

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,890

2
00:00:00,890 --> 00:00:04,380
OK, this is a test
for the camera.

3
00:00:04,380 --> 00:00:06,270
Now we have a channel one.

4
00:00:06,270 --> 00:00:08,860
No, channel two
with the level here.

5
00:00:08,860 --> 00:00:13,980
And we will be checking
the TV and stuff.

6
00:00:13,980 --> 00:00:16,200
The TV's on.

7
00:00:16,200 --> 00:00:20,260
Now the monitor is no ring set.

8
00:00:20,260 --> 00:00:22,610
This looks like it's manual.

9
00:00:22,610 --> 00:00:24,490
OK.

10
00:00:24,490 --> 00:00:25,320
Manual.

11
00:00:25,320 --> 00:00:26,640
Now we have it.

12
00:00:26,640 --> 00:00:32,880
OK, now point it down to
here, see the dollies and cup.

13

00:00:32,880 --> 00:00:37,740
Now let me plug in the
microphone, which is number--

14
00:00:37,740 --> 00:00:39,100
the channel one mic.

15
00:00:39,100 --> 00:00:40,200
Hello.

16
00:00:40,200 --> 00:00:42,660
Hello, number one,
number two mics.

17
00:00:42,660 --> 00:00:44,580
Now we have two mics.

18
00:00:44,580 --> 00:00:53,715
And we are doing this just
to show what we need to show.

19
00:00:53,715 --> 00:00:56,330
OK, [? [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] ?]

20
00:00:56,330 --> 00:01:25,400

21
00:01:25,400 --> 00:01:28,360
OK, fine now.

22
00:01:28,360 --> 00:01:31,152
[? [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] ?]

23
00:01:31,152 --> 00:01:43,600

24
00:01:43,600 --> 00:01:46,805
This is [? automated. ?]
[INAUDIBLE] here focuses.

25
00:01:46,805 --> 00:01:49,460

26
00:01:49,460 --> 00:01:52,220
[? [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] ?]

27
00:01:52,220 --> 00:01:56,840

28
00:01:56,840 --> 00:01:58,720
This is it.

29
00:01:58,720 --> 00:02:01,430
Zoom in, one, two, three.

30
00:02:01,430 --> 00:02:03,780
[? [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] ?]

31
00:02:03,780 --> 00:02:41,716

32
00:02:41,716 --> 00:02:43,277
This is a United States--

33
00:02:43,277 --> 00:02:43,860
Give me a sec.

34
00:02:43,860 --> 00:02:45,520
[INAUDIBLE] OK.

35
00:02:45,520 --> 00:02:46,818
Could I come closer to you?

36
00:02:46,818 --> 00:02:47,610
No, no, no, no, no.

37
00:02:47,610 --> 00:02:48,330
You have to stay where you are.

38
00:02:48,330 --> 00:02:49,580
Because of this, uh-huh.

39

00:02:49,580 --> 00:02:50,580
OK.

40
00:02:50,580 --> 00:02:52,740
I will speak louder.

41
00:02:52,740 --> 00:02:56,850
This is a United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

42
00:02:56,850 --> 00:03:03,210
interview with Mr. Frank
Hyde on May 4, 2013.

43
00:03:03,210 --> 00:03:06,600
Thank you very much, Mr. Hyde
for agreeing to meet with us

44
00:03:06,600 --> 00:03:10,440
and talk with us about
your experiences.

45
00:03:10,440 --> 00:03:12,760
Well, it's a very
long experience.

46
00:03:12,760 --> 00:03:18,300
We were literally children when
all these happenings started.

47
00:03:18,300 --> 00:03:19,140
The bol--

48
00:03:19,140 --> 00:03:20,610
So I will start asking--

49
00:03:20,610 --> 00:03:21,250
Go ahead.

50
00:03:21,250 --> 00:03:21,540
--some questions.

51

00:03:21,540 --> 00:03:22,180
Go ahead.

52
00:03:22,180 --> 00:03:23,610
And we'll go from there.

53
00:03:23,610 --> 00:03:26,580
And I'll start at
the very beginning.

54
00:03:26,580 --> 00:03:30,900
Could you tell us where you
were born, when you were born,

55
00:03:30,900 --> 00:03:33,450
and if your name was
different at birth?

56
00:03:33,450 --> 00:03:34,410
Yes.

57
00:03:34,410 --> 00:03:40,760
I was born on August 8, 1921,
which is now 91 years ago.

58
00:03:40,760 --> 00:03:44,070
And my Czech name was Pekarek.

59
00:03:44,070 --> 00:03:45,160
Pekarek.

60
00:03:45,160 --> 00:03:47,610
P-E-K-A-R-E-K. Pekarek.

61
00:03:47,610 --> 00:03:48,350
OK.

62
00:03:48,350 --> 00:03:49,110
OK.

63
00:03:49,110 --> 00:03:50,750
That was my father's name.

64
00:03:50,750 --> 00:03:53,200
Naturally, it was my name.

65
00:03:53,200 --> 00:03:54,870
And should I continue?

66
00:03:54,870 --> 00:03:56,740
Yeah, what was his
name, first name?

67
00:03:56,740 --> 00:04:01,770
His name was H-U-G-O,
Hugo Pekarek.

68
00:04:01,770 --> 00:04:04,420
And the whole
family was Pekarek.

69
00:04:04,420 --> 00:04:09,000
I can show you some pictures
of a cousin of mine, Pekarek.

70
00:04:09,000 --> 00:04:11,990
And we changed it
only after the war.

71
00:04:11,990 --> 00:04:14,040
OK.

72
00:04:14,040 --> 00:04:15,748
When you were born,
what town were you

73
00:04:15,748 --> 00:04:17,290
born in, or what
place were you born?

74
00:04:17,290 --> 00:04:20,459
The capital of Czechoslovakia,
which was Prague.

75

00:04:20,459 --> 00:04:22,140
I was born in Prague.

76
00:04:22,140 --> 00:04:26,740
I was raised in Prague, until
the situation has changed.

77
00:04:26,740 --> 00:04:30,180
Can you tell me what part of
Prague, what section of Prague?

78
00:04:30,180 --> 00:04:33,620
I was born in the old
section of Prague,

79
00:04:33,620 --> 00:04:37,260
which was very similar to
what we call in New York

80
00:04:37,260 --> 00:04:41,430
the Lower East Side of New York.

81
00:04:41,430 --> 00:04:44,520
Remember, that is was
1921 when I was born.

82
00:04:44,520 --> 00:04:49,110
So the buildings were
usually four flights up.

83
00:04:49,110 --> 00:04:51,900
The more modern
building at the time

84
00:04:51,900 --> 00:04:56,060
had an elevator, not the
building I was born on.

85
00:04:56,060 --> 00:04:57,705
You had to walk the
four flights up.

86
00:04:57,705 --> 00:04:59,280

We were living on the top floor.

87

00:04:59,280 --> 00:05:00,250

Mm-hmm.

88

00:05:00,250 --> 00:05:02,100

Why we were living
on that top floor?

89

00:05:02,100 --> 00:05:06,420

Because when my mother
married my father,

90

00:05:06,420 --> 00:05:10,000

her mother was living in that
apartment, and in those days,

91

00:05:10,000 --> 00:05:12,150

people were living together.

92

00:05:12,150 --> 00:05:14,110

So we were born
in that apartment

93

00:05:14,110 --> 00:05:17,790

where my actually grandmother
was already living.

94

00:05:17,790 --> 00:05:18,290

So tell--

95

00:05:18,290 --> 00:05:20,490

And that was on
the fourth floor.

96

00:05:20,490 --> 00:05:21,850

Do you remember the address?

97

00:05:21,850 --> 00:05:22,350

Sure.

98

00:05:22,350 --> 00:05:23,370

What is it?

99

00:05:23,370 --> 00:05:25,630

I have to say the way
it sounds in Czech.

100

00:05:25,630 --> 00:05:26,130

Sure.

101

00:05:26,130 --> 00:05:31,530

The number was 11, and the
street was called Bilkova.

102

00:05:31,530 --> 00:05:37,930

That's B like in boy,
I-L-K-O-V-A, Bilkova Ulice.

103

00:05:37,930 --> 00:05:39,285

Ulice is street.

104

00:05:39,285 --> 00:05:42,060

And was it in the
center of town then?

105

00:05:42,060 --> 00:05:45,420

Very much so, yes, in the
old section of Prague.

106

00:05:45,420 --> 00:05:47,970

Was it near the cemetery,
the old Jewish cemetery?

107

00:05:47,970 --> 00:05:51,210

There was a Jewish cath--

108

00:05:51,210 --> 00:05:53,460

I wouldn't call it cathedral.

109

00:05:53,460 --> 00:05:55,740

There was a Jewish
section very close, yes.

110

00:05:55,740 --> 00:05:57,600

On the next street,
so to speak, we

111

00:05:57,600 --> 00:06:00,240

had to go say Jewish holidays.

112

00:06:00,240 --> 00:06:02,640

In particular, we used
to walk with my father,

113

00:06:02,640 --> 00:06:06,180

I remember very
well, to the temple.

114

00:06:06,180 --> 00:06:07,980

So the temple was,
you would say,

115

00:06:07,980 --> 00:06:13,410

like you cross the Main Street,
which was called after Paris,

116

00:06:13,410 --> 00:06:15,120

the town in France.

117

00:06:15,120 --> 00:06:16,785

So the street was Paris--

118

00:06:16,785 --> 00:06:17,910

How do you say it in Czech?

119

00:06:17,910 --> 00:06:19,993

Of course in Czech, it
sounded different than when

120

00:06:19,993 --> 00:06:21,290

I say it in English.

121

00:06:21,290 --> 00:06:24,300

But the name was
still the town, Paris.

122

00:06:24,300 --> 00:06:26,120

What was the Czech version?

123

00:06:26,120 --> 00:06:28,120

How do you say it in--

what was the street name?

124

00:06:28,120 --> 00:06:28,620

ParizskÃ½.

125

00:06:28,620 --> 00:06:29,550

Pariz.

126

00:06:29,550 --> 00:06:33,760

Paris in English

is Pariz in Czech.

127

00:06:33,760 --> 00:06:34,760

OK, so it was ParizskÃ½.

128

00:06:34,760 --> 00:06:36,035

ParizskÃ½ Ulice, yes.

129

00:06:36,035 --> 00:06:36,660

ParizskÃ½ Ulice.

130

00:06:36,660 --> 00:06:38,530

And when you cross

that street, there

131

00:06:38,530 --> 00:06:41,940

was that old section which

was the Jewish section

132

00:06:41,940 --> 00:06:45,750

with a Jewish temple,

Jewish synagogue, and very

133

00:06:45,750 --> 00:06:48,240

small cemetery,

because we was in town.

134

00:06:48,240 --> 00:06:48,820

Mm-hmm.

135

00:06:48,820 --> 00:06:52,660

So the cemetery was not bigger
than this room where we sit.

136

00:06:52,660 --> 00:06:54,690

But that's where usually
the Jewish people

137

00:06:54,690 --> 00:06:57,810

congregated on holidays.

138

00:06:57,810 --> 00:07:03,100

I don't think were exceptionally
Jewish or religious, no.

139

00:07:03,100 --> 00:07:06,510

But there were holy days where
my father, whatever, he wanted

140

00:07:06,510 --> 00:07:08,100

to show his son or whatever.

141

00:07:08,100 --> 00:07:13,350

So we went to the temple and
spent some time in the temple.

142

00:07:13,350 --> 00:07:15,880

When I was 13, I was--

143

00:07:15,880 --> 00:07:16,910

I had bar mitzvah.

144

00:07:16,910 --> 00:07:19,230

Mm-hmm.

145

00:07:19,230 --> 00:07:22,240

But then because of
the circumstances

146

00:07:22,240 --> 00:07:30,076
which unfortunately started, you
were not so proud to be Jewish.

147

00:07:30,076 --> 00:07:33,210
It was always a handicap,
so to speak, in my life.

148

00:07:33,210 --> 00:07:35,250
Even in Czechoslovakia
before Hitler came?

149

00:07:35,250 --> 00:07:37,590
No, before Hitler came,
everything was normal.

150

00:07:37,590 --> 00:07:39,970
Nobody cared whether you
are Jewish or Catholic

151

00:07:39,970 --> 00:07:41,520
or-- at my age.

152

00:07:41,520 --> 00:07:44,610
The only question-- we used
to play soccer, because soccer

153

00:07:44,610 --> 00:07:46,710
was the sport in Europe.

154

00:07:46,710 --> 00:07:49,380
So the question was only,
what position did you play?

155

00:07:49,380 --> 00:07:54,025
Nobody asked about religion
or where you came from or--

156

00:07:54,025 --> 00:07:56,055
it was not a subject
to talk about.

157

00:07:56,055 --> 00:08:00,590

You were Czech, the Czech name,
and Czech as anybody else.

158

00:08:00,590 --> 00:08:03,480

And no, that was not an issue.

159

00:08:03,480 --> 00:08:06,900

As much as I remember,
it was not an issue

160

00:08:06,900 --> 00:08:08,340

when you were growing up.

161

00:08:08,340 --> 00:08:09,750

In your life, it wasn't.

162

00:08:09,750 --> 00:08:10,890

In my life, yes.

163

00:08:10,890 --> 00:08:12,400

I'm talking about my life, yes.

164

00:08:12,400 --> 00:08:12,990

OK.

165

00:08:12,990 --> 00:08:16,400

Very gradually, the
situation has changed.

166

00:08:16,400 --> 00:08:17,025

May I continue?

167

00:08:17,025 --> 00:08:21,420

No, because I'm going
to ask questions.

168

00:08:21,420 --> 00:08:23,340

In the beginning
of the interview--

169

00:08:23,340 --> 00:08:25,980

170
00:08:25,980 --> 00:08:28,930
I want to establish the
world you were born into.

171
00:08:28,930 --> 00:08:31,850
So I ask about the
people that you knew.

172
00:08:31,850 --> 00:08:34,350
And we've talked a little
bit about your father.

173
00:08:34,350 --> 00:08:36,070
I want to know more about him.

174
00:08:36,070 --> 00:08:39,299
I want to know about your
mother, any other siblings.

175
00:08:39,299 --> 00:08:41,345
So if you will allow,
I will ask questions--

176
00:08:41,345 --> 00:08:42,220
--I clearly tell you.

177
00:08:42,220 --> 00:08:45,210
Well, I had a sister who
was three years older.

178
00:08:45,210 --> 00:08:47,250
What was her name?

179
00:08:47,250 --> 00:08:51,450
[? Mariva. ?] We were
calling her Mimi, M-I-M-I.

180
00:08:51,450 --> 00:08:53,990
There was a brother
who I have never met.

181

00:08:53,990 --> 00:08:58,530

He passed away of some
kind of a child disease.

182

00:08:58,530 --> 00:09:03,480

My parents-- my mother
was born in 1892.

183

00:09:03,480 --> 00:09:06,480

My, father 1878.

184

00:09:06,480 --> 00:09:08,620

They were 14 years apart.

185

00:09:08,620 --> 00:09:12,040

But in those days,
people were at home.

186

00:09:12,040 --> 00:09:14,670

My mother was always
at home cooking.

187

00:09:14,670 --> 00:09:16,770

What was her name?

188

00:09:16,770 --> 00:09:18,840

I-D-A, Ida.

189

00:09:18,840 --> 00:09:19,520

Ida.

190

00:09:19,520 --> 00:09:19,710

And her maiden name?

191

00:09:19,710 --> 00:09:21,418

And actually in Czech,
that was her name.

192

00:09:21,418 --> 00:09:22,290

Yeah.

193

00:09:22,290 --> 00:09:27,210
And the way I remember my
mother, she was always cooking.

194
00:09:27,210 --> 00:09:31,230
The main dish was lunch, not
like in the United States.

195
00:09:31,230 --> 00:09:33,390
The distances were
different, so people

196
00:09:33,390 --> 00:09:35,945
were eating lunch at home.

197
00:09:35,945 --> 00:09:37,320
And in the evening,
it was always

198
00:09:37,320 --> 00:09:39,770
something which they
either warmed up

199
00:09:39,770 --> 00:09:42,900
or something special,
some sausage or something,

200
00:09:42,900 --> 00:09:48,510
which was the thing which people
ate in Prague at that time.

201
00:09:48,510 --> 00:09:51,810
My father was-- he
was representing

202
00:09:51,810 --> 00:09:56,220
a factory which produced
sweaters, cardigans

203
00:09:56,220 --> 00:09:58,580
and stuff like that.

204
00:09:58,580 --> 00:10:04,920

Prague, Czechoslovakia is a
in reasonably cold setting.

205
00:10:04,920 --> 00:10:09,300
If you wanted to really get
warm, so to speak, you had to--

206
00:10:09,300 --> 00:10:09,900
not fly.

207
00:10:09,900 --> 00:10:11,360
There was no planes.

208
00:10:11,360 --> 00:10:15,460
You had to travel down
to Italy through Austria,

209
00:10:15,460 --> 00:10:19,800
and that's where the warm
weather was existing.

210
00:10:19,800 --> 00:10:23,675
But coming back to my family,
so my father came home usually

211
00:10:23,675 --> 00:10:24,300
in the evening.

212
00:10:24,300 --> 00:10:25,530
We had dinner--

213
00:10:25,530 --> 00:10:28,860
I mean, what we had for
dinner, he had for dinner.

214
00:10:28,860 --> 00:10:30,960
And everything was normal.

215
00:10:30,960 --> 00:10:33,090
It was a very normal life.

216
00:10:33,090 --> 00:10:36,330

My mother-- now it might
sound strange here,

217
00:10:36,330 --> 00:10:39,360
because everything is
pre-cooked and pre-packed

218
00:10:39,360 --> 00:10:40,930
and stuff like that.

219
00:10:40,930 --> 00:10:46,560
But one night, I remember
there was a bed in the kitchen.

220
00:10:46,560 --> 00:10:49,680
And I was a very
sick child somehow,

221
00:10:49,680 --> 00:10:54,330
so I was very much staying
in the bed during daytime.

222
00:10:54,330 --> 00:10:57,180
And I remember my mother
when she was making pasta,

223
00:10:57,180 --> 00:11:00,650
where the pasta had to
be made from scratch.

224
00:11:00,650 --> 00:11:02,580
Eggs and butter,
well, she put in.

225
00:11:02,580 --> 00:11:04,740
And I only remember,
but it was on a plate,

226
00:11:04,740 --> 00:11:06,520
and she was cutting it.

227
00:11:06,520 --> 00:11:09,780
And what did you

call it in Czech?

228

00:11:09,780 --> 00:11:10,315

The pasta?

229

00:11:10,315 --> 00:11:10,815

Uh-huh.

230

00:11:10,815 --> 00:11:13,430

231

00:11:13,430 --> 00:11:15,780

It escapes the word.

232

00:11:15,780 --> 00:11:18,540

How would you call pasta?

233

00:11:18,540 --> 00:11:19,540

It will come back to me.

234

00:11:19,540 --> 00:11:20,060

OK.

235

00:11:20,060 --> 00:11:24,330

Somehow lately, when I want to say something, I miss the word

236

00:11:24,330 --> 00:11:25,865

and then it comes back.

237

00:11:25,865 --> 00:11:27,060

Yeah.

238

00:11:27,060 --> 00:11:30,150

But that's how she was making the pasta which

239

00:11:30,150 --> 00:11:31,798

went into the soup.

240

00:11:31,798 --> 00:11:32,298

Yeah.

241

00:11:32,298 --> 00:11:35,310

And well, that's how

I remember my mother.

242

00:11:35,310 --> 00:11:35,820

Then--

243

00:11:35,820 --> 00:11:37,790

And now it's a delicacy.

244

00:11:37,790 --> 00:11:38,290

That was--

245

00:11:38,290 --> 00:11:39,240

Homemade food is a delicacy.

246

00:11:39,240 --> 00:11:40,805

The grocery store

was downstairs,

247

00:11:40,805 --> 00:11:45,110

but to buy pasta in a grocer's--

248

00:11:45,110 --> 00:11:46,730

[CZECH] Couldn't

think of the word.

249

00:11:46,730 --> 00:11:48,632

Well, it's something

you didn't hear for--

250

00:11:48,632 --> 00:11:49,132

Yeah, yeah.

251

00:11:49,132 --> 00:11:55,410

[LAUGHS] I'm out of

Czechoslovakia since 1948.

252

00:11:55,410 --> 00:12:00,150

So we're talking about

52 plus 13, 65 years.

253

00:12:00,150 --> 00:12:03,180
So to remember all of a sudden
a word which you have not

254

00:12:03,180 --> 00:12:04,180
heard for--

255

00:12:04,180 --> 00:12:04,680
So many--

256

00:12:04,680 --> 00:12:07,630
--60 odd years is very
difficult to remember.

257

00:12:07,630 --> 00:12:08,340
Yeah.

258

00:12:08,340 --> 00:12:09,770
But this is how it was.

259

00:12:09,770 --> 00:12:13,080
And I remember my
mother after lunch,

260

00:12:13,080 --> 00:12:15,720
everything had to be
spotless and cleaned.

261

00:12:15,720 --> 00:12:18,590
And God beware if
something was on the floor.

262

00:12:18,590 --> 00:12:20,835
It had to be
polished and was a--

263

00:12:20,835 --> 00:12:22,340
Did she have any help at home?

264

00:12:22,340 --> 00:12:23,090

Sorry?

265

00:12:23,090 --> 00:12:26,000

Did she have any help at home,
or did she do this all herself?

266

00:12:26,000 --> 00:12:28,175

She was doing it by herself.

267

00:12:28,175 --> 00:12:29,600

It was non-existent.

268

00:12:29,600 --> 00:12:32,750

In the afternoon-- we
were kids, like I said.

269

00:12:32,750 --> 00:12:37,580

So in the afternoon, we went to
a certain spot on the mountain.

270

00:12:37,580 --> 00:12:40,430

There was a mountain near by.

271

00:12:40,430 --> 00:12:42,770

The boys played
soccer, of course.

272

00:12:42,770 --> 00:12:44,970

I don't remember what
my sister was doing,

273

00:12:44,970 --> 00:12:46,470

whether she was there too.

274

00:12:46,470 --> 00:12:48,510

But she was three years older.

275

00:12:48,510 --> 00:12:50,510

What do you mean--

276

00:12:50,510 --> 00:12:53,590

by mountain, do you

mean a hilly area?

277

00:12:53,590 --> 00:12:55,050

Would you be talking about--

278

00:12:55,050 --> 00:12:55,790

Well, yes.

279

00:12:55,790 --> 00:12:59,500

It was not really a very hilly
area, but there was-- yes.

280

00:12:59,500 --> 00:13:01,140

Is this Vysehrad?

281

00:13:01,140 --> 00:13:01,640

Sorry?

282

00:13:01,640 --> 00:13:03,160

Is this Vysehrad?

283

00:13:03,160 --> 00:13:05,180

Vysehrad, no.

284

00:13:05,180 --> 00:13:09,250

What I'm talking about was
Letna, L-E-T-N-A, Letna,

285

00:13:09,250 --> 00:13:09,830

now Letna.

286

00:13:09,830 --> 00:13:10,330

OK.

287

00:13:10,330 --> 00:13:14,090

And there was a coffee shop in
this, where the women gathered.

288

00:13:14,090 --> 00:13:14,900

They were talking.

289

00:13:14,900 --> 00:13:16,880

Whatever they were talking
about, I don't know,

290

00:13:16,880 --> 00:13:19,010

but we were talking about
soccer, playing soccer.

291

00:13:19,010 --> 00:13:19,980

Of course.

292

00:13:19,980 --> 00:13:22,310

Then we went home,
evening, and then

293

00:13:22,310 --> 00:13:24,800

you had the dinner at home.

294

00:13:24,800 --> 00:13:26,380

That was summertime.

295

00:13:26,380 --> 00:13:30,260

Wintertime, well, wintertime,
you went somewhere to skate.

296

00:13:30,260 --> 00:13:34,550

Now in those days, we didn't
have a ice skating stadium,

297

00:13:34,550 --> 00:13:38,740

but because it was a
cold country, the tennis

298

00:13:38,740 --> 00:13:41,420

courts which were used--

299

00:13:41,420 --> 00:13:43,200

they just put water on it.

300

00:13:43,200 --> 00:13:45,805

They froze because
of the cold weather.

301

00:13:45,805 --> 00:13:47,180

And then during
the day, you went

302

00:13:47,180 --> 00:13:49,050

to skate on a tennis court.

