

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,870

2  
00:00:02,870 --> 00:00:07,280  
This is a United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3  
00:00:07,280 --> 00:00:11,630  
interview with Mrs.  
Ursula Marx on June 8,

4  
00:00:11,630 --> 00:00:15,990  
2016 in Columbia, Maryland.

5  
00:00:15,990 --> 00:00:18,710  
Thank you very much,  
Mrs. Marx, for agreeing

6  
00:00:18,710 --> 00:00:21,380  
to meet with us  
today and to share

7  
00:00:21,380 --> 00:00:24,720  
your story and your experiences.

8  
00:00:24,720 --> 00:00:28,520  
I am going to start our  
interview at the very beginning

9  
00:00:28,520 --> 00:00:32,549  
with the most basic  
questions, and everything

10  
00:00:32,549 --> 00:00:35,250  
will unfold from there.

11  
00:00:35,250 --> 00:00:37,850  
So my very first question  
to you is, can you

12  
00:00:37,850 --> 00:00:40,820

tell me the date of your birth?

13  
00:00:40,820 --> 00:00:43,490  
February 5, 1920.

14  
00:00:43,490 --> 00:00:44,840  
1920.

15  
00:00:44,840 --> 00:00:45,860  
Correct.

16  
00:00:45,860 --> 00:00:47,880  
And where were you born?

17  
00:00:47,880 --> 00:00:49,025  
I was born in Breslau.

18  
00:00:49,025 --> 00:00:52,070

19  
00:00:52,070 --> 00:00:53,150  
Breslau, Germany.

20  
00:00:53,150 --> 00:00:54,530  
Yes, Breslau, Germany.

21  
00:00:54,530 --> 00:00:55,610  
OK.

22  
00:00:55,610 --> 00:01:00,540  
And can you tell me what  
part of Germany that's in?

23  
00:01:00,540 --> 00:01:01,070  
Yes.

24  
00:01:01,070 --> 00:01:03,500  
It's in East Germany  
and is now Polish.

25  
00:01:03,500 --> 00:01:05,000

And what's the Polish name?

26

00:01:05,000 --> 00:01:05,710

Do you know?

27

00:01:05,710 --> 00:01:08,450

[? Berlotsky ?] or something.

28

00:01:08,450 --> 00:01:09,820

I do not remember.

29

00:01:09,820 --> 00:01:10,730

You do not know.

30

00:01:10,730 --> 00:01:11,420

OK.

31

00:01:11,420 --> 00:01:15,110

But it was in this territory  
that was kind of contested

32

00:01:15,110 --> 00:01:16,500

between the two countries.

33

00:01:16,500 --> 00:01:17,000

Yes.

34

00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:20,210

It was called the  
Polish corridor.

35

00:01:20,210 --> 00:01:21,450

OK.

36

00:01:21,450 --> 00:01:23,630

And what was your name at birth?

37

00:01:23,630 --> 00:01:26,600

Ursula Guthmann.

38

00:01:26,600 --> 00:01:27,950

Ursula Guthmann.

39

00:01:27,950 --> 00:01:32,180

G-U-T-H-M-A-N-N.

40

00:01:32,180 --> 00:01:34,040

OK.

41

00:01:34,040 --> 00:01:35,630

Did you have  
brothers and sisters?

42

00:01:35,630 --> 00:01:37,370

I had a sister.

43

00:01:37,370 --> 00:01:39,390

Was she older or  
younger than you?

44

00:01:39,390 --> 00:01:40,850

She's older than I am.

45

00:01:40,850 --> 00:01:42,090

And what is her name?

46

00:01:42,090 --> 00:01:44,330

Her name is Susan, Susanna.

47

00:01:44,330 --> 00:01:45,560

Susanna Guthmann.

48

00:01:45,560 --> 00:01:46,430

Yes.

49

00:01:46,430 --> 00:01:48,860

And her married name  
if she's married?

50

00:01:48,860 --> 00:01:50,720

Her married name is Rosenberg.

51

00:01:50,720 --> 00:01:51,620  
OK.

52  
00:01:51,620 --> 00:01:54,120  
And when was she born?

53  
00:01:54,120 --> 00:01:59,280  
She was born October 12, 1917.

54  
00:01:59,280 --> 00:02:00,570  
That's my daughter's birthday.

55  
00:02:00,570 --> 00:02:01,330  
Oh.

56  
00:02:01,330 --> 00:02:01,830  
[LAUGHTER]

57  
00:02:01,830 --> 00:02:06,630  
Not 1917 but the October 12.

58  
00:02:06,630 --> 00:02:11,130  
And tell me a little  
bit about your parents

59  
00:02:11,130 --> 00:02:13,120  
starting with their names.

60  
00:02:13,120 --> 00:02:16,680  
My father's name  
was Martin Guthmann.

61  
00:02:16,680 --> 00:02:23,760  
My mother's name was Elise,  
E-L-I-S-E, Regina Lowy,

62  
00:02:23,760 --> 00:02:27,810  
L-O-W-Y.

63  
00:02:27,810 --> 00:02:34,350  
And were your parents  
originally from Breslau?

64  
00:02:34,350 --> 00:02:36,130  
My mother was born there.

65  
00:02:36,130 --> 00:02:41,190  
And my father was born in  
Frankfurt at the older--

66  
00:02:41,190 --> 00:02:43,590  
So the other Frankfurt,  
the one that's in the East.

67  
00:02:43,590 --> 00:02:44,820  
Yes, exactly.

68  
00:02:44,820 --> 00:02:46,050  
OK.

69  
00:02:46,050 --> 00:02:48,630  
Were their families  
from Germany,

70  
00:02:48,630 --> 00:02:50,400  
or were they from  
another country

71  
00:02:50,400 --> 00:02:53,370  
on both sides of your family?

72  
00:02:53,370 --> 00:02:56,310  
They were all Germans  
as far as I know.

73  
00:02:56,310 --> 00:02:58,020  
OK, OK.

74  
00:02:58,020 --> 00:03:03,660  
In Breslau, did you  
have an extended family

75  
00:03:03,660 --> 00:03:09,030  
that you interacted with from

your mother's side, aunts,

76

00:03:09,030 --> 00:03:12,240  
and uncles, and  
grandparents, and so on?

77

00:03:12,240 --> 00:03:14,910  
I had two grandmothers  
living there.

78

00:03:14,910 --> 00:03:17,550  
OK, so your father and  
your mother's mothers.

79

00:03:17,550 --> 00:03:18,160  
Right.

80

00:03:18,160 --> 00:03:19,290  
OK.

81

00:03:19,290 --> 00:03:20,790  
Did your mother have siblings?

82

00:03:20,790 --> 00:03:23,160  
My mother had two sisters.

83

00:03:23,160 --> 00:03:29,250  
And they lived in  
Glogau, G-L-O-G-A-U.

84

00:03:29,250 --> 00:03:30,540  
Was that far from Breslau?

85

00:03:30,540 --> 00:03:31,770  
No, not too far.

86

00:03:31,770 --> 00:03:32,730  
OK.

87

00:03:32,730 --> 00:03:35,820  
And did your father have any  
relatives living in Breslau?

88  
00:03:35,820 --> 00:03:41,970  
No, my father's sister  
lived in Leipzig.

89  
00:03:41,970 --> 00:03:43,830  
And was that his only sibling?

90  
00:03:43,830 --> 00:03:45,100  
Yes, at the time.

91  
00:03:45,100 --> 00:03:46,880  
OK.

92  
00:03:46,880 --> 00:03:52,790  
And how is it that you  
came to be born in Breslau

93  
00:03:52,790 --> 00:03:54,440  
and not someplace else?

94  
00:03:54,440 --> 00:03:56,060  
My parents lived in Breslau.

95  
00:03:56,060 --> 00:03:58,520  
My mother was born in Breslau.

96  
00:03:58,520 --> 00:04:00,390  
They got married there, I think.

97  
00:04:00,390 --> 00:04:01,710  
OK.

98  
00:04:01,710 --> 00:04:04,760  
Do you know anything about  
how your parents met?

99  
00:04:04,760 --> 00:04:06,410  
No, I do not.

100  
00:04:06,410 --> 00:04:10,370



In those days, you didn't ask  
your parents any questions.

101  
00:04:10,370 --> 00:04:15,870  
And I'm forever  
sorry that I didn't.

102  
00:04:15,870 --> 00:04:18,459  
Tell me a little bit  
about how your father--

103  
00:04:18,459 --> 00:04:20,700  
I assume it was your father--

104  
00:04:20,700 --> 00:04:23,070  
supported the family.

105  
00:04:23,070 --> 00:04:24,210  
Supported the family?

106  
00:04:24,210 --> 00:04:25,020  
Yes.

107  
00:04:25,020 --> 00:04:27,420  
My father had a business.

108  
00:04:27,420 --> 00:04:31,650  
And it's called [GERMAN].

109  
00:04:31,650 --> 00:04:34,680  
And what does [GERMAN] mean?

110  
00:04:34,680 --> 00:04:43,230  
He bought truckloads  
of corn and other--

111  
00:04:43,230 --> 00:04:44,010  
Grain.

112  
00:04:44,010 --> 00:04:48,240  
Yes, other grains--  
and sold them.

113  
00:04:48,240 --> 00:04:50,430  
And he had a company.

114  
00:04:50,430 --> 00:04:52,200  
He had a partner.

115  
00:04:52,200 --> 00:04:55,170  
And that's how he supported us.

116  
00:04:55,170 --> 00:04:58,350  
So was this a  
wholesale business?

117  
00:04:58,350 --> 00:05:00,270  
I don't know if you  
would call it that.

118  
00:05:00,270 --> 00:05:01,020  
OK.

119  
00:05:01,020 --> 00:05:02,190  
Who were his customers?

120  
00:05:02,190 --> 00:05:04,655  
Who did he usually  
sell the grain to?

121  
00:05:04,655 --> 00:05:05,280  
You don't know.

122  
00:05:05,280 --> 00:05:06,270  
I do not know.

123  
00:05:06,270 --> 00:05:07,230  
OK.

124  
00:05:07,230 --> 00:05:11,250  
Do you know if it  
was a large business?

125

00:05:11,250 --> 00:05:16,080

I know we had an office  
with seven employees.

126

00:05:16,080 --> 00:05:20,460

And I do not know anything else.

127

00:05:20,460 --> 00:05:27,860

From your earliest years, do you  
have any memories or episodes

128

00:05:27,860 --> 00:05:28,730

of something--

129

00:05:28,730 --> 00:05:31,370

130

00:05:31,370 --> 00:05:34,610

earliest things that come  
to your mind of yourself

131

00:05:34,610 --> 00:05:36,770

as a little child.

132

00:05:36,770 --> 00:05:40,550

Can you share anything with us?

133

00:05:40,550 --> 00:05:45,740

I know a lot of things  
from an early age on.

134

00:05:45,740 --> 00:05:50,790

I think I was it goes back  
to my age two or three, even.

135

00:05:50,790 --> 00:05:51,290

OK.

136

00:05:51,290 --> 00:05:55,640

So what is some memory that  
you have from being two years?

137

00:05:55,640 --> 00:06:00,110  
One of my first memories  
is that a cousin of mine

138  
00:06:00,110 --> 00:06:03,410  
was born in Breslau.

139  
00:06:03,410 --> 00:06:06,920  
And went to the  
hospital to see him.

140  
00:06:06,920 --> 00:06:11,060  
And I know he was only two  
and a half years older than I.

141  
00:06:11,060 --> 00:06:12,787  
So that's when you  
were two and a half.

142  
00:06:12,787 --> 00:06:14,120  
And you can place it from there.

143  
00:06:14,120 --> 00:06:14,620  
Yes.

144  
00:06:14,620 --> 00:06:17,300  
And that's the  
first memory I have.

145  
00:06:17,300 --> 00:06:21,050  
And then afterwards?

146  
00:06:21,050 --> 00:06:22,627  
I remember lots of things.

147  
00:06:22,627 --> 00:06:24,210  
I don't know what  
you want me to tell.

148  
00:06:24,210 --> 00:06:24,530  
I know.

149

00:06:24,530 --> 00:06:26,060

It's a little bit  
too open ended.

150

00:06:26,060 --> 00:06:30,710

So I'll try to be more specific.

151

00:06:30,710 --> 00:06:35,180

Can you tell me a little  
bit about your home, where

152

00:06:35,180 --> 00:06:36,570

you lived, what it looked like.

153

00:06:36,570 --> 00:06:37,070

Yes.

154

00:06:37,070 --> 00:06:38,030

All right.

155

00:06:38,030 --> 00:06:39,800

We lived in an apartment house.

156

00:06:39,800 --> 00:06:42,550

My mother never wanted a house.

157

00:06:42,550 --> 00:06:47,480

And we had a very  
large apartment.

158

00:06:47,480 --> 00:06:50,000

My sister and I  
shared a bedroom.

159

00:06:50,000 --> 00:06:52,310

And then there was another room.

160

00:06:52,310 --> 00:06:54,740

And then there was  
my parents' bedroom.

161

00:06:54,740 --> 00:07:00,200

And there were two bathrooms,  
kitchen, and an entrance hall.

162  
00:07:00,200 --> 00:07:03,950  
And then there  
was a dining room,

163  
00:07:03,950 --> 00:07:09,920  
and a salon with  
a piano and stuff,

164  
00:07:09,920 --> 00:07:12,860  
and then another like a library.

165  
00:07:12,860 --> 00:07:14,360  
It sounds very spacious.

166  
00:07:14,360 --> 00:07:15,410  
It was.

167  
00:07:15,410 --> 00:07:18,410  
Was it in an old  
type of building that

168  
00:07:18,410 --> 00:07:22,430  
was built in the 19th century,  
the stone buildings that

169  
00:07:22,430 --> 00:07:25,520  
had many floors, that  
kind of apartment house?

170  
00:07:25,520 --> 00:07:28,050

171  
00:07:28,050 --> 00:07:30,000  
Could you describe  
the outside of it?

172  
00:07:30,000 --> 00:07:34,560  
It was just a plain  
brick building.

173  
00:07:34,560 --> 00:07:35,290  
A brick building.

174  
00:07:35,290 --> 00:07:35,970  
Yeah.

175  
00:07:35,970 --> 00:07:37,740  
I think it was brick.

176  
00:07:37,740 --> 00:07:40,440  
Was it relatively  
new for the time?

177  
00:07:40,440 --> 00:07:42,450  
I don't know.

178  
00:07:42,450 --> 00:07:43,080  
OK.

179  
00:07:43,080 --> 00:07:44,880  
Well, you said you  
had two bathrooms.

180  
00:07:44,880 --> 00:07:46,620  
That meant you had  
indoor plumbing.

181  
00:07:46,620 --> 00:07:47,250  
Oh, yes.

182  
00:07:47,250 --> 00:07:48,150  
Oh, yes.

183  
00:07:48,150 --> 00:07:49,620  
OK.

184  
00:07:49,620 --> 00:07:52,170  
There were several floors.

185  
00:07:52,170 --> 00:07:57,350  
In the basement was a washroom.

186  
00:07:57,350 --> 00:08:00,720  
So once a month, a  
washerwoman came.

187  
00:08:00,720 --> 00:08:03,540  
And they had  
machines down there,

188  
00:08:03,540 --> 00:08:06,240  
and ironing boards, and things.

189  
00:08:06,240 --> 00:08:08,280  
And they would wash  
the laundry down there.

190  
00:08:08,280 --> 00:08:09,810  
For the whole  
apartment building.

191  
00:08:09,810 --> 00:08:10,920  
No, for us.

192  
00:08:10,920 --> 00:08:12,750  
Oh, I see.

193  
00:08:12,750 --> 00:08:13,650  
I see.

194  
00:08:13,650 --> 00:08:17,910  
So, was this basement  
a communal space

195  
00:08:17,910 --> 00:08:19,500  
that others could use, too?

196  
00:08:19,500 --> 00:08:20,790  
I think it was.

197  
00:08:20,790 --> 00:08:22,020  
OK.



198

00:08:22,020 --> 00:08:27,420

And then on the top  
floor was a place

199

00:08:27,420 --> 00:08:30,690

where we could store things.

200

00:08:30,690 --> 00:08:36,900

Like, my grandmother would  
cook vegetables and things

201

00:08:36,900 --> 00:08:38,130

and put them in jars.

202

00:08:38,130 --> 00:08:39,700

And they were stored up there.

203

00:08:39,700 --> 00:08:42,340

OK.

204

00:08:42,340 --> 00:08:46,510

Did you know your neighbors?

205

00:08:46,510 --> 00:08:48,440

Not too many, no.

206

00:08:48,440 --> 00:08:50,800

OK.

207

00:08:50,800 --> 00:08:52,810

Was this mostly a  
Jewish neighborhood

208

00:08:52,810 --> 00:08:54,735

or a mixed neighborhood?

209

00:08:54,735 --> 00:08:57,470

210

00:08:57,470 --> 00:08:59,350

I think it was mostly Jewish.

211  
00:08:59,350 --> 00:09:00,400  
I'm not sure.

212  
00:09:00,400 --> 00:09:03,040  
OK.

213  
00:09:03,040 --> 00:09:06,430  
And you had indoor plumbing.

214  
00:09:06,430 --> 00:09:09,140  
You had electricity  
in the building?

215  
00:09:09,140 --> 00:09:09,760  
Yes.

216  
00:09:09,760 --> 00:09:14,140  
And how did you  
heat the building?

217  
00:09:14,140 --> 00:09:16,090  
We had radiators.

218  
00:09:16,090 --> 00:09:16,840  
Radiators.

219  
00:09:16,840 --> 00:09:18,400  
Yes.

220  
00:09:18,400 --> 00:09:23,590  
And coal ovens in the bottom,  
in the basement-- or you

221  
00:09:23,590 --> 00:09:24,560  
have no idea?

222  
00:09:24,560 --> 00:09:25,060  
No.

223  
00:09:25,060 --> 00:09:25,690

OK.

224

00:09:25,690 --> 00:09:26,200

I know.

225

00:09:26,200 --> 00:09:28,600

These sound like  
strange questions.

226

00:09:28,600 --> 00:09:32,830

But the purpose behind them  
is to try to get a sense of--

227

00:09:32,830 --> 00:09:33,670

I understand.

228

00:09:33,670 --> 00:09:34,930

--what was life like?

229

00:09:34,930 --> 00:09:36,490

Yes.

230

00:09:36,490 --> 00:09:37,960

Life was wonderful.

231

00:09:37,960 --> 00:09:39,040

Yeah.

