

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,976

2

00:00:05,976 --> 00:00:09,462

[MUSIC PLAYING]

3

00:00:09,462 --> 00:00:26,420

4

00:00:26,420 --> 00:00:28,080

Good afternoon.

5

00:00:28,080 --> 00:00:32,420

My name is Anne Kaplan I'm
a member of a Kean College

6

00:00:32,420 --> 00:00:35,960

Holocaust Oral
Histories project.

7

00:00:35,960 --> 00:00:39,710

We are affiliated with
the Yale Video Archive

8

00:00:39,710 --> 00:00:42,500

for Holocaust Testimonies.

9

00:00:42,500 --> 00:00:50,300

I will be sharing this
interview with Nancy Kislin.

10

00:00:50,300 --> 00:00:52,460

Today, we are
privileged to welcome

11

00:00:52,460 --> 00:00:57,800

Suzanne Winarsky, a
survivor presently living

12

00:00:57,800 --> 00:01:00,020

in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

13

00:01:00,020 --> 00:01:02,450

She will be telling us
about her experiences

14

00:01:02,450 --> 00:01:06,590

before, during, and
after the Holocaust.

15

00:01:06,590 --> 00:01:08,960

Mrs. Winarsky, welcome.

16

00:01:08,960 --> 00:01:10,100

Thank you.

17

00:01:10,100 --> 00:01:13,730

Would you please tell us,
Mrs. Winarsky, about the town

18

00:01:13,730 --> 00:01:16,640

or the city in Europe
where you grew up.

19

00:01:16,640 --> 00:01:19,450

20

00:01:19,450 --> 00:01:24,130

I was born and I grew up
in the city of Mannheim,

21

00:01:24,130 --> 00:01:26,620

which at that time
was a very large city.

22

00:01:26,620 --> 00:01:29,320

I believe it is still
a very large city.

23

00:01:29,320 --> 00:01:32,160

It was a very industrial city.

24

00:01:32,160 --> 00:01:34,540

It was on the confluence
of two rivers,

25
00:01:34,540 --> 00:01:36,880
of the River Rhine and Neckar.

26
00:01:36,880 --> 00:01:39,880
So therefore there
was a lot of industry,

27
00:01:39,880 --> 00:01:43,480
and industry generated a
great many other things.

28
00:01:43,480 --> 00:01:48,340
We had museums, we had the
colleges, we had the theaters,

29
00:01:48,340 --> 00:01:50,080
we had concert halls.

30
00:01:50,080 --> 00:01:51,880
We were all privileged
to participate

31
00:01:51,880 --> 00:01:54,280
in these activities.

32
00:01:54,280 --> 00:01:58,630
The city had about 500,000
people at the time.

33
00:01:58,630 --> 00:02:02,330
There was a large
Jewish congregation,

34
00:02:02,330 --> 00:02:04,120
there was an Orthodox
congregation,

35
00:02:04,120 --> 00:02:06,820
and a conservative congregation.

36

00:02:06,820 --> 00:02:11,140

I grew up with the
conservative group.

37

00:02:11,140 --> 00:02:14,950

Tell me about your family,
about what your father did.

38

00:02:14,950 --> 00:02:18,580

And I'm sure you had
a warm family life.

39

00:02:18,580 --> 00:02:20,590

We'd like to hear about it.

40

00:02:20,590 --> 00:02:25,340

Well, I'd like to think that
I had a warm family life.

41

00:02:25,340 --> 00:02:27,610

We had lots of
relatives who either

42

00:02:27,610 --> 00:02:31,440

lived in town, or in the
city, or we visited them.

43

00:02:31,440 --> 00:02:33,640

My mother came from
a small country town,

44

00:02:33,640 --> 00:02:36,220

and we very often
went there to visit,

45

00:02:36,220 --> 00:02:40,390

because her mother and her
sister still lived there.

46

00:02:40,390 --> 00:02:43,180

And it was always a
pleasure for us to go there,

47

00:02:43,180 --> 00:02:48,220

because we were
admired when we came,

48

00:02:48,220 --> 00:02:49,940

we were spoiled when we came.

49

00:02:49,940 --> 00:02:51,050

So it was very nice.

50

00:02:51,050 --> 00:02:54,270

We came from the big city.

51

00:02:54,270 --> 00:02:58,790

My father was what you would
call a customs representative.

52

00:02:58,790 --> 00:03:00,740

He had to travel a great deal.

53

00:03:00,740 --> 00:03:02,290

He traveled all over Germany.

54

00:03:02,290 --> 00:03:05,140

And whenever he
traveled, he would

55

00:03:05,140 --> 00:03:07,750

bring us something
very interesting back.

56

00:03:07,750 --> 00:03:10,030

So we didn't mind
when he had to leave

57

00:03:10,030 --> 00:03:13,870

and be gone for several weeks.

58

00:03:13,870 --> 00:03:16,540

You had two brothers.

59

00:03:16,540 --> 00:03:18,640

Yes, I had a brother
who was two years old,

60

00:03:18,640 --> 00:03:20,950

and I had a younger brother
who was eight years younger

61

00:03:20,950 --> 00:03:22,450

than I was.

62

00:03:22,450 --> 00:03:29,590

I had my mother, and
we he had a good life.

63

00:03:29,590 --> 00:03:30,610

Yes.

64

00:03:30,610 --> 00:03:33,490

And what was your
schooling like?

65

00:03:33,490 --> 00:03:35,150

My schooling was very pleasant.

66

00:03:35,150 --> 00:03:36,940

I went to a private school.

67

00:03:36,940 --> 00:03:38,770

I went to school
three days a week,

68

00:03:38,770 --> 00:03:40,930

on Monday, Wednesdays,
and Fridays,

69

00:03:40,930 --> 00:03:45,670

with five other children so
I wouldn't be overburdened.

70

00:03:45,670 --> 00:03:48,640

71

00:03:48,640 --> 00:03:51,310

But, of course, we met
in the teacher's home.

72

00:03:51,310 --> 00:03:53,950

But the teacher was, of
course, a licensed teacher.

73

00:03:53,950 --> 00:03:57,970

It was-- the Germans are very
fussy about these things.

74

00:03:57,970 --> 00:04:03,190

But it was a very,
very pleasant.

75

00:04:03,190 --> 00:04:05,290

It was very nice
to go to school.

76

00:04:05,290 --> 00:04:07,000

And--

77

00:04:07,000 --> 00:04:08,800

Did you attend a
religious school?

78

00:04:08,800 --> 00:04:10,120

Yes.

79

00:04:10,120 --> 00:04:13,210

We had a religious school.

80

00:04:13,210 --> 00:04:15,530

I don't remember when I
started religious school,

81

00:04:15,530 --> 00:04:19,510

but we did go to religious
school twice a week.

82

00:04:19,510 --> 00:04:21,550

That was after school.

83

00:04:21,550 --> 00:04:24,490

The German school
system was so set up

84

00:04:24,490 --> 00:04:29,350

that religious teachers would
come to school twice a week

85

00:04:29,350 --> 00:04:32,830

to give instructions for
I believe it was an hour.

86

00:04:32,830 --> 00:04:36,790

But my brother and I
went to in the afternoon

87

00:04:36,790 --> 00:04:39,730

to another religious
school where

88

00:04:39,730 --> 00:04:43,330

the training was more intense.

89

00:04:43,330 --> 00:04:45,020

Mostly for the Boys.

90

00:04:45,020 --> 00:04:45,867

No, for girls also.

91

00:04:45,867 --> 00:04:46,450

The girls too?

92

00:04:46,450 --> 00:04:49,540

Yes, absolutely.

93

00:04:49,540 --> 00:04:55,240

Did you notice any changes
in the general atmosphere,

94

00:04:55,240 --> 00:04:56,990

any change of laws?

95

00:04:56,990 --> 00:05:00,490

Since you went to
private school, perhaps

96

00:05:00,490 --> 00:05:01,450

they didn't touch you.

97

00:05:01,450 --> 00:05:05,080

But were there any
laws that pertained

98

00:05:05,080 --> 00:05:08,680

to the Jewish people in public
schools that you were aware of.

99

00:05:08,680 --> 00:05:09,910

No, not at that time.

100

00:05:09,910 --> 00:05:13,490

When I started high
school, I was 10.

101

00:05:13,490 --> 00:05:16,510

Which is the set up in Germany.

102

00:05:16,510 --> 00:05:20,950

You go four years
to school and then

103

00:05:20,950 --> 00:05:22,480

in the fifth grade
you start going

104

00:05:22,480 --> 00:05:26,170

to either high school for
which you have to pay,

105

00:05:26,170 --> 00:05:29,650

or you continue in the public
school until the eighth grade,

106

00:05:29,650 --> 00:05:32,290
and then you can go to work.

107

00:05:32,290 --> 00:05:34,120
But in high school,
of course, then you

108

00:05:34,120 --> 00:05:35,380
have a different program.

109

00:05:35,380 --> 00:05:37,405
You have either a
six-year program

110

00:05:37,405 --> 00:05:39,410
or an eight-year program.

111

00:05:39,410 --> 00:05:39,910
When.

112

00:05:39,910 --> 00:05:41,415
You finish the
eight-year program,

113

00:05:41,415 --> 00:05:42,540
you could go on to college.

114

00:05:42,540 --> 00:05:47,100
The six-- I don't remember but
the six-year program entitled

115

00:05:47,100 --> 00:05:51,610
you to, because it was always
assumed that we children would

116

00:05:51,610 --> 00:05:54,530
go to the eight-year program.

117

00:05:54,530 --> 00:05:59,140
And when you finished or
graduated the level that you

118

00:05:59,140 --> 00:06:02,980

did, what happened after that?

119

00:06:02,980 --> 00:06:03,520

Yeah.

120

00:06:03,520 --> 00:06:05,530

Well, I didn't graduate
from high school.

121

00:06:05,530 --> 00:06:12,430

I left high school when
I was 15 because we

122

00:06:12,430 --> 00:06:13,810

were invited to leave.

123

00:06:13,810 --> 00:06:16,480

The Jewish students
were invited to leave.

124

00:06:16,480 --> 00:06:18,560

But there were not that
many Jewish students,

125

00:06:18,560 --> 00:06:22,690

so we all left, and we all
went to a private school

126

00:06:22,690 --> 00:06:24,400

to learn languages.

127

00:06:24,400 --> 00:06:29,260

I learned French, and
English, and of course we

128

00:06:29,260 --> 00:06:31,240

had some German courses too.

129

00:06:31,240 --> 00:06:35,560

This was the school where we
were taught commercial subjects

130
00:06:35,560 --> 00:06:38,423
in three different languages.

131
00:06:38,423 --> 00:06:40,840
Did you think it was strange
that the Jewish students were

132
00:06:40,840 --> 00:06:41,920
asked to leave?

133
00:06:41,920 --> 00:06:43,090
No.

134
00:06:43,090 --> 00:06:43,780
No.

135
00:06:43,780 --> 00:06:46,060
All my girlfriends left,
so we went from one school

136
00:06:46,060 --> 00:06:46,740
to the next.

137
00:06:46,740 --> 00:06:48,490
So it didn't really matter.

138
00:06:48,490 --> 00:06:51,340
Life went on pretty
much the same as it had.

139
00:06:51,340 --> 00:06:54,340
No one gave a second
thought that this

140
00:06:54,340 --> 00:07:01,630
might be the forerunner
of exclusionary laws?

141
00:07:01,630 --> 00:07:03,320
They didn't consider
it antisemitic

142
00:07:03,320 --> 00:07:04,570
even though in essence it was.

143
00:07:04,570 --> 00:07:07,000
Yes, but the Germans
were always antisemitic.

144
00:07:07,000 --> 00:07:11,622
We always lived with a certain
degree of antisemitism.

145
00:07:11,622 --> 00:07:12,580
So [INTERPOSING VOICES]

146
00:07:12,580 --> 00:07:14,620
So it wasn't all that different.

147
00:07:14,620 --> 00:07:18,730
Or if it was very different,
it was never made aware to me.

148
00:07:18,730 --> 00:07:24,010
What was your earliest memory
of antisemitism in Germany?

149
00:07:24,010 --> 00:07:27,310
I don't remember
any antisemitism.

150
00:07:27,310 --> 00:07:28,570
I really don't.

151
00:07:28,570 --> 00:07:33,610
The only thing I remember that
the household help, under 45

152
00:07:33,610 --> 00:07:36,970
could not work in
a Jewish household.

153
00:07:36,970 --> 00:07:41,680

They felt that Jewish men
might do something that might

154
00:07:41,680 --> 00:07:45,760
offend anyone who's under 45.

