

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,640

2
00:00:01,640 --> 00:00:05,900
This is tape four, side A, of an
interview with Ernest Fontheim

3
00:00:05,900 --> 00:00:08,990
on March 13, 1997.

4
00:00:08,990 --> 00:00:10,565
The interviewer
is Randy Goldman.

5
00:00:10,565 --> 00:00:14,330

6
00:00:14,330 --> 00:00:22,100
Yeah, then my
father asked about--

7
00:00:22,100 --> 00:00:27,140
as I explained earlier, my
former mathematics teacher

8
00:00:27,140 --> 00:00:32,240
Dr. Baer was an orderly
employed in that transit camp.

9
00:00:32,240 --> 00:00:35,150
And he brought
messages back and forth

10
00:00:35,150 --> 00:00:36,890
between my father and myself.

11
00:00:36,890 --> 00:00:42,710
And also, every day I
made sandwiches for them,

12
00:00:42,710 --> 00:00:44,750

and he would take them in.

13

00:00:44,750 --> 00:00:51,500

And I sent a sort of, obviously,
a cloaked message just saying

14

00:00:51,500 --> 00:00:57,500

that the accountant said that
he had picked everything up.

15

00:00:57,500 --> 00:00:59,690

And my father sent
a message back,

16

00:00:59,690 --> 00:01:02,540

that is definitely not
so, and he has everything.

17

00:01:02,540 --> 00:01:06,530

So I went back to the
accountant for a second time

18

00:01:06,530 --> 00:01:10,250

and told him the
message of my father.

19

00:01:10,250 --> 00:01:14,840

And he became, then, at
first, just unfriendly,

20

00:01:14,840 --> 00:01:20,990

but when I kept persisting,
he pointed to the telephone

21

00:01:20,990 --> 00:01:24,290

and said if I don't
leave him alone,

22

00:01:24,290 --> 00:01:28,040

he has one phone call
to make to the police,

23

00:01:28,040 --> 00:01:33,060

and then I can explain to
them that he owes me money.

24
00:01:33,060 --> 00:01:37,160
Well, at that point I
turned around and left.

25
00:01:37,160 --> 00:01:40,430

26
00:01:40,430 --> 00:01:45,140
I guess that's one of these
unfortunate experiences.

27
00:01:45,140 --> 00:01:47,370
So money was a problem.

28
00:01:47,370 --> 00:01:52,850
Another problem was, of course,
how to arrange our lives there.

29
00:01:52,850 --> 00:01:57,410
These plots in the settlements
were very close together.

30
00:01:57,410 --> 00:02:03,860
You cannot live there literally
in hiding and avoid people.

31
00:02:03,860 --> 00:02:07,820
In fact, that would
have aroused suspicion.

32
00:02:07,820 --> 00:02:10,850
Neighbors are traditionally,
in these settlements,

33
00:02:10,850 --> 00:02:12,540
very close-talk to each other.

34
00:02:12,540 --> 00:02:15,860
And so we decided,
we first of all

35

00:02:15,860 --> 00:02:21,650
have to have a believable
story, who we are and so on.

36

00:02:21,650 --> 00:02:27,470
So we concocted a whole
curriculum vitae for ourselves.

37

00:02:27,470 --> 00:02:32,030
And the story was our
papers incidentally

38

00:02:32,030 --> 00:02:37,370
all were made in the last
name of Hesse, mine too.

39

00:02:37,370 --> 00:02:44,150
H-E-S-S-E. And the story was
that this was a couple with

40

00:02:44,150 --> 00:02:48,350
their daughter, Margot,
and I was a nephew,

41

00:02:48,350 --> 00:02:52,610
in other words the son
of Mr. Hesse's brother.

42

00:02:52,610 --> 00:02:57,110
And my parents had been
killed in an accident

43

00:02:57,110 --> 00:02:59,270
while I was still a baby.

44

00:02:59,270 --> 00:03:01,760
And I had been raised
by my aunt and uncle.

45

00:03:01,760 --> 00:03:04,910

46

00:03:04,910 --> 00:03:07,700

But they were almost
total strangers to me.

47

00:03:07,700 --> 00:03:10,320

I just met them a
few months before,

48

00:03:10,320 --> 00:03:13,100

so I had to train
myself to address them

49

00:03:13,100 --> 00:03:17,330

in the familiar German Du form.

50

00:03:17,330 --> 00:03:21,680

And also, instead of calling
them Mr. or Mrs. Hesse,

51

00:03:21,680 --> 00:03:27,170

I had to call them Uncle
Hermann and Aunt Lucy.

52

00:03:27,170 --> 00:03:31,130

And incidentally, the
name Hermann Hesse also

53

00:03:31,130 --> 00:03:38,030

was chosen because from
the telephone book,

54

00:03:38,030 --> 00:03:42,290

Mr. Hesse found out there
existed a real Hermann

55

00:03:42,290 --> 00:03:45,410

Hesse at a Berlin
address, and that

56

00:03:45,410 --> 00:03:46,870

was the address that we gave.

57

00:03:46,870 --> 00:03:53,120
So if somebody just made a cursory check, say with our ID,

58
00:03:53,120 --> 00:03:56,720
there existed such a person at the address that we gave.

59
00:03:56,720 --> 00:04:01,310

60
00:04:01,310 --> 00:04:06,920
OK, we also had to have credible stories

61
00:04:06,920 --> 00:04:10,070
of what our lives were like.

62
00:04:10,070 --> 00:04:13,520
For example, in my case, a German,

63
00:04:13,520 --> 00:04:15,920
which I pretended to be, would normally

64
00:04:15,920 --> 00:04:18,079
be inducted into the army.

65
00:04:18,079 --> 00:04:20,959
And of course I was a civilian.

66
00:04:20,959 --> 00:04:28,220
And after my ID was taken away by the SS

67
00:04:28,220 --> 00:04:31,910
from the German Labor Front, I acquired, after a few months,

68
00:04:31,910 --> 00:04:36,770
another ID as a technician in one of the major German defense

69

00:04:36,770 --> 00:04:39,800

plants in Berlin.

70

00:04:39,800 --> 00:04:43,220

And that, of course, was in
itself an excellent alibi

71

00:04:43,220 --> 00:04:47,450

because a person of
such technical expertise

72

00:04:47,450 --> 00:04:49,750

would be deferred
for military service.

73

00:04:49,750 --> 00:04:52,940

74

00:04:52,940 --> 00:04:56,750

However, I should also add
that the ID requirements

75

00:04:56,750 --> 00:04:59,450

were much more rigorous.

76

00:04:59,450 --> 00:05:02,420

For example, every
male of military age--

77

00:05:02,420 --> 00:05:05,930

and I don't remember any
more up to what age that was,

78

00:05:05,930 --> 00:05:11,330

but surely much more than my
age at that time, which was 20--

79

00:05:11,330 --> 00:05:16,340

every such person had
to have military papers.

80

00:05:16,340 --> 00:05:20,090

If the person was actually
a member of the Wehrmacht,

81

00:05:20,090 --> 00:05:24,200

it means of any one of the
three branches-- army, navy,

82

00:05:24,200 --> 00:05:25,940

or air force--

83

00:05:25,940 --> 00:05:31,190

the person had to have a
Militarpass, military pass,

84

00:05:31,190 --> 00:05:35,510

with picture identifying the
unit, et cetera, et cetera.

85

00:05:35,510 --> 00:05:39,410

If the person was exempt from
military service for whatever

86

00:05:39,410 --> 00:05:46,490

reason, then also a military
paper with a picture and other

87

00:05:46,490 --> 00:05:49,430

personal information
stating that reason--

88

00:05:49,430 --> 00:05:55,340

be it deferment for job reasons
or maybe for health reasons,

89

00:05:55,340 --> 00:05:59,840

somebody may have had
only one leg for example--

90

00:05:59,840 --> 00:06:04,090

the paper would have to
state what the reason was.

91

00:06:04,090 --> 00:06:08,330

And that also had to be
carried on the person

92

00:06:08,330 --> 00:06:10,160

and shown on request.

93

00:06:10,160 --> 00:06:14,030

In the case of job
deferment-- in fact,

94

00:06:14,030 --> 00:06:18,360

that paper was only
issued for a limited time.

95

00:06:18,360 --> 00:06:22,010

I forgot exactly, but I
believe it was six months.

96

00:06:22,010 --> 00:06:26,240

So after, it had to be
revalidated every six months.

97

00:06:26,240 --> 00:06:29,360

That made it very difficult
to obtain forgeries.

98

00:06:29,360 --> 00:06:32,780

First of all, forgeries
of military papers

99

00:06:32,780 --> 00:06:36,050

were very real hard to
get in the first place.

100

00:06:36,050 --> 00:06:39,050

And then it was only
valid for six months.

101

00:06:39,050 --> 00:06:43,310

Then it had to be revalidated.

102

00:06:43,310 --> 00:06:47,430

And as I said, I had
now obtained an ID

103
00:06:47,430 --> 00:06:52,190
as a technician for a
defense plant in Berlin.

104
00:06:52,190 --> 00:06:55,460

105
00:06:55,460 --> 00:06:59,270
And with that, I
lived for the rest

106
00:06:59,270 --> 00:07:02,060
of the war showing
it the many times

107
00:07:02,060 --> 00:07:04,730
that I was asked for an ID.

108
00:07:04,730 --> 00:07:10,160
And in fact, it was convincing
enough so that there was never

109
00:07:10,160 --> 00:07:11,250
a follow-up question.

110
00:07:11,250 --> 00:07:16,520
But I was aware of the fact that
each time the official asking

111
00:07:16,520 --> 00:07:19,460
me to identify myself,
could have asked,

112
00:07:19,460 --> 00:07:22,460
where is your Wehrmacht ID?

113
00:07:22,460 --> 00:07:26,510
And then I had already
prepared one fall-back,

114
00:07:26,510 --> 00:07:30,410
and that was that
I would actually

115
00:07:30,410 --> 00:07:34,760
go through the
pockets of my jacket

116
00:07:34,760 --> 00:07:38,840
and pretend to
look for the paper,

117
00:07:38,840 --> 00:07:43,010
and then was surprised
in my face and say,

118
00:07:43,010 --> 00:07:47,270
ah, I must have left it in the
coat that I wore yesterday.

119
00:07:47,270 --> 00:07:50,120
And at that point,
the official could

120
00:07:50,120 --> 00:07:51,980
have said, well, I
believe you this time,

121
00:07:51,980 --> 00:07:54,140
but be sure don't
forget it again.

122
00:07:54,140 --> 00:07:57,330
He could, however, also
have told me, in that case,

123
00:07:57,330 --> 00:08:00,780
I have to take you along to
check you out, in which case,

124
00:08:00,780 --> 00:08:03,410
I would have been done.

125

00:08:03,410 --> 00:08:06,260

And in fact, that
never occurred.

126

00:08:06,260 --> 00:08:14,490

And in all of my cases where
I was controlled for ID,

127

00:08:14,490 --> 00:08:18,650

that ID that I had and the
one that I obtained later--

128

00:08:18,650 --> 00:08:21,110

that I discussed, then--

129

00:08:21,110 --> 00:08:22,220

were sufficient.

130

00:08:22,220 --> 00:08:27,560

I think that also had to do with
the fact that I had learned--

131

00:08:27,560 --> 00:08:32,630

while living in Nazi Germany
since '33 and by being in that

132

00:08:32,630 --> 00:08:39,320

Nazi gymnasium, or high school,
for two years from '33 to '35--

133

00:08:39,320 --> 00:08:44,090

I had learned exactly the
correct Nazi demeanor.

134

00:08:44,090 --> 00:08:47,930

They were in many
ways very naive,

135

00:08:47,930 --> 00:08:50,870

almost bordering
on the childish.

136

00:08:50,870 --> 00:08:54,020
For example, whenever
I was asked for an ID,

137
00:08:54,020 --> 00:08:58,040
before I did anything
like showing my ID,

138
00:08:58,040 --> 00:09:02,150
I would, and with military
demeanor, click my heels--

139
00:09:02,150 --> 00:09:10,610
I had special heels for that
with sort of iron or steel

140
00:09:10,610 --> 00:09:16,910
plates to provide the
impressive military click

141
00:09:16,910 --> 00:09:19,190
that German soldiers had--

142
00:09:19,190 --> 00:09:24,290
stretch out my right arm, say
a snappy, Heil Hitler, and then

143
00:09:24,290 --> 00:09:25,460
I would show mine.

144
00:09:25,460 --> 00:09:29,240
And such silly
little things would

145
00:09:29,240 --> 00:09:31,850
make just the right
impression and would

146
00:09:31,850 --> 00:09:36,500
dispel, in most cases
at least, any suspicion

147
00:09:36,500 --> 00:09:42,620

that I could be anything but
a convinced and truthful Nazi.

148
00:09:42,620 --> 00:09:46,710

149
00:09:46,710 --> 00:09:48,810
Yeah, that was my case.

150
00:09:48,810 --> 00:09:53,610
Then the case of Mr.
Hesse, Margot's father.

151
00:09:53,610 --> 00:09:59,010
He was actually by profession
a tailor and pattern maker

152
00:09:59,010 --> 00:10:02,400
and had owned a
woman's coat factory

153
00:10:02,400 --> 00:10:05,070
in earlier years in the '30s.

154
00:10:05,070 --> 00:10:07,740
And then when forced
labor came, he

155
00:10:07,740 --> 00:10:14,820
was actually drafted into
a military uniform factory

156
00:10:14,820 --> 00:10:20,040
and had also, even though he
was a Jew, a position of sort

157
00:10:20,040 --> 00:10:26,040
of supervisory position there
because of his background

158
00:10:26,040 --> 00:10:27,430
and knowledge.

159

00:10:27,430 --> 00:10:34,080

So he carried that,
continued that, and also

160

00:10:34,080 --> 00:10:38,130

said that he was
in such a factory.

