

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:24,140

2

00:00:24,140 --> 00:00:25,620

Good afternoon.

3

00:00:25,620 --> 00:00:27,210

My name is Selma Dubnick.

4

00:00:27,210 --> 00:00:30,950

I'm a member of the Kean
College Oral Testimonies Project

5

00:00:30,950 --> 00:00:33,290

of the Holocaust
Resource Center.

6

00:00:33,290 --> 00:00:35,600

We are affiliated with
the Video Archives

7

00:00:35,600 --> 00:00:38,240

for Holocaust Testimonies
at the Sterling

8

00:00:38,240 --> 00:00:40,550

Library of Yale University.

9

00:00:40,550 --> 00:00:44,060

Sharing the interview with
me is Dr. Henry Kaplowitz.

10

00:00:44,060 --> 00:00:48,020

We are privileged to welcome
Mrs. Susanne Prager, a survivor

11

00:00:48,020 --> 00:00:52,070

presently living in New Jersey
who has generously volunteered

12

00:00:52,070 --> 00:00:55,010

to give testimony
about her experiences

13
00:00:55,010 --> 00:00:58,790
before, during, and
after the Holocaust.

14
00:00:58,790 --> 00:01:00,260
Welcome, Mrs. Prager.

15
00:01:00,260 --> 00:01:00,900
Thank you.

16
00:01:00,900 --> 00:01:01,760
I'm glad to be here.

17
00:01:01,760 --> 00:01:02,780
Thank you.

18
00:01:02,780 --> 00:01:05,090
Mrs. Prager, I wonder
if you would tell us

19
00:01:05,090 --> 00:01:09,620
where you were born and what it
was like growing up in the town

20
00:01:09,620 --> 00:01:11,180
that you were born in.

21
00:01:11,180 --> 00:01:12,650
I'm glad to do so.

22
00:01:12,650 --> 00:01:15,140
I was born in Upper Silesia.

23
00:01:15,140 --> 00:01:18,410
The town was, at that
time, called Oppeln.

24
00:01:18,410 --> 00:01:23,570
Now it's Poland, and

it's called Opole.

25

00:01:23,570 --> 00:01:27,560

I actually was, more
or less, born already

26

00:01:27,560 --> 00:01:33,320

into the Nazi time of Germany.

27

00:01:33,320 --> 00:01:38,360

So my memories of Germany are
not really that beautiful.

28

00:01:38,360 --> 00:01:43,340

However, from what I heard
my parents talk about,

29

00:01:43,340 --> 00:01:46,400

they always told me that it
was very nice before that,

30

00:01:46,400 --> 00:01:50,180

that people were very
sociable together,

31

00:01:50,180 --> 00:01:53,070

and everything was
beautiful and peaceful.

32

00:01:53,070 --> 00:01:56,540

I mean, my parents grew
up under the kaiser.

33

00:01:56,540 --> 00:02:00,620

And they had gone through World
War I and the Weimar Republic.

34

00:02:00,620 --> 00:02:02,880

Everything was fine.

35

00:02:02,880 --> 00:02:07,910

However, by the time I was born,
Hitler already was on the rise.

36
00:02:07,910 --> 00:02:12,060
And in the beginning
naturally, as a child,

37
00:02:12,060 --> 00:02:14,180
you don't feel it too much.

38
00:02:14,180 --> 00:02:18,080
And from what my
parents used to tell me,

39
00:02:18,080 --> 00:02:23,210
there used to be fights between
the Nazis and the communists.

40
00:02:23,210 --> 00:02:27,530
My father had a store right
in the center of our town.

41
00:02:27,530 --> 00:02:31,010
And right around
that square used

42
00:02:31,010 --> 00:02:37,960
to be fights, terrible fights
between the two parties.

43
00:02:37,960 --> 00:02:40,390
And at times, my
parents even were

44
00:02:40,390 --> 00:02:43,090
afraid to take us outside,
because there were really

45
00:02:43,090 --> 00:02:45,910
fights going on in the streets.

46
00:02:45,910 --> 00:02:48,610

47

00:02:48,610 --> 00:02:51,610
We were a very happy family.

48
00:02:51,610 --> 00:02:56,110
My grandparents lived not
too far away in another town

49
00:02:56,110 --> 00:02:57,310
where my mother came from.

50
00:02:57,310 --> 00:03:00,880
It was called [? Ratibor. ?]
And my grandfather, too,

51
00:03:00,880 --> 00:03:03,940
had a store in that
particular town.

52
00:03:03,940 --> 00:03:07,540
And I had a very loving
family of my aunts,

53
00:03:07,540 --> 00:03:09,580
and uncles, and cousins.

54
00:03:09,580 --> 00:03:13,160
As I say, we were a really
happy, close-knit family.

55
00:03:13,160 --> 00:03:14,720
Did you have any
brothers or sisters?

56
00:03:14,720 --> 00:03:17,830
I have one sister who's
a little younger than I.

57
00:03:17,830 --> 00:03:19,450
We were the two girls.

58
00:03:19,450 --> 00:03:21,050
What was her name?

59

00:03:21,050 --> 00:03:22,870

Her name is Vera.

60

00:03:22,870 --> 00:03:27,880

And your cousins, did
you see them frequently?

61

00:03:27,880 --> 00:03:30,910

Some of my-- I mean, I
have to mention one thing.

62

00:03:30,910 --> 00:03:34,870

Most of my cousins are much
older than my sister and I,

63

00:03:34,870 --> 00:03:37,500

because my father was the
youngest child in the family.

64

00:03:37,500 --> 00:03:38,480

It was a large family.

65

00:03:38,480 --> 00:03:40,930

So by the time he got
married and had children,

66

00:03:40,930 --> 00:03:42,010

the others were older.

67

00:03:42,010 --> 00:03:43,930

However, on my
mother's side, yes, I

68

00:03:43,930 --> 00:03:47,660

had cousins who were more
or less my age group.

69

00:03:47,660 --> 00:03:49,090

And they lived in Berlin.

70

00:03:49,090 --> 00:03:50,860

So we didn't see each

other that often.

71

00:03:50,860 --> 00:03:53,950

However, they once in a
while would come to visit us.

72

00:03:53,950 --> 00:03:58,000

Or we would go once in a
while to visit with them.

73

00:03:58,000 --> 00:04:01,370

You mentioned the fights between
the Nazis and the communists.

74

00:04:01,370 --> 00:04:02,380

Right.

75

00:04:02,380 --> 00:04:05,950

And your parents were afraid
to let you go into the street.

76

00:04:05,950 --> 00:04:09,025

Did they also, at
that particular time,

77

00:04:09,025 --> 00:04:10,330

fight with the Jews?

78

00:04:10,330 --> 00:04:10,920

Were they--

79

00:04:10,920 --> 00:04:11,420

No.

80

00:04:11,420 --> 00:04:12,220

Did you see signs--

81

00:04:12,220 --> 00:04:13,370

No, there was no--

82

00:04:13,370 --> 00:04:13,930

no, no, no.

83
00:04:13,930 --> 00:04:14,710
There was no-- no.

84
00:04:14,710 --> 00:04:19,329
There was no fight between Jews
and anybody else at that point.

85
00:04:19,329 --> 00:04:20,200
No.

86
00:04:20,200 --> 00:04:22,300
To illustrate, I'll
tell you what happened.

87
00:04:22,300 --> 00:04:25,210
I had started to go-- that
was my first year of school.

88
00:04:25,210 --> 00:04:30,190
And I remember seeing
a swastika on the wall.

89
00:04:30,190 --> 00:04:32,450
And I didn't know what it was.

90
00:04:32,450 --> 00:04:34,820
And it was in the winter
time with the snow.

91
00:04:34,820 --> 00:04:36,340
So I took snow.

92
00:04:36,340 --> 00:04:39,490
And I made a swastika.

93
00:04:39,490 --> 00:04:40,450
In the snow?

94
00:04:40,450 --> 00:04:43,480
No, no, not in the snow--
on the wall, with the snow.

95

00:04:43,480 --> 00:04:47,740

And somebody hit me
with a snowball, which

96

00:04:47,740 --> 00:04:49,180

then-- my mother was with me.

97

00:04:49,180 --> 00:04:50,010

She pulled me away.

98

00:04:50,010 --> 00:04:51,010

She said, are you crazy?

99

00:04:51,010 --> 00:04:51,968

Why are you doing that?

100

00:04:51,968 --> 00:04:56,560

And that man was a communist
who had seen me doing it.

101

00:04:56,560 --> 00:04:57,610

And I was a little child.

102

00:04:57,610 --> 00:04:59,480

I was maybe five
or six years old.

103

00:04:59,480 --> 00:05:01,930

And he somehow resented
that I did that.

104

00:05:01,930 --> 00:05:04,768

That's the only experience
I personally have.

105

00:05:04,768 --> 00:05:06,560

You mentioned that your
father had a store.

106

00:05:06,560 --> 00:05:07,910

What type of store was it?

107
00:05:07,910 --> 00:05:12,610
It was a men's clothing store
and sportswear, like that.

108
00:05:12,610 --> 00:05:14,530
And did your mother work?

109
00:05:14,530 --> 00:05:16,630
My mother-- no, she didn't work.

110
00:05:16,630 --> 00:05:19,300
She did help my father
in the store at times,

111
00:05:19,300 --> 00:05:20,530
and that was it.

112
00:05:20,530 --> 00:05:22,250
She didn't work at all.

113
00:05:22,250 --> 00:05:22,750
Was your--

114
00:05:22,750 --> 00:05:23,620
What-- oh, sorry.

115
00:05:23,620 --> 00:05:25,960
Was your family religious?

116
00:05:25,960 --> 00:05:26,560
No.

117
00:05:26,560 --> 00:05:30,420
I would say we were what
you call today conservative.

118
00:05:30,420 --> 00:05:32,020
We had a beautiful synagogue.

119
00:05:32,020 --> 00:05:33,970

I brought you the picture
of that synagogue.

120
00:05:33,970 --> 00:05:37,070
In that synagogue, the men
and the women sat separated.

121
00:05:37,070 --> 00:05:41,050
However, we had an organ,
which made it very beautiful.

122
00:05:41,050 --> 00:05:44,720
As a matter of fact,
if I might mention it,

123
00:05:44,720 --> 00:05:48,440
Leo Baeck was,
once upon a time--

124
00:05:48,440 --> 00:05:51,280
as a matter of fact, I
think he was the first rabbi

125
00:05:51,280 --> 00:05:53,454
in our congregation.

126
00:05:53,454 --> 00:05:54,220
Interesting.

127
00:05:54,220 --> 00:05:54,850
Yeah.

128
00:05:54,850 --> 00:05:59,200
What was it like going to
school in your little town?

129
00:05:59,200 --> 00:06:01,450
It wasn't very nice.

130
00:06:01,450 --> 00:06:04,167
As a matter of fact, I would
say it was rather awful.

131

00:06:04,167 --> 00:06:05,500

In the beginning, it wasn't bad.

132

00:06:05,500 --> 00:06:09,610

When I started off, we were
five Jewish girls in my class.

133

00:06:09,610 --> 00:06:12,280

But little by little,
people dropped out.

134

00:06:12,280 --> 00:06:15,370

Either they moved away,
or they emigrated.

135

00:06:15,370 --> 00:06:19,000

At the end, I was the
only one left in class.

136

00:06:19,000 --> 00:06:24,760

And I was really shunned by
the rest of the students.

137

00:06:24,760 --> 00:06:29,110

I had to sit by myself
in the back of the class.

138

00:06:29,110 --> 00:06:31,780

And really, nobody was
allowed to bother with me,

139

00:06:31,780 --> 00:06:34,284

not to speak to
me, or-- you know.

140

00:06:34,284 --> 00:06:37,480

And whenever something
was mentioned--

141

00:06:37,480 --> 00:06:40,540

and it was mentioned
quite often-- about Jews,

142

00:06:40,540 --> 00:06:44,530

everybody would turn
around and laugh at me.

143

00:06:44,530 --> 00:06:47,200

Ha, ha, there you see
what's happening--

144

00:06:47,200 --> 00:06:50,410

when, actually, they never
spoke in a very positive way

145

00:06:50,410 --> 00:06:51,220

about Jews.

146

00:06:51,220 --> 00:06:54,700

It was always very negative,
about the crimes Jews

147

00:06:54,700 --> 00:06:57,250

had committed, and whatever.

148

00:06:57,250 --> 00:07:02,830

And the worst I remember is
when Austria, at that time--

149

00:07:02,830 --> 00:07:05,440

the time of the
Anschluss, they called it.

150

00:07:05,440 --> 00:07:07,840

At that time, I was in school.

151

00:07:07,840 --> 00:07:14,600

And it was discussed back and
forth about how wonderful,

152

00:07:14,600 --> 00:07:18,050

now they're going to get rid of
the Jews there, and all that.

153

00:07:18,050 --> 00:07:21,370

And I'm pretty good in history.

154

00:07:21,370 --> 00:07:24,430

And when the teacher asked
questions, I raised my hand,

155

00:07:24,430 --> 00:07:26,387

and I knew the right answer.

156

00:07:26,387 --> 00:07:27,220

And he looked at me.

157

00:07:27,220 --> 00:07:30,910

And he said, gee, how come that
you know so much, about Jewish?

158

00:07:30,910 --> 00:07:32,680

How did that make you feel?

159

00:07:32,680 --> 00:07:33,640

Terrible.

160

00:07:33,640 --> 00:07:35,530

Terrible, frustrated.

