

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:26,000

2

00:00:26,000 --> 00:00:27,480

Good afternoon.

3

00:00:27,480 --> 00:00:29,300

My name is Bernard

Weinstein, and I'm

4

00:00:29,300 --> 00:00:32,630

the director of the King

College Oral Histories Project

5

00:00:32,630 --> 00:00:35,210

of the Holocaust

Resource Center.

6

00:00:35,210 --> 00:00:37,730

We are affiliated with

the Video Archives

7

00:00:37,730 --> 00:00:41,300

for Holocaust Testimonies

at Yale University.

8

00:00:41,300 --> 00:00:44,540

Sharing the interview

with me is Ann Kaplan.

9

00:00:44,540 --> 00:00:49,730

We are privileged to welcome

Marguerite Jeremias, survivor,

10

00:00:49,730 --> 00:00:52,610

presently living in Rockaway,

New Jersey, who has generously

11

00:00:52,610 --> 00:00:57,470

volunteered to give us her

testimony about her experiences

12

00:00:57,470 --> 00:01:00,500

before, during, and
after the Holocaust.

13

00:01:00,500 --> 00:01:03,470

Mrs. Jeremias, we'd
like to welcome you.

14

00:01:03,470 --> 00:01:08,330

And I'd like to begin by
asking you to tell us something

15

00:01:08,330 --> 00:01:12,440

about the place where you came
from and about your early life

16

00:01:12,440 --> 00:01:14,510

before 1939.

17

00:01:14,510 --> 00:01:15,710

OK.

18

00:01:15,710 --> 00:01:19,610

I was born in
Heidelberg, Germany,

19

00:01:19,610 --> 00:01:23,510

and lived in a nearby
village, Hoffenheim.

20

00:01:23,510 --> 00:01:30,470

A small place that had
about 1,400 population.

21

00:01:30,470 --> 00:01:35,180

Most of them were Protestants,
some Catholics, and to my time,

22

00:01:35,180 --> 00:01:38,810

we were about 20
Jewish families.

23

00:01:38,810 --> 00:01:42,740

To my mother's time, who
grew up there as well,

24

00:01:42,740 --> 00:01:47,630

they had about 100 Jewish
families, a Jewish day school,

25

00:01:47,630 --> 00:01:51,380

a matzo factory, and a mikvah.

26

00:01:51,380 --> 00:01:54,740

It was an Orthodox community.

27

00:01:54,740 --> 00:01:59,330

But as these young people grew
older and became secularly

28

00:01:59,330 --> 00:02:02,540

educated, they moved to towns.

29

00:02:02,540 --> 00:02:08,690

Therefore, in my time, there
were only 20 families left.

30

00:02:08,690 --> 00:02:11,180

We had a beautiful
synagogue still

31

00:02:11,180 --> 00:02:15,470

that has had an apartment
adjoining the shul, and school

32

00:02:15,470 --> 00:02:20,360

rooms, where we had in the
afternoons Hebrew school.

33

00:02:20,360 --> 00:02:23,840

I went to a public school.

34

00:02:23,840 --> 00:02:29,000

I was the only Jewish
girl my age at that time.

35

00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:34,110

And therefore, my only
friends were non-Jews.

36

00:02:34,110 --> 00:02:40,310

it was very nice living in
that environment at the time.

37

00:02:40,310 --> 00:02:43,790

We lived in a big house.

38

00:02:43,790 --> 00:02:45,990

What did your father
do for a living?

39

00:02:45,990 --> 00:02:48,170

We had a dry goods store.

40

00:02:48,170 --> 00:02:53,780

And that was adjoining the
house with a separate entrance.

41

00:02:53,780 --> 00:02:55,020

I have a sister.

42

00:02:55,020 --> 00:02:57,310

We were four in the family.

43

00:02:57,310 --> 00:02:59,400

Oh, at that time,
when I grew up,

44

00:02:59,400 --> 00:03:04,040

we had all the modern facilities
for Europe at that time.

45

00:03:04,040 --> 00:03:05,210

It was unusual.

46

00:03:05,210 --> 00:03:09,130

Electricity, hot

water, whatever.

47

00:03:09,130 --> 00:03:14,310

We had a maid at that time,
a sleeping maid, as well.

48

00:03:14,310 --> 00:03:19,940

So life up to age seven was
pretty nice living there.

49

00:03:19,940 --> 00:03:23,360

Can you recall some memories
of your early childhood

50

00:03:23,360 --> 00:03:27,950

that are particularly
precious to you?

51

00:03:27,950 --> 00:03:33,950

Well, it was a very
nice way of living.

52

00:03:33,950 --> 00:03:38,660

My house was always
open to another company.

53

00:03:38,660 --> 00:03:41,930

All my mother's cousins
would always come and visit.

54

00:03:41,930 --> 00:03:47,300

Any stranger that would
come to this village

55

00:03:47,300 --> 00:03:51,380

was welcome by us, fed
by us, housed by us.

56

00:03:51,380 --> 00:03:54,050

Did your extended family
live in Hoffenheim also?

57

00:03:54,050 --> 00:03:55,550

Or did they live
in other places?

58
00:03:55,550 --> 00:03:58,590
No, most of them
lived in big towns.

59
00:03:58,590 --> 00:04:02,550
And as I said, they came
quite often to visit us.

60
00:04:02,550 --> 00:04:07,550
So I knew all of my mother's--
more my mother's family than

61
00:04:07,550 --> 00:04:08,480
my father's.

62
00:04:08,480 --> 00:04:10,620
He came from a different
part of Germany.

63
00:04:10,620 --> 00:04:12,620
Did you celebrate holidays
together and Shabbat?

64
00:04:12,620 --> 00:04:13,910
Yes, we did.

65
00:04:13,910 --> 00:04:14,990
Yes.

66
00:04:14,990 --> 00:04:17,260
We did.

67
00:04:17,260 --> 00:04:23,210
My mother had an uncle living in
Mannheim and one in Stuttgart.

68
00:04:23,210 --> 00:04:25,380
And we were together at my--

69

00:04:25,380 --> 00:04:28,190
the one from Mannheim
came every week.

70
00:04:28,190 --> 00:04:32,300
Every Sunday, I would go to
the train and pick him up.

71
00:04:32,300 --> 00:04:34,520
And he would spend
the day with us.

72
00:04:34,520 --> 00:04:39,380
My other uncle with his family
was there every holiday.

73
00:04:39,380 --> 00:04:43,670
Can you recall anything of
the relations between the Jews

74
00:04:43,670 --> 00:04:45,980
and the non-Jews in your town?

75
00:04:45,980 --> 00:04:51,050
It was very good
in earlier years.

76
00:04:51,050 --> 00:04:53,360
Our next door
neighbors would come--

77
00:04:53,360 --> 00:04:56,090
the children would come
in on Hanukkah when

78
00:04:56,090 --> 00:04:59,870
we light the candles, and they
would get a present from us.

79
00:04:59,870 --> 00:05:04,250
And then on Christmas, we
would go to their house

80

00:05:04,250 --> 00:05:05,690
and would get a present.

81
00:05:05,690 --> 00:05:10,790
So the relationship was
good between the non-Jews

82
00:05:10,790 --> 00:05:12,830
and the Jews at the time.

83
00:05:12,830 --> 00:05:14,660
Were you the oldest
of the children?

84
00:05:14,660 --> 00:05:17,150
No, my sister's older.

85
00:05:17,150 --> 00:05:20,690
She's 4 and 1/2
years older than I.

86
00:05:20,690 --> 00:05:23,240
And we had only
non-Jewish friends,

87
00:05:23,240 --> 00:05:28,250
because we were the only
Jewish children of that age.

88
00:05:28,250 --> 00:05:30,260
Was there a cheder,
or was there any kind

89
00:05:30,260 --> 00:05:33,192
of a Jewish school
nearby where you

90
00:05:33,192 --> 00:05:34,400
received religious education?

91
00:05:34,400 --> 00:05:35,270
Well, yes.

92

00:05:35,270 --> 00:05:40,310

We got the religious-- we had
a Jewish teacher in the town.

93

00:05:40,310 --> 00:05:43,190

Not so much for
me, my sister had.

94

00:05:43,190 --> 00:05:46,220

And because at that time,
when I was old enough,

95

00:05:46,220 --> 00:05:48,050

they were already not there.

96

00:05:48,050 --> 00:05:51,740

And they had afternoon
Hebrew school.

97

00:05:51,740 --> 00:05:55,100

And the rabbi from
Heidelberg would

98

00:05:55,100 --> 00:06:00,710

come I think twice a year to
test the children to make sure

99

00:06:00,710 --> 00:06:04,160

that they got the
proper education.

100

00:06:04,160 --> 00:06:07,670

And that was-- I remember this
was done in the synagogue.

101

00:06:07,670 --> 00:06:10,520

And it was always a
very important thing

102

00:06:10,520 --> 00:06:14,390

when the rabbi would come
to test the children.

103

00:06:14,390 --> 00:06:17,300

When did things begin to change?

104

00:06:17,300 --> 00:06:19,940

In 1933.

105

00:06:19,940 --> 00:06:26,140

Things began when Hitler
started to get to power.

106

00:06:26,140 --> 00:06:30,710

The first thing they did, they
came to close the business.

107

00:06:30,710 --> 00:06:32,240

When you say they,
who do you mean?

108

00:06:32,240 --> 00:06:37,250

The German-- I don't know
if there was an SA already.

109

00:06:37,250 --> 00:06:38,720

I don't exactly know.

110

00:06:38,720 --> 00:06:39,930

The German government.

111

00:06:39,930 --> 00:06:41,030

I don't know who it was.

112

00:06:41,030 --> 00:06:43,250

It wasn't men in
uniform, it was--

113

00:06:43,250 --> 00:06:45,470

That I don't
remember, just don't

114

00:06:45,470 --> 00:06:47,300

forget I was seven
years old at that time.

115
00:06:47,300 --> 00:06:52,220
I remember-- I can still see
the business being locked up

116
00:06:52,220 --> 00:06:53,720
and closed.

117
00:06:53,720 --> 00:06:55,140
The seal, I can still see.

118
00:06:55,140 --> 00:06:56,720
But I don't know who did it.

119
00:06:56,720 --> 00:06:57,890
Your father's business?

120
00:06:57,890 --> 00:07:00,350
My father's business and
everybody else's business

121
00:07:00,350 --> 00:07:01,070
was sealed.

122
00:07:01,070 --> 00:07:02,330
You could not walk into it.

123
00:07:02,330 --> 00:07:03,920
It was sealed for weeks.

124
00:07:03,920 --> 00:07:07,210
They took all the
weapons away from you.

125
00:07:07,210 --> 00:07:09,830
You were not allowed
to have any weapons.

126
00:07:09,830 --> 00:07:14,060
In our case, we had
a big dog that was

127

00:07:14,060 --> 00:07:16,580

very precious to my parents.

128

00:07:16,580 --> 00:07:17,840

They shot it.

129

00:07:17,840 --> 00:07:20,960

Just because this was to show--

130

00:07:20,960 --> 00:07:24,050

we hate you, so

we shoot your dog.

131

00:07:24,050 --> 00:07:26,900

So this was right at

the very beginning

132

00:07:26,900 --> 00:07:28,730

of when Hitler came to power.

