

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Research Institute

Interview with Hela Jaffe
October 25, 1991
RG-50.266*06

PREFACE

The following oral history testimony is the result of a videotaped interview with Hela Jaffe, conducted by Hadassah Rosensaft on October 25, 1991. The interview took place in Tel Aviv, Israel and is part of the United States Holocaust Research Institute's collection of oral testimonies.

The interview was transcribed, translated and processed by the Archives Department. Rights to the interview are held by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The reader should bear in mind that she or he is reading a transliteration of a Hebrew language interview, rather than written prose. Insofar as possible, this transcript tries to represent the spoken word, but some uncertainties will inevitably remain regarding some words and their spelling. Thus, this transcript should be read as a personal memoir and not as either a researched monograph or edited account.

HELA JAFFE
October 25, 1991

(Technical conversation)

Question: Shalom, Hela.

Answer: Shalom.

Q: Ma shmekh, ma shimkha, ma shmekh?

A: Korim li..

(technical conversation)

(side conversation between Q and Hela in different language)

(technical conversation)

Q: Shalom, Hela.

A: Shalom.

Q: Tagidi li, ma shmekh ve eifo o maita noladet?

A: Korim li Hela Jaffe mi Bayit-twas (ph). Noladeti be Polanyah be Varshah be 1923.

Q: Tesapri li al mishpatekh, eifo gartem, ve eikh hayta ha yaldut shelakh lifne ha milkhamah u be zman ha milkhamah? Ma kara le mishpatekh ve lakh be zman ha milkhama? Matai bat le Bergen-Belsen, ma asit sham, eikh and matai anakhnu pagashnu?

A: OK, ani lo yagid she zeh kal kol kakh, lakhzor al ha zikhronot she hayu pa'am, aval ba rega she tsrikhim lits'ok, al zeh ma she haya. She im kvar akhshav, she chaya dor im mispar al ha yad, efshar likhtov mayazim(ph) sofrim Germanim likhtov shekol ha sipur u kevil ke vilyechol lo haya. Az ma yehiye she anakhnu lo nihiye? Uvdot. Anashim im misparim al ha yad. Az kama zeh kasha, lakhzor al ha kol ha trauma ha zot he hanora'a ve al zokhronot. Ani choshevet she tsrikhim ve im yesh hizdamnut, zeh kim'at hizdamnut rishonah bishevili, az tsrikhim ledaber. Az anachnu hayinu mishpakhah merubat yeladim, hayim tesha yeladim ba bayit ve garnu be varshah be makom mechubat. Aba haya sokher divre omanut, ve reut(ph) Style-Maibel(ph) she haya kone orgenaim reut(ph) me ha atsulah Polanit she hayu chayavim bishevil le hitkayem limkor et zeh. Haya lanu chanut gedolah ve be oto tekufah, ima lo avdah, be Polania ha nashim lo avdu. Ve aba be kavod haya mefarnes et ha mishpakhah im tesha yeladim. Anachnu lamadnu, shnayim yachad akhotiyot ha gedolot yitkhatnu kevar, kachah she partsah milkhamah hayinu tesha yeladim ba bayit. Milkhamah partsah be pseshi(ph) - eizo chodesh zeh pseshi(ph)? Chodesh tishi?

Q: Hum?

A: Matai partsah milkhamah? Be Polaniah?

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Q: Sheloshim ve tesha.

A: Ken, be sheloshim ve tesha.

Q: September

A: Be September.

Q: Be September.

A: Be September sheloshim ve tesha.

Q: September, rishon, rishon be September.

A: Partsah milhamah, ve ani zokheret she anachnu az lo hayinu be Varshah, she anachnu kol kayitz hayinu nosim le Dato (ph), karu et zeh, ve zeh haya eizo sheloshim acharei kilometrim me Varshah, ve kacha she aba haya kol yom chozer le chanut ba rechov Morshakovska(ph) ve chozer ve gam anachnu nasanu im rakevet, zeh lo lakakh harbei zeman, ve tamid hayinu nosim be hatchalah chofesh ve nisharim ad ha chagim, kacha she partsah milkhamah lifnei chagim ve kvar dibru she yihiye milkhamah lo hispaknu lakhzor le Varshah. Ve zeh haya mazaleinu, she kol ha ha ha tekufah ha zot he shel milkhamah she yiftitsu et Varshah ve ze neheras ha kol anachnu az lo hayinu shamah, hayinu be Mideshi(ph), zeh lo rakhok me Varshah. Ve she Germanim, ani lo zokheret kamah zman lakchah ha tekufah ad she Germanim kavshu et Varshah aval she hem, lifne she hem nichnesu le Varshah, az nichnesu derekh Mideshi(ph). Ve acharei kamah zman she haya kvar efshar, halachnu ba regel, ani

