

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,150

2
00:00:01,150 --> 00:00:05,530
This is tape 3, side A of
an interview with Ernest

3
00:00:05,530 --> 00:00:09,370
Fontheim on June 4, 1997.

4
00:00:09,370 --> 00:00:12,925
The interviewer
is Randy Goldman.

5
00:00:12,925 --> 00:00:15,050
OK.

6
00:00:15,050 --> 00:00:15,550
Yeah.

7
00:00:15,550 --> 00:00:20,590
So, um-- I mean, we
were not exactly excited

8
00:00:20,590 --> 00:00:24,010
by this prospect,
particularly since we figured

9
00:00:24,010 --> 00:00:27,280
if they need us here
to load their truck,

10
00:00:27,280 --> 00:00:29,740
somewhere they must
have a railroad

11
00:00:29,740 --> 00:00:32,170
siding where the
truck then has to be

12
00:00:32,170 --> 00:00:33,760

unloaded into railroad cars.

13
00:00:33,760 --> 00:00:36,540
And we didn't want
to be taken there.

14
00:00:36,540 --> 00:00:39,610
Now again, I had [CHUCKLES]
a really unbelievable stroke

15
00:00:39,610 --> 00:00:40,360
of luck.

16
00:00:40,360 --> 00:00:43,750
It turns out that one of
the nurses in that hospital

17
00:00:43,750 --> 00:00:46,060
was a nurse who--

18
00:00:46,060 --> 00:00:48,880
at one time, my
grandmother had--

19
00:00:48,880 --> 00:00:52,000
I forgot for what
reason, my grandmother

20
00:00:52,000 --> 00:00:55,460
was paralyzed towards the
last years of her life.

21
00:00:55,460 --> 00:00:59,110
And anyway, she knew me
and she knew our family.

22
00:00:59,110 --> 00:01:03,430
And so I told her-- we
had a chance to chat,

23
00:01:03,430 --> 00:01:06,520
and then she told us to--

24

00:01:06,520 --> 00:01:10,180
when we co-- to bring down know
whatever we were taking down--

25

00:01:10,180 --> 00:01:11,720
told to take down.

26

00:01:11,720 --> 00:01:15,560
And when we come up to see
her in a certain room number.

27

00:01:15,560 --> 00:01:17,260
So that's where we went.

28

00:01:17,260 --> 00:01:22,240
And then she conducted
us to some rear staircase

29

00:01:22,240 --> 00:01:25,420
in the rear of the building
that the Russians apparently

30

00:01:25,420 --> 00:01:28,000
hadn't been aware
of, and which led out

31

00:01:28,000 --> 00:01:33,370
some rear door to a side street
away from that main highway.

32

00:01:33,370 --> 00:01:36,790
And then she told us to
walk down that street

33

00:01:36,790 --> 00:01:40,000
several blocks, and then
turn right, and to--

34

00:01:40,000 --> 00:01:42,820
where we come back again
to the main highway,

35

00:01:42,820 --> 00:01:46,750
but sort of out of sight
of those guards there.

36
00:01:46,750 --> 00:01:49,790
So that's what we did.

37
00:01:49,790 --> 00:01:51,520
OK, then we continued.

38
00:01:51,520 --> 00:01:56,130
And then when we came to
Berlin, I went with my--

39
00:01:56,130 --> 00:02:00,790
with Margaret's father
to the city office where

40
00:02:00,790 --> 00:02:04,840
I had been a few days before,
and we were given the list.

41
00:02:04,840 --> 00:02:07,675
And then we started to look
at one or two apartments,

42
00:02:07,675 --> 00:02:09,789
and actually liked one.

43
00:02:09,789 --> 00:02:12,820
There was a mother with--

44
00:02:12,820 --> 00:02:16,640
I guess she must have been
probably late 30s, maybe

45
00:02:16,640 --> 00:02:20,140
around 40, with two
relatively small children.

46
00:02:20,140 --> 00:02:22,550
Maybe sort of-- around--

47

00:02:22,550 --> 00:02:24,340
maybe a young teenager.

48

00:02:24,340 --> 00:02:29,390
I think a boy around 13, and
a girl a few years younger.

49

00:02:29,390 --> 00:02:34,060
And we identified ourselves
as-- that we are Jews,

50

00:02:34,060 --> 00:02:38,680
and that the Nazis are
taking everything we--

51

00:02:38,680 --> 00:02:39,180
away.

52

00:02:39,180 --> 00:02:40,270
Oh yeah, by the way--

53

00:02:40,270 --> 00:02:41,680
I'm sorry, I have to back up.

54

00:02:41,680 --> 00:02:47,740
The official in the City
Hall also told us that the--

55

00:02:47,740 --> 00:02:51,400
people whose
apartments are vacated

56

00:02:51,400 --> 00:02:55,730
are not permitted to take
anything with them unless we

57

00:02:55,730 --> 00:02:57,620
give special permission.

58

00:02:57,620 --> 00:03:02,470
And then Margaret's father sort
of conducted the conversation.

59

00:03:02,470 --> 00:03:07,120

And he told her that we are,
of course, not like the Nazis,

60

00:03:07,120 --> 00:03:09,010

and any personal--

61

00:03:09,010 --> 00:03:11,920

I mean, we don't
want our clothing,

62

00:03:11,920 --> 00:03:16,870

or that of other family
members, and/or personal items.

63

00:03:16,870 --> 00:03:23,110

But all furnishings or kitchen
utensils and those things

64

00:03:23,110 --> 00:03:26,510

have to stay in the apartment.

65

00:03:26,510 --> 00:03:29,440

And we do it sort
of on an honor code,

66

00:03:29,440 --> 00:03:33,560

and we'll be back the next
morning to claim the apartment.

67

00:03:33,560 --> 00:03:34,480

So that's what we did.

68

00:03:34,480 --> 00:03:40,130

We came back the next
morning, got the set of keys,

69

00:03:40,130 --> 00:03:43,270

and then took possession
of the apartment.

70

00:03:43,270 --> 00:03:49,300
And then I think
through Major Shike

71
00:03:49,300 --> 00:03:54,550
or somehow we got a
Russian military truck

72
00:03:54,550 --> 00:03:58,120
to take us along who was
going to Berlin anyway, also

73
00:03:58,120 --> 00:03:59,110
with all our luggage.

74
00:03:59,110 --> 00:04:00,710
I mean, you couldn't have--

75
00:04:00,710 --> 00:04:01,210
yeah.

76
00:04:01,210 --> 00:04:03,820
I mean, I skipped
several things.

77
00:04:03,820 --> 00:04:06,400
When I said-- discussed
when we suddenly

78
00:04:06,400 --> 00:04:09,760
had to leave that
village there overnight

79
00:04:09,760 --> 00:04:13,720
and we hid all of our
suitcases in the shed

80
00:04:13,720 --> 00:04:17,700
of this elderly couple, Dwuzul.

81
00:04:17,700 --> 00:04:19,550
I don't whether I
mentioned their name,

82

00:04:19,550 --> 00:04:20,740

but their name is Dwuzul.

83

00:04:20,740 --> 00:04:27,370

Anyway, I picked those
up by meeting them

84

00:04:27,370 --> 00:04:29,290

at a certain railroad station.

85

00:04:29,290 --> 00:04:33,800

So we had all our things
with us by that time.

86

00:04:33,800 --> 00:04:36,160

And of course,
there was no way how

87

00:04:36,160 --> 00:04:40,630

we could have gotten to Berlin
with all that stuff if we--

88

00:04:40,630 --> 00:04:43,090

so anyway, that's
how we got to Berlin.

89

00:04:43,090 --> 00:04:52,980

And then one sort of
interesting after-development, I

90

00:04:52,980 --> 00:04:58,690

had discussed quite a bit
earlier the former client

91

00:04:58,690 --> 00:05:01,870

of my father who
was also a furrier,

92

00:05:01,870 --> 00:05:07,200

and where I went to work
once a week on his estate,

93

00:05:07,200 --> 00:05:10,030

sort of as a gardener
in the fields.

94

00:05:10,030 --> 00:05:14,860

And I mentioned that he had
three Polish forced laborers

95

00:05:14,860 --> 00:05:15,460

there.

96

00:05:15,460 --> 00:05:19,360

A Polish couple, and then
a single woman Maria,

97

00:05:19,360 --> 00:05:24,100

who always, every time I
came, invited me to her home

98

00:05:24,100 --> 00:05:28,850

and fed me and
gave me food alone.

99

00:05:28,850 --> 00:05:31,390

And well, I sort of
suspected that she

100

00:05:31,390 --> 00:05:33,010

might have a crush on me.

101

00:05:33,010 --> 00:05:36,015

Well, when I
visited the furrier,

102

00:05:36,015 --> 00:05:41,260

Walter Lange, after the war,
he told me an amazing story.

103

00:05:41,260 --> 00:05:43,210

He said when the Russians came--

104

00:05:43,210 --> 00:05:46,420

and he lived, of course,
in an area of big mansions.

105
00:05:46,420 --> 00:05:51,040
And they were going everywhere
just emptying places out.

106
00:05:51,040 --> 00:05:57,940
Maria went and sort of got ahold
of the first Russian officer,

107
00:05:57,940 --> 00:06:00,850
and had a long conversation
in Russian with him,

108
00:06:00,850 --> 00:06:05,830
as a result of which the officer
ordered all of his troops

109
00:06:05,830 --> 00:06:07,950
away from his house.

110
00:06:07,950 --> 00:06:10,450
And on and he was--

111
00:06:10,450 --> 00:06:12,190
nothing happened to his place.

112
00:06:12,190 --> 00:06:17,770
And then he asked Maria,
what did you tell them?

113
00:06:17,770 --> 00:06:22,240
And, I told them that you are
one of the few decent Germans,

114
00:06:22,240 --> 00:06:25,960
that you helped enemies
of the regime and Jews.

115
00:06:25,960 --> 00:06:31,510
And then he said,
what Jews did I help?

116
00:06:31,510 --> 00:06:33,340
Well, I went--

117
00:06:33,340 --> 00:06:36,030
I think I mentioned, I went
also under an assumed name.

118
00:06:36,030 --> 00:06:39,310
And the name I used there,
by the way, was Tsarini.

119
00:06:39,310 --> 00:06:41,560
There was some reason
for that, but it

120
00:06:41,560 --> 00:06:44,420
doesn't make a difference here.

121
00:06:44,420 --> 00:06:49,210
And she said, wasn't
Tsarini Jewish?

122
00:06:49,210 --> 00:06:51,490
And he laughed and
said, of course he was.

123
00:06:51,490 --> 00:06:52,870
But how did you know?

124
00:06:52,870 --> 00:06:55,900
Then she said, I know
because I'm Jewish.

125
00:06:55,900 --> 00:06:58,030
My name is not "Maria" at all.

126
00:06:58,030 --> 00:07:00,520
I got Polish papers.

127
00:07:00,520 --> 00:07:04,510
It was better to be deported

to Germany for forced labor

128
00:07:04,510 --> 00:07:07,580
than to some concentration camp.

129
00:07:07,580 --> 00:07:11,460
And I immediately
recognize a Jew.

130
00:07:11,460 --> 00:07:17,200
And when he told me the
story, I felt really dumb.

131
00:07:17,200 --> 00:07:20,800
That is-- that never
occurred to me.

132
00:07:20,800 --> 00:07:22,960
And I often wondered
what became of Maria,

133
00:07:22,960 --> 00:07:25,645
or whatever her real name is.

134
00:07:25,645 --> 00:07:29,884
But it's an
interesting sidelight.

135
00:07:29,884 --> 00:07:31,788
I want to ask you a question.

136
00:07:31,788 --> 00:07:35,600

137
00:07:35,600 --> 00:07:37,430
At what point did
you start hearing

138
00:07:37,430 --> 00:07:39,640
about all of the atrocities?

139
00:07:39,640 --> 00:07:41,120

OK.

140
00:07:41,120 --> 00:07:45,440
In-- we heard from
British Broadcasting, BBC,

141
00:07:45,440 --> 00:07:47,950
that we occasionally--
yeah, they--

142
00:07:47,950 --> 00:07:51,530
we had a chance to listen
to BBC at the house

143
00:07:51,530 --> 00:07:56,090
of this elderly couple,
the Dwuzuls, who are the--

144
00:07:56,090 --> 00:07:58,160
related-- who were
insulted that we

145
00:07:58,160 --> 00:07:59,780
hadn't informed them earlier.

146
00:07:59,780 --> 00:08:01,590
We were-- because they--

147
00:08:01,590 --> 00:08:02,090
we had--

148
00:08:02,090 --> 00:08:04,760
Even before that, when
we still pretended

149
00:08:04,760 --> 00:08:07,640
to be good German
Aryans, we had often

150
00:08:07,640 --> 00:08:11,960
been at their house listening
to foreign broadcasts,

151

00:08:11,960 --> 00:08:15,560
mainly BBC, actually, with them.

152

00:08:15,560 --> 00:08:20,810
And in fact, I have to say that
that was a big morale-booster

153

00:08:20,810 --> 00:08:23,060
just to listen to the BBC.

154

00:08:23,060 --> 00:08:29,030
They did a lot for us just
by having these broadcasts.

155

00:08:29,030 --> 00:08:33,110
And their signal was
always distorted out

156

00:08:33,110 --> 00:08:38,539
with the Morse code
signal for the letter "V"

157

00:08:38,539 --> 00:08:41,309
for "Victory", and
[HAND DRUMMING]..

158

00:08:41,309 --> 00:08:44,030

159

00:08:44,030 --> 00:08:47,030
And by coincidence,
these are also

160

00:08:47,030 --> 00:08:51,180
the first taps of
Beethoven's "Fifth Symphony".

161

00:08:51,180 --> 00:08:58,860
And just listening
to this signal

162

00:08:58,860 --> 00:09:00,980

was already a big
morale-booster.

163
00:09:00,980 --> 00:09:03,710
And of course, we heard
all kinds of stories

164
00:09:03,710 --> 00:09:06,980
that the Nazis kept
from the population.