303

00:13:49,050 --> 00:13:50,670

Now it was not
tennis court for us.

304

00:13:50,670 --> 00:13:52,990

We were calling it
ice skating rink.

305

00:13:52,990 --> 00:13:53,490

Of course.

306

00:13:53,490 --> 00:13:54,130

Of course.

307

00:13:54,130 --> 00:13:58,280

But that's how life used to be.

308

00:13:58,280 --> 00:14:00,950

Your parents, I'd like
to know a little bit

309

00:14:00,950 --> 00:14:03,110

about their personalities.

310

00:14:03,110 --> 00:14:06,080

What kind-- was your father
outgoing, an extrovert,

311

00:14:06,080 --> 00:14:07,010

an introvert?

312

00:14:07,010 --> 00:14:07,580

No.

313

00:14:07,580 --> 00:14:08,840

I think he was--

314

00:14:08,840 --> 00:14:11,480

I remember the place
where he used to go,

315

00:14:11,480 --> 00:14:14,360

what they used to
call coffee shop.

316

00:14:14,360 --> 00:14:17,860

And I remember at that
time, that coffee shop,

317

00:14:17,860 --> 00:14:21,860

when he took me to see or
whatever, it was so terribly

318

00:14:21,860 --> 00:14:22,760

full of smoke.

319

00:14:22,760 --> 00:14:24,860

It was in those days
people were smoking.

320

00:14:24,860 --> 00:14:28,430

Irrespective of health or
whatever, they were smoking.

321

00:14:28,430 --> 00:14:31,970

So when I went with my
father to that room,

322

00:14:31,970 --> 00:14:35,570

the thing what impressed
me most, my memory,

323

00:14:35,570 --> 00:14:37,550

was the terrible smoke.

324

00:14:37,550 --> 00:14:40,070

And you know, he

introduced me to his people

325

00:14:40,070 --> 00:14:42,650

who were playing cards with
him and stuff like that.

326

00:14:42,650 --> 00:14:45,770

And then most likely,
my mother picked me up,

327

00:14:45,770 --> 00:14:48,430

and we went wherever we went.

328

00:14:48,430 --> 00:14:49,460

Did--

329

00:14:49,460 --> 00:14:52,490

No, he was not a extra--

330

00:14:52,490 --> 00:14:54,510

he was a regular
father, in my opinion.

331

00:14:54,510 --> 00:14:55,550

Uh-huh.

332

00:14:55,550 --> 00:14:59,810

Unfortunately, what
happened later, naturally--

333

00:14:59,810 --> 00:15:01,130

I shouldn't say split.

334

00:15:01,130 --> 00:15:04,910

The circumstances
split us, because I

335

00:15:04,910 --> 00:15:07,790

got married very young.

336

00:15:07,790 --> 00:15:09,420

Can I dwell on the subject?

337
00:15:09,420 --> 00:15:10,388
We'll come to that.

338
00:15:10,388 --> 00:15:11,180
We'll come to that.

339
00:15:11,180 --> 00:15:14,650

340
00:15:14,650 --> 00:15:17,330
Were you closer to one
parent or the other?

341
00:15:17,330 --> 00:15:20,670
Well, I think as a boy, I
was closer to my mother, yes.

342
00:15:20,670 --> 00:15:21,170
OK.

343
00:15:21,170 --> 00:15:23,420
I remember very distinctly
as a little boy,

344
00:15:23,420 --> 00:15:24,515
we used to go shopping.

345
00:15:24,515 --> 00:15:27,110

346
00:15:27,110 --> 00:15:30,100
The Main Street was
called VÄclavskÄ nÄmÄstÄ .

347
00:15:30,100 --> 00:15:32,450
I don't know if you heard
it from some other person.

348
00:15:32,450 --> 00:15:33,740
I've lived in Prague.

349

00:15:33,740 --> 00:15:34,910

Oh, you did live in Prague.

350

00:15:34,910 --> 00:15:36,702

Well, then you know
what I'm talking about.

351

00:15:36,702 --> 00:15:38,180

Yeah, VĀĵclavskĀ© nĀĵmĀ›stĀ.

352

00:15:38,180 --> 00:15:41,960

From VĀĵclavskĀ© nĀĵmĀ›stĀ when
somehow a small street,

353

00:15:41,960 --> 00:15:44,840

and there was a butcher store.

354

00:15:44,840 --> 00:15:47,330

But he wasn't selling raw meat.

355

00:15:47,330 --> 00:15:50,980

It was more like a
salami type of a place.

356

00:15:50,980 --> 00:15:53,600

And I remember with my mother,
I stopped there with her

357

00:15:53,600 --> 00:15:59,690

of course, and we bought pork,
which was spec-- the Czech--

358

00:15:59,690 --> 00:16:03,130

one of the main dishes
in Prague was pork.

359

00:16:03,130 --> 00:16:06,680

And pork was not like here.

360

00:16:06,680 --> 00:16:10,370

People don't eat pork, and
I don't eat it now either.

361
00:16:10,370 --> 00:16:12,080
Every day I have fish.

362
00:16:12,080 --> 00:16:15,600
But that changed over the time.

363
00:16:15,600 --> 00:16:20,450
But back at that time
when I was maybe 13,

364
00:16:20,450 --> 00:16:23,750
15 I remember that I
went with my mother.

365
00:16:23,750 --> 00:16:26,840
Whatever she was doing on
that VÃ¼clavskÃ© nÃ¡mÃ©stÃ© I

366
00:16:26,840 --> 00:16:27,620
don't remember.

367
00:16:27,620 --> 00:16:32,030
But we went down south, and
there was that butcher store

368
00:16:32,030 --> 00:16:35,720
where we stopped by, and we
had some bite of whatever

369
00:16:35,720 --> 00:16:37,520
and go to head back home.

370
00:16:37,520 --> 00:16:39,200
So you would--

371
00:16:39,200 --> 00:16:44,480
So she was closer to
me than my father.

372
00:16:44,480 --> 00:16:46,940
But if you ate pork, that

means that your parents

373

00:16:46,940 --> 00:16:49,220
didn't observe the dietary--

374

00:16:49,220 --> 00:16:51,380
your parents didn't
observe the dietary laws.

375

00:16:51,380 --> 00:16:52,660
Not at all, no.

376

00:16:52,660 --> 00:16:54,240
No, no.

377

00:16:54,240 --> 00:16:56,210
We were born Jewish, yes.

378

00:16:56,210 --> 00:17:00,410
But it was not like that we
had a Jewish household, no.

379

00:17:00,410 --> 00:17:00,920
OK.

380

00:17:00,920 --> 00:17:03,200
It was a regular household.

381

00:17:03,200 --> 00:17:05,060
Nobody asked these questions.

382

00:17:05,060 --> 00:17:07,400
That's how everybody was living.

383

00:17:07,400 --> 00:17:08,900
When you came to the build--

384

00:17:08,900 --> 00:17:12,609
call it, building
house on a regular day,

385

00:17:12,609 --> 00:17:16,619
but especially
Saturday, the house

386
00:17:16,619 --> 00:17:20,280
smelled like a restaurant,
because everybody

387
00:17:20,280 --> 00:17:22,300
was cooking the same thing.

388
00:17:22,300 --> 00:17:24,540
We were doing the same
thing like our neighbors,

389
00:17:24,540 --> 00:17:27,329
whether they were Jewish
or Christians or whatever.

390
00:17:27,329 --> 00:17:30,210
That was not a subject to--

391
00:17:30,210 --> 00:17:32,870
nobody cared about this.

392
00:17:32,870 --> 00:17:33,730
Did--

393
00:17:33,730 --> 00:17:35,608
I'm talking about when
I was a small boy.

394
00:17:35,608 --> 00:17:36,150
I understand.

395
00:17:36,150 --> 00:17:38,370
I don't know it
developed later on.

396
00:17:38,370 --> 00:17:40,730
Of course.

397

00:17:40,730 --> 00:17:43,330
Well, Czechoslovakia
was a new country at--

398
00:17:43,330 --> 00:17:43,830
Yes.

399
00:17:43,830 --> 00:17:44,340
--the time.

400
00:17:44,340 --> 00:17:48,010
It was originally 1918.

401
00:17:48,010 --> 00:17:53,610
And was there a great feeling of
patriotism because it was fin--

402
00:17:53,610 --> 00:17:56,250
was there a great feeling of
patriotism because it was--

403
00:17:56,250 --> 00:17:56,875
Oh, definitely.

404
00:17:56,875 --> 00:17:58,083
Because it was a new country?

405
00:17:58,083 --> 00:17:58,620
Definitely.

406
00:17:58,620 --> 00:18:00,660
Not only that, but
our constitution

407
00:18:00,660 --> 00:18:03,760
was identical to
the US Constitution,

408
00:18:03,760 --> 00:18:09,630
because the United States
President at the time, Wilson,

409

00:18:09,630 --> 00:18:14,700
was very instrumental of
carving out Czechoslovakia.

410
00:18:14,700 --> 00:18:16,630
You would have to know
more about the history,

411
00:18:16,630 --> 00:18:19,800
but Europe was occu--
no, I shouldn't

412
00:18:19,800 --> 00:18:25,590
say occupied-- say, ruled by
the Austrian Hungarian Empire.

413
00:18:25,590 --> 00:18:26,190
Yes.

414
00:18:26,190 --> 00:18:30,420
And that was the house of the
Habsburgs, king of Habsburgs

415
00:18:30,420 --> 00:18:31,870
or whatever he was, emperor.

416
00:18:31,870 --> 00:18:33,750
I don't remember that part.

417
00:18:33,750 --> 00:18:38,460
And anything-- the language
was much more German,

418
00:18:38,460 --> 00:18:43,830
because the Czechs were part
of that Austrian empire.

419
00:18:43,830 --> 00:18:49,190
But then one of the principal
politicians of the time,

420
00:18:49,190 --> 00:18:52,530
Masaryk, he petitioned.

421
00:18:52,530 --> 00:18:56,420
He came here, and
he petitioned Wilson

422
00:18:56,420 --> 00:19:00,360
and, I don't know who came
after him or before him,

423
00:19:00,360 --> 00:19:04,070
to give the Czechs the
self-determination right.

424
00:19:04,070 --> 00:19:04,680
Yeah.

425
00:19:04,680 --> 00:19:08,010
So they carved out of
that Austrian empire

426
00:19:08,010 --> 00:19:12,930
after World-- during World
War I, Czechoslovakia.

427
00:19:12,930 --> 00:19:15,750
There was no
Czechoslovakia before.

428
00:19:15,750 --> 00:19:20,760
The state was called Bohemia,
Moravia, and Silesia.

429
00:19:20,760 --> 00:19:23,700
Those were three states
which were, so to speak,

430
00:19:23,700 --> 00:19:26,350
the bone of Czechoslovakia.

431
00:19:26,350 --> 00:19:29,240
So when apparently,
here or there,

432

00:19:29,240 --> 00:19:32,670

when they realize it's too
small to be independent,

433

00:19:32,670 --> 00:19:36,330

somehow they attached
Slovakia to it.

434

00:19:36,330 --> 00:19:39,360

And that's why it
became Czechoslovakia,

435

00:19:39,360 --> 00:19:40,920

the original three states--

436

00:19:40,920 --> 00:19:41,790

I see.

437

00:19:41,790 --> 00:19:44,950

--and then another two
or three states to the--

438

00:19:44,950 --> 00:19:47,078

when I say to the left--

439

00:19:47,078 --> 00:19:48,120

To the east a little bit.

440

00:19:48,120 --> 00:19:50,460

To the right, to
east, so to speak.

441

00:19:50,460 --> 00:19:51,400

Yeah.

442

00:19:51,400 --> 00:19:55,350

So the very eastern
part of Czechoslovakia

443

00:19:55,350 --> 00:19:57,650

was very close to Russia.

444

00:19:57,650 --> 00:20:03,480

And that's why also, later
on during World War II,

445

00:20:03,480 --> 00:20:09,635

Czechoslovakia was ceded to the
Russian sphere of influence.

446

00:20:09,635 --> 00:20:11,010

We'll come to those things.

447

00:20:11,010 --> 00:20:11,210

We'll-

448

00:20:11,210 --> 00:20:12,168

Well, that's the truth.

449

00:20:12,168 --> 00:20:15,010

450

00:20:15,010 --> 00:20:17,667

So tell me a little
bit about school life.

451

00:20:17,667 --> 00:20:18,250

When did you--

452

00:20:18,250 --> 00:20:18,970

The schools?

453

00:20:18,970 --> 00:20:19,870

Your school life.

454

00:20:19,870 --> 00:20:21,810

What kind of school
did you go to?

455

00:20:21,810 --> 00:20:24,674

I went to a German school,
because in Czechoslovakia

456

00:20:24,674 --> 00:20:27,490
at that time, there
was no Czechoslovakia.

457
00:20:27,490 --> 00:20:30,960
So when Czechoslovakia was
founded, just like here,

458
00:20:30,960 --> 00:20:33,510
you have a better chance to
get a position when you speak

459
00:20:33,510 --> 00:20:36,060
Spanish and certainly English.

460
00:20:36,060 --> 00:20:40,180
So then my mother, I remember
her saying all the time,

461
00:20:40,180 --> 00:20:41,820
whatever you want
to do in life, you

462
00:20:41,820 --> 00:20:44,310
have to talk Czech,
which was our language,

463
00:20:44,310 --> 00:20:47,040
but you have to learn German.

464
00:20:47,040 --> 00:20:50,130
So I went to a German school.

465
00:20:50,130 --> 00:20:53,295
Did you speak-- at home,
I want to establish,

466
00:20:53,295 --> 00:20:54,420
you spoke Czech with your--

467
00:20:54,420 --> 00:20:55,220
Czech-- sure.

468
00:20:55,220 --> 00:20:55,920
OK.

469
00:20:55,920 --> 00:20:58,140
Did your parents
know Yiddish at all?

470
00:20:58,140 --> 00:20:59,130
Not at all.

471
00:20:59,130 --> 00:21:02,490
The first time I heard Yiddish,
you would not believe it,

472
00:21:02,490 --> 00:21:05,370
when I was going to Auschwitz.

473
00:21:05,370 --> 00:21:07,230
I never heard of Yiddish.

474
00:21:07,230 --> 00:21:09,630
There was Czech or German.

475
00:21:09,630 --> 00:21:11,280
Now if you didn't
speak well German,

476
00:21:11,280 --> 00:21:13,980
maybe had some kind of
a mishmash of German,

477
00:21:13,980 --> 00:21:15,480
but not Yiddish.

478
00:21:15,480 --> 00:21:17,400
My friends they was all Czechs.

479
00:21:17,400 --> 00:21:21,060
I mean, who spoke
anything else but Czech?

480

00:21:21,060 --> 00:21:24,240
Did you know anything
of your family history

481
00:21:24,240 --> 00:21:26,660
beyond your father
and mother and--

482
00:21:26,660 --> 00:21:29,100
Yes.

483
00:21:29,100 --> 00:21:35,816
Somehow my father used to say
that his family came from--

484
00:21:35,816 --> 00:21:40,080
that would be west-- from
the southwest of Bohemia.

485
00:21:40,080 --> 00:21:45,510
And he thought that his
ancestors were Catholics,

486
00:21:45,510 --> 00:21:51,620
but there was all kinds
of reforms going on under,

487
00:21:51,620 --> 00:21:55,290
not Martin Luther King here,
but the original Luther.

488
00:21:55,290 --> 00:21:55,830
Right.

489
00:21:55,830 --> 00:21:58,350
And there was also
somebody in Prague

490
00:21:58,350 --> 00:22:01,380
by the name of Jan Hus, H-U-S.

491
00:22:01,380 --> 00:22:02,310
Yes.

492
00:22:02,310 --> 00:22:05,540
So there was a certain
split in the religion.

493
00:22:05,540 --> 00:22:06,985
And certainly
within Catholicism.

494
00:22:06,985 --> 00:22:07,610
That's correct.

495
00:22:07,610 --> 00:22:08,402
In the middle ages.

496
00:22:08,402 --> 00:22:11,010
And he thinks that
instead of choosing

497
00:22:11,010 --> 00:22:15,940
the sides between the two
split Czech Catholic religion,

498
00:22:15,940 --> 00:22:18,930
that they chose the
Jewish religion.

499
00:22:18,930 --> 00:22:21,750
This is why our
name is not Jewish.

500
00:22:21,750 --> 00:22:26,910
Our name-- the Jewish,
let's say, names in Prague,

501
00:22:26,910 --> 00:22:29,790
they were the Feldmans,
like my wife's single name

502
00:22:29,790 --> 00:22:31,830
or the Schwarzkopf,
just like here.

503

00:22:31,830 --> 00:22:34,170

They were like more
Germanic names.

504

00:22:34,170 --> 00:22:34,870

Exactly.

505

00:22:34,870 --> 00:22:37,410

Now we look here, if
somebody's called Schwarzkopf,

506

00:22:37,410 --> 00:22:39,630

you know he's somehow Jewish.

507

00:22:39,630 --> 00:22:40,350

Or German.

508

00:22:40,350 --> 00:22:41,145

Or German.

509

00:22:41,145 --> 00:22:41,850

That's right.

510

00:22:41,850 --> 00:22:43,770

Well, that was
exactly in Prague.

511

00:22:43,770 --> 00:22:49,280

So to know somebody by the
name of Pekarek and be Jewish,

512

00:22:49,280 --> 00:22:51,660

that didn't exist.

513

00:22:51,660 --> 00:22:54,420

And I will tell you a small
story when I was a kid

514

00:22:54,420 --> 00:22:58,650

and I went to the German
school not speaking German.

515

00:22:58,650 --> 00:23:01,080

But I remember that my teacher--

516

00:23:01,080 --> 00:23:03,150

that was the first

grade, second grade.

517

00:23:03,150 --> 00:23:06,330

I was, what, six,

seven years old.

518

00:23:06,330 --> 00:23:09,450

Somehow there was some

question about religion,

519

00:23:09,450 --> 00:23:11,760

and she assigned

me to the class--

520

00:23:11,760 --> 00:23:15,150

or to the time to have

religious schooling

521

00:23:15,150 --> 00:23:18,850

to the Catholic class,

because of the Czech name.

522

00:23:18,850 --> 00:23:22,520

Well, I didn't speak any German,

but somehow I objected to it,

523

00:23:22,520 --> 00:23:25,060

and I said that I was Jewish.

524

00:23:25,060 --> 00:23:27,150

So she sent me to the

Jewish class or whatever.

525

00:23:27,150 --> 00:23:33,150

But I remember, the name, that

was not a Jewish name at all.

526

00:23:33,150 --> 00:23:35,700
Now we were Jewish.

527
00:23:35,700 --> 00:23:38,370
We were born as Jewish people.

528
00:23:38,370 --> 00:23:41,340
But then, unfortunately,
what happened--

529
00:23:41,340 --> 00:23:45,600
I told you, I was not
a very proud Jew, no.

530
00:23:45,600 --> 00:23:47,340
Because everything
what happened was

531
00:23:47,340 --> 00:23:49,830
because of the Jewish faith.

532
00:23:49,830 --> 00:23:51,950
And lots of things have--

533
00:23:51,950 --> 00:23:52,930
maybe we come to it.

534
00:23:52,930 --> 00:23:53,430
Yes.

535
00:23:53,430 --> 00:23:54,120
We come--

536
00:23:54,120 --> 00:23:56,890
But so--

537
00:23:56,890 --> 00:23:57,390
I guess--

538
00:23:57,390 --> 00:24:00,100
The name I changed for
a different reason.

539
00:24:00,100 --> 00:24:00,600
OK.

540
00:24:00,600 --> 00:24:02,105
If you want me to tell you now--

541
00:24:02,105 --> 00:24:02,605
Yes--

542
00:24:02,605 --> 00:24:03,563
--I tell it to you now.

543
00:24:03,563 --> 00:24:04,226
Let's tell it.

544
00:24:04,226 --> 00:24:05,020
Tell it just once.

545
00:24:05,020 --> 00:24:08,490
Well, we were-- my
name was Pekarek.

546
00:24:08,490 --> 00:24:10,020
Pekarek.

547
00:24:10,020 --> 00:24:11,310
I married Georgine.

548
00:24:11,310 --> 00:24:14,310
She was Pekarek, of course.

549
00:24:14,310 --> 00:24:19,230
And then what happened--

550
00:24:19,230 --> 00:24:23,320
that was 1947, '48.

551
00:24:23,320 --> 00:24:28,720
At that time, the influence of
Soviet Russia was tremendous.

552
00:24:28,720 --> 00:24:29,530
Why?

553
00:24:29,530 --> 00:24:33,450
Because that goes to politics.

554
00:24:33,450 --> 00:24:38,460
The Czechs always felt that
the West let them down.

555
00:24:38,460 --> 00:24:41,535
The West means England,
not the United States.

556
00:24:41,535 --> 00:24:44,340
The United States was
out of this world.

557
00:24:44,340 --> 00:24:48,540
But England, France,
Russia, Italy,

558
00:24:48,540 --> 00:24:51,450
that instead of helping
the Czechs, so to speak,

559
00:24:51,450 --> 00:24:56,070
maintain their identity,
freedom, they let them down.

560
00:24:56,070 --> 00:24:59,220
And then in turn,
Hitler marched in,

561
00:24:59,220 --> 00:25:01,770
and the whole
situation has changed.

562
00:25:01,770 --> 00:25:05,050
So the Russian influence
was very strong.

563

00:25:05,050 --> 00:25:09,390

With Georgine and me,
we didn't care for it,

564

00:25:09,390 --> 00:25:14,520

because we have seen what happen
when you don't have freedom.

565

00:25:14,520 --> 00:25:16,440

We both survived Auschwitz.

566

00:25:16,440 --> 00:25:21,240

We came back in 1945, and
we were living in Prague

567

00:25:21,240 --> 00:25:26,460

as best as we could have
done it until '47, '48.

568

00:25:26,460 --> 00:25:30,670

But when the situation
became very, very difficult,

569

00:25:30,670 --> 00:25:31,560

we didn't like it.

570

00:25:31,560 --> 00:25:34,770

We thought again, we might have
to go through the same thing,

571

00:25:34,770 --> 00:25:39,180

maybe not the extremes, but
hardly the freedom which

572

00:25:39,180 --> 00:25:41,820

we've been hoping for.

573

00:25:41,820 --> 00:25:45,340

Well, we decided to get out of
Czechoslovakia, which was 194--

574

00:25:45,340 --> 00:25:49,200

late '47, early '48.

575

00:25:49,200 --> 00:25:53,520

I couldn't get out because I
was, quote, "military age."

576

00:25:53,520 --> 00:25:58,860

So I thought that if we somehow
split with Georgine, that

577

00:25:58,860 --> 00:26:03,450

by myself, I will be easier
to get out then two of us

578

00:26:03,450 --> 00:26:05,030

with luggage and all this stuff.

579

00:26:05,030 --> 00:26:07,200

That's how we thought of it.

580

00:26:07,200 --> 00:26:10,830

Well, I met somebody
by the name of Hyde.

581

00:26:10,830 --> 00:26:14,880

His name was Walter E. Hyde.

582

00:26:14,880 --> 00:26:18,480

Through him, I got
a English passport.

583

00:26:18,480 --> 00:26:24,780

So Georgine left Prague
in February 1948.

584

00:26:24,780 --> 00:26:26,730

I couldn't get out that quickly.

585

00:26:26,730 --> 00:26:29,010

In the meantime,
she went from Prague

586

00:26:29,010 --> 00:26:33,150
to London, stayed in
London for a while.

587
00:26:33,150 --> 00:26:37,230
From her mother's
side, they were here

588
00:26:37,230 --> 00:26:42,210
surviving the
situation in Ecuador.

589
00:26:42,210 --> 00:26:46,820
Now out of all these countries,
I'll tell you why Ecuador.

590
00:26:46,820 --> 00:26:50,920
That was Georgine's uncle
from her mother's side.

591
00:26:50,920 --> 00:26:53,040
He was a dentist.

592
00:26:53,040 --> 00:26:55,200
But he didn't care
for dentistry.

593
00:26:55,200 --> 00:26:57,360
He was more like a
businessman, sitting

594
00:26:57,360 --> 00:26:59,520
on the board of
directors here, sitting

595
00:26:59,520 --> 00:27:01,600
on the board of directors there.

596
00:27:01,600 --> 00:27:07,190
And somehow he became
consul general of Ecuador.

