

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:19,420

2
00:00:19,420 --> 00:00:21,756
[SPEAKING GERMAN]

3
00:00:21,756 --> 00:00:26,240

4
00:00:26,240 --> 00:00:44,892
(film slating)

5
00:00:44,892 --> 00:00:48,343
I'll stop immediately
[INAUDIBLE]..

6
00:00:48,343 --> 00:00:55,350

7
00:00:55,350 --> 00:00:59,640
They suddenly knew they
didn't have to take anybody

8
00:00:59,640 --> 00:01:01,410
into consideration anymore.

9
00:01:01,410 --> 00:01:03,420
They took away
from us the radios.

10
00:01:03,420 --> 00:01:06,120
They took away from us
the telephone, of course.

11
00:01:06,120 --> 00:01:10,980
They did not allow us to
have electrical instruments.

12
00:01:10,980 --> 00:01:16,170
All sorts of things suddenly
we were deprived of.

13

00:01:16,170 --> 00:01:19,220

And you know, my family,
my mother and I myself, we

14

00:01:19,220 --> 00:01:22,050

remained true to our character.

15

00:01:22,050 --> 00:01:24,540

We did not hand in
everything that they

16

00:01:24,540 --> 00:01:25,950

demanded from us to hand in.

17

00:01:25,950 --> 00:01:27,630

For example, after
a while, I didn't

18

00:01:27,630 --> 00:01:29,550

know when exactly
this was, we were also

19

00:01:29,550 --> 00:01:34,120

told to hand in all fur
coats and things like that.

20

00:01:34,120 --> 00:01:37,510

Or, as I said, the electric
irons and things like that.

21

00:01:37,510 --> 00:01:40,410

So this is the--

22

00:01:40,410 --> 00:01:43,170

and then of course, what was
more important than anything

23

00:01:43,170 --> 00:01:46,980

else was that we had to
be at home at 8 o'clock

24

00:01:46,980 --> 00:01:50,430
until the next morning,
I believe, at 6 o'clock.

25
00:01:50,430 --> 00:01:54,040
In summer, it was
one hour later.

26
00:01:54,040 --> 00:01:57,330
This means that we were
allowed to go out until 9:00

27
00:01:57,330 --> 00:02:02,310
and to be out, I think,
at 5 o'clock again.

28
00:02:02,310 --> 00:02:03,550
As soon as the war started.

29
00:02:03,550 --> 00:02:04,920
This was as soon--

30
00:02:04,920 --> 00:02:08,330
in fact, the very
first ration cards

31
00:02:08,330 --> 00:02:12,480
that were distributed, you see,
a few days before war started,

32
00:02:12,480 --> 00:02:16,030
the Portiersfrau, the woman
who was in charge of the house,

33
00:02:16,030 --> 00:02:19,800
came round and distributed
the ration cards.

34
00:02:19,800 --> 00:02:21,480
And our ration cards
were immediately

35
00:02:21,480 --> 00:02:26,400

marked with a J. So this was the first time that something was--

36
00:02:26,400 --> 00:02:29,420
where we were singled out in the administrative sense,

37
00:02:29,420 --> 00:02:30,850
you see what I mean.

38
00:02:30,850 --> 00:02:35,670
And of course, we got less than other people

39
00:02:35,670 --> 00:02:39,450
who had not got that J on their ration cards.

40
00:02:39,450 --> 00:02:41,970
Now, that was of course more--

41
00:02:41,970 --> 00:02:44,400
made more perfect in the years to come.

42
00:02:44,400 --> 00:02:47,160
Later on, we did not get the ration cards

43
00:02:47,160 --> 00:02:49,140
delivered to our house and so on.

44
00:02:49,140 --> 00:02:52,680
And of course, we had no meat coupons and things like this.

45
00:02:52,680 --> 00:02:57,450
But that was a gradual deprivation.

46
00:02:57,450 --> 00:03:01,290
But it was so obvious that

now it didn't matter anymore.

47

00:03:01,290 --> 00:03:03,360

Nobody looked on.

48

00:03:03,360 --> 00:03:04,590

The world was cut off.

49

00:03:04,590 --> 00:03:06,780

Or rather, Germany was
cut off from the world.

50

00:03:06,780 --> 00:03:10,170

And the Nazis did with
us what they wanted.

51

00:03:10,170 --> 00:03:16,430

What strikes me always
about these events

52

00:03:16,430 --> 00:03:19,830

is that there was a first period
before the war where everything

53

00:03:19,830 --> 00:03:23,325

was open, in full
light, the persecution.

54

00:03:23,325 --> 00:03:26,070

And suddenly the war
breaks out, and there

55

00:03:26,070 --> 00:03:28,085

is a kind of iron curtain.

56

00:03:28,085 --> 00:03:28,630

Precisely.

57

00:03:28,630 --> 00:03:31,338

It's what they call
the [INAUDIBLE] period

58

00:03:31,338 --> 00:03:31,880
for the Jews.

59
00:03:31,880 --> 00:03:33,570
You're quite right.

60
00:03:33,570 --> 00:03:34,810
Yes, you're quite right.

61
00:03:34,810 --> 00:03:38,430
I mean, they introduced
the most ridiculous things.

62
00:03:38,430 --> 00:03:41,850
They did not allow us
to go to a hairdresser.

63
00:03:41,850 --> 00:03:45,180
They did not allow us to
have our laundry washed

64
00:03:45,180 --> 00:03:47,130
in a laundry.

65
00:03:47,130 --> 00:03:50,890
But of course, to my mind at
least, at the time and today,

66
00:03:50,890 --> 00:03:53,580
it was impossible to
stick to all these laws.

67
00:03:53,580 --> 00:03:55,710
And I just didn't care.

68
00:03:55,710 --> 00:03:59,520
But many people were
scared, and rightly so.

69
00:03:59,520 --> 00:04:01,020
If they were caught,
they could have

70

00:04:01,020 --> 00:04:04,900
been taken to a concentration
camp straight away.

71

00:04:04,900 --> 00:04:08,220
But I was of the opinion that
if you adhere to all the laws,

72

00:04:08,220 --> 00:04:10,440
you go nuts.

73

00:04:10,440 --> 00:04:12,380
And I even convinced
my mother, for example,

74

00:04:12,380 --> 00:04:14,990
we were of course not
allowed to go to a theater

75

00:04:14,990 --> 00:04:16,459
or to a picture house.

76

00:04:16,459 --> 00:04:20,070
Some of the things that you
may find that I don't mention

77

00:04:20,070 --> 00:04:21,660
because they were such a--

78

00:04:21,660 --> 00:04:24,860
for us, it was so
normal, you understand?

79

00:04:24,860 --> 00:04:28,530
How many Jews remained in
Berlin when the war broke out?

80

00:04:28,530 --> 00:04:29,910
Do you have the figures?

81

00:04:29,910 --> 00:04:32,790
When the war broke out,

I think there was still

82

00:04:32,790 --> 00:04:34,860
something like 200,000.

83

00:04:34,860 --> 00:04:38,850
But of course, there
were still emigration

84

00:04:38,850 --> 00:04:41,760
until America joined the war.

85

00:04:41,760 --> 00:04:43,640
Mind you, it wasn't a
very big emigration.

86

00:04:43,640 --> 00:04:44,770
It was very small.

87

00:04:44,770 --> 00:04:45,270
Very small.

