

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Interview with Mark Moskovitz
October 4, 2004
RG-50.562*0005

PREFACE

The following oral history testimony is the result of a videotaped interview with Mark Moskowitz, conducted by Neenah Ellis on October 4, 2004, on behalf of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The interview took place in Van Nuys, California, and is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Rights to the interview are held by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

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**Interview with Mark Moskowitz
October 4, 2004**

Beginning Tape One

Question: Okay. Mr. **Moskovitz**, good morning.

Answer: Good morning to you.

Q: And tell me if you would, your name at birth and the town that you were born in.

A: And -- and my --

Q: Your name when you were born --

A: B-born. **Motya Moskowitz**.

Q: Uh-huh.

A: And the town I was born is **Solotvina, Solotvina**. In Hungarian it's **Ocknaslati**, no? And Czechoslovakian, it's **Seloslakina**.

Q: And this -- we can call --

A: This is -- the region is called **Rotinia**. It's on the border of **Romania** and **Czechoslovakia**. And the river -- and the name of the river is **Tesau**.

Q: And --

A: I was born over there.

Q: Okay. Can you tell me your parent's names?

A: My mother's name is **Davoyra Ise** -- I'm talking about the maiden name.

Q: Mm-hm.

A: **Davoyra Isakovics. Isakovics, Isakovics**. And my father's is **Hirsch Moskowitz**.

Q: Were they both from that region?

A: Yes, yes. My mother fo -- was from **Solotvina**, and my father come from **Sekernitsa**, sekl -- in Hungarian it's called **Seklentsa**.

Q: And you have four brothers and sisters, right?

A: No, I had -- we were three brothers. I had two brothers, and two sisters. We were five in the family.

Q: And can you tell me their names, and --

A: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Q: -- and the order of their birth? You remember their birth years?

A: I was the -- I was the fir -- I was the first born. My name is **Motya**, and my sister's name is **Sara**, and my brother's name is **Yankel**, and my other sister's name was **Malka**. And another small brother was **Shemshin**. That's in -- that's in Yiddish.

Q: Mm-hm.

A: You want me to say it in English, I can say it in English.

Q: Okay.

A: Well, my name is **Mark**. My sister's name is **Sara**. My brother's name is **Jack**, he's in **Canada** now. And my -- my younger sister is **Malka**, that's **Marilyn**. And my other brother's name, the young one is s -- **Shemshin**, that's **Sam** would we call him. But they -- they were deceased. They were taken when we went to **Auschwitz**. Three of us survived.

Q: And what year were you born?

A: I was born 1930, August the 24th.

Q: Do you know the years of your brothers' and sisters' births?

A: Well, we're about a year and a half apart I would say.

Q: Okay.

A: Maybe my younger brother was a little later. Can't remember exactly, because over there they never kept -- they never kept records. You know, you just go to the -- to the notary public and tell him, you know. It wasn't like here, you know. It's a small town.

Q: Tell me about the town.

A: **Solotvina. Solotvina.** It's a nice town, it's on the river, and was a lot of tailors, shoemakers, and people who used to -- I don't know how you call a thing in English, you know, like a -- they owned horses. And it was a hard working town, and people had a pretty rough life over there. And we didn't know any better. That's a -- that was our -- our way of life. We were very observant, Sabbath, all the Jewish holidays were observant. And we were content, because we didn't know any better.

Q: There were a lot of Jewish families in your town?

A: Yes, about five -- 500 families. 500 Jewish families.

Q: Out of how many people in the town?

A: I couldn't say how many, maybe -- I would say half and half, yeah. And was -- and no paved road, was all gravel roads. I still remember I used to go with the horses up to the -- to -- to the pasture, you know, for -- used to take them at night time, take them to the pasture, and the da -- in the morning has to bring them home. That was in the

summertime. Same thing with the cows. We used to take them to the pasture, and then at night time they used to come home, and my mother used to come and milk the cows, and I used to help out feeding the -- the animals. But I was still, you know, I was maybe in my -- six, seven years old. From then on, I -- I used to help out my father all the time after school.

Q: And where -- what was your schooling like?

A: Schooling was very good. I used to get up in the morning about six o'clock, and we used to go to the Hebrew school, and stay there till about 7:30, then I went to the regular school. That was Czechs -- Czech school. I had about two -- two years of Czech school, and then -- things have changed over there, then **Hungary** took over that part, and we went to a Hungarian school.

Q: That was 1939.

A: That was 1939, right.

Q: Right.

A: Matter of fact, there was -- I think for three months we went to Ukrainian school, because **Ukraine** took that part over. Because **Ukraine** joined with -- what -- how do you call it, what -- **Hitler**.

Q: And your father had some land, and --

A: Yes, we -- we had some, you know, land, so used to plow the land every -- every spring for potatoes and corn, and then for hay. We had -- it's called **lutcerna**. It's like -
- it's like -- I can't s -- **lutcerna** i-is like a ver-very rich ha-hay.

Q: Like a s --

A: Like clover.

Q: Uh-huh.

A: It's a little taller. Clover is a little lower. It's very good. And we used to work very hard. Then we s -- my father used to go out with the -- how do you call it, with the scythe, cut the -- cut the hay, and we put it up on the -- for the -- for the hay to dry out. Then used to bring it into the stable. And my father used to work all the time. Used to go out and -- out -- out of town, where there was a lot of wood out there. Used to bring wood into town, he used to sell the wood, and then used to -- a lot of buildings was going on, people were building homes, we used to deliver gravel, sand, stones, to customers.

Q: From the river?

A: From the river, right, yeah, from the river. That's right.

Q: So your father did whatever he could do to --

A: He done everything just to -- to support his family.

Q: And your mother worked --

A: My mother worked at the --

Q: -- stayed in the home, and [indecipherable]

A: -- at home, and cooked, and fed animals. Oh yes.

Q: Were your parents -- did -- did you go to any kind of community activities or anything? Was there any time for that, on holidays or anything like that?

A: No, there was -- no, no, no, no, there -- only the holiday was when there was a holiday, you know, like we didn't work on holidays. Like on Sabbath, we didn't work on Sabbath. Like on any holidays, like **Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur**, or Passover, or any Jewish holiday, w-we were very observant. Matter of fact, I -- I never had long hair, always had cut my hair and I had little -- little **payas**, you know what I mean, little --

Q: Side curls?

A: Side curls, yes, and always, all the time wore a hat. Yes. And we used to go every Saturday, we used to go to the -- to the Temple.

Q: In town?

A: In town, to the **sheel**.

Q: Remember the name of it?

A: It was called the **sheel**.

Q: Uh-huh.

A: Yeah.

Q: Right.

A: The town was **Solotvina**.

Q: When -- in 1939, when the change came --

A: Yeah, yeah.

Q: -- the Hungarians came. Political situation was --

A: Yes.

Q: -- changing. What do you remember from that time? You were a young child.

A: Well, we -- no, it was -- it was pretty good, you know, because **Hungary**, there was a lu -- action, we -- th-they were building. Everything was okay.

Q: What -- what were they building?

A: They're building homes, people building homes, and they used to -- people are repair their homes, you know, we used to -- and then the army built some -- how do you call it? **Caserna**, how do you call it? It's a -- where the army stays, ha --

Q: Barracks.

A: Barracks, you know, for -- yes. And we -- we used to deliver gravel to them, and we used to get -- I still remember we used to get seven **pengi**. That's Hungarian money, for one -- for one load.

Q: So this was --

A: 19 --

Q: Hungarian army --

A: Hungar --

Q: -- was coming to that area.

A: Yeah, that's right.

Q: And building these facilities --

A: That's right.

Q: -- and hiring local people?

A: That's right, that's right. And we had a small little airport over there, too.

Q: Really?

A: Yes.

Q: You built the airport? They built it?

A: Yes, yes, yes. We build it, the --

Q: The Hungarians.

A: Hungarians, right.

Q: Military airport?

A: That's right. Small.

Q: And were -- were Hungarians coming there?

A: Oh yeah.

Q: Other than army people?

A: No, the -- in my hometown there was three nationalities, Romanians, Jews, and Hungarians. So we spoke three -- three languages. So I went to Hungari -- Czech school and Hungarian school. And -- and **chader**, you know **chader** is a -- you know, the Jewish school.

Q: And -- and how did this change after 1939?

A: Well, it was good, it was -- w-we got along very good, and then it started out with the Jewish laws. Jewish laws means -- the first thing that I can remember was Jews couldn't own no -- any government -- how do you call it, government store, like cigarettes. It -- it's called a tra -- a traf -- I ca -- I can't remember how that --

Q: Something that was licensed -- anything --

A: Licensed through the government --

Q: -- a store that was licensed for the government.

A: Exactly. Like liquor, or cigarettes. So it started there. But we -- we got along fine, and then they started -- and then they called up my father to -- this wasn't an army, it was a -- like a work force. So we were left, my -- my mother and I, and my -- my sister, we worked the horses, tried to do the same thing what my father done.

Q: Do you know what year that was that he was --

A: That was about end of for -- 1940, or '41.

Q: And they took him away?

A: Yeah, he went there, th -- they called him up. And he served near -- in **Yugoslavia**.

Q: Oh, he went to **Yugoslavia** --

A: Yugosla --

Q: -- an-and the Hungarians took him there?

A: Hungar -- it's called -- in Hungarian it was called **Munkasazat**. **Munkasazat**, that means like a -- a working force, only you know, for -- and they used to wear yellow -- yellow bands.

Q: And they were just Jews that were taken?

A: All Jews were taken. Only Jews were taken for the **Munkasa**, for the working force, but if you were a Gentile you could go to the army. Because those days they called it -- they called up for the army because a wa -- the war was going on already. A lot of them went to **Russia**, you know, the war when **Germany** invaded **Russia**.

Q: Did you hear from your father while he was away?

A: Yeah, we used to -- I used to write letters, my mother used to dictate. And my mother could write, but my father couldn't write, he was still illiterate. I used to write letters and -- and he used to send packages home, like I told you, he -- he sent even bread, he used to send home. Yeah, it was tough, tough life. And those days, they -- they were rationed us. They rationed us. They rationed everybody, not only the Jew, they rationed everybody. Coupons for bread, for anything, you know, like staple like meat and stuff like that, everything was rationed.

Q: Did he send money home?

A: No, no, no money, no money, just bread, crackers.

Q: It must have been very hard for your mother.

A: Yeah, it was, it was, it was. We -- we lived off -- we -- we just hoped that the -- that the summer comes sooner so we can live off there, live off the land.

Q: Did you stay in school during that period?

A: Yeah, yeah, I stayed in school, but I quit school when I was already what, about 13 years old. After then, I w -- I took over, you know, full time working.

Q: So, that would have been about what year? '43?

A: '43, yeah. Yeah, it was the -- yeah, I remember I used to work with my -- with my yo -- with my sister, she was only a little younger than me. We went to the river, and -- and she used to pile up all kinds of stones. When I used to take the stones to unload, she had to -- my brother and my sister had to pile the stones together so when I came --

so I could have a pile, you know, I shouldn't have to go and look for, you know, could load it up fast.

Q: And during this time when your father was away, were you all alarmed? Was it frightening or just difficult?

A: No, it was difficult, we -- we never -- it wasn't -- we -- we accepted whatever life was. We accepted it, those things. We only -- only hope that we get a full stomach, that's it. Life was very, very -- you didn't think of those things.

Q: And when did -- in your village then, when did changes start to come when Jewish laws i -- in force?

A: Well it -- so then after -- after that my father came home and stayed home for a little while. Oh yes, they -- they asked in th -- in the camps, you know, where my father was, who wants to go home. So my father volunteered, so he came home. But a lot of people didn't want to come home because they knew if they going to go home, they -- a lot of people knew that they -- they was -- what was going on, but we were very ignorant, we didn't know. We didn't know --

Q: You mean that Jews were -- that Jews were being roun -- taken to [indecipherable] and other places?

A: Rounding up, taken to camps. Th-they used to come, people from **Poland** used to come, and -- and I -- you run away from **Poland**. Used to tell us stories. We -- w-we -- we -- we didn't -- we couldn't believe what -- what they told us, and we didn't want to believe it. They came to the synagogue and told us what's going on. But you know, we

say when -- when you have a full stomach, you don't believe the guy who's got a -- an empty stomach. I don't -- we have a saying like that. So we didn't believe any of that, those things

Q: Nobody did?

A: No, we didn't believe it. We couldn't believe it.

Q: And then when did you start to believe it?

A: We didn't believe it, we didn't believe it till the -- even -- even when they took us to the camps, in the train, we didn't know where we were going. They just told us we were going to be resettled to a new settlement. We could have saved ourselves, easy.

