

1

00:00:09,970 --> 00:00:16,350

This is an interview with Esther Raab and it's made in New Jersey. Hello Esther.

2

00:00:16,350 --> 00:00:17,470

Hi.

3

00:00:17,650 --> 00:00:25,360

Which year were you born and where?

4

00:00:25,360 --> 00:00:27,290

In which year?

5

00:00:27,290 --> 00:00:27,590

Yes.

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00:00:27,590 --> 00:00:29,040

In 1922.

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00:00:29,040 --> 00:00:30,480

In Chelm?

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00:00:30,480 --> 00:00:31,450

In Chelm.

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00:00:31,450 --> 00:00:31,830

In Poland?

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00:00:31,830 --> 00:00:33,400

Yes.

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00:00:33,840 --> 00:00:37,970

So, can you talk about your family? Do you want me to ask questions?

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00:00:37,970 --> 00:00:40,540

Whatever is convenient for you.

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00:00:40,540 --> 00:00:43,030

It is most convenient that you talk about your family house.

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00:00:43,230 --> 00:00:54,990

I had a very nice family. We were two children, which for Europe was unusual. [laughs]

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00:00:54,990 --> 00:00:55,820

Yes, it was.

16

00:00:55,820 --> 00:01:06,020

And my father was, I would say, comfortable.

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00:01:11,120 --> 00:01:17,010

He was a businessman, my father, and we had a good life.

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00:01:17,200 --> 00:01:28,240

And I have here pictures from our house. We were very comfortable.

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00:01:28,240 --> 00:01:36,100

I would love to make a photo of those pictures later, if you agree?

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00:01:36,100 --> 00:01:37,160

Yes.

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00:01:37,350 --> 00:01:39,910

Later, not now.

22

00:01:41,200 --> 00:01:42,110

Yes, sure.

23

00:01:42,110 --> 00:01:44,190

Okay. Did you have a brother or sister?

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00:01:44,190 --> 00:01:48,030

A brother.[points finger] I still have a brother.

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00:01:48,180 --> 00:01:48,850

Good for you.

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00:01:48,850 --> 00:01:50,940

He was born in 1917.

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00:01:50,940 --> 00:01:55,160

And he's still there.

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00:01:55,400 --> 00:01:55,650

Yes.

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00:01:55,650 --> 00:01:58,730

Did he also go through Sobibor?

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00:01:58,730 --> 00:02:09,143

No. When they took him to Sobibor, and they shot my father on the march

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00:02:09,143 --> 00:02:18,090

to Sobibor, he like landed on top of him and came home alive.

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00:02:39,780 --> 00:02:39,980

That is a miracle. It was a miracle. Absolutely.

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00:02:39,980 --> 00:02:41,780

So let's go back to your family house.

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00:02:41,780 --> 00:02:42,570

Yes.

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00:02:42,570 --> 00:02:43,050

It is a shocking story.

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00:02:43,050 --> 00:02:59,580

Yes. I have the family house picture, everything. Later this would go to the gentile

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00:02:59,580 --> 00:03:13,750

who saved me my brother and would have given his life to save my father.

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00:03:13,750 --> 00:03:17,410

That is after you got out of Sobibor? After the escape?

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00:03:17,410 --> 00:03:26,923

No, right there. My brother didn't go to Sobibor. He escaped from Staw-Nowosiulki, that was

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00:03:26,923 --> 00:03:36,948

a small Arbeiterlager. And he escaped right away. He went to a gentile who was a very good friend,

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00:03:36,948 --> 00:03:45,030

he was with my father like this. He went there and he took him in and kept him.

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00:04:11,600 --> 00:04:11,810

Unbelievable.

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00:04:14,710 --> 00:04:15,320

Yes.

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00:04:15,320 --> 00:04:22,570

But let us go to you. You were eighteen already when the war broke out.

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00:04:22,570 --> 00:04:24,210

How old?

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00:04:24,210 --> 00:04:24,370

Eighteen?

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00:04:24,370 --> 00:04:27,660

Younger, you know. Seventeen.

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00:04:27,980 --> 00:04:28,170

Seventeen.

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00:04:28,170 --> 00:04:28,780

Yes.

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00:04:28,780 --> 00:04:30,860

Did you go to school?

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00:04:30,860 --> 00:04:44,320

Yes. I finished public school and then I went to a Catholic school.

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00:04:44,320 --> 00:04:45,110

Catholic?!

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00:04:45,110 --> 00:04:51,116

Yes, my mother felt that I got a better education in

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00:04:51,116 --> 00:04:56,660

a Catholic school and they were very nice to me.

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00:04:59,110 --> 00:05:03,100

So, was your family still religious?

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00:05:03,100 --> 00:05:03,200

What?

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00:05:03,200 --> 00:05:05,930

Was your family religious?

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00:05:06,870 --> 00:05:07,750

Very religious.

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00:05:07,750 --> 00:05:09,810

Very religious, but still...

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00:05:09,810 --> 00:05:11,010

Yes, my mother always wore... A sheitel.

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00:05:11,010 --> 00:05:23,694

A sheitel. Yes, very religious. But my mother liked the crowd in

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00:05:23,694 --> 00:05:36,180

the Catholic school better than the crowd in the public school.

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00:05:36,650 --> 00:05:40,160

Because they were better educated?

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00:05:40,420 --> 00:05:58,320

They thought you would get different manners and you were with nice kids, that's why they did it.

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00:05:58,910 --> 00:05:59,927

Sure. I understand. But before you went to the Catholic school,

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00:05:59,927 --> 00:06:00,880

had you been seeing a lot of Catholic girls, or was it new?

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00:06:17,540 --> 00:06:18,320

Friends in the street.

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00:06:18,790 --> 00:06:20,840

Everybody was friends.

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00:06:20,840 --> 00:06:24,990

Yes, in the street! And my mother felt that I got Hebrew education in the

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00:06:24,990 --> 00:06:29,254

afternoon everyday. And she felt that the company that I got there was much

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00:06:29,254 --> 00:06:32,950

better for me. First of all, only girls. That's what she felt .

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00:06:51,320 --> 00:06:58,470

And at home she kept a very strict Jewish household?

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00:06:58,470 --> 00:07:07,330

Yes. I told you, my father wore a...

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00:07:07,330 --> 00:07:07,690

Beard.

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00:07:07,690 --> 00:07:17,206

...beard and my mother a sheitel and she came from a very Jewish, religious

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00:07:17,206 --> 00:07:26,470

family. But she figured, she has one daughter, why not give her the best?

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00:07:26,750 --> 00:07:28,030

Sure. I understand.

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00:07:31,440 --> 00:07:39,904

You know, people had houses full with maybe five or six children

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00:07:39,904 --> 00:07:47,840

who had to wear a uniform in this school. She felt it was...

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00:07:47,840 --> 00:07:49,210

Better.

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00:07:49,560 --> 00:07:50,170

...better.

85

00:07:50,170 --> 00:07:50,500

Sure.

86

00:07:50,500 --> 00:07:52,980

Because I had a Jewish education.

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00:07:53,610 --> 00:08:00,680

Were you prepared as a girl for your future to have a Jewish household?

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00:08:00,730 --> 00:08:01,640

Yes.

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00:08:01,640 --> 00:08:03,150

Can you tell about it?

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00:08:03,150 --> 00:08:03,970

Yes.

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00:08:03,970 --> 00:08:04,900

What did they teach you?

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00:08:04,900 --> 00:08:09,100

To eat kosher.

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00:08:09,370 --> 00:08:11,610

Which is complicated. [laughs]

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00:08:13,220 --> 00:08:22,112

Yes. And to have nice friends, it didn't matter they were Jewish or not. I don't

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00:08:22,112 --> 00:08:30,899

think my mother made a big deal. If I brought non-Jewish friends, they would eat at

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00:08:30,899 --> 00:08:40,003

our table, because mostly they were poor, you know? And we had plenty to eat [laughs],

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00:08:40,003 --> 00:08:49,637

which was a problem. We lived very comfortably in Chelm. My father had a mill with partners

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00:08:49,637 --> 00:08:56,729

and he was a comfortable man. He had a lot of non-Jewish customers.

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00:09:19,820 --> 00:09:30,730

And did you have close family living near?

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00:09:30,730 --> 00:09:32,840

Yes. In the same city.

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00:09:32,840 --> 00:09:35,340

Chelm was a pretty big city at that time?

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00:09:35,340 --> 00:09:55,979

Yes, I think it had maybe more than ten thousand Jews. They had a Hebrew high school,

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00:09:55,979 --> 00:10:14,920

a Besiako which was a Jewish-paid school, so I went there after public school.

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00:10:15,610 --> 00:10:30,724

I used to go there for two hours so as to learn Hebrew, and my mother had the dream that

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00:10:30,724 --> 00:10:44,980

maybe I would go to Krakow, to Besiako, and there maybe find a husband or whatever.

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00:10:47,220 --> 00:10:55,390

Were you talking about what was happening to Jews in Germany? Were you aware of that?

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00:10:55,390 --> 00:11:16,860

We didn't know that much, no. We felt that Hitler wasn't so popular in my young life.

108

00:11:21,150 --> 00:11:28,780

So, when did you feel the danger started coming? It was first the Russians who came, of course.

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00:11:29,780 --> 00:11:33,426

Yes. My father had one customer, a gentile. He was one of his biggest customers, whom he had

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00:11:33,426 --> 00:11:37,191

helped a lot, he had escaped from Russia. My father met him on the street and he said, what are

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00:11:37,191 --> 00:11:40,877

you doing here, you live in an attic, how do you make a living? Do you have acquaintances? He

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00:11:40,877 --> 00:11:44,523

said, if someone lent me half a sack of flour, I could bake bread in the basement and make a

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00:11:44,523 --> 00:11:48,209

living. My father said, I'll give you half a sack of flour, don't worry. And to make this

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00:11:48,209 --> 00:11:51,380

story short, that man became the richest in our city and never forgot my father.

