

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:48,590

2

00:00:48,590 --> 00:00:49,500

Good afternoon.

3

00:00:49,500 --> 00:00:52,520

My name is Bonnie Kind, and I'm
a member of the Kean College

4

00:00:52,520 --> 00:00:56,090

Oral Testimonies Project of
the Holocaust Resource Center.

5

00:00:56,090 --> 00:00:58,100

We're affiliated with
the Video Archive

6

00:00:58,100 --> 00:01:00,470

for Holocaust
Testimonies at Yale.

7

00:01:00,470 --> 00:01:03,560

Sharing the interview with
me is Dr. Phyllis Tobin,

8

00:01:03,560 --> 00:01:06,920

clinical coordinator of the Yale
project in the New York area,

9

00:01:06,920 --> 00:01:10,280

and associate clinical
coordinator at Kean College.

10

00:01:10,280 --> 00:01:11,780

We're privileged
to greet Miss Lotte

11

00:01:11,780 --> 00:01:14,450

Baum, a survivor presently
living in Whiting,

12

00:01:14,450 --> 00:01:17,630
New Jersey, who has graciously
volunteered to give testimony

13

00:01:17,630 --> 00:01:20,250
about her experiences
before, during,

14

00:01:20,250 --> 00:01:22,580
and after the Holocaust.

15

00:01:22,580 --> 00:01:24,230
Miss Baum, let me
begin by just asking

16

00:01:24,230 --> 00:01:27,330
you to tell us a little bit
about where you came from,

17

00:01:27,330 --> 00:01:30,510
what the town was like,
and your date of birth.

18

00:01:30,510 --> 00:01:38,300
I was born August 9,
1915 in Essen, Germany.

19

00:01:38,300 --> 00:01:44,450
And I went 8 years to
Jewish public school.

20

00:01:44,450 --> 00:01:47,990
And I graduated in
1929 and went two years

21

00:01:47,990 --> 00:01:50,360
to a secretarial school.

22

00:01:50,360 --> 00:01:54,500
I had one brother who was 1
and 1/2 year older than I am.

23

00:01:54,500 --> 00:01:57,380

24

00:01:57,380 --> 00:01:59,360

What kind of a
home did you have?

25

00:01:59,360 --> 00:02:00,560

Oh, I had a very--

26

00:02:00,560 --> 00:02:03,090

my parents, very loving parents.

27

00:02:03,090 --> 00:02:05,420

My father was a salesman.

28

00:02:05,420 --> 00:02:07,790

My mother, she didn't
work, naturally,

29

00:02:07,790 --> 00:02:09,979

as it was at those times.

30

00:02:09,979 --> 00:02:13,430

And had a wonderful--

31

00:02:13,430 --> 00:02:14,832

Were you comfortable?

32

00:02:14,832 --> 00:02:17,300

Very-- yeah, comfortable.

33

00:02:17,300 --> 00:02:21,960

To what extent was being Jewish
important to you at that time?

34

00:02:21,960 --> 00:02:26,360

My parents were
not very religious,

35

00:02:26,360 --> 00:02:33,590

but we went every

Saturday to the temple.

36

00:02:33,590 --> 00:02:35,645

And we were, naturally, members.

37

00:02:35,645 --> 00:02:39,000

38

00:02:39,000 --> 00:02:41,760

We both went to
the Jewish school,

39

00:02:41,760 --> 00:02:44,660

which we didn't have to.

40

00:02:44,660 --> 00:02:52,460

And my brother was bar mitzvah,
like any normal Jewish family.

41

00:02:52,460 --> 00:02:56,400

Had your parents been residents
of Germany for many years?

42

00:02:56,400 --> 00:02:58,190

My mother was born there.

43

00:02:58,190 --> 00:03:00,500

My father was-- he
was born in Holland,

44

00:03:00,500 --> 00:03:06,170

but he lived for quite
a few years in Germany.

45

00:03:06,170 --> 00:03:08,630

My grandparents on
my father's side,

46

00:03:08,630 --> 00:03:12,035

they lived on the border in
Germany, right near Holland.

47

00:03:12,035 --> 00:03:14,750

48

00:03:14,750 --> 00:03:16,820

Your social life,
as a child, was it

49

00:03:16,820 --> 00:03:20,900

primarily with Jewish
people or was it mixed?

50

00:03:20,900 --> 00:03:24,410

I had only Jewish
friends through school.

51

00:03:24,410 --> 00:03:33,290

And we were very involved
with a Dutch club, where

52

00:03:33,290 --> 00:03:36,740

we went almost twice a month.

53

00:03:36,740 --> 00:03:38,930

We had gatherings and so.

54

00:03:38,930 --> 00:03:40,860

What language did
you speak at home?

55

00:03:40,860 --> 00:03:41,360

German.