Q: What would you have done? What could you have --

A: We could have gone -- my father, we could have gone up in the mountains. We were in the **Carpathians**. And we were taken away in I think was May, or -- or maybe April. We are taken away, a --

Q: What year?

A: What year, 1944. And the Russians were already there in October, so if we would have stayed -- hide ourselves for six months we could have survived, but we didn't know where we were going.

Q: Let's go back and talk about how you got -- there was a ghetto --

A: Yes.

Q: -- created there.

A: Yes, yes.

Q: And you were instructed to go there?

A: Yes, yes.

Q: Is that what happened? How did that hap -- take place? Your father was home --

A: Hap -- well, they -- they ca -- ca -- my pa -- father was home, and over there when there was -- when they want to announce something, the guy used to go like in the -- on the -- in the -- in the 18th century, or the 17th century, the guy with a -- how do you call it, with a drum, you know?

Q: In town?

A: In town, like a crier. Used to say, okay, all the Jews will have to gather at a certain part, you know, certain area. You couldn't go -- you know, you couldn't go out of your area. So we had to move from our -- from our house, and we went into my -- my aunt's place.

Q: So when you -- when you heard this --

A: Into ghetto, that means we were go -- we were going into the ghetto.

Q: Right. Did you pack -- bring a lot of things? Did you know?

A: Well, we packed wh-whatever we could, you know, just clothing. We didn't have -- we didn't have much, you know? So we just packed whatever we had, and we went to my aunt's place, and we stayed on the -- on -- on the l-lo -- loft? Yeah, because there was no room.

Q: She lived in town?

A: She lived -- yeah, she lived --

Q: In that area?

A: In that area, not too far, maybe quarter of a mile from my hou -- from my house.

Q: And what about -- you just did -- were your parents alarmed? Did they think that --

A: No, we -- we took -- we took whatever the -- we took it, whatever they told us, we done. We di --

Q: You left your animals behind, and --

A: Yes, yes, we left animals, we -- we gave it to some people, you know, we had the ha -- ha -- everything, we left everything. The horses, the cows, th-the houses, the stable, th -- like I would walk out from this house just with my clothes. We left everything there, because we didn't know where we were going.

Q: And what was your parents -- how did they behave? Were they s -- ra -- were they strong, did they --

A: They were strong --

Q: Did your mother cry? Did --

A: N-No, they were tough, tough people, very tough. We didn't ask no questions, just go, that's it.

Q: Did somebody come to your house to bring you out?

A: No, no, no, no, they tol -- we obeyed everything, because we were -- we were -- we weren't -- we were inferior, we were so -- after there came -- th-the Jewish laws came into -- to be, and we were so -- so downtrodden that we didn't ask no questions.

Whatever they say, you just obey them.

Q: How -- what other -- what other laws, what other regulations were enforced before you were -- left your home?

A: There was not -- no -- n -- well, th-there was little anti-Semites, like we used to light candles Friday night, you know, and some students came by, you know, who went to school, and throw stones in there, and you know, broke that, and my mother se -- my father was a very physical man, and he -- and my -- my mother says, "Don't you go there de -- leave them alone." He was go -- he was going to beat them up. Oh yeah, we -- we -- we were downtrodden and we were -- how do you call it? We just --

Q: You felt intimidated.

A: We were intimidated, we resigned ourself to the conditions.

Q: And were there other Jewish families that left, do you know?

A: Well, after it's -- you know, where we used to live, was another town across the river called **Seegirt**, that was in **Romania**, but when **Hungary** came, they annexed the whole area th -- like -- like what are those called, **Transylvania**. So we went -- we used to li -- we use to go to the other town most of the time because we were closer to the -- to that town, **Seegirt**.

Q: And -- and --

A: So w-we -- we didn't -- we didn't ask too many questions. Bec -- I wa -- I was young, we were busy scraping out, you know, food and stric -- scraping out a living.

Q: Right. So you were then -- this was 1944 --

A: '44, yeah, tha -- tha --

Q: -- you think, when you went into the ghetto --

A: Ghetto, in '44, yeah.

Q: -- it was the ghetto, but it happened to be your aunt's house --

A: My aunt's house, yeah, right.

Q: -- within that area.

A: With that -- that's right.

Q: Hi --

A: That was a -- it was how you call it, you know, th-they -- they cordoned us off, you -- you only can go certain area, cordoned off.

Q: Was there a wall built of any -- no.

A: No, no-nothing, nothing, it's just pro -- you know, th -- you can only -- Jews couldn't go further out, because if you go out of that area, they beat you up.

Q: And there were guards, you we -- around the perimeter.

A: Yeah, we didn't -- we didn't even dare going out. We just resigned ourself, we resigned our lot. Just a --

Q: And how did you live there, how did you have enough food?

A: This -- this is a question I can -- I -- honest, I can't remember how we survived. We were on -- on the loft, you know. We -- we did -- we slept on -- on boards, you know, whether -- there was no -- and we -- we were there not very long. I think we were there for maybe -- maybe a fe -- maybe a month, n-not even a month, maybe two months, I can't remember.

Q: This was all seven of your family?

A: Yes.

Q: Everybody?

A: Yes, yes.

Q: Mother, father, five kids.

A: And then my aunt had a -- excuse me -- she had daughters too, they were in that house. We were a lot of people in that house.

Q: Did you go out of the house, ever?

A: We all -- we -- yeah, we went out, but we couldn't go out of that area.

Q: Right, right. Did you go to school?

A: No.

Q: No.

A: No, no, school was finished a long time ago.

Q: Yeah. So that was only -- you said only about a month.

A: Maybe -- maybe a month or two months. I'm -- I'm not sure. I'm not a hundred percent.

Q: But not long.

A: Not very long.

Q: An -- and -- and what happened next?

A: Then there was an order that all the Jews will have to go to that -- I said we had a little airport over there. So they round us up, and they say we're -- all the Jews have to

go into that airport. They had a -- like a hangar, you know, where they fix the planes, all the Jews went in there.

Q: How many people do you think it was?

A: Oh, there was th -- the whole town. And I se --

Q: More than a thousand people?

A: Oh yeah.

Q: 500 families?

A: Yes, yes, yes. And I remember, then we knew was something wrong. When the rabbi came in there, you know the rabbi that they had the -- then they -- they grab the - - he had a beard, you know, like do you see the people here with -- with **payas** and beard? They grabbed them and pulled it out, you know, with the skin, and they -- they -- and then we knew we were in for -- were in for something. Then we were -- then we were already trapped. If we knew what -- what was going to happen, even at the airport, I don't think we would -- my father would have grabbed us and said come on, let's go up in the mountains. But we didn't know, and then was too late already.

Q: Yeah. Let's break here.

A: Yes.

Q: Cause we have to change the tape.

A: Okay.

Q: Okay.

A: Great.

End of Tape One

Beginning Tape Two

Q: Okay, we're -- you were telling me when we finished the last tape that all of the Jews from your town were brought out from the ghetto to the airport --

A: Airport, right.

Q: -- and gathered there.

A: And to -- and to the hangar.

Q: To the hangar. How did you get out there, do you --

A: We walked.

Q: You walked. How far was it?

A: I-I would say it's maybe -- maybe a mile, maybe mile and a half. It's with a -- within walking distance.

Q: So you would have had just -- **[interruption]** You were telling me when we finished tape one that all of the Jews from your town --

A: Yes.

Q: -- had been in the ghetto, and were all moved together to the airport.

A: Yes.

Q: In -- in hangars.

A: Hangars. In the hangar, yeah.

Q: Gathered there.

A: Yeah, mm-hm.

Q: And how far was it from town to the airport?

A: Wha -- f-f -- to the airport, within walking distance.

Q: You walked?

A: There was no transportation over there, everybody walked where every --

Q: So it would have been just a big --

A: Big th -- yeah.

Q: Throng of --

A: Yeah, that's right.

Q: -- thousands of people moving.

A: That's right, moving with all their luggage, whatever they could carry on their back, you know, that's all.

Q: Do you remember that walk? Do you remember it? Were people talking, were they worried, were --

A: No, we did -- we -- I can't honest --

Q: Can't.

A: It was -- the only thing I remember, when we went in -- into the hangar there.

Q: And what was it like in the hangar?

A: Hangar was just a big, empty space in there, you know, where they -- they park the airplanes. We park the planes in there.

Q: And did some --

A: Was a big field.

Q: -- did somebody come and talk to you, and address the group and tell you what was going to happen?

A: No, no, there was -- there was -- how do you call it, there -- there were the Hungarian **gendarmes**, we called the **Tolosh**. They used to wear how do you call, feathers, you know? We call **gendarme**. They were our guards.

Q: With guns?

A: Of course, yeah.

Q: Yeah.

A: Guns, yeah, that's right.

Q: And were they -- were they interacting with people? Were they --

A: Oh yes, ye -- oh yes, yes. Th-they were -- they were just looking to -- to -- to -- to pick on an-anybody, you know, just to -- to beat them up or do something.

Q: They were beating people up?

A: Oh yes, yes.

Q: Pushing them around?

A: Push them around, but we were frightened, we were frightened, we were just like you take animals into a slaughterhouse. You ever -- you ever seen a slaughterhouse?

Q: No.

A: Where animals go in there? When they go, they -- they -- they -- they -- they -- they're jittery, they're frightened. We were like that. We didn't know what was going on. We didn't know where we were going, we didn't know anything.

Q: And how long were you there, what happened?

A: We were there, I think, just maybe overnight.

Q: Slept on the floor?

A: Slept on the floor, and then they marched us in the -- the railroad was right next to it, not too far, and they put us into the -- into our train, into wagon, like a cattle cars.

Put us all into cattle cars.

Q: And did they tell you anything?

A: Nothing. They just say, with all the luggage, whatever you have, put in there, and they put some guards on the -- on the -- on the train.

Q: You took the luggage on the train?

A: Oh yes.

Q: Yeah.

A: Every -- well, whatever you -- you -- you can take with you.

Q: Do you remember what you had?

A: I don't -- a bunch of rags, that's all it was.

Q: Suitcases, maybe?

A: Yeah, all your belongings, whatever you had.

Q: And how old was the youngest child in your family at this point?

A: I would say **Shemshin** was about -- he must have been in his -- seven or eight years old. Yeah.

Q: And you were?

A: '44 I was 14.

Q: So what happened next?

A: Next we were in the train and we were in -- they took us, and we were rolling along, and then the people got hungry, and they got thirsty, and the children started crying and screaming. And then my -- my father was -- got very nervous and he grabbed one of the guards, you know?

Q: There was a guard on the car?

A: Guard on -- on -- on the train. And he -- he was -- I remember he grabbed him by his neck and he was going to, you know, do him in. And then, one of the guys over there says, "**Hirsch**, don't be a fool. They're going to kill you." So, because it was like bedlam over there, you know, you know there was no food, no -- no -- it was in -- the air wasn't too much, there was little -- little -- like a little, you know, the -- no -- not much air coming into the trains, you know, those cattle cars. And we were there for about three -- three days.

Q: The car was moving the whole time?

A: Moving, yeah.

Q: And could you see out, did you know where you were?

A: No. No, no, because was -- was -- you know what a cattle car looks like --

Q: Yeah.

A: -- just a little window there, you know, with little bars. You couldn't get air in there. And this I still remember then, I think, two days we were two days maybe on the

train, and then at night time, then the train stopped. And then some people came in, then they opened the door, and people came into the train, and they were those guards, you know, those -- they call **haftlinger**, and they -- they were like Jews from **Poland** who worked in the camps. That was already in **Birkenau**, you know, with the striped clothing. And this I still remember, he says, "Tell them that you're 18 years old." You know, for -- for the children. Tell them you're 18 years old. And we didn't know what it meant.

Q: This guard told you that?

A: This guard. No, he wasn't a guard, no he --

Q: He was a Jew.

A: -- he was a Jew that he emptied all the -- the luggage when they took us out from the train, you c -- you didn't take anything with you. So you left -- you had to leave everything on the train.

Q: And -- and where was it that the train stopped?

A: That was in **Birkenau**.

Q: **Birkenau**.

A: **Birkenau**.

Q: And the doors opened, and --

A: The doors opened.

Q: What could you see?

A: That was at night time.

Q: Oh, yeah.

A: Just -- it was a night, was dark. We didn't see anything. And then they say **raus**, everybody **raus**. So we started to walk, and then they lined us up to there. Women and children one side -- women, children and old me -- old people on one side, and younger people on another side. So we came to the selection. The guy say, **reckt**, the guy say I -- left.

Q: They told you which side to go.

