

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:10,610
(film slating)

2
00:00:10,610 --> 00:00:22,730
When in May '40 the
Germans came to Holland,

3
00:00:22,730 --> 00:00:28,580
I was I would say a man of 26.

4
00:00:28,580 --> 00:00:30,760
And we had just--

5
00:00:30,760 --> 00:00:32,990
and I say to this in detail--

6
00:00:32,990 --> 00:00:36,740
we had just the day before
got our certificates

7
00:00:36,740 --> 00:00:42,020
for what was then Palestine,
and it was clear to us

8
00:00:42,020 --> 00:00:44,600
that we couldn't go.

9
00:00:44,600 --> 00:00:47,750

10
00:00:47,750 --> 00:00:50,840
The war in Holland
ended in five days.

11
00:00:50,840 --> 00:00:57,800
And I would say that
on the 16th of May,

12
00:00:57,800 --> 00:01:04,459
the Jewish part of the
Dutch population was--

13
00:01:04,459 --> 00:01:12,490
perhaps for the first
time in its existence--

14
00:01:12,490 --> 00:01:15,110
in a real panic.

15
00:01:15,110 --> 00:01:18,110
Already the 16th--
the 16th is when

16
00:01:18,110 --> 00:01:23,600
they knew that the
Dutch had capitulated

17
00:01:23,600 --> 00:01:29,660
and the Germans would be
the masters in the country.

18
00:01:29,660 --> 00:01:32,360

19
00:01:32,360 --> 00:01:37,490
The mood under the
Jews was very bad.

20
00:01:37,490 --> 00:01:45,770
There was a number of suicides
which never had been there

21
00:01:45,770 --> 00:01:52,340
before, as strange as it may
look, and never was afterwards.

22
00:01:52,340 --> 00:01:58,010
I think in the night of
the 16th and the 17th,

23
00:01:58,010 --> 00:02:06,655
about 300 suicides were under
a Jewish population of 140,000.

24
00:02:06,655 --> 00:02:08,169
In one night.

25
00:02:08,169 --> 00:02:09,860
In one night.

26
00:02:09,860 --> 00:02:14,406
This means that they were fully
aware of what was at stake.

27
00:02:14,406 --> 00:02:15,400
They knew--

28
00:02:15,400 --> 00:02:22,220
I would say that on that
day, perhaps they were partly

29
00:02:22,220 --> 00:02:24,980
fully aware, but
the strange thing is

30
00:02:24,980 --> 00:02:33,710
that when nothing happened
in the first few months,

31
00:02:33,710 --> 00:02:39,140
there was the general feeling
that, well, things wouldn't

32
00:02:39,140 --> 00:02:45,200
be so bad as they thought on
that night or on those 3 days

33
00:02:45,200 --> 00:02:48,500
before the capitulation.

34
00:02:48,500 --> 00:02:57,270
And life began to
be normal again.

35
00:02:57,270 --> 00:03:03,520
And I would say that up till

the end of the deportation,

36
00:03:03,520 --> 00:03:08,420
the Jews were never
so afraid again.

37
00:03:08,420 --> 00:03:10,100
Without any reason,
I'm not saying,

38
00:03:10,100 --> 00:03:14,480
but in hindsight,
they were wrong.

39
00:03:14,480 --> 00:03:20,930
But then the feeling of the
Jewish population, things

40
00:03:20,930 --> 00:03:24,440
became more normal
and they couldn't

41
00:03:24,440 --> 00:03:32,375
imagine that things would end
so badly as they did in reality.

42
00:03:32,375 --> 00:03:35,450

43
00:03:35,450 --> 00:03:37,430
Let's say immediately.

44
00:03:37,430 --> 00:03:42,950
What was the result
of these 140,000 Dutch

45
00:03:42,950 --> 00:03:46,770
Jews, how many were killed?

46
00:03:46,770 --> 00:03:50,240
Well, I think that
those figures say more

47

00:03:50,240 --> 00:03:56,240
than many, many other things.

48

00:03:56,240 --> 00:04:02,780
I know the 107,000 were deported
and less than 5,000 came back,

49

00:04:02,780 --> 00:04:09,080
so more than 100,000 were
actually killed by the Germans

50

00:04:09,080 --> 00:04:12,710
without taking into
account people who

51

00:04:12,710 --> 00:04:18,899
were caught when they tried
to get to other countries.

52

00:04:18,899 --> 00:04:21,920
This means more
than the two thirds.

53

00:04:21,920 --> 00:04:23,450
80%.

54

00:04:23,450 --> 00:04:31,260
80% of the Jews the Germans
were after, which in Holland,

55

00:04:31,260 --> 00:04:35,590
didn't include the
mixed marriages.

