

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:21,150

2
00:00:21,150 --> 00:00:22,810
Good afternoon.

3
00:00:22,810 --> 00:00:26,160
I'm Bernard Weinstein,
director of the Kean College

4
00:00:26,160 --> 00:00:30,360
oral testimonies project, the
Holocaust Resource Center.

5
00:00:30,360 --> 00:00:32,940
Assisting me is
Devora Lichstein.

6
00:00:32,940 --> 00:00:36,890
We'd like to welcome
Lilly Gottlieb.

7
00:00:36,890 --> 00:00:38,970
Mrs. Gottlieb, would
you tell us a little bit

8
00:00:38,970 --> 00:00:42,060
about where you came from?

9
00:00:42,060 --> 00:00:47,520
I was born in Vienna quite
a long time ago, in 1925.

10
00:00:47,520 --> 00:00:50,640
And as a matter of
fact, I've naturally

11
00:00:50,640 --> 00:00:53,640
thought about my early
childhood all along these years.

12

00:00:53,640 --> 00:00:56,770
But last year, it was 1988.

13
00:00:56,770 --> 00:01:00,990
It was 50 years
after the Anschluss.

14
00:01:00,990 --> 00:01:06,860
The Anschluss of Vienna to Nazi
Germany took place in 1938.

15
00:01:06,860 --> 00:01:12,750
And there have been many
memorial things done in Vienna.

16
00:01:12,750 --> 00:01:17,010
And even a small group of
my colleagues from school--

17
00:01:17,010 --> 00:01:20,370
I went to a Jewish
day school in Vienna--

18
00:01:20,370 --> 00:01:25,080
people who live in this
area decided to get together

19
00:01:25,080 --> 00:01:27,300
and to reminisce a little bit.

20
00:01:27,300 --> 00:01:35,610
And I even have a picture
here of our class.

21
00:01:35,610 --> 00:01:38,470
That was taken in 1937.

22
00:01:38,470 --> 00:01:41,790
There were about 12 out
of a class of maybe 45.

23
00:01:41,790 --> 00:01:44,700
We had very large classes then.

24
00:01:44,700 --> 00:01:46,710
There were 12 people
at this reunion,

25
00:01:46,710 --> 00:01:53,060
and we thought about how we
all left Vienna in '38 and '39.

26
00:01:53,060 --> 00:01:54,480
Some went to Israel.

27
00:01:54,480 --> 00:01:56,490
A great many
disappeared, and we don't

28
00:01:56,490 --> 00:01:58,450
know what happened to them.

29
00:01:58,450 --> 00:02:01,900
And some of us found
ourselves here.

30
00:02:01,900 --> 00:02:05,580
And I have been in
Vienna not that long ago,

31
00:02:05,580 --> 00:02:06,840
just for a short visit.

32
00:02:06,840 --> 00:02:09,930
And I found that they have
a Jewish day school there,

33
00:02:09,930 --> 00:02:11,680
again there.

34
00:02:11,680 --> 00:02:15,460
It's also called the same
as ours, HIAS, HIAS Schule.

35
00:02:15,460 --> 00:02:18,810

This was a gymnasium, of course.

36

00:02:18,810 --> 00:02:21,270

They didn't have
elementary grades.

37

00:02:21,270 --> 00:02:26,550

So this brought back a
lot of childhood memories.

38

00:02:26,550 --> 00:02:31,680

And I entered the school when
I was 10 years old, because I

39

00:02:31,680 --> 00:02:34,040

actually insisted upon it.

40

00:02:34,040 --> 00:02:38,130

Because I did want very much
to go to a Jewish school.

41

00:02:38,130 --> 00:02:41,970

42

00:02:41,970 --> 00:02:46,920

It wasn't because I was
afraid of antisemitism.

43

00:02:46,920 --> 00:02:49,800

We had some incidents
of antisemitism,

44

00:02:49,800 --> 00:02:54,120

or of people calling us
names because we were Jews.

45

00:02:54,120 --> 00:02:57,960

But I don't think that at
that time, before the Nazi

46

00:02:57,960 --> 00:03:03,740

Anschluss, we felt that this
was tremendously threatening.

47
00:03:03,740 --> 00:03:07,140
But I had become already
when I was 9 or 10

48
00:03:07,140 --> 00:03:09,810
very oriented towards Zionism.

49
00:03:09,810 --> 00:03:14,820
And I wanted to learn Hebrew,
and go to a Jewish school.

50
00:03:14,820 --> 00:03:16,950
Of course, I wasn't
there too long

51
00:03:16,950 --> 00:03:20,990
before the Nazi
Anschluss took place,

52
00:03:20,990 --> 00:03:25,550
which made me even gladder,
because my friends who were not

53
00:03:25,550 --> 00:03:29,250
in this day school were
kicked out of their schools.

54
00:03:29,250 --> 00:03:35,860
And some of them were
taken in by our school.

55
00:03:35,860 --> 00:03:40,910
And they formed some quickly
put together Jewish schools.

56
00:03:40,910 --> 00:03:43,460
I mean, they were not
left without schooling.

57
00:03:43,460 --> 00:03:49,590
But the regular public schools
kicked out the Jewish kids.

58
00:03:49,590 --> 00:03:52,110
What oriented you towards
Zionism in the first place?

59
00:03:52,110 --> 00:03:55,250
What attracted you to it?

60
00:03:55,250 --> 00:03:59,060
I think it was in
the neighborhood.

61
00:03:59,060 --> 00:04:03,115
There were a lot of Zionest
youth organizations, Betar,

62
00:04:03,115 --> 00:04:04,880
Hashomer Hatzair.

63
00:04:04,880 --> 00:04:07,430
It was something that
I wanted to belong to.

64
00:04:07,430 --> 00:04:13,550
It was a feeling of wanting
to belong to a group.

65
00:04:13,550 --> 00:04:15,500
I mean, I was a
little young for that,

66
00:04:15,500 --> 00:04:18,430
but some of the older
kids in my neighborhood

67
00:04:18,430 --> 00:04:24,010
belonged to Betar, which is the
right-wing youth organization.

68
00:04:24,010 --> 00:04:25,900
And I liked it.

69

00:04:25,900 --> 00:04:30,100
I mean, I must be honest about
it, I liked their uniforms,

70
00:04:30,100 --> 00:04:32,010
and they were
marching up and down.

71
00:04:32,010 --> 00:04:36,250
And I guess we were given
to that kind of thinking.

72
00:04:36,250 --> 00:04:40,720
Maybe because the
other kids had--

73
00:04:40,720 --> 00:04:44,240
well, that came later, when they
started with the Hitler-Jugend

74
00:04:44,240 --> 00:04:44,920
and all that.

75
00:04:44,920 --> 00:04:47,080
But I have to
admit that we tried

76
00:04:47,080 --> 00:04:49,300
to imitate them in some ways.

77
00:04:49,300 --> 00:04:54,130
We want to also
belong to something.

78
00:04:54,130 --> 00:04:55,660
And Zionism in itself--

79
00:04:55,660 --> 00:04:57,970
I came from a very
Jewish family.

80
00:04:57,970 --> 00:05:01,630
Many people in Vienna

came from families

81
00:05:01,630 --> 00:05:04,960
which were very
assimilated, very Austrian.

82
00:05:04,960 --> 00:05:08,180
My family was
originally from Poland,

83
00:05:08,180 --> 00:05:13,150
had just come to Vienna
during the First World War.

84
00:05:13,150 --> 00:05:15,880

85
00:05:15,880 --> 00:05:19,270
My grandfather was a
Hasidic Jew with a beard.

86
00:05:19,270 --> 00:05:22,510
Even so, my parents
were not that observant.

87
00:05:22,510 --> 00:05:25,270
I mean, there was never
any question about my not

88
00:05:25,270 --> 00:05:27,880
being a Jew or assimilating.

89
00:05:27,880 --> 00:05:32,680
It was too far-fetched, because
of my family background,

90
00:05:32,680 --> 00:05:33,790
I think.

91
00:05:33,790 --> 00:05:37,840
Can you recall any memories
from your childhood

92

00:05:37,840 --> 00:05:40,820
with your family?

93

00:05:40,820 --> 00:05:45,610
Well, my grandparents had
a very influential role

94

00:05:45,610 --> 00:05:49,690
in my childhood, because they're
like the extended family they

95

00:05:49,690 --> 00:05:51,170
always talk about.

96

00:05:51,170 --> 00:05:53,320
We didn't live in
the same place,

97

00:05:53,320 --> 00:05:56,060
but we lived across
the street from them.

98

00:05:56,060 --> 00:05:58,810
And since my mother
became a businesswoman,

99

00:05:58,810 --> 00:06:02,350
my grandparents took care of me
a great deal when I was small.

100

00:06:02,350 --> 00:06:07,250
And we always had all the
Jewish holidays at their place.

101

00:06:07,250 --> 00:06:11,170
And I had a friend
whose parents were less

102

00:06:11,170 --> 00:06:14,840
given to Jewish observance
or Jewish tradition,

103

00:06:14,840 --> 00:06:17,830
and some of my
friends would always

104
00:06:17,830 --> 00:06:21,010
come to my grandparents'
house, actually,

105
00:06:21,010 --> 00:06:23,860
to share these holidays with us.

106
00:06:23,860 --> 00:06:26,800
And I have very warm
memories of this,

107
00:06:26,800 --> 00:06:31,720
especially sharing the seder
at my grandparents' house.

108
00:06:31,720 --> 00:06:34,210
My greatest treat
as a child was to be

109
00:06:34,210 --> 00:06:36,430
able to sleep over
at their house,

110
00:06:36,430 --> 00:06:39,340
even though they had
very, very close quarters.

111
00:06:39,340 --> 00:06:41,660
But that's what I liked to do.

112
00:06:41,660 --> 00:06:44,050
I was a little embarrassed
when I was smaller,

113
00:06:44,050 --> 00:06:46,960
when my grandfather went
to the playground with me.

114
00:06:46,960 --> 00:06:49,150

Because sometimes,
kids would tease him.

115
00:06:49,150 --> 00:06:53,920
He had a long beard, and
he wore Hasidic clothes--

116
00:06:53,920 --> 00:06:56,530
I mean, black and so on.

117
00:06:56,530 --> 00:06:57,030
But--

118
00:06:57,030 --> 00:06:57,863
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

119
00:06:57,863 --> 00:07:03,580
--all in all, it was a very warm
and supportive relationship.

120
00:07:03,580 --> 00:07:05,860
At this time, did it
ever go beyond teasing?

121
00:07:05,860 --> 00:07:10,250
Was there any
violence or attempts?

122
00:07:10,250 --> 00:07:11,450
No, no.

123
00:07:11,450 --> 00:07:14,530
There was just some kids
would make a remark,

124
00:07:14,530 --> 00:07:17,650
look at the old Jew with
the little kid, you know?

125
00:07:17,650 --> 00:07:19,570
And then I remembered
that my mother once

126

00:07:19,570 --> 00:07:22,282
said that my grandmother--

127

00:07:22,282 --> 00:07:24,490
well, she was busy with
other things-- should take me

128

00:07:24,490 --> 00:07:27,990
to the park, because I felt
embarrassed about being

129

00:07:27,990 --> 00:07:29,410
with my grandfather.

130

00:07:29,410 --> 00:07:33,610
My grandfather-- coming
to Vienna after the war,

131

00:07:33,610 --> 00:07:37,300
he couldn't really fit himself
into the economic picture,

132

00:07:37,300 --> 00:07:40,480
so he was sort of retired.

133

00:07:40,480 --> 00:07:43,330
What did your parents
do for a living?

134

00:07:43,330 --> 00:07:47,600
Well, my father was doing
some import/export business,

135

00:07:47,600 --> 00:07:52,220
and my mother created a
business of wool and yarn.

136

00:07:52,220 --> 00:07:56,715
She had a company with her
brother as her partner,

137

00:07:56,715 --> 00:07:59,080

where she imported
wools and yarns,

138
00:07:59,080 --> 00:08:04,430
and sold it to some
small home industries.

139
00:08:04,430 --> 00:08:06,700
There were people who
had knitting machines,

140
00:08:06,700 --> 00:08:09,400
and manufactured
sweaters in their house.

141
00:08:09,400 --> 00:08:12,280
And that was actually
like a home industry,

142
00:08:12,280 --> 00:08:14,790
which she supplied
with this wool.