161

00:07:35,530 --> 00:07:39,390

And my mother, when I left to
go to school in the morning--

162

00:07:39,390 --> 00:07:41,280

I'm a very outspoken person.

163

00:07:41,280 --> 00:07:43,800

My mother would say to
me, please keep your mouth

164

00:07:43,800 --> 00:07:48,480

shut, don't mention anything,
you can get us into trouble.

165

00:07:48,480 --> 00:07:52,560

Had you had any non-Jewish

friends prior to that?

166
00:07:52,560 --> 00:07:53,070
Yeah.

167
00:07:53,070 --> 00:07:55,870
I mean, before it really
got bad, yes, I did.

168
00:07:55,870 --> 00:07:56,370
Yes.

169
00:07:56,370 --> 00:07:58,530
And did they stop
being friends with you?

170
00:07:58,530 --> 00:07:59,380
Exactly.

171
00:07:59,380 --> 00:08:00,900
They turned their back on me.

172
00:08:00,900 --> 00:08:01,770
Yes.

173
00:08:01,770 --> 00:08:02,310
Yes.

174
00:08:02,310 --> 00:08:04,680
As a matter of fact, if
it's of any interest to you,

175
00:08:04,680 --> 00:08:06,960
I can tell you one little
episode that happened

176
00:08:06,960 --> 00:08:10,450
to me, which was terrible.

177
00:08:10,450 --> 00:08:12,150
I had a Jewish girlfriend.

178

00:08:12,150 --> 00:08:13,680

And the two of us--

179

00:08:13,680 --> 00:08:15,360

it was a small town.

180

00:08:15,360 --> 00:08:17,790

At that point, there may
have been 50,000 people,

181

00:08:17,790 --> 00:08:19,020

something like that.

182

00:08:19,020 --> 00:08:21,990

We were walking on
the main street.

183

00:08:21,990 --> 00:08:24,060

And we are kids.

184

00:08:24,060 --> 00:08:25,260

We were laughing.

185

00:08:25,260 --> 00:08:30,150

And two young girls-- you
see, little by little,

186

00:08:30,150 --> 00:08:33,179

everybody came in those
uniforms, if you recall--

187

00:08:33,179 --> 00:08:36,059

BDM, which means
Bund Deutscher Madel,

188

00:08:36,059 --> 00:08:39,659

which means Organization
of German Girls,

189

00:08:39,659 --> 00:08:40,630

something like that.

190

00:08:40,630 --> 00:08:42,240
They wore the brown uniforms.

191

00:08:42,240 --> 00:08:45,600
And while we were
passing, we were laughing.

192

00:08:45,600 --> 00:08:49,440
And all of a sudden, they
were running after us--

193

00:08:49,440 --> 00:08:51,510
and not only they,
but the whole hoard

194

00:08:51,510 --> 00:08:55,650
of real rabble chasing us.

195

00:08:55,650 --> 00:08:56,920
And we didn't know what to do.

196

00:08:56,920 --> 00:08:57,420
We ran.

197

00:08:57,420 --> 00:08:57,920
We ran.

198

00:08:57,920 --> 00:09:03,358
And finally, there
was a Jewish pharmacy.

199

00:09:03,358 --> 00:09:04,150
We know the people.

200

00:09:04,150 --> 00:09:06,270
And we went into that pharmacy.

201

00:09:06,270 --> 00:09:09,400
And they hid us.

202

00:09:09,400 --> 00:09:11,400

And what happened is
they kept on throwing

203
00:09:11,400 --> 00:09:16,140
rocks and everything
against that pharmacy.

204
00:09:16,140 --> 00:09:19,410
And we waited for about an
hour, something like that,

205
00:09:19,410 --> 00:09:20,700
till they finally had left.

206
00:09:20,700 --> 00:09:23,760
And then there was an old lady
happened to come as a customer,

207
00:09:23,760 --> 00:09:25,740
a Jewish lady whom
we knew, who lived

208
00:09:25,740 --> 00:09:27,330
in my girlfriend's building.

209
00:09:27,330 --> 00:09:28,920
And she took us home.

210
00:09:28,920 --> 00:09:30,360
She walked us home.

211
00:09:30,360 --> 00:09:35,130
But then, later on, those girls
came to my girlfriend's house

212
00:09:35,130 --> 00:09:41,730
and told her that they wanted
to have me punished, because I

213
00:09:41,730 --> 00:09:44,955
laughed at them, and
they wore a uniform.

214

00:09:44,955 --> 00:09:48,180

215

00:09:48,180 --> 00:09:49,880

But they really
wanted to do-- they

216

00:09:49,880 --> 00:09:52,030

wanted to blackmail my parents.

217

00:09:52,030 --> 00:09:54,400

So my father said, well--
they didn't come to our house.

218

00:09:54,400 --> 00:09:56,190

They went to the
other people's house.

219

00:09:56,190 --> 00:09:57,815

So my father said,
well, next time they

220

00:09:57,815 --> 00:10:01,560

come, take their names so that
we know whom we deal with,

221

00:10:01,560 --> 00:10:02,710

which they did.

222

00:10:02,710 --> 00:10:05,730

And that was the end of it.

223

00:10:05,730 --> 00:10:09,690

How many Jewish families were
there living in your town?

224

00:10:09,690 --> 00:10:14,130

As I say, I was really
too young to exactly know.

225

00:10:14,130 --> 00:10:16,320

I would say roughly

maybe 200, something

226

00:10:16,320 --> 00:10:19,966

like that, just about.

227

00:10:19,966 --> 00:10:23,190

And many of the things I
know because my cousins,

228

00:10:23,190 --> 00:10:26,050

who were older than I,
were talking about it.

229

00:10:26,050 --> 00:10:28,170

That's how I know some of it.

230

00:10:28,170 --> 00:10:32,040

You had mentioned to me earlier
that your parents sent you

231

00:10:32,040 --> 00:10:33,120

to a boarding school--

232

00:10:33,120 --> 00:10:33,620

Yes.

233

00:10:33,620 --> 00:10:34,740

--later.

234

00:10:34,740 --> 00:10:37,920

Was it because of the situation
in the school, in the town--

235

00:10:37,920 --> 00:10:38,430

It was.

236

00:10:38,430 --> 00:10:39,030

--in the beginning.

237

00:10:39,030 --> 00:10:40,320

It was, yes, because of that.

238
00:10:40,320 --> 00:10:40,860
Yes.

239
00:10:40,860 --> 00:10:42,510
I couldn't make any headway.

240
00:10:42,510 --> 00:10:46,290
And really, I was--
they just gave us

241
00:10:46,290 --> 00:10:50,700
the lowest marks you could
possibly get not to promote us.

242
00:10:50,700 --> 00:10:55,500
Anyways, the myth is that the
Jewish children are so smart.

243
00:10:55,500 --> 00:10:59,040
And they wanted to show,
no, you are not that smart.

244
00:10:59,040 --> 00:11:00,420
Whatever, they tried.

245
00:11:00,420 --> 00:11:01,650
They really tried.

246
00:11:01,650 --> 00:11:02,490
And not only that.

247
00:11:02,490 --> 00:11:03,907
I think I might
not even have been

248
00:11:03,907 --> 00:11:07,668
that good, because I was really
influenced by what happened.

249
00:11:07,668 --> 00:11:09,960
I mean, when you have to live
with something like that,

250
00:11:09,960 --> 00:11:12,450
with the frustration
like that as a child,

251
00:11:12,450 --> 00:11:15,240
it's very hard to
concentrate anyhow.

252
00:11:15,240 --> 00:11:18,930
So my parents sent
me to a school

253
00:11:18,930 --> 00:11:22,260
in a bigger city, which
was called Breslau.

254
00:11:22,260 --> 00:11:24,513
And I went to that school,
which was a Jewish school.

255
00:11:24,513 --> 00:11:25,680
Did your sister go with you?

256
00:11:25,680 --> 00:11:26,180
No.

257
00:11:26,180 --> 00:11:29,190
My sisters-- my sister was
younger, in the lower grades.

258
00:11:29,190 --> 00:11:32,040
You had to be a certain age
to get into that school,

259
00:11:32,040 --> 00:11:34,210
because it already
was a high school.

260
00:11:34,210 --> 00:11:36,330
And my sister was
too young for that.

261

00:11:36,330 --> 00:11:37,660

So my sister didn't go with me.

262

00:11:37,660 --> 00:11:38,160

No.

263

00:11:38,160 --> 00:11:40,940

What were things

like in Breslau?

264

00:11:40,940 --> 00:11:43,740

You see, in a way, it

was a little better

265

00:11:43,740 --> 00:11:46,410

in the bigger cities, because

people didn't know you.

266

00:11:46,410 --> 00:11:49,320

See, in a small town,

everybody knew who you were.

267

00:11:49,320 --> 00:11:53,560

But in the cities, people

didn't really know.

268

00:11:53,560 --> 00:11:55,290

So it wasn't as bad.

269

00:11:55,290 --> 00:11:57,030

No, it wasn't.

270

00:11:57,030 --> 00:11:59,550

But anyhow, the Jews

lived isolated even there,

271

00:11:59,550 --> 00:12:03,660

because the school I went

to, upstairs was our school.

272

00:12:03,660 --> 00:12:06,668

Down, in the same building,

was a Jewish old-age home.

273

00:12:06,668 --> 00:12:08,835

And across the street from
us was a Jewish hospital.

274

00:12:08,835 --> 00:12:10,420

So it was all together.

275

00:12:10,420 --> 00:12:12,360

It was almost like a ghetto.

276

00:12:12,360 --> 00:12:13,590

In the way, it was.

277

00:12:13,590 --> 00:12:15,720

Except you could walk freely.

278

00:12:15,720 --> 00:12:17,610

Nobody checked you out
or anything like that.

279

00:12:17,610 --> 00:12:20,280

Where did you live when you
went to the school in Breslau?

280

00:12:20,280 --> 00:12:21,380

It was a boarding school.

281

00:12:21,380 --> 00:12:23,230

We lived right in the school.

282

00:12:23,230 --> 00:12:23,730

Yes.

283

00:12:23,730 --> 00:12:26,260

Were there other children
from your town at that school?

284

00:12:26,260 --> 00:12:26,760

No.

285

00:12:26,760 --> 00:12:28,235

I was the only one.

286

00:12:28,235 --> 00:12:29,610

But they were all
from-- you see,

287

00:12:29,610 --> 00:12:32,880

Upper Silesia was
all little towns.

288

00:12:32,880 --> 00:12:35,850

But they all were like one
big family, more or less.

289

00:12:35,850 --> 00:12:38,060

And then there were students
who lived in Breslau

290

00:12:38,060 --> 00:12:41,420

who came to that school.

291

00:12:41,420 --> 00:12:44,420

And I was mostly friendly
with those people.

292

00:12:44,420 --> 00:12:48,440

And did you get to see
your parents on weekends?

293

00:12:48,440 --> 00:12:52,250

Not that often, maybe once a
month or something like that.

294

00:12:52,250 --> 00:12:53,810

Yes, I did.

295

00:12:53,810 --> 00:12:56,870

And what was the atmosphere
like in Breslau at that time?

296

00:12:56,870 --> 00:12:59,840

You said that it wasn't as bad,
because it was larger city.

297
00:12:59,840 --> 00:13:00,440
Yes.

298
00:13:00,440 --> 00:13:02,870
But what was the
condition as far

299
00:13:02,870 --> 00:13:04,550
as the Nazis were concerned?

300
00:13:04,550 --> 00:13:05,930
Well, the Nazis were all over.

301
00:13:05,930 --> 00:13:09,340
There was no way of
getting away from them.

302
00:13:09,340 --> 00:13:10,640
They were all over.

303
00:13:10,640 --> 00:13:12,830
But you see, one thing happened.

304
00:13:12,830 --> 00:13:15,170
And that will bring
me really into what

305
00:13:15,170 --> 00:13:19,040
you want to know about the
beginning of the Holocaust.

306
00:13:19,040 --> 00:13:22,100
You see, there was such
a thing that Germany

307
00:13:22,100 --> 00:13:25,290
had some kind-- as I say,
it was all before my time.

308

00:13:25,290 --> 00:13:26,970
So I'm not too sure about it.

309
00:13:26,970 --> 00:13:29,750
There was some kind
of treaty with Poland

310
00:13:29,750 --> 00:13:34,250
that, until 1937,
Silesia and Upper Silesia

311
00:13:34,250 --> 00:13:37,100
was under protectorate--

312
00:13:37,100 --> 00:13:40,400
did I say it right,
protectorate-- of Poland.

313
00:13:40,400 --> 00:13:44,480
So really, they were not allowed
really to touch the Jews.

314
00:13:44,480 --> 00:13:46,670
See, in Germany proper,
they could do with the Jews

315
00:13:46,670 --> 00:13:48,230
what they wanted to.

316
00:13:48,230 --> 00:13:51,398
But here we were, more or
less, protected by Poles.

317
00:13:51,398 --> 00:13:51,940
By the Poles.

318
00:13:51,940 --> 00:13:53,840
By the Poles, yes.

319
00:13:53,840 --> 00:13:54,710
Interesting.

320

00:13:54,710 --> 00:13:57,260
However, what really happened--

321
00:13:57,260 --> 00:13:59,480
I mean, it happened while
I was at that school.

322
00:13:59,480 --> 00:14:02,510

323
00:14:02,510 --> 00:14:05,930
It was in the fall of 1938.

324
00:14:05,930 --> 00:14:08,150
I don't know exactly
which months.

