



one village to another, hoping for a better and safer life, then hearing gunshots and then moving again. One day - at her auntie's home - they had stayed overnight and in the morning were woken up by a tank behind the house. Men from the house went to offer whatever they had to the men in the tank, to try to divert their plan or at least buy time. By the time they returned Lumnije and others had sneaked out from the back and continued to move from village to village, sometimes resting very briefly in abandoned houses.

Lumnije talks about her family trying to go back to their village, again, only to find out from neighbours that Serbs had been throwing dead bodies in a nearby lake so they ran away to escape believing they were in mortal danger. As it turned out, they dumped bodies in a lake didn't appear to be killing more, but they fled in fear of that happening, anyway. That also happened to be the first night they had slept without their shoes on. They ended up fleeing barefoot. She says then her dad accepted he needed to make the decision not to make any more attempts to take the family back home to their house and village as it just wasn't safe anymore.

She describes waking in the night in dark, strange places and crying as she could not see her parents in the darkness and had heard rumours of people fleeing in such panics that they had forgotten some of their children. She lived in constant fear of that happening to her as well.

She describes moving to about eight villages every three or four days at this point, having been back to her own village twice. She talks about her neighbour running to and screaming towards the house she was staying in to share the good news about NATO involvement. His behaviour scared her and she lost her speech. This is something that happened to her again, later in the war, when they were trying to cross the border into Macedonia: a soldier scared her by holding a gun at her and she again lost the power of speech for a while. She just froze and Lumnije had to be picked up and carried as she could neither move nor talk.

They tried several times to get the train to Macedonia. At one point - her dad had given up getting on the train to Macedonia as her mum had fainted - she had had a gun pointed at her and also been knocked over by a Serb into a bag. They had been refused at the border and told to go home and it all seemed too hard and a little pointless.

(16:07) She says that none of them really wanted to go through that again, even though it was the train that could take them to safety in Macedonia. Lumnije's granddad convinced her father to try one last time with the family. It seemed the only option for them now.

(17:27) She says that there were even more people than usual: more than any other time they had attempted to get the train. There was no longer a queue, people were all over the place and her father put them on the train through the

window. Everybody was pushing and all her family got on the train except her father. When people saw how distressed everyone was at the potential separation, the other people pushed her father onto the train as well, in order to keep them together. This was the time that they were finally allowed to cross the borders and went into a camp area in Macedonia where they stayed for two weeks. They went to school in the camps and she remembers thinking how pointless that was at that time.

(19:04) One day her dad came in and told her that their names were being called and they had to go and that is when they were flown to England. She talks about not really remembering the plane journey to Manchester as it was dark and she slept for most of it. It is largely a blur and she remembers a little of the airport and she remembers the journey to the flats in Blakely.

(19:39) She says that she didn't have any idea what to expect in England and that it was her parents' lives which changed the most. They went from growing crops in a rural area of Kosovo to living in a suburban part of a city in England. Lumnije was only in year 3 learning her numbers and how to say hello, she was just a child in school. It felt a little unreal to her at the time. She remembers being surrounded by a lot of other Kosovan people which helped.

She talks about there being lots of support from translators and social workers and how neighbours would come and help you to forget. Events such as Bonfire Night and the noises of fireworks and explosions scared her once more and brought back fear that something bad was happening all over again. She talks about feeling lucky as they made it alive through the war and they didn't lose people like some other unfortunate families.

(22:20) They stayed in some flats in Blakeley, thirteen levels of refugees in one building. Lumnije describes everyone as being and welcoming and they kind of forgot why they had come to England. She recalls her mum watching the news a lot as she didn't know where her family was or what had happened to them. She remembers being appreciative about everything and says that they sometimes still visit that area in north Manchester – now demolished - just to reflect and remember.

After a year they were asked whether they want to go back to Kosovo - if they wanted some money to restart their lives there or postpone the return for another year. Her granddad did not want to go back at that time but her father did. Again her grandfather's decision was what the family went with and the Mustafas stayed in England. As it turns out, they never returned to live in Kosovo.

(24:28) She talks about going to school and learning English and, from that day on, she decided that she wanted to work in an environment where she could also help people, like the people who had helped her. She says that she had begun her journey - her career - then. She knew she wanted to work in medicine or a similar field. Her school grades were not good enough to go into medicine

straight from school so she went into nursing instead, with no regrets.

(25:50) She studied Adult Nursing at Manchester Metropolitan University and qualified in 2010. She worked in Critical Care for 4 years and she always remembers why she went into that area of intensive care. Lumnije talks about being with a patient as they take their last breath, just holding their hand that being the very least she can do for someone.

Lumnije talks about going to Kosovo for the first time ever, how broken people were through their loss of family members. It upsets her that women raped in the war haven't dealt with that. She feels lucky in being able to say that her family made it through safely. She says that people often don't realise that she is Kosovan until they hear her name and that raises questions and inevitable conversations about whether she was born here, of her possible experience of the war, and how she came to be in England. People say, "Oh you came here during the war?" but to her it doesn't seem like that. She considers other people have had much more devastating experiences. She wonders if she experienced 'war' as such. She feels she escaped it and feels lucky to be alive.

(28:36) She recognises that the war has affected her, though. She talks about hearing celebratory gunshots at a wedding in Kosovo recently and waking up crying when she heard them. She talks about walking into her mum and dad's bedroom crying and she couldn't control herself.

She talks about her own future and how she has adjusted to life in England. She has a life in Kosovo - where her grandparents, aunts and uncles are - but her life is in Manchester. When she goes to Kosovo for a holiday she misses England but her heart breaks a little when she returns home to Manchester.

When people ask her if she is going 'home' or 'going back home' when she is returning Kosovo, she doesn't see it that way. 'Home' is where she has lived almost her whole life, where her current life is: Manchester.

Lumnije talks about limited opportunities in Kosovo. She says that there is a lot to do there and she finds her awareness of this it hard as she loves Manchester - it is her home. She talks about being appreciative and how, unlike Kosovo, the UK has the NHS, which she is part of.