

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,610

2
00:00:01,610 --> 00:00:05,130
(film slating)

3
00:00:05,130 --> 00:00:07,920
About one hour later, I
can't remember exactly,

4
00:00:07,920 --> 00:00:16,260
after my father left the house,
there was a ring at our door.

5
00:00:16,260 --> 00:00:21,200
And my mother was perfectly
aware of what this would be

6
00:00:21,200 --> 00:00:22,350
or who is this would be.

7
00:00:22,350 --> 00:00:24,510
And indeed, when
she opened the door,

8
00:00:24,510 --> 00:00:29,970
there were the two Gestapo men
in their gray leather coats,

9
00:00:29,970 --> 00:00:33,300
as they used to go about.

10
00:00:33,300 --> 00:00:35,670
I remember their
faces being sort

11
00:00:35,670 --> 00:00:39,860
of indescribable, no expression,
or expressionless faces,

12
00:00:39,860 --> 00:00:40,620

really.

13

00:00:40,620 --> 00:00:42,220

Maybe this is my memory.

14

00:00:42,220 --> 00:00:44,940

But this is what I saw.

15

00:00:44,940 --> 00:00:47,400

And they asked for my father.

16

00:00:47,400 --> 00:00:50,550

My mother said, he's not in.

17

00:00:50,550 --> 00:00:52,410

And they said, where is he?

18

00:00:52,410 --> 00:00:55,230

And she said, I really
couldn't tell you.

19

00:00:55,230 --> 00:00:57,960

I presume he's gone to work.

20

00:00:57,960 --> 00:01:01,290

This is what he intended
to do, as usual.

21

00:01:01,290 --> 00:01:02,050

Why?

22

00:01:02,050 --> 00:01:04,410

Why do you want to speak to him?

23

00:01:04,410 --> 00:01:08,590

She sort of acted as if she
didn't know what was going on.

24

00:01:08,590 --> 00:01:13,920

And they said, yes,
they came into the flat.

25

00:01:13,920 --> 00:01:16,650

One of them sat down
in my father's chair.

26

00:01:16,650 --> 00:01:17,400

I remember this.

27

00:01:17,400 --> 00:01:19,500

And my mother was
standing opposite him,

28

00:01:19,500 --> 00:01:22,920

sort of holding on, holding
herself onto the desk,

29

00:01:22,920 --> 00:01:24,750

sort of as if this was to--

30

00:01:24,750 --> 00:01:26,280

could give her strength.

31

00:01:26,280 --> 00:01:28,950

And the other Gestapo man was
sort of standing at the door,

32

00:01:28,950 --> 00:01:31,690

as if he was sort of
watching the scene.

33

00:01:31,690 --> 00:01:36,590

So the one sitting in
the chair said, well,

34

00:01:36,590 --> 00:01:42,220

do you think your husband will
call or perhaps come back home?

35

00:01:42,220 --> 00:01:45,300

She said, but of course I
expect so, what do you mean?

36

00:01:45,300 --> 00:01:48,750

Well, I want you to know
that he should report

37
00:01:48,750 --> 00:01:51,730
to the next police station
the minute he calls

38
00:01:51,730 --> 00:01:52,930
or the minute he comes home.

39
00:01:52,930 --> 00:01:55,140
Will you please arrange this?

40
00:01:55,140 --> 00:01:57,210
And will you please promise
that this will be so?

41
00:01:57,210 --> 00:01:59,400
So my mother said, certainly.

42
00:01:59,400 --> 00:02:03,240
I admit that I'm a bit worried,
because one doesn't know.

43
00:02:03,240 --> 00:02:05,100
I heard something's going on.

44
00:02:05,100 --> 00:02:06,600
And I really don't know.

45
00:02:06,600 --> 00:02:10,780
He's not, he has not yet
called me from his office.

46
00:02:10,780 --> 00:02:13,320
So as soon as he
does, I shall tell him

47
00:02:13,320 --> 00:02:16,900
that he should contact
the next police station.

48

00:02:16,900 --> 00:02:19,620
So they left the house.

49
00:02:19,620 --> 00:02:24,240
And my mother rushed
to the telephone,

50
00:02:24,240 --> 00:02:27,540
asked me to watch
through the door

51
00:02:27,540 --> 00:02:29,430
whether the people
had really left,

52
00:02:29,430 --> 00:02:31,770
whether the Gestapo
had really left,

53
00:02:31,770 --> 00:02:34,410
and then she dialed the
number of the school

54
00:02:34,410 --> 00:02:36,660
where my father was working.

55
00:02:36,660 --> 00:02:42,030
And just shouted into
the telephone, disappear.

56
00:02:42,030 --> 00:02:47,573
Because she was also scared
that the telephone was tapped.

57
00:02:47,573 --> 00:02:48,990
And then she put
down the receiver

58
00:02:48,990 --> 00:02:51,390
and said, well,
now I don't know.

59
00:02:51,390 --> 00:02:54,040

He will probably
know what to do.

