

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,520

2
00:00:07,520 --> 00:00:13,070
Did you ask your father
about his year in hiding?

3
00:00:13,070 --> 00:00:14,210
Yes, several times.

4
00:00:14,210 --> 00:00:17,240
But the--

5
00:00:17,240 --> 00:00:18,350
Or two years, actually.

6
00:00:18,350 --> 00:00:19,790
Two years?

7
00:00:19,790 --> 00:00:20,620
No.

8
00:00:20,620 --> 00:00:21,400
No, no, no.

9
00:00:21,400 --> 00:00:26,800
It was from September of
'43 to October of '44--

10
00:00:26,800 --> 00:00:30,730
[INAUDIBLE] is essentially
the same year for me

11
00:00:30,730 --> 00:00:31,720
in the mountains.

12
00:00:31,720 --> 00:00:34,880

13
00:00:34,880 --> 00:00:43,430

Two things-- my father,
because of his leg,

14
00:00:43,430 --> 00:00:45,200
was not a mobile individual.

15
00:00:45,200 --> 00:00:48,750
Therefore, it isn't that
he missed going out.

16
00:00:48,750 --> 00:00:52,300
Because being cooped up--

17
00:00:52,300 --> 00:00:57,550
I think he changed
altogether three locations.

18
00:00:57,550 --> 00:00:59,560
He went with some
friends in the beginning,

19
00:00:59,560 --> 00:01:07,900
then just for security and
before suspicions were aroused,

20
00:01:07,900 --> 00:01:08,980
he moved.

21
00:01:08,980 --> 00:01:12,050

22
00:01:12,050 --> 00:01:15,050
I don't think he
had, first of all,

23
00:01:15,050 --> 00:01:18,780
things to read like books
or things like this.

24
00:01:18,780 --> 00:01:22,520
And I don't think my father
read that much as compared

25

00:01:22,520 --> 00:01:28,120

with my mother, who
was an avid reader.

26

00:01:28,120 --> 00:01:33,720

So he told me we're
primarily of--

27

00:01:33,720 --> 00:01:37,980

thinking about the
rest of us, counting

28

00:01:37,980 --> 00:01:42,780

the minutes, and the hours,
and the anxiety that he felt.

29

00:01:42,780 --> 00:01:44,250

He spoke about that.

30

00:01:44,250 --> 00:01:47,154

31

00:01:47,154 --> 00:01:57,850

And always before my mother
and brothers were caught,

32

00:01:57,850 --> 00:02:03,960

he looked forward to
seeing, occasionally,

33

00:02:03,960 --> 00:02:04,900

when they would come.

34

00:02:04,900 --> 00:02:08,970

My mother ventured, I think,
once or twice to come down.

35

00:02:08,970 --> 00:02:10,889

Very often, I think
it was, really, Sam

36

00:02:10,889 --> 00:02:13,740

who played the intermediary.

37

00:02:13,740 --> 00:02:18,210

Or my father would then
use still somebody else

38

00:02:18,210 --> 00:02:20,760

to deliver money or news.

39

00:02:20,760 --> 00:02:23,300

40

00:02:23,300 --> 00:02:27,070

So I think that
the pictures I have

41

00:02:27,070 --> 00:02:30,280

now of my father and the
conversation I had with him

42

00:02:30,280 --> 00:02:38,470

was that he simply spent
these 13 months with a mixture

43

00:02:38,470 --> 00:02:47,000

of despair, stoicism, hope.

44

00:02:47,000 --> 00:02:54,110

45

00:02:54,110 --> 00:02:58,490

He didn't express
much more than that.

46

00:02:58,490 --> 00:02:59,420

And I know--

47

00:02:59,420 --> 00:03:03,440

I could imagine how it must
have been for him, cooped up

48

00:03:03,440 --> 00:03:06,790

in those places.

49

00:03:06,790 --> 00:03:11,335

Now, in 1946, you went to
the Polytechnic Institute

50

00:03:11,335 --> 00:03:12,210

of Athens?

51

00:03:12,210 --> 00:03:15,880

At the end of '45, I took
the entrance examinations

52

00:03:15,880 --> 00:03:18,400

and I was accepted.

