

- 1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,890
[CLAP]
- 2
00:00:01,890 --> 00:00:04,470
I want to ask you this.
- 3
00:00:04,470 --> 00:00:09,840
Did you hear about the
first deportations?
- 4
00:00:09,840 --> 00:00:12,420
Because the first
deportation, as a matter
- 5
00:00:12,420 --> 00:00:16,920
of fact the first one,
took place very early,
- 6
00:00:16,920 --> 00:00:19,740
already in October '39.
- 7
00:00:19,740 --> 00:00:24,925
Deportations of Jews
from the Vien from Prague
- 8
00:00:24,925 --> 00:00:32,340
and from Berlin to
Mieszko in Poland.
- 9
00:00:32,340 --> 00:00:38,005
And afterwards there was in the
spring of 1940, a second wave.
- 10
00:00:38,005 --> 00:00:39,870
Very brutal one.
- 11
00:00:39,870 --> 00:00:45,690
Deportations from Jews from the
[INAUDIBLE] from Schneideim ¼hl
- 12
00:00:45,690 --> 00:00:50,080

to the Lublin area in Poland,
but even the deportations from

13
00:00:50,080 --> 00:00:54,810
Jews of Baden-Baden to the
West through to the south

14
00:00:54,810 --> 00:00:57,910
of the so-called
Baden transport.

15
00:00:57,910 --> 00:00:59,160
Did you hear something about--

16
00:00:59,160 --> 00:01:00,720
We did hear about it.

17
00:01:00,720 --> 00:01:07,578
We did hear but not very
detailed and not very much.

18
00:01:07,578 --> 00:01:09,120
We heard that
something had happened.

19
00:01:09,120 --> 00:01:11,220
You see, there was
no real contact

20
00:01:11,220 --> 00:01:13,620
between the communities either.

21
00:01:13,620 --> 00:01:16,290
And you must always
understand we

22
00:01:16,290 --> 00:01:18,930
had so many worries of our own.

23
00:01:18,930 --> 00:01:20,520
We heard something horrible.

24

00:01:20,520 --> 00:01:22,290

We didn't know
how much was true.

25

00:01:22,290 --> 00:01:23,340

What happened.

26

00:01:23,340 --> 00:01:24,930

It was sort of all fleeting.

27

00:01:24,930 --> 00:01:27,960

And then, of course,
you know it probably

28

00:01:27,960 --> 00:01:30,630

is very human that
everybody thinks

29

00:01:30,630 --> 00:01:32,610

of himself in the first place.

30

00:01:32,610 --> 00:01:34,980

And we thought--

31

00:01:34,980 --> 00:01:38,070

I mean there were many
people who thought maybe

32

00:01:38,070 --> 00:01:39,450

they did something wrong.

33

00:01:39,450 --> 00:01:42,630

This was over the excuse
of the German Jews.

34

00:01:42,630 --> 00:01:44,610

I remember very
well that something

35

00:01:44,610 --> 00:01:46,980

that happened before
the war started

36

00:01:46,980 --> 00:01:48,930

that they suddenly
arrested people

37

00:01:48,930 --> 00:01:54,930

who had some sort of a
punishment years back.

38

00:01:54,930 --> 00:02:00,427

Either they had a car accident,
for which they were punished

39

00:02:00,427 --> 00:02:02,760

or something like this, and
they were arrested suddenly.

40

00:02:02,760 --> 00:02:08,490

They called them asocial
or [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH],,

41

00:02:08,490 --> 00:02:11,860

anti-social elements, which
they arrested at the time.

42

00:02:11,860 --> 00:02:15,690

And I remember that my parents
said, well, perhaps they

43

00:02:15,690 --> 00:02:17,110

did do something wrong.

44

00:02:17,110 --> 00:02:19,800

So you see there
was always this,

45

00:02:19,800 --> 00:02:23,130

perhaps you can call it hope
for your own fate, you see,

46

00:02:23,130 --> 00:02:25,440

that you might not
be affected this way.

47

00:02:25,440 --> 00:02:31,440

Now you see we were
totally absorbed

48

00:02:31,440 --> 00:02:34,140

with our own terrible worries.

49

00:02:34,140 --> 00:02:38,760

And I said before, you see,
you must understand rightly.

50

00:02:38,760 --> 00:02:42,660

We lived in flats that were
marked with a magen David

51

00:02:42,660 --> 00:02:44,880

meaning that this
is a Jewish flat.

52

00:02:44,880 --> 00:02:48,000

But it's-- of course, there
lived also Christian people

53

00:02:48,000 --> 00:02:51,540

or non-Jewish people in
the same house, you see.

54

00:02:51,540 --> 00:02:53,430

After all they could
not, they would not

55

00:02:53,430 --> 00:02:59,670

be thrown out because this
was a Jewish-owned house.

56

00:02:59,670 --> 00:03:02,514

So whenever we had a
visitor, for example--

57

00:03:02,514 --> 00:03:10,390

58

00:03:10,390 --> 00:03:13,540

I would call him one
of our German friends.

59

00:03:13,540 --> 00:03:16,150

I remember we lived once in
a house, and [INAUDIBLE],,

60

00:03:16,150 --> 00:03:19,120

one of our German friends,
those who helped us before,

61

00:03:19,120 --> 00:03:23,830

those with whom the contact
really never ceased.

62

00:03:23,830 --> 00:03:26,650

Maybe it became rarer
because we were best absorbed

63

00:03:26,650 --> 00:03:30,340

in our own troubles, but
they lived off of the dust.

64

00:03:30,340 --> 00:03:33,520

And of course one thing
you should know, too,

65

00:03:33,520 --> 00:03:37,240

many of our things which
we thought were precious--

66

00:03:37,240 --> 00:03:40,720

whether it was our
silver or our fur coats--

67

00:03:40,720 --> 00:03:45,430

we gave to them to keep
for us until one day we

68

00:03:45,430 --> 00:03:47,120

might be able to use it again.

69

00:03:47,120 --> 00:03:49,750

So these people were
our, we called them,

70

00:03:49,750 --> 00:03:53,133

had a very fine word for
them [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]..

