

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,572

And the Germans
couldn't speak French.

2

00:00:03,572 --> 00:00:04,530

They couldn't speak it.

3

00:00:04,530 --> 00:00:07,110

They couldn't
speak the language.

4

00:00:07,110 --> 00:00:10,590

Even the fascists couldn't
understand each other.

5

00:00:10,590 --> 00:00:12,790

And one another thing-- one--

6

00:00:12,790 --> 00:00:13,290

[INAUDIBLE]

7

00:00:13,290 --> 00:00:17,820

--mystery about it is how
did the Italians get together

8

00:00:17,820 --> 00:00:18,900

with the Germans.

9

00:00:18,900 --> 00:00:19,400

OK.

10

00:00:19,400 --> 00:00:20,220

We have to go home today.

11

00:00:20,220 --> 00:00:21,390

Andre, you got to give it--

12

00:00:21,390 --> 00:00:22,230

Wait a second.

13

00:00:22,230 --> 00:00:23,070
Give it a rest.

14
00:00:23,070 --> 00:00:24,330
[LAUGHS] I can't talk.

15
00:00:24,330 --> 00:00:27,060
I can see the family dynamic
here, but you take it--

16
00:00:27,060 --> 00:00:29,830
you get the floor
and you don't--

17
00:00:29,830 --> 00:00:30,330
The gist.

18
00:00:30,330 --> 00:00:31,680
--and you don't let it go.

19
00:00:31,680 --> 00:00:32,180
Oh, my god.

20
00:00:32,180 --> 00:00:32,680
I--

21
00:00:32,680 --> 00:00:33,840
It's a dictatorship here.

22
00:00:33,840 --> 00:00:35,520
And just because
you're the oldest--

23
00:00:35,520 --> 00:00:37,720
But girls are not involved
in politics like he is.

24
00:00:37,720 --> 00:00:38,220
No, no.

25
00:00:38,220 --> 00:00:39,640
I just mentioned them because--

26
00:00:39,640 --> 00:00:40,140
[INAUDIBLE]

27
00:00:40,140 --> 00:00:41,100
That's all he talks about.

28
00:00:41,100 --> 00:00:41,600
[INAUDIBLE]

29
00:00:41,600 --> 00:00:42,520
I mean, it's--

30
00:00:42,520 --> 00:00:43,020
OK.

31
00:00:43,020 --> 00:00:46,100

32
00:00:46,100 --> 00:00:48,190
If they all would have
spoke the same language,

33
00:00:48,190 --> 00:00:49,810
they probably would
have won the war.

34
00:00:49,810 --> 00:00:50,310
All right.

35
00:00:50,310 --> 00:00:51,190
OK, then,

36
00:00:51,190 --> 00:00:52,410
Calm down.

37
00:00:52,410 --> 00:00:53,397
Down, boy.

38
00:00:53,397 --> 00:00:54,371
[CHUCKLES]

39
00:00:54,371 --> 00:00:57,780

40
00:00:57,780 --> 00:01:00,420
You mentioned that
your mother sang.

41
00:01:00,420 --> 00:01:02,040
Yeah, she sang beautifully.

42
00:01:02,040 --> 00:01:03,975
Do you remember any
of the songs she sung?

43
00:01:03,975 --> 00:01:05,750
"Papirosen?"

44
00:01:05,750 --> 00:01:09,120
I would stop her from singing,
because everything was sad.

45
00:01:09,120 --> 00:01:12,900
So I would make a big fuss, and
she was not allowed to sing,

46
00:01:12,900 --> 00:01:13,900
only happy songs.

47
00:01:13,900 --> 00:01:17,670

48
00:01:17,670 --> 00:01:18,990
I'm still like that.

49
00:01:18,990 --> 00:01:21,300
I don't like sad songs.

50
00:01:21,300 --> 00:01:22,840
Well, certain ones.

51

00:01:22,840 --> 00:01:24,180
But I was really--

52
00:01:24,180 --> 00:01:25,890
I was a--

53
00:01:25,890 --> 00:01:29,160
My father sang too, a little
bit, like when he prayed

54
00:01:29,160 --> 00:01:30,185
or when we was home.

55
00:01:30,185 --> 00:01:31,560
Yeah, but his
voice was not good.

56
00:01:31,560 --> 00:01:32,760
Hers was.

57
00:01:32,760 --> 00:01:33,260
He was--

58
00:01:33,260 --> 00:01:37,620
She had a beautiful voice, which
she did not give to anyone.

59
00:01:37,620 --> 00:01:39,618
No.

60
00:01:39,618 --> 00:01:44,540
No, she sang "Papirosen"
She knew "Yome, Yome."

61
00:01:44,540 --> 00:01:45,090
What song?

62
00:01:45,090 --> 00:01:45,620
The song?

63
00:01:45,620 --> 00:01:52,410
You know, old Jewish songs

and a German song that you

64

00:01:52,410 --> 00:01:53,590
sing around Christmastime.

65

00:01:53,590 --> 00:01:57,585
What's the name of
that song, Joyce?

