

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:10,870

2

00:00:10,870 --> 00:00:13,270

This is the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3

00:00:13,270 --> 00:00:16,780

interview with Mrs.
Marlies Plotnik, née Wolf,

4

00:00:16,780 --> 00:00:20,770

on August 19, 2010, in
Hartsdale, New York.

5

00:00:20,770 --> 00:00:24,280

The interview was conducted
by Peggy Frankston.

6

00:00:24,280 --> 00:00:28,330

I'm Marlies Plotnik, née Wolf.

7

00:00:28,330 --> 00:00:30,940

I was born in
Darmstadt in the South

8

00:00:30,940 --> 00:00:36,280

of Germany on
September 18, 1927,

9

00:00:36,280 --> 00:00:40,740

which means that I
was 11 years old--

10

00:00:40,740 --> 00:00:46,630

10 for Kristallnacht and 11
when we left Darmstadt and came

11

00:00:46,630 --> 00:00:50,350

to the United States,
which meant that I was just

12

00:00:50,350 --> 00:00:54,400

old enough to remember
everything very clearly,

13

00:00:54,400 --> 00:00:58,030

but not old enough to
understand any of it, really.

14

00:00:58,030 --> 00:01:01,600

But then, maybe nobody
else understood, either.

15

00:01:01,600 --> 00:01:06,940

At any rate, I was born
into a very nice family.

16

00:01:06,940 --> 00:01:09,280

I had a very pleasant childhood.

17

00:01:09,280 --> 00:01:11,890

18

00:01:11,890 --> 00:01:19,000

I was the youngest of three
children my parents were

19

00:01:19,000 --> 00:01:22,630

happily ensconced in Darmstadt.

20

00:01:22,630 --> 00:01:25,240

My father was a
prominent lawyer,

21

00:01:25,240 --> 00:01:29,820

and I say this
without exaggeration.

22

00:01:29,820 --> 00:01:33,130

He was also-- and this
becomes very important--

23

00:01:33,130 --> 00:01:37,840

he was an officer in World
War I and a Frontkämpfer--

24
00:01:37,840 --> 00:01:40,570
means he was at the
front, which gave us

25
00:01:40,570 --> 00:01:43,660
privileges for a
long, long time,

26
00:01:43,660 --> 00:01:46,910
because the militaristic
Germans made a--

27
00:01:46,910 --> 00:01:48,850
that was so important to them.

28
00:01:48,850 --> 00:01:52,930
At any rate, there was
pride in the family,

29
00:01:52,930 --> 00:01:57,610
not only because of the
position in the social circle

30
00:01:57,610 --> 00:02:02,140
of Darmstadt, but because
of the family history.

31
00:02:02,140 --> 00:02:06,200
We trace ourselves back
to 1560 in Germany,

32
00:02:06,200 --> 00:02:09,520
which was rather important,
because everybody felt

33
00:02:09,520 --> 00:02:12,970
that they were really Germans
and had lived in Germany

34
00:02:12,970 --> 00:02:15,910

so long, all these families.

35

00:02:15,910 --> 00:02:18,310

This is on my father's side.

36

00:02:18,310 --> 00:02:21,070

And on my mother's
side, there was pride

37

00:02:21,070 --> 00:02:23,680

because of another reason.

38

00:02:23,680 --> 00:02:28,810

The family had a factory
called Adler & Oppenheimer,

39

00:02:28,810 --> 00:02:33,640

which had many branches
all over the world, really.

40

00:02:33,640 --> 00:02:40,000

It was a leather factory which
served the army in World War I.

41

00:02:40,000 --> 00:02:42,490

And that was this
big, big deal, right?

42

00:02:42,490 --> 00:02:46,180

And that was important,
also, because they-- this

43

00:02:46,180 --> 00:02:49,360

was a rather large concern.

44

00:02:49,360 --> 00:02:51,640

And there was nepotism
in the family.

45

00:02:51,640 --> 00:02:54,590

A lot of people worked
for it, et cetera.

46

00:02:54,590 --> 00:02:58,270

So on both sides, there
was a false pride, maybe,

47

00:02:58,270 --> 00:03:00,430

but there was a lot of pride.

48

00:03:00,430 --> 00:03:07,000

On my father's side, it also
was because of real education.

49

00:03:07,000 --> 00:03:09,490

He was a lawyer, his
brother was a lawyer,

50

00:03:09,490 --> 00:03:13,870

and his sister was a
doctor, so that meant

51

00:03:13,870 --> 00:03:16,300

that they were well educated.

52

00:03:16,300 --> 00:03:20,060

And that also was
so important to us.

53

00:03:20,060 --> 00:03:20,620

At any--

54

00:03:20,620 --> 00:03:22,660

What was your father's name?

55

00:03:22,660 --> 00:03:25,920

Hermann David Wolf.

56

00:03:25,920 --> 00:03:30,640

And my mother's name
was Irene Oppenheimer.

57

00:03:30,640 --> 00:03:34,390

And the firm name was
Adler & Oppenheimer.

58

00:03:34,390 --> 00:03:37,450

At any rate, I--

59

00:03:37,450 --> 00:03:43,360

as said, my-- the childhood
was really very, very nice,

60

00:03:43,360 --> 00:03:49,150

and so it was a shock when
things occurred in 1933.

61

00:03:49,150 --> 00:03:52,240

I was six years
old, but at that--

62

00:03:52,240 --> 00:03:53,950

when things start
to happen, you're

63

00:03:53,950 --> 00:03:58,150

quite mature at
a very young age.

64

00:03:58,150 --> 00:03:59,110

Tell me a little--

65

00:03:59,110 --> 00:04:02,390

did your parents
have servants or--

66

00:04:02,390 --> 00:04:02,890

Yes.

67

00:04:02,890 --> 00:04:03,470

--maids or--

68

00:04:03,470 --> 00:04:03,970

Yes.

69

00:04:03,970 --> 00:04:04,690

--nannies?

70
00:04:04,690 --> 00:04:05,710
Yes.

71
00:04:05,710 --> 00:04:09,520
We had a cook and
we had a nanny.

72
00:04:09,520 --> 00:04:11,860
And the nanny was more
than just a nanny.

73
00:04:11,860 --> 00:04:16,360
She was a [GERMAN],,
which meant that she had

74
00:04:16,360 --> 00:04:18,610
French lessons, piano lessons.

75
00:04:18,610 --> 00:04:21,290
She sat at the table with us.

76
00:04:21,290 --> 00:04:25,630
She actually had been hired
for a trip my parents were

77
00:04:25,630 --> 00:04:32,080
going to take to Paris, and they
wanted somebody along for my--

78
00:04:32,080 --> 00:04:32,860
I wasn't born yet.

79
00:04:32,860 --> 00:04:36,430
My sister and brother
were very little.

80
00:04:36,430 --> 00:04:40,300
And so she had worked in a
bank, and she was actually

81
00:04:40,300 --> 00:04:42,040

the daughter of my father's--

82

00:04:42,040 --> 00:04:44,920

83

00:04:44,920 --> 00:04:47,080

well, his-- not a valet.

84

00:04:47,080 --> 00:04:49,690

There's a word for it.

85

00:04:49,690 --> 00:04:52,750

Orderly in World War I.

86

00:04:52,750 --> 00:04:56,560

And she didn't-- she was just
going to go on this trip,

87

00:04:56,560 --> 00:05:02,950

but she stayed for 12 years
and became quite educated

88

00:05:02,950 --> 00:05:03,683

in the household.

89

00:05:03,683 --> 00:05:04,600

And she was wonderful.

90

00:05:04,600 --> 00:05:08,880

And this was-- when she was
forced out of our household

91

00:05:08,880 --> 00:05:13,060

because she was
an Aryan and in--

92

00:05:13,060 --> 00:05:16,690

I can't tell you whether
it was '35 or '37.

93

00:05:16,690 --> 00:05:19,620

I think-- oh, yes,

definitely, it was '35.

94

00:05:19,620 --> 00:05:24,150

She had to leave because
she was under the age of 35,

95

00:05:24,150 --> 00:05:27,570

and she would--

96

00:05:27,570 --> 00:05:30,870

because there might
be rassenschande,

97

00:05:30,870 --> 00:05:36,780

which was "race
scandal" in case--

98

00:05:36,780 --> 00:05:40,050

because my father and--

99

00:05:40,050 --> 00:05:43,710

was a male, and she was a female
Aryan, and she had to leave.

100

00:05:43,710 --> 00:05:50,640

And she made an attempt-- she
got to see Himmler, who pat--

101

00:05:50,640 --> 00:05:51,930

she was a very pretty blonde.

102

00:05:51,930 --> 00:05:53,490

He patted her on
the knee and said

103

00:05:53,490 --> 00:06:00,360

he couldn't make any exception,
even for a pretty blonde.

104

00:06:00,360 --> 00:06:06,720

When she was forced out,
this was a tragedy in my--

105

00:06:06,720 --> 00:06:10,050

106

00:06:10,050 --> 00:06:13,860

not only for me, but also
for the rest of the family.

107

00:06:13,860 --> 00:06:19,590

But just to say what happened
in 1933, three days after Hitler

108

00:06:19,590 --> 00:06:24,360

came to power, my grandfather
who was the head of the firm,

109

00:06:24,360 --> 00:06:28,140

or the representative head
of the firm in Berlin,

110

00:06:28,140 --> 00:06:29,370

was in the office.

111

00:06:29,370 --> 00:06:35,010

And a man in SA uniform
came up and said

112

00:06:35,010 --> 00:06:37,950

he wanted the head of
the firm, and he wanted

113

00:06:37,950 --> 00:06:39,840

him to come down with him--

114

00:06:39,840 --> 00:06:44,880

[CLEARS THROAT] pardon me--
to the front door of the firm.

115

00:06:44,880 --> 00:06:50,250

And there was a sign that
said, he who deals with Jews

116

00:06:50,250 --> 00:06:52,140

is a traitor.

117

00:06:52,140 --> 00:06:56,700

And then he said, you
have to pay for the sign.

118

00:06:56,700 --> 00:07:01,950

And my grandfather went home,
obviously, had a heart attack

119

00:07:01,950 --> 00:07:03,540

and died.

120

00:07:03,540 --> 00:07:06,060

And everybody said it
was because of this.

121

00:07:06,060 --> 00:07:09,300

I'm not that sure, but
yes, it's believable,

122

00:07:09,300 --> 00:07:13,320

because he was horrified.

123

00:07:13,320 --> 00:07:21,120

My sister's birthday was on the
23rd, and he had-- he died on--

124

00:07:21,120 --> 00:07:22,260

I think died on the 22nd.

125

00:07:22,260 --> 00:07:24,240

[PHONE RINGING]

126

00:07:24,240 --> 00:07:24,909

That's my phone.

127

00:07:24,909 --> 00:07:25,409

Oh.

128

00:07:25,409 --> 00:07:30,200

129
00:07:30,200 --> 00:07:33,590
This is a continuation of the
US Holocaust Memorial Museum

130
00:07:33,590 --> 00:07:34,855
interview with Mrs. Plotnik.

131
00:07:34,855 --> 00:07:37,880

132
00:07:37,880 --> 00:07:40,700
The reason that this was
especially meaningful

133
00:07:40,700 --> 00:07:43,960
for me is that my
sister's birthday was on--

134
00:07:43,960 --> 00:07:48,920
is-- was on April 23, and that
was the day of his funeral,

135
00:07:48,920 --> 00:07:50,660
so there was no party.

136
00:07:50,660 --> 00:07:55,520
And we were alone
with our governess

137
00:07:55,520 --> 00:07:59,900
in Darmstadt with
my parents in Berlin

138
00:07:59,900 --> 00:08:03,830
where this-- where the
funeral, of course, was.

139
00:08:03,830 --> 00:08:08,090
So early on, I didn't know
about things happening

140

00:08:08,090 --> 00:08:11,210
like this sign and
other signs that

141
00:08:11,210 --> 00:08:13,820
then appeared very shortly.

142
00:08:13,820 --> 00:08:19,070
In front of every store
front it would say [GERMAN],,

143
00:08:19,070 --> 00:08:20,810
"Jews not wanted."

144
00:08:20,810 --> 00:08:25,420
And it was the brown sign
with a swastika-- the brown

145
00:08:25,420 --> 00:08:29,090
of the-- the same colors
as the SA uniforms,

146
00:08:29,090 --> 00:08:30,810
and things like that.

147
00:08:30,810 --> 00:08:34,669
But to get back
to our family, we

148
00:08:34,669 --> 00:08:39,380
were members of a
Jewish congregation,

149
00:08:39,380 --> 00:08:41,179
which was a liberal one.

150
00:08:41,179 --> 00:08:46,670
There was an Orthodox synagogue
and congregation in Darmstadt,

151
00:08:46,670 --> 00:08:51,410
but the liberal one was a
very beautiful synagogue,

152
00:08:51,410 --> 00:08:52,460
incidentally.

153
00:08:52,460 --> 00:08:54,620
We were members even
though my father

154
00:08:54,620 --> 00:08:59,300
was an agnostic, at best,
possibly even an atheist.

155
00:08:59,300 --> 00:09:03,740
But we attended because
he felt very strongly

156
00:09:03,740 --> 00:09:06,860
that one had to support a
Jewish community for those

157
00:09:06,860 --> 00:09:07,820
who wanted it.

158
00:09:07,820 --> 00:09:13,250
My mother had been raised in
a semi-kosher home in Berlin,

159
00:09:13,250 --> 00:09:15,390
but we certainly
were not kosher.

160
00:09:15,390 --> 00:09:18,440
We somehow were the
opposite, a little bit.

161
00:09:18,440 --> 00:09:24,470
Our cook-- for instance, there
was a pattern, and Friday was--

162
00:09:24,470 --> 00:09:26,210
Friday, of all things--

163

00:09:26,210 --> 00:09:30,010
no, I think this
Thursday-- was [GERMAN]..