71

00:03:53,133 --> 00:03:54,550

You see, from
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

72

00:03:54,550 --> 00:03:57,590

and [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]
means to keep the place up.

73

00:03:57,590 --> 00:04:00,730

At any rate, and so
whenever this man came

74

00:04:00,730 --> 00:04:02,800

to visit, this
friend, he would not

75

00:04:02,800 --> 00:04:06,670

stand in front of our door
marked with a Jewish star.

76

00:04:06,670 --> 00:04:08,410

He just rang the
bell and then stood

77

00:04:08,410 --> 00:04:12,325

at the entrance of some of our
neighbor, who was not Jewish,

78

00:04:12,325 --> 00:04:12,950

you understand?

79

00:04:12,950 --> 00:04:14,980

So and then turned
around the minute

80

00:04:14,980 --> 00:04:17,589

we opened the door
and dash in so

81

00:04:17,589 --> 00:04:21,010

that he was not seen so
much ringing at our door.

82

00:04:21,010 --> 00:04:25,690

At any rate, when
it was suddenly

83

00:04:25,690 --> 00:04:28,380

made law that we had to
wear the Jewish star,

84

00:04:28,380 --> 00:04:31,930

I admit that for the
first time I was scared.

85

00:04:31,930 --> 00:04:35,830

I don't want to appear
here now as a heroine.

86

00:04:35,830 --> 00:04:38,230

All those years I
was very, very young,

87

00:04:38,230 --> 00:04:41,260

and I was told whenever
there was an anti-Jewish law,

88

00:04:41,260 --> 00:04:43,570

I was told that the fighting
spirit came out in me,

89

00:04:43,570 --> 00:04:46,190

and I fought them
however I could.

90

00:04:46,190 --> 00:04:49,870

But in this case
with the Jewish star,

91

00:04:49,870 --> 00:04:53,900

I knew that now I was
a target for anything.

92

00:04:53,900 --> 00:04:57,850

And I remember that
the day on which we

93

00:04:57,850 --> 00:05:00,160

had to wear the star
for the first time I

94

00:05:00,160 --> 00:05:03,610

asked a friend of mine
to go with me to work.

95

00:05:03,610 --> 00:05:05,530

I didn't want to go alone.

96

00:05:05,530 --> 00:05:08,780

We didn't know what the reaction
of the German people would be.

97

00:05:08,780 --> 00:05:10,540

How was the reaction?

98

00:05:10,540 --> 00:05:14,410

Well, the reaction was
extremely interesting.

99

00:05:14,410 --> 00:05:21,700

That first day I remember
I had a young man with whom

100

00:05:21,700 --> 00:05:26,620

I used to flirt in the train,
you know, going to work,

101

00:05:26,620 --> 00:05:31,180

and I was very worried
how he would react.

102

00:05:31,180 --> 00:05:34,070
We had never spoken to
each other, of course.

103
00:05:34,070 --> 00:05:37,420
So when I came into
the train there he was.

104
00:05:37,420 --> 00:05:40,250
And he looked at me,
perhaps a bit puzzled,

105
00:05:40,250 --> 00:05:45,040
but he looked at me
with sympathetic eyes.

106
00:05:45,040 --> 00:05:48,310
But maybe this is very
typical for everything else

107
00:05:48,310 --> 00:05:50,470
and symbolic for everything
else that happened.

108
00:05:50,470 --> 00:05:52,370
All the reaction of
the German people.

109
00:05:52,370 --> 00:05:55,870
I never, never saw him
on that train again.

110
00:05:55,870 --> 00:05:58,750
You see, we always went on
the same train, obviously.

111
00:05:58,750 --> 00:06:01,450
But I never saw him
again on this train.

112
00:06:01,450 --> 00:06:05,080
Perhaps he was not brave
enough to face me every morning

113

00:06:05,080 --> 00:06:06,790
with this Jewish star.

114

00:06:06,790 --> 00:06:10,540
Now, then, it happened on
that very first morning.

115

00:06:10,540 --> 00:06:12,470
I was standing up
in the underground.

116

00:06:12,470 --> 00:06:18,130
It was very crowded, and
suddenly a man arose and said,

117

00:06:18,130 --> 00:06:20,050
please sit down.

118

00:06:20,050 --> 00:06:22,040
So I said to him,
Thank you very much.

119

00:06:22,040 --> 00:06:23,680
I don't want to sit down.

120

00:06:23,680 --> 00:06:24,800
You sit down.

121

00:06:24,800 --> 00:06:27,280
It was an obvious demonstration.

122

00:06:27,280 --> 00:06:31,360
So I had to make it clear to
him that if I were to sit down

123

00:06:31,360 --> 00:06:33,190
I would be punished, not him.

124

00:06:33,190 --> 00:06:34,870
And then he gave in.

125

00:06:34,870 --> 00:06:36,550

So this was the
first morning, and we

126

00:06:36,550 --> 00:06:39,550

had the feeling, at least I had
the feeling, that there would

127

00:06:39,550 --> 00:06:45,610

not be what could have been
the spontaneous outrage

128

00:06:45,610 --> 00:06:47,410

against the Jewish people.

129

00:06:47,410 --> 00:06:49,990

Something which maybe
people like Goebbels

130

00:06:49,990 --> 00:06:55,900

or those who had favored this
law for Jews being mugged

131

00:06:55,900 --> 00:06:57,820

had expected from
the German people.

132

00:06:57,820 --> 00:07:00,910

But this did not happen,
at least not certainly

133

00:07:00,910 --> 00:07:03,970

not in my experience
on that first day.

134

00:07:03,970 --> 00:07:12,500

I admit that later on it was
not easy to wear the star.

135

00:07:12,500 --> 00:07:15,550

You have a bad
experience with this?

136

00:07:15,550 --> 00:07:19,750

I never had a really
bad experience.

137

00:07:19,750 --> 00:07:24,280

I tell you it was very difficult
to wear something like that.

138

00:07:24,280 --> 00:07:27,220

First of all, people
certainly look at you.

