

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,990

2
00:00:00,990 --> 00:00:07,320
This is an interview with Ernest
Fontheim on March 12, 1997.

3
00:00:07,320 --> 00:00:09,860
The interviewer
is Randy Goldman.

4
00:00:09,860 --> 00:00:19,690
And this is tape one, side A.

5
00:00:19,690 --> 00:00:23,710
My name is Ernest
Gunter Fontheim.

6
00:00:23,710 --> 00:00:29,716
I was born in Berlin,
Germany on October 23, 1922.

7
00:00:29,716 --> 00:00:32,189
Tell me a little bit
about your family

8
00:00:32,189 --> 00:00:36,500
and your life before the war.

9
00:00:36,500 --> 00:00:40,480
My father was a
lawyer and notary,

10
00:00:40,480 --> 00:00:47,000
which a notary is in Germany a
more sort of official position

11
00:00:47,000 --> 00:00:48,970
than here in this country.

12
00:00:48,970 --> 00:00:51,770

And it also requires
legal training.

13
00:00:51,770 --> 00:00:57,660

And my mother was actually
trained as a French teacher

14
00:00:57,660 --> 00:01:01,840

but didn't practice it.

15
00:01:01,840 --> 00:01:03,900

She actually spoke
fluent French.

16
00:01:03,900 --> 00:01:06,250

But she didn't teach school.

17
00:01:06,250 --> 00:01:09,310

18
00:01:09,310 --> 00:01:12,730

I also had a sister, five
years younger than I.

19
00:01:12,730 --> 00:01:15,700

Her name was Eva Irene.

20
00:01:15,700 --> 00:01:19,960

She was born in 1927.

21
00:01:19,960 --> 00:01:23,980

My family background
was that I--

22
00:01:23,980 --> 00:01:29,860

my parents were completely
assimilated in German culture

23
00:01:29,860 --> 00:01:32,920

and the German way of life.

24
00:01:32,920 --> 00:01:40,360

And there were very few
sort of Jewish observances.

25
00:01:40,360 --> 00:01:43,825
My mother went with us to the
synagogue on the high holidays.

26
00:01:43,825 --> 00:01:46,390

27
00:01:46,390 --> 00:01:48,610
That is the only
thing I remember.

28
00:01:48,610 --> 00:01:51,160
I remember much more
distinctly, however,

29
00:01:51,160 --> 00:01:52,750
that we celebrated Christmas.

30
00:01:52,750 --> 00:01:58,510
We had a Christmas
tree every year.

31
00:01:58,510 --> 00:02:02,770
Santa Claus came and
distributed gifts.

32
00:02:02,770 --> 00:02:09,910
And I woke up really knowing
very little about being Jewish,

33
00:02:09,910 --> 00:02:11,500
except I knew that I was Jewish.

34
00:02:11,500 --> 00:02:15,520

35
00:02:15,520 --> 00:02:18,910
Also my father had a
very extensive library.

36

00:02:18,910 --> 00:02:23,320

He was actually generally
very widely read

37

00:02:23,320 --> 00:02:26,110

and widely educated.

38

00:02:26,110 --> 00:02:29,050

I do not remember
any Jewish books.

39

00:02:29,050 --> 00:02:34,540

The books that we had were
just general literature,

40

00:02:34,540 --> 00:02:38,080

German writers,
Shakespeare, of course.

41

00:02:38,080 --> 00:02:40,640

42

00:02:40,640 --> 00:02:43,150

And the particular
pride of my father

43

00:02:43,150 --> 00:02:50,170

was a 54 volume edition of
the collected works of Goethe,

44

00:02:50,170 --> 00:02:52,090

the German playwright
and philosopher

45

00:02:52,090 --> 00:02:55,395

of the early 19th century.

46

00:02:55,395 --> 00:02:58,520

47

00:02:58,520 --> 00:03:07,870

And we were, as far as I can

tell, relatively well-off.

48
00:03:07,870 --> 00:03:11,200
We went on summer
vacations every year.

49
00:03:11,200 --> 00:03:19,450
And I particularly was sent
during the summer vacations

50
00:03:19,450 --> 00:03:25,390
from maybe the age of
10 on or so to a camp.

51
00:03:25,390 --> 00:03:32,220
These camps were usually
all Jewish camps.

52
00:03:32,220 --> 00:03:37,180
They were headed usually
by a Jewish sports teacher

53
00:03:37,180 --> 00:03:40,700
and were located--

54
00:03:40,700 --> 00:03:42,880
they were different
from American camps

55
00:03:42,880 --> 00:03:47,140
in that they didn't have
a specific camp location.

56
00:03:47,140 --> 00:03:53,170
But instead, the head of the
camp, the sports teacher,

57
00:03:53,170 --> 00:04:01,090
would contract with some
vacation owner of a building,

58
00:04:01,090 --> 00:04:03,280
of a vacation house

in the mountains

59

00:04:03,280 --> 00:04:07,930

or near the sea to rent that
house for a period of about

60

00:04:07,930 --> 00:04:10,850

four weeks, I
guess, or six weeks.

61

00:04:10,850 --> 00:04:15,580

And then he would take the kids
to that place and, of course,

62

00:04:15,580 --> 00:04:19,089

with a number of
assistants and so on.

63

00:04:19,089 --> 00:04:22,330

I personally would
have liked much better

64

00:04:22,330 --> 00:04:25,750

to be going on vacations
with my parents.

65

00:04:25,750 --> 00:04:29,630

But my father worked very hard.

66

00:04:29,630 --> 00:04:33,730

And I was always
told that my father

67

00:04:33,730 --> 00:04:37,460

needed sort of complete
rest and relaxation.

68

00:04:37,460 --> 00:04:42,640

And that it was just
too much of a commotion

69

00:04:42,640 --> 00:04:47,800

if we kids would

also come along.

70
00:04:47,800 --> 00:04:52,450
And usually what happened
was after a few days of being

71
00:04:52,450 --> 00:04:54,940
homesick, then I
got sort of sucked

72
00:04:54,940 --> 00:04:58,480
into the activities of the
camp, made some friends.

73
00:04:58,480 --> 00:05:02,080
And then in some of the cases
actually some school friends

74
00:05:02,080 --> 00:05:05,920
of mine from the school in
Berlin were at the same camp,

75
00:05:05,920 --> 00:05:08,440
so I had already ready
made friends there.

76
00:05:08,440 --> 00:05:11,950
And from then on, I usually
enjoyed these vacations.

77
00:05:11,950 --> 00:05:15,070

78
00:05:15,070 --> 00:05:23,840
My contact with Judaism really
became stronger basically

79
00:05:23,840 --> 00:05:25,870
as a result of two events.

80
00:05:25,870 --> 00:05:28,820
The first one was
Hitler's assumption

81
00:05:28,820 --> 00:05:33,050
of power in January 1933.

82
00:05:33,050 --> 00:05:34,910
Where-- in the
school where I was,

83
00:05:34,910 --> 00:05:39,170
I was made to feel
that I was different.

84
00:05:39,170 --> 00:05:43,730
Although the first year, there
was very little Nazi activity

85
00:05:43,730 --> 00:05:44,330
in the school.

86
00:05:44,330 --> 00:05:47,040

87
00:05:47,040 --> 00:05:49,430
The school I went
to, incidentally,

88
00:05:49,430 --> 00:05:55,340
was the Mommsen Gymnasium,
named after the German historian

89
00:05:55,340 --> 00:05:58,820
of the Roman Empire
Theodore Mommsen

90
00:05:58,820 --> 00:06:04,400
who actually personally was a
very liberal-minded historian.

91
00:06:04,400 --> 00:06:09,770
And gymnasium or
gymnasium in German

92

00:06:09,770 --> 00:06:13,970
means really
classical high school.

93
00:06:13,970 --> 00:06:20,630
I-- that school received, got a
new principal in the year 1934.

94
00:06:20,630 --> 00:06:25,730
He was a retired Army Colonel
who had fought the First World

95
00:06:25,730 --> 00:06:31,670
War and also was a through
and through convinced

96
00:06:31,670 --> 00:06:34,160
Nazi ideologue.

97
00:06:34,160 --> 00:06:38,510
And right after his assumption
of the principalship,

98
00:06:38,510 --> 00:06:40,760
he announced in
a school assembly

99
00:06:40,760 --> 00:06:43,610
that it was his goal
to make the school

100
00:06:43,610 --> 00:06:52,880
a sort of a sample for Nazi
ideological indoctrination.

101
00:06:52,880 --> 00:06:55,040
At that point, many
Jewish kids were

102
00:06:55,040 --> 00:06:57,380
taken out of that
school by their parents

103

00:06:57,380 --> 00:07:00,530
and sent for other schools.

104
00:07:00,530 --> 00:07:01,550
I stayed in.

105
00:07:01,550 --> 00:07:07,100
And after one year of that
principal, only two kid--

106
00:07:07,100 --> 00:07:10,022
Jewish kids were left,
another boy and I.

107
00:07:10,022 --> 00:07:15,800
The principal introduced
all kinds of new activities.

108
00:07:15,800 --> 00:07:19,100
Like, for example, before
the beginning of the school

109
00:07:19,100 --> 00:07:24,800
day, the entire
school had to assemble

110
00:07:24,800 --> 00:07:28,940
for a sort of like a
war military roll call.

111
00:07:28,940 --> 00:07:32,990
Behind the school building,
there was a big sports field.

112
00:07:32,990 --> 00:07:39,480
And we assembled there and had
to stand at military attention

113
00:07:39,480 --> 00:07:44,990
and while the principal read
a particular paragraph that he

114
00:07:44,990 --> 00:07:49,790

had selected for that day out
of Hitler's book Mein Kampf,

115
00:07:49,790 --> 00:07:52,370
as sort of motto for the day.

116
00:07:52,370 --> 00:07:56,840
And during lunch hour,
after we had eaten our food,

117
00:07:56,840 --> 00:08:01,070
we usually marched, the entire
school, in military formation

118
00:08:01,070 --> 00:08:04,010
through the streets of
the neighborhood singing

119
00:08:04,010 --> 00:08:05,832
Nazi songs.

120
00:08:05,832 --> 00:08:08,960
[CLEARS THROAT]

121
00:08:08,960 --> 00:08:12,290
After one year of his
principalship, as I said,

122
00:08:12,290 --> 00:08:14,150
there were two kids left.

123
00:08:14,150 --> 00:08:19,370
And he asked us to
come into his office.

124
00:08:19,370 --> 00:08:22,400
And that-- in Germany where
the principal in general

125
00:08:22,400 --> 00:08:25,460
is a fellow of a much
more fearsome authority

126

00:08:25,460 --> 00:08:28,920

than he is here now, in
addition to that, of course,

127

00:08:28,920 --> 00:08:32,030

we know where he stood for,
though it was a somewhat

128

00:08:32,030 --> 00:08:35,600

intimidating experience.

129

00:08:35,600 --> 00:08:37,429

When we were in his
office, he told us

130

00:08:37,429 --> 00:08:45,020

that he could not really
see having Jewish children

131

00:08:45,020 --> 00:08:48,290

in his school, which he
wanted to make as a purely

132

00:08:48,290 --> 00:08:54,200

Germanic or Aryan
school, as serving

133

00:08:54,200 --> 00:08:57,680

as a sample for all
other schools in Germany.

134

00:08:57,680 --> 00:09:02,490

But he also had no legal way
to expel us from the school.

135

00:09:02,490 --> 00:09:05,480

So he thought about it and came
to the following conclusion

136

00:09:05,480 --> 00:09:07,610

that there were
basically two options,

137

00:09:07,610 --> 00:09:12,170

either our parents
withdrew us voluntarily

138

00:09:12,170 --> 00:09:16,280

or he would simply resign
the principalship because he

139

00:09:16,280 --> 00:09:18,140

would not be able
under those conditions

140

00:09:18,140 --> 00:09:19,730

to carry out his goals.

141

00:09:19,730 --> 00:09:23,120

142

00:09:23,120 --> 00:09:24,980

And with that message,
we were sent home.

143

00:09:24,980 --> 00:09:28,220

Our fathers got together
on the telephone

144

00:09:28,220 --> 00:09:32,240

and discussed that this was
obviously a veiled threat.

145

00:09:32,240 --> 00:09:35,720

And we were never sent
back to that school.

146

00:09:35,720 --> 00:09:40,250

147

00:09:40,250 --> 00:09:42,980

I was surprised when
you mentioned that you

148

00:09:42,980 --> 00:09:46,610

were sent to a Jewish camp.

149

00:09:46,610 --> 00:09:55,410

Oh, yeah, well,
after 1933, there

150

00:09:55,410 --> 00:10:01,150

was increasing pressure really
for to keep Jews and non-Jews

151

00:10:01,150 --> 00:10:01,650

apart.

152

00:10:01,650 --> 00:10:05,430

I think maybe in '33
or '34, I may still

153

00:10:05,430 --> 00:10:06,570

have been in a mixed camp.

154

00:10:06,570 --> 00:10:10,150

But after that, such camps
simply didn't exist anymore.

155

00:10:10,150 --> 00:10:12,630

Actually there was
an additional reason,

156

00:10:12,630 --> 00:10:19,080

that all youth
activities for Germans

157

00:10:19,080 --> 00:10:25,110

were progressively taken over by
the Hitler Youth Organization.

158

00:10:25,110 --> 00:10:29,760

They went on summer excursions,
on hikes, and so on.

159

00:10:29,760 --> 00:10:33,480

And German children,
initially, were just sort of

160
00:10:33,480 --> 00:10:36,220
socially pressured
to participate.

