- $00:00:00,000 \longrightarrow 00:00:01,546$ We're ready. 2 00:00:01,546 --> 00:00:04,260 OK, rolling. 00:00:04,260 --> 00:00:05,040 Good morning. 4 00:00:05,040 --> 00:00:05,970 Good morning. 5 $00:00:05,970 \longrightarrow 00:00:09,210$ This is a United States Holocaust Memorial Museum 6 $00:00:09,210 \longrightarrow 00:00:17,430$ interview with Mrs. Marianne Salomon Berg on July 15, 2015 7 $00:00:17,430 \longrightarrow 00:00:20,260$ in Monroe Township, New Jersey.
- 8 00:00:20,260 --> 00:00:23,650 Thank you so much, Mrs. Berg for agreeing to meet us today.
- 9 00:00:23,650 --> 00:00:24,930 It's my pleasure.
- 10 00:00:24,930 --> 00:00:25,710 Thank you.
- 11 00:00:25,710 --> 00:00:28,200 To share your story, and also, maybe,
- 12 00:00:28,200 --> 00:00:31,860 to tell us a little bit about your husband's story

00:00:31,860 --> 00:00:35,340 because there are parallels and there are differences, too.

14 00:00:35,340 --> 00:00:40,980 And he's no longer here to be able to say it directly.

15 00:00:40,980 --> 00:00:45,060 And through you, we'd like to also memorialize his story.

16 00:00:45,060 --> 00:00:46,707 But we'll start with yours, OK?

17 00:00:46,707 --> 00:00:48,420 OK.

18 00:00:48,420 --> 00:00:50,190 And as all of the interviews, we'll

19 00:00:50,190 --> 00:00:52,050 start at the very beginning.

20 00:00:52,050 --> 00:00:55,710 I'd like you to tell me the date you were born,

21 00:00:55,710 --> 00:00:59,690 the place you were born, and what was your name at birth?

22 00:00:59,690 --> 00:01:06,300 All right, I hate to say it, but I was born on August 26, 1932

23 00:01:06,300 --> 00:01:08,880 in Frankfurt, Germany.

24 00:01:08,880 --> 00:01:15,480 And according to my mother, I was a 10 month pregnancy,

25

00:01:15,480 --> 00:01:20,110 and she was very unhappy that it took so long, but here I am.

26

00:01:20,110 --> 00:01:22,860

Yes.

27

00:01:22,860 --> 00:01:24,690

Your name at birth was?

28

00:01:24,690 --> 00:01:28,170

My last name was

Salomon, S-A-L-O-M-O-N.

29

00:01:28,170 --> 00:01:30,600

My first name is Marianne.

30

00:01:30,600 --> 00:01:34,530

And I was named after an aunt, my father's favorite sister,

my rather

31 00:01:34,530 --> 00:01:38,600

who had passed away

shortly before I was born.

32

00:01:38,600 --> 00:01:45,180

OK, and do you have any

brothers and sisters?

33

00:01:45,180 --> 00:01:45,900

No.

34

00:01:45,900 --> 00:01:46,950

You were an only child?

35

 $00:01:46,950 \longrightarrow 00:01:47,940$

I'm an only child.

36

00:01:47,940 --> 00:01:51,840

All right, and tell

me a little bit

37 00:01:51,840 --> 00:01:53,850 about your mother and your father,

38 00:01:53,850 --> 00:01:55,290 starting with their names.

39 00:01:55,290 --> 00:01:58,878 And if you remember at least the date, the year of their births,

40 00:01:58,878 --> 00:01:59,795 that would be helpful.

41 00:01:59,795 --> 00:02:00,610 Yeah, OK.

42 00:02:00,610 --> 00:02:06,210 My father was born in 1887, December.

43 00:02:06,210 --> 00:02:10,289 Christmas day, December 25, 1887.

44 00:02:10,289 --> 00:02:15,900 And my mother was born in 1899, May 31, 1899.

45 00:02:15,900 --> 00:02:19,020 They were 12 years apart in age.

46 00:02:19,020 --> 00:02:24,320 And so my father was not a young father.

47 00:02:24,320 --> 00:02:27,510 He was 39 when he got married.

48 00:02:27,510 --> 00:02:33,090 He was 45 years old when I was born, and my mother was 33.

49 00:02:33,090 --> 00:02:35,070 Which is also unusual for that time.

50 00:02:35,070 --> 00:02:37,470 For that time, for that time, yeah.

51 00:02:37,470 --> 00:02:39,450 Well, she was married.

52 00:02:39,450 --> 00:02:44,310 She was 27 when she got married, but she had many miscarriages.

53 00:02:44,310 --> 00:02:47,057 And-- but--

54 00:02:47,057 --> 00:02:48,390 And so you were the success one.

55 00:02:48,390 --> 00:02:50,730 But I was the successful one, and then

56 00:02:50,730 --> 00:02:54,840 Hitler came into power shortly after I was born,

57 00:02:54,840 --> 00:02:57,870 and they didn't want more children.

58 00:02:57,870 --> 00:02:58,440 Is that so?

59 00:02:58,440 --> 00:02:58,620 Yeah. 00:02:58,620 --> 00:02:59,820 It was because of this?

61 00:02:59,820 --> 00:03:02,560 It was because of this, aside from their age.

62 00:03:02,560 --> 00:03:03,810 But it was because of this.

63 00:03:03,810 --> 00:03:07,770 I think they already started to think about leaving Europe,

64 00:03:07,770 --> 00:03:08,760 leaving Germany.

65 00:03:08,760 --> 00:03:10,080 That's pretty early--

66 00:03:10,080 --> 00:03:10,960 Yeah, well--

67 00:03:10,960 --> 00:03:12,150 --to have those thoughts.

68 00:03:12,150 --> 00:03:15,375 They saw the handwriting on the wall, I think, yes.

69 00:03:15,375 --> 00:03:17,340 So many people didn't.

70 00:03:17,340 --> 00:03:20,100 They thought they'd be able to wait it out.

71 00:03:20,100 --> 00:03:24,510 Yeah, well, my father always said-- and I mean,

72 00:03:24,510 --> 00:03:26,160 I heard this later on.

73 00:03:26,160 --> 00:03:28,810 But he said, nobody will believe this maniac.

74 00:03:28,810 --> 00:03:29,650 He'll go away.

75 00:03:29,650 --> 00:03:30,150 You know?

76 00:03:30,150 --> 00:03:31,110 But--

77 00:03:31,110 --> 00:03:33,840 Yeah.

78 00:03:33,840 --> 00:03:36,930 Tell me a little bit about his background

79 00:03:36,930 --> 00:03:39,420 in the sense of what was his--

80 00:03:39,420 --> 00:03:43,110 what kind of family did he come from?

81 00:03:43,110 --> 00:03:45,270 Were you an old Frankfurt family?

82 00:03:45,270 --> 00:03:46,200 No.

83 00:03:46,200 --> 00:03:48,113 Were they from another part of Germany?

84 00:03:48,113 --> 00:03:49,030 Let's talk about that. 85 00:03:49,030 --> 00:03:52,233 OK, my father was born in Wiesbaden--

86 00:03:52,233 --> 00:03:52,900 Oh yeah, pretty.

87 00:03:52,900 --> 00:03:54,450 --which is near Frankfurt.

88 00:03:54,450 --> 00:03:57,990 And he came from a family of nine children.

89 00:03:57,990 --> 00:03:59,160 Wow.

90 00:03:59,160 --> 00:04:01,170 And yeah, nine children.

91 00:04:01,170 --> 00:04:04,200 And the early years of his life--

92 00:04:04,200 --> 00:04:06,360 he was the second to the youngest.

93 00:04:06,360 --> 00:04:08,910 And the early years of his life, he

94 00:04:08,910 --> 00:04:11,940 remembers being raised by his grandmother, his father's

95 00:04:11,940 --> 00:04:14,790 mother, who lived with the family

96 00:04:14,790 --> 00:04:16,170 and helped with the children.

97 00:04:16,170 --> 00:04:17,345 [PHONE RINGS]

98 00:04:17,345 --> 00:04:17,970 OK, we can cut.

99 00:04:17,970 --> 00:04:20,760

100 00:04:20,760 --> 00:04:23,610 So you were talking about your father's--

101 00:04:23,610 --> 00:04:24,480 My father.

102 00:04:24,480 --> 00:04:27,690 And so he had all these siblings.

103 00:04:27,690 --> 00:04:31,380 There were five boys and four girls.

104 00:04:31,380 --> 00:04:34,680 And I understand all of my grandmother's children

105 00:04:34,680 --> 00:04:35,610 survived.

106 00:04:35,610 --> 00:04:37,470 She never lost the baby.

107 00:04:37,470 --> 00:04:38,190 Wow.

108 00:04:38,190 --> 00:04:42,120 And my father was born in 1907.

00:04:42,120 --> 00:04:44,620 It was the second to the youngest, so yeah.

110

00:04:44,620 --> 00:04:49,740 And that [GERMAN] is how you say it in German.

111

00:04:49,740 --> 00:04:53,140 That century, it was unusual.

112

00:04:53,140 --> 00:04:53,640 Right.

113

00:04:53,640 --> 00:04:55,890 That's why I'm saying it.

114

00:04:55,890 --> 00:04:59,760 And yes, but of all of these children,

115

00:04:59,760 --> 00:05:01,900 we were very few cousins.

116

00:05:01,900 --> 00:05:05,480 So for various reasons, I guess they didn't--

117

00:05:05,480 --> 00:05:07,105 They didn't actually have children of--

118

00:05:07,105 --> 00:05:07,390 Proliferate.

119

00:05:07,390 --> 00:05:07,930 Yeah.

120

00:05:07,930 --> 00:05:11,560 I have two surviving first cousins who

00:05:11,560 --> 00:05:13,150 were born in the United States.

122

00:05:13,150 --> 00:05:16,900 My father's younger brother came here as a very young man

123

00:05:16,900 --> 00:05:20,830 and practiced medicine in Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.

124

00:05:20,830 --> 00:05:23,740 And therefore, was able to bring--

125

00:05:23,740 --> 00:05:25,750 he got married here, stayed here,

126

00:05:25,750 --> 00:05:30,430 and was able to bring his siblings, and cousins,

127

00:05:30,430 --> 00:05:32,620 and nieces, and nephews, and everyone.

128

00:05:32,620 --> 00:05:33,715 Sponsor us all.

129

00:05:33,715 --> 00:05:34,465 What a wonderful--

130

00:05:34,465 --> 00:05:34,965 Yeah.

131

00:05:34,965 --> 00:05:37,120 What a wonderful thing to have yes

132

00:05:37,120 --> 00:05:39,550

that became so

necessary at that time.

133

00:05:39,550 --> 00:05:41,200 Yeah, yeah.

134

00:05:41,200 --> 00:05:42,670 What was your father's name again?

135

00:05:42,670 --> 00:05:43,330 Joseph.

136

00:05:43,330 --> 00:05:44,070 Joseph.

137

00:05:44,070 --> 00:05:45,310 Joseph Salomon.

138

00:05:45,310 --> 00:05:49,630 And was there was the family then from Wiesbaden

139

00:05:49,630 --> 00:05:50,730 for generations?

140

00:05:50,730 --> 00:05:51,850 I think, yes.

141

00:05:51,850 --> 00:05:52,640 I think so.

142

00:05:52,640 --> 00:05:54,550 I don't know how far back.

143

00:05:54,550 --> 00:05:58,330 Someone did a family tree of his mother's family.

144

00:05:58,330 --> 00:06:00,850 I even have a book, and original book.

00:06:00,850 --> 00:06:03,830 It's a man who happens to live in this area.

146

00:06:03,830 --> 00:06:06,940 And so I have a little of that information.

147

00:06:06,940 --> 00:06:12,250 I don't know anything about my grandfather's family,

148

00:06:12,250 --> 00:06:14,470 but they're from that area.

149

00:06:14,470 --> 00:06:20,070 I think both of my parents were in Germany for generations.

150

00:06:20,070 --> 00:06:20,570 OK.

151

00:06:20,570 --> 00:06:21,550 Yeah.

152

00:06:21,550 --> 00:06:26,140 How did your father's family support themselves?

153

00:06:26,140 --> 00:06:30,430 I think they had a butcher business

154

00:06:30,430 --> 00:06:35,090 and I know they had chickens because my father had

155

00:06:35,090 --> 00:06:37,820 an aversion to chicken, to poultry.

156

00:06:37,820 --> 00:06:38,570

Did he really?

157

00:06:38,570 --> 00:06:41,450 He did because he used to see the chickens running around

158

00:06:41,450 --> 00:06:43,130 without their heads.

159

00:06:43,130 --> 00:06:48,270 And my mother was never allowed to cook poultry.

160

00:06:48,270 --> 00:06:49,680 He didn't want to smell it.

161

00:06:49,680 --> 00:06:53,288 He didn't want to see it, and it stemmed from That

162

00:06:53,288 --> 00:06:54,330 From the early childhood?

163

00:06:54,330 --> 00:06:56,190 From the early childhood, yeah.

164

00:06:56,190 --> 00:07:00,630 And when your father then came into his own

165

00:07:00,630 --> 00:07:04,740 and married rather late, and then had you rather late,

166

00:07:04,740 --> 00:07:06,720 how was he earning a living?

167

00:07:06,720 --> 00:07:08,620 All right, he was in business.

168

00:07:08,620 --> 00:07:13,560

He was a World War I

soldier, a German soldier.

169 00:07:13,560 --> 00:07:14,933 I have an Iron Cross.

170 00:07:14,933 --> 00:07:15,850 I have all this stuff.

171 00:07:15,850 --> 00:07:16,500 Do you really?

172 00:07:16,500 --> 00:07:17,640 I really do.

173 00:07:17,640 --> 00:07:22,420 And at that time, they were Germans.

174 00:07:22,420 --> 00:07:26,050 It was a different world and different expectations.

175 00:07:26,050 --> 00:07:28,620 Although he came from an observant family,

176 00:07:28,620 --> 00:07:32,010 a kosher orthodox Jewish family.

177 00:07:32,010 --> 00:07:37,050 And he and his older brother were in the German Army.

178 00:07:37,050 --> 00:07:41,190 And the younger-- some of the other brothers who were already

179 00:07:41,190 --> 00:07:46,050 in the United States came here early and didn't serve at all.

180 00:07:46,050 --> 00:07:48,840 And also, his brother Gustav, the one who brought us over,

181 00:07:48,840 --> 00:07:51,600 was also in the German Army at that time.

182 00:07:51,600 --> 00:07:53,970 And the parents had already passed away.

183 00:07:53,970 --> 00:07:57,450 I think both of them were gone by World War I,

184 00:07:57,450 --> 00:07:58,586 so I never knew them.

185 00:07:58,586 --> 00:07:58,720 So you never knew them?

186 00:07:58,720 --> 00:08:00,270 I never knew them at all.

187 00:08:00,270 --> 00:08:03,300

188 00:08:03,300 --> 00:08:07,020 But they were butchers, actually, I guess.

189 00:08:07,020 --> 00:08:09,600 Made sausages and things like that.

190 00:08:09,600 --> 00:08:12,360 Well, what about your father when he finished his service?

191 00:08:12,360 --> 00:08:14,170 He had an uncle-- 00:08:14,170 --> 00:08:17,290 my grandmother is his mother's brother--

193

00:08:17,290 --> 00:08:20,190 who was very successful in the soap manufacturing

194

00:08:20,190 --> 00:08:22,650 business in Frankfurt.

195

00:08:22,650 --> 00:08:26,670 And his sons were younger than my father and my uncle,

196

00:08:26,670 --> 00:08:30,090 and he took them into the business.

197

00:08:30,090 --> 00:08:34,530 My father and my uncle became outside salesmen.

198

00:08:34,530 --> 00:08:41,490 And the other, the sons, they were more educated

199

00:08:41,490 --> 00:08:44,220 at that point and made the soap.

200

00:08:44,220 --> 00:08:46,040 Manufactured the soap.

201

00:08:46,040 --> 00:08:46,950 Commercial soap.

202

00:08:46,950 --> 00:08:49,290 They sold it to institutions.

203

00:08:49,290 --> 00:08:51,250 Do you know the name of what the company was?

204 00:08:51,250 --> 00:08:51,780 Yes.

205 00:08:51,780 --> 00:08:52,500 What was it?

206 00:08:52,500 --> 00:08:54,870 Edelmuth and Oppenheim.

207 00:08:54,870 --> 00:08:56,130 Edelmuth?

208 00:08:56,130 --> 00:09:01,810 Edelmuth was my grandmother's maiden name.

209 00:09:01,810 --> 00:09:02,310 Edelmuth?

210 00:09:02,310 --> 00:09:05,670 E-D-E-L-M-U-T-H. OK?

211 00:09:05,670 --> 00:09:08,940 And that was the business that the uncle-- and that's

212 00:09:08,940 --> 00:09:12,210 how they referred to him, as the uncle, had.

213 00:09:12,210 --> 00:09:15,240 And took in, as I said, his two nephews and later,

214 00:09:15,240 --> 00:09:17,100 his two sons.

215 00:09:17,100 --> 00:09:23,730 And did you know this uncle?

216 00:09:23,730 --> 00:09:26,710 Did you know the sons at all?

217

00:09:26,710 --> 00:09:27,600 I knew the sons.

218

00:09:27,600 --> 00:09:30,060 They were my father's first cousins,

219

00:09:30,060 --> 00:09:31,380 and they came to America.

220

00:09:31,380 --> 00:09:33,660 And I knew them, absolutely.

221

00:09:33,660 --> 00:09:37,270 But in fact, one of them married my mother's first cousin.

222

00:09:37,270 --> 00:09:40,800 My parents introduced them, but I didn't know the young--

223

00:09:40,800 --> 00:09:43,930 maybe I knew him, but I don't even think so.

224

00:09:43,930 --> 00:09:46,380 I think he passed away before I was born.

225

00:09:46,380 --> 00:09:48,330 Let's turn now to your mother's family.

226

00:09:48,330 --> 00:09:50,010 OK.

227

00:09:50,010 --> 00:09:51,630 What was her first name?

228

00:09:51,630 --> 00:09:52,590

Hildegard.

229

00:09:52,590 --> 00:09:53,400 Hildegard.

230

00:09:53,400 --> 00:09:56,512 And she called herself Hilda, but her name was Hildegard.

231

00:09:56,512 --> 00:09:57,720 And what was her maiden name?

232

00:09:57,720 --> 00:09:58,770 Grunewald.

233

00:09:58,770 --> 00:09:59,580 Grunewald?

234

00:09:59,580 --> 00:10:02,250 Yeah, like the section of Berlin, which is

235

00:10:02,250 --> 00:10:03,950 a lovely section of the city.

236

00:10:03,950 --> 00:10:04,450 Oh, really?

237

00:10:04,450 --> 00:10:04,950 Yeah.

238

00:10:04,950 --> 00:10:08,610 A lot of well-to-do Jewish families live there.

239

00:10:08,610 --> 00:10:09,900 So Grunewald.

240

00:10:09,900 --> 00:10:11,580 And was she from Frankfurt?

241

00:10:11,580 --> 00:10:14,220 She was from Westphalia, from Bielefeld.

242

00:10:14,220 --> 00:10:15,040 Oh, bielefeld.

243

00:10:15,040 --> 00:10:15,540 Mm-hmm.

244

00:10:15,540 --> 00:10:16,040 Mm-hmm.

245

00:10:16,040 --> 00:10:20,130 And what do you know about her side of the family?

246

00:10:20,130 --> 00:10:22,320 Well, I knew her mother.

247

00:10:22,320 --> 00:10:26,040 That was the one grandmother I knew who

248

00:10:26,040 --> 00:10:28,150 did not survive the war, sadly.

249

00:10:28,150 --> 00:10:28,930 Oh really?

250

00:10:28,930 --> 00:10:31,380 Really, yeah.

251

00:10:31,380 --> 00:10:35,117 Tell me a little bit about the circumstances of her family

252

00:10:35,117 --> 00:10:37,200 and then a little bit about your grandmother then.

253

00:10:37,200 --> 00:10:41,340

OK, I really don't know much about her father,

254

00:10:41,340 --> 00:10:43,440 who had passed away.

255

00:10:43,440 --> 00:10:46,920 But my grandmother's family, I'm in contact with some

256

00:10:46,920 --> 00:10:48,720 of the second cousins.

257

00:10:48,720 --> 00:10:52,170 Their last name is Pless, P-L-E-S-S.

258

00:10:52,170 --> 00:10:55,410 And I just found out that there's actually a city called

259

00:10:55,410 --> 00:10:58,650 Pless that's on the Berlin-Poland border.

260

00:10:58,650 --> 00:10:59,310 No kidding.

261

00:10:59,310 --> 00:11:01,620 And we had a maintenance man here

262

00:11:01,620 --> 00:11:05,160 who used to go to Poland on vacation every year.

263

00:11:05,160 --> 00:11:07,290 And I once asked him, have you ever heard

264

00:11:07,290 --> 00:11:08,640 of a city called Pless?

00:11:08,640 --> 00:11:12,430 Sometimes it was Germany and sometimes it was Poland.

266

00:11:12,430 --> 00:11:13,980 And he said, my uncle lives there.

267

00:11:13,980 --> 00:11:15,232 I vacation there every year.

268

00:11:15,232 --> 00:11:16,190 Isn't that interesting?

269

00:11:16,190 --> 00:11:17,760 So I thought that was interesting.

270

00:11:17,760 --> 00:11:21,670 Yeah, but they lived in, as I said--

271

00:11:21,670 --> 00:11:22,170 Westphalia.

272

00:11:22,170 --> 00:11:25,290 --my grandparents lived in Westphalia in Bielefeld.

273

00:11:25,290 --> 00:11:27,780 My mother has two brothers, had two

274

00:11:27,780 --> 00:11:30,270 brothers, one younger, one older.

275

00:11:30,270 --> 00:11:33,240 And the older one changed his name from Grunewald

276

00:11:33,240 --> 00:11:34,490

to Greenwood--

277

00:11:34,490 --> 00:11:34,990 Of course.

278

00:11:34,990 --> 00:11:36,210 --here in the United States.

279

00:11:36,210 --> 00:11:37,290 It's a translation.

280

00:11:37,290 --> 00:11:40,950 The younger one had a very interesting story.

281

00:11:40,950 --> 00:11:44,100 Well, he ended up in Palestine, the underground,

282

00:11:44,100 --> 00:11:46,520 sort of, until it became Israel.

283

00:11:46,520 --> 00:11:47,415 And he--

284

00:11:47,415 --> 00:11:48,040 Oh, interesting

285

00:11:48,040 --> 00:11:52,280 --lived there for all of his life, the rest of his life.

286

00:11:52,280 --> 00:11:54,680 When did he emigrate to Palestine?

287

00:11:54,680 --> 00:11:57,240 In the 1930s from Italy.

288

00:11:57,240 --> 00:12:00,530

He lived in Italy and had to leave

00:12:00,530 --> 00:12:03,350 Italy when the fascists came.

290

00:12:03,350 --> 00:12:09,920 And he and his then-girlfriend got a Greek ship captain

291

00:12:09,920 --> 00:12:13,520 for whatever they paid him to take them

292

00:12:13,520 --> 00:12:17,450 to Palestine because all this was underground at the time.

293

00:12:17,450 --> 00:12:21,710 And he told her, if we get there alive, I'll marry you.

294

00:12:21,710 --> 00:12:24,140 And this was my mother's younger brother,

295

00:12:24,140 --> 00:12:27,140 and they did, and they were married.

296

00:12:27,140 --> 00:12:31,160 And they lived there, and he was a Zionist.

297

00:12:31,160 --> 00:12:33,320 I know that's not such a great word now.

298

00:12:33,320 --> 00:12:36,170 But at the time, it was very important.

299

00:12:36,170 --> 00:12:38,600 And that saved his life, actually.

00:12:38,600 --> 00:12:39,350

It saved his life?

301

00:12:39,350 --> 00:12:40,070

Yeah, yeah.

302

00:12:40,070 --> 00:12:40,730

It did.

303

00:12:40,730 --> 00:12:42,620

He was a very

interesting man, yeah.

304

00:12:42,620 --> 00:12:43,720

And you knew him as well?

305

00:12:43,720 --> 00:12:46,340

I knew him because

we were there once,

306

00:12:46,340 --> 00:12:51,770

and he was here a few times

later, many years later.

307

00:12:51,770 --> 00:12:54,140

How did your mother's family--

308

00:12:54,140 --> 00:12:54,850

[PHONE RINGS]

309

00:12:54,850 --> 00:12:55,640

Let's stop there.

310

00:12:55,640 --> 00:12:57,060

Let's cut there.

311

00:12:57,060 --> 00:12:57,820

OK.

312

00:12:57,820 --> 00:12:58,075

It really does.

313

00:12:58,075 --> 00:12:58,575

OK.