133

00:07:28,730 --> 00:07:32,730

I think it was

spring in '33, right?

134

00:07:32,730 --> 00:07:36,230

So the business was

closed for, I don't know,

135

00:07:36,230 --> 00:07:39,410

many weeks or maybe even months.

136

00:07:39,410 --> 00:07:41,600

Things started to

get bad in school.

137

00:07:41,600 --> 00:07:46,010

I was put into the

back of the classroom.

138

00:07:46,010 --> 00:07:50,750

And the children were told

not to play with me anymore.

139
00:07:50,750 --> 00:07:54,710
I was sent home two
times a week, three times

140
00:07:54,710 --> 00:07:58,160
a week because they
had racial hour, which

141
00:07:58,160 --> 00:08:02,030
meant that they taught the
children that the Jews were

142
00:08:02,030 --> 00:08:04,880
bad, and how to
actually hate us.

143
00:08:04,880 --> 00:08:10,290
And each time I came back to
school after such an hour,

144
00:08:10,290 --> 00:08:12,290
another child would
spit, another child

145
00:08:12,290 --> 00:08:14,690
would throw a stone.

146
00:08:14,690 --> 00:08:18,290
And little by little, I
was actually very isolated.

147
00:08:18,290 --> 00:08:20,690
These were children who
had been your friends?

148
00:08:20,690 --> 00:08:21,770
That I played with--

149
00:08:21,770 --> 00:08:22,812
That you had played with?

150

00:08:22,812 --> 00:08:25,010
--up to that point,
every single day.

151
00:08:25,010 --> 00:08:29,430
They were in my house,
I was in their house.

152
00:08:29,430 --> 00:08:33,270
This may be a somewhat difficult
question for you to answer,

153
00:08:33,270 --> 00:08:38,700
but perhaps if you
think about it, you can.

154
00:08:38,700 --> 00:08:41,850
What was your--
at this time, what

155
00:08:41,850 --> 00:08:45,850
was your perception of
what was happening to you?

156
00:08:45,850 --> 00:08:50,610
What was your understanding
of what was happening to you?

157
00:08:50,610 --> 00:08:52,950
I was very hurt.

158
00:08:52,950 --> 00:08:56,200
I was frightened.

159
00:08:56,200 --> 00:08:59,170
And basically,
could not understand

160
00:08:59,170 --> 00:09:03,820
why the friends that I
have had all this time

161
00:09:03,820 --> 00:09:06,910

would get so nasty and
would be so mean to me.

162
00:09:06,910 --> 00:09:09,520

163
00:09:09,520 --> 00:09:12,280
And it was a very
difficult thing to digest,

164
00:09:12,280 --> 00:09:17,690
that all of a sudden you lived
an isolated fear for life.

165
00:09:17,690 --> 00:09:20,780
This happened to your sister
and your other siblings, too?

166
00:09:20,780 --> 00:09:21,770
My sister.

167
00:09:21,770 --> 00:09:23,810
Yes, it happened to
my sister as well.

168
00:09:23,810 --> 00:09:24,740
At the same time.

169
00:09:24,740 --> 00:09:25,370
Yes.

170
00:09:25,370 --> 00:09:26,870
Yeah.

171
00:09:26,870 --> 00:09:29,060
And did you hear of it
happening to other Jews

172
00:09:29,060 --> 00:09:31,430
as well, to other
Jewish children?

173

00:09:31,430 --> 00:09:36,110

Well, to all the Jewish
children that were around.

174

00:09:36,110 --> 00:09:38,480

I saw even in other parts.

175

00:09:38,480 --> 00:09:40,790

I heard that my
cousin in Stuttgart,

176

00:09:40,790 --> 00:09:45,740

for instance, this happened
to all the Jewish children

177

00:09:45,740 --> 00:09:46,460

at that time.

178

00:09:46,460 --> 00:09:48,650

Some more, some less.

179

00:09:48,650 --> 00:09:52,490

I guess I felt it
more because I had

180

00:09:52,490 --> 00:09:55,310

had only non-Jewish friends.

181

00:09:55,310 --> 00:09:58,760

And I was completely
isolated at the time then.

182

00:09:58,760 --> 00:10:03,680

So I guess for me, it was
even worse than if you lived

183

00:10:03,680 --> 00:10:06,560

in the city and you did
still have other friends

184

00:10:06,560 --> 00:10:09,110

that you could be with.

185

00:10:09,110 --> 00:10:11,540

So there was no one--
there were no people

186

00:10:11,540 --> 00:10:14,480

to share the sense of isolation?

187

00:10:14,480 --> 00:10:16,340

Not in that sense, no.

188

00:10:16,340 --> 00:10:17,600

I happened to be lucky.

189

00:10:17,600 --> 00:10:21,200

I liked to read, even
as a very young child.

190

00:10:21,200 --> 00:10:25,100

And I spent most
of my time reading.

191

00:10:25,100 --> 00:10:27,080

At this time, your
house was intact,

192

00:10:27,080 --> 00:10:29,150

even though they closed
the adjoining store?

193

00:10:29,150 --> 00:10:33,770

Yes, at that time, the
house was still intact.

194

00:10:33,770 --> 00:10:38,120

But from-- in 1935,
we were no longer

195

00:10:38,120 --> 00:10:39,410

allowed to have the maid.

196

00:10:39,410 --> 00:10:42,230

197
00:10:42,230 --> 00:10:46,580
The people would not come to
shop anymore in the store,

198
00:10:46,580 --> 00:10:49,880
even the store was reopened.

199
00:10:49,880 --> 00:10:56,660
In 1936, we had to take
in a non-Jewish family,

200
00:10:56,660 --> 00:10:57,900
because we had a big house.

201
00:10:57,900 --> 00:11:01,000
But there was actually no
facilities for these people.

202
00:11:01,000 --> 00:11:04,100
It was not a separate
kitchen or anything.

203
00:11:04,100 --> 00:11:08,000
But we had to give them
the upper store, where

204
00:11:08,000 --> 00:11:12,470
we had a bathroom with
running water and a bathtub.

205
00:11:12,470 --> 00:11:16,150
And this is what these people
used for their kitchen.

206
00:11:16,150 --> 00:11:19,460
And I presume they
themselves bought a stove.

207
00:11:19,460 --> 00:11:21,070
I don't know if we had to.

208

00:11:21,070 --> 00:11:23,800
Let me go back
just a little bit.

209
00:11:23,800 --> 00:11:27,220
When your father initially was
ordered to close his business,

210
00:11:27,220 --> 00:11:29,260
as were the other
Jewish business

211
00:11:29,260 --> 00:11:33,340
people in your community,
was he then allowed

212
00:11:33,340 --> 00:11:35,440
to reopen it for
any period of time?

213
00:11:35,440 --> 00:11:37,010
Yes, after a certain--

214
00:11:37,010 --> 00:11:39,070
I don't know how
many weeks or months,

215
00:11:39,070 --> 00:11:42,490
he was allowed to reopen it.

216
00:11:42,490 --> 00:11:46,130
And he was allowed to
have some business.

217
00:11:46,130 --> 00:11:51,010
But the people were
told not to buy from us.

218
00:11:51,010 --> 00:11:55,010
So even though the store was
open, there was no business.

219
00:11:55,010 --> 00:11:58,100

What was your parents'
feeling at the time?

220

00:11:58,100 --> 00:12:03,050

What did they communicate to
you of their feelings then?

221

00:12:03,050 --> 00:12:07,430

Basically, they felt this
would be a passing thing,

222

00:12:07,430 --> 00:12:09,650

that Hitler could not last.

223

00:12:09,650 --> 00:12:11,960

That was in the
very early years.

224

00:12:11,960 --> 00:12:15,590

That Hitler-- because
there were very German.

225

00:12:15,590 --> 00:12:19,850

My father was in World War
I and had the Iron Cross.

226

00:12:19,850 --> 00:12:23,060

And they felt that this
is a passing thing.

227

00:12:23,060 --> 00:12:24,050

It cannot last.

228

00:12:24,050 --> 00:12:29,150

After all, this is an
educated population,

229

00:12:29,150 --> 00:12:31,310

and this is a passing thing.

230

00:12:31,310 --> 00:12:34,300

231

00:12:34,300 --> 00:12:43,570

So they did not, up to '35,
did not think that poorly.

232

00:12:43,570 --> 00:12:44,980

It was after that.

233

00:12:44,980 --> 00:12:48,955

What specifically happened
in '35 that you can recall?

234

00:12:48,955 --> 00:12:51,940

235

00:12:51,940 --> 00:12:56,020

I just know that we had
no more maid at the time,

236

00:12:56,020 --> 00:13:00,670

that things in school got
much, much worse, that we had

237

00:13:00,670 --> 00:13:02,470

to take in this other family.

238

00:13:02,470 --> 00:13:06,990

239

00:13:06,990 --> 00:13:09,840

When you say things got worse
in school, can you recall?

240

00:13:09,840 --> 00:13:12,090

Yes, the teachers were nasty.

241

00:13:12,090 --> 00:13:13,602

They were mean to us, to me.

242

00:13:13,602 --> 00:13:14,310

What did they do?

243

00:13:14,310 --> 00:13:18,540

I was sitting in the back of the
classroom, I got poor grades,

244

00:13:18,540 --> 00:13:21,930

I was not called upon.

245

00:13:21,930 --> 00:13:26,160

And they just gave me
poor grades, because--

246

00:13:26,160 --> 00:13:28,480

and the children were
nasty and mean to me.

247

00:13:28,480 --> 00:13:31,410

They would throw rocks
at me, would spit at me,

248

00:13:31,410 --> 00:13:33,540

would not talk to me.

249

00:13:33,540 --> 00:13:38,080

And things began to
get very, very bad.

250

00:13:38,080 --> 00:13:43,170

So in 1937, the
beginning of '37--

251

00:13:43,170 --> 00:13:46,740

the school year in Germany
lasted from the spring

252

00:13:46,740 --> 00:13:48,630

to spring.

253

00:13:48,630 --> 00:13:53,190

So by '36, it was so bad, I
could no longer tolerate it.

254

00:13:53,190 --> 00:13:57,390

In the meantime, there was a

German day school in Heidelberg

255

00:13:57,390 --> 00:13:58,950
that started.

256

00:13:58,950 --> 00:14:03,360
So I was sent there
in '37, which meant

257

00:14:03,360 --> 00:14:05,010
that I had to take a train.

258

00:14:05,010 --> 00:14:07,830
I was in the train
for one hour each way.

259

00:14:07,830 --> 00:14:09,060
This was a Jewish day school?

260

00:14:09,060 --> 00:14:10,650
A Jewish day school.

261

00:14:10,650 --> 00:14:15,000
At that time, the
professors could no longer

262

00:14:15,000 --> 00:14:17,820
teach in the universities.

263

00:14:17,820 --> 00:14:21,780
They were teaching us in
the Jewish day school.

264

00:14:21,780 --> 00:14:26,300
I had to take a train
to go to Heidelberg.

265

00:14:26,300 --> 00:14:29,190
There were several other
Jewish children on the train.

266

00:14:29,190 --> 00:14:34,320

And many times there were
grownups who would molest us,

267
00:14:34,320 --> 00:14:34,950
because--

268
00:14:34,950 --> 00:14:38,610
and we were always
looking for a car

269
00:14:38,610 --> 00:14:42,840
where these particular-- one
particular man that I remember.