164
00:09:30,010 --> 00:09:31,820
That involved ham.

165
00:09:31,820 --> 00:09:36,530

166
00:09:36,530 --> 00:09:40,670
I, as a child already,
thought the kosher business

167
00:09:40,670 --> 00:09:43,760
had been outmoded and all that.

168
00:09:43,760 --> 00:09:46,190
At any rate, we did--

169
00:09:46,190 --> 00:09:49,410
we were members and we
all went to Hebrew school.

170
00:09:49,410 --> 00:09:54,020
My father had been bar
mitzvahed, as had his brother,

171
00:09:54,020 --> 00:09:59,430
but already that family was
not kosher or anything like it.

172
00:09:59,430 --> 00:10:02,540
And my brother was
bar mitzvahed-- again,

173
00:10:02,540 --> 00:10:03,980
because my father--

174
00:10:03,980 --> 00:10:06,800
because the family thought
that that was what one does.

175

00:10:06,800 --> 00:10:09,230

And I want to--

176

00:10:09,230 --> 00:10:12,450

I don't know if this should
be mentioned at this point,

177

00:10:12,450 --> 00:10:17,870

but for instance, in Germany,
one was tithed in a synagogue

178

00:10:17,870 --> 00:10:19,790

according to your income.

179

00:10:19,790 --> 00:10:24,630

My father thought that was
a very wrong kind of thing.

180

00:10:24,630 --> 00:10:28,310

And even though he was hard of
hearing, sat in the last row.

181

00:10:28,310 --> 00:10:33,020

He went to the synagogue, of
course, only three days a year,

182

00:10:33,020 --> 00:10:34,700

but he said in the last row.

183

00:10:34,700 --> 00:10:37,760

And I remember distinctly
a Yom Kippur where

184

00:10:37,760 --> 00:10:41,760

instead of a prayer book,
he had Rousseau with him,

185

00:10:41,760 --> 00:10:45,050

which I thought was
terrific, because I just

186

00:10:45,050 --> 00:10:49,700

thought he was very wise,
and I-- and he did not fast.

187
00:10:49,700 --> 00:10:51,350
Of course, my mother did.

188
00:10:51,350 --> 00:10:55,190
But when we came to
the United States

189
00:10:55,190 --> 00:10:59,210
and we found out that the
congregation we joined here

190
00:10:59,210 --> 00:11:01,110
didn't tithe you
according to income,

191
00:11:01,110 --> 00:11:04,220
but you just paid for your
ticket, we sat in the first row

192
00:11:04,220 --> 00:11:06,080
so that he could hear.

193
00:11:06,080 --> 00:11:08,090
And I-- this is
the kind of thing

194
00:11:08,090 --> 00:11:10,790
that I respected tremendously.

195
00:11:10,790 --> 00:11:17,060
Well, at any rate, to
get back to Germany,

196
00:11:17,060 --> 00:11:19,610
one of the things that--

197
00:11:19,610 --> 00:11:21,650
what happened in '33--

198

00:11:21,650 --> 00:11:24,620
to us, not very much
happened, but we

199
00:11:24,620 --> 00:11:28,220
knew of people who
immediately lost their jobs.

200
00:11:28,220 --> 00:11:30,140
We knew of a cousin
of my father's

201
00:11:30,140 --> 00:11:34,790
who was a doctor who was
attached to a hospital.

202
00:11:34,790 --> 00:11:42,530
She was fired within two months
of Hitler's coming in to power.

203
00:11:42,530 --> 00:11:46,250
We knew of many
people like that.

204
00:11:46,250 --> 00:11:47,640
I don't think I was aware.

205
00:11:47,640 --> 00:11:49,880
I mean, I found that out later.

206
00:11:49,880 --> 00:11:55,430
But I did become aware
of things as things--

207
00:11:55,430 --> 00:11:58,700
as time progressed.

208
00:11:58,700 --> 00:12:06,860
For instance, very much aware--
my brother attended a very good

209
00:12:06,860 --> 00:12:12,890
private school in Darmstadt, and

he was so tortured by the kids

210
00:12:12,890 --> 00:12:18,600
in his class that he
played hooky because he--

211
00:12:18,600 --> 00:12:20,690
the teachers didn't defend him.

212
00:12:20,690 --> 00:12:23,780
And so he would
go off to school,

213
00:12:23,780 --> 00:12:27,810
they thought, and he went into
the woods, and then returned--

214
00:12:27,810 --> 00:12:31,570
or into a park or something,
and returned in time.

215
00:12:31,570 --> 00:12:36,970
When my parents by chance
ran into a teacher of his who

216
00:12:36,970 --> 00:12:40,810
said, oh, is Paul any better?

217
00:12:40,810 --> 00:12:43,300
My parents found out
that he played hooky,

218
00:12:43,300 --> 00:12:46,030
and they immediately removed
him when they found out

219
00:12:46,030 --> 00:12:47,770
what the circumstance was.

220
00:12:47,770 --> 00:12:52,420
They removed him at the age
of 14 and sent him to a school

221

00:12:52,420 --> 00:12:55,945
that was especially set up
in Italy called [? Yeshula ?]

222

00:12:55,945 --> 00:13:00,160
[? Al'mita mer. ?] It was
in Recco on the Riviera.

223

00:13:00,160 --> 00:13:05,050
It was in a
delightful old palace.

224

00:13:05,050 --> 00:13:07,930
It was run by a Jewish--

225

00:13:07,930 --> 00:13:10,420
a German-Jewish couple,
and it was really

226

00:13:10,420 --> 00:13:15,820
set up for kids that had to
get out of whatever school

227

00:13:15,820 --> 00:13:18,160
they were in, in Germany.

228

00:13:18,160 --> 00:13:21,790
So he was in this
delightful setting.

229

00:13:21,790 --> 00:13:25,930
He didn't learn much Italian,
but he became the best

230

00:13:25,930 --> 00:13:27,580
dancer and best swimmer--

231

00:13:27,580 --> 00:13:31,030
this was on the Riviera, so
it was very nice, indeed.

232

00:13:31,030 --> 00:13:32,650

How old was your brother?

233

00:13:32,650 --> 00:13:33,640
14.

234

00:13:33,640 --> 00:13:35,020
But when was he born?

235

00:13:35,020 --> 00:13:35,520
Oh.

236

00:13:35,520 --> 00:13:38,330

237

00:13:38,330 --> 00:13:41,060
I want to get this
perfectly right.

238

00:13:41,060 --> 00:13:48,020
He was born in May, May
17 in 1922 in Darmstadt.

239

00:13:48,020 --> 00:13:52,970
The kind of thing, then, that--
so he was taken away from

240

00:13:52,970 --> 00:13:56,203
the family setting at 14,
and that's a little tough--

241

00:13:56,203 --> 00:13:57,120
And what was his name?

242

00:13:57,120 --> 00:14:01,100
Paul-- Paul Theodore Wolf.

243

00:14:01,100 --> 00:14:03,640
Theodore was-- he's
named for his--

244

00:14:03,640 --> 00:14:07,130
for my paternal

grandfather, middle name.

245

00:14:07,130 --> 00:14:11,990

246

00:14:11,990 --> 00:14:16,400

By the way, I did digress.

247

00:14:16,400 --> 00:14:19,440

When we came here, he was 17.

248

00:14:19,440 --> 00:14:20,690

He was drafted.

249

00:14:20,690 --> 00:14:22,400

He spent four years in the army.

250

00:14:22,400 --> 00:14:30,770

He was in the second wave of the invasion in June at Normandy.

251

00:14:30,770 --> 00:14:33,230

He was in the Engineer Corps.

252

00:14:33,230 --> 00:14:38,150

He came back, luckily,
without any injuries,

253

00:14:38,150 --> 00:14:40,390

but he went to Darmstadt.

254

00:14:40,390 --> 00:14:45,080

He saw our governess and--

255

00:14:45,080 --> 00:14:50,840

but spent all four
years in the army.

256

00:14:50,840 --> 00:14:55,310

My sister, whose
name was Ellen--

257

00:14:55,310 --> 00:14:56,820
and that was not a legal name.

258

00:14:56,820 --> 00:14:59,390
So it was Ellen, Elfriede.

259

00:14:59,390 --> 00:15:04,430
And she was forced out of school
at the age of 14 because they--

260

00:15:04,430 --> 00:15:09,350
she went to the best
girl's private school.

261

00:15:09,350 --> 00:15:12,950
And she and her
best friend were--

262

00:15:12,950 --> 00:15:17,900
we got a letter saying that she
had fulfilled her legal years

263

00:15:17,900 --> 00:15:21,380
to the age of 14, and they
were therefore requesting

264

00:15:21,380 --> 00:15:24,260
that she leave the school.

265

00:15:24,260 --> 00:15:29,540
And so she was sent
to Berlin where

266

00:15:29,540 --> 00:15:31,130
there was a very
good Jewish school,

267

00:15:31,130 --> 00:15:37,250
and she lived with my
grandmother for the years

268

00:15:37,250 --> 00:15:40,370

that she was in Berlin.

269

00:15:40,370 --> 00:15:45,260

She spent Kristallnacht
in Berlin, for instance.

270

00:15:45,260 --> 00:15:51,980

My father, who was determined
and stuck on certain rights--

271

00:15:51,980 --> 00:15:54,620

since they had
chosen as an excuse

272

00:15:54,620 --> 00:15:57,200

that she had reached
the age of 14

273

00:15:57,200 --> 00:15:59,870

and therefore legally they
didn't have to keep her

274

00:15:59,870 --> 00:16:03,560

anymore, I was now of the
age to enter this school,

275

00:16:03,560 --> 00:16:07,760

so my father insisted
that they accept me,

276

00:16:07,760 --> 00:16:10,490

and they had to accept me.

277

00:16:10,490 --> 00:16:13,070

Incidentally, I
remember very clearly

278

00:16:13,070 --> 00:16:18,320

the letter that came that
asked that she be taken out

279

00:16:18,320 --> 00:16:20,960

of the school was signed

[PERSONAL NAME],, Heil Hitler,

280

00:16:20,960 --> 00:16:25,790

[PERSONAL NAME],, I remember,
was the name of the principal.

281

00:16:25,790 --> 00:16:30,020

At any rate, they had to accept
me, and then my father said,

282

00:16:30,020 --> 00:16:32,360

and now you go to
the-- you don't go.

283

00:16:32,360 --> 00:16:34,820

You go to the Jewish
school in Darmstadt.

284

00:16:34,820 --> 00:16:37,250

And I was much relieved.

285

00:16:37,250 --> 00:16:39,020

At any rate, that was
the kind of thing--

286

00:16:39,020 --> 00:16:45,320

my father had a sense of
justice and made certain demands

287

00:16:45,320 --> 00:16:47,210

of other people of this.

288

00:16:47,210 --> 00:16:50,030

289

00:16:50,030 --> 00:16:52,580

You were attending
the school beforehand?

290

00:16:52,580 --> 00:16:53,240

No.

291

00:16:53,240 --> 00:16:53,955

I was in the--

292

00:16:53,955 --> 00:16:54,830

no, this was in the--

293

00:16:54,830 --> 00:16:55,330

In the--

294

00:16:55,330 --> 00:16:59,390

--school that started at--

295

00:16:59,390 --> 00:17:01,970

when you were 10.

296

00:17:01,970 --> 00:17:04,260

She had also attended
the school that I was in,

297

00:17:04,260 --> 00:17:07,339

which was the public
school, until the age of 10.

298

00:17:07,339 --> 00:17:11,300

But I was then poised, and then
I went to the Jewish school

299

00:17:11,300 --> 00:17:12,460

from the age of 10 on.

300

00:17:12,460 --> 00:17:18,230

301

00:17:18,230 --> 00:17:20,480

When Lisbeth but
was forced out, that

302

00:17:20,480 --> 00:17:23,869

was sort of the
whole signal for me

303

00:17:23,869 --> 00:17:27,480

that many things were going
to go-- be very difficult.

304
00:17:27,480 --> 00:17:33,350
My parents came to the
United States in 1936.

305
00:17:33,350 --> 00:17:35,090
There was a special
trip called--

306
00:17:35,090 --> 00:17:39,770
I'm sure you've heard
this before, the [GERMAN]..

307
00:17:39,770 --> 00:17:42,890
They came to the
United States in '36,

308
00:17:42,890 --> 00:17:44,690
and they relatives
here-- we were

309
00:17:44,690 --> 00:17:46,940
lucky we had relatives here.

310
00:17:46,940 --> 00:17:50,360
They couldn't understand
that my parents

311
00:17:50,360 --> 00:17:52,310
would return to Germany.

312
00:17:52,310 --> 00:17:54,833
What they couldn't understand
is, the children would--

313
00:17:54,833 --> 00:17:56,000
I would have been a hostage.

314
00:17:56,000 --> 00:17:58,388
I was-- and Ellen,
who was in Berlin--

315
00:17:58,388 --> 00:17:59,180
I was in Darmstadt.

316
00:17:59,180 --> 00:18:00,710
My brother was in Italy.

317
00:18:00,710 --> 00:18:03,440

318
00:18:03,440 --> 00:18:07,160
They just couldn't imagine
that this kind of thing

319
00:18:07,160 --> 00:18:08,710
could happen.

320
00:18:08,710 --> 00:18:11,270
Well, so my parents
came back, and then we

321
00:18:11,270 --> 00:18:16,580
were on the list to
be to be able to come,

322
00:18:16,580 --> 00:18:22,670
and it took from '36 to
'39 until we were able to.

323
00:18:22,670 --> 00:18:24,770
And there was a lot of
living that had to be done.

324
00:18:24,770 --> 00:18:28,790

325
00:18:28,790 --> 00:18:30,765
For instance, Kristallnacht.