161

00:10:38,130 --> 00:10:39,930

And in addition to
that, of course,

162

00:10:39,930 --> 00:10:43,980

he had the ID of the
Deutsche Arbeitsfront,

163

00:10:43,980 --> 00:10:47,220

which was sort of like
a secondary position he

164

00:10:47,220 --> 00:10:49,830

pretended.

165

00:10:49,830 --> 00:10:54,000

Margot's mother had an
undefined office job in Berlin.

166

00:10:54,000 --> 00:10:58,440

And Margot herself actually
was by training a baby nurse,

167

00:10:58,440 --> 00:11:03,900

and she worked in sort
of a German nursery.

168

00:11:03,900 --> 00:11:06,060

These started to spring up now.

169

00:11:06,060 --> 00:11:08,460

Today they would be
called daycare centers

170

00:11:08,460 --> 00:11:14,100
because many German women were
not exactly forcibly drafted

171
00:11:14,100 --> 00:11:20,190
to work in factories, but they
were strongly coerced and urged

172
00:11:20,190 --> 00:11:22,680
because there was a
tremendous need, obviously,

173
00:11:22,680 --> 00:11:28,680
for factory workers because
German males were in the army.

174
00:11:28,680 --> 00:11:32,430
And because of the fact that
many of these women worked,

175
00:11:32,430 --> 00:11:34,360
there was a need for
a daycare center.

176
00:11:34,360 --> 00:11:38,370
So Margot pretended to
work in one of those.

177
00:11:38,370 --> 00:11:43,710
But that alone, to have kind
of a job, wasn't really enough.

178
00:11:43,710 --> 00:11:47,340
I mean, the thing is that
village where we lived

179
00:11:47,340 --> 00:11:53,820
was about three to four miles
away from the nearest commuter

180
00:11:53,820 --> 00:11:55,410
station to Berlin.

181

00:11:55,410 --> 00:12:01,230
And people either
bicycled from the village

182
00:12:01,230 --> 00:12:03,150
and parked the bicycles--

183
00:12:03,150 --> 00:12:06,180
at the railroad station
they were bicycle racks--

184
00:12:06,180 --> 00:12:14,130
or they took a postal bus
that went down the country

185
00:12:14,130 --> 00:12:17,670
road which the village was.

186
00:12:17,670 --> 00:12:21,870
And certain schedules--
I forgot what it was--

187
00:12:21,870 --> 00:12:23,130
but not very frequently.

188
00:12:23,130 --> 00:12:25,260
I think once an hour or so.

189
00:12:25,260 --> 00:12:29,190
And now I went in
to Berlin, actually,

190
00:12:29,190 --> 00:12:37,050
twice a week to maintain contact
with black market sources

191
00:12:37,050 --> 00:12:38,890
to obtain food.

192
00:12:38,890 --> 00:12:43,320
And so I made it a point,
then, always to take--

193

00:12:43,320 --> 00:12:46,890

there was a bus and people
saw me at the bus stop.

194

00:12:46,890 --> 00:12:51,270

And of course, I pretended
to go to work to my factory.

195

00:12:51,270 --> 00:12:54,540

On other days when
I did not go there,

196

00:12:54,540 --> 00:12:57,270

since it was also known
that I had a bicycle

197

00:12:57,270 --> 00:12:59,520

and I would bicycle out
in the neighborhood,

198

00:12:59,520 --> 00:13:03,570

I simply spread the word
that whenever I had a chance

199

00:13:03,570 --> 00:13:04,830

I liked to bicycle.

200

00:13:04,830 --> 00:13:11,920

I would take the bicycle to
that commuter line station

201

00:13:11,920 --> 00:13:15,510

and park it there so that
people wouldn't wonder

202

00:13:15,510 --> 00:13:19,080

why I wasn't there regularly.

203

00:13:19,080 --> 00:13:24,810

I forgot what Margot's father's
alabi was, but he and his wife

204

00:13:24,810 --> 00:13:27,810
also went into
Berlin twice a week

205
00:13:27,810 --> 00:13:32,430
to catch up there and keep
contact with their black market

206
00:13:32,430 --> 00:13:33,690
sources.

207
00:13:33,690 --> 00:13:38,550
Margot herself was number
one as a most Jewish-looking

208
00:13:38,550 --> 00:13:40,440
of the four of us.

209
00:13:40,440 --> 00:13:44,910
And on top of it, she
was at that time always

210
00:13:44,910 --> 00:13:48,480
extremely nervous and afraid.

211
00:13:48,480 --> 00:13:53,430
And so she stayed out there
and never went into the city.

212
00:13:53,430 --> 00:13:58,270
And that created somewhat of a
problem, but what she had to do

213
00:13:58,270 --> 00:14:00,060
was to stay inside the house.

214
00:14:00,060 --> 00:14:02,550
I mean, people didn't
check up really literally.

215
00:14:02,550 --> 00:14:05,520
And she just stayed
inside the house all day

216
00:14:05,520 --> 00:14:10,290
and only appeared outside after,
I don't know, five or six,

217
00:14:10,290 --> 00:14:15,420
when people normally would
be home from their jobs.

218
00:14:15,420 --> 00:14:21,690
Another very important issue
was that of police registration.

219
00:14:21,690 --> 00:14:25,260
In Germany at that time-- and,
I believe, even today still--

220
00:14:25,260 --> 00:14:28,590
every person has
to be registered

221
00:14:28,590 --> 00:14:34,170
with the police at his or
her place of residence.

222
00:14:34,170 --> 00:14:37,440
And a person can only have
one place of residence.

223
00:14:37,440 --> 00:14:43,530
Now, all the people out there
who lived in these houses--

224
00:14:43,530 --> 00:14:47,040
I mean, these cottages, some
were as primitive as ours,

225
00:14:47,040 --> 00:14:49,410
others may have been a
little bit more fancy--

226
00:14:49,410 --> 00:14:51,510
they actually had

apartments in Berlin

227

00:14:51,510 --> 00:14:53,980
where they were registered
with the police.

228

00:14:53,980 --> 00:14:56,760
And they moved out
there because, just

229

00:14:56,760 --> 00:14:59,190
about the time when
we went underground,

230

00:14:59,190 --> 00:15:04,380
air raids increased
tremendously,

231

00:15:04,380 --> 00:15:06,810
particularly the
American Air Force, which

232

00:15:06,810 --> 00:15:11,010
was stationed at airfields
on the British Islands,

233

00:15:11,010 --> 00:15:14,850
and would regularly
attack Berlin.

234

00:15:14,850 --> 00:15:19,800
Later on, actually on a
daily basis in early '43,

235

00:15:19,800 --> 00:15:22,650
it wasn't that frequent,
but still frequently enough

236

00:15:22,650 --> 00:15:24,360
for people to be scared.

237

00:15:24,360 --> 00:15:28,800
So therefore, people preferred

the safety of some village--

238
00:15:28,800 --> 00:15:31,350
which surely
wouldn't be bombed--

239
00:15:31,350 --> 00:15:33,870
to being in Berlin
and being trapped

240
00:15:33,870 --> 00:15:36,660
in an apartment building.

241
00:15:36,660 --> 00:15:39,420
But that, of course,
posed a problem for them

242
00:15:39,420 --> 00:15:43,510
because, as I said, by law
everybody has to be registered.

243
00:15:43,510 --> 00:15:45,390
And a person can
only be registered

244
00:15:45,390 --> 00:15:47,505
at one place with the police.

245
00:15:47,505 --> 00:15:50,340

246
00:15:50,340 --> 00:15:53,820
So if a person moved,
there was actually

247
00:15:53,820 --> 00:15:55,890
also a de-registration form.

248
00:15:55,890 --> 00:16:01,080
The person had to de-register
at his or her old residence,

249

00:16:01,080 --> 00:16:05,520
and then the person
actually received

250
00:16:05,520 --> 00:16:08,310
a copy of the
de-registration form

251
00:16:08,310 --> 00:16:11,520
to present at the
new place where

252
00:16:11,520 --> 00:16:13,740
then the person would register.

253
00:16:13,740 --> 00:16:16,830
Well, if the people
would have done that,

254
00:16:16,830 --> 00:16:18,720
would have
de-registered in Berlin,

255
00:16:18,720 --> 00:16:21,870
they would immediately
have lost their apartments,

256
00:16:21,870 --> 00:16:24,720
since as a result
of the air raids,

257
00:16:24,720 --> 00:16:27,510
many people lost
their apartments.

258
00:16:27,510 --> 00:16:30,300
And there was practically
no new building going on

259
00:16:30,300 --> 00:16:35,460
because of wartime conditions,
and all of the war materials

260

00:16:35,460 --> 00:16:38,220
and labor were really
put into the war effort

261
00:16:38,220 --> 00:16:42,430
to build tanks, planes, and
whatever else was needed.

262
00:16:42,430 --> 00:16:46,170
So there was an acute
and increasing shortage

263
00:16:46,170 --> 00:16:50,550
of apartments, so if somebody
moved out of his apartment,

264
00:16:50,550 --> 00:16:53,820
the first thing was that
it would be snapped away

265
00:16:53,820 --> 00:16:55,890
by the housing authority,
and the apartment

266
00:16:55,890 --> 00:16:59,100
would be given over to
some bombed-out family.

267
00:16:59,100 --> 00:17:01,710
And, of course, people wanted
to maintain their apartments.

268
00:17:01,710 --> 00:17:03,900
To make a long story
short, the result

269
00:17:03,900 --> 00:17:07,200
was that all of these good
Germans who lived out there,

270
00:17:07,200 --> 00:17:10,440
lived there essentially,
quote, "illegally."

271

00:17:10,440 --> 00:17:14,550

They did not register
there because they couldn't

272

00:17:14,550 --> 00:17:16,510

because they didn't
want to de-register

273

00:17:16,510 --> 00:17:18,900

and give up their
Berlin apartments.

274

00:17:18,900 --> 00:17:22,240

The local police, which was
in charge of that, of course

275

00:17:22,240 --> 00:17:25,079

knew about that and simply
looked the other way

276

00:17:25,079 --> 00:17:26,640

because it was understandable.

277

00:17:26,640 --> 00:17:30,690

You know, people didn't want
to lose their city apartments.

278

00:17:30,690 --> 00:17:34,560

And that was a perfect
argument for us

279

00:17:34,560 --> 00:17:37,080

because we couldn't register
for different reasons.

280

00:17:37,080 --> 00:17:38,880

We were underground Jews.

281

00:17:38,880 --> 00:17:41,310

But we had that
perfect argument.

282

00:17:41,310 --> 00:17:43,650
Of course we had our
apartment in Berlin,

283
00:17:43,650 --> 00:17:47,610
and as I mentioned earlier,
the address that we gave--

284
00:17:47,610 --> 00:17:49,530
the fictitious--
there was actually

285
00:17:49,530 --> 00:17:51,340
a Hermann Hesse living there.

286
00:17:51,340 --> 00:17:54,360
So somebody could check us
out in the telephone book,

287
00:17:54,360 --> 00:17:57,520
and we were there only for
a few of the air raids.

288
00:17:57,520 --> 00:18:01,890
So actually, I always felt that
was the first time in my life

289
00:18:01,890 --> 00:18:05,550
that the Americans
came and helped me.

290
00:18:05,550 --> 00:18:12,820

291
00:18:12,820 --> 00:18:16,570
Yeah, and then what we
did in the beginning was,

292
00:18:16,570 --> 00:18:21,070
we had several sessions
in that little cottage

293
00:18:21,070 --> 00:18:26,200

where we interrogated ourselves
on all of these issues--

294

00:18:26,200 --> 00:18:29,980
I mean, who I was, and I was a
nephew and that my parents had

295

00:18:29,980 --> 00:18:34,570
died while I was still a baby,
and I was raised by my aunt

296

00:18:34,570 --> 00:18:38,200
and uncle and where I worked
and where they worked--

297

00:18:38,200 --> 00:18:40,600
so that it became
part of our nature.

298

00:18:40,600 --> 00:18:43,280
We constantly asked
ourselves these questions

299

00:18:43,280 --> 00:18:47,890
so that nobody would ever
make a slip up or give

300

00:18:47,890 --> 00:18:50,470
some long answer
or even an answer

301

00:18:50,470 --> 00:18:54,580
contradicting
somebody or somebody

302

00:18:54,580 --> 00:18:56,320
else who said something.

303

00:18:56,320 --> 00:18:59,550

304

00:18:59,550 --> 00:19:02,670
I should say also,

by the way, the date

305

00:19:02,670 --> 00:19:05,670

that we moved out there,
I mentioned earlier,

306

00:19:05,670 --> 00:19:08,060

was the 30th of January 1943.

307

00:19:08,060 --> 00:19:10,150

It was an extremely
interesting date.

308

00:19:10,150 --> 00:19:13,110

First of all, it was
the 10th anniversary

309

00:19:13,110 --> 00:19:15,360

of Hitler's assumption
of power that he

310

00:19:15,360 --> 00:19:17,460

was named Reich Chancellor.

311

00:19:17,460 --> 00:19:20,160

And secondly, and
more important for us,

312

00:19:20,160 --> 00:19:25,710

it was a day in which Field
Marshal Paulus, commander

313

00:19:25,710 --> 00:19:29,550

of German 6th Army
in the Ukraine,

314

00:19:29,550 --> 00:19:33,870

surrendered his army in
the city of Stalingrad.

315

00:19:33,870 --> 00:19:37,020

The huge Battle of
Stalingrad, which had raged

316
00:19:37,020 --> 00:19:41,340
from October through January--

317
00:19:41,340 --> 00:19:42,990
that means four months--

318
00:19:42,990 --> 00:19:48,570
the Germans had lost and was
the first major military loss

319
00:19:48,570 --> 00:19:49,860
for the Germans.

320
00:19:49,860 --> 00:19:52,740
And that made us
unbelievably ecstatic.

321
00:19:52,740 --> 00:19:55,770
In fact, we decided
that after that loss,

322
00:19:55,770 --> 00:19:59,070
the war can last longer
than next summer,

323
00:19:59,070 --> 00:20:01,970
meaning summer '43.