66

00:01:57,585 --> 00:01:59,230
"O Tannenbaum."

67

00:01:59,230 --> 00:02:00,870
"O Tannenbaum."

68

00:02:00,870 --> 00:02:05,160
She-- I remember her
sitting down and saying,

69

00:02:05,160 --> 00:02:07,380
they were so wonderful.

70

00:02:07,380 --> 00:02:09,580
I don't know what
happened to them.

71

00:02:09,580 --> 00:02:12,930
I don't know when they went mad.

72

00:02:12,930 --> 00:02:15,225
Because that's who she
knew, was Germany--

73

00:02:15,225 --> 00:02:16,290
I know.

74

00:02:16,290 --> 00:02:17,520
--and German people.

75

00:02:17,520 --> 00:02:20,770
And she couldn't understand it.

76

00:02:20,770 --> 00:02:25,080

But as far as antisemitism
goes, they have it all over.

77

00:02:25,080 --> 00:02:26,190

They have it today.

78

00:02:26,190 --> 00:02:27,570

They will always have it.

79

00:02:27,570 --> 00:02:30,870

80

00:02:30,870 --> 00:02:34,140

You know, it's--

81

00:02:34,140 --> 00:02:37,740

I was called dirty
Jew all over in France

82

00:02:37,740 --> 00:02:40,890

and in Belgium and in America.

83

00:02:40,890 --> 00:02:45,330

I see a lot of
antisemitism always.

84

00:02:45,330 --> 00:02:50,910

They don't know because
I don't look Jewish.

85

00:02:50,910 --> 00:02:55,140

But so a lot of people
say things, but, you know,

86

00:02:55,140 --> 00:02:56,312

it's like everything else.

87

00:02:56,312 --> 00:02:57,645

It's like with the Black people.

88

00:02:57,645 --> 00:03:00,180

89

00:03:00,180 --> 00:03:03,030

When you went back to Belgium,
did you go to a yeshiva?

90

00:03:03,030 --> 00:03:05,490

Yes, I went to
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]..

91

00:03:05,490 --> 00:03:06,570

It's still there.

92

00:03:06,570 --> 00:03:09,690

I went to visit it
when I went to Belgium.

93

00:03:09,690 --> 00:03:11,820

But now you need
to have security.

94

00:03:11,820 --> 00:03:14,940

You have to-- they won't
let you in just like that.

95

00:03:14,940 --> 00:03:17,880

But my friends that
I have in Brussels,

96

00:03:17,880 --> 00:03:21,310

their grandchildren
go to that school.

97

00:03:21,310 --> 00:03:25,080

So I went in and everything
looks the same, exactly

98

00:03:25,080 --> 00:03:26,560

the same.

99

00:03:26,560 --> 00:03:28,800

So half-- and did

you learn Hebrew?

100
00:03:28,800 --> 00:03:29,970
Yes.

101
00:03:29,970 --> 00:03:31,680
I was very good in Hebrew.

102
00:03:31,680 --> 00:03:34,500
But now, I'm not
that good anymore.

103
00:03:34,500 --> 00:03:37,470
And she was very good
in school because she

104
00:03:37,470 --> 00:03:42,120
came before me, of course,
and I remember the saying,

105
00:03:42,120 --> 00:03:44,460
you are related?

106
00:03:44,460 --> 00:03:45,030
How?

107
00:03:45,030 --> 00:03:48,000
Same mother and father?

108
00:03:48,000 --> 00:03:49,420
She was a tomboy.

109
00:03:49,420 --> 00:03:53,880
I was very prim and proper
and did everything right.

110
00:03:53,880 --> 00:03:57,360
I had to between him and her!

111
00:03:57,360 --> 00:03:58,560
I had to.

112

00:03:58,560 --> 00:04:05,190

So they couldn't believe she was
my sister, because if I had--

113

00:04:05,190 --> 00:04:06,390

I was the opposite.

114

00:04:06,390 --> 00:04:08,270

Right.

115

00:04:08,270 --> 00:04:12,980

And Andre, you were 13
when you were in France.

116

00:04:12,980 --> 00:04:14,090

Yeah, yeah.

117

00:04:14,090 --> 00:04:15,620

Were you--

118

00:04:15,620 --> 00:04:18,170

At 13 and a half, I
come back to Belgium.

119

00:04:18,170 --> 00:04:19,190

At 14, I--

120

00:04:19,190 --> 00:04:21,440

Did you ever have
your bar mitzvah?

121

00:04:21,440 --> 00:04:22,330

Yeah, in Belgium.

122

00:04:22,330 --> 00:04:23,270

We were in Belgium.

123

00:04:23,270 --> 00:04:25,790

Can you tell me about it?

124

00:04:25,790 --> 00:04:27,860

Well-- [CHUCKLES]

125

00:04:27,860 --> 00:04:29,863

I know about it
because I used to--

126

00:04:29,863 --> 00:04:30,530

Nothing special.

127

00:04:30,530 --> 00:04:31,675

--learn the--

128

00:04:31,675 --> 00:04:32,175

Haftorah.

