

>> Interviewer: Can you please tell us your name?

>> Kalisky: My name is Dientje Krant Kalisky.

>> Interviewer: And when were you born, and where were you born?

>> Kalisky: I was born in Bussum, Holland, on May 20, 1938.

>> Interviewer: Can you tell us something about your life as early as you can remember, your life at home, something about your parents?

>> Kalisky: Well, I remember far back. Really in '41, '42, things start to be really bad in Holland, and we had to go in hiding.

>> Interviewer: Do you remember your life as early as 1941, just in terms of what your home was like?

>> Kalisky: No, no. I remember that -- before that, because we were living -- I was the only child, and we were living over the store that my father and grandfather owned.

>> Interviewer: What kind of store was it?

>> Kalisky: It was like overalls and jeans. Not really jeans because they weren't there then, but work clothes, really. That's kind of what it was, and needles and thread and pieces of material to make dresses. And I remember that very well because my mom and dad and me, we lived on one side of the store. On the other side was my aunt and uncle, who had just gotten married, and they were just like real crazy about me, and I always liked to go over the balcony to her house because my mother was always

constantly wiping me off because I was kind of a -- you know, I liked to play in the dirt and all that. But my aunt, you know, that was different because she set me on the floor, and she had just made chocolate pudding, and I could lick it out with my fingers and stuff, you know. That, to me, was great. And I remember before, my grandfather and my 16-year-old uncle had to go away, and they never came back.

>> Interviewer: Where did they -- they were taken away?

>> Kalisky: Yeah, they went to a concentration camp. I remember that because my grandfather, he was like -- oh, I was everything to him. I was the first grandchild, and he was always playing hide-and-seek with me. So, you know, that was like -- I guess I was around three then. And then when I was four, things started to be pretty tough. And I have a picture that was taken just before I went into hiding.

>> Interviewer: Okay, you were about four years old in this picture?

>> Kalisky: Yes, I was four years old, and that was when I was still with my parents, and this was just before we all had to go in hiding. And my mom and my dad and me and an aunt and an uncle and a little girlfriend and her mom and dad, we stayed in Amsterdam in our first hiding place.

>> Interviewer: Do you have any recollection of understanding why your life was changing? Do you remember any discussions that your parents had, or did they try to explain to you what was happening to you?

>> Kalisky: No, they really didn't. They just -- I don't know. They just didn't talk about it at all to me. So things was very confusing when I was in my first hiding place, and then all of a sudden, we had to go away because all the Jews in Amsterdam were

taken away in paddy wagons. And that's one of my fears, too, because the sirens of, you know, of like police cars -- and in Holland, when I'm in Holland the first of the month, they have a siren just to see, you know, if it works because if there's something wrong, and that scares me to death. I mean, I have a very big fear for that.

>> Interviewer: What is the first hiding place that you remember?

>> Kalisky: Oh, in Amsterdam. My first one, I do remember, and it wasn't bad then, but it was cluttered. There were a lot of people there.

>> Interviewer: Can you describe the place to us and what the life was like for you?

>> Kalisky: It wasn't so bad because I had the people to talk to, and like I said, I was pretty spoiled, and I try, you know, to do like before we were in hiding. They weren't telling me very much. But then, when all the paddy wagons came by and picked up the Jews, I don't know who told me, but that's what was told to me, that they took Jews away.

>> Interviewer: Were Jews taken away -- were you hiding with other Jews?

>> Kalisky: Yeah, all the people that I was hiding with there were Jews.

>> Interviewer: And what kind of place were you hiding in?

>> Kalisky: It was just a regular house. It was an apartment, a second-story apartment. I think it was either a second- or a third-floor apartment, because the houses in Amsterdam, they're like four stories high.

>> Interviewer: And who arranged -- who was hiding you? Who was in charge of this gathering?

>> Kalisky: This was still when my mom and dad were still -- you know, everybody like my uncle and my aunt, they all were -- you know, they talked about it, and they thought that's a good place to go. I even remember the name of the street in Amsterdam. It was called the Dintelstraat.