232

00:09:39,040 --> 00:09:41,260

We had loving parents.

233

00:09:41,260 --> 00:09:44,050

And we had everything we needed.

234

00:09:44,050 --> 00:09:45,820

Were they well-to-do?

235

00:09:45,820 --> 00:09:48,160

My parents were what's  
called middle class.

236

00:09:48,160 --> 00:09:51,760  
But middle class was you  
had the maid and the cook.

237  
00:09:51,760 --> 00:09:56,290  
Well, that's pretty--  
for our understanding,

238  
00:09:56,290 --> 00:09:59,007  
most people can't afford  
those things here.

239  
00:09:59,007 --> 00:09:59,590  
But you could.

240  
00:09:59,590 --> 00:10:02,020  
And did you have a nanny?

241  
00:10:02,020 --> 00:10:04,600  
Yes, we did.

242  
00:10:04,600 --> 00:10:07,480  
When we grow a little older,  
we had a part-time nanny.

243  
00:10:07,480 --> 00:10:11,290  
In the beginning  
probably, I don't know.

244  
00:10:11,290 --> 00:10:13,060  
We had the nanny.

245  
00:10:13,060 --> 00:10:15,950  
What language did your  
parents speak at home?

246  
00:10:15,950 --> 00:10:17,020  
German.

247  
00:10:17,020 --> 00:10:18,850  
Did they know any  
other languages?

248  
00:10:18,850 --> 00:10:20,120  
Not to my knowledge.

249  
00:10:20,120 --> 00:10:20,950  
OK.

250  
00:10:20,950 --> 00:10:23,260  
So Yiddish was not part of--

251  
00:10:23,260 --> 00:10:25,540  
I never heard of  
the word Yiddish.

252  
00:10:25,540 --> 00:10:27,070  
You never even  
heard of the word.

253  
00:10:27,070 --> 00:10:27,600  
No.

254  
00:10:27,600 --> 00:10:30,400  
Oh, OK.

255  
00:10:30,400 --> 00:10:32,760  
I didn't know what kosher was.

256  
00:10:32,760 --> 00:10:34,000  
Ah, OK.

257  
00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:35,560  
So they were assimilated.

258  
00:10:35,560 --> 00:10:37,840  
Absolutely.

259  
00:10:37,840 --> 00:10:44,500  
My parents were Jewish Germans.

260  
00:10:44,500 --> 00:10:46,780  
And here, I'm an American Jew.

261  
00:10:46,780 --> 00:10:50,660

262  
00:10:50,660 --> 00:10:51,590  
What is the--

263  
00:10:51,590 --> 00:10:57,460  
The difference is that  
we were 100% Germans.

264  
00:10:57,460 --> 00:10:57,960  
Oh.

265  
00:10:57,960 --> 00:11:00,960

266  
00:11:00,960 --> 00:11:03,690  
You never saw yourself  
as not German.

267  
00:11:03,690 --> 00:11:05,670  
No, never.

268  
00:11:05,670 --> 00:11:07,970  
That's quite a shock  
then when it changes.

269  
00:11:07,970 --> 00:11:09,600  
It was.

270  
00:11:09,600 --> 00:11:12,900  
And my father always said,  
they didn't mean him.

271  
00:11:12,900 --> 00:11:16,050  
He was in the First World War.

272  
00:11:16,050 --> 00:11:18,780  
Did he ever talk about the  
First World War to you?

273

00:11:18,780 --> 00:11:20,040  
No.

274  
00:11:20,040 --> 00:11:21,540  
I have a picture of him.

275  
00:11:21,540 --> 00:11:24,330

276  
00:11:24,330 --> 00:11:26,950  
Were your parents  
storytellers in any way?

277  
00:11:26,950 --> 00:11:27,450  
No.

278  
00:11:27,450 --> 00:11:34,600

279  
00:11:34,600 --> 00:11:37,360  
Tell me a little bit  
about their personalities,

280  
00:11:37,360 --> 00:11:39,940  
about your father's  
personality, your mother's.

281  
00:11:39,940 --> 00:11:41,230  
Happy people.

282  
00:11:41,230 --> 00:11:41,950  
Were they?

283  
00:11:41,950 --> 00:11:45,760  
Very happy people.

284  
00:11:45,760 --> 00:11:48,160  
They were good together.

285  
00:11:48,160 --> 00:11:49,300  
They liked each other.

286

00:11:49,300 --> 00:11:50,620

They loved each other.

287

00:11:50,620 --> 00:11:56,980

And it was very  
open and visible.

288

00:11:56,980 --> 00:12:01,150

And we thrived under  
that, my sister and I.

289

00:12:01,150 --> 00:12:03,210

Of course.

290

00:12:03,210 --> 00:12:10,700

And when you were growing  
up in the 1920s, what

291

00:12:10,700 --> 00:12:12,260

are some of the  
memories that you'd

292

00:12:12,260 --> 00:12:16,310

have from outside the home?

293

00:12:16,310 --> 00:12:18,720

You must have started  
school in the mid '20s.

294

00:12:18,720 --> 00:12:19,220

Yes.

295

00:12:19,220 --> 00:12:23,310

We went to private  
school, my sister and I.

296

00:12:23,310 --> 00:12:25,070

OK.

297

00:12:25,070 --> 00:12:28,760

And that was mostly Jewish.



298

00:12:28,760 --> 00:12:31,590

299

00:12:31,590 --> 00:12:34,880

There was a very nice  
habit in Germany.

300

00:12:34,880 --> 00:12:39,980

On your first day of school, you  
got what is called a [GERMAN]..

301

00:12:39,980 --> 00:12:41,210

An [GERMAN]?

302

00:12:41,210 --> 00:12:42,440

Have you ever heard of that?

303

00:12:42,440 --> 00:12:43,460

No.

304

00:12:43,460 --> 00:12:49,670

It's a cone-shaped  
piece of cardboard.

305

00:12:49,670 --> 00:12:56,250

But the outside  
is decorated maybe

306

00:12:56,250 --> 00:12:58,160

with wallpaper or something.

307

00:12:58,160 --> 00:12:59,945

And there's candy in there.

308

00:12:59,945 --> 00:13:03,060

And that's what you get on  
your first day of school.

309

00:13:03,060 --> 00:13:04,460

It was a very nice habit.

310

00:13:04,460 --> 00:13:05,650

It's a lovely one.

311

00:13:05,650 --> 00:13:06,500

It's a lovely one.

312

00:13:06,500 --> 00:13:08,060

And you remember your [GERMAN]?

313

00:13:08,060 --> 00:13:10,970

Oh, yes.

314

00:13:10,970 --> 00:13:13,160

And do you remember your school?

315

00:13:13,160 --> 00:13:14,480

Yes, I do.

316

00:13:14,480 --> 00:13:18,350

I was called by the name  
of the person who owned it,

317

00:13:18,350 --> 00:13:20,270

Fraulein [? Vole. ?]

318

00:13:20,270 --> 00:13:21,880

Fraulein [? Vole. ?]

319

00:13:21,880 --> 00:13:22,706

Uh-huh.

320

00:13:22,706 --> 00:13:24,020

And was it large?

321

00:13:24,020 --> 00:13:26,540

Was it a girls school,  
or was it a mixed school?

322

00:13:26,540 --> 00:13:28,280

It was a mixed school.

323

00:13:28,280 --> 00:13:35,330  
But what's interesting  
is religious instructions

324  
00:13:35,330 --> 00:13:39,680  
were given to the  
Jewish students

325  
00:13:39,680 --> 00:13:42,130  
separately from  
the other students.

326  
00:13:42,130 --> 00:13:46,820  
Now, our rabbi would  
come in and teach us

327  
00:13:46,820 --> 00:13:50,230  
whatever we needed to  
know and teach Catholic

328  
00:13:50,230 --> 00:13:51,785  
the children but with another--

329  
00:13:51,785 --> 00:13:54,326

330  
00:13:54,326 --> 00:13:55,910  
with a the priest.

331  
00:13:55,910 --> 00:13:57,290  
And the others with the--

332  
00:13:57,290 --> 00:13:59,615  
they were separated.

333  
00:13:59,615 --> 00:14:00,950  
A Protestant pastor.

334  
00:14:00,950 --> 00:14:02,300  
Yeah.

335  
00:14:02,300 --> 00:14:04,850

Do you know whether  
or not Breslau

336  
00:14:04,850 --> 00:14:09,620  
was a city that was mostly  
Catholic or mostly Protestant?

337  
00:14:09,620 --> 00:14:11,000  
I do not know that.

338  
00:14:11,000 --> 00:14:13,800  
But I know they had a  
Jewish cemetery there.

339  
00:14:13,800 --> 00:14:15,560  
OK.

340  
00:14:15,560 --> 00:14:17,090  
Semin--

341  
00:14:17,090 --> 00:14:18,000  
A seminary.

342  
00:14:18,000 --> 00:14:22,030  
Yeah, a seminary and a  
cemetery, too, of course.

343  
00:14:22,030 --> 00:14:22,530  
OK.

344  
00:14:22,530 --> 00:14:24,560  
And was there a large  
Jewish community?

345  
00:14:24,560 --> 00:14:26,940  
Yes, very cultural.

346  
00:14:26,940 --> 00:14:28,760  
They had opera.

347  
00:14:28,760 --> 00:14:33,050  
My mother was singing

and playing the piano.

348

00:14:33,050 --> 00:14:38,180

And it was a happy community.

349

00:14:38,180 --> 00:14:42,200

I had a very happy,  
very happy childhood.

350

00:14:42,200 --> 00:14:43,370

Did you travel?

351

00:14:43,370 --> 00:14:44,570

Did you go on vacations?

352

00:14:44,570 --> 00:14:46,010

Yes, we did.

353

00:14:46,010 --> 00:14:47,540

Tell me a little  
bit about those.

354

00:14:47,540 --> 00:14:52,790

We went to the mountains,  
mostly without my father,

355

00:14:52,790 --> 00:14:53,990

because he was working.

356

00:14:53,990 --> 00:14:56,390

And then he would  
come up and visit.

357

00:14:56,390 --> 00:14:57,740

The mountains in Germany?

358

00:14:57,740 --> 00:15:01,010

Yes, Riesengebirge.

359

00:15:01,010 --> 00:15:04,430

Ah, so south of  
Leipzig or Dresden--

360  
00:15:04,430 --> 00:15:08,590

361  
00:15:08,590 --> 00:15:11,140  
or maybe I'm mixing  
up my gebirge.

362  
00:15:11,140 --> 00:15:13,510  
No.

363  
00:15:13,510 --> 00:15:15,210  
I don't exactly know where.

364  
00:15:15,210 --> 00:15:17,320  
I'd have to look that  
up where that was.

365  
00:15:17,320 --> 00:15:18,820  
OK.

366  
00:15:18,820 --> 00:15:23,000  
There's a mountain called  
the Schneekoppe that

367  
00:15:23,000 --> 00:15:24,400  
would have the snow on top.

368  
00:15:24,400 --> 00:15:31,470

369  
00:15:31,470 --> 00:15:39,160  
We would walk up, and stop at  
certain times, and eat a snack,

370  
00:15:39,160 --> 00:15:40,330  
and then go on.

371  
00:15:40,330 --> 00:15:43,030  
And vacations were wonderful.

372

00:15:43,030 --> 00:15:46,840  
And it was mostly the three of  
you and sometimes your father,

373  
00:15:46,840 --> 00:15:48,090  
because he was always busy.

374  
00:15:48,090 --> 00:15:48,590  
Yeah.

375  
00:15:48,590 --> 00:15:50,170  
OK.

376  
00:15:50,170 --> 00:15:53,140  
Did your father  
have an automobile?

377  
00:15:53,140 --> 00:15:54,730  
No, the business did.

378  
00:15:54,730 --> 00:15:55,480  
The business did.

379  
00:15:55,480 --> 00:15:55,980  
Yeah.

380  
00:15:55,980 --> 00:15:57,400  
OK.

381  
00:15:57,400 --> 00:15:58,870  
And remind me again.

382  
00:15:58,870 --> 00:16:01,525  
He was in partnership with  
somebody for the business.

383  
00:16:01,525 --> 00:16:02,380  
Yes.

384  
00:16:02,380 --> 00:16:03,235  
Who was his partner?

385

00:16:03,235 --> 00:16:08,770

386

00:16:08,770 --> 00:16:10,390

It will probably come to me.

387

00:16:10,390 --> 00:16:11,770

But it wasn't a relative.

388

00:16:11,770 --> 00:16:12,610

No.

389

00:16:12,610 --> 00:16:14,050

OK.

390

00:16:14,050 --> 00:16:17,230

And then when did  
the depression come,

391

00:16:17,230 --> 00:16:21,640

the business failed  
or went down.

392

00:16:21,640 --> 00:16:26,560

So we moved to Berlin  
when I was 10, nine or 10.

393

00:16:26,560 --> 00:16:27,190

I see.

394

00:16:27,190 --> 00:16:28,480

Before we get there--

395

00:16:28,480 --> 00:16:30,640

I want to find out about that--

396

00:16:30,640 --> 00:16:35,110

but we don't have many  
interviews from Breslau.

397

00:16:35,110 --> 00:16:37,570



So I'd like to find  
out a little bit more

398  
00:16:37,570 --> 00:16:43,330  
about, in your memory, what was  
the city of your first years,

399  
00:16:43,330 --> 00:16:44,500  
your childhood?

400  
00:16:44,500 --> 00:16:45,940  
What kind of a place was it?

401  
00:16:45,940 --> 00:16:48,650  
What did it look like?

402  
00:16:48,650 --> 00:16:49,900  
What did you know about it?

403  
00:16:49,900 --> 00:16:51,400  
Did you go to--

404  
00:16:51,400 --> 00:16:52,990  
I'm asking a whole  
bunch of questions.

405  
00:16:52,990 --> 00:16:54,790  
But that's the basic point.

406  
00:16:54,790 --> 00:16:57,630  
Can you tell me?

407  
00:16:57,630 --> 00:17:06,230  
It was a clean, open  
town with nice parks.

408  
00:17:06,230 --> 00:17:12,075  
And I have a picture  
of the downtown.

409  
00:17:12,075 --> 00:17:15,940

410  
00:17:15,940 --> 00:17:19,000  
And we would go with my mother.

411  
00:17:19,000 --> 00:17:21,369  
We would go shopping.

412  
00:17:21,369 --> 00:17:24,819  
Did she have her  
favorite stores to go to?

413  
00:17:24,819 --> 00:17:25,750  
I don't know.

414  
00:17:25,750 --> 00:17:26,680  
I don't know that.

415  
00:17:26,680 --> 00:17:31,310

416  
00:17:31,310 --> 00:17:33,800  
And that's nice stores.

417  
00:17:33,800 --> 00:17:40,440  
And I don't know exactly  
what you're looking for.

418  
00:17:40,440 --> 00:17:45,870  
Well, as you said, you had  
vacations in the mountains.

419  
00:17:45,870 --> 00:17:48,090  
Did you have any  
kind of excursions

420  
00:17:48,090 --> 00:17:53,220  
that were daily, closer  
to home in Breslau itself

421  
00:17:53,220 --> 00:17:57,110  
for entertainment?

422  
00:17:57,110 --> 00:17:58,280  
No.

423  
00:17:58,280 --> 00:18:00,350  
Did you go to the cinema?

424  
00:18:00,350 --> 00:18:02,160  
We went to theater a lot.

425  
00:18:02,160 --> 00:18:03,020  
You went to theater.

426  
00:18:03,020 --> 00:18:03,560  
Yes.

427  
00:18:03,560 --> 00:18:04,130  
OK.

428  
00:18:04,130 --> 00:18:06,950  
And opera-- well, no, not then.

429  
00:18:06,950 --> 00:18:10,520  
Not until we moved to  
Berlin we went to the opera.

430  
00:18:10,520 --> 00:18:13,880  
That was part of school.

431  
00:18:13,880 --> 00:18:17,090  
In Europe-- all over Europe--

432  
00:18:17,090 --> 00:18:19,265  
children grow up  
with all that stuff.

433  
00:18:19,265 --> 00:18:21,930

434  
00:18:21,930 --> 00:18:26,720  
You go to museums, and you  
go to see-- the movies was

435  
00:18:26,720 --> 00:18:28,910  
also but not as much.

436  
00:18:28,910 --> 00:18:33,530

437  
00:18:33,530 --> 00:18:34,820  
And you read about it.

438  
00:18:34,820 --> 00:18:38,810

439  
00:18:38,810 --> 00:18:42,490  
Were your parents religious?

440  
00:18:42,490 --> 00:18:47,210  
We went to temple sometimes,  
but we weren't very observant.

441  
00:18:47,210 --> 00:18:49,250  
We ate pork.

442  
00:18:49,250 --> 00:18:55,110  
And as I say, I didn't  
know what kosher was.

443  
00:18:55,110 --> 00:18:55,610  
OK.

444  
00:18:55,610 --> 00:19:03,360

445  
00:19:03,360 --> 00:19:07,800  
I can't find anything  
unusual about it.

446  
00:19:07,800 --> 00:19:08,700  
I know.

447  
00:19:08,700 --> 00:19:11,700

What is unusual to us--

448

00:19:11,700 --> 00:19:15,570

when a person thinks of their own life, it's their life.

449

00:19:15,570 --> 00:19:21,060

What's so special to ask about?

450

00:19:21,060 --> 00:19:22,470

But to us, it is.

451

00:19:22,470 --> 00:19:23,230

Of course.

452

00:19:23,230 --> 00:19:23,820

Yeah.

453

00:19:23,820 --> 00:19:29,160

Now, I met somebody recently who was in Breslau after the war.

454

00:19:29,160 --> 00:19:31,710

And she said it's completely destroyed.

455

00:19:31,710 --> 00:19:32,310

Is it?

456

00:19:32,310 --> 00:19:32,860

Yeah.

457

00:19:32,860 --> 00:19:34,020

Yeah.

458

00:19:34,020 --> 00:19:36,630

Of course, they're building it up again.

459

00:19:36,630 --> 00:19:38,370

And today it's part of Poland.

460

00:19:38,370 --> 00:19:39,298

Yes.

461

00:19:39,298 --> 00:19:39,798

OK.

462

00:19:39,798 --> 00:19:43,050

463

00:19:43,050 --> 00:19:46,470

Was talk of the wider world--

464

00:19:46,470 --> 00:19:49,260

while you're still in  
Breslau, whether it

465

00:19:49,260 --> 00:19:52,770

would be events in Germany,  
or events in Europe,

466

00:19:52,770 --> 00:19:57,060

or events just generally, was  
that part of your household?

