

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,680

2
00:00:02,680 --> 00:00:06,040
This is a United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3
00:00:06,040 --> 00:00:14,830
interview with Mr. Steen
Metz on September 26, 2016

4
00:00:14,830 --> 00:00:16,840
in Lincolnshire, Illinois.

5
00:00:16,840 --> 00:00:18,910
Thank you very,
very much, Mr. Metz,

6
00:00:18,910 --> 00:00:21,520
for agreeing to
speak with us today

7
00:00:21,520 --> 00:00:23,720
and to share your story with us.

8
00:00:23,720 --> 00:00:24,400
Glad to do it.

9
00:00:24,400 --> 00:00:25,780
I think it's very important.

10
00:00:25,780 --> 00:00:27,970
We much appreciate it.

11
00:00:27,970 --> 00:00:32,020
I'm going to start the interview
with the most basic questions.

12
00:00:32,020 --> 00:00:34,840
We'll talk a lot
about prewar life.

13
00:00:34,840 --> 00:00:38,300
And from there, I know
our story will develop.

14
00:00:38,300 --> 00:00:42,100
So the very first question
I have, very simple one.

15
00:00:42,100 --> 00:00:44,510
What is the date of your birth?

16
00:00:44,510 --> 00:00:48,190
I was born on May the 5th, 1935.

17
00:00:48,190 --> 00:00:50,570
And what was your name at birth?

18
00:00:50,570 --> 00:00:51,160
Steen.

19
00:00:51,160 --> 00:00:54,360
And then I had a
middle name, Axel Metz.

20
00:00:54,360 --> 00:00:56,680
And it was the tradition
within the family.

21
00:00:56,680 --> 00:01:00,310
Axel, my middle name, was
my father's first name.

22
00:01:00,310 --> 00:01:01,000
I see.

23
00:01:01,000 --> 00:01:03,540
So your father's first
name was Axel Metz?

24
00:01:03,540 --> 00:01:04,930
That's correct.

25
00:01:04,930 --> 00:01:06,830
And where were you born?

26
00:01:06,830 --> 00:01:08,450
I was born in Denmark.

27
00:01:08,450 --> 00:01:10,530
A town I call Odense.

28
00:01:10,530 --> 00:01:14,650
And it's spelled O-D-E-N-S-E.

29
00:01:14,650 --> 00:01:19,480
And can you tell me a little
bit about how far this town was

30
00:01:19,480 --> 00:01:21,460
located from, let's
say, Copenhagen, which

31
00:01:21,460 --> 00:01:23,260
most people know about?

32
00:01:23,260 --> 00:01:25,690
Right in the middle
of the country.

33
00:01:25,690 --> 00:01:34,180
It was probably about 130 miles
from Copenhagen. In those days,

34
00:01:34,180 --> 00:01:39,310
it took about four, four and a
half hours by train from Odense

35
00:01:39,310 --> 00:01:40,480
to Copenhagen.

36
00:01:40,480 --> 00:01:41,740
Wow.

37

00:01:41,740 --> 00:01:45,940

But now they have a bridge
between two islands.

38

00:01:45,940 --> 00:01:49,010

And now it takes between an
hour and a half and two hours.

39

00:01:49,010 --> 00:01:51,790

And of course, the trains run
much faster than they used to.

40

00:01:51,790 --> 00:01:52,630

I see.

41

00:01:52,630 --> 00:01:53,780

I see.

42

00:01:53,780 --> 00:01:58,380

And how is it that you
ended up being born there?

43

00:01:58,380 --> 00:02:01,170

Were your parents
both from the town?

44

00:02:01,170 --> 00:02:02,940

No, not originally.

45

00:02:02,940 --> 00:02:06,800

My entire family
was from Copenhagen.

46

00:02:06,800 --> 00:02:11,220

When my father got
his law degree,

47

00:02:11,220 --> 00:02:13,430

he got married to my mother.

48

00:02:13,430 --> 00:02:15,540

They had a long

engagement, because they

49

00:02:15,540 --> 00:02:19,280

didn't want to get married
until he got his law degree.

50

00:02:19,280 --> 00:02:21,200

And he was an attorney.

51

00:02:21,200 --> 00:02:23,420

And then they moved to Odense.

52

00:02:23,420 --> 00:02:25,550

And he got a job in Odense.

53

00:02:25,550 --> 00:02:27,920

We're the only part
of the family living

54

00:02:27,920 --> 00:02:29,090

outside of Copenhagen.

55

00:02:29,090 --> 00:02:29,870

I see.

56

00:02:29,870 --> 00:02:30,620

I see.

57

00:02:30,620 --> 00:02:32,780

And what was your mother's name?

58

00:02:32,780 --> 00:02:34,440

First name and maiden name.

59

00:02:34,440 --> 00:02:39,290

Her first name was
Magna, M-A-G-N-A.

60

00:02:39,290 --> 00:02:41,380

And her maiden name
was Hildesheim,

61

00:02:41,380 --> 00:02:47,690
H-I-L-D-E-S-H-E-I-M. And I just
want to tell you a story that

62

00:02:47,690 --> 00:02:50,420
just comes to my mind
about Hildesheim.

63

00:02:50,420 --> 00:02:53,930
The other day I saw an exhibit
about the Berlin Olympic

64

00:02:53,930 --> 00:02:55,880
in 1936.

65

00:02:55,880 --> 00:02:59,630
And suddenly, I see a
sign about Jewish people

66

00:02:59,630 --> 00:03:02,030
not allowed at a certain place--

67

00:03:02,030 --> 00:03:03,240
I can't remember where--

68

00:03:03,240 --> 00:03:04,068
in Hildesheim.

69

00:03:04,068 --> 00:03:04,610
That's right.

70

00:03:04,610 --> 00:03:05,693
There's a town in Germany.

71

00:03:05,693 --> 00:03:06,860
Yeah.

72

00:03:06,860 --> 00:03:11,290
And that sign was dated 1935.

73

00:03:11,290 --> 00:03:15,860

And it is amazing to
think about even in '35--

74
00:03:15,860 --> 00:03:16,480
That's right.

75
00:03:16,480 --> 00:03:18,410
--Jewish people
were not allowed.

76
00:03:18,410 --> 00:03:19,400
That's right.

77
00:03:19,400 --> 00:03:20,180
That's right.

78
00:03:20,180 --> 00:03:22,880
Well, Hitler had been in power
already a couple of years.

79
00:03:22,880 --> 00:03:23,450
Yes.

80
00:03:23,450 --> 00:03:26,300
And the Olympics were
held in the capital.

81
00:03:26,300 --> 00:03:26,840
And--

82
00:03:26,840 --> 00:03:27,860
In '36, yes.

83
00:03:27,860 --> 00:03:28,550
Yeah.

84
00:03:28,550 --> 00:03:33,600
So was there any connection
between your mother's family

85
00:03:33,600 --> 00:03:35,840
and the actual German

town of Hildesheim?

86

00:03:35,840 --> 00:03:36,770

There may be.

87

00:03:36,770 --> 00:03:39,530

We've had never been
able to find out.

88

00:03:39,530 --> 00:03:40,610

I have some cousins.

89

00:03:40,610 --> 00:03:43,890

And we all say, why don't
you do the research?

90

00:03:43,890 --> 00:03:46,610

And I really don't
have time to do it

91

00:03:46,610 --> 00:03:49,430

with all my Holocaust services.

92

00:03:49,430 --> 00:03:56,310

Tell me a little bit about
the background of your family.

93

00:03:56,310 --> 00:03:59,600

How many generations
lived in Denmark?

94

00:03:59,600 --> 00:04:01,310

How did they come to Denmark?

95

00:04:01,310 --> 00:04:03,260

Do you know these things?

96

00:04:03,260 --> 00:04:08,680

I think my father's side
originated in the town Metz,

97

00:04:08,680 --> 00:04:14,510

M-E-T-Z. And Metz was
either French or German,

98
00:04:14,510 --> 00:04:17,959
depending on who won
the war, so to speak.

99
00:04:17,959 --> 00:04:20,120
And I think it originated there.

100
00:04:20,120 --> 00:04:22,240
But I've not been
able to trace it.

101
00:04:22,240 --> 00:04:24,830
And I have not even
tried to trace it.

102
00:04:24,830 --> 00:04:27,290
So you're saying that your
family would have come from

103
00:04:27,290 --> 00:04:30,020
a place called Metz on
the French-German border,

104
00:04:30,020 --> 00:04:30,520
depending--

105
00:04:30,520 --> 00:04:32,350
I think so.

106
00:04:32,350 --> 00:04:32,990
OK.

107
00:04:32,990 --> 00:04:37,190
My family also-- the early part
of family came from another

108
00:04:37,190 --> 00:04:43,510
town in Denmark called Randers,
R-A-N-D-E-R-S, which is--

109

00:04:43,510 --> 00:04:44,310

Randers, OK.

110

00:04:44,310 --> 00:04:45,830

Randers, which is in Jutland.

111

00:04:45,830 --> 00:04:46,910

OK.

112

00:04:46,910 --> 00:04:48,170

And Jutland is--

113

00:04:48,170 --> 00:04:50,890

A western part of Denmark.

114

00:04:50,890 --> 00:04:52,490

A peninsula.

115

00:04:52,490 --> 00:04:55,700

Did you know your
larger extended family

116

00:04:55,700 --> 00:04:57,110

as you were growing up?