zokheret, ha bayta. Ba chotser shelanu, eifo garnu, chelek haya arus, az chashavnu kacha, kamah hayinu be mazal tov she lo hayinu az she yiftsetsu et ha bayit. Ve nisharnu be Varshah. Aba haya od oseh et ha bizniss shelo, az Rekhov Morshakovska(ph) zeh haya achad me ha rekhovot rishonim she yehudim hayu chayavim la'azov et zeh, aval haya lanu notsri echad Polani Yishne Dar (ph) she azar lanu hamon she haya oved, haya mekaven et ha psanter ve ha kanaf, haya oved kavua etsel aba, az aba rasham et ha chanut al shemo ki viyechol, ve hu haya kol kach agun, she haya mokher dvarim ve haya meyvi otanu, alainu ha bayta et ha kesef, ve mi zeh hitkaymnu. Ad be arba'im ve echad asu geto be Varshah, az kvar haya sipur acher hayinu chayavim la lechet im ha lentah ha zot he, ve kvar haya kashe le histovev, be chol zot ani hayiti ha zot he she od yatsati mi ha hayinu be eifo anachnu garnu haya karu et zeh geto ha katan, zeh lo haya geto eifo haya rov ha yehudim. Hayu shama garu harbei notsrim, az et ha notsrim she garu hayu tsrichim la'azov ve anachnu nisharnu ba geto katan kacha karu et zeh. Ve hayiti nifgeshet im ha Polani. Hayiti morida et ha lentah, haya li mareh lo kol kach muvak Yehudi. Ve kol zman she haya efshar hu haya od ba ve nifgashiti ve haya noten et ha kesef. Ve efshar lehagid mi zeh hitkayamnu ve kachah zeh haya ad arba'im ve shtayim. Be arba'im ve shtayim amru she kulam chayavim la'avod she yihiye lachem kenkar(ph). Eileh she lo avdu hayu tsrichim la'azov et Varshah. Az zeh haya ba'aya. Hayu shamah shopim(ph), kol minei she avdu bishevil ha Germanim ve anachnu hayinu eich she siparti shevah yeladim ve le aba haya die kasheh lesader kulanu, kol ha yeladim, she yihiye kenkat(ph) le kulam. Be chol zot hu hitsliakh lo be makom echad az ani hayiti be makom echad im ha achayot ve hu im banim haya be makom acher. Ki muvan she eich haya yi efshar la'avod me makom echad, ze haya rekhov sagur im shop(ph). Avadeti etsel Poneh-tebens(ph) karu et ha shop tafarnu shamah begadim le tsava, mundurim le tsava Germani. Ve ad she yom achad lakchu mi shamah kol ha banot...ani mevakeshet selicha...she asu avodat yad ve ani avadeti be mechonah ve hem yotsiyu rak et ha banot she avdu avodat yad, hayu

gomrim et ha et ha begadim la chayalim. Ve ani nora ratsiti lalechet yachad itam, aval beshum ofen lo yacholti latset ki itam yachad amru le machorat tirtsi, ve acharei kamah sha'ot zeh hitbarer she hem halchu le Treblinka, kachah she ani be'etsem, nisharti ba chayim. Az nisharti shamah levad ba shop(ph) ha zeh. Ve ima aba ve ha achim sheli hayu etsel Shults(ph) ba rekhov acher. Nisharti levad az ratsiti lihyot yachad. Ani zocheret be erev echad ve haya asur le histovev, rekhov haya sagur. Beneinu ve bein ha makom eifo hayu garim hayu goyim garim Polaniyim. Az ani zocheret ba layla achad nigashti le Germani amad shamah, postin(ph). Haya ve zeh adam mevugar ve bachiti; bikashti she ani rotsa la lechet levaker et ima. Az hu od amarli she ani omed poh od sha'atayim she takhziri she ani od yihiye, acheret yehargu otah. Kavanah sheli lo hayita lakhzor, rak leshe'er itah shamah. Az bati shamah, ve shamah me ima noda li she gam shama haya selectsiya ve lakchu et aba ve et ha shney achim sheli, ve nishar rak ach achad. Kacha ani nishara shama ima rak im ach achad. Ve hayinu kfar shamah ad she parats mered be geto Varshah. Lifne she parats mered, yadanu mishehu kvar ba rekhov - ve zeh haya rekhov sagur, zeh, zeh lo haya chelek, zeh haya mamash rekhov ha hefokh ha Yashor(ph) ve ha rekhov ha zeh haya sagur, haya i efshar latset mi shamah. Aval shamanu kvar she mashehu tsarikh lehitrakhesh az kol echad hikhin eizo makom bishevil lekanes shamah - bunkerim karanu et zah. Ve ha bunker shelanu haya al ha gag shel ha bayit, ve be Varshah uuu bayit hu haya merubah ka zeh ve haya sha'ar sagur lehikanes ve...

Q: Selicha [for coughing].

A: Hechanu ochel kodem, kol echad chipes eizeh makom lehikanes, az o nikhnesu le martefim o kemo anachnu al ha gag shel ha batim. Ve hayinu shamah betach shavu'ah, shvu'ayim, ani lo zokheret. Ibadnu et ha, et ha, eich korim et zeh, et ha zman. Ve rak ra'inu ve shamanu