56

00:04:35,590 --> 00:04:41,930
There were about 10,000 of
them, almost 80% were killed.

57

00:04:41,930 --> 00:04:46,318
I think it is the worst
percentage in west Europe.

58

00:04:46,318 --> 00:04:49,910

59

00:04:49,910 --> 00:04:52,590

I wouldn't say that it is
the same percentage just

60

00:04:52,590 --> 00:04:58,460

was in Eastern Europe, but
that for the Western Europe

61

00:04:58,460 --> 00:05:01,120

countries, it was
by far the worst.

62

00:05:01,120 --> 00:05:04,880

It wasn't much--
it was about 50%

63

00:05:04,880 --> 00:05:09,740

in Belgium, was about the
same percentage in France

64

00:05:09,740 --> 00:05:10,580

or even less.

65

00:05:10,580 --> 00:05:11,480

Less in France?

66

00:05:11,480 --> 00:05:13,170

Less in France.

67

00:05:13,170 --> 00:05:22,190

But the Jews in Holland--

68

00:05:22,190 --> 00:05:28,340

and that's one of the
strange things in history--

69

00:05:28,340 --> 00:05:36,260

they were so sure
that it wouldn't

70

00:05:36,260 --> 00:05:41,900
happen to them that the--

71

00:05:41,900 --> 00:05:45,980
I would almost say the
normal reaction of the Jews

72

00:05:45,980 --> 00:05:55,220
to get away, to defend
yourself was very weak.

73

00:05:55,220 --> 00:06:03,830
There were Jews who up till
the middle of the deportation

74

00:06:03,830 --> 00:06:07,460
were still thinking that
it couldn't happen to them.

75

00:06:07,460 --> 00:06:13,240
They were-- they felt themselves
for a large part as Dutch.

76

00:06:13,240 --> 00:06:15,770
They were very much assimilated.

77

00:06:15,770 --> 00:06:19,658
For a large part, they were
living in Holland and--

78

00:06:19,658 --> 00:06:22,720
(film slating)

79

00:06:22,720 --> 00:06:25,820
[CLAPPERBOARD CLICK]

80

00:06:25,820 --> 00:06:28,920
But where were you living?

81

00:06:28,920 --> 00:06:32,240
I was living in Amsterdam.

82

00:06:32,240 --> 00:06:35,270

In Amsterdam, they were living--

83

00:06:35,270 --> 00:06:38,660

I would say almost more
than a half of the Jews

84

00:06:38,660 --> 00:06:42,860

and probably 2/3 of
the Jews-- in Holland.

85

00:06:42,860 --> 00:06:45,060

It was the Jewish center.

86

00:06:45,060 --> 00:06:47,750

And in Holland.

87

00:06:47,750 --> 00:06:49,640

I would almost say
not only in Holland.

88

00:06:49,640 --> 00:06:53,690

89

00:06:53,690 --> 00:06:57,980

More than 10% of the population
of Amsterdam was Jewish

90

00:06:57,980 --> 00:07:03,210

and they had a big
influence on there,

91

00:07:03,210 --> 00:07:06,990

on everything that
had happened there.

92

00:07:06,990 --> 00:07:13,130

And it felt very, very sure.

93

00:07:13,130 --> 00:07:19,550

Holland had a reputation and
a tradition of being a good

94
00:07:19,550 --> 00:07:25,490
country for the Jews, and
although I wouldn't say that

95
00:07:25,490 --> 00:07:28,130
there wasn't anti-Semitism--

96
00:07:28,130 --> 00:07:32,920
there certainly was-- but it
was of a very mild character.

97
00:07:32,920 --> 00:07:34,775
It was socially.

98
00:07:34,775 --> 00:07:37,830

99
00:07:37,830 --> 00:07:46,540
It was I would say
almost never with force.

100
00:07:46,540 --> 00:07:52,250
It was a little bit economic,
but if you compare it

101
00:07:52,250 --> 00:07:54,930
with the other countries--

102
00:07:54,930 --> 00:07:57,180
certainly in Eastern
Europe, but I

103
00:07:57,180 --> 00:08:00,600
would say also Western Europe--

104
00:08:00,600 --> 00:08:07,590
it was a very mild
kind of anti-Semitism.

105
00:08:07,590 --> 00:08:10,950
And a large part

of the Jews were

106

00:08:10,950 --> 00:08:18,000
convinced that it would go away
and that it couldn't become--

107

00:08:18,000 --> 00:08:19,950
in Holland, it couldn't
become violent.