324
00:20:01,970 --> 00:20:08,280
I think it was that optimism
that made us keep going.

325
00:20:08,280 --> 00:20:11,520
If we would have known it'd
last another over two years,

326
00:20:11,520 --> 00:20:14,250
I don't know whether or
what we would would have--

327
00:20:14,250 --> 00:20:15,990

I guess we had no
other choice anyway,

328
00:20:15,990 --> 00:20:18,090
but it kept our spirits up.

329
00:20:18,090 --> 00:20:22,120

330
00:20:22,120 --> 00:20:25,215
Yeah, then the food situation.

331
00:20:25,215 --> 00:20:26,590
Well, as I had
mentioned earlier,

332
00:20:26,590 --> 00:20:28,690
also food was rationed.

333
00:20:28,690 --> 00:20:32,680
The ration coupons
were given out

334
00:20:32,680 --> 00:20:36,220
to people who were
registered with the police.

335
00:20:36,220 --> 00:20:39,160
The food rationing
officers had actually

336
00:20:39,160 --> 00:20:41,860
a duplicate of the
police registration file,

337
00:20:41,860 --> 00:20:44,890
so obviously since we were not
registered with the police,

338
00:20:44,890 --> 00:20:47,080
we couldn't get
food ration cards,

339

00:20:47,080 --> 00:20:49,690

and therefore, we had
to buy all of our food

340

00:20:49,690 --> 00:20:50,800

on the black market.

341

00:20:50,800 --> 00:20:53,740

The black market does not
mean that there was actually

342

00:20:53,740 --> 00:20:56,590

a market somewhere
where people traded.

343

00:20:56,590 --> 00:20:58,450

I mean, that would
have immediately

344

00:20:58,450 --> 00:21:02,590

been exploded by the Gestapo.

345

00:21:02,590 --> 00:21:05,740

Black market simply
means that people

346

00:21:05,740 --> 00:21:13,360

were trading in rationed food
but without ration coupons.

347

00:21:13,360 --> 00:21:14,410

Who were these people?

348

00:21:14,410 --> 00:21:16,170

Well, there were
all kinds of people.

349

00:21:16,170 --> 00:21:19,180

First of all, fellow
underground Jews.

350

00:21:19,180 --> 00:21:23,350

For example, somebody might
have had a terrific source

351
00:21:23,350 --> 00:21:27,370
for baked goods and
breads but nothing else,

352
00:21:27,370 --> 00:21:30,970
but that person would
then trade in breads

353
00:21:30,970 --> 00:21:33,100
and sell them at
a profit for him

354
00:21:33,100 --> 00:21:36,790
and use that maybe to
buy sausage from somebody

355
00:21:36,790 --> 00:21:38,380
else who had that source.

356
00:21:38,380 --> 00:21:43,630
And so I mean, we were quite
a circle of underground Jews.

357
00:21:43,630 --> 00:21:49,750
And so that was also a
source for black market food.

358
00:21:49,750 --> 00:21:54,190
Then various
sympathetic gentiles--

359
00:21:54,190 --> 00:22:01,670
I had, for example, a housemaid
of my maternal grandparents.

360
00:22:01,670 --> 00:22:05,770
In fact, my maternal
grandmother died fortunately

361
00:22:05,770 --> 00:22:09,850

a natural death, only a few
months before the deportations

362
00:22:09,850 --> 00:22:10,930
started.

363
00:22:10,930 --> 00:22:15,670
And her last maid, she had
been with my grandmother

364
00:22:15,670 --> 00:22:18,000
for many years.

365
00:22:18,000 --> 00:22:21,100
And she was a very
faithful family friend.

366
00:22:21,100 --> 00:22:25,560
And she was the last one
who could afford even

367
00:22:25,560 --> 00:22:28,020
to buy black market
food, but she

368
00:22:28,020 --> 00:22:30,540
was a very modest
and simple person.

369
00:22:30,540 --> 00:22:34,590
And she claimed she didn't even
need all the food that she was

370
00:22:34,590 --> 00:22:37,110
getting on her ration cards.

371
00:22:37,110 --> 00:22:38,080
So I went there.

372
00:22:38,080 --> 00:22:41,940
One of the stops that I
did on my Berlin visits

373

00:22:41,940 --> 00:22:43,350
was her little apartment.

374

00:22:43,350 --> 00:22:45,360
And she always had some food.

375

00:22:45,360 --> 00:22:48,300
First of all, she always
fed me a warm meal.

376

00:22:48,300 --> 00:22:53,790
And then she also
gave me something

377

00:22:53,790 --> 00:22:57,070
that she had saved
from her rations.

378

00:22:57,070 --> 00:23:00,310
Then there was the
butcher of the Hesse

379

00:23:00,310 --> 00:23:03,790
family near where they lived.

380

00:23:03,790 --> 00:23:07,540
Now, they were
very decent people,

381

00:23:07,540 --> 00:23:09,580
very strongly anti-Nazi.

382

00:23:09,580 --> 00:23:14,860
And when they told them that
they were going underground,

383

00:23:14,860 --> 00:23:17,530
they immediately
promised to supply them

384

00:23:17,530 --> 00:23:20,320
as much as they could

with meat, but the problem

385

00:23:20,320 --> 00:23:22,928

was they couldn't really
go there because they

386

00:23:22,928 --> 00:23:24,220

were known in the neighborhood.

387

00:23:24,220 --> 00:23:27,310

They lived around the corner
there from that butcher.

388

00:23:27,310 --> 00:23:28,660

And everybody knew them.

389

00:23:28,660 --> 00:23:30,880

If they would appear
there without a star,

390

00:23:30,880 --> 00:23:33,350

somebody would
surely denounce them.

391

00:23:33,350 --> 00:23:36,460

So before we actually
went underground,

392

00:23:36,460 --> 00:23:38,540

I was introduced to them.

393

00:23:38,540 --> 00:23:41,980

And as I had mentioned
earlier, our family

394

00:23:41,980 --> 00:23:44,320

lived in a totally
different part of Berlin.

395

00:23:44,320 --> 00:23:47,680

So not a soul knew me there.

396

00:23:47,680 --> 00:23:50,440
So I was introduced,
and there was also

397
00:23:50,440 --> 00:23:55,300
a ruse agreed upon how I would
go about getting food from her.

398
00:23:55,300 --> 00:23:58,100
But people were very
jealous in those days.

399
00:23:58,100 --> 00:24:01,000
And so I would
come into the store

400
00:24:01,000 --> 00:24:06,400
and say to her that my mother
was in here this morning

401
00:24:06,400 --> 00:24:09,970
and left an order
for sausage and meat

402
00:24:09,970 --> 00:24:12,130
and gave you already
the food stamps.

403
00:24:12,130 --> 00:24:14,200
And she would say,
yes, that's right.

404
00:24:14,200 --> 00:24:16,120
I have your order ready.

405
00:24:16,120 --> 00:24:20,200
Then she would go in the
back and pack whatever

406
00:24:20,200 --> 00:24:25,360
she felt like up and charged
me just the regular amount

407

00:24:25,360 --> 00:24:31,690
of money for these items which
were all under price control.

408

00:24:31,690 --> 00:24:34,390
I should have said earlier,
on the black market,

409

00:24:34,390 --> 00:24:39,850
roughly the price of food was
10 times the regular price

410

00:24:39,850 --> 00:24:40,930
controlled price.

411

00:24:40,930 --> 00:24:42,130
It varied a little bit.

412

00:24:42,130 --> 00:24:44,200
It also depended on
what kind of food,

413

00:24:44,200 --> 00:24:47,200
but that was a good average.

414

00:24:47,200 --> 00:24:49,780
And she could have made
a lot of money with that.

415

00:24:49,780 --> 00:24:53,860
Instead she sold it to
me exactly at the price

416

00:24:53,860 --> 00:24:57,160
that was under price control.

417

00:24:57,160 --> 00:25:01,720
And that was also purely,
I mean, out of support.

418

00:25:01,720 --> 00:25:07,510
And then another important
item incidentally

419
00:25:07,510 --> 00:25:12,190
which people never think
about is shoe repair.

420
00:25:12,190 --> 00:25:18,140
Not only were shoes rationed,
but shoe repair was rationed.

421
00:25:18,140 --> 00:25:20,380
In other words, if
you needed a new sole,

422
00:25:20,380 --> 00:25:22,630
there was a ration
coupon that you

423
00:25:22,630 --> 00:25:26,020
had to hand in for
a sole for a shoe.

424
00:25:26,020 --> 00:25:27,430
And we didn't have that.

425
00:25:27,430 --> 00:25:33,220
Well, here our old
shoemaker from our area

426
00:25:33,220 --> 00:25:35,680
had agreed to support us.

427
00:25:35,680 --> 00:25:41,050
And the thing was, he was
actually a secret communist.

428
00:25:41,050 --> 00:25:43,000
And, of course,
he was not active

429
00:25:43,000 --> 00:25:45,520
in the underground
Communist Party,

430

00:25:45,520 --> 00:25:47,800

but he had been a
Communist earlier

431

00:25:47,800 --> 00:25:50,440

and maintained his sympathies.

432

00:25:50,440 --> 00:25:56,950

And his shoe shop was not as
close to our old apartment

433

00:25:56,950 --> 00:26:01,210

as that butcher was to
the Hesse's apartment,

434

00:26:01,210 --> 00:26:05,980

so I could go there without
fearing to run into anybody.

435

00:26:05,980 --> 00:26:08,050

So we had all our shoe repairs.

436

00:26:08,050 --> 00:26:12,850

And in the long run that is
as much a life saver as food.

437

00:26:12,850 --> 00:26:15,790

What are you going to do
if your shoes fall apart?

438

00:26:15,790 --> 00:26:17,080

You can't get new shoes.

439

00:26:17,080 --> 00:26:19,030

You can't repair them.

440

00:26:19,030 --> 00:26:23,680

That basically condemned
you to stay at home,

441

00:26:23,680 --> 00:26:26,530

so we solved that

problem with him.

442

00:26:26,530 --> 00:26:36,040

And then there was a
whole bunch of people who

443

00:26:36,040 --> 00:26:39,460

we relied on to obtain food.

444

00:26:39,460 --> 00:26:45,640

And for the money,
as I said, we paid.

445

00:26:45,640 --> 00:26:51,490

I used the money gradually
that I obtained from the assets

446

00:26:51,490 --> 00:26:54,930

that my father had that
I talked about earlier.

447

00:26:54,930 --> 00:26:56,722

Let me ask you a question here.

448

00:26:56,722 --> 00:26:59,960

449

00:26:59,960 --> 00:27:03,770

Was there any difficulty in
figuring out which people

450

00:27:03,770 --> 00:27:07,610

you could trust or not trust?

451

00:27:07,610 --> 00:27:10,220

No, I mean the
difficulty might have

452

00:27:10,220 --> 00:27:14,840

been in somebody whom
I ran across sort

453

00:27:14,840 --> 00:27:16,880
of unexpectedly somewhere.

454
00:27:16,880 --> 00:27:21,500
But the people that
we had contact with,

455
00:27:21,500 --> 00:27:22,955
we knew we could trust.

456
00:27:22,955 --> 00:27:25,190
But what about people
you ran across,

457
00:27:25,190 --> 00:27:26,960
like your old family friends?

458
00:27:26,960 --> 00:27:31,220
Yeah, I mean, that Berlin
was a city at that time still

459
00:27:31,220 --> 00:27:34,130
close to five million people.

460
00:27:34,130 --> 00:27:36,350
In a sense, even though
New York is much bigger,

461
00:27:36,350 --> 00:27:40,340
it's also similar in the sense
you don't run into people.

462
00:27:40,340 --> 00:27:43,100
And, of course,
one thing, we had

463
00:27:43,100 --> 00:27:44,870
to be very careful
where we went.

464
00:27:44,870 --> 00:27:47,600
I mean, I never went into
our old neighborhood,

465
00:27:47,600 --> 00:27:49,610
and they never went into theirs.

466
00:27:49,610 --> 00:27:52,490
And also, then there
were certain areas

467
00:27:52,490 --> 00:27:58,320
I come to discuss a little bit
later where Jews were sort of,

468
00:27:58,320 --> 00:28:01,190
quote, "known" to be
often, and we tried

469
00:28:01,190 --> 00:28:03,590
to avoid these areas also.

470
00:28:03,590 --> 00:28:10,760
But there was a possibility, and
you didn't trust anyone at all.

471
00:28:10,760 --> 00:28:13,400
What about in this village
where you were living?

472
00:28:13,400 --> 00:28:14,330
Yeah, OK.

473
00:28:14,330 --> 00:28:17,600
In the village, OK, that was--

474
00:28:17,600 --> 00:28:22,340
I sort of said already how
we concocted our story there.

475
00:28:22,340 --> 00:28:24,860
And we decided
from the beginning,

476
00:28:24,860 --> 00:28:28,400

then, to just act
like normal neighbors,

477
00:28:28,400 --> 00:28:31,070
and anything else would
have been impossible anyway.

478
00:28:31,070 --> 00:28:35,420
So we actually started a
whole social life there.

479
00:28:35,420 --> 00:28:41,120
We met people and invited
each other-- we were invited.

480
00:28:41,120 --> 00:28:44,330
We invited people
for, I don't know,

481
00:28:44,330 --> 00:28:47,750
a game of cards or whatever.

482
00:28:47,750 --> 00:28:49,730
The most interesting
person, actually, we

483
00:28:49,730 --> 00:28:55,800
met was the local Nazi party
chieftain for that village.

484
00:28:55,800 --> 00:29:00,026

485
00:29:00,026 --> 00:29:03,890
Margot's father was a very
good accordion player,

486
00:29:03,890 --> 00:29:05,300
and he played often.

487
00:29:05,300 --> 00:29:09,650
And I guess in this cottage
the walls are thin anyway.

488

00:29:09,650 --> 00:29:13,340
Somehow it became known that
he played the accordion.

489

00:29:13,340 --> 00:29:18,710
And that Nazi, actually his
name was Harry [? Gladenik-- ?]