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00:12:55,970 --> 00:12:57,590

He became a righteous?

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00:12:57,610 --> 00:13:02,580

What did he become?

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00:13:02,580 --> 00:13:02,860

A baker.

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00:13:02,860 --> 00:13:03,110

Okay.

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00:13:03,110 --> 00:13:19,908

He opened three stores and had a lot of people working for him and never disappointed my father with

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00:13:19,908 --> 00:13:36,539

any behaviour. He considered my father a most honest and trustworthy man, they became real friends,

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00:13:36,539 --> 00:13:51,490

and the main thing, they respected each other. Those are the people that saved our lives.

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00:13:51,490 --> 00:13:55,140

When did you feel the danger for the first time coming?

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00:13:59,710 --> 00:14:12,657

I didn't, because we lived in a German neighbourhood and I had friends, rich German girls,

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00:14:12,657 --> 00:14:25,887

who went to school with me. We still did our homework together when a brother (of one of them)

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00:14:25,887 --> 00:14:37,850

already put on a uniform, but when he walked by our window... "niks Jude, niks Jude".

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00:14:37,850 --> 00:14:39,210

But it started. At one stage it started, when did it start?

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00:14:48,030 --> 00:14:49,110

What do you mean?

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00:14:49,110 --> 00:14:51,920

I mean, at one stage the Germans came.

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00:14:53,230 --> 00:15:05,621

Oh, it came and my mother remembered the First World War and she said, you sit at home, and you

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00:15:05,621 --> 00:15:17,360

do your own thing and you go on with your business, and the Germans are the nicest people.

132

00:15:17,460 --> 00:15:20,000

But they came.

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00:15:20,000 --> 00:15:25,240

When they came, the first day we knew right away.

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00:15:25,490 --> 00:15:26,030

Why?

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00:15:26,030 --> 00:15:36,605

I'll show you where we lived, across the street were all Germans, Catholics who worked in the industry.

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00:15:36,605 --> 00:15:46,374

They had a lot of industry in the town and the girls all were my friends. My brother and that one

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00:15:46,374 --> 00:15:56,647

brother were also friends. They had a beautiful home, I don't know how many rooms, about ten, twelve

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00:15:56,647 --> 00:16:06,719

rooms. But we could come in there and they treated us well. There was also one house occupied by one

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00:16:06,719 --> 00:16:16,689

family, a big house. We had a big mental institution in Chelm, the biggest in Europe. And they used

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00:16:16,689 --> 00:16:23,739

to take care of the mentally ill, so they gave my father the business.

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00:17:01,350 --> 00:17:04,400

It was a good life?

142

00:17:04,400 --> 00:17:05,140

Yes.

143

00:17:08,690 --> 00:17:11,160

So how did it change?

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00:17:13,470 --> 00:17:23,180

When they came in and my mother said, everybody is going to sit down and let's

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00:17:23,180 --> 00:17:33,256

not go out, because we read the papers already. But we couldn't believe that they

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00:17:33,256 --> 00:17:42,360

could be such a mean people, that they had something against honest people.

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00:17:42,360 --> 00:17:47,660

So that was a shock?

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00:17:47,660 --> 00:17:57,135

A big shock. And most of the Jews from Chelm, like the working class or the poor people

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00:17:57,135 --> 00:18:06,392

went away, because before we had had the Russians and they encouraged them to go away

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00:18:06,392 --> 00:18:13,689

to Russia and to communism. But my father was far from a communist.

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00:18:22,960 --> 00:18:25,240

Be careful with your hand and the microphone please.

152

00:18:25,240 --> 00:18:25,740

What?

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00:18:25,740 --> 00:18:30,530

Okay, it's fine. You have your hand on the microphone.

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00:18:30,530 --> 00:18:31,320

Like this?

155

00:18:31,320 --> 00:18:35,530

Yes, like that, you can't hear. That's not good.

156

00:18:35,530 --> 00:18:36,570

No?

157

00:18:37,490 --> 00:18:38,690

This way it's better. Now it's fantastic. So, the poor people went with the Russians?

158

00:18:45,620 --> 00:18:59,096

Yes, because of the work. Poland wasn't anti-Semitic, but my father was in the business with

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00:18:59,096 --> 00:19:13,577

all those Polacks and he didn't have any grudge against them or hard feelings. He did his business,

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00:19:13,577 --> 00:19:24,760

he paid his bills and they paid their bills. And we lived one next to another.

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00:19:24,760 --> 00:19:28,470

So he never even discussed to go East with the Russians?

162

00:19:29,180 --> 00:19:29,740

No.

163

00:19:29,740 --> 00:19:34,710

And then the Germans came. When did you see them for the first time?

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00:19:47,460 --> 00:19:50,929

They were probably prepared for a bad time, but not that bad. My father used to go every

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00:19:50,929 --> 00:19:54,360

day to the Polacks. We had a lot of stores that he supplied, so we never felt anything.

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00:20:10,400 --> 00:20:24,610

And then, can you tell me how it changed, what changed and how?

167

00:20:24,610 --> 00:20:30,637

First of all they organized all the Jews for Friday morning in the middle of the town.

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00:20:30,637 --> 00:20:36,665

Then they started marching them. Towards another city. We didn't know what they were

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00:20:36,665 --> 00:20:42,903

doing and why. On that march they killed my father. My brother fell on top of him and got

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00:20:42,903 --> 00:20:48,370

wounded. We saw it was not a joke. People weren't just talking, they meant it.

171

00:21:32,750 --> 00:21:35,140

He came back to the house, your brother?

172

00:21:35,450 --> 00:21:36,670

Yes!

173

00:21:36,910 --> 00:21:37,470

Wounded?

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00:21:37,470 --> 00:21:53,124

No, he went to a gentile farmer who took care of my brother's wound. Then he let us know where he

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00:21:53,124 --> 00:22:07,830

had landed. Near the Russian border. My mother went and got him. My mother was a young woman.

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00:22:07,830 --> 00:22:07,970

Sure, and then?

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00:22:13,640 --> 00:22:21,736

So we had lost my father. All those gentiles who had dealt with my father

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00:22:21,736 --> 00:22:30,387

continued, but in a careful way. But this gentile who saved our lives didn't

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00:22:30,387 --> 00:22:36,710

give up, because he knew what my father had done for him.

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00:23:01,980 --> 00:23:03,130

So what did he do?

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00:23:03,130 --> 00:23:07,940

He used to buy and give my father the profit. And then he said a couple of times, he used to

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00:23:07,940 --> 00:23:12,802

call him a Brumtje. My father's name was Abraham. He said, I think they took away a Brumtje

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00:23:12,802 --> 00:23:17,717

and that couldn't succeed. But the friendship had been for so many years, he would have done

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00:23:17,717 --> 00:23:22,579

whatever he could. If the Germans wouldn't kill my father, he would still be a rich man. He

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00:23:22,579 --> 00:23:27,598

had become a rich man. He had a house full of children, many children, and he never carried that

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00:23:27,598 --> 00:23:31,520

grudge, that German grudge. He felt that nothing good would come out of it.

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00:24:40,250 --> 00:24:45,809

Can you tell me the story how he saved you and your mother, can

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00:24:45,809 --> 00:24:50,840

you tell me the story of how he saved your life? [louder]

189

00:24:55,220 --> 00:25:05,290

Yes. He helped us. How, an awful lot.

190

00:25:05,410 --> 00:25:06,230

Tell me.

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00:25:06,230 --> 00:25:23,729

When the Nazis started taking over, he sent bread and flour during summer. He had bought a farm,

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00:25:23,729 --> 00:25:40,865

he sent us bed stables. So we didn't feel things. We felt if we have a problem, we can go to

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00:25:40,865 --> 00:25:58,547

him. But then they put us in a ghetto. You know? That wasn't good. But he always helped us. And

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00:25:58,547 --> 00:26:13,860

you know, if a man helps you with a loaf of bread, even we were only two children...

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00:26:43,150 --> 00:26:46,130

So you were put in the ghetto of Chelm?

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00:26:46,130 --> 00:26:47,170

Yes.

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00:26:47,170 --> 00:26:50,040

How did that go, how did that happen?

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00:26:50,040 --> 00:26:59,400

I want to show you we had a beautiful private house.

199

00:26:59,400 --> 00:27:00,180

Yes, you'll show me later, yes.

200

00:27:00,180 --> 00:27:17,271

We lived in a very fancy neighbourhood when they decided to make a ghetto. So they put us

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00:27:17,271 --> 00:27:34,555

with another family, two children, us, and my mother, my father wasn't alive, all in one

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00:27:34,555 --> 00:27:51,839

room with the kids. And my mother couldn't sleep because they had small children and the

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00:27:51,839 --> 00:28:10,467

poor things were hungry and they cried the whole time. So we moved, we had family in Siedliscze,

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00:28:10,467 --> 00:28:22,950

not far from us, and they said we should come and stay with them.

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00:28:23,450 --> 00:28:23,790

In Liske? Siedliscze. Siedliscze, yes?

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00:28:23,790 --> 00:28:36,345

And we moved there. My mother said one of our uncles had a bakery, she could work in the

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00:28:36,345 --> 00:28:49,613

bakery and I could help with the children. It would maybe be easier than being in that house,

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00:28:49,613 --> 00:29:01,169

but you know, I think the neighbours didn't like it that we moved. Had to move.

211

00:29:01,340 --> 00:29:01,750

Why?