129

00:04:32,175 --> 00:04:34,700

I learned the Haftorah with him.

130

00:04:34,700 --> 00:04:41,030

So he had bar mitzvah
with about 14 boys

131

00:04:41,030 --> 00:04:43,790

who had it at the same time.

132

00:04:43,790 --> 00:04:45,920

And they all
learned it together.

133

00:04:45,920 --> 00:04:48,980

And he won the first
prize, which I remember

134

00:04:48,980 --> 00:04:51,260

because he was so good in it.

135

00:04:51,260 --> 00:04:53,060

And then, that's it.

136

00:04:53,060 --> 00:04:56,100

Now he's not too much on Hebrew.

137
00:04:56,100 --> 00:04:56,900
Hmm.

138
00:04:56,900 --> 00:04:57,755
Right?

139
00:04:57,755 --> 00:05:04,490
No, but I was in different
things up there when I--

140
00:05:04,490 --> 00:05:07,400
because I had the
Belgium passport.

141
00:05:07,400 --> 00:05:12,980
And I could travel
all over, and I

142
00:05:12,980 --> 00:05:17,330
got involved with somebody
who smuggled cigarettes

143
00:05:17,330 --> 00:05:19,190
to France and things like that.

144
00:05:19,190 --> 00:05:20,370
Oh, I didn't know that.

145
00:05:20,370 --> 00:05:20,870
Yeah

146
00:05:20,870 --> 00:05:21,556
Huh.

147
00:05:21,556 --> 00:05:24,110
Yeah.

148
00:05:24,110 --> 00:05:24,980
How old were you?

149
00:05:24,980 --> 00:05:27,860

I was 14 years old.

150
00:05:27,860 --> 00:05:29,760
He was tough.

151
00:05:29,760 --> 00:05:33,270
I had to be the good one,
because my mother had him--

152
00:05:33,270 --> 00:05:33,960
And me

153
00:05:33,960 --> 00:05:36,470
And her!

154
00:05:36,470 --> 00:05:39,680
Did you graduate
from [FRENCH] lycee?

155
00:05:39,680 --> 00:05:45,590
No, I graduated-- in Belgium,
I went to Flemish schools.

156
00:05:45,590 --> 00:05:49,100
And I had forgotten a little
Flemish, so I had to pick up,

157
00:05:49,100 --> 00:05:51,890
get back to it in the Flemish.

158
00:05:51,890 --> 00:05:54,460
But I had no trouble.

159
00:05:54,460 --> 00:05:55,790
Yeah.

160
00:05:55,790 --> 00:06:00,290
I just-- I never went
to higher education

161
00:06:00,290 --> 00:06:04,610
because I missed too

much in school in France.

162

00:06:04,610 --> 00:06:05,870

I didn't know algebra.

163

00:06:05,870 --> 00:06:07,910

I couldn't understand algebra.

164

00:06:07,910 --> 00:06:13,820

They says e and 6 is equal to m.

165

00:06:13,820 --> 00:06:16,010

I didn't understand that.

166

00:06:16,010 --> 00:06:19,610

I didn't had the
beginning of the algebra.

167

00:06:19,610 --> 00:06:22,490

So I start working early.

168

00:06:22,490 --> 00:06:24,410

I helped my father as a plumber.

169

00:06:24,410 --> 00:06:27,620

And then I became a jeweler,
because they built a shop

170

00:06:27,620 --> 00:06:29,090

for a jeweler's.

171

00:06:29,090 --> 00:06:32,720

And the guy of the jewelers
wanted me to work for him,

172

00:06:32,720 --> 00:06:34,640

so I started working for him.

173

00:06:34,640 --> 00:06:36,200

I became a jeweler.

174

00:06:36,200 --> 00:06:37,743
What did that consist of?

175
00:06:37,743 --> 00:06:38,910
What did you learn from him?

176
00:06:38,910 --> 00:06:41,270
I melted metal, gold, platinum.

177
00:06:41,270 --> 00:06:43,100
He makes beautiful jewelry.

178
00:06:43,100 --> 00:06:43,880
He does.

179
00:06:43,880 --> 00:06:44,887
I make rings, bracelets.

180
00:06:44,887 --> 00:06:45,970
He makes beautiful jewels.

181
00:06:45,970 --> 00:06:47,060
I became a jeweler.

182
00:06:47,060 --> 00:06:49,400
Then I came here.

183
00:06:49,400 --> 00:06:52,190
I worked in the
trade, too, until I

184
00:06:52,190 --> 00:06:54,320
got drafted in the
army, and they sent me

185
00:06:54,320 --> 00:06:56,650
to Korea and Germany.

186
00:06:56,650 --> 00:06:59,760
That was the worst
for my mother--

187

00:06:59,760 --> 00:07:00,260

Yeah.

188

00:07:00,260 --> 00:07:04,910

--when he was drafted because
they sent him back to Germany.

189

00:07:04,910 --> 00:07:07,580

I'd never been to
Germany before.