60
00:02:54,040 --> 00:02:58,200
My father will probably now
react in the right manner.

61
00:02:58,200 --> 00:03:00,750
So she went on
with her housework.

62
00:03:00,750 --> 00:03:02,190
And I was standing around.

63
00:03:02,190 --> 00:03:04,800
I was in the way
everywhere, as usual

64
00:03:04,800 --> 00:03:07,020
when a child is frightened.

65
00:03:07,020 --> 00:03:09,870
I wanted to be close to
my mother, obviously.

66
00:03:09,870 --> 00:03:13,200
And then she said, let's act
as if nothing had happened.

67
00:03:13,200 --> 00:03:15,120
We can't do anything now.

68
00:03:15,120 --> 00:03:17,350
Let's go shopping.

69
00:03:17,350 --> 00:03:19,980
So the two of us went shopping.

70
00:03:19,980 --> 00:03:26,100
And again, we saw, everywhere,
the broken-in glass and then

71

00:03:26,100 --> 00:03:28,290
all this lying in the streets.

72
00:03:28,290 --> 00:03:32,470
And it was obvious that people
had also done a lot of looting.

73
00:03:32,470 --> 00:03:39,450
And we ran to do
shopping in our shop

74
00:03:39,450 --> 00:03:41,520
where we used to buy milk,
and butter, and things

75
00:03:41,520 --> 00:03:43,440
like this, the dairy.

76
00:03:43,440 --> 00:03:45,840
And I remember the woman
saying, what nonsense.

77
00:03:45,840 --> 00:03:47,370
Why do they do such things?

78
00:03:47,370 --> 00:03:49,620
But no more, she said.

79
00:03:49,620 --> 00:03:51,720
And then, we went back home.

80
00:03:51,720 --> 00:03:54,270
And that turned out that my
mother, in her excitement,

81
00:03:54,270 --> 00:03:55,830
had forgotten the key.

82
00:03:55,830 --> 00:04:00,060
At any rate, we were barred from
going home for another hour.

83

00:04:00,060 --> 00:04:05,350

We had to wait for the man
to open our lock with a--

84

00:04:05,350 --> 00:04:06,650

Pass.

85

00:04:06,650 --> 00:04:09,570

--a certain key.

86

00:04:09,570 --> 00:04:12,570

And then we sat
there and waited.

87

00:04:12,570 --> 00:04:13,170

And waited.

88

00:04:13,170 --> 00:04:16,680

Because my mother said,
where could he be?

89

00:04:16,680 --> 00:04:20,040

But he could probably have
gone to our German friends.

90

00:04:20,040 --> 00:04:22,380

This was her hope.

91

00:04:22,380 --> 00:04:24,600

And we waited until the evening.

92

00:04:24,600 --> 00:04:27,420

And we sat there
sort of motionless

93

00:04:27,420 --> 00:04:28,890

and not doing
knowing what to do.

94

00:04:28,890 --> 00:04:30,540

My mother took
housework and then

95

00:04:30,540 --> 00:04:32,240
and dropped it again, and so on.

96

00:04:32,240 --> 00:04:35,130
In the end, suddenly,
in the evening,

97

00:04:35,130 --> 00:04:37,920
we hear a key
turning in the lock.

98

00:04:37,920 --> 00:04:40,090
And there was my father.

99

00:04:40,090 --> 00:04:43,300
My mother rushes out into
the corridor and says,

100

00:04:43,300 --> 00:04:44,680
what are you doing here?

101

00:04:44,680 --> 00:04:46,680
Why did you come back home?

102

00:04:46,680 --> 00:04:52,470
He says, but look, if the
German police asked me to call,

103

00:04:52,470 --> 00:04:56,370
then I just can't sort of
disappear and not react.

104

00:04:56,370 --> 00:04:58,200
And this was too
much for my mother,

105

00:04:58,200 --> 00:04:59,690
who was a very fighting spirit.

106

00:04:59,690 --> 00:05:02,460
She said, are you mad?

107

00:05:02,460 --> 00:05:04,330

You mustn't be home.

108

00:05:04,330 --> 00:05:06,070

And she said, I tell you what.

109

00:05:06,070 --> 00:05:10,630

I'll now ring up one of our
Social Democratic friends

110

00:05:10,630 --> 00:05:13,530

from the times ago,
from the times past,

111

00:05:13,530 --> 00:05:16,270

and let him judge
what you should do.

112

00:05:16,270 --> 00:05:19,630

And this man, the name
was Dr. Ostrofsky,

113

00:05:19,630 --> 00:05:24,990

he came instantly and said,
Deutschkorn are you mad?

114

00:05:24,990 --> 00:05:28,570

You'll not fall-- you
cannot follow the dictates

115

00:05:28,570 --> 00:05:29,380

of the Gestapo.

116

00:05:29,380 --> 00:05:31,360

Come on, let's go
out of this house.

117

00:05:31,360 --> 00:05:33,920

And the best is you all
disappear from here for a time

118

00:05:33,920 --> 00:05:37,090

until this action, as
it was called, is over.