326
00:18:30,765 --> 00:18:33,680

327

00:18:33,680 --> 00:18:38,740

I went, as I said, to
this Jewish school,

328

00:18:38,740 --> 00:18:43,580

and I was on my way
to the school when--

329

00:18:43,580 --> 00:18:46,360

which was very near, rather--

330

00:18:46,360 --> 00:18:47,770

really, on the same--

331

00:18:47,770 --> 00:18:50,350

332

00:18:50,350 --> 00:18:56,260

right next to the
very nice synagogue.

333

00:18:56,260 --> 00:18:59,080

It was a not very
important building,

334

00:18:59,080 --> 00:19:05,260

but the synagogue was it was
a very stately, lovely thing.

335

00:19:05,260 --> 00:19:07,960

And the synagogue was in flames.

336

00:19:07,960 --> 00:19:10,630

And there were lots of
people standing around,

337

00:19:10,630 --> 00:19:13,060

and I wanted to get through.

338

00:19:13,060 --> 00:19:15,310

And there was a
policeman standing there.

339
00:19:15,310 --> 00:19:19,690
Oh, and I heard things like, the
Jews set fire to it themselves,

340
00:19:19,690 --> 00:19:22,240
and talk like that.

341
00:19:22,240 --> 00:19:27,550
And the policeman stopped
me from going further.

342
00:19:27,550 --> 00:19:29,530
And I said, I want
to get to the school.

343
00:19:29,530 --> 00:19:32,410
He said, you're not
going to school today.

344
00:19:32,410 --> 00:19:34,450
There won't be any
Jewish school today.

345
00:19:34,450 --> 00:19:35,720
This was the morning?

346
00:19:35,720 --> 00:19:39,150
This was the
morning of the 10th.

347
00:19:39,150 --> 00:19:39,650
I--

348
00:19:39,650 --> 00:19:41,080
And happened on the 9th?

349
00:19:41,080 --> 00:19:42,640
Nothing.

350
00:19:42,640 --> 00:19:46,090
In the 9th-- everybody

says the 9th.

351

00:19:46,090 --> 00:19:48,550

Well, maybe a lot
happened on the 9th

352

00:19:48,550 --> 00:19:52,930

that I was not aware
of, but to us, whatever

353

00:19:52,930 --> 00:19:55,450

happened was on the 10th.

354

00:19:55,450 --> 00:19:58,570

And we had not been
aware of anything.

355

00:19:58,570 --> 00:20:04,060

I think in-- the reason the 9th
is mentioned-- for instance,

356

00:20:04,060 --> 00:20:07,570

that they seem to have
asked the people--

357

00:20:07,570 --> 00:20:11,110

and they-- we knew
about that later.

358

00:20:11,110 --> 00:20:14,420

Certain people were bussed--

359

00:20:14,420 --> 00:20:17,360

or no, not bussed,
but taken by--

360

00:20:17,360 --> 00:20:22,360

361

00:20:22,360 --> 00:20:29,386

in buses, I guess, to Frankfurt,
which was pretty near.

362

00:20:29,386 --> 00:20:34,180

And Frankfurt people were
brought to Darmstadt.

363

00:20:34,180 --> 00:20:38,470

This was because the people
were afraid that they might

364

00:20:38,470 --> 00:20:41,470

be too lenient and
couldn't destroy

365

00:20:41,470 --> 00:20:44,740

what they were going to
destroy of their neighbors,

366

00:20:44,740 --> 00:20:46,030

Jewish neighbors.

367

00:20:46,030 --> 00:20:49,660

So total strangers
destroyed what

368

00:20:49,660 --> 00:20:52,240

they were going to destroy.

369

00:20:52,240 --> 00:20:59,110

I ran home, and my way of going
was passed the other synagogue,

370

00:20:59,110 --> 00:21:01,360

and it was also burning.

371

00:21:01,360 --> 00:21:03,550

Incidentally, I--
it was a long way.

372

00:21:03,550 --> 00:21:08,780

I normally went by trolley,
but I ran home all the way.

373

00:21:08,780 --> 00:21:12,580

And when I got home, my--

374

00:21:12,580 --> 00:21:16,480

well, my mother was totally surprised by what was going on.

375

00:21:16,480 --> 00:21:20,770

And we had-- by this time, the cook had also been forced out,

376

00:21:20,770 --> 00:21:23,185

but we had--

377

00:21:23,185 --> 00:21:25,060

because you were not allowed to have people--

378

00:21:25,060 --> 00:21:29,770

even though she was over 35, you were no longer

379

00:21:29,770 --> 00:21:32,770

allowed to employ anybody who slept in.

380

00:21:32,770 --> 00:21:37,980

So we had a very courageous woman working for us.

381

00:21:37,980 --> 00:21:41,230

She came and she made the big meal at lunch

382

00:21:41,230 --> 00:21:45,040

and she prepared supper for us.

383

00:21:45,040 --> 00:21:47,710

And she became important, that she was so courageous,

384

00:21:47,710 --> 00:21:49,580

in my eyes, at least.

385

00:21:49,580 --> 00:21:56,200

Well, we then-- yes,
it was decided--

386

00:21:56,200 --> 00:21:57,180

no, excuse me.

387

00:21:57,180 --> 00:21:59,950

I'll have to backtrack.

388

00:21:59,950 --> 00:22:03,280

My father had been at
court that morning,

389

00:22:03,280 --> 00:22:07,150

and he had a letter
in his briefcase

390

00:22:07,150 --> 00:22:11,285

from relatives who became
our sponsor from New York.

391

00:22:11,285 --> 00:22:12,910

He didn't know-- he
hadn't read it yet.

392

00:22:12,910 --> 00:22:15,400

He didn't know if it was
an English or in German.

393

00:22:15,400 --> 00:22:20,980

But the relative here
frequently wrote about politics.

394

00:22:20,980 --> 00:22:25,237

So he was terrified what
might be in the letter

395

00:22:25,237 --> 00:22:26,320

in case there was trouble.

396

00:22:26,320 --> 00:22:28,300

Well, he didn't know
there was any trouble yet.

397
00:22:28,300 --> 00:22:31,450
He went to his
office, and there were

398
00:22:31,450 --> 00:22:34,760
two men standing in front
of his office and said,

399
00:22:34,760 --> 00:22:35,830
are you Dr. Wolf?

400
00:22:35,830 --> 00:22:36,850
And he said yes.

401
00:22:36,850 --> 00:22:39,190
And he said-- they said,
you have come with us.

402
00:22:39,190 --> 00:22:40,900
You're under arrest.

403
00:22:40,900 --> 00:22:44,860
And he said, can I put
my briefcase upstairs?

404
00:22:44,860 --> 00:22:46,240
And they said no.

405
00:22:46,240 --> 00:22:51,600
And he didn't know yet that the
office was totally destroyed.

406
00:22:51,600 --> 00:22:52,100
But--

407
00:22:52,100 --> 00:22:53,800
They had come in and ransacked--

408
00:22:53,800 --> 00:22:54,570

Yes, totally--

409

00:22:54,570 --> 00:22:56,170
--the archives, everything.

410

00:22:56,170 --> 00:22:56,890
Yes.

411

00:22:56,890 --> 00:23:03,430
And the law books were all in--

412

00:23:03,430 --> 00:23:06,260
well, they were-- all the--
what does one call it?

413

00:23:06,260 --> 00:23:06,760
I'm sorry.

414

00:23:06,760 --> 00:23:10,740
The words are really failing me.

415

00:23:10,740 --> 00:23:15,490
The bookcases were
all tilted into--

416

00:23:15,490 --> 00:23:18,160
in those days it wasn't
computers yet, of course.

417

00:23:18,160 --> 00:23:19,150
It was typewriters.

418

00:23:19,150 --> 00:23:23,020
And all the typewriters
had been put in one corner

419

00:23:23,020 --> 00:23:26,020
and hacked to pieces.

420

00:23:26,020 --> 00:23:31,200
The briefs were
all over the place.

421
00:23:31,200 --> 00:23:34,280
They even slashed the furniture.

422
00:23:34,280 --> 00:23:38,290
In the waiting room, there
was a couch and stuff

423
00:23:38,290 --> 00:23:39,670
like that and chairs.

424
00:23:39,670 --> 00:23:44,170
And the doors to my
father's partner,

425
00:23:44,170 --> 00:23:48,280
between their two offices,
was a leather padding

426
00:23:48,280 --> 00:23:49,560
so that there wouldn't be--

427
00:23:49,560 --> 00:23:51,940
that one wouldn't
hear the other.

428
00:23:51,940 --> 00:23:55,210
They slashed that.

429
00:23:55,210 --> 00:24:00,370
But everything was in
utter, utter destruction,

430
00:24:00,370 --> 00:24:03,490
which my father did not know.

431
00:24:03,490 --> 00:24:07,480
So he was taken by these
two men, and I don't--

432
00:24:07,480 --> 00:24:10,630
on the way, he saw

somebody he knew,

433

00:24:10,630 --> 00:24:15,400
and he said he wanted to
give this man his briefcase,

434

00:24:15,400 --> 00:24:16,810
and they wouldn't allow that.

435

00:24:16,810 --> 00:24:21,760
And father told this man, please
tell my wife that I'm being--

436

00:24:21,760 --> 00:24:24,340
call my wife, and--
that I'm arrested.

437

00:24:24,340 --> 00:24:28,540
But that wasn't necessary,
because he came back to us.

438

00:24:28,540 --> 00:24:30,730
He was taken-- and I
don't know whether it was

439

00:24:30,730 --> 00:24:34,390
Gestapo or police headquarters.

440

00:24:34,390 --> 00:24:36,310
And as he-- when
he came in, there

441

00:24:36,310 --> 00:24:39,170
was a man behind a desk
whom he recognized.

442

00:24:39,170 --> 00:24:40,640
He didn't know who it was.

443

00:24:40,640 --> 00:24:42,880
And this man said,
Dr. Wolf, you're here?

444

00:24:42,880 --> 00:24:43,780

Just a minute.

445

00:24:43,780 --> 00:24:48,220

Went into an inside office, came out, and said, you can go home.

446

00:24:48,220 --> 00:24:51,600

Don't leave the city,
but you can go home.

447

00:24:51,600 --> 00:24:55,150

My father noticed that there
were other people obviously

448

00:24:55,150 --> 00:24:59,290

being held, and typically said,
why can I go when they can't?

449

00:24:59,290 --> 00:25:01,900

And this man said, look,
don't ask questions.

450

00:25:01,900 --> 00:25:03,790

Just go.

451

00:25:03,790 --> 00:25:06,370

And he went home.

452

00:25:06,370 --> 00:25:10,640

So he came home very shortly
after I had come home.

453

00:25:10,640 --> 00:25:14,580

It was decided that I
should have a normal day--

454

00:25:14,580 --> 00:25:19,580

a more normal day, so they
called my piano teacher

455

00:25:19,580 --> 00:25:22,750

and decided that I
should have a lesson.

456
00:25:22,750 --> 00:25:28,540
And he was home because he'd
had some kind of an attack

457
00:25:28,540 --> 00:25:29,930
that day-- not a heart attack.

458
00:25:29,930 --> 00:25:32,020
He had asthma.

459
00:25:32,020 --> 00:25:34,180
And so he was--

460
00:25:34,180 --> 00:25:37,570
he said, I'll be in my robe,
but I'll give you a lesson.

461
00:25:37,570 --> 00:25:41,380
So I went there,
and as I went there,

462
00:25:41,380 --> 00:25:46,750
he was taken down the
staircase in his robe

463
00:25:46,750 --> 00:25:53,650
and obviously was being arrested
by some man who, as I recall,

464
00:25:53,650 --> 00:25:58,600
was totally in black, leather
coat, black boots, black hat.

465
00:25:58,600 --> 00:26:00,880
I'm not sure it was SS.

466
00:26:00,880 --> 00:26:01,900
I don't know.

467

00:26:01,900 --> 00:26:05,920

But I just remember this
total black, and the car

468

00:26:05,920 --> 00:26:08,230

into which they dragged him.

469

00:26:08,230 --> 00:26:10,900

And I ran home.

470

00:26:10,900 --> 00:26:14,380

And the car was standing
in front of our house.

471

00:26:14,380 --> 00:26:17,510

And the man was
talking to this very--

472

00:26:17,510 --> 00:26:23,990

this-- I mentioned
before, this brave woman.

473

00:26:23,990 --> 00:26:26,750

And she said, Dr.
Wolf isn't home.

474

00:26:26,750 --> 00:26:30,640

He went to his partner's house,
but he is not leaving the city.

475

00:26:30,640 --> 00:26:33,230

And she-- in her tone was so--

476

00:26:33,230 --> 00:26:36,700

that the man turned
around and left.

477

00:26:36,700 --> 00:26:38,053

I mean, she was really--

478

00:26:38,053 --> 00:26:39,970

I mean, he wasn't going
to do anything anyhow,

479

00:26:39,970 --> 00:26:44,260
because my father wasn't
there, but you know that--

480

00:26:44,260 --> 00:26:47,920
everybody knows that that
day, they arrested and sent

481

00:26:47,920 --> 00:26:53,500
to concentration camps everybody
from the age of 19 to 90.

482

00:26:53,500 --> 00:26:56,980
My father was not
arrested, was never--

483

00:26:56,980 --> 00:26:58,570
was not sent.

484

00:26:58,570 --> 00:27:04,090
We never knew who this man
was who said, you can go,

485

00:27:04,090 --> 00:27:05,890
the man behind the desk.

486

00:27:05,890 --> 00:27:10,270
We thought maybe he might have
been a relative of a client

487

00:27:10,270 --> 00:27:12,340
of my father's.

488

00:27:12,340 --> 00:27:16,030
My father was a
do-gooder and took on--

489

00:27:16,030 --> 00:27:20,140
helped a lot of people,
so it's conceivable.

490

00:27:20,140 --> 00:27:23,860

I decided that there is a
God, and he was watching,

491

00:27:23,860 --> 00:27:28,270

and he was rewarding my father
for being such a decent person.

492

00:27:28,270 --> 00:27:30,090

At any rate, it was wonderful.