155
00:07:45,760 --> 00:07:52,150
So one lady left, and another
one came who was over 45.

156
00:07:52,150 --> 00:07:52,930
That was about it.

157
00:07:52,930 --> 00:07:54,975
But a non-Jewish lady was
permitted to work in your home.

158
00:07:54,975 --> 00:07:55,330
Yeah.

159
00:07:55,330 --> 00:07:57,788
They were permitted to work as
long as they were old enough

160
00:07:57,788 --> 00:07:58,990
to do so.

161
00:07:58,990 --> 00:08:03,370
When you left school, then
what was your goal after that?

162
00:08:03,370 --> 00:08:05,200
You didn't go out to work.

163
00:08:05,200 --> 00:08:07,240
No, I was supposed to
go to school for a time,

164
00:08:07,240 --> 00:08:11,470
and then, well, I had an
aunt in the United States,

165

00:08:11,470 --> 00:08:14,410
and my father wrote to
her and asked whether I

166
00:08:14,410 --> 00:08:15,880
could come and stay with her.

167
00:08:15,880 --> 00:08:18,910
And she wrote back,
and she said, yes.

168
00:08:18,910 --> 00:08:21,070
And that more or less
was customary from--

169
00:08:21,070 --> 00:08:21,580
Yes.

170
00:08:21,580 --> 00:08:23,980
--to go to one
country or another--

171
00:08:23,980 --> 00:08:24,970
Yes.

172
00:08:24,970 --> 00:08:27,040
--to further the education.

173
00:08:27,040 --> 00:08:29,230
In your case, it was
the United States.

174
00:08:29,230 --> 00:08:32,320
And how did you find life
then in the United States

175
00:08:32,320 --> 00:08:35,380
with your aunt?

176
00:08:35,380 --> 00:08:37,221
Well, that was quite different.

177

00:08:37,221 --> 00:08:40,030

178

00:08:40,030 --> 00:08:44,140

I had three cousins
who were my age.

179

00:08:44,140 --> 00:08:47,530

There was a daughter who was in
college at the time, a son who

180

00:08:47,530 --> 00:08:51,340

was in high school, and a
younger daughter who was also--

181

00:08:51,340 --> 00:08:53,980

no, she was still
in grammar school.

182

00:08:53,980 --> 00:08:56,230

And we got along.

183

00:08:56,230 --> 00:09:02,140

They-- I was a novelty to them,
and took me around and showed

184

00:09:02,140 --> 00:09:02,650

me off--

185

00:09:02,650 --> 00:09:05,630

Here's my cousin from Germany--

186

00:09:05,630 --> 00:09:07,960

which was quite something.

187

00:09:07,960 --> 00:09:12,460

And then my aunt did
send me to high school

188

00:09:12,460 --> 00:09:16,300

here, because she felt I
should improve my English.

189

00:09:16,300 --> 00:09:19,840

But she would not let me go
to New York to get a job.

190

00:09:19,840 --> 00:09:21,610

And you were qualified.

191

00:09:21,610 --> 00:09:24,130

Yeah, I could have
worked in an expert firm

192

00:09:24,130 --> 00:09:29,032

or in some kind of on
an international basis.

193

00:09:29,032 --> 00:09:30,490

Because of your
study of languages.

194

00:09:30,490 --> 00:09:33,100

Because of my
language background.

195

00:09:33,100 --> 00:09:35,440

And European children
learn many languages.

196

00:09:35,440 --> 00:09:39,420

And you had-- what
were your languages--

197

00:09:39,420 --> 00:09:40,840

well, it was--

198

00:09:40,840 --> 00:09:42,310

Besides German of course.

199

00:09:42,310 --> 00:09:44,020

French, and English,
and then of course

200

00:09:44,020 --> 00:09:47,110

I had a good Hebrew background also.

201
00:09:47,110 --> 00:09:53,210
So that instead you were kept in Newark to do what?

202
00:09:53,210 --> 00:09:53,760
Yeah.

203
00:09:53,760 --> 00:09:55,630
Well, I became a hairdresser.

204
00:09:55,630 --> 00:09:58,350
That's a far cry.

205
00:09:58,350 --> 00:09:58,850
And you--

206
00:09:58,850 --> 00:10:02,150
But yeah, I didn't have to travel.

207
00:10:02,150 --> 00:10:06,250
And I think hairdressing at the time

208
00:10:06,250 --> 00:10:09,610
was not quite an acceptable profession.

209
00:10:09,610 --> 00:10:17,200
It was something not really what nice people did.

210
00:10:17,200 --> 00:10:18,700
I don't know why.

211
00:10:18,700 --> 00:10:21,990
But as I said, I wasn't aware of it at the time.

212

00:10:21,990 --> 00:10:23,420
I only realized it later.

213
00:10:23,420 --> 00:10:23,920
Yeah.

214
00:10:23,920 --> 00:10:25,870
But that was the
important thing.

215
00:10:25,870 --> 00:10:28,000
What was your older
brother doing at the time

216
00:10:28,000 --> 00:10:29,870
when you came to America?

217
00:10:29,870 --> 00:10:32,170
My older brother was
still in Germany,

218
00:10:32,170 --> 00:10:37,666
but he made preparations to
come to the United States.

219
00:10:37,666 --> 00:10:43,570
He went to England for
several months as a stopgap.

220
00:10:43,570 --> 00:10:45,970
But I think I was
in this country

221
00:10:45,970 --> 00:10:50,380
already even when
he made this move.

222
00:10:50,380 --> 00:10:54,760
Was that part of his departure
into a foreign country,

223
00:10:54,760 --> 00:10:57,890
or were things

beginning to erupt

224

00:10:57,890 --> 00:11:01,070

so that it was important
for him to make this move?

225

00:11:01,070 --> 00:11:04,090

Yeah, he had a chance
to leave, and he left.

226

00:11:04,090 --> 00:11:09,040

And it was important at that
point to leave for anybody.

227

00:11:09,040 --> 00:11:11,420

You were in touch with your
family by mail of course.

228

00:11:11,420 --> 00:11:11,920

Yes.

229

00:11:11,920 --> 00:11:15,370

And you had no indication, or
they gave you no indication,

230

00:11:15,370 --> 00:11:18,460

that things were changing.

231

00:11:18,460 --> 00:11:23,080

Well, the indications I had
were strictly through the United

232

00:11:23,080 --> 00:11:25,300

States press.

233

00:11:25,300 --> 00:11:27,640

Mail from Germany
was always censored.

234

00:11:27,640 --> 00:11:32,690

Or the possibility of being
censored was always present.

235

00:11:32,690 --> 00:11:36,670

So they were very cautious
in what they wrote.

236

00:11:36,670 --> 00:11:39,520

How are you feeling
at this time,

237

00:11:39,520 --> 00:11:42,250

being here in America, and
your parents and your family

238

00:11:42,250 --> 00:11:45,100

in Germany, still in your town?

239

00:11:45,100 --> 00:11:45,760

Yeah.

240

00:11:45,760 --> 00:11:48,860

I began to miss the very much.

241

00:11:48,860 --> 00:11:49,360

Yes.

242

00:11:49,360 --> 00:11:51,715

I had hoped that they would
come here very speedily.

243

00:11:51,715 --> 00:11:54,660

244

00:11:54,660 --> 00:12:01,770

The things that we're beginning
to come to a head in Germany

245

00:12:01,770 --> 00:12:04,830

prompted people to
apply for visas.

246

00:12:04,830 --> 00:12:08,595

Why don't you tell us about your
parents' experiences with that.

247
00:12:08,595 --> 00:12:11,520

248
00:12:11,520 --> 00:12:14,760
You had to apply to
unite United States

249
00:12:14,760 --> 00:12:17,850
consulate for a
number, which gave you

250
00:12:17,850 --> 00:12:22,830
a turn for a visa to emigrate.

251
00:12:22,830 --> 00:12:27,870
And, of course, my parents had
a number where the whole family

252
00:12:27,870 --> 00:12:29,110
could have left--

253
00:12:29,110 --> 00:12:32,940
my remaining family, my
parents and my brother.

254
00:12:32,940 --> 00:12:37,230
But they gave this opportunity
to my mother's sister

255
00:12:37,230 --> 00:12:38,370
who had to--

256
00:12:38,370 --> 00:12:41,820
who needed to
leave very quickly.

257
00:12:41,820 --> 00:12:43,810
You want to elaborate on that?

258
00:12:43,810 --> 00:12:44,310
Yes.

259

00:12:44,310 --> 00:12:50,010

My aunt's husband, my Uncle,
was interned in a concentration

260

00:12:50,010 --> 00:12:51,510

camp for a time.

261

00:12:51,510 --> 00:12:54,210

And the condition
to his release was

262

00:12:54,210 --> 00:12:56,490

that he would
leave very quickly,

263

00:12:56,490 --> 00:12:59,340

otherwise he would
be re-interned.

264

00:12:59,340 --> 00:13:03,360

And therefore that was the
only way they could leave.

265

00:13:03,360 --> 00:13:07,440

My parents giving their turn,
their visa number to my aunt

266

00:13:07,440 --> 00:13:09,210

and Uncle.

267

00:13:09,210 --> 00:13:11,110

And then they reapplied?

268

00:13:11,110 --> 00:13:13,050

My parents reapplied, yes.

269

00:13:13,050 --> 00:13:15,180

And they had to get at
the end of the line again.

270

00:13:15,180 --> 00:13:17,430

Yes.

271

00:13:17,430 --> 00:13:21,600

In the meantime, what was
happening within the family?

272

00:13:21,600 --> 00:13:26,490

Your younger brother, what
was happening with him?

273

00:13:26,490 --> 00:13:29,730

He was 12 years old at the time.

274

00:13:29,730 --> 00:13:31,560

He was asked-- invited--

275

00:13:31,560 --> 00:13:34,620

to stay with my father's
sister in Belgium.

276

00:13:34,620 --> 00:13:37,530

She felt food was
more plentiful,

277

00:13:37,530 --> 00:13:39,160

there would be
less restrictions,

278

00:13:39,160 --> 00:13:42,960

he could go to school
freely, and my parents

279

00:13:42,960 --> 00:13:45,480

sent him to stay with her.

280

00:13:45,480 --> 00:13:47,910

And the proviso
was that he would

281

00:13:47,910 --> 00:13:51,450

return when my parents were
ready to leave for the United

282
00:13:51,450 --> 00:13:53,510
States.

283
00:13:53,510 --> 00:13:56,330
And then the signal
came from your father

284
00:13:56,330 --> 00:13:59,900
to your aunt in Belgium that
they were ready to leave.

285
00:13:59,900 --> 00:14:01,200
Yeah, they wrote to each other.

286
00:14:01,200 --> 00:14:03,830
There was mail.

287
00:14:03,830 --> 00:14:06,440
The mail connection was open.

288
00:14:06,440 --> 00:14:11,190
So your brother left to meet
your father at the border?

289
00:14:11,190 --> 00:14:13,280
Yes, my father couldn't
cross the German border

290
00:14:13,280 --> 00:14:15,380
at this point, and
he was supposed

291
00:14:15,380 --> 00:14:19,910
to meet my brother in Cologne,
which was the closest railroad

292
00:14:19,910 --> 00:14:22,150
stop to the Belgium border.

293
00:14:22,150 --> 00:14:26,120
But the day he was
supposed to go to Cologne,

294
00:14:26,120 --> 00:14:30,920
all the Jews from the city of
Mannheim and the home state

295
00:14:30,920 --> 00:14:35,660
of Baden, B-A-D-E-N,
were deported.

296
00:14:35,660 --> 00:14:37,320
They were rounded
up and deported.

297
00:14:37,320 --> 00:14:40,370
And even though my parents
know my younger brother

298
00:14:40,370 --> 00:14:42,320
would arrive presently,
they were not

299
00:14:42,320 --> 00:14:44,002
permitted to wait for him.

300
00:14:44,002 --> 00:14:45,710
There was nothing they
could do about it?

301
00:14:45,710 --> 00:14:46,220
No.

302
00:14:46,220 --> 00:14:48,890
And then when your
brother came to Cologne

303
00:14:48,890 --> 00:14:53,240
and your father wasn't
there, what happened to him?

304
00:14:53,240 --> 00:14:56,030
Well, I don't know how he
made his way to Mannheim,

305

00:14:56,030 --> 00:14:57,530

but he did make his way.

306

00:14:57,530 --> 00:15:02,120

And maybe his railroad
ticket read Mannheim--

307

00:15:02,120 --> 00:15:03,680

as I said, I don't know.

308

00:15:03,680 --> 00:15:09,020

But he did come, and
there was no one there.