314

00:12:58,575 --> 00:13:00,290

OK?

315

00:13:00,290 --> 00:13:04,970

So how did your mother's

family support themselves?

316

00:13:04,970 --> 00:13:06,020

My grandparents?

317

00:13:06,020 --> 00:13:06,520

Mm-hmm.

318

00:13:06,520 --> 00:13:08,960

Yeah, I think I

mentioned, I'm really not

319

00:13:08,960 --> 00:13:11,780

sure of what my grandfather did.

320

00:13:11,780 --> 00:13:15,680

I think it also had to do with

cattle and meat, something

321

00:13:15,680 --> 00:13:16,310

like that.

322

00:13:16,310 --> 00:13:21,140

A lot of the Jews in Germany at

that time were cattle dealers

323

00:13:21,140 --> 00:13:24,630

and were in that field, I guess.

324

00:13:24,630 --> 00:13:25,460

Yeah.

00:13:25,460 --> 00:13:27,080 How did your parents meet?

326

00:13:27,080 --> 00:13:32,180 OK, my father's sisters, the two older sisters,

327

00:13:32,180 --> 00:13:36,020 were what we would say spinsters and had

328

00:13:36,020 --> 00:13:38,510 a corset business in Bielefeld.

329

00:13:38,510 --> 00:13:40,550 I don't know exactly what brought them there,

330

00:13:40,550 --> 00:13:41,630 but that's where.

331

00:13:41,630 --> 00:13:43,940 The oldest sister was 20 years older

332

00:13:43,940 --> 00:13:47,510 than the youngest brother, so they were older,

333

00:13:47,510 --> 00:13:48,890 and they had a business.

334

00:13:48,890 --> 00:13:52,730 And my grandmother, my mother's mother, was close in age

335

00:13:52,730 --> 00:13:55,070 to my father's older sister.

336

00:13:55,070 --> 00:13:58,340 And they became friendly because my grandmother

00:13:58,340 --> 00:14:01,940 bought her undergarments there, corsets and whatever,

338

00:14:01,940 --> 00:14:05,160 and because everything was custom made in those days.

339

00:14:05,160 --> 00:14:07,010 And my mother?

340

00:14:07,010 --> 00:14:08,960 I don't know.

341

00:14:08,960 --> 00:14:12,800 My grandmother wanted to find someone from my mother,

342

00:14:12,800 --> 00:14:18,110 or my aunt wanted to introduce her brother Joseph to somebody.

343

00:14:18,110 --> 00:14:20,000 Somehow, they got them together.

344

00:14:20,000 --> 00:14:21,920 It came through family connections then?

345

00:14:21,920 --> 00:14:22,970 Yes, yeah.

346

00:14:22,970 --> 00:14:25,670 I think they said they used to see my mother ride her bicycle.

347

00:14:25,670 --> 00:14:26,610 She was very pretty.

348

00:14:26,610 --> 00:14:29,210 My mother was a very

wiy momer was a very

pretty girl, and yeah.

349

00:14:29,210 --> 00:14:32,770

And that's how they met, actually.

350

00:14:32,770 --> 00:14:35,140 And that's how they met,

through the course of business

351

00:14:35,140 --> 00:14:36,310

that his sisters had--

352

00:14:36,310 --> 00:14:37,035

Correct.

353

00:14:37,035 --> 00:14:37,660

--in Gielefeld.

354

00:14:37,660 --> 00:14:42,280

And my grandmother, who

shopped there, yeah.

355

00:14:42,280 --> 00:14:44,980

What are your earliest

memories from Frankfurt?

356

00:14:44,980 --> 00:14:45,940

Do you have any?

357

00:14:45,940 --> 00:14:47,560

Very, very few.

358

00:14:47,560 --> 00:14:48,820

Very, very few.

359

00:14:48,820 --> 00:14:52,780

I vaguely remember my

grandmother visiting.

360

00:14:52,780 --> 00:14:55,390

And it probably was

my sixth birthday

361

00:14:55,390 --> 00:15:00,220 because we came here two months later, or not even

362

00:15:00,220 --> 00:15:01,240 two months later.

363

00:15:01,240 --> 00:15:01,907 [DOORBELL RINGS]

364

00:15:01,907 --> 00:15:04,540 OK, let's cut.

365

00:15:04,540 --> 00:15:05,443 OK.

366

00:15:05,443 --> 00:15:06,190

367

00:15:06,190 --> 00:15:06,840 Ready.

368

00:15:06,840 --> 00:15:09,370 OK, so before the break, we were talking

369

00:15:09,370 --> 00:15:10,658 about your mother's family.

370

00:15:10,658 --> 00:15:11,200 Yes, correct.

371

00:15:11,200 --> 00:15:15,190 And how your parents met and that they got married.

372

00:15:15,190 --> 00:15:18,610 And my uncles, my uncle who went to Palestine and Israel.

00:15:18,610 --> 00:15:21,160 And things about her side.

374

00:15:21,160 --> 00:15:22,870 Right.

375

00:15:22,870 --> 00:15:29,350 So when you were born, can you tell me about the home

376

00:15:29,350 --> 00:15:31,420 that you were born into in Frankfurt?

377

00:15:31,420 --> 00:15:34,840 Do you have memories of what it looked like?

378

00:15:34,840 --> 00:15:40,330 Strangely enough, I do have memories of my room,

379

00:15:40,330 --> 00:15:44,980 even of the layout, a little, of some of the apartment

380

00:15:44,980 --> 00:15:46,870 because it was an apartment.

381

00:15:46,870 --> 00:15:48,760 We had a terrace.

382

00:15:48,760 --> 00:15:51,520 And when you walked in, it was maybe

383

00:15:51,520 --> 00:15:54,580 like an octagon or a hexagon hallway,

384

00:15:54,580 --> 00:15:57,130 and the rooms were

off of this hallway.

385

00:15:57,130 --> 00:15:58,390 It wasn't narrow.

386

00:15:58,390 --> 00:15:59,435 It was--

387

00:15:59,435 --> 00:15:59,935 Centraled.

388

00:15:59,935 --> 00:16:01,150 --shaped in some way.

389

00:16:01,150 --> 00:16:05,320 And I had my own room, and my wallpaper

390

00:16:05,320 --> 00:16:08,050 was baby blue with white polka dots.

391

00:16:08,050 --> 00:16:12,910 And I had a dollhouse that had that wallpaper.

392

00:16:12,910 --> 00:16:13,750 Oh, how pretty.

393

00:16:13,750 --> 00:16:18,100 And we actually were in Munich once

394

00:16:18,100 --> 00:16:20,680 in our travels, my husband and I.

395

00:16:20,680 --> 00:16:24,520 And there was a toy

museum or a doll museum.

396

00:16:24,520 --> 00:16:26,740

And I said, maybe I'll find my dollhouse.

397

00:16:26,740 --> 00:16:27,760 It was confiscated.

398

00:16:27,760 --> 00:16:31,000 All of my parents' belongings, they were confiscated.

399

00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:36,280 They got nothing here, which is a whole other story.

400

00:16:36,280 --> 00:16:38,500 But I sort of looked for my dollhouse.

401

00:16:38,500 --> 00:16:41,620 It was a very strange thing and stupid, but--

402

00:16:41,620 --> 00:16:42,470 No, but--

403

00:16:42,470 --> 00:16:42,970 --I did.

404

00:16:42,970 --> 00:16:43,820 You wanted to see.

405

00:16:43,820 --> 00:16:48,040 Yeah, and so I just vaguely remember that.

406

00:16:48,040 --> 00:16:50,070 That's what I remember of the room.

407

00:16:50,070 --> 00:16:52,420

OK, what about the apartment itself?

00:16:52,420 --> 00:16:55,030 Was it a large place?

409

00:16:55,030 --> 00:16:56,020 Probably.

410

00:16:56,020 --> 00:16:58,510 I mean, my parents had a bedroom with the bathroom

411

00:16:58,510 --> 00:16:59,980 off of the bedroom.

412

00:16:59,980 --> 00:17:03,712 And there was also a bathroom off of this end--

413

00:17:03,712 --> 00:17:04,295 Entry hallway.

414

00:17:04,295 --> 00:17:05,119 Entrance way.

415

00:17:05,119 --> 00:17:08,750 And I remember the toilets flushed with a chain.

416

00:17:08,750 --> 00:17:12,460 And that's what I remember, pulling the chain to flush.

417

00:17:12,460 --> 00:17:16,090 Did your mother have any help at home?

418

00:17:16,090 --> 00:17:17,619 Oh, they always had help.

419

00:17:17,619 --> 00:17:20,230 And my father said, as poor as they were when he

00:17:20,230 --> 00:17:22,900 was growing up, they had help.

421

00:17:22,900 --> 00:17:25,450 And the help lived upstairs someplace.

422

00:17:25,450 --> 00:17:29,600 The help probably wasn't even paid except for room and board.

423

00:17:29,600 --> 00:17:32,950 But my mother-- what happened when I was small

424

00:17:32,950 --> 00:17:35,530 is that Jews were not allowed to have

425

00:17:35,530 --> 00:17:40,550 any help under a certain age.

426

00:17:40,550 --> 00:17:44,170 I think any women who worked for a Jewish family had to be

427

00:17:44,170 --> 00:17:47,010 over the age of 50, possibly.

428

00:17:47,010 --> 00:17:49,240 45, something like that.

429

00:17:49,240 --> 00:17:53,050 And the woman who was sort of our housekeeper

430

00:17:53,050 --> 00:17:56,380 and took care of me, my nanny, was actually

431

00:17:56,380 --> 00:17:58,780 the woman who my

father had a rented

432

00:17:58,780 --> 00:18:02,140 room before he was married, my father and my uncle.

433

00:18:02,140 --> 00:18:04,810 And the couple's name they rented from with

434

00:18:04,810 --> 00:18:07,300 were Mr. And Mrs. Martin.

435

00:18:07,300 --> 00:18:09,730 And I called her Tanta Martin.

436

00:18:09,730 --> 00:18:12,460 I didn't know her first name until many years

437

00:18:12,460 --> 00:18:15,280 later, that my mother referred to as Elsa.

438

00:18:15,280 --> 00:18:18,850 But she came and lived and worked.

439

00:18:18,850 --> 00:18:20,290 I don't know if she lived with us.

440

00:18:20,290 --> 00:18:21,010 Probably.

441

00:18:21,010 --> 00:18:23,403 I'm not sure, but she was my nanny, and she took--

442

00:18:23,403 --> 00:18:25,570 Do you have memories of what kind of person she was?

00:18:25,570 --> 00:18:27,250 Yeah, I loved her.

444

00:18:27,250 --> 00:18:31,840 I don't really have too many memories.

445

00:18:31,840 --> 00:18:35,320 But I know once she took me to play with her nephews,

446

00:18:35,320 --> 00:18:38,920 and we were playing with these toy tin trains.

447

00:18:38,920 --> 00:18:41,690 And I fell and I cut my--

448

00:18:41,690 --> 00:18:42,190 Lip?

449

00:18:42,190 --> 00:18:46,100 --self, and I have a scar currently from that.

450

00:18:46,100 --> 00:18:49,240 And she was very upset and rushed me to a doctor.

451

00:18:49,240 --> 00:18:53,320 And I had a bandage, and I had to drink through a sippy cup.

452

00:18:53,320 --> 00:18:56,720 And this must all have been that last--

453

00:18:56,720 --> 00:18:57,805 That last year?

454

00:18:57,805 --> 00:19:01,000 --season in Germany, but yeah.

455 00:19:01,000 --> 00:19:04,510 Now, I take it at home, the language was German?

456

00:19:04,510 --> 00:19:05,510 Only German at home.

457

00:19:05,510 --> 00:19:06,010 Only German.

458

00:19:06,010 --> 00:19:10,600 And even in the United States, only at home, it was German.

459

00:19:10,600 --> 00:19:15,586 As soon as my parents left the house, it was English.

460

00:19:15,586 --> 00:19:17,470 Interesting, interesting.

461

00:19:17,470 --> 00:19:21,520 Now, did your parents speak German to one another

462

00:19:21,520 --> 00:19:23,590 until they died?

463

00:19:23,590 --> 00:19:26,943 Well, my father-- my mother lived many years longer.

464

00:19:26,943 --> 00:19:27,610 Yeah, until my--

465

00:19:27,610 --> 00:19:28,480 When did he die?

when ald he die

466

00:19:28,480 --> 00:19:30,100 1963.

00:19:30,100 --> 00:19:32,170 OK, so he went very early.

468

00:19:32,170 --> 00:19:34,240 He was almost 76.

469

00:19:34,240 --> 00:19:36,160 He was 75 years old.

470

00:19:36,160 --> 00:19:40,840 My mother lived until she was 87, and when my father died,

471

00:19:40,840 --> 00:19:42,790 I think she was 63.

472

00:19:42,790 --> 00:19:44,088 She lived for many--

473

00:19:44,088 --> 00:19:44,796 Many years after.

474

00:19:44,796 --> 00:19:46,420 Many years, yeah.

475

00:19:46,420 --> 00:19:49,090 And when they spoke of you in the United States

476

00:19:49,090 --> 00:19:52,480 at home, what language did you speak?

477

00:19:52,480 --> 00:19:53,300 German.

478

00:19:53,300 --> 00:19:53,800 Really?

479

00:19:53,800 --> 00:19:54,300 Yeah.

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

480 00:19:54,300 --> 00:19:56,230 But when my mother and I--

481 00:19:56,230 --> 00:19:58,270 my children never learned German.

482 00:19:58,270 --> 00:20:01,780 So we spoke English, really, and with my mother.

483 00:20:01,780 --> 00:20:04,500 They picked up a few German words.

484 00:20:04,500 --> 00:20:08,190 And my mother, very late in her life, when she wasn't well

485 00:20:08,190 --> 00:20:11,730 and she was in her late 80s, she sort of reverted back

486 00:20:11,730 --> 00:20:12,580 to more German.

487 00:20:12,580 --> 00:20:13,080 German?

488 00:20:13,080 --> 00:20:13,980 Mm-hmm.

489 00:20:13,980 --> 00:20:16,300 And I think that's very common.

490 00:20:16,300 --> 00:20:16,900 Yeah.

491 00:20:16,900 --> 00:20:17,400 Yeah.

00:20:17,400 --> 00:20:19,297 Yeah.

493

00:20:19,297 --> 00:20:20,130 But they spoke well.

494

00:20:20,130 --> 00:20:22,710 I have letters that my mother wrote.

495

00:20:22,710 --> 00:20:26,280 My parents wrote a letter to me when I was in camp,

496

00:20:26,280 --> 00:20:28,560 and it was really only a few years after they

497

00:20:28,560 --> 00:20:32,400 came to the United States, and their English was very good.

498

00:20:32,400 --> 00:20:34,670 They took lessons immediately.

499

00:20:34,670 --> 00:20:40,110 OK, so it was that they did their best to acclimatize,

500

00:20:40,110 --> 00:20:42,720 and adjust, and so on?

501

00:20:42,720 --> 00:20:43,590 Absolutely.

502

00:20:43,590 --> 00:20:44,530 They went to work.

503

00:20:44,530 --> 00:20:46,230 They went to business, yeah.

504

00:20:46,230 --> 00:20:49,710 But nevertheless, part of this is the language

505 00:20:49,710 --> 00:20:54,780 that one is born with, the one grows up with, that one has--

506 00:20:54,780 --> 00:20:56,828 your father was 45 when you were born.

507 00:20:56,828 --> 00:20:57,370 That's right.

508 00:20:57,370 --> 00:20:58,260 So you can say--

509 00:20:58,260 --> 00:21:00,240 He was 50 when he came to the United States.

510 00:21:00,240 --> 00:21:01,470 He was over 50.

511 00:21:01,470 --> 00:21:06,570 So his life is in this language.

512 00:21:06,570 --> 00:21:11,730 And I'm wondering, how does that change when you've-- it's more

513 00:21:11,730 --> 00:21:14,980 than just, you've moved to a new country.

514 00:21:14,980 --> 00:21:18,750 It is that you were no longer wanted in your old country.

515 00:21:18,750 --> 00:21:19,320 Right, right.

00:21:19,320 --> 00:21:24,840 And how do you incorporate that in your new life?

517

00:21:24,840 --> 00:21:26,400 And can you?

518

00:21:26,400 --> 00:21:27,165

And do you?

519

00:21:27,165 --> 00:21:29,410 Oh, yeah, yeah.

520

00:21:29,410 --> 00:21:31,740 Some of their past stayed with them

521

00:21:31,740 --> 00:21:35,070 because you can't become another person.

522

00:21:35,070 --> 00:21:37,080 And on the other hand, I think they

523

00:21:37,080 --> 00:21:39,300 were proud to be Americans.

524

00:21:39,300 --> 00:21:41,850 They became citizens as soon as possible.

525

00:21:41,850 --> 00:21:45,240 I have my own citizenship papers because my parents wanted

526

00:21:45,240 --> 00:21:48,510 to make sure, even though I automatically

527

00:21:48,510 --> 00:21:50,160

became a citizen

through them, they

528 00:21:50,160 --> 00:21:53,670 wanted to make sure I had my papers.

529 00:21:53,670 --> 00:21:58,410 And yeah, and they spoke English, and they went to work.

530 00:21:58,410 --> 00:22:01,230 And at that time, they loved President Roosevelt

531 00:22:01,230 --> 00:22:05,100 because they felt that he was our savior.

532 00:22:05,100 --> 00:22:07,530 And I mean, a few things have changed

533 00:22:07,530 --> 00:22:09,720 in opinions about that since then,

534 00:22:09,720 --> 00:22:13,050 but that was the way it was at that time.

535 00:22:13,050 --> 00:22:16,800 And yeah, and one of the reasons also

536 00:22:16,800 --> 00:22:18,960 was because we lived in Iowa.

537 00:22:18,960 --> 00:22:23,620 My father was not able to find a job when we came to the--

538 00:22:23,620 --> 00:22:27,270 because he was already older, and the language wasn't good,

539

00:22:27,270 --> 00:22:31,570 and he had been a salesman in this particular business.

540

00:22:31,570 --> 00:22:34,740 And even though he had relatives here,

541

00:22:34,740 --> 00:22:39,750 it was still Depression times, and no one

542

00:22:39,750 --> 00:22:41,910 had a job waiting for him.

543

00:22:41,910 --> 00:22:45,120 And he went to one of the Jewish organizations,

544

00:22:45,120 --> 00:22:46,590 and I don't know which one.

545

00:22:46,590 --> 00:22:49,620 And said, I have to work, and I'll

546

00:22:49,620 --> 00:22:52,440 go anywhere within the United States

547

00:22:52,440 --> 00:22:54,120 because I have a young child.

548

00:22:54,120 --> 00:22:58,200 My wife has to stay home with her, and we'll go.

549

00:22:58,200 --> 00:23:00,630 And that's where they found a job for him,

00:23:00,630 --> 00:23:01,650 in Des Moines, Iowa.

551

00:23:01,650 --> 00:23:02,970 What was the job?

552

00:23:02,970 --> 00:23:06,150 He worked at the largest department store

553

00:23:06,150 --> 00:23:08,160 there, Younker Brothers.

554

00:23:08,160 --> 00:23:10,980 And he was, I think, in shipping and receiving.

555

00:23:10,980 --> 00:23:14,190 I think he did some bookkeeping for them.

556

00:23:14,190 --> 00:23:17,640 And that's what he did.

557

00:23:17,640 --> 00:23:19,110 We were there for five years.

558

00:23:19,110 --> 00:23:21,240 Yeah, how did he feel about this?

559

00:23:21,240 --> 00:23:25,050 Did he have difficulties psychologically with it?

560

00:23:25,050 --> 00:23:27,660 I don't really know because I didn't

561

00:23:27,660 --> 00:23:28,986 think about things like that.

562 00:23:28,986 --> 00:23:29,486 Of course.

563 00:23:29,486 --> 00:23:32,640 I was happy.

564 00:23:32,640 --> 00:23:35,130 I can't say I was happy, but I was content.

565 00:23:35,130 --> 00:23:37,650 I had a good childhood there.

566 00:23:37,650 --> 00:23:38,910 I followed them.

567 00:23:38,910 --> 00:23:39,990 I had my parents.

568 00:23:39,990 --> 00:23:41,140 I always had food.

569 00:23:41,140 --> 00:23:44,610 I always had love, I guess, and family.

570 00:23:44,610 --> 00:23:48,990 And the people were very nice to us.

571 00:23:48,990 --> 00:23:53,490 I did not encounter bad behavior, or anti-Semitism,

572 00:23:53,490 --> 00:23:54,940 or anything.

573 00:23:54,940 --> 00:23:57,030 And people are surprised to hear that.

574

00:23:57,030 --> 00:23:57,570 Yeah?

575

00:23:57,570 --> 00:23:58,070 Yeah.

1 Car

576 00:23:58,070 --> 00:23:58,800 Pardon?

577

00:23:58,800 --> 00:24:02,630 I said, people are surprised to hear that because it was Iowa.

578

00:24:02,630 --> 00:24:03,720

It was the Midwest.

579

00:24:03,720 --> 00:24:05,550

It was--

580

00:24:05,550 --> 00:24:07,560

Well, here in the

United States, we all

581

00:24:07,560 --> 00:24:10,470

have stereotypes about each other in different parts

582

00:24:10,470 --> 00:24:11,130

of the country.

583

00:24:11,130 --> 00:24:11,820

Exactly.

584

00:24:11,820 --> 00:24:15,060

And those are what they are.

585

00:24:15,060 --> 00:24:16,770

They're stereotypes.

586

00:24:16,770 --> 00:24:17,730

Exactly.

00:24:17,730 --> 00:24:18,880

To some extent.

588

00:24:18,880 --> 00:24:19,380 Yeah, yeah.

589

00:24:19,380 --> 00:24:20,160 Yeah, yeah.

590

00:24:20,160 --> 00:24:24,930

And so, again, as we were speaking off camera,

591

00:24:24,930 --> 00:24:27,840 every person's story is unique.

592

00:24:27,840 --> 00:24:30,990 And so these are the experiences that individual people had,

593

00:24:30,990 --> 00:24:32,190 and it's very nice to hear.

594

00:24:32,190 --> 00:24:34,530

Yeah, yeah, that's why I did want

595

00:24:34,530 --> 00:24:38,640 to mention that they were very nice to me and my teachers.

596

00:24:38,640 --> 00:24:40,530 I have a letter that a teacher wrote,

597

 $00:24:40,530 \longrightarrow 00:24:42,990$

and that I have a

little autograph book

598

00:24:42,990 --> 00:24:43,890

that they signed.

00:24:43,890 --> 00:24:48,720 And I had friends, and I loved school.

600

00:24:48,720 --> 00:24:50,280 So this is where you started school?

601

00:24:50,280 --> 00:24:51,320 It was in Iowa?

602

00:24:51,320 --> 00:24:53,890 Yeah, I went to school for about three.

603

00:24:53,890 --> 00:24:56,670 four months in New York City.

604

00:24:56,670 --> 00:24:57,780 That really doesn't count.

605

00:24:57,780 --> 00:24:59,520 They put me back into kindergarten.

606

00:24:59,520 --> 00:25:01,790 We sang little songs and played games.

607

00:25:01,790 --> 00:25:03,100 And I was really beyond that.

608

00:25:03,100 --> 00:25:05,150 I had started to read.

609

00:25:05,150 --> 00:25:09,360 And when we moved to Des Moines, I went to a small town.

610

00:25:09,360 --> 00:25:12,200

We were 11 children

in the class.

611 00:25:12,200 --> 00:25:14,500 And I think because of that, I was

612 00:25:14,500 --> 00:25:18,580 the best reader in the class, and I was already a step ahead

613 00:25:18,580 --> 00:25:19,240 of--

614 00:25:19,240 --> 00:25:19,870 The other kids.

615 00:25:19,870 --> 00:25:20,920 --some of the kids.

616 00:25:20,920 --> 00:25:24,340 And I think I learned English immediately.

617 00:25:24,340 --> 00:25:26,710 Well, how interesting because here you are,

618 00:25:26,710 --> 00:25:28,550 a child from a different language.

619 00:25:28,550 --> 00:25:31,810 And usually, kids adjusted because they're kids,

620 00:25:31,810 --> 00:25:33,740 but they do struggle in the beginning.

621 00:25:33,740 --> 00:25:34,960 And you didn't have that?

622 00:25:34,960 --> 00:25:36,130 I don't remember that.

623

00:25:36,130 --> 00:25:37,000 Really, I don't.

624

 $00:25:37,000 \longrightarrow 00:25:38,330$

Not at all.

625

00:25:38,330 --> 00:25:39,530

Not at all.

626

00:25:39,530 --> 00:25:41,710

I made friends, and

I had my girlfriends.

627

00:25:41,710 --> 00:25:46,060

There was one Jewish family on our street, only one.

