

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,190
It's OK, it's OK.

2
00:00:01,190 --> 00:00:02,610
It's OK.

3
00:00:02,610 --> 00:00:03,860
OK, we are rolling.

4
00:00:03,860 --> 00:00:04,810
OK.

5
00:00:04,810 --> 00:00:05,980
Now we are on?

6
00:00:05,980 --> 00:00:07,320
Now we are on.

7
00:00:07,320 --> 00:00:14,070
So where we left off before
was that you had made it

8
00:00:14,070 --> 00:00:19,018
back to Prague after a
most unusual kind of way

9
00:00:19,018 --> 00:00:19,810
of being liberated.

10
00:00:19,810 --> 00:00:21,450
Oh yeah, when I left, yes, yes.

11
00:00:21,450 --> 00:00:22,950
That's how it was.

12
00:00:22,950 --> 00:00:28,100
And you were at your sister's
house, or your cousin's house

13
00:00:28,100 --> 00:00:29,100

who had married someone.

14

00:00:29,100 --> 00:00:32,009

Tell me again, whose house did
you go to when you came back

15

00:00:32,009 --> 00:00:32,509

to Prague?

16

00:00:32,509 --> 00:00:34,438

That was my wife's sister.

17

00:00:34,438 --> 00:00:35,230

Your sister-in-law.

18

00:00:35,230 --> 00:00:35,730

Georgine.

19

00:00:35,730 --> 00:00:37,410

Sister-- that would
be my sister-in-law.

20

00:00:37,410 --> 00:00:37,970

That's correct.

21

00:00:37,970 --> 00:00:38,720

What was her name?

22

00:00:38,720 --> 00:00:39,750

23

00:00:39,750 --> 00:00:42,088

In English, Patricia.

24

00:00:42,088 --> 00:00:42,630

And in Czech?

25

00:00:42,630 --> 00:00:43,955

In Czech, Vlasta.

26

00:00:43,955 --> 00:00:44,780

Vlasta.

27

00:00:44,780 --> 00:00:46,980

Vlasta is Patricia in English.

28

00:00:46,980 --> 00:00:47,610

I never knew.

29

00:00:47,610 --> 00:00:48,110

[LAUGHING]

30

00:00:48,110 --> 00:00:49,230

I never knew.

31

00:00:49,230 --> 00:00:50,540

OK.

32

00:00:50,540 --> 00:00:54,180

Vlasta is Patricia in English.

33

00:00:54,180 --> 00:00:59,250

And was her home in
the center of Prague?

34

00:00:59,250 --> 00:01:03,000

No, she was living in Liben.

35

00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:05,040

I don't remember
the street anymore,

36

00:01:05,040 --> 00:01:07,930

but so many years since we are--

37

00:01:07,930 --> 00:01:08,430

Of course

38

00:01:08,430 --> 00:01:10,094

Out of there, you know?

39

00:01:10,094 --> 00:01:12,370

So was it a residential
neighborhood,

40
00:01:12,370 --> 00:01:13,620
or was it a city neighborhood?

41
00:01:13,620 --> 00:01:15,495
No, that was a residential
neighborhood, yes.

42
00:01:15,495 --> 00:01:16,590
A city neighborhood, or--

43
00:01:16,590 --> 00:01:20,900
It was very nice,
and again, you know,

44
00:01:20,900 --> 00:01:24,890
when these deportations
started, you always said,

45
00:01:24,890 --> 00:01:27,600
well, we have to be
somewhere when we come back.

46
00:01:27,600 --> 00:01:30,760
Nobody ever thought that
you will not come back.

47
00:01:30,760 --> 00:01:31,260
Come back.

48
00:01:31,260 --> 00:01:33,030
So you assumed you
would come back,

49
00:01:33,030 --> 00:01:36,420
and you should have some place
where you will, quote, "meet."

50
00:01:36,420 --> 00:01:39,060
And Vlasta, was she able
to stay there because she

51
00:01:39,060 --> 00:01:40,140
was married to a non-Jew?

52
00:01:40,140 --> 00:01:43,200
She was married to a
non-Jew, but that actually

53
00:01:43,200 --> 00:01:47,490
was a surprise that she somehow
managed not to be involved.

54
00:01:47,490 --> 00:01:50,740
Because that was not an
excuse, she was Jewish.

55
00:01:50,740 --> 00:01:53,940
So under normal
circumstances of that time,

56
00:01:53,940 --> 00:01:57,030
she would have had
the same difficulties.

57
00:01:57,030 --> 00:02:00,660
But for some strange
reason, nobody knew,

58
00:02:00,660 --> 00:02:04,140
the name was of course
Czech, she married somebody

59
00:02:04,140 --> 00:02:06,180
by the name of KrejcÅ.

60
00:02:06,180 --> 00:02:06,680
KrejcÅ.

61
00:02:06,680 --> 00:02:10,830
Now, KrejcÅ is like a
small tailor in English.

62

00:02:10,830 --> 00:02:12,540

So the name was
of course, Czech,

63

00:02:12,540 --> 00:02:17,350

and she was married to
him for quite a while.

64

00:02:17,350 --> 00:02:22,850

Well, they had been all older
than me, but I remember him.

65

00:02:22,850 --> 00:02:24,510

And she came here
a couple of times.

66

00:02:24,510 --> 00:02:26,730

We have a picture, we
have a-- which I mentioned

67

00:02:26,730 --> 00:02:28,060

to you, a swimming pool.

68

00:02:28,060 --> 00:02:28,560

Yeah.

69

00:02:28,560 --> 00:02:30,700

It is covered, you don't see it.

70

00:02:30,700 --> 00:02:32,252

You can only see the--

71

00:02:32,252 --> 00:02:33,030

The rim.

72

00:02:33,030 --> 00:02:34,650

The rim.

73

00:02:34,650 --> 00:02:38,940

But there were quite a
few, somehow, survivors.

74

00:02:38,940 --> 00:02:42,810

Well, not even survivors,
people who were born here.

75

00:02:42,810 --> 00:02:45,818

I told you about this uncle
who was living in Ecuador.

76

00:02:45,818 --> 00:02:46,360

That's right.

77

00:02:46,360 --> 00:02:49,060

So naturally, from
this side, there were--

78

00:02:49,060 --> 00:02:51,800

the picture shows quite
a few people, you know.

79

00:02:51,800 --> 00:02:55,545

OK, so when you're
back, and she sees you,

80

00:02:55,545 --> 00:02:57,540

could she recognize
you when she saw you?

81

00:02:57,540 --> 00:02:58,780

Oh yes, yes, yes.

82

00:02:58,780 --> 00:02:59,790

Even without the hair.

83

00:02:59,790 --> 00:03:01,860

I mean, now I have
normally no hair.

84

00:03:01,860 --> 00:03:05,112

But at the time, it was
short cut, you know.

85

00:03:05,112 --> 00:03:07,830

And the language, you

hear the same voice.

86

00:03:07,830 --> 00:03:11,430

And, yes, so I had no
problem with that part, no.

87

00:03:11,430 --> 00:03:14,130

And especially, the bathroom.

88

00:03:14,130 --> 00:03:17,230

Now, you know, you are human.

89

00:03:17,230 --> 00:03:20,230

So when you go to the
bathroom, you know what happen.

90

00:03:20,230 --> 00:03:23,520

You have to clean yourself
and wash up yourself.

91

00:03:23,520 --> 00:03:27,780

That's something which
didn't exist in Australia--

92

00:03:27,780 --> 00:03:30,230

in Auschwitz.

93

00:03:30,230 --> 00:03:32,330

There were no bathrooms.

94

00:03:32,330 --> 00:03:34,620

There was a piece of wood,
and you had to sit down,

95

00:03:34,620 --> 00:03:37,540

and do what you did,
and there was no water.

96

00:03:37,540 --> 00:03:44,610

So you really, your personal
esteem, or hygiene, or whatever

97

00:03:44,610 --> 00:03:48,080
you want to call it was
absolutely non-existent,

98
00:03:48,080 --> 00:03:49,170
you know.

99
00:03:49,170 --> 00:03:54,030
Just think of it, what she was
talking about, that underwear.

100
00:03:54,030 --> 00:03:56,820
Well, you know, when you are
in that kind of a cold weather,

101
00:03:56,820 --> 00:03:59,130
and you're not properly
dressed, your nose

102
00:03:59,130 --> 00:04:02,280
is running constantly.

103
00:04:02,280 --> 00:04:06,830
So at one time,
they were probably,

104
00:04:06,830 --> 00:04:09,390
make you feel
miserable or whatever,

105
00:04:09,390 --> 00:04:15,360
out of that prayer shawl,
they made shawls, which

106
00:04:15,360 --> 00:04:18,029
I started to tell you earlier.

107
00:04:18,029 --> 00:04:20,820
Somehow, when is throwing
out those shawls,

108
00:04:20,820 --> 00:04:24,900
I must have caught two, maybe

they were somehow intertwined.

109

00:04:24,900 --> 00:04:28,090

So one I put on, and the
other one I tore to pieces.

110

00:04:28,090 --> 00:04:30,180

And this Uncle Fred
and Uncle Brett,

111

00:04:30,180 --> 00:04:34,590

of course I gave them a piece
of that material, so they

112

00:04:34,590 --> 00:04:37,930

could wipe their nose,
just like I could wipe my.

113

00:04:37,930 --> 00:04:40,860

But Uncle Fred, who was
living in Munnsville,

114

00:04:40,860 --> 00:04:43,080

Upstate New York after--

115

00:04:43,080 --> 00:04:43,680

The war.

116

00:04:43,680 --> 00:04:46,260

--the German.

117

00:04:46,260 --> 00:04:48,690

He always said in
his Czech language,

118

00:04:48,690 --> 00:04:50,700

I will never forget it.

119

00:04:50,700 --> 00:04:55,970

If I remember when you gave us
that piece, of course, to wipe.

120

00:04:55,970 --> 00:04:58,410
And that was here, not there.

121
00:04:58,410 --> 00:04:59,380
He never forgot that.

122
00:04:59,380 --> 00:05:01,170
And he was treating John.

123
00:05:01,170 --> 00:05:05,850
John went at that time
to Colgate University,

124
00:05:05,850 --> 00:05:07,830
undergraduate school.

125
00:05:07,830 --> 00:05:11,970
And we used to get up
there to visit Uncle Fred,

126
00:05:11,970 --> 00:05:15,830
with his wife, and
John was there.

127
00:05:15,830 --> 00:05:18,900
It was not so far
from here, anyhow.

128
00:05:18,900 --> 00:05:21,710
It was far, but not that far,
that you could not make it,

129
00:05:21,710 --> 00:05:22,210
you know.

130
00:05:22,210 --> 00:05:25,090
So we saw them occasionally.

131
00:05:25,090 --> 00:05:28,330
But all these people were
older than we both were,

132

00:05:28,330 --> 00:05:31,230

so naturally, we are
just by ourselves.

133

00:05:31,230 --> 00:05:36,070

You know my age, Georgine's not
that's far behind, you know?

134

00:05:36,070 --> 00:05:40,900

So Uncle, they were
born 1904, 1910.

135

00:05:40,900 --> 00:05:42,790

Can we have a break?

136

00:05:42,790 --> 00:05:43,740

Yes, hang on a second.

137

00:05:43,740 --> 00:05:44,170

What happened?

138

00:05:44,170 --> 00:05:44,430

Sorry?

139

00:05:44,430 --> 00:05:46,170

Yeah, I'm sorry, I
have to have a break.

140

00:05:46,170 --> 00:05:49,750

I put the new card, but
it's not reading, so.

141

00:05:49,750 --> 00:05:50,440

From when.

142

00:05:50,440 --> 00:05:51,940

From now.

143

00:05:51,940 --> 00:05:52,570

OK.

144

00:05:52,570 --> 00:05:53,950

We are fine, but--

145
00:05:53,950 --> 00:05:54,820
yes.

146
00:05:54,820 --> 00:06:01,600
OK, so we were
talking about when

147
00:06:01,600 --> 00:06:06,555
you were in Auschwitz, and
how you gave your uncles--

148
00:06:06,555 --> 00:06:07,805
that is, Georgine's husbands--

149
00:06:07,805 --> 00:06:09,220
A piece of underwear.

150
00:06:09,220 --> 00:06:11,860
A piece of what had been a
prayer shawl, so that they

151
00:06:11,860 --> 00:06:12,900
could wipe, you know--

152
00:06:12,900 --> 00:06:13,400
Nose.

153
00:06:13,400 --> 00:06:16,710
They could wipe his noses.

154
00:06:16,710 --> 00:06:18,960
I wanted to go back
a little bit further,

155
00:06:18,960 --> 00:06:20,910
even before you're deported.

156
00:06:20,910 --> 00:06:24,700
Because from what
I understand now,

157
00:06:24,700 --> 00:06:28,520
you lived, really, several
years under Nazi rule in Prague.

158
00:06:28,520 --> 00:06:29,410
Oh, sure, sure.

159
00:06:29,410 --> 00:06:31,360
From '38--

160
00:06:31,360 --> 00:06:32,825
'39 to '42.

161
00:06:32,825 --> 00:06:33,400
To '42.

162
00:06:33,400 --> 00:06:33,910
Three years.

163
00:06:33,910 --> 00:06:34,040

164
00:06:34,040 --> 00:06:34,540
Yeah.

165
00:06:34,540 --> 00:06:35,410
Yes.

166
00:06:35,410 --> 00:06:43,460
So during that
time, what did you

167
00:06:43,460 --> 00:06:47,180
hear about Reinhard
Heydrich, who was the leader,

168
00:06:47,180 --> 00:06:49,438
I mean, who was
Hitler's man in Prague.

169

00:06:49,438 --> 00:06:50,480
What did you know of him?

170
00:06:50,480 --> 00:06:54,050
Well, of course I remember
the name Heydrich, of course.

171
00:06:54,050 --> 00:06:58,100
Well, one experience
comes right to your mind.

172
00:06:58,100 --> 00:07:00,920
When he was killed, and
they were looking around

173
00:07:00,920 --> 00:07:05,060
for those partisans,
they used to call them,

174
00:07:05,060 --> 00:07:08,760
who they suspected
killed him, well, we

175
00:07:08,760 --> 00:07:11,810
were living in an apartment,
we were married, of course.