88

00:04:45,270 --> 00:04:47,550
Then there was some
illegal emigration,

89

00:04:47,550 --> 00:04:49,680
meaning to Palestine.

90

00:04:49,680 --> 00:04:52,980
Some ships incidentally,
which were drowned afterwards.

91

00:04:52,980 --> 00:04:55,980
But there was still some
emigration going on.

92

00:04:55,980 --> 00:04:59,430
And I just can't give
you exact figures.

93

00:04:59,430 --> 00:05:03,360

To my mind, there are about
200,000 Jews left in Germany.

94
00:05:03,360 --> 00:05:03,930
In Germany.

95
00:05:03,930 --> 00:05:05,140
But in Berlin?

96
00:05:05,140 --> 00:05:07,560
In Berlin, I just don't know
the figure at the moment.

97
00:05:07,560 --> 00:05:08,190
I'm sorry.

98
00:05:08,190 --> 00:05:09,900
I'm very bad with figures.

99
00:05:09,900 --> 00:05:17,310
But it was-- we were
also told that we

100
00:05:17,310 --> 00:05:19,410
had to live in certain houses.

101
00:05:19,410 --> 00:05:22,410
We were no longer allowed
to live in houses that

102
00:05:22,410 --> 00:05:26,160
belonged to non-Jewish owners.

103
00:05:26,160 --> 00:05:28,950
We were sort of herded together.

104
00:05:28,950 --> 00:05:31,950
And the Wohnraum,
they called it,

105
00:05:31,950 --> 00:05:36,750
the area for living

that was rationed to us

106
00:05:36,750 --> 00:05:40,230
was two persons, one room.

107
00:05:40,230 --> 00:05:43,530
So at one stage for
example, I lived

108
00:05:43,530 --> 00:05:47,040
in a flat with my
mother, of course in one

109
00:05:47,040 --> 00:05:51,580
room, where we were 11 people.

110
00:05:51,580 --> 00:05:58,630
11 people in 5 and 1/2
rooms, and one bathroom

111
00:05:58,630 --> 00:05:59,530
and one kitchen.

112
00:05:59,530 --> 00:06:02,290
And you can imagine
what happened there.

113
00:06:02,290 --> 00:06:05,230
I mean, everybody
had to go to work.

114
00:06:05,230 --> 00:06:07,790
This is also one of the
things I didn't mention.

115
00:06:07,790 --> 00:06:13,060
We were all forced
to do hard work.

116
00:06:13,060 --> 00:06:18,640
Everybody was called to
a certain labor exchange.

117

00:06:18,640 --> 00:06:21,550

And that was instituted
only for this purpose,

118

00:06:21,550 --> 00:06:25,480

only for the Jews, which
was headed by a man

119

00:06:25,480 --> 00:06:28,180

with the name of [? Aschhaus. ?]
I shall never forget him.

120

00:06:28,180 --> 00:06:32,290

He was the worst anti-Semite
and Nazi you can imagine.

121

00:06:32,290 --> 00:06:35,710

The story goes that
he has learned--

122

00:06:35,710 --> 00:06:39,070

he was an apprentice in
a Jewish textile firm.

123

00:06:39,070 --> 00:06:40,870

And since he was
not very bright,

124

00:06:40,870 --> 00:06:42,490

he didn't succeed very much.

125

00:06:42,490 --> 00:06:45,940

So he took his
revenge now, or then,

126

00:06:45,940 --> 00:06:48,850

on the Jews that
came to him and were

127

00:06:48,850 --> 00:06:51,430

to be put into
forced labor places.

128

00:06:51,430 --> 00:06:52,330

Excuse me.

129

00:06:52,330 --> 00:06:55,420

You have said that
they took away

130

00:06:55,420 --> 00:06:58,447

the radio set, the telephones.

131

00:06:58,447 --> 00:07:00,280

There was no telephone
anymore for the Jews?

132

00:07:00,280 --> 00:07:02,660

No telephone anymore
for the Jews, no.

133

00:07:02,660 --> 00:07:03,275

No.

134

00:07:03,275 --> 00:07:04,150

Nothing of that sort.

135

00:07:04,150 --> 00:07:07,450

How was it possible
practically to communicate?

136

00:07:07,450 --> 00:07:09,730

Well, first of all, we lived
very close to each other.

137

00:07:09,730 --> 00:07:14,080

Meaning the whole
house in which I lived

138

00:07:14,080 --> 00:07:15,700

were Jews, most of them.

139

00:07:15,700 --> 00:07:17,740

You see, because we
were herded together.

140

00:07:17,740 --> 00:07:19,470

It was a kind of
a ghettoization.

141

00:07:19,470 --> 00:07:22,780

Yes, but I mean, of course,
it was not a district.

142

00:07:22,780 --> 00:07:25,660

There were single houses which
were full of Jews, because they

143

00:07:25,660 --> 00:07:27,620

belonged to a Jewish owner.

144

00:07:27,620 --> 00:07:30,280

And then, of course, we used
to go and visit each other.

145

00:07:30,280 --> 00:07:33,070

That means on foot
or later on we

146

00:07:33,070 --> 00:07:37,720

were not allowed even
to use a public vehicle

147

00:07:37,720 --> 00:07:39,370

except for going to work.

148

00:07:39,370 --> 00:07:41,280

Could you use the S-Bahn?

149

00:07:41,280 --> 00:07:43,300

Well, only for going to work.

150

00:07:43,300 --> 00:07:46,030

I mean, this was
the latest stage.

151

00:07:46,030 --> 00:07:47,590

I can't remember
exactly the year

152
00:07:47,590 --> 00:07:50,320
that we were told only to work.

153
00:07:50,320 --> 00:07:52,350
But at the time, at the
beginning of the war,

154
00:07:52,350 --> 00:07:55,220
the Jews in Berlin, in
Germany, were no marked.

155
00:07:55,220 --> 00:07:56,120
They were not--

156
00:07:56,120 --> 00:07:58,810
No, but you see, there
was always the danger

157
00:07:58,810 --> 00:08:01,640
that you were
recognized as a Jew.

158
00:08:01,640 --> 00:08:03,280
Some people may
have had what you

159
00:08:03,280 --> 00:08:08,000
used-- what the Germans used
to call "Jewish features."

160
00:08:08,000 --> 00:08:10,120
What you consider
the crooked nose,

161
00:08:10,120 --> 00:08:12,060
you know, this horrible idea.

162
00:08:12,060 --> 00:08:14,980
And so anybody
could come up to you

163
00:08:14,980 --> 00:08:17,427
and say "show your
identity card."

164
00:08:17,427 --> 00:08:19,510
And once they found out
you were Jewish, of course

165
00:08:19,510 --> 00:08:23,410
you were in trouble, if
you did something wrong.

166
00:08:23,410 --> 00:08:24,970
Secondly, there was
always the danger

167
00:08:24,970 --> 00:08:27,600
that you met somebody you knew.

168
00:08:27,600 --> 00:08:32,200
You see, after all, Berlin
was a very big city,

169
00:08:32,200 --> 00:08:35,350
but accidentally you might
run into your neighbor,

170
00:08:35,350 --> 00:08:37,059
and God knows,
the neighbor might

171
00:08:37,059 --> 00:08:41,679
be a man who was true
to the Nazi ideology.

172
00:08:41,679 --> 00:08:43,750
And he said, "what
are you doing here?"

173
00:08:43,750 --> 00:08:46,300
And then this was your end.