628

00:25:46,060 --> 00:25:53,300

And the others were probably white Protestant WASPs,

629

00:25:53,300 --> 00:25:54,120

I guess.

630

00:25:54,120 --> 00:25:56,270

Yeah.

631

00:25:56,270 --> 00:25:58,070

When we were

speaking off camera,

632

 $00:25:58,070 \longrightarrow 00:26:02,210$

you did mention that you still

had friends also in Germany

633

00:26:02,210 --> 00:26:02,915

before you left.

634

00:26:02,915 --> 00:26:03,415

One.

635 00:26:03,415 --> 00:26:08,220 One little girl because our parents brought us together.

636 00:26:08,220 --> 00:26:08,970 Tell me about her.

637 00:26:08,970 --> 00:26:11,150 I mean, her name is Ursula.

638 00:26:11,150 --> 00:26:13,820 As far as I know, she's alive and well.

639 00:26:13,820 --> 00:26:16,070 I haven't been in touch with her in about a year

640 00:26:16,070 --> 00:26:17,690 or a year and a half now.

641 00:26:17,690 --> 00:26:20,850 But our parents brought us together.

642 00:26:20,850 --> 00:26:26,060 Her father actually worked for my father at the business

643 00:26:26,060 --> 00:26:27,590 that they were in.

644 00:26:27,590 --> 00:26:32,210 And I have a picture of us together as children.

645 00:26:32,210 --> 00:26:34,340 And after the war, the men were in touch

646 00:26:34,340 --> 00:26:37,527 because of the business dealings and reparations.

647

00:26:37,527 --> 00:26:38,780 And what were they doing--

648

00:26:38,780 --> 00:26:39,390 yeah.

649

00:26:39,390 --> 00:26:40,610 Yeah.

650

00:26:40,610 --> 00:26:44,870 And Ursula was smaller than I was,

651

00:26:44,870 --> 00:26:48,470 and she was learning a little English from the servicemen,

652

00:26:48,470 --> 00:26:50,750 the American soldiers.

653

00:26:50,750 --> 00:26:53,900 So we wrote in English.

654

00:26:53,900 --> 00:26:56,780 And my parents sent her some clothing

655

00:26:56,780 --> 00:27:00,800 that I had outgrown because at that time,

656

00:27:00,800 --> 00:27:02,960 it was right after the war in Germany.

657

00:27:02,960 --> 00:27:05,990

Lost the war, and they were in need.

658

00:27:05,990 --> 00:27:08,060 And that's how strongly my father--

659 00:27:08,060 --> 00:27:10,850 the relationship was between these two--

660 00:27:10,850 --> 00:27:11,480 Families.

661 00:27:11,480 --> 00:27:14,347 --families at the time, or the men at any rate.

662 00:27:14,347 --> 00:27:14,930 Well, tell me.

663 00:27:14,930 --> 00:27:17,533 Why were they in correspondence about the business?

664 00:27:17,533 --> 00:27:18,700 Can you explain that for me?

665 00:27:18,700 --> 00:27:19,200 Yes.

666 00:27:19,200 --> 00:27:25,160 Because my father and his family, who owned the business,

667 00:27:25,160 --> 00:27:29,150 actually, had to give it up because Jews were not allowed

668 00:27:29,150 --> 00:27:31,460 to sell their businesses.

669 00:27:31,460 --> 00:27:35,030 And they had to give up the business and come here, 670 00:27:35,030 --> 00:27:38,100 and had no gain for it whatsoever.

671 00:27:38,100 --> 00:27:42,330 And the business, apparently, was still intact after the war.

672 00:27:42,330 --> 00:27:43,790 Edelhuth and Oppenheim.

673 00:27:43,790 --> 00:27:44,290 Edelmuth.

674 00:27:44,290 --> 00:27:45,248 Edelmuth and Oppenheim.

675 00:27:45,248 --> 00:27:45,950 Edelmuth.

676 00:27:45,950 --> 00:27:47,180 Correct, correct.

677
00:27:47,180 --> 00:27:49,470
But that was the name of the business.

678 00:27:49,470 --> 00:27:53,240 And I think it changed later.

679 00:27:53,240 --> 00:27:55,580 They may have sold it, whatever happened.

680 00:27:55,580 --> 00:27:59,370 And I think they even asked if my father and my uncle--

681 00:27:59,370 --> 00:28:01,880 and I'm sure the cousins who were really

00:28:01,880 --> 00:28:04,970 the primary owners because they were the scientists who

683

00:28:04,970 --> 00:28:06,830 manufactured the soap.

684

00:28:06,830 --> 00:28:10,460 I think they even asked if they wanted to come back and run

685

00:28:10,460 --> 00:28:11,510 the business again.

686

00:28:11,510 --> 00:28:13,280 And of course, they wouldn't go back.

687

00:28:13,280 --> 00:28:15,950 I mean, my parents would never have gone back.

688

00:28:15,950 --> 00:28:19,400 And I can't speak for the others,

689

00:28:19,400 --> 00:28:21,620 but they would never have gone back.

690

00:28:21,620 --> 00:28:25,430 But that was basically the contact after the war.

691

00:28:25,430 --> 00:28:31,160 And Ursula and I continued as pen pals after.

692

00:28:31,160 --> 00:28:35,060 That's quite amazing, for very few people really

693

00:28:35,060 --> 00:28:36,920 maintain relationships with someone

694 00:28:36,920 --> 00:28:39,620 they knew when they were six years old

695 00:28:39,620 --> 00:28:41,930 or younger throughout their lives.

696 00:28:41,930 --> 00:28:45,230 But it was only because through our fathers

697 00:28:45,230 --> 00:28:47,630 that the relationship continued.

698 00:28:47,630 --> 00:28:50,250 And we did meet a few times.

699 00:28:50,250 --> 00:28:53,450 And as I told you, Freddy, my late husband and I,

700 00:28:53,450 --> 00:28:54,860 were in Vienna.

701 00:28:54,860 --> 00:28:58,010 And, well, it doesn't seem that long ago,

702 00:28:58,010 --> 00:29:00,320 but it was 15, 16 years ago.

703 00:29:00,320 --> 00:29:04,670 And I did contact Ursula, that we were going to be in Vienna,

704 00:29:04,670 --> 00:29:11,160 and she and her friend came and spend a few days there 705 00:29:11,160 --> 00:29:12,380 to meet with us.

706 00:29:12,380 --> 00:29:12,880 Yes.

707 00:29:12,880 --> 00:29:17,370

708 00:29:17,370 --> 00:29:19,420 When you were growing up--

709 00:29:19,420 --> 00:29:21,600 well, no, let me go back to the question I had.

710 00:29:21,600 --> 00:29:22,100 OK.

711 00:29:22,100 --> 00:29:25,700 Which is, when you met 15, 16 years ago,

712 00:29:25,700 --> 00:29:29,762 that would have been late 1990s, early 2000s in Vienna.

713 00:29:29,762 --> 00:29:30,490 Correct.

714 00:29:30,490 --> 00:29:31,740 That is correct.

715 00:29:31,740 --> 00:29:34,890 And you had maintained a contact with Ursula

716 00:29:34,890 --> 00:29:36,090 through all those years. 00:29:36,090 --> 00:29:36,910 Mm-hmm.

718

00:29:36,910 --> 00:29:39,630 Did you ever discuss the difficult topics with her?

719

 $00:29:39,630 \longrightarrow 00:29:41,400$ No, no.

720

00:29:41,400 --> 00:29:42,030

721

00:29:42,030 --> 00:29:44,880 In fact, when she came in the--

722

00:29:44,880 --> 00:29:47,370 well, it was when Herb Alpert was popular.

723

00:29:47,370 --> 00:29:48,360 I don't remember.

724

00:29:48,360 --> 00:29:49,890 And his Tijuana band.

725

00:29:49,890 --> 00:29:50,850 I don't remember what.

726

00:29:50,850 --> 00:29:52,288 It was in the 1960s.

727

00:29:52,288 --> 00:29:53,538 So she had come to the States?

728

 $00:29:53,538 \longrightarrow 00:29:54,510$ And she came alone.

729

00:29:54,510 --> 00:29:58,680 I picked her up at that time at JFK Airport.

00:29:58,680 --> 00:30:01,500 We lived in upper Manhattan at that time.

731

00:30:01,500 --> 00:30:02,790 We lived in the city.

732

00:30:02,790 --> 00:30:05,490 My children were born in New York City.

733

00:30:05,490 --> 00:30:06,990 And we still lived there.

734

00:30:06,990 --> 00:30:10,890 And she came, and she spent a few days with us.

735

00:30:10,890 --> 00:30:17,340 And at that time, I took her to my mother's apartment.

736

00:30:17,340 --> 00:30:19,230 My mother was on vacation.

737

00:30:19,230 --> 00:30:22,380 But I took her to the apartment because I checked on it.

738

00:30:22,380 --> 00:30:26,100 And she saw some little tchotchkes, I would say,

739

00:30:26,100 --> 00:30:31,350 and figurines or something in my mother's living room.

740

00:30:31,350 --> 00:30:32,850 And she said, "Oh."

741

00:30:32,850 --> 00:30:36,540 She said, "I thought your

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mother lost all her belongings

742

00:30:36,540 --> 00:30:38,400 from Germany?"

743

00:30:38,400 --> 00:30:40,800 And I was taken aback that she would even

744

00:30:40,800 --> 00:30:42,340 pay attention to that.

745

00:30:42,340 --> 00:30:45,090 And I said, "My parents lost everything."

746

00:30:45,090 --> 00:30:49,830 I said, "People, friends and relatives gave them items

747

00:30:49,830 --> 00:30:50,900 but we came here."

748

00:30:50,900 --> 00:30:51,900 And that was the extent?

749

00:30:51,900 --> 00:30:54,390 And that was the end of it, but it gave me

750

00:30:54,390 --> 00:30:57,960 food for thought, that this is what she still--

751

00:30:57,960 --> 00:31:01,830 there was something there that--

752

00:31:01,830 --> 00:31:04,020 So she had done her thinking about it,

753

00:31:04,020 --> 00:31:06,330

and you've done your thinking about it,

754

00:31:06,330 --> 00:31:09,107 but that's something that comes out?

755

00:31:09,107 --> 00:31:09,607 Mm.

756

00:31:09,607 --> 00:31:14,210 But then there's no elaboration on it?

757

00:31:14,210 --> 00:31:15,000 No, no.

758

00:31:15,000 --> 00:31:16,830 I didn't want to--

759

00:31:16,830 --> 00:31:18,670 and she didn't say anything more.

760

00:31:18,670 --> 00:31:21,450 But that was the only thing, that there

761

00:31:21,450 --> 00:31:24,720 was any even what I would consider political thought

762

00:31:24,720 --> 00:31:26,400 or anything like that.

763

00:31:26,400 --> 00:31:27,150

Yeah.

764 00:31:27,150 --> 00:31:28,710 Yeah.

765

00:31:28,710 --> 00:31:33,780

OK, so let's go back to your childhood there in Frankfurt.

766

00:31:33,780 --> 00:31:35,050

You're a little child.

767

00:31:35,050 --> 00:31:35,550

Correct.

768

00:31:35,550 --> 00:31:38,760

And the question I'm going to ask now is, in some ways,

769

 $00:31:38,760 \longrightarrow 00:31:41,820$

not fair, but I want

to ask it anyway.

770

00:31:41,820 --> 00:31:45,780

As a little child,

some children will

771

00:31:45,780 --> 00:31:48,360

feel what's in the atmosphere.

772

00:31:48,360 --> 00:31:50,580

Usually they're a

little older, that they

773

00:31:50,580 --> 00:31:54,210

know that there are things going on outside of the house that

774

00:31:54,210 --> 00:31:56,250

are maybe not so great.

775

00:31:56,250 --> 00:31:57,625

I wonder whether or not you did?

776

00:31:57,625 --> 00:31:58,125

No.

777

00:31:58,125 --> 00:31:59,705

You picked up on any kind of tension?

778

00:31:59,705 --> 00:32:00,205

No.

779

00:32:00,205 --> 00:32:01,660

Any nervousness?

780

00:32:01,660 --> 00:32:03,220

No.

781

00:32:03,220 --> 00:32:03,860

No.

782

00:32:03,860 --> 00:32:04,860

I knew.

783

00:32:04,860 --> 00:32:09,240

I was with my parents, and they spoke above me and around me,

spoke above me and around me,

784

00:32:09,240 --> 00:32:10,260

not to me.

785

00:32:10,260 --> 00:32:14,650

I didn't hear

anything like that.

786

00:32:14,650 --> 00:32:16,080

So I really didn't.

787

 $00:32:16,080 \longrightarrow 00:32:17,250$

I was not aware.

788

00:32:17,250 --> 00:32:18,330

And I always say this.

789

00:32:18,330 --> 00:32:24,480

Even in the United States,

I really wasn't aware.

00:32:24,480 --> 00:32:25,470

I was very naive.

791

00:32:25,470 --> 00:32:28,050

Maybe I was naive,

maybe I was just young.

792

00:32:28,050 --> 00:32:28,890

Or protected?

793

00:32:28,890 --> 00:32:31,620

And very protected.

794

 $00:32:31,620 \longrightarrow 00:32:37,620$

And I know that when we moved to

Des Moines, the first apartment

795

 $00:32:37,620 \longrightarrow 00:32:40,830$

they took us, the people

from the synagogue

796

 $00:32:40,830 \longrightarrow 00:32:43,740$

or from the organization, it wasn't really an apartment.

797

00:32:43,740 --> 00:32:45,630

It was a house in a

Jewish neighborhood.

798

00:32:45,630 --> 00:32:47,940

And we had a room, a bedroom.

799

 $00:32:47,940 \longrightarrow 00:32:51,240$

And my mother was supposed

to share the kitchen

800

 $00:32:51,240 \longrightarrow 00:32:53,730$

with the woman who

owned the house.

801

00:32:53,730 --> 00:32:58,350

And for one thing, that was not

for her, to share a kitchen.

802

00:32:58,350 --> 00:33:02,400 And secondly, they had chickens running into the house,

803

00:33:02,400 --> 00:33:04,320 out, in and out of the house.

804

00:33:04,320 --> 00:33:07,860 And they contacted the organization, and my father--

805

00:33:07,860 --> 00:33:10,240 and it was the first time I saw my mother cry.

806

00:33:10,240 --> 00:33:10,740 Really?

807

00:33:10,740 --> 00:33:11,730 She did.

808

00:33:11,730 --> 00:33:14,580 This really was like, she couldn't deal with this,

809

00:33:14,580 --> 00:33:15,870 living this way.

810

00:33:15,870 --> 00:33:19,260 And my father called and said, we can't stay here.

811

00:33:19,260 --> 00:33:24,510 The people are very nice, but we can't live this way.

812

00:33:24,510 --> 00:33:27,030 And it's the first time I remember actually

813

00:33:27,030 --> 00:33:28,830 seeing my mother cry.

814

00:33:28,830 --> 00:33:33,180 So up until that point, you hadn't seen any signs

815

00:33:33,180 --> 00:33:36,220 that she was paying a psychological price--

816

00:33:36,220 --> 00:33:36,720 Correct.

817

00:33:36,720 --> 00:33:38,595 --for all of these changes?

818

00:33:38,595 --> 00:33:39,970 Correct, correct.

819

00:33:39,970 --> 00:33:40,470 Yeah.

820

00:33:40,470 --> 00:33:44,200

821

00:33:44,200 --> 00:33:46,890 You said you were born just about when

822

823

00:33:46,890 --> 00:33:48,000 Hitler came to power.

00:33:48,000 --> 00:33:50,700 1932, right.

824

00:33:50,700 --> 00:33:51,420 Just before.

825

00:33:51,420 --> 00:33:54,960

Just before, I think

'33 was-- yeah.

826 00:33:54,960 --> 00:33:59,400 And we talked earlier that your parents saw the writing

827 00:33:59,400 --> 00:34:02,430 on the wall very early on.

828 00:34:02,430 --> 00:34:06,630 From what they told you later, can you

829 00:34:06,630 --> 00:34:11,130 describe how they were thinking, and the plans they were making,

830 00:34:11,130 --> 00:34:13,650 and how it is that you left?

831 00:34:13,650 --> 00:34:16,739 OK, I believe my mother was the first one

832 00:34:16,739 --> 00:34:19,590 to say we have to leave.

833 00:34:19,590 --> 00:34:22,469 This is hearsay because I don't remember it.

834 00:34:22,469 --> 00:34:25,650 I know it from what they have said.

835 00:34:25,650 --> 00:34:28,770 My father said, no one will believe this man.

836 00:34:28,770 --> 00:34:29,520 He's crazy.

837 00:34:29,520 --> 00:34:30,750 No one will believe him.

838

00:34:30,750 --> 00:34:31,920 He's a maniac.

839

00:34:31,920 --> 00:34:33,120 Who would listen to this?

840

00:34:33,120 --> 00:34:34,170 And who would--

841

00:34:34,170 --> 00:34:35,489 So he didn't feel any danger?

842

00:34:35,489 --> 00:34:36,989 Not at the beginning.

843

00:34:36,989 --> 00:34:38,250 Not at first.

844

00:34:38,250 --> 00:34:41,469 And then gradually, as Jews weren't allowed here, or there,

845

00:34:41,469 --> 00:34:43,710 or anywhere, you know, the Nazi flags.

846

00:34:43,710 --> 00:34:46,739 I have a picture of myself as a small child with my mother,

847

00:34:46,739 --> 00:34:50,400 and you can see a flag from a balcony in the background.

848

00:34:50,400 --> 00:34:53,790 And all these things happened.

849

00:34:53,790 --> 00:34:59,250 And then my father's brother, younger brother,

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850 00:34:59,250 --> 00:35:01,240 was a physician in Manhattan.

851 00:35:01,240 --> 00:35:01,740 Right.

852 00:35:01,740 --> 00:35:02,490 You mentioned him.

853 00:35:02,490 --> 00:35:03,750 I mentioned him.

854 00:35:03,750 --> 00:35:06,660 And he had gotten a job in Mount Sinai

855 00:35:06,660 --> 00:35:09,990 Hospital in the late 1920s already

856 00:35:09,990 --> 00:35:14,070 and felt Germany was not the place for him to stay,

857 00:35:14,070 --> 00:35:16,230 that he had no future there.

858 00:35:16,230 --> 00:35:18,480 Well, I guess they had this inflation.

859 00:35:18,480 --> 00:35:22,090 They had problems that actually led to the Nazi power.

860 00:35:22,090 --> 00:35:22,590 Right.

861 00:35:22,590 --> 00:35:23,730 Economic problems. 862

00:35:23,730 --> 00:35:25,230 Correct, correct.

863

00:35:25,230 --> 00:35:29,115 So my uncle Gustav

came to America

864

00:35:29,115 --> 00:35:31,950

and married an

American girl, worked

865

00:35:31,950 --> 00:35:34,740

as a doctor at Mount

Sinai Hospital,

866

00:35:34,740 --> 00:35:36,810

and moved to upper Manhattan.

867

00:35:36,810 --> 00:35:40,110

He started out as a

pediatrician and then worked

868

00:35:40,110 --> 00:35:43,200

as a general practitioner

as well because

869

00:35:43,200 --> 00:35:46,090

of the Depression and the need.

870

00:35:46,090 --> 00:35:48,840

And so he was instrumental.

871

 $00:35:48,840 \longrightarrow 00:35:50,970$

They contacted him, I guess.

872

 $00:35:50,970 \longrightarrow 00:35:54,810$

And he was instrumental in bringing his siblings.

873

00:35:54,810 --> 00:35:58,410

I mean, some were

already in America.

874 00:35:58,410 --> 00:36:01,590 My one uncle came and worked for the St. Louis World's Fair

875 00:36:01,590 --> 00:36:03,360 in 1904.

876 00:36:03,360 --> 00:36:04,740 Wow.

877 00:36:04,740 --> 00:36:10,230 But that's how he got the--

878 00:36:10,230 --> 00:36:15,450 Well, I've had discussions with other people who

879 00:36:15,450 --> 00:36:18,690 left Germany in the '30s, and not everyone

880 00:36:18,690 --> 00:36:20,190 had a relative to sponsor them.

881 00:36:20,190 --> 00:36:20,850 That's correct.

882 00:36:20,850 --> 00:36:23,490 And when they didn't have a relative to sponsor them,

883 00:36:23,490 --> 00:36:25,260 then they had great difficulties.

884 00:36:25,260 --> 00:36:26,640 That's correct.

885 00:36:26,640 --> 00:36:29,170 And also, my mother had many cousins. 886 00:36:29,170 --> 00:36:31,380 They had family-- the diaspora.

887 00:36:31,380 --> 00:36:32,850 They went all over the world.

888 00:36:32,850 --> 00:36:36,810 South America, Africa, South Africa.

889 00:36:36,810 --> 00:36:39,060 So there would have been people had it

890 00:36:39,060 --> 00:36:41,920 not been for your uncle, your father's brother?

891 00:36:41,920 --> 00:36:42,420 Correct.

892 00:36:42,420 --> 00:36:43,837 There would have been other people

893 00:36:43,837 --> 00:36:46,620 that they would have approached, too, in time.

894 00:36:46,620 --> 00:36:48,345 Either people they would have--

895 00:36:48,345 --> 00:36:50,400 now, my grandmother, my mother's mother,

896 00:36:50,400 --> 00:36:51,780 was not able to leave Germany.

897 00:36:51,780 --> 00:36:52,650 Why not? 898 00:36:52,650 --> 00:36:56,130 Because she had a brother who was very well-to-do who

899 00:36:56,130 --> 00:36:58,320 lived in New York City.

900 00:36:58,320 --> 00:37:00,930 But by the time that he realized the importance

901 00:37:00,930 --> 00:37:05,250 of trying to help his siblings, they were given numbers.

902 00:37:05,250 --> 00:37:07,740 He sponsored them, but they had numbers,

903 00:37:07,740 --> 00:37:10,260 and their number had not been reached.

904 00:37:10,260 --> 00:37:12,570 And my grandmother and her sister

905 00:37:12,570 --> 00:37:14,010 were two of those people.

906 00:37:14,010 --> 00:37:18,940 He got his brothers out, but he hadn't been able--

907 00:37:18,940 --> 00:37:20,440 they just never made it.

908 00:37:20,440 --> 00:37:25,960 And my uncle, my mother's older brother, who was in America,

909

00:37:25,960 --> 00:37:30,370 had even paid someone to try to get his mother to Cuba

910 00:37:30,370 --> 00:37:33,880 because a number of refugees were able to go

911 00:37:33,880 --> 00:37:35,770 to Cuba at that time.

912 00:37:35,770 --> 00:37:38,720 And the man absconded with the money.

913 00:37:38,720 --> 00:37:41,230 I mean, my uncle--

914 00:37:41,230 --> 00:37:43,780 I'm sure, a lot of things like that happened.

915 00:37:43,780 --> 00:37:46,000 And so my grandmother tried.

916 00:37:46,000 --> 00:37:47,140 She waited on lines.

917 00:37:47,140 --> 00:37:50,020 I have letters that she wrote, and I had them translated,

918 00:37:50,020 --> 00:37:51,040 in fact.

919 00:37:51,040 --> 00:37:53,750 And she didn't get out.

920 00:37:53,750 --> 00:37:54,550 And--

921 00:37:54,550 --> 00:37:55,670 What happened to her?

922

00:37:55,670 --> 00:37:56,830 She perished.

923

00:37:56,830 --> 00:38:00,190 She was in Thereisenstadt.

924

00:38:00,190 --> 00:38:03,160 And from there, they loaded some of the older people

925

00:38:03,160 --> 00:38:04,990 onto the death trains.

926

00:38:04,990 --> 00:38:07,810 And I think her sister and brother-in-law,

927

00:38:07,810 --> 00:38:09,670 they were together, her sister, who

928

00:38:09,670 --> 00:38:11,960 was a year older than she was.

929

00:38:11,960 --> 00:38:16,810 And she didn't want her sister to go without her.

930

00:38:16,810 --> 00:38:19,720 I don't think she was one, and went with her thinking

931

00:38:19,720 --> 00:38:20,830 they were going to--

932

00:38:20,830 --> 00:38:24,050 I don't know where, and that was the end.

933

00:38:24,050 --> 00:38:26,500

So they took them to Auschwitz, as far as you know?

934

00:38:26,500 --> 00:38:27,940 As far as I know.

935

00:38:27,940 --> 00:38:29,470 And I think this is hearsay.

936

00:38:29,470 --> 00:38:31,450 They never even made it to Auschwitz.

937

00:38:31,450 --> 00:38:33,940 They didn't survive the trains.

938

00:38:33,940 --> 00:38:35,840 They packed them.

939

00:38:35,840 --> 00:38:37,870 Yeah, there were many elderly people who--

940

00:38:37,870 --> 00:38:38,370 Yeah.

941

00:38:38,370 --> 00:38:39,340 Yeah.