But then it was too much. Then things started to get bad, and then my mom and dad just thought that it was much better for me to survive if I would go on my own. So from there on, I went to a children's home in Bussum, again in the place where I was born. And by that time, I was like five years old, and I was just -- you know, it was real fresh in my mind: my mom and dad, and I was Jewish. And then someone told me about a star that I was supposed to start wearing when I was six, and I remember, the first part of May -- because my birthday's May the 20th, and I kept saying, "Oh, I wish it was that far that I was six years old because then I can wear my star!" It was yoked on a -- yoke means Jew. And those people just -- they had to take me away because they couldn't happen -- you know, they couldn't take the chance -- I was a little, you know -- I talked a lot, and, you know. So then --

>> Interviewer: Do you know the type of people who ran this home?

>> Kalisky: Yes, I do because I happened to meet one of the daughters last February when I went to Europe, when I went to Holland. I met that lady, and my father told me who she was, and it was quite an exciting thing because, you know, she knew me only from when I was so young.

>> Interviewer: Do you remember how long you were in this home?

>> Kalisky: Not very long. I really don't remember how long, but not too long.

>> Interviewer: And were you the only Jewish child in the home?

>> Kalisky: As far as I can remember, yes.

>> Interviewer: So then you had to leave that home.

>> Kalisky: I had to leave, and then...there was a man in the place where we lived who worked with the Jewish people who he was getting money for to bring 'em to a hiding place. But on the other side, later we found out he -- after a few weeks we were in the hiding place -- that he got in with the Germans and got money from the Germans, and then the people were taken away.

And my mom and dad, that time, were in a home with some people, and one of the postmen at the post office saw that this man, this man that I'm talking about, he saw too many letters going to the SS and the Germans. So he opened a letter, and it happened to be the letter for my parents. And he came right over to where my parents were hidden, and he said that if he had anybody over there -- and he said, "I don't have anybody." He said, "No, I mean, in hiding." And he said, "No, I don't," and naturally, you know, he had to do that. But he said...he said that, "When I leave, you try to get those people out of here because I did something that I wasn't supposed to do. But get them out of here."

So my mom and my dad walked -- oh, I don't know how many miles, probably around 20 miles -- to go to another address. Well, they knew that I also was taken to an address, and they thought -- but then when they found out this man was working both ways, that was very scary because my mom thought, "Oh, well, that's the end of Dientje." And so my mom was a wreck, you know, giving

her child up, and my mom and dad couldn't go their own ways because my father had to give support to my mom because, you know, "Look, you know, you just have to let your little girl go," you know.

>> Interviewer: Did you -- were you able to see your parents at this time, in this hiding?

>> Kalisky: No.

>> Interviewer: So you didn't know, at this time, what was happening to them?

>> Kalisky: No, confusion.

>> Interviewer: And they really didn't know what was happening to you?

>> Kalisky: No, and --

>> Interviewer: So what happened to you from this second place?

>> Kalisky: From this second place, I stayed in a closet.

>> Interviewer: In this second hiding place, you stayed in a closet?

>> Kalisky: Oh, you're talking about the children's home?

>> Interviewer: From the children's home.

>> Kalisky: From the children's home, I went to a town called Laren, and that same man, he took me to -- first, he took me to some old people, and they were real old, and they were from Indonesia. In Holland, have a lot of people from Indonesia. And they were real nice. They were like people I will never forget.

They were warm. She made me sit on her lap. It was like an old grandma. But I couldn't stay there.

But their son was a photographer, and before I left, he took -- this was already like in the war, because the date is on it. It's February '43. And if you look at the picture, I'm all dressed up. They gave me an outfit. But my most important thing is my doll. I had this doll, and her name was Anneke, like Ann. And when I got there, when the old people got me over to the place where I was supposed to stay for a while, that was really the only one who was my company, 'cause I was in a dark closet. I didn't have a mattress. I only had a little blanket and a pillow.

>> Interviewer: You spent your whole day in the closet?

>> Kalisky: Most of the time. I mean, I only came out of there -- not very much. And a few times even, she had to take me out because she heard that the Germans came over, and she took me to her brother, which was in Amersfoort. And that's where I was a while too, and I was scared to death for this man because I was locked up in the attic, and that's one of the reasons, still, from the closet and the attic, that I still have claustrophobia.

