

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:29,640

2
00:00:29,640 --> 00:00:31,250
[INAUDIBLE]

3
00:00:31,250 --> 00:00:32,930
OK.

4
00:00:32,930 --> 00:00:35,180
Unfortunately, I have to
ask you to repeat here.

5
00:00:35,180 --> 00:00:35,840
That's fine.

6
00:00:35,840 --> 00:00:38,060
But tell me how to repeat it.

7
00:00:38,060 --> 00:00:41,030
What role did luck
play in your survival?

8
00:00:41,030 --> 00:00:42,630
Do you consider yourself lucky?

9
00:00:42,630 --> 00:00:49,945
Did-- why did you survive
and so many people didn't?

10
00:00:49,945 --> 00:00:53,100

11
00:00:53,100 --> 00:00:56,910
When I think about my story
and what happened to me,

12
00:00:56,910 --> 00:01:00,540
I think that I was
extremely lucky person.

13

00:01:00,540 --> 00:01:03,390

And I have a lot to
thank my husband who

14

00:01:03,390 --> 00:01:06,180

was very resourceful
when it came--

15

00:01:06,180 --> 00:01:11,430

when it came to our refugee
times and how to get us out.

16

00:01:11,430 --> 00:01:13,860

I don't think I could do
it without him for sure.

17

00:01:13,860 --> 00:01:16,420

18

00:01:16,420 --> 00:01:18,970

Why my family--

19

00:01:18,970 --> 00:01:20,290

I was the youngest one.

20

00:01:20,290 --> 00:01:23,980

And here I had a beautiful
extended family, not only

21

00:01:23,980 --> 00:01:27,820

my own family, but I had many
uncles, and aunts, and cousins.

22

00:01:27,820 --> 00:01:30,010

None of them survived.

23

00:01:30,010 --> 00:01:33,660

I was the only one who survived.

24

00:01:33,660 --> 00:01:35,950

My father was a
very believing man.

25
00:01:35,950 --> 00:01:38,410
He was a very religious man.

26
00:01:38,410 --> 00:01:40,570
And, yet he didn't survive.

27
00:01:40,570 --> 00:01:42,760
I just could not
understand that.

28
00:01:42,760 --> 00:01:44,330
And here I am, being here.

29
00:01:44,330 --> 00:01:47,470
And actually, the
religious part was also,

30
00:01:47,470 --> 00:01:50,980
always, when I was a young
kid a burden on my shoulders.

31
00:01:50,980 --> 00:01:53,620
Because I had to be at a
certain time on Sabbath home,

32
00:01:53,620 --> 00:01:56,110
and I couldn't do certain
things during the holidays

33
00:01:56,110 --> 00:01:58,180
because my father was religious.

34
00:01:58,180 --> 00:02:02,590
So, at first when I was out of
the house, I felt kind of free.

35
00:02:02,590 --> 00:02:04,690
Here, I am allowed to
do anything I want to.

36
00:02:04,690 --> 00:02:08,350

I didn't have any
supervision of this kind.

37
00:02:08,350 --> 00:02:11,440
And yet, I survived where
my father was spending time

38
00:02:11,440 --> 00:02:12,820
in the synagogue and things.

39
00:02:12,820 --> 00:02:13,870
And I never did this.

40
00:02:13,870 --> 00:02:16,510
Of course, I was too
young for all this.

41
00:02:16,510 --> 00:02:19,840
I think that I was
extremely lucky person.

42
00:02:19,840 --> 00:02:23,450
All through the war I was lucky.

43
00:02:23,450 --> 00:02:27,410
When live came to Canada,
it was very, very hard.

44
00:02:27,410 --> 00:02:30,610
And I think my husband was
taking it also much harder

45
00:02:30,610 --> 00:02:32,620
than I did.

46
00:02:32,620 --> 00:02:35,680
Maybe because he was the worrier
in the family at the time.

47
00:02:35,680 --> 00:02:39,280
And I didn't-- he doing
all the worrying for me.

48

00:02:39,280 --> 00:02:41,020

And mind you, I
am also a worrier.

49

00:02:41,020 --> 00:02:44,170

Now that I am by myself-- my
husband passed away about 12

50

00:02:44,170 --> 00:02:45,340

years ago--

51

00:02:45,340 --> 00:02:46,540

I'm doing my share.

52

00:02:46,540 --> 00:02:49,150

But I didn't-- at that time, I
just didn't have to because he

53

00:02:49,150 --> 00:02:52,180

did just about all
the worrying for me.

54

00:02:52,180 --> 00:02:56,280

And we brought up
a beautiful family.

55

00:02:56,280 --> 00:02:58,940

We had no money we
came here, nothing.

56

00:02:58,940 --> 00:03:01,850

We had 20 American
dollars, that's all.

57

00:03:01,850 --> 00:03:02,840

And look at it now.

58

00:03:02,840 --> 00:03:05,390

I mean, I consider--
and we never

59

00:03:05,390 --> 00:03:07,620

took advantage of anybody.

60
00:03:07,620 --> 00:03:09,720
We just worked hard.

61
00:03:09,720 --> 00:03:11,640
We didn't have any family.

62
00:03:11,640 --> 00:03:14,150
We didn't know the language.

63
00:03:14,150 --> 00:03:17,430
We had everything
really against us.

64
00:03:17,430 --> 00:03:19,700
But we had one thing
which was for us.

65
00:03:19,700 --> 00:03:21,650
We were both young.

66
00:03:21,650 --> 00:03:23,870
And we are not
afraid of any work.

67
00:03:23,870 --> 00:03:26,900
We were not ashamed of any work.

68
00:03:26,900 --> 00:03:30,050
And maybe that's the result.

69
00:03:30,050 --> 00:03:31,670
And I consider
myself really lucky.

70
00:03:31,670 --> 00:03:33,680
I always consider myself lucky.

71
00:03:33,680 --> 00:03:39,110
I consider myself lucky as
long as my family is healthy.

72
00:03:39,110 --> 00:03:43,380
That's for me the biggest luck,
and as long as I'm healthy.