490

00:29:18,710 --> 00:29:22,160
a very nice, charming
fellow, in spite of the fact

491

00:29:22,160 --> 00:29:23,900
that he was a rabid Nazi.

492

00:29:23,900 --> 00:29:29,030
He came over and said he
heard that here someone plays

493

00:29:29,030 --> 00:29:33,590
accordion, and he
loves accordion music.

494

00:29:33,590 --> 00:29:37,730
And they have actually every
Saturday evening a party

495

00:29:37,730 --> 00:29:41,330
at his house with
dancing and so on

496

00:29:41,330 --> 00:29:45,230
and why don't we come over
sometime and participate

497

00:29:45,230 --> 00:29:45,830
in that.

498

00:29:45,830 --> 00:29:50,750
So we were frequent guests,
then, at the home of that Nazi,

499

00:29:50,750 --> 00:29:53,730

dancing with some
of the women there.

500

00:29:53,730 --> 00:29:57,050

And what was for
me most important,

501

00:29:57,050 --> 00:29:59,930

more important than the
dancing at least, was the food.

502

00:29:59,930 --> 00:30:04,930

503

00:30:04,930 --> 00:30:10,730

They had, what seemed to me,
limitless supplies of food.

504

00:30:10,730 --> 00:30:12,820

I don't know what
their sources were.

505

00:30:12,820 --> 00:30:15,790

But part of the
source, in fact, was

506

00:30:15,790 --> 00:30:18,925

the sister of Harry
[? Gladenik, ?] that Nazi.

507

00:30:18,925 --> 00:30:31,430

508

00:30:31,430 --> 00:30:35,480

She lived with them,
but her husband

509

00:30:35,480 --> 00:30:39,530

who was also a real
professional Nazi ideologue,

510

00:30:39,530 --> 00:30:46,190
was an official in the German
occupation of the Soviet Union

511
00:30:46,190 --> 00:30:55,220
and had his ways there of
obtaining meat and sausages

512
00:30:55,220 --> 00:30:58,310
and all kinds of
other goodies that

513
00:30:58,310 --> 00:31:03,150
were, even for good Germans,
hard to get in Germany.

514
00:31:03,150 --> 00:31:06,110
And he sent regular packages.

515
00:31:06,110 --> 00:31:10,760
And so that was
all served there,

516
00:31:10,760 --> 00:31:13,310
and we always
enjoyed going there

517
00:31:13,310 --> 00:31:18,060
and had a wonderful
time with these people.

518
00:31:18,060 --> 00:31:22,020
And when you went to these
parties, you felt comfortable?

519
00:31:22,020 --> 00:31:23,850
Yeah, totally.

520
00:31:23,850 --> 00:31:27,990
I totally sort of divorced
myself from my real self

521
00:31:27,990 --> 00:31:29,910

and chatted with them.

522
00:31:29,910 --> 00:31:41,090
And later on I think
I felt sort of elation

523
00:31:41,090 --> 00:31:47,000
that I was able to
put up such a front.

524
00:31:47,000 --> 00:31:49,660

525
00:31:49,660 --> 00:31:51,620
I mean, this whole--

526
00:31:51,620 --> 00:31:54,290
in the beginning, I
changed [INAUDIBLE]

527
00:31:54,290 --> 00:31:55,610
in the later part of the war.

528
00:31:55,610 --> 00:31:59,270
In the beginning, this
whole life of deception

529
00:31:59,270 --> 00:32:04,130
sort of had some tremendous
attraction for me.

530
00:32:04,130 --> 00:32:07,700
Now it sounds almost
childish, but I felt somewhat

531
00:32:07,700 --> 00:32:13,160
like a secret agent
in enemy territory

532
00:32:13,160 --> 00:32:18,650
trying to pretend and
something that wasn't the case

533

00:32:18,650 --> 00:32:20,660
and fooling all the enemies.

534

00:32:20,660 --> 00:32:23,595
But there certainly is
an element of risk there?

535

00:32:23,595 --> 00:32:24,490
Yes?

536

00:32:24,490 --> 00:32:26,510
Well, the element of
risk was there anyway.

537

00:32:26,510 --> 00:32:31,570
I mean, there-- but, I mean,
after having lived by that time

538

00:32:31,570 --> 00:32:35,590
a year and a half before we
went underground with the threat

539

00:32:35,590 --> 00:32:36,940
of deportation--

540

00:32:36,940 --> 00:32:39,640
which was a constant
risk and something that

541

00:32:39,640 --> 00:32:42,670
was out of my control, even--

542

00:32:42,670 --> 00:32:47,590
I felt like a free person then.

543

00:32:47,590 --> 00:32:49,910
Did anybody there know
of your situation--

544

00:32:49,910 --> 00:32:50,410
No.

545

00:32:50,410 --> 00:32:52,200

--other the person
whose house it was?

546

00:32:52,200 --> 00:32:52,700

No.

547

00:32:52,700 --> 00:32:55,390

And she wasn't really
known too well.

548

00:32:55,390 --> 00:32:58,120

She had just bought
it a year before

549

00:32:58,120 --> 00:33:00,070

and was there a few times.

550

00:33:00,070 --> 00:33:04,660

So she obviously knew us,
but, no, nobody else knew us.

551

00:33:04,660 --> 00:33:07,720

During this period,
were you in contact

552

00:33:07,720 --> 00:33:10,190

with other Jewish people
who had gone underground?

553

00:33:10,190 --> 00:33:11,380

Yeah.

554

00:33:11,380 --> 00:33:13,040

Right.

555

00:33:13,040 --> 00:33:14,890

There was one fellow--

556

00:33:14,890 --> 00:33:16,660

actually, he was an
interesting fellow.

557
00:33:16,660 --> 00:33:19,330
Unfortunately, I lost contact
with him after the war.

558
00:33:19,330 --> 00:33:22,750
His name was Heinz Jacobius.

559
00:33:22,750 --> 00:33:30,010
He was the most versatile
person, underground Jew,

560
00:33:30,010 --> 00:33:31,490
that I encountered.

561
00:33:31,490 --> 00:33:37,510
He lived in the middle of the
city with an Aryan girlfriend.

562
00:33:37,510 --> 00:33:40,660
And of course, he also
was not registered.

563
00:33:40,660 --> 00:33:43,330
In the city, it was
even more complicated

564
00:33:43,330 --> 00:33:45,190
than in the country
where we were

565
00:33:45,190 --> 00:33:48,550
because the janitors
of buildings,

566
00:33:48,550 --> 00:33:53,980
sort of, were legally obligated
to see to it that every tenant

567
00:33:53,980 --> 00:33:56,560
was registered with the police.

568

00:33:56,560 --> 00:33:59,380
In fact, he had to countersign
the registration form

569
00:33:59,380 --> 00:34:00,880
that one he had to fill out.

570
00:34:00,880 --> 00:34:04,870
And if somebody
regularly comes by,

571
00:34:04,870 --> 00:34:07,340
the janitor was
supposed to watch out.

572
00:34:07,340 --> 00:34:09,280
So they were somewhat
like spies also.

573
00:34:09,280 --> 00:34:12,699
They were supposed to notice
it and report that person.

574
00:34:12,699 --> 00:34:17,860
But that Heinz Jacobius, he
was a tremendous black market

575
00:34:17,860 --> 00:34:20,830
artist, and he just
fed that janitor

576
00:34:20,830 --> 00:34:25,960
so well that he surely had no
interest in killing the goose

577
00:34:25,960 --> 00:34:29,500
that laid his golden eggs.

578
00:34:29,500 --> 00:34:30,460
Yeah.

579
00:34:30,460 --> 00:34:35,139
Actually, and then his house

was hit by incendiary bombs

580
00:34:35,139 --> 00:34:36,520
during an air raid.

581
00:34:36,520 --> 00:34:40,179
And of course, that scared him
because if that house would

582
00:34:40,179 --> 00:34:46,449
have burned down, then
that would have destroyed

583
00:34:46,449 --> 00:34:47,860
the whole arrangement.

584
00:34:47,860 --> 00:34:51,310
And during wartime,
incidentally,

585
00:34:51,310 --> 00:34:57,700
the fire department-- and
that was made known also--

586
00:34:57,700 --> 00:35:00,670
never did anything
to protect or put out

587
00:35:00,670 --> 00:35:03,370
fires in ordinary
apartment houses

588
00:35:03,370 --> 00:35:08,680
because they were needed
for war, important objects,

589
00:35:08,680 --> 00:35:12,130
either government or military
installations and so on.

590
00:35:12,130 --> 00:35:13,990
And so the whole
population had been

591

00:35:13,990 --> 00:35:17,590

trained in extinguishing fires.

592

00:35:17,590 --> 00:35:21,850

And he apparently distinguished himself, went out of his way--

593

00:35:21,850 --> 00:35:24,130

and I don't know whatever he did--

594

00:35:24,130 --> 00:35:27,370

that, anyway, the local party organization

595

00:35:27,370 --> 00:35:30,700

gave him a special order of merit

596

00:35:30,700 --> 00:35:36,160

that people got for going out of their way,

597

00:35:36,160 --> 00:35:39,100

beyond the call of duty in putting out

598

00:35:39,100 --> 00:35:41,230

the fire, which they did.

599

00:35:41,230 --> 00:35:46,900

The reason I asked you about your knowledge of other Jews

600

00:35:46,900 --> 00:35:49,930

who had gone underground, is I was wondering whether there

601

00:35:49,930 --> 00:35:53,860

was any sort of informal network for information

602

00:35:53,860 --> 00:35:58,300

purposes for any sort
of political or sabotage

603

00:35:58,300 --> 00:36:00,400

purposes or anything else.

604

00:36:00,400 --> 00:36:04,840

No, I mean, there was what you
might call an informal network.

605

00:36:04,840 --> 00:36:08,800

I knew some, and then
others knew some others.

606

00:36:08,800 --> 00:36:14,800

But it had nothing to do at all
with any attempt at sabotage.

607

00:36:14,800 --> 00:36:20,440

We were totally devoted to only
surviving and not being caught.

608

00:36:20,440 --> 00:36:23,986

I mean, sabotage would have
endangered us even more.

609

00:36:23,986 --> 00:36:27,280

But what about access
to information?

610

00:36:27,280 --> 00:36:30,050

Yeah, well that's
what that served.

611

00:36:30,050 --> 00:36:35,722

But on the other hand, you had
to be very careful if you--

612

00:36:35,722 --> 00:36:37,930

I'm coming to something that
I haven't mentioned yet,

613

00:36:37,930 --> 00:36:41,890

but the Gestapo employed
a number of Jewish spies.

614

00:36:41,890 --> 00:36:46,210

And if you met a
Jew whom you had not

615

00:36:46,210 --> 00:36:49,510

seen on a, more or
less, continuous basis,

616

00:36:49,510 --> 00:36:53,020

you didn't know whether
that person was legitimately

617

00:36:53,020 --> 00:36:54,280

underground--

618

00:36:54,280 --> 00:36:59,440

like I was-- or whether that was
a spy working for the Gestapo

619

00:36:59,440 --> 00:37:02,560

and ready to hand me over.

620

00:37:02,560 --> 00:37:08,170

So for that reason,
the unwritten law

621

00:37:08,170 --> 00:37:13,630

was, first of all you did
not disclose to anyone where

622

00:37:13,630 --> 00:37:14,770

you lived.

623

00:37:14,770 --> 00:37:18,070

And secondly, if you
met somebody, say just

624

00:37:18,070 --> 00:37:21,280

on the street,
from earlier times,

625
00:37:21,280 --> 00:37:23,320
you would try to
avoid that person.

626
00:37:23,320 --> 00:37:31,440

627
00:37:31,440 --> 00:37:35,840
This is tape four, side B, of an
interview with Ernest Fontheim.

628
00:37:35,840 --> 00:37:40,580
It is March 13, 1997.

629
00:37:40,580 --> 00:37:42,200
The interviewer
is Randy Goldman.

630
00:37:42,200 --> 00:37:45,530

631
00:37:45,530 --> 00:37:48,360
Another important
aspect of our stay

632
00:37:48,360 --> 00:37:52,590
there was the total
change in lifestyle.

633
00:37:52,590 --> 00:37:55,320
I mean, I was even
in the apartment

634
00:37:55,320 --> 00:38:00,600
where we were forced into
in this Jewish house.

635
00:38:00,600 --> 00:38:03,390
We had running water.

636

00:38:03,390 --> 00:38:07,200

We had running
water toilets, even

637

00:38:07,200 --> 00:38:11,850

running hot water,
central heating, and all

638

00:38:11,850 --> 00:38:12,810

these amenities.

639

00:38:12,810 --> 00:38:15,340

640

00:38:15,340 --> 00:38:19,470

And suddenly, from
one day to the next,

641

00:38:19,470 --> 00:38:21,630

transferred into that
primitive cottage.

642

00:38:21,630 --> 00:38:24,450

It was a tremendous,
I don't know,

643

00:38:24,450 --> 00:38:26,250

culture shock is
probably the wrong word.

644

00:38:26,250 --> 00:38:31,620

So living style shock
would be probably better.

645

00:38:31,620 --> 00:38:36,150

We had to, as I said, get our
water from a pump outside.

646

00:38:36,150 --> 00:38:38,280

And we learned
that if it freezes,

647

00:38:38,280 --> 00:38:40,470
then the pump
freezes, and we had

648
00:38:40,470 --> 00:38:44,190
to do all kinds of shenanigans
to unfreeze the pump,

649
00:38:44,190 --> 00:38:50,850
like pouring hot water
through a priming hole.

650
00:38:50,850 --> 00:38:54,240
We had, obviously,
no water toilet,

651
00:38:54,240 --> 00:38:57,210
but an outhouse which was
very primitive and in winter

652
00:38:57,210 --> 00:38:59,430
very cold.

653
00:38:59,430 --> 00:39:02,820
And as I also said, there
was of course no electricity.