467

00:19:57,060 --> 00:20:00,000

That is, when you would  
sit down to dinner,

468

00:20:00,000 --> 00:20:02,220

would politics be something  
your parents would

469

00:20:02,220 --> 00:20:04,765

discuss between themselves?

470

00:20:04,765 --> 00:20:05,265

No.

471

00:20:05,265 --> 00:20:07,920

472

00:20:07,920 --> 00:20:11,640  
Actually, when we were little,  
we didn't eat with our parents.

473  
00:20:11,640 --> 00:20:12,300  
You didn't?

474  
00:20:12,300 --> 00:20:13,680  
No.

475  
00:20:13,680 --> 00:20:14,460  
OK.

476  
00:20:14,460 --> 00:20:16,290  
We ate in our rooms.

477  
00:20:16,290 --> 00:20:21,480  
And whoever was taking  
care of us brought us food.

478  
00:20:21,480 --> 00:20:23,273  
Later on, we ate  
with our parents

479  
00:20:23,273 --> 00:20:24,440  
when we were a little older.

480  
00:20:24,440 --> 00:20:25,830  
OK.

481  
00:20:25,830 --> 00:20:28,380  
Do you remember moving  
from Breslau to Berlin?

482  
00:20:28,380 --> 00:20:32,880  
I did, yes-- not moving  
itself, because I

483  
00:20:32,880 --> 00:20:37,560  
was staying with my grandmother  
for two weeks while they moved.

484

00:20:37,560 --> 00:20:38,980  
The grandmother in Breslau.

485  
00:20:38,980 --> 00:20:40,590  
Yeah.

486  
00:20:40,590 --> 00:20:43,830  
Both my grandmothers were  
in Breslau at the time.

487  
00:20:43,830 --> 00:20:50,130  
And where in Berlin did you  
move to, what part of town?

488  
00:20:50,130 --> 00:20:55,110  
We moved West Berlin.

489  
00:20:55,110 --> 00:20:57,030  
OK.

490  
00:20:57,030 --> 00:21:00,800  
And again, we had a  
very nice apartment,

491  
00:21:00,800 --> 00:21:04,200  
not quite as big but very nice.

492  
00:21:04,200 --> 00:21:10,100  
And my sister went  
over to look at--

493  
00:21:10,100 --> 00:21:16,130  
the German-- Berlin,  
they will pay your fare

494  
00:21:16,130 --> 00:21:17,900  
and let you come back.

495  
00:21:17,900 --> 00:21:20,840  
I did not want to  
go, but she went.

496



00:21:20,840 --> 00:21:24,260  
Do you remember what part of  
town your apartment was in?

497  
00:21:24,260 --> 00:21:27,240  
Yes, Wilmersdorf.

498  
00:21:27,240 --> 00:21:29,540  
Oh, in Wilmersdorf.

499  
00:21:29,540 --> 00:21:31,670  
Do you remember, also,  
the street address?

500  
00:21:31,670 --> 00:21:32,750  
Yes.

501  
00:21:32,750 --> 00:21:35,497  
Westfalische Strasse,  
zweiundachtzig.

502  
00:21:35,497 --> 00:21:38,300  
Westfalische Strasse,  
zweiundachtzig.

503  
00:21:38,300 --> 00:21:40,730  
Westfalische Strasse, 82.

504  
00:21:40,730 --> 00:21:41,900  
So that would be--

505  
00:21:41,900 --> 00:21:43,970  
yeah, Westphalian.

506  
00:21:43,970 --> 00:21:44,510  
Yeah.

507  
00:21:44,510 --> 00:21:47,000  
Westphalian Street, 82.

508  
00:21:47,000 --> 00:21:49,740  
And so that's pretty central.

509  
00:21:49,740 --> 00:21:50,750  
Uh-huh.

510  
00:21:50,750 --> 00:21:52,340  
Well, it was between--

511  
00:21:52,340 --> 00:21:54,570  
I don't know if you know  
anything about Berlin.

512  
00:21:54,570 --> 00:21:55,580  
I lived there.

513  
00:21:55,580 --> 00:21:56,480  
Oh, you lived here.

514  
00:21:56,480 --> 00:21:57,140  
So you know where--

515  
00:21:57,140 --> 00:21:57,890  
I lived in Zehlendorf.

516  
00:21:57,890 --> 00:21:58,890  
--Fehrbelliner Platz is?

517  
00:21:58,890 --> 00:21:59,750  
Oh, yeah.

518  
00:21:59,750 --> 00:22:05,201  
It was between Fehrbelliner  
Platz and another platz.

519  
00:22:05,201 --> 00:22:07,850  
[LAUGHTER]

520  
00:22:07,850 --> 00:22:09,530  
I'm sure we'd be  
able to find it.

521  
00:22:09,530 --> 00:22:11,410

Oh, OK.

522

00:22:11,410 --> 00:22:14,700

So your father-- the business  
folded, in other words.

523

00:22:14,700 --> 00:22:15,200

Yes.

524

00:22:15,200 --> 00:22:18,200

And he got another  
partner in Berlin

525

00:22:18,200 --> 00:22:20,870

and started the  
same business there.

526

00:22:20,870 --> 00:22:21,500

Really?

527

00:22:21,500 --> 00:22:22,000

Yeah.

528

00:22:22,000 --> 00:22:22,940

OK.

529

00:22:22,940 --> 00:22:26,330

And how did that seem to go?

530

00:22:26,330 --> 00:22:28,910

It went fine until  
the Nazis came.

531

00:22:28,910 --> 00:22:29,720

OK.

532

00:22:29,720 --> 00:22:31,520

So the depression hit.

533

00:22:31,520 --> 00:22:36,860

Would this have been 1929  
when you moved to Berlin?

534  
00:22:36,860 --> 00:22:37,850  
OK.

535  
00:22:37,850 --> 00:22:41,510  
And so he had a couple  
of years when he was

536  
00:22:41,510 --> 00:22:44,840  
able to be successful in this--

537  
00:22:44,840 --> 00:22:46,280  
More than a couple.

538  
00:22:46,280 --> 00:22:48,100  
How long, would you say?

539  
00:22:48,100 --> 00:22:52,310

540  
00:22:52,310 --> 00:22:56,910  
Probably more like four or five.

541  
00:22:56,910 --> 00:22:58,260  
OK.

542  
00:22:58,260 --> 00:23:00,300  
And you started to go  
to school in Berlin.

543  
00:23:00,300 --> 00:23:01,230  
Yes.

544  
00:23:01,230 --> 00:23:04,830  
Was that very  
different from Breslau?

545  
00:23:04,830 --> 00:23:07,050  
Well, I had just  
started high school.

546

00:23:07,050 --> 00:23:10,830  
So no, it wasn't  
that much different.

547  
00:23:10,830 --> 00:23:12,450  
Was it also a private school?

548  
00:23:12,450 --> 00:23:13,170  
No.

549  
00:23:13,170 --> 00:23:16,020  
Well, in Germany  
at the time, you

550  
00:23:16,020 --> 00:23:17,850  
had to pay for your high school.

551  
00:23:17,850 --> 00:23:23,110  
Otherwise, you went  
to volksschule.

552  
00:23:23,110 --> 00:23:23,610  
OK.

553  
00:23:23,610 --> 00:23:25,240  
And what was volksschule?

554  
00:23:25,240 --> 00:23:25,920  
What was that?

555  
00:23:25,920 --> 00:23:27,540  
The government pays for that.

556  
00:23:27,540 --> 00:23:29,550  
And was it a different  
kind of education?

557  
00:23:29,550 --> 00:23:30,300  
Yes.

558  
00:23:30,300 --> 00:23:31,750  
And what kind of education--

559  
00:23:31,750 --> 00:23:33,270  
A lower education.

560  
00:23:33,270 --> 00:23:34,260  
OK.

561  
00:23:34,260 --> 00:23:37,470  
Was it more like preparing  
people for trades?

562  
00:23:37,470 --> 00:23:38,130  
Yes.

563  
00:23:38,130 --> 00:23:38,940  
All right.

564  
00:23:38,940 --> 00:23:41,805  
And the school you went  
to would prepare you for--

565  
00:23:41,805 --> 00:23:45,600

566  
00:23:45,600 --> 00:23:46,660  
Going to college.

567  
00:23:46,660 --> 00:23:47,660  
OK.

568  
00:23:47,660 --> 00:23:49,590  
OK.

569  
00:23:49,590 --> 00:23:53,410  
So you hadn't gone to  
high school in Breslau,

570  
00:23:53,410 --> 00:23:54,780  
but you did in Berlin.

571  
00:23:54,780 --> 00:23:57,720

I started in Breslau, and  
then I went to Berlin.

572  
00:23:57,720 --> 00:23:58,470  
I see.

573  
00:23:58,470 --> 00:23:59,280  
OK.

574  
00:23:59,280 --> 00:24:00,670  
Because I was 10.

575  
00:24:00,670 --> 00:24:01,470  
Yeah.

576  
00:24:01,470 --> 00:24:03,620  
I must have been 10.

577  
00:24:03,620 --> 00:24:05,840  
So it must have been 1930.

578  
00:24:05,840 --> 00:24:07,825  
OK.

579  
00:24:07,825 --> 00:24:15,840  
And do you have any memories of  
this second school in Berlin?

580  
00:24:15,840 --> 00:24:16,890  
Yes.

581  
00:24:16,890 --> 00:24:19,890  
Can you share any of those, what  
the classroom was like, what

582  
00:24:19,890 --> 00:24:22,800  
the teachers were like?

583  
00:24:22,800 --> 00:24:24,930  
We had very good teachers.

584

00:24:24,930 --> 00:24:25,500  
You did.

585  
00:24:25,500 --> 00:24:29,030  
Yes, most of them  
were very good.

586  
00:24:29,030 --> 00:24:32,970  
Now, Germany has  
different accents,

587  
00:24:32,970 --> 00:24:34,510  
like here in the South.

588  
00:24:34,510 --> 00:24:35,010  
Sure.

589  
00:24:35,010 --> 00:24:38,940  
We had a math teacher  
who was from Bavaria.

590  
00:24:38,940 --> 00:24:43,350  
It took us two weeks to  
understand what he was saying.

591  
00:24:43,350 --> 00:24:44,920  
But they were good teachers.

592  
00:24:44,920 --> 00:24:45,420  
Uh-huh.

593  
00:24:45,420 --> 00:24:51,180

594  
00:24:51,180 --> 00:24:59,610  
Now here when you don't pass  
the grade, you can repeat it.

595  
00:24:59,610 --> 00:25:02,490  
There if you don't  
pass one thing,

596



00:25:02,490 --> 00:25:05,620  
you have to repeat  
the whole thing.

597  
00:25:05,620 --> 00:25:07,140  
So if you don't  
pass mathematics,

598  
00:25:07,140 --> 00:25:10,470  
for example, then you  
have to take history again

599  
00:25:10,470 --> 00:25:11,370  
and English again.

600  
00:25:11,370 --> 00:25:12,078  
Everything, yeah.

601  
00:25:12,078 --> 00:25:12,600  
OK.

602  
00:25:12,600 --> 00:25:14,620  
At least that's the  
way it was then.

603  
00:25:14,620 --> 00:25:15,600  
OK.

604  
00:25:15,600 --> 00:25:17,460  
How did you do?

605  
00:25:17,460 --> 00:25:18,930  
I did pretty good.

606  
00:25:18,930 --> 00:25:21,130  
My sister was always  
smarter than I.

607  
00:25:21,130 --> 00:25:22,830  
[LAUGHTER]

608  
00:25:22,830 --> 00:25:25,450

Older, smarter.

609

00:25:25,450 --> 00:25:28,770

She was a goody-goody,  
and I was a pest.

610

00:25:28,770 --> 00:25:31,560

Oh, were you somebody  
who was mischievous?

611

00:25:31,560 --> 00:25:32,460

Mm-hmm.

612

00:25:32,460 --> 00:25:35,850

What were some of the  
mischief you would get into?

613

00:25:35,850 --> 00:25:40,380

Oh, I'd just not do what  
they'd ask me to do.

614

00:25:40,380 --> 00:25:43,560

I wanted my way.

615

00:25:43,560 --> 00:25:47,490

Did your mother  
have help in Berlin

616

00:25:47,490 --> 00:25:49,380

as she had had in Breslau?

617

00:25:49,380 --> 00:25:52,870

Yes, yes, not as  
much but she did.

618

00:25:52,870 --> 00:25:56,400

And describe to me what  
Westfalische's zweiundachtzig

619

00:25:56,400 --> 00:25:58,470

looked like.

620

00:25:58,470 --> 00:26:02,760

It had an elevator, which  
the one in Breslau did not.

621

00:26:02,760 --> 00:26:04,200

OK.

622

00:26:04,200 --> 00:26:08,460

And it had lovely, big  
rooms with beautiful floors.

623

00:26:08,460 --> 00:26:12,180

624

00:26:12,180 --> 00:26:13,980

What floor were you on?

625

00:26:13,980 --> 00:26:15,600

I think we were on the fifth.

626

00:26:15,600 --> 00:26:16,680

I'm not sure.

627

00:26:16,680 --> 00:26:17,850

So pretty high up.

628

00:26:17,850 --> 00:26:19,380

Yeah.

629

00:26:19,380 --> 00:26:26,100

And by the European count  
or by an American count?

630

00:26:26,100 --> 00:26:28,170

You see, European, the  
ground floor is not

631

00:26:28,170 --> 00:26:29,640

counted as the first floor.

632

00:26:29,640 --> 00:26:31,400

The first floor is

above the ground floor.

633  
00:26:31,400 --> 00:26:32,550  
Oh.

634  
00:26:32,550 --> 00:26:33,270  
I don't know.

635  
00:26:33,270 --> 00:26:34,062  
You don't remember.

636  
00:26:34,062 --> 00:26:35,430  
Maybe it was lower than that.

637  
00:26:35,430 --> 00:26:36,230  
I'm not sure.

638  
00:26:36,230 --> 00:26:37,870  
OK Did you have balconies?

639  
00:26:37,870 --> 00:26:41,100  
Yes, we had two balconies,  
one in the front

640  
00:26:41,100 --> 00:26:42,720  
and one in the back.

641  
00:26:42,720 --> 00:26:44,220  
Now where are we talking about?

642  
00:26:44,220 --> 00:26:46,860  
Berlin.

643  
00:26:46,860 --> 00:26:49,980  
Yeah, I think we also had two.

644  
00:26:49,980 --> 00:26:51,420  
I'm pretty sure.

645  
00:26:51,420 --> 00:26:52,680  
OK.

646  
00:26:52,680 --> 00:26:57,090  
Did your father have an office  
for his business in Berlin?

647  
00:26:57,090 --> 00:26:58,500  
Yes.

648  
00:26:58,500 --> 00:27:03,390  
And was it close to your home?

649  
00:27:03,390 --> 00:27:06,240  
No, it wasn't too close.

650  
00:27:06,240 --> 00:27:09,990  
And he worked on  
Saturday half a day.

651  
00:27:09,990 --> 00:27:13,980  
And on the way home, he would  
stop at the candy store.

652  
00:27:13,980 --> 00:27:19,740  
And he would come home  
with a big package.

653  
00:27:19,740 --> 00:27:22,260  
And there was always something  
special for my sister,

654  
00:27:22,260 --> 00:27:24,030  
and for me, and for the maid.

655  
00:27:24,030 --> 00:27:25,140  
Aw.

656  
00:27:25,140 --> 00:27:28,050  
And then the rest of  
it, my mother put away.

657  
00:27:28,050 --> 00:27:31,890  
And she would dole it

out during the week.

658

00:27:31,890 --> 00:27:33,010

That's a sweet thought.

659

00:27:33,010 --> 00:27:33,510

Yeah.

660

00:27:33,510 --> 00:27:36,180

My father would  
come home for lunch.

661

00:27:36,180 --> 00:27:39,690

And we were home  
for lunch, also.

662

00:27:39,690 --> 00:27:43,320

663

00:27:43,320 --> 00:27:46,830

And we would run to the door to  
see who could greet him first.

664

00:27:46,830 --> 00:27:49,290

Oh, that's so kind.

665

00:27:49,290 --> 00:27:51,330

They were just wonderful.

666

00:27:51,330 --> 00:27:52,770

OK.

667

00:27:52,770 --> 00:27:56,940

Were you closer to  
one or to the other?

668

00:27:56,940 --> 00:27:59,290

I was a mama's girl.

669

00:27:59,290 --> 00:28:01,950

My mother was very  
important-- my father, too.

670  
00:28:01,950 --> 00:28:04,710  
But I don't know.

671  
00:28:04,710 --> 00:28:08,420  
No, they were both  
equally important.

672  
00:28:08,420 --> 00:28:15,200  
And did they have any  
particular interests or hobbies?

673  
00:28:15,200 --> 00:28:18,800  
I don't think my father did,  
but my mother did music.

674  
00:28:18,800 --> 00:28:19,410  
OK.

675  
00:28:19,410 --> 00:28:19,910  
Yeah.

676  
00:28:19,910 --> 00:28:22,950

677  
00:28:22,950 --> 00:28:26,920  
And personality wise.

678  
00:28:26,920 --> 00:28:30,050  
They were happy people.

679  
00:28:30,050 --> 00:28:36,050  
I don't remember any depressions  
or any dark part about it.

680  
00:28:36,050 --> 00:28:38,450  
It was just-- my sister and I--

681  
00:28:38,450 --> 00:28:44,750  
my sister is still alive at 98.

682

00:28:44,750 --> 00:28:45,470  
Wow.

683  
00:28:45,470 --> 00:28:47,300  
I'm 96.

684  
00:28:47,300 --> 00:28:48,930  
Wow.

685  
00:28:48,930 --> 00:28:49,430  
[LAUGHTER]

686  
00:28:49,430 --> 00:28:50,690  
I wouldn't have thought it.

687  
00:28:50,690 --> 00:28:52,850  
I really wouldn't  
have thought it.

688  
00:28:52,850 --> 00:28:55,820  
Yeah, but when you  
said 1920, I sort of--

689  
00:28:55,820 --> 00:28:57,260  
whoa!

690  
00:28:57,260 --> 00:28:58,250  
[LAUGHTER]

691  
00:28:58,250 --> 00:28:59,660  
We were just lucky.

692  
00:28:59,660 --> 00:29:00,500  
Yeah.

693  
00:29:00,500 --> 00:29:02,540  
We talk about my parents a lot.

694  
00:29:02,540 --> 00:29:03,800  
Yeah.