942

00:38:39,340 --> 00:38:43,850 So it's a very sad ending for these people.

943

00:38:43,850 --> 00:38:45,880 Yeah, and for your mom.

944

00:38:45,880 --> 00:38:46,970 And for my mom.

945

00:38:46,970 --> 00:38:51,340 And I have a letter that I

wrote to my grandmother saying,

946 00:38:51,340 --> 00:38:54,070 Dear [NON-ENGLISH],, I hope I see you soon,

947

00:38:54,070 --> 00:38:55,880 something to that effect.

948

00:38:55,880 --> 00:38:57,670 And because some of her belongings

949

00:38:57,670 --> 00:39:01,540 were sent back to us--

950

00:39:01,540 --> 00:39:05,560 she lived in Berlin at the end of her life in Germany, she,

951 00:39:05,560 --> 00:39:07,360 and her sister, and brother-in-law,

952 00:39:07,360 --> 00:39:11,200 and my aunt who had converted to Judaism

953 00:39:11,200 --> 00:39:13,060 who had not been Jewish, her mother

954 00:39:13,060 --> 00:39:15,310 lived in Berlin, her parents.

955 00:39:15,310 --> 00:39:18,280 And she tried to help my grandmother.

956 00:39:18,280 --> 00:39:21,640 She would bring them some potatoes and whatever she 00:39:21,640 --> 00:39:23,350 could get into her pocketbook.

958

00:39:23,350 --> 00:39:27,400 And also, took some belongings and hid them

959

00:39:27,400 --> 00:39:31,990 so that some of those things came back to my family.

960

00:39:31,990 --> 00:39:34,523 So this aunt was who to you?

961

00:39:34,523 --> 00:39:35,440 And what relationship?

962

00:39:35,440 --> 00:39:38,420 My Aunt Hertha who converted to Judaism,

963

00:39:38,420 --> 00:39:39,760 whose mother was there?

964

00:39:39,760 --> 00:39:43,990 That was my uncle, my mother's older brother, Frederick.

965

00:39:43,990 --> 00:39:44,590 His wife?

966

00:39:44,590 --> 00:39:45,220 Greenwood.

967

00:39:45,220 --> 00:39:46,150 His wife.

968

00:39:46,150 --> 00:39:47,020

I see.

969

00:39:47,020 --> 00:39:49,090

His wife.

970 00:39:49,090 --> 00:39:53,140 They had one daughter, my cousin Ruth, who I adored,

971 00:39:53,140 --> 00:39:55,430 was about five years older than I was.

972 00:39:55,430 --> 00:39:55,930 Yeah.

973 00:39:55,930 --> 00:40:00,450 And what happened to him, your uncle Greenwood?

974 00:40:00,450 --> 00:40:02,070 Greenwood lived in New York City.

975 00:40:02,070 --> 00:40:02,790 They had come.

976 00:40:02,790 --> 00:40:07,170 He was the one who tried to get my mother into Cuba,

977 00:40:07,170 --> 00:40:08,070 but couldn't.

978 00:40:08,070 --> 00:40:10,140 Your mother your grandmother?

979 00:40:10,140 --> 00:40:11,680 My grandmother.

980 00:40:11,680 --> 00:40:12,644 My mother's mother.

981 00:40:12,644 --> 00:40:14,811 Yeah, it's getting a little bit-- that was my uncle. 982

00:40:14,811 --> 00:40:16,480 And his wife stayed in Germany?

983

00:40:16,480 --> 00:40:17,220

No, no, no.

984

00:40:17,220 --> 00:40:19,050

Her mother.

985

00:40:19,050 --> 00:40:21,190

His wife's mother stayed in Germany?

986

00:40:21,190 --> 00:40:21,690

Right.

987

00:40:21,690 --> 00:40:23,190

And he tried to write.

988

00:40:23,190 --> 00:40:23,690

Correct.

989

 $00:40:23,690 \longrightarrow 00:40:24,730$

She helped.

990

00:40:24,730 --> 00:40:28,260

My mother had two

brothers, and the older one

991

 $00:40:28,260 \longrightarrow 00:40:29,730$

lived in New York City.

992

 $00:40:29,730 \longrightarrow 00:40:31,200$

OK, with his German wife?

993

 $00:40:31,200 \longrightarrow 00:40:32,670$

With his German wife--

994

 $00:40:32,670 \longrightarrow 00:40:33,450$

Who had converted.

995 $00:40:33,450 \longrightarrow 00:40:36,520$ --who had converted and came with him.

996

00:40:36,520 --> 00:40:39,360 And there were several members of the family who

997

00:40:39,360 --> 00:40:42,960 had were intermarried not racially,

998

00:40:42,960 --> 00:40:45,060 as far as religion was concerned.

999

00:40:45,060 --> 00:40:46,800 And the wives all came with them.

1000

 $00:40:46,800 \longrightarrow 00:40:49,230$ The wives all stayed with their--

1001

 $00:40:49,230 \longrightarrow 00:40:49,740$ Husbands.

1002 00:40:49,740 --> 00:40:50,240 Husbands.

1003

00:40:50,240 --> 00:40:50,887 OK.

1004

 $00:40:50,887 \longrightarrow 00:40:52,350$ Mm-hmm.

1005

00:40:52,350 --> 00:40:56,160 And the mother of your uncle's wife

1006

00:40:56,160 --> 00:40:58,660

is the one who helped your grandmother--

1007

00:40:58,660 --> 00:40:59,160 Correct.

1008

00:40:59,160 --> 00:40:59,740 --in Berlin.

1009

00:40:59,740 --> 00:41:00,240

Correct.

1010

00:41:00,240 --> 00:41:03,750 And then after the war, whatever few belongings that were,

1011

00:41:03,750 --> 00:41:04,740 sent them to you.

1012

00:41:04,740 --> 00:41:09,240 Yeah, well, she had, I think, died during the war but sent,

1013

00:41:09,240 --> 00:41:10,092

somehow--

1014

 $00:41:10,092 \longrightarrow 00:41:11,550$

I think there was another daughter.

1015

00:41:11,550 --> 00:41:14,250

My Aunt Hertha had a

sister who was in Germany

1016

00:41:14,250 --> 00:41:17,130

and survived the war and had some belongings,

1017

00:41:17,130 --> 00:41:22,230 and sent them not to us but to

her sister, to my Aunt Hertha.

1018

00:41:22,230 --> 00:41:28,050 And then Aunt Hertha gave whatever was from my mother.

1019

00:41:28,050 --> 00:41:30,930 Do you do you recall when your mother found out

1020

00:41:30,930 --> 00:41:32,550 about her own mother?

1021

00:41:32,550 --> 00:41:34,150 Yeah, it was very disturbing.

1022

00:41:34,150 --> 00:41:34,650 Yeah.

1023

00:41:34,650 --> 00:41:36,690 Were you in Iowa then?

1024

00:41:36,690 --> 00:41:38,760 No, we were back in New York City.

1025

00:41:38,760 --> 00:41:40,890 How did she find out?

1026

00:41:40,890 --> 00:41:43,620 Through a friend of my grandmother's

1027

00:41:43,620 --> 00:41:47,220 who survived the camps and the war,

1028

00:41:47,220 --> 00:41:49,770 who went back to Bielefeld.

1029

00:41:49,770 --> 00:41:51,660 And that bothered my mother terribly,

1030

00:41:51,660 --> 00:41:54,510 that some of her friends, my grandmother's friends,

1031 00:41:54,510 --> 00:41:56,760 survived and went back.

1032 00:41:56,

00:41:56,760 --> 00:41:59,640 And they went back to Germany because they had no place else

1033

00:41:59,640 --> 00:42:01,560 to go at that time.

1034

00:42:01,560 --> 00:42:04,830 And there was contact between my mother,

1035

00:42:04,830 --> 00:42:07,860 and my uncle, and my two uncles.

1036

00:42:07,860 --> 00:42:09,240 Yeah.

1037

00:42:09,240 --> 00:42:12,940 And they had the information.

1038

00:42:12,940 --> 00:42:16,127 I see, I see.

1039

00:42:16,127 --> 00:42:17,210 That must have been tough.

1040

00:42:17,210 --> 00:42:18,890 And we always thought my grandmother

1041

00:42:18,890 --> 00:42:22,100 would come after the war, and this is what I was told.

1042

00:42:22,100 --> 00:42:24,680

When she comes, she'll live with us.

1043

00:42:24,680 --> 00:42:26,995 It was always that

optimism because--

1044

00:42:26,995 --> 00:42:30,410 You had no contact, but you didn't know what had happened?

1045

00:42:30,410 --> 00:42:30,950

Exactly.

1046

00:42:30,950 --> 00:42:32,270

I was just going to say that.

1047

 $00:42:32,270 \longrightarrow 00:42:33,530$

Nobody was aware.

1048

00:42:33,530 --> 00:42:36,830

I mean, nobody here

was aware of the camps

1049

00:42:36,830 --> 00:42:38,750

and what was going on.

1050

 $00:42:38,750 \longrightarrow 00:42:40,070$

Europeans were aware.

1051

 $00:42:40,070 \longrightarrow 00:42:41,910$

The people around there, but--

1052

 $00:42:41,910 \longrightarrow 00:42:42,410$

Yeah.

1053

00:42:42,410 --> 00:42:45,320

1054

 $00:42:45,320 \longrightarrow 00:42:49,100$

So your father's brother

is able to sponsor you.

1055 00:42:49,100 --> 00:42:50,060 Correct.

1056 00:42:50,060 --> 00:42:52,430 How did your parents leave?

1057 00:42:52,430 --> 00:42:54,620 Do you remember leaving Germany itself?

1058 00:42:54,620 --> 00:42:56,418 Mm-hmm, I do.

1059 00:42:56,418 --> 00:42:57,335 Tell me what happened.

1060 00:42:57,335 --> 00:42:59,810 They said I cried and screamed on the ship when

1061 00:42:59,810 --> 00:43:03,590 I waved goodbye to my uncle, to whoever was still down there.

1062 00:43:03,590 --> 00:43:05,420 And people thought I was leaving my--

1063 00:43:05,420 --> 00:43:10,340 I was with my parents, and people who were around said,

1064 00:43:10,340 --> 00:43:11,790 are those her parents down there?

1065 00:43:11,790 --> 00:43:14,600 Are you taking her away from her parents?

1066 00:43:14,600 --> 00:43:18,360 Yeah, so I think that frightened me, maybe.

1067 00:43:18,360 --> 00:43:18,860 Yeah.

1068 00:43:18,860 --> 00:43:20,475 But you don't remember, let's say,

1069 00:43:20,475 --> 00:43:22,100 the last time you were in the apartment

1070 00:43:22,100 --> 00:43:25,430 and as you leave the apartment, and get to the get to ship,

1071 00:43:25,430 --> 00:43:26,050 and so on?

1072 00:43:26,050 --> 00:43:28,310 No, I just remember that.

1073 00:43:28,310 --> 00:43:32,090 And I also remember my parents finding out

1074 00:43:32,090 --> 00:43:36,170 that Kristallnacht-- we were already in the United States.

1075 00:43:36,170 --> 00:43:40,100 And neighbors if someone wrote to my parents

1076 00:43:40,100 --> 00:43:43,250 that the Nazis came for my father because their records

1077 00:43:43,250 --> 00:43:45,110 weren't quite up to date because it was 1078 00:43:45,110 --> 00:43:47,450 only a few weeks after we left.

1079 00:43:47,450 --> 00:43:51,590 And they broke in, and the apartment was empty.

1080 00:43:51,590 --> 00:43:58,100 Now, you mentioned earlier that your parents had left--

1081 00:43:58,100 --> 00:44:00,275 lost all of their items, everything.

1082 00:44:00,275 --> 00:44:02,630 Everything, everything.

1083 00:44:02,630 --> 00:44:08,100 Some people that I've talked to would say to me, surprisingly,

1084 00:44:08,100 --> 00:44:10,940 when we were leaving Germany, as difficult

1085 00:44:10,940 --> 00:44:15,650 as the Nazi authorities made it for us to leave,

1086 00:44:15,650 --> 00:44:18,050 they allowed us to ship our goods.

1087 00:44:18,050 --> 00:44:20,930 They allowed us to ship our goods to the United States.

1088 00:44:20,930 --> 00:44:21,777 That's true.

1089

00:44:21,777 --> 00:44:23,360 Our goods were supposed to be shipped.

1090 00:44:23,360 --> 00:44:24,710 I have the packing slips.

1091 00:44:24,710 --> 00:44:26,150 They never came.

1092 00:44:26,150 --> 00:44:26,870 Really?

1093 00:44:26,870 --> 00:44:27,560 Mm-hmm.

1094 00:44:27,560 --> 00:44:32,460 So they were supposed to leave after you did, the goods?

1095 00:44:32,460 --> 00:44:35,750 I think even before.

1096 00:44:35,750 --> 00:44:40,010 I have pages and pages on onionskin paper,

1097 00:44:40,010 --> 00:44:43,580 typed pages of all their belongings.

1098 00:44:43,580 --> 00:44:47,150 Furniture, Persian rugs, crystals, artwork, books,

1099 00:44:47,150 --> 00:44:47,750 everything.

1100 00:44:47,750 --> 00:44:48,680 An inventory?

1101 00:44:48,680 --> 00:44:50,120 An inventory.

1102

00:44:50,120 --> 00:44:51,740 It was packed.

1103

00:44:51,740 --> 00:44:52,940 It was taken.

1104

00:44:52,940 --> 00:44:55,280 My mother bought a lot of new things

1105

00:44:55,280 --> 00:44:57,200 because they thought they could sell them

1106

00:44:57,200 --> 00:45:01,230 here so that they would have something to live on.

1107

00:45:01,230 --> 00:45:04,190 And it never came, and my mother waited.

1108

00:45:04,190 --> 00:45:06,130 And when we were in Des Moines, they waited,

1109

00:45:06,130 --> 00:45:07,520 and they came back.

1110

00:45:07,520 --> 00:45:11,180 And then they were informed after the war

1111

00:45:11,180 --> 00:45:15,290 that they were destroyed by the American bombers or something.

1112

00:45:15,290 --> 00:45:17,990 Well, that's nonsense because they should have been sent long

1113

00:45:17,990 --> 00:45:21,020 before that, so that was--

1114

00:45:21,020 --> 00:45:24,020 OK, so it was all lost?

1115

00:45:24,020 --> 00:45:26,360 It was all lost, everything.

1116

00:45:26,360 --> 00:45:29,210 And everything my parents had, linens,

1117

00:45:29,210 --> 00:45:34,880 furniture, dishes, everything was given to them by relatives,

1118

00:45:34,880 --> 00:45:38,720 and even the pictures, the photographs because my parents

1119

00:45:38,720 --> 00:45:41,300 were so happy that they had a baby.

1120

00:45:41,300 --> 00:45:44,110 And they sent pictures to everybody--

1121

00:45:44,110 --> 00:45:44,660 Of you?

1122

00:45:44,660 --> 00:45:45,320 Right.

1123

00:45:45,320 --> 00:45:47,450 And they were returned.

1124

00:45:47,450 --> 00:45:48,930 When you were in the United States?

1125 $00:45:48,930 \longrightarrow 00:45:49,430$ Yes.

1126

00:45:49,430 --> 00:45:53,390 That's how you kind of of reconstituted a family history?

1127

 $00:45:53,390 \longrightarrow 00:45:54,480$ Correct.

1128

 $00:45:54,480 \longrightarrow 00:45:55,950$ That's correct.

1129

00:45:55,950 --> 00:45:59,480 And did you take any toys with you

1130

00:45:59,480 --> 00:46:01,685 on the boat when you came over?

1131

00:46:01,685 --> 00:46:03,530 Ah, the doll.

1132

00:46:03,530 --> 00:46:05,090 Yes, I did.

1133

00:46:05,090 --> 00:46:09,750 I had very little, but I had a favorite doll,

1134

00:46:09,750 --> 00:46:10,880 a beautiful doll.

1135

 $00:46:10,880 \longrightarrow 00:46:12,350$ Did she have a name?

1136

00:46:12,350 --> 00:46:16,460 Well, I gave her a name later, but the manufacturer

1137

00:46:16,460 --> 00:46:20,210

was Kathe Kruse, they called it, and they still make dolls.

1138

00:46:20,210 --> 00:46:22,010 It's a business in Germany.

1139

00:46:22,010 --> 00:46:27,230 And I guess a woman named Kathe Kruse started with these dolls.

1140

00:46:27,230 --> 00:46:30,440 And I called her Dorothy, and it might have been

1141

00:46:30,440 --> 00:46:31,880 after I saw The Wizard of Oz.

1142

00:46:31,880 --> 00:46:33,170 I don't remember.

1143

00:46:33,170 --> 00:46:36,320 But my daughter has the doll.

1144

00:46:36,320 --> 00:46:39,980 And I did take pictures of her and the gentleman

1145

00:46:39,980 --> 00:46:43,730 who came from the museum a couple of months

1146

00:46:43,730 --> 00:46:45,260 ago took pictures of the doll.

1147

00:46:45,260 --> 00:46:50,510 I had her here, but I didn't want to donate her yet.

1148

00:46:50,510 --> 00:46:51,810 I understand that.

1149

00:46:51,810 --> 00:46:54,560

I understand that, but tell me about the significance

1150 00:46:54,560 --> 00:46:55,850 of the doll to you.

1151

00:46:55,850 --> 00:46:59,880 How come she, rather than any other toy, came with you?

1152

00:46:59,880 --> 00:47:01,940 Well, first of all, I love dolls.

1153

00:47:01,940 --> 00:47:04,340 If you see pictures of me, they're always

1154

00:47:04,340 --> 00:47:06,170 with dolls and doll carriages.

1155

00:47:06,170 --> 00:47:08,420 It was as though I was born to be a mother.

1156

00:47:08,420 --> 00:47:11,940 That's the way I was brought up, a wife and a mother, you know?

1157

00:47:11,940 --> 00:47:12,440 Right.

1158

00:47:12,440 --> 00:47:16,770 And then this doll--also, my aunt Hertha,

1159

00:47:16,770 --> 00:47:20,640 the aunt I spoke about, was a wonderful seamstress

1160

00:47:20,640 --> 00:47:24,330 and made clothing for the doll, and made the same clothing

1161 00:47:24,330 --> 00:47:28,350 for me, so that I have pictures of myself wearing

1162 00:47:28,350 --> 00:47:32,820 almost the identical dress made of the same fabric as the doll.

1163 00:47:32,820 --> 00:47:35,538 And this is when you were already in the United States

1164 00:47:35,538 --> 00:47:37,080 because she was in the United States.

1165 00:47:37,080 --> 00:47:37,230 No, no.

1166 00:47:37,230 --> 00:47:38,480 No, this was still in Germany?

1167 00:47:38,480 --> 00:47:39,660 Mm-hm.

1168 00:47:39,660 --> 00:47:41,580 Before she left for the US?

1169 00:47:41,580 --> 00:47:42,660 Correct.

1170 00:47:42,660 --> 00:47:46,590 My aunt, and uncle, and cousin came to the United States

1171 00:47:46,590 --> 00:47:47,950 when we were living in Iowa.

1172 00:47:47,950 --> 00:47:50,510

1173

00:47:50,510 --> 00:47:51,990 Oh, they came after.

1174

00:47:51,990 --> 00:47:56,950 They came after we did, and so did some of my other parents'

1175

00:47:56,950 --> 00:48:00,030 siblings, and this is one of the reasons my parents wanted

1176

00:48:00,030 --> 00:48:02,460 to move back to New York City.

1177

00:48:02,460 --> 00:48:03,870 They missed their family.

1178

00:48:03,870 --> 00:48:06,540 Nobody wanted to come to the Midwest.

1179

00:48:06,540 --> 00:48:09,540 It was like the corn and the wheat fields.

1180

00:48:09,540 --> 00:48:14,040 And although we had a nice life there,

1181

00:48:14,040 --> 00:48:16,590 they missed their family and siblings,

1182

00:48:16,590 --> 00:48:18,690 and they wanted me to have family

1183

00:48:18,690 --> 00:48:20,780 if anything happened to them.

1184

00:48:20,780 --> 00:48:23,190

There was no one there.

1185 00:48:23,190 --> 00:48:26,190 And during World War II, the young men

1186 00:48:26,190 --> 00:48:30,780 went into the service, and jobs became available in--

1187 00:48:30,780 --> 00:48:31,440 --in New York.

1188 00:48:31,440 --> 00:48:32,880 --in New York.

1189 00:48:32,880 --> 00:48:37,350 And apartments became available, and so the family

1190 00:48:37,350 --> 00:48:41,280 found an apartment for us in Washington Heights

1191 00:48:41,280 --> 00:48:43,920 that was called Frankfurt on the Hudson, the area.

1192 00:48:43,920 --> 00:48:46,560 I don't know if you've ever heard that expression.

1193 00:48:46,560 --> 00:48:52,790 And so they were with their own people and their family.

1194 00:48:52,790 --> 00:48:56,250 My father was very attached to his siblings.

1195 00:48:56,250 --> 00:48:58,480 So he must have been quite happy to move back? 1196

00:48:58,480 --> 00:48:58,980

Me?

1197

00:48:58,980 --> 00:48:59,280

No.

1198

00:48:59,280 --> 00:49:00,390

No, no, no, your father.

1199

00:49:00,390 --> 00:49:02,700

Oh, my father, yes, absolutely.

1200

00:49:02,700 --> 00:49:05,280

My parents were very

happy to move back

1201

00:49:05,280 --> 00:49:08,080

because they felt that

was where they belonged.

1202

00:49:08,080 --> 00:49:08,910

Yeah.

1203

00:49:08,910 --> 00:49:10,050

And why not you?

1204

00:49:10,050 --> 00:49:11,340

I was very unhappy.

1205

00:49:11,340 --> 00:49:15,300

It took me about

a year to adjust

1206

00:49:15,300 --> 00:49:16,900

because life was so different.

1207

00:49:16,900 --> 00:49:18,930

And I had friends that

I loved, my school,

1208

00:49:18,930 --> 00:49:20,250

and I loved my friends.

1209

 $00:49:20,250 \longrightarrow 00:49:22,140$

And I was content.

1210

 $00:49:22,140 \longrightarrow 00:49:23,760$

How old were you when you moved?

1211

00:49:23,760 --> 00:49:24,750

11.

1212

00:49:24,750 --> 00:49:28,437

Ah, you had already spent

half of your life almost

1213

 $00:49:28,437 \longrightarrow 00:49:29,020$

in Des Moines.

1214

00:49:29,020 --> 00:49:35,800

Correct, and we lived

in a private house.

1215

00:49:35,800 --> 00:49:38,560

We had an upstairs

little apartment,

1216

00:49:38,560 --> 00:49:40,020

but it was a private house.

1217

 $00:49:40,020 \longrightarrow 00:49:43,740$

We had flowers, and

trees, and grass,

1218

00:49:43,740 --> 00:49:46,140

and we lived near

Drake University.

1219

 $00:49:46,140 \longrightarrow 00:49:46,830$

In Des Moines?

1220

00:49:46,830 --> 00:49:48,090

In Des Moines.

1221 00:49:48,090 --> 00:49:51,580 And I took piano lessons at Drake University.

1222

00:49:51,580 --> 00:49:55,110 My parents couldn't buy a piano, but I went there once a week

1223

00:49:55,110 --> 00:49:56,340 because I thought I could--

1224

00:49:56,340 --> 00:49:57,240 I really couldn't.

1225

00:49:57,240 --> 00:50:01,380 I had no talent, but I insisted I could play piano.

1226

00:50:01,380 --> 00:50:07,590 And it was just a comfortable, nice life and nice for a child

1227

00:50:07,590 --> 00:50:10,020 to grow up that way.

1228

00:50:10,020 --> 00:50:11,820 And when we moved to New York City,

1229

00:50:11,820 --> 00:50:16,200 I was suddenly in this huge class of maybe 35 children

1230

00:50:16,200 --> 00:50:19,350 and a teacher who never pronounced my name correctly.

1231

00:50:19,350 --> 00:50:25,030 And it was just concrete, and brick, and an apartment house

00:50:25,030 --> 00:50:27,060 and the different--

1233

00:50:27,060 --> 00:50:29,650 children played differently.

1234

00:50:29,650 --> 00:50:32,890 It takes a while to adjust to--

1235

00:50:32,890 --> 00:50:34,780 Des Moines might be a city, but it's not

1236

00:50:34,780 --> 00:50:39,710 the same scale as New York City, and that makes a difference.

1237

00:50:39,710 --> 00:50:43,270 And at that time, it was a much smaller city than it is now,

1238

00:50:43,270 --> 00:50:44,380 I'm sure, yeah.

1239

 $00:50:44,380 \longrightarrow 00:50:47,340$

1240

00:50:47,340 --> 00:50:50,550 We've jumped around chronologically a little bit.

