

--the people there. And we tried to keep very quiet. But a bunch of women, you put them no matter where, the noise is there. You can't help it-- and really-- and finally, came out. And they told us, the war is over. So the war was over. We couldn't even celebrate because the war was over, but little by little, they'll find out that most of our families were gone. Everybody that I left at home was not there anymore. It was-- and for thousands, and thousands, and thousands of people happened the same thing, that they were coming home and there were no.

The only thing-- my oldest brother managed to survive. But he-- you see, now that my brother is dead, I can tell this. But years ago, when I was telling this story, I was afraid to tell because my brother actually smuggled himself in to this country from England. He happened to be on a vacation in England. He lived in Warsaw. And in Europe, you went on a vacation just like you come probably from-- it's probably not as far-- like people told me last week that they were coming from Seattle. You know what? Seattle, Washington is farther than you fly-- you go from Warsaw to England.

So he was in England. And he knew that a war is going to be here. And he didn't want to go back. So what did he do? He joined the Merchant Marines and made sure that the ship was going to New York. When the ship docked in New York, he jumped ship. And he hid out. He hid out at their home, whoever he knew. Where he stayed at night, he never stayed during the day.

So I was afraid. I figured, gee, my brother was-- he probably-- they're going to send him back. But what happened? He actually became an American soldier when he got back. And the minute the United States declared war, he walked in in the recruiting office. And he said, here I am. I want to go fight. And they didn't even ask him, are you a citizen? Nothing. They just sent him to a boot camp. They taught him how to shoot. Because he didn't-- like me, he didn't know how to use a-- to shoot anybody. We didn't know these things.

Regina, we are at our end of our time.

Ah, you see?

And I'm going to turn back to Regina in just a moment to close our program. And unfortunately, I wish-- and I know you probably do too-- wish we had a lot more time. Because now, she has to figure out how to survive, essentially, and decide whether or not you're going to go back to Kozenice or wait for Sam at your hometown. But you went to Kozenice. You found Sam and made a wonderful life together after that.

Yeah, thank you.

But it would be two more years before they made it to the United States. So there's a lot more to be heard about that post-war period. After we finish today, Regina is going to step down off the stage over here. So if any of you would like to chat with her, ask her another question, that would be OK, right, Regina?

That will-- OK.

OK.

The man is coming for me 2:30.

So you got a little bit of time. Thank you all for being here. We greatly appreciate you join us so we hope you will do so again. Hold it. Hold it for one moment. It's our tradition at First Person that our first person has the last word.

OK.

And so on that note, I'm going to turn it back to Regina to close today's program.

And I'm going to turn to my little thing, I think. Maybe this is it. No. I need to--

See if we can find it.

OK. Oh. I must have mixed it up. Anyhow, I can-- Well, maybe. I wasn't going to use this. Maybe this one might be.

Do you remember? OK.

No. No.

No?

I don't know, too many papers.

I think you're looking for number seven.

No, that's OK.

OK.

That's OK. You know what? In conclusion, I'm going to use the words of Pastor Martin Niemoller, who said, in Germany, the Nazis came for the communists, and I did not speak up because I was not a communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak up because I was not a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak up because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I did not speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me. By that time, there was nobody to speak up anymore.

So that's why you ought to be-- basically, what I try to portray, in a way-- I mean, I have to tell my story. But I-- basically, what I like people to leave here from is to-- let's be kind to one another. Somebody was kind to me and helped two girls to survive that war. It's so easy to be kind, doesn't cost us anything. And to be kind, it's such a wonderful feeling that we should try it. And maybe, if we help out somebody, only one person at a time, you'd be surprised what an impact we can make.

So please, do it for me and do it for the rest of the people that aren't here anymore. Because this was always our motto-- just remember. Just remember what they did, not to use hate, never. It's never-- hate is never an option because hate helps the person who does it. But it doesn't help us. It helps the perpetrator, does not help us. So do that. OK? Thank you very much.

[APPLAUSE]

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.