73
00:03:43,380 --> 00:03:44,660
But the family is--

74
00:03:44,660 --> 00:03:46,950
I'm very family minded.

75
00:03:46,950 --> 00:03:50,790
To me, the family is the most
important part of my life

76
00:03:50,790 --> 00:03:52,980
and for my husband it was.

77
00:03:52,980 --> 00:03:55,560
My husband always used to say--

78
00:03:55,560 --> 00:03:59,250
my children come every Sunday
to my house for dinner.

79
00:03:59,250 --> 00:04:03,030
And I always have 15 people
for dinner every Sunday.

80
00:04:03,030 --> 00:04:06,510
And before my
husband passed away

81
00:04:06,510 --> 00:04:10,000
we had less, because the other
ones were born, a few of them

82
00:04:10,000 --> 00:04:13,080
were born after my
husband passed away.

83
00:04:13,080 --> 00:04:15,080

And he always used
to say, look, we

84
00:04:15,080 --> 00:04:18,120
were just two around the
table and look at us now.

85
00:04:18,120 --> 00:04:21,450
And he was just so proud.

86
00:04:21,450 --> 00:04:25,050
It makes me really sad
that he can see all this.

87
00:04:25,050 --> 00:04:34,090

88
00:04:34,090 --> 00:04:37,588
I agree with you, family
is very important.

89
00:04:37,588 --> 00:04:44,150

90
00:04:44,150 --> 00:04:46,940
While you were in Japan,
were you able to communicate

91
00:04:46,940 --> 00:04:47,880
with your family?

92
00:04:47,880 --> 00:04:49,010
Did you send postcards?

93
00:04:49,010 --> 00:04:50,430
Did they send postcards to you?

94
00:04:50,430 --> 00:04:52,250
What did they say?

95
00:04:52,250 --> 00:04:54,050
Why were they concerned?

96
00:04:54,050 --> 00:04:55,430
While we were in Japan.

97
00:04:55,430 --> 00:04:56,810
Sorry, I was speaking, so.

98
00:04:56,810 --> 00:04:59,920

99
00:04:59,920 --> 00:05:04,150
In Japan, in Kobe, they had
a Jewish Community Center.

100
00:05:04,150 --> 00:05:11,390
They called it a JewCom
And Japan and Germany

101
00:05:11,390 --> 00:05:14,690
where like Axis, they
were friends during this--

102
00:05:14,690 --> 00:05:17,740
they were allies during the war.

103
00:05:17,740 --> 00:05:21,340
We could send postcards
to our family in Warsaw,

104
00:05:21,340 --> 00:05:24,780
even though they were
in the ghetto already.

105
00:05:24,780 --> 00:05:27,280
And, of course, we used to send
postcards because everything

106
00:05:27,280 --> 00:05:28,010
was censored.

107
00:05:28,010 --> 00:05:29,800
We had to be very careful.

108
00:05:29,800 --> 00:05:33,770
But what we did, we could
send them food from Japan.

109
00:05:33,770 --> 00:05:35,470
So we used to send them parcels.

110
00:05:35,470 --> 00:05:38,410
Like we used to buy some
sausages, rice sausage,

111
00:05:38,410 --> 00:05:42,940
and tea, and coffee, things
like this which you can send.

112
00:05:42,940 --> 00:05:45,640
And we used to send
them the parcels.

113
00:05:45,640 --> 00:05:47,980
And we got a few
postcards from them.

114
00:05:47,980 --> 00:05:50,317
And they did
receive our parcels.

115
00:05:50,317 --> 00:05:52,150
But they were always
complaining they didn't

116
00:05:52,150 --> 00:05:55,310
get enough letters from us.

117
00:05:55,310 --> 00:05:58,060
And so, we were
in communication.

118
00:05:58,060 --> 00:06:00,490
And I still have those
postcards to this day.

119

00:06:00,490 --> 00:06:02,770

And in those postcards
they never complained

120

00:06:02,770 --> 00:06:03,640

about themselves.

121

00:06:03,640 --> 00:06:06,010

Because they had to move
from their apartments.

122

00:06:06,010 --> 00:06:10,150

They have to find a
place in the ghetto.

123

00:06:10,150 --> 00:06:12,910

And they were all
living together.

124

00:06:12,910 --> 00:06:15,620

And it was very,
very hard for them.

125

00:06:15,620 --> 00:06:18,190

But in their letters,
they never mentioned it.

126

00:06:18,190 --> 00:06:20,620

They always used to say,
how are you managing?

127

00:06:20,620 --> 00:06:21,460

How are you?

128

00:06:21,460 --> 00:06:24,640

Because I was the youngest
one at home and my husband

129

00:06:24,640 --> 00:06:27,250

was also the youngest
one in his family.

130

00:06:27,250 --> 00:06:29,200
So the families
were always worrying

131
00:06:29,200 --> 00:06:33,340
how does two young people,
how did they manage?

132
00:06:33,340 --> 00:06:36,010
So this was the
communication what we had.

133
00:06:36,010 --> 00:06:40,480
And when we got to
Vancouver, the war between--

134
00:06:40,480 --> 00:06:45,040
was not on yet between the
United States and Germany,

135
00:06:45,040 --> 00:06:47,920
but that was before
Pearl Harbor.

136
00:06:47,920 --> 00:06:52,720
And since Nate was before in New
York working for this company,

137
00:06:52,720 --> 00:06:57,590
so our families used to
send letters to New York.

138
00:06:57,590 --> 00:06:59,740
And then those people
from this company

139
00:06:59,740 --> 00:07:02,920
used to mail it to us
to Canada, to Vancouver.

140
00:07:02,920 --> 00:07:05,110
So we were still in
communication with them

141
00:07:05,110 --> 00:07:06,940
until Pearl Harbor.

142
00:07:06,940 --> 00:07:09,580
Because the minute the
Americans went into war,

143
00:07:09,580 --> 00:07:11,470
all this stopped.

144
00:07:11,470 --> 00:07:14,890
When did you find out
what happened to them?

145
00:07:14,890 --> 00:07:17,390
We found out one after the war.