695



00:29:03,800 --> 00:29:07,580  
What are some of the things  
that come up again and again?

696  
00:29:07,580 --> 00:29:11,030

697  
00:29:11,030 --> 00:29:14,330  
Now my children, especially  
my older daughter,

698  
00:29:14,330 --> 00:29:17,730  
remembers my father very well.

699  
00:29:17,730 --> 00:29:21,080  
And we still quote  
him most every day.

700  
00:29:21,080 --> 00:29:21,740  
Really?

701  
00:29:21,740 --> 00:29:22,692  
Yeah.

702  
00:29:22,692 --> 00:29:24,650  
What were some of the  
things that he would say?

703  
00:29:24,650 --> 00:29:30,160  
He was just a all-around  
wonderful, wise person.

704  
00:29:30,160 --> 00:29:32,170  
And they never met my mother.

705  
00:29:32,170 --> 00:29:37,830  
But she was also unique.

706  
00:29:37,830 --> 00:29:40,760  
My mother could tell jokes.

707  
00:29:40,760 --> 00:29:48,610

And she was fast in  
everything she did.

708  
00:29:48,610 --> 00:29:53,530  
It was just a happy life.

709  
00:29:53,530 --> 00:29:59,950  
When you were in  
school in Berlin,

710  
00:29:59,950 --> 00:30:03,130  
did you feel different  
from the other kids

711  
00:30:03,130 --> 00:30:05,390  
because you were Jewish?

712  
00:30:05,390 --> 00:30:06,280  
No.

713  
00:30:06,280 --> 00:30:08,650  
I had friends on both sides.

714  
00:30:08,650 --> 00:30:13,300

715  
00:30:13,300 --> 00:30:15,070  
No.

716  
00:30:15,070 --> 00:30:17,560  
Until Hitler came, we  
were fully accepted.

717  
00:30:17,560 --> 00:30:19,900  
And I mean, I say now accepted.

718  
00:30:19,900 --> 00:30:22,550  
Then I felt just  
like everybody else.

719  
00:30:22,550 --> 00:30:23,510  
OK.

720  
00:30:23,510 --> 00:30:24,010  
OK.

721  
00:30:24,010 --> 00:30:25,110  
There was no distinction.

722  
00:30:25,110 --> 00:30:26,110  
There was no difference.

723  
00:30:26,110 --> 00:30:26,610  
No.

724  
00:30:26,610 --> 00:30:28,360  
No.

725  
00:30:28,360 --> 00:30:30,060  
Was politics talked  
about at home?

726  
00:30:30,060 --> 00:30:30,820  
No.

727  
00:30:30,820 --> 00:30:34,900  
Oh, some of it but not too much.

728  
00:30:34,900 --> 00:30:36,460  
Did you have a radio?

729  
00:30:36,460 --> 00:30:38,650  
Yes.

730  
00:30:38,650 --> 00:30:41,440  
The first radio I ever  
saw, I couldn't figure out

731  
00:30:41,440 --> 00:30:43,330  
who was in there.

732  
00:30:43,330 --> 00:30:45,310  
[LAUGHTER]

733  
00:30:45,310 --> 00:30:46,783  
How'd they get there?

734  
00:30:46,783 --> 00:30:49,960  
[LAUGHTER]

735  
00:30:49,960 --> 00:30:54,270  
How does that voice  
come out from there?

736  
00:30:54,270 --> 00:30:56,500  
What sort of things  
that you remember

737  
00:30:56,500 --> 00:30:59,110  
hearing over the radio?

738  
00:30:59,110 --> 00:31:04,680  
By that time, it was about  
Hitler and stuff like that.

739  
00:31:04,680 --> 00:31:06,140  
OK.

740  
00:31:06,140 --> 00:31:13,100  
So in 1931 and '32, you've only  
been in Berlin a few years.

741  
00:31:13,100 --> 00:31:15,170  
Yeah.

742  
00:31:15,170 --> 00:31:16,740  
You're still in school.

743  
00:31:16,740 --> 00:31:17,870  
Yes.

744  
00:31:17,870 --> 00:31:22,280  
And there are elections  
that are coming up.

745

00:31:22,280 --> 00:31:26,060

Was that something  
that penetrated

746

00:31:26,060 --> 00:31:29,300

into your personal world?

747

00:31:29,300 --> 00:31:31,275

After awhile, yes,  
of course, it did.

748

00:31:31,275 --> 00:31:31,775

How?

749

00:31:31,775 --> 00:31:35,620

750

00:31:35,620 --> 00:31:36,580

It was the radio.

751

00:31:36,580 --> 00:31:39,350

752

00:31:39,350 --> 00:31:41,300

And then we did talk about it.

753

00:31:41,300 --> 00:31:43,180

And by that time, we were older.

754

00:31:43,180 --> 00:31:45,690

Yeah.

755

00:31:45,690 --> 00:31:50,890

When Hitler actually  
came to power in 1933,

756

00:31:50,890 --> 00:31:56,530

did that make itself felt  
in your father's business,

757

00:31:56,530 --> 00:31:59,950

in your experiences in school?

758

00:31:59,950 --> 00:32:02,740

Did that make itself  
felt in your life?

759

00:32:02,740 --> 00:32:06,110

Not in '33-- a little  
later than that.

760

00:32:06,110 --> 00:32:09,760

Can you tell me about that?

761

00:32:09,760 --> 00:32:13,030

My first awareness of it, is  
that what you're talking about?

762

00:32:13,030 --> 00:32:13,750

Pardon?

763

00:32:13,750 --> 00:32:15,660

My first awareness of it.

764

00:32:15,660 --> 00:32:16,160

Yes.

765

00:32:16,160 --> 00:32:17,910

I think it was a gradual thing.

766

00:32:17,910 --> 00:32:20,970

767

00:32:20,970 --> 00:32:23,550

I don't remember  
exactly when it started.

768

00:32:23,550 --> 00:32:29,130

But of course, we were  
very much aware of it.

769

00:32:29,130 --> 00:32:36,876

They had news films that--

770  
00:32:36,876 --> 00:32:38,400  
now you see it on television.

771  
00:32:38,400 --> 00:32:42,436  
In those days, you had to  
go to the movies to see it.

772  
00:32:42,436 --> 00:32:43,320  
And we saw it.

773  
00:32:43,320 --> 00:32:45,690  
That's how we  
became aware of it.

774  
00:32:45,690 --> 00:32:50,100  
OK, so you would see news films  
while you were in the cinema.

775  
00:32:50,100 --> 00:32:52,470  
Yes.

776  
00:32:52,470 --> 00:32:55,980  
There were special  
films just with news.

777  
00:32:55,980 --> 00:32:57,710  
OK.

778  
00:32:57,710 --> 00:33:02,320  
And what are some of the things  
that would stand out to you?

779  
00:33:02,320 --> 00:33:13,870

780  
00:33:13,870 --> 00:33:17,980  
Everything was so foreign,  
this physical thing,

781  
00:33:17,980 --> 00:33:26,680  
this marching, and yelling,

and this boasting of how good

782

00:33:26,680 --> 00:33:28,880  
they were and in the sports.

783

00:33:28,880 --> 00:33:32,770  
And then things were forbidden.

784

00:33:32,770 --> 00:33:36,370  
And then we couldn't  
go to the movies.

785

00:33:36,370 --> 00:33:37,990  
We couldn't sit on park benches.

786

00:33:37,990 --> 00:33:42,100

787

00:33:42,100 --> 00:33:44,080  
Have you ever heard  
in your interviews

788

00:33:44,080 --> 00:33:46,900  
about the Kulturbund?

789

00:33:46,900 --> 00:33:48,940  
Tell me about it.

790

00:33:48,940 --> 00:33:51,110  
When we couldn't go  
to the theater anymore

791

00:33:51,110 --> 00:33:55,120  
or to the concerts,  
Jewish theater

792

00:33:55,120 --> 00:33:58,480  
started to come into existence.

793

00:33:58,480 --> 00:34:01,210  
And it was called the  
Kulturbund, culture bond.



794  
00:34:01,210 --> 00:34:03,130  
I see.

795  
00:34:03,130 --> 00:34:05,830  
And my parents, of course,  
were members of it.

796  
00:34:05,830 --> 00:34:09,580  
And my sister and I would go  
to all these performances.

797  
00:34:09,580 --> 00:34:11,330  
They were all done by Jews.

798  
00:34:11,330 --> 00:34:14,690  
And were they in different  
places, the performances?

799  
00:34:14,690 --> 00:34:15,190  
Yes.

800  
00:34:15,190 --> 00:34:16,989  
They were in theaters.

801  
00:34:16,989 --> 00:34:21,280  
So they were able to rent out  
space in different theaters?

802  
00:34:21,280 --> 00:34:23,840  
I don't know all the  
background of those things.

803  
00:34:23,840 --> 00:34:25,020  
No, no, but you--

804  
00:34:25,020 --> 00:34:25,765  
Yeah.

805  
00:34:25,765 --> 00:34:27,070  
OK.

806

00:34:27,070 --> 00:34:30,535

And did the behavior of your teachers change in school?

807

00:34:30,535 --> 00:34:33,520

808

00:34:33,520 --> 00:34:36,159

By that time, we were out of it.

809

00:34:36,159 --> 00:34:38,920

We couldn't go to school anymore.

810

00:34:38,920 --> 00:34:43,550

When did that happen that you couldn't go to school anymore?

811

00:34:43,550 --> 00:34:45,580

I think I was 16.

812

00:34:45,580 --> 00:34:47,199

So that would have been 1936.

813

00:34:47,199 --> 00:34:49,510

Yes.

814

00:34:49,510 --> 00:34:56,500

And what happened with your father's business after 1933?

815

00:34:56,500 --> 00:34:58,240

For several years, he kept it.

816

00:34:58,240 --> 00:35:02,360

And then the Nazis just took it.

817

00:35:02,360 --> 00:35:02,860

I see.

818

00:35:02,860 --> 00:35:03,640

So--

819  
00:35:03,640 --> 00:35:05,440  
And when he came  
to this country,

820  
00:35:05,440 --> 00:35:07,630  
they got wiedergutmachung--

821  
00:35:07,630 --> 00:35:08,650  
know what that is?

822  
00:35:08,650 --> 00:35:09,590  
Reparations.

823  
00:35:09,590 --> 00:35:11,170  
Yes.

824  
00:35:11,170 --> 00:35:12,190  
OK.

825  
00:35:12,190 --> 00:35:13,690  
But that's a lot  
later, isn't it?

826  
00:35:13,690 --> 00:35:14,590  
Yes, of course.

827  
00:35:14,590 --> 00:35:15,400  
OK.

828  
00:35:15,400 --> 00:35:18,400  
So I still want to get a  
sense of this life in Berlin

829  
00:35:18,400 --> 00:35:20,830  
in the 1930s.

830  
00:35:20,830 --> 00:35:25,960  
Did you see Brownshirts  
walking down the street?

831  
00:35:25,960 --> 00:35:28,060  
Yeah.

832  
00:35:28,060 --> 00:35:30,070  
Were they near your home?

833  
00:35:30,070 --> 00:35:30,850  
No.

834  
00:35:30,850 --> 00:35:32,890  
No.

835  
00:35:32,890 --> 00:35:36,100  
Did you ever feel  
harassed in school

836  
00:35:36,100 --> 00:35:37,690  
when you were still in school?

837  
00:35:37,690 --> 00:35:39,850  
No.

838  
00:35:39,850 --> 00:35:41,830  
I was out then.

839  
00:35:41,830 --> 00:35:43,390  
But when you say  
I was out, there

840  
00:35:43,390 --> 00:35:46,375  
were still some years  
after Hitler was in power

841  
00:35:46,375 --> 00:35:49,030  
before you were out.

842  
00:35:49,030 --> 00:35:51,500  
No, I didn't feel  
anything in particular.

843  
00:35:51,500 --> 00:35:52,000

OK.

844

00:35:52,000 --> 00:35:53,990

So your teachers were not cruel.

845

00:35:53,990 --> 00:35:54,790

No.

846

00:35:54,790 --> 00:35:58,000

And the fellow students  
did not behave differently?

847

00:35:58,000 --> 00:35:59,290

No, that happens later.

848

00:35:59,290 --> 00:36:03,610

Some of my friends wouldn't  
talk to me anymore.

849

00:36:03,610 --> 00:36:06,310

And that was after you  
had already left school.

850

00:36:06,310 --> 00:36:07,840

[SIGHS]

851

00:36:07,840 --> 00:36:09,935

It's so hard to  
separate it exactly.

852

00:36:09,935 --> 00:36:10,450

OK.

853

00:36:10,450 --> 00:36:11,830

It doesn't matter.

854

00:36:11,830 --> 00:36:14,110

In that sense, it  
doesn't matter.

855

00:36:14,110 --> 00:36:19,000

What I'm after is, the incidents

where you experienced them

856

00:36:19,000 --> 00:36:24,220  
not speaking to you anymore,  
can you tell us more about that.

857

00:36:24,220 --> 00:36:31,166  
It was just we didn't  
stay in the same places.

858

00:36:31,166 --> 00:36:36,360  
They didn't walk where I walked  
and wouldn't make any attempt

859

00:36:36,360 --> 00:36:38,510  
to contact me.

860

00:36:38,510 --> 00:36:41,110

861

00:36:41,110 --> 00:36:45,100  
As a matter of fact, I was on  
a business trip with my husband

862

00:36:45,100 --> 00:36:50,290  
to Germany from here.

863

00:36:50,290 --> 00:36:54,590  
And I used a bathroom  
at a bed and breakfast.

864

00:36:54,590 --> 00:36:57,460  
There was a magazine rack.

865

00:36:57,460 --> 00:36:59,860  
And one of the girls  
that had been my friend

866

00:36:59,860 --> 00:37:04,910  
and was in school with me had  
become a very famous actress.

867

00:37:04,910 --> 00:37:05,500  
No kidding.

868  
00:37:05,500 --> 00:37:06,355  
I saw her picture.

869  
00:37:06,355 --> 00:37:09,190

870  
00:37:09,190 --> 00:37:13,000  
And so somebody asked  
me, did you contact her?

871  
00:37:13,000 --> 00:37:14,620  
It had gone through my mind.

872  
00:37:14,620 --> 00:37:17,170  
And then I decided not  
to do it, because I

873  
00:37:17,170 --> 00:37:20,080  
didn't want to be rejected.

874  
00:37:20,080 --> 00:37:23,940  
I didn't know how she felt.

875  
00:37:23,940 --> 00:37:26,640  
What year was this that  
you were in Germany

876  
00:37:26,640 --> 00:37:30,150  
and you saw the picture  
in the magazine rack?

877  
00:37:30,150 --> 00:37:32,850  
Was this several  
decades after the war?

878  
00:37:32,850 --> 00:37:34,320  
Oh, yes.

879  
00:37:34,320 --> 00:37:36,150

'70s, '80s?

880  
00:37:36,150 --> 00:37:38,896  
Probably around that time.

881  
00:37:38,896 --> 00:37:40,120  
OK.

882  
00:37:40,120 --> 00:37:41,330  
And so you never did contact?

883  
00:37:41,330 --> 00:37:41,830  
No.

884  
00:37:41,830 --> 00:37:46,400

885  
00:37:46,400 --> 00:37:54,970  
Did the rejection ever  
come in a very obvious way?

886  
00:37:54,970 --> 00:37:56,180  
No, it was subtle.

887  
00:37:56,180 --> 00:37:59,300

888  
00:37:59,300 --> 00:38:04,490  
But this is part  
of my upbringing.

889  
00:38:04,490 --> 00:38:07,910  
My parents instilled  
a spirit in us that,

890  
00:38:07,910 --> 00:38:12,350  
no matter what happens to  
you, you are still yourself.

891  
00:38:12,350 --> 00:38:14,070  
You don't lose yourself.



892

00:38:14,070 --> 00:38:17,120

You don't lose your value.

893

00:38:17,120 --> 00:38:19,670

And that's what kept us going.

894

00:38:19,670 --> 00:38:21,140

Those are very  
important lessons.

895

00:38:21,140 --> 00:38:23,150

Yes, very.

896

00:38:23,150 --> 00:38:25,650

And so we are so fortunate.

897

00:38:25,650 --> 00:38:29,150

Not every child has that.

898

00:38:29,150 --> 00:38:30,140

That's right.

899

00:38:30,140 --> 00:38:33,050

That's right.

900

00:38:33,050 --> 00:38:40,640

As we grow up, part of our  
answer to am I worth anything

901

00:38:40,640 --> 00:38:45,550

is your mirror to the world and  
how the world reacts to you.

902

00:38:45,550 --> 00:38:46,880

Yeah.

903

00:38:46,880 --> 00:38:53,840

And at some point in growth, you  
have to come to a realization

904

00:38:53,840 --> 00:38:57,920

that you have value despite  
how the world reacts to you.

905  
00:38:57,920 --> 00:39:03,150  
And that's something you're  
saying your parents stressed.

906  
00:39:03,150 --> 00:39:06,660  
By example, not by lecturing.

907  
00:39:06,660 --> 00:39:07,160  
OK.

908  
00:39:07,160 --> 00:39:10,630

909  
00:39:10,630 --> 00:39:13,870  
It helped me when I came  
to this country, which is,

910  
00:39:13,870 --> 00:39:14,920  
of course, much later.

911  
00:39:14,920 --> 00:39:16,140  
And we may come to that.

912  
00:39:16,140 --> 00:39:19,330  
Yes, yes.

913  
00:39:19,330 --> 00:39:26,020  
So did your level of  
living change much in 1933

914  
00:39:26,020 --> 00:39:31,240  
to '36, those first years  
of Hitler being in power?

915  
00:39:31,240 --> 00:39:33,430  
It did later on, yes.

916  
00:39:33,430 --> 00:39:39,040  
Because for instance, you

couldn't have a maid anymore

917

00:39:39,040 --> 00:39:43,990  
that was under 45,  
because that's when they

918

00:39:43,990 --> 00:39:46,000  
couldn't have children anymore.

919

00:39:46,000 --> 00:39:48,430  
And they didn't want  
to work for Jews.

920

00:39:48,430 --> 00:39:52,300  
So we had a part-time  
maid over 46.

921

00:39:52,300 --> 00:39:53,410  
I see.

922

00:39:53,410 --> 00:39:54,130  
I see.

923

00:39:54,130 --> 00:39:56,500  
And our apartment  
was smaller by then,

924

00:39:56,500 --> 00:39:59,470  
because my mother couldn't  
take care of anything big.

925

00:39:59,470 --> 00:40:01,340  
And I guess the money  
wasn't there, either.