325
00:14:08,150 --> 00:14:09,230
It must have been--

326
00:14:09,230 --> 00:14:11,180
because I didn't
go to that school

327
00:14:11,180 --> 00:14:13,070
until the beginning of October.

328
00:14:13,070 --> 00:14:14,420
That's when I started it.

329
00:14:14,420 --> 00:14:19,340
It must have been sometimes
by the middle of October,

330
00:14:19,340 --> 00:14:22,520
end of October,
something like that.

331
00:14:22,520 --> 00:14:26,900
They took the people
who were Polish Jews--

332

00:14:26,900 --> 00:14:29,450
once it really
was over, you see.

333
00:14:29,450 --> 00:14:31,520
They took the people,
the Polish Jews

334
00:14:31,520 --> 00:14:35,090
who lived around in Germany,
that part of Germany.

335
00:14:35,090 --> 00:14:37,820
And as a matter of fact,
I think all over Germany--

336
00:14:37,820 --> 00:14:41,750
came in the middle of the
night, loaded them onto vans,

337
00:14:41,750 --> 00:14:44,840
and drove them towards
the Polish border,

338
00:14:44,840 --> 00:14:47,600
and try to push them
over the border.

339
00:14:47,600 --> 00:14:49,280
And the Poles didn't want them.

340
00:14:49,280 --> 00:14:51,560
And the Germans
didn't want them.

341
00:14:51,560 --> 00:14:55,140
And that created that situation.

342
00:14:55,140 --> 00:14:57,680
And I think then
there was the story--

343
00:14:57,680 --> 00:14:59,210

I'm sure you're
familiar with it.

344
00:14:59,210 --> 00:15:02,540
It's this young Jewish boy--
his name was Grynszpan--

345
00:15:02,540 --> 00:15:10,190
who lived in Paris and who
went to the German consulate.

346
00:15:10,190 --> 00:15:15,500
And he must have known
the particular man

347
00:15:15,500 --> 00:15:16,760
who worked at the consulate.

348
00:15:16,760 --> 00:15:19,040
His name was vom Rath.

349
00:15:19,040 --> 00:15:24,080
And when he got into
his room, he took a gun

350
00:15:24,080 --> 00:15:27,860
and shot him in revenge,
because his parents

351
00:15:27,860 --> 00:15:35,770
had been deported into Poland
and were in that situation.

352
00:15:35,770 --> 00:15:38,370
And I think that
was just the excuse

353
00:15:38,370 --> 00:15:42,230
the Nazis had been
looking for to start

354
00:15:42,230 --> 00:15:44,840
to do something about the Jews.

355

00:15:44,840 --> 00:15:48,710
And as we always say, that was
then the beginning of the end,

356

00:15:48,710 --> 00:15:52,880
because five years had
elapsed since Hitler

357

00:15:52,880 --> 00:15:54,200
had become chancellor.

358

00:15:54,200 --> 00:15:55,910
It was in 1933.

359

00:15:55,910 --> 00:15:57,980
And that was now in 1938.

360

00:15:57,980 --> 00:16:00,800
And they had been waiting
for an opportunity

361

00:16:00,800 --> 00:16:04,880
to really get even
with the Jews.

362

00:16:04,880 --> 00:16:11,100
And I think that really
gave them the opportunity.

363

00:16:11,100 --> 00:16:13,620
And if you want me to, I'll
go on telling you what--

364

00:16:13,620 --> 00:16:14,220
Please.

365

00:16:14,220 --> 00:16:14,720
Please do.

366

00:16:14,720 --> 00:16:15,387
--happened then.

367
00:16:15,387 --> 00:16:17,360
Please do.

368
00:16:17,360 --> 00:16:20,900
We were really very nervous
about the whole thing.

369
00:16:20,900 --> 00:16:24,200
In that school I was in,
we were talking about it.

370
00:16:24,200 --> 00:16:26,960
And we said, well, they're
going to do something to us.

371
00:16:26,960 --> 00:16:28,280
We're not going to--

372
00:16:28,280 --> 00:16:31,340
they were on radio, over
the radio, oh, those Jews,

373
00:16:31,340 --> 00:16:35,090
that Jewish boy who
shot that German hero.

374
00:16:35,090 --> 00:16:37,010
What we are going
to do about it?

375
00:16:37,010 --> 00:16:38,670
The Jews are going
to pay for that.

376
00:16:38,670 --> 00:16:40,890
So we were really
very, very nervous.

377
00:16:40,890 --> 00:16:44,960
And we didn't have to
wait very long, because--

378

00:16:44,960 --> 00:16:46,790

and now I'm going to
tell the story, which

379

00:16:46,790 --> 00:16:49,760

I have told my children,
and that's how it was.

380

00:16:49,760 --> 00:16:53,450

I mean, that's what I
really was a witness to.

381

00:16:53,450 --> 00:16:58,100

It must have been the
morning of November 10.

382

00:16:58,100 --> 00:16:59,930

It was in school.

383

00:16:59,930 --> 00:17:01,100

It was a very gray morning.

384

00:17:01,100 --> 00:17:03,860

And we had to get up very early,
because our classes started

385

00:17:03,860 --> 00:17:04,760

at 8 o'clock.

386

00:17:04,760 --> 00:17:06,980

And we had to go and be ready.

387

00:17:06,980 --> 00:17:10,140

And everybody maybe had to
have breakfast together.

388

00:17:10,140 --> 00:17:13,800

And everybody had a duty to
do, either clean this room,

389

00:17:13,800 --> 00:17:14,480

or do this.

390
00:17:14,480 --> 00:17:17,450
We always had to do things
before we started classes.

391
00:17:17,450 --> 00:17:19,589
So I remember the day.

392
00:17:19,589 --> 00:17:25,069
It was my duty that I had to
be in charge of the bathroom

393
00:17:25,069 --> 00:17:25,579
floor.

394
00:17:25,579 --> 00:17:28,130
I had to make sure that the
bathroom floor was clean.

395
00:17:28,130 --> 00:17:29,600
And when I came
into the bathroom,

396
00:17:29,600 --> 00:17:32,360
I heard somebody sob terribly.

397
00:17:32,360 --> 00:17:36,680
And I saw a girl who
lived in the town,

398
00:17:36,680 --> 00:17:40,530
in Breslau proper, who had
come in in the morning.

399
00:17:40,530 --> 00:17:42,422
And she was just sobbing.

400
00:17:42,422 --> 00:17:43,130
And I asked her--

401
00:17:43,130 --> 00:17:44,047
I said, what happened?

402
00:17:44,047 --> 00:17:45,570
My god, what happened to you?

403
00:17:45,570 --> 00:17:49,920
She said, oh, she says,
the synagogues are burning.

404
00:17:49,920 --> 00:17:53,370
I said, what, the synagogues?

405
00:17:53,370 --> 00:17:54,420
I said, how do you know?

406
00:17:54,420 --> 00:17:57,550
She said, well, I passed
one, and I saw it burn.

407
00:17:57,550 --> 00:18:00,087
And now I have to add, this
girl was a very religious girl,

408
00:18:00,087 --> 00:18:00,670
so-- you know.

409
00:18:00,670 --> 00:18:04,480

410
00:18:04,480 --> 00:18:06,790
But I didn't know
more than that.

411
00:18:06,790 --> 00:18:10,060
But later on, while the
other students came in,

412
00:18:10,060 --> 00:18:13,060
we heard all the horrors
about the Jewish stores

413
00:18:13,060 --> 00:18:16,270
being destroyed and

the men being arrested.

414

00:18:16,270 --> 00:18:18,070

All the Jewish men they
could get a hold of

415

00:18:18,070 --> 00:18:21,250

were arrested and taken away,
collected and taken away

416

00:18:21,250 --> 00:18:23,650

to concentration camp.

417

00:18:23,650 --> 00:18:26,740

And not only that--
at that point,

418

00:18:26,740 --> 00:18:30,100

Jews were not allowed
to use phones anymore.

419

00:18:30,100 --> 00:18:33,340

They didn't want us to
communicate with anybody.

420

00:18:33,340 --> 00:18:35,770

And now, as I say, I was
away from my parents.

421

00:18:35,770 --> 00:18:38,470

And I really didn't know
what was going on at home,

422

00:18:38,470 --> 00:18:41,290

which was a terrible feeling.

423

00:18:41,290 --> 00:18:46,330

And I remember there were
those old ladies in the old age

424

00:18:46,330 --> 00:18:47,740

home underneath us.

425

00:18:47,740 --> 00:18:51,190

And because when

I was a girl and I

426

00:18:51,190 --> 00:18:53,770

was rather blonde and all

that, they said to me,

427

00:18:53,770 --> 00:18:55,810

oh, please walk

me to my children.

428

00:18:55,810 --> 00:18:57,070

You don't look Jewish.

429

00:18:57,070 --> 00:18:59,110

Then they won't hurt me.

430

00:18:59,110 --> 00:19:01,750

And walk me to my

children, because I

431

00:19:01,750 --> 00:19:03,010

want to know what happened.

432

00:19:03,010 --> 00:19:08,290

And I remember walking

old people back and forth

433

00:19:08,290 --> 00:19:09,510

in the streets.

434

00:19:09,510 --> 00:19:12,190

When they saw me walk

with those old ladies--

435

00:19:12,190 --> 00:19:14,170

maybe they looked

Jewish or something--

436

00:19:14,170 --> 00:19:17,680

they kept on throwing

bottles at us.

437

00:19:17,680 --> 00:19:19,240

And somebody said
to me, aren't you

438

00:19:19,240 --> 00:19:23,620

ashamed to walk this
is old Jewish woman?

439

00:19:23,620 --> 00:19:25,290

And we passed
Jewish stores, which

440

00:19:25,290 --> 00:19:26,860

were completely demolished.

441

00:19:26,860 --> 00:19:28,330

And people went inside.

442

00:19:28,330 --> 00:19:31,200

That's why nobody should tell
me they didn't know about it.

443

00:19:31,200 --> 00:19:35,050

They went inside and helped
themselves to the merchandise.

444

00:19:35,050 --> 00:19:36,760

The store windows were broken.

445

00:19:36,760 --> 00:19:37,930

Everything was broken up.

446

00:19:37,930 --> 00:19:41,410

And people just went
inside and helped themselves

447

00:19:41,410 --> 00:19:45,120

to whatever they could
get their hands on.

448

00:19:45,120 --> 00:19:47,605
Did you find out what happened
in your own town of Oppeln?

449
00:19:47,605 --> 00:19:48,105
Yes.

450
00:19:48,105 --> 00:19:48,710
--during Kristallnacht?

451
00:19:48,710 --> 00:19:49,210
Yes.

452
00:19:49,210 --> 00:19:52,740
I must say, my mother
was very good that way.

453
00:19:52,740 --> 00:19:57,990
She sent me an express letter,
which I had ON the next day--

454
00:19:57,990 --> 00:20:00,450
not to worry,
everything is all right,

455
00:20:00,450 --> 00:20:02,220
that my father is still home.

456
00:20:02,220 --> 00:20:04,230
He wasn't taken away.

457
00:20:04,230 --> 00:20:05,790
Did they break into his store?

458
00:20:05,790 --> 00:20:07,500
Oh, yes, yes.

459
00:20:07,500 --> 00:20:09,900
But anyhow, I said,
well, I want to go home.

460
00:20:09,900 --> 00:20:13,080

And the next following
day, I went home.

461
00:20:13,080 --> 00:20:16,350
And what had
happened is the house

462
00:20:16,350 --> 00:20:19,110
we lived in-- it was a walk-up.

463
00:20:19,110 --> 00:20:25,120
And somehow, our landlord, who
was not the nicest person--

464
00:20:25,120 --> 00:20:28,530
however, he was a fair person,
and he was not a Nazi--

465
00:20:28,530 --> 00:20:30,420
he got wind of
what was going on.

466
00:20:30,420 --> 00:20:33,600
And he removed our names.

467
00:20:33,600 --> 00:20:37,800
So they didn't bother to come
upstairs to look for my father.

468
00:20:37,800 --> 00:20:40,320
However, my father had
a nervous breakdown,

469
00:20:40,320 --> 00:20:43,050
because every time you heard
the stair, somebody coming up

470
00:20:43,050 --> 00:20:46,590
the stairs, he thought they
were coming to call for him.

471
00:20:46,590 --> 00:20:49,840
So he was in a really bad shape.

472
00:20:49,840 --> 00:20:51,870
And when I came
there, my father said

473
00:20:51,870 --> 00:20:54,400
that he had seen
his stores, which

474
00:20:54,400 --> 00:20:56,550
was really his life's work.

475
00:20:56,550 --> 00:20:58,500
And it was completely
smashed up.

476
00:20:58,500 --> 00:21:01,260
And he said to me that
he was waiting for me,

477
00:21:01,260 --> 00:21:03,120
because he didn't want
my mother to see it.

478
00:21:03,120 --> 00:21:08,310
And he wanted me to go with
him and clean up the store.

479
00:21:08,310 --> 00:21:11,470
And that's what we did.

480
00:21:11,470 --> 00:21:12,210
And it was--

481
00:21:12,210 --> 00:21:13,260
Just you and your father?

482
00:21:13,260 --> 00:21:14,385
My father and I, yes.

483
00:21:14,385 --> 00:21:16,325
Did he have people

working for him

484

00:21:16,325 --> 00:21:18,210
in the store who
were not Jewish?

485

00:21:18,210 --> 00:21:19,000
Yes, he did.

486

00:21:19,000 --> 00:21:24,340
And did they do
anything to help him?