309

00:15:09,020 --> 00:15:11,900

And someone, from
what I heard later,

310

00:15:11,900 --> 00:15:14,690

told him to go to the
city of Frankfurt,

311

00:15:14,690 --> 00:15:16,160

where there were still Jews.

312

00:15:16,160 --> 00:15:19,580

The Jews in Frankfurt, which
was a different German state,

313

00:15:19,580 --> 00:15:22,440

were not deported at that point.

314

00:15:22,440 --> 00:15:25,040

So he did go to Frankfurt
and someone directed him

315

00:15:25,040 --> 00:15:30,020

to the Jewish orphanage,
where he was taken in.

316

00:15:30,020 --> 00:15:32,300

Do you know where your

parents were taken to?

317

00:15:32,300 --> 00:15:37,190

Yes, my parents were taken
to a camp in southern France

318

00:15:37,190 --> 00:15:43,190

by the Gurs, G-U-R-S. And
we were in contact with them

319

00:15:43,190 --> 00:15:45,760

at that point.

320

00:15:45,760 --> 00:15:49,360

Afterwards, they were
sent to different camps.

321

00:15:49,360 --> 00:15:53,090

Again, my mother
was in Marseilles.

322

00:15:53,090 --> 00:15:55,820

I don't remember whether
my father was in Marseilles

323

00:15:55,820 --> 00:15:58,090

or whether they were in
another camp called Tarbes,

324

00:15:58,090 --> 00:16:01,880

T-A-R-B-E-S. This,
I don't remember.

325

00:16:01,880 --> 00:16:03,770

But they both were--

326

00:16:03,770 --> 00:16:05,720

at one point, they both
were in Marseilles.

327

00:16:05,720 --> 00:16:07,512

Not together-- they
couldn't live together.

328
00:16:07,512 --> 00:16:09,920

329
00:16:09,920 --> 00:16:14,510
And they were waiting
to leave France,

330
00:16:14,510 --> 00:16:17,930
to come to the United States.

331
00:16:17,930 --> 00:16:23,090
When you corresponded with
your family at Marseilles,

332
00:16:23,090 --> 00:16:27,193
you wrote separate letters
to your parents, to each one?

333
00:16:27,193 --> 00:16:28,610
You knew that they
were separated,

334
00:16:28,610 --> 00:16:29,610
or you didn't know that.

335
00:16:29,610 --> 00:16:31,340
No, they did see each other.

336
00:16:31,340 --> 00:16:34,400
They might have seen each other
maybe once or twice a week.

337
00:16:34,400 --> 00:16:36,680
But they just didn't
live together.

338
00:16:36,680 --> 00:16:40,850
They lived in different hotels.

339
00:16:40,850 --> 00:16:45,270
So your correspondence

was fairly frequent.

340

00:16:45,270 --> 00:16:50,660

Well, war had already
started with England,

341

00:16:50,660 --> 00:16:55,550

and it wasn't very often, but
we did hear from each other.

342

00:16:55,550 --> 00:16:58,460

And until-- when did
you finally realize

343

00:16:58,460 --> 00:17:01,700

that things were not going well?

344

00:17:01,700 --> 00:17:03,710

When the mail was
returned from France.

345

00:17:03,710 --> 00:17:06,780

You were getting your
mail back from Marseilles.

346

00:17:06,780 --> 00:17:07,280

Yes.

347

00:17:07,280 --> 00:17:12,920

In the meantime, was your
brother back here from London?

348

00:17:12,920 --> 00:17:16,260

My brother was in the
United States, yes.

349

00:17:16,260 --> 00:17:18,740

Why don't you tell us about
his experience in England

350

00:17:18,740 --> 00:17:21,740

and how it was that
some of the Jews

351
00:17:21,740 --> 00:17:25,190
were able to find a haven there.

352
00:17:25,190 --> 00:17:28,730
The firm of Marks
and Spencer realized

353
00:17:28,730 --> 00:17:30,530
what was going on
in Germany, and they

354
00:17:30,530 --> 00:17:36,980
offered any Jewish person who
was waiting to enter the United

355
00:17:36,980 --> 00:17:38,450
States an interim haven.

356
00:17:38,450 --> 00:17:40,640
And it literally was a haven.

357
00:17:40,640 --> 00:17:43,500
And my brother fell
within this category.

358
00:17:43,500 --> 00:17:47,240
And he lived in a very small
country town in England,

359
00:17:47,240 --> 00:17:50,900
but nevertheless he lived
there, and he was safe.

360
00:17:50,900 --> 00:17:53,120
He lived with an English lady.

361
00:17:53,120 --> 00:17:55,790
I guess she was paid
by Marks and Spencer.

362
00:17:55,790 --> 00:18:01,410

And Marks and Spencer
got him a job.

363
00:18:01,410 --> 00:18:02,730
He was a printer.

364
00:18:02,730 --> 00:18:07,230
He printed corset labels
for their various stores.

365
00:18:07,230 --> 00:18:08,340
Very necessary.

366
00:18:08,340 --> 00:18:09,195
Yes.

367
00:18:09,195 --> 00:18:10,620
And their philanthropy
saved countless lives.

368
00:18:10,620 --> 00:18:11,180
Yes.

369
00:18:11,180 --> 00:18:13,412
Oh, there's no
question about it.

370
00:18:13,412 --> 00:18:14,620
There's no question about it.

371
00:18:14,620 --> 00:18:17,850
How much time did he spend
in England before he finally

372
00:18:17,850 --> 00:18:19,260
got to the United States?

373
00:18:19,260 --> 00:18:22,690
I imagine it was about
nine months or a year.

374
00:18:22,690 --> 00:18:24,810

It was not very, very long.

375

00:18:24,810 --> 00:18:26,370

It was less than a year.

376

00:18:26,370 --> 00:18:28,490

What year did he come
to the United States?

377

00:18:28,490 --> 00:18:31,920

378

00:18:31,920 --> 00:18:33,535

It was maybe 1940.

379

00:18:33,535 --> 00:18:35,470

War had already broken out.

380

00:18:35,470 --> 00:18:39,790

England was at war, so it
must have been 1940-1941.

381

00:18:39,790 --> 00:18:42,970

So you were separated for
about three years before--

382

00:18:42,970 --> 00:18:45,640

Yes, three-four years.

383

00:18:45,640 --> 00:18:49,540

While he was in England,
did he have better contact

384

00:18:49,540 --> 00:18:50,290

with your parents?

385

00:18:50,290 --> 00:18:50,790

No.

386

00:18:50,790 --> 00:18:51,290

No.

387

00:18:51,290 --> 00:18:51,850

No, no.

388

00:18:51,850 --> 00:18:55,960

Then war had started,
and there was no contact.

389

00:18:55,960 --> 00:18:58,870

So he couldn't bring
you any more information

390

00:18:58,870 --> 00:19:00,210

of the family at all.

391

00:19:00,210 --> 00:19:00,710

No.

392

00:19:00,710 --> 00:19:01,780

No, he couldn't.

393

00:19:01,780 --> 00:19:04,930

When did you find
out or how did you

394

00:19:04,930 --> 00:19:08,890

find out what subsequently
happened to your family?

395

00:19:08,890 --> 00:19:12,790

I received a letter from
some relief organization

396

00:19:12,790 --> 00:19:17,230

in Paris who had
a roster of people

397

00:19:17,230 --> 00:19:19,840

who were taken to Auschwitz.

398

00:19:19,840 --> 00:19:20,980

And that's when I heard.

399

00:19:20,980 --> 00:19:22,520

And they were on the list.

400

00:19:22,520 --> 00:19:23,020

Yeah.

401

00:19:23,020 --> 00:19:27,130

I never had any
official notification

402

00:19:27,130 --> 00:19:29,170

that my younger brother
had gone to Auschwitz.

403

00:19:29,170 --> 00:19:33,910

It's merely a surmising
on everyone's part.

404

00:19:33,910 --> 00:19:34,900

An assumption.

405

00:19:34,900 --> 00:19:36,940

Or from any of the other
kids who might have

406

00:19:36,940 --> 00:19:38,870

been in that same orphanage.

407

00:19:38,870 --> 00:19:43,630

It was prophetic that
he went to an orphanage

408

00:19:43,630 --> 00:19:46,515

while your parents
were still alive.

409

00:19:46,515 --> 00:19:47,640

He was separated from them.

410

00:19:47,640 --> 00:19:47,980

In effect--

411
00:19:47,980 --> 00:19:48,380
Yeah.

412
00:19:48,380 --> 00:19:49,450
--that's what he became.

413
00:19:49,450 --> 00:19:52,570
Definitely.

414
00:19:52,570 --> 00:19:57,220
What were your feelings living
in America hearing about this?

415
00:19:57,220 --> 00:19:58,795
Did you do anything?

416
00:19:58,795 --> 00:20:01,460

417
00:20:01,460 --> 00:20:03,950
Yes.

418
00:20:03,950 --> 00:20:07,790
I-- when I knew
that my parents were

419
00:20:07,790 --> 00:20:11,570
in France in the unoccupied--
so-called unoccupied-- part

420
00:20:11,570 --> 00:20:17,480
of France, I did try to
contact the French consulate

421
00:20:17,480 --> 00:20:19,860
in New York.

422
00:20:19,860 --> 00:20:22,820
I went several times
to go to Washington

423

00:20:22,820 --> 00:20:26,420
to speak to our senators
and representatives

424
00:20:26,420 --> 00:20:29,410
to see what I possibly could do.

425
00:20:29,410 --> 00:20:31,990

426
00:20:31,990 --> 00:20:32,990
What was their reaction?

427
00:20:32,990 --> 00:20:36,032

428
00:20:36,032 --> 00:20:41,690
Oh, they were most solicitous,
but nothing was ever done.

429
00:20:41,690 --> 00:20:46,520
The experience that you
had with the consulate--

430
00:20:46,520 --> 00:20:50,910
the French consulate
in New York--

431
00:20:50,910 --> 00:20:52,780
he gave you any hope--

432
00:20:52,780 --> 00:20:53,280
Nothing.

433
00:20:53,280 --> 00:20:54,160
--in the kind of
reception he gave--

434
00:20:54,160 --> 00:20:54,660
Nothing.

435
00:20:54,660 --> 00:20:55,730

Give you at all.

436
00:20:55,730 --> 00:20:58,880
He merely stated that
he had no idea what

437
00:20:58,880 --> 00:21:02,100
was happening at this point.

438
00:21:02,100 --> 00:21:04,380
Did they give you any
reasons for refusing

439
00:21:04,380 --> 00:21:09,150
when you went to the senators,
and the mayor of Newark,

440
00:21:09,150 --> 00:21:11,460
and all the other
avenues that you tried?

441
00:21:11,460 --> 00:21:14,137
What were their reasons?

442
00:21:14,137 --> 00:21:15,720
The reasons were,
the State Department

443
00:21:15,720 --> 00:21:19,500
said that anyone who has
relatives, close relatives,

444
00:21:19,500 --> 00:21:22,350
in the occupied
territories, might possibly

445
00:21:22,350 --> 00:21:29,370
be used as hostages,
so to say, to work

446
00:21:29,370 --> 00:21:31,620
against the German government--

447

00:21:31,620 --> 00:21:33,120

Against the American government.

448

00:21:33,120 --> 00:21:34,590

No, against the

German government

449

00:21:34,590 --> 00:21:36,240

if they were to come

to this country.

450

00:21:36,240 --> 00:21:37,200

Yes, I see.

451

00:21:37,200 --> 00:21:38,670

Yeah.

452

00:21:38,670 --> 00:21:40,480

No, during that time--

453

00:21:40,480 --> 00:21:41,970

well, it was wartime.

454

00:21:41,970 --> 00:21:44,130

I know someone came

to my aunt's house

455

00:21:44,130 --> 00:21:47,580

to check out the radio

to make sure there

456

00:21:47,580 --> 00:21:51,410

was no shortwave

connection with Europe.

457

00:21:51,410 --> 00:21:53,340

In other words, they

were not as much

458

00:21:53,340 --> 00:21:56,310

concerned then with being

subversive towards the United

459

00:21:56,310 --> 00:22:01,050

States as being working against
the German government with whom

460

00:22:01,050 --> 00:22:02,260

we were not yet at war.

461

00:22:02,260 --> 00:22:03,030

Oh, I'm sorry.

462

00:22:03,030 --> 00:22:06,432

I-- they were afraid
to work against--

463

00:22:06,432 --> 00:22:07,890

that the Germans
would put pressure

464

00:22:07,890 --> 00:22:10,480

on my parents to work against
the United States government.

