00:00:19,880 --> 00:00:20,900 OK.

```
3
```

00:00:20,900 --> 00:00:22,190

Good morning, Regine.

```
4
00:00:22,190 --> 00:00:23,120
```

Good morning, Joan.
5
00:00:23,120 --> 00:00:24,537
It's nice to have you here.
6
00:00:24,537 --> 00:00:25,870
Thanks.
7
00:00:25,870 --> 00:00:29,980
Tell me first the name
that you were born with.
8
00:00:29,980 --> 00:00:31,150
In Jewish?
9
00:00:31,150 --> 00:00:32,200
In both languages.
10
00:00:32,200 --> 00:00:32,700
Whichever--
11
00:00:32,700 --> 00:00:39,190
OK, so in Jewish, it would have
been Rivka Donner, and only one
12
00:00:39,190 --> 00:00:40,180
name.
13
00:00:40,180 --> 00:00:42,880
But I was very seldom
called by that.

## 14

00:00:42,880 --> 00:00:45,550
It was a Regine Donner.
15
00:00:45,550 --> 00:00:47,270
And that's the only
name I've known.

## 16

00:00:47,270 --> 00:00:47,770 Uh-huh.

## 17

00:00:47,770 --> 00:00:49,436
Even as a little
child it was Regine?

## 18

00:00:49,436 --> 00:00:50,170
Yeah, mhm.

## 19 <br> 00:00:50,170 --> 00:00:53,160

And when and where were you born?

20
00:00:53,160 --> 00:00:57,280
Born in Sokal in Poland, of
which I have no recollection
21
00:00:57,280 --> 00:00:58,680 whatsoever.

## 22

00:00:58,680 --> 00:01:06,040
And in August the 26th, '28.
23
00:01:06,040 --> 00:01:08,620
And very shortly
after that, that's
24
00:01:08,620 --> 00:01:12,460 when my mother immigrated with the four kids.

```
And the situation
was that your father
26
00:01:14,860 --> 00:01:17,065
had gone to Brussels to--
27
00:01:17,065 --> 00:01:18,860
He came to Brussels.
28
00:01:18,860 --> 00:01:21,220
There must already
have been some of--
29
00:01:21,220 --> 00:01:23,690
cousins or uncles, whoever.
30
00:01:23,690 --> 00:01:27,020
The situation in
Poland was horrible.
31
00:01:27,020 --> 00:01:32,970
And I think for as much as I can
remember, my mother's stories,
32
00:01:32,970 --> 00:01:36,550
they were particularly
afraid of the Cossacks.
33
00:01:36,550 --> 00:01:40,390
And so he decided he'd
go ahead, find out
34
00:01:40,390 --> 00:01:46,220
whether he could get a job and
have a family come to live,
35
00:01:46,220 --> 00:01:50,050
and then he would ask my
mother to come with the kids.
36
00:01:50,050 --> 00:01:53,530
Well, as I said in my
story, one year passed,
```

00:01:57,970 --> 00:02:03,220
of being alone with the baby and four kids, three other kids.

39
00:02:03,220 --> 00:02:06,400
So she decided-- she packed everything up, and they had--

## 40

00:02:06,400 --> 00:02:08,830
I think they had like a little commerce of--

## 41

00:02:08,830 --> 00:02:13,180
I don't know what
they were selling.
42
00:02:13,180 --> 00:02:14,770
And she just came.
43
00:02:14,770 --> 00:02:16,720
Took the train and came.
44
00:02:16,720 --> 00:02:18,100
And she was in Antwerp?
45
00:02:18,100 --> 00:02:19,870
She was in a Antwerp, yeah.
46
00:02:19,870 --> 00:02:22,520
So essentially, your real memories--

47
00:02:22,520 --> 00:02:23,380
Is Antwerp.
48
00:02:23,380 --> 00:02:24,280
--is Antwerp.

```
4 9
00:02:24,280 --> 00:02:24,820
Yeah.
5 0
00:02:24,820 --> 00:02:27,880
So tell me your
memories before the war
51
00:02:27,880 --> 00:02:29,200
of your father and your mother.
5 2
00:02:29,200 --> 00:02:31,120
Your father's name was Ari?
5 3
00:02:31,120 --> 00:02:32,470
Arie we called him.
5 4
00:02:32,470 --> 00:02:33,140
Arie?
5 5
00:02:33,140 --> 00:02:33,640
Yeah.
5 6
00:02:33,640 --> 00:02:35,760
And my mother was Sabine.
5 7
00:02:35,760 --> 00:02:39,940
Now, that's all I knew, because
I don't know whether you have
58
00:02:39,940 --> 00:02:42,760
these same experiences, but
Jewish families don't talk much
59
00:02:42,760 --> 00:02:43,960
about their family.
6 0
00:02:43,960 --> 00:02:46,900
And that you were asking my
age, [INAUDIBLE] from my mother.
6 1
```

Because whenever
we asked her age,
62
00:02:49,520 --> 00:02:51,020 every year she was younger.

63
00:02:51,020 --> 00:02:53,410
[LAUGHS] Each year, she became younger?

64
00:02:53,410 --> 00:02:54,310
Yeah?
65
00:02:54,310 --> 00:02:55,920
Every time we asked her.
66
00:02:55,920 --> 00:02:58,030
Every year we had a laughing--
67
00:02:58,030 --> 00:02:59,390
standing thing with it.
68
00:02:59,390 --> 00:02:59,890
Right.
69
00:02:59,890 --> 00:03:01,332
Let's ask my mom again.
70
00:03:01,332 --> 00:03:03,790
And she would just-- every year, she became a year younger.

## 71

00:03:03,790 --> 00:03:04,690
She never changed.
72
00:03:04,690 --> 00:03:05,540
[CHUCKLES]
73
00:03:05,540 --> 00:03:08,740
And there was always
this mystery at home.

```
74
00:03:08,740 --> 00:03:12,850
We didn't talk much
about family, and--
7 5
00:03:12,850 --> 00:03:17,200
```

I mean, I learned more about
her family later after the war,
76
00:03:17,200 --> 00:03:20,590
through my brothers,
probably because they
77
00:03:20,590 --> 00:03:24,010
had the chance to live
with my father, who
78
00:03:24,010 --> 00:03:25,510
immigrated to Israel.
79
00:03:25,510 --> 00:03:29,290
So they had all these years
to catch up on the story.
80
00:03:29,290 --> 00:03:30,930
But I didn't.
81
00:03:30,930 --> 00:03:33,490
But what is your
memory of your father?
82
00:03:33,490 --> 00:03:37,640
What kind of a person
was he to you as a child?
83
00:03:37,640 --> 00:03:41,920
Do you have a clear memory
from your youngest years--
84
00:03:41,920 --> 00:03:43,080
Very often away.

Mhm.

## 86

00:03:43,780 --> 00:03:47,770
He was working hard.
87
00:03:47,770 --> 00:03:51,070
But just kind of never made it.

```
88
00:03:51,070 --> 00:03:56,240
```

So he wasn't that much around at home.

```
89
```

00:03:56,240 --> 00:03:58,460
It was mother who took care of everything.

90
00:03:58,460 --> 00:03:59,000
The kids.
91
00:03:59,000 --> 00:03:59,225 Right.