926

00:40:01,340 --> 00:40:02,410  
I don't know.

927

00:40:02,410 --> 00:40:05,080  
OK.

928

00:40:05,080 --> 00:40:06,460

Were your parents less--

929  
00:40:06,460 --> 00:40:09,110

930  
00:40:09,110 --> 00:40:10,790  
how was their manner?

931  
00:40:10,790 --> 00:40:15,200  
Did their manner  
change as time went on?

932  
00:40:15,200 --> 00:40:17,000  
Were they less happy?

933  
00:40:17,000 --> 00:40:19,650  
Where they more worried?

934  
00:40:19,650 --> 00:40:20,920  
They didn't show it to us.

935  
00:40:20,920 --> 00:40:23,440

936  
00:40:23,440 --> 00:40:27,290  
And that came out when we left.

937  
00:40:27,290 --> 00:40:29,690  
Tell me about that.

938  
00:40:29,690 --> 00:40:31,850  
Well, it's really a long story.

939  
00:40:31,850 --> 00:40:33,080  
Please, please.

940  
00:40:33,080 --> 00:40:33,670  
OK.

941  
00:40:33,670 --> 00:40:35,680  
Please.

942  
00:40:35,680 --> 00:40:37,690  
By that time, it was later on.

943  
00:40:37,690 --> 00:40:41,620  
And I did not want  
to stay in Germany.

944  
00:40:41,620 --> 00:40:44,590  
I could see what was happening.

945  
00:40:44,590 --> 00:40:49,700  
My father kept saying,  
you don't have to worry.

946  
00:40:49,700 --> 00:40:51,190  
I had the iron cross.

947  
00:40:51,190 --> 00:40:52,705  
I was in the army.

948  
00:40:52,705 --> 00:40:56,140  
They're not going to  
do anything to me.

949  
00:40:56,140 --> 00:41:01,070  
But of course, that changed  
after Crystal Night.

950  
00:41:01,070 --> 00:41:01,570  
OK.

951  
00:41:01,570 --> 00:41:03,612  
So you were still in Berlin  
during Kristallnacht.

952  
00:41:03,612 --> 00:41:05,080  
Yes, I was.

953  
00:41:05,080 --> 00:41:08,860  
But before that  
what happened-- no,

954  
00:41:08,860 --> 00:41:12,130  
it happened about that time.

955  
00:41:12,130 --> 00:41:13,180  
I wanted to go.

956  
00:41:13,180 --> 00:41:16,030  
I wanted to leave so badly.

957  
00:41:16,030 --> 00:41:19,270  
And I was a stamp  
collector at that time.

958  
00:41:19,270 --> 00:41:22,600  
One Sunday afternoon, I  
was looking at my stamps.

959  
00:41:22,600 --> 00:41:26,620  
And I found an envelope  
that my uncle had given me

960  
00:41:26,620 --> 00:41:28,300  
that came from America.

961  
00:41:28,300 --> 00:41:34,160  
And it had an American stamp  
on it addressed to him.

962  
00:41:34,160 --> 00:41:38,830  
And he gave it to me, because  
he knew I was collecting stamps.

963  
00:41:38,830 --> 00:41:42,940  
So he happened to be in  
our house that Sunday.

964  
00:41:42,940 --> 00:41:45,020  
And I went in there.

965  
00:41:45,020 --> 00:41:50,720  
And I said, who are these people

that wrote you from America?

966  
00:41:50,720 --> 00:41:52,490  
And he said, this is  
my cousin of mine.

967  
00:41:52,490 --> 00:41:55,280

968  
00:41:55,280 --> 00:41:57,553  
And I asked him  
about the details.

969  
00:41:57,553 --> 00:41:58,220  
It was a couple.

970  
00:41:58,220 --> 00:41:59,420  
They had no children.

971  
00:41:59,420 --> 00:42:04,340  
He was American, and she  
had come from Germany.

972  
00:42:04,340 --> 00:42:06,740  
So I said, would you  
please write to them

973  
00:42:06,740 --> 00:42:10,010  
and see if they would  
give us an affidavit.

974  
00:42:10,010 --> 00:42:11,810  
And he did write to them.

975  
00:42:11,810 --> 00:42:16,100  
And he did give us an  
affidavit for my sister and me.

976  
00:42:16,100 --> 00:42:17,330  
And this is in what year?

977  
00:42:17,330 --> 00:42:23,140

978  
00:42:23,140 --> 00:42:27,680  
It was probably around '38.

979  
00:42:27,680 --> 00:42:33,370  
OK, before Kristallnacht--  
because that's November '38.

980  
00:42:33,370 --> 00:42:33,975  
I know.

981  
00:42:33,975 --> 00:42:34,630  
Oh.

982  
00:42:34,630 --> 00:42:36,070  
I know.

983  
00:42:36,070 --> 00:42:38,410  
And I'm trying to pinpoint it.

984  
00:42:38,410 --> 00:42:42,940  
And I have not been able  
to give the exact date.

985  
00:42:42,940 --> 00:42:44,320  
OK.

986  
00:42:44,320 --> 00:42:50,320  
Well, when the affidavit  
came, you have a quota number.

987  
00:42:50,320 --> 00:42:52,300  
And it was a very high number.

988  
00:42:52,300 --> 00:42:56,260  
There were a lot of  
people ahead of us.

989  
00:42:56,260 --> 00:42:59,080  
So I said to my  
father, I said, I



990  
00:42:59,080 --> 00:43:04,420  
don't want to stay and wait  
here and maybe not get out.

991  
00:43:04,420 --> 00:43:08,200  
He had a friend in London.

992  
00:43:08,200 --> 00:43:12,340  
And that friend had  
an English friend

993  
00:43:12,340 --> 00:43:18,340  
who was a British Quaker.

994  
00:43:18,340 --> 00:43:22,150  
And he said my  
father's friend, we've

995  
00:43:22,150 --> 00:43:26,020  
been thinking what we can  
do for the German Jews.

996  
00:43:26,020 --> 00:43:28,480  
And maybe this is  
something we can do.

997  
00:43:28,480 --> 00:43:31,180  
Maybe we can take one of them.

998  
00:43:31,180 --> 00:43:33,220  
And it so happened--

999  
00:43:33,220 --> 00:43:35,710  
life is so strange that way.

1000  
00:43:35,710 --> 00:43:40,120  
It so happened that the  
head of the American Quaker

1001  
00:43:40,120 --> 00:43:47,620  
was visiting that man in London

at the time, a Dr. Balderson.

1002

00:43:47,620 --> 00:43:55,160

And he was on the way to Germany  
to find out what was happening.

1003

00:43:55,160 --> 00:44:03,520

And so the English  
Quaker said to him,

1004

00:44:03,520 --> 00:44:05,920

would you investigate  
the family?

1005

00:44:05,920 --> 00:44:09,670

And see if we can take  
one of those girls.

1006

00:44:09,670 --> 00:44:10,410

And he did.

1007

00:44:10,410 --> 00:44:14,290

And I remember when he came  
to our house, Dr. Balderson.

1008

00:44:14,290 --> 00:44:15,880

Dr. Borgerson.

1009

00:44:15,880 --> 00:44:18,508

Balderson, B-A-L--

1010

00:44:18,508 --> 00:44:19,750

Oh, Balderson.

1011

00:44:19,750 --> 00:44:20,890

Yeah, Balderson.

1012

00:44:20,890 --> 00:44:21,730

Balderson, mm-hmm.

1013

00:44:21,730 --> 00:44:23,800

And he came on a Sunday.

1014  
00:44:23,800 --> 00:44:28,880  
And we had already  
learned English in school.

1015  
00:44:28,880 --> 00:44:31,660  
And my mother  
spoke a little bit.

1016  
00:44:31,660 --> 00:44:32,950  
So she made coffee.

1017  
00:44:32,950 --> 00:44:33,760  
And we talked.

1018  
00:44:33,760 --> 00:44:35,860  
And later on, he went back.

1019  
00:44:35,860 --> 00:44:39,160  
And he told them that  
our family was fine.

1020  
00:44:39,160 --> 00:44:41,890  
So they said they  
would take one of us.

1021  
00:44:41,890 --> 00:44:45,040  
Did your sister want to  
go as much as you did?

1022  
00:44:45,040 --> 00:44:47,080  
I guess.

1023  
00:44:47,080 --> 00:44:50,200  
I think.

1024  
00:44:50,200 --> 00:44:53,560  
Well, we were a pair, anyway.

1025  
00:44:53,560 --> 00:44:58,420  
So we wrote to them.

1026

00:44:58,420 --> 00:45:02,410

And we sent our  
pictures, both of us.

1027

00:45:02,410 --> 00:45:05,320

And as they told us later on,  
when they saw the picture,

1028

00:45:05,320 --> 00:45:07,910

they said, we can't take one.

1029

00:45:07,910 --> 00:45:09,010

We have to take them both.

1030

00:45:09,010 --> 00:45:11,560

1031

00:45:11,560 --> 00:45:14,680

So we got ready to go.

1032

00:45:14,680 --> 00:45:18,130

And I'd like to tell you the  
process of what happened.

1033

00:45:18,130 --> 00:45:18,700

Please.

1034

00:45:18,700 --> 00:45:19,200

Please.

1035

00:45:19,200 --> 00:45:22,480

1036

00:45:22,480 --> 00:45:25,570

Somebody came from  
the government.

1037

00:45:25,570 --> 00:45:28,870

And everything we  
took, he marked down.

1038

00:45:28,870 --> 00:45:31,870  
And my parents had  
to pay the government

1039  
00:45:31,870 --> 00:45:35,830  
the worth of that particular  
article that we took in money.

1040  
00:45:35,830 --> 00:45:37,940  
Even though you owned it.

1041  
00:45:37,940 --> 00:45:38,650  
We owned it.

1042  
00:45:38,650 --> 00:45:39,910  
You owned the article.

1043  
00:45:39,910 --> 00:45:41,620  
And yet, if you want--

1044  
00:45:41,620 --> 00:45:47,890  
And yet, they had to pay the  
amount that article was worth.

1045  
00:45:47,890 --> 00:45:50,560  
Do you remember what it is that  
you actually took with you?

1046  
00:45:50,560 --> 00:45:53,470

1047  
00:45:53,470 --> 00:45:54,400  
Yes.

1048  
00:45:54,400 --> 00:45:56,560  
We took our clothes, of course.

1049  
00:45:56,560 --> 00:46:01,480  
And my sister took  
a sewing machine.

1050  
00:46:01,480 --> 00:46:06,070

And we took a few  
little gadgets.

1051  
00:46:06,070 --> 00:46:15,160  
We took I think a small rug  
and some vases, you know,

1052  
00:46:15,160 --> 00:46:16,900  
a few little items.

1053  
00:46:16,900 --> 00:46:20,770  
Household items types things?

1054  
00:46:20,770 --> 00:46:23,890  
This is another thing that  
I would like to talk about--

1055  
00:46:23,890 --> 00:46:25,870  
is how the process was.

1056  
00:46:25,870 --> 00:46:27,520  
Yes, tell me.

1057  
00:46:27,520 --> 00:46:29,020  
About Kristallnacht.

1058  
00:46:29,020 --> 00:46:30,610  
OK, please tell me.

1059  
00:46:30,610 --> 00:46:34,210  
You may have heard this before,  
but I think it repeats--

1060  
00:46:34,210 --> 00:46:38,260  
most people here,  
Americans, do not know this.

1061  
00:46:38,260 --> 00:46:41,380

1062  
00:46:41,380 --> 00:46:44,080  
It got worse every year.

1063  
00:46:44,080 --> 00:46:48,130  
And people are  
wondering, how did they

1064  
00:46:48,130 --> 00:46:51,700  
know which stores were Jewish?

1065  
00:46:51,700 --> 00:46:56,065  
And how could they know  
which glasses to break?

1066  
00:46:56,065 --> 00:46:57,370  
Mm-hmm.

1067  
00:46:57,370 --> 00:47:05,250  
Well, one year there was  
a law that all female Jews

1068  
00:47:05,250 --> 00:47:09,876  
had to take the name Sara and  
all male had to take the name--

1069  
00:47:09,876 --> 00:47:13,680

1070  
00:47:13,680 --> 00:47:17,755  
Israel, no?

1071  
00:47:17,755 --> 00:47:20,420  
I forgot [MUMBLING]  
for a minute.

1072  
00:47:20,420 --> 00:47:23,000  
Anyway, they had  
take these two names.

1073  
00:47:23,000 --> 00:47:26,330  
The following year,  
there was a law,

1074  
00:47:26,330 --> 00:47:31,070

all Jewish stores had  
to write their names

1075  
00:47:31,070 --> 00:47:35,080  
on the outside of the windows.

1076  
00:47:35,080 --> 00:47:39,070  
You see the connection?

1077  
00:47:39,070 --> 00:47:42,130  
So if you had a Jewish  
store, your Jewish name

1078  
00:47:42,130 --> 00:47:43,765  
was on the outside  
on the window.

1079  
00:47:43,765 --> 00:47:46,500

1080  
00:47:46,500 --> 00:47:50,470  
It was painted on there.

1081  
00:47:50,470 --> 00:47:53,590  
Where were you  
during Kristallnacht?

1082  
00:47:53,590 --> 00:47:56,140  
My sister and I were  
home with my father.

1083  
00:47:56,140 --> 00:47:59,260  
My mother was in Breslau  
visiting her mother.

1084  
00:47:59,260 --> 00:48:00,940  
OK.

1085  
00:48:00,940 --> 00:48:05,230  
And of course, we heard  
what was happening.

1086



00:48:05,230 --> 00:48:06,760  
What is it that you heard?

1087  
00:48:06,760 --> 00:48:11,260  
We heard that the men were  
taken and put into prison.

1088  
00:48:11,260 --> 00:48:13,420  
Did anyone come  
to your apartment?

1089  
00:48:13,420 --> 00:48:15,940  
I'm going to tell  
you about that.

1090  
00:48:15,940 --> 00:48:19,180  
My father went to  
somebody's house

1091  
00:48:19,180 --> 00:48:23,500  
where they had already  
been and taken the man.

1092  
00:48:23,500 --> 00:48:26,520  
So he went there.

1093  
00:48:26,520 --> 00:48:27,780  
I see.

1094  
00:48:27,780 --> 00:48:30,540  
My father was never taken.

1095  
00:48:30,540 --> 00:48:34,836  
And you and your sister  
remained in your apartment.

1096  
00:48:34,836 --> 00:48:36,650  
Yes.

1097  
00:48:36,650 --> 00:48:39,350  
Did you hear things  
out on the streets?

1098

00:48:39,350 --> 00:48:42,410

No, this was not a commercial street.

1099

00:48:42,410 --> 00:48:44,180

I see.

1100

00:48:44,180 --> 00:48:46,520

There were no stores around there.

1101

00:48:46,520 --> 00:48:49,340

Did you venture out the following day or the days

1102

00:48:49,340 --> 00:48:50,100

afterwards?

1103

00:48:50,100 --> 00:48:51,170

Yes, yes.

1104

00:48:51,170 --> 00:48:52,340

What is it that you saw?

1105

00:48:52,340 --> 00:48:58,970

We saw the broken glass and the synagogues were ablaze.

1106

00:48:58,970 --> 00:48:59,870

You saw the burning.

1107

00:48:59,870 --> 00:49:00,370

Yeah.

1108

00:49:00,370 --> 00:49:04,960

1109

00:49:04,960 --> 00:49:08,780

Were you afraid for your own life at that point?

1110

00:49:08,780 --> 00:49:09,280  
No.

1111  
00:49:09,280 --> 00:49:11,980

1112  
00:49:11,980 --> 00:49:14,320  
When you're that young,  
you don't think of it.

1113  
00:49:14,320 --> 00:49:17,950  
And we were young young.

1114  
00:49:17,950 --> 00:49:21,220  
We were quite-- we were very  
protected all our lives.

1115  
00:49:21,220 --> 00:49:24,200

1116  
00:49:24,200 --> 00:49:30,640  
And so Mr. Balderson visited  
you after Kristallnacht.

1117  
00:49:30,640 --> 00:49:33,800  
I think it was after  
Kristallnacht, yes.

1118  
00:49:33,800 --> 00:49:36,850  
I'm not sure.

1119  
00:49:36,850 --> 00:49:40,910  
And the Quaker  
couple in London--

1120  
00:49:40,910 --> 00:49:41,410  
Took us in.

1121  
00:49:41,410 --> 00:49:43,390  
--took both of you.

1122  
00:49:43,390 --> 00:49:46,210

And can you tell me  
about your leave-taking?

1123  
00:49:46,210 --> 00:49:50,006  
You said, so first of all, there  
was the inventory of things.

1124  
00:49:50,006 --> 00:49:57,690  
Can you imagine parents sending  
their two daughters away?

1125  
00:49:57,690 --> 00:49:58,810  
Not a tear, nothing.

1126  
00:49:58,810 --> 00:49:59,410  
Really?

1127  
00:49:59,410 --> 00:50:03,740  
They never showed us anything.

1128  
00:50:03,740 --> 00:50:05,510  
Wow.

1129  
00:50:05,510 --> 00:50:08,090  
But from the minute  
we left, there

1130  
00:50:08,090 --> 00:50:12,690  
was only one thing on our  
minds, to get them out.

1131  
00:50:12,690 --> 00:50:14,655  
That was the only  
thing we ever wanted.

1132  
00:50:14,655 --> 00:50:17,620

1133  
00:50:17,620 --> 00:50:19,710  
Did you go by train?

1134  
00:50:19,710 --> 00:50:22,984

Yeah, my father said  
flying was too dangerous.

1135  
00:50:22,984 --> 00:50:25,890  
[LAUGHTER]

1136  
00:50:25,890 --> 00:50:28,050  
So we went.

1137  
00:50:28,050 --> 00:50:31,470  
We had to cross the  
channel with a boat.

1138  
00:50:31,470 --> 00:50:32,850  
And we were so seasick.

1139  
00:50:32,850 --> 00:50:35,460

1140  
00:50:35,460 --> 00:50:39,930  
And then when we got to  
the station in England,

1141  
00:50:39,930 --> 00:50:43,920  
I remember the first word  
Dr. Balderson said to us--

1142  
00:50:43,920 --> 00:50:47,010

1143  
00:50:47,010 --> 00:50:50,760  
not Dr. Balderson,  
the other one.

1144  
00:50:50,760 --> 00:50:53,110  
Who's who?

1145  
00:50:53,110 --> 00:50:53,610  
[LAUGHTER]

1146  
00:50:53,610 --> 00:50:56,760  
Who's who?