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00:29:01,750 --> 00:29:03,115

They were so accustomed to us. Across the street lived a German family. The girl went to school with

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00:29:03,115 --> 00:29:04,454

me. To high school. I went to business school. And they just didn't like it. I don't think our

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00:29:04,454 --> 00:29:05,806

neighbours would say no when asked, do you want the Terners, our name was Ternner, to live here? You

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00:29:05,806 --> 00:29:07,186

know, I used to knit for them, I don't know how to say, they didn't abuse us. They just said good

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00:29:07,186 --> 00:29:08,320

morning to you and maybe deep down they had some thoughts, but we didn't feel it.

217

00:30:24,530 --> 00:30:31,550

Who told your mother that your father had been killed? [louder]

218

00:30:36,220 --> 00:30:37,290

My brother came back.

219

00:30:39,970 --> 00:30:41,340

And how was your mother?

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00:30:41,340 --> 00:30:55,642

My mother's whole world was gone. She had lost her husband and she felt they had had

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00:30:55,642 --> 00:31:10,796

a very good life, you know, together. We weren't poor, we lived in a comfortable house,

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00:31:10,796 --> 00:31:25,099

my brother had a room, I had a room. In Europe they didn't have it like this. In a

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00:31:25,099 --> 00:31:37,869

beautiful neighbourhood. All the people had houses, not just rooms, houses!

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00:31:37,870 --> 00:31:38,790

So you moved to Siedliscze?

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00:31:38,790 --> 00:31:52,504

Yes. And there we started going to work. My father wasn't alive anymore. My mother

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00:31:52,504 --> 00:32:06,545

was very upset and we had to protect her from going to work, because she wasn't able

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00:32:06,545 --> 00:32:20,423

to work, like walking miles a day. I'm making it short, my mother wanted to make it

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00:32:20,423 --> 00:32:33,974

easier and less responsible for us, because we used to take her away into the woods

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00:32:33,974 --> 00:32:45,730

so they wouldn't take her to work. Because she couldn't have lasted.

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00:32:45,730 --> 00:32:49,130

There was forced labour in Siedliscze?

231

00:32:49,130 --> 00:32:53,067

Right away. Yes. Not in our city. But all over the countryside. Right away. My mother didn't

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00:32:53,067 --> 00:32:56,795

want to be a burden to the two of us. So she went to the police and asked to be shot. And

233

00:32:56,795 --> 00:33:00,230

they did her the favour. She felt that the two of us, or maybe one, would survive.

234

00:33:22,970 --> 00:33:28,520

So she went to the Germans?

235

00:33:32,570 --> 00:33:42,680

Yes! The Polish and German police were still the same. And they shot her.

236

00:33:42,680 --> 00:33:46,060

And what did they do with her?

237

00:33:46,060 --> 00:33:49,953

We buried her there. Because we went to work and they got her, I mean, they didn't

238

00:33:49,953 --> 00:33:53,523

get her, she went in. They threw her at the end of the woods and when we came

239

00:33:53,523 --> 00:33:56,490

they'd buried her there. Not that we found remains of her. No.

240

00:34:12,140 --> 00:34:17,240

You didn't? But you gave her a service?

241

00:34:19,890 --> 00:34:20,520

Yes.

242

00:34:20,520 --> 00:34:20,780

As if she were buried? Yes.

244

00:34:20,780 --> 00:34:20,780

That's beautiful.

245

00:34:20,780 --> 00:34:21,140

[sighs] What could you do?

246

00:34:21,140 --> 00:34:22,180

No, it's beautiful. It's beautiful if you don't have the body, still to make the service.

247

00:34:42,080 --> 00:34:50,210

Yes. I mean, they didn't burn her or anything like what we saw later, you know, in Sobibor.

248

00:34:50,210 --> 00:34:57,410

And so you were alone with your brother then?

249

00:34:57,410 --> 00:35:04,878

I was alone with my brother. They moved us to a section

250

00:35:04,878 --> 00:35:11,260

and we got like a room and a kitchen. You know.

251

00:35:12,240 --> 00:35:13,000

Still in Siedliszczce?

252

00:35:14,530 --> 00:35:27,757

Yes. We could go to work but we didn't. We missed our mother. You know, at that time I

253

00:35:27,757 --> 00:35:41,435

think we felt that everybody is gonna go, sooner or later. And we just figured that, maybe,

254

00:35:41,435 --> 00:35:53,460

my mother was better off. That she was a smart woman and went to ask to be shot.

255

00:35:53,460 --> 00:36:01,070

What kind of work did you do then?

256

00:36:01,260 --> 00:36:27,300

I would mostly pull weeds and clean woods and all that.

257

00:36:27,300 --> 00:36:28,970

Hard manual labour.

258

00:36:28,970 --> 00:36:29,950

Yes.

259

00:36:29,950 --> 00:36:30,960

But you managed.

260

00:36:33,530 --> 00:36:44,665

Yes. We had still some valuables my mother gave to us. You know? And

261

00:36:44,665 --> 00:36:55,310

from the farmers we could buy bread or a little meat or whatever.

262

00:36:55,580 --> 00:36:57,740

You had enough to eat?

263

00:36:58,840 --> 00:37:02,990

In the beginning, yes. Not in Sobibor. [laughs]

264

00:37:02,990 --> 00:37:05,790

No, of course not [laughs]. How long did that last? I guess this is '42, or '41? Is this 1942?

265

00:37:17,470 --> 00:37:18,774

It was already '41. Then they made the ghetto and they didn't know what to do, those Germans.

266

00:37:18,774 --> 00:37:20,120

I mean, they were miserable. They took us, they took young people away and they used them for manual

267

00:37:20,120 --> 00:37:21,452

labour. You know? They had a lot to build, they had a lot to construct, they came to Poland. Poland

268

00:37:21,452 --> 00:37:22,743

wasn't a poor country. Plenty to eat. Plenty mills and plenty meat. They were poor in Germany.

269

00:37:22,743 --> 00:37:23,820

Then they started chasing us from one ghetto to another ghetto, to other cities.

270

00:38:41,190 --> 00:38:45,790

You were chased from one ghetto to another. Where did you go, can you remember?

271

00:38:47,300 --> 00:38:55,418

Sure! I was in Siedliscze, then they made a camp near Siedliscze and we used to go to work from

272

00:38:55,418 --> 00:39:03,621

there. They really didn't make such a big use of our labour. It was like a game for them. It was

273

00:39:03,621 --> 00:39:11,740

a game. Meanwhile they checked you, things you were carrying with you, and they would find a nice

274

00:39:11,740 --> 00:39:19,190

watch, a nice dress, a pair of shoes, and take it off, you know? Whatever they could use.

275

00:39:44,440 --> 00:39:48,780

So, after Siedliscze you went where?

276

00:39:52,150 --> 00:39:54,740

Siedlisczce they made like Judenrein, you know? Yes.

278

00:39:54,740 --> 00:40:13,128

They took us to Staw-Nowosiulki camp. But nothing special. Just going to work. They

279

00:40:13,128 --> 00:40:30,630

weren't really using those people's talents, just moving them here and there. They just moved you around.

281

00:40:36,810 --> 00:40:47,222

Yes. So I came there. Then we found out that they built camps were going

282

00:40:47,222 --> 00:40:57,346

to destroy young people. They'd keep them as long as they could and

283

00:40:57,346 --> 00:41:05,590

then... I think they wanted to keep themselves busy, too.

284

00:41:09,850 --> 00:41:11,800

What do you mean with keeping themselves busy?

285

00:41:13,680 --> 00:41:23,480

Not to go to the Front. They were very afraid of the Russians.

286

00:41:23,480 --> 00:41:23,980

Yes, they were.

287

00:41:23,980 --> 00:41:32,342

And they figured, as long as they can manipulate here, they won't

288

00:41:32,342 --> 00:41:40,080

[microphone is moved] Then the SS came. The SS were miserable.

289

00:41:40,080 --> 00:41:47,600

Worse than the Wehrmacht? Till then it was the Wehrmacht?

290

00:41:47,600 --> 00:41:51,772

For a while, here. And I don't think that the Wehrmacht

291

00:41:51,772 --> 00:41:55,140

was so bad. They decided to kill all the Jews.

292

00:42:02,990 --> 00:42:06,600

So what happened when the SS came? What was the difference?

293

00:42:08,840 --> 00:42:28,480

The SS were schooled (educated) and they sent people to the camps. They opened up the camps, the SS.

294

00:42:28,480 --> 00:42:36,870

And you knew that those camps were being opened? You knew about those camps before you were there?

295

00:42:41,490 --> 00:42:44,650

Oh, sure, you didn't have no choice, you had to go.

296

00:42:44,650 --> 00:42:49,770

But you knew that those camps existed.

297

00:42:49,770 --> 00:42:53,670

The death camps.

298

00:42:53,670 --> 00:42:57,350

Yes. So what happened to you?

299

00:42:57,350 --> 00:43:16,189

They took me from Siedliszczce and I went to a camp. They picked me out to work. They asked, who knows

300

00:43:16,189 --> 00:43:35,776

how to sow, whatever they asked I knew. I knew, but I figured, if you have a trade you maybe can survive.

301

00:43:35,776 --> 00:43:54,429

Me and my brother were in a smaller camp like cleaning wooded areas. In the middle of the night they

302

00:43:54,429 --> 00:44:13,082

rounded us up and we knew we were going to a death camp. But we never believed they were taking live

303

00:44:13,082 --> 00:44:31,922

people, useful people. We first came in a smaller camp and then they took us to - where did they take

304

00:44:31,922 --> 00:44:50,203

us? To a new camp, where there were Jews. We used to go to work every day. I don't know why they

305

00:44:50,203 --> 00:45:08,483

needed that work. We were there about two months and then they started to send us to Sobibor. They

306

00:45:08,483 --> 00:45:26,577

took out eight girls and we thought the rest were destroyed. We felt, as long as our clothes last

307

00:45:26,577 --> 00:45:45,790

and we can sell our belongings, we gonna survive. We thought, maybe the Americans will come and survive

308

00:45:45,790 --> 00:45:56,049

(rescue) us, you know? There they took out eight girls.