174

00:08:46,300 --> 00:08:50,710

So it means you were really
marked already, in a sense.

175

00:08:50,710 --> 00:08:52,160

You see?

176

00:08:52,160 --> 00:08:53,860

For example, we were
also not allowed

177

00:08:53,860 --> 00:08:58,670

to sit in a public
vehicle, to sit down.

178

00:08:58,670 --> 00:08:59,270

In the S-Bahn?

179

00:08:59,270 --> 00:09:04,860

In the S-Bahn or in the tram,
we were told to stand up.

180

00:09:04,860 --> 00:09:05,650

You see?

181

00:09:05,650 --> 00:09:10,660

So anybody-- I remember that
somebody offered me his seat

182

00:09:10,660 --> 00:09:14,350

because I suppose he thought I
was a nice-looking young girl.

183

00:09:14,350 --> 00:09:16,545

And I could not
accept that seat.

184

00:09:16,545 --> 00:09:17,920

He wouldn't have
been in trouble.

185

00:09:17,920 --> 00:09:20,270

I would have been in
trouble, you understand,

186
00:09:20,270 --> 00:09:21,470
if I had been caught.

187
00:09:21,470 --> 00:09:24,590
Mind you, as I said,
I risked many things.

188
00:09:24,590 --> 00:09:28,210
For example, I used to go for
walks in this Grunewald here,

189
00:09:28,210 --> 00:09:32,230
here around here, because I
said to my mother, I am sorry,

190
00:09:32,230 --> 00:09:33,820
I cannot bear it.

191
00:09:33,820 --> 00:09:34,570
I have to get out.

192
00:09:34,570 --> 00:09:35,737
This was not permitted, too?

193
00:09:35,737 --> 00:09:37,010
This was not permitted.

194
00:09:37,010 --> 00:09:41,830
No park, no woods, nothing.

195
00:09:41,830 --> 00:09:44,260
Whilst there used to
be these benches where

196
00:09:44,260 --> 00:09:47,590
it was written on, before
the war, "for Jews only,"

197
00:09:47,590 --> 00:09:49,800

now it was barred entirely.

198

00:09:49,800 --> 00:09:50,910

You see?

199

00:09:50,910 --> 00:09:52,770

And I used to go to the cinema.

200

00:09:52,770 --> 00:09:54,780

I used to go to the theater.

201

00:09:54,780 --> 00:09:58,490

But my mother, of course, was
terribly worried about me.

202

00:09:58,490 --> 00:10:01,990

But I thought that
one couldn't possibly

203

00:10:01,990 --> 00:10:07,250

keep up one's normal senses
if one followed all the laws.

204

00:10:07,250 --> 00:10:09,570

Yes.

205

00:10:09,570 --> 00:10:14,760

So we were herded
together in these houses.

206

00:10:14,760 --> 00:10:19,830

And of course all these people
who were living together

207

00:10:19,830 --> 00:10:22,530

were very nervous people.

208

00:10:22,530 --> 00:10:26,010

They were all very worried
what was going to happen.

209

00:10:26,010 --> 00:10:30,870

And perhaps the worst
thing was that everybody

210
00:10:30,870 --> 00:10:34,590
had very much imaginations.

211
00:10:34,590 --> 00:10:37,280
So there were all
these talks "I have

212
00:10:37,280 --> 00:10:44,150
heard that somebody else has
heard from the Nazi ministry

213
00:10:44,150 --> 00:10:47,780
that this and the other is going
to happen to us," you know?

214
00:10:47,780 --> 00:10:52,230
We used to call that
JÃ¼dische Mundfunk.

215
00:10:52,230 --> 00:10:52,780
Mundfunk?

216
00:10:52,780 --> 00:10:53,980
Mund is mouth.

217
00:10:53,980 --> 00:10:56,450
Mundfunk is the
mouth, word for--

218
00:10:56,450 --> 00:10:59,630
word by word, or word spreading
or whatever you call it.

219
00:10:59,630 --> 00:11:01,670
And it was sometimes really--

220
00:11:01,670 --> 00:11:03,380
the idea were
sometimes much worse

221
00:11:03,380 --> 00:11:07,500
than what really happened.

222
00:11:07,500 --> 00:11:10,070
But I mean, it was bad enough
that way already, you know,

223
00:11:10,070 --> 00:11:13,109
whatever was going on.

224
00:11:13,109 --> 00:11:15,524
(film slating)

225
00:11:15,524 --> 00:11:16,490

226
00:11:16,490 --> 00:11:20,840
When the war broke out,
it was a horrible feeling.

227
00:11:20,840 --> 00:11:25,070
On the one hand, we didn't
know what this would mean.

228
00:11:25,070 --> 00:11:27,200
I mean, of course,
we were hopeful

229
00:11:27,200 --> 00:11:29,120
that this would mean
the end of Hitler,

230
00:11:29,120 --> 00:11:32,810
because we thought there was
no other way of getting rid

231
00:11:32,810 --> 00:11:33,793
of Hitler.

232
00:11:33,793 --> 00:11:35,210
On the other hand,
we were caught.

233
00:11:35,210 --> 00:11:36,050
We were inside.

234
00:11:36,050 --> 00:11:37,802
We didn't know.

235
00:11:37,802 --> 00:11:39,260
Now they could do
anything with us.

236
00:11:39,260 --> 00:11:40,920
This was clear to us.

237
00:11:40,920 --> 00:11:47,840
And the Jewish people
went a lot, of course,

238
00:11:47,840 --> 00:11:51,800
to the synagogue, as if
this was a sort of a place

239
00:11:51,800 --> 00:11:56,480
to find advice or perhaps
comfort or consolation

240
00:11:56,480 --> 00:11:57,680
or something.

241
00:11:57,680 --> 00:12:00,290
Of course, most of
the famous rabbis

242
00:12:00,290 --> 00:12:02,960
that had made a
name for themselves

243
00:12:02,960 --> 00:12:08,660
in the '30s, when Prinz,
for example, [INAUDIBLE]

244
00:12:08,660 --> 00:12:10,570

these people were
no longer there.

245
00:12:10,570 --> 00:12:11,660
As they had left.

246
00:12:11,660 --> 00:12:12,780
They had left.

247
00:12:12,780 --> 00:12:16,040
And there were of
course a few rabbis,

248
00:12:16,040 --> 00:12:20,210
but none of the very
famous ones that had done--

249
00:12:20,210 --> 00:12:21,990
that had been
considered the sort

250
00:12:21,990 --> 00:12:24,470
of leaders, the spiritual
leaders for years

251
00:12:24,470 --> 00:12:25,367
of German Jewry.

252
00:12:25,367 --> 00:12:27,450
Which was, of course, a
very bad thing to my mind.

253
00:12:27,450 --> 00:12:28,367
They had left earlier.

254
00:12:28,367 --> 00:12:30,470
They had left before
the war started, yes.

255
00:12:30,470 --> 00:12:33,340
I just don't know the reasons
why they left so early,

256

00:12:33,340 --> 00:12:35,780

but it was, to my
mind, a great shame

257

00:12:35,780 --> 00:12:39,320

that there was nobody who
could really give us strength,

258

00:12:39,320 --> 00:12:41,040

spiritual strength.

259

00:12:41,040 --> 00:12:45,680

In those years and
before the war,

260

00:12:45,680 --> 00:12:52,880

these important rabbis had
full synagogues every Saturday,

261

00:12:52,880 --> 00:12:56,730

because people really received
from them consolation.