A: Which side to go, right. And then I knew right away, the guy said, in German he said, **vial disto**. How old are you? Said -- so I remember the guy, what he told us. 18 years old. **Oxen yada**. Same thing with my brother. He was about three years younger, he said 18. So -- s -- am -- so my brother and I and my father went to the different line, and my mother with the children went on the different. Different selection. Then already, when we walked -- then these -- they walked us to different places, and then we knew already that we were -- we were in hell. Because there were fire burning, and I can smell -- you know, I smelled the smoke, and -- and I just -- I'm talking for myself, I was in -- in a daze. I didn't know what was day or night or just i -- i -- i -- in a delirious condition, you know? See women and children walking. Those were sent right away to the -- to the crematorium.

Q: W-when that separation happened --

A: Yes.

Q: -- the selection.

A: Yes.

Q: You were st-standing with your mother?

A: Ye -- well, selection?

Q: Were you all together as a family?

A: We were together, then we came to --

Q: Did you get to say anything to your mother?

A: Nothing -- no --

Q: No time to. You didn't know.

A: -- nothing, nothing, nothing, nothing, we just -- we were just like -- like animals driven into the slaughterhouse. That's all it was. We were all frightened. An old man they took, and whoever couldn't walk, they throw them on a -- on a -- how they call, on a truck. On the way, we see big fire, like a bar -- how you call it? Barn fire?

Q: Bonfire?

A: Bonfire. I can see they were throwing human beings in there. And to the old man -- old -- you know, people who couldn't -- who couldn't -- who couldn't walk.

Q: You saw that?

A: Yeah.

Q: Was it open fire?

A: Open fire, yeah, you could smell it, you know, you could smell the flesh there. I didn't know it was day or night. I was there for three days a-and -- in **Birkenau**, and I

was in a haze. I didn't know what was day or night, because it was all like smog, you know, full of smoke.

Q: And you saw that fire when you were being -- with your father, and you were --

A: Cou -- yeah --

Q: -- being taken away?

A: -- you know, we're marching, and yes, yes.

Q: Uh-huh.

A: And then they too --

Q: Was it a pit, was it --

A: Was a pi --

Q: -- or -- or was it a crematorium?

A: -- a -- no, no, no, was a pit, an open pit. No, the crematorium was a little further down. And that --

Q: And they were just throwing older --

A: Older, that --

Q: -- old people.

A: -- yeah, older people in, yeah. And then -- and then my brother and I, and my father, they took us into barracks. And they said -- we are undressed, and we di -- we still didn't know what was g -- what's -- what was going to happen to us. And they -- they say everybody's undressing, and then we left the clothes there, they took the clothes away. And then they brought us those **haftling** clothes, you know, those

striped clothes, you have seen the -- the -- the concentration camps. So then we knew we were -- we were saved, you know, that we were going to go to working camps. And then, after that, they took us into a big block, a big, you know, a big, you know, a block, you know, like barracks, big barracks. And they asked people who's got a trade? Who learned a trade? And I remember pi -- I wa -- when I was a young boy my father took me to a place to learn how to be a carpenter. He grabbed me, he says, "You go up, tell them you are a **tischler**." **Tischler** means a -- a carpenter. And then I -- I got separated from my -- from my -- from my father, and they took me a different transport.

Q: Was this all in the same night all of this happened?

A: No, no, I think we were there maybe -- maybe one -- I was there maybe two days, two days or three days I stayed there. And then they shipped me out to a different camp.

Q: And in those two or three days, they fed you? Was there food of any kind?

A: I do -- yeah, I guess they used to give us the little, you know, like army things, yeah.

Q: Oh. And you -- and you slept in the --

A: Slept in the bunks.

Q: And you were with your father?

A: No, no, I was already separated. I was -- soon from there I got separated from my father, because I told them I have a trade, so they put me into a different transport.

Q: And -- and when you got separated from your father again, did he have any time to tell you anything --

A: Nothing.

Q: -- to talk to you?

A: Not -- not -- not -- nothing.

Q: No. So you were by yourself?

A: Yeah. With other -- with other people over there, you know.

Q: But -- but your brothers?

A: My brother stayed with my -- with my father. And they stayed over there, and they were -- it's called -- they were near **Auschwitz**. See, I got -- I -- I never got a -- I never got a how do you call it, a --

Q: Tattoo?

A: -- tattoo, because I didn't stay long enough in there. I stayed only about two days.

But my father stayed in **Birkenau** for quite awhile, and then he went to a different camps called the **Bunau**, like a working camp. And they made all kinds of ammunition over there, and they were build there -- you know, building all kinds of buildings.

Remember I told you about the s -- that cousin who learned how to lay bricks? They had a school there, they teach them how to lay bricks. And he was there for about maybe eight months.

Q: Your father?

A: My father. But I didn't know where he was, my father --

Q: Oh.

A: -- because they took me away right away to a different -- different camps. We were about maybe, quite a ways from there, maybe two days by train.

Q: So you got on another train?

A: Got on -- on a train, and they put me in -- in fi -- we were 500 people on that train.

Q: For o -- a couple of days, you said?

A: No, no b -- I was there for -- for about maybe -- maybe a cou -- maybe a week, and then they took us to another camp. They selected 500 people from that bigger camp, and then they sep -- shipped us to another camp, 500.

Q: Do you know the name of the next camp?

A: It was called **Allenbush**. And then they were build -- we were building a little station, like a railroad station.

Q: And -- and staying in barracks?

A: In barracks, yeah, we were about 20 -- 20 of us in -- in a -- in a barrack.

Q: And was it a big camp? Was it a --

A: About 500 people.

Q: 500.

A: Yes. And we were --

Q: And barbed wire around it?

A: Pardon?

Q: Barbed wire around the perimeter, just like --

A: Oh yes, yes, yes. A little -- like a little -- like they have in the camps over here, like a little hut, you know? Little -- we were about 20 of us, and we used to go out to work every day, and then come in. And they fee -- fed us.

Q: What did you have for food?

A: In the morning I remember we got up about five o'clock in the morning, was called **appelle**. They lined us up, and then count -- count -- count everybody. And then after that they gave us, how do you call, they gave us coffee. Just black coffee. Just coffee itself. We -- then, after that, we went to work. And we were there till about one o'clock in the afternoon because the work wasn't too far from the -- from the working -- the camp wasn't too far from the working place. And we came back, and they gave us a soup, like a ver -- very light soup. We were there for about an hour, then came back to work again. And seven o'clock we came back. We finished our work. And that's how -- I was there for about -- around December in that camp.

Q: Until December.

A: Till December, yes.

Q: So you've been away from home already now, seven, eight months?

A: Eight months, yeah, yeah, yeah --

Q: You left in April, May?

A: -- yeah -- yeah -- yeah -- yeah.

Q: So it's winter now?

A: Yes, yes, it was. So -- yeah.

Q: And how was your health?

A: My he -- wel -- we -- well, was good, it was good. I mean, I felt -- felt good, I wasn't sick. Fada -- but I --

Q: Were other people sick?

A: Oh yes.

Q: Were other people getting sick?

A: Yes, yes. I didn't f -- I didn't feel sick as long as I was working, I felt good, but I -- I -- I never s -- I've never seen myself, I never looked in mirror, because there was no mirrors in there, you know, you didn't know what you look like, you know?

Q: And were -- were the guards mistreating people, were they cruel, were -- was there a **[indecipherable]**

A: Well, the-the -- they had guards, yes, oh yes, yes. The one I remember once one g -- these t -- they were the Ukrainian **SS**. They -- they were -- they used to come in there - - I -- I used to unload gravel. You know, we used to build a -- we used to unload ga -- gravel, used to come in in the wagon, used to beat us up for just -- you just keep on going. I never -- I never was sick. On all the time, I was never sick. Because if you're sick, that's it, you're finish.

Q: And were -- were there other people who -- who were killed, or died while they were doing this work?

A: Well, we didn't know if -- if they were sick, or anything, they just took them off.

You don't know w-what happens to them, yeah. Everybody was for himself. I

remember one day -- I used to work on the night shift, and I've seen some guys used to go down near the camp. They had potatoes, you know for the -- used to -- they have potatoes underground, you know, that it shouldn't get rotten.

Q: In a cellar.

A: Yeah. No, o-on the open fields. So they went and started, you know, stealing potatoes. So I figure, hey, if these guys can do it, maybe I'll try it myself, go with these guys because they -- they put it in their -- their shirts. So one day I went with these guys, and I went underneath the ground, and th-th -- the ground caved in -- in on me. And I got so frightened, and I didn't know how to get out there. I finally got out. And they caught couple of guys, and they got such a beating, I says, no, no more. I'd rather die than to -- to go through that. So I never -- never tried again.

Q: You said it was every man for himself.

A: Everybody's for himself, yeah.

Q: There was no cooperation --

A: Oh, b --

Q: -- between the people, of any kind, to help each other, or --

A: Well, they di -- they -- there was nothing, because you didn't get -- you didn't get enough food. You couldn't help anybody because you couldn't share with anybody any food, because if you get so little food -- we used to get -- you know how we used to divide our bread? We got those German breads, those square breads. So four of us, for four people divided, they get a bread for a day, you know? So we used to cut it in

four, and we didn't know how to -- who's going to get -- maybe some guys are going to get a bigger piece, or some guys got a smaller piece. Used to cut up the bread, and put it under the blanket. So they say, "**Mark**, which one do you want?" I pointed on -- on the blanket, I says, "I want this one." So that's how we used to -- it was -- that's how we used to live. And I --

Q: Did you -- did you have anybody that you talked to, any -- anybody that was like a friend to you, friendly to you?

A: Yeah, we used to talk, but we -- we weren't -- that's all, we used to talk we're -- we'll ever be free, that's all there was, you know? There's nothing to talk about, nothing, you know. We didn't even know what happened to our parents, or **[indecipherable]** we -- we only see -- we only see in there -- there -- what was going on there, but after that we **[indecipherable]**. Everybody was for himself.

Q: Did you hear any rumors about what was happening in other places? You didn't know anything --

A: No, no.

Q: -- about the war, about how the progress of the war?

A: No. The only thing I remember is we were in **Obershlazier**, and there was a big town cal -- a big city called **Breslau**, and we can hear already the -- they were bombing. They were bombing, the Russians were coming. And I can see on the street, you know the, when the Germans -- that was **East Germany** then, the -- the Germans were evacuating, you know, they took their cattles with the cows, with the -- with the

horses. They were already evacuating because it was already in the -- in the what?

Around November, October, November, they were already --

Q: Of '44.

A: '44, you know, the war had gotten -- and then came -- then came, around December they took us, we were going to go on the march. They evacuated the camps, and we were starting to march.

Q: And this was because the Russians were coming?

A: The Russians were coming.

Q: From the east?

A: Yes.

Q: So you went west?

A: We -- yeah.

Q: Or moved --

A: Yeah, I didn't know east or west.

Q: Yeah, you didn't know where you were.

A: So we were --

Q: So what did you ha -- just the clothes you had on?

A: Just the clothes on your back, that's all.

Q: And you probably didn't have anything but your thin uniform.

A: Yeah, th-that's a -- you know what we used to do? We used to -- I used to -- we used to carry cement bags, you know, we were work with cement. We took the cement

bags and cut out, you know, for the neck, you know, we put -- used to, with paper, you know, that's how we used to keep warm.

Q: Cement bags, yeah, they came -- they're like heavy.

A: Heavy, and we put th-the -- the jacket over it.

Q: Heavy paper.

A: Yes, yes.

Q: For insulation.

A: Insulation, that's it. And then -- then when --

Q: What about your feet?

A: My f -- ma --

Q: What did you have on your --

A: -- my feet, we had th-those shoes, you know, those like wooden -- how do you call it, with the wooden -- wooden soles.

Q: Mm-hm.

A: Yeah, w-we didn't have regular shoes, we had wooden soles. I gu --

Q: An -- anything on your hands?

A: No, no.

Q: It was December --

A: No, no.

Q: -- it was quite snowy, cold.

A: Yeah, yeah, but --

Q: Frozen cold.

A: -- we didn't have anything, no. We didn't have proper clothing, that's all we had.

It's called **haftling** clothing. The striped clothing.

Q: So they -- they came to get you and march you out?

A: March.

Q: What was happening around that time, do you --

A: Oh tha-that was -- that was the worst time like -- wi -- that I can remember. You're starting to march, day and night. No, just in the daytime. At night time they used to put us up in a -- like in a barn, or you know, in a place where they can put us up, you know?

Q: Wherever you were.

A: Whatever -- y-yeah. And we didn't have no food, not too much. And then, after we were finished, you know, get up, you know, they light up that barn, me -- because a lot of people were hiding there, you know, they didn't want to carry on. They didn't want to march any more. So then they screamed out, "Whoever ca -- whoever can't walk, we going to take you on a wagon." So there were wagons right behind us, and people who couldn't walk, they put them on a wagon, and they took them into the bushes and shot them. So I never volunteered to -- to -- I always stayed in front of -- of the -- of the pack.

Q: Let's take a break now.