487

00:21:24,340 --> 00:21:25,080
No.

488

00:21:25,080 --> 00:21:27,870
I mean, they really
couldn't any more.

489

00:21:27,870 --> 00:21:29,520
First of all I
think, at that point,

490

00:21:29,520 --> 00:21:31,650
there were not that many
people left any more.

491

00:21:31,650 --> 00:21:34,920
I know he had a lady who
worked for him for many years.

492

00:21:34,920 --> 00:21:40,950
And she was very devoted to
my family, to my parents.

493

00:21:40,950 --> 00:21:43,100
But she had another job,
at that point, already.

494

00:21:43,100 --> 00:21:47,010
However, what she did is she
used to come and visit us.

495
00:21:47,010 --> 00:21:49,320
Despite everything
else, she came there

496
00:21:49,320 --> 00:21:50,520
and visited my parents.

497
00:21:50,520 --> 00:21:52,190
It was dangerous
for her to do that.

498
00:21:52,190 --> 00:21:52,530
It was dangerous for her.

499
00:21:52,530 --> 00:21:53,460
But she did it anyhow.

500
00:21:53,460 --> 00:21:54,970
She came to visit my parents.

501
00:21:54,970 --> 00:21:57,868
And she took my sister
like a protector.

502
00:21:57,868 --> 00:21:59,160
She would walk with my sisters.

503
00:21:59,160 --> 00:22:01,410
As a matter of fact, that's
what I wanted to do with--

504
00:22:01,410 --> 00:22:02,280
I asked her to do.

505
00:22:02,280 --> 00:22:05,745
I wanted to see our synagogue
after it was burned down.

506
00:22:05,745 --> 00:22:06,690
You went with her.

507

00:22:06,690 --> 00:22:08,520

I went with her to
see the synagogue.

508

00:22:08,520 --> 00:22:09,210

Yes.

509

00:22:09,210 --> 00:22:11,640

Is that the synagogue
that you brought us?

510

00:22:11,640 --> 00:22:12,210

Yes.

511

00:22:12,210 --> 00:22:12,810

Yes, that's the--

512

00:22:12,810 --> 00:22:12,880

That picture.

513

00:22:12,880 --> 00:22:13,680

--synagogue.

514

00:22:13,680 --> 00:22:14,910

Yes, that's the synagogue.

515

00:22:14,910 --> 00:22:16,740

That's a beautiful building.

516

00:22:16,740 --> 00:22:18,780

It was a beautiful building.

517

00:22:18,780 --> 00:22:21,450

It was a little off center.

518

00:22:21,450 --> 00:22:22,980

I mean, it was
not right in town.

519

00:22:22,980 --> 00:22:24,810

You had to go over

a little bridge.

520

00:22:24,810 --> 00:22:27,100

It was more like a
suburb already where

521

00:22:27,100 --> 00:22:28,140

the synagogue was.

522

00:22:28,140 --> 00:22:30,960

But it was a very
beautiful, dignified--

523

00:22:30,960 --> 00:22:33,960

So after Kristallnacht,
was it still burning?

524

00:22:33,960 --> 00:22:34,680

No.

525

00:22:34,680 --> 00:22:36,510

At that point, it
wasn't burning anymore.

526

00:22:36,510 --> 00:22:40,170

But it was a terrible sight.

527

00:22:40,170 --> 00:22:41,850

And then I walked around.

528

00:22:41,850 --> 00:22:45,090

There were some very well-to-do
people living in our town.

529

00:22:45,090 --> 00:22:49,610

And I took a walk around the--

530

00:22:49,610 --> 00:22:52,310

we call them villas,
where those people lived.

531

00:22:52,310 --> 00:22:55,740

And everything was
smashed in, and clothes

532
00:22:55,740 --> 00:22:57,450
hanging on the trees.

533
00:22:57,450 --> 00:23:00,060
And books were thrown
out the windows.

534
00:23:00,060 --> 00:23:02,550
It was a terrible,
terrible sight.

535
00:23:02,550 --> 00:23:03,160
Yes.

536
00:23:03,160 --> 00:23:04,264
So then you saw it--

537
00:23:04,264 --> 00:23:06,600
I was just going to say--

538
00:23:06,600 --> 00:23:08,770
You never got to see it
again, the beautiful--

539
00:23:08,770 --> 00:23:09,270
No.

540
00:23:09,270 --> 00:23:09,880
--interior.

541
00:23:09,880 --> 00:23:10,380
No.

542
00:23:10,380 --> 00:23:11,100
We were not allowed.

543
00:23:11,100 --> 00:23:11,933
Because I know you--

544

00:23:11,933 --> 00:23:13,050

Oh, no, it was fenced off.

545

00:23:13,050 --> 00:23:14,565

You were not allowed to go in.

546

00:23:14,565 --> 00:23:15,940

You were not
allowed to go close.

547

00:23:15,940 --> 00:23:16,570

No.

548

00:23:16,570 --> 00:23:17,280

Yeah, that's it.

549

00:23:17,280 --> 00:23:17,460

See?

550

00:23:17,460 --> 00:23:18,335

That was a beautiful.

551

00:23:18,335 --> 00:23:19,740

We can't see the window.

552

00:23:19,740 --> 00:23:21,917

I know there was a picture--

553

00:23:21,917 --> 00:23:22,500

Yeah, like a--

554

00:23:22,500 --> 00:23:23,150

--of a beautiful--

555

00:23:23,150 --> 00:23:23,730

Oh, it was a--

556

00:23:23,730 --> 00:23:23,850

--window.

557

00:23:23,850 --> 00:23:24,040
Yes.

558
00:23:24,040 --> 00:23:26,510
In the lower one, you have that
window, which was beautiful.

559
00:23:26,510 --> 00:23:27,010
Yeah.

560
00:23:27,010 --> 00:23:28,230
And it had the Star of David.

561
00:23:28,230 --> 00:23:28,730
Yes.

562
00:23:28,730 --> 00:23:30,900
No, it was a
beautiful synagogue.

563
00:23:30,900 --> 00:23:31,495
It really was.

564
00:23:31,495 --> 00:23:32,620
And we called it synagogue.

565
00:23:32,620 --> 00:23:33,745
We didn't call it temple.

566
00:23:33,745 --> 00:23:34,230
It was always called--

567
00:23:34,230 --> 00:23:36,070
No, we call ours
synagogue, too, sometimes.

568
00:23:36,070 --> 00:23:37,237
It was all called synagogue.

569
00:23:37,237 --> 00:23:38,850
And you said that
Rabbi Leo Baeck

570
00:23:38,850 --> 00:23:40,230
had been the first rabbi there?

571
00:23:40,230 --> 00:23:40,900
Yes.

572
00:23:40,900 --> 00:23:41,400
Yes.

573
00:23:41,400 --> 00:23:44,180

574
00:23:44,180 --> 00:23:48,000
Well, now I'm going back to
my personal, what happened.

575
00:23:48,000 --> 00:23:50,550
Well, I was cleaning up
the store with my father.

576
00:23:50,550 --> 00:23:53,010
And it was a terrible
mess, because--

577
00:23:53,010 --> 00:23:57,060
see, my father's counters
were all in glass.

578
00:23:57,060 --> 00:23:58,860
And they had to smash it all.

579
00:23:58,860 --> 00:24:01,710
So while they did
that, they must

580
00:24:01,710 --> 00:24:05,490
have cut themselves, because
there was blood all over.

581
00:24:05,490 --> 00:24:07,620
And then they must

have taken the scissors

582

00:24:07,620 --> 00:24:10,170

and just cut whatever they
could get their hands on.

583

00:24:10,170 --> 00:24:11,252

They cut into pieces.

584

00:24:11,252 --> 00:24:12,960

I'm sure they must
have taken a lot, too.

585

00:24:12,960 --> 00:24:15,850

So that was the
last time I saw--

586

00:24:15,850 --> 00:24:18,250

It must have been so
devastating for your father.

587

00:24:18,250 --> 00:24:18,750

It was.

588

00:24:18,750 --> 00:24:19,250

It was.

589

00:24:19,250 --> 00:24:21,030

It really broke his spirit.

590

00:24:21,030 --> 00:24:23,910

It was really terrible
for my father.

591

00:24:23,910 --> 00:24:29,280

And while we were in the
store, for some reason,

592

00:24:29,280 --> 00:24:31,710

the telephone connections
must have been restored,

593

00:24:31,710 --> 00:24:33,150
because the phone rang.

594
00:24:33,150 --> 00:24:37,560
And it was my mother who
said that my uncle who

595
00:24:37,560 --> 00:24:40,860
lived in Berlin, my mother's
brother, had just called.

596
00:24:40,860 --> 00:24:45,910
And he had said that he would
have an opportunity to get

597
00:24:45,910 --> 00:24:50,170
my sister and myself to Sweden.

598
00:24:50,170 --> 00:24:52,390
Would we want to go?

599
00:24:52,390 --> 00:24:56,740
And I have to say that I really
had been begging my parents

600
00:24:56,740 --> 00:24:59,080
over the years to leave.

601
00:24:59,080 --> 00:25:01,090
I could see what was happening.

602
00:25:01,090 --> 00:25:03,550
But you see, I was more exposed,
because I was in school.

603
00:25:03,550 --> 00:25:05,498
And I could see
what was going on,

604
00:25:05,498 --> 00:25:07,540
while my parents lived in
their own little world,

605

00:25:07,540 --> 00:25:09,130
and they didn't see it as much.

606

00:25:09,130 --> 00:25:11,950
And they knew Germany the
way it used to be and said,

607

00:25:11,950 --> 00:25:14,080
oh, the German people
are good, everything

608

00:25:14,080 --> 00:25:15,170
is going to calm down.

609

00:25:15,170 --> 00:25:20,110
Well, I said, look, I
have the opportunity.

610

00:25:20,110 --> 00:25:22,140
Yes, I want to go.

611

00:25:22,140 --> 00:25:24,070
I said, yes, I do want to go.

612

00:25:24,070 --> 00:25:25,450
I want to leave.

613

00:25:25,450 --> 00:25:30,100
Because I couldn't see any
future for myself and my sister

614

00:25:30,100 --> 00:25:31,030
anymore.

615

00:25:31,030 --> 00:25:33,850
And then my mother said,
yes, you can leave.

616

00:25:33,850 --> 00:25:38,060
The only thing is you have to
be responsible for your sister,

617

00:25:38,060 --> 00:25:41,080
which I said is fine with me.

618

00:25:41,080 --> 00:25:44,140
Were your grandparents still
alive during Kristallnacht?

619

00:25:44,140 --> 00:25:46,580
Oh, yes.

620

00:25:46,580 --> 00:25:47,790
How did it affect them?

621

00:25:47,790 --> 00:25:48,370
Hmm?

622

00:25:48,370 --> 00:25:50,290
How did it affect them
where they were living?

623

00:25:50,290 --> 00:25:50,860
My parents?

624

00:25:50,860 --> 00:25:51,285
Your grandparents.

625

00:25:51,285 --> 00:25:51,710
Grandparents.

626

00:25:51,710 --> 00:25:52,543
Oh, my grandparents.

627

00:25:52,543 --> 00:25:54,010
No, wait a second.

628

00:25:54,010 --> 00:25:57,610
My grandmother had died.

629

00:25:57,610 --> 00:25:59,960
Kristallnacht night
was in November.

630
00:25:59,960 --> 00:26:04,000
And my grandmother had
died August already.

631
00:26:04,000 --> 00:26:06,500
But my grandfather
was an old man.

632
00:26:06,500 --> 00:26:08,930
He must have been in his 80s.

633
00:26:08,930 --> 00:26:14,080
And he was living
there with his sister,

634
00:26:14,080 --> 00:26:16,930
with his old sister--
who, by the way,

635
00:26:16,930 --> 00:26:18,530
died right after Kristallnacht.

636
00:26:18,530 --> 00:26:19,720
She somehow had a stroke.

637
00:26:19,720 --> 00:26:21,700
And she died right
after Kristallnacht.

638
00:26:21,700 --> 00:26:24,310
And then his other daughter,
my mother's sister,

639
00:26:24,310 --> 00:26:25,480
was taking care of him.

640
00:26:25,480 --> 00:26:29,230

641
00:26:29,230 --> 00:26:32,270
Well, my grandfather

was an old man.

642

00:26:32,270 --> 00:26:35,230

And I think somehow,
more or less, he--

643

00:26:35,230 --> 00:26:37,750

when you're old, I guess
you take things more

644

00:26:37,750 --> 00:26:39,550

on your stride.

645

00:26:39,550 --> 00:26:41,200

And he was a very religious man.

646

00:26:41,200 --> 00:26:43,570

So I don't know.

647

00:26:43,570 --> 00:26:46,180

I mean, the bottom
line is my grandfather

648

00:26:46,180 --> 00:26:48,850

was deported at age 86.

649

00:26:48,850 --> 00:26:52,720

He was taken to Theresienstadt,
to the concentration

650

00:26:52,720 --> 00:26:53,890

camp, where he died.

651

00:26:53,890 --> 00:26:56,520

652

00:26:56,520 --> 00:27:00,430

As a matter of fact what
he did is, because my aunt,

653

00:27:00,430 --> 00:27:02,380

my mother's sister who

lives in the same town,

654

00:27:02,380 --> 00:27:06,610
was deported already, I
think in 1941 or '42--

655

00:27:06,610 --> 00:27:08,410
she was sent to Riga,
she and her husband.

656

00:27:08,410 --> 00:27:09,910
We never heard of them again.