143
00:08:14,790 --> 00:08:18,030
And when it started to
really become a success

144
00:08:18,030 --> 00:08:24,240
was when the Nazis took over,
and she had to give it up.

145
00:08:24,240 --> 00:08:26,350
As a matter of fact, when they--

146
00:08:26,350 --> 00:08:31,900
after the 10th of November,
that we had the Kristallnacht,

147
00:08:31,900 --> 00:08:35,409
they taped all the
Jewish businesses shut.

148
00:08:35,409 --> 00:08:38,860

So my mother could never
enter her business anymore.

149
00:08:38,860 --> 00:08:42,704
And it was just taken away.

150
00:08:42,704 --> 00:08:43,620
Yeah.

151
00:08:43,620 --> 00:08:47,400
But I was proud of her
being a businesswoman.

152
00:08:47,400 --> 00:08:50,650
Were there any other
children in the family?

153
00:08:50,650 --> 00:08:52,765
Well, I had some cousins
who didn't live nearby,

154
00:08:52,765 --> 00:08:56,140
and we would get together
maybe once or twice a year,

155
00:08:56,140 --> 00:08:57,040
not that often.

156
00:08:57,040 --> 00:09:00,460
I was an only child,
and most of my cousins

157
00:09:00,460 --> 00:09:01,690
were only children too.

158
00:09:01,690 --> 00:09:06,610
That was the thing, to
have a one-child family.

159
00:09:06,610 --> 00:09:12,740
I guess it had to do with rather
a great shortage of apartments

160

00:09:12,740 --> 00:09:16,940
in Vienna, and space, and money.

161

00:09:16,940 --> 00:09:21,402
People who were ambitious
usually had only one child.

162

00:09:21,402 --> 00:09:23,360
At that time, it was no
more difficult for Jews

163

00:09:23,360 --> 00:09:26,020
to get apartments than for
anybody else, is that--

164

00:09:26,020 --> 00:09:27,220
No, no, no.

165

00:09:27,220 --> 00:09:28,130
On the contrary.

166

00:09:28,130 --> 00:09:31,290
Maybe many Jews owned
apartment buildings,

167

00:09:31,290 --> 00:09:34,480
so I wouldn't say that.

168

00:09:34,480 --> 00:09:36,770
What's more, but it
was very difficult,

169

00:09:36,770 --> 00:09:39,290
because there were very strict
rent controls in Vienna,

170

00:09:39,290 --> 00:09:43,220
so there was hardly
anything being built there.

171

00:09:43,220 --> 00:09:46,290
What was your schooling like?

172
00:09:46,290 --> 00:09:50,430
Well, Austria had a
system of schooling

173
00:09:50,430 --> 00:09:51,470
which is very different.

174
00:09:51,470 --> 00:09:54,620
The first four grades
in elementary school,

175
00:09:54,620 --> 00:09:56,780
I went to a public school.

176
00:09:56,780 --> 00:10:00,590
For four years, you had
the same teacher, which--

177
00:10:00,590 --> 00:10:01,650
I still remember her.

178
00:10:01,650 --> 00:10:03,210
When I feel guilty
about something,

179
00:10:03,210 --> 00:10:05,450
I sometimes see
her in my dreams.

180
00:10:05,450 --> 00:10:07,950
She was very stern.

181
00:10:07,950 --> 00:10:11,150
And then you had to
pass an examination

182
00:10:11,150 --> 00:10:13,640
at the age of 10, which
determined whether you

183
00:10:13,640 --> 00:10:16,400

go to a gymnasium, an
academic high school,

184
00:10:16,400 --> 00:10:18,510
or a regular high school.

185
00:10:18,510 --> 00:10:20,720
Very unfair, of
course, in retrospect,

186
00:10:20,720 --> 00:10:23,480
because it's much too young
to make such a decision

187
00:10:23,480 --> 00:10:25,460
about a child's future.

188
00:10:25,460 --> 00:10:28,910
And I went to this
Jewish gymnasium,

189
00:10:28,910 --> 00:10:32,760
where we had, as you can
see, very large classes.

190
00:10:32,760 --> 00:10:37,640
But most of us got a
fairly good education.

191
00:10:37,640 --> 00:10:41,280
We had Hebrew there
as a modern language.

192
00:10:41,280 --> 00:10:43,910
We also had English,
which is probably

193
00:10:43,910 --> 00:10:46,850
the cause of my rather
strong German accent.

194
00:10:46,850 --> 00:10:49,310
Because those of us

who started studying

195

00:10:49,310 --> 00:10:52,310

English here have much
less of an accent.

196

00:10:52,310 --> 00:10:55,310

But my first
English studies were

197

00:10:55,310 --> 00:10:59,600

conducted by teachers who
themselves had a strong accent.

198

00:10:59,600 --> 00:11:03,920

And we also had Jewish history.

199

00:11:03,920 --> 00:11:08,930

And it was generally not
religious, but very Jewish,

200

00:11:08,930 --> 00:11:14,540

and I would say a
Zionist-oriented school.

201

00:11:14,540 --> 00:11:17,030

I think that in many ways,
the methods of teaching

202

00:11:17,030 --> 00:11:22,210

were a little more modern
than in the regular Austrian

203

00:11:22,210 --> 00:11:22,710

schools.

204

00:11:22,710 --> 00:11:27,080

We had less rote learning,
when I compared with others,

205

00:11:27,080 --> 00:11:32,420

and we were more permitted
to ask questions,

206

00:11:32,420 --> 00:11:37,880
more like methods prevailing
in the United States.

207

00:11:37,880 --> 00:11:40,730
European schoolings were very
much into learning things

208

00:11:40,730 --> 00:11:43,460
by heart and rote learning.

209

00:11:43,460 --> 00:11:47,090
It's harder to do with Jewish
kids, who like to argue and ask

210

00:11:47,090 --> 00:11:47,960
questions.

211

00:11:47,960 --> 00:11:51,080

212

00:11:51,080 --> 00:11:55,190
When did you first feel
yourself in danger?

213

00:11:55,190 --> 00:11:58,100
The very first
night that the Nazis

214

00:11:58,100 --> 00:12:02,150
marched into Austria,
in March 1938.

215

00:12:02,150 --> 00:12:06,040
They were singing a
song right on the--

216

00:12:06,040 --> 00:12:07,940
they were marching up
and down the street

217

00:12:07,940 --> 00:12:12,694
singing a song where some words
are "wenn Judenblut vom Messer

218
00:12:12,694 --> 00:12:16,160
spritzt," which
translated means,

219
00:12:16,160 --> 00:12:20,150
"when Jewish blood
runs off our knives."

220
00:12:20,150 --> 00:12:21,110
I was already--

221
00:12:21,110 --> 00:12:25,070
I was I can imagine--
panic stricken.

222
00:12:25,070 --> 00:12:27,350
I was very afraid.

223
00:12:27,350 --> 00:12:32,000
And from then on, we
always felt threatened.

224
00:12:32,000 --> 00:12:35,330
I mean, we did what we had to
do, but we felt threatened.

225
00:12:35,330 --> 00:12:38,240
Kids from my
neighborhood would tell

226
00:12:38,240 --> 00:12:40,500
us to get off the sidewalk.

227
00:12:40,500 --> 00:12:42,650
They took Jews and had
them-- because there

228
00:12:42,650 --> 00:12:47,220
was supposed to be a plebiscite

before the Nazis marched in.

229

00:12:47,220 --> 00:12:50,230

So there are a lot of slogans
written on the streets and on--

230

00:12:50,230 --> 00:12:53,450

I don't know why they wrote
them on the sidewalks.

231

00:12:53,450 --> 00:12:55,190

And they made Jewish--

232

00:12:55,190 --> 00:12:56,930

mostly women and girls--

233

00:12:56,930 --> 00:12:59,610

get down on their knees
and scrub them off.

234

00:12:59,610 --> 00:13:01,050

So you were always
afraid to be--

235

00:13:01,050 --> 00:13:03,800

I was never personally
taken to this.

236

00:13:03,800 --> 00:13:05,410

But I could see it
from a distance,

237

00:13:05,410 --> 00:13:08,330

I would run in the
other direction.

238

00:13:08,330 --> 00:13:11,930

It wasn't something that
actually anybody got killed in,

239

00:13:11,930 --> 00:13:13,190

but it was very--

240

00:13:13,190 --> 00:13:16,390
to have all these people
stand around and taunt you,

241

00:13:16,390 --> 00:13:19,460
and have to scrub the sidewalk.

242

00:13:19,460 --> 00:13:22,500
Then after the
Kristallnacht, there

243

00:13:22,500 --> 00:13:28,390
were several people that we knew
taken to concentration camps.

244

00:13:28,390 --> 00:13:30,950
Some didn't come back.

245

00:13:30,950 --> 00:13:33,050
Most of them did so.

246

00:13:33,050 --> 00:13:36,670
At that time, people
did return from Dachau.

247

00:13:36,670 --> 00:13:40,685
And they were thrown
out of their apartments.

248

00:13:40,685 --> 00:13:42,435
As a matter of fact,
you may have heard of

249

00:13:42,435 --> 00:13:46,340
or maybe have met
him, Raul Hilberg.

250

00:13:46,340 --> 00:13:49,080
Our parents were very friendly,
and we were friendly as kids,

251

00:13:49,080 --> 00:13:51,450

although I've never gotten
in touch with him again.

252
00:13:51,450 --> 00:13:53,720
His father was taken to Dachau.

253
00:13:53,720 --> 00:13:57,170
And after Kristallnacht,
they came to stay was us.

254
00:13:57,170 --> 00:13:59,850
We shared the
apartment with them.

255
00:13:59,850 --> 00:14:03,230
Can you describe what
Kristallnacht was for you?

256
00:14:03,230 --> 00:14:04,350
Oh yes.

257
00:14:04,350 --> 00:14:06,500
I remember, I went to
school in the morning,

258
00:14:06,500 --> 00:14:08,610
because we didn't realize.

259
00:14:08,610 --> 00:14:12,140
We didn't get the news every
10 minutes on the radio

260
00:14:12,140 --> 00:14:15,740
like you do now, although it
did come over the radio later.

261
00:14:15,740 --> 00:14:18,720
And the teachers told us,
you shouldn't be here,

262
00:14:18,720 --> 00:14:20,420
there's something going on.

263

00:14:20,420 --> 00:14:21,850

Go home immediately.

264

00:14:21,850 --> 00:14:24,320

And what I still
remember is they told us,

265

00:14:24,320 --> 00:14:27,440

take off your glasses, those
of you who wear glasses.

266

00:14:27,440 --> 00:14:29,570

Because they may
throw stones at you,

267

00:14:29,570 --> 00:14:31,880

and you may get
glass in your eyes.

268

00:14:31,880 --> 00:14:34,760

This is the thing which
stuck in my memory,

269

00:14:34,760 --> 00:14:37,200

because quite a few
of us wore glasses.

270

00:14:37,200 --> 00:14:38,600

So we took them off.

271

00:14:38,600 --> 00:14:42,830

We went home, and I saw the
synagogue already in flames.

272

00:14:42,830 --> 00:14:44,540

And then my parents--

273

00:14:44,540 --> 00:14:47,950

we were all in my
grandmother's house

274

00:14:47,950 --> 00:14:50,450

when some SR people
came in, and wanted

275
00:14:50,450 --> 00:14:54,290
to take my father and
my grandfather away.

276
00:14:54,290 --> 00:14:56,000
My uncle was still there.

277
00:14:56,000 --> 00:14:58,070
I think he was hiding elsewhere.

278
00:14:58,070 --> 00:15:01,730
And my mother prevailed on
this person to let them go.

279
00:15:01,730 --> 00:15:04,970
She promised him to give
him some furniture that we

280
00:15:04,970 --> 00:15:07,430
were going to leave very soon.

281
00:15:07,430 --> 00:15:11,120
She was very persuasive
and very protective.

282
00:15:11,120 --> 00:15:13,310
And somehow, he listened to her.

283
00:15:13,310 --> 00:15:16,721
But it was very, very scary.

284
00:15:16,721 --> 00:15:18,550
Yeah.

285
00:15:18,550 --> 00:15:23,020
Was anybody from your
family taken away?