161
00:10:36,220 --> 00:10:39,150
But I think in the mid-'30s,
I don't remember the year,

162
00:10:39,150 --> 00:10:44,820
maybe '36 or so, it was actually
made compulsory that every

163
00:10:44,820 --> 00:10:48,760
German kid as a boy had--

164
00:10:48,760 --> 00:10:52,170
so sorry, had to be
in the Hitler Youth.

165
00:10:52,170 --> 00:10:57,010
And it had a parallel growth
organization which was called--

166
00:10:57,010 --> 00:10:58,380
well, it was a German word.

167
00:10:58,380 --> 00:11:02,850
Bund Deutscher Madel means
association of German girls.

168
00:11:02,850 --> 00:11:09,700
And girls were compulsory
in that organization.

169
00:11:09,700 --> 00:11:14,250
And if there were any
organization outside

170
00:11:14,250 --> 00:11:16,650
of the Hitler Youth,
they definitely

171

00:11:16,650 --> 00:11:22,720
would not be permitted to have
any Jewish children in them.

172

00:11:22,720 --> 00:11:24,150
So that was not a
religious thing.

173

00:11:24,150 --> 00:11:27,030
These camps--
actually I remember

174

00:11:27,030 --> 00:11:32,370
one camp where I was where
the head was actually

175

00:11:32,370 --> 00:11:34,350
a woman sports teacher.

176

00:11:34,350 --> 00:11:37,170
And she was a very
strong Zionist.

177

00:11:37,170 --> 00:11:41,740
And she would have
Friday evening

178

00:11:41,740 --> 00:11:47,100
sort of Shabbat
ceremonies and carry

179

00:11:47,100 --> 00:11:49,290
on other Jewish activities.

180

00:11:49,290 --> 00:11:52,470
And in all the other
camps, they were

181

00:11:52,470 --> 00:11:58,350
Jewish only to the extent that
both the head and teachers, as

182

00:11:58,350 --> 00:12:00,750
well as all the kids, were Jews.

183
00:12:00,750 --> 00:12:04,710
But otherwise, there were
no Jewish-related activities

184
00:12:04,710 --> 00:12:05,210
there.

185
00:12:05,210 --> 00:12:09,138

186
00:12:09,138 --> 00:12:14,370
Now prior to Hitler, do
you remember any instances

187
00:12:14,370 --> 00:12:15,742
of anti-Semitism?

188
00:12:15,742 --> 00:12:20,120
Did you get along well with your
neighbors and your schoolmates?

189
00:12:20,120 --> 00:12:21,810
Yes.

190
00:12:21,810 --> 00:12:24,420
No, I mean, I don't
remember such instances.

191
00:12:24,420 --> 00:12:27,180
I always got along.

192
00:12:27,180 --> 00:12:30,780
The strange thing is
that practically all,

193
00:12:30,780 --> 00:12:33,060
with one exception,
all of my friends

194

00:12:33,060 --> 00:12:36,750
were always Jewish kids.

195
00:12:36,750 --> 00:12:40,410
That happened somehow
naturally, I don't know.

196
00:12:40,410 --> 00:12:44,160
There was surely no--

197
00:12:44,160 --> 00:12:46,800
I wasn't told by
my parents to have

198
00:12:46,800 --> 00:12:48,630
Jewish friends exclusively.

199
00:12:48,630 --> 00:12:51,510
But that's the
way it turned out.

200
00:12:51,510 --> 00:12:57,970
And but even after Hitler
came to power, I had--

201
00:12:57,970 --> 00:13:02,010

202
00:13:02,010 --> 00:13:03,800
I mean, I had no--

203
00:13:03,800 --> 00:13:06,390
I do not remember
any incidents where

204
00:13:06,390 --> 00:13:12,570
I was either attacked or
had any violence on the part

205
00:13:12,570 --> 00:13:14,340
of my German schoolchildren.

206

00:13:14,340 --> 00:13:21,180

In fact, initially my reaction
to the Nazi seizure of power

207

00:13:21,180 --> 00:13:26,370

was that I felt sorry for
myself for not being an Aryan,

208

00:13:26,370 --> 00:13:32,190

I mean a German kid, that I
couldn't participate in all the

209

00:13:32,190 --> 00:13:37,010

what I considered fun
things that they were doing,

210

00:13:37,010 --> 00:13:39,430

you know, games and so on.

211

00:13:39,430 --> 00:13:46,470

And it was really only
after I was expelled

212

00:13:46,470 --> 00:13:48,060

from the German school--

213

00:13:48,060 --> 00:13:50,010

actually, let me back up.

214

00:13:50,010 --> 00:13:54,480

I said earlier that my
relationship to Judaism

215

00:13:54,480 --> 00:13:57,580

changed drastically
for two reasons.

216

00:13:57,580 --> 00:13:59,070

I mean, one was
Hitler's accession

217

00:13:59,070 --> 00:14:06,780

to power, which basically forced

me to confront my Jewishness.

218

00:14:06,780 --> 00:14:08,940

The other was my
bar mitzvah, which

219

00:14:08,940 --> 00:14:15,900

came up in 1935, which required
me to take several times

220

00:14:15,900 --> 00:14:20,700

a week preparatory lessons
both for the Parsha which

221

00:14:20,700 --> 00:14:24,030

I was going to
read from the Torah

222

00:14:24,030 --> 00:14:28,170

on the Shabbat doing
services on my bar mitzvah,

223

00:14:28,170 --> 00:14:34,920

as well as additional sort of
Jewish history and some Hebrew.

224

00:14:34,920 --> 00:14:41,050

And that-- and then on
top of it also in 1935

225

00:14:41,050 --> 00:14:44,670

was my expulsion from
the Mommsen Gymnasium

226

00:14:44,670 --> 00:14:46,890

by this anti-Semitic principle.

227

00:14:46,890 --> 00:14:50,280

And my parents
then transferred me

228

00:14:50,280 --> 00:14:53,460

to a very Orthodox

Jewish school.

229

00:14:53,460 --> 00:14:56,460

That has always been
a puzzle in my mind.

230

00:14:56,460 --> 00:14:58,290

My parents never explained it.

231

00:14:58,290 --> 00:15:03,180

There were other Jewish schools,
which were much less orthodox.

232

00:15:03,180 --> 00:15:09,510

But they transferred me to the
most orthodox of Jewish schools

233

00:15:09,510 --> 00:15:10,890

in Berlin.

234

00:15:10,890 --> 00:15:16,200

In fact, it was a school
associated with a sort

235

00:15:16,200 --> 00:15:18,810

of separatist congregation.

236

00:15:18,810 --> 00:15:22,170

All of the rest of
the Jewish community

237

00:15:22,170 --> 00:15:25,740

was in one large sort
of super congregation.

238

00:15:25,740 --> 00:15:27,990

I think that is in
most European cities

239

00:15:27,990 --> 00:15:32,820

like that where Jewish
communal life is handled

240

00:15:32,820 --> 00:15:34,770
by one big congregation.

241

00:15:34,770 --> 00:15:40,350
And that congregation also
is responsible for building

242

00:15:40,350 --> 00:15:45,520
synagogues according
to different needs.

243

00:15:45,520 --> 00:15:49,600
I mean, there were one
or two reform synagogue--

244

00:15:49,600 --> 00:15:50,980
oh--

245

00:15:50,980 --> 00:15:51,900
Sorry.

246

00:15:51,900 --> 00:15:55,650
There were one or two
reform synagogues in Berlin

247

00:15:55,650 --> 00:15:58,880
and many what was called
liberal synagogues.

248

00:15:58,880 --> 00:16:02,280
That was a sort of
predominant denomination.

249

00:16:02,280 --> 00:16:05,230
In spite of the name,
the liberal synagogues

250

00:16:05,230 --> 00:16:09,090
were about very close to what
is called conservative here

251

00:16:09,090 --> 00:16:09,840

in this country.

252

00:16:09,840 --> 00:16:13,260

The service was almost entirely in Hebrew

253

00:16:13,260 --> 00:16:17,640

with only one or two prayers in German.

254

00:16:17,640 --> 00:16:20,340

However, in most liberal synagogues,

255

00:16:20,340 --> 00:16:23,640

organs were also present.

256

00:16:23,640 --> 00:16:30,750

And otherwise the service, also the selection of prayers,

257

00:16:30,750 --> 00:16:35,790

was basically the same as that in the conservative synagogues

258

00:16:35,790 --> 00:16:38,950

and a much more extensive than in reform

259

00:16:38,950 --> 00:16:40,440

synagogues in this country.

260

00:16:40,440 --> 00:16:46,020

But all of the synagogues were essentially the responsibility

261

00:16:46,020 --> 00:16:48,780

of the central congregation.

262

00:16:48,780 --> 00:16:51,720

And also there were a number of orthodox synagogues.

263

00:16:51,720 --> 00:16:57,150

But the school into which

I was transferred to

264

00:16:57,150 --> 00:17:03,090

was from a separatist,

very orthodox congregation,

265

00:17:03,090 --> 00:17:07,810

affiliated with

the Agudath Israel,

266

00:17:07,810 --> 00:17:11,859

which is a worldwide sort

of umbrella organization

267

00:17:11,859 --> 00:17:15,700

of orthodox congregations.

268

00:17:15,700 --> 00:17:17,980

I think the reason

was that school

269

00:17:17,980 --> 00:17:20,400

had an excellent reputation.

270

00:17:20,400 --> 00:17:24,760

While it obviously taught

a lot of Judaism, Hebrew

271

00:17:24,760 --> 00:17:29,940

and Jewish history and so

on, but there, of course,

272

00:17:29,940 --> 00:17:30,820

they still--

273

00:17:30,820 --> 00:17:35,080

they were governed by

the German education law

274

00:17:35,080 --> 00:17:41,290

and had to provide, therefore,
all of the curriculum

275
00:17:41,290 --> 00:17:44,770
that regular German
schools had to offer

276
00:17:44,770 --> 00:17:50,890
in mathematics and science
and literature and so on.

277
00:17:50,890 --> 00:17:54,130

278
00:17:54,130 --> 00:18:00,250
But obviously, that was a
tremendous change for me,

279
00:18:00,250 --> 00:18:02,980
well, of a change
of cultures coming

280
00:18:02,980 --> 00:18:05,620
from that militaristic
Nazi school,

281
00:18:05,620 --> 00:18:08,920
now to a very Orthodox
Jewish school, which

282
00:18:08,920 --> 00:18:10,480
at the beginning
when I came there

283
00:18:10,480 --> 00:18:15,520
seemed to be without any
semblance of discipline.

284
00:18:15,520 --> 00:18:20,680
I myself have always
been somewhat of a rebel

285
00:18:20,680 --> 00:18:23,110

in the sense that I
resented authority.

286
00:18:23,110 --> 00:18:26,290
And even in the
Mommsen Gymnasium,

287
00:18:26,290 --> 00:18:32,320
which was governed, I mean,
by this Prussian ex-officer,

288
00:18:32,320 --> 00:18:34,450
there were a number
of boys to whom I also

289
00:18:34,450 --> 00:18:39,530
belonged to that have tried
to get away with things.

290
00:18:39,530 --> 00:18:43,150
Now when I came to
the Jewish school,

291
00:18:43,150 --> 00:18:50,770
I really revelled in the
fact that there seemed

292
00:18:50,770 --> 00:18:52,300
to be no discipline at all.

293
00:18:52,300 --> 00:18:57,160
And people even talk
back to their teachers.

294
00:18:57,160 --> 00:19:03,260
And I must say I
enjoyed that very much.

295
00:19:03,260 --> 00:19:07,545
And in spite of that, the
funny thing is I learned.

296
00:19:07,545 --> 00:19:10,870

You know, the thing is that the excuse for extreme discipline

297
00:19:10,870 --> 00:19:15,160
is always that it is needed in order for the kids to learn.

298
00:19:15,160 --> 00:19:17,950
I mean, I realize there has to be

299
00:19:17,950 --> 00:19:19,370
a certain amount of discipline.

300
00:19:19,370 --> 00:19:25,420
But in the German schools, at least at the Nazi time,

301
00:19:25,420 --> 00:19:33,820
that was an ideology by itself to in its own right,

302
00:19:33,820 --> 00:19:39,319
discipline, of course, as a provocation for later military.

303
00:19:39,319 --> 00:19:45,692
Now didn't you experience anti-Semitism

304
00:19:45,692 --> 00:19:49,690
from your schoolmates at the Mommsen school?

305
00:19:49,690 --> 00:19:51,570
I don't think-- no, I didn't.

306
00:19:51,570 --> 00:19:53,820
In fact, one--

307
00:19:53,820 --> 00:19:58,110
I remember that one of my non-Jewish,

308
00:19:58,110 --> 00:20:02,100
we weren't really friends,
but we sort of spend some time

309
00:20:02,100 --> 00:20:04,950
together frequently in
school doing inter--

310
00:20:04,950 --> 00:20:08,570
doing intermissions
and so on, recess

311
00:20:08,570 --> 00:20:11,280
is the word, doing recess.

312
00:20:11,280 --> 00:20:16,290
He was-- he had joined
the Hitler Youth.

313
00:20:16,290 --> 00:20:19,680
And he had given me
a small Hitler Youth

314
00:20:19,680 --> 00:20:24,960
pennant with a swastika
which I proudly displayed.

315
00:20:24,960 --> 00:20:29,490
And unfortunately, it
turned out that on that day

316
00:20:29,490 --> 00:20:34,500
we had at home a party, I
forgot what the cause was.

317
00:20:34,500 --> 00:20:35,940
There were relatives there.

318
00:20:35,940 --> 00:20:38,930
And of course, all the
people who came were Jews.