53

00:03:18,400 --> 00:03:23,670

But almost simultaneously,
I was informed--

54

00:03:23,670 --> 00:03:26,670

because I do not know that
until after it happened,

55

00:03:26,670 --> 00:03:30,630

that my father, all this
time after the liberation,

56

00:03:30,630 --> 00:03:36,180

even before Sam returned, was
working behind the scenes--

57

00:03:36,180 --> 00:03:39,150

and he did not tell me,
that's what I mean by behind

58

00:03:39,150 --> 00:03:39,690

the scenes--

59

00:03:39,690 --> 00:03:43,030

60

00:03:43,030 --> 00:03:44,800
through his contacts
with the B'nai

61
00:03:44,800 --> 00:03:52,460
B'rith to see what he could
do to assure my education.

62
00:03:52,460 --> 00:03:57,770
And so finally, things
had progressed far enough,

63
00:03:57,770 --> 00:04:00,980
I guess, from the other
end, from the United States,

64
00:04:00,980 --> 00:04:04,520
that he had to tell me.

65
00:04:04,520 --> 00:04:08,450
And my first reaction was, I
have to confess, a little bit

66
00:04:08,450 --> 00:04:09,260
negative.

67
00:04:09,260 --> 00:04:13,070
Because not so much the idea
of going to the United States

68
00:04:13,070 --> 00:04:17,600
to study, but that
suddenly, my future

69
00:04:17,600 --> 00:04:22,010
had been already
prepared for me.

70
00:04:22,010 --> 00:04:25,340
When I was a child, to be
an engineer, that's fine.

71
00:04:25,340 --> 00:04:26,400

And I grew to like it.

72

00:04:26,400 --> 00:04:32,540

But later on, I'm now an adult.

I have to decide for myself.

73

00:04:32,540 --> 00:04:40,460

But that only lasted [LAUGHS]

for a few hours or a few days.

74

00:04:40,460 --> 00:04:44,750

So I attended classes

at Polytechnic

75

00:04:44,750 --> 00:04:47,390

only for, essentially,

the first semester.

76

00:04:47,390 --> 00:04:52,290

Because then everything-- I had

to get ready to come the United

77

00:04:52,290 --> 00:04:52,790

States.

78

00:04:52,790 --> 00:04:56,390

Among other things to get

ready is getting the visas

79

00:04:56,390 --> 00:04:58,400

and passports.

80

00:04:58,400 --> 00:05:03,170

But even more than that

was transportation.

81

00:05:03,170 --> 00:05:06,500

Remember, it was still

a year after the war.

82

00:05:06,500 --> 00:05:13,010

And we had to wait for

the next available ship

83
00:05:13,010 --> 00:05:17,030
with the opening that was
traveling to the United States.

84
00:05:17,030 --> 00:05:21,290
And the first opening
was in October of '46.

85
00:05:21,290 --> 00:05:23,830

86
00:05:23,830 --> 00:05:24,760
That's when I--

87
00:05:24,760 --> 00:05:27,220
Now, let me express
some surprise to you.

88
00:05:27,220 --> 00:05:27,940
Right.

89
00:05:27,940 --> 00:05:31,560
Here, your father
has two children.

90
00:05:31,560 --> 00:05:34,970
He lost his wife and
his youngest son.

91
00:05:34,970 --> 00:05:39,200
And he, it sounds like,
almost immediately began

92
00:05:39,200 --> 00:05:42,890
to plan so that you would have
a different sort of future that

93
00:05:42,890 --> 00:05:44,450
wouldn't be in Europe.

94
00:05:44,450 --> 00:05:48,110

So he loses you
in a certain way,

95
00:05:48,110 --> 00:05:52,240
at least in terms of
every-- how do you unders--

96
00:05:52,240 --> 00:05:54,210
I mean--

97
00:05:54,210 --> 00:05:56,300
You're kind.

98
00:05:56,300 --> 00:06:02,320
Because I thought you would
carry it one more step and say,

99
00:06:02,320 --> 00:06:07,050
how did I dare then leave him?

100
00:06:07,050 --> 00:06:08,590
Well, I might have gone there.