117

00:04:57,110 --> 00:04:58,820

Oh, absolutely.

118

00:04:58,820 --> 00:05:03,530

I was-- [COUGH] excuse me.

119

00:05:03,530 --> 00:05:05,620

I was the only
child in the family,

120

00:05:05,620 --> 00:05:09,010

but we made frequent
trips to Copenhagen.

121

00:05:09,010 --> 00:05:12,410

We would go to Copenhagen--

122
00:05:12,410 --> 00:05:14,420
this sounds strange.

123
00:05:14,420 --> 00:05:17,390
My wife, Eileen, always says
this was a strange family.

124
00:05:17,390 --> 00:05:18,990
But we did celebrate Christmas.

125
00:05:18,990 --> 00:05:19,490
Did you?

126
00:05:19,490 --> 00:05:21,020
Yeah, we did
celebrate Christmas.

127
00:05:21,020 --> 00:05:23,050
And we would always
go to Copenhagen.

128
00:05:23,050 --> 00:05:26,060
And I've since found out we
were not the only Jewish family

129
00:05:26,060 --> 00:05:27,980
celebrating Christmas.

130
00:05:27,980 --> 00:05:30,440
So we would always take
the train to Copenhagen.

131
00:05:30,440 --> 00:05:32,390
Well, this begs another
question that I have.

132
00:05:32,390 --> 00:05:35,450
I have heard-- and I don't
know if this is true--

133
00:05:35,450 --> 00:05:38,900

that the Jewish
community in Denmark

134
00:05:38,900 --> 00:05:42,380
had a great desire to
assimilate and integrate

135
00:05:42,380 --> 00:05:44,928
into Danish society
as much as possible.

136
00:05:44,928 --> 00:05:46,845
Would you say there's
truth to that statement?

137
00:05:46,845 --> 00:05:50,180
Oh, no question about it.

138
00:05:50,180 --> 00:05:51,950
I think a big
difference-- and I often

139
00:05:51,950 --> 00:05:55,400
use that in my
talk-- is in Denmark,

140
00:05:55,400 --> 00:06:00,230
you're first of all a Dane no
matter what color skin you have

141
00:06:00,230 --> 00:06:02,450
or what religion you
have, whether you're

142
00:06:02,450 --> 00:06:04,400
Jewish or Catholic.

143
00:06:04,400 --> 00:06:08,000
And my mother was interviewed
by two young journalists back

144
00:06:08,000 --> 00:06:12,770
'95, which was a

year before she died.

145
00:06:12,770 --> 00:06:15,550
And she was asked the
question, did you feel Jewish,

146
00:06:15,550 --> 00:06:17,420
or did you feel Danish?

147
00:06:17,420 --> 00:06:19,310
And she said, of
course I was Jewish.

148
00:06:19,310 --> 00:06:21,350
But first of all, I felt Danish.

149
00:06:21,350 --> 00:06:23,150
And I think that
tells the story.

150
00:06:23,150 --> 00:06:26,580
And there's no question about
what you're talking about.

151
00:06:26,580 --> 00:06:29,340
And I think this is
happening more and more.

152
00:06:29,340 --> 00:06:30,320
OK.

153
00:06:30,320 --> 00:06:32,510
Could that have
been a reason why

154
00:06:32,510 --> 00:06:36,688
not only your family, but
others celebrated Christmas?

155
00:06:36,688 --> 00:06:38,480
Or do you think it
would be another reason?

156
00:06:38,480 --> 00:06:39,550
It might be.

157
00:06:39,550 --> 00:06:45,550
Very few people in our
family observed kosher food,

158
00:06:45,550 --> 00:06:47,080
as an example.

159
00:06:47,080 --> 00:06:50,350
And my father was brought
up in the Jewish faith.

160
00:06:50,350 --> 00:06:51,580
But I don't know--

161
00:06:51,580 --> 00:06:53,320
his brothers were too.

162
00:06:53,320 --> 00:06:55,270
But on my mother's
side, they were not

163
00:06:55,270 --> 00:06:57,250
brought up in the Jewish faith.

164
00:06:57,250 --> 00:06:58,780
So they were more secular.

165
00:06:58,780 --> 00:07:02,290
Yes, I think that's
good description.

166
00:07:02,290 --> 00:07:04,810
As an example, when my father
and mother got married,

167
00:07:04,810 --> 00:07:09,070
they did not get married
in the temple or synagogue.

168

00:07:09,070 --> 00:07:11,600

They got married
in my grandmother--

169

00:07:11,600 --> 00:07:12,940

my mother's apartment.

170

00:07:12,940 --> 00:07:13,480

Oh, really?

171

00:07:13,480 --> 00:07:13,980

Yes.

172

00:07:13,980 --> 00:07:16,480

173

00:07:16,480 --> 00:07:16,980

Tell me--

174

00:07:16,980 --> 00:07:19,870

Which is-- when you
think back, it's unusual.

175

00:07:19,870 --> 00:07:21,270

Yeah, I've not
heard that before.

176

00:07:21,270 --> 00:07:21,770

No.

177

00:07:21,770 --> 00:07:23,800

I have not heard that.

178

00:07:23,800 --> 00:07:27,120

Tell me a little bit about
your parents' personalities,

179

00:07:27,120 --> 00:07:29,840

about your father.

180

00:07:29,840 --> 00:07:33,210

First of all, what are your earliest memories of him?

181
00:07:33,210 --> 00:07:34,860
That's one question.

182
00:07:34,860 --> 00:07:36,410
And then we'll go to the personality.

183
00:07:36,410 --> 00:07:38,550
Well, one of the earlier--

184
00:07:38,550 --> 00:07:44,230
I can remember, is when I was out--

185
00:07:44,230 --> 00:07:44,820
wait a second.

186
00:07:44,820 --> 00:07:46,930
I lost my thought for--

187
00:07:46,930 --> 00:07:48,280
when I learned to bicycle.

188
00:07:48,280 --> 00:07:50,290
And in Denmark, you learn at an early age.

189
00:07:50,290 --> 00:07:53,290
Because in Denmark your use it as transportation.

190
00:07:53,290 --> 00:07:55,010
Not like here, where we use it--

191
00:07:55,010 --> 00:07:55,510
Recreation.

192
00:07:55,510 --> 00:07:57,430
Recreational.

193
00:07:57,430 --> 00:07:59,710
And he would run after me.

194
00:07:59,710 --> 00:08:01,600
He would have a
stick in the visor.

195
00:08:01,600 --> 00:08:02,740
And he would almost run.

196
00:08:02,740 --> 00:08:04,545
He had asthma.

197
00:08:04,545 --> 00:08:05,920
So it was very
difficult for him.

198
00:08:05,920 --> 00:08:07,270
He had trouble keeping up.

199
00:08:07,270 --> 00:08:09,670
[LAUGHS] So that I remember.

200
00:08:09,670 --> 00:08:13,570
I also remember, I was
playing with my father.

201
00:08:13,570 --> 00:08:15,330
He was a lawyer.

202
00:08:15,330 --> 00:08:19,120
And during the fall we
would collect chestnuts.

203
00:08:19,120 --> 00:08:21,710
And we would tie them
together in a string.

204
00:08:21,710 --> 00:08:23,725
And my father would
become the horse.

205

00:08:23,725 --> 00:08:25,960

[LAUGHS] And I would be driving.

206

00:08:25,960 --> 00:08:27,650

So those two things--

207

00:08:27,650 --> 00:08:29,050

So he played with you.

208

00:08:29,050 --> 00:08:30,300

Oh, yes.

209

00:08:30,300 --> 00:08:33,850

Yeah, I can remember
a number of things.

210

00:08:33,850 --> 00:08:35,470

We lived in an apartment.

211

00:08:35,470 --> 00:08:38,030

We always lived in an apartment.

212

00:08:38,030 --> 00:08:39,909

And so we didn't have a garden.

213

00:08:39,909 --> 00:08:43,820

So we had an allotment,
as we referred to it.

214

00:08:43,820 --> 00:08:44,710

And I would grow--

215

00:08:44,710 --> 00:08:45,600

he would help me.

216

00:08:45,600 --> 00:08:49,960

We would plant seeds,
radishes, flowers, and so on.

217

00:08:49,960 --> 00:08:53,770

And I guess my business
career started early,

218
00:08:53,770 --> 00:08:57,490
because I went back and
collected the flowers

219
00:08:57,490 --> 00:09:00,280
and collected the radishes
and sold them to my mother.

220
00:09:00,280 --> 00:09:01,020
Did you really?

221
00:09:01,020 --> 00:09:01,240
Yeah.

222
00:09:01,240 --> 00:09:01,740
[LAUGHTER]

223
00:09:01,740 --> 00:09:05,446
So that might be when my
business career took off.

224
00:09:05,446 --> 00:09:06,113
That's kind of--

225
00:09:06,113 --> 00:09:07,071
So those are somewhat--

226
00:09:07,071 --> 00:09:07,580
That's cute.

227
00:09:07,580 --> 00:09:10,900
So great memories I have.

228
00:09:10,900 --> 00:09:13,450
So garden allotments,
for those people

229
00:09:13,450 --> 00:09:15,920
who don't know what that

is, could you explain--

230
00:09:15,920 --> 00:09:16,420
Yes.

231
00:09:16,420 --> 00:09:17,710
--what it means?

