

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:26,580

2
00:00:26,580 --> 00:00:27,350
No?

3
00:00:27,350 --> 00:00:29,190
OK.

4
00:00:29,190 --> 00:00:32,590
And rolling.

5
00:00:32,590 --> 00:00:34,212
So do you guys
have any questions?

6
00:00:34,212 --> 00:00:35,920
But you're going to
have to answer to me.

7
00:00:35,920 --> 00:00:37,870
Even if Norm asks
you a question,

8
00:00:37,870 --> 00:00:38,828
you have to look at me.

9
00:00:38,828 --> 00:00:42,730
OK, one question
that comes to mind--

10
00:00:42,730 --> 00:00:46,570
when you were in
Warsaw, you were leaving

11
00:00:46,570 --> 00:00:48,820
to go to the Russian side.

12
00:00:48,820 --> 00:00:51,520
What were the last words
that you said to your family?

13
00:00:51,520 --> 00:00:54,430

14
00:00:54,430 --> 00:00:57,130
When I left Warsaw
trying to escape

15
00:00:57,130 --> 00:00:59,560
to the Russian side,
of course I was

16
00:00:59,560 --> 00:01:02,360
very excited about seeing my
boyfriend, I have to tell you.

17
00:01:02,360 --> 00:01:03,902
I mean, the family
is very important.

18
00:01:03,902 --> 00:01:05,319
But when you are
a young girl, you

19
00:01:05,319 --> 00:01:08,260
are in love, your family,
your mother and father

20
00:01:08,260 --> 00:01:11,590
become secondary, because
really this man you love

21
00:01:11,590 --> 00:01:14,930
is uppermost in your heart.

22
00:01:14,930 --> 00:01:17,440
And I was very excited
to go to be with him.

23
00:01:17,440 --> 00:01:19,510
I really wanted to be with him.

24

00:01:19,510 --> 00:01:21,700

So I was very sad
leaving my family.

25

00:01:21,700 --> 00:01:25,900

First of all, I never expected
not to see them again.

26

00:01:25,900 --> 00:01:28,570

I left, but I was going
to see them again.

27

00:01:28,570 --> 00:01:32,560

My father used to tell me
stories about World War I.

28

00:01:32,560 --> 00:01:34,200

And then the families were--

29

00:01:34,200 --> 00:01:37,090

they came through
very bad times.

30

00:01:37,090 --> 00:01:42,680

But to me, it was sure the
war won't last for very long.

31

00:01:42,680 --> 00:01:51,280

So the most unhappy I
was when I found myself

32

00:01:51,280 --> 00:01:54,260

on the freight train
away from my family

33

00:01:54,260 --> 00:01:57,610

on my way to see my boyfriend.

34

00:01:57,610 --> 00:01:58,790

I was very sad.

35

00:01:58,790 --> 00:02:01,210

I really felt-- that was

the moment that I felt,

36
00:02:01,210 --> 00:02:02,530
I want to go back.

37
00:02:02,530 --> 00:02:05,620
And I kind of felt in
my heart that maybe I

38
00:02:05,620 --> 00:02:06,570
won't see them again.

39
00:02:06,570 --> 00:02:08,650
That was the saddest
moment in my life.

40
00:02:08,650 --> 00:02:11,410

41
00:02:11,410 --> 00:02:13,160
Because it became true.

42
00:02:13,160 --> 00:02:14,140
Mm-hmm.

43
00:02:14,140 --> 00:02:15,265
Did I answer your question?

44
00:02:15,265 --> 00:02:15,550
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

45
00:02:15,550 --> 00:02:16,050
Yes.

46
00:02:16,050 --> 00:02:18,880
That was an excellent question.

47
00:02:18,880 --> 00:02:20,680
So you don't remember
giving your mother

48

00:02:20,680 --> 00:02:22,185
a final hug or a kiss?

49
00:02:22,185 --> 00:02:26,170
Oh, no question about that.

