

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:37,410

2

00:00:37,410 --> 00:00:38,650

Good afternoon.

3

00:00:38,650 --> 00:00:39,930

My name is Bernard Weinstein.

4

00:00:39,930 --> 00:00:42,540

And I'm the director of the  
Kean College Oral Testimonies

5

00:00:42,540 --> 00:00:45,560

Project of the Holocaust  
Resource Center.

6

00:00:45,560 --> 00:00:47,940

We are affiliated with  
the Video Archives

7

00:00:47,940 --> 00:00:51,180

for Holocaust Testimonies  
at Yale University.

8

00:00:51,180 --> 00:00:54,630

Sharing the interview with  
me as Marcia Weisberg.

9

00:00:54,630 --> 00:00:59,100

We are privileged to welcome  
Justin Rothschild, survivor,

10

00:00:59,100 --> 00:01:02,550

presently living in Plainfield,  
New Jersey, who has generously

11

00:01:02,550 --> 00:01:05,610

volunteered to give testimony  
about his experiences

12

00:01:05,610 --> 00:01:09,510  
before, during, and  
after the Holocaust.

13  
00:01:09,510 --> 00:01:12,510  
Mr. Rothschild, I'd  
like to welcome you.

14  
00:01:12,510 --> 00:01:13,320  
Thank you.

15  
00:01:13,320 --> 00:01:17,970  
And I'd like to begin by asking  
you to tell us a little bit

16  
00:01:17,970 --> 00:01:22,680  
about the town or city  
where you were born

17  
00:01:22,680 --> 00:01:26,460  
and about your  
earliest memories.

18  
00:01:26,460 --> 00:01:33,297  
Well, I was born in a town  
called Herrstein, West Germany,

19  
00:01:33,297 --> 00:01:35,130  
which is today West  
Germany in the Federal--

20  
00:01:35,130 --> 00:01:38,070

21  
00:01:38,070 --> 00:01:42,000  
the next largest city  
was Aschaffenburg, which

22  
00:01:42,000 --> 00:01:44,650  
was about 60 miles from there.

23  
00:01:44,650 --> 00:01:49,360  
And the really largest

city was Frankfurt am

24

00:01:49,360 --> 00:01:56,800

Main, which I would say was  
about 75 miles from Herrstein.

25

00:01:56,800 --> 00:02:02,250

There were about 60 Jewish  
families living in Herrstein.

26

00:02:02,250 --> 00:02:04,960

And about 30 of them  
were named Rothschild.

27

00:02:04,960 --> 00:02:07,696

28

00:02:07,696 --> 00:02:09,780

Some were related.

29

00:02:09,780 --> 00:02:14,070

But I think this goes back  
to the time of Napoleon

30

00:02:14,070 --> 00:02:18,000

where he forced  
surname's on most

31

00:02:18,000 --> 00:02:20,620

of the population in Germany.

32

00:02:20,620 --> 00:02:23,370

So I guess they must  
have had a red shield,

33

00:02:23,370 --> 00:02:25,050

and that's the name Rothschild.

34

00:02:25,050 --> 00:02:29,430

35

00:02:29,430 --> 00:02:32,760

Some of the things that I  
remember my parents telling me

36  
00:02:32,760 --> 00:02:37,660  
and some of the other  
things I remember,

37  
00:02:37,660 --> 00:02:40,200  
for instance, my  
mother told me that

38  
00:02:40,200 --> 00:02:45,240  
after every Jewish holiday, one  
of the towns where she comes

39  
00:02:45,240 --> 00:02:48,990  
from, which is called  
Kirchheim, they

40  
00:02:48,990 --> 00:02:51,960  
would hold balls and dances.

41  
00:02:51,960 --> 00:02:54,540  
And this is how the  
young Jewish people

42  
00:02:54,540 --> 00:02:58,410  
met other young Jewish  
people from the other parts

43  
00:02:58,410 --> 00:02:59,310  
of Germany.

44  
00:02:59,310 --> 00:03:05,680  
And these were advertised  
in Jewish papers.

45  
00:03:05,680 --> 00:03:07,000  
Is that how your parents met?

46  
00:03:07,000 --> 00:03:08,140  
No.

47

00:03:08,140 --> 00:03:14,380

My mother had an uncle, who  
had a very large business,

48

00:03:14,380 --> 00:03:16,900

a textile business in Frankfurt.

49

00:03:16,900 --> 00:03:22,795

And he told my mother about him.

50

00:03:22,795 --> 00:03:27,930

He said that he was the best  
businessman that he knew.

51

00:03:27,930 --> 00:03:32,970

Also the teacher, rabbi, of  
the town where I was born,

52

00:03:32,970 --> 00:03:38,700

Herrstein, and my family had  
lived for at least 300 years

53

00:03:38,700 --> 00:03:44,040

that we know met  
my mother when she

54

00:03:44,040 --> 00:03:48,030

went to visit her grandmother  
and also said, you know,

55

00:03:48,030 --> 00:03:55,650

I know of a good shidduch for  
you and mentioned the name.

56

00:03:55,650 --> 00:04:00,720

And my mother said, oh, yeah,  
my uncle told me about him.

57

00:04:00,720 --> 00:04:06,560

They eventually met  
in Aschaffenburg.

58

00:04:06,560 --> 00:04:09,170  
And my father  
brought his oldest--

59  
00:04:09,170 --> 00:04:11,720  
my father was the  
youngest of eight.

60  
00:04:11,720 --> 00:04:17,180  
His father died when he  
was 2 and 1/2 of pneumonia.

61  
00:04:17,180 --> 00:04:20,510  
And he brought his  
older sister along.

62  
00:04:20,510 --> 00:04:23,720  
And I think he was quite  
impressed with my mother.

63  
00:04:23,720 --> 00:04:25,820  
But he asked her to  
walk in front of him

64  
00:04:25,820 --> 00:04:27,830  
as they went into  
the restaurant,

65  
00:04:27,830 --> 00:04:30,140  
because later on he told  
me he wanted to make sure

66  
00:04:30,140 --> 00:04:31,760  
that she also had nice legs.

67  
00:04:31,760 --> 00:04:36,260

68  
00:04:36,260 --> 00:04:39,590  
And they got engaged.

69  
00:04:39,590 --> 00:04:42,390

70  
00:04:42,390 --> 00:04:52,450  
And in fact, they got  
engaged on January of 1928.

71  
00:04:52,450 --> 00:04:57,250  
And they were married  
about six weeks later.

72  
00:04:57,250 --> 00:05:04,360  
And I was born January 27, 1929.

73  
00:05:04,360 --> 00:05:10,935  
The German Jews, you know, first  
of all, the women didn't work.

74  
00:05:10,935 --> 00:05:18,450  
It was very rare for a woman  
of my mother's station or class

75  
00:05:18,450 --> 00:05:19,710  
to work.

76  
00:05:19,710 --> 00:05:22,710  
But they had to know how  
to cook and sell and take

77  
00:05:22,710 --> 00:05:23,940  
care of a house.

78  
00:05:23,940 --> 00:05:26,490  
So most of these girls,  
when they graduated

79  
00:05:26,490 --> 00:05:30,630  
from grammar school, would  
serve an apprenticeship

80  
00:05:30,630 --> 00:05:31,680  
at somebody's house.

81  
00:05:31,680 --> 00:05:36,690

My mother went to work for a  
rabbi in Mannheim for a year

82  
00:05:36,690 --> 00:05:39,420  
to learn how to  
keep a Jewish home,

83  
00:05:39,420 --> 00:05:43,647  
to learn how to kosher  
the food, to learn

84  
00:05:43,647 --> 00:05:45,480  
all there was to learn  
about keeping a home.

85  
00:05:45,480 --> 00:05:49,740  
And most of the girls  
her age went away

86  
00:05:49,740 --> 00:05:53,290  
from home for about  
a year to learn this.

87  
00:05:53,290 --> 00:05:57,780  
The other thing about the  
German women, most of the men

88  
00:05:57,780 --> 00:06:03,690  
they married were a minimum  
from 7 to 15 years older

89  
00:06:03,690 --> 00:06:06,240  
than they were, because  
it was considered

90  
00:06:06,240 --> 00:06:09,300  
that if you get married, you  
married a man who was already

91  
00:06:09,300 --> 00:06:12,730  
established in business.

92  
00:06:12,730 --> 00:06:15,207



And there was just--

93

00:06:15,207 --> 00:06:16,540

How much older was your father--

94

00:06:16,540 --> 00:06:18,650

10 year difference.

95

00:06:18,650 --> 00:06:20,290

So there was a  
tendency among the men

96

00:06:20,290 --> 00:06:22,930

generally to marry older than--

97

00:06:22,930 --> 00:06:23,590

Yes--

98

00:06:23,590 --> 00:06:24,890

Would be the case here--

99

00:06:24,890 --> 00:06:25,390

Yes--

100

00:06:25,390 --> 00:06:26,786

In the United States.

101

00:06:26,786 --> 00:06:32,510

102

00:06:32,510 --> 00:06:37,760

Were your parents always  
very observant Jews in--

103

00:06:37,760 --> 00:06:40,760

Well, in Germany, from  
what I understand,

104

00:06:40,760 --> 00:06:43,280

the town I came from,  
everybody was Orthodox.

105

00:06:43,280 --> 00:06:47,390

Everybody went to synagogue  
Friday night and Saturday

106

00:06:47,390 --> 00:06:49,160

morning and Saturday afternoon.

107

00:06:49,160 --> 00:06:51,650

Anybody who didn't  
was ostracized.

108

00:06:51,650 --> 00:06:54,830

And they had very  
little to do with them.

109

00:06:54,830 --> 00:06:56,900

What was the Jewish  
population in your town as

110

00:06:56,900 --> 00:06:58,860

compared with the  
non-Jewish population?

111

00:06:58,860 --> 00:07:01,460

What percentage?

112

00:07:01,460 --> 00:07:02,960

A half a percent.

113

00:07:02,960 --> 00:07:05,750

There were about  
2,000 people, and I

114

00:07:05,750 --> 00:07:10,490

would say 60 Jewish families.

115

00:07:10,490 --> 00:07:11,450

We had our own school.

116

00:07:11,450 --> 00:07:14,470

117

00:07:14,470 --> 00:07:17,530

I remember being punished.

118

00:07:17,530 --> 00:07:19,870

And my friends put a ladder  
up against the school,

119

00:07:19,870 --> 00:07:22,090

and I climbed down.

120

00:07:22,090 --> 00:07:24,400

And the next day, the  
teacher whipped me

121

00:07:24,400 --> 00:07:26,805

with a bamboo stick,  
which was normal.

122

00:07:26,805 --> 00:07:28,180

What were you  
being punished for?

123

00:07:28,180 --> 00:07:30,980

124

00:07:30,980 --> 00:07:35,970

I didn't recite my  
lesson loud enough.

125

00:07:35,970 --> 00:07:39,000

And I never told my father  
if the teacher punished me,

126

00:07:39,000 --> 00:07:41,220

because if the  
teacher punished me,

127

00:07:41,220 --> 00:07:43,830

my father would punish me  
again, because the teacher did

128

00:07:43,830 --> 00:07:44,700

no wrong.

129

00:07:44,700 --> 00:07:47,610

I mean, it was  
always your fault.

130

00:07:47,610 --> 00:07:50,890

So after second  
punishment from my father,

131

00:07:50,890 --> 00:07:53,670

I never told him again that  
the teacher punished me.

132

00:07:53,670 --> 00:07:55,240

Was this a Jewish school?

133

00:07:55,240 --> 00:07:57,615

Yes, only Jewish students.

134

00:07:57,615 --> 00:08:00,430

It was supported  
by the community--

135

00:08:00,430 --> 00:08:01,080

Yeah--

136

00:08:01,080 --> 00:08:02,250

And the government.

137

00:08:02,250 --> 00:08:05,700

On what basis was the  
school established?

138

00:08:05,700 --> 00:08:07,530

Did it have anything  
to do with the fact

139

00:08:07,530 --> 00:08:13,770

that the Jewish community  
felt itself isolated

140

00:08:13,770 --> 00:08:16,300  
from the other communities?

141  
00:08:16,300 --> 00:08:16,800  
Or--

142  
00:08:16,800 --> 00:08:17,890  
I don't think so.

143  
00:08:17,890 --> 00:08:20,130  
I don't know, but--

144  
00:08:20,130 --> 00:08:21,120  
Was it a yeshiva?

145  
00:08:21,120 --> 00:08:24,390  
No, no, no, it was just  
a day school system,

146  
00:08:24,390 --> 00:08:25,990  
like we have day schools here.

147  
00:08:25,990 --> 00:08:29,010  
You learned the Hebrew  
and the secular.

148  
00:08:29,010 --> 00:08:34,909  
And like the Catholics  
went to Catholic school.

149  
00:08:34,909 --> 00:08:38,809  
No, it was nothing  
strange about that.

150  
00:08:38,809 --> 00:08:41,789  
In fact, it was part  
of the synagogue.