176
00:07:11,810 --> 00:07:13,730
And we were living
in an apartment which

177
00:07:13,730 --> 00:07:17,390
was assigned to us, because
the parents had to move out

178
00:07:17,390 --> 00:07:19,370
of the house where they lived.

179
00:07:19,370 --> 00:07:21,920
And they were assigned to
another Jewish family, which

180
00:07:21,920 --> 00:07:24,920

was, as long as you remember
Prague a little bit,

181
00:07:24,920 --> 00:07:26,340
near the Charles Bridge.

182
00:07:26,340 --> 00:07:27,200
Right.

183
00:07:27,200 --> 00:07:29,130
So we were living in
that neighborhood,

184
00:07:29,130 --> 00:07:30,960
and I don't know
what I was doing.

185
00:07:30,960 --> 00:07:34,760
But most likely working for
the Jewish organization.

186
00:07:34,760 --> 00:07:37,230
I shouldn't call it that way,
but that's the way it was.

187
00:07:37,230 --> 00:07:39,440
Well, it sounds like an
authority, like an authority.

188
00:07:39,440 --> 00:07:41,720
Jewish authority would
be a better word.

189
00:07:41,720 --> 00:07:45,980
And I remember the events we
were, of course, sleeping,

190
00:07:45,980 --> 00:07:50,315
and all of a sudden, somebody
burst into that room.

191
00:07:50,315 --> 00:07:53,510
I don't know if they were

soldiers, or SS soldiers,

192

00:07:53,510 --> 00:07:54,440
that I don't remember.

193

00:07:54,440 --> 00:07:57,390
But they were moving the
furniture, which was not ours,

194

00:07:57,390 --> 00:07:59,930
was which, we had
a furnished room.

195

00:07:59,930 --> 00:08:03,290
They were looking for
some hidden escape

196

00:08:03,290 --> 00:08:06,860
routes which these
partisans might have taken.

197

00:08:06,860 --> 00:08:08,390
That was the middle
of the night.

198

00:08:08,390 --> 00:08:11,060
Whether it was 10:00, 12:00,
that I don't remember.

199

00:08:11,060 --> 00:08:14,090
But I remember very
well when they came.

200

00:08:14,090 --> 00:08:17,630
Naturally, we were scared
to death in bed, sleeping,

201

00:08:17,630 --> 00:08:20,600
and all of a sudden, someone
is there with weapons,

202

00:08:20,600 --> 00:08:25,070
moving the furniture to see

whether it's a hidden staircase

203

00:08:25,070 --> 00:08:28,190
to go somewhere where that
person might have been hiding.

204

00:08:28,190 --> 00:08:31,110
But ultimately, of course,
they didn't find anything.

205

00:08:31,110 --> 00:08:32,490
They left.

206

00:08:32,490 --> 00:08:38,320
But it was very difficult.
The conditions became worse.

207

00:08:38,320 --> 00:08:41,950
I don't mean living
conditions like eating, no.

208

00:08:41,950 --> 00:08:46,120
It was more the freedom
of moving around, yes.

209

00:08:46,120 --> 00:08:49,940
Because you were supposed
to have that yellow star.

210

00:08:49,940 --> 00:08:53,020
And if they caught you
without wearing it,

211

00:08:53,020 --> 00:08:57,940
without having the documents
which a non-Jew had to produce,

212

00:08:57,940 --> 00:08:59,620
it was punishable.

213

00:08:59,620 --> 00:09:03,250
And the office which
I was working at

214
00:09:03,250 --> 00:09:06,730
was just across from the
headquarter of the Gestapo.

215
00:09:06,730 --> 00:09:11,110
So we have, I have seen many
things which normally people

216
00:09:11,110 --> 00:09:12,520
would not have seen, you know.

217
00:09:12,520 --> 00:09:13,210
Such as?

218
00:09:13,210 --> 00:09:17,620
Well, the trucks
with the prisoners,

219
00:09:17,620 --> 00:09:20,498
and the mistreating of prisoners
getting into the building,

220
00:09:20,498 --> 00:09:21,290
and all that stuff.

221
00:09:21,290 --> 00:09:22,900
It was awful.

222
00:09:22,900 --> 00:09:26,830
That building was
originally a bank,

223
00:09:26,830 --> 00:09:30,810
and it was owned
by a Jewish person.

224
00:09:30,810 --> 00:09:32,980
The name was called like
you have here, Citibank,

225
00:09:32,980 --> 00:09:35,560

so that was called
the Pechek Bank.

226

00:09:35,560 --> 00:09:39,130
And he was known, you know,
like you know here, Rockefeller,

227

00:09:39,130 --> 00:09:42,580
so he was known, Pechek,
the banker, you know.

228

00:09:42,580 --> 00:09:47,680
But what you have seen,
yes, every 12:00 a new guard

229

00:09:47,680 --> 00:09:51,160
came to replace the guard
from the day before.

230

00:09:51,160 --> 00:09:53,750
So you have seen the
power, the might,

231

00:09:53,750 --> 00:09:57,480
what they had at that time.

232

00:09:57,480 --> 00:10:02,050
The streets were that
particular location was at,

233

00:10:02,050 --> 00:10:04,650
that had all
American Presidents,

234

00:10:04,650 --> 00:10:07,960
it was a Hoover street,
it was a Wilson street,

235

00:10:07,960 --> 00:10:09,950
and there were more of them.

236

00:10:09,950 --> 00:10:13,570
So why they had it

there, I don't know.

237

00:10:13,570 --> 00:10:17,045

But that was that bank which
they used for the Gestapo,

238

00:10:17,045 --> 00:10:17,545

you know.

239

00:10:17,545 --> 00:10:22,720

The Gestapo headquarters, now,
was that parallel to [CZECH]??

240

00:10:22,720 --> 00:10:23,220

Yes.

241

00:10:23,220 --> 00:10:24,262

Then I know the building.

242

00:10:24,262 --> 00:10:24,860

[CZECH]

243

00:10:24,860 --> 00:10:26,570

You are absolutely right.

244

00:10:26,570 --> 00:10:32,572

[CZECH] was this way, and
that street was parallel, yes.

245

00:10:32,572 --> 00:10:33,280

Then I know the--

246

00:10:33,280 --> 00:10:34,610

I have passed by the building.

247

00:10:34,610 --> 00:10:35,590

It was parallel.

248

00:10:35,590 --> 00:10:40,840

And that section of Prague had
all these American president's

249

00:10:40,840 --> 00:10:43,720

name, probably just
to show gratitude

250

00:10:43,720 --> 00:10:47,680

that they made established
the Czech Republic

251

00:10:47,680 --> 00:10:50,175

or Czechoslovakia at
that time, you know.

252

00:10:50,175 --> 00:10:53,920

But again, the life was--

253

00:10:53,920 --> 00:10:56,110

before the Nazis came--

254

00:10:56,110 --> 00:10:58,780

that was, we had the
same freedom like here.

255

00:10:58,780 --> 00:11:04,765

There was no religious
discrimination of any kind.

256

00:11:04,765 --> 00:11:07,420

If you were Jewish, you
went to a Jewish temple,

257

00:11:07,420 --> 00:11:09,940

if you were Catholic,
you went to a Catholic--

258

00:11:09,940 --> 00:11:10,450

Church.

259

00:11:10,450 --> 00:11:12,940

Church, or wherever you went.

260

00:11:12,940 --> 00:11:14,180

That has changed.

261
00:11:14,180 --> 00:11:19,670
People became more,
well, maybe afraid,

262
00:11:19,670 --> 00:11:23,200
maybe some of the true feelings
also might have come out.

263
00:11:23,200 --> 00:11:23,890
You never know.

264
00:11:23,890 --> 00:11:24,950

265
00:11:24,950 --> 00:11:27,580
Well, going back
to Heydrich, when

266
00:11:27,580 --> 00:11:31,240
they burst in into the room
in the middle of the night,

267
00:11:31,240 --> 00:11:33,317
did you have any idea why?

268
00:11:33,317 --> 00:11:34,900
Had you heard that
Heydrich had been--

269
00:11:34,900 --> 00:11:35,830
Oh yeah, oh yeah.

270
00:11:35,830 --> 00:11:39,630
We knew, oh, sure,
how can you not know.

271
00:11:39,630 --> 00:11:46,930
Heydrich was-- you know, we had
something called L-A-N-Y, Lany.

272
00:11:46,930 --> 00:11:51,645

Lany was like we have here in
the United States, Camp David.

273
00:11:51,645 --> 00:11:52,400
I see.

274
00:11:52,400 --> 00:11:54,540
You see, when the
president wants to relax--

275
00:11:54,540 --> 00:11:57,190
whichever president, did
not go into politics--

276
00:11:57,190 --> 00:11:59,080
you went to Camp
David, because that

277
00:11:59,080 --> 00:12:03,250
was the summer or the relaxation
for the existing president.

278
00:12:03,250 --> 00:12:06,340
So we had that castle Lany.

279
00:12:06,340 --> 00:12:08,890
And Heydrich was
known that he travels

280
00:12:08,890 --> 00:12:12,400
between Lany and Prague,
because he wanted

281
00:12:12,400 --> 00:12:15,190
to enjoy the same
thing, or the president,

282
00:12:15,190 --> 00:12:18,610
enjoy that Lany, the
castle which was there.

283
00:12:18,610 --> 00:12:20,780
But somehow those

Partisans which

284

00:12:20,780 --> 00:12:24,810
were dropped by the British,
they found out his route,

285

00:12:24,810 --> 00:12:27,460
and eventually,
naturally, killed him by--

286

00:12:27,460 --> 00:12:30,010
I don't exactly
remember anymore.

287

00:12:30,010 --> 00:12:35,260
The car was passing and
somehow exploded or whatever.

288

00:12:35,260 --> 00:12:37,450
But it was big
repercussions here,

289

00:12:37,450 --> 00:12:41,890
because he was really
the right hand of Hitler.

290

00:12:41,890 --> 00:12:44,350
So when they killed the
right hand of Hitler,

291

00:12:44,350 --> 00:12:46,690
you know, they wanted to show.

292

00:12:46,690 --> 00:12:49,300
And you know, they
traced it back--

293

00:12:49,300 --> 00:12:51,250
I don't know if you
heard that story--

294

00:12:51,250 --> 00:12:54,880
they tried-- they traced it

back that those Partisans were

295

00:12:54,880 --> 00:13:00,550
staying or were dropped off
in a town called Lidice.

296

00:13:00,550 --> 00:13:05,860
And out of sympathy, naturally,
here in the United States,

297

00:13:05,860 --> 00:13:09,850
in Chicago, there is a
suburb called Lidice.

298

00:13:09,850 --> 00:13:12,100
Now I don't know if they
have changed it since then

299

00:13:12,100 --> 00:13:12,670
or whatever.

300

00:13:12,670 --> 00:13:16,560
But there is a strong
Czech community in Chicago.

301

00:13:16,560 --> 00:13:20,800
And they wanted to show that,
somehow, the West stands

302

00:13:20,800 --> 00:13:23,840
with that particular event.

303

00:13:23,840 --> 00:13:25,990
But of course, I remember it.

304

00:13:25,990 --> 00:13:29,770
And there were pictures of
Heydrich left and right.

305

00:13:29,770 --> 00:13:33,520
He was the right hand of
Hitler, no doubt about it.

306

00:13:33,520 --> 00:13:36,790

Now, when they burst in
the middle of the night,

307

00:13:36,790 --> 00:13:39,950

that means it wasn't the
same night that Heydrich,

308

00:13:39,950 --> 00:13:42,660

or the same day that
Heydrich had been attempted--

309

00:13:42,660 --> 00:13:44,990

No, well, they looking
for them, you know.

310

00:13:44,990 --> 00:13:45,660

Right, for days.

311

00:13:45,660 --> 00:13:49,440

And even if they knew that the
people are God knows where,

312

00:13:49,440 --> 00:13:51,540

or maybe they were even killed.

313

00:13:51,540 --> 00:13:53,550

They wanted to show
the power they had

314

00:13:53,550 --> 00:13:56,580

and to intimidate
everybody else.

315

00:13:56,580 --> 00:14:00,720

Were there other reprisals after
they captured those, because--

316

00:14:00,720 --> 00:14:03,990

I don't remember exactly what
would have happened afterwards,

317

00:14:03,990 --> 00:14:07,270
except that they took
all these men people,

318
00:14:07,270 --> 00:14:10,410
and not only men, boys,
from that town of Lidice

319
00:14:10,410 --> 00:14:12,220
and they burned it down.

320
00:14:12,220 --> 00:14:15,300
Females had, I don't know
whether they took the females.

321
00:14:15,300 --> 00:14:17,940
But it was awful, awful.

322
00:14:17,940 --> 00:14:22,530
And that kind of event molds the
rest of the people, you know.

323
00:14:22,530 --> 00:14:27,900
They say the non-Jews were
afraid to talk with Jews,

324
00:14:27,900 --> 00:14:29,790
and the fear was
spread all over.

325
00:14:29,790 --> 00:14:33,420
So it's not like the people
went against you, no.

326
00:14:33,420 --> 00:14:36,990
I told you, my best friend,
he was playing soccer with me.

327
00:14:36,990 --> 00:14:40,650
Who cares whether he was
Jewish or Catholic or whatever.

328
00:14:40,650 --> 00:14:43,350

But the fear was there.

329

00:14:43,350 --> 00:14:47,490

So out of fear, there was a
certain called segregation.

330

00:14:47,490 --> 00:14:48,750

Yeah.

331

00:14:48,750 --> 00:14:54,250

And it was imposed by
the system, you know?

332

00:14:54,250 --> 00:14:58,350

OK, now let's jump
to after the war.

333

00:14:58,350 --> 00:15:02,630

When you came back,
how did life develop

334

00:15:02,630 --> 00:15:07,310

for you out of your
sister in law's apartment?