146
00:07:17,390 --> 00:07:18,940
Can you tell me--

147
00:07:18,940 --> 00:07:21,910
Oh, I'm sorry.

148
00:07:21,910 --> 00:07:23,590
And so we're here.

149
00:07:23,590 --> 00:07:26,050
We knew about these
things happening,

150
00:07:26,050 --> 00:07:27,647
that this war was on.

151
00:07:27,647 --> 00:07:29,980
But we still were confident--
when we were in Vancouver,

152
00:07:29,980 --> 00:07:32,500
we were still confident
that someday we're

153

00:07:32,500 --> 00:07:34,870
going to reunite
with our families.

154
00:07:34,870 --> 00:07:39,250
Because our visa to Canada
wasn't an immigration visa.

155
00:07:39,250 --> 00:07:42,790
It was a visa which plainly
says on the passport,

156
00:07:42,790 --> 00:07:44,950
for the duration of the war.

157
00:07:44,950 --> 00:07:48,440
That's what it said.

158
00:07:48,440 --> 00:07:51,990
But the reason we did
give our landing visa,

159
00:07:51,990 --> 00:07:56,840
our permanent visa here, because
my husband joined the army.

160
00:07:56,840 --> 00:08:00,380
And because-- and after the
war, because he was serving

161
00:08:00,380 --> 00:08:07,664
in the Canadian forces, we
got right away our visa, the--

162
00:08:07,664 --> 00:08:10,700
it's not an immigrant
visa, but our permission

163
00:08:10,700 --> 00:08:14,200
to stay in Canada,
a citizenship.

164
00:08:14,200 --> 00:08:17,290

And when did you find
out about the Holocaust?

165
00:08:17,290 --> 00:08:22,060
We found out about the
Holocaust about in--

166
00:08:22,060 --> 00:08:25,870
right after the war
ended, at the end of 1945.

167
00:08:25,870 --> 00:08:31,870
I got a letter from my
sister-in-law, who survived.

168
00:08:31,870 --> 00:08:37,405
And she wrote me about what's
happening to my family.

169
00:08:37,405 --> 00:08:38,530
That was the most terrible.

170
00:08:38,530 --> 00:08:42,580
I have this letter
translated into English,

171
00:08:42,580 --> 00:08:45,280
because it came in Polish, so
that my children would know.

172
00:08:45,280 --> 00:08:47,420
And she just told
us the whole story

173
00:08:47,420 --> 00:08:48,670
of what happened to my family.

174
00:08:48,670 --> 00:08:51,510

175
00:08:51,510 --> 00:08:53,288
Is that bad?

176
00:08:53,288 --> 00:08:54,770
No.

177
00:08:54,770 --> 00:08:57,060
Actually, on the lab
it isn't too bad.

178
00:08:57,060 --> 00:08:59,390
I heard it though.

179
00:08:59,390 --> 00:09:02,420
Perhaps you could redo that.

180
00:09:02,420 --> 00:09:03,320
We're still rolling?

181
00:09:03,320 --> 00:09:06,100
Yeah, [INAUDIBLE]
see how-- what's

182
00:09:06,100 --> 00:09:07,390
going to happen with this.

183
00:09:07,390 --> 00:09:08,650
Oh, some noise?

184
00:09:08,650 --> 00:09:09,340
Yeah.

185
00:09:09,340 --> 00:09:10,812
[INAUDIBLE]

186
00:09:10,812 --> 00:09:17,260
So-- Cut.

187
00:09:17,260 --> 00:09:18,220
Oh, now I--

188
00:09:18,220 --> 00:09:19,150
OK, and rolling.

189

00:09:19,150 --> 00:09:22,544

190

00:09:22,544 --> 00:09:23,044

Speed.

191

00:09:23,044 --> 00:09:25,710

Hopefully [INAUDIBLE]

while I'm talking.

192

00:09:25,710 --> 00:09:28,520

193

00:09:28,520 --> 00:09:29,360

Could you tell me--

194

00:09:29,360 --> 00:09:32,640

195

00:09:32,640 --> 00:09:35,340

We should [INAUDIBLE]

196

00:09:35,340 --> 00:09:37,713

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

197

00:09:37,713 --> 00:09:39,130

198

00:09:39,130 --> 00:09:41,170

When did you find out

about the Holocaust

199

00:09:41,170 --> 00:09:43,960

and what happened

to your relatives?

200

00:09:43,960 --> 00:09:45,940

Well, I found out

about the Holocaust

201

00:09:45,940 --> 00:09:49,540

and what happened to
my relatives in the--

202
00:09:49,540 --> 00:09:51,460
after the war ended.

203
00:09:51,460 --> 00:09:53,450
Because I never knew
about the camps.

204
00:09:53,450 --> 00:09:55,670
I didn't know anything
about those things.

205
00:09:55,670 --> 00:09:57,670
We never heard anything.

206
00:09:57,670 --> 00:10:02,200
We knew there are some terrible
things happening to our people.

207
00:10:02,200 --> 00:10:03,040
OK, I'm sorry.

208
00:10:03,040 --> 00:10:05,740
We'll cut.

209
00:10:05,740 --> 00:10:07,090
And rolling.

210
00:10:07,090 --> 00:10:11,860
So, what happened
to your relatives

211
00:10:11,860 --> 00:10:13,360
that were left behind?

212
00:10:13,360 --> 00:10:17,530
And when did you find
out about the Holocaust

213
00:10:17,530 --> 00:10:19,120

and the concentration camps?

214

00:10:19,120 --> 00:10:27,090

And how did you deal
with that information?

215

00:10:27,090 --> 00:10:33,610

After the war ended, my
sister-in-law survived the war.

216

00:10:33,610 --> 00:10:38,070

And she managed to get
to Palestine I think.

217

00:10:38,070 --> 00:10:40,710

And she wrote a
letter from there.

218

00:10:40,710 --> 00:10:42,620

And that was the
first inkling what I

219

00:10:42,620 --> 00:10:44,390

had what happened to my family.

220

00:10:44,390 --> 00:10:45,920

I had no information.

221

00:10:45,920 --> 00:10:47,320

I would try to--

222

00:10:47,320 --> 00:10:50,330

Sorry, but the saw was there.