657

00:27:09,910 --> 00:27:12,800
And then my grandfather--
who was an old man,

658

00:27:12,800 --> 00:27:15,880
and he wasn't well anymore--
moved in with my parents.

659

00:27:15,880 --> 00:27:19,300
And my parents were
deported in March '43.

660

00:27:19,300 --> 00:27:24,280
And then my grandfather
was left alone until--

661

00:27:24,280 --> 00:27:27,620
I think my grandfather was
deported by the month of May,

662

00:27:27,620 --> 00:27:29,710
something like that.

663

00:27:29,710 --> 00:27:32,200
Mrs. Prager, tell us
what it was like when

664

00:27:32,200 --> 00:27:34,400
we were getting ready
to leave your home

665
00:27:34,400 --> 00:27:38,500
and go with Vera, your
sister, to Sweden.

666
00:27:38,500 --> 00:27:39,280
What it was like?

667
00:27:39,280 --> 00:27:41,860
It was very sad.

668
00:27:41,860 --> 00:27:43,930
In one way, it was very sad.

669
00:27:43,930 --> 00:27:47,470
On the other hand, I was so
happy to get out of Germany.

670
00:27:47,470 --> 00:27:50,380
And I had been away before.

671
00:27:50,380 --> 00:27:53,200
As a child, I had gone to
summer camp and all that.

672
00:27:53,200 --> 00:27:58,720
And somehow, I think I didn't
really see it as such a thing.

673
00:27:58,720 --> 00:28:04,330
But somehow, as a child, you
cannot assume what could happen

674
00:28:04,330 --> 00:28:06,790
in the future, how
horrible things can be.

675
00:28:06,790 --> 00:28:10,360
And it more or less felt like
I was going away for vacation.

676
00:28:10,360 --> 00:28:13,570

And the idea was really
that we were supposed

677
00:28:13,570 --> 00:28:16,480
to go to the United
States and that you

678
00:28:16,480 --> 00:28:19,060
were hoping to meet my
parents in the United States.

679
00:28:19,060 --> 00:28:21,070
And that was really
the way it was.

680
00:28:21,070 --> 00:28:22,690
And I was very optimistic.

681
00:28:22,690 --> 00:28:24,880
And I said, oh, a few
months, and then I'll

682
00:28:24,880 --> 00:28:26,410
meet my parents again.

683
00:28:26,410 --> 00:28:29,410
Did your parents make any
plans to leave Germany

684
00:28:29,410 --> 00:28:31,780
after they sent you and
your sister to Sweden?

685
00:28:31,780 --> 00:28:33,190
Oh, yes, they tried everything.

686
00:28:33,190 --> 00:28:34,360
And they were cheated.

687
00:28:34,360 --> 00:28:38,200
And they were
blackmailed, and whatever.

688

00:28:38,200 --> 00:28:41,200

They had visas to
Cuba, which were fake.

689

00:28:41,200 --> 00:28:45,220

And they had visas to
go all kind of places--

690

00:28:45,220 --> 00:28:49,000

Shanghai, and I think Chile--

691

00:28:49,000 --> 00:28:51,610

because in the United States,
the quota was so high.

692

00:28:51,610 --> 00:28:53,560

You couldn't possibly make it.

693

00:28:53,560 --> 00:28:56,680

They tried everything,
and nothing worked.

694

00:28:56,680 --> 00:28:58,900

So there was no way.

695

00:28:58,900 --> 00:29:02,350

How did you find out,
after you left Sweden, when

696

00:29:02,350 --> 00:29:04,430

your parents were deported?

697

00:29:04,430 --> 00:29:05,590

How did you learn about it?

698

00:29:05,590 --> 00:29:09,040

Oh, my parents did
write to us saying

699

00:29:09,040 --> 00:29:12,520

that they got
notification that they

700
00:29:12,520 --> 00:29:15,590
have to leave by that date.

701
00:29:15,590 --> 00:29:17,350
So we knew that they
were going to leave.

702
00:29:17,350 --> 00:29:20,650
But they didn't go to the
same concentration camps

703
00:29:20,650 --> 00:29:22,330
at the time.

704
00:29:22,330 --> 00:29:23,740
Well, I don't know.

705
00:29:23,740 --> 00:29:27,700
You see, the train really
was headed for Auschwitz.

706
00:29:27,700 --> 00:29:29,260
However-- I'm getting thirsty.

707
00:29:29,260 --> 00:29:30,385
I'm going to give you some.

708
00:29:30,385 --> 00:29:34,330
However, my father-- who was,
I guess, still very strong--

709
00:29:34,330 --> 00:29:37,150
was sent to work at the
camp, which I understand

710
00:29:37,150 --> 00:29:38,890
must have been
horrible, Monowitz.

711
00:29:38,890 --> 00:29:40,615
It was run by IG Farben.

712
00:29:40,615 --> 00:29:43,720

713
00:29:43,720 --> 00:29:46,760
They had to do slave labor.

714
00:29:46,760 --> 00:29:49,910
And my mother, I assume, must
have been sent right away

715
00:29:49,910 --> 00:29:52,850
to Auschwitz and to
the gas chambers,

716
00:29:52,850 --> 00:29:54,983
because she had a hernia.

717
00:29:54,983 --> 00:29:57,650
When people had to undress, they
checked them out, and all that.

718
00:29:57,650 --> 00:29:59,150
And she had a hernia.

719
00:29:59,150 --> 00:30:01,580
And I guess, because
she had the hernia,

720
00:30:01,580 --> 00:30:04,650
they right away must have
said, well, that's it.

721
00:30:04,650 --> 00:30:08,390
Not only that, but she
had all gold teeth.

722
00:30:08,390 --> 00:30:10,010
So they must have
seen the gold teeth

723
00:30:10,010 --> 00:30:14,540

and said, aha,
that's what we need.

724
00:30:14,540 --> 00:30:16,760
So I don't know anything
about my mother.

725
00:30:16,760 --> 00:30:25,100
I know about my father, that he
was deported on April 20, 1943.

726
00:30:25,100 --> 00:30:28,250
He was deported to Auschwitz.

727
00:30:28,250 --> 00:30:29,240
From Monowitz.

728
00:30:29,240 --> 00:30:30,400
From Monowitz to be gassed.

729
00:30:30,400 --> 00:30:32,060
Yeah.

730
00:30:32,060 --> 00:30:34,640
I think this is a good
time to take a break.

731
00:30:34,640 --> 00:30:38,090
And then we'll talk some more
about your life in Sweden.

732
00:30:38,090 --> 00:30:39,015
Yeah, very good.

733
00:30:39,015 --> 00:30:39,515
Yes.

734
00:30:39,515 --> 00:30:40,015
Thanks.

735
00:30:40,015 --> 00:30:41,733
All right.

736
00:30:41,733 --> 00:30:42,650
Do you have any cold--

737
00:30:42,650 --> 00:30:50,480

738
00:30:50,480 --> 00:30:53,030
Mrs. Prager, did you have
some other recollections

739
00:30:53,030 --> 00:30:55,950
of Kristallnacht that
you could share with us?

740
00:30:55,950 --> 00:30:56,820
I think so.

741
00:30:56,820 --> 00:31:00,800
I have one, which I think
really impressed me,

742
00:31:00,800 --> 00:31:03,192
because it was so bad.

743
00:31:03,192 --> 00:31:06,470
As I mentioned to you, I
was in a boarding school.

744
00:31:06,470 --> 00:31:10,340
That was after I came back
from being with-- my parents?

745
00:31:10,340 --> 00:31:10,850
No.

746
00:31:10,850 --> 00:31:12,050
No, I'm sorry.

747
00:31:12,050 --> 00:31:13,700
It was the night after--

748

00:31:13,700 --> 00:31:16,670

it was the day
after Kristallnacht.

749

00:31:16,670 --> 00:31:20,930

At that time, a lot of the
German Jewish young people

750

00:31:20,930 --> 00:31:21,770

went in something.

751

00:31:21,770 --> 00:31:23,030

It was called Hachsharah.

752

00:31:23,030 --> 00:31:26,220

That mean preparation
to go to Israel.

753

00:31:26,220 --> 00:31:30,560

And we had a school
like that somewhere in--

754

00:31:30,560 --> 00:31:32,030

it wasn't Silesia.

755

00:31:32,030 --> 00:31:36,030

It was somewhere
out in the suburbs.

756

00:31:36,030 --> 00:31:38,210

I don't know exactly
where it was.

757

00:31:38,210 --> 00:31:42,170

However, that night
of the Crystal Night

758

00:31:42,170 --> 00:31:45,560

in that little
village, the Nazis

759

00:31:45,560 --> 00:31:49,400

all ganged up and came with--

760

00:31:49,400 --> 00:31:53,090

what do you call it, the sticks,
with nightsticks, like police--

761

00:31:53,090 --> 00:31:53,900

came.

762

00:31:53,900 --> 00:31:59,450

And those young people
who lived and worked there

763

00:31:59,450 --> 00:32:01,550

had to get up early
in the morning,

764

00:32:01,550 --> 00:32:03,180

because they worked
for the farmers.

765

00:32:03,180 --> 00:32:05,090

And they had to be
up early, milk cows,

766

00:32:05,090 --> 00:32:07,250

and all that, all
the preparation.

767

00:32:07,250 --> 00:32:09,710

So anyhow, they woke them
by knocking on the door,

768

00:32:09,710 --> 00:32:13,040

woke them up and,
out, out, out, out.

769

00:32:13,040 --> 00:32:16,185

And luckily, most of them had
their clothes prepared already,

770

00:32:16,185 --> 00:32:18,560

because in the next morning,

they had to get up so early.

771

00:32:18,560 --> 00:32:21,890

So they already had
their clothes ready.

772

00:32:21,890 --> 00:32:24,380

And there was one girl.

773

00:32:24,380 --> 00:32:26,360

She had been sick.

774

00:32:26,360 --> 00:32:29,480

And it took her a little
longer to get ready.

775

00:32:29,480 --> 00:32:31,940

So she was the last one out.

776

00:32:31,940 --> 00:32:35,960

And they really hit
that girl so badly.

777

00:32:35,960 --> 00:32:37,590

Her head was bleeding.

778

00:32:37,590 --> 00:32:38,870

And then they had to march.

779

00:32:38,870 --> 00:32:40,370

I mean, the boys were taken--

780

00:32:40,370 --> 00:32:44,930

then what they told us is put
them all against the wall.

781

00:32:44,930 --> 00:32:46,940

And they thought they
were going to be shot.

782

00:32:46,940 --> 00:32:50,000

But what they did is

they took all the boys

783

00:32:50,000 --> 00:32:52,940

away to concentration
camp, while the girls were

784

00:32:52,940 --> 00:32:56,090

told to get out, to march away.

785

00:32:56,090 --> 00:32:57,080

So they came.

786

00:32:57,080 --> 00:32:59,690

As one group, they
came to our school.

787

00:32:59,690 --> 00:33:02,180

And they had been
marching the whole day,

788

00:33:02,180 --> 00:33:04,250

and that girl who was hit.

789

00:33:04,250 --> 00:33:05,840

And it was such a sad sight.

790

00:33:05,840 --> 00:33:06,990

She was such a pretty girl.

791

00:33:06,990 --> 00:33:08,750

And she had black, curly hair.

792

00:33:08,750 --> 00:33:14,300

And everything was
caked with that blood.

793

00:33:14,300 --> 00:33:18,560

So that was really a
terrible experience.

794

00:33:18,560 --> 00:33:25,340

And then the supervisor

of our school, her nephew

795

00:33:25,340 --> 00:33:28,680

had been incarcerated in one
of the concentration camps.

796

00:33:28,680 --> 00:33:30,270

I don't know which one it was.

797

00:33:30,270 --> 00:33:32,960

And when he came
out, he came to her.

798

00:33:32,960 --> 00:33:34,250

And he looked like a ghost.

799

00:33:34,250 --> 00:33:35,300

He was a young man.

800

00:33:35,300 --> 00:33:43,190

He looked just so terrible,
all emaciated and sick.

801

00:33:43,190 --> 00:33:45,002

He came with a
terrible ear infection.

802

00:33:45,002 --> 00:33:46,460

What year was this
that he got out?

803

00:33:46,460 --> 00:33:47,570

1938.

804

00:33:47,570 --> 00:33:50,300

And he got out of the
concentration camp there?

805

00:33:50,300 --> 00:33:53,480

If you had some-- you see, there
was, I think, a stipulation.

806

00:33:53,480 --> 00:33:58,850
If you had papers that you could
emigrate, yes, you could leave.

807
00:33:58,850 --> 00:33:59,990
I see.

808
00:33:59,990 --> 00:34:02,030
So I guess he must have
had something maybe

809
00:34:02,030 --> 00:34:04,640
that he-- somebody,
he could go somewhere.

810
00:34:04,640 --> 00:34:05,870
And they let him go out.

811
00:34:05,870 --> 00:34:07,894
And sometimes, they let
the very young boys--

812
00:34:07,894 --> 00:34:09,409
they let them go out.

813
00:34:09,409 --> 00:34:12,290
You see, some boys were
only about 14 years old,

814
00:34:12,290 --> 00:34:13,610
16 years old.

815
00:34:13,610 --> 00:34:16,610
But they were let go again.

816
00:34:16,610 --> 00:34:19,250
But the older men, it took
them much longer to get out.

817
00:34:19,250 --> 00:34:21,800
I mean older-- I mean,
now, from 20 years on.