597
00:27:07,190 --> 00:27:10,080

Well, how he got Ecuador
I can't tell you.

598
00:27:10,080 --> 00:27:12,360
But that's how it was.

599
00:27:12,360 --> 00:27:17,320
So then unfortunately, the
situation became worse,

600
00:27:17,320 --> 00:27:19,900
before Hitler and
all that stuff,

601
00:27:19,900 --> 00:27:23,590
he was trying to convince
Georgine's mother and father

602
00:27:23,590 --> 00:27:26,950
to go to Ecuador, because he
was able to give them the visa

603
00:27:26,950 --> 00:27:28,450
to go to Ecuador.

604
00:27:28,450 --> 00:27:31,590
Well, my mother, they were
in a different situation.

605
00:27:31,590 --> 00:27:33,850
They had a house like a house.

606
00:27:33,850 --> 00:27:36,970
Those days, there were
no mortgages in Prague.

607
00:27:36,970 --> 00:27:39,670
So to leave your house,
to leave your business,

608
00:27:39,670 --> 00:27:41,800
this was unheard of.

609

00:27:41,800 --> 00:27:44,290

Why should I go to Ecuador
to live in those Indians

610

00:27:44,290 --> 00:27:45,490

down there or something?

611

00:27:45,490 --> 00:27:47,260

This is my home.

612

00:27:47,260 --> 00:27:50,710

Well, unfortunately, that
didn't work out in the long run.

613

00:27:50,710 --> 00:27:55,300

But since they survived
in Ecuador in Quito,

614

00:27:55,300 --> 00:28:00,160

they came after the war here,
like most of people usually do.

615

00:28:00,160 --> 00:28:02,620

So when Georgine
was in England, she

616

00:28:02,620 --> 00:28:06,430

heard, of course, of her aunt
and uncle that they live here.

617

00:28:06,430 --> 00:28:08,710

They were living in
Ecuador at that time.

618

00:28:08,710 --> 00:28:11,320

But they-- no, they
were living in Ecuador.

619

00:28:11,320 --> 00:28:13,120

They came here.

620

00:28:13,120 --> 00:28:20,080

And that uncle of hers had some
earlier connections to somebody

621
00:28:20,080 --> 00:28:23,420
who was a manufacturing person.

622
00:28:23,420 --> 00:28:26,230
And because of the Cold
War, which existed already

623
00:28:26,230 --> 00:28:29,500
at that time, somehow the
United States government

624
00:28:29,500 --> 00:28:33,600
was pumping much more
money into Puerto Rico

625
00:28:33,600 --> 00:28:38,560
as a prevention that Puerto
Rico wouldn't go too much left,

626
00:28:38,560 --> 00:28:40,960
like some of the countries did.

627
00:28:40,960 --> 00:28:46,960
So he was offered to build
a factory in Puerto Rico.

628
00:28:46,960 --> 00:28:51,790
So since that uncle who was
a dentist representative

629
00:28:51,790 --> 00:28:56,530
of Ecuador, he told him, well,
if you just came from Ecuador,

630
00:28:56,530 --> 00:29:01,090
you speak Spanish, you want to
manage my factory from Prague?

631
00:29:01,090 --> 00:29:05,890
So they settled to Puerto

Rico for some time.

632

00:29:05,890 --> 00:29:09,220

So Georgine, not having
any other family,

633

00:29:09,220 --> 00:29:14,650

from England went to the United
States, went to Puerto Rico.

634

00:29:14,650 --> 00:29:15,710

So we stayed.

635

00:29:15,710 --> 00:29:19,030

Of course I was in
Prague, not divorced.

636

00:29:19,030 --> 00:29:20,552

That was not a question.

637

00:29:20,552 --> 00:29:21,880

It was not.

638

00:29:21,880 --> 00:29:25,960

But I managed to get
out of Prague by myself.

639

00:29:25,960 --> 00:29:29,560

It was easier than
together with Georgine.

640

00:29:29,560 --> 00:29:33,790

So when I got out of Prague,
naturally I had nowhere to go.

641

00:29:33,790 --> 00:29:37,420

But the train took me to Paris.

642

00:29:37,420 --> 00:29:40,750

Well, I have to say something
in favor of the French,

643

00:29:40,750 --> 00:29:44,830
irrespective of their
view today or that view.

644
00:29:44,830 --> 00:29:49,570
The French at that time
were extremely helpful.

645
00:29:49,570 --> 00:29:54,880
They tried to reunite
families who were split.

646
00:29:54,880 --> 00:29:56,170
You didn't know where your--

647
00:29:56,170 --> 00:29:58,750
last time you saw him here,
last time you saw him there.

648
00:29:58,750 --> 00:30:02,020
So it was very difficult,
but the French were helping.

649
00:30:02,020 --> 00:30:04,540
And they were helping also
all the people like myself

650
00:30:04,540 --> 00:30:08,380
who, all of a sudden from
Prague, was in Paris.

651
00:30:08,380 --> 00:30:12,950
We were called DPs,
Displaced People.

652
00:30:12,950 --> 00:30:16,505
And I got to Paris a
couple days before July 14.

653
00:30:16,505 --> 00:30:19,690
I'm sure you know
about July 14, yes?

654

00:30:19,690 --> 00:30:21,930

Well, at that time, of course
the time was different.

655

00:30:21,930 --> 00:30:27,320

That was 1948, and De
Gaulle was still around.

656

00:30:27,320 --> 00:30:29,400

And he was running
down Champs-Élysées,

657

00:30:29,400 --> 00:30:31,220

I remember like today.

658

00:30:31,220 --> 00:30:33,880

When I did go to
France, to Paris,

659

00:30:33,880 --> 00:30:35,525

I was supposed to
see somebody who

660

00:30:35,525 --> 00:30:37,480

knew somebody who knew
somebody in Prague,

661

00:30:37,480 --> 00:30:40,040

and I was supposed
to see those people.

662

00:30:40,040 --> 00:30:43,880

So those people took me to
that celebration of July 14.

663

00:30:43,880 --> 00:30:46,660

664

00:30:46,660 --> 00:30:49,240

Now splitting now that
story which I'm just telling

665

00:30:49,240 --> 00:30:52,360

you, my sister--

666
00:30:52,360 --> 00:30:56,050
or rather, my
mother had a sister

667
00:30:56,050 --> 00:31:02,740
who had married a Viennese
person, all Jewish.

668
00:31:02,740 --> 00:31:05,920
But she didn't like the
situation as it was.

669
00:31:05,920 --> 00:31:10,080
And before Hitler
came in, she decided

670
00:31:10,080 --> 00:31:13,920
with her husband to go to,
at the time, Palestine.

671
00:31:13,920 --> 00:31:15,330
There was no Israel.

672
00:31:15,330 --> 00:31:17,740
You had to take
the boat, which was

673
00:31:17,740 --> 00:31:19,660
very difficult,
because Prague is

674
00:31:19,660 --> 00:31:21,156
right in the middle of Europe.

675
00:31:21,156 --> 00:31:21,906
There is no ocean.

676
00:31:21,906 --> 00:31:23,214
There's no Czech navy.

677

00:31:23,214 --> 00:31:25,780
No Czech navy, no nothing.

678
00:31:25,780 --> 00:31:28,630
But she managed somehow,
through some others,

679
00:31:28,630 --> 00:31:33,640
to get the documents, and
she survived the Hitler years

680
00:31:33,640 --> 00:31:37,030
in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv.

681
00:31:37,030 --> 00:31:39,800
I don't know which
town she survived.

682
00:31:39,800 --> 00:31:41,770
But she was there.

683
00:31:41,770 --> 00:31:45,140
So when she came back to
Prague looking for her family,

684
00:31:45,140 --> 00:31:49,810
there was no family
except us, my sister, me.

685
00:31:49,810 --> 00:31:53,290
But she didn't like it, because
she said exactly what we have

686
00:31:53,290 --> 00:31:58,350
found out later on, that
it's too autocratic, too left

687
00:31:58,350 --> 00:32:00,820
wing-ish, and she
thought there was

688
00:32:00,820 --> 00:32:05,320
no future for Czechoslovakia

to survive again.

689

00:32:05,320 --> 00:32:10,340

So somehow, she had some
friends in Australia.

690

00:32:10,340 --> 00:32:14,690

So she convinced my
sister to go with her.

691

00:32:14,690 --> 00:32:18,320

Incidentally, the husband
of my aunt passed away,

692

00:32:18,320 --> 00:32:20,580

and he's buried on the mount.

693

00:32:20,580 --> 00:32:24,063

What is the name of
the mountain in Israel?

694

00:32:24,063 --> 00:32:25,480

I forgot the name
of the mountain.

695

00:32:25,480 --> 00:32:26,900

But he's buried there.

696

00:32:26,900 --> 00:32:28,250

Yeah, he's buried there.

697

00:32:28,250 --> 00:32:31,400

But she came back by herself,
and she convinced my sister

698

00:32:31,400 --> 00:32:34,650

to go with her to Australia.

699

00:32:34,650 --> 00:32:38,940

Now my sister, she was
very much into languages.

700

00:32:38,940 --> 00:32:41,990
So for her to speak
English, French, Italian

701
00:32:41,990 --> 00:32:45,730
although she was born in Prague,
she spoke all these languages.

702
00:32:45,730 --> 00:32:48,800
So for her to go to
Australia was no problem.

703
00:32:48,800 --> 00:32:50,330
She spoke English.

704
00:32:50,330 --> 00:32:52,520
So they went to Australia.

705
00:32:52,520 --> 00:32:57,290
But the trip to Australia by
boat, that's a long distance.

706
00:32:57,290 --> 00:32:59,700
This is not around the corner.

707
00:32:59,700 --> 00:33:03,620
So when they arrived
in Australia,

708
00:33:03,620 --> 00:33:07,070
I was in touch with them, or
they were in touch with me.

709
00:33:07,070 --> 00:33:10,263
They help me to
get to Australia.

710
00:33:10,263 --> 00:33:10,930
And the French--

711
00:33:10,930 --> 00:33:11,480
From Paris.

712
00:33:11,480 --> 00:33:11,980
Sorry?

713
00:33:11,980 --> 00:33:12,920
From Paris.

714
00:33:12,920 --> 00:33:14,450
From Paris.

715
00:33:14,450 --> 00:33:18,170
But from Paris, you had
to go to Marseilles,

716
00:33:18,170 --> 00:33:19,460
and they shipped us there.

717
00:33:19,460 --> 00:33:21,380
It took 60 days.

718
00:33:21,380 --> 00:33:22,220
Oh my goodness.

719
00:33:22,220 --> 00:33:23,880
Well, that's how it was.

720
00:33:23,880 --> 00:33:28,700
So the 60 days, I got into
Australia in January '49.

721
00:33:28,700 --> 00:33:31,160
I left July '48.

722
00:33:31,160 --> 00:33:34,790
I got into Austria January '49.

723
00:33:34,790 --> 00:33:37,390
So when I got to Australia,
of course Georgine,

724
00:33:37,390 --> 00:33:39,110
we were married.

725

00:33:39,110 --> 00:33:42,085

She took the first plane,
and she came to Australia,

726

00:33:42,085 --> 00:33:46,780

and we were living in
Melbourne for a few years.

727

00:33:46,780 --> 00:33:47,990

OK.

728

00:33:47,990 --> 00:33:50,090

At this point I
want to find out,

729

00:33:50,090 --> 00:33:52,380

when did you become Frank Hyde?

730

00:33:52,380 --> 00:33:52,880

Was it--

731

00:33:52,880 --> 00:33:56,280

Because Georgine was-- she had
a passport in the name of Hyde.

732

00:33:56,280 --> 00:33:57,170

Ah, so the--

733

00:33:57,170 --> 00:34:00,680

So I didn't like to be
someone else, so I don't--

734

00:34:00,680 --> 00:34:03,050

the name-- at that
time in Australia,

735

00:34:03,050 --> 00:34:05,870

to have a Czech name was-- they
couldn't pronounce it and--

736

00:34:05,870 --> 00:34:08,280

OK, so my point--
my question is,

737
00:34:08,280 --> 00:34:12,590
is did you get that passport
when Walter Hyde provided you

738
00:34:12,590 --> 00:34:15,350
with the-- and you
chose Hyde as your name?

739
00:34:15,350 --> 00:34:17,150
Or did you change
your name when--

740
00:34:17,150 --> 00:34:20,159
No, I changed my name only after
we got the passport in the--

741
00:34:20,159 --> 00:34:23,480
if the passport would have
been in the name of McDonald,

742
00:34:23,480 --> 00:34:25,219
I would be McDonald.

743
00:34:25,219 --> 00:34:26,870
Excuse me, but what
I don't understand

744
00:34:26,870 --> 00:34:30,087
is when you got that passport,
while you were still in Prague

745
00:34:30,087 --> 00:34:31,420
or when you'd gone to Australia?

746
00:34:31,420 --> 00:34:32,929
No, we got it in Prague.

747
00:34:32,929 --> 00:34:34,489
That's how Georgine got out.

748

00:34:34,489 --> 00:34:36,889

She got out as Georgine Hyde.

749

00:34:36,889 --> 00:34:38,449

OK, so you chose--

750

00:34:38,449 --> 00:34:40,159

I chose because of her name.

751

00:34:40,159 --> 00:34:42,980

--because of the gentleman
who provided them.

752

00:34:42,980 --> 00:34:45,800

At that point, you
changed your names.

753

00:34:45,800 --> 00:34:48,000

Not at that point,
but eventually, yes.

754

00:34:48,000 --> 00:34:49,239

Yes, OK.

755

00:34:49,239 --> 00:34:50,780

And since she had
the name Hyde--

756

00:34:50,780 --> 00:34:52,460

Excuse me, but I
don't understand,

757

00:34:52,460 --> 00:34:53,730

where is eventually?

758

00:34:53,730 --> 00:34:57,770

Is eventually when you got
the passports in Prague

759

00:34:57,770 --> 00:34:59,240

or when you were in Australia?

760

00:34:59,240 --> 00:35:01,140

No, I got that
passport in Prague.

761

00:35:01,140 --> 00:35:03,580

And it had your name,
Frank Hyde, in it.

762

00:35:03,580 --> 00:35:05,417

Well, I was still Frank Pekarek.

763

00:35:05,417 --> 00:35:06,500

But she was Georgine Hyde.

764

00:35:06,500 --> 00:35:08,510

But she was Georgine Hyde.

765

00:35:08,510 --> 00:35:12,830

So she got out as Georgine Hyde,
and she was living in England

766

00:35:12,830 --> 00:35:13,820

as Georgine Hyde--

767

00:35:13,820 --> 00:35:14,600

Ah.

768

00:35:14,600 --> 00:35:16,820

--because she had
a British passport.

769

00:35:16,820 --> 00:35:19,280

And when you got out,
you still were Pekarek.

770

00:35:19,280 --> 00:35:20,030

Sure.

771

00:35:20,030 --> 00:35:21,460

And then when you
got to Melbourne

772

00:35:21,460 --> 00:35:22,418
is when you changed it.

773

00:35:22,418 --> 00:35:24,140
I was still Pekarek, sure.

774

00:35:24,140 --> 00:35:27,350
I have to show you, if you
want to come to my office--

775

00:35:27,350 --> 00:35:30,470
I have a certificate that
I passed an accounting

776

00:35:30,470 --> 00:35:32,800
test as Pekarek.

777

00:35:32,800 --> 00:35:33,752
I see.

778

00:35:33,752 --> 00:35:35,180
OK.

779

00:35:35,180 --> 00:35:37,410
So it was very difficult.

780

00:35:37,410 --> 00:35:41,050
And then in Melbourne is
when you changed your name.

781

00:35:41,050 --> 00:35:41,600
Here.

782

00:35:41,600 --> 00:35:42,600
I changed the name here.

783

00:35:42,600 --> 00:35:43,310
In the United States.

784

00:35:43,310 --> 00:35:44,185
--United States, yes.

785
00:35:44,185 --> 00:35:44,720
I see.

786
00:35:44,720 --> 00:35:49,280
When we were living in Queens,
I don't remember the name

787
00:35:49,280 --> 00:35:50,360
of the lawyer who did it.

788
00:35:50,360 --> 00:35:54,840
But my legal name
here is Frank Pek--

789
00:35:54,840 --> 00:35:56,850
Frank Pekarek-- Frank Hyde.

790
00:35:56,850 --> 00:35:57,350
Got it.

791
00:35:57,350 --> 00:36:00,800
I kept the P from Pekarek.

792
00:36:00,800 --> 00:36:01,670
It's not Peter.

793
00:36:01,670 --> 00:36:07,280
It's the P I kept for
sentimental reasons

794
00:36:07,280 --> 00:36:10,050
for my father's
sakes, shall I say.

795
00:36:10,050 --> 00:36:10,790
OK.

796
00:36:10,790 --> 00:36:13,910
So I'm Frank Hyde, and
John, my son, of course,

797

00:36:13,910 --> 00:36:17,210
was born as John Hyde.

798

00:36:17,210 --> 00:36:18,770
Everything is back
to John Hyde--

799

00:36:18,770 --> 00:36:21,060
I mean, Frank Hyde,
Georgine Hyde.

800

00:36:21,060 --> 00:36:22,370
OK.

801

00:36:22,370 --> 00:36:28,550
So let's go back to Prague
and the mid to late 1930s.

802

00:36:28,550 --> 00:36:29,120
Sorry?

803

00:36:29,120 --> 00:36:30,500
Let's go back to Prague.

804

00:36:30,500 --> 00:36:36,050
It's the mid to late 1930s,
and you're in school.

805

00:36:36,050 --> 00:36:36,560
Sure.

806

00:36:36,560 --> 00:36:38,840
And it's a new country.

807

00:36:38,840 --> 00:36:40,670
It's not even 20 years old.

808

00:36:40,670 --> 00:36:42,825
What happens in the
political atmosphere?

809

00:36:42,825 --> 00:36:46,250
No, you see what happened--

810
00:36:46,250 --> 00:36:50,615
when the situation is gradually
changing in Czechoslovakia--

811
00:36:50,615 --> 00:36:51,740
Before the Germans come in?

812
00:36:51,740 --> 00:36:52,880
Before the Germans came.

813
00:36:52,880 --> 00:36:54,010
Well, that was--

814
00:36:54,010 --> 00:36:56,440
I don't know how much
history you know,

815
00:36:56,440 --> 00:36:59,120
but there were
negotiations somehow,

816
00:36:59,120 --> 00:37:00,570
the influence of Hitler.

817
00:37:00,570 --> 00:37:01,462
OK.

818
00:37:01,462 --> 00:37:03,920
There was a story the other
day in The Wall Street Journal,

819
00:37:03,920 --> 00:37:06,200
exactly what I'm telling you.

820
00:37:06,200 --> 00:37:08,990
If the Allied
forces at that time

821
00:37:08,990 --> 00:37:11,292

would have done
something to stop Hitler,

822
00:37:11,292 --> 00:37:12,500
that would not have happened.

823
00:37:12,500 --> 00:37:15,170
But they were not interested.

824
00:37:15,170 --> 00:37:17,760
Maybe the interest
was somewhere else.

825
00:37:17,760 --> 00:37:20,610
So he became too powerful.

826
00:37:20,610 --> 00:37:24,450
There was also a
recession in that world.

827
00:37:24,450 --> 00:37:26,400
Was a recession here.

828
00:37:26,400 --> 00:37:28,560
We call it whatever
they call it here.

829
00:37:28,560 --> 00:37:29,740
Depression.

830
00:37:29,740 --> 00:37:31,260
A depression, that's correct.

831
00:37:31,260 --> 00:37:34,410
So he promised jobs.

832
00:37:34,410 --> 00:37:40,080
And he promi-- he didn't
say how, but what he did--

833
00:37:40,080 --> 00:37:43,290
again, I'm talking

about history.

834

00:37:43,290 --> 00:37:46,890

After World War I,
the French and Germans

835

00:37:46,890 --> 00:37:48,900

were not always friends.

836

00:37:48,900 --> 00:37:50,580

Excuse me, I'm
going to interrupt.

837

00:37:50,580 --> 00:37:55,110

What I am interested to know
is, did Hitler have an influence

838

00:37:55,110 --> 00:37:57,450

before he marched
in the country,

839

00:37:57,450 --> 00:38:00,450

before he marched
into Czechoslovakia

840

00:38:00,450 --> 00:38:01,950

and took it over?

841

00:38:01,950 --> 00:38:04,950

When you say, things
changed gradually,

842

00:38:04,950 --> 00:38:09,930

was it such that internal
life in Czechoslovakia

843

00:38:09,930 --> 00:38:13,408

changed for the Jews
even before Hitler came?

844

00:38:13,408 --> 00:38:13,950

That's what--

845

00:38:13,950 --> 00:38:14,590

Not really.

846

00:38:14,590 --> 00:38:15,300

Not really.

847

00:38:15,300 --> 00:38:16,600

Not to my knowledge, no.

848

00:38:16,600 --> 00:38:17,100

OK.

849

00:38:17,100 --> 00:38:17,910

No.

850

00:38:17,910 --> 00:38:22,770

What changed was, like I said, there were negotiations.

851

00:38:22,770 --> 00:38:25,890

He had certain demands.

852

00:38:25,890 --> 00:38:30,480

The border countries of that old Bohemia, which was somehow

853

00:38:30,480 --> 00:38:36,450

created by this government here to give the border, that was

854

00:38:36,450 --> 00:38:39,180

occupied by German minorities.

855

00:38:39,180 --> 00:38:43,410

But since the Constitution was like here, everybody was alike,

856

00:38:43,410 --> 00:38:47,790

and there was no anti-German feeling or anything like that.

857

00:38:47,790 --> 00:38:51,870

But let's go back to that
recession which we had.

858

00:38:51,870 --> 00:38:53,460

So when that was--

859

00:38:53,460 --> 00:38:55,920

all over the world
was a depression,

860

00:38:55,920 --> 00:38:58,110

and Hitler promised jobs.

861

00:38:58,110 --> 00:39:00,090

Now how did he deliver the job?

862

00:39:00,090 --> 00:39:04,080

Because, like I started
to say, after World War

863

00:39:04,080 --> 00:39:07,390

I, the League of
Nations, which was

864

00:39:07,390 --> 00:39:12,210

the forerunner of the United
Nations, they told Germany,

865

00:39:12,210 --> 00:39:14,370

not Hitler-- there
was Hindenburg,

866

00:39:14,370 --> 00:39:15,390

which was a president.

867

00:39:15,390 --> 00:39:16,410

Right.

868

00:39:16,410 --> 00:39:20,430

They told him, you cannot go to
this area of Europe and in this

869

00:39:20,430 --> 00:39:21,340
area of Europe.

870

00:39:21,340 --> 00:39:27,380
It was called the Saar, S-A-A-R.
And another place goes by--

871

00:39:27,380 --> 00:39:29,790
which was something
like, say, our Detroit

872

00:39:29,790 --> 00:39:32,300
with the factories of
automobiles and all that stuff.

873

00:39:32,300 --> 00:39:33,570
The Ruhrgebiet.

874

00:39:33,570 --> 00:39:38,233
So he invaded those two
places, and nobody stopped him.

875

00:39:38,233 --> 00:39:39,900
If they would have
stopped him, maybe he

876

00:39:39,900 --> 00:39:41,790
wouldn't have been so powerful.

877

00:39:41,790 --> 00:39:43,260
But because they
didn't stop him,

878

00:39:43,260 --> 00:39:45,370
maybe they didn't have
the power to stop him.

879

00:39:45,370 --> 00:39:45,870
Yeah.

880

00:39:45,870 --> 00:39:47,580
He has grown.

881
00:39:47,580 --> 00:39:51,210
So there was no
antisemitism in Prague

882
00:39:51,210 --> 00:39:52,620
or anything of that nature.

883
00:39:52,620 --> 00:39:55,670
Everybody was Czech,
and on the contrary,

884
00:39:55,670 --> 00:39:59,280
if you didn't speak
well Czech, you were--

885
00:39:59,280 --> 00:40:03,420
somehow you were not liked,
if I can say that word.

886
00:40:03,420 --> 00:40:07,470
And in that connection, I
would also like to tell you,

887
00:40:07,470 --> 00:40:09,960
into my house
where I was living,

888
00:40:09,960 --> 00:40:12,660
somebody moved in
from Poland, what

889
00:40:12,660 --> 00:40:15,060
we used to call a Polish Jew.

890
00:40:15,060 --> 00:40:17,610
His name was Edelstein.