eich she ha Germanim hayu nikhnasim potkhim et ha sha'ar, nikhnesim ve zorkim rimonim le kol ha martefim ha eleh ve shamanu petsatsot ayumot ve tsa'akot shel anashim ve anachnu hayinu le malah. Ve zeh lakakh kamah sha'ot, ulay yom, yoma'im, ve ra'inu kvar edim(ph) be kol makom ve esh hitkhil le bor ve be Varshah ha madreyyot hayu harey lo mishayish kemo poh, rak mi ets, ve ra'inu she zeh ha kololeh le hisaref, ve im lo nired az nisaref al ha gag. Ve ra'inu eich anashim kaftsu me ha gagot ve shabru et ha raglayim. Gam anachnu yatsanu kulanu, haya kvutsah, harbey anashimba derekh. Hem heyvi'u otanu le Umschlagplatz, eifo asfu et kulam ve hayu kvar shamah mayot ulay alafim mi kol eleh she yatsu mi ha bunkerim. Ve kol ha zman shamanu yeri'ot ve ra'iti bakhurim she hikarti otam she avdu be shop(ph) yakhad iti. Ba hatchalah hayu mal lovshim et ha madim shel Germanim ve yatsu la rekhov im neshek ve be hatkhala Germanim bikhlal lo yadu mi zeh YEhudi mi zeh Germani. Ach zeh haya kniyah hayinu yoma'im be umschlagplatz, tsa'akot...hayu nora'im. Kol echad chipes et ha mishpakhah. Ulay mishehu yeshno. Acharei yoma'im samu otanu be rakevet. Ha derekh hayta gam ayuma. Kol echad ratsa la'amod al yad ha chalon. Hayu meyyot anashim ba karon kemo behaimot...Ad she higanula Ponyatov(ph). Ponyatov(ph) haya shama shop(ph), zeh ba etsem haya pilya(ph) shel oto makom she ovadnu be, etsel Teben(ph), be Varshah. Zeh haya sniki kiviyechol snik shelo. Az bati shama im ima ve achi, ve ani hitkhalti la'avod be shop(ph) shama. Achi avad bachuts im eizo kvutsah v'od - ah rak echad, rak kakh dakah. Ve ima avdah ba chatser, ve tekef she partsah milkhamah ve she haya acharei selectsiyot she ani ba'ti mi makom eifo ani hayiti le ima az nivhalti lir'ot otah pitom yilbinu(ph) la sa'arot hayta pit'om levana. Ve hayinu be Ponyatov(ph) ha zeh kamah chodashim ad she bah kvutsah Germanim le chapes ovdim bishevil makhaneh avodah acher. Ve be etsem ba Ponyatov haya makhaneh avodah avdu. Ve hem chipsu po'alim ve ani hayiti be binyan, avadeti, ve gam achi lo haya, aval ima histoveva bachuts az lakchu et ima. Keshe ba'u le hagid li she lakchu et ima, lu hayiti

choshevet be higayon, hayiti mevakeshet et ha Germanim she avadeti bishevil she yotsi et ha ima, aval mitakhat impulse, ratsti tekef le ima, ve kacha tafsus otanu. Kol ha tse'irim ha elu, she hayu be transport ha zeh, zeh ba etsem hayu ha eleh she histarfu la horim. Samu otanu ba rakevot, ve higanu le Byabapoblatska(ph). Zeh haya be arba'im ve...rega, geto haya be arba'im ve shalosh, ve Ponyatov haya...zeh haya be hatkhlah arba'im ve arbah ulai, oh be, lo, be sof arba'im ve shalosh. Hayiti shamah mi chodesh rev'i, mi ha geto, ad sof arba'im ve shalosh, kan nir'eh, ani lo zokheret bideyuk. Az hayinu shamah be Byabapoblatska(ph) ve shamah haya gam makhaneh avodah. Banim hayu ovdim, haya shamah sde te'ufah tsva'i, ve chen be etsem haya shama davar ka zeh Bau'le'itunk(ph), zeh kemo etslenu solebane(ph). Hayu shamah Germanim, she haya lahem kol minei miphalim, avdu le ma'amatz ha Germanim gam be filolalechut(ph), ulay le hazik le hilakhem. Az ha banim, ach sheli ve acherim hayu ovdim be sde te'ufah meshaptsim et zeh, ve anachnu avadnu, ha banot, ima avdah ba mitbakh, bishla bishevil Germanim, ve ha banot avdu be bureau(ph), hayu minakim et ha misradim, eifo avdu Germanyot be hevrot ha eleh be Bau'latuk(ph), ve haya la lo rah shamah. Avadnu, haya lanu maspek ochel ve zeh haya makhaneh avodah. Ad she yom echad, kan nir'eh, achar kach chashavti kacha, kan nir'eh zeh haya ba tekufah she zeh hitkhil kvar lihiyot, tsava Russit hitkarvah ve be Byabapoblatska(ph) hayta lo rakhok mi gevul Russit, az kan nir'eh pakhadu al ha tsava Russi, ve amru she hem ma'avirim otanu le makom acher. Az lakakhnu, nasanu kulam im rekhav kaved, transport-vagon, ve banu le Majdanek. Banu le Majdanek huftati she ani chashavti she be kol ha makom yesh-nam rak makhanot avodah, she rak ovdim. Bati le Majdanek, makhaneh, ah, ve shakhakhti le hagid she me'az she yatsati me ha bayit hayinu be begadim shelanu, hayiti be makhanot avodah ve haya lanu et ha begadim she haya lanu od me ha bayit, haya lanu maspek. Bati le Auschwitz, ra'iti anashim im ha strifegleit(ph), ve krematorium. Amarti mah zeh, lo chashavti she yeshna davar ka zeh, lo shamanu al ha, chashavti she yeshnam rak makhanot avodah, banu shamah haya rake.