270
00:14:42,840 --> 00:14:44,580
We always tried to avoid him.

271
00:14:44,580 --> 00:14:46,860
How were they able to
identify you as Jews?

272
00:14:46,860 --> 00:14:48,243
I don't know.

273
00:14:48,243 --> 00:14:50,160
You didn't have to wear
anything at that time?

274
00:14:50,160 --> 00:14:50,660
No.

275
00:14:50,660 --> 00:14:51,810
I don't know how they knew.

276
00:14:51,810 --> 00:14:55,950
They may have been people
that just knew these were--

277
00:14:55,950 --> 00:14:57,000
because we were young.

278
00:14:57,000 --> 00:15:00,480

It was unusual for a
child to take a train

279
00:15:00,480 --> 00:15:02,280
to go so far to school.

280
00:15:02,280 --> 00:15:06,130
There was a closer school of
higher learning where I lived,

281
00:15:06,130 --> 00:15:11,430
which was where my sister used
to go to when things were good.

282
00:15:11,430 --> 00:15:14,040
What happened to the
synagogue in your town

283
00:15:14,040 --> 00:15:15,750
that you said was
so active and--

284
00:15:15,750 --> 00:15:19,620
Well, during this time the
synagogue was very active yet.

285
00:15:19,620 --> 00:15:24,810
We went to shul every Friday
night, every Saturday.

286
00:15:24,810 --> 00:15:29,580
And the teacher left after a
while we had-- and the cantor.

287
00:15:29,580 --> 00:15:31,740
But the people were
determined by the service.

288
00:15:31,740 --> 00:15:36,180
I mean, there was no problem
in synagogue at that point.

289
00:15:36,180 --> 00:15:39,720

We went all the time.

290
00:15:39,720 --> 00:15:41,550
As I said, the
reason they probably

291
00:15:41,550 --> 00:15:44,040
knew how to identify
us was because it

292
00:15:44,040 --> 00:15:46,620
was unusual for
such young children

293
00:15:46,620 --> 00:15:48,780
to going to school
to Heidelberg.

294
00:15:48,780 --> 00:15:53,310
There was a school close
by of higher learning.

295
00:15:53,310 --> 00:15:56,880
My sister went there,
I think, until 1936.

296
00:15:56,880 --> 00:16:00,060
She, by that time, was
no longer in school.

297
00:16:00,060 --> 00:16:01,650
She was elsewhere.

298
00:16:01,650 --> 00:16:05,130
She was in Mannheim
by that time already.

299
00:16:05,130 --> 00:16:10,300
Did you have access to
newspapers and radio?

300
00:16:10,300 --> 00:16:11,310
Yes.

301
00:16:11,310 --> 00:16:14,040
We had radio, we had
access to newspapers.

302
00:16:14,040 --> 00:16:16,860
My parents knew
what was going on.

303
00:16:16,860 --> 00:16:21,270
And whatever the German
newspapers would print.

304
00:16:21,270 --> 00:16:23,530
Did they speak to you
about what was going on?

305
00:16:23,530 --> 00:16:24,030
Excuse me?

306
00:16:24,030 --> 00:16:27,270
Did they speak with you
about what was going on?

307
00:16:27,270 --> 00:16:28,320
No.

308
00:16:28,320 --> 00:16:31,350
In those days, parents did
not speak to the children

309
00:16:31,350 --> 00:16:33,367
the way we speak to them today.

310
00:16:33,367 --> 00:16:35,700
What was the age difference
between you and your sister?

311
00:16:35,700 --> 00:16:37,140
4 and 1/2 years.

312
00:16:37,140 --> 00:16:40,620

So they didn't speak to her
either about these things.

313
00:16:40,620 --> 00:16:42,960
I don't rightly know.

314
00:16:42,960 --> 00:16:46,870
Which they did speak to
her much more than to me.

315
00:16:46,870 --> 00:16:49,266
But how much I don't know.

316
00:16:49,266 --> 00:16:51,050
They didn't-- excuse me.

317
00:16:51,050 --> 00:16:52,580
Then you didn't
have a sense of what

318
00:16:52,580 --> 00:16:56,570
was going on from
radio, or newspapers,

319
00:16:56,570 --> 00:16:58,160
or adult conversation?

320
00:16:58,160 --> 00:16:58,940
It just--

321
00:16:58,940 --> 00:17:01,160
Not that much, no.

322
00:17:01,160 --> 00:17:05,790
I just knew what was happening
to me and to the community.

323
00:17:05,790 --> 00:17:10,250
But in the outside world,
I did not know that much.

324
00:17:10,250 --> 00:17:12,079

I was kind of young.

325

00:17:12,079 --> 00:17:16,420

And in those days, as I
said, parents did not--

326

00:17:16,420 --> 00:17:18,530

they tried to shield
their children

327

00:17:18,530 --> 00:17:22,099

rather than to tell
them what was happening.

328

00:17:22,099 --> 00:17:23,690

Which we don't do today.

329

00:17:23,690 --> 00:17:28,540

I personally believe it's
the wrong thing to do.

330

00:17:28,540 --> 00:17:29,500

To shelter?

331

00:17:29,500 --> 00:17:30,280

To shelter.

332

00:17:30,280 --> 00:17:32,260

You cannot shelter,
because people sense--

333

00:17:32,260 --> 00:17:35,530

I have had, later
on, experiences

334

00:17:35,530 --> 00:17:36,730

where I was sheltered.

335

00:17:36,730 --> 00:17:41,950

And it really was bad, because I
knew what was happening anyway.

336

00:17:41,950 --> 00:17:46,600
So as I said, going
to Heidelberg-- oh,

337
00:17:46,600 --> 00:17:48,730
we were Orthodox.

338
00:17:48,730 --> 00:17:52,940
I was not allowed to travel
on Shabbat or any such thing.

339
00:17:52,940 --> 00:17:56,110
But when things
got bad and that's

340
00:17:56,110 --> 00:17:59,200
the only company I had
going to Heidelberg,

341
00:17:59,200 --> 00:18:03,040
my mother would let me go on
the Shabbat to Heidelberg.

342
00:18:03,040 --> 00:18:06,910
So I had some kind of
social life, at least,

343
00:18:06,910 --> 00:18:09,730
with my Jewish friends there.

344
00:18:09,730 --> 00:18:14,710
And I would spend time
with the families there.

345
00:18:14,710 --> 00:18:21,160
So this was from '37 and '38.

346
00:18:21,160 --> 00:18:26,590
Then came the Kristallnacht.

347
00:18:26,590 --> 00:18:31,570
We, where I lived, did not
know anything that night.

348
00:18:31,570 --> 00:18:34,270
I woke up in the
morning, I took the train

349
00:18:34,270 --> 00:18:36,850
as I always did at 7
o'clock in the morning,

350
00:18:36,850 --> 00:18:39,730
not knowing what had happened.

351
00:18:39,730 --> 00:18:42,310
I got onto the train,
and immediately, I

352
00:18:42,310 --> 00:18:46,450
heard from the people in
the train what had happened,

353
00:18:46,450 --> 00:18:48,070
that all the shuls were burned.

354
00:18:48,070 --> 00:18:50,440
And they were very
proud what they all

355
00:18:50,440 --> 00:18:52,990
were able to do to the Jews.

356
00:18:52,990 --> 00:18:57,460
That they went in and
demolished their homes,

357
00:18:57,460 --> 00:18:59,050
that they burned
their synagogues.

358
00:18:59,050 --> 00:19:04,930
They were all very proud telling
each other what they did.

359

00:19:04,930 --> 00:19:07,430

I was very scared.

360

00:19:07,430 --> 00:19:11,200

I cowered in that corner, hoping
nobody would at this point

361

00:19:11,200 --> 00:19:14,235

realize that I was Jewish.

362

00:19:14,235 --> 00:19:15,820

I went to Heidelberg.

363

00:19:15,820 --> 00:19:23,740

As I got there, I got met by
the shattering of the glass,

364

00:19:23,740 --> 00:19:28,050

by the shouting of
the people, down Jews.

365

00:19:28,050 --> 00:19:32,890

And I could hear
they were so thrilled

366

00:19:32,890 --> 00:19:37,090

on what they were doing and all
the shattering of the glass.

367

00:19:37,090 --> 00:19:38,290

I got out of the train.

368

00:19:38,290 --> 00:19:40,750

I tried to get out
of the station, where

369

00:19:40,750 --> 00:19:46,630

I was met by an elder Jewish
man, who said, do not come out.

370

00:19:46,630 --> 00:19:49,750

And they burned the
synagogue last night.

371
00:19:49,750 --> 00:19:52,420
They are demolishing--
they're in everybody's home,

372
00:19:52,420 --> 00:19:54,340
demolishing everything.

373
00:19:54,340 --> 00:19:56,710
They're in the school.

374
00:19:56,710 --> 00:20:01,310
Try to get a train back
to your home immediately.

375
00:20:01,310 --> 00:20:04,120
It took an hour for me
to catch another train,

376
00:20:04,120 --> 00:20:07,240
during which time I had
to listen to all the

377
00:20:07,240 --> 00:20:08,710
this that was going on.

378
00:20:08,710 --> 00:20:10,420
I can still hear it.

379
00:20:10,420 --> 00:20:13,120
It was terrible experience.

380
00:20:13,120 --> 00:20:15,730
And you get frightened.

381
00:20:15,730 --> 00:20:17,650
Of course, I was
very frightened.

382
00:20:17,650 --> 00:20:20,800
What would happen
when I get home?

383
00:20:20,800 --> 00:20:23,980
I got home, I got
out of the station,

384
00:20:23,980 --> 00:20:27,430
and I walked to our house.

385
00:20:27,430 --> 00:20:31,600
As I was walking, I
saw my father was--

386
00:20:31,600 --> 00:20:34,630
at that time, we only were
six Jewish families left.

387
00:20:34,630 --> 00:20:37,400
Because the people all
left as they could.

388
00:20:37,400 --> 00:20:42,670
Which was very difficult,
because the countries closed

389
00:20:42,670 --> 00:20:45,040
up, they didn't let us in.

390
00:20:45,040 --> 00:20:51,490
I saw my father with the other
five man carrying furniture

391
00:20:51,490 --> 00:20:53,320
from the gabbai's
base house, which

392
00:20:53,320 --> 00:20:57,860
was adjoining to the synagogue
to somebody else's house.

393
00:20:57,860 --> 00:21:02,140
And they told me that they
demolished the synagogue.

394

00:21:02,140 --> 00:21:05,260

And they took all the sefer
torah and all the [INAUDIBLE],,

395

00:21:05,260 --> 00:21:07,452

and everything that was in it.

396

00:21:07,452 --> 00:21:09,160

Did this happened
while you were en route

397

00:21:09,160 --> 00:21:12,130

to and from the school,
from Heidelberg?

398

00:21:12,130 --> 00:21:13,130

Yes.

399

00:21:13,130 --> 00:21:15,470

This happened while I was gone.

400

00:21:15,470 --> 00:21:19,940

I came at the end,
when they carried--

401

00:21:19,940 --> 00:21:23,960

they let the gabbai move
out into somebody's house,

402

00:21:23,960 --> 00:21:26,300

and let the men carry the stuff.