319

00:20:38,930 --> 00:20:43,110

And in the middle of it, I
burst with my swastika flag

320

00:20:43,110 --> 00:20:46,320

and holding it proudly
and marched in there.

321

00:20:46,320 --> 00:20:49,320

And I remember that
my mother took me

322

00:20:49,320 --> 00:20:55,350

very forcefully by my arm,
took me out to my room,

323

00:20:55,350 --> 00:21:02,070

and gave me a horrific beating,
and told me that I should never

324

00:21:02,070 --> 00:21:05,280

dare to bring that flag home.

325

00:21:05,280 --> 00:21:06,930

Then she tore it up.

326

00:21:06,930 --> 00:21:10,080

And I felt terribly
sorry for myself

327

00:21:10,080 --> 00:21:13,310

and thought of as a victim of--

328

00:21:13,310 --> 00:21:17,130

329

00:21:17,130 --> 00:21:20,220

but as I said, that
was in the beginning

330

00:21:20,220 --> 00:21:26,030

when I felt that being Jewish

was basically a punishment.

331
00:21:26,030 --> 00:21:32,160
And it took a number
of jolts for me

332
00:21:32,160 --> 00:21:38,100
to realize really what was
behind that and also what

333
00:21:38,100 --> 00:21:40,290
my Judaism really meant to me.

334
00:21:40,290 --> 00:21:42,900

335
00:21:42,900 --> 00:21:44,970
The anti-Semitism
that I encountered

336
00:21:44,970 --> 00:21:46,920
was mainly from the teachers.

337
00:21:46,920 --> 00:21:50,760
That principle I-- maybe
I forgot to mention that.

338
00:21:50,760 --> 00:21:52,970
He also taught.

339
00:21:52,970 --> 00:21:54,870
That was common
in German schools.

340
00:21:54,870 --> 00:21:56,460
And he was our math teacher.

341
00:21:56,460 --> 00:22:00,870
And he made frequent
anti-Semitic remarks

342
00:22:00,870 --> 00:22:07,080

and derogatory remarks about
Jews in his mathematics class.

343
00:22:07,080 --> 00:22:09,900
And then we had a
German teacher who

344
00:22:09,900 --> 00:22:12,840
was, if anything, even worse.

345
00:22:12,840 --> 00:22:18,150
And on the other hand,
some of the older teachers

346
00:22:18,150 --> 00:22:21,090
were very Democratic.

347
00:22:21,090 --> 00:22:24,660
Our Latin teacher, who was
an elderly gentleman, in fact

348
00:22:24,660 --> 00:22:26,880
was the only teacher with whom--

349
00:22:26,880 --> 00:22:30,300
to whom my mother
took me after I

350
00:22:30,300 --> 00:22:34,770
left school [? very ?] from one
day to the next to say goodbye.

351
00:22:34,770 --> 00:22:38,310
And he lived only a few
blocks away from us.

352
00:22:38,310 --> 00:22:39,280
And we went there.

353
00:22:39,280 --> 00:22:42,030
And he was, I still
remember it, very nice to me

354

00:22:42,030 --> 00:22:48,490
and shook my hand and wished me
all best of luck for my future.

355

00:22:48,490 --> 00:22:52,650
So I think some of
the older teachers

356

00:22:52,650 --> 00:22:55,980
were definitely not Nazis.

357

00:22:55,980 --> 00:22:59,040
And most of the
younger ones were.

358

00:22:59,040 --> 00:23:00,870
And in addition, of
course, the principal,

359

00:23:00,870 --> 00:23:03,840
who was an elderly gentleman,
he must have been already

360

00:23:03,840 --> 00:23:05,948
in his late 50s at that time.

361

00:23:05,948 --> 00:23:09,364
How did you feel hearing these
remarks by your teachers?

362

00:23:09,364 --> 00:23:13,756

363

00:23:13,756 --> 00:23:16,560
Do you remember?

364

00:23:16,560 --> 00:23:18,220
I felt hurt basically.

365

00:23:18,220 --> 00:23:26,250
And I mean, I felt that,
I mean, it was really

366
00:23:26,250 --> 00:23:29,460
like a physical
slap in the face,

367
00:23:29,460 --> 00:23:32,790
except this was not
physical but emotional.

368
00:23:32,790 --> 00:23:35,430

369
00:23:35,430 --> 00:23:40,620
And I mean, I felt,
even at that time,

370
00:23:40,620 --> 00:23:48,270
that the men had no reason
to attack me that way.

371
00:23:48,270 --> 00:23:50,150
Did you talk about
this with your parents?

372
00:23:50,150 --> 00:23:53,450
Did they make some
sense out of it for you?

373
00:23:53,450 --> 00:23:54,480
I don't remember it.

374
00:23:54,480 --> 00:23:58,950
But it's possible that I did.

375
00:23:58,950 --> 00:24:05,790
I don't-- I mean, there are
many things that I don't really

376
00:24:05,790 --> 00:24:09,300
understand about my parents.

377
00:24:09,300 --> 00:24:12,633

And I feel in a way
terrible about it.

378
00:24:12,633 --> 00:24:14,550
Of course, in the
beginning, I was too little.

379
00:24:14,550 --> 00:24:18,960
But later on, I was
a teenager and then

380
00:24:18,960 --> 00:24:24,510
finally an upper teenager and
even 20 years old by the time

381
00:24:24,510 --> 00:24:26,310
they were arrested.

382
00:24:26,310 --> 00:24:31,170
And but I don't--

383
00:24:31,170 --> 00:24:36,060
I don't really understand
many of the actions they took

384
00:24:36,060 --> 00:24:38,500
and their motivations.

385
00:24:38,500 --> 00:24:41,460
And I've-- that is one of
the things I've been trying

386
00:24:41,460 --> 00:24:46,170
for years and years
sort of to reconstruct,

387
00:24:46,170 --> 00:24:52,940
no understanding now how they
thought and what their mental

388
00:24:52,940 --> 00:24:58,395
sort of outlook was
to explain, you know,

389
00:24:58,395 --> 00:25:01,187
why they acted the way they did.

390
00:25:01,187 --> 00:25:02,020
It's very different.

391
00:25:02,020 --> 00:25:04,410
I mean, for example,
my father's decision

392
00:25:04,410 --> 00:25:11,290
during the first year of Hitler
not to emigrate was based--

393
00:25:11,290 --> 00:25:15,330
that is one thing, one of the
few things I can understand,

394
00:25:15,330 --> 00:25:17,310
as strange as it may sound.

395
00:25:17,310 --> 00:25:22,120
But the thing was
that Jewish lawyers,

396
00:25:22,120 --> 00:25:26,250
the large group of Jews-- or
the majority of Jewish lawyers

397
00:25:26,250 --> 00:25:29,010
were disbarred
within a few weeks

398
00:25:29,010 --> 00:25:30,960
after the Nazis took power.

399
00:25:30,960 --> 00:25:33,960
There were two groups of
lawyers which were exempted,

400
00:25:33,960 --> 00:25:37,350

one were the frontline
soldiers from World War

401
00:25:37,350 --> 00:25:41,180
I, which my father was not.

402
00:25:41,180 --> 00:25:43,890
And the other one were
lawyers who had already

403
00:25:43,890 --> 00:25:47,280
been admitted to the bar
under the Kaiser, that

404
00:25:47,280 --> 00:25:48,750
means before the--

405
00:25:48,750 --> 00:25:52,530
before the outbreak of World
War I. And that's the category

406
00:25:52,530 --> 00:25:54,350
my father fell in.

407
00:25:54,350 --> 00:25:59,460
And many of the lawyers
who were then disbarred

408
00:25:59,460 --> 00:26:02,370
lost their livelihood overnight.

409
00:26:02,370 --> 00:26:05,370
And the only thing
they could do,

410
00:26:05,370 --> 00:26:08,040
unless they wanted to
dig ditches in Germany,

411
00:26:08,040 --> 00:26:09,570
was to emigrate.

412

00:26:09,570 --> 00:26:12,090
And most of them did.

413
00:26:12,090 --> 00:26:14,130
And on the other
hand, my father always

414
00:26:14,130 --> 00:26:17,340
considered himself lucky
that he was exempted.

415
00:26:17,340 --> 00:26:21,600
Because he-- at each stage
of the Nazi development

416
00:26:21,600 --> 00:26:25,170
of the anti-Semitic
policies, the Jews

417
00:26:25,170 --> 00:26:31,200
always were under the
illusion that this is the way.

418
00:26:31,200 --> 00:26:35,040
OK, the Nazis want to
do business and that's--

419
00:26:35,040 --> 00:26:37,153
but we can live with it.

420
00:26:37,153 --> 00:26:38,820
And that's the way
it's going to remain.

421
00:26:38,820 --> 00:26:41,580

422
00:26:41,580 --> 00:26:44,550
In retrospect, the
fact that my father

423
00:26:44,550 --> 00:26:48,240
was in one of the exempted

groups was not his luck,

424
00:26:48,240 --> 00:26:50,520
but it was his death sentence.

425
00:26:50,520 --> 00:26:55,350
Because otherwise he
would have left Germany.

426
00:26:55,350 --> 00:26:59,700
He-- in fact, one remark
I still remember vividly,

427
00:26:59,700 --> 00:27:03,330
when others urged him to
emigrate, he would say,

428
00:27:03,330 --> 00:27:05,160
here I am a lawyer.

429
00:27:05,160 --> 00:27:10,040
If I go to New York, all I
can become is a dishwasher.

430
00:27:10,040 --> 00:27:15,390
And what should I do with
German law in New York?

431
00:27:15,390 --> 00:27:18,840
And, you know, logically
that made total sense.

432
00:27:18,840 --> 00:27:23,010
In '35, who would have ever
thought of gas chambers.

433
00:27:23,010 --> 00:27:27,750
And plus the thought also
was that since Hitler

434
00:27:27,750 --> 00:27:30,720
was constantly
breaking agreements

435
00:27:30,720 --> 00:27:34,080
with the Allies, particularly
Britain and France,

436
00:27:34,080 --> 00:27:39,340
that one of these days they
would have enough and just take

437
00:27:39,340 --> 00:27:40,440
care of him.

438
00:27:40,440 --> 00:27:42,570
At that time, their
military force

439
00:27:42,570 --> 00:27:45,150
was still much bigger
than that of Germany.

440
00:27:45,150 --> 00:27:49,470
And my father thought,
if I stay here,

441
00:27:49,470 --> 00:27:53,360
then I'll just pick up
where I left off in '33.

442
00:27:53,360 --> 00:27:58,440
And all of that,
if I think back,

443
00:27:58,440 --> 00:28:01,320
really made sense
and the framework--

444
00:28:01,320 --> 00:28:06,090
I mean, putting myself into
the framework of my parents

445
00:28:06,090 --> 00:28:09,180
at that time and,
of course, ignoring

446
00:28:09,180 --> 00:28:13,767
the history that occurred
later, which is just hindsight.

447
00:28:13,767 --> 00:28:17,590

448
00:28:17,590 --> 00:28:22,640
I mean, obviously, my
parents also were--

449
00:28:22,640 --> 00:28:26,280
and that may have been in
general in those days--

450
00:28:26,280 --> 00:28:33,920
very, what should I
say, sort of withdrawn

451
00:28:33,920 --> 00:28:37,600
in terms of say financial
things and so on.

452
00:28:37,600 --> 00:28:40,600
I mean, they never discussed
any of these things

453
00:28:40,600 --> 00:28:42,130
with us, even as I got older.

454
00:28:42,130 --> 00:28:44,650
But I am now
certain looking back

455
00:28:44,650 --> 00:28:48,070
that the income of my
father from his law practice

456
00:28:48,070 --> 00:28:49,900
must have plummeted.

457

00:28:49,900 --> 00:28:55,690
Because, I mean, first of
all, many of his clients

458
00:28:55,690 --> 00:28:57,160
were Gentiles.

459
00:28:57,160 --> 00:28:58,780
And there was to--

460
00:28:58,780 --> 00:29:02,500
if a German Gentile,
so-called Aryan,

461
00:29:02,500 --> 00:29:05,680
appeared in court
with a Jewish lawyer,

462
00:29:05,680 --> 00:29:09,580
that already was not one strike
but 10 strikes against him.

463
00:29:09,580 --> 00:29:12,760
And most of the judges
were fierce Nazis.

464
00:29:12,760 --> 00:29:17,050
So who would want
a Jewish lawyer?

465
00:29:17,050 --> 00:29:20,440
And so I'm sure that most
of the non-Jewish clients

466
00:29:20,440 --> 00:29:21,970
must have left him.

467
00:29:21,970 --> 00:29:25,150
Of course, he may have
picked up some Jewish clients

468
00:29:25,150 --> 00:29:28,090
because-- from those

lawyer, Jewish lawyers,

469

00:29:28,090 --> 00:29:29,620

who were disbarred.

470

00:29:29,620 --> 00:29:31,300

I don't know how

that evened out.

471

00:29:31,300 --> 00:29:33,820

But I'm fairly certain

that his income

472

00:29:33,820 --> 00:29:36,160

must have declined after '33.

473

00:29:36,160 --> 00:29:39,770

He had actually a very

well going practice.

474

00:29:39,770 --> 00:29:42,100

He had a member--

475

00:29:42,100 --> 00:29:46,390

he used to talk about one of

the most famous German movie

476

00:29:46,390 --> 00:29:49,850

actresses he represented

in her divorce.

477

00:29:49,850 --> 00:29:56,760

And then he had some members

of the Hohenzollern family,

478

00:29:56,760 --> 00:30:01,390

that was the family of

the last German Kaiser.

479

00:30:01,390 --> 00:30:05,230

In fact, the nephew of

the Kaiser and his mother,

480

00:30:05,230 --> 00:30:08,950

who was a sister-in-law of
the Kaiser, were his clients.