465

00:22:10,480 --> 00:22:10,980

Oh, yes.

466

00:22:10,980 --> 00:22:12,030

Definitely.

467

00:22:12,030 --> 00:22:12,750

I'm sorry.

468

00:22:12,750 --> 00:22:21,460

Yes, that was-- so waiting for
the visa became your project

469

00:22:21,460 --> 00:22:23,020

to see what you could do.

470

00:22:23,020 --> 00:22:29,500

And you covered all the
avenues and to no avail.

471
00:22:29,500 --> 00:22:31,570
As a matter of fact, one
time I took a vacation,

472
00:22:31,570 --> 00:22:35,410
and I went literally--

473
00:22:35,410 --> 00:22:38,060
10 miles away from
work there was a hotel.

474
00:22:38,060 --> 00:22:42,880
It was [? Gottman's ?] Hotel,
which is very close to work.

475
00:22:42,880 --> 00:22:45,820
Because I could take a bus
from there to New York.

476
00:22:45,820 --> 00:22:48,010
If my parents were to
come during that time,

477
00:22:48,010 --> 00:22:53,390
there would be no problem
for me to get there.

478
00:22:53,390 --> 00:22:55,390
So you hoped all the while.

479
00:22:55,390 --> 00:23:02,370
And when exactly, or was
there any such exact time,

480
00:23:02,370 --> 00:23:05,910
that you finally did learn that
there was no point in longing

481
00:23:05,910 --> 00:23:07,430
and hoping-- that the finality--

482

00:23:07,430 --> 00:23:08,910
Well, after the war.

483
00:23:08,910 --> 00:23:09,660
Oh, after the war.

484
00:23:09,660 --> 00:23:13,395
When this mail was
sent to me from Paris.

485
00:23:13,395 --> 00:23:16,990

486
00:23:16,990 --> 00:23:19,900
Where was your older
brother living at this time?

487
00:23:19,900 --> 00:23:22,460
Well, my brother
lived in New York.

488
00:23:22,460 --> 00:23:25,030
He lived with my
mother's sister.

489
00:23:25,030 --> 00:23:26,620
He worked in New
York, but he also

490
00:23:26,620 --> 00:23:28,620
was in the United States Army.

491
00:23:28,620 --> 00:23:33,940
He was not a citizen yet, but
he became a citizen in the army.

492
00:23:33,940 --> 00:23:41,180
And he served in Africa
and in southern France--

493
00:23:41,180 --> 00:23:43,040
Italy and southern France.

494

00:23:43,040 --> 00:23:45,010

The United States

Army never permitted

495

00:23:45,010 --> 00:23:49,360

him to go to Germany while

he was in southern France.

496

00:23:49,360 --> 00:23:55,150

Never got any leave due

to investigate anyone.

497

00:23:55,150 --> 00:23:56,540

Take any chances.

498

00:23:56,540 --> 00:23:59,000

But that automatically made

him an American citizen.

499

00:23:59,000 --> 00:24:02,470

No, he was sworn in as an

American citizen in the army.

500

00:24:02,470 --> 00:24:06,070

In the army, yes.

501

00:24:06,070 --> 00:24:11,470

Where is the family to

whom your parents literally

502

00:24:11,470 --> 00:24:13,330

gave the gift of life?

503

00:24:13,330 --> 00:24:14,590

Where do they live now?

504

00:24:14,590 --> 00:24:17,620

Well, my aunt and

her husband died,

505

00:24:17,620 --> 00:24:18,940

but they lived in New York.

506

00:24:18,940 --> 00:24:22,570

They lived in Glendale.

507

00:24:22,570 --> 00:24:25,210

How are your feelings
when they came?

508

00:24:25,210 --> 00:24:28,030

Of course, you didn't know what
the circumstances would be.

509

00:24:28,030 --> 00:24:28,802

No.

510

00:24:28,802 --> 00:24:30,010

Then what were your feelings?

511

00:24:30,010 --> 00:24:31,950

Oh, I was very
happy to see them.

512

00:24:31,950 --> 00:24:32,620

Oh, yes.

513

00:24:32,620 --> 00:24:34,630

I was very happy to see them.

514

00:24:34,630 --> 00:24:38,440

I wanted to live
with them, because I

515

00:24:38,440 --> 00:24:40,280

had grown up with them.

516

00:24:40,280 --> 00:24:42,970

This was a second mother
to me, a second father.

517

00:24:42,970 --> 00:24:44,560

You felt closer with them.

518

00:24:44,560 --> 00:24:45,760

I felt very close to them.

519

00:24:45,760 --> 00:24:48,370

But my aunt in Newark
discouraged me,

520

00:24:48,370 --> 00:24:52,540

because she felt they
were a family with three

521

00:24:52,540 --> 00:24:55,210

little children who
had to make their way,

522

00:24:55,210 --> 00:24:58,000

and that I might be
a burden to them.

523

00:24:58,000 --> 00:25:00,760

So I remained.

524

00:25:00,760 --> 00:25:05,710

When you finally learned about
what happened to your parents,

525

00:25:05,710 --> 00:25:09,790

did you have any kind of
recriminations or maybe

526

00:25:09,790 --> 00:25:14,140

feelings that your parents
might have been here if they

527

00:25:14,140 --> 00:25:16,420

hadn't given up their visa?

528

00:25:16,420 --> 00:25:18,170

At the time, I didn't know it.

529

00:25:18,170 --> 00:25:18,670

Oh.

530
00:25:18,670 --> 00:25:19,870
I didn't know it.

531
00:25:19,870 --> 00:25:22,600
I only found that
out a few years ago.

532
00:25:22,600 --> 00:25:23,620
No.

533
00:25:23,620 --> 00:25:25,630
What bothered me
for a very long time

534
00:25:25,630 --> 00:25:31,000
was the man who was employed
by the French consulate.

535
00:25:31,000 --> 00:25:36,910
I had the feeling that he
might have done me a favor

536
00:25:36,910 --> 00:25:38,410
if I had done him a favor.

537
00:25:38,410 --> 00:25:39,700
But I'm not sure.

538
00:25:39,700 --> 00:25:41,830
This is merely surmising.

539
00:25:41,830 --> 00:25:45,060
He asked you to come back
or stay a little later.

540
00:25:45,060 --> 00:25:45,560
Yeah.

541
00:25:45,560 --> 00:25:48,710
Because he had asked me one
time to come after office hours.

542
00:25:48,710 --> 00:25:51,730
But, as I said, I don't know.

543
00:25:51,730 --> 00:25:52,920
No, you don't know.

544
00:25:52,920 --> 00:25:56,050
And, of course, you would not
have had any guarantees that--

545
00:25:56,050 --> 00:25:57,331
Yes.

546
00:25:57,331 --> 00:26:01,270
Did your feelings changed about
America when you learned that--

547
00:26:01,270 --> 00:26:05,180
found out that nobody
was going to help you?

548
00:26:05,180 --> 00:26:06,172
No, not really.

549
00:26:06,172 --> 00:26:06,672
No.

550
00:26:06,672 --> 00:26:09,640

551
00:26:09,640 --> 00:26:11,230
In later years,
when I understood

552
00:26:11,230 --> 00:26:15,260
the political process,
then, of course,

553
00:26:15,260 --> 00:26:17,500
I became very resentful.

554

00:26:17,500 --> 00:26:21,490

But at that point, it--

555

00:26:21,490 --> 00:26:23,140

I just didn't understand it.

556

00:26:23,140 --> 00:26:25,720

I couldn't understand this.

557

00:26:25,720 --> 00:26:31,210

Even after the war, my
brother helped some people

558

00:26:31,210 --> 00:26:33,580

whom he had known in Mannheim--

559

00:26:33,580 --> 00:26:35,350

matter of fact, he
was our dentist--

560

00:26:35,350 --> 00:26:39,200

who had miraculously
survived the war in France.

561

00:26:39,200 --> 00:26:40,840

And he was a soldier in uniform.

562

00:26:40,840 --> 00:26:44,200

He took these people to
the American consulate.

563

00:26:44,200 --> 00:26:47,830

And the American
consulate very generously

564

00:26:47,830 --> 00:26:52,690

said, why don't you tell your
friends to go back to Germany?

565

00:26:52,690 --> 00:26:53,850

And this was where?

566

00:26:53,850 --> 00:26:54,540

In?

567

00:26:54,540 --> 00:26:55,800

That was in Marseilles.

568

00:26:55,800 --> 00:26:56,640

In Marseilles.

569

00:26:56,640 --> 00:27:01,310

That was in 1945.

570

00:27:01,310 --> 00:27:05,630

Regardless of people's lives.

571

00:27:05,630 --> 00:27:07,940

What is still vivid

and alive now,

572

00:27:07,940 --> 00:27:12,490

and how do you think about it

now, and how did it change you?

573

00:27:12,490 --> 00:27:16,010

574

00:27:16,010 --> 00:27:17,460

How it changed me.

575

00:27:17,460 --> 00:27:21,390

What effect might

it have had on you?

576

00:27:21,390 --> 00:27:23,100

On my life?

577

00:27:23,100 --> 00:27:25,860

How-- your feelings,

your emotions.

578

00:27:25,860 --> 00:27:29,810

When you think of it,
how incomprehensible

579
00:27:29,810 --> 00:27:32,610
a thing like that
could be, how did it

580
00:27:32,610 --> 00:27:38,507
change how you viewed the world
and different governments?

581
00:27:38,507 --> 00:27:41,780

582
00:27:41,780 --> 00:27:45,270
Well, I'm essentially
an optimistic person.

583
00:27:45,270 --> 00:27:49,520
So how it changed me.

584
00:27:49,520 --> 00:27:50,130
I don't know.

585
00:27:50,130 --> 00:27:52,400
I don't know how I would
have been otherwise.

586
00:27:52,400 --> 00:27:54,050
That's true.

587
00:27:54,050 --> 00:27:59,780
Both an incomprehensible
thing about having your family

588
00:27:59,780 --> 00:28:02,390
wiped out while
you were supposed

589
00:28:02,390 --> 00:28:03,660
to be having a vacation.

590

00:28:03,660 --> 00:28:08,450

591

00:28:08,450 --> 00:28:11,060

It was nothing that happened
from one day to the next.

592

00:28:11,060 --> 00:28:13,310

It was not like
turning off a light,

593

00:28:13,310 --> 00:28:15,470

and then all of a
sudden it's dark.

594

00:28:15,470 --> 00:28:16,910

It happened gradually.

595

00:28:16,910 --> 00:28:22,040

I mean, things did
penetrate somehow.

596

00:28:22,040 --> 00:28:23,930

We did hear of the
concentration camps.

597

00:28:23,930 --> 00:28:27,230

But nobody knew really
what it was like.

598

00:28:27,230 --> 00:28:31,250

The Jewish agencies didn't know.

599

00:28:31,250 --> 00:28:33,740

There were many conferences
going on during the war.

600

00:28:33,740 --> 00:28:37,440

There was a conference
in Å%ovian in Switzerland.

601

00:28:37,440 --> 00:28:42,260

And a trade-off

of Jews leaving--

602

00:28:42,260 --> 00:28:44,210

we do this if you do that.

603

00:28:44,210 --> 00:28:45,500

But nothing ever came of it.

604

00:28:45,500 --> 00:28:48,170

But there was always
something that you felt, well,

605

00:28:48,170 --> 00:28:53,060

maybe, miraculously, whatever
trade-off there will be,

606

00:28:53,060 --> 00:28:58,440

your family will be included.

607

00:28:58,440 --> 00:29:04,370

So when you realize that
you and your brother

608

00:29:04,370 --> 00:29:06,425

were what was left
of your family,

609

00:29:06,425 --> 00:29:09,020

it was something
you had to accept.

610

00:29:09,020 --> 00:29:13,760

And when you grew up and then
life went on for you, tell us,

611

00:29:13,760 --> 00:29:14,910

bring us up to date.

612

00:29:14,910 --> 00:29:15,410

Yeah.

613

00:29:15,410 --> 00:29:20,420

Well, while this was a great
tragedy for us, of course,

614
00:29:20,420 --> 00:29:22,910
we were not the only ones.

615
00:29:22,910 --> 00:29:24,830
You don't feel
really singled out.

616
00:29:24,830 --> 00:29:28,430
You don't say, well, it's
just happening to me.

617
00:29:28,430 --> 00:29:30,260
It happened to many
other people too.

618
00:29:30,260 --> 00:29:34,580
So that, I think, made
things a little easier.

619
00:29:34,580 --> 00:29:35,990
You're certainly optimistic.