56

00:03:41,360 --> 00:03:43,400

German, not Dutch.

57

00:03:43,400 --> 00:03:44,210

No.

58

00:03:44,210 --> 00:03:46,940

But there was a large
Dutch community in Essen?

59

00:03:46,940 --> 00:03:47,848
Yes, yes.

60
00:03:47,848 --> 00:03:51,970

61
00:03:51,970 --> 00:03:54,490
What year did you graduate
secretarial school?

62
00:03:54,490 --> 00:03:56,080
1931.

63
00:03:56,080 --> 00:03:58,840
So then you were
quite a young lady

64
00:03:58,840 --> 00:04:02,320
by the time the rumblings began.

65
00:04:02,320 --> 00:04:02,900
Yeah.

66
00:04:02,900 --> 00:04:06,880
The rumblings
began 1933, but you

67
00:04:06,880 --> 00:04:10,540
could feel it
already 1931, 1932,

68
00:04:10,540 --> 00:04:12,380
that something was coming.

69
00:04:12,380 --> 00:04:15,670
How did you first personally
know that you or your family

70
00:04:15,670 --> 00:04:19,000
were in danger?

71
00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:19,930

Not in danger.

72

00:04:19,930 --> 00:04:22,240

My father couldn't
do his business

73

00:04:22,240 --> 00:04:26,230

as well as he used to
do, because he was a Jew.

74

00:04:26,230 --> 00:04:29,590

And then on the
streets they say, there

75

00:04:29,590 --> 00:04:32,230

goes that Jew again, you know.

76

00:04:32,230 --> 00:04:36,670

How was that understood and
reacted to by your family?

77

00:04:36,670 --> 00:04:39,130

Very sadly.

78

00:04:39,130 --> 00:04:45,250

So I was working at that time.

79

00:04:45,250 --> 00:04:46,390

What were you doing?

80

00:04:46,390 --> 00:04:48,075

I was a secretary.

81

00:04:48,075 --> 00:04:49,930

Yes, and what kind of a place?

82

00:04:49,930 --> 00:04:51,100

Was it a Jewish place?

83

00:04:51,100 --> 00:04:55,670

Yes, I was working
for a Jewish lawyer.

84
00:04:55,670 --> 00:04:58,690
He was a criminal lawyer.

85
00:04:58,690 --> 00:05:00,310
And but then they--

86
00:05:00,310 --> 00:05:03,180

87
00:05:03,180 --> 00:05:04,800
he was a Jew.

88
00:05:04,800 --> 00:05:07,590
So they did all kinds
of things to him.

89
00:05:07,590 --> 00:05:09,780
He died.

90
00:05:09,780 --> 00:05:11,320
Before-- what--

91
00:05:11,320 --> 00:05:11,820
No--

92
00:05:11,820 --> 00:05:12,900
He died as a result of--

93
00:05:12,900 --> 00:05:14,760
After 1933.

94
00:05:14,760 --> 00:05:16,830
After 1933.

95
00:05:16,830 --> 00:05:19,680
And then I started in
a department store.

96
00:05:19,680 --> 00:05:21,360
That you were

permitted to work in.

97

00:05:21,360 --> 00:05:21,860

Yeah.

98

00:05:21,860 --> 00:05:28,770

Jewish department store,
till the Kristallnacht, 1938.

99

00:05:28,770 --> 00:05:32,070

There put everything--

100

00:05:32,070 --> 00:05:35,343

101

00:05:35,343 --> 00:05:37,010

Do you remember that
night particularly?

102

00:05:37,010 --> 00:05:37,510

Oh, yes.

103

00:05:37,510 --> 00:05:42,120

I was with a gymnastic club.

104

00:05:42,120 --> 00:05:46,080

We were in a neighboring
city to perform.

105

00:05:46,080 --> 00:05:48,090

We were just in the
middle of performing

106

00:05:48,090 --> 00:05:50,200

and the Nazis came in.

107

00:05:50,200 --> 00:05:54,030

They took us by our
hair and threw us out.

108

00:05:54,030 --> 00:05:57,720

p I left my jacket inside

with my Dutch passport,

109

00:05:57,720 --> 00:06:01,380

so they let me go in,
took my jacket off.

110

00:06:01,380 --> 00:06:02,550

And then we went home.

111

00:06:02,550 --> 00:06:04,830

Somebody took us home.

112

00:06:04,830 --> 00:06:09,690

And in the meantime they
demolished everything--

113

00:06:09,690 --> 00:06:12,630

most of them, from most
of the Jewish families,

114

00:06:12,630 --> 00:06:15,880

the houses and the stores,
and the synagogues.

115

00:06:15,880 --> 00:06:17,730

We had the most
beautiful synagogue

116

00:06:17,730 --> 00:06:21,610

in Essen, which
was all destroyed.