403

00:21:26,300 --> 00:21:28,820

I came at that time.

404

00:21:28,820 --> 00:21:33,410

I was home when they
burned all the sefer torah.

405

00:21:33,410 --> 00:21:38,990

They took it into an empty
lot and they burned it.

406
00:21:38,990 --> 00:21:41,300
Of course, again, with
a lot of shouting,

407
00:21:41,300 --> 00:21:45,410
and a lot of hooraying,
this is what we are doing.

408
00:21:45,410 --> 00:21:48,320
But that was a little bit later.

409
00:21:48,320 --> 00:21:50,540
I went home and
dropped my books.

410
00:21:50,540 --> 00:21:53,810
And I was so upset, I fainted.

411
00:21:53,810 --> 00:21:56,330
And then I went to the
other people's homes,

412
00:21:56,330 --> 00:21:58,400
where they took the
furniture, to where

413
00:21:58,400 --> 00:22:01,430
this family would move into.

414
00:22:01,430 --> 00:22:03,950
As my father and
the other men walked

415
00:22:03,950 --> 00:22:07,760
in with the last piece of
furniture-- there were six men.

416
00:22:07,760 --> 00:22:10,130
12 SA men came--

417
00:22:10,130 --> 00:22:14,390

these were the
brownshirt people--

418
00:22:14,390 --> 00:22:16,820
to arrest the men.

419
00:22:16,820 --> 00:22:20,180
For each man, they
had two SA men.

420
00:22:20,180 --> 00:22:23,480
They arrested them right
there in the courtyard.

421
00:22:23,480 --> 00:22:27,840
They marched them to
the mayor's office.

422
00:22:27,840 --> 00:22:30,210
One man in between two SA men.

423
00:22:30,210 --> 00:22:31,660
How many men were
being arrested?

424
00:22:31,660 --> 00:22:32,160
Six.

425
00:22:32,160 --> 00:22:33,390
There were only six men left.

426
00:22:33,390 --> 00:22:34,410
Your father among them?

427
00:22:34,410 --> 00:22:36,450
My father among them.

428
00:22:36,450 --> 00:22:38,670
They were taken to
the mayor's office.

429
00:22:38,670 --> 00:22:42,060

We did not know what would happen and what would be.

430
00:22:42,060 --> 00:22:44,700
I again went home,
told my mother.

431
00:22:44,700 --> 00:22:49,620
Again, I was so upset, I
started trembling and fainting.

432
00:22:49,620 --> 00:22:53,910
And in the evening, we were
told we could go see my father.

433
00:22:53,910 --> 00:22:57,600
And I believe we could
bring him clothes.

434
00:22:57,600 --> 00:23:00,720
But we were not told
where he was taken.

435
00:23:00,720 --> 00:23:03,240
We later on found out
he was taken to Dachau.

436
00:23:03,240 --> 00:23:06,870

437
00:23:06,870 --> 00:23:10,590
My father was in Dachau for
five weeks, during which

438
00:23:10,590 --> 00:23:12,320
time, my mother did the utmost.

439
00:23:12,320 --> 00:23:15,540
She traveled to Counsel, to--

440
00:23:15,540 --> 00:23:16,740
I don't know what she did.

441

00:23:16,740 --> 00:23:20,490

Again, as a child, you
were not really told.

442

00:23:20,490 --> 00:23:22,920

To see to it that
he was released,

443

00:23:22,920 --> 00:23:26,610

being that he was in World War
I. And he had the Iron Cross.

444

00:23:26,610 --> 00:23:31,620

She was able to get him
out after five weeks.

445

00:23:31,620 --> 00:23:34,380

And he came back at that time.

446

00:23:34,380 --> 00:23:37,950

From that day on,
as I said, it was--

447

00:23:37,950 --> 00:23:40,380

I was a nervous
fright at all times.

448

00:23:40,380 --> 00:23:42,000

I would not sleep alone.

449

00:23:42,000 --> 00:23:43,950

I slept with my
parents in the room.

450

00:23:43,950 --> 00:23:46,170

I would not go to my room.

451

00:23:46,170 --> 00:23:48,560

These other people
lived upstairs.

452

00:23:48,560 --> 00:23:51,540

Also, we had to take in
another Jewish family.

453
00:23:51,540 --> 00:23:55,080

454
00:23:55,080 --> 00:23:57,120
We gave-- they had to
go where the business,

455
00:23:57,120 --> 00:23:58,290
where they were sleeping.

456
00:23:58,290 --> 00:24:01,470
And we shared the
kitchen with them.

457
00:24:01,470 --> 00:24:06,120
Because they took
away their home.

458
00:24:06,120 --> 00:24:10,560
This is how we
lived from '38 on,

459
00:24:10,560 --> 00:24:15,570
with fear every single
day what would come next.

460
00:24:15,570 --> 00:24:20,670
And usually they struck
during the holidays.

461
00:24:20,670 --> 00:24:23,350
This was their thing.

462
00:24:23,350 --> 00:24:28,590
One day, we were home in the
afternoon, it was summertime.

463
00:24:28,590 --> 00:24:32,400
And one man just decided that
he was going to take a gun

464
00:24:32,400 --> 00:24:34,620
and shoot one of the men.

465
00:24:34,620 --> 00:24:36,570
And that's what he did.

466
00:24:36,570 --> 00:24:40,350
And nobody said anything,
nobody did anything.

467
00:24:40,350 --> 00:24:42,180
We had neighbors.

468
00:24:42,180 --> 00:24:45,840
And I have to track back
to '38, of Kristallnacht.

469
00:24:45,840 --> 00:24:49,450
They would not give us any food.

470
00:24:49,450 --> 00:24:51,930
We were not allowed
to do any shopping.

471
00:24:51,930 --> 00:24:54,630
So our neighbor, who
grew up with my mother,

472
00:24:54,630 --> 00:24:58,470
went to the mayor's office
and said, what's going on?

473
00:24:58,470 --> 00:25:01,800
Do we let these people
starve to death now?

474
00:25:01,800 --> 00:25:05,850
So they said, no, you can
sell them-- he had a bakery.

475
00:25:05,850 --> 00:25:09,840

But this man then after that,
would not say anything anymore

476
00:25:09,840 --> 00:25:11,790
either, because
these people were

477
00:25:11,790 --> 00:25:13,980
afraid of their own children.

478
00:25:13,980 --> 00:25:16,080
Their children
were taught so much

479
00:25:16,080 --> 00:25:19,290
to hate and to denounce
their own parents

480
00:25:19,290 --> 00:25:23,610
if they were helping Jews
that they wouldn't dare do so

481
00:25:23,610 --> 00:25:24,810
anymore.

482
00:25:24,810 --> 00:25:28,860
Oh, this wife of
his-- so I could not

483
00:25:28,860 --> 00:25:30,450
buy clothes or anything.

484
00:25:30,450 --> 00:25:34,200
And on a rare occasion,
if I needed something,

485
00:25:34,200 --> 00:25:36,990
she would buy it
and hand it to us

486
00:25:36,990 --> 00:25:43,410
into the window from their yard
when the children weren't home.

487
00:25:43,410 --> 00:25:46,650
And these were children
that I grew up with,

488
00:25:46,650 --> 00:25:49,740
that when I was sick,
I was in their house.

489
00:25:49,740 --> 00:25:52,530
Even, I remember
having had the measles.

490
00:25:52,530 --> 00:25:54,850
And their child had the measles.

491
00:25:54,850 --> 00:25:56,910
And so that neither
one of us was alone,

492
00:25:56,910 --> 00:25:59,200
I spent time in their house.

493
00:25:59,200 --> 00:26:01,120
This is how close we used to be.

494
00:26:01,120 --> 00:26:05,760
And now, they cannot even talk
to us because the children

495
00:26:05,760 --> 00:26:07,703
would denounce them,
their own parents.

496
00:26:07,703 --> 00:26:09,370
The parents were
afraid of the children.

497
00:26:09,370 --> 00:26:10,800
Right.

498
00:26:10,800 --> 00:26:14,970

Did you ever experience
any kind of--

499
00:26:14,970 --> 00:26:19,230
I don't know, sense of
sympathy from anybody?

500
00:26:19,230 --> 00:26:20,590
A look--

501
00:26:20,590 --> 00:26:21,090
No.

502
00:26:21,090 --> 00:26:21,700
--a word--

503
00:26:21,700 --> 00:26:22,260
No.

504
00:26:22,260 --> 00:26:23,230
--a nod of the head.

505
00:26:23,230 --> 00:26:23,730
No.

506
00:26:23,730 --> 00:26:24,430
Nothing?

507
00:26:24,430 --> 00:26:24,930
No.

508
00:26:24,930 --> 00:26:28,500
Except from this family
next door, the older people,

509
00:26:28,500 --> 00:26:35,460
none of the children would have
sympathy or nod or anything.

510
00:26:35,460 --> 00:26:36,510
None of them.

511

00:26:36,510 --> 00:26:39,960

They were very
well indoctrinated

512

00:26:39,960 --> 00:26:41,530

with this racial hour.

513

00:26:41,530 --> 00:26:44,040

Two hours, two, three
hours every week.

514

00:26:44,040 --> 00:26:47,000

515

00:26:47,000 --> 00:26:49,400

I was all of a sudden a young--

516

00:26:49,400 --> 00:26:50,990

a nobody.

517

00:26:50,990 --> 00:26:52,130

They were brainwashed.

518

00:26:52,130 --> 00:26:53,900

They were very brainwashed.

519

00:26:53,900 --> 00:26:56,660

They didn't even have sympathy.

520

00:26:56,660 --> 00:26:59,220

None of them.

521

00:26:59,220 --> 00:27:02,200

You mentioned about a
man being shot at random.

522

00:27:02,200 --> 00:27:03,150

Yeah.

523

00:27:03,150 --> 00:27:04,530

Was--

524
00:27:04,530 --> 00:27:05,610
A Jewish man.

525
00:27:05,610 --> 00:27:06,810
And he was at home.

526
00:27:06,810 --> 00:27:11,370
And somebody, who I presume
from what I guessed later on,

527
00:27:11,370 --> 00:27:12,390
this man must have--

528
00:27:12,390 --> 00:27:13,590
this was a butcher shop.

529
00:27:13,590 --> 00:27:15,480
He had a kosher butcher shop.

530
00:27:15,480 --> 00:27:17,190
And he had a butcher store.

531
00:27:17,190 --> 00:27:22,500
And presumably, at one time or
another, maybe due to business,

532
00:27:22,500 --> 00:27:25,080
he wasn't happy with this man.

533
00:27:25,080 --> 00:27:25,910
So he just went in.

534
00:27:25,910 --> 00:27:28,020
He marched in and shot him.

535
00:27:28,020 --> 00:27:32,200
He didn't kill him,
he just shot him.

536
00:27:32,200 --> 00:27:36,370

At this point, did
you feel yourself,

537
00:27:36,370 --> 00:27:40,960
or did your parents feel
in danger of their lives?

538
00:27:40,960 --> 00:27:41,620
Yes.

539
00:27:41,620 --> 00:27:43,098
Up to that time, up to--

540
00:27:43,098 --> 00:27:44,015
At that time already--

541
00:27:44,015 --> 00:27:44,598
Kristallnacht.