620
00:29:35,990 --> 00:29:39,310

621
00:29:39,310 --> 00:29:42,050
When did you meet your husband?

622
00:29:42,050 --> 00:29:46,970
My husband's brother was married
to one of my girlfriends.

623
00:29:46,970 --> 00:29:50,210
So I met him before
he went in the army.

624
00:29:50,210 --> 00:29:52,100
I met him in Newark.

625

00:29:52,100 --> 00:29:56,210
And after he was discharged
from the army, we were married.

626
00:29:56,210 --> 00:29:57,920
Is your husband
also from Germany?

627
00:29:57,920 --> 00:30:01,160
No, my husband was
born in Newark.

628
00:30:01,160 --> 00:30:05,064
He came of Russian background.

629
00:30:05,064 --> 00:30:08,970
And let's get back to
your brother for a moment,

630
00:30:08,970 --> 00:30:11,010
the one who lives in New York.

631
00:30:11,010 --> 00:30:13,390
What did he go on
to do afterwards,

632
00:30:13,390 --> 00:30:16,440
and did he get married,
and what was his life like?

633
00:30:16,440 --> 00:30:19,590
My brother went back
to his job that he

634
00:30:19,590 --> 00:30:22,620
had in New York before
he left for the army.

635
00:30:22,620 --> 00:30:26,640
He married, and he has two sons.

636
00:30:26,640 --> 00:30:28,710
Today, he has two

grown-up-- now, of course,

637

00:30:28,710 --> 00:30:31,350

they're grown-up.

638

00:30:31,350 --> 00:30:37,780

And to get you back to your
marriage, you had children.

639

00:30:37,780 --> 00:30:39,180

Yes, I had three children.

640

00:30:39,180 --> 00:30:40,320

Tell us about them.

641

00:30:40,320 --> 00:30:43,200

I have a son.

642

00:30:43,200 --> 00:30:45,540

Then five years later
I had a daughter.

643

00:30:45,540 --> 00:30:47,730

And then-- no, three years
later I had a daughter,

644

00:30:47,730 --> 00:30:50,250

and five years later I
had another daughter.

645

00:30:50,250 --> 00:30:52,470

There's five years difference
between my daughters.

646

00:30:52,470 --> 00:30:54,190

And eight years
difference altogether.

647

00:30:54,190 --> 00:30:55,890

And what are they doing today?

648

00:30:55,890 --> 00:30:59,430

My son is a lawyer
in Washington.

649
00:30:59,430 --> 00:31:02,200
My second child, she is married.

650
00:31:02,200 --> 00:31:04,430
She has two children.

651
00:31:04,430 --> 00:31:06,800
She is a banker.

652
00:31:06,800 --> 00:31:08,540
Her husband is a doctor.

653
00:31:08,540 --> 00:31:11,000
And my younger daughter
is living in New York.

654
00:31:11,000 --> 00:31:18,290
She works as a private secretary
to an investment banker.

655
00:31:18,290 --> 00:31:20,810

656
00:31:20,810 --> 00:31:24,110
And there are no grandchildren?

657
00:31:24,110 --> 00:31:27,500
Yes, I have two
little grandsons.

658
00:31:27,500 --> 00:31:28,200
And I'm sure--

659
00:31:28,200 --> 00:31:29,900
One is 7 and one is 5.

660
00:31:29,900 --> 00:31:33,150
--you see the
family quite often.

661
00:31:33,150 --> 00:31:35,116
Sometimes more than others.

662
00:31:35,116 --> 00:31:37,115
In this month I saw
them quite a bit.

663
00:31:37,115 --> 00:31:40,150
And WASHINGTON is not
that far from Elizabeth.

664
00:31:40,150 --> 00:31:41,510
No, fortunately.

665
00:31:41,510 --> 00:31:45,890

666
00:31:45,890 --> 00:31:50,120
Summing up the whole
experience, to us

667
00:31:50,120 --> 00:31:55,220
it's important, because
fortunately you survived.

668
00:31:55,220 --> 00:31:58,850
And not having experienced
some of the horrors

669
00:31:58,850 --> 00:32:01,100
that others have.

670
00:32:01,100 --> 00:32:05,730
But when your heart is left
on one side of the ocean

671
00:32:05,730 --> 00:32:13,250
and you are here, you have to
cope with feelings like that.

672
00:32:13,250 --> 00:32:18,530

How do your children feel
about this experience?

673
00:32:18,530 --> 00:32:21,800
You've shared it
with them I'm sure.

674
00:32:21,800 --> 00:32:23,210
Yes, to some extent.

675
00:32:23,210 --> 00:32:27,470
I never wanted to
make them bitter.

676
00:32:27,470 --> 00:32:31,700
But my son did go to Auschwitz.

677
00:32:31,700 --> 00:32:33,890
But he never talked about it.

678
00:32:33,890 --> 00:32:37,810
He never told me anything
about it afterwards.

679
00:32:37,810 --> 00:32:41,350

680
00:32:41,350 --> 00:32:46,505
I think my children are very
much aware of what happened.

681
00:32:46,505 --> 00:32:48,130
They don't always
talk about it either.

682
00:32:48,130 --> 00:32:51,610
This comes up in
casual conversation.

683
00:32:51,610 --> 00:32:57,010
And your brother, for having
left a few years after you did,

684

00:32:57,010 --> 00:32:58,720
what did he bring back with him?

685

00:32:58,720 --> 00:33:03,220
And he was closer to the
European picture, Kristallnacht

686

00:33:03,220 --> 00:33:05,470
for instance.

687

00:33:05,470 --> 00:33:09,910
Did he have more pertinent
information, more eyewitness

688

00:33:09,910 --> 00:33:12,670
accounts so to speak?

689

00:33:12,670 --> 00:33:16,570
My brother needs to
pluck out his past.

690

00:33:16,570 --> 00:33:20,002
Never talks about it--
never talks about anything.

691

00:33:20,002 --> 00:33:20,710
Doesn't remember.

692

00:33:20,710 --> 00:33:24,060

693

00:33:24,060 --> 00:33:26,010
Did he bring back any pictures?

694

00:33:26,010 --> 00:33:29,850
Yes, he had taken
pictures of our-- we lived

695

00:33:29,850 --> 00:33:30,930
in an apartment--

696

00:33:30,930 --> 00:33:33,720
apartment, what had happened.

697
00:33:33,720 --> 00:33:39,450
And just the horror of
people knocking on your--

698
00:33:39,450 --> 00:33:41,010
breaking in your
door, I imagine,

699
00:33:41,010 --> 00:33:45,300
and just going through your
house, and breaking things,

700
00:33:45,300 --> 00:33:48,000
and then leave again as if--

701
00:33:48,000 --> 00:33:51,940
you know, this is
really difficult

702
00:33:51,940 --> 00:33:56,520
to understand that an
orderly house can be

703
00:33:56,520 --> 00:33:59,640
left in shambles for no reason.

704
00:33:59,640 --> 00:34:02,095
The invasion of the
dignity and the privacy.

705
00:34:02,095 --> 00:34:06,720

706
00:34:06,720 --> 00:34:10,560
Has your brother-- has he ever
talked about his experiences

707
00:34:10,560 --> 00:34:13,020
with his children, do you know?

708

00:34:13,020 --> 00:34:15,880

You know something, I doubt it.

709

00:34:15,880 --> 00:34:17,230

I doubt it.

710

00:34:17,230 --> 00:34:24,120

My brother has blanketed
out his whole former life.

711

00:34:24,120 --> 00:34:27,000

Even sometimes when I talk
to him about the weather,

712

00:34:27,000 --> 00:34:30,159

he doesn't even remember that.

713

00:34:30,159 --> 00:34:32,920

He just pulled down the curtain
on that part of his life.

714

00:34:32,920 --> 00:34:33,420

Yes.

715

00:34:33,420 --> 00:34:36,130

And he wants to forget it.

716

00:34:36,130 --> 00:34:39,320

Have you-- it seems that you are
able to talk about it somewhat.

717

00:34:39,320 --> 00:34:43,570

Are there certain things that
before you came to America,

718

00:34:43,570 --> 00:34:46,690

Jewishly that you remember?

719

00:34:46,690 --> 00:34:47,739

Oh, yes.

720

00:34:47,739 --> 00:34:50,780
And it was special to you?

721
00:34:50,780 --> 00:34:53,460
No, it was just a
Jewish household.

722
00:34:53,460 --> 00:34:54,889
You know?

723
00:34:54,889 --> 00:34:57,020
Saturday morning you
went to services,

724
00:34:57,020 --> 00:35:00,410
and then you came home,
and You had a nice dinner.

725
00:35:00,410 --> 00:35:05,360
And in the afternoon I
would visit relatives.

726
00:35:05,360 --> 00:35:08,480
I remember one time my mother
was terribly upset with me

727
00:35:08,480 --> 00:35:12,170
because one of my girlfriends
and I went to the movies

728
00:35:12,170 --> 00:35:15,462
on Rosh Hashanah, the
second day of Rosh Hashanah.

729
00:35:15,462 --> 00:35:16,920
And the second day
of Rosh Hashanah

730
00:35:16,920 --> 00:35:20,300
was observed as much
as the first day.

731
00:35:20,300 --> 00:35:25,160

And I remember that was
one of the times where

732
00:35:25,160 --> 00:35:29,330
I got a balling out,
because my parents felt

733
00:35:29,330 --> 00:35:31,850
very strongly about that.

734
00:35:31,850 --> 00:35:34,580
And other family
celebrations, families

735
00:35:34,580 --> 00:35:38,660
gathered together and
visited one another.

736
00:35:38,660 --> 00:35:41,790
It seems to me we were
always together with family.

737
00:35:41,790 --> 00:35:42,290
Yeah.

738
00:35:42,290 --> 00:35:45,320
I had a cousin who was my age.

739
00:35:45,320 --> 00:35:48,140
Seems to me we were all
together, this girl and I.

740
00:35:48,140 --> 00:35:50,370
Is she alive now
and in this country?

741
00:35:50,370 --> 00:35:50,870
No.

742
00:35:50,870 --> 00:35:55,070
She died when she was 16.

743

00:35:55,070 --> 00:35:58,280

She had a very minor
ailment, but no doctor

744

00:35:58,280 --> 00:36:00,380

would come to the house.

745

00:36:00,380 --> 00:36:01,220

And she died.

746

00:36:01,220 --> 00:36:03,190

She was 16.

747

00:36:03,190 --> 00:36:05,070

Was that because she was Jewish?

748

00:36:05,070 --> 00:36:05,880

Yes.

749

00:36:05,880 --> 00:36:07,880

But this was during
a time when--

750

00:36:07,880 --> 00:36:08,810

That was just before.

751

00:36:08,810 --> 00:36:11,840

But I didn't know the
reason of her dying.

752

00:36:11,840 --> 00:36:14,120

Only afterwards I was told
that the doctor didn't

753

00:36:14,120 --> 00:36:15,080

come to the house at that time.

754

00:36:15,080 --> 00:36:16,680

You were already in
the United States.

755

00:36:16,680 --> 00:36:20,030

No, as a matter of fact,
I was ready to leave.

756
00:36:20,030 --> 00:36:23,570
But I did not say goodbye
to her mother in person,

757
00:36:23,570 --> 00:36:25,190
because it was too--

758
00:36:25,190 --> 00:36:27,230
I was told it would
be too painful for her

759
00:36:27,230 --> 00:36:28,930
if I were to come.

760
00:36:28,930 --> 00:36:36,410
But no one ever said to me that
it was lack of medical care

761
00:36:36,410 --> 00:36:38,990
that she died.

762
00:36:38,990 --> 00:36:40,790
That I only found out later.

763
00:36:40,790 --> 00:36:43,280
It seems that they
shelter the children

764
00:36:43,280 --> 00:36:46,400
from anything that might
have disturbed them

765
00:36:46,400 --> 00:36:47,590
along those lines.

766
00:36:47,590 --> 00:36:48,813
Yeah, I think so.

767
00:36:48,813 --> 00:36:50,480

Because the things
from what you told me

768
00:36:50,480 --> 00:36:53,600
with the laws about the
school and the cousin

769
00:36:53,600 --> 00:36:56,180
not getting medical
attention, that it was there,

770
00:36:56,180 --> 00:37:02,900
but they shielded the
children from the pain of it.

771
00:37:02,900 --> 00:37:05,150
You want to tell us
something about the people

772
00:37:05,150 --> 00:37:08,232
in that lovely picture?

773
00:37:08,232 --> 00:37:10,100
These are my parents.

774
00:37:10,100 --> 00:37:12,620
I imagine, on this
picture, my mother

775
00:37:12,620 --> 00:37:16,460
must have been in her late 30s.