891
00:40:17,610 --> 00:40:20,790
Well, the name tells you
already, German, Jewish name.

892

00:40:20,790 --> 00:40:25,410

He became a leader of
the Jewish population

893

00:40:25,410 --> 00:40:27,150

at that time,
because somebody has

894

00:40:27,150 --> 00:40:29,730

to represent the
Jews in connection

895

00:40:29,730 --> 00:40:32,550

to the Czech government
and what followed,

896

00:40:32,550 --> 00:40:34,240

the German government.

897

00:40:34,240 --> 00:40:40,590

So he was appointed to be
leader of the Jewish community.

898

00:40:40,590 --> 00:40:43,590

Since he moved into the
house where we were living,

899

00:40:43,590 --> 00:40:46,800

spoke poorly Czech,
German was not liked,

900

00:40:46,800 --> 00:40:50,280

because we are now all of a
sudden enemies with the German,

901

00:40:50,280 --> 00:40:55,440

my mother had his wife to go
shopping and all that stuff.

902

00:40:55,440 --> 00:40:59,050

Now that played a
role down the road

903

00:40:59,050 --> 00:41:03,460
why we stayed in Prague
longer than other people who

904
00:41:03,460 --> 00:41:06,850
were already deported
in camp, number one.

905
00:41:06,850 --> 00:41:07,740
OK.

906
00:41:07,740 --> 00:41:09,990
Let's come to the point where--

907
00:41:09,990 --> 00:41:12,940

908
00:41:12,940 --> 00:41:14,790
I'll speed ahead a little bit.

909
00:41:14,790 --> 00:41:17,870

910
00:41:17,870 --> 00:41:21,180
OK, if it is so that
life didn't change

911
00:41:21,180 --> 00:41:24,180
in the late 1930s for you--

912
00:41:24,180 --> 00:41:27,540
Not until 1937, 1938.

913
00:41:27,540 --> 00:41:28,200
OK.

914
00:41:28,200 --> 00:41:29,310
It was the same.

915
00:41:29,310 --> 00:41:32,040
All right, what
happened in 1937?

916
00:41:32,040 --> 00:41:36,210
Well, the Czechs were forced
to give up some of these border

917
00:41:36,210 --> 00:41:40,440
countries, so there was a
resentment against the West,

918
00:41:40,440 --> 00:41:42,660
because officially, Russia was--

919
00:41:42,660 --> 00:41:44,390
"officially," they
were not doing much,

920
00:41:44,390 --> 00:41:46,180
but officially, they were.

921
00:41:46,180 --> 00:41:48,540
So the negotiations
were primarily

922
00:41:48,540 --> 00:41:51,360
between Germany, France.

923
00:41:51,360 --> 00:41:53,670
I can't even tell you the
name of the prime minister

924
00:41:53,670 --> 00:41:57,410
of Germany who was
negotiating at the time.

925
00:41:57,410 --> 00:41:59,556
He was a [NON-ENGLISH]
was like a--

926
00:41:59,556 --> 00:42:00,056
Mm-hmm.

927
00:42:00,056 --> 00:42:01,860

Yeah, he was an aristocrat.

928

00:42:01,860 --> 00:42:02,850

Yeah, aristocrat.

929

00:42:02,850 --> 00:42:05,280

His name was Ribbentrop.

930

00:42:05,280 --> 00:42:07,620

Well, somehow the
name came back to me.

931

00:42:07,620 --> 00:42:11,020

And on the Italian
side was Count Ciano.

932

00:42:11,020 --> 00:42:13,480

And those people were pushing--

933

00:42:13,480 --> 00:42:17,010

well, at the time, they were
negotiating with Prime Minister

934

00:42:17,010 --> 00:42:18,690

Chamberlain.

935

00:42:18,690 --> 00:42:21,390

Now naturally, in those days,
when you gave your word,

936

00:42:21,390 --> 00:42:23,940

you were supposed
to keep your word.

937

00:42:23,940 --> 00:42:28,530

So Hitler, through
Chamberlain-- through Ribbentrop

938

00:42:28,530 --> 00:42:33,690

and Italian Ciano, Hitler
promised the demand

939

00:42:33,690 --> 00:42:36,960
on the Czechs to give
up those border counties

940
00:42:36,960 --> 00:42:41,010
is his last territorial demand.

941
00:42:41,010 --> 00:42:43,980
Chamberlain believed it,
because in those days when

942
00:42:43,980 --> 00:42:46,140
you signed something,
you were believing it.

943
00:42:46,140 --> 00:42:47,130
So he went back to--

944
00:42:47,130 --> 00:42:50,340
Chamberlain went back to London
where he came from and showed

945
00:42:50,340 --> 00:42:51,400
a piece of paper.

946
00:42:51,400 --> 00:42:53,940
And this piece of
paper is a guarantee

947
00:42:53,940 --> 00:42:56,650
of peace in our lifetime.

948
00:42:56,650 --> 00:43:01,500
Well, he didn't realize
whom he was dealing with.

949
00:43:01,500 --> 00:43:04,110
But coming back to
the Czechs, so there

950
00:43:04,110 --> 00:43:06,780
was a certain
animosity, of course,

951
00:43:06,780 --> 00:43:08,670
because all of a
sudden, instead of

952
00:43:08,670 --> 00:43:11,190
having the country like
this, it was like--

953
00:43:11,190 --> 00:43:12,090
Sliced.

954
00:43:12,090 --> 00:43:15,030
Sliced and undefensible.

955
00:43:15,030 --> 00:43:15,810
Right.

956
00:43:15,810 --> 00:43:19,790
And the attitude towards
German was all of a sudden,

957
00:43:19,790 --> 00:43:21,610
they were not our citizens.

958
00:43:21,610 --> 00:43:23,190
They were our
enemies, because they

959
00:43:23,190 --> 00:43:26,130
wanted to join
Germany, primarily

960
00:43:26,130 --> 00:43:27,900
because he promised
jobs, which we

961
00:43:27,900 --> 00:43:30,010
couldn't deliver at the time.

962
00:43:30,010 --> 00:43:32,220
So now all the

European continent

963

00:43:32,220 --> 00:43:35,790

really turned pro-German.

964

00:43:35,790 --> 00:43:38,100

The Austrians, we
want to be German.

965

00:43:38,100 --> 00:43:39,810

They were German
speaking people,

966

00:43:39,810 --> 00:43:43,240

but they were so different
from actually Germany

967

00:43:43,240 --> 00:43:45,660

that it was not thinkable.

968

00:43:45,660 --> 00:43:49,200

But he promised jobs, and
he delivered the jobs,

969

00:43:49,200 --> 00:43:53,940

making his armed forces,
making all these weapons what

970

00:43:53,940 --> 00:43:55,730

he developed.

971

00:43:55,730 --> 00:43:58,630

But your life, it didn't change?

972

00:43:58,630 --> 00:43:59,130

Sorry?

973

00:43:59,130 --> 00:44:00,090

Your life and--

974

00:44:00,090 --> 00:44:01,730

No not at that time, no.

975
00:44:01,730 --> 00:44:03,900
We were still playing
soccer like everybody else.

976
00:44:03,900 --> 00:44:06,480
Religion didn't
play any role, no.

977
00:44:06,480 --> 00:44:08,670
It really started
much later when

978
00:44:08,670 --> 00:44:15,080
he came into Prague,
which was in March 1939.

979
00:44:15,080 --> 00:44:15,780
Well--

980
00:44:15,780 --> 00:44:16,697
Let's talk about that.

981
00:44:16,697 --> 00:44:18,290
--Czechoslovakia
ceased to exist.

982
00:44:18,290 --> 00:44:18,900
Yes.

983
00:44:18,900 --> 00:44:21,810
And they named it
the Protectorate

984
00:44:21,810 --> 00:44:25,170
of Bohemia Moravia,
had something

985
00:44:25,170 --> 00:44:28,360
like what we call a
governor or something.

986

00:44:28,360 --> 00:44:32,720

And the Czechs were
represented by a figurehead.

987

00:44:32,720 --> 00:44:35,040

Then it started to change, yes.

988

00:44:35,040 --> 00:44:36,000

Tell us how.

989

00:44:36,000 --> 00:44:38,280

Antisemitism to
a certain extent,

990

00:44:38,280 --> 00:44:40,200

because they were
always connected to--

991

00:44:40,200 --> 00:44:44,220

the Jewish were looked at German
speaking people rather than

992

00:44:44,220 --> 00:44:46,230

Czech speaking people.

993

00:44:46,230 --> 00:44:48,330

The names were German.

994

00:44:48,330 --> 00:44:50,850

So it started to deteriorate.

995

00:44:50,850 --> 00:44:51,870

To what extent?

996

00:44:51,870 --> 00:44:55,590

Not that much, but then
started the transportations.

997

00:44:55,590 --> 00:45:00,300

Well, how did-- my question is
much more personal than that.

998

00:45:00,300 --> 00:45:04,800

It is, when did your life, your
father's life, your mother's

999

00:45:04,800 --> 00:45:05,520

life--

1000

00:45:05,520 --> 00:45:07,920

how did things
happen in the family?

1001

00:45:07,920 --> 00:45:10,440

Hitler marches in,
and by what point--

1002

00:45:10,440 --> 00:45:14,790

It's changed primarily
because young Czech pe--

1003

00:45:14,790 --> 00:45:21,081

young Jewish people, we were
forced to go on certain labor.

1004

00:45:21,081 --> 00:45:23,550

We were-- single men.

1005

00:45:23,550 --> 00:45:25,860

That's why we married.

1006

00:45:25,860 --> 00:45:29,910

The single Jewish
people, well, they

1007

00:45:29,910 --> 00:45:33,150

were told to meet
somewhere, and that's why--

1008

00:45:33,150 --> 00:45:36,480

something what I would call
like Madison Square Garden.

1009

00:45:36,480 --> 00:45:37,730

We don't have Madison Square--

1010
00:45:37,730 --> 00:45:38,563
What was the square?

1011
00:45:38,563 --> 00:45:40,350
--in Prague, but
something like Madison--

1012
00:45:40,350 --> 00:45:41,950
What was the place?

1013
00:45:41,950 --> 00:45:45,750
We had to report, and we
had to do certain work

1014
00:45:45,750 --> 00:45:47,220
for the Germans.

1015
00:45:47,220 --> 00:45:48,600
Tell me-- excuse me, though.

1016
00:45:48,600 --> 00:45:51,240
Do you remember the place you
had to report to in Prague?

1017
00:45:51,240 --> 00:45:53,370
Well, it was-- no, I
don't remember the name.

1018
00:45:53,370 --> 00:45:56,010
But I have to tell you,
before that started,

1019
00:45:56,010 --> 00:46:00,200
when they marched
in, March '39--

1020
00:46:00,200 --> 00:46:00,870
Correct.

1021
00:46:00,870 --> 00:46:01,890
--I was 18.

1022

00:46:01,890 --> 00:46:05,250

I was working for a Jewish firm.

1023

00:46:05,250 --> 00:46:07,740

The Jewish management
was thrown out,

1024

00:46:07,740 --> 00:46:11,850

and a German
administrator was sent in.

1025

00:46:11,850 --> 00:46:14,325

I was still working
when he came in

1026

00:46:14,325 --> 00:46:17,460

in his black uniform and red--

1027

00:46:17,460 --> 00:46:17,960

Arm band.

1028

00:46:17,960 --> 00:46:19,520

--swastika.

1029

00:46:19,520 --> 00:46:24,410

And we were-- the location was
just across from the Gestapo

1030

00:46:24,410 --> 00:46:25,620

headquarter.

1031

00:46:25,620 --> 00:46:26,120

Ah--

1032

00:46:26,120 --> 00:46:28,670

But they didn't-- you
didn't do anything,

1033

00:46:28,670 --> 00:46:32,870

so it didn't bother you, but you
saw the changes which gradually

1034
00:46:32,870 --> 00:46:35,390
occurred.

1035
00:46:35,390 --> 00:46:38,150
At home, I don't think I
had seen so many changes.

1036
00:46:38,150 --> 00:46:40,580
Maybe I didn't pay
attention to it.

1037
00:46:40,580 --> 00:46:42,980
I was a young man.

1038
00:46:42,980 --> 00:46:46,970
Before Hitler came, we
still went to dance.

1039
00:46:46,970 --> 00:46:49,660
And there was a resentment,
but there was still

1040
00:46:49,660 --> 00:46:52,940
freedom enough to go and enjoy.

1041
00:46:52,940 --> 00:46:55,280
Don't forget, I
was, what, 18 years.

1042
00:46:55,280 --> 00:46:57,003
So what did 18 years do here?

1043
00:46:57,003 --> 00:46:58,420
The same thing
they do over there.

1044
00:46:58,420 --> 00:47:00,080
We went to dance.

1045
00:47:00,080 --> 00:47:02,960
I remember the place

where we used to go.

1046

00:47:02,960 --> 00:47:06,650

It was called coffee shop, but
not the type of a coffee shop

1047

00:47:06,650 --> 00:47:09,270

what we call here a coffee shop.

1048

00:47:09,270 --> 00:47:10,760

It was much more elaborate.

1049

00:47:10,760 --> 00:47:15,320

It was more like a, I would say,
really full blown restaurant

1050

00:47:15,320 --> 00:47:16,220

with a dancing--

1051

00:47:16,220 --> 00:47:17,180

Place, yeah.

1052

00:47:17,180 --> 00:47:20,240

--little spot where you could
dance, and the young people

1053

00:47:20,240 --> 00:47:20,900

were dancing.

1054

00:47:20,900 --> 00:47:22,430

We were dancing.

1055

00:47:22,430 --> 00:47:25,550

But that gradually has changed--

1056

00:47:25,550 --> 00:47:27,080

Did your father lose his job?

1057

00:47:27,080 --> 00:47:27,620

Sorry?

1058

00:47:27,620 --> 00:47:30,830
Did your father lose his job?

1059
00:47:30,830 --> 00:47:34,340
No, I don't think he lost
the job at that point.

1060
00:47:34,340 --> 00:47:35,480
I think he retired.

1061
00:47:35,480 --> 00:47:37,950
He was forced to retire.

1062
00:47:37,950 --> 00:47:39,180
So he was home.

1063
00:47:39,180 --> 00:47:42,140
My mother was always home.

1064
00:47:42,140 --> 00:47:44,510
I don't know how they
were making a living.

1065
00:47:44,510 --> 00:47:46,760
But I remember, the
first salary which

1066
00:47:46,760 --> 00:47:51,830
I got when I was working for
that Jewish firm, naturally,

1067
00:47:51,830 --> 00:47:53,720
my obligation was
to bring it home.

1068
00:47:53,720 --> 00:47:55,070
That was understood.

1069
00:47:55,070 --> 00:47:58,970
It was never thought
by me or by the parents

1070

00:47:58,970 --> 00:48:03,200
that somehow I would take
it and spend it somewhere.

1071
00:48:03,200 --> 00:48:06,560
That was ex-- that was
anticipated and expected

1072
00:48:06,560 --> 00:48:07,670
from me.

1073
00:48:07,670 --> 00:48:10,580
Life was very different
in those days.

1074
00:48:10,580 --> 00:48:12,270
But this has changed.

1075
00:48:12,270 --> 00:48:16,250
I lost that job because
ultimately, he found out

1076
00:48:16,250 --> 00:48:18,610
that I was Jewish or whatever.

1077
00:48:18,610 --> 00:48:23,360
And it was, how could I work
with somebody with a swastika,

1078
00:48:23,360 --> 00:48:24,380
and all that stuff.

1079
00:48:24,380 --> 00:48:24,880
So--

1080
00:48:24,880 --> 00:48:26,050
What was his manner, though?

1081
00:48:26,050 --> 00:48:27,400
--it became worse.

1082
00:48:27,400 --> 00:48:27,950

OK.

1083
00:48:27,950 --> 00:48:31,310
The manner of that person
who ended up taking over

1084
00:48:31,310 --> 00:48:32,340
the firm with the swas--

1085
00:48:32,340 --> 00:48:35,000

1086
00:48:35,000 --> 00:48:36,800
was his manner arrogant?

1087
00:48:36,800 --> 00:48:37,300
Was he--

1088
00:48:37,300 --> 00:48:39,470
No, no, but that
was his mentality.

1089
00:48:39,470 --> 00:48:41,850
But the life has changed.

1090
00:48:41,850 --> 00:48:43,160
What has changed?

1091
00:48:43,160 --> 00:48:45,410
The laws have changed.

1092
00:48:45,410 --> 00:48:48,320
So when you were
playing that soccer,

1093
00:48:48,320 --> 00:48:51,440
everybody-- there was no
restriction, no nothing.

1094
00:48:51,440 --> 00:48:55,400
But gradually, the
non-Jewish population

1095
00:48:55,400 --> 00:49:01,010
was put on such pressure
not to socialize with Jews

1096
00:49:01,010 --> 00:49:03,820
that all of a
sudden, your friends

1097
00:49:03,820 --> 00:49:06,770
were afraid to be your friends.

1098
00:49:06,770 --> 00:49:09,980
So the relationship has ceased.

1099
00:49:09,980 --> 00:49:12,410
Everything became
a separate society.

1100
00:49:12,410 --> 00:49:13,900
The Jewish people were--

1101
00:49:13,900 --> 00:49:16,240
we had to wear Jewish stars.

1102
00:49:16,240 --> 00:49:18,590
We had to be home at 8 o'clock.

1103
00:49:18,590 --> 00:49:20,640
So there were
certain restrictions

1104
00:49:20,640 --> 00:49:23,420
which were put on the
Jewish population, which

1105
00:49:23,420 --> 00:49:26,390
became like what they
call here salami tactic.

1106
00:49:26,390 --> 00:49:28,400
It didn't happen overnight.

1107
00:49:28,400 --> 00:49:31,120
But it was-- the first
thing, for example,

1108
00:49:31,120 --> 00:49:35,270
what I remember, as a kid,
I used to play the violin.

1109
00:49:35,270 --> 00:49:38,960
Well, don't ask me what day,
what year, but all of a sudden,

1110
00:49:38,960 --> 00:49:43,910
we were supposed to submit
all those musical instruments

1111
00:49:43,910 --> 00:49:45,630
to a certain place.

1112
00:49:45,630 --> 00:49:49,080
Well, but it's not
that I didn't agree.

1113
00:49:49,080 --> 00:49:51,680
You were afraid not to agree.

1114
00:49:51,680 --> 00:49:57,140
So you did what you were
doing, because the Catholic

1115
00:49:57,140 --> 00:50:00,350
population, they could not help
you because they were afraid

1116
00:50:00,350 --> 00:50:01,610
themselves.

1117
00:50:01,610 --> 00:50:07,240
So the hostilities
or the violence

1118

00:50:07,240 --> 00:50:12,110
increased so that there
was a distinct difference

1119
00:50:12,110 --> 00:50:17,000
between the Jewish population
and the non-Jewish population.

1120
00:50:17,000 --> 00:50:23,170
And the very first transport, as
I remember, a cousin of mine--

1121
00:50:23,170 --> 00:50:26,430
he was much older than I was,
but that's not the issue.

1122
00:50:26,430 --> 00:50:30,680
The only reason I'm saying
it, because with his wife,

1123
00:50:30,680 --> 00:50:32,710
somehow they had no children.

1124
00:50:32,710 --> 00:50:34,190
She lost the child
and she couldn't

1125
00:50:34,190 --> 00:50:36,200
have more children or whatever.

1126
00:50:36,200 --> 00:50:40,130
They were one of the first
ones to be deported to a Polish

1127
00:50:40,130 --> 00:50:46,520
ghetto which was called Lodz,
L-O-D-Z, the town in Poland.

1128
00:50:46,520 --> 00:50:49,170
They survived there
until a certain time

1129
00:50:49,170 --> 00:50:53,810

when that was also liquidated
and he wound up in Auschwitz.

1130
00:50:53,810 --> 00:50:56,220
Lost his leg in Auschwitz
and everything else,

1131
00:50:56,220 --> 00:50:59,300
but they came back
after the war,

1132
00:50:59,300 --> 00:51:03,620
because so few people survived.

1133
00:51:03,620 --> 00:51:07,940
I was reasonably close
to them at one point,

1134
00:51:07,940 --> 00:51:09,480
even though the
age was different.

1135
00:51:09,480 --> 00:51:14,940
He was born 1900, and I was born
1931, so 30 years different.

1136
00:51:14,940 --> 00:51:18,170
So when we came back,
I was only 22, 24,

1137
00:51:18,170 --> 00:51:19,660
and he was already close to 50.

1138
00:51:19,660 --> 00:51:20,210
Right.

1139
00:51:20,210 --> 00:51:21,780
So there was a difference.

1140
00:51:21,780 --> 00:51:25,040
But eventually, they
also left for Australia.

1141
00:51:25,040 --> 00:51:26,780
Australia was very helpful.

1142
00:51:26,780 --> 00:51:27,380
OK.

1143
00:51:27,380 --> 00:51:32,850
Let's go back, then, to
life gradually changing,

1144
00:51:32,850 --> 00:51:37,640
and there's the separation
between the Jews

1145
00:51:37,640 --> 00:51:40,665
and the non-Jews and
a marginalization,

1146
00:51:40,665 --> 00:51:41,540
from what I'm seeing.

1147
00:51:41,540 --> 00:51:43,430
You're put on the
margins of society

1148
00:51:43,430 --> 00:51:45,820
where you're not allowed
to do things that you

1149
00:51:45,820 --> 00:51:48,320
were allowed to do before.

1150
00:51:48,320 --> 00:51:52,040
When did-- let me go
back even before that.

1151
00:51:52,040 --> 00:51:54,080
Did you know Georgine
by that time?

1152
00:51:54,080 --> 00:51:54,920
Yes.

1153
00:51:54,920 --> 00:51:56,310
How did you meet Georgine?

1154
00:51:56,310 --> 00:51:57,970
When we were kids,
we were dancing

1155
00:51:57,970 --> 00:52:00,030
in the same group of people.

1156
00:52:00,030 --> 00:52:02,310
So you were friends
from childhood.

1157
00:52:02,310 --> 00:52:02,810
Sorry?

1158
00:52:02,810 --> 00:52:04,350
You were friends from childhood?

1159
00:52:04,350 --> 00:52:07,940
Well, not from childhood, but
when she was maybe 14, 15,

1160
00:52:07,940 --> 00:52:10,640
and I was four years older.

1161
00:52:10,640 --> 00:52:14,960
Now what the Jewish people
did, or at least our group did,

1162
00:52:14,960 --> 00:52:18,110
there was somebody
who, the father

1163
00:52:18,110 --> 00:52:20,520
had a wholesale business.

1164
00:52:20,520 --> 00:52:23,030
And the wholesale
business was in a building

1165
00:52:23,030 --> 00:52:25,610
which he owned in the
old section of Prague,

1166
00:52:25,610 --> 00:52:28,770
not far from where
I was growing up.

1167
00:52:28,770 --> 00:52:32,850
And we used to go to
that house to dance.

1168
00:52:32,850 --> 00:52:34,440
But remember, in
those days, we're

1169
00:52:34,440 --> 00:52:37,387
talking about
zillion years back.

1170
00:52:37,387 --> 00:52:37,970
Not a zillion.

1171
00:52:37,970 --> 00:52:38,100
[LAUGHS]

1172
00:52:38,100 --> 00:52:39,860
You had a gramophone,
if you remember,

1173
00:52:39,860 --> 00:52:42,600
and that had to be hooked up.

1174
00:52:42,600 --> 00:52:45,060
And you put the disk
on it, and that's

1175
00:52:45,060 --> 00:52:46,260
the music we used to have.

1176
00:52:46,260 --> 00:52:46,920

Yeah.

1177

00:52:46,920 --> 00:52:49,020

If you remember

"Pennies from Heaven."

1178

00:52:49,020 --> 00:52:50,100

Yeah.

1179

00:52:50,100 --> 00:52:55,180

Well, that was the thing

which was in [INAUDIBLE]..

1180

00:52:55,180 --> 00:52:58,320

But also at that time,

why did it change?

1181

00:52:58,320 --> 00:53:00,630

Because lots of

Jewish people who

1182

00:53:00,630 --> 00:53:05,880

spoke German, very little

Czech, Czech nationals,

1183

00:53:05,880 --> 00:53:08,430

they were living in

those border countries.

1184

00:53:08,430 --> 00:53:10,140

So when those

border countries had

1185

00:53:10,140 --> 00:53:15,870

to be given back to Germany,

because they gave back--

1186

00:53:15,870 --> 00:53:19,080

so naturally, they were

Jewish, and we were Jewish.