139

00:07:27,220 --> 00:07:31,330

Maybe one looks at
you in astonishment

140

00:07:31,330 --> 00:07:34,300

that such a woman is Jewish.

141

00:07:34,300 --> 00:07:39,040

Maybe somebody looked at
me with sympathetic eyes.

142

00:07:39,040 --> 00:07:41,260

Maybe somebody looked
at me and that also

143

00:07:41,260 --> 00:07:44,350

happened with a sort
of sneer on his face.

144

00:07:44,350 --> 00:07:47,800

So I mean all the time that I
had to wear this Jewish star,

145

00:07:47,800 --> 00:07:50,870

I had the feeling I
was wearing a mask.

146

00:07:50,870 --> 00:07:52,600

And that is very difficult.

147

00:07:52,600 --> 00:07:57,790

I remember also that on a
certain underground station

148
00:07:57,790 --> 00:08:00,550
that a woman was staring
at me, staring at me.

149
00:08:00,550 --> 00:08:02,170
It was unbearable.

150
00:08:02,170 --> 00:08:06,490
So I went up her, to
the disgust of my mother

151
00:08:06,490 --> 00:08:08,620
who worried very much, I
went up to her and said,

152
00:08:08,620 --> 00:08:11,060
look, you have seen a Jewess.

153
00:08:11,060 --> 00:08:13,590
Do look at me fully.

154
00:08:13,590 --> 00:08:18,020
So she got a very red face
and disappeared, of course.

155
00:08:18,020 --> 00:08:21,860
But, of course, other
people had bad experiences.

156
00:08:21,860 --> 00:08:22,580
I know that.

157
00:08:22,580 --> 00:08:26,630
And I know also
that when you could,

158
00:08:26,630 --> 00:08:29,150
for example, in the street
and call the Gestapo men

159

00:08:29,150 --> 00:08:31,670

who would find out
whether that star was

160

00:08:31,670 --> 00:08:33,980

stitched on firm enough.

161

00:08:33,980 --> 00:08:37,730

So he tried to do this
by putting his pencil

162

00:08:37,730 --> 00:08:39,650

in between the stitches.

163

00:08:39,650 --> 00:08:41,510

And if he thought he
wasn't good enough,

164

00:08:41,510 --> 00:08:44,270

he would arrest the
people on the street.

165

00:08:44,270 --> 00:08:49,220

Now I have also sometimes
taken off the star.

166

00:08:49,220 --> 00:08:51,950

I admit this, because
otherwise I would not

167

00:08:51,950 --> 00:08:56,390

have been able to go to our
friends and, for example,

168

00:08:56,390 --> 00:09:00,050

collect a bit of food
which we needed badly.

169

00:09:00,050 --> 00:09:05,690

They could not risk us in their
shops and with the Jewish star.

170

00:09:05,690 --> 00:09:08,330

So that's why I took
off the star sometimes,

171

00:09:08,330 --> 00:09:10,670

which was a very
risky business to do.

172

00:09:10,670 --> 00:09:14,750

But everything was
risky at that time.

173

00:09:14,750 --> 00:09:23,290

And then they made the law
that Jews had to do shopping--

174

00:09:23,290 --> 00:09:25,373

(film slating)

175

00:09:25,373 --> 00:09:26,700

[CLAP]

176

00:09:26,700 --> 00:09:30,180

It must have been sometime
at the end of September.

177

00:09:30,180 --> 00:09:32,390

So I can't remember exactly.

178

00:09:32,390 --> 00:09:37,550

One of the women who lived in
the same apartment as we did,

179

00:09:37,550 --> 00:09:41,210

a woman of 65 years
old, rather elderly

180

00:09:41,210 --> 00:09:45,170

and also in her ways of
life, received a letter

181

00:09:45,170 --> 00:09:52,700

from the Jewish community, and

she was told to fill in lists.

182

00:09:52,700 --> 00:09:56,180

Lists which contained questions.

183

00:09:56,180 --> 00:09:57,260

How many sheets?

184

00:09:57,260 --> 00:10:01,040

How many-- whatever she
possessed to be put on

185

00:10:01,040 --> 00:10:04,550

or to be put into this list.

186

00:10:04,550 --> 00:10:08,390

And she told us about it and
said, did you also get this?

187

00:10:08,390 --> 00:10:11,390

We said, no, but we didn't
really take much notice of it.

188

00:10:11,390 --> 00:10:15,060

And said, probably get the
same thing a little later.

189

00:10:15,060 --> 00:10:18,470

So we forgot about
that entirely.

190

00:10:18,470 --> 00:10:29,740

Now one day, and this was on
this 16th of October, 1941.

191

00:10:29,740 --> 00:10:34,870

In the morning I was sitting in
the workshop for blind people

192

00:10:34,870 --> 00:10:39,070

where I worked at the time,
where the internet was

193

00:10:39,070 --> 00:10:41,090

anti-Nazi and had
very good contacts

194

00:10:41,090 --> 00:10:44,110

to the Jewish
community, that one

195

00:10:44,110 --> 00:10:47,470

of the employees of the Jewish
community suddenly appeared.

196

00:10:47,470 --> 00:10:50,440

And I saw from his face
that something terrible

197

00:10:50,440 --> 00:10:52,720

had happened or was to happen.

198

00:10:52,720 --> 00:10:55,940

And he asked to speak to
this German owner very,

199

00:10:55,940 --> 00:11:00,640

very quickly and
very hysterically.

200

00:11:00,640 --> 00:11:07,630

And he went in, and suddenly
my boss came out again,

201

00:11:07,630 --> 00:11:13,410

out of his office, and he
called for his secretary, who

202

00:11:13,410 --> 00:11:14,770

was also Jewish.

203

00:11:14,770 --> 00:11:20,350

And then they both came out, and
this Jewish secretary, Elisa,

204

00:11:20,350 --> 00:11:22,570
her face was absolutely white.

205
00:11:22,570 --> 00:11:25,570
I said, what has happened?

206
00:11:25,570 --> 00:11:30,040
And then it came out that
this man had brought the news

207
00:11:30,040 --> 00:11:34,990
that on the same evening
I think 1,000 people who

208
00:11:34,990 --> 00:11:38,680
had received those
lists would be collected

209
00:11:38,680 --> 00:11:41,590
and deported to the East.