Bikhlal lo hayu anashim, ke'ilu be ayzo chalom, ayzo chalom rah. Nichnasnu letoch ha makhaneh, le shripeshtuper, ve shama yashav Polani echad. Ve hu hitkhil lirshom kol echad. Hayinu kvutsah ulay arba'im chamishim ish. Ve hu shamah et ha shem sheli Warsh(ph), az hitbarer she hu hikir et achoti ha gedolah, hu haya gam me Varshah. Ve hu siper li she eizo chodesh kodem haya shama selektsiya ve chelek hishmidu shamah, lachen anachnu banu, az hayinu yehudim rishonim acharei eizo chodesh oh chodshayim she hishmidu et kulam. Az hayiti be Majdanek, gam avdu shamah, tekufah ktsara, zeh haya kvar arba'im ve arbah. Ve ani zokheret she be Majdanek, be Majdanek haya petsatsa, avironim yiftsetsu et Majdanek. Ve Germanim ratsu kemo metorafim(ph) le kanes, hem nichnesu le bunkerim. Lanu lo natnu lehikanes, rak hem nichnesu. Az pa'am achad haya petsatsa. Acharei zeh kvar hircashnu she mashehu holekh likroh poh, ve eizo shavu'ah o shevu'ayim acharei ha petsatsa az ra'inu she hem rotsim, matchilim le hasel et ha Majdanek. Ah, kodem shakhakhti lehagid she hem yotsim kol ha gvarim, rak nashim nisharu shamah. Et ach sheli kvar lo haya iti yachad, she kol ha gvarim, shamati achar kach, halkhu le eizeh bet haroshet, avdu be amonitsiyah, az kacha she anachnu hayinu rak nashim, az yit ra'inu she hem matkhilim lisrof et ha kol ha nayeret be shlipestreufer(ph), ve et ha emet le hagid chilku lekhem, kan nir'eh zeh ma she haya, natnu le kol echad ve halachnuba regel, hikhlanu lalekhet kama yamim. She azavnu Majdanek haya lo, lo rachok mi Lublin, mi ir gedolah Lublin. Ve lo ve haya gesher, she haya mekasher et Majdanek im Lublin. Lo hispaknu la'avor et ha gesher. Haya psatsa nora'a, ve hem yiftsetsu et ha gesher ve hislu(ph) et ha gesher. Lu anachnu hayinu yotsim ksat yoeir me'uchar. Ani choshevet hayiti osetet shana yinuim be makhanot acherot she ha Rusim nichnesu le Majdanek ve shikhreru, aval lo hayu anashim kvar, aval Majdanek shikhreru ulay kamah sha'ot acharei zeh she anachnu yatsanu. Az banu ba regel, halachnu eizeh yoma'im, ad she bati le Auschwitz. Be Auschwitz, kibalnu strifegliders(ph) halachnu le zaunau(ph) yoridu lanu et ha sarot, amadnu arumim. Zeh haya mashehu she she ha mo'akh enoshi lo

haya yachol leta'er al ha zva'ot ka eleh she ra'iti shamah...lakchu et ha begadim le plazu(ph) ve anachnu amadnu arumim, gvarim yachad im nashim...kemo chayot, beli bushah...zeh lakah ktsat zman, ad she kibalnu et ha begadim be chazarah, from et lauzu(ph) ve nichnasnu le blokim. Be Auschwitz haya li mazal. Hikarti eyzeh blockova(ph) echad, Polaniyah she azrah li harbei, natnah ochel, ma zeh haya ha chi chashuv, makom ksat le hitrachez ve le'echol ksat. Az ba rega she ha blockova ha zot - eich kareh lo, eich karu lah? Shachachti. Amrah she yesh transport le Bergen-Belsen. Ve ani lo yadati ma la'asot. La lechet, lo la lechet. Az he amrah "Hela, ba milkhamah ha zot he holkhim im ha zerem. Yesh transport, telkhi." Az ani hayiti rak im ima she lo yadati eifo ach sheli nimtsah. Nasanu im rakevet, banu le Bergen-Belsen. Zeh haya be stav, ani zokheret. Haya makhaneh atsum, lo ra'inu kol kakh anashim ke harbei. Nichnasnu le eizeh ohel ve haya ruach ayumah ve ha ohel af lanu...zeh haya gam kiviyechol makhaneh avodah, lo ra'inu krematorium shamah. Hayiti shamah ulay, bati be chodesh achad-eser be arba'im ve arbah, bati le Bergen-Belsen. Lo asinu shum davar. Haya yichluch nora ve lo haya mah le'echol. Kulam histovevu kemo mezulmanim(ph). Ad she acharei kamah shavu'ot she hayiti shamah, at panit elai, az karu lah, karu lakh Ada Bimko, hayom Hadassa Rosensaf. VE haya li mazal, ani lo yoda'at. Derekh kol ha-mahanot, eifo she-bati, bati kfar aharei tekufah she-hayah norah. Ve poh, at rait oti, meshumah, ani lo yoda'at, si[art li sipur she-yesh beit yeladim she-lo rahok mi-blok eifo hayinu haya Yidaniyusloger (ph) she-hayah shamah mishpahot mi-Holland, she-hayu mitaskim im yehalomim, kanireh ashirim. Ve hayah shamah famile-lager (ph). Hem hayu yahad im yeladim. Ad she-yom ehad lakhuu et ha Hollandrim ha-eleh, samu otam ba-rakevet, ahar kakh shamanu she-pitsetsu otam, hargu et kulam, ve nisharu arbaim ve-kamah yeladim. Ve at hayit, at hipast eizo anashim od di tseirim, bishvil la'azor lakh la'avod im ha-yeladim ha-miskenim ha-eleh. Ve-mimekh shamati et ha-sipur, kshe bati shamah, sipart li, he-lakhu et ha-horim, ve-nisharu yeladim levad, ve-hayu tsa'akot ve-bakhu. Az ba'u Germanim, lak-hu et ha kvutsta yeladim,