262

00:12:56,730 --> 00:12:58,280

So I think--

263

00:12:58,280 --> 00:13:01,040

I personally couldn't
understand this,

264

00:13:01,040 --> 00:13:06,100

because I have seen that
people, women, mainly left

265

00:13:06,100 --> 00:13:08,310

the synagogues always in tears.

266

00:13:08,310 --> 00:13:08,810

Oh, yes?

267

00:13:08,810 --> 00:13:11,090

It was as if this man--

268
00:13:11,090 --> 00:13:14,000
or if these men,
these rabbis sort of

269
00:13:14,000 --> 00:13:17,180
tried to get out of
them these feelings.

270
00:13:17,180 --> 00:13:19,580
I don't know why this was so.

271
00:13:19,580 --> 00:13:21,965
I would have thought
myself that consolation

272
00:13:21,965 --> 00:13:25,190
is something else, that you
do not move people to tears.

273
00:13:25,190 --> 00:13:26,360
But this is what they did.

274
00:13:26,360 --> 00:13:28,113
They were famous for that.

275
00:13:28,113 --> 00:13:30,655
And you must understand that in
those years, people of course

276
00:13:30,655 --> 00:13:34,520
were already in a very
difficult position.

277
00:13:34,520 --> 00:13:37,970
Their beloved were everywhere
scattered in the world.

278
00:13:37,970 --> 00:13:40,640
They didn't know what they were
doing, how they were doing.

279

00:13:40,640 --> 00:13:43,010
They didn't know whether
they would ever follow them.

280
00:13:43,010 --> 00:13:48,760
Anyhow, that was the time
then, when these famous rabbis

281
00:13:48,760 --> 00:13:50,210
were very popular.

282
00:13:50,210 --> 00:13:53,780
But as I said, most of
them, most of the time,

283
00:13:53,780 --> 00:13:56,792
they moved people so
much so that they just

284
00:13:56,792 --> 00:13:57,500
cried the harder.

285
00:13:57,500 --> 00:13:58,420
What did they say?

286
00:13:58,420 --> 00:14:01,190
I have never-- I admit
this very frankly,

287
00:14:01,190 --> 00:14:04,940
I didn't like that sort of
sermon, when you are so moved,

288
00:14:04,940 --> 00:14:07,460
when your emotions
are appealed to.

289
00:14:07,460 --> 00:14:09,350
I didn't like that,
and I didn't--

290
00:14:09,350 --> 00:14:12,650
I was never religious,

even not at that time.

291

00:14:12,650 --> 00:14:16,340

Although my father returned
to Judaism in a sense.

292

00:14:16,340 --> 00:14:19,970

I mean, the man had been a
socialist and only a socialist

293

00:14:19,970 --> 00:14:23,090

until Hitler came to
power, although he had

294

00:14:23,090 --> 00:14:25,960

been from an Orthodox family.

295

00:14:25,960 --> 00:14:29,270

But when Hitler came
to power, he also

296

00:14:29,270 --> 00:14:31,370

sort of returned to
Judaism in the sense

297

00:14:31,370 --> 00:14:36,060

that he went to synagogue
on Rosh Hashanah

298

00:14:36,060 --> 00:14:37,790

and also held the seder.

299

00:14:37,790 --> 00:14:41,337

Things like this happened
not only to him, to many Jews

300

00:14:41,337 --> 00:14:42,170

that they returned--

301

00:14:42,170 --> 00:14:42,800

This was common.

302

00:14:42,800 --> 00:14:43,758

This was a common fact.

303

00:14:43,758 --> 00:14:45,020

That was very common, yes.

304

00:14:45,020 --> 00:14:48,470

But anyway, when
the war broke out,

305

00:14:48,470 --> 00:14:51,140

of course this
feeling of wanting

306

00:14:51,140 --> 00:14:55,460

to have a sort of spiritual
assistance was very great.

307

00:14:55,460 --> 00:14:57,830

Because we didn't know
what would happen now.

308

00:14:57,830 --> 00:15:00,530

You see, to be cut off
from the world entirely?

309

00:15:00,530 --> 00:15:02,180

I remember my mother
trying to reach

310

00:15:02,180 --> 00:15:05,330

my father the day of
the war, of the outbreak

311

00:15:05,330 --> 00:15:07,130

of the war on the telephone.

312

00:15:07,130 --> 00:15:09,020

That was a day when
we probably had--

313

00:15:09,020 --> 00:15:11,750

I don't remember exactly the

day when the telephone was

314

00:15:11,750 --> 00:15:15,170
cut off from our house, but
on that 1st of September

315

00:15:15,170 --> 00:15:17,450
when she tried to phone him.

316

00:15:17,450 --> 00:15:20,120
What for I don't know, but
probably to speak to him

317

00:15:20,120 --> 00:15:22,250
and discuss the new situation.

318

00:15:22,250 --> 00:15:23,960
It was already impossible.

319

00:15:23,960 --> 00:15:27,110
The woman on the telephone,
the telephone exchange

320

00:15:27,110 --> 00:15:31,210
just said England is cut
off, or something like that.

321

00:15:31,210 --> 00:15:33,240
England doesn't answer anymore.

322

00:15:33,240 --> 00:15:36,350
So this was the
absolute physical proof

323

00:15:36,350 --> 00:15:40,100
that we were cut off
from the entire world.

324

00:15:40,100 --> 00:15:42,510
Of course, no letters
arrived anymore.

325

00:15:42,510 --> 00:15:45,590
We had-- we had
opportunities to send letters

326
00:15:45,590 --> 00:15:48,930
to my father via Shanghai
or something like that.

327
00:15:48,930 --> 00:15:52,670
And in the beginning, also
via America, but it took ages.

328
00:15:52,670 --> 00:15:55,920
I didn't know how many months
until there was a reply or--

329
00:15:55,920 --> 00:15:58,230
we had this Red Cross letter.

330
00:15:58,230 --> 00:16:01,490
There was 25 words
where we tried

331
00:16:01,490 --> 00:16:04,535
to get to choose
every word with care

332
00:16:04,535 --> 00:16:08,150
and to make him understand
in what plight we were.

333
00:16:08,150 --> 00:16:11,600
You see, as I said
before, we had no idea.

334
00:16:11,600 --> 00:16:15,750
We had the feeling,
the clear feeling

335
00:16:15,750 --> 00:16:19,320
that now Hitler
and the Nazis can

336

00:16:19,320 --> 00:16:21,600
do with us whatever they like.

337
00:16:21,600 --> 00:16:23,350
There's just no holding them--

338
00:16:23,350 --> 00:16:26,550
You had no idea at the time
that you would stay in Berlin

339
00:16:26,550 --> 00:16:27,720
during the whole war?

340
00:16:27,720 --> 00:16:28,680
Well, of course not.

341
00:16:28,680 --> 00:16:30,300
How could I know?

342
00:16:30,300 --> 00:16:36,090
We really were in a situation
of absolute helplessness.

343
00:16:36,090 --> 00:16:40,410
And whenever we met, I think
most of the people cried.

344
00:16:40,410 --> 00:16:46,610
There was always this,
what shall we do?

345
00:16:46,610 --> 00:16:52,490
But there was--

346
00:16:52,490 --> 00:16:54,940
[INAUDIBLE]

347
00:16:54,940 --> 00:16:55,910

348
00:16:55,910 --> 00:16:56,410
Yes.