286
00:15:23,020 --> 00:15:26,220

Yes, one of my uncles,
a great-uncle, actually,

287
00:15:26,220 --> 00:15:28,090
was taken away.

288
00:15:28,090 --> 00:15:32,010
But he came back, and then
he was taken away again.

289
00:15:32,010 --> 00:15:35,910
And his wife got an
urn with his ashes,

290
00:15:35,910 --> 00:15:40,560
saying that he had
tried to escape.

291
00:15:40,560 --> 00:15:44,170
They did that at that time.

292
00:15:44,170 --> 00:15:46,270
Did you believe it?

293
00:15:46,270 --> 00:15:47,020
No.

294
00:15:47,020 --> 00:15:49,590
As a matter of fact, when that
happened, we had already left.

295
00:15:49,590 --> 00:15:52,240
She wrote us this.

296
00:15:52,240 --> 00:15:54,480
Nobody believed it, of course.

297
00:15:54,480 --> 00:15:58,260
The problem is that so many
people could have left.

298
00:15:58,260 --> 00:16:00,890

They could have left.

299

00:16:00,890 --> 00:16:03,160

Well, we did try
to send somebody.

300

00:16:03,160 --> 00:16:05,380

Because we left
to go to Belgium.

301

00:16:05,380 --> 00:16:07,640

And we did try to send
one of these people

302

00:16:07,640 --> 00:16:10,680

to get them over the border.

303

00:16:10,680 --> 00:16:13,630

But they were caught.

304

00:16:13,630 --> 00:16:16,480

But there are many people--
my other aunt, great-uncle,

305

00:16:16,480 --> 00:16:20,135

who was lost in Poland.

306

00:16:20,135 --> 00:16:21,010

They could have left.

307

00:16:21,010 --> 00:16:22,240

They could have gotten visas.

308

00:16:22,240 --> 00:16:24,130

I mean, it was many
times, a matter

309

00:16:24,130 --> 00:16:26,500

of spending the money for it.

310

00:16:26,500 --> 00:16:29,900

But I still remember when we

said goodbye to him, he said,

311
00:16:29,900 --> 00:16:32,920
I worked so hard all my
life for what I have,

312
00:16:32,920 --> 00:16:35,110
I'm not going to
leave it behind.

313
00:16:35,110 --> 00:16:36,550
You are younger, you can go.

314
00:16:36,550 --> 00:16:38,230
I'm not going to go.

315
00:16:38,230 --> 00:16:40,890
And sure enough, we
never saw them again.

316
00:16:40,890 --> 00:16:42,820
They were all killed.

317
00:16:42,820 --> 00:16:45,280
Because people did
not really believe.

318
00:16:45,280 --> 00:16:48,910
Many of them could not really
believed even though we saw it

319
00:16:48,910 --> 00:16:50,420
all around us--

320
00:16:50,420 --> 00:16:53,530
that these things would happen.

321
00:16:53,530 --> 00:16:57,010
And that was-- we
went to Belgium.

322
00:16:57,010 --> 00:17:00,110

We had visas, which
were not quite kosher.

323
00:17:00,110 --> 00:17:01,850
They were sort of fake.

324
00:17:01,850 --> 00:17:05,050
And we went to Belgium.

325
00:17:05,050 --> 00:17:07,569
And again, I mean,
when we went to Cuba,

326
00:17:07,569 --> 00:17:09,099
the same thing happened again.

327
00:17:09,099 --> 00:17:12,480
People who could have
left, did not believe.

328
00:17:12,480 --> 00:17:12,980
Then--

329
00:17:12,980 --> 00:17:14,349
Did you-- I'm sorry.

330
00:17:14,349 --> 00:17:18,119
How did you obtain these visas?

331
00:17:18,119 --> 00:17:19,869
Well, I mean, I was a kid.

332
00:17:19,869 --> 00:17:22,270
My parents took care
of these things.

333
00:17:22,270 --> 00:17:25,180
My parents had money
in the United States.

334
00:17:25,180 --> 00:17:27,910
And there was some

consul in Milano

335

00:17:27,910 --> 00:17:33,820
who issued these visas
against some reimbursement.

336

00:17:33,820 --> 00:17:36,280
That's how you got them.

337

00:17:36,280 --> 00:17:40,570
Some people just hired
guides to go across borders,

338

00:17:40,570 --> 00:17:43,880
because it was hard
to do it themselves.

339

00:17:43,880 --> 00:17:45,970
Some people got
legitimate visas,

340

00:17:45,970 --> 00:17:50,380
and some people got these visas
which were semi-legitimate.

341

00:17:50,380 --> 00:17:53,070

342

00:17:53,070 --> 00:17:54,720
It depended.

343

00:17:54,720 --> 00:17:59,620
And unfortunately, it depended
on foresight very much.

344

00:17:59,620 --> 00:18:02,410
Many people could not believe.

345

00:18:02,410 --> 00:18:04,990
They always said, well, this
is always going to abate.

346

00:18:04,990 --> 00:18:06,460
It cannot last.

347
00:18:06,460 --> 00:18:08,530
It's just the
spirit of the moment

348
00:18:08,530 --> 00:18:11,380
that people are doing
all these things.

349
00:18:11,380 --> 00:18:14,500
And my parents were
Polish Jews, even

350
00:18:14,500 --> 00:18:18,150
though I was born in Vienna
and German is my mother tongue.

351
00:18:18,150 --> 00:18:22,510
But the Polish Jews always
had some kind of a love affair

352
00:18:22,510 --> 00:18:27,040
with German culture, and
the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

353
00:18:27,040 --> 00:18:30,570
And they said, the Germans
as a culture, it cannot be.

354
00:18:30,570 --> 00:18:33,610
It cannot really be.

355
00:18:33,610 --> 00:18:34,613
I remember that.

356
00:18:34,613 --> 00:18:35,530
I mean, that happened.

357
00:18:35,530 --> 00:18:37,300
That was a recurring theme.

358

00:18:37,300 --> 00:18:40,600

Because when we left France,
the same thing occurred.

359

00:18:40,600 --> 00:18:44,230

My father did not want to leave.

360

00:18:44,230 --> 00:18:45,790

Did you leave
Austria immediately

361

00:18:45,790 --> 00:18:46,623

after Kristallnacht?

362

00:18:46,623 --> 00:18:47,320

Oh, no, no.

363

00:18:47,320 --> 00:18:47,820

We left--

364

00:18:47,820 --> 00:18:48,653

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

365

00:18:48,653 --> 00:18:49,630

We left rather late.

366

00:18:49,630 --> 00:18:52,540

What happened in the interim
between Kristallnacht

367

00:18:52,540 --> 00:18:55,120

and the time you left?

368

00:18:55,120 --> 00:18:57,880

Well, my uncle left,
my grandparents left,

369

00:18:57,880 --> 00:19:00,640

my father left in March.

370

00:19:00,640 --> 00:19:06,880

Kristallnacht was November,
my father left in March '39.

371
00:19:06,880 --> 00:19:10,640
And my mother and I left in May.

372
00:19:10,640 --> 00:19:12,970
We were left behind--

373
00:19:12,970 --> 00:19:14,920
actually, we stayed behind--

374
00:19:14,920 --> 00:19:19,130
to try to wind up
certain things.

375
00:19:19,130 --> 00:19:22,760
My mother had a lot of
people who owed her money.

376
00:19:22,760 --> 00:19:24,670
At that time, I didn't
go to school anymore.

377
00:19:24,670 --> 00:19:29,440
She would send me to try
to collect, and to try

378
00:19:29,440 --> 00:19:30,280
to get money.

379
00:19:30,280 --> 00:19:34,540
And there were ways to transfer
money to the United States.

380
00:19:34,540 --> 00:19:39,790
I mean, they just didn't
want to leave everything.

381
00:19:39,790 --> 00:19:44,180
I mean, we were sort of
rounding up the odds and ends.

382

00:19:44,180 --> 00:19:47,980

We sent big trunks
to the United States

383

00:19:47,980 --> 00:19:51,550

with all kinds of
clothes that we never--

384

00:19:51,550 --> 00:19:53,460

the clothes were here,
and we were in Cuba.

385

00:19:53,460 --> 00:19:57,100

But anyway, at that time,
people thought that this

386

00:19:57,100 --> 00:19:58,540

would be very useful to them.

387

00:19:58,540 --> 00:20:00,250

They would have
nice clothes when

388

00:20:00,250 --> 00:20:03,220

they-- because our ambition was
always to come to the States,

389

00:20:03,220 --> 00:20:04,230

of course.

390

00:20:04,230 --> 00:20:08,830

And we had an affidavit
from my uncle.

391

00:20:08,830 --> 00:20:11,230

But what was the mood
in your household

392

00:20:11,230 --> 00:20:17,710

as you were winding up your
affairs and preparing to go?

393

00:20:17,710 --> 00:20:21,340

Did you think of going
immediately to Belgium?

394

00:20:21,340 --> 00:20:23,400

That was the only
place we could go to.

395

00:20:23,400 --> 00:20:24,640

It wasn't our choice.

396

00:20:24,640 --> 00:20:26,710

We would have liked
to go to the States.

397

00:20:26,710 --> 00:20:30,190

But our quota number
was not up yet,

398

00:20:30,190 --> 00:20:31,960

so that was the only place.

399

00:20:31,960 --> 00:20:35,170

My uncle had gone across
the border to Switzerland,

400

00:20:35,170 --> 00:20:37,180

but that became tight.

401

00:20:37,180 --> 00:20:42,880

So Belgium was not our
choice, but the only country

402

00:20:42,880 --> 00:20:46,030

at that time that
we could go to.

403

00:20:46,030 --> 00:20:48,700

And the mood was, of
course, was very sad.

404

00:20:48,700 --> 00:20:53,410

My uncle left, my grandparents

left, my father left.

405

00:20:53,410 --> 00:20:56,990

And my mother and I, we were--

406

00:20:56,990 --> 00:20:59,670

well, we weren't afraid.

407

00:20:59,670 --> 00:21:02,850

Although now, when I think back
on it, we should have been.

408

00:21:02,850 --> 00:21:05,590

We didn't seem to be-- at least
she didn't voice it to me,

409

00:21:05,590 --> 00:21:07,790

and I was only a kid--

410

00:21:07,790 --> 00:21:10,450

to be afraid that we
would be cut off there,

411

00:21:10,450 --> 00:21:12,400

which could have happened.

412

00:21:12,400 --> 00:21:15,490

But it didn't.

413

00:21:15,490 --> 00:21:20,410

So we took a plane to Brussels.

414

00:21:20,410 --> 00:21:24,930

And when we came to Belgium,
we met my father again.

415

00:21:24,930 --> 00:21:30,880

I mean, he was only gone about
six or eight weeks before us.

416

00:21:30,880 --> 00:21:33,430

Where did you stay in Belgium?

417
00:21:33,430 --> 00:21:37,000
We rented a little
apartment, a small apartment.

418
00:21:37,000 --> 00:21:38,920
In Belgium,
apartments are not as

419
00:21:38,920 --> 00:21:41,560
difficult to get as in Vienna.

420
00:21:41,560 --> 00:21:47,260
And my parents had a little
money, so we just waited.

421
00:21:47,260 --> 00:21:49,820
We waited for an American
visa, and in the meantime,

422
00:21:49,820 --> 00:21:51,070
the war broke out.

423
00:21:51,070 --> 00:21:55,690
As a matter of fact,
we were supposed

424
00:21:55,690 --> 00:21:58,350
to go to the American
consulate regarding

425
00:21:58,350 --> 00:22:02,050
our American visas on
the day of the invasion,

426
00:22:02,050 --> 00:22:06,510
on May 10th, 1940, when the
Germans invaded Belgium.

427
00:22:06,510 --> 00:22:08,770
Which was ironic,
because we'd been

428

00:22:08,770 --> 00:22:11,820
waiting for that all the time.

429

00:22:11,820 --> 00:22:15,520
And in Belgium, we also--
it was very disappointing

430

00:22:15,520 --> 00:22:19,360
to us, because in Antwerp,
we encountered antisemitism.

431

00:22:19,360 --> 00:22:21,970
There were many places
where they wrote in Dutch

432

00:22:21,970 --> 00:22:26,340
on the windows,
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] My Dutch

433

00:22:26,340 --> 00:22:27,660
isn't so good.

434

00:22:27,660 --> 00:22:28,780
It meant no Jews.