92
00:03:59,225 --> 00:04:00,560 We're speaking about the kids.

## 93

00:04:00,560 --> 00:04:01,300
Right.
94
00:04:01,300 --> 00:04:02,060

## But kind.

95
00:04:02,060 --> 00:04:03,826
I don't think-- you know?
96
00:04:03,826 --> 00:04:06,200
Do you remember eating dinner with him?

97
00:04:06,200 --> 00:04:07,150
Yeah.
00:04:07,150 --> 00:04:07,655

## And was--

99
00:04:07,655 --> 00:04:09,500
Eating dinner-- and at one stage, when

## 100

00:04:09,500 --> 00:04:14,240
we moved from Borgerhout to Berchem for one reason,

## 101

00:04:14,240 --> 00:04:18,110
I don't know what happened because memories do fade,
102
00:04:18,110 --> 00:04:19,940
he was starting to work at home.
103
00:04:19,940 --> 00:04:22,580
He had all the machinery
for polishing and cutting
104
00:04:22,580 --> 00:04:27,350
the diamonds at home, so
I saw a bit more of him.
105
00:04:27,350 --> 00:04:30,140
But then I have not
too many nice memories,
106
00:04:30,140 --> 00:04:33,320
because if one of the little diamonds jumped,
107
00:04:33,320 --> 00:04:34,940
we were in for it.
108
00:04:34,940 --> 00:04:39,090
So we had to scrape the
floor, and lift the Lino up,
and try to-- because one little diamond was a fortune for him.

$$
110
$$

00:04:42,590 --> 00:04:45,645
Because he had to deliver
whichever he had been given,

## 111

00:04:45,645 --> 00:04:46,145 you know?

112
00:04:46,145 --> 00:04:46,775
Little packets.
113
00:04:46,775 --> 00:04:47,370
Right.

## 114

00:04:47,370 --> 00:04:49,350
Yeah.
115
00:04:49,350 --> 00:04:50,057 So--

116
00:04:50,057 --> 00:04:50,682
So you didn't--
117
00:04:50,682 --> 00:04:52,530
--that's as much as I remember.

## 118

00:04:52,530 --> 00:04:57,060
And then, of course, a lot of hard times, arguments,

## 119

00:04:57,060 --> 00:05:00,300
and discussions because this bill would come up,

## 120

00:05:00,300 --> 00:05:05,820 and that bill would come up, and how are we going to meet it.

## 121

00:05:05,820 --> 00:05:08,240
Then as soon as I
could, I suppose,
122
00:05:08,240 --> 00:05:12,327
leave home and get
out of this situation,
123
00:05:12,327 --> 00:05:14,160
that's when I was with
the Hashomer Hatzair.
124
00:05:14,160 --> 00:05:14,460
Right.
125
00:05:14,460 --> 00:05:15,085
But wait, now--
126
00:05:15,085 --> 00:05:16,560
So we had meetings--
127
00:05:16,560 --> 00:05:17,520
Now you're going--
128
00:05:17,520 --> 00:05:18,150
Too fast?
129
00:05:18,150 --> 00:05:18,690
Now you're moving too fast.
130
00:05:18,690 --> 00:05:19,010
OK.
131
00:05:19,010 --> 00:05:20,677
Now, let me ask a
little bit about you--
132
00:05:20,677 --> 00:05:22,030
But my mother was always there.
133
00:05:22,030 --> 00:05:23,210
She was always there.

And what was she like?

135
00:05:24,500 --> 00:05:25,400
Was she warm?
136
00:05:25,400 --> 00:05:26,740
Was she humorous?

137
00:05:26,740 --> 00:05:27,860
Was she strict?
138
00:05:27,860 --> 00:05:28,550
Not humorous.
139
00:05:28,550 --> 00:05:29,270
Not humorous.

140
00:05:29,270 --> 00:05:29,770
No.

141
00:05:29,770 --> 00:05:31,520
Strict.
142
00:05:31,520 --> 00:05:34,450
[? Very young?]
mother, but strict.
143
00:05:34,450 --> 00:05:34,950
You know?

144
00:05:34,950 --> 00:05:36,440
Was she warm?
145
00:05:36,440 --> 00:05:38,480
Affectionate?
146
00:05:38,480 --> 00:05:41,820
I have no memories that
I would say particularly.

## 148

00:05:42,740 --> 00:05:45,630
But I suppose she had
to deal with too much

## 149

00:05:45,630 --> 00:05:49,506
the hardships of taking
care of four young kids.
150
00:05:49,506 --> 00:05:52,360

151
00:05:52,360 --> 00:05:53,000
So just--
152
00:05:53,000 --> 00:05:57,120
Kind of holding very much to herself because of the barriers

## 153

00:05:57,120 --> 00:05:58,680
of languages.
154
00:05:58,680 --> 00:06:01,440
I mean, who did she have to talk with if it wasn't just

155
00:06:01,440 --> 00:06:05,810 the Jewish people in the culture and her own kids?

156
00:06:05,810 --> 00:06:06,820
So she spoke Yiddish--
157
00:06:06,820 --> 00:06:07,320 Yiddish.

158
00:06:07,320 --> 00:06:08,160
That's it.
159
00:06:08,160 --> 00:06:09,720

## 160

00:06:09,720 --> 00:06:10,830
Yeah.
161
00:06:10,830 --> 00:06:12,510
But she did not know the la--
162
00:06:12,510 --> 00:06:13,080 Flemish?

163
00:06:13,080 --> 00:06:13,580
No.
164
00:06:13,580 --> 00:06:14,555
And she didn't learn?
165
00:06:14,555 --> 00:06:16,305
Didn't learn Flemish, didn't learn French.

166
00:06:16,305 --> 00:06:19,080

167
00:06:19,080 --> 00:06:20,910 So that wasn't easy for her.

168
00:06:20,910 --> 00:06:22,290
So your life was not easy.
169
00:06:22,290 --> 00:06:26,210
You were rather poor, and this was hard.

170
00:06:26,210 --> 00:06:28,110 A real struggle.

171
00:06:28,110 --> 00:06:30,360
Can you describe some of that, what it was like?

Well, we would never know--

## 173

00:06:32,385 --> 00:06:37,100
what if the landlord comes
and he wants his rent?

## 174

00:06:37,100 --> 00:06:40,210
And if we don't have it, there was this menace

175
00:06:40,210 --> 00:06:42,140 that he would throw us out.

176
00:06:42,140 --> 00:06:44,690
And as a kid, that kind of leaves a deep impression

177
00:06:44,690 --> 00:06:46,490 on you.

178
00:06:46,490 --> 00:06:52,370
We went that-- how will I say?
179
00:06:52,370 --> 00:06:55,060
Food was-- to keep us going.
180
00:06:55,060 --> 00:06:55,570
OK.
181
00:06:55,570 --> 00:06:57,260
We weren't bad in that.
182
00:06:57,260 --> 00:07:01,930
But a lot of it was that I had to go do the shopping,

183
00:07:01,930 --> 00:07:03,850 and it was always on credit.

184
00:07:03,850 --> 00:07:07,420
Well, I got really upset
with those type of things.
185
00:07:07,420 --> 00:07:08,860
Well, I suppose I was small.
186
00:07:08,860 --> 00:07:11,250
I was cute, as they say.
187
00:07:11,250 --> 00:07:15,100
And the boys wouldn't go, and my sister was out of the picture.