A: Okay.

Q: And we'll change the tape.

End of Tape Two

Beginning Tape Three

Q: Mr. **Moskovitz**, at the end of the last tape you were telling me about this experience you had on the Death March.

A: Yes.

Q: After you left --

A: Right.

Q: Say again the name of the place that you left from on that night.

A: I left from **Birkenau**.

Q: But the place where you were building the station was called --

A: Yeah, yeah.

Q: -- you said **allen** --

A: **A-Allenbush, Allenbush**, that's good, that's **Allenbush**, that's right.

Q: Mm-hm, and that was a little subcamp?

A: A little subcamp, yeah.

Q: Of **Birkenau**?

A: Yeah.

Q: And they t --

A: No, no, there was a ba -- that's quite a ways from **Birkenau**, it's in **Silesia**.

Q: That's right.

A: It's a different part of -- of -- of **Germany**. It took us about two days to get there by train.

Q: And you left there in the middle of the night, with -- did they just come and take you out? What happened?

A: Wh -- wha --

Q: How did they -- how did they tell you what was happening? Or did they, when the guards came to take you out of there?

A: From where?

Q: To march away.

A: Oh no, th-they evac -- they evacuated the -- the ca -- the -- the camps. Says okay, we're going to go into a different camp. We were all lined up and we were marching. We had cards, we kept on marching.

Q: And these were about 500 people you said.

A: 500 people.

Q: Men.

A: Yeah, we started out with 500 people, and then the -- we marched to a -- a bigger camp.

Q: Do you know the name of that one?

A: The bigger camp was **Flossenburg**. That was a big camp already.

Q: Mm. And what -- what happened there?

A: **Flossenburg** was a camp that they got all these small camps -- they gathered all, and then small camps, and from there they evaluate the people who were strong

enough. They shipped them out to work, and the ones who couldn't, they weren't valuable enough to work, they stayed on th -- in **Flossenburg**.

Q: So you were separated out again?

A: Separated again. I was there about maybe a month, or maybe two months.

Q: And you were working, cause you were **[indecipherable]**

A: No, **Flossenburg** we didn't work. Then when they shipped us out, then we started to work again.

Q: What did you do in the camp during the day?

A: Did nothing. You just tried to -- to survive. I remember we used to, in the wintertime we -- we would try to keep ourself warm, so we used to -- we gathered a lot of people, we're pushing against each other, you know, in th -- in the camps. You kn -- against the -- against the wall, you know, like a horde of people, you know, just to stay --

Q: Indoors? When you were in --

A: Out -- outdoors, yeah.

Q: Just huddling together?

A: Hud -- huddled together, you know, just to keep warm.

Q: Mm.

A: And then --

Q: How cold was it at -- during the day?

A: It was cold, it was cold.

Q: What -- below freezing?

A: No, I would say maybe in the -- yeah, was maybe 15 degrees, 20 degrees. Oh no, oh no, no, wasn't no, no, was I would say maybe 35 degrees. Freezing is what?

Q: 32. Mm-hm.

A: 30 -- 30 degrees, that's right. Was maybe 35 - 40 degrees. It wasn't warm.

Q: And they wouldn't let you stay in your beds during the day, you had to go out?

A: No, you could stay in your bed, no, th-they didn't restrict you from anything, but there was nowhere to go. And we were there for about -- I mean, then they took another selection. They put that on your forehead, they write down and some number and if you were strong enough they shipped you out. Took you out from the camps.

Q: And you?

A: Well --

Q: Did you get a number on your forehead?

A: Yeah, I got a -- yeah. So we -- they shipped me out to -- to work. They put us on a train, and they -- we were working. I can't remember what I was doing those days.

Q: And -- and you don't know where it was?

A: I remember it was a town -- we ended up in a t-town, was c -- I was liberated in a town called **Imerdingen**. But I can't rem -- w-we were always on the run, always on the go, because then the Americans came -- came, and the French came. Started to march, you know, run away from them.

Q: Were you taken to a factory, or do you remember what you were doing?

A: No, I was never in -- never in the factory, no, we were working outside. Doing something outside, I can't remember what I was doing.

Q: Were you with a large group of --

A: Yeah, with a group, yes.

Q: All men?

A: Yes.

Q: And guards, German guards?

A: Guards, yeah. I still remember one incident. We were -- we were on a train, they took us, because they were always on the march, on the train, and then there, and then out -- we were on the train and then the planes came down, American planes, they start shooting at us. They didn't know who it was on those trains. It wasn't cattle cars, it was, you know, proper trains. And I remember they shot my friend. I was sitting next to my friend, like on the seat, and I notice here's some -- some red. I thought it was marmalade or something. Then I've seen he was shot. Because you couldn't run out, you know, you couldn't run -- if you run out from that train, the guard would shoot you, would kill you right away, so y -- so you had to stay on the train.

Q: And was he sitting by the window?

A: He was sitting yeah, near the windows, yeah.

Q: Hm.

A: Yeah. And th -- and then that was already close to the -- to the liberation, so then they took us -- they stopped, and they took us into -- into the mountains. And I

remember I was carrying bread, you know, for the rations. And one guy grabbed me, almost killed me.

Q: Trying to take the bread.

A: Trying to take the bread away.

Q: Wow.

A: And then -- so I got -- we got up in the morning, and we thought we were liberated, you know, by the -- by the Americans, or by the French. And the Germans came back again.

Q: Why did you think you were liberated?

A: Because the -- the -- w-we didn't see any Germans, they all ran away. Then they must have pushed the Americans back, or the French.

Q: Was there fighting going on in that town?

A: Oh yes, oh yes. It was close to -- to -- to liberate -- to -- to occupy in that part of that town.

Q: And what were -- where were you, where was your group of people while this fighting was going on, what were you doing?

A: We -- we were running wild, we were -- we th -- we didn't know where we were going, we didn't know anybody there. We thought we were liberated, but we didn't.

Q: So you had -- you were a runaway from the guards --

A: Yeah, and then they -- they -- they --

Q: -- and just in the town?

A: That's right, then they round us up again, and took us into the -- into the mountains again.

Q: The Germans?

A: The Germans, right. And then we seeing a lot of these Germans started to change their clothes. And the --

Q: And -- and -- and you were in the mountains, were you in the woods, or were you in town?

A: In the woods, right, no, in the woods. And then we came down to town, and we were already -- we weren't liberated because th-there was still going on, we went into wi-with the civilian, with the German civilians, because they were running into their, how do you call it, what -- you know, not the bunker -- it wasn't a bunker, it was a -- they were hiding from their -- from their -- from the war, you know, from the -- from the guns. How do you call that, that's like a --

Q: Oh.

A: -- like a shelter.

Q: Yeah.

A: So I -- w-we went in with the shelter, with the German population. So that was the end already.

Q: So the -- the guards, when you were in the woods --

A: Yeah, they did that --

Q: -- they were taking their uniforms off.

A: -- off, and they were --

Q: Did they run away?

A: They run away, right.

Q: And they left you there.

A: Left us there.

Q: How many of you were there?

A: Oh, were a whole bunch of us. Everybody f-for -- for himself.

Q: A hundred or more?

A: Oh yeah, a whole bunch of us.

Q: And you a -- and then you all went back into town?

A: Into town.

Q: Went into shelters, okay.

A: W-went -- there was a lot of sirens were going on, you know? So you were -- because a lot of shooting was still going on.

Q: And bombing, was there bombing going on?

A: Pardon?

Q: Bombing?

A: Bombing and shooting, you know, and -- and then I got liberated by the French. I remember fr -- the French -- French soldiers.

Q: In -- in the shelter? Were you in the shelter?

A: No, w-we walked out. We walked out. And then the -- then they started feeding us, then we went into the German homes. We -- we ask --

Q: Now, when you came out --

A: Yeah.

Q: -- and ho -- and you said you were liberated, was there a moment, was there something that happened, or were you just -- suddenly there were French soldiers in that area?

A: There were French soldiers in that area.

Q: And you knew you were saved.

A: Yes. And then we went into -- to homes to -- to help ourselves, you know, with food and things like that.

Q: Any homes -- homes were empty --

A: Any home -- empty -- everybody was ra -- you know, they were all -- they all ran away.

Q: So you just were taking food from their kitchens?

A: That's right, food, whatever we could find.

Q: Clothing [**indecipherable**]

A: Clothing, whatever we had -- that's why I had a -- army uniforms, American army uniforms.

Q: Somebody gave that to you?

A: No, no, we just -- we just found it. And then we -- we -- a lot of people died after that, a lot of -- a lot of people from the concentration camp died because they -- they indulged with so much food that they -- they had the -- the runs. They just died. Yeah, and then I stayed there for about -- I stayed there about maybe four to five months.

Q: In that town?

A: Not -- no, I -- I moved to a bigger town.

Q: Do you -- do you remember the name of the town that you were liberated from?

A: It was called **Imerdingen**. That's the town I was liberated. And then we went into the -- to the American side, to the big -- bigger -- bigger town. I think was -- the town was called **Augsburg**. And then we went -- we took a -- we took a train towards home.

Q: Before we do that, had you, in all these almost a year --

A: Yes.

Q: -- since you had been separated from your parents, right?

A: Yeah.

Q: Have you heard anything about them?

A: Nothing. Every time if I seen anybody, he'll say di -- "Do you ever see my brother?" I didn't even think about my brother. I said, "Do you ever see my father?" Nobody, nobody. We didn't know -- I -- I didn't know anything till I get home.

Q: So from the --

A: Yeah.

Q: -- you went to o --

A: I didn't even know even after I came home, I didn't even know that my fa -- that my brother was alive.

Q: So from wa -- **Augsburg** --

A: Yeah.

Q: You --

A: Took a train.

Q: Uh-huh.

A: And I went to -- from there we went to **Budapest**. And from **Budapest** we stayed in a big school.

Q: Who was we?

A: We -- a-all these **haftling** -- you know, th-these refugees.

Q: From your town, or from your region?

A: Not from -- no, no, no, I didn't have nobody from mine town. Just, you know, f-from different camps. We went to a place in **Budapest**, was called **Aazhibatiskula**, **Aazhibatskul**, **Aazhibatskul**. It's like a -- like a gathering, you know, like a big school, you know? So -- and I met some people there, and I asked my neighbors, he got liberated with two sons, that's a -- you know, the **Brikleers?** Cousins. So they said to me, "Why you going home? There's nothing there for you any more. Why -- why do you go home?" So I said, "No, I -- I -- I must go home, I want to see if anybody came home." So, "Don't go home," he says, "don't go home."

Q: When you were traveling from **Augsburg** to **Budapest** --

A: Yes.

Q: -- and on the train, and going back, and --

A: Yeah, yeah.

Q: -- I'm sure the train must have been stopping, and you would get off.

A: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Q: What were those times like? Was it -- I'd unders -- I'd read so much about there -- with people were in transition and it was chaotic, wasn't it?

A: It was, it was. It was. I remember we were -- we were on the train, you know, it was a cattle car, so there were girls on that train. And then the Russian must have, you know, found out there are gir -- girls on that train. So the Russians came in to the -- to the train, and they raped those girls in front of us. They started screaming, and th -- and we went o-on the -- you know, where the engine was? So we run up on the engine, you know where the -- where they put the coal, oh, you know on the, how do you call the -- th-the steam engines? Oh yes, it was -- it was hell. So finally came to **Budapest** and then I went back home. But I -- no, my hometown was completely destroyed. The home, everything was destroyed. So I went across the river, where my cousins lived.

Q: What -- there had been fighting there, or had they burned it down, or what happened?

A: No, they just ransacked everything. They ransacked it. The Russian, how do you call, the Russian prisoners, you know, there were lot of prisoners of war from **Germany** that came home. They ransacked everything. They tore everything out. Like

we had an oven, you know, we bake bread. So they thought maybe we were hiding some -- some gold or something hiding in the oven, so then everything was just ransacked, every doorknob.

Q: It must have been a really aw --

A: Oh yes.

Q: -- awful moment to --

A: And I came --

Q: -- be back in your house --

A: -- to -- to the --

Q: -- just the way it had been --

A: That's right.

Q: Yeah.

A: And I came home and there was a woman. Then I noticed there was a woman in our garden, and I says -- her name was **Elanna**. "**Elanna**, what are you doing here?" I said, "This is our garden." She was so bitchy to us. "But I thought they killed you all. What are you doing here?"

Q: You knew her? She was from your town?

A: Yeah, she -- my hometown, yeah, she -- they had horse and -- horse and wagon. They just took over everything. Took over --

Q: She wasn't Jewish.

A: No, they were Romanian. They took everything, everything. They took the s-stables, the horses, everything. Like if somebody would come in here and kick me and say go out and that's it. There was no -- no law, nothing, nothing. It was a -- it was a tough war.