232
00:09:17,710 --> 00:09:22,620
We rented some space
in a big garden.

233
00:09:22,620 --> 00:09:25,570
And we would get, say,
1/10 of the garden.

234
00:09:25,570 --> 00:09:28,840
And we rented it or leased it,
whatever you want to call it.

235
00:09:28,840 --> 00:09:30,970
And then we were
able to use that.

236
00:09:30,970 --> 00:09:33,010
And we would water the seeds.

237
00:09:33,010 --> 00:09:35,810
And in those days, you would
grow everything from seeds.

238
00:09:35,810 --> 00:09:38,620
You would not start
it with plants.

239
00:09:38,620 --> 00:09:41,710
And in addition to radishes,
I think we had lettuce,

240
00:09:41,710 --> 00:09:44,607
and we had flowers, and
maybe a few other things.

241
00:09:44,607 --> 00:09:45,190
Did you have--

242
00:09:45,190 --> 00:09:46,315
And we would go over there.

243
00:09:46,315 --> 00:09:48,200
It was very close
to where we lived.

244
00:09:48,200 --> 00:09:51,160
But we would go over
there maybe one evening,

245
00:09:51,160 --> 00:09:55,465
and certainly over the weekend
to take care of the garden.

246
00:09:55,465 --> 00:09:57,590
Well, you answered one of
the questions that I had,

247
00:09:57,590 --> 00:09:59,130
is, how far was
this from your home?

248
00:09:59,130 --> 00:10:00,290
It was very close.

249
00:10:00,290 --> 00:10:01,240
OK.

250
00:10:01,240 --> 00:10:05,470
And this was typical
for people in places

251
00:10:05,470 --> 00:10:09,340
where they had a flat,
but no single family home?

252
00:10:09,340 --> 00:10:10,960
I don't know how common it was.

253
00:10:10,960 --> 00:10:14,780
But we had it and several
other people had it also.

254
00:10:14,780 --> 00:10:16,480
Of course, especially
in those days

255
00:10:16,480 --> 00:10:19,690
it was much more common to
live in an apartment as opposed

256
00:10:19,690 --> 00:10:21,580
to owning a house.

257
00:10:21,580 --> 00:10:24,890

258
00:10:24,890 --> 00:10:27,200
Tell me then about your
father's personality.

259
00:10:27,200 --> 00:10:32,140
What kind of a person
was he, from your memory?

260
00:10:32,140 --> 00:10:34,460
He was very gentle.

261
00:10:34,460 --> 00:10:36,920
Had a good sense of humor.

262
00:10:36,920 --> 00:10:38,460
He also had a temper.

263
00:10:38,460 --> 00:10:39,840
Did he?

264
00:10:39,840 --> 00:10:43,850
And unfortunately, I have
inherited part of that.

265
00:10:43,850 --> 00:10:47,330
But he was very, very creative.

266
00:10:47,330 --> 00:10:52,765
When we had family gatherings,
it was very common in Denmark

267
00:10:52,765 --> 00:10:54,140
when you had
birthdays-- and they

268
00:10:54,140 --> 00:10:56,300
celebrate any kind of birthday.

269
00:10:56,300 --> 00:10:57,775
They call them round birthday.

270
00:10:57,775 --> 00:10:58,400
Round birthday?

271
00:10:58,400 --> 00:10:59,130
Birthday.

272
00:10:59,130 --> 00:11:01,180
50, 60, and 80.

273
00:11:01,180 --> 00:11:03,230
That's the round birthday.

274
00:11:03,230 --> 00:11:06,560
And they celebrate those.

275
00:11:06,560 --> 00:11:08,900
And when do you do
that, you will sing.

276
00:11:08,900 --> 00:11:10,940
So you would have a poem.

277
00:11:10,940 --> 00:11:12,918

And my father would do the poem.

278

00:11:12,918 --> 00:11:13,460

Oh, would he?

279

00:11:13,460 --> 00:11:14,240

Yes.

280

00:11:14,240 --> 00:11:15,450

He would do the poem.

281

00:11:15,450 --> 00:11:16,730

So he'd make a poem up.

282

00:11:16,730 --> 00:11:17,880

Yeah, based on--

283

00:11:17,880 --> 00:11:18,380

That person.

284

00:11:18,380 --> 00:11:19,850

--the people that
were in the room.

285

00:11:19,850 --> 00:11:21,190

He would make reference.

286

00:11:21,190 --> 00:11:22,760

And he was very good at that.

287

00:11:22,760 --> 00:11:24,410

Was he a jovial person?

288

00:11:24,410 --> 00:11:25,010

Yes.

289

00:11:25,010 --> 00:11:28,970

Yes, I think that's
a good description.

290

00:11:28,970 --> 00:11:34,520

And as you mentioned before,
if he was your horse, then

291
00:11:34,520 --> 00:11:36,585
clearly he liked
playing with you.

292
00:11:36,585 --> 00:11:37,085
Yes.

293
00:11:37,085 --> 00:11:39,682

294
00:11:39,682 --> 00:11:40,640
What about your mother?

295
00:11:40,640 --> 00:11:42,270
Tell me a little bit
about your mother.

296
00:11:42,270 --> 00:11:45,770
My mother, as I
mentioned, of course,

297
00:11:45,770 --> 00:11:48,980
my father also had
a long engagement.

298
00:11:48,980 --> 00:11:52,550
She was very, very tenacious.

299
00:11:52,550 --> 00:11:55,690
Very strong woman.

300
00:11:55,690 --> 00:11:59,570
At times, maybe
bordering on stubborn.

301
00:11:59,570 --> 00:12:00,880
Was he the gentler of the two?

302
00:12:00,880 --> 00:12:02,270

Yes, no question.

303

00:12:02,270 --> 00:12:04,810

No question about it.

304

00:12:04,810 --> 00:12:07,710

But as I mentioned, they
had known each other

305

00:12:07,710 --> 00:12:09,440

for a long, long time.

306

00:12:09,440 --> 00:12:10,380

And I would imagine--

307

00:12:10,380 --> 00:12:13,410

I hadn't really thought
about it, but at that time

308

00:12:13,410 --> 00:12:16,860

I don't think my
father would be allowed

309

00:12:16,860 --> 00:12:19,830

to marry a non-Jewish person.

310

00:12:19,830 --> 00:12:20,818

I doubt that.

311

00:12:20,818 --> 00:12:22,110

Your mother was Jewish as well?

312

00:12:22,110 --> 00:12:23,040

Yes, she was Jewish.

313

00:12:23,040 --> 00:12:24,650

I don't think--

314

00:12:24,650 --> 00:12:29,880

OK, so despite assimilationist
kind of directions,

315

00:12:29,880 --> 00:12:33,190
there was a limit.

316

00:12:33,190 --> 00:12:35,620
In this case, I think there was.

317

00:12:35,620 --> 00:12:39,890
And of course, the people
that were orthodox--

318

00:12:39,890 --> 00:12:40,900
different there.

319

00:12:40,900 --> 00:12:43,480
You couldn't do it--
like, my father's brother,

320

00:12:43,480 --> 00:12:47,500
they kept kosher food at home.

321

00:12:47,500 --> 00:12:50,170
Let's talk a little bit
about the larger family.

322

00:12:50,170 --> 00:12:53,310
Did you know your
grandparents on either side?

323

00:12:53,310 --> 00:12:56,770
I only knew the grandmothers.

324

00:12:56,770 --> 00:12:58,960
The grandfathers
had passed away?

325

00:12:58,960 --> 00:13:02,630
One had left the country.

326

00:13:02,630 --> 00:13:04,870
He was a stockbroker.

327

00:13:04,870 --> 00:13:07,160
He went bankrupt.

328
00:13:07,160 --> 00:13:08,410
He left the family.

329
00:13:08,410 --> 00:13:11,170
I think he went to South
Africa, maybe Argentina.

330
00:13:11,170 --> 00:13:12,460
I'm not quite sure.

331
00:13:12,460 --> 00:13:13,870
I never knew him.

332
00:13:13,870 --> 00:13:17,067
So this was after
the 1929 crash?

333
00:13:17,067 --> 00:13:17,900
You know, when the--

334
00:13:17,900 --> 00:13:19,060
It was in the '30s.

335
00:13:19,060 --> 00:13:19,920
It was in the '30s.

336
00:13:19,920 --> 00:13:23,390
It was in the--

337
00:13:23,390 --> 00:13:24,690
I can't remember exactly.

338
00:13:24,690 --> 00:13:25,190
Of course.

339
00:13:25,190 --> 00:13:28,010
No, it couldn't be,
because-- no, it was earlier.

340

00:13:28,010 --> 00:13:34,470

It was before that, because
my mother was born in 1906.

341

00:13:34,470 --> 00:13:37,430

And I think she was six or
seven years old when he left.

342

00:13:37,430 --> 00:13:38,720

So it's much, much earlier.

343

00:13:38,720 --> 00:13:40,428

Also it had nothing
to do with the crash.

344

00:13:40,428 --> 00:13:42,277

No, nothing, no.

345

00:13:42,277 --> 00:13:43,860

You would think it
did, but it didn't.

346

00:13:43,860 --> 00:13:46,160

It was much, much earlier.

347

00:13:46,160 --> 00:13:49,360

And he left the whole family.

348

00:13:49,360 --> 00:13:51,120

And my--

349

00:13:51,120 --> 00:13:52,210

That's not nice.