776
00:37:16,460 --> 00:37:18,590
And my father, being
11 years older,

777
00:37:18,590 --> 00:37:22,970
must have from the late 40s.

778
00:37:22,970 --> 00:37:26,630
It's enlarged from a
very, very small photo.

779

00:37:26,630 --> 00:37:34,730

And it was colored, because the
colors were added afterwards.

780

00:37:34,730 --> 00:37:36,380

It's a lovely picture.

781

00:37:36,380 --> 00:37:37,830

It's a nice memory.

782

00:37:37,830 --> 00:37:38,330

Yeah.

783

00:37:38,330 --> 00:37:42,320

I never remember my
mother without eyeglasses.

784

00:37:42,320 --> 00:37:46,970

And my father, I never
remember him with hair.

785

00:37:46,970 --> 00:37:51,180

And they were a little
older when you left.

786

00:37:51,180 --> 00:37:55,880

This picture was
taken much before.

787

00:37:55,880 --> 00:38:00,545

I imagine this picture
was taken maybe 1939.

788

00:38:00,545 --> 00:38:02,162

Oh, after you left.

789

00:38:02,162 --> 00:38:02,870

After I had left.

790

00:38:02,870 --> 00:38:05,180

My brother brought it with him.

791

00:38:05,180 --> 00:38:08,060

And it was pretty much
the way you had left them?

792

00:38:08,060 --> 00:38:08,840

Yes.

793

00:38:08,840 --> 00:38:09,740

Yes.

794

00:38:09,740 --> 00:38:11,090

German people are not--

795

00:38:11,090 --> 00:38:13,935

or at that time were not
as appearance conscious.

796

00:38:13,935 --> 00:38:15,185

Your mother is very beautiful.

797

00:38:15,185 --> 00:38:16,370

Oh, thank you.

798

00:38:16,370 --> 00:38:17,390

She's lovely.

799

00:38:17,390 --> 00:38:18,500

She was very quiet--

800

00:38:18,500 --> 00:38:20,780

I see the resemblance
to your father too.

801

00:38:20,780 --> 00:38:21,890

Yeah.

802

00:38:21,890 --> 00:38:24,150

My father was very
lively and very--

803

00:38:24,150 --> 00:38:27,360

804
00:38:27,360 --> 00:38:28,580
my mother was very quiet.

805
00:38:28,580 --> 00:38:31,250
I often say, if they both
had of been very lively,

806
00:38:31,250 --> 00:38:32,450
that would have been awful.

807
00:38:32,450 --> 00:38:35,510
They complement each other well.

808
00:38:35,510 --> 00:38:39,350
Have you ever had the
curiosity or the desire

809
00:38:39,350 --> 00:38:44,150
to go back to Germany to see
how things were or to see

810
00:38:44,150 --> 00:38:46,550
what the family home was like?

811
00:38:46,550 --> 00:38:48,170
Yes.

812
00:38:48,170 --> 00:38:49,460
I went back twice.

813
00:38:49,460 --> 00:38:50,570
You did.

814
00:38:50,570 --> 00:38:53,600
I wanted my children to
see where I had come from

815
00:38:53,600 --> 00:38:55,610
and my husband, and we went.

816

00:38:55,610 --> 00:38:58,550

You want to tell us about it?

817

00:38:58,550 --> 00:39:01,250

How you felt-- your emotions.

818

00:39:01,250 --> 00:39:01,850

Yeah.

819

00:39:01,850 --> 00:39:05,530

Well, I thought I
handled it very well.

820

00:39:05,530 --> 00:39:08,540

My family didn't think
I handled it so well.

821

00:39:08,540 --> 00:39:16,130

But since we come from a big
city, we went to the cemetery

822

00:39:16,130 --> 00:39:17,150

just to--

823

00:39:17,150 --> 00:39:18,770

because there were
so many relatives

824

00:39:18,770 --> 00:39:20,580

buried in the cemetery.

825

00:39:20,580 --> 00:39:22,130

So we went to the cemetery.

826

00:39:22,130 --> 00:39:25,070

My mother, coming
from a smaller town,

827

00:39:25,070 --> 00:39:28,430

I was particularly anxious
to go to the cemetery there.

828

00:39:28,430 --> 00:39:37,040

But once I was there, I could
not make myself go to city hall

829

00:39:37,040 --> 00:39:39,380

to ask for the key
to the cemetery.

830

00:39:39,380 --> 00:39:43,490

Because at that time, and I
imagine it's this way now too,

831

00:39:43,490 --> 00:39:48,840

the cemeteries are under
the supervision of the city.

832

00:39:48,840 --> 00:39:53,880

And I could not face
anyone saying to me,

833

00:39:53,880 --> 00:39:57,060

oh, I knew your grandmother,
and I knew your mother,

834

00:39:57,060 --> 00:40:00,210

and I knew you aunt.

835

00:40:00,210 --> 00:40:04,900

That was more than I could,
at that point, handle.

836

00:40:04,900 --> 00:40:06,970

So I didn't go to the cemetery.

837

00:40:06,970 --> 00:40:08,790

Which I have regretted,
because I felt

838

00:40:08,790 --> 00:40:11,790

I should have displayed a
little bit more courage.

839

00:40:11,790 --> 00:40:13,410
But I didn't.

840
00:40:13,410 --> 00:40:15,212
Did you go back
to your apartment

841
00:40:15,212 --> 00:40:16,170
where you had grown up?

842
00:40:16,170 --> 00:40:17,250
Was it still there?

843
00:40:17,250 --> 00:40:18,510
No, that had been bombed.

844
00:40:18,510 --> 00:40:23,006
That wasn't existing anymore.

845
00:40:23,006 --> 00:40:25,450
So you were spared that trauma.

846
00:40:25,450 --> 00:40:30,250
But they keep the cemeteries
under lock and key--

847
00:40:30,250 --> 00:40:34,730
Well, at least in a smaller town
you have to ask for the key.

848
00:40:34,730 --> 00:40:36,940
But in the bigger
cities, I think

849
00:40:36,940 --> 00:40:38,230
you can just walk into it.

850
00:40:38,230 --> 00:40:39,430
I don't remember it.

851
00:40:39,430 --> 00:40:42,130
But I remember having

gone to the cemetery.

852

00:40:42,130 --> 00:40:43,240

You say you went--

853

00:40:43,240 --> 00:40:46,720

you made two trips.

854

00:40:46,720 --> 00:40:47,890

That was the first trip.

855

00:40:47,890 --> 00:40:50,590

What about the second one?

856

00:40:50,590 --> 00:40:52,330

How far apart were
the two trips?

857

00:40:52,330 --> 00:40:53,530

They were just a year apart.

858

00:40:53,530 --> 00:40:54,700

A year part.

859

00:40:54,700 --> 00:40:58,690

The first trip, I wanted to see
my aunt in Belgium very badly.

860

00:40:58,690 --> 00:41:03,440

And that was our first
stop then to see her.

861

00:41:03,440 --> 00:41:07,750

And then we went on--
we went to Germany.

862

00:41:07,750 --> 00:41:11,770

And the second trip, I again
went to see my aunt first

863

00:41:11,770 --> 00:41:16,510

before we went on.

864
00:41:16,510 --> 00:41:19,750
Were you able to see any old
friends or neighbors or--

865
00:41:19,750 --> 00:41:21,820
No.

866
00:41:21,820 --> 00:41:27,700
My friends one Jewish girls who
had gone to various countries.

867
00:41:27,700 --> 00:41:31,340
My two best girlfriends came
to New York, not directly.

868
00:41:31,340 --> 00:41:36,400
And there was only one girl
who had remembered me from when

869
00:41:36,400 --> 00:41:37,990
I went to high school.

870
00:41:37,990 --> 00:41:42,550
And before I left
Germany in 1937,

871
00:41:42,550 --> 00:41:44,740
she walked with me through town.

872
00:41:44,740 --> 00:41:46,900
And that I appreciated.

873
00:41:46,900 --> 00:41:48,320
I even remember her name.

874
00:41:48,320 --> 00:41:52,180
Her name was Agnes, which
was not a very popular name.

875
00:41:52,180 --> 00:41:55,090
But I guess she liked me.

876
00:41:55,090 --> 00:41:58,660
And she walked
with me, which was

877
00:41:58,660 --> 00:42:01,330
unusual for a
Christian girl to do.

878
00:42:01,330 --> 00:42:02,860
Of course that was post-war--

879
00:42:02,860 --> 00:42:05,785
No, no, no that was
before I left in 1937.

880
00:42:05,785 --> 00:42:07,150
Oh, before you left.

881
00:42:07,150 --> 00:42:11,870
No, when I went back again
there was no one there I knew.

882
00:42:11,870 --> 00:42:13,970
Did you visit the camps?

883
00:42:13,970 --> 00:42:15,290
No.

884
00:42:15,290 --> 00:42:19,710
I-- I couldn't do it.

885
00:42:19,710 --> 00:42:24,020
We were very close to
Dachau, but I couldn't do it.

886
00:42:24,020 --> 00:42:25,790
Your son, you said,
did make a trip--

887
00:42:25,790 --> 00:42:27,770
He went to Auschwitz.

888
00:42:27,770 --> 00:42:30,800
That took a lot of
strength and courage.

889
00:42:30,800 --> 00:42:33,230
Yeah, I think so.

890
00:42:33,230 --> 00:42:35,660
But to see with your
eyes-- and yet there

891
00:42:35,660 --> 00:42:39,440
are some people who do go
back again and again as

892
00:42:39,440 --> 00:42:42,720
though nothing happened.

893
00:42:42,720 --> 00:42:44,520
That is such an
individual reaction.

894
00:42:44,520 --> 00:42:48,670
There is no right or wrong
about these situations.

895
00:42:48,670 --> 00:42:50,732
You do what you need to do--

896
00:42:50,732 --> 00:42:51,690
Where your heart leads.

897
00:42:51,690 --> 00:42:54,180
--what you have to do.

898
00:42:54,180 --> 00:42:58,080
Would you want to go
back to Germany again?

899
00:42:58,080 --> 00:43:00,240
Would you want to

make another trip?

900

00:43:00,240 --> 00:43:00,900

Not really.

901

00:43:00,900 --> 00:43:05,450

I had a chance to go back
to Germany a few months ago.

902

00:43:05,450 --> 00:43:09,750

A new home for the aged
was built and dedicated.

903

00:43:09,750 --> 00:43:13,470

And the German
government was very

904

00:43:13,470 --> 00:43:17,370

anxious for many of the
former inhabitants of Mannheim

905

00:43:17,370 --> 00:43:19,470

to return.

906

00:43:19,470 --> 00:43:22,360

And some people I
know have gone back.

907

00:43:22,360 --> 00:43:25,680

I couldn't.

908

00:43:25,680 --> 00:43:28,710

I couldn't get
myself to do that.

909

00:43:28,710 --> 00:43:33,750

Because people who return
on an official basis

910

00:43:33,750 --> 00:43:35,820

are exceedingly well treated.

911

00:43:35,820 --> 00:43:43,350
But I knew this would be such
a shame and such a falsehood,

912
00:43:43,350 --> 00:43:46,560
that I couldn't do it.

913
00:43:46,560 --> 00:43:50,890
No compensation for what
had been robbed from you.

914
00:43:50,890 --> 00:43:51,810
I beg your pardon.

915
00:43:51,810 --> 00:43:54,540
No compensation-- that
was no compensation,

916
00:43:54,540 --> 00:43:55,740
their extended invitation.

917
00:43:55,740 --> 00:43:56,240
No.

918
00:43:56,240 --> 00:43:57,860
This was-- no.

919
00:43:57,860 --> 00:44:00,120
No, not at all.

920
00:44:00,120 --> 00:44:04,470
Your aunt in Belgium,
when you saw her,

921
00:44:04,470 --> 00:44:07,050
I'm sure your reminisced
about the time

922
00:44:07,050 --> 00:44:08,850
that your brother was with her.

923
00:44:08,850 --> 00:44:12,360

Did she shed any light on--
how long was he with her?

924
00:44:12,360 --> 00:44:14,100
I don't remember.

925
00:44:14,100 --> 00:44:16,200
We didn't talk about
that much at all.

926
00:44:16,200 --> 00:44:20,460
Because she had a nervous
breakdown after my brother

927
00:44:20,460 --> 00:44:23,550
left when she realized
what had happened.

928
00:44:23,550 --> 00:44:28,350
So we didn't talk about it.

929
00:44:28,350 --> 00:44:31,440
We cried when we saw
each other, but we really

930
00:44:31,440 --> 00:44:32,550
didn't talk about it.