165
00:09:06,980 --> 00:09:10,220
And of course, as I
had also said before,

166
00:09:10,220 --> 00:09:13,910
that was punishable by
execution if they found out

167
00:09:13,910 --> 00:09:16,940
someone was listening to
foreign radio broadcasts.

168
00:09:16,940 --> 00:09:19,820
So in a way, the Dwuzuls
had a point, you know?

169
00:09:19,820 --> 00:09:22,680
They were totally in
our hands, you know?

170
00:09:22,680 --> 00:09:26,810
We listened to these broadcasts
there was them at their radio.

171
00:09:26,810 --> 00:09:27,802
No, my question is--

172
00:09:27,802 --> 00:09:28,302
Yeah.

173
00:09:28,302 --> 00:09:30,740
--after you were

with the Russians,

174

00:09:30,740 --> 00:09:33,405
did people start streaming back?

175

00:09:33,405 --> 00:09:33,905
Oh, no.

176

00:09:33,905 --> 00:09:35,155
Did you start hearing stories?

177

00:09:35,155 --> 00:09:36,930
No, not-- I mean, all
I was going to say,

178

00:09:36,930 --> 00:09:39,530
that come from the
Brit-- from BBC,

179

00:09:39,530 --> 00:09:41,540
we heard for the
first time, I think

180

00:09:41,540 --> 00:09:43,250
maybe I said that
before already,

181

00:09:43,250 --> 00:09:46,040
that hundreds of thousands
of Jews are being killed.

182

00:09:46,040 --> 00:09:48,460
Then, um-- no.

183

00:09:48,460 --> 00:09:49,830
It took quite a while.

184

00:09:49,830 --> 00:09:53,750
Actually, people
slowly dribbled in.

185

00:09:53,750 --> 00:09:58,520

There was a central
registration place for Jews

186
00:09:58,520 --> 00:10:00,030
right after the war.

187
00:10:00,030 --> 00:10:02,990
In fact, that was at
the Jewish hospital,

188
00:10:02,990 --> 00:10:09,260
which was the last sort of
collection center for Jews

189
00:10:09,260 --> 00:10:10,730
for deportation.

190
00:10:10,730 --> 00:10:13,820
Then that was turned
over, and then

191
00:10:13,820 --> 00:10:16,880
was the first place
where Jews could--

192
00:10:16,880 --> 00:10:20,300
free Jews could collect again.

193
00:10:20,300 --> 00:10:22,115
But since there was
no public transport

194
00:10:22,115 --> 00:10:25,160
and that was at the
opposite end of Berlin,

195
00:10:25,160 --> 00:10:27,890
Templehoff was in the
southern part of Berlin,

196
00:10:27,890 --> 00:10:30,140
and that hospital in
the northern part,

197
00:10:30,140 --> 00:10:32,600
it was a long walk
of many miles.

198
00:10:32,600 --> 00:10:37,490
I went there once a week,
hoping to see a well-known name,

199
00:10:37,490 --> 00:10:39,800
but didn't discover anyone.

200
00:10:39,800 --> 00:10:44,600
The first person who returned,
whom I knew, from Auschwitz,

201
00:10:44,600 --> 00:10:47,610
was a high school friend
of mine who, in fact,

202
00:10:47,610 --> 00:10:50,930
later also came to this
country, and was an-- before his

203
00:10:50,930 --> 00:10:55,040
retirement, a professor of
mathematics at Ohio State

204
00:10:55,040 --> 00:10:58,400
University in Columbus, and--

205
00:10:58,400 --> 00:10:59,720
where he is living now.

206
00:10:59,720 --> 00:11:04,520
But he was in Auschwitz,
and he came back

207
00:11:04,520 --> 00:11:08,720
and he told me basically
a lot of the things-- also

208

00:11:08,720 --> 00:11:11,390
a lot of the things
that Elie Wiesel

209
00:11:11,390 --> 00:11:13,623
discussed in his book Night.

210
00:11:13,623 --> 00:11:16,800

211
00:11:16,800 --> 00:11:22,800
And I mean, the fact
that millions of Jews

212
00:11:22,800 --> 00:11:26,640
had been systematically killed--

213
00:11:26,640 --> 00:11:30,810
I mean, because then also
other Jews came back.

214
00:11:30,810 --> 00:11:32,370
Not just German Jews.

215
00:11:32,370 --> 00:11:36,720
Also East European Jews
who were chased out then

216
00:11:36,720 --> 00:11:39,630
from their own countries,
mainly from Poland.

217
00:11:39,630 --> 00:11:42,510
As you may know, there
were pogroms in Poland

218
00:11:42,510 --> 00:11:44,350
against returning Jews.

219
00:11:44,350 --> 00:11:47,820
And so I don't know
how soon we found out,

220

00:11:47,820 --> 00:11:53,810

but within maybe weeks
or months we found out.

221

00:11:53,810 --> 00:11:59,490

Although-- I mean,
the total extent of it

222

00:11:59,490 --> 00:12:01,050

probably might
have taken longer.

223

00:12:01,050 --> 00:12:02,180

I don't know.

224

00:12:02,180 --> 00:12:03,390

But the stories--

225

00:12:03,390 --> 00:12:03,960

Yeah, right.

226

00:12:03,960 --> 00:12:04,585

How bad it was?

227

00:12:04,585 --> 00:12:05,710

Yeah, right.

228

00:12:05,710 --> 00:12:07,650

That came out.

229

00:12:07,650 --> 00:12:17,220

I would like to make a few
postscript comments concerning

230

00:12:17,220 --> 00:12:21,660

the period of time before
the start of World War II.

231

00:12:21,660 --> 00:12:25,020

Because I remember, you had
also asked me a question,

232

00:12:25,020 --> 00:12:26,880

how that time affected me.

233

00:12:26,880 --> 00:12:29,280

At that time, I was

just a teenager.

234

00:12:29,280 --> 00:12:34,170

And of course, the Nazis were

then in power since 1933.

235

00:12:34,170 --> 00:12:40,380

And what I would like to say

is that there was an increasing

236

00:12:40,380 --> 00:12:44,580

atmosphere of hostility

against the Jews

237

00:12:44,580 --> 00:12:48,940

in all-- in the media, and

in newspapers, and the radio,

238

00:12:48,940 --> 00:12:49,500

and so on.

239

00:12:49,500 --> 00:12:52,270

240

00:12:52,270 --> 00:12:56,130

And we were, I mean, that

I know I discussed also,

241

00:12:56,130 --> 00:13:02,310

pictured as the worst

criminals, and as a--

242

00:13:02,310 --> 00:13:06,000

sort of trying to undermine

the German nation.

243

00:13:06,000 --> 00:13:08,825

244
00:13:08,825 --> 00:13:09,325
Yeah.

245
00:13:09,325 --> 00:13:12,180

246
00:13:12,180 --> 00:13:15,840
For example, one incident in
the apartment building where

247
00:13:15,840 --> 00:13:19,650
we lived, the beautiful one,
we had that large apartment,

248
00:13:19,650 --> 00:13:22,220
there were only two
parties on each floor.

249
00:13:22,220 --> 00:13:24,930
And on the same floor,
there was another couple,

250
00:13:24,930 --> 00:13:26,880
and the husband
was also a lawyer.

251
00:13:26,880 --> 00:13:29,160
But they were
Aryans and Germans.

252
00:13:29,160 --> 00:13:32,110
And they had a daughter,
just one single child.

253
00:13:32,110 --> 00:13:34,320
The daughter, my sister's age.

254
00:13:34,320 --> 00:13:36,210
And the grandmother,
one of the grandmothers,

255

00:13:36,210 --> 00:13:37,620
also lived with them.

256

00:13:37,620 --> 00:13:41,080
And my sister and that girl
were very close friends.

257

00:13:41,080 --> 00:13:42,990
They played together,
and of course, they

258

00:13:42,990 --> 00:13:44,180
went to school together.

259

00:13:44,180 --> 00:13:45,970
Then when they came
to school, and so on.

260

00:13:45,970 --> 00:13:49,530
And one day, the
girl told my sister

261

00:13:49,530 --> 00:13:53,520
that her grandmother had
forbade her from now on

262

00:13:53,520 --> 00:13:55,230
to have a Jewish friend.

263

00:13:55,230 --> 00:13:58,120
So she's sorry, but she
can't come over anymore,

264

00:13:58,120 --> 00:14:00,360
and can't have her over.

265

00:14:00,360 --> 00:14:01,390
Things like that.

266

00:14:01,390 --> 00:14:09,180
Then each apartment building
was assigned a Nazi party

267
00:14:09,180 --> 00:14:11,640
representative
for that building.

268
00:14:11,640 --> 00:14:15,990
And the man who was
representative in our building,

269
00:14:15,990 --> 00:14:20,290
for example, made it a point
whenever we crossed paths

270
00:14:20,290 --> 00:14:22,840
with him, the house
entrance, or the elevator,

271
00:14:22,840 --> 00:14:28,680
or wherever, to ostensibly sort
of look in a very hostile way

272
00:14:28,680 --> 00:14:31,440
and ignoring us,
not greeting us.

273
00:14:31,440 --> 00:14:33,840
And a few other tenants,
not all of them,

274
00:14:33,840 --> 00:14:37,530
but a few other
tenants followed suit.

275
00:14:37,530 --> 00:14:41,520
Then as the '30s wore on and
the Nazis really started openly

276
00:14:41,520 --> 00:14:46,200
to prepare for war, they also
started an extensive air raid

277
00:14:46,200 --> 00:14:49,680
protection system, with

building air raid shelters

278

00:14:49,680 --> 00:14:51,850
in basements and so on.

279

00:14:51,850 --> 00:14:57,180
And one of the early orders
was that Jews are not

280

00:14:57,180 --> 00:15:02,680
permitted to join the other
tenants in an air raid shelter.

281

00:15:02,680 --> 00:15:04,830
So we had to go--
each tenant also

282

00:15:04,830 --> 00:15:15,540
had a little lockable area, sort
of separated by wooden planks,

283

00:15:15,540 --> 00:15:17,550
to store things for storage.

284

00:15:17,550 --> 00:15:20,850
And we had to sit in
there like pariahs

285

00:15:20,850 --> 00:15:25,410
while the rest of the tenants
walked by there into their air

286

00:15:25,410 --> 00:15:26,970
raid shelter, which was--

287

00:15:26,970 --> 00:15:29,220
with benches, and so on.

288

00:15:29,220 --> 00:15:31,350
And there was--

289

00:15:31,350 --> 00:15:33,000

I mean, there were
constant speeches,

290
00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:37,110
of course, which were
insulting and hostile to us.

291
00:15:37,110 --> 00:15:44,010
And even people who were not
ill-meaning felt that it was

292
00:15:44,010 --> 00:15:45,990
dangerous even to be seen--

293
00:15:45,990 --> 00:15:49,260
to associate with Jews.

294
00:15:49,260 --> 00:15:52,080
And then there were--

295
00:15:52,080 --> 00:15:55,770
they had frequent Nazi holidays,
or other holidays they--

296
00:15:55,770 --> 00:15:59,040
every opportunity, they--
there were the Olympic Games,

297
00:15:59,040 --> 00:16:00,000
and so on.

298
00:16:00,000 --> 00:16:06,480
And of each time, they made
a big fuss about marches.

299
00:16:06,480 --> 00:16:09,000
That was sort of one of
their favorite activities.

300
00:16:09,000 --> 00:16:14,140
SS units, SA units, Hitler
Youth units would march,

301

00:16:14,140 --> 00:16:19,410

looking really snappy and
snifty, with flags flying

302

00:16:19,410 --> 00:16:25,200

and with bands playing,
and singing their songs.

303

00:16:25,200 --> 00:16:28,590

And it was sort
of, in retrospect,

304

00:16:28,590 --> 00:16:33,180

almost like a-- almost
continuous holiday atmosphere.

305

00:16:33,180 --> 00:16:36,900

And by that time, of
course, as the '30s went on,

306

00:16:36,900 --> 00:16:39,330
everybody was employed.

307

00:16:39,330 --> 00:16:43,380

Germany had a tremendous
unemployment rate before,

308

00:16:43,380 --> 00:16:47,040

as part of the worldwide
Great Depression.

309

00:16:47,040 --> 00:16:50,850

And of course, they were
all employed, basically,

310

00:16:50,850 --> 00:16:52,420

rearming Germany.

311

00:16:52,420 --> 00:16:54,500

But we didn't know
it at the time.

312

00:16:54,500 --> 00:16:56,180

But that was a--

313

00:16:56,180 --> 00:17:00,180

that's how they solved the
unemployment problem, and also

314

00:17:00,180 --> 00:17:05,650

their own military, what they
conceived as inferiority.

315

00:17:05,650 --> 00:17:06,692

And--

316

00:17:06,692 --> 00:17:08,108

You mentioned the Olympics.

317

00:17:08,108 --> 00:17:09,530

Yeah.

318

00:17:09,530 --> 00:17:11,010

Did you go to any of that?

319

00:17:11,010 --> 00:17:11,510

Yeah.

320

00:17:11,510 --> 00:17:13,579

Well actually, I
went to two events.

321

00:17:13,579 --> 00:17:19,200

I went-- one was the final
for the gold medal of Soccer.

322

00:17:19,200 --> 00:17:20,690

I went with my mother.

323

00:17:20,690 --> 00:17:23,030

My mother was very
interested in sports.

324

00:17:23,030 --> 00:17:25,540

My father couldn't
have cared less.

325
00:17:25,540 --> 00:17:27,589
So she went with me.

326
00:17:27,589 --> 00:17:32,180
And the final game was
between Italy and Austria,

327
00:17:32,180 --> 00:17:34,520
and it was a very exciting game.

328
00:17:34,520 --> 00:17:38,920
They were, at that time,
the powerhouses in soccer.