188
00:07:15,100 --> 00:07:19,210
I don't know why, but she never took a particularly active part

## 189

00:07:19,210 --> 00:07:20,650
in the family.
190
00:07:20,650 --> 00:07:26,490
For one thing, she was a
premature child, the first one,

## 191

00:07:26,490 --> 00:07:30,730
and brought up by my
grandmother on my father's side.
192
00:07:30,730 --> 00:07:31,970
Spoiled.
193
00:07:31,970 --> 00:07:33,280
So she was like--
194
00:07:33,280 --> 00:07:34,537
we don't touch her.

195
00:07:34,537 --> 00:07:35,790
Uh-huh.
196
00:07:35,790 --> 00:07:39,260
So there was only me, the only girl-- the only other girl.

00:07:39,260 --> 00:07:45,680
So I'd have to go and explain to the grocery shopkeeper,

## 198

00:07:45,680 --> 00:07:48,440
we promise we will pay
at the end of the month.

199
00:07:48,440 --> 00:07:52,060
Please, we need a bag
of coal, or-- to heat.
200
00:07:52,060 --> 00:07:54,590
Or, could we get this or that?

## 201

00:07:54,590 --> 00:07:56,960 And so one time, it's OK.

202
00:07:56,960 --> 00:07:58,490
The second time, it's--
203
00:07:58,490 --> 00:07:59,300 gets harder.

204
00:07:59,300 --> 00:08:02,780
And when you have to do
that on a repeated basis--
205
00:08:02,780 --> 00:08:04,970 I just hate these type of things.

206
00:08:04,970 --> 00:08:06,860
But that's the way we lived.
207
00:08:06,860 --> 00:08:08,862
Did you feel humiliated?
208
00:08:08,862 --> 00:08:09,920
Yeah, and kind of.

00:08:14,500 --> 00:08:18,060
I will say, as a
memory, giving what

## 211

00:08:18,060 --> 00:08:22,660
Belgium was like and Antwerp, the shopkeeper wasn't too bad.

## 212

00:08:22,660 --> 00:08:25,440
I mean, he probably had pity on me, I take it,

## 213

00:08:25,440 --> 00:08:29,040
because he wasn't, like, yelling or screaming or anything.

## 214

00:08:29,040 --> 00:08:30,690
And eventually, we would pay a part.

215
00:08:30,690 --> 00:08:34,470
But then we would still have
something in the book which
216
00:08:34,470 --> 00:08:37,100 showed we hadn't paid it all.

## 217

00:08:37,100 --> 00:08:40,320
But that was the type
of life we had before--
218
00:08:40,320 --> 00:08:42,809
it got better when
David started work
219
00:08:42,809 --> 00:08:44,640 and when Izzy started work.

00:08:44,640 --> 00:08:48,780
They both learned the trade from my father, so that helped.

221
00:08:48,780 --> 00:08:49,380 Uh-huh.

222
00:08:49,380 --> 00:08:49,890
Yeah.
223
00:08:49,890 --> 00:08:52,780 So there's Clara, who's the eldest?

224
00:08:52,780 --> 00:08:53,280
Eldest.
225
00:08:53,280 --> 00:08:54,900
Born in 1918, right?
226
00:08:54,900 --> 00:08:55,890
That's right.
227
00:08:55,890 --> 00:08:56,770
Then there's David.
228
00:08:56,770 --> 00:08:57,270 David.

229
00:08:57,270 --> 00:08:58,380
And he was born--
230
00:08:58,380 --> 00:09:00,040
'22, I believe.

## 231

00:09:00,040 --> 00:09:00,540
Ah.
232
00:09:00,540 --> 00:09:01,120
No, that's--
233

No.
234
00:09:01,620 --> 00:09:02,590
Maybe '20.

## 235

00:09:02,590 --> 00:09:03,190 '20?

236
00:09:03,190 --> 00:09:03,690
Yeah.

237
00:09:03,690 --> 00:09:05,850
See, dates were not
discussed, as I say.
238
00:09:05,850 --> 00:09:06,360
Yeah.
239
00:09:06,360 --> 00:09:08,210
And then maybe ' 22 was Izzy.
240
00:09:08,210 --> 00:09:08,710
Izzy.
241
00:09:08,710 --> 00:09:09,580
Yeah.
242
00:09:09,580 --> 00:09:11,610
So those two didn't
do anything more
243
00:09:11,610 --> 00:09:14,372
than their elementary
school, grade school.

## 244

00:09:14,372 --> 00:09:16,080
And then they started
to work right away.

## 245

00:09:16,080 --> 00:09:19,010
And I believe it was necessity.

00:09:19,510 --> 00:09:22,840
So they started immediately to work with their father.

00:09:22,840 --> 00:09:26,530
My father was an excellent worker, I will say that.

## 249

00:09:26,530 --> 00:09:29,560
And he had a lot of
apprentices because he

## 250

00:09:29,560 --> 00:09:31,760
was so good at the trade.
251
00:09:31,760 --> 00:09:34,000
So that brought a little bit of money in.

252
00:09:34,000 --> 00:09:35,300
Right.
253
00:09:35,300 --> 00:09:42,160
But he would sit many an
evening with friends in--

## 254

00:09:42,160 --> 00:09:44,290
I don't know how to
say that in English.
255
00:09:44,290 --> 00:09:46,860
In Antwerp, they have
a center, the books--
256
00:09:46,860 --> 00:09:49,590
what you would call what now?

Where the-- tell the up money, the down money for gold,

258
00:09:55,200 --> 00:09:56,705 for silver, for diamonds.

## 259

00:09:56,705 --> 00:09:58,097
What do you call that?
260
00:09:58,097 --> 00:09:59,430
Oh, that's-- the stock exchange?
261
00:09:59,430 --> 00:10:00,490
That's right.
262
00:10:00,490 --> 00:10:00,990 Uh-huh.

263
00:10:00,990 --> 00:10:02,820
He would just be there visiting.

00:10:02,820 --> 00:10:04,670
And it would happened a lot of times

## 265

00:10:04,670 --> 00:10:07,890
that I had to go and
bring him back home.
266
00:10:07,890 --> 00:10:09,860
And he liked to play cards.
267
00:10:09,860 --> 00:10:10,860
So he liked to gamble?
268
00:10:10,860 --> 00:10:12,960 Little bit.

269
00:10:12,960 --> 00:10:14,700
So that was tough.

So then you would not have as much money

271
00:10:16,770 --> 00:10:18,738
as you might have had otherwise?
272
00:10:18,738 --> 00:10:21,080
Yeah.
273
00:10:21,080 --> 00:10:24,160
And why are you the
one who's going--
274
00:10:24,160 --> 00:10:25,480
That's what I'd like to know.
275
00:10:25,480 --> 00:10:26,500
Why was I the one?
276
00:10:26,500 --> 00:10:29,170
It was always me
that she would send.
277
00:10:29,170 --> 00:10:33,820
Now sometimes, I would
say, I had to come.
278
00:10:33,820 --> 00:10:34,920
Mom is mad.
279
00:10:34,920 --> 00:10:36,220
She wants you to come home.
280
00:10:36,220 --> 00:10:36,930
We need you.
281
00:10:36,930 --> 00:10:38,110
This and that.
282
00:10:38,110 --> 00:10:39,430
Sometimes he would come.