481

00:30:08,950 --> 00:30:12,070

And in fact, they stuck
with him till the end.

482

00:30:12,070 --> 00:30:13,480

That's very interesting.

483

00:30:13,480 --> 00:30:19,450

But his-- their cases did never
involve court appearances.

484

00:30:19,450 --> 00:30:24,310

He sort of drew up
personal worlds for them

485

00:30:24,310 --> 00:30:29,560

and made property arrangements
and advice and things

486

00:30:29,560 --> 00:30:32,140

like that, where
he didn't really

487

00:30:32,140 --> 00:30:33,440

appear in public for them.

488

00:30:33,440 --> 00:30:37,216

489

00:30:37,216 --> 00:30:39,220

Let me see.

490

00:30:39,220 --> 00:30:40,780

Well, why don't--
let me ask you.

491

00:30:40,780 --> 00:30:41,280

Oh, yep.

492
00:30:41,280 --> 00:30:45,270

493
00:30:45,270 --> 00:30:47,550
Hitler came to power.

494
00:30:47,550 --> 00:30:54,960
Can you kind of describe to me
the progression of the events

495
00:30:54,960 --> 00:30:57,590
and regulations and--

496
00:30:57,590 --> 00:30:58,090
Well--

497
00:30:58,090 --> 00:31:01,770
--policy that altered your
life and your lifestyle?

498
00:31:01,770 --> 00:31:06,810

499
00:31:06,810 --> 00:31:09,390
In the beginning, I
mean, I must say also

500
00:31:09,390 --> 00:31:12,720
one thing is my
parents, in retrospect,

501
00:31:12,720 --> 00:31:17,580
made-- must have made heroic
efforts to insulate us children

502
00:31:17,580 --> 00:31:20,040
from all of these events.

503
00:31:20,040 --> 00:31:22,690
Initially, we didn't
notice anything.

504
00:31:22,690 --> 00:31:27,000
In fact, that is a little
story that I didn't really

505
00:31:27,000 --> 00:31:27,720
plan to tell you.

506
00:31:27,720 --> 00:31:34,380
But I was-- in January
'33, I was 10 years old.

507
00:31:34,380 --> 00:31:35,910
And I had scarlet fever.

508
00:31:35,910 --> 00:31:39,150
It's a childhood disease
which doesn't exist anymore.

509
00:31:39,150 --> 00:31:41,700
But in those days, kids had it.

510
00:31:41,700 --> 00:31:44,340
And our pediatrician,
who was also

511
00:31:44,340 --> 00:31:49,230
a distant relative, it was still
in the days of house calls,

512
00:31:49,230 --> 00:31:54,000
came every day and looked me
over, looked into my throat,

513
00:31:54,000 --> 00:31:55,270
and so on.

514
00:31:55,270 --> 00:32:00,120
And he came at a certain time,
in the morning at some point.

515
00:32:00,120 --> 00:32:02,990

And it was sort of
a regular routine.

516
00:32:02,990 --> 00:32:04,380
The bell would ring.

517
00:32:04,380 --> 00:32:07,500
My mother would come
into my room with him.

518
00:32:07,500 --> 00:32:09,780
And then he would examine me.

519
00:32:09,780 --> 00:32:15,720
On one day, and now I know it
was the 30th of January 1933.

520
00:32:15,720 --> 00:32:18,450
Instead of coming
in, my mother and he

521
00:32:18,450 --> 00:32:23,070
were outside the door of my
room, but with the door closed,

522
00:32:23,070 --> 00:32:26,310
and sort of in a low voice,
which I couldn't understand,

523
00:32:26,310 --> 00:32:28,890
kept talking and
talking and talking.

524
00:32:28,890 --> 00:32:30,750
And finally, they came in.

525
00:32:30,750 --> 00:32:35,130
And I was very sort
of disappointed,

526
00:32:35,130 --> 00:32:37,170
not only because of
the change in routine

527
00:32:37,170 --> 00:32:40,580
but somehow I wasn't
that important.

528
00:32:40,580 --> 00:32:41,340
And they talked.

529
00:32:41,340 --> 00:32:45,030
And then I asked them,
what's the matter?

530
00:32:45,030 --> 00:32:47,490
And my mother said
in a grave voice,

531
00:32:47,490 --> 00:32:50,760
Hitler has just been
appointed chancellor.

532
00:32:50,760 --> 00:32:55,030
And at that time, it sort
of went in here, out there.

533
00:32:55,030 --> 00:32:56,030
It didn't mean anything.

534
00:32:56,030 --> 00:32:58,670
I knew I was 10 years old.

535
00:32:58,670 --> 00:33:01,440
So as a German.

536
00:33:01,440 --> 00:33:04,050
There had been several
elections before.

537
00:33:04,050 --> 00:33:10,140
So the house walls
and public places

538
00:33:10,140 --> 00:33:13,320

were plastered with
election placards.

539
00:33:13,320 --> 00:33:19,500
And so I remember having
seen, Vote for Hitler and Vote

540
00:33:19,500 --> 00:33:21,960
for Thalmann, who
was a Communist Party

541
00:33:21,960 --> 00:33:23,940
leader, and Vote for this man.

542
00:33:23,940 --> 00:33:26,450
And Germany also
had many parties.

543
00:33:26,450 --> 00:33:30,630
And so vaguely the name
Hitler rang a bell.

544
00:33:30,630 --> 00:33:34,890
But I had no idea
basically who he was,

545
00:33:34,890 --> 00:33:36,880
what he stood for, and so on.

546
00:33:36,880 --> 00:33:40,620
Now coming specifically
to your question,

547
00:33:40,620 --> 00:33:44,370
the first real change
was that eviction

548
00:33:44,370 --> 00:33:47,400
from the Mommsen Gymnasium.

549
00:33:47,400 --> 00:33:53,020
Before that, the laws, you know,
there were laws, of course,

550
00:33:53,020 --> 00:33:55,680
as I said, about
disbarring lawyers.

551
00:33:55,680 --> 00:33:57,340
Well, it didn't affect me.

552
00:33:57,340 --> 00:33:59,940
And it didn't-- unfortunately,
it did not affect my father

553
00:33:59,940 --> 00:34:01,020
either.

554
00:34:01,020 --> 00:34:07,830
And then there were many other--

555
00:34:07,830 --> 00:34:09,840
there were not too
many laws until '35.

556
00:34:09,840 --> 00:34:12,540
In '35, the so-called
Nuremberg laws

557
00:34:12,540 --> 00:34:15,929
were passed, which
actually defined Jews

558
00:34:15,929 --> 00:34:17,580
as second-class citizens.

559
00:34:17,580 --> 00:34:19,560
But that also had
no immediate effect.

560
00:34:19,560 --> 00:34:23,790
The main effect was also
that Jews not only could not

561
00:34:23,790 --> 00:34:25,679

marry a Gent--

562
00:34:25,679 --> 00:34:27,060
I mean, Aryan Gentiles.

563
00:34:27,060 --> 00:34:32,219
But even the act of intercourse
without being married

564
00:34:32,219 --> 00:34:34,150
was a punishable offense.

565
00:34:34,150 --> 00:34:36,980
And but obviously, I
was 12, 13 years old,

566
00:34:36,980 --> 00:34:40,150
that was the last
thing on my mind.

567
00:34:40,150 --> 00:34:44,400
So and second-class
citizenship had, of course,

568
00:34:44,400 --> 00:34:47,909
trickled through and
had many other effects,

569
00:34:47,909 --> 00:34:50,590
which at that point
did not affect me yet.

570
00:34:50,590 --> 00:34:54,000
But as I said, the eviction
from the school did.

571
00:34:54,000 --> 00:34:56,909

572
00:34:56,909 --> 00:35:01,320
But also our lifestyle
never changed.

573

00:35:01,320 --> 00:35:06,480

I mean, we went on-- my parents
went on their summer vacations.

574

00:35:06,480 --> 00:35:11,910

And my sister and I
went to our camps.

575

00:35:11,910 --> 00:35:16,980

And we had, I mean,
we were clothed.

576

00:35:16,980 --> 00:35:18,210

We had food to eat.

577

00:35:18,210 --> 00:35:22,290

And in fact, oh
yeah, big change also

578

00:35:22,290 --> 00:35:28,260

was that the Nazis were totally
obsessed, I mean, with the idea

579

00:35:28,260 --> 00:35:32,250

that the Jews were sort of
spoilng the German race.

580

00:35:32,250 --> 00:35:35,670

And most Jewish
families, at least

581

00:35:35,670 --> 00:35:39,300

middle and upper middle
classes, had maids.

582

00:35:39,300 --> 00:35:44,400

And in those days, maids
were usually live-in maids.

583

00:35:44,400 --> 00:35:49,740

And as one of the outgrowth
of the Nuremberg laws

584

00:35:49,740 --> 00:35:52,920

was that any Jewish
household which

585

00:35:52,920 --> 00:35:57,570

has a male, a Jewish
male in the household,

586

00:35:57,570 --> 00:36:02,460

was forbidden to have
a German maid who

587

00:36:02,460 --> 00:36:05,750

is below 45 years of age.

588

00:36:05,750 --> 00:36:07,000

So we had--

589

00:36:07,000 --> 00:36:09,260

I think we had one at a time.

590

00:36:09,260 --> 00:36:13,390

So we had to dismiss her
and took an older woman.

591

00:36:13,390 --> 00:36:14,620

You could take an older one.

592

00:36:14,620 --> 00:36:16,570

I mean, that was
all that obsession

593

00:36:16,570 --> 00:36:19,840

with-- that maybe
a Jew would then

594

00:36:19,840 --> 00:36:24,730

father an illegitimate
child with such a maid.

595

00:36:24,730 --> 00:36:27,280

I don't even know whether

maybe there were such cases.

596

00:36:27,280 --> 00:36:34,060

But they were-- it was almost
a sickness with the Nazis.

597

00:36:34,060 --> 00:36:39,590

Well anyway, I then started
at the Jewish school.

598

00:36:39,590 --> 00:36:43,930

And I remember there were
several kids besides myself

599

00:36:43,930 --> 00:36:47,680

in my grade who
started new there.

600

00:36:47,680 --> 00:36:52,060

Now, we were up to grade level
in all the general subjects,

601

00:36:52,060 --> 00:36:54,290

like math, German, and so on.

602

00:36:54,290 --> 00:36:58,600

But in the Jewish subjects
and particularly in Hebrew,

603

00:36:58,600 --> 00:37:01,900

our classmates were
already freely translating

604

00:37:01,900 --> 00:37:06,880

the Torah, the Tanakh, the
entire Bible from English--

605

00:37:06,880 --> 00:37:09,250

from Hebrew into German.

606

00:37:09,250 --> 00:37:13,100

And I could barely sort
of read stammeringly

607
00:37:13,100 --> 00:37:15,070
and so did the others.

608
00:37:15,070 --> 00:37:21,010
So they instituted a sort
of second track Hebrew

609
00:37:21,010 --> 00:37:24,430
for us assimilated kids.

610
00:37:24,430 --> 00:37:31,090
And for the first class, the
principal, a Dr. Schlesinger,

611
00:37:31,090 --> 00:37:34,630
came in to give us
a little pep talk

612
00:37:34,630 --> 00:37:40,690
about the importance of knowing
Hebrew for Jewish children.

613
00:37:40,690 --> 00:37:44,920
And after he was finished,
he said, OK, tomorrow

614
00:37:44,920 --> 00:37:45,880
will be the first--

615
00:37:45,880 --> 00:37:46,830
now he dismissed us.

616
00:37:46,830 --> 00:37:49,340
Tomorrow will be the
first real class.

617
00:37:49,340 --> 00:37:52,750
And we are supposed to
bring, he wrote on the board,

618
00:37:52,750 --> 00:37:57,190

a certain grammar
by so-and-so, which

619
00:37:57,190 --> 00:37:59,860
you could buy at some
bookstore that he named,

620
00:37:59,860 --> 00:38:02,260
and a copy of the Chumash.

621
00:38:02,260 --> 00:38:05,920
And as soon as he said
that, my arm shot up.

622
00:38:05,920 --> 00:38:07,750
And he pointed at me.

623
00:38:07,750 --> 00:38:10,900
And I asked, what is a Chumash?

624
00:38:10,900 --> 00:38:17,300
And that question completely
floored that principal.

625
00:38:17,300 --> 00:38:21,190
He couldn't imagine
a Jewish boy asking,

626
00:38:21,190 --> 00:38:24,340
being so unbelievably
ignorant that he wouldn't

627
00:38:24,340 --> 00:38:26,230
knowing what a Chumash is.

628
00:38:26,230 --> 00:38:29,870
And so all he could--
he sort of walked--

629
00:38:29,870 --> 00:38:34,480
and also he was a short,
very thin, wiry man

630

00:38:34,480 --> 00:38:42,970

with a reddish goatee, a bald
head but a fringe of red hair

631

00:38:42,970 --> 00:38:46,000

onto his back of his head.

632

00:38:46,000 --> 00:38:48,460

And his entire head,
as I remember it,

633

00:38:48,460 --> 00:38:51,040

turned red, just as his beard.

634

00:38:51,040 --> 00:38:52,150

He walked toward me.

635

00:38:52,150 --> 00:38:56,200

And finally, I guess,
he took some time

636

00:38:56,200 --> 00:39:00,350

to think about what to say.

637

00:39:00,350 --> 00:39:03,010

And then he said, you are a Jew.

638

00:39:03,010 --> 00:39:05,500

And you don't know
what a Chumash is.

639

00:39:05,500 --> 00:39:09,220

And of course, that question
totally demolished me.