119
00:05:37,090 --> 00:05:42,110
And so that very night, my
father went someplace else,

120
00:05:42,110 --> 00:05:44,050
to German friends.

121
00:05:44,050 --> 00:05:46,600
And my mother and I
went to another place.

122
00:05:46,600 --> 00:05:47,920
And sometimes we met.

123
00:05:47,920 --> 00:05:50,920
We have been away
about a fortnight.

124
00:05:50,920 --> 00:05:56,260
During that fortnight,
I remember very vividly

125
00:05:56,260 --> 00:05:59,560
that very many
German and very many

126
00:05:59,560 --> 00:06:03,830
Jewish men had disappeared the
way my father had disappeared.

127
00:06:03,830 --> 00:06:06,520
And at night, you
know, when it was dark,

128
00:06:06,520 --> 00:06:13,000
you could see them standing in
the entrances of the houses.

129
00:06:13,000 --> 00:06:15,520
Meeting their wives,

apparently, because one

130
00:06:15,520 --> 00:06:18,010
could see how they
changed parcels.

131
00:06:18,010 --> 00:06:19,960
Meaning that they
changed laundry

132
00:06:19,960 --> 00:06:21,912
for clean shirts or something.

133
00:06:21,912 --> 00:06:23,620
And then they hurriedly
disappeared again

134
00:06:23,620 --> 00:06:24,730
into the dark.

135
00:06:24,730 --> 00:06:27,100
This was going on
for quite some time.

136
00:06:27,100 --> 00:06:31,310
And my father used to visit us
and the place where we were.

137
00:06:31,310 --> 00:06:39,440
And when we had the feeling
that the action was over,

138
00:06:39,440 --> 00:06:40,600
we decided to go back.

139
00:06:40,600 --> 00:06:44,950
I must admit that in
between those friends who

140
00:06:44,950 --> 00:06:48,430
lived in the same house,
also those friends, Social

141

00:06:48,430 --> 00:06:53,290

Democrats, not Jews, let us
know that the Gestapo had

142

00:06:53,290 --> 00:06:55,450

called a second time.

143

00:06:55,450 --> 00:06:57,670

And the woman had
sort of-- when she

144

00:06:57,670 --> 00:07:00,580

heard somebody rang
at our door, had

145

00:07:00,580 --> 00:07:03,190

made some sort of a
business and gone down

146

00:07:03,190 --> 00:07:05,530

and said to these
Gestapo people,

147

00:07:05,530 --> 00:07:08,290

are you looking for
the Deutschkorns?

148

00:07:08,290 --> 00:07:09,850

They said, yes.

149

00:07:09,850 --> 00:07:12,370

And she said, but you
see from the milk bottles

150

00:07:12,370 --> 00:07:14,390

that these people are not there.

151

00:07:14,390 --> 00:07:17,050

In the meantime, the milk
bottles have collected.

152

00:07:17,050 --> 00:07:21,670

At this period, the milk was
still delivered to the houses.

153
00:07:21,670 --> 00:07:24,520
And we had deliberately
not canceled it.

154
00:07:24,520 --> 00:07:26,050
So they had collected there.

155
00:07:26,050 --> 00:07:28,000
So she could easily
say, look, from this

156
00:07:28,000 --> 00:07:31,450
you can see that the
Deutschkorns are not here.

157
00:07:31,450 --> 00:07:34,630
But after a certain time,
it was perfectly clear

158
00:07:34,630 --> 00:07:38,710
that the action was over
and that we could go home.

159
00:07:38,710 --> 00:07:41,590
But of course, the other men
were in concentration camps,

160
00:07:41,590 --> 00:07:44,020
as is known today.

161
00:07:44,020 --> 00:07:46,930
We heard of horrible
treatment, of course.

162
00:07:46,930 --> 00:07:51,250
And then one or the
other came back,

163
00:07:51,250 --> 00:07:54,370
just because they

could prove that they

164
00:07:54,370 --> 00:07:57,160
had a chance to emigrate.

165
00:07:57,160 --> 00:07:59,980
Immigration was a
possibility to be released

166
00:07:59,980 --> 00:08:01,690
from the concentration camp.

167
00:08:01,690 --> 00:08:05,210
Now, at that time--

168
00:08:05,210 --> 00:08:09,370
oh, yes, at that time, it
was, of course, very difficult

169
00:08:09,370 --> 00:08:10,240
to emigrate.

170
00:08:10,240 --> 00:08:14,320
But a country like
England, for example,

171
00:08:14,320 --> 00:08:17,830
gave the opportunity
to all those men

172
00:08:17,830 --> 00:08:22,360
who had been in concentration
camp to enter England.

173
00:08:22,360 --> 00:08:24,940
There was this name, which
have never forgotten,

174
00:08:24,940 --> 00:08:33,039
the Richmond Camp, that was camp
barracks, which were designed

175

00:08:33,039 --> 00:08:36,190
for people who escaped Germany.