117

00:06:21,610 --> 00:06:25,410

That was the end of that job.

118

00:06:25,410 --> 00:06:31,480

And then I started with the
Jewish community in Essen.

119

00:06:31,480 --> 00:06:32,530

What did you do?

120

00:06:32,530 --> 00:06:35,140

Also as a secretary.

121

00:06:35,140 --> 00:06:37,390

So the community was cohesive?

122

00:06:37,390 --> 00:06:43,060

Yes, many Jewish families since
they owned-- could go ahead.

123

00:06:43,060 --> 00:06:47,800

So I stayed there till
about 1941, till May.

124

00:06:47,800 --> 00:06:49,420

What were things like?

125

00:06:49,420 --> 00:06:51,490

Oh, very bad.

126

00:06:51,490 --> 00:06:56,510

You couldn't go shopping
anymore, you know.

127

00:06:56,510 --> 00:07:01,420

There were still good Christian
families who did that for you.

128

00:07:01,420 --> 00:07:05,530

And they try to help you, some
people, whatever they could.

129

00:07:05,530 --> 00:07:08,680

But then the bombardments came.

130

00:07:08,680 --> 00:07:12,590

We had to go in the middle of
the night down in the basement,

131

00:07:12,590 --> 00:07:14,755

you know.

132

00:07:14,755 --> 00:07:16,630

Were you still living
with your parents then?

133

00:07:16,630 --> 00:07:19,210

No, my parents passed away.

134

00:07:19,210 --> 00:07:25,210

My father passed away in
1931 and my mother, 1936.

135

00:07:25,210 --> 00:07:26,300

So how were you living?

136

00:07:26,300 --> 00:07:26,800

What was--

137

00:07:26,800 --> 00:07:30,310

I was living with friends.

138

00:07:30,310 --> 00:07:31,765

And was your brother with you?

139

00:07:31,765 --> 00:07:34,330

No, my brother, he moved 1933.

140

00:07:34,330 --> 00:07:37,300

He moved to Holland.

141

00:07:37,300 --> 00:07:42,050

I visited him there, but
he never could come back.

142

00:07:42,050 --> 00:07:45,460

But then he was deported, and
I have never heard from him.

143

00:07:45,460 --> 00:07:47,530

Did you feel very much alone?

144

00:07:47,530 --> 00:07:48,840

Yes, I had nobody.

145

00:07:48,840 --> 00:07:54,010

So in 1941 I moved to Holland
when I got married there.

146

00:07:54,010 --> 00:07:59,440

On June 4, 1941, I got
married in Holland.

147

00:07:59,440 --> 00:08:07,220

And my husband had a big factory
of upper heels and soles.

148

00:08:07,220 --> 00:08:10,180

That was 1941 till about 1942.

149

00:08:10,180 --> 00:08:13,000

They took everything
away from us.

150

00:08:13,000 --> 00:08:16,780

We had nothing anymore.

151

00:08:16,780 --> 00:08:25,120

We still had money to live, but
that was about it, until 1943.

152

00:08:25,120 --> 00:08:31,120

We had to move out in
barracks out of Amsterdam.

153

00:08:31,120 --> 00:08:35,530

And there we stayed
until the beginning of--

154

00:08:35,530 --> 00:08:36,130

no.

155

00:08:36,130 --> 00:08:39,400

Then till the end
of 1943, when they

156

00:08:39,400 --> 00:08:43,900
moved us to a concentration
camp in Holland, in Westerbork.

157
00:08:43,900 --> 00:08:46,060
Did you know this man?

158
00:08:46,060 --> 00:08:50,680
I met him about a year
before, because I could always

159
00:08:50,680 --> 00:08:53,775
go to Holland to visit,
because I had a Dutch passport.

160
00:08:53,775 --> 00:08:55,150
And when you
finally went, was it

161
00:08:55,150 --> 00:08:56,620
difficult for you
to leave Germany,

162
00:08:56,620 --> 00:08:58,090
or was it easy for
you to get out?

163
00:08:58,090 --> 00:08:58,590
No, no.

164
00:08:58,590 --> 00:09:01,810
I could, because I was Dutch.

165
00:09:01,810 --> 00:09:05,020
I had no problems.

166
00:09:05,020 --> 00:09:07,720
Once a week I had
to go to the police

167
00:09:07,720 --> 00:09:11,860
as long as I lived in
Germany after the Nazis took

168
00:09:11,860 --> 00:09:18,640
over, and had to report,
because I was an enemy.

169
00:09:18,640 --> 00:09:20,110
As a Jew, or as Dutch?

170
00:09:20,110 --> 00:09:23,290
As a Jew, and as a Dutch--

171
00:09:23,290 --> 00:09:31,765
after 1940, 1939, after the
Germans went into Holland.