493

00:27:30,090 --> 00:27:36,640

But the partner was
arrested and they--

494

00:27:36,640 --> 00:27:41,290

I was-- I went with my
mother also, and it was--

495

00:27:41,290 --> 00:27:43,420

there was hysteria.

496

00:27:43,420 --> 00:27:47,890

They were very wealthy and
they were very ostentatious.

497

00:27:47,890 --> 00:27:52,930

They had two, let's see
it as cars and a chauffeur

498

00:27:52,930 --> 00:27:57,550

and on their estate, a very
beautiful, modern house,

499

00:27:57,550 --> 00:28:01,600

there was a small house in
which the chauffeur lived.

500

00:28:01,600 --> 00:28:05,260

And they was putting the silver
into the chauffeur's house

501

00:28:05,260 --> 00:28:06,710

and stuff like that.

502

00:28:06,710 --> 00:28:09,630

What-- why they imagined
it would be safer there,

503

00:28:09,630 --> 00:28:11,020

I don't know.

504

00:28:11,020 --> 00:28:17,170

But all I can tell you is the--

505

00:28:17,170 --> 00:28:20,980

I was in the kitchen
because madame was very--

506

00:28:20,980 --> 00:28:26,170

it was-- as the maid who
came down to get tea said,

507

00:28:26,170 --> 00:28:28,180

madame is hysterical.

508

00:28:28,180 --> 00:28:29,980

And my mother was
trying to calm her down.

509

00:28:29,980 --> 00:28:32,620

My father was trying
to calm her down.

510

00:28:32,620 --> 00:28:36,820

I could understand why she
was hysterical, because this--

511

00:28:36,820 --> 00:28:39,880

obviously, terrible
things were going on.

512

00:28:39,880 --> 00:28:44,170

Both my piano teacher
and the partner

513

00:28:44,170 --> 00:28:48,370
were sent to Buchenwald, which
was the nearest concentration

514

00:28:48,370 --> 00:28:49,150
camp.

515

00:28:49,150 --> 00:28:51,970
They both came back
approximately two weeks later

516

00:28:51,970 --> 00:28:53,890
with shaved heads.

517

00:28:53,890 --> 00:28:59,410
And the partner talked and told
my father a great deal about--

518

00:28:59,410 --> 00:29:08,410
my-- the piano teacher, whom
we knew and who emigrated

519

00:29:08,410 --> 00:29:11,800
into England--

520

00:29:11,800 --> 00:29:15,250
according to his daughter,
never said a word

521

00:29:15,250 --> 00:29:19,870
about it, because they
had impressed these people

522

00:29:19,870 --> 00:29:22,820
that if you say anything
of what you saw here

523

00:29:22,820 --> 00:29:25,690
or what happened
here, we will get you,

524

00:29:25,690 --> 00:29:27,310

no matter where you are.

525

00:29:27,310 --> 00:29:29,570

And he believed that.

526

00:29:29,570 --> 00:29:30,860

The partner did not.

527

00:29:30,860 --> 00:29:33,310

The partner, incidentally,
also ended up in London.

528

00:29:33,310 --> 00:29:37,330

529

00:29:37,330 --> 00:29:46,000

So on my way home from the
partner's house, later on,

530

00:29:46,000 --> 00:29:48,880

when we were walking
home, my father said,

531

00:29:48,880 --> 00:29:52,180

you're going to be a very
interesting grandmother.

532

00:29:52,180 --> 00:29:55,210

Unfortunately--
well, I don't think--

533

00:29:55,210 --> 00:29:57,440

well, now, we do talk about it.

534

00:29:57,440 --> 00:30:00,760

But for years and
years, nobody was

535

00:30:00,760 --> 00:30:03,610

really interested in
the Holocaust here.

536

00:30:03,610 --> 00:30:05,470
You didn't talk about it.

537
00:30:05,470 --> 00:30:11,860
And we tried to assimilate
here as quickly as we possibly

538
00:30:11,860 --> 00:30:12,760
could.

539
00:30:12,760 --> 00:30:16,180
My mother had been in
boarding school in England,

540
00:30:16,180 --> 00:30:17,770
so she spoke English.

541
00:30:17,770 --> 00:30:22,060
My father only knew
French, Greek, and Latin.

542
00:30:22,060 --> 00:30:23,540
But we took German--

543
00:30:23,540 --> 00:30:26,170
and we took English
lessons, which didn't

544
00:30:26,170 --> 00:30:28,510
take very well, before we left.

545
00:30:28,510 --> 00:30:30,550
But I remember, for
instance, when--

546
00:30:30,550 --> 00:30:34,480
between '36 and '39, when the
plan was definitely established

547
00:30:34,480 --> 00:30:37,810
that we would come
to the United States,

548

00:30:37,810 --> 00:30:44,230
my mother had books that she had
brought before World War I from

549

00:30:44,230 --> 00:30:48,430
the boarding school,
Dickens and--

550

00:30:48,430 --> 00:30:52,630
so we went-- if we were--

551

00:30:52,630 --> 00:30:56,068
for a picnic in the woods, he--

552

00:30:56,068 --> 00:30:59,020

553

00:30:59,020 --> 00:31:05,380
we read Dickens, translating
each sentence, word for word.

554

00:31:05,380 --> 00:31:09,190
Dickens is frightening enough,
but if you take it apart

555

00:31:09,190 --> 00:31:12,940
that way, I was
terrified that life

556

00:31:12,940 --> 00:31:16,150
would be as it was
for David Copperfield.

557

00:31:16,150 --> 00:31:22,420
And the descriptions of the
poverty and the crime and all

558

00:31:22,420 --> 00:31:26,860
this impressed me tremendously.

559

00:31:26,860 --> 00:31:29,110
I was hoping that the

United States was not

560
00:31:29,110 --> 00:31:31,600
like the Dickens.

561
00:31:31,600 --> 00:31:34,620
And very little English was
really learned this way,

562
00:31:34,620 --> 00:31:37,290
but, well, it was a start.

563
00:31:37,290 --> 00:31:37,990
But--

564
00:31:37,990 --> 00:31:39,540
Could we backtrack a little--

565
00:31:39,540 --> 00:31:40,040
Yes.

566
00:31:40,040 --> 00:31:45,880
--and go back to
how things gradually

567
00:31:45,880 --> 00:31:49,570
changed for your family and how
they plan to go to the United

568
00:31:49,570 --> 00:31:51,880
States was developed?

569
00:31:51,880 --> 00:31:53,120
All right.

570
00:31:53,120 --> 00:31:53,620
Well--

571
00:31:53,620 --> 00:31:55,690
First of all, when
you first went

572

00:31:55,690 --> 00:31:59,770

in to the Jewish school,
what was that like?

573

00:31:59,770 --> 00:32:02,710

It was not the best school.

574

00:32:02,710 --> 00:32:05,290

That's why my sister
was sent to Berlin,

575

00:32:05,290 --> 00:32:09,310

because-- but I was only 10,
so it wasn't so important.

576

00:32:09,310 --> 00:32:14,860

But there were-- the
school was small.

577

00:32:14,860 --> 00:32:17,650

The classes were small.

578

00:32:17,650 --> 00:32:19,840

It wasn't so bad
because there was

579

00:32:19,840 --> 00:32:22,000

so much individual
attention, because there

580

00:32:22,000 --> 00:32:24,890

were so few of us.

581

00:32:24,890 --> 00:32:25,745

For some--

582

00:32:25,745 --> 00:32:29,020

Did any of the students who
were in the public school

583

00:32:29,020 --> 00:32:32,560

with you go to that

school when you entered?

584

00:32:32,560 --> 00:32:35,230

Yes.

585

00:32:35,230 --> 00:32:38,740

As a matter of fact, my first
little boyfriend and I--

586

00:32:38,740 --> 00:32:43,150

I have a terribly pathetic
letter from him to the United

587

00:32:43,150 --> 00:32:47,080

States, hoping when we got out--
hoping that he would get out,

588

00:32:47,080 --> 00:32:49,180

and he never did.

589

00:32:49,180 --> 00:32:53,650

And we lost other
friends, two girls

590

00:32:53,650 --> 00:32:57,550

who were half Jewish
who were actually used

591

00:32:57,550 --> 00:33:00,910

as prostitutes for the army.

592

00:33:00,910 --> 00:33:02,060

And we heard that later.

593

00:33:02,060 --> 00:33:04,690

And then they finally died.

594

00:33:04,690 --> 00:33:05,470

Terrible stories.

595

00:33:05,470 --> 00:33:08,440

596
00:33:08,440 --> 00:33:09,910
We were saved from all of that.

597
00:33:09,910 --> 00:33:13,540

598
00:33:13,540 --> 00:33:17,990
Incidentally, there
was-- in 1937,

599
00:33:17,990 --> 00:33:26,260
we were supposed to meet
the American family in--

600
00:33:26,260 --> 00:33:27,610
not Hungary.

601
00:33:27,610 --> 00:33:31,210
Well, at any rate, we were
visiting my brother in Italy,

602
00:33:31,210 --> 00:33:33,500
and it was wonderful.

603
00:33:33,500 --> 00:33:36,640
It was my first trip
into Italy, and I

604
00:33:36,640 --> 00:33:39,380
thought it was just lovely,
and we went to Switzerland.

605
00:33:39,380 --> 00:33:41,390
So they were good times.

606
00:33:41,390 --> 00:33:45,170
We had no money in--

607
00:33:45,170 --> 00:33:46,790
because you had to--

608

00:33:46,790 --> 00:33:48,950

shortly after that,
you had to account

609

00:33:48,950 --> 00:33:53,060

for every single mark spent.

610

00:33:53,060 --> 00:33:59,120

And I have-- yes, I should
talk about that much more.

611

00:33:59,120 --> 00:34:02,090

My parents were not
only prescient enough

612

00:34:02,090 --> 00:34:04,340

to realize that
they had to get out,

613

00:34:04,340 --> 00:34:07,100

but they also were
prescient enough

614

00:34:07,100 --> 00:34:12,290

to ferret away some money,
which became very important.

615

00:34:12,290 --> 00:34:15,219

There was cash in--

616

00:34:15,219 --> 00:34:19,940

on our balcony, in
the flower boxes.

617

00:34:19,940 --> 00:34:23,389

This became terribly
important, because people had

618

00:34:23,389 --> 00:34:27,500

to be bribed and because by--

619

00:34:27,500 --> 00:34:34,170

I guess it's '37,
one had to announce--

620
00:34:34,170 --> 00:34:36,230
declare every dime spent.

621
00:34:36,230 --> 00:34:39,500

622
00:34:39,500 --> 00:34:43,460
Not only that-- also,
they were terribly--

623
00:34:43,460 --> 00:34:46,699

624
00:34:46,699 --> 00:34:48,920
taxes put on Germans--

625
00:34:48,920 --> 00:34:53,300
the German Jews in order
to be allowed to leave.

626
00:34:53,300 --> 00:34:55,659
I'm sure this is wide spread.

627
00:34:55,659 --> 00:34:57,440
It's no news.

628
00:34:57,440 --> 00:35:03,020
But I have the papers
where everything is listed.

629
00:35:03,020 --> 00:35:06,560
When we came, we were still
allowed to bring furniture,

630
00:35:06,560 --> 00:35:11,750
we were still allowed to bring
paintings and even silver,

631
00:35:11,750 --> 00:35:15,240

but no money and no jewelry.

632
00:35:15,240 --> 00:35:18,440
And they took my father--

633
00:35:18,440 --> 00:35:22,760
I have my father's
lists of investments.

634
00:35:22,760 --> 00:35:26,960
My father owned an apartment
house and another house--

635
00:35:26,960 --> 00:35:29,540
oh, yes, his family house.

636
00:35:29,540 --> 00:35:33,350
They had to be sold
at 17% of their worth.

637
00:35:33,350 --> 00:35:35,700
I'm sure you know
all about this also.

638
00:35:35,700 --> 00:35:36,860
And this never came back.

639
00:35:36,860 --> 00:35:41,300

640
00:35:41,300 --> 00:35:47,630
The jewelry had to be appraised,
because the bureaucracy was

641
00:35:47,630 --> 00:35:51,440
that they had to document
every single thing before they

642
00:35:51,440 --> 00:35:52,160
took it away.

643
00:35:52,160 --> 00:35:54,950

644

00:35:54,950 --> 00:35:56,450

There was some
jewelry, but it was--

645

00:35:56,450 --> 00:35:59,990

had been out of the country
with a relative in Holland

646

00:35:59,990 --> 00:36:03,890

since 1922.

647

00:36:03,890 --> 00:36:10,710

So that's why I have this, which
was an earring, originally,

648

00:36:10,710 --> 00:36:12,590

because I--

649

00:36:12,590 --> 00:36:16,640

well, I'm-- I have to say, I
was pointing to my engagement

650

00:36:16,640 --> 00:36:23,060

diamond, which my husband was
allowed to pay for the setting

651

00:36:23,060 --> 00:36:26,420

and for the wedding ring,
but we didn't-- certainly,

652

00:36:26,420 --> 00:36:30,390

I would not have permitted him
to spend anything like this

653

00:36:30,390 --> 00:36:30,890

so--

654

00:36:30,890 --> 00:36:31,950

On a large diamond.

655

00:36:31,950 --> 00:36:32,450
Yes.

656
00:36:32,450 --> 00:36:35,060

657
00:36:35,060 --> 00:36:37,960
But that was because it
was in Holland, not--

658
00:36:37,960 --> 00:36:42,260
my mother's engagement
ring was a problem,

659
00:36:42,260 --> 00:36:46,580
people knew that she wore
a fairly decent size,

660
00:36:46,580 --> 00:36:52,610
and that-- so had you had
to buy a ring, a stone,

661
00:36:52,610 --> 00:36:56,300
to have a German stone
for them to take away,

662
00:36:56,300 --> 00:36:59,270
because the real
thing was in Holland.