151  
00:08:41,789 --> 00:08:44,800  
The building behind the  
synagogue was the school.

152

00:08:44,800 --> 00:08:45,350  
I see.

153  
00:08:45,350 --> 00:08:47,830  
So it was a Hebrew day  
school, as opposed to--

154  
00:08:47,830 --> 00:08:50,590  
Can you tell us something  
about the house you lived in

155  
00:08:50,590 --> 00:08:56,060  
and the members of the family  
who lived there with you?

156  
00:08:56,060 --> 00:08:58,360  
Well, when my parents  
first got married,

157  
00:08:58,360 --> 00:09:01,210  
my grandmother was still alive.

158  
00:09:01,210 --> 00:09:05,170  
And she died the year  
after I was born.

159  
00:09:05,170 --> 00:09:07,870

160  
00:09:07,870 --> 00:09:13,360  
There was my mother, my  
father, my brother and myself,

161  
00:09:13,360 --> 00:09:20,050  
plus a maid, and  
sometimes two maids.

162  
00:09:20,050 --> 00:09:24,220  
We lived in an old house.

163  
00:09:24,220 --> 00:09:26,300  
And then there was an  
addition to the house,

164  
00:09:26,300 --> 00:09:28,180  
which was part of the business.

165  
00:09:28,180 --> 00:09:32,530

166  
00:09:32,530 --> 00:09:37,900  
We had a dog, who when the Nazis  
started to come in to power,

167  
00:09:37,900 --> 00:09:42,220  
our next door neighbor  
shot him, killed him.

168  
00:09:42,220 --> 00:09:43,810  
Even though I  
didn't like the dog,

169  
00:09:43,810 --> 00:09:47,380  
you know, I was sorry to  
see that he killed him.

170  
00:09:47,380 --> 00:09:50,465  
Some of the things I  
remember about our life

171  
00:09:50,465 --> 00:09:56,040  
is a few times a year, people--

172  
00:09:56,040 --> 00:09:58,980  
we called them  
[? Hinterjuden-- ?]

173  
00:09:58,980 --> 00:10:00,990  
used to come to the town.

174  
00:10:00,990 --> 00:10:05,220  
[? Hinterjuden ?] means  
anything beyond Berlin, mostly

175  
00:10:05,220 --> 00:10:07,780

Poland and Eastern Europe.

176

00:10:07,780 --> 00:10:10,410

And they were schnorrers.

177

00:10:10,410 --> 00:10:13,830

They came to collect money  
for yeshivas and that thing.

178

00:10:13,830 --> 00:10:16,987

And the various people in the  
town would take them home.

179

00:10:16,987 --> 00:10:18,570

They would sit in  
the back of the shul

180

00:10:18,570 --> 00:10:21,180

when we came in on Friday night.

181

00:10:21,180 --> 00:10:25,282

And the various families would  
invite them to their house.

182

00:10:25,282 --> 00:10:27,240

And they would eat, and  
they would sleep there.

183

00:10:27,240 --> 00:10:28,720

And they collect money.

184

00:10:28,720 --> 00:10:31,560

And, oh, I used to  
love it when they came.

185

00:10:31,560 --> 00:10:34,440

By the middle of the  
week they were gone.

186

00:10:34,440 --> 00:10:36,930

And, you know, we waited  
till the next one came.



187

00:10:36,930 --> 00:10:40,500

Why did you love  
it when they came?

188

00:10:40,500 --> 00:10:41,060

I don't know.

189

00:10:41,060 --> 00:10:42,240

I thought it was exciting.

190

00:10:42,240 --> 00:10:44,250

You know, they have  
these black coats on.

191

00:10:44,250 --> 00:10:45,750

And they had beards and--

192

00:10:45,750 --> 00:10:46,350

Exotic.

193

00:10:46,350 --> 00:10:47,220

Exotic.

194

00:10:47,220 --> 00:10:50,670

And the German Jews  
were clean shaven.

195

00:10:50,670 --> 00:10:52,080

They wanted to assimilate.

196

00:10:52,080 --> 00:10:54,490

They looked like everybody else.

197

00:10:54,490 --> 00:10:56,310

And this was  
something different.

198

00:10:56,310 --> 00:10:59,610

It like the circus  
coming to town.

199

00:10:59,610 --> 00:11:00,960  
Yeah.

200  
00:11:00,960 --> 00:11:04,830  
What was the attitude  
of the community

201  
00:11:04,830 --> 00:11:08,220  
that you lived in toward  
Eastern European Jews generally?

202  
00:11:08,220 --> 00:11:09,370  
Were they--

203  
00:11:09,370 --> 00:11:11,910  
Well, I can explain  
it to you best when

204  
00:11:11,910 --> 00:11:14,040  
Hitler started coming  
to power and people

205  
00:11:14,040 --> 00:11:20,430  
started talking about Hitler's  
program against the Jews,

206  
00:11:20,430 --> 00:11:23,890  
most of the German Jews were  
saying, it's not against us.

207  
00:11:23,890 --> 00:11:25,170  
We're good Germans.

208  
00:11:25,170 --> 00:11:26,550  
We're good Jews.

209  
00:11:26,550 --> 00:11:29,940  
It's mostly the  
[? Hinterjuden, ?]

210  
00:11:29,940 --> 00:11:34,770  
the bad Jews, the ones  
that haven't assimilated

211  
00:11:34,770 --> 00:11:36,420  
or the ones that  
don't want to act

212  
00:11:36,420 --> 00:11:39,840  
like cultured  
Western civilization.

213  
00:11:39,840 --> 00:11:43,850

214  
00:11:43,850 --> 00:11:45,110  
And they couldn't believe--

215  
00:11:45,110 --> 00:11:47,390  
everybody was saying  
Hitler was a madman.

216  
00:11:47,390 --> 00:11:49,880  
He's only going to be  
here for a short time.

217  
00:11:49,880 --> 00:11:52,370  
I remember sitting in  
my uncle's house who

218  
00:11:52,370 --> 00:11:55,490  
lived in the same town  
and listening to the radio

219  
00:11:55,490 --> 00:11:58,820  
as the Nazis  
marched into Vienna.

220  
00:11:58,820 --> 00:12:00,870  
And they couldn't believe it.

221  
00:12:00,870 --> 00:12:04,250  
They said, I thought by  
this time the Germans would

222

00:12:04,250 --> 00:12:07,610  
have kicked him out already.

223  
00:12:07,610 --> 00:12:10,802  
You know, this is a mad man.

224  
00:12:10,802 --> 00:12:16,910  
And until my father was  
beaten up rather badly,

225  
00:12:16,910 --> 00:12:18,260  
he didn't want to leave.

226  
00:12:18,260 --> 00:12:19,460  
My father one day--

227  
00:12:19,460 --> 00:12:22,970  
I don't remember the  
exact circumstances,

228  
00:12:22,970 --> 00:12:27,770  
but one of the townspeople  
who he had known whipped him.

229  
00:12:27,770 --> 00:12:32,690  
Was that the first warning that  
you had that something very bad

230  
00:12:32,690 --> 00:12:33,770  
was going to happen?

231  
00:12:33,770 --> 00:12:36,095  
Well, there had been other  
little things in business.

232  
00:12:36,095 --> 00:12:38,900

233  
00:12:38,900 --> 00:12:42,050  
But everybody thought  
this was going to go away.

234

00:12:42,050 --> 00:12:46,460

When this happened, I remember  
my father coming home.

235

00:12:46,460 --> 00:12:48,560

I must have been  
about seven years old.

236

00:12:48,560 --> 00:12:52,340

And he said to my mother, write  
to your relatives in America

237

00:12:52,340 --> 00:12:53,490

to send us a visa.

238

00:12:53,490 --> 00:12:56,660

239

00:12:56,660 --> 00:13:01,040

My father had a brother who was  
one of the top industrialists

240

00:13:01,040 --> 00:13:01,670

in Germany.

241

00:13:01,670 --> 00:13:08,480

And I remember how he used to  
come to visit us twice a year.

242

00:13:08,480 --> 00:13:11,220

And my father asked  
him, what should we do?

243

00:13:11,220 --> 00:13:13,040

And he said, what  
are you going to do?

244

00:13:13,040 --> 00:13:14,720

You speak the language here.

245

00:13:14,720 --> 00:13:16,880

You have potatoes to eat.

246

00:13:16,880 --> 00:13:18,310

Stay here.

247

00:13:18,310 --> 00:13:20,640

There's nothing to worry about.

248

00:13:20,640 --> 00:13:24,750

Well, he perished in  
a concentration camp.

249

00:13:24,750 --> 00:13:27,800

So the German Jews  
were lulled that this

250

00:13:27,800 --> 00:13:32,510

wasn't happening to the  
"good Jews," quote unquote.

251

00:13:32,510 --> 00:13:34,760

This was happening  
to the other Jews,

252

00:13:34,760 --> 00:13:39,480

until they really felt it,  
like my father being whipped.

253

00:13:39,480 --> 00:13:44,430

That's the first time he  
knew something was wrong.

254

00:13:44,430 --> 00:13:46,500

And this been around '36.

255

00:13:46,500 --> 00:13:47,790

I would say was about '37.

256

00:13:47,790 --> 00:13:51,520

257

00:13:51,520 --> 00:13:54,820

So things were already in place.

258

00:13:54,820 --> 00:13:58,360

By this time, the Nuremberg  
laws had already been passed.

259

00:13:58,360 --> 00:14:00,850

But they didn't believe  
it affected them,

260

00:14:00,850 --> 00:14:03,620

that it was directed  
against them.

261

00:14:03,620 --> 00:14:05,320

They were good Germans.

262

00:14:05,320 --> 00:14:08,890

My father fought in the  
German army in World War I

263

00:14:08,890 --> 00:14:10,090

for four years.

264

00:14:10,090 --> 00:14:13,690

He was decorated.

265

00:14:13,690 --> 00:14:15,280

His brothers fought in it.

266

00:14:15,280 --> 00:14:17,650

They were proud of this,  
just as I was proud

267

00:14:17,650 --> 00:14:19,960

that I served in Korea  
in the American army.

268

00:14:19,960 --> 00:14:22,630

This was their country.

269

00:14:22,630 --> 00:14:25,810

I mean, the Germans  
were industrialists.

270  
00:14:25,810 --> 00:14:27,490  
They were professors.

271  
00:14:27,490 --> 00:14:29,500  
They held high positions.

272  
00:14:29,500 --> 00:14:30,370  
They were attorneys.

273  
00:14:30,370 --> 00:14:33,480  
They were doctors.

274  
00:14:33,480 --> 00:14:36,480  
You know, nothing is  
going to happen to them.

275  
00:14:36,480 --> 00:14:41,680  
Prior to your  
father's being beaten,

276  
00:14:41,680 --> 00:14:45,480  
is there a memory of anything  
that happened that made you,

277  
00:14:45,480 --> 00:14:49,480  
as a child, aware of something?

278  
00:14:49,480 --> 00:14:53,940  
Well, he'd come home and  
say, some of my customers

279  
00:14:53,940 --> 00:14:58,470  
badmouth me and said  
we'll get you Jews.

280  
00:14:58,470 --> 00:15:04,560  
But he just-- that was  
the normal antisemitism.

281  
00:15:04,560 --> 00:15:06,630  
I was going to ask you.



282  
00:15:06,630 --> 00:15:12,250  
Prior to this beating  
of your father,

283  
00:15:12,250 --> 00:15:14,190  
what was your  
family's relationship

284  
00:15:14,190 --> 00:15:17,790  
with the Gentile community?

285  
00:15:17,790 --> 00:15:18,710  
Very good.

286  
00:15:18,710 --> 00:15:21,500  
They grew up, they  
knew each other.

287  
00:15:21,500 --> 00:15:26,010  
The Shabbes goy came to the  
house, turned on the lights,

288  
00:15:26,010 --> 00:15:29,160  
turned off the lights.

289  
00:15:29,160 --> 00:15:31,560  
They would even come you know--

290  
00:15:31,560 --> 00:15:35,760  
the SS or the Hitler Youth would  
come and have an encampment.

291  
00:15:35,760 --> 00:15:38,100  
And they would come to my  
father and say, why don't you

292  
00:15:38,100 --> 00:15:40,230  
stay off the street  
for the next two days,

293  
00:15:40,230 --> 00:15:42,840

close up your business,  
or something like that.

294  
00:15:42,840 --> 00:15:44,670  
These are troublemakers.

295  
00:15:44,670 --> 00:15:47,640  
They're not from the town.

296  
00:15:47,640 --> 00:15:50,280  
They don't know you.

297  
00:15:50,280 --> 00:15:53,490  
So, you know, there was  
always a reason for hope

298  
00:15:53,490 --> 00:15:55,050  
and that it wasn't  
going to happen.

299  
00:15:55,050 --> 00:15:57,090  
It wasn't going to  
turn out that bad.

300  
00:15:57,090 --> 00:15:59,010  
And where were they going to go?