190

00:07:07,580 --> 00:07:10,070

I knew I'd seen Germany and
France, but I'd never been to--

191

00:07:10,070 --> 00:07:11,237

Yeah, but they sent you--

192

00:07:11,237 --> 00:07:12,320

--to the German territory.

193

00:07:12,320 --> 00:07:13,310

So he was in the army.

194

00:07:13,310 --> 00:07:16,490

How did you feel about
that, going back to Germany

195

00:07:16,490 --> 00:07:19,070

as an American citizen?

196

00:07:19,070 --> 00:07:22,130

I was a soldier, you know,
like I patrolled the border,

197

00:07:22,130 --> 00:07:27,410

and I learned maneuvers and
everything, slept in the snow

198

00:07:27,410 --> 00:07:28,850

in the woods.

199

00:07:28,850 --> 00:07:33,290

Yeah, it was-- because
Germany's cold in the winter.

200

00:07:33,290 --> 00:07:35,510

And when you have seven
army-- and the seventh army--

201

00:07:35,510 --> 00:07:36,830

I was in the seventh army.

202

00:07:36,830 --> 00:07:39,450

Seventh army alert
all over Germany.

203

00:07:39,450 --> 00:07:41,960

So then seventh army
goes in the field.

204

00:07:41,960 --> 00:07:44,750

And you sleep in the
snow for about a month,

205

00:07:44,750 --> 00:07:45,790

and you come back.

206

00:07:45,790 --> 00:07:49,010

Yeah, and it was
tough-- a tough duty.

207

00:07:49,010 --> 00:07:51,585

Yeah.

208

00:07:51,585 --> 00:07:53,780

Lucie, you mentioned
the Americans--

209

00:07:53,780 --> 00:07:56,520

Jewish soldiers who
looked after your family

210

00:07:56,520 --> 00:07:57,395

after the liberation.

211
00:07:57,395 --> 00:07:58,490
Mm-hmm.

212
00:07:58,490 --> 00:07:59,330
Mm-hmm.

213
00:07:59,330 --> 00:08:03,545
Do you remember the
names of any of them?

214
00:08:03,545 --> 00:08:07,520
Just the one that helped us
find my aunt in the United

215
00:08:07,520 --> 00:08:10,550
States, Simon Kohler.

216
00:08:10,550 --> 00:08:14,570
And I'd like to find out
exactly where his family is,

217
00:08:14,570 --> 00:08:17,450
but I could never find out.

218
00:08:17,450 --> 00:08:18,186
And--

219
00:08:18,186 --> 00:08:20,660
Do you remember
where he was from?

220
00:08:20,660 --> 00:08:21,270
New York.

221
00:08:21,270 --> 00:08:22,010
From New York.

222
00:08:22,010 --> 00:08:22,510
Yes.

223

00:08:22,510 --> 00:08:27,300
He was a New Yorker, probably
Brooklyn, from what I gather.

224

00:08:27,300 --> 00:08:32,000
I've tried, I've-- but
whatever I came across--

225

00:08:32,000 --> 00:08:35,630
someone did tell me that-- and
I don't know how true it is--

226

00:08:35,630 --> 00:08:39,890
that he went to Israel
in the beginning.

227

00:08:39,890 --> 00:08:41,539
And he was--

228

00:08:41,539 --> 00:08:44,960
I don't know if he was sort of
thrown out of this country--

229

00:08:44,960 --> 00:08:46,450
And I have a letter by him, so--

230

00:08:46,450 --> 00:08:47,360
But I'm not sure.

231

00:08:47,360 --> 00:08:48,170
You have what?

232

00:08:48,170 --> 00:08:49,730
And I have his army
number, and I've

233

00:08:49,730 --> 00:08:52,580
tried to call armies,
the army, and see

234

00:08:52,580 --> 00:08:54,230
if I can get information.

235
00:08:54,230 --> 00:08:55,700
And I could not get anything.

236
00:08:55,700 --> 00:08:59,660

237
00:08:59,660 --> 00:09:02,210
Did you stay in
contact with anybody?

238
00:09:02,210 --> 00:09:06,320
Do you remember anybody
from Rivesaltes at all?

239
00:09:06,320 --> 00:09:07,170
From Rivesaltes, no.

240
00:09:07,170 --> 00:09:07,670
No.

241
00:09:07,670 --> 00:09:09,630
Not from Rivesaltes.

242
00:09:09,630 --> 00:09:10,935
No.

243
00:09:10,935 --> 00:09:14,910
But I know there's
a lot of people that

244
00:09:14,910 --> 00:09:17,740
live in Canada, like Shmeltz.

245
00:09:17,740 --> 00:09:18,240
You know--

246
00:09:18,240 --> 00:09:18,960
Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

247
00:09:18,960 --> 00:09:19,680

I knew Shmeltz.

248
00:09:19,680 --> 00:09:20,550
Jackie Shmeltz.

249
00:09:20,550 --> 00:09:21,606
He went to Rivesaltes.

250
00:09:21,606 --> 00:09:22,170
He lives in--

251
00:09:22,170 --> 00:09:23,260
He died, didn't he?