309

00:45:56,120 --> 00:45:59,130

In order to take care of the Germans?

310

00:45:59,280 --> 00:45:59,690

Yes.

311

00:45:59,690 --> 00:46:01,730

And that was your job?

312

00:46:03,450 --> 00:46:06,710

No, I didn't take care, they didn't.

313

00:46:06,710 --> 00:46:08,600

What did you do?

314

00:46:08,600 --> 00:46:10,356

I started sorting luggage, clothes which were brought. Then we realized that all those people

315

00:46:10,356 --> 00:46:12,037

were getting killed. We saw there was no way that the Germans would lose the war so fast,

316

00:46:12,037 --> 00:46:13,699

that we should survive. The young used to bring like the leftovers from the little towns

317

00:46:13,699 --> 00:46:15,455

and cities into the death camps. We heard that they had opened up Auschwitz, but you didn't

318

00:46:15,455 --> 00:46:16,740

have no choice. There was no choice. Just to go by the day and pray.

319

00:47:23,000 --> 00:47:23,790

You still prayed?

320

00:47:23,790 --> 00:47:24,650

Yes!

321

00:47:28,190 --> 00:47:28,760

A lot?

322

00:47:28,760 --> 00:47:43,299

You see, I have a ring here, from Sobibor. From an older man, an artist in woodwork. Unbelievable.

323

00:47:43,299 --> 00:47:57,542

I asked him and he told me, he knew that I wouldn't eat bread at Pesach, you know? So he said,

324

00:47:57,542 --> 00:48:11,785

could you organize a few potatoes. And I said, I will try, but you know, to steal five potatoes,

325

00:48:11,785 --> 00:48:26,027

you have to give your hat. So I said, I will try. And I organized eight potatoes. And he gave me

326

00:48:26,027 --> 00:48:37,600

that ring. He said, that ring will save your life. And I'm still wearing it.

327

00:48:42,940 --> 00:48:43,260

Wonderful. So you were allowed to have a ring in Sobibor? No.

329

00:48:47,010 --> 00:48:50,310

But how did you do that, then?

330

00:48:50,310 --> 00:48:52,310

I just rolled it in my... Bra.

332

00:48:52,310 --> 00:48:58,940

Yes, and I carried it.

333

00:48:58,940 --> 00:48:59,230

Of course.

334

00:48:59,230 --> 00:49:16,532

You know, you either became religious, or not religious at all. But it's easier to believe that some

335

00:49:16,532 --> 00:49:33,496

miracles gonna happen, or maybe the Germans will drop dead. Even now, you don't wanna be dead, but

336

00:49:33,496 --> 00:49:50,969

then you have to give up. I came to Sobibor before Pesach, and there came a cousin of mine to a rabbi's

337

00:49:50,969 --> 00:50:08,102

son. From Izbica. And he said, we are not gonna remain here. We have to kill them all before. I said,

338

00:50:08,102 --> 00:50:26,423

what a big talk, a rabbi's son gives you a sermon, you know, but they used that time, changed our inmates,

339

00:50:26,423 --> 00:50:43,726

you know. If a transport came in, they picked out new people every time. They told us that the war was

340

00:50:43,726 --> 00:51:01,029

coming to an end, one day you had to lose. You're gonna go into the frying pan anyway, so let's try.

341

00:51:01,029 --> 00:51:18,162

Then, a few weeks later, they started bringing Russian soldiers whom they'd caught. They were killing

342

00:51:18,162 --> 00:51:35,296

us, too. And the young men figured out, maybe the war isn't so good for them, you know, and let's

343

00:51:35,296 --> 00:51:52,599

organize. We started to think, the war didn't go because they didn't send out so much clothes from

344

00:51:52,599 --> 00:52:09,562

the people. They didn't, because they were afraid that on the way they're gonna get caught. With

345

00:52:09,562 --> 00:52:20,249

us inside it wasn't so strict, they got used to us, you know.

346

00:52:21,000 --> 00:52:21,090

yes?

347

00:52:21,090 --> 00:52:21,750

Huh?

348

00:52:21,980 --> 00:52:22,310

Ja?

349

00:52:22,310 --> 00:52:42,720

They figured, we had them in our hands so that they cannot do nothing to us. And we did.

350

00:52:42,720 --> 00:52:43,680

So it was really changing?

351

00:52:45,660 --> 00:53:01,098

Yes. I don't know if the Germans wanted the change. But they were so organized

352

00:53:01,098 --> 00:53:15,958

with the SS and the SA. I guess everybody did what he wanted to do. Then they

353

00:53:15,958 --> 00:53:30,625

brought a lot of women from Russia. They just let them live and they didn't

354

00:53:30,625 --> 00:53:43,170

go to work, maybe they used them for different reasons, you know?

355

00:53:43,170 --> 00:53:45,410

They imported a group of Russian women into Sobibor?

356

00:53:46,750 --> 00:53:53,010

They built a barracks for them and their convenience.

357

00:53:54,380 --> 00:53:56,340

Were those women Jewish?

358

00:53:56,340 --> 00:54:05,570

No. Russian women. They wouldn't dare.

359

00:54:05,570 --> 00:54:07,820

So there was a kind of a brothel in Sobibor?

360

00:54:11,110 --> 00:54:12,890

Yes.

361

00:54:15,790 --> 00:54:17,390

Gosh, nobody told me.

362

00:54:17,920 --> 00:54:27,500

Oh yes. They put up two, they wouldn't take a Jewish woman.

363

00:54:27,500 --> 00:54:28,240

It would be Rassenschande.

364

00:54:31,050 --> 00:54:43,820

That's right. And they called me, he was there, they found my name. Demjanjuk?

367

00:54:43,820 --> 00:54:51,260

Demjanjuk. He was in that brothel?

368

00:54:52,490 --> 00:55:05,732

He wasn't in that brothel. But during the days they worked in a Russian camp between

369

00:55:05,732 --> 00:55:17,590

Sobibor and Piaski. They used to bring those men by train here. I remember...

370

00:55:17,590 --> 00:55:18,320

Well, explain to me.

371

00:55:18,320 --> 00:55:18,650

Demjanjuk.

372

00:55:18,650 --> 00:55:19,382

Better, please. I don't understand the full story. There

373

00:55:19,382 --> 00:55:20,090

was another camp with Russians, and where was Demjanjuk?

374

00:55:29,300 --> 00:55:30,390

What did you say?

375

00:55:36,590 --> 00:55:40,880

There were those Russian women, and you say, Demjanjuk was...

376

00:55:42,590 --> 00:55:55,335

They brought Russian women and they built barracks in our yard for them,

377

00:55:55,335 --> 00:56:07,903

not the rich ones, and they used to serve them, you know, and they used

378

00:56:07,903 --> 00:56:19,410

to live there. When the war started to go bad, they brought in...

379

00:56:19,410 --> 00:56:20,670

Demjanjuk? Whom did they bring?

380

00:56:23,940 --> 00:56:26,370

Russian women, too.

381

00:56:27,010 --> 00:56:27,230

But what was Demjanjuk's role in all this? I didn't understand that.

382

00:56:35,570 --> 00:56:35,800

Who?

383

00:56:35,800 --> 00:56:36,740

Demjanjuk, what did he do?

384

00:56:36,740 --> 00:56:38,242

He was in that camp between Sobibor and Piaski. He was trained there and probably he helped. I worked

385

00:56:38,242 --> 00:56:39,760

in the Waffenkammer, it's in my book, I used to clean the bullets which they used to shoot children.

386

00:56:39,760 --> 00:56:41,366

They brought Demjanjuk, it was in the papers. [laughs] I was there, not that I gave an interview to anybody,

387

00:56:41,366 --> 00:56:42,854

and he was there during the day they had training. They had shortages in the army, they were already

388

00:56:42,854 --> 00:56:44,386

confused, like they said, and they didn't have transport. Demjanjuk used to come to the Waffenkammer,

389

00:56:44,386 --> 00:56:45,948

you know? We used to clean the bullets and put them into the guns and we cleaned out the guns, when there

390

00:56:45,948 --> 00:56:47,020

were no transports. And they used to take him away to kill the children.

391

00:58:40,490 --> 00:58:43,260

Because children were killed by bullets? Oh yes.

393

00:58:43,580 --> 00:58:44,870

Not by gas?

394

00:58:44,870 --> 00:58:51,480

Don't forget that I was almost the last one there.

395

00:58:54,620 --> 00:58:58,000

So how did you land in the Waffenkammer?

396

00:58:58,320 --> 00:59:04,550

In the Waffenkammer? When they didn't have no transports, they didn't have... Anything to sort. I understand. Where was your brother by then?

398

00:59:15,740 --> 00:59:23,099

My brother went to a farmer, he jumped away before they took us to Sobibor. My brother jumped

399

00:59:23,099 --> 00:59:30,221

from the barracks and went to Matsemiok, to that gentile. Who took him in. I didn't know

400

00:59:30,221 --> 00:59:36,710

that he survived, you know. I forgot he'd gone. And then, when I escaped from...

401

00:59:59,480 --> 00:59:59,610

Sobibor.