176
00:08:36,190 --> 00:08:39,350
But they had to have been
in concentration camp.

177
00:08:39,350 --> 00:08:41,980
And I remember how bitter
my father was then,

178
00:08:41,980 --> 00:08:45,370
when he heard you had to be
first in the concentration camp

179
00:08:45,370 --> 00:08:48,500
until they take
you into a country.

180
00:08:48,500 --> 00:08:50,830
Now, this was our trouble.

181
00:08:50,830 --> 00:08:53,580
No country wanted
us at the time.

182
00:08:53,580 --> 00:08:56,220
At the beginning
of the Hitler era--

183
00:08:56,220 --> 00:08:58,920
Because at this time
your father considered

184
00:08:58,920 --> 00:09:02,080
that he had seriously the
possibility of emigrating.

185
00:09:02,080 --> 00:09:02,630
Yes.

186
00:09:02,630 --> 00:09:08,020
And this experience, I think,

made him also at last realize

187

00:09:08,020 --> 00:09:12,370

that there was no longer
a possibility for a Jew

188

00:09:12,370 --> 00:09:14,260

to live in Germany in peace.

189

00:09:14,260 --> 00:09:17,710

And that the Nazis
really meant business.

190

00:09:17,710 --> 00:09:21,690

So suddenly, it became urgent.

191

00:09:21,690 --> 00:09:23,410

And he looked for a
country where to go.

192

00:09:23,410 --> 00:09:25,770

He certainly looked for
a country where to go.

193

00:09:25,770 --> 00:09:28,810

And as I said, England
was kind enough

194

00:09:28,810 --> 00:09:32,290

to take in those people who
had already been in the camps.

195

00:09:32,290 --> 00:09:34,600

And of course, some
countries also took children.

196

00:09:34,600 --> 00:09:36,370

I remember that my
mother, my father

197

00:09:36,370 --> 00:09:39,150

asked me whether I was ready
to go with the children's

198
00:09:39,150 --> 00:09:41,670
transport, and I said,
I will not go anywhere

199
00:09:41,670 --> 00:09:42,700
where I'll be alone.

200
00:09:42,700 --> 00:09:45,280
I want to be with my
mother and my father.

201
00:09:45,280 --> 00:09:47,540
So the accepted this, of course.

202
00:09:47,540 --> 00:09:51,400
And so we were looking
round for a country.

203
00:09:51,400 --> 00:09:54,873
Now, I remember, no
country wanted us.

204
00:09:54,873 --> 00:09:55,540
And I remember--

205
00:09:55,540 --> 00:09:59,070
OK, you examined
country by country.

206
00:09:59,070 --> 00:10:04,180
I remember, first of all, that
before the American consulate

207
00:10:04,180 --> 00:10:08,950
in Berlin, there were, every
morning, scores of people.

208
00:10:08,950 --> 00:10:12,430
Queues, people queuing
up, standing there.

209

00:10:12,430 --> 00:10:15,460
And you know, it was very
difficult to get into America.

210
00:10:15,460 --> 00:10:17,590
There was a certain
quota which was not

211
00:10:17,590 --> 00:10:22,250
raised at all, even though
there was reason for raising it.

212
00:10:22,250 --> 00:10:23,680
And you had to
have relatives who

213
00:10:23,680 --> 00:10:26,590
would send you an affidavit,
and all these troubles.

214
00:10:26,590 --> 00:10:28,600
And money.

215
00:10:28,600 --> 00:10:30,970
Yes, but money, by that time--

216
00:10:30,970 --> 00:10:32,730
this is what I meant to say.

217
00:10:32,730 --> 00:10:35,530
At the beginning, the countries
didn't mind taking us.

218
00:10:35,530 --> 00:10:36,970
Because these people had money.

219
00:10:36,970 --> 00:10:39,690
And the rich ones who
could emigrate with money,

220
00:10:39,690 --> 00:10:40,620
they were all right.

221

00:10:40,620 --> 00:10:43,920

But we were not allowed to
take money with us anymore.

222

00:10:43,920 --> 00:10:46,630

In fact, after the
Reichskristallnacht--

223

00:10:46,630 --> 00:10:48,220

I hate this name, by the way.

224

00:10:48,220 --> 00:10:50,080

I think it's
absolutely not fitting.

225

00:10:50,080 --> 00:10:51,790

But that's something else.

226

00:10:51,790 --> 00:10:56,290

The Nazi government ordered
that we had to pay--

227

00:10:56,290 --> 00:10:58,240

A gigantic fine.

228

00:10:58,240 --> 00:11:00,310

No, I'm not talking
about the fine.

229

00:11:00,310 --> 00:11:04,720

It was called-- that's something
else, a gigantic fine for what

230

00:11:04,720 --> 00:11:05,350

was done.

231

00:11:05,350 --> 00:11:07,970

And we had to repair all
the shops in our own money,

232

00:11:07,970 --> 00:11:08,790

and so on.