101
00:06:08,590 --> 00:06:09,570
So it's good that you--

102
00:06:09,570 --> 00:06:10,950
[LAUGHS]

103
00:06:10,950 --> 00:06:16,330
Well, there is no question.

104
00:06:16,330 --> 00:06:21,130
My father-- he used to
tell me, I remember,

105
00:06:21,130 --> 00:06:23,350
even when I was already
in high school--

106
00:06:23,350 --> 00:06:26,380
if I would ask

him for some money

107

00:06:26,380 --> 00:06:28,750

to do something like, I
don't know, go to a movie

108

00:06:28,750 --> 00:06:34,140

or something, or go buy
something, he would say to me,

109

00:06:34,140 --> 00:06:42,880

look, I don't have the money
to give you for that purpose.

110

00:06:42,880 --> 00:06:48,325

But if you were to ask me that
you want to go buy a book,

111

00:06:48,325 --> 00:06:50,950

even if I don't have the money,
I will tell you what I will do.

112

00:06:50,950 --> 00:06:56,950

I will not smoke for a
week to save from smoking.

113

00:06:56,950 --> 00:07:04,630

So anything that has to do
with education, I'll do.

114

00:07:04,630 --> 00:07:08,330

So it's not surprising to me.

115

00:07:08,330 --> 00:07:10,630

And I know in some
respects, because I

116

00:07:10,630 --> 00:07:18,360

learned this thing subsequently,
my father would say things that

117

00:07:18,360 --> 00:07:21,120

were not true-- fibs, lies.

118
00:07:21,120 --> 00:07:28,010
But they were lies
for good purposes.

119
00:07:28,010 --> 00:07:32,570
Even before he worked this
thing through the B'nai B'rith

120
00:07:32,570 --> 00:07:36,420
for the scholarship for me
to come to the United States,

121
00:07:36,420 --> 00:07:41,640
I know he wrote a letter
to Churchill saying--

122
00:07:41,640 --> 00:07:44,310
which was a bit of
an exaggeration--

123
00:07:44,310 --> 00:07:47,820
that he, at the
risk of his life,

124
00:07:47,820 --> 00:07:54,240
had hidden a British
soldier who had

125
00:07:54,240 --> 00:07:58,110
to go into hiding because
the British contingent had

126
00:07:58,110 --> 00:08:01,350
come to help the Greeks when
we were fighting the Italians.

127
00:08:01,350 --> 00:08:06,890
And then, of course, in
'41, it was partly true.

128
00:08:06,890 --> 00:08:10,520
There was a man who was

in the British army that

129
00:08:10,520 --> 00:08:11,720
happened to be--

130
00:08:11,720 --> 00:08:13,340
his parents were Monastir.

131
00:08:13,340 --> 00:08:16,760
And he came to the
synagogue for Pesach.

132
00:08:16,760 --> 00:08:18,230
And so we invited him.

133
00:08:18,230 --> 00:08:20,495
And he joined us
for a [INAUDIBLE]..

134
00:08:20,495 --> 00:08:21,560
That's what happened.

135
00:08:21,560 --> 00:08:22,730
That's true.

136
00:08:22,730 --> 00:08:24,690
But he was not really hiding.

137
00:08:24,690 --> 00:08:29,120
[LAUGHS] So he--

138
00:08:29,120 --> 00:08:34,580
in other words, my father would
do anything, even embellish

139
00:08:34,580 --> 00:08:40,110
the truth or stretch
it, to assure that I

140
00:08:40,110 --> 00:08:43,590
had the proper education.

141

00:08:43,590 --> 00:08:45,730

And he really thought
you couldn't get it in--

142

00:08:45,730 --> 00:08:46,230

Oh, no.

143

00:08:46,230 --> 00:08:47,022

No, it wasn't that.

144

00:08:47,022 --> 00:08:47,693

No, no.

145

00:08:47,693 --> 00:08:51,780

No, that-- on the other hand,
getting into United States--

146

00:08:51,780 --> 00:08:55,410

because for a long
time, in certain ways,

147

00:08:55,410 --> 00:08:57,090

my father was naive.

148

00:08:57,090 --> 00:09:00,960

When I was growing up, I was
going to be a textile engineer.