349
00:16:56,410 --> 00:16:58,380
[INAUDIBLE]

350
00:16:58,380 --> 00:17:00,320
You see, it was a paralyzation.

351
00:17:00,320 --> 00:17:04,079
And then the worst
of course was,

352
00:17:04,079 --> 00:17:09,750
we had hoped that the war would
last perhaps three months, four

353
00:17:09,750 --> 00:17:10,530
months.

354
00:17:10,530 --> 00:17:13,680
We had a strange illusion
that Hitler would

355
00:17:13,680 --> 00:17:16,440
be beaten in a very short time.

356
00:17:16,440 --> 00:17:18,240
And the few contacts--

357
00:17:18,240 --> 00:17:21,000
I mean, our German
friends still existed,

358
00:17:21,000 --> 00:17:24,930
but of course our
worries were so different

359
00:17:24,930 --> 00:17:26,460
from their worries.

360
00:17:26,460 --> 00:17:28,590
And we were so
occupied with ourselves

361
00:17:28,590 --> 00:17:30,750
that we very rarely saw them.

362
00:17:30,750 --> 00:17:33,820
It is very important
with completely--

363
00:17:33,820 --> 00:17:38,160
But you see, a new war is
also physically so exhausting.

364
00:17:38,160 --> 00:17:42,060
We had to work very hard,
everybody in a factory.

365
00:17:42,060 --> 00:17:43,830
You see, Jews were
given only the

366
00:17:43,830 --> 00:17:46,530
jobs which were the
dirtiest, which were

367
00:17:46,530 --> 00:17:52,650
the most difficult, hard work.

368
00:17:52,650 --> 00:17:55,500
And so everybody
was so exhausted,

369
00:17:55,500 --> 00:17:57,780
and we didn't have
much to eat, of course.

370
00:17:57,780 --> 00:18:00,600
You realize, we had much
less to eat than the Germans.

371
00:18:00,600 --> 00:18:03,960
Although we are received
from time to time

372

00:18:03,960 --> 00:18:08,490

some help in this sense, also
some food from the Germans,

373

00:18:08,490 --> 00:18:11,520

but it was certainly not
enough to make us strong

374

00:18:11,520 --> 00:18:13,230

and to do hard work.

375

00:18:13,230 --> 00:18:15,450

I remember I had a
cousin who had to do--

376

00:18:15,450 --> 00:18:21,900

to work in the coal,
to put coal into sacks

377

00:18:21,900 --> 00:18:23,640

and carry them on his back.

378

00:18:23,640 --> 00:18:26,730

That's a very heavy work for
somebody who probably before

379

00:18:26,730 --> 00:18:28,110

had been a clerk, you see.

380

00:18:28,110 --> 00:18:32,580

So anyway, and then what was
of course-- and that of course

381

00:18:32,580 --> 00:18:36,330

caused us, if you like,
rupture in the contact

382

00:18:36,330 --> 00:18:37,980

with our German friends.

383

00:18:37,980 --> 00:18:40,860

But whenever we did

meet them, they all

384
00:18:40,860 --> 00:18:42,930
said, ah, it can't
last long now.

385
00:18:42,930 --> 00:18:44,520
Hitler will be destroyed.

386
00:18:44,520 --> 00:18:47,130
Imagine, all these
people have much more--

387
00:18:47,130 --> 00:18:49,560
many more weapons, and
they're much stronger

388
00:18:49,560 --> 00:18:52,200
than the Hitler Germany.

389
00:18:52,200 --> 00:18:53,990
There were some
Germans who talk--

390
00:18:53,990 --> 00:18:55,150
Of course, yes.

391
00:18:55,150 --> 00:18:57,480
Who were quite hopeful, you see?

392
00:18:57,480 --> 00:19:00,260
And of course, we
sort of sucked this

393
00:19:00,260 --> 00:19:04,320
in like the most
wonderful hope, you see,

394
00:19:04,320 --> 00:19:05,820
that this couldn't last long.

395
00:19:05,820 --> 00:19:07,270

But then--

396
00:19:07,270 --> 00:19:10,980
But how did the majority
of the population,

397
00:19:10,980 --> 00:19:15,310
of the German population
welcomed the victories.

398
00:19:15,310 --> 00:19:17,220
yeah that's what I
just wanted to say.

399
00:19:17,220 --> 00:19:20,620
When the victories started,
it became, of course,

400
00:19:20,620 --> 00:19:24,080
very difficult. You see,
I still to this day,

401
00:19:24,080 --> 00:19:25,955
I hear the fanfares.

402
00:19:25,955 --> 00:19:27,330
There was a certain
fanfare, I've

403
00:19:27,330 --> 00:19:30,990
forgotten from which Beethoven
or something, which always

404
00:19:30,990 --> 00:19:34,260
announced what they
called Sondermeldung,

405
00:19:34,260 --> 00:19:38,020
a special announcement
of a terrific victory.

406
00:19:38,020 --> 00:19:41,420
When I heard this

fanfare, my heart sank.

407

00:19:41,420 --> 00:19:45,300

And so you know, I
don't need to repeat.

408

00:19:45,300 --> 00:19:47,310

France fell, Belgium
fell, Holland.

409

00:19:47,310 --> 00:19:52,020

This was all sort of in a
matter of time, and it made us--

410

00:19:52,020 --> 00:19:53,280

it puzzled us so much.

411

00:19:53,280 --> 00:19:55,590

We just couldn't understand it.

412

00:19:55,590 --> 00:19:58,350

We couldn't understand what
had happened to the world.

413

00:19:58,350 --> 00:20:03,390

And of course, we said, my God,
if he wins the war, what will

414

00:20:03,390 --> 00:20:04,980

he do to us?

415

00:20:04,980 --> 00:20:05,810

You see?

416

00:20:05,810 --> 00:20:07,890

This was the feeling then.

417

00:20:07,890 --> 00:20:11,400

And the Germans, of course,
as I said, as also happened in

418

00:20:11,400 --> 00:20:15,660

the '30s, when he had
all those successes,

419
00:20:15,660 --> 00:20:21,120
you see, many Germans were
very, very enthusiastic,

420
00:20:21,120 --> 00:20:23,440
even people who
had doubts before.

421
00:20:23,440 --> 00:20:23,940
Yes.

422
00:20:23,940 --> 00:20:27,300
And this was exactly the case
also when the war went so well,

423
00:20:27,300 --> 00:20:27,990
you see.

424
00:20:27,990 --> 00:20:29,260
Now, don't misunderstand.

425
00:20:29,260 --> 00:20:31,080
You must also see
that every German

426
00:20:31,080 --> 00:20:35,640
had somebody in the war, some
son, some brother, some father.

427
00:20:35,640 --> 00:20:39,810
It was obvious that he was
interested in victories.

428
00:20:39,810 --> 00:20:43,050
But of course, you know, for
us this was a different thing.

429
00:20:43,050 --> 00:20:46,680
Now, I remember there
were in the beginning--

430
00:20:46,680 --> 00:20:50,460
there were a few bomb attacks
mind you, not the heavy ones.

431
00:20:50,460 --> 00:20:54,610
That was one or two planes
that came to Berlin,

432
00:20:54,610 --> 00:21:00,930
or were flying over Berlin
and were perhaps throwing

433
00:21:00,930 --> 00:21:01,860
a bomb here and there.