335

00:15:07,310 --> 00:15:08,990

After that, you
get better, it's--

336

00:15:08,990 --> 00:15:12,050

Well, I told you, somehow--

337

00:15:12,050 --> 00:15:15,650

I don't know how I got the
apartment, because there were

338

00:15:15,650 --> 00:15:18,590

also Germans who were
thrown, not thrown away,

339

00:15:18,590 --> 00:15:23,010

but they made them go back
to Germany or wherever.

340
00:15:23,010 --> 00:15:25,630
So I don't know how
I got the apartment.

341
00:15:25,630 --> 00:15:27,260
Certainly didn't pay for it.

342
00:15:27,260 --> 00:15:30,410
I had no money, I was a kid.

343
00:15:30,410 --> 00:15:32,840
Was it allotted
to me by someone,

344
00:15:32,840 --> 00:15:34,790
I don't remember that part.

345
00:15:34,790 --> 00:15:40,220
I know I stayed with Georgine
until, and then her aunt,

346
00:15:40,220 --> 00:15:43,250
the one they were talking
about the clothes,

347
00:15:43,250 --> 00:15:45,350
she came to visit
us when she was

348
00:15:45,350 --> 00:15:51,230
expecting George, the one who
is a doctor near Washington DC.

349
00:15:51,230 --> 00:15:53,030
She was expecting
him, and that was

350
00:15:53,030 --> 00:15:54,710
the first time she
came to Prague,

351

00:15:54,710 --> 00:15:58,010
and the first time we
met her, so to speak.

352
00:15:58,010 --> 00:16:00,620
Also, excuse me, we haven't
talked about how did Georgine

353
00:16:00,620 --> 00:16:01,932
come back?

354
00:16:01,932 --> 00:16:05,180
Well, Georgine, I don't know
how she came back physically,

355
00:16:05,180 --> 00:16:07,940
but I think, which
I mentioned to you,

356
00:16:07,940 --> 00:16:09,830
the French were
trying desperately

357
00:16:09,830 --> 00:16:11,980
to put people together.

358
00:16:11,980 --> 00:16:16,700
Now, if you think who paid
for it, definitely nobody.

359
00:16:16,700 --> 00:16:21,350
That was the government
somehow obligation or whatever.

360
00:16:21,350 --> 00:16:23,540
Georgine was sick.

361
00:16:23,540 --> 00:16:28,250
And I remember very
distinctly when she came,

362
00:16:28,250 --> 00:16:31,250
there were two of her,

quote, "best friends"

363

00:16:31,250 --> 00:16:34,400

who really made her survive.

364

00:16:34,400 --> 00:16:36,740

Did I remember the name?

365

00:16:36,740 --> 00:16:38,660

I don't know, something

Ruth, but they

366

00:16:38,660 --> 00:16:40,750

called her Czech, Ruthka.

367

00:16:40,750 --> 00:16:43,280

And I forgot the second one.

368

00:16:43,280 --> 00:16:45,650

But they were not

from Prague, so they

369

00:16:45,650 --> 00:16:47,480

stayed in Prague

for a couple of days

370

00:16:47,480 --> 00:16:50,410

before they got a connection

to wherever they going.

371

00:16:50,410 --> 00:16:53,420

One was from Moravia,

which was the other state

372

00:16:53,420 --> 00:16:55,580

of Czechoslovakia.

373

00:16:55,580 --> 00:16:58,220

And I think they lost,

you know, like always, you

374

00:16:58,220 --> 00:17:00,920

lost track of each
other, because people

375
00:17:00,920 --> 00:17:02,250
have different interests.

376
00:17:02,250 --> 00:17:07,099
And Georgine, she
needed surgeries.

377
00:17:07,099 --> 00:17:10,170
She developed a
thyroid condition.

378
00:17:10,170 --> 00:17:14,960
The thyroid is not only that
it takes away your breathing,

379
00:17:14,960 --> 00:17:21,829
but also she developed a chunk
on this side, that would be

380
00:17:21,829 --> 00:17:24,680
her left side, I think it was.

381
00:17:24,680 --> 00:17:27,319
So she had to have
that taken out.

382
00:17:27,319 --> 00:17:29,870
It was not taken out
in Czechoslovakia,

383
00:17:29,870 --> 00:17:32,090
but she was treated for it.

384
00:17:32,090 --> 00:17:34,530
As always the truth,
it was thinking

385
00:17:34,530 --> 00:17:38,510
and then we came here
in New York City.

386
00:17:38,510 --> 00:17:45,140
Not in a hospital, there
used to be small practices.

387
00:17:45,140 --> 00:17:47,390
There was one on Park Avenue--

388
00:17:47,390 --> 00:17:50,740
don't hold me to it, but I
remember it was on 83rd Street,

389
00:17:50,740 --> 00:17:55,510
I think, between Park and
Madison, closer to Park.

390
00:17:55,510 --> 00:17:59,420
And it had to be taken out,
because the doctor said here

391
00:17:59,420 --> 00:18:02,480
that she would
have difficulties.

392
00:18:02,480 --> 00:18:08,930
Now come to think of it, why
was it not done in Australia?

393
00:18:08,930 --> 00:18:10,880
She had it in Australia.

394
00:18:10,880 --> 00:18:14,320
But you know, Australia of 19--

395
00:18:14,320 --> 00:18:17,030
when we got there, 1949--

396
00:18:17,030 --> 00:18:20,618
was a different
Australia than 2013.

397
00:18:20,618 --> 00:18:21,160

That's right.

398

00:18:21,160 --> 00:18:23,790

They were very backwards.

399

00:18:23,790 --> 00:18:27,260

Not because they were dumb or something, it was the location.

400

00:18:27,260 --> 00:18:29,090

They were so far away from anything.

401

00:18:29,090 --> 00:18:30,500

402

00:18:30,500 --> 00:18:31,450

That's right.

403

00:18:31,450 --> 00:18:34,550

It was a different Australia.

404

00:18:34,550 --> 00:18:37,190

That's why we also changed the name, because when

405

00:18:37,190 --> 00:18:41,120

I said my name is Pekarek, it was like talking to God

406

00:18:41,120 --> 00:18:42,450

knows what.

407

00:18:42,450 --> 00:18:49,140

So it was very difficult. Then since she was here,

408

00:18:49,140 --> 00:18:54,570

she read, heard that the treatment here

409

00:18:54,570 --> 00:18:59,630

is much more progressive
with nuclear energy.

410
00:18:59,630 --> 00:19:02,230
I want to go back to when
she comes back to Prague.

411
00:19:02,230 --> 00:19:03,180
Yeah, please.

412
00:19:03,180 --> 00:19:04,130
Yeah.

413
00:19:04,130 --> 00:19:05,510
She's sick.

414
00:19:05,510 --> 00:19:06,800
Did you meet her--

415
00:19:06,800 --> 00:19:10,312
did she return back to your
her sister's apartment as well,

416
00:19:10,312 --> 00:19:11,520
and that's where you met her?

417
00:19:11,520 --> 00:19:13,430
Yeah, we had the
apartment, which I told you

418
00:19:13,430 --> 00:19:15,500
I got in central Prague.

419
00:19:15,500 --> 00:19:18,460
I know, but your first
meeting when she comes back,

420
00:19:18,460 --> 00:19:20,300
do you remember it?

421
00:19:20,300 --> 00:19:22,610
Well, I don't think I remember

exactly the first couple

422

00:19:22,610 --> 00:19:23,580

of days, not really.

423

00:19:23,580 --> 00:19:27,400

No, so you, all right.

424

00:19:27,400 --> 00:19:30,030

But when she does come
back, she's very sick,

425

00:19:30,030 --> 00:19:31,400

and so she needs treatment.

426

00:19:31,400 --> 00:19:32,030

Yes.

427

00:19:32,030 --> 00:19:36,110

And had you had your apartment
that you were assigned already

428

00:19:36,110 --> 00:19:37,130

by that time?

429

00:19:37,130 --> 00:19:37,760

Oh yes, yes.

430

00:19:37,760 --> 00:19:38,660

I see, OK.

431

00:19:38,660 --> 00:19:39,920

I had the apartment.

432

00:19:39,920 --> 00:19:44,060

You know, I was, I told you I
was in Prague April 20, when

433

00:19:44,060 --> 00:19:46,910

the Germans was still
there celebrating Hitler.

434

00:19:46,910 --> 00:19:52,730

So when the revolution
finished at May 9th,

435

00:19:52,730 --> 00:19:55,992

I somehow, couple days
later, I got the apartment.

436

00:19:55,992 --> 00:19:56,700

I don't know how.

437

00:19:56,700 --> 00:19:57,980

Oh, so it's within a few days.

438

00:19:57,980 --> 00:19:59,210

But she wasn't there yet.

439

00:19:59,210 --> 00:20:03,620

No, she came much later, because
she was on the Russian side,

440

00:20:03,620 --> 00:20:06,770

and they were not so organized
bringing the people back,

441

00:20:06,770 --> 00:20:09,290

like when you were somewhere
on the Western side.

442

00:20:09,290 --> 00:20:09,830

Got it.

443

00:20:09,830 --> 00:20:11,720

So eventually,
she did come back.

444

00:20:11,720 --> 00:20:13,250

Now how did she find me?

445

00:20:13,250 --> 00:20:16,250

Well, most likely
through her sister.

446
00:20:16,250 --> 00:20:19,340
That's my guessing
now 70 years later.

447
00:20:19,340 --> 00:20:19,840
OK.

448
00:20:19,840 --> 00:20:22,370
Do I remember exactly
how she found me, no.

449
00:20:22,370 --> 00:20:24,570
And did you start working again?

450
00:20:24,570 --> 00:20:25,070
Yes.

451
00:20:25,070 --> 00:20:25,290
What were you doing?

452
00:20:25,290 --> 00:20:27,230
The same firm where I
used to work before.

453
00:20:27,230 --> 00:20:28,010
OK.

454
00:20:28,010 --> 00:20:31,340
They claim-- there's
a story to it also.

455
00:20:31,340 --> 00:20:34,370
They got it back, because
naturally, it was theirs.

456
00:20:34,370 --> 00:20:38,750
And even if we had a
left-leaning government,

457
00:20:38,750 --> 00:20:41,480
it was theirs, they got it back.

458

00:20:41,480 --> 00:20:44,670

And since they were
quite well-off,

459

00:20:44,670 --> 00:20:49,700

and they had connections
to the United States, how.

460

00:20:49,700 --> 00:20:53,240

The original owner who
was a very old man,

461

00:20:53,240 --> 00:20:54,680

he had quite a few children.

462

00:20:54,680 --> 00:20:57,320

In those days, you know, there
not so many precautions not

463

00:20:57,320 --> 00:21:00,470

to get children, or
pregnant, or whatever.

464

00:21:00,470 --> 00:21:03,420

So he had, I think,
five or six of them.

465

00:21:03,420 --> 00:21:07,310

And two were living here
in the United States

466

00:21:07,310 --> 00:21:10,320

married before the war started.

467

00:21:10,320 --> 00:21:12,870

One was in Philadelphia,
and I don't know

468

00:21:12,870 --> 00:21:15,800

where the other one was living.

469

00:21:15,800 --> 00:21:19,720

So they got the thing
back, but because it

470

00:21:19,720 --> 00:21:24,460

was so left-leaning, the whole
Czechoslovakia after World War

471

00:21:24,460 --> 00:21:29,050

II, because the Soviet Union,
we were your protectors,

472

00:21:29,050 --> 00:21:32,710

and the country was
really very much

473

00:21:32,710 --> 00:21:36,910

to the left, which
we didn't care for.

474

00:21:36,910 --> 00:21:41,290

So this firm had difficulties
with the labor force,

475

00:21:41,290 --> 00:21:46,880

because they were delivering
coal, C-O-A-L, you know, coal.

476

00:21:46,880 --> 00:21:47,660

Yeah.

477

00:21:47,660 --> 00:21:49,930

You know, don't forget,
nowadays you have gas,

478

00:21:49,930 --> 00:21:51,410

you have all kinds of things.

479

00:21:51,410 --> 00:21:54,280

But in Prague,
coal was the thing

480

00:21:54,280 --> 00:21:56,800

to make your morning coffee.

481

00:21:56,800 --> 00:21:59,040

So it was very--

482

00:21:59,040 --> 00:22:02,410

and horses were the ones
which really held the coal.

483

00:22:02,410 --> 00:22:04,120

Ah, so now I understand.

484

00:22:04,120 --> 00:22:06,940

You worked as an accountant
for a coal company.

485

00:22:06,940 --> 00:22:07,820

That's correct.

486

00:22:07,820 --> 00:22:08,320

I see.

487

00:22:08,320 --> 00:22:09,740

I thought it was an
accounting company.

488

00:22:09,740 --> 00:22:10,240

No, no, no.

489

00:22:10,240 --> 00:22:11,470

No, it was a coal company.

490

00:22:11,470 --> 00:22:12,750

I was the accountant for--

491

00:22:12,750 --> 00:22:13,333

For the coal--

492

00:22:13,333 --> 00:22:15,240

A company which
was selling coal.

493

00:22:15,240 --> 00:22:15,850

OK.

494

00:22:15,850 --> 00:22:19,170

And the owner was an old
man, he had several sons.

495

00:22:19,170 --> 00:22:22,150

But two of them
worked in the firm.

496

00:22:22,150 --> 00:22:24,660

And it was a very
successful firm.

497

00:22:24,660 --> 00:22:29,830

OK, so now when they come
back, they reclaim their firm.

498

00:22:29,830 --> 00:22:31,160

Do they eventually leave it?

499

00:22:31,160 --> 00:22:32,890

Because you're talking about
this left-leaning government.

500

00:22:32,890 --> 00:22:34,670

Yes, that's what I
wanted to tell you.

501

00:22:34,670 --> 00:22:35,800

So tell me.

502

00:22:35,800 --> 00:22:40,600

So then this more left-wing
it's more left-wingish.

503

00:22:40,600 --> 00:22:43,720

So eventually, I don't
remember if it was nationalized

504

00:22:43,720 --> 00:22:45,790

or not, those things escape me.

505

00:22:45,790 --> 00:22:49,720

But Henik, he was one of the
sons, he wanted to get out,

506

00:22:49,720 --> 00:22:51,970

but there was nowhere to go.