329
00:17:38,920 --> 00:17:41,660
And actually, Germany also
had a pretty good team,

330
00:17:41,660 --> 00:17:44,810
but was already out of
the running by the time.

331
00:17:44,810 --> 00:17:48,350
And what happened, see--
at that time, of course,

332
00:17:48,350 --> 00:17:51,230
Austria was still an
independent country.

333
00:17:51,230 --> 00:17:54,610
Otherwise, they wouldn't
have had a team.

334
00:17:54,610 --> 00:17:58,280
But the Germans, of course,
felt kinship with the Austrians.

335
00:17:58,280 --> 00:18:04,310
So the stadium sort of

rooted for the Austrians.

336
00:18:04,310 --> 00:18:10,250
The Italians had bought
blocks, large blocks of seats,

337
00:18:10,250 --> 00:18:14,420
where they were sitting in
their black fascist uniforms,

338
00:18:14,420 --> 00:18:16,490
and were waving Italian flags.

339
00:18:16,490 --> 00:18:19,160
And they must have had
some sort of a cheerleader.

340
00:18:19,160 --> 00:18:21,320
They would, at some
particular moments,

341
00:18:21,320 --> 00:18:24,440
maybe when Italy
was on a drive, they

342
00:18:24,440 --> 00:18:27,650
would jump up,
like on a command,

343
00:18:27,650 --> 00:18:31,970
and shout in Italian,
Italia, Italia, Italia!

344
00:18:31,970 --> 00:18:33,680
And waving their flags.

345
00:18:33,680 --> 00:18:36,500
And then the rest of the
stadium would thunder back,

346
00:18:36,500 --> 00:18:38,248
[SPEAKING GERMAN].

347

00:18:38,248 --> 00:18:39,790

That's the German
word for "Austria".

348

00:18:39,790 --> 00:18:44,540

[SPEAKING GERMAN] So it was
that constant back-and-forth

349

00:18:44,540 --> 00:18:50,240

between these blocks of
Italians who shouted "Italia",

350

00:18:50,240 --> 00:18:53,030

and most of the
rest of the stadium

351

00:18:53,030 --> 00:18:54,580

shouting [SPEAKING GERMAN].

352

00:18:54,580 --> 00:18:55,404

And, um--

353

00:18:55,404 --> 00:18:56,706

Was that alarming at all?

354

00:18:56,706 --> 00:18:58,290

Or was it exciting?

355

00:18:58,290 --> 00:18:59,430

No, that wasn't exciting.

356

00:18:59,430 --> 00:19:00,860

It wasn't exciting.

357

00:19:00,860 --> 00:19:03,380

I mean, of course, there
were political undertones.

358

00:19:03,380 --> 00:19:06,590

But Italy was, by that time,
already an ally of Germany.

359

00:19:06,590 --> 00:19:09,560

So there was no--

360

00:19:09,560 --> 00:19:12,770

it wasn't as if, say,
Britain had been.

361

00:19:12,770 --> 00:19:13,545

And--

362

00:19:13,545 --> 00:19:16,406

Well, there was a certain
energy at the '36 Olympics.

363

00:19:16,406 --> 00:19:17,050

Yeah.

364

00:19:17,050 --> 00:19:17,550

Oh yeah.

365

00:19:17,550 --> 00:19:17,800

I mean--

366

00:19:17,800 --> 00:19:18,500

Maybe you can talk--

367

00:19:18,500 --> 00:19:19,000

Yeah.

368

00:19:19,000 --> 00:19:22,850

I mean, that was--

369

00:19:22,850 --> 00:19:23,680

I mean, incredible.

370

00:19:23,680 --> 00:19:29,240

First of all, they toned down
somewhat their anti-Semitism.

371

00:19:29,240 --> 00:19:34,120

That was probably

pressure from the West.

372
00:19:34,120 --> 00:19:36,910
Although there wasn't much
of that pressure, as far as

373
00:19:36,910 --> 00:19:38,580
I can see.

374
00:19:38,580 --> 00:19:42,238
But the whole city was sort of--

375
00:19:42,238 --> 00:19:44,350
was, first of all, renovated.

376
00:19:44,350 --> 00:19:49,740
The elevated lines got
totally new trains.

377
00:19:49,740 --> 00:19:52,300
It's that line that
went by that synagogue

378
00:19:52,300 --> 00:19:55,720
also that was burned
down a few years later.

379
00:19:55,720 --> 00:20:01,090
And in fact, those cars
are still in use now,

380
00:20:01,090 --> 00:20:03,220
that is now 60 years later.

381
00:20:03,220 --> 00:20:04,360
Unbelievable.

382
00:20:04,360 --> 00:20:07,780
I mean, now they
look worn and so on.

383
00:20:07,780 --> 00:20:11,470

And several stations, likely--

384
00:20:11,470 --> 00:20:14,050
in Central Berlin
and Western Berlin,

385
00:20:14,050 --> 00:20:17,050
the central station
is the Zoo station,

386
00:20:17,050 --> 00:20:19,510
because it's near the zoo.

387
00:20:19,510 --> 00:20:25,060
And that was totally rebuilt.
And lots of other things

388
00:20:25,060 --> 00:20:26,620
were done to the city.

389
00:20:26,620 --> 00:20:29,410
I mean, the Nazis used that--

390
00:20:29,410 --> 00:20:30,900
went out of their way.

391
00:20:30,900 --> 00:20:34,960
And then interesting, when
I came to this country

392
00:20:34,960 --> 00:20:38,692
and went to college
here in the year 1949,

393
00:20:38,692 --> 00:20:42,400
so that was only 13
years after the Olympics,

394
00:20:42,400 --> 00:20:44,830
I was at a small
college in Missouri

395

00:20:44,830 --> 00:20:48,820
who had a scholarship,
Southwest Missouri State College

396
00:20:48,820 --> 00:20:50,530
in Springfield, Missouri.

397
00:20:50,530 --> 00:20:53,860
And my German-- not "my German".

398
00:20:53,860 --> 00:20:56,230
She was a German
professor there, a woman,

399
00:20:56,230 --> 00:21:00,760
and I was actually--
at her request,

400
00:21:00,760 --> 00:21:03,410
I was active in the German Club.

401
00:21:03,410 --> 00:21:06,070
They were-- there was
a club before students

402
00:21:06,070 --> 00:21:10,200
who wanted to major in
German and practice German.

403
00:21:10,200 --> 00:21:13,600
And she had asked me to go
there too so they could sort

404
00:21:13,600 --> 00:21:16,315
of converse with me in German.

405
00:21:16,315 --> 00:21:19,120
And then I often
talked with her also.

406
00:21:19,120 --> 00:21:23,590
She said she was in Germany
in '36 through the Olympics.

407
00:21:23,590 --> 00:21:25,332
At that time, she was a young--

408
00:21:25,332 --> 00:21:26,290
I don't know, whatever.

409
00:21:26,290 --> 00:21:30,550
Assistant professor
or something.

410
00:21:30,550 --> 00:21:32,810
And she said she was impressed.

411
00:21:32,810 --> 00:21:35,220
The courtesy.

412
00:21:35,220 --> 00:21:37,990
The w-- how well
everything was planned.

413
00:21:37,990 --> 00:21:39,400
The efficiency.

414
00:21:39,400 --> 00:21:40,570
And also, the party.

415
00:21:40,570 --> 00:21:42,910
The party organs
were also enlisted.

416
00:21:42,910 --> 00:21:44,170
They were all very nice.

417
00:21:44,170 --> 00:21:49,990
You know, they-- it's probably
hard for people to understand.

418
00:21:49,990 --> 00:21:51,490
I mean, you can--

419

00:21:51,490 --> 00:21:55,000
you could-- even SS
officers, and sometimes

420
00:21:55,000 --> 00:21:58,930
the most brutal types,
could be very charming,

421
00:21:58,930 --> 00:22:01,720
and courteous, and polite.

422
00:22:01,720 --> 00:22:05,480
And they were all double-faced.

423
00:22:05,480 --> 00:22:10,840
And so the Olympic Games,
from that point of view,

424
00:22:10,840 --> 00:22:11,825
were a huge success.

425
00:22:11,825 --> 00:22:15,580
I mean-- and of course, also
Germany did really well.

426
00:22:15,580 --> 00:22:18,550
I mean, the Nazis had
a tremendous system

427
00:22:18,550 --> 00:22:25,440
of physical training, and
sports facilities, and so on.

428
00:22:25,440 --> 00:22:29,968
And I think in medals, they
won that game for-- at least

429
00:22:29,968 --> 00:22:30,760
they claim to have.

430
00:22:30,760 --> 00:22:32,350
I forgot the details.

431

00:22:32,350 --> 00:22:36,090

But anyway, coming back to
that soccer game, they--

432

00:22:36,090 --> 00:22:39,830

the way soccer was played
at that time, at least,

433

00:22:39,830 --> 00:22:44,030

it was a draw at the
official end of the game.

434

00:22:44,030 --> 00:22:46,660

And I think it was 1 to 1.

435

00:22:46,660 --> 00:22:50,910

And then the rule
was that the game

436

00:22:50,910 --> 00:22:53,470

is extended until sudden death.

437

00:22:53,470 --> 00:22:58,990

In other words, one party shoots
a goal, and that ends the game.

438

00:22:58,990 --> 00:23:01,090

And that party, of course, wins.

439

00:23:01,090 --> 00:23:04,510

And it was Italy that
shot that additional goal,

440

00:23:04,510 --> 00:23:06,100

so it was 2 to 1 for Italy.

441

00:23:06,100 --> 00:23:08,890

And they got the gold
medal, and the Austrians

442

00:23:08,890 --> 00:23:09,760

got the silver then.

443
00:23:09,760 --> 00:23:13,700

444
00:23:13,700 --> 00:23:15,670
But my father was--

445
00:23:15,670 --> 00:23:18,660
my mother was very
interested in sports.

446
00:23:18,660 --> 00:23:23,740
Not just a spectator
of sports, but she

447
00:23:23,740 --> 00:23:28,030
did a lot also to entice me to--

448
00:23:28,030 --> 00:23:32,140
I was originally totally
averse to any sports,

449
00:23:32,140 --> 00:23:35,710
and didn't like it, and
often was afraid of things.

450
00:23:35,710 --> 00:23:43,600
And she had a tremendous
energy and thought of--

451
00:23:43,600 --> 00:23:47,920
practically forced me
out to learn how to swim,

452
00:23:47,920 --> 00:23:50,150
to ski, and to skate.

453
00:23:50,150 --> 00:23:51,730
I mean, ice skate.

454
00:23:51,730 --> 00:23:55,570
And bicycle.

455
00:23:55,570 --> 00:23:57,220
And I do most of these things.

456
00:23:57,220 --> 00:24:00,190
For swimming, I don't
care too much anymore.

457
00:24:00,190 --> 00:24:04,110
I find it too boring just to
swim back-and-forth in a lap.

458
00:24:04,110 --> 00:24:07,750
But I'm able to swim.

459
00:24:07,750 --> 00:24:09,040
But I still love skiing.

460
00:24:09,040 --> 00:24:12,641

461
00:24:12,641 --> 00:24:14,030
Why don't you continue?

462
00:24:14,030 --> 00:24:14,960
Oh.

463
00:24:14,960 --> 00:24:20,150
Incidentally, the Olympics
was the first occasion

464
00:24:20,150 --> 00:24:22,380
when I saw Hitler in-person.

465
00:24:22,380 --> 00:24:26,780
We lived-- the street we
lived on, in that apartment,

466
00:24:26,780 --> 00:24:32,120
was a major east-west sort of
boulevard that cut through--

467

00:24:32,120 --> 00:24:34,400

it started at the
center of Berlin,

468

00:24:34,400 --> 00:24:36,740

actually, near the
Vice Chancellory,

469

00:24:36,740 --> 00:24:41,690

and then went for several
miles to the western outskirts

470

00:24:41,690 --> 00:24:42,830

where we lived.

471

00:24:42,830 --> 00:24:47,210

And the Olympic stadium was
also near where we lived.

472

00:24:47,210 --> 00:24:52,730

So Hitler passed by there on
Opening Day to open the games.

473

00:24:52,730 --> 00:24:56,510

And of course, his trip
out to the Olympic stadium

474

00:24:56,510 --> 00:24:59,720

itself was planned
as big theater.

475

00:24:59,720 --> 00:25:04,070

They had the streets lined
with enthusiastic crowds,

476

00:25:04,070 --> 00:25:11,630

and SS sort of in formation,
holding them back.

477

00:25:11,630 --> 00:25:18,230

And then Hitler would ride in an
open Mercedes-Benz in uniform,

478

00:25:18,230 --> 00:25:21,560

standing stiffly
upright, and periodically

479

00:25:21,560 --> 00:25:25,370

raising his right arm
to the Hitler salute,

480

00:25:25,370 --> 00:25:27,080

greeting the masses.

481

00:25:27,080 --> 00:25:31,550

And as I stood on the
balcony just looking straight

482

00:25:31,550 --> 00:25:34,400

down at Hitler, the
thought occurred to me

483

00:25:34,400 --> 00:25:39,640

how easy it would be just to
assassinate him from here.

484

00:25:39,640 --> 00:25:43,360

The next time I saw him was
exactly about a year later,

485

00:25:43,360 --> 00:25:49,240

when Mussolini played a state
visit to Berlin in 1937.

486

00:25:49,240 --> 00:25:51,610

And in fact, during
that state visit,

487

00:25:51,610 --> 00:25:55,910

the Berlin-Rome axis
was sort of cemented.

488

00:25:55,910 --> 00:26:00,850

And Mussolini-- the
arrangement was also for them

489

00:26:00,850 --> 00:26:04,090
to ride into town, so in
the opposite direction now

490

00:26:04,090 --> 00:26:07,480
from the-- from a suburban
railroad station which

491

00:26:07,480 --> 00:26:12,460
was, in fact, just half a mile
away from where our house was.

492

00:26:12,460 --> 00:26:17,350
And then they rode
into town, again,

493

00:26:17,350 --> 00:26:21,910
greeting the masses that were
lined up behind all of SS.

