379
00:20:58,140 --> 00:21:00,480
And there was a
man, Japanese man,

380
00:21:00,480 --> 00:21:04,320

sitting at a desk right
in the middle, facing us.

381
00:21:04,320 --> 00:21:07,170

And there were two
other tables, one

382
00:21:07,170 --> 00:21:09,390
on the right, one on the left.

383
00:21:09,390 --> 00:21:16,440
And one was Japanese and
one was and not Japanese.

384
00:21:16,440 --> 00:21:25,620
And later on, I found out that
the man who was also a Sugihara

385
00:21:25,620 --> 00:21:28,900
survivor, he was a translator.

386
00:21:28,900 --> 00:21:31,470
And he asked us--

387
00:21:31,470 --> 00:21:33,567
I'm going to need--

388
00:21:33,567 --> 00:21:35,150
it's going to have
to be really short.

389
00:21:35,150 --> 00:21:35,730
You got in.

390
00:21:35,730 --> 00:21:36,563
You were breathless.

391
00:21:36,563 --> 00:21:38,500
You were scared.

392
00:21:38,500 --> 00:21:42,040
Sugihara, even though you

didn't have an end destination--

393
00:21:42,040 --> 00:21:42,730
Yes.

394
00:21:42,730 --> 00:21:44,000
He looked at us.

395
00:21:44,000 --> 00:21:46,180
He was very sympathetic.

396
00:21:46,180 --> 00:21:50,240
Great, but let's-- and
then you got the visas.

397
00:21:50,240 --> 00:21:50,800
Yes.

398
00:21:50,800 --> 00:21:53,950
And he just asked us our name.

399
00:21:53,950 --> 00:21:54,880
OK.

400
00:21:54,880 --> 00:21:57,610
Can you tell me that
story in 30 seconds?

401
00:21:57,610 --> 00:21:59,070
30 seconds.

402
00:21:59,070 --> 00:22:01,090
He looked very sympathetic.

403
00:22:01,090 --> 00:22:03,610
So start with you got into
the room, you were breathless.

404
00:22:03,610 --> 00:22:04,630
You pushed your way--

405

00:22:04,630 --> 00:22:06,470
--way into the room.

406
00:22:06,470 --> 00:22:07,810
Now, you have to start from--

407
00:22:07,810 --> 00:22:09,790
You have to start
after I stop talking.

408
00:22:09,790 --> 00:22:11,260
We've never heard
the story before.

409
00:22:11,260 --> 00:22:11,770
Right.

410
00:22:11,770 --> 00:22:15,610
And give us a big breath.

411
00:22:15,610 --> 00:22:19,540
We pushed ourselves-- my
sister and I pushed ourselves

412
00:22:19,540 --> 00:22:23,850
into the room with Mr. Sugihara.

413
00:22:23,850 --> 00:22:25,570
He asked us our name.

414
00:22:25,570 --> 00:22:27,550
He asked us where
our parents were.

415
00:22:27,550 --> 00:22:30,980
We told him my father
was not living,

416
00:22:30,980 --> 00:22:32,920
my mother has no papers.

417
00:22:32,920 --> 00:22:37,090

And he looked very sympathetic
and he just stamped,

418
00:22:37,090 --> 00:22:40,940
gave us a visa right
there on the spot.

419
00:22:40,940 --> 00:22:42,250
And how did you react?

420
00:22:42,250 --> 00:22:44,200
We got very hysterical.

421
00:22:44,200 --> 00:22:47,950
My sister and I got
hysterical, started to cry

422
00:22:47,950 --> 00:22:51,400
and started to say thank
you, thank you in Polish.

423
00:22:51,400 --> 00:22:55,240
And he just raised his
hand like saying it's OK.

424
00:22:55,240 --> 00:22:57,220
And that's it.

425
00:22:57,220 --> 00:23:00,440
And we went out of the room.

426
00:23:00,440 --> 00:23:01,510
And we were still--

427
00:23:01,510 --> 00:23:04,480
got out of the room
hysterical, crying.

428
00:23:04,480 --> 00:23:08,020
And crying, that's all.

429
00:23:08,020 --> 00:23:11,036

We were just hugging
each other and crying.

430
00:23:11,036 --> 00:23:12,330
And that was that.

431
00:23:12,330 --> 00:23:16,460

432
00:23:16,460 --> 00:23:17,120
That's great.

433
00:23:17,120 --> 00:23:18,180
Yeah, that is great.

434
00:23:18,180 --> 00:23:20,850

435
00:23:20,850 --> 00:23:31,200
Did you-- were there any
pictures taken of you that day?

436
00:23:31,200 --> 00:23:31,710
Yes.