507

00:22:51,970 --> 00:22:54,940

To get a visa permit
here was very difficult,

508

00:22:54,940 --> 00:22:58,360

and the two relatives
of his, well, you know,

509

00:22:58,360 --> 00:23:00,850

it's very difficult
to make a living here.

510

00:23:00,850 --> 00:23:03,460

Thinking about millions
which they had over there,

511

00:23:03,460 --> 00:23:05,890

they didn't have
the millions here.

512

00:23:05,890 --> 00:23:07,630

So he had difficulties coming.

513

00:23:07,630 --> 00:23:12,190

But I promised him when
I went to Australia

514

00:23:12,190 --> 00:23:15,970

that I would try to see if I
could get him some documents

515

00:23:15,970 --> 00:23:18,820

to get to Australia.

516

00:23:18,820 --> 00:23:21,820

Believe it or not, I
did manage to help him.

517

00:23:21,820 --> 00:23:24,010

And he came to
Australia eventually

518

00:23:24,010 --> 00:23:28,390

with his wife, two
children, and he was

519

00:23:28,390 --> 00:23:32,290

driving a cab, of all things.

520

00:23:32,290 --> 00:23:35,480

Quite successful, but naturally,
money-wise, no comparison

521

00:23:35,480 --> 00:23:37,427

to what he had been.

522

00:23:37,427 --> 00:23:39,010

But I'm pretty sure
they must have had

523

00:23:39,010 --> 00:23:40,630

some money here or something.

524

00:23:40,630 --> 00:23:45,140

OK, so let's go back to
left-leaning government

525

00:23:45,140 --> 00:23:45,940

in Prague.

526

00:23:45,940 --> 00:23:49,120

The owners are not happy,
they don't want to stay.

527

00:23:49,120 --> 00:23:50,455

What makes you not happy?

528
00:23:50,455 --> 00:23:51,205
What specifically?

529
00:23:51,205 --> 00:23:53,230
The Left-wingish thing.

530
00:23:53,230 --> 00:23:56,230
Look, for example,
there were elections.

531
00:23:56,230 --> 00:23:59,170
You had to go with
everybody in that firm,

532
00:23:59,170 --> 00:24:01,900
and to sing the
name of the leader.

533
00:24:01,900 --> 00:24:02,725
Who was--

534
00:24:02,725 --> 00:24:05,770
His name was
Gottwald, and he was

535
00:24:05,770 --> 00:24:07,690
the only one who was running.

536
00:24:07,690 --> 00:24:12,070
So having that experience
from World War II,

537
00:24:12,070 --> 00:24:16,030
we have seen that the
country is deteriorating.

538
00:24:16,030 --> 00:24:23,920
So it was between '40 and '48, I
was always under the impression

539
00:24:23,920 --> 00:24:27,470

that it was still not
a Communist country.

540
00:24:27,470 --> 00:24:29,740
No, but it was very
left-wingish, yes.

541
00:24:29,740 --> 00:24:30,510
I see.

542
00:24:30,510 --> 00:24:31,270
I see.

543
00:24:31,270 --> 00:24:32,690
And I would say not between '40.

544
00:24:32,690 --> 00:24:34,400
Between 1945 when we came back.

545
00:24:34,400 --> 00:24:35,990
45, yes, that's right.

546
00:24:35,990 --> 00:24:38,260
To 1948, definitely.

547
00:24:38,260 --> 00:24:39,900
Only one candidate.

548
00:24:39,900 --> 00:24:41,130
OK.

549
00:24:41,130 --> 00:24:43,675
If you liked it or not,
he was the only one.

550
00:24:43,675 --> 00:24:46,450
And naturally, he was
a Communist leader.

551
00:24:46,450 --> 00:24:49,570
So it was, it was
not 100% Communistic,

552
00:24:49,570 --> 00:24:50,970
but it was getting there.

553
00:24:50,970 --> 00:24:52,360
OK, so here's the
other question.

554
00:24:52,360 --> 00:24:56,680
You say that when the Nazis came
in, because of their policies,

555
00:24:56,680 --> 00:25:00,400
it affected the relationships
people had with each other.

556
00:25:00,400 --> 00:25:01,420
So that if you were--

557
00:25:01,420 --> 00:25:01,920
Yes.

558
00:25:01,920 --> 00:25:04,720
--had a-- who was non-Jew,
a friend who was non-Jewish,

559
00:25:04,720 --> 00:25:07,300
it became, you
became estranged even

560
00:25:07,300 --> 00:25:08,850
through no desire of your own.

561
00:25:08,850 --> 00:25:10,308
Religion had nothing
to do with it.

562
00:25:10,308 --> 00:25:11,740
If you were not one of--

563
00:25:11,740 --> 00:25:14,200
for example, look, your

kid could go to school,

564

00:25:14,200 --> 00:25:17,300

to a college, if he
was from a bourgeois,

565

00:25:17,300 --> 00:25:18,550

they call it bourgeois family.

566

00:25:18,550 --> 00:25:19,925

That's what I
wanted to find out.

567

00:25:19,925 --> 00:25:21,160

How did that develop--

568

00:25:21,160 --> 00:25:21,910

That's how it was.

569

00:25:21,910 --> 00:25:22,801

Now, after the war.

570

00:25:22,801 --> 00:25:23,301

Tell us.

571

00:25:23,301 --> 00:25:26,740

So when your child was born
from a bourgeois family,

572

00:25:26,740 --> 00:25:28,750

that child couldn't
go to college.

573

00:25:28,750 --> 00:25:31,030

Well, what was your
family considered?

574

00:25:31,030 --> 00:25:32,950

Well, I had no
children to begin with,

575

00:25:32,950 --> 00:25:35,110

but there was no
family left, you know.

576
00:25:35,110 --> 00:25:37,630
So I didn't have that
kind of a problem.

577
00:25:37,630 --> 00:25:40,400
But you didn't like it.

578
00:25:40,400 --> 00:25:41,150
OK.

579
00:25:41,150 --> 00:25:44,740
It smelled too much from
controlled leftists.

580
00:25:44,740 --> 00:25:49,120
So Nazi, Hitler was to
control from the right side.

581
00:25:49,120 --> 00:25:52,780
This was the same
garbage on the left side.

582
00:25:52,780 --> 00:25:55,030
There's one question I
forgot to ask you before.

583
00:25:55,030 --> 00:25:55,810
Please.

584
00:25:55,810 --> 00:26:00,082
When did you find out what
happened to your parents?

585
00:26:00,082 --> 00:26:01,290
Well, that's a good question.

586
00:26:01,290 --> 00:26:04,070
I think my sister
survived, and I

587

00:26:04,070 --> 00:26:07,070

think she said she
gave me the date when

588

00:26:07,070 --> 00:26:12,000

they were in so to speak,
transported from one camp

589

00:26:12,000 --> 00:26:13,040

to Auschwitz.

590

00:26:13,040 --> 00:26:14,480

So from Theresienstadt.

591

00:26:14,480 --> 00:26:15,710

Yes.

592

00:26:15,710 --> 00:26:18,050

And once they got
to Auschwitz, there

593

00:26:18,050 --> 00:26:20,480

was no way that they
could have survived.

594

00:26:20,480 --> 00:26:22,736

Because my father
would have been old,

595

00:26:22,736 --> 00:26:24,950

also a little bit
on the sick side,

596

00:26:24,950 --> 00:26:29,110

had difficulties
with not arthritis,

597

00:26:29,110 --> 00:26:31,760

they were calling
it something else.

598

00:26:31,760 --> 00:26:33,890

Had difficulties
walking, I don't remember

599
00:26:33,890 --> 00:26:36,170
the name what they used it for.

600
00:26:36,170 --> 00:26:38,210
But they were old
people, you know.

601
00:26:38,210 --> 00:26:40,880
Now, my father was born '78.

602
00:26:40,880 --> 00:26:45,470
So when he got to
Auschwitz, say 1944, 1945,

603
00:26:45,470 --> 00:26:47,180
so he was close to 70.

604
00:26:47,180 --> 00:26:49,900
Well, I'm now 90, but
that was a different time.

605
00:26:49,900 --> 00:26:50,970
Yeah, he was 64, 65.

606
00:26:50,970 --> 00:26:52,640
And you see, here you
are a free person,

607
00:26:52,640 --> 00:26:56,440
whether you live
until 90 or 105.

608
00:26:56,440 --> 00:26:57,170
You know.

609
00:26:57,170 --> 00:27:00,560
But that was a
controlled society.

610

00:27:00,560 --> 00:27:01,850
Jewish on top of it.

611
00:27:01,850 --> 00:27:05,380
So when they got there,
they had no chance.

612
00:27:05,380 --> 00:27:06,320
They had no chance.

613
00:27:06,320 --> 00:27:09,402
So my sister knew the
day, and she told me.

614
00:27:09,402 --> 00:27:10,610
I forgot the date, of course.

615
00:27:10,610 --> 00:27:12,620
But she told me
when the day came,

616
00:27:12,620 --> 00:27:15,713
she couldn't hold them
as a dependent anymore.

617
00:27:15,713 --> 00:27:17,505
And she was there--
and they were deported.

618
00:27:17,505 --> 00:27:19,830
I see, I see.

619
00:27:19,830 --> 00:27:21,560
And once they were
deported to Auschwitz,

620
00:27:21,560 --> 00:27:25,460
well, that was, of
course, the end, you know.

621
00:27:25,460 --> 00:27:28,580
So, OK, let's go back
to after the war.

622
00:27:28,580 --> 00:27:31,460
So you didn't you
didn't like the way

623
00:27:31,460 --> 00:27:32,640
you saw things developing.

624
00:27:32,640 --> 00:27:33,140
Exactly.

625
00:27:33,140 --> 00:27:33,900
Back in Prague.

626
00:27:33,900 --> 00:27:34,820
That was the truth.

627
00:27:34,820 --> 00:27:36,680
Yeah.

628
00:27:36,680 --> 00:27:39,650
What did you-- what actions
did you start taking?

629
00:27:39,650 --> 00:27:41,580
How did things develop
from thought to action.

630
00:27:41,580 --> 00:27:42,500
You see that, I couldn't take--

631
00:27:42,500 --> 00:27:44,750
I didn't take any action,
except that I wanted

632
00:27:44,750 --> 00:27:46,850
to get out with Georgine.

633
00:27:46,850 --> 00:27:50,180
And being of that
age, military age.

634

00:27:50,180 --> 00:27:53,960

Now, for example, when I came back, I had to join the army.

635

00:27:53,960 --> 00:27:57,390

Not that I wanted,
there was a compulsory--

636

00:27:57,390 --> 00:27:57,980

Right.

637

00:27:57,980 --> 00:28:00,830

So for I don't remember
how many months,

638

00:28:00,830 --> 00:28:04,160

I was within the army,
office, but still I

639

00:28:04,160 --> 00:28:06,200

was in the armed forces.

640

00:28:06,200 --> 00:28:08,390

And then they passed
a law that people

641

00:28:08,390 --> 00:28:12,870

who were in a concentration camp
were exempt from that service.

642

00:28:12,870 --> 00:28:14,960

So I came back to
the apartment, which

643

00:28:14,960 --> 00:28:17,480

I had originally with Georgine.

644

00:28:17,480 --> 00:28:19,220

So Georgine came to visit me.

645

00:28:19,220 --> 00:28:20,600

How she got there, I don't know.

646
00:28:20,600 --> 00:28:24,100
Most likely by bus, because
we didn't have a car.

647
00:28:24,100 --> 00:28:27,050
Having a car was a
luxury in those days.

648
00:28:27,050 --> 00:28:30,740
So she must have come
by bus to visit me.

649
00:28:30,740 --> 00:28:32,923
And naturally there was
a question of money,

650
00:28:32,923 --> 00:28:34,465
because when you
are in the military,

651
00:28:34,465 --> 00:28:36,260
you don't make--
what do you make?

652
00:28:36,260 --> 00:28:37,220
Nothing.

653
00:28:37,220 --> 00:28:38,900
So there were some difficulties.

654
00:28:38,900 --> 00:28:40,850
Do I remember what difficulties?

655
00:28:40,850 --> 00:28:41,930
Not really.

656
00:28:41,930 --> 00:28:44,370
Somehow we made it.

657
00:28:44,370 --> 00:28:48,400
You know, maybe some money

was leftover from the father,

658

00:28:48,400 --> 00:28:49,810

her father.

659

00:28:49,810 --> 00:28:52,520

But you know, that during
that kind of a situation,

660

00:28:52,520 --> 00:28:54,180

that's happening
here to somebody--

661

00:28:54,180 --> 00:28:56,500

I'm not going to
touch that base.

662

00:28:56,500 --> 00:29:00,170

But when people--
my father-in-law--

663

00:29:00,170 --> 00:29:04,210

then when they heard that
this one was transported

664

00:29:04,210 --> 00:29:06,500

to some camp and this one.

665

00:29:06,500 --> 00:29:09,010

So as a precaution,
they gave, they

666

00:29:09,010 --> 00:29:11,980

had a housekeeper of the
house, which was living

667

00:29:11,980 --> 00:29:14,390

in the basement, so to speak.

668

00:29:14,390 --> 00:29:15,850

So they gave her some money.

669

00:29:15,850 --> 00:29:16,660
How much?

670
00:29:16,660 --> 00:29:18,220
No idea.

671
00:29:18,220 --> 00:29:21,420
He had a factory.

672
00:29:21,420 --> 00:29:24,760
Remember, the time goes
back now, 60, 70 years.

673
00:29:24,760 --> 00:29:27,650
So plastic was a novelty.

674
00:29:27,650 --> 00:29:33,400
So in Czechoslovakia,
when you bought a drink,

675
00:29:33,400 --> 00:29:34,800
let's say like a Coke.

676
00:29:34,800 --> 00:29:37,270
Was not a Coke, like a Coke.

677
00:29:37,270 --> 00:29:40,180
So it has a top which
you closed, you know.

678
00:29:40,180 --> 00:29:41,890
But it was the old
fashioned thing,

679
00:29:41,890 --> 00:29:46,510
which was very difficult,
and maybe not nice-looking.

680
00:29:46,510 --> 00:29:52,771
So he developed, with
a partner, plastic--

681

00:29:52,771 --> 00:29:53,590
Screw top.