223

00:10:50,330 --> 00:10:52,100

Let's just-- why don't we--

224

00:10:52,100 --> 00:10:53,780

starting over.

225

00:10:53,780 --> 00:10:56,270

And rolling.

226
00:10:56,270 --> 00:11:01,040
Could you tell me when you
found out about the Holocaust,

227
00:11:01,040 --> 00:11:03,710
how you found out about
and literally what happened

228
00:11:03,710 --> 00:11:05,300
to some of your relatives?

229
00:11:05,300 --> 00:11:08,620

230
00:11:08,620 --> 00:11:14,200
Well, I found out about the
Holocaust after the war.

231
00:11:14,200 --> 00:11:19,160
And I got a letter
from my sister-in-law,

232
00:11:19,160 --> 00:11:23,680
who survived the Holocaust
and who was in Palestine

233
00:11:23,680 --> 00:11:25,030
and she found me.

234
00:11:25,030 --> 00:11:28,520
Well, maybe that was like 1946.

235
00:11:28,520 --> 00:11:31,060
But I already heard the rumors.

236
00:11:31,060 --> 00:11:34,000
And heard about the camps,
and extermination camps,

237
00:11:34,000 --> 00:11:37,250
and what was happening, about

a liquidation of the ghetto.

238

00:11:37,250 --> 00:11:41,590

We knew about the
Warsaw ghetto uprising.

239

00:11:41,590 --> 00:11:44,950

And we really didn't know
what happened to our family.

240

00:11:44,950 --> 00:11:46,900

Maybe somehow they survived.

241

00:11:46,900 --> 00:11:49,000

And for my sister-in-law
I found out

242

00:11:49,000 --> 00:11:55,420

that my family really survived
until the ghetto uprising.

243

00:11:55,420 --> 00:11:58,300

They had to be working in
some different factories.

244

00:11:58,300 --> 00:12:00,070

Once you had that
permit to work,

245

00:12:00,070 --> 00:12:01,805

you had a much better
chance to survive.

246

00:12:01,805 --> 00:12:04,370

247

00:12:04,370 --> 00:12:08,985

And after-- uh-oh.

248

00:12:08,985 --> 00:12:09,485

Uh-oh.

249

00:12:09,485 --> 00:12:14,980

250

00:12:14,980 --> 00:12:16,043

So we have--

251

00:12:16,043 --> 00:12:17,710

What happened to your
mother and father?

252

00:12:17,710 --> 00:12:21,630

253

00:12:21,630 --> 00:12:26,655

We were living in Warsaw on
the principle street in Warsaw.

254

00:12:26,655 --> 00:12:29,580

We had a beautiful apartment.

255

00:12:29,580 --> 00:12:34,830

But the place was not in
the Jewish part of town.

256

00:12:34,830 --> 00:12:38,100

And the Jewish part of town
was designated by the Nazis

257

00:12:38,100 --> 00:12:38,880

as the ghetto.

258

00:12:38,880 --> 00:12:41,730

So my family had to move
from their apartment.

259

00:12:41,730 --> 00:12:44,130

And also my sisters,
who were living

260

00:12:44,130 --> 00:12:51,240

in this same part of town as
my parents and my brother.

261

00:12:51,240 --> 00:12:53,700

And they had to
find accommodation

262

00:12:53,700 --> 00:12:56,910

in the ghetto part of Warsaw.

263

00:12:56,910 --> 00:13:00,690

So a few families
moved together.

264

00:13:00,690 --> 00:13:05,880

And they survived the war until
the Warsaw ghetto uprising.

265

00:13:05,880 --> 00:13:10,530

Mind you, one of my
sisters, she didn't survive,

266

00:13:10,530 --> 00:13:11,880

she and her husband.

267

00:13:11,880 --> 00:13:15,900

Because they had a little boy,
who at the outbreak of the war

268

00:13:15,900 --> 00:13:16,970

was about a year old.

269

00:13:16,970 --> 00:13:20,190

So he was maybe two or
three years old at the time.

270

00:13:20,190 --> 00:13:22,500

It was in 1942.

271

00:13:22,500 --> 00:13:24,540

And he was just caught--
the boy was outside

272

00:13:24,540 --> 00:13:26,280

and he was caught by the Nazis.

273
00:13:26,280 --> 00:13:28,640
And my sister and
my brother-in-law,

274
00:13:28,640 --> 00:13:31,770
who were just crazy, just
like anybody would be

275
00:13:31,770 --> 00:13:34,740
about his child, ran after him.

276
00:13:34,740 --> 00:13:37,650
And they just lost their
life and the boy did too.

277
00:13:37,650 --> 00:13:40,340
It was just extremely tragic.

278
00:13:40,340 --> 00:13:43,260
Now, my older sister
and her husband,

279
00:13:43,260 --> 00:13:46,440
and she had a little child,
who was a little girl who

280
00:13:46,440 --> 00:13:51,000
was about seven years old at the
time, they survived just about

281
00:13:51,000 --> 00:13:55,140
till the end, until the
Warsaw ghetto uprising.

282
00:13:55,140 --> 00:13:57,480
And when the Warsaw
ghetto uprising,

283
00:13:57,480 --> 00:14:00,060
my brother had a
chance to escape

284

00:14:00,060 --> 00:14:02,940
to the Aryan side of Warsaw.

285

00:14:02,940 --> 00:14:04,260
But it was already too late.

286

00:14:04,260 --> 00:14:09,840
Because in the meantime, the
Warsaw ghetto uprising started.

287

00:14:09,840 --> 00:14:13,350
And they were all
caught up in it.

288

00:14:13,350 --> 00:14:18,450
And when the uprising
ended, they still survived.

289

00:14:18,450 --> 00:14:22,140
And they were all sent to
a place called Poniatowa,

290

00:14:22,140 --> 00:14:24,450
which was not far from Warsaw.

291

00:14:24,450 --> 00:14:29,100
And the Germans established
there factories making

292

00:14:29,100 --> 00:14:30,750
baskets and different things.

293

00:14:30,750 --> 00:14:33,210
It was just a pretense.