931
00:44:32,550 --> 00:44:35,250
She had a sense of guilt
for having let him go.

932
00:44:35,250 --> 00:44:36,790
Yes, and she shouldn't have had.

933
00:44:36,790 --> 00:44:37,290
No.

934
00:44:37,290 --> 00:44:41,130
It was not something that
anyone could foresee.

935

00:44:41,130 --> 00:44:43,800

And the plans seemed
to go along very well.

936

00:44:43,800 --> 00:44:44,310

Yes.

937

00:44:44,310 --> 00:44:45,630

No, it's--

938

00:44:45,630 --> 00:44:50,910

How is the family for whom your
parents gave up their visa?

939

00:44:50,910 --> 00:44:53,310

The children must be
grown certainly by now.

940

00:44:53,310 --> 00:44:58,030

yes My aunt and uncle died,
but their children are fine.

941

00:44:58,030 --> 00:44:59,190

They live in New York?

942

00:44:59,190 --> 00:45:00,360

Yes.

943

00:45:00,360 --> 00:45:04,110

One daughter lives in
New York and two sons

944

00:45:04,110 --> 00:45:05,700

live outside of New York.

945

00:45:05,700 --> 00:45:08,310

They became
exceedingly orthodox.

946

00:45:08,310 --> 00:45:12,360

The sons became
very, very Orthodox,

947

00:45:12,360 --> 00:45:16,990

and live a very Orthodox
life, and a very good life.

948

00:45:16,990 --> 00:45:27,440

And I-- we see each other,
and we are good to each other.

949

00:45:27,440 --> 00:45:31,570

It's remarkable-- your
spirit and your optimism

950

00:45:31,570 --> 00:45:35,260

is admirable beyond expression.

951

00:45:35,260 --> 00:45:37,780

Oh, not really.

952

00:45:37,780 --> 00:45:41,470

What has been in my
mind was to ask you

953

00:45:41,470 --> 00:45:45,160

about your musical exposure.

954

00:45:45,160 --> 00:45:47,920

Because I know that you're
a great music lover.

955

00:45:47,920 --> 00:45:49,980

What was your
background in Mannheim?

956

00:45:49,980 --> 00:45:54,550

We go back to happier
days, and what

957

00:45:54,550 --> 00:45:56,460

was your musical background?

958

00:45:56,460 --> 00:46:00,760

Well, there was a great

deal of music around.

959

00:46:00,760 --> 00:46:05,060

So it just seems to
be part of our lives.

960

00:46:05,060 --> 00:46:07,090

It was nothing special.

961

00:46:07,090 --> 00:46:09,430

All the boys learned the
violin and all the girls

962

00:46:09,430 --> 00:46:10,570

had piano lessons.

963

00:46:10,570 --> 00:46:16,780

And my brother didn't
practice, and he gave up

964

00:46:16,780 --> 00:46:17,740

the violin lessons.

965

00:46:17,740 --> 00:46:22,210

And I didn't practice, and
I gave up piano lessons.

966

00:46:22,210 --> 00:46:24,780

But still the love
for it has remained--

967

00:46:24,780 --> 00:46:26,410

The interest has always been--

968

00:46:26,410 --> 00:46:30,130

--where you go to concerts.

969

00:46:30,130 --> 00:46:30,650

Oh, yes.

970

00:46:30,650 --> 00:46:32,690

This is the legacy.

971
00:46:32,690 --> 00:46:33,850
Yes.

972
00:46:33,850 --> 00:46:39,400
So a lesson that you would give
to people who have suffered

973
00:46:39,400 --> 00:46:42,620
is the bitterness doesn't help.

974
00:46:42,620 --> 00:46:44,300
However, you have
to be particularly

975
00:46:44,300 --> 00:46:51,770
strong to have that kind
of a make up, having left--

976
00:46:51,770 --> 00:46:53,270
It's nothing.

977
00:46:53,270 --> 00:46:53,770
Really.

978
00:46:53,770 --> 00:46:56,270
I mean, that's your personality.

979
00:46:56,270 --> 00:46:58,490
Either you handle it
or you don't handle

980
00:46:58,490 --> 00:47:00,050
it, no matter what comes.

981
00:47:00,050 --> 00:47:02,470
Well, you're fortunate
you're able to handle it.

982
00:47:02,470 --> 00:47:03,500
I think so.

983

00:47:03,500 --> 00:47:05,440

Because it's a--

984

00:47:05,440 --> 00:47:06,440

It's a lesson.

985

00:47:06,440 --> 00:47:11,180

Yes, to lose parents

and a younger brother

986

00:47:11,180 --> 00:47:14,270

before he even had a chance

to have a bar mitzvah--

987

00:47:14,270 --> 00:47:15,080

That was sad.

988

00:47:15,080 --> 00:47:16,380

--at 12.

989

00:47:16,380 --> 00:47:17,720

Yeah, that was very sad.

990

00:47:17,720 --> 00:47:19,970

What was the bar mitzvah

like of your older brother?

991

00:47:19,970 --> 00:47:23,820

992

00:47:23,820 --> 00:47:27,910

I remember we had

dinner in the house.

993

00:47:27,910 --> 00:47:31,260

And they make-- they don't make

the fuss that they make here.

994

00:47:31,260 --> 00:47:35,670

Oh, i remember all

my relatives came.

995

00:47:35,670 --> 00:47:39,390

But in Germany the
catered affairs--

996

00:47:39,390 --> 00:47:40,320

I wasn't aware.

997

00:47:40,320 --> 00:47:42,790

I mean, people, I
don't think, did it.

998

00:47:42,790 --> 00:47:44,790

I wasn't aware of it.

999

00:47:44,790 --> 00:47:49,800

People, I don't think, did it
as much here either in the '30s.

1000

00:47:49,800 --> 00:47:53,310

This kind of mushroomed
with the prosperity,

1001

00:47:53,310 --> 00:48:01,370

where the actual event got lost
in the shuffle so to speak.

1002

00:48:01,370 --> 00:48:09,380

Suzanne, did you ever believe
in your wildest dreams

1003

00:48:09,380 --> 00:48:13,250

that you wouldn't see your
parents and your brother again?

1004

00:48:13,250 --> 00:48:14,570

No.

1005

00:48:14,570 --> 00:48:16,390

No.

1006

00:48:16,390 --> 00:48:21,470

That never-- never

even occurred to me.

1007
00:48:21,470 --> 00:48:24,650
And even to this
day, it's so unreal.

1008
00:48:24,650 --> 00:48:29,840
When you have a cemetery to go
to, it's a final confrontation.

1009
00:48:29,840 --> 00:48:33,020
But I never had that.

1010
00:48:33,020 --> 00:48:34,670
If somebody would
call me up today--

1011
00:48:34,670 --> 00:48:37,760
I mean, my father today
would be over 100 years old,

1012
00:48:37,760 --> 00:48:40,970
so it would be
exceedingly remote.

1013
00:48:40,970 --> 00:48:43,040
My mother would be in her 90s.

1014
00:48:43,040 --> 00:48:49,430
My brother would
be in his late 50s.

1015
00:48:49,430 --> 00:48:51,170
But if someone would
call me up today,

1016
00:48:51,170 --> 00:48:54,520
I wouldn't be one bit surprised.

1017
00:48:54,520 --> 00:48:58,750
The finality of a burial
just wasn't there for you.

1018

00:48:58,750 --> 00:48:59,790

That's what it is.

1019

00:48:59,790 --> 00:49:01,600

As a matter of fact,
a number of years

1020

00:49:01,600 --> 00:49:07,270

ago, my brother read in the
paper that a group of students

1021

00:49:07,270 --> 00:49:08,710

came from Frankfurt.

1022

00:49:08,710 --> 00:49:15,910

This is where my younger brother
had lived in his last city.

1023

00:49:15,910 --> 00:49:22,610

And one of the students
had my brother's name.

1024

00:49:22,610 --> 00:49:25,220

And my brother called
the New York Times,

1025

00:49:25,220 --> 00:49:30,050

and the young man was kind
enough to spend an afternoon--

1026

00:49:30,050 --> 00:49:34,820

come from New York City
to spend an afternoon--

1027

00:49:34,820 --> 00:49:39,110

with my brother, and, of
course, I went to see him.

1028

00:49:39,110 --> 00:49:40,050

He was a student.

1029

00:49:40,050 --> 00:49:44,020

It was an exchange
student program.

1030
00:49:44,020 --> 00:49:45,440
But it wasn't my brother.

1031
00:49:45,440 --> 00:49:48,873
I remember my brother's
eyes very much.

1032
00:49:48,873 --> 00:49:50,540
His face, of course,
would have changed.

1033
00:49:50,540 --> 00:49:53,300
But he had a particular
shade of brown eyes.

1034
00:49:53,300 --> 00:49:58,580
And when I saw this young man,
I knew it wasn't my brother.

1035
00:49:58,580 --> 00:49:59,730
With the same name?

1036
00:49:59,730 --> 00:50:02,300
The same name, same
age, the same city.

1037
00:50:02,300 --> 00:50:05,210
It was an uncanny coincidence.

1038
00:50:05,210 --> 00:50:06,770
That must have been
quite a shock--

1039
00:50:06,770 --> 00:50:07,280
Yes.

1040
00:50:07,280 --> 00:50:12,200
--to even have become that
close and have your hopes

1041

00:50:12,200 --> 00:50:13,820
raised so high.

1042

00:50:13,820 --> 00:50:18,090
Well, you really-- that
would have been a present--

1043

00:50:18,090 --> 00:50:19,670
like a present that
you don't expect.

1044

00:50:19,670 --> 00:50:20,630
A miracle.

1045

00:50:20,630 --> 00:50:26,210
So neither he nor I expected
this present that day.

1046

00:50:26,210 --> 00:50:28,372
Do you find that you still
think about your parents

1047

00:50:28,372 --> 00:50:29,330
and your brother a lot?

1048

00:50:29,330 --> 00:50:31,160
Oh, sure.

1049

00:50:31,160 --> 00:50:31,820
Oh, yes.

1050

00:50:31,820 --> 00:50:34,050
Still part of your days?

1051

00:50:34,050 --> 00:50:35,330
I think so.

1052

00:50:35,330 --> 00:50:37,160
I think so.

1053

00:50:37,160 --> 00:50:39,980

Yeah, I sometimes wonder
what my parents would think

1054
00:50:39,980 --> 00:50:42,950
about me today or my children.

1055
00:50:42,950 --> 00:50:46,890
And hopefully they
would approve.

1056
00:50:46,890 --> 00:50:47,990
I think they would.

1057
00:50:47,990 --> 00:50:50,810
They always approved
whatever I did.

1058
00:50:50,810 --> 00:50:52,610
There's no reason
to think otherwise.

1059
00:50:52,610 --> 00:50:57,530
Well, listen, I was a youngster,
I'm sure I had my moments.

1060
00:50:57,530 --> 00:51:02,930
You had a good and happy home
life and a very strong family

1061
00:51:02,930 --> 00:51:04,280
feeling.

1062
00:51:04,280 --> 00:51:09,600
And you remember your parents
as being young and vibrant.

1063
00:51:09,600 --> 00:51:10,100
Oh, yes.

1064
00:51:10,100 --> 00:51:15,950
And that is how you
have to cope with it.

1065

00:51:15,950 --> 00:51:17,850

And you're doing
a beautiful job.

1066

00:51:17,850 --> 00:51:19,310

Thank you.

1067

00:51:19,310 --> 00:51:25,550

Are there any other comments
you would make on the entire--

1068

00:51:25,550 --> 00:51:29,780

what was your reaction
when the war was over

1069

00:51:29,780 --> 00:51:35,240

and there were liberation
broadcasts about the people

1070

00:51:35,240 --> 00:51:38,060

being liberated?

1071

00:51:38,060 --> 00:51:41,160

What was your reaction
at the end of the war?

1072

00:51:41,160 --> 00:51:43,220

Well, there was always hope.

1073

00:51:43,220 --> 00:51:46,370

I tell you a coincidence
that happened to me.

1074

00:51:46,370 --> 00:51:49,100

I became engaged after the war.

1075

00:51:49,100 --> 00:51:51,350

And there is a
German-Jewish newspaper

1076

00:51:51,350 --> 00:51:53,300

in New York called the Aufbau.

1077
00:51:53,300 --> 00:51:58,190
My aunt in New York put
my engagement announcement

1078
00:51:58,190 --> 00:52:01,850
in the paper with my
address, because she

1079
00:52:01,850 --> 00:52:05,930
had hoped that if my parents
had lost my address that this

1080
00:52:05,930 --> 00:52:11,430
would give them a contact.