818

00:34:21,800 --> 00:34:25,969

And these young boys and
girls who were in that area

819

00:34:25,969 --> 00:34:29,270

that the Nazis came,
how old were they?

820

00:34:29,270 --> 00:34:31,400

They must have been,
I would think, roughly

821

00:34:31,400 --> 00:34:34,940

between 16 and 20,
something like that.

822

00:34:34,940 --> 00:34:37,230

And they left the-- and they
did release the females.

823

00:34:37,230 --> 00:34:37,730

That's--

824

00:34:37,730 --> 00:34:38,540

Yes, they did.

825

00:34:38,540 --> 00:34:42,409

At that time, they were not out
yet to hurt the women, you see.

826

00:34:42,409 --> 00:34:44,150

They were mostly
out after the men.

827

00:34:44,150 --> 00:34:45,500

They let the women go.

828

00:34:45,500 --> 00:34:47,929

And the concentration camps
were primarily for slave labor

829

00:34:47,929 --> 00:34:48,650

at that time?

830
00:34:48,650 --> 00:34:49,340
Yes.

831
00:34:49,340 --> 00:34:50,949
Yes.

832
00:34:50,949 --> 00:34:53,449
Naturally, as I say, at that
time, they brought them all in.

833
00:34:53,449 --> 00:34:54,650
And there were beatings.

834
00:34:54,650 --> 00:34:57,230
And one of my
uncle lost one eye.

835
00:34:57,230 --> 00:35:00,620
He was beaten, and he
lost an eye, and all that.

836
00:35:00,620 --> 00:35:01,970
My father was never taken.

837
00:35:01,970 --> 00:35:05,750
So my father, at that
time, was spared.

838
00:35:05,750 --> 00:35:06,860
In a way, I wish he--

839
00:35:06,860 --> 00:35:08,235
maybe they should
have taken him.

840
00:35:08,235 --> 00:35:09,558
Then he would have left.

841
00:35:09,558 --> 00:35:11,600
It would have been easier

for him maybe to leave.

842
00:35:11,600 --> 00:35:13,730
But--

843
00:35:13,730 --> 00:35:18,570
When you left your little
town, you left your parents,

844
00:35:18,570 --> 00:35:25,280
how did you and your sister get
from Upper Silesia to Sweden?

845
00:35:25,280 --> 00:35:26,840
Yeah, I'll tell you.

846
00:35:26,840 --> 00:35:29,600
My parents went
with us to Berlin.

847
00:35:29,600 --> 00:35:34,820
And we spent a couple of days
with my uncle and his family

848
00:35:34,820 --> 00:35:37,040
in Berlin.

849
00:35:37,040 --> 00:35:40,130
By the time we were
ready to leave--

850
00:35:40,130 --> 00:35:42,470
we were supposed to go with
what's called the children's

851
00:35:42,470 --> 00:35:43,490
transport.

852
00:35:43,490 --> 00:35:45,350
It was supposed to
leave Christmas Eve.

853

00:35:45,350 --> 00:35:48,050

And everything was ready
for us for Christmas Eve.

854

00:35:48,050 --> 00:35:51,360

When we got to Berlin-- maybe
on the 20th of December,

855

00:35:51,360 --> 00:35:52,640

or something like that--

856

00:35:52,640 --> 00:35:56,270

all of a sudden, we
heard that the transport

857

00:35:56,270 --> 00:36:00,320

had been postponed to
January the following year.

858

00:36:00,320 --> 00:36:01,970

But our papers were ready.

859

00:36:01,970 --> 00:36:06,793

So everybody advised my parents
to let us go, to send us out,

860

00:36:06,793 --> 00:36:08,210

'cause they did
not know what they

861

00:36:08,210 --> 00:36:10,068

might be doing by next year.

862

00:36:10,068 --> 00:36:11,360

They might change things again.

863

00:36:11,360 --> 00:36:13,520

Right now, everything is clear.

864

00:36:13,520 --> 00:36:14,840

Let them go.

865

00:36:14,840 --> 00:36:17,995

So my sister and I
went by ourselves.

866

00:36:17,995 --> 00:36:19,870

You didn't wait for the
children's transport.

867

00:36:19,870 --> 00:36:21,230

We didn't wait.

868

00:36:21,230 --> 00:36:27,140

We were really two very young
girls leaving by ourselves.

869

00:36:27,140 --> 00:36:30,080

And what kind of
transportation did you

870

00:36:30,080 --> 00:36:31,805

take from Berlin to Stockholm?

871

00:36:31,805 --> 00:36:33,180

Yeah, well, that's
rather simple.

872

00:36:33,180 --> 00:36:36,290

What we did is we
took the train.

873

00:36:36,290 --> 00:36:37,250

I'm not sure.

874

00:36:37,250 --> 00:36:39,470

I think it was Bremerhaven.

875

00:36:39,470 --> 00:36:42,950

And there, from Bremerhaven,
we took the ferry over

876

00:36:42,950 --> 00:36:44,270

to Trelleborg.

877

00:36:44,270 --> 00:36:45,095

That's Sweden.

878

00:36:45,095 --> 00:36:46,220

That's the south of Sweden.

879

00:36:46,220 --> 00:36:50,427

And then we took the
train into Stockholm.

880

00:36:50,427 --> 00:36:51,510

Who met you when you got--

881

00:36:51,510 --> 00:36:51,895

Yeah.

882

00:36:51,895 --> 00:36:52,280

Well, that's a--

883

00:36:52,280 --> 00:36:52,905

--to Stockholm?

884

00:36:52,905 --> 00:36:54,540

That's a very interesting story.

885

00:36:54,540 --> 00:36:57,140

And I don't really
like to mention names.

886

00:36:57,140 --> 00:36:58,610

But this is really
very honorable.

887

00:36:58,610 --> 00:37:01,430

That's why I'm going
to mention names.

888

00:37:01,430 --> 00:37:06,080

The Warburg family had a
branch of the family living

889

00:37:06,080 --> 00:37:08,060
in Stockholm.

890
00:37:08,060 --> 00:37:12,590
And they originated really--
you know that banker?

891
00:37:12,590 --> 00:37:14,130
Felix Warburg.

892
00:37:14,130 --> 00:37:16,100
Well, that family, that family.

893
00:37:16,100 --> 00:37:18,680
They had a branch, which
had been living in Hamburg.

894
00:37:18,680 --> 00:37:23,730
But they had moved to
Sweden, as far as I know.

895
00:37:23,730 --> 00:37:29,330
And the two daughters of that
family came to pick my sister

896
00:37:29,330 --> 00:37:32,530
and me up in the morning.

897
00:37:32,530 --> 00:37:35,540
It was Christmas Day in the
morning, 7:00 in the morning.

898
00:37:35,540 --> 00:37:37,370
They were there to pick us up.

899
00:37:37,370 --> 00:37:40,280
How did they know who you
were or that you were coming?

900
00:37:40,280 --> 00:37:43,040
I really don't
recall that any more.

901

00:37:43,040 --> 00:37:44,180

Maybe we had to wear--

902

00:37:44,180 --> 00:37:46,680

I think maybe we had to
wear some tags or something.

903

00:37:46,680 --> 00:37:49,260

I don't recall any
more those details.

904

00:37:49,260 --> 00:37:50,780

But we found each other.

905

00:37:50,780 --> 00:37:54,560

And then they took us to
their house for breakfast.

906

00:37:54,560 --> 00:37:58,670

And then, around 10:00,
they took my sister

907

00:37:58,670 --> 00:38:04,790

and me to our respective
foster parents.

908

00:38:04,790 --> 00:38:06,890

My sister stayed
with one family,

909

00:38:06,890 --> 00:38:08,780

and I stayed with
another family.

910

00:38:08,780 --> 00:38:09,610

What was it like?

911

00:38:09,610 --> 00:38:14,300

912

00:38:14,300 --> 00:38:16,900

Well, my sister

stayed with a lady.

913

00:38:16,900 --> 00:38:19,518

She was a single lady.

914

00:38:19,518 --> 00:38:20,810

She was not a well lady at all.

915

00:38:20,810 --> 00:38:22,460

She was an elderly lady.

916

00:38:22,460 --> 00:38:23,740

But she was very kind to her.

917

00:38:23,740 --> 00:38:26,923

And she stayed with her
until that lady died.

918

00:38:26,923 --> 00:38:28,840

And then, later on-- it
was a couple of years.

919

00:38:28,840 --> 00:38:32,830

And after that, she stayed
with that lady's sister

920

00:38:32,830 --> 00:38:37,660

till we left to go
to the United States.

921

00:38:37,660 --> 00:38:39,130

I was not as lucky.

922

00:38:39,130 --> 00:38:43,840

I stayed first with one
family where my stay

923

00:38:43,840 --> 00:38:47,110

was very short lived, because--

924

00:38:47,110 --> 00:38:49,315

I don't know-- the

lady was not too nice.

925

00:38:49,315 --> 00:38:52,000

926

00:38:52,000 --> 00:38:54,190

She had one--

927

00:38:54,190 --> 00:38:56,590

I think some people
tried to take advantage,

928

00:38:56,590 --> 00:38:58,660

thinking it was cheap labor.

929

00:38:58,660 --> 00:39:02,920

They have the people come over
there, and just give them food,

930

00:39:02,920 --> 00:39:05,200

and shelter.

931

00:39:05,200 --> 00:39:06,610

And for that, you work.

932

00:39:06,610 --> 00:39:10,270

But I should add that
many people would have

933

00:39:10,270 --> 00:39:11,980

been happy to have just that.

934

00:39:11,980 --> 00:39:14,080

So I wouldn't criticize that.

935

00:39:14,080 --> 00:39:17,830

But that's what it amounted to.

936

00:39:17,830 --> 00:39:18,850

Then I left her.

937

00:39:18,850 --> 00:39:22,750
And I went to stay with another
family, who was very nice.

938
00:39:22,750 --> 00:39:25,810
However, that lady-- I
think I mentioned it to you.

939
00:39:25,810 --> 00:39:27,220
She was Finnish.

940
00:39:27,220 --> 00:39:31,910
And when the war between
Finland and Russia broke out,

941
00:39:31,910 --> 00:39:36,250
I had to leave again, because
her whole family from Finland

942
00:39:36,250 --> 00:39:37,180
came over.

943
00:39:37,180 --> 00:39:39,070
And there wasn't a room for me.

944
00:39:39,070 --> 00:39:41,230
And then I stayed with
a very, very nice,

945
00:39:41,230 --> 00:39:44,110
very religious family,
which had taken

946
00:39:44,110 --> 00:39:47,410
in another young Jewish
German girl and me.

947
00:39:47,410 --> 00:39:49,960
And we stayed with
them for a while.

948
00:39:49,960 --> 00:39:50,740
And then they--

949
00:39:50,740 --> 00:39:51,520
Were they Jewish?

950
00:39:51,520 --> 00:39:51,760
Hmm?

951
00:39:51,760 --> 00:39:52,660
Were they Jewish--

952
00:39:52,660 --> 00:39:52,975
Religious?

953
00:39:52,975 --> 00:39:53,565
--this family?

954
00:39:53,565 --> 00:39:54,505
Oh, yeah, religious.

955
00:39:54,505 --> 00:39:55,730
They were Jewish.

956
00:39:55,730 --> 00:39:56,830
Yes.

957
00:39:56,830 --> 00:39:59,013
And they were really very kind.

958
00:39:59,013 --> 00:40:00,430
And I stayed with
them for a year.

959
00:40:00,430 --> 00:40:02,260
Then they left to go--

960
00:40:02,260 --> 00:40:04,540
Their children were
in the United States.

961
00:40:04,540 --> 00:40:06,490
And I think they were

afraid that Sweden

962

00:40:06,490 --> 00:40:08,440

might get involved in the war.

963

00:40:08,440 --> 00:40:10,300

And they were not
young people anymore.

964

00:40:10,300 --> 00:40:12,400

They left for the United States.

965

00:40:12,400 --> 00:40:19,010

And then I was boarding
through the Stockholm

966

00:40:19,010 --> 00:40:21,670

Jewish Congregation, I think.

967

00:40:21,670 --> 00:40:24,310

They more or less sponsored us.

968

00:40:24,310 --> 00:40:27,430

And they paid room and
board for me with--

969

00:40:27,430 --> 00:40:30,880

there was another German Jewish
family, m very lovely family.

970

00:40:30,880 --> 00:40:32,140

They both had been lawyers.

971

00:40:32,140 --> 00:40:37,720

But we're not permitted
to work, so they

972

00:40:37,720 --> 00:40:41,590

had to try anyway
to keep on living.

973

00:40:41,590 --> 00:40:43,540

And they had to earn money.

974

00:40:43,540 --> 00:40:49,690

That poor woman, she had to work
in a household cleaning houses

975

00:40:49,690 --> 00:40:53,710

just to have some
money to live on.

976

00:40:53,710 --> 00:40:56,500

And they were very,
very kind to me.

977

00:40:56,500 --> 00:40:57,880

And then, later on--

978

00:40:57,880 --> 00:41:03,580

at that point, I had started
to work in a daycare center.

979

00:41:03,580 --> 00:41:05,860

And I left when I--

980

00:41:05,860 --> 00:41:10,060

I went as a junior
counselor for that summer.

981

00:41:10,060 --> 00:41:14,720

And after I came back, I felt
I wanted to be independent.

982

00:41:14,720 --> 00:41:17,080

And then I had two
jobs on my own.

983

00:41:17,080 --> 00:41:19,750

984

00:41:19,750 --> 00:41:23,870

I took jobs as a governess.