233
00:11:08,790 --> 00:11:13,020

234
00:11:13,020 --> 00:11:15,900
(film slating)

235
00:11:15,900 --> 00:11:18,720
We were not allowed to
take money out then.

236
00:11:18,720 --> 00:11:21,420
First of all,
everyone who emigrated

237
00:11:21,420 --> 00:11:25,290
had to pay what was called
the Reichfluchtsteuer They

238
00:11:25,290 --> 00:11:28,590
called it flucht which really
means to flee, to escape.

239
00:11:28,590 --> 00:11:31,110
In fact, they
really wanted us to.

240
00:11:31,110 --> 00:11:34,450
I think they really wanted
us to emigrate by that time.

241
00:11:34,450 --> 00:11:38,850
But the trouble was to
find the country that

242
00:11:38,850 --> 00:11:40,260
was ready to take us in.

243
00:11:40,260 --> 00:11:43,380
And that's what made us
very bitter at the time.

244

00:11:43,380 --> 00:11:44,940
Of course, we were now frantic.

245
00:11:44,940 --> 00:11:48,360
And I would say this concerns
everyone by that time.

246
00:11:48,360 --> 00:11:50,730
By that time, everyone
had understood that there

247
00:11:50,730 --> 00:11:53,430
was no more staying in Germany.

248
00:11:53,430 --> 00:11:55,890
And we were searching countries.

249
00:11:55,890 --> 00:11:59,490
Meaning we went to
embassies inquiring,

250
00:11:59,490 --> 00:12:02,440
we went to travel agencies.

251
00:12:02,440 --> 00:12:09,940
There were people who sold visas
for very high amounts of money.

252
00:12:09,940 --> 00:12:13,950
Sometimes, it turned
out to be absolute--

253
00:12:13,950 --> 00:12:14,520
Fake.

254
00:12:14,520 --> 00:12:16,590
--fake, there was
nothing behind it.

255
00:12:16,590 --> 00:12:18,570
Sometimes a visa
was really given

256

00:12:18,570 --> 00:12:20,477
for a high amount of money.

257

00:12:20,477 --> 00:12:22,560
But, of course, this was
mostly for the people who

258

00:12:22,560 --> 00:12:25,020
had a lot of money to spare.

259

00:12:25,020 --> 00:12:28,900
So I remember scenes,
whenever we met,

260

00:12:28,900 --> 00:12:33,240
for example, my family, my
father's brothers and sisters.

261

00:12:33,240 --> 00:12:35,040
And we discussed
the possibilities

262

00:12:35,040 --> 00:12:35,960
we had of a country.

263

00:12:35,960 --> 00:12:40,530
Suddenly, you know, I have
heard that Paraguay still

264

00:12:40,530 --> 00:12:42,210
accepts Jews.

265

00:12:42,210 --> 00:12:44,580
And somebody else said, but
I heard this is not true.

266

00:12:44,580 --> 00:12:46,560
They already closed
it last week.

267

00:12:46,560 --> 00:12:49,710
So somebody said, but, I

know exactly that Paraguay.

268

00:12:49,710 --> 00:12:50,530

Let's try Paraguay.

269

00:12:50,530 --> 00:12:52,860

Then somebody else said,
why don't we try Africa?

270

00:12:52,860 --> 00:12:54,840

It doesn't really
matter out here.

271

00:12:54,840 --> 00:12:57,180

So there was panic by that time.

272

00:12:57,180 --> 00:12:59,820

And they tested every
country that was possible.

273

00:12:59,820 --> 00:13:03,060

Mexico, Cuba, countries
that we never heard of.

274

00:13:03,060 --> 00:13:04,710

And I'll never forget
one thing, which

275

00:13:04,710 --> 00:13:08,520

has a certain amount
of humor in it.

276

00:13:08,520 --> 00:13:10,650

Suddenly somebody
told us that one

277

00:13:10,650 --> 00:13:15,630

could go to Aleppo,
which is a town in Syria.

278

00:13:15,630 --> 00:13:18,540

Mind you, I must admit here,
that I know this only now,

279
00:13:18,540 --> 00:13:20,130
because I live in Israel.

280
00:13:20,130 --> 00:13:23,660
But at the time, my father
said, where is this?

281
00:13:23,660 --> 00:13:24,280
Aleppo?

282
00:13:24,280 --> 00:13:26,390
I had never heard
this in my life.

283
00:13:26,390 --> 00:13:32,640
And he took out a book
to find out what it said,

284
00:13:32,640 --> 00:13:34,580
whether this town
really existed, Aleppo.

285
00:13:34,580 --> 00:13:38,790
And it said, under this,
Aleppo, a town in Syria.

286
00:13:38,790 --> 00:13:44,260
And the boil, Aleppo
boil, is named after this.

287
00:13:44,260 --> 00:13:46,110
And my father
said, what is this?

288
00:13:46,110 --> 00:13:48,160
This must be--
this is an abscess.

289
00:13:48,160 --> 00:13:49,565
A boil, you see.

290

00:13:49,565 --> 00:13:51,100
So he said, horrible.