350

00:13:52,210 --> 00:13:53,300

No, it's not.

351

00:13:53,300 --> 00:13:58,120

It's not very-- and they
had a very nice apartment,

352

00:13:58,120 --> 00:13:59,830
a big apartment.

353
00:13:59,830 --> 00:14:01,870
And they had nannies.

354
00:14:01,870 --> 00:14:03,130
They had help.

355
00:14:03,130 --> 00:14:05,140
My grandma had a lot of help.

356
00:14:05,140 --> 00:14:07,570
And suddenly, he disappears.

357
00:14:07,570 --> 00:14:09,700
And I think it came as
a shock to everybody--

358
00:14:09,700 --> 00:14:10,540
Of course.

359
00:14:10,540 --> 00:14:12,430
--that he went bankrupt.

360
00:14:12,430 --> 00:14:16,200
And how many siblings
did your mother have?

361
00:14:16,200 --> 00:14:17,980
A total of five.

362
00:14:17,980 --> 00:14:19,210
So where was she?

363
00:14:19,210 --> 00:14:22,390
Mama, she had an older
brother, older sister,

364
00:14:22,390 --> 00:14:24,100
and two younger sisters.

365

00:14:24,100 --> 00:14:25,240

Was she in the middle?

366

00:14:25,240 --> 00:14:27,250

She was the middle one.

367

00:14:27,250 --> 00:14:28,930

And remind me of her name again?

368

00:14:28,930 --> 00:14:30,092

Because I--

369

00:14:30,092 --> 00:14:31,620

M-A-G-N-A. Magna.

370

00:14:31,620 --> 00:14:32,410

Magna.

371

00:14:32,410 --> 00:14:33,460

I haven't heard it.

372

00:14:33,460 --> 00:14:33,780

This is the first--

373

00:14:33,780 --> 00:14:34,850

No, it's very unusual.

374

00:14:34,850 --> 00:14:37,600

OK.

375

00:14:37,600 --> 00:14:41,510

And so you knew your grandmother
and these aunts and uncles--

376

00:14:41,510 --> 00:14:42,010

Yes.

377

00:14:42,010 --> 00:14:43,360

--on this side of the family.

378

00:14:43,360 --> 00:14:47,400

And on the other
side, my grandfather,

379

00:14:47,400 --> 00:14:53,820

my father's father, died
well before I was born.

380

00:14:53,820 --> 00:14:56,610

Let's talk about your
mother's side of the family.

381

00:14:56,610 --> 00:14:59,580

Did you visit your grandmother?

382

00:14:59,580 --> 00:15:01,730

Did she still live
in Copenhagen?

383

00:15:01,730 --> 00:15:03,870

Yeah, they all
stayed in Copenhagen.

384

00:15:03,870 --> 00:15:09,120

I would visit my grandmother
on my mother's side.

385

00:15:09,120 --> 00:15:14,280

I was closer to her than
to my father's mother.

386

00:15:14,280 --> 00:15:17,520

And her circumstances,
were they very reduced?

387

00:15:17,520 --> 00:15:19,225

Did she live very humbly?

388

00:15:19,225 --> 00:15:20,850

Because of, you know,
having been left?

389

00:15:20,850 --> 00:15:23,370

Yes, she lived in a smaller--

390

00:15:23,370 --> 00:15:26,070
she had to live in
a smaller apartment.

391

00:15:26,070 --> 00:15:29,970
I think she got some help
when her parents were around.

392

00:15:29,970 --> 00:15:34,337
I think she got some help from
her sister, who inherited a hat

393

00:15:34,337 --> 00:15:36,840
business, a wholesale
hat business, which

394

00:15:36,840 --> 00:15:38,398
was very unusual for a woman--

395

00:15:38,398 --> 00:15:38,940
That's right.

396

00:15:38,940 --> 00:15:40,470
--to run it in those days.

397

00:15:40,470 --> 00:15:42,070
And she did quite well.

398

00:15:42,070 --> 00:15:43,960
So I think she helped out.

399

00:15:43,960 --> 00:15:44,630
OK.

400

00:15:44,630 --> 00:15:48,160
So did you know anybody
from that generation

401

00:15:48,160 --> 00:15:51,270
besides your grandmother,

like your great aunt who

402

00:15:51,270 --> 00:15:53,100
had the hat business or others?

403

00:15:53,100 --> 00:15:54,660
Oh, I was very close to her.

404

00:15:54,660 --> 00:15:55,890
As well?

405

00:15:55,890 --> 00:15:57,870
I was very close to her.

406

00:15:57,870 --> 00:16:01,140
After the war I was
probably closer to her

407

00:16:01,140 --> 00:16:03,270
than her sister, who
was my grandmother.

408

00:16:03,270 --> 00:16:05,580
Because she had
been in business.

409

00:16:05,580 --> 00:16:10,740
And I was one of the few family
members that was in business.

410

00:16:10,740 --> 00:16:14,070
They were attorneys
or engineers.

411

00:16:14,070 --> 00:16:20,580
And so I always remember
a saying my aunt had.

412

00:16:20,580 --> 00:16:23,950
And it was, Steen, you
should always do more than

413

00:16:23,950 --> 00:16:26,990
expected of you.

414
00:16:26,990 --> 00:16:29,240
And was her hat business
a retail one or a whole--

415
00:16:29,240 --> 00:16:30,407
It was a wholesale business.

416
00:16:30,407 --> 00:16:31,780
It was a wholesale business.

417
00:16:31,780 --> 00:16:36,750
But by that time, she
had sold the business.

418
00:16:36,750 --> 00:16:42,420
Because there was nobody in
the family to take it over.

419
00:16:42,420 --> 00:16:45,300
By that time, hats--

420
00:16:45,300 --> 00:16:47,730
it was both men's
and women's hats.

421
00:16:47,730 --> 00:16:50,850
And men didn't wear
hats that often anymore.

422
00:16:50,850 --> 00:16:51,722
That's true.

423
00:16:51,722 --> 00:16:53,680
And soon after that women
stopped wearing hats.

424
00:16:53,680 --> 00:16:54,750
Yes.

425

00:16:54,750 --> 00:16:56,330

So it's not a very
good business.

426

00:16:56,330 --> 00:16:59,040

Yeah.

427

00:16:59,040 --> 00:17:02,370

What was her circumstances
during the war?

428

00:17:02,370 --> 00:17:04,829

Was she able to continue
running this business

429

00:17:04,829 --> 00:17:06,150

under the Nazi occupation?

430

00:17:06,150 --> 00:17:09,380

At that time, she didn't
run the business anymore.

431

00:17:09,380 --> 00:17:13,750

She retired from the business
when she was 55 years old.

432

00:17:13,750 --> 00:17:14,730

Oh, OK.

433

00:17:14,730 --> 00:17:16,710

And she managed to escape.

434

00:17:16,710 --> 00:17:21,390

The whole family in Copenhagen
managed to escape to Sweden,

435

00:17:21,390 --> 00:17:23,280

except my father's--

436

00:17:23,280 --> 00:17:29,790

one of his brothers and his wife
and his mother and their son.

437

00:17:29,790 --> 00:17:32,250

They were caught while
they were trying to escape.

438

00:17:32,250 --> 00:17:35,280

We'll talk about these things.

439

00:17:35,280 --> 00:17:38,490

OK, so by the time
the war occurs,

440

00:17:38,490 --> 00:17:41,300

your aunt is no longer
involved in the business.

441

00:17:41,300 --> 00:17:42,220

That's correct.

442

00:17:42,220 --> 00:17:46,200

And so she doesn't suffer ill
effect from having a business.

443

00:17:46,200 --> 00:17:46,820

No.

444

00:17:46,820 --> 00:17:47,320

OK.

445

00:17:47,320 --> 00:17:51,270

446

00:17:51,270 --> 00:17:54,480

Tell me about what
it was that made

447

00:17:54,480 --> 00:17:58,200

this particular grandmother
and this particular aunt

448

00:17:58,200 --> 00:18:02,390

closer to you, why you
felt closer to them

449
00:18:02,390 --> 00:18:04,040
as family members?

450
00:18:04,040 --> 00:18:05,210
What did you--

451
00:18:05,210 --> 00:18:08,420
I think it was
especially after the war.

452
00:18:08,420 --> 00:18:11,210
And it was probably
because of my mother

453
00:18:11,210 --> 00:18:12,670
being closer to them--

454
00:18:12,670 --> 00:18:13,170
Of course.

455
00:18:13,170 --> 00:18:14,380
--than her mother-in-law.

456
00:18:14,380 --> 00:18:15,800
And I think--

457
00:18:15,800 --> 00:18:16,300
I mean--

458
00:18:16,300 --> 00:18:18,008
It wasn't before the
war, in other words.

459
00:18:18,008 --> 00:18:18,620
No, no.

460
00:18:18,620 --> 00:18:19,220
It was not.

461
00:18:19,220 --> 00:18:22,520

And I still remember
that Christmas-- here it

462
00:18:22,520 --> 00:18:24,560
comes again.

463
00:18:24,560 --> 00:18:28,990
After Christmas
my father's mother

464
00:18:28,990 --> 00:18:31,540
would take me out shopping.

465
00:18:31,540 --> 00:18:34,440
And she would always say, what
didn't you get at Christmas?

466
00:18:34,440 --> 00:18:35,950
I'll get it for you.