542
00:27:44,598 --> 00:27:47,500
--we felt, my mother
and I, my father--

543
00:27:47,500 --> 00:27:54,210
my father had to
go to do road work.

544
00:27:54,210 --> 00:27:59,670
They took him to [GERMAN],, I
don't know what the word is.

545
00:27:59,670 --> 00:28:00,340
Labor.

546
00:28:00,340 --> 00:28:02,950
Labor, forced labor.

547
00:28:02,950 --> 00:28:03,450
Yeah.

548
00:28:03,450 --> 00:28:05,580
He had to do forced labor.

549
00:28:05,580 --> 00:28:07,620
In fields, he had to work.

550
00:28:07,620 --> 00:28:08,490
So he was not home.

551
00:28:08,490 --> 00:28:12,930
My mother and I, we locked
ourselves into a room.

552
00:28:12,930 --> 00:28:15,430
Because we were afraid
next they would come to us.

553
00:28:15,430 --> 00:28:17,400
We were at all times afraid.

554
00:28:17,400 --> 00:28:20,040
Was your sister
with you then, too?

555
00:28:20,040 --> 00:28:20,580
No.

556
00:28:20,580 --> 00:28:22,140
My sister, I forgot that.

557
00:28:22,140 --> 00:28:27,780
My sister left in 1938,
before Kristallnacht.

558
00:28:27,780 --> 00:28:30,360
We had relatives
in this country.

559
00:28:30,360 --> 00:28:33,180
And they gave her an affidavit.

560
00:28:33,180 --> 00:28:35,870
But not the whole family.

561

00:28:35,870 --> 00:28:38,760

They did not want the
burden of many people.

562

00:28:38,760 --> 00:28:39,600

So she came.

563

00:28:39,600 --> 00:28:41,970

She was 17 years old.

564

00:28:41,970 --> 00:28:45,930

And they made very
plain that if she comes,

565

00:28:45,930 --> 00:28:50,340

they did not want to have to
support her or have anything

566

00:28:50,340 --> 00:28:51,450

to do with her.

567

00:28:51,450 --> 00:28:54,340

She came to this country
and she went as a maid.

568

00:28:54,340 --> 00:28:57,100

I had an uncle here as
well, my mother's brother,

569

00:28:57,100 --> 00:29:02,340

who had come I think the
year before who she was with.

570

00:29:02,340 --> 00:29:04,830

But he could not support her.

571

00:29:04,830 --> 00:29:10,710

So she, that summer of
'38, when my sister left,

572

00:29:10,710 --> 00:29:12,330

was a terrible summer for me.

573

00:29:12,330 --> 00:29:16,350

Because my mother was very
upset having to see her daughter

574

00:29:16,350 --> 00:29:18,000

leave.

575

00:29:18,000 --> 00:29:21,790

My cousin, whom we
were very close with,

576

00:29:21,790 --> 00:29:26,200

left the same year, also
during that same time.

577

00:29:26,200 --> 00:29:29,370

So that most of the
family had gone.

578

00:29:29,370 --> 00:29:31,137

We were the only ones left.

579

00:29:31,137 --> 00:29:32,970

You mentioned that there
were four children.

580

00:29:32,970 --> 00:29:33,600

What did the other children--

581

00:29:33,600 --> 00:29:34,413

No, we were two.

582

00:29:34,413 --> 00:29:35,580

Oh, just the two, I'm sorry.

583

00:29:35,580 --> 00:29:36,606

Four family members.

584

00:29:36,606 --> 00:29:37,755

Four family members.

585

00:29:37,755 --> 00:29:39,090

Four family members.

586

00:29:39,090 --> 00:29:40,270

Yeah, just two.

587

00:29:40,270 --> 00:29:42,690

Just the two.

588

00:29:42,690 --> 00:29:44,910

And when my sister
got here, of course,

589

00:29:44,910 --> 00:29:48,240

my father was hoping that
she could get us an affidavit

590

00:29:48,240 --> 00:29:50,520

and we could come here.

591

00:29:50,520 --> 00:29:52,310

But this was not easy.

592

00:29:52,310 --> 00:29:54,090

Besides, this
country was closed,

593

00:29:54,090 --> 00:29:56,490

and you needed a quota number.

594

00:29:56,490 --> 00:30:00,370

We had number 33,000.

595

00:30:00,370 --> 00:30:04,510

That was, I mean,
never coming up.

596

00:30:04,510 --> 00:30:08,200

So we just-- and there was
no other country open to us.

597

00:30:08,200 --> 00:30:09,940

So we could not leave.

598

00:30:09,940 --> 00:30:12,100

No way, no how.

599

00:30:12,100 --> 00:30:16,540

Prior to the closing
of the borders,

600

00:30:16,540 --> 00:30:19,660

was there any time
when your family

601

00:30:19,660 --> 00:30:24,250

felt that they might
want to emigrate, they

602

00:30:24,250 --> 00:30:25,440

might want to leave Germany?

603

00:30:25,440 --> 00:30:29,260

In '35, my mother felt
she would like to go

604

00:30:29,260 --> 00:30:31,870

to what was then Palestine.

605

00:30:31,870 --> 00:30:33,970

My father would
never hear of it.

606

00:30:33,970 --> 00:30:36,730

He felt that nothing
can happen to him.

607

00:30:36,730 --> 00:30:42,580

Again, the same thing that he
was German, he was in the war,

608

00:30:42,580 --> 00:30:44,200

and nothing could happen to him.

609

00:30:44,200 --> 00:30:45,890

He did not believe
it at that time,

610

00:30:45,890 --> 00:30:48,850

like many other German people.

611

00:30:48,850 --> 00:30:50,890

And I guess it
was very difficult

612

00:30:50,890 --> 00:30:53,620

when you had
established yourself

613

00:30:53,620 --> 00:30:57,060

to just go out and leave.

614

00:30:57,060 --> 00:30:58,950

Because up to that
time, they were all

615

00:30:58,950 --> 00:31:01,950

hoping that it would pass.

616

00:31:01,950 --> 00:31:06,270

After '37, I think, people
were still in a dream world,

617

00:31:06,270 --> 00:31:08,640

hoping that it would pass.

618

00:31:08,640 --> 00:31:13,470

From '37 on, there was
no way that anybody

619

00:31:13,470 --> 00:31:14,600

could feel that way.

620

00:31:14,600 --> 00:31:16,920

By that time, it was too late.

621

00:31:16,920 --> 00:31:21,350

When the war broke out, were
you surprised at what happened?

622

00:31:21,350 --> 00:31:25,710

Or were you prepared
for what happened?

623

00:31:25,710 --> 00:31:28,200

Or did you know
what was happening?

624

00:31:28,200 --> 00:31:32,180

I knew the war broke out.

625

00:31:32,180 --> 00:31:33,680

I don't know if I was surprised.

626

00:31:33,680 --> 00:31:38,900

As I said, as a child, you lived
in a different world in Europe

627

00:31:38,900 --> 00:31:40,490

as you do here.

628

00:31:40,490 --> 00:31:45,860

We had a radio, but still,
it wasn't like today,

629

00:31:45,860 --> 00:31:48,980

that you heard much news.

630

00:31:48,980 --> 00:31:52,505

The papers I didn't read,
I guess, as a child.

631

00:31:52,505 --> 00:31:53,630

It was a different world.

632

00:31:53,630 --> 00:31:56,210

Children didn't know as much.

633

00:31:56,210 --> 00:31:59,090

So I knew the war broke out.

634

00:31:59,090 --> 00:32:03,500

And I was visiting with
a relative at the time.

635

00:32:03,500 --> 00:32:06,330

I was sent home immediately.

636

00:32:06,330 --> 00:32:08,860

He would not let
me stay another--

637

00:32:08,860 --> 00:32:13,700

an hour, because he was afraid
of what would come next.

638

00:32:13,700 --> 00:32:19,280

In 1939, on Yom Kippur, and
they came into everybody's home,

639

00:32:19,280 --> 00:32:21,930

took all the radios away.

640

00:32:21,930 --> 00:32:28,035

And again, they were every so
often searching for weapons.

641

00:32:28,035 --> 00:32:30,380

In '38, they took
the money away.

642

00:32:30,380 --> 00:32:33,305

They took all the jewelry away.

643

00:32:33,305 --> 00:32:40,130

Also after Kristallnacht,
we had identification cards.

644

00:32:40,130 --> 00:32:45,020

Every female was Sarah,

every male was Israel.

645

00:32:45,020 --> 00:32:50,314

And you had to have these
cards on you at all times.

646

00:32:50,314 --> 00:32:51,850

It's a little thing I forgot.

647

00:32:51,850 --> 00:32:56,300

648

00:32:56,300 --> 00:33:01,070

So things really went
from bad to worse.

649

00:33:01,070 --> 00:33:03,140

Every month, something happened.

650

00:33:03,140 --> 00:33:06,380

Every month-- if you didn't--

651

00:33:06,380 --> 00:33:09,680

if it didn't happen to you,
I heard it in Heidelberg,

652

00:33:09,680 --> 00:33:11,240

I heard it from other children.

653

00:33:11,240 --> 00:33:14,300

In that sense, I did
know what was going on.

654

00:33:14,300 --> 00:33:16,460

And of course, a lot
of people went away.

655

00:33:16,460 --> 00:33:20,540

All the professors that we
had teaching us went away.

656

00:33:20,540 --> 00:33:25,640

In '38, we had eight grades
and two teachers left,

657
00:33:25,640 --> 00:33:28,370
because all the other
people had immigrated.

658
00:33:28,370 --> 00:33:31,040
A lot of children
had immigrated.

659
00:33:31,040 --> 00:33:36,230
And so little by little, you
did know what was going on.

660
00:33:36,230 --> 00:33:37,850
Because it was all around you.

661
00:33:37,850 --> 00:33:41,793
Where did they immigrate
to if there was--

662
00:33:41,793 --> 00:33:43,460
Well, some people who
were lucky and had

663
00:33:43,460 --> 00:33:47,030
relatives in this country that
gave them affidavits in time.

664
00:33:47,030 --> 00:33:48,950
Because I think the
quota number only

665
00:33:48,950 --> 00:33:52,510
started in '38, if I'm correct.

666
00:33:52,510 --> 00:33:54,790
And other people
went to Palestine.

667
00:33:54,790 --> 00:33:58,420
Other people went

to South America.

668

00:33:58,420 --> 00:34:01,540

Other people went to China.

669

00:34:01,540 --> 00:34:05,870

We had a relative of
ours that went to China.

670

00:34:05,870 --> 00:34:10,850

So they went wherever
the doors were open.

671

00:34:10,850 --> 00:34:12,219

The people would go.

672

00:34:12,219 --> 00:34:14,620

Also, they had many
children's transports

673

00:34:14,620 --> 00:34:17,949

that they started in '38,
where they would ship children

674

00:34:17,949 --> 00:34:24,010

to Holland, to Belgium,
to France, to England.

675

00:34:24,010 --> 00:34:26,469

I was supposed to
go on one of them,

676

00:34:26,469 --> 00:34:29,320

but somehow it never came to be.

677

00:34:29,320 --> 00:34:31,570

Because all these things
took a lot of time

678

00:34:31,570 --> 00:34:34,719

and a lot of preparation.