294

00:14:33,210 --> 00:14:35,880
And after a month
being there, they

295

00:14:35,880 --> 00:14:41,220
were all told to dig
some trenches like.

296
00:14:41,220 --> 00:14:42,420
And they shot them all.

297
00:14:42,420 --> 00:14:44,290
And they finished them all off.

298
00:14:44,290 --> 00:14:45,990
And that was the end of them.

299
00:14:45,990 --> 00:14:50,080
My father, on the other hand,
actually, he died in 1942.

300
00:14:50,080 --> 00:14:52,320
That's what my
sister-in-law wrote.

301
00:14:52,320 --> 00:14:55,930
Because there was an
epidemic of typhus.

302
00:14:55,930 --> 00:15:00,130
And he was a victim
of this epidemic.

303
00:15:00,130 --> 00:15:02,250
So he died a natural death.

304
00:15:02,250 --> 00:15:05,890
And as she said, we were
so crying and so desperate

305
00:15:05,890 --> 00:15:10,170
when your father got so
sick, but we didn't know what

306
00:15:10,170 --> 00:15:14,280
a blessing it was at the
time, that he at least died

307
00:15:14,280 --> 00:15:16,830

a natural death.

308

00:15:16,830 --> 00:15:18,100

How about your mother?

309

00:15:18,100 --> 00:15:21,780

My mother, she died in
Poniatowa, in this place.

310

00:15:21,780 --> 00:15:25,890

311

00:15:25,890 --> 00:15:28,620

Can you just tell
me in a general way

312

00:15:28,620 --> 00:15:34,860

that you lost your family to the
Holocaust and not specifically,

313

00:15:34,860 --> 00:15:40,390

and how you found out?

314

00:15:40,390 --> 00:15:43,800

315

00:15:43,800 --> 00:15:46,110

I came from a large family.

316

00:15:46,110 --> 00:15:50,280

In my own family, I
was the youngest one.

317

00:15:50,280 --> 00:15:54,190

I had two older sisters and
a brother, and my mother

318

00:15:54,190 --> 00:15:55,830

and father, of course.

319

00:15:55,830 --> 00:15:58,510

But we came from a

very large family.

320

00:15:58,510 --> 00:15:59,790

I had many aunts.

321

00:15:59,790 --> 00:16:05,040

I had many uncles, a
grandfather, and a grandmother.

322

00:16:05,040 --> 00:16:07,720

I had cousins by the dozens.

323

00:16:07,720 --> 00:16:12,220

And we were a very close
family, very close knit family.

324

00:16:12,220 --> 00:16:13,650

And I lost all this.

325

00:16:13,650 --> 00:16:17,970

Every one of them was killed,
were lost in the Holocaust.

326

00:16:17,970 --> 00:16:19,200

They just did not survive.

327

00:16:19,200 --> 00:16:24,130

328

00:16:24,130 --> 00:16:26,790

And again, how did you
find out about what

329

00:16:26,790 --> 00:16:27,790

happened to your family?

330

00:16:27,790 --> 00:16:32,240

331

00:16:32,240 --> 00:16:34,020

I found out from two sources.

332
00:16:34,020 --> 00:16:35,010
One of them--

333
00:16:35,010 --> 00:16:35,510
Start--

334
00:16:35,510 --> 00:16:39,050
Can I just say something,
before you-- so that you--

335
00:16:39,050 --> 00:16:40,940
you see, I'll tell you what.

336
00:16:40,940 --> 00:16:45,140
In 1967-- I got this letter
from my sister-in-law as I told,

337
00:16:45,140 --> 00:16:46,460
you know.

338
00:16:46,460 --> 00:16:47,790
Well, we had to--

339
00:16:47,790 --> 00:16:51,440
I need to get that story
because of sound problems.

340
00:16:51,440 --> 00:16:52,070
OK.

341
00:16:52,070 --> 00:16:54,740
But I want to tell you,
because you asked me again

342
00:16:54,740 --> 00:16:57,660
exactly what happened
to my family.

343
00:16:57,660 --> 00:17:01,640
She-- in 1968--

344

00:17:01,640 --> 00:17:09,520
1968, I found a cousin
who survived in Paris.

345
00:17:09,520 --> 00:17:11,030
[INAUDIBLE]

346
00:17:11,030 --> 00:17:13,880
And he-- no, I don't want
to tell you this story.

347
00:17:13,880 --> 00:17:15,800
But you see-- but what--

348
00:17:15,800 --> 00:17:21,990

349
00:17:21,990 --> 00:17:26,760
After the war, it was
already 1945 at the end.

350
00:17:26,760 --> 00:17:29,940
We were looking for
our family, hoping

351
00:17:29,940 --> 00:17:33,660
through all the different
agencies, if anybody survived.

352
00:17:33,660 --> 00:17:35,610
But we never got any response.

353
00:17:35,610 --> 00:17:39,120
And then, I think it
was beginning or so

354
00:17:39,120 --> 00:17:44,730
of 1946, which I got a letter
from a relative of mine.

355
00:17:44,730 --> 00:17:49,050
And she described to me exactly
what happened to my family.

356
00:17:49,050 --> 00:17:50,565
She happened to
land in Palestine.

357
00:17:50,565 --> 00:17:52,410
It was not Israel yet.

358
00:17:52,410 --> 00:17:56,853
And she just wrote to
me about everything

359
00:17:56,853 --> 00:17:58,020
which happened to my family.

360
00:17:58,020 --> 00:18:00,480
And my family really
ended very tragically.

361
00:18:00,480 --> 00:18:03,960
Because after the
Warsaw ghetto uprising,

362
00:18:03,960 --> 00:18:05,730
which they were
lucky to survive,

363
00:18:05,730 --> 00:18:09,720
somehow, they
landed in Poniatowa.

364
00:18:09,720 --> 00:18:11,925
And there, they were
shot by the Nazis.

365
00:18:11,925 --> 00:18:18,910

366
00:18:18,910 --> 00:18:22,790
Why is it so important for you
to be here telling this story?

367

00:18:22,790 --> 00:18:23,290
Why?