1187

00:53:19,080 --> 00:53:21,330

So somehow there were

more of these girls who

1188
00:53:21,330 --> 00:53:23,440
came back from these countries.

1189
00:53:23,440 --> 00:53:25,740
So we were, all of a sudden,
instead of six people,

1190
00:53:25,740 --> 00:53:28,710
were, say, 12
people or 14 people.

1191
00:53:28,710 --> 00:53:31,010
And we used go to dance.

1192
00:53:31,010 --> 00:53:34,530
I remember his name actually,
but that's not important.

1193
00:53:34,530 --> 00:53:38,810
We went to that house, and
in those days, you had--

1194
00:53:38,810 --> 00:53:40,770
I think Georgine had it--

1195
00:53:40,770 --> 00:53:43,380
was an electric gramophone.

1196
00:53:43,380 --> 00:53:45,300
So you didn't have
to crank it up.

1197
00:53:45,300 --> 00:53:47,130
You had to plug it
in, and that was

1198
00:53:47,130 --> 00:53:49,260
the music we used to dance to.

1199
00:53:49,260 --> 00:53:51,990

But this, gradually it changed.

1200
00:53:51,990 --> 00:53:55,470
It was very difficult.
It was dangerous to go

1201
00:53:55,470 --> 00:53:58,560
and be found out that you do
these things, which were--

1202
00:53:58,560 --> 00:53:59,400
Normal things.

1203
00:53:59,400 --> 00:54:00,840
--normal things,
but they were not

1204
00:54:00,840 --> 00:54:03,400
normal under those conditions.

1205
00:54:03,400 --> 00:54:04,540
So it has changed.

1206
00:54:04,540 --> 00:54:07,920
And then also, the
deportations started.

1207
00:54:07,920 --> 00:54:09,920
The deportation didn't
start in Auschwitz.

1208
00:54:09,920 --> 00:54:14,280
It started in the first
ghetto, which they

1209
00:54:14,280 --> 00:54:16,980
said will be a model ghetto.

1210
00:54:16,980 --> 00:54:18,030
What was it called?

1211
00:54:18,030 --> 00:54:20,520

Theresienstadt,
Terezín in Czech.

1212
00:54:20,520 --> 00:54:21,610
Yeah.

1213
00:54:21,610 --> 00:54:23,040
Now Terezín was--

1214
00:54:23,040 --> 00:54:25,500
Excuse me, before that,
when did the deport--

1215
00:54:25,500 --> 00:54:28,380
how did people find out that
they're going to be deported?

1216
00:54:28,380 --> 00:54:31,110
There's still a gap between
when life stops being normal--

1217
00:54:31,110 --> 00:54:36,570
Well, for example, her parents,
because they were wealthy,

1218
00:54:36,570 --> 00:54:37,410
they had a house--

1219
00:54:37,410 --> 00:54:38,115
Uh-huh.

1220
00:54:38,115 --> 00:54:40,740
So number one, they had to move
out of the house, and the house

1221
00:54:40,740 --> 00:54:43,740
was given to some German
family, a lieutenant

1222
00:54:43,740 --> 00:54:45,540
or whatever he was.

1223

00:54:45,540 --> 00:54:47,640
So it started gradually.

1224
00:54:47,640 --> 00:54:51,190
It was not that there were mass
transportation or deportations,

1225
00:54:51,190 --> 00:54:52,080
no.

1226
00:54:52,080 --> 00:54:57,210
But limited amount of
people were sent to TerezÃn.

1227
00:54:57,210 --> 00:54:58,710
I want to-- excuse
me-- interrupt

1228
00:54:58,710 --> 00:55:03,060
and finish one thought
before, which was you

1229
00:55:03,060 --> 00:55:05,790
and Georgine were in the
same group of friends,

1230
00:55:05,790 --> 00:55:06,920
and you were dancing.

1231
00:55:06,920 --> 00:55:09,968
How did your
relationship develop?

1232
00:55:09,968 --> 00:55:11,010
How did it develop that--

1233
00:55:11,010 --> 00:55:15,270
Well, that-- I don't think
I remember how it developed.

1234
00:55:15,270 --> 00:55:17,900
It was the same group of
people who used to go to dance.

1235
00:55:17,900 --> 00:55:18,400
Now how--

1236
00:55:18,400 --> 00:55:22,437
Yes, but at one point you're
dancing, and then you married.

1237
00:55:22,437 --> 00:55:23,020
What happened?

1238
00:55:23,020 --> 00:55:23,970
Well, no, no, it was--

1239
00:55:23,970 --> 00:55:24,470
[LAUGHS]

1240
00:55:24,470 --> 00:55:26,080
[LAUGHS] You know.

1241
00:55:26,080 --> 00:55:27,450
No.

1242
00:55:27,450 --> 00:55:29,650
Used to go to
dance, like I said.

1243
00:55:29,650 --> 00:55:32,040
The marriage didn't
happen that way.

1244
00:55:32,040 --> 00:55:32,910
How did it happen?

1245
00:55:32,910 --> 00:55:37,920
Marriage happened because all
of a sudden, the edict came.

1246
00:55:37,920 --> 00:55:39,960
Don't hold me to the numbers.

1247

00:55:39,960 --> 00:55:46,140
500 men, 5,000 men, we had
to report to be deported

1248
00:55:46,140 --> 00:55:48,000
when you were single.

1249
00:55:48,000 --> 00:55:51,780
So everybody who had a
girlfriend got married.

1250
00:55:51,780 --> 00:55:53,470
We didn't get married
because we thought

1251
00:55:53,470 --> 00:55:55,620
we'd all have children
in the United States.

1252
00:55:55,620 --> 00:55:56,400
[LAUGHS]

1253
00:55:56,400 --> 00:55:58,720
We got married because
once you were married,

1254
00:55:58,720 --> 00:56:01,800
you postponed the deportation.

1255
00:56:01,800 --> 00:56:07,060
Now under those circumstances
which existed at that time,

1256
00:56:07,060 --> 00:56:10,530
everything in your
life at the time

1257
00:56:10,530 --> 00:56:14,190
was to delay the
deportation, because you

1258
00:56:14,190 --> 00:56:16,290
knew where you were,

but you did not

1259

00:56:16,290 --> 00:56:19,650

know what will come once you go.

1260

00:56:19,650 --> 00:56:24,600

So you did anything to
delay the deportation.

1261

00:56:24,600 --> 00:56:27,150

So if you look at
the calendar, you

1262

00:56:27,150 --> 00:56:32,340

will remember that in
1941 when we got married,

1263

00:56:32,340 --> 00:56:33,570

Pearl Harbor happened.

1264

00:56:33,570 --> 00:56:34,380

That's right.

1265

00:56:34,380 --> 00:56:37,200

So we thought, oh my gosh,
now the United States

1266

00:56:37,200 --> 00:56:38,490

will go to war.

1267

00:56:38,490 --> 00:56:40,170

It will be over before we go.

1268

00:56:40,170 --> 00:56:40,870

Yeah.

1269

00:56:40,870 --> 00:56:45,360

So everything was done
to delay that thing.

1270

00:56:45,360 --> 00:56:48,140

Now since you were

married all of a sudden,

1271

00:56:48,140 --> 00:56:51,840

whether it was this girlfriend
or vice versa from the girl's

1272

00:56:51,840 --> 00:56:54,750

point of view, we got married.

1273

00:56:54,750 --> 00:56:59,150

Now of course the circumstances
were very, very different

1274

00:56:59,150 --> 00:57:00,420

already.

1275

00:57:00,420 --> 00:57:03,840

Number one, we had to
wear a Jewish star.

1276

00:57:03,840 --> 00:57:07,920

Transportation, there
was hardly any in place.

1277

00:57:07,920 --> 00:57:10,920

Now the street cars
which we had at that--

1278

00:57:10,920 --> 00:57:15,180

remember, we talk about
1939, 1940, so different now,

1279

00:57:15,180 --> 00:57:16,480

no doubt.

1280

00:57:16,480 --> 00:57:19,350

But at the time,
we had street cars.

1281

00:57:19,350 --> 00:57:22,110

And the street cars, the
engines was in the middle.

1282

00:57:22,110 --> 00:57:26,160

So there was a front
part and the rear part.

1283

00:57:26,160 --> 00:57:28,260

So the Jewish people
had, naturally,

1284

00:57:28,260 --> 00:57:29,650

to be in the rear part.

1285

00:57:29,650 --> 00:57:30,150

Of course.

1286

00:57:30,150 --> 00:57:34,870

So when we got married, well we
had to go to the rear part to--

1287

00:57:34,870 --> 00:57:36,210

I don't know where we went.

1288

00:57:36,210 --> 00:57:38,170

No, I know where we went.

1289

00:57:38,170 --> 00:57:41,300

Her sister married a non-Jew--

1290

00:57:41,300 --> 00:57:43,420

the life in Prague
at that time, there

1291

00:57:43,420 --> 00:57:46,790

was no difference between
I told you Jews, non-Jews.

1292

00:57:46,790 --> 00:57:48,660

People got married.

1293

00:57:48,660 --> 00:57:51,960

So her sister got married
to a Czech person, not

1294

00:57:51,960 --> 00:57:53,430

Jewish person.

1295

00:57:53,430 --> 00:57:55,380

And they were living
in a certain place.

1296

00:57:55,380 --> 00:57:57,360

I can't remember
the street anymore,

1297

00:57:57,360 --> 00:57:58,950

but I remember where it was.

1298

00:57:58,950 --> 00:58:00,250

What's the neighborhood?

1299

00:58:00,250 --> 00:58:00,750

Sorry?

1300

00:58:00,750 --> 00:58:02,310

What was the neighborhood?

1301

00:58:02,310 --> 00:58:04,530

It was called Liben.

1302

00:58:04,530 --> 00:58:09,880

L-I-B-E, and on the N was like
a little something, Liben.

1303

00:58:09,880 --> 00:58:13,920

And I don't know if it was
her house or an apartment.

1304

00:58:13,920 --> 00:58:16,560

I don't remember that, but
I know it was supposed to--

1305

00:58:16,560 --> 00:58:20,992

that's where we had our, quote,
"wedding" and celebration,

1306

00:58:20,992 --> 00:58:21,950

if you want to call it.

1307

00:58:21,950 --> 00:58:25,680

But all this was in a

very, very limited way,

1308

00:58:25,680 --> 00:58:27,750

because the circumstances

were not there

1309

00:58:27,750 --> 00:58:31,350

to allow you to do

something ostentatiously

1310

00:58:31,350 --> 00:58:33,170

or something, no.

1311

00:58:33,170 --> 00:58:38,110

But we got married

in October 1941.

1312

00:58:38,110 --> 00:58:42,030

And like I just told you,

because so many young men were

1313

00:58:42,030 --> 00:58:47,650

supposed to report, let's go to

Madison Square Garden for work.

1314

00:58:47,650 --> 00:58:49,770

Now, once you were married,

you still reported,

1315

00:58:49,770 --> 00:58:51,200

but you were not deported.

1316

00:58:51,200 --> 00:58:53,820

1317

00:58:53,820 --> 00:58:57,750

Now the deportation were

already taking place.

1318

00:58:57,750 --> 00:58:59,230

Now if I may inject something--

1319

00:58:59,230 --> 00:58:59,730

Sure.

1320

00:58:59,730 --> 00:59:01,950

--what I was doing

when I, quote, "lost"

1321

00:59:01,950 --> 00:59:05,070

my accounting job.

1322

00:59:05,070 --> 00:59:05,840

You had to work.

1323

00:59:05,840 --> 00:59:08,650

If you didn't work, you

didn't get your stamps

1324

00:59:08,650 --> 00:59:10,070

which you needed to buy food.

1325

00:59:10,070 --> 00:59:12,030

So we had to work.

1326

00:59:12,030 --> 00:59:15,120

So actually, you

had no choice what

1327

00:59:15,120 --> 00:59:16,860

you would like to do for work.

1328

00:59:16,860 --> 00:59:19,050

You were told what to do.

1329

00:59:19,050 --> 00:59:21,970

Now you have to realize, then,

some of these Jewish people,

1330

00:59:21,970 --> 00:59:25,920
including her father, mother,
when they were deported,

1331

00:59:25,920 --> 00:59:30,330
they left behind
this, let's say.

1332

00:59:30,330 --> 00:59:33,870
So that had to be emptied,
because the landlord wanted

1333

00:59:33,870 --> 00:59:38,850
to rent it so he could rent it
when all the stuff was there.

1334

00:59:38,850 --> 00:59:44,160
So I was assigned to a
unit which was emptying out

1335

00:59:44,160 --> 00:59:45,015
sewing machines.

1336

00:59:45,015 --> 00:59:47,366
[HONKING]

1337

00:59:47,366 --> 00:59:48,400
My ear?

1338

00:59:48,400 --> 00:59:49,110
No.

1339

00:59:49,110 --> 00:59:50,027
Oh, that's over there.

1340

00:59:50,027 --> 00:59:51,820
It's a car outside.

1341

00:59:51,820 --> 00:59:55,540
The sewing machines in those
days were heavy clunkers.

1342

00:59:55,540 --> 00:59:57,040

I don't know if
you'd remember them.

1343

00:59:57,040 --> 01:00:01,210

They were big stuff, iron,
not like now, plastic

1344

01:00:01,210 --> 01:00:03,640

and you put it on your table.

1345

01:00:03,640 --> 01:00:10,590

So mirrors, pictures,
and sewing machines

1346

01:00:10,590 --> 01:00:12,990

were taken out from
those apartments,

1347

01:00:12,990 --> 01:00:16,260

and they were stored
in a large synagogue

1348

01:00:16,260 --> 01:00:18,900

in a suburb of Prague.

1349

01:00:18,900 --> 01:00:22,560

I was in that unit
which was doing this--

1350

01:00:22,560 --> 01:00:23,520

Work.

1351

01:00:23,520 --> 01:00:25,040

--work.

1352

01:00:25,040 --> 01:00:30,300

Now since we had pictures
from the Jewish family,

1353

01:00:30,300 --> 01:00:32,790

at that time, if you remember--

maybe you don't remember

1354
01:00:32,790 --> 01:00:35,250
because of your age--

1355
01:00:35,250 --> 01:00:38,250
west Europe was already
under the attack

1356
01:00:38,250 --> 01:00:42,120
by British, maybe
American planes.

1357
01:00:42,120 --> 01:00:47,350
So some of these planes
hit German households.

1358
01:00:47,350 --> 01:00:52,140
So the German government gave
these bombed out families

1359
01:00:52,140 --> 01:00:56,370
something what we have here,
what we call food stamps.

1360
01:00:56,370 --> 01:00:58,110
Now they were not
having food stamps,

1361
01:00:58,110 --> 01:01:01,580
but they had stamps
to buy certain things

1362
01:01:01,580 --> 01:01:06,325
to re-establish them in Prague
or wherever they were living.

1363
01:01:06,325 --> 01:01:07,950
Now naturally, I'm
talking about Prague

1364
01:01:07,950 --> 01:01:11,080
because that's

where I was active.

1365

01:01:11,080 --> 01:01:14,610

So when they came and they
had these stamps, coupons,

1366

01:01:14,610 --> 01:01:17,880

or whatever it was, that
they could buy two paintings.

1367

01:01:17,880 --> 01:01:19,690

Now naturally, they
didn't pay for it.

1368

01:01:19,690 --> 01:01:22,290

They gave you the
stamps in return.

1369

01:01:22,290 --> 01:01:25,630

But there was no gallery,
like really in a gallery.

1370

01:01:25,630 --> 01:01:28,530

There was a pile of
paintings, and it

1371

01:01:28,530 --> 01:01:33,240

was segregated between certain
items of paintings, animals,

1372

01:01:33,240 --> 01:01:35,850

or flowers, or whatever.

1373

01:01:35,850 --> 01:01:38,720

In German they
call it stillleben.

1374

01:01:38,720 --> 01:01:39,990

Stillleben, yeah.

1375

01:01:39,990 --> 01:01:42,670

So I remember that when
these people came in,

1376
01:01:42,670 --> 01:01:45,130
they wanted to have a
stillleben for the dining room.

1377
01:01:45,130 --> 01:01:48,460
So I had to hold it, because
they wanted to look at it.

1378
01:01:48,460 --> 01:01:52,140
So when I was holding it,
that's how you hold [? it. ?]

1379
01:01:52,140 --> 01:01:54,210
Why do I mention it?

1380
01:01:54,210 --> 01:01:58,450
So when we got married
in October 1941--

1381
01:01:58,450 --> 01:02:02,970
and I was still working for that
Jewish organization assembling

1382
01:02:02,970 --> 01:02:06,220
the sewing machine,
pictures, and all that stuff.

1383
01:02:06,220 --> 01:02:09,630
So when we had to
report to, quote,

1384
01:02:09,630 --> 01:02:12,435
"Madison Square Garden,"
there was naturally

1385
01:02:12,435 --> 01:02:16,950
an SS guy who directed
people, the traffic, where

1386
01:02:16,950 --> 01:02:20,560
you had to check in,
where you had to go.

1387
01:02:20,560 --> 01:02:23,710
Somehow he remembered
that he was buying--

1388
01:02:23,710 --> 01:02:28,260
"buying"-- a painting
which I was holding.

1389
01:02:28,260 --> 01:02:32,280
So he called me out
from the deportation,

1390
01:02:32,280 --> 01:02:34,560
and he say, you stay here.

1391
01:02:34,560 --> 01:02:37,860
So naturally, when-- remember,
I spoke perfectly German.

1392
01:02:37,860 --> 01:02:41,040
I had German schools,
and then you improve it

1393
01:02:41,040 --> 01:02:43,470
because everything was German.

1394
01:02:43,470 --> 01:02:47,530
So I was telling him that
I have also a wife here.

1395
01:02:47,530 --> 01:02:50,280
So somehow we found
where Georgine was,

1396
01:02:50,280 --> 01:02:51,360
and they'll delay.

1397
01:02:51,360 --> 01:02:55,470
Again, everything was
always delay, delay, delay.

1398

01:02:55,470 --> 01:02:56,700
What about your parents?

1399
01:02:56,700 --> 01:02:57,240
Where they--

1400
01:02:57,240 --> 01:02:59,860
My parents, they--
that was a different--

1401
01:02:59,860 --> 01:03:00,750
We'll come to that.

1402
01:03:00,750 --> 01:03:02,580
I'll tell you.

1403
01:03:02,580 --> 01:03:07,930
So we were delayed,
not by a long time,

1404
01:03:07,930 --> 01:03:11,760
no, but it was a delay, a
week or something, whatever.

1405
01:03:11,760 --> 01:03:13,770
You talk about my parents.

1406
01:03:13,770 --> 01:03:18,640
My sister worked for the Jewish
government, the government,

1407
01:03:18,640 --> 01:03:21,960
which was connected to
the German government.

1408
01:03:21,960 --> 01:03:24,000
Don't forget, the Germans
didn't do any orders.

1409
01:03:24,000 --> 01:03:26,670
They gave the orders through
the Jewish government.

1410

01:03:26,670 --> 01:03:28,470

So there was a
Jewish police, there

1411

01:03:28,470 --> 01:03:30,360

was a Jewish this,
everything-- not

1412

01:03:30,360 --> 01:03:33,540

everything, of course,
but within circumstances.

1413

01:03:33,540 --> 01:03:38,070

So my sister was working for
that Jewish organization,

1414

01:03:38,070 --> 01:03:40,470

call it the Jewish government.

1415

01:03:40,470 --> 01:03:42,840

And that was primarily
because, if you remember,

1416

01:03:42,840 --> 01:03:45,470

I told you that person
who came into our house

1417

01:03:45,470 --> 01:03:49,170

where we are living,
so he knew my mother.

1418

01:03:49,170 --> 01:03:50,860

He knew my sister.

1419

01:03:50,860 --> 01:03:51,830

This Edelstein.

1420

01:03:51,830 --> 01:03:53,040

Edelstein.

1421

01:03:53,040 --> 01:03:57,570

So he was delaying

their deportation.

1422
01:03:57,570 --> 01:03:59,370
So they stayed
[? vested ?] in Prague

1423
01:03:59,370 --> 01:04:04,990
much longer than I and
Georgine or her parents.

1424
01:04:04,990 --> 01:04:05,520
Got it.

1425
01:04:05,520 --> 01:04:06,020
How long?

1426
01:04:06,020 --> 01:04:07,353
That I can't tell you, how long.

1427
01:04:07,353 --> 01:04:12,660
But eventually, they also
came to Theresienstadt, just

1428
01:04:12,660 --> 01:04:13,850
like my sister.

1429
01:04:13,850 --> 01:04:17,160
But my sister, from
the job in Prague,

1430
01:04:17,160 --> 01:04:19,180
she had the same job
in Theresienstadt,

1431
01:04:19,180 --> 01:04:21,600
because she was working
for the Jewish government.

1432
01:04:21,600 --> 01:04:23,530
What was the job?

1433
01:04:23,530 --> 01:04:24,190

Office.

1434
01:04:24,190 --> 01:04:24,690
Office work.

1435
01:04:24,690 --> 01:04:28,380
Don't forget, they
had statistics.

1436
01:04:28,380 --> 01:04:30,480
They knew how many
people they killed.

1437
01:04:30,480 --> 01:04:33,180
I tell you, they knew
exactly how they killed.

1438
01:04:33,180 --> 01:04:36,210
They had system,
and if you read back

1439
01:04:36,210 --> 01:04:38,250
the papers what I have here--

1440
01:04:38,250 --> 01:04:41,550
I will have to look for
it to show it to you.

1441
01:04:41,550 --> 01:04:43,720
They knew my
transportation number

1442
01:04:43,720 --> 01:04:46,770
when I was, well,
with Georgine when we

1443
01:04:46,770 --> 01:04:51,210
left Prague for Theresienstadt.

1444
01:04:51,210 --> 01:04:52,620
The transport had a name.

1445

01:04:52,620 --> 01:04:53,940
The transport had a number.

1446
01:04:53,940 --> 01:04:55,560
We had a number.

1447
01:04:55,560 --> 01:04:57,420
I don't remember the
number, of course,

1448
01:04:57,420 --> 01:05:00,130
but I have papers
here to show you.

1449
01:05:00,130 --> 01:05:06,700
So my parents were
actually deported later.

1450
01:05:06,700 --> 01:05:10,200
They perished, of course,
just like everybody perished.

1451
01:05:10,200 --> 01:05:14,460
But they later-- they lived
a little longer, let's

1452
01:05:14,460 --> 01:05:16,590
say, before they
got into Auschwitz.

1453
01:05:16,590 --> 01:05:19,230
And Auschwitz was, of
course, the end of it.

1454
01:05:19,230 --> 01:05:21,230
Because when you
were in Auschwitz

1455
01:05:21,230 --> 01:05:24,320
and you came with the
train, and in front of you

1456
01:05:24,320 --> 01:05:27,330

stood that doctor,
whatever his name was,

1457
01:05:27,330 --> 01:05:29,730
and he decided whether you
go this way or that way,

1458
01:05:29,730 --> 01:05:30,230
naturally.

1459
01:05:30,230 --> 01:05:35,040
Now you have to realize,
I like to tell you,

1460
01:05:35,040 --> 01:05:38,190
we know now when we
say the word Auschwitz.

1461
01:05:38,190 --> 01:05:40,330
We know what it is.

1462
01:05:40,330 --> 01:05:46,360
But you have to go back to 1941,
when we got married, to '42.

1463
01:05:46,360 --> 01:05:51,920
So when we were living in
Theresienstadt, our clothes.

1464
01:05:51,920 --> 01:05:55,520
We didn't have any
prisoner clothes.

1465
01:05:55,520 --> 01:05:57,720
It was horrible.

1466
01:05:57,720 --> 01:06:03,210
But it was a paradise
compared to what happened.

1467
01:06:03,210 --> 01:06:04,590
Why do I say it?

1468

01:06:04,590 --> 01:06:08,100

Because Theresienstadt
is an old town named

1469

01:06:08,100 --> 01:06:11,190

after Queen Theresienstadt
or whatever she was--

1470

01:06:11,190 --> 01:06:12,410

Theresa.

1471

01:06:12,410 --> 01:06:13,250

Mm-hmm.

1472

01:06:13,250 --> 01:06:15,480

And naturally,
those were barracks

1473

01:06:15,480 --> 01:06:18,580

for the Czech armed forces.