108

00:08:19,950 --> 00:08:23,250

109

00:08:23,250 --> 00:08:28,180
I have to say here, perhaps
it will come later on back,

110

00:08:28,180 --> 00:08:33,630
that there was perhaps a
difference between the Zionists

111

00:08:33,630 --> 00:08:35,429
and the non Zionists.

112

00:08:35,429 --> 00:08:37,980
Because the Zionists
took into account

113

00:08:37,980 --> 00:08:42,960
that the Jewish problem
exists everywhere

114

00:08:42,960 --> 00:08:50,730
and that it will never go away,
or in any case in our time

115

00:08:50,730 --> 00:08:57,180
it won't go away, and they were,
as a result of it, more aware

116

00:08:57,180 --> 00:09:03,330
of the very bad results
which could happen.

117
00:09:03,330 --> 00:09:05,220
But you were yourself a Zionist.

118
00:09:05,220 --> 00:09:06,260
I was a Zionist.

119
00:09:06,260 --> 00:09:12,930
I was the president of
the youth organization.

120
00:09:12,930 --> 00:09:19,720
I had been the president of the
Zionist Student Organization.

121
00:09:19,720 --> 00:09:22,790
And not connected, but
while we are talking,

122
00:09:22,790 --> 00:09:28,000
I became the president of
the Netherlands Zionist

123
00:09:28,000 --> 00:09:31,260
Organization after
the war, and I--

124
00:09:31,260 --> 00:09:35,040
as I said already,
I got my certificate

125
00:09:35,040 --> 00:09:37,120
because I wanted to go
and live in Palestine.

126
00:09:37,120 --> 00:09:39,970

127
00:09:39,970 --> 00:09:48,250
So, in the group I was living
in, the awareness of the change

128

00:09:48,250 --> 00:09:55,630
was, I would say,
much more felt than it

129
00:09:55,630 --> 00:09:58,450
was in other parts
of the population.

130
00:09:58,450 --> 00:10:02,830
And what added to it was
that in the first few months

131
00:10:02,830 --> 00:10:06,100
of the German
occupation, I would

132
00:10:06,100 --> 00:10:09,370
say almost nothing happened.

133
00:10:09,370 --> 00:10:12,002
I wouldn't say that
people weren't--

134
00:10:12,002 --> 00:10:15,850
were quiet, that they
were feeling secure.

135
00:10:15,850 --> 00:10:23,950
But there was a general feeling
that if you could let the time

136
00:10:23,950 --> 00:10:31,220
pass, life perhaps would be what
more unpleasant for the Jews,

137
00:10:31,220 --> 00:10:34,360
to be more difficult.

138
00:10:34,360 --> 00:10:37,240
Many people took into
account that it would

139
00:10:37,240 --> 00:10:42,030

be more difficult than others.

140
00:10:42,030 --> 00:10:46,820
But I would say that
after a few weeks,

141
00:10:46,820 --> 00:10:51,580
nobody had any idea what
was going to happen.

142
00:10:51,580 --> 00:10:59,170
And it took, I would say, almost
a year 'till step after step

143
00:10:59,170 --> 00:11:06,700
the Jews became aware
that the Germans didn't

144
00:11:06,700 --> 00:11:13,510
intend to let the Jews in
Holland live their own lives.

145
00:11:13,510 --> 00:11:16,390
That they intended
to stay in Holland.

146
00:11:16,390 --> 00:11:19,690
And that they intended to get--

147
00:11:19,690 --> 00:11:21,470
and I wouldn't say
more than that--

148
00:11:21,470 --> 00:11:25,120
and that they would
try to get the Jews out

149
00:11:25,120 --> 00:11:28,150
of the Dutch community.

150
00:11:28,150 --> 00:11:33,730
That's what the general feeling
was in the middle of 1941.

151
00:11:33,730 --> 00:11:36,520
I would say it started
already in February '41,

152
00:11:36,520 --> 00:11:42,400
that's about 9, 10 months
after the Germans came in,

153
00:11:42,400 --> 00:11:50,470
when the first razzia
was held in Amsterdam,

154
00:11:50,470 --> 00:11:57,910
in which 350 young
men between 20 and 35

155
00:11:57,910 --> 00:12:05,080
were taken from the streets
and brought to a concentration

156
00:12:05,080 --> 00:12:09,010
camp, first to Buchenwald,
and afterwards they

157
00:12:09,010 --> 00:12:11,110
were transferred to Mauthausen.

158
00:12:11,110 --> 00:12:22,100
And when after a few
weeks, after months, we

159
00:12:22,100 --> 00:12:27,430
got information that
many of them died,

160
00:12:27,430 --> 00:12:30,130
the situation changed again.