1081
00:52:11,430 --> 00:52:14,780
However, the contact was
a cousin of my mother's

1082
00:52:14,780 --> 00:52:16,800
who had gone to the
Philippines to live

1083
00:52:16,800 --> 00:52:19,220
who had lost all her papers.

1084
00:52:19,220 --> 00:52:26,300
And the Jewish Welfare
Board sent Jewish people

1085
00:52:26,300 --> 00:52:30,140
into the detention camps
in the Philippines,

1086
00:52:30,140 --> 00:52:33,050
and they handed them
this paper where

1087
00:52:33,050 --> 00:52:36,410
my engagement announcements
happened to be in.

1088

00:52:36,410 --> 00:52:39,500

So this couple, who
now lives in New York,

1089

00:52:39,500 --> 00:52:40,940

they came to New York.

1090

00:52:40,940 --> 00:52:43,710

They contacted you as a
result of that announcement.

1091

00:52:43,710 --> 00:52:45,470

Yes, because of
this announcement.

1092

00:52:45,470 --> 00:52:50,170

But we left our
forwarding address

1093

00:52:50,170 --> 00:52:54,290

for years with the post
office in Newark where I left

1094

00:52:54,290 --> 00:52:59,480

and my aunt in New York,
just in case a letter

1095

00:52:59,480 --> 00:53:03,210

would come in by some miracle.

1096

00:53:03,210 --> 00:53:05,110

But it never did.

1097

00:53:05,110 --> 00:53:10,090

How long did it take for
the Philippine cousin

1098

00:53:10,090 --> 00:53:11,020

to come to New York?

1099

00:53:11,020 --> 00:53:12,230

It didn't take very long.

1100
00:53:12,230 --> 00:53:14,050
Maybe-- I don't
remember the time.

1101
00:53:14,050 --> 00:53:17,570
But maybe a year.

1102
00:53:17,570 --> 00:53:18,370
Maybe even less.

1103
00:53:18,370 --> 00:53:21,100
I don't remember, but
it wasn't too long.

1104
00:53:21,100 --> 00:53:23,260
So life was full of surprises.

1105
00:53:23,260 --> 00:53:23,810
Yes.

1106
00:53:23,810 --> 00:53:25,360
And good things.

1107
00:53:25,360 --> 00:53:31,390
But in the final analysis,
what you had hoped for

1108
00:53:31,390 --> 00:53:34,000
didn't come to pass.

1109
00:53:34,000 --> 00:53:37,720
And, as I said, I
was not the only one.

1110
00:53:37,720 --> 00:53:42,100
I grew up with another
relative whose family

1111
00:53:42,100 --> 00:53:44,200
had moved to
Holland because they

1112
00:53:44,200 --> 00:53:46,150
had business
connections in Holland,

1113
00:53:46,150 --> 00:53:50,830
and the daughter, who was
my age, was sent to England.

1114
00:53:50,830 --> 00:53:55,300
When England was invaded,
they asked the daughter

1115
00:53:55,300 --> 00:53:57,070
to come back to
Holland, because Holland

1116
00:53:57,070 --> 00:54:00,730
was neutral during
the First World War.

1117
00:54:00,730 --> 00:54:05,260
And unfortunately the family
was deported and never heard

1118
00:54:05,260 --> 00:54:06,520
of again.

1119
00:54:06,520 --> 00:54:09,070
And the mother, she
survived the war.

1120
00:54:09,070 --> 00:54:11,270
She came to live in New York.

1121
00:54:11,270 --> 00:54:13,160
And I often felt very guilty.

1122
00:54:13,160 --> 00:54:15,490
I said here she looks at
me, and her daughter would

1123

00:54:15,490 --> 00:54:20,050
have been exactly as old
as I. How sad it must

1124
00:54:20,050 --> 00:54:24,160
have been for her to see me.

1125
00:54:24,160 --> 00:54:27,100
But then, again,
you were thinking

1126
00:54:27,100 --> 00:54:28,900
in terms of her feelings.

1127
00:54:28,900 --> 00:54:34,940
What about your feelings,
that your mother wasn't here,

1128
00:54:34,940 --> 00:54:35,990
even though you were?

1129
00:54:35,990 --> 00:54:40,830
So that in effect you were
across the crossroads,

1130
00:54:40,830 --> 00:54:41,790
each one looking in.

1131
00:54:41,790 --> 00:54:43,220
Well, I felt--

1132
00:54:43,220 --> 00:54:44,490
You were sensitive to her.

1133
00:54:44,490 --> 00:54:47,070
--that there was nothing
I could do except

1134
00:54:47,070 --> 00:54:48,980
accept the situation as it was.

1135
00:54:48,980 --> 00:54:50,930

And yet you had a
sense of guilt--

1136
00:54:50,930 --> 00:54:52,760
Yes, I felt very badly for her.

1137
00:54:52,760 --> 00:54:57,610
--that you survived and
the daughter didn't.

1138
00:54:57,610 --> 00:55:03,320
Have you been to any of
the European countries

1139
00:55:03,320 --> 00:55:05,360
where some of these
things like the Anne Frank

1140
00:55:05,360 --> 00:55:06,680
House for instance?

1141
00:55:06,680 --> 00:55:08,660
Yes, I was in Amsterdam.

1142
00:55:08,660 --> 00:55:11,690
I could not go into
the Anne Frank House.

1143
00:55:11,690 --> 00:55:13,970
I stayed outside.

1144
00:55:13,970 --> 00:55:17,310
My family went, and my
husband and the children went.

1145
00:55:17,310 --> 00:55:19,593
No, I--

1146
00:55:19,593 --> 00:55:23,060
Do you feel that your
husband understands

1147

00:55:23,060 --> 00:55:25,550
as much as he possibly can?

1148
00:55:25,550 --> 00:55:26,240
Oh, yes.

1149
00:55:26,240 --> 00:55:26,810
Yes.

1150
00:55:26,810 --> 00:55:27,830
My husband has died.

1151
00:55:27,830 --> 00:55:32,910
But he understood.

1152
00:55:32,910 --> 00:55:37,860
With all these German
relatives around, he had to.

1153
00:55:37,860 --> 00:55:41,010
Well, he would have had the
same sensitivity that you did,

1154
00:55:41,010 --> 00:55:45,480
because like attracts
like in that respect

1155
00:55:45,480 --> 00:55:48,930
and the important
aspect of things.

1156
00:55:48,930 --> 00:55:53,550
So that on the whole you seem
to be very, very grateful

1157
00:55:53,550 --> 00:56:00,630
for having survived and for
having a nice, warm family now.

1158
00:56:00,630 --> 00:56:06,060
And it was a big
nightmare that left you

1159

00:56:06,060 --> 00:56:11,990

and your brother
a partial family.

1160

00:56:11,990 --> 00:56:15,590

But nevertheless with
the spirit that you have,

1161

00:56:15,590 --> 00:56:22,130

it is something that is very
admirable and unbelievable.

1162

00:56:22,130 --> 00:56:26,200

Well, my children regret it
very much-- and I do too,

1163

00:56:26,200 --> 00:56:27,000

of course--

1164

00:56:27,000 --> 00:56:29,480

a certain part of the
family just never existed.

1165

00:56:29,480 --> 00:56:30,830

They had no cousins.

1166

00:56:30,830 --> 00:56:34,370

They had no grandparents.

1167

00:56:34,370 --> 00:56:37,340

They felt it when
they were little.

1168

00:56:37,340 --> 00:56:41,750

Other people had grandparents
and other people had cousins.

1169

00:56:41,750 --> 00:56:42,590

That's very true.

1170

00:56:42,590 --> 00:56:46,350

1171
00:56:46,350 --> 00:56:47,904
I hope they overcame it.

1172
00:56:47,904 --> 00:56:52,610

1173
00:56:52,610 --> 00:56:56,300
It's really remarkable
and almost unbelievable

1174
00:56:56,300 --> 00:57:00,630
that it's left you
totally unscathed.

1175
00:57:00,630 --> 00:57:07,740
I mean, to be able to
accept such horrors.

1176
00:57:07,740 --> 00:57:11,486
But then again you
lived in a kind of--

1177
00:57:11,486 --> 00:57:16,220
well, it was a secure home life
with your aunt and her family,

1178
00:57:16,220 --> 00:57:21,800
even though you
couldn't pursue what

1179
00:57:21,800 --> 00:57:24,710
your training was,
where you're training

1180
00:57:24,710 --> 00:57:26,570
would have taken you to.

1181
00:57:26,570 --> 00:57:29,150
But that also is
part of the times,

1182

00:57:29,150 --> 00:57:31,430
and you were by this
time part of the family.

1183
00:57:31,430 --> 00:57:31,930
Yeah.

1184
00:57:31,930 --> 00:57:37,100
No-- she did not exactly
throw me to the wolves.

1185
00:57:37,100 --> 00:57:39,530
That she didn't do.

1186
00:57:39,530 --> 00:57:42,410
She had her, own problems
which I realize now,

1187
00:57:42,410 --> 00:57:44,270
and she handled it
the best she could.

1188
00:57:44,270 --> 00:57:45,830
That's very true.

1189
00:57:45,830 --> 00:57:48,080
Are you close with
those cousins today?

1190
00:57:48,080 --> 00:57:51,310
Well, the two daughters
died, and my aunt died,

1191
00:57:51,310 --> 00:57:52,320
and her husband died.

1192
00:57:52,320 --> 00:57:58,940
But there's a surviving son,
and yes, we're very close.

1193
00:57:58,940 --> 00:58:01,680
Because no matter what happened,
you did live as a family.

1194
00:58:01,680 --> 00:58:02,180
Yes.

1195
00:58:02,180 --> 00:58:06,560
And although you may have
had other alternatives,

1196
00:58:06,560 --> 00:58:08,154
their home was open to you.

1197
00:58:08,154 --> 00:58:08,654
Yeah.

1198
00:58:08,654 --> 00:58:11,540
No, definitely.

1199
00:58:11,540 --> 00:58:13,610
What happened to
all the trousseau

1200
00:58:13,610 --> 00:58:15,250
that you brought from Germany?

1201
00:58:15,250 --> 00:58:16,200
I'm using it.

1202
00:58:16,200 --> 00:58:17,850
To this day?

1203
00:58:17,850 --> 00:58:20,055
I sure am.

1204
00:58:20,055 --> 00:58:23,010
That's remarkable.

1205
00:58:23,010 --> 00:58:31,400
So you have some good feelings
about what transpired.

1206
00:58:31,400 --> 00:58:36,320

I think that we
are most grateful

1207
00:58:36,320 --> 00:58:41,570
for your wonderful story,
and it gives us an insight

1208
00:58:41,570 --> 00:58:46,250
to people who were spared
perhaps the physical agony

1209
00:58:46,250 --> 00:58:52,550
of having gone through the
throes of the Holocaust

1210
00:58:52,550 --> 00:58:57,680
but still the mental anguish and
the emotional anguish of having

1211
00:58:57,680 --> 00:59:04,010
been left so unceremoniously
without proper goodbyes.

1212
00:59:04,010 --> 00:59:06,440
Because when you
left it was a lark,

1213
00:59:06,440 --> 00:59:09,890
and all the faces were happy.

1214
00:59:09,890 --> 00:59:15,830
So it's remarkable that you have
shared this experience with us.

1215
00:59:15,830 --> 00:59:22,700
Because while we do know and can
share with people the horrors

1216
00:59:22,700 --> 00:59:27,500
that they've gone through,
yours is from the vantage

1217
00:59:27,500 --> 00:59:29,930

point of the comfort
of the United States,

1218
00:59:29,930 --> 00:59:35,030
but nevertheless has molded
you into a remarkably wonderful

1219
00:59:35,030 --> 00:59:38,510
human being who takes
things in her stride,

1220
00:59:38,510 --> 00:59:45,680
and doesn't feel singled
out and doesn't ask, why me.

1221
00:59:45,680 --> 00:59:47,870
So we want to Thank
you very much on behalf

1222
00:59:47,870 --> 00:59:50,600
of Kean College and
the Yale project,

1223
00:59:50,600 --> 00:59:53,780
and we hope that your life
will always be a happy one.

1224
00:59:53,780 --> 00:59:54,297
Thank you.

1225
00:59:54,297 --> 00:59:55,130
Thank you very much.

1226
00:59:55,130 --> 00:59:57,530
And thank you for giving
me the opportunity.

1227
00:59:57,530 --> 00:59:59,680
[MUSIC PLAYING]

1228
00:59:59,680 --> 01:00:22,000