210
00:11:41,590 --> 00:11:43,900
Now when I heard this I
said, this can't be true.

211
00:11:43,900 --> 00:11:45,110
What does that mean?

212
00:11:45,110 --> 00:11:48,010
This is one of those rumors
that people are telling.

213
00:11:48,010 --> 00:11:49,420
They should stop this rumor.

214
00:11:49,420 --> 00:11:52,180
This was my reaction
at the first moment.

215
00:11:52,180 --> 00:11:54,250
But then this man from
the Jewish community

216

00:11:54,250 --> 00:11:56,260

said, no, no, this
is not a rumor.

217

00:11:56,260 --> 00:12:01,010

We ourselves had to
prepare the transport,

218

00:12:01,010 --> 00:12:02,515

meaning that we
had to single out

219

00:12:02,515 --> 00:12:05,380

or to select the people
who were to be shipped off

220

00:12:05,380 --> 00:12:06,790

in this first deportation.

221

00:12:06,790 --> 00:12:09,880

So I asked, and who is this--

222

00:12:09,880 --> 00:12:11,830

what category of people is this?

223

00:12:11,830 --> 00:12:16,390

Is that all the people who
are over 65, I believe?

224

00:12:16,390 --> 00:12:20,020

So suddenly it dawned on me
that this woman in our flat

225

00:12:20,020 --> 00:12:22,240

had been sent this list.

226

00:12:22,240 --> 00:12:24,970

Is this, does it mean that
this woman who had been given

227

00:12:24,970 --> 00:12:27,370

this list, who had been

sent this list to fill in,

228

00:12:27,370 --> 00:12:28,990
would she be deported tonight?

229

00:12:28,990 --> 00:12:29,860
He said, exactly.

230

00:12:29,860 --> 00:12:30,490
This is it.

231

00:12:30,490 --> 00:12:33,790
We had to write for the
Gestapo on the orders

232

00:12:33,790 --> 00:12:35,890
of the Gestapo, this list.

233

00:12:35,890 --> 00:12:39,110
We had to choose the people.

234

00:12:39,110 --> 00:12:39,610
So--

235

00:12:39,610 --> 00:12:44,470
This means that the selection
was made by the people of the--

236

00:12:44,470 --> 00:12:45,260
Jewish community--

237

00:12:45,260 --> 00:12:46,093
--Jewish community--

238

00:12:46,093 --> 00:12:49,990
On the instructions, on the
instructions of the Gestapo.

239

00:12:49,990 --> 00:12:53,080
The Gestapo laid down
the number of people

240

00:12:53,080 --> 00:12:55,520
and the category of people.

241

00:12:55,520 --> 00:12:58,600
So this time in the beginning
this was the first transport

242

00:12:58,600 --> 00:13:02,950
they chose those 65-year-old
ones who were not working,

243

00:13:02,950 --> 00:13:04,060
of course.

244

00:13:04,060 --> 00:13:07,000
So I was still--

245

00:13:07,000 --> 00:13:08,090
I couldn't believe it.

246

00:13:08,090 --> 00:13:09,750
It sounded so mad to us.

247

00:13:09,750 --> 00:13:12,160
What are they going to
do with them in the East?

248

00:13:12,160 --> 00:13:14,500
They can't send people
over 65 to work.

249

00:13:14,500 --> 00:13:15,640
What is this?

250

00:13:15,640 --> 00:13:18,670
So everybody shrugged their
shoulders and didn't know.

251

00:13:18,670 --> 00:13:21,170
You see it would have made sense
if it had been young people

252

00:13:21,170 --> 00:13:22,990
to send them to work camps.

253

00:13:22,990 --> 00:13:25,870
I mean after all
Germany was already,

254

00:13:25,870 --> 00:13:28,720
had already occupied Poland and,
I don't know, half of Russia.

255

00:13:28,720 --> 00:13:31,450
So it was possible to send
people to work in camps there.

256

00:13:31,450 --> 00:13:32,770
But a woman of 65.

257

00:13:32,770 --> 00:13:34,180
How could that be?

258

00:13:34,180 --> 00:13:36,940
So I was full of
questions, which

259

00:13:36,940 --> 00:13:38,780
nobody could answer to me.

260

00:13:38,780 --> 00:13:42,580
And I remember I went home to my
mother, and we talked about it.

261

00:13:42,580 --> 00:13:45,910
And my mother also said
this sounds so incredible.

262

00:13:45,910 --> 00:13:47,560
What will they do
with the in the east?

263

00:13:47,560 --> 00:13:49,390
What's the point?

264
00:13:49,390 --> 00:13:53,930
So we I remember we
had a big discussion.

265
00:13:53,930 --> 00:13:58,120
And to this day, I
think this harasses me,

266
00:13:58,120 --> 00:14:02,200
we had a big discussion whether
to tell the woman of this, what

267
00:14:02,200 --> 00:14:06,250
was then really a rumor, so
that she could prepare herself

268
00:14:06,250 --> 00:14:07,690
or not to.

269
00:14:07,690 --> 00:14:10,330
And since we were so
terribly uncertain

270
00:14:10,330 --> 00:14:15,070
and didn't really
believe in this story

271
00:14:15,070 --> 00:14:17,410
that we did not prepare her.

272
00:14:17,410 --> 00:14:18,140
But then at --

273
00:14:18,140 --> 00:14:20,350
Yeah, but she had
to prepare herself.

274
00:14:20,350 --> 00:14:21,460
No!

275
00:14:21,460 --> 00:14:24,040

She was totally unprepared.

276

00:14:24,040 --> 00:14:28,000

She did not get any
warning of this at all.

277

00:14:28,000 --> 00:14:30,040

This first transport,
I believe, I

278

00:14:30,040 --> 00:14:32,290

don't know whether this
is my interpretation,

279

00:14:32,290 --> 00:14:35,800

perhaps the Gestapo wanted to
test in this first deportation

280

00:14:35,800 --> 00:14:37,780

how it would all
work out, you see.