985

00:41:23,870 --> 00:41:26,710

And I was quite
young at that time.

986

00:41:26,710 --> 00:41:29,213

How did you manage
with the language?

987

00:41:29,213 --> 00:41:30,880

Oh, at that time, I
had learned Swedish.

988

00:41:30,880 --> 00:41:34,490

I knew enough Swedish to
make myself understood.

989

00:41:34,490 --> 00:41:36,360

I was very young when
I went over there.

990

00:41:36,360 --> 00:41:39,550

So when you're young, you
learn it very quickly.

991

00:41:39,550 --> 00:41:42,040

So I really had caught on
to the Swedish language.

992

00:41:42,040 --> 00:41:43,540

I might have had an accent.

993

00:41:43,540 --> 00:41:46,150

However, I could manage.

994

00:41:46,150 --> 00:41:48,775

995

00:41:48,775 --> 00:41:54,010

But somehow-- and
yes, and then in 1943,

996

00:41:54,010 --> 00:41:57,070

my parents were deported.

997
00:41:57,070 --> 00:41:58,120
And I had--

998
00:41:58,120 --> 00:41:59,950
Up until 1943, did you
have communications

999
00:41:59,950 --> 00:42:00,700
with your parents?

1000
00:42:00,700 --> 00:42:02,490
Oh, yes, I did
have communication.

1001
00:42:02,490 --> 00:42:04,990
Naturally, all
letters were opened,

1002
00:42:04,990 --> 00:42:08,345
because they were always
mean taped over again saying,

1003
00:42:08,345 --> 00:42:08,845
[GERMAN].

1004
00:42:08,845 --> 00:42:11,510
That means, in German, opened.

1005
00:42:11,510 --> 00:42:15,040
And once, I remember we
took pictures and sent them

1006
00:42:15,040 --> 00:42:16,600
to my parents.

1007
00:42:16,600 --> 00:42:18,842
And somebody must have
liked-- my sister and I--

1008
00:42:18,842 --> 00:42:20,050
must have liked our pictures.

1009
00:42:20,050 --> 00:42:23,860
The letter came
without our pictures.

1010
00:42:23,860 --> 00:42:25,630
The letter arrived
with my parents,

1011
00:42:25,630 --> 00:42:27,920
but without our pictures.

1012
00:42:27,920 --> 00:42:30,850
So when you didn't hear from
them any longer, then you knew?

1013
00:42:30,850 --> 00:42:31,350
Yeah.

1014
00:42:31,350 --> 00:42:32,380
No, no, they had told.

1015
00:42:32,380 --> 00:42:34,000
As I mentioned
before, they had said,

1016
00:42:34,000 --> 00:42:36,340
we are going to leave
on that and that date,

1017
00:42:36,340 --> 00:42:38,530
that we got notice we are
going to leave on that.

1018
00:42:38,530 --> 00:42:42,320
They were very-- the
Germans were very accurate

1019
00:42:42,320 --> 00:42:43,660
the way they did things.

1020
00:42:43,660 --> 00:42:46,272

So they said, well,
on that and that date,

1021
00:42:46,272 --> 00:42:47,230
you are going to leave.

1022
00:42:47,230 --> 00:42:48,230
You had a little report.

1023
00:42:48,230 --> 00:42:50,530

1024
00:42:50,530 --> 00:42:53,950
As a matter of fact, there
was one thing happened.

1025
00:42:53,950 --> 00:42:56,020
There was one man
in my hometown.

1026
00:42:56,020 --> 00:42:57,500
And he was a lawyer.

1027
00:42:57,500 --> 00:43:04,880
And he was very badly hurt in
World War I. And he had some--

1028
00:43:04,880 --> 00:43:06,865
he was an exception.

1029
00:43:06,865 --> 00:43:11,470
After everybody else was taken
away, he was permitted to stay.

1030
00:43:11,470 --> 00:43:14,410
And my father sent
him a letter--

1031
00:43:14,410 --> 00:43:17,260
a card, I'm sorry,
sent him a card--

1032

00:43:17,260 --> 00:43:20,020
saying that he
arrived, and where

1033
00:43:20,020 --> 00:43:25,120
he was, that he was there, just
to tell him that he was still

1034
00:43:25,120 --> 00:43:26,695
alive, I assume.

1035
00:43:26,695 --> 00:43:28,445
And it was the last
we heard of my father.

1036
00:43:28,445 --> 00:43:31,690

1037
00:43:31,690 --> 00:43:35,570
How did you find out
when they actually--

1038
00:43:35,570 --> 00:43:36,070
Yeah.

1039
00:43:36,070 --> 00:43:38,170
Well, I'll tell you, as
I say, with my mother,

1040
00:43:38,170 --> 00:43:39,580
I never found out.

1041
00:43:39,580 --> 00:43:41,420
I don't know anything.

1042
00:43:41,420 --> 00:43:46,370
And with my father, there
is a place in Germany.

1043
00:43:46,370 --> 00:43:48,040
And I don't recall that name.

1044

00:43:48,040 --> 00:43:50,080

I have been trying to
think of that name--

1045

00:43:50,080 --> 00:43:52,960

where they look for people.

1046

00:43:52,960 --> 00:43:55,990

And we, my sister
and I, had registered

1047

00:43:55,990 --> 00:43:58,030

our parents' name with them.

1048

00:43:58,030 --> 00:44:00,850

And many, many
years later did we

1049

00:44:00,850 --> 00:44:04,180

get a letter from-- my
sister got a letter from them

1050

00:44:04,180 --> 00:44:07,400

that they found that my
father, as I mentioned before,

1051

00:44:07,400 --> 00:44:11,020

was deported on April 20, 1943.

1052

00:44:11,020 --> 00:44:11,860

To Auschwitz.

1053

00:44:11,860 --> 00:44:12,860

To Auschwitz, yes.

1054

00:44:12,860 --> 00:44:16,900

And that was-- that's
how we know about that.

1055

00:44:16,900 --> 00:44:19,210

What were your fondest
memories of the time

1056

00:44:19,210 --> 00:44:21,700

you spent in Sweden?

1057

00:44:21,700 --> 00:44:23,020

My fondest memories?

1058

00:44:23,020 --> 00:44:26,080

Well, first of all, Sweden
itself is a beautiful country.

1059

00:44:26,080 --> 00:44:27,010

I love nature.

1060

00:44:27,010 --> 00:44:29,800

It was really-- it was
very, very beautiful.

1061

00:44:29,800 --> 00:44:32,110

And my last two
years in Sweden I

1062

00:44:32,110 --> 00:44:36,610

think, when I was independent,
it was so much better.

1063

00:44:36,610 --> 00:44:37,660

That's all I can say.

1064

00:44:37,660 --> 00:44:40,180

But the years were
really very hard years.

1065

00:44:40,180 --> 00:44:44,050

Some people remember them
with a lot of fondness,

1066

00:44:44,050 --> 00:44:47,950

which I cannot do, because when
I look back there was a lot

1067

00:44:47,950 --> 00:44:50,890

of sadness and loneliness.

1068
00:44:50,890 --> 00:44:52,990
Were there other young German--

1069
00:44:52,990 --> 00:44:53,577
Oh, yes.

1070
00:44:53,577 --> 00:44:54,160
--girls there?

1071
00:44:54,160 --> 00:44:55,570
Oh, I had some
very good friends.

1072
00:44:55,570 --> 00:44:56,070
Oh, yes.

1073
00:44:56,070 --> 00:44:57,730
No, no, I had some
very good friends.

1074
00:44:57,730 --> 00:44:58,540
Yes.

1075
00:44:58,540 --> 00:45:02,230
But you could never really be
that happy, because you knew--

1076
00:45:02,230 --> 00:45:04,510
I mean, I wouldn't say you knew.

1077
00:45:04,510 --> 00:45:06,280
However-- I don't know.

1078
00:45:06,280 --> 00:45:07,960
Maybe I'm a pessimist.

1079
00:45:07,960 --> 00:45:08,800
I don't know.

1080
00:45:08,800 --> 00:45:12,050

I always thought to myself, oh,
god, what might be going on?

1081
00:45:12,050 --> 00:45:15,010
Knowing the Germans,
I knew they were not

1082
00:45:15,010 --> 00:45:16,630
going to be kind to the Jews.

1083
00:45:16,630 --> 00:45:19,630
So somehow, back of my
mind, it was always,

1084
00:45:19,630 --> 00:45:23,410
but how can I have a good time
if I know what's going on?

1085
00:45:23,410 --> 00:45:26,710

1086
00:45:26,710 --> 00:45:27,580
But more or less--

1087
00:45:27,580 --> 00:45:28,780
And then I started to work.

1088
00:45:28,780 --> 00:45:33,370
As I say, finally, after my
parents were not there anymore,

1089
00:45:33,370 --> 00:45:36,670
I always stayed
working for families

1090
00:45:36,670 --> 00:45:39,190
hoping that, maybe one
day, my parents could come

1091
00:45:39,190 --> 00:45:40,520
and they could stay with me.

1092

00:45:40,520 --> 00:45:42,410

But then, when I know
they were deported,

1093

00:45:42,410 --> 00:45:46,400

I know it wasn't
possible anymore.

1094

00:45:46,400 --> 00:45:49,250

And then I really
wanted to be on my own.

1095

00:45:49,250 --> 00:45:54,460

And through my
uncle, I got a job

1096

00:45:54,460 --> 00:45:58,750

working in a big
Swedish wholesale store.

1097

00:45:58,750 --> 00:45:59,560

And--

1098

00:45:59,560 --> 00:46:01,470

Was your uncle
living in Stockholm?

1099

00:46:01,470 --> 00:46:02,090

Yeah.

1100

00:46:02,090 --> 00:46:03,298

My uncle and his family were.

1101

00:46:03,298 --> 00:46:04,750

This was your mother's brother?

1102

00:46:04,750 --> 00:46:05,650

Yes.

1103

00:46:05,650 --> 00:46:06,170

Yes.

1104

00:46:06,170 --> 00:46:06,670

Yeah.

1105

00:46:06,670 --> 00:46:08,740

Had he come over from Germany?

1106

00:46:08,740 --> 00:46:10,660

Or had he been living
in Stockholm before you?

1107

00:46:10,660 --> 00:46:11,650

No, no, he had come.

1108

00:46:11,650 --> 00:46:14,920

We came over there in 1938.

1109

00:46:14,920 --> 00:46:17,950

And he came in January 1939.

1110

00:46:17,950 --> 00:46:20,830

I mean, he came December
1938, or he came maybe January

1111

00:46:20,830 --> 00:46:24,650

or February 1939,
something like that.

1112

00:46:24,650 --> 00:46:29,580

So then you were not really
totally alone without family.

1113

00:46:29,580 --> 00:46:30,080

No.

1114

00:46:30,080 --> 00:46:33,050

I mean, as I say, I had
my uncle and his wife.

1115

00:46:33,050 --> 00:46:34,730

However, times were so bad.

1116

00:46:34,730 --> 00:46:36,000

And they had to come, too.

1117
00:46:36,000 --> 00:46:39,170
They had no way of earning a
living or anything like that.

1118
00:46:39,170 --> 00:46:42,020
They had to-- and they had
two children of their own.

1119
00:46:42,020 --> 00:46:44,210
And they had to live
off their earnings--

1120
00:46:44,210 --> 00:46:46,130
no earnings, I'm sorry,
but the money they

1121
00:46:46,130 --> 00:46:47,630
brought from Germany.

1122
00:46:47,630 --> 00:46:49,550
They were not permitted to work.

1123
00:46:49,550 --> 00:46:53,190
So it was a very difficult time.

1124
00:46:53,190 --> 00:46:57,510
And not only that, you never
knew what was going to happen.

1125
00:46:57,510 --> 00:46:58,910
And I had another
uncle who lived

1126
00:46:58,910 --> 00:47:02,450
in Belgium, another brother of
my mother's who was deported.

1127
00:47:02,450 --> 00:47:07,713
And he died in
camp Gurs, I think.

1128

00:47:07,713 --> 00:47:11,090

So everybody, more or
less-- whatever you heard

1129

00:47:11,090 --> 00:47:14,735

was of people being
deported and dying.

1130

00:47:14,735 --> 00:47:17,720

1131

00:47:17,720 --> 00:47:21,020

Once in a while, when I
used to be between jobs,

1132

00:47:21,020 --> 00:47:27,110

the Jewish Congregation
had a home in Stockholm

1133

00:47:27,110 --> 00:47:28,730

for young girls.

1134

00:47:28,730 --> 00:47:30,950

And that was led
by a lady who used

1135

00:47:30,950 --> 00:47:34,310

to be a principal in one of
the Jewish schools in Berlin.

1136

00:47:34,310 --> 00:47:36,230

She was a very lovely person.

1137

00:47:36,230 --> 00:47:39,170

And I remember, when all
those things were happening,

1138

00:47:39,170 --> 00:47:40,580

I think she even
lost her family.

1139

00:47:40,580 --> 00:47:43,400

Her mother and
sister were deported.

1140
00:47:43,400 --> 00:47:48,050
She said, in future years,
when people will read about it,

1141
00:47:48,050 --> 00:47:51,530
then they will say, we
cause so many German Jews--

1142
00:47:51,530 --> 00:47:52,940
Berlin Jews, especially.

1143
00:47:52,940 --> 00:47:56,850
Berlin was the last place where
the Jews still were hiding.

1144
00:47:56,850 --> 00:47:59,420
But then it was-- they gave up.