301  
00:15:59,010 --> 00:16:00,840  
They spoke German.

302  
00:16:00,840 --> 00:16:02,790  
They had a livelihood.

303  
00:16:02,790 --> 00:16:04,387  
They had good livelihoods.

304  
00:16:04,387 --> 00:16:05,970  
Were they going to  
go to America where

305  
00:16:05,970 --> 00:16:07,020  
they didn't speak English?

306  
00:16:07,020 --> 00:16:08,728  
Or were they going to  
go to South America

307  
00:16:08,728 --> 00:16:12,180  
where they didn't speak  
Spanish and had nothing?

308  
00:16:12,180 --> 00:16:15,690  
It's very hard for  
them to start over.

309  
00:16:15,690 --> 00:16:18,480  
How were your  
parents at that time?

310  
00:16:18,480 --> 00:16:21,420  
My father was in his 40s.

311  
00:16:21,420 --> 00:16:25,580  
And my mother was  
in her early 30s.

312  
00:16:25,580 --> 00:16:27,890  
But one thing we  
didn't establish

313  
00:16:27,890 --> 00:16:31,700  
at the beginning, what was  
your father's occupation?

314  
00:16:31,700 --> 00:16:34,430  
Well, my father had  
a department store.

315  
00:16:34,430 --> 00:16:39,140  
He sold anything from a  
thrashing machine to a thimble.

316  
00:16:39,140 --> 00:16:42,230  
He was a representative  
of Duerkopp,

317  
00:16:42,230 --> 00:16:44,870  
which was a large enterprise.

318  
00:16:44,870 --> 00:16:49,100  
He was a representative of BMW.

319  
00:16:49,100 --> 00:16:51,200  
And anything you wanted,  
if he didn't have,

320  
00:16:51,200 --> 00:16:54,600  
it he'd get it for you.

321  
00:16:54,600 --> 00:16:56,450  
A mercantile merchant.

322  
00:16:56,450 --> 00:16:57,200  
Yeah.

323  
00:16:57,200 --> 00:16:59,420  
And he had served in  
the military also.

324  
00:16:59,420 --> 00:16:59,990  
Yes.

325  
00:16:59,990 --> 00:17:02,060  
The First World War.

326  
00:17:02,060 --> 00:17:04,010  
And so had his brothers.

327  
00:17:04,010 --> 00:17:05,599  
And they were very  
proud of that.

328  
00:17:05,599 --> 00:17:08,349

329  
00:17:08,349 --> 00:17:10,720

OK, so your father was thrashed.

330

00:17:10,720 --> 00:17:12,520

And he suggested to  
your mother to write

331

00:17:12,520 --> 00:17:14,290

to the relatives in America.

332

00:17:14,290 --> 00:17:15,760

What happened next?

333

00:17:15,760 --> 00:17:18,800

Well, a few things happened.

334

00:17:18,800 --> 00:17:21,010

First of all, the  
Jews were not allowed

335

00:17:21,010 --> 00:17:22,675

to have their business  
open on Sunday.

336

00:17:22,675 --> 00:17:25,910

337

00:17:25,910 --> 00:17:29,300

And one Sunday  
morning, the police

338

00:17:29,300 --> 00:17:33,330

called and said that somebody  
broke into my father's business

339

00:17:33,330 --> 00:17:35,370

and would he come down.

340

00:17:35,370 --> 00:17:37,130

And as soon as he  
unlocked the door,

341

00:17:37,130 --> 00:17:41,960

they arrested him for  
opening the store on Sunday.

342  
00:17:41,960 --> 00:17:45,950  
And they were threatening to  
put him in a concentration camp.

343  
00:17:45,950 --> 00:17:49,100  
And they were talking  
to him-- not the police,

344  
00:17:49,100 --> 00:17:52,070  
but the SA from  
what I understand--

345  
00:17:52,070 --> 00:17:55,550  
about giving his business  
to his Aryan employees.

346  
00:17:55,550 --> 00:17:59,360

347  
00:17:59,360 --> 00:18:05,320  
The next thing that happened  
was in 1938, about three months

348  
00:18:05,320 --> 00:18:07,090  
before Kristallnacht.

349  
00:18:07,090 --> 00:18:12,310  
A whole group of German youth  
from outside of Herrstein

350  
00:18:12,310 --> 00:18:15,550  
came to Herrstein, and Friday  
night went through the town

351  
00:18:15,550 --> 00:18:19,900  
yelling Herrstein is  
going to be Judenrein.

352  
00:18:19,900 --> 00:18:21,760  
We're going to make

Herrstein Judenrein.

353

00:18:21,760 --> 00:18:25,750

And they started breaking  
windows and knocking on doors.

354

00:18:25,750 --> 00:18:29,170

And any Jew they found out on  
the street, they beat them up.

355

00:18:29,170 --> 00:18:31,090

And especially on  
Saturday morning

356

00:18:31,090 --> 00:18:35,680

when they went to synagogue,  
they were all beaten.

357

00:18:35,680 --> 00:18:43,450

So being orthodox, he waited  
till it was Saturday night.

358

00:18:43,450 --> 00:18:46,420

And he called my mother's  
uncle in Frankfurt.

359

00:18:46,420 --> 00:18:47,620

And he sent a car.

360

00:18:47,620 --> 00:18:50,080

And we went away.

361

00:18:50,080 --> 00:18:54,310

My parents rented a  
room in Aschaffenburg

362

00:18:54,310 --> 00:18:56,980

and then the next day  
took us to Bad Nauheim

363

00:18:56,980 --> 00:19:02,490

to go to school, Jewish boarding  
school, my brother and I.

364  
00:19:02,490 --> 00:19:05,370  
And we stayed there  
until Crystal Night.

365  
00:19:05,370 --> 00:19:10,720  
The next morning,  
I think it was SS

366  
00:19:10,720 --> 00:19:15,340  
that came to the school,  
told everybody to go out

367  
00:19:15,340 --> 00:19:18,040  
into the school yard--

368  
00:19:18,040 --> 00:19:19,390  
The morning after Crystal Night?

369  
00:19:19,390 --> 00:19:20,950  
Yeah.

370  
00:19:20,950 --> 00:19:23,660  
And to take things with  
us because they were

371  
00:19:23,660 --> 00:19:24,910  
going to burn the school down.

372  
00:19:24,910 --> 00:19:27,510

373  
00:19:27,510 --> 00:19:30,840  
And they had us lined up.

374  
00:19:30,840 --> 00:19:34,050  
And I couldn't find my younger  
brother, who at that time

375  
00:19:34,050 --> 00:19:38,250  
was about six years old.



376

00:19:38,250 --> 00:19:41,010

And I started to cry because  
I couldn't find my brother.

377

00:19:41,010 --> 00:19:47,160

And somebody said, I saw your  
brother go up to the attic,

378

00:19:47,160 --> 00:19:49,022

because that's where  
our suitcases were--

379

00:19:49,022 --> 00:19:49,980

Of the school building?

380

00:19:49,980 --> 00:19:52,350

Of the school building.

381

00:19:52,350 --> 00:19:54,690

And I wanted to get  
into the school.

382

00:19:54,690 --> 00:19:56,320

And they wouldn't let me in.

383

00:19:56,320 --> 00:19:59,580

But one of the SS men,  
I guess, took pity on me

384

00:19:59,580 --> 00:20:01,117

and asked me why I'm crying.

385

00:20:01,117 --> 00:20:02,700

And I said, I'm  
looking for my younger

386

00:20:02,700 --> 00:20:07,020

brother who's up in the attic  
trying to get a suitcase.

387

00:20:07,020 --> 00:20:08,820

Well, he went up and

he got my brother

388

00:20:08,820 --> 00:20:11,310

and he threw him out  
bodily onto the ground

389

00:20:11,310 --> 00:20:13,530

and said, here's your brother.

390

00:20:13,530 --> 00:20:16,620

They then marched us off  
to the police station

391

00:20:16,620 --> 00:20:18,420

through the city.

392

00:20:18,420 --> 00:20:21,660

And at the police station, they  
had two machine guns set up,

393

00:20:21,660 --> 00:20:24,240

and they said they were  
going to kill us all.

394

00:20:24,240 --> 00:20:25,740

And we were waiting  
there for hours.

395

00:20:25,740 --> 00:20:27,210

And nothing happened.

396

00:20:27,210 --> 00:20:31,230

And then they said we could  
go back to the school.

397

00:20:31,230 --> 00:20:35,010

Well, that night my parents  
came and picked us up

398

00:20:35,010 --> 00:20:36,420

from the school.

399

00:20:36,420 --> 00:20:41,178  
And we went to live with them  
in a one room in Aschaffenburg.

400  
00:20:41,178 --> 00:20:43,990

401  
00:20:43,990 --> 00:20:47,950  
And my parents packed a lift  
with all their possessions

402  
00:20:47,950 --> 00:20:50,770  
that they send off  
to the United States.

403  
00:20:50,770 --> 00:20:55,390  
And somewhere along  
January of '39--

404  
00:20:55,390 --> 00:20:58,000  
I don't remember the  
exact circumstances,

405  
00:20:58,000 --> 00:21:00,670  
but somebody came  
to warn my father

406  
00:21:00,670 --> 00:21:02,800  
that they were coming  
to arrest him to put him

407  
00:21:02,800 --> 00:21:04,090  
in the concentration camp.

408  
00:21:04,090 --> 00:21:06,800  
Excuse me, by this time, had he  
already given up his business?

409  
00:21:06,800 --> 00:21:07,300  
Oh, yeah.

410  
00:21:07,300 --> 00:21:10,690  
Well, that night when

we fled Herrstein, that

411  
00:21:10,690 --> 00:21:12,100  
was the last of the business.

412  
00:21:12,100 --> 00:21:14,110  
Did the Gentile  
employees get it?

413  
00:21:14,110 --> 00:21:14,680  
Sure.

414  
00:21:14,680 --> 00:21:15,410  
Did you hear?

415  
00:21:15,410 --> 00:21:16,000  
Of course.

416  
00:21:16,000 --> 00:21:21,370  
Well, my own theory is the  
reason that many of the Germans

417  
00:21:21,370 --> 00:21:25,270  
didn't say anything about what's  
going on against the Jews,

418  
00:21:25,270 --> 00:21:27,520  
because if you're going to  
get something for nothing--

419  
00:21:27,520 --> 00:21:31,270  
you got their homes, their  
businesses, whatever it was--

420  
00:21:31,270 --> 00:21:34,390  
why not kick the Jews out?

421  
00:21:34,390 --> 00:21:36,420  
You know, you're getting  
something for nothing

422  
00:21:36,420 --> 00:21:38,550

that you've always coveted.

423

00:21:38,550 --> 00:21:42,190

There were no cases of  
loyalty among the employees

424

00:21:42,190 --> 00:21:43,050

your father had?

425

00:21:43,050 --> 00:21:46,270

426

00:21:46,270 --> 00:21:47,860

I don't know.

427

00:21:47,860 --> 00:21:51,310

And what good would  
it have done them?

428

00:21:51,310 --> 00:21:53,260

You know, here they  
were getting something

429

00:21:53,260 --> 00:21:56,335

for nothing, a natural instinct.

430

00:21:56,335 --> 00:22:00,160

431

00:22:00,160 --> 00:22:03,010

So when they came to warn my  
father that they were going

432

00:22:03,010 --> 00:22:05,230

to come to arrest  
him that morning,

433

00:22:05,230 --> 00:22:09,160

he took my mother, my brother,  
and I, and we got onto a train

434

00:22:09,160 --> 00:22:13,450

and went to Holland, where one  
of his brothers was living.

435  
00:22:13,450 --> 00:22:14,720  
What city was that?

436  
00:22:14,720 --> 00:22:18,350  
In Amsterdam.

437  
00:22:18,350 --> 00:22:21,640  
And from there, we  
stayed a few weeks.

438  
00:22:21,640 --> 00:22:26,290  
But since we didn't have any  
permits to stay in Holland,

439  
00:22:26,290 --> 00:22:28,480  
we went to England.

440  
00:22:28,480 --> 00:22:31,420  
And I remember  
that the first time

441  
00:22:31,420 --> 00:22:37,420  
I saw a colored man in my life  
was when we went to this hotel

442  
00:22:37,420 --> 00:22:40,030  
where we were staying,  
there was this colored man

443  
00:22:40,030 --> 00:22:43,090  
outside with a bowler.

444  
00:22:43,090 --> 00:22:46,120  
And I didn't know what it was.

445  
00:22:46,120 --> 00:22:49,810  
In retrospect was  
he Indian perhaps?

446

00:22:49,810 --> 00:22:52,270  
No, no, he was Black.

447  
00:22:52,270 --> 00:22:55,720  
And I remember from  
seeing pictures

448  
00:22:55,720 --> 00:23:00,070  
in storybooks of Black, but I  
had never seen one up close.

449  
00:23:00,070 --> 00:23:03,322

450  
00:23:03,322 --> 00:23:07,300  
And I looked at  
him, and you know,

451  
00:23:07,300 --> 00:23:10,120  
that's the only thing I  
remember about London.

