

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

2
00:00:03,486 --> 00:00:41,370

3
00:00:41,370 --> 00:00:42,552
Rolling.

4
00:00:42,552 --> 00:00:45,730
Could you tell me
that story again?

5
00:00:45,730 --> 00:00:50,630
When the Lithuanians sent us out
to a small city into Lithuania,

6
00:00:50,630 --> 00:00:55,810
dispersed most of the refugees,
as many as they could--

7
00:00:55,810 --> 00:00:59,680
because they were afraid
for the Polish people

8
00:00:59,680 --> 00:01:01,790
might plot against them.

9
00:01:01,790 --> 00:01:03,160
So they sent us out.

10
00:01:03,160 --> 00:01:08,950
Besides, they didn't want
too many people unemployed

11
00:01:08,950 --> 00:01:10,810
in one place also.

12
00:01:10,810 --> 00:01:15,700
So I had to go through a certain
city before I came to the place

13
00:01:15,700 --> 00:01:16,840
that they sent me.

14
00:01:16,840 --> 00:01:20,230
And over there, the
Jewish population,

15
00:01:20,230 --> 00:01:24,130
the Jewish committee
organized that right away they

16
00:01:24,130 --> 00:01:27,430
took us in and sent us
to a family for dinner.

17
00:01:27,430 --> 00:01:30,760
It was Purim holiday, I believe.

18
00:01:30,760 --> 00:01:34,210
And they took us
in like children,

19
00:01:34,210 --> 00:01:35,830
like their own children.

20
00:01:35,830 --> 00:01:38,690
And there was maybe 20
people at the table.

21
00:01:38,690 --> 00:01:41,440
And I was sitting and
thinking, the first time

22
00:01:41,440 --> 00:01:43,420
I'm getting charity.

23
00:01:43,420 --> 00:01:46,390
Somebody is inviting
me for a meal

24
00:01:46,390 --> 00:01:49,900

which is not from my family
or from my home town.

25
00:01:49,900 --> 00:01:53,620
And in middle, I had to go
out, and I cried like a baby.

26
00:01:53,620 --> 00:01:57,370
I never cried as hard
as I cried at that.

27
00:01:57,370 --> 00:02:00,360
Then after a while, I
came in and sat down

28
00:02:00,360 --> 00:02:01,360
and I finished the meal.

29
00:02:01,360 --> 00:02:04,760

30
00:02:04,760 --> 00:02:05,900
Try and keep looking at me.

31
00:02:05,900 --> 00:02:08,940
You keep looking at the camera
or at Eddie, I don't know.

32
00:02:08,940 --> 00:02:09,509
I do?

33
00:02:09,509 --> 00:02:10,025
Yeah.

34
00:02:10,025 --> 00:02:11,150
You keep looking over here.

35
00:02:11,150 --> 00:02:12,600
And just keep looking at me.

36
00:02:12,600 --> 00:02:17,330

37
00:02:17,330 --> 00:02:19,130
Could you tell me
what range of emotions

38
00:02:19,130 --> 00:02:21,530
you had on this trip,
on this journey?

39
00:02:21,530 --> 00:02:23,480
On journey home--

40
00:02:23,480 --> 00:02:29,330
I mean from leaving my hometown?

41
00:02:29,330 --> 00:02:32,210
Leaving your hometown or
while you were in Vilna.

42
00:02:32,210 --> 00:02:34,850
Were you afraid,
were you courageous?

43
00:02:34,850 --> 00:02:36,710
No, we weren't afraid.

44
00:02:36,710 --> 00:02:38,480
The only thing we were afraid--

45
00:02:38,480 --> 00:02:44,390
after about eight
months, the Russians

46
00:02:44,390 --> 00:02:48,770
came and occupied Lithuania,
Latvia, and Estonia.

47
00:02:48,770 --> 00:02:52,157
First they gave a part to the--

48
00:02:52,157 --> 00:02:53,240
I don't want to know the--

49

00:02:53,240 --> 00:02:55,790

I just want to know,
what did you feel?

50

00:02:55,790 --> 00:02:58,490

We felt again that
we are trapped again.

51

00:02:58,490 --> 00:03:03,500

We are again in a trap, and
how to get out from there?

52

00:03:03,500 --> 00:03:07,520

Of course, there was very
few ways you can get out.

53

00:03:07,520 --> 00:03:12,170

And the only way
we knew is either

54

00:03:12,170 --> 00:03:15,620

to go to Odessa to
Israel or to Japan,

55

00:03:15,620 --> 00:03:18,380

through Japan to get out.

56

00:03:18,380 --> 00:03:21,980

There was one place
open, which was Shanghai.

57

00:03:21,980 --> 00:03:24,560

But we didn't know
much about Shanghai.

58

00:03:24,560 --> 00:03:26,210

The only thing I
knew about Shanghai

59

00:03:26,210 --> 00:03:29,240

that when we were teenagers
and made a lot of noise

60
00:03:29,240 --> 00:03:33,140
in the evening, so our
policemen used to shout at us,

61
00:03:33,140 --> 00:03:35,240
where do you think
you are, Shanghai?

62
00:03:35,240 --> 00:03:36,590
Making so much noise.

63
00:03:36,590 --> 00:03:39,050
That what we knew
about Shanghai.