494

00:26:21,910 --> 00:26:24,970
And there was an
interesting contrast.

495

00:26:24,970 --> 00:26:29,500
Hitler, the unsmiling,
stiff despot.

496

00:26:29,500 --> 00:26:34,360
And Mussolini, the
typical jovial Italian.

497

00:26:34,360 --> 00:26:36,670
He also raised his
hand, but he raised it

498

00:26:36,670 --> 00:26:39,640
in a much more informal way.

499

00:26:39,640 --> 00:26:46,970
His mouth was widely open,
and laughing and smiling.

500

00:26:46,970 --> 00:26:50,320

And his body would sort
of, in body language,

501

00:26:50,320 --> 00:26:53,110

wave back-and-forth from
one side to the other,

502

00:26:53,110 --> 00:26:55,510

acknowledging crowds
on both sides.

503

00:26:55,510 --> 00:26:57,190

There was a
tremendous difference

504

00:26:57,190 --> 00:27:00,820

in the appearance of
these two dictators.

505

00:27:00,820 --> 00:27:06,010

I'm not trying to make
Mussolini appear any--

506

00:27:06,010 --> 00:27:09,460

like a nice uncle, but there
was a tremendous difference

507

00:27:09,460 --> 00:27:11,500

between these two men.

508

00:27:11,500 --> 00:27:12,880

Both were equally brutal.

509

00:27:12,880 --> 00:27:16,300

510

00:27:16,300 --> 00:27:23,260

In summary, I must say that I--

511

00:27:23,260 --> 00:27:25,930

the years in the '30s

leading up to World War

512
00:27:25,930 --> 00:27:34,200
2 and the Holocaust, I felt
basically like an outsider,

513
00:27:34,200 --> 00:27:38,950
like being pushed away
from the main body,

514
00:27:38,950 --> 00:27:42,730
and from all the festivities
that the Germans enjoyed,

515
00:27:42,730 --> 00:27:44,620
from which I was excluded.

516
00:27:44,620 --> 00:27:47,620
But on the other
hand, I had found

517
00:27:47,620 --> 00:27:51,880
my inner Jewish
belonging, mainly

518
00:27:51,880 --> 00:27:55,900
as a result of the school
that I went to, and--

519
00:27:55,900 --> 00:27:58,780
which gave me inner
strength, and to some extent,

520
00:27:58,780 --> 00:27:59,890
compensated for that.

521
00:27:59,890 --> 00:28:03,200

522
00:28:03,200 --> 00:28:10,030
One final remark I would like
to make concerning the question

523

00:28:10,030 --> 00:28:12,790
of the deportations.

524

00:28:12,790 --> 00:28:18,280
The deportations, of course,
were ordered by the Gestapo,

525

00:28:18,280 --> 00:28:22,780
and go back directly to
an order by Heidrich,

526

00:28:22,780 --> 00:28:25,870
who was ordered by Hitler--

527

00:28:25,870 --> 00:28:30,610
was given by Hitler the
order to carry this out.

528

00:28:30,610 --> 00:28:33,310

529

00:28:33,310 --> 00:28:38,650
But the-- at the local
level, the deportations

530

00:28:38,650 --> 00:28:43,630
were organized by the Jewish
community organizations.

531

00:28:43,630 --> 00:28:48,520
And of course, that
has been a big problem

532

00:28:48,520 --> 00:28:50,000
ever since it happened.

533

00:28:50,000 --> 00:28:57,655
For me personally, I felt,
first of all, totally abandoned,

534

00:28:57,655 --> 00:29:00,790
I would say, by the--

535

00:29:00,790 --> 00:29:04,360

knowing that the
Jewish organizations

536

00:29:04,360 --> 00:29:09,610

were organizing the transports.

537

00:29:09,610 --> 00:29:12,370

In fact, it got to the
point where I actually

538

00:29:12,370 --> 00:29:17,980

considered the leadership
of the [SPEAKING GERMAN],,

539

00:29:17,980 --> 00:29:21,400

that was the sort of
umbrella organization of Jews

540

00:29:21,400 --> 00:29:26,020

in Germany, I considered
them as part of the enemy.

541

00:29:26,020 --> 00:29:28,840

And they had to be
considered that way.

542

00:29:28,840 --> 00:29:31,490

543

00:29:31,490 --> 00:29:33,670

On the other hand, of
course, we know now

544

00:29:33,670 --> 00:29:39,800

much more there were very
difficult moral decisions,

545

00:29:39,800 --> 00:29:45,190

and there were very difficult
also options available.

546

00:29:45,190 --> 00:29:49,900

I certainly would never
want to be in a position

547

00:29:49,900 --> 00:29:52,540

to make those choices.

548

00:29:52,540 --> 00:30:01,440

But it-- but the fact remains
that for me, at the time,

549

00:30:01,440 --> 00:30:09,587

I felt really as being abandoned
by my own leadership, and--

550

00:30:09,587 --> 00:30:13,690

551

00:30:13,690 --> 00:30:20,960

and it probably needs to be
considered more deeply now

552

00:30:20,960 --> 00:30:25,040

where we have some distance
what the options were

553

00:30:25,040 --> 00:30:28,910

that these people
had, and what they

554

00:30:28,910 --> 00:30:32,000

could have done other than
what they actually did.

555

00:30:32,000 --> 00:30:37,220

556

00:30:37,220 --> 00:30:40,460

I'm wondering how long
you remained in Berlin,

557

00:30:40,460 --> 00:30:46,760

what your plans were,
and how easy or difficult

558
00:30:46,760 --> 00:30:50,020
it was to realize those plans.

559
00:30:50,020 --> 00:30:50,520
Yeah.

560
00:30:50,520 --> 00:30:58,820
Briefly, my first priority was
to get on with my education.

561
00:30:58,820 --> 00:31:04,850
And I immediately enrolled
in the Technical University

562
00:31:04,850 --> 00:31:07,790
in Berlin, and then
later took courses also

563
00:31:07,790 --> 00:31:12,050
in the main University,
or Humboldt University,

564
00:31:12,050 --> 00:31:16,790
as it was then renamed,
taking lectures

565
00:31:16,790 --> 00:31:19,350
in mathematics,
physics, and so on.

566
00:31:19,350 --> 00:31:21,890
There were many
famous professors

567
00:31:21,890 --> 00:31:24,350
who had still survived the war.

568
00:31:24,350 --> 00:31:28,310
And of course, there were
then also a number of Jews

569
00:31:28,310 --> 00:31:29,660
who had returned.

570
00:31:29,660 --> 00:31:38,180
Or some of them actually had
survived in Berlin as mixed--

571
00:31:38,180 --> 00:31:42,770
children of mixed marriages,
where one parent was Gentile

572
00:31:42,770 --> 00:31:45,500
and the other one was Jewish.

573
00:31:45,500 --> 00:31:50,230
And of course, there was a large
number of German army veterans.

574
00:31:50,230 --> 00:31:52,580
And that, in fact,
was a very sore point.

575
00:31:52,580 --> 00:31:55,280
Many of them were still
very nationalistic,

576
00:31:55,280 --> 00:31:57,095
in spite of that huge defeat.

577
00:31:57,095 --> 00:32:00,430

578
00:32:00,430 --> 00:32:03,220
So I enrolled in those courses.

579
00:32:03,220 --> 00:32:06,850
And actually, Margaret's
mother immediately

580
00:32:06,850 --> 00:32:16,060
opened a sort of office on her

own for social help for Jews

581

00:32:16,060 --> 00:32:18,470
returning from
concentration camps.

582

00:32:18,470 --> 00:32:23,650
And she worked closely together
with the American official

583

00:32:23,650 --> 00:32:28,185
who was in charge of that
borough, Templehoff, a--

584

00:32:28,185 --> 00:32:32,860
I think a Captain or Major
Davidhoff or Davidhoff.

585

00:32:32,860 --> 00:32:37,120
It turns out, supposedly,
that that man was a communist,

586

00:32:37,120 --> 00:32:43,150
and was then later
rotated out and sent home.

587

00:32:43,150 --> 00:32:49,000
And when the first
possibility arose

588

00:32:49,000 --> 00:32:53,470
for emigrating to the United
States, that was in '46,

589

00:32:53,470 --> 00:32:59,020
and we registered, it turned out
that Margaret's mother somehow

590

00:32:59,020 --> 00:33:03,100
was on the blacklist because
she had closely collaborated,

591

00:33:03,100 --> 00:33:06,400

and that Major Davidoff,
also, for example, was

592
00:33:06,400 --> 00:33:10,750
helpful in providing
apartments for returning Jews,

593
00:33:10,750 --> 00:33:12,950
and et cetera, et cetera.

594
00:33:12,950 --> 00:33:16,810
And so we were,
for about a year,

595
00:33:16,810 --> 00:33:21,930
subjected to a lot of chicanery
by the American consulate.

596
00:33:21,930 --> 00:33:28,120
I remember the consul himself
was a Mr. Haney, and--

597
00:33:28,120 --> 00:33:30,730
who was a very
unpleasant character.

598
00:33:30,730 --> 00:33:35,980
And I was once, I'm
sure on his orders,

599
00:33:35,980 --> 00:33:39,340
although I can't
prove it, interrogated

600
00:33:39,340 --> 00:33:43,540
by an officer of the CIC.

601
00:33:43,540 --> 00:33:50,740
The CIC is the army's Criminal
Investigation Commission,

602
00:33:50,740 --> 00:33:52,100
or something.

603
00:33:52,100 --> 00:33:57,160
And that interrogation took
place in the following way,

604
00:33:57,160 --> 00:34:00,750
that the interrogating
officer sat behind the desk,

605
00:34:00,750 --> 00:34:06,830
and next to him was a
growling German Shepherd who

606
00:34:06,830 --> 00:34:09,199
was here just to intimidate me.

607
00:34:09,199 --> 00:34:12,590
And they wanted to know about--

608
00:34:12,590 --> 00:34:16,489
wanted me to incriminate
Margaret's parents,

609
00:34:16,489 --> 00:34:18,620
basically, as communists.

610
00:34:18,620 --> 00:34:25,250
And when I couldn't say
anything incriminating,

611
00:34:25,250 --> 00:34:26,820
he let me go finally.

612
00:34:26,820 --> 00:34:29,254
But it was a very
unpleasant interview.

613
00:34:29,254 --> 00:34:32,510
Or "interrogation"
is a better word.

614
00:34:32,510 --> 00:34:35,510

I did receive, finally, my visa.

615
00:34:35,510 --> 00:34:37,920
But the house family did not.

616
00:34:37,920 --> 00:34:42,290
And at that point, since we had
lived through thick and thin

617
00:34:42,290 --> 00:34:46,880
through the war, I decided
to let my visa lapse,

618
00:34:46,880 --> 00:34:48,680
even though I was told by the--

619
00:34:48,680 --> 00:34:52,380
and I told the consul I will
go when the other three go.

620
00:34:52,380 --> 00:34:54,949
The consul said that
there's no guarantee

621
00:34:54,949 --> 00:35:00,370
that I will ever get my visa
renewed if I let it lapse once.

622
00:35:00,370 --> 00:35:03,200
And I had an uncle here
in the United States

623
00:35:03,200 --> 00:35:08,810
who also implored
me to come and let--

624
00:35:08,810 --> 00:35:10,550
wait here for them.

625
00:35:10,550 --> 00:35:14,120
Anyway-- and by the way,
that's an interesting thing.

626

00:35:14,120 --> 00:35:17,420
My first connection to friends--

627

00:35:17,420 --> 00:35:21,140
there was no postal connection,
of course, between Germany

628

00:35:21,140 --> 00:35:23,690
and any country outside.

629

00:35:23,690 --> 00:35:25,580
So we went to--

630

00:35:25,580 --> 00:35:28,580
there was a huge barracks
of American soldiers

631

00:35:28,580 --> 00:35:30,000
near where we lived.

632

00:35:30,000 --> 00:35:35,000
And I remember, I went to
the guard soldier outside

633

00:35:35,000 --> 00:35:37,490
and asked whether he could
tell me whether there

634

00:35:37,490 --> 00:35:39,530
was a Jewish soldier somewhere.

635

00:35:39,530 --> 00:35:41,930
It's such an outlandish idea.

636

00:35:41,930 --> 00:35:46,490
So he directed me, pointed
to some particular room.

637

00:35:46,490 --> 00:35:49,280
And it was a Sergeant
Roth, R-O-T-H.

638

00:35:49,280 --> 00:35:53,750

So I went to that Roth
and told him who I was,

639

00:35:53,750 --> 00:35:57,950

and that I survived, and I had
an address of a school friend

640

00:35:57,950 --> 00:36:00,680

in Connecticut, and my uncle.

641

00:36:00,680 --> 00:36:02,450

And actually, I didn't--

642

00:36:02,450 --> 00:36:06,350

he was in New York, but I
didn't have his exact address.

643

00:36:06,350 --> 00:36:09,230

But I had some connecting
address in London

644

00:36:09,230 --> 00:36:12,610

who could then forward it.

645

00:36:12,610 --> 00:36:15,990

And so he also conversed
with me, the Roth,

646

00:36:15,990 --> 00:36:18,120

and he asked me what--

647

00:36:18,120 --> 00:36:20,390

no, he didn't ask
me, he warned me not

648

00:36:20,390 --> 00:36:23,570

to try to emigrate
to the United States

649

00:36:23,570 --> 00:36:26,390

because there were already

too many Jews there,

650
00:36:26,390 --> 00:36:29,690
and there was rising
anti-Semitism.

651
00:36:29,690 --> 00:36:34,520
And now that the Nazis were
gone and the war was over,

652
00:36:34,520 --> 00:36:38,360
it would be much better for me
also if I stayed in Germany.

653
00:36:38,360 --> 00:36:41,330
And I found that so
unbelievably preposterous.

654
00:36:41,330 --> 00:36:44,390
He was an American Jew
telling me not to come here.