452  
00:23:10,120 --> 00:23:15,400  
From there we went to Paris  
and stayed in Paris three days.

453  
00:23:15,400 --> 00:23:18,340  
And then we went  
back to Amsterdam

454  
00:23:18,340 --> 00:23:20,860  
and stayed there again.

455  
00:23:20,860 --> 00:23:24,850  
And again, we went back  
to England, this time

456  
00:23:24,850 --> 00:23:30,940  
to Liverpool, to take a boat,  
the Europa, for America.

457  
00:23:30,940 --> 00:23:34,180  
But the Europa went from

Liverpool to Le Havre.

458

00:23:34,180 --> 00:23:41,220

And the French authorities  
really didn't--

459

00:23:41,220 --> 00:23:43,220

because our papers weren't  
in order or something

460

00:23:43,220 --> 00:23:45,317

or other wanted to  
throw us off the boat--

461

00:23:45,317 --> 00:23:46,150

The Vichy authority?

462

00:23:46,150 --> 00:23:47,010

No.

463

00:23:47,010 --> 00:23:47,710

Not yet.

464

00:23:47,710 --> 00:23:49,210

The Germans hadn't--

465

00:23:49,210 --> 00:23:50,470

OK.

466

00:23:50,470 --> 00:23:58,150

Also, another incident, I think  
it was in December of 1938,

467

00:23:58,150 --> 00:24:01,630

we went to Stuttgart  
to get our permits,

468

00:24:01,630 --> 00:24:07,300

visas, I guess OK'd or  
whatever it was, and went

469

00:24:07,300 --> 00:24:09,340



to the American consulate.

470

00:24:09,340 --> 00:24:13,390

And he just didn't  
want to give it to us.

471

00:24:13,390 --> 00:24:17,170

He kept saying to my father, why  
do you want to leave Germany?

472

00:24:17,170 --> 00:24:18,880

Nobody's bothering.

473

00:24:18,880 --> 00:24:21,880

You have a business,  
and you have money.

474

00:24:21,880 --> 00:24:25,840

Why do you want to go to  
America to add to the problems

475

00:24:25,840 --> 00:24:28,070

we have in America?

476

00:24:28,070 --> 00:24:29,660

And this went on  
for over an hour.

477

00:24:29,660 --> 00:24:32,810

And I saw my father  
getting very nervous.

478

00:24:32,810 --> 00:24:35,230

So I thought they're not  
going to give it to us.

479

00:24:35,230 --> 00:24:37,210

But then some  
marching music started

480

00:24:37,210 --> 00:24:39,940

floating through the window,  
and he ran to the window

481  
00:24:39,940 --> 00:24:43,930  
and there was a German band  
playing and the Nazis marching.

482  
00:24:43,930 --> 00:24:45,410  
And I guess he liked that.

483  
00:24:45,410 --> 00:24:49,690  
And he waved his assistant to  
stamp it, and we got our papers

484  
00:24:49,690 --> 00:24:51,310  
and got out of there  
rather quickly.

485  
00:24:51,310 --> 00:24:54,052

486  
00:24:54,052 --> 00:24:55,510  
So you might be  
alive today because

487  
00:24:55,510 --> 00:24:56,593  
of a German marching band.

488  
00:24:56,593 --> 00:24:58,810  
That's right.

489  
00:24:58,810 --> 00:25:01,640  
I remember coming  
then to America.

490  
00:25:01,640 --> 00:25:05,230  
We went to live with  
my mother's aunt.

491  
00:25:05,230 --> 00:25:07,450  
They owned a store.

492  
00:25:07,450 --> 00:25:10,360  
And their delivery

boy was Black.

493

00:25:10,360 --> 00:25:13,090

And he came up  
that morning to see

494

00:25:13,090 --> 00:25:16,210

the new people that had come.

495

00:25:16,210 --> 00:25:20,680

And I got so frightened  
I hid under the bed.

496

00:25:20,680 --> 00:25:22,000

Does--

497

00:25:22,000 --> 00:25:23,420

Can we backtrack for a minute?

498

00:25:23,420 --> 00:25:23,920

Sure.

499

00:25:23,920 --> 00:25:27,490

Tell us a little bit about  
the trip on the Europa.

500

00:25:27,490 --> 00:25:30,040

That was luxury.

501

00:25:30,040 --> 00:25:32,860

I remember the movie  
I saw in there.

502

00:25:32,860 --> 00:25:36,255

To this day every time it  
comes on TV, I go to watch it.

503

00:25:36,255 --> 00:25:37,280

Ships of Fools.

504

00:25:37,280 --> 00:25:37,780

No.

505  
00:25:37,780 --> 00:25:41,930  
It was with Tyrone  
Power, Don Ameche.

506  
00:25:41,930 --> 00:25:44,500  
It was the burning  
Miss O'Brady's cow

507  
00:25:44,500 --> 00:25:46,420  
or something other,  
the burning of Chicago.

508  
00:25:46,420 --> 00:25:47,420  
In Old Chicago.

509  
00:25:47,420 --> 00:25:49,660  
In Old Chicago.

510  
00:25:49,660 --> 00:25:54,550  
And I didn't understand a word  
because they had no subtitles.

511  
00:25:54,550 --> 00:25:57,550  
But I remember  
seeing that movie.

512  
00:25:57,550 --> 00:25:59,800  
And even in 19--

513  
00:25:59,800 --> 00:26:01,990  
now the Europa  
was a German ship.

514  
00:26:01,990 --> 00:26:05,290  
So even in 1939, they  
still had kosher food.

515  
00:26:05,290 --> 00:26:08,870  
And it was strictly kosher.

516  
00:26:08,870 --> 00:26:11,750

It was large dining rooms.

517

00:26:11,750 --> 00:26:15,090

I mean, they were beautifully  
dressed women and men.

518

00:26:15,090 --> 00:26:16,700

They were dancing.

519

00:26:16,700 --> 00:26:18,300

What nationality was the ship?

520

00:26:18,300 --> 00:26:18,800

German.

521

00:26:18,800 --> 00:26:20,280

It was a German ship.

522

00:26:20,280 --> 00:26:23,030

So what do you mean they had  
a separate kosher dining room

523

00:26:23,030 --> 00:26:24,690

to accommodate  
Jewish passengers?

524

00:26:24,690 --> 00:26:27,650

No, they had a separate  
kosher kitchen.

525

00:26:27,650 --> 00:26:28,790

Aha, OK.

526

00:26:28,790 --> 00:26:31,700

But you ate in the  
regular dining room.

527

00:26:31,700 --> 00:26:33,210

So you could order  
a kosher food.

528

00:26:33,210 --> 00:26:33,710

Yes.

529  
00:26:33,710 --> 00:26:35,810  
I see.

530  
00:26:35,810 --> 00:26:36,440  
How ironic.

531  
00:26:36,440 --> 00:26:38,240  
So you were fleeing  
from Hitler and having

532  
00:26:38,240 --> 00:26:41,380  
kosher food on the Europa.

533  
00:26:41,380 --> 00:26:45,330  
How long did it take, about?

534  
00:26:45,330 --> 00:26:48,840  
I think it was about  
four or five days.

535  
00:26:48,840 --> 00:26:51,450  
And I was very sick.

536  
00:26:51,450 --> 00:26:53,100  
And then you came to--

537  
00:26:53,100 --> 00:26:54,090  
New York.

538  
00:26:54,090 --> 00:26:56,130  
To your aunts or uncles.

539  
00:26:56,130 --> 00:26:57,910  
To my mother's aunt's house.

540  
00:26:57,910 --> 00:26:59,910  
And we stayed there.

541  
00:26:59,910 --> 00:27:04,020

And I remember my father  
walking the streets

542  
00:27:04,020 --> 00:27:07,960  
for six months  
looking for a job.

543  
00:27:07,960 --> 00:27:11,310  
This is 1939.

544  
00:27:11,310 --> 00:27:12,020  
It was hard.

545  
00:27:12,020 --> 00:27:18,020  
My mother went to work as  
a maid in people's homes.

546  
00:27:18,020 --> 00:27:21,995  
Every day she had to scrub  
the floors with brushes.

547  
00:27:21,995 --> 00:27:24,530

548  
00:27:24,530 --> 00:27:27,530  
Most of these people were also  
refugees, but most of them

549  
00:27:27,530 --> 00:27:31,080  
were Belgian who had  
brought out money.

550  
00:27:31,080 --> 00:27:33,890  
And I remember it was a  
very hard time for us.

551  
00:27:33,890 --> 00:27:37,640  
What part of New York was this?

552  
00:27:37,640 --> 00:27:40,010  
First we lived on  
Amsterdam Avenue

553

00:27:40,010 --> 00:27:43,010  
between 80th and 81st Street.

554

00:27:43,010 --> 00:27:46,370  
The ironic part is I  
own a house, a building,

555

00:27:46,370 --> 00:27:49,370  
across the street  
from that today.

556

00:27:49,370 --> 00:27:53,420  
We at that time lived  
427 Amsterdam Avenue.

557

00:27:53,420 --> 00:27:56,180  
And I own a building at  
430 Amsterdam Avenue right

558

00:27:56,180 --> 00:27:58,430  
across the street.

559

00:27:58,430 --> 00:28:00,210  
I lived around the  
corner from you.

560

00:28:00,210 --> 00:28:00,920  
OK.

561

00:28:00,920 --> 00:28:04,010  
So what happened  
with you and school?

562

00:28:04,010 --> 00:28:06,300  
School?

563

00:28:06,300 --> 00:28:07,910  
Well, I didn't speak English.

564

00:28:07,910 --> 00:28:11,402  
I went to PS 9 on 82nd Street.



565

00:28:11,402 --> 00:28:12,680

I did too.

566

00:28:12,680 --> 00:28:14,660

And they put me in first grade.

567

00:28:14,660 --> 00:28:17,540

568

00:28:17,540 --> 00:28:21,870

And the teacher promised--

569

00:28:21,870 --> 00:28:22,960

there were twins.

570

00:28:22,960 --> 00:28:25,650

They lived on 82nd

Street and Broadway--

571

00:28:25,650 --> 00:28:30,600

promised the girl of the

twins-- the other one was a boy.

572

00:28:30,600 --> 00:28:33,780

The boy was sat behind

me-- that if she taught me

573

00:28:33,780 --> 00:28:36,480

how to speak English

by the end of the term,

574

00:28:36,480 --> 00:28:41,010

she would get A's in all marks.

575

00:28:41,010 --> 00:28:45,330

And I remember one incident in

school, because math is math,

576

00:28:45,330 --> 00:28:51,510

and we had a problem that

was, how much is 3 times 25?

577

00:28:51,510 --> 00:28:53,422

And I put down 75.

578

00:28:53,422 --> 00:28:55,380

And I was the only one  
in the class to have it.

579

00:28:55,380 --> 00:28:57,930

But the teacher marked it wrong.

580

00:28:57,930 --> 00:29:00,750

And to this day,  
I remember trying

581

00:29:00,750 --> 00:29:05,370

to explain to her that  
couldn't be wrong.

582

00:29:05,370 --> 00:29:07,170

But I didn't have the  
words to tell her.

583

00:29:07,170 --> 00:29:10,735

So she marked me wrong.

584

00:29:10,735 --> 00:29:12,680

It took quite a  
while to catch up.

585

00:29:12,680 --> 00:29:16,050

586

00:29:16,050 --> 00:29:22,890

We went to Camp [? Dio, ?] which  
was a camp run by the Gottesman

587

00:29:22,890 --> 00:29:25,350

family of the Jewish Center.

588

00:29:25,350 --> 00:29:28,190

I remember many of the  
families in the Jewish Center

589  
00:29:28,190 --> 00:29:29,690  
on 86th Street.

590  
00:29:29,690 --> 00:29:34,210  
These were Jews that  
we looked up to,

591  
00:29:34,210 --> 00:29:37,900  
wealthy Jews, like  
the Gottesmans,

592  
00:29:37,900 --> 00:29:47,320  
the Rothenburg, Horowitz.

593  
00:29:47,320 --> 00:29:49,045  
Is at the Horowitz  
from the Matzoh--

594  
00:29:49,045 --> 00:29:50,090  
No, they lived--

595  
00:29:50,090 --> 00:29:52,450  
Because lived in  
that neighborhood.

596  
00:29:52,450 --> 00:29:55,180  
Rabbi Young was the rabbi there.

597  
00:29:55,180 --> 00:30:02,200  
And he was a very  
upstanding man.

598  
00:30:02,200 --> 00:30:03,290  
And he--

599  
00:30:03,290 --> 00:30:05,770  
What did your parents do  
about learning English?

600  
00:30:05,770 --> 00:30:07,390  
Did they go to school at night?

601

00:30:07,390 --> 00:30:12,820

They went to night school  
and had dictionaries.

602

00:30:12,820 --> 00:30:16,900

Every word was  
looked up, you know.