654
00:39:02,820 --> 00:39:07,140
We had, for a lot of
money, to buy petroleum

655
00:39:07,140 --> 00:39:10,560
on the black market to
run one petroleum lamp,

656
00:39:10,560 --> 00:39:16,740
and also had candles, which
we had to pay a lot of money.

657
00:39:16,740 --> 00:39:21,870
And so it was a total
change in lifestyle,

658

00:39:21,870 --> 00:39:24,960
and I found that at
the time very romantic

659
00:39:24,960 --> 00:39:30,120
and felt that living in a
big city apartment house

660
00:39:30,120 --> 00:39:32,340
with running water
and central heating

661
00:39:32,340 --> 00:39:34,200
made us only degenerate.

662
00:39:34,200 --> 00:39:37,320
And now, at least,
these horrible times

663
00:39:37,320 --> 00:39:41,220
had one advantage-- they
make us return to nature

664
00:39:41,220 --> 00:39:44,350
and that we really
appreciate what is heat.

665
00:39:44,350 --> 00:39:51,630
Heat is not just some pipes that
radiate heat, but in our case,

666
00:39:51,630 --> 00:39:57,360
wood has had to be cut with
an ax and with hard work.

667
00:39:57,360 --> 00:39:59,280
And that's how you
create your heat.

668
00:39:59,280 --> 00:40:02,670
And water had to be
obtained from a pump,

669

00:40:02,670 --> 00:40:05,270
and sometimes you
had to unfreeze it.

670
00:40:05,270 --> 00:40:10,080
And I remember at the
time, I was very romantic

671
00:40:10,080 --> 00:40:11,050
about all of this.

672
00:40:11,050 --> 00:40:13,410
And thought I was
a great thing that

673
00:40:13,410 --> 00:40:18,210
was happening to me that I was
returning to nature, some form.

674
00:40:18,210 --> 00:40:22,110

675
00:40:22,110 --> 00:40:24,240
OK, let me see.

676
00:40:24,240 --> 00:40:27,870
Yeah, I had mentioned
earlier also

677
00:40:27,870 --> 00:40:31,350
these so-called black
accounts that my father

678
00:40:31,350 --> 00:40:33,300
had with various people.

679
00:40:33,300 --> 00:40:36,480
Now, it turned out that
the black market prices

680
00:40:36,480 --> 00:40:38,130
were continuously increasing.

681

00:40:38,130 --> 00:40:41,040

There was an inflation
even in the black market.

682

00:40:41,040 --> 00:40:46,410

And so I was aware of the
fact, a fixed sum of money

683

00:40:46,410 --> 00:40:49,440

would shrink in purchasing
power over the years.

684

00:40:49,440 --> 00:40:52,650

And I wanted to avoid that.

685

00:40:52,650 --> 00:40:59,220

So the money, which I had
with that former client,

686

00:40:59,220 --> 00:41:02,250

a furrier, client
of my father, I

687

00:41:02,250 --> 00:41:07,950

decided to invest in something
that would keep its value,

688

00:41:07,950 --> 00:41:12,420

at least would increase
with inflation-- they would

689

00:41:12,420 --> 00:41:14,340

keep its purchasing power.

690

00:41:14,340 --> 00:41:17,850

And through a friend,
I had the opportunity

691

00:41:17,850 --> 00:41:29,040

to buy a women's evening
handbag made out of high carat

692

00:41:29,040 --> 00:41:35,310
gold and platinum, little
elements like in the chain.

693
00:41:35,310 --> 00:41:42,520
And for that handbag, I
paid 12,000 Reichsmark.

694
00:41:42,520 --> 00:41:45,030
And then I gave it
back to the furrier

695
00:41:45,030 --> 00:41:47,290
because I didn't want
to have it for fear

696
00:41:47,290 --> 00:41:48,980
of something happening.

697
00:41:48,980 --> 00:41:52,410
And so he kept it.

698
00:41:52,410 --> 00:41:57,480
But he also offered me to
do some work on his estate.

699
00:41:57,480 --> 00:42:00,810
He had a fantastic
estate outside

700
00:42:00,810 --> 00:42:04,950
of Berlin, East of Berlin,
in a very fancy area

701
00:42:04,950 --> 00:42:07,030
with big mansions.

702
00:42:07,030 --> 00:42:11,800
And he said he needed
any way some workers,

703
00:42:11,800 --> 00:42:18,250
and if I came he would feed me

for the day and pay me also.

704

00:42:18,250 --> 00:42:22,030

And in addition, he also
dealt on a large scale

705

00:42:22,030 --> 00:42:23,260

in black market.

706

00:42:23,260 --> 00:42:24,700

There would be
always some things

707

00:42:24,700 --> 00:42:27,080

that he could give me along.

708

00:42:27,080 --> 00:42:29,830

So once a week, I went
out to his estate.

709

00:42:29,830 --> 00:42:35,680

Now, on the estate, he had
actually three workers already.

710

00:42:35,680 --> 00:42:38,200

One was a Polish couple.

711

00:42:38,200 --> 00:42:39,820

They were real peasants.

712

00:42:39,820 --> 00:42:45,370

And in fact, he detailed
me to that Polish guy.

713

00:42:45,370 --> 00:42:47,000

And he told me what to do.

714

00:42:47,000 --> 00:42:51,040

And his wife was, I
think, sort of a cleaning

715

00:42:51,040 --> 00:42:52,400

woman in this house.

716
00:42:52,400 --> 00:42:57,350
And then he had a single
Polish girl, a young woman.

717
00:42:57,350 --> 00:42:58,930
Her name was Maria.

718
00:42:58,930 --> 00:43:04,060
And she was the cook and
also, sort of, homemaker.

719
00:43:04,060 --> 00:43:07,630
And incidentally, I
have to add, that he

720
00:43:07,630 --> 00:43:12,610
had all these workers was only
a result of his connections.

721
00:43:12,610 --> 00:43:18,430
I said earlier, he
supplied Goring with furs,

722
00:43:18,430 --> 00:43:22,390
because according to
the law at that time,

723
00:43:22,390 --> 00:43:27,940
forced foreign laborers could be
used only in either agriculture

724
00:43:27,940 --> 00:43:30,460
or defense plants.

725
00:43:30,460 --> 00:43:34,270
And agriculture meant
not for the people

726
00:43:34,270 --> 00:43:36,910
for their own
backyards, as he did,

727

00:43:36,910 --> 00:43:38,710

but agriculture
in the sense these

728

00:43:38,710 --> 00:43:42,620

were suppliers of food
for the population.

729

00:43:42,620 --> 00:43:47,140

So he was legally not entitled
to them, but had them anyway.

730

00:43:47,140 --> 00:43:50,230

But I mean, the
system under the Nazis

731

00:43:50,230 --> 00:43:52,210

was shot through
with corruption,

732

00:43:52,210 --> 00:43:56,140

and anyone could get
anything he wanted.

733

00:43:56,140 --> 00:43:58,810

And incidentally, the
film Schindler's List

734

00:43:58,810 --> 00:44:03,070

is an excellent example of how
Schindler, even in Auschwitz,

735

00:44:03,070 --> 00:44:07,890

with a number of diamonds
gets his workers out

736

00:44:07,890 --> 00:44:10,000

of the concentration camp again.

737

00:44:10,000 --> 00:44:13,120

738

00:44:13,120 --> 00:44:16,320

So as I said, I went
there once a week

739

00:44:16,320 --> 00:44:20,070

and worked under the supervision
of the Polish peasant.

740

00:44:20,070 --> 00:44:24,390

And that peasant, he
talked German haltingly,

741

00:44:24,390 --> 00:44:25,560

but fairly well.

742

00:44:25,560 --> 00:44:29,910

And he was obsessed because
he was a great Polish patriot.

743

00:44:29,910 --> 00:44:34,260

And he was obsessed
with, I mean,

744

00:44:34,260 --> 00:44:39,060

the terrible fate of Poland.

745

00:44:39,060 --> 00:44:45,180

And in his theory, the cause for
the terrible fate of Poland--

746

00:44:45,180 --> 00:44:46,680

it had two causes.

747

00:44:46,680 --> 00:44:49,440

One was the communists
or the Soviets,

748

00:44:49,440 --> 00:44:51,630

and the other one was the Jews.

749

00:44:51,630 --> 00:44:54,780

The Germans for

some reason never

750
00:44:54,780 --> 00:44:57,210
occurred to him,
even though they

751
00:44:57,210 --> 00:44:59,400
were the ones to attack Poland.

752
00:44:59,400 --> 00:45:04,260
And so I had to listen to
his anti-Semitic tirades

753
00:45:04,260 --> 00:45:08,880
and sort of appear
to agree with him.

754
00:45:08,880 --> 00:45:13,260
And another aspect there
was that Maria, the maid,

755
00:45:13,260 --> 00:45:16,530
every time when I
was ready to leave,

756
00:45:16,530 --> 00:45:23,880
she called me to her room to
give me some food and also

757
00:45:23,880 --> 00:45:27,120
something to eat right there
and something to take along.

758
00:45:27,120 --> 00:45:33,390
And I was convinced that
she must be secretly

759
00:45:33,390 --> 00:45:34,890
in love with me,
but I didn't want

760
00:45:34,890 --> 00:45:37,360
to have anything to do with

her, I mean, for many reasons.

761

00:45:37,360 --> 00:45:39,060

First of all, I wasn't
attracted to her.

762

00:45:39,060 --> 00:45:43,410

And secondly, I felt any
involvement of that kind

763

00:45:43,410 --> 00:45:44,640

can only be dangerous.

764

00:45:44,640 --> 00:45:47,410

765

00:45:47,410 --> 00:45:49,890

One of the other
underground friends--

766

00:45:49,890 --> 00:45:53,340

we had a whole circle of
people who were underground,

767

00:45:53,340 --> 00:45:56,370

not a circle in the sense that
we actually lived together,

768

00:45:56,370 --> 00:45:58,620

but we kept in touch
with each other.

769

00:45:58,620 --> 00:46:02,880

And one of them was a fellow
from my high school graduating

770

00:46:02,880 --> 00:46:03,690

class.

771

00:46:03,690 --> 00:46:06,900

His name was Gerd Cohn.

772

00:46:06,900 --> 00:46:11,820
He lived also with
non-Jewish girlfriend,

773
00:46:11,820 --> 00:46:16,080
and he had all kinds of
contacts also for black market

774
00:46:16,080 --> 00:46:20,660
foods and necessities.

775
00:46:20,660 --> 00:46:26,210
And one day, he
told me that he met

776
00:46:26,210 --> 00:46:29,360
a group of foreign
forced laborers

777
00:46:29,360 --> 00:46:34,490
who were a tremendous
source of black market food.

778
00:46:34,490 --> 00:46:37,880
And in fact, there
was a plant somewhere

779
00:46:37,880 --> 00:46:42,270
to illegally slaughter a pig
and sell it off by the way.

780
00:46:42,270 --> 00:46:45,620

781
00:46:45,620 --> 00:46:46,970
He was going there.

782
00:46:46,970 --> 00:46:49,160
He had to commit
himself, however,

783
00:46:49,160 --> 00:46:52,820
to a given amount

of pounds of meat.

784

00:46:52,820 --> 00:46:58,970

And I discussed it at home, and
I gave him a certain order--

785

00:46:58,970 --> 00:47:00,200

I forgot what it was--

786

00:47:00,200 --> 00:47:02,120

x number of pounds.

787

00:47:02,120 --> 00:47:06,620

And incidentally, the listener
to that will from that,

788

00:47:06,620 --> 00:47:10,800

I guess, gather that I don't
eat kosher, which is true.

789

00:47:10,800 --> 00:47:14,360

I never did eat kosher, and
actually I always enjoyed ham.

790

00:47:14,360 --> 00:47:17,360

But at that point,
we didn't even

791

00:47:17,360 --> 00:47:23,300

have the luxury of
being very choosy.

792

00:47:23,300 --> 00:47:28,540

Anyway, to make a
long story short,

793

00:47:28,540 --> 00:47:30,970

on the appointed day
when I was supposed

794

00:47:30,970 --> 00:47:37,450

to come to pick up the meat,
his girlfriend was in hysterics.

795
00:47:37,450 --> 00:47:38,320
He didn't come back.

796
00:47:38,320 --> 00:47:42,610

797
00:47:42,610 --> 00:47:45,490
And the next day he
didn't come back either.

798
00:47:45,490 --> 00:47:47,000
And of course,
there was no way--

799
00:47:47,000 --> 00:47:48,940
where do you go to find out?

800
00:47:48,940 --> 00:47:54,010
Now, this other underground
Jewish friend of mine,

801
00:47:54,010 --> 00:48:00,820
whom I had mentioned
earlier, Heinz Jacobius, who

802
00:48:00,820 --> 00:48:06,280
also did all kinds of
things in the underground--

803
00:48:06,280 --> 00:48:10,300
he had some sort of a line--

804
00:48:10,300 --> 00:48:13,330
and I didn't know what it
was, really-- to the Gestapo,

805
00:48:13,330 --> 00:48:15,430
where he could find out things.

806
00:48:15,430 --> 00:48:20,920
And I asked him to make some

inquiries whether this Gerd

807

00:48:20,920 --> 00:48:22,420

Cohn ever appeared.

808

00:48:22,420 --> 00:48:26,770

The thing is that all Jews who
were arrested for deportation

809

00:48:26,770 --> 00:48:29,680

ultimately wound up
in the transit camp.

810

00:48:29,680 --> 00:48:34,455

And he made those inquiries,
and there was no Gerd Cohn

811

00:48:34,455 --> 00:48:36,730

who ever appeared there.

812

00:48:36,730 --> 00:48:39,520

So it was clear
that he must have

813

00:48:39,520 --> 00:48:41,380

been the victim of a crime.

814

00:48:41,380 --> 00:48:48,100

And there was actually a
German newspaper article

815

00:48:48,100 --> 00:48:52,900

about two weeks later or
so that a torso with a head

816

00:48:52,900 --> 00:48:55,850

missing and the hands missing.