161
00:12:30,130 --> 00:12:33,910
When was the Jewish
council established?

162

00:12:33,910 --> 00:12:38,050

It was established
in February 1941.

163

00:12:38,050 --> 00:12:41,890

And it was established
with the clear intention

164

00:12:41,890 --> 00:12:44,860

from the side of the
Germans, and today we

165

00:12:44,860 --> 00:12:50,240

know that it was pattern than
all over the occupied Europe,

166

00:12:50,240 --> 00:12:57,580

to have an institution
through which the Jews would

167

00:12:57,580 --> 00:13:04,300

be informed about the measures
the Germans were taking

168

00:13:04,300 --> 00:13:06,580

against them.

169

00:13:06,580 --> 00:13:12,640

Just to get them, again,
out of the general framework

170

00:13:12,640 --> 00:13:16,650

of the Dutch population.

171

00:13:16,650 --> 00:13:19,780

And in the beginning,
there was an--

172

00:13:19,780 --> 00:13:28,510

already a big discussion if
such a body should be formed.

173

00:13:28,510 --> 00:13:36,250
They took, as the two
chairmen, two prominent Jews.

174
00:13:36,250 --> 00:13:40,000
Prominent Jews in
the Jewish community,

175
00:13:40,000 --> 00:13:42,640
not only prominent Jews
in the Dutch community,

176
00:13:42,640 --> 00:13:50,130
they were also prominent
Jews in the Dutch community,

177
00:13:50,130 --> 00:13:53,070
in the general framework.

178
00:13:53,070 --> 00:13:58,771
[Asscher, who was an uncle
of mine, was in one of the--

179
00:13:58,771 --> 00:14:03,790
was the biggest manufacturer
of diamonds in Amsterdam.

180
00:14:03,790 --> 00:14:08,050
And he was a member of
the provincial council,

181
00:14:08,050 --> 00:14:12,910
and Cohen was the second one,
or in reality the first one,

182
00:14:12,910 --> 00:14:17,440
was a professor in the
Amsterdam University.

183
00:14:17,440 --> 00:14:21,080
And both had been
active, not only

184

00:14:21,080 --> 00:14:26,300
in the general Dutch community,
but they had been very active

185
00:14:26,300 --> 00:14:30,710
also in the Jewish community.

186
00:14:30,710 --> 00:14:33,460
Asscher was-- had to
be considered really

187
00:14:33,460 --> 00:14:35,950
in the Jewish community
as the first man.

188
00:14:35,950 --> 00:14:40,990
He was the chairman of the
Gala, he was the chairman

189
00:14:40,990 --> 00:14:48,190
of the organization which
organized the largest part

190
00:14:48,190 --> 00:14:51,910
of the Jews-- in any case
of the Ashkenazi Jews--

191
00:14:51,910 --> 00:14:55,120

192
00:14:55,120 --> 00:15:00,980
which was the more than 90%
of the Jewish community.

193
00:15:00,980 --> 00:15:05,500
So they took two people
who had the name of being

194
00:15:05,500 --> 00:15:08,440
really the leaders of the Jews.

195
00:15:08,440 --> 00:15:13,670
And just to prevent

any misunderstanding,

196
00:15:13,670 --> 00:15:22,220
they were in
principle good people.

197
00:15:22,220 --> 00:15:25,760
They were the natural leaders
of the Jewish community.

198
00:15:25,760 --> 00:15:28,230
They were the
national leaders of--

199
00:15:28,230 --> 00:15:32,170
Asscher certainly was, and
Cohen was one of the leaders.

200
00:15:32,170 --> 00:15:36,130
But in the Jewish
community, before the war,

201
00:15:36,130 --> 00:15:38,740
Asscher would be
considered as number one.

202
00:15:38,740 --> 00:15:41,760
And everybody would
have considered him

203
00:15:41,760 --> 00:15:45,880
as a man who would
be the right man

204
00:15:45,880 --> 00:15:53,780
to be chosen for
a job like that.

205
00:15:53,780 --> 00:15:55,030
He was a powerful man?

206
00:15:55,030 --> 00:15:57,530
He was a rich man?

207
00:15:57,530 --> 00:15:58,430
He was a rich man.

208
00:15:58,430 --> 00:16:01,160
He was in any case
considered a rich man.

209
00:16:01,160 --> 00:16:07,450
He belonged to the bourgeoisie,
just as it should be.

210
00:16:07,450 --> 00:16:12,430
He was considered-- he was
a very goodhearted man.

211
00:16:12,430 --> 00:16:13,660
He was your uncle.

212
00:16:13,660 --> 00:16:14,935
He was my uncle.

