

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:23,570

2  
00:00:23,570 --> 00:00:24,842  
Good evening.

3  
00:00:24,842 --> 00:00:26,050  
My name is Bernard Weinstein.

4  
00:00:26,050 --> 00:00:29,510  
I'm the director of the Caine  
College Oral Testimonies

5  
00:00:29,510 --> 00:00:32,570  
Project of the Holocaust  
Resource Center.

6  
00:00:32,570 --> 00:00:36,140  
Assisting me this  
evening is Pepe Margolis.

7  
00:00:36,140 --> 00:00:41,290  
And we're happy to welcome  
Mr. Walter Nachtigall.

8  
00:00:41,290 --> 00:00:43,190  
Good evening.

9  
00:00:43,190 --> 00:00:45,500  
Would you like to  
tell us something

10  
00:00:45,500 --> 00:00:50,220  
about your background, where  
you came from, your early life?

11  
00:00:50,220 --> 00:00:50,720  
All right.

12  
00:00:50,720 --> 00:00:55,030

13  
00:00:55,030 --> 00:01:06,130  
I'm 58 years old and have  
lived in America since 1939.

14  
00:01:06,130 --> 00:01:11,420  
I came here when I was  
not quite nine years old.

15  
00:01:11,420 --> 00:01:18,190  
I was born in Vienna, lived in  
the Jewish section of Vienna,

16  
00:01:18,190 --> 00:01:21,010  
something akin to  
what Weequahic used

17  
00:01:21,010 --> 00:01:25,350  
to be in Newark or  
Flatbush in Brooklyn.

18  
00:01:25,350 --> 00:01:31,090  
I lived in an apartment  
house with my parents

19  
00:01:31,090 --> 00:01:32,710  
and an older brother and sister.

20  
00:01:32,710 --> 00:01:37,500

21  
00:01:37,500 --> 00:01:41,190  
There was nothing unique or  
special about my lifestyle,

22  
00:01:41,190 --> 00:01:43,290  
as I remember it.

23  
00:01:43,290 --> 00:01:45,160  
I was too young to  
cross the street.

24

00:01:45,160 --> 00:01:49,230  
So all I knew was really  
the block on which I lived.

25  
00:01:49,230 --> 00:01:51,810  
Had a tricycle that I used  
to run up and down the street

26  
00:01:51,810 --> 00:01:53,310  
with.

27  
00:01:53,310 --> 00:01:57,600  
My father had a wholesale  
leather business,

28  
00:01:57,600 --> 00:01:59,820  
which happened to be  
a storefront operation

29  
00:01:59,820 --> 00:02:01,830  
in the very building  
in which we lived.

30  
00:02:01,830 --> 00:02:04,410

31  
00:02:04,410 --> 00:02:11,490  
I attended a local Talmud Torah,  
a Hebrew school, a day school.

32  
00:02:11,490 --> 00:02:15,760  
And we had a pleasant,  
happy home life.

33  
00:02:15,760 --> 00:02:19,480

34  
00:02:19,480 --> 00:02:28,990  
My first recollection of  
the coming of the Hitler era

35  
00:02:28,990 --> 00:02:39,090  
was in the sense of jubilation.

36  
00:02:39,090 --> 00:02:44,380  
Not jubilation that  
emanated from my family,

37  
00:02:44,380 --> 00:02:47,490  
but rather the  
surroundings, that

38  
00:02:47,490 --> 00:02:52,020  
of the non-Jewish neighbors  
among whom we lived.

39  
00:02:52,020 --> 00:02:56,310

40  
00:02:56,310 --> 00:03:05,310  
When Hitler acquired, well,  
the Anschluss was in effect--

41  
00:03:05,310 --> 00:03:10,710  
Germany acquiring  
Austria-- this was

42  
00:03:10,710 --> 00:03:15,150  
greeted by the  
Austrian population

43  
00:03:15,150 --> 00:03:16,455  
with a great deal of joy.

44  
00:03:16,455 --> 00:03:20,810

45  
00:03:20,810 --> 00:03:28,940  
The very first day  
following the annexation,

46  
00:03:28,940 --> 00:03:31,180  
I remembered looking  
out of my window--

47

00:03:31,180 --> 00:03:35,030  
and the house was  
on a Main Street--

48  
00:03:35,030 --> 00:03:38,060  
and I saw these  
huge Nazi banners

49  
00:03:38,060 --> 00:03:43,310  
hanging from each  
building, including ours.

50  
00:03:43,310 --> 00:03:46,310  
Strange as it seems,  
my grandmother

51  
00:03:46,310 --> 00:03:49,760  
was the landlord of the house.

52  
00:03:49,760 --> 00:03:59,150  
The superintendent  
was an Austrian Nazi.

53  
00:03:59,150 --> 00:04:04,790  
And without asking, he simply  
had acquired and unfurled

54  
00:04:04,790 --> 00:04:08,840  
a huge, huge banner,  
which was hanging

55  
00:04:08,840 --> 00:04:10,580  
from the front of the house.

56  
00:04:10,580 --> 00:04:13,130  
Excuse me did you  
perceive a difference

57  
00:04:13,130 --> 00:04:17,180  
between the attitudes  
of non-Jews toward Jews

58  
00:04:17,180 --> 00:04:21,800

prior to the Anschluss  
and after the Anschluss?

59  
00:04:21,800 --> 00:04:24,870

60  
00:04:24,870 --> 00:04:25,770  
Did things change--

61  
00:04:25,770 --> 00:04:29,900  
Quite frankly, as an  
the eight-year-old,

62  
00:04:29,900 --> 00:04:31,460  
I simply wasn't aware of it.

63  
00:04:31,460 --> 00:04:35,120  
If it was present, I  
didn't perceive it.

64  
00:04:35,120 --> 00:04:38,240  
I didn't encounter it directly.

65  
00:04:38,240 --> 00:04:41,120  
The kids in my building or on  
the street that I played with

66  
00:04:41,120 --> 00:04:43,980  
were typically Jewish children.

67  
00:04:43,980 --> 00:04:45,350  
I went to a Jewish school.

68  
00:04:45,350 --> 00:04:48,140  
So I simply didn't--

69  
00:04:48,140 --> 00:04:50,270  
I wasn't exposed,  
nor was I aware

70  
00:04:50,270 --> 00:04:55,040  
of any overt anti-Semitism.

71  
00:04:55,040 --> 00:05:00,530  
But clearly, it was  
there, because only

72  
00:05:00,530 --> 00:05:07,470  
after the Nazis in Germany  
had made its presence felt

73  
00:05:07,470 --> 00:05:16,490  
did that give the local Austrian  
population a justification

74  
00:05:16,490 --> 00:05:22,820  
for coming out of the shadows,  
vis a vis their anti-Semitism.

75  
00:05:22,820 --> 00:05:24,980  
They didn't have to hide it.

76  
00:05:24,980 --> 00:05:27,100  
They didn't have to fear it.

77  
00:05:27,100 --> 00:05:28,565  
And that's when it became overt.

78  
00:05:28,565 --> 00:05:31,650

79  
00:05:31,650 --> 00:05:37,740  
I can remember scenes of  
Hitler Youth, teenagers

80  
00:05:37,740 --> 00:05:40,823  
wearing these short  
pants-- black pants--

81  
00:05:40,823 --> 00:05:41,865  
with their leather belts.

82  
00:05:41,865 --> 00:05:44,450

83  
00:05:44,450 --> 00:05:48,630  
Kids that couldn't have  
been more than 16 or 17,

84  
00:05:48,630 --> 00:05:50,910  
walking down the  
street accosting

85  
00:05:50,910 --> 00:05:56,520  
an elderly Jew with a beard,  
mocking him, pushing him,

86  
00:05:56,520 --> 00:05:59,040  
hitting him.

87  
00:05:59,040 --> 00:06:04,020  
And passers-by would  
just walk by, no one's

88  
00:06:04,020 --> 00:06:10,140  
saying a word, total  
acquiescence, total acceptance.

89  
00:06:10,140 --> 00:06:14,040  
It was simply the thing to do.

90  
00:06:14,040 --> 00:06:20,300  
Other instances where  
Jews, men, women,

91  
00:06:20,300 --> 00:06:23,400  
pushed down on their  
hands and knees,

92  
00:06:23,400 --> 00:06:26,070  
being forced to  
scrub the sidewalk

93  
00:06:26,070 --> 00:06:35,190  
or gutter, pure humiliation,  
dehumanizing of people



94

00:06:35,190 --> 00:06:40,140

was the name of the game

with no effort being

95

00:06:40,140 --> 00:06:42,750

made to stop anyone.

96

00:06:42,750 --> 00:06:43,995

I saw these things.

97

00:06:43,995 --> 00:06:45,120

I couldn't understand them.

98

00:06:45,120 --> 00:06:46,260

I couldn't comprehend them.

99

00:06:46,260 --> 00:06:50,250

100

00:06:50,250 --> 00:06:53,340

But they certainly did

stand out in my mind.

101

00:06:53,340 --> 00:07:00,040

Yet, why would it stick out

in the minds of an 8-year-old?

102

00:07:00,040 --> 00:07:02,090

It's hard to say.

103

00:07:02,090 --> 00:07:08,060

Even lacking the understanding

of what is happening then,

104

00:07:08,060 --> 00:07:14,300

it was perhaps so far

from the norm of behavior

105

00:07:14,300 --> 00:07:21,210

that the very sight of it left

a significant impact on my mind

106

00:07:21,210 --> 00:07:24,320

that it is not  
difficult to recall.