434
00:21:01,860 --> 00:21:03,510
It was very harmless
at the time.

435
00:21:03,510 --> 00:21:08,310
But they kept us in the air raid
shelters for hours and hours.

436
00:21:08,310 --> 00:21:13,570
And we had to-- of course, we
Jews had to sit separately.

437
00:21:13,570 --> 00:21:14,230
We had--

438
00:21:14,230 --> 00:21:15,990
In special shelters?

439
00:21:15,990 --> 00:21:19,080
In the shelter, we were
in a separate room.

440
00:21:19,080 --> 00:21:22,050
And we were not allowed--
whilst the German population

441

00:21:22,050 --> 00:21:25,110
was allowed to go upstairs
when they didn't hear anything.

442
00:21:25,110 --> 00:21:28,570
Many people said, ah,
this is not a real attack.

443
00:21:28,570 --> 00:21:32,010
These English-- they used
to say a very funny thing.

444
00:21:32,010 --> 00:21:34,870
They used to say "the
English have a Silberblick."

445
00:21:34,870 --> 00:21:36,780
Meaning-- this is a
very German expression,

446
00:21:36,780 --> 00:21:38,730
meaning somebody has a squint.

447
00:21:38,730 --> 00:21:41,280
And that means he
always misses, you see?

448
00:21:41,280 --> 00:21:45,510
So the bomb always missed
and didn't really do

449
00:21:45,510 --> 00:21:47,130
any harm in the beginning.

450
00:21:47,130 --> 00:21:50,460
So the Germans went upstairs
and said, I don't care.

451
00:21:50,460 --> 00:21:54,420
But we Jews had to sit
from the very minute

452
00:21:54,420 --> 00:21:57,150

the air raid started
until the last minute.

453
00:21:57,150 --> 00:22:04,170
In fact, we were told a Jew has
to sit in the air raid shelter

454
00:22:04,170 --> 00:22:07,485
because otherwise he
might give light signals.

455
00:22:07,485 --> 00:22:10,640

456
00:22:10,640 --> 00:22:12,180
(film slating)

457
00:22:12,180 --> 00:22:13,160

458
00:22:13,160 --> 00:22:15,950
They made us sit until
the end of the air raid

459
00:22:15,950 --> 00:22:18,020
until this what you
call Entwarnung,

460
00:22:18,020 --> 00:22:20,900
the all-clear
signal was sounded.

461
00:22:20,900 --> 00:22:24,080
Because they said the Jew, if
he goes out during an air raid,

462
00:22:24,080 --> 00:22:27,260
he might give signals to
the animal-- to the enemy.

463
00:22:27,260 --> 00:22:29,302
It was not to protect
you that they kept you?

464
00:22:29,302 --> 00:22:30,510
No, it was not to protect us.

465
00:22:30,510 --> 00:22:33,468
It was just this reason,
we could give signals

466
00:22:33,468 --> 00:22:34,010
to the enemy.

467
00:22:34,010 --> 00:22:35,927
I wish that I would have
known how to do this,

468
00:22:35,927 --> 00:22:38,210
but this was the idea of them.

469
00:22:38,210 --> 00:22:40,580
And of course, the
Luftschutzwart,

470
00:22:40,580 --> 00:22:44,270
the man who was in charge
of the area shelter,

471
00:22:44,270 --> 00:22:48,615
kept watch that we really didn't
move 1 minute before this air

472
00:22:48,615 --> 00:22:50,950
raid sound had had sounded.

473
00:22:50,950 --> 00:22:53,900
Air raid warning, or the
all-clear had sounded.

474
00:22:53,900 --> 00:22:58,100
And of course first the
Gentiles, or the Aryans,

475
00:22:58,100 --> 00:22:58,970

were allowed to go.

476

00:22:58,970 --> 00:23:01,220

And we were of
course to go last.

477

00:23:01,220 --> 00:23:04,570

Now, all this meant,
of course, that we had

478

00:23:04,570 --> 00:23:07,440

sometimes very little sleep.

479

00:23:07,440 --> 00:23:11,120

And we had to go to work at
the early hours of the morning.

480

00:23:11,120 --> 00:23:11,620

What was--

481

00:23:11,620 --> 00:23:12,530

Everybody.

482

00:23:12,530 --> 00:23:15,530

What was your work
actually to do?

483

00:23:15,530 --> 00:23:20,390

Well, I, in the beginning,
worked in the IG Farben.

484

00:23:20,390 --> 00:23:21,310

And--

485

00:23:21,310 --> 00:23:22,460

IG Farben?

486

00:23:22,460 --> 00:23:24,530

IG Farben, you call it this way.

487

00:23:24,530 --> 00:23:26,210

It was very heavy work.

488
00:23:26,210 --> 00:23:28,280
Perhaps my mother's
work was even worse.

489
00:23:28,280 --> 00:23:31,790
She worked in a factory where
they made batteries for radio.

490
00:23:31,790 --> 00:23:33,290
And she had night shift.

491
00:23:33,290 --> 00:23:34,850
We were all given--

492
00:23:34,850 --> 00:23:38,060
we were all given the
worst work possible.

493
00:23:38,060 --> 00:23:39,820
You must understand this.

494
00:23:39,820 --> 00:23:42,230
You were obliged to
work in the IG Farben.

495
00:23:42,230 --> 00:23:43,730
You were obliged to work.

496
00:23:43,730 --> 00:23:46,580
We were given--
no Jew was allowed

497
00:23:46,580 --> 00:23:49,640
to find work for himself.

498
00:23:49,640 --> 00:23:52,040
He had to go to this
labor exchange, which

499
00:23:52,040 --> 00:23:54,950
was an awful experience

with that anti-Semite,

500

00:23:54,950 --> 00:23:58,700

with this terrible man

[? Aschhaus ?] as the chief,

501

00:23:58,700 --> 00:24:00,680

who had this grudge

against the Jews,

502

00:24:00,680 --> 00:24:02,510

because apparently

he did not succeed

503

00:24:02,510 --> 00:24:04,663

when he learned

in a Jewish firm,

504

00:24:04,663 --> 00:24:06,080

and who shouted

through the house,

505

00:24:06,080 --> 00:24:08,490

I still remember

this to this day,

506

00:24:08,490 --> 00:24:11,390

"Du Judensau," and "wir

werden dir zeigen."

507

00:24:11,390 --> 00:24:12,360

"We will show you."

508

00:24:12,360 --> 00:24:13,410

And things like this.

509

00:24:13,410 --> 00:24:18,760

He seemed to have a sadistic

satisfaction, perhaps,

510

00:24:18,760 --> 00:24:19,940

when he did all this.

511

00:24:19,940 --> 00:24:23,660

At any rate, so we were not
asked what we wanted to do.

512

00:24:23,660 --> 00:24:25,400

We were told, you
go to IG Farben.

513

00:24:25,400 --> 00:24:26,420

You go to Siemens.

514

00:24:26,420 --> 00:24:27,560

You go to AEG.

515

00:24:27,560 --> 00:24:31,070

You go to the refuge.

516

00:24:31,070 --> 00:24:35,040

Sorry, the refuse
collection of the town,

517

00:24:35,040 --> 00:24:36,620

which is a very dirty work.

518

00:24:36,620 --> 00:24:39,470

All these things were
given to the Jews.