467
00:18:35,950 --> 00:18:36,530
And did she?

468
00:18:36,530 --> 00:18:37,030
Yes.

469
00:18:37,030 --> 00:18:39,160
[LAUGHTER]

470
00:18:39,160 --> 00:18:41,697
Was there a great difference
between the two families,

471
00:18:41,697 --> 00:18:43,030
your mother's and your father's?

472
00:18:43,030 --> 00:18:45,690

473
00:18:45,690 --> 00:18:47,700
Yes, I think there was.

474

00:18:47,700 --> 00:18:57,860

I think on my mother's side,
certainly until her father left

475

00:18:57,860 --> 00:19:01,880

the country, I think they were
probably better off financially

476

00:19:01,880 --> 00:19:04,707

than on the other side.

477

00:19:04,707 --> 00:19:07,040

But on the other side, your
father's side of the family,

478

00:19:07,040 --> 00:19:07,940

were they comfortable?

479

00:19:07,940 --> 00:19:08,180

Were they middle class?

480

00:19:08,180 --> 00:19:08,750

Yes.

481

00:19:08,750 --> 00:19:09,500

They were.

482

00:19:09,500 --> 00:19:11,110

No, no, they were comfortable.

483

00:19:11,110 --> 00:19:12,380

OK.

484

00:19:12,380 --> 00:19:14,690

And he had how many
brothers and sisters?

485

00:19:14,690 --> 00:19:15,950

He had two brothers.

486

00:19:15,950 --> 00:19:16,505

Two brothers.

487
00:19:16,505 --> 00:19:17,270
Yes.

488
00:19:17,270 --> 00:19:17,978
Older or younger?

489
00:19:17,978 --> 00:19:18,478
Younger.

490
00:19:18,478 --> 00:19:19,460
They were both younger.

491
00:19:19,460 --> 00:19:20,520
So he was the oldest
in the family.

492
00:19:20,520 --> 00:19:21,530
Yes, he was the oldest.

493
00:19:21,530 --> 00:19:23,090
My mother was in the middle.

494
00:19:23,090 --> 00:19:24,950
All right.

495
00:19:24,950 --> 00:19:27,410
Did all three boys
on your father's side

496
00:19:27,410 --> 00:19:30,600
get an education,
a higher education?

497
00:19:30,600 --> 00:19:33,150
My father did as an attorney.

498
00:19:33,150 --> 00:19:35,860
A younger brother
was an architect.

499

00:19:35,860 --> 00:19:39,500

The third one was in business.

500

00:19:39,500 --> 00:19:41,570

He had many different jobs.

501

00:19:41,570 --> 00:19:44,060

And he had a grocery
store at one time.

502

00:19:44,060 --> 00:19:48,550

I don't know exactly what
kind of education he had.

503

00:19:48,550 --> 00:19:53,220

Certainly wouldn't be comparable
to an architect or an attorney.

504

00:19:53,220 --> 00:19:57,070

And did you visit-- before
the war, did you visit them,

505

00:19:57,070 --> 00:19:57,970

your uncles?

506

00:19:57,970 --> 00:19:59,510

Oh, yes, absolutely.

507

00:19:59,510 --> 00:20:03,345

I would visit them
in Copenhagen.

508

00:20:03,345 --> 00:20:04,470

And did they have children?

509

00:20:04,470 --> 00:20:06,490

And they didn't have Christmas.

510

00:20:06,490 --> 00:20:09,120

So it was my mother's
side that had Christmas.

511

00:20:09,120 --> 00:20:11,625

512

00:20:11,625 --> 00:20:13,750

So we would go and see the
other part of the family

513

00:20:13,750 --> 00:20:15,830

either before or afterwards.

514

00:20:15,830 --> 00:20:16,330

OK.

515

00:20:16,330 --> 00:20:18,370

Well, it only goes to
what you were saying, is

516

00:20:18,370 --> 00:20:20,890

that the others
were more secular.

517

00:20:20,890 --> 00:20:21,400

Yes.

518

00:20:21,400 --> 00:20:24,370

And your father's side,
then, was a little bit more

519

00:20:24,370 --> 00:20:27,420

traditional.

520

00:20:27,420 --> 00:20:29,250

Your grandmother on
your father's side,

521

00:20:29,250 --> 00:20:31,730

was she very religious?

522

00:20:31,730 --> 00:20:33,150

I don't believe so.

523

00:20:33,150 --> 00:20:34,070
I don't believe so.

524
00:20:34,070 --> 00:20:36,050
But one of her sons kept kosher.

525
00:20:36,050 --> 00:20:36,920
Yes.

526
00:20:36,920 --> 00:20:38,727
Was this the son with
the grocery store?

527
00:20:38,727 --> 00:20:39,560
No, it was the one--

528
00:20:39,560 --> 00:20:40,143
The architect.

529
00:20:40,143 --> 00:20:41,231
The architect.

530
00:20:41,231 --> 00:20:43,820

531
00:20:43,820 --> 00:20:46,140
Did you have cousins?

532
00:20:46,140 --> 00:20:48,420
I had a number of cousins.

533
00:20:48,420 --> 00:20:54,360
On my father's side, I had two.

534
00:20:54,360 --> 00:21:00,720
On the other side, I had five.

535
00:21:00,720 --> 00:21:02,820
And your family's social life--

536
00:21:02,820 --> 00:21:04,320

No, I had three on
my father's side.

537
00:21:04,320 --> 00:21:04,690
Three on my father's side.

538
00:21:04,690 --> 00:21:06,740
Three on the father's
side and five--

539
00:21:06,740 --> 00:21:07,240
Yeah.

540
00:21:07,240 --> 00:21:10,770
--on your mother's.

541
00:21:10,770 --> 00:21:14,160
Was your family's
social life really--

542
00:21:14,160 --> 00:21:18,000
did it center around the
family, around the aunts

543
00:21:18,000 --> 00:21:19,110
and the uncles?

544
00:21:19,110 --> 00:21:23,060
Or did they have friends
outside of this family circle?

545
00:21:23,060 --> 00:21:25,500
Because you have more
than enough people.

546
00:21:25,500 --> 00:21:26,400
Yeah.

547
00:21:26,400 --> 00:21:29,800
No, it was really both.

548
00:21:29,800 --> 00:21:33,150

At the holidays, maybe
in the summer also

549
00:21:33,150 --> 00:21:39,810
we'd go to Copenhagen. And then
it would be family oriented.

550
00:21:39,810 --> 00:21:42,000
But in Odense it
would be friends.

551
00:21:42,000 --> 00:21:45,930
And they had a number
of friends in Odense.

552
00:21:45,930 --> 00:21:48,240
Was there a large Jewish
community in Odense?

553
00:21:48,240 --> 00:21:49,440
No.

554
00:21:49,440 --> 00:21:50,610
Very, very small.

555
00:21:50,610 --> 00:21:51,595
Very, very small.

556
00:21:51,595 --> 00:21:52,470
As a matter of fact--

557
00:21:52,470 --> 00:21:55,980
I mean, there was no synagogue
or temple in the town.

558
00:21:55,980 --> 00:21:58,380
Very small population.

559
00:21:58,380 --> 00:22:00,510
And who were their friends
then, and your friends

560

00:22:00,510 --> 00:22:01,770
when you were in Odense?

561
00:22:01,770 --> 00:22:04,320
One family-- he was--

562
00:22:04,320 --> 00:22:06,060
they were Jewish.

563
00:22:06,060 --> 00:22:07,390
They studied together.

564
00:22:07,390 --> 00:22:09,440
And he was an attorney.

565
00:22:09,440 --> 00:22:10,230
Also?

566
00:22:10,230 --> 00:22:11,070
Yes.

567
00:22:11,070 --> 00:22:14,810
OK, so they had many
things in common.

568
00:22:14,810 --> 00:22:15,310
Oh, yes.

569
00:22:15,310 --> 00:22:17,220
And from Copenhagen, yes.

570
00:22:17,220 --> 00:22:18,680
But he went to Odense also.

571
00:22:18,680 --> 00:22:21,240

572
00:22:21,240 --> 00:22:25,170
I think that would be the only
Jewish family they associated

573

00:22:25,170 --> 00:22:25,993
with.

574
00:22:25,993 --> 00:22:27,660
I know they associated
with another one.

575
00:22:27,660 --> 00:22:29,880
He was a vet.

576
00:22:29,880 --> 00:22:31,380
What about non-Jews?

577
00:22:31,380 --> 00:22:33,070
Were they part of
your family circle?

578
00:22:33,070 --> 00:22:34,440
Oh, absolutely.

579
00:22:34,440 --> 00:22:37,470
I mean, Jewish people
that we associated with

580
00:22:37,470 --> 00:22:39,780
would be the
exception in Odense.

581
00:22:39,780 --> 00:22:43,290
I can't think of any other
than the attorney family.

582
00:22:43,290 --> 00:22:44,340
OK.

583
00:22:44,340 --> 00:22:45,990
And did you have
any close friends

584
00:22:45,990 --> 00:22:48,820
as a little boy
growing up in Odense?

585

00:22:48,820 --> 00:22:50,360

I had a lot of friends.

586

00:22:50,360 --> 00:22:54,700

And Eileen, my wife,
can't understand

587

00:22:54,700 --> 00:22:57,400

when I tell her when it
was my birthday I always

588

00:22:57,400 --> 00:22:59,110

had two birthdays.