435

00:22:28,780 --> 00:22:32,380
They wouldn't lend
to Jewish refugees.

436

00:22:32,380 --> 00:22:35,380
But, you know, there
were many other places

437

00:22:35,380 --> 00:22:38,830
where we could rent, and I
started to go to a school

438

00:22:38,830 --> 00:22:41,290
there, which was in Flemish.

439

00:22:41,290 --> 00:22:43,540
Of course, I didn't like it.

440
00:22:43,540 --> 00:22:45,340
It couldn't compare
scholastically

441
00:22:45,340 --> 00:22:47,740
to the school I had
been to, because that

442
00:22:47,740 --> 00:22:52,970
was a school, which was really
a gymnasium, where we had Latin.

443
00:22:52,970 --> 00:22:55,410
It was more
intellectually oriented,

444
00:22:55,410 --> 00:22:57,750
and this was just
a public school.

445
00:22:57,750 --> 00:23:01,170
I did pick up some
Flemish there.

446
00:23:01,170 --> 00:23:04,850
And there were quite a few
of us, so we had our own--

447
00:23:04,850 --> 00:23:10,710
we did not have to rely on the
Belgian kids for peer group.

448
00:23:10,710 --> 00:23:12,540
We had a little peer group.

449
00:23:12,540 --> 00:23:13,510
This was in Antwerp?

450
00:23:13,510 --> 00:23:14,010
Yeah.

451

00:23:14,010 --> 00:23:16,177

Were there other Jewish
refugees there that you met?

452

00:23:16,177 --> 00:23:18,535

Yes, yeah, and we
stuck together.

453

00:23:18,535 --> 00:23:21,150

454

00:23:21,150 --> 00:23:24,840

And we did meet some of the
Jewish people from Antwerp.

455

00:23:24,840 --> 00:23:30,150

I think I went to some
Zionist youth organization.

456

00:23:30,150 --> 00:23:32,820

I met some local Jewish kids.

457

00:23:32,820 --> 00:23:36,220

But I never really had any
social contact otherwise

458

00:23:36,220 --> 00:23:39,150

with Belgians, per se.

459

00:23:39,150 --> 00:23:41,250

And then, of course,
the invasion happened,

460

00:23:41,250 --> 00:23:43,740

and they took my father away.

461

00:23:43,740 --> 00:23:46,190

Because he was a German
Jew, they took him.

462

00:23:46,190 --> 00:23:48,910

The Belgians said,
while we're at war,

463
00:23:48,910 --> 00:23:53,430
all German nationals have
to report for internment.

464
00:23:53,430 --> 00:23:56,010
Even though these people
had a J in their passport

465
00:23:56,010 --> 00:23:59,130
and they were refugees,
they took them away.

466
00:23:59,130 --> 00:24:04,080
And then when the Germans won
the war so quickly afterwards,

467
00:24:04,080 --> 00:24:06,060
they did not let these
people come back,

468
00:24:06,060 --> 00:24:09,810
but they were shipped to a
camp in the south of France.

469
00:24:09,810 --> 00:24:12,330
Of course, we didn't know
the whereabouts of my father

470
00:24:12,330 --> 00:24:13,770
for quite a while.

471
00:24:13,770 --> 00:24:15,960
Then somebody came
back from that camp.

472
00:24:15,960 --> 00:24:18,610
First, my father was
in the St. Cyprien,

473
00:24:18,610 --> 00:24:21,630
and then the second
camp was Les Milles.

474
00:24:21,630 --> 00:24:23,580
And somebody came
back from St. Cyprien

475
00:24:23,580 --> 00:24:26,400
and said that my father
had tried to flee,

476
00:24:26,400 --> 00:24:32,110
and he was put into some
custody and arrested.

477
00:24:32,110 --> 00:24:35,740
But eventually, he was able
to get to the other camp, Les

478
00:24:35,740 --> 00:24:37,840
Milles, which was a
camp where people were

479
00:24:37,840 --> 00:24:41,670
kept who hoped to leave France.

480
00:24:41,670 --> 00:24:43,480
And when we heard that--

481
00:24:43,480 --> 00:24:45,300
well, first, we
moved to Brussels.

482
00:24:45,300 --> 00:24:51,630
Because there was a decree
that Jews had to leave Antwerp.

483
00:24:51,630 --> 00:24:54,090
Although in the beginning,
we lived in the same building

484
00:24:54,090 --> 00:24:56,663
with German soldiers in Antwerp.

485

00:24:56,663 --> 00:24:58,580
And they didn't know we
were Jews or whatever.

486
00:24:58,580 --> 00:25:02,400
Or maybe if they knew, they
behaved fairly decently.

487
00:25:02,400 --> 00:25:05,000
And some of the
Belgian Jews said,

488
00:25:05,000 --> 00:25:06,900
I don't know why you
ran away from there.

489
00:25:06,900 --> 00:25:08,850
These people are very
correct and they're

490
00:25:08,850 --> 00:25:11,790
very polite and all that.

491
00:25:11,790 --> 00:25:14,730
I mean, they were not Gestapo,
they were just plain soldiers,

492
00:25:14,730 --> 00:25:18,540
and they were trained to be
very polite to civilians,

493
00:25:18,540 --> 00:25:22,590
and salute when they saw
us go by and all that.

494
00:25:22,590 --> 00:25:26,370
Then we went to
Brussels, which was also

495
00:25:26,370 --> 00:25:28,440
full of German soldiers.

496
00:25:28,440 --> 00:25:32,220

And my mother made a
contact with some guides

497
00:25:32,220 --> 00:25:34,440
who took us to Paris.

498
00:25:34,440 --> 00:25:38,170
Then we had to go through
different checkpoints and zones

499
00:25:38,170 --> 00:25:39,660
with was faked papers.

500
00:25:39,660 --> 00:25:41,730
It was very complicated.

501
00:25:41,730 --> 00:25:45,190
And we stayed in Paris
for four or five days.

502
00:25:45,190 --> 00:25:47,280
And then some
other guide took us

503
00:25:47,280 --> 00:25:50,310
to the non-occupied
zone of Vichy France,

504
00:25:50,310 --> 00:25:52,440
where we went to Nice.

505
00:25:52,440 --> 00:25:57,020
And then we made contact
with my father in Les Milles.

506
00:25:57,020 --> 00:25:59,070
I can't remember,
eight or nine or a year

507
00:25:59,070 --> 00:26:00,660
afterwards-- eight
months or a year

508

00:26:00,660 --> 00:26:03,520
afterwards-- we went to Cuba.

509

00:26:03,520 --> 00:26:06,270
Where was your father?

510

00:26:06,270 --> 00:26:07,770
He was in Nice itself?

511

00:26:07,770 --> 00:26:09,015
No, no, he was in the camp.

512

00:26:09,015 --> 00:26:09,515
In a camp.

513

00:26:09,515 --> 00:26:11,220
He could not leave the camp.

514

00:26:11,220 --> 00:26:16,810
After a while, they let him go
on a weekend pass occasionally.

515

00:26:16,810 --> 00:26:20,580
But that was when we already
had the Cuban visa, which

516

00:26:20,580 --> 00:26:24,198
we obtained also
through some payment.

517

00:26:24,198 --> 00:26:25,830
Yeah.

518

00:26:25,830 --> 00:26:27,750
What kind of camp was it?

519

00:26:27,750 --> 00:26:29,220
Was it a labor camp?

520

00:26:29,220 --> 00:26:30,480
It was not a labor camp.

521
00:26:30,480 --> 00:26:33,750
It was a holding camp,
where they held people

522
00:26:33,750 --> 00:26:35,760
prior to their leaving.

523
00:26:35,760 --> 00:26:37,830
But those people
who didn't leave--

524
00:26:37,830 --> 00:26:39,870
those friends of my father's--

525
00:26:39,870 --> 00:26:42,090
that were in camp who
didn't leave when we left,

526
00:26:42,090 --> 00:26:43,960
and we left about
on the last boat

527
00:26:43,960 --> 00:26:45,640
that it was possible to leave.

528
00:26:45,640 --> 00:26:49,830
I left Europe in '42,
which was rather late.

529
00:26:49,830 --> 00:26:51,720
And those were all
then transferred

530
00:26:51,720 --> 00:26:54,360
to another camp called Gurs.

531
00:26:54,360 --> 00:27:00,240
And from Gurs, they were
sent to the camps in Poland.

532
00:27:00,240 --> 00:27:04,080

Of course, my father didn't
really want to leave.

533
00:27:04,080 --> 00:27:07,290
He said, there's all this
talk about these death camps.

534
00:27:07,290 --> 00:27:09,330
That must be propaganda.

535
00:27:09,330 --> 00:27:12,700
I think we'll sit out the
war here in Marseilles.

536
00:27:12,700 --> 00:27:15,930
But luckily, my mother
didn't listen to him.

537
00:27:15,930 --> 00:27:17,670
She sent for the visas.

538
00:27:17,670 --> 00:27:20,670
I mean, that was a matter of
transferring money and all

539
00:27:20,670 --> 00:27:24,300
that to get these Cuban visas.

540
00:27:24,300 --> 00:27:27,210
So your father wasn't
mistreated in the camp?

541
00:27:27,210 --> 00:27:27,960
In the beginning--

542
00:27:27,960 --> 00:27:29,630
It was just a holding camp?

543
00:27:29,630 --> 00:27:30,130
Yeah.

544
00:27:30,130 --> 00:27:34,020

No, it was just it was
unsanitary conditions

545
00:27:34,020 --> 00:27:35,800
and little food.

546
00:27:35,800 --> 00:27:38,580
But he was not mistreated there.

547
00:27:38,580 --> 00:27:42,390
I think in St. Cyprien,
after he tried to flee,

548
00:27:42,390 --> 00:27:43,950
they did mistreat
him, but he never

549
00:27:43,950 --> 00:27:45,380
wanted to talk about that.

550
00:27:45,380 --> 00:27:48,120

551
00:27:48,120 --> 00:27:48,660
And you--

552
00:27:48,660 --> 00:27:54,460
I used to go to the camp during
the week sometimes with food.

553
00:27:54,460 --> 00:27:55,960
And they would let you go in?

554
00:27:55,960 --> 00:27:56,460
Yeah.

555
00:27:56,460 --> 00:28:00,840
It was not like the
camps that we hear about.

556
00:28:00,840 --> 00:28:03,450
And how did and your

mother sustain yourselves

557

00:28:03,450 --> 00:28:06,340

while he was in the camp?

558

00:28:06,340 --> 00:28:09,460

What did you do?

559

00:28:09,460 --> 00:28:10,550

I don't really--

560

00:28:10,550 --> 00:28:13,620

I think we still had to

have some funds that we

561

00:28:13,620 --> 00:28:15,870

had transferred out of Vienna.

562

00:28:15,870 --> 00:28:20,580

Because we certainly didn't

have any jobs or anything.

563

00:28:20,580 --> 00:28:23,480

564

00:28:23,480 --> 00:28:26,190

The money-- you know, I

always left all these things

565

00:28:26,190 --> 00:28:28,350

to my mother.

566

00:28:28,350 --> 00:28:30,930

My job was to stand

in line for food,

567

00:28:30,930 --> 00:28:34,680

because food was very short in

Marseilles, so I would always

568

00:28:34,680 --> 00:28:37,540

stand in line and try

to get some food for us.

569

00:28:37,540 --> 00:28:38,970

We lived in some small room.

570

00:28:38,970 --> 00:28:41,550

I mean, we didn't
need that much.

571

00:28:41,550 --> 00:28:43,600

But still, it's a good question.

572

00:28:43,600 --> 00:28:44,890

I wish I could ask my mother.

573

00:28:44,890 --> 00:28:48,600

Unfortunately, she had a
stroke, and she lost her speech.

574

00:28:48,600 --> 00:28:50,640

There are many things I
often want to ask her.

575

00:28:50,640 --> 00:28:53,130

How were you treated
by the Vichy?

576

00:28:53,130 --> 00:28:56,350

They sort of left us alone.

577

00:28:56,350 --> 00:28:58,590

But as soon as--

578

00:28:58,590 --> 00:29:02,220

well, what they did-- after the
people who could not get visas,

579

00:29:02,220 --> 00:29:04,030

they sent them to Gurs.

