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By then the Nazi government looked at the headmasters of the school or directors of the school became real party members. And then they looked at the things were enforced. And so in the Summer of 1933, I was given the choice either to salute the flag or to be dismissed from school. I, of course, took the choice of leaving school.

And then things went on. We had our little meetings undercover. And in 1937 there was one of those activities where we distributed pamphlets to the public. Eight days after we had this activity, they came to me and charged me with having a share in that activity. So my wife – we were not married then. We were young people. And they arrested us and put us in a concentration camp. I was 18 years old, and my wife was 17 years old.

Well, they gave us the regular treatment. When we came to this, it was a concentration camp actually, the guards were SS and SA men. That means Hitler's army, private army. And they had a certain way to impress people that they had to expect rough treatment. So they kicked us around and also slapped us whenever they had a chance to do so. And it was a very hard time because we were not supposed to lie down. You were not supposed to sit. You had to move around.

And doing so without any work, it was a special punishment. But then after awhile, they found out that people can do work. And so they brought work to us preparing material for woven mats, mats woven of reed I would say, you see, rough mats, and we had to prepare the material.

And eight months later there was a trial before a special court. That means not the regular judicial procedure but special court set up. And there was a group of about 200 Witnesses from the city of Hamburg who had been caught and lined up. And so we were prosecuted in groups of maybe 30 or 40 people at the time.

And the Nazis had tried to make their propaganda in this trial, and so they chose to put a show how nice they can be. They said we are young people, we were misled, and so they would give us a second chance. They gave us the good counsel I should marry a Nazi woman. And my wife, as a young girl, should see to marry a Nazi SS man. And then we would become fine citizens.

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Our lawyer found out about this beforehand, and he told us. And so we decided to show that we did not go along with their ideas. And one day before the trial, we were engaged, my wife and myself. And so when this speech was made in court, then I got a final word to say. And then I said I want to let the court know that my – we would say engaged or betrothed girl and myself got engaged yesterday, and we are going to marry. They gave us a sentence of three months in jail. We had served eight months, but this was the way things were handled, and then we were freed.

Then things continued on under ban. Only towards the end of the war, they wanted to draft me to the German army. They sent a draft order, and I refused it. And then they sent two more draft orders telling me all about the laws and that I'm supposed to come. That meant when I refused the third draft order, I could be shot anytime because I now was a deserter of the army.

And we were out in the country living with some farmers. They had a big house. And when the American army crossed the Rhine River into Germany, they made up a German army headquarters in the house where we stayed. And so I said I won't last very long here because any officer will say, "This young man, what does he do without being in the army?" And so we went into the woods for the final part of the war.

*[Screen goes to black and interview repeats at 0:08:26 until the end]*

*[End of Audio]*