Q: So you went --

A: Okay.

Q: No -- nobody in your family was there? Relatives, any --

A: Oh yes, yes. I came home and somebody said my sister is home. My sister came home, and she stayed with my cousin, you know, across the -- the river, you know, in the **Sighet**.

Q: This was **Sara**?

A: **Sara**, that's right. And there was a lot of prisoner, Russian prisoners who were -- came home from the -- from the **Germany**. And I said to sar -- to my sister, I says -- and then I even slept with her in the same bed because I was afraid some of these Russian prisoners were going to, you know, rape her or do something. So -- so j -- sh- she was there for one week. I said, "**Sara**, you better go back. Go back to -- go back to **Budapest**," because I had some cousins there. "You go back there, and I don't want you stay here no more. And I'm going to hang around here, wait. Maybe my father or my brother, somebody will come home." And I stayed there for another six months.

Q: Did she tell you stories about what -- what had happened to her?

A: No, not much. W-w-w-we knew wh -- we knew what was going on, we -- we knew. We knew. Nobody -- we knew right away when we -- when we were in **Birkenau**, we -- we already seen our -- our -- our lot. Was nothing to ask any more. And a wa -- and then I came -- then I stayed there and my cousin and I, we said, no more. We're not going to stay here no more. We're going to go back, go west.

Q: Which cousin was this?

A: That's that cousin, who's in **Stratford** now, **Stratford, Ontario**, another cousin from **Sighet**.

Q: Mm-hm, say his name.

A: His name is **Sam**, yeah.

Q: And he was the son of who?

A: Of **Hirsch**. That's my uncle's younger son.

Q: Your -- your father's brother?

A: N-no, my mother's brother.

Q: Your mother's brother's son.

A: Yeah, son, right.

Q: So you went together, you left?

A: We always stick together, all the time, like two brothers, you know. We didn't have anybody.

Q: And -- and so you stayed there for six months?

A: I stayed for six months and nobody came home. See, my brother -- see, those days there was no borders. We didn't know what wa -- was going to be, was it going to be **Russia**, is going to be **Hungary**, we didn't know. So then the Russians clamped down and they closed the borders. And you couldn't move any more from my hometown, come to -- to **Sighet**, you couldn't go there no more. I used to walk across the river, you know, but if they -- if they catch you, they -- they put you in jail or they could s -- they cou -- they could shoot you. So say it's time to --to move on. And from there I went to -- it's a long story -- and from there we went to **Budapest**. In **Budapest** I joined up an organization, a Jewish organization like a -- it's called **Mizrachi**, like -- you ever heard that?

Q: Mm-hm.

A: Yeah, I joined them and we -- we -- I don't know how many people were there, maybe -- maybe 50 people, maybe less. And we were going to go to **Israel**. **Israel** wasn't a country then, but we were going to go illegally to **Israel**.

Q: Did you see your sister there?

A: My -- in a -- yi -- no, no, no, my sister wasn't there, my sister was -- she went to **Czechoslovakia**, and stayed with my -- with cousins. And then I heard that she went back to **Germany**. It's a long story. Then my sister joined me when I was in **Paris** aft -
- after that.

Q: Okay. So you -- you had made a decision then, to go to **Israel**?

A: Go to **Israel**, because there was a --

Q: With your cousin?

A: Yeah. There was nowhere else we can go. We were going to go there. So then came -- a guy came around -- there was -- by the way, there was -- no, that was in -- that was in **Yugoslavia** --

Q: What was?

A: No, we went from **Budapest**, we went to yugoslav -- we went to **Yugoslavia**, and from **Yugoslavia** --

Q: Where? Do you remember where?

A: In **Yugoslavia** we went to **Belgrade**. And then from **Belgrade** we were going to go to **Israel**, but through **Greece**. It's called **Saloniki**, a town, **Saloniki**. And then we got on a train to go to **Saloniki**. And then at the border the Yugoslav guards stopped us. They -- they -- they -- they -- how to call, the **grainits**, how do you call the -- the -- the border guards stopped us, they won't let us into **Yugoslavia** -- to -- into **Greece**, to **Saloniki**. So we stayed at the border overnight, and they called us -- called up in **Belgrade** the headquarters, what are they going to do with us, we were on no man's land. What are we going to do? Greeks won't let us in, and **Yugoslavia** won't let us in, we are on no man's land. So finally the gr -- the Yugoslavians said okay, bring them back. So we came back to -- we came back to **Belgrade** and we stayed there for about, oh I don't know, maybe a couple -- a couple of weeks. And from there we went to **Italy**.

Q: Was this just you and your cousin, or --

A: Yeah, yeah --

Q: -- a larger group?

A: No, wa -- wa -- wa -- wa -- wa -- with a -- with a group. With a -- the same group that I joined up in -- in -- in **Budapest**. I was st --

Q: How many in this group?

A: Oh, maybe 20 or 30 people, men and women.

Q: And this was a clandestine movement? Would you have to move at night, or just keep to yourselves?

A: Well no, you keep to yourself because there was a clandest -- because it was -- it was illegal.

Q: Mm-hm.

A: So -- so we ended up in -- in **Italy**. And then we went to -- we were in -- in **Milano** for a little while, and then we went into a camp, like an army camp, not too far from **Turino**. By the way, for -- from -- yeah, we were in **Turino**, and we were there for maybe six months, or eight months. I worked over there, you know, as a laborer. And then somebody came around from **Paris** and asked if we want to go to **France** -- we want to go to **Paris**. I said, "Why not? Let's go." But he said, "You have to do one thing for us, you have to," -- they were, how do you call it, smuggling stockings from **Italy to France**.

Q: Silk stockings?

A: Silk stockings.

Q: Women's silk stockings?

A: Women's silk stockings. And they got us on a -- how do you call it, on a backpack, and we put us -- and they -- and they -- we were about 10 people. And they hired a guide. They took us with a taxi to the borders of **Italy** and **France**. And then we were climbing the mountains across from -- from **Italy** to **France**.

Q: This was what --

A: But three -- three -- three days took us --

Q: Wo-would this have been the winter, maybe, of 1946?

A: No, it was in -- in -- in the spring.

Q: In spring of '46?

A: Yeah, of '46, right. And then --

Q: And 10 people, women included?

A: 10 -- m-may-maybe not 10, maybe eight people, I ga -- I can't remember exactly.

Q: You and your cousin, and --

A: Cousin --

Q: Were there women?

A: -- and some other woman, yeah, an elderly lady, yes.

Q: Elderly?

A: I reme -- yeah, I remember when we were up on the mountains, there was snow and the poor woman was sliding down, you know, and -- you know. It was tough.

Q: Was it a path, or was it just making way?

A: Well, no, was packed snow. Those guys --

Q: No, was there a path? Pathway?

A: No, no, th -- no, those guys, they -- they knew where we were going. And they led us into the -- into the French Riviera. And then from there we went to **Nice**, and we went into the Jewish Congress, Jewish organization.

Q: How long did you walk?

A: Oh, we walked about three days and nights.

Q: Did you have food?

A: Yeah, we had food. We -- we didn't worry about those days, because we were free.

Q: But you had -- why did you decide to do this and not go to **Israel**?

A: Because we were -- we wanted to -- I want -- we wanted to see other parts of the world. We weren't going to -- we had too much problems, because we could make some money.

Q: Okay, so you chose to --

A: Go to **Paris**.

Q: Instead of --

A: No, we didn't know where we are go -- yeah, we choose to go to **Paris**.

Q: And was this -- were you in -- in **Italy** all that time because you couldn't get passage to **Israel**, there was no way to get there, no --

A: No, no, no, th-there -- there -- no, no, no, [**indecipherable**] was **verboden**, I mean as a --

Q: Yeah, but people were doing it

A: -- the only way -- they were doing illegally.

Q: Yeah.

A: But we couldn't ge -- we couldn't get -- we couldn't go there.

Q: You couldn't get passage, you couldn't get a -- a boat.

A: You couldn't pass, no it was imp -- impossible -- impossible.

Q: So you got -- just didn't want to wait any more?

A: Didn't want to wait any more, so we just say, okay, let's go to --

End of Tape Three

Beginning Tape Four

Q: You okay?

A: Yeah, okay, great.

Q: At the end of the last tape you were telling me --

A: Yes.

Q: -- that you came across to **France** from **Italy**, you walked. But before you tell me the rest of the story, I would like to go back and ask you a few questions about your --

A: Go ahead.

Q: -- these times that you were traveling through different countries, and you believed for a long time that you were going to be able to make your way to **Israel**. And you were sheltered and s -- by this group, the **Mizrachi** --

A: Yeah.

Q: -- that were transporting --

A: Yes.

Q: -- Jewish refugees --

A: Yes.

Q: -- to try and get them to **Israel**. Sometimes they were successful, sometimes they were not. And while you were in these different places, you were in **Belgrade**, you were on the border --

A: Yes.

Q: -- with **Greece**.

A: And that time we stayed another place called **Skopje**, I-like ma --

Q: In **Skopje, Macedonia**.

A: -- **Macedonia**, yeah, we stayed there for about three weeks.

Q: And then you went to **Italy**.

A: Yes.

Q: When you were in these different cities, did you ever interact with local people, or did -- did you feel that you had to be careful about interacting with people? Was -- wa -- did you have a sense of fear, constantly?

A: No, no, I -- no, no, I -- I, no, I felt very good. When I came to **Italy** I felt like a -- like a human being. Yes, I felt --

Q: Because people treated you --

A: -- treated good. I remember I was sitting there with a -- with Italian guy, and we were drinking wine, and we were singing song. I st-still remember he was teaching me a little o-on the piano, you know, o-on, to play a little bit, very, very good. Italians were very nice, very good people, very hearty people, good people.

Q: And what about in **Yugoslavia**, in **Belgrade**?

A: **Yugoslavia** was -- no, **Yugoslavia** was a -- how do you call it, they were -- was a dictatorship. Everything was under soldiers, you see soldiers all over the place, and you just couldn't move. It was under **Tito**, same thing like -- like under **Stalin**, same thing. I didn't feel free over there. **Yugoslavia** was very, very, very harsh.

Q: And in -- but in **Italy** you -- you -- you were beginning to feel better.

A: Feel a whole f -- I could go wherev -- we went to circus, we went to -- how do you call it, to -- they had those merry-go-rounds, how do you call it, the --

Q: Like an amusement park?

A: Amusement parks. Oh, in **Italy** I was free, you know, it was a different -- we beginning to feel like a human being.

Q: And you were with your cousin?

A: Yes.

Q: So you weren't alone any --

A: No, no, we were in the camps together. Yeah, I -- I had some ex -- I remember my aunt -- I had an aunt in **Cleveland**, Aunt **Lana**, so th -- this -- she send me 10 dollars. That was a lot of money then, so --

Q: She sent it to you where?

A: To **Italy**, to **Turino**.

Q: You had been -- you got in touch with her?

A: Yeah, I got in touch with her yeah, we -- I know we had only one aunt. I remember -- oh, it -- it was -- oh -- and I worked in **Italy**, I worked as a -- how do you call it, a laborer. And then I met another cousin over there, an older cousin. And it began -- it began to -- things to get together, you know, that I could think. But I still didn't know about my sister, about anybody. Didn't know about anybody.

Q: And that -- this is now in the spring of 1946?

A: That -- forties -- it wa -- yeah, '46, and I -- yeah.

Q: Spring of '46 you left the Italian --

A: Yeah.

Q: -- place --

A: Yeah.

Q: -- and you went to --

A: To **Paris**.

Q: -- French **Riviera**.

A: French, yeah we went -- we crossed, because we didn't have no papers.

Q: No identification --

A: No **I.D.s** --

Q: -- passport --

A: -- we couldn't --

Q: -- nothing.

A: -- we couldn't go anywhere, we had to go illegally wherever we went, even we went to -- from **Yugoslavia**, we didn't have no papers, we couldn't go anywhere. So you went -- we had to go illegally. So **France** is the first place that I got a -- how do you call it papers, they're called identification. Car -- it was called **card identite**. You know, it was like an accordion, and they took my -- my picture, and I went to the city hall, and I got registered as a **[interruption] card identite**.

Q: In **France**?

A: In **France**, right.

Q: And -- and how did you get from -- you went to **Nice**, you walked into **Nice**? You said you --

A: Yeah, we walked it -- we walked into **Nice**, w-with a -- with a guide.

Q: And where did the guide take you?

A: He took us from **Italy** across to **France**.

Q: But when you were in **Nice**, where did he take you in **Nice**?

A: Well no, he -- no, he went to the -- the Jewish Congress, and they gave us tickets, you know, for -- train tickets. And from there we went to **Paris**. By the way, oh I'm sorry, this guy that we -- we were -- remember I said with a st -- with the silk stockings?