291
00:13:51,100 --> 00:13:54,570
This means that one can get
very ill there from this boil.

292
00:13:54,570 --> 00:13:56,910
So that is not for me.

293
00:13:56,910 --> 00:14:00,040
I remember this very clearly,
we laughed our head off.

294
00:14:00,040 --> 00:14:02,820
And we laughed whenever
it was at all possible.

295
00:14:02,820 --> 00:14:07,450
And there were very many
people who chose, in the end,

296
00:14:07,450 --> 00:14:10,920
Shanghai, which was really
the last port, I would say.

297
00:14:10,920 --> 00:14:16,070
People traveled afterwards, even
via Russia, to get to Shanghai.

298
00:14:16,070 --> 00:14:20,370
The thought of going to
Shanghai was horrifying for us

299
00:14:20,370 --> 00:14:20,880
at the time.

300
00:14:20,880 --> 00:14:24,800
You must understand, there
were not so many aeroplanes.

301
00:14:24,800 --> 00:14:27,490
And the world was not so close.

302
00:14:27,490 --> 00:14:30,900
And Shanghai was a place,
in our imagination,

303
00:14:30,900 --> 00:14:33,630
very far away,
full of gangsters,

304
00:14:33,630 --> 00:14:36,240
and full of unusual things.

305
00:14:36,240 --> 00:14:37,920
You know, because
one didn't know.

306
00:14:37,920 --> 00:14:41,310
And China, and all this,
and poor, and what could

307
00:14:41,310 --> 00:14:42,240
we do there.

308
00:14:42,240 --> 00:14:45,270
So but still, still people went.

309
00:14:45,270 --> 00:14:47,450
Or tried to get to these places.

310
00:14:47,450 --> 00:14:50,850
So really, our only
activity at the time

311
00:14:50,850 --> 00:14:53,730
consisted of trying to
find a country which

312
00:14:53,730 --> 00:14:56,010
would be ready to take us in.

313
00:14:56,010 --> 00:14:59,820
And indeed, I would say,

there were almost none.

314

00:14:59,820 --> 00:15:03,150

They all closed the
doors on those poor Jews.

315

00:15:03,150 --> 00:15:05,130

I'm saying poor, because
they were not allowed

316

00:15:05,130 --> 00:15:06,170

to take money with them.

317

00:15:06,170 --> 00:15:08,810

I guess if we had
had money, they

318

00:15:08,810 --> 00:15:10,620

wouldn't have minded
to take us in.

319

00:15:10,620 --> 00:15:13,260

At any rate, my father
was searching frantically.

320

00:15:13,260 --> 00:15:18,960

And we had relatives in
England, genuine relatives,

321

00:15:18,960 --> 00:15:22,590

who presumably hadn't had much
contact during all those years,

322

00:15:22,590 --> 00:15:24,720

except for those New
Year's greetings which

323

00:15:24,720 --> 00:15:26,300

one used to send each other.

324

00:15:26,300 --> 00:15:29,790

Now, we asked whether
they could help us.

325
00:15:29,790 --> 00:15:33,490
And this family, a
cousin of my father's

326
00:15:33,490 --> 00:15:38,460
wrote back, yes, we are
ready to take in one of you.

327
00:15:38,460 --> 00:15:41,760
We have to pay a
very high guarantee

328
00:15:41,760 --> 00:15:45,660
to the English government, or
deposit, whatever you call it.

329
00:15:45,660 --> 00:15:48,240
So that in case my
father is unemployed,

330
00:15:48,240 --> 00:15:50,670
or he wasn't even allowed
to work in England,

331
00:15:50,670 --> 00:15:53,490
that he would not be
a burden on the state.

332
00:15:53,490 --> 00:15:58,500
So they said, one of us, one of
you, we are ready to take in.

333
00:15:58,500 --> 00:16:01,410
So as my father was more
in danger, then of course,

334
00:16:01,410 --> 00:16:04,080
we decided that my
father had to go.

335
00:16:04,080 --> 00:16:07,770
So we made those preparations

for his emigration,

336

00:16:07,770 --> 00:16:10,440

which meant applying for
a passport, which meant

337

00:16:10,440 --> 00:16:13,470

paying the Reichfluchtsteuer

338

00:16:13,470 --> 00:16:15,800

And we also decided
that, at the same time,

339

00:16:15,800 --> 00:16:20,240

we would break up of
our house, meaning

340

00:16:20,240 --> 00:16:23,510

it was no point in
keeping our flat.

341

00:16:23,510 --> 00:16:32,570

And in fact, flat or house
owners were already at liberty.

342

00:16:32,570 --> 00:16:34,580

They could throw Jews out.

343

00:16:34,580 --> 00:16:36,400

It wasn't the law yet,
but they did this.

344

00:16:36,400 --> 00:16:38,480

Now, I remember that
our house belonged

345

00:16:38,480 --> 00:16:42,150

to an insurance company,
which wrote us a letter.

346

00:16:42,150 --> 00:16:45,320

They would be glad if we would
leave the house in April.