149

00:09:00,960 --> 00:09:01,460

Well, why?

150

00:09:01,460 --> 00:09:03,810

I mean, what did he know
about textiles other

151

00:09:03,810 --> 00:09:09,990

than some son of some
business associate

152

00:09:09,990 --> 00:09:14,130

had gone and studied textile
engineering in Liege,

153
00:09:14,130 --> 00:09:18,210
in Belgium, which apparently
had a well-known textile

154
00:09:18,210 --> 00:09:20,290
engineering school.

155
00:09:20,290 --> 00:09:23,970
So I was being prepared fully
for engineering, but also

156
00:09:23,970 --> 00:09:24,990
for textile engineering.

157
00:09:24,990 --> 00:09:28,110
Of course, all of
that got changed

158
00:09:28,110 --> 00:09:30,900
when I decided to be
an electrical engineer.

159
00:09:30,900 --> 00:09:34,320
And [INAUDIBLE] textiles.

160
00:09:34,320 --> 00:09:42,440
But he understood this
much, that opportunities

161
00:09:42,440 --> 00:09:45,915
in Europe, educational
opportunities--

162
00:09:45,915 --> 00:09:49,460
let alone in the United
States, which was a mirage.

163
00:09:49,460 --> 00:09:51,980
It was not very far
away physically,

164

00:09:51,980 --> 00:09:56,200
but so distant notionally.

165
00:09:56,200 --> 00:09:58,800
So he would do anything.

166
00:09:58,800 --> 00:10:02,070
So let me then ask you the
more difficult question.

167
00:10:02,070 --> 00:10:04,710
How did you dare leave?

168
00:10:04,710 --> 00:10:07,860
Well, how I dare leave-- first
of all, I was, after awhile,

169
00:10:07,860 --> 00:10:11,580
inebriated by the thought that I
was going to the United States.

170
00:10:11,580 --> 00:10:14,290
Second, Sam had returned.

171
00:10:14,290 --> 00:10:17,600
So I knew my father
was not alone.

172
00:10:17,600 --> 00:10:24,290
Third, I was joined by
a cousin whose father

173
00:10:24,290 --> 00:10:26,820
was my father's cousin.

174
00:10:26,820 --> 00:10:28,890
I, with a young man--

175
00:10:28,890 --> 00:10:32,030
Jeff Levy- [? Levice ?]
was his name.

176

00:10:32,030 --> 00:10:35,000

We came together
on the same ship.

177

00:10:35,000 --> 00:10:37,610

He went to Iowa, I
went to Illinois.

178

00:10:37,610 --> 00:10:41,000

We were related from both sides,
the maternal and paternal side.

179

00:10:41,000 --> 00:10:44,190

So he was an only child.

180

00:10:44,190 --> 00:10:49,110

And therefore, I-- putting
all these things together,

181

00:10:49,110 --> 00:10:57,360

there were no limits to what
parents would do to further.

182

00:10:57,360 --> 00:10:59,640

After all, I was going to study.

183

00:10:59,640 --> 00:11:01,140

It didn't necessarily
mean that I

184

00:11:01,140 --> 00:11:02,820

was going to go there forever.

185

00:11:02,820 --> 00:11:04,890

I could have easily,
in normal times,

186

00:11:04,890 --> 00:11:07,420

be sent to study in
Manchester, which

187

00:11:07,420 --> 00:11:11,006

has another textile

engineering school.

188
00:11:11,006 --> 00:11:11,720
Right.

189
00:11:11,720 --> 00:11:14,550
So there were no thoughts.

190
00:11:14,550 --> 00:11:21,760
Now, if Sam had not
returned, I can--

191
00:11:21,760 --> 00:11:25,420
as they say in Greek, I
could put my hand on flames

192
00:11:25,420 --> 00:11:30,290
and swear that my father would
have done the same thing,

193
00:11:30,290 --> 00:11:35,360
and would have pushed me,
and encouraged me, and really

194
00:11:35,360 --> 00:11:37,010
shoved me.

195
00:11:37,010 --> 00:11:44,500
Because he felt the
value of education.

196
00:11:44,500 --> 00:11:47,190

197
00:11:47,190 --> 00:11:51,890
And I did it.