252
00:09:23,260 --> 00:09:23,760
No.

253
00:09:23,760 --> 00:09:26,120
His sister lives in Canada.

254
00:09:26,120 --> 00:09:28,440
Right.

255
00:09:28,440 --> 00:09:30,600
Probably could find
out where she lives.

256
00:09:30,600 --> 00:09:33,375
But I don't know if she's
still alive or whatever.

257
00:09:33,375 --> 00:09:37,020
There's a lot of things
I wish I had asked

258
00:09:37,020 --> 00:09:39,420
and been persistent about.

259
00:09:39,420 --> 00:09:40,230
Right.

260

00:09:40,230 --> 00:09:42,180
But I wasn't.

261
00:09:42,180 --> 00:09:43,320
I didn't want to know.

262
00:09:43,320 --> 00:09:44,430
I was afraid to know.

263
00:09:44,430 --> 00:09:46,440
I didn't want to start--

264
00:09:46,440 --> 00:09:48,600
bring back anything to them.

265
00:09:48,600 --> 00:09:50,190
So I left it alone.

266
00:09:50,190 --> 00:09:51,390
Now, I'm very sorry.

267
00:09:51,390 --> 00:09:55,762
I'm sorry I didn't ask more,
I didn't try to find out more.

268
00:09:55,762 --> 00:09:58,910
But that's past.

269
00:09:58,910 --> 00:09:59,425
Yeah.

270
00:09:59,425 --> 00:10:00,050
People should--

271
00:10:00,050 --> 00:10:01,133
And there's no one to ask.

272
00:10:01,133 --> 00:10:02,120
--write things down.

273
00:10:02,120 --> 00:10:04,610

Like if their parents
tell them things,

274
00:10:04,610 --> 00:10:07,730
they should write it down,
because as you get older,

275
00:10:07,730 --> 00:10:10,925
you forget things.

276
00:10:10,925 --> 00:10:13,945
One of you mentioned
that your mother wanted

277
00:10:13,945 --> 00:10:15,820
to come to the United
States, and your father

278
00:10:15,820 --> 00:10:16,990
wanted to go to Israel--

279
00:10:16,990 --> 00:10:17,540
Yes.

280
00:10:17,540 --> 00:10:18,040
Oh.

281
00:10:18,040 --> 00:10:20,320
--and that you father
had a hard time adapting

282
00:10:20,320 --> 00:10:22,150
to the United States.

283
00:10:22,150 --> 00:10:23,770
Was he a plumber when he--

284
00:10:23,770 --> 00:10:24,700
No.

285
00:10:24,700 --> 00:10:26,740
He couldn't get into

the plumbing union

286

00:10:26,740 --> 00:10:29,410

because, at that time, it was
predominant-- in New York,

287

00:10:29,410 --> 00:10:31,660

it was predominantly Italian.

288

00:10:31,660 --> 00:10:32,890

And he could not get in.

289

00:10:32,890 --> 00:10:35,560

So he took whatever he could.

290

00:10:35,560 --> 00:10:39,460

He worked in a
factory for a while.

291

00:10:39,460 --> 00:10:41,620

He made lamps for ships.

292

00:10:41,620 --> 00:10:43,810

He did different things.

293

00:10:43,810 --> 00:10:44,670

[? Perko. ?]

294

00:10:44,670 --> 00:10:45,170

Yeah.

295

00:10:45,170 --> 00:10:50,420

And he gave up.

296

00:10:50,420 --> 00:10:52,330

He was not a plumber.

297

00:10:52,330 --> 00:10:56,680

No, but he always
talked about Israel.

298

00:10:56,680 --> 00:11:01,990
He read till all hours in the
morning until he couldn't see.

299
00:11:01,990 --> 00:11:03,550
He became blind.

300
00:11:03,550 --> 00:11:07,450
But he always wanted
to go to Israel.

301
00:11:07,450 --> 00:11:09,490
And I went to Israel.

302
00:11:09,490 --> 00:11:13,510
And the strangest thing is
that, when I arrived in Israel,

303
00:11:13,510 --> 00:11:16,900
and we went touring,
we-- he always

304
00:11:16,900 --> 00:11:21,860
told me about Rachel's tomb
and David and all these things.

305
00:11:21,860 --> 00:11:26,050
And when I arrived in Israel
and we went sightseeing,

306
00:11:26,050 --> 00:11:28,450
we stopped at this big cemetery.

307
00:11:28,450 --> 00:11:31,270
And it made me
think of my father,

308
00:11:31,270 --> 00:11:36,500
you know, with the
trees and everything.

309
00:11:36,500 --> 00:11:37,000
But--

310
00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:39,160
Did you belong to
a synagogue when

311
00:11:39,160 --> 00:11:41,026
you came to the United States?

312
00:11:41,026 --> 00:11:41,920
Did you--

313
00:11:41,920 --> 00:11:45,640
We went to synagogues, and I
belonged to everything, ORT,

314
00:11:45,640 --> 00:11:50,050
Hadassah, the Holocaust
Museum downtown here,

315
00:11:50,050 --> 00:11:51,910
the one in Washington, DC.