402

00:59:59,610 --> 01:00:14,163

..the camp, the night before we had planned the escape and the Russian soldiers were with us, you

403

01:00:14,163 --> 01:00:29,167

know. We were inmates, maybe a couple of hundreds, that's all. You know, we weren't such a mass,

404

01:00:29,167 --> 01:00:43,571

because they stopped it or whatever. We went to sleep and everybody said goodbye and we figured,

405

01:00:43,571 --> 01:00:58,274

what can we do, they will take us. That was already towards the end. I went to sleep, and I dreamt

406

01:00:58,274 --> 01:01:12,678

my mother came to the camp and she said, you go to Matsemiok and there you survive. From Sobibor

407

01:01:12,678 --> 01:01:27,081

to Matsemiok would take me a day or a few hours. But as I climbed the fence I got a bullet here.

408

01:01:27,081 --> 01:01:41,785

And I came to a farmer and I told him, showed him. They knew already, good for you, you killed all

409

01:01:41,785 --> 01:01:56,639

of them, you know? Then I told him, he said I'll heal it for you. I killed a pig. An old man kept

410

01:01:56,639 --> 01:02:11,793

me twelve days, I didn't tell him where I wanted to go, I told him the opposite because I was still

411

01:02:11,793 --> 01:02:26,196

afraid. He said, don't worry, my son will take you out into the woods. It took me two weeks to

412

01:02:26,196 --> 01:02:40,900

get there, to Matsemiok. I came into the barn, you know, I knew his lair and I came into the barn.

413

01:02:40,900 --> 01:02:55,304

There was me and two friends. We came into the barn and I said, here we're going to wait until

414

01:02:55,304 --> 01:03:09,857

Mantsemiok. I asked around, is he alive, and they said, after two weeks my brother was sitting on

415

01:03:09,857 --> 01:03:19,159

top on the world and I was underneath. Waiting for Mantsemiok.

416

01:03:19,160 --> 01:03:20,630

And Selma Engel was with you, and Chaim?

417

01:03:21,230 --> 01:03:41,910

No. Samuel Lerer and one of the cooks and a Russian, Abraham, I don't know anymore. So I lay there

418

01:03:41,910 --> 01:04:00,730

and my brother said I'm a ghost, you know. You wait so long, I made it very fast for you.

419

01:04:01,600 --> 01:04:05,490

You did, yes, incredibly fast. So you knew you were going to escape? You were told to be prepared?

420

01:04:11,260 --> 01:04:23,861

Oh yes! I put on my uniform, I mean, we've put on like two pairs of underwear, not everybody in the

421

01:04:23,861 --> 01:04:35,590

camp knew. They told me not to put on many. How many pockets I had, I should have put in sand.

422

01:04:36,740 --> 01:04:37,240

Why?

423

01:04:37,240 --> 01:04:52,382

Because if you throw sand in the face you can stick a knife in the stomach. We were trained

424

01:04:52,382 --> 01:05:06,860

that there. The Russians and my cousin, the Polacks killed him. He was outside already.

425

01:05:06,860 --> 01:05:09,530

And he was one of the organizers of the uprising. Yes.

427

01:05:09,530 --> 01:05:10,670

Wasn't he? Together with Pechersky.

428

01:05:11,550 --> 01:05:12,000

Yes.

429

01:05:15,980 --> 01:05:19,230

So you were really trained for the outbreak? Oh yes!

431

01:05:21,990 --> 01:05:23,240

Tell me about it.

432

01:05:23,240 --> 01:05:34,450

I had all pockets full of sand. And they told us, if you

433

01:05:34,450 --> 01:05:44,860

throw sand and he grabs his eyes, you can stick him.

434

01:05:44,860 --> 01:05:47,530

That's very clever.

435

01:05:48,120 --> 01:05:49,100

Yes.

436

01:05:49,100 --> 01:05:56,060

So did you see those Russian women coming?

437

01:05:56,350 --> 01:06:15,060

Yes, the Russian women, sure! They were from us, like my house maybe, they built barracks for them.

438

01:06:15,060 --> 01:06:18,700

Did you have any contact with them?

439

01:06:18,700 --> 01:06:23,194

No. You weren't allowed. But we could say hi. We all knew how to

440

01:06:23,194 --> 01:06:27,280

Speak Russian, but you were very careful, you didn't know.

441

01:06:40,270 --> 01:06:46,550

You spoke Yiddish in the camp or what language, Polish?

442

01:06:46,550 --> 01:06:49,610

Mostly we talked German.

443

01:06:49,610 --> 01:06:50,010

German?

444

01:06:50,010 --> 01:07:07,940

Yes, because they didn't like, Was verdrehst Du den Kopf wieder, you know. You had to talk German.

445

01:07:07,940 --> 01:07:14,030

If it's not too difficult, would you mind to describe a day, a normal day in Sobibor?

446

01:07:14,030 --> 01:07:24,363

We got up in the morning, we had the entrée, you know, and they gave you a cup of

447

01:07:24,363 --> 01:07:34,570

coffee, sometimes you saved a piece of bread from the night time, and you went to

448

01:07:34,570 --> 01:07:44,400

work. The Germans loved to work there. This way they didn't go to the front.

449

01:07:44,400 --> 01:07:50,560

Ja. At that time it was pretty important for the...

450

01:07:50,560 --> 01:07:51,160

There were already...

451

01:07:52,840 --> 01:08:00,200

So then you went to work, which was sorting clothes.

452

01:08:01,140 --> 01:08:01,420

Yes.

453

01:08:01,420 --> 01:08:03,310

And then?

454

01:08:03,310 --> 01:08:16,426

And then we got ready, we knew they scared those going on vacation. It wasn't

455

01:08:16,426 --> 01:08:28,350

big, maybe thirty people, men. Germans used to watch us, that's all. In the sorting place? In the place where you worked?

457

01:08:35,400 --> 01:08:36,510

Yes. And in the evening they used to lock us in.

458

01:08:42,810 --> 01:08:51,030

Were they cruel in the sorting place or was it just working?

459

01:08:51,490 --> 01:09:01,205

The sorting place? We were just working and putting things together, packing

460

01:09:01,205 --> 01:09:11,048

them up neatly to send them away. There used to come a lot of customers. They

461

01:09:11,048 --> 01:09:19,230

probably stole it and used to sell it to those who used to come. But was there any cruelty in the sorting place or was it only outside?

463

01:09:35,660 --> 01:09:40,607

The barracks were used down to the ground and there was no heating or

464

01:09:40,607 --> 01:09:46,559

anything during the winter, you know. In the summer there wasn't airconditioning,

465

01:09:46,559 --> 01:09:50,360

and I guess those Nazis who had privileges were sent.

466

01:10:08,760 --> 01:10:09,630

To Sobibor.

467

01:10:09,630 --> 01:10:15,170

Yes. First of all that was already the end of the war. And second, they felt they lost the war.

468

01:10:25,360 --> 01:10:29,910

Okay, you came to your shelter and you found your brother.

469

01:10:29,910 --> 01:10:48,093

Yes. I told him that we were planning already to escape, you know. He said, I had to think that

470

01:10:48,093 --> 01:11:06,660

we are planning an escape and that I escaped and then got a bullet in the head and I was wounded.

471

01:11:06,660 --> 01:11:24,270

And he said, we're not gonna tell Montsiniok that we came with three other people, two other

472

01:11:24,270 --> 01:11:42,454

people. Whatever he'll give us to eat, you gonna share it. If you could come with two, we are

473

01:11:42,454 --> 01:11:56,810

not gonna send them away. He was there already as long as I was in Sobibor.

474

01:11:56,990 --> 01:11:57,830

Was it a safe place?

475

01:11:57,830 --> 01:12:08,911

He had a farm. Montsiniok was a rich man and he bought a lot of ground and he built a farm

476

01:12:08,911 --> 01:12:19,992

and he felt, you know, it's a strange country for him and and that's it. He remembered

477

01:12:19,992 --> 01:12:29,720

my father and he said that he would do anything to save my father's children.

478

01:12:29,720 --> 01:12:36,870

It's always the same man you talked about in the beginning?

479

01:12:36,870 --> 01:12:38,040

Yes.

480

01:12:38,040 --> 01:12:41,440

Okay. So you stayed in the barn?

481

01:12:41,670 --> 01:12:54,491

Yes! We stayed almost a year, not a year, eight, nine months we stayed. With my brother,

482

01:12:54,491 --> 01:13:07,313

you know. He supplied us, helped us, he was very happy that we survived. And I'm still

483

01:13:07,313 --> 01:13:19,989

friends with his children, they get a thousand dollars every Christmas. We brought them

484

01:13:19,989 --> 01:13:33,102

a lot of jewellery, you know, that we had stolen from the Sortierungsplatz during the last

485

01:13:33,102 --> 01:13:44,029

days, but it wasn't enough. But he helped us. We survived because of him.

486

01:13:44,030 --> 01:13:52,640

And because of your God.

487

01:13:57,030 --> 01:13:57,340

Yes.

488

01:13:57,340 --> 01:13:59,080

You just told me you became very religious.

489

01:14:01,490 --> 01:14:09,747

Yes, I became religious. He was very religious, it's

490

01:14:09,747 --> 01:14:17,700

so easy to become religious when you are in trouble.

491

01:14:20,350 --> 01:14:30,060

If you say religious, can you explain a little bit? Did you follow prescriptions?

492

01:14:31,740 --> 01:14:38,013

No. We just believed. I guess that if you help somebody, or you are nice

493

01:14:38,013 --> 01:14:44,287

to somebody, you get in return. Martin isn't alive, but if you'll ever

494

01:14:44,287 --> 01:14:49,690

be in Israël, we have a monument put for him on the way to...

495

01:15:05,510 --> 01:15:06,060

At Yad Vashem?