679

00:34:34,719 --> 00:34:39,300
They had a chance to emigrate
rather than being shipped out

680
00:34:39,300 --> 00:34:40,540
to what came later.

681
00:34:40,540 --> 00:34:42,540
There was still time
for them to get out.

682
00:34:42,540 --> 00:34:44,040
Well, these children
transports were

683
00:34:44,040 --> 00:34:49,170
done by the Jewish community
through Jewish organizations.

684
00:34:49,170 --> 00:34:50,850
And I think many
of them were placed

685
00:34:50,850 --> 00:34:53,219
with families or in
different children

686
00:34:53,219 --> 00:34:57,360
homes in the various countries.

687
00:34:57,360 --> 00:34:59,510
France had children
homes at that time.

688
00:34:59,510 --> 00:35:01,140
That was 1938.

689
00:35:01,140 --> 00:35:02,250
I think so, yeah.

690
00:35:02,250 --> 00:35:04,830
That was in 1938 when
they started, that they

691
00:35:04,830 --> 00:35:07,590
took children transports.

692
00:35:07,590 --> 00:35:10,680
So but with me, it
just never worked out.

693
00:35:10,680 --> 00:35:15,150
I was supposed to go to a
city called Cologne to learn--

694
00:35:15,150 --> 00:35:17,300
I always wanted to
become a baby nurse.

695
00:35:17,300 --> 00:35:18,470
I was supposed to go there.

696
00:35:18,470 --> 00:35:20,760
I was registered to go there.

697
00:35:20,760 --> 00:35:25,290
And that never
materialized, because--

698
00:35:25,290 --> 00:35:28,830
I think, looking back, it
was probably lucky for me.

699
00:35:28,830 --> 00:35:33,330
Because right-- and that
was right after that

700
00:35:33,330 --> 00:35:36,790
they came to arrest us and take
us to a concentration camp.

701
00:35:36,790 --> 00:35:39,790
And this way, I was
taken with my parents.

702

00:35:39,790 --> 00:35:45,970

This was in 1940
on [HEBREW] Sukkot.

703

00:35:45,970 --> 00:35:49,900

They came the night
before to tell my parents

704

00:35:49,900 --> 00:35:52,940

not to let me go to school.

705

00:35:52,940 --> 00:35:55,820

Of course, we knew
something was up if I'm not

706

00:35:55,820 --> 00:35:58,160

supposed to go to school.

707

00:35:58,160 --> 00:36:03,680

Somehow, our house seemed to
be the center of the Jewish--

708

00:36:03,680 --> 00:36:06,770

again, there were
six families left.

709

00:36:06,770 --> 00:36:10,130

So everybody came to
our home that night.

710

00:36:10,130 --> 00:36:13,250

And we sat down in the
living room debating,

711

00:36:13,250 --> 00:36:15,090

is there anything we can do?

712

00:36:15,090 --> 00:36:16,460

What's there to be done?

713

00:36:16,460 --> 00:36:18,650

Or what's going to happen?

714

00:36:18,650 --> 00:36:21,470

But there was no place
to go and nothing to do.

715

00:36:21,470 --> 00:36:23,210

Where did you go to
school at this point?

716

00:36:23,210 --> 00:36:24,260

What kind of school?

717

00:36:24,260 --> 00:36:26,750

I still went to Heidelberg
every single day.

718

00:36:26,750 --> 00:36:29,030

Oh, after Kristallnacht, you
still went to Heidelberg.

719

00:36:29,030 --> 00:36:31,820

After the school reopened.

720

00:36:31,820 --> 00:36:34,595

Oh, there, I don't know
how long it was closed.

721

00:36:34,595 --> 00:36:35,990

I don't remember that.

722

00:36:35,990 --> 00:36:38,930

But I still went every
single day to Heidelberg.

723

00:36:38,930 --> 00:36:41,180

I went longer than I
was supposed to go,

724

00:36:41,180 --> 00:36:44,180

because I was at that time 14.

725

00:36:44,180 --> 00:36:46,670

The grades were only

up to eight grades.

726
00:36:46,670 --> 00:36:48,570
But I had nothing better to do.

727
00:36:48,570 --> 00:36:52,340
And better than sitting at
home, I went back to school.

728
00:36:52,340 --> 00:36:54,890
Who came to you
with the information

729
00:36:54,890 --> 00:36:56,750
that you should
not go to school?

730
00:36:56,750 --> 00:36:57,650
The police.

731
00:36:57,650 --> 00:36:58,640
Oh.

732
00:36:58,640 --> 00:36:59,570
The German police.

733
00:36:59,570 --> 00:37:01,950
The German police
came that night.

734
00:37:01,950 --> 00:37:07,040
The next morning, at 8 o'clock,
the SA men came, two of them,

735
00:37:07,040 --> 00:37:11,090
telling us, you are
being taken away.

736
00:37:11,090 --> 00:37:17,830
You have two hours to pack
two suitcases for all of you.

737

00:37:17,830 --> 00:37:24,020
You can have no jewelry, you can
have a certain amount of money,

738
00:37:24,020 --> 00:37:25,460
very little.

739
00:37:25,460 --> 00:37:29,160
And get yourself some
food for three days.

740
00:37:29,160 --> 00:37:32,000
That's what we were told.

741
00:37:32,000 --> 00:37:34,340
I had to go and buy
food, because we didn't

742
00:37:34,340 --> 00:37:35,780
have enough in the house.

743
00:37:35,780 --> 00:37:40,400
As I went to the store to
get food, one of the children

744
00:37:40,400 --> 00:37:42,650
that used to be a
friend of mine--

745
00:37:42,650 --> 00:37:44,555
and I will never forget this--

746
00:37:44,555 --> 00:37:48,050
ran after me and said,
thank god we get rid of you

747
00:37:48,050 --> 00:37:51,410
dirty Jews now.

748
00:37:51,410 --> 00:37:56,160
This was the parting
words that day.

749

00:37:56,160 --> 00:37:59,220

The SA men stayed in
the house while we

750

00:37:59,220 --> 00:38:02,340

were packing to make
sure nothing was taken

751

00:38:02,340 --> 00:38:04,800

that they didn't want
us to take and to make

752

00:38:04,800 --> 00:38:06,930

sure we couldn't escape.

753

00:38:06,930 --> 00:38:09,120

It's no place to go anyway.

754

00:38:09,120 --> 00:38:11,930

But they stayed
there all the time.

755

00:38:11,930 --> 00:38:15,420

We gathered at the
mayor's office.

756

00:38:15,420 --> 00:38:19,860

And there, we were met by a bus.

757

00:38:19,860 --> 00:38:22,080

Full of other Jews already.

758

00:38:22,080 --> 00:38:26,190

And we were put into
that bus and driven away,

759

00:38:26,190 --> 00:38:28,440

not knowing where.

760

00:38:28,440 --> 00:38:33,180

I haven't been exceptionally
sensitive by now and afraid.

761
00:38:33,180 --> 00:38:36,010
Was sure that they
were going to drive us

762
00:38:36,010 --> 00:38:39,682
into the river or
some such thing.

763
00:38:39,682 --> 00:38:42,660
They took us to
Heidelberg, where

764
00:38:42,660 --> 00:38:48,000
they had several trains
waiting for us to board.

765
00:38:48,000 --> 00:38:51,090
Before my parents were
allowed to board the train,

766
00:38:51,090 --> 00:38:54,960
they were taken I don't
know where to sign over

767
00:38:54,960 --> 00:38:56,880
all the property that we had.

768
00:38:56,880 --> 00:38:59,460
Because at that time,
we still had our home.

769
00:38:59,460 --> 00:39:05,460
We still had land.

770
00:39:05,460 --> 00:39:09,540
Being that you lived in a
small place, you had also land.

771
00:39:09,540 --> 00:39:13,530
And all that had
to be signed over.

772

00:39:13,530 --> 00:39:17,100

In the trains,
there were the Jews

773

00:39:17,100 --> 00:39:19,650

from all around the
whole area there.

774

00:39:19,650 --> 00:39:23,910

Because everybody was
taken at the same time.

775

00:39:23,910 --> 00:39:26,130

We were the very
first German Jews

776

00:39:26,130 --> 00:39:29,640

to be taken to concentration
camp in our area.

777

00:39:29,640 --> 00:39:33,090

Because we lived near France.

778

00:39:33,090 --> 00:39:35,580

We did not know where
they were taking us.

779

00:39:35,580 --> 00:39:38,430

In the train, they
kept on announcing,

780

00:39:38,430 --> 00:39:42,720

every five minutes, anyone
who has jewelry, anyone

781

00:39:42,720 --> 00:39:49,800

who has money, anybody who's
looking out of the window

782

00:39:49,800 --> 00:39:52,850

is going to be shot.

783

00:39:52,850 --> 00:39:57,800
Again, I guess I was just me.

784
00:39:57,800 --> 00:40:01,080
I made my father, who had
jewelry and who had money,

785
00:40:01,080 --> 00:40:02,650
throw it out the window.

786
00:40:02,650 --> 00:40:06,590
I was petrified
throughout the whole time.

787
00:40:06,590 --> 00:40:08,660
We were in the train
for three days.

788
00:40:08,660 --> 00:40:12,960
And then we realized
we ended up in France,

789
00:40:12,960 --> 00:40:17,810
where we were taken to Gurs,
which is a concentration camp.

790
00:40:17,810 --> 00:40:21,980
That camp existed
because originally, it

791
00:40:21,980 --> 00:40:26,660
was built for the
Spanish Jews during the--

792
00:40:26,660 --> 00:40:27,730
Revolution.

793
00:40:27,730 --> 00:40:29,250
No, no.

794
00:40:29,250 --> 00:40:30,110
In '35, when--

795

00:40:30,110 --> 00:40:30,830

The Spanish--

796

00:40:30,830 --> 00:40:31,950

Oh, the Spanish Civil War.

797

00:40:31,950 --> 00:40:34,730

Right, civil war, right.

798

00:40:34,730 --> 00:40:35,240

That's how.

799

00:40:35,240 --> 00:40:39,020

These camps were already
made for the Germans.

800

00:40:39,020 --> 00:40:40,470

That's where they took us.

801

00:40:40,470 --> 00:40:43,880

That's why we were
the first ones.

802

00:40:43,880 --> 00:40:48,530

We got out of the train,
we were loaded into trucks.

803

00:40:48,530 --> 00:40:52,760

The men separated
from the women.

804

00:40:52,760 --> 00:40:56,450

They had [? plaques. ?] They
called it a [? plaque. ?] You

805

00:40:56,450 --> 00:41:00,710

know, it was surrounded
by barbed wire.

806

00:41:00,710 --> 00:41:03,520

I was put into a
children's barrack.

807
00:41:03,520 --> 00:41:05,240
My mother was in a
different barrack.

808
00:41:05,240 --> 00:41:07,350
And my father was in a
completely different,

809
00:41:07,350 --> 00:41:08,350
they called it [GERMAN].

810
00:41:08,350 --> 00:41:12,640

811
00:41:12,640 --> 00:41:18,910
We had burlap sacks
with straw to sleep on.

812
00:41:18,910 --> 00:41:20,980
And I guess we had a blanket.

813
00:41:20,980 --> 00:41:23,080
I don't even recall that.