281

00:14:37,780 --> 00:14:39,850

Whether it would
go quietly or what.

282

00:14:39,850 --> 00:14:43,520

At any rate, she was
totally unprepared.

283

00:14:43,520 --> 00:14:47,013

And I remember, I see
her still to this day,

284

00:14:47,013 --> 00:14:48,430

how she walked
through the kitchen

285

00:14:48,430 --> 00:14:49,930

and made her her supper.

286

00:14:49,930 --> 00:14:50,830

Prepared her supper.

287
00:14:50,830 --> 00:14:51,970
Went back into her room.

288
00:14:51,970 --> 00:14:54,490
I said, good morning, good evening, Mrs. Hohenstein.

289
00:14:54,490 --> 00:14:56,020
This was her name.

290
00:14:56,020 --> 00:15:00,700
And then at 8 o'clock.

291
00:15:00,700 --> 00:15:04,240
oh after 8 o'clock,
the bell rang.

292
00:15:04,240 --> 00:15:08,230
And I remember the terror
of fright, because I mean,

293
00:15:08,230 --> 00:15:11,020
it was, to me it was obvious
it couldn't be anybody else.

294
00:15:11,020 --> 00:15:13,120
A Jew could not go
out after 8 o'clock.

295
00:15:13,120 --> 00:15:16,150
Our German friends would
hardly come after 8:00.

296
00:15:16,150 --> 00:15:16,910
So it was clear--

297
00:15:16,910 --> 00:15:18,580
8 o'clock at night.

298
00:15:18,580 --> 00:15:21,070
8 o'clock at night,

of course, yes.

299

00:15:21,070 --> 00:15:23,910

So I put on my coat
with the Jewish star,

300

00:15:23,910 --> 00:15:27,370

which I sometimes forgot to do,
but that evening I put it on.

301

00:15:27,370 --> 00:15:28,810

And I opened the door.

302

00:15:28,810 --> 00:15:33,340

And there in front of me
there stood two Gestapo men.

303

00:15:33,340 --> 00:15:38,740

Also sharing their pasts.

304

00:15:38,740 --> 00:15:44,170

And they asked for Frau
Clara Zara Hohenstein.

305

00:15:44,170 --> 00:15:47,140

So I showed them the room.

306

00:15:47,140 --> 00:15:49,060

They went in.

307

00:15:49,060 --> 00:15:51,730

And I went very
hurriedly to my mother

308

00:15:51,730 --> 00:15:55,900

and told her that, indeed,
these people had come.

309

00:15:55,900 --> 00:15:57,530

And we were horrified.

310

00:15:57,530 --> 00:16:01,420

We were sitting in the dark and
listening to every little noise

311
00:16:01,420 --> 00:16:03,040
that we could hear
from that room.

312
00:16:03,040 --> 00:16:06,310
Of course, we didn't hear
much except a few steps.

313
00:16:06,310 --> 00:16:09,280
And after a while this old
woman came out of her room

314
00:16:09,280 --> 00:16:16,990
and called for my aunt, the
owner of the flat, and said,

315
00:16:16,990 --> 00:16:19,210
I'm being taken away.

316
00:16:19,210 --> 00:16:21,620
And then the Gestapo,
to cut her short,

317
00:16:21,620 --> 00:16:24,460
said immediately, we shall
immediately lock the door.

318
00:16:24,460 --> 00:16:25,660
We shall seal it.

319
00:16:25,660 --> 00:16:27,970
And I warn you, don't open it.

320
00:16:27,970 --> 00:16:30,040
Don't touch it.

321
00:16:30,040 --> 00:16:32,110
You have no right to touch it.

322

00:16:32,110 --> 00:16:35,920
So the whole thing was a matter
of 20 minutes, I believe.

323
00:16:35,920 --> 00:16:39,980
Maybe in my memory, in my
remembering it, I cut it short.

324
00:16:39,980 --> 00:16:43,660
But to me it seemed like 20
minutes, something like this.

325
00:16:43,660 --> 00:16:47,890
The woman was carrying a little
suitcase with her things.

326
00:16:47,890 --> 00:16:53,740
She was standing in the midst
of those two large big men.

327
00:16:53,740 --> 00:16:56,260
And they locked
the door they took

328
00:16:56,260 --> 00:17:00,530
the key they put a seal on, and
they walked out of the door.

329
00:17:00,530 --> 00:17:03,490
And she said goodbye, and
they walked down the stairs.

330
00:17:03,490 --> 00:17:09,130
And I to this day hear
the steps of their boots

331
00:17:09,130 --> 00:17:11,589
and her little shoes.

332
00:17:11,589 --> 00:17:12,859
And that was it.

333
00:17:12,859 --> 00:17:15,319

That was the first thing.

334

00:17:15,319 --> 00:17:15,819

Now--

335

00:17:15,819 --> 00:17:18,040

She was caught
completely [INAUDIBLE]??

336

00:17:18,040 --> 00:17:23,109

She was caught
completely unprepared.

337

00:17:23,109 --> 00:17:26,950

Now in the morning,
I mean that night, we

338

00:17:26,950 --> 00:17:29,380

couldn't speak to
anybody else because we

339

00:17:29,380 --> 00:17:31,670

had no contact to
anybody else, you see.

340

00:17:31,670 --> 00:17:34,600

And after 8 o'clock,
what could one do.

341

00:17:34,600 --> 00:17:36,940

So in the morning we
heard a little more.

342

00:17:36,940 --> 00:17:38,950

We heard that they
had all been taken

343

00:17:38,950 --> 00:17:42,520

to the synagogue in the
[Place name] strasse

344

00:17:42,520 --> 00:17:45,160

in the Tiergarten

[Place name]. and they

345

00:17:45,160 --> 00:17:50,950
were there collected and
waiting for their deportation.

346

00:17:50,950 --> 00:17:52,970
Now the first
reaction, of course,

347

00:17:52,970 --> 00:17:55,480
was to bring them something,
to bring them something to eat,

348

00:17:55,480 --> 00:17:57,640
to do something for them.