663
00:36:59,270 --> 00:37:03,140

664
00:37:03,140 --> 00:37:04,220
Oh, yes.

665
00:37:04,220 --> 00:37:09,260
By the way, we-- the plan
to come to the United States

666
00:37:09,260 --> 00:37:12,740
had been formed, as said,
when they came in '36.

667
00:37:12,740 --> 00:37:16,400
We had relatives here,
which was very important,

668
00:37:16,400 --> 00:37:18,562
because if you did not
have a relative here,

669
00:37:18,562 --> 00:37:19,520
you couldn't come here.

670
00:37:19,520 --> 00:37:22,490
You had to have
a sponsor who was

671
00:37:22,490 --> 00:37:29,840
willing to say that he or she
would take care of the family.

672
00:37:29,840 --> 00:37:32,300
This was a cousin of
my father's, and they

673
00:37:32,300 --> 00:37:33,380
were wonderful.

674
00:37:33,380 --> 00:37:38,270
They came to Germany very often.

675
00:37:38,270 --> 00:37:41,180
It was somehow much easier
to come from Germany--

676
00:37:41,180 --> 00:37:44,180
from America to visit
Germany than for Germans

677
00:37:44,180 --> 00:37:47,570
to visit the United States.

678
00:37:47,570 --> 00:37:48,870

It wasn't--

679

00:37:48,870 --> 00:37:51,590

I'm backtracking.

680

00:37:51,590 --> 00:37:58,130

There was a law that if you had
any money outside of Germany,

681

00:37:58,130 --> 00:38:01,860

if you were Jewish, there
was a death penalty.

682

00:38:01,860 --> 00:38:05,180

So a lot of people
pulled their money back.

683

00:38:05,180 --> 00:38:09,020

We did not know-- we children
did not know that we had a dime

684

00:38:09,020 --> 00:38:13,130

besides the 10 marks that
you were able to take out

685

00:38:13,130 --> 00:38:17,780

of Germany when you left until
my parents were halfway--

686

00:38:17,780 --> 00:38:23,605

until we were on the Queen
Mary, halfway across the ocean.

687

00:38:23,605 --> 00:38:24,980

Then my father
said, there really

688

00:38:24,980 --> 00:38:26,630

isn't that much to worry about.

689

00:38:26,630 --> 00:38:28,430

We have some money.

690

00:38:28,430 --> 00:38:31,060

We had money here because my--

691

00:38:31,060 --> 00:38:34,700

the relative who had
written the letter

692

00:38:34,700 --> 00:38:40,340

that my father was worried about
had my father's portfolio here.

693

00:38:40,340 --> 00:38:45,392

My father had the cousin's
portfolio in Germany.

694

00:38:45,392 --> 00:38:46,850

I don't know what
happened to that,

695

00:38:46,850 --> 00:38:49,520

whether he-- whether that
was able to be pulled out.

696

00:38:49,520 --> 00:38:50,600

I don't know.

697

00:38:50,600 --> 00:38:53,820

But so we had some money here.

698

00:38:53,820 --> 00:38:59,210

But the idea that there was a
death penalty was hair raising.

699

00:38:59,210 --> 00:39:01,610

But it was, and that--

700

00:39:01,610 --> 00:39:06,800

my father and mother
had the courage

701

00:39:06,800 --> 00:39:11,480

to not pull their money in,

because we knew people--

702

00:39:11,480 --> 00:39:13,220

he was planning to
go into business

703

00:39:13,220 --> 00:39:18,530

with somebody who pulled his
money in, and stuff like that.

704

00:39:18,530 --> 00:39:20,150

And my father had cases--

705

00:39:20,150 --> 00:39:23,120

706

00:39:23,120 --> 00:39:25,790

we know of somebody where--

707

00:39:25,790 --> 00:39:29,960

since there was, again, a
law that no Jew was allowed

708

00:39:29,960 --> 00:39:37,340

to have any weapon of any kind,
that the Nazis planted weapons

709

00:39:37,340 --> 00:39:39,890

in people's houses,
and my father

710

00:39:39,890 --> 00:39:43,490

had such a case where
they planted a revolver

711

00:39:43,490 --> 00:39:46,790

in somebody's home, and
that man committed suicide,

712

00:39:46,790 --> 00:39:50,060

because he knew he was
not going to [INAUDIBLE]..

713

00:39:50,060 --> 00:39:54,260

He didn't wait for the
case to come up, really.

714

00:39:54,260 --> 00:39:59,840

Your father was allowed to
practice law until what date?

715

00:39:59,840 --> 00:40:02,330

We have that letter that takes--

716

00:40:02,330 --> 00:40:04,490

took away his rights.

717

00:40:04,490 --> 00:40:07,760

Darmstadt is the-- was
is the capital of Hessen,

718

00:40:07,760 --> 00:40:11,540

so all the big
courts were there.

719

00:40:11,540 --> 00:40:16,130

My father had access
to the top court.

720

00:40:16,130 --> 00:40:22,190

And in 1938, right
after Kristallnacht,

721

00:40:22,190 --> 00:40:25,910

they sent him a letter that
they had removed his right.

722

00:40:25,910 --> 00:40:27,410

To us, that didn't
mean very much,

723

00:40:27,410 --> 00:40:32,540

because we were leaving for
the United the states anyhow.

724

00:40:32,540 --> 00:40:34,370
My father was the last one--

725
00:40:34,370 --> 00:40:37,250
the last lawyer
permitted, and strictly

726
00:40:37,250 --> 00:40:43,190
because he had been an officer
and had been at the front.

727
00:40:43,190 --> 00:40:47,840
And this-- his partner
had not been in the army.

728
00:40:47,840 --> 00:40:51,940
And many other lawyers had not
been and hadn't been officers,

729
00:40:51,940 --> 00:40:56,600
hadn't been at the front,
so he was the last one.

730
00:40:56,600 --> 00:41:00,350
But as I said, that
didn't mean so much to us.

731
00:41:00,350 --> 00:41:03,140
Would you like to know how we--

732
00:41:03,140 --> 00:41:06,170
the trip out and what it meant?

733
00:41:06,170 --> 00:41:11,360
I want to hear-- if you remember
some other incidents when you

734
00:41:11,360 --> 00:41:12,610
were living in the Darmstadt--

735
00:41:12,610 --> 00:41:13,110
Yes.

736

00:41:13,110 --> 00:41:17,560

--between 1933 and
the moment you left?

737

00:41:17,560 --> 00:41:18,060

Yes.

738

00:41:18,060 --> 00:41:23,150

When you in public school and
before you were taken out,

739

00:41:23,150 --> 00:41:28,320

did you experience
any antisemitism?

740

00:41:28,320 --> 00:41:29,160

No.

741

00:41:29,160 --> 00:41:31,470

I can't really say this.

742

00:41:31,470 --> 00:41:33,180

Well, no, no, no, no, I'm sorry.

743

00:41:33,180 --> 00:41:35,910

Of course, there were
things like this.

744

00:41:35,910 --> 00:41:42,330

There were places on the street
where they had posted the--

745

00:41:42,330 --> 00:41:47,460

I forget the names, suddenly,
of the German newspaper that

746

00:41:47,460 --> 00:41:51,120

was very, very antisemitic.

747

00:41:51,120 --> 00:41:53,520

The whole point
was antisemitism.

748
00:41:53,520 --> 00:41:57,630
And I remember
reading some of it.

749
00:41:57,630 --> 00:41:59,640
And a man came up and said--

750
00:41:59,640 --> 00:42:02,130
called me a dirty
Jew, and said, you

751
00:42:02,130 --> 00:42:05,913
shouldn't be reading this
stuff, and chased me off.

752
00:42:05,913 --> 00:42:07,080
There were things like this.

753
00:42:07,080 --> 00:42:15,730
I would pick, in the trolley
car that I would go to school--

754
00:42:15,730 --> 00:42:17,850
I would go into the--

755
00:42:17,850 --> 00:42:21,720
we had trolley cars where there
was where there were two cars.

756
00:42:21,720 --> 00:42:26,760
The second one was a smoker,
and I loved to be with my father

757
00:42:26,760 --> 00:42:29,520
before all this
happened in the smoker,

758
00:42:29,520 --> 00:42:32,910
because that was open,
whereas the other one was

759

00:42:32,910 --> 00:42:35,940
sort of for ladies, for--

760
00:42:35,940 --> 00:42:38,400
But I traveled only
in the first car,

761
00:42:38,400 --> 00:42:41,760
because my theory was that
there would be women--

762
00:42:41,760 --> 00:42:45,660
more women than men
in that car, and I

763
00:42:45,660 --> 00:42:50,100
wouldn't have to be
afraid of being beaten up.

764
00:42:50,100 --> 00:42:53,700
Things, for instance,
that were hurtful,

765
00:42:53,700 --> 00:42:58,560
but that I didn't
fully understand--

766
00:42:58,560 --> 00:43:01,620
that happened early
on, that I had

767
00:43:01,620 --> 00:43:05,670
a friend, a little girl with
whom I played all the time.

768
00:43:05,670 --> 00:43:08,730
And her father came
to talk to my father

769
00:43:08,730 --> 00:43:12,450
and asked that I not
play with his child

770

00:43:12,450 --> 00:43:15,060
anymore, because he was
afraid of going to--

771
00:43:15,060 --> 00:43:17,250
that he was going
to lose his job.

772
00:43:17,250 --> 00:43:21,570
My father immediately
understood and, of course, I

773
00:43:21,570 --> 00:43:24,570
didn't play with this
little girl anymore.

774
00:43:24,570 --> 00:43:27,000
I didn't understand that,
because I guess at that point,

775
00:43:27,000 --> 00:43:29,580
I was something like
seven, and I thought

776
00:43:29,580 --> 00:43:30,930
she'd been a real friend.

777
00:43:30,930 --> 00:43:37,980
And it was that
kind of thing that--

778
00:43:37,980 --> 00:43:40,770
We were also-- we
were restricted--

779
00:43:40,770 --> 00:43:43,470
you couldn't go
into any restaurant

780
00:43:43,470 --> 00:43:46,410
except the restaurant at
the railway station, which

781

00:43:46,410 --> 00:43:47,970
was OK with me,
because that happened

782
00:43:47,970 --> 00:43:49,920
to be a very good restaurant.

783
00:43:49,920 --> 00:43:53,370
But we couldn't
go to the movies.

784
00:43:53,370 --> 00:43:55,140
We couldn't go to
the opera anymore.

785
00:43:55,140 --> 00:43:57,370
My parents had been very--

786
00:43:57,370 --> 00:44:01,170
Darmstadt had a very
good opera company.

787
00:44:01,170 --> 00:44:04,110
Rudolf Bing, who became the
head of the Met here for years,

788
00:44:04,110 --> 00:44:05,910
was at-- in Darmstadt.

789
00:44:05,910 --> 00:44:10,410
We had very good
visiting singers.

790
00:44:10,410 --> 00:44:13,230
We had very good theater.

791
00:44:13,230 --> 00:44:17,160
And my parents had been
very much involved,

792
00:44:17,160 --> 00:44:19,200
and that was not--

793

00:44:19,200 --> 00:44:21,980

that was painful, I'm
sure, for them, very.

794

00:44:21,980 --> 00:44:27,510

And there were so many,
many things that were--

795

00:44:27,510 --> 00:44:33,630

just playing with your
self-esteem and things

796

00:44:33,630 --> 00:44:35,890

like that.

797

00:44:35,890 --> 00:44:38,310

One of the things that
was most annoying,

798

00:44:38,310 --> 00:44:42,180

not just for feelings,
but physically,

799

00:44:42,180 --> 00:44:47,520

is that they would call in
the passports very often.

800

00:44:47,520 --> 00:44:51,370

The first call that I-- and
I have my parents passports.

801

00:44:51,370 --> 00:44:56,760

There was in order to put a
big red J into the passport.

802

00:44:56,760 --> 00:45:00,050

And they made you pay for that.

803

00:45:00,050 --> 00:45:04,140

Next, it was called in,
in order to add the name

804

00:45:04,140 --> 00:45:09,420
Israel to every male and Zara
to every female and underlined.

805
00:45:09,420 --> 00:45:14,730
And when my father
wrote letters that

806
00:45:14,730 --> 00:45:21,060
had to do with the legal stuff,
the list of all his holdings

807
00:45:21,060 --> 00:45:25,170
or the lists that had to be
handed in all the time for--

808
00:45:25,170 --> 00:45:27,480
what money was spent
for that month,

809
00:45:27,480 --> 00:45:29,520
he would have to sign
it-- it was signed

810
00:45:29,520 --> 00:45:33,060
doctor Hermann Israel Wolf.

811
00:45:33,060 --> 00:45:36,090
I mean, it was
this idiotic thing.

812
00:45:36,090 --> 00:45:39,720
For the calling in to add
the name Israel, and then it

813
00:45:39,720 --> 00:45:42,450
was underlined, and Marlies--

814
00:45:42,450 --> 00:45:45,750
and my legal name
was Marie-Louise,

815
00:45:45,750 --> 00:45:48,960

because Marlies
wasn't legal, either.

816
00:45:48,960 --> 00:45:54,510
My name was Marlies Marie-Louise
Johanna Zara, underlined.

817
00:45:54,510 --> 00:45:58,350

818
00:45:58,350 --> 00:46:00,450
These were the things.

819
00:46:00,450 --> 00:46:04,140
My father once in
awhile would do

820
00:46:04,140 --> 00:46:07,970
something-- we went to a
movie, and I was terrified.

821
00:46:07,970 --> 00:46:11,120
But he said, we are going
to go to the movies.

822
00:46:11,120 --> 00:46:16,723
And we saw an American film
called Ramona in technicolor.

823
00:46:16,723 --> 00:46:17,390
It was my first.

824
00:46:17,390 --> 00:46:20,880
And I was-- I hated the
idea of going to the movies.

825
00:46:20,880 --> 00:46:23,000
I scared out of my wits.