519

00:24:39,470 --> 00:24:44,270

And of course, it was very, very
hard work, 10 hours sometimes.

520

00:24:44,270 --> 00:24:46,440

And we had no
protection whatever.

521

00:24:46,440 --> 00:24:49,350

And this doesn't really
matter very much,

522

00:24:49,350 --> 00:24:51,080

but even our salaries

were cut, were

523

00:24:51,080 --> 00:24:54,920

lower than the normal
workers' salaries.

524

00:24:54,920 --> 00:24:57,620

We had to pay a certain tax.

525

00:24:57,620 --> 00:25:00,230

Gypsies and Jews had
to pay a certain tax.

526

00:25:00,230 --> 00:25:01,843

I don't remember exactly.

527

00:25:01,843 --> 00:25:03,260

Maybe I make a
mistake here, but I

528

00:25:03,260 --> 00:25:06,310

think it was 15% of
these so-called salary

529

00:25:06,310 --> 00:25:08,660

or so-called wages we got.

530

00:25:08,660 --> 00:25:12,170

At any rate, everybody
was so exhausted

531

00:25:12,170 --> 00:25:16,680

from this heavy work, where
also at work, of course,

532

00:25:16,680 --> 00:25:17,780

we were isolated.

533

00:25:17,780 --> 00:25:19,610

We were not allowed
to make contact

534

00:25:19,610 --> 00:25:22,850
with the non-Jewish workers.

535
00:25:22,850 --> 00:25:23,540
And--

536
00:25:23,540 --> 00:25:25,040
What do you mean,
you were isolated?

537
00:25:25,040 --> 00:25:26,680
The Jews were working together?

538
00:25:26,680 --> 00:25:28,270
The Jews were working together.

539
00:25:28,270 --> 00:25:30,350
And when we had an
interval, we were

540
00:25:30,350 --> 00:25:34,050
given a certain room where
only Jews were to have

541
00:25:34,050 --> 00:25:37,130
their breakfast or whatever.

542
00:25:37,130 --> 00:25:39,740
And we were not to have--
except for the foreman who

543
00:25:39,740 --> 00:25:42,650
introduced us to the
work, or the forewoman,

544
00:25:42,650 --> 00:25:43,970
we had no contact.

545
00:25:43,970 --> 00:25:46,130
We were not supposed
to have any contact

546

00:25:46,130 --> 00:25:49,220
to the non-Jewish workers.

547
00:25:49,220 --> 00:25:50,000
So--

548
00:25:50,000 --> 00:25:52,680
What was specifically
your work in IG Farben?

549
00:25:52,680 --> 00:25:55,400
I worked in the textile section.

550
00:25:55,400 --> 00:25:57,560
We made silk for parachutes.

551
00:25:57,560 --> 00:25:58,550
For parachutes.

552
00:25:58,550 --> 00:26:02,120
And we had to look after the--
you call them "spindles,"

553
00:26:02,120 --> 00:26:02,690
I think.

554
00:26:02,690 --> 00:26:07,220
10 hours I had to stand
up on that machine,

555
00:26:07,220 --> 00:26:13,860
watch the machine, and
put new spindles on.

556
00:26:13,860 --> 00:26:15,400
Or you call them bobbins.

557
00:26:15,400 --> 00:26:18,100
I'm not sure what the
English word for it is.

558
00:26:18,100 --> 00:26:20,760

And you had to--

559

00:26:20,760 --> 00:26:25,080

when the yarn was empty,
when this bobbin was empty,

560

00:26:25,080 --> 00:26:27,570

you had to put new yarn on it.

561

00:26:27,570 --> 00:26:29,730

Or else you would take
down the full one.

562

00:26:29,730 --> 00:26:35,370

At any rate, it was 10 hours
running after these bobbins.

563

00:26:35,370 --> 00:26:39,815

And if you missed one,
of course it ran amok.

564

00:26:39,815 --> 00:26:42,070

And there was a lot of--

565

00:26:42,070 --> 00:26:43,130

it went wrong.

566

00:26:43,130 --> 00:26:46,610

And you were shouted at by the--

567

00:26:46,610 --> 00:26:51,550

You had no relationship at all
with the other German workers?

568

00:26:51,550 --> 00:26:52,730

No, no.

569

00:26:52,730 --> 00:26:59,780

When they met you,
did they talk to you?

570

00:26:59,780 --> 00:27:02,650

No, forewoman, I
should call her,

571
00:27:02,650 --> 00:27:05,470
I remember her still,
with a very big bosom.

572
00:27:05,470 --> 00:27:06,670
A very big woman.

573
00:27:06,670 --> 00:27:10,810
Just said to me, you do this,
this, this, and no more.

574
00:27:10,810 --> 00:27:15,220
And you see, we all
worked very well.

575
00:27:15,220 --> 00:27:18,760
We all worked with great zeal.

576
00:27:18,760 --> 00:27:24,210
Because we were afraid that if
we might not do our work well,

577
00:27:24,210 --> 00:27:27,510
we would give them a
pretext to arrest us

578
00:27:27,510 --> 00:27:30,960
or to say we do sabotage
or things like this.

579
00:27:30,960 --> 00:27:32,710
The Jewish workers
were excellent.

580
00:27:32,710 --> 00:27:34,390
But how did you go to work?

581
00:27:34,390 --> 00:27:39,695
You like in the East,
in the Eastern ghettos,

582
00:27:39,695 --> 00:27:41,070
in Judenkolonnen,
Jewish columns?

583
00:27:41,070 --> 00:27:43,880
No, no, no, no.

584
00:27:43,880 --> 00:27:46,410
I went to work in the tram.

585
00:27:46,410 --> 00:27:50,380
But of course, as I said, we
were not allowed to sit down.

586
00:27:50,380 --> 00:27:53,880
And it took me from
the place where

587
00:27:53,880 --> 00:27:56,340
I lived, in Bayerischer
Platz, to Lichtenberg,

588
00:27:56,340 --> 00:28:00,240
where the factory
was, 1 and 1/2 hours.

589
00:28:00,240 --> 00:28:05,280
And this meant standing
up 3 hours in addition

590
00:28:05,280 --> 00:28:08,430
to the 10 hours I had to
stand up in the factory.

591
00:28:08,430 --> 00:28:11,760
Now, mind you, in the IG
Farben, at least as long

592
00:28:11,760 --> 00:28:16,740
as I was in that factory, the
room in which we were told--

593

00:28:16,740 --> 00:28:22,100
which we were given to have
our breakfast or our lunch,

594

00:28:22,100 --> 00:28:23,550
there was not--

595

00:28:23,550 --> 00:28:28,500
there were no facilities to sit
down and to have really a rest,

596

00:28:28,500 --> 00:28:29,430
you see.

597

00:28:29,430 --> 00:28:32,550
I mean, we were just-- we
were treated like animals.

598

00:28:32,550 --> 00:28:35,310
You know, we were shoved
in there, and that was it,

599

00:28:35,310 --> 00:28:36,060
you see.

600

00:28:36,060 --> 00:28:38,490
We were not allowed to
move about in the factory,

601

00:28:38,490 --> 00:28:40,200
of course.

602

00:28:40,200 --> 00:28:43,170
And we were all very scared.

603

00:28:43,170 --> 00:28:45,383
Were you marked?

604

00:28:45,383 --> 00:28:46,050
Did you have a--

605

00:28:46,050 --> 00:28:48,000

This is a very
interesting thing.