437
00:23:31,710 --> 00:23:36,900
I have two pictures that my
sister and I were going back

438
00:23:36,900 --> 00:23:41,460
to Vilna and our training was
not due for a couple of hours.

439
00:23:41,460 --> 00:23:42,970
So there was a
little park there.

440
00:23:42,970 --> 00:23:44,460
So we sat in the park.

441
00:23:44,460 --> 00:23:45,520
We walked around.

442
00:23:45,520 --> 00:23:49,560
And you know, it
was just so happy.

443
00:23:49,560 --> 00:23:50,700
We were just so happy.

444
00:23:50,700 --> 00:23:53,430
And there was a
photographer walking around.

445
00:23:53,430 --> 00:23:56,130
And he asks if he wants
to take our picture,

446
00:23:56,130 --> 00:23:57,410
our pictures taken.

447
00:23:57,410 --> 00:23:59,970
And we said if we
pay him in advance,

448
00:23:59,970 --> 00:24:01,350
he'll send us the pictures.

449
00:24:01,350 --> 00:24:04,560
So whenever we had a few--

450
00:24:04,560 --> 00:24:06,150
I don't know, whatever
the money was.

451
00:24:06,150 --> 00:24:06,960
And we paid him.

452
00:24:06,960 --> 00:24:09,010
And we never thought
we'd get those pictures.

453
00:24:09,010 --> 00:24:10,650
But we did get them.

454
00:24:10,650 --> 00:24:15,030
So I have two pictures of
that, my sister and myself

455
00:24:15,030 --> 00:24:17,010
on that day.

456
00:24:17,010 --> 00:24:23,796
It was August 12, 1940.

457
00:24:23,796 --> 00:24:24,720
[INAUDIBLE]

458
00:24:24,720 --> 00:24:27,500

459
00:24:27,500 --> 00:24:29,120
Yeah, OK.

460
00:24:29,120 --> 00:24:33,260
Can you just describe
the line again?

461
00:24:33,260 --> 00:24:35,230
What did it feel
like in that line?

462
00:24:35,230 --> 00:24:38,180
Was their anger or
was their anxiety?

463
00:24:38,180 --> 00:24:38,886
Anxiety.

464
00:24:38,886 --> 00:24:42,590
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

465
00:24:42,590 --> 00:24:47,180
The line-- well, the first
day, of course, there was--

466

00:24:47,180 --> 00:24:49,940

When you got to the
Japanese embassy?

467

00:24:49,940 --> 00:24:52,250

When we got to the
Japanese embassy,

468

00:24:52,250 --> 00:24:55,910

the lines were around
the corner, way around.

469

00:24:55,910 --> 00:25:03,580

And there were families and
single people, but very few--

470

00:25:03,580 --> 00:25:05,180

I think my sister
and I were just

471

00:25:05,180 --> 00:25:08,510

about the only teenagers
that were alone.

472

00:25:08,510 --> 00:25:16,190

And people were just
anxious, anxiety, very quiet.

473

00:25:16,190 --> 00:25:19,340

Also, just standing
in line and exchanging

474

00:25:19,340 --> 00:25:24,080

stories with this one experience
and that one experience.

475

00:25:24,080 --> 00:25:31,550

But mostly I would describe
it as very stressful,

476

00:25:31,550 --> 00:25:35,420

a lot of anxiety and worry.

477

00:25:35,420 --> 00:25:38,300

Am I going to get up to the top?

478

00:25:38,300 --> 00:25:40,322

Did you ever think you
were going to get a visa?

479

00:25:40,322 --> 00:25:41,780

Were there times
when you thought--

480

00:25:41,780 --> 00:25:43,350

No, I wasn't.

481

00:25:43,350 --> 00:25:47,570

I mean, I think we would
have tried again and again.

482

00:25:47,570 --> 00:25:49,010

I don't know.

483

00:25:49,010 --> 00:25:51,650

We wouldn't have given
up, that's for sure.

484

00:25:51,650 --> 00:25:56,870

Because we had the potentials of
getting an American visa if we

485

00:25:56,870 --> 00:25:58,700

got that visa.

486

00:25:58,700 --> 00:26:01,940

But when we got that
visa and our passport,

487

00:26:01,940 --> 00:26:04,700

and I don't know if you--

488

00:26:04,700 --> 00:26:08,200

we had no visa to go anywhere.

489

00:26:08,200 --> 00:26:13,440

And I don't know if
this is the right time?

490

00:26:13,440 --> 00:26:15,770

Start again, though.

491

00:26:15,770 --> 00:26:19,430

Start again saying that
you had no end visa.

492

00:26:19,430 --> 00:26:25,670

When we got the Japanese
visa to go to Japan,

493

00:26:25,670 --> 00:26:27,170

we had no end visa.