And the man was a very, very bad man. He scared me. He had a rifle. He hit me with the end of the rifle. He did sexually a lot of harm on me, and I even remember the first time that he did. He was a piano teacher, and he put me down on the chair before the piano, and he sat next to me, and that's when he already started, you know. So I was so scared for that man, and he always told me, "Look, I'll let you feel how it is if you're gonna tell anything," and then he'd just hit me in my stomach with the end of a rifle.

So that was a horrible place to be, and I had to go there because that was -- this lady who had me in the closet, she took

me to him when anything got hot. And the lady was old Catholic. She was something like a nun. And she was able to have me because they were living like in cottages. It wasn't like a monastery or where the nuns live. So that way, she could hid me and take care of me. Well, she wasn't such a very nice person. She beat me up a lot. I was hungry. I never got anything to eat. I remember me eating grass. I don't remember anything -- food or anything. And many times, I cried because I was so hungry, and she beat me up because I couldn't cry because people might hear me.

And one time, she beat me so hard -- and I was laying on the pillow. I was laying on my stomach, and she beat me so hard that my head was going up and down, and I had an awful nose bleeding. I mean, it just wouldn't stop. And she kept saying, "Now I've got to throw that pillow out. That's the only other pillow that I had." And, you know, to me, I should have been saying, well, that's just really rough because now I don't have a pillow either. No, I didn't. I was so glad that she had to throw something away that was hers. You know, that was my revenge, you know. But she was just real, real bad to me. And I had a potty in the closet to do -- if I had to go to the bathroom. And, um...

>> Interviewer: Did you have your doll in the closet with you?

>> Kalisky: I had my doll in the closet all the time. I put her night clothes on. I had a few little things that I could put her on. And I cried with her, and I hold her. It felt like she felt my pain, and I loved her, and I talked with her. It was just like there was another person with me in there who I could tell when I was hurting, when I was hungry. And, um...but anyway --

>> Interviewer: Do you know how long you were in this place?

>> Kalisky: Yeah, almost -- let me see. This picture was taken in February '43, so till May 5, 1945.

>> Interviewer: You were in this one -- this place?

>> Kalisky: In this one place, but I was -- a lot of times, I had to go to her brother, like sometimes for weeks, which, you know, that just was the most horrible thing. I just wanted to die, and I couldn't talk about anything.

>> Interviewer: Did you have any contact with any other people in this period of time besides this woman and her brother?

>> Kalisky: No.

>> Interviewer: Did you ever try to talk with her and ask her questions or have a relationship with her?

>> Kalisky: When I came there, soon after I had gotten there, she told me that my parents had passed away and they're in Heaven with Jesus. And then this religious thing started with me. I had to be baptized. When I was seven years old, I had to do my first Communion.

And a few times -- I remember two times that I was able to go -- I went one time to a mass, to a Catholic mass in the church, which was very, very close by. And that was not a very, very big happening either because there were some drunk soldiers having everybody to stop who was going to church, to night mass, and somebody didn't say -- you know, when they said, "Heil Hitler," everybody had to do that. One man didn't do it, and they took him and ripped his clothes off and put him on a tree, and they were beating him, beating him very, very hard on his private parts. And I screamed. I said, "Don't! Don't! You hurt the man! You hurt the man!" And then they came after me, and the nun had

to take me home because I was bleeding all over my face. And so that was tough, so actually you couldn't go very many places.

And my doll, you know, just was everything to me. That was the only thing that I can remember was great.

>> Interviewer: Do you know why this nun kept you, what her reasons for keeping you were?

>> Kalisky: Well, that's a long story, but I'll make it short. The man who taken me there, the man who worked the two ways with the Germans and the Jews -- he'd put the Jews in places, and then he told on them -- so he had taken me over there. And I was in that closet many a nights. I heard noises. You know, it was always quiet there. And I looked through -- I opened the closet a little bit, and I thought, what is this? They were both nude. So what it was, he had an affair with her.

And that's really how I was saved because he told on everybody. Most of my family who got gassed in the concentration camps, that was his fault. But that's the reason why I was not told on because he had something good going over there. He was a married man, and I think he had six or seven children. And I remember seeing him after the war. The whole family had their hair -- you know, when you were bad in the war in Holland, they shaved your head off, too, so that everybody could see that he was an NSB which was working with the Germans.

>> Interviewer: Did he suffer any consequences after the war because of his collaboration?