213
00:16:14,935 --> 00:16:17,350
This means as a brother
of who, of your mother?

214
00:16:17,350 --> 00:16:18,040
Of my mother.

215
00:16:18,040 --> 00:16:20,500
He was the brother of my mother.

216
00:16:20,500 --> 00:16:25,720
And I was not one of the
few who really loved him.

217
00:16:25,720 --> 00:16:27,730
It was a very lovable man.

218
00:16:27,730 --> 00:16:31,450
He was very charming.

219

00:16:31,450 --> 00:16:38,380

He-- the story goes
that he was chosen

220

00:16:38,380 --> 00:16:43,360

to the provincial
council, although he

221

00:16:43,360 --> 00:16:47,320

belonged to the Liberal Party.

222

00:16:47,320 --> 00:16:55,060

By his laborers he was very
popular in his own factory.

223

00:16:55,060 --> 00:16:57,280

And he knew the people.

224

00:16:57,280 --> 00:17:00,820

He was very charming.

225

00:17:00,820 --> 00:17:05,299

When I'm going to talk about
what he did afterwards,

226

00:17:05,299 --> 00:17:10,859

then I will probably say
some unpleasant things.

227

00:17:10,859 --> 00:17:19,329

228

00:17:19,329 --> 00:17:25,880

He wasn't a good
man for quiet times.

229

00:17:25,880 --> 00:17:27,020

He was not?

230

00:17:27,020 --> 00:17:28,900

For quiet times.

231

00:17:28,900 --> 00:17:32,936

And to prevent the
misunderstanding,

232

00:17:32,936 --> 00:17:36,338

(film logistics) (film slating)

233

00:17:36,338 --> 00:17:48,190

234

00:17:48,190 --> 00:17:53,530

I would say he was in
personally also courageous man.

235

00:17:53,530 --> 00:17:59,560

He wasn't able to stand
up in difficult times.

236

00:17:59,560 --> 00:18:01,960

And I have to say, that
already in the beginning,

237

00:18:01,960 --> 00:18:04,300

there was a big discussion.

238

00:18:04,300 --> 00:18:06,430

There was another
committee, which

239

00:18:06,430 --> 00:18:13,350

was founded a few
months before, which

240

00:18:13,350 --> 00:18:17,450

the man who had been the
president of the high court

241

00:18:17,450 --> 00:18:20,620

in Holland, who was a Jew,
was the president, who

242

00:18:20,620 --> 00:18:22,750

was very much against it.

243

00:18:22,750 --> 00:18:23,830

And--

244

00:18:23,830 --> 00:18:24,970

What was his name?

245

00:18:24,970 --> 00:18:27,430

Visser, Mr. Visser.

246

00:18:27,430 --> 00:18:32,260

And he said that

Jews shouldn't have

247

00:18:32,260 --> 00:18:36,490

an organization in

which they would

248

00:18:36,490 --> 00:18:43,180

be the speaker of the Germans.

249

00:18:43,180 --> 00:18:50,350

They should be careful

not to be forced out

250

00:18:50,350 --> 00:18:54,040

of the Dutch community.

251

00:18:54,040 --> 00:18:57,040

And if the Germans

had to say something

252

00:18:57,040 --> 00:19:00,820

to the Dutch men

who were Jews, they

253

00:19:00,820 --> 00:19:04,330

shall do it through

the Dutch channels,

254

00:19:04,330 --> 00:19:06,070

and not through the
Jewish channels.

255
00:19:06,070 --> 00:19:09,100

256
00:19:09,100 --> 00:19:11,440
What was his name, professor--

257
00:19:11,440 --> 00:19:11,940
Frieda

258
00:19:11,940 --> 00:19:13,000
Visser.

259
00:19:13,000 --> 00:19:13,770
Visser.

260
00:19:13,770 --> 00:19:16,690
And there was a [? Frieda ?]
too, professor [? Frieda. ?]

261
00:19:16,690 --> 00:19:19,450
[? Frieda. ?] Frieda was
another professor who--

262
00:19:19,450 --> 00:19:20,170
He objected.

263
00:19:20,170 --> 00:19:25,350
--refused to be a member
of the Jewish council.

264
00:19:25,350 --> 00:19:27,250
On the same grounds?

265
00:19:27,250 --> 00:19:28,330
On the same grounds.

266
00:19:28,330 --> 00:19:30,250
I would say on the same grounds.

267

00:19:30,250 --> 00:19:33,490

But he wasn't active in
the other organization,

268

00:19:33,490 --> 00:19:34,840

but Visser was.

269

00:19:34,840 --> 00:19:39,310

And he never became a member
of the Jewish council.