655
00:36:44,390 --> 00:36:48,420
But anyway, I didn't
follow his advice.

656
00:36:48,420 --> 00:36:53,180
But what he did do is
he did forward my mail.

657
00:36:53,180 --> 00:36:58,340
And the letter that I
wrote to my school friend

658
00:36:58,340 --> 00:36:59,930
wound up as an article.

659
00:36:59,930 --> 00:37:01,170
He submitted it.

660
00:37:01,170 --> 00:37:04,940
There's a German Jewish
weekly called Oufbow.

661
00:37:04,940 --> 00:37:06,770
By now, it's a biweekly.

662
00:37:06,770 --> 00:37:09,230
And it was published in there.

663
00:37:09,230 --> 00:37:14,240
And my uncle then also
supported me finally.

664
00:37:14,240 --> 00:37:15,830
We did get visas.

665
00:37:15,830 --> 00:37:18,710
The joint was extremely
helpful, really.

666
00:37:18,710 --> 00:37:23,870
The joint opened offices in
Berlin, and with their help,

667
00:37:23,870 --> 00:37:26,120
the three of us
finally got visas.

668
00:37:26,120 --> 00:37:33,210
And we arrived on the
22nd of June, 1947.

669
00:37:33,210 --> 00:37:38,280
And then my first priority
again here was to study.

670
00:37:38,280 --> 00:37:49,900

671
00:37:49,900 --> 00:37:53,770
This is tape 3, side B, of an
interview with Earnest Fontheim

672
00:37:53,770 --> 00:37:59,730

on June 4, 1997.

673

00:37:59,730 --> 00:38:05,940

Yeah, um-- after my arrival,
my first priority, as I said,

674

00:38:05,940 --> 00:38:11,160

was to continue my studies.

675

00:38:11,160 --> 00:38:15,660

My uncle provided some financial
support in the beginning,

676

00:38:15,660 --> 00:38:17,700

for a few months.

677

00:38:17,700 --> 00:38:20,190

And then-- I lived
in New York then.

678

00:38:20,190 --> 00:38:25,470

He had rented for me a furnished
room in the Upper West Side,

679

00:38:25,470 --> 00:38:30,120

and then I took a job
as a messenger boy

680

00:38:30,120 --> 00:38:36,300

on West 48th Street,
between 5th and 6th Avenues,

681

00:38:36,300 --> 00:38:39,730

for an outfit called
Action Messenger Service.

682

00:38:39,730 --> 00:38:43,290

We were a whole bunch of
young guys who were lined up.

683

00:38:43,290 --> 00:38:46,160

And the boss would always
call one after the other

684
00:38:46,160 --> 00:38:47,790
to run certain errands.

685
00:38:47,790 --> 00:38:48,990
For me, that was great.

686
00:38:48,990 --> 00:38:53,550
That's how I got
to know New York.

687
00:38:53,550 --> 00:38:56,280
He sent me to one address
to pick up a package

688
00:38:56,280 --> 00:38:58,950
to be delivered to
a second address,

689
00:38:58,950 --> 00:39:03,780
and I got to know New York
from downtown Wall Street,

690
00:39:03,780 --> 00:39:05,730
to Midtown, and
even further Uptown.

691
00:39:05,730 --> 00:39:10,230
And I really fell in love
with the city at that time.

692
00:39:10,230 --> 00:39:14,460
In the evening-- incidentally,
I earned \$0.50 an hour.

693
00:39:14,460 --> 00:39:18,840
And in the evening, I took two
or three courses, I forgot,

694
00:39:18,840 --> 00:39:19,770
in city college.

695

00:39:19,770 --> 00:39:23,520

And I took some
elementary physics,

696

00:39:23,520 --> 00:39:26,340

which I already had
in Germany, just

697

00:39:26,340 --> 00:39:29,370

in order to get up-to-speed
also with English language

698

00:39:29,370 --> 00:39:31,840

and with the
technical expressions.

699

00:39:31,840 --> 00:39:36,450

And I also had a course in
calculus, which also mostly

700

00:39:36,450 --> 00:39:40,230

was just a review of what I
had already learned in Germany.

701

00:39:40,230 --> 00:39:45,330

And I-- my goal, of course, was
to become a full-time student.

702

00:39:45,330 --> 00:39:48,360

And financially, that wouldn't
have been possible for me.

703

00:39:48,360 --> 00:39:50,790

So through a friend
of mine, I was

704

00:39:50,790 --> 00:39:56,550

referred to a committee with
an interesting name, American

705

00:39:56,550 --> 00:40:01,530

Committee for Immigrant
Writers, Scholars, and Artists.

706

00:40:01,530 --> 00:40:05,280

And it was sort of an
interesting outfit.

707

00:40:05,280 --> 00:40:07,830

Basically, what they
did is they did not

708

00:40:07,830 --> 00:40:09,990

have any money themselves.

709

00:40:09,990 --> 00:40:14,850

They served as a clearinghouse
for available grants,

710

00:40:14,850 --> 00:40:16,680

fellowships, and so on.

711

00:40:16,680 --> 00:40:18,820

So I registered with them.

712

00:40:18,820 --> 00:40:22,650

And after, I forgot what
it was, a few months--

713

00:40:22,650 --> 00:40:27,330

I should say also I had
only A's for my first two

714

00:40:27,330 --> 00:40:28,740

semesters in city college.

715

00:40:28,740 --> 00:40:31,500

So that obviously helped along.

716

00:40:31,500 --> 00:40:35,610

And they told me that they
had a rotary at the National

717

00:40:35,610 --> 00:40:40,080

Scholarship for Southwest
Missouri State College

718
00:40:40,080 --> 00:40:41,640
in Springfield, Missouri.

719
00:40:41,640 --> 00:40:44,010
I never heard of
the place before,

720
00:40:44,010 --> 00:40:46,170
and of course, I didn't
know at that time

721
00:40:46,170 --> 00:40:48,750
that there were such
huge disparities

722
00:40:48,750 --> 00:40:52,270
between different
academic institutions.

723
00:40:52,270 --> 00:40:54,120
But anyway, I went there.

724
00:40:54,120 --> 00:40:58,680
And I credit my two years
in Springfield, Missouri,

725
00:40:58,680 --> 00:41:03,470
and at that college, mainly
with my Americanization.

726
00:41:03,470 --> 00:41:05,670
And one thing that
bothered me in New York

727
00:41:05,670 --> 00:41:09,840
is that the only
social contact I had

728
00:41:09,840 --> 00:41:12,900
was not just with
other German Jews,

729

00:41:12,900 --> 00:41:15,750

but mainly only
with Berlin Jews.

730

00:41:15,750 --> 00:41:19,820

Former Berlin
Jews, I should say.

731

00:41:19,820 --> 00:41:23,970

And I realized that if I
want to become acculturated

732

00:41:23,970 --> 00:41:28,830

in my new country, I can't
just have a social life

733

00:41:28,830 --> 00:41:31,770

only with people
from the old country.

734

00:41:31,770 --> 00:41:34,680

But it was very difficult. In
city college, you need to--

735

00:41:34,680 --> 00:41:37,530

I tried several
times, unsuccessfully.

736

00:41:37,530 --> 00:41:38,970

It's a commuter college.

737

00:41:38,970 --> 00:41:41,860

People come take
classes and usher away.

738

00:41:41,860 --> 00:41:44,610

Go back into the subway
and go to Brooklyn,

739

00:41:44,610 --> 00:41:46,470

or God knows where.

740

00:41:46,470 --> 00:41:50,070
And so it's not really
a campus atmosphere.

741
00:41:50,070 --> 00:41:55,050
So when I got that
scholarship, I took a train off

742
00:41:55,050 --> 00:41:57,120
to Springfield, Missouri.

743
00:41:57,120 --> 00:42:01,130
And I should say that
my friend's host family,

744
00:42:01,130 --> 00:42:03,840
they, after some
initial difficulties,

745
00:42:03,840 --> 00:42:05,610
settled in New York.

746
00:42:05,610 --> 00:42:11,700
And Margaret's father
got several jobs,

747
00:42:11,700 --> 00:42:14,910
improving as time went on,
in the garment industry.

748
00:42:14,910 --> 00:42:20,220
As designer, pattern maker,
and so on in ladies' garments.

749
00:42:20,220 --> 00:42:24,150
Of course, we stayed in contact
as I went to Springfield.

750
00:42:24,150 --> 00:42:28,310
And there, I was
received by the dean,

751
00:42:28,310 --> 00:42:33,900

who felt that it would be a
good idea if I would be put--

752
00:42:33,900 --> 00:42:36,240
housed in the
barracks, which had

753
00:42:36,240 --> 00:42:39,420
been built on campus for GIs.

754
00:42:39,420 --> 00:42:43,860
That was the time of the GI Bill
of Rights, after World War 2.

755
00:42:43,860 --> 00:42:46,230
And there was such
an influx of students

756
00:42:46,230 --> 00:42:50,190
that they needed to do
something to house them.

757
00:42:50,190 --> 00:42:52,070
And so these
barracks were built.

758
00:42:52,070 --> 00:42:55,950
They were relatively
primitive, but as far

759
00:42:55,950 --> 00:42:58,680
as I was concerned,
totally sufficient.

760
00:42:58,680 --> 00:43:03,550
And of course, there I
learned all the slang

761
00:43:03,550 --> 00:43:05,860
that I hadn't learned
in all my years

762
00:43:05,860 --> 00:43:07,990

of English in the
German high school,

763
00:43:07,990 --> 00:43:10,420
including all the
four-letter words which

764
00:43:10,420 --> 00:43:14,500
I hadn't known before,
and in general, got

765
00:43:14,500 --> 00:43:21,730
sort of acculturated to life
in a small Midwestern town.

766
00:43:21,730 --> 00:43:30,820
As coincidence would have
it, also, the dean right away

767
00:43:30,820 --> 00:43:34,570
set me in touch with
the local rabbi.

768
00:43:34,570 --> 00:43:39,520
And it turned out that rabbi
also was a former German Jew.

769
00:43:39,520 --> 00:43:44,740
He was-- he had been rabbi in
the Bavarian city of Oxbourg

770
00:43:44,740 --> 00:43:48,800
before the war, and now he was
rabbi in Springfield, Missouri.

771
00:43:48,800 --> 00:43:53,340
And he and his family took me
somewhat under their wings.

772
00:43:53,340 --> 00:43:59,410
I was often invited to Shabbat
evening dinners at their house,

773

00:43:59,410 --> 00:44:02,880
and obviously, each
time for the theater.

774
00:44:02,880 --> 00:44:08,607
And so I lived with them.

775
00:44:08,607 --> 00:44:09,440
Not lived with them.

776
00:44:09,440 --> 00:44:12,410
I mean, I socialized with them.

777
00:44:12,410 --> 00:44:17,440
And on the other hand, I
also had American contacts,

778
00:44:17,440 --> 00:44:21,190
and I even made dates
with American girls.

779
00:44:21,190 --> 00:44:26,230
And so-- and my
school performance

780
00:44:26,230 --> 00:44:27,580
turned out to be very well.

781
00:44:27,580 --> 00:44:30,710
I did very well in all classes.

782
00:44:30,710 --> 00:44:37,930
So when I graduated in 1950
with a bachelor's degree,

783
00:44:37,930 --> 00:44:39,470
I got an offer--

784
00:44:39,470 --> 00:44:40,840
actually, several offers.

785
00:44:40,840 --> 00:44:43,490

But the one that I accepted
for graduate school

786
00:44:43,490 --> 00:44:49,390
was from Lehigh University
in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

787
00:44:49,390 --> 00:44:54,730
Admission to graduate school,
plus a guaranteed teaching

788
00:44:54,730 --> 00:44:59,290
assistantship in the
Physics Department.

789
00:44:59,290 --> 00:45:06,730
And so in the summer of 1950,
I got my bachelor's degree.

790
00:45:06,730 --> 00:45:07,720
That was in July.

791
00:45:07,720 --> 00:45:11,850
But I remained a bachelor
then for less than a month.

792
00:45:11,850 --> 00:45:14,950
Well, on the 6th of
August, Margaret and I

793
00:45:14,950 --> 00:45:16,750
finally got married.

794
00:45:16,750 --> 00:45:18,960
And that was in New York.

795
00:45:18,960 --> 00:45:25,090
And then we moved together
to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania,

796
00:45:25,090 --> 00:45:26,740
where I started my
graduate studies.

797
00:45:26,740 --> 00:45:29,290

798
00:45:29,290 --> 00:45:33,460
The graduate studies
turned out-- unfortunately,

799
00:45:33,460 --> 00:45:38,030
extended for more years than
I had originally anticipated,

800
00:45:38,030 --> 00:45:40,940
and is customary, for
a number of reasons.

801
00:45:40,940 --> 00:45:44,440
I had some bad luck with
my first thesis subject,

802
00:45:44,440 --> 00:45:44,940
and so on.

803
00:45:44,940 --> 00:45:46,600
I don't want to go
into that, you know?

804
00:45:46,600 --> 00:45:52,960
But I-- of general interest,
as maybe that in Dec--

805
00:45:52,960 --> 00:45:57,400
in my first summer there,
it was the summer of '51,

806
00:45:57,400 --> 00:46:00,250
I had a summer job
at Bethlehem Steel

807
00:46:00,250 --> 00:46:04,420
Company, which was in the same
city as Lehigh University.

808

00:46:04,420 --> 00:46:07,600

And the company-- in
fact, the steel plant--

809

00:46:07,600 --> 00:46:09,400

I think the company
still exists.

810

00:46:09,400 --> 00:46:11,800

But the steel plant
doesn't exist anymore.

811

00:46:11,800 --> 00:46:14,470

But I saw a steel
plant from the inside,

812

00:46:14,470 --> 00:46:18,700

and I found all of that
very interesting, how

813

00:46:18,700 --> 00:46:20,980

steel is being made, and so on.