198
00:11:51,890 --> 00:11:54,380
You had no family here.

199
00:11:54,380 --> 00:11:55,040
No, I had--

200
00:11:55,040 --> 00:11:56,210
[INAUDIBLE]

201
00:11:56,210 --> 00:12:02,120
--an uncle in New York,
whom I saw when I landed.

202
00:12:02,120 --> 00:12:03,247
Right.

203
00:12:03,247 --> 00:12:03,830
But that's it.

204
00:12:03,830 --> 00:12:06,050
I then went to
school in Illinois.

205
00:12:06,050 --> 00:12:06,830
And--

206
00:12:06,830 --> 00:12:08,760
Did you have English by then?

207
00:12:08,760 --> 00:12:09,260
No.

208
00:12:09,260 --> 00:12:11,840
But you see, in
engineering, you don't

209
00:12:11,840 --> 00:12:14,990
need very much, especially
in the beginning, which

210
00:12:14,990 --> 00:12:17,210
is mathematics.

211
00:12:17,210 --> 00:12:23,000
In fact, I knew more
mathematics than they

212

00:12:23,000 --> 00:12:26,480

taught in the first two
or three years in college.

213

00:12:26,480 --> 00:12:29,490

Because in high school,
especially the one that I went,

214

00:12:29,490 --> 00:12:33,490

which was so intensive in
mathematics and engineering--

215

00:12:33,490 --> 00:12:36,114

no, I had no English.

216

00:12:36,114 --> 00:12:38,130

But I learned it.

217

00:12:38,130 --> 00:12:38,730

[LAUGHS]

218

00:12:38,730 --> 00:12:41,260

And you liked this
country when you came?

219

00:12:41,260 --> 00:12:42,210

Or didn't you?

220

00:12:42,210 --> 00:12:43,050

Of course.

221

00:12:43,050 --> 00:12:43,590

Well--

222

00:12:43,590 --> 00:12:45,030

[INAUDIBLE]

223

00:12:45,030 --> 00:12:49,050

In the-- well, first of all,
again, in the first four years,

224

00:12:49,050 --> 00:12:51,930

I was busy learning and
getting an education,

225

00:12:51,930 --> 00:12:54,320

trying to get a degree.

226

00:12:54,320 --> 00:12:57,950

Then the decision to
go to graduate school

227

00:12:57,950 --> 00:13:02,150

was really, of course,
mine, primarily.

228

00:13:02,150 --> 00:13:05,780

But I began to get encouragement
from professors that they

229

00:13:05,780 --> 00:13:08,090

had in undergraduate school.

230

00:13:08,090 --> 00:13:17,250

And I was encouraged
enough to stay although I

231

00:13:17,250 --> 00:13:22,080

had no means independently.

232

00:13:22,080 --> 00:13:28,250

I was given a research
assistantship,

233

00:13:28,250 --> 00:13:32,480

which would pay the
tuition, and \$103 a month.

234

00:13:32,480 --> 00:13:34,820

And that's all I had to live on.

235

00:13:34,820 --> 00:13:38,240

Because my father,
from time to time,

236
00:13:38,240 --> 00:13:46,120
would send me, in a letter,
a \$5 bill or a \$10 bill.

237
00:13:46,120 --> 00:13:49,000
So it was primarily
the encouragement

238
00:13:49,000 --> 00:13:52,990
I got from teachers
that made me stay.

239
00:13:52,990 --> 00:13:55,985
And in fact, I stayed another
two years in Illinois.

240
00:13:55,985 --> 00:13:58,493

241
00:13:58,493 --> 00:14:00,160
And where did you go
to graduate school?

242
00:14:00,160 --> 00:14:01,115
In Illinois also.

243
00:14:01,115 --> 00:14:01,615
In Illinois.

244
00:14:01,615 --> 00:14:02,800
You stayed in Illinois.

245
00:14:02,800 --> 00:14:05,947
And the first time you saw
your father after you'd

246
00:14:05,947 --> 00:14:07,780
come to the United
States and your brother--

247
00:14:07,780 --> 00:14:08,800

Yes.

248

00:14:08,800 --> 00:14:10,000

Finally, I left Illinois.