1474

01:06:18,580 --> 01:06:22,140

Now there was not that much
space, not that many beds

1475

01:06:22,140 --> 01:06:23,220

or anything.

1476

01:06:23,220 --> 01:06:28,060

So they constructed bunks,
three on top of each other.

1477

01:06:28,060 --> 01:06:31,530

So there was a terrible
shortage of space.

1478

01:06:31,530 --> 01:06:32,970

When you went to
the bathroom, you

1479

01:06:32,970 --> 01:06:35,020

had to have your

container for soap.

1480
01:06:35,020 --> 01:06:36,630
You went there.

1481
01:06:36,630 --> 01:06:40,230
It was not a bathroom in
a sense like you go here.

1482
01:06:40,230 --> 01:06:44,880
So it was very difficult. The
crowds, you had to wait in line

1483
01:06:44,880 --> 01:06:46,990
to get your food.

1484
01:06:46,990 --> 01:06:50,340
So when you come from a
normal atmosphere like here--

1485
01:06:50,340 --> 01:06:51,950
and I don't mean
my house, per se--

1486
01:06:51,950 --> 01:06:52,710
Yeah, yeah.

1487
01:06:52,710 --> 01:06:56,160
And then all of a sudden,
you have a regimented life.

1488
01:06:56,160 --> 01:06:57,960
You have to be
there at 7 o'clock

1489
01:06:57,960 --> 01:06:59,940
or 9 o'clock or whatever.

1490
01:06:59,940 --> 01:07:03,280
And then you slept three
on top of each other.

1491

01:07:03,280 --> 01:07:05,640
Which one are you going to
go, on top, in the middle,

1492
01:07:05,640 --> 01:07:07,200
or down below?

1493
01:07:07,200 --> 01:07:10,800
So there were arguments
among people, Jewish people.

1494
01:07:10,800 --> 01:07:13,030
But don't forget there were
not only Jewish people.

1495
01:07:13,030 --> 01:07:16,920
They were also Jewish people
from some other places,

1496
01:07:16,920 --> 01:07:19,500
because it was supposed
to be a model ghetto,

1497
01:07:19,500 --> 01:07:22,050
and Hitler was winning
the war all over.

1498
01:07:22,050 --> 01:07:26,130
So it became extremely crowded.

1499
01:07:26,130 --> 01:07:31,470
Now in that Theresienstadt,
the first x months--

1500
01:07:31,470 --> 01:07:33,190
I can't tell you
how many months.

1501
01:07:33,190 --> 01:07:36,660
But I was assigned
to distribute coal,

1502
01:07:36,660 --> 01:07:38,520

because I was working
in a coal firm,

1503
01:07:38,520 --> 01:07:42,840
so I was assigned to a coal job.

1504
01:07:42,840 --> 01:07:44,370
What was the job?

1505
01:07:44,370 --> 01:07:48,330
Well, all these people who
were living in these places,

1506
01:07:48,330 --> 01:07:51,820
they were assigned
boxes with two

1507
01:07:51,820 --> 01:07:53,320
handles here, two
handles over there

1508
01:07:53,320 --> 01:07:56,230
and that you had to
fill this up with coal,

1509
01:07:56,230 --> 01:07:58,980
and they took it in
wherever they were staying.

1510
01:07:58,980 --> 01:08:00,360
The houses were conver--

1511
01:08:00,360 --> 01:08:01,230
houses-- they--

1512
01:08:01,230 --> 01:08:02,030
Barracks.

1513
01:08:02,030 --> 01:08:04,910
Not houses like-- shacks.

1514
01:08:04,910 --> 01:08:07,510

But that was converted
so that some people

1515
01:08:07,510 --> 01:08:10,260
could have lived there, either
mostly men or mostly women.

1516
01:08:10,260 --> 01:08:14,160
And they needed heat, so
they were getting the coal.

1517
01:08:14,160 --> 01:08:18,930
So at one point--

1518
01:08:18,930 --> 01:08:23,060
when the coal normally
was sold or delivered,

1519
01:08:23,060 --> 01:08:28,170
there used to be a little
hut with a scale outside.

1520
01:08:28,170 --> 01:08:31,950
So because of my
coal connections,

1521
01:08:31,950 --> 01:08:35,370
I was given the
use of that thing.

1522
01:08:35,370 --> 01:08:38,306
So Georgine moved back
in with me in that--

1523
01:08:38,306 --> 01:08:38,806
Hut.

1524
01:08:38,806 --> 01:08:42,870
--hut, the coal-- in
the public scale--

1525
01:08:42,870 --> 01:08:45,252
So you had your own

private place in the hut.

1526

01:08:45,252 --> 01:08:46,210

I had my private scale.

1527

01:08:46,210 --> 01:08:51,180

[LAUGHS] But like I

say, it was awful.

1528

01:08:51,180 --> 01:08:54,960

But it was wonderful

to what has happened.

1529

01:08:54,960 --> 01:08:56,970

So in September--

1530

01:08:56,970 --> 01:08:58,450

Hang on, before we get there--

1531

01:08:58,450 --> 01:08:58,950

Sure, sure.

1532

01:08:58,950 --> 01:09:01,290

Because there's some gaps here.

1533

01:09:01,290 --> 01:09:07,590

The last we knew is that the SS
officer pulls you out of line,

1534

01:09:07,590 --> 01:09:10,670

and you have a delay.

1535

01:09:10,670 --> 01:09:11,755

Couple days more.

1536

01:09:11,755 --> 01:09:13,330

Ah, it was a couple of days.

1537

01:09:13,330 --> 01:09:13,830

Oh, yes.

1538

01:09:13,830 --> 01:09:16,831
It wasn't like a month or two
months or something like that.

1539
01:09:16,831 --> 01:09:17,539
A couple of days.

1540
01:09:17,539 --> 01:09:22,060
I had to re-appeal, whatever
you want to call it, yeah.

1541
01:09:22,060 --> 01:09:22,890
Oh, I see.

1542
01:09:22,890 --> 01:09:23,470
And so no--

1543
01:09:23,470 --> 01:09:28,410
And then we went, naturally,
to Theresienstadt.

1544
01:09:28,410 --> 01:09:29,069
I understand.

1545
01:09:29,069 --> 01:09:34,020
But here's-- you don't remember
that gathering place that you

1546
01:09:34,020 --> 01:09:36,090
call Madison Square Garden.

1547
01:09:36,090 --> 01:09:38,479
Do you remember the name of
where you were told to go?

1548
01:09:38,479 --> 01:09:39,060
No.

1549
01:09:39,060 --> 01:09:40,720
I would lie if I
tell you I remember.

1550

01:09:40,720 --> 01:09:41,840
No, no.

1551
01:09:41,840 --> 01:09:43,715
[? Velatric, ?] but I
don't know what-- well,

1552
01:09:43,715 --> 01:09:44,950
[? Velatric ?] means like--

1553
01:09:44,950 --> 01:09:45,908
Was [? Velatrisnic-- ?]

1554
01:09:45,908 --> 01:09:52,290
[? Velatric ?] means-- a huge--

1555
01:09:52,290 --> 01:09:55,950
we have something in
New York City, Javits--

1556
01:09:55,950 --> 01:09:56,640
Center.

1557
01:09:56,640 --> 01:09:58,050
Something like this.

1558
01:09:58,050 --> 01:09:59,790
It was, of course, much smaller.

1559
01:09:59,790 --> 01:10:01,855
Everything was
smaller than here.

1560
01:10:01,855 --> 01:10:03,230
But it was called
[? Velatric? ?]

1561
01:10:03,230 --> 01:10:06,020
[? Velatric. ?] [? Velatric ?]
is a name like you would say--

1562
01:10:06,020 --> 01:10:06,773

I know.

1563
01:10:06,773 --> 01:10:07,690
It's a place, however.

1564
01:10:07,690 --> 01:10:08,200
Yeah.

1565
01:10:08,200 --> 01:10:08,320
Yeah.

1566
01:10:08,320 --> 01:10:08,660
All right.

1567
01:10:08,660 --> 01:10:09,160
Yeah.

1568
01:10:09,160 --> 01:10:11,400
And was it near
the train station?

1569
01:10:11,400 --> 01:10:13,020
Was it near--

1570
01:10:13,020 --> 01:10:13,800
I would not know.

1571
01:10:13,800 --> 01:10:14,592
You would not know.

1572
01:10:14,592 --> 01:10:15,500
I would not know.

1573
01:10:15,500 --> 01:10:16,620
OK.

1574
01:10:16,620 --> 01:10:19,750
But from there, there must
have been somewhere close

1575
01:10:19,750 --> 01:10:24,300

with train station, because
we got deported by train.

1576
01:10:24,300 --> 01:10:24,800
OK.

1577
01:10:24,800 --> 01:10:27,170
No, I don't remember very well.

1578
01:10:27,170 --> 01:10:29,760
Certain things disappear
from your memory.

1579
01:10:29,760 --> 01:10:30,360
That's OK.

1580
01:10:30,360 --> 01:10:32,880
Don't forget that what
you're talking about

1581
01:10:32,880 --> 01:10:34,840
happened 70 odd years ago.

1582
01:10:34,840 --> 01:10:35,410
I know.

1583
01:10:35,410 --> 01:10:35,910
I know.

1584
01:10:35,910 --> 01:10:37,072
I know.

1585
01:10:37,072 --> 01:10:39,030
It's amazing what you're
able to tell us from--

1586
01:10:39,030 --> 01:10:40,697
Well, I remember these
things like if it

1587
01:10:40,697 --> 01:10:41,890
had happened yesterday, yes.

1588
01:10:41,890 --> 01:10:42,450
Yeah.

1589
01:10:42,450 --> 01:10:43,260
Certain things.

1590
01:10:43,260 --> 01:10:43,885
Certain things.

1591
01:10:43,885 --> 01:10:45,600
And certain things
you don't remember.

1592
01:10:45,600 --> 01:10:47,790
So here's another
question, before we go back

1593
01:10:47,790 --> 01:10:49,810
to Theresienstadt.

1594
01:10:49,810 --> 01:10:52,490
Life changed after
Hitler marched in.

1595
01:10:52,490 --> 01:10:52,990
Yes.

1596
01:10:52,990 --> 01:10:55,200
And that was in March 1939.

1597
01:10:55,200 --> 01:10:56,020
That's correct.

1598
01:10:56,020 --> 01:10:59,290
And then the war
starts September '39.

1599
01:10:59,290 --> 01:11:01,180
Well, that was
because Hitler didn't

1600

01:11:01,180 --> 01:11:04,360

keep his word that the
Czech territory was

1601

01:11:04,360 --> 01:11:07,690

his last territorial demand.

1602

01:11:07,690 --> 01:11:11,650

He had a demand on Poland,
and he marched into Poland

1603

01:11:11,650 --> 01:11:14,620

on September 1, 1939.

1604

01:11:14,620 --> 01:11:18,500

My question, did
life change even more

1605

01:11:18,500 --> 01:11:19,990

when there was an actual war?

1606

01:11:19,990 --> 01:11:20,530

Of course.

1607

01:11:20,530 --> 01:11:21,030

Of course.

1608

01:11:21,030 --> 01:11:21,780

How?

1609

01:11:21,780 --> 01:11:25,610

Well, again, we had to
be home by 8 o'clock.

1610

01:11:25,610 --> 01:11:26,750

You couldn't go out.

1611

01:11:26,750 --> 01:11:27,660

You couldn't do this.

1612

01:11:27,660 --> 01:11:28,410

So it was like a--

1613
01:11:28,410 --> 01:11:29,740
--restrictions.

1614
01:11:29,740 --> 01:11:33,800
Musical instruments we had
to give up, the star and--

1615
01:11:33,800 --> 01:11:35,120
that all happened.

1616
01:11:35,120 --> 01:11:36,650
But is that because of the war?

1617
01:11:36,650 --> 01:11:37,810
Or is that--

1618
01:11:37,810 --> 01:11:41,110
That happened between
them marching in.

1619
01:11:41,110 --> 01:11:43,160
When they marched
in, nothing happened.

1620
01:11:43,160 --> 01:11:45,610
You were living like
you were living before.

1621
01:11:45,610 --> 01:11:47,060
But slice.

1622
01:11:47,060 --> 01:11:47,990
Slice.

1623
01:11:47,990 --> 01:11:51,440
Slice this, then--
look, we used to go

1624
01:11:51,440 --> 01:11:56,060
to play cards with that friend

of mine who was, of course,

1625
01:11:56,060 --> 01:11:57,710
Catholic.

1626
01:11:57,710 --> 01:12:01,070
He was my-- playing soccer,
I was the right wing.

1627
01:12:01,070 --> 01:12:04,770
He was playing next to me,
whatever we used to call it.

1628
01:12:04,770 --> 01:12:06,560
So we were friends.

1629
01:12:06,560 --> 01:12:07,700
So we used to go--

1630
01:12:07,700 --> 01:12:10,250
they were living very close
to where I was living,

1631
01:12:10,250 --> 01:12:11,630
and we're talking about Prague.

1632
01:12:11,630 --> 01:12:12,680
Yeah.

1633
01:12:12,680 --> 01:12:14,080
So in the evening--

1634
01:12:14,080 --> 01:12:16,010
whatever, during the
day, he was working.

1635
01:12:16,010 --> 01:12:16,760
I was working.

1636
01:12:16,760 --> 01:12:19,670
So during the evening,
we went to see

1637
01:12:19,670 --> 01:12:23,640
in his home, such an old
house, I remember like today,

1638
01:12:23,640 --> 01:12:26,972
and we were playing cards.

1639
01:12:26,972 --> 01:12:29,770
In the evening, there was
no television, of course,

1640
01:12:29,770 --> 01:12:33,170
in those days, so
we played cards.

1641
01:12:33,170 --> 01:12:38,020
The mother divorced, his mother.

1642
01:12:38,020 --> 01:12:42,410
And she was dating somebody who
was German, but he was very--

1643
01:12:42,410 --> 01:12:45,260
not every German was
a Nazi at that point.

1644
01:12:45,260 --> 01:12:46,070
Of course.

1645
01:12:46,070 --> 01:12:48,950
But that deteriorated.

1646
01:12:48,950 --> 01:12:51,830
Then it came that we could not
stay longer than 8 o'clock.

1647
01:12:51,830 --> 01:12:53,270
We had to be home.

1648
01:12:53,270 --> 01:12:56,930
So we had to go from his

house to my house to go home,

1649

01:12:56,930 --> 01:12:59,270

because we didn't like to
take a chance if somebody

1650

01:12:59,270 --> 01:13:01,020

would catch you on the street.

1651

01:13:01,020 --> 01:13:05,810

So it gradually became
worse and worse and worse.

1652

01:13:05,810 --> 01:13:09,260

And then all of a sudden,
you couldn't see him anymore

1653

01:13:09,260 --> 01:13:11,120

because he was
afraid if he was--

1654

01:13:11,120 --> 01:13:14,420

if somebody will
see him with a Jew

1655

01:13:14,420 --> 01:13:15,680

that he will have a problem.

1656

01:13:15,680 --> 01:13:17,740

Yeah.

1657

01:13:17,740 --> 01:13:20,660

But talking about the German
language and all that,

1658

01:13:20,660 --> 01:13:21,690

Auschwitz--

1659

01:13:21,690 --> 01:13:24,990

and I was comparing
it to that here,

1660

01:13:24,990 --> 01:13:29,980
9/11, when we had that World
Trade Center coming down.

1661
01:13:29,980 --> 01:13:30,860
I know where I was.

1662
01:13:30,860 --> 01:13:32,250
I'm sure you know
where you were.

1663
01:13:32,250 --> 01:13:32,750
Yeah.

1664
01:13:32,750 --> 01:13:36,350
And I saw the first
plane hitting that thing.

1665
01:13:36,350 --> 01:13:38,870
Well, at that
time, my assumption

1666
01:13:38,870 --> 01:13:41,630
was that the guy lost his
bearing or something happened

1667
01:13:41,630 --> 01:13:44,970
to the plane, and
he hit the building.

1668
01:13:44,970 --> 01:13:50,570
So the same was with
Auschwitz, when you don't know

1669
01:13:50,570 --> 01:13:53,720
and you are confronted with
these unknown things, what

1670
01:13:53,720 --> 01:13:54,980
happened.

1671
01:13:54,980 --> 01:13:58,370
So coming back to

Theresienstadt,

1672

01:13:58,370 --> 01:14:04,860
we got there in March '43.

1673

01:14:04,860 --> 01:14:10,980
And from March '43
to September '44,

1674

01:14:10,980 --> 01:14:13,370
everything was
Theresienstadt, OK.

1675

01:14:13,370 --> 01:14:17,550
Ah, so you actually were
in Prague until March '43.

1676

01:14:17,550 --> 01:14:19,130
Yes.

1677

01:14:19,130 --> 01:14:21,260
Living under--

1678

01:14:21,260 --> 01:14:23,990
My name, Prague-- Pekarek.

1679

01:14:23,990 --> 01:14:28,350
And I was working for the
Jewish government, removing--

1680

01:14:28,350 --> 01:14:28,850
Stuff from--

1681

01:14:28,850 --> 01:14:30,183
But it didn't happen right away.

1682

01:14:30,183 --> 01:14:31,970
I was still working
under the German guy.

1683

01:14:31,970 --> 01:14:32,870
Yeah.

1684
01:14:32,870 --> 01:14:36,860
And then when I lost that
job, if you want to call it,

1685
01:14:36,860 --> 01:14:38,900
then they assigned
me to this thing,

1686
01:14:38,900 --> 01:14:43,610
and then I was assembling the
sewing machines, paintings,

1687
01:14:43,610 --> 01:14:44,362
mirrors.

1688
01:14:44,362 --> 01:14:45,070
Things like that.

1689
01:14:45,070 --> 01:14:50,920
And then in March '43,
well, we had to go.

1690
01:14:50,920 --> 01:14:52,560
OK.

1691
01:14:52,560 --> 01:14:53,060
OK.

1692
01:14:53,060 --> 01:14:56,990
So in Theresienstadt,
you're there from March--

1693
01:14:56,990 --> 01:15:01,670
March '43 to September '44.

1694
01:15:01,670 --> 01:15:04,040
What happened September '44?

1695
01:15:04,040 --> 01:15:08,990
September 28 is a Czech holiday.

1696

01:15:08,990 --> 01:15:12,590

So we were told that we have
to build a new camp, always

1697

01:15:12,590 --> 01:15:15,560

the new camp.

1698

01:15:15,560 --> 01:15:18,050

I can't-- what I don't
know, I'll tell you.

1699

01:15:18,050 --> 01:15:22,370

I don't remember if
it was 500 or 5,000,

1700

01:15:22,370 --> 01:15:25,410

or anything in between, men.

1701

01:15:25,410 --> 01:15:28,700

So we were assembled,
and we had to go

1702

01:15:28,700 --> 01:15:33,320

to these open boxcars
which were full of coal

1703

01:15:33,320 --> 01:15:37,130

that had to be taken out, the
coal, and we had to go in.

1704

01:15:37,130 --> 01:15:39,490

And then they took off March--

1705

01:15:39,490 --> 01:15:43,370

September 28, eastward.

1706

01:15:43,370 --> 01:15:47,720

Now we knew that the American
Ally soldiers were coming

1707

01:15:47,720 --> 01:15:53,230

westward, but they didn't get

far enough for us to get out,

1708

01:15:53,230 --> 01:15:54,980
whatever.

1709

01:15:54,980 --> 01:16:00,140
So when the train was full of
people, open boxcars, well,

1710

01:16:00,140 --> 01:16:01,520
you know what people do.

1711

01:16:01,520 --> 01:16:03,410
People have to go
to the bathroom.

1712

01:16:03,410 --> 01:16:05,130
There was no food.

1713

01:16:05,130 --> 01:16:07,970
I have to interject here
something, because my friend

1714

01:16:07,970 --> 01:16:11,940
out on Long Island, he always
says, well, what about food?

1715

01:16:11,940 --> 01:16:15,350
And I always tell him, Fernando,
there were no dining cars.

1716

01:16:15,350 --> 01:16:18,500
[LAUGHS] But there's
something else.

1717

01:16:18,500 --> 01:16:26,410
So after we were traveling east,
northeast, there was somebody--

1718

01:16:26,410 --> 01:16:28,540
I remember it like today--

1719

01:16:28,540 --> 01:16:31,120
in a stripe-- remember,
Theresienstadt,

1720
01:16:31,120 --> 01:16:32,860
we had our clothes.

1721
01:16:32,860 --> 01:16:36,110
So that was also where you
put it and all that stuff.

1722
01:16:36,110 --> 01:16:38,680
So there was always
a shortage of space,

1723
01:16:38,680 --> 01:16:41,800
and you intermingled stuff.

1724
01:16:41,800 --> 01:16:44,650
It was a source of trouble.

1725
01:16:44,650 --> 01:16:46,840
But when we were
traveling east, there

1726
01:16:46,840 --> 01:16:50,440
was a guy in a striped uniform.

1727
01:16:50,440 --> 01:16:54,760
And veered out of those
boxcars, where are you from?

1728
01:16:54,760 --> 01:16:58,030
Because we wanted to know,
what camp is he from.

1729
01:16:58,030 --> 01:17:00,410
And he said Auschwitz.

1730
01:17:00,410 --> 01:17:05,080
But that didn't-- that's like
if you will say something.

1731

01:17:05,080 --> 01:17:07,030

Didn't mean a thing.

1732

01:17:07,030 --> 01:17:11,680

Well, we continued traveling
for, I don't know how many days

1733

01:17:11,680 --> 01:17:16,290

and finally got into something
which was called Auschwitz.

1734

01:17:16,290 --> 01:17:19,270

But again, the
Germans, what they did,

1735

01:17:19,270 --> 01:17:22,660

they tried to intimidate you
right from the first moment you

1736

01:17:22,660 --> 01:17:25,090

entered this whole area.

1737

01:17:25,090 --> 01:17:27,780

The train didn't--
it stopped, yes,

1738

01:17:27,780 --> 01:17:30,460

but not that everybody had
to get out of the train.

1739

01:17:30,460 --> 01:17:33,760

It took, I think, two
days before they finally

1740

01:17:33,760 --> 01:17:38,410

sent everybody out of
those boxcars to get out.

1741

01:17:38,410 --> 01:17:41,410

And the train was
going around, around.

1742

01:17:41,410 --> 01:17:44,230
And you had no idea,
because there were no signs.

1743
01:17:44,230 --> 01:17:47,320
You didn't know how
come that you go around.

1744
01:17:47,320 --> 01:17:50,560
Nobody was there to tell
you anything, of course.

1745
01:17:50,560 --> 01:17:54,340
So finally when we came
to a stop, which was,

1746
01:17:54,340 --> 01:17:58,090
I would say, a couple of
days after, October 1, 2--

1747
01:17:58,090 --> 01:18:00,331
I don't know for sure.

1748
01:18:00,331 --> 01:18:04,990
Well we had to get
out, orders in German.

1749
01:18:04,990 --> 01:18:10,390
And we were together, her
father, the two uncles,

1750
01:18:10,390 --> 01:18:13,420
the two doctors, and
also some other relatives

1751
01:18:13,420 --> 01:18:15,040
from her mother's side.

1752
01:18:15,040 --> 01:18:17,230
Were you tog-- was
Georgine with you?

1753
01:18:17,230 --> 01:18:18,160

No, no, no, no.

1754
01:18:18,160 --> 01:18:19,530
Her father.

1755
01:18:19,530 --> 01:18:20,900
Was only men.

1756
01:18:20,900 --> 01:18:22,080
OK.

1757
01:18:22,080 --> 01:18:26,920
So well, we had to
get out, and then you

1758
01:18:26,920 --> 01:18:29,920
were confronted by
that top German guy

1759
01:18:29,920 --> 01:18:33,940
who was, call it,
welcoming you or whatever.

1760
01:18:33,940 --> 01:18:37,270
And my father-in-law,
he was saying that--

1761
01:18:37,270 --> 01:18:41,480
he was not old, but in
his mind he was old.

1762
01:18:41,480 --> 01:18:43,510
He was only 50 years.

1763
01:18:43,510 --> 01:18:44,680
Exactly 50 years.

1764
01:18:44,680 --> 01:18:47,050
But he lost his house.

1765
01:18:47,050 --> 01:18:49,530
He lost his business

and everything else,

1766

01:18:49,530 --> 01:18:51,700

so he felt he's old.