Sometimes he would just send me back.

00:10:41,556 --> 00:10:43,940 Mm .

285
00:10:43,940 --> 00:10:46,490
Once or twice I went with
Henry, which he probably

## 286

00:10:46,490 --> 00:10:48,980
wouldn't remember, because
he was like-- you know?
287
00:10:48,980 --> 00:10:51,830
But probably thinking, my mother, that

288
00:10:51,830 --> 00:10:57,210
would impress him more to see the little baby with me.

00:10:57,210 --> 00:10:58,500 [LAUGHS]

290
00:10:58,500 --> 00:11:02,000
Sometimes it succeeded, sometimes it didn't.

## 291

00:11:02,000 --> 00:11:04,670
But then the situation got the better, as I say,

292
00:11:04,670 --> 00:11:06,960
when David and Izzy
started working.
293
00:11:06,960 --> 00:11:08,940
Now, are David and Izzy
living in the house?

00:11:08,940 --> 00:11:09,710 Yeah.

295
00:11:09,710 --> 00:11:10,570 Clara?

296
00:11:10,570 --> 00:11:11,600
Clara lived for a while.
297
00:11:11,600 --> 00:11:14,340

298
00:11:14,340 --> 00:11:16,500
Not till the war [INAUDIBLE].
299
00:11:16,500 --> 00:11:17,770 She left before that.

300
00:11:17,770 --> 00:11:18,270 Uh-huh.

301
00:11:18,270 --> 00:11:21,450
So-- she lived-- of course she lived at home,

302
00:11:21,450 --> 00:11:23,820
because the two of us shared a room.

303
00:11:23,820 --> 00:11:25,380
We even shared the bed.
304
00:11:25,380 --> 00:11:25,880
Really?
305
00:11:25,880 --> 00:11:28,680
Yeah, with a lot of fights, as it goes between sisters,

306
00:11:28,680 --> 00:11:29,310 as you know.

## [CHUCKLES]

308
00:11:29,842 --> 00:11:30,925
And you're 10 years apart.
309
00:11:30,925 --> 00:11:33,780
Izzy and David shared
a room and a bed,

## 310

00:11:33,780 --> 00:11:36,770
then Clara and myself
shared a room and a bed.
311
00:11:36,770 --> 00:11:39,240
And the youngest one,
Henry, when he was born,
312
00:11:39,240 --> 00:11:41,545
he shared the bedroom
with the parents.
313
00:11:41,545 --> 00:11:42,810
Right.

## 314

00:11:42,810 --> 00:11:47,100
Because we didn't have that
much money to live luxurious,

## 315

00:11:47,100 --> 00:11:47,950 as you imagine.

## 316

00:11:47,950 --> 00:11:48,450 Right.

## 317

00:11:48,450 --> 00:11:51,330
None of the Jewish people, except the very rich ones

318
00:11:51,330 --> 00:11:53,980
in Antwerp, would
have been like that.
319
00:11:53,980 --> 00:11:59,370
Now I will say, for example, his sister, who married a shipper,

## 320

00:11:59,370 --> 00:12:00,250 he did better.

321
00:12:00,250 --> 00:12:01,570
But he was in business.
322
00:12:01,570 --> 00:12:03,390
He wasn't just-- you know?
323
00:12:03,390 --> 00:12:06,510
But a lot of the
immigrants who came over
324
00:12:06,510 --> 00:12:10,010
had to take whichever
trade would be available.
325
00:12:10,010 --> 00:12:11,790
So that's how it happened.

## 326

00:12:11,790 --> 00:12:14,665
What was your relationship like with your two brothers and--

327
00:12:14,665 --> 00:12:15,540
your three brothers--
328
00:12:15,540 --> 00:12:19,510
I was very, very, very close to David, the eldest.

329
00:12:19,510 --> 00:12:20,700
We were like-- yeah.
330
00:12:20,700 --> 00:12:24,420
And he had a very strong
relationship with me.

## 331

00:12:24,420 --> 00:12:25,890
With Izzy, not so much.
332
00:12:25,890 --> 00:12:29,880
He was always the aloof child, different from the others.

333
00:12:29,880 --> 00:12:33,270
Wouldn't do anything like anyone else would do.

334
00:12:33,270 --> 00:12:36,440
So I wasn't particularly very close to Izzy.

335
00:12:36,440 --> 00:12:39,630
Now, Henry is the one that
I almost brought up myself.
336
00:12:39,630 --> 00:12:40,990
You know what I'm saying?
337
00:12:40,990 --> 00:12:41,580
Right, right.
338
00:12:41,580 --> 00:12:43,260
I was always with him.
339
00:12:43,260 --> 00:12:45,260
And what made you
and David so close?

340
00:12:45,260 --> 00:12:46,140
What was the--

341
00:12:46,140 --> 00:12:49,370
Probably the Hashomer Hatzair.
342
00:12:49,370 --> 00:12:50,620
We went to the same--

00:12:51,510 --> 00:12:53,340
We had an affinity
for each other.
345
00:12:53,340 --> 00:12:53,840
Uh-huh.
346
00:12:53,840 --> 00:12:54,540
Yeah.
347
00:12:54,540 --> 00:12:55,980
Very close.
348
00:12:55,980 --> 00:12:57,585
But you and Clara
are very different?
349
00:12:57,585 --> 00:12:58,910
Very.
350
00:12:58,910 --> 00:13:01,310
Very different.
351
00:13:01,310 --> 00:13:03,720
Yeah.
352
00:13:03,720 --> 00:13:06,190
And I only got
closer to her and got
353
00:13:06,190 --> 00:13:10,465
to know her a little
bit more during the war.
354
00:13:10,465 --> 00:13:13,300
See, Clara was
different to start

00:13:14,950 --> 00:13:18,820 by her grandmother, who had spoiled her.

357
00:13:18,820 --> 00:13:23,270
Probably, as I say, because
she was so frail and delicate.
358
00:13:23,270 --> 00:13:27,045
First grandchild on both sides.

$$
359
$$

00:13:27,045 --> 00:13:28,890
Mm.

360
00:13:28,890 --> 00:13:36,260
And nothing-- she wouldn't come to any movement or anything

361
00:13:36,260 --> 00:13:37,050
like that.
362
00:13:37,050 --> 00:13:41,120
More like a-- quiet, shy.
363
00:13:41,120 --> 00:13:42,110
I was shy, too.
364
00:13:42,110 --> 00:13:44,336
Don't think I was like now.
365
00:13:44,336 --> 00:13:45,190
[LAUGHS]
366
00:13:45,190 --> 00:13:48,170
I changed a lot over the years, I suppose.

00:13:48,170 --> 00:13:49,920
It took me a while.
368
00:13:49,920 --> 00:13:51,870
So we didn't have
anything in common.

## 369

00:13:51,870 --> 00:13:53,880
But then when
things went very bad
370
00:13:53,880 --> 00:13:58,040
was when she got to know
this Jacques, for whom she
371
00:13:58,040 --> 00:14:01,060
worked for a while in Antwerp.
372
00:14:01,060 --> 00:14:08,470
And I'm almost sure he was a married man with two children.