zarku otah, heviu otah le-makom eifo at hayit. Hitbarer she-at ba'at hodesh kodem me-Aushvits im aizo kvutsat ahayot, ve-heviu et ha-yeladim elekh ve-amarti, amarti lakh, tasu, ma she-at rotsah, ta'asi itam. Ze at sipart li. K'she ani bati shamah, kshe hipast et ha-mishehu she-ya'azor lakh la'avod im arbaim ve-kamah yeladim ketanim, ani kvar raiti et ha-yeladim. At kvar he'evart otam mi-makom norah aluf, bikasht makom yoter gadol bishvil yeladim ha-eleh. Haya lakh omets, ve-huts mi-zeh, et ha-emet le-hagid, at hayit mashehu meyuhad. Yadat safot, yadat eikhe-levakesh. Ve-lo rak le-Germanim, tamid yadat lifnot le-anashim she-hayu yeholim la'azor lakh. Az reshet kol, kibalt et ha-heder yoter gadol ktsat. Ve-hayah horef, hayah norah kar, ani zokheret yeladim bakhu. Hayah norah kar. Lo hayah im mah le-hamem et ha-heder. Az noda lakh she-eizeh betledu (ph) kamer (ph), az lakaht oti ve-od ehat ve-halakhnu shamah, ve-pagasht shamah be-mikreh, ani zokheret, shnei banot, nashim, she-hikuru otakh me-Aushvits, she-kanireh azart lahem, she-at ishah she-ohevet la'azor. Ka-nireh azart la-hem shamah, asit lahem tovah, ve-ani zokheret eich she-hem amru "mah zeh ba'ayah? Ma she=at tsrikhah la-yeladim, k-hi." Ve-hevenu svederim, ve-smalot, ve-mikhnasayim. Banu la-yeladim, hilbashnu otam, ve-zeh hayah mamsh hatsalah. Ahar kakh haya inyan shel okhel. Az at hayit zot-hi she-yadat she-hayah bet mitbah meyuhad le-Germanim, le-hayalim, le, le, le ha, le-SS, she-bishlu et ha-okhel bishvilahem. Az hay lakh omets la-lekhet shamah, pagasht shamah, panit shamah, le-Hungari nidmeh li, she-avad shamah ba-mitbah, Yehudi. Ve-sipart et ha-sipur im yelasdim miskenim. Ve-hem ganvu, zeh ani zokheret, she-anahnu banu, ani ve-Chermina (ph) ve-Lubah (ph), banu shamah im ha-maklot ka-eleh she-hayinu samim kotme (ph) - mah zeh kotme (ph) - akadim (ph), hayinu ba'im shamah ve-be-seter hayu notnim lanu et ha-okhel. Ve-zeh okhel hayah yoter tov, k'mo halah. Ve-lehem lavan, ze ani zokheret. Hayah la-yeladim lehem lavan ve-okhel mamash tov. She-hem ganvu et zeh; asu tovah le-Hadassah Bimko. Ve-ba-lager hayah likhlukh, ve-ra'ash, ve-anashim mistovevim k'mo skeletim. Aval todah le-Adah, ve-tipus (ph), hayah tipus norah flexibel. Ve-etslenu

tadah le-Adah, todah lakh, af yeled lo niftar. Hayu holim, aval Adah gam yad'a lehavi refuot mi-beit mirkahat. Ha-kol yad'a. Ve-todah lah, be-kinut, et ha-emet le-hagid. Todah lah, ha-yeladim ha-eleh be-sof, az kvutsah rishonah siparti hayu yeladim mi-Holland, ahar kakh ba kvutsah mi-Bukhenvald yeladim. Ba'u yeladim mi-Trekhiyah. Adah hayitah holekhet le-lager, hayitah mehapeset yeladim. Ve-le-mi hayah mazal, she-pagshah oto, hayitah meviah le-beit yeladim. Ve-hayu kfar shamah, hayu gam yeladim mi-Rus'yah, heyvi'u. Ve-tsirgonef-kinderkh (ph) hayah gam shamah. Ve-kakhah hayinu shamah. Ve-ha-makom eifoh hayah beit yeladim, ani lo eskhah et zeh. Mulenu hayah blok ka-zeh she-karu et zeh lashenkamar (ph). Lo hayah krematoria be Bergen-Belsen, aval hayah likhlukh nora, ve-ra'af nora, ve-anashim hayu metim. Az hayu sokh'fim, hayu sokh'fim et ha-metim le-blok ha-zeh, ve-hayu shamah me'ot anashim metim, she-ani zokheret, zeh ra'inu kol ha-zman me-ha-beit yeladim, she-mulenu hayah bayit ha-zeh. Et ha-raglayim ve-yadayim she-hayu yotsim - kodem hayu mafshitim otam - she-hayu yotsim me-hadlatot. Ve kakhah higanu ad, yadanu she-zeh kvar, shamanu, tsarikh le-hitkarev ha-shih'rur. Lifnay ha-shih'rur, az hayah pahad ka-zeh. Dibru, ani lo yoda'at lamah, she-ha-Germanim rotsim le-haril, leharil otanu. She-yesh eizeh lehem mural. At zokheret et zeh? Im zeh hayah nakhon ani lo zokheret, aval pahad hayah nora, ve-yeladim bakhu, ve-at zokheret eich...

Q:Ken.

A:...she-at shart shirim be-Yiddish. Bishvil le-hargi'a. Ve-kakhah zeh be-esrim, be-hamesh eser be-May arba'im ve-hamesh, nikhnesu Anglim ve-shih'ruru otanu...

Q:be-April.