826
00:46:23,000 --> 00:46:29,420
And also, there's a scene
in Ramona where rednecks--

827

00:46:29,420 --> 00:46:33,620

it happens to be that she
is half Indian or something,

828

00:46:33,620 --> 00:46:36,710

and they come and--

829

00:46:36,710 --> 00:46:40,430

the rednecks come and
force them off their farm.

830

00:46:40,430 --> 00:46:42,840

And I thought, oh,
America's going

831

00:46:42,840 --> 00:46:45,710

to be the same way as
Germany, if this is--

832

00:46:45,710 --> 00:46:48,365

833

00:46:48,365 --> 00:46:50,870

luckily, it was not
that way at all.

834

00:46:50,870 --> 00:46:56,540

And what-- did you want me
to stay in the German thing,

835

00:46:56,540 --> 00:46:58,070

or do you want me now to get--

836

00:46:58,070 --> 00:46:59,660

I think little
more about Germany.

837

00:46:59,660 --> 00:47:05,780

When your brother was 14,
when he went off to Italy,

838

00:47:05,780 --> 00:47:07,700

how long did he stay there?

839

00:47:07,700 --> 00:47:10,655

He stayed in Italy
approximately a year and a half.

840

00:47:10,655 --> 00:47:14,330

841

00:47:14,330 --> 00:47:17,090

I may be slightly off with
that, because the next thing was

842

00:47:17,090 --> 00:47:22,610

that my parents moved him to a
school in England, number one

843

00:47:22,610 --> 00:47:25,580

so that he would learn
English, and number two,

844

00:47:25,580 --> 00:47:27,950

because Italy was
beginning not to be

845

00:47:27,950 --> 00:47:30,440

such a healthy place to be.

846

00:47:30,440 --> 00:47:32,150

And there is a story there.

847

00:47:32,150 --> 00:47:36,530

He went to Hove college
in Brighton Hove.

848

00:47:36,530 --> 00:47:40,250

And his-- the application
to come to the United States

849

00:47:40,250 --> 00:47:46,970

was to the London consulate.

850

00:47:46,970 --> 00:47:49,820

And guess who was
the ambassador?

851

00:47:49,820 --> 00:47:52,370

The ambassador was Kennedy.

852

00:47:52,370 --> 00:47:55,910

And oddly enough, when
my brother went there,

853

00:47:55,910 --> 00:47:57,500

they asked--

854

00:47:57,500 --> 00:48:01,910

he was brought in to
the ambassador, which

855

00:48:01,910 --> 00:48:04,340

was a little bit unusual.

856

00:48:04,340 --> 00:48:08,870

And Kennedy said to him--

857

00:48:08,870 --> 00:48:11,660

and Paul talked about this.

858

00:48:11,660 --> 00:48:14,210

He said to him,
your parents must

859

00:48:14,210 --> 00:48:21,600

be sending you quite an
allowance at your school.

860

00:48:21,600 --> 00:48:23,270

And Paul said, no.

861

00:48:23,270 --> 00:48:25,130

They are very much restricted.

862

00:48:25,130 --> 00:48:26,240

They can't.

863

00:48:26,240 --> 00:48:31,790
And it was obvious that he was
asking Paul to fork over, which

864

00:48:31,790 --> 00:48:33,950
was-- he made it very obvious.

865

00:48:33,950 --> 00:48:38,780
And when you think about this,
this was a multi-millionaire,

866

00:48:38,780 --> 00:48:42,410
and he was going to make this--

867

00:48:42,410 --> 00:48:45,260
Paul was then 16 or 17.

868

00:48:45,260 --> 00:48:48,380
He may have been 17 already.

869

00:48:48,380 --> 00:48:49,817
Yes, yes.

870

00:48:49,817 --> 00:48:50,900
But the sequence is right.

871

00:48:50,900 --> 00:48:55,730
He was 17, because when
we came here, he was 17.

872

00:48:55,730 --> 00:49:00,990
My sister was 15,
and I said I was 11.

873

00:49:00,990 --> 00:49:06,550

874

00:49:06,550 --> 00:49:10,030
My sister experienced
Kristallnacht

875
00:49:10,030 --> 00:49:15,880
in Berlin, which was quite
different from a smaller city,

876
00:49:15,880 --> 00:49:18,580
even though I think it's
named Kristallnacht because

877
00:49:18,580 --> 00:49:23,410
of all the storefronts in Berlin
where the glass was broken.

878
00:49:23,410 --> 00:49:26,770
But she had her first
little boyfriend,

879
00:49:26,770 --> 00:49:32,950
and he escaped being
arrested by sleeping

880
00:49:32,950 --> 00:49:35,560
in other people's
apartments every night

881
00:49:35,560 --> 00:49:37,720
for those next two weeks.

882
00:49:37,720 --> 00:49:39,430
You couldn't have done
that in Darmstadt.

883
00:49:39,430 --> 00:49:41,540
You couldn't have done
that in Frankfurt.

884
00:49:41,540 --> 00:49:44,365
It was possible in Berlin
because it was so large.

885
00:49:44,365 --> 00:49:47,740

886

00:49:47,740 --> 00:49:51,370

My sister did not know that
my father hadn't been arrested

887

00:49:51,370 --> 00:49:53,350

until the evening
when we had-- when

888

00:49:53,350 --> 00:49:57,640

we were able to talk to her on
the phone, which must have been

889

00:49:57,640 --> 00:49:58,680

very difficult for her.

890

00:49:58,680 --> 00:50:02,210

891

00:50:02,210 --> 00:50:07,400

The separations where
were quite awful.

892

00:50:07,400 --> 00:50:10,450

And we-- I was--

893

00:50:10,450 --> 00:50:15,440

we felt so very lucky that we
came to the United States as

894

00:50:15,440 --> 00:50:19,870

well as a family unit, because
we knew so many people where

895

00:50:19,870 --> 00:50:23,350

somebody went to China,
somebody landed in Australia,

896

00:50:23,350 --> 00:50:27,440

and then they were never
going to see each other again.

897

00:50:27,440 --> 00:50:32,960

And I think that has
overshadowed my entire life.

898
00:50:32,960 --> 00:50:38,470
And I-- because that's
the important thing that--

899
00:50:38,470 --> 00:50:41,530
this feeling of
abandonment, feeling of--

900
00:50:41,530 --> 00:50:44,290

901
00:50:44,290 --> 00:50:46,060
that we could be
torn apart again.

902
00:50:46,060 --> 00:50:49,540

903
00:50:49,540 --> 00:50:53,860
I have no first cousins, but
I have many second cousins,

904
00:50:53,860 --> 00:50:59,350
because on my maternal side,
the Adler & Oppenheimer

905
00:50:59,350 --> 00:51:01,570
thing that I mentioned,
they were 10 children.

906
00:51:01,570 --> 00:51:05,830
That's why there were so many
in all the branches in South

907
00:51:05,830 --> 00:51:09,490
America and in England
and in Holland and in--

908
00:51:09,490 --> 00:51:12,250

909

00:51:12,250 --> 00:51:14,140

there were always
family members there.

910

00:51:14,140 --> 00:51:18,220

But they were all torn
apart, many of them.

911

00:51:18,220 --> 00:51:22,690

And that was very, very sad.

912

00:51:22,690 --> 00:51:27,970

Incidentally, my
grandmother in--

913

00:51:27,970 --> 00:51:30,430

stayed in Berlin because
she was convinced

914

00:51:30,430 --> 00:51:34,120

that she would visit us,
and then her other daughter

915

00:51:34,120 --> 00:51:37,300

was in what was then Palestine.

916

00:51:37,300 --> 00:51:39,130

And she didn't.

917

00:51:39,130 --> 00:51:44,020

So she was there in 1941,
and my father managed somehow

918

00:51:44,020 --> 00:51:45,910

to get her out via Cuba.

919

00:51:45,910 --> 00:51:51,237

He got her and her sister, one
of those sisters, out via Cuba.

920

00:51:51,237 --> 00:51:52,570

And then she lived with us here.

921

00:51:52,570 --> 00:51:58,180

922

00:51:58,180 --> 00:52:01,720

So your parents were
telling you about this plan

923

00:52:01,720 --> 00:52:03,040

to go to the United States?

924

00:52:03,040 --> 00:52:03,540

Oh, yes.

925

00:52:03,540 --> 00:52:05,320

How did you feel about that?

926

00:52:05,320 --> 00:52:08,290

Oh, I wanted to get
out like crazy, yes.

927

00:52:08,290 --> 00:52:10,960

928

00:52:10,960 --> 00:52:17,980

And also, there was this
element that I felt somehow

929

00:52:17,980 --> 00:52:20,770

that my father would solve
it all, because he'd always

930

00:52:20,770 --> 00:52:22,150

solved so much.

931

00:52:22,150 --> 00:52:25,870

I will tell you that they made
an attempt-- because I showed

932

00:52:25,870 --> 00:52:27,490

that I was afraid to be alone.

933

00:52:27,490 --> 00:52:34,150

By this time, we had no servants
anymore at all at night.

934

00:52:34,150 --> 00:52:35,930

My sister was in Berlin.

935

00:52:35,930 --> 00:52:39,910

My brother was either in Italy
or in England by that time.

936

00:52:39,910 --> 00:52:44,440

And my parents were making
plans with this person

937

00:52:44,440 --> 00:52:48,490

I mentioned who pulled all
money out who was in Frankfurt.

938

00:52:48,490 --> 00:52:51,610

They went to Frankfurt
to discuss the business

939

00:52:51,610 --> 00:52:55,570

that they were going to open
in Texas, of all the places.

940

00:52:55,570 --> 00:53:01,420

Never got there,
because this man made--

941

00:53:01,420 --> 00:53:03,730

well, it didn't happen.

942

00:53:03,730 --> 00:53:06,910

But they were there very
often to talk about business.

943

00:53:06,910 --> 00:53:11,920

And they also wanted me to
feel that I could be alone.

944

00:53:11,920 --> 00:53:14,200

So they made it their
business once in a while just

945

00:53:14,200 --> 00:53:19,780

to visit other people so
that I would be alone.

946

00:53:19,780 --> 00:53:23,680

And I was terrified because
people disappeared and were

947

00:53:23,680 --> 00:53:25,600

never heard from again.

948

00:53:25,600 --> 00:53:28,720

And I thought this could
happen to my parents.

949

00:53:28,720 --> 00:53:32,410

By the way, I have to
tell you, earlier, in my--

950

00:53:32,410 --> 00:53:35,080

if you wanted to know
what our life was like,

951

00:53:35,080 --> 00:53:37,060

it really was very nice.

952

00:53:37,060 --> 00:53:43,540

My parents-- as I said, the
[GERMAN] had piano lessons.

953

00:53:43,540 --> 00:53:47,450

My parents had musicals
at home, a great deal.

954

00:53:47,450 --> 00:53:50,290

My father played the violin,
my mother, the piano,

955

00:53:50,290 --> 00:53:54,760
and the governess also played.

956
00:53:54,760 --> 00:53:58,060
And we were exposed to
a great deal of music.

957
00:53:58,060 --> 00:54:01,960

958
00:54:01,960 --> 00:54:05,920
And luckily, my husband had
exactly the same feeling

959
00:54:05,920 --> 00:54:06,420
about it.

960
00:54:06,420 --> 00:54:10,080
We were-- became
tremendous opera buffs.

961
00:54:10,080 --> 00:54:13,080
And it was planted
very early on.

962
00:54:13,080 --> 00:54:16,830
My parents also saw to
it that when we traveled,

963
00:54:16,830 --> 00:54:18,810
we were taken to
museums like crazy.

964
00:54:18,810 --> 00:54:21,750
I found that, when I
was little, very boring.

965
00:54:21,750 --> 00:54:24,660
But I had art lessons.

966
00:54:24,660 --> 00:54:26,880
I was very lucky in school here.

967

00:54:26,880 --> 00:54:29,370

I went to a very special school.

968

00:54:29,370 --> 00:54:31,920

I went to the High
School of Music and Art.

969

00:54:31,920 --> 00:54:38,580

And I learned there that there
were people much more talented

970

00:54:38,580 --> 00:54:44,540

than I, but I began to
make my way into writing,

971

00:54:44,540 --> 00:54:46,860

which was helpful.

972

00:54:46,860 --> 00:54:48,270

I then went--

973

00:54:48,270 --> 00:54:53,460

I went to Barnard College, which
was then very hard to get into.

974

00:54:53,460 --> 00:54:57,580

And it was a
pleasure to be there.

975

00:54:57,580 --> 00:55:00,970

So I was very lucky
in my own education.

976

00:55:00,970 --> 00:55:03,990

And that was important,
because my father

977

00:55:03,990 --> 00:55:09,660

felt the worst part of being--

978

00:55:09,660 --> 00:55:13,440

of having to leave Germany

under the circumstances

979

00:55:13,440 --> 00:55:16,890

was that we were not going
to become cultured people,

980

00:55:16,890 --> 00:55:19,530

because we would not have
time and we would not

981

00:55:19,530 --> 00:55:23,970

have the means, the money.

982

00:55:23,970 --> 00:55:27,390

Well, it wasn't so, because
we were very lucky--

983

00:55:27,390 --> 00:55:30,630

the war years in New
York here were fabulous.

984

00:55:30,630 --> 00:55:34,650

It was the-- everybody
of meaning was--

985

00:55:34,650 --> 00:55:37,540

had come to the United
States for safety,

986

00:55:37,540 --> 00:55:39,390

so we had top opera.

987

00:55:39,390 --> 00:55:40,950

We had top theater.

988

00:55:40,950 --> 00:55:44,190

We had top concerts.

989

00:55:44,190 --> 00:55:46,710

We had top artists.

990

00:55:46,710 --> 00:55:53,340

The galleries were
doing fantastic business

991
00:55:53,340 --> 00:55:55,835
because the painters were here.