606

00:28:48,000 --> 00:28:52,210

IG Farben was the first
factory in Germany

607

00:28:52,210 --> 00:28:57,540

which introduced already
when I was there, in 1940

608

00:28:57,540 --> 00:29:00,250

I believe, or was it '41?

609

00:29:00,250 --> 00:29:06,210

'41, I think it was, introduced
before a law to this effect

610

00:29:06,210 --> 00:29:09,870

was passed, they
introduced the Jewish star.

611

00:29:09,870 --> 00:29:13,020

Meaning when I came to
this factory, IG Farben,

612

00:29:13,020 --> 00:29:18,300

I was given this, a Jewish star
to wear on my working clothes.

613

00:29:18,300 --> 00:29:20,100

Of course, I took it
off when I went home.

614

00:29:20,100 --> 00:29:24,640

Because as I said, there was
no law yet to this effect.

615

00:29:24,640 --> 00:29:27,520

But in the factory we
were already marked.

616

00:29:27,520 --> 00:29:30,210

Now, I didn't think
that this was the case

617

00:29:30,210 --> 00:29:31,910

in other factories in Berlin.

618

00:29:31,910 --> 00:29:35,520

IG Farben had a very bad
name all those years as one

619

00:29:35,520 --> 00:29:41,010

of the worst and most unkind
and inhuman factories of all.

620

00:29:41,010 --> 00:29:44,280

So this corresponded
to it, to give us--

621

00:29:44,280 --> 00:29:46,210

And this was the decision of--

622

00:29:46,210 --> 00:29:46,980

Yes.

623

00:29:46,980 --> 00:29:48,410

Of IG Farben.

624

00:29:48,410 --> 00:29:49,080

IG Farben.

625

00:29:49,080 --> 00:29:51,365

I mean, for me, there is
a special story to it,

626

00:29:51,365 --> 00:29:53,170

if it interests you at all.

627

00:29:53,170 --> 00:29:56,850

I wanted to get out
of this factory.

628

00:29:56,850 --> 00:29:59,990

I saw that this would be--

629

00:29:59,990 --> 00:30:02,310

this was a horrible experience.

630

00:30:02,310 --> 00:30:07,260

And I didn't know how

I got to this decision.

631

00:30:07,260 --> 00:30:10,680

I went to work one day

with very high heels.

632

00:30:10,680 --> 00:30:15,510

And standing on high heels

for 13 hours, it brought me--

633

00:30:15,510 --> 00:30:18,900

one evening, something

moved in my knee,

634

00:30:18,900 --> 00:30:21,270

and I couldn't move

my knee anymore.

635

00:30:21,270 --> 00:30:28,180

And IG Farben had a health

insurance of their own.

636

00:30:28,180 --> 00:30:30,510

So they sent me to

their-- what's it called?

637

00:30:30,510 --> 00:30:34,440

Betriebsarzt, meaning

the works doctor.

638

00:30:34,440 --> 00:30:37,860

He didn't-- he was not

interested in my knee.

639

00:30:37,860 --> 00:30:41,820

He was interested a very
different part of my body,

640
00:30:41,820 --> 00:30:46,020
and inquired whether I had
had sexual intercourse before.

641
00:30:46,020 --> 00:30:50,020
At any rate, he examined me
there and not at my knee.

642
00:30:50,020 --> 00:30:53,580
And I remembered it being
a very painful examination

643
00:30:53,580 --> 00:30:54,670
at the time.

644
00:30:54,670 --> 00:30:59,850
Anyhow, you see, this was
the attitude in this factory,

645
00:30:59,850 --> 00:31:01,080
this Nazi attitude.

646
00:31:01,080 --> 00:31:05,280
We were really in IG Farben
at the time, in Berlin still,

647
00:31:05,280 --> 00:31:11,070
we were already slaves, the
slaves of that type of--

648
00:31:11,070 --> 00:31:12,390
Slave labor.

649
00:31:12,390 --> 00:31:13,530
Yes.

650
00:31:13,530 --> 00:31:18,000
I know that treatment of
Jews differed, of course.

651

00:31:18,000 --> 00:31:21,420

I heard later on that
people in Siemens or AEG

652

00:31:21,420 --> 00:31:22,650

were treated better.

653

00:31:22,650 --> 00:31:25,560

I have myself no
experience of that.

654

00:31:25,560 --> 00:31:31,200

But the worst was that
everybody was so exhausted

655

00:31:31,200 --> 00:31:33,300

coming home that sometimes--

656

00:31:33,300 --> 00:31:35,910

from work, that sometimes
we couldn't even

657

00:31:35,910 --> 00:31:38,970

keep up our contact
to our family.

658

00:31:38,970 --> 00:31:45,570

Remember, my father's sister,
whom I loved very dearly,

659

00:31:45,570 --> 00:31:50,660

lived in Spandau, which was very
far away from where we lived.

660

00:31:50,660 --> 00:31:56,850

And to go to Spandau to meet
them was not only an excursion,

661

00:31:56,850 --> 00:31:58,830

it was also very--

662

00:31:58,830 --> 00:32:02,130

it was so exhausting to go
there and to come back again.

663
00:32:02,130 --> 00:32:06,080
And then of course, one
talked about nothing else

664
00:32:06,080 --> 00:32:09,760
than the hopelessness
we were in.

665
00:32:09,760 --> 00:32:14,310
When did the general
marking of the Jews--

666
00:32:14,310 --> 00:32:19,140
The Jewish star became
law in September.

667
00:32:19,140 --> 00:32:20,255
We were--

668
00:32:20,255 --> 00:32:20,820
1941.

669
00:32:20,820 --> 00:32:22,320
'41, yes.

670
00:32:22,320 --> 00:32:24,690
We were given a
few weeks before.

671
00:32:24,690 --> 00:32:28,260
The Jewish community had
to distribute, I think,

672
00:32:28,260 --> 00:32:29,620
four stars.

673
00:32:29,620 --> 00:32:31,330
It was rationed.

674

00:32:31,330 --> 00:32:33,870

And I believe we had
to pay for it, too.

675

00:32:33,870 --> 00:32:36,030

I don't remember, a nominal sum.

676

00:32:36,030 --> 00:32:39,580

And we were told the
star had to be stitched

677

00:32:39,580 --> 00:32:44,586

on in the heart of the--

678

00:32:44,586 --> 00:32:47,380

on the place where the heart is.

679

00:32:47,380 --> 00:32:51,700

And it had to be
stitched on firmly.

680

00:32:51,700 --> 00:32:56,230

So we were also told this
had to be worn in the flat,

681

00:32:56,230 --> 00:32:59,740

meaning we were not allowed to
open the door without the star

682

00:32:59,740 --> 00:33:00,650

on.

683

00:33:00,650 --> 00:33:01,930

Even in the flat?

684

00:33:01,930 --> 00:33:05,380

Well, I mean, it was meant to
be that if we opened the door so

685

00:33:05,380 --> 00:33:07,750

that everybody-- but of
course, our flats were

686

00:33:07,750 --> 00:33:09,600

marked by the time, too.

687

00:33:09,600 --> 00:33:11,020

You see, on every door--

688

00:33:11,020 --> 00:33:14,860

there was a-- where Jews
lived, there was a Magen David.

689

00:33:14,860 --> 00:33:18,300

And our German friends--

690

00:33:18,300 --> 00:33:35,000