>> Kalisky: You know, I don't know because, you see, my biggest problem is that, after the war when I came back to my family, I couldn't talk about the war. I had very, very bad nightmares and flashbacks and just real bad, and when I was screaming in my room, my father come in there, and like he didn't hit me or

anything, but he told me, "Hey, you're a big girl now. Now, you don't cry, and it's all over and done with, and don't think about it anymore, and smile." So to me, I always had to smile. I always had to be happy.

But, you know, till now, you know, they still don't want to talk about it, where that's the most worse thing for anybody to do because when you had experience like I had -- and I holded it in for a long time. It wasn't till around 15 years ago that I start getting really, really bad problems, and I had nervous breakdowns and had to get therapy and was in a hospital for a long, long time. But so --

>> Interviewer: Dientje, let's go back to the time when you were in hiding, and can you tell me, in terms of your education or your life now as a Catholic, they were taking you to church, and you were --

>> Kalisky: Well, no, she wasn't taking me to church. Only that one time, I went to Christmas mass at 12:00, and the times that I was baptized and I had to do my first Communion.

>> Interviewer: But you thought that you were Christian?

>> Kalisky: Oh, yeah. By then, you know, I was so brainwashed that my parents were dead and that she was taking care of me, and I just, you know -- that was what I was, a Catholic.

>> Interviewer: Do you remember ever thinking, during that time, of memories that you had of your home and being Jewish? Did you feel any conflict?

>> Kalisky: No, no. I was completely, in those few years, completely accepted that my parents were in Heaven, and then I forgot about it. I mean, it just went away, you know. But one of the bad things was, this nun, or this woman who took care of me,

like beat me up. One of the real, real, real bad things that she done to me, she -- I had a little potty where I had to do my thing, and so one time I was crying at night, and she come over, and she picked me up, and she shook me, and she said, "Why are you crying now?" I said, "I'm so hungry, so hungry." And she took the potty, where I had everything in there, you know, my urine and everything else, and she put me in there. She said, "You eat that. If you're so hungry, you eat that." And that's one thing that I still have nightmares about that because that was so horrible. And she wasn't so good to me.

After the war, or when I got older, like I said, my parents didn't talk very much about it. But just last December, my parents were here, and never they talk about anything, and they were telling me about my sister, who had this doll, and my mom said, "And I did an awful thing. I threw that doll away." It wasn't my sister. It was me.

As soon as I came home, my father and my mother, I had to grow up, I had to forget, and they just -- they mentioned something like -- they never really knew exact where I was, but they saved up like candy and cookies because, in Holland, some people could get something, like on the farms. And like, you know, they had gotten some sugar beets, and from sugar beets -- I mean, you don't know, but from sugar beets, you can make all kind of things. And they would save things for me, and that was the first time I ever heard my mom and my dad talk about something like that. And they said, "Yeah, we saved that," and all that. I said, "Well, I have news for you. I never, never had it. You don't even know how hungry I always was." They didn't know anything that happened to me, and a lot of things, you know, it's just so unreal, you know, when I talk about it.

>> Interviewer: Do you remember the time when the war came to an end and you left this closet and you left this hiding place?

>> Kalisky: Yes.

>> Interviewer: Can you describe the situation to us?

>> Kalisky: Well, that was May 5, 1945, and there was noise outside, and I said, "What's going on?" And I heard real noise, which were the tanks. See, the part where I lived was liberated by the Americans. Other parts, like in the south of Holland, the Canadians, you know, were them to free them. So I was -- well, anyway, she said, "No, you can get out of the closet, but we'll just have to wait."

And then this man and this woman walked in, because an aunt of mine, who is not Jewish but married my mom's brother, she went looking for me in places, and she even saw me one time. One time, also, I had to go to another place with the same nun, and we had to go in a home because there were very many -- people had to evacuate because down in Holland the bombs -- there was this island, and they put a bomb here, a bomb there and there, and a lot of people got drowned, but a lot of people in that area, in Zeeland, had to go in places, in schools. And she had to go to this home where I was hiding in this town Laren. And she stayed in that place, and I did too. And so that was another place, really, that I was in hiding there too.

But my aunt, she went looking all over for me, and she knocked on the door, and I kind of looked out -- I think it was the kitchen. I'm not so sure. And she said to whoever opened the door -- I don't remember that -- "Please, can I come in and have some water, please?" And they let her in, and I was standing there, and I stuck my tongue out to her, so she was so happy because she could go back and tell my parents she'd seen me.