## 373

00:14:08,470 --> 00:14:10,480
And she eloped.
374
00:14:10,480 --> 00:14:12,490
She didn't even tell.
375
00:14:12,490 --> 00:14:13,270
So she eloped.
376
00:14:13,270 --> 00:14:18,340
She went to Brussels and lived with him.

377
00:14:18,340 --> 00:14:19,840
She got to know him through the job.

378
00:14:19,840 --> 00:14:21,090 He had given her a job.

I think he was a
very good tailor.
380
00:14:23,900 --> 00:14:25,330 And he was doing with--

## 381

00:14:25,330 --> 00:14:27,440
which a lot of Jewish
people were doing.
382
00:14:27,440 --> 00:14:30,620
One of the trades was fur coats.
383
00:14:30,620 --> 00:14:31,880
Mm.

384
00:14:31,880 --> 00:14:33,820
Sticking the pieces together.
385
00:14:33,820 --> 00:14:34,320 [INAUDIBLE]

386
00:14:34,320 --> 00:14:35,810 So that's how she started off.

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387
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00:14:35,810 --> 00:14:36,410
This is a--
388
00:14:36,410 --> 00:14:38, 160
She wasn't a student.
389
00:14:38,160 --> 00:14:38,660
Ah.
390
00:14:38,660 --> 00:14:42,950
As soon as he finished grade 6 , she left school.

391
00:14:42,950 --> 00:14:44,675
So that was another thing.

00:14:44,675 --> 00:14:46,190 So I just went to school alone.

393
00:14:46,190 --> 00:14:46,920
Right.
394
00:14:46,920 --> 00:14:47,490
You know?
395
00:14:47,490 --> 00:14:49,100
So this was Jacques Garfunkel?
396
00:14:49,100 --> 00:14:50,230
Garfunkel.
397
00:14:50,230 --> 00:14:52,045
And you think they got married?
398
00:14:52,045 --> 00:14:53,170
Or they didn't get married?
399
00:14:53,170 --> 00:14:55,190
I don't think they ever
got married officially.
400
00:14:55,190 --> 00:14:56,150
Uh-huh.
401
00:14:56,150 --> 00:14:59,990
Because what I do remember, if you want memories,

402
00:14:59,990 --> 00:15:02,330
I had to tra-- that's
the only trip I ever
403
00:15:02,330 --> 00:15:06,740
took out of Antwerp with
my mother, to Brussels
404
00:15:06,740 --> 00:15:08,870
to bring her back.
405
00:15:08,870 --> 00:15:11,530
Because she had eloped, right?
406
00:15:11,530 --> 00:15:12,970
And in the Jewish custom--
407
00:15:12,970 --> 00:15:13,810 oh, my mother.

408
00:15:13,810 --> 00:15:17,980
That was the biggest scandal in the family that ever happened.

## 409

00:15:17,980 --> 00:15:21,610
So we traveled together because she couldn't travel on her own.

410
00:15:21,610 --> 00:15:24,180
Again, with the language, that doesn't work, right?

411
00:15:24,180 --> 00:15:25,730 Yeah.

412
00:15:25,730 --> 00:15:29,340
And it was the most horrible evening I ever spent.

413
00:15:29,340 --> 00:15:30,340
Because it was a fight?
414
00:15:30,340 --> 00:15:31,720
Oh, it was a fight.
415
00:15:31,720 --> 00:15:34,740
Jacques, with Clara, with my mother.

## 416

00:15:34,740 --> 00:15:36,290
Tears and fighting.

00:15:36,290 --> 00:15:37,890 And we came back alone.

418
00:15:37,890 --> 00:15:38,720 Mm.

## 419

00:15:38,720 --> 00:15:40,200
She didn't follow.
420
00:15:40,200 --> 00:15:40,920
And that was it.
421
00:15:40,920 --> 00:15:44,490
That's the last memory
I have from Clara.

422
00:15:44,490 --> 00:15:48,380
Because-- it must
have been in '39
423
00:15:48,380 --> 00:15:50,480
when we would
still travel a bit.
424
00:15:50,480 --> 00:15:52,440
We never traveled
anywhere, but at least we
425
00:15:52,440 --> 00:15:54,990
went to Brussels and back.
426
00:15:54,990 --> 00:16:00,390
And that's the last memory I have of her before the war.

427
00:16:00,390 --> 00:16:01,887
Then the war came,
and-- well, we

## 428

00:16:01,887 --> 00:16:03,345
didn't know what
happened to Clara.

00:16:03,345 --> 00:16:06,120
And each one went
their own way, and--
430
00:16:06,120 --> 00:16:07,380
but then, for some--
431
00:16:07,380 --> 00:16:09,380
I don't even
remember, see, memory
432
00:16:09,380 --> 00:16:12,510 does fail me in these type of details,

433
00:16:12,510 --> 00:16:17,970
how Clara got my address or got to know about me.

00:16:17,970 --> 00:16:22,350
And then I found out that she was in Brussels,

00:16:22,350 --> 00:16:23,460
I went to visit her.
436
00:16:23,460 --> 00:16:24,690 Mhm.

00:16:24,690 --> 00:16:28,070
I told that in my
story, didn't I?
438
00:16:28,070 --> 00:16:32,720
I went-- I made two attempts and never got there.

439
00:16:32,720 --> 00:16:34,960
For one thing, I didn't know Brussels.

00:16:34,960 --> 00:16:36,900
For me, it was like
going to Paris.
441
00:16:36,900 --> 00:16:41,100
It was just the same
type of experience.
442
00:16:41,100 --> 00:16:43,830
And when I got to the street, finally having

443
00:16:43,830 --> 00:16:49,080
asked three, four people from
Grez-Doiceau that was hiding,

## 444

00:16:49,080 --> 00:16:49,830 you know?

445
00:16:49,830 --> 00:16:53,270 And in fear, you can imagine.

446
00:16:53,270 --> 00:16:55,310
Then the police would stop me and say,

447
00:16:55,310 --> 00:16:57,840
go back from where
you're coming.
448
00:16:57,840 --> 00:17:00,080
And you didn't have
to say more than that.
449
00:17:00,080 --> 00:17:02,660
I was already petrified
to start with.
450
00:17:02,660 --> 00:17:04,180
So back I came.

00:17:04,180 --> 00:17:06,829

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { And they would ask } \\
& \text { me, so, what happened? } \\
& 452 \\
& 00: 17: 06,829 \text {--> 00:17:09, } 650 \\
& \text { Well, the police told me to go } \\
& \text { back from where I was coming. } \\
& \text { 453 } \\
& 00: 17: 09,650 \text {--> 00:17:12,460 }
\end{aligned}
$$

Next day, we would know that they had closed up

00:17:12,460 --> 00:17:14,920 the street on both sides, and they were just running up

00:17:14,920 --> 00:17:16,319 to Jews in the street.

456
00:17:16,319 --> 00:17:16,819
Mm.

457
00:17:16,819 --> 00:17:19,550
So that man--
policemen saved me.

## 458

00:17:19,550 --> 00:17:21,380
And that happened
the second time.
459
00:17:21,380 --> 00:17:24,050
So after that, I was kind
of hesitant to give it
460
00:17:24,050 --> 00:17:25,760 a third try.