682
00:29:53,590 --> 00:29:57,940
The tops, which we today
take for granted, you know.

683
00:29:57,940 --> 00:30:01,730
So it was a novelty, and he
was doing extremely well.

684
00:30:01,730 --> 00:30:08,730
So he gave his housekeeper x, no
idea how much, dollar, but you

685
00:30:08,730 --> 00:30:12,460
keep it, and when we come
back, you give it back to us.

686
00:30:12,460 --> 00:30:15,760
Well, there are lots of
people who didn't come back.

687
00:30:15,760 --> 00:30:17,650
In that connection,
I would like to refer

688
00:30:17,650 --> 00:30:20,580
to a story which appeared
in the Wall Street Journal

689
00:30:20,580 --> 00:30:22,980
not more than maybe
two weeks ago,

690
00:30:22,980 --> 00:30:25,380
and I gave it to Elise to read.

691
00:30:25,380 --> 00:30:26,320
Why?

692
00:30:26,320 --> 00:30:30,210
Because it turned out

that New York State,

693

00:30:30,210 --> 00:30:35,380

there are unclaimed
insurance policies,

694

00:30:35,380 --> 00:30:40,060

monies which were left
around in banks, in the B--

695

00:30:40,060 --> 00:30:41,800

in the billions.

696

00:30:41,800 --> 00:30:45,370

And this story was that New
York State can't get this

697

00:30:45,370 --> 00:30:46,840

if it stays unclaimed.

698

00:30:46,840 --> 00:30:49,000

Because there is a
law, if you don't

699

00:30:49,000 --> 00:30:52,420

claim x, after so
many years, it becomes

700

00:30:52,420 --> 00:30:54,340

the property of the state.

701

00:30:54,340 --> 00:30:56,260

So naturally New
York State, I can't

702

00:30:56,260 --> 00:30:59,020

imagine if they could
get a couple of million,

703

00:30:59,020 --> 00:31:02,460

or perhaps billion,
oh my gosh, you know.

704
00:31:02,460 --> 00:31:03,100
Yeah.

705
00:31:03,100 --> 00:31:04,720
So that was the story.

706
00:31:04,720 --> 00:31:09,610
And I have no doubt
insurance companies, banks--

707
00:31:09,610 --> 00:31:12,050
and I'm telling you
out of experience,

708
00:31:12,050 --> 00:31:15,610
Georgine knew that her father
had the life insurance policy

709
00:31:15,610 --> 00:31:18,700
with x, I forgot the name.

710
00:31:18,700 --> 00:31:22,840
So when we came here,
we tried to get in touch

711
00:31:22,840 --> 00:31:23,680
with those people.

712
00:31:23,680 --> 00:31:26,440
We found some documents
showing that he had this,

713
00:31:26,440 --> 00:31:28,390
and he had that, and whatever.

714
00:31:28,390 --> 00:31:31,870
So the answer which we got,
if I would look for it,

715
00:31:31,870 --> 00:31:32,860
I would find it.

716

00:31:32,860 --> 00:31:34,480

I'm not going to
take the time now,

717

00:31:34,480 --> 00:31:36,850

and I would not take
the time then either.

718

00:31:36,850 --> 00:31:41,200

But they responded that we have
to produce a death certificate.

719

00:31:41,200 --> 00:31:43,330

Now, to get a death
certificate for somebody

720

00:31:43,330 --> 00:31:48,820

who passed away in Auschwitz, is
like, I don't have to tell you.

721

00:31:48,820 --> 00:31:50,390

So nothing happened.

722

00:31:50,390 --> 00:31:55,160

But that means that that
policy was never consummated.

723

00:31:55,160 --> 00:31:58,930

So if he was entitled to those
benefits, 10,000, 100,000,

724

00:31:58,930 --> 00:32:02,080

whatever, that was never paid.

725

00:32:02,080 --> 00:32:08,230

So really, the unclaimed
amounts which are there,

726

00:32:08,230 --> 00:32:09,480

must be in the--

727

00:32:09,480 --> 00:32:11,085

I'm telling you,
they story was--

728
00:32:11,085 --> 00:32:13,480
they mentioned, I
think, \$2 billion.

729
00:32:13,480 --> 00:32:16,270
Because I'm sure
my father-in-law

730
00:32:16,270 --> 00:32:18,407
wasn't the only
person who did this.

731
00:32:18,407 --> 00:32:20,740
But you're talking, when
you're talking about where they

732
00:32:20,740 --> 00:32:22,015
were unclaimed, it
was in Czechoslovakia

733
00:32:22,015 --> 00:32:22,480
where it was unclaimed.

734
00:32:22,480 --> 00:32:24,360
Yeah, in Czechoslovakia,
yeah, yeah.

735
00:32:24,360 --> 00:32:25,240
OK.

736
00:32:25,240 --> 00:32:28,870
But the money had been somehow,
say, inherited by Georgine,

737
00:32:28,870 --> 00:32:30,970
or somehow it would have come.

738
00:32:30,970 --> 00:32:34,090
Or maybe to her sister while
she was still living there.

739
00:32:34,090 --> 00:32:36,670
It was never paid, because
we could not prove--

740
00:32:36,670 --> 00:32:37,590
His death.

741
00:32:37,590 --> 00:32:38,920
His death.

742
00:32:38,920 --> 00:32:41,320
And I'm sure there were
cases, God knows how many,

743
00:32:41,320 --> 00:32:44,260
because lots of people
didn't come back.

744
00:32:44,260 --> 00:32:45,450
Especially older people.

745
00:32:45,450 --> 00:32:47,700
You know, the young people
might have survived longer,

746
00:32:47,700 --> 00:32:51,200
but the older people
had no chance.

747
00:32:51,200 --> 00:32:53,960
So I'm just telling
you what happened

748
00:32:53,960 --> 00:32:56,090
in Wall Street Journal,
which I enjoy reading,

749
00:32:56,090 --> 00:32:58,320
but that's not the issue.

750
00:32:58,320 --> 00:33:00,530

So the situation was--

751

00:33:00,530 --> 00:33:04,700

it was very, it was not
the same Czechoslovakia

752

00:33:04,700 --> 00:33:07,170

like it was when it was founded.

753

00:33:07,170 --> 00:33:07,670

No.

754

00:33:07,670 --> 00:33:11,060

Wait, were you still there
when Jan Masaryk was killed?

755

00:33:11,060 --> 00:33:12,080

Yes, yes, yes.

756

00:33:12,080 --> 00:33:13,710

What can you tell us about that?

757

00:33:13,710 --> 00:33:13,820

Well--

758

00:33:13,820 --> 00:33:15,880

What happened to you--
how did you experience it?

759

00:33:15,880 --> 00:33:20,480

Well, we experienced only that
somehow he jumped to his death.

760

00:33:20,480 --> 00:33:22,610

That was the official version.

761

00:33:22,610 --> 00:33:25,310

Now, the unofficial version
was that they threw him out

762

00:33:25,310 --> 00:33:26,540

of the window.

763
00:33:26,540 --> 00:33:29,630
Now, what was true?

764
00:33:29,630 --> 00:33:31,940
That depends on what
side you are on.

765
00:33:31,940 --> 00:33:34,370
Were people frightened
to speak to one another?

766
00:33:34,370 --> 00:33:35,615
Oh yes, oh, definitely.

767
00:33:35,615 --> 00:33:37,490
Because you didn't know
what the other person

768
00:33:37,490 --> 00:33:41,630
would do to enhance his
position, whatever he was,

769
00:33:41,630 --> 00:33:42,650
he or she.

770
00:33:42,650 --> 00:33:43,430
Yes.

771
00:33:43,430 --> 00:33:46,460
It was not the same
Czechoslovakia, no.

772
00:33:46,460 --> 00:33:49,220
And that, is in every part
of what you're asking me,

773
00:33:49,220 --> 00:33:50,300
why did it.

774
00:33:50,300 --> 00:33:53,478
It was not just the threat

from the Soviet Union,

775

00:33:53,478 --> 00:33:55,770

we didn't have anything, so
what would they have taken,

776

00:33:55,770 --> 00:33:57,140

and we just came back.

777

00:33:57,140 --> 00:33:58,600

But it was everything.

778

00:33:58,600 --> 00:34:02,750

You know, the distrust of each
other, the quality of life

779

00:34:02,750 --> 00:34:07,160

wasn't the same, by
far not the same.

780

00:34:07,160 --> 00:34:09,889

Religion, well, religion, we
didn't practice any religion

781

00:34:09,889 --> 00:34:12,320

anyhow, so that did
make any different.

782

00:34:12,320 --> 00:34:14,750

But the life was
not the same, no.

783

00:34:14,750 --> 00:34:17,810

You talk to a neighbor,
you were afraid in case

784

00:34:17,810 --> 00:34:21,469

you say something that it might
be turned over against you.

785

00:34:21,469 --> 00:34:24,770

If you were more on the
liberal side, rather than

786
00:34:24,770 --> 00:34:26,719
Communist side.

787
00:34:26,719 --> 00:34:28,159
If you said you don't like--

788
00:34:28,159 --> 00:34:29,670
I'm just saying as an example--

789
00:34:29,670 --> 00:34:33,889
if you don't like this guy,
and he was a prominent, say,

790
00:34:33,889 --> 00:34:36,600
politician in
Prague or whatever.

791
00:34:36,600 --> 00:34:39,710
So it was not the same
country by any means.

792
00:34:39,710 --> 00:34:43,560
But it was not the same
country for two reasons.

793
00:34:43,560 --> 00:34:47,870
Unfortunately, the
German occupation did it,

794
00:34:47,870 --> 00:34:51,530
and the Russians threat
continued during it.

795
00:34:51,530 --> 00:34:54,790
So there was not
that Masaryk, Benes,

796
00:34:54,790 --> 00:34:56,870
who were the original leaders.

797
00:34:56,870 --> 00:35:01,380

Spirit, that was what was
missing, that wasn't there.

798
00:35:01,380 --> 00:35:05,100
And especially, this
aunt of mine who

799
00:35:05,100 --> 00:35:07,310
survived the war in Israel--

800
00:35:07,310 --> 00:35:09,563
it was not Israel,
it was Palestine.

801
00:35:09,563 --> 00:35:11,960
But it is the same thing anyway.

802
00:35:11,960 --> 00:35:17,910
So she didn't like it, and she
was alerting us to these things

803
00:35:17,910 --> 00:35:19,650
more than we did.

804
00:35:19,650 --> 00:35:23,036
Because we were thrilled
that we are free.

805
00:35:23,036 --> 00:35:25,200
We were free.

806
00:35:25,200 --> 00:35:28,470
So for us, we didn't see.

807
00:35:28,470 --> 00:35:33,480
But she was, like I
said, a different age,

808
00:35:33,480 --> 00:35:34,830
from a different country.

809
00:35:34,830 --> 00:35:37,470

She saw it differently.

810
00:35:37,470 --> 00:35:39,970
Now, when she was living,
I remember certain things.

811
00:35:39,970 --> 00:35:43,470
When she was living in
Vienna, she married in Vienna,

812
00:35:43,470 --> 00:35:46,700
and she came to Prague
with the husband.

813
00:35:46,700 --> 00:35:51,210
And I can't remember
the year, well,

814
00:35:51,210 --> 00:35:55,140
it must have been before
'39, before Hitler came.

815
00:35:55,140 --> 00:36:00,030
She was saying that this
is a unstoppable wave.

816
00:36:00,030 --> 00:36:03,825
That anything what
is somehow German

817
00:36:03,825 --> 00:36:07,130
will become Nazi Germany.

818
00:36:07,130 --> 00:36:09,500
And I think she was right.

819
00:36:09,500 --> 00:36:10,820
Why?

820
00:36:10,820 --> 00:36:14,330
I told you earlier, because
Hitler provided jobs.

821

00:36:14,330 --> 00:36:17,270

And even the people
who had nothing

822

00:36:17,270 --> 00:36:21,035

to do with it became pro-Nazi.

823

00:36:21,035 --> 00:36:23,660

I like to say Nazi
Germany, because I

824

00:36:23,660 --> 00:36:28,920

don't blame today's generation
for what happened 50,

825

00:36:28,920 --> 00:36:31,160

70 years ago.

826

00:36:31,160 --> 00:36:33,710

I mean, these people
who are today Germans,

827

00:36:33,710 --> 00:36:36,560

I mean, of course, they are
German because they were born,

828

00:36:36,560 --> 00:36:40,230

I mean, they question
their old grandparents.

829

00:36:40,230 --> 00:36:42,670

I mean, how could
you have not known,

830

00:36:42,670 --> 00:36:44,650

or why could you
have condoned this?

831

00:36:44,650 --> 00:36:49,380

Different from today's world
than it was at that time.

832

00:36:49,380 --> 00:36:53,150
But when I talk about
Germany, I like to usually say

833
00:36:53,150 --> 00:36:56,840
Nazi Germany, or German.

834
00:36:56,840 --> 00:36:59,540
Because I'm getting a
pension, small pension, couple

835
00:36:59,540 --> 00:37:02,480
hundred dollars today, it's not
even worth talking about it.

836
00:37:02,480 --> 00:37:05,340
Depends on the exchange rate.

837
00:37:05,340 --> 00:37:10,390
So Georgine got for the month
of May, \$200, I got five--

838
00:37:10,390 --> 00:37:14,210
\$200, \$500, something.

839
00:37:14,210 --> 00:37:18,890
So today in this
world, \$700 a month

840
00:37:18,890 --> 00:37:20,930
is not going to make
me rich or poor.

841
00:37:20,930 --> 00:37:23,460
Yes, it helps me to maintain
Georgine, which I told you.

842
00:37:23,460 --> 00:37:23,960
Yes.

843
00:37:23,960 --> 00:37:24,650
Yes.

844

00:37:24,650 --> 00:37:29,320

But those are people,
they had nothing

845

00:37:29,320 --> 00:37:31,390

to do with the Holocaust.

846

00:37:31,390 --> 00:37:34,035

Those are people who are
John's age or even younger.