814
00:41:23,080 --> 00:41:28,300
And there was all the
children in one barrack.

815
00:41:28,300 --> 00:41:31,960
The facilities-- the
bathroom facilities

816
00:41:31,960 --> 00:41:35,250
were a big wooden structure.

817
00:41:35,250 --> 00:41:37,410
And there was holes
in the middle.

818
00:41:37,410 --> 00:41:40,860
And that's where you had

to go to the bathroom.

819

00:41:40,860 --> 00:41:46,380

There was a cold water faucet
outside in a central area,

820

00:41:46,380 --> 00:41:49,940

where you could wash up.

821

00:41:49,940 --> 00:41:52,850

Food, we got three times a day.

822

00:41:52,850 --> 00:41:58,700

A dirty soup, basically
made with turnips.

823

00:41:58,700 --> 00:42:01,730

One piece of bread.

824

00:42:01,730 --> 00:42:06,500

Every couple of days,
a piece of meat.

825

00:42:06,500 --> 00:42:08,150

A cube of meat.

826

00:42:08,150 --> 00:42:12,830

827

00:42:12,830 --> 00:42:16,100

They were standing
guard at all times.

828

00:42:16,100 --> 00:42:20,680

You were not allowed to
move out of your [GERMAN]..

829

00:42:20,680 --> 00:42:23,400

We as children sometimes dared.

830

00:42:23,400 --> 00:42:27,290

So on occasion, if

I dared, I would

831
00:42:27,290 --> 00:42:31,100
slip through the barbed
wire and see my father.

832
00:42:31,100 --> 00:42:36,690
Didn't happen often, but it did
happen on several occasions.

833
00:42:36,690 --> 00:42:39,280
What time of year was this?

834
00:42:39,280 --> 00:42:43,510
That was in October 22nd
and into the winter.

835
00:42:43,510 --> 00:42:45,090
So things were pretty cold.

836
00:42:45,090 --> 00:42:48,930
It was very muddy there.

837
00:42:48,930 --> 00:42:52,185
If you walked in the mud, your
shoe would stick in the mud.

838
00:42:52,185 --> 00:42:53,060
We might lose a shoe.

839
00:42:53,060 --> 00:42:56,350
Were you issued-- were
you issued uniforms also?

840
00:42:56,350 --> 00:42:56,850
No.

841
00:42:56,850 --> 00:43:00,750
We had no uniforms
at that time at all.

842
00:43:00,750 --> 00:43:03,990

Just don't forget,
this was in 1944--

843
00:43:03,990 --> 00:43:05,070
ah, in '40.

844
00:43:05,070 --> 00:43:07,950
'40.

845
00:43:07,950 --> 00:43:11,880
One day, I and
three other children

846
00:43:11,880 --> 00:43:16,750
managed to get out of camp
into the near village.

847
00:43:16,750 --> 00:43:19,960
We did not speak the
language, but we did not know

848
00:43:19,960 --> 00:43:22,240
where to go once we were there.

849
00:43:22,240 --> 00:43:23,380
We marched right back.

850
00:43:23,380 --> 00:43:26,390

851
00:43:26,390 --> 00:43:30,100
It was the weirdest
thing, you know.

852
00:43:30,100 --> 00:43:33,250
And we were afraid-- there
was a German commandant.

853
00:43:33,250 --> 00:43:35,320
He was always there.

854
00:43:35,320 --> 00:43:37,930

But somehow we escaped.

855

00:43:37,930 --> 00:43:41,040

But we marched back in again.

856

00:43:41,040 --> 00:43:43,510

There was a children's
choir, we had to sing.

857

00:43:43,510 --> 00:43:47,770

And on Christmas, I don't
remember where they took us.

858

00:43:47,770 --> 00:43:51,580

But they took us someplace
to sing Christmas songs.

859

00:43:51,580 --> 00:43:56,880

And I can't visualize
anymore where it was.

860

00:43:56,880 --> 00:43:59,970

So this was life there.

861

00:43:59,970 --> 00:44:03,780

Were there non-Jews as
well as Jews in Gurs?

862

00:44:03,780 --> 00:44:05,100

Not in our [GERMAN].

863

00:44:05,100 --> 00:44:09,690

I don't know of any where we
Jews, where there were none.

864

00:44:09,690 --> 00:44:13,090

865

00:44:13,090 --> 00:44:18,290

I was there until April
'41, at which point,

866

00:44:18,290 --> 00:44:21,970
my parents were told
that people with children

867
00:44:21,970 --> 00:44:27,470
were taken to a better
place and we should all go.

868
00:44:27,470 --> 00:44:30,880
So we were taken
again into a train.

869
00:44:30,880 --> 00:44:32,980
And again, a few
days' train ride.

870
00:44:32,980 --> 00:44:35,590
And we ended up in
another concentration camp

871
00:44:35,590 --> 00:44:38,700
by the name of Rivesaltes.

872
00:44:38,700 --> 00:44:41,060
This Gurs was in the
[FRENCH] Pyrenees.

873
00:44:41,060 --> 00:44:44,240
This was near the
Atlantic Ocean.

874
00:44:44,240 --> 00:44:46,640
And we were very near the sea.

875
00:44:46,640 --> 00:44:49,730
You could see-- on a clear
day, you could see the sea.

876
00:44:49,730 --> 00:44:51,890
Was very, very windy there.

877
00:44:51,890 --> 00:44:54,380
Conditions were worse.

878
00:44:54,380 --> 00:44:58,550
People by now were very
weak, many of them.

879
00:44:58,550 --> 00:45:00,980
Many had died already in Gurs.

880
00:45:00,980 --> 00:45:02,950
At this point, the
ones that survived,

881
00:45:02,950 --> 00:45:05,420
the elderly people
were very weak.

882
00:45:05,420 --> 00:45:08,600
On occasion, if the
wind was strong enough,

883
00:45:08,600 --> 00:45:12,390
it would lift up these people
and just carry them away.

884
00:45:12,390 --> 00:45:15,320
It was a frightening
thing to see.

885
00:45:15,320 --> 00:45:17,220
Were both your parents
with you at that time?

886
00:45:17,220 --> 00:45:18,260
Yes, we were.

887
00:45:18,260 --> 00:45:20,360
But we were not in
the same-- again,

888
00:45:20,360 --> 00:45:23,450
I was at that time in the
same barrack as my mother.

889

00:45:23,450 --> 00:45:26,490

My father was in
a different one.

890

00:45:26,490 --> 00:45:28,020

This was in France.

891

00:45:28,020 --> 00:45:29,770

This was-- they
both were in France.

892

00:45:29,770 --> 00:45:32,347

Both concentration
camps were in France.

893

00:45:32,347 --> 00:45:33,430

Were you near the channel?

894

00:45:33,430 --> 00:45:34,800

Were you near--

895

00:45:34,800 --> 00:45:35,710

The Atlantic Ocean.

896

00:45:35,710 --> 00:45:36,210

Yeah.

897

00:45:36,210 --> 00:45:37,395

I don't know how--

898

00:45:37,395 --> 00:45:38,640

we were near Pau.

899

00:45:38,640 --> 00:45:41,240

I don't know if you're
familiar with the geography.

900

00:45:41,240 --> 00:45:45,280

901

00:45:45,280 --> 00:45:50,140

Things were worse there,
because they would--

902
00:45:50,140 --> 00:45:55,430
at one time, all the men
were taken to work camps.

903
00:45:55,430 --> 00:45:57,820
They were all taken away
except the old people.

904
00:45:57,820 --> 00:46:02,480

905
00:46:02,480 --> 00:46:04,500
They just would molest you.

906
00:46:04,500 --> 00:46:09,890
Not very seriously, but they
were there and you knew it.

907
00:46:09,890 --> 00:46:13,690
And you were afraid at all
times to do anything other

908
00:46:13,690 --> 00:46:16,000
than what they let you do.

909
00:46:16,000 --> 00:46:19,980
Conditions were very bad there.

910
00:46:19,980 --> 00:46:21,300
How did you pass the time?

911
00:46:21,300 --> 00:46:24,380

912
00:46:24,380 --> 00:46:27,470
Strangely enough, as a child--

913
00:46:27,470 --> 00:46:30,770
and I presume other

children felt the same way--

914

00:46:30,770 --> 00:46:34,760
having been isolated from
other children for the years

915

00:46:34,760 --> 00:46:39,470
before, we got together,
we started singing,

916

00:46:39,470 --> 00:46:45,290
we started dancing, and
we did have a little life

917

00:46:45,290 --> 00:46:51,620
there, which for me was better
than when I was home all alone.

918

00:46:51,620 --> 00:46:56,060
And I presume the other
children felt that way, too.

919

00:46:56,060 --> 00:47:03,360
While we were in these camps,
the French Jews were very busy.

920

00:47:03,360 --> 00:47:07,840
They started children's homes
with the help of Rothschild,

921

00:47:07,840 --> 00:47:11,730
they gave there Catholics
for children's homes.

922

00:47:11,730 --> 00:47:16,170
So they took the children out,
little the younger ones first,

923

00:47:16,170 --> 00:47:19,500
and the Germans let them go.

924

00:47:19,500 --> 00:47:25,170
I was able to get out

in 1942, in April '42.

925

00:47:25,170 --> 00:47:31,450

I went to a home, a Jewish
scout home for girls.

926

00:47:31,450 --> 00:47:34,150

That was in Beaulieu.

927

00:47:34,150 --> 00:47:35,200

German let us go.

928

00:47:35,200 --> 00:47:38,940

We were 20 girls that went.

929

00:47:38,940 --> 00:47:43,360

This must have been very hard
for my mother to let me go.

930

00:47:43,360 --> 00:47:47,100

Because while I was in
camp, there were lice,

931

00:47:47,100 --> 00:47:49,810

there were all these things.

932

00:47:49,810 --> 00:47:52,230

I did take care of my mother.

933

00:47:52,230 --> 00:47:54,270

I deloused her every night.

934

00:47:54,270 --> 00:47:57,570

I took care of our clothes every
night to look for the lice.

935

00:47:57,570 --> 00:48:04,000

Because people were literally
eating away from that.

936

00:48:04,000 --> 00:48:07,950

And if you did not go after

this every single night,

937

00:48:07,950 --> 00:48:10,480

you could not control it.

938

00:48:10,480 --> 00:48:13,320

So I did that

every single night.

939

00:48:13,320 --> 00:48:16,080

And I stood there

for hours and I

940

00:48:16,080 --> 00:48:18,370

went through my clothes,

my mother's clothes.

941

00:48:18,370 --> 00:48:20,560

You were now about 16?

942

00:48:20,560 --> 00:48:25,140

By that time, I

was about 16, yeah.

943

00:48:25,140 --> 00:48:29,400

And so I did not want to leave.

944

00:48:29,400 --> 00:48:32,430

My mother pushed

me to be-- to go.

945

00:48:32,430 --> 00:48:34,410

Because I did not want

to have her be alone.

946

00:48:34,410 --> 00:48:37,310

947

00:48:37,310 --> 00:48:40,820

To what age were they

taking the children?

948

00:48:40,820 --> 00:48:44,660

Well, at that time they
took even 16, 17-year-olds.

949

00:48:44,660 --> 00:48:46,670

Anybody they let
go out, they took.

950

00:48:46,670 --> 00:48:49,240

Yeah.