107

00:07:24,320 --> 00:07:27,860

What emotions did you associate  
with that impact, fear, hate,

108

00:07:27,860 --> 00:07:29,120

what did you feel?

109

00:07:29,120 --> 00:07:33,640

110

00:07:33,640 --> 00:07:37,570

Fear and lack of understanding.

111

00:07:37,570 --> 00:07:41,960

It was like why, why, why?

112

00:07:41,960 --> 00:07:45,510

I personally didn't  
feel threatened.

113

00:07:45,510 --> 00:07:50,090

But seeing it and not being  
able to understand something,

114

00:07:50,090 --> 00:07:54,950

that in itself leads to fear.

115

00:07:54,950 --> 00:07:58,940

It's always-- you  
know, it's not knowing

116

00:07:58,940 --> 00:08:01,910

what's going on leads to fear.

117

00:08:01,910 --> 00:08:07,130

118

00:08:07,130 --> 00:08:22,700  
The height to this build-up  
of this overt anti-Semitism

119  
00:08:22,700 --> 00:08:26,066  
occurred in what we now  
know as Kristallnacht.

120  
00:08:26,066 --> 00:08:31,310

121  
00:08:31,310 --> 00:08:35,059  
Again, I didn't  
know the politics

122  
00:08:35,059 --> 00:08:37,460  
of the event leading  
up to it, namely

123  
00:08:37,460 --> 00:08:43,909  
the assassination of a Nazi  
party leader in France.

124  
00:08:43,909 --> 00:08:48,780

125  
00:08:48,780 --> 00:08:55,380  
But I did know something was  
coming, because the event had

126  
00:08:55,380 --> 00:08:59,560  
occurred in Germany on the 9th.

127  
00:08:59,560 --> 00:09:06,330  
And it only-- the repercussions  
only occurred in Vienna

128  
00:09:06,330 --> 00:09:08,160  
on the 10th of November.

129  
00:09:08,160 --> 00:09:11,450

130

00:09:11,450 --> 00:09:16,010

But apparently, people do  
speak on the telephone.

131

00:09:16,010 --> 00:09:18,230

And people in the  
Jewish community,

132

00:09:18,230 --> 00:09:22,760

friends, teenagers  
having friends in Germany

133

00:09:22,760 --> 00:09:27,050

apparently spoke to one another.

134

00:09:27,050 --> 00:09:30,920

And I became aware of  
the fact that my brother

135

00:09:30,920 --> 00:09:39,080

had been alerted that something  
was amiss in Germany--

136

00:09:39,080 --> 00:09:40,790

that young people,  
men and women,

137

00:09:40,790 --> 00:09:44,300

were being rounded  
up by the Nazis.

138

00:09:44,300 --> 00:09:50,180

And I heard this buzzing,  
this expression of concern

139

00:09:50,180 --> 00:09:50,900

in my home.

140

00:09:50,900 --> 00:09:54,100

141

00:09:54,100 --> 00:09:56,310

Well, to make a  
long story short,

142  
00:09:56,310 --> 00:10:04,980  
or to encapsulate the immediate  
events, the morning following

143  
00:10:04,980 --> 00:10:13,200  
Kristallnacht in Austria, our  
apartment was broken into.

144  
00:10:13,200 --> 00:10:15,300  
Banging on the door--

145  
00:10:15,300 --> 00:10:18,840  
the front door had a glass pane.

146  
00:10:18,840 --> 00:10:22,830  
And I remember a arm  
breaking the glass,

147  
00:10:22,830 --> 00:10:25,680  
reaching in, and  
unlatching the door.

148  
00:10:25,680 --> 00:10:28,200

149  
00:10:28,200 --> 00:10:31,890  
Fortunately, my brother,  
having been alerted,

150  
00:10:31,890 --> 00:10:38,910  
had left the apartment and was  
hiding in a girlfriend's home.

151  
00:10:38,910 --> 00:10:42,270  
So only my parents and my  
sister were still at home

152  
00:10:42,270 --> 00:10:47,090  
when the door was forced open.

153

00:10:47,090 --> 00:10:51,360

And in marched  
about a half a dozen

154

00:10:51,360 --> 00:10:54,930

SA troopers, sturmabteilung.

155

00:10:54,930 --> 00:10:57,990

They were the brown shirts.

156

00:10:57,990 --> 00:11:03,180

At the time, they were  
considered the thugs

157

00:11:03,180 --> 00:11:07,350

of the net Nazi party  
versus the black shirts,

158

00:11:07,350 --> 00:11:09,750

or the SS, who were  
the so-called elite.

159

00:11:09,750 --> 00:11:12,660

160

00:11:12,660 --> 00:11:17,130

And again, the  
ages of these Nazis

161

00:11:17,130 --> 00:11:20,310

were rather young,  
late teens, early 20s.

162

00:11:20,310 --> 00:11:23,030

163

00:11:23,030 --> 00:11:28,880

And much to our  
surprise, my father

164

00:11:28,880 --> 00:11:34,810

recognized at

least three of them

165  
00:11:34,810 --> 00:11:38,140  
because of his business  
being in the building.

166  
00:11:38,140 --> 00:11:42,150

167  
00:11:42,150 --> 00:11:47,940  
And again, the same  
type of humiliation

168  
00:11:47,940 --> 00:11:56,070  
ensued, jostling, pushing,  
cursing my parents.

169  
00:11:56,070 --> 00:11:59,540  
And my father would  
ask, "but, Fritz,

170  
00:11:59,540 --> 00:12:02,810  
or Hans, you know,  
what did we do to you?"

171  
00:12:02,810 --> 00:12:04,560  
And the response, you're a Jew.

172  
00:12:04,560 --> 00:12:06,030  
You're a Jew.

173  
00:12:06,030 --> 00:12:06,600  
That was it.

174  
00:12:06,600 --> 00:12:09,380

175  
00:12:09,380 --> 00:12:15,330  
They proceeded to  
ransack our apartment,

176  
00:12:15,330 --> 00:12:19,440

throwing furnishings,  
pillowcases, blankets,

177  
00:12:19,440 --> 00:12:25,190  
right out of the window  
to people waiting down

178  
00:12:25,190 --> 00:12:27,810  
in the street.

179  
00:12:27,810 --> 00:12:29,670  
It was a free for all.

180  
00:12:29,670 --> 00:12:30,780  
Grab what you can.

181  
00:12:30,780 --> 00:12:37,000

182  
00:12:37,000 --> 00:12:41,170  
I was simply terrified  
at what was happening.

183  
00:12:41,170 --> 00:12:45,730  
To see my father  
pushed and punched

184  
00:12:45,730 --> 00:12:49,060  
and to see that being  
done to my mother

185  
00:12:49,060 --> 00:12:53,680  
was a frightening and  
painful experience.

186  
00:12:53,680 --> 00:12:55,450  
And there was no hitting back.

187  
00:12:55,450 --> 00:12:59,440

188  
00:12:59,440 --> 00:13:02,140



It was weathering the storm.

189  
00:13:02,140 --> 00:13:07,180  
And I asked even then,  
why, why, what's going on?

190  
00:13:07,180 --> 00:13:11,650  
And my mother was  
trying to keep me quiet,

191  
00:13:11,650 --> 00:13:17,500  
simply out of fear that I  
wouldn't arouse the Nazis

192  
00:13:17,500 --> 00:13:18,940  
from doing any greater harm.

193  
00:13:18,940 --> 00:13:21,770

194  
00:13:21,770 --> 00:13:24,920  
My father was  
arrested taken away

195  
00:13:24,920 --> 00:13:32,320  
and taken to Dachau, one of the  
notorious concentration camps.

196  
00:13:32,320 --> 00:13:35,750

197  
00:13:35,750 --> 00:13:43,160  
We had no idea when,  
what would be happening.

198  
00:13:43,160 --> 00:13:46,770  
This was happening  
all over the city.

199  
00:13:46,770 --> 00:13:53,060  
So most Jews-- all Jews were in  
that same sad state of affairs.

200

00:13:53,060 --> 00:13:56,340

201

00:13:56,340 --> 00:14:06,720

In the course of the day,  
we heard fire engines.

202

00:14:06,720 --> 00:14:10,170

And diagonally across  
the street from us,

203

00:14:10,170 --> 00:14:13,800

there was a synagogue,  
small shtibel.

204

00:14:13,800 --> 00:14:16,710

205

00:14:16,710 --> 00:14:18,420

And we saw it burning.

206

00:14:18,420 --> 00:14:21,150

We saw smoke rising  
from the building.

207

00:14:21,150 --> 00:14:25,610

208

00:14:25,610 --> 00:14:29,180

We saw the fire  
department pull up,

209

00:14:29,180 --> 00:14:34,310

firemen jumping off the trucks,  
running to attach the fire

210

00:14:34,310 --> 00:14:37,310

hoses to the hydrants.

211

00:14:37,310 --> 00:14:42,200

And the storm troopers,  
the SA would not

212  
00:14:42,200 --> 00:14:46,090  
allow them to turn on the water.

213  
00:14:46,090 --> 00:14:50,390  
So the firemen responded  
natural call of duty,

214  
00:14:50,390 --> 00:14:53,210  
doing what they  
were supposed to do.