Q: Yes, you were smuggling.

A: Smuggling. He is the guy who -- who was leading us.

Q: The smuggler?

A: The sm -- he wasn't a smuggler, he was a -- I don't know what he was, but he lived in a very nice place outside **Paris**, was called **Maison Lafitte**. What -- and we used to have horse races there all the time, I see them walking around with horses there, outside **Paris**. And we were there for about a -- a week at his place, and then he took us to the Jewish Congress in **Paris**.

Q: And what about those silk stockings, what did you, give them to him?

A: No -- yeah, yeah. We -- we give it to him.

Q: And he -- and he sold them, probably.

A: He sold them, yes, yes. Yeah.

Q: So now -- now this is early summer, or spring?

A: Early, yeah, yeah.

Q: In **Paris**.

A: In **Paris**, right.

Q: And what was that like?

A: It was -- it was beautiful. It was -- I went to the -- to the -- to the Congress and they gave us -- and they send us to that home.

Q: Describe this home, and the name of it.

A: This home is called **Sevres, Sevres. Chateau Eiffel** was called. There was a -- about a hundred -- maybe a hundred, maybe more boys, all refugees from -- from different camps, from different countries, but most of them were Hungarians. And they fed us -- they give us food and clothing, and then the Congress took care of us. And from there they took us to a school, like that -- that **Clamark**, you know that place where they interviewed me?

Q: It was an **ORT**?

A: **ORT**, yeah.

Q: An **ORT** school --

A: They took us to the **ORT** school --

Q: -- in the city.

A: -- in the city, **Paris**.

Q: Every day you would go in?

A: Every day, yes. And then I stayed there for about maybe -- maybe five months, but I didn't like the -- didn't want to be an electrician, it was -- so they --

Q: They were training you for an electrician?

A: -- training me electrician. So, they said okay, we going to take you to another place, to a shop, like that jewelry shop. The jewelry shop was on **Monmart**, and that's not too far from the **follie ber** -- not **Follies Bergere**, what was that called? Yeah, **Follies Bergere**. And there they took me into a shop. This guy, who was a nice guy, French Jewish guy, but he didn't work. He had a -- like a -- he had a foreman who -- who done all the work over there.

Q: Can you say -- remember his name?

A: His name was **Tinman**. A hung -- he was from **Romania**. He was from **Israel**, but he came to **France** in 1946. Fine jeweler. And I was there for about -- till that -- till a - - till I came to **Canada**.

Q: And -- and what did you learn there?

A: I learn how to -- to make rings, you know, a-and to get me in -- you know, started in the jewelry. Know how to fire rings, and how to solder and do different things. So when I came to **Canada** I told them I was a jeweler, so I had a place where to go.

Q: Let's take a little si -- pause here. There's more.

A: Okay, you ask me the question, where do -- where do you want to take me. Whate - - whatever you want to go, I'll just answer it.

Q: Okay. So you're -- you're staying outside of **Paris** in this chateau with many other young men?

A: Young, yes.

Q: And going in every day to learn a trade?

A: Trade.

Q: And -- and -- a-and how long did that go on for?

A: It went on till -- till 19 -- till the end of 1947.

Q: A yea -- more than a year and a half?

A: Is that a year and a half?

Q: About that.

A: Yeah, yeah.

Q: And what was your life like there? Did you have money to spend, and go out, and --

A: Oh yes, I w -- I was making money, very little. And th -- and the Jewish Congress gave us coupons for food. Like in **Paris**, I remember there was a restaurant called -- it's a famous restaurant now, it's called **Goldberg's**. So we used to go there and have food free, you know, didn't cost us anything. And I was making a little money, and he paid me a little money, not much, but I didn't have to pay for -- for food, no room and board. The only thing I had to go as -- if I want to go dancing, or I want to go just for the subway, and the buses, that's all. I didn't need much money over there.

Q: And did you go out on the weekends? Did you --

A: Oh yes, we --

Q: -- have dates, did you have girlfriends?

A: No, n-not girlfriends, but we used to go dancing. Used to go in a place in **Paris**, was called **Rue de Lap**. A lot of dance halls. They have all night dance halls. You dance from nine till 12, and then there was a -- another rest period till one o'clock, from one to five in the morning, but I didn't stay that long. Oh yes, I did, but I didn't live a -- a -- after we stayed at that home, we didn't stay that -- that long. They moved us into -- we had to go live in **Paris**. We have to move out from that home. So we went into a hotel. Me, and my cousin, and another cousin, three of us, we got together and we -- we lived in a home -- in -- in a hotel. What -- the name of the ho -- name of the street was **Rue Saint Louis en L'isle**, just across from the **Notre Dame**.

Q: On the Left Bank?

A: On the Left Bank, right. **Rue Saint Louis**, I heard it's a very famous place today. Yeah, we stayed there. We slept three in one bed.

Q: But wa -- what was -- what were you thinking in this time? It was getting better for you. You had --

A: Oh yes, yeah --

Q: -- you had some money, you had a life of some kind.

A: -- yeah, yeah, it got -- I got -- I was -- I was getting a life, but I wasn't -- I was always searching. I always wanted to come to **America**, that was always my -- my dream, **America**. But we couldn't come to **America**. I don't know the -- the quota was closed, or something happened. So then there was a transport -- the Jewish Congress

made up a transport of boys under 18. They could go to **Canada**. So I joined -- I joined that group, and from there I went to **London**. I stayed there a couple of days. Then we came to -- came to **Canada**.

Q: Tell me about that -- this -- the passage, you -- when -- when did you leave **Paris**, and -- and who were you with?

A: **Paris** we left -- we left the 1948. I mean, on New Year's Eve, do you know, the -- like on New Year's Day?

Q: Right.

A: That -- 1948.

Q: January first, 1948.

A: January the first we left -- we left **Paris**.

Q: By train?

A: By train, we went to -- to -- what -- what is that in -- in -- in -- in the harbor, what they have there, the port? We -- we took the -- the ship across the channel. That was some experience.

Q: Why?

A: Because it was very, very rough. Channels are very rough ocean, you know, very -- and -- and from there we came to **Halifax**, and then --

Q: You didn't -- you didn't go to lo -- you went to **London**?

A: I went to **London**, we stayed there for about a week. Then I met some other people that I know, and then we came to **Halifax** from there.

Q: And where did you leave from?

A: Pardon?

Q: What -- what port did you leave from, do you remember?

A: I ca -- I can't think the name of the -- of the port from -- from **England**.

Q: It wasn't **Southampton**?

A: No, no, there's another port, I can't think of the name of it.

Q: And who else was on the ship?

A: My cousin and I. No, no, my cousin wasn't with me. I was all by myself. Because when I was in **Paris**, I had something wrong with me, I had something on the side that was -- and the doctor wouldn't pass me, you know, I had pains over here, so I had to go to a hospital. I went -- I remember I went to a hospital called the chil -- the -- the **Rothschild** Hospital. I was there for a week and the doctor wouldn't pass me. And then, after I went to the hospital, they straighten me out and then I -- then I came, I was very frustrated for -- for about a month, because I couldn't come, because my cousin left. He left to come to **Canada**, and I stayed by myself there.

Q: So when you came on the ship to **Halifax, Nova Scotia** --

A: Yeah, yeah.

Q: -- what kind of ship was it? Who else was on the ship?

A: It was a n-n -- just a transport, you know, it's children transport. No, there's a lot of people, you know, was a -- it was a big ship, it was called **Aquitania**.

Q: Oh, and did it -- it was a t-tourist kind of -- well, that's --

A: No, the -- wa-was a --

Q: -- the way most people traveled [**indecipherable**]

A: -- no, no, wa-was a very big ship, like not that **Queen Elizabeth**, it was a -- a --
Aquitania was a very famous ship.

Q: And -- and this -- was it this Jewish organization that had paid your passage?

A: Yeah, yeah, the Jewish Congress. The -- they -- they took care of everything, yes.

And then we came to a -- we were in **Halifax** for a few days, and then I came to
Montreal. And I was in **Montreal** for about not even a year, maybe six months. Then
my sister heard that I was in **Canada**, so -- so she started making papers, and she
came.

Q: **Sara**.

A: Fola -- followed me, right.

Q: So --

A: And then I stayed in **Montreal** for about six months, and I heard my cousin settled
down in **Toronto**, so I came to **Toronto**. That was in 1948.

Q: And your sister came then?

A: My sister came maybe a few years later. And we -- the Jewish Congress settled us
in with families. Like, we stayed with a family. Still remember the name **Schecter**. I s
-- I slept with a little boy, you know, with wa -- in one room in **Toronto**, and then I
went to work. Went to work as a jeweler.

Q: Uh-huh.

A: I was making already 12 bucks -- 12 dollars a week. And we were paying 15 dollars a week for -- they charge for the -- you know, room and board. So the Congress gave me five dollars, so I paid them, and I got three dollars pocket money.

Q: I would like to go back to **Paris**.

A: Yes.

Q: And talk to you about the summer of 1946 when you did this interview --

A: Yes.

Q: -- with **David Boder**.

A: Yes.

Q: As you know, we've tracked you down --

A: Yes, yes --

Q: -- because there's a transcript and a tape.

A: -- yes, yes.

Q: And it was at the end of July --

A: Yes.

Q: -- when he interviewed you. And he identified you then as an **ORT** --

A: **ORT** --

Q: -- student.

A: -- student, yeah. I was an **ORT** student, lear -- learning elec -- electrician.

Q: Mm-hm. Do you have any recollection of that interview?

A: No, I can't remem -- the only th-thing that when -- when I listened to myself on the -- on the tape, I recons -- I recognize myself.

Q: And -- and when you hear that tape, what -- what do you hear in your own voice, what -- what can you --

A: Just -- just the question that he answered -- but I wasn't sure it was me, but -- but I recognized myself, it was me. It was no fake.

Q: In that tape to me, you sounded a little tired, and a little --

A: Tired, well --

Q: -- kind of --

A: -- you know what it was, it wasn't tired. Insecured. Very insecured, you know? You don't -- you're alone, you're -- you don't know what's going to be. Feel very, very, you know, taken away, you know, from a family, you know? Insecurity, it wasn't tired, I wasn't tired one bit.

Q: A little **[indecipherable]**

A: But I didn't have no money, I didn't have no family, didn't have brother and sisters, you know? It -- it -- it was tough, tough. Bitter, that was the -- was bitter.

Q: It was a bitter time, or you were bitter?

A: No, no, no, I was bitter.

Q: A -- a little ang -- angry --

A: Not angry as much, just unfortunate, you know? Not very lucky. But we were all in the same boat.

Q: I want to ask you about a couple of things that you told him. One was that you told him you were 19.

A: 19?

Q: Would that have been because you had re --

A: Oh no, I -- I --

Q: -- held onto the age that you told the Germans you were --

A: -- I had to do it -- I had -- I had to do it because of the Germans, you know? Yeah. I had to do it because I had to change -- change. The ger -- the -- when they ask me, we -- you know, I had to tell him that.

Q: So you stayed telling people that you were that age?

A: Yeah.

Q: And your identity card?

A: My identity is what-whatever it is, 1930.

Q: Uh-huh, when you came to **France** and you put on your identity card --

A: That's right, that's right.

Q: I wonder why you told him you were 19? Maybe because he was speaking German to you?

A: No, no. Because we done a lot of things that -- like I put myself, when they ask me what -- what are you -- where are you from? So I told them I was Romanian. We were so insecure because my cousin is romani -- was born in **Romania**, so I felt maybe if -

- if I tell him I was Hungarian or Czechoslovakian, they going to separate us, you know? It's insecure, insecure, very insecure.

Q: If you don't -- if you don't remember that interview, there's not a lot I can ask you about, but --

A: No, you -- you can ask me. Ask me, ask me.

Q: This professor, his voice was -- when I heard the tape, his voice was so, sort of aggressive.

A: Yes, yes. No, well, w -- you see -- w -- you know what is aggressive? When you speak German. German is a very aggressive language. Like they say **achtung was machto**, you know, it's a -- a very -- it's not a very refined, you know, it's -- it's aggressive language, you know?

Q: But you don't remember him, so you can't say --

A: No, I ca -- I ca -- honest --

Q: -- that he treated you --

A: -- I can't remember him. I can't remember him.

Q: Right.

A: Not that I deny that -- that. I don't have -- I don't have nothing to hide, or anything. I can't remember him.

Q: Yeah, it was one day --

A: Pardon?

Q: -- maybe a couple of hours out of your whole life.

A: Yeah, yeah, it -- it -- it was -- it was tough, tough. I was surprised, you know? Well it's, you know, it's not that -- maybe my memory is -- is -- is -- is failing me now, you know, but I can't remember him. Maybe the -- maybe if I go back step by step you know -- you know? But my cousin had the same interview. Can you get ahold of -- he had the same interview, his name is **Sam Isakovics**.