603

00:30:16,900 --> 00:30:22,420

My father, I think,  
more or less gave up,

604

00:30:22,420 --> 00:30:28,180

because I always wondered why if  
he was such a good businessman

605

00:30:28,180 --> 00:30:31,310

he never did anything else.

606

00:30:31,310 --> 00:30:35,990

But I think his religion  
supplemented everything else.

607

00:30:35,990 --> 00:30:38,450

My father was  
Orthodox in Germany.

608

00:30:38,450 --> 00:30:43,630

But in this country, he  
became super Orthodox.

609

00:30:43,630 --> 00:30:44,215

He tithed.

610

00:30:44,215 --> 00:30:52,850

611

00:30:52,850 --> 00:30:58,660

I know my brother couldn't  
wait to get away from this.

612

00:30:58,660 --> 00:31:00,620

And it's a very  
interesting story--

613

00:31:00,620 --> 00:31:04,040

Why do you think that happened  
that your father became

614

00:31:04,040 --> 00:31:06,400

more orthodox in America  
than he had been in Germany?

615

00:31:06,400 --> 00:31:10,850

616

00:31:10,850 --> 00:31:12,980

I think that he felt  
that he couldn't

617

00:31:12,980 --> 00:31:15,440

put his trust in human beings.

618

00:31:15,440 --> 00:31:17,700

That the only one he  
could trust was God.

619

00:31:17,700 --> 00:31:21,660

That it was God that saved him.

620

00:31:21,660 --> 00:31:29,500

That the Germans looked on the  
people who sent him affidavits,

621

00:31:29,500 --> 00:31:31,840

if they were part of the  
family, originally they

622

00:31:31,840 --> 00:31:34,210

had been thought of as misfits.

623

00:31:34,210 --> 00:31:38,050

The ones that were  
anything stayed in Germany.

624  
00:31:38,050 --> 00:31:41,710  
The ones that were the third  
and fourth and fifth sons

625  
00:31:41,710 --> 00:31:44,740  
where there was nothing to  
inherit were sent to America.

626  
00:31:44,740 --> 00:31:48,130

627  
00:31:48,130 --> 00:31:52,210  
If there were daughters in the  
family, if there were problems,

628  
00:31:52,210 --> 00:31:53,830  
they'd also send  
them to America.

629  
00:31:53,830 --> 00:31:56,170  
So they called  
the relatives that

630  
00:31:56,170 --> 00:31:58,000  
lived in America the misfits.

631  
00:31:58,000 --> 00:32:00,730  
And I remember my father  
saying many times,

632  
00:32:00,730 --> 00:32:03,880  
thank God for the  
misfits in the families,

633  
00:32:03,880 --> 00:32:05,740  
because they're the  
ones that saved us.

634  
00:32:05,740 --> 00:32:08,080  
Going back to  
Germany, you mentioned

635

00:32:08,080 --> 00:32:13,300  
before that the name of a family  
could signify where they lived

636

00:32:13,300 --> 00:32:15,220  
and maybe what they  
did in the community.

637

00:32:15,220 --> 00:32:16,990  
Can you talk to us about that?

638

00:32:16,990 --> 00:32:22,600  
Now, if my parents were  
talking with other people

639

00:32:22,600 --> 00:32:25,113  
and they would mention  
a name of a family,

640

00:32:25,113 --> 00:32:26,530  
and everybody would  
say, oh, yeah,

641

00:32:26,530 --> 00:32:32,370  
they come from  
Alzenau or whatever.

642

00:32:32,370 --> 00:32:34,560  
Because, again, going  
back to Napoleon,

643

00:32:34,560 --> 00:32:36,930  
when Napoleon gave  
out the names,

644

00:32:36,930 --> 00:32:40,620  
certain names became from a  
certain section of the country.

645

00:32:40,620 --> 00:32:45,120  
And everybody knew  
everybody else.

646

00:32:45,120 --> 00:32:51,600  
One of the wealthiest Germans--

647

00:32:51,600 --> 00:32:55,120  
I'm not going to  
mention the name--

648

00:32:55,120 --> 00:33:00,250  
who came here and who today  
is thought of very highly,

649

00:33:00,250 --> 00:33:03,130  
the German Jews didn't  
think anything of him,

650

00:33:03,130 --> 00:33:05,560  
because he went bankrupt.

651

00:33:05,560 --> 00:33:08,380  
And among the German Jews,  
the honorable thing to do

652

00:33:08,380 --> 00:33:10,690  
was to work off the  
bankruptcy and make

653

00:33:10,690 --> 00:33:13,000  
sure everybody got their money.

654

00:33:13,000 --> 00:33:16,040  
These people took  
off for America.

655

00:33:16,040 --> 00:33:19,480  
And among the German-- even  
though in America they became

656

00:33:19,480 --> 00:33:22,570  
multimillionaires and their  
name is a household word,

657

00:33:22,570 --> 00:33:26,020



most of the German Jews have  
nothing to do with them,

658  
00:33:26,020 --> 00:33:30,920  
because everybody  
knows they came from--

659  
00:33:30,920 --> 00:33:34,600  
Now, Henry Kissinger, everybody  
knows where the Kissinger

660  
00:33:34,600 --> 00:33:35,830  
family comes from.

661  
00:33:35,830 --> 00:33:37,270  
That's Fulda.

662  
00:33:37,270 --> 00:33:38,830  
You just have to say--

663  
00:33:38,830 --> 00:33:41,620  
or certain names,  
they'll say, oh, yeah,

664  
00:33:41,620 --> 00:33:43,720  
that town they come from.

665  
00:33:43,720 --> 00:33:45,730  
And that's where they come from.

666  
00:33:45,730 --> 00:33:48,010  
To me that's uncanny.

667  
00:33:48,010 --> 00:33:50,620  
Is there still a  
kind of cohesiveness

668  
00:33:50,620 --> 00:33:55,107  
among the group that came  
here at the time you did?

669  
00:33:55,107 --> 00:33:55,690

Do you still--

670

00:33:55,690 --> 00:33:59,780

Most of the German Jews  
moved to Washington Heights.

671

00:33:59,780 --> 00:34:02,980

They called it the Fourth  
Reich, because Germany

672

00:34:02,980 --> 00:34:06,400

was the Third Reich and they  
established a Fourth Reich.

673

00:34:06,400 --> 00:34:10,389

Now, the bakeries, the  
butchers, they all spoke German.

674

00:34:10,389 --> 00:34:12,159

Even today some  
of them are left.

675

00:34:12,159 --> 00:34:15,010

You walk in there, and  
they still speak German.

676

00:34:15,010 --> 00:34:18,400

There are certain  
congregations in the Heights,

677

00:34:18,400 --> 00:34:20,560

and they're only German Jews.

678

00:34:20,560 --> 00:34:23,590

Now Rabbi Brauer's  
congregation, but that

679

00:34:23,590 --> 00:34:25,120

has branched out a little.

680

00:34:25,120 --> 00:34:26,620

But there are others  
where you walk

681  
00:34:26,620 --> 00:34:28,780  
in there, some of  
the rabbis still

682  
00:34:28,780 --> 00:34:31,772  
give the sermons in German.

683  
00:34:31,772 --> 00:34:32,480  
It's interesting.

684  
00:34:32,480 --> 00:34:33,080  
Even today?

685  
00:34:33,080 --> 00:34:33,860  
Even today.

686  
00:34:33,860 --> 00:34:37,969

687  
00:34:37,969 --> 00:34:43,850  
Coming back for a  
moment to your father,

688  
00:34:43,850 --> 00:34:48,230  
did he find work  
that he wanted to do?

689  
00:34:48,230 --> 00:34:48,920  
No.

690  
00:34:48,920 --> 00:34:51,650  
No, he just took a job.

691  
00:34:51,650 --> 00:34:56,600  
And he had that job until  
he was 70 years old.

692  
00:34:56,600 --> 00:34:59,730  
He never went to work  
for anybody else.

693

00:34:59,730 --> 00:35:00,978

Yeah.

694

00:35:00,978 --> 00:35:02,770

Doing merchandising or  
something like that?

695

00:35:02,770 --> 00:35:04,670

No, he was a factory worker.

696

00:35:04,670 --> 00:35:11,190

697

00:35:11,190 --> 00:35:12,570

And it was hard on him.

698

00:35:12,570 --> 00:35:14,940

And how did your mother fare?

699

00:35:14,940 --> 00:35:15,580

Here?

700

00:35:15,580 --> 00:35:16,110

Yeah.

701

00:35:16,110 --> 00:35:19,005

My mother eventually went to  
work in a garment factory.

702

00:35:19,005 --> 00:35:22,430

703

00:35:22,430 --> 00:35:27,090

I think they pinned all their  
hopes on their children.

704

00:35:27,090 --> 00:35:32,790

I think in that respect,  
both my brother and I,

705

00:35:32,790 --> 00:35:37,980

I think, we make them  
proud, as far as I know.

706  
00:35:37,980 --> 00:35:41,730  
My brother is an  
M.D., Ph.D. And he's

707  
00:35:41,730 --> 00:35:46,860  
head of the genetics department  
at LSU Medical School.

708  
00:35:46,860 --> 00:35:49,680  
And I've done fairly well.

709  
00:35:49,680 --> 00:35:51,810  
I consider it fairly well.

710  
00:35:51,810 --> 00:35:53,160  
Your mother is still alive?

711  
00:35:53,160 --> 00:35:54,840  
Yes, she is.

712  
00:35:54,840 --> 00:35:58,740  
Does she ever talk about the  
old country and her experiences

713  
00:35:58,740 --> 00:36:01,380  
there with your  
children and you?

714  
00:36:01,380 --> 00:36:02,640  
With my children.

715  
00:36:02,640 --> 00:36:04,380  
But they're not interested.

716  
00:36:04,380 --> 00:36:10,260  
She tells them about the  
people she grew up with

717  
00:36:10,260 --> 00:36:12,480

and what it was like.

718  
00:36:12,480 --> 00:36:16,770  
Like her father was  
gassed in World War I.

719  
00:36:16,770 --> 00:36:21,840  
In fact, they took  
out his stomach.

720  
00:36:21,840 --> 00:36:23,910  
And one of the first  
operations, they

721  
00:36:23,910 --> 00:36:25,590  
implanted the stomach of a pig.

722  
00:36:25,590 --> 00:36:30,980

723  
00:36:30,980 --> 00:36:36,550  
Well, he died in 1934, '35.

724  
00:36:36,550 --> 00:36:37,570  
He was a very sick man.

725  
00:36:37,570 --> 00:36:39,290  
You know never really  
functioned right,

726  
00:36:39,290 --> 00:36:43,900  
but it allowed him to live  
for a number of years.

727  
00:36:43,900 --> 00:36:46,660  
Why are your children  
not interested?

728  
00:36:46,660 --> 00:36:47,380  
Do they say?

729  
00:36:47,380 --> 00:36:53,690

730  
00:36:53,690 --> 00:36:54,430  
I don't know.

731  
00:36:54,430 --> 00:36:59,117

732  
00:36:59,117 --> 00:37:00,700  
I think they're more  
interested what's

733  
00:37:00,700 --> 00:37:02,440  
happening today in Israel.

734  
00:37:02,440 --> 00:37:04,660  
All of them are very  
conscious of Israel.

735  
00:37:04,660 --> 00:37:06,580  
In fact, my older  
son has told me

736  
00:37:06,580 --> 00:37:09,280  
he wants to make  
Aliyah to Israel when

737  
00:37:09,280 --> 00:37:10,930  
he's finished with school.

738  
00:37:10,930 --> 00:37:11,840  
Have they been there?

739  
00:37:11,840 --> 00:37:13,480  
Yes.

740  
00:37:13,480 --> 00:37:15,400  
All my children go  
to Solomon Schechter.

741  
00:37:15,400 --> 00:37:17,980  
And in the senior

year, the senior class

742

00:37:17,980 --> 00:37:20,680

goes to Israel for four months.

743

00:37:20,680 --> 00:37:21,880

So--

744

00:37:21,880 --> 00:37:25,870

Have you ever been  
back to Germany?

745

00:37:25,870 --> 00:37:28,720

One time, only for business.

746

00:37:28,720 --> 00:37:32,200

It was a very bad  
experience for me.

747

00:37:32,200 --> 00:37:34,960

I went to Hamburg  
because I was doing

748

00:37:34,960 --> 00:37:37,390

some consulting work in Israel.

749

00:37:37,390 --> 00:37:40,510

And a German company  
was building a machine

750

00:37:40,510 --> 00:37:42,550

for the citrus marketing board.

751

00:37:42,550 --> 00:37:45,010

And I had to look at  
the machine to see

752

00:37:45,010 --> 00:37:47,080

if it was what they wanted.

753

00:37:47,080 --> 00:37:51,950

And I checked into a hotel.



754  
00:37:51,950 --> 00:37:58,030  
And the clerk called  
the bellhop and said,

755  
00:37:58,030 --> 00:38:00,190  
show the dirty Jew to  
his room, not knowing

756  
00:38:00,190 --> 00:38:01,960  
that I understood German.