847

00:37:34,035 --> 00:37:36,580

848

00:37:36,580 --> 00:37:39,700

I mean, why should they-- and
there they through taxation

849

00:37:39,700 --> 00:37:44,570

pay me x dollars.

850

00:37:44,570 --> 00:37:46,430

Well, I'm looking at
it, I'm telling you

851

00:37:46,430 --> 00:37:48,350

how I feel about it.

852

00:37:48,350 --> 00:37:49,200

Do I accept it?

853

00:37:49,200 --> 00:37:51,616

Well, I would be crazy
not to accept it.

854

00:37:51,616 --> 00:37:55,000

But really.

855

00:37:55,000 --> 00:37:59,630

The guilty are not-- the
guilty got away with it.

856

00:37:59,630 --> 00:38:03,040

Sweetheart, I told you
I like to say the truth.

857

00:38:03,040 --> 00:38:06,795

This is the truth I accept the
thing, well, yes, I accept it,

858

00:38:06,795 --> 00:38:09,810

because I was working then all
of the in between happened.

859

00:38:09,810 --> 00:38:14,410

But I'm wondering why this
generation is tolerating it.

860

00:38:14,410 --> 00:38:16,600

Do they feel a moral guilt?

861

00:38:16,600 --> 00:38:18,450

Well, would I fear
a moral guilt what

862

00:38:18,450 --> 00:38:20,580

my grandfather might have done?

863

00:38:20,580 --> 00:38:21,870

I don't know.

864

00:38:21,870 --> 00:38:25,650

I'm just asking a civilized
question, you know?

865

00:38:25,650 --> 00:38:27,650

It's one question that is--

866

00:38:27,650 --> 00:38:29,940

there are so many
questions in these events

867

00:38:29,940 --> 00:38:31,778

that, for which

there are no answers,

868

00:38:31,778 --> 00:38:33,070
and yet we still look for them.

869

00:38:33,070 --> 00:38:35,580
And so you're saying, that
I say, that's how I feel,

870

00:38:35,580 --> 00:38:36,335
you know.

871

00:38:36,335 --> 00:38:37,710
If they sent me
the check, yes, I

872

00:38:37,710 --> 00:38:39,810
take the money,
because, ultimately,

873

00:38:39,810 --> 00:38:42,690
it's coming to my account,
so I take it, you know.

874

00:38:42,690 --> 00:38:47,380
But from a human point of view,
from my personal point of view,

875

00:38:47,380 --> 00:38:50,060
I wonder how I would feel if
I would be in that situation.

876

00:38:50,060 --> 00:38:51,910
They didn't cause it.

877

00:38:51,910 --> 00:38:55,020
It was their grandfather,
or their grand-grandfather.

878

00:38:55,020 --> 00:39:03,700
And to analyze what reasons that
person had 50 years ago, you

879

00:39:03,700 --> 00:39:06,080

only can search is
the Almighty God.

880

00:39:06,080 --> 00:39:09,450

881

00:39:09,450 --> 00:39:12,660

Let's talk a little
bit about Georgine.

882

00:39:12,660 --> 00:39:13,410

If we can.

883

00:39:13,410 --> 00:39:18,330

Sweetheart, Georgine, she's
my wife of 70 plus years.

884

00:39:18,330 --> 00:39:19,470

Yes.

885

00:39:19,470 --> 00:39:22,530

I told you that she was there,
right here where we are.

886

00:39:22,530 --> 00:39:25,860

What I mean is, just
give me the outlines

887

00:39:25,860 --> 00:39:29,880

of what happened to her
when you were split apart.

888

00:39:29,880 --> 00:39:30,390

She was--

889

00:39:30,390 --> 00:39:33,780

Sweetheart, she went
through Auschwitz.

890

00:39:33,780 --> 00:39:35,610

And anybody who went

through Auschwitz

891

00:39:35,610 --> 00:39:40,140

issues and saw that
misery, and had a heart--

892

00:39:40,140 --> 00:39:43,900

and she was lucky that
she didn't have to work,

893

00:39:43,900 --> 00:39:46,750

although then became she did.

894

00:39:46,750 --> 00:39:48,900

Remember, she had
a British passport.

895

00:39:48,900 --> 00:39:51,510

So she was working for
the British consulate

896

00:39:51,510 --> 00:39:54,240

on the Rockefeller Center.

897

00:39:54,240 --> 00:39:57,325

How long, I don't
remember, a short while.

898

00:39:57,325 --> 00:39:58,680

Then she got another job.

899

00:39:58,680 --> 00:39:59,730

But that's not the issue.

900

00:39:59,730 --> 00:40:03,010

So she was lucky that she
could have stayed home.

901

00:40:03,010 --> 00:40:05,630

She stayed home when
she became pregnant.

902

00:40:05,630 --> 00:40:09,480

Well, that was another reason
why she had all that surgery,

903

00:40:09,480 --> 00:40:15,390

because they were saying, if you
treat it with nuclear energy,

904

00:40:15,390 --> 00:40:19,650

she would become sterile.

905

00:40:19,650 --> 00:40:23,610

And as a young woman, you
know, you didn't like that.

906

00:40:23,610 --> 00:40:29,580

So she had the surgery
rather than the treatment.

907

00:40:29,580 --> 00:40:31,850

And eventually,
just like I said,

908

00:40:31,850 --> 00:40:34,900

we were working about
two years or so.

909

00:40:34,900 --> 00:40:36,700

Then she became pregnant.

910

00:40:36,700 --> 00:40:39,240

She had a vacation,
I had a vacation.

911

00:40:39,240 --> 00:40:43,740

And it was like
summertime, quit her job.

912

00:40:43,740 --> 00:40:45,480

Well, then, you
know how it takes,

913

00:40:45,480 --> 00:40:48,120

it takes a few months
to get to a place.

914
00:40:48,120 --> 00:40:49,350
So she was very happy.

915
00:40:49,350 --> 00:40:52,380
She was 100% mother.

916
00:40:52,380 --> 00:40:56,820
And having seen all of these
children perish in Auschwitz,

917
00:40:56,820 --> 00:40:59,030
she devoted her
life to children.

918
00:40:59,030 --> 00:41:01,080
Truth is the truth.

919
00:41:01,080 --> 00:41:05,070
So she went when John
was six, kindergarten,

920
00:41:05,070 --> 00:41:08,400
or whatever that system
is here, she started

921
00:41:08,400 --> 00:41:11,500
to be on the school board.

922
00:41:11,500 --> 00:41:15,120
Not as a teacher, she
was never a teacher.

923
00:41:15,120 --> 00:41:20,940
And through her persistence,
integrity, or interest,

924
00:41:20,940 --> 00:41:25,903
whatever, she was on the
school board for 32 years.

925

00:41:25,903 --> 00:41:26,710

Wow.

926

00:41:26,710 --> 00:41:31,770

So here in this country,
in the local school board

927

00:41:31,770 --> 00:41:34,980

here, there is a room
dedicated to Georgine's 32

928

00:41:34,980 --> 00:41:38,370

years of being on the
school board, giving service

929

00:41:38,370 --> 00:41:39,690

to the children.

930

00:41:39,690 --> 00:41:43,350

Now, if we would have time,
she has literally hundreds

931

00:41:43,350 --> 00:41:44,860

of these things.

932

00:41:44,860 --> 00:41:47,590

Well, now we have this.

933

00:41:47,590 --> 00:41:54,080

So we have all kinds of
wooden plaques, testimonies.

934

00:41:54,080 --> 00:41:55,510

We had it here hanging.

935

00:41:55,510 --> 00:41:56,760

Well, you know, they changed--

936

00:41:56,760 --> 00:41:58,750

I don't blame them.

937

00:41:58,750 --> 00:42:02,850

We had here hanging
honorary doctorate.

938

00:42:02,850 --> 00:42:05,730

She has a couple of
honorary doctorates.

939

00:42:05,730 --> 00:42:07,780

What I'm telling you,
like I just told you,

940

00:42:07,780 --> 00:42:11,550

I am not a person who will make
things bigger than they are.

941

00:42:11,550 --> 00:42:12,800

This is the truth.

942

00:42:12,800 --> 00:42:14,690

Where it is now, I don't know.

943

00:42:14,690 --> 00:42:18,790

Elise has a tendency to
change things, which is fine.

944

00:42:18,790 --> 00:42:21,502

She's a very hardworking
person, and I told you,

945

00:42:21,502 --> 00:42:23,323

I like all three of them.

946

00:42:23,323 --> 00:42:24,740

What happened to
it, I don't know.

947

00:42:24,740 --> 00:42:26,670

It was always hanging here.

948

00:42:26,670 --> 00:42:29,630

So maybe they put it inside
or something, I don't know.

949
00:42:29,630 --> 00:42:30,130
OK.

950
00:42:30,130 --> 00:42:36,360
It was a proclamation
of one University,

951
00:42:36,360 --> 00:42:40,170
an honorary doctorate in
like they called letters,

952
00:42:40,170 --> 00:42:43,170
something, like writing.

953
00:42:43,170 --> 00:42:46,860
Did you talk with one
another about what

954
00:42:46,860 --> 00:42:49,860
you both went through a lot?

955
00:42:49,860 --> 00:42:51,400
Very little.

956
00:42:51,400 --> 00:42:51,900
Very little.

957
00:42:51,900 --> 00:42:52,500
No, no.

958
00:42:52,500 --> 00:42:55,140
Because she'd answer
the same like I. Well,

959
00:42:55,140 --> 00:42:58,110
luckily we both came back.

960
00:42:58,110 --> 00:43:01,800
But you know, here's another
thing that's unusual.

961

00:43:01,800 --> 00:43:04,710

You got married so
that you wouldn't

962

00:43:04,710 --> 00:43:06,510

be called up for the army.

963

00:43:06,510 --> 00:43:07,260

Everybody--

964

00:43:07,260 --> 00:43:09,480

That I would not be deported--

965

00:43:09,480 --> 00:43:11,430

Excuse me, to be deported
to Theresienstadt.

966

00:43:11,430 --> 00:43:12,190

Yes.

967

00:43:12,190 --> 00:43:14,080

OK.

968

00:43:14,080 --> 00:43:14,990

So you don't get--

969

00:43:14,990 --> 00:43:17,450

One little thing, we were kids.

970

00:43:17,450 --> 00:43:17,950

Yes.

971

00:43:17,950 --> 00:43:19,300

How old were you?

972

00:43:19,300 --> 00:43:21,790

I married when I was
20 and she was 16.

973

00:43:21,790 --> 00:43:22,370

[GASPING]

974
00:43:22,370 --> 00:43:25,942
We had to have permission
from our parents.

975
00:43:25,942 --> 00:43:27,150
And they gave the permission?

976
00:43:27,150 --> 00:43:27,970
Oh sure.

977
00:43:27,970 --> 00:43:31,620
Well, because they
knew what's coming.

978
00:43:31,620 --> 00:43:35,110
So one could say that you
didn't get married for the most,

979
00:43:35,110 --> 00:43:36,620
I would say normal--

980
00:43:36,620 --> 00:43:37,490
No.

981
00:43:37,490 --> 00:43:38,435
Usual of reasons.

982
00:43:38,435 --> 00:43:39,260
100% right.

983
00:43:39,260 --> 00:43:40,410
OK.

984
00:43:40,410 --> 00:43:41,280
That's the truth.

985
00:43:41,280 --> 00:43:45,120
And then when you're
together, you're young,

986

00:43:45,120 --> 00:43:48,510
but somewhere after
Theresienstadt, you're

987
00:43:48,510 --> 00:43:50,250
separated.

988
00:43:50,250 --> 00:43:53,520
And you go through the
kinds of experiences

989
00:43:53,520 --> 00:43:56,550
that can shatter a person.

990
00:43:56,550 --> 00:43:58,110
Yes.

991
00:43:58,110 --> 00:44:01,320
You both survive, you
come back, and then

992
00:44:01,320 --> 00:44:04,230
you spend a lifetime together.

993
00:44:04,230 --> 00:44:06,000
That's unusual.

994
00:44:06,000 --> 00:44:07,770
I mean, so many people--

995
00:44:07,770 --> 00:44:09,840
that is, so many
people can come back

996
00:44:09,840 --> 00:44:13,670
from such traumatic experiences,
and they're changed inside.

997
00:44:13,670 --> 00:44:16,440
Well, we changed to
a certain extent.

998

00:44:16,440 --> 00:44:18,810

She got involved
with the schools.

999

00:44:18,810 --> 00:44:19,770

OK.

1000

00:44:19,770 --> 00:44:24,630

And I was much more, say,
for going to the Metropolitan

1001

00:44:24,630 --> 00:44:25,830

Opera.

1002

00:44:25,830 --> 00:44:29,220

So I, financial were different.

1003

00:44:29,220 --> 00:44:32,910

So I bought a subscription
for two of us.

1004

00:44:32,910 --> 00:44:35,820

Naturally, we were
married, we used to go.

1005

00:44:35,820 --> 00:44:37,725

There was a show
here on Broadway,

1006

00:44:37,725 --> 00:44:40,710

very, very close, unimportant.

1007

00:44:40,710 --> 00:44:43,770

So we had tickets, two tickets
to go to the Metropolitan

1008

00:44:43,770 --> 00:44:44,780

Opera.

1009

00:44:44,780 --> 00:44:48,060

But now, all of a
sudden, oh, Frank,

1010

00:44:48,060 --> 00:44:50,040

I won't be able to
make it, because I

1011

00:44:50,040 --> 00:44:54,210

have to see commissioner
so-and-so from the education

1012

00:44:54,210 --> 00:44:55,320

department.

1013

00:44:55,320 --> 00:44:56,760

So I had to tickets.

1014

00:44:56,760 --> 00:45:00,690

I went, and I sold one, or gave
it away, or whatever I did.

1015

00:45:00,690 --> 00:45:03,210

So that went on for
about three years

1016

00:45:03,210 --> 00:45:07,190

like that, that I had
two tickets, very seldom

1017

00:45:07,190 --> 00:45:08,240

we used them.

1018

00:45:08,240 --> 00:45:08,740

Yeah.

1019

00:45:08,740 --> 00:45:09,700

Seldom.

1020

00:45:09,700 --> 00:45:12,400

But we still had
the same interests,

1021

00:45:12,400 --> 00:45:14,640

we had the same background.