270

00:19:39,310 --> 00:19:45,220

And he in a certain sense
fought them in principle.

271

00:19:45,220 --> 00:19:52,600

But as the Germans wanted
the Jewish council,

272

00:19:52,600 --> 00:19:56,260

and not the
Coordination Committee,

273

00:19:56,260 --> 00:20:00,250

they stayed on for a few
months, perhaps half a year,

274

00:20:00,250 --> 00:20:05,560

and then they just disappeared.

275

00:20:05,560 --> 00:20:08,470

The general opinion in
the Jewish community

276

00:20:08,470 --> 00:20:15,190

was that it was a good thing
to have the Jewish council

277

00:20:15,190 --> 00:20:19,560

in 1941, in February of 1941.

278

00:20:19,560 --> 00:20:23,120

But Asscher and Cohen
accepted willingly.

279
00:20:23,120 --> 00:20:24,520
Accepted it willingly.

280
00:20:24,520 --> 00:20:26,410
They thought it came to them.

281
00:20:26,410 --> 00:20:29,140
They really felt
themselves leaders

282
00:20:29,140 --> 00:20:31,000
of the Jewish community.

283
00:20:31,000 --> 00:20:33,010
And no hesitation at all.

284
00:20:33,010 --> 00:20:35,420
No, they had no hesitation.

285
00:20:35,420 --> 00:20:40,030
There was much criticism
on the first act,

286
00:20:40,030 --> 00:20:46,480
because they were founded a few
days before something happened,

287
00:20:46,480 --> 00:20:49,450
which made a very
big impression, also

288
00:20:49,450 --> 00:20:51,960
on the Germans, and
it was the strike--

289
00:20:51,960 --> 00:20:55,240
the February strike
in Amsterdam,

290

00:20:55,240 --> 00:21:00,070
where the non-Jews
went on strike

291
00:21:00,070 --> 00:21:04,780
as a protest against
what happened to the Jews

292
00:21:04,780 --> 00:21:05,810
in the razzia.

293
00:21:05,810 --> 00:21:07,770
Against the first razzia.

294
00:21:07,770 --> 00:21:09,130
It was the first razzia.

295
00:21:09,130 --> 00:21:13,750
And it was, as far as we
know, the first strike,

296
00:21:13,750 --> 00:21:19,690
and perhaps the only strike
which the non-Jewish population

297
00:21:19,690 --> 00:21:22,980
organized in favor of the Jews.

298
00:21:22,980 --> 00:21:25,270
There was another strike
later on in Holland,

299
00:21:25,270 --> 00:21:29,950
but that was already
when the Germans attacked

300
00:21:29,950 --> 00:21:32,140
the general population.

301
00:21:32,140 --> 00:21:37,600
But that when the non-Jewish
population went on strike

302

00:21:37,600 --> 00:21:41,350

with all the dangers
connected with it,

303

00:21:41,350 --> 00:21:46,730

was a very, very
important method.

304

00:21:46,730 --> 00:21:48,310

And--

305

00:21:48,310 --> 00:21:53,000

The strike was, I think on
25 and 26th of February.

306

00:21:53,000 --> 00:21:54,820

Of February in 1941.

307

00:21:54,820 --> 00:21:56,830

I think so.

308

00:21:56,830 --> 00:21:59,290

We are now almost
40 years further.

309

00:21:59,290 --> 00:22:02,710

I don't remember
all the exact dates.

310

00:22:02,710 --> 00:22:07,570

But they used the
Jewish council--

311

00:22:07,570 --> 00:22:11,672

they used Asscher and
Cohen to break the strike.

312

00:22:11,672 --> 00:22:12,505

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

313

00:22:12,505 --> 00:22:13,160

How did it happen?

314
00:22:13,160 --> 00:22:14,000
How did it happen?

315
00:22:14,000 --> 00:22:17,290
They called Asscher and
Cohen to the Germans,

316
00:22:17,290 --> 00:22:20,240
and they said to them,
that if the strike goes on,

317
00:22:20,240 --> 00:22:24,280
they will consider the
Jews being behind it.

318
00:22:24,280 --> 00:22:27,040
And they will act
against the Jews.

319
00:22:27,040 --> 00:22:29,190
And so Jews went--

320
00:22:29,190 --> 00:22:30,960
I think even that
they threatened

321
00:22:30,960 --> 00:22:33,340
to take 300 hostages.

322
00:22:33,340 --> 00:22:34,750
The Jewish hostages.

323
00:22:34,750 --> 00:22:37,630
They started to take hostages.

324
00:22:37,630 --> 00:22:43,500
They did all kinds of things.