1241

00:50:50,550 --> 00:50:52,350 Do you remember the name of the ship

1242

00:50:52,350 --> 00:50:54,330 that you came to the United States on?

1243

00:50:54,330 --> 00:50:57,040

The New York.

1244

00:50:57,040 --> 00:50:59,470 Do you remember what it looked like?

1245 00:50:59,470 --> 00:51:00,460 Not really.

1246 00:51:00,460 --> 00:51:01,570 I had pictures.

1247 00:51:01,570 --> 00:51:04,990 I donated them to the museum already,

1248 00:51:04,990 --> 00:51:07,480 so I know it looked like a large ship.

1249 00:51:07,480 --> 00:51:09,130 I don't really--

1250 00:51:09,130 --> 00:51:11,200 Do you remember anything about landing here?

1251 00:51:11,200 --> 00:51:11,890 Yes.

1252 00:51:11,890 --> 00:51:13,750 Tell me about that.

1253 00:51:13,750 --> 00:51:16,090 I remember looking out of the porthole,

1254 00:51:16,090 --> 00:51:18,490 and I wasn't allowed-- people ran

1255 00:51:18,490 --> 00:51:21,670 to see the Statue of Liberty, but for some reason 1256 00:51:21,670 --> 00:51:23,710 my parents said I had to stay in the room

1257 00:51:23,710 --> 00:51:26,680 until we had to go out.

1258 00:51:26,680 --> 00:51:31,000 And then I remember standing, looking down at the people

1259 00:51:31,000 --> 00:51:38,180 waiting for us downstairs, and my father pointed and said,

1260 00:51:38,180 --> 00:51:42,480 that's your uncle, because I didn't know my uncle.

1261 00:51:42,480 --> 00:51:46,370 And I remember he was wearing a felt hat, fedora, I guess,

1262 00:51:46,370 --> 00:51:49,100 and a long overcoat, and he was standing there.

1263 00:51:49,100 --> 00:51:50,900 And I think he had a taxi waiting

1264 00:51:50,900 --> 00:51:54,410 to take us up to his apartment.

1265 00:51:54,410 --> 00:51:58,530 And my aunt, Roslyn, had lunch for us,

1266 00:51:58,530 --> 00:52:00,440 and I didn't like what we ate.

1267 00:52:00,440 --> 00:52:01,520 I know that.

1268 00:52:01,520 --> 00:52:05,180 It was something I wasn't accustomed to eating.

1269 00:52:05,180 --> 00:52:07,280 And my cousins--

1270 00:52:07,280 --> 00:52:09,650 I met my cousins for the first time, Carol,

1271 00:52:09,650 --> 00:52:13,530 who's a year younger than I am, and Alice was a baby.

1272 00:52:13,530 --> 00:52:19,080 And I don't remember ever seeing a baby before that.

1273 00:52:19,080 --> 00:52:23,420 So in some ways, it's such a momentous journey

1274 00:52:23,420 --> 00:52:27,080 at such a political time and sort

1275 00:52:27,080 --> 00:52:29,690 of getting out by the skin of your teeth

1276 00:52:29,690 --> 00:52:35,540 because it's so soon before Kristallnacht.

1277 00:52:35,540 --> 00:52:37,100 And yet when you're describing it

1278 00:52:37,100 --> 00:52:39,650 it sounds like, well, we come. 1279 00:52:39,650 --> 00:52:43,240 Our relatives met us, and we had lunch.

1280 00:52:43,240 --> 00:52:48,200 Well, this is from my perspective, yes, yes.

1281 00:52:48,200 --> 00:52:51,590 I'm sure, had I been older, it would have been very different,

1282 00:52:51,590 --> 00:52:52,455 but--

1283 00:52:52,455 --> 00:52:53,330 --this is what stays.

1284 00:52:53,330 --> 00:52:55,010 --as a little girl, I remember having

1285 00:52:55,010 --> 00:52:58,800 a book on the ship with English with pictures.

1286 00:52:58,800 --> 00:53:01,640 I remember I loved-it's very unusual, maybe,

1287 00:53:01,640 --> 00:53:04,970 for a young child, but I loved cauliflower.

1288 00:53:04,970 --> 00:53:06,560 I know.

1289 00:53:06,560 --> 00:53:11,750 And I remember seeing the word, the picture and the word.

1290

00:53:11,750 --> 00:53:13,960 How do you say it in German, cauliflower?

1291 00:53:13,960 --> 00:53:15,060 Blumenkohl, blumenkohl.

1292 00:53:15,060 --> 00:53:18,860 Blumenkohl-- by the way, do you still speak German today?

1293 00:53:18,860 --> 00:53:20,450 A little, yeah.

1294 00:53:20,450 --> 00:53:22,730 Have you ever used it in your adult life?

1295 00:53:22,730 --> 00:53:23,480 In Germany.

1296 00:53:23,480 --> 00:53:25,820 We were in Germany for a few days.

1297 00:53:25,820 --> 00:53:30,950 We were in Vienna, and of course, my mother

1298 00:53:30,950 --> 00:53:34,500 lived long enough for me to speak to her.

1299 00:53:34,500 --> 00:53:36,680 But I think I've lost some of it.

1300 00:53:36,680 --> 00:53:38,270 I looked something up recently.

1301 00:53:38,270 --> 00:53:40,880 I googled something recently because I 1302 00:53:40,880 --> 00:53:44,570 was with friends who were also born in Germany, and none of us

1303 00:53:44,570 --> 00:53:47,660 could think of the word for corned beef.

1304 00:53:47,660 --> 00:53:51,410 So I said, I'll find it, and when I went home, I googled it,

1305 00:53:51,410 --> 00:53:52,735 corned beef in German.

1306 00:53:52,735 --> 00:53:53,360 And what is it?

1307 00:53:53,360 --> 00:53:54,250 Pökelfleisch

1308 00:53:54,250 --> 00:53:55,055 Pökelfleisch?

1309 00:53:55,055 --> 00:53:56,790 Pökelfleisch.

1310 00:53:56,790 --> 00:53:57,740 And I called them up.

1311 00:53:57,740 --> 00:53:59,356 I would never have known known.

1312 00:53:59,356 --> 00:54:02,640 No, I had no idea.

1313 00:54:02,640 --> 00:54:06,050 And I called them up, and they answered the phone.

1314

00:54:06,050 --> 00:54:09,518 My friend said, hello, and I said, Pökelfleisch.

1315

00:54:09,518 --> 00:54:11,435 And she knew who it was and what it was about?

1316

00:54:11,435 --> 00:54:14,150 Yeah, yeah.

1317

00:54:14,150 --> 00:54:21,120 When did you become conscious of what had really happened

1318

00:54:21,120 --> 00:54:24,780 and why it had happened, that you had moved from this nice

1319

00:54:24,780 --> 00:54:29,520 area apartment in Frankfurt where you had a polka-dot blue

1320

00:54:29,520 --> 00:54:35,940 room and a lovely doll house to a new country,

1321

00:54:35,940 --> 00:54:38,040 which was very nice in Des Moines--

1322

00:54:38,040 --> 00:54:39,510 but it was so different.

1323

00:54:39,510 --> 00:54:41,640 It was half a world away.

1324

00:54:41,640 --> 00:54:45,990 When did that sink in as far as the circumstances of all this.

1325

00:54:45,990 --> 00:54:50,070 First of all, let me say, after

I lived in New York City again,

1326 00:54:50,070 --> 00:54:53,640 after the first year, living in Washington Heights

1327 00:54:53,640 --> 00:54:56,670 as a teenager was very nice because then I

1328 00:54:56,670 --> 00:55:00,480 began to learn the culture of New York and things

1329 00:55:00,480 --> 00:55:03,300 that I probably wouldn't have had in the Midwest.

1330 00:55:03,300 --> 00:55:04,288 So my life did--

1331 00:55:04,288 --> 00:55:04,830 --get better.

1332 00:55:04,830 --> 00:55:07,650 --did get better, and my attitude

1333 00:55:07,650 --> 00:55:09,540 and all that got better, yes.

1334 00:55:09,540 --> 00:55:12,000 And I think as a teenager and when

1335 00:55:12,000 --> 00:55:16,170 I read The Diary of Anne Frank, that had an impact on me,

1336 00:55:16,170 --> 00:55:18,690 that I said, oh, my God, that could have been me, 1337 00:55:18,690 --> 00:55:21,720 it could have been us, just becoming

1338 00:55:21,720 --> 00:55:26,770 more aware and educated and reading, yeah.

1339 00:55:26,770 --> 00:55:31,820 And did your parents ever, then, when you became older,

1340 00:55:31,820 --> 00:55:35,650 start talking more openly with you about what

1341 00:55:35,650 --> 00:55:38,440 had gone on in the 30s when you were such a little kid?

1342 00:55:38,440 --> 00:55:40,080 No.

1343 00:55:40,080 --> 00:55:41,692 I don't know why, but no.

1344 00:55:41,692 --> 00:55:42,900 So they never really talked--

1345 00:55:42,900 --> 00:55:45,870 They went on with their lives, no, no.

1346 00:55:45,870 --> 00:55:50,220 My mother talked about the wonderful childhood she had,

1347 00:55:50,220 --> 00:55:50,810 no.

1348 00:55:50,810 --> 00:55:52,560 Did they every talk about what they felt--

1349

00:55:52,560 --> 00:55:53,250

They were angry.

1350

00:55:53,250 --> 00:55:55,380

They were-- but they

went on with their lives.

1351

00:55:55,380 --> 00:55:57,330

No, they really didn't.

1352

00:55:57,330 --> 00:56:01,180

How did their anger

get expressed?

1353

00:56:01,180 --> 00:56:03,090

Well, they wouldn't

go back to Germany.

1354

00:56:03,090 --> 00:56:04,435

They didn't want any part of it.

1355

00:56:04,435 --> 00:56:05,560

They didn't want to see it.

1356

00:56:05,560 --> 00:56:07,380

They didn't want to

go back, and yet they

1357

00:56:07,380 --> 00:56:09,570

were in touch with

people, Gentiles,

1358

 $00:56:09,570 \longrightarrow 00:56:12,090$

who they had known from before.

1359

 $00:56:12,090 \longrightarrow 00:56:13,350$

They did have contact.

1360

 $00:56:13,350 \longrightarrow 00:56:14,670$

They did write.

1361 00:56:14,670 --> 00:56:19,260 I know that the woman who was my nanny did not survive the war,

1362 00:56:19,260 --> 00:56:21,150 and they were very upset.

1363 00:56:21,150 --> 00:56:23,520 She was very kind and very caring,

1364 00:56:23,520 --> 00:56:26,130 and they had a good relationship with her.

1365 00:56:26,130 --> 00:56:27,840 Did she die naturally or as a--

1366 00:56:27,840 --> 00:56:28,470 I don't know.

1367 00:56:28,470 --> 00:56:30,240 She died during the war.

1368 00:56:30,240 --> 00:56:31,210 I can't tell you.

1369 00:56:31,210 --> 00:56:31,770 I don't know.

1370 00:56:31,770 --> 00:56:34,710

1371 00:56:34,710 --> 00:56:36,060 But no, they--

1372 00:56:36,060 --> 00:56:37,630 Did they ever go back for a visit?

1373

00:56:37,630 --> 00:56:42,030 No, no, no.

1374

00:56:42,030 --> 00:56:47,180 They felt, I think, it would be too emotional, and they didn't.

1375

00:56:47,180 --> 00:56:49,590 But they really didn't talk to me.

1376

00:56:49,590 --> 00:56:53,590 They didn't talk to me about anything of substance ever.

1377

00:56:53,590 --> 00:56:54,580 That could be hard.

1378

00:56:54,580 --> 00:56:59,330

1379

00:56:59,330 --> 00:57:02,660 My mother with very much, children should be seen

1380

00:57:02,660 --> 00:57:06,200 and not heard, and she was very old-fashioned.

1381

00:57:06,200 --> 00:57:10,370 She was modern in some ways but old-fashioned in others,

1382

00:57:10,370 --> 00:57:13,730 that she wanted to raise me the way she had been raised,

1383

00:57:13,730 --> 00:57:16,370 and we were in a new world, in a different place.

1384

00:57:16,370 --> 00:57:19,010

1385 00:57:19,010 --> 00:57:20,460 And that does it, yeah.

1386 00:57:20,460 --> 00:57:22,085 You have to adjust to a new generation.

1387 00:57:22,085 --> 00:57:24,560 You do, and as I said, I was a little rebellious

1388 00:57:24,560 --> 00:57:27,690 because I had my own ideas and my own thoughts

1389 00:57:27,690 --> 00:57:33,200 and was really anxious to earn my own money so

1390 00:57:33,200 --> 00:57:34,880 that I could be on my own.

1391 00:57:34,880 --> 00:57:36,470 Well, I was never really on my own

1392 00:57:36,470 --> 00:57:40,340 because I got married, but yeah.

1393 00:57:40,340 --> 00:57:44,690 But you had your own vision of your life and what it could be

1394 00:57:44,690 --> 00:57:47,260 and should be that was different from your mother's?

1395 00:57:47,260 --> 00:57:49,220 Yes, and I fulfilled some of it.

1396 00:57:49,220 --> 00:57:51,920 I didn't fulfill everything, but that's,

1397 00:57:51,920 --> 00:57:53,980 I think, the case with most people.

1398 00:57:53,980 --> 00:57:55,370 Yes, yes.

1399 00:57:55,370 --> 00:57:57,830 I can't imagine any child who wouldn't

1400 00:57:57,830 --> 00:58:01,490 have a vision of their own life, that it

1401 00:58:01,490 --> 00:58:02,870 would be unhealthy otherwise.

1402 00:58:02,870 --> 00:58:07,170

1403 00:58:07,170 --> 00:58:12,090 You mentioned, again, off-camera that you yourself

1404 00:58:12,090 --> 00:58:16,170 had certain feelings towards Germany,

1405 00:58:16,170 --> 00:58:19,080 and can you tell me what they are

1406 00:58:19,080 --> 00:58:24,570 and how it is that you decided to go back, to visit,

1407 00:58:24,570 --> 00:58:27,540 to see things that were there? 1408 00:58:27,540 --> 00:58:30,030 Well, I really never

well, I really neve went back to visit.

1409

00:58:30,030 --> 00:58:31,860 We took a tour.

1410 00:58:31,860 --> 00:58:34,870 My husband wanted to go back to Vienna.

1411 00:58:34,870 --> 00:58:36,400 He was older when he came.

1412 00:58:36,400 --> 00:58:39,540 He was 14 when he came, and he, too--

1413 00:58:39,540 --> 00:58:41,970 although he had some bad memories,

1414 00:58:41,970 --> 00:58:46,050 he also had some very good childhood memories and wanted--

1415 00:58:46,050 --> 00:58:49,320 he needed closure, and he wanted to see his school

1416 00:58:49,320 --> 00:58:51,160 and his neighborhood.

1417 00:58:51,160 --> 00:58:54,330 And so we took--

1418 00:58:54,330 --> 00:58:57,630 as long as Waldheim was president--

1419 00:58:57,630 --> 00:59:00,180 I think it was president-- of Austria,

1420

00:59:00,180 --> 00:59:02,610 I said I won't go to Austria.

1421

00:59:02,610 --> 00:59:07,030 And once he, I think, retired and someone else was present,

1422

00:59:07,030 --> 00:59:09,330 I said, now we can go to Austria.

1423

00:59:09,330 --> 00:59:13,870 And we took a tour that was Austria, Germany,

1424

00:59:13,870 --> 00:59:15,930 and one of the other countries.

1425

00:59:15,930 --> 00:59:17,850 I don't remember at the moment.

1426

00:59:17,850 --> 00:59:21,060 --and Switzerland, Austria, Switzerland, and Germany.

1427

00:59:21,060 --> 00:59:25,110 So part of this tour was spending, I think,

1428

00:59:25,110 --> 00:59:28,310 a night in Heidelberg, maybe, and a night in Munich.

1429

00:59:28,310 --> 00:59:31,830 It was passing through-and the Black Forrest.

1430

00:59:31,830 --> 00:59:33,360 So you never went

back to Frankfurt?

1431

00:59:33,360 --> 00:59:37,650 No, because I wasn't invited, which is also

1432

00:59:37,650 --> 00:59:41,130 something I was very angry about because everybody was invited,

1433

00:59:41,130 --> 00:59:44,670 and my mother was invited and wouldn't go.

1434

00:59:44,670 --> 00:59:49,080 She didn't want any part of it, but I wrote to them,

1435

00:59:49,080 --> 00:59:51,660 and requested an invitation, and said I was born there,

1436

00:59:51,660 --> 00:59:54,000 I lived there for the first six years of my life,

1437

00:59:54,000 --> 00:59:55,890 and so on and so forth.

1438

00:59:55,890 --> 00:59:58,870 By the time-- they said I was too young.

1439

00:59:58,870 --> 01:00:00,150 I can't be invited yet.

1440

01:00:00,150 --> 01:00:02,760 I was too young at the time I requested it.

1441

01:00:02,760 --> 01:00:05,790 They were taking people over 80.

1442

01:00:05,790 --> 01:00:08,970

Frankfurt had a very large Jewish community,

1443

01:00:08,970 --> 01:00:12,330 and people were scattered all over the world.

1444

01:00:12,330 --> 01:00:14,970 And the letter I got was that they

1445

01:00:14,970 --> 01:00:18,210 weren't up to whatever my age was at the time.

1446

01:00:18,210 --> 01:00:19,560 Maybe I was 70 at the time.

1447

01:00:19,560 --> 01:00:20,700 I don't know.

1448

01:00:20,700 --> 01:00:24,450 And unless my husband had lived two years or more

1449

01:00:24,450 --> 01:00:27,510 in Frankfurt-- and my husband never lived in Germany,

1450

01:00:27,510 --> 01:00:29,820 so that was that.

1451

01:00:29,820 --> 01:00:32,910 And then suddenly they started to invite me.

1452

01:00:32,910 --> 01:00:33,900 He was too sick.

1453

01:00:33,900 --> 01:00:37,110 I couldn't leave him, and I couldn't take him.

1454

01:00:37,110 --> 01:00:41,940 So I wrote to them, I would love to come, but I can't.

1455

01:00:41,940 --> 01:00:44,880 Three years in a row I was sent this invitation,

1456

01:00:44,880 --> 01:00:48,000 and three years in a row I was unable to come.

1457

01:00:48,000 --> 01:00:52,980 The year 2013, right after he passed away, I wrote.

1458

01:00:52,980 --> 01:00:56,100 I said, I would appreciate an invitation to Germany.

1459

01:00:56,100 --> 01:00:58,110 I'm ready to come.

1460

01:00:58,110 --> 01:01:01,620 They invited-- they wined and dined the people.

1461

01:01:01,620 --> 01:01:03,570 They were invited for two weeks.

1462

01:01:03,570 --> 01:01:06,210 Frankfurt did two weeks.

1463

01:01:06,210 --> 01:01:11,310 I got a letter back, we have stopped all invitations.

1464

01:01:11,310 --> 01:01:16,210 And that was the end of it, so I said,

1465

01:01:16,210 --> 01:01:20,080

I'm not going to pay to go back to a city that--

1466

01:01:20,080 --> 01:01:23,020 they wouldn't invite me when I--

1467

01:01:23,020 --> 01:01:26,140 and when I requested it, I said my husband isn't that well.

1468

01:01:26,140 --> 01:01:27,340 I'd like to bring him.

1469

01:01:27,340 --> 01:01:29,110 I'd like to go.

1470

01:01:29,110 --> 01:01:34,720 And really, I think Berlin would be more interesting to see,

1471

01:01:34,720 --> 01:01:37,630 and I would have gone back to my mother's hometown.

1472

01:01:37,630 --> 01:01:40,210 And I would have gone to my family graves.

1473

01:01:40,210 --> 01:01:42,760 I would have seen other things, but at that time,

1474

01:01:42,760 --> 01:01:46,733 I was angry with them.

1475

01:01:46,733 --> 01:01:48,441 Let's take a break so you can have a sip.

1476

01:01:48,441 --> 01:01:54,220

1477

01:01:54,220 --> 01:01:57,730 So I was under the impression that when

1478 01:01:57,730 --> 01:02:00,380 you had gone to Europe you had gone everywhere,

1479 01:02:00,380 --> 01:02:03,120 including where your family was from and so on,

1480 01:02:03,120 --> 01:02:04,240 and that wasn't the case.

1481 01:02:04,240 --> 01:02:05,230 No, never went.

1482 01:02:05,230 --> 01:02:05,950 Never went.

1483 01:02:05,950 --> 01:02:09,660

1484 01:02:09,660 --> 01:02:12,300 What do you feel today about Germany?

1485 01:02:12,300 --> 01:02:16,540 About current Germany or Germany in the past?

1486 01:02:16,540 --> 01:02:18,330 I'd say current Germany.

1487 01:02:18,330 --> 01:02:21,660 Current-- I think they have tried

1488 01:02:21,660 --> 01:02:28,210 very hard to do restitution or give restitution. 1489 01:02:28,210 --> 01:02:33,220 I think some people just don't approve

1490 01:02:33,220 --> 01:02:34,890 of that because they think--

1491 01:02:34,890 --> 01:02:37,960 they can never make up for what was lost.

1492 01:02:37,960 --> 01:02:38,800 They just can't.

1493 01:02:38,800 --> 01:02:40,070 It's a different generation.

1494 01:02:40,070 --> 01:02:41,290 What was done was done.

1495 01:02:41,290 --> 01:02:43,550 They can't change it.

1496 01:02:43,550 --> 01:02:47,290 And unfortunately I think the whole world has become more

1497 01:02:47,290 --> 01:02:50,810 anti-Semitic again I don't think Germany--

1498 01:02:50,810 --> 01:02:54,500 I don't think the government has, but the people--

1499 01:02:54,500 --> 01:02:56,630 it's something that's just spreading,

1500 01:02:56,630 --> 01:02:59,000 and it's not only Germany. 1501 01:02:59,000 --> 01:03:07,460 And obviously it's all over, but yeah, I

1502 01:03:07,460 --> 01:03:09,200 resent what happened in the past, what

1503 01:03:09,200 --> 01:03:13,490 happened to my family, what happened to millions of others.

1504 01:03:13,490 --> 01:03:19,160 And when I went-- when I did go by bus through parts

1505 01:03:19,160 --> 01:03:22,010 of Germany, I said, this is such a beautiful country.

1506 01:03:22,010 --> 01:03:28,940 How can people be so evil who grew up in these surroundings?

1507 01:03:28,940 --> 01:03:30,950 What would you want people to know--

1508 01:03:30,950 --> 01:03:34,770 we talked about this before throughout the interview

1509 01:03:34,770 --> 01:03:39,240 that you can't really become another person when

1510 01:03:39,240 --> 01:03:43,230 you leave a country and have to adapt to a new environment.

1511 01:03:43,230 --> 01:03:47,100 You take something of who you were with you. 1512 01:03:47,100 --> 01:03:50,280 And we were speaking about your parents, and about your father

1513 01:03:50,280 --> 01:03:53,250 being 50 years old, and how he had

1514 01:03:53,250 --> 01:03:56,740 to find a job, and the language they spoke with one another,

1515 01:03:56,740 --> 01:03:58,290 and so on.

1516 01:03:58,290 --> 01:04:01,080 What would you want people to know

1517 01:04:01,080 --> 01:04:07,130 in Germany, today's generation, what

1518 01:04:07,130 --> 01:04:13,820 it's like to be unwanted and thrown out, let's say,

1519 01:04:13,820 --> 01:04:20,340 or unwanted and then eventually exterminated

1520 01:04:20,340 --> 01:04:23,420 for those who didn't make it?

1521 01:04:23,420 --> 01:04:25,760 But I'm really after the first process of,

1522 01:04:25,760 --> 01:04:29,890 you are part of this country, you see yourself 1523

01:04:29,890 --> 01:04:34,390 as part of this country, and then you see you're not wanted,

1524

01:04:34,390 --> 01:04:36,070 and you have to leave.

1525

01:04:36,070 --> 01:04:40,360 And what about that is--

1526

01:04:40,360 --> 01:04:43,420 how do you describe that to somebody

1527

01:04:43,420 --> 01:04:46,900 who stays behind, who will never have

1528

01:04:46,900 --> 01:04:49,840 been exposed to this process?

1529

01:04:49,840 --> 01:04:50,950 It's hard.

1530

01:04:50,950 --> 01:04:53,650 I think it's even hard to conceive.

1531

01:04:53,650 --> 01:04:56,860 I've tried to explain to Americans who

1532

01:04:56,860 --> 01:04:59,860 have no understanding of that.

1533

01:04:59,860 --> 01:05:02,860 How would you feel today at this age,

1534

01:05:02,860 --> 01:05:05,230 like middle-aged, older Americans, if you suddenly

1535 01:05:05,230 --> 01:05:07,750 had to move to South America?

1536 01:05:07,750 --> 01:05:09,070 You didn't know Spanish.