316
00:11:51,910 --> 00:11:53,644
What else do I belong to, Joyce?

317
00:11:53,644 --> 00:11:54,144
Everything.

318
00:11:54,144 --> 00:11:57,370
[LAUGHS] I belong to
everything practically.

319
00:11:57,370 --> 00:11:58,630
And I go to temple.

320
00:11:58,630 --> 00:12:02,050
And Joyce belongs to the
temple in Middletown.

321
00:12:02,050 --> 00:12:05,880
And-- you know.

322

00:12:05,880 --> 00:12:10,400

Did you notice that
your parents changed

323

00:12:10,400 --> 00:12:13,490

their religious practices
before and after the war?

324

00:12:13,490 --> 00:12:15,740

I remember you--
that, Andre, you

325

00:12:15,740 --> 00:12:17,450

mentioned that you kept kosher.

326

00:12:17,450 --> 00:12:18,620

Mm-hmm.

327

00:12:18,620 --> 00:12:20,880

And did they change after--

328

00:12:20,880 --> 00:12:21,380

No.

329

00:12:21,380 --> 00:12:22,010

--the war?

330

00:12:22,010 --> 00:12:22,510

No.

331

00:12:22,510 --> 00:12:25,400

We were kosher
after the war too.

332

00:12:25,400 --> 00:12:26,750

We were kosher after the war.

333

00:12:26,750 --> 00:12:28,750

My father went to temple.

334

00:12:28,750 --> 00:12:31,130

He laid tefillin.

335

00:12:31,130 --> 00:12:31,970

He did [INAUDIBLE].

336

00:12:31,970 --> 00:12:32,720

Yeah, he believed.

337

00:12:32,720 --> 00:12:33,770

He-- I don't.

338

00:12:33,770 --> 00:12:36,080

He believed more than we do.

339

00:12:36,080 --> 00:12:36,610

Yeah.

340

00:12:36,610 --> 00:12:37,110

Yeah.

341

00:12:37,110 --> 00:12:40,490

I'm not a believer, no.

342

00:12:40,490 --> 00:12:43,670

The war did not change his--

343

00:12:43,670 --> 00:12:46,100

Maybe if the war
wouldn't have been there,

344

00:12:46,100 --> 00:12:49,010

I would probably would
be maybe religious, too.

345

00:12:49,010 --> 00:12:51,530

But I grew up in
the south of France.

346

00:12:51,530 --> 00:12:55,550

They're more-- they think
different, you know?

347

00:12:55,550 --> 00:12:57,200

I think a little
bit like they do.

348

00:12:57,200 --> 00:13:00,695

Well, the war robs you
from your childhood.

349

00:13:00,695 --> 00:13:02,870

Yeah.

350

00:13:02,870 --> 00:13:05,780

You mentioned a Rabbi Bloch
who helped your father.

351

00:13:05,780 --> 00:13:06,740

Right.

352

00:13:06,740 --> 00:13:08,900

He lived on Riverside Drive.

353

00:13:08,900 --> 00:13:19,640

We came from-- the HIAS brought
us over here, and Rabbi Bloch--

354

00:13:19,640 --> 00:13:22,010

they got us an apartment
on Riverside Drive,

355

00:13:22,010 --> 00:13:24,290

and that's where we lived.

356

00:13:24,290 --> 00:13:27,380

And Rabbi Bloch
had the synagogue

357

00:13:27,380 --> 00:13:29,420

on Riverside Drive and 100--

358

00:13:29,420 --> 00:13:32,540

Riverside Drive
and 138th Street.

359
00:13:32,540 --> 00:13:36,590
--138th Street, and my
parents went to worship there.

360
00:13:36,590 --> 00:13:38,090
And he always called up.

361
00:13:38,090 --> 00:13:39,770
He came to my wedding.

362
00:13:39,770 --> 00:13:41,750
He came to Joyce's wedding.

363
00:13:41,750 --> 00:13:44,660
He bought her a present, right?

364
00:13:44,660 --> 00:13:47,300
And he always called
up and inquired how

365
00:13:47,300 --> 00:13:49,850
my parents were doing as old--

366
00:13:49,850 --> 00:13:51,630
he wasn't young anymore, either.

367
00:13:51,630 --> 00:13:53,630
And he always called
me on my birthday.

368
00:13:53,630 --> 00:13:55,070
Yeah.

369
00:13:55,070 --> 00:13:58,610
Because he's the one who
gave me my Jewish name.

370
00:13:58,610 --> 00:13:59,110
Yeah.

371

00:13:59,110 --> 00:13:59,610
Um--

372
00:13:59,610 --> 00:14:00,890
Chana.

373
00:14:00,890 --> 00:14:02,060
And I went to Hebrew school.

374
00:14:02,060 --> 00:14:05,182
He was my Hebrew school teacher.