757  
00:38:01,960 --> 00:38:04,450  
And I just walked out  
and I told the company

758  
00:38:04,450 --> 00:38:09,780  
that they'd have to  
send somebody else.

759  
00:38:09,780 --> 00:38:10,410  
When was that?

760  
00:38:10,410 --> 00:38:11,360  
Very recently?

761  
00:38:11,360 --> 00:38:16,400  
No, that was in 1963.

762  
00:38:16,400 --> 00:38:18,840  
Did you go back home  
or did you stay--

763  
00:38:18,840 --> 00:38:21,290  
No, I don't want  
to go to Germany.

764  
00:38:21,290 --> 00:38:22,530  
We don't buy German--

765  
00:38:22,530 --> 00:38:24,560  
No, I mean, did you go

back home to the States

766  
00:38:24,560 --> 00:38:25,643  
right after that incident?

767  
00:38:25,643 --> 00:38:27,380  
No, I went back to  
Israel because I

768  
00:38:27,380 --> 00:38:28,730  
was running a job in Israel.

769  
00:38:28,730 --> 00:38:31,760

770  
00:38:31,760 --> 00:38:34,760  
My wife and I, we don't  
buy German products.

771  
00:38:34,760 --> 00:38:36,230  
We won't drive a German car.

772  
00:38:36,230 --> 00:38:41,070

773  
00:38:41,070 --> 00:38:44,490  
It's just something-- I don't  
want to give them anything.

774  
00:38:44,490 --> 00:38:48,720  
And anything I can get  
from them, I'll take--

775  
00:38:48,720 --> 00:38:51,780  
reparations.

776  
00:38:51,780 --> 00:38:53,340  
Did your family get reparations?

777  
00:38:53,340 --> 00:38:55,200  
Yes, but a pittance.

778

00:38:55,200 --> 00:38:58,600

They still send my mother  
a check every month,

779

00:38:58,600 --> 00:39:03,810

which averages about \$200.

780

00:39:03,810 --> 00:39:07,320

But I'll take, but I won't give.

781

00:39:07,320 --> 00:39:15,170

782

00:39:15,170 --> 00:39:17,750

You were telling us  
about the incident that

783

00:39:17,750 --> 00:39:21,890

happened in the school  
that you were attending

784

00:39:21,890 --> 00:39:25,340

with the SS and the  
threat that they

785

00:39:25,340 --> 00:39:30,050

were going to line you all up  
against the wall and shoot you.

786

00:39:30,050 --> 00:39:33,431

That happened around  
Kristallnacht--

787

00:39:33,431 --> 00:39:36,150

Right, the following day.

788

00:39:36,150 --> 00:39:41,870

I realize how traumatic  
and how frightening

789

00:39:41,870 --> 00:39:44,240

that that event must have been.

790

00:39:44,240 --> 00:39:46,790

Are there any other  
memories you have

791

00:39:46,790 --> 00:39:50,240

of that particular  
few days because it's

792

00:39:50,240 --> 00:39:56,840

such a crucial aspect of  
the history of those times?

793

00:39:56,840 --> 00:39:58,760

Do you remember something  
happened the day

794

00:39:58,760 --> 00:40:01,550

or so before that  
signified a tremendous--

795

00:40:01,550 --> 00:40:05,030

Oh, I remember that one of  
the teachers at the school

796

00:40:05,030 --> 00:40:07,580

was a Polish Jew.

797

00:40:07,580 --> 00:40:13,790

And there had been talk that  
he was going to be deported,

798

00:40:13,790 --> 00:40:19,070

that Germany was going to  
get rid of all Jews that

799

00:40:19,070 --> 00:40:21,710

had Polish passports.

800

00:40:21,710 --> 00:40:25,400

And I remember that sent a  
big fright through the school.

801  
00:40:25,400 --> 00:40:26,810  
That was just about that time.

802  
00:40:26,810 --> 00:40:30,440

803  
00:40:30,440 --> 00:40:35,800  
What happened with your  
parents during Kristallnacht?

804  
00:40:35,800 --> 00:40:36,580  
Nothing.

805  
00:40:36,580 --> 00:40:40,650  
They were living in this  
house in this one room.

806  
00:40:40,650 --> 00:40:41,400  
And they weren't--

807  
00:40:41,400 --> 00:40:43,660  
And by that time your  
father's, at that time, store

808  
00:40:43,660 --> 00:40:44,850  
was no longer his already.

809  
00:40:44,850 --> 00:40:47,200  
No.

810  
00:40:47,200 --> 00:40:50,990  
They burned the synagogue  
in Aschaffenburg.

811  
00:40:50,990 --> 00:40:55,450  
But further than  
that, again, I think

812  
00:40:55,450 --> 00:41:00,820  
my father felt that because  
of his belief in God

813

00:41:00,820 --> 00:41:02,860

that he was protected  
more or less.

814

00:41:02,860 --> 00:41:06,550

815

00:41:06,550 --> 00:41:10,060

Also, that he fought  
in the German army,

816

00:41:10,060 --> 00:41:12,940

because the Germans  
constantly were saying

817

00:41:12,940 --> 00:41:15,430

it was the Jews that  
caused us to lose the war.

818

00:41:15,430 --> 00:41:18,790

819

00:41:18,790 --> 00:41:23,050

But other than that  
I don't remember.

820

00:41:23,050 --> 00:41:30,920

Now, I know that my  
uncle by marriage

821

00:41:30,920 --> 00:41:34,940

was thrown in a concentration  
camp at that time.

822

00:41:34,940 --> 00:41:38,120

My mother's uncle in Frankfurt  
was thrown in the concentration

823

00:41:38,120 --> 00:41:40,400

camp.

824

00:41:40,400 --> 00:41:45,050

My mother's brother  
had been charged

825  
00:41:45,050 --> 00:41:49,790  
as defiler of the Aryan race.

826  
00:41:49,790 --> 00:41:52,430  
They claimed that he  
had had sexual relations

827  
00:41:52,430 --> 00:41:58,480  
with a German married woman,  
whose husband worked for him.

828  
00:41:58,480 --> 00:42:03,950  
There was I remember one day  
going to the train station

829  
00:42:03,950 --> 00:42:07,535  
and seeing these  
pictures mounted there.

830  
00:42:07,535 --> 00:42:08,960  
And there was my uncle.

831  
00:42:08,960 --> 00:42:15,250  
And I said to my mother, why  
is your brother's picture

832  
00:42:15,250 --> 00:42:15,750  
up there?

833  
00:42:15,750 --> 00:42:19,110  
And she didn't want to tell me.

834  
00:42:19,110 --> 00:42:21,050  
And they hired a lawyer.

835  
00:42:21,050 --> 00:42:23,990  
There was a big trial  
that went on for months.

836

00:42:23,990 --> 00:42:27,680

And it was proven  
that my uncle had not

837

00:42:27,680 --> 00:42:30,050

been involved with this woman.

838

00:42:30,050 --> 00:42:34,340

But I remember that the  
lawyer who defended him

839

00:42:34,340 --> 00:42:36,380

was thrown in a  
concentration camp.

840

00:42:36,380 --> 00:42:40,190

And he escaped-- my  
uncle escaped to England.

841

00:42:40,190 --> 00:42:44,000

In fact, he just  
died this past year.

842

00:42:44,000 --> 00:42:45,560

Did the other people  
you mention who

843

00:42:45,560 --> 00:42:47,660

had been thrown into  
concentration camps survive?

844

00:42:47,660 --> 00:42:50,570

845

00:42:50,570 --> 00:42:57,650

My uncle by marriage who was  
married to my father's sister,

846

00:42:57,650 --> 00:42:59,460

he survived.

847

00:42:59,460 --> 00:43:01,940

They released most of



those that they picked up

848

00:43:01,940 --> 00:43:05,210  
on Crystal Night within  
about 6 to 10 months.

849

00:43:05,210 --> 00:43:06,525  
And they fled to England.

850

00:43:06,525 --> 00:43:07,400  
Where were they sent?

851

00:43:07,400 --> 00:43:09,390  
To Dachau?

852

00:43:09,390 --> 00:43:11,250  
I think it was Dachau.

853

00:43:11,250 --> 00:43:15,270  
Now, if you and your family  
were aware of these relatives

854

00:43:15,270 --> 00:43:18,840  
and friends being sent  
to concentration camps,

855

00:43:18,840 --> 00:43:21,810  
obviously, the  
Gentile community had

856

00:43:21,810 --> 00:43:24,150  
to have heard about that too.

857

00:43:24,150 --> 00:43:25,290  
Yeah.

858

00:43:25,290 --> 00:43:28,500  
By this time, I don't think  
most of the German Jews

859

00:43:28,500 --> 00:43:33,240  
had any more illusions about

what the Nazis intentions were.

860

00:43:33,240 --> 00:43:37,500

But '37, '38, beginning  
of '38, they still

861

00:43:37,500 --> 00:43:40,320

thought there was hope and that  
Hitler would be kicked out.

862

00:43:40,320 --> 00:43:43,950

863

00:43:43,950 --> 00:43:48,850

When you look back at all  
of these early events,

864

00:43:48,850 --> 00:43:51,150

how do you think these  
events have shaped your life

865

00:43:51,150 --> 00:43:55,780

or changed your thinking  
or affected you?

866

00:43:55,780 --> 00:44:00,820

Well, affected me, even to this  
day, when I see a policeman,

867

00:44:00,820 --> 00:44:02,590

I react.

868

00:44:02,590 --> 00:44:04,270

I mean, I might  
be driving along,

869

00:44:04,270 --> 00:44:06,460

and if there's a  
police car behind me,

870

00:44:06,460 --> 00:44:08,230

I think, my God,  
what have I done?

871  
00:44:08,230 --> 00:44:11,985

872  
00:44:11,985 --> 00:44:13,360  
When I first came  
to this country

873  
00:44:13,360 --> 00:44:17,000  
and I'd see a policeman, you  
know, it was frightening.

874  
00:44:17,000 --> 00:44:18,940  
I didn't know what was  
going to happen next.

875  
00:44:18,940 --> 00:44:20,500  
The policeman was  
never your friend.

876  
00:44:20,500 --> 00:44:26,340

877  
00:44:26,340 --> 00:44:28,710  
Has this been in terms  
of all authority figures?

878  
00:44:28,710 --> 00:44:30,770  
Because you mentioned  
you'd been in the military,

879  
00:44:30,770 --> 00:44:33,060  
how you were in Korea.

880  
00:44:33,060 --> 00:44:35,720  
Yes.

881  
00:44:35,720 --> 00:44:40,020  
How did you handle that aspect  
of your life in terms of what--

882  
00:44:40,020 --> 00:44:43,470

How did you feel about  
the tough sergeant?

883  
00:44:43,470 --> 00:44:45,364  
I was one of them.

884  
00:44:45,364 --> 00:44:46,690  
Oh.

885  
00:44:46,690 --> 00:44:49,080  
That's a great defense  
mechanism, right?

886  
00:44:49,080 --> 00:44:52,470  
But the army was a  
different situation.

887  
00:44:52,470 --> 00:44:58,595  
I thought that is such a waste.

888  
00:44:58,595 --> 00:45:01,510

889  
00:45:01,510 --> 00:45:03,340  
I'm not a pacifist.

890  
00:45:03,340 --> 00:45:05,980  
But I thought that--

891  
00:45:05,980 --> 00:45:09,130  
I can't see carrying rocks  
from one side of the road

892  
00:45:09,130 --> 00:45:11,920  
to the other just to pass time.

893  
00:45:11,920 --> 00:45:17,420  
And, you know, stupidity.

894  
00:45:17,420 --> 00:45:21,050  
And the war, I don't know,  
maybe it was necessary.

895  
00:45:21,050 --> 00:45:24,800

896  
00:45:24,800 --> 00:45:29,150  
Well, things happened  
to me just before I was

897  
00:45:29,150 --> 00:45:31,730  
sent to Korea that turned me.

898  
00:45:31,730 --> 00:45:34,350

899  
00:45:34,350 --> 00:45:36,610  
I didn't want to go to Korea.

900  
00:45:36,610 --> 00:45:41,680  
I figured I don't  
want to get killed.

901  
00:45:41,680 --> 00:45:45,300  
And I went to see Rabbi  
Young, who's now dead.

902  
00:45:45,300 --> 00:45:47,910  
He was my teacher.

903  
00:45:47,910 --> 00:45:51,660  
I had taken basic training  
at Fort Belvoir, Virginia,

904  
00:45:51,660 --> 00:45:54,630  
as a combat engineer.

905  
00:45:54,630 --> 00:45:57,540  
And they had told me I  
was being sent to Korea,

906  
00:45:57,540 --> 00:45:59,670  
and it was my last leave home.

907

00:45:59,670 --> 00:46:01,230

And I wanted to get  
out of the army,

908

00:46:01,230 --> 00:46:04,920

or at least be stationed  
someplace in the United States

909

00:46:04,920 --> 00:46:06,030

safe.