1537 01:05:09,070 --> 01:05:10,840 You didn't know the customs.

1538 01:05:10,840 --> 01:05:13,480 You didn't know anyone.

1539 01:05:13,480 --> 01:05:14,860 Do you ever think of that?

1540 01:05:14,860 --> 01:05:19,330 You would lose all your comforts and everything you had.

1541 01:05:19,330 --> 01:05:22,240 How would you adjust, and how would you feel about it?

1542 01:05:22,240 --> 01:05:26,000 I think I've had that thought.

1543 01:05:26,000 --> 01:05:28,240 And I don't think--

1544 01:05:28,240 --> 01:05:33,310 I don't think anyone can feel someone else's hurt or feelings

1545 01:05:33,310 --> 01:05:34,900 and know what they're thinking.

1546 01:05:34,900 --> 01:05:38,260 And I know it was very hard for my parents,

1547

01:05:38,260 --> 01:05:40,060 but they forged ahead.

1548 01:05:40,060 --> 01:05:42,640 And they were proud to be Americans.

1549 01:05:42,640 --> 01:05:45,010 They considered themselves Americans.

1550 01:05:45,010 --> 01:05:50,800 And as I said, I wasn't fully aware of what

1551 01:05:50,800 --> 01:05:55,480 happened until much later because I was very protected

1552 01:05:55,480 --> 01:06:02,410 as a child, and so I come from a different place.

1553 01:06:02,410 --> 01:06:05,440 Now here's a question that's a bit suggestive,

1554 01:06:05,440 --> 01:06:07,330 and tell me if I'm wrong.

1555 01:06:07,330 --> 01:06:09,820 But is it also--

1556 01:06:09,820 --> 01:06:14,290 is it that you're also angry on behalf of your parents

1557 01:06:14,290 --> 01:06:19,220 because you were so little, that is, angry with what happened--

1558 01:06:19,220 --> 01:06:19,760 --to them. 1559 01:06:19,760 --> 01:06:20,270 --to them--

1560 01:06:20,270 --> 01:06:21,170 --to them, correct.

1561 01:06:21,170 --> 01:06:23,570 --on behalf of them?

1562 01:06:23,570 --> 01:06:24,780 I think so.

1563 01:06:24,780 --> 01:06:30,830 I think so because, in general, I like people, and I think,

1564 01:06:30,830 --> 01:06:37,440 one-on-one, most people can see eye to eye or get along.

1565 01:06:37,440 --> 01:06:38,398 But the masses--

1566 01:06:38,398 --> 01:06:38,940 I don't know.

1567 01:06:38,940 --> 01:06:41,550 People can be brainwashed very easily.

1568 01:06:41,550 --> 01:06:44,880 I see it now with what's going on in the world.

1569 01:06:44,880 --> 01:06:46,170 I think you're true.

1570 01:06:46,170 --> 01:06:50,360 There have even been some psychological studies done 1571

01:06:50,360 --> 01:06:54,660 that say that when you engage with someone individually,

1572

01:06:54,660 --> 01:06:58,440 their behavior is one kind, and you put someone in a crowd,

1573

01:06:58,440 --> 01:07:01,260 and it's amazing how quickly that person

1574

01:07:01,260 --> 01:07:06,150 loses their individuality or can lose their individuality.

1575

01:07:06,150 --> 01:07:08,700 You're saying it better than I did, but that's my thought.

1576

01:07:08,700 --> 01:07:12,900

1577

01:07:12,900 --> 01:07:16,470 Is there anything else about your experience

1578

01:07:16,470 --> 01:07:21,090 of coming from Germany to here that we haven't really

1579

01:07:21,090 --> 01:07:25,140 touched on that you'd want people to know about?

1580

01:07:25,140 --> 01:07:25,860

I don't know.

1581

01:07:25,860 --> 01:07:28,305 There might be something I'll think of tonight when

1582

01:07:28,305 --> 01:07:28,950 I'm in bed.

1583

01:07:28,950 --> 01:07:29,790 That often happens.

1584

01:07:29,790 --> 01:07:30,582 That often happens.

1585

01:07:30,582 --> 01:07:32,100

Yeah, but I really--

1586

01:07:32,100 --> 01:07:33,510 right now I don't know.

1587

01:07:33,510 --> 01:07:36,000

As I said, I came.

1588

01:07:36,000 --> 01:07:38,790 I think I adjusted pretty well.

1589

01:07:38,790 --> 01:07:43,230 I think I was very shy for

a long time because I was

1590

01:07:43,230 --> 01:07:46,230

different, and the real me didn't--

1591

01:07:46,230 --> 01:07:46,800

--come out.

1592

01:07:46,800 --> 01:07:47,640

--come out.

1593

01:07:47,640 --> 01:07:50,580

I think I had

thoughts and opinions

1594

01:07:50,580 --> 01:07:54,510 and didn't know whether I could

say them or should save them,

1595 01:07:54,510 --> 01:07:58,200 and I was always told to be polite.

1596 01:07:58,200 --> 01:08:01,350 And we're refugees, and we have to set a good example.

1597 01:08:01,350 --> 01:08:04,600 And we can't this, and we can't that, and we can't do that.

1598 01:08:04,600 --> 01:08:08,010 And so that it took me a while to be

1599 01:08:08,010 --> 01:08:11,850 able to express myself and be myself.

1600 01:08:11,850 --> 01:08:14,600 When do you think that happened?

1601 01:08:14,600 --> 01:08:18,689 Well, some of it happened after I got married.

1602 01:08:18,689 --> 01:08:20,899 Well, that's a very nice compliment to marriage.

1603 01:08:20,899 --> 01:08:25,510 Yes, after I was on my own I had to learn,

1604 01:08:25,510 --> 01:08:29,880 and I went to work very young.

1605 01:08:29,880 --> 01:08:32,609 And my parents were very upset because I left college, 1606 01:08:32,609 --> 01:08:36,060 and I didn't continue because I wanted to earn money.

1607 01:08:36,060 --> 01:08:42,569 And I ended up working for an attorney, and I had gone--

1608 01:08:42,569 --> 01:08:46,210 I was not prepared to do secretarial work at all.

1609 01:08:46,210 --> 01:08:50,640 I had taken academic classes, and I babysat for this family.

1610 01:08:50,640 --> 01:08:56,040 And I opened up and told them how unhappy I was being at home

1611 01:08:56,040 --> 01:08:58,740 and living the way I lived, and he said, well,

1612 01:08:58,740 --> 01:08:59,670 come to work for me.

1613 01:08:59,670 --> 01:09:05,310 I'll teach you law, and you'll become a legal secretary.

1614 01:09:05,310 --> 01:09:09,240 And I came home, and I said to my parents, I'm leaving school.

1615 01:09:09,240 --> 01:09:14,160 And I'm taking a course in steno and a course in typing.

1616 01:09:14,160 --> 01:09:18,210 I didn't know any of that, and I did. 1617 01:09:18,210 --> 01:09:18,930 I did.

1618 01:09:18,930 --> 01:09:20,760 And he called me one day and said,

1619 01:09:20,760 --> 01:09:22,359 are you finished with your classes?

1620 01:09:22,359 --> 01:09:24,160 And I said, no.

1621 01:09:24,160 --> 01:09:28,740 He said, come in anyway, and so I

1622 01:09:28,740 --> 01:09:32,430 learned to speak with professional people.

1623 01:09:32,430 --> 01:09:35,550 And he sent me to court to answer the court calendar

1624 01:09:35,550 --> 01:09:37,770 and whatever it is that I learned,

1625 01:09:37,770 --> 01:09:40,410 and that helped me grow up.

1626 01:09:40,410 --> 01:09:43,680 It helped you become independent.

1627 01:09:43,680 --> 01:09:46,830 OK, let's break.

1628 01:09:46,830 --> 01:09:51,029 So we heard that

your daughter will

1629

01:09:51,029 --> 01:09:54,900 be bringing the doll that you took with you from Germany

1630

01:09:54,900 --> 01:10:00,490 for us to be able to see and maybe to film later on.

1631

01:10:00,490 --> 01:10:04,320 But at this point, I'm going to conclude the interview

1632

01:10:04,320 --> 01:10:06,900 that we've just had with the words,

1633

01:10:06,900 --> 01:10:10,170 this concludes the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

1634

01:10:10,170 --> 01:10:16,950 interview with Mrs. Marianne Solomon Berg on July 15, 2015

1635

01:10:16,950 --> 01:10:20,430 in Monroe Township, New Jersey, and we're

1636

01:10:20,430 --> 01:10:24,690 going to now start with a retelling of your husband's

1637

01:10:24,690 --> 01:10:25,800 story.

1638

01:10:25,800 --> 01:10:29,820 And the first question I will ask--

1639

01:10:29,820 --> 01:10:32,880 because he's not here to

share it with us himself

1640

01:10:32,880 --> 01:10:36,420 and because he was one of the 50 children that was brought over,

1641

01:10:36,420 --> 01:10:41,160 we'd like to learn a little bit about his life from you.

1642

01:10:41,160 --> 01:10:41,790 So the very--

1643

01:10:41,790 --> 01:10:42,623 OK, I'll do my best.

1644

01:10:42,623 --> 01:10:46,590 Yeah, so before we even show any pictures of him,

1645

01:10:46,590 --> 01:10:49,890 just let's talk a little bit about how you met Freddy.

1646

01:10:49,890 --> 01:10:52,830 How old were you?

1647

01:10:52,830 --> 01:10:53,790 How old was he?

1648

01:10:53,790 --> 01:10:55,020 Where did you meet?

1649

01:10:55,020 --> 01:10:57,630 How did you get to be together?

1650

01:10:57,630 --> 01:11:01,890 I was 18, just shortly before my 19th birthday.

1651

01:11:01,890 --> 01:11:03,540

He was 26.

1652 01:11:03,540 --> 01:11:06,220 He was eight years older than I was.

1653

01:11:06,220 --> 01:11:09,250 He was a Navy veteran at the time,

1654

01:11:09,250 --> 01:11:14,003 and I just started working--

1655

01:11:14,003 --> 01:11:15,170 --at this attorney's office?

1656

01:11:15,170 --> 01:11:17,790 --at the attorney's office, correct.

1657

01:11:17,790 --> 01:11:23,250 And he was working at that time as well.

1658

01:11:23,250 --> 01:11:25,470 I don't remember exactly what he did,

1659

01:11:25,470 --> 01:11:28,620 but we were introduced, actually.

1660

01:11:28,620 --> 01:11:32,760 I was working, and one of the girls

1661

01:11:32,760 --> 01:11:35,730 who was working for an accountant in the office

1662

01:11:35,730 --> 01:11:37,800 actually met him.

1663

01:11:37,800 --> 01:11:42,210 And she said that they were at a dance in Brooklyn,

1664

01:11:42,210 --> 01:11:43,860 but he didn't live in Brooklyn.

1665

01:11:43,860 --> 01:11:47,490 And he went with friends, but they went outside

1666

01:11:47,490 --> 01:11:49,620 because they weren't enjoying themselves.

1667

01:11:49,620 --> 01:11:52,350 And she was outside with her friend,

1668

01:11:52,350 --> 01:11:55,590 and he didn't seem interested in her or her friend.

1669

01:11:55,590 --> 01:11:58,860 And he said he'd really like to meet a girl who spoke German.

1670

01:11:58,860 --> 01:12:01,530 He was from Vienna, Austria, and he

1671

01:12:01,530 --> 01:12:05,430 said he'd like to bring a girl home to his parents.

1672

01:12:05,430 --> 01:12:10,650 So I had been dating a boy who graduated from City College

1673

01:12:10,650 --> 01:12:16,290 and had gotten his first job in Ohio and was leaving,

1674

01:12:16,290 --> 01:12:18,010 and she knew that.

1675

01:12:18,010 --> 01:12:21,180 So she said, I know a girl, but she's very young.

1676

01:12:21,180 --> 01:12:23,640 And her parents are very strict, and I

1677

01:12:23,640 --> 01:12:28,710 don't know whether she would be interested in meeting you.

1678

01:12:28,710 --> 01:12:30,990 But he gave her his phone number.

1679

01:12:30,990 --> 01:12:33,180 This girl's name was Blanche, and he

1680

01:12:33,180 --> 01:12:36,060 gave her his phone number and said, well,

1681

01:12:36,060 --> 01:12:38,430 let her call me if she's interested.

1682

01:12:38,430 --> 01:12:41,190 She didn't want to give my number.

1683

01:12:41,190 --> 01:12:45,240 And I said, well, you could call the house.

1684

01:12:45,240 --> 01:12:47,190 I said I'd be interested.

1685

01:12:47,190 --> 01:12:50,730

If you thought he was nice, I would meet him.

1686

01:12:50,730 --> 01:12:56,490 And she called and spoke to who became my mother-in-law

1687

01:12:56,490 --> 01:13:00,300 and said, Freddy gave me this number,

1688

01:13:00,300 --> 01:13:04,450 and I want to give you the number of someone.

1689

01:13:04,450 --> 01:13:06,000 He'll know what it's about.

1690

01:13:06,000 --> 01:13:10,260 And he did call me, and we did get together.

1691

01:13:10,260 --> 01:13:11,430 And that's how it was?

1692

01:13:11,430 --> 01:13:13,050 That's how it was.

1693

01:13:13,050 --> 01:13:14,520 So you met in New York City?

1694

01:13:14,520 --> 01:13:15,780 We met in New York City.

1695

01:13:15,780 --> 01:13:17,130 Well, he lived up in--

1696

01:13:17,130 --> 01:13:19,050 not far from me at the time.

1697

01:13:19,050 --> 01:13:19,588 Oh, he did?

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

1698

01:13:19,588 --> 01:13:20,880 Oh, so he wasn't from Brooklyn.

1699

01:13:20,880 --> 01:13:22,380 He was from Washington Heights, too?

1700

01:13:22,380 --> 01:13:23,820 No, he was.

1701

01:13:23,820 --> 01:13:26,820 He had lived in Brooklyn before that and had friends there.

1702

01:13:26,820 --> 01:13:29,370 That's why he went, yeah.

1703

01:13:29,370 --> 01:13:32,640 And how long did you date before you married?

1704

01:13:32,640 --> 01:13:34,595 Oh, it took a long time, a long time.

1705

01:13:34,595 --> 01:13:35,970 We were married a year and a half

1706

01:13:35,970 --> 01:13:40,170 later because I wasn't really ready.

1707

01:13:40,170 --> 01:13:43,330 I liked dating, yeah.

1708

01:13:43,330 --> 01:13:47,230 And what was your-- what's the date of your marriage?

1709

01:13:47,230 --> 01:13:50,200

June 7, 1953.

1710

01:13:50,200 --> 01:13:53,440 And what's Freddy's full name?

1711

01:13:53,440 --> 01:13:56,080 Alfred Berg.

1712

01:13:56,080 --> 01:13:57,280 And his date of birth?

1713

01:13:57,280 --> 01:14:02,260 It is October 16, 1924.

1714

01:14:02,260 --> 01:14:04,780 And he was from Vienna, Austria?

1715

01:14:04,780 --> 01:14:06,730 Born in Vienna, Austria.

1716

01:14:06,730 --> 01:14:09,280 And so why don't we hold up his picture right now?

1717

01:14:09,280 --> 01:14:11,290 And this is little baby Freddy.

1718

01:14:11,290 --> 01:14:14,500 Can you focus on baby Freddy?

1719

01:14:14,500 --> 01:14:15,970 And they held him up.

1720

01:14:15,970 --> 01:14:19,360 My mother-in-law said he wasn't really steady on his feet,

1721

01:14:19,360 --> 01:14:23,130 but someone behind him had a hand on his back.

01:14:23,130 --> 01:14:25,570 Let me point this.

1723

01:14:25,570 --> 01:14:26,450 He's going to try.

1724

01:14:26,450 --> 01:14:29,020 OK, nice baby.

1725

01:14:29,020 --> 01:14:31,150 And how old was he?

1726

01:14:31,150 --> 01:14:34,960 Do you know about how old he was when this picture was taken?

1727

01:14:34,960 --> 01:14:37,420 Probably about a year or a little more?

1728

01:14:37,420 --> 01:14:38,590 But he never changed.

1729

01:14:38,590 --> 01:14:40,750 People always looked at this picture and said,

1730

01:14:40,750 --> 01:14:41,827 Freddy looks the same.

1731

01:14:41,827 --> 01:14:42,535 He never changed.

1732

01:14:42,535 --> 01:14:46,590

1733

01:14:46,590 --> 01:14:47,190 You got it?

1734

01:14:47,190 --> 01:14:51,570 OK, let's hold up the next Freddy that you've got.

1735 01:14:51,570 --> 01:14:55,670

1736 01:14:55,670 --> 01:14:58,550 And is this Friday when you got to know him?

1737

01:14:58,550 --> 01:15:00,110 Well, it was a little before.

1738

01:15:00,110 --> 01:15:01,310 He was in the Navy.

1739

01:15:01,310 --> 01:15:02,390 He was not in the Navy.

1740

01:15:02,390 --> 01:15:03,330 I met him later.

1741

01:15:03,330 --> 01:15:06,420

1742

01:15:06,420 --> 01:15:09,180 But he was a cute sailor, so I--

1743

01:15:09,180 --> 01:15:13,860 And so this is him at about age 20-something?

1744

01:15:13,860 --> 01:15:20,280 Maybe 20, maybe 19, 20, and he was 26 when I met him.

1745

01:15:20,280 --> 01:15:22,040 So this is-- got it?

1746

01:15:22,040 --> 01:15:23,670 OK.

1747 01:15:23,670 --> 01:15:25,450 So let's talk a little bit about Freddy.

1748

01:15:25,450 --> 01:15:27,460 What was his--

what is his story?

1749

01:15:27,460 --> 01:15:32,010

1750

01:15:32,010 --> 01:15:35,460

So tell us a little bit

about Freddy's story.

1751

01:15:35,460 --> 01:15:37,800

Now, I know his

story pretty well

1752

 $01:15:37,800 \longrightarrow 01:15:41,370$

because we were

married for 60 years.

1753

01:15:41,370 --> 01:15:42,180

Excuse me.

1754

01:15:42,180 --> 01:15:45,990

And well, if you want to

start with-- his parents

1755

01:15:45,990 --> 01:15:49,710

were born in Poland,

and my mother-in-law

1756

01:15:49,710 --> 01:15:54,060

came to Vienna with

her mother and siblings

1757

01:15:54,060 --> 01:15:56,700

when she was a young girl.

1758

01:15:56,700 --> 01:16:01,260

And my father-in-law came

after World War I. He was also

1759 01:16:01,260 --> 01:16:04,800 a German soldier during World War I who

1760 01:16:04,800 --> 01:16:08,010 was an orphan and

only had cousins

1761 01:16:08,010 --> 01:16:12,300 but no immediate family, and his commanding officer said, Berg.

1762 01:16:12,300 --> 01:16:13,200 You like music.

1763 01:16:13,200 --> 01:16:15,270 You like to dance.

1764 01:16:15,270 --> 01:16:16,260 Go to Vienna.

1765 01:16:16,260 --> 01:16:18,120 There's a large Jewish community.

1766 01:16:18,120 --> 01:16:20,010 You'll be happy there.

1767 01:16:20,010 --> 01:16:22,260 And that's where he met my mother-in-law,

1768 01:16:22,260 --> 01:16:25,570 and Freddy was born a year after they were married.

1769 01:16:25,570 --> 01:16:29,250 And I think they were married in '23.

1770 01:16:29,250 --> 01:16:31,260 He was born in '24.

1771

01:16:31,260 --> 01:16:33,540 And then he had a younger sister, Charlotte,

1772

01:16:33,540 --> 01:16:38,310 who was six years younger, and he had, I think,

1773

01:16:38,310 --> 01:16:41,220 a happy childhood, a lot cousins, aunts, and uncles.

1774

01:16:41,220 --> 01:16:42,150 Most of them perished.

1775

01:16:42,150 --> 01:16:44,790

1776

01:16:44,790 --> 01:16:46,123 What was his father's business?

1777

01:16:46,123 --> 01:16:47,290 How did the father support--

1778

01:16:47,290 --> 01:16:48,950 Father was a tailor.

1779

01:16:48,950 --> 01:16:52,630 He became an apprentice tailor when he was about 12 years old.

1780

01:16:52,630 --> 01:16:53,650 Freddy did?

1781

01:16:53,650 --> 01:16:54,440 His father.

1782

01:16:54,440 --> 01:16:55,360 Oh, his father did.

1783

01:16:55,360 --> 01:16:56,890 Oh, Freddy was a child.

1784

01:16:56,890 --> 01:16:57,862 Oh, I'm sorry, yes.

1785

01:16:57,862 --> 01:16:58,570 Yeah, no, no, no.

1786

01:16:58,570 --> 01:17:02,840

1787

01:17:02,840 --> 01:17:05,870 My father-in-law's father died when

1788

01:17:05,870 --> 01:17:10,100 my father-in-law was very young, and the mother was not well.

1789

01:17:10,100 --> 01:17:13,190 And she gave him to a family before his bar

1790

01:17:13,190 --> 01:17:19,670 mitzvah to learn tailoring, and he was an apprentice tailor.

1791

01:17:19,670 --> 01:17:24,410 And so when he went to Vienna my mother-in-law's brother

1792

01:17:24,410 --> 01:17:29,090 had a business, and I think my father-in-law worked with him

1793

01:17:29,090 --> 01:17:30,050 as a tailor.

1794

01:17:30,050 --> 01:17:32,060

That's what he did.

1795

01:17:32,060 --> 01:17:34,510

And I can tell you an interesting story.

1796

01:17:34,510 --> 01:17:37,460

This is about my father-in-law.

1797

01:17:37,460 --> 01:17:40,760

Kristallnacht, they

picked up the Jewish men

1798

01:17:40,760 --> 01:17:43,550

and took them to the

police precinct there,

1799

01:17:43,550 --> 01:17:45,500

and they shaved

my father's head.

1800

01:17:45,500 --> 01:17:47,570

And they had him there,

and one of the policemen

1801

01:17:47,570 --> 01:17:51,620

came in and said to them,

why are you holding this man?

1802

01:17:51,620 --> 01:17:53,150

And they said, well, he's a Jew.

1803

01:17:53,150 --> 01:17:54,230

We picked him up.

1804

 $01:17:54,230 \longrightarrow 01:17:56,840$

And the policeman said,

he's a very good man.

1805

01:17:56,840 --> 01:17:59,750

He doesn't charge me for sewing

the buttons on my uniform.

1806

01:17:59,750 --> 01:18:02,450

Let him go.

1807

01:18:02,450 --> 01:18:09,250 So I think that's an interesting piece of information, yeah.

1808

01:18:09,250 --> 01:18:17,980 And when my mother-in-law heard about a Mr.

1809

01:18:17,980 --> 01:18:22,010 Kraus who came to rescue the children, the 50 children.

1810

01:18:22,010 --> 01:18:23,195 Mr. Kraus was who?

1811

01:18:23,195 --> 01:18:24,070 So that people will--

1812

01:18:24,070 --> 01:18:26,590 Mr. Kraus was-- this is what I wanted

1813

01:18:26,590 --> 01:18:30,640 to say-- a very wealthy attorney from Philadelphia who wanted

1814

01:18:30,640 --> 01:18:36,040 to help get children out of Nazi Germany or Austria,

1815

01:18:36,040 --> 01:18:38,440 and he was advised to go to Austria,

1816

01:18:38,440 --> 01:18:41,500 that it would be easier to rescue the children from there,

1817

01:18:41,500 --> 01:18:43,270 from Vienna.

1818

01:18:43,270 --> 01:18:45,160 And it was amazing.

1819

01:18:45,160 --> 01:18:47,320 What he was able to do was just amazing.

1820

01:18:47,320 --> 01:18:49,780 But my mother-in-law heard about this

1821

01:18:49,780 --> 01:18:52,360 and registered my sister-in-law.

1822

01:18:52,360 --> 01:18:55,480 The children had to be between the ages of, I believe,

1823

01:18:55,480 --> 01:18:57,400 3 and 13.

1824

01:18:57,400 --> 01:19:02,440 Freddy was 14, but he went with the family to help.

1825

01:19:02,440 --> 01:19:04,840 I think he had learned a little English in school

1826

01:19:04,840 --> 01:19:08,260 and helped with the language, and my sister-in-law,

1827

01:19:08,260 --> 01:19:10,780 Charlotte, was one of the children.

1828

01:19:10,780 --> 01:19:16,650 They had 25 boys and 25 girls chosen for this,

1829

01:19:16,650 --> 01:19:18,360

and Charlotte was one of the girls.

1830

01:19:18,360 --> 01:19:21,370 And Freddy was learning farming.

1831

01:19:21,370 --> 01:19:26,880 He was supposed to go to Palestine to learn agriculture.

