

23 Oct 08, TC, reviewed and slightly edited, a good amount of free translation with some notes, needs only a little more work to be ready for Flex – some vivid description of what happened during the war

Interview date: 2008-04-16

File name (both audio and transcription): A15 MK the war

MK started talking about the war because I asked her and Fasia to think about and relate a story about a journey they took. Here, she begins by saying that she never really traveled much while she was growing up; it was during the war that she left and traveled.

MK: Le ya ποε, ya ma- ya ma κελεη wɔn.

When I grew up, I did not travel.

Ya ma κελεη, a bi- yegipuge ya bí wε, wɔ na ge ìtén(t).

I didn't travel, I had-the husband I had, he was jealous.

itent = jealous. JP.

Yi cen κελεη. Yi cen kwɔ a yen.

We didn't travel. We didn't go anywhere.

Hutun yɔɔn vuí wɔ huge na go paa, due na go yɔɔn.

Wɔ ge há, ya ma κελεη.

Landa binde ya κελεhin, bε pa pemgwε yeni.

The reason I traveled, was only this war.

Pemgwε, yi na go topa ale.

In the war, we went into the bush.

Hi cen go apɔ, yi pi tupa ale, yegima ma hin sɔm.

We didn't go to the town, we stayed in the bush, hunger was what we ate.

Yegima ma yi sɔm.
Hunger was what we ate.

Pɔɔgwɛ kínín̄ ya siyɛ bɛ paa Kɛnɛma yɔn, kɛ ya ma kɔn gbí disin, pugi miɛ,
wɔ ma yɔgim gu pɔgi anɔn.
I don't know any of the world except for Kenema, because I never went
far, my husband, he did not bring me to (see) the world.

Wɔ itent. Ya ma kɔn yɛnali gbí,
He was jealous. I did not go to any place,

nuupugɛ yɛ vuí Mano Kwanko.
with any male at all in Mano Kwanko.

Yegipugɛ vuí cɛ mun hwɛm. Tɔɔɔ huin.
You don't greet any man. That's trouble.
tɔɔɔ = trouble. From Krio. JP.

Wɔ cɛn kɔ, ma cɛ wɔn kɛ. Cɛ wɔ gɛ hin.

Ya ma kɔn kɛlɛhin, bɛ pa pɛmgwɛ yɛn.
I didn't travel, except for this war.

Pɛmgwɛ wɛ hin lei lɔ háá, yi lei lɔ háá tupa ale.
In that war, we stayed for a long time in the bush.

Hɔyɛ hu yi gbún, yaŋ vuí kutam ta gbí ta suni gu wai.
The rain came on our heads, and for me, all my clothes were spoiled.

Yɔngi ya kɔn matinyɛ, menma, hɔyɛ wɔ cuiyɛ gbɛta anɔn,
There where we went to hide, water, rain fell into the box,

kota vuí: gbutu gbutu gbutu gbutu gbutu [demonstrating sound of rain]
(with) all the clothes: gbutu gbutu gbutu gbutu,

kota luem mon.
and only one clothing was left.

Hun na ge mon.
It was one.

Yi ma– yi ma cen com ma som igbegbe.
We did not eat nice food.

Han na go ha som somma, be pa, pihaingamga won na wue.
You don't eat food, except when my brother died.

Won ko, won ko haá, ko **cuha teeni**, ko kon tuna ma som, ya kom som ma
som apuma hiye,
We all the time, he went to find food,
[TC: more and better translation needed]

pulugá yanon, minma anon, londɔ yi na ge hini.
in the **puluga**, in the water, where we were lying.

Kon na go paale paa, waf waf waf, si hini.
Unclear; possibly: 'whenever we hear a slight noise, we lie down.'

Him ko lo, him ce kon, yi ma– yi– yi cen ke lani.
If there's a snake, if there's not a snake, we don't see it.

Yini kíníŋ lani.
All of us there.

Yan vuí, ya ho le: a ha le pemgwe,
I especially, I say it: When they say 'war,'

kwengumgwe ko cui yení. Ko cui yení.
my heart beats. It beats.

Le ha la hɔwɛ. ɛ- ɛ- Yi pɔnɪɛ. (FK: Aa.)

When they say it. We were punished.

pɔnɪɛ = punish. From English. JP.

Gbɔgita yinta gbí ta yipɛ suni gu wai. (FK: Mm.)

All our houses were completely destroyed.

Hin ge ce lɔn mui, ha tei apɔ wɛ.

He did not arrive there, they burned the town.

Ha cɔn jɛmɔɛ gbɔgɛ wɛ, ha tɛi yendigima hinma kpélé,

They set fire to the house, they burned all our possessions,

hu yipɛ hei, lani la hini yeyɛ.

it all burned up, that's what happened to us.

Ha ji, ha bi mu ha mu ji, ha mu fen gi foko foko foko [gesturing hacking
off hands and feet],

They killed, (if) they grab you they kill you, they strike you foko foko foko

aa-a- Hannah, jɛnda la- lani ya yema vuí la ce lan lem.

Oh- Hannah, that thing I really do not want to tell.

lem = tell about. JP.

Kɔngumgwɛ kɔ cui yeni.

My heart beats.

Hm. Lani la ya keyɛ.

That is what I see.