So after the war, it wasn't very hard to find me because they went to the home and -- they weren't there anymore. Then I had to go back to the nun's little cottage. But that's why, when May

5, 1945 -- I heard all that, and then she said, "No, we can't go. We can't go. Somebody's coming." And here came this man and this woman in, and the woman is crying. I mean, she's like hysterical, and she's sitting down and crying. And my father kept saying -- see, I had a different name then. My name was Denika Kloppenburg [phonetic]. My name is actually Dientje Krant.

And so my father, you know, he said, "Hello, how are you?" You know, he was real nice, but I didn't recognize him. So then he said, "Come on, we'll go outside." And he took me on his shoulders, which for me was very scary because all this time I'm thinking about, Oh, God, is he gonna be like that man where I was before? But we were on the street, and then the tanks came by, and he lifted me up to an American. And the American, his smile and his face, if I would see him now, I would recognize him. I know I would. And he gave me a piece of ration. He gave me a Hershey bar. And that Hershey bar, it was so good. I mean, it tasted so good. And then everybody was very, very happy.

But I had to stay with the lady, with the nun, because my parents, they had to stay where they were staying because they lost everything. The Germans had taken the business and everything. So my father and mother had to get situated, which didn't really matter because, to me, those people were really strangers. The man, I thought, was nice, but this woman, she's sitting there crying, you know.

So anyway...then I stayed there for like a while, and then I came back to my parents. They found a house, or a place to live, and I came to live with them. And it was awful because then I had to accept that my father and mother were Jewish and that they weren't in Heaven, and I was Jewish; I wasn't Catholic. And my doll was thrown away because I was big; eight-year-old girls don't play with dolls no more. What it was, there was so much confusion in my head. I mean, I didn't know who to believe and

what to believe, and so when we finally, you know, start -- when I finally start to kind of accept my parents, not always I was so happy because still my Catholic religion was still in my head, and whenever I walked away or run away from home, my father and mother knew where I was. I was in the church in the first row with my rosary, because I kept my rosary.

And so that took a long time because I really didn't want to accept them, and so it was hard for me to grow up because, also, I couldn't cross the street because somebody could hit me and I'd die. I remember that I wanted to go swimming, and I remember very well -- I never really heard my parents argue a lot, but they had an argument because my father thought it was okay for me to take swimming lessons. Now, this time -- I'm talking about now where I was 8 1/2 or almost 9 years old. And, no, my mother didn't want me to go swimming; I could drown. So this went on and on, and my mom, she was really very, very nervous and had so much to carry in her head because her dad died, her young brother died, and my grandmother was still alive, and she had to be good for her mom. And it was really a tough time.

>> Interviewer: Did she tell you about how she was feeling?

>> Kalisky: No.

>> Interviewer: When you came back to live with them, she never talked to you about what had happened to them?

>> Kalisky: No, no.

>> Interviewer: And did she ever ask you what happened to you?

>> Kalisky: No, there was never -- when I cried or when I got scared or -- I just -- I couldn't do that. "You're a big girl," you know. "You're too big to cry," you know.

>> Interviewer: Did you ever try to tell them?

>> Kalisky: I tried. Even I tried -- I was very sick around ten years ago, and I was in a hospital in Charleston, and they told me that I didn't have very long to live. I could get released to go home and die or get released -- or didn't get released and die in a hospital, but I should notify my family in Europe.

Well, I talked with my doctor in Europe, and I came back -- I went in the plane, and I went right to the hospital, and they said, yeah, they were right, that you couldn't get through an operation because you're so weak. I had lost from 135 pound to 80 pound, and even my father didn't recognize me. He passed by. I kept saying, [whispering] "Papa," but I couldn't talk. I was so weakened out. And when he saw me, I mean, you know, tears went over his face because I looked so bad.

But I got straightened out. I had to have an operation in my stomach. And so after, when I was still in the hospital and I was doing a lot better, my doctor come over to me and talked with me, and he said, "You know, this is a good time for you to talk to a counselor about the war and about your bad things what happened," because he was the only one who I felt I could tell things when they were really, really bad, and I could trust him. And I saw him like a friend, not just my doctor. And I said to him, "Hey, I've had those dreams all along, and all of a sudden, you want me to go and see somebody about it?" He said, "Dientje, I think things is worse with you than you think yourself."