814

00:46:20,980 --> 00:46:24,100

And then two years
later, in '53,

815

00:46:24,100 --> 00:46:28,050

I had a summer job at
White Sands Proving Ground.

816

00:46:28,050 --> 00:46:32,140

That was a rocket
proving ground,

817

00:46:32,140 --> 00:46:36,670

before anyone even knew
that the United States was

818

00:46:36,670 --> 00:46:38,530

deeply involved in rocketry.

819

00:46:38,530 --> 00:46:42,940
At that time, they just shot--

820
00:46:42,940 --> 00:46:45,730
captured German V2 rockets.

821
00:46:45,730 --> 00:46:51,170
And some clever physicist
had gotten the idea to,

822
00:46:51,170 --> 00:46:55,360
while these rockets are being
shot with harmless warheads,

823
00:46:55,360 --> 00:46:58,910
just to test their
flight characteristics.

824
00:46:58,910 --> 00:47:03,490
Why not put some
instruments in the warhead

825
00:47:03,490 --> 00:47:08,410
to measure properties in the
upper atmosphere, ionosphere?

826
00:47:08,410 --> 00:47:12,760
And actually, I was
hired partly to write

827
00:47:12,760 --> 00:47:16,570
a sort of research paper
on certain aspects on how

828
00:47:16,570 --> 00:47:19,450
to detect cosmic rays.

829
00:47:19,450 --> 00:47:22,240
And so that filled my summer.

830
00:47:22,240 --> 00:47:24,310
And I didn't
realize at that time

831
00:47:24,310 --> 00:47:27,700
that, in fact, space
physics would at one time

832
00:47:27,700 --> 00:47:31,840
become my life's profession.

833
00:47:31,840 --> 00:47:35,380
In 1954, the following
summer, I spent--

834
00:47:35,380 --> 00:47:37,690
I had a special fellowship for--

835
00:47:37,690 --> 00:47:41,080
to Brookhaven, a national
laboratory, which at that time

836
00:47:41,080 --> 00:47:44,530
was the foremost laboratory
for-- in the world, not only

837
00:47:44,530 --> 00:47:47,840
this country, for
high-energy physics.

838
00:47:47,840 --> 00:47:52,330
And there was a machine that
could accelerate particles

839
00:47:52,330 --> 00:47:55,360
to unheard of, at
the time, energies,

840
00:47:55,360 --> 00:47:57,920
and cause all kinds
of interesting effects

841
00:47:57,920 --> 00:47:59,380
and collisions.

842

00:47:59,380 --> 00:48:01,245
And I worked with
some famous physicists

843
00:48:01,245 --> 00:48:03,840
that I met, among others there.

844
00:48:03,840 --> 00:48:08,770
Enrico Fermi, who-- the famous
Italian Physicist and Nobel

845
00:48:08,770 --> 00:48:13,190
Prize Winner, and
several others.

846
00:48:13,190 --> 00:48:20,740
And then I wrote a thesis
back at Lehigh University

847
00:48:20,740 --> 00:48:25,510
in a fairly esoteric,
purely mathematical subject

848
00:48:25,510 --> 00:48:33,550
in theoretical physics,
involving fundamental particles

849
00:48:33,550 --> 00:48:36,190
and field theory.

850
00:48:36,190 --> 00:48:38,770
I graduated in 1960.

851
00:48:38,770 --> 00:48:42,730
And by that time already,
we had two children.

852
00:48:42,730 --> 00:48:47,950
I should have mentioned that
after we married in August 1950

853
00:48:47,950 --> 00:48:52,450
and moved to Bethlehem, Margo

worked for a number of years

854
00:48:52,450 --> 00:48:53,920
in an office.

855
00:48:53,920 --> 00:49:00,670
And in 1955, she was pregnant
with our son, Claude,

856
00:49:00,670 --> 00:49:02,660
who was born in August '55.

857
00:49:02,660 --> 00:49:05,560

858
00:49:05,560 --> 00:49:12,160
And then in October '59,
our daughter, Eva, was born.

859
00:49:12,160 --> 00:49:15,790
And in '60, she was
less than a year old,

860
00:49:15,790 --> 00:49:20,410
we moved from Bethlehem
to Ann Arbor, Michigan.

861
00:49:20,410 --> 00:49:26,110
And in Ann Arbor, I had worked--

862
00:49:26,110 --> 00:49:30,370
actually, I was for two years
in the radiation laboratory.

863
00:49:30,370 --> 00:49:32,680
And the radiation
laboratory sort of

864
00:49:32,680 --> 00:49:35,740
started to fold and go downhill.

865
00:49:35,740 --> 00:49:39,490

And then I obtained an offer
from the Space Physics Research

866
00:49:39,490 --> 00:49:46,090
Laboratory in 1962, where I
stayed until my retirement

867
00:49:46,090 --> 00:49:49,390
in 1992.

868
00:49:49,390 --> 00:49:51,540
During that time, I had a--

869
00:49:51,540 --> 00:49:53,680
also a very interesting career.

870
00:49:53,680 --> 00:49:59,320
I attended many international
meetings, including one in 1971

871
00:49:59,320 --> 00:50:02,250
in Moscow, which
interested me very much.

872
00:50:02,250 --> 00:50:04,450
And I should add,
incidentally, that I

873
00:50:04,450 --> 00:50:09,010
taught myself the Cyrillic
alphabet during my two years--

874
00:50:09,010 --> 00:50:13,570
postwar years in
Berlin, from '45 to '47.

875
00:50:13,570 --> 00:50:15,930
Because the Russians--
immediately after

876
00:50:15,930 --> 00:50:18,100
their arrival, one
of the first things,

877
00:50:18,100 --> 00:50:21,010
they put under the
German street names--

878
00:50:21,010 --> 00:50:24,890
they named in Russian,
in Cyrillic letters,

879
00:50:24,890 --> 00:50:29,050
so that their soldiers could
orient themselves in the city.

880
00:50:29,050 --> 00:50:31,690
And simply by
comparison, and also

881
00:50:31,690 --> 00:50:34,030
by knowing the Greek
alphabet, which I

882
00:50:34,030 --> 00:50:37,300
knew from the gymnasium.

883
00:50:37,300 --> 00:50:40,450
I could figure out
the entire alphabet.

884
00:50:40,450 --> 00:50:46,340
So going to Moscow in '71,
at least I wasn't lost.

885
00:50:46,340 --> 00:50:49,810
I could read street
names and so on.

886
00:50:49,810 --> 00:50:52,690
In '72, I attended an
international conference

887
00:50:52,690 --> 00:50:56,010
in Warsaw, which--

888

00:50:56,010 --> 00:50:58,270
and just shortly
before that time,

889

00:50:58,270 --> 00:51:04,750
I had read several diaries and
reports about Warsaw ghetto,

890

00:51:04,750 --> 00:51:06,640
including the uprising.

891

00:51:06,640 --> 00:51:13,450
And the visit to Warsaw was
an emotionally very shattering

892

00:51:13,450 --> 00:51:14,930
experience for me.

893

00:51:14,930 --> 00:51:18,520
I spent every free
minute that I was not

894

00:51:18,520 --> 00:51:24,160
at the meeting walking around
the streets of the ghetto,

895

00:51:24,160 --> 00:51:25,750
and--

896

00:51:25,750 --> 00:51:32,350
which I all knew from the books
that I'd read and observed.

897

00:51:32,350 --> 00:51:35,740
And of course, as is
well-known, the ghetto

898

00:51:35,740 --> 00:51:40,280
was totally destroyed by the
Germans after they captured it.

899

00:51:40,280 --> 00:51:44,320

And then the Poles
completely leveled everything

900
00:51:44,320 --> 00:51:50,140
that was left, and then built
sort of workers' apartments

901
00:51:50,140 --> 00:51:53,920
in a style which I call
"socialist modern," which

902
00:51:53,920 --> 00:51:57,400
means modern lines but
shoddy construction.

903
00:51:57,400 --> 00:52:00,200

904
00:52:00,200 --> 00:52:03,280
And I just walked
through the streets.

905
00:52:03,280 --> 00:52:08,800
And in my mental, I
saw in front of me

906
00:52:08,800 --> 00:52:12,100
the Jews who lived there
only a few years before.

907
00:52:12,100 --> 00:52:15,748
It was just 30 years
later that I was there,

908
00:52:15,748 --> 00:52:16,915
which is nothing in history.

909
00:52:16,915 --> 00:52:19,830

910
00:52:19,830 --> 00:52:23,740
In '70-- let me see.

911
00:52:23,740 --> 00:52:26,200
In '78, I spent a year--

912
00:52:26,200 --> 00:52:29,470
I'm sorry, I spent
a summer in Paris.

913
00:52:29,470 --> 00:52:32,140

914
00:52:32,140 --> 00:52:34,390
A former student
of mine, actually,

915
00:52:34,390 --> 00:52:39,580
who got his PhD under my
supervision in the late '60s,

916
00:52:39,580 --> 00:52:42,880
was a French fellow
with whom I had an also

917
00:52:42,880 --> 00:52:45,550
personal friendship,
and we stayed in touch.

918
00:52:45,550 --> 00:52:51,310
And he was probably one of
my most successful students.

919
00:52:51,310 --> 00:52:54,880
By now, he is director of a
big laboratory in Toulouse.

920
00:52:54,880 --> 00:52:57,940
But at that time, he was
already head of a group.

921
00:52:57,940 --> 00:53:03,230
And he invited me to spend
the summer of '78 there.

922

00:53:03,230 --> 00:53:06,290
And I went there with Margot
and our daughter, Eva,

923
00:53:06,290 --> 00:53:09,320
who at that time, '78--
what was she doing then?

924
00:53:09,320 --> 00:53:11,870
She must have been
a college freshman.

925
00:53:11,870 --> 00:53:17,720
And that was-- well, we lived,
really, like French people.

926
00:53:17,720 --> 00:53:20,000
We entered a
furnished apartment.

927
00:53:20,000 --> 00:53:23,630
And Margaret and
Eva, during the day,

928
00:53:23,630 --> 00:53:28,330
went, of course, to visit
museums and the sights

929
00:53:28,330 --> 00:53:29,930
on the streets.

930
00:53:29,930 --> 00:53:32,040
And on weekends, we
did things together.

931
00:53:32,040 --> 00:53:35,330
It was one of the
best summers we had.

932
00:53:35,330 --> 00:53:42,770
And in '76, by the way,
I had a summer position

933

00:53:42,770 --> 00:53:47,840
at the Space Physics Laboratory
of the University of California

934
00:53:47,840 --> 00:53:49,100
in Berkeley.

935
00:53:49,100 --> 00:53:52,430
That was where we made a
cross-country trip by car,

936
00:53:52,430 --> 00:53:54,380
which is the only way
to see this country,

937
00:53:54,380 --> 00:53:56,620
is really by driving through it.

938
00:53:56,620 --> 00:54:01,010
It's fascinating how
the landscape changes,

939
00:54:01,010 --> 00:54:03,530
the architecture
changes, and so on.

940
00:54:03,530 --> 00:54:06,950
And on the 4th of July--

941
00:54:06,950 --> 00:54:09,350
actually, we first
visited friends

942
00:54:09,350 --> 00:54:11,750
in San Diego and Los Angeles.

943
00:54:11,750 --> 00:54:18,380
And on the 4th of July, we drove
up from LA to San Francisco.

944
00:54:18,380 --> 00:54:23,050
And of course, the 4th of July
is Independence Day, obviously.

945
00:54:23,050 --> 00:54:27,140
In '76, it was the
200th anniversary

946
00:54:27,140 --> 00:54:28,970
of the United States.

947
00:54:28,970 --> 00:54:32,390
But in addition to that,
it was also the day

948
00:54:32,390 --> 00:54:37,730
where Israeli commandos
liberated the prisoners

949
00:54:37,730 --> 00:54:39,020
in Entebbe.

950
00:54:39,020 --> 00:54:43,010
And we were driving along
and listening to the radio

951
00:54:43,010 --> 00:54:47,180
just for diversion, when
suddenly a news flash came on

952
00:54:47,180 --> 00:54:53,300
that Israeli commandos had
liberated the passengers over--

953
00:54:53,300 --> 00:54:56,150
I think it was an Air
Force plane with Israeli,

954
00:54:56,150 --> 00:54:58,710
and also other citizens on it.

955
00:54:58,710 --> 00:55:01,700
And so that was a
perfect way for us

956

00:55:01,700 --> 00:55:04,300
to celebrate Independence Day.

957
00:55:04,300 --> 00:55:08,690
And then in the evening, after
we arrived in Berkeley, we

958
00:55:08,690 --> 00:55:10,610
were told that
already, ahead of time,

959
00:55:10,610 --> 00:55:14,210
that there's always a big
firework over San Francisco

960
00:55:14,210 --> 00:55:21,410
Bay, and the best way to view
it is from the eastern side

961
00:55:21,410 --> 00:55:22,600
of the Bay, from Berkeley.

962
00:55:22,600 --> 00:55:26,810
In other words-- the
Space Physics Lab

963
00:55:26,810 --> 00:55:33,120
is on a mountain where also
the Radiation Lab is located.

964
00:55:33,120 --> 00:55:35,210
And it was a
tremendous experience

965
00:55:35,210 --> 00:55:38,420
to see the fireworks
over San Francisco

966
00:55:38,420 --> 00:55:43,988
Bay on the 4th of July, 1976.

967
00:55:43,988 --> 00:55:44,920
But--

968
00:55:44,920 --> 00:55:48,138
Let me ask you a
few questions, OK?

969
00:55:48,138 --> 00:55:52,700
What-- when you look back--

970
00:55:52,700 --> 00:55:55,546
I mean, you've now
had a lot of time,

971
00:55:55,546 --> 00:55:58,942
and you-- you're rel--
you're fairly reflective.

972
00:55:58,942 --> 00:56:02,640
What sort of long-term impact
did these early experiences

973
00:56:02,640 --> 00:56:06,410
have on you, on the
way you've lived

974
00:56:06,410 --> 00:56:08,027
your life, on your
general outlook,

975
00:56:08,027 --> 00:56:09,485
or the way you've
raised your kids?