249

00:14:10,000 --> 00:14:13,030

I began to work at Bell
Telephone Laboratories.

250

00:14:13,030 --> 00:14:20,980

And within a few months after
starting work at Bell Labs,

251

00:14:20,980 --> 00:14:22,520

I was drafted.

252

00:14:22,520 --> 00:14:23,900

Oh.

253

00:14:23,900 --> 00:14:25,490

Because the draft was still on.

254

00:14:25,490 --> 00:14:32,240

And of course, I would have
had the choice of not going

255

00:14:32,240 --> 00:14:34,200

to the army, being an alien.

256

00:14:34,200 --> 00:14:36,920

Of course, I could never
then stay in this country.

257

00:14:36,920 --> 00:14:39,320

We haven't talked
about the fact that--

258

00:14:39,320 --> 00:14:41,420

that was in '50.

259

00:14:41,420 --> 00:14:44,630

At one point, I was to be

expelled by the Immigration

260
00:14:44,630 --> 00:14:46,040
and Naturalization Service.

261
00:14:46,040 --> 00:14:49,970
Because I had essentially
overstayed my student visa.

262
00:14:49,970 --> 00:14:51,200
It's another long story.

263
00:14:51,200 --> 00:14:53,360
But my professors intervened.

264
00:14:53,360 --> 00:14:57,200
And the long and the short is
that Senator Douglas introduced

265
00:14:57,200 --> 00:14:59,960
a private bill in Congress.

266
00:14:59,960 --> 00:15:05,630
And I got to stay in the United
States on a law named for me,

267
00:15:05,630 --> 00:15:09,090
for the relief of Isaac Nehama,
signed by President Eisenhower.

268
00:15:09,090 --> 00:15:10,310
No kidding.

269
00:15:10,310 --> 00:15:13,730
Not too many people have laws
made for them individually.

270
00:15:13,730 --> 00:15:15,440
No.

271
00:15:15,440 --> 00:15:19,580
But coming back after the

Bell Labs, I was drafted.

272

00:15:19,580 --> 00:15:23,540

Of course, within six
months after Europe,

273

00:15:23,540 --> 00:15:25,970

drafted in the
army, you don't wait

274

00:15:25,970 --> 00:15:28,070

five years for obvious reasons.

275

00:15:28,070 --> 00:15:32,240

The country asked you to go
and maybe die for the country.

276

00:15:32,240 --> 00:15:34,200

They don't make you
wait for citizenship.

277

00:15:34,200 --> 00:15:41,440

So I was naturalized in Colorado
Springs where I was stationed.

278

00:15:41,440 --> 00:15:44,154

So that was in '50--

279

00:15:44,154 --> 00:15:49,420

between '53 and '55.

280

00:15:49,420 --> 00:15:51,263

Does that mean that you--

281

00:15:51,263 --> 00:15:52,930

well, you didn't lose
Greek citizenship.

282

00:15:52,930 --> 00:15:53,950

Because you never
were a Greek citizen.

283

00:15:53,950 --> 00:15:54,880
I was never a Greek citizen.

284
00:15:54,880 --> 00:15:55,630
That's right.

285
00:15:55,630 --> 00:15:57,755
I lost Yugoslavia, since
I didn't know Yugoslavian.

286
00:15:57,755 --> 00:16:00,280
[LAUGHS] Right.

287
00:16:00,280 --> 00:16:03,000
So after that, you
went back and visited?

288
00:16:03,000 --> 00:16:03,500
No?

289
00:16:03,500 --> 00:16:04,000
No.

290
00:16:04,000 --> 00:16:06,960
No, during my
years in the army--

291
00:16:06,960 --> 00:16:09,820
actually, a few months after
arriving in Colorado Springs--

292
00:16:09,820 --> 00:16:11,950
I got a call from the Red Cross.

293
00:16:11,950 --> 00:16:13,480
My father had had an accident.

294
00:16:13,480 --> 00:16:14,800
Really, he fell.

295
00:16:14,800 --> 00:16:15,410
He slipped.

296
00:16:15,410 --> 00:16:17,200
The cane slipped, and he fell.