1022

00:45:14,640 --> 00:45:17,790

We knew our parents, her
parents, was the same.

1023

00:45:17,790 --> 00:45:19,980

She knew my parents, of course.

1024

00:45:19,980 --> 00:45:24,520

So nothing really
has changed, really.

1025

00:45:24,520 --> 00:45:27,250

And proof is what I'm
saying, is we are--

1026

00:45:27,250 --> 00:45:29,030

71 years.

1027

00:45:29,030 --> 00:45:32,920

And financially, I told
you, what it costs.

1028

00:45:32,920 --> 00:45:37,690

If you multiply by 50, and
multiply it by five, six years,

1029

00:45:37,690 --> 00:45:39,460

you're not talking about \$10.

1030

00:45:39,460 --> 00:45:40,510

No.

1031

00:45:40,510 --> 00:45:41,770

Do I have any regrets?

1032

00:45:41,770 --> 00:45:46,072

No, I considered this is
my responsibility, no.

1033

00:45:46,072 --> 00:45:47,530

Just for the sake
of the interview,

1034
00:45:47,530 --> 00:45:49,960
we're talking
about Georgine, who

1035
00:45:49,960 --> 00:45:54,040
is no longer able
to participate in--

1036
00:45:54,040 --> 00:45:54,550
Very little.

1037
00:45:54,550 --> 00:45:55,750
Normal activities.

1038
00:45:55,750 --> 00:45:57,550
Who is not well.

1039
00:45:57,550 --> 00:45:59,890
There was a story
in the papers--

1040
00:45:59,890 --> 00:46:03,370
if you want to read it,
we have made copies--

1041
00:46:03,370 --> 00:46:06,640
that goes back about
two, three years.

1042
00:46:06,640 --> 00:46:08,140
You know what, I
tell you something,

1043
00:46:08,140 --> 00:46:11,860
I have to go to my office
and give you a copy.

1044
00:46:11,860 --> 00:46:15,670
Our life has changed,
my life in particular.

1045

00:46:15,670 --> 00:46:21,860

Because now I go to eat
dinner at 4 o'clock.

1046

00:46:21,860 --> 00:46:25,100

I come home when Libby comes,
she comes usually at 6:00,

1047

00:46:25,100 --> 00:46:29,870

I come usually home at 5:15,
5:30, because it's only a mile.

1048

00:46:29,870 --> 00:46:33,050

So I come home, either bring
them, or they order it,

1049

00:46:33,050 --> 00:46:33,670

or whatever.

1050

00:46:33,670 --> 00:46:35,440

That's not the issue.

1051

00:46:35,440 --> 00:46:39,840

And when she, when Bibi
comes, 6 o'clock, summertime,

1052

00:46:39,840 --> 00:46:42,760

wintertime, go to sleep.

1053

00:46:42,760 --> 00:46:47,300

And again, I told you,
my I was have shifted.

1054

00:46:47,300 --> 00:46:50,420

I get up at 2
o'clock, 3 o'clock.

1055

00:46:50,420 --> 00:46:51,325

Do I complain?

1056

00:46:51,325 --> 00:46:55,950

No, I just, this is the
life it is, my obligation.

1057
00:46:55,950 --> 00:47:01,230
She is sick, so either you get,
quote, not me, "rid of her,"

1058
00:47:01,230 --> 00:47:03,570
or you do what you have to do.

1059
00:47:03,570 --> 00:47:05,750
And I feel this is
what I have to do.

1060
00:47:05,750 --> 00:47:08,090
We married, we were kids.

1061
00:47:08,090 --> 00:47:11,540
My responsibility was the
same as it was 50 years ago.

1062
00:47:11,540 --> 00:47:14,460

1063
00:47:14,460 --> 00:47:14,960
When you--

1064
00:47:14,960 --> 00:47:18,020
Before you go, I give you
this story from the newspaper.

1065
00:47:18,020 --> 00:47:19,020
Free of charge.

1066
00:47:19,020 --> 00:47:19,520
OK.

1067
00:47:19,520 --> 00:47:21,645
[LAUGHING]

1068
00:47:21,645 --> 00:47:22,910
Thank you.

1069

00:47:22,910 --> 00:47:24,440
They made a bunch of copies.

1070
00:47:24,440 --> 00:47:27,300
And the story from the
newspaper is about what?

1071
00:47:27,300 --> 00:47:30,230
Well, what I'm telling
you, that we were

1072
00:47:30,230 --> 00:47:32,930
separated because of Auschwitz.

1073
00:47:32,930 --> 00:47:34,290
Oh, I see, it's about you.

1074
00:47:34,290 --> 00:47:36,070
The story from the
newspaper's about you.

1075
00:47:36,070 --> 00:47:36,570
OK.

1076
00:47:36,570 --> 00:47:38,810
Well, it was about both
of us but, actually it's

1077
00:47:38,810 --> 00:47:41,660
more about what I'm doing.

1078
00:47:41,660 --> 00:47:44,410
You know, I was always working.

1079
00:47:44,410 --> 00:47:46,850
Some of us-- I mean, one
of us had to make a living.

1080
00:47:46,850 --> 00:47:50,000

1081
00:47:50,000 --> 00:47:52,550

Did you feel like you were a
different person when you came

1082
00:47:52,550 --> 00:47:53,705
back from Auschwitz though?

1083
00:47:53,705 --> 00:47:55,850
Oh sure, oh, from
Auschwitz, of course.

1084
00:47:55,850 --> 00:47:57,080
I was a grown up man.

1085
00:47:57,080 --> 00:47:58,330
I was a kid when I went in.

1086
00:47:58,330 --> 00:48:01,220
No, no question about it.

1087
00:48:01,220 --> 00:48:05,400
You understood what life
is, what brutality is.

1088
00:48:05,400 --> 00:48:09,140
Don't forget there were
instances where some prisoners

1089
00:48:09,140 --> 00:48:10,865
wanted to escape.

1090
00:48:10,865 --> 00:48:14,770
A Russian in particular,
I have to say the truth.

1091
00:48:14,770 --> 00:48:17,270
You know, we had to witness
when they were literally

1092
00:48:17,270 --> 00:48:18,890
beaten to death.

1093
00:48:18,890 --> 00:48:21,230

Why did they ask us
to witness this?

1094
00:48:21,230 --> 00:48:24,480
To discourage other
people from doing it.

1095
00:48:24,480 --> 00:48:26,750
And that's, after
all these years,

1096
00:48:26,750 --> 00:48:29,080
I'm still seeing
it once in a while.

1097
00:48:29,080 --> 00:48:31,860
When I start thinking,
like now talking about it.

1098
00:48:31,860 --> 00:48:32,870
Sure.

1099
00:48:32,870 --> 00:48:34,670
It was awful.

1100
00:48:34,670 --> 00:48:38,120
So you have grown up,
no question about it.

1101
00:48:38,120 --> 00:48:40,520
You were a child,
we were inexper--

1102
00:48:40,520 --> 00:48:42,710
when we came out,
we were children.

1103
00:48:42,710 --> 00:48:44,120
I wanted to buy the house.

1104
00:48:44,120 --> 00:48:47,970
They were talking about real
estate things, I had no clue.

1105
00:48:47,970 --> 00:48:51,450
So this friend-- not friend,
she was a client of mine, said,

1106
00:48:51,450 --> 00:48:53,300
well, do you have any money?

1107
00:48:53,300 --> 00:48:56,250
Remember, \$3,000 down payment.

1108
00:48:56,250 --> 00:48:57,960
Was a different
down, different time.

1109
00:48:57,960 --> 00:48:59,030
In the 1950s here?

1110
00:48:59,030 --> 00:48:59,790
Yeah.

1111
00:48:59,790 --> 00:49:01,430
So I said, not really.

1112
00:49:01,430 --> 00:49:03,670
She said to me--

1113
00:49:03,670 --> 00:49:05,750
I will never forget her--

1114
00:49:05,750 --> 00:49:07,730
well, you can't
just get a mortgage

1115
00:49:07,730 --> 00:49:10,125
without having some
money in the bank.

1116
00:49:10,125 --> 00:49:13,330
Well, for me, that
was a revelation.

1117

00:49:13,330 --> 00:49:15,420

What was she talking about?

1118

00:49:15,420 --> 00:49:19,580

So she loaned me \$3,000,
which was 10% from what was

1119

00:49:19,580 --> 00:49:21,170

needed for the down payment.

1120

00:49:21,170 --> 00:49:24,260

Of course I paid her back,
this is not the question.

1121

00:49:24,260 --> 00:49:26,780

But that's how it was.

1122

00:49:26,780 --> 00:49:31,030

Well, one of the
things that I find

1123

00:49:31,030 --> 00:49:33,510

is something that
I can't imagine,

1124

00:49:33,510 --> 00:49:36,930

because I've had a normal life,
rather than this kind of life.

1125

00:49:36,930 --> 00:49:40,790

Well, we didn't have the normal
life, you said the right thing.

1126

00:49:40,790 --> 00:49:45,060

Is one of the things that, when
somebody goes through something

1127

00:49:45,060 --> 00:49:49,720

like that , and they see
this kind of brutality,

1128

00:49:49,720 --> 00:49:52,180

can you ever really laugh again?

1129

00:49:52,180 --> 00:49:54,660

When do you start
enjoying life again?

1130

00:49:54,660 --> 00:49:58,930

Well, you know, truthfully
you try to push it away,

1131

00:49:58,930 --> 00:50:01,990

you know, and you concentrate
on what we did together.

1132

00:50:01,990 --> 00:50:04,030

You know, we went
shopping together.

1133

00:50:04,030 --> 00:50:07,390

She was normal, don't forget,
she was a normal person.

1134

00:50:07,390 --> 00:50:09,435

So not that I'm putting
her down or something.

1135

00:50:09,435 --> 00:50:10,060

No, no, no, no.

1136

00:50:10,060 --> 00:50:11,450

I'm just telling the truth.

1137

00:50:11,450 --> 00:50:14,260

To go to Lord &
Taylor, I remember.

1138

00:50:14,260 --> 00:50:18,520

We bought a house,
we bought a car.

1139

00:50:18,520 --> 00:50:21,220

If you just look out of
the window, there's a tree.

1140
00:50:21,220 --> 00:50:24,970
Stupidly, we planted it
right next to the house.

1141
00:50:24,970 --> 00:50:28,430
Well, we went, I
had a Chevy, and we

1142
00:50:28,430 --> 00:50:31,540
thought to make it more trees.

1143
00:50:31,540 --> 00:50:34,920
So we bought a tree which was
bigger than this thing here.

1144
00:50:34,920 --> 00:50:39,310
Well, now it's 50 years
ago, now it's tremendous.

1145
00:50:39,310 --> 00:50:43,030
You know, so we were
sharing life together.

1146
00:50:43,030 --> 00:50:45,070
She grew into it
I, grew into it.

1147
00:50:45,070 --> 00:50:48,130
But they grew into it
together, not separately.

1148
00:50:48,130 --> 00:50:50,410
Separately was only
the circumstances

1149
00:50:50,410 --> 00:50:52,180
which made us separate.

1150
00:50:52,180 --> 00:50:53,500
Got it.

1151

00:50:53,500 --> 00:50:56,140

And that was the story
in the paper, you know.

1152

00:50:56,140 --> 00:50:59,560

I couldn't get out
of Czechoslovakia

1153

00:50:59,560 --> 00:51:02,000

because of that military age.

1154

00:51:02,000 --> 00:51:04,150

Well, I managed to get
that British passport,

1155

00:51:04,150 --> 00:51:09,160

so that was not a
pretense of some kind

1156

00:51:09,160 --> 00:51:11,380

of divorce or separation.

1157

00:51:11,380 --> 00:51:13,600

It was just to
survive, because that's

1158

00:51:13,600 --> 00:51:16,580

so panicky with survival.

1159

00:51:16,580 --> 00:51:20,660

And the only way to do it
was, well, you go first,

1160

00:51:20,660 --> 00:51:23,070

and somehow I managed
to get out by myself,

1161

00:51:23,070 --> 00:51:25,360

because I will take
a suitcase and go.

1162

00:51:25,360 --> 00:51:28,405

But now if we are two,

it's a different thing.

1163
00:51:28,405 --> 00:51:29,780
And that's exactly
what happened.

1164
00:51:29,780 --> 00:51:35,650
So when I go to stay, I told
you before, she took the plane

1165
00:51:35,650 --> 00:51:36,390
and came back.

1166
00:51:36,390 --> 00:51:38,210
Of course she came back.

1167
00:51:38,210 --> 00:51:40,870
It was not some kind of a
second marriage or something.

1168
00:51:40,870 --> 00:51:42,020
No.

1169
00:51:42,020 --> 00:51:44,260
Is there anything
that you'd like

1170
00:51:44,260 --> 00:51:47,357
to add to what we've talked
about today that you think

1171
00:51:47,357 --> 00:51:48,190
it's important for--

1172
00:51:48,190 --> 00:51:49,190
If I would take it back?

1173
00:51:49,190 --> 00:51:49,990
No, no, no.

1174
00:51:49,990 --> 00:51:52,060
Is there something

you would like to add?

1175
00:51:52,060 --> 00:51:55,410
Oh, add, well, the
only experience I

1176
00:51:55,410 --> 00:51:57,340
would like to tell
you about, when

1177
00:51:57,340 --> 00:51:59,500
I was working for
General Motors, which

1178
00:51:59,500 --> 00:52:02,180
I told your photographer here.

1179
00:52:02,180 --> 00:52:05,800
When I went to General
Motors, no English.

1180
00:52:05,800 --> 00:52:10,070
So since I had some experience
from the concentration camp

1181
00:52:10,070 --> 00:52:11,223
by the lathe.

1182
00:52:11,223 --> 00:52:12,050
Yeah.

1183
00:52:12,050 --> 00:52:13,940
So my sister go
to General Motors,

1184
00:52:13,940 --> 00:52:15,880
they pay a good
salary, 10 pounds

1185
00:52:15,880 --> 00:52:18,260
or whatever it
was in those days.