375
00:14:05,182 --> 00:14:08,890
[CHUCKLES] I spent most of
the time outside the classroom

376
00:14:08,890 --> 00:14:10,570
as well.

377
00:14:10,570 --> 00:14:13,450
I-- it was my MO.

378
00:14:13,450 --> 00:14:17,500
He came-- how did he
get out of Rivesaltes?

379
00:14:17,500 --> 00:14:19,390
I think that when--

380
00:14:19,390 --> 00:14:25,210
he must have escaped before
the trucks came, before they

381
00:14:25,210 --> 00:14:28,090
took everybody to Auschwitz.

382
00:14:28,090 --> 00:14:32,680
I think he escaped and
went to Switzerland.

383
00:14:32,680 --> 00:14:37,330
For some reason, I

believe that's correct.

384

00:14:37,330 --> 00:14:40,950

And then, after the war, he
came to the United States.

385

00:14:40,950 --> 00:14:44,530

He had two daughters.

386

00:14:44,530 --> 00:14:45,850

And I know that his--

387

00:14:45,850 --> 00:14:49,550

I once spoke to somebody who--

388

00:14:49,550 --> 00:14:51,740

And he lived in Rockland County.

389

00:14:51,740 --> 00:14:54,230

And his grandson was
trying to find out

390

00:14:54,230 --> 00:14:57,230

about him, more about him.

391

00:14:57,230 --> 00:15:02,480

And she was trying to
give him information

392

00:15:02,480 --> 00:15:04,220

because he did run that camp.

393

00:15:04,220 --> 00:15:06,770

I mean, he was the religious
leader of that camp.

394

00:15:06,770 --> 00:15:10,930

395

00:15:10,930 --> 00:15:14,160

He was a very lovely man.

396

00:15:14,160 --> 00:15:18,955

His-- they mentioned him in
that movie, [NON-ENGLISH]..

397

00:15:18,955 --> 00:15:21,670

And there's also a
book about Rivesaltes

398

00:15:21,670 --> 00:15:22,810

that he is mentioned in.

399

00:15:22,810 --> 00:15:26,340

400

00:15:26,340 --> 00:15:28,740

What was-- how did you--

401

00:15:28,740 --> 00:15:31,125

how did HIAS get you
to the United States?

402

00:15:31,125 --> 00:15:32,820

- Well, it's not just HIAS.

403

00:15:32,820 --> 00:15:35,520

It took five years
for us to get here,

404

00:15:35,520 --> 00:15:37,980

because they kept selling--

405

00:15:37,980 --> 00:15:39,060

Our visa.

406

00:15:39,060 --> 00:15:40,680

--the visas.

407

00:15:40,680 --> 00:15:46,770

Finally, my aunt got this
man who had some power

408

00:15:46,770 --> 00:15:51,390
and had the money and made sure
that we would be leaving when

409
00:15:51,390 --> 00:15:53,190
they said we would be leaving.

410
00:15:53,190 --> 00:15:59,340
And that and the
organization got us here.

411
00:15:59,340 --> 00:16:00,480
It took five years?

412
00:16:00,480 --> 00:16:02,730
It took five years to get here.

413
00:16:02,730 --> 00:16:07,980
From 1945 to 1950.

414
00:16:07,980 --> 00:16:09,660
And that's when we came.

415
00:16:09,660 --> 00:16:12,820
It was the Belgian authorities
who made it difficult?

416
00:16:12,820 --> 00:16:14,670
I don't know who
made it difficult.

417
00:16:14,670 --> 00:16:17,460
I think some of the
Jewish organizations

418
00:16:17,460 --> 00:16:21,240
were not that up and up as well.

419
00:16:21,240 --> 00:16:23,510
after the war.

420
00:16:23,510 --> 00:16:24,740

It was hard to get--

421

00:16:24,740 --> 00:16:26,440

It was hard.

422

00:16:26,440 --> 00:16:28,425

It was very hard to get out.

423

00:16:28,425 --> 00:16:29,300

To the United States.

424

00:16:29,300 --> 00:16:31,430

And it was very difficult
to get to the United States.

425

00:16:31,430 --> 00:16:33,055

There was a quota in
the United States.

426

00:16:33,055 --> 00:16:33,860

Very much so.

427

00:16:33,860 --> 00:16:36,500

Well, now you can come in like--

428

00:16:36,500 --> 00:16:41,440

At that time, the quota
was very difficult to buck.

429

00:16:41,440 --> 00:16:43,660

Do you remember going
through Ellis Island?

430

00:16:43,660 --> 00:16:44,360

No. we didn't.

431

00:16:44,360 --> 00:16:44,980

No, we didn't.

432

00:16:44,980 --> 00:16:45,730

We came in style.

433

00:16:45,730 --> 00:16:46,230

Hoboken.

434

00:16:46,230 --> 00:16:47,010

We came--

435

00:16:47,010 --> 00:16:47,510

We went--

436

00:16:47,510 --> 00:16:50,429

--on a luxury liner.

437

00:16:50,429 --> 00:16:51,170

New Amsterdam.