347
00:16:45,320 --> 00:16:48,950
So we decided to leave, indeed,
and packed everything up

348
00:16:48,950 --> 00:16:49,910
in a lift.

349
00:16:49,910 --> 00:16:52,730
The things that we thought
would be useful abroad,

350
00:16:52,730 --> 00:16:54,500
like small furniture.

351
00:16:54,500 --> 00:16:57,920
Things like linen,
things which one needs.

352
00:16:57,920 --> 00:17:01,490
And everything else, we had,
of course, sold by the time.

353
00:17:01,490 --> 00:17:04,640
And because we thought,
also, my father would go.

354
00:17:04,640 --> 00:17:09,160
But he would very soon be
able to call for us to--

355
00:17:09,160 --> 00:17:10,640
we could follow him.

356
00:17:10,640 --> 00:17:13,490
And then, we could, of
course, take the lift, which

357
00:17:13,490 --> 00:17:15,920
was by then packed, to England.

358
00:17:15,920 --> 00:17:17,720

And everything would be easier.

359

00:17:17,720 --> 00:17:22,544

I have forgotten to say that,
of course, the entrance for us,

360

00:17:22,544 --> 00:17:24,740

or the admission for
my father to England,

361

00:17:24,740 --> 00:17:28,670

was made easier because my
father had applied also,

362

00:17:28,670 --> 00:17:34,250

sort of as a preventive measure,
for a certificate to Palestine.

363

00:17:34,250 --> 00:17:37,070

And there is a reason
connected with it.

364

00:17:37,070 --> 00:17:40,430

Because at the time,
before the war,

365

00:17:40,430 --> 00:17:47,450

there was some sort of an
agreement between England,

366

00:17:47,450 --> 00:17:50,960

which was a protective
power of Palestine,

367

00:17:50,960 --> 00:17:52,610

and the German government.

368

00:17:52,610 --> 00:17:57,260

And the German pensions,
or rather, my father

369

00:17:57,260 --> 00:17:58,910

received a pension.

370
00:17:58,910 --> 00:18:02,630
And it was possible to transfer
this pension to Palestine.

371
00:18:02,630 --> 00:18:04,220
That was the only country.

372
00:18:04,220 --> 00:18:06,520
Because I think there were
some Germans in Palestine.

373
00:18:06,520 --> 00:18:09,470
Which was other,
the other agreement.

374
00:18:09,470 --> 00:18:10,640
That's it exactly.

375
00:18:10,640 --> 00:18:12,660
There was a sort of arrangement.

376
00:18:12,660 --> 00:18:15,290
And this was, of course,
a very good thing.

377
00:18:15,290 --> 00:18:18,980
Because one had a little sum, at
least, at the basis, upon which

378
00:18:18,980 --> 00:18:20,140
one could use.

379
00:18:20,140 --> 00:18:26,180
But this fact, that he had this
application to the certificate,

380
00:18:26,180 --> 00:18:28,460
helped him to enter England.

381
00:18:28,460 --> 00:18:30,200
Because the English

said, aha, this

382

00:18:30,200 --> 00:18:32,190

means he will not stay
for good in England.

383

00:18:32,190 --> 00:18:34,190

And this is really what
the English didn't want.

384

00:18:34,190 --> 00:18:37,310

Just as the other countries
didn't want us for good.

385

00:18:37,310 --> 00:18:40,100

England, at least, was ready
to save him for a time,

386

00:18:40,100 --> 00:18:41,490

but then pass him on.

387

00:18:41,490 --> 00:18:43,160

And your father left Germany?

388

00:18:43,160 --> 00:18:47,660

My father left on the
19th of April, 1939.

389

00:18:47,660 --> 00:18:53,480

And I still see that picture
on the station of the Leiter

390

00:18:53,480 --> 00:18:58,700

Banhof when of course, all
his family was there still.

391

00:18:58,700 --> 00:19:03,940

And my mother all the time
said to him, you will try,

392

00:19:03,940 --> 00:19:06,950

you will try immediately
to get us also out of here.

393

00:19:06,950 --> 00:19:09,050

Don't forget, try immediately.

394

00:19:09,050 --> 00:19:12,140

Because she knew my father was
not the most active of persons.

395

00:19:12,140 --> 00:19:15,210

And she said to him, you
see, don't forget any minute

396

00:19:15,210 --> 00:19:16,550

in what danger we are here.

397

00:19:16,550 --> 00:19:17,990

And there may be a war.

398

00:19:17,990 --> 00:19:19,400

It was April '39.

399

00:19:19,400 --> 00:19:20,420

And please don't forget.

400

00:19:20,420 --> 00:19:23,960

And I remember, my
father was so horrified,

401

00:19:23,960 --> 00:19:29,150

and so in such a
state of desolation

402

00:19:29,150 --> 00:19:31,500

that he said yes to everything.

403

00:19:31,500 --> 00:19:35,540

And then he saw his brothers
and sisters, who he never

404

00:19:35,540 --> 00:19:37,500

saw again, of course.

