

No? OK. And rolling. So do you guys have any questions? But you're going to have to answer to me. Even if Norm asks you a question, you have to look at me.

OK, one question that comes to mind-- when you were in Warsaw, you were leaving to go to the Russian side. What were the last words that you said to your family?

When I left Warsaw trying to escape to the Russian side, of course I was very excited about seeing my boyfriend, I have to tell you. I mean, the family is very important. But when you are a young girl, you are in love, your family, your mother and father become secondary, because really this man you love is uppermost in your heart. And I was very excited to go to be with him. I really wanted to be with him.

So I was very sad leaving my family. First of all, I never expected not to see them again. I left, but I was going to see them again. My father used to tell me stories about World War I. And then the families were-- they came through very bad times. But to me, it was sure the war won't last for very long.

So the most unhappy I was when I found myself on the freight train away from my family on my way to see my boyfriend. I was very sad. I really felt-- that was the moment that I felt, I want to go back. And I kind of felt in my heart that maybe I won't see them again. That was the saddest moment in my life.

Because it became true.

Mm-hmm. Did I answer your question?

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

Yes. That was an excellent question. So you don't remember giving your mother a final hug or a kiss?

Oh, no question about that. Should I say that?

Yeah.

Well, I was very excited to be escaping from Warsaw-- not so much of escaping from Warsaw, but to join my boyfriend in Lvov. I never even think about the dangers of escape. I don't think my family either, because if they would know the dangers which is more than a simple border-- we had to steal across the border.

And they didn't even think that it's just serious, because my father gave me instructions that I have to be back in two weeks. So if I have to be in two weeks, of course I didn't take anything with me. As I say, I left my watch. I left my ring. I took nothing with me.

Do you remember hugging and kiss--

So of course, the goodbye was very sad. It was extremely sad. It was extremely sad for my parents, the goodbye, extremely. And I didn't feel the pain. We hugged and we kissed.

And my sisters were still there. But I didn't feel the pain so badly until I was in a freight train with no way-- I couldn't go back. And I just-- I was there. It was the saddest moment in my life.

Doug?

Actually saw Canada for the first time from the boat?

We came to Canada. It was July. We left Japan on the 26th of June. And we came to Canada. I think it was about 10th or 8th of July, something like that.

The weather was beautiful. It was gorgeous. And there were a few people from the Jewish community here who were awaiting at the boat for those people who came, because we came with about other 10 people or 12 people. We were not ourselves only on this boat.

And they took us to the Jewish community center there. And then they allocated-- some people agreed to take us in. So we stayed with them for about three days. And then we found a house-keeping room, Nathan and I, for \$3.50 a week. And we moved in there.

And then we were just looking for a job. That's all we wanted. We just wanted to be working. We didn't care what and how. But we were excited to be in Canada.

But we never even thought that we're going to stay in Vancouver, because Vancouver was a very small place. We were used to a big city. And besides, Nate has all the connections in New York. So we thought that eventually we were going to go to New York. But it never came to be.

Does that answer your question, Doug?

Mm-hmm.

Any other questions? Norm, any?

I just wondered if there was something else that--

I think we're-- just hang on a second. How important was Sugihara to you?

I think that Chiune Sugihara was a very-- most important.

Sorry.

OK.

You keep looking at Doug. You have to look at me.

But let me start all over. I think that Chiune Sugihara was our savior. We never thought in different terms about him. But the problem was that we never knew his name.

We didn't know his name until 1985. We didn't know who our savior was. We knew that it was a Japanese consul who gave us the transit visas. But that's it. We never heard about him. But he was our savior.

My children feel very closely connected to it, because if it wouldn't be for him, we would have never survived. We would ended up like all the other people who didn't have the opportunity to leave Lithuania, because shortly after, Lithuania occupied by the Germans. And all the people in Lithuania were executed, all the Jewish people. So I think that, without Sugihara, I can only say one thing. We would have never survived.

I have another question. Were you able to observe holidays in Vilnius and in Japan?

When we're in Vilnius, there were really no major holidays what we would observe. But when we found ourself in Japan, there was holidays. Oh, let me start all over. But I don't remember. I don't--

OK. Well, tell me the Japan story, about coming.

OK. I remember that, in Japan, living together in this house with all those other people, we were observing Passover. And we had our Seder. That's the ritual meal. In our house, we even had matzah.

We had everything which-- we made our own meal. We had fish. We had wine. And the matzah, I think, came from the United States.

And the Japanese people, I want to tell you, were very, very accommodating. But the Japanese people, even though Sugihara gave our visas, issued our visas against the orders of his government, yet our reception in Japan was number one. To this extent, the Japanese people made sure that they have bread for all those European refugees, because they knew that we were not used to the rice diet. So we had to go to the Jewish community center there, and coming to pick up our bread, which was baked especially for us. They're very accommodating.

OK. How did you feel about the Japanese after the bombing of Pearl Harbor?

Well, I must say that, when I came to this country and shortly after, there was bombing of Pearl Harbor. And because of that, the Japanese people who were living in Vancouver were evacuated to camps. To me, that was a terrible thing. I was all with the Japanese people.

I couldn't believe it, because I had such high image of the Japanese people. To me, they were heroes, each one of them. When I saw on the street, I would hug them. That's how I felt about the Japanese people.

And really, it was very painful for me to see those Japanese people being evacuated from this coast. And I really mean it. It was very painful for me to see them being evacuated.

I didn't know the language very well. There is not very much we could do. But I still remember it. I thought it was such an injustice. And I still feel very strongly about it.

When did you learn English? Or did Nathan speak English?

Well, Nathan spoke more English than I did, because he was for one year in the United States. And I started to take a little bit of English in Warsaw, but very, very little. And then I went to school here.

Anything?

You just sit quietly. So try not to move around. We're just going to record the sound of the room, OK? All right. I won't do this on the transcription tape.

Rolling?

30 seconds. Yeah.

OK.

Good.

Good enough.

Thank you very much.

Thank you.

You're welcome.