325
00:22:43,500 --> 00:22:46,960
They threatened them,
of course they did.

326
00:22:46,960 --> 00:22:51,090
And they went under.

327
00:22:51,090 --> 00:22:57,260
They made an appeal
to the Jews to deliver

328
00:22:57,260 --> 00:22:58,500
the weapons they had.

329
00:22:58,500 --> 00:22:59,910
They didn't have them at all.

330
00:22:59,910 --> 00:23:00,470
But it--

331
00:23:00,470 --> 00:23:02,340
This was, I think,
the first measure.

332
00:23:02,340 --> 00:23:04,840
That was the first measure,
that the Jews have to deliver--

333
00:23:04,840 --> 00:23:05,340
The knives--

334
00:23:05,340 --> 00:23:08,010
--their weapons, their
knives, their weapons.

335
00:23:08,010 --> 00:23:10,590
They had no weapons.

336
00:23:10,590 --> 00:23:13,790

337
00:23:13,790 --> 00:23:22,140
In Holland, who would go
with weapons in 1939 or 1940?

338

00:23:22,140 --> 00:23:25,110

And what was, I
think, still worse,

339

00:23:25,110 --> 00:23:30,780

was that they went to
the non-Jewish leaders

340

00:23:30,780 --> 00:23:32,430

of the strike.

341

00:23:32,430 --> 00:23:34,530

And they asked them to stop it.

342

00:23:34,530 --> 00:23:37,510

And because the Jews
would pay for it.

343

00:23:37,510 --> 00:23:39,550

And I think that
even Asscher begged

344

00:23:39,550 --> 00:23:44,280

the leaders of the strike--

345

00:23:44,280 --> 00:23:45,950

To stop.

346

00:23:45,950 --> 00:23:47,292

To stop it.

347

00:23:47,292 --> 00:23:48,250

Which is extraordinary.

348

00:23:48,250 --> 00:23:52,200

And that's something
which was the beginning.

349

00:23:52,200 --> 00:23:55,320

And I wouldn't say that
the Jews in general

350

00:23:55,320 --> 00:23:59,250

felt that that was so bad,
because they had the feeling

351

00:23:59,250 --> 00:24:00,990

that they would pay the bill.

352

00:24:00,990 --> 00:24:03,330

And if it could be prevented.

353

00:24:03,330 --> 00:24:07,870

And perhaps everything
would go on.

354

00:24:07,870 --> 00:24:12,810

And so, I would say
that in the first year

355

00:24:12,810 --> 00:24:18,410

of the existence of the council,
there were voices against them.

356

00:24:18,410 --> 00:24:21,580

There were people who said,
that you shouldn't work together

357

00:24:21,580 --> 00:24:25,000

with the Germans, that it
is a kind of collaboration.

358

00:24:25,000 --> 00:24:27,060

But I would say that
the general feeling

359

00:24:27,060 --> 00:24:32,070

in the Jewish
population was that,

360

00:24:32,070 --> 00:24:36,170

if they could keep
things on a small fire,

361

00:24:36,170 --> 00:24:37,830
if they could prevent--

362
00:24:37,830 --> 00:24:41,160
and they thought
they could prevent

363
00:24:41,160 --> 00:24:44,250
stronger German
measures-- and especially

364
00:24:44,250 --> 00:24:48,360
if they could prevent razzias,
where the people would be taken

365
00:24:48,360 --> 00:24:51,690
to concentration camps,
that they had a certain task

366
00:24:51,690 --> 00:24:54,540
to fulfill.

367
00:24:54,540 --> 00:25:00,030
And today, in hindsight,
it is perhaps clear

368
00:25:00,030 --> 00:25:02,490
that they should
never have started it.

369
00:25:02,490 --> 00:25:10,770
But I wouldn't today be willing
to say that I don't understand

370
00:25:10,770 --> 00:25:12,420
the reasons why they did it.

371
00:25:12,420 --> 00:25:16,200
And I am willing to say
that they did it really

372
00:25:16,200 --> 00:25:17,430
with the best intentions.

373
00:25:17,430 --> 00:25:20,550
And really thought at that
time and had some reasons

374
00:25:20,550 --> 00:25:24,540
to think that they
were preventing

375
00:25:24,540 --> 00:25:29,850
much stronger measures
against the Jews.

376
00:25:29,850 --> 00:25:33,700
I would say that the scene
changed dramatically.

377
00:25:33,700 --> 00:25:35,490
And quickly.

378
00:25:35,490 --> 00:25:36,840
And quickly.