1767

01:18:51,700 --> 01:18:55,060

So he was telling him in
German that he's an old man,

1768

01:18:55,060 --> 01:18:56,710

so he had to go this way.

1769

01:18:56,710 --> 01:18:59,565

Well, the two brothers,
the doctors, me, and some,

1770

01:18:59,565 --> 01:19:00,910

went this way.

1771

01:19:00,910 --> 01:19:02,830

Well, once you
are split, you try

1772

01:19:02,830 --> 01:19:07,720

to find out what happened to the
people who are the other way.

1773

01:19:07,720 --> 01:19:12,080

Well, they told you, here is
gas chambers, crematoriums,

1774

01:19:12,080 --> 01:19:17,180

and the only way out of
here is through the chimney.

1775

01:19:17,180 --> 01:19:20,050

So you find out what
happened to him,

1776

01:19:20,050 --> 01:19:23,050

and well, then we
were in Auschwitz.

1777

01:19:23,050 --> 01:19:25,190

First the shoes had
to be disinfected,

1778

01:19:25,190 --> 01:19:28,130

so they put it into water.

1779

01:19:28,130 --> 01:19:31,320

Well, this was intimidation.

1780

01:19:31,320 --> 01:19:35,370

So now you had your
shoes wet, icy cold.

1781

01:19:35,370 --> 01:19:40,470

Auschwitz is in a very cold
area of southern Poland.

1782

01:19:40,470 --> 01:19:43,140

Standing in those
freezing temperatures,

1783

01:19:43,140 --> 01:19:46,200

wet shoes, no
clothes, no nothing.

1784

01:19:46,200 --> 01:19:47,130

They give you pants.

1785

01:19:47,130 --> 01:19:50,472

But those pants were like
his pants were ill-fit--

1786

01:19:50,472 --> 01:19:52,180

I don't mean your
pants what you have on.

1787

01:19:52,180 --> 01:19:54,055

But for me, it would be
obviously-- you know.

1788

01:19:54,055 --> 01:19:55,170

Yeah.

1789

01:19:55,170 --> 01:19:58,260

But then you were
assigned to a barrack.

1790

01:19:58,260 --> 01:20:03,380

Those were stables for the
Polish armed forces for horses.

1791

01:20:03,380 --> 01:20:06,360

Don't forget, at the
time, it's still horses.

1792

01:20:06,360 --> 01:20:09,630

So if you had a heavy
equipment, the horses

1793

01:20:09,630 --> 01:20:12,060

had to pull it, not a car.

1794

01:20:12,060 --> 01:20:15,450

Gasoline was very difficult.

1795

01:20:15,450 --> 01:20:22,320

So the stables, they had
cement floors, of course,

1796

01:20:22,320 --> 01:20:26,300

and there were contraptions
for the horses.

1797

01:20:26,300 --> 01:20:28,350

What contraptions?

1798

01:20:28,350 --> 01:20:30,960

The size was just about
like at the table, not high.

1799

01:20:30,960 --> 01:20:34,950

I don't mean the size.

1800

01:20:34,950 --> 01:20:39,780
And that was on the floor, and
the edges were a little higher.

1801
01:20:39,780 --> 01:20:40,710
Mm-hmm.

1802
01:20:40,710 --> 01:20:43,890
So think of this on
the floor, but the end

1803
01:20:43,890 --> 01:20:45,060
was a little higher.

1804
01:20:45,060 --> 01:20:46,680
Why was the end higher?

1805
01:20:46,680 --> 01:20:50,980
Because the people had to put
oats into that contraption

1806
01:20:50,980 --> 01:20:53,090
so the oats were not all over.

1807
01:20:53,090 --> 01:20:57,500
The horses ate the oats or
whatever as they were eating.

1808
01:20:57,500 --> 01:21:02,910
Now for us, the height was good
because we put our head on it.

1809
01:21:02,910 --> 01:21:06,720
There were no beds like in
Theresienstadt We had be--

1810
01:21:06,720 --> 01:21:08,320
we had beds-- we had bunks.

1811
01:21:08,320 --> 01:21:09,310
But there was still--

1812

01:21:09,310 --> 01:21:10,110
Still a a space--

1813
01:21:10,110 --> 01:21:12,840
A regular-- you know.

1814
01:21:12,840 --> 01:21:18,420
So that was that stuff on
the floor, cold as it was.

1815
01:21:18,420 --> 01:21:20,630
It was awful, awful.

1816
01:21:20,630 --> 01:21:21,130
So--

1817
01:21:21,130 --> 01:21:22,200
When did you find out--

1818
01:21:22,200 --> 01:21:28,710
--uncles of Georgine, doctor,
he said, you cannot stay here.

1819
01:21:28,710 --> 01:21:30,630
But that's easier
said than done.

1820
01:21:30,630 --> 01:21:31,400
(LAUGHING) Yeah.

1821
01:21:31,400 --> 01:21:32,040
Naturally.

1822
01:21:32,040 --> 01:21:36,070
So he came up with this story
that if it's do nothing,

1823
01:21:36,070 --> 01:21:39,030
they will not survive, because
the cold weather, the food,

1824
01:21:39,030 --> 01:21:41,220

no food, nothing.

1825

01:21:41,220 --> 01:21:43,110

So he said that the
best would be for us

1826

01:21:43,110 --> 01:21:45,640

to say that we are locksmiths.

1827

01:21:45,640 --> 01:21:49,770

And I always say that's the
only lie I lied in my life,

1828

01:21:49,770 --> 01:21:52,260

because I said I'm a locksmith.

1829

01:21:52,260 --> 01:21:55,410

So but he figured that if he
said we would be locksmiths

1830

01:21:55,410 --> 01:21:58,620

that they would send us
into some kind of a factory,

1831

01:21:58,620 --> 01:22:03,630

and it would be inside rather
than somewhere outside digging

1832

01:22:03,630 --> 01:22:04,860

roads or something.

1833

01:22:04,860 --> 01:22:06,030

Right.

1834

01:22:06,030 --> 01:22:08,430

Well, he was right.

1835

01:22:08,430 --> 01:22:10,950

They were always counting,
how many are there alive

1836

01:22:10,950 --> 01:22:14,160

and all that stuff in Auschwitz.

1837

01:22:14,160 --> 01:22:17,340

When did-- again, I'll
go back a little bit.

1838

01:22:17,340 --> 01:22:19,802

In Theresienstadt, what
was the mortality like?

1839

01:22:19,802 --> 01:22:21,135

Were there a lot of people who--

1840

01:22:21,135 --> 01:22:22,410

I don't know.

1841

01:22:22,410 --> 01:22:24,210

I mean, did you see people die--

1842

01:22:24,210 --> 01:22:25,540

Of course, old people.

1843

01:22:25,540 --> 01:22:28,020

They used to call them [GERMAN].

1844

01:22:28,020 --> 01:22:32,230

Of course, the old people were
dying, but they were buried.

1845

01:22:32,230 --> 01:22:32,730

Sure.

1846

01:22:32,730 --> 01:22:34,050

I see.

1847

01:22:34,050 --> 01:22:38,220

And I think they started with
Auschwitz from Theresienstadt

1848

01:22:38,220 --> 01:22:41,400

because I think really
the Germans were concerned

1849
01:22:41,400 --> 01:22:44,100
that maybe some disease
or some uprising

1850
01:22:44,100 --> 01:22:48,220
might happen of the
multitude of people.

1851
01:22:48,220 --> 01:22:50,900
Now, of course, they
had their weapons.

1852
01:22:50,900 --> 01:22:52,032
We had nothing, of course.

1853
01:22:52,032 --> 01:22:53,240
But they would have to shoot.

1854
01:22:53,240 --> 01:22:55,680
Yeah.

1855
01:22:55,680 --> 01:22:58,620
All that blood and all the mess
which would probably happen.

1856
01:22:58,620 --> 01:23:01,170
So they started
with the deportation

1857
01:23:01,170 --> 01:23:04,080
out of Theresienstadt.

1858
01:23:04,080 --> 01:23:06,900
I think that was the main
reason, apart from getting rid

1859
01:23:06,900 --> 01:23:08,280
of the Jewish population.

1860
01:23:08,280 --> 01:23:11,210

1861
01:23:11,210 --> 01:23:13,140
And you didn't know
where Georgine was.

1862
01:23:13,140 --> 01:23:13,640
Sorry?

1863
01:23:13,640 --> 01:23:14,390
At that time, you--

1864
01:23:14,390 --> 01:23:14,770
No.

1865
01:23:14,770 --> 01:23:15,270
No, no.

1866
01:23:15,270 --> 01:23:19,460
We left Georgine and
her mother behind.

1867
01:23:19,460 --> 01:23:22,530
They followed, because
the excuse was,

1868
01:23:22,530 --> 01:23:25,670
we want to follow your
husbands, your brothers.

1869
01:23:25,670 --> 01:23:27,410
You can go tomorrow.

1870
01:23:27,410 --> 01:23:33,020
So three days later, she went
with her mother the same way.

1871
01:23:33,020 --> 01:23:35,450
Of course she never saw the
mother again, because again,

1872
01:23:35,450 --> 01:23:37,210
the age.

1873
01:23:37,210 --> 01:23:42,410
But Georgine was shipped to a
Russian camp from Auschwitz.

1874
01:23:42,410 --> 01:23:44,510
Where was she shipped?

1875
01:23:44,510 --> 01:23:46,490
It was called Gross-Rosen.

1876
01:23:46,490 --> 01:23:48,050
Ah, to Gross-Rosen, OK.

1877
01:23:48,050 --> 01:23:48,800
Mm-hmm.

1878
01:23:48,800 --> 01:23:52,250
That's where she stayed
until the end of the war.

1879
01:23:52,250 --> 01:23:53,830
But she was always sick.

1880
01:23:53,830 --> 01:23:57,690
Women are very different,
in case you don't know.

1881
01:23:57,690 --> 01:24:00,390
The women bodies are
very different body

1882
01:24:00,390 --> 01:24:01,350
than a man's body.

1883
01:24:01,350 --> 01:24:03,100
So she came back.

1884
01:24:03,100 --> 01:24:06,270
She was sick from day one.

1885

01:24:06,270 --> 01:24:09,470
Of course she came back
to Prague where I was.

1886
01:24:09,470 --> 01:24:12,120
First thing, hospital.

1887
01:24:12,120 --> 01:24:17,736
She had to be put back into a
normal stage, which she wasn't.

1888
01:24:17,736 --> 01:24:18,236
So--

1889
01:24:18,236 --> 01:24:20,540
But Auschwitz, then with that--

1890
01:24:20,540 --> 01:24:24,690

1891
01:24:24,690 --> 01:24:25,840
locksmiths.

1892
01:24:25,840 --> 01:24:26,700
Yeah, locksmiths.

1893
01:24:26,700 --> 01:24:28,760
And remember my
name was Pekarek.

1894
01:24:28,760 --> 01:24:30,380
Yeah.

1895
01:24:30,380 --> 01:24:36,250
So at one time, we had
to again assemble to go--

1896
01:24:36,250 --> 01:24:38,270
there was no travel agent.

1897
01:24:38,270 --> 01:24:40,190
They thought you have

to get out of the thing,

1898

01:24:40,190 --> 01:24:42,410
and you were standing
there, and then

1899

01:24:42,410 --> 01:24:45,620
they told you will be
transported someplace.

1900

01:24:45,620 --> 01:24:48,530
So they called their names.

1901

01:24:48,530 --> 01:24:52,160
Now lots of people changed
their names, not legally.

1902

01:24:52,160 --> 01:24:52,940
Why?

1903

01:24:52,940 --> 01:24:54,740
Because they were
afraid in case they

1904

01:24:54,740 --> 01:24:58,350
would be punished or
beaten up or whatever

1905

01:24:58,350 --> 01:25:02,880
that it might have ramification
to their family somewhere else.

1906

01:25:02,880 --> 01:25:06,500
So lots of young men changed
their name from A to B or B

1907

01:25:06,500 --> 01:25:09,200
to C. I didn't change mine.

1908

01:25:09,200 --> 01:25:11,030
I was still Pekarek.

1909

01:25:11,030 --> 01:25:16,160
And but the transportation,
the first transportation,

1910
01:25:16,160 --> 01:25:21,860
stopped at K. And
because I was Pekarek--

1911
01:25:21,860 --> 01:25:24,050
they were F, Feldmans.

1912
01:25:24,050 --> 01:25:29,240
They left, and I stayed
behind, because there were only

1913
01:25:29,240 --> 01:25:33,540
so many empty on the
train to go wherever.

1914
01:25:33,540 --> 01:25:38,060
So we met only after the
war with those people again.

1915
01:25:38,060 --> 01:25:41,030
They survived and I
survived, as the locksmiths,

1916
01:25:41,030 --> 01:25:43,310
but not in the same place.

1917
01:25:43,310 --> 01:25:46,100
Reasonably, you would
say, I was in [? Muncie ?]

1918
01:25:46,100 --> 01:25:49,310
and they were in Warnau
or something like that.

1919
01:25:49,310 --> 01:25:51,290
Of course, you
couldn't travel freely.

1920
01:25:51,290 --> 01:25:54,050

That was out of question.

1921

01:25:54,050 --> 01:25:58,610

But I stayed behind,
unfortunately.

1922

01:25:58,610 --> 01:26:00,830

And because I stayed
behind, you always

1923

01:26:00,830 --> 01:26:05,030

have to do something,
what they told you to do.

1924

01:26:05,030 --> 01:26:10,580

So for maybe about a month or
six weeks or so, I had to--

1925

01:26:10,580 --> 01:26:14,900

I was assigned to a group which
was taking out the dead bodies

1926

01:26:14,900 --> 01:26:19,700

from the gas chambers, which had
to be taken to the crematorium.

1927

01:26:19,700 --> 01:26:22,210

You didn't like to leave the
bodies in the gas chambers.

1928

01:26:22,210 --> 01:26:25,520

You had to go to the
crematorium and burn them,

1929

01:26:25,520 --> 01:26:29,540

and then the ashes was nothing.

1930

01:26:29,540 --> 01:26:33,682

So the transportation
took place on a--

1931

01:26:33,682 --> 01:26:35,140

I don't know how

you would call it.

1932

01:26:35,140 --> 01:26:39,080

It had two wheels on each
side, and a piece of wood

1933

01:26:39,080 --> 01:26:41,134

was like this.

1934

01:26:41,134 --> 01:26:43,250

We were not so strong.

1935

01:26:43,250 --> 01:26:46,220

I can't tell you how many
we had to push always

1936

01:26:46,220 --> 01:26:49,580

to get to the gas chambers,
take the bodies out, put them

1937

01:26:49,580 --> 01:26:53,600

on that stretcher to
go and transport them

1938

01:26:53,600 --> 01:26:58,150

to the crematorium.

1939

01:26:58,150 --> 01:26:59,823

Well, that went
on for some time,

1940

01:26:59,823 --> 01:27:01,240

I would say maybe
about a a couple

1941

01:27:01,240 --> 01:27:03,720

of-- maybe about a month or so.

1942

01:27:03,720 --> 01:27:05,690

Wasn't it a shock?

1943

01:27:05,690 --> 01:27:10,350

Well, sweetheart, that
was life at that time.

1944
01:27:10,350 --> 01:27:14,380
Then it finished, and
the transportation then

1945
01:27:14,380 --> 01:27:19,680
again was through that
arrivals as a locksmith.

1946
01:27:19,680 --> 01:27:22,210
If you have a huge
map of Germany,

1947
01:27:22,210 --> 01:27:26,320
you probably would've
found the town on the map.

1948
01:27:26,320 --> 01:27:30,450
It was called
Meuselwitz, very close

1949
01:27:30,450 --> 01:27:34,120
to where Uncle Bert was with his
brother, but not in Meuselwitz.

1950
01:27:34,120 --> 01:27:36,920
It was a very different place.

1951
01:27:36,920 --> 01:27:40,890
And you were working
there from 6:00 to 6:00.

1952
01:27:40,890 --> 01:27:42,720
And what did you do there?

1953
01:27:42,720 --> 01:27:44,083
What I did after that?

1954
01:27:44,083 --> 01:27:44,750
No, no, no, in--

1955

01:27:44,750 --> 01:27:48,140

What I was doing, it
was a huge machine,

1956

01:27:48,140 --> 01:27:52,470

and we were producing
casings for the German navy.

1957

01:27:52,470 --> 01:27:54,175

You had a machine you put--

1958

01:27:54,175 --> 01:27:55,980

remember, I was a locksmith.

1959

01:27:55,980 --> 01:27:57,030

So you pressed it.

1960

01:27:57,030 --> 01:27:59,280

That thing was about
this big, not that--

1961

01:27:59,280 --> 01:28:00,110

Yeah.

1962

01:28:00,110 --> 01:28:03,420

Maybe bigger but narrower.

1963

01:28:03,420 --> 01:28:06,315

And you had a bucket and that
you had to fill up the bucket.

1964

01:28:06,315 --> 01:28:10,350

I can't tell you how many
buckets a day or whatever,

1965

01:28:10,350 --> 01:28:12,870

from 6:00 to 6:00.

1966

01:28:12,870 --> 01:28:14,460

Well, then you
went back to where

1967

01:28:14,460 --> 01:28:20,605
you were supposed to be housed,
but it was a temporary shelter,

1968

01:28:20,605 --> 01:28:22,500
really.

1969

01:28:22,500 --> 01:28:23,790
Was no bed.

1970

01:28:23,790 --> 01:28:26,830
Was just one thing big
from there to here.

1971

01:28:26,830 --> 01:28:29,250
And you just came.

1972

01:28:29,250 --> 01:28:34,330
You slept here, and tomorrow
you slept there, boys, of c--

1973

01:28:34,330 --> 01:28:36,510
or men only.

1974

01:28:36,510 --> 01:28:41,298
And in the morning you did
the same thing, 6:00 to 6:00.

1975

01:28:41,298 --> 01:28:42,840
Now I have to tell
you how I got out,

1976

01:28:42,840 --> 01:28:45,280
because really, that was
what people always say.

1977

01:28:45,280 --> 01:28:47,460
Well, who liberated you?

1978

01:28:47,460 --> 01:28:51,910
And I have to say, I was
not liberated in that sense.

1979

01:28:51,910 --> 01:28:54,270

Remember, what I was
telling you is the truth.

1980

01:28:54,270 --> 01:28:58,240

The only not truth
is locksmiths.

1981

01:28:58,240 --> 01:29:03,390

So we came back or whatever.

1982

01:29:03,390 --> 01:29:07,530

It was April 7.

1983

01:29:07,530 --> 01:29:08,685

You came back to where?

1984

01:29:08,685 --> 01:29:10,730

To where we were sleeping.

1985

01:29:10,730 --> 01:29:11,940

Ah, so at Meuselwitz.

1986

01:29:11,940 --> 01:29:12,523

You're still--

1987

01:29:12,523 --> 01:29:15,280

From the factory, they took us
back to where we were sleeping.

1988

01:29:15,280 --> 01:29:16,080

OK.

1989

01:29:16,080 --> 01:29:21,502

But instead of sleeping, we had
to empty a tray of briquettes.

1990

01:29:21,502 --> 01:29:22,710

You know what briquettes are?

1991

01:29:22,710 --> 01:29:25,350
Briquettes are about this big.

1992
01:29:25,350 --> 01:29:29,070
So we had to empty that
train from the briquettes.

1993
01:29:29,070 --> 01:29:33,210
Well, then when the train was
empty from the briquettes,

1994
01:29:33,210 --> 01:29:35,220
they chased us in.

1995
01:29:35,220 --> 01:29:38,340
So again, you are in a train.

1996
01:29:38,340 --> 01:29:39,670
Like my friend always--

1997
01:29:39,670 --> 01:29:40,440
what about food?

1998
01:29:40,440 --> 01:29:42,180
Well, what about food?

1999
01:29:42,180 --> 01:29:44,340
First of all, we were
already dehydrated.

2000
01:29:44,340 --> 01:29:46,300
The body was not
like you sitting here

2001
01:29:46,300 --> 01:29:48,690
or me sitting here.

2002
01:29:48,690 --> 01:29:50,190
I don't know how
many pounds we had,

2003
01:29:50,190 --> 01:29:54,720

but the food was not
really the item which

2004
01:29:54,720 --> 01:29:58,080
bothered you, so to speak.

2005
01:29:58,080 --> 01:30:01,080
So they chased us
back into the train.

2006
01:30:01,080 --> 01:30:03,960
And the train took off east.

2007
01:30:03,960 --> 01:30:07,600
Just like from
Theresienstadt east, this one

2008
01:30:07,600 --> 01:30:13,050
from Meuselwitz, Germany
east, away from those

2009
01:30:13,050 --> 01:30:15,750
upcoming American soldiers.

2010
01:30:15,750 --> 01:30:18,770
One point here I just
want to establish.

2011
01:30:18,770 --> 01:30:21,840
So if I understand
properly, you were

2012
01:30:21,840 --> 01:30:25,020
in Auschwitz for about
two months or so?

2013
01:30:25,020 --> 01:30:26,820
No, I was there
longer than that.

2014
01:30:26,820 --> 01:30:33,340
I got in Auschwitz
in September 28.

2015

01:30:33,340 --> 01:30:34,860

So we got there
like, I would say,

2016

01:30:34,860 --> 01:30:38,910

October 1 and out of Auschwitz
somewhere around Christmas

2017

01:30:38,910 --> 01:30:39,870

time.

2018

01:30:39,870 --> 01:30:40,530

OK, OK.

2019

01:30:40,530 --> 01:30:42,148

So I would say
about three months.

2020

01:30:42,148 --> 01:30:42,690

Three months.

2021

01:30:42,690 --> 01:30:45,150

And then from Christmas
to the, quote,

2022

01:30:45,150 --> 01:30:48,750

"liberation," what I'm trying
to tell you, in Meuselwitz.

2023

01:30:48,750 --> 01:30:49,530

In Meuselwitz, OK.

2024

01:30:49,530 --> 01:30:52,210

Now, the Meuselwitz didn't
have any accommodation,

2025

01:30:52,210 --> 01:30:52,980

like I just said.

2026

01:30:52,980 --> 01:30:54,300

It was-- you know why?

2027

01:30:54,300 --> 01:30:57,210

Because the German people,
they were already all either

2028

01:30:57,210 --> 01:30:59,550

on the east front or west front.

2029

01:30:59,550 --> 01:31:01,440

And they needed the
manpower, so they

2030

01:31:01,440 --> 01:31:05,150

were interested in producing.

2031

01:31:05,150 --> 01:31:07,410

Anyway, so when the
order came to get

2032

01:31:07,410 --> 01:31:10,890

inside those boxcars east--

2033

01:31:10,890 --> 01:31:16,020

but you have to realize that
was not Germany of the 1940s.

2034

01:31:16,020 --> 01:31:20,460

That was Germany of
a defeated country.

2035

01:31:20,460 --> 01:31:23,760

The railroads were ripped
up from the bombing

2036

01:31:23,760 --> 01:31:25,830

of United States.

2037

01:31:25,830 --> 01:31:28,950

So the transportation wasn't
like that you hop in here

2038

01:31:28,950 --> 01:31:30,380

and you wind up there.

2039

01:31:30,380 --> 01:31:31,260

No.

2040

01:31:31,260 --> 01:31:34,380

It was very
difficult. Not for us.

2041

01:31:34,380 --> 01:31:36,533

I mean, we were just
prisoners, and they

2042

01:31:36,533 --> 01:31:37,950

had to do whatever
they were told,

2043

01:31:37,950 --> 01:31:41,070

but it was not so
easy for them either.

2044

01:31:41,070 --> 01:31:45,650

So we've been traveling
for two days eastward.

2045

01:31:45,650 --> 01:31:48,240

Then we came to a
place in Germany,

2046

01:31:48,240 --> 01:31:52,800

or maybe western
Poland or something.

2047

01:31:52,800 --> 01:31:56,970

Next to us was a train
with German soldiers.

2048

01:31:56,970 --> 01:31:59,480

They were heading west.

2049

01:31:59,480 --> 01:32:01,700

We were heading east.

2050

01:32:01,700 --> 01:32:03,330

It's like that, OK.

2051

01:32:03,330 --> 01:32:04,380

I was like this.

2052

01:32:04,380 --> 01:32:06,810

We were on this side.

2053

01:32:06,810 --> 01:32:12,900

So my particular boxcar, we were
told to get out of the boxcar

2054

01:32:12,900 --> 01:32:15,510

so that they could
count how many

2055

01:32:15,510 --> 01:32:20,070

are still in the boxcar leaving,
because some people are die out

2056

01:32:20,070 --> 01:32:24,870

of hydration, age,
malnutrition, sickness.

