

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,486
[TEST TONE]

2
00:00:03,486 --> 00:00:27,890

3
00:00:27,890 --> 00:00:28,430
Excuse me.

4
00:00:28,430 --> 00:00:30,770
If I move my position,
would that interfere?

5
00:00:30,770 --> 00:00:31,920
No, you're fine.

6
00:00:31,920 --> 00:00:32,840
Just be comfortable.

7
00:00:32,840 --> 00:00:33,170
OK.

8
00:00:33,170 --> 00:00:33,670
Be comfortable.

9
00:00:33,670 --> 00:00:35,020
That's the most important thing.

10
00:00:35,020 --> 00:00:35,700
All right.

11
00:00:35,700 --> 00:00:37,230
We're having a conversation.

12
00:00:37,230 --> 00:00:39,060
You know, we're in a cafe.

13
00:00:39,060 --> 00:00:39,560
All right.

14
00:00:39,560 --> 00:00:40,642
And I've just met you.

15
00:00:40,642 --> 00:00:41,600
And you're telling me--

16
00:00:41,600 --> 00:00:42,280
I want cappuccino.

17
00:00:42,280 --> 00:00:43,030
--your life story.

18
00:00:43,030 --> 00:00:44,600
I'd like a cappuccino.

19
00:00:44,600 --> 00:00:45,700
OK.

20
00:00:45,700 --> 00:00:46,200
OK.

21
00:00:46,200 --> 00:00:49,760
If you could give us your name.

22
00:00:49,760 --> 00:00:52,340
My name is Susan Bluman.

23
00:00:52,340 --> 00:00:54,410
And where are we?

24
00:00:54,410 --> 00:00:57,880
We are in Vancouver,
British Columbia, Canada.

25
00:00:57,880 --> 00:01:01,880

26
00:01:01,880 --> 00:01:03,320
OK.

27

00:01:03,320 --> 00:01:06,492
Can you tell me, at the start
of the war, where you were,

28
00:01:06,492 --> 00:01:07,325
what you were doing?

29
00:01:07,325 --> 00:01:09,860

30
00:01:09,860 --> 00:01:14,670
Well, the war started
on September 1st, 1939.

31
00:01:14,670 --> 00:01:16,940
That's was my birthday.

32
00:01:16,940 --> 00:01:19,760
And actually, I was in bed.

33
00:01:19,760 --> 00:01:23,420
Because the war broke out about
4:00 in the morning and we

34
00:01:23,420 --> 00:01:32,000
were all awakened by the massive
plane attack on our city.

35
00:01:32,000 --> 00:01:35,930
And actually, we were
not so prepared for it.

36
00:01:35,930 --> 00:01:38,270
Mind you, there
were some sirens.

37
00:01:38,270 --> 00:01:42,230
And the Polish government
tried to prepare the people

38
00:01:42,230 --> 00:01:45,110
about upcoming war.

39

00:01:45,110 --> 00:01:49,500

But never took it seriously.

40

00:01:49,500 --> 00:01:52,550

So we had at home
some black tar paper

41

00:01:52,550 --> 00:01:54,260

in case of an attack
because that's

42

00:01:54,260 --> 00:01:57,860

what they told us so that
we could cover our windows.

43

00:01:57,860 --> 00:02:01,850

And at the time, just like we
are now afraid of nuclear war,

44

00:02:01,850 --> 00:02:05,690

people were afraid of gas war.

45

00:02:05,690 --> 00:02:07,520

And because there
were not enough

46

00:02:07,520 --> 00:02:10,130

masks to go around for
everybody to buy it,

47

00:02:10,130 --> 00:02:11,270

they were quite expensive.

48

00:02:11,270 --> 00:02:13,980

And I say, nobody really
took it so seriously.

49

00:02:13,980 --> 00:02:17,640

So we used to use
cheesecloth before the war.

50

00:02:17,640 --> 00:02:20,690

And we prepared a few
layers of cheesecloth

51
00:02:20,690 --> 00:02:22,310
with a tape on each side.

52
00:02:22,310 --> 00:02:24,680
And we just put it--
in case of something,

53
00:02:24,680 --> 00:02:28,730
put it around our nose and
mouth in case of the gas war.

54
00:02:28,730 --> 00:02:32,810
So when the first siren at
4 o'clock in the morning

55
00:02:32,810 --> 00:02:40,160
woke us up, we did not
have proper shelters.

56
00:02:40,160 --> 00:02:42,320
The shelter-- we were living
in an apartment block.

57
00:02:42,320 --> 00:02:44,490
We were living on third floor.

58
00:02:44,490 --> 00:02:49,670
So the shelter was really a
cellar in this apartment block.

59
00:02:49,670 --> 00:02:53,180
So we all rushed
down to the cellar,

60
00:02:53,180 --> 00:03:00,840
which was wet, and dark, and it
wasn't just a regular shelter.

61
00:03:00,840 --> 00:03:03,300
Everybody was crowded into it.

62
00:03:03,300 --> 00:03:07,860
And while we were there,
the bombing started.

63
00:03:07,860 --> 00:03:10,110
And while the
bombing started, some

64
00:03:10,110 --> 00:03:13,840
of the mortar of the apartment
block was falling off.

65
00:03:13,840 --> 00:03:17,580
So when we came
out of the shelter,

66
00:03:17,580 --> 00:03:19,110
we saw thought that was the gas.

67
00:03:19,110 --> 00:03:23,050
Because people were so scared
after they already signed off

68
00:03:23,050 --> 00:03:24,640
that that's it, you are free.

69
00:03:24,640 --> 00:03:27,170
You can get out.

70
00:03:27,170 --> 00:03:29,120
And we thought that
that's the gas.

71
00:03:29,120 --> 00:03:31,520
And it was a terrific
panic, and everybody

72
00:03:31,520 --> 00:03:33,410
was pushing everybody
else, you know,

73

00:03:33,410 --> 00:03:37,490
because people just behave like
animals when there's a danger.