1186

00:52:18,260 --> 00:52:20,980

And I was having a lathe,
which is something like this,

1187

00:52:20,980 --> 00:52:23,470

and then that goes in like this.

1188

00:52:23,470 --> 00:52:26,810

And I was working
on brake drums.

1189

00:52:26,810 --> 00:52:29,560

Now, the brake drums, when
they come out of the foundry,

1190

00:52:29,560 --> 00:52:32,060

are very rough.

1191

00:52:32,060 --> 00:52:35,470

Which is the contrary of what
a brake drum should be inside,

1192

00:52:35,470 --> 00:52:40,810

because it's supposed to have
the brake pedal, and stop.

1193

00:52:40,810 --> 00:52:45,700

So naturally, since everybody
knows how not handy I am,

1194

00:52:45,700 --> 00:52:49,960

I'm still saying that GM
went down financially because

1195

00:52:49,960 --> 00:52:53,170

of the automobiles
which I fixed up.

1196

00:52:53,170 --> 00:52:54,810

[LAUGHING]

1197

00:52:54,810 --> 00:52:55,790

1198
00:52:55,790 --> 00:52:58,946
That they are still recalling
the cars which I did.

1199
00:52:58,946 --> 00:53:00,760
[LAUGHING]

1200
00:53:00,760 --> 00:53:02,060
Well, of course, that's a joke.

1201
00:53:02,060 --> 00:53:02,560
Of course.

1202
00:53:02,560 --> 00:53:04,400
There were gauges,
they call it gauges,

1203
00:53:04,400 --> 00:53:06,730
and it was after
every so often, you

1204
00:53:06,730 --> 00:53:09,250
had to check to be sure
that it's that way.

1205
00:53:09,250 --> 00:53:13,600
But I'll leave that story
apart from what I was doing.

1206
00:53:13,600 --> 00:53:14,890
Well, then we came here.

1207
00:53:14,890 --> 00:53:19,300
You know, here was,
you started to work,

1208
00:53:19,300 --> 00:53:22,780
you went to school, learning
English, accounting,

1209

00:53:22,780 --> 00:53:23,620
expressions.

1210
00:53:23,620 --> 00:53:27,550
And English to begin with, I
told you we thought in Prague,

1211
00:53:27,550 --> 00:53:30,550
5:00 PM, you speak English.

1212
00:53:30,550 --> 00:53:35,020
Was very different after the
war, before the war, you know.

1213
00:53:35,020 --> 00:53:36,150
Have you been back?

1214
00:53:36,150 --> 00:53:36,680
No.

1215
00:53:36,680 --> 00:53:37,900
You've never been back?

1216
00:53:37,900 --> 00:53:40,570
We have never been back, no.

1217
00:53:40,570 --> 00:53:44,500
I was for business in
Paris a couple of times.

1218
00:53:44,500 --> 00:53:50,290
But that was with a friend, he
was a friend, happened to be,

1219
00:53:50,290 --> 00:53:52,680
no different between
Arabs or no Arabs.

1220
00:53:52,680 --> 00:53:54,720
If they are terrorist,
yes, but we're

1221

00:53:54,720 --> 00:53:56,770
talking about normal people.

1222
00:53:56,770 --> 00:54:02,260
He was in real estate, and we
became business friends, very

1223
00:54:02,260 --> 00:54:04,000
pleasant person.

1224
00:54:04,000 --> 00:54:07,620
And I went with him
to Paris, I don't

1225
00:54:07,620 --> 00:54:11,380
remember if it was two days,
four days, I don't remember.

1226
00:54:11,380 --> 00:54:13,460
So have you been back to Europe?

1227
00:54:13,460 --> 00:54:14,910
I went back to Paris twice.

1228
00:54:14,910 --> 00:54:15,410
Only.

1229
00:54:15,410 --> 00:54:18,760
But not Prague, or
anything like that, no.

1230
00:54:18,760 --> 00:54:19,750
That's unusual.

1231
00:54:19,750 --> 00:54:21,425
A lot of people have been back.

1232
00:54:21,425 --> 00:54:24,207
Well, she was not
keen, Georgine.

1233
00:54:24,207 --> 00:54:26,290

And then she always had
something, well, you know,

1234
00:54:26,290 --> 00:54:28,060
I can't make it now.

1235
00:54:28,060 --> 00:54:29,740
This is coming up with a school.

1236
00:54:29,740 --> 00:54:32,590
She was always, not that she
was hiding behind the school,

1237
00:54:32,590 --> 00:54:34,910
but the school, John.

1238
00:54:34,910 --> 00:54:37,000
Oh, we should
certainly go back, so I

1239
00:54:37,000 --> 00:54:40,930
can tell Natalie, his
child, my granddaughter,

1240
00:54:40,930 --> 00:54:42,160
where we come from.

1241
00:54:42,160 --> 00:54:47,200
Well, it never came
to it, you know.

1242
00:54:47,200 --> 00:54:50,100
So really, we have
never been back.

1243
00:54:50,100 --> 00:54:55,890
We've traveled here,
not USA, the continent.

1244
00:54:55,890 --> 00:54:59,750
We were in Guatemala, we went
into Peru, the Machu Picchu

1245

00:54:59,750 --> 00:55:04,430

stuff, and all kinds of
islands and everything, yes.

1246

00:55:04,430 --> 00:55:07,420

But not back to--

1247

00:55:07,420 --> 00:55:09,800

no.

1248

00:55:09,800 --> 00:55:11,580

She didn't have
so much interest,

1249

00:55:11,580 --> 00:55:15,970

and if she had no interest,
then I went along.

1250

00:55:15,970 --> 00:55:22,190

You know, by myself to go, that
was absolutely unthinkable.

1251

00:55:22,190 --> 00:55:25,830

Well, I think then,
thank you for sharing.

1252

00:55:25,830 --> 00:55:27,960

I thank you for coming.

1253

00:55:27,960 --> 00:55:30,630

Whatever time it is, this is--

1254

00:55:30,630 --> 00:55:34,260

you know, sometimes you start
thinking about all this,

1255

00:55:34,260 --> 00:55:38,520

and it comes back
to you so vivid.

1256

00:55:38,520 --> 00:55:41,577

You know, I don't like to

think about these things.

1257

00:55:41,577 --> 00:55:43,410

The only thing what I
would like to give you

1258

00:55:43,410 --> 00:55:44,880

is that story about
the newspaper,

1259

00:55:44,880 --> 00:55:47,700

but that is only the
newspaper when we had

1260

00:55:47,700 --> 00:55:50,550

70 years wedding anniversary.

1261

00:55:50,550 --> 00:55:53,850

So that Cathy,
Georgine's friend,

1262

00:55:53,850 --> 00:55:56,520

and she's the one who is
alerting me to the thing

1263

00:55:56,520 --> 00:55:58,560

that one day she
will stop eating,

1264

00:55:58,560 --> 00:56:03,120

because she will forget
how to eat, you know?

1265

00:56:03,120 --> 00:56:05,180

She knew that the reporter.

1266

00:56:05,180 --> 00:56:08,250

Georgine also knew
him for quite a while.

1267

00:56:08,250 --> 00:56:11,380

And they somehow thought
it was a great story.

1268
00:56:11,380 --> 00:56:12,670
It is a great story.

1269
00:56:12,670 --> 00:56:14,820
Well, people who were
living all kinds of

1270
00:56:14,820 --> 00:56:18,670
places, and celebrate
70 years of marriage.

1271
00:56:18,670 --> 00:56:20,430
Not too many people
are married 70 years.

1272
00:56:20,430 --> 00:56:21,960
Not too many, no.

1273
00:56:21,960 --> 00:56:23,800
So this year it would be seven--

1274
00:56:23,800 --> 00:56:27,250
we met in '41, so
it would be 72.

1275
00:56:27,250 --> 00:56:29,370
If we live that--

1276
00:56:29,370 --> 00:56:31,030
you never know.

1277
00:56:31,030 --> 00:56:33,150
Well, thank you,
thank you again.

1278
00:56:33,150 --> 00:56:33,870
My pleasure.

1279
00:56:33,870 --> 00:56:36,380
It was wonderful
that you are here.

1280
00:56:36,380 --> 00:56:37,530
What will happen now?

1281
00:56:37,530 --> 00:56:39,860
It will be somehow in
the Holocaust Museum?

1282
00:56:39,860 --> 00:56:41,970
Yes, yes, it will be.

1283
00:56:41,970 --> 00:56:44,430
I'm going to first
say this concludes

1284
00:56:44,430 --> 00:56:50,224
our interview with Mr.
Frank Hyde on May 4th, 2013.

1285
00:56:50,224 --> 00:56:51,880
And--

1286
00:56:51,880 --> 00:56:53,270
Well, it's a story, you know.

1287
00:56:53,270 --> 00:56:54,240
Oh, I see--

1288
00:56:54,240 --> 00:56:58,980
Attack on 9/11, when we
had that airplane bombing

1289
00:56:58,980 --> 00:57:00,930
or whatever you want to call it.

1290
00:57:00,930 --> 00:57:02,250
Of course, I know where I was.

1291
00:57:02,250 --> 00:57:05,810
I was with a client
in his house.

1292

00:57:05,810 --> 00:57:09,770

And I don't know why he had
the television on at that day,

1293

00:57:09,770 --> 00:57:11,410

that I don't remember.

1294

00:57:11,410 --> 00:57:15,480

But we had it on for some reason
or another, and then I saw it.

1295

00:57:15,480 --> 00:57:18,600

Well, I thought that the pilot
made the mistake, of course.

1296

00:57:18,600 --> 00:57:21,890

Why would I think that
it's a terrorist attack?

1297

00:57:21,890 --> 00:57:24,480

And the same things
with Auschwitz.

1298

00:57:24,480 --> 00:57:29,220

Why would anybody think
that a sophisticated nation

1299

00:57:29,220 --> 00:57:31,890

like the Germans would
come up with something

1300

00:57:31,890 --> 00:57:35,380

like this because of religion
or where you come from?

1301

00:57:35,380 --> 00:57:37,170

Unheard of.

1302

00:57:37,170 --> 00:57:38,940

And the same is with that 9/11.

1303

00:57:38,940 --> 00:57:41,895

Why did you think that
that would be planned?

1304
00:57:41,895 --> 00:57:44,570
Yeah.

1305
00:57:44,570 --> 00:57:46,070
Now when you see
it again, you know,

1306
00:57:46,070 --> 00:57:48,910
well, you know it might happen.

1307
00:57:48,910 --> 00:57:51,590
And if something in
the future will come up

1308
00:57:51,590 --> 00:57:56,090
with some crazy person like
Hitler was, well, maybe

1309
00:57:56,090 --> 00:57:58,550
the world will not
make the same mistake.

1310
00:57:58,550 --> 00:58:02,330
There was a wonderful
story, Wall Street Journal--

1311
00:58:02,330 --> 00:58:04,690
I'm not trying to sell you
the Wall Street Journal,

1312
00:58:04,690 --> 00:58:08,150
but that's what I'm reading, so
that's what I'm talking about.

1313
00:58:08,150 --> 00:58:13,700
They were talking about
the pre-emptive strike.

1314
00:58:13,700 --> 00:58:16,440
If something like this

happened to be somewhere,

1315
00:58:16,440 --> 00:58:19,010
they were talking about Iran.

1316
00:58:19,010 --> 00:58:23,480
That you shouldn't wait
until it's too late.

1317
00:58:23,480 --> 00:58:27,813
And whoever wrote it was a
historian or whatever it was.

1318
00:58:27,813 --> 00:58:28,480
Was [INAUDIBLE].

1319
00:58:28,480 --> 00:58:31,340
I gave it to Elise to read.

1320
00:58:31,340 --> 00:58:35,390
And he said if the
Allied forces would

1321
00:58:35,390 --> 00:58:40,160
have done something when
Hitler marched into Saar,

1322
00:58:40,160 --> 00:58:42,105
and the other place,
I don't know--

1323
00:58:42,105 --> 00:58:42,790
Ruhrgebiet.

1324
00:58:42,790 --> 00:58:44,980
It was the Ruhrgebiet.

1325
00:58:44,980 --> 00:58:47,360
Ruhrgebiet, the manufacturing
and heavy industry,

1326
00:58:47,360 --> 00:58:48,450

and the military.

1327
00:58:48,450 --> 00:58:50,950
And the historian said,
maybe five million people

1328
00:58:50,950 --> 00:58:53,950
would not have been killed.

1329
00:58:53,950 --> 00:58:56,680
Well, you know, if you would
have done something what you

1330
00:58:56,680 --> 00:58:59,350
should have done, God knows.

1331
00:58:59,350 --> 00:59:02,110
But maybe it would not
have developed the way

1332
00:59:02,110 --> 00:59:04,690
into Auschwitz, you know?

1333
00:59:04,690 --> 00:59:05,450
God knows.

1334
00:59:05,450 --> 00:59:06,280
I don't know.

1335
00:59:06,280 --> 00:59:08,500
I've lived through
it, it was there.

1336
00:59:08,500 --> 00:59:13,390
I told you the time, from time
to time, when I was leaving,

1337
00:59:13,390 --> 00:59:16,270
and all that stuff, you know.

1338
00:59:16,270 --> 00:59:17,220
God knows.

1339
00:59:17,220 --> 00:59:19,110
But people make
the same mistakes.

1340
00:59:19,110 --> 00:59:22,060
They don't learn from
history, you know.

1341
00:59:22,060 --> 00:59:25,280
So if you can kindly
take my stuff out of me.

1342
00:59:25,280 --> 00:59:26,290
Do I still have it?

1343
00:59:26,290 --> 00:59:26,790
Yes.

1344
00:59:26,790 --> 00:59:27,330
Yeah, I do.

1345
00:59:27,330 --> 00:59:28,090
Yes, yes.

1346
00:59:28,090 --> 00:59:28,590
[LAUGHING]

1347
00:59:28,590 --> 00:59:29,884
Yes.

1348
00:59:29,884 --> 00:59:31,210
Sorry about that.

1349
00:59:31,210 --> 00:59:32,860
I'm very glad that you came.

1350
00:59:32,860 --> 00:59:33,550
Thank you.

1351
00:59:33,550 --> 00:59:35,100

I'm glad--

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection