

--to the end here. And there's so much more for you to tell us. But a couple of things before we close-- one is if you can tell us if you ever did learn what happened to your sister. And after living for several years on your own in the forests-- literally living--

Like an animal.

--like an animal, as you put it, off the land, if you will, you were eventually found. And you were almost dead by that point. But if you wouldn't mind, tell us about your sister, if you can tell us anything, and then how you were able to survive.

If I didn't say anything about the haystack-- but we don't have time. My sister-- we thought that she was safe at the farmer's place. But at the end, that was-- I didn't find that out until after the war was over that she was denounced, I don't know by whom. But I think they-- insinuating-- insinuated that the farmer who accepted her to hide her wanted her violin.

My father did-- was able to get a special-- it wasn't a Stradivarius, but it was a good violin. And my sister said, wherever she goes, she could not take the piano with her, but she took her violin. And many, many days and evenings, she comforted us in the ghetto by playing her violin. Had the Germans found the violin when she was going to the ghetto, they would have killed her and took the violin.

But it turns out that when she went into hiding, in those days, young girls didn't wear trousers. But she was wearing a long dress. And she took the violin out of the case and tied it around her body. And this is the way she smuggled the violin into the ghetto. And then when she went into hiding, she took the violin with her.

And I was told-- and I don't know how true it is-- that the farmer wanted the violin. And he also wanted the reward for reporting a Jew. And he denounced her. And I was told that she was paraded naked on a beautiful street, Mickiewicz, the main street of our town. And then they murdered her.

The story about my father was-- first, they told me that he was taken to the concentration camp Dachau. Then there was another version. And I don't know to this day which is the true one-- not that it makes that much difference. The second version was that the 300 leaders were marched outside my little town, Horoch<sup>3</sup>w. They were ordered to dig a mass grave. They were ordered to disrobe. And they were all murdered the very same day.

Nobody knows anything about my mother. And to this day, I don't have anything except endless grief. I will take that grief with me to my grave. But I just hope that by bearing witness and all, I will prevent another horrible catastrophe that is unimaginable for me and for anyone here in Europe in this audience. And it's something that should never occur again. I would like to--

Yes. Before you do that, just a couple of things real quickly, Charlene. Charlene would be found in the woods in a shallow hole, where you had pretty much, you said, given up at that point.

Yes.

And some Soviet troops actually accidentally wandered across her and found you. And you were able to, as a result of that, survive the war. I'd like to-- I'm going to turn back to Charlene in just a moment to close our program. I want to first thank all of you for being here with us today and to remind you that we'll have a First Person program next Tuesday-- that's our next program-- on the 7th of June. And our first person next week will be Mr. Gideon Frieder, who is from Slovakia. And so I hope you can come and join us another time, Tuesdays and Wednesdays through the end of July, and Wednesdays only in August.

I'd like to remind you that we have podcasts for each of our programs. And Charlene's is on the museum's website. But you can also get those through iTunes. It's our tradition at First Person that our first person has the last word. And so with that, I'd like to turn back to Charlene to close today's First Person program.

Well, I have two items that I want to bring to your attention. And when I speak at schools, and universities, and church groups, and wherever I speak, I feel that there is one thing that has to be emphasized. And this is that together, we must continue to fight what I call the four evil Is-- the evils of indifference. I think, because the world was indifferent, the Holocaust did happen. So we first have the four Is-- indifference, injustice, intolerance, and ignorance. Please, remember, especially a beautiful young people, these are the evil Is that we must conquer in order to have, again, a peaceful, harmonious world.

I am very proud to be a military wife. Sadly, I'm a widow now. But I feel-- we just observed the last weekend, Memorial Day weekend, where we honored the military forces that actually gave their utmost. And they were killed so that we could live in a free, beautiful country.

And this is a prayer on their behalf. Dear God, we invoke your blessings upon the members of our American military forces, those brave men and women whose courage and commitment to that for which this country stands protects us all, whether by air, land, or sea, wherever their orders take them. We ask, dear God, that they be protected within your sheltering presence. Shield them from harm and from pain. Assuage their loneliness. And sustain their faith in the face of the formidable enemies that they confront on a daily basis.

May all of their efforts be crowned with victory and the assurance that we who depend on their courage appreciate and understand the great difficulty of their work. Most of all, we pray for the ultimate prayer of all service personnel that they be privileged to return to the loving arms of their families and a grateful country safely, speedily, and in good health. Because of their courage, may we all be privileged to know and savor the blessings of true peace and security. Amen. Thank you for being such a good audience.

[APPLAUSE]

Charlene is going to head right up to the top of the--