992
00:55:55,835 --> 00:55:58,460
[? ManÃ©-Katz ?]---- I don't know
if that means anything to you,

993
00:55:58,460 --> 00:56:02,860
but I was traveling in circles.

994
00:56:02,860 --> 00:56:07,960
I'd met a fabulous French
family, the Rosenthal family.

995
00:56:07,960 --> 00:56:11,370
He was known as the
Pearl King of France.

996
00:56:11,370 --> 00:56:18,750
He came here, and because
of my connection to them,

997
00:56:18,750 --> 00:56:22,170
I went to the ballet
like crazy with them,

998
00:56:22,170 --> 00:56:26,580
met Hurok through
them, who was who

999
00:56:26,580 --> 00:56:30,780
was the impresario who
staged a great deal of opera

1000
00:56:30,780 --> 00:56:32,580
and a great deal of music.

1001
00:56:32,580 --> 00:56:34,905
But it was a fabulous time here.

1002

00:56:34,905 --> 00:56:35,430

So we--

1003

00:56:35,430 --> 00:56:36,950

Could we backtrack a little?

1004

00:56:36,950 --> 00:56:37,611

Yes, I'm sorry.

1005

00:56:37,611 --> 00:56:38,111

I'm--

1006

00:56:38,111 --> 00:56:40,475

1007

00:56:40,475 --> 00:56:41,100

You said that--

1008

00:56:41,100 --> 00:56:42,750

Yes, you want more of--

1009

00:56:42,750 --> 00:56:46,500

About what it was like being
in Germany between 1933

1010

00:56:46,500 --> 00:56:51,600

and the exact time
when you left in 1939.

1011

00:56:51,600 --> 00:56:52,100

Well--

1012

00:56:52,100 --> 00:56:55,050

1013

00:56:55,050 --> 00:56:58,680

The Jewish school you went to,
what were some of the subjects

1014

00:56:58,680 --> 00:57:01,050

you studied?

1015
00:57:01,050 --> 00:57:02,490
The normal subjects.

1016
00:57:02,490 --> 00:57:06,630
I had history, which
was German history.

1017
00:57:06,630 --> 00:57:08,940
I don't remember why we had no--

1018
00:57:08,940 --> 00:57:11,470
I guess maybe didn't
have an English teacher,

1019
00:57:11,470 --> 00:57:13,560
but I had no English.

1020
00:57:13,560 --> 00:57:15,100
We had some French.

1021
00:57:15,100 --> 00:57:17,355
And we had math.

1022
00:57:17,355 --> 00:57:19,860

1023
00:57:19,860 --> 00:57:23,380
I guess I was in what was
called [GERMAN],, the first--

1024
00:57:23,380 --> 00:57:25,920

1025
00:57:25,920 --> 00:57:29,190
I was not very much
impressed, even

1026
00:57:29,190 --> 00:57:35,370
though there were some very
smart kids, and we were also--

1027

00:57:35,370 --> 00:57:37,960

there weren't enough
in the same age group,

1028

00:57:37,960 --> 00:57:41,760

so that it wasn't-- it
was a little bit like a--

1029

00:57:41,760 --> 00:57:44,520

not that it was a
one-room school.

1030

00:57:44,520 --> 00:57:45,720

I mean, it wasn't like that.

1031

00:57:45,720 --> 00:57:49,490

There were-- math,
you had only math,

1032

00:57:49,490 --> 00:57:53,160

and you moved in to the
other class that was--

1033

00:57:53,160 --> 00:57:54,600

I think we did have French.

1034

00:57:54,600 --> 00:57:57,840

1035

00:57:57,840 --> 00:58:04,680

I am at a loss, because there
wasn't that much that happened

1036

00:58:04,680 --> 00:58:07,470

to me in particular that I--

1037

00:58:07,470 --> 00:58:09,360

Did you wear a yellow star?

1038

00:58:09,360 --> 00:58:11,430

No, that was not yet.

1039

00:58:11,430 --> 00:58:15,510

I think that came in
quite a bit after--

1040

00:58:15,510 --> 00:58:19,350

yes, that was later.

1041

00:58:19,350 --> 00:58:21,690

When you mentioned
that a man saw

1042

00:58:21,690 --> 00:58:25,560

you reading an antisemitic
newspaper on the street,

1043

00:58:25,560 --> 00:58:27,660

how did he identify
you as Jewish?

1044

00:58:27,660 --> 00:58:32,340

I could not figure that
out, because frankly, I--

1045

00:58:32,340 --> 00:58:34,710

at that age, I was quite blond.

1046

00:58:34,710 --> 00:58:36,430

I had a short nose still.

1047

00:58:36,430 --> 00:58:37,850

I don't know.

1048

00:58:37,850 --> 00:58:40,440

Oh, it could have been
that he simply knew me,

1049

00:58:40,440 --> 00:58:45,210

because that's what my
sister talked about,

1050

00:58:45,210 --> 00:58:51,870

that we were fairly well known,

that people identified me

1051
00:58:51,870 --> 00:58:55,410
as a child of Dr. Wolf.

1052
00:58:55,410 --> 00:58:57,660
So it could have been that.

1053
00:58:57,660 --> 00:59:02,470
Also, that was very frightening.

1054
00:59:02,470 --> 00:59:05,460
And I was-- are we getting it?

1055
00:59:05,460 --> 00:59:08,970
I was frightened a great deal.

1056
00:59:08,970 --> 00:59:11,700
But you bring up an
interesting point,

1057
00:59:11,700 --> 00:59:18,350
because I think it was
that we were known.

1058
00:59:18,350 --> 00:59:26,940
It's not a tiny city, but it
may very well have been that.

1059
00:59:26,940 --> 00:59:30,570
I'm trying to remember
now some of the--

1060
00:59:30,570 --> 00:59:32,490
there were so many
embarrassments.

1061
00:59:32,490 --> 00:59:35,082

1062
00:59:35,082 --> 00:59:38,310
Was there a difficulty

in obtaining food?

1063

00:59:38,310 --> 00:59:38,910

Yes, yes.

1064

00:59:38,910 --> 00:59:42,980

Did you have to only purchase
at certain times of the day?

1065

00:59:42,980 --> 00:59:49,350

Yes, and I know that we were
entitled to two eggs a month

1066

00:59:49,350 --> 00:59:52,140

and 1/4 pound of butter.

1067

00:59:52,140 --> 00:59:55,080

We were never hungry
because, as I said,

1068

00:59:55,080 --> 01:00:00,390

my father was a do-gooder,
and people brought us food.

1069

01:00:00,390 --> 01:00:04,080

1070

01:00:04,080 --> 01:00:08,110

I'm sure this was very
dangerous for them.

1071

01:00:08,110 --> 01:00:11,640

And by the way-- all right,
I remember some things

1072

01:00:11,640 --> 01:00:13,050

quite vividly.

1073

01:00:13,050 --> 01:00:20,400

My father's orderly, this father
of what became our nanny--

1074

01:00:20,400 --> 01:00:22,680
What was her name?

1075
01:00:22,680 --> 01:00:23,710
What, the nanny?

1076
01:00:23,710 --> 01:00:25,560
Lisbeth Hake.

1077
01:00:25,560 --> 01:00:26,060
Hake.

1078
01:00:26,060 --> 01:00:33,280
Hake, H-A-K-E. I'm trying to
remember that Hake's first

1079
01:00:33,280 --> 01:00:33,780
name.

1080
01:00:33,780 --> 01:00:38,220
I'll show you pictures
of him and certainly her.

1081
01:00:38,220 --> 01:00:47,640
He insisted that my father give
him the military sword and that

1082
01:00:47,640 --> 01:00:51,785
the dagger, the dolch,
because it had the colors--

1083
01:00:51,785 --> 01:00:53,160
well, whatever,
the [? labeled ?]

1084
01:00:53,160 --> 01:00:56,700
stuff, of the regiment.

1085
01:00:56,700 --> 01:01:02,730
And I was the one who was
designated to get it to him.

1086

01:01:02,730 --> 01:01:06,780

Very interesting that
my father allowed this.

1087

01:01:06,780 --> 01:01:10,310

I took my bike and
I put the dolch

1088

01:01:10,310 --> 01:01:15,600

into my pocket of my
favorite raincoat.

1089

01:01:15,600 --> 01:01:18,870

But I didn't-- and I don't
know how they got that to him.

1090

01:01:18,870 --> 01:01:25,800

My father had a very
modern-looking revolver,

1091

01:01:25,800 --> 01:01:27,590

a-- well, wait a minute.

1092

01:01:27,590 --> 01:01:30,450

A revolver has a [? wheel. ?]
This didn't happen--

1093

01:01:30,450 --> 01:01:31,500

yes, I guess it had--

1094

01:01:31,500 --> 01:01:33,960

but it was very modern looking.

1095

01:01:33,960 --> 01:01:39,180

And it landed with the orderly.

1096

01:01:39,180 --> 01:01:44,820

And his stepson got
it to our family who

1097

01:01:44,820 --> 01:01:49,590

brought it here, years later.

1098

01:01:49,590 --> 01:01:51,943

Now, this was-- we
had to get it out

1099

01:01:51,943 --> 01:01:54,360

of the house in the first
place, because there was a death

1100

01:01:54,360 --> 01:01:57,510

penalty for having weapons.

1101

01:01:57,510 --> 01:02:02,130

But that my father
permitted me to do this--

1102

01:02:02,130 --> 01:02:05,010

I found it was weird.

1103

01:02:05,010 --> 01:02:06,060

But it got there.

1104

01:02:06,060 --> 01:02:09,690

1105

01:02:09,690 --> 01:02:11,070

What else can I tell you?

1106

01:02:11,070 --> 01:02:18,990

There are memories-- well,
also very good memories.

1107

01:02:18,990 --> 01:02:20,580

For instance, we were--

1108

01:02:20,580 --> 01:02:24,340

yes, we were Jewish, but
we had a Christmas tree,

1109

01:02:24,340 --> 01:02:28,380

and the excuse
was for the maids.

1110

01:02:28,380 --> 01:02:32,430

And the orderly was
a very good carpenter

1111

01:02:32,430 --> 01:02:35,880

and he made us very
special Christmas toys that

1112

01:02:35,880 --> 01:02:39,000

only came out for Christmas.

1113

01:02:39,000 --> 01:02:42,000

And I had a living room.

1114

01:02:42,000 --> 01:02:45,090

My sister had a kitchen
with running water.

1115

01:02:45,090 --> 01:02:51,150

My brother had a Ferris
wheel, which was fabulous,

1116

01:02:51,150 --> 01:02:53,730

and a store.

1117

01:02:53,730 --> 01:02:57,480

And we made-- in the
kitchen, we actually

1118

01:02:57,480 --> 01:02:59,490

were able to cook a
little frankfurters

1119

01:02:59,490 --> 01:03:00,720

and stuff like that.

1120

01:03:00,720 --> 01:03:04,830

And the excuse was the maids.

1121

01:03:04,830 --> 01:03:10,560

We had the best of all worlds,
because we celebrated Hanukkah.

1122
01:03:10,560 --> 01:03:12,450
We celebrated-- we
always had a Seder.

1123
01:03:12,450 --> 01:03:16,320

1124
01:03:16,320 --> 01:03:18,540
My mother fasted.

1125
01:03:18,540 --> 01:03:24,840
We had-- we lit candles
on Friday night.

1126
01:03:24,840 --> 01:03:29,730
And until my husband died, I
lit candles on Friday night,

1127
01:03:29,730 --> 01:03:34,380
here, because I wanted my
children to feel Jewish,

1128
01:03:34,380 --> 01:03:40,020
even though they were
not really raised--

1129
01:03:40,020 --> 01:03:46,020
my husband was a
very definite atheist

1130
01:03:46,020 --> 01:03:51,270
but had come out of a very
Jewish household also,

1131
01:03:51,270 --> 01:03:54,240
and was extraordinarily
tolerant of--

1132
01:03:54,240 --> 01:03:59,063
and we did try to join
a congregation here.

1133

01:03:59,063 --> 01:03:59,730

We just didn't--

1134

01:03:59,730 --> 01:04:00,480

Let's go back to--

1135

01:04:00,480 --> 01:04:01,022

Yes, Germany.

1136

01:04:01,022 --> 01:04:02,460

--to Germany.

1137

01:04:02,460 --> 01:04:06,850

The congregation there was--

1138

01:04:06,850 --> 01:04:14,060

my parents' social
life was, I think--

1139

01:04:14,060 --> 01:04:17,920

no, it wasn't all Jewish,
but most of the people

1140

01:04:17,920 --> 01:04:23,890

were professionals,
doctors, lawyers.

1141

01:04:23,890 --> 01:04:28,870

My mother would give
teas in the afternoon.

1142

01:04:28,870 --> 01:04:33,370

And by the way,
there was resentment

1143

01:04:33,370 --> 01:04:37,210

that the governess was
part of the party, very.

1144

01:04:37,210 --> 01:04:39,940

They were people
who really thought--

1145
01:04:39,940 --> 01:04:46,570
of a class consciousness, which
was idiotic, but they minded.

1146
01:04:46,570 --> 01:04:50,410
Some people minded that
she was at the table, too,

1147
01:04:50,410 --> 01:04:52,310
and that she was
part of the musicals.

1148
01:04:52,310 --> 01:04:55,660

1149
01:04:55,660 --> 01:04:57,040
But as I said, that's--

1150
01:04:57,040 --> 01:04:59,165
all of that ended in '35.

1151
01:04:59,165 --> 01:05:03,250

1152
01:05:03,250 --> 01:05:09,010
I also remember
that Lisbeth, we--

1153
01:05:09,010 --> 01:05:11,230
came to visit once.

1154
01:05:11,230 --> 01:05:14,440
And she combed my
hair in the garden.

1155
01:05:14,440 --> 01:05:18,850
And somebody came down
from someplace and said,

1156
01:05:18,850 --> 01:05:19,930
you are working.