And he was right because I went to this place where they had -- it's a psychiatric hospital in Holland where they have people who were in World War II and also people who were in the underground, because they went through an awful lot, and also people from Indonesia who were in Japanese camps. So the doctor made an appointment for me to go, and he said, "Now, listen, you might get into therapy, but it will take months," because he was

talking about outpatient therapy. And he said, "It will take months for you because there's such a waiting list." And I went and talked with them, and they told me that I couldn't have no outpatient therapy; I had to be admitted in the hospital. And I said, "Well, how long is this gonna take?" because my kids, you know. And they said, "It can be a few months, but it can be a year too."

well, anyway, I was there 15 months, and I worked with clay, and that really got things out of me, bad things. Like, I imitated the body -- I made clay of the body of that man in different ways and made the things in a child -- how a child would see it. And the clay -- most of it that I did was in clay. And I threw everything away because it was so scary. I was -- you know, it was horrible. But the only thing that I saved was this little statue. This is me laying down, always in a fetus position, and my arm over my eyes because I was always like -- you know, I was very depressed. And, you know, this is something very dear to me. And another time, when I was in therapy, I made a collage, and that is something that also is something -- I mean, everything in my house, you know, nice things, it doesn't matter to me. The two things that's so important to me is this -- and my picture with my doll -- and my collage.

The main thing with me where I still have very much problems with is hunger. You hear, in Ethiopia, you hear there people are starving. And I get just real involved in it, and like wars, like when we had the war in the Middle East, I got so -- I said, "I've got to do something." You know, this was even before the war. "I've got to do something. I'm driving myself nuts. I know what they're gonna go through," you know, our men here from the United States, and it's awful. So I sat down, and I thought -- and then on TV, they had, like, you can write to any sailor, and so I start doing that. And I must have written like 200 letters for sure because I kept on writing. Every day, that was my chore, to write several letters. And from those men that I

wrote, I kept five friends, five guys who came to see me after they came back. So -- but that was a very scary time for me, you know.

>> Interviewer: Dientje, I'd like to go back to the time that the war ended and you finally got back to your parents. Can you tell us a little bit about what life was like in Holland after the war and how you eventually came to the United States?

>> Kalisky: Okay, well, the first thing I have to tell you, right after the war, the thing -- you know, I told you a very big thing with me is hunger and that -- I will show you in a little bit. The war was over, everybody was happy, and then the Swede, the people from Sweden, they had planes, and they dropped bread. And everybody was running over to the place, to the field, where it was dropped. Now, that already started -- I was supposed to be happy. The war was over. But there, I saw five people getting stumbled and died from people stumbling on each other to grab a piece of bread.

So that's really how everything, you know, started, you know, where I'm supposed to be happy -- what it is, the whole thing is confusion, you know, in me. So when I came back to my parents, it was very, very hard. I told you that. And my mom was sick a lot, and I had to take care of my little brother, and even -- I don't even remember -- no, my brother wasn't born yet. I had to remember! My brother -- right after the war in '46, my mom and dad told me that I was gonna get a little brother or sister. And I was so happy! I remember my grandmother was there to watch me, and I took all my toys, and I put 'em all together, and I said to my grandmother, "If I get a brother or sister, I'm gonna give all my toys." I was so excited. And then my mom and dad walked in with my sister -- because, see, there were so many orphan children in Holland that it was just a regular thing, people who were Jewish went to a Jewish orphanage home and just took a child.

>> Interviewer: So your sister came to you from an orphanage.

>> Kalisky: My sister, yes, and my sister was around five years old then. Yeah, she was five. And she came, and from the beginning that I saw her, she was very scared. I mean, so many awful things -- her whole family was wiped out, but also never talked about it, and she still is a very close person who wouldn't talk about a lot of things. But she does -- you know, I have a very good relationship with her, and I understand her real well. But I was -- I had this one picture that I wanted to show you.

>> Interviewer: We'll get it out later.

>> Kalisky: Okay. But my mom dressed us like twins because I was very small for my age. She was three years younger. So we always had the same -- oh, and we hated that too. And my mother was constantly, you know, cleaning us. We couldn't get dirty, or if we had a little spot, you know.