50
00:02:26,170 --> 00:02:27,160
Should I say that?

51
00:02:27,160 --> 00:02:29,230
Yeah.

52
00:02:29,230 --> 00:02:35,700
Well, I was very excited to
be escaping from Warsaw--

53
00:02:35,700 --> 00:02:37,390
not so much of
escaping from Warsaw,

54
00:02:37,390 --> 00:02:40,540
but to join my
boyfriend in Lvov.

55
00:02:40,540 --> 00:02:44,110
I never even think about
the dangers of escape.

56
00:02:44,110 --> 00:02:46,450
I don't think my family
either, because if they

57
00:02:46,450 --> 00:02:49,750
would know the dangers which
is more than a simple border--

58
00:02:49,750 --> 00:02:53,170
we had to steal
across the border.

59
00:02:53,170 --> 00:02:56,500
And they didn't even think
that it's just serious,

60
00:02:56,500 --> 00:02:59,620
because my father gave
me instructions that I

61
00:02:59,620 --> 00:03:01,730
have to be back in two weeks.

62
00:03:01,730 --> 00:03:03,760
So if I have to be in
two weeks, of course

63
00:03:03,760 --> 00:03:05,230
I didn't take anything with me.

64
00:03:05,230 --> 00:03:06,430
As I say, I left my watch.

65
00:03:06,430 --> 00:03:07,390
I left my ring.

66
00:03:07,390 --> 00:03:10,770
I took nothing with me.

67
00:03:10,770 --> 00:03:13,330
Do you remember
hugging and kiss--

68
00:03:13,330 --> 00:03:18,370
So of course, the
goodbye was very sad.

69
00:03:18,370 --> 00:03:19,540
It was extremely sad.

70
00:03:19,540 --> 00:03:22,780
It was extremely sad for
my parents, the goodbye,

71
00:03:22,780 --> 00:03:23,740
extremely.

72

00:03:23,740 --> 00:03:25,480

And I didn't feel the pain.

73

00:03:25,480 --> 00:03:27,010

We hugged and we kissed.

74

00:03:27,010 --> 00:03:29,830

And my sisters were still there.

75

00:03:29,830 --> 00:03:32,140

But I didn't feel
the pain so badly

76

00:03:32,140 --> 00:03:36,880

until I was in a freight
train with no way--

77

00:03:36,880 --> 00:03:38,050

I couldn't go back.

78

00:03:38,050 --> 00:03:39,940

And I just--

79

00:03:39,940 --> 00:03:41,230

I was there.

80

00:03:41,230 --> 00:03:43,390

It was the saddest
moment in my life.

81

00:03:43,390 --> 00:03:47,890

82

00:03:47,890 --> 00:03:50,520

Doug?

83

00:03:50,520 --> 00:03:53,640

Actually saw Canada for the
first time from the boat?

84

00:03:53,640 --> 00:03:56,760

85
00:03:56,760 --> 00:03:57,960
We came to Canada.

86
00:03:57,960 --> 00:03:59,380
It was July.

87
00:03:59,380 --> 00:04:03,510
We left Japan on
the 26th of June.

88
00:04:03,510 --> 00:04:05,250
And we came to Canada.

89
00:04:05,250 --> 00:04:10,410
I think it was about 10th or 8th
of July, something like that.

90
00:04:10,410 --> 00:04:12,150
The weather was beautiful.

91
00:04:12,150 --> 00:04:13,350
It was gorgeous.

92
00:04:13,350 --> 00:04:16,740
And there were a few people
from the Jewish community here

93
00:04:16,740 --> 00:04:20,640
who were awaiting at the
boat for those people who

94
00:04:20,640 --> 00:04:24,800
came, because we came with about
other 10 people or 12 people.

95
00:04:24,800 --> 00:04:27,810
We were not ourselves
only on this boat.

96
00:04:27,810 --> 00:04:30,930

And they took us to the
Jewish community center there.