1147  
00:50:56,760 --> 00:51:01,120  
We lived in London  
for a few months.

1148  
00:51:01,120 --> 00:51:04,110  
And they were building  
a home in Sussex.

1149  
00:51:04,110 --> 00:51:07,830  
And that's where  
we moved in later.

1150  
00:51:07,830 --> 00:51:12,575  
And that's where we  
were when war broke out.

1151  
00:51:12,575 --> 00:51:17,190  
And so we thought we'd  
never see them again.

1152  
00:51:17,190 --> 00:51:19,230  
But we did.

1153  
00:51:19,230 --> 00:51:24,330  
What was the name of  
the Quaker family?

1154  
00:51:24,330 --> 00:51:25,860  
Dr. Harding.

1155  
00:51:25,860 --> 00:51:26,650  
Dr. Harding.

1156  
00:51:26,650 --> 00:51:27,150  
Yes.

1157  
00:51:27,150 --> 00:51:31,895  
He invented the smokescreen  
in the First World War.

1158  
00:51:31,895 --> 00:51:33,450

Do you think you  
have some water?

1159  
00:51:33,450 --> 00:51:34,320  
Excuse me.

1160  
00:51:34,320 --> 00:51:35,340  
Yes, we can cut.

1161  
00:51:35,340 --> 00:51:37,990

1162  
00:51:37,990 --> 00:51:39,930  
OK.

1163  
00:51:39,930 --> 00:51:42,700  
We were talking about  
war breaking out

1164  
00:51:42,700 --> 00:51:44,080  
while we were in England.

1165  
00:51:44,080 --> 00:51:46,030  
Yeah, so you were  
with the Hardings.

1166  
00:51:46,030 --> 00:51:49,660  
And he developed something  
called a smokescreen.

1167  
00:51:49,660 --> 00:51:51,820  
Yes, he did that in  
the First World War.

1168  
00:51:51,820 --> 00:51:53,003  
He was a chemist.

1169  
00:51:53,003 --> 00:51:53,503  
Uh-huh.

1170  
00:51:53,503 --> 00:51:54,370  
I see.

1171  
00:51:54,370 --> 00:51:56,870  
And he developed  
the smokescreen.

1172  
00:51:56,870 --> 00:51:59,590

1173  
00:51:59,590 --> 00:52:02,755  
Were you able to write  
letters to your parents

1174  
00:52:02,755 --> 00:52:04,330  
and receive letters from them?

1175  
00:52:04,330 --> 00:52:05,230  
Yes.

1176  
00:52:05,230 --> 00:52:05,890  
OK.

1177  
00:52:05,890 --> 00:52:10,060  
And we had secured  
a position for them

1178  
00:52:10,060 --> 00:52:14,890  
to come to England, my mother  
as a maid and my father

1179  
00:52:14,890 --> 00:52:17,110  
is a housekeeper--

1180  
00:52:17,110 --> 00:52:19,870  
oh, my father, who  
never knew how to drive,

1181  
00:52:19,870 --> 00:52:23,500  
learned how to drive so  
he could be a chauffeur.

1182  
00:52:23,500 --> 00:52:24,850  
OK.



1183  
00:52:24,850 --> 00:52:33,670  
And this was before September  
'39, before the war breaks out.

1184  
00:52:33,670 --> 00:52:35,590  
You had secured these  
positions for them.

1185  
00:52:35,590 --> 00:52:36,320  
Yes.

1186  
00:52:36,320 --> 00:52:37,680  
OK.

1187  
00:52:37,680 --> 00:52:39,870  
And then, of course,  
they couldn't

1188  
00:52:39,870 --> 00:52:45,140  
come, because war broke out.

1189  
00:52:45,140 --> 00:52:47,550  
Oh my.

1190  
00:52:47,550 --> 00:52:52,102  
And then I'll continue with  
them once we come to America.

1191  
00:52:52,102 --> 00:52:53,458  
OK.

1192  
00:52:53,458 --> 00:52:57,270  
So, what happened then  
with you and your sister?

1193  
00:52:57,270 --> 00:53:01,320  
Well, the Hardings, who were  
going to keep us until--

1194  
00:53:01,320 --> 00:53:03,600  
the agreement we

had with them was

1195

00:53:03,600 --> 00:53:07,060

that we would leave when we  
got affidavit to America.

1196

00:53:07,060 --> 00:53:07,560

I see.

1197

00:53:07,560 --> 00:53:08,842

So that transferred.

1198

00:53:08,842 --> 00:53:10,050

You were able to leave from--

1199

00:53:10,050 --> 00:53:10,860

Oh, yes.

1200

00:53:10,860 --> 00:53:12,580

We stayed on that list.

1201

00:53:12,580 --> 00:53:15,510

OK.

1202

00:53:15,510 --> 00:53:19,020

But then war broke out.

1203

00:53:19,020 --> 00:53:25,810

And they did not bargain to have  
us there for a long, long time.

1204

00:53:25,810 --> 00:53:30,810

So they sent me to his  
sister to be a maid there.

1205

00:53:30,810 --> 00:53:33,470

And where did she live?

1206

00:53:33,470 --> 00:53:38,570

She lived in northern  
England in Manchester.

1207  
00:53:38,570 --> 00:53:39,710  
OK.

1208  
00:53:39,710 --> 00:53:41,120  
So I was up there.

1209  
00:53:41,120 --> 00:53:43,700  
And then I was a maid.

1210  
00:53:43,700 --> 00:53:49,220  
And I don't think I was a very  
good maid, because I'd never

1211  
00:53:49,220 --> 00:53:50,870  
done that stuff before.

1212  
00:53:50,870 --> 00:53:53,090  
I did the best I could.

1213  
00:53:53,090 --> 00:53:55,640  
And they were very nice to me.

1214  
00:53:55,640 --> 00:53:58,970  
And my sister got a  
job on the same street

1215  
00:53:58,970 --> 00:54:03,050  
where they lived  
in their new house.

1216  
00:54:03,050 --> 00:54:04,580  
Two women lived together.

1217  
00:54:04,580 --> 00:54:06,620  
And she was a housekeeper there.

1218  
00:54:06,620 --> 00:54:07,850  
In Sussex.

1219  
00:54:07,850 --> 00:54:09,320  
Yes.

1220  
00:54:09,320 --> 00:54:12,410  
So we were separated.

1221  
00:54:12,410 --> 00:54:22,950  
And then they applied for  
us to go to Australia.

1222  
00:54:22,950 --> 00:54:26,280  
Because they didn't know  
what was coming [INAUDIBLE]..

1223  
00:54:26,280 --> 00:54:28,320  
They did not bargain  
to keep us forever.

1224  
00:54:28,320 --> 00:54:31,170

1225  
00:54:31,170 --> 00:54:32,550  
Did you feel unwelcome?

1226  
00:54:32,550 --> 00:54:33,630  
No.

1227  
00:54:33,630 --> 00:54:34,140  
No.

1228  
00:54:34,140 --> 00:54:40,480  
But we understood that  
they wouldn't do that.

1229  
00:54:40,480 --> 00:54:43,830  
We were just grateful that  
they did what they did.

1230  
00:54:43,830 --> 00:54:45,410  
And they were wonderful to us.

1231  
00:54:45,410 --> 00:54:48,960

1232  
00:54:48,960 --> 00:54:53,310  
But then, fortunately,  
my American visa

1233  
00:54:53,310 --> 00:54:56,280  
came through first.

1234  
00:54:56,280 --> 00:54:58,500  
So for awhile, I  
stayed with a relative

1235  
00:54:58,500 --> 00:55:05,770  
in London-- our relative,  
my mother's cousin.

1236  
00:55:05,770 --> 00:55:08,900  
And then we came to America.

1237  
00:55:08,900 --> 00:55:14,620  
Then we took a  
boat in Liverpool.

1238  
00:55:14,620 --> 00:55:19,330  
And it was a blackout,  
because it was war.

1239  
00:55:19,330 --> 00:55:24,460  
So our ship collided with  
a Canadian troop transport

1240  
00:55:24,460 --> 00:55:26,020  
on the first night out.

1241  
00:55:26,020 --> 00:55:27,250  
Oh, my goodness.

1242  
00:55:27,250 --> 00:55:31,960  
And they sounded the  
alarm during the night.

1243  
00:55:31,960 --> 00:55:33,460  
And we had to go on board deck.

1244  
00:55:33,460 --> 00:55:36,190  
And my sister and  
I didn't know if we

1245  
00:55:36,190 --> 00:55:37,680  
had to go back to Germany.

1246  
00:55:37,680 --> 00:55:40,620  
We were scared.

1247  
00:55:40,620 --> 00:55:42,650  
Why would you have to  
go back to Germany?

1248  
00:55:42,650 --> 00:55:43,510  
We didn't know.

1249  
00:55:43,510 --> 00:55:49,660  
We all we knew is that  
the boat was damaged.

1250  
00:55:49,660 --> 00:55:51,790  
But we did go back to England.

1251  
00:55:51,790 --> 00:55:56,270  
They put us up in a hotel  
there until the next boat.

1252  
00:55:56,270 --> 00:55:57,350  
OK.

1253  
00:55:57,350 --> 00:56:00,629  
And about approximately  
when did you

1254  
00:56:00,629 --> 00:56:01,796  
leave for the United States?

1255  
00:56:01,796 --> 00:56:05,770

1256

00:56:05,770 --> 00:56:10,340

We arrived here  
after a nine-day--

1257

00:56:10,340 --> 00:56:12,170

I think was nine days--

1258

00:56:12,170 --> 00:56:12,670

voyage.

1259

00:56:12,670 --> 00:56:16,660

We went over Canada, Halifax.

1260

00:56:16,660 --> 00:56:25,150

And we arrived in this  
country on January 3, 1940.

1261

00:56:25,150 --> 00:56:27,620

So we left there in December.

1262

00:56:27,620 --> 00:56:30,470

OK.

1263

00:56:30,470 --> 00:56:33,970

So the war is about  
four months in.

1264

00:56:33,970 --> 00:56:35,010

Yes.

1265

00:56:35,010 --> 00:56:36,010

OK.

1266

00:56:36,010 --> 00:56:40,430

And to which place  
did you arrive?

1267

00:56:40,430 --> 00:56:41,390

New York.

1268

00:56:41,390 --> 00:56:41,890

Right.

1269  
00:56:41,890 --> 00:56:44,500  
And then I lived in  
New York for 17 years

1270  
00:56:44,500 --> 00:56:46,816  
and loved every minute of it.

1271  
00:56:46,816 --> 00:56:49,310  
[LAUGHTER]

1272  
00:56:49,310 --> 00:56:51,590  
I can understand that.

1273  
00:56:51,590 --> 00:56:54,890  
Who met you at the pier?

1274  
00:56:54,890 --> 00:56:59,000  
Of my father's friends,  
who had already emigrated,

1275  
00:56:59,000 --> 00:57:03,860  
took us to his house  
on Washington Heights

1276  
00:57:03,860 --> 00:57:06,110  
on Thayer Street.

1277  
00:57:06,110 --> 00:57:08,090  
And we spent three nights there.

1278  
00:57:08,090 --> 00:57:11,990  
And then we both started jobs  
in the same building as maids.

1279  
00:57:11,990 --> 00:57:17,750  
And that's what I mean  
we know who we were.

1280  
00:57:17,750 --> 00:57:20,840  
We did not act like that.



1281  
00:57:20,840 --> 00:57:24,440  
We did what we were  
supposed to do as maids.

1282  
00:57:24,440 --> 00:57:26,285  
But we remained the same inside.

1283  
00:57:26,285 --> 00:57:30,160

1284  
00:57:30,160 --> 00:57:32,980  
Was it hard to do that?

1285  
00:57:32,980 --> 00:57:33,970  
No.

1286  
00:57:33,970 --> 00:57:37,870  
It was hard in a way, yes.

1287  
00:57:37,870 --> 00:57:40,210  
But we were happy  
that we were here

1288  
00:57:40,210 --> 00:57:42,340  
and that we maybe  
could do something

1289  
00:57:42,340 --> 00:57:44,230  
to get our parents out.

1290  
00:57:44,230 --> 00:57:47,560  
Were you well treated in  
the places you worked?

1291  
00:57:47,560 --> 00:57:49,150  
I was treated like a maid.

1292  
00:57:49,150 --> 00:57:51,404  
My sister was not.

1293

00:57:51,404 --> 00:57:51,904  
OK.

1294  
00:57:51,904 --> 00:57:55,180

1295  
00:57:55,180 --> 00:57:58,000  
And did you know what was  
going on with your parents?

1296  
00:57:58,000 --> 00:57:59,770  
Oh, yes.

1297  
00:57:59,770 --> 00:58:02,080  
How?

1298  
00:58:02,080 --> 00:58:03,880  
Occasionally, a  
letter would come.

1299  
00:58:03,880 --> 00:58:05,360  
And we were in touch.

1300  
00:58:05,360 --> 00:58:09,250  
We were trying everything  
to get them out.

1301  
00:58:09,250 --> 00:58:12,040  
What finally happened is--

1302  
00:58:12,040 --> 00:58:15,700  
oh, my father had somehow  
managed to send us some money--

1303  
00:58:15,700 --> 00:58:19,390  
not much but a few  
dollars here and there.

1304  
00:58:19,390 --> 00:58:24,940  
And we made \$35 a month.

1305  
00:58:24,940 --> 00:58:27,490

\$30 went in the bank.

1306  
00:58:27,490 --> 00:58:30,130  
So that's \$60 for two of us.

1307  
00:58:30,130 --> 00:58:32,830  
And \$5.00 we kept.

1308  
00:58:32,830 --> 00:58:36,490  
So it was \$35 each per month.

1309  
00:58:36,490 --> 00:58:37,270  
Each, yeah.

1310  
00:58:37,270 --> 00:58:38,785  
But she worked for  
different people.

1311  
00:58:38,785 --> 00:58:40,750  
Each, OK.

1312  
00:58:40,750 --> 00:58:42,670  
And you banked half of it.

1313  
00:58:42,670 --> 00:58:44,440  
We banked more than half.

1314  
00:58:44,440 --> 00:58:46,390  
We banked \$30 each.

1315  
00:58:46,390 --> 00:58:48,320  
\$30 each, OK.

1316  
00:58:48,320 --> 00:58:48,820  
Yeah.

1317  
00:58:48,820 --> 00:58:49,780  
\$30 each.

1318  
00:58:49,780 --> 00:58:50,930  
And you kept \$5.00.

1319  
00:58:50,930 --> 00:58:51,970  
Yeah.

1320  
00:58:51,970 --> 00:58:55,870  
And what was going on with  
your parents at the time?

1321  
00:58:55,870 --> 00:58:56,520  
All right.

1322  
00:58:56,520 --> 00:58:59,710

1323  
00:58:59,710 --> 00:59:03,100  
They didn't tell us too  
much, but they were alive.

1324  
00:59:03,100 --> 00:59:06,890  
And they were still  
in their apartment.

1325  
00:59:06,890 --> 00:59:10,160  
And we tried everything.

1326  
00:59:10,160 --> 00:59:11,780  
What does that mean, everything?

1327  
00:59:11,780 --> 00:59:15,420  
We tried to get them out  
to talk to different people

1328  
00:59:15,420 --> 00:59:23,480  
and finally ended up buying a  
visa for Santo Domingo, which

1329  
00:59:23,480 --> 00:59:26,120  
they told us was illegal.

1330  
00:59:26,120 --> 00:59:28,710  
But we couldn't  
get anything else.

1331  
00:59:28,710 --> 00:59:32,740  
And we were able to pay for it.

1332  
00:59:32,740 --> 00:59:41,410  
Then they had to get there.

1333  
00:59:41,410 --> 00:59:48,580  
So they were able to buy  
a ticket through Russia

1334  
00:59:48,580 --> 00:59:51,670  
in a closed train--  
they couldn't get out--

1335  
00:59:51,670 --> 00:59:56,020  
and into Yokohama.

1336  
00:59:56,020 --> 00:59:58,360  
So that's a long trip.

1337  
00:59:58,360 --> 01:00:02,830  
So from Berlin, they  
had to go eastwards.

1338  
01:00:02,830 --> 01:00:03,710  
Yes.

1339  
01:00:03,710 --> 01:00:10,360  
And this must have been still  
before 1941 when the Soviet

1340  
01:00:10,360 --> 01:00:12,100  
Union and Germany were allied.

1341  
01:00:12,100 --> 01:00:13,800  
Yes.

1342  
01:00:13,800 --> 01:00:14,300  
OK.

1343

01:00:14,300 --> 01:00:16,450  
Do you know where they went?

1344  
01:00:16,450 --> 01:00:18,640  
Were there stops from Berlin?

1345  
01:00:18,640 --> 01:00:19,540  
I do not.

1346  
01:00:19,540 --> 01:00:20,290  
OK.

1347  
01:00:20,290 --> 01:00:23,110  
I do not.

1348  
01:00:23,110 --> 01:00:26,320  
But then when they  
got to Yokohama,

1349  
01:00:26,320 --> 01:00:32,035  
they had to take a small boat  
to go over Panama and Santa

1350  
01:00:32,035 --> 01:00:34,490  
Domingo--

1351  
01:00:34,490 --> 01:00:40,220  
stopped up in America  
on the West Coast there.

1352  
01:00:40,220 --> 01:00:47,330  
And when they got to Panama,  
there was a shipping strike.

1353  
01:00:47,330 --> 01:00:49,180  
They couldn't go any further.

1354  
01:00:49,180 --> 01:00:52,070

1355  
01:00:52,070 --> 01:00:56,000  
And my sister and I--

1356  
01:00:56,000 --> 01:00:59,120  
we went all over to  
try and get some money

1357  
01:00:59,120 --> 01:01:03,050  
to buy a plane ticket  
and finally got some

1358  
01:01:03,050 --> 01:01:06,920  
from a Jewish organization.

1359  
01:01:06,920 --> 01:01:08,330  
We send in the money.

1360  
01:01:08,330 --> 01:01:18,350  
And they flew to Santo Domingo.

1361  
01:01:18,350 --> 01:01:21,620  
So they flew from  
Panama to Santo Domingo.

1362  
01:01:21,620 --> 01:01:22,850  
And then what happened?

1363  
01:01:22,850 --> 01:01:26,390  
And then they stayed there  
for a few weeks, a few months.

1364  
01:01:26,390 --> 01:01:27,980  
And then they came here.