2057

01:32:24,870 --> 01:32:26,830

So they are always counting.

2058

01:32:26,830 --> 01:32:32,760

So while we were standing
alongside our railroad car,

2059

01:32:32,760 --> 01:32:35,160

next to us was a
German car, right--

2060

01:32:35,160 --> 01:32:38,010

I mean, train.

2061

01:32:38,010 --> 01:32:42,780

British bombers came by,
and they started to dive

2062
01:32:42,780 --> 01:32:44,702
and started to shoot.

2063
01:32:44,702 --> 01:32:47,160
Now you know when you're up
there and you started to shoot,

2064
01:32:47,160 --> 01:32:48,243
you don't shoot like this.

2065
01:32:48,243 --> 01:32:52,470
You shoot like this, so that
you kill as many opponents

2066
01:32:52,470 --> 01:32:54,180
you can kill.

2067
01:32:54,180 --> 01:32:56,820
So there was a panic
at that moment.

2068
01:32:56,820 --> 01:32:59,880
We were out of the car.

2069
01:32:59,880 --> 01:33:03,600
So we were-- quote, we were,
if you want to call it free.

2070
01:33:03,600 --> 01:33:07,920
That's not the right word, but
no supervision at that moment.

2071
01:33:07,920 --> 01:33:09,660
So there was a
hill, and I always

2072
01:33:09,660 --> 01:33:11,680
call it the same like here.

2073
01:33:11,680 --> 01:33:13,205
You have a hill

behind you, and you

2074

01:33:13,205 --> 01:33:15,720

had to run up the hill,
because you wanted

2075

01:33:15,720 --> 01:33:18,990

to get away from the shooting.

2076

01:33:18,990 --> 01:33:22,090

So we were-- remember, I was--

2077

01:33:22,090 --> 01:33:25,960

1945, I was, what, 24 years.

2078

01:33:25,960 --> 01:33:30,480

So you had a different stamina
to run than you would have now

2079

01:33:30,480 --> 01:33:34,000

when I'm 91.

2080

01:33:34,000 --> 01:33:35,110

So we were running up.

2081

01:33:35,110 --> 01:33:40,660

When I say we, there was always
somebody who was closer to you.

2082

01:33:40,660 --> 01:33:43,630

I remember one guy,
his name, but I

2083

01:33:43,630 --> 01:33:48,760

don't remember the other two who
were running, Czechs, with us.

2084

01:33:48,760 --> 01:33:51,360

So we got up on top of the hill.

2085

01:33:51,360 --> 01:33:55,420

Now we were realizing that we

didn't have any German guard

2086

01:33:55,420 --> 01:33:56,580
watching us, right.

2087

01:33:56,580 --> 01:34:00,490
We were free, free
without any passport,

2088

01:34:00,490 --> 01:34:03,700
without any papers,
striped uniform.

2089

01:34:03,700 --> 01:34:07,830
So free is a different
thing for free.

2090

01:34:07,830 --> 01:34:12,180
And the train, which I told
you the British bombers started

2091

01:34:12,180 --> 01:34:14,530
to bomb-- eventually
they hit the train.

2092

01:34:14,530 --> 01:34:18,190
So there was a
tremendous commotion.

2093

01:34:18,190 --> 01:34:21,040
But we wound up on
the top of the hill.

2094

01:34:21,040 --> 01:34:22,580
So now what are we going to do?

2095

01:34:22,580 --> 01:34:25,230
Are we going to stay
here, get organized,

2096

01:34:25,230 --> 01:34:27,650
or go back or whatever?

2097

01:34:27,650 --> 01:34:30,370

So we decided, four
of us, cold as it

2098

01:34:30,370 --> 01:34:33,610

was, that we would
stay overnight,

2099

01:34:33,610 --> 01:34:38,290

and then we will think what
we will do the next day.

2100

01:34:38,290 --> 01:34:42,270

So we decided one day to stay
up on the hill, and maybe

2101

01:34:42,270 --> 01:34:42,770

two nights.

2102

01:34:42,770 --> 01:34:44,980

I don't remember
for sure anymore.

2103

01:34:44,980 --> 01:34:47,410

But we decided to go
back, because we thought,

2104

01:34:47,410 --> 01:34:48,490

we have no papers.

2105

01:34:48,490 --> 01:34:50,290

We have nothing.

2106

01:34:50,290 --> 01:34:51,780

Where are we going to go?

2107

01:34:51,780 --> 01:34:55,580

Not that we had anywhere to
go down there, but at least

2108

01:34:55,580 --> 01:34:58,990

we were not fugitives

from where we were.

2109

01:34:58,990 --> 01:35:00,450

So we went down the hill.

2110

01:35:00,450 --> 01:35:04,030

And as it were coming down
the hill, believe it or not,

2111

01:35:04,030 --> 01:35:06,760

our train took off.

2112

01:35:06,760 --> 01:35:09,700

So we really lost the train.

2113

01:35:09,700 --> 01:35:12,856

We were prisoners
who were still there.

2114

01:35:12,856 --> 01:35:17,200

We're talking only about one
car, which was where we were.

2115

01:35:17,200 --> 01:35:19,520

The rest was [INAUDIBLE].

2116

01:35:19,520 --> 01:35:21,610

So we left the train.

2117

01:35:21,610 --> 01:35:24,710

So when we saw the train
moving, we ducked a little

2118

01:35:24,710 --> 01:35:30,060

to be sure that they don't
start shooting, and they left.

2119

01:35:30,060 --> 01:35:32,450

And we went back to the hill.

2120

01:35:32,450 --> 01:35:34,250

So we were on that hill.

2121
01:35:34,250 --> 01:35:36,330
My friend, Fernando,
what about the food?

2122
01:35:36,330 --> 01:35:39,100
I said, Fernando,
there was no food.

2123
01:35:39,100 --> 01:35:42,200
There was no service,
(LAUGHING) that's for sure.

2124
01:35:42,200 --> 01:35:44,030
But anyhow, we went
back to the hill,

2125
01:35:44,030 --> 01:35:46,170
and we stayed there
another two days--

2126
01:35:46,170 --> 01:35:46,670
No food--

2127
01:35:46,670 --> 01:35:50,360
--thinking where to go,
how to go, what excuse.

2128
01:35:50,360 --> 01:35:51,350
Yeah.

2129
01:35:51,350 --> 01:35:54,230
The roads were all
occupied by what

2130
01:35:54,230 --> 01:35:58,002
we have here, National Guard
or whatever we call it here.

2131
01:35:58,002 --> 01:35:59,300
Yeah.

2132

01:35:59,300 --> 01:36:04,190
So we knew once we get down,
that we will be confronted.

2133
01:36:04,190 --> 01:36:07,280
The only thing, we
spoke very well German,

2134
01:36:07,280 --> 01:36:09,590
and we came up with
a story that we

2135
01:36:09,590 --> 01:36:14,610
will say we were Czech
workers on the train

2136
01:36:14,610 --> 01:36:18,700
apart from prisoners
from Auschwitz.

2137
01:36:18,700 --> 01:36:20,270
So we were different.

2138
01:36:20,270 --> 01:36:22,700
We thought we are
different from--

2139
01:36:22,700 --> 01:36:23,200
Those.

2140
01:36:23,200 --> 01:36:24,310
And that our papers--

2141
01:36:24,310 --> 01:36:27,460
in that commotion, we lost
our stuff which we had,

2142
01:36:27,460 --> 01:36:32,200
and that would have shown
that we are Czech workers.

2143
01:36:32,200 --> 01:36:34,270
So finally, we decided

we take a chance.

2144

01:36:34,270 --> 01:36:37,600

We have to do it, because we
cannot live indefinitely on top

2145

01:36:37,600 --> 01:36:39,310

of the hill.

2146

01:36:39,310 --> 01:36:40,720

So we went down.

2147

01:36:40,720 --> 01:36:43,560

Sure enough-- distance,
like you would

2148

01:36:43,560 --> 01:36:48,550

say, to maybe further
down, maybe that square.

2149

01:36:48,550 --> 01:36:52,300

Sure enough, there was
a station with soldiers,

2150

01:36:52,300 --> 01:36:55,080

with three, four
soldiers with guns.

2151

01:36:55,080 --> 01:36:56,700

So we put our
hands up right away

2152

01:36:56,700 --> 01:36:59,170

so they don't start shooting.

2153

01:36:59,170 --> 01:37:01,780

And as we approached
them, we told them

2154

01:37:01,780 --> 01:37:03,340

exactly what I'm
telling you, that we

2155

01:37:03,340 --> 01:37:07,660
were Czech workers on work
in Germany in that factory

2156

01:37:07,660 --> 01:37:10,120
where we were and
that our clothes

2157

01:37:10,120 --> 01:37:11,770
was damaged in that attack.

2158

01:37:11,770 --> 01:37:13,300
And that's what we say.

2159

01:37:13,300 --> 01:37:15,206
This is what we have on.

2160

01:37:15,206 --> 01:37:17,800
Well, we have to
put you into jail,

2161

01:37:17,800 --> 01:37:21,730
and you have to see the
magistrate the next day.

2162

01:37:21,730 --> 01:37:24,830
So we were now in
a regular jail.

2163

01:37:24,830 --> 01:37:27,310
Well, if you ever
were in a jail--

2164

01:37:27,310 --> 01:37:30,280
I hope not-- [LAUGHS]
nicer where we were.

2165

01:37:30,280 --> 01:37:32,730
But it was the first
time a regular jail.

2166

01:37:32,730 --> 01:37:35,920

There was discarded clothes.

2167
01:37:35,920 --> 01:37:38,170
So what we did, we took--

2168
01:37:38,170 --> 01:37:40,480
instead of our
prison clothes, we

2169
01:37:40,480 --> 01:37:42,490
took the discarded
clothes, which

2170
01:37:42,490 --> 01:37:45,590
was left there by whoever.

2171
01:37:45,590 --> 01:37:49,390
So when we saw the
magistrate the next morning,

2172
01:37:49,390 --> 01:37:52,370
we had ill-fitted
clothes, but it was not--

2173
01:37:52,370 --> 01:37:52,870
Stripe.

2174
01:37:52,870 --> 01:37:54,530
--stripe.

2175
01:37:54,530 --> 01:37:59,210
And the story was that we are
Czech workers, that we were--

2176
01:37:59,210 --> 01:38:01,770
of course, we spoke German--

2177
01:38:01,770 --> 01:38:03,520
and that we were caught
on the train which

2178
01:38:03,520 --> 01:38:06,540

was bombed by the
British, and we

2179
01:38:06,540 --> 01:38:12,460
were trying to get somewhere
out of where we were.

2180
01:38:12,460 --> 01:38:16,120
Now the most unexpected
thing happened.

2181
01:38:16,120 --> 01:38:19,870
The magistrate said that
you suffered enough.

2182
01:38:19,870 --> 01:38:22,940
You are free to go
wherever you want to go.

2183
01:38:22,940 --> 01:38:25,420
So he didn't believe your story.

2184
01:38:25,420 --> 01:38:27,790
Well, he let us go.

2185
01:38:27,790 --> 01:38:28,650
So we were free.

2186
01:38:28,650 --> 01:38:31,280

2187
01:38:31,280 --> 01:38:33,530
So then coming back to Prague--

2188
01:38:33,530 --> 01:38:36,080
Well, did you I then
a paper or a stamp--

2189
01:38:36,080 --> 01:38:37,940
We had nothing.

2190
01:38:37,940 --> 01:38:40,450

So you could have been
stopped the next town over.

2191
01:38:40,450 --> 01:38:40,950
Yeah.

2192
01:38:40,950 --> 01:38:42,710
Well, we were not stopped.

2193
01:38:42,710 --> 01:38:46,910
The situation was
like here after 9/11.

2194
01:38:46,910 --> 01:38:48,950
It was not so rigid anymore.

2195
01:38:48,950 --> 01:38:49,940
It was chaotic.

2196
01:38:49,940 --> 01:38:51,650
It was [INAUDIBLE].

2197
01:38:51,650 --> 01:38:52,530
Yeah.

2198
01:38:52,530 --> 01:38:55,130
Now I would like to also
tell you at this point

2199
01:38:55,130 --> 01:39:00,110
that the cars which existed
which were allowed to travel

2200
01:39:00,110 --> 01:39:02,330
didn't use gasoline.

2201
01:39:02,330 --> 01:39:07,520
What they did-- the
Germans are very inventive.

2202
01:39:07,520 --> 01:39:11,180
The cars which were allowed

to take what I'm telling you,

2203

01:39:11,180 --> 01:39:13,650
they had to cut out
the passenger seat.

2204

01:39:13,650 --> 01:39:16,820
The driver was the driver,
but the passenger seat

2205

01:39:16,820 --> 01:39:19,490
was taken out, and
they put in something

2206

01:39:19,490 --> 01:39:24,980
like you would say, a
contraption with wooden chips.

2207

01:39:24,980 --> 01:39:28,070
And the wooden chips
had to be put on fire,

2208

01:39:28,070 --> 01:39:30,590
and they produce a
little bit of a steam,

2209

01:39:30,590 --> 01:39:33,960
and the steam produced
the car to go.

2210

01:39:33,960 --> 01:39:37,550
So when we tried to get to
Prague-- hi-- not hijacking.

2211

01:39:37,550 --> 01:39:40,120
[INAUDIBLE]---- how you
call it here when you--

2212

01:39:40,120 --> 01:39:40,860
Hitchhiking.

2213

01:39:40,860 --> 01:39:41,870
Hitchhiking.

2214
01:39:41,870 --> 01:39:44,340
So we tried to get to Prague
hitchhiking, because we have,

2215
01:39:44,340 --> 01:39:48,530
of course, no money, no
paper, no nothing, four of us.

2216
01:39:48,530 --> 01:39:51,560
So a truck, which was something
I remember like today,

2217
01:39:51,560 --> 01:39:55,140
like a pickup truck, he stopped.

2218
01:39:55,140 --> 01:39:56,290
Where do you want to go?

2219
01:39:56,290 --> 01:39:57,950
Of course we said Prague.

2220
01:39:57,950 --> 01:40:00,700
And he said he goes to
Prague, too, but his truck--

2221
01:40:00,700 --> 01:40:04,130
where we were, it was
a very hilly country.

2222
01:40:04,130 --> 01:40:06,830
So he said, most likely,
the truck will not make it.

2223
01:40:06,830 --> 01:40:10,370
You will have to get out
and have to push the thing

2224
01:40:10,370 --> 01:40:11,230
to get over the--

2225
01:40:11,230 --> 01:40:12,390

Hill.

2226

01:40:12,390 --> 01:40:14,750

So it took several days
to get back to Prague,

2227

01:40:14,750 --> 01:40:20,140

because he had only that
thing on the side producing

2228

01:40:20,140 --> 01:40:22,100

the steam.

2229

01:40:22,100 --> 01:40:28,720

But we got to Prague April
20, Hitler's birthday.

2230

01:40:28,720 --> 01:40:30,640

And they were still
celebrating it.

2231

01:40:30,640 --> 01:40:34,140

2232

01:40:34,140 --> 01:40:35,140

[LAUGHS]

2233

01:40:35,140 --> 01:40:37,092

[LAUGHS]

2234

01:40:37,092 --> 01:40:39,105

This is [INAUDIBLE].

2235

01:40:39,105 --> 01:40:41,330

My god.

2236

01:40:41,330 --> 01:40:43,930

It's the truth.

2237

01:40:43,930 --> 01:40:45,470

April 20.

2238

01:40:45,470 --> 01:40:51,860

Well, her sister was in place
where we thought we will meet.

2239

01:40:51,860 --> 01:41:00,030

So since we didn't eat anything
since that left, April 7,

2240

01:41:00,030 --> 01:41:03,780

April 20, 13 days.

2241

01:41:03,780 --> 01:41:05,760

You hadn't eaten
anything for 13 days?

2242

01:41:05,760 --> 01:41:07,900

Who should have to feed us?

2243

01:41:07,900 --> 01:41:12,460

So she gave us, I
remember like today, tea.

2244

01:41:12,460 --> 01:41:17,250

Well, I said, as me, we
have been somewhere else.

2245

01:41:17,250 --> 01:41:23,570

And shower, bathroom,
because we had lice,

2246

01:41:23,570 --> 01:41:24,980

if you know what lice does.

2247

01:41:24,980 --> 01:41:27,350

They grow all over you.

2248

01:41:27,350 --> 01:41:29,120

So naturally, she
was afraid that we

2249

01:41:29,120 --> 01:41:30,590

bring the lice into her home.

2250
01:41:30,590 --> 01:41:32,410
So first was the bathroom.

2251
01:41:32,410 --> 01:41:34,610
Stay in there god
knows how many hours

2252
01:41:34,610 --> 01:41:39,360
to kill the lice, and
then a cup of tea.

2253
01:41:39,360 --> 01:41:41,160
But you couldn't get
out of that house

2254
01:41:41,160 --> 01:41:43,020
because we didn't
have any papers.

2255
01:41:43,020 --> 01:41:44,810
So we were afraid if we get--

2256
01:41:44,810 --> 01:41:48,510
well, I was afraid,
if we get out,

2257
01:41:48,510 --> 01:41:49,980
that somebody could stop us.

2258
01:41:49,980 --> 01:41:51,510
And then what?

2259
01:41:51,510 --> 01:41:54,400
Don't forget the hair, the hair.

2260
01:41:54,400 --> 01:41:57,030
But during the
camp, they shore it,

2261
01:41:57,030 --> 01:42:01,820
so people knew that you

are from somewhere else.

2262

01:42:01,820 --> 01:42:06,170

So we stayed inside until May 5.

2263

01:42:06,170 --> 01:42:11,050

And the, quote, "famous" Czech
revolution started May 5.

2264

01:42:11,050 --> 01:42:18,900

And in May 9, it was horrible,
because people take vendettas.

2265

01:42:18,900 --> 01:42:22,930

Because you did this to my
family, I did this to you.

2266

01:42:22,930 --> 01:42:25,230

Was very bad, very bad.

2267

01:42:25,230 --> 01:42:26,370

What did you see?

2268

01:42:26,370 --> 01:42:28,170

Or what did you hear about?

2269

01:42:28,170 --> 01:42:31,350

People found out where
the Germans were hiding

2270

01:42:31,350 --> 01:42:33,598

and they killed them, of course.

2271

01:42:33,598 --> 01:42:35,640

But if they would have
killed them with one shot,

2272

01:42:35,640 --> 01:42:37,960

it's one thing, but
that was not the case.

2273

01:42:37,960 --> 01:42:40,020

It was awful.

2274

01:42:40,020 --> 01:42:45,616

Those are the unfortunate
results of war.

2275

01:42:45,616 --> 01:42:51,285

The people who depress
people, that comes out.

2276

01:42:51,285 --> 01:42:53,890

But then April--

2277

01:42:53,890 --> 01:42:57,850

May 9, it stopped.

2278

01:42:57,850 --> 01:43:00,460

The nation came back to order.

2279

01:43:00,460 --> 01:43:03,760

There was police, real police.

2280

01:43:03,760 --> 01:43:06,125

So gradually, things
came to order.

2281

01:43:06,125 --> 01:43:08,970

And I have to again
see the French,

2282

01:43:08,970 --> 01:43:12,327

they were having all kinds
of ways to reunite families.

2283

01:43:12,327 --> 01:43:12,910

Don't forget--

2284

01:43:12,910 --> 01:43:13,800

They came to Prague?

2285

01:43:13,800 --> 01:43:16,240

--where Georgine-- Did

you know where she was?

2286

01:43:16,240 --> 01:43:17,510

Of course not.

2287

01:43:17,510 --> 01:43:21,250

But they had, like we

have here-- not here

2288

01:43:21,250 --> 01:43:23,800

in New York city,

stands where you

2289

01:43:23,800 --> 01:43:26,050

could have bought newspapers.

2290

01:43:26,050 --> 01:43:30,120

So those places,

they hung up signs

2291

01:43:30,120 --> 01:43:32,530

that you're looking

for somebody last seen

2292

01:43:32,530 --> 01:43:37,790

in this camp in

September or something,

2293

01:43:37,790 --> 01:43:40,820

that he should report to this

and this address and stuff

2294

01:43:40,820 --> 01:43:42,030

like that.

2295

01:43:42,030 --> 01:43:44,510

So it took a little while

to get it back into order,

2296

01:43:44,510 --> 01:43:47,800

but those who

survived, well, they

2297

01:43:47,800 --> 01:43:50,080

had some arrangements,
like I told you

2298

01:43:50,080 --> 01:43:52,000

about these two doctors.

2299

01:43:52,000 --> 01:43:56,730

They all were supposed to
meet in her sister's house.

2300

01:43:56,730 --> 01:44:00,000

And they did, one at a time.

2301

01:44:00,000 --> 01:44:03,598

Well, once they came back,
and then, who survived?

2302

01:44:03,598 --> 01:44:04,390

Who didn't survive?

2303

01:44:04,390 --> 01:44:10,670

2304

01:44:10,670 --> 01:44:11,170

Wow.

2305

01:44:11,170 --> 01:44:14,820

Well, there's not much
else I can add to it.

2306

01:44:14,820 --> 01:44:16,780

Well, there are more
questions, but--

2307

01:44:16,780 --> 01:44:21,660

Somehow-- I don't know
how I got the apartment,

2308

01:44:21,660 --> 01:44:25,110

that it was given to me,
whether I could occupy it

2309

01:44:25,110 --> 01:44:27,060
without a lease or whatever.

2310

01:44:27,060 --> 01:44:28,860
I don't remember.

2311

01:44:28,860 --> 01:44:32,080
I had an apartment in the
old section of Prague,

2312

01:44:32,080 --> 01:44:35,530
new building, no elevator.

2313

01:44:35,530 --> 01:44:38,540
But it was on the second floor.

2314

01:44:38,540 --> 01:44:41,171
I don't remember whether I--

2315

01:44:41,171 --> 01:44:43,130
I don't know how
I maintained it.

2316

01:44:43,130 --> 01:44:46,080
I didn't have any money.

2317

01:44:46,080 --> 01:44:49,032
But eventually, I got a job.

2318

01:44:49,032 --> 01:44:53,850
The one Jewish firm,
one of them came back,

2319

01:44:53,850 --> 01:44:59,130
naturally demanded his
firm to be getting back.

2320

01:44:59,130 --> 01:45:01,280
And eventually, I
started to work for him.

2321
01:45:01,280 --> 01:45:07,040

2322
01:45:07,040 --> 01:45:09,372
This is--

2323
01:45:09,372 --> 01:45:12,670
Sweetheart, that's
just about it.

2324
01:45:12,670 --> 01:45:13,170
Well--

2325
01:45:13,170 --> 01:45:14,700
Anything else what
you want to know,

2326
01:45:14,700 --> 01:45:18,230
I'll gladly tell you
the dates, the details.

2327
01:45:18,230 --> 01:45:20,450
There's a lot I want to know.

2328
01:45:20,450 --> 01:45:22,930
Maybe we-- I don't know
what time it is now.

2329
01:45:22,930 --> 01:45:23,860
Let me take a look.

2330
01:45:23,860 --> 01:45:27,870

2331
01:45:27,870 --> 01:45:31,368
Maybe we break for lunch or
have a little bit of a break,

2332
01:45:31,368 --> 01:45:32,410
and then we'll continue--

2333

01:45:32,410 --> 01:45:34,160
Well, I have to tell Georgine--

2334
01:45:34,160 --> 01:45:37,220
not Georgine but
Tammy and Elise.

2335
01:45:37,220 --> 01:45:37,910
Yeah.

2336
01:45:37,910 --> 01:45:38,730
And then--

2337
01:45:38,730 --> 01:45:39,570
What time is it?

2338
01:45:39,570 --> 01:45:40,350
1 o'clock.

2339
01:45:40,350 --> 01:45:41,200
Oh, really?

2340
01:45:41,200 --> 01:45:41,700
Yeah.

2341
01:45:41,700 --> 01:45:43,040
Today's Saturday, right?

2342
01:45:43,040 --> 01:45:45,310
That's right.

2343
01:45:45,310 --> 01:45:46,770
Let me find out where they are.

2344
01:45:46,770 --> 01:45:47,480
OK.

2345
01:45:47,480 --> 01:45:47,980
Hang on.

2346
01:45:47,980 --> 01:45:51,990

Let me go, because you
still have a mic on you.