910

00:46:06,030 --> 00:46:08,160

So I went to see Rabbi Young.

911

00:46:08,160 --> 00:46:10,470

And I said to him, you  
know, you've known me

912

00:46:10,470 --> 00:46:12,310

since we first came to America.

913

00:46:12,310 --> 00:46:15,150

And you know I come  
from an Orthodox family,

914

00:46:15,150 --> 00:46:17,760

where we believe in  
the Ten Commandments,

915

00:46:17,760 --> 00:46:20,400

and we only eat kosher.

916

00:46:20,400 --> 00:46:25,560

And one of the Ten Commandments  
is thou shalt not kill.

917

00:46:25,560 --> 00:46:26,980

How do I handle this?

918

00:46:26,980 --> 00:46:30,983

And he said, well there's  
a midrash or we learned--

919  
00:46:30,983 --> 00:46:31,650  
Interpretation--

920  
00:46:31,650 --> 00:46:34,320  
That says if somebody  
comes to kill you

921  
00:46:34,320 --> 00:46:37,230  
or has made known the  
intentions to kill you,

922  
00:46:37,230 --> 00:46:40,920  
it's your duty to kill  
him before he kills you.

923  
00:46:40,920 --> 00:46:43,740  
And the communists  
have said that they

924  
00:46:43,740 --> 00:46:47,040  
are against all religion and  
religion should be wiped out.

925  
00:46:47,040 --> 00:46:49,200  
So you have a right to  
kill the communists.

926  
00:46:49,200 --> 00:46:50,970  
Well, I figured, you  
know, that didn't

927  
00:46:50,970 --> 00:46:53,490  
answer my question for me.

928  
00:46:53,490 --> 00:46:59,100  
So I said, but, OK, fine,  
but what do I do about food?

929  
00:46:59,100 --> 00:47:03,270  
I've never eaten  
non-kosher food in my life.

930

00:47:03,270 --> 00:47:06,630

And he said, well, if you're  
on the front and your life is

931

00:47:06,630 --> 00:47:11,790

in danger, you're allowed to  
eat anything to save your life

932

00:47:11,790 --> 00:47:14,550

except, you cannot  
gnaw on the bones,

933

00:47:14,550 --> 00:47:18,240

because gnawing on the bones  
means that you're enjoying it.

934

00:47:18,240 --> 00:47:22,320

You're only to eat  
to sustain yourself.

935

00:47:22,320 --> 00:47:27,000

At that point, as far  
as religion in my life

936

00:47:27,000 --> 00:47:29,250

was concerned it plummeted.

937

00:47:29,250 --> 00:47:31,980

938

00:47:31,980 --> 00:47:36,600

Nothing in the army, food,  
would be that delicious.

939

00:47:36,600 --> 00:47:39,390

In fact, I'm very  
sorry about that

940

00:47:39,390 --> 00:47:44,050

because I haven't found  
anything to take its place.

941



00:47:44,050 --> 00:47:51,610

But I can't believe in it  
that strong as I once did.

942

00:47:51,610 --> 00:47:54,010

Why did what he said  
affect you that way?

943

00:47:54,010 --> 00:47:57,290

944

00:47:57,290 --> 00:48:00,410

Because if you can  
rationalize everything

945

00:48:00,410 --> 00:48:04,850

that happens in  
your life or things,

946

00:48:04,850 --> 00:48:06,290

then I don't need religion.

947

00:48:06,290 --> 00:48:09,320

And I don't need God.

948

00:48:09,320 --> 00:48:12,020

I can rationalize myself also.

949

00:48:12,020 --> 00:48:16,220

Why do I believe in this God?

950

00:48:16,220 --> 00:48:20,210

I guess I started questioning  
certain things about God

951

00:48:20,210 --> 00:48:23,000

is after the World  
War II was over

952

00:48:23,000 --> 00:48:25,100

and we started  
hearing what happened

953

00:48:25,100 --> 00:48:27,350  
in the concentration  
camps and the 6 million

954

00:48:27,350 --> 00:48:34,130  
were killed, I started  
questioning, how could

955

00:48:34,130 --> 00:48:37,760  
a God, not only for  
the Jews, but how could

956

00:48:37,760 --> 00:48:40,250  
a God who is all  
knowing, all seeing

957

00:48:40,250 --> 00:48:43,100  
allow something  
like this to happen?

958

00:48:43,100 --> 00:48:46,610  
Why didn't he strike Hitler  
dead or the Nazi hierarchy dead?

959

00:48:46,610 --> 00:48:51,390

960

00:48:51,390 --> 00:48:54,030  
And once you start  
questioning, that's

961

00:48:54,030 --> 00:48:55,155  
very difficult in religion.

962

00:48:55,155 --> 00:48:58,420

963

00:48:58,420 --> 00:49:01,450  
Can we go back to when  
you arrived in America?

964

00:49:01,450 --> 00:49:03,160

I'd like to know  
what your family

965  
00:49:03,160 --> 00:49:07,180  
thought of New York  
and "Americans,"

966  
00:49:07,180 --> 00:49:10,130  
quote unquote, and  
the American culture.

967  
00:49:10,130 --> 00:49:13,855  
Well, first of all, let me  
tell you a funny things.

968  
00:49:13,855 --> 00:49:16,430

969  
00:49:16,430 --> 00:49:18,920  
I had never eaten corn.

970  
00:49:18,920 --> 00:49:22,550  
Corn was something  
you fed to cows.

971  
00:49:22,550 --> 00:49:25,490  
And when I started  
going to school,

972  
00:49:25,490 --> 00:49:27,860  
I remember I made one friend.

973  
00:49:27,860 --> 00:49:30,410  
And he would invite  
me to his house.

974  
00:49:30,410 --> 00:49:33,440  
And I would see his  
mother feeding him corn.

975  
00:49:33,440 --> 00:49:34,580  
And she'd offer it to me.

976

00:49:34,580 --> 00:49:37,340

And, of course, I said  
no thank you, you know.

977

00:49:37,340 --> 00:49:40,310

And I would look,  
and I'd say, my God,

978

00:49:40,310 --> 00:49:42,060

what is with these people?

979

00:49:42,060 --> 00:49:46,100

This we fed in  
Germany to the cows.

980

00:49:46,100 --> 00:49:51,390

And I couldn't  
understand Americans.

981

00:49:51,390 --> 00:49:54,290

I mean how much power  
the children had,

982

00:49:54,290 --> 00:49:58,440

how they talked back  
to their parents.

983

00:49:58,440 --> 00:50:03,030

In my wildest dreams, I would  
never speak to my parents

984

00:50:03,030 --> 00:50:08,640

or dare to disobey them,  
because my father would hit me

985

00:50:08,640 --> 00:50:11,040

on behind.

986

00:50:11,040 --> 00:50:15,120

And then once I started  
to learn a little English

987

00:50:15,120 --> 00:50:17,580  
or you'd hear something  
about somebody leaving

988  
00:50:17,580 --> 00:50:23,910  
a fortune to a cat or how people  
were solicitous to animals

989  
00:50:23,910 --> 00:50:28,620  
they had, they went to the store  
to buy food for these animals.

990  
00:50:28,620 --> 00:50:32,190  
And my parents didn't have  
enough money to buy food.

991  
00:50:32,190 --> 00:50:35,040  
I remember hearing my  
father cry at night

992  
00:50:35,040 --> 00:50:41,220  
because he was making \$12 a week  
for 60 hours where he worked.

993  
00:50:41,220 --> 00:50:43,920  
We lived on the Amsterdam  
Avenue and 80th Street.

994  
00:50:43,920 --> 00:50:46,830  
He worked on Kent  
Avenue in Brooklyn.

995  
00:50:46,830 --> 00:50:48,750  
It took him two  
hours to get there.

996  
00:50:48,750 --> 00:50:51,210  
He took a subway  
to the Delancey.

997  
00:50:51,210 --> 00:50:53,280  
From Delancey Street,  
he took a trolley

998

00:50:53,280 --> 00:50:56,550  
over the bridge and then a bus.

999

00:50:56,550 --> 00:50:59,790  
And this was a two hour  
schlep in the morning

1000

00:50:59,790 --> 00:51:01,570  
and two hours sleep at night.

1001

00:51:01,570 --> 00:51:05,200  
He worked 12 hours, and  
he made \$60 a month.

1002

00:51:05,200 --> 00:51:07,470  
And \$48 of that went  
to pay the rent.

1003

00:51:07,470 --> 00:51:10,790

1004

00:51:10,790 --> 00:51:15,725  
We would buy bread that was a  
day old, because bread was a 10

1005

00:51:15,725 --> 00:51:16,520  
cents.

1006

00:51:16,520 --> 00:51:19,250  
And so we got it for a nickel.

1007

00:51:19,250 --> 00:51:22,018  
I'll never forget a  
butcher we went to.

1008

00:51:22,018 --> 00:51:22,935  
His name was Mountner.

1009

00:51:22,935 --> 00:51:25,570

1010

00:51:25,570 --> 00:51:27,910  
He knew how tough it was.

1011  
00:51:27,910 --> 00:51:31,150  
And I remember him giving  
bones to my mother.

1012  
00:51:31,150 --> 00:51:33,010  
And he used to leave a  
lot of meat on there.

1013  
00:51:33,010 --> 00:51:37,000  
He would say to my mother, oh,  
the bones I throw out anyhow.

1014  
00:51:37,000 --> 00:51:38,500  
Make soup for the children.

1015  
00:51:38,500 --> 00:51:41,030  
But I knew he left  
the meat on there.

1016  
00:51:41,030 --> 00:51:45,130  
And when we first got married,  
the neighborhood we moved to,

1017  
00:51:45,130 --> 00:51:48,670  
he had a store there and I made  
sure that we bought from him.

1018  
00:51:48,670 --> 00:51:51,190

1019  
00:51:51,190 --> 00:51:52,615  
We bought eggs  
that were cracked.

1020  
00:51:52,615 --> 00:51:56,597

1021  
00:51:56,597 --> 00:51:59,180  
Were there are many other German  
refugees in the neighborhood?

1022  
00:51:59,180 --> 00:52:00,680  
In that neighborhood, no.

1023  
00:52:00,680 --> 00:52:02,570  
But most of them  
lived in the Heights.

1024  
00:52:02,570 --> 00:52:03,530  
And, in fact--

1025  
00:52:03,530 --> 00:52:04,940  
What made you, your family--

1026  
00:52:04,940 --> 00:52:07,850  
Because my aunt lived  
on 80th street, the one

1027  
00:52:07,850 --> 00:52:09,570  
who had given us the visa.

1028  
00:52:09,570 --> 00:52:10,100  
I see.

1029  
00:52:10,100 --> 00:52:15,920  
But my father's sister lived on  
179 Street near Fort Washington

1030  
00:52:15,920 --> 00:52:16,760  
Avenue.

1031  
00:52:16,760 --> 00:52:19,915  
And every Sunday, we  
would go to visit her.

1032  
00:52:19,915 --> 00:52:23,930  
Now, from 80th to 179th  
is about 100 blocks.

1033  
00:52:23,930 --> 00:52:27,890  
We walked up there, because  
the subway was a nickel,



1034  
00:52:27,890 --> 00:52:29,510  
and we didn't have the \$0.20.

1035  
00:52:29,510 --> 00:52:32,450  
But we took the subway back,  
because my aunt fed us.

1036  
00:52:32,450 --> 00:52:34,280  
We had supper up there.

1037  
00:52:34,280 --> 00:52:36,500  
Her circumstances  
were better than ours.

1038  
00:52:36,500 --> 00:52:39,970

1039  
00:52:39,970 --> 00:52:45,180  
I went to work, and I remember  
working with an engineer who

1040  
00:52:45,180 --> 00:52:46,710  
was not Jewish from Vienna.

1041  
00:52:46,710 --> 00:52:49,200  
He had married a Jewish woman.

1042  
00:52:49,200 --> 00:52:52,830  
And when the Nazis  
came in, he left Vienna

1043  
00:52:52,830 --> 00:52:54,460  
because they were  
just newlyweds.

1044  
00:52:54,460 --> 00:52:56,640  
He loved his wife.

1045  
00:52:56,640 --> 00:52:59,910  
She got a job as a domestic.

1046

00:52:59,910 --> 00:53:03,730

He was an engineer, but  
he couldn't speak English.

1047

00:53:03,730 --> 00:53:06,190

So he got a job at  
Horn and Hardart

1048

00:53:06,190 --> 00:53:07,930

because he could get food.

1049

00:53:07,930 --> 00:53:12,130

Now, his wife's day  
off was on Thursday.

1050

00:53:12,130 --> 00:53:16,930

So Thursday was  
the maid's day off.

1051

00:53:16,930 --> 00:53:23,300

And he allocated a nickel  
for his pleasure every day.

1052

00:53:23,300 --> 00:53:25,480

So he would buy The  
Times and The News.