640

00:39:09,220 --> 00:39:15,660

And I sat down and felt as if
I had said something that--

641

00:39:15,660 --> 00:39:25,810

642

00:39:25,810 --> 00:39:31,460

This is an interview with Ernest
Fontheim on March 12, 1997.

643

00:39:31,460 --> 00:39:37,630

Tape one, side B.

644

00:39:37,630 --> 00:39:41,500

Yeah, my immediate reaction was
that I was totally embarrassed

645

00:39:41,500 --> 00:39:44,470

by the principal's remark.

646

00:39:44,470 --> 00:39:53,290

And but soon, as a result of the
very strong Jewish education,

647

00:39:53,290 --> 00:39:57,290

which was part of the
curriculum in that school,

648

00:39:57,290 --> 00:40:01,750

I started to become more
and more interested in that.

649

00:40:01,750 --> 00:40:04,570

The name of the school actually,
that is very important,

650

00:40:04,570 --> 00:40:08,332

was Adas Israel.

651

00:40:08,332 --> 00:40:13,660

It means Jewish congregation
or Jewish community.

652

00:40:13,660 --> 00:40:19,000

And it came to the
point even where

653

00:40:19,000 --> 00:40:24,040

I decided that I wanted to
become a rabbi when I grow up

654
00:40:24,040 --> 00:40:25,510
and--

655
00:40:25,510 --> 00:40:31,390
which very much upset
my father particularly.

656
00:40:31,390 --> 00:40:36,940
I started to go regularly
to a Shabbat services.

657
00:40:36,940 --> 00:40:40,360
And Berlin had many synagogues.

658
00:40:40,360 --> 00:40:46,090
And as I said before, there
was only one congregation which

659
00:40:46,090 --> 00:40:51,160
ran all of the synagogues in
Berlin and also the rabbis,

660
00:40:51,160 --> 00:40:56,710
therefore, were not
confined to one synagogue.

661
00:40:56,710 --> 00:41:01,960
So one didn't have to put up
with the same rabbi Shabbat

662
00:41:01,960 --> 00:41:04,700
after Shabbat, the way
it is here, for example,

663
00:41:04,700 --> 00:41:08,800
in this country, where each
congregation has its own rabbi.

664
00:41:08,800 --> 00:41:10,870
But instead, the

rabbi circulated.

665

00:41:10,870 --> 00:41:13,600

But obviously,
Berlin is a big city.

666

00:41:13,600 --> 00:41:16,000

And it was taken for
granted that they

667

00:41:16,000 --> 00:41:18,670

would take public
transport to go

668

00:41:18,670 --> 00:41:22,210

to the various synagogues,
which were widely scattered

669

00:41:22,210 --> 00:41:23,560

in different parts of the city.

670

00:41:23,560 --> 00:41:27,730

671

00:41:27,730 --> 00:41:31,030

So I particularly
became very fond

672

00:41:31,030 --> 00:41:35,680

of two rabbis who
were both very dynamic

673

00:41:35,680 --> 00:41:42,370

and also gave me a lot of
moral support in their sermons.

674

00:41:42,370 --> 00:41:50,050

One was a Dr. Max Nussbaum who
later emigrated to this country

675

00:41:50,050 --> 00:41:54,520

and became a rabbi in
Hollywood, California.

676
00:41:54,520 --> 00:41:59,650
And the other one was
Dr. Manfred Swarsensky

677
00:41:59,650 --> 00:42:04,030
who came to this country and
actually founded a synagogue

678
00:42:04,030 --> 00:42:06,560
in Madison, Wisconsin.

679
00:42:06,560 --> 00:42:08,080
I never saw Nussbaum again.

680
00:42:08,080 --> 00:42:12,640
But Swarsensky, I
visited in the mid-60s

681
00:42:12,640 --> 00:42:15,880
when I went to a scientific
conference in Madison.

682
00:42:15,880 --> 00:42:19,090
I knew he was there, so
I contacted him before.

683
00:42:19,090 --> 00:42:22,450
And we set up a
luncheon where we

684
00:42:22,450 --> 00:42:27,166
spent several hours together,
just talking and reminiscing.

685
00:42:27,166 --> 00:42:31,060

686
00:42:31,060 --> 00:42:40,290
I-- yeah, in that, so the
years went by from '35 to '38.

687

00:42:40,290 --> 00:42:45,580
And by 1938, I must have
been in about the 10th grade.

688
00:42:45,580 --> 00:42:55,180
And in October 1938,
the German police

689
00:42:55,180 --> 00:43:01,180
arrested all Jews who had
Polish passports overnight

690
00:43:01,180 --> 00:43:04,210
without any prior warning.

691
00:43:04,210 --> 00:43:10,750
In fact, they came in the early
morning hours and put them on--

692
00:43:10,750 --> 00:43:14,950
into railroad cars which were
already prepared beforehand.

693
00:43:14,950 --> 00:43:18,040
And they were shipped
off to Poland.

694
00:43:18,040 --> 00:43:20,440
And the only thing
the Germans saw to it

695
00:43:20,440 --> 00:43:24,040
was that they had their
Polish passports with them.

696
00:43:24,040 --> 00:43:26,980
Because by international
law, the Poles

697
00:43:26,980 --> 00:43:32,440
had to admit anyone who had
a valid Polish passport.

698

00:43:32,440 --> 00:43:36,160
And there were quite a
number of kids from my class

699
00:43:36,160 --> 00:43:39,610
affected by that and
even a few teachers who

700
00:43:39,610 --> 00:43:41,855
didn't appear on the next day.

701
00:43:41,855 --> 00:43:43,230
What did-- what
were you thinking

702
00:43:43,230 --> 00:43:44,830
when all this was happening?

703
00:43:44,830 --> 00:43:45,890
That was terrible.

704
00:43:45,890 --> 00:43:49,120
I mean, I still remember--

705
00:43:49,120 --> 00:43:53,890
I mean, these kids that was
actually the first foretaste

706
00:43:53,890 --> 00:43:55,840
of the later deportations.

707
00:43:55,840 --> 00:43:58,270
I mean, people just
vanished overnight.

708
00:43:58,270 --> 00:44:00,472
They didn't-- the day
before, nobody knew anything.

709
00:44:00,472 --> 00:44:01,180
They didn't know.

710

00:44:01,180 --> 00:44:02,500
We didn't know.

711
00:44:02,500 --> 00:44:08,170
And on the next day, they
just didn't appear in school.

712
00:44:08,170 --> 00:44:11,030
Our Hebrew teacher
was one of them.

713
00:44:11,030 --> 00:44:14,440
And then several kids--

714
00:44:14,440 --> 00:44:17,125
one of them, but that's
besides the point here,

715
00:44:17,125 --> 00:44:20,830
I met again 30 years
later in Israel

716
00:44:20,830 --> 00:44:23,410
where he is, oh gosh, by
now he must be retired.

717
00:44:23,410 --> 00:44:28,653
He was a professor of classical
languages at Hebrew University.

718
00:44:28,653 --> 00:44:34,545
What's surprising me about
what you're telling me is that

719
00:44:34,545 --> 00:44:40,025
you're-- what I'm understanding
here is that, until 1938,

720
00:44:40,025 --> 00:44:44,150
your life went on pretty much
the way it had before except

721
00:44:44,150 --> 00:44:46,040

for that you changed schools.

722

00:44:46,040 --> 00:44:50,310

You haven't described
any real hardships

723

00:44:50,310 --> 00:44:56,152

or laws or regulations that
affected you personally.

724

00:44:56,152 --> 00:44:57,760

Is that true?

725

00:44:57,760 --> 00:44:58,450

That's true.

726

00:44:58,450 --> 00:45:01,930

I mean, that was my--

727

00:45:01,930 --> 00:45:05,710

I mean, first of all,
it's 50, 60 years later,

728

00:45:05,710 --> 00:45:06,670

what I remember now.

729

00:45:06,670 --> 00:45:09,070

But I think my
memory is pretty good

730

00:45:09,070 --> 00:45:10,780

as far as that is concerned.

731

00:45:10,780 --> 00:45:14,490

That doesn't mean that these
regulations didn't exist.

732

00:45:14,490 --> 00:45:18,610

They-- but they didn't
really touch me personally.

733

00:45:18,610 --> 00:45:23,230

And as I said, after I've
read a lot of what happened

734
00:45:23,230 --> 00:45:26,680
in those days, and I see
now that my parents must

735
00:45:26,680 --> 00:45:29,560
have made a sort of
monumental effort

736
00:45:29,560 --> 00:45:31,960
to keep things away from us.

737
00:45:31,960 --> 00:45:34,210
That's the only
explanation I have.

738
00:45:34,210 --> 00:45:39,550
Well, one thing that I noticed
also maybe in my life and that

739
00:45:39,550 --> 00:45:43,630
was that earlier I think
in either late '37 or early

740
00:45:43,630 --> 00:45:49,750
'38, all Jewish stores were
required to put the names

741
00:45:49,750 --> 00:45:59,920
of their owners in letters of
a prescribed size on the store

742
00:45:59,920 --> 00:46:05,400
window and not in an
artistic way as an--

743
00:46:05,400 --> 00:46:09,670
so in a way that identified
the store as a Jewish store

744
00:46:09,670 --> 00:46:13,660

because no other store, in white
paint, of a prescribed size.

745
00:46:13,660 --> 00:46:16,330

746
00:46:16,330 --> 00:46:18,520
But again, we
didn't have a store.

747
00:46:18,520 --> 00:46:20,920
I just-- I noticed
that this is what

748
00:46:20,920 --> 00:46:23,343
happening-- what was happening.

749
00:46:23,343 --> 00:46:24,760
Another thing
that's happened also

750
00:46:24,760 --> 00:46:29,920
was that all Jews
were forced to adopt

751
00:46:29,920 --> 00:46:33,910
an additional middle name,
males, the name Israel,

752
00:46:33,910 --> 00:46:36,800
and females, the name Sarah.

753
00:46:36,800 --> 00:46:38,950
I guess here in
this country, there

754
00:46:38,950 --> 00:46:42,190
are many non-Jews, Jewish
women, who are called Sarah.

755
00:46:42,190 --> 00:46:46,070
But in Germany, the name
Sarah is totally unknown.

756
00:46:46,070 --> 00:46:49,820
It was purely a Jewish
name and Israel, anyway.

757
00:46:49,820 --> 00:46:53,290
So and also, the law
stipulated not only

758
00:46:53,290 --> 00:46:55,990
that we had to take
those names but that we

759
00:46:55,990 --> 00:47:00,380
had to use it, particularly
in all communications

760
00:47:00,380 --> 00:47:06,880
with government agencies, also
with commercial enterprises

761
00:47:06,880 --> 00:47:07,840
and so on.

762
00:47:07,840 --> 00:47:13,840
Like I had to call myself Ernest
Israel Fontheim, written out.

763
00:47:13,840 --> 00:47:16,930
And my father had to
do the same thing.

764
00:47:16,930 --> 00:47:19,210
It was of course
also a humiliation.

765
00:47:19,210 --> 00:47:23,140
And in addition to
that, it was a sort

766
00:47:23,140 --> 00:47:25,540
of signal for the
recipient, ah-ha,

767
00:47:25,540 --> 00:47:28,969
this is a Jew who's
writing to me.

768
00:47:28,969 --> 00:47:31,080
Could you play in public parks?

769
00:47:31,080 --> 00:47:31,747
Could you ride--

770
00:47:31,747 --> 00:47:32,210
Yeah.

771
00:47:32,210 --> 00:47:32,430
--on buses?

772
00:47:32,430 --> 00:47:32,930
Yeah.

773
00:47:32,930 --> 00:47:33,710
You could do all of that stuff.

774
00:47:33,710 --> 00:47:34,370
Right.

775
00:47:34,370 --> 00:47:36,740
At that time, there
were no restrictions

776
00:47:36,740 --> 00:47:38,990
of any sort to our life.

777
00:47:38,990 --> 00:47:43,620
We could go to movie theaters.

778
00:47:43,620 --> 00:47:47,120
I could go to-- now, there
were places which on their own

779
00:47:47,120 --> 00:47:52,700

initiative had posted signs,
Jews of [GERMAN] Juden

780
00:47:52,700 --> 00:47:54,170
Unerwünscht in German.

781
00:47:54,170 --> 00:47:57,800
That means Jews are not
desired here, actually,

782
00:47:57,800 --> 00:47:59,690
to translate it literally.

783
00:47:59,690 --> 00:48:03,470
But what it means really it
means for Jews forbidden.

784
00:48:03,470 --> 00:48:08,030
That was already there were, for
example, many benches on parks.

785
00:48:08,030 --> 00:48:12,080
Because, again, the Nazis
with their obsession with sex

786
00:48:12,080 --> 00:48:15,080
had that idea that maybe
a German woman might

787
00:48:15,080 --> 00:48:18,350
sit on a park bench and
then some Jewish man

788
00:48:18,350 --> 00:48:22,950
might sit next to her and start
to some dirty business with her

789
00:48:22,950 --> 00:48:24,010
on that.

790
00:48:24,010 --> 00:48:27,770
And that was-- and so a German
woman cannot be expected to sit

791
00:48:27,770 --> 00:48:30,560
next to a Jew on a park bench.

792
00:48:30,560 --> 00:48:33,620
But whatever, that started up.

793
00:48:33,620 --> 00:48:37,650
And then, as I said, certain
maybe some restaurants but--

794
00:48:37,650 --> 00:48:40,715
and we didn't go much to
restaurants anyway so.