74
00:03:37,490 --> 00:03:41,420
Like you will say fire
in a cinema or something.

75
00:03:41,420 --> 00:03:46,572
So this is my recollection
of the first day of the war.

76
00:03:46,572 --> 00:03:48,280
Could you do it one
more time and tell me

77
00:03:48,280 --> 00:03:50,110
that you were in Warsaw?

78
00:03:50,110 --> 00:03:50,940
Can I just cough?

79
00:03:50,940 --> 00:03:51,440
Yes.

80
00:03:51,440 --> 00:03:55,000

81
00:03:55,000 --> 00:03:56,770
What do you want me to say?

82
00:03:56,770 --> 00:03:57,820
Just where you were.

83
00:03:57,820 --> 00:03:59,390
You were in Warsaw, Poland.

84
00:03:59,390 --> 00:03:59,890
Yes.

85
00:03:59,890 --> 00:04:01,165
You didn't tell me that.

86
00:04:01,165 --> 00:04:02,050
Oh, OK.

87
00:04:02,050 --> 00:04:03,370
So I don't know--

88
00:04:03,370 --> 00:04:05,230
when the war started,
you were in Warsaw.

89
00:04:05,230 --> 00:04:05,800
Oh, OK.

90
00:04:05,800 --> 00:04:07,130
And you were with your family?

91
00:04:07,130 --> 00:04:07,630
Yes.

92
00:04:07,630 --> 00:04:10,720
Well, when I-- when the war--

93
00:04:10,720 --> 00:04:11,620
should I start now?

94
00:04:11,620 --> 00:04:12,370
OK.

95
00:04:12,370 --> 00:04:17,560
When the war started, I was
living in Warsaw, Poland.

96
00:04:17,560 --> 00:04:20,810
So of course, that's where
I was when the war started.

97
00:04:20,810 --> 00:04:22,360
And I was with my family.

98
00:04:22,360 --> 00:04:24,490

I was the youngest in my family.

99

00:04:24,490 --> 00:04:27,850

I had two older
sisters and a brother,

100

00:04:27,850 --> 00:04:30,490

which were all
married by that time.

101

00:04:30,490 --> 00:04:33,940

Because my older sister was
about 14 years older than me.

102

00:04:33,940 --> 00:04:37,480

And my next one was about 12.

103

00:04:37,480 --> 00:04:40,180

And a brother who
was nine years older.

104

00:04:40,180 --> 00:04:42,100

And I was the
little one at home,

105

00:04:42,100 --> 00:04:45,340

I was the baby at home,
what they used to call.

106

00:04:45,340 --> 00:04:49,570

And before the war
started, there were already

107

00:04:49,570 --> 00:04:56,110

rumors of a possible war in
Warsaw, I mean in Poland.

108

00:04:56,110 --> 00:05:05,500

And the Polish authorities
tried to prepare the population

109

00:05:05,500 --> 00:05:07,480

of the upcoming war.

110
00:05:07,480 --> 00:05:10,145
And they suggested
that you buy black tar

111
00:05:10,145 --> 00:05:15,310
paper, that you had those
gas, which were really

112
00:05:15,310 --> 00:05:22,720
a few layers of cheesecloth
put together with a tape

113
00:05:22,720 --> 00:05:25,330
so that you could put it over
your face in case of, I guess.

114
00:05:25,330 --> 00:05:27,790
But that's all the
preparations we had.

115
00:05:27,790 --> 00:05:30,580
You know, we were not aware of
it that the war is when it was.

116
00:05:30,580 --> 00:05:34,330
And being young-- so when
the first sirens sounded,

117
00:05:34,330 --> 00:05:40,450
that the German planes
are approaching Warsaw,

118
00:05:40,450 --> 00:05:41,770
I didn't take it seriously.

119
00:05:41,770 --> 00:05:42,850
I remember myself.

120
00:05:42,850 --> 00:05:45,610
I didn't take it seriously
because we already had

121
00:05:45,610 --> 00:05:47,470
something like sirens before.

122
00:05:47,470 --> 00:05:49,660
And there were only
preparatory sirens.

123
00:05:49,660 --> 00:05:51,100
I really didn't
take it seriously

124
00:05:51,100 --> 00:05:53,410
that that's the real thing.

125
00:05:53,410 --> 00:05:54,340
Wow.

126
00:05:54,340 --> 00:05:58,950
And when did you
decide to leave Warsaw?

127
00:05:58,950 --> 00:06:00,350
And who did you leave behind?

128
00:06:00,350 --> 00:06:02,714
And why did you decide
to leave Warsaw?

129
00:06:02,714 --> 00:06:07,520
Well, the war in
Warsaw lasted 28 days.

130
00:06:07,520 --> 00:06:10,550
Actually, Warsaw held
up longer than most

131
00:06:10,550 --> 00:06:12,710
of the countries in Europe.

132
00:06:12,710 --> 00:06:18,680
And Warsaw was surrounded
by the German artillery

133
00:06:18,680 --> 00:06:22,130
on top of the planes who were
flying overhead and throwing

134
00:06:22,130 --> 00:06:24,380
bombs.

135
00:06:24,380 --> 00:06:28,140
And finally, I mean,
it was hunger already.

136
00:06:28,140 --> 00:06:32,443
There was no water, there
was no communication.

137
00:06:32,443 --> 00:06:33,110
And as a child--

138
00:06:33,110 --> 00:06:34,850
I wasn't a young woman then--

139
00:06:34,850 --> 00:06:36,530
I was wishing that
the war is over.

140
00:06:36,530 --> 00:06:39,650
I couldn't care less if
the Germans come in or not.

141
00:06:39,650 --> 00:06:42,650
Because we were living
in constant danger

142
00:06:42,650 --> 00:06:44,360
and constant fright.

143
00:06:44,360 --> 00:06:47,750
And as I said,
your food supplies

144
00:06:47,750 --> 00:06:49,610

were already exhausted.

145
00:06:49,610 --> 00:06:53,280
For 20, we couldn't get
out and do anything.

146
00:06:53,280 --> 00:06:58,490
So when, after 28 days, the
German armies finally marched

147
00:06:58,490 --> 00:07:04,460
into Warsaw, we didn't
realize how our life

148
00:07:04,460 --> 00:07:06,530
is going to change completely.

149
00:07:06,530 --> 00:07:09,110
Because as the war
broke out, I would

150
00:07:09,110 --> 00:07:13,590
say that my life
changed 180 degrees.

151
00:07:13,590 --> 00:07:17,480
It was just completely--
whatever it was was no more.

152
00:07:17,480 --> 00:07:21,620

153
00:07:21,620 --> 00:07:23,150
How did you decide to leave?

154
00:07:23,150 --> 00:07:25,070
And why did you leave?

155
00:07:25,070 --> 00:07:27,560
And who did you leave behind?

156
00:07:27,560 --> 00:07:32,300

Well, I was in with the
Germans for about three months.

157
00:07:32,300 --> 00:07:34,670
And of course, the
Germans, right away,

158
00:07:34,670 --> 00:07:36,650
they had all different--

159
00:07:36,650 --> 00:07:41,700

160
00:07:41,700 --> 00:07:42,760
how do you say it?

161
00:07:42,760 --> 00:07:51,510

162
00:07:51,510 --> 00:07:54,420
The different orders.

163
00:07:54,420 --> 00:07:56,115
They were issuing
different orders.

164
00:07:56,115 --> 00:07:57,900
So could you start over again?

165
00:07:57,900 --> 00:07:58,980
Yes.

166
00:07:58,980 --> 00:08:01,620
Because-- OK.

167
00:08:01,620 --> 00:08:06,720
Well, I was with the Germans
for about three months,

168
00:08:06,720 --> 00:08:08,490
over three months.

169

00:08:08,490 --> 00:08:11,880

And then the Germans, the
minute they walked in,

170

00:08:11,880 --> 00:08:15,370

a few days after they walked
into Warsaw, as I say,

171

00:08:15,370 --> 00:08:19,230

my life changed
about 180 degrees.

172

00:08:19,230 --> 00:08:21,090

And the Germans
right away issued

173

00:08:21,090 --> 00:08:23,190

orders which were
mostly directed

174

00:08:23,190 --> 00:08:25,410

against the Jewish population.

175

00:08:25,410 --> 00:08:28,380

We couldn't walk,
we couldn't talk.

176

00:08:28,380 --> 00:08:32,400

We were even afraid
in our own homes.

177

00:08:32,400 --> 00:08:36,480

And progressively, the
situation became worse.

178

00:08:36,480 --> 00:08:40,110

Because they picked
up my father one time,

179

00:08:40,110 --> 00:08:43,059

they shaved off his beard,
they made him work hard.

180

00:08:43,059 --> 00:08:45,570

We were really afraid
for our father to go out.

181

00:08:45,570 --> 00:08:48,340

One time, some of the
Germans got into our house

182

00:08:48,340 --> 00:08:53,700

where my mother was by
herself and beat her up.

183

00:08:53,700 --> 00:08:59,270

And I had a boyfriend
from before the war.

184

00:08:59,270 --> 00:09:03,250

His name was Nathan, who
was my future husband.

185

00:09:03,250 --> 00:09:06,610

And he escaped when
the war broke out.

186

00:09:06,610 --> 00:09:12,070

On September 6th and 7th, most
of the young Jewish people

187

00:09:12,070 --> 00:09:16,750

were leaving Warsaw,
escaping from the Germans.

188

00:09:16,750 --> 00:09:19,090

And actually, even
the Polish government

189

00:09:19,090 --> 00:09:23,950

was encouraging any
young men to leave Warsaw

190

00:09:23,950 --> 00:09:27,670

because they were hoping
to establish a second front

191
00:09:27,670 --> 00:09:30,460
in the eastern part of Poland.

192
00:09:30,460 --> 00:09:32,230
And among them, my husband.

193
00:09:32,230 --> 00:09:34,330
And he left with his
family, with his father

194
00:09:34,330 --> 00:09:35,640
and his brothers.

195
00:09:35,640 --> 00:09:39,670
They had a car and
they went by car

196
00:09:39,670 --> 00:09:42,550
towards the eastern
part of Poland.

197
00:09:42,550 --> 00:09:45,610
And of course, they had to
leave the car on the way because

198
00:09:45,610 --> 00:09:46,880
of shortage of gasoline.

199
00:09:46,880 --> 00:09:47,950
And they just had to--

200
00:09:47,950 --> 00:09:49,825
I don't know how they
got there, but they had

201
00:09:49,825 --> 00:09:51,130
to walk there, to the front.

202
00:09:51,130 --> 00:09:53,180
And they got to a
place, a small place

203
00:09:53,180 --> 00:09:54,970
in the eastern part of Poland.

204
00:09:54,970 --> 00:09:57,280
And I-- of course, there
was no communication.

205
00:09:57,280 --> 00:09:59,510
And I didn't know
what's happening to him

206
00:09:59,510 --> 00:10:01,730
and what was going on.

207
00:10:01,730 --> 00:10:05,650
But after three months,
when I was under the Germans

208
00:10:05,650 --> 00:10:10,630
in Warsaw, I got--

209
00:10:10,630 --> 00:10:14,020
my future husband, who
was already there in Lwow

210
00:10:14,020 --> 00:10:22,690
sent someone with a letter
to my family and to me.

211
00:10:22,690 --> 00:10:29,440
And he suggested that I go with
this particular person, who

212
00:10:29,440 --> 00:10:36,280
is going to take me across the
border to the Russian side.

213
00:10:36,280 --> 00:10:41,110
I just want to mention that
when the war broke out after--

214

00:10:41,110 --> 00:10:42,740
we didn't know about it.

215
00:10:42,740 --> 00:10:46,180
But at the time,
Germany and Russia,

216
00:10:46,180 --> 00:10:50,170
they signed an agreement
according to which,

217
00:10:50,170 --> 00:10:52,360
the western part
of Poland was going

218
00:10:52,360 --> 00:10:56,170
to be occupied by the Germans
and the eastern part of Poland

219
00:10:56,170 --> 00:10:57,400
by the Russian.

220
00:10:57,400 --> 00:11:00,640
And I think the dividing
line was the River Bug.

221
00:11:00,640 --> 00:11:03,280
That was the name of the river.

222
00:11:03,280 --> 00:11:05,920
So consequently, as I
said, Nathan found himself

223
00:11:05,920 --> 00:11:09,040
on the Russian part of
Poland and I was still

224
00:11:09,040 --> 00:11:11,450
in the German part of Poland.

225
00:11:11,450 --> 00:11:16,600
And he wanted me to
join him in Lwow.

226

00:11:16,600 --> 00:11:19,780

That's where he finally came to.

227

00:11:19,780 --> 00:11:22,060

And being the youngest,
well, my father

228

00:11:22,060 --> 00:11:23,560

didn't want to let me go.

229

00:11:23,560 --> 00:11:26,170

He said no, you are too
young, you can not go.

230

00:11:26,170 --> 00:11:29,500

And besides, the morality
was different than it is now.

231

00:11:29,500 --> 00:11:34,210

A young woman got to a boy,
it just didn't work that way.

232

00:11:34,210 --> 00:11:37,690

But anyhow, I tried
to convince my father.

233

00:11:37,690 --> 00:11:42,580

And finally, my sister-in-law--
because my brother

234

00:11:42,580 --> 00:11:46,960

also escaped at the
time, on September 7th.

235

00:11:46,960 --> 00:11:49,060

And my sister-in-law
was going to go

236

00:11:49,060 --> 00:11:52,300

with me also with this guide.

237

00:11:52,300 --> 00:11:55,240
So my father said, OK,
but remember that you

238
00:11:55,240 --> 00:11:58,150
have to come back in two weeks.

239
00:11:58,150 --> 00:12:00,220
And of course, I was in
love with my husband,

240
00:12:00,220 --> 00:12:02,650
and I wanted to be with
him, and I said, of course,

241
00:12:02,650 --> 00:12:03,460
I will be back.

242
00:12:03,460 --> 00:12:05,890
But not realizing that.

243
00:12:05,890 --> 00:12:07,480
Actually, I said
that I will be back.

244
00:12:07,480 --> 00:12:10,810
Maybe not in two weeks, I'll be
back in a month or two months,

245
00:12:10,810 --> 00:12:11,410
you know.

246
00:12:11,410 --> 00:12:14,020
And I said, of course,
I will do that.

247
00:12:14,020 --> 00:12:17,140
And I just took a knapsack
and a few things in it.

248
00:12:17,140 --> 00:12:19,780
No photographs of
my family, nothing.

249
00:12:19,780 --> 00:12:23,380
And all I had was
my father gave me

250
00:12:23,380 --> 00:12:30,550
his belt, which was kind of a
folding belt. And in this belt,

251
00:12:30,550 --> 00:12:35,650
he inserted for me two
two American dollar bills.

252
00:12:35,650 --> 00:12:38,630
Those were like \$4 American.

253
00:12:38,630 --> 00:12:41,110
And a few Polish
money, which after I

254
00:12:41,110 --> 00:12:45,050
got to the Russian side,
was not worth very much.

255
00:12:45,050 --> 00:12:48,700
And that's how I
escaped from Warsaw.

256
00:12:48,700 --> 00:12:50,410
And you never went back?

257
00:12:50,410 --> 00:12:51,910
And I never went back.

258
00:12:51,910 --> 00:12:55,420
I never went back to Warsaw.

259
00:12:55,420 --> 00:12:57,940
It was impossible.

260
00:12:57,940 --> 00:12:58,750
Now, for instance--

261
00:12:58,750 --> 00:13:00,490
Could you tell me--

262
00:13:00,490 --> 00:13:02,440
could you try and
convince that story

263
00:13:02,440 --> 00:13:05,030
and tell me that
story in 30 seconds?

264
00:13:05,030 --> 00:13:06,940
Wow.

265
00:13:06,940 --> 00:13:09,230
I shall try.

266
00:13:09,230 --> 00:13:10,750
And really let it--

267
00:13:10,750 --> 00:13:12,070
Start from which point?

268
00:13:12,070 --> 00:13:15,230
The story is I left Warsaw.

269
00:13:15,230 --> 00:13:15,980
I left Warsaw.

270
00:13:15,980 --> 00:13:20,060
Or I decided to leave
Warsaw, I asked my father,

271
00:13:20,060 --> 00:13:21,870
I got a letter from him.

272
00:13:21,870 --> 00:13:23,495
I don't tell about
this person who came

273

00:13:23,495 --> 00:13:24,495
and brother, everything.

274
00:13:24,495 --> 00:13:25,640
No, you don't need to tell.

275
00:13:25,640 --> 00:13:30,090
And you just left, and
you never went back.

276
00:13:30,090 --> 00:13:31,580
OK.

277
00:13:31,580 --> 00:13:35,870
So after being for about
three months with the Germans,

278
00:13:35,870 --> 00:13:40,370
I had a chance to escape
from Warsaw, which I did.

279
00:13:40,370 --> 00:13:45,140
And I went to the Russian side
of Poland, to the city of Lwow,

280
00:13:45,140 --> 00:13:49,460
where my boyfriend
Nathan was there already.

281
00:13:49,460 --> 00:13:53,140
And I took with me
only very few things.

282
00:13:53,140 --> 00:13:56,300
The only thing which I
really had from my family

283
00:13:56,300 --> 00:13:58,710
was a belt which
my father gave me.

284
00:13:58,710 --> 00:14:03,200
And he said that two two

American dollar bills.

285

00:14:03,200 --> 00:14:08,013

286

00:14:08,013 --> 00:14:09,180

Could you try one more time?

287

00:14:09,180 --> 00:14:12,955

But and so then you went
and you never came back.

288

00:14:12,955 --> 00:14:15,080

Tell me about your father
wanting you to come back.

289

00:14:15,080 --> 00:14:17,600

Oh, shall I tell you that?

290

00:14:17,600 --> 00:14:19,520

You gave me about 15 seconds.

291

00:14:19,520 --> 00:14:20,680

So you had--

292

00:14:20,680 --> 00:14:24,990

Oh, I had 15, well, gee I
didn't realize that was much.

293

00:14:24,990 --> 00:14:27,210

I was trying to make it shorter.

294

00:14:27,210 --> 00:14:35,340

So start again with why you
decided to leave Warsaw and--

295

00:14:35,340 --> 00:14:37,190

After being three.

296

00:14:37,190 --> 00:14:38,080

I'll rather wait.

297

00:14:38,080 --> 00:14:42,860

298

00:14:42,860 --> 00:14:46,010

Well, after being in
Warsaw for about three days

299

00:14:46,010 --> 00:14:49,370

under the German
occupation, I had a chance

300

00:14:49,370 --> 00:14:54,220

to escape and to join
my boyfriend, Nathan,

301

00:14:54,220 --> 00:14:57,580

who was already in the
city of Lwow, which

302

00:14:57,580 --> 00:15:00,820

was on the Russian side,
Russian-occupied Poland.

303

00:15:00,820 --> 00:15:03,550

304

00:15:03,550 --> 00:15:06,490

I didn't expect
not to come back.

305

00:15:06,490 --> 00:15:11,800

So consequently, I didn't
take anything of value

306

00:15:11,800 --> 00:15:12,910

from my family.

307

00:15:12,910 --> 00:15:14,470

No photographs.

308

00:15:14,470 --> 00:15:16,600

The only thing

which I had with me

309

00:15:16,600 --> 00:15:20,050
was the belt, which
my father gave me

310

00:15:20,050 --> 00:15:23,020
in order to cross the border.

311

00:15:23,020 --> 00:15:29,260
And in this belt, he inserted
two two American dollar bills.

312

00:15:29,260 --> 00:15:31,750
And I finally got to Lwow.

313

00:15:31,750 --> 00:15:34,740
And I was with Nathan.

314

00:15:34,740 --> 00:15:38,140
And after a few weeks,
we got married there.

315

00:15:38,140 --> 00:15:41,410

316

00:15:41,410 --> 00:15:42,690
Still not good?

317

00:15:42,690 --> 00:15:44,430
Well, I just wanted you to say--

318

00:15:44,430 --> 00:15:46,868
and your father wanted
you to come back--

319

00:15:46,868 --> 00:15:47,910
To come, I didn't say it.

320

00:15:47,910 --> 00:15:49,740
--and you never came back.

321
00:15:49,740 --> 00:15:50,700
That's all right.

322
00:15:50,700 --> 00:15:52,710
We can move on.

323
00:15:52,710 --> 00:15:53,850
I can say it.

324
00:15:53,850 --> 00:15:55,480
You want me to say it again?

325
00:15:55,480 --> 00:15:57,180
OK, well, tell me.

326
00:15:57,180 --> 00:15:58,920
Was the border crossing tough?

327
00:15:58,920 --> 00:15:59,700
Very tough.

328
00:15:59,700 --> 00:16:00,408
Was it dangerous?

329
00:16:00,408 --> 00:16:01,950
OK, so include that in it.

330
00:16:01,950 --> 00:16:05,650
So maybe a minute story.

331
00:16:05,650 --> 00:16:06,330
All right.

332
00:16:06,330 --> 00:16:09,390

333
00:16:09,390 --> 00:16:13,530
Well, after being for three
months with the Germans

334

00:16:13,530 --> 00:16:17,760
in Warsaw, I had an
opportunity to escape.

335
00:16:17,760 --> 00:16:20,740
I took this opportunity.

336
00:16:20,740 --> 00:16:23,640
But my father was not
very happy about it

337
00:16:23,640 --> 00:16:25,230
since being the
youngest at home,

338
00:16:25,230 --> 00:16:27,030
he was very worried about me.

339
00:16:27,030 --> 00:16:31,830
So I promised him that I would
come back in about two weeks.

340
00:16:31,830 --> 00:16:34,770
And under those conditions,
my father let me go.

341
00:16:34,770 --> 00:16:37,960
And of course, he didn't
realize, and neither did I,

342
00:16:37,960 --> 00:16:42,720
is that crossing the border
wasn't just an easy thing.

343
00:16:42,720 --> 00:16:45,420
We were detained at the border.

344
00:16:45,420 --> 00:16:50,140
I was thrown into jail
for about two days.

345
00:16:50,140 --> 00:16:53,850
And then finally, through

some miracle, we were let go.

346
00:16:53,850 --> 00:16:57,480
And I continued my
journey by foot.

347
00:16:57,480 --> 00:17:01,680
Sometimes, maybe by sleigh
because it was winter time,

348
00:17:01,680 --> 00:17:06,880
to Lwow, where was
my boyfriend Nathan.

349
00:17:06,880 --> 00:17:10,530
And unfortunately, I have
never seen my family again.

350
00:17:10,530 --> 00:17:13,369

351
00:17:13,369 --> 00:17:13,869
OK.

352
00:17:13,869 --> 00:17:16,420

353
00:17:16,420 --> 00:17:19,802
When you've got to
Lwow, you got married?

354
00:17:19,802 --> 00:17:21,569
Can you tell me about that?

355
00:17:21,569 --> 00:17:22,069
Yeah.

356
00:17:22,069 --> 00:17:30,000
When I got to Lwow, about two
weeks later, we got married.

357
00:17:30,000 --> 00:17:33,420

And so we stayed for
another week or two weeks.

358

00:17:33,420 --> 00:17:39,820
And my husband thought that it
would be a good idea if we just

359

00:17:39,820 --> 00:17:45,970
leave the Russian side and go
to Lithuania, which at that time

360

00:17:45,970 --> 00:17:50,410
was a free country, one of the
very few countries not occupied

361

00:17:50,410 --> 00:17:51,730
by the Germans.

362

00:17:51,730 --> 00:17:54,730
And on the contrary,
Lithuania was

363

00:17:54,730 --> 00:17:57,670
larger than it was
before the war started.

364

00:17:57,670 --> 00:18:02,580
Because the Russian gave
part of Poland to Lithuania,

365

00:18:02,580 --> 00:18:06,480
like the city of Vilna,
which before the war,

366

00:18:06,480 --> 00:18:08,520
belonged to Poland.

367

00:18:08,520 --> 00:18:12,750
But during that time,
belonged already to Lithuania

368

00:18:12,750 --> 00:18:17,070
because the Russians gave

them, made Lithuania larger

369
00:18:17,070 --> 00:18:20,560
so that they could occupy
it later, the whole thing.

370
00:18:20,560 --> 00:18:23,040
But anyhow, my husband--

371
00:18:23,040 --> 00:18:26,940
I have to add this, that
my husband before the war,

372
00:18:26,940 --> 00:18:30,930
after he finished his
university education in Warsaw,

373
00:18:30,930 --> 00:18:33,010
he went to New York.

374
00:18:33,010 --> 00:18:35,460
And he spent a year there.

375
00:18:35,460 --> 00:18:38,310
And so he had some
connection in New York

376
00:18:38,310 --> 00:18:41,190
because he went to
practice at a company which

377
00:18:41,190 --> 00:18:46,680
used to do business with his
father's company in Warsaw.

378
00:18:46,680 --> 00:18:48,900
So he still had a passport.

379
00:18:48,900 --> 00:18:50,640
I didn't have a passport.

380
00:18:50,640 --> 00:18:55,950

And in the passport, there
was an American tourist visa.

381
00:18:55,950 --> 00:19:00,420
So thinking-- and his tourist
visa didn't quite expire.

382
00:19:00,420 --> 00:19:02,610
So he was thinking
that maybe if we

383
00:19:02,610 --> 00:19:07,080
were to get to a
country like Lithuania,

384
00:19:07,080 --> 00:19:11,470
which was still a free country,
and the embassies were there--

385
00:19:11,470 --> 00:19:14,890
because there were no
consulates or embassy in Lwow.

386
00:19:14,890 --> 00:19:20,950
Maybe if we go there, we'll be
able to get an American visa

387
00:19:20,950 --> 00:19:22,750
or an extended American visa.

388
00:19:22,750 --> 00:19:25,390
Because this tourist
visa already expired.

389
00:19:25,390 --> 00:19:31,510
And it would have much better
possibilities to escape

390
00:19:31,510 --> 00:19:35,774
from this Nazi-infested Europe.

391
00:19:35,774 --> 00:19:36,650
Great.

392
00:19:36,650 --> 00:19:39,590
Can you tell me about
your wedding in Lwow?

393
00:19:39,590 --> 00:19:41,602
Was it a joyous affair?

394
00:19:41,602 --> 00:19:43,820
Did you have any family?

395
00:19:43,820 --> 00:19:46,120
Did you feel sad that
your family wasn't there?

396
00:19:46,120 --> 00:19:49,720
Well, it was a very sad affair.

397
00:19:49,720 --> 00:19:50,930
Start with my wedding.

398
00:19:50,930 --> 00:19:51,530
OK.

399
00:19:51,530 --> 00:19:56,480
Well, my wedding in
Lwow was really nothing

400
00:19:56,480 --> 00:19:59,510
to remember it by.

401
00:19:59,510 --> 00:20:02,210
It was done by a rabbi,
by a very well-known rabbi

402
00:20:02,210 --> 00:20:04,400
in the city of Lwow.

403
00:20:04,400 --> 00:20:06,380
And of course, when I
was crossing the border,

404

00:20:06,380 --> 00:20:09,350

I had only one dress with me.

405

00:20:09,350 --> 00:20:13,080

So I had this dress which
was dark blue or something.

406

00:20:13,080 --> 00:20:16,550

And my husband's father
was at the wedding

407

00:20:16,550 --> 00:20:24,320

because when my husband
escaped, his father escaped also

408

00:20:24,320 --> 00:20:28,410

with his sons,
the three of them.

409

00:20:28,410 --> 00:20:30,230

So he found himself in Lwow.

410

00:20:30,230 --> 00:20:35,450

And also my brother, who also
escaped on September the 7th,

411

00:20:35,450 --> 00:20:42,440

and his wife, who also
crossed the border to Lwow,

412

00:20:42,440 --> 00:20:44,300

she was also with him.

413

00:20:44,300 --> 00:20:46,530

So those were the people
who were at the wedding.

414

00:20:46,530 --> 00:20:49,250

So I had my brother,
and my sister-in-law,

415

00:20:49,250 --> 00:20:51,860

and my husband's father.

416
00:20:51,860 --> 00:20:54,260
But it was a very sad affair.

417
00:20:54,260 --> 00:20:56,900
You know, it's really
much more to it.

418
00:20:56,900 --> 00:21:00,980
Because a girlfriend of
mine, she also escaped.

419
00:21:00,980 --> 00:21:05,450
And she much later
to Lwow than I did.

420
00:21:05,450 --> 00:21:07,710
About two weeks
after I got to Lwow,

421
00:21:07,710 --> 00:21:10,880
she got there to
join her boyfriend.

422
00:21:10,880 --> 00:21:15,170
And before she left, she went
to see my family in Warsaw.

423
00:21:15,170 --> 00:21:21,050
And my father said to
her, remember tell Susan--

424
00:21:21,050 --> 00:21:22,760
at that time she
called me Zosia,

425
00:21:22,760 --> 00:21:24,770
because I changed my name.

426
00:21:24,770 --> 00:21:26,250
Not to get married.

427

00:21:26,250 --> 00:21:29,030

She has to come back home.

428

00:21:29,030 --> 00:21:32,030

But of course, it
was impossible.

429

00:21:32,030 --> 00:21:34,080

So we had a double
wedding ceremony

430

00:21:34,080 --> 00:21:36,320

because she got married
to her boyfriend

431

00:21:36,320 --> 00:21:39,590

and I got married to
Nathan at the same time

432

00:21:39,590 --> 00:21:42,690

by the same rabbi.

433

00:21:42,690 --> 00:21:43,190

Wow.

434

00:21:43,190 --> 00:21:46,720

435

00:21:46,720 --> 00:21:48,400

So can you tell me--

436

00:21:48,400 --> 00:21:53,720

once you were in
Vilna, what did you do?

437

00:21:53,720 --> 00:21:56,170

And how did you live?

438

00:21:56,170 --> 00:21:59,180

And why did you
get married again?

439

00:21:59,180 --> 00:22:04,190

Well, we finally went, and
we finally got to Vilna,

440

00:22:04,190 --> 00:22:06,230

because it was not
very easy because we

441

00:22:06,230 --> 00:22:08,750

had to steal across the border.

442

00:22:08,750 --> 00:22:12,150

And the snow was up
to your waistline.

443

00:22:12,150 --> 00:22:13,550

It was very hard crossing.

444

00:22:13,550 --> 00:22:14,780

But we were very fortunate.

445

00:22:14,780 --> 00:22:16,700

Somehow, we made it across.

446

00:22:16,700 --> 00:22:18,650

But some people
who were with us,

447

00:22:18,650 --> 00:22:20,480

they were caught by
the border police,

448

00:22:20,480 --> 00:22:22,550

by the Lithuanian border police.

449

00:22:22,550 --> 00:22:24,140

So we had to hide.

450

00:22:24,140 --> 00:22:28,130

We hid behind a
small building, just

451

00:22:28,130 --> 00:22:29,600
like a small little village.

452

00:22:29,600 --> 00:22:32,100
It was a very small
village, called Ejszyszki.

453

00:22:32,100 --> 00:22:35,420

454

00:22:35,420 --> 00:22:38,240
Because we had a guy who
lived in Ejszyszki, and he

455

00:22:38,240 --> 00:22:41,180
took us to this little village.

456

00:22:41,180 --> 00:22:43,640
But we were caught-- the
other people were caught.

457

00:22:43,640 --> 00:22:46,190
We were younger and we
were kind of ahead of them.

458

00:22:46,190 --> 00:22:49,430
And we hid behind
a small little hut.

459

00:22:49,430 --> 00:22:52,100
It was like 2 o'clock
in the morning.

460

00:22:52,100 --> 00:22:54,500
And a dog started to bark.

461

00:22:54,500 --> 00:22:56,450
And we were just
petrified that the dogs

462

00:22:56,450 --> 00:22:58,530
are going to give us away.

463
00:22:58,530 --> 00:23:01,070
But somehow, they didn't.

464
00:23:01,070 --> 00:23:04,340
And we notice a light
in one of the houses.

465
00:23:04,340 --> 00:23:07,430
So we knocked on the door,
and the lady let us in.

466
00:23:07,430 --> 00:23:11,300
And she gave us some
straw to sleep on.

467
00:23:11,300 --> 00:23:15,140
And we were just extremely
tired after this on foot going

468
00:23:15,140 --> 00:23:17,840
through this deep, deep snow.

469
00:23:17,840 --> 00:23:20,550
So we slept there.

470
00:23:20,550 --> 00:23:23,750
But in the morning when we woke
up, she was no longer there.

471
00:23:23,750 --> 00:23:26,240
And the guide
knocks on the door.

472
00:23:26,240 --> 00:23:30,200
And here, a small village, they
knew exactly what's happening.

473
00:23:30,200 --> 00:23:33,020
And he said, you have to run
away right away from here

474

00:23:33,020 --> 00:23:35,330
because this woman
was an informer.

475
00:23:35,330 --> 00:23:38,630
And her house was
right on the border.

476
00:23:38,630 --> 00:23:42,110
So anyhow, so then we got
to this guide's house.

477
00:23:42,110 --> 00:23:50,265
And the guide took us
by sleigh to Vilna.

478
00:23:50,265 --> 00:23:50,765
Amazing.

479
00:23:50,765 --> 00:23:53,840
You're lucky, huh?

480
00:23:53,840 --> 00:23:57,290
OK so then tell me what
life was like in Vilna.

481
00:23:57,290 --> 00:24:04,095
Well, in Vilna, here it
was a bunch of refugees.

482
00:24:04,095 --> 00:24:06,470
Because there were quite a
few, we were not the only one.

483
00:24:06,470 --> 00:24:09,500
Were there many other
refugees from all parts

484
00:24:09,500 --> 00:24:12,230
of Poland with the
same ideas as we

485
00:24:12,230 --> 00:24:14,420

had, that there would be
much easier to get a visa

486
00:24:14,420 --> 00:24:18,230
to get somewhere because
it was a free country.

487
00:24:18,230 --> 00:24:22,040
And there was just nothing
to do because you could not--

488
00:24:22,040 --> 00:24:23,420
you didn't work.

489
00:24:23,420 --> 00:24:25,010
You had hardly any money.

490
00:24:25,010 --> 00:24:27,770
We were lucky we just had a few
dollars because my husband was

491
00:24:27,770 --> 00:24:28,670
in New York.

492
00:24:28,670 --> 00:24:31,980
So he was saving a few
dollars while he was there.

493
00:24:31,980 --> 00:24:36,080
So they sent us some
money from his account.

494
00:24:36,080 --> 00:24:38,600
But still, we
didn't have enough.

495
00:24:38,600 --> 00:24:42,260
And there was a Jewish
community there.

496
00:24:42,260 --> 00:24:45,590
Not community, but Jewish
maybe welfare from New York.

497
00:24:45,590 --> 00:24:48,380
I don't even remember
too well this.

498
00:24:48,380 --> 00:24:50,420
And they were helping us along.

499
00:24:50,420 --> 00:24:53,600
But still, we
didn't do anything.

500
00:24:53,600 --> 00:24:56,930
We were playing bridge or
playing some other cards

501
00:24:56,930 --> 00:24:57,680
with the refugees.

502
00:24:57,680 --> 00:25:00,800
And we're going
constantly to Kovno.

503
00:25:00,800 --> 00:25:06,200
Constantly to Kaunas because
all the embassies and consulates

504
00:25:06,200 --> 00:25:08,450
were located there.

505
00:25:08,450 --> 00:25:12,860
And we made the rounds of
all the consulates and all

506
00:25:12,860 --> 00:25:14,900
the embassies.

507
00:25:14,900 --> 00:25:16,700
And nobody wanted us.

508
00:25:16,700 --> 00:25:18,470
Nobody wanted us.

509
00:25:18,470 --> 00:25:24,560
We were just damned to
be the victim of Hitler.

510
00:25:24,560 --> 00:25:26,960
Because the situation--
we had this feeling.

511
00:25:26,960 --> 00:25:30,050
We knew that war between
Germany and Russia

512
00:25:30,050 --> 00:25:35,310
will soon come to be.

513
00:25:35,310 --> 00:25:38,390
And besides, while
we were in Lithuania,

514
00:25:38,390 --> 00:25:40,520
we got to the free
Lithuania, Lithuania

515
00:25:40,520 --> 00:25:44,270
got occupied by the Russians and
stopped being a free country.

516
00:25:44,270 --> 00:25:48,620
So we knew that the situation
really looked very, very tacky.

517
00:25:48,620 --> 00:25:51,290
And we knew that something
is going to happen.

518
00:25:51,290 --> 00:25:55,490
And at the same time, the news
from home what we're getting

519
00:25:55,490 --> 00:25:57,170
were terrifying.

520

00:25:57,170 --> 00:25:59,357

So we were extremely uneasy.

521

00:25:59,357 --> 00:26:00,440

We didn't know what to do.

522

00:26:00,440 --> 00:26:03,970

And we didn't have a way to
communicate with our family.

523

00:26:03,970 --> 00:26:05,840

We didn't know what
was happening to them.

524

00:26:05,840 --> 00:26:07,970

Only rumors, rumors, rumors.

525

00:26:07,970 --> 00:26:10,970

And you constantly only
lived on the rumors.

526

00:26:10,970 --> 00:26:13,340

And so when we were there--

527

00:26:13,340 --> 00:26:17,930

we got there about
January, we were in Vilna.

528

00:26:17,930 --> 00:26:23,960

And in the spring, my husband
met one of his professors

529

00:26:23,960 --> 00:26:26,600

from university.

530

00:26:26,600 --> 00:26:28,280

And he said to him,
you know, I know

531

00:26:28,280 --> 00:26:32,210

about a job opening in a small
little place in Lithuania

532
00:26:32,210 --> 00:26:37,490
called Kiejdany, where there
is a Hakhshara, a young people

533
00:26:37,490 --> 00:26:41,550
commune, people who are
training to go to Palestine.

534
00:26:41,550 --> 00:26:43,550
There was no Israel at the time.

535
00:26:43,550 --> 00:26:45,110
To go to a kibbutz.

536
00:26:45,110 --> 00:26:48,690
And they need
instructor to help them,

537
00:26:48,690 --> 00:26:52,670
to teach them how to
cultivate the land.

538
00:26:52,670 --> 00:26:55,490
So Nathan took this
job and we moved

539
00:26:55,490 --> 00:26:58,430
to this small little
village Kiejdany.

540
00:26:58,430 --> 00:27:01,700
And that was like
April, I'd say.

541
00:27:01,700 --> 00:27:03,620
April, May.

542
00:27:03,620 --> 00:27:04,790
And we stayed there.

543
00:27:04,790 --> 00:27:07,370

And he worked there on this.

544

00:27:07,370 --> 00:27:10,760

And we had a small
little room rented

545

00:27:10,760 --> 00:27:16,520

from a very lovely poor, poor
family, which was very, very

546

00:27:16,520 --> 00:27:19,250

nice Lithuanian family.

547

00:27:19,250 --> 00:27:21,440

And we just stayed there.

548

00:27:21,440 --> 00:27:23,420

And we didn't know,
of course, what

549

00:27:23,420 --> 00:27:27,020

goes on because we thought
that our hopes of getting out

550

00:27:27,020 --> 00:27:27,980

were slim.

551

00:27:27,980 --> 00:27:30,890

There was just no
possibility of us

552

00:27:30,890 --> 00:27:32,720

to get a visa to get somewhere.

553

00:27:32,720 --> 00:27:34,880

Because as I said,
no one wanted us.

554

00:27:34,880 --> 00:27:40,640

We just exhausted all the
embassies, all the consulates.

555

00:27:40,640 --> 00:27:47,900

So until we found out
about consul Sugihara.

556

00:27:47,900 --> 00:27:48,400

OK.

557

00:27:48,400 --> 00:27:50,260

Could you tell me?

558

00:27:50,260 --> 00:27:54,630

Could you start with how
everyone rejected you?

559

00:27:54,630 --> 00:29:54,000