1053

00:53:25,480 --> 00:53:29,020

The Times was three cents  
and The News was two cents.

1054

00:53:29,020 --> 00:53:31,210

And the other night,  
he would call his wife,

1055

00:53:31,210 --> 00:53:33,340

because she was not  
allowed to use the phone.

1056

00:53:33,340 --> 00:53:36,860

She can only get incoming calls.

1057

00:53:36,860 --> 00:53:39,100

So every other night,  
he would call his wife.

1058

00:53:39,100 --> 00:53:41,590

And he told me when he told  
this story to his children,

1059

00:53:41,590 --> 00:53:43,132

they used to say to  
him, come on, pa,

1060

00:53:43,132 --> 00:53:44,890

we don't want to  
hear these things.

1061

00:53:44,890 --> 00:53:47,440

It's old hash.

1062

00:53:47,440 --> 00:53:50,410

That was in your day  
doesn't mean anything today.

1063

00:53:50,410 --> 00:53:52,450

But that's what people did.

1064

00:53:52,450 --> 00:53:54,540

And to me that wasn't unusual.

1065

00:53:54,540 --> 00:53:58,700

1066

00:53:58,700 --> 00:54:03,450

People took roomers to  
live with them in order

1067

00:54:03,450 --> 00:54:05,020

just to make some money.

1068

00:54:05,020 --> 00:54:09,650

1069

00:54:09,650 --> 00:54:11,750  
It was a tough life.

1070  
00:54:11,750 --> 00:54:16,520  
And I guess with World War  
II and full employment,

1071  
00:54:16,520 --> 00:54:20,700  
things got better for everybody.

1072  
00:54:20,700 --> 00:54:23,610  
Had you completed  
college before the--

1073  
00:54:23,610 --> 00:54:25,560  
No, I went at  
night, because there

1074  
00:54:25,560 --> 00:54:28,950  
wasn't enough to send  
both boys to college.

1075  
00:54:28,950 --> 00:54:29,850  
And--

1076  
00:54:29,850 --> 00:54:31,620  
Where did you go?

1077  
00:54:31,620 --> 00:54:33,900  
NYU.

1078  
00:54:33,900 --> 00:54:38,460  
And my brother seemed  
to be the brighter one.

1079  
00:54:38,460 --> 00:54:40,680  
He took the New  
York State Regents

1080  
00:54:40,680 --> 00:54:43,230  
and he was second highest  
in New York state.

1081

00:54:43,230 --> 00:54:47,820

He got a scholarship  
to Cornell University.

1082

00:54:47,820 --> 00:54:50,550

And you know, you talk  
about antisemitism,

1083

00:54:50,550 --> 00:54:52,530

he wanted to go to Columbia.

1084

00:54:52,530 --> 00:54:55,680

Columbia wouldn't take him.

1085

00:54:55,680 --> 00:54:56,800

They had a quota.

1086

00:54:56,800 --> 00:54:57,890

That's right.

1087

00:54:57,890 --> 00:55:01,520

Even though he was second  
highest in New York state.

1088

00:55:01,520 --> 00:55:02,300

Their loss.

1089

00:55:02,300 --> 00:55:05,600

1090

00:55:05,600 --> 00:55:09,380

I remember I wanted to get a job  
at New York Telephone Company.

1091

00:55:09,380 --> 00:55:11,660

I wanted to be a  
tool and die maker.

1092

00:55:11,660 --> 00:55:16,380

They wouldn't hire me  
because I was Jewish.

1093

00:55:16,380 --> 00:55:19,080

1094

00:55:19,080 --> 00:55:21,440

So, you know, it wasn't--

1095

00:55:21,440 --> 00:55:24,410

America was great, and  
it wasn't that great.

1096

00:55:24,410 --> 00:55:27,490

1097

00:55:27,490 --> 00:55:32,460

And I sometimes still  
think it can happen again.

1098

00:55:32,460 --> 00:55:37,320

I keep telling my kids,  
whatever you learn,

1099

00:55:37,320 --> 00:55:41,220

I want you to have something  
that you can use your hands.

1100

00:55:41,220 --> 00:55:43,980

Because how many German Jews--

1101

00:55:43,980 --> 00:55:47,010

and my parents would  
talk about this--

1102

00:55:47,010 --> 00:55:50,310

where the girls, good  
looking young women

1103

00:55:50,310 --> 00:55:52,920

married older men  
in Germany who were

1104

00:55:52,920 --> 00:55:55,680

well off who lost everything.

1105  
00:55:55,680 --> 00:55:58,130  
And when they came  
here, they had nothing.

1106  
00:55:58,130 --> 00:55:59,410  
They had no skills.

1107  
00:55:59,410 --> 00:56:02,610  
And the young woman had to go  
to work as domestics in order

1108  
00:56:02,610 --> 00:56:04,290  
to support their husbands.

1109  
00:56:04,290 --> 00:56:05,370  
So what did you have?

1110  
00:56:05,370 --> 00:56:08,450

1111  
00:56:08,450 --> 00:56:12,200  
So did your daughters follow  
your advice or your children?

1112  
00:56:12,200 --> 00:56:16,030  
Well, they're still too young.

1113  
00:56:16,030 --> 00:56:20,230  
But I want them all  
to learn something.

1114  
00:56:20,230 --> 00:56:24,450  
I don't want any of my  
children to become attorneys.

1115  
00:56:24,450 --> 00:56:27,750  
Again, this is a carryover.

1116  
00:56:27,750 --> 00:56:31,560  
See, the German Jews  
who were doctors

1117  
00:56:31,560 --> 00:56:34,260  
could practice in this  
country, even though they

1118  
00:56:34,260 --> 00:56:36,630  
had to go to a hospital  
for a year or two

1119  
00:56:36,630 --> 00:56:39,660  
to serve a residency  
or an internship

1120  
00:56:39,660 --> 00:56:42,120  
until they passed the boards.

1121  
00:56:42,120 --> 00:56:44,160  
But most German  
attorneys never made it,

1122  
00:56:44,160 --> 00:56:47,510  
because the different code.

1123  
00:56:47,510 --> 00:56:50,330

1124  
00:56:50,330 --> 00:56:52,670  
But anything, a skill  
that you use your hands

1125  
00:56:52,670 --> 00:56:56,060  
is something you  
can carry with you.

1126  
00:56:56,060 --> 00:56:57,860  
But something that's  
purely in your head,

1127  
00:56:57,860 --> 00:57:02,450  
even though it's learning,  
if you're past a certain age,

1128



00:57:02,450 --> 00:57:05,330  
it limits you.

1129  
00:57:05,330 --> 00:57:08,720  
So if you asked me if it  
affected me, yes, it did.

1130  
00:57:08,720 --> 00:57:10,730  
There are many things  
you know that--

1131  
00:57:10,730 --> 00:57:12,410  
You carry with you--

1132  
00:57:12,410 --> 00:57:15,200  
That bother me.

1133  
00:57:15,200 --> 00:57:17,810  
Did you marry somebody also--

1134  
00:57:17,810 --> 00:57:18,690  
No--

1135  
00:57:18,690 --> 00:57:21,020  
From Germany.

1136  
00:57:21,020 --> 00:57:23,330  
Jokingly, we say  
I'm married down.

1137  
00:57:23,330 --> 00:57:26,210  
I married somebody  
of Polish descent,

1138  
00:57:26,210 --> 00:57:29,180  
because the German Jews  
considered themselves--

1139  
00:57:29,180 --> 00:57:31,280  
We know--

1140  
00:57:31,280 --> 00:57:32,360

Up here.

1141  
00:57:32,360 --> 00:57:32,870  
And my--

1142  
00:57:32,870 --> 00:57:34,203  
Wait till Harriet see this tape.

1143  
00:57:34,203 --> 00:57:36,170  
Well, she knows that.

1144  
00:57:36,170 --> 00:57:40,700  
In fact, one of my uncles  
jokingly once said to somebody

1145  
00:57:40,700 --> 00:57:45,160  
that Harriet is [? geschmut, ?]  
that we accept her as a Yekke.

1146  
00:57:45,160 --> 00:57:48,470

1147  
00:57:48,470 --> 00:57:51,415  
I hope she knew  
you were kidding.

1148  
00:57:51,415 --> 00:57:52,790  
She's got a great  
sense of humor.

1149  
00:57:52,790 --> 00:57:54,020  
Maybe at that time she did.

1150  
00:57:54,020 --> 00:57:56,360  
Today, I don't know.

1151  
00:57:56,360 --> 00:57:59,460  
So she's second  
generation Polish?

1152  
00:57:59,460 --> 00:58:03,050  
Well, her parents

were born in Poland.

1153

00:58:03,050 --> 00:58:07,280

And they came here when  
they were quite young.

1154

00:58:07,280 --> 00:58:11,840

And she went to a yeshiva.

1155

00:58:11,840 --> 00:58:15,380

And they made fun of her  
because many of the students

1156

00:58:15,380 --> 00:58:17,810

in that yeshiva were refugees.

1157

00:58:17,810 --> 00:58:20,060

Now, there's a difference  
between refugees

1158

00:58:20,060 --> 00:58:22,130

and immigrants.

1159

00:58:22,130 --> 00:58:24,500

You came here on  
your own free will.

1160

00:58:24,500 --> 00:58:25,730

We had to come here.

1161

00:58:25,730 --> 00:58:28,330

1162

00:58:28,330 --> 00:58:30,380

Pecking order.

1163

00:58:30,380 --> 00:58:32,480

So tell me, do you  
ever speak German?

1164

00:58:32,480 --> 00:58:33,190

Yes.

1165  
00:58:33,190 --> 00:58:34,510  
What about your children?

1166  
00:58:34,510 --> 00:58:35,040  
No.

1167  
00:58:35,040 --> 00:58:35,570  
No.

1168  
00:58:35,570 --> 00:58:37,270  
So you speak German  
to your wife?

1169  
00:58:37,270 --> 00:58:42,880  
No, to my mother every day  
and sometimes when other

1170  
00:58:42,880 --> 00:58:44,200  
German people I know.

1171  
00:58:44,200 --> 00:58:47,080

1172  
00:58:47,080 --> 00:58:50,110  
That's another--  
they're very clannish.

1173  
00:58:50,110 --> 00:58:53,020  
All their friends, my  
parents friends were German.

1174  
00:58:53,020 --> 00:58:55,570

1175  
00:58:55,570 --> 00:59:02,140  
In fact, my best friends go back  
to the time we first came here.

1176  
00:59:02,140 --> 00:59:03,520  
And we still see each other.

1177

00:59:03,520 --> 00:59:06,670

1178

00:59:06,670 --> 00:59:10,030

I think our tape is  
just about run out.

1179

00:59:10,030 --> 00:59:10,660

OK.

1180

00:59:10,660 --> 00:59:12,915

So we want to thank  
you very much--

1181

00:59:12,915 --> 00:59:13,790

You're quite welcome.

1182

00:59:13,790 --> 00:59:15,690

For the time you gave us.

1183

00:59:15,690 --> 00:59:19,310

This very enlightening and  
a very different slant,

1184

00:59:19,310 --> 00:59:19,810

wasn't it?

1185

00:59:19,810 --> 00:59:20,840

Yes.

1186

00:59:20,840 --> 00:59:22,600

Thank you.

1187

00:59:22,600 --> 00:59:26,290

I think one day maybe you ought  
to interview some people who

1188

00:59:26,290 --> 00:59:30,460

can tell you about the  
German Jewish community

1189

00:59:30,460 --> 00:59:34,060  
and how they were set up  
to take care of their own,

1190  
00:59:34,060 --> 00:59:36,820  
because that's a very  
fascinating story.

1191  
00:59:36,820 --> 00:59:37,630  
In Germany?

1192  
00:59:37,630 --> 00:59:39,790  
In Germany.

1193  
00:59:39,790 --> 00:59:45,640  
The orphans and the widows  
never became a problem

1194  
00:59:45,640 --> 00:59:49,580  
for the German government.

1195  
00:59:49,580 --> 00:59:56,510  
The German Jews never  
let anybody go hungry.

1196  
00:59:56,510 --> 00:59:59,330  
I mean, they were not  
rich, but the community

1197  
00:59:59,330 --> 01:00:03,440  
had organizations to take care  
of that that the Germans could

1198  
01:00:03,440 --> 01:00:07,260  
not say, you see?

1199  
01:00:07,260 --> 01:00:10,680  
And I know that the orphans  
went to the best schools

1200  
01:00:10,680 --> 01:00:12,660  
and got jobs in  
the best industries

1201

01:00:12,660 --> 01:00:17,580

and eventually became the  
titans of German industries

1202

01:00:17,580 --> 01:00:21,840

that were run by Jews because  
of these orphanage schools.

1203

01:00:21,840 --> 01:00:22,620

Yeah.

1204

01:00:22,620 --> 01:00:23,630

Thank you.

1205

01:00:23,630 --> 01:00:25,850

Thank you very much.

1206

01:00:25,850 --> 01:00:34,000