580

00:29:04,030 --> 00:29:07,860

And as a matter of fact, when we

were making our way from Paris

581

00:29:07,860 --> 00:29:14,120
to Nice, some Garde Mobile
of the Vichy government--

582

00:29:14,120 --> 00:29:20,190
Garde Mobile are
like state police.

583

00:29:20,190 --> 00:29:21,510
We were in a van.

584

00:29:21,510 --> 00:29:24,720
There was another woman
with us with her kid.

585

00:29:24,720 --> 00:29:28,800
And they tried to arrest us.

586

00:29:28,800 --> 00:29:34,870
They asked us for our papers to
go into the un-occupied zone,

587

00:29:34,870 --> 00:29:36,900
and we did not have
the correct papers.

588

00:29:36,900 --> 00:29:40,560
And our so-called
guides turned out

589

00:29:40,560 --> 00:29:42,750
not to be able to do anything.

590

00:29:42,750 --> 00:29:45,660
He couldn't even
speak French to them.

591

00:29:45,660 --> 00:29:48,300
So he was also a German Jew.

592

00:29:48,300 --> 00:29:50,730
He said he would guide us.

593
00:29:50,730 --> 00:29:57,620
So he asked me to talk to them,
and I begged them to let us go.

594
00:29:57,620 --> 00:29:58,500
So they said, OK.

595
00:29:58,500 --> 00:30:00,330
I said, I want to see my father.

596
00:30:00,330 --> 00:30:01,980
He said, OK, go.

597
00:30:01,980 --> 00:30:05,070
So we get on, and
the guide told me

598
00:30:05,070 --> 00:30:07,030
that I should bribe
them with money.

599
00:30:07,030 --> 00:30:09,480
He wanted to have them
as a connection maybe

600
00:30:09,480 --> 00:30:11,410
for the next time.

601
00:30:11,410 --> 00:30:13,610
And of course, I was
a little girl then.

602
00:30:13,610 --> 00:30:16,380
He handed me the money, I
hand it out in front of them.

603
00:30:16,380 --> 00:30:19,020
They said, no, we
don't want, go.

604

00:30:19,020 --> 00:30:22,860

And then-- I still remember,
as the van started moving,

605

00:30:22,860 --> 00:30:25,080

they were on bicycles.

606

00:30:25,080 --> 00:30:27,480

They started to pedal very fast.

607

00:30:27,480 --> 00:30:28,650

They changed their minds.

608

00:30:28,650 --> 00:30:30,840

They wanted the money after all.

609

00:30:30,840 --> 00:30:34,060

They must have thought it
over why did they not take it.

610

00:30:34,060 --> 00:30:35,940

But this was a moment
of life and death,

611

00:30:35,940 --> 00:30:39,360

because if these people had
taken us-- all the people which

612

00:30:39,360 --> 00:30:42,630

were arrested by the Garde
Mobile were sent to Gurs.

613

00:30:42,630 --> 00:30:48,475

And from Gurs, they all went
to death camps in Poland.

614

00:30:48,475 --> 00:30:51,900

And there was no way for
people like us to even be

615

00:30:51,900 --> 00:30:53,940

hidden in the south of France.

616
00:30:53,940 --> 00:30:55,980
Because we didn't have
any connections there.

617
00:30:55,980 --> 00:30:59,400
My parents didn't
even know French.

618
00:30:59,400 --> 00:31:04,650
And French Jews, some of them
had connections with people

619
00:31:04,650 --> 00:31:05,610
who would hide them.

620
00:31:05,610 --> 00:31:09,520
But who would hide us?

621
00:31:09,520 --> 00:31:12,570
And we also we didn't have
any ration cards in Marseille.

622
00:31:12,570 --> 00:31:15,900
That's why it was so
difficult to get food,

623
00:31:15,900 --> 00:31:19,560
because they didn't
issue us ration cards.

624
00:31:19,560 --> 00:31:22,230
But there was always places
where you could get food.

625
00:31:22,230 --> 00:31:24,720
Sometimes there was
vegetables that they

626
00:31:24,720 --> 00:31:26,820
sold without the rationing.

627

00:31:26,820 --> 00:31:28,810
And I sort of--

628
00:31:28,810 --> 00:31:34,140
I used to go to consulates
to try to get visas, or stand

629
00:31:34,140 --> 00:31:36,070
in line for food.

630
00:31:36,070 --> 00:31:38,400
How old were you at that time?

631
00:31:38,400 --> 00:31:41,820
I was going on 15.

632
00:31:41,820 --> 00:31:44,520
I mean, at the time, I didn't--

633
00:31:44,520 --> 00:31:47,730
looking back on it, I didn't
think it was so horrible.

634
00:31:47,730 --> 00:31:49,620
I sort of felt it
was adventurous.

635
00:31:49,620 --> 00:31:51,270
I didn't have a schedule.

636
00:31:51,270 --> 00:31:55,020
I was free to go, and I was
proud of my accomplishments

637
00:31:55,020 --> 00:31:58,800
of getting food, and doing
this, and being so free.

638
00:31:58,800 --> 00:32:02,430
When you look back on it, it's
so horrible this, child with--

639

00:32:02,430 --> 00:32:04,620
though I did take a course
at the Berlitz School

640
00:32:04,620 --> 00:32:09,120
in Spanish, because I knew
that I was going to go to Cuba.

641
00:32:09,120 --> 00:32:11,970
But when you're
involved in it, it's

642
00:32:11,970 --> 00:32:17,320
not as horrible as it seems
when you look back on it.

643
00:32:17,320 --> 00:32:20,710
When you look back
on it, you think

644
00:32:20,710 --> 00:32:22,610
what kind of a child
or what kind of a youth

645
00:32:22,610 --> 00:32:25,420
is that to do these things?

646
00:32:25,420 --> 00:32:28,380
But when you're
involved in it, it just

647
00:32:28,380 --> 00:32:33,350
seems unavoidable, like a given.

648
00:32:33,350 --> 00:32:36,307

649
00:32:36,307 --> 00:32:37,140
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

650
00:32:37,140 --> 00:32:39,780
And there were many
people who could have--

651
00:32:39,780 --> 00:32:41,830
had they really tried hard--

652
00:32:41,830 --> 00:32:44,540
left Marseilles at that time.

653
00:32:44,540 --> 00:32:47,070
But in spite of
all the indications

654
00:32:47,070 --> 00:32:49,565
that we had already had
that these people are out

655
00:32:49,565 --> 00:32:51,690
after our lives,
there were many who

656
00:32:51,690 --> 00:32:54,660
did not believe it,
who just couldn't

657
00:32:54,660 --> 00:32:57,950
bring themselves to believe it.

658
00:32:57,950 --> 00:33:01,520
That was very sad.

659
00:33:01,520 --> 00:33:04,230
There was a young woman--

660
00:33:04,230 --> 00:33:06,750
her father was a
friend of my father's.

661
00:33:06,750 --> 00:33:09,210
There was a guy who
wanted to marry her.

662
00:33:09,210 --> 00:33:10,310
He had a Cuban visa.

663
00:33:10,310 --> 00:33:11,980
He said, I'd marry
your daughter,

664
00:33:11,980 --> 00:33:13,420
I'll bring her to Cuba.

665
00:33:13,420 --> 00:33:17,400
And her father, like as if it
was back in the 18th century,

666
00:33:17,400 --> 00:33:20,640
said, how are you going to
support my daughter in Cuba?

667
00:33:20,640 --> 00:33:23,125
She's only 17.

668
00:33:23,125 --> 00:33:25,500
What do you imagine, young man?

669
00:33:25,500 --> 00:33:27,210
And he didn't let her go.

670
00:33:27,210 --> 00:33:29,470
And this fellow--
all during the war,

671
00:33:29,470 --> 00:33:32,850
he never formed an
attachment to anybody.

672
00:33:32,850 --> 00:33:37,340
He always hoped that maybe
she survived, but she didn't.

673
00:33:37,340 --> 00:33:39,210
Do you know where she was taken?

674
00:33:39,210 --> 00:33:42,240
No, but I know she went

to one of the camps,

675

00:33:42,240 --> 00:33:43,540

I think Bergen-Belsen.

676

00:33:43,540 --> 00:33:47,910

But it was the people had so
little foresight, and used

677

00:33:47,910 --> 00:33:51,540

mental processes which were
so inappropriate for the time.

678

00:33:51,540 --> 00:33:54,170

679

00:33:54,170 --> 00:33:56,910

Did your parents place a
lot of the responsibility

680

00:33:56,910 --> 00:34:01,320

in your hands, or did
they take care of whatever

681

00:34:01,320 --> 00:34:03,270

had to be taken care of?

682

00:34:03,270 --> 00:34:05,460

My parents took
care of everything

683

00:34:05,460 --> 00:34:06,880

that had to be taken care of.

684

00:34:06,880 --> 00:34:09,210

The things I did
were minor things,

685

00:34:09,210 --> 00:34:13,400

like collecting money in
Vienna, where my mother thought

686

00:34:13,400 --> 00:34:17,860
it was risky for her to go,
or getting food delivery,

687
00:34:17,860 --> 00:34:19,830
and inquiring at the consulate.

688
00:34:19,830 --> 00:34:24,663
But the decisions, my parents
made, and they took care of.

689
00:34:24,663 --> 00:34:25,830
They always take care of me.

690
00:34:25,830 --> 00:34:33,320
I was never hungry or
anything like that.

691
00:34:33,320 --> 00:34:36,400
We didn't have any kitchen
there in Marseilles,

692
00:34:36,400 --> 00:34:39,420
so we used to make like--

693
00:34:39,420 --> 00:34:42,090
anything that I got on the
market, put in one pot,

694
00:34:42,090 --> 00:34:45,440
and give it to a
bakery to slow cook.

695
00:34:45,440 --> 00:34:46,739
We called it ratatouille.

696
00:34:46,739 --> 00:34:50,630
It wasn't actually ratatouille,
but it was very good.

697
00:34:50,630 --> 00:34:52,050
I liked it.

698

00:34:52,050 --> 00:34:53,520

Sometimes, we ate
in restaurants,

699

00:34:53,520 --> 00:34:57,430

which didn't require rationing.

700

00:34:57,430 --> 00:35:01,140

And they always served
lapin, which is rabbit.

701

00:35:01,140 --> 00:35:03,480

Then later on, I found
out that some people said

702

00:35:03,480 --> 00:35:07,864

that it was cats, but anyway.

703

00:35:07,864 --> 00:35:08,850

Yeah.

704

00:35:08,850 --> 00:35:09,350

And--

705

00:35:09,350 --> 00:35:10,530

Were you ever hungry?

706

00:35:10,530 --> 00:35:11,800

Were you ever in want?

707

00:35:11,800 --> 00:35:13,270

No.

708

00:35:13,270 --> 00:35:15,380

Never.

709

00:35:15,380 --> 00:35:19,820

My mother saw to it that we
always had plenty to eat.

710

00:35:19,820 --> 00:35:22,830

It was also because
we had some money,

711
00:35:22,830 --> 00:35:24,800
and we could buy these
things on the black--

712
00:35:24,800 --> 00:35:27,320
I mean, we didn't buy
steaks or anything

713
00:35:27,320 --> 00:35:33,200
like that, but additional food.

714
00:35:33,200 --> 00:35:39,120
And on the ship to
Cuba, there were--

715
00:35:39,120 --> 00:35:42,290
that ship was
called Serpta Pinto.

716
00:35:42,290 --> 00:35:44,350
I found this sauf-conduit.

717
00:35:44,350 --> 00:35:49,880
This is a safe
conduct from France,

718
00:35:49,880 --> 00:35:55,898
which shows that we
left on January 9, 1942.

719
00:35:55,898 --> 00:35:56,690
Because there was--

720
00:35:56,690 --> 00:35:58,650
Could you hold it up
so we could see it?

721
00:35:58,650 --> 00:35:59,740
This is the--

722

00:35:59,740 --> 00:36:01,890

Your picture is on
the left, isn't it?

723

00:36:01,890 --> 00:36:03,010

Yeah, which is a--

724

00:36:03,010 --> 00:36:06,050

725

00:36:06,050 --> 00:36:08,170

I wasn't quite sure
which date we left.

726

00:36:08,170 --> 00:36:09,370

I found that the other day.

727

00:36:09,370 --> 00:36:10,720

I should preserve it.