297
00:16:17,200 --> 00:16:20,410
But because the left
leg was always weaker,

298
00:16:20,410 --> 00:16:24,760
he fell with the weight of the
body on the leg and broke it.

299
00:16:24,760 --> 00:16:27,970
So I was given
compassionate emergency

300
00:16:27,970 --> 00:16:31,690
leave, which in order
to use it, I hitchhiked.

301
00:16:31,690 --> 00:16:34,180
And it took me three
weeks to get there.

302
00:16:34,180 --> 00:16:37,300
And hitchhiking means I would
go from air base to air base

303
00:16:37,300 --> 00:16:39,070
and ask if there
is a plane going

304
00:16:39,070 --> 00:16:40,690
in that general direction.

305
00:16:40,690 --> 00:16:45,330
So I got from Colorado
Springs, eventually,

306
00:16:45,330 --> 00:16:47,325
to Stewart Air Force
Base in Massachusetts,

307

00:16:47,325 --> 00:16:51,635

and then in the
Azores, Libya, Athens.

308

00:16:51,635 --> 00:16:54,540

And fortunately, then
I presented myself

309

00:16:54,540 --> 00:16:57,990

to the military attache at the
American embassy in Athens.

310

00:16:57,990 --> 00:17:00,810

And that's when he
stamped my orders.

311

00:17:00,810 --> 00:17:04,380

And the 30 days counted
from the day of my arrival.

312

00:17:04,380 --> 00:17:06,180

Oh, how nice.

313

00:17:06,180 --> 00:17:08,180

Well, eventually, it was over.

314

00:17:08,180 --> 00:17:13,250

And on the return, it
took two months to find--

315

00:17:13,250 --> 00:17:17,270

but again, I got stopped in
Washington for the first time.

316

00:17:17,270 --> 00:17:19,310

For three weeks,
there were no planes

317

00:17:19,310 --> 00:17:23,359

going in the general
direction of Colorado Springs.

318

00:17:23,359 --> 00:17:26,250

319

00:17:26,250 --> 00:17:33,120

So when you look
back on all of this,

320

00:17:33,120 --> 00:17:38,078

how do you place your life in
the context of those years?

321

00:17:38,078 --> 00:17:40,368

Which years?

322

00:17:40,368 --> 00:17:41,410

The partisan years, the--

323

00:17:41,410 --> 00:17:44,120

The war and the partisan and--

324

00:17:44,120 --> 00:17:49,650

Well, the context is there
are two aspects about it.

325

00:17:49,650 --> 00:17:53,450

One, that it's definitely--

326

00:17:53,450 --> 00:17:57,380

it was an extremely
significant period in my life,

327

00:17:57,380 --> 00:18:02,330

and I think to a large extent,
of considerable extent,

328

00:18:02,330 --> 00:18:04,400

also forming.

329

00:18:04,400 --> 00:18:07,670

It was a kind of, maybe--

330

00:18:07,670 --> 00:18:11,570

I don't want to use
the word crucible here.

331
00:18:11,570 --> 00:18:12,460
But-- right.

332
00:18:12,460 --> 00:18:15,610

333
00:18:15,610 --> 00:18:21,110
The second part, when
I reflect, at times--

334
00:18:21,110 --> 00:18:23,570
it lasted for--
fortunately, for me,

335
00:18:23,570 --> 00:18:27,570
and I think for my
family and friends--

336
00:18:27,570 --> 00:18:28,490
a very short time.

337
00:18:28,490 --> 00:18:31,490
Namely, especially when I first
came to the United States,

338
00:18:31,490 --> 00:18:34,360
I was surprised.

339
00:18:34,360 --> 00:18:36,010
Because many of
my fellow students

340
00:18:36,010 --> 00:18:40,900
were American veterans who had
flown missions over Germany

341
00:18:40,900 --> 00:18:43,850
in that very dangerous time.

342

00:18:43,850 --> 00:18:47,600

In fact, I arrived in the
United States November of '46,

343

00:18:47,600 --> 00:18:51,540

the day before
midterm elections.

344

00:18:51,540 --> 00:18:56,010

And when I asked the question,
are you voting tomorrow?

345

00:18:56,010 --> 00:18:58,740

First of all, they didn't
know there were elections.

