

>> Interviewer: Okay. All right, they're ready to go.

>> Miller: Okay.

>> Interviewer: Are you ready?

>> Miller: Mm-hmm.

>> Interviewer: Okay. Would you please tell me your full name?

>> Miller: I'm Cela Miller.

>> Interviewer: And tell me when and where you were born.

>> Miller: I was born in 1921 -- I'm sorry. How did I get to that? My husband was born in '21. I was born in 1923 in Pinczów, Poland.

>> Interviewer: Okay. Now what I'd like you to do is just go back and think about your childhood and your early life in Poland and tell me about your family, your siblings, your extended family. Just tell me about your early family life in Poland.

>> Miller: Okay. My father and mother were 40 years old when the war broke out, and we were six children. I had one brother and four more sisters. And we had a...we had a small business, like on Main Street, and we lived behind the store. And we were kind of happy. We were not rich, but we got along, and we were -- like everybody else was about in the same position, and we were happy. My parents also had big families, so we had uncles and aunts and cousins, lots of cousins. And we went to school, and we were happy.

Except we were -- the last year before the war, we heard in school -- sometimes the teacher would say something, that the Germans might start a war and of course they want to take over Poland. And that already, you know, was on the back of my mind. But we were hoping for the best, of course. And that's about it.

>> Interviewer: Okay, I want to just go back a little bit and ask you a few things or continue a little bit more with your childhood. As far as growing up Jewish in Poland, did you experience any anti-Semitism as a child?

>> Miller: Not --

>> Interviewer: What kind of community did you live in? Were the people mostly Jewish? Was it mixed?

>> Miller: We -- it wasn't a too big town, but it was close to Kraków, which is the second-largest city in Poland. And I did not experience, especially, anti-Semitism. Maybe a little bit, but not bad. I heard on the streets, you know, some things, but in school, I didn't have a problem. And...my father, maybe. Maybe, you know, on the street wearing a Jewish hat, somebody would say, "Hey, Jew," something like that. But otherwise, it wasn't too bad. I felt that I'm not, you know, in my own country, and I knew that it was anti-Semitism, but...you know, we got used to it, and that was it.

>> Interviewer: Now what I'd like for you to do is tell me how things started to change with the war, when the war started.

>> Miller: Okay. I guess you know that the Germans came into Poland September 1st. And there was some resistance from the Polish soldiers or whatever. I happened to see, through the window, Polish soldiers shooting at the Germans and vice versa. Of course they killed them, and after a little while, they

started from one side of town and the other side of town, started burning the town because of the resistance. Then they start -- they went around to houses, especially probably on the main streets, and they hollered, "*Raus*," which means "out." And they showed us the way to go to the church, just to go to the church because it was already -- we felt the smoke already, and they were burning the town. Everybody went to the church.

Except, lots of people, before -- I mean, you could tell that the war is coming because we heard that they're in the neighboring town, the Germans. Lots of people went under, and they went into cellars under the big buildings and so forth. And the ones that did that never survived because they burned all the houses, and the people never did come out.

>> Interviewer: When you went into the church, let me ask you -- I mean, when they were rounding everyone up, were they rounding everyone up, or were they just rounding up Jewish people?

>> Miller: No, everybody who lived around in my section, as I know, and of course there were a lot more. It was a big church, and everybody was rounded up to get there. It wasn't too far. It was on the same block. And of course we went out with whatever we had on ourselves, you know, just the clothes that we had on. And we stayed there, I think, just hours, or maybe to the next morning. I cannot remember that.

And the next morning, they let us out to find our way wherever. Of course, we went to see our place, and it was just nothing. Just nothing was left from the house, or nothing was left from the belongings. Anyway -- and that was the situation with most people from that church.

So we had a distant uncle living kind of on a side street, not -- I don't know how far, maybe a mile from us, or not quite that far. And we went to see if his house -- as a matter of fact, he

had his own house -- if his house is still there and if they're there. And he was lucky. They survived. They didn't burn the side, small streets. And they had about three rooms altogether, so they took us in, into one large room, a very large room. The whole family was still fine, you know. Lots of people right away lost some of their families. And that's how we lived from '39 through '42.

And of course it wasn't easy, but the main thing was that we're all still together. And the Germans did not make a ghetto in that town because they didn't have -- because there wasn't room for a ghetto. There wasn't enough -- like I said, most of the town was burned, so they didn't make a ghetto. So we were kind of free, except we could not go out of town.

>> Interviewer: Now let me just ask you this. Once you went to your uncle's and you're living there from '39 to '42, were the Jews treated differently? Did you start experiencing anti-Semitism at this point?

>> Miller: Well, I saw, very often, some Jewish people were killed. We also heard about the Gentiles too, not just Jews. Like, they round up the intelligence of the town -- the priests and some from the university, professors -- and we don't know what happened to them. They rounded them up and took them someplace. I can guess that they killed them. I don't know why they didn't want the intelligence of the town.

And some mornings, you get up, and you see on the wall blood all over, splattered, spread, and you knew who got killed, you know, who they killed. And then the Germans, they run out some Jewish from the big stores. They run out the Jews and put in Germans, sometimes a Polack, to cover the stores. And they just run you out, and they didn't care what you do.

>> Interviewer: How were you and your family living and eating, and how were you getting by?

>> Miller: My father had a...a leather shop, and also we were making -- like, in Poland, at that time, you did not buy shoes. You sold the leather goods, and you made, you made...you made the top of the shoe, you know, on a machine. We had two or three machines where they would make most of it, and the rest was made by hand. You understand?

>> Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

>> Miller: So slowly, my father got his clientele. Like, shoemakers would buy from him and order that, or even from the country, people would come in and, you know, request for themselves, and they maybe would make them by themselves. And we kind of -- it wasn't bad. He kind of made a living out of that. And like I say, we survived on that. It wasn't, you know, it wasn't really great, but we knew it was a war and some people had it worse.

>> Interviewer: So you were still free to come and go within the city.

>> Miller: Right, yes. That was a big help because the people could come in and deal with my father.

>> Interviewer: So at this time, did you ever have any designation as Jews? Were they ordering you to wear stars or armbands?

>> Miller: Oh, yes, right away.

>> Interviewer: In '39, as soon as you went to your uncle's?

>> Miller: Yes, right. Right away, you wore on your sleeve a, a...a Star of David; a white thing, and the Star of David was on it. And that represented that you're Jewish, and you could not go out without it in case they stop you and ask you if you're Jewish. And if you are, they would shoot you. They would take you kind of to a place, and you never came back.

>> Interviewer: What about, in this interim, schooling? Did the children get to continue?

>> Miller: No, not the Jewish people.

>> Interviewer: So no more school after '39?

>> Miller: No. I had a sister who was going to start the first year. She was looking forward to it so much, but there was no school, nothing. And...everything stopped. Education stopped. And...

>> Interviewer: So in 1942, things changed again dramatically.

>> Miller: We heard, of course, what's going on in Warsaw, that they have this ghetto, that people were dying in the ghettos. As a matter of fact, my husband is from Warsaw. But of course then I didn't even know him. I'm just saying that. But it was on a holiday, Rosh Hashanah, and...we saw on trucks from the neighborhood, from the next small town, which is about 20 miles from us -- the name of it was Busko -- they were coming in and straight to the, to the...train station. And...they were taking them to this train station and loading on trains. I didn't see that, but we knew that that's what's happening. They were passing by us, and we knew what's gonna happen. But there was no place to go.

>> Interviewer: Where did you think these people were going? Did you know where they were going?

>> Miller: Yes, we knew. We didn't know for sure. You know, we never thought that it would be that bad. But we knew that they're gathering the Jewish people and taking them away someplace.

The same day, I believe, my...my father had walked out for a minute, and my mother and my older sister, she said that we, Bluma and I, have to go to the -- into the woods, which was not too far from where we lived. Of course we all start crying, and we weren't going. We said, "We all go, or nobody's going."

[crying] Anyway, she put some money in both of our packets, and she just pushed us out of the house, and she says, "Go in the woods." To make this story short, we...we said, "Where are you going?" They said they would go to someplace, maybe in the woods, maybe somewhere else, but they would try to save themselves too. Finally, we didn't have any choice. She closed the door. She locked the door. So we went.

We went with a street smaller even than where we lived so we wouldn't be noticed. And on the way, on the way there, quite a few Jewish people were walking the same way, to the woods. So we kind of got close to them to go together. But when we went to the woods, one of them, a man that...that was known very well -- he was, I guess, maybe the most, the most successful in town -- he stopped, and he said, "Dear children, we cannot continue to go together. We don't know our future. Maybe a small percentage of us would survive, but we cannot go together because we would not have a chance." And of course that was bad news.

But I looked around in the woods -- that was in the woods already. I looked around, and I could see from afar an uncle and a cousin. They were waiting maybe for their family, for their immediate family to come and try to survive. So, of course, they walked over to us, and we were walking towards them. They asked

what -- one had a...one had a wife, and the other one was a few years older than Bluma and I was. Of course, they lived in the same house, but we didn't see them at that time, and we didn't know if they tried to survive or not.

And so we went together, and we stayed in the woods until snow came down. You know, in Europe, the winter is much earlier than here, and it's very, very cold, and we just had what we had on ourselves. So we...we brought one of the -- as a matter of fact, the cousin went into the fields and brought in a -- in Poland, they made out of straw something like a -- the only way I can describe it is much larger than a doghouse, except made out of straw, okay?

>> Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

>> Miller: That's -- yeah, that's about it. And we stayed there, and at nighttime, my cousin and I would go down into the, to the -- like, it's not a town, but the people who work in the fields, or owned fields, lived -- what do you call them?

>> Interviewer: Was it a village?

>> Miller: A village, right. And some of the people he knew, and my father also had business with them too. So we would go to them, and he knew where they lived more than I did, and we would buy from them bread. And mostly that's about all I think we got, is a very large bread or two, and we'd pay them, of course, good because they weren't supposed to do that either. He could have gotten into trouble. As a matter of fact, for one kilogram of sugar, if you turn in a Jew, you could get a kilogram of sugar for them. You understand?

>> Interviewer: Yes.

>> Miller: Okay. I guess sugar was very -- it was a very shortage of sugar. Anyway, he was nice enough to sell to us the bread, and I think every second night we would go down and get that large bread. And as soon as we came, we would divide it into four pieces, and everybody got a quarter of the loaf of bread. And of course it wasn't easy to live on that, but we still had -- you know, we were still kind of strong and everything, and it wasn't bad. We just didn't know what the future -- what else we can do.

Anyway, at one time, the snow already start falling, and I went at nighttime. I don't know if I was not smart enough or something. But I went to the same town where I was from, and I knew that my parents left like covers, down covers for the winter, and maybe some other stuff. I didn't know exactly what, but I knew that we need that. And they were really nice, the Polish people. They gave me that, and I went back with it, and that helped. It was a night not to freeze.

>> Interviewer: When you went back into the town, did you hear any news of your family? Did you learn anything about them?

>> Miller: I went to the house, and they lived right behind our house. There was nothing there. As a matter of fact, I went with my cousin, and he thought that his father...that his father buried some money. He showed me where. It was gone already. They went through everything. I don't know who, the Germans or the Polish people.

>> Interviewer: But your parents and your brothers and sisters were gone?

>> Miller: There were no Jewish people.

>> Interviewer: And so you didn't --

>> Miller: No.

>> Interviewer: And you had no idea where -- their whereabouts.

>> Miller: No. I also went to one of the -- one person that was also a Gentile, who worked for my father at least 15-20 years, and I know that he let him have leather because he knew that he cannot trade leather with him. So he left it there just in case one of us will survive or...or whatever. He left it to him.

And when we got there, we saw another Jewish person arguing with him. "I don't have it. I don't have it." Something like that. And we came in, and I said, "Hi, how are you? Have you seen any of my parents lately?" And he said no. I said, "We're in need of money. Can you please pay us something for the leather or give us the leather?" He said he doesn't have it. He doesn't have it, he said. He doesn't know what happened to it. I couldn't argue, even, with him. I just left. We just left and went back into the woods.

And...and...one time, the...the man who was in charge of the woods, like here, a...somebody who is in charge of...of the whole forest, he saw us.

>> Interviewer: Like a ranger?

>> Miller: No, he was, he was a... He worked. He got a pension for taking care of the forest. Maybe it is a ranger. Anyway, he saw us, and he talked to us very little, and he left. And we got scared. We got scared that he might give us out. So we picked up, and we went. That evening, when it start getting darker, we went to a neighborhood town, to the next town rather. It was I don't know how far, but we walked all night and got there before it started to get daylight. Of course, it was in wintertime, so we had all night. We were hoping that an uncle of ours is living there still because we knew he had a -- he was not just a

cabinetmaker, but he made from wood -- he was selling, like, two-by-fours, whatever.

>> Interviewer: Lumber.

>> Miller: Lumber, right. He had a big place. He had it in the cellar, and he had it in the, in the -- upstairs, whatever. And we came in, and they were still living there. We knocked on the door, and the uncle answered, let us in. And of course most of the family was gone. They left him and his son. The reason they left him is they were helping. They were helping the Germans if they need lumber to build some things. They were doing that for them, for the Germans. And they knew that they would not stay there forever, that after a few months they would also get rid of them, because it was a date when they're supposed to be *judenrein*, which means "clean of Jews," no more Jews. And...they also had a daughter, but she was hiding. You know, the Germans were not supposed to know that she was there.

They took us downstairs where they moved a two-by-four or whatever -- I really know very little about lumber -- and there was a large kind of closet, and they let us into the closet. And they said they would help us with food, and, and...you know, they -- we welcome to stay as long as we can. So that was good for -- you know, that was good. You know, that was a big help.

We stayed there -- I don't know exactly how long, maybe two weeks, and there was an announcement on the street, a loudspeaker, that if any Jewish people are left hidden, they can come out and come at this-and-this place and go to a camp, to a working camp, on this truck. And we were sitting, all four of us, thinking what to do, and each one of us looked at the others. And first I came out. I got up, and I said, "Bluma, you're going with me. I don't see -- I haven't heard of the war ending, and I don't know how long -- I know that our uncle will not stay here forever, and this sounds good. If it's a working

camp, maybe they let us work, and maybe, by any chance, we'll survive." I know that we couldn't go into the country, you know, to live, to stay with anybody, with any Polish people. We didn't have that much money to offer them to help us survive. And Bluma said okay. They did not. They said they weren't going because the men usually were more afraid because of beatings that they got or, you know, or hurt, the beatings that the Jewish people got from the Germans. So, anyway, we said good-bye, and we left.

>> Interviewer: So this was your uncle and cousin who stayed behind? They stayed in hiding.

>> Miller: Right. We...we left and went on the truck, and of course the truck was kind of almost full. But after, after a while and maybe three, five minutes before we were leaving, they both came up. They changed their mind. Maybe they had talked it over with the uncle and his children, and they decided to come too. As a matter of fact, he told them that after the judenrein, after they would get rid of all the Jewish people, that that is where they would go, even this was just one time that you could go, one day, but they would be able to go later to that camp, that supposedly it wasn't too bad. So I was, of course, happy that they also came because, you know, I guess the more that I knew anybody, and especially the family.

Okay, we got there, and...and the Germans -- we had to stand. They counted us and, kind of not a very welcome voice, hollered, you know, this and that. I don't remember exactly what. Then we were showing -- it was a Jewish police. Police also was there, and we were shown where to go. There were barracks. On one side were men, or boys, you could say, because it was only young people, like from...what I could tell, not old and no children of course, no children at all. And they would show us to our barracks, and it was two floors, or two whatever you call it, just some straw and a board between for every person. And I'm

not sure if we had blankets. I'm not sure. Maybe we had blankets.

And we had two shifts going to work in an ammunition camp. We worked with ammunition. Of course they didn't call it ammunition. They called it "pieces." We were making, like, bullets. And there were machines with oil, working in oil. Very few were electric. Most of them, you work on the machines, little machines, with your hands. It wasn't easy. But it was 12-hour shift, day shift and night shift, and you would change from day one week, night one day, one day...day shifts.

But whatever we had organized since we left the house, maybe...very little. Maybe we had an extra dress or extra -- I know one pair of shoes we just had. That, you could keep still. Some people had more because maybe they came straight from home. I don't know exactly. But we would get...we would get for breakfast a piece of bread and coffee, and for lunch, we would go in the kitchen and get some soup and maybe another piece of bread, which wasn't too bad. That was already...that was already good. And we would work in that factory.

But very oft -- not very often, but in the mornings, every morning, very early, you come out for a...for a counting, for counting. And of course it would be very cold, freezing weather, and it took time. They took time with it. And...many times, they would either call you by name or look at you and they would call you. And you never saw these people again. They somehow needed so-and-so-many people, and they needed less and less, and we never saw 'em from that day on, after the war or right then and there. And I think they picked mostly older people, and sometimes young too, like strong, big men. They would pick them, too, and, you know, get rid of them. So you always were afraid if it's your time or not.

And...we worked in the factory, like I said, and the SS would walk with us. It was a little distance from the barracks, and they would walk with us, back too, and they would holler in German, you know, "walk this way; walk that way." And then they also would come in at any time, into the barracks, to look you over. I don't know. And you would have to make a speech. One of us would have to make a speech. They told you before what kind of speech. In German, you said it, or in Jewish because Jewish and German is very -- it's kind of close. So you did the best you can, and then they would leave. Of course, they would carry some -- I don't know what you call it, a big weapon.

>> Interviewer: A machine gun, kind of --

>> Miller: Yeah, something like that. And they would leave, so you'd breathe again. Okay.

>> Interviewer: Before we go on, I want to ask do you remember the name of this camp?

>> Miller: Yes, it was Kielce Hasag. The name of the -- it was in Kielce, and the name of the camp was Hasag, H-A-S-A-G.

And...then one day, one day, they...one day, they told everybody to come out from the barracks. There was no work. Nobody went to work. But everybody should come out, come out from the barracks to the usual place where they count you and everything. By that time, my uncle from Kielce, from that small town, had already arrived, maybe a couple months or more before, with his daughter and son to that camp, and they were one of us. You know, they also worked in the factory. And sometimes, they let them stay around the barracks because they would work for the Germans, build something or help repair something. And on that same day, when they heard that everybody's going out, they presumed that we're going to be deported, that they were taking us out, because we knew that the Russians are getting closer and they

would transport us out. So...so they hid themselves. They hid themselves in a...over at the barracks in a...what do you call a --

>> Interviewer: Attic? Was it like an attic?

>> Miller: In an attic, except for their son. Their son went to the factory like us, so he was among us. But the daughter and the uncle hid themselves in the attic. And they were missing, you know, and I guess they knew exactly who it was because they missed them. We were just 500 people there. And they went in front of the attic up, and I don't know how many times they shoot in, and they killed them. They killed the uncle and his daughter. Later, you know, we saw their son, and he told us what happened.

Anyway, they took us out from there, and they sent us to Czestochowa. That was much closer to Germany, and it was still the same factory, ammunition factory. And it was a little worse, but it didn't take long, and they took us to Germany. They took us to Bergen-Belsen, and that was -- they didn't burn people, but it was a death camp.

They had I don't know how many thousands of Jewish people. They didn't have any barracks. They emptied some kind of buildings. I don't know whether they were warehouses or something. And all they would give you is a piece of bread, and in the evening, they give you -- they called it a soup, and it was just water and maybe a couple pieces of cabbage would swim around. And people were dying like flies. Also, there was a terrible sickness, a terrible typhus, and people were going crazy. They were walking and talking to themselves. Or they would just lay there, lay on the floor. And, of course, Bluma had it first. She had very high fever.

Let me just tell you how life, at first, was in that barrack. I don't know how many hundreds of people was -- not in a barrack, but some kind of a warehouse. There was no straw, no nothing, no blankets. You had to lay down on the side to fit at nighttime, to, to what you call it, to...to have room enough to sleep. And of course Bluma was always with me. And, and...every morning, of course, was counting, and their eyes was onto us. And we would still stay on this -- they called it *Appell* -- I don't know why -- in German.

And then in the daytime, sometimes they would let you work, and the work was, if there was, on the side someplace, debris or some bricks, you would take it from one place and put it on another side. And the next day, you'd take those from the other side and take them someplace else or in the same place, just to be doing something. And of course you were terribly cold because, like I said, it was icy, and you had -- by then, when you came in, you took a shower. We didn't know if we'd come out from the shower, but you went in with one door, and you came out with the other door, and they would give you a dress, which you probably saw on TV, with the stripes. I don't remember if anything else, if you had on any underwear or not. But they gave you that type of dress. It didn't matter what size, just a dress, and that's all you had. And, like I said, in the cold weather, standing on the Appell, lots of people didn't survive already.

And we were there...maybe a month, and they start sending us out. At first, we were told that they're sending us to work in a camp where you would be working on airplanes. So we got there, and you go up on the plane. They give you a brush, and you paint here a little bit and there a little bit. It was no work actually. We didn't know what we were doing. And you had the same treatment as in Bergen-Belsen, the same soup at nighttime and one piece of bread.

In Bergen-Belsen -- I'm going back and forth. In Bergen-Belsen, not from our group but from the groups before, they would come up to you, and they say, "I'll give you a sweater" or "I'll give you a coat." They probably had that from the people who died. And "if you give me your piece of bread," you know. And that was right after you came in, so you don't know what's going on, so you wouldn't know how bad it is. And some people, you know, they didn't know that it was so bad. They would give away the first piece of bread, and it was terrible because all day you didn't have anything else until the next morning, the piece of bread, and it wasn't much. It was just a...a piece of bread, black bread. And of course we kept losing weight already, and Bluma got sick.

And when we went to the next town, Burgau, where we worked on the airplanes, she already could not walk. So she laid down, and right away, we were told she has to go to the hospital. They called it hospital, but it was the same thing. It was under the ground, a place, just dirt, and you also -- one next to each other. Of course, it was just women. The men went we don't know where even. We never saw 'em again.

And she went there, and I was very scared, what they gonna do with her in a hospital, you know. So I looked in every time I had a chance, and I called her if she could come. And she was very, very weak. And I told her that I'll see what I can do for her the next day. And I went to a Kapo. A Kapo was somebody Jewish also, but they would get double the amount of food as the regular person would get. And I would see what I could do for her. Anyway, I went to the Kapo of the -- one of -- a girl that I knew. I heard that she has an apple, and I asked her if she could possibly switch my piece of bread for the apple. And she did it. And I gave Bluma the apple. Then I told her to try to get stronger because I'm gonna take her out from here because I don't know if you have a chance to survive here. She says,

“Okay, when you come tomorrow, maybe somehow I can get out of here.”

So the next day, I came for her early because I heard that we were going to some place. We were going to walk to another camp. So I was kind of holding her, and then we start marching, you know, I don't know, eight or ten length-wise. I don't know -- four, I believe. And we were walking to the next camp. How she survived, I'll never know. I was pushing her, and somebody else maybe was helping me, and if somebody would have seen it, like the Germans, we would have been both in trouble.

But we came to the next camp, and it was the same old thing. The next morning, we were walking again. Marching, they called it. And...by then...it was in one of those underground camps, they call it, and we were laying again one next to each other. I already had it too. I had high fever, and she got a little bit better, which was great. And we were like that a few days, maybe -- I don't know how long. I cannot tell you.

By then...by then...I didn't see her. I didn't see her, and I don't know where she went, and we heard bombs already falling. You know what I'm talking about? They were bombarding. It was the United States, and we were really, really happy about that. We didn't care if we survive or not. We just wanted the war to end. And...

>> Interviewer: At this point, you and Bluma are separated?

>> Miller: No, we were together except she left the barrack for a few minutes. It seemed like for a long, long time. She finally came in, and she had a piece of bread. [crying] That was maybe silly of her, but she said she finally got into the kitchen, working in the kitchen. The biggest thing would be if you got a job in the kitchen. That was like being in Heaven maybe because somehow you could get... I'm sorry. [crying]

>> Interviewer: It's okay. Do you want some water?

>> Miller: She said she got, she got a piece of bread for...for me. [crying] But that was -- you know why? Because most people left the kitchen because they saw what was going on. Probably the Germans already start leaving to hide themselves. And she -- and after a while, I told her she shouldn't have done it because she was in danger, "Can't you hear the bombs falling," and all that.

Anyway... I'm making it really short. Anyway, I saw a soldier in the door, and it was American soldiers. They say it's an American soldier. This was my biggest dream, of course. [crying] You know, when the bombs were falling, I thought to myself, "If I live to see a soldier, I'll kiss his feet." But I couldn't get up. I had very high fever, and I think Bluma walked over. I'm sorry to make you cry. [crying]

>> Interviewer: That's okay.

>> Miller: Anyway, they took us to a hospital where they gave us a bath, a clean bath, and it was Holzhausen. The name of the hospital was Holzhausen, and it was close to Landsberg am Lech, Germany. And there were sisters, you know, there.

>> Interviewer: Nuns?

>> Miller: Nuns, there were nuns, and they were very nice to us, and doctors, German doctors, and of course it was organized by the United States, everything, probably Red Cross, which I'm pretty sure. And they gave us the first food. I remember it was, I think, rice and milk. And I couldn't believe to see that. So they gave me some, and I start eating, and my stomach couldn't take it. I couldn't eat it. [crying] I'm sorry. Anyway, I was

there a long time. I was a lot longer sick than Bluma was. I don't know why.

I want to mention one thing that I forgot to talk about. Maybe I'll get away from this for a little while, okay?

>> Interviewer: Yes, go back and...

>> Miller: When...when they send us out from Bergen-Belsen to go to work on airplanes. Before they send us out, they had a whole commission. I don't know -- SS men, of course. And you had to take off your clothes and pass by them kind of not really close, but pass by them. They would look you over, if you still were able to work. You understand?

>> Interviewer: Yes.

>> Miller: And if you were like 35, 40 years, you were no good. And so, of course, they choose probably half of them, and the rest, we know what happened to them. And, okay, make it short. Bluma cried. She just thought that for sure that she will not be accepted because she was always very slim. She still is slim. She was just, you know, bones. But I guess she had a round face and of course very, very young, so she survived. They let her through.

Anyway...the whole time, it was -- you know, it wasn't easy. We knew where our parents, more or less, are, that they did not survive because it lasted so long. That was '42, and this was '45. And, anyway, some of the people that came into those same camps told us that they were on the same trains with them and they saw them, but these were like boys, 18, 17 years old, and some of them jumped the train and survived. So I knew where they went, and they didn't have a chance because, over there, it was just a camp where you -- it wasn't a camp. It was just crematoriums, and the only people work was with the Jewish

people, you know, like put them through that or dig big ditches or whatever.

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