349

00:17:57,640 --> 00:18:00,680
But I remember that
people who went

350

00:18:00,680 --> 00:18:03,460
there to hand in some
warm clothes or something

351

00:18:03,460 --> 00:18:08,490
like this were turned away by
Jewish community officials who

352

00:18:08,490 --> 00:18:10,780
were saying, don't worry.

353

00:18:10,780 --> 00:18:12,370
They are looked after.

354

00:18:12,370 --> 00:18:15,430
We do the best we can
for them and don't worry.

355

00:18:15,430 --> 00:18:19,240
And whenever we asked
questions, what is this for?

356

00:18:19,240 --> 00:18:21,010

Where are they going?

357

00:18:21,010 --> 00:18:24,130

The Jewish officials

also shrug the shoulders

358

00:18:24,130 --> 00:18:25,750

and said they didn't know.

359

00:18:25,750 --> 00:18:28,150

Now I can't speak

for them whether they

360

00:18:28,150 --> 00:18:30,430

knew I didn't know,

but at any rate

361

00:18:30,430 --> 00:18:33,340

it was clear it was

going to the east.

362

00:18:33,340 --> 00:18:37,840

And a day later I

believe they were

363

00:18:37,840 --> 00:18:39,730

taken to the railway station.

364

00:18:39,730 --> 00:18:42,994

At the time, I was told

it was Lehrter s --

365

00:18:42,994 --> 00:18:45,940

Lehrter bahnhof .

366

00:18:45,940 --> 00:18:49,070

And then they were off.

367

00:18:49,070 --> 00:18:51,370

And that was it.

368

00:18:51,370 --> 00:18:52,330

And one day--

369

00:18:52,330 --> 00:18:52,900

[INAUDIBLE]

370

00:18:52,900 --> 00:18:55,690

And one day the Gestapo
came and took off the seal.

371

00:18:55,690 --> 00:19:00,360

And they took out the clothes
and all that belonged to her

372

00:19:00,360 --> 00:19:01,240

and that was it.

373

00:19:01,240 --> 00:19:02,985

(film slating)

374

00:19:02,985 --> 00:19:04,350

[CLAP]

375

00:19:04,350 --> 00:19:09,360

Well, from now on, of course,
the lists had their meaning.

376

00:19:09,360 --> 00:19:13,420

There was no longer any
secret connected with it.

377

00:19:13,420 --> 00:19:18,060

And this meant not only that
the people who got the lists

378

00:19:18,060 --> 00:19:20,430

and later on other
people got the list,

379

00:19:20,430 --> 00:19:23,175

knew that they were
due for deportation.

380
00:19:23,175 --> 00:19:26,550
And this was in
principle, no one Jew

381
00:19:26,550 --> 00:19:28,680
should have remained in Berlin.

382
00:19:28,680 --> 00:19:30,960
This was their aim.

383
00:19:30,960 --> 00:19:33,780
This may have been the aim,
but it wasn't clear to us

384
00:19:33,780 --> 00:19:37,080
at first because,
you see, this was

385
00:19:37,080 --> 00:19:41,430
done after a certain
scheme, But I

386
00:19:41,430 --> 00:19:45,000
would like to say that also
the Jewish community from then

387
00:19:45,000 --> 00:19:47,700
on didn't make a secret
out of it anymore.

388
00:19:47,700 --> 00:19:51,360
On the contrary, they
informed the people

389
00:19:51,360 --> 00:19:53,820
who received the
lists at the same time

390
00:19:53,820 --> 00:19:57,420
that they had been singled out
for deportation and would they

391

00:19:57,420 --> 00:20:03,810

please do everything
in their power

392

00:20:03,810 --> 00:20:08,830

to assist the people who
would come to collect them

393

00:20:08,830 --> 00:20:09,970

for deportation.

394

00:20:09,970 --> 00:20:14,320

From then on, and this is
perhaps a tragic thing, too,

395

00:20:14,320 --> 00:20:17,830

the Gestapo no longer
came to collect the people

396

00:20:17,830 --> 00:20:21,040

for deportation as it was
in the first deportation.

397

00:20:21,040 --> 00:20:25,360

Jewish, what do you
call them, functionaries

398

00:20:25,360 --> 00:20:26,980

from the Jewish
community or people

399

00:20:26,980 --> 00:20:31,750

who owned the Jewish community
appointed for this task

400

00:20:31,750 --> 00:20:33,460

came to collect the people.

401

00:20:33,460 --> 00:20:35,620

They just came in and
said, Mrs. So-and-so.

402

00:20:35,620 --> 00:20:38,530

You know you have the list.

403

00:20:38,530 --> 00:20:39,940

Please, are you ready?

404

00:20:39,940 --> 00:20:42,190

The date was also
fixed for them.

405

00:20:42,190 --> 00:20:45,610

So they knew when and at what
time they would be collected.

406

00:20:45,610 --> 00:20:49,970

And then the Jewish ordner as
we call them came and said,

407

00:20:49,970 --> 00:20:50,560

are you ready?

408

00:20:50,560 --> 00:20:53,870

And they took them down to
a truck and that was it.

409

00:20:53,870 --> 00:20:56,490

It was done in a
orderly fashion.

410

00:20:56,490 --> 00:21:00,550

It was done in a very
orderly, very German fashion,

411

00:21:00,550 --> 00:21:03,340

where everything works
according to plans.

412

00:21:03,340 --> 00:21:08,050

And, of course, the Gestapo
gave the Jewish community

413

00:21:08,050 --> 00:21:09,880

all the time instructions.

414
00:21:09,880 --> 00:21:14,740
Meaning, for example, that the
first transfer they took people

415
00:21:14,740 --> 00:21:17,230
over 65 or something like that.

416
00:21:17,230 --> 00:21:21,140
Later on, they
selected people who

417
00:21:21,140 --> 00:21:28,690
worked in factories that were
not working for the war effort.

418
00:21:28,690 --> 00:21:31,570
Some little factories, and so.

419
00:21:31,570 --> 00:21:34,750
They just said, this
man, we can spare him.

420
00:21:34,750 --> 00:21:36,980
He is not necessary
for the war effort.