589

00:22:59,110 --> 00:23:01,900

Of course, one birthday
was for school friends.

590

00:23:01,900 --> 00:23:04,358

And the other birthday was from
friends in the neighborhood

591

00:23:04,358 --> 00:23:05,150

that I played with.

592

00:23:05,150 --> 00:23:05,920

That's nice.

593

00:23:05,920 --> 00:23:07,690

Yes.

594

00:23:07,690 --> 00:23:09,440

So that was kind of unusual.

595

00:23:09,440 --> 00:23:10,060

Yeah.

596

00:23:10,060 --> 00:23:12,692

Had you started
school before the war?

597

00:23:12,692 --> 00:23:13,900
Because you were born in '35.

598
00:23:13,900 --> 00:23:16,820
I started school in '41.

599
00:23:16,820 --> 00:23:17,570
So the war was on.

600
00:23:17,570 --> 00:23:18,382
And the war start--

601
00:23:18,382 --> 00:23:18,882
yeah.

602
00:23:18,882 --> 00:23:21,630

603
00:23:21,630 --> 00:23:24,740
When was Denmark occupied by?

604
00:23:24,740 --> 00:23:25,700
In 1940.

605
00:23:25,700 --> 00:23:27,510
April the 9th, 1940.

606
00:23:27,510 --> 00:23:29,430
April the 9th, 1940.

607
00:23:29,430 --> 00:23:32,262
So it's half a year
after they invade Poland.

608
00:23:32,262 --> 00:23:33,220
Just about half a year.

609
00:23:33,220 --> 00:23:33,840
Yes.

610
00:23:33,840 --> 00:23:35,520

OK.

611
00:23:35,520 --> 00:23:42,970
And before that date, did
you take family vacations

612
00:23:42,970 --> 00:23:47,240
with your parents to
any particular place?

613
00:23:47,240 --> 00:23:47,740
Yeah.

614
00:23:47,740 --> 00:23:51,760
Quite often we would go with
the family of my mother's older

615
00:23:51,760 --> 00:23:56,260
sister and her husband
and their two children.

616
00:23:56,260 --> 00:23:57,820
Would that be in
Denmark someplace?

617
00:23:57,820 --> 00:23:58,590
Oh, yes.

618
00:23:58,590 --> 00:24:02,260
In those days [LAUGHS]
you stayed in Denmark.

619
00:24:02,260 --> 00:24:04,930
I don't know of anybody
who would go abroad, even

620
00:24:04,930 --> 00:24:06,880
before the war.

621
00:24:06,880 --> 00:24:11,770
But we also had vacations during
the war, beginning of the war.

622

00:24:11,770 --> 00:24:12,940

We'll talk about that.

623

00:24:12,940 --> 00:24:15,750

We'll talk about that.

624

00:24:15,750 --> 00:24:20,770

I want to find out a little
bit about your home in Odense--

625

00:24:20,770 --> 00:24:21,270

right?

626

00:24:21,270 --> 00:24:22,380

Is that how I say it?

627

00:24:22,380 --> 00:24:23,290

You're doing well.

628

00:24:23,290 --> 00:24:26,170

OK, thank you.

629

00:24:26,170 --> 00:24:31,080

How large was the
flat, from your memory?

630

00:24:31,080 --> 00:24:34,330

No, I couldn't tell you in
square foot or anything.

631

00:24:34,330 --> 00:24:40,613

But we had three
bedrooms, I believe.

632

00:24:40,613 --> 00:24:42,530

I really don't know why
we had three bedrooms.

633

00:24:42,530 --> 00:24:43,810

But we did.

634

00:24:43,810 --> 00:24:47,280
We had two balconies,
which was most unusual.

635
00:24:47,280 --> 00:24:48,530
Must've been pretty.

636
00:24:48,530 --> 00:24:51,165
And then it was up
in the third floor.

637
00:24:51,165 --> 00:24:52,040
Was it the top floor?

638
00:24:52,040 --> 00:24:54,230
That's where we-- we
didn't move there--

639
00:24:54,230 --> 00:24:57,680
believe it or not, we moved
there April the 9th, 1940.

640
00:24:57,680 --> 00:24:58,290
Really?

641
00:24:58,290 --> 00:24:59,900
I'll never forget that.

642
00:24:59,900 --> 00:25:00,440
Yeah.

643
00:25:00,440 --> 00:25:01,532
Well, tell me about it.

644
00:25:01,532 --> 00:25:02,490
Tell me about the move.

645
00:25:02,490 --> 00:25:06,950
We got a new apartment,
much bigger apartment.

646
00:25:06,950 --> 00:25:09,260

We lived in a smaller apartment.

647

00:25:09,260 --> 00:25:13,940

And my aunt, my mother's sister,
came over from Copenhagen

648

00:25:13,940 --> 00:25:15,290

to help us.

649

00:25:15,290 --> 00:25:19,010

And lo and behold, that was
the day we were invaded,

650

00:25:19,010 --> 00:25:21,530

and the occupation
started in Denmark.

651

00:25:21,530 --> 00:25:22,703

And you remember that?

652

00:25:22,703 --> 00:25:23,620

You remember the move?

653

00:25:23,620 --> 00:25:25,790

Yes, absolutely.

654

00:25:25,790 --> 00:25:26,720

How did you move?

655

00:25:26,720 --> 00:25:32,410

Was it by a lorry that
they moved from one place

656

00:25:32,410 --> 00:25:33,240

to the other?

657

00:25:33,240 --> 00:25:33,980

That I cannot--

658

00:25:33,980 --> 00:25:35,130

You don't remember.

659

00:25:35,130 --> 00:25:37,800

I cannot remember that.

660

00:25:37,800 --> 00:25:39,690

Did-- now, these
questions are going

661

00:25:39,690 --> 00:25:44,020

to be a little bit strange, but
I'm going to ask them anyway.

662

00:25:44,020 --> 00:25:47,800

How was the apartment heated?

663

00:25:47,800 --> 00:25:49,130

Was it coal heating?

664

00:25:49,130 --> 00:25:50,950

Was it some other
kind of heating?

665

00:25:50,950 --> 00:25:51,985

Did you have coal ovens?

666

00:25:51,985 --> 00:25:54,780

667

00:25:54,780 --> 00:25:55,850

I think we had gas?

668

00:25:55,850 --> 00:25:57,050

You had gas even.

669

00:25:57,050 --> 00:25:58,370

I think we had gas.

670

00:25:58,370 --> 00:25:59,450

OK.

671

00:25:59,450 --> 00:26:01,250

And you had electricity?

672
00:26:01,250 --> 00:26:02,780
Oh, yes, absolutely.

673
00:26:02,780 --> 00:26:05,160
And indoor plumbing?

674
00:26:05,160 --> 00:26:05,990
Oh, yes.

675
00:26:05,990 --> 00:26:06,680
OK.

676
00:26:06,680 --> 00:26:07,430
Not everybody did.

677
00:26:07,430 --> 00:26:08,410
I know, but we did.

678
00:26:08,410 --> 00:26:10,340
Not everybody did, yeah.

679
00:26:10,340 --> 00:26:12,200
I know about the
indoor plumbing.

680
00:26:12,200 --> 00:26:13,730
I know about the electricity.

681
00:26:13,730 --> 00:26:15,530
I'm not quite sure
about the gas.

682
00:26:15,530 --> 00:26:16,520
OK.

683
00:26:16,520 --> 00:26:19,760
And were there
modern conveniences

684
00:26:19,760 --> 00:26:22,010

in the home, in the
sense that in the kitchen

685
00:26:22,010 --> 00:26:23,893
there was a refrigerator?

686
00:26:23,893 --> 00:26:25,310
No, we didn't have
a refrigerator.

687
00:26:25,310 --> 00:26:26,205
You didn't have a refrigerator.

688
00:26:26,205 --> 00:26:27,020
No.

689
00:26:27,020 --> 00:26:28,560
OK.

690
00:26:28,560 --> 00:26:31,200
Did your parents
have an automobile?

691
00:26:31,200 --> 00:26:32,225
Oh, no.

692
00:26:32,225 --> 00:26:32,850
No, we didn't--

693
00:26:32,850 --> 00:26:34,110
Everything was bicycle.

694
00:26:34,110 --> 00:26:34,875
Oh, yes.

695
00:26:34,875 --> 00:26:35,500
It was bicycle.

696
00:26:35,500 --> 00:26:36,042
Two bicycle--

697

00:26:36,042 --> 00:26:37,980
Or walking.

698
00:26:37,980 --> 00:26:38,790
Three bicycles.

699
00:26:38,790 --> 00:26:40,530
Three bicycles, one
for each of you.

700
00:26:40,530 --> 00:26:41,220
Yes.

701
00:26:41,220 --> 00:26:42,810
All right.

702
00:26:42,810 --> 00:26:45,700
Were you far from
the center of town?

703
00:26:45,700 --> 00:26:47,440
We could walk into town.

704
00:26:47,440 --> 00:26:49,600
It would probably-- if you
walked reasonably fast,

705
00:26:49,600 --> 00:26:51,160
half an hour.

706
00:26:51,160 --> 00:26:53,490
You could take the bus in.

707
00:26:53,490 --> 00:26:57,000
More frequently,
you would bicycle.

708
00:26:57,000 --> 00:26:59,400
And the building itself,
your apartment building,

709
00:26:59,400 --> 00:27:01,350

how many floors did it have?