496

01:15:06,060 --> 01:15:06,242

Yes. We felt he deserved, he had six children and God forbid they would have found us, he

497

01:15:06,242 --> 01:15:06,429

would have gone with the children. We made a monument there for the oldest children and for

498

01:15:06,429 --> 01:15:06,612

him at Yad Vashem and we felt they deserved it. And when the war was ending he was afraid

499

01:15:06,612 --> 01:15:06,793

of the Russians, because he was a Russian, Montsiniok. He was afraid, so we took him out

500

01:15:06,793 --> 01:15:06,980

and we got him settled and we put him in business and the children. I will show you letters

501

01:15:06,980 --> 01:15:07,130

of the children. We always support him. They all were in America already.

502

01:16:43,620 --> 01:16:46,775

Now you were still in the barn in hiding with your brother and

503

01:16:46,775 --> 01:16:49,880

two more, Samuel Lerer and somebody else, when the war ended?

504

01:16:59,970 --> 01:17:01,540

Yes! Sure!

505

01:17:01,540 --> 01:17:02,820

So what happened?

506

01:17:03,860 --> 01:17:22,637

Lerer is one. The other one passed away. He had a sister all the way out, within

507

01:17:22,637 --> 01:17:41,180

a year he passed away. He was older than we. He was a cook with the Ukrainians.

508

01:17:42,970 --> 01:17:51,910

But I'm trying to get back to your story. You were in hiding and then the Russians came?

509

01:17:52,230 --> 01:17:53,350

Yes.

510

01:17:53,900 --> 01:18:03,020

So then?

01:18:03,020 --> 01:18:03,020

So we all went out to Chelm

01:18:03,020 --> 01:18:14,343

and there they took care of us already. Montsiniok said we should open a bakery shop,

01:18:14,343 --> 01:18:25,404

he'd supply us with the bread. But we didn't have no feelings for Polacks, so they didn't help us.

514

01:18:25,404 --> 01:18:35,957

No, they didn't help us, they harmed us. Wherever

01:18:35,957 --> 01:18:43,839

they saw a Jew, they probably hurt him, but not as those Jews.

515

01:18:49,200 --> 01:18:50,420

Did they harm you?

516

01:18:53,450 --> 01:19:07,828

No. I was very lucky. And then, I always was in company, I was with my brother, and so we didn't

517

01:19:07,828 --> 01:19:19,860

have no problems. Then I found my husband and the Polacks wanted to be nice to us.

518

01:19:20,030 --> 01:19:22,610

You found your husband in Chelm?

519

01:19:24,600 --> 01:19:29,340

I knew him from Chelm. From before the war.

520

01:19:29,340 --> 01:19:34,280

How did you meet him?

521

01:19:34,280 --> 01:19:40,738

We were in the same company as his friend and we used to come into the house and that's how

522

01:19:40,738 --> 01:19:47,544

we met. No, we knew each other before the war. He was older, but we were like in the same company,

523

01:19:47,544 --> 01:19:53,170

you know, the same crowd I would say. My husband is a college graduate in Poland.

524

01:20:19,660 --> 01:20:22,040

Did you like him already before the war?

525

01:20:26,670 --> 01:20:28,972

Oh, he was handsome, rich, they were the richest in our city, so what's

526

01:20:28,972 --> 01:20:31,180

there not to like? Now he's sick and I try to help as much as I can.

527

01:20:46,400 --> 01:20:49,460

You should.

528

01:20:49,460 --> 01:20:50,760

Nobody has to teach me this.

529

01:20:50,760 --> 01:20:52,280

Yes, sure. So you met him, he was also coming to Chelm, what...

530

01:21:01,790 --> 01:21:03,350

From Russia.

531

01:21:03,350 --> 01:21:04,210

...had he been doing? From Warsaw?

532

01:21:04,210 --> 01:21:11,552

Yes. I didn't meet him, I knew him, you know, Chelm wasn't such a big

533

01:21:11,552 --> 01:21:18,190

city. I knew him. We started talking and that's how it happened.

534

01:21:28,920 --> 01:21:34,010

And you stayed in Chelm? When did you leave?

535

01:21:34,010 --> 01:21:44,643

No, we left, we didn't wanna stay, it was dangerous. All the Polacks were too dangerous. So,

536

01:21:44,643 --> 01:21:55,504

we left the minute we could leave. When the Russian army started to occupy Germany we moved with

537

01:21:55,504 --> 01:22:05,120

them. Because we felt the safest place still would be Germany, same with the Polacks.

538

01:22:05,120 --> 01:22:05,870

Yes?

539

01:22:05,870 --> 01:22:12,380

They were miserable.

540

01:22:14,840 --> 01:22:17,890

You thought the Polacks were more dangerous than the Germans?

541

01:22:17,890 --> 01:22:19,640

Oh yes!

542

01:22:20,400 --> 01:22:23,800

Despite all your good experiences?

543

01:22:27,190 --> 01:22:35,819

We were very afraid of the Polacks. They thought they lost

544

01:22:35,819 --> 01:22:44,300

the war, the Jews have everything, I hope you are Jewish?

545

01:22:44,300 --> 01:22:44,790

I am!

546

01:22:44,790 --> 01:22:56,654

You know, why should they get everything and they didn't get nothing, they lost the war. They

547

01:22:56,654 --> 01:23:08,020

were miserable, the Polacks. At night we had to lock ourselves in, I'm telling the truth.

548

01:23:08,020 --> 01:23:16,020

You didn't get protection from the Russians?

549

01:23:16,020 --> 01:23:30,629

We used to get protection, but not the protection that we needed. And then, when

550

01:23:30,629 --> 01:23:44,509

I came, my husband's father passed away soon, he survived. He had owned half

551

01:23:44,509 --> 01:23:59,119

the city at least. He didn't ask for return, no, he was afraid, he passed away

552

01:23:59,119 --> 01:24:10,989

soon after the war. That's why we followed the army to Germany.

553

01:24:10,990 --> 01:24:16,230

So when you left Chelm, where did you go to?

554

01:24:17,810 --> 01:24:18,670

They said...

555

01:24:18,670 --> 01:24:19,230

To Germany?

556

01:24:19,230 --> 01:24:25,961

No, the Germans were still fighting the Russians, the war was on. But

557

01:24:25,961 --> 01:24:32,400

we followed with a big crowd, we were there too. It was dangerous.

558

01:24:32,400 --> 01:24:42,590

And where did you end up?

559

01:24:49,490 --> 01:24:53,767

We didn't have a place to land. Nobody wanted us. One was afraid, that maybe they were recognizing

560

01:24:53,767 --> 01:24:57,360

that he did something to the Jews or helps the Nazis, you know, it wasn't so easy.

561

01:25:15,210 --> 01:25:17,560

So you went West.

562

01:25:18,040 --> 01:25:30,973

We figured we will follow, the Germans are now not dangerous. Because they had the wrong

563

01:25:30,973 --> 01:25:43,760

things to settle or to hide, you know? So it wasn't easy until we came to the States.

564

01:25:47,470 --> 01:25:50,880

But you went through a DP camp?

565

01:25:50,990 --> 01:25:52,830

No.

566

01:25:52,830 --> 01:25:55,300

But you didn't go straight to America?

567

01:25:55,300 --> 01:26:00,260

No. But I had friends, Polacks, who I knew they didn't do nothing wrong

568

01:26:00,260 --> 01:26:05,084

to help the Germans. And I was with them, I had the Montsiniok, and all

569

01:26:05,084 --> 01:26:09,230

the children were in America already. I didn't forget them.

570

01:26:22,400 --> 01:26:39,510

But can you please tell me what your itinerary was from Chelm to America?

571

01:26:41,140 --> 01:26:49,952

First of all we had family who left before the war. And as for

572

01:26:49,952 --> 01:26:58,480

politics, you figured maybe there will be more freedom here. Yes?

574

01:26:58,480 --> 01:27:09,470

And America had a good name [laughs].

575

01:27:09,470 --> 01:27:12,270

Sure, but from where did you leave?

576

01:27:14,910 --> 01:27:19,340

From where I left? I left from Germany.

577

01:27:19,340 --> 01:27:19,630

From Germany.

578

01:27:19,630 --> 01:27:24,260

I didn't wanna be in Germany.

579

01:27:24,260 --> 01:27:29,360

So you came here in '45?

580

01:27:30,160 --> 01:27:30,420

Yes.

581

01:27:31,390 --> 01:27:32,250

Were you already married?

582

01:27:35,270 --> 01:27:37,960

Sure! I came with my husband.

583

01:27:37,960 --> 01:27:42,390

You married in Chelm?

584

01:27:42,390 --> 01:27:43,924

No. We married in Poland, in Lublin. Because we didn't

585

01:27:43,924 --> 01:27:45,130

wanna just hang together [laughs], you know?

586

01:27:55,900 --> 01:28:02,250

Sure. You had an official Jewish wedding?

587

01:28:02,250 --> 01:28:03,267

Oh yes! I didn't have a wedding dress. But (we had) a coppoel, a rabbi in Germany,

588

01:28:03,267 --> 01:28:04,248

and we had, you know, not dressed up like a bride, but right away we got married,

589

01:28:04,248 --> 01:28:05,120

because we felt, our parents and we also didn't feel like, you know...

590

01:28:38,490 --> 01:28:44,370

Where did you enter the United States?

591

01:28:44,370 --> 01:28:56,390

We came here, wait a second, more than fifty years ago.

592

01:28:56,610 --> 01:28:57,470

But where? Did you come through New York? Yes!

594

01:28:59,840 --> 01:29:01,470

[laughs] I'm just asking you.

595

01:29:09,560 --> 01:29:12,970

Yes. We came through the...