Q: Does he remember it?

A: He -- who's that?

Q: Does your cousin remember --

A: **Sam?** I ne -- I never spoke to him about it. Never -- never even spoke to him. He's not too well now, he's in **Stratford, Ontario**.

Q: Mm-hm. Well, I'm sure somebody is tracked --

A: Pardon?

Q: -- track him down.

A: Yeah. But it's not -- it's not -- is it important?

Q: Well, it's hard to say if it's important or not. We have to track all these people down --

A: Yes.

Q: -- and -- and do the interviews, and see who remembers.

A: Oh, I see, I see.

Q: See what they remember of what they told him --

A: I see, I see.

Q: -- versus what they remember now.

A: But I remember the -- I remember the school, the **ORT** school. I remember the name of the wi -- of the street.

Q: What street?

A: **Clamark**. That's the name of the street. I remember it was up on a hill, you know, like -- I remember when the -- the -- every morning, what the guys were washing the -- the streets, you know, those cobblestone street. I still remember those things. I remember it -- there was a lot of people from **Spain**, who -- who work with -- against **Franco**. They -- they were learning how to be electricians too. And I still remember that I went back to a place, they send me back -- that what turned me off from the elec -- from being electrician. He send me to a place where to work, and we have to work putting holes in the wall, like you know, those stone walls. And there was no electric drills those days, and you had to use a chisel, you know? You -- you hammer it and then twist it to make a hole. And I was there doing the -- and in a half a day I make maybe three holes, you know? It -- it was kind of boring, you know? So I said no, no.

Q: Let's take a break here.

A: Yes.

Q: Change ta --

End of Tape Four

Beginning Tape Five

Q: Okay, I want to ask you some more questions about being in **Paris**.

A: Yes. **Paris** seems interesting for you.

Q: Well, it's a time when you're --

A: You -- you're fascinated with **Paris**.

Q: -- it's not so much **Paris**, it's sort of you --

A: **Paris** was --

Q: -- coming out of this one experience --

A: -- yeah, yeah, and coming into something else.

Q: -- and going into another one.

A: Oh yeah, a different world.

Q: So you're in a transition here.

A: That's right, very mu --

Q: And you're young.

A: That's right.

Q: You're only 18.

A: That's right.

Q: So you have your -- this --

A: Oh, we ha -- it was -- it was -- the only problem over there, we didn't have money.

Because -- said we had to change clothing, and all that. Because y-y-you couldn't

make any money, only if you're -- if you're -- you know, a tradesman, a good tradesman, but --

Q: When you were -- when you were in **Paris**, a lot of the people that you were with were also refugees, but were people in general understanding of what had happened to you? At this point did people know what had happened in --

A: We -- we were all in the same boat.

Q: No, but I mean Parisian's.

A: Oh, Parisian's. Oh yes, yeah, yeah, yeah, we -- oh -- oh yeah, oh yeah --

Q: Did you -- did -- did people know that it happened?

A: -- because the French, they suffered too, you know, the French Jews. They -- they suffered a lot too. Oh yeah, **France** was in the -- they were in the same boat as we were. You know, they were taken to the -- to the camps, they suffered a lot, a lot of them survived. Same thing with the -- a lot of Europeans, Jews like the -- the Greeks, the -- the Hungarians, the French, even the Italians, they suffered a lot, too. The only differences between them and us, that they could disguise themselves, you know, beca --

Q: Who -- who?

A: Like th-the French, you know, because they spoke French, these pu -- and the -- and you know, and they -- and they mingled in with -- with the -- with the people, you know? They couldn't tell who was a Jew, and who wasn't a Jew, you know? But with us it was very easy because we were very easily disguised, easily recognized.

Q: How? Explain that.

A: Because -- because we all lived -- we all lived in a ghetto. Like in **Europe** all the Jews, they gather together, the same over here like they live in whatever, **Beverly Hills**, or wherever lives the -- lot of them live, you know, together. But the French -- an-and -- and the -- they're weren't that many French, you know, because they can get lost amongst millions of people. But with us, like in a hometown like mine, you know, you couldn't hide. Even **Budapest** was very hard to hide yourself.

Q: Yeah. When you came to **Paris** and you started to have a little bit of a routine --

A: Yes.

Q: -- and a little bit of a life, did you go to synagogue?

A: Funny, no, no. Didn't go to synagogue, no. Tha-that was an -- I was completely -- not that I deny that my -- my -- when I came to **Canada**, then I started, you know, getting back, you know. But otherwise, didn't want to believe anything, we didn't have no interest. No interest in religion at all.

Q: What about in the camps?

A: In the camps, y -- well, over there, no, no. The only thing we done is we fasted. I-It was only one -- or it was only one day out of a year, and there was -- we were there only one year. No, we didn't have no -- no interest in religion because we lost it all. I remember when we came in **Auschwitz**, you know, and they were undressing us, and all the people started to scream, where is God, where is God, you know? You know, so we -- we sort -- a lot of people lost it. That's it. How can you do this to us? That's how

e -- we felt. Yeah, I was -- it wasn't -- it was -- when I came to **France** I was already no -- life was getting into normal. But I wasn't old enough then, you know? I wasn't old enough, only -- was only to go out there and have fun, and that's it. But otherwise, never thought of religion, anything like that.

Q: You told me about -- you showed me a photograph which we will show later, of you and some cousins, and your sister --

A: Yes.

Q: -- in **Paris**.

A: Yes.

Q: What was -- what happened there? How did everybody happen to be in the same place?

A: Because we lived in the same -- same place, same hotel. We all lived in the same hotel. We all gathered. I still remember, the reason we done it too, because we were -- we were parting. You know, like one cousin went to **Ecuador**, and another one -- another person went to how do ca -- to **Venezuela, Caracas**. We were -- we were leaving **Paris**. We didn't want to stay there, we just want to get out of **Europe**. Wanted to start a new life.

Q: And it's interesting to me that you were all going different places.

A: No, it's not we were going different places. We were going wherever we could go, whatever was open for us. But the main thing, we all wanted to come to **America**, but **America** was -- we couldn't come to **America**. I don't know, maybe we weren't smart

enough, we didn't know the right -- the right channels. But I know one thing, I always wanted to come to **America**. Even all these years I want to come to **America**, I couldn't come. So finally I said to my wife, I don't know whether it was in 1965, says, "We're going to go to **America**." I was lucky because I couldn't come on my papers, I could go on -- on her papers, because she was English. So I go on her quota. My quota would never be able to come to **America**. I tried a couple of times coming across the border, **Niagara Falls**. Go back, you don't have no papers.

Q: In your interview with Professor **Boder**, you told him that you had an uncle in **America**.

A: Yes.

Q: Did you ever -- but you didn't know where he was.

A: I didn't know where he was, but I finally found -- found out where he was, I got in touch with my aunt. Remember I told you my aunt send me the 10 dollars? She said what I have to do is just ask the Jewish Congress, so -- but I don't know what city he is in, I don't know -- I only know his name. His name was **Sam Moskovitz**. So the Jewish Congress found him for me, that he live -- he came out and -- in 1902. So what your -- he was c-came out to **America** before my -- my father was born.

Q: So he was a lot older than your father?

A: Oh yeah -- pardon?

Q: Older than your father, a lot older.

A: Yeah, my father was born in 1903.

Q: Oh.

A: Yeah, he was --

Q: So he's been here the whole time.

A: Yeah, he was here. He was a nice guy, but he didn't -- he didn't know us. The only person that knew us is my aunt from **Cleveland**, Aunt **Lana**. And all the cousins, everybody jumped on Aunt **Lana** to send us money or do something for us, that she couldn't take us all out. She took a -- the other cousins, but I didn't get a chance. So I had to go to **Canada**, second best.

Q: Did you ever get to meet her?

A: Who **Lana**? Oh yes. Oh, after I came out to **Toronto**, I had a house. She came to my house, we slept in my house. We put the mattresses on the floor and we all slept there. **Toronto**. She -- she was one of -- she came out -- she remembers all of us. I wasn't born then, but she came and must have been in the -- after the -- I think after the second World War -- the first World War. She must have come out here in 19 -- in the 20's.

Q: And those other cousins that you were with in **Paris**, one went to **Venezuela** --

A: Yeah. Yes.

Q: -- one -- what happened --

A: But he wasn't a cousin, he was a -- an acquaintance, you know, a friend.

Q: Oh.

A: But the one from ke -- **Quito**, he is a cousin of mine, yeah. And --

Q: Did you ever see him again?

A: No, no, I never see him. Yeah, I missed him, I missed him. He -- he invited me over for a **Bar Mitzvah**, to **Ecuador**, but I couldn't make it. So he passed -- he passed on, yeah. Yeah, we were all spread out. Oh yeah, but m-ma -- it was interesting story about my brother.

Q: What -- what happened?

A: You know, I didn't know I had a brother --

Q: That's right.

A: -- till somebody came from my hometown, and told me, "**Mark**, you know, you have a brother at home." So I wrote a letter, and there he send me that picture, that picture, you know, with the Russian -- Russian soldier.

Q: And -- and where was this that you found -- where were you when you found out?

A: In **Paris**.

Q: And where had he been when you went there?

A: He -- he was in **Russia** all that time. But that was 19 what -- '46. We were still new there, you know? And found out that he is in -- that he was in my hometown, and he didn't know about us.

Q: What had happened to him from -- from **Auschwitz**?

A: **Auschwit** -- he got liberated. He got liberated in a place called **Glivitz**. That's -- he got liberated in January. And then the Russians took him to **Russia**. He was a young boy, he was what, about 12 years at that time.

Q: He had been with your father?

A: Ma -- my father, yes. And my father died, somebody -- they killed my father. He told me.

Q: After the -- b-bef --

A: You know, around -- must have been around January, around January.

Q: On a march?

A: No, they didn't march, because they didn't march far enough. He was in a place called **Bunau**. And **Bunau** from **Glivitz** is -- excuse me -- it's not that far. So he got liberated by the Russians.

Q: Your brother.

A: My brother, sure.

Q: And -- and when was your father killed?

A: My father must have been killed around -- in I would say January or February, something like that.

Q: Around the same time?

A: Same -- yeah, when -- when the -- they liquidated **Auschwitz**, cause the Russians were coming. And they emptied all the, you know -- and then he went to **Glivitz**, and then he -- they took him to **Russia**. He was there all that time.

Q: Mm-hm. And is it your assumption that your mother was killed right away?

A: Oh, my mother, the -- they all went to the -- they all went to the gas chamber. All -- all the -- the whole town. Everybody, ex -- a-anybody who wasn't able to work, put into a work camp, they -- they -- they eliminated them.

Q: First day.

A: Pardon?

Q: First day.

A: The first day, yeah. I -- I could see them coming, or -- stepping out from the train, coming, I can see it. We were standing there outside and my -- my friend said from my hometown, "Hey **Mark**, look, there's your mother, there's your -- your sister," blah, blah, blah. They we -- marching into the -- how do you call it? They marching -- they - - they took them off from the train, and they took them right away. Maybe I don't know how long they were there, kept there, but they were all taken out the gas chambers.

Q: That was your mother, and which of your siblings, youngest ones?

A: Well, my -- one of them was **Malka, Marilyn**.

Q: Two -- two of them, right.

A: Two of them, yeah, yeah, and that's --

Q: **Malka** and --

A: -- **Malka** and **Shemshin** -- s -- it's **Sam**, or --yeah.

Q: The baby.

A: The baby, yeah.

Q: Yeah, yeah.

A: And my mother. Because she wasn't old enough to -- she was -- went with the children. And the -- the guys who are in **Cleveland** now, their mother was a young woman, beautiful, strong woman, **Malka**, but she -- she had small children. So anybody with small children, even if they were able to work, as long as you want to go with your children, you want to -- they eliminate -- they take you to the gas chamber. It's a harsh thing to say, isn't it? You can't just say it so cold blooded, you know, but that's -- that's what happened. Anybody who -- young people, let's see, young woman who -- who had a child. 19 - 20 year old girls who had children, they went to the gas chamber. You've seen fiddl -- you've seen **Spielberg's** -- what's the name that film?

Q: "**Schindler's List.**"

A: **Schindler** -- you'll see in that, young people, that's what -- that's what happened. Unless you -- you want to throw your baby away, and you could save yourself.

Q: Yeah.

A: You had a choice.

Q: Have you, in the years since you came to **Canada** and the **U.S.**, do you ever meet with people that you knew -- knew in the camps? You ever run into anybody?

A: No, I never -- never run into anybody bi -- in the camps, because it was a small camp. Was only about 500 people of -- and for us to sort of -- you know, for me to meet somebody who was in that same camp, there was no chance, because you know -

-

Q: Yeah. And I have some random questions. When -- were you ever sorry that you didn't go to **Israel**?