728

00:36:10,720 --> 00:36:14,350

Which was rather
late to leave Europe.

729

00:36:14,350 --> 00:36:17,800

And we went to
Morocco, to Casablanca.

730

00:36:17,800 --> 00:36:21,160

And were kept there
in some like--

731

00:36:21,160 --> 00:36:24,640

it was a beach resort,
which they opened up

732

00:36:24,640 --> 00:36:25,660

for us to sleep there.

733

00:36:25,660 --> 00:36:29,590

We were not-- but then we could
get a permit to visit the city.

734
00:36:29,590 --> 00:36:31,960
But we were all kept
in this beach resort

735
00:36:31,960 --> 00:36:34,870
till we boarded the
Portuguese ship that took us

736
00:36:34,870 --> 00:36:36,970
to Cuba, the Serpa
Pinto, which was

737
00:36:36,970 --> 00:36:41,780
a ship that should have held 350
people, and we were about 800.

738
00:36:41,780 --> 00:36:43,510
And they had all the women--

739
00:36:43,510 --> 00:36:47,600
they opened up one of the hulls
in the bottom of the ship,

740
00:36:47,600 --> 00:36:52,400
there would be 25 women in
one room, men in another.

741
00:36:52,400 --> 00:36:55,450
It was not the normal--

742
00:36:55,450 --> 00:36:58,510
I mean, they just
crowded onto it.

743
00:36:58,510 --> 00:37:00,830
But that was a lucky thing.

744
00:37:00,830 --> 00:37:01,510
But again--

745
00:37:01,510 --> 00:37:02,920

Were they all Jewish?

746

00:37:02,920 --> 00:37:05,030

Most, but there was
something very interesting.

747

00:37:05,030 --> 00:37:06,590

They held our ship up.

748

00:37:06,590 --> 00:37:09,220

Of course, the young
people drifted together.

749

00:37:09,220 --> 00:37:10,960

And again, they had
all the formalities.

750

00:37:10,960 --> 00:37:13,220

They had music every
night, and dancing,

751

00:37:13,220 --> 00:37:16,690

even though we were housed
in this perfunctory fashion.

752

00:37:16,690 --> 00:37:18,390

In Jamaica, they
hailed our ship,

753

00:37:18,390 --> 00:37:21,850

and they took off a
young fella who had

754

00:37:21,850 --> 00:37:23,770

claimed to be another refugee.

755

00:37:23,770 --> 00:37:25,430

We always spoke German.

756

00:37:25,430 --> 00:37:27,640

And they say he
was a German spy.

757

00:37:27,640 --> 00:37:31,010

The British took
him off the ship.

758

00:37:31,010 --> 00:37:32,780

That's what we heard.

759

00:37:32,780 --> 00:37:35,720

Because they searched the
ship and held us in Jamaica

760

00:37:35,720 --> 00:37:36,950

for two days.

761

00:37:36,950 --> 00:37:40,640

Then we came to Cuba,
where they held us up

762

00:37:40,640 --> 00:37:42,980

also in something
like Ellis Island

763

00:37:42,980 --> 00:37:45,840

that they had in
Cuba for two weeks.

764

00:37:45,840 --> 00:37:49,610

And one of the people on our
ship had contracted typhoid,

765

00:37:49,610 --> 00:37:55,010

so we all had to go through
the vaccinations and all that.

766

00:37:55,010 --> 00:37:57,860

Apparently, she had
contracted typhoid

767

00:37:57,860 --> 00:38:00,080

in Morocco or something.

768

00:38:00,080 --> 00:38:01,910

She was a friend of
mine, she died there.

769
00:38:01,910 --> 00:38:05,900

770
00:38:05,900 --> 00:38:12,500
And that was our
trip out of Europe.

771
00:38:12,500 --> 00:38:15,120
How long were you in Cuba?

772
00:38:15,120 --> 00:38:17,170
We came there in '42.

773
00:38:17,170 --> 00:38:20,060
I was there six years, and
then I came here and went back.

774
00:38:20,060 --> 00:38:22,160
All in all, 12 years.

775
00:38:22,160 --> 00:38:24,680
But I came back there
after I was married,

776
00:38:24,680 --> 00:38:26,750
and my sons were born there.

777
00:38:26,750 --> 00:38:28,930
But we came back here when
they were very little.

778
00:38:28,930 --> 00:38:32,540

779
00:38:32,540 --> 00:38:35,700
Did you know what happened
to the rest of your family,

780
00:38:35,700 --> 00:38:37,970

to other members?

781
00:38:37,970 --> 00:38:40,620
I know you mentioned
an uncle who died.

782
00:38:40,620 --> 00:38:45,230
From Vienna-- the ones who
stayed in Vienna all were--

783
00:38:45,230 --> 00:38:47,000
we don't know
exactly where, but we

784
00:38:47,000 --> 00:38:52,490
know that they were taken
away to Poland, Auschwitz,

785
00:38:52,490 --> 00:38:53,930
or Bergen-Belsen.

786
00:38:53,930 --> 00:38:57,860
And my father had
brothers in Poland.

787
00:38:57,860 --> 00:38:59,190
And they all dis--

788
00:38:59,190 --> 00:39:02,330
because we tried
through HIAS to find out

789
00:39:02,330 --> 00:39:06,530
if anybody had survived,
but they were all killed,

790
00:39:06,530 --> 00:39:09,710
all the family in Poland,
my father's brothers.

791
00:39:09,710 --> 00:39:13,100
There were records kept?

792

00:39:13,100 --> 00:39:15,050

I don't really know
about any records.

793

00:39:15,050 --> 00:39:18,710

I know that we wrote to
HIAS after the war was

794

00:39:18,710 --> 00:39:22,460

over about that these
people should contact us,

795

00:39:22,460 --> 00:39:27,040

and they never did.

796

00:39:27,040 --> 00:39:29,690

And I mean, HIAS
never answered us,

797

00:39:29,690 --> 00:39:33,360

so the assumption is
that they were killed.

798

00:39:33,360 --> 00:39:37,370

And then also, I met a man here
who was a cousin of my parents

799

00:39:37,370 --> 00:39:38,220

from Poland.

800

00:39:38,220 --> 00:39:39,953

And he had survived
the war in Poland.

801

00:39:39,953 --> 00:39:41,870

As a matter of fact, he
still lives in Poland,

802

00:39:41,870 --> 00:39:43,490

but he comes here.

803

00:39:43,490 --> 00:39:45,500

He used to come here.

804
00:39:45,500 --> 00:39:48,890
And he told us that
he knows that it's

805
00:39:48,890 --> 00:39:52,250
a fact that they were all
killed, I think in Auschwitz.

806
00:39:52,250 --> 00:39:54,650
One of my father's brothers
lived in Auschwitz,

807
00:39:54,650 --> 00:39:57,200
as a matter of fact, Oswiecim.

808
00:39:57,200 --> 00:40:00,586
I was there as a child,
they took me to visit.

809
00:40:00,586 --> 00:40:02,830
In the town?

810
00:40:02,830 --> 00:40:06,190
So they were all gone.

811
00:40:06,190 --> 00:40:13,090
Everybody who stayed in
Vienna, there nobody was saved.

812
00:40:13,090 --> 00:40:16,780
And the people who stayed in the
south of France that we knew,

813
00:40:16,780 --> 00:40:18,790
they all disappeared.

814
00:40:18,790 --> 00:40:20,860
They were all deported.

815
00:40:20,860 --> 00:40:23,470

Because they had--
like I said before,

816
00:40:23,470 --> 00:40:27,570
they could not really
save themselves

817
00:40:27,570 --> 00:40:31,890
and a foreign territory.

818
00:40:31,890 --> 00:40:34,290
Were you aware at
the time you were

819
00:40:34,290 --> 00:40:41,140
in Cuba of what was going in
the climactic years of the war

820
00:40:41,140 --> 00:40:42,960
to the Jews?

821
00:40:42,960 --> 00:40:45,510
Not completely.

822
00:40:45,510 --> 00:40:48,165
The news came to
us rather slowly.

823
00:40:48,165 --> 00:40:52,990
But I remember vaguely that
some spokesperson, a shaliach

824
00:40:52,990 --> 00:40:56,040
of some sort, came
to Cuba and told us

825
00:40:56,040 --> 00:41:00,010
about all these things
happening in the death camps.

826
00:41:00,010 --> 00:41:02,370
I don't know
exactly when it was.

827
00:41:02,370 --> 00:41:06,180
I think the war was still on,
and that the Jewish community

828
00:41:06,180 --> 00:41:11,630
in Havana decided to march
through the streets in protest

829
00:41:11,630 --> 00:41:12,130
of this.

830
00:41:12,130 --> 00:41:19,650
But I mean, we did, we
showed our compassion?

831
00:41:19,650 --> 00:41:20,730
I don't know how to--

832
00:41:20,730 --> 00:41:21,760
solidarity?

833
00:41:21,760 --> 00:41:23,845
But that was all
that ever came of it.

834
00:41:23,845 --> 00:41:24,720
Where did they march?

835
00:41:24,720 --> 00:41:27,060
Before the German embassy?

836
00:41:27,060 --> 00:41:29,670
Well, there was no
German embassy in Cuba.

837
00:41:29,670 --> 00:41:31,170
There wasn't?

838
00:41:31,170 --> 00:41:33,420
Cuba declared war on Germany.

839

00:41:33,420 --> 00:41:36,050

Oh, they did.

840

00:41:36,050 --> 00:41:40,770

I remember something, that we
went from the Jewish center

841

00:41:40,770 --> 00:41:44,730

to the presidential
palace, I think, and back.

842

00:41:44,730 --> 00:41:51,946

But it came little
by little, this news.

843

00:41:51,946 --> 00:41:55,340

And then the first people
started to come out

844

00:41:55,340 --> 00:41:56,620

when the war was open.

845

00:41:56,620 --> 00:42:01,490

But during the war, we
didn't know that much.

846

00:42:01,490 --> 00:42:05,480

Did you finish your
schooling in Cuba?

847

00:42:05,480 --> 00:42:07,550

I actually didn't.

848

00:42:07,550 --> 00:42:11,270

I worked in a diamond
factory in Cuba.

849

00:42:11,270 --> 00:42:14,600

At that time, I felt I
was beyond that already.

850

00:42:14,600 --> 00:42:16,760

So I always took
courses in literature.

851
00:42:16,760 --> 00:42:19,400
I went to university
and took this and that.

852
00:42:19,400 --> 00:42:21,770
But I never really
graduated from high school.

853
00:42:21,770 --> 00:42:23,480
When I came here,
I went to college

854
00:42:23,480 --> 00:42:25,010
and got a college degree.

855
00:42:25,010 --> 00:42:31,852
I got credit for my
other life experiences.

856
00:42:31,852 --> 00:42:34,990

857
00:42:34,990 --> 00:42:38,410
But I was, at that time, beyond
going to high school, you know?

858
00:42:38,410 --> 00:42:42,420
I was out of that already.

859
00:42:42,420 --> 00:42:49,200
It was a very bad time for this
to happen, because it really--

860
00:42:49,200 --> 00:42:52,050
people who were a few
years younger than I

861
00:42:52,050 --> 00:42:55,320
went through normal
schooling, and people

862

00:42:55,320 --> 00:42:59,070
who were a few years older had
already more of a background.

863

00:42:59,070 --> 00:43:02,700
Well, at the age that this all
happened in Vienna was when

864

00:43:02,700 --> 00:43:05,940
I was 12, 13, it was a bad age.

865

00:43:05,940 --> 00:43:08,250
But I mean, those who
want to always get

866

00:43:08,250 --> 00:43:10,770
some kind of an education,
if that's important.

867

00:43:10,770 --> 00:43:14,760
But in the long run, it
didn't really matter.

868

00:43:14,760 --> 00:43:18,300
And how many years
did you spend in Cuba?

869

00:43:18,300 --> 00:43:23,950
All in all, about 12 or
13 years, from '42 to '48.

870

00:43:23,950 --> 00:43:26,500
I came back for a year this way.

871

00:43:26,500 --> 00:43:32,070
And then I got married, and in
'55, I went to Cuba till '61.

872

00:43:32,070 --> 00:43:34,050
It's another five years.

873

00:43:34,050 --> 00:43:36,720
About 12-13 years.

874
00:43:36,720 --> 00:43:40,230
And we came here
because of Fidel Castro.