1157
01:05:19,930 --> 01:05:24,190
You have no right to
do this for a Jew.

1158
01:05:24,190 --> 01:05:27,340
She was just combing my hair.

1159
01:05:27,340 --> 01:05:30,330
It was that kind
of thing that was--

1160
01:05:30,330 --> 01:05:33,070
it put a pall over everything.

1161
01:05:33,070 --> 01:05:38,650
It was a-- life was--

1162
01:05:38,650 --> 01:05:44,770
you had a constant
thing hanging over you.

1163
01:05:44,770 --> 01:05:48,220
That's why, when you asked
me, did I want to go?

1164
01:05:48,220 --> 01:05:49,510
Boy, did I want to go.

1165
01:05:49,510 --> 01:05:52,130

1166
01:05:52,130 --> 01:05:58,330
And I guess that kind of
feeling was even there

1167
01:05:58,330 --> 01:06:01,165
before Kristallnacht,
but after that, I mean,

1168
01:06:01,165 --> 01:06:02,290
it was very, very definite.

1169
01:06:02,290 --> 01:06:04,240
And we didn't know
anything about ovens yet.

1170
01:06:04,240 --> 01:06:09,742
We didn't know how bad it
was going to be at all.

1171
01:06:09,742 --> 01:06:12,280
[COUGHS] Pardon me.

1172
01:06:12,280 --> 01:06:15,130
Do you remember the
day you left Darmstadt?

1173
01:06:15,130 --> 01:06:17,830
Absolutely.

1174
01:06:17,830 --> 01:06:23,710
We went-- we had 17 pieces
of-- oh, yes, I have say.

1175
01:06:23,710 --> 01:06:27,490
We had to make a list
of everything we took,

1176
01:06:27,490 --> 01:06:31,150
and I mean everything.

1177
01:06:31,150 --> 01:06:34,180
And I've got the list.

1178
01:06:34,180 --> 01:06:37,340
My father took 12 handkerchiefs.

1179
01:06:37,340 --> 01:06:41,350
Me, I don't remember exactly,
but the number of panties,

1180
01:06:41,350 --> 01:06:45,820
the number of my mother's

underwear, my mother's--

1181

01:06:45,820 --> 01:06:52,000

my pajamas, everything,
including the paintings,

1182

01:06:52,000 --> 01:06:54,080

every single thing.

1183

01:06:54,080 --> 01:06:56,050

And when it was
packed, there was

1184

01:06:56,050 --> 01:07:01,270

a man sent to supervise this
and compare it to the list.

1185

01:07:01,270 --> 01:07:03,670

And he had to be bribed.

1186

01:07:03,670 --> 01:07:09,910

And the only-- and the
people packing it were--

1187

01:07:09,910 --> 01:07:14,230

there was a couple
helping, they--

1188

01:07:14,230 --> 01:07:15,700

and they were Jewish.

1189

01:07:15,700 --> 01:07:19,690

And they turned out to
be slightly crooked.

1190

01:07:19,690 --> 01:07:25,120

My father had a
wonderful, roll-type desk,

1191

01:07:25,120 --> 01:07:30,010

which we, as children, used--
we used to pull out the drawers,

1192

01:07:30,010 --> 01:07:32,980
climb up, and then slide down.

1193

01:07:32,980 --> 01:07:36,100
It had a secret
compartment into which

1194

01:07:36,100 --> 01:07:43,990
my father had put his
grandfather's shofar and money.

1195

01:07:43,990 --> 01:07:47,230
And when we arrived here,
the shofar and the money

1196

01:07:47,230 --> 01:07:47,890
were not there.

1197

01:07:47,890 --> 01:07:50,470

1198

01:07:50,470 --> 01:07:54,310
We do have-- we did have
of other things that

1199

01:07:54,310 --> 01:07:59,710
were handed-- that came
down from the rabbi that

1200

01:07:59,710 --> 01:08:01,220
became very important to us.

1201

01:08:01,220 --> 01:08:05,410
And I will show you photographs.

1202

01:08:05,410 --> 01:08:08,260
The packing was--

1203

01:08:08,260 --> 01:08:10,750
I don't know-- I'm sure that
people have described this,

1204

01:08:10,750 --> 01:08:12,720

that they were put into a lift.

1205

01:08:12,720 --> 01:08:17,109

And the lift was approximately
half the size of this room.

1206

01:08:17,109 --> 01:08:18,430

We had two lifts.

1207

01:08:18,430 --> 01:08:20,840

How they did this, how
they packed this, I--

1208

01:08:20,840 --> 01:08:23,450

it was amazing.

1209

01:08:23,450 --> 01:08:27,460

Books-- they put
three books, and then

1210

01:08:27,460 --> 01:08:31,120

put [INAUDIBLE] around them.

1211

01:08:31,120 --> 01:08:35,439

Our piano did not
survive very well.

1212

01:08:35,439 --> 01:08:42,100

But the furniture survived
and was unpacked here

1213

01:08:42,100 --> 01:08:46,810

on the street, everybody
watching as these wooden crates

1214

01:08:46,810 --> 01:08:47,680

were taken apart.

1215

01:08:47,680 --> 01:08:52,479

1216

01:08:52,479 --> 01:08:56,200

There was-- by the way,
the 17 pieces of luggage

1217

01:08:56,200 --> 01:08:58,180

became a hazard.

1218

01:08:58,180 --> 01:09:03,160

We traveled to Holland.

1219

01:09:03,160 --> 01:09:06,930

to pick-- we were going
to pick up the Queen Mary,

1220

01:09:06,930 --> 01:09:11,310

and I should mention that
was a very frightening thing.

1221

01:09:11,310 --> 01:09:16,439

We were scheduled to be on
the Queen Mary two weeks prior

1222

01:09:16,439 --> 01:09:18,479

to when we finally made it.

1223

01:09:18,479 --> 01:09:21,120

Then, when they
suddenly decided,

1224

01:09:21,120 --> 01:09:24,240

like the pulling back
of the passports,

1225

01:09:24,240 --> 01:09:26,020

that my mother's jewel--

1226

01:09:26,020 --> 01:09:30,450

my mother's pearls had to
be appraised in Hamburg,

1227

01:09:30,450 --> 01:09:33,450

as though there were

no jewelry store--

1228

01:09:33,450 --> 01:09:37,229

all the rest of the jewelry had
been appraised in Darmstadt.

1229

01:09:37,229 --> 01:09:40,020

This actually
delayed our passage,

1230

01:09:40,020 --> 01:09:42,390

and we were-- we didn't
know whether they

1231

01:09:42,390 --> 01:09:43,979

would let us go at all.

1232

01:09:43,979 --> 01:09:46,859

1233

01:09:46,859 --> 01:09:49,950

We traveled to Holland,
it was on a train

1234

01:09:49,950 --> 01:09:52,500

that one up the Rhine,
a very wonderful train

1235

01:09:52,500 --> 01:09:54,029

called Rheingold.

1236

01:09:54,029 --> 01:09:58,740

And it was a luxury train
where my father, because he

1237

01:09:58,740 --> 01:10:03,750

had some money left, said for
lunch, have whatever you want,

1238

01:10:03,750 --> 01:10:06,060

because we have to
spend the money anyway.

1239

01:10:06,060 --> 01:10:08,700

So we did, and he
had a glass of wine.

1240

01:10:08,700 --> 01:10:11,760

We get to the
border, and you know

1241

01:10:11,760 --> 01:10:15,210

that the Germans
have to OK you going

1242

01:10:15,210 --> 01:10:18,900

and the Dutch have
to allow you in.

1243

01:10:18,900 --> 01:10:27,570

When the German, whoever he
was, heard that we had 17 pieces

1244

01:10:27,570 --> 01:10:29,850

of luggage, he
said, you cannot--

1245

01:10:29,850 --> 01:10:32,130

you have to leave the train.

1246

01:10:32,130 --> 01:10:36,570

And my father was sorry that
we'd spend money needlessly

1247

01:10:36,570 --> 01:10:39,330

on the food, but he
seemed to have had enough

1248

01:10:39,330 --> 01:10:41,040

left to bribe him.

1249

01:10:41,040 --> 01:10:44,100

And all of a sudden,
we were allowed.

1250

01:10:44,100 --> 01:10:45,810
But the 17 pieces of luggage--

1251
01:10:45,810 --> 01:10:48,420

1252
01:10:48,420 --> 01:10:51,780
to this day, I think
people-- and I--

1253
01:10:51,780 --> 01:10:53,010
it's better to travel light.

1254
01:10:53,010 --> 01:10:57,110

1255
01:10:57,110 --> 01:11:04,410
The feeling of freedom as we
were in Holland was incredible.

1256
01:11:04,410 --> 01:11:06,690
What it was the exact date
that you left Germany?

1257
01:11:06,690 --> 01:11:12,890

1258
01:11:12,890 --> 01:11:14,240
You know what?

1259
01:11:14,240 --> 01:11:16,940
I can't tell-- yes, yes, I--

1260
01:11:16,940 --> 01:11:21,320
I have to look it up,
because it was definitely

1261
01:11:21,320 --> 01:11:24,950
in February of '39.

1262
01:11:24,950 --> 01:11:26,990
I can't give you the exact date.

1263
01:11:26,990 --> 01:11:28,350
We arrived here on the 27th.

1264
01:11:28,350 --> 01:11:31,370

1265
01:11:31,370 --> 01:11:35,640
We stayed in London
for a week, I think.

1266
01:11:35,640 --> 01:11:39,140
It may not have been a
whole week, so I'm not--

1267
01:11:39,140 --> 01:11:42,290
I don't know exactly,
but I have the papers,

1268
01:11:42,290 --> 01:11:46,490
because we know you had
to sign out, you know?

1269
01:11:46,490 --> 01:11:51,320
Again, the-- in Germany,
not just for Jews, were--

1270
01:11:51,320 --> 01:11:55,040
if you were in a city
after three days,

1271
01:11:55,040 --> 01:11:58,700
you had to register
with the police.

1272
01:11:58,700 --> 01:12:03,230
So we have-- when
we had to leave.

1273
01:12:03,230 --> 01:12:06,560
And by the way, I have
all kinds of things

1274

01:12:06,560 --> 01:12:12,710
that I have forgotten to tell
that did not just happen to me,

1275

01:12:12,710 --> 01:12:14,480
happened to my father.

1276

01:12:14,480 --> 01:12:18,770
He had to have an identity
card with a big J on it

1277

01:12:18,770 --> 01:12:24,020
where he was fingerprinted,
because fingerprinting

1278

01:12:24,020 --> 01:12:26,150
in Germany meant
you were a criminal.

1279

01:12:26,150 --> 01:12:31,280
You just weren't-- so,
again, just to embarrass.

1280

01:12:31,280 --> 01:12:36,040
His driver's license had--

1281

01:12:36,040 --> 01:12:38,980
and, well, I have all that.

1282

01:12:38,980 --> 01:12:42,380
I will show you.

1283

01:12:42,380 --> 01:12:45,590
I have the papers when
we were signed out.

1284

01:12:45,590 --> 01:12:49,423
And there's something about
that that was also embarrassing,

1285

01:12:49,423 --> 01:12:50,090
that it wasn't--

1286
01:12:50,090 --> 01:12:51,882
When you got to the
border between Germany?

1287
01:12:51,882 --> 01:12:55,550
No, no, this was
leaving Darmstadt.

1288
01:12:55,550 --> 01:13:00,090
And I remember also that
the taxi that took us to--

1289
01:13:00,090 --> 01:13:02,780
we took two taxis because
of all the luggage--

1290
01:13:02,780 --> 01:13:07,490
to the train station,
I turned around

1291
01:13:07,490 --> 01:13:11,615
and looked at the most
important monument in Darmstadt.

1292
01:13:11,615 --> 01:13:17,880
It was a huge column, the
Langer Ludwig, the Tall Ludewig,

1293
01:13:17,880 --> 01:13:21,800
which the place had been
called Luisenplatz--

1294
01:13:21,800 --> 01:13:25,170
it was Adolf Hitler Platz,
of course, by that time.

1295
01:13:25,170 --> 01:13:27,360
And I turned around to
look at it and said,

1296
01:13:27,360 --> 01:13:30,380
I will never see this again.

1297
01:13:30,380 --> 01:13:34,160
But I also-- at
the wise age of 11,

1298
01:13:34,160 --> 01:13:37,400
said, and you've
got to remember it.

1299
01:13:37,400 --> 01:13:40,910
And I have to say, they
invited me to come back,

1300
01:13:40,910 --> 01:13:43,970
and I never went back.

1301
01:13:43,970 --> 01:13:48,200
I had the hope to
show my husband

1302
01:13:48,200 --> 01:13:49,970
where I came from,
because Darmstadt

1303
01:13:49,970 --> 01:13:52,280
was a very pretty city.

1304
01:13:52,280 --> 01:13:57,690
But it was bombed
extensively, so--

1305
01:13:57,690 --> 01:14:01,670
one of my sons,
the correspondent,

1306
01:14:01,670 --> 01:14:06,890
was sent by either ABC or
CBS to Germany at one point,

1307
01:14:06,890 --> 01:14:10,750
and he went through Darmstadt,
and he had the crew with him,

1308

01:14:10,750 --> 01:14:16,100

so they took pictures
for me of where we lived.

1309

01:14:16,100 --> 01:14:17,600

And of course the--

1310

01:14:17,600 --> 01:14:22,400

it's not-- it's
rebuilt differently.

1311

01:14:22,400 --> 01:14:28,790

But I had no urge at all and
no desire ever to go back.

1312

01:14:28,790 --> 01:14:31,790

We were very much
involved with [GERMAN],,

1313

01:14:31,790 --> 01:14:35,900

but that didn't solve anything.

1314

01:14:35,900 --> 01:14:39,530

What have I left out?

1315

01:14:39,530 --> 01:14:41,530

I think we're going
to do a pause here.

1316

01:14:41,530 --> 01:14:43,080

OK.