951

00:48:49,240 --> 00:48:50,530

At that point.

952

00:48:50,530 --> 00:48:54,160

That was already, by that time,
they had all the little ones.

953

00:48:54,160 --> 00:48:57,040

So then they started
with the bigger ones,

954

00:48:57,040 --> 00:48:59,560

whoever they let go.

955

00:48:59,560 --> 00:49:02,200

I was in this home for
three months, where

956

00:49:02,200 --> 00:49:06,380

I got mail from my parents.

957

00:49:06,380 --> 00:49:09,290

At this point,
Auschwitz was ready.

958

00:49:09,290 --> 00:49:13,130

That was in the summer of '42.

959

00:49:13,130 --> 00:49:14,750

The home was told
that we all have

960

00:49:14,750 --> 00:49:17,380

to come back to

Rivesaltes, because we

961

00:49:17,380 --> 00:49:21,760

were going to be taken with

our parents to a better place.

962

00:49:21,760 --> 00:49:23,260

So all this was a better place.

963

00:49:23,260 --> 00:49:24,846

Better, better.

964

00:49:24,846 --> 00:49:27,920

The home, of course,

would not permit that.

965

00:49:27,920 --> 00:49:31,930

So we started hiding.

966

00:49:31,930 --> 00:49:34,200

But being that this

was a scout's home,

967

00:49:34,200 --> 00:49:36,790

we started out by--

968

00:49:36,790 --> 00:49:38,080

we were not told anything.

969

00:49:38,080 --> 00:49:39,880

Again, in those days,

children were not

970

00:49:39,880 --> 00:49:43,150

told, even older

children, what happens.

971

00:49:43,150 --> 00:49:48,040

We were taken to

camp as a scout camp.

972
00:49:48,040 --> 00:49:50,800
And we were there maybe
two or three days,

973
00:49:50,800 --> 00:49:54,115
when all of a
sudden, those of us--

974
00:49:54,115 --> 00:49:56,050
the whole home was taken.

975
00:49:56,050 --> 00:49:59,380
Those of us who had
come from the camp

976
00:49:59,380 --> 00:50:03,220
were woken up in the middle
of the night and were told,

977
00:50:03,220 --> 00:50:04,930
you have to get
dressed immediately.

978
00:50:04,930 --> 00:50:06,610
We have to leave.

979
00:50:06,610 --> 00:50:12,820
And we had one-- there, we were
10 girls that came from camp.

980
00:50:12,820 --> 00:50:17,080
And one of the leaders.

981
00:50:17,080 --> 00:50:20,860
So from then on, we
were starting to hide.

982
00:50:20,860 --> 00:50:23,740
At night, we would go
from place to place.

983

00:50:23,740 --> 00:50:24,910
Into the woods.

984
00:50:24,910 --> 00:50:28,300
Would sleep in the woods on the
floor, we would sleep in huts.

985
00:50:28,300 --> 00:50:32,620
One night, we were in one
of the Rothschilds' places.

986
00:50:32,620 --> 00:50:36,070
But it was going
from place to place.

987
00:50:36,070 --> 00:50:40,200
And we did that for
about five weeks.

988
00:50:40,200 --> 00:50:44,620
The food we had was
that at night, some SS

989
00:50:44,620 --> 00:50:47,050
scouts we left a
trail for a while

990
00:50:47,050 --> 00:50:51,330
would come and bring us some
chocolate and some bread.

991
00:50:51,330 --> 00:50:53,840

992
00:50:53,840 --> 00:50:57,620
One night, we were in a
hut, and we were sleeping,

993
00:50:57,620 --> 00:51:01,730
and all of a sudden, somebody
comes and shines the light.

994
00:51:01,730 --> 00:51:03,140

And I, of course, wake up.

995

00:51:03,140 --> 00:51:06,770

I was always the one.

996

00:51:06,770 --> 00:51:11,420

Questioning what are you
doing here, who are you,

997

00:51:11,420 --> 00:51:12,840

and so on and so forth.

998

00:51:12,840 --> 00:51:15,020

And our leader answered.

999

00:51:15,020 --> 00:51:17,780

The minute these people
left, we woke everybody up,

1000

00:51:17,780 --> 00:51:18,650

and we took off.

1001

00:51:18,650 --> 00:51:20,750

Because we were sure
the next morning

1002

00:51:20,750 --> 00:51:22,950

the Germans were
there to arrest us.

1003

00:51:22,950 --> 00:51:26,120

So that was a very
narrow escape.

1004

00:51:26,120 --> 00:51:29,060

Again, during that
time, these leaders--

1005

00:51:29,060 --> 00:51:31,370

who meant very well--

1006

00:51:31,370 --> 00:51:35,270

did not tell us what
happened to our parents.

1007
00:51:35,270 --> 00:51:38,660
I was extremely sensitive
to all these things.

1008
00:51:38,660 --> 00:51:40,910
I knew I had no mail.

1009
00:51:40,910 --> 00:51:42,410
And I kept on questioning.

1010
00:51:42,410 --> 00:51:44,780
And she kept on saying,
she didn't know.

1011
00:51:44,780 --> 00:51:48,680
One day when she was out
looking for food for us,

1012
00:51:48,680 --> 00:51:52,770
I went through her belongings,
which I had no business doing.

1013
00:51:52,770 --> 00:51:55,880
I found all the mail
for all the kids.

1014
00:51:55,880 --> 00:51:58,250
And I handed it out.

1015
00:51:58,250 --> 00:52:04,560
She came back to a
chaos that was terrible.

1016
00:52:04,560 --> 00:52:06,110
But she was very understanding.

1017
00:52:06,110 --> 00:52:08,330
And she explained to
us that she didn't

1018

00:52:08,330 --> 00:52:11,810

want us to be worried, because
we had enough to worry about.

1019

00:52:11,810 --> 00:52:15,230

Because we went barefoot at
night from place to place.

1020

00:52:15,230 --> 00:52:20,000

And this is how we found
out that our parents were

1021

00:52:20,000 --> 00:52:22,160

taken away.

1022

00:52:22,160 --> 00:52:26,840

During the time we were hiding,
again, the same group of people

1023

00:52:26,840 --> 00:52:31,220

were looking for
places to place us.

1024

00:52:31,220 --> 00:52:34,140

Because winter was
coming in already soon.

1025

00:52:34,140 --> 00:52:36,380

So I was taken with
several children

1026

00:52:36,380 --> 00:52:42,560

to a convent in [? Brive. ?]
That was a very fancy girls'

1027

00:52:42,560 --> 00:52:43,910

school.

1028

00:52:43,910 --> 00:52:47,000

This was before school started.

1029

00:52:47,000 --> 00:52:50,600

I was there with several other children for about three,

1030
00:52:50,600 --> 00:52:52,250
four weeks.

1031
00:52:52,250 --> 00:52:54,560
When school started,
they could not keep us.

1032
00:52:54,560 --> 00:52:57,410
Because they were afraid that
these children, by children,

1033
00:52:57,410 --> 00:53:00,260
would know who we were,
and we wouldn't be safe.

1034
00:53:00,260 --> 00:53:05,270
They kept one girl
who then converted.

1035
00:53:05,270 --> 00:53:07,430
This was basically an aim.

1036
00:53:07,430 --> 00:53:11,750
I guess they could tell which
one was a good candidate.

1037
00:53:11,750 --> 00:53:15,230
From this convent, I was
taken to a different convent

1038
00:53:15,230 --> 00:53:16,880
in Ussel.

1039
00:53:16,880 --> 00:53:20,840
It was a small place in
France that had basically

1040
00:53:20,840 --> 00:53:23,640
the farmer's kids there.

1041

00:53:23,640 --> 00:53:25,250

But it was a school.

1042

00:53:25,250 --> 00:53:27,980

And two other girls

and I were taken there.

1043

00:53:27,980 --> 00:53:31,400

We were doing menial work there.

1044

00:53:31,400 --> 00:53:34,430

The organization had to

pay money every month.

1045

00:53:34,430 --> 00:53:39,410

They had to bring the ration

cards for us to be kept there.

1046

00:53:39,410 --> 00:53:46,400

And were supposed to go to

church and so on and so forth.

1047

00:53:46,400 --> 00:53:49,130

We were there for a while.

1048

00:53:49,130 --> 00:53:56,960

And one month, no one came with

our cards and with our money.

1049

00:53:56,960 --> 00:53:59,210

The sisters got

very upset and said,

1050

00:53:59,210 --> 00:54:04,580

if no one comes next month,

we can no longer keep you.

1051

00:54:04,580 --> 00:54:06,530

Of course, we were very worried.

1052

00:54:06,530 --> 00:54:09,800

And finally, somebody

else-- again,

1053

00:54:09,800 --> 00:54:12,470

the same lady that
was with us hiding,

1054

00:54:12,470 --> 00:54:16,940

she was much part of my
whole time in leading us.

1055

00:54:16,940 --> 00:54:22,410

She now is a very well-known
psychiatrist in France.

1056

00:54:22,410 --> 00:54:23,650

Was she Jewish?

1057

00:54:23,650 --> 00:54:25,660

Yes, yes.

1058

00:54:25,660 --> 00:54:28,110

And as a matter of fact,
I asked after the war,

1059

00:54:28,110 --> 00:54:31,140

I said, how could you
tolerate what I did that day?

1060

00:54:31,140 --> 00:54:34,590

And she said, well, I
could tolerate it easily.

1061

00:54:34,590 --> 00:54:36,780

And I now know this was
not the thing to do.

1062

00:54:36,780 --> 00:54:39,400

1063

00:54:39,400 --> 00:54:42,570

She came, and she told
us the reason nobody had

1064

00:54:42,570 --> 00:54:45,240

come before was because
this man who was-- these

1065

00:54:45,240 --> 00:54:49,800

were all people in the late
teens, early 20s who were

1066

00:54:49,800 --> 00:54:52,560

these leaders who did that.

1067

00:54:52,560 --> 00:54:54,140

He was taken by the Germans.

1068

00:54:54,140 --> 00:54:55,590

He was caught.

1069

00:54:55,590 --> 00:54:57,630

He had our papers.

1070

00:54:57,630 --> 00:54:59,190

He ate them.

1071

00:54:59,190 --> 00:55:01,740

So the Germans
would not find us.

1072

00:55:01,740 --> 00:55:04,470

And he was consequently killed.

1073

00:55:04,470 --> 00:55:06,410

But they did not find us.

1074

00:55:06,410 --> 00:55:11,540

This is why this one
month, no one showed up.

1075

00:55:11,540 --> 00:55:15,360

After a year in this convent,
it became unsafe there, too.

1076

00:55:15,360 --> 00:55:20,990
The nuns saw that we weren't
quite ready to convert.

1077
00:55:20,990 --> 00:55:23,970
We were too old for that.

1078
00:55:23,970 --> 00:55:26,410
So it was no longer safe there.

1079
00:55:26,410 --> 00:55:30,450
And so they found a French
family for me to go to.

1080
00:55:30,450 --> 00:55:33,300
I'm going to have to
stop at this point just

1081
00:55:33,300 --> 00:55:35,840
for a few minutes
to change the tape.

1082
00:55:35,840 --> 00:55:37,390
OK.

1083
00:55:37,390 --> 00:55:39,000