A:be-April. Ve-eikh she-siparnu, ha-Angli ha-rishon she-nikhnas, ani zokheret ba tekef le-beit yeladim she-hu hayah me-Holland, katsin gavohah. Ve-hu yada she-be-neit yeladim yeshnam yeldaim mi-Holland, ve-hu hipes et ha-horim. Az mi-yeladim ha-elu sham et ha-sipur ekh she-lak-hu et ha-yeladim. Az hu lakah, reshet kol ha-zva'azav (ph) ha-zava'ah hazot-hi, im ha-maytim. Az hem lak-hu Germanim, ve-hem hayu tsrikhim le-hamnis(ph) et ha-maytim al ha-automosar(ph). Ve-ze lakah sha'ot. Eikh she, eikh she-pinu et ha-kol ha-blok ha-zeh. Ve-lo, ve-lo hayah Aushvits, lo, lo amru she-zeh Aushvits, zeh ra, zeh rak arbeitslager(ph). Ani lo yoda'at im lo maytu mi-ra'av, im ye-tna'im ayumim yoter anashim k'mo be-Aushvits. Ani lo yoda'at. Metu hamonim. Hamonim metu. Sizeh bli sof, ha-Germanim hayu kovrim et ha-anashim. Aharei shihrrur, bah doktor Collins, Angli she-hu hayah rofeh. Ve-hu hipes yeladim, u-li holim, ve-be-emet hayu kamah yeladim she-haray hay lahem tuberculosis. Az ha-kvutsah ha-yeladim ha-eleh, doktor Collons asaf ve-ani zokheret ba Bernadot(ph), ze hayah Khrabyah(ph) Bernadot(ph) me-Svedya, ve-hu lakah et ha-yeladim holim le-Svedyah, rak ha-eleh she-hayu holim. Holland hayitah rishonah she-darshah et ha-yeladim kolendrim be-hazara, ve-hem nasu im Lubah(ph) le-Holland. Ani hoshevet she-Lubah(ph) hevi'ah et ha-yeladim le-Holland, hazrah, ve-ahar kakh lak-ha eila et ha-yeladim ve-hevi'ah otam le-Svedyah.

Q:Tagidi li eikh haya hayim, eich hayu hayim be-beit ha-yeladim be Belsen ve-ahar kakh be-Blankeneze.

A:Aharei shihrrur, at hoshevet?

Q:Betah.

A: Aharei shihrur, as hayah beit sefer, yeladim lamdu, ve-okhel hayah beseder. Ve-hashgahah refu'it, zot hayitah at ve-doktor Collin, hayu kamah yeladim holim le teburculozah, she-hem ba'u likrat ha-sof ka'nireh le Bergen-Belsen, ano li zokheret bidiyuk me-eifo. Az yeladim ha-eleh nasu le-Shevdyah. Ha-yeladim ahar kakh hayah, ani lo zokheret eikh karu lah, kimoni, she-avdah im yeladim shamah, cheshkah(ph) ehad, she-hi lak-hah et ha-yeladim, ve-gam Cherminah(ph), heyvi'u et ha-yeladim be-hazarah le-Czekoslovakia. Ve-ahar kakh hayah kvutsah yeladim, etslenu, ba Kfareli-ve-Joyn(ph) ve-hit'hilu le-hitanyen. Ve-dibru al zeh le-shloah yeladim le-Palestinah, aval gam ratsu le-shloah yeladim le-Angliyah. Ve-kvutsah di g'dolah nasa le-Angliyah, hashvu u'li derekh Angliayah yahzeru yoter maher le-Palestinah. Ve-yeladim avru le-Blankeneze. Ze hayah armon shel mishpahat yehudim, doktor Varbuk. Nakhon? Ve-ani hoshevet she-at bikasht mimeno, ani lo zokheret bidiyuk eikh hu natan, taram et ha-bayit le beit yeladim be-Blankeneze.

Q: Hu natan, hu natan lanu et ha-bayit.

A: Az hu natan lahem et ha-bayit.

Q: Ha-bayit bishvil ha-yeladim, bishvil beit ha-yeladim, ken.

A: Ve-hayu shamah tnayim, ze hayah armon shelo, ve hayah central haytung. Ze hayah halom.

Q: Ken.

A: Halom, mamash lo le-ha'amin.

Q:Ken, ken.

A:Ve-at, at he'evart et ha-yeladim mi-Bergen-Belsen le-Blankeneze. Ve ahar kakh ba kvar brigadah, hit'hilu, ze hayah ahrei she-nasa kvutsah yeladi le, yakhol le-hiyot lu brigadah hayitah ba kodem, u'li hem lo hayu nos'im le-Angliyah. Az hem limdu Ivrit, ve-hayah kvar beit sefer. Ani afilu zokheret aharei shihzur...bein ha-Anglim, ha-tsavah she-nikhnasah le-shahrer et Bergen-Belsen, hayah nasi shelanu.

Q:Mah?

A:At zokheret et zeh? Ha-nasi shelanu! Herzog.

Q:Ken.

A:Ani zokheret eikh she-hu ba le-Bergen-Belsen.

Q:Ken, hu hayah...

A:Az hu lo halam she-hu yehiye nasi shel Erets Yisrael. Ve ani zokheret kamah she-hu samah, eikh she-hu di'ber eleinu.

Q:Hu hayah be-tsava Angli.

A:Hu ba im tsava Angli.

Q:Kene, betah.

A:Ben elu she-shihreru, oh u'li k'tsat ahar kakh.

Q:Ani zokher oto, ve-hu zokher iti.

A:Ve-az hu lo halam, atem yodim al zeh?

Q:Anahnu pagashnu be-September, arba'im ve-hamesh. Pa'am ha-rishonah.

A:Be-Bergen-Belsen.

Q:Be-Bergen-Belsen.

A:Hu lo hashav az she-yihiyeh nasi shel Medinat Yisrael.

Q:Betah, lo. Lo hayitah Medinat Yisrael. Od lo.

A:Halamnu al zeh, ratsinu. Ani be-khol ofen zokheret tov, aharei shihrer, ani yadati she ani le-Polaniyah lo, lo hozeret. Ani yoter lo rotsah le-hiyot mi'ut. Ani, ha-emet le-hagid, be-tor Yehudiyah, lo savalti be-Varshah. U'li lo hayah li mar'eh muv'hak yehudi, aval ani gam lo eshkah k'she yeled ehad mi-komah yarak al, i-efshar lishloah.

Q:Mah at asit ka'asher ahar kakh k'she yeladim nasu le-Palestinah?