421
00:21:36,980 --> 00:21:38,530
So they can be deported.

422
00:21:38,530 --> 00:21:42,250
Then there came another
category or another transport

423
00:21:42,250 --> 00:21:48,100
was people who were not able to
work, who had-- some invalids

424
00:21:48,100 --> 00:21:49,480
or people like that.

425
00:21:49,480 --> 00:21:53,890

There are people among them
who had injuries from the war,

426
00:21:53,890 --> 00:21:55,300
from the First
World War, and had

427
00:21:55,300 --> 00:21:59,950
been given not very long ago
a citation from the Nazis.

428
00:21:59,950 --> 00:22:02,230
Suddenly, they were
due for deportation

429
00:22:02,230 --> 00:22:04,450
because they were not
good enough for working.

430
00:22:04,450 --> 00:22:09,340
So every transport was going
off or practically every month

431
00:22:09,340 --> 00:22:12,250
and it was going up from
here, not far from here,

432
00:22:12,250 --> 00:22:15,670
on one of the trucks of
the bahnhof Grunewald.

433
00:22:15,670 --> 00:22:19,090
There was this
rumor that they had

434
00:22:19,090 --> 00:22:20,980
shifted this from
the Lehrter bahnhof

435
00:22:20,980 --> 00:22:23,140
where the first
transport was going away

436

00:22:23,140 --> 00:22:26,320
to Grunewald because
German people had seen it

437
00:22:26,320 --> 00:22:31,960
and had uttered their
disgust about it.

438
00:22:31,960 --> 00:22:34,870
Now how much is true of
this, I cannot judge,

439
00:22:34,870 --> 00:22:36,970
because there are
these sort of rumors.

440
00:22:36,970 --> 00:22:38,650
Now, of course, rumors--

441
00:22:38,650 --> 00:22:43,420
I mean, rumors were many
among the Jewish people.

442
00:22:43,420 --> 00:22:44,110
Excuse me.

443
00:22:44,110 --> 00:22:46,840
This means that the Jewish
community, all the Jews,

444
00:22:46,840 --> 00:22:50,110
had to be registered by
the Jewish community.

445
00:22:50,110 --> 00:22:51,920
But they had been
registered ever since--

446
00:22:51,920 --> 00:22:52,420
[INAUDIBLE]

447
00:22:52,420 --> 00:22:52,830
--the end.

448
00:22:52,830 --> 00:22:53,410
Of course.

449
00:22:53,410 --> 00:22:58,630
The Jewish community acted as
a tool, as a matter of fact.

450
00:22:58,630 --> 00:22:59,560
Perfectly.

451
00:22:59,560 --> 00:23:00,690
They were told--

452
00:23:00,690 --> 00:23:04,810
I know that the chiefs
of the Jewish community

453
00:23:04,810 --> 00:23:07,300
were called to the Gestapo.

454
00:23:07,300 --> 00:23:10,330
Were told on the
date so and so, we

455
00:23:10,330 --> 00:23:16,000
want to shift 1,000 or 1,500
or 500 people to the east.

456
00:23:16,000 --> 00:23:19,330
Will you please make the
necessary arrangements?

457
00:23:19,330 --> 00:23:24,790
We want people of the type
of people that are no longer

458
00:23:24,790 --> 00:23:28,180
useful for the war effort, who
are invalids whom we cannot use

459
00:23:28,180 --> 00:23:29,110

anyway.

460

00:23:29,110 --> 00:23:34,360

So according to that,
the Jewish community

461

00:23:34,360 --> 00:23:36,610

looked through their lists
and choose the people.

462

00:23:36,610 --> 00:23:37,510

That was all.

463

00:23:37,510 --> 00:23:39,690

No, but what is
interesting is the ways

464

00:23:39,690 --> 00:23:42,620

they explained to
the people what

465

00:23:42,620 --> 00:23:45,080

they have to do in order
to prepare themselves.

466

00:23:45,080 --> 00:23:46,760

How they would have to act.

467

00:23:46,760 --> 00:23:48,880

How they have to behave.

468

00:23:48,880 --> 00:23:53,680

They sent them a note saying
that you have been selected.

469

00:23:53,680 --> 00:23:57,640

Will you please take
prepare your luggage?

470

00:23:57,640 --> 00:24:00,490

It must be compacted,
must not be too much.

471

00:24:00,490 --> 00:24:03,220

You must be able to
carry it yourself.

472

00:24:03,220 --> 00:24:05,200

It must contain warm things.

473

00:24:05,200 --> 00:24:08,590

Please take something,
some water with you.

474

00:24:08,590 --> 00:24:11,120

Take a bit of food with you.

475

00:24:11,120 --> 00:24:12,010

Not too much.

476

00:24:12,010 --> 00:24:14,650

You will be given
food on the way.

477

00:24:14,650 --> 00:24:19,120

Please behave in a
civilized manner.

478

00:24:19,120 --> 00:24:22,420

You will not change
things if you don't.

479

00:24:22,420 --> 00:24:25,960

It would help matters very
much for yourself, for us.

480

00:24:25,960 --> 00:24:28,450

It is not easy for
us to do all this.

481

00:24:28,450 --> 00:24:31,390

Please do behave in
a civilized manner.

482

00:24:31,390 --> 00:24:34,150

This is what a
letter that was sent

483
00:24:34,150 --> 00:24:35,830
to everyone who
had been selected

484
00:24:35,830 --> 00:24:36,860
for these deportations.

485
00:24:36,860 --> 00:24:39,670
The Jews, too, before
the deportation

486
00:24:39,670 --> 00:24:42,290
had to pay all the bills.

487
00:24:42,290 --> 00:24:45,960
The bills for the
electricity, the bills, this

488
00:24:45,960 --> 00:24:47,860
had to be done, too.

489
00:24:47,860 --> 00:24:51,070
I don't remember that
really because I've never

490
00:24:51,070 --> 00:24:52,540
been in this situation.

491
00:24:52,540 --> 00:24:55,820
But, besides, we didn't
possess anything anymore.