875
00:43:40,230 --> 00:43:42,610
How did you meet your husband?

876
00:43:42,610 --> 00:43:44,100
It's very interesting.

877
00:43:44,100 --> 00:43:47,370
My mother and my
husband's stepmother

878
00:43:47,370 --> 00:43:50,550
actually knew each other
when they were girls.

879
00:43:50,550 --> 00:43:53,130
When they were fleeing
from the First World War

880
00:43:53,130 --> 00:43:55,950
in Poland, where there
were pogroms in that area,

881
00:43:55,950 --> 00:43:59,160
they met each other in a
small town in Czechoslovakia.

882
00:43:59,160 --> 00:44:02,840
And then in Vienna, they
also knew each other.

883
00:44:02,840 --> 00:44:05,890
But then they lost touch.

884
00:44:05,890 --> 00:44:11,430
And my husband's stepmother
survived the war in Poland.

885
00:44:11,430 --> 00:44:13,135
She was hidden by Gentiles.

886
00:44:13,135 --> 00:44:14,760
But after the war,
she was once sitting

887
00:44:14,760 --> 00:44:17,550
in Paris in some
Jewish nightclub,

888
00:44:17,550 --> 00:44:19,200
and they were discussing
this and that.

889
00:44:19,200 --> 00:44:21,120
And she said, I
had these friends,

890
00:44:21,120 --> 00:44:23,170
and I think they lived in Cuba.

891
00:44:23,170 --> 00:44:26,550
And there was a man there who
happened to have lived in Cuba

892
00:44:26,550 --> 00:44:27,630
and knew us.

893
00:44:27,630 --> 00:44:31,110
He gave her our address, and
they started corresponding.

894
00:44:31,110 --> 00:44:34,050
And then when they came here
to the States, I met Sigmund,

895
00:44:34,050 --> 00:44:36,720
and that's how it all happened.

896
00:44:36,720 --> 00:44:39,690

Actually, it's his
stepmother and my mother

897
00:44:39,690 --> 00:44:42,240
who are responsible.

898
00:44:42,240 --> 00:44:45,420
But it was just
the unlikely thing

899
00:44:45,420 --> 00:44:48,751
that they should meet in
that nightclub and find us,

900
00:44:48,751 --> 00:44:49,251
you know?

901
00:44:49,251 --> 00:44:53,670

902
00:44:53,670 --> 00:44:58,830
And have you talked--

903
00:44:58,830 --> 00:45:01,800
or your husband, has he
talked about his experiences

904
00:45:01,800 --> 00:45:04,020
with your children?

905
00:45:04,020 --> 00:45:05,430
Oh yes, a lot.

906
00:45:05,430 --> 00:45:06,930
We always talk about it.

907
00:45:06,930 --> 00:45:09,090
It comes up very often.

908
00:45:09,090 --> 00:45:12,690
My husband has experiences,
of course, far more dramatic

909
00:45:12,690 --> 00:45:15,420
and worse than mine.

910
00:45:15,420 --> 00:45:18,690
And he has talked about
it to the children,

911
00:45:18,690 --> 00:45:24,720
without going into
too many details

912
00:45:24,720 --> 00:45:28,910
when they were younger which
may have been horrible.

913
00:45:28,910 --> 00:45:30,390
But he talked about it.

914
00:45:30,390 --> 00:45:33,465
And we always talk about this.

915
00:45:33,465 --> 00:45:36,360
It comes up very often.

916
00:45:36,360 --> 00:45:38,490
My husband thinks
about these things

917
00:45:38,490 --> 00:45:44,490
more now and dreams about it
more than right after the war.

918
00:45:44,490 --> 00:45:50,940
I have a theory, that many
people, like my husband--

919
00:45:50,940 --> 00:45:53,930
I'm speaking of this
kind of survivor--

920
00:45:53,930 --> 00:45:59,940

who after the war, there was
a process of total repression.

921
00:45:59,940 --> 00:46:01,270
They didn't think about it.

922
00:46:01,270 --> 00:46:03,630
They just thought mostly
to have a good time.

923
00:46:03,630 --> 00:46:07,710
They were very nonchalant
about most of it, almost.

924
00:46:07,710 --> 00:46:11,250
And I think it was a defense
mechanism of the mind

925
00:46:11,250 --> 00:46:14,460
to stay sane and
redo their lives.

926
00:46:14,460 --> 00:46:18,510
And as time goes by, it
comes back more and more,

927
00:46:18,510 --> 00:46:20,880
all the feelings.

928
00:46:20,880 --> 00:46:22,920
Because I think it would
have been dangerous

929
00:46:22,920 --> 00:46:26,100
for their mental
stability at the time

930
00:46:26,100 --> 00:46:28,980
to dwell on it too much.

931
00:46:28,980 --> 00:46:31,200
And they didn't.

932

00:46:31,200 --> 00:46:35,040

It's coming back more now.

933

00:46:35,040 --> 00:46:37,800

I mean, I don't know, I
think that the mind also

934

00:46:37,800 --> 00:46:41,910

has some defense mechanisms,
just as the body.

935

00:46:41,910 --> 00:46:44,700

And those who dwelled
on it too much

936

00:46:44,700 --> 00:46:50,360

may have not retained their
mental balance or their sanity

937

00:46:50,360 --> 00:46:50,860

as well.

938

00:46:50,860 --> 00:46:53,960

939

00:46:53,960 --> 00:46:57,200

I mean, for me, these things
were not that traumatic.

940

00:46:57,200 --> 00:46:59,360

I mean, it was
traumatic as a child

941

00:46:59,360 --> 00:47:01,760

to walk down the streets
where I was born,

942

00:47:01,760 --> 00:47:04,820

and to have kids tell
me, get off the sidewalk,

943

00:47:04,820 --> 00:47:08,650

you dirty Jew, or
to go by park where

944
00:47:08,650 --> 00:47:11,210
I played all the
years as a child,

945
00:47:11,210 --> 00:47:15,470
and to see a big sign-- dogs
and Jews entrance forbidden.

946
00:47:15,470 --> 00:47:18,530
I mean, it had an impact.

947
00:47:18,530 --> 00:47:25,060
But I think it was easier for us
who were very Jewish-oriented.

948
00:47:25,060 --> 00:47:28,910
There were some people in
Vienna who were very Austrian,

949
00:47:28,910 --> 00:47:33,450
who hardly were aware of the
fact that they were Jews.

950
00:47:33,450 --> 00:47:37,010
It was terrible for them.

951
00:47:37,010 --> 00:47:38,690
I mean, being in
the Jewish school

952
00:47:38,690 --> 00:47:40,890
and in Jewish youth
organizations,

953
00:47:40,890 --> 00:47:45,950
it helped our self-esteem.

954
00:47:45,950 --> 00:47:50,600
I mean, I don't think that
any of us ever felt inferior,

955
00:47:50,600 --> 00:47:53,150
even though we saw
this caricatures,

956
00:47:53,150 --> 00:47:56,480
and heard all these things.

957
00:47:56,480 --> 00:48:00,590
It didn't affect us that way.

958
00:48:00,590 --> 00:48:02,855
Because that's the worst
thing that can happen.

959
00:48:02,855 --> 00:48:07,160
Do you have any
idea how many Jews

960
00:48:07,160 --> 00:48:12,320
were able to leave Vienna at the
time that you and your family

961
00:48:12,320 --> 00:48:13,700
left?

962
00:48:13,700 --> 00:48:14,650
An estimate?

963
00:48:14,650 --> 00:48:16,180
I really can't give--

964
00:48:16,180 --> 00:48:19,850
I know that there were about
200,000 to 250,000 Jews

965
00:48:19,850 --> 00:48:21,890
in Vienna.

966
00:48:21,890 --> 00:48:25,820
I think that-- how many were--

967

00:48:25,820 --> 00:48:30,680

Were able to escape before they
started with the concentration

968

00:48:30,680 --> 00:48:31,500

camps.

969

00:48:31,500 --> 00:48:35,110

I would say that more
than half left before.

970

00:48:35,110 --> 00:48:39,410

But I mean, this is just
off the top of my head,

971

00:48:39,410 --> 00:48:43,310

because I see so many Jews from
Vienna, no matter where I go.

972

00:48:43,310 --> 00:48:47,450

But maybe they just
come to the surface.

973

00:48:47,450 --> 00:48:50,240

There must be statistics
about this someplace.

974

00:48:50,240 --> 00:48:53,140

Many went to the States,
and others to England.

975

00:48:53,140 --> 00:48:54,680

There were children's transport.

976

00:48:54,680 --> 00:48:56,240

There were many
Jewish children which

977

00:48:56,240 --> 00:49:03,080

were taken to England by
[? Winton ?] and the women's

978

00:49:03,080 --> 00:49:07,250
international Zionist
organization and all that.

979
00:49:07,250 --> 00:49:08,680
Maybe there were--

980
00:49:08,680 --> 00:49:09,910
I don't know.

981
00:49:09,910 --> 00:49:13,340
Right now in Vienna, there is
a very small Jewish population,

982
00:49:13,340 --> 00:49:15,710
and these Jews are
not really Jews who

983
00:49:15,710 --> 00:49:17,030
had lived in Vienna before.

984
00:49:17,030 --> 00:49:19,880
They are mostly Jews
who came after the war

985
00:49:19,880 --> 00:49:23,780
from Poland and Hungary, and
some of the Russian Jews,

986
00:49:23,780 --> 00:49:25,820
maybe men who stayed
there and all that.

987
00:49:25,820 --> 00:49:26,880
Ostjuden?

988
00:49:26,880 --> 00:49:27,380
Ostjuden?

989
00:49:27,380 --> 00:49:29,630
Ostjudent.

990

00:49:29,630 --> 00:49:31,130
[CHUCKLING]

991
00:49:31,130 --> 00:49:35,330
Yeah, well, that always
had a very, very derogatory

992
00:49:35,330 --> 00:49:39,770
connotation in
Germany and in Vienna.

993
00:49:39,770 --> 00:49:43,340
Even though I was an Ostjude,
I don't remember ever

994
00:49:43,340 --> 00:49:45,200
anybody calling me that.

995
00:49:45,200 --> 00:49:46,580
But I know that as a child--

996
00:49:46,580 --> 00:49:50,500
I speak Yiddish well
now, but as a child,

997
00:49:50,500 --> 00:49:51,920
nobody spoke Yiddish to me.

998
00:49:51,920 --> 00:49:54,800
I didn't even know of the real
existence of such a language.

999
00:49:54,800 --> 00:49:57,350
It was not considered very--

1000
00:49:57,350 --> 00:50:00,770
I mean, it interfered with
your speaking proper German,

1001
00:50:00,770 --> 00:50:03,380
like black English
may interfere with you

1002

00:50:03,380 --> 00:50:06,050
speaking proper English.

1003

00:50:06,050 --> 00:50:08,510
And people were very
proud of speaking German

1004

00:50:08,510 --> 00:50:10,350
without any Yiddish accent.

1005

00:50:10,350 --> 00:50:12,290
When you think about
that attitude now,

1006

00:50:12,290 --> 00:50:14,060
does it ever bother you?

1007

00:50:14,060 --> 00:50:17,510
I mean, I don't know,
people may retrospectively

1008

00:50:17,510 --> 00:50:19,970
have different feelings
about it that there

1009

00:50:19,970 --> 00:50:24,260
was this attitude towards
the Eastern European Jews.

1010

00:50:24,260 --> 00:50:26,990
Well, it doesn't
really bother me today.

1011

00:50:26,990 --> 00:50:30,320
I mean, it became
an irony of history,

1012

00:50:30,320 --> 00:50:33,140
because the other Jews
were sent to the same camps

1013

00:50:33,140 --> 00:50:35,030

as the Eastern European Jews.

1014

00:50:35,030 --> 00:50:41,730

So today, to think about their
snobbism has no more validity.

1015

00:50:41,730 --> 00:50:44,150

Also, I didn't suffer
personally by it.

1016

00:50:44,150 --> 00:50:47,760

Because my circle at
my school, the majority

1017

00:50:47,760 --> 00:50:49,970

were Eastern European.

1018

00:50:49,970 --> 00:50:53,510

So nobody-- I was never left
out of anything as a kid

1019

00:50:53,510 --> 00:50:55,520

because I was an Ostjude.