215  
00:14:53,210 --> 00:14:57,470  
But the Nazis simply wouldn't  
let them fight the fire.

216  
00:14:57,470 --> 00:15:00,380  
Fires were planned.

217  
00:15:00,380 --> 00:15:05,060  
They were well executed.

218  
00:15:05,060 --> 00:15:10,640  
And part of the game plan  
was let the temples burn.

219  
00:15:10,640 --> 00:15:13,810  
And this sadly as we  
know, occurred not only

220  
00:15:13,810 --> 00:15:16,690  
across the street from  
where I live, but that

221  
00:15:16,690 --> 00:15:25,040  
was the pattern all over Vienna,  
all over Austria and Germany.

222  
00:15:25,040 --> 00:15:27,040  
Were you aware the same  
thing was simultaneously

223

00:15:27,040 --> 00:15:29,280  
happening in both countries  
and in other cities--

224  
00:15:29,280 --> 00:15:31,660  
No, I'm sure I was not.

225  
00:15:31,660 --> 00:15:37,390  
I only knew my little  
world, which was my block.

226  
00:15:37,390 --> 00:15:44,150  
But I'm sure my parents, and  
in retrospect, we knew of it.

227  
00:15:44,150 --> 00:15:53,700  
I don't think they even  
knew the extent of that.

228  
00:15:53,700 --> 00:16:01,050  
You simply cannot comprehend  
what a massive, planned,

229  
00:16:01,050 --> 00:16:03,210  
well-executed effort that was.

230  
00:16:03,210 --> 00:16:08,970  
I mean, this wasn't just  
a spontaneous happening

231  
00:16:08,970 --> 00:16:14,280  
as a result of a Nazi  
official being assassinated.

232  
00:16:14,280 --> 00:16:16,260  
This was a game plan.

233  
00:16:16,260 --> 00:16:19,230  
This was a strategy  
that had been

234  
00:16:19,230 --> 00:16:22,590  
put into place by the Nazis.

235  
00:16:22,590 --> 00:16:27,510  
Official orders had been  
issued and circulated

236  
00:16:27,510 --> 00:16:33,050  
through all the levels of  
the political bureaucracy

237  
00:16:33,050 --> 00:16:36,240  
of the Nazi movement,  
from major cities,

238  
00:16:36,240 --> 00:16:39,390  
smaller cities, townships.

239  
00:16:39,390 --> 00:16:41,670  
The orders had been cut.

240  
00:16:41,670 --> 00:16:47,130  
That assassination event  
simply was the justification

241  
00:16:47,130 --> 00:16:51,800  
for somebody to hit the button  
and say, all signals are go.

242  
00:16:51,800 --> 00:16:52,980  
Start the fires.

243  
00:16:52,980 --> 00:16:55,110  
Start the looting.

244  
00:16:55,110 --> 00:16:57,240  
Start the breaking in.

245  
00:16:57,240 --> 00:17:00,000  
Start the arrests.

246  
00:17:00,000 --> 00:17:05,970  
But it was all part  
of a larger game plan.

247  
00:17:05,970 --> 00:17:09,000  
So no, I didn't know about it.

248  
00:17:09,000 --> 00:17:13,079  
And while my  
parents, and I think

249  
00:17:13,079 --> 00:17:16,500  
most adults knew that  
this was happening,

250  
00:17:16,500 --> 00:17:20,250  
not just on our  
street, I don't think

251  
00:17:20,250 --> 00:17:25,950  
they were aware of the  
tremendous magnitude of it all.

252  
00:17:25,950 --> 00:17:29,860

253  
00:17:29,860 --> 00:17:37,460  
In the weeks and  
months that followed,

254  
00:17:37,460 --> 00:17:40,940  
we, from time to time, used to  
get a postcard from my father.

255  
00:17:40,940 --> 00:17:44,690

256  
00:17:44,690 --> 00:17:51,710  
They were allowed to write one  
or two cards every two weeks.

257  
00:17:51,710 --> 00:17:57,260  
And he would write in  
very small handwriting,

258

00:17:57,260 --> 00:18:00,140  
trying to get as  
much of a message

259  
00:18:00,140 --> 00:18:02,900  
onto the card as possible.

260  
00:18:02,900 --> 00:18:09,230  
Yet, he knew and we  
knew that the mail

261  
00:18:09,230 --> 00:18:11,030  
would be read by censors.

262  
00:18:11,030 --> 00:18:15,860  
So he had to be very careful  
about what he could say.

263  
00:18:15,860 --> 00:18:19,670  
But the mere fact  
that we heard from him

264  
00:18:19,670 --> 00:18:23,335  
was, in itself a blessing  
that we knew he was alive.

265  
00:18:23,335 --> 00:18:29,520

266  
00:18:29,520 --> 00:18:37,590  
My mother and sister repeatedly  
would go to the local SS

267  
00:18:37,590 --> 00:18:42,660  
headquarters, waiting in  
line for hours and hours

268  
00:18:42,660 --> 00:18:47,970  
on end filling out  
forms, applications, all

269  
00:18:47,970 --> 00:18:53,740  
those things that could possibly

be done to get him released.

270  
00:18:53,740 --> 00:18:57,380

271  
00:18:57,380 --> 00:19:02,450  
Mind you, this was  
before the final solution

272  
00:19:02,450 --> 00:19:05,600  
was put into effect  
by Eichmann, which

273  
00:19:05,600 --> 00:19:07,040  
was at least a year later.

274  
00:19:07,040 --> 00:19:11,470

275  
00:19:11,470 --> 00:19:22,140  
After several months-- well,  
let me digress for a moment.

276  
00:19:22,140 --> 00:19:30,490  
While my father was  
in Dachau, there

277  
00:19:30,490 --> 00:19:38,140  
was an organized effort made  
to evacuate Jewish children

278  
00:19:38,140 --> 00:19:42,730  
from both Germany  
and Austria, simply

279  
00:19:42,730 --> 00:19:46,560  
to save the lives of the kids.

280  
00:19:46,560 --> 00:19:53,170  
The future was certainly  
dark and uncertain.

281



00:19:53,170 --> 00:19:59,100  
And an effort was made to try  
to evacuate Jewish children.

282  
00:19:59,100 --> 00:20:03,580  
Can I ask who was involved  
in that particular effort?

283  
00:20:03,580 --> 00:20:05,050  
Do you know?

284  
00:20:05,050 --> 00:20:06,130  
I really don't know.

285  
00:20:06,130 --> 00:20:08,380  
The Jewish community  
was very much

286  
00:20:08,380 --> 00:20:10,930  
involved in organizing it--

287  
00:20:10,930 --> 00:20:11,920  
From Austria?

288  
00:20:11,920 --> 00:20:12,790  
From Austria.

289  
00:20:12,790 --> 00:20:16,780  
And I think there were similar  
efforts being made in Germany.

290  
00:20:16,780 --> 00:20:20,380  
But I don't know with  
whom they collaborated,

291  
00:20:20,380 --> 00:20:23,290  
with whom they worked.

292  
00:20:23,290 --> 00:20:28,510  
I do know that it came time--

293  
00:20:28,510 --> 00:20:32,470

now, this was months  
after Kristallnacht--

294  
00:20:32,470 --> 00:20:37,940  
that my sister and I  
were told by my parents,

295  
00:20:37,940 --> 00:20:39,190  
you're going to be leaving us.

296  
00:20:39,190 --> 00:20:41,710

297  
00:20:41,710 --> 00:20:46,150  
And again, I didn't  
have the understanding

298  
00:20:46,150 --> 00:20:47,270  
of what was happening.

299  
00:20:47,270 --> 00:20:48,687  
You know, we could  
have been going

300  
00:20:48,687 --> 00:20:50,000  
on a vacation for all I knew.

301  
00:20:50,000 --> 00:20:51,390  
What were your  
ages in comparison

302  
00:20:51,390 --> 00:20:53,140  
to each other-- your  
brother, your sister?

303  
00:20:53,140 --> 00:20:59,530  
Well, I was not quite 8.

304  
00:20:59,530 --> 00:21:03,130  
And my sister was 15.

305  
00:21:03,130 --> 00:21:07,800

My brother was about 18.

306  
00:21:07,800 --> 00:21:13,410

307  
00:21:13,410 --> 00:21:15,640  
My sister and I  
were told that we're

308  
00:21:15,640 --> 00:21:23,180  
going to be leaving on  
a children's transport.

309  
00:21:23,180 --> 00:21:32,600  
And my recollection  
of that is being

310  
00:21:32,600 --> 00:21:34,040  
not at the railroad station--

311  
00:21:34,040 --> 00:21:36,670

312  
00:21:36,670 --> 00:21:41,120  
hundreds of children  
with their parents,

313  
00:21:41,120 --> 00:21:46,660  
some laughing, some weeping,  
not very unlike a scene of kids

314  
00:21:46,660 --> 00:21:52,390  
going off to camp  
with the buses.

315  
00:21:52,390 --> 00:21:56,950  
The young ones  
were either crying

316  
00:21:56,950 --> 00:22:02,950  
because they were leaving their  
parents, just as kids nowadays

317  
00:22:02,950 --> 00:22:05,530  
will cry when they're  
going off to camp.

318  
00:22:05,530 --> 00:22:11,550  
The older ones certainly  
knew what was going on.

319  
00:22:11,550 --> 00:22:18,090  
So all kinds of emotions were  
occurring-- parents, children,

320  
00:22:18,090 --> 00:22:19,080  
laughing, crying.

321  
00:22:19,080 --> 00:22:21,830

322  
00:22:21,830 --> 00:22:25,560  
And I remember being in the  
train with my face pressed

323  
00:22:25,560 --> 00:22:27,000  
against the window,  
and my mother

324  
00:22:27,000 --> 00:22:32,370  
standing on the platform  
crying and waving to her

325  
00:22:32,370 --> 00:22:34,230  
as the train pulled away.

326  
00:22:34,230 --> 00:22:43,720

327  
00:22:43,720 --> 00:22:48,115  
The train was just  
comprised of children.

328  
00:22:48,115 --> 00:22:52,620

329  
00:22:52,620 --> 00:22:55,900  
We had sandwiches.

330  
00:22:55,900 --> 00:23:02,100  
And the next thing that I recall  
must have been very, very early

331  
00:23:02,100 --> 00:23:07,550  
in the morning, perhaps  
6 o'clock in the morning,

332  
00:23:07,550 --> 00:23:12,350  
that the train had pulled  
into a railroad siding.

333  
00:23:12,350 --> 00:23:17,270  
And people came to the  
train with little parcels

334  
00:23:17,270 --> 00:23:20,075  
of candy and food, cookies.

335  
00:23:20,075 --> 00:23:22,830

336  
00:23:22,830 --> 00:23:26,910  
They tried to speak to us.

337  
00:23:26,910 --> 00:23:29,490  
And we were simply--

338  
00:23:29,490 --> 00:23:31,140  
had lowered the  
windows on the train

339  
00:23:31,140 --> 00:23:32,670  
and were hanging  
out of the windows.

340  
00:23:32,670 --> 00:23:34,320  
Were you still in

Austria or Vienna?

341  
00:23:34,320 --> 00:23:37,050  
No, it turns out  
we were in Holland.

342  
00:23:37,050 --> 00:23:38,460  
So we must have been driving--

343  
00:23:38,460 --> 00:23:41,610  
or riding in the train  
maybe 10 hours or 12 hours.

344  
00:23:41,610 --> 00:23:44,640  
I really don't recall  
the time episode.

345  
00:23:44,640 --> 00:23:50,520  
But we had been in Rotterdam  
at this train siding.

346  
00:23:50,520 --> 00:23:54,930  
And the local Dutch  
people, knowing

347  
00:23:54,930 --> 00:23:57,090  
there were refugee  
children on the train,

348  
00:23:57,090 --> 00:24:01,430  
came to the train at and  
ungodly hour, 5 o'clock or so,

349  
00:24:01,430 --> 00:24:04,897  
with little packages of food.

350  
00:24:04,897 --> 00:24:06,480  
Do you remember  
sleeping on the train?

351  
00:24:06,480 --> 00:24:08,450  
Or do you remember any--

352

00:24:08,450 --> 00:24:09,220

You know, dozing--

353

00:24:09,220 --> 00:24:11,850

--how you passed the time?

354

00:24:11,850 --> 00:24:12,870

I don't, no.

355

00:24:12,870 --> 00:24:15,600

356

00:24:15,600 --> 00:24:19,590

And I remember as the  
train was pulling out--

357

00:24:19,590 --> 00:24:24,160

now, maybe it was there for  
changing engines or refueling,

358

00:24:24,160 --> 00:24:25,300

whatever--

359

00:24:25,300 --> 00:24:29,170

but as a train pulled  
out, all the children

360

00:24:29,170 --> 00:24:30,250

were chanting, [DUTCH].

361

00:24:30,250 --> 00:24:34,090

362

00:24:34,090 --> 00:24:36,550

And as the train was  
going faster and faster,

363

00:24:36,550 --> 00:24:41,100

the tempo of that phrase  
just was increased.

364

00:24:41,100 --> 00:24:42,660  
And it was simply saying--

365  
00:24:42,660 --> 00:24:46,480  
we were thanking all  
the Dutch people.

366  
00:24:46,480 --> 00:24:52,960

367  
00:24:52,960 --> 00:24:55,150  
Shortly thereafter,  
the train must

368  
00:24:55,150 --> 00:25:01,180  
have made its way to  
the port of embarkation

369  
00:25:01,180 --> 00:25:04,640  
at the English Channel.

370  
00:25:04,640 --> 00:25:07,555  
We took a ferry to England.

371  
00:25:07,555 --> 00:25:10,240

372  
00:25:10,240 --> 00:25:18,000  
And then we found ourselves in  
a large hall, some sort of a--

373  
00:25:18,000 --> 00:25:20,410  
well, it could have been a  
school gym for all I know.

374  
00:25:20,410 --> 00:25:24,940  
And there were tables,  
manned by people

375  
00:25:24,940 --> 00:25:27,860  
and broken down by the alphabet.

376



00:25:27,860 --> 00:25:31,810  
And you had to go to  
a table corresponding

377  
00:25:31,810 --> 00:25:34,760  
to your last name.

378  
00:25:34,760 --> 00:25:38,520  
And there were hundreds  
and hundreds of kids.

379  
00:25:38,520 --> 00:25:41,860  
And I'm sure they were not just  
from the train that I was on,

380  
00:25:41,860 --> 00:25:45,130  
but from similar  
children trains that had

381  
00:25:45,130 --> 00:25:47,125  
come from Austria and Germany.

382  
00:25:47,125 --> 00:25:50,160

383  
00:25:50,160 --> 00:25:57,230  
And there apparently, the  
Jewish community of London

384  
00:25:57,230 --> 00:26:06,320  
was involved in finding  
homes for these Jewish kids,

385  
00:26:06,320 --> 00:26:15,040  
working in conjunction  
with other Jewish agencies

386  
00:26:15,040 --> 00:26:18,010  
throughout England and Scotland.

387  
00:26:18,010 --> 00:26:23,320  
And my sister and I,  
that very day or evening,

388  
00:26:23,320 --> 00:26:27,430  
found ourselves going  
on a train to Edinburgh.

389  
00:26:27,430 --> 00:26:34,660  
We had tags attached to our  
clothing and to our bags.

390  
00:26:34,660 --> 00:26:39,760  
And somebody bussed us over  
to the local train station.

391  
00:26:39,760 --> 00:26:47,080  
And we were told at Edinburgh,  
you will get off the train.

392  
00:26:47,080 --> 00:26:50,530  
And my sister had taken--

393  
00:26:50,530 --> 00:26:55,150  
had started taking some English  
in high school in Vienna.

394  
00:26:55,150 --> 00:26:58,270  
So she knew a little bit.

395  
00:26:58,270 --> 00:27:01,690  
But hardly enough  
to be really verbal.

396  
00:27:01,690 --> 00:27:05,090

397  
00:27:05,090 --> 00:27:08,540  
And we-- nice train ride.

398  
00:27:08,540 --> 00:27:11,060  
It was a sleeper.

399  
00:27:11,060 --> 00:27:15,300  
And that train took

somewhere like six,

400  
00:27:15,300 --> 00:27:19,760  
seven hours from  
London to Edinburgh.

401  
00:27:19,760 --> 00:27:29,260  
And we were met in Edinburgh  
by two sets of adults, one

402  
00:27:29,260 --> 00:27:32,980  
to pick me up and one  
to pick my sister up.

403  
00:27:32,980 --> 00:27:38,690

404  
00:27:38,690 --> 00:27:44,590  
But it turns out  
that I was being

405  
00:27:44,590 --> 00:27:52,040  
given a home by a Jewish  
physician and his wife.

406  
00:27:52,040 --> 00:27:58,360  
And my sister was being given a  
home by yet another family also

407  
00:27:58,360 --> 00:27:58,950  
in Edinburgh.

408  
00:27:58,950 --> 00:28:04,240  
But we were on opposite  
ends of the city.

409  
00:28:04,240 --> 00:28:06,220  
Was the family she was  
sent to Jewish also?

410  
00:28:06,220 --> 00:28:06,955  
Yes.

411

00:28:06,955 --> 00:28:08,080

Yeah, both Jewish families.

412

00:28:08,080 --> 00:28:12,870

413

00:28:12,870 --> 00:28:16,500

I was very unhappy that first night and the second night,

414

00:28:16,500 --> 00:28:20,130

because apparently--

415

00:28:20,130 --> 00:28:24,200

416

00:28:24,200 --> 00:28:29,420

well, certainly the intent must have been a good one.

417

00:28:29,420 --> 00:28:31,340

But they didn't quite have a bed for me.

418

00:28:31,340 --> 00:28:37,010

It was one of these folding cots put into a storage room.

419

00:28:37,010 --> 00:28:41,270

And it was cold, and they only had one blanket,

420

00:28:41,270 --> 00:28:46,340

so I was cold in a unpleasant surrounding.

421

00:28:46,340 --> 00:28:47,900

I started to cry, where's my sister?

422

00:28:47,900 --> 00:28:48,590

Where's my sister?

423  
00:28:48,590 --> 00:28:49,340  
Where's my mother?

424  
00:28:49,340 --> 00:28:51,300  
And you know, they had  
trouble communicating.

425  
00:28:51,300 --> 00:28:58,310  
So it was just a very  
unpleasant experience,

426  
00:28:58,310 --> 00:29:01,070  
having gone through this  
long train ride and the boat,

427  
00:29:01,070 --> 00:29:07,310  
and it was somewhat  
traumatic, to say the least.

428  
00:29:07,310 --> 00:29:10,830

429  
00:29:10,830 --> 00:29:13,250  
But I think the day after,  
two days later my sister

430  
00:29:13,250 --> 00:29:14,135  
did come to visit.

431  
00:29:14,135 --> 00:29:17,820

432  
00:29:17,820 --> 00:29:21,530  
She assured me that  
she's close by.

433  
00:29:21,530 --> 00:29:23,240  
But not withstanding,  
an eight-year-old

434  
00:29:23,240 --> 00:29:25,160

is an eight-year-old,  
and if you don't

435  
00:29:25,160 --> 00:29:32,230  
have that warmth and comfort,  
it's a difficult moment.

436  
00:29:32,230 --> 00:29:37,805  
Well, I was with this  
family for several weeks.

437  
00:29:37,805 --> 00:29:41,930

438  
00:29:41,930 --> 00:29:46,190  
And apparently,  
they had made plans

439  
00:29:46,190 --> 00:29:49,955  
to go on a golfing holiday.

440  
00:29:49,955 --> 00:29:55,610  
The father was an avid  
golfer, as was his wife.

441  
00:29:55,610 --> 00:30:00,380  
And they really hadn't counted  
on taking an eight-year-old

442  
00:30:00,380 --> 00:30:01,265  
on a golfing holiday.

443  
00:30:01,265 --> 00:30:04,610

444  
00:30:04,610 --> 00:30:06,860  
Did they have children in  
their family, or were they--

445  
00:30:06,860 --> 00:30:10,610  
They had an older son who  
was a medical student.

446

00:30:10,610 --> 00:30:11,360

He wasn't at home.

447

00:30:11,360 --> 00:30:17,950

448

00:30:17,950 --> 00:30:26,620

Now, apparently,  
this physician also

449

00:30:26,620 --> 00:30:33,790

performed some medical services  
for a Christian foundling home.

450

00:30:33,790 --> 00:30:36,480

451

00:30:36,480 --> 00:30:38,340

A little bit hazy  
on the details.

452

00:30:38,340 --> 00:30:41,450

453

00:30:41,450 --> 00:30:44,650

And I guess in the  
course of dealing

454

00:30:44,650 --> 00:30:50,810

with that foundling  
home or hospital,

455

00:30:50,810 --> 00:30:52,430

I'm sure he mentioned  
that he is now

456

00:30:52,430 --> 00:30:56,690

caring for a Jewish little boy.

457

00:30:56,690 --> 00:30:58,700

But he's got a  
dilemma on his hands.

458  
00:30:58,700 --> 00:31:02,570  
Going on a vacation,  
what does he do with him?

459  
00:31:02,570 --> 00:31:07,880  
And someone at this  
home or hospital--

460  
00:31:07,880 --> 00:31:12,680  
the matron or the person  
who ran the place--

461  
00:31:12,680 --> 00:31:16,760  
indicated that they  
know of someone

462  
00:31:16,760 --> 00:31:24,260  
that will take in  
children for a week's time

463  
00:31:24,260 --> 00:31:26,390  
in the back country of Scotland.

464  
00:31:26,390 --> 00:31:29,290

465  
00:31:29,290 --> 00:31:33,820  
Something like a Fresh Air  
Fund where kids from the city

466  
00:31:33,820 --> 00:31:35,740  
would go out into the  
suburbs into the country

467  
00:31:35,740 --> 00:31:40,300  
for a little bit of a summer  
air and patch of grass.

468  
00:31:40,300 --> 00:31:44,320

469



00:31:44,320 --> 00:31:47,860  
Well, the doctor with  
whom I had been living

470  
00:31:47,860 --> 00:31:52,240  
pursued this course of action.

471  
00:31:52,240 --> 00:31:59,110  
And sure enough, this  
Scottish family, Christian,

472  
00:31:59,110 --> 00:32:05,980  
volunteered to provide a home  
for me for a week, purely

473  
00:32:05,980 --> 00:32:12,520  
as a charitable gesture of  
wanting to help somebody out,

474  
00:32:12,520 --> 00:32:16,390  
especially a little refugee  
boy who was eight years old.

475  
00:32:16,390 --> 00:32:19,480

476  
00:32:19,480 --> 00:32:22,640  
And I went there.

477  
00:32:22,640 --> 00:32:26,100  
And this was about  
an hour and a half

478  
00:32:26,100 --> 00:32:27,990  
in driving time from Edinburgh.

479  
00:32:27,990 --> 00:32:30,680  
So it really wasn't  
that far away.

480  
00:32:30,680 --> 00:32:36,340  
But it was a little town  
called Dysart, a little seaport

481  
00:32:36,340 --> 00:32:41,290  
village on the Firth of Forth,  
actually, a fishing community,

482  
00:32:41,290 --> 00:32:42,172  
originally.

483  
00:32:42,172 --> 00:32:44,770

484  
00:32:44,770 --> 00:32:49,230  
The family consisted  
of husband and wife.

485  
00:32:49,230 --> 00:32:52,020  
Their names were Jimmy and Isa--

486  
00:32:52,020 --> 00:32:58,230  
Isabella-- Salmond,  
S-A-L-M-O-N-D.

487  
00:32:58,230 --> 00:33:03,360  
And they had two teenage  
children, Bill and Mae.

488  
00:33:03,360 --> 00:33:06,100

489  
00:33:06,100 --> 00:33:08,580  
The daughter at  
the time, must have

490  
00:33:08,580 --> 00:33:14,065  
been 15, and the son about 17.

491  
00:33:14,065 --> 00:33:17,830

492  
00:33:17,830 --> 00:33:27,440  
This was truly a below  
middle-income family.

493  
00:33:27,440 --> 00:33:33,050  
The husband was a truck  
driver, who drove a milk

494  
00:33:33,050 --> 00:33:36,440  
truck for the local dairy.

495  
00:33:36,440 --> 00:33:40,460  
And the daughter and  
son were in school.

496  
00:33:40,460 --> 00:33:45,760

497  
00:33:45,760 --> 00:33:52,680  
I don't quite recall  
what that first week was.

498  
00:33:52,680 --> 00:33:53,920  
But it was a pleasant one.

499  
00:33:53,920 --> 00:33:59,410  
I remember going to the movies  
and seeing a western cowboy

500  
00:33:59,410 --> 00:34:03,220  
picture in the local  
cinema, walking

501  
00:34:03,220 --> 00:34:09,389  
with Jimmy, the husband.

502  
00:34:09,389 --> 00:34:12,000  
And it was a long walk,  
because they lived

503  
00:34:12,000 --> 00:34:14,670  
outside of the actual town.

504  
00:34:14,670 --> 00:34:18,510  
And going to the local

cinema, you had to walk.

505  
00:34:18,510 --> 00:34:21,630  
And I remember walking  
down the street

506  
00:34:21,630 --> 00:34:22,770  
with him holding my hand.

507  
00:34:22,770 --> 00:34:24,719  
And he was a big guy.

508  
00:34:24,719 --> 00:34:27,869

509  
00:34:27,869 --> 00:34:30,299  
It felt very comforting  
to be in his presence.

510  
00:34:30,299 --> 00:34:34,889

511  
00:34:34,889 --> 00:34:39,230  
But then as it turned out,  
at the end of the week,

512  
00:34:39,230 --> 00:34:42,469  
I asked if I could  
stay another week--

513  
00:34:42,469 --> 00:34:45,710  
this was during the summer--

514  
00:34:45,710 --> 00:34:48,920  
because I liked it there.

515  
00:34:48,920 --> 00:34:53,570  
And he in turn,  
contacted the matron,

516  
00:34:53,570 --> 00:34:56,989  
who had contacted the

doctor-- the Jewish doctor--

517  
00:34:56,989 --> 00:35:00,170  
and said, would you mind if  
Walter stayed another week?

518  
00:35:00,170 --> 00:35:01,700  
And they were perfectly willing.

519  
00:35:01,700 --> 00:35:04,540

520  
00:35:04,540 --> 00:35:08,228  
And I said a second week,  
and even a third week,

521  
00:35:08,228 --> 00:35:10,020  
because the experience  
was such a good one.

522  
00:35:10,020 --> 00:35:13,500

523  
00:35:13,500 --> 00:35:17,190  
Well then, during  
that third week,

524  
00:35:17,190 --> 00:35:27,850  
a notification had been  
received that because England

525  
00:35:27,850 --> 00:35:35,120  
was imminently going to war  
with Germany, that refugees,

526  
00:35:35,120 --> 00:35:39,740  
having gotten to  
England and Scotland

527  
00:35:39,740 --> 00:35:45,020  
during that period of time,  
would be evacuated from what

528

00:35:45,020 --> 00:35:48,290  
they consider critical cities.

529

00:35:48,290 --> 00:35:50,990  
They were simply afraid  
that among the refugees,

530

00:35:50,990 --> 00:35:56,330  
there could be German spies  
that might have infiltrated.

531

00:35:56,330 --> 00:36:01,430  
And they simply wanted to  
remove that potential danger

532

00:36:01,430 --> 00:36:06,680  
by evacuating refugees  
from critical spots.

533

00:36:06,680 --> 00:36:13,340  
Edinburgh was one of the places  
identified as a critical spot.

534

00:36:13,340 --> 00:36:20,720  
It was almost akin to the  
panic that occurred here

535

00:36:20,720 --> 00:36:24,980  
with the American-Japanese  
on the West Coast

536

00:36:24,980 --> 00:36:27,810  
being interned, and being  
deprived of their jobs,

537

00:36:27,810 --> 00:36:33,140  
et cetera when the Japanese  
had attacked Pearl Harbor.

538

00:36:33,140 --> 00:36:39,320  
I think in England, there  
was a similar overreaction

539

00:36:39,320 --> 00:36:40,880

about the Jews who  
had come there.

540

00:36:40,880 --> 00:36:43,190

You know, how many  
of them are spies?

541

00:36:43,190 --> 00:36:48,620

Well, notification had  
come out that I would

542

00:36:48,620 --> 00:36:50,880

be evacuated from Edinburgh--

543

00:36:50,880 --> 00:36:55,250

that I had to go back to  
Edinburgh to be evacuated.

544

00:36:55,250 --> 00:37:00,980

So Mr. Salmond, in his own  
inimitable way must have said,

545

00:37:00,980 --> 00:37:04,330

Walter isn't being evacuated.

546

00:37:04,330 --> 00:37:07,160

I mean, he had a tough enough  
time leaving his parents

547

00:37:07,160 --> 00:37:11,210

and coming all the  
way to Scotland,

548

00:37:11,210 --> 00:37:13,550

one home, another  
home, and now, when

549

00:37:13,550 --> 00:37:17,150

he seems to be at least  
at ease with himself,

550

00:37:17,150 --> 00:37:21,530  
we're not going to allow him  
to go through another trauma

551  
00:37:21,530 --> 00:37:23,240  
of being yet--

552  
00:37:23,240 --> 00:37:24,860  
being sent somewhere else.

553  
00:37:24,860 --> 00:37:27,470  
Where would they have been sent?

554  
00:37:27,470 --> 00:37:28,460  
Do you have any idea?

555  
00:37:28,460 --> 00:37:29,090  
I don't know.

556  
00:37:29,090 --> 00:37:31,070  
They may have been--

557  
00:37:31,070 --> 00:37:33,878  
gone to sheltered areas.

558  
00:37:33,878 --> 00:37:34,670  
Out of the country?

559  
00:37:34,670 --> 00:37:35,460  
No.

560  
00:37:35,460 --> 00:37:39,840  
I'll come back to  
that in a minute.

561  
00:37:39,840 --> 00:37:45,680  
So he said, Dysart is  
not a critical war zone,

562  
00:37:45,680 --> 00:37:48,350  
or something to that effect.



563

00:37:48,350 --> 00:37:50,330

We'll give him my  
home, so there won't

564

00:37:50,330 --> 00:37:54,500

be any need to evacuate him.

565

00:37:54,500 --> 00:37:57,410

And that's exactly  
what occurred.

566

00:37:57,410 --> 00:38:03,875

And what started out as  
a one week's stopover,

567

00:38:03,875 --> 00:38:10,400

turned into a extended  
period of about a year.

568

00:38:10,400 --> 00:38:14,460

569

00:38:14,460 --> 00:38:17,115

Mind you, this all occurred  
during the summer period.

570

00:38:17,115 --> 00:38:20,360

571

00:38:20,360 --> 00:38:28,170

I enrolled in school  
and the grade,

572

00:38:28,170 --> 00:38:31,970

which was comparable  
for my age, just

573

00:38:31,970 --> 00:38:36,860

wasn't the right thing for me,  
because the teacher couldn't

574

00:38:36,860 --> 00:38:40,280

communicate with me in German.

575

00:38:40,280 --> 00:38:44,960

And after all, I had  
only been in Scotland

576

00:38:44,960 --> 00:38:47,420

a couple of months at most.

577

00:38:47,420 --> 00:38:51,050

So while children are prone  
to pick up the language rather

578

00:38:51,050 --> 00:38:56,193

quickly, it was  
somewhat difficult,

579

00:38:56,193 --> 00:38:57,860

particularly in a  
classroom environment,

580

00:38:57,860 --> 00:39:01,400

because of teacher is  
dealing with a group of 25

581

00:39:01,400 --> 00:39:02,010

some-odd kids.

582

00:39:02,010 --> 00:39:04,220

So they put me  
into a third grade,

583

00:39:04,220 --> 00:39:07,340

because the teacher  
did know German.

584

00:39:07,340 --> 00:39:12,120

And she was able to  
communicate with me.

585

00:39:12,120 --> 00:39:18,210

But I wound up making  
friends quite readily

586  
00:39:18,210 --> 00:39:25,170  
and simply had a  
wonderful home life,

587  
00:39:25,170 --> 00:39:29,640  
where Mae and her brother, Bill,  
were like brother and sister

588  
00:39:29,640 --> 00:39:31,350  
to me.

589  
00:39:31,350 --> 00:39:32,970  
I was a novelty in that town.

590  
00:39:32,970 --> 00:39:36,350

591  
00:39:36,350 --> 00:39:40,010  
Not only was I the  
only Jew in that town--

592  
00:39:40,010 --> 00:39:44,060  
and I think most of those  
people never knew, or never had

593  
00:39:44,060 --> 00:39:48,770  
encountered a Jew.

594  
00:39:48,770 --> 00:39:52,640  
And then to compound  
the oddity, I

595  
00:39:52,640 --> 00:39:56,570  
was a little  
refugee from Austria

596  
00:39:56,570 --> 00:40:05,320  
who could speak German, who  
knew all the German anthems.

597  
00:40:05,320 --> 00:40:12,750

And I remember friends  
and neighbors and like,

598  
00:40:12,750 --> 00:40:18,880  
half the town's people  
would come over to see me.

599  
00:40:18,880 --> 00:40:21,700  
You know, they were  
reading the newspapers

600  
00:40:21,700 --> 00:40:23,980  
about what was happening.

601  
00:40:23,980 --> 00:40:28,030  
But all those things  
are all abstractions.

602  
00:40:28,030 --> 00:40:30,090  
My very presence there--

603  
00:40:30,090 --> 00:40:33,280  
and even though  
I couldn't really

604  
00:40:33,280 --> 00:40:36,190  
tell them what was happening,  
because I wasn't aware of it--

605  
00:40:36,190 --> 00:40:41,720  
but I was in a sense, a living  
testimony to what was going on.

606  
00:40:41,720 --> 00:40:45,340  
And they saw it manifest  
in an eight-year-old taken

607  
00:40:45,340 --> 00:40:50,650  
from his parents, not knowing  
where his parents are,

608  
00:40:50,650 --> 00:40:52,150  
whether he would see them.

609  
00:40:52,150 --> 00:40:56,870  
And living right in  
their own community.

610  
00:40:56,870 --> 00:41:04,000  
So my being there created  
an awareness that I think

611  
00:41:04,000 --> 00:41:09,790  
was very unique, that  
they wouldn't otherwise

612  
00:41:09,790 --> 00:41:14,680  
have ever been aware of.

613  
00:41:14,680 --> 00:41:18,220  
Did you have any contact with  
your sister during this time?

614  
00:41:18,220 --> 00:41:20,830  
From time to time, yes.

615  
00:41:20,830 --> 00:41:21,633  
Through letters?

616  
00:41:21,633 --> 00:41:22,300  
Through letters.

617  
00:41:22,300 --> 00:41:27,760

618  
00:41:27,760 --> 00:41:33,030  
She did not visit.

619  
00:41:33,030 --> 00:41:36,060  
But we did have a  
phone, a party line.

620  
00:41:36,060 --> 00:41:40,980  
And there were calls  
from time to time.

621  
00:41:40,980 --> 00:41:46,010

622  
00:41:46,010 --> 00:41:49,280  
While this was  
happening, my father

623  
00:41:49,280 --> 00:41:56,900  
was lucky enough to be  
able to get out of Dachau.

624  
00:41:56,900 --> 00:42:04,190  
At that time, the  
Nazis allowed Jews

625  
00:42:04,190 --> 00:42:07,860  
to leave the country if  
they had a place to go to.

626  
00:42:07,860 --> 00:42:11,090  
They let them out of  
the concentration camps.

627  
00:42:11,090 --> 00:42:13,810  
Because that in a way, was  
getting rid of the Jews.

628  
00:42:13,810 --> 00:42:16,560

629  
00:42:16,560 --> 00:42:22,900  
It's a lot easier, a lot more  
cost effective to simply say

630  
00:42:22,900 --> 00:42:26,590  
go if you can go.

631  
00:42:26,590 --> 00:42:30,010  
Sadly, there weren't enough  
places for the Jews to go.

632

00:42:30,010 --> 00:42:33,430

633

00:42:33,430 --> 00:42:34,660

No country wanted them.

634

00:42:34,660 --> 00:42:38,527

635

00:42:38,527 --> 00:42:40,360

But we were fortunate  
enough, and my parents

636

00:42:40,360 --> 00:42:44,110

were fortunate enough  
to be able to leave.

637

00:42:44,110 --> 00:42:51,730

And they also wound up going  
to first, London, and then

638

00:42:51,730 --> 00:42:52,840

Scotland.

639

00:42:52,840 --> 00:42:58,990

Now, getting back to question  
about where would Jews be sent.

640

00:42:58,990 --> 00:43:04,690

My parents, who worked first in  
London, shortly after getting

641

00:43:04,690 --> 00:43:08,290

there, my father, not  
my mother, but my father

642

00:43:08,290 --> 00:43:13,398

was interned on the Isle of Man.

643

00:43:13,398 --> 00:43:15,240

It's an island off  
the English coast.

644

00:43:15,240 --> 00:43:18,390

Excuse me, was your  
brother with them too?

645

00:43:18,390 --> 00:43:22,180

No, my brother had  
also left separately

646

00:43:22,180 --> 00:43:25,810

and was also living with another  
family in the southern part

647

00:43:25,810 --> 00:43:28,700

of England.

648

00:43:28,700 --> 00:43:29,870

My father was interned.

649

00:43:29,870 --> 00:43:37,670

Because again, it was a way of  
minimizing the potential hazard

650

00:43:37,670 --> 00:43:39,210

of German spies.

651

00:43:39,210 --> 00:43:41,950

652

00:43:41,950 --> 00:43:45,560

And many adult men--

653

00:43:45,560 --> 00:43:47,490

you know, Jews having  
come from Austria

654

00:43:47,490 --> 00:43:50,660

and Germany were so interned.

655

00:43:50,660 --> 00:43:55,710

And this lasted I think  
only a couple of months



656  
00:43:55,710 --> 00:43:58,620  
before somebody came  
to their good senses

657  
00:43:58,620 --> 00:44:02,257  
and realized that the threat  
really isn't as acute as they

658  
00:44:02,257 --> 00:44:03,090  
thought it would be.

659  
00:44:03,090 --> 00:44:05,850

660  
00:44:05,850 --> 00:44:11,810  
My parents ultimately  
came to Edinburgh.

661  
00:44:11,810 --> 00:44:17,100  
And they were both working for  
a Christian family as domestics.

662  
00:44:17,100 --> 00:44:19,680  
My mother being the cook.

663  
00:44:19,680 --> 00:44:21,270  
And my father  
being the handyman.

664  
00:44:21,270 --> 00:44:28,630

665  
00:44:28,630 --> 00:44:35,440  
I was, of course, informed of  
my parents being in Edinburgh.

666  
00:44:35,440 --> 00:44:40,600  
And my public school  
teacher would give me money

667  
00:44:40,600 --> 00:44:43,690  
that I could visit them

every three or four weeks.

668  
00:44:43,690 --> 00:44:48,040  
Take a train to Edinburgh  
and spend the day with them

669  
00:44:48,040 --> 00:44:50,470  
and have money to come back.

670  
00:44:50,470 --> 00:44:54,670  
I mean, the acuteness,  
or the lack of money

671  
00:44:54,670 --> 00:44:59,582  
was such that our people  
literally chipped in

672  
00:44:59,582 --> 00:45:00,415  
to make it possible.

673  
00:45:00,415 --> 00:45:05,470

674  
00:45:05,470 --> 00:45:10,630  
Not only was my schoolteacher  
a concerned individual,

675  
00:45:10,630 --> 00:45:14,830  
but this was the mood of all  
of our friends and neighbors

676  
00:45:14,830 --> 00:45:17,530  
that the Salmonds had.

677  
00:45:17,530 --> 00:45:25,030  
I remember that the first  
Christmas that I was there--

678  
00:45:25,030 --> 00:45:26,230  
who knows from Christmas--

679  
00:45:26,230 --> 00:45:29,740

680

00:45:29,740 --> 00:45:34,660  
they told me-- or Mae  
and Bill were wise.

681

00:45:34,660 --> 00:45:37,960  
They didn't hang  
Christmas stockings.

682

00:45:37,960 --> 00:45:42,400  
They had been used to  
hanging pillowcases,

683

00:45:42,400 --> 00:45:45,230  
after all, that much more.

684

00:45:45,230 --> 00:45:49,732  
And of course, I followed suit,  
and I hung up a pillowcase.

685

00:45:49,732 --> 00:45:56,140  
well, the following morning, it  
would have taken 20 pillowcases

686

00:45:56,140 --> 00:46:00,630  
to fill what I got.

687

00:46:00,630 --> 00:46:03,940  
And this was an  
outpouring of warmth

688

00:46:03,940 --> 00:46:10,730  
from all the friends and  
neighbors who just didn't

689

00:46:10,730 --> 00:46:13,640  
know what they could do for me.

690

00:46:13,640 --> 00:46:17,840  
Spontaneous-- and it was just,  
I was simply overwhelmed.

691

00:46:17,840 --> 00:46:21,330

I couldn't understand  
what was happening.

692

00:46:21,330 --> 00:46:24,990

But it was just an  
indication of their love.

693

00:46:24,990 --> 00:46:28,720

694

00:46:28,720 --> 00:46:33,910

My parents knew that I  
was being well cared for.

695

00:46:33,910 --> 00:46:37,600

But my father was  
concerned about the fact

696

00:46:37,600 --> 00:46:40,480

that I was living with  
a Christian family.

697

00:46:40,480 --> 00:46:43,990

We had been an  
observant, traditional--

698

00:46:43,990 --> 00:46:46,570

699

00:46:46,570 --> 00:46:49,570

observant Jews.

700

00:46:49,570 --> 00:46:53,410

And he was truly concerned  
that I was being converted.

701

00:46:53,410 --> 00:46:56,920

After all, on Sundays,  
I used to go to church.

702

00:46:56,920 --> 00:46:59,830

703

00:46:59,830 --> 00:47:06,960

Jimmy-- you know,  
typically, in our society,

704

00:47:06,960 --> 00:47:14,010

it's a patriarchal situation,  
where the husband or the father

705

00:47:14,010 --> 00:47:18,272

will go to temple and the  
mother might stay home.

706

00:47:18,272 --> 00:47:20,640

Well there, as I recall,  
it was sort of the reverse.

707

00:47:20,640 --> 00:47:22,890

Jimmy on Sunday,  
used to sleep late,

708

00:47:22,890 --> 00:47:24,870

maybe because he was  
such a hardworking guy

709

00:47:24,870 --> 00:47:26,370

during the rest of the week.

710

00:47:26,370 --> 00:47:30,210

But Mrs. Salmond, Isa,  
and her daughter, Mae

711

00:47:30,210 --> 00:47:32,400

would go to church every Sunday.

712

00:47:32,400 --> 00:47:36,580

And I would go along with them.

713

00:47:36,580 --> 00:47:41,520

And my father knew of  
this and was alarmed that,

714  
00:47:41,520 --> 00:47:42,840  
are they going to convert me?

715  
00:47:42,840 --> 00:47:43,830  
What's going to happen?

716  
00:47:43,830 --> 00:47:46,340

717  
00:47:46,340 --> 00:47:49,550  
But what he didn't  
know at the time

718  
00:47:49,550 --> 00:47:55,870  
was that each Sunday  
following the Sunday

719  
00:47:55,870 --> 00:47:59,530  
service, the local  
minister would

720  
00:47:59,530 --> 00:48:01,450  
ask me to come into his office.

721  
00:48:01,450 --> 00:48:03,280  
And he would recite  
with me to Shema.

722  
00:48:03,280 --> 00:48:06,790

723  
00:48:06,790 --> 00:48:16,360  
He, too, was a sensitive  
and caring individual

724  
00:48:16,360 --> 00:48:18,970  
to whom conversion was the  
last thing on his mind.

725  
00:48:18,970 --> 00:48:24,070  
He wanted, and did  
what he could to help

726  
00:48:24,070 --> 00:48:29,190  
me retain my Jewish identity.

727  
00:48:29,190 --> 00:48:35,940  
So that was too, a very, very  
unique and special happening.

728  
00:48:35,940 --> 00:48:37,248  
Were these Presbyterian?

729  
00:48:37,248 --> 00:48:40,460

730  
00:48:40,460 --> 00:48:44,750  
You know, I don't know.

731  
00:48:44,750 --> 00:48:49,880  
If that's the dominant  
Christian theology in Scotland,

732  
00:48:49,880 --> 00:48:50,840  
it probably would be.

733  
00:48:50,840 --> 00:48:51,500  
But I really don't know.

734  
00:48:51,500 --> 00:48:53,167  
Many of the Scottish  
were Presbyterians.

735  
00:48:53,167 --> 00:48:56,210  
No Hebrew and studied it  
and probably knew it well.

736  
00:48:56,210 --> 00:49:07,380

737  
00:49:07,380 --> 00:49:11,940  
We had cousins in  
the United States.

738

00:49:11,940 --> 00:49:21,130  
And my father had started a  
dialogue writing back and forth

739

00:49:21,130 --> 00:49:21,630  
to them.

740

00:49:21,630 --> 00:49:24,240

741

00:49:24,240 --> 00:49:28,400  
It was only you  
know, since the war

742

00:49:28,400 --> 00:49:29,730  
that we had even started this.

743

00:49:29,730 --> 00:49:33,620  
It was only while  
we were in England.

744

00:49:33,620 --> 00:49:34,590  
But we knew of them.

745

00:49:34,590 --> 00:49:37,820  
And we started to communicate.

746

00:49:37,820 --> 00:49:42,442  
And we asked them if they  
could help us come to America.

747

00:49:42,442 --> 00:49:48,230

748

00:49:48,230 --> 00:49:53,455  
And there were cousins, quite  
a large number of cousins.

749

00:49:53,455 --> 00:49:56,095

750



00:49:56,095 --> 00:49:58,705

Yet, to all these  
cousins, we were unknowns.

751

00:49:58,705 --> 00:50:02,760

You know, who are these people?