64
00:03:39,050 --> 00:03:42,350
So after looking
for ways to get out,

65
00:03:42,350 --> 00:03:44,660
so the only way
that was left for me

66
00:03:44,660 --> 00:03:47,630
was to buy falsified
papers and get out

67
00:03:47,630 --> 00:03:51,335
of Lithuania through Japan.

68
00:03:51,335 --> 00:03:54,440
And once we got out
of the Russian sphere,

69
00:03:54,440 --> 00:03:56,270
we didn't mind where to go.

70
00:03:56,270 --> 00:03:58,440
We didn't care too much.

71
00:03:58,440 --> 00:04:03,170

Our goal was just to get out
of Russia, that was our goal.

72
00:04:03,170 --> 00:04:06,980
And with these
falsified papers, I

73
00:04:06,980 --> 00:04:11,660
got the Russian permit,
which was a very big thing

74
00:04:11,660 --> 00:04:13,790
to get out of Russia.

75
00:04:13,790 --> 00:04:20,750
And by buying tickets
to Tsuruga, Japan

76
00:04:20,750 --> 00:04:26,000
we were very lucky, really.

77
00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:30,050
And the Russians
were very nice to us.

78
00:04:30,050 --> 00:04:33,110
Because we were
considered tourists.

79
00:04:33,110 --> 00:04:36,350
And tourists, they gave
you the red carpet.

80
00:04:36,350 --> 00:04:39,530
Everywhere you came
in Russia, any hotel,

81
00:04:39,530 --> 00:04:41,670
they gave us the best
rooms, the best restaurants,

82
00:04:41,670 --> 00:04:43,910
the best food, everything.

83
00:04:43,910 --> 00:04:46,360
Very polite.

84
00:04:46,360 --> 00:04:50,190
So when I came to
Moscow, in Moscow,

85
00:04:50,190 --> 00:04:53,450
we started to run around
from consulate to consulate.

86
00:04:53,450 --> 00:04:57,990
I even went to the Syrian
consulate and asked for a visa

87
00:04:57,990 --> 00:05:00,440
through Syria to Israel.

88
00:05:00,440 --> 00:05:03,860
But of course,
everybody said no.

89
00:05:03,860 --> 00:05:05,510
So what was I--

90
00:05:05,510 --> 00:05:06,420
we're left.

91
00:05:06,420 --> 00:05:08,630
We are three days in Moscow.

92
00:05:08,630 --> 00:05:13,850
On the fourth day, we had to
leave by train to Vladivostok.

93
00:05:13,850 --> 00:05:19,010
And the ride to Vladivostok
took between seven and eight

94
00:05:19,010 --> 00:05:22,280
days and nights.

95

00:05:22,280 --> 00:05:25,550

Of course, we had very comfortable quarters.

96

00:05:25,550 --> 00:05:32,690

We had wagon D, Pullman wagons, and a [INAUDIBLE] cabin.

97

00:05:32,690 --> 00:05:35,480

98

00:05:35,480 --> 00:05:38,150

But to get on the train, you had to show that you

99

00:05:38,150 --> 00:05:41,030

have Japanese transit visa.

100

00:05:41,030 --> 00:05:42,620

And I didn't have it.

101

00:05:42,620 --> 00:05:47,080

When I came to the Japanese consulate,

102

00:05:47,080 --> 00:05:50,110

and I showed him a cable that I got from the consulate

103

00:05:50,110 --> 00:05:52,150

from Vladivostok.

104

00:05:52,150 --> 00:05:54,970

105

00:05:54,970 --> 00:05:58,330

In answer to my cable to him, I had told him

106

00:05:58,330 --> 00:06:00,520

that I had a Panama

visa and I'd like

107
00:06:00,520 --> 00:06:03,280
a transit, a Japanese transit.

108
00:06:03,280 --> 00:06:06,430
So he answered me that the
Japanese transit, you'll

109
00:06:06,430 --> 00:06:08,710
get in Moscow.

110
00:06:08,710 --> 00:06:12,820
So I took it for I'm
going to get it in Moscow.

111
00:06:12,820 --> 00:06:16,780
When I came to Moscow and
asked for a transit visa,

112
00:06:16,780 --> 00:06:23,020
he says, you are reading
it not the right way.

113
00:06:23,020 --> 00:06:25,510
Well, it doesn't say that
you will get in Moscow.

114
00:06:25,510 --> 00:06:30,340
You get it in Moscow, he says,
but if Moscow doesn't give,

115
00:06:30,340 --> 00:06:33,890
we don't give any more
visas, transit visas.

116
00:06:33,890 --> 00:06:36,920
So sorry, we can't
do anything for you.

117
00:06:36,920 --> 00:06:41,710
So the only way was
to get to Vladivostok.

118
00:06:41,710 --> 00:06:43,930
Because they told
us, some people

119
00:06:43,930 --> 00:06:46,450
told us, that in
Vladivostok, the consulate

120
00:06:46,450 --> 00:06:49,360
is also very liberal.

121
00:06:49,360 --> 00:06:52,630
And he was giving out visas.

122
00:06:52,630 --> 00:06:55,570
But to get on the train,
you couldn't get on

123
00:06:55,570 --> 00:06:58,930
unless you had a
Japanese transit.

124
00:06:58,930 --> 00:07:00,850
And the passport was in--

125
00:07:00,850 --> 00:07:07,480
the papers that was my passport
was in the hand of the NKVD.

126
00:07:07,480 --> 00:07:10,690
When we came in the
hotel, the receptionist

127
00:07:10,690 --> 00:07:13,290
who took right away
before they gave us

128
00:07:13,290 --> 00:07:19,640
the rooms our passports, and
the receptionist was NKVD also.

129

00:07:19,640 --> 00:07:24,270
So when you leave, you had
to get your papers out.

130
00:07:24,270 --> 00:07:28,380
When it came the
day that we leave,

131
00:07:28,380 --> 00:07:32,040
so I had friends on there.

132
00:07:32,040 --> 00:07:35,280
And I told him, take my valise.

133
00:07:35,280 --> 00:07:36,420
Take it to the train.

134
00:07:36,420 --> 00:07:40,020
And I'll somehow, I'll come
and I'll get on the train.

135
00:07:40,020 --> 00:07:42,460
How and what, I don't know.

136
00:07:42,460 --> 00:07:44,040
But I will.

137
00:07:44,040 --> 00:07:47,670
And when they all left, I went
out with them to say goodbye,

138
00:07:47,670 --> 00:07:49,590
they went all in taxis.

139
00:07:49,590 --> 00:07:53,790
And I called over a taxi, I
say, please wait for me here.

140
00:07:53,790 --> 00:07:57,480
I am also going to
the train, but I

141

00:07:57,480 --> 00:07:59,100
need another five minutes.

142
00:07:59,100 --> 00:08:01,740
So he says, OK, he'll
going to wait for me.

143
00:08:01,740 --> 00:08:06,330
And they all left running
to the receptionist.

144
00:08:06,330 --> 00:08:09,770
And as if I was running
all the way, and I says,

145
00:08:09,770 --> 00:08:12,720
I forgot my passport.

146
00:08:12,720 --> 00:08:14,640
I forgot to take
out my passport.

147
00:08:14,640 --> 00:08:17,910
And the taxi's waiting for me
because I'll miss my train.

148
00:08:17,910 --> 00:08:20,940
So she asked me, do you have
a Japanese transit visa?

149
00:08:20,940 --> 00:08:22,260
I say, of course.

150
00:08:22,260 --> 00:08:24,180
And she took out the passport.

151
00:08:24,180 --> 00:08:26,730
By some miracle, didn't look.

152
00:08:26,730 --> 00:08:27,730
And gave it to me.

153

00:08:27,730 --> 00:08:30,210
And I went on the train.

154
00:08:30,210 --> 00:08:36,030
On the train, you had to
come over, there was a guide.

155
00:08:36,030 --> 00:08:38,580
The guide was NKVD, of course.

156
00:08:38,580 --> 00:08:40,380
And when you came
on the train, you

157
00:08:40,380 --> 00:08:43,380
had to come over with your
papers and registered.

158
00:08:43,380 --> 00:08:46,260
But I came in, I don't have it.

159
00:08:46,260 --> 00:08:49,380
Right away, they looked
for a Japanese transit.

160
00:08:49,380 --> 00:08:55,680
So when I came in, the same
visas another two fellows had.

161
00:08:55,680 --> 00:08:57,900
The same visas as I had.

162
00:08:57,900 --> 00:09:01,720
So he came in and asked the
fellows, what shall we do?

163
00:09:01,720 --> 00:09:03,210
We cannot go and
register with him,

164
00:09:03,210 --> 00:09:05,250
because he'll throw
us off the train.

165
00:09:05,250 --> 00:09:07,920
So I said let's
hide him in time.

166
00:09:07,920 --> 00:09:13,140
So I went into our--
we had assigned places.

167
00:09:13,140 --> 00:09:17,130
When we sat in the places,
and we told our friends

168
00:09:17,130 --> 00:09:21,360
that if they NKVD man comes
looking for us, let us know,

169
00:09:21,360 --> 00:09:25,620
and we'll some time get out from
this wagon into another one.

170
00:09:25,620 --> 00:09:28,620
Which we did every time
they came to look for us.

171
00:09:28,620 --> 00:09:32,790
They knew on this places has
to be another three fellows.

172
00:09:32,790 --> 00:09:34,830
So we were on another wagon.

173
00:09:34,830 --> 00:09:40,720
When we came to the other car,
we went into the bathroom.

174
00:09:40,720 --> 00:09:46,260
So this way, we avoided them
for all these eight days

175
00:09:46,260 --> 00:09:47,850
on the train.

176

00:09:47,850 --> 00:09:50,350

When we came to
Vladivostok, there

177

00:09:50,350 --> 00:09:54,660

came some people who were
waiting for a steamer to Japan

178

00:09:54,660 --> 00:09:57,000

from Vladivostok.

179

00:09:57,000 --> 00:10:00,660

And they had-- and
some people knew them.

180

00:10:00,660 --> 00:10:03,270

And they had a
friend on this train.

181

00:10:03,270 --> 00:10:06,330

So they came up and we started
to ask them, what do we do?

182

00:10:06,330 --> 00:10:07,610

We don't have a visa.

183

00:10:07,610 --> 00:10:09,510

He says, come down.

184

00:10:09,510 --> 00:10:13,110

The Japanese consulate
is giving visas here.

185

00:10:13,110 --> 00:10:16,650

So I went over right
away to the NKVD man

186

00:10:16,650 --> 00:10:21,180

and we said, listen we heard
that you are looking for us.

187

00:10:21,180 --> 00:10:22,600

So he said, what do you mean?

188
00:10:22,600 --> 00:10:24,630
And he started to berate us.

189
00:10:24,630 --> 00:10:28,170
Seven, eight days I am after
you and I can not find you.

190
00:10:28,170 --> 00:10:29,220
Where were you?

191
00:10:29,220 --> 00:10:31,840
What do you think you are?

192
00:10:31,840 --> 00:10:33,360
And right away,
he called us over

193
00:10:33,360 --> 00:10:38,170
and took us into a
black limousine, a Zim,

194
00:10:38,170 --> 00:10:44,130
which was the best
the car in Russia,

195
00:10:44,130 --> 00:10:49,200
and took us to the hotel, to
the best, Chelyuskin Hotel.

196
00:10:49,200 --> 00:10:53,580
And he registered us,
took away the passports,

197
00:10:53,580 --> 00:10:58,750
and gave it to the receptionist,
which again was NKVD and left

198
00:10:58,750 --> 00:10:59,250
us.

199

00:10:59,250 --> 00:11:01,950
And on the way, we
were thinking that they

200
00:11:01,950 --> 00:11:06,030
are going to take us right
away to jail and to Siberia.

201
00:11:06,030 --> 00:11:09,120
One place they could
send us to Siberia.

202
00:11:09,120 --> 00:11:13,070
And of course, we were
despaired, but what could

203
00:11:13,070 --> 00:11:13,570
we do?

204
00:11:13,570 --> 00:11:15,150
We couldn't do anything.

205
00:11:15,150 --> 00:11:17,670
But when he came,
and he let us free,

206
00:11:17,670 --> 00:11:23,400
and gave us rooms, and all
this, we were dancing from joy.

207
00:11:23,400 --> 00:11:24,750
But then it started again.

208
00:11:24,750 --> 00:11:27,180
I have to get a visa.

209
00:11:27,180 --> 00:11:30,090
Next morning, we went
over to the consulate

210
00:11:30,090 --> 00:11:32,460
and showed him the papers.

211

00:11:32,460 --> 00:11:36,060

And then looked at it and
says, everything is OK,

212

00:11:36,060 --> 00:11:39,950

the only thing is
you have to show us

213

00:11:39,950 --> 00:11:43,950

you have landing money Japan
plus tickets from Japan

214

00:11:43,950 --> 00:11:46,050

to the United States.

215

00:11:46,050 --> 00:11:49,110

Landing money was at
that time about \$120,

216

00:11:49,110 --> 00:11:53,880

I believe, \$150,
which was more than I

217

00:11:53,880 --> 00:11:56,340

could dream of at that time.

218

00:11:56,340 --> 00:12:02,490

By the time I came paying
for the tickets in Lithuania,

219

00:12:02,490 --> 00:12:04,380

by the time I came
to Vladivostok,

220

00:12:04,380 --> 00:12:16,170

I was left with a \$5 bill
and two Palestinian pounds.

221

00:12:16,170 --> 00:12:17,130

That was all.

222

00:12:17,130 --> 00:12:21,960

But I had a Sema watch,
a good Swiss watch.

223
00:12:21,960 --> 00:12:27,740
So there were people
that were knew order

224
00:12:27,740 --> 00:12:33,530
the city, who were waiting
for a steamer to Japan.

225
00:12:33,530 --> 00:12:37,430
And they knew that there
is a market for watches.

226
00:12:37,430 --> 00:12:40,760
Watches for the Russians
was the first priority.

227
00:12:40,760 --> 00:12:43,010
To get a watch was a prestige.

228
00:12:43,010 --> 00:12:46,430
So I said, I can
get you \$50 for it.

229
00:12:46,430 --> 00:12:48,680
So I said, be my guest, take it.

230
00:12:48,680 --> 00:12:50,540
And he brought me \$50.

231
00:12:50,540 --> 00:12:55,830
And I was a rich man with a \$50.

232
00:12:55,830 --> 00:13:00,200
Then I went to the
consulate, and the consulate,

233
00:13:00,200 --> 00:13:02,120
he told us what the problem is.

234

00:13:02,120 --> 00:13:04,010
He says, If you will
show me that you

235
00:13:04,010 --> 00:13:07,370
have landing money
in Japan in order

236
00:13:07,370 --> 00:13:15,680
to exist in Japan and the
tickets to the United States,

237
00:13:15,680 --> 00:13:18,080
then I'll give you
a transit visa.

238
00:13:18,080 --> 00:13:19,860
So where do we get it?

239
00:13:19,860 --> 00:13:23,000
So we had friend left
over in Lithuania

240
00:13:23,000 --> 00:13:25,670
that couldn't get the visa.

241
00:13:25,670 --> 00:13:29,330
And I made up with them that
in case we need any papists,

242
00:13:29,330 --> 00:13:33,000
we'll cable, and
you'll send us out.

243
00:13:33,000 --> 00:13:35,240
So I went right away
to the cable office

244
00:13:35,240 --> 00:13:36,470
and I sent a cable.

245
00:13:36,470 --> 00:13:43,400
I need landing money in Japan,

and Thomas Cook and Company,

246

00:13:43,400 --> 00:13:49,400
and tickets should wait me, is
waiting for me in Thomas Cook.

247

00:13:49,400 --> 00:13:56,270
And within eight or 12
hours, I got a cable

248

00:13:56,270 --> 00:14:00,200
that landing money and
tickets are waiting for you

249

00:14:00,200 --> 00:14:03,960
in Thomas Cook in Tokyo.

250

00:14:03,960 --> 00:14:06,530
And you go and pick it up.

251

00:14:06,530 --> 00:14:09,800
And the Russian cables
were made with strips,

252

00:14:09,800 --> 00:14:14,510
like the market used
to go in strips.

253

00:14:14,510 --> 00:14:17,460
So you could arrange
any way you wanted.

254

00:14:17,460 --> 00:14:19,770
It was glued on on paper.

255

00:14:19,770 --> 00:14:25,940
So I arranged it the way I
figure it sounds plausible.

256

00:14:25,940 --> 00:14:31,580
And with this, I came to the
consulate again next day.

257

00:14:31,580 --> 00:14:33,860

When I showed him the
papers, he says everything

258

00:14:33,860 --> 00:14:36,710

is OK, but no signature.

259

00:14:36,710 --> 00:14:38,090

Who sent it?

260

00:14:38,090 --> 00:14:40,070

I say, what do I know?

261

00:14:40,070 --> 00:14:45,350

That's what I got from
Thomas Cook, the cable.

262

00:14:45,350 --> 00:14:48,770

So he looked at it,
he says, I don't know,

263

00:14:48,770 --> 00:14:51,600

he says, come tomorrow.

264

00:14:51,600 --> 00:14:55,880

So again was a problem,
but what did I do?

265

00:14:55,880 --> 00:14:59,480

I was afraid to falsify
somebody's signature.

266

00:14:59,480 --> 00:15:02,630

And I had there, Thomas Cook
mentioned there three times

267

00:15:02,630 --> 00:15:03,350

of what I'm--

268

00:15:03,350 --> 00:15:05,720

I could have put
down Thomas Cook.

269
00:15:05,720 --> 00:15:08,030
But I was afraid.

270
00:15:08,030 --> 00:15:09,410
But it's done.

271
00:15:09,410 --> 00:15:10,640
What's done is done.

272
00:15:10,640 --> 00:15:16,130
I came back next day, and I say,
we came to pick up our visas.

273
00:15:16,130 --> 00:15:21,150
And lo and behold,
we got the visas.

274
00:15:21,150 --> 00:15:26,970
And then we have to wait another
five days till the ship came.

275
00:15:26,970 --> 00:15:29,910
And it was a cattle
ship, of course,

276
00:15:29,910 --> 00:15:34,120
which took in 300 people.

277
00:15:34,120 --> 00:15:40,630
We slept on straw on the
decks and it was terrible.

278
00:15:40,630 --> 00:15:48,660
But when the pilot left the
ship coming out of Vladivostok,

279
00:15:48,660 --> 00:15:52,650
we all went up on the deck
and started to dance--

280
00:15:52,650 --> 00:15:55,470

sing and dances Israeli songs.

281

00:15:55,470 --> 00:15:58,200

We were freed of chains.

282

00:15:58,200 --> 00:16:00,960

The feeling was now we are free.

283

00:16:00,960 --> 00:16:03,930

Whatever happens to
us, we are free people.

284

00:16:03,930 --> 00:16:08,340

And that was the most
joyous, the most dance

285

00:16:08,340 --> 00:16:11,940

and the most joyous
time that we had.

286

00:16:11,940 --> 00:16:16,680

Then, after three days, we
came to Japan and Tsuruga.

287

00:16:16,680 --> 00:16:20,820

In Tsuruga waited for us a
fellow by the name of Yonis.

288

00:16:20,820 --> 00:16:23,840

289

00:16:23,840 --> 00:16:26,570

He was the brother-in-law
of the Israeli ambassador

290

00:16:26,570 --> 00:16:29,470

later to the United Nations.

291

00:16:29,470 --> 00:16:30,600

OK, I don't need that.

292

00:16:30,600 --> 00:16:33,050

So tell me, tell
me a little bit--

293
00:16:33,050 --> 00:16:35,870
could you repeat the
part about dancing

294
00:16:35,870 --> 00:16:37,400
and why you were so joyous?

295
00:16:37,400 --> 00:16:39,423
It's because you weren't
under Russian rule?

296
00:16:39,423 --> 00:16:40,590
We came out of the Russian--

297
00:16:40,590 --> 00:16:42,960
Right, but say, say Russia.

298
00:16:42,960 --> 00:16:43,610
Wait a second.

299
00:16:43,610 --> 00:16:45,440
Wait for John to finish
before you tell us.

300
00:16:45,440 --> 00:16:48,800
And then tell me what it
was like to see Japan.

301
00:16:48,800 --> 00:16:49,820
OK, it was green?

302
00:16:49,820 --> 00:16:52,520
It was beautiful?

303
00:16:52,520 --> 00:16:56,600
So start with when
you got on the ship.

304
00:16:56,600 --> 00:16:58,040

And why did you dance?

305

00:16:58,040 --> 00:16:59,190

Why were you so joyous?

306

00:16:59,190 --> 00:17:01,400

When we got on the
ship, of course

307

00:17:01,400 --> 00:17:04,700

there was a Russian pilot on the
ship taking us out of the port.

308

00:17:04,700 --> 00:17:06,329

So we waited, we
were very quiet.

309

00:17:06,329 --> 00:17:06,829

Try again.

310

00:17:06,829 --> 00:17:08,839

We just had a horn
there three times.

311

00:17:08,839 --> 00:17:11,240

Sorry, from outside
on the track.

312

00:17:11,240 --> 00:17:15,109

So when you were leaving
Russia for Japan.

313

00:17:15,109 --> 00:17:17,450

To go to Japan.

314

00:17:17,450 --> 00:17:21,619

Start clean, wait for John
to finish, and then tell us.

315

00:17:21,619 --> 00:17:23,420

You have to start
without me talking,

316

00:17:23,420 --> 00:17:26,720

because I can't be
on the soundtrack.

317

00:17:26,720 --> 00:17:32,570

When we went on the
ship to go to Japan,

318

00:17:32,570 --> 00:17:37,280

there was a Russian pilot
taking the ship out of the port.

319

00:17:37,280 --> 00:17:40,760

We were very quiet and
waited for him to get off.

320

00:17:40,760 --> 00:17:43,340

As long as we are on
the Russian waters,

321

00:17:43,340 --> 00:17:46,430

we knew that we
are not free yet.

322

00:17:46,430 --> 00:17:52,220

When the pilot left the ship
and about five minutes later, we

323

00:17:52,220 --> 00:17:56,660

waited for him to go to
get a distance between us

324

00:17:56,660 --> 00:18:00,650

and the Russian pilot,
we went on the ship

325

00:18:00,650 --> 00:18:02,990

and started to dance and sing.

326

00:18:02,990 --> 00:18:09,410

And that was the most
joyous moment of our lives

327

00:18:09,410 --> 00:18:10,970
until that time.

328

00:18:10,970 --> 00:18:13,850
Because here, we came
out from a country

329

00:18:13,850 --> 00:18:19,320
that to us, it
looked horrendous.

330

00:18:19,320 --> 00:18:24,050
The communist regime for us
was something that I cannot

331

00:18:24,050 --> 00:18:24,980
describe.

332

00:18:24,980 --> 00:18:28,385
You see, you were in
constant depression

333

00:18:28,385 --> 00:18:34,760
there because you knew there
was no way out of there.

334

00:18:34,760 --> 00:18:38,390
And times will get
from bad to worse.

335

00:18:38,390 --> 00:18:42,540
And that, we found out
soon which it was true.

336

00:18:42,540 --> 00:18:47,320
And then when we came
out of their sphere,

337

00:18:47,320 --> 00:18:51,240
we were the happiest
people in the world.

338

00:18:51,240 --> 00:18:55,070
Of course, the
event, three days was

339
00:18:55,070 --> 00:18:58,790
horrendous because
it was the stench

340
00:18:58,790 --> 00:19:00,500
and the sickness of the people.

341
00:19:00,500 --> 00:19:01,910
Everybody was sick.

342
00:19:01,910 --> 00:19:04,100
But I didn't go down,
I slept on the deck.

343
00:19:04,100 --> 00:19:06,980
Even if it was cold, I
still slept on the deck.

344
00:19:06,980 --> 00:19:09,320
After three days,
we came to Tsuruga.

345
00:19:09,320 --> 00:19:15,500
Over there was waiting
for us a fellow

346
00:19:15,500 --> 00:19:19,010
off from the Jewish committee,
from the JewCom by the name

347
00:19:19,010 --> 00:19:20,780
of Yonis.

348
00:19:20,780 --> 00:19:26,090
And he called out names that
he has letters for some people.

349
00:19:26,090 --> 00:19:28,190
And my name was also called out.

350
00:19:28,190 --> 00:19:29,270
He gave me an envelope.

351
00:19:29,270 --> 00:19:30,440
I opened up.

352
00:19:30,440 --> 00:19:32,720
And I found a note
from a friend that

353
00:19:32,720 --> 00:19:37,430
left before me, the same friend
that gave me his tickets to go

354
00:19:37,430 --> 00:19:41,360
from Vilna to Tsuruga.

355
00:19:41,360 --> 00:19:44,870
So he sent me, if
I'm not mistaken,

356
00:19:44,870 --> 00:19:47,660
three or four yen, which was--

357
00:19:47,660 --> 00:19:51,200
20 cents a yen was either
80 cents or 60 cents.

358
00:19:51,200 --> 00:19:53,780
But it was a tremendous
amount of money.

359
00:19:53,780 --> 00:19:56,840
Because when we come out on
the port, the sun was shining,

360
00:19:56,840 --> 00:19:58,460
it was summer.

361
00:19:58,460 --> 00:20:02,450
And the fruits and

vegetables that we saw there,

362

00:20:02,450 --> 00:20:04,280
we never saw in our life.

363

00:20:04,280 --> 00:20:05,750
Exotic fruits.

364

00:20:05,750 --> 00:20:13,310
And all the beautiful peaches,
and oranges, and everything.

365

00:20:13,310 --> 00:20:16,310
And I went for one zloty,
and I bought so much

366

00:20:16,310 --> 00:20:18,200
that I couldn't carry it.

367

00:20:18,200 --> 00:20:23,660
For one yen, I'm sorry,
which was 20 American cents.

368

00:20:23,660 --> 00:20:28,700
And I divided right away with
all my friends and everybody

369

00:20:28,700 --> 00:20:31,010
that came.

370

00:20:31,010 --> 00:20:34,410
And we had the time of our life.

371

00:20:34,410 --> 00:20:37,565
Then we went on a train
for three and a half hours

372

00:20:37,565 --> 00:20:39,560
it took us to get to Kobe.

373

00:20:39,560 --> 00:20:45,620
In Kobe, they took us to they

called it homes, it was hotels.

374

00:20:45,620 --> 00:20:51,530

The Jewish committee rented
hotels, Japanese hotels,

375

00:20:51,530 --> 00:20:55,830

and put us about 17,
18 people in a room.

376

00:20:55,830 --> 00:20:58,430

But it was
tremendous, big rooms.

377

00:20:58,430 --> 00:21:05,150

They had mattresses for us,
and blankets, and linen.

378

00:21:05,150 --> 00:21:07,910

And we were free people.

379

00:21:07,910 --> 00:21:11,660

We were as happy as slugs.

380

00:21:11,660 --> 00:21:17,120

We didn't know what's going on
there, of course, in Poland.

381

00:21:17,120 --> 00:21:22,500

And from there, we are looking
for ways to get someplace.

382

00:21:22,500 --> 00:21:28,500

So transit was for two weeks.

383

00:21:28,500 --> 00:21:30,120

After the two weeks,
they prolonged it

384

00:21:30,120 --> 00:21:34,020

for another two months, and
kept prolonging it from March

385
00:21:34,020 --> 00:21:36,800
till December.

386
00:21:36,800 --> 00:21:41,410
Of course, we were looking
for ways to get out.

387
00:21:41,410 --> 00:21:44,410
You couldn't get from
anybody any visa,

388
00:21:44,410 --> 00:21:47,370
so we were thinking
of smuggling ourselves

389
00:21:47,370 --> 00:21:54,070
on an American
ship as stowaways.

390
00:21:54,070 --> 00:21:57,160
Two people did it, or three.

391
00:21:57,160 --> 00:22:00,520
And I was on the ship
with them, but I didn't

392
00:22:00,520 --> 00:22:02,870
have any documents with me.

393
00:22:02,870 --> 00:22:04,570
So I figured, maybe next ship.

394
00:22:04,570 --> 00:22:09,790
And that was the last
steamship that left Shanghai--

395
00:22:09,790 --> 00:22:13,120

396
00:22:13,120 --> 00:22:15,010
Japan, I mean.

397

00:22:15,010 --> 00:22:18,570

And the Japanese
stopped giving us

398

00:22:18,570 --> 00:22:24,640

any more to prolong our transit
visas, and we had to leave.

399

00:22:24,640 --> 00:22:26,890

The only place to
leave, where can you go?

400

00:22:26,890 --> 00:22:27,790

Shanghai.

401

00:22:27,790 --> 00:22:33,430

Shanghai was an open city,
anybody could go to Shanghai.

402

00:22:33,430 --> 00:22:43,360

So we had for the 30th of
November or 1st of December.

403

00:22:43,360 --> 00:22:44,860

And we had to leave.

404

00:22:44,860 --> 00:22:46,600

Of course, they told
us about Shanghai

405

00:22:46,600 --> 00:22:49,030

that it's a terrible place.

406

00:22:49,030 --> 00:22:53,620

The heat is unbelievable.

407

00:22:53,620 --> 00:22:55,120

Just wait for the siren.

408

00:22:55,120 --> 00:22:58,180

409

00:22:58,180 --> 00:22:59,800

What was life like in Japan?

410

00:22:59,800 --> 00:23:00,560

Did you enjoy it?

411

00:23:00,560 --> 00:23:01,060

In Japan?

412

00:23:01,060 --> 00:23:02,080

Were you a tourist?

413

00:23:02,080 --> 00:23:03,410

Wait for John to finish.

414

00:23:03,410 --> 00:23:06,380

Wait for me to finish
asking the question.

415

00:23:06,380 --> 00:23:08,580

So what was your
life like in Japan?

416

00:23:08,580 --> 00:23:10,300

Did you enjoy it?

417

00:23:10,300 --> 00:23:12,660

We enjoyed it,
every minute of it.

418

00:23:12,660 --> 00:23:16,360

Sorry, start with something
like life in Japan was.

419

00:23:16,360 --> 00:23:19,450

Life in Japan for us was a joy.

420

00:23:19,450 --> 00:23:23,440

It was summer, we came
from a cold country.

421

00:23:23,440 --> 00:23:25,420
And there was the sunshine.

422
00:23:25,420 --> 00:23:28,690
Sorry, we need to cut.

423
00:23:28,690 --> 00:23:33,910
So you took quite a few risks.

424
00:23:33,910 --> 00:23:34,790
Yes.

425
00:23:34,790 --> 00:23:38,602
Could you elaborate on that?

426
00:23:38,602 --> 00:23:40,810
Could you start with saying,
I took quite a few risks

427
00:23:40,810 --> 00:23:42,550
because I was young or whatever?

428
00:23:42,550 --> 00:23:45,280
Because I was young and
there was no way out.

429
00:23:45,280 --> 00:23:48,620
But you have to let me know
what you're talking about.

430
00:23:48,620 --> 00:23:52,210
You see, when we tried
to get out of Japan,

431
00:23:52,210 --> 00:23:55,360
there was no place you
could go except to Shanghai.

432
00:23:55,360 --> 00:24:00,520
Shanghai, they described
us, was hell on earth.

433

00:24:00,520 --> 00:24:02,530
The heat was unbearable.

434
00:24:02,530 --> 00:24:04,450
People used to
work in the street,

435
00:24:04,450 --> 00:24:09,070
and the sweat used to
come down your pants.

436
00:24:09,070 --> 00:24:11,680
And people are dying
from hunger there.

437
00:24:11,680 --> 00:24:15,070
And so many terrible
things they told us.

438
00:24:15,070 --> 00:24:17,050
So we were looking
for a way to get out

439
00:24:17,050 --> 00:24:20,200
to go to the United States.

440
00:24:20,200 --> 00:24:23,500
The only way you could get
if you couldn't get a visa

441
00:24:23,500 --> 00:24:26,670
is as stowaways on a ship.

442
00:24:26,670 --> 00:24:32,990
Two friends of mine,
acquaintances, went this way,

443
00:24:32,990 --> 00:24:33,850
went on the ship.

444
00:24:33,850 --> 00:24:35,410
And I was with
them at that time.

445
00:24:35,410 --> 00:24:37,390
And I went up on the ship also.

446
00:24:37,390 --> 00:24:40,000
And I could also
hide myself there.

447
00:24:40,000 --> 00:24:42,700
But then I didn't take
my documents with me.

448
00:24:42,700 --> 00:24:45,040
I had no documents at all.

449
00:24:45,040 --> 00:24:48,910
And I figured, ships are
coming in every week,

450
00:24:48,910 --> 00:24:51,310
and I'll do it on a second one.

451
00:24:51,310 --> 00:24:54,190
And besides, three people in
one ship, maybe it's too much,

452
00:24:54,190 --> 00:24:56,300
maybe I'll be by myself.

453
00:24:56,300 --> 00:24:59,000
And that's what I went off.

454
00:24:59,000 --> 00:25:02,440
And they went away, and
they came to the States.

455
00:25:02,440 --> 00:25:05,500
And I later heard that
they had a difficult time.

456
00:25:05,500 --> 00:25:10,810
But somehow, they

became citizens.

457

00:25:10,810 --> 00:25:15,070

From that time on,
there are no more

458

00:25:15,070 --> 00:25:21,940

Americans came to call
on Yokohama in the port

459

00:25:21,940 --> 00:25:26,540

because it was already
close to December.

460

00:25:26,540 --> 00:25:31,100

And I had to leave at
the beginning of December

461

00:25:31,100 --> 00:25:36,410

on the last day in November.

462

00:25:36,410 --> 00:25:38,750

And we went to Shanghai.

463

00:25:38,750 --> 00:25:41,250

There was no other
way, no place to go.

464

00:25:41,250 --> 00:25:42,740

So we went to Shanghai.

465

00:25:42,740 --> 00:25:45,260

Of course, we were heartbroken.

466

00:25:45,260 --> 00:25:48,440

But still, we were young,
so we figured, listen,

467

00:25:48,440 --> 00:25:51,800

people live in Shanghai so
it couldn't be that bad.

468

00:25:51,800 --> 00:25:56,210
And we came there and I had
a few friends already there.

469
00:25:56,210 --> 00:26:01,670
And they came to get
me from the steamboat.

470
00:26:01,670 --> 00:26:05,510
And they took me to a room
which they rented for me.

471
00:26:05,510 --> 00:26:08,370
And it didn't look so bad,
it looked pretty good,

472
00:26:08,370 --> 00:26:09,540
as a matter of fact.

473
00:26:09,540 --> 00:26:13,190
I came there right away,
they took me out for dinner,

474
00:26:13,190 --> 00:26:15,620
with a lot of
schnapps, of course,

475
00:26:15,620 --> 00:26:18,980
and for some entertainment.

476
00:26:18,980 --> 00:26:22,280
And we had a wonderful time.

477
00:26:22,280 --> 00:26:26,810
Of course, it was hot, but the
center was already nice there.

478
00:26:26,810 --> 00:26:31,220
And I couldn't see how
bad it could be there.

479
00:26:31,220 --> 00:26:35,360
As a matter of fact, we

had a very good life there.

480
00:26:35,360 --> 00:26:38,690
After nine days,
the war broke out.

481
00:26:38,690 --> 00:26:43,220
The American Pearl
Harbor was in the eighth,

482
00:26:43,220 --> 00:26:44,330
I believe, of December.

483
00:26:44,330 --> 00:26:48,020

484
00:26:48,020 --> 00:26:50,300
At night, at 4 o'clock
in the morning,

485
00:26:50,300 --> 00:26:56,330
we knew the war broke out
because we heard explosions.

486
00:26:56,330 --> 00:26:58,670
And when we came
out in the morning,

487
00:26:58,670 --> 00:27:02,180
Japanese were standing in
all the corners with bayonets

488
00:27:02,180 --> 00:27:05,570
on their rifles
and right away told

489
00:27:05,570 --> 00:27:09,350
us to get back in in the
houses, which we did.

490
00:27:09,350 --> 00:27:14,240
For three days, they didn't
let us out of the houses.

491
00:27:14,240 --> 00:27:16,650
After three days, they
took all the patrols,

492
00:27:16,650 --> 00:27:22,020
they took all the police, and
you were free to go anyplace,

493
00:27:22,020 --> 00:27:24,180
anywhere you want.

494
00:27:24,180 --> 00:27:28,850
So what we found out that the
Americans sank their gunboat

495
00:27:28,850 --> 00:27:32,233
when the Japanese came
to ask them to surrender.

496
00:27:32,233 --> 00:27:33,650
So of course, they
told them nuts,

497
00:27:33,650 --> 00:27:38,960
and they opened up all the
hatches and everything,

498
00:27:38,960 --> 00:27:44,910
and sunk the ship, and
exploded them, some of them.

499
00:27:44,910 --> 00:27:47,450
And that was the war.

500
00:27:47,450 --> 00:29:47,000