438

00:16:51,170 --> 00:16:52,300

We came New Amsterdam.

439

00:16:52,300 --> 00:16:53,520

It was a cruise ship.

440

00:16:53,520 --> 00:16:54,170

Yeah.

441

00:16:54,170 --> 00:16:55,440

We came-- Hoboken, right?

442

00:16:55,440 --> 00:16:56,440

Hoboken, we [INAUDIBLE].

443

00:16:56,440 --> 00:16:57,430

We came to Hoboken.

444

00:16:57,430 --> 00:16:58,810

So it was lovely.

445

00:16:58,810 --> 00:17:02,140

It was a lovely trip.

446

00:17:02,140 --> 00:17:04,110

Swimming pool and everything.

447

00:17:04,110 --> 00:17:05,599

[LAUGHS] Yeah.

448

00:17:05,599 --> 00:17:07,829

It was great.

449

00:17:07,829 --> 00:17:10,049

Then we went in the subway.

450

00:17:10,049 --> 00:17:12,150

Mm-hmm.

451

00:17:12,150 --> 00:17:15,990

I thought the doors were
going to close on me.

452

00:17:15,990 --> 00:17:18,180

And where did you stay
when you first got here?

453

00:17:18,180 --> 00:17:20,840

My aunt's house.

454

00:17:20,840 --> 00:17:21,589

I didn't.

455

00:17:21,589 --> 00:17:23,500

I stayed at the HIAS.

456

00:17:23,500 --> 00:17:24,000

They had--

457

00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:24,500

Well.

458

00:17:24,500 --> 00:17:26,270

We stayed at the
HIAS for a little w--

459

00:17:26,270 --> 00:17:28,354
I stayed for maybe a week.

460
00:17:28,354 --> 00:17:29,360
It was like a dormitory.

461
00:17:29,360 --> 00:17:29,860
Mm-hmm.

462
00:17:29,860 --> 00:17:33,965
Yes, it's like a shelter for
the Jewish-- for the immigrants.

463
00:17:33,965 --> 00:17:34,670
[INAUDIBLE]

464
00:17:34,670 --> 00:17:36,650
It's a shelter for
the immigrants,

465
00:17:36,650 --> 00:17:37,850
and we stayed there.

466
00:17:37,850 --> 00:17:38,840
She didn't stay there.

467
00:17:38,840 --> 00:17:41,990
She stayed by my aunt.

468
00:17:41,990 --> 00:17:44,810
The way I can really
describe it is I

469
00:17:44,810 --> 00:17:47,780
remember seeing a
movie, Bitter Rice.

470
00:17:47,780 --> 00:17:52,760
And they had a scene of a big
dormitory of a big shelter.

471
00:17:52,760 --> 00:17:55,040

And it reminded me of that.

472

00:17:55,040 --> 00:17:59,090

Now, I went back to the HIAS,
which is now Papp's theater.

473

00:17:59,090 --> 00:18:01,700

474

00:18:01,700 --> 00:18:02,990

It became a theater.

475

00:18:02,990 --> 00:18:04,130

It's on Lafayette Street.

476

00:18:04,130 --> 00:18:05,390

Yes.

477

00:18:05,390 --> 00:18:06,680

And it's Papp's theater.

478

00:18:06,680 --> 00:18:08,630

And my daughter
got me in to see.

479

00:18:08,630 --> 00:18:12,260

And it's strange, because
I remember the staircase.

480

00:18:12,260 --> 00:18:13,700

I remember the upstairs.

481

00:18:13,700 --> 00:18:18,170

I remembered where
the dining room was.

482

00:18:18,170 --> 00:18:19,854

But it's a theater.

483

00:18:19,854 --> 00:18:22,760

484

00:18:22,760 --> 00:18:25,370

Anything else you would
like to add about your--

485

00:18:25,370 --> 00:18:29,330

No, we just want to say
that, actually, we're

486

00:18:29,330 --> 00:18:34,820

doing this for my parents, for
my cousins, who never made it.

487

00:18:34,820 --> 00:18:38,737

And they say the
Holocaust never happened.

488

00:18:38,737 --> 00:18:44,575

[CRYING] [SNIFFLES]

489

00:18:44,575 --> 00:18:45,075

Thank you.

490

00:18:45,075 --> 00:18:47,640

That's why.

491

00:18:47,640 --> 00:18:48,610

And it did.

492

00:18:48,610 --> 00:18:52,302

493

00:18:52,302 --> 00:18:53,280

Thank you.

494

00:18:53,280 --> 00:18:54,106

Yeah.

495

00:18:54,106 --> 00:18:54,978

All right.

496

00:18:54,978 --> 00:18:55,850

All right, then.

497

00:18:55,850 --> 00:18:56,596

Thank you.

498

00:18:56,596 --> 00:18:58,500

Before you stand up, I'm just
going to take the microphones.

499

00:18:58,500 --> 00:18:59,458

The microphones are on.

500

00:18:59,458 --> 00:19:00,970

Oh, I keep forgetting.

501

00:19:00,970 --> 00:20:59,000