752

00:50:02,760 --> 00:50:08,730

And it was required that anyone  
making an official effort

753

00:50:08,730 --> 00:50:12,690

in behalf of refugees to  
come into this country

754

00:50:12,690 --> 00:50:16,830

would have to sign an  
affidavit, a formal document,

755

00:50:16,830 --> 00:50:22,590

guaranteeing the US government  
that such refugees, were they

756

00:50:22,590 --> 00:50:26,040

to come here, would  
under no condition

757

00:50:26,040 --> 00:50:29,110

be a burden on the state.

758

00:50:29,110 --> 00:50:36,210

They had to guarantee  
the well-being of people.

759

00:50:36,210 --> 00:50:38,520

Now, this sounds easy.

760

00:50:38,520 --> 00:50:40,780

You know, just, where's  
the piece of paper?

761

00:50:40,780 --> 00:50:43,650

But you have to put

it into perspective.

762

00:50:43,650 --> 00:50:46,380

These people had, just  
a few years earlier,

763

00:50:46,380 --> 00:50:49,650

come out of the Depression.

764

00:50:49,650 --> 00:50:54,210

They were not well-to-do people,  
you know, marginal income.

765

00:50:54,210 --> 00:50:57,010

766

00:50:57,010 --> 00:51:01,750

Very difficult to put  
your name on something

767

00:51:01,750 --> 00:51:07,900

that guarantees that they would  
support you if we couldn't

768

00:51:07,900 --> 00:51:11,290

manage on our own.

769

00:51:11,290 --> 00:51:14,450

They had to scrimp and save  
to put a meal on their table

770

00:51:14,450 --> 00:51:15,700

and take care of their family.

771

00:51:15,700 --> 00:51:19,340

So it wasn't such an easy task.

772

00:51:19,340 --> 00:51:25,690

I think too many of us nowadays,  
living in the comfort and style

773

00:51:25,690 --> 00:51:30,350

that we do lose sight of--

774

00:51:30,350 --> 00:51:34,600

that things weren't  
always so easy.

775

00:51:34,600 --> 00:51:37,690

But we had one  
cousin, Abe Rosemarin,

776

00:51:37,690 --> 00:51:43,930

who was a guy that  
wouldn't be turned down.

777

00:51:43,930 --> 00:51:47,185

And he went from one cousin to  
another, imploring, pleading.

778

00:51:47,185 --> 00:51:51,660

779

00:51:51,660 --> 00:51:57,150

And he was successful in  
getting the affidavits, which

780

00:51:57,150 --> 00:52:06,360

then allowed us to come  
together in Scotland,

781

00:52:06,360 --> 00:52:09,750

my sister, my parents, and I.

782

00:52:09,750 --> 00:52:12,780

First, we lived in  
Glasgow for a few months

783

00:52:12,780 --> 00:52:15,995

prior to leaving for  
the United States.

784

00:52:15,995 --> 00:52:20,430

785

00:52:20,430 --> 00:52:21,725

Then we came over.

786

00:52:21,725 --> 00:52:23,830

With your brother?

787

00:52:23,830 --> 00:52:27,420

No, he had separately also  
come to the United States,

788

00:52:27,420 --> 00:52:29,430

also through the  
efforts of this cousin.

789

00:52:29,430 --> 00:52:36,550

790

00:52:36,550 --> 00:52:44,780

Leaving Dysart in Scotland  
was a very, very, very sad

791

00:52:44,780 --> 00:52:47,420

occurrence.

792

00:52:47,420 --> 00:52:52,650

These people had  
become my parents.

793

00:52:52,650 --> 00:52:55,530

794

00:52:55,530 --> 00:52:57,750

Although they always  
said, you have parents.

795

00:52:57,750 --> 00:53:02,280

And they wouldn't allow me  
to call them mom and dad.

796

00:53:02,280 --> 00:53:05,070

They insisted that I call  
them by their first name,

797  
00:53:05,070 --> 00:53:11,077  
because you know, they  
just wanted my parents

798  
00:53:11,077 --> 00:53:11,785  
to be my parents.

799  
00:53:11,785 --> 00:53:14,840

800  
00:53:14,840 --> 00:53:17,900  
So it was indeed a  
very sad parting.

801  
00:53:17,900 --> 00:53:21,330

802  
00:53:21,330 --> 00:53:24,350  
And while I don't  
remember it, they

803  
00:53:24,350 --> 00:53:26,300  
said that I had  
promised to be back.

804  
00:53:26,300 --> 00:53:30,500

805  
00:53:30,500 --> 00:53:39,530  
And after we came here,  
I always was in contact,

806  
00:53:39,530 --> 00:53:43,880  
writing letters,  
exchanging snapshots.

807  
00:53:43,880 --> 00:53:51,590  
And ultimately, as an  
adult, I did go back.

808  
00:53:51,590 --> 00:53:55,310

I had to go to  
Europe on business.

809  
00:53:55,310 --> 00:53:58,160  
And I went to Dysart.

810  
00:53:58,160 --> 00:54:01,340  
And Jimmy, the father,  
had passed away.

811  
00:54:01,340 --> 00:54:04,050

812  
00:54:04,050 --> 00:54:09,200  
But the mother, Isa, and Mae and  
Bill, the children were alive.

813  
00:54:09,200 --> 00:54:15,980  
And it was just wonderful,  
wonderful homecoming.

814  
00:54:15,980 --> 00:54:16,940  
How long ago was this?

815  
00:54:16,940 --> 00:54:26,040

816  
00:54:26,040 --> 00:54:33,000  
Must've been 30 some  
odd years ago when

817  
00:54:33,000 --> 00:54:37,390  
I made that first trip back.

818  
00:54:37,390 --> 00:54:39,010  
And you've seen them since?

819  
00:54:39,010 --> 00:54:42,080  
And I have been  
back several times.

820  
00:54:42,080 --> 00:54:49,403

And the daughter and her  
husband have been to our home

821  
00:54:49,403 --> 00:54:50,820  
several times,  
have lived with us.

822  
00:54:50,820 --> 00:54:55,850  
So there's been now a  
constant back and forth.

823  
00:54:55,850 --> 00:55:01,600  
And I simply consider her  
my Scottish [NON-ENGLISH]..

824  
00:55:01,600 --> 00:55:02,860  
Is the mother still alive?

825  
00:55:02,860 --> 00:55:06,770  
No, she's also passed away.

826  
00:55:06,770 --> 00:55:07,560  
If I may--

827  
00:55:07,560 --> 00:55:08,060  
Please.

828  
00:55:08,060 --> 00:55:11,950

829  
00:55:11,950 --> 00:55:17,050  
Several months ago, at the time  
of the Kristallnacht episode,

830  
00:55:17,050 --> 00:55:21,970  
when that was in the forefront  
of everyone's attention, when

831  
00:55:21,970 --> 00:55:31,150  
I had the opportunity to  
speak of my remembrances,

832

00:55:31,150 --> 00:55:33,820  
I called Mae, Mae  
Salmond in Scotland.

833  
00:55:33,820 --> 00:55:36,440  
And I told them  
what was happening.

834  
00:55:36,440 --> 00:55:39,520  
I even center an article  
that had appeared

835  
00:55:39,520 --> 00:55:42,550  
in the Jewish News  
about Kristallnacht,

836  
00:55:42,550 --> 00:55:48,930  
about my own involvement.

837  
00:55:48,930 --> 00:55:52,650  
And I said to her,  
Mae, we really

838  
00:55:52,650 --> 00:55:59,700  
haven't ever spoken  
in a objective way

839  
00:55:59,700 --> 00:56:02,850  
about what occurred.

840  
00:56:02,850 --> 00:56:04,080  
We know what occurred.

841  
00:56:04,080 --> 00:56:07,860  
We've never discussed it.

842  
00:56:07,860 --> 00:56:11,260  
How did you feel  
as a 15-year-old

843  
00:56:11,260 --> 00:56:16,902  
with a little Jewish kid  
being thrust into your home?



844  
00:56:16,902 --> 00:56:21,640  
And I said, it would be very  
sad if you couldn't put down

845  
00:56:21,640 --> 00:56:23,580  
your thoughts.

846  
00:56:23,580 --> 00:56:24,820  
They're so important.

847  
00:56:24,820 --> 00:56:27,160  
I would value them so.

848  
00:56:27,160 --> 00:56:29,290  
Take a tape recorder,  
or take a pad.

849  
00:56:29,290 --> 00:56:32,230  
And just let it flow.

850  
00:56:32,230 --> 00:56:33,550  
What was happening?

851  
00:56:33,550 --> 00:56:36,190  
From your perspective,  
what was going on?

852  
00:56:36,190 --> 00:56:38,710

853  
00:56:38,710 --> 00:56:39,847  
So she, in turn--

854  
00:56:39,847 --> 00:56:41,680  
Excuse me, Walter, so  
that you can read this

855  
00:56:41,680 --> 00:56:44,020  
through carefully,  
we're going to have

856

00:56:44,020 --> 00:56:47,290

to stop for a couple of  
minutes to put in a new tape.

857

00:56:47,290 --> 00:56:50,590

So if we could wait, we'll  
continue in a moment.

858

00:56:50,590 --> 00:56:55,870

I wouldn't want to interrupt  
you in the midst of it, OK.

859

00:56:55,870 --> 00:56:58,290

Let me just-- a moment.

860

00:56:58,290 --> 00:56:59,316