## 461

00:17:25,760 --> 00:17:29,840
And as the family who was hiding me was telling me,

## 462

00:17:29,840 --> 00:17:34,250 you're so Jewish-looking that you don't even have to say.

00:17:35,210 --> 00:17:37,485
So you're lucky that you were saved.

465
00:17:37,485 --> 00:17:40,430
And it wouldn't be wise to--

## 466

00:17:40,430 --> 00:17:43,700
So I think I went one more time, where I succeeded 467
00:17:43,700 --> 00:17:45,470 to be with her one evening.

468
00:17:45,470 --> 00:17:47,675
And with Jacques, of course.
469
00:17:47,675 --> 00:17:49,790
And I never went back again.
470
00:17:49,790 --> 00:17:51,890
And how was that
for you, seeing her?
471
00:17:51,890 --> 00:17:53,270 Was that nice?

472
00:17:53,270 --> 00:17:55,190
Yeah, because I have
no other family.
473
00:17:55,190 --> 00:17:58,900
So it was nice to see her and find out how she was.

474
00:17:58,900 --> 00:18:01,910
And she was doing all the running around.

00:18:01,910 --> 00:18:03,890
There was no way that
Jacques would go out
476
00:18:03,890 --> 00:18:07,700
in the street, because if I was
Jewish, he was 10 times worse.
477
00:18:07,700 --> 00:18:08,790
Mm.

478
00:18:08,790 --> 00:18:10,580
And so he did the work.
479
00:18:10,580 --> 00:18:14,450
He was still working, making tailors and things.

480
00:18:14,450 --> 00:18:19,920
Suits for ladies, men, for whoever.

00:18:19,920 --> 00:18:22,390
And she did all
the running around.
482
00:18:22,390 --> 00:18:25,430
The delivering, and
getting the orders in,
483
00:18:25,430 --> 00:18:28,490
and doing the shopping, and so--
484
00:18:28,490 --> 00:18:30,620
Did she appear
happy [INAUDIBLE]??
485
00:18:30,620 --> 00:18:31,790
She seemed to.
486
00:18:31,790 --> 00:18:32,860

Yeah, she seemed happy.

00:18:32,860 --> 00:18:34,910
Yeah.
488
00:18:34,910 --> 00:18:37,970
Let me go back again
and ask you a bit
489
00:18:37,970 --> 00:18:41,280
about religion in the family and politics in the family.

490
00:18:41,280 --> 00:18:41,780
Mhm.
491
00:18:41,780 --> 00:18:42,920
David was a Zionist--
492
00:18:42,920 --> 00:18:44,285
Yeah.
493
00:18:44,285 --> 00:18:46,670
A staunch [INAUDIBLE] Zionist.
494
00:18:46,670 --> 00:18:47,170
Yes?
495
00:18:47,170 --> 00:18:47,670
Yeah.

496
00:18:47,670 --> 00:18:49,950
[LAUGHS] And preparing to go to Palestine?

497
00:18:49,950 --> 00:18:50,540
Yep.
498
00:18:50,540 --> 00:18:51,280
Yes.

00:18:51,280 --> 00:18:52,120
The whole movement.
500
00:18:52,120 --> 00:18:52,940
The whole movement.
501
00:18:52,940 --> 00:18:56,230
And were you, then, because you were so close to him, caught up

502
00:18:56,230 --> 00:18:58,190
in this as well?
503
00:18:58,190 --> 00:19:00,876
But I would do the two.
504
00:19:00,876 --> 00:19:02,770
I would go to the
meetings and I would
505
00:19:02,770 --> 00:19:05,620
be following up
on all that, but I
506
00:19:05,620 --> 00:19:07,910
wouldn't disappoint my mother.
507
00:19:07,910 --> 00:19:12,370
So on feast days, I would
still go to the synagogue.
508
00:19:12,370 --> 00:19:16,730
And I was in charge of Henry, so I would be in and out.

509
00:19:16,730 --> 00:19:17,750
You know how it--
510
00:19:17,750 --> 00:19:18,680
I don't know whether you know--