976
00:56:09,485 --> 00:56:12,350
Can you talk about that?

977
00:56:12,350 --> 00:56:13,532
Yes.

978
00:56:13,532 --> 00:56:15,700
I mean, it had a
tremendous impact.

979

00:56:15,700 --> 00:56:21,750
And in fact, the impact
increased as the years went by.

980
00:56:21,750 --> 00:56:24,370

981
00:56:24,370 --> 00:56:28,470
I mean, the fact that
my parents, my sister,

982
00:56:28,470 --> 00:56:32,720
and my first girlfriend,
plus innumerable other people

983
00:56:32,720 --> 00:56:38,300
I knew or I didn't know just
vanished and were brutally

984
00:56:38,300 --> 00:56:44,720
murdered because of some
unbelievable ideology which

985
00:56:44,720 --> 00:56:47,090
somebody cooked up is so--

986
00:56:47,090 --> 00:56:50,130

987
00:56:50,130 --> 00:56:56,102
it's even, for me today,
not understandable

988
00:56:56,102 --> 00:56:57,310
how that could have happened.

989
00:56:57,310 --> 00:57:02,840
And I have been sort of
totally more and more absorbed

990
00:57:02,840 --> 00:57:04,660
by it as the years went by.

991

00:57:04,660 --> 00:57:08,540

I read-- I have innumerable
books, some of them

992

00:57:08,540 --> 00:57:11,210

I haven't even read
yet, on the Holocaust.

993

00:57:11,210 --> 00:57:13,690

I mean, starting with
the standard works

994

00:57:13,690 --> 00:57:18,410

by Hillburg and--

995

00:57:18,410 --> 00:57:19,340

what's her name?

996

00:57:19,340 --> 00:57:24,740

Yahyah Hill, the Israeli
historian, and also

997

00:57:24,740 --> 00:57:26,970

Lucy Dawidowicz, and so on.

998

00:57:26,970 --> 00:57:30,050

But in addition to that,
all kinds of special

999

00:57:30,050 --> 00:57:33,440

works by authors
on special subjects

1000

00:57:33,440 --> 00:57:35,080

like the Warsaw ghetto.

1001

00:57:35,080 --> 00:57:37,250

I have a whole
number of diaries,

1002

00:57:37,250 --> 00:57:47,510

including Rhea Blumes' notes,

and so also on German Jews.

1003
00:57:47,510 --> 00:57:50,450
And of course,
fascinated particularly

1004
00:57:50,450 --> 00:57:56,000
by the fate of German Jews,
because that's what I am.

1005
00:57:56,000 --> 00:57:59,870
And I was totally
raised in Germany.

1006
00:57:59,870 --> 00:58:04,790
And how that could have
happened, of all countries,

1007
00:58:04,790 --> 00:58:08,910
in that country is
something that I

1008
00:58:08,910 --> 00:58:11,810
have wrestled with all
the-- for years and years,

1009
00:58:11,810 --> 00:58:16,370
and have not really
come to a conclusion.

1010
00:58:16,370 --> 00:58:19,490
What that really
was that gave rise

1011
00:58:19,490 --> 00:58:23,690
to this unbelievable
crime, and--

1012
00:58:23,690 --> 00:58:24,800
you know, that was--

1013
00:58:24,800 --> 00:58:29,300
also, it was committed by people

who are mostly highly-educated.

1014

00:58:29,300 --> 00:58:32,840

And although there were some uneducated at the lower levels.

1015

00:58:32,840 --> 00:58:35,060

But at the higher levels, they were often--

1016

00:58:35,060 --> 00:58:41,870

Goebbels was a PhD, and many other people in--

1017

00:58:41,870 --> 00:58:45,560

who are not that well-known, but were in high positions,

1018

00:58:45,560 --> 00:58:46,970

were highly-educated.

1019

00:58:46,970 --> 00:58:54,360

And to plan a mass murder on that scale and carry it out

1020

00:58:54,360 --> 00:58:57,800

is totally mind-boggling.

1021

00:58:57,800 --> 00:59:04,400

And then another thing is that the fate of my immediate family

1022

00:59:04,400 --> 00:59:05,870

is--

1023

00:59:05,870 --> 00:59:12,740

I'm trying to picture my father, even on the deportation train.

1024

00:59:12,740 --> 00:59:14,840

I mean, how--

1025

00:59:14,840 --> 00:59:19,070

I mean, going into
such the detail as--

1026

00:59:19,070 --> 00:59:24,725

each railroad car where
people were transported,

1027

00:59:24,725 --> 00:59:26,930

and they were basically
freight or cattle

1028

00:59:26,930 --> 00:59:30,250

cars, had just somewhere--

1029

00:59:30,250 --> 00:59:35,180

a big bucket where people
could relieve themselves.

1030

00:59:35,180 --> 00:59:40,970

I couldn't-- I can't even
believe how anyone would even

1031

00:59:40,970 --> 00:59:44,540

be able to relieve themselves in
public with everybody standing

1032

00:59:44,540 --> 00:59:47,480

around, and a bucket
in the middle.

1033

00:59:47,480 --> 00:59:54,710

The idea, to humiliate Jews to
such an unbelievable extent.

1034

00:59:54,710 --> 00:59:59,930

And how my father even-- and
then on the day that he left,

1035

00:59:59,930 --> 01:00:01,530

the temperatures were--

1036

01:00:01,530 --> 01:00:03,920

I mean, Berlin in winter,
it was anyway cold.

1037
01:00:03,920 --> 01:00:05,870

I think now it is
not as cold anymore.

1038
01:00:05,870 --> 01:00:07,850

But at that time,
it was much cooler.

1039
01:00:07,850 --> 01:00:14,000

But that was an unusually
cold day, even for that time.

1040
01:00:14,000 --> 01:00:18,200

I checked the meteorological
records again to--

1041
01:00:18,200 --> 01:00:22,640

and have that at home,
actually, to reconfirm

1042
01:00:22,640 --> 01:00:24,590

that it was just my memory.

1043
01:00:24,590 --> 01:00:28,580

But these were
extremely cold days.

1044
01:00:28,580 --> 01:00:30,720

And of course, the
cars were unheated.

1045
01:00:30,720 --> 01:00:35,240

And all my family was
treated after they

1046
01:00:35,240 --> 01:00:36,920

arrived at Auschwitz.

1047
01:00:36,920 --> 01:00:41,330

That they went to Auschwitz,

that is a matter of record,

1048
01:00:41,330 --> 01:00:46,640
and my friend, Ruth, I
think was deported to Riga.

1049
01:00:46,640 --> 01:00:51,210
And from what little
I know, it may

1050
01:00:51,210 --> 01:00:53,580
have happened that
they were immediately

1051
01:00:53,580 --> 01:00:56,930
transported by truck into
some forest and shot.

1052
01:00:56,930 --> 01:01:01,200

1053
01:01:01,200 --> 01:01:03,240
And so I have been--

1054
01:01:03,240 --> 01:01:06,150
as the years went by,
I have more and more

1055
01:01:06,150 --> 01:01:07,380
occupied myself with that.

1056
01:01:07,380 --> 01:01:10,950
For example, I was
instrumental in Ann Arbor

1057
01:01:10,950 --> 01:01:18,045
to start an annual observance
of Yom HaShoah, which has been

1058
01:01:18,045 --> 01:01:20,400
now going on for over 10 years.

1059

01:01:20,400 --> 01:01:23,970
And I was also involved--

1060
01:01:23,970 --> 01:01:29,010
Ann Arbor has a statue now
commemorating the Holocaust,

1061
01:01:29,010 --> 01:01:30,960
where I was involved in--

1062
01:01:30,960 --> 01:01:35,340
both in raising the money and
in getting the idea through to--

1063
01:01:35,340 --> 01:01:39,240
the artist who made the
statue is Leonard Baskin,

1064
01:01:39,240 --> 01:01:44,965
who, by the way, also made one
of the statues of the new FDR

1065
01:01:44,965 --> 01:01:45,465
Memorial.

1066
01:01:45,465 --> 01:01:50,700

1067
01:01:50,700 --> 01:01:56,190
So I'm-- I must say that I'm--

1068
01:01:56,190 --> 01:01:58,920

1069
01:01:58,920 --> 01:02:00,750
you asked me how I raised my--

1070
01:02:00,750 --> 01:02:02,680
what affect of
raising my children.

1071
01:02:02,680 --> 01:02:04,630

And in two ways.

1072

01:02:04,630 --> 01:02:08,430

First of all, I have
always talked to them

1073

01:02:08,430 --> 01:02:10,070

about that period.

1074

01:02:10,070 --> 01:02:15,900

And in 1981, in fact, that
was when our son graduated

1075

01:02:15,900 --> 01:02:19,320

from law school in Michigan.

1076

01:02:19,320 --> 01:02:21,450

And our daughter
was actually still

1077

01:02:21,450 --> 01:02:25,290

a year away from graduation.

1078

01:02:25,290 --> 01:02:30,210

But we proposed for them
a joint graduation gift,

1079

01:02:30,210 --> 01:02:33,750

that's a trip to Europe,
as students like to do it,

1080

01:02:33,750 --> 01:02:35,290

sort of to bum around.

1081

01:02:35,290 --> 01:02:38,070

They could select
where they wanted

1082

01:02:38,070 --> 01:02:44,190

to go, sort of in youth hostels,
and so on, with one proviso.

1083

01:02:44,190 --> 01:02:47,820
In '81, I was at an
international meeting,

1084
01:02:47,820 --> 01:02:51,520
I think, in June or so,
in Edinburgh, Scotland.

1085
01:02:51,520 --> 01:02:59,220
And I suggested that we meet
in Berlin on a certain week

1086
01:02:59,220 --> 01:03:04,470
so that Margo and I could
show them where we grew up,

1087
01:03:04,470 --> 01:03:06,780
respectively, and
also where we went

1088
01:03:06,780 --> 01:03:12,307
to school, and other places
of relevance to our lives.

1089
01:03:12,307 --> 01:03:13,390
And so that's what we did.

1090
01:03:13,390 --> 01:03:18,360
We actually-- after from
Edinburgh, we flew to Berlin.

1091
01:03:18,360 --> 01:03:20,700
The kids had already
left earlier.

1092
01:03:20,700 --> 01:03:24,090
They had decided first
to make a brief swing

1093
01:03:24,090 --> 01:03:25,680
through parts of Scandinavia.

1094
01:03:25,680 --> 01:03:28,380

They were in Copenhagen,
then southern Sweden.

1095
01:03:28,380 --> 01:03:29,040
OK?

1096
01:03:29,040 --> 01:03:31,050
And then they went into Berlin.

1097
01:03:31,050 --> 01:03:33,330
We met there and
spent a week there.

1098
01:03:33,330 --> 01:03:38,070
And we showed-- went also
to the cemetery where

1099
01:03:38,070 --> 01:03:41,970
some of our forebears, gros
grandparents, and so on are

1100
01:03:41,970 --> 01:03:46,200
buried, and some
famous German Jews.

1101
01:03:46,200 --> 01:03:50,370
In Germany, the gravestones
are also more descriptive.

1102
01:03:50,370 --> 01:03:52,860
I mean, you can really
see who somebody was.

1103
01:03:52,860 --> 01:03:56,640
I mean, it explained somebody
may have been professor of this

1104
01:03:56,640 --> 01:04:02,520
or that at this university,
or may have been an architect,

1105
01:04:02,520 --> 01:04:03,420
or whatever.

1106
01:04:03,420 --> 01:04:04,670
Anyway.

1107
01:04:04,670 --> 01:04:07,710
And then the rest of
the time, well, they

1108
01:04:07,710 --> 01:04:09,300
continued then on their own.

1109
01:04:09,300 --> 01:04:11,830

1110
01:04:11,830 --> 01:04:17,500
So coming back to your
question, I mean, I saw to it.

1111
01:04:17,500 --> 01:04:20,820
But also, we wanted
to make them also

1112
01:04:20,820 --> 01:04:23,760
very conscious of
their Jewish heritage.

1113
01:04:23,760 --> 01:04:29,130
And Margo and I often feared
that in that respect, maybe

1114
01:04:29,130 --> 01:04:31,980
we didn't do too
great a job there.

1115
01:04:31,980 --> 01:04:33,630
We sort of totally relied--

1116
01:04:33,630 --> 01:04:36,480
we are members of a
conservative synagogue.

1117
01:04:36,480 --> 01:04:41,340

And of course, money
constraints being what they are,

1118
01:04:41,340 --> 01:04:44,310
they can't really hire
first-rate teachers.

1119
01:04:44,310 --> 01:04:47,130
So they usually use
college students

1120
01:04:47,130 --> 01:04:50,310
who come from more or
less religious homes

1121
01:04:50,310 --> 01:04:53,760
to teach the standard
things in elementary Hebrew,

1122
01:04:53,760 --> 01:04:57,340
and biblical history, and so on.

1123
01:04:57,340 --> 01:05:00,300
But they still-- our
daughter now even taking now

1124
01:05:00,300 --> 01:05:09,063
here a course in Basics of
Judaism, I think, at the DCJCC.

1125
01:05:09,063 --> 01:05:13,410
What I'm asking is maybe
a little bit more subtle.

1126
01:05:13,410 --> 01:05:17,940
It's, do you think that
you acted differently

1127
01:05:17,940 --> 01:05:19,284
than you might have?

1128
01:05:19,284 --> 01:05:21,380
Do you think that you

have certain values,

1129
01:05:21,380 --> 01:05:24,200
or you instilled
certain certain values--

1130
01:05:24,200 --> 01:05:24,700
Oh, OK.

1131
01:05:24,700 --> 01:05:26,117
--as a result of
your experiences?

1132
01:05:26,117 --> 01:05:26,700
Yes.

1133
01:05:26,700 --> 01:05:31,110
OK, let-- thank you for
raising that question.