172
00:09:31,765 --> 00:09:33,520
They took over.

173
00:09:33,520 --> 00:09:35,570
So we got-- as we got married.

174
00:09:35,570 --> 00:09:39,495
So we couldn't go out after
6 o'clock at night anymore.

175
00:09:39,495 --> 00:09:45,220
We had to wear the yellow star
with the word "Jew" on it.

176
00:09:45,220 --> 00:09:50,500
And finally, end of 1943, we
had to go out into the barracks.

177
00:09:50,500 --> 00:09:54,130
And there we stayed
a couple of months,

178
00:09:54,130 --> 00:09:56,950
and they put us into Westerbork.

179
00:09:56,950 --> 00:10:00,440
And in Westerbork, I had

to-- we all had to work.

180
00:10:00,440 --> 00:10:02,380
I worked in the laundry.

181
00:10:02,380 --> 00:10:08,020
I had to iron shirts,
eight shirts an hour.

182
00:10:08,020 --> 00:10:10,720
But it wasn't as bad, you know.

183
00:10:10,720 --> 00:10:15,640
People could smuggle
food in for you and so.

184
00:10:15,640 --> 00:10:19,030
Then they said to us--
and every day, transports

185
00:10:19,030 --> 00:10:20,570
went to Auschwitz and Birkenau.

186
00:10:20,570 --> 00:10:25,060
They said to us, if
you want to stay here--

187
00:10:25,060 --> 00:10:28,660
if you pay in gold,
you can stay here.

188
00:10:28,660 --> 00:10:31,510
You get a booklet with
a stamp and I just--

189
00:10:31,510 --> 00:10:36,070
so we paid in gold through
our Christian friends.

190
00:10:36,070 --> 00:10:39,790
But they still send us away
with the last transport.

191

00:10:39,790 --> 00:10:42,310

That was September 1944.

192

00:10:42,310 --> 00:10:44,320

They send us to

Auschwitz-Birkenau.

193

00:10:44,320 --> 00:10:46,190

Was your husband with you?

194

00:10:46,190 --> 00:10:47,320

Yes.

195

00:10:47,320 --> 00:10:51,160

So you stayed together till

you were sent to Auschwitz,

196

00:10:51,160 --> 00:10:52,420

at least in the same camp?

197

00:10:52,420 --> 00:10:53,380

Yes, yes.

198

00:10:53,380 --> 00:10:58,150

We went with the freight cars,

where they transported cattle.

199

00:10:58,150 --> 00:11:01,080

We went to Auschwitz

six days, six nights.

200

00:11:01,080 --> 00:11:02,830

Did you have any contact

with one another,

201

00:11:02,830 --> 00:11:05,260

in the barracks, before

you went to Auschwitz?

202

00:11:05,260 --> 00:11:06,630

Yes.

203

00:11:06,630 --> 00:11:09,586

There we could walk around free.

204

00:11:09,586 --> 00:11:10,960

Did you stay as a couple there?

205

00:11:10,960 --> 00:11:13,910

Yes, as a couple.

206

00:11:13,910 --> 00:11:19,220

First we were all together in
a big room with bungalow beds.

207

00:11:19,220 --> 00:11:24,450

But later we had a small room,
each, where we lived together.

208

00:11:24,450 --> 00:11:29,520

Well, as we arrived
in Auschwitz-Birkenau,

209

00:11:29,520 --> 00:11:31,100

they stripped us from--

210

00:11:31,100 --> 00:11:35,870

the SS stripped us
from head to toe.

211

00:11:35,870 --> 00:11:37,130

Did you know what to expect?

212

00:11:37,130 --> 00:11:38,700

No, we didn't.

213

00:11:38,700 --> 00:11:41,200

Where did you think you were
going, or what kind of a place?

214

00:11:41,200 --> 00:11:45,770

We knew, but we never knew
it would work out that bad.

215

00:11:45,770 --> 00:11:49,660

So they tattooed our
number on our arm.

216

00:11:49,660 --> 00:11:50,840

It's still here.

217

00:11:50,840 --> 00:11:53,420

218

00:11:53,420 --> 00:11:58,550

And they put us into a-- it was
just horrible, unbelievable.

219

00:11:58,550 --> 00:12:00,050

We hardly had anything to wear.

220

00:12:00,050 --> 00:12:04,910

We had no shoes, no nothing,
and it was bitter cold there.

221

00:12:04,910 --> 00:12:09,440

Can you document it for us with
as much detail as possible,

222

00:12:09,440 --> 00:12:11,150

when you arrived,
since you were so--

223

00:12:11,150 --> 00:12:12,170

you were surprised.

224

00:12:12,170 --> 00:12:13,670

Oh, yes.