346

00:18:58,740 --> 00:19:03,120

Now, in European tradition,
university students

347

00:19:03,120 --> 00:19:06,730

are always at the forefront
of political activity.

348

00:19:06,730 --> 00:19:10,030

So here are people--
not only students,

349

00:19:10,030 --> 00:19:13,170

but veterans of a war.

350

00:19:13,170 --> 00:19:16,270

So for a bit, I got
sort of disoriented,

351

00:19:16,270 --> 00:19:17,490

that there was no--

352

00:19:17,490 --> 00:19:21,200

that my experience is really--

353

00:19:21,200 --> 00:19:24,980

I was beaten into

wonderful shape.

354

00:19:24,980 --> 00:19:27,560

And very quickly,
I think, after it,

355

00:19:27,560 --> 00:19:31,040

I began to think seriously
about that [INAUDIBLE],,

356

00:19:31,040 --> 00:19:34,910

how ludicrous the thought is.

357

00:19:34,910 --> 00:19:42,910

Because I would have preferred
a banal, normal childhood

358

00:19:42,910 --> 00:19:47,890

with my mother, and
brothers, and family

359

00:19:47,890 --> 00:19:51,645

than being formed
into a fine shape.

360

00:19:51,645 --> 00:19:54,190

No, thank you very much.

361

00:19:54,190 --> 00:19:57,330

I would not wish
it on anybody else.

362

00:19:57,330 --> 00:20:02,200

363

00:20:02,200 --> 00:20:06,525

Is there anything you'd like
to say that I've missed,

364

00:20:06,525 --> 00:20:07,240

or you would--

365

00:20:07,240 --> 00:20:07,740
No.

366
00:20:07,740 --> 00:20:12,410
I'd like to thank you,
almost in the same reasons

367
00:20:12,410 --> 00:20:20,000
that Sam says the same thing
to his own interviewer.

368
00:20:20,000 --> 00:20:27,000
Because the other reason,
other than Sharon's very wise

369
00:20:27,000 --> 00:20:29,130
statement persuaded
me to do that,

370
00:20:29,130 --> 00:20:36,000
is that it leaves something
for either my descendants,

371
00:20:36,000 --> 00:20:41,160
number one, as well as, perhaps,
people in the future who

372
00:20:41,160 --> 00:20:44,820
might be interested about
this particular period.

373
00:20:44,820 --> 00:20:47,610
And this I'm saying
now, following

374
00:20:47,610 --> 00:20:52,650
a year and a half of work as
a volunteer for the Holocaust

375
00:20:52,650 --> 00:20:58,510
Museum in doing this
thing for the Bitola Jews.

376

00:20:58,510 --> 00:21:05,290
I have lived with, essentially,
almost 2,000 faces of people

377
00:21:05,290 --> 00:21:09,300
who are all dead and
whose names then I

378
00:21:09,300 --> 00:21:13,600
had to type into a database
and who become alive,

379
00:21:13,600 --> 00:21:16,460
and then reading books,
and talking about that.

380
00:21:16,460 --> 00:21:19,660
So I want to thank
you for doing that.

381
00:21:19,660 --> 00:21:21,160
Because it leaves
something which

382
00:21:21,160 --> 00:21:26,880
might be of some
small value or use

383
00:21:26,880 --> 00:21:34,070
to some interested historian
or person in the future.

384
00:21:34,070 --> 00:21:36,070
Well, I want to thank you.

385
00:21:36,070 --> 00:21:39,140
You tell a very vivid story.

386
00:21:39,140 --> 00:21:44,920
And your articulateness
is really appreciated.

387
00:21:44,920 --> 00:21:47,260

So I thank you very much for
being willing to do this.

388
00:21:47,260 --> 00:21:48,640
I know that it's not easy.

389
00:21:48,640 --> 00:21:49,432
Yeah.

390
00:21:49,432 --> 00:21:50,318
Thank you.

391
00:21:50,318 --> 00:21:50,818
Right.

392
00:21:50,818 --> 00:21:54,060

393
00:21:54,060 --> 00:21:55,610
Fade!

394
00:21:55,610 --> 00:22:25,000