492
00:24:55,820 --> 00:24:58,660
They had to-- at any rate,
they had the banking account

493
00:24:58,660 --> 00:25:00,670
were anyhow confiscated.

494

00:25:00,670 --> 00:25:02,110
Everything was confiscated.

495
00:25:02,110 --> 00:25:05,980
I told you before nothing that
belongs-- nothing that we wore,

496
00:25:05,980 --> 00:25:09,340
our clothes, didn't
belong to us by law.

497
00:25:09,340 --> 00:25:10,390
Nothing belonged to us.

498
00:25:10,390 --> 00:25:13,600
It was all on loan
from the German state.

499
00:25:13,600 --> 00:25:16,161
So they just cashed
[? the lot ?] of it.

500
00:25:16,161 --> 00:25:18,010
But was there a fee?

501
00:25:18,010 --> 00:25:19,510
Of the east. what
was the meaning

502
00:25:19,510 --> 00:25:24,820
of the east at the time when the
deportation was in full swing?

503
00:25:24,820 --> 00:25:27,070
Well, we knew it was--

504
00:25:27,070 --> 00:25:30,040
the east meant Poland.

505
00:25:30,040 --> 00:25:33,700
And we were still
under the illusion

506

00:25:33,700 --> 00:25:37,120
that there were camps where most
of the people who could work

507

00:25:37,120 --> 00:25:39,230
worked.

508

00:25:39,230 --> 00:25:42,590
We had no proof of it.

509

00:25:42,590 --> 00:25:47,170
But I would say perhaps
it was self-protection.

510

00:25:47,170 --> 00:25:51,280
We did not think
that this meant that.

511

00:25:51,280 --> 00:25:52,480
But what did you think?

512

00:25:52,480 --> 00:25:56,200
Yourself and your mother because
you saw day after day, month

513

00:25:56,200 --> 00:26:00,520
after month, the people in
gathered and shipped away.

514

00:26:00,520 --> 00:26:05,340
All the members of the Jewish
communities, the Jews of Berlin

515

00:26:05,340 --> 00:26:09,040
who remained were less
and less every day.

516

00:26:09,040 --> 00:26:13,156
Did you think that
your turn would come?

517

00:26:13,156 --> 00:26:15,050

The purpose was very clear.

518

00:26:15,050 --> 00:26:19,990

It was to make Berlin
Judenrein empty of Jews.

519

00:26:19,990 --> 00:26:20,920

Certainly.

520

00:26:20,920 --> 00:26:22,510

We saw this very clearly.

521

00:26:22,510 --> 00:26:24,940

There was no blinding oneself.

522

00:26:24,940 --> 00:26:26,690

There were every month
these deportations.

523

00:26:26,690 --> 00:26:30,950

It was quite clear that one
day we would also be called.

524

00:26:30,950 --> 00:26:35,290

In fact, I once got the
[? list, ?] as we called them,

525

00:26:35,290 --> 00:26:40,540

and that was the
category of people

526

00:26:40,540 --> 00:26:44,380

who worked in factories, which
were not for the war effort.

527

00:26:44,380 --> 00:26:47,170

And my mother worked
in a factory which

528

00:26:47,170 --> 00:26:48,520

made these radio batteries.

529

00:26:48,520 --> 00:26:50,920
More than a factory
for war effort.

530
00:26:50,920 --> 00:26:53,290
And I remember that
my mother said,

531
00:26:53,290 --> 00:26:55,270
I do not allow you to go alone.

532
00:26:55,270 --> 00:26:56,450
I shall go with you.

533
00:26:56,450 --> 00:26:57,280
I shall volunteer.

534
00:26:57,280 --> 00:26:59,500
And I fought with her in a way.

535
00:26:59,500 --> 00:27:03,490
And I tell you frankly
I wasn't so horrified.

536
00:27:03,490 --> 00:27:05,650
What horrified me
more was perhaps

537
00:27:05,650 --> 00:27:07,840
that I would be
separated from my mother.

538
00:27:07,840 --> 00:27:10,570
I had this curiosity
feeling of what

539
00:27:10,570 --> 00:27:13,270
is going on there in the east?

540
00:27:13,270 --> 00:27:15,730
Because we did not know.

541

00:27:15,730 --> 00:27:18,280

There is no
question-- mind you, I

542

00:27:18,280 --> 00:27:20,770

didn't have the feeling that
this could be anything good.

543

00:27:20,770 --> 00:27:22,990

This was quite clear.

544

00:27:22,990 --> 00:27:28,720

But we did not, I did not
think this would mean death.

545

00:27:28,720 --> 00:27:32,230

And we had also, we
watched very closely what

546

00:27:32,230 --> 00:27:36,600

was going on on the fronts.

547

00:27:36,600 --> 00:27:39,850

We were all the time hoping
that Hitler would perhaps

548

00:27:39,850 --> 00:27:41,410

after all lose the war.

549

00:27:41,410 --> 00:27:43,420

It was this sort of
looking all the time,

550

00:27:43,420 --> 00:27:44,380

where are the English?

551

00:27:44,380 --> 00:27:45,400

Why aren't they coming?

552

00:27:45,400 --> 00:27:46,610

What are they doing?

553

00:27:46,610 --> 00:27:49,780

We listened-- we went to
friends to listen to the BBC.

554

00:27:49,780 --> 00:27:53,320

That was the German friends
with whom we still had contact.

555

00:27:53,320 --> 00:27:56,080

And we listened
in, and we always

556

00:27:56,080 --> 00:28:01,420

had this sort of a ray
of hope that perhaps we

557

00:28:01,420 --> 00:28:04,630

would win this race.

558

00:28:04,630 --> 00:28:07,540

It was a race, in a way.

559

00:28:07,540 --> 00:28:10,060

That we would
survive it after all.

560

00:28:10,060 --> 00:28:11,650

But why?

561

00:28:11,650 --> 00:28:12,940

I cannot tell you.

562

00:28:12,940 --> 00:28:17,590

Perhaps it's very human to
have the sort of feeling.

563

00:28:17,590 --> 00:28:21,390

(film logistics)

564

00:28:21,390 --> 00:28:24,000