225

00:12:13,670 --> 00:12:18,650

We didn't expect roses,
but we never expected that.

226

00:12:18,650 --> 00:12:20,558

I don't think I would have--

227

00:12:20,558 --> 00:12:22,100

I don't think I
would believe it if I

228

00:12:22,100 --> 00:12:23,968

wouldn't have gone through it.

229

00:12:23,968 --> 00:12:26,510

Were you with anyone, through
the experiences, that you knew?

230

00:12:26,510 --> 00:12:27,470

Any women?

231

00:12:27,470 --> 00:12:33,050

Yeah, with friends, you know,
or roommates from Holland.

232

00:12:33,050 --> 00:12:34,730

That's about it.

233

00:12:34,730 --> 00:12:38,090

But then we were all separated.

234

00:12:38,090 --> 00:12:43,790

We had a lot of children with
us which never came out alive.

235

00:12:43,790 --> 00:12:48,650

And we were right next to
the building for Mengele,

236

00:12:48,650 --> 00:12:49,620

which you heard about.

237

00:12:49,620 --> 00:12:50,210

Yes.

238

00:12:50,210 --> 00:12:51,830

How did you know?

239

00:12:51,830 --> 00:12:56,750

Because there was a big sign
on the door-- on the building.

240

00:12:56,750 --> 00:12:59,570

241

00:12:59,570 --> 00:13:02,135

Can you give us any of
the images or the thoughts

242

00:13:02,135 --> 00:13:04,010

or the feelings that
you had during the time,

243

00:13:04,010 --> 00:13:06,890

that you think is unbelievable?

244

00:13:06,890 --> 00:13:12,380

Oh, we were praying
God should take us,

245

00:13:12,380 --> 00:13:15,890

because it was just unbearable.

246

00:13:15,890 --> 00:13:17,185

How long were you there?

247

00:13:17,185 --> 00:13:20,810

We were there from September--

248

00:13:20,810 --> 00:13:23,520

thank God, only till January.

249

00:13:23,520 --> 00:13:28,115

January they send
us to Sudetenland,

250

00:13:28,115 --> 00:13:30,980

in an ammunition factory.

251

00:13:30,980 --> 00:13:33,020

Did you work while
you were in Auschwitz?

252
00:13:33,020 --> 00:13:35,510
In Auschwitz, we worked.

253
00:13:35,510 --> 00:13:41,510
We had to carry sand in two
big buckets around our back

254
00:13:41,510 --> 00:13:44,210
from one street
corner to another--

255
00:13:44,210 --> 00:13:46,230
senseless, altogether.

256
00:13:46,230 --> 00:13:47,480
You thought it was senseless?

257
00:13:47,480 --> 00:13:50,480
Oh, we had-- it was terrible.

258
00:13:50,480 --> 00:13:52,415
You hardly had anything
to eat, and you

259
00:13:52,415 --> 00:13:55,920
were in horse stables
you were living.

260
00:13:55,920 --> 00:13:58,370
You have to get up every
morning around 4:00.

261
00:13:58,370 --> 00:14:05,090
You had to stand for two hours
with no shoes on or nothing

262
00:14:05,090 --> 00:14:07,970
and it was bitter, bitter cold.

263

00:14:07,970 --> 00:14:10,820

So I guess everything
was senseless, you know.

264

00:14:10,820 --> 00:14:14,720

Then, if you didn't feel
good, or you were too weak,

265

00:14:14,720 --> 00:14:18,398

they took you out and they march
you off to the gas chambers.

266

00:14:18,398 --> 00:14:19,940

Did you know at that
time that that's

267

00:14:19,940 --> 00:14:21,140

where people were being to?

268

00:14:21,140 --> 00:14:21,890

Oh yes, yes.

269

00:14:21,890 --> 00:14:25,370

The ovens were
smoking day and night.

270

00:14:25,370 --> 00:14:28,780

How did you manage, physically?

271

00:14:28,780 --> 00:14:33,860

Thank God I was in good
health or be tired, you know.

272

00:14:33,860 --> 00:14:38,660

But sometimes you just
wished it was all over.

273

00:14:38,660 --> 00:14:41,180

And you couldn't-- you didn't
hear anything from the war.

274

00:14:41,180 --> 00:14:43,910

You never knew

what was going on.

275

00:14:43,910 --> 00:14:47,090

So till then, January,
they sent us away.

276

00:14:47,090 --> 00:14:49,170

And we had to work there.

277

00:14:49,170 --> 00:14:51,170

But there it wasn't
too bad, because there

278

00:14:51,170 --> 00:14:54,710

were a lot of French
people who talked German,

279

00:14:54,710 --> 00:14:57,470

which were also prisoners.

280

00:14:57,470 --> 00:15:00,410

And somehow they
was told was war--

281

00:15:00,410 --> 00:15:04,980

the war was ahead and
it was almost over.