494

00:26:27,170 --> 00:26:29,180

We were hoping to get it.

495

00:26:29,180 --> 00:26:34,070

And that's why when we got to
[PLACE NAME] we were detained,

496

00:26:34,070 --> 00:26:39,020

my sister and I, because some
official noticed that there

497

00:26:39,020 --> 00:26:40,880

was no, we had no visa.

498

00:26:40,880 --> 00:26:45,285

And he said to us, where's
your visa to go anywhere?

499

00:26:45,285 --> 00:26:46,910

And I says, oh, we're
going to get one.

500

00:26:46,910 --> 00:26:50,000

It's waiting for us in Tokyo.

501
00:26:50,000 --> 00:26:54,500
So he wasn't taking our word for
it and he tried to get in touch

502
00:26:54,500 --> 00:26:56,810
with the American embassy.

503
00:26:56,810 --> 00:26:59,630
But it happened to be
some sort of a holiday.

504
00:26:59,630 --> 00:27:02,840
I believe it might have been--

505
00:27:02,840 --> 00:27:05,540
well, we were there
sometimes in September.

506
00:27:05,540 --> 00:27:08,660
Maybe Labor Day or
I don't remember

507
00:27:08,660 --> 00:27:11,660
exactly what sort of American
holiday and the embassy

508
00:27:11,660 --> 00:27:13,110
was closed.

509
00:27:13,110 --> 00:27:15,360
So he couldn't get
through to them.

510
00:27:15,360 --> 00:27:21,500
So they detained us in the
police station, upstairs.

511
00:27:21,500 --> 00:27:23,540
The police station was
on the ground floor.

512

00:27:23,540 --> 00:27:24,500

We were upstairs.

513

00:27:24,500 --> 00:27:27,710

They treated us very nicely.

514

00:27:27,710 --> 00:27:32,000

But they, I guess you'd
call it arrested us.

515

00:27:32,000 --> 00:27:39,290

And then they got in touch with
the Jewish community in Kobe.

516

00:27:39,290 --> 00:27:46,130

And two men came the following
day, I think two days later.

517

00:27:46,130 --> 00:27:51,200

And they prevailed upon
them to release us.

518

00:27:51,200 --> 00:27:53,690

They said they would
take care of us.

519

00:27:53,690 --> 00:27:54,530

And they did.

520

00:27:54,530 --> 00:27:57,080

They took us to Kobe.

521

00:27:57,080 --> 00:27:58,550

They went with us.

522

00:27:58,550 --> 00:28:02,810

And they put us up
for a few days there.

523

00:28:02,810 --> 00:28:08,630

And then after that,
they took us to Tokyo.

524

00:28:08,630 --> 00:28:10,790

Two men went with us.

525

00:28:10,790 --> 00:28:14,000

And they found us a
place where to stay.

526

00:28:14,000 --> 00:28:16,520

And got us in touch with
the American embassy.

527

00:28:16,520 --> 00:28:17,810

Showed us where it is.

528

00:28:17,810 --> 00:28:19,410

I mean, here we were in Japan.

529

00:28:19,410 --> 00:28:21,980

We did not speak the language.

530

00:28:21,980 --> 00:28:25,430

Japan was a
frightful experience.

531

00:28:25,430 --> 00:28:28,480

We were really
frightened all the time.

532

00:28:28,480 --> 00:28:29,340

How come?

533

00:28:29,340 --> 00:28:29,960

I don't know.

534

00:28:29,960 --> 00:28:32,630

It was so strange.

535

00:28:32,630 --> 00:28:34,640

We've never seen other people.

536

00:28:34,640 --> 00:28:37,460

We've never seen
Japanese people.

537
00:28:37,460 --> 00:28:40,310
And we were very
frightened there.

538
00:28:40,310 --> 00:28:41,840
We were afraid to go anywhere.

539
00:28:41,840 --> 00:28:46,190
We used to spend most of our
days at the American embassy.

540
00:28:46,190 --> 00:28:50,030
It was not far from our
little hotel that we stayed.

541
00:28:50,030 --> 00:28:53,570
We felt sort of safer there.

542
00:28:53,570 --> 00:28:55,430
And we were two
girls-- my sister

543
00:28:55,430 --> 00:28:58,490
and I and two other
women and two men who

544
00:28:58,490 --> 00:29:00,245
were traveling to their wives.

545
00:29:00,245 --> 00:29:03,320

546
00:29:03,320 --> 00:29:04,370
Let's go back to--

547
00:29:04,370 --> 00:29:05,500
We're going to reload tape.

548
00:29:05,500 --> 00:29:07,650

We're going to reload.

549

00:29:07,650 --> 00:31:11,211