710
00:27:01,350 --> 00:27:02,290
It had three floors.

711
00:27:02,290 --> 00:27:03,540
Oh, so you were the top floor?

712
00:27:03,540 --> 00:27:05,250
Yeah, we were on
the third floor.

713
00:27:05,250 --> 00:27:09,480
It was a huge apartment
complex, a huge one.

714
00:27:09,480 --> 00:27:10,450
Was it new?

715
00:27:10,450 --> 00:27:10,950
Or was--

716
00:27:10,950 --> 00:27:12,740
Yes, it was very new.

717
00:27:12,740 --> 00:27:14,250
For that time.

718
00:27:14,250 --> 00:27:16,770
A couple of years old.

719
00:27:16,770 --> 00:27:18,720
I mean, I still remember
when they had fields

720
00:27:18,720 --> 00:27:20,020
where they built the apartment.

721
00:27:20,020 --> 00:27:20,580
Oh, really?

722

00:27:20,580 --> 00:27:21,960
Yes.

723
00:27:21,960 --> 00:27:24,090
And I couldn't tell
you exactly how many,

724
00:27:24,090 --> 00:27:28,020
but there would be several
hundred apartments in it.

725
00:27:28,020 --> 00:27:29,130
OK, so that is huge.

726
00:27:29,130 --> 00:27:29,730
Yes.

727
00:27:29,730 --> 00:27:30,460
That is huge.

728
00:27:30,460 --> 00:27:30,960
And I have--

729
00:27:30,960 --> 00:27:32,585
And we had a place
where we could play.

730
00:27:32,585 --> 00:27:34,900

731
00:27:34,900 --> 00:27:40,240
I have in my mind, if they're no
higher than three floors, then

732
00:27:40,240 --> 00:27:41,853
this is a very
spread out complex--

733
00:27:41,853 --> 00:27:42,520
Oh, it was, yes.

734
00:27:42,520 --> 00:27:43,990

--if you have several
hundred people.

735
00:27:43,990 --> 00:27:45,550
I mean, in those
days we didn't build

736
00:27:45,550 --> 00:27:47,050
them much higher than that.

737
00:27:47,050 --> 00:27:47,920
Yeah.

738
00:27:47,920 --> 00:27:48,460
Thank God.

739
00:27:48,460 --> 00:27:51,790
[LAUGHS] And you're
on the top floor.

740
00:27:51,790 --> 00:27:53,090
And you have two balconies.

741
00:27:53,090 --> 00:27:53,590
Yes.

742
00:27:53,590 --> 00:27:54,220
Which is nice.

743
00:27:54,220 --> 00:27:56,140
Two balconies is very unusual.

744
00:27:56,140 --> 00:27:56,980
Yeah.

745
00:27:56,980 --> 00:27:58,810
From the living room
and then a kitchen?

746
00:27:58,810 --> 00:28:00,040
Or from a bedroom?

747
00:28:00,040 --> 00:28:02,410
Bedroom.

748
00:28:02,410 --> 00:28:04,210
Did you have any pets?

749
00:28:04,210 --> 00:28:05,920
No, no, I never had pets.

750
00:28:05,920 --> 00:28:09,970
And today, I'm not
too fond of pets.

751
00:28:09,970 --> 00:28:12,430
Did you want them
when you were little?

752
00:28:12,430 --> 00:28:13,220
I don't think so.

753
00:28:13,220 --> 00:28:13,720
OK.

754
00:28:13,720 --> 00:28:16,420

755
00:28:16,420 --> 00:28:21,100
I, who has many of them, can
very well sympathize with you.

756
00:28:21,100 --> 00:28:23,200
Because my furniture
does not belong to me.

757
00:28:23,200 --> 00:28:26,690
[LAUGHTER]

758
00:28:26,690 --> 00:28:27,320
Let's see.

759
00:28:27,320 --> 00:28:30,330

760

00:28:30,330 --> 00:28:33,060

You played with the neighborhood children in this new complex?

761

00:28:33,060 --> 00:28:34,290

Yes.

762

00:28:34,290 --> 00:28:37,650

Both girls and boys.

763

00:28:37,650 --> 00:28:41,420

Let's go back to April 9, 1940.

764

00:28:41,420 --> 00:28:45,890

How did your family learn that the Germans had invaded,

765

00:28:45,890 --> 00:28:47,015

that the Nazis had invaded?

766

00:28:47,015 --> 00:28:49,800

767

00:28:49,800 --> 00:28:52,693

I'm not so sure, exactly--

768

00:28:52,693 --> 00:28:54,610

it's a good question, how we learned about it.

769

00:28:54,610 --> 00:28:58,020

But I certainly remember German soldiers

770

00:28:58,020 --> 00:29:01,110

walking in the streets.

771

00:29:01,110 --> 00:29:03,260

I remember the green uniforms.

772

00:29:03,260 --> 00:29:06,860

And I referred to them as
the green ugly uniforms.

773

00:29:06,860 --> 00:29:13,950

And when I see pictures, I
still get chills when I see it.

774

00:29:13,950 --> 00:29:18,915

Later on, I heard,
maybe, that they--

775

00:29:18,915 --> 00:29:22,700

we got some bulletin
that they threw out

776

00:29:22,700 --> 00:29:24,950

from the airplanes
that were coming down.

777

00:29:24,950 --> 00:29:29,300

And how they were
going to save us.

778

00:29:29,300 --> 00:29:32,150

They wanted to protect
us from the British,

779

00:29:32,150 --> 00:29:33,980

because they thought
the British would

780

00:29:33,980 --> 00:29:37,340

invade Denmark, which,
of course, was a big lie,

781

00:29:37,340 --> 00:29:38,120

so to speak.

782

00:29:38,120 --> 00:29:39,650

Because they were our allies.

783

00:29:39,650 --> 00:29:42,170

784

00:29:42,170 --> 00:29:44,450

My father might have
heard it on the radio.

785

00:29:44,450 --> 00:29:45,940

You had a radio at home?

786

00:29:45,940 --> 00:29:47,260

Oh, I'm sure we did.

787

00:29:47,260 --> 00:29:48,170

OK.

788

00:29:48,170 --> 00:29:50,450

But you don't remember
in particular listening

789

00:29:50,450 --> 00:29:51,200

to the radio for--

790

00:29:51,200 --> 00:29:52,010

No, I don't.

791

00:29:52,010 --> 00:29:54,240

No, I don't.

792

00:29:54,240 --> 00:29:58,090

I mean, I remember playing.

793

00:29:58,090 --> 00:30:00,660

And I remember going to school.

794

00:30:00,660 --> 00:30:04,570

And I don't remember spending
a lot of time at home.

795

00:30:04,570 --> 00:30:10,510

But I must've spent some
time doing my homework.

796
00:30:10,510 --> 00:30:11,052
And another--

797
00:30:11,052 --> 00:30:11,552
I was lucky.

798
00:30:11,552 --> 00:30:13,295
I had a lot of friends
in the complex.

799
00:30:13,295 --> 00:30:15,840

800
00:30:15,840 --> 00:30:19,750
Another question that I
know is strange and unfair,

801
00:30:19,750 --> 00:30:23,340
but I need to ask it.

802
00:30:23,340 --> 00:30:26,760
And it is, do you remember
your parents talking

803
00:30:26,760 --> 00:30:28,697
about the political situation?

804
00:30:28,697 --> 00:30:30,405
And the reason it's
unfair is because you

805
00:30:30,405 --> 00:30:31,620
were five years old.

806
00:30:31,620 --> 00:30:33,870
And if someone asked me,
do I remember my parents

807
00:30:33,870 --> 00:30:35,310
talking about
politics at five, I

808

00:30:35,310 --> 00:30:37,600

wouldn't be able to answer it.

809

00:30:37,600 --> 00:30:38,850

But do you remember anything--

810

00:30:38,850 --> 00:30:40,290

No, I don't.

811

00:30:40,290 --> 00:30:41,800

I don't remember it at all.

812

00:30:41,800 --> 00:30:42,990

OK.

813

00:30:42,990 --> 00:30:44,700

Do you remember
your life changing

814

00:30:44,700 --> 00:30:50,800

much after the green
uniformed soldiers march in?

815

00:30:50,800 --> 00:30:53,860

It didn't change significantly.

816

00:30:53,860 --> 00:30:57,820

And Denmark was
very, very unique

817

00:30:57,820 --> 00:31:01,810

compared to the other
occupied countries.

818

00:31:01,810 --> 00:31:02,310

As a--

819

00:31:02,310 --> 00:31:03,550

In what way?

820

00:31:03,550 --> 00:31:08,690
As an example, I could
continue to go to school.

821
00:31:08,690 --> 00:31:10,310
It was not a Jewish school.

822
00:31:10,310 --> 00:31:11,620
It was a public school?

823
00:31:11,620 --> 00:31:12,620
It was a private school.

824
00:31:12,620 --> 00:31:14,240
It was a private school.

825
00:31:14,240 --> 00:31:18,410
My father continued
to practice law.

826
00:31:18,410 --> 00:31:18,910
It was not--

827
00:31:18,910 --> 00:31:19,990
That is unusual.

828
00:31:19,990 --> 00:31:22,690
It was not a Jewish company.

829
00:31:22,690 --> 00:31:26,920
In Poland I don't believe
he could have done that.