282

00:15:04,980 --> 00:15:08,330

We never believed it anyway.

283

00:15:08,330 --> 00:15:10,620

How long were you
then in Sudetenland?

284

00:15:10,620 --> 00:15:12,800

Until May.

285

00:15:12,800 --> 00:15:18,860

One morning we came down to
have our so-called breakfast,

286

00:15:18,860 --> 00:15:21,170
and everything was closed.

287
00:15:21,170 --> 00:15:23,360
The German were all gone.

288
00:15:23,360 --> 00:15:26,520
They fled because of
Russian forces nearby.

289
00:15:26,520 --> 00:15:30,695
And then within 24 hours,
the Russians freed us.

290
00:15:30,695 --> 00:15:31,960
Do you remember that?

291
00:15:31,960 --> 00:15:32,720
Do you remember--

292
00:15:32,720 --> 00:15:34,480
Oh, do I remember that.

293
00:15:34,480 --> 00:15:36,820
Yes, could you give us
the details of that?

294
00:15:36,820 --> 00:15:37,320
Yes.

295
00:15:37,320 --> 00:15:42,240
It was very hard to talk
to them, because we finally

296
00:15:42,240 --> 00:15:45,690
found a few Jewish men
who talked Yiddish,

297
00:15:45,690 --> 00:15:50,590
so we could converse with them.

298
00:15:50,590 --> 00:15:56,520

And they took us
to the next office,

299
00:15:56,520 --> 00:15:57,900
where the Russians were.

300
00:15:57,900 --> 00:16:04,650
And they gave us some
food and clothes.

301
00:16:04,650 --> 00:16:06,490
So we slept over there.

302
00:16:06,490 --> 00:16:11,670
And within a few days, they
transported us to Leipzig.

303
00:16:11,670 --> 00:16:16,956
That's the first time town
where the Americans were.

304
00:16:16,956 --> 00:16:20,010
And from there we went to--

305
00:16:20,010 --> 00:16:24,930
within two or three weeks,
from one train to another,

306
00:16:24,930 --> 00:16:27,330
we finally arrived in Holland.

307
00:16:27,330 --> 00:16:28,050
Back to home.

308
00:16:28,050 --> 00:16:30,240
Back to Holland, yeah.

309
00:16:30,240 --> 00:16:32,790
And when you came back
there, what did you find?

310
00:16:32,790 --> 00:16:33,630

In Holland?

311
00:16:33,630 --> 00:16:34,710
Yes.

312
00:16:34,710 --> 00:16:39,760
A lot of cities destroyed and
so, but where we used to live,

313
00:16:39,760 --> 00:16:40,260
everything--

314
00:16:40,260 --> 00:16:41,890
Amsterdam was everything fine.

315
00:16:41,890 --> 00:16:46,650
In Rotterdam, everything
was flat, let's say.

316
00:16:46,650 --> 00:16:48,690
But the people were
very happy to see us

317
00:16:48,690 --> 00:16:52,170
back home, because only
very few came back.

318
00:16:52,170 --> 00:16:55,260
My husband didn't come back.

319
00:16:55,260 --> 00:16:57,300
When were you separated
from your husband?

320
00:16:57,300 --> 00:17:01,380
The day we arrived in
Auschwitz, he went one way,

321
00:17:01,380 --> 00:17:02,430
and I went the other.

322
00:17:02,430 --> 00:17:03,780

You didn't see him after that?

323

00:17:03,780 --> 00:17:05,130

No, no more.

324

00:17:05,130 --> 00:17:11,829

But I had witnesses who
said, I saw him die.

325

00:17:11,829 --> 00:17:14,780

How did you then
rebuild your life?

326

00:17:14,780 --> 00:17:15,680

I was working.

327

00:17:15,680 --> 00:17:17,800

We got our factory back.

328

00:17:17,800 --> 00:17:19,180

Who was we?

329

00:17:19,180 --> 00:17:20,859

My brother-in-law.

330

00:17:20,859 --> 00:17:21,550

He came back.

331

00:17:21,550 --> 00:17:24,849

He was with his wife
in Bergen-Belsen.

332

00:17:24,849 --> 00:17:26,619

And we built it up again.

333

00:17:26,619 --> 00:17:29,920

And we finally sold it.

334

00:17:29,920 --> 00:17:38,030

And after 1947, I
got married again.

335

00:17:38,030 --> 00:17:44,590

I met my husband in the
neighborhood, through friends.

336

00:17:44,590 --> 00:17:48,040

And he was underground,
in Germany,

337

00:17:48,040 --> 00:17:52,480

for 2 and 1/2 years, with his
sister and another friend.

338

00:17:52,480 --> 00:17:53,770

Also Dutch, [BOTH TALKING]?