795
00:48:40,715 --> 00:48:41,340
It might have--

796
00:48:41,340 --> 00:48:43,304
Did you-- did you
know about the book--

797
00:48:43,304 --> 00:48:46,250
that huge book burning earlier?

798
00:48:46,250 --> 00:48:49,210
At that time, I
don't remember it.

799
00:48:49,210 --> 00:48:51,290
I remember, obviously,
having heard about it.

800
00:48:51,290 --> 00:48:55,970
But that happened, I
think, in '33 or '34.

801
00:48:55,970 --> 00:49:00,380
And I was 10 or
11 years old then.

802
00:49:00,380 --> 00:49:00,880

So--

803
00:49:00,880 --> 00:49:03,694
So your family insulated
you to the extent

804
00:49:03,694 --> 00:49:12,100
that you weren't particularly
distressed or fearful.

805
00:49:12,100 --> 00:49:13,930
That's correct, yeah.

806
00:49:13,930 --> 00:49:17,000
Could you sense any change in
your parents or, I don't know,

807
00:49:17,000 --> 00:49:18,260
relatives or friends?

808
00:49:18,260 --> 00:49:18,760
Yeah.

809
00:49:18,760 --> 00:49:20,590
Oh yeah, I mean that
I should mention.

810
00:49:20,590 --> 00:49:24,550
I mean there was a stream of
people who emigrated, you know,

811
00:49:24,550 --> 00:49:27,910
some uncle, some cousin.

812
00:49:27,910 --> 00:49:30,490
You know, there was well
and always the farewells.

813
00:49:30,490 --> 00:49:38,440
And friends of mine,
the parents emigrated.

814

00:49:38,440 --> 00:49:41,750
And of course, the
kid then went along.

815
00:49:41,750 --> 00:49:45,180
I should say I had a
best friend in the--

816
00:49:45,180 --> 00:49:47,860
this Adass Jisroel school.

817
00:49:47,860 --> 00:49:50,650
He was a boy, a very
interesting boy.

818
00:49:50,650 --> 00:49:54,790
In fact, we became
best friends initially

819
00:49:54,790 --> 00:49:57,670
because we both were
new in that class

820
00:49:57,670 --> 00:49:59,260
but from totally
different background.

821
00:49:59,260 --> 00:50:04,690
He came-- his parents had
moved from Vienna to Berlin.

822
00:50:04,690 --> 00:50:06,430
They were Austrian Jews.

823
00:50:06,430 --> 00:50:11,620
But the parents were, of
course, born before World War I,

824
00:50:11,620 --> 00:50:13,390
like all of our parents.

825
00:50:13,390 --> 00:50:17,080
And before World War I, the

Austria Hungarian Empire

826

00:50:17,080 --> 00:50:21,730
included southern Poland and
particularly most of Galicia,

827

00:50:21,730 --> 00:50:22,870
in Poland.

828

00:50:22,870 --> 00:50:25,960
And his parents
actually were orthodox

829

00:50:25,960 --> 00:50:30,250
Jews from Galicia,
who had, however,

830

00:50:30,250 --> 00:50:33,550
left there I think
before the war already,

831

00:50:33,550 --> 00:50:35,350
had settled in Vienna.

832

00:50:35,350 --> 00:50:39,470
And so they were
then by citizenship,

833

00:50:39,470 --> 00:50:41,710
they were-- they
were Austrian Jews.

834

00:50:41,710 --> 00:50:43,380
And they came to Berlin.

835

00:50:43,380 --> 00:50:46,660
It might sound strange,
since Austria at that time

836

00:50:46,660 --> 00:50:49,210
was still a democracy.

837

00:50:49,210 --> 00:50:52,240

But his father
had some business.

838

00:50:52,240 --> 00:50:57,470

I think, he sort of
administered buildings.

839

00:50:57,470 --> 00:51:01,360

And as an Austrian,
he was not subject.

840

00:51:01,360 --> 00:51:02,740

He was a foreigner.

841

00:51:02,740 --> 00:51:07,630

Foreign Jews were not subject
to all these anti-Semitic laws.

842

00:51:07,630 --> 00:51:11,170

And so we-- and in fact, I--

843

00:51:11,170 --> 00:51:16,480

that was, this friend also
influenced me in that.

844

00:51:16,480 --> 00:51:19,660

And then I took him
also to services,

845

00:51:19,660 --> 00:51:22,180

to a liberal synagogue
with the organ.

846

00:51:22,180 --> 00:51:23,830

And he found that
very impressive.

847

00:51:23,830 --> 00:51:25,600

And so we influenced each other.

848

00:51:25,600 --> 00:51:27,560

And we stuck together.

849
00:51:27,560 --> 00:51:30,040
He was a very bright boy.

850
00:51:30,040 --> 00:51:37,720
And on the 13th of March
1938, that was the day

851
00:51:37,720 --> 00:51:39,700
Hitler marched into Austria.

852
00:51:39,700 --> 00:51:40,630
I never forget that.

853
00:51:40,630 --> 00:51:42,070
I visited him.

854
00:51:42,070 --> 00:51:46,180
I saw his father
sit in the dining

855
00:51:46,180 --> 00:51:53,140
room with his head in his
hands like that and crying.

856
00:51:53,140 --> 00:51:57,560
Because he knew that
his game was up now.

857
00:51:57,560 --> 00:52:00,730
Now, he was also German and
subject to all the laws.

858
00:52:00,730 --> 00:52:10,240
And to see a father cry is a
incredibly powerful experience

859
00:52:10,240 --> 00:52:10,980
for--

860
00:52:10,980 --> 00:52:18,700
and also a devastating

experience for a boy,

861
00:52:18,700 --> 00:52:21,080
totally devastating.

862
00:52:21,080 --> 00:52:30,070
And then the parents
then finally decided

863
00:52:30,070 --> 00:52:33,810
to send their boy
out to England.

864
00:52:33,810 --> 00:52:38,680
As you may know, the England had
relatively liberal immigration

865
00:52:38,680 --> 00:52:40,450
for Jewish children.

866
00:52:40,450 --> 00:52:43,870
And they [INAUDIBLE].

867
00:52:43,870 --> 00:52:45,250
They were, of course, orthodox.

868
00:52:45,250 --> 00:52:49,090
And they enrolled
him in a yeshiva

869
00:52:49,090 --> 00:52:54,090
in Scotland and ostensibly
for him to become a rabbi,

870
00:52:54,090 --> 00:52:55,090
which he never did.

871
00:52:55,090 --> 00:52:57,610
But that was the
rules under which he

872
00:52:57,610 --> 00:53:00,610

could get out and into England.

873

00:53:00,610 --> 00:53:07,510

And that was actually the
first personal blow in my life.

874

00:53:07,510 --> 00:53:09,940

And also for that reason,
I never forgot the date.

875

00:53:09,940 --> 00:53:13,840

It was January 18, 1938.

876

00:53:13,840 --> 00:53:16,990

And I was at the
railroad station

877

00:53:16,990 --> 00:53:20,020

together with his parents,
of course, to say goodbye.

878

00:53:20,020 --> 00:53:23,180

And he was my best friend.

879

00:53:23,180 --> 00:53:27,260

And I had lost him.

880

00:53:27,260 --> 00:53:33,190

And, but of course,
the year 1938 then

881

00:53:33,190 --> 00:53:37,660

had many other horrible
things happening.

882

00:53:37,660 --> 00:53:42,850

I mentioned the arrest and
deportation of the Polish Jews.

883

00:53:42,850 --> 00:53:47,470

And then, just a
few weeks later,

884

00:53:47,470 --> 00:53:51,630

two or three weeks later, came
the infamous Kristallnacht

885

00:53:51,630 --> 00:53:52,810

pogrom.

886

00:53:52,810 --> 00:53:56,010

Of course, the two events
were not unrelated.

887

00:53:56,010 --> 00:53:59,590

Among the people
who were arbitrarily

888

00:53:59,590 --> 00:54:03,530

arrested and shipped to
Poland was an elderly couple,

889

00:54:03,530 --> 00:54:06,770

Greenspan, who entered.

890

00:54:06,770 --> 00:54:08,830

And the Poles, of
course, claimed

891

00:54:08,830 --> 00:54:11,260

they didn't know what to
do with all those Jews,

892

00:54:11,260 --> 00:54:15,420

so they put them into camps
in inhuman conditions.

893

00:54:15,420 --> 00:54:19,150

And they had lived
in Germany, I'm

894

00:54:19,150 --> 00:54:21,700

not sure whether in
Berlin or some other city.

895

00:54:21,700 --> 00:54:24,730
Anyway, they had
a son, Herschel,

896
00:54:24,730 --> 00:54:29,020
whom they had sent to Paris to
relatives because it became--

897
00:54:29,020 --> 00:54:31,900
Berlin became too oppressive.

898
00:54:31,900 --> 00:54:35,130
And he lived with
an uncle in Paris.

899
00:54:35,130 --> 00:54:38,260
And when the parent--
when the parents wrote

900
00:54:38,260 --> 00:54:44,050
to him a letter of desperation,
and he became so furious.

901
00:54:44,050 --> 00:54:46,990
He obtained a gun and
decided to assassinate

902
00:54:46,990 --> 00:54:49,270
the German ambassador to Paris.

903
00:54:49,270 --> 00:54:53,590
But, you know, if a 16-year-old
boy enters an embassy and says

904
00:54:53,590 --> 00:54:57,910
he wants to talk to the
ambassador, that's not whom

905
00:54:57,910 --> 00:55:00,280
he's going to see, obviously.

906
00:55:00,280 --> 00:55:05,800
And so they ushered him in to

some underling, some consular

907

00:55:05,800 --> 00:55:07,960

secretary or someone.

908

00:55:07,960 --> 00:55:10,270

His name was Ernst vom Rath.

909

00:55:10,270 --> 00:55:14,620

And history probably
would never know him

910

00:55:14,620 --> 00:55:18,280

if it hadn't been for
Grynszpan to pull his pistol

911

00:55:18,280 --> 00:55:20,150

and assassinate him there.

912

00:55:20,150 --> 00:55:22,750

And the German government,
on the other hand,

913

00:55:22,750 --> 00:55:28,210

used that as a pretext
to stage these pogroms.

914

00:55:28,210 --> 00:55:32,530

And that was a starting
at night from November 9th

915

00:55:32,530 --> 00:55:35,380

to 10th for several days.

916

00:55:35,380 --> 00:55:36,820

I mean, synagogues were burned.

917

00:55:36,820 --> 00:55:38,830

Jewish shops and
now, of course, you

918

00:55:38,830 --> 00:55:40,930

see, since the
Jewish shops all had

919
00:55:40,930 --> 00:55:45,520
to be labeled with the
names of the owner,

920
00:55:45,520 --> 00:55:47,170
it never said Jewish shop.

921
00:55:47,170 --> 00:55:50,440
But it was known
that the stores which

922
00:55:50,440 --> 00:55:54,090
had the name of the
author, of the owner

923
00:55:54,090 --> 00:55:56,950
in this particular
prescribed way these

924
00:55:56,950 --> 00:55:57,970
were the Jewish stores.

925
00:55:57,970 --> 00:56:01,060
So it was clear
for the mob which

926
00:56:01,060 --> 00:56:04,180
windows to smash and loot.

927
00:56:04,180 --> 00:56:05,050
And--

928
00:56:05,050 --> 00:56:08,648
What were you doing during
the time of Kristallnacht?

929
00:56:08,648 --> 00:56:10,580
What were you--
what did you see?

930

00:56:10,580 --> 00:56:11,230

Yeah.

931

00:56:11,230 --> 00:56:13,860

I am-- on that day
in the morning,

932

00:56:13,860 --> 00:56:17,950

where we lived there
were, at least on my way

933

00:56:17,950 --> 00:56:24,610

to the whatever,
what's it called,

934

00:56:24,610 --> 00:56:29,290

the station that I had to
take a commuter train to--

935

00:56:29,290 --> 00:56:32,320

into the city to that school,
I didn't pass any shops.

936

00:56:32,320 --> 00:56:34,740

They were all just
apartment houses.

937

00:56:34,740 --> 00:56:36,520

So I knew nothing.

938

00:56:36,520 --> 00:56:38,530

That was the morning
of the 10th now.

939

00:56:38,530 --> 00:56:40,270

It was a Thursday.

940

00:56:40,270 --> 00:56:42,430

So I took the train.

941

00:56:42,430 --> 00:56:43,510

And I went to school.

942
00:56:43,510 --> 00:56:45,740
And as soon as I
was in the school,

943
00:56:45,740 --> 00:56:47,230
I realized what was then--

944
00:56:47,230 --> 00:56:49,960
first of all, many
kids weren't there.

945
00:56:49,960 --> 00:56:52,630
And those who were there
told horror stories

946
00:56:52,630 --> 00:56:56,810
of passing shops that had
been smashed and looted.

947
00:56:56,810 --> 00:57:01,195
And then the next thing that
was unusual is that, you know,

948
00:57:01,195 --> 00:57:03,490
the school day
starts at 8:00 sharp.

949
00:57:03,490 --> 00:57:04,870
The bell is ringing.

950
00:57:04,870 --> 00:57:06,400
And then the normal
thing would be

951
00:57:06,400 --> 00:57:09,510
that the teacher would appear
at the crack of the bell.

952
00:57:09,510 --> 00:57:11,710
Well, no teacher,
not just in our class

953

00:57:11,710 --> 00:57:14,200

but in the neighboring,
in no class any teacher

954

00:57:14,200 --> 00:57:15,760

was to be seen.

955

00:57:15,760 --> 00:57:18,800

And after some time,
I don't remember,

956

00:57:18,800 --> 00:57:20,770

it was half an hour or whatever.