1134
01:05:31,110 --> 01:05:34,580
I was never only
concerned exclusively

1135
01:05:34,580 --> 01:05:37,110
with the Jewish faith,
although this is obviously

1136
01:05:37,110 --> 01:05:38,920
the one that's closest to me.

1137
01:05:38,920 --> 01:05:41,990
But I was always appalled,
for example also,

1138
01:05:41,990 --> 01:05:45,420
with the treatment of
Blacks in this country,

1139
01:05:45,420 --> 01:05:46,980
or Afro-Americans.

1140

01:05:46,980 --> 01:05:52,290
And I have been always
quite active in Ann Arbor.

1141
01:05:52,290 --> 01:05:56,910
I mean, today-- seems long
ago, but there was at one time

1142
01:05:56,910 --> 01:05:58,980
strict housing segregation.

1143
01:05:58,980 --> 01:06:02,240
And there was a
large group in which

1144
01:06:02,240 --> 01:06:06,470
I was involved for
passage of city ordinances

1145
01:06:06,470 --> 01:06:09,980
to make such segregation
illegal, particularly

1146
01:06:09,980 --> 01:06:15,440
by real estate agents, and loan
practices by banks, and so on.

1147
01:06:15,440 --> 01:06:18,230
And I took the
children sometimes

1148
01:06:18,230 --> 01:06:21,080
along to demonstrations,
just to--

1149
01:06:21,080 --> 01:06:22,646
and they are both--

1150
01:06:22,646 --> 01:06:24,210
and both of our children--

1151
01:06:24,210 --> 01:06:28,730
Eva, our daughter, is involved

now in the Hunger Coalition

1152
01:06:28,730 --> 01:06:31,700
here, which incidentally,
my wife is also very much

1153
01:06:31,700 --> 01:06:34,070
involved in Ann Arbor.

1154
01:06:34,070 --> 01:06:37,580
And our son is involved
with the Anti-Defamation

1155
01:06:37,580 --> 01:06:40,970
League and such organizations.

1156
01:06:40,970 --> 01:06:45,560
So we always instilled
in them that it

1157
01:06:45,560 --> 01:06:49,640
is important for everybody
to work for equality.

1158
01:06:49,640 --> 01:06:53,760
Not just for yourself, for your
own group, but for all groups.

1159
01:06:53,760 --> 01:06:56,610

1160
01:06:56,610 --> 01:06:59,740
Were there certain--
or are there certain

1161
01:06:59,740 --> 01:07:02,655
fears that have stuck
with you as a result

1162
01:07:02,655 --> 01:07:07,160
of your experiences?

1163

01:07:07,160 --> 01:07:08,260
Very, very seldom.

1164
01:07:08,260 --> 01:07:10,460
I have some dreams,
or some thoughts.

1165
01:07:10,460 --> 01:07:16,100
I mean, just recently when I
woke up earlier in the morning

1166
01:07:16,100 --> 01:07:20,540
than I should have, probably,
I thought of that incident

1167
01:07:20,540 --> 01:07:28,460
with that civilian police guy
who stopped me on the subway.

1168
01:07:28,460 --> 01:07:32,000
And where I asked myself
the question, what

1169
01:07:32,000 --> 01:07:35,650
if my assessment was
wrong, and my lingering

1170
01:07:35,650 --> 01:07:37,760
around there would
have caused him--

1171
01:07:37,760 --> 01:07:41,750
he could have-- any time
while I was at the newspaper

1172
01:07:41,750 --> 01:07:45,130
kiosk pretending to
look at newspapers,

1173
01:07:45,130 --> 01:07:46,700
he could have tapped
on my shoulder

1174

01:07:46,700 --> 01:07:49,130
and said, why don't
you come along?

1175
01:07:49,130 --> 01:07:51,560
I want to ask you
some more questions.

1176
01:07:51,560 --> 01:07:54,420
And then that would
have been the end of me.

1177
01:07:54,420 --> 01:08:00,803
And I elaborated on that,
and my fantasy have--

1178
01:08:00,803 --> 01:08:02,570
I mean, there are
people who wouldn't

1179
01:08:02,570 --> 01:08:04,570
have gotten that-- wouldn't
ride a subway today.

1180
01:08:04,570 --> 01:08:05,520
Do you know what I mean?

1181
01:08:05,520 --> 01:08:06,020
Yeah.

1182
01:08:06,020 --> 01:08:07,420
I'm trying to--

1183
01:08:07,420 --> 01:08:08,000
Oh, yeah.

1184
01:08:08,000 --> 01:08:08,500
No.

1185
01:08:08,500 --> 01:08:10,340
If there are certain
images, certain

1186

01:08:10,340 --> 01:08:14,230
sounds that really
trigger memories for you--

1187

01:08:14,230 --> 01:08:14,730
Yeah--

1188

01:08:14,730 --> 01:08:16,220
--in a very powerful way.

1189

01:08:16,220 --> 01:08:20,599
Well actually, it's
not a memory, it's a--

1190

01:08:20,599 --> 01:08:21,099
sirens.

1191

01:08:21,099 --> 01:08:24,109

1192

01:08:24,109 --> 01:08:24,990
For two reasons.

1193

01:08:24,990 --> 01:08:27,950
First of all, they
signaled air raids.

1194

01:08:27,950 --> 01:08:29,600
But they also--

1195

01:08:29,600 --> 01:08:33,500
My father was
basically abducted.

1196

01:08:33,500 --> 01:08:37,279
That's what the correct word
for that would have been.

1197

01:08:37,279 --> 01:08:41,000
And normally, you
would call the police

1198

01:08:41,000 --> 01:08:44,060

and they would come with
their sirens blaring.

1199

01:08:44,060 --> 01:08:48,979

And whenever I hear sirens,
particularly on a police car,

1200

01:08:48,979 --> 01:08:52,250

sometimes I have actually
tears are welling.

1201

01:08:52,250 --> 01:08:59,270

Thinking of it, they should have
come and rescued my parents.

1202

01:08:59,270 --> 01:09:01,220

They were being abducted
in broad daylight.

1203

01:09:01,220 --> 01:09:05,750

1204

01:09:05,750 --> 01:09:15,060

And, um-- and, um--

1205

01:09:15,060 --> 01:09:17,830

I visited, um--

1206

01:09:17,830 --> 01:09:23,120

I visited, um-- by now
Auschwitz four times.

1207

01:09:23,120 --> 01:09:31,320

And, um-- that is also something
I still have not come to--

1208

01:09:31,320 --> 01:09:32,220

to grips with.

1209

01:09:32,220 --> 01:09:39,069

1210
01:09:39,069 --> 01:09:42,160
But in general, I, um--

1211
01:09:42,160 --> 01:09:46,870
[CLEARS THROAT] in my
day-to-day life, fortunately,

1212
01:09:46,870 --> 01:09:51,100
I have not had any--

1213
01:09:51,100 --> 01:09:53,260
I mean, to my
knowledge, at least,

1214
01:09:53,260 --> 01:10:01,870
any real strong
emotional effects.

1215
01:10:01,870 --> 01:10:03,310
I mean, like you
said, not wanting

1216
01:10:03,310 --> 01:10:05,442
to ride subways or things.

1217
01:10:05,442 --> 01:10:08,394

1218
01:10:08,394 --> 01:10:10,362
Is there anything
else you want to add?

1219
01:10:10,362 --> 01:10:13,160
Because I think
we've covered a lot.

1220
01:10:13,160 --> 01:10:13,840
Yeah.

1221
01:10:13,840 --> 01:10:17,200
I mean, actually, one

thing that I wanted to say

1222

01:10:17,200 --> 01:10:21,520
and forgot, in one of
the earlier tapes--

1223

01:10:21,520 --> 01:10:25,900
I think I made some
mistakes in two dates.

1224

01:10:25,900 --> 01:10:30,820
One is a high school friend
of mine, at one point,

1225

01:10:30,820 --> 01:10:39,010
I said left Berlin to emigrate
to England on January 18, 1938.

1226

01:10:39,010 --> 01:10:41,920
Now in context, that, of
course, could not have been.

1227

01:10:41,920 --> 01:10:45,920
And as I explained at the time,
his parents were Austrians.

1228

01:10:45,920 --> 01:10:49,160
And in January
'38, Austria still

1229

01:10:49,160 --> 01:10:51,378
was an independent country.

1230

01:10:51,378 --> 01:10:53,466
[COUGHS] Excuse me.

1231

01:10:53,466 --> 01:10:57,440

1232

01:10:57,440 --> 01:11:01,240
Austria was occupied
in March '38, and--

1233

01:11:01,240 --> 01:11:03,500

so then they lost
their protection.

1234

01:11:03,500 --> 01:11:09,530

And he left actually
Berlin on January 18, '39.

1235

01:11:09,530 --> 01:11:14,900

In other words, about 3/4
of a year after Austria

1236

01:11:14,900 --> 01:11:16,610

lost its independence.

1237

01:11:16,610 --> 01:11:20,720

The second date correction,
the arrest of my girlfriend,

1238

01:11:20,720 --> 01:11:25,280

Ruth, I said at one time
it's November 9, '41.

1239

01:11:25,280 --> 01:11:28,100

1240

01:11:28,100 --> 01:11:30,560

Also in November--

1241

01:11:30,560 --> 01:11:36,080

I'm sorry, September
9, '41 I said.

1242

01:11:36,080 --> 01:11:39,230

The first deportation
left Berlin only

1243

01:11:39,230 --> 01:11:42,530

at the end of September
'41, and she was

1244

01:11:42,530 --> 01:11:46,360

deported on September 9, '42.

1245
01:11:46,360 --> 01:11:48,110
Not '41.

1246
01:11:48,110 --> 01:11:49,610
I mean, that's just--

1247
01:11:49,610 --> 01:11:55,380
that doesn't change anything
but to correct the misstatement.

1248
01:11:55,380 --> 01:11:58,310
Any overall thought or
statement you'd like to make?

1249
01:11:58,310 --> 01:12:00,600

1250
01:12:00,600 --> 01:12:01,100
Well--

1251
01:12:01,100 --> 01:12:05,300
Doesn't have to be
specific, but just any--

1252
01:12:05,300 --> 01:12:09,390
I would think, really,
two or three things.

1253
01:12:09,390 --> 01:12:13,310
And one of them is
that there is a lot

1254
01:12:13,310 --> 01:12:17,690
of basic value in
Judaism, and that it's

1255
01:12:17,690 --> 01:12:22,020
sort of incumbent on us to
really familiarize ourselves

1256

01:12:22,020 --> 01:12:22,880
with it.

1257
01:12:22,880 --> 01:12:26,590
I mean, there-- for many
Jews in this country,

1258
01:12:26,590 --> 01:12:28,880
there has been sort of--

1259
01:12:28,880 --> 01:12:31,520
the Holocaust has
been treated almost

1260
01:12:31,520 --> 01:12:35,630
like a substitute religion,
particularly in recent years.

1261
01:12:35,630 --> 01:12:38,090
And I think that is almost sick.

1262
01:12:38,090 --> 01:12:41,540
I think the Holocaust must
be remembered, of course.

1263
01:12:41,540 --> 01:12:47,780
But not as a-- in the
sense of a religion.

1264
01:12:47,780 --> 01:12:53,480
But in the sense that we, first
of all, should remember always,

1265
01:12:53,480 --> 01:12:56,990
just like really remember
other events in our history,

1266
01:12:56,990 --> 01:13:01,370
going back to Masada, to the
destruction of the two temples

1267
01:13:01,370 --> 01:13:02,480
and so on.

1268
01:13:02,480 --> 01:13:04,390
And also to learn from it.

1269
01:13:04,390 --> 01:13:08,550
Learn what to do and
also what not to do.

1270
01:13:08,550 --> 01:13:12,710
The other thing is that
aside from Judaism,

1271
01:13:12,710 --> 01:13:16,940
I also don't believe that
one should be focused

1272
01:13:16,940 --> 01:13:20,455
100% on one's Judaism, like--

1273
01:13:20,455 --> 01:13:22,730
I know there are such Jews.

1274
01:13:22,730 --> 01:13:28,670
But that since we are
living in a broader world,

1275
01:13:28,670 --> 01:13:31,850
that it is also the
duty of everyone

1276
01:13:31,850 --> 01:13:40,820
to involve him or herself
in the daily politics

1277
01:13:40,820 --> 01:13:46,310
to fight for what is
right, and to fight for--

1278
01:13:46,310 --> 01:13:48,020
against injustice.

1279
01:13:48,020 --> 01:13:50,130

Also, against other groups.

1280

01:13:50,130 --> 01:13:54,050

I think that is one thing
that it is important.

1281

01:13:54,050 --> 01:13:58,220

I mean, there is a famous,
by now it's a cliche quote,

1282

01:13:58,220 --> 01:14:02,400

I think it is from the
German pastor Niemoller

1283

01:14:02,400 --> 01:14:04,970

that, at first, they came
after the communists--

1284

01:14:04,970 --> 01:14:07,280

I mean, the Nazis.

1285

01:14:07,280 --> 01:14:11,300

I didn't particularly care,
because I wasn't a communist.

1286

01:14:11,300 --> 01:14:15,980

Then they went after the Jews,
and it didn't bother me either.

1287

01:14:15,980 --> 01:14:17,060

I'm not a Jew.

1288

01:14:17,060 --> 01:14:20,810

Then they went after homosexuals
and it didn't bother me.

1289

01:14:20,810 --> 01:14:22,520

I'm not a homosexual.

1290

01:14:22,520 --> 01:14:24,590

Then they went after Catholics.

1291

01:14:24,590 --> 01:14:25,910

That didn't bother me.

1292

01:14:25,910 --> 01:14:29,120

And when they came after
me, there was nobody left.

1293

01:14:29,120 --> 01:14:35,460

1294

01:14:35,460 --> 01:14:36,770

Thank you.

1295

01:14:36,770 --> 01:14:38,420

You're welcome.

1296

01:14:38,420 --> 01:14:45,000