339

00:17:53,770 --> 00:17:55,017

No, he was German.

340

00:17:55,017 --> 00:17:55,600

He was German.

341

00:17:55,600 --> 00:17:57,100

But living in
Amsterdam at the time?

342

00:17:57,100 --> 00:18:02,170

Yeah, he had a butcher
store in a small town.

343

00:18:02,170 --> 00:18:04,150

But they took everything
away from him, too.

344

00:18:04,150 --> 00:18:08,890

And my sister-in-law, she had
two daughters, 17 and 19 years,

345

00:18:08,890 --> 00:18:12,670

that never came back
from concentration camp.

346

00:18:12,670 --> 00:18:17,330

And we, the three of
us, emigrated to America

347
00:18:17,330 --> 00:18:20,200
on March 17, 1947.

348
00:18:20,200 --> 00:18:21,520
We arrived here.

349
00:18:21,520 --> 00:18:22,540
Who are the three?

350
00:18:22,540 --> 00:18:24,730
My husband and his sister.

351
00:18:24,730 --> 00:18:25,640
And his sister?

352
00:18:25,640 --> 00:18:27,700
Yeah, who lost
her two daughters.

353
00:18:27,700 --> 00:18:29,500
I see, I see.

354
00:18:29,500 --> 00:18:30,320
And you came here.

355
00:18:30,320 --> 00:18:32,110
Did you have family
here, waiting for you?

356
00:18:32,110 --> 00:18:36,610
No-- yeah, my husband
had two brothers here.

357
00:18:36,610 --> 00:18:38,440
And they had gotten
out of Germany when?

358
00:18:38,440 --> 00:18:42,520
They had one that got

out of Germany in 1937,

359

00:18:42,520 --> 00:18:47,720
and the other one went to
Ecuador, to South America,

360

00:18:47,720 --> 00:18:50,080
and came from Ecuador here.

361

00:18:50,080 --> 00:18:52,440
1946 he came here.

362

00:18:52,440 --> 00:18:53,980
They were very helpful.

363

00:18:53,980 --> 00:18:54,480
Yes.

364

00:18:54,480 --> 00:18:56,430
How did you adapt here?

365

00:18:56,430 --> 00:18:57,700
Oh, very well.

366

00:18:57,700 --> 00:19:02,020
Everything was a cinch after
what you went through, right?

367

00:19:02,020 --> 00:19:06,500
So my daughter was
born 1948, in October.

368

00:19:06,500 --> 00:19:11,390
And my son was
born 1952, in July,

369

00:19:11,390 --> 00:19:13,310
which was the biggest blessing.

370

00:19:13,310 --> 00:19:13,810
Yes.

371
00:19:13,810 --> 00:19:16,690

372
00:19:16,690 --> 00:19:18,940
And you lived where?

373
00:19:18,940 --> 00:19:21,010
We first, as we came,
we lived in Brooklyn.

374
00:19:21,010 --> 00:19:22,510
And we moved.

375
00:19:22,510 --> 00:19:24,850
We stayed there til 1951.

376
00:19:24,850 --> 00:19:28,230
Then we moved to Long
Island, Valley Stream.

377
00:19:28,230 --> 00:19:30,250
We stayed there til 1974.

378
00:19:30,250 --> 00:19:32,950
Then we moved to New Jersey.

379
00:19:32,950 --> 00:19:37,690
And my husband died
October 19, '82.

380
00:19:37,690 --> 00:19:39,750
I see.

381
00:19:39,750 --> 00:19:42,070
So you had some years together?

382
00:19:42,070 --> 00:19:42,570
Yeah.

383
00:19:42,570 --> 00:19:44,550
Yes.

384
00:19:44,550 --> 00:19:48,840
Have you ever thought about how
those, the darkest of years,

385
00:19:48,840 --> 00:19:51,240
have affected your life today?

386
00:19:51,240 --> 00:19:51,870
Say what?

387
00:19:51,870 --> 00:19:55,410
The darkest of years, how
it affected your life?

388
00:19:55,410 --> 00:20:01,470
Yeah, I tell you, my high
blood pressure came from that.

389
00:20:01,470 --> 00:20:04,170
And that's about enough.

390
00:20:04,170 --> 00:20:05,340
It certainly is.

391
00:20:05,340 --> 00:20:11,460
I was always, since I came back,
on the doctor's care for that.

392
00:20:11,460 --> 00:20:15,120
And the doctors all said it
just came from all those years.

393
00:20:15,120 --> 00:20:18,090
Were you able to
receive any reparations?

394
00:20:18,090 --> 00:20:21,060
I get social security
from Germany,

395
00:20:21,060 --> 00:20:24,250

because I worked there.

396
00:20:24,250 --> 00:20:26,250
But no disability
from [BOTH TALKING]??