1365  
01:01:27,980 --> 01:01:31,100  
And there was no difficulty  
visa wise from them

1366  
01:01:31,100 --> 01:01:33,350  
to go from Santo Domingo to--

1367  
01:01:33,350 --> 01:01:39,850  
No, we had bought that entrance.

1368

01:01:39,850 --> 01:01:40,350

Oh, I see.

1369

01:01:40,350 --> 01:01:43,280

So you bought the entrance  
visa from Santo Domingo

1370

01:01:43,280 --> 01:01:44,460

to the United States.

1371

01:01:44,460 --> 01:01:44,960

No.

1372

01:01:44,960 --> 01:01:48,380

1373

01:01:48,380 --> 01:01:53,930

We had given the money to go  
from Panama to Santa Domingo.

1374

01:01:53,930 --> 01:01:54,710

OK.

1375

01:01:54,710 --> 01:01:59,060

How they got the money to  
come here, I do not know.

1376

01:01:59,060 --> 01:02:00,380

OK.

1377

01:02:00,380 --> 01:02:02,510

But they flew here.

1378

01:02:02,510 --> 01:02:04,070

No, they came by boat.

1379

01:02:04,070 --> 01:02:05,990

They came by boat.

1380

01:02:05,990 --> 01:02:08,315

Do you remember the



date they arrived?

1381  
01:02:08,315 --> 01:02:13,810

1382  
01:02:13,810 --> 01:02:15,700  
I don't know the exact date, no.

1383  
01:02:15,700 --> 01:02:19,500

1384  
01:02:19,500 --> 01:02:27,740  
It was in '41.

1385  
01:02:27,740 --> 01:02:30,385

1386  
01:02:30,385 --> 01:02:31,760  
OK.

1387  
01:02:31,760 --> 01:02:35,600  
So you had been in the  
United States already more

1388  
01:02:35,600 --> 01:02:36,260  
than a year.

1389  
01:02:36,260 --> 01:02:37,580  
Yeah.

1390  
01:02:37,580 --> 01:02:39,980  
We had accomplished a lot.

1391  
01:02:39,980 --> 01:02:41,570  
Absolutely.

1392  
01:02:41,570 --> 01:02:42,080  
Absolutely.

1393  
01:02:42,080 --> 01:02:44,120  
But that was the only thing--

1394  
01:02:44,120 --> 01:02:48,190  
I later changed my job.

1395  
01:02:48,190 --> 01:02:50,500  
She remained where she was.

1396  
01:02:50,500 --> 01:02:52,150  
What job did you then change to?

1397  
01:02:52,150 --> 01:02:54,190  
I still was a maid.

1398  
01:02:54,190 --> 01:02:57,130  
But I had some terrible  
experiences there, too.

1399  
01:02:57,130 --> 01:03:01,090  
But anyway, want that's  
not too important.

1400  
01:03:01,090 --> 01:03:04,700  
And then when they  
got here, I quit.

1401  
01:03:04,700 --> 01:03:06,710  
OK.

1402  
01:03:06,710 --> 01:03:10,880  
So how did your parents  
get on their feet?

1403  
01:03:10,880 --> 01:03:14,900  
Were they able to take anything  
out of Germany with them?

1404  
01:03:14,900 --> 01:03:22,100  
My mother, she survived  
only six months here.

1405  
01:03:22,100 --> 01:03:23,540  
Then she died.

1406  
01:03:23,540 --> 01:03:27,080  
She picked up  
something on the way.

1407  
01:03:27,080 --> 01:03:31,580  
And her luggage never came  
until after she had gone.

1408  
01:03:31,580 --> 01:03:35,548

1409  
01:03:35,548 --> 01:03:37,040  
Oh, I'm so sad.

1410  
01:03:37,040 --> 01:03:38,720  
Yeah.

1411  
01:03:38,720 --> 01:03:39,888  
I'm sorry.

1412  
01:03:39,888 --> 01:03:41,180  
It must have been quite a blow.

1413  
01:03:41,180 --> 01:03:45,980  
Yeah, I used to have  
nightmares until I had a child.

1414  
01:03:45,980 --> 01:03:48,600  
And then she was  
named after her.

1415  
01:03:48,600 --> 01:03:53,600  
And then I didn't have  
any more nightmares.

1416  
01:03:53,600 --> 01:03:54,910  
What a loss.

1417  
01:03:54,910 --> 01:03:56,860  
Yeah.

1418

01:03:56,860 --> 01:04:00,130

Were you with her during  
the time when she was sick?

1419

01:04:00,130 --> 01:04:01,175

She was in the hospital.

1420

01:04:01,175 --> 01:04:04,380

1421

01:04:04,380 --> 01:04:07,530

And by that time, I had  
rented a furnished room

1422

01:04:07,530 --> 01:04:08,810

when they called me there.

1423

01:04:08,810 --> 01:04:12,600

1424

01:04:12,600 --> 01:04:14,870

What was her disease?

1425

01:04:14,870 --> 01:04:20,680

She had some kind of kidney  
failure, some blood disease.

1426

01:04:20,680 --> 01:04:24,855

And that affected the kidneys.

1427

01:04:24,855 --> 01:04:26,230

And what did your  
father then do?

1428

01:04:26,230 --> 01:04:30,790

My father remarried.

1429

01:04:30,790 --> 01:04:34,480

And he was married  
another 24 years.

1430

01:04:34,480 --> 01:04:36,080  
Wow.

1431  
01:04:36,080 --> 01:04:38,780  
Yeah.

1432  
01:04:38,780 --> 01:04:42,680  
My father never looked back.

1433  
01:04:42,680 --> 01:04:43,690  
He never looked back.

1434  
01:04:43,690 --> 01:04:47,447  
He never said this  
was better there,

1435  
01:04:47,447 --> 01:04:48,530  
and this was better there.

1436  
01:04:48,530 --> 01:04:49,690  
No, he was just--

1437  
01:04:49,690 --> 01:04:53,770

1438  
01:04:53,770 --> 01:04:56,110  
The first money  
he made in America

1439  
01:04:56,110 --> 01:04:59,440  
is-- he'd never done any  
physical work before.

1440  
01:04:59,440 --> 01:05:03,020  
He shoveled a car  
out of the snow.

1441  
01:05:03,020 --> 01:05:07,144  
That was the first  
dollar he ever made here.

1442  
01:05:07,144 --> 01:05:11,600

In his first months here  
before losing your mother

1443  
01:05:11,600 --> 01:05:14,240  
and before remarrying,  
did he live with you?

1444  
01:05:14,240 --> 01:05:15,590  
Did you live with your sister?

1445  
01:05:15,590 --> 01:05:16,140  
No.

1446  
01:05:16,140 --> 01:05:17,122  
They were on their own.

1447  
01:05:17,122 --> 01:05:18,080  
They were on their own.

1448  
01:05:18,080 --> 01:05:18,890  
Yeah.

1449  
01:05:18,890 --> 01:05:20,930  
OK.

1450  
01:05:20,930 --> 01:05:23,360  
Did you move back in with them?

1451  
01:05:23,360 --> 01:05:26,030  
No, I moved back  
with my father when

1452  
01:05:26,030 --> 01:05:28,960  
my husband went to the service.

1453  
01:05:28,960 --> 01:05:32,390  
And at that time, he  
was not remarried.

1454  
01:05:32,390 --> 01:05:35,210  
And we moved in together.

1455

01:05:35,210 --> 01:05:36,530

So explain to me.

1456

01:05:36,530 --> 01:05:39,440

When you first arrive, you  
live in Washington Heights.

1457

01:05:39,440 --> 01:05:40,580

Yes.

1458

01:05:40,580 --> 01:05:43,790

And when your parents  
arrived, you still

1459

01:05:43,790 --> 01:05:45,920

continue living in  
Washington Heights.

1460

01:05:45,920 --> 01:05:46,550

No.

1461

01:05:46,550 --> 01:05:47,660

OK, what happened?

1462

01:05:47,660 --> 01:05:51,200

I had two other jobs in between.

1463

01:05:51,200 --> 01:05:54,110

I moved out first  
to Forrest Hills--

1464

01:05:54,110 --> 01:05:56,150

no to Jamaica.

1465

01:05:56,150 --> 01:05:59,780

And that didn't work out.

1466

01:05:59,780 --> 01:06:07,160

There was a man whose  
wife was in Florida.

1467

01:06:07,160 --> 01:06:09,620  
And they had two children.

1468  
01:06:09,620 --> 01:06:13,940  
And one of them wet the bed.

1469  
01:06:13,940 --> 01:06:18,950  
And the other one was stealing  
money from the newspaper man.

1470  
01:06:18,950 --> 01:06:23,230  
And so I quit that one.

1471  
01:06:23,230 --> 01:06:26,150  
And then I had a  
job on Central Park

1472  
01:06:26,150 --> 01:06:32,350  
West with a wonderful family  
until my parents came.

1473  
01:06:32,350 --> 01:06:33,900  
OK.

1474  
01:06:33,900 --> 01:06:35,790  
And so you lived  
with that family.

1475  
01:06:35,790 --> 01:06:36,360  
Yes.

1476  
01:06:36,360 --> 01:06:37,920  
OK.

1477  
01:06:37,920 --> 01:06:41,000  
And when your parents  
came, where did they live?

1478  
01:06:41,000 --> 01:06:44,910  
I know, the first night,  
they spent at a hotel.

1479



01:06:44,910 --> 01:06:50,320  
And then they took  
a furnished room.

1480  
01:06:50,320 --> 01:06:51,790  
My father worked.

1481  
01:06:51,790 --> 01:06:54,243  
And he had enough money to  
be able to pay the furnished

1482  
01:06:54,243 --> 01:06:55,160  
room for a little bit.

1483  
01:06:55,160 --> 01:07:00,790  
Well, he bought  
stuff and sold it.

1484  
01:07:00,790 --> 01:07:04,970  
And he managed.

1485  
01:07:04,970 --> 01:07:08,810  
And your mother soon  
went into the hospital.

1486  
01:07:08,810 --> 01:07:10,050  
Not right away, no.

1487  
01:07:10,050 --> 01:07:12,200  
My sister got married  
in the meantime.

1488  
01:07:12,200 --> 01:07:13,610  
And then on the way home--

1489  
01:07:13,610 --> 01:07:18,050  
she got married in Philadelphia  
and lived there all the time.

1490  
01:07:18,050 --> 01:07:21,590  
And on the way home,  
my mother got sick.

1491

01:07:21,590 --> 01:07:24,680

What was the-- do you remember  
the date of her death?

1492

01:07:24,680 --> 01:07:25,670

Oh, yes.

1493

01:07:25,670 --> 01:07:26,570

What is it?

1494

01:07:26,570 --> 01:07:36,800

December 18, 1941.

1495

01:07:36,800 --> 01:07:38,250

She wasn't even here a year.

1496

01:07:38,250 --> 01:07:38,750

No.

1497

01:07:38,750 --> 01:07:42,690

1498

01:07:42,690 --> 01:07:48,270

Her last day that she was  
conscious was December 7.

1499

01:07:48,270 --> 01:07:49,860

And you know what that date is.

1500

01:07:49,860 --> 01:07:51,820

Oh, yeah.

1501

01:07:51,820 --> 01:07:52,700

Oh, yeah.

1502

01:07:52,700 --> 01:08:06,584

1503

01:08:06,584 --> 01:08:07,084

Yeah.

1504

01:08:07,084 --> 01:08:12,570

1505

01:08:12,570 --> 01:08:15,780

When you say your father  
never looked back,

1506

01:08:15,780 --> 01:08:18,840

was that hard for you  
when he remarried?

1507

01:08:18,840 --> 01:08:21,760

1508

01:08:21,760 --> 01:08:22,960

It was hard for me.

1509

01:08:22,960 --> 01:08:23,590

I was stupid.

1510

01:08:23,590 --> 01:08:27,370

1511

01:08:27,370 --> 01:08:29,200

Why do you you say that?

1512

01:08:29,200 --> 01:08:33,010

Because it was good for him.

1513

01:08:33,010 --> 01:08:35,800

And she was a good person.

1514

01:08:35,800 --> 01:08:37,390

Did you come to like her?

1515

01:08:37,390 --> 01:08:39,370

Yeah, I liked her.

1516

01:08:39,370 --> 01:08:40,689

OK.

1517

01:08:40,689 --> 01:08:41,560

Where did they live?

1518

01:08:41,560 --> 01:08:44,439

1519

01:08:44,439 --> 01:08:50,830

They lived in the 80s.

1520

01:08:50,830 --> 01:08:52,630

West Side?

1521

01:08:52,630 --> 01:08:55,720

On the West Side.

1522

01:08:55,720 --> 01:08:58,840

I don't know-- 86th  
or 84th Street.

1523

01:08:58,840 --> 01:08:59,850

I don't know for sure.

1524

01:08:59,850 --> 01:09:02,979

1525

01:09:02,979 --> 01:09:05,920

And they were happy together.

1526

01:09:05,920 --> 01:09:08,830

1527

01:09:08,830 --> 01:09:11,529

Aside from the time when  
you lived with your father,

1528

01:09:11,529 --> 01:09:15,520

were you always then  
on your own after that?

1529

01:09:15,520 --> 01:09:16,590

Yeah.

1530  
01:09:16,590 --> 01:09:18,189  
Well, I got married, too.

1531  
01:09:18,189 --> 01:09:20,229  
What year did you get married?

1532  
01:09:20,229 --> 01:09:21,760  
I got married in '42.

1533  
01:09:21,760 --> 01:09:23,890  
To whom?

1534  
01:09:23,890 --> 01:09:26,380  
Somebody that I already  
knew in Germany.

1535  
01:09:26,380 --> 01:09:27,740  
And who was that?

1536  
01:09:27,740 --> 01:09:28,819  
What was his name?

1537  
01:09:28,819 --> 01:09:31,750  
His name was Klein.

1538  
01:09:31,750 --> 01:09:34,210  
His German name  
was Helmut Klein.

1539  
01:09:34,210 --> 01:09:36,500  
And then he became Eddie Klein.

1540  
01:09:36,500 --> 01:09:38,170  
He became Eddie Klein.

1541  
01:09:38,170 --> 01:09:38,740  
Yeah.

1542  
01:09:38,740 --> 01:09:40,189  
OK.

1543  
01:09:40,189 --> 01:09:41,779  
And was he from Berlin, as well?

1544  
01:09:41,779 --> 01:09:42,590  
Yes.

1545  
01:09:42,590 --> 01:09:44,120  
All right.

1546  
01:09:44,120 --> 01:09:45,930  
So you married quite early.

1547  
01:09:45,930 --> 01:09:46,430  
Yes.

1548  
01:09:46,430 --> 01:09:49,160

1549  
01:09:49,160 --> 01:09:52,609  
And where did that take you?

1550  
01:09:52,609 --> 01:09:56,330  
Where did your married life  
take you, out of New York,

1551  
01:09:56,330 --> 01:09:57,320  
still in New York?

1552  
01:09:57,320 --> 01:10:03,350  
No, I lived in New York until  
I got married the second time.

1553  
01:10:03,350 --> 01:10:08,300  
Then I moved to New Jersey,  
then to Buffalo, and then

1554  
01:10:08,300 --> 01:10:11,060  
to Tennessee, and then here.

1555  
01:10:11,060 --> 01:10:12,230

OK.

1556

01:10:12,230 --> 01:10:13,865

Let's go back a little bit, though.

1557

01:10:13,865 --> 01:10:14,365

OK.

1558

01:10:14,365 --> 01:10:17,120

1559

01:10:17,120 --> 01:10:20,240

Did your first husband serve in the war?

1560

01:10:20,240 --> 01:10:21,770

Yes.

1561

01:10:21,770 --> 01:10:24,166

He get a medical discharge.

1562

01:10:24,166 --> 01:10:26,070

OK.

1563

01:10:26,070 --> 01:10:30,510

What was his experience serving in the war?

1564

01:10:30,510 --> 01:10:32,935

Was he a richie boy like your second husband?

1565

01:10:32,935 --> 01:10:34,410

No, no, no.

1566

01:10:34,410 --> 01:10:39,060

He was only in several months, and he became sick.

1567

01:10:39,060 --> 01:10:41,600

1568  
01:10:41,600 --> 01:10:45,380  
And he had been going to school.

1569  
01:10:45,380 --> 01:10:49,750  
He became an accountant  
afterwards on the GI Bill.

1570  
01:10:49,750 --> 01:10:52,570  
OK.

1571  
01:10:52,570 --> 01:10:55,510  
And he eventually died of that--

1572  
01:10:55,510 --> 01:10:58,100  
he had Hodgkin's disease.

1573  
01:10:58,100 --> 01:10:58,720  
I see.

1574  
01:10:58,720 --> 01:11:00,340  
He got in the army.

1575  
01:11:00,340 --> 01:11:03,010  
And he eventually died of it.

1576  
01:11:03,010 --> 01:11:05,290  
How many years were you married?

1577  
01:11:05,290 --> 01:11:06,338  
12.

1578  
01:11:06,338 --> 01:11:07,630  
Did you have children together?

1579  
01:11:07,630 --> 01:11:10,600  
Yes, I had a child.

1580  
01:11:10,600 --> 01:11:11,710  
A daughter, a son?



1581

01:11:11,710 --> 01:11:12,430

A daughter.

1582

01:11:12,430 --> 01:11:16,720

And then with my second  
husband, I had another daughter.

1583

01:11:16,720 --> 01:11:18,682

And when did you marry  
your second husband?

1584

01:11:18,682 --> 01:11:19,390

What year was it?

1585

01:11:19,390 --> 01:11:20,710

In '59.

1586

01:11:20,710 --> 01:11:22,690

In 1959.

1587

01:11:22,690 --> 01:11:25,090

And his name?

1588

01:11:25,090 --> 01:11:26,530

That's Harry Marx.

1589

01:11:26,530 --> 01:11:27,970

Harry Marx.

1590

01:11:27,970 --> 01:11:29,640

And he was also from Germany.

1591

01:11:29,640 --> 01:11:31,120

Yes.

1592

01:11:31,120 --> 01:11:32,665

What part of Germany was he?

1593

01:11:32,665 --> 01:11:39,130

He was from Frankfurt am  
Main, near there, not--

1594  
01:11:39,130 --> 01:11:41,920  
the name of the  
town is Frankenberg.

1595  
01:11:41,920 --> 01:11:43,300  
OK.

1596  
01:11:43,300 --> 01:11:45,060  
But near there, near  
Frankfurt am Main.

1597  
01:11:45,060 --> 01:11:45,935  
Yes, it's near-- yes.

1598  
01:11:45,935 --> 01:11:46,660  
OK.