405

00:19:37,500 --> 00:19:42,330

It was a very moving,
emotional scene.

406

00:19:42,330 --> 00:19:44,300

And this was it.

407

00:19:44,300 --> 00:19:46,800

We were left behind,
my mother and I.

408

00:19:46,800 --> 00:19:51,920

And since we had had
to give up our flat,

409

00:19:51,920 --> 00:19:55,100

we went to live in
a furnished room.

410

00:19:55,100 --> 00:19:59,670

And everything from then on
was sort of transitional,

411

00:19:59,670 --> 00:20:01,460

provisional.

412

00:20:01,460 --> 00:20:03,530

We didn't have any
furniture anymore.

413

00:20:03,530 --> 00:20:07,730

It was all packed up in
the free port of Hamburg

414

00:20:07,730 --> 00:20:11,420

and ready for shipping
to the country that

415

00:20:11,420 --> 00:20:13,540

would be ready to take it.

416

00:20:13,540 --> 00:20:17,760

And we ourselves were
in this furnished room,

417
00:20:17,760 --> 00:20:20,060
a very ugly thing.

418
00:20:20,060 --> 00:20:22,790
But we thought how
long could it take?

419
00:20:22,790 --> 00:20:25,770
It couldn't take very long.

420
00:20:25,770 --> 00:20:30,410
And then, of course, the signs
of the possibility of war

421
00:20:30,410 --> 00:20:31,670
increased.

422
00:20:31,670 --> 00:20:33,650
And my mother got
very, very worried.

423
00:20:33,650 --> 00:20:37,820
And she wrote a letter, sort
of, with the words to my father.

424
00:20:37,820 --> 00:20:39,110
Don't you read papers?

425
00:20:39,110 --> 00:20:39,830
What happens?

426
00:20:39,830 --> 00:20:41,180
Have you done anything for us?

427
00:20:41,180 --> 00:20:44,480
Of course, she didn't realize
how difficult it was for him.

428
00:20:44,480 --> 00:20:47,660

Not only, first, to find
his footing in England.

429
00:20:47,660 --> 00:20:51,530
But secondly, also to find a
place for us to make people

430
00:20:51,530 --> 00:20:52,460
accept us.

431
00:20:52,460 --> 00:20:55,100
The only possibility
to get this treatment

432
00:20:55,100 --> 00:20:57,510
was that my mother
was a housemaid

433
00:20:57,510 --> 00:21:00,350
and I a housemaid that
the English took us also

434
00:21:00,350 --> 00:21:02,940
as cheap labor, of course.

435
00:21:02,940 --> 00:21:04,620
That was also possible.

436
00:21:04,620 --> 00:21:07,070
So we thought he
would be able to find

437
00:21:07,070 --> 00:21:08,990
such a job for us immediately.

438
00:21:08,990 --> 00:21:11,480
But this didn't turn out.

439
00:21:11,480 --> 00:21:16,270
And I remember, also, that there
was a woman, a teacher, who,

440

00:21:16,270 --> 00:21:20,050
at the beginning of August,
took a group of children

441
00:21:20,050 --> 00:21:24,190
that the English accepted,
a transport of children

442
00:21:24,190 --> 00:21:24,850
to England.

443
00:21:24,850 --> 00:21:26,980
And she went to
see her, and said,

444
00:21:26,980 --> 00:21:31,720
look, when you see my husband,
tell him it is urgent.

445
00:21:31,720 --> 00:21:32,690
It is so urgent.

446
00:21:32,690 --> 00:21:33,940
Don't doesn't he read?

447
00:21:33,940 --> 00:21:36,040
Doesn't he see that the
war could break out?

448
00:21:36,040 --> 00:21:38,050
And what then?

449
00:21:38,050 --> 00:21:42,580
And well, very soon
after, we did, indeed,

450
00:21:42,580 --> 00:21:45,840
get a letter from a
professor in Glasgow,

451
00:21:45,840 --> 00:21:49,330
if I am not mistaken, who
was ready to accept my mother

452
00:21:49,330 --> 00:21:52,900
as a cook and myself as a maid.

453
00:21:52,900 --> 00:21:54,670
And we were very happy.

454
00:21:54,670 --> 00:21:56,050
This meant that we get out.

455
00:21:56,050 --> 00:21:59,800
How to get out was
no longer relevant.

456
00:21:59,800 --> 00:22:01,930
The main thing was to get out.

457
00:22:01,930 --> 00:22:06,860
But then started the procedure,
you know, bureaucracy.

458
00:22:06,860 --> 00:22:09,940
We did have to have
a visa and all this.

459
00:22:09,940 --> 00:22:14,510
And it took too long.

460
00:22:14,510 --> 00:22:20,080
So in fact, I would say one
of those dates, I remember,

461
00:22:20,080 --> 00:22:21,250
which puzzled us--

462
00:22:21,250 --> 00:22:22,800
[FRENCH]

463
00:22:22,800 --> 00:22:44,075