817

00:48:55,850 --> 00:48:58,180

And these would be the
identifiers, the hands,

818

00:48:58,180 --> 00:49:00,730
because of the fingerprints,
and obviously they

819
00:49:00,730 --> 00:49:02,470
had because of the
facial features.

820
00:49:02,470 --> 00:49:05,350
It was found
floating in a river.

821
00:49:05,350 --> 00:49:11,200
Oh yeah, and the article
mentioned a certain scar--

822
00:49:11,200 --> 00:49:13,420
I forgot from some operation--

823
00:49:13,420 --> 00:49:17,980
and friends of his knew
that he had such a scar.

824
00:49:17,980 --> 00:49:22,750
So apparently, he must have
had some horrible fate.

825
00:49:22,750 --> 00:49:27,160
And the suspicion was that these
foreign laborers, apparently--

826
00:49:27,160 --> 00:49:30,460
He had, first of all, a large
amount of money with him

827
00:49:30,460 --> 00:49:35,830
to purchase that large amount
of meat that he had ordered.

828
00:49:35,830 --> 00:49:39,670
And in addition to that, he
had some excellent forged ID,

829

00:49:39,670 --> 00:49:42,520
which could always be
reforged into a different name

830
00:49:42,520 --> 00:49:46,600
or different picture
and maybe other things

831
00:49:46,600 --> 00:49:48,670
that we were of
value to those guys.

832
00:49:48,670 --> 00:49:52,900
So the opinion among people who
knew him and the circumstances

833
00:49:52,900 --> 00:49:57,640
was that this was a trap.

834
00:49:57,640 --> 00:50:00,940
There never was
a pig and that he

835
00:50:00,940 --> 00:50:04,730
was murdered-- that he
was lured into that trap

836
00:50:04,730 --> 00:50:06,570
and lost his life that way.

837
00:50:06,570 --> 00:50:07,705
A horrible fate.

838
00:50:07,705 --> 00:50:10,060
Let me ask you something,
since you had mentioned

839
00:50:10,060 --> 00:50:14,830
a few minutes ago, that most
people who were arrested

840
00:50:14,830 --> 00:50:17,290
went initially to transit camp.

841
00:50:17,290 --> 00:50:18,190
Yeah.

842
00:50:18,190 --> 00:50:24,130
Were there random crimes
or murders by the SS

843
00:50:24,130 --> 00:50:31,290
or against Jews, or was it all
done in an organized fashion?

844
00:50:31,290 --> 00:50:32,350
No, they actually--

845
00:50:32,350 --> 00:50:33,103
Deportation?

846
00:50:33,103 --> 00:50:34,480
Yeah, no, that's
a good question.

847
00:50:34,480 --> 00:50:39,700
No, the Germans somehow
abhor random violence.

848
00:50:39,700 --> 00:50:41,950
And in fact, the
Kristallnacht even,

849
00:50:41,950 --> 00:50:45,880
which was a case
of random violence,

850
00:50:45,880 --> 00:50:52,160
was criticized within the
Nazi circles very much.

851
00:50:52,160 --> 00:50:56,140
In fact, actually at
the ministerial meeting,

852

00:50:56,140 --> 00:50:58,720
the cabinet meeting,
two days afterwards,

853
00:50:58,720 --> 00:51:02,860
Goring severely
criticized, I think

854
00:51:02,860 --> 00:51:09,070
Goebbels was mainly behind that,
because of all the destruction.

855
00:51:09,070 --> 00:51:13,540
It turned out that
the kind of glass

856
00:51:13,540 --> 00:51:18,610
that is used for shop windows
was, at that time, a glass

857
00:51:18,610 --> 00:51:20,200
that was not even
made in Germany.

858
00:51:20,200 --> 00:51:21,735
They had to buy it in Belgium.

859
00:51:21,735 --> 00:51:25,180
It meant they had to
use foreign exchange.

860
00:51:25,180 --> 00:51:28,220
And then Goring turned
to Goebbels and said,

861
00:51:28,220 --> 00:51:30,910
it would have been better if
you would have killed a few more

862
00:51:30,910 --> 00:51:34,630
hundred Jews rather than cause
all of that destruction which

863

00:51:34,630 --> 00:51:36,740
now we have to, you know.

864
00:51:36,740 --> 00:51:39,400

865
00:51:39,400 --> 00:51:43,501
Anyway, to come back
specifically to your question,

866
00:51:43,501 --> 00:51:46,440
that process was very orderly.

867
00:51:46,440 --> 00:51:48,410
The Jew was arrested.

868
00:51:48,410 --> 00:51:51,970
He was put into that camp until
enough people were together

869
00:51:51,970 --> 00:51:55,330
to put together a transport,
and then they were shipped off.

870
00:51:55,330 --> 00:51:57,400
I mean, they may have
been beaten up maybe

871
00:51:57,400 --> 00:52:01,150
in some sadistic urge
by some SS men, but--

872
00:52:01,150 --> 00:52:04,390
But this isn't in
camps or ghettos

873
00:52:04,390 --> 00:52:06,220
where if you said
something wrong,

874
00:52:06,220 --> 00:52:07,480
you could have been shot?

875

00:52:07,480 --> 00:52:09,820

This didn't really
happen in Berlin?

876

00:52:09,820 --> 00:52:12,910

No, I mean, if you
did something wrong,

877

00:52:12,910 --> 00:52:15,730

I mean, they had a
bunker there, which

878

00:52:15,730 --> 00:52:19,790

was a nickname for
part of the basement.

879

00:52:19,790 --> 00:52:23,930

I think it was only four feet
high and only a few square

880

00:52:23,930 --> 00:52:24,430

feet.

881

00:52:24,430 --> 00:52:27,160

People were put
in as punishment,

882

00:52:27,160 --> 00:52:31,740

particularly if there
were escape attempts,

883

00:52:31,740 --> 00:52:33,900

that sort of thing.

884

00:52:33,900 --> 00:52:38,500

But they were not shot randomly
like you saw on the film

885

00:52:38,500 --> 00:52:40,470

in Schindler's List.

886

00:52:40,470 --> 00:52:44,650

That was not-- they were always
shipped for orderly killing.

887
00:52:44,650 --> 00:52:53,270

888
00:52:53,270 --> 00:52:55,300
Let me see.

889
00:52:55,300 --> 00:52:59,810
Yeah, I had mentioned
already that if one

890
00:52:59,810 --> 00:53:05,870
met some Jewish person in the
underground who one hadn't seen

891
00:53:05,870 --> 00:53:09,560
for a long time, the
initial reaction was always

892
00:53:09,560 --> 00:53:11,390
to be suspicious.

893
00:53:11,390 --> 00:53:14,360
Coming now probably
to the saddest chapter

894
00:53:14,360 --> 00:53:17,390
of the underground, and these
are the Jewish catchers,

895
00:53:17,390 --> 00:53:20,240
or spies.

896
00:53:20,240 --> 00:53:25,340
The Gestapo kept a
small herd of them.

897
00:53:25,340 --> 00:53:28,520
And they operated also
out of the transit camp.

898

00:53:28,520 --> 00:53:32,180

Incidentally, the transit camp
had shifted in the meantime.

899

00:53:32,180 --> 00:53:34,790

It was no longer in
the old age home.

900

00:53:34,790 --> 00:53:36,770

I think the old
age home was then

901

00:53:36,770 --> 00:53:40,100

used for other
governmental purposes.

902

00:53:40,100 --> 00:53:44,180

And the transit camp was
shifted to the Jewish hospital

903

00:53:44,180 --> 00:53:51,680

of Berlin, which was then the
last Jewish-owned building

904

00:53:51,680 --> 00:53:52,790

in the city.

905

00:53:52,790 --> 00:53:56,090

And part of one
wing of the hospital

906

00:53:56,090 --> 00:54:00,380

was turned over to the Gestapo
to maintain the transit camp.

907

00:54:00,380 --> 00:54:06,020

And the spies also had their
rooms in that transit camp.

908

00:54:06,020 --> 00:54:10,970

And they lived there, but
they could come and go

909

00:54:10,970 --> 00:54:12,530
as they wanted, of course.

910

00:54:12,530 --> 00:54:15,050
And more importantly,
they obviously

911

00:54:15,050 --> 00:54:18,200
didn't wear the yellow
star as they normally

912

00:54:18,200 --> 00:54:20,520
would have had to.

913

00:54:20,520 --> 00:54:26,770
And their task was to
track down other Jews who

914

00:54:26,770 --> 00:54:27,810
were underground.

915

00:54:27,810 --> 00:54:31,150
And the sad story is
that first of all,

916

00:54:31,150 --> 00:54:35,850
they were incredibly more
effective than the Gestapo

917

00:54:35,850 --> 00:54:40,290
because the Gestapo basically,
in tracking down a Jew,

918

00:54:40,290 --> 00:54:45,750
was sort of like a blind person
trying to find something.

919

00:54:45,750 --> 00:54:47,610
They had really
nothing to go by,

920

00:54:47,610 --> 00:54:53,250

while the spies, all of them
had themselves been underground

921
00:54:53,250 --> 00:54:54,870
and hadn't been caught.

922
00:54:54,870 --> 00:55:00,660
They knew many of the tricks
and trades of underground Jews.

923
00:55:00,660 --> 00:55:03,100
They knew where to
go to and so on.

924
00:55:03,100 --> 00:55:04,770
And they had a much better nose.

925
00:55:04,770 --> 00:55:09,420
Plus many of them of course knew
other underground Jews anyway

926
00:55:09,420 --> 00:55:13,830
and would just give those
names to the Gestapo.

927
00:55:13,830 --> 00:55:17,630
Now, the most notorious
of these was a woman.

928
00:55:17,630 --> 00:55:21,480
Her maiden name was
Stella Goldschlag

929
00:55:21,480 --> 00:55:24,740
And unfortunately, I
knew her fairly well.

930
00:55:24,740 --> 00:55:27,510

931
00:55:27,510 --> 00:55:29,970
Part of the time that
I was at Seimens,

932
00:55:29,970 --> 00:55:32,160
she also worked for Seimens.

933
00:55:32,160 --> 00:55:37,380
At that time she was married
to a man whose last name was

934
00:55:37,380 --> 00:55:39,870
KÃ¼bler, so then her
name was Stella KÃ¼bler.

935
00:55:39,870 --> 00:55:42,570

936
00:55:42,570 --> 00:55:46,350
Stella was a strikingly
beautiful woman.

937
00:55:46,350 --> 00:55:54,150
She was tall, slender, had long,
golden blond locks, wavy hair,

938
00:55:54,150 --> 00:55:58,590
and blue eyes, and
a very pretty face.

939
00:55:58,590 --> 00:56:01,740

940
00:56:01,740 --> 00:56:06,120
At Seimens also she was sort
of the center of attention.

941
00:56:06,120 --> 00:56:10,050
I came to know her even though
she was not in my department

942
00:56:10,050 --> 00:56:11,210
but in a different one.

943
00:56:11,210 --> 00:56:14,760

In fact, she was in the same department where some members

944
00:56:14,760 --> 00:56:16,740
of the Baum group--

945
00:56:16,740 --> 00:56:19,500
this underground Jewish communist group--

946
00:56:19,500 --> 00:56:23,010
were working that I had mentioned earlier.

947
00:56:23,010 --> 00:56:26,610
But in my class, in the orthodox school

948
00:56:26,610 --> 00:56:32,190
that I went to in the '30s, was a boy named Klaus Goldschlag.

949
00:56:32,190 --> 00:56:34,270
In fact, I remembered him very well.

950
00:56:34,270 --> 00:56:36,630
He was a top student in our class.

951
00:56:36,630 --> 00:56:40,260
And I know he left and emigrated to Canada.

952
00:56:40,260 --> 00:56:43,860
And Goldschlag is not exactly a common name,

953
00:56:43,860 --> 00:56:47,220
so when I met her first I asked her

954
00:56:47,220 --> 00:56:48,903

whether she is related to him.

955

00:56:48,903 --> 00:56:50,820

And then she said that
yeah that's her cousin.

956

00:56:50,820 --> 00:56:55,980

And so we talked several
times about him, and then

957

00:56:55,980 --> 00:56:59,640

also sometimes
about other things.

958

00:56:59,640 --> 00:57:02,630

But otherwise I had not
much in common with them.

959

00:57:02,630 --> 00:57:05,930

I don't think she
had, to my knowledge,

960

00:57:05,930 --> 00:57:08,780

any intellectual interests
or music interests.

961

00:57:08,780 --> 00:57:13,550

And the circles that
I circulated in,

962

00:57:13,550 --> 00:57:15,710

she surely did not belong to.

963

00:57:15,710 --> 00:57:19,850

But through the mouth
radio, sometime in the maybe

964

00:57:19,850 --> 00:57:24,020

mid-'43, I heard that she
is working for the Gestapo

965

00:57:24,020 --> 00:57:29,210

as a catcher and that

really scared me.

966

00:57:29,210 --> 00:57:39,560

And in fact, I know that at one point I almost encountered her.

967

00:57:39,560 --> 00:57:41,350

What happened was the following thing.

968

00:57:41,350 --> 00:57:44,000

Even in walking around in Berlin,

969

00:57:44,000 --> 00:57:48,560

I developed various strategies to avoid being recognized.

970

00:57:48,560 --> 00:57:52,980

And one was, in a big city, of course,

971

00:57:52,980 --> 00:57:56,360

there's a lot of pedestrian traffic, people

972

00:57:56,360 --> 00:57:58,650

walking this way, people walking that way.

973

00:57:58,650 --> 00:58:02,690

And when I walked down a street, I

974

00:58:02,690 --> 00:58:06,140

would look at the faces of the people

975

00:58:06,140 --> 00:58:08,090

not who would just be in front of me,

976

00:58:08,090 --> 00:58:12,590

but three or four
people down behind them,

977
00:58:12,590 --> 00:58:17,690
so that I could possibly
recognize others before I

978
00:58:17,690 --> 00:58:20,630
was recognized by them.