1599  
01:11:46,660 --> 01:11:53,020  
Can you briefly  
describe his story

1600  
01:11:53,020 --> 01:11:56,510  
coming to the United States  
and then joining the military?

1601  
01:11:56,510 --> 01:12:00,670  
He was only 16  
when he came here.

1602  
01:12:00,670 --> 01:12:02,620  
Was he older than  
you, younger than you?

1603  
01:12:02,620 --> 01:12:04,000  
He was two years younger.

1604  
01:12:04,000 --> 01:12:06,490  
And the other one was  
four years older than I.

1605  
01:12:06,490 --> 01:12:07,750

OK.

1606

01:12:07,750 --> 01:12:10,900

So he came here in 1938.

1607

01:12:10,900 --> 01:12:12,220

Yes.

1608

01:12:12,220 --> 01:12:15,370

He already had  
some siblings here.

1609

01:12:15,370 --> 01:12:17,140

OK.

1610

01:12:17,140 --> 01:12:22,740

And was he drafted  
into the military?

1611

01:12:22,740 --> 01:12:23,730

Did he join up?

1612

01:12:23,730 --> 01:12:24,940

I think he joined.

1613

01:12:24,940 --> 01:12:25,620

I'm not sure.

1614

01:12:25,620 --> 01:12:28,170

I wasn't married to  
him at that time.

1615

01:12:28,170 --> 01:12:31,020

Did he ever talk about his  
experiences of being in--

1616

01:12:31,020 --> 01:12:35,520

Some of it, not too much.

1617

01:12:35,520 --> 01:12:38,370

Did he describe working  
in intelligence?

1618  
01:12:38,370 --> 01:12:40,560  
Yes, he did.

1619  
01:12:40,560 --> 01:12:44,860  
And he was stationed right  
near where he came from.

1620  
01:12:44,860 --> 01:12:49,200  
So he met some of the  
people that he knew.

1621  
01:12:49,200 --> 01:12:49,950  
Germans.

1622  
01:12:49,950 --> 01:12:50,530  
Yes.

1623  
01:12:50,530 --> 01:12:54,810  
He met somebody that  
he went to school with.

1624  
01:12:54,810 --> 01:12:58,350  
And he found out  
that a friend had

1625  
01:12:58,350 --> 01:13:02,530  
been killed by the Russians.

1626  
01:13:02,530 --> 01:13:05,820  
So he was very--

1627  
01:13:05,820 --> 01:13:07,040  
mixed feelings.

1628  
01:13:07,040 --> 01:13:09,700  
Yeah.

1629  
01:13:09,700 --> 01:13:13,240  
He almost got shot once.

1630

01:13:13,240 --> 01:13:15,340  
He had gotten lost.

1631  
01:13:15,340 --> 01:13:20,410  
And when he was going back  
to his American troop,

1632  
01:13:20,410 --> 01:13:23,230  
they asked him about  
a sportsperson.

1633  
01:13:23,230 --> 01:13:27,910  
He had never heard of him,  
because he was new in America.

1634  
01:13:27,910 --> 01:13:32,470  
And they only shot him,  
because he had a German accent.

1635  
01:13:32,470 --> 01:13:34,270  
Oh, my goodness.

1636  
01:13:34,270 --> 01:13:37,630  
[LAUGHTER]

1637  
01:13:37,630 --> 01:13:40,042  
The kinds of adventures  
people have-- you know?

1638  
01:13:40,042 --> 01:13:40,870  
Yeah.

1639  
01:13:40,870 --> 01:13:43,480  
Unexpected ones.

1640  
01:13:43,480 --> 01:13:47,080  
And he happened to then  
be part of the liberating

1641  
01:13:47,080 --> 01:13:50,160  
force of Mauthausen.

1642

01:13:50,160 --> 01:13:51,610  
The sub-camp of Mauthausen.

1643  
01:13:51,610 --> 01:13:52,790  
Yeah.

1644  
01:13:52,790 --> 01:13:57,825  
And Flossenburg I think  
you mentioned before.

1645  
01:13:57,825 --> 01:13:59,590  
Right.

1646  
01:13:59,590 --> 01:14:01,900  
Did you ever go back to Berlin?

1647  
01:14:01,900 --> 01:14:03,580  
No.

1648  
01:14:03,580 --> 01:14:06,160  
Did you ever go back to Breslau?

1649  
01:14:06,160 --> 01:14:07,390  
No.

1650  
01:14:07,390 --> 01:14:08,530  
Or Germany?

1651  
01:14:08,530 --> 01:14:09,760  
Yes.

1652  
01:14:09,760 --> 01:14:11,530  
I didn't want to go.

1653  
01:14:11,530 --> 01:14:15,010  
My husband always took  
me on his business trips.

1654  
01:14:15,010 --> 01:14:19,420  
But when he said he was going to  
Germany, I said, I'm not going.

1655

01:14:19,420 --> 01:14:23,620

But two weeks before he  
left, I changed my mind.

1656

01:14:23,620 --> 01:14:24,970

And I went.

1657

01:14:24,970 --> 01:14:26,370

And what was it like for you?

1658

01:14:26,370 --> 01:14:29,490

1659

01:14:29,490 --> 01:14:30,205

It wasn't easy.

1660

01:14:30,205 --> 01:14:34,560

1661

01:14:34,560 --> 01:14:37,020

Where were you in Germany?

1662

01:14:37,020 --> 01:14:38,415

We were in southern Germany.

1663

01:14:38,415 --> 01:14:43,960

1664

01:14:43,960 --> 01:14:45,105

I had this hate.

1665

01:14:45,105 --> 01:14:47,940

1666

01:14:47,940 --> 01:14:51,330

But I went to a lecture  
once of somebody

1667

01:14:51,330 --> 01:14:53,320

who had also been in Germany.

1668

01:14:53,320 --> 01:14:58,800

And he said he had that  
hate, and it destroyed him.

1669

01:14:58,800 --> 01:15:02,010

And so he changed.

1670

01:15:02,010 --> 01:15:04,840

And so I changed.

1671

01:15:04,840 --> 01:15:07,060

Every once in a while,  
it would come through.

1672

01:15:07,060 --> 01:15:13,760

But I was a happier  
person after that.

1673

01:15:13,760 --> 01:15:16,630

How do you change this?

1674

01:15:16,630 --> 01:15:19,450

I reasoned with myself.

1675

01:15:19,450 --> 01:15:23,020

People who are alive  
now were not Nazis.

1676

01:15:23,020 --> 01:15:25,840

They weren't even born yet.

1677

01:15:25,840 --> 01:15:27,712

So how could I hate them?

1678

01:15:27,712 --> 01:15:33,120

1679

01:15:33,120 --> 01:15:34,000

It worked?

1680

01:15:34,000 --> 01:15:37,020



It worked, most of the time.

1681

01:15:37,020 --> 01:15:39,190

Let me put it that way.

1682

01:15:39,190 --> 01:15:41,320

And sometimes, it came through.

1683

01:15:41,320 --> 01:15:42,130

Yeah.

1684

01:15:42,130 --> 01:15:47,190

But I wasn't  
unreasonable anymore.

1685

01:15:47,190 --> 01:15:50,690

1686

01:15:50,690 --> 01:15:54,100

When you came to  
the United States,

1687

01:15:54,100 --> 01:15:56,920

did you ever still speak  
German with anybody?

1688

01:15:56,920 --> 01:15:58,540

My sister.

1689

01:15:58,540 --> 01:15:59,640

Do you still today?

1690

01:15:59,640 --> 01:16:02,890

And my older  
daughter speaks it--

1691

01:16:02,890 --> 01:16:04,930

no, not too much.

1692

01:16:04,930 --> 01:16:11,040

But my in-laws were from  
Germany, my first in-laws

1693  
01:16:11,040 --> 01:16:12,810  
and my second ones, too.

1694  
01:16:12,810 --> 01:16:19,550  
And we would speak German  
when Elaine wasn't supposed

1695  
01:16:19,550 --> 01:16:21,820  
to hear what you were saying.

1696  
01:16:21,820 --> 01:16:25,540  
So she went to her  
grandma, and she said, mom,

1697  
01:16:25,540 --> 01:16:27,760  
will you teach me German?

1698  
01:16:27,760 --> 01:16:31,790  
And my mother-in-law,  
who was an angel,

1699  
01:16:31,790 --> 01:16:35,440  
she said, I don't  
know how to teach,

1700  
01:16:35,440 --> 01:16:38,440  
but I'll only speak  
German to you from now on.

1701  
01:16:38,440 --> 01:16:39,760  
And she did.

1702  
01:16:39,760 --> 01:16:42,070  
And that's how she  
learned German.

1703  
01:16:42,070 --> 01:16:46,900  
Then when this daughter  
was getting married,

1704  
01:16:46,900 --> 01:16:53,210

she took her future husband  
to meet my mother-in-law.

1705  
01:16:53,210 --> 01:17:00,360  
And my mother-in-law started  
speaking English with him.

1706  
01:17:00,360 --> 01:17:04,880  
So Elaine said, mom,  
I thought you always

1707  
01:17:04,880 --> 01:17:06,640  
spoke German with me.

1708  
01:17:06,640 --> 01:17:08,400  
I didn't know you  
could speak English.

1709  
01:17:08,400 --> 01:17:11,850  
And she said, what do  
you think, I'm an idiot?

1710  
01:17:11,850 --> 01:17:14,250  
[LAUGHTER]

1711  
01:17:14,250 --> 01:17:16,950

1712  
01:17:16,950 --> 01:17:19,070  
What a crusty lady--

1713  
01:17:19,070 --> 01:17:19,570  
wonderful.

1714  
01:17:19,570 --> 01:17:22,275  
She was wonderful.

1715  
01:17:22,275 --> 01:17:23,460  
She was wonderful.

1716  
01:17:23,460 --> 01:17:26,290

1717  
01:17:26,290 --> 01:17:29,860  
You mentioned before  
that, in Germany, you

1718  
01:17:29,860 --> 01:17:34,700  
were a Jewish German, and  
here, you are an American Jew.

1719  
01:17:34,700 --> 01:17:35,200  
Uh-huh.

1720  
01:17:35,200 --> 01:17:37,870  
OK.

1721  
01:17:37,870 --> 01:17:47,540  
Was there a certain point where  
that German part was taken away

1722  
01:17:47,540 --> 01:17:49,400  
or you threw it away?

1723  
01:17:49,400 --> 01:17:52,250  
Or was it something  
that was gradual?

1724  
01:17:52,250 --> 01:17:53,900  
No, it was instant.

1725  
01:17:53,900 --> 01:17:54,990  
It was instant.

1726  
01:17:54,990 --> 01:17:55,770  
Yes.

1727  
01:17:55,770 --> 01:17:57,490  
And when was that?

1728  
01:17:57,490 --> 01:17:59,810  
I didn't want to  
be German anymore

1729

01:17:59,810 --> 01:18:03,590

as soon as I  
crossed that border.

1730

01:18:03,590 --> 01:18:05,700

When you were in  
England, in other words,

1731

01:18:05,700 --> 01:18:09,165

when you crossed the boat or you  
crossed the border from Germany

1732

01:18:09,165 --> 01:18:10,040

into another country.

1733

01:18:10,040 --> 01:18:15,730

Yeah, I didn't want  
anything German anymore.

1734

01:18:15,730 --> 01:18:18,970

By the way, crossing  
that border wasn't easy.

1735

01:18:18,970 --> 01:18:21,400

Tell me about it.

1736

01:18:21,400 --> 01:18:27,010

We were on the train  
going through Holland.

1737

01:18:27,010 --> 01:18:31,510

And as we came to the border  
of Germany and Holland,

1738

01:18:31,510 --> 01:18:33,700

they took us out of the train.

1739

01:18:33,700 --> 01:18:35,500

And they investigated us.

1740

01:18:35,500 --> 01:18:37,150

And they talked at us.

1741  
01:18:37,150 --> 01:18:39,610  
And they took pictures--

1742  
01:18:39,610 --> 01:18:42,340  
a little picture of us we  
had in our pocketbooks.

1743  
01:18:42,340 --> 01:18:46,300  
We had a little suitcase,  
overnight suitcase between us.

1744  
01:18:46,300 --> 01:18:51,100  
And they kept asking  
questions and being nasty.

1745  
01:18:51,100 --> 01:18:52,180  
This is the German side.

1746  
01:18:52,180 --> 01:18:53,830  
Yes.

1747  
01:18:53,830 --> 01:18:57,140  
And of course, the train left.

1748  
01:18:57,140 --> 01:19:05,050  
So here we were in a small,  
little town and no place.

1749  
01:19:05,050 --> 01:19:07,180  
We didn't know anybody.

1750  
01:19:07,180 --> 01:19:10,090  
There was one family  
that took in some Jews,

1751  
01:19:10,090 --> 01:19:12,940  
but they were already  
sleeping on the floor.

1752  
01:19:12,940 --> 01:19:15,350  
There were so many of them.

1753  
01:19:15,350 --> 01:19:19,570  
So finally, they got us  
into an old, rickety hotel

1754  
01:19:19,570 --> 01:19:22,900  
on the back stairs  
going up to some room.

1755  
01:19:22,900 --> 01:19:24,070  
And there were mice there.

1756  
01:19:24,070 --> 01:19:26,020  
It was terrible.

1757  
01:19:26,020 --> 01:19:28,630  
Every time my sister was  
going to go to sleep,

1758  
01:19:28,630 --> 01:19:30,570  
I said, there's a mouse!

1759  
01:19:30,570 --> 01:19:33,340

1760  
01:19:33,340 --> 01:19:36,460  
Was the rest of your luggage  
on that train that left?

1761  
01:19:36,460 --> 01:19:39,130  
No, they had sent  
it ahead of us.

1762  
01:19:39,130 --> 01:19:39,730  
I see.

1763  
01:19:39,730 --> 01:19:40,626  
Yeah.

1764  
01:19:40,626 --> 01:19:42,860  
I see.

1765

01:19:42,860 --> 01:19:45,170

And eventually, you were able to get on another train.

1766

01:19:45,170 --> 01:19:47,340

Yes.

1767

01:19:47,340 --> 01:19:48,750

So it was harassment.

1768

01:19:48,750 --> 01:19:49,250

It was.

1769

01:19:49,250 --> 01:19:52,360

1770

01:19:52,360 --> 01:19:53,860

And we're scared.

1771

01:19:53,860 --> 01:19:55,180

Of course.

1772

01:19:55,180 --> 01:19:56,530

Of course.

1773

01:19:56,530 --> 01:20:00,790

Did you have relatives who were left behind in Germany?

1774

01:20:00,790 --> 01:20:02,660

Yes.

1775

01:20:02,660 --> 01:20:03,740

Who was that?

1776

01:20:03,740 --> 01:20:10,640

My mother's sister and husband.

1777

01:20:10,640 --> 01:20:12,200

Do you what happened to them?



1778

01:20:12,200 --> 01:20:13,400

No.

1779

01:20:13,400 --> 01:20:16,160

Because their children  
had gone to Israel.

1780

01:20:16,160 --> 01:20:19,602

And they did not do what we did.

1781

01:20:19,602 --> 01:20:20,102

Mm-hmm.

1782

01:20:20,102 --> 01:20:25,790

1783

01:20:25,790 --> 01:20:27,860

Is there anything I  
haven't asked today

1784

01:20:27,860 --> 01:20:33,210

that you'd like to add to  
what we've talked about?

1785

01:20:33,210 --> 01:20:34,477

I can't think of it now.

1786

01:20:34,477 --> 01:20:35,810

I'll probably think of it later.

1787

01:20:35,810 --> 01:20:37,250

It always happens that way.

1788

01:20:37,250 --> 01:20:39,110

It always happens that way.

1789

01:20:39,110 --> 01:20:41,240

No, I feel very lucky.

1790

01:20:41,240 --> 01:20:43,910

I came to a wonderful country.

1791  
01:20:43,910 --> 01:20:49,730  
And I feel very  
blessed and thankful.

1792  
01:20:49,730 --> 01:20:51,662  
And I love this country.

1793  
01:20:51,662 --> 01:20:53,630  
[LAUGHTER]

1794  
01:20:53,630 --> 01:20:58,340  
Did your children ask  
about your experiences?

1795  
01:20:58,340 --> 01:21:02,220  
Not at first, because they knew  
I didn't want to talk about it.

1796  
01:21:02,220 --> 01:21:03,770  
But then--

1797  
01:21:03,770 --> 01:21:08,270  
And was it a long time before  
you did talk about things?

1798  
01:21:08,270 --> 01:21:10,580  
Yeah, it was quite a while.

1799  
01:21:10,580 --> 01:21:13,310  
When did you start?

1800  
01:21:13,310 --> 01:21:14,790  
It was a gradual process.

1801  
01:21:14,790 --> 01:21:17,600

1802  
01:21:17,600 --> 01:21:20,288  
I'm asking for the exact  
date, and time, and year.

1803  
01:21:20,288 --> 01:21:22,580  
[LAUGHTER]

1804  
01:21:22,580 --> 01:21:25,340  
Was it March 3, 1978?

1805  
01:21:25,340 --> 01:21:26,030  
At 4:00 AM.

1806  
01:21:26,030 --> 01:21:27,656  
At 4:00 AM.

1807  
01:21:27,656 --> 01:21:30,632  
[LAUGHTER]

1808  
01:21:30,632 --> 01:21:33,120

1809  
01:21:33,120 --> 01:21:35,280  
I feel very lucky.

1810  
01:21:35,280 --> 01:21:37,630  
I feel very fortunate.

1811  
01:21:37,630 --> 01:21:44,600  
And I feel very positive.

1812  
01:21:44,600 --> 01:21:48,660  
Well, we're very grateful that  
you shared your story with us.

1813  
01:21:48,660 --> 01:21:50,210  
Well, thank you.

1814  
01:21:50,210 --> 01:21:52,940  
Thank you very much.

1815  
01:21:52,940 --> 01:21:57,200  
And I will say that this then  
concludes the United States

1816

01:21:57,200 --> 01:22:01,040

Holocaust Memorial Museum  
interview with Mrs. Ursula

1817

01:22:01,040 --> 01:22:05,930

Marx on June 8, 2016.

1818

01:22:05,930 --> 01:22:08,180

And I thank you for  
listening to me.

1819

01:22:08,180 --> 01:22:10,260

Oh, it was an honor.

1820

01:22:10,260 --> 01:22:11,190

Thank you very much.

1821

01:22:11,190 --> 01:22:11,690

Thank you.

1822

01:22:11,690 --> 01:22:13,240

OK.