A: I ever sorry? No.

Q: You didn't really want to go, I mean --

A: No, no, no.

Q: -- it was an option, but you always --

A: No, no. It -- it wasn't an option, it was -- it was -- it was sort of -- too many people were ahead of us, you know? People who had money, who could pay their way to go there, could go. But we -- we -- we couldn't go anywhere. We could only go whatever, you know, was available for us to go. No, I wasn't -- it's not that I was -- I wa -- all my friends -- and -- they were in **Israel** -- all of them -- most of them went to **Israel**, because it's the -- how do you call it, the circumstances brings you to -- to go there. Otherwise, I would have went there. Like coming to **Canada**, or coming to **United States**. It wasn't a matter of that I didn't want to go there, it's just a matter of circumstances.

Q: But you -- you've also said you had it in your mind always that you wanted to go to the **United States**.

A: Yeah, yes.

Q: Was that something that began when you got to **France**, or had that been --

A: No, I -- since I was a little boy, when I was at home, playing i-in the sand. You know, people were talking about the **America**, you work only eight hours, and they

have electricity, and they go to movies. And -- and I was -- you know, i -- i -- you're dreaming, you know? Like utopia. That -- that was in my -- in my mind.

Q: Did you ever see a movie?

A: Pardon?

Q: Did you --

A: Oh yeah, I used to go ma -- I used to watch movies.

Q: In your town?

A: Yes, yes.

Q: They had movies.

A: Hungarian movies, yeah. Oh yes.

Q: Did you ever see an American movie?

A: No, no, I don't -- I don't remember seeing American movie. First time when I came, see an American movie -- I got the goose pimples now -- come to see -- I've seen in **Italy**, "**For Whom the Bell Tolloed.**" And then -- and that was with **Gary Cooper**, and then who I -- i-in **Paris** I started to go to the movies. Not -- not in -- not in **Italy**.

Q: And that was pretty --

A: Pardon?

Q: -- great. You liked it.

A: **Paris**, yeah. Over there --

Q: I mean, you liked going to see those movies, cause --

A: I liked to see the movies, oh yeah, loved the movies. Oh yes, I remember
“**Phantom of the Opera**,” and then with -- oh, what’s the name, with -- what’s the
guy’s name that -- that -- **Edward G. Robinson**, with the -- oh, the -- I -- I love -- I
love the movies. **Ingrid Bergman**. Yeah, I love movies. There’s one film I’ve seen
there 13 times, is “**Gilda**.”

Q: You saw it in **Paris**?

A: In **Paris**, I did --

Q: 13 times.

A: 13 times. You ever heard of “**Gilda**”? You guys ever heard the name? No. You
did? “**Gilda**” is with **Rita Hayworth**, gl -- **Glen Ford**, oh, a beautiful movie. I love
movies. Even here I go to movie, I love movies.

Q: And -- and there in **Paris** were you also hearing American music, and wa -- and
were there American soldiers there?

A: No, no, no, not -- not so much mu -- no, no, after tha -- that was finished, finished,
finished, no mo -- no more -- no more wartime, no, it was getting back to -- to normal
life.

Q: Mm-hm.

A: No more American **G.I.s**, no, that was only in **Germany**. Even in **France** -- even in
-- in **Italy** you didn’t see too much Americans. It’s only in **Germany**, because there
was -- it was more like a normal life. Yes, yes.

Q: Could -- I’d like to have a pause here, and -- **[tape break]** Any time. Go ahead.

A: Just -- this is my father, **Hirsch**, when he was a single man. And this is my grandfather -- my grandmother, **Frieda**.

Q: In the center?

A: In the center. And this is my aunt, **Gitl**. And I can't remember where this was taken, but it could have been taken **Sikanitsa**, or **Bushtinna**. That was before my father was married.

Q: Do you know what year your father was born?

A: My father was born in 1903.

Q: So this could have been, maybe --

A: This could have been --

Q: -- in early 20's?

A: In early 20's , right.

Q: Do you happen to have any idea of the occasion of this picture, or anything like that?

A: I wouldn't know, I -- I -- I just found these pictures -- I -- somebody send it to me, you know? I didn't even know this picture was around. And we didn't have too many pictures of families. I had a passport picture for my -- for my family, but I can't find it. No, we di -- we didn't -- we didn't have too many pictures those days.

Q: Okay. Let's go to the nec -- you ha -- you still had those clothes in **Paris**? You still had those -- that army --

A: Yeah, yeah, I must have, must have.

Q: Are -- are -- are we rolling? Yes. Okay, this is you?

A: Yes. And I think this picture was taken in **Paris**, outside -- outsi -- outside **Chateau Eiffel**, where I used to live in **Sevres**. We're going back to the year 1946.

Q: You were 16.

A: And I was about 16, yes, yes.

Q: And describe these cl -- this clothing that you have on.

A: The clo -- the clothing were, I think was American -- American army clothing.

Q: And where would that have come from?

A: From -- from -- from American -- American soldiers.

Q: Where did you get it?

A: Somebody must have given to me. Yes?

Q: You told me in the interview that you may have gotten these clothes in **Germany**, in the town that you were liberated in, and you went into homes, and you took clothes.

Is that possible that that's the same clothes?

A: No, no, I don't think I took anything. But I can't remember where I got those clothing from. But I know I always liked uniform clothing. So I got this -- this clothing there.

Q: And you think the shoes too?

A: The shoes too, I remember th-the -- the tall, you know, it's lace up, you know, the - - the army clothing. Yeah, this was taken in par -- outside **Paris**.

Q: This was probably a few -- at least a few months after, or maybe a year after liberation.

A: Yes, yes, yes.

Q: So you had -- you probably had gained some weight, and --

A: Yes, I kept -- I kept --

Q: -- pretty healthy.

A: -- oh yes, I looked -- I looked more like a normal -- normal being.

Q: And a year before that, what would you have looked like?

A: Very, very skinny. I was skinny. I have a picture what I was in -- with a bathing suit, you seen? You want to take a picture of that?

Q: Yeah, we'll see that, I think.

A: Yes.

Q: Okay, next photo. Okay.

A: You going to ask me?

Q: Go ahead, where is this?

A: No, th-this picture was taken when we used to go to -- from -- from **Sevres** to **Paris**, we used to travel by train to work. And we -- we got to know these people, these girls. And one guy, the guy who's standing to my right, his name is **Tulley**. He is -- he lives in **Canada** right now. I can't remember the name of the girl, she was a redheaded girl, I can't remember her. And now the guy, he is from **Poland**.

Q: On the upper right?

A: On the -- no, to -- to my left.

Q: Well, you are on the lower left.

A: Yeah, yeah, I'm the right, and then I can't remember the name of that girl, either, but we used to travel with them every day on the train and we got to know them. And there is me. There's m --

Q: On the l -- that's you on the lower left.

A: Lower left, and there's my cousin **Sam**. That was nice, nice memory, very nice people.

Q: So this was in a train station you think?

A: On a train sta -- just outside **Sevres**, as we -- we entered to the station, a small station. It's between **Paris** and **Versailles**. So, about -- about eight kilometers from **Versailles**.

Q: This is maybe -- looks like summertime 1947?

A: Yes, yes.

Q: You think, summer of '47?

A: Must have -- must have been '47, I --

Q: And who do you think took this picture?

A: Somebody must have taken it, I ca -- I can't remember that far back, but I remember the -- the -- the -- the pictures. He was a very good friend of mine, this guy here.

Q: On the upper right.

A: The -- upper right, his name is **Tulley**. Yeah. A very good looking boy, too, we always teased him. He is -- he lives in **Montreal** somewhere, I don't know if he is still alive, or not. I just lo -- lost contact with all these people.

Q: Did you have any girlfriends in **Paris**?

A: Who me? No, no, no. I was taken towards the redhead over there, but we never had no ra -- no contacts after that. But we were still -- still too young.

Q: Okay. Okay, now who is this?

A: Okay, th -- this picture --

Q: Starting in the upper -- starting in the upper right?

A: That's me, that's me, and the other guy is -- his name is **Hershey**. He is married to my cousin, my cousin **Frieda**, she is on -- next to my sister, over there.

Q: On the lower left?

A: On the lower r-right -- the lower left, right. And that's **Arya**. He -- he is another -- he is a nephew of **Hershey**, and he lived in -- in **California**, he had a bar on -- on **Western Avenue, Western** and let me see, **Vermont**. He had a bar here in **California**.

And the other guy, his name is --

Q: This is the guy in the center with the dark shirt?

A: The guy, he i -- the bald, yeah, yeah. He is -- can't remember his name, but he moved to **Caracas**, that was in -- what's -- what country is that?

Q: **Venezuela**.

A: **Venezuela**.

Q: Was he related to you?

A: No, he wasn't related. And then the -- next to him is another guy, his name is **Eatzhog**, he is a cousin of mine.

Q: Do you remember his last name?

A: **Isakovics**, yes. And next to him is another guy, his name is **Budach Forkosh**, and he lives right here in -- in **Hollywood**. He lives in **California**.

Q: Related?

A: No, not related to me. And the other guy, his name is **Shawnee**. He is a cousin of mine. He used to live in **Quito, Ecuador**.

Q: What's his last name?

A: **Isakovics**. And on the bottom right, his name is **Sam**, that's **Sam**. Sa --

Q: Your cousin?

A: My cousin **Isakovics**, that's his brother. And next to him is **Frieda -- Frieda**, that's **Frieda Isakovics**. That's my -- my cousin, my -- that's my mother's brother's daughter. And next to **Frieda** is my sister -- my -- that's my sister **Sara Moskovitz**. And next to her is **Hannah**. She is su -- was born in **France**, in **Paris**. And this was taken in the hotel that we stayed on **Rue Saint Louis en L'isle**, just -- just outside the **Notre Dame**. This was -- must have been taken 19 what -- 40 -- '46.

Q: And this was the last time this whole group was together?

A: That's right, that's right. Well, **Frieda**, she lives in **Cleveland** now, and **Budach**, I said he -- he lives in **Hollywood**. And **Areo** just passed away. I didn't hear d -- a-

anybody from -- from **Caracas**. And **Eatzhog** passed away, he is in -- he used to live in **Toronto**. And I lost contact -- I've seen **Hannah** about 10 years ago. She is that French -- French girl. She is a friend of my sisters.

End of Tape Five

Beginning Tape Six

Q: Sure, I know.

A: Okay, this is -- okay.

Q: Okay, go ahead.

A: This is my brother **Jack**, and this was taken in -- in the Russian army. And I never even knew that he was alive at that time. He must have been maybe 16 -- 16 years old at that time, and I never knew that he was alive. He send me that picture, I got that picture in **Paris**.

Q: That's when you found out that he was still --

A: That I found out that he was alive, right. And he lives now in **Toronto**. And he's got two sons. One lives in -- in **Tampa, Florida**, he's a doctor. And the other son lives in **Toronto** and he's a dentist. And he used to live in **Russia** for many, many years.

Q: When did he leave there? When did he leave --

A: He left -- we -- to -- my sister took him out to **Canada** in 19 s -- in the 70's.

Q: It's a long time.

A: Yeah. He's been in **Canada** since the 70's.

Q: Okay.

A: Now, this picture was taken in the **Marna -- Marna** river. And we used to go bathing there all the time, and they had outdoor dancing. We used to dance in bathing suits over there. And it's r -- a real beautiful town. It's -- it's call -- it's on **LoMarna**.

It's only about 20 -- 20 kilometers from **Paris**. And we had a lot of fun over there.

Q: So you think this is '46?

A: Yeah, must have been taken in '46.

Q: And -- and that's your cousin there on the left?

A: That's my cousin **Sam**, and that's my sister, **Sara**. Yep. Look at the cars. Old cars.

Looks like in the 1920's.

Q: Yeah.

A: Very good.

Q: Good. And there -- is there one more?

A: Okay, that's it.

Q: That's it.

A: That's [tape break]. Now this picture was taken in **Toronto**, in **Hyde Park**. And that car you see is a 1953 Pontiac. And I came out -- no, it's not this car I came out with, I came out with another Pontiac to **California**, was called a **Parisian**. And I had a lot of fun with that -- that car, driven all the way from **Toronto** to **California**.

Q: And who's the lady?

A: Pardon -- the lady, this is my wife, **Helen. Helen Moskowitz**. We were married already.

Q: You'd just been married recently?

A: Been married, yeah, yeah. It must -- it what -- looks like 1950, yeah, we were just married then. Maybe we had already a child.

Q: Good. Okay.

A: Okay. [indecipherable]

Q: So they will use it later for editing.

A: Okay, very good. Just do what you have to do.

End of Tape Six

Conclusion of Interview