00:19:18,680 --> 00:19:18,875

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5 1 2
```

00:19:18,875 --> 00:19:19,470
--how it went.
513
00:19:19,470 --> 00:19:20,300
[LAUGHS]
514
00:19:20,300 --> 00:19:24,440
And on fast days, she'd be in
the synagogue the whole day.
515
00:19:24,440 --> 00:19:26,780
And I would be in
charge of Henry.
516
00:19:26,780 --> 00:19:30,140
Make sure he had eaten, then
go back to the synagogue.
517
00:19:30,140 --> 00:19:35,290
Make sure that she saw that
he was OK and I was OK.
518
00:19:35,290 --> 00:19:37,370
So David was--
[CLEARS THROAT] excuse me.
519
00:19:37,370 --> 00:19:38,550
David's not religious?
520
00:19:38,550 --> 00:19:39,050
No.
521
00:19:39,050 --> 00:19:41,630
So he was a pure,
secular Zionist?
522
00:19:41,630 --> 00:19:42,290
Yes.

00:19:42,790 --> 00:19:43,860
And you were straddling--
525
00:19:43,860 --> 00:19:45,190
And I was doing the two.
526
00:19:45,190 --> 00:19:46,420
[LAUGHS] You were doing two.
527

00:19:46,420 --> 00:19:46,920
Yeah.
528
00:19:46,920 --> 00:19:48,907
Now, were you very
comfortable in the religion
529
00:19:48,907 --> 00:19:49,740 when you were a kid?

530
00:19:49,740 --> 00:19:50,240
Yeah.
531
00:19:50,240 --> 00:19:51,684
Do you remember?
532
00:19:51,684 --> 00:19:54,600

533
00:19:54,600 --> 00:19:55,170
Did you--
534
00:19:55,170 --> 00:19:59,910
Some of the things, I don't know whether I fully agreed with.

535
00:19:59,910 --> 00:20:02,560
I mean, we did every
feast day, every Shabbat.

Mhm.

537
00:20:04,382 --> 00:20:07,800
We did all-- [CLEARS THROAT]
[COUGHS] we did all

## 538

00:20:07,800 --> 00:20:09,030
the fasting.
539
00:20:09,030 --> 00:20:09,530
You did?

540
00:20:09,530 --> 00:20:13,380

## 541

00:20:13,380 --> 00:20:18,160
Which I remember,
looking back, as a child,
542
00:20:18,160 --> 00:20:20,150 I found that very hard.

543
00:20:20,150 --> 00:20:23,000
[CLEARS THROAT]
The reason being,
544
00:20:23,000 --> 00:20:24,640
I was in charge of Henry.

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545
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00:20:24,640 --> 00:20:26,390
So I had to feed him--
546
00:20:26,390 --> 00:20:27,070 And not eat.

547
00:20:27,070 --> 00:20:27,750
--and not eat.
548
00:20:27,750 --> 00:20:29,620
And not even a sip of water.

00:20:31,730 --> 00:20:32,230
Really?
551
00:20:32,230 --> 00:20:32,730
Yeah.

552
00:20:32,730 --> 00:20:34,760
Now, my father was
a very religious man
553
00:20:34,760 --> 00:20:37,810 before he came to Antwerp.

## 554

00:20:37,810 --> 00:20:41,550
But once he got there, he started being lax.

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555
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00:20:41,550 --> 00:20:43,950
And from what I gather, he had started to--

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556
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00:20:43,950 --> 00:20:47,060

00:20:47,060 --> 00:20:52,490
being trained as a
rabbi, but gave that up.

00:20:52,490 --> 00:20:53,980 OK?

559
00:20:53,980 --> 00:20:55,920
My mother in the beginning was so religious.

560
00:20:55,920 --> 00:20:57,080
She had the whole thing.

The hair shaved, and the wig, and the--

562
00:20:59,880 --> 00:21:00,680 whatever.

563
00:21:00,680 --> 00:21:01,820
Everything.
564
00:21:01,820 --> 00:21:04,260
That's-- I have
memories of that.
565
00:21:04,260 --> 00:21:05,000 Mm.

566
00:21:05,000 --> 00:21:08,315
I didn't approve of it, but that's the way it was.

00:21:08,315 --> 00:21:08,940
[CLEARS THROAT]
568
00:21:08,940 --> 00:21:09,926
Did she change?
569
00:21:09,926 --> 00:21:12,210
She changed a bit.
570
00:21:12,210 --> 00:21:12,900
Still before--
571
00:21:12,900 --> 00:21:16,260
She adapted a little bit
to the Belgian custom
572
00:21:16,260 --> 00:21:19,350
of being Jewish
woman in Antwerp.

Now, why do you think that she did not learn the language?

## 574

00:21:24,750 --> 00:21:26,865
Your father, I gather, did learn the language.

## 575

00:21:26,865 --> 00:21:27,510
A little bit.
576
00:21:27,510 --> 00:21:28,660 He could get along, yeah.

577
00:21:28,660 --> 00:21:29,160
I see.
578
00:21:29,160 --> 00:21:31,838
But she couldn't?
579
00:21:31,838 --> 00:21:32,380
Do you have--
580
00:21:32,380 --> 00:21:34,690
And it's not that she
didn't have the brain.

## 581

00:21:34,690 --> 00:21:37,450
She was a pretty intelligent woman in other ways.

582
00:21:37,450 --> 00:21:38,960
But she just never bothered.
583
00:21:38,960 --> 00:21:40,430
But she wasn't the only one.
584
00:21:40,430 --> 00:21:41,920
A lot of women did that.
585
00:21:41,920 --> 00:21:43,830
Uh-huh.
was that important in
Jewish society anyway.
592
00:21:54,140 --> 00:21:56,452
And she stayed within a
very small group of people,
593
00:21:56,452 --> 00:21:57,660
all of whom we spoke Yiddish?
594
00:21:57,660 --> 00:21:58,245
That's right.
595
00:21:58,245 --> 00:22:00,120
So she didn't feel that
there was necessary--
596
00:22:00,120 --> 00:22:00,620
No.
597
00:22:00,620 --> 00:22:03,360
And if you have to go to the doctor or the pharmacy,

00:22:05,230 --> 00:22:06,150
Right.
600
00:22:06,150 --> 00:22:08,060
You know?
601
00:22:08,060 --> 00:22:10,947
So you're, in some sense,
a caretaker in this family,
602
00:22:10,947 --> 00:22:11,495 aren't you?

603
00:22:11,495 --> 00:22:13,850
[LAUGHS] Very much so.
604
00:22:13,850 --> 00:22:14,920
Very much so.
605
00:22:14,920 --> 00:22:17,310
Now, what was school like for--

## 606

00:22:17,310 --> 00:22:20,880
But then it was important to her that we go to school.

607
00:22:20,880 --> 00:22:23,240
Like it was important to her that I not

608
00:22:23,240 --> 00:22:25,220
learn Flemish but French.
609
00:22:25,220 --> 00:22:27,560
And another thing which
I do not understand

## 610

00:22:27,560 --> 00:22:30,080
what the great importance was.