957

00:57:20,770 --> 00:57:25,530

All the teachers came from
the teacher's conference then

958

00:57:25,530 --> 00:57:29,860

with the following instructions,
that there was unrest

959

00:57:29,860 --> 00:57:31,630

all over Berlin.

960

00:57:31,630 --> 00:57:35,110

And the safety of the
school cannot be guaranteed.

961

00:57:35,110 --> 00:57:37,760

And furthermore,
we should go home.

962

00:57:37,760 --> 00:57:39,280

But we should go home alone.

963

00:57:39,280 --> 00:57:42,550

If we go in groups,
that might attract mobs.

964

00:57:42,550 --> 00:57:50,590

And just a single boy can sort

of slip under unrecognized.

965

00:57:50,590 --> 00:57:53,410

And also, we should
not go to friends.

966

00:57:53,410 --> 00:57:56,110

Because our parents
might get worried.

967

00:57:56,110 --> 00:57:59,860

We should only go at the
shortest way and fastest way

968

00:57:59,860 --> 00:58:02,530

home, so the parents
know we are safe.

969

00:58:02,530 --> 00:58:05,920

And there won't be any
school for the time being.

970

00:58:05,920 --> 00:58:09,700

We'll be notified when the
school will start up again.

971

00:58:09,700 --> 00:58:10,330

And then--

972

00:58:10,330 --> 00:58:13,900

973

00:58:13,900 --> 00:58:15,580

So you went home?

974

00:58:15,580 --> 00:58:16,960

Yes.

975

00:58:16,960 --> 00:58:21,910

The commuter train
was an elevated train.

976

00:58:21,910 --> 00:58:29,760

And it passed by the
synagogue where--

977

00:58:29,760 --> 00:58:32,850

sorry-- where I
had my bar mitzvah.

978

00:58:32,850 --> 00:58:39,142

979

00:58:39,142 --> 00:58:47,810

And what I saw there was
really one of the worst

980

00:58:47,810 --> 00:58:49,730

horrible shocks in my life.

981

00:58:49,730 --> 00:58:55,670

I-- it was a beautiful
building with huge,

982

00:58:55,670 --> 00:58:59,780

three huge domes sort
of in moorish style.

983

00:58:59,780 --> 00:59:08,165

And from the central dome came
a huge thick column of smoke.

984

00:59:08,165 --> 00:59:10,850

985

00:59:10,850 --> 00:59:18,650

And when I saw that,
I became so obsessed

986

00:59:18,650 --> 00:59:22,220

that I forgot the
warning that was given

987

00:59:22,220 --> 00:59:24,740

to us to go straight home.

988
00:59:24,740 --> 00:59:29,540
At the next train
stop, I left the train.

989
00:59:29,540 --> 00:59:40,700
And I raced back to the
building and to the synagogue.

990
00:59:40,700 --> 00:59:44,030
And what I saw
there is there was

991
00:59:44,030 --> 00:59:49,130
a mob of people across
the street held back

992
00:59:49,130 --> 00:59:51,920
by a police line.

993
00:59:51,920 --> 00:59:55,040
And the fire
department was there,

994
00:59:55,040 --> 00:59:59,060
hosing down adjacent
buildings so

995
00:59:59,060 --> 01:00:06,740
to prevent the flames from
doing damage to German property.

996
01:00:06,740 --> 01:00:13,490
And no hose was directed
at the synagogue.

997
01:00:13,490 --> 01:00:18,030
And that-- I just stood there.

998
01:00:18,030 --> 01:00:24,960
I was-- I was totally sort
of hypnotized almost by it.

999

01:00:24,960 --> 01:00:27,908

1000

01:00:27,908 --> 01:00:28,700

That was something.

1001

01:00:28,700 --> 01:00:34,940

That I couldn't even imagined
that something like that

1002

01:00:34,940 --> 01:00:37,170

could happen.

1003

01:00:37,170 --> 01:00:44,367

And-- and then there were
many anti-Semitic sort

1004

01:00:44,367 --> 01:00:45,860

of shouts from the mob.

1005

01:00:45,860 --> 01:00:49,490

I mean like, I don't know,
like throw out the Jews

1006

01:00:49,490 --> 01:00:51,500

or kill the Jews.

1007

01:00:51,500 --> 01:00:53,830

And it never occurred
to me that I was one

1008

01:00:53,830 --> 01:00:55,500

and in the middle of that mob.

1009

01:00:55,500 --> 01:01:03,440

And then suddenly somebody said
that in the house against which

1010

01:01:03,440 --> 01:01:08,430

the mob was sort of standing
looking at the synagogue,

1011

01:01:08,430 --> 01:01:12,470
on the ground floor, somebody
knew there was a Jew living.

1012

01:01:12,470 --> 01:01:15,740
So there were immediate
shouts, let's get him.

1013

01:01:15,740 --> 01:01:19,700
And then the mob turned
its back to the synagogue

1014

01:01:19,700 --> 01:01:24,930
and was [? open ?]
to the house itself.

1015

01:01:24,930 --> 01:01:28,880
And then I heard
sort of heavy blows

1016

01:01:28,880 --> 01:01:31,550
against the apartment door.

1017

01:01:31,550 --> 01:01:33,050
And I was way outside.

1018

01:01:33,050 --> 01:01:35,200
I couldn't see what's
happening there.

1019

01:01:35,200 --> 01:01:51,690
And all I could think was I hope
that the door is going to hold.

1020

01:01:51,690 --> 01:02:00,670
And I remember that was
sort of as if I was trying

1021

01:02:00,670 --> 01:02:05,750
to influence the door to hold.

1022

01:02:05,750 --> 01:02:08,600

But of course, it didn't.

1023
01:02:08,600 --> 01:02:12,070
And I could hear sort
of splintering wood.

1024
01:02:12,070 --> 01:02:15,910
And then after that,
there was total silence.

1025
01:02:15,910 --> 01:02:19,680
It lasted for
minutes, not a sound.

1026
01:02:19,680 --> 01:02:24,960
And then I heard again
shouts, like get him, get him.

1027
01:02:24,960 --> 01:02:28,430
And then there was an
elderly man at home.

1028
01:02:28,430 --> 01:02:33,216
All I remember seeing,
he had a huge bald head.

1029
01:02:33,216 --> 01:02:36,420
He was probably 60 or I
don't know how old he was.

1030
01:02:36,420 --> 01:02:39,735
And then from all sides,
there were blows and at

1031
01:02:39,735 --> 01:02:42,150
his face soon was
completely bloodied.

1032
01:02:42,150 --> 01:02:49,800

1033
01:02:49,800 --> 01:02:59,780
And suddenly there was

a young man who shouted,

1034
01:02:59,780 --> 01:03:05,840
you cowards, so
many all fighting

1035
01:03:05,840 --> 01:03:08,900
against one single guy.

1036
01:03:08,900 --> 01:03:13,910
And then some others
tried to attack that man

1037
01:03:13,910 --> 01:03:16,910
and sort of pushed him away.

1038
01:03:16,910 --> 01:03:21,320
And then once he was
pushed through the crowd,

1039
01:03:21,320 --> 01:03:23,690
there was police already
waiting in the car

1040
01:03:23,690 --> 01:03:25,910
as if this was all staged.

1041
01:03:25,910 --> 01:03:27,350
I have no idea.

1042
01:03:27,350 --> 01:03:29,980
And he was pushed
awfully into the car

1043
01:03:29,980 --> 01:03:31,250
and the police drove him off.

1044
01:03:31,250 --> 01:03:43,150

1045
01:03:43,150 --> 01:03:48,100
And after I saw that, I

turned around and went back

1046

01:03:48,100 --> 01:03:52,270
to the train and went home.

1047

01:03:52,270 --> 01:03:59,880

1048

01:03:59,880 --> 01:04:07,880
So the year 1938 was really,
for me, was a big turning point.

1049

01:04:07,880 --> 01:04:10,800
It started out
with the emigration

1050

01:04:10,800 --> 01:04:15,870
of my best friend, which was
a tremendous personal loss

1051

01:04:15,870 --> 01:04:23,656
for me, then the arrest
of the Polish Jews,

1052

01:04:23,656 --> 01:04:29,040
[BLOWING NOSE] where I also
knew quite a number, including

1053

01:04:29,040 --> 01:04:41,190
some of my teachers, and
then the Kristallnacht.

1054

01:04:41,190 --> 01:04:50,130
So I stayed home as we
were told on Friday.

1055

01:04:50,130 --> 01:04:54,120
And on Saturday,
one of my friends

1056

01:04:54,120 --> 01:04:59,220
had a birthday party that
already was long planned.

1057
01:04:59,220 --> 01:05:03,510
And so I went there.

1058
01:05:03,510 --> 01:05:09,620
And we had hardly
come there when

1059
01:05:09,620 --> 01:05:11,950
somebody, I think
one of the boys,

1060
01:05:11,950 --> 01:05:15,550
came in saying that
his father had just

1061
01:05:15,550 --> 01:05:18,040
been arrested by the Gestapo.

1062
01:05:18,040 --> 01:05:21,130
And that the-- and
that the Gestapo

1063
01:05:21,130 --> 01:05:23,170
is arresting Jewish men.

1064
01:05:23,170 --> 01:05:26,330

1065
01:05:26,330 --> 01:05:30,700
So the party never took place.

1066
01:05:30,700 --> 01:05:33,470
We all immediately raced.

1067
01:05:33,470 --> 01:05:37,130
In those days,
Saturday was a weekday.

1068
01:05:37,130 --> 01:05:39,295
So my father was in his office.

1069

01:05:39,295 --> 01:05:40,670

And actually, it
was not too far.

1070

01:05:40,670 --> 01:05:46,150

It was several blocks from
where the birthday party was

1071

01:05:46,150 --> 01:05:48,320

supposed to take place.

1072

01:05:48,320 --> 01:05:52,440

So I raced to his office.

1073

01:05:52,440 --> 01:05:56,860

And just when I came
in, he said he had just

1074

01:05:56,860 --> 01:06:00,940

received an urgent
telephone call

1075

01:06:00,940 --> 01:06:05,080

from a colleague, a German,
I mean, Aryan colleague,

1076

01:06:05,080 --> 01:06:08,650

to see him immediately
on an important matter.

1077

01:06:08,650 --> 01:06:14,230

And he asked me to come along.

1078

01:06:14,230 --> 01:06:17,720

I was at that time 16 years old.

1079

01:06:17,720 --> 01:06:22,870

And so we went to
that colleague.

1080

01:06:22,870 --> 01:06:26,570

It was two blocks from

my father's office.

1081

01:06:26,570 --> 01:06:32,470

And it was a certain Dr KÄlz.

1082

01:06:32,470 --> 01:06:36,310

He was a few years somewhat younger than my father.

1083

01:06:36,310 --> 01:06:44,530

And his father, Dr KÄlz father, had also himself been lawyer.

1084

01:06:44,530 --> 01:06:50,060

But more importantly, he had been minister of the interior

1085

01:06:50,060 --> 01:06:53,710

in one of the pre-Hitler governments of the Weimar

1086

01:06:53,710 --> 01:06:55,540

Republic.

1087

01:06:55,540 --> 01:07:00,130

And in Germany, like I think in many European countries,

1088

01:07:00,130 --> 01:07:04,120

the police is within the interior ministry, sort

1089

01:07:04,120 --> 01:07:08,320

of an agency, I mean, like somewhat comparable to the FBI

1090

01:07:08,320 --> 01:07:12,250

here, which is in the Justice Department.

1091

01:07:12,250 --> 01:07:18,070

But there the police, the entire police organization

1092
01:07:18,070 --> 01:07:19,090
is national.

1093
01:07:19,090 --> 01:07:21,940
It's not local like
in this country.

1094
01:07:21,940 --> 01:07:26,050
And anyway, the father
still had close contacts

1095
01:07:26,050 --> 01:07:31,140
to high police official
and had learned, therefore,

1096
01:07:31,140 --> 01:07:32,560
of this action against--

1097
01:07:32,560 --> 01:07:35,230
for the arrest of Jewish men.

1098
01:07:35,230 --> 01:07:41,500
And in those days also everybody
was paranoiac but probably was

1099
01:07:41,500 --> 01:07:44,530
justification that
the Gestapo was

1100
01:07:44,530 --> 01:07:46,780
listening on telephone calls.

1101
01:07:46,780 --> 01:07:52,840
So therefore, the son,
who my father actually

1102
01:07:52,840 --> 01:07:56,830
knew the son better
than the father,

1103
01:07:56,830 --> 01:08:01,180

had I think done legal cases together with him.

1104
01:08:01,180 --> 01:08:04,090
And the son did not say anything over the phone,

1105
01:08:04,090 --> 01:08:07,120
just told my father to see him in his office

1106
01:08:07,120 --> 01:08:09,040
on an important matter.

1107
01:08:09,040 --> 01:08:13,600
And my father then was ushered in

1108
01:08:13,600 --> 01:08:17,350
and asked me to stay outside of the waiting room.

1109
01:08:17,350 --> 01:08:20,140
And they were quite a time together there.

1110
01:08:20,140 --> 01:08:21,970
And then they came out again.

1111
01:08:21,970 --> 01:08:26,380
Then my father told me that that lawyer

1112
01:08:26,380 --> 01:08:29,170
had warned him not to go back to his office

1113
01:08:29,170 --> 01:08:34,540
or, of course, not to his home apartment and to--

1114
01:08:34,540 --> 01:08:37,720
it is safe, however,

to stay at places where

1115
01:08:37,720 --> 01:08:41,010
there are no Jewish males.

1116
01:08:41,010 --> 01:08:47,310
Well, fortunately, my father's
sister, who was a widow,

1117
01:08:47,310 --> 01:08:51,210
and she had three children,
two daughters and a son.