1020

00:50:55,520 --> 00:50:58,760

It happened to people a
little older than I. And then,

1021

00:50:58,760 --> 00:51:00,890

maybe one feels it.

1022

00:51:00,890 --> 00:51:03,500

Because teenagers are very
sensitive to these kind

1023

00:51:03,500 --> 00:51:04,190

of things.

1024

00:51:04,190 --> 00:51:07,212

Did you have any
non-Jewish friends?

1025

00:51:07,212 --> 00:51:09,680

Well, I personally
didn't have too many,

1026

00:51:09,680 --> 00:51:12,880

but I must say that my
parents and my uncle,

1027

00:51:12,880 --> 00:51:16,510

they did associate
socially with non-Jews.

1028

00:51:16,510 --> 00:51:20,060

When I look back on it now,
sometimes more than some

1029

00:51:20,060 --> 00:51:23,420

of my American friends, which
are three generations here

1030

00:51:23,420 --> 00:51:25,820

and went through
college here, my parents

1031

00:51:25,820 --> 00:51:27,890

had been in Vienna
seven years when I was

1032

00:51:27,890 --> 00:51:29,720

born, which I didn't realize.

1033

00:51:29,720 --> 00:51:31,940

I just thought of
it the other day.

1034

00:51:31,940 --> 00:51:33,410

So actually, they
were newcomers.

1035

00:51:33,410 --> 00:51:36,260

But they did have
some social contacts.

1036

00:51:36,260 --> 00:51:38,560
I remember we once
went to the country

1037
00:51:38,560 --> 00:51:40,040
with some Gentile people.

1038
00:51:40,040 --> 00:51:43,280
My uncle had many
Gentile friends.

1039
00:51:43,280 --> 00:51:46,100
But once the war started,
did their relationship

1040
00:51:46,100 --> 00:51:49,220
with these friends change?

1041
00:51:49,220 --> 00:51:53,720
Well, there was one or two
which behaved very nicely.

1042
00:51:53,720 --> 00:51:56,960
The rest, they
stayed away from us

1043
00:51:56,960 --> 00:51:59,840
and we stayed away from them.

1044
00:51:59,840 --> 00:52:03,200
There was one--

1045
00:52:03,200 --> 00:52:05,360
I know it was a great
disappointment, especially

1046
00:52:05,360 --> 00:52:07,460
for my mother's
brother, my uncle.

1047
00:52:07,460 --> 00:52:10,790
Because he had liked to
associate with Gentiles,

1048
00:52:10,790 --> 00:52:11,690
which was sort of--

1049
00:52:11,690 --> 00:52:13,670
he was divorced, and he went--

1050
00:52:13,670 --> 00:52:16,490
I didn't know it was not
looked upon with great favor

1051
00:52:16,490 --> 00:52:19,930
in the family, but it
was very disappointing,

1052
00:52:19,930 --> 00:52:23,270
and a great shock to
him that most of them

1053
00:52:23,270 --> 00:52:25,550
did not want to
associate with him

1054
00:52:25,550 --> 00:52:28,610
any longer, with
some few exceptions.

1055
00:52:28,610 --> 00:52:31,640
But when I look about
the Jewish life actually

1056
00:52:31,640 --> 00:52:35,480
here where I live, I
find more and more,

1057
00:52:35,480 --> 00:52:38,970
the Jews mostly associate with
Jews unless it's some business.

1058
00:52:38,970 --> 00:52:41,200
Maybe it's just
the people I know.

1059

00:52:41,200 --> 00:52:46,460

Which was not as much true
in Germany or Austria.

1060

00:52:46,460 --> 00:52:51,860

I think it maybe also the
effect of the Holocaust

1061

00:52:51,860 --> 00:52:56,420

has been very great on
Jews all over the world.

1062

00:52:56,420 --> 00:52:57,650

People have changed.

1063

00:52:57,650 --> 00:53:01,940

And then Israel and the Six Day
War and the different agenda

1064

00:53:01,940 --> 00:53:05,140

we sometimes have has
made these friendships

1065

00:53:05,140 --> 00:53:07,195

sometimes a little--

1066

00:53:07,195 --> 00:53:08,530

Stronger.

1067

00:53:08,530 --> 00:53:10,860

A little questionable.

1068

00:53:10,860 --> 00:53:12,270

I mean, not my aim.

1069

00:53:12,270 --> 00:53:14,730

I would like to
associate with everybody.

1070

00:53:14,730 --> 00:53:17,310

It's just circumstances.

1071

00:53:17,310 --> 00:53:19,420

Have you been back to
Vienna since the war?

1072

00:53:19,420 --> 00:53:20,610

Yeah, twice.

1073

00:53:20,610 --> 00:53:22,680

What were your impressions?

1074

00:53:22,680 --> 00:53:25,470

Well, the first
time, it was in '66.

1075

00:53:25,470 --> 00:53:28,800

I was just there for a day.

1076

00:53:28,800 --> 00:53:34,860

It seemed very sad, and
I felt like a ghost.

1077

00:53:34,860 --> 00:53:37,780

And in fact, it was
like a ghost town.

1078

00:53:37,780 --> 00:53:41,320

And I did come upon
one we asked in a cafe

1079

00:53:41,320 --> 00:53:44,430

there, a waiter, we asked
him if many people come

1080

00:53:44,430 --> 00:53:47,190

from behind the Iron Curtain,
because then there was the--

1081

00:53:47,190 --> 00:53:48,765

and he said, only the rich Jews.

1082

00:53:48,765 --> 00:53:51,570

1083
00:53:51,570 --> 00:53:55,410
So "nur die reichen Juden."

1084
00:53:55,410 --> 00:53:58,410
And then I was in
Vienna a couple

1085
00:53:58,410 --> 00:54:01,130
of years ago--
about two years ago.

1086
00:54:01,130 --> 00:54:04,410
It was after Waldheim, already.

1087
00:54:04,410 --> 00:54:10,470
I had some contact with some
non-Jewish Viennese journalists

1088
00:54:10,470 --> 00:54:12,440
that I met, who was
very, very pro Jewish.

1089
00:54:12,440 --> 00:54:14,280
He's married to a Jew.

1090
00:54:14,280 --> 00:54:17,040
I didn't come across
any antisemitism.

1091
00:54:17,040 --> 00:54:21,390
I found Austria much more
prosperous than it ever

1092
00:54:21,390 --> 00:54:23,760
was when I was a kid.

1093
00:54:23,760 --> 00:54:26,700
I think sometimes, I
feel it's almost too

1094
00:54:26,700 --> 00:54:30,300

nice for the Austrians.

1095

00:54:30,300 --> 00:54:33,540

Because it was mostly
a poor country.

1096

00:54:33,540 --> 00:54:35,960

That was one of the
reasons that people

1097

00:54:35,960 --> 00:54:38,850

welcomed the Nazi
Anschluss so fervently.

1098

00:54:38,850 --> 00:54:41,230

It was not so much
hatred for the Jews.

1099

00:54:41,230 --> 00:54:45,820

They expected improved
economic conditions.

1100

00:54:45,820 --> 00:54:49,800

While now, without Germany
and being all on its own,

1101

00:54:49,800 --> 00:54:54,240

Austria is doing very well,
better than it ever did.

1102

00:54:54,240 --> 00:54:58,260

And I'm not the kind of
person who is really--

1103

00:54:58,260 --> 00:55:01,170

I'm not given to
boycotting anything

1104

00:55:01,170 --> 00:55:05,250

in the German language,
or to not ever step foot

1105

00:55:05,250 --> 00:55:06,960

on German soil.

1106
00:55:06,960 --> 00:55:08,610
I think it's a little late.

1107
00:55:08,610 --> 00:55:10,410
I've never been given to that.

1108
00:55:10,410 --> 00:55:12,960
I know there are many people
who have gone through it, who

1109
00:55:12,960 --> 00:55:15,000
said I would not
step on that soil,

1110
00:55:15,000 --> 00:55:18,660
or I would not
read a German book.

1111
00:55:18,660 --> 00:55:20,100
It's just not my way.

1112
00:55:20,100 --> 00:55:23,910
I mean, I like certain things
about the German culture.

1113
00:55:23,910 --> 00:55:26,400
I feel to deprive myself
of it would be just

1114
00:55:26,400 --> 00:55:29,660
to cut off my nose
to spite my face,

1115
00:55:29,660 --> 00:55:31,650
as a matter of temperament.

1116
00:55:31,650 --> 00:55:34,470
I feel a little
uneasy when I'm there,

1117

00:55:34,470 --> 00:55:37,140
because sometimes, people
take me for Austrian,

1118
00:55:37,140 --> 00:55:40,204
and I don't consider
that a compliment.

1119
00:55:40,204 --> 00:55:41,570
[CHUCKLING]

1120
00:55:41,570 --> 00:55:46,530
But I don't feel any
violent reaction.

1121
00:55:46,530 --> 00:55:50,718
Is there anything else you'd
like to say in conclusion?

1122
00:55:50,718 --> 00:55:53,790
Well, in conclusion, I
have to say one thing,

1123
00:55:53,790 --> 00:55:56,280
that my husband and
I have discussed

1124
00:55:56,280 --> 00:55:58,830
what happened to us
very often, especially

1125
00:55:58,830 --> 00:56:00,600
what happened to him.

1126
00:56:00,600 --> 00:56:03,300
And we've talked to
our kids about it.

1127
00:56:03,300 --> 00:56:05,730
And a lot of the things that--

1128
00:56:05,730 --> 00:56:08,250
I mean, there are many people

who don't feel that way--

1129

00:56:08,250 --> 00:56:11,910

but some of the things that
have happened in Eastern Europe

1130

00:56:11,910 --> 00:56:14,580

could happen in
such mass quantity

1131

00:56:14,580 --> 00:56:18,810

because people were very
trusting, very law abiding.

1132

00:56:18,810 --> 00:56:21,480

If it was a law or
decree, they did not

1133

00:56:21,480 --> 00:56:25,410

even question the legality
or the origin of it.

1134

00:56:25,410 --> 00:56:28,470

They would just
obey these orders,

1135

00:56:28,470 --> 00:56:32,940

and actually cooperate
in their own liquidation.

1136

00:56:32,940 --> 00:56:35,250

I mean, there was resistance,
but there was also--

1137

00:56:35,250 --> 00:56:38,710

we cannot turn our
eyes away from that--

1138

00:56:38,710 --> 00:56:41,420

there was also
this kind of thing.

1139

00:56:41,420 --> 00:56:43,710

And we've gone
over it many times.

1140
00:56:43,710 --> 00:56:46,800
And I have told my sons,
even when they were little,

1141
00:56:46,800 --> 00:56:49,380
that to obey every
law-- everything

1142
00:56:49,380 --> 00:56:53,160
has to be weighed-- its
ethical value and its value

1143
00:56:53,160 --> 00:56:54,690
to you as a person.

1144
00:56:54,690 --> 00:56:57,840
Blind obedience to
laws or cooperating

1145
00:56:57,840 --> 00:57:02,230
with people who want to
destroy us is something

1146
00:57:02,230 --> 00:57:05,850
that I don't think could
happen so easily again.

1147
00:57:05,850 --> 00:57:10,180
But I've always tried
to emphasize that.

1148
00:57:10,180 --> 00:57:12,540
When my kids were little
during the Vietnam War,

1149
00:57:12,540 --> 00:57:14,100
I was against it.

1150
00:57:14,100 --> 00:57:20,500
And my little son, who

was then 9 years old

1151

00:57:20,500 --> 00:57:22,500

said, I don't want to go to war.

1152

00:57:22,500 --> 00:57:26,400

I said, if it lasts till

you're eligible to go,

1153

00:57:26,400 --> 00:57:28,410

I won't let you go.

1154

00:57:28,410 --> 00:57:31,890

I'll do something about

it, even if it is the law.

1155

00:57:31,890 --> 00:57:35,300

That is, I think, some

remnant of what happened.

1156

00:57:35,300 --> 00:57:39,300

Because we were brought

up in a very law--

1157

00:57:39,300 --> 00:57:41,700

you have to do what's decreed.

1158

00:57:41,700 --> 00:57:44,610

Thank you very much

for your testimony.

1159

00:57:44,610 --> 00:57:46,460

You're welcome.

1160

00:57:46,460 --> 00:57:48,299