979
00:58:20,630 --> 00:58:21,380
That was one.

980
00:58:21,380 --> 00:58:24,260
The other strategy
was that I always

981
00:58:24,260 --> 00:58:27,080
had a handkerchief at hand.

982
00:58:27,080 --> 00:58:31,160
And if some real
emergency arose,

983
00:58:31,160 --> 00:58:36,170
I would pretend to have to
blow my nose, but in such a way

984
00:58:36,170 --> 00:58:40,310
that I covered most of my
face with my handkerchief,

985
00:58:40,310 --> 00:58:43,620
and I wouldn't be
recognizable that way.

986
00:58:43,620 --> 00:58:46,380
So one day, I was
walking down the street--

987
00:58:46,380 --> 00:58:50,390
I even remember the name,
Pfalzburger Strasse--

988
00:58:50,390 --> 00:58:54,950
and I saw, again looking
back several people

989
00:58:54,950 --> 00:58:57,680
beyond the one that
immediately faced me,

990
00:58:57,680 --> 00:59:00,170
and I saw what
seemed to be Stella.

991
00:59:00,170 --> 00:59:03,800
I couldn't 100% identify
her, but obviously I

992
00:59:03,800 --> 00:59:09,020
didn't want to take a
chance to get closer to her.

993
00:59:09,020 --> 00:59:13,940
I immediately decided turning
around or running away

994
00:59:13,940 --> 00:59:15,710
would be the worst thing to do.

995
00:59:15,710 --> 00:59:17,510
And I was lucky.

996
00:59:17,510 --> 00:59:21,200
Just at that point
where I recognized her,

997
00:59:21,200 --> 00:59:26,060
I passed a store, so I just
went into the store pretending--

998
00:59:26,060 --> 00:59:28,640
and I remember it
was a green grocer,

999

00:59:28,640 --> 00:59:33,620

so he had potatoes, vegetables,
and things like that.

1000

00:59:33,620 --> 00:59:36,110

And I turned my
back to the window

1001

00:59:36,110 --> 00:59:41,510

and pretended to look at
various items in the store.

1002

00:59:41,510 --> 00:59:44,990

For a while, the saleswoman,
or probably the owner,

1003

00:59:44,990 --> 00:59:46,830

already asked me what I wanted.

1004

00:59:46,830 --> 00:59:50,930

And I said, well, I just want
to see what you have and so on.

1005

00:59:50,930 --> 00:59:53,480

And then after quite
a while, after she

1006

00:59:53,480 --> 00:59:58,340

must have long passed, I
excused myself and looked out,

1007

00:59:58,340 --> 00:59:59,950

and she was gone.

1008

00:59:59,950 --> 01:00:03,140

1009

01:00:03,140 --> 01:00:05,300

I mean, there has been a
book written about her,

1010

01:00:05,300 --> 01:00:12,680

and she has really caused
the deaths of many people.

1011
01:00:12,680 --> 01:00:17,990
Now, she was, after the wars,
tried in a German court, where

1012
01:00:17,990 --> 01:00:23,150
first she was tried by the
Russians who everybody hoped

1013
01:00:23,150 --> 01:00:24,980
would just finish her off.

1014
01:00:24,980 --> 01:00:29,480
Instead they gave her just
a 10-year sentence from '46

1015
01:00:29,480 --> 01:00:30,890
to '56.

1016
01:00:30,890 --> 01:00:34,490
Then she reappeared,
and then there

1017
01:00:34,490 --> 01:00:40,050
was an unbelievable clamor
for her to be put away.

1018
01:00:40,050 --> 01:00:44,360
And then the Germans
meticulously said, well,

1019
01:00:44,360 --> 01:00:48,050
a person cannot be tried
for the same crime twice.

1020
01:00:48,050 --> 01:00:51,260
But they were in the
meantime, many other arrests

1021
01:00:51,260 --> 01:00:58,370
that she made which had not been

covered by the Soviet trial.

1022
01:00:58,370 --> 01:01:04,310
And she was then
tried for those cases,

1023
01:01:04,310 --> 01:01:07,550
and then she was found guilty.

1024
01:01:07,550 --> 01:01:10,460
And the judge gave
her another 10 years.

1025
01:01:10,460 --> 01:01:14,180
But applying the 10
years that she already

1026
01:01:14,180 --> 01:01:19,640
served under the Soviets,
she was immediately set free.

1027
01:01:19,640 --> 01:01:23,540
And it is known that she lives
now under an assumed name

1028
01:01:23,540 --> 01:01:26,840
somewhere in West Germany.

1029
01:01:26,840 --> 01:01:28,000
That is some of the worst.

1030
01:01:28,000 --> 01:01:31,850
And she should have been done
away with, preferably hanged,

1031
01:01:31,850 --> 01:01:34,550
immediately after the war.

1032
01:01:34,550 --> 01:01:38,450
Supposedly, after some
research that other people did,

1033

01:01:38,450 --> 01:01:41,960
she is guilty of
hundreds of lives

1034
01:01:41,960 --> 01:01:46,236
that she gave over
to the Gestapo.

1035
01:01:46,236 --> 01:01:47,885
Let me ask you a
few questions here.

1036
01:01:47,885 --> 01:01:51,580

1037
01:01:51,580 --> 01:01:53,693
Do you think that while
you were working together

1038
01:01:53,693 --> 01:01:56,110
at Seimens that she was involved
in this kind of activity?

1039
01:01:56,110 --> 01:01:57,130
No, not at all.

1040
01:01:57,130 --> 01:01:57,965
It was later?

1041
01:01:57,965 --> 01:01:59,800
It was later, yeah.

1042
01:01:59,800 --> 01:02:00,970
She--

1043
01:02:00,970 --> 01:02:03,700
What sorts of stories
did you hear at the time

1044
01:02:03,700 --> 01:02:05,042
about what she was doing?

1045

01:02:05,042 --> 01:02:06,500
What kinds of things
was she doing?

1046
01:02:06,500 --> 01:02:11,320
Well, I mean, what she was
doing was to walk around Berlin,

1047
01:02:11,320 --> 01:02:15,040
and she knew where
Jews were likely to go.

1048
01:02:15,040 --> 01:02:20,140
And for example, it became
known that a very safe place

1049
01:02:20,140 --> 01:02:23,740
was, of all places,
the Berlin State Opera.

1050
01:02:23,740 --> 01:02:26,720
And the Gestapo would
never bother with that.

1051
01:02:26,720 --> 01:02:30,340
And most Jews were
music lovers, so you

1052
01:02:30,340 --> 01:02:33,460
could have a pleasant evening
even listening to good music

1053
01:02:33,460 --> 01:02:35,980
and be safe.

1054
01:02:35,980 --> 01:02:38,590
The problem was that
Stella knew that, too.

1055
01:02:38,590 --> 01:02:40,960
So she appeared there
one day, and they

1056

01:02:40,960 --> 01:02:46,090
arrested the whole family
of a middle-aged couple

1057
01:02:46,090 --> 01:02:51,370
and teenage son, or something.

1058
01:02:51,370 --> 01:02:52,780
That was exactly the--

1059
01:02:52,780 --> 01:02:55,660
And she would pull--

1060
01:02:55,660 --> 01:02:58,930
She had a small revolver
that she would pull on people

1061
01:02:58,930 --> 01:03:00,760
if they didn't exactly--

1062
01:03:00,760 --> 01:03:03,190
And then one person
tried to run away,

1063
01:03:03,190 --> 01:03:06,490
and she shouted,
stop him, it's a Jew.

1064
01:03:06,490 --> 01:03:10,080
And there were some men who
just grabbed that person.

1065
01:03:10,080 --> 01:03:15,630

1066
01:03:15,630 --> 01:03:18,270
You knew her a little bit.

1067
01:03:18,270 --> 01:03:21,780
What motivated her to
do such evil things?

1068

01:03:21,780 --> 01:03:23,120
What was it about her?

1069
01:03:23,120 --> 01:03:23,966
What was she like?

1070
01:03:23,966 --> 01:03:25,088
What was about her?

1071
01:03:25,088 --> 01:03:26,130
It was self-preservation.

1072
01:03:26,130 --> 01:03:28,830
I mean, that's how she
survived the war, I mean,

1073
01:03:28,830 --> 01:03:30,580
by having others killed.

1074
01:03:30,580 --> 01:03:32,940
Now, as she claimed
after the war

1075
01:03:32,940 --> 01:03:36,080
also that she did it mainly
to protect her parents.

1076
01:03:36,080 --> 01:03:39,690
Yeah, well she had
a bargain initially

1077
01:03:39,690 --> 01:03:46,080
with the Gestapo and SS official
who commanded the transit camp.

1078
01:03:46,080 --> 01:03:50,950
And the bargain was that
her parents could stay also.

1079
01:03:50,950 --> 01:03:52,350
They got a room there.

1080

01:03:52,350 --> 01:03:54,600
And they could stay
there with her.

1081
01:03:54,600 --> 01:03:56,310
She was an only child.

1082
01:03:56,310 --> 01:04:00,360
And then at some point--

1083
01:04:00,360 --> 01:04:01,530
I forgot when that was.

1084
01:04:01,530 --> 01:04:05,370
I think late '43,
maybe early '44.

1085
01:04:05,370 --> 01:04:09,540
The Gestapo told
her that they can't

1086
01:04:09,540 --> 01:04:11,220
protect the parents any longer.

1087
01:04:11,220 --> 01:04:16,410
And then she
managed to have them

1088
01:04:16,410 --> 01:04:21,120
transported to Theresienstadt
instead of to Auschwitz.

1089
01:04:21,120 --> 01:04:24,150
But they were then transitioned
later to Auschwitz.

1090
01:04:24,150 --> 01:04:27,060
I mean, the parents are
sort of a tragic thing.

1091
01:04:27,060 --> 01:04:32,850
I mean, they can't be blamed
for what the daughter did.

1092

01:04:32,850 --> 01:04:38,130
But she maintained her own life
that way, by killing others.

1093

01:04:38,130 --> 01:04:41,940
Now, there were many other
people-- a good friend of mine,

1094

01:04:41,940 --> 01:04:47,310
Ismar Reich, who was
underground and was caught.

1095

01:04:47,310 --> 01:04:50,310
And he was immediately
offered freedom

1096

01:04:50,310 --> 01:04:52,440
if he could name some others.

1097

01:04:52,440 --> 01:04:54,840
And he simply refused.

1098

01:04:54,840 --> 01:04:56,370
And he said he
wasn't even beaten.

1099

01:04:56,370 --> 01:04:57,870
I mean, it was fine.

1100

01:04:57,870 --> 01:04:58,620
You don't want to?

1101

01:04:58,620 --> 01:04:59,040
Fine.

1102

01:04:59,040 --> 01:04:59,873
You go to Auschwitz.

1103

01:04:59,873 --> 01:05:03,030
Now, he was a very
clever, resourceful guy.

1104
01:05:03,030 --> 01:05:07,410
He was with some friends
there, and somehow they

1105
01:05:07,410 --> 01:05:11,790
succeeded in smuggling
some tools with them.

1106
01:05:11,790 --> 01:05:17,130
And then why the train
rolled, they started to saw--

1107
01:05:17,130 --> 01:05:20,820
these freight trains are
basically wooden siding.

1108
01:05:20,820 --> 01:05:24,870
They sawed some
planks off, and when

1109
01:05:24,870 --> 01:05:28,140
the train slowed down
somewhere, they jumped out

1110
01:05:28,140 --> 01:05:30,600
and saved themselves that way.

1111
01:05:30,600 --> 01:05:34,680
Were there a great
number of these catchers?

1112
01:05:34,680 --> 01:05:36,570
I mean, too many probably.

1113
01:05:36,570 --> 01:05:40,950
I don't know how many,
but maybe 10, 15 or so.

1114
01:05:40,950 --> 01:05:42,420
But you knew of others?

1115

01:05:42,420 --> 01:05:43,110
Yeah, oh yeah.

1116
01:05:43,110 --> 01:05:45,030
There were others, too.

1117
01:05:45,030 --> 01:05:48,630
Maybe this is a point
where I might indicate

1118
01:05:48,630 --> 01:05:51,670
an incident that we had.

1119
01:05:51,670 --> 01:05:54,690
We decided that
in the long run it

1120
01:05:54,690 --> 01:05:59,350
may not be safe if we stayed
just at one point all the time.

1121
01:05:59,350 --> 01:06:05,460
So we decided we ought to
look for a substitute place,

1122
01:06:05,460 --> 01:06:07,830
in case we had to leave.

1123
01:06:07,830 --> 01:06:11,040
So I contacted--

1124
01:06:11,040 --> 01:06:14,250
I'm not sure whether I
mentioned that, or maybe I did,

1125
01:06:14,250 --> 01:06:18,150
my father's, one of his
clients, were members

1126
01:06:18,150 --> 01:06:21,180
of the Hohenzollern family.

1127

01:06:21,180 --> 01:06:24,075
It was actually
the sister-in-law

1128
01:06:24,075 --> 01:06:27,480
of the last German
Kaiser and her son.

1129
01:06:27,480 --> 01:06:34,510
And they had an estate halfway
between Berlin and Potsdam,

1130
01:06:34,510 --> 01:06:37,200
a suburb which used
to be the summer

1131
01:06:37,200 --> 01:06:41,130
residence of Persian kings.

1132
01:06:41,130 --> 01:06:45,210
And they were very good
friends of our family.

1133
01:06:45,210 --> 01:06:49,920
And we made an appointment
and Margot, her mother,

1134
01:06:49,920 --> 01:06:53,340
and I went there and discussed.

1135
01:06:53,340 --> 01:06:57,300
And I knew apparently something,
that she had separate servant's

1136
01:06:57,300 --> 01:06:58,890
quarters somewhere.

1137
01:06:58,890 --> 01:07:02,910
And I discussed with
her the possibility

1138
01:07:02,910 --> 01:07:05,460
whether there might

be some place for us

1139

01:07:05,460 --> 01:07:11,180

to spend maybe not long
periods, but maybe a week

1140

01:07:11,180 --> 01:07:12,680

or so at a time.