97
00:04:30,930 --> 00:04:33,660
And then they allocated--

98
00:04:33,660 --> 00:04:38,160
some people agreed
to take us in.

99
00:04:38,160 --> 00:04:41,250
So we stayed with them
for about three days.

100
00:04:41,250 --> 00:04:44,400
And then we found a
house-keeping room,

101
00:04:44,400 --> 00:04:47,160
Nathan and I, for \$3.50 a week.

102
00:04:47,160 --> 00:04:48,193
And we moved in there.

103
00:04:48,193 --> 00:04:49,860
And then we were just
looking for a job.

104
00:04:49,860 --> 00:04:50,790
That's all we wanted.

105
00:04:50,790 --> 00:04:53,380
We just wanted to be working.

106
00:04:53,380 --> 00:04:56,670
We didn't care what and how.

107
00:04:56,670 --> 00:05:00,060
But we were excited
to be in Canada.

108
00:05:00,060 --> 00:05:01,650

But we never even
thought that we're

109
00:05:01,650 --> 00:05:03,640
going to stay in Vancouver,
because Vancouver

110
00:05:03,640 --> 00:05:04,770
was a very small place.

111
00:05:04,770 --> 00:05:06,240
We were used to a big city.

112
00:05:06,240 --> 00:05:09,780
And besides, Nate has all
the connections in New York.

113
00:05:09,780 --> 00:05:14,460
So we thought that eventually
we were going to go to New York.

114
00:05:14,460 --> 00:05:16,650
But it never came to be.

115
00:05:16,650 --> 00:05:20,110

116
00:05:20,110 --> 00:05:21,943
Does that answer
your question, Doug?

117
00:05:21,943 --> 00:05:22,630
Mm-hmm.

118
00:05:22,630 --> 00:05:24,124
Any other questions?

119
00:05:24,124 --> 00:05:27,030

120
00:05:27,030 --> 00:05:29,777
Norm, any?

121
00:05:29,777 --> 00:05:31,860
I just wondered if there
was something else that--

122
00:05:31,860 --> 00:05:35,086
I think we're-- just
hang on a second.

123
00:05:35,086 --> 00:05:38,150

124
00:05:38,150 --> 00:05:40,920
How important was
Sugihara to you?

125
00:05:40,920 --> 00:05:46,260
I think that Chiune
Sugihara was a very--

126
00:05:46,260 --> 00:05:47,260
most important.

127
00:05:47,260 --> 00:05:47,760
Sorry.

128
00:05:47,760 --> 00:05:48,150
OK.

129
00:05:48,150 --> 00:05:49,192
You keep looking at Doug.

130
00:05:49,192 --> 00:05:50,460
You have to look at me.

131
00:05:50,460 --> 00:05:52,470
But let me start all over.

132
00:05:52,470 --> 00:05:58,110
I think that Chiune
Sugihara was our savior.

133

00:05:58,110 --> 00:06:02,040

We never thought in
different terms about him.

134

00:06:02,040 --> 00:06:06,000

But the problem was that
we never knew his name.

135

00:06:06,000 --> 00:06:10,770

We didn't know his
name until 1985.

136

00:06:10,770 --> 00:06:13,470

We didn't know who
our savior was.

137

00:06:13,470 --> 00:06:16,200

We knew that it was
a Japanese consul who

138

00:06:16,200 --> 00:06:17,960

gave us the transit visas.

139

00:06:17,960 --> 00:06:18,720

But that's it.

140

00:06:18,720 --> 00:06:21,270

We never heard about him.

141

00:06:21,270 --> 00:06:23,950

But he was our savior.

142

00:06:23,950 --> 00:06:27,690

My children feel very
closely connected to it,

143

00:06:27,690 --> 00:06:29,475

because if it
wouldn't be for him,

144

00:06:29,475 --> 00:06:32,130

we would have never survived.