A:K'she-hem nasu. Al zeh mah she-ani rotsah le-hagid. Ani hihlateti le-Polanyah lo lahzor, bishvil lo le-hiyot mi'ut kvar. La-America gam lo hashavti lahzor. Az ani bati aharei yeladim, bati le-Palestinah, as od be-arba'im ve-sheva. Ve-od avarti poh et ha-milhemet shihzur shelanu. Lo haya kal. Ani zokheret...zeh, zeh, zeh lo na'im le-hagid...al Yerushalayim...ani zokheret k'she bati le-Yerushalayim pa'am rishonah nasati shamah, az hayu g'derot, ve-bishvili ze hayah k'mo hemshekh shel mahanot ha-rikuz. Ha-mar'eh ha-zeh, ha-anglim she-sanu oti. Be-agdarot be-kol makom, kakhah ani ra'iti Yerushalayim. K'she ba'ti artsah hitstarafti le-yeladim, she yeladim ba'u, at hevet harei et ha-yeladim im ha-oniyah Shampohniyon (ph). Ano az lo ra'iti od zeh aval ha-yeladim sipru li she-ani ahar kakh, helk yeladim halakh le-Kibbutz Dorot, helek halkh le-Kiryat Abavim, ze at yoda'at, sidart et zeh. Ve-ha-k'tanim nidmeh li, ha-k'tanim le-gamrei halkhu le-Beit Shemesh, ve-ani ahar kakh hitstarafti le-kvutsah ha-zot'hi, she-hayitah be-Kiryat Anavim. Ve-Yeladim hayu shamah, mi-shamah hayu, lamdu shamah. Helek halakh le-tsava, helek hitstaref le-tsava. Ve yeled ehad mi-kvutsah yeladim mi-Berlin she-ba'u, Noiman, Mikha'el Noiman.

Q:Ken, ken.

A:Az hu neherag. Hu neherag, ve od Zlotover(ph) yeled ehad neherag be-zman milhamah, be-milhemet ha-shihzur. Hayu kvar yeladim. Ani hoshevet she-amru gam she-hem yoter mevugarim k'mo she-hayu bishvil la-lekhet le-tsava, le-lahem. Ve-kakhah zeh. Ani lamadeti davar ehad, she-im sin'ah, i efshar le-lahem derkh ha-sin'ah. Tsrikhom savlanut, tsrikhim le-daber. She-has ve-holilah lo lahzor. Zeh mah she-hayah. She-im am, ani lefamim hoshevet, im am tarbuti kiv'yakhol she hayu Germanim, she-harei le-Yehudim be-Germanyah hayu harbe shanim tna'im harbe tovim k'mo la-Yehudim be-Polanyah. Ve-Germanyah hem af pa'am lo amru she-hayah antisemiyut k'mo she-anahnu yodim she-

hayitah be-Polaniyah. Im am kaze k'mo Germanim, am tarbuti, hayah mesugal la'asot ma she-hem asu! Eikh hayah efshar le-davar ka-zeh...? Ve-lakhen, anahnu tsrihim li-ts'ok ha-yom, le-saper al zeh she-zeh lo yikreh.

Q:Al tivki.

A:Eikh she-katuv 'never again'. Ani rak rotsah le-hagid od sipur ehad. Ani hayiti be-Amerikah lifnei shanah. Ani rotsah le-hagid lakh, yesh li mispar al ha-yad aval ani lo zokheret oto, ani lo rotsah. Ani lo zokheret et ha-mispar. Ani zokheret tseriyah "A", ve-ehad, ve-yoter ani lo rotsah le-zakher. Hayiti be-Miami lifeni shanah.

Q:Ken.

A:Az amru she-asu shamah andertah le-zekher ha-shoah. Halakhnu shamah. Ha-andertah ha-zeh. Ha-yad.

Q:Ken.

A:Hayu shamah hamon anashim. Zeh hayah kayits, shamah tamid kayits be-Miami. Ani omedet shamah ve-ba yeled ehad ve-omer..."tiri zeh ha-mispar shelakh al ha-yad". Ani nishbah lakh. Az hi, ra'iti. "Tistaklu", hem omrim. Otoh mispar, at yoda'at et zeh? Al ha-yad im tihiyi shamah. Az yesh zro'ah ve-mispar...

Q:Ken ani, ani...

A:Aval mispar.

Q:Zeh.

A:Ehad, A, ehad, shalosh, bimkom teshah, shmonah, teshah, teshah. Shnei misparim lifanei. Az ha-yeled, ha-anashim she-amdu shamah amru, hashvu she- "mah zeh mispar, zeh stam". Ve-ra'u she-zeh lo stam, zeh mispar.

Q:Zeh lo stam, zeh emet.

A:Ani mukhrahah od le-saper sipur ehad. Yesh lakh mitpakhat u'li, yesh lakh mitpakhat?

Q:Lo. Hayiti lir'ot, hayiti rotsah le-hagid kama milim. Ken. I will say it in English.

A:I understand.

Q:This is, no, this is the story of Hela Jaffe, her maiden name Losch, one of the girls who took care of the children with so much love and devotion and I am very happy that she came today to tell her story. And thank you very much that you came. You did a wonderful job, a wonderful work in your life.

A:I think we have to talk about it. We must to.

Q:We must talk about it.

A: Ani yekholah, yesh lakh od k'tsat z'man? Ani yekholah le-saper eizo sipur meza'aze'a?

Q: Ken.

A: Poh be-Yisrael, lifneh shnatayim, pagashti haverah mi-Varshaw she-hayitah gam be-Aushvits, aval hi ba'ah lifanay, she-hi mi-Varshah halkhah tekef le-Aushvits. Kakhah she-az hayu osim misparim mi-tsad zeh (points to top side of arm). K'she ani bati asu k'var poh mispar (under side of arm).