1145
00:47:59,420 --> 00:48:03,830
With the Jews in Germany,
especially Berlin,

1146
00:48:03,830 --> 00:48:06,950
there was such a
wave of suicides.

1147
00:48:06,950 --> 00:48:09,930
People will really
wonder about it.

1148
00:48:09,930 --> 00:48:13,070
That's what that
lady used to say.

1149
00:48:13,070 --> 00:48:15,665
Did you have any
incidents of antisemitism

1150
00:48:15,665 --> 00:48:16,790
when you were in Stockholm?

1151
00:48:16,790 --> 00:48:17,630
Yes, I did.

1152
00:48:17,630 --> 00:48:18,620
Oh, yes, plenty.

1153
00:48:18,620 --> 00:48:19,190
Really?

1154
00:48:19,190 --> 00:48:19,880
Yes.

1155
00:48:19,880 --> 00:48:22,620
I once was applying for
a job as a governess.

1156
00:48:22,620 --> 00:48:25,460
And that lady was
very pleased with me.

1157
00:48:25,460 --> 00:48:28,170
And she said, oh, yes, I'd
like you to work for me.

1158
00:48:28,170 --> 00:48:29,780
Then she called
up the other lady

1159
00:48:29,780 --> 00:48:31,760
I had been working before--

1160
00:48:31,760 --> 00:48:34,400
with whom I had been
working for before.

1161
00:48:34,400 --> 00:48:37,335
And she asked her--
said, tell me something.

1162
00:48:37,335 --> 00:48:38,960
There's something I

didn't think about.

1163
00:48:38,960 --> 00:48:40,220
Is she Jewish?

1164
00:48:40,220 --> 00:48:41,210
And the lady said, yes.

1165
00:48:41,210 --> 00:48:43,940
She said, well, then tell
her I have no use for her.

1166
00:48:43,940 --> 00:48:47,100

1167
00:48:47,100 --> 00:48:50,200
Oh, yes, I heard plenty
of antisemitic remarks.

1168
00:48:50,200 --> 00:48:50,910
Yeah.

1169
00:48:50,910 --> 00:48:54,840
And yet Sweden was one
of the places in Europe

1170
00:48:54,840 --> 00:48:56,940
that you could escape to--

1171
00:48:56,940 --> 00:48:57,440
Yes.

1172
00:48:57,440 --> 00:48:58,440
[INAUDIBLE] to get away.

1173
00:48:58,440 --> 00:48:59,760
But people were still--

1174
00:48:59,760 --> 00:49:02,610
I mean, as I say, it's
not a general thing.

1175

00:49:02,610 --> 00:49:04,170

But there were a
lot of antisemites.

1176

00:49:04,170 --> 00:49:06,240

There was a lot of antisemitism.

1177

00:49:06,240 --> 00:49:07,300

Yes, there was.

1178

00:49:07,300 --> 00:49:07,800

Yeah.

1179

00:49:07,800 --> 00:49:11,190

What was the feeling
when the war ended?

1180

00:49:11,190 --> 00:49:14,550

Oh, I don't know.

1181

00:49:14,550 --> 00:49:17,270

I think it was good.

1182

00:49:17,270 --> 00:49:21,380

Naturally, I was very happy
it had ended in of us,

1183

00:49:21,380 --> 00:49:23,480

that it was finally finished.

1184

00:49:23,480 --> 00:49:26,450

But naturally, the
sadness of it all, what

1185

00:49:26,450 --> 00:49:28,870

happened to our
people, to my people,

1186

00:49:28,870 --> 00:49:35,110

to our people, that was really
the vinegar and the cup of joy,

1187

00:49:35,110 --> 00:49:35,900

so to say.

1188

00:49:35,900 --> 00:49:37,140

It was bittersweet.

1189

00:49:37,140 --> 00:49:37,830

Yes.

1190

00:49:37,830 --> 00:49:38,330

Yes.

1191

00:49:38,330 --> 00:49:39,210

Very much so.

1192

00:49:39,210 --> 00:49:42,590

I mean, naturally,
there's one thing talking

1193

00:49:42,590 --> 00:49:44,180

about antisemitism in Sweden.

1194

00:49:44,180 --> 00:49:46,302

If I ever complained
about anything--

1195

00:49:46,302 --> 00:49:48,260

I was never allowed to
complain about anything.

1196

00:49:48,260 --> 00:49:50,150

If I ever complained
about anything,

1197

00:49:50,150 --> 00:49:54,410

people used to say to
me, be glad you are here.

1198

00:49:54,410 --> 00:49:57,140

If you don't like it, you
know where you can go.

1199

00:49:57,140 --> 00:49:58,230

You can go back.

1200

00:49:58,230 --> 00:50:00,740

A lot of people would be
very happy to be here.

1201

00:50:00,740 --> 00:50:02,630

That's what I used to hear.

1202

00:50:02,630 --> 00:50:04,760

Living in Sweden,
what impressions

1203

00:50:04,760 --> 00:50:07,430

did the Jewish people have
about the concentration camps?

1204

00:50:07,430 --> 00:50:09,540

When did they know that
the concentration camps,

1205

00:50:09,540 --> 00:50:11,210

or at least
Auschwitz and others,

1206

00:50:11,210 --> 00:50:14,990

were used as
extermination camps?

1207

00:50:14,990 --> 00:50:17,780

Well, I don't think
that anybody really

1208

00:50:17,780 --> 00:50:22,850

knew, because I think that
it's beyond human imagination

1209

00:50:22,850 --> 00:50:24,470

to think of anything like that.

1210

00:50:24,470 --> 00:50:27,410

I think, for that,
you have to be

1211
00:50:27,410 --> 00:50:30,110
sick people like those
people who really invented

1212
00:50:30,110 --> 00:50:31,320
the concentration camps.

1213
00:50:31,320 --> 00:50:33,950
I mean sick in your
mind, or cruel.

1214
00:50:33,950 --> 00:50:35,930
I don't think that any
human mind can really

1215
00:50:35,930 --> 00:50:38,130
fathom something like that.

1216
00:50:38,130 --> 00:50:41,900
However, I remember--
you see, what

1217
00:50:41,900 --> 00:50:45,047
we thought was that it was
going to be like a labor camp

1218
00:50:45,047 --> 00:50:46,130
where people have to work.

1219
00:50:46,130 --> 00:50:48,480
And my parents both said,
oh, we are not afraid.

1220
00:50:48,480 --> 00:50:49,520
We know how to work.

1221
00:50:49,520 --> 00:50:50,840
We are not going to be afraid.

1222

00:50:50,840 --> 00:50:52,550

And I'm sure that
others-- they were all

1223

00:50:52,550 --> 00:50:55,325

told they were
going to go to work.

1224

00:50:55,325 --> 00:50:57,470

They would be
resettled in the east.

1225

00:50:57,470 --> 00:50:59,520

That's what they were all told.

1226

00:50:59,520 --> 00:51:02,165

So anyhow, but I joined--

1227

00:51:02,165 --> 00:51:05,270

1228

00:51:05,270 --> 00:51:09,530

the Jewish Congregation
had a class in first help

1229

00:51:09,530 --> 00:51:12,608

for people when they came out
of the concentration camps

1230

00:51:12,608 --> 00:51:14,900

where we saw that people
might not be well or anything.

1231

00:51:14,900 --> 00:51:19,702

But no, that's like putting a
bandage on a big, gaping sore.

1232

00:51:19,702 --> 00:51:20,660

I mean, it's not funny.

1233

00:51:20,660 --> 00:51:23,180

But that's more or
less what it was like.

1234
00:51:23,180 --> 00:51:25,700
However, I once read--

1235
00:51:25,700 --> 00:51:28,760
and I don't know where,
a Jewish newspaper--

1236
00:51:28,760 --> 00:51:34,360
a report of a girl
who had escaped.

1237
00:51:34,360 --> 00:51:35,830
She had come to Palestine.

1238
00:51:35,830 --> 00:51:38,880
And she was a Polish
girl, Polish Jewish girl.

1239
00:51:38,880 --> 00:51:40,830
And she brought a
little rock with her.

1240
00:51:40,830 --> 00:51:43,350
And she said, my
friend gave it to me

1241
00:51:43,350 --> 00:51:46,300
saying, please take
it with you, that

1242
00:51:46,300 --> 00:51:50,190
will be the only thing that
will be left of me in my memory.

1243
00:51:50,190 --> 00:51:52,620
So that was the only
thing which gave you

1244
00:51:52,620 --> 00:51:56,820
somehow an inkling of how
bad things might be, you see.

1245
00:51:56,820 --> 00:51:58,830
But we didn't really
know what was going on.

1246
00:51:58,830 --> 00:51:59,610
We really didn't.

1247
00:51:59,610 --> 00:52:02,700
I have to say that much.

1248
00:52:02,700 --> 00:52:04,500
How long after
the end of the war

1249
00:52:04,500 --> 00:52:06,990
did you remain in Stockholm?

1250
00:52:06,990 --> 00:52:10,430
The war was over in '45.

1251
00:52:10,430 --> 00:52:10,930
Wasn't it?

1252
00:52:10,930 --> 00:52:11,610
May '45.

1253
00:52:11,610 --> 00:52:12,510
Yes.

1254
00:52:12,510 --> 00:52:20,530
And my sister and I left
Sweden January 1947.

1255
00:52:20,530 --> 00:52:22,950
So it would have been
another two years.

1256
00:52:22,950 --> 00:52:25,390
And in those two years,
you just continued working.

1257

00:52:25,390 --> 00:52:25,890
And--

1258
00:52:25,890 --> 00:52:26,430
Yeah.

1259
00:52:26,430 --> 00:52:29,280
--your sister,
was she in school?

1260
00:52:29,280 --> 00:52:32,160
At that point, she started
to work already, too.

1261
00:52:32,160 --> 00:52:34,920
We both started to work.

1262
00:52:34,920 --> 00:52:37,230
And then, naturally,
we were very

1263
00:52:37,230 --> 00:52:39,810
active to help all
those people who

1264
00:52:39,810 --> 00:52:42,720
had been released out
of concentration camps,

1265
00:52:42,720 --> 00:52:44,340
because there were-- oh.

1266
00:52:44,340 --> 00:52:45,510
Were they coming to Sweden?

1267
00:52:45,510 --> 00:52:46,710
Oh, yes.

1268
00:52:46,710 --> 00:52:48,510
Bernadotte brought them all to--

1269
00:52:48,510 --> 00:52:51,510

Folke Bernadotte brought
them all to Sweden.

1270
00:52:51,510 --> 00:52:54,060
And they were first
in quarantine.

1271
00:52:54,060 --> 00:52:58,590
And then they were
sent, different people--

1272
00:52:58,590 --> 00:52:59,820
I know that--

1273
00:52:59,820 --> 00:53:01,740
I think it was Romania.

1274
00:53:01,740 --> 00:53:09,300
They had rented Swedish mansions
to have their people stationed

1275
00:53:09,300 --> 00:53:10,530
there to recuperate.

1276
00:53:10,530 --> 00:53:12,420
Those people had
to be recuperating.

1277
00:53:12,420 --> 00:53:15,060
So a lot of those
people had to be--

1278
00:53:15,060 --> 00:53:17,220
I mean, they were
all-- some of them--

1279
00:53:17,220 --> 00:53:20,370
I remember once going with a
male friend, I have to say,

1280
00:53:20,370 --> 00:53:23,250
because I couldn't have
gone by myself as a woman.

1281
00:53:23,250 --> 00:53:26,790
We went to camp where
there were Poles,

1282
00:53:26,790 --> 00:53:28,860
both Jewish and
non-Jewish Poles, who

1283
00:53:28,860 --> 00:53:30,990
had been in concentration camp.

1284
00:53:30,990 --> 00:53:34,470
And conditions were very bad,
because the non-Jewish Poles

1285
00:53:34,470 --> 00:53:38,100
beat up the Jewish
Poles, because--

1286
00:53:38,100 --> 00:53:39,750
Even in the concentration camps?

1287
00:53:39,750 --> 00:53:40,530
Afterwards.

1288
00:53:40,530 --> 00:53:41,130
After.

1289
00:53:41,130 --> 00:53:43,090
Maybe during the
concentration camps,

1290
00:53:43,090 --> 00:53:46,350
and it was afterwards already,
you see, beat them up.

1291
00:53:46,350 --> 00:53:47,670
But we went to visit.

1292
00:53:47,670 --> 00:53:49,800
I didn't really know the

conditions of the camp--

1293
00:53:49,800 --> 00:53:54,510
I mean, of those recuperating,
rehabilitating camps.

1294
00:53:54,510 --> 00:53:58,375
I didn't think that
would be the word for it.

1295
00:53:58,375 --> 00:54:00,480
Is our time up?

1296
00:54:00,480 --> 00:54:01,660
We have a few more minutes.

1297
00:54:01,660 --> 00:54:04,680
And I think we will be
taking another break

1298
00:54:04,680 --> 00:54:06,480
and then, perhaps,
talk a little bit

1299
00:54:06,480 --> 00:54:09,580
about the end of the war
and your coming here--

1300
00:54:09,580 --> 00:54:10,080
Gladly.

1301
00:54:10,080 --> 00:54:10,915
--to the United States.

1302
00:54:10,915 --> 00:54:11,415
Gladly.

1303
00:54:11,415 --> 00:54:12,030
Glad to do so.

1304
00:54:12,030 --> 00:54:12,530
Thank you.

1305

00:54:12,530 --> 00:54:13,910

OK.

1306

00:54:13,910 --> 00:54:23,000