>> Interviewer: How long did you stay in Holland after the war?

>> Kalisky: I stayed in Holland after the war till the late '50s. The late '50s when I was finished school, I took child education, and I got a job on an ocean liner, and I went all over the world. So I left when I was 17 1/2 and came home -- you know, like my first trip was a six-months' trip, and another time, it was a year trip. But it was just to come home, and then the next day, you sail out again.

So, actually, I never really got to know my brother because my brother was so small when I left. He was like around eight, nine years old. And he was a very nervous child, which is no wonder because my mother carried him when she was very confused. And my brother became -- when he was little, he had a twitch, and he

was a very nervous boy. And now he's 43 years old, and I am very close to him. But he -- it's not the generation, what all happened to me. It's also the generation, you know, like my kids, my brother, you know, the second generation.

>> Interviewer: Do you talk to your children about what happened to you?

>> Kalisky: I can't really talk to my oldest girl. My oldest girl, Evaline, she's 23 years old. I can't because she has problems seeing me so ill and so sick and being transported to the hospital. She found me several times on the floor when I was passed out just from emotion, and she can't talk about it.

But my son and my youngest daughter -- my youngest daughter goes to the College of Charleston, and she is a senior, and she is gonna go in social work. And she gives me a lot of support, and that poem that I let you read, she wrote that, and she always goes with me to places like -- she's very like, "Don't let anything happen, Mom." Like, last night she called me late to come over to Columbia. "Mom, now, you be careful and don't pick up any hitchhikers," you know, and stuff like that. But she goes with me all the time when we have the memory of, you know, of the Holocaust. But this year she didn't go. My son went.

Now, my son and my youngest daughter, I can talk about it, and my youngest daughter, she is almost 22, and she feels like I feel. I talk to schools, and I'm going to talk to her college, the College of Charleston, and she is the one who can feel my pain. She really can feel my pain. I'm sure my other daughter too, but she's trying to get away from it. She can't see me in pain, you know. But Phillis is -- she understands things well, and she understands when I have days that I don't feel so good.

>> Interviewer: Dientje, is there something that you'd like to say, as we bring this to a close, to say to the children, for

the future, about what's happened to you and what you'd like them to know and to remember?

>> Kalisky: I'd like them to know that, when you eat a meal, that you should say thanks to the Lord that you had a meal because there is so much hunger in the world, and even myself, I was so hungry, it was just -- people came out of the war, they couldn't even walk anymore, they were so weakened. And people nowadays don't really realize it. I do volunteer work at the VA hospital in Charleston, and I work with Vietnam veterans. And their pain, I can feel their pain so good, and they talk about certain things, and it's also very big with them, hunger, you know, and seeing people die and stuff like that.

But what I want to tell -- the reason why I want to keep on telling to schools or organizations is because we all could be so good to each other if we want to. Give a smile from yourself to somebody else. Be kind. Try -- you know, you can be friends with people, but don't let an argument get so much bad where you hate each other. The thing with me, the no-no in my house was don't say "hate" because there's so much hate. Hate is a no-no in my house, and it's something that -- you know, I see in the world right now, there is so much hate, and there is so much people who, you know, they don't believe -- just people I know real well, they tell me, "Oh, all this stuff about the war and the gassing and the people, that was all not true." Even somebody last week told me that. And it's something that I hear all the time, and I want to tell the people that it was real. I was there, and it was real.

And if it was the Second world war or the Korean war or the Vietnam war, the war in the Middle East, it's awful, and I just hope and I always pray that we won't have war because that's awful. Be nice to each other. If you have disagreements with each other, talk about it. But like some people do -- like the skinheads, for instance, I'm scared to death for 'em. I really

am. I've seen it on TV, and it get me very scared when I see 'em around, you know, because those people believe that nothing ever happened. So I try to tell people to love each other, to talk out your arguments, and to see the world -- it can be so beautiful. It can be so beautiful. Don't have hate in your heart because somebody is Jewish or hate in your heart because somebody is black or green or what. We can all live good together if we just want to, because it starts by the people and then it goes to the politicians. But if the people fight for peace, then it all will be good. I never wanted to see another war.

>> Interviewer: Thank you so much for talking with us today.

>> Kalisky: You're welcome.

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