397
00:20:26,250 --> 00:20:29,040
I get a small rent,
like a disability.

398
00:20:29,040 --> 00:20:30,960
Yes, I do.

399
00:20:30,960 --> 00:20:34,285
But nothing come-- if I should
make a living from that it,

400
00:20:34,285 --> 00:20:35,160
it will be very hard.

401
00:20:35,160 --> 00:20:36,540
Yes, of course.

402
00:20:36,540 --> 00:20:39,750
Do you have any extended
family from those years

403
00:20:39,750 --> 00:20:42,370
that you've been in touch
with that have survived?

404
00:20:42,370 --> 00:20:43,560
Yeah, I have a cousin.

405
00:20:43,560 --> 00:20:49,530
He lives in Long Island.

406
00:20:49,530 --> 00:20:53,770
He was a cantor and a
schoolteacher in Germany.

407
00:20:53,770 --> 00:20:55,660

And he was underground
with his wife,

408
00:20:55,660 --> 00:20:59,100
overseas in Germany,
in Freiburg.

409
00:20:59,100 --> 00:21:02,970
He came here also
1946, he came here.

410
00:21:02,970 --> 00:21:10,740
And his son was born 1946.

411
00:21:10,740 --> 00:21:14,310
Unfortunately, he passed
away four weeks ago, the son.

412
00:21:14,310 --> 00:21:17,100
And the parents was alive.

413
00:21:17,100 --> 00:21:18,360
They are quite old.

414
00:21:18,360 --> 00:21:21,250
Oh, yes.

415
00:21:21,250 --> 00:21:28,700
So they had to color the
hair and everything, just

416
00:21:28,700 --> 00:21:31,850
not to be recognized.

417
00:21:31,850 --> 00:21:33,740
Is there anything, as
you look back now--

418
00:21:33,740 --> 00:21:35,570
what you've told
us about, your life

419

00:21:35,570 --> 00:21:39,740
before and during and after,
that you might have missed,

420
00:21:39,740 --> 00:21:41,900
or that you want
to make sure gets

421
00:21:41,900 --> 00:21:43,325
documented for the archives?

422
00:21:43,325 --> 00:21:47,300

423
00:21:47,300 --> 00:21:54,590
In 1933, I was 18
years old, which

424
00:21:54,590 --> 00:21:58,250
could have been a
wonderful time for me--

425
00:21:58,250 --> 00:22:00,680
which couldn't be
any more than it was.

426
00:22:00,680 --> 00:22:06,140
Then it started to and it
gets worse from day to day.

427
00:22:06,140 --> 00:22:08,940
And also you had lost
your parents before,

428
00:22:08,940 --> 00:22:10,770
so you were really
alone in that way, too?

429
00:22:10,770 --> 00:22:11,270
Yes.

430
00:22:11,270 --> 00:22:13,430
My father, 1931--

431
00:22:13,430 --> 00:22:15,290
I was just 16 years old.

432
00:22:15,290 --> 00:22:16,670
Just suddenly.

433
00:22:16,670 --> 00:22:18,680
And my mother, she
couldn't just cope.

434
00:22:18,680 --> 00:22:21,380
This is 1933.

435
00:22:21,380 --> 00:22:27,140
She had a stroke, and
1936 she passed away.

436
00:22:27,140 --> 00:22:29,270
Yeah, I had to take care of her.

437
00:22:29,270 --> 00:22:33,860
My father didn't live
in Germany anymore.

438
00:22:33,860 --> 00:22:35,600
So your youth
wasn't so youthful.

439
00:22:35,600 --> 00:22:38,090
No, it wasn't.

440
00:22:38,090 --> 00:22:38,780
OK.

441
00:22:38,780 --> 00:22:41,168
Thank you very much.

442
00:22:41,168 --> 00:22:42,140
[OFF CAMERA WHISPERING]

443

00:22:42,140 --> 00:22:45,550

444

00:22:45,550 --> 00:22:47,230

No.

445

00:22:47,230 --> 00:22:49,070

Thank you very much.

446

00:22:49,070 --> 00:22:49,995

We--

447

00:22:49,995 --> 00:22:50,620

You're welcome.

448

00:22:50,620 --> 00:22:52,480

I'm glad I have it off my chest.

449

00:22:52,480 --> 00:22:53,620

Yes.

450

00:22:53,620 --> 00:22:55,180

I never could talk about it.

451

00:22:55,180 --> 00:22:57,280

Yes, well, you
have, and we really

452

00:22:57,280 --> 00:22:59,240

are very grateful to you.

453

00:22:59,240 --> 00:23:00,530

Thank you.

454

00:23:00,530 --> 00:23:02,490

Thank you very much.

455

00:23:02,490 --> 00:23:46,027