379
00:25:36,840 --> 00:25:40,290
But I would say it took
another year in which they

380
00:25:40,290 --> 00:25:46,800
had some reason to
think that they were

381
00:25:46,800 --> 00:25:50,290
able to prevent other things.

382
00:25:50,290 --> 00:25:53,700
When do you date the
dramatical change?

383
00:25:53,700 --> 00:25:56,130
I would say that the
dramatical change

384

00:25:56,130 --> 00:25:59,070
came when they
officially decided

385
00:25:59,070 --> 00:26:02,500
to deport the Jews to the East.

386
00:26:02,500 --> 00:26:05,100
And that was only in July.

387
00:26:05,100 --> 00:26:05,790
1942.

388
00:26:05,790 --> 00:26:07,200
'42.

389
00:26:07,200 --> 00:26:11,580
July '42 it should
have been clear to them

390
00:26:11,580 --> 00:26:16,440
that the task was finished,
that the Germans started

391
00:26:16,440 --> 00:26:20,550
to deport the Jews to the East.

392
00:26:20,550 --> 00:26:25,500
And although I'm up till
today convinced that they

393
00:26:25,500 --> 00:26:28,620
didn't know about gas chambers.

394
00:26:28,620 --> 00:26:31,080
It was said, the Germans
said that the Jews

395
00:26:31,080 --> 00:26:35,630
would be deported to work in
the so-called labor columns.

396

00:26:35,630 --> 00:26:36,780
Labor columns.

397
00:26:36,780 --> 00:26:40,800
That they would have a hard
life, but that they would

398
00:26:40,800 --> 00:26:45,240
be able to survive, in any
case, in and large proportions

399
00:26:45,240 --> 00:26:47,100
should be able to survive.

400
00:26:47,100 --> 00:26:49,110
They had no reason
to believe them

401
00:26:49,110 --> 00:26:53,340
in death, that a large
proportion should survive.

402
00:26:53,340 --> 00:26:59,550
They had all reasons
to understand

403
00:26:59,550 --> 00:27:03,360
that the older people
would all of them die,

404
00:27:03,360 --> 00:27:06,450
and that children
wouldn't have a chance.

405
00:27:06,450 --> 00:27:13,370
But I until today think that
they had no idea about--

406
00:27:13,370 --> 00:27:15,410
Yeah, but they
had already chosen

407
00:27:15,410 --> 00:27:18,080

the way of complete compliance.

408

00:27:18,080 --> 00:27:20,340

That's right.

409

00:27:20,340 --> 00:27:24,140

And they thought
that they could--

410

00:27:24,140 --> 00:27:26,340

and that's perhaps the
worst thing of all.

411

00:27:26,340 --> 00:27:34,650

That they could find a way in
which the less important Jews

412

00:27:34,650 --> 00:27:38,640

would go first, and the more
important Jews would go later.

413

00:27:38,640 --> 00:27:40,930

And that if there would
be a second front,

414

00:27:40,930 --> 00:27:43,380

and if the Germans
would lose the war,

415

00:27:43,380 --> 00:27:47,820

that they would be able to save
an important part of the Jews.

416

00:27:47,820 --> 00:27:51,210

I think that is--

417

00:27:51,210 --> 00:27:52,860

that was behind it.

418

00:27:52,860 --> 00:27:55,620

It became worse, and worse.

419

00:27:55,620 --> 00:27:59,900
The circle was diminished.

420
00:27:59,900 --> 00:28:06,080
The kind of Jews they wanted to
save were smaller, and smaller,

421
00:28:06,080 --> 00:28:11,020
were their own-- it was
their own circle which they--

422
00:28:11,020 --> 00:28:14,800
What kind of Jews did
they want to save?

423
00:28:14,800 --> 00:28:16,740
Well, their own kind.

424
00:28:16,740 --> 00:28:17,790
And the wrong kind.

425
00:28:17,790 --> 00:28:19,860
This is very hard to say.

426
00:28:19,860 --> 00:28:24,990
It wasn't-- if you see how
the council was formed,

427
00:28:24,990 --> 00:28:28,170
what kind of people
were sitting there.

428
00:28:28,170 --> 00:28:35,680
It was for 80%, 85% was that
the people of the Bourgeois.

429
00:28:35,680 --> 00:28:36,720
Of the upper class.

430
00:28:36,720 --> 00:28:37,560
Of the upper class.

431

00:28:37,560 --> 00:28:39,650

Of the people who
had the name there.

432

00:28:39,650 --> 00:28:44,786

There was one representative
of a trade union who--

433

00:28:44,786 --> 00:28:47,910

434

00:28:47,910 --> 00:28:51,090

(film logistics)

435

00:28:51,090 --> 00:29:01,356