596

01:29:13,240 --> 01:29:13,320

The...?

597

01:29:13,320 --> 01:29:14,350

Yes.

598

01:29:14,620 --> 01:29:20,700

And then they received you in New York?

599

01:29:20,700 --> 01:29:35,237

There was an organization like the Joint and they helped you. They arranged your passports and stuff

600

01:29:35,237 --> 01:29:49,921

like that. Listen, they had a big organization, and when we came we didn't have no things up on our

601

01:29:49,921 --> 01:30:04,313

sleeves, you know, and we got our papers. And we came here, we had friends here already. My brother

602

01:30:04,313 --> 01:30:18,851

was before us, because my brother's wife is German-born. But this didn't have nothing to do with

603

01:30:18,851 --> 01:30:31,500

it, her parents were still alive, German Jews, nice people. They are not alive anymore.

604

01:30:31,500 --> 01:30:35,080

And then you lived in New York? Or you came here immediately?

605

01:30:41,030 --> 01:30:52,490

We looked for people to be close, you know, we were without people, you understand.

606

01:30:52,490 --> 01:31:02,570

What a mess I'm telling you. And I lost Leon, Leon died, the Polacks...

607

01:31:02,570 --> 01:31:04,040

Feldhauer, yes?

608

01:31:04,580 --> 01:31:13,185

Yes. A lot (of people) from Europe that we had known

609

01:31:13,185 --> 01:31:21,460

before the war went here, so we weren't special.

610

01:31:21,460 --> 01:31:23,200

So you came immediately to Finland?

611

01:31:23,200 --> 01:31:24,050

Yes.

612

01:31:24,050 --> 01:31:25,320

And you stayed.

613

01:31:25,320 --> 01:31:26,420

Yes.

614

01:31:26,890 --> 01:31:27,510

Wonderful. [laughs]

615

01:31:31,120 --> 01:31:37,574

Yes, we were very successful here. If you want to work,

616

01:31:37,574 --> 01:31:43,090

no matter where you come from, you can make it.

617

01:31:44,790 --> 01:31:51,380

How many children do you have?

618

01:31:51,380 --> 01:31:51,850

Two.

619

01:31:51,850 --> 01:31:52,660

You have two children.

620

01:31:52,780 --> 01:31:53,630

Yes. Aha. So do you...

622

01:31:53,630 --> 01:31:59,550

Both very well educated.

623

01:31:59,550 --> 01:32:03,830

I have seen that. I have seen Abby.

624

01:32:08,360 --> 01:32:29,317

One is married already, one granddaughter, she's a doctor in Jefferson Hospital and he is

625

01:32:29,317 --> 01:32:51,657

a doctor in Jefferson Hospital. And one grandson is a heart specialist and an emergency whatever.

626

01:32:51,657 --> 01:33:12,845

One is professor, how should I say, he is very educated, she's a manager of a college. One

627

01:33:12,845 --> 01:33:31,270

is in college, one is in a high school, one finished college and is in business.

628

01:33:31,270 --> 01:33:31,370

Gosh! Enormous. What else can I ask?

630

01:33:31,950 --> 01:33:32,750

Sure.

631

01:33:34,210 --> 01:33:39,270

Oh, and one is in law school.

632

01:33:39,730 --> 01:33:40,260

Pfff.

633

01:33:40,260 --> 01:33:40,290

A girl. Gosh.

635

01:33:40,290 --> 01:33:40,600

So I did pretty good.

636

01:33:40,600 --> 01:33:43,650

You did. Now, do you think and dream a lot about Sobibor?

637

01:33:54,300 --> 01:33:54,680

Oh, always.

638

01:33:54,680 --> 01:33:56,170

Or do you try to forget? Always?

639

01:33:57,660 --> 01:34:15,545

Always. You cannot get it out of your mind. My oldest son is very much involved in the Holocaust, you

640

01:34:15,545 --> 01:34:35,025

know. I will show you, I went yesterday with him and he arranged a new college they opened up in Jacksonville.

641

01:34:35,025 --> 01:34:49,370

And he wanted me to go, I went with him. You know. And he's very much involved.

642

01:34:49,370 --> 01:34:57,680

But we are talking about you. You said it never gets out of your mind?

643

01:34:58,790 --> 01:35:01,660

No. I mean, my husband and the second son went to Chelm, this summer. You know why? Because

644

01:35:01,660 --> 01:35:04,531

my husband's father just died the minute the war was ended. He came out, he also had been

645

01:35:04,531 --> 01:35:07,275

hiding, so we built a fence around the cemetery, because there was no place to bury him

646

01:35:07,275 --> 01:35:09,609

except in Chelm. And my husband went this summer with one of my grandsons.

647

01:35:54,520 --> 01:35:57,770

For the next nine months?

648

01:35:57,770 --> 01:36:12,457

[reads from a book] For the next nine months we lived in a bunker under the barn Heidi had built.

649

01:36:12,457 --> 01:36:27,447

We lived like mice, only going out through the hay at night to get a drink of water from the horse,

650

01:36:27,447 --> 01:36:42,135

outside the barn. Mr. Montsiniok at the risk of his own life and his family's lives allowed us to

651

01:36:42,135 --> 01:36:56,822

stay. He brought us food when he could. There is no question he saved us. Yes? The area was still

652

01:36:56,822 --> 01:37:12,721

controlled by the Nazis and growing bands of Polish partisans anxious to kill Jews. Finally, the Russians

653

01:37:12,721 --> 01:37:27,409

drove the Nazis westward and we came out of hiding and returned to Chelm. There I learned that my

654

01:37:27,409 --> 01:37:42,247

mother had been shot and killed by the Nazis. Poland was not a safe place for Jews, returning Jews

655

01:37:42,247 --> 01:37:53,150

were resented and often murdered by their Polish neighbours. Is it good?

656

01:37:53,540 --> 01:37:54,030

Very good.

657

01:37:55,330 --> 01:38:06,532

A group of us, including my future husband, Ees, decided to stay close to the Russian army as it went

658

01:38:06,532 --> 01:38:17,401

towards Germany. In 1945, when the war ended, we found ourselves in Berlin. Ees and I got married,

659

01:38:17,401 --> 01:38:28,381

but on our honeymoon he was accused of being an English spy by the Russians and sentenced to death.

660

01:38:28,381 --> 01:38:37,920

After three years of death row I was able to bribe him out of jail. Should I go again? No.

662

01:38:37,920 --> 01:38:42,500

We were stateless people and did not dare to go back to Poland. We hoped to come to

663

01:38:42,500 --> 01:38:47,356

America and to start our life there. But not until 1950 were we able to come to America.

664

01:38:47,356 --> 01:38:52,102

Before leaving for America another Sobibor survivor came to me and told me he had just

665

01:38:52,102 --> 01:38:55,910

seen Erich Bauer, the Sobibor gas master, on a carrousel in the park.

666

01:38:55,910 --> 01:38:56,932

We had them arrested and I testified at his trial where he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

667

01:38:56,932 --> 01:38:57,856

This was the first of many trials where I would testify. This also started my telling

668

01:38:57,856 --> 01:38:58,520

of the Sobibor story, which I'm still telling to you today.

669

01:38:58,520 --> 01:39:00,492

Thank you. It's enough. Thank you so much. Can I ask you the question, can you tell me what happened

670

01:39:00,492 --> 01:39:02,290

to your husband? You haven't told me yet. You were in Berlin and your husband got arrested?

671

01:39:03,680 --> 01:39:04,000

No. He has a problem with his leg. He cannot walk.

672

01:39:04,000 --> 01:39:05,520

673

01:39:05,520 --> 01:39:08,380

Oh yes. Three years they gave him. What exactly happened? You said they gave him three years. But can you tell me, it was very short.

675

01:39:08,380 --> 01:39:09,210

Yes, in 19.., I said, no.

677

01:39:09,210 --> 01:39:50,902

[sentenced] He was, this was the first of many trials that I would testify. This also started

678

01:39:50,902 --> 01:40:33,043

my telling of the Sobibor story, which I'm still telling you today. Oh, here. Before leaving

679

01:40:33,043 --> 01:41:12,943

for America, another Sobibor survivor came to me and told me he had seen Erich Bauer, the

680

01:41:12,943 --> 01:41:45,669

Sobibor gas master, on a carrousel in the park. That's what you wanted?

681

01:41:45,680 --> 01:41:49,281

No, I want your story, can you put that aside please? Can you

682

01:41:49,281 --> 01:41:52,470

leave that for a moment please, what you have written?

683

01:41:52,470 --> 01:41:53,380

Yes.

684

01:41:53,380 --> 01:41:55,270

So can I ask you a question please?

685

01:41:55,270 --> 01:42:00,770

Yes. [turns pages] What happened.

686

01:42:00,770 --> 01:42:01,852

Just put it down for a moment, please, because I want you to

687

01:42:01,852 --> 01:42:02,880

remember it. What happened to your husband? What exactly?

688

01:42:12,390 --> 01:42:25,615

What happened? My husband went to Russia. Instead of remaining with the Germans, he left to Russia.

689

01:42:25,615 --> 01:42:38,040

There he was accused of being a spy. When he came back, they put him for three years in jail.

690

01:42:38,040 --> 01:42:39,800

In Berlin?

691

01:42:39,800 --> 01:42:45,997

Yes. And I saved enough money and bribed a Nazi Besetz,

692

01:42:45,997 --> 01:42:51,180

I'm sorry for the word, and they let him go.

693

01:42:51,180 --> 01:42:59,330

But was he picked up from the street, or how did it happen in Berlin?

694

01:42:59,330 --> 01:43:05,870

He went for his passport, I think.

695

01:43:05,870 --> 01:43:09,200

Yes? And then they arrested him? Gosh.

696

01:43:14,660 --> 01:43:19,570

The Germans. Okay?

697

01:43:19,570 --> 01:43:23,813

And then we agreed that we would talk a little bit about

698

01:43:23,813 --> 01:43:27,300

religion, how you became religious in Sobibor.

699

01:43:32,130 --> 01:43:49,943

I think I became religious because most of the religious people in Sobibor, they

700

01:43:49,943 --> 01:44:05,530

were the last of the Polish Jews. That's why they finished them all.

701

01:44:05,530 --> 01:44:10,830

But you became religious, what did religious mean?

702

01:44:10,830 --> 01:44:24,669

I came from a religious home and it's much easier when you have something to hang on [laughs]

703

01:44:24,669 --> 01:44:39,527

when things are bad. Some people stopped being religious, but I just came from a home where my parents

704

01:44:39,527 --> 01:44:51,910

were religious and they always blamed it on their God, whoever, it was easier for me.

705

01:44:53,880 --> 01:44:54,570

To be religious?

706

01:44:54,570 --> 01:44:55,240

Yes.

707

01:44:55,240 --> 01:44:59,890

Were you the only one in Sobibor, or were the other girls religious?

708

01:44:59,950 --> 01:45:14,423

No. But when it was Yom Kippur, we all prayed as much as we could. If you are not religious,

709

01:45:14,423 --> 01:45:28,268

you know, you blame that maybe on I don't know whom, but when you have a little belief

710

01:45:28,268 --> 01:45:38,180

in yourself it's much easier to go through a thing like that.

711

01:45:38,180 --> 01:45:39,900

And does religion help you now?

712

01:45:43,690 --> 01:45:44,800

Yes!

713

01:45:44,800 --> 01:45:45,730

Tell me.

714

01:45:45,730 --> 01:45:50,560

I think with raising the family. We are closer, because we have the religion in between us.

715

01:46:05,570 --> 01:46:09,660

So did you ever ask God why is this happening?

716

01:46:09,660 --> 01:46:18,750

We cannot ask God, but if you're religious you don't ask too much. Am I right?

717

01:46:20,300 --> 01:46:21,140

Yes.

718

01:46:23,730 --> 01:46:35,390

And I feel that it was much easier to go through, in Sobibor, if you believed.

719

01:46:35,390 --> 01:46:46,400

But it didn't take the shape of special actions, it was in your head?

720

01:46:49,570 --> 01:46:57,463

No, I figured every night when I went to sleep, that I survived, you know, that surviving

721

01:46:57,463 --> 01:47:05,623

was such a big word. I guess, the way I was brought up... I didn't have enough time really

722

01:47:05,623 --> 01:47:12,629

to do something else. You know? Because I felt faith gave me a lot of strength.

723

01:47:33,520 --> 01:47:42,437

I imagine. Also while we were having lunch, Esther, or cookies,

724

01:47:42,437 --> 01:47:50,930

you said you recognized Demjanjuk? That you knew who he was?

725

01:48:17,300 --> 01:48:19,010

When?

726

01:48:19,190 --> 01:48:29,360

When you read about him, you know who Demjanjuk was, you said.

727

01:48:29,360 --> 01:48:31,500

With coffee and cookies?

728

01:48:31,500 --> 01:48:33,550

When we were eating cookies.

729

01:48:33,550 --> 01:48:33,950

Yes.

730

01:48:33,950 --> 01:48:44,870

Yes, you told me that you recognized John Demjanjuk.

731

01:48:44,870 --> 01:48:45,550

Oh, Demjanjuk?

732

01:48:45,550 --> 01:48:46,140

Ja.

733

01:48:46,140 --> 01:49:02,937

I mean, I have now a paper where he was young. Very young. In Sobibor, probably. I remember faces, listen,

734

01:49:02,937 --> 01:49:17,200

I've been to so many trials, I never made a mistake. I went to more trials, all of them.

735

01:49:23,850 --> 01:49:25,780

How come? You were asked?

736

01:49:26,300 --> 01:49:40,260

I don't know, maybe I was interested in going to trials and I was very

737

01:49:40,260 --> 01:49:54,415

anxious to get it where it's supposed to be. No, I didn't think about

738

01:49:54,415 --> 01:50:06,050

belief to take revenge, but I wanted to get it off my chest.

739

01:50:08,160 --> 01:50:10,070

Because it's always there.

740

01:50:10,800 --> 01:50:13,740

And will never go away.

741

01:50:13,740 --> 01:50:21,050

So you want Demjanjuk also to be punished?

742

01:50:22,870 --> 01:50:23,810

Yes.

743

01:50:28,230 --> 01:50:32,950

So your first trial was in Berlin?

744

01:50:32,950 --> 01:50:34,300

In Berlin, yes.

745

01:50:35,140 --> 01:50:36,470

And then many more followed.

746

01:50:36,470 --> 01:50:42,515

Then I went to Gomerski. Clea gave me the boots and Gomerski was a dog,

747

01:50:42,515 --> 01:50:48,390

they don't come any worse. And then I went to eleven guys on trial.

748

01:51:08,120 --> 01:51:08,920

In Hagen?

749

01:51:08,920 --> 01:51:09,453

To Hagen. There were two brothers, Wolfs, and one Wolf was so good, I mean, he was not guilty

750

01:51:09,453 --> 01:51:09,974

in nothing. And the other one was a dog! Then I went to whose trial? Again? I went to many.

751

01:51:09,974 --> 01:51:10,536

And then, when they made the gas chambers in Sobibor, they didn't have it when we came, that's

752

01:51:10,536 --> 01:51:11,115

when they got the idea to make gas chambers, but first they made it just for children and youngsters.

753

01:51:11,115 --> 01:51:11,500

And then they made it wherever they could get some people to do it.

754

01:52:17,450 --> 01:52:20,110

Have you ever been near the gas chambers?

755

01:52:26,650 --> 01:52:33,360

No. I shouldn't lie. No. I don't know what's inside. I saw them walking to the door.

756

01:52:43,090 --> 01:52:48,870

That you could see from your place?

757

01:52:48,870 --> 01:52:55,989

Yes, because we always felt, let's see what's going on, let's see how they're

758

01:52:55,989 --> 01:53:03,275

doing it. You know? It was curiosity, maybe we'd have to tell it sometimes. Yes. But

759

01:53:03,275 --> 01:53:10,060

you saw the people going naked from where they got undressed to the gas chambers.

760

01:53:10,060 --> 01:53:20,950

So you had no hope, no?

761

01:53:24,390 --> 01:53:34,920

No. I don't know if I didn't have, I always thought they don't mean me. [laughs] Stupid huh?

762

01:53:34,920 --> 01:53:38,480

You were there? You are still there.

763

01:53:42,600 --> 01:53:42,942

Yes. You saw them walking naked through the walkway to the gas chamber. I never

764

01:53:42,942 --> 01:53:43,284

saw the door to the gas chamber, but I knew where they were going. You didn't

765

01:53:43,284 --> 01:53:43,610

see if they punished somebody and took him there. And you didn't see him.

766

01:54:15,200 --> 01:54:17,650

Is that the image which haunts you most?

767

01:54:23,920 --> 01:54:35,060

No, it was very hard for me to build an image.

768

01:54:39,280 --> 01:54:49,082

You know? We knew the people were not there, we saw they took out, sometimes

769

01:54:49,082 --> 01:54:58,885

if the things were spoiled, we saw they used to bring them in on wagons, all

770

01:54:58,885 --> 01:55:08,430

sorts of things. But you couldn't picture them dead. I don't think so.

771

01:55:08,430 --> 01:55:12,950

How do you take people and just kill them?

772

01:55:15,750 --> 01:55:20,814

It's impossible. But if you have your nightmares,

773

01:55:20,814 --> 01:55:25,780

is it the scare of Sobibor, is it a special image?

774

01:55:27,100 --> 01:55:30,771

Mostly, I will have (nightmares) about the Nazis, you know.

775

01:55:30,771 --> 01:55:34,070

Who either was favourable to everybody, or was a dog.

776

01:55:47,210 --> 01:55:55,230

Is there anything you haven't told you still want to tell about your life or about Sobibor?

777

01:55:55,230 --> 01:56:00,129

Listen, the pictures are here for me, the books are here, I'll live with them

778

01:56:00,129 --> 01:56:05,029

until I die. You cannot erase, that's impossible. Why? And then the why is so

779

01:56:05,029 --> 01:56:10,176

big. You know? It's so big, why did they have to kill those little children? They

780

01:56:10,176 --> 01:56:14,579

didn't give them nothing, no power, no mourning, nothing? Am I right?

781

01:56:46,670 --> 01:56:51,310

Absolutely. I can't answer it for you.

782

01:56:54,610 --> 01:57:07,478

I cannot. I mean, you don't have to be a murderer, a killer. I don't know what you have to be

783

01:57:07,478 --> 01:57:19,940

when you have children at home and you see them dead here from the other end, from the door.

784

01:57:24,040 --> 01:57:26,698

Do you also have this feeling towards the Poles, the Polish population?

785

01:57:26,698 --> 01:57:28,870

That kind of question towards the Poles which haunted you?

786

01:57:35,230 --> 01:57:45,628

Oh yes! The Polacks waited to get everything that the Jews had and (they) didn't have, you

787

01:57:45,628 --> 01:57:55,913

understand, and they were big anti-Semites. They thought that if the Jews have a few onions

788

01:57:55,913 --> 01:58:05,519

more in their gardens it's the Jews' fault. The Poles were very, very anti-Semitic.

789

01:58:16,130 --> 01:58:22,220

Thank you very much, Esther.