145
00:06:32,130 --> 00:06:34,500
We would ended up like
all the other people who

146
00:06:34,500 --> 00:06:38,190
didn't have the opportunity
to leave Lithuania,

147
00:06:38,190 --> 00:06:42,750
because shortly after, Lithuania
occupied by the Germans.

148
00:06:42,750 --> 00:06:45,630
And all the people in
Lithuania were executed,

149
00:06:45,630 --> 00:06:46,680
all the Jewish people.

150
00:06:46,680 --> 00:06:50,260

151
00:06:50,260 --> 00:06:52,860
So I think that,
without Sugihara, I

152
00:06:52,860 --> 00:06:54,030
can only say one thing.

153
00:06:54,030 --> 00:06:55,470
We would have never survived.

154
00:06:55,470 --> 00:06:58,640

155
00:06:58,640 --> 00:06:59,940
I have another question.

156
00:06:59,940 --> 00:07:03,672
Were you able to observe
holidays in Vilnius

157
00:07:03,672 --> 00:07:07,380
and in Japan?

158
00:07:07,380 --> 00:07:11,960

159
00:07:11,960 --> 00:07:19,340
When we're in Vilnius, there
were really no major holidays

160
00:07:19,340 --> 00:07:22,040
what we would observe.

161
00:07:22,040 --> 00:07:26,290
But when we found ourself in
Japan, there was holidays.

162
00:07:26,290 --> 00:07:27,630
Oh, let me start all over.

163
00:07:27,630 --> 00:07:28,520
But I don't remember.

164
00:07:28,520 --> 00:07:28,910
I don't--

165
00:07:28,910 --> 00:07:29,180
OK.

166
00:07:29,180 --> 00:07:31,013
Well, tell me the Japan
story, about coming.

167
00:07:31,013 --> 00:07:31,730
OK.

168
00:07:31,730 --> 00:07:35,810
I remember that, in
Japan, living together

169

00:07:35,810 --> 00:07:38,120
in this house with all
those other people,

170
00:07:38,120 --> 00:07:41,940
we were observing Passover.

171
00:07:41,940 --> 00:07:43,550
And we had our Seder.

172
00:07:43,550 --> 00:07:46,160
That's the ritual meal.

173
00:07:46,160 --> 00:07:50,390
In our house, we
even had matzah.

174
00:07:50,390 --> 00:07:55,340
We had everything which--
we made our own meal.

175
00:07:55,340 --> 00:07:55,955
We had fish.

176
00:07:55,955 --> 00:07:58,970

177
00:07:58,970 --> 00:08:00,500
We had wine.

178
00:08:00,500 --> 00:08:05,120
And the matzah, I think,
came from the United States.

179
00:08:05,120 --> 00:08:07,430
And the Japanese people,
I want to tell you,

180
00:08:07,430 --> 00:08:10,640
were very, very accommodating.

181
00:08:10,640 --> 00:08:17,270

But the Japanese people, even
though Sugihara gave our visas,

182
00:08:17,270 --> 00:08:22,580
issued our visas against the
orders of his government,

183
00:08:22,580 --> 00:08:27,560
yet our reception in
Japan was number one.

184
00:08:27,560 --> 00:08:30,110
To this extent,
the Japanese people

185
00:08:30,110 --> 00:08:33,950
made sure that they
have bread for all

186
00:08:33,950 --> 00:08:37,880
those European refugees, because
they knew that we were not

187
00:08:37,880 --> 00:08:39,630
used to the rice diet.

188
00:08:39,630 --> 00:08:42,470
So we had to go to the Jewish
community center there,

189
00:08:42,470 --> 00:08:44,870
and coming to pick
up our bread, which

190
00:08:44,870 --> 00:08:46,970
was baked especially for us.

191
00:08:46,970 --> 00:08:49,386
They're very accommodating.

192
00:08:49,386 --> 00:08:49,886
OK.