```
6 1 1
00:22:30,080 --> 00:22:36,200
```

I told you, we started
off in a public school
612

00:22:36,200 --> 00:22:38,620 when I was six, grade 1 .

613
00:22:38,620 --> 00:22:41,480
At the end of the year, she had registered me

614
00:22:41,480 --> 00:22:42,650 for the French section.

## 615

00:22:42,650 --> 00:22:46,070
Because in Belgium, you had French and Flemish section.

616
00:22:46,070 --> 00:22:50,890
In Antwerp particularly,
it was mainly Flemish.
617
00:22:50,890 --> 00:22:53,080
When she found out towards the end of the year

618
00:22:53,080 --> 00:22:56,400
that I was not in the French section, she moved me.

619
00:22:56,400 --> 00:23:00,160
She took me out of that school, then moved me further away

## 620

00:23:00,160 --> 00:23:02,930
in another school that
had a French section.

## 621

00:23:02,930 --> 00:23:04,630
And that's what I
learned, French.

00:23:04,630 --> 00:23:05,930 But I spoke Flemish too.

623
00:23:05,930 --> 00:23:09,250
I still can speak Flemish with a bit of hesitation

624
00:23:09,250 --> 00:23:10,083
after these years.
625
00:23:10,083 --> 00:23:11,350
But you have no idea why?
626
00:23:11,350 --> 00:23:12,700
Why she did that.
627
00:23:12,700 --> 00:23:17,320
So in a way, I say to myself, education was important to her.

## 628

00:23:17,320 --> 00:23:22,540
Probably because French was a little bit more cultivated, 629
00:23:22,540 --> 00:23:23,498 more prominent.

630
00:23:23,498 --> 00:23:24,540
You know what I'm saying?
631
00:23:24,540 --> 00:23:26,275
Right.
632
00:23:26,275 --> 00:23:27,650
But she didn't do
that for Clara.
633
00:23:27,650 --> 00:23:30,080
I'm not-- as I said,
Clara was not a student.

00:23:33,960 --> 00:23:34,470
That's all.

636
00:23:34,470 --> 00:23:35,390
Mm.

637
00:23:35,390 --> 00:23:36,600
And you liked school?
638
00:23:36,600 --> 00:23:38,550 I did.

639
00:23:38,550 --> 00:23:41,550
And did you have
lots of friends?
640
00:23:41,550 --> 00:23:42,710
Jewish friends.
641
00:23:42,710 --> 00:23:43,570
Jewish friends.
642
00:23:43,570 --> 00:23:46,920
I tried with a few of the others, but as I told you,

## 643

00:23:46,920 --> 00:23:49,210
I have very bad experiences
from public schools.

## 644

00:23:49,210 --> 00:23:50,970
So tell about that.
645
00:23:50,970 --> 00:23:54,270
There was a lot of anti-Semitism in your experience

00:23:56,260 --> 00:23:58,472
Can you give us some examples?
648
00:23:58,472 --> 00:23:59,850
[SIGHS] Some are painful--
649
00:23:59,850 --> 00:24:00,350
Yeah.
650
00:24:00,350 --> 00:24:03,030
--because they go back
even to kindergarten.
651
00:24:03,030 --> 00:24:03,530
Really?
652
00:24:03,530 --> 00:24:04,470 Yeah.

653
00:24:04,470 --> 00:24:10,090
Izzy and myself went to the same kindergarten in Antwerp.

00:24:10,090 --> 00:24:13,660
And I don't remember
whether they were mixed.
655
00:24:13,660 --> 00:24:17,800
Maybe the very first year, the
little ones were all together.
656
00:24:17,800 --> 00:24:19,000
But he wasn't with me.
657
00:24:19,000 --> 00:24:21,580
He was in the other section.

## 658

00:24:21,580 --> 00:24:24,510
And there was a lot
of antisemitism.

659
00:24:24,510 --> 00:24:28,015
And I got, like, shoved down by one of the teachers

660
00:24:28,015 --> 00:24:31,990
a whole flight of stairs, of which I still have marks from.

661
00:24:31,990 --> 00:24:32,690
Yeah.
662
00:24:32,690 --> 00:24:34,990
And when my mother complained about that, of course,

00:24:34,990 --> 00:24:36,260
[INAUDIBLE].
664
00:24:36,260 --> 00:24:38,410
And what was the--
665
00:24:38,410 --> 00:24:40,930
I can't remember whether
I asked something,
666
00:24:40,930 --> 00:24:44,440
or I wanted something
as a toddler.
667
00:24:44,440 --> 00:24:45,160
Whatever.
668
00:24:45,160 --> 00:24:47,780
And she just gave me
one shove and I got down
669
00:24:47,780 --> 00:24:48,990 the whole flight.

## 671

00:24:49,490 --> 00:24:52,620
Oh, I have a big mark
like that where it goes--
672
00:24:52,620 --> 00:24:54,700 I really fell badly.

673
00:24:54,700 --> 00:24:56,230 So that was kindergarten.

## 674

00:24:56,230 --> 00:24:58,040
So I was happy to get out of that.

675
00:24:58,040 --> 00:25:00,960
Yeah.
676
00:25:00,960 --> 00:25:04,500
Then I went to public
school and teachers

677
00:25:04,500 --> 00:25:06,300 were very, very biased.

## 678

00:25:06,300 --> 00:25:07,500
Very antisemitic.
679
00:25:07,500 --> 00:25:08,430
We had a whole group.
680
00:25:08,430 --> 00:25:14,320
We were like six or seven in the one grade I was, in my level.

681
00:25:14,320 --> 00:25:16,320
Now came Shabbat.
682
00:25:16,320 --> 00:25:19,890
We had to leave at a certain time before school was over.

But the parents had made this arrangement

684
00:25:22,170 --> 00:25:25,530
with the principal
of the school,
685
00:25:25,530 --> 00:25:27,990
and I suppose the
teachers were told.
686
00:25:27,990 --> 00:25:30,320
So when time came, we had to go.
687
00:25:30,320 --> 00:25:33,300
Well, there were always
mockeries and comments
688
00:25:33,300 --> 00:25:36,480
made about the whole group
getting up and leaving.
689
00:25:36,480 --> 00:25:39,840
Because we had to
make it home before
690
00:25:39,840 --> 00:25:41,910
sundown to make sure
that-- you know?

## 691

00:25:41,910 --> 00:25:44,500
And this was very
important to my mother.
692
00:25:44,500 --> 00:25:49,010
And I was walking, so it took me over half an hour to get home.

693
00:25:49,010 --> 00:25:52,850
So that was one of the
signs of anti-Semitism,

694
00:25:52,850 --> 00:25:56,140
because the teacher shouldn't have made any comments.

695
00:25:56,140 --> 00:25:57,708
But the teacher made comments?

## 696

00:25:57,708 --> 00:25:58,625
Teacher made comments.
697
00:25:58,625 --> 00:25:59,760
And the kids as well?

698
00:25:59,760 --> 00:26:01,100
The kids would react.

## 699

00:26:01,100 --> 00:26:04,670
I mean, they had the
teachers on their side.
700
00:26:04,670 --> 00:26:07,820
Then there would be in public school what you called

701
00:26:07,820 --> 00:26:11,430
"inspections for health."
702
00:26:11,430 --> 00:26:15,190
So they would look for lice.
703
00:26:15,190 --> 00:26:17,390
And we were always singled out.
704
00:26:17,390 --> 00:26:20,430
The first ones to stand
in line to be inspected
705
00:26:20,430 --> 00:26:23,386 were the Jewish girls.

Now, that was the most humiliating thing

707
00:26:25,880 --> 00:26:28,875 we went through.

708
00:26:28,875 --> 00:26:32,980
I remember that very vividly.
709
00:26:32,980 --> 00:26:36,940
So your thoughts at that time about who

710
00:26:36,940 --> 00:26:38,800
Christians were, or
certainly in the--
711
00:26:38,800 --> 00:26:39,400
Was poor.
712
00:26:39,400 --> 00:26:42,010
--was very poor
and uncomfortable.
713
00:26:42,010 --> 00:26:43,800
Very.
714
00:26:43,800 --> 00:26:45,080
Then came grades.
715
00:26:45,080 --> 00:26:48,650
And I say that in my story too.
716
00:26:48,650 --> 00:26:50,270 I always had very good grades.

717
00:26:50,270 --> 00:26:54,170
I must have been a good student and enjoyed school.

So according to grades, I should have been first in the class.

719
00:26:58,430 --> 00:27:01,520
And when-- then I went
to question, probably
720
00:27:01,520 --> 00:27:06,180
instigated by my mother, who
kept track of all these things.
721
00:27:06,180 --> 00:27:08,030
Then she said, well,
it wouldn't be right
722
00:27:08,030 --> 00:27:11,240
that a Jewish girl is top of the list in the class,

723
00:27:11,240 --> 00:27:12,700 so we put you third.

724
00:27:12,700 --> 00:27:14,660
How am I to answer as a child?
725
00:27:14,660 --> 00:27:18,280

726
00:27:18,280 --> 00:27:20,500
So OK, I came back
and told my mother.
727
00:27:20,500 --> 00:27:23,080
But see, it was
really very difficult,

## 728

00:27:23,080 --> 00:27:24,910
because we also had [INAUDIBLE].
729
00:27:24,910 --> 00:27:29,070
In schools in Antwerp, everyone does needlework and handwork.

00:27:30,996 --> 00:27:33,820
So one day, you had to bring material for this.

732
00:27:33,820 --> 00:27:36,320
Another day, it would be wool for that.

## 733

00:27:36,320 --> 00:27:39,480
And most of the time, we didn't have the money for it.

## 734

00:27:39,480 --> 00:27:41,410
So that was another
big humiliation.
735
00:27:41,410 --> 00:27:43,510
Instead of keeping
it quiet, I would
736
00:27:43,510 --> 00:27:45,580
have to go up to
the teacher and say,
737
00:27:45,580 --> 00:27:47,620
my mother said I'll
have it tomorrow.
738
00:27:47,620 --> 00:27:51,780
Well, she would go
verbally off, inflame.
739
00:27:51,780 --> 00:27:52,540
You know?
740
00:27:52,540 --> 00:27:57,370
So it wasn't easy.

We're going to have to--

## 742

00:27:58,410 --> 00:27:58,910
Stop?
743
00:27:58,910 --> 00:27:59,850 --change the tape.

744
00:27:59,850 --> 00:28:00,350
OK?
745
00:28:00,350 --> 00:28:01,900 OK.

746
00:28:01,900 --> 00:28:32,000