1832

01:19:26,880 --> 01:19:30,540 And one of the little boys who was chosen for this trip

1833

01:19:30,540 --> 01:19:33,660 to America with Mr and Mrs. Kraus

1834

01:19:33,660 --> 01:19:36,180 became ill in the last minute.

1835

01:19:36,180 --> 01:19:38,580 It was shortly before the trip.

1836

01:19:38,580 --> 01:19:41,640 And for some reason they remembered Freddy,

1837

01:19:41,640 --> 01:19:44,430 and instead of going back into their records of a few hundred

1838

01:19:44,430 --> 01:19:48,990 children, they went to my in-laws.

1839

01:19:48,990 --> 01:19:50,790 And they said, we remember your son.

1840

01:19:50,790 --> 01:19:53,550 He was a year older than the others, over the age limit.

1841

01:19:53,550 --> 01:19:54,870 He was 14.

1842

01:19:54,870 --> 01:19:57,315 And do you think you would send him to American,

1843

01:19:57,315 --> 01:20:01,080 and would he be willing to go with his little sister?

1844

01:20:01,080 --> 01:20:04,830 And they said, of course, and Freddy

1845

01:20:04,830 --> 01:20:07,350 remembers that they called him out of his classroom.

1846

01:20:07,350 --> 01:20:08,610 He was in school.

1847

01:20:08,610 --> 01:20:11,430 And they said, would you like to go to America with your sister

1848

01:20:11,430 --> 01:20:13,050 next week or in two weeks, whatever?

1849

01:20:13,050 --> 01:20:14,700 It happened very quickly.

1850

01:20:14,700 --> 01:20:18,780 And that's how he ended up on this journey.

1851

01:20:18,780 --> 01:20:23,610 And did you know of the details of the process

01:20:23,610 --> 01:20:28,920 of how children were chosen and what he remembers

1853 01:20:28,920 --> 01:20:33,360 of that journey, of everything that was going on

1854 01:20:33,360 --> 01:20:35,610 before he got the spot?

1855 01:20:35,610 --> 01:20:38,550 Well, most of them did have--

1856 01:20:38,550 --> 01:20:41,160 most of the parent most of the parents did already

1857 01:20:41,160 --> 01:20:44,680 have affidavits or visas, whatever they needed.

1858 01:20:44,680 --> 01:20:46,740 They also had-- they all had numbers,

1859 01:20:46,740 --> 01:20:49,620 and they were all waiting to come to America.

1860 01:20:49,620 --> 01:20:50,850 And they had--

1861 01:20:50,850 --> 01:20:54,600 I know that my in-laws had second cousins, people

1862 01:20:54,600 --> 01:20:57,810 here, who they could contact and ask

1863 01:20:57,810 --> 01:21:00,300 if the children could live with them.

1864 01:21:00,300 --> 01:21:02,520 Very few of the children had nowhere

1865

01:21:02,520 --> 01:21:04,750 to go and no one to be with.

1866

01:21:04,750 --> 01:21:06,720 And I know Mr. and Mrs. Kraus took

1867

01:21:06,720 --> 01:21:10,230 in one or two of the children into their home,

1868

01:21:10,230 --> 01:21:14,220 but most of them did have someone to go to.

1869

01:21:14,220 --> 01:21:18,690 So that meant this news would go to the parents in Austria

1870

01:21:18,690 --> 01:21:20,360 or in Germany, but in Austria--

1871

01:21:20,360 --> 01:21:21,110 No Germany at all.

1872

01:21:21,110 --> 01:21:21,975 This was Vienna.

1873

01:21:21,975 --> 01:21:22,290 Just in Austria?

1874

01:21:22,290 --> 01:21:22,860

Just Vienna?

1875

01:21:22,860 --> 01:21:24,900

Strictly Vienna.

1876 01:21:24,900 --> 01:21:27,270 They already knew that when they agreed

1877 01:21:27,270 --> 01:21:29,460 to send their child that their child was going

1878 01:21:29,460 --> 01:21:31,080 to go to a particular family--

1879 01:21:31,080 --> 01:21:32,280 Correct, that is correct.

1880 01:21:32,280 --> 01:21:33,363 --who had been identified?

1881 01:21:33,363 --> 01:21:34,290 That is correct.

1882 01:21:34,290 --> 01:21:39,360 And Freddy went to a family in Jersey City, New Jersey,

1883 01:21:39,360 --> 01:21:44,160 and Charlotte went to relatives in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn.

1884 01:21:44,160 --> 01:21:47,220 And the family in Jersey City had a car,

1885 01:21:47,220 --> 01:21:51,670 and every Sunday they took Freddy to visit his sister.

1886 01:21:51,670 --> 01:21:53,650 And this happened for about half a year,

1887 01:21:53,650 --> 01:21:57,700 and fortunately my in-laws were able to come to America

1888

01:21:57,700 --> 01:22:00,520 in December of that year, 1939.

1889

01:22:00,520 --> 01:22:01,810 They came in '39.

1890

01:22:01,810 --> 01:22:03,850 So their expectation was that they're

1891

01:22:03,850 --> 01:22:05,200 going to follow their children?

1892

01:22:05,200 --> 01:22:08,350 Correct, but their hope was-- it wasn't even

1893

01:22:08,350 --> 01:22:12,160 an expectation because Hitler had invaded Vienna,

1894

01:22:12,160 --> 01:22:13,340 and it was very bad.

1895

01:22:13,340 --> 01:22:17,020 And some people never came, and my mother-in-law

1896

01:22:17,020 --> 01:22:18,340 lost some of her siblings.

1897

01:22:18,340 --> 01:22:23,920 My husband's cousins-- some of them never got out of Vienna.

1898

01:22:23,920 --> 01:22:28,810 So within a year,

however, his parents

01:22:28,810 --> 01:22:30,130 come to the United States.

1900 01:22:30,130 --> 01:22:33,460 And they were reunited, so they were just very fortunate

1901 01:22:33,460 --> 01:22:37,450 as a family to be together, yeah.

1902 01:22:37,450 --> 01:22:38,560 Did you know his mother?

1903 01:22:38,560 --> 01:22:39,460 Did you get to know--

1904 01:22:39,460 --> 01:22:40,700 Oh, yeah, absolutely, yeah.

1905 01:22:40,700 --> 01:22:44,080

1906 01:22:44,080 --> 01:22:48,880 What did they tell you about their lives in Austria

1907 01:22:48,880 --> 01:22:54,620 before the Anschluss and after?

1908 01:22:54,620 --> 01:23:00,840 They really didn't speak about it that much.

1909 01:23:00,840 --> 01:23:02,477 My mother-in-law wasn't that well.

1910 01:23:02,477 --> 01:23:04,060 I think she had several heart attacks.

01:23:04,060 --> 01:23:06,720 She was not a healthy woman, and I

1912 01:23:06,720 --> 01:23:09,360 think this was all very hard on her,

1913 01:23:09,360 --> 01:23:12,360 giving up her children this way and not

1914 01:23:12,360 --> 01:23:15,390 knowing for sure that she would see them again.

1915 01:23:15,390 --> 01:23:19,740 And my sister-in-law was so distraught

1916 01:23:19,740 --> 01:23:22,290 that she couldn't eat.

1917 01:23:22,290 --> 01:23:25,410 My mother-in-law didn't even recognize her six months later

1918 01:23:25,410 --> 01:23:26,400 when she saw her.

1919 01:23:26,400 --> 01:23:29,220 She looked for her in the crowd and said, where's Charlotte?

1920 01:23:29,220 --> 01:23:31,500 Where's my little one?

1921 01:23:31,500 --> 01:23:36,210 And Charlotte always said the people were very nice to her

1922 01:23:36,210 --> 01:23:38,940 that she lived with, but she missed her mother.

1923 01:23:38,940 --> 01:23:42,540 And she couldn't understand why her mother gave her away,

1924 01:23:42,540 --> 01:23:45,270 and she said it wasn't until she was

1925 01:23:45,270 --> 01:23:48,570 older that she realized it was like throwing a child out

1926 01:23:48,570 --> 01:23:51,940 of a burning building.

1927 01:23:51,940 --> 01:23:54,010 Those are my sister-in-law's words.

1928 01:23:54,010 --> 01:23:57,640 My sister-in-law passed away, unfortunately, quite young,

1929 01:23:57,640 --> 01:23:59,200 before she was 70.

1930 01:23:59,200 --> 01:23:59,790 Oh, really?

1931 01:23:59,790 --> 01:24:00,610 Yeah, yeah.

1932 01:24:00,610 --> 01:24:03,350

1933 01:24:03,350 --> 01:24:06,890 And my husband was-- he was always optimistic.

1934 01:24:06,890 --> 01:24:08,260 He was not bitter.

1935 01:24:08

01:24:08,260 --> 01:24:13,330

It just wasn't his nature,

unless someone did something

1936

01:24:13,330 --> 01:24:16,390

to him personally,

very personally.

1937

01:24:16,390 --> 01:24:18,730

And he had friends also.

1938

01:24:18,730 --> 01:24:22,210

He lived in Brighton

Beach as a teenager,

1939

01:24:22,210 --> 01:24:24,040

and he had a lot of friends.

1940

01:24:24,040 --> 01:24:26,900

And a few of them

are still living.

1941

01:24:26,900 --> 01:24:32,900

His best friend is still

living, and he was happiest

1942

01:24:32,900 --> 01:24:34,640

when he was with those friends.

1943

01:24:34,640 --> 01:24:38,690

We had a lot of friends over

the years, his, mine, and ours,

1944

01:24:38,690 --> 01:24:40,550

but he was the

happiest when he was

1945

01:24:40,550 --> 01:24:46,610

with his old teenage

friends, yeah.

1946 01:24:46,610 --> 01:24:50,090 What did he talk about Mr. And Mrs. Kraus?

1947 01:24:50,090 --> 01:24:52,860 Did he ever have an impression of them?

1948 01:24:52,860 --> 01:24:54,110 No, no.

1949 01:24:54,110 --> 01:24:56,810 He really hardly knew them.

1950 01:24:56,810 --> 01:25:00,350 He just accepted-- when they came to America,

1951 01:25:00,350 --> 01:25:03,260 the children were all sent to a camp in Pennsylvania

1952 01:25:03,260 --> 01:25:08,750 to learn English and to Americanize a little bit.

1953 01:25:08,750 --> 01:25:11,510 They spent the month of June, I think, in the camp

1954 01:25:11,510 --> 01:25:15,980 before the campers came in Collegeville, Pennsylvania,

1955 01:25:15,980 --> 01:25:22,430 and then the families took them, picked them up from there.

1956 01:25:22,430 --> 01:25:26,720 And he had one and he was very close with who

01:25:26,720 --> 01:25:29,300 lived in Chicago, his mother's sister who

1958 01:25:29,300 --> 01:25:31,910 had come earlier who had no children,

1959 01:25:31,910 --> 01:25:33,290 and she adored Freddy.

1960 01:25:33,290 --> 01:25:34,580 Freddy was her favorite.

1961 01:25:34,580 --> 01:25:38,150

1962 01:25:38,150 --> 01:25:41,450 But he really-- I don't know.

1963 01:25:41,450 --> 01:25:41,960 He worked.

1964 01:25:41,960 --> 01:25:48,080 He had various jobs after the Navy,

1965 01:25:48,080 --> 01:25:50,480 and he always took an interest in finance.

1966 01:25:50,480 --> 01:25:54,110 He was very interested in stocks, and money, and finance,

1967 01:25:54,110 --> 01:25:55,610 and he always said, that's the way--

1968 01:25:55,610 --> 01:25:56,540 --to make money.

01:25:56,540 --> 01:25:57,360 --to make money.

1970

01:25:57,360 --> 01:26:00,500 And he was good in math, and the whole thing interested him,

1971

01:26:00,500 --> 01:26:01,980 business.

1972

01:26:01,980 --> 01:26:08,150 And so after we were married he had about \$900

1973

01:26:08,150 --> 01:26:10,070 that he wanted to invest.

1974

01:26:10,070 --> 01:26:12,320 His parents really had nothing.

1975

01:26:12,320 --> 01:26:15,670 My father-in-law worked for 3G--

1976

01:26:15,670 --> 01:26:20,000 it was a factory, made suits, men's suits.

1977

01:26:20,000 --> 01:26:22,490 And my mother-in-law refused to work.

1978

01:26:22,490 --> 01:26:27,350 She's the only refugee woman that I know who never

1979

01:26:27,350 --> 01:26:28,600 had a job outside of the home.

1980

01:26:28,600 --> 01:26:30,392 She said, I have to take care of Charlotte.

01:26:30,392 --> 01:26:31,040 I can't work.

1982

01:26:31,040 --> 01:26:32,780 And they sent Freddy to work.

1983

01:26:32,780 --> 01:26:35,780 He really helped his parents.

1984

01:26:35,780 --> 01:26:39,770 But it was what it was.

1985

01:26:39,770 --> 01:26:43,910 But he took an interest in finance, and he decided--

1986

01:26:43,910 --> 01:26:45,800 he had read about mutual funds.

1987

01:26:45,800 --> 01:26:50,210 He read the paper a great deal, and he called up--

1988

01:26:50,210 --> 01:26:53,930 there was a company called First Investors Corporation,

1989

01:26:53,930 --> 01:26:55,920 and he called someone up and said,

1990

01:26:55,920 --> 01:26:58,280 I have a few dollars I'd like to invest.

1991

01:26:58,280 --> 01:27:02,000 And a young man came to our house at that time,

1992

01:27:02,000 --> 01:27:03,920 and they spoke.

01:27:03,920 --> 01:27:07,620 And he invested the money.

1994

01:27:07,620 --> 01:27:11,480 And then he said, we're opening a new office in Herald Square,

1995

01:27:11,480 --> 01:27:18,410 and maybe you'd like to work for us part-time.

1996

01:27:18,410 --> 01:27:23,380 And Freddy said OK, and he went there,

1997

01:27:23,380 --> 01:27:25,480 and he learned the business.

1998

01:27:25,480 --> 01:27:30,100 And so for a number of years he sold funds part-time

1999

01:27:30,100 --> 01:27:33,610 because he was in the notions and ribbon business, something

2000

01:27:33,610 --> 01:27:37,060 entirely different.

2001

01:27:37,060 --> 01:27:40,120 And he got so involved, and they offered him a job--

2002

01:27:40,120 --> 01:27:41,710 they were opening another office--

2003

01:27:41,710 --> 01:27:46,810 as assistant manager of that office, and we talked about it.

2004

01:27:46,810 --> 01:27:49,360 And I felt that he

And I felt that he

would be better off

2005

01:27:49,360 --> 01:27:54,200 learning the full business and becoming a stockbroker,

2006

01:27:54,200 --> 01:27:55,540 and he took classes.

2007

01:27:55,540 --> 01:27:59,230 And he looked for a job and applied for a job,

2008

01:27:59,230 --> 01:28:01,750 and it wasn't like today where you

2009

01:28:01,750 --> 01:28:05,110 needed the degree in finance.

2010

01:28:05,110 --> 01:28:06,880 And he did it.

2011

01:28:06,880 --> 01:28:08,380 He became a stockbroker.

2012

01:28:08,380 --> 01:28:11,770 He got all his licenses, and that's

2013

01:28:11,770 --> 01:28:15,240 what he did for the rest of his life.

2014

01:28:15,240 --> 01:28:16,980 What happened with the first money that

2015

01:28:16,980 --> 01:28:18,480 was invested in mutual funds?

2016

01:28:18,480 --> 01:28:18,990

Oh, it grew.

2017

01:28:18,990 --> 01:28:23,190

2018

01:28:23,190 --> 01:28:27,450 Did he talk much about Austria when he was with you?

2019

01:28:27,450 --> 01:28:31,170 Yes, he had a very-- he wanted to go back to see and see

2020

01:28:31,170 --> 01:28:34,830 his school and his house, and he showed me where he picnicked

2021

01:28:34,830 --> 01:28:37,380 and where he swam in the Danube and did

2022

01:28:37,380 --> 01:28:40,110 the things naughty boys do.

2023

01:28:40,110 --> 01:28:42,640 And he remembered the--

2024

01:28:42,640 --> 01:28:44,070 we went into a shoe store.

2025

01:28:44,070 --> 01:28:46,320 He said, my mother used to buy shoes for me here,

2026

01:28:46,320 --> 01:28:48,750 and we bought ice cream there.

2027

01:28:48,750 --> 01:28:54,120 And it was good for him, and he had a nice young life,

2028

01:28:54,120 --> 01:28:54,630

actually.

2029 01:28:54,630 --> 01:28:57,420 Until Hitler came to power, he also

2030 01:28:57,420 --> 01:29:00,330 had a very nice childhood and life.

2031 01:29:00,330 --> 01:29:02,160 So were there any incidents that he

2032 01:29:02,160 --> 01:29:05,820 would remember from after Hitler coming to power and--

2033 01:29:05,820 --> 01:29:10,110 Only one, that some boys beat him up, and ran after him,

2034 01:29:10,110 --> 01:29:11,940 and called him Jew, and beat him up,

2035 01:29:11,940 --> 01:29:14,520 and the incidents where his father was--

2036 01:29:14,520 --> 01:29:15,180 --arrested.

2037 01:29:15,180 --> 01:29:16,170 --arrested.

2038 01:29:16,170 --> 01:29:18,210 And at one time they tried to hide him,

2039 01:29:18,210 --> 01:29:23,810 but somehow he always managed to be free. 2040 01:29:23,810 --> 01:29:27,350 And they were able to come.

2041 01:29:27,350 --> 01:29:30,320 Was the significance of being amongst these children,

2042 01:29:30,320 --> 01:29:31,420 being on that list--

2043 01:29:31,420 --> 01:29:34,550

2044 01:29:34,550 --> 01:29:37,580 was that ever something that was talked about,

2045 01:29:37,580 --> 01:29:40,340 what had it been like had there been-- what would have it been

2046 01:29:40,340 --> 01:29:43,100 had there not been the Krauses?

2047 01:29:43,100 --> 01:29:46,250 No, no.

2048 01:29:46,250 --> 01:29:47,360 This was his life.

2049 01:29:47,360 --> 01:29:51,050 This is the way it was, and about the Krauses--

2050 01:29:51,050 --> 01:29:55,460 now, he didn't have direct contact, apparently, with them,

2051 01:29:55,460 --> 01:29:58,550 but Mr. Kraus had a friend named Louis Levine, who's 2052 01:29:58,550 --> 01:30:00,600 also mentioned in the book.

2053

01:30:00,600 --> 01:30:03,740 And Mr. Levine lived in New York City, Mr. Levine.

2054

01:30:03,740 --> 01:30:05,760 Mr. And Mrs. Levine came to our wedding.

2055

01:30:05,760 --> 01:30:07,850 They gave us a \$25 bond.

2056

01:30:07,850 --> 01:30:09,980 I have it in writing.

2057

01:30:09,980 --> 01:30:13,370 And whenever they needed a larger apartment or needed

2058

01:30:13,370 --> 01:30:17,960 anything, my mother-in-law would say, Freddy, call Mr. Levine.

2059

01:30:17,960 --> 01:30:23,360 So Mr. Levine was the branch of the family that

2060

01:30:23,360 --> 01:30:25,790 took care of the children who needed something

2061

01:30:25,790 --> 01:30:27,260 in New York or the family.

2062

01:30:27,260 --> 01:30:29,390 So it was no just bringing them over.

2063

01:30:29,390 --> 01:30:30,415

There was a follow-up.

2064

01:30:30,415 --> 01:30:31,790

There was a

follow-up, and it was

2065

01:30:31,790 --> 01:30:35,480

kind of being part of

their lives for however

2066

01:30:35,480 --> 01:30:36,380

long they needed him?

2067

01:30:36,380 --> 01:30:38,930

Well, I am under

that impression.

2068

01:30:38,930 --> 01:30:42,050

The family, Mr

Kraus' family who--

2069

01:30:42,050 --> 01:30:45,200

I met some of them and

the grandson-in-law,

2070

01:30:45,200 --> 01:30:49,430

Steve Pressmen, who brought

all this to the public.

2071

 $01:30:49,430 \longrightarrow 01:30:50,720$

They didn't seem to know that.

2072

01:30:50,720 --> 01:30:52,678

They thought that-- when

the Krauses came home,

2073

01:30:52,678 --> 01:30:54,140

they never talked

about it again,

2074

01:30:54,140 --> 01:30:55,740

and that was the end of it.

2075

01:30:55,740 --> 01:30:59,540 But my husband kept a diary while he was in the Navy,

2076

01:30:59,540 --> 01:31:01,940 and I read it recently.

2077

01:31:01,940 --> 01:31:06,200 After he passed away, I read the diary, and one of the pages

2078

01:31:06,200 --> 01:31:09,680 said, I was very worried about my parents,

2079

01:31:09,680 --> 01:31:13,790 that they can manage, that they have enough money, because they

2080

01:31:13,790 --> 01:31:16,700 always depended on him to help because he was the big son.

2081

01:31:16,700 --> 01:31:18,950 And Charlotte was the little girl who wasn't--

2082

01:31:18,950 --> 01:31:24,440 And then he wrote on one page, everything

2083

01:31:24,440 --> 01:31:26,360 is good because Kraus--

2084

01:31:26,360 --> 01:31:27,950 he didn't like Mr. Kraus.

2085

01:31:27,950 --> 01:31:29,705 Kraus sent some money to my parents.

2086

01:31:29,705 --> 01:31:32,720

2087 01:31:32,720 --> 01:31:34,100 Now, this was during the war.

2088

01:31:34,100 --> 01:31:36,440 This was a number of years after this,

2089

01:31:36,440 --> 01:31:40,220 so somehow, maybe, they contacted Mr. Levine,

2090

01:31:40,220 --> 01:31:42,290 and he called the Krauses.

2091

01:31:42,290 --> 01:31:44,870 Maybe they contacted the Krauses directly.

2092

01:31:44,870 --> 01:31:46,700 I don't know.

2093

01:31:46,700 --> 01:31:49,100 I don't know.

2094

01:31:49,100 --> 01:31:52,040 Tell me a little bit about Freddy's life

2095

01:31:52,040 --> 01:31:55,400 when he came here and then how it

2096

01:31:55,400 --> 01:31:58,880 came to be that he was in the military, the US military.

2097

01:31:58,880 --> 01:32:00,560 He was drafted.

2098

01:32:00,560 --> 01:32:02,480

He was drafted.

2099

01:32:02,480 --> 01:32:03,470

That's all.

2100

01:32:03,470 --> 01:32:07,160

The boys were drafted, and he

became a citizen while he was--

2101

01:32:07,160 --> 01:32:09,030

see, once they were

in the military

2102

 $01:32:09,030 \longrightarrow 01:32:12,470$

they had to be citizens, so

they did that very quickly.

2103

01:32:12,470 --> 01:32:16,080

And he became a citizen, I

think, in Ventura, California.

2104

01:32:16,080 --> 01:32:18,050

He was stationed in California.

2105

01:32:18,050 --> 01:32:19,640

He loved it.

2106

01:32:19,640 --> 01:32:20,780

He loved the girls.

2107

01:32:20,780 --> 01:32:21,890

He had a wonderful time.

2108

 $01:32:21,890 \longrightarrow 01:32:22,730$

He was a sailor.

2109

01:32:22,730 --> 01:32:24,200

He was cute.

2110

01:32:24,200 --> 01:32:28,940

Now, I didn't know him because

I was really still a child.

2111 01:32:28,940 --> 01:32:31,190 The eight years made a big difference at that time.

2112 01:32:31,190 --> 01:32:34,130 If he was 18, I was 10.

2113 01:32:34,130 --> 01:32:36,060 That made a big difference.

2114 01:32:36,060 --> 01:32:41,595 And but he was not unhappy.

2115 01:32:41,595 --> 01:32:44,600

2116 01:32:44,600 --> 01:32:46,130 You mean about his military life?

2117 01:32:46,130 --> 01:32:49,550 About anything because I read the diary.

2118 01:32:49,550 --> 01:32:50,780 He was sent to Okinawa.

2119 01:32:50,780 --> 01:32:54,590 The war actually ended just before he got there,

2120 01:32:54,590 --> 01:32:56,480 and he told me-the one thing he

2121 01:32:56,480 --> 01:32:59,240 told me about was a hurricane while they were there.

2122 01:32:59,240 --> 01:33:02,120 They built the Quonset huts, and they were almost blown over.

2123

01:33:02,120 --> 01:33:04,400

They built the Quonset

huts for the Marines

2124

01:33:04,400 --> 01:33:07,820

because he was in the

Seabees, and the Seabees

2125

01:33:07,820 --> 01:33:09,590

were Construction Battalion.

2126

01:33:09,590 --> 01:33:11,990

That's what Seabee stood for.