193

00:08:49,886 --> 00:08:55,090

194

00:08:55,090 --> 00:08:56,890

How did you feel
about the Japanese

195

00:08:56,890 --> 00:09:01,540

after the bombing
of Pearl Harbor?

196

00:09:01,540 --> 00:09:05,800

Well, I must say that,
when I came to this country

197

00:09:05,800 --> 00:09:11,410

and shortly after, there
was bombing of Pearl Harbor.

198

00:09:11,410 --> 00:09:14,440

And because of that,
the Japanese people

199

00:09:14,440 --> 00:09:18,190

who were living in Vancouver
were evacuated to camps.

200

00:09:18,190 --> 00:09:19,970

To me, that was
a terrible thing.

201

00:09:19,970 --> 00:09:21,730

I was all with the
Japanese people.

202

00:09:21,730 --> 00:09:27,400

I couldn't believe it,
because I had such high image

203

00:09:27,400 --> 00:09:28,480

of the Japanese people.

204

00:09:28,480 --> 00:09:30,580
To me, they were heroes,
each one of them.

205
00:09:30,580 --> 00:09:32,450
When I saw on the
street, I would hug them.

206
00:09:32,450 --> 00:09:34,510
That's how I felt about
the Japanese people.

207
00:09:34,510 --> 00:09:37,840
And really, it was
very painful for me

208
00:09:37,840 --> 00:09:40,450
to see those
Japanese people being

209
00:09:40,450 --> 00:09:41,930
evacuated from this coast.

210
00:09:41,930 --> 00:09:43,180
And I really mean it.

211
00:09:43,180 --> 00:09:48,280
It was very painful for me
to see them being evacuated.

212
00:09:48,280 --> 00:09:50,470
I didn't know the
language very well.

213
00:09:50,470 --> 00:09:53,240
There is not very
much we could do.

214
00:09:53,240 --> 00:09:54,550
But I still remember it.

215
00:09:54,550 --> 00:09:56,470
I thought it was

such an injustice.

216

00:09:56,470 --> 00:09:59,600

And I still feel very
strongly about it.

217

00:09:59,600 --> 00:10:00,940

When did you learn English?

218

00:10:00,940 --> 00:10:03,040

Or did Nathan speak English?

219

00:10:03,040 --> 00:10:04,960

Well, Nathan spoke
more English than I

220

00:10:04,960 --> 00:10:08,890

did, because he was for one
year in the United States.

221

00:10:08,890 --> 00:10:11,410

And I started to take
a little bit of English

222

00:10:11,410 --> 00:10:15,700

in Warsaw, but
very, very little.

223

00:10:15,700 --> 00:10:17,410

And then I went to school here.

224

00:10:17,410 --> 00:10:21,370

225

00:10:21,370 --> 00:10:24,230

Anything?

226

00:10:24,230 --> 00:10:25,640

You just sit quietly.

227

00:10:25,640 --> 00:10:27,350

So try not to move around.

228
00:10:27,350 --> 00:10:29,740
We're just going to record
the sound of the room, OK?

229
00:10:29,740 --> 00:10:32,470

230
00:10:32,470 --> 00:10:33,280
All right.

231
00:10:33,280 --> 00:10:38,090
I won't do this on the
transcription tape.

232
00:10:38,090 --> 00:10:38,590
Rolling?

233
00:10:38,590 --> 00:10:38,945
30 seconds.

234
00:10:38,945 --> 00:10:39,230
Yeah.

235
00:10:39,230 --> 00:10:39,730
OK.

236
00:10:39,730 --> 00:11:34,100

237
00:11:34,100 --> 00:11:34,610
Good.

238
00:11:34,610 --> 00:11:35,060
Good enough.

239
00:11:35,060 --> 00:11:35,893
Thank you very much.

240
00:11:35,893 --> 00:11:36,460
Thank you.

241

00:11:36,460 --> 00:11:38,310

You're welcome.

242

00:11:38,310 --> 00:13:37,216