Q: Ken, yesh li poh.

A: Ken, she- at ba'at harbeh lifanay. Ani bati, ani lifney Aiushvits hayiti be-mahanot aherot.

Q: Ken, ken.

A: Ha-ikar, pagashti otah, ve-zeh hayah kayits. Ve-yadati she-hi hayitah be-Aushvits. Huftati lir'ot she-ein la mispar...amarti "harei hayit be-Aushvits. Az ma karah im mispar shelakh?" Az hi siprah li sipur meza'aze'ah, bishvili lo bishvilah. Hi hayitah be-Shvetsyah, be-shvedyah, slihah. Ve-ba-, be-arba'im ve-shesh mi-Shvedyah hayitah krovah, nidmaeh li eizeh rav she-hayah k'var be-Palestinah, hayitah krovah shelo, az hevi'u otah levad mi-Shvedayh le-Palestinah. Ba poh ben ha-rishonim she-ba'u mi-, she-avru et ha-gehenom, et ha-shoah. Ve-hi siprah li, pagshah anashim ve-amru: "tiri, tiru, tiru". Ima sheli, ahayotai, kulam yiftsehu, kulam nispu. "In zi leyb vos di getiyen oz di leyb? Lamah at hayah ve-hem nispu?" She-be-arba'im ve-shesh anashim she-kvar yadu mah she-hayah al shoah hayu kakhah le-daber elehah. Im ta'anot she-hi hayah. Be. be, ve-ha-krovim shelah, hem nispu. Az hi amrah,

aharei kamah zman lo hayitah yekholah la'amod be-zeh. Bikshah ta'atsilu oti. Ve- hotsiuh la et ha-mispar. Ani lo yoda'at eikh. At shamat davar ka-zeh? Efshar le-hotsi mispar me-ha-yad? Az ani amarti lah...

Q:Yesh harbeh she-asu zeh.

A:At hitbayasht? She-Germanim yitbayeshu. She-zeh yihiyrh uvdah mah she-hem asu. Lamah at hotset et zeh?

Q:Gam ani lo mevinah lamah asu zeh.

A:Poh be yisra'el, she-hayah lah, hem rak hayu ta'anot el ha-ishah ani hayah, ve-aherim nispu. Az lo haya medabru. Akhshav et ha-emet rotsim la-da'at, ve-medabrim, ve-no'ar mi-poh nose'ah le-Maydanek ve-le-Aushvits ve-le-Bergen-Belsen, ve-hem mesaprim lebad she-elef sefarim she-at korah, at lo, at lo tavini et zeh, et ha-, et ha-davar ha'ayom she-karah be-twentieth century. Rak im tilkhi levad ve-tir'i et ha-osef shel na'alayim, et ha'osef shel bubot, et ha-osef shel se'arot, osef shel mazregot, ve-ha-kol, zeh ha-kol anashim. Hem, ha-no'ar ha-Yisra'eli oh ha-no'ar America'i hozrim shburim mi-shamah. Ve-ani hoshevet she-hem, lo ani, ani lo tsrikhah linso'ah le-Polaniyah lir'ot et zeh. Ani lo, aval he-eleh she-lo hayu, she-yavinu k'tsat yoter, ani hoshevet she-hem hayavim linso'ah. Ve-uvdah, hem hozrim ve-mevinim otanu aher. Hem, lah, haya la-hem ta'anot eylay, lamah ani lo barahti, lamah ani nish'arti be-kol kakh harbeh mahanot? Aval hem lo yadu davar ehad. Be-Byabopoblatska barhu arbah anashim, shnei banot ve-banim barhu. She-hayah al yad Yarod, ve-barhu le-Yarod. Az mah asu Germanim? Anahnu kulanu amdu be-shurah, ve-hem sipru kol asiri, yarah be-nokhehuteinu. Az ezeh z'khut hayitah le-arvah ha-eleh li-vro'ah, she-hem yatanu

ba'ad zeh. Ve-hem, Germanim amru tekef be-hathalah: li-vro'ah mi-poh, i-efshar. Az zeh hayah g'vurah? Az ani hayiti pahdanit she ani nish'arti, lo ratsiti li-vro'ah? Ve-hem hayu giborim she-barhu ve-biglal zeh hargu eizeh eser anashim? Im yivro'ah az hayinu tsri'him livro'ah kulam yahad.

Q:Ani hoshevet she-yesh lakh t'munot.

A:Yesh li t'munah shel ima, shel ahayot.

Q:Shel mishpahah, ve-gem t'munah mi-Balnkeneze im ha-yeladim.

A:Zeh lo heveti.

Q:Lo?

A:Oh, Ani mitsta'eret. At hevet?

Q:Ani hoshevet.

A:Rega. Tekef, zeh t'munah ehad. Yesh li harbeh t'munot aval hashavti she-kvar ra'u otah.

Q:Ani rotsah lir'ot ha-t'munah shel ha-mishpahah, ve-anahnu nigmor.

A:Zeh t'munah asuyah, ani hayiti poh betah bat shlosh eser, arba esreh. Az mi-kol ha-eleh, mi-kol ha-mishpahah she-ani ro'ah poh, az ani nish'arti ve-ahi.

(Hela shows picture to camera).

A: Ani lo yoda'at, zeh t'munah yesheinah. Ani kibalti me-dodah shel ima me-Amerikah she halkhah.
Zeh beseder? Az yesh li od poh. Lo, zeh loh,, ze me-ha-hatunah, zeh lo zeh. Haval she-lo
hevetu. Az ani eten le-Genya ve-le-Doshen.

Q: Ken, tov me'od. Todah rabah, Hela.

(Technical conversation).