1118
01:08:51,210 --> 01:08:59,130
One daughter had already
emigrated to Argentina.

1119
01:08:59,130 --> 01:09:02,069
And the son had just
left a few months

1120
01:09:02,069 --> 01:09:05,520
or so before Kristallnacht
also for Argentina.

1121
01:09:05,520 --> 01:09:10,170
So it was just his sister
and their remaining daughter.

1122
01:09:10,170 --> 01:09:13,319
So in other words, there were
no males in that household.

1123
01:09:13,319 --> 01:09:18,319
So my father
immediately went there.

1124
01:09:18,319 --> 01:09:21,450
The Gestapo came
both to our apartment

1125
01:09:21,450 --> 01:09:25,080
and also to the

office to inquire.

1126
01:09:25,080 --> 01:09:30,149
And of course, we told them
he left and didn't tell us

1127
01:09:30,149 --> 01:09:32,040
where he was going.

1128
01:09:32,040 --> 01:09:35,850
And in those days, the Gestapo
still took these relatively

1129
01:09:35,850 --> 01:09:40,590
stupid excuses and just
reappeared a few random times,

1130
01:09:40,590 --> 01:09:45,630
maybe hoping to
catch him but didn't.

1131
01:09:45,630 --> 01:09:51,750
And that was the second
great stroke of luck

1132
01:09:51,750 --> 01:09:58,500
that my father had after having
been permitted to practice law.

1133
01:09:58,500 --> 01:10:00,780
The thing was that the
Gestapo immediately

1134
01:10:00,780 --> 01:10:04,320
let it be known, yeah,
those Jews who were arrested

1135
01:10:04,320 --> 01:10:08,610
were put into concentration
camps, for the Berlin Jews

1136
01:10:08,610 --> 01:10:11,520
mainly in the camp

Sachsenhausen, which

1137
01:10:11,520 --> 01:10:13,530
is north of Berlin.

1138
01:10:13,530 --> 01:10:17,610
And the treatment, of course,
was horrible, full of sadism

1139
01:10:17,610 --> 01:10:20,340
and physical brutality.

1140
01:10:20,340 --> 01:10:23,220
However, in those
days at least, there

1141
01:10:23,220 --> 01:10:24,750
were no killing,
no mass killings.

1142
01:10:24,750 --> 01:10:26,700
I think a few Jews
actually did die off

1143
01:10:26,700 --> 01:10:29,730
due to just
mistreatment, I mean,

1144
01:10:29,730 --> 01:10:31,850
which is horrible enough
in it's own right.

1145
01:10:31,850 --> 01:10:33,420
But at least, most survived.

1146
01:10:33,420 --> 01:10:38,880
And the Gestapo let it be
known that anyone who's

1147
01:10:38,880 --> 01:10:43,470
family can produce
an immigration

1148
01:10:43,470 --> 01:10:47,370
visa to another country
will be immediately released

1149
01:10:47,370 --> 01:10:51,570
and will have to leave the
country within one month,

1150
01:10:51,570 --> 01:10:57,150
giving him one month's time
to wind up affairs and so on.

1151
01:10:57,150 --> 01:11:04,260
So but as I said, my father
was lucky he was warned.

1152
01:11:04,260 --> 01:11:06,230
He was never arrested.

1153
01:11:06,230 --> 01:11:12,390
And of course, a Jewish
relief organizations

1154
01:11:12,390 --> 01:11:16,830
forms the Joint here in America
to the local ones in Germany

1155
01:11:16,830 --> 01:11:21,870
now put high pressure on
and the first priority

1156
01:11:21,870 --> 01:11:26,550
to get those Jews immigration
visas to somewhere, anywhere

1157
01:11:26,550 --> 01:11:28,950
in the world, just
to get them out.

1158
01:11:28,950 --> 01:11:31,500
I mean, those who were
in concentration camps,

1159

01:11:31,500 --> 01:11:35,450

to save their lives
to get them out.

1160

01:11:35,450 --> 01:11:35,950

So--

1161

01:11:35,950 --> 01:11:43,495

Was there-- was there a strong
Nazi presence in the streets?

1162

01:11:43,495 --> 01:11:44,620

I mean, were there marches?

1163

01:11:44,620 --> 01:11:44,830

Oh yeah.

1164

01:11:44,830 --> 01:11:45,622

Were there Gestapo?

1165

01:11:45,622 --> 01:11:46,280

Oh yeah, yeah.

1166

01:11:46,280 --> 01:11:48,370

I mean, that is--

1167

01:11:48,370 --> 01:11:52,550

no, Gestapo, by its very
nature, is a secret police.

1168

01:11:52,550 --> 01:11:53,540

They weren't civilian.

1169

01:11:53,540 --> 01:12:00,080

And they were, I mean, not
conspicuous, even though they

1170

01:12:00,080 --> 01:12:01,870

themselves were everywhere.

1171

01:12:01,870 --> 01:12:06,050

And they had a whole army of informers who were not actually

1172
01:12:06,050 --> 01:12:09,860
Gestapo but reported to them.

1173
01:12:09,860 --> 01:12:12,260
And that was a network,
so all Germany.

1174
01:12:12,260 --> 01:12:16,070
I mean maybe I neglected to say
that that belongs much earlier.

1175
01:12:16,070 --> 01:12:18,740
As soon as Hitler
assumed power, there

1176
01:12:18,740 --> 01:12:22,130
were frequent marches
by the SA around.

1177
01:12:22,130 --> 01:12:25,310
They had a fascination
with marches, as I said.

1178
01:12:25,310 --> 01:12:30,620
This Mommsen Gymnasium, after
that Nazi officer took over,

1179
01:12:30,620 --> 01:12:33,920
one of the things he
introduced, as I explained,

1180
01:12:33,920 --> 01:12:37,550
was that during the lunch
hour, after eating lunch,

1181
01:12:37,550 --> 01:12:40,430
we always marched onto
streets singing songs.

1182
01:12:40,430 --> 01:12:45,470

But the SA, at every whatever
occasion and even no occasion,

1183
01:12:45,470 --> 01:12:46,970
they would march around.

1184
01:12:46,970 --> 01:12:51,260
And one of their favorite
songs, incidentally,

1185
01:12:51,260 --> 01:13:00,440
was [GERMAN] from [GERMAN]
which translated means,

1186
01:13:00,440 --> 01:13:04,340
if Jewish blood squirts
from the knives, then things

1187
01:13:04,340 --> 01:13:06,800
will go quite as well.

1188
01:13:06,800 --> 01:13:09,290
I mean to sing a song
like that, I mean,

1189
01:13:09,290 --> 01:13:11,280
I listened to it
even at that time.

1190
01:13:11,280 --> 01:13:15,650
But the older I get,
the more incredible

1191
01:13:15,650 --> 01:13:21,560
it seems to me that
somebody, I mean, even

1192
01:13:21,560 --> 01:13:23,990
who hates someone, to sing--

1193
01:13:23,990 --> 01:13:26,990
makes that into a song
is so unbelievable

1194
01:13:26,990 --> 01:13:30,290
that it defies description.

1195
01:13:30,290 --> 01:13:32,960
Another song which
was their favorite

1196
01:13:32,960 --> 01:13:36,460
was, I'll say it
in German first.

1197
01:13:36,460 --> 01:13:45,200
[GERMAN]

1198
01:13:45,200 --> 01:13:47,540
That means, we will
continue to march.

1199
01:13:47,540 --> 01:13:51,650
And even if everything breaks
down and falls into pieces,

1200
01:13:51,650 --> 01:13:54,410
because today
Germany belongs to us

1201
01:13:54,410 --> 01:13:56,180
and tomorrow the entire world.

1202
01:13:56,180 --> 01:13:59,790

1203
01:13:59,790 --> 01:14:02,520
And so the-- and then they
had all kinds of other songs,

1204
01:14:02,520 --> 01:14:03,020
obviously.

1205
01:14:03,020 --> 01:14:06,998
I mean, these are the

things that I never forgot.

1206

01:14:06,998 --> 01:14:11,192

So even if you were insulated,
this had to be fairly alarming.

1207

01:14:11,192 --> 01:14:12,890

Yeah, somehow I was--

1208

01:14:12,890 --> 01:14:13,917

I mean, I found it--

1209

01:14:13,917 --> 01:14:16,250

I mean, there were other
things that were alarming also.

1210

01:14:16,250 --> 01:14:20,330

There was a weekly newspaper
called Der StÃ¼rmer,

1211

01:14:20,330 --> 01:14:23,140

as well as the [GERMAN].

1212

01:14:23,140 --> 01:14:25,070

Maybe you heard of it.

1213

01:14:25,070 --> 01:14:28,340

It was published by
the Nazi governor

1214

01:14:28,340 --> 01:14:33,530

of the province of
Franconia, a man

1215

01:14:33,530 --> 01:14:37,610

named Julius
Streicher, which was

1216

01:14:37,610 --> 01:14:43,010

full of anti-Semitic
articles and also

1217

01:14:43,010 --> 01:14:49,420
totally fixated on the sexual
aspect of anti-Semitism.

1218
01:14:49,420 --> 01:14:52,190
The paper, I mean, that
apparently according to that,

1219
01:14:52,190 --> 01:14:55,730
Jews had infinite
sexual appetites

1220
01:14:55,730 --> 01:15:00,410
and particularly for little
innocent blonde German girls

1221
01:15:00,410 --> 01:15:01,580
to seduce them.

1222
01:15:01,580 --> 01:15:06,140
That was somehow a Jewish
command to do that.

1223
01:15:06,140 --> 01:15:09,990
I mean, this is just incredible.

1224
01:15:09,990 --> 01:15:13,460
I mean probably the man must
have been sick himself who--

1225
01:15:13,460 --> 01:15:15,440
well, whoever holds
these stories.

1226
01:15:15,440 --> 01:15:17,570
And of course, you know,
sometimes they were truth.

1227
01:15:17,570 --> 01:15:20,240
They would intermix it
with some true stories.

1228
01:15:20,240 --> 01:15:24,800

You know, sometimes a Jew
was convicted of some crime.

1229
01:15:24,800 --> 01:15:27,330
Usually, the crimes
Jews were convicted of

1230
01:15:27,330 --> 01:15:30,640
were such things as
smuggling money out.

1231
01:15:30,640 --> 01:15:34,850
In Germany, foreign exchange
was strictly controlled.

1232
01:15:34,850 --> 01:15:38,010
Because the whole economy
was managed and controlled.

1233
01:15:38,010 --> 01:15:43,160
And but, you know, Jews, rather
than letting the Nazis take it

1234
01:15:43,160 --> 01:15:45,260
all away from them,
sometimes tried

1235
01:15:45,260 --> 01:15:46,640
to smuggle some money out.

1236
01:15:46,640 --> 01:15:49,250
And in some cases,
they succeeded.

1237
01:15:49,250 --> 01:15:51,080
In other cases,
they were caught.

1238
01:15:51,080 --> 01:15:54,350
And that was then always
touted as a big crime

1239
01:15:54,350 --> 01:15:55,870

against the German nation.

1240
01:15:55,870 --> 01:15:57,020
That's a Jew.

1241
01:15:57,020 --> 01:15:59,550
And of course, the story
always was that the Jew,

1242
01:15:59,550 --> 01:16:01,670
they came with nothing.

1243
01:16:01,670 --> 01:16:02,720
And now, they are rich.

1244
01:16:02,720 --> 01:16:05,990
So that is all just
taken away from the--

1245
01:16:05,990 --> 01:16:08,510
from the Germans.

1246
01:16:08,510 --> 01:16:10,850
And you know, there's
stories like that.

1247
01:16:10,850 --> 01:16:12,860
And then, of course,
there were also

1248
01:16:12,860 --> 01:16:17,510
true stories of
where a Jew somehow

1249
01:16:17,510 --> 01:16:21,290
was caught having
had a relationship

1250
01:16:21,290 --> 01:16:23,090
with a non-Jewish girl.

1251
01:16:23,090 --> 01:16:27,320

And if that happened,
then the Jew

1252
01:16:27,320 --> 01:16:30,200
usually was then came
to a concentration camp.

1253
01:16:30,200 --> 01:16:33,410
And those Jews who were there
for-- there was actually

1254
01:16:33,410 --> 01:16:37,100
a term, a German term,
for that which translated

1255
01:16:37,100 --> 01:16:40,430
means that of
defilement of the race.

1256
01:16:40,430 --> 01:16:45,800
And they were mercilessly
tortured and punished

1257
01:16:45,800 --> 01:16:49,670
and usually, if they
weren't shot outright,

1258
01:16:49,670 --> 01:16:52,040
just died of torture.

1259
01:16:52,040 --> 01:16:54,650

1260
01:16:54,650 --> 01:16:58,040
So that newspaper was not
just sold in newsstands

1261
01:16:58,040 --> 01:17:05,570
but they had sort of display
cases on very strategic points,

1262
01:17:05,570 --> 01:17:09,260
like on busy railroad

stations and so on.

1263

01:17:09,260 --> 01:17:11,550

And usually, I ignored it.

1264

01:17:11,550 --> 01:17:15,260

But sometimes I sort
of went and read it.

1265

01:17:15,260 --> 01:17:19,610

And somehow I did
not relate it to me.

1266

01:17:19,610 --> 01:17:21,350

It's a funny thing.

1267

01:17:21,350 --> 01:17:27,403

But, yeah, and then
of course there were--

1268

01:17:27,403 --> 01:17:28,070

Let's stop here.

1269

01:17:28,070 --> 01:17:29,620

Yeah, OK.

1270

01:17:29,620 --> 01:17:32,000