2127

01:33:11,990 --> 01:33:15,680

And so they built Quonset

huts, and they were--

2128

01:33:15,680 --> 01:33:20,750

And he said that sometimes they picked on him, some of the,

2129

01:33:20,750 --> 01:33:23,822

maybe, southern sailors and

people who didn't know--

2130

01:33:23,822 --> 01:33:25,280

And they picked up

on him because--

2131

01:33:25,280 --> 01:33:25,595

--Jews.

2132

01:33:25,595 --> 01:33:26,330

Oh, because he was a Jew.

2133

 $01:33:26,330 \longrightarrow 01:33:27,330$

Because of his religion.

2134

 $01:33:27,330 \longrightarrow 01:33:28,700$

Because he was a Jew.

2135 01:33:28,700 --> 01:33:31,670 And he said there were services on Friday

2136 01:33:31,670 --> 01:33:35,630 nights for the few Jewish sailors who were there,

2137 01:33:35,630 --> 01:33:39,020 and he would-- they would give them candy and cookies,

2138 01:33:39,020 --> 01:33:42,890 and he would bring it back and give it to the other sailors.

2139 01:33:42,890 --> 01:33:46,160 And that's how they came around to treating him well.

2140 01:33:46,160 --> 01:33:49,180

2141 01:33:49,180 --> 01:33:50,350 So I remember that.

2142 01:33:50,350 --> 01:33:53,253 It speaks of a particular nature, very good-natured,

2143 01:33:53,253 --> 01:33:54,170 it sounds like he was.

2144 01:33:54,170 --> 01:33:57,880 So that's what he told me, and then things

2145 01:33:57,880 --> 01:34:00,710 became better in that area. 01:34:00,710 --> 01:34:04,290 And one of the guys always protected him.

2147 01:34:04,290 --> 01:34:08,600

2148 01:34:08,600 --> 01:34:14,480 Did you maintain contact with the Krauses

2149 01:34:14,480 --> 01:34:17,330 as you started your own family and--

2150 01:34:17,330 --> 01:34:20,660 We had no contact with the Krauses, none whatsoever.

2151 01:34:20,660 --> 01:34:25,430 Or with Mr Levine after your wedding?

2152 01:34:25,430 --> 01:34:26,810 I think maybe Freddy.

2153 01:34:26,810 --> 01:34:29,930 I think maybe his parents wanted to move again and said,

2154 01:34:29,930 --> 01:34:31,010 call Mr. Levine.

2155 01:34:31,010 --> 01:34:33,800 I always remember that, call Mr. Levine.

2156 01:34:33,800 --> 01:34:35,220 But I don't think so.

2157 01:34:35,220 --> 01:34:36,740 I remember meeting him.

01:34:36,740 --> 01:34:38,390 I could picture him.

2159

01:34:38,390 --> 01:34:42,140 But not that I know of, and certainly

2160

01:34:42,140 --> 01:34:44,210 not with the Kraus family.

2161

01:34:44,210 --> 01:34:47,240 I really didn't know about the Krauses,

2162

01:34:47,240 --> 01:34:50,150 except that I saw the few pictures because they

2163

01:34:50,150 --> 01:34:52,520 were in the newspaper.

2164

01:34:52,520 --> 01:34:55,040 And now I'm very friendly with one

2165

01:34:55,040 --> 01:34:57,950 of the "boys" who was on that--

2166

01:34:57,950 --> 01:35:01,400 I don't know if you had the name Paul Beller, B-E-L-L-E-R.

2167

01:35:01,400 --> 01:35:03,530 Paul lives here in this area.

2168

01:35:03,530 --> 01:35:04,880 And he was one of the children?

2169

01:35:04,880 --> 01:35:07,220 And he was one of the children.

01:35:07,220 --> 01:35:11,570 And I don't know if this is pertinent, but--

2171 01:35:11,570 --> 01:35:13,345 Let's cut the camera a little bit.

2172 01:35:13,345 --> 01:35:14,150 We're rolling.

2173 01:35:14,150 --> 01:35:16,970 So Paul Beller speaks about his experiences?

2174 01:35:16,970 --> 01:35:18,410 Oh, yes, yes.

2175 01:35:18,410 --> 01:35:21,740 He was one of the 50 children, and he's very vocal,

2176 01:35:21,740 --> 01:35:23,210 and he likes to speak.

2177 01:35:23,210 --> 01:35:28,550 And Paul is about a year older than I am, so we're--

2178 01:35:28,550 --> 01:35:32,330 and he lives in this area.

2179 01:35:32,330 --> 01:35:32,990 Sorry.

2180 01:35:32,990 --> 01:35:35,270 Yeah.

2181 01:35:35,270 --> 01:35:37,190 Let's cut it second.

2182 01:35:37,190 --> 01:35:37,690

Rolling.

2183 01:35:37,690 --> 01:35:39,440 OK, we're rolling.

2184

01:35:39,440 --> 01:35:42,890 So you're talking

about Mr. Beller.

2185

01:35:42,890 --> 01:35:44,540

Is that right?

2186

01:35:44,540 --> 01:35:47,895

Correct, Mr. Beller.

2187

01:35:47,895 --> 01:35:49,490

Who was one of the 50 children?

2188

01:35:49,490 --> 01:35:50,180

Correct.

2189

01:35:50,180 --> 01:35:52,010

Now, when did he

enter your lives?

2190

01:35:52,010 --> 01:35:55,050

Oh, he entered my life long

before I knew any of this.

2191

01:35:55,050 --> 01:35:55,640

Oh, really?

2192

01:35:55,640 --> 01:35:59,840

I had a very close friend in

Washington Heights named Leila.

2193

01:35:59.840 --> 01:36:04.280

Leila had a brother named

Harold, one year older.

2194

01:36:04,280 --> 01:36:08,420

Harold had a best

friend named Paul.

2195 01:36:08,420 --> 01:36:10,250 When Freddy showed me--

2196 01:36:10,250 --> 01:36:12,590 when I was dating Freddy and he took me to his house

2197 01:36:12,590 --> 01:36:16,640 for the first time, he showed me the newspaper spread

2198 01:36:16,640 --> 01:36:19,820 of the 50 children, and I looked at the children.

2199 01:36:19,820 --> 01:36:23,870 And I said, that looks just like Harold's friend Paul,

2200 01:36:23,870 --> 01:36:29,780 so that's how far back I go with Paul, since I was about 12,

2201 01:36:29,780 --> 01:36:32,420 maybe, 11, 12 years old.

2202 01:36:32,420 --> 01:36:35,620 And when I spoke to Harold--

2203 01:36:35,620 --> 01:36:39,320 meanwhile Harold-- and later, years later, Harold

2204 01:36:39,320 --> 01:36:43,290 married Evelyn, and I became very close with them as well.

2205 01:36:43,290 --> 01:36:46,370 And I said to him, was Paul Beller from Vienna?

01:36:46,370 --> 01:36:47,660 And he said, yes.

2207

01:36:47,660 --> 01:36:48,590 I said, that's it.

2208

01:36:48,590 --> 01:36:49,670 That's him.

2209

01:36:49,670 --> 01:36:52,430 And the children had a 30th anniversary

2210

01:36:52,430 --> 01:36:57,230 party for Harold and Evelyn, and the Bellers were invited.

2211

01:36:57,230 --> 01:37:00,170 And we spoke, and Freddy and Paul

2212

01:37:00,170 --> 01:37:02,240 were introduced to each other.

2213

01:37:02,240 --> 01:37:04,640 They didn't know each other because Paul was a younger

2214

01:37:04,640 --> 01:37:07,850 child, and Freddy was, as I said, 14 and wasn't

2215

01:37:07,850 --> 01:37:10,470 interested in the little boys.

2216

01:37:10,470 --> 01:37:13,670 So in some ways this also tells me that once the--

2217

01:37:13,670 --> 01:37:15,830 there was never anything in the group

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

01:37:15,830 --> 01:37:18,980 that made it cohesive where they stayed in touch afterwards?

2219

01:37:18,980 --> 01:37:22,910 No, he had no contact with the children.

2220

01:37:22,910 --> 01:37:24,558 With the other 49 children.

2221

01:37:24,558 --> 01:37:25,600 Nor did my sister-in-law.

2222

01:37:25,600 --> 01:37:27,890 Nor did my sister-in-law.

2223

01:37:27,890 --> 01:37:31,890 So when did the 50 children realize that they're

2224

01:37:31,890 --> 01:37:33,320 one of 50 children?

2225

01:37:33,320 --> 01:37:36,620 Was it-- excuse me-- when the book was published?

2226

01:37:36,620 --> 01:37:37,850 No, no.

2227

01:37:37,850 --> 01:37:42,890 First of all, he always knew it, but they had a reunion in 2003,

2228

01:37:42,890 --> 01:37:47,510 maybe, in Philadelphia because the Jewish center,

2229

01:37:47,510 --> 01:37:50,360 the synagogue that the

Krauses belonged to,

2230

01:37:50,360 --> 01:37:53,150

somehow got this

information and started

2231

01:37:53,150 --> 01:37:58,190

to take an interest in

contacting the "children."

2232

01:37:58,190 --> 01:38:00,890

And they had a

reunion, and we went.

2233

01:38:00,890 --> 01:38:01,550

I see.

2234

01:38:01,550 --> 01:38:05,330

And they showed us Philadelphia,

and we stayed in a hotel.

2235

01:38:05,330 --> 01:38:07,370

And it was lovely.

2236

01:38:07,370 --> 01:38:10,100

They had a dinner, and

the press was there,

2237

01:38:10,100 --> 01:38:11,690

the local press there.

2238

01:38:11,690 --> 01:38:13,310

And it was very lovely.

2239

01:38:13,310 --> 01:38:15,410

But Freddy said it's

too little too late.

2240

01:38:15,410 --> 01:38:17,750

He wasn't that

interested anymore.

01:38:17,750 --> 01:38:20,030 He wasn't that well at the time.

2242

01:38:20,030 --> 01:38:21,320 I said, let's go.

2243

01:38:21,320 --> 01:38:21,920 I see.

2244

01:38:21,920 --> 01:38:24,110 I see.

2245

01:38:24,110 --> 01:38:28,190 And a lot of them were not-they couldn't contact everyone,

2246

01:38:28,190 --> 01:38:32,300 and a lot of them also were not interested or couldn't travel

2247

01:38:32,300 --> 01:38:34,190 that far, didn't want to.

2248

01:38:34,190 --> 01:38:38,300 But we went, and every so often we

2249

01:38:38,300 --> 01:38:41,400 were together with the Bellers through the Franks,

2250

01:38:41,400 --> 01:38:42,980 through our other friends.

2251

01:38:42,980 --> 01:38:45,140 And they lived in Baltimore at the time,

2252

01:38:45,140 --> 01:38:48,780 and they moved to this area about six years ago,

01:38:48,780 --> 01:38:50,250 seven years ago.

2254

01:38:50,250 --> 01:38:52,280 So since that Philadelphia meeting--

2255

01:38:52,280 --> 01:38:54,560 that sounds like it was the first time

2256

01:38:54,560 --> 01:38:57,150 that there was any bringing back together of these children.

2257

01:38:57,150 --> 01:38:57,650 Correct.

2258

01:38:57,650 --> 01:38:58,700 That's correct.

2259

01:38:58,700 --> 01:39:02,760 Has there been any subsequent such meeting?

2260

01:39:02,760 --> 01:39:04,202 No, not until Steve Pressmen--

2261

01:39:04,202 --> 01:39:04,910 --wrote the book.

2262

01:39:04,910 --> 01:39:06,050 --took an interest.

2263

01:39:06,050 --> 01:39:08,770 And, well, he did the documentary first,

2264

01:39:08,770 --> 01:39:12,040 and then he wrote the book, yeah.

01:39:12,040 --> 01:39:14,710 And then people were interviewed for it?

2266 01:39:14,710 --> 01:39:19,460 Yes, and also, after the documentary--

2267 01:39:19,460 --> 01:39:21,130 now, Freddy couldn't be interviewed

2268 01:39:21,130 --> 01:39:24,460 because he had had a stroke and wasn't well enough,

2269 01:39:24,460 --> 01:39:27,380 so that's when Steve Pressman asked me,

2270 01:39:27,380 --> 01:39:28,990 can you answer some questions?

2271 01:39:28,990 --> 01:39:31,270 And I said, I'll do my best, and that's

2272 01:39:31,270 --> 01:39:33,700 when they took an interest in me.

2273 01:39:33,700 --> 01:39:36,880 And we were invited--

2274 01:39:36,880 --> 01:39:40,840 well, first of all, the museum invited people

2275 01:39:40,840 --> 01:39:43,000 for a showing of the documentary,

2276 01:39:43,000 --> 01:39:45,550 and Lori and her husband, Bill, my daughter, Lori,

2277

01:39:45,550 --> 01:39:51,190 and her husband, Bill, ended up going because we couldn't go.

2278

01:39:51,190 --> 01:39:57,490 And they said, your children can go, and then about a month

2279

01:39:57,490 --> 01:40:04,330 after my husband passed away there was a reception for one

2280

01:40:04,330 --> 01:40:06,130 of the Pressman--

2281

01:40:06,130 --> 01:40:11,620 one of the Kraus grandsons, Peter Kraus, the museum

2282

01:40:11,620 --> 01:40:14,500 had, and we were invited to that.

2283

01:40:14,500 --> 01:40:17,440 And I called up, and I said, my husband just passed away.

2284

01:40:17,440 --> 01:40:20,200 Can I come and bring my children?

2285

01:40:20,200 --> 01:40:22,150 And they said yes, of course.

2286

01:40:22,150 --> 01:40:28,050 So Lori came and my son, Dan, and we went.

2287

01:40:28,050 --> 01:40:30,485 That was at the Plaza Hotel. 2288 01:40:30,485 --> 01:40:32,500 It was lovely.

2289 01:40:

01:40:32,500 --> 01:40:36,705 And so we attended that, and it was interesting.

2290

01:40:36,705 --> 01:40:37,330 What is there--

2291

01:40:37,330 --> 01:40:38,372 But there were only two--

2292

01:40:38,372 --> 01:40:41,410 I just want to say, only two of the children were able to come.

2293

01:40:41,410 --> 01:40:42,040 Oh, really?

2294

01:40:42,040 --> 01:40:43,930 To the actual--

2295

01:40:43,930 --> 01:40:46,180 To that, to the Plaza, to that dinner, yeah.

2296

01:40:46,180 --> 01:40:48,990

2297

01:40:48,990 --> 01:40:50,400 Is there anything else that you'd

2298

01:40:50,400 --> 01:40:54,750 like to add about your husband's story?

2299

01:40:54,750 --> 01:40:56,910 Nothing that I can think of, really, 2300 01:40:56,910 --> 01:41:01,320 but it was really very traumatic leaving your parents,

2301 01:41:01,320 --> 01:41:03,000 and not knowing whether you'd see them,

2302 01:41:03,000 --> 01:41:09,660 and having your parents be willing to send you, I think.

2303 01:41:09,660 --> 01:41:11,880 But he just accepted that as part of his--

2304 01:41:11,880 --> 01:41:15,580 that was part of his life, and my sister-in-law didn't speak--

2305 01:41:15,580 --> 01:41:17,010 her children--

2306 01:41:17,010 --> 01:41:20,980 I have a niece and nephew, and they said they can understand.

2307 01:41:20,980 --> 01:41:23,760 They didn't even know that Mr. Kraus existed.

2308 01:41:23,760 --> 01:41:26,980 Charlotte never spoke about him.

2309 01:41:26,980 --> 01:41:29,930 She only said they came to America, they went to a camp,

2310 01:41:29,930 --> 01:41:32,500 then they went to live with Aunt Sophie. 2311 01:41:32,500 --> 01:41:34,330 It was like, and then the parents came,

2312 01:41:34,330 --> 01:41:36,290 and they never questioned anything more.

2313 01:41:36,290 --> 01:41:37,780 And she didn't talk about it.

2314 01:41:37,780 --> 01:41:40,420 Could it be-- do they have a reason why?

2315 01:41:40,420 --> 01:41:42,380 Do they know why she never would have talked?

2316 01:41:42,380 --> 01:41:45,270 No, no.

2317 01:41:45,270 --> 01:41:46,507 They were a little upset.

2318 01:41:46,507 --> 01:41:48,090 They said, oh, we would have honored--

2319 01:41:48,090 --> 01:41:50,640 my father was so active at the synagogue in North

2320 01:41:50,640 --> 01:41:52,230 Woodmere on Long Island.

2321 01:41:52,230 --> 01:41:53,940 They would have honored Mr. Kraus.

2322 01:41:53,940 --> 01:41:56,040 They would have done something.

01:41:56,040 --> 01:41:57,600 But they didn't even realize.

2324

01:41:57,600 --> 01:42:03,240 They weren't aware that this was a man who did this.

2325

01:42:03,240 --> 01:42:08,940 Well, let's wrap up, then, with the end of Freddy's life.

2326

01:42:08,940 --> 01:42:10,525 Tell me, when did he pass?

2327

01:42:10,525 --> 01:42:11,400 Can you give me the--

2328

01:42:11,400 --> 01:42:18,600 Yes, September 16, 2013.

2329

01:42:18,600 --> 01:42:22,230 So just under two years ago he passed away?

2330

01:42:22,230 --> 01:42:23,730 Correct.

2331

01:42:23,730 --> 01:42:27,120 So from 1924 to 2013.

2332

01:42:27,120 --> 01:42:28,320 Correct.

2333

01:42:28,320 --> 01:42:29,520 He was-- yeah.

2334

01:42:29,520 --> 01:42:32,370

2335

01:42:32,370 --> 01:42:36,760

We'll conclude that--it's not so much

2336

01:42:36,760 --> 01:42:41,620 an interview as a retelling right now about Alfred Berg.

2337

01:42:41,620 --> 01:42:45,900 And let's cut the camera for a second.

2338

01:42:45,900 --> 01:42:47,770 And we're rolling.

2339

01:42:47,770 --> 01:42:50,200 So now we're going back a little bit

2340

01:42:50,200 --> 01:42:52,870 to the interview we had with you,

2341

01:42:52,870 --> 01:42:56,290 and you mentioned during it that you took one toy with you

2342

01:42:56,290 --> 01:42:58,450 on the boat when you left Germany.

2343

01:42:58,450 --> 01:42:59,770 And that was your doll.

2344

01:42:59,770 --> 01:43:00,715 That's the one I--

2345

01:43:00,715 --> 01:43:03,470 I don't know if there was anything else.

2346

01:43:03,470 --> 01:43:05,740 I have no idea, probably not.

01:43:05,740 --> 01:43:08,170 But this is the doll--

2348

01:43:08,170 --> 01:43:08,920 This is the doll.

2349

01:43:08,920 --> 01:43:09,587 --that survived.

2350

01:43:09,587 --> 01:43:10,990 This is Dorothy.

2351

01:43:10,990 --> 01:43:14,290 Dorothy, but at that time, she wasn't a German Dorothy.

2352

01:43:14,290 --> 01:43:15,670 I don't know if she had a name.

2353

01:43:15,670 --> 01:43:18,760 I think when I saw The Wizard of Oz I gave her that name.

2354

01:43:18,760 --> 01:43:20,170 I'm not sure.

2355

01:43:20,170 --> 01:43:23,260 And so why is it that she ended up still

2356

01:43:23,260 --> 01:43:24,910 being here all these years?

2357

01:43:24,910 --> 01:43:28,510 Well, first of all, I love dolls.

2358

01:43:28,510 --> 01:43:30,430

I still like dolls.

2359

01:43:30,430 --> 01:43:35,140

And I played with dolls a lot, but I think I didn't really

2360 01:43:35,140 --> 01:43:36,490 play with this one.

2361 01:43:36,490 --> 01:43:40,990 I think I just liked having her because when I was very small I

2362 01:43:40,990 --> 01:43:45,250 got a [INAUDIBLE] doll, which was a rubber baby that I could

2363 01:43:45,250 --> 01:43:47,110 feed, and she would--

2364 01:43:47,110 --> 01:43:49,300 yeah.

2365 01:43:49,300 --> 01:43:52,210 And it seemed more realistic to me,

2366 01:43:52,210 --> 01:43:55,000 but I just liked having this doll more

2367 01:43:55,000 --> 01:43:56,920 than playing with her.

2368 01:43:56,920 --> 01:43:59,620 And so she lasted.

2369 01:43:59,620 --> 01:44:00,350 I always kept it.

2370 01:44:00,350 --> 01:44:03,670 My mother gave a lot of my toys away later

2371 01:44:03,670 --> 01:44:05,530 on because I didn't give anything--

2372

01:44:05,530 --> 01:44:07,690 I would have kept everything forever,

2373

01:44:07,690 --> 01:44:12,370 and she gave them to relatives with younger children.

2374

01:44:12,370 --> 01:44:14,710 And somehow this one survived.

2375

01:44:14,710 --> 01:44:17,020 This baby survived.

2376

01:44:17,020 --> 01:44:19,120 And the dress-- is that the dress

2377

01:44:19,120 --> 01:44:20,740 that your aunt made for her?

2378

01:44:20,740 --> 01:44:24,850 Correct, my aunt Hertha, who I spoke of earlier,

2379

01:44:24,850 --> 01:44:28,150 was a wonderful, wonderful seamstress.

2380

01:44:28,150 --> 01:44:29,330 I have pillows she made.

2381

01:44:29,330 --> 01:44:32,020 I have other things that she made as well,

2382

01:44:32,020 --> 01:44:36,490 and her workmanship was superb, even the snaps, and the lining,

01:44:36,490 --> 01:44:37,810 and everything she did.

2384

01:44:37,810 --> 01:44:40,240 And she makes some clothing for me.

2385

01:44:40,240 --> 01:44:44,560 She made clothing later on in life from my daughter, Lori,

2386

01:44:44,560 --> 01:44:47,020 and she made this dress.

2387

01:44:47,020 --> 01:44:51,745 And I had a similar dress made out of the same fabric.

2388

01:44:51,745 --> 01:44:53,380 And there there's some--

2389

01:44:53,380 --> 01:44:55,630 Probably some other clothing.

2390

01:44:55,630 --> 01:44:59,620 And this came, probably, with the doll, a little pencil

2391

01:44:59,620 --> 01:45:00,490 case from Germany.

2392

01:45:00,490 --> 01:45:02,073 That looks very much like a European--

2393

01:45:02,073 --> 01:45:06,340 It's from Germany, definitely, and the slippers, of course,

2394

01:45:06,340 --> 01:45:08,350 and I don't know if I can reach.

01:45:08,350 --> 01:45:09,790 Let's hold on just a second.

2396

01:45:09,790 --> 01:45:14,440 I'm going to cross the lens for a second and reach over,

2397

01:45:14,440 --> 01:45:16,182 and you can show some of these.

2398

01:45:16,182 --> 01:45:16,890 That's the skirt.

2399

01:45:16,890 --> 01:45:22,540

2400

01:45:22,540 --> 01:45:24,955 So these are some of the clothes you had for her?

2401

01:45:24,955 --> 01:45:28,240 Yes, and I would change her clothes every so often.

2402

01:45:28,240 --> 01:45:30,775 This was a skirt.

2403

01:45:30,775 --> 01:45:32,260 It has some pleats in it.

2404

01:45:32,260 --> 01:45:35,950 And this is typical of skirts that little girls wore

2405

01:45:35,950 --> 01:45:44,200 with the straps and this, and then she had an overcoat

2406

01:45:44,200 --> 01:45:46,640 that the hat goes with.

01:45:46,640 --> 01:45:50,140 And this is all stuff that came with her from Germany?

2408 01:45:50,140 --> 01:45:53,500 It came all from Germany, made in Germany.

2409

01:45:53,500 --> 01:45:55,420 They don't do work like this anymore.

2410 01:45:55,420 --> 01:45:58,000 Look at the buttons and the lining.

2411 01:45:58,000 --> 01:45:59,605 Everything is there, intact.

2412 01:45:59,605 --> 01:46:02,910

2413 01:46:02,910 --> 01:46:06,615 And the blouse-this was the blouse.

2414 01:46:06,615 --> 01:46:08,070 Oh, that's just darling.

2415 01:46:08,070 --> 01:46:12,300 The blouse, beautiful things, and two little aprons

2416 01:46:12,300 --> 01:46:16,020 because we all wore aprons.

2417 01:46:16,020 --> 01:46:18,120 I wore an apron when I came home from work.

2418 01:46:18,120 --> 01:46:19,950 First thing I did was put an apron on.

01:46:19,950 --> 01:46:24,060

2420

01:46:24,060 --> 01:46:26,220 Well, she's survived a lot.

2421

01:46:26,220 --> 01:46:29,190 She survived a lot.

2422

01:46:29,190 --> 01:46:32,800 Thank you for sharing Dorothy with us.

2423

01:46:32,800 --> 01:46:33,850 You're very welcome.

2424

01:46:33,850 --> 01:46:35,460 I'm glad I was able to do that.

2425

01:46:35,460 --> 01:46:38,090 OK, thanks again.

2426

01:46:38,090 --> 01:46:40,000