368
00:18:23,290 --> 00:18:26,100

369
00:18:26,100 --> 00:18:29,500
It is very important for
me to tell this story

370
00:18:29,500 --> 00:18:35,670
because I am the only
survivor of my family.

371
00:18:35,670 --> 00:18:40,010
I don't want their
deaths to be just--

372
00:18:40,010 --> 00:18:43,850
I don't want to think that
they just died without--

373
00:18:43,850 --> 00:18:44,690
for nothing.

374
00:18:44,690 --> 00:18:50,360
I think that's the least
what I can do to perpetrate--

375
00:18:50,360 --> 00:18:52,010
I don't know how to say it--

376
00:18:52,010 --> 00:18:53,540
their memory.

377
00:18:53,540 --> 00:18:57,560
To keep their memory alive.

378
00:18:57,560 --> 00:19:05,060
To let the world
know what bestiality,

379

00:19:05,060 --> 00:19:08,960
and inhumanity, and a
cruelty of one human

380
00:19:08,960 --> 00:19:12,170
being to another,
for no reason--

381
00:19:12,170 --> 00:19:14,660
for only one reason,
that they were

382
00:19:14,660 --> 00:19:15,845
happened to be born Jewish.

383
00:19:15,845 --> 00:19:18,770

384
00:19:18,770 --> 00:19:25,130
To me this bestiality, it's
just beyond comprehension.

385
00:19:25,130 --> 00:19:28,670
And I always tell this story to
my children and to my family.

386
00:19:28,670 --> 00:19:31,820
And my family, luckily, they
are very much interested

387
00:19:31,820 --> 00:19:35,856
in my story and what
happened to their--

388
00:19:35,856 --> 00:19:38,900
first, what their routes are
and what happened to them.

389
00:19:38,900 --> 00:19:40,775
That's why I went
twice back to Warsaw

390
00:19:40,775 --> 00:19:42,500

with some of my children.

391
00:19:42,500 --> 00:19:47,040
Because they wanted just to
see where do they come from.

392
00:19:47,040 --> 00:19:48,830
It's very important
for everybody

393
00:19:48,830 --> 00:19:51,450
to know where they come from.

394
00:19:51,450 --> 00:19:55,580
And I really don't want
this story to be forgotten.

395
00:19:55,580 --> 00:19:59,270
I'm not getting any
younger, that's for sure.

396
00:19:59,270 --> 00:20:02,690
And I won't be too
long on this Earth.

397
00:20:02,690 --> 00:20:05,430
And I just don't want this
story to be forgotten.

398
00:20:05,430 --> 00:20:07,510
It's just as simple as that.

399
00:20:07,510 --> 00:20:08,880
This is my story.

400
00:20:08,880 --> 00:20:10,220
This is all I have.

401
00:20:10,220 --> 00:20:13,830

402
00:20:13,830 --> 00:20:14,330

Great.

403

00:20:14,330 --> 00:20:25,380

404

00:20:25,380 --> 00:20:26,850

Were you shocked
when you learned

405

00:20:26,850 --> 00:20:28,560

about-- you must have
heard in the news

406

00:20:28,560 --> 00:20:29,970

and stuff about the Holocaust.

407

00:20:29,970 --> 00:20:31,950

Were you shocked when you heard?

408

00:20:31,950 --> 00:20:33,750

Or did you hear piecemeal?

409

00:20:33,750 --> 00:20:34,365

Did you hear--

410

00:20:34,365 --> 00:20:38,430

411

00:20:38,430 --> 00:20:41,910

When I found out
after the war what

412

00:20:41,910 --> 00:20:47,070

was happening to the people
who were left behind,

413

00:20:47,070 --> 00:20:48,660

I still could not believe it.

414

00:20:48,660 --> 00:20:50,595

I mean, it was just
hard for me to believe.

415
00:20:50,595 --> 00:20:53,180

416
00:20:53,180 --> 00:20:55,850
And we were looking
for our families.

417
00:20:55,850 --> 00:20:57,290
We couldn't find them.

418
00:20:57,290 --> 00:20:59,420
We didn't know what
happened to them.

419
00:20:59,420 --> 00:21:04,040
But we still didn't lose
hope, because maybe, somehow.

420
00:21:04,040 --> 00:21:07,010
But when we got this
letter from my relative,

421
00:21:07,010 --> 00:21:08,900
what happened to my--
that was the most--

422
00:21:08,900 --> 00:21:12,470
I still remember to this
day what a devastating--

423
00:21:12,470 --> 00:21:16,050
it was the most
devastating day in my life.

424
00:21:16,050 --> 00:21:18,230
I mean, it's had
to say the most,

425
00:21:18,230 --> 00:21:22,010
because this is just without
beyond comprehension,

426
00:21:22,010 --> 00:21:23,780
absolutely.

427
00:21:23,780 --> 00:21:25,280
What can you say?

428
00:21:25,280 --> 00:21:26,390
Here I'm left.

429
00:21:26,390 --> 00:21:30,620
I mean, everything
whatever was, no more.

430
00:21:30,620 --> 00:21:34,550
And yet, many people didn't
understand that at that time.

431
00:21:34,550 --> 00:21:38,030
It was so unbelievable
for many local people

432
00:21:38,030 --> 00:21:43,480
to understand what was happening
to the Jewish people in Europe.

433
00:21:43,480 --> 00:21:44,650
And I'm not surprised.

434
00:21:44,650 --> 00:21:46,900
Because who can wonder even?

435
00:21:46,900 --> 00:21:50,590
I tell you now, when I watch
all those documentaries,

436
00:21:50,590 --> 00:21:54,250
and the new things being
found in the archives in Great

437
00:21:54,250 --> 00:21:57,910
Britain, or who had in the
archives of Great Britain,

438
00:21:57,910 --> 00:22:01,210
or from Israel, or all
those documentaries,

439
00:22:01,210 --> 00:22:02,830
I cannot believe.

440
00:22:02,830 --> 00:22:06,030
In as much as I cannot
be angry at the new,

441
00:22:06,030 --> 00:22:11,680
young German generation, because
they cannot have fault at what

442
00:22:11,680 --> 00:22:15,660
their fathers did, but
when I see what happened,

443
00:22:15,660 --> 00:22:18,620
I can't believe that
the world forgot--

444
00:22:18,620 --> 00:22:21,550
has such a short
memory and forgot what

445
00:22:21,550 --> 00:22:24,130
the Germans did to the people.

446
00:22:24,130 --> 00:22:25,600
It's unbelievable.

447
00:22:25,600 --> 00:22:29,170
Not only that 6 million
Jewish people were killed,

448
00:22:29,170 --> 00:22:32,350
25 million Russian
people were killed.

449

00:22:32,350 --> 00:22:36,250
I mean, the cataclysm
was so great

450
00:22:36,250 --> 00:22:41,750
that I just can't believe that
those things can be forgotten.

451
00:22:41,750 --> 00:22:46,060
And just as much as I cannot
feel really angry at German

452
00:22:46,060 --> 00:22:50,720
people, the young generation,
yet I have something inside

453
00:22:50,720 --> 00:22:51,220
of me.

454
00:22:51,220 --> 00:22:55,360
I said, my goodness, how the
world can forget something

455
00:22:55,360 --> 00:22:56,080
like that.

456
00:22:56,080 --> 00:22:58,557

457
00:22:58,557 --> 00:22:59,640
It's a very good question.

458
00:22:59,640 --> 00:23:05,850

459
00:23:05,850 --> 00:23:07,740
Something just start?

460
00:23:07,740 --> 00:23:08,930
Yeah.

461
00:23:08,930 --> 00:23:10,310

Do you hear it?

462
00:23:10,310 --> 00:23:11,280
Yeah, but [INAUDIBLE]

463
00:23:11,280 --> 00:23:12,200
It's pretty low.

464
00:23:12,200 --> 00:23:15,000

465
00:23:15,000 --> 00:23:17,980
Tell me the story
once again about--

466
00:23:17,980 --> 00:23:21,360
located in Japan, about
getting the visa to Canada.

467
00:23:21,360 --> 00:23:24,190

468
00:23:24,190 --> 00:23:26,500
And you don't have to
talk about having--

469
00:23:26,500 --> 00:23:30,402
just your reaction
of getting it.

470
00:23:30,402 --> 00:23:34,830

471
00:23:34,830 --> 00:23:41,020
When we finally got
our visa to Canada,

472
00:23:41,020 --> 00:23:43,770
which was very hard to
get because my husband

473
00:23:43,770 --> 00:23:49,320

only got one visa for himself,
and he tried and tried again

474
00:23:49,320 --> 00:23:51,040
to get another visa for me.

475
00:23:51,040 --> 00:23:56,710
And finally, he was so desperate
that he cabled to me to Kobe

476
00:23:56,710 --> 00:23:58,630
to come to Tokyo.

477
00:23:58,630 --> 00:24:01,120
And he said together
maybe we will be

478
00:24:01,120 --> 00:24:03,650
able to do something about it.

479
00:24:03,650 --> 00:24:12,640
So, I immediately left by
train to Tokyo and joined Nate.

480
00:24:12,640 --> 00:24:18,550
And we went to this fellow who
was distributing those visas.

481
00:24:18,550 --> 00:24:21,370
And Nathan said to him,
listen, I will just not

482
00:24:21,370 --> 00:24:22,510
go without my wife.

483
00:24:22,510 --> 00:24:26,440
You just have to find
another visa for my wife.

484
00:24:26,440 --> 00:24:27,730
And through some efforts--

485

00:24:27,730 --> 00:24:30,520
I don't know, maybe he went
to this Polish embassy,

486
00:24:30,520 --> 00:24:34,850
they did manage to find another
visa for me quite shortly.

487
00:24:34,850 --> 00:24:36,760
But we had very
little time because we

488
00:24:36,760 --> 00:24:40,570
had to leave on this boat,
which the passage was already

489
00:24:40,570 --> 00:24:43,370
arranged, within 24 hours.

490
00:24:43,370 --> 00:24:45,640
So, I had to leave
immediately back to Kobe

491
00:24:45,640 --> 00:24:49,090
to pick up the few things,
what we had, not too

492
00:24:49,090 --> 00:24:52,510
many, but still, like my pillow
and all those things which

493
00:24:52,510 --> 00:24:54,580
so important to us.

494
00:24:54,580 --> 00:24:58,120
And I joined my
husband in Tokyo.

495
00:24:58,120 --> 00:25:02,390
Then we boarded a
boat in Yokohama.

496
00:25:02,390 --> 00:25:05,130

OK, how was the jet?

497

00:25:05,130 --> 00:25:06,390

Again, I heard it.

498

00:25:06,390 --> 00:25:10,800

You can tell me, describe to me again what it was like to--

499

00:25:10,800 --> 00:25:14,190

and tell me about the snow, and the dogs, and--

500

00:25:14,190 --> 00:25:15,010

Oh, OK.

501

00:25:15,010 --> 00:25:18,120

And about crossing the border into Lithuania.

502

00:25:18,120 --> 00:25:18,620

OK.

503

00:25:18,620 --> 00:25:28,140

504

00:25:28,140 --> 00:25:32,490

When we decided to go to Lithuania,

505

00:25:32,490 --> 00:25:34,290

it wasn't like you take a train.

506

00:25:34,290 --> 00:25:36,540

We had to steal across the border.

507

00:25:36,540 --> 00:25:41,590

And we had a guide who was taking a few people with him.

508

00:25:41,590 --> 00:25:45,390

And he was living in the border city of Ejszyszki, which

509
00:25:45,390 --> 00:25:48,086
was on the Lithuanian side.

510
00:25:48,086 --> 00:25:50,000
And we started to walk.

511
00:25:50,000 --> 00:25:55,200
We came close to the border,
by train or whatever.

512
00:25:55,200 --> 00:25:58,200
And then when we were a
few miles from the border,

513
00:25:58,200 --> 00:25:59,790
we had to walk.

514
00:25:59,790 --> 00:26:02,000
And that was in the
middle of winter.

515
00:26:02,000 --> 00:26:03,340
It was January.

516
00:26:03,340 --> 00:26:07,160
It was extremely,
extremely cold winter.

517
00:26:07,160 --> 00:26:10,670
And the snow was just
about to your waist line.

518
00:26:10,670 --> 00:26:13,070
And we had to walk
across the snow.

519
00:26:13,070 --> 00:26:16,820
But the worst of it was,
it was a very bright night.

520

00:26:16,820 --> 00:26:20,760

And there was-- the full
moon was shining on the snow.

521

00:26:20,760 --> 00:26:23,660

So it was just like
lit, like daylight,

522

00:26:23,660 --> 00:26:27,410

because the snow, the
reflection off the snow.

523

00:26:27,410 --> 00:26:30,450

And we went ahead,
Nathan and I, because we

524

00:26:30,450 --> 00:26:33,080

were younger than the
other people behind us.

525

00:26:33,080 --> 00:26:36,140

And the people behind us, all
of a sudden, we hear this noise,

526

00:26:36,140 --> 00:26:42,080

were caught by the
Lithuanian border patrol.

527

00:26:42,080 --> 00:26:43,970

And we managed to escape.

528

00:26:43,970 --> 00:26:52,270

And we hid behind a little
house, petrified, shaking.

529

00:26:52,270 --> 00:26:56,440

And all of a sudden, we
hear these dogs barking,

530

00:26:56,440 --> 00:26:58,240

and barking, and barking.

531

00:26:58,240 --> 00:27:02,980

And we knew that the dogs
are going to give us away.

532

00:27:02,980 --> 00:27:06,605

Finally, we saw a
light in one house.

533

00:27:06,605 --> 00:27:09,520

It was a corner house,
right on the border.

534

00:27:09,520 --> 00:27:11,470

We knock on the door.

535

00:27:11,470 --> 00:27:14,240

And the lady was good
enough to let us in.

536

00:27:14,240 --> 00:27:19,090

She even gave us some
straw on the floor.

537

00:27:19,090 --> 00:27:22,060

And we fell asleep because
we were dead tired.

538

00:27:22,060 --> 00:27:25,420

When we woke up in the
morning, the lady was gone,

539

00:27:25,420 --> 00:27:27,070

but then somebody
knocked on the door.

540

00:27:27,070 --> 00:27:28,090

And that was some--

541

00:27:28,090 --> 00:27:31,600

that was our guide,
who said, come on,

542

00:27:31,600 --> 00:27:33,790

you have to leave this
house immediately,

543
00:27:33,790 --> 00:27:36,320
because this lady
is an informer.

544
00:27:36,320 --> 00:27:37,990
And we left this
house with this guide.

545
00:27:37,990 --> 00:27:40,360
And we went to
the guide's house.

546
00:27:40,360 --> 00:27:45,010
And then from there-- we stayed
a few hours in his house.

547
00:27:45,010 --> 00:27:52,470
And then by sleigh during the
night he took us to Vilna.

548
00:27:52,470 --> 00:27:53,970
Great, Thanks.

549
00:27:53,970 --> 00:27:57,690
How old were you when
you were a refugee?

550
00:27:57,690 --> 00:27:58,560
I was 19.

551
00:27:58,560 --> 00:28:00,570
OK, but--

552
00:28:00,570 --> 00:28:01,290
Oh--

553
00:28:01,290 --> 00:28:02,160
And--

554

00:28:02,160 --> 00:28:03,060
Forgot about it.

555
00:28:03,060 --> 00:28:11,190
Tell me does it seem like
a whole lifetime ago?

556
00:28:11,190 --> 00:28:13,080
Well, it seems to me--

557
00:28:13,080 --> 00:28:15,430
Sorry, but tell me
how old you were and--

558
00:28:15,430 --> 00:28:16,650
OK.

559
00:28:16,650 --> 00:28:20,190
Well, the war started
on my birthday, OK.

560
00:28:20,190 --> 00:28:25,830
And I was 19 on
September the 1st, 1939.

561
00:28:25,830 --> 00:28:30,480
To me, I felt quite
mature, though my parents

562
00:28:30,480 --> 00:28:31,690
didn't think so.

563
00:28:31,690 --> 00:28:34,020
But now that I have
a granddaughter who

564
00:28:34,020 --> 00:28:37,080
is 19 years old, I
just can't imagine

565
00:28:37,080 --> 00:28:39,610
her to go through
all what I did,

566
00:28:39,610 --> 00:28:42,720
because to me she's
still a child.

567
00:28:42,720 --> 00:28:46,110
She's quite a smart
and mature girl,

568
00:28:46,110 --> 00:28:50,490
but to think that I was
19 and I just left home.

569
00:28:50,490 --> 00:28:54,210
And I was not afraid,
absolutely not afraid.

570
00:28:54,210 --> 00:28:56,460
The worst moment
in my life-- one

571
00:28:56,460 --> 00:28:57,960
of the worst,
because I had many--

572
00:28:57,960 --> 00:29:04,290
was when I left my house,
escaping to the Russian side.

573
00:29:04,290 --> 00:29:07,650
And I was in this freight train.

574
00:29:07,650 --> 00:29:10,410
And I said to myself,
what am I doing here?

575
00:29:10,410 --> 00:29:12,090
I was extremely scared.

576
00:29:12,090 --> 00:29:13,960
That was a very scary moment.

577

00:29:13,960 --> 00:29:16,590
And I felt like I want to
go back to mommy and daddy.

578
00:29:16,590 --> 00:29:18,750
That's how I felt then.

579
00:29:18,750 --> 00:29:19,590
It was like--

580
00:29:19,590 --> 00:29:21,120
I still remember this feeling.

581
00:29:21,120 --> 00:29:24,130
It was such a deep
feeling that to this day

582
00:29:24,130 --> 00:29:28,710
I remember this feeling of
feeling completely alone.

583
00:29:28,710 --> 00:29:29,565
Where are you going?

584
00:29:29,565 --> 00:29:32,370

585
00:29:32,370 --> 00:29:33,710
Great.

586
00:29:33,710 --> 00:31:07,000