1141

01:07:12,680 --> 01:07:15,620

And it was somewhat
inconclusive and so on.

1142

01:07:15,620 --> 01:07:18,230

I mean, she also had to
be careful, obviously.

1143

01:07:18,230 --> 01:07:21,590

So on the way back from there--

1144

01:07:21,590 --> 01:07:25,340

that estate was off
of a country road

1145

01:07:25,340 --> 01:07:30,620

connecting Berlin and Potsdam
and where a bus only came,

1146

01:07:30,620 --> 01:07:33,200

I don't know, once every
hour, if that much.

1147

01:07:33,200 --> 01:07:37,490

And we knew when
the bus was coming

1148

01:07:37,490 --> 01:07:40,310

and maybe there was another
half hour left, or so.

1149

01:07:40,310 --> 01:07:42,590

And there was a
little country inn,

1150
01:07:42,590 --> 01:07:47,810
and we did have also
illegally-obtained ration

1151
01:07:47,810 --> 01:07:50,720
coupons, so why don't
we go in and then

1152
01:07:50,720 --> 01:07:56,750
maybe have a piece of cake and
a cup of coffee and talk there.

1153
01:07:56,750 --> 01:08:02,780
So we went in, and Margot's
mother immediately-- there

1154
01:08:02,780 --> 01:08:04,640
was a revolving
door, I remember.

1155
01:08:04,640 --> 01:08:07,400
You go through the revolving
door and then you walk in.

1156
01:08:07,400 --> 01:08:12,290
She, instead of walking in,
right away revolved back out.

1157
01:08:12,290 --> 01:08:15,710
And that immediately
rang a bell,

1158
01:08:15,710 --> 01:08:19,370
so I didn't ask any question,
and then Margot didn't either.

1159
01:08:19,370 --> 01:08:23,270
We immediately revolved
out, and then the mother

1160
01:08:23,270 --> 01:08:26,720
said that there was a couple

sitting that she knew.

1161
01:08:26,720 --> 01:08:28,550
They were Jews.

1162
01:08:28,550 --> 01:08:32,359
She doesn't know what their
background-- who they are.

1163
01:08:32,359 --> 01:08:34,910
But one has to be careful.

1164
01:08:34,910 --> 01:08:39,350
So we walked out, and then
walked along and decided maybe

1165
01:08:39,350 --> 01:08:42,200
to walk to the next
bus stop in order not

1166
01:08:42,200 --> 01:08:44,279
to wait right in front there.

1167
01:08:44,279 --> 01:08:47,120
And as we walked, and we
walked fairly briskly,

1168
01:08:47,120 --> 01:08:50,960
we heard footsteps coming
from behind, closing in.

1169
01:08:50,960 --> 01:08:53,060
And it was the man.

1170
01:08:53,060 --> 01:08:59,180
And he said he saw us come in,
and he had the impression maybe

1171
01:08:59,180 --> 01:09:03,130
we were afraid of him,
but there was no reason.

1172

01:09:03,130 --> 01:09:04,399
We shouldn't be afraid.

1173
01:09:04,399 --> 01:09:07,640
He is himself in hiding.

1174
01:09:07,640 --> 01:09:10,609
And we should just
feel free to come in.

1175
01:09:10,609 --> 01:09:12,710
That of course was
a giveaway already.

1176
01:09:12,710 --> 01:09:16,880
No Jew at that time would have
told somebody else whom he

1177
01:09:16,880 --> 01:09:20,090
hadn't known-- like, he
didn't even know me--

1178
01:09:20,090 --> 01:09:24,680
that he was in hiding.

1179
01:09:24,680 --> 01:09:27,920
He should have been
as mistrustful of me

1180
01:09:27,920 --> 01:09:29,630
as I would have been of him.

1181
01:09:29,630 --> 01:09:33,200
Anyway, he implored
us to come back,

1182
01:09:33,200 --> 01:09:38,810
and we just refused, and
as an excuse we gave,

1183
01:09:38,810 --> 01:09:41,720
we only discovered that
we are actually late.

1184
01:09:41,720 --> 01:09:44,990
We have to get back to
Berlin to meet somebody,

1185
01:09:44,990 --> 01:09:47,040
or some excuse like that.

1186
01:09:47,040 --> 01:09:52,100
And we were walking
to the next bus stop.

1187
01:09:52,100 --> 01:09:56,730
And the man then gave up and
returned to the restaurant

1188
01:09:56,730 --> 01:10:00,220
where there was actually the
previous bus stop was there.

1189
01:10:00,220 --> 01:10:04,170
And we were hurrying up
because it was already getting

1190
01:10:04,170 --> 01:10:06,210
the time for the bus to come.

1191
01:10:06,210 --> 01:10:11,130
And we were still some distance
away from the next bus stop,

1192
01:10:11,130 --> 01:10:13,230
when we saw the bus coming.

1193
01:10:13,230 --> 01:10:18,600
And so we speeded
up, but never made.

1194
01:10:18,600 --> 01:10:20,460
But as the bus passed us--

1195
01:10:20,460 --> 01:10:23,820

in those days, buses were
not closed where you entered.

1196
01:10:23,820 --> 01:10:25,140
It was sort of open.

1197
01:10:25,140 --> 01:10:27,840
And there was an open
platform at the back.

1198
01:10:27,840 --> 01:10:34,020
And as the bus passed us, we saw
that man standing on that bus,

1199
01:10:34,020 --> 01:10:38,400
so then it was obvious that
he was trying to follow us

1200
01:10:38,400 --> 01:10:41,940
and was to trying to take
the same bus with us.

1201
01:10:41,940 --> 01:10:45,840
So we were glad we didn't
make it to the next stop.

1202
01:10:45,840 --> 01:10:48,570
Instead, after the
bus had cleared there,

1203
01:10:48,570 --> 01:10:52,600
we walked off this country road.

1204
01:10:52,600 --> 01:10:53,670
There was a forest.

1205
01:10:53,670 --> 01:10:59,130
Now, I had the basic map of
Berlin fairly well in my head.

1206
01:10:59,130 --> 01:11:02,280
We didn't have a map
along because it didn't

1207
01:11:02,280 --> 01:11:04,050
occur to us that we needed one.

1208
01:11:04,050 --> 01:11:06,330
But I knew that in
the direction that we

1209
01:11:06,330 --> 01:11:09,190
walked-- that was walking
east from there, just

1210
01:11:09,190 --> 01:11:10,080
through forest.

1211
01:11:10,080 --> 01:11:12,600
I mean, it may have
been several miles--

1212
01:11:12,600 --> 01:11:17,730
we would come to a
suburban commuter line

1213
01:11:17,730 --> 01:11:21,030
where you could catch a
train because we were sure

1214
01:11:21,030 --> 01:11:23,040
that if we would have
taken the next bus,

1215
01:11:23,040 --> 01:11:29,010
he would have alerted police
at the next suburban station

1216
01:11:29,010 --> 01:11:31,110
for that line, which
was actually Wannsee.

1217
01:11:31,110 --> 01:11:33,690

1218

01:11:33,690 --> 01:11:34,680
So that's what we did.

1219
01:11:34,680 --> 01:11:37,710
We walked for hours
through the forest,

1220
01:11:37,710 --> 01:11:40,320
roughly keeping
in the direction,

1221
01:11:40,320 --> 01:11:43,740
until we came to that
suburban line, which

1222
01:11:43,740 --> 01:11:45,030
was a totally different line.

1223
01:11:45,030 --> 01:11:49,410
And there we boarded
the train and got back.

1224
01:11:49,410 --> 01:11:53,010
But such incidents,
I mean, of that kind

1225
01:11:53,010 --> 01:11:55,990
happened fairly frequently.

1226
01:11:55,990 --> 01:11:58,010
Another incident that
just occurred to me

1227
01:11:58,010 --> 01:12:02,700
now was for heating our stove.

1228
01:12:02,700 --> 01:12:05,910
Of course, we bought
firewood which was expensive,

1229
01:12:05,910 --> 01:12:07,260
and even some coal.

1230

01:12:07,260 --> 01:12:12,660

And in addition to that, I
went and collected dead wood

1231

01:12:12,660 --> 01:12:16,570

branches from the forest
around that village there.

1232

01:12:16,570 --> 01:12:23,370

And even for that one,
needed an official permission

1233

01:12:23,370 --> 01:12:25,560

of the forestry department.

1234

01:12:25,560 --> 01:12:26,430

I still have that.

1235

01:12:26,430 --> 01:12:28,710

It's almost like a joke.

1236

01:12:28,710 --> 01:12:33,930

It permits the bearer, Gunter
Hesse-- it was my name then--

1237

01:12:33,930 --> 01:12:39,240

to collect dead branches
that are lying on the floor.

1238

01:12:39,240 --> 01:12:42,840

But of course I didn't confine
myself to dead branches.

1239

01:12:42,840 --> 01:12:49,710

I often just broke off live
branches and even small trees,

1240

01:12:49,710 --> 01:12:53,460

and we would then
hack them into pieces

1241

01:12:53,460 --> 01:12:59,860

and let them dry out before
using them in our oven.

1242
01:12:59,860 --> 01:13:05,890
The problem was that I was
once observed by the Forester,

1243
01:13:05,890 --> 01:13:07,040
but he didn't stop me.

1244
01:13:07,040 --> 01:13:08,440
I never saw him, even.

1245
01:13:08,440 --> 01:13:10,180
And he didn't stop
me, and so I didn't

1246
01:13:10,180 --> 01:13:11,920
know that I was observed.

1247
01:13:11,920 --> 01:13:16,240
But one of the settlers
in our settlement

1248
01:13:16,240 --> 01:13:19,420
was a good friend of his.

1249
01:13:19,420 --> 01:13:22,210
And the Forester
told him that he

1250
01:13:22,210 --> 01:13:29,410
noticed that I was violating
the law and taking live branches

1251
01:13:29,410 --> 01:13:31,570
and he would have to report me.

1252
01:13:31,570 --> 01:13:34,360
Now, basically that
was probably a kind

1253

01:13:34,360 --> 01:13:36,290
of offense with a little fine.

1254
01:13:36,290 --> 01:13:38,560
But the problem was,
if it was reported,

1255
01:13:38,560 --> 01:13:42,040
I didn't exist legally, and
that would have immediately

1256
01:13:42,040 --> 01:13:47,320
endangered our existence there.

1257
01:13:47,320 --> 01:13:51,250
But we had a tremendous
source for cigarettes.

1258
01:13:51,250 --> 01:13:53,350
Cigarettes were of
course rationed.

1259
01:13:53,350 --> 01:13:55,960
Margot's father
was a chain smoker,

1260
01:13:55,960 --> 01:13:59,620
and so he spent a lot of
his money on cigarettes.

1261
01:13:59,620 --> 01:14:04,450
And he went to
that other settler

1262
01:14:04,450 --> 01:14:09,430
and told them again a lie story.

1263
01:14:09,430 --> 01:14:13,870
I mean, the story was that
if I got fined for that,

1264
01:14:13,870 --> 01:14:17,380
then my military

exemption will immediately

1265
01:14:17,380 --> 01:14:19,150
be taken away from
me, and I'd be

1266
01:14:19,150 --> 01:14:20,890
shipped to the Eastern Front.

1267
01:14:20,890 --> 01:14:23,320
And by that time,
the Eastern Front

1268
01:14:23,320 --> 01:14:27,320
was by everyone considered
sort of like a death sentence.

1269
01:14:27,320 --> 01:14:30,200
And people had
understanding for that.

1270
01:14:30,200 --> 01:14:33,940
And if he can do
something about it,

1271
01:14:33,940 --> 01:14:38,110
we'll supply the necessary
cartons of cigarettes.

1272
01:14:38,110 --> 01:14:40,720
And the Forester
had a certain price.

1273
01:14:40,720 --> 01:14:43,690
I forgot what it
was, several cartons.

1274
01:14:43,690 --> 01:14:48,870
And of course, the guy
had to get his cut, too.

1275
01:14:48,870 --> 01:14:52,840
And in this way

we avoided that I

1276

01:14:52,840 --> 01:15:00,940
was cited for that offense
of taking live branches.

1277

01:15:00,940 --> 01:15:03,580
And then another
incident occurred, once

1278

01:15:03,580 --> 01:15:07,870
in splitting wood with our ax.

1279

01:15:07,870 --> 01:15:16,330
We didn't really have a proper
base for splitting wood,

1280

01:15:16,330 --> 01:15:21,520
but just sort of a
relatively soft wood stump.

1281

01:15:21,520 --> 01:15:28,360
And once, when I
apparently hit the wood

1282

01:15:28,360 --> 01:15:32,610
that I wanted to split
particularly hard,

1283

01:15:32,610 --> 01:15:35,830
I split not only the
wood but also the stump,

1284

01:15:35,830 --> 01:15:40,600
and the ax went right
into my foot at my ankle.

1285

01:15:40,600 --> 01:15:44,170
And there was a really
big, open wound,

1286

01:15:44,170 --> 01:15:47,290
which obviously, first of

all needed to be sewn up.

1287
01:15:47,290 --> 01:15:51,190
And secondly, also
probably my bone

1288
01:15:51,190 --> 01:15:55,580
would have had to be X-rayed
in case the bone was damaged.

1289
01:15:55,580 --> 01:15:59,320
So one of the neighbors
there who had a car,

1290
01:15:59,320 --> 01:16:01,900
drove me to the
nearest hospital.

1291
01:16:01,900 --> 01:16:04,930
And then, of course,
we were afraid.

1292
01:16:04,930 --> 01:16:07,480
If they say I have
to stay overnight,

1293
01:16:07,480 --> 01:16:12,830
then again there was a need
for identification and so on.

1294
01:16:12,830 --> 01:16:15,970
So I was X-rayed, and
fortunately, they discovered

1295
01:16:15,970 --> 01:16:18,600
that the bone wasn't damaged.

1296
01:16:18,600 --> 01:16:21,000