830
00:31:26,920 --> 00:31:29,530
If he had had his
own company, he

831
00:31:29,530 --> 00:31:31,900
would have continued to do that.

832
00:31:31,900 --> 00:31:39,070
So it's amazing that it

was relatively normal.

833

00:31:39,070 --> 00:31:44,020

It was different from just
about any other occupied country

834

00:31:44,020 --> 00:31:45,040

that I know of.

835

00:31:45,040 --> 00:31:47,200

And why was that?

836

00:31:47,200 --> 00:31:49,000

A couple of reasons for that.

837

00:31:49,000 --> 00:31:50,720

And I wasn't aware
of that at that time.

838

00:31:50,720 --> 00:31:51,220

Of course.

839

00:31:51,220 --> 00:31:55,310

These are things
I learned trying

840

00:31:55,310 --> 00:31:58,790

to find out what was going on.

841

00:31:58,790 --> 00:32:02,220

I'm not saying we didn't have
antisemitism or informers

842

00:32:02,220 --> 00:32:02,720

in Denmark.

843

00:32:02,720 --> 00:32:03,840

We did.

844

00:32:03,840 --> 00:32:12,250

But to a much smaller scale
than in Poland or in France.

845
00:32:12,250 --> 00:32:17,730
And in Denmark you're first
of all considered a Dane.

846
00:32:17,730 --> 00:32:20,280
And then you happen
to be Jewish,

847
00:32:20,280 --> 00:32:23,700
or you happen to be a
Catholic or Lutheran.

848
00:32:23,700 --> 00:32:27,100
And what was the predominant
Christian religion?

849
00:32:27,100 --> 00:32:27,900
It was Lutheran.

850
00:32:27,900 --> 00:32:28,650
It was Lutheran.

851
00:32:28,650 --> 00:32:32,930
At that time, it was probably
close to 95% of the population

852
00:32:32,930 --> 00:32:36,630
were Lutheran, which
is very unusual.

853
00:32:36,630 --> 00:32:39,090
It's a state religion,
which you don't

854
00:32:39,090 --> 00:32:40,620
have in many other countries.

855
00:32:40,620 --> 00:32:42,520
That's true.

856
00:32:42,520 --> 00:32:45,600

So despite it being
a state religion,

857
00:32:45,600 --> 00:32:49,440
which could then look at
all other religions as not

858
00:32:49,440 --> 00:32:50,340
quite the same--

859
00:32:50,340 --> 00:32:51,690
Yes.

860
00:32:51,690 --> 00:32:53,250
--it didn't have
that kind of effect.

861
00:32:53,250 --> 00:32:56,220
No, it didn't.

862
00:32:56,220 --> 00:32:59,060
I don't know if I
mentioned earlier--

863
00:32:59,060 --> 00:33:00,630
stop me if I did.

864
00:33:00,630 --> 00:33:05,910
My mother was interviewed
the year before she died.

865
00:33:05,910 --> 00:33:06,855
What year was this?

866
00:33:06,855 --> 00:33:08,850
This was 1995.

867
00:33:08,850 --> 00:33:10,920
We talked about this off
camera, not on camera.

868
00:33:10,920 --> 00:33:11,550

OK.

869
00:33:11,550 --> 00:33:13,260
So let's talk
about it on camera.

870
00:33:13,260 --> 00:33:14,790
By a young journalist.

871
00:33:14,790 --> 00:33:15,570
Danish journalist?

872
00:33:15,570 --> 00:33:16,440
Danish journalist.

873
00:33:16,440 --> 00:33:17,800
Very young.

874
00:33:17,800 --> 00:33:20,320
It was in '95.

875
00:33:20,320 --> 00:33:23,772
And that would be 50 year
anniversary for the end

876
00:33:23,772 --> 00:33:25,960
of the war in Denmark.

877
00:33:25,960 --> 00:33:29,060
And she probably opened up more
than she'd ever done before.

878
00:33:29,060 --> 00:33:34,150
And I'm very fortunate that
I have a copy of the CD.

879
00:33:34,150 --> 00:33:38,440
One of the questions would
be something along this line.

880
00:33:38,440 --> 00:33:39,680
Did you feel Jewish?

881
00:33:39,680 --> 00:33:42,210
Or did you feel Danish?

882
00:33:42,210 --> 00:33:46,540
And my mother would answer,
first of all, I felt Danish.

883
00:33:46,540 --> 00:33:47,530
Of course I was Jewish.

884
00:33:47,530 --> 00:33:50,930
But I felt Danish first of all.

885
00:33:50,930 --> 00:33:53,630
And you know, the interesting
thing and the sad thing

886
00:33:53,630 --> 00:33:56,030
is that many people
in Germany who

887
00:33:56,030 --> 00:34:00,530
were German Jews felt the same
until Hitler came to power.

888
00:34:00,530 --> 00:34:01,550
Yes.

889
00:34:01,550 --> 00:34:03,200
That they were German.

890
00:34:03,200 --> 00:34:05,540
Yes.

891
00:34:05,540 --> 00:34:07,160
They were part of--

892
00:34:07,160 --> 00:34:12,650
many fought in World
War I and so on.

893

00:34:12,650 --> 00:34:18,850

So your life didn't
change all that much.

894

00:34:18,850 --> 00:34:19,350

No.

895

00:34:19,350 --> 00:34:20,340

It's amazing.

896

00:34:20,340 --> 00:34:23,699

And the more I think about
it, the more amazed I am.

897

00:34:23,699 --> 00:34:25,290

I have some pictures.

898

00:34:25,290 --> 00:34:27,889

We went on vacation.

899

00:34:27,889 --> 00:34:29,600

Where?

900

00:34:29,600 --> 00:34:30,889

In Denmark.

901

00:34:30,889 --> 00:34:32,230

Somewhere around.

902

00:34:32,230 --> 00:34:33,489

Yeah, at the beach.

903

00:34:33,489 --> 00:34:34,710

We loved the beach.

904

00:34:34,710 --> 00:34:35,840

So we would go.

905

00:34:35,840 --> 00:34:40,739

We often went with my mother's
sister and her husband

906
00:34:40,739 --> 00:34:42,739
and their two children.

907
00:34:42,739 --> 00:34:45,360
And we'd go together.

908
00:34:45,360 --> 00:34:46,880
This is after 1940.

909
00:34:46,880 --> 00:34:48,330
Oh, yes.

910
00:34:48,330 --> 00:34:50,280
I have a picture.

911
00:34:50,280 --> 00:34:54,570
And I show it when I talk
about my experiences.

912
00:34:54,570 --> 00:34:58,470
I believe it was taken the
summer before we were arrested.

913
00:34:58,470 --> 00:35:01,170
And you wouldn't know
that a year later we

914
00:35:01,170 --> 00:35:03,300
would be arrested.

915
00:35:03,300 --> 00:35:05,585
You look happy or carefree or--

916
00:35:05,585 --> 00:35:06,210
Oh, completely.

917
00:35:06,210 --> 00:35:07,500
Absolutely.

918
00:35:07,500 --> 00:35:11,650

And I asked this
before, but another--

919
00:35:11,650 --> 00:35:16,330
I mean, are there other
reasons why you were untouched

920
00:35:16,330 --> 00:35:17,710
in the larger society?

921
00:35:17,710 --> 00:35:20,732
Things that were
going on, things--

922
00:35:20,732 --> 00:35:23,290
There are a few reasons.

923
00:35:23,290 --> 00:35:27,600
One being the percentage
of the Jewish population

924
00:35:27,600 --> 00:35:29,660
was very, very small.

925
00:35:29,660 --> 00:35:32,810
At that time there were about
four and a half million people.

926
00:35:32,810 --> 00:35:35,586
And we had 7,500 Jewish people.

927
00:35:35,586 --> 00:35:36,086
In total?

928
00:35:36,086 --> 00:35:36,586
In Denmark?

929
00:35:36,586 --> 00:35:37,200
In total.

930
00:35:37,200 --> 00:35:37,700
In total.

931
00:35:37,700 --> 00:35:42,030
So the percentage
is 0.2 or whatever.

932
00:35:42,030 --> 00:35:45,120
In Poland, as I'm sure you
know, it was 3 million.

933
00:35:45,120 --> 00:35:47,450
So I think it was about 10%.

934
00:35:47,450 --> 00:35:49,250
That's one reason.

935
00:35:49,250 --> 00:35:54,470
Another reason was we used to
export all the good Danish food

936
00:35:54,470 --> 00:35:55,460
to Great Britain.

937
00:35:55,460 --> 00:35:59,540
We had a long agreement
with them, arrangement.

938
00:35:59,540 --> 00:36:02,240
Now, of course, we had
to ship it to Germany.

939
00:36:02,240 --> 00:36:05,540
And we had to feed the
forces, the German forces.

940
00:36:05,540 --> 00:36:07,570
And they loved the food.

941
00:36:07,570 --> 00:36:09,230
And that was another
reason why they

942
00:36:09,230 --> 00:36:12,260

were standing by and really--

943
00:36:12,260 --> 00:36:12,760
Not really--

944
00:36:12,760 --> 00:36:17,030
--treating Denmark
a little different.

945
00:36:17,030 --> 00:36:19,520
The government
continued to govern.

946
00:36:19,520 --> 00:36:21,560
The king continued to rule.

947
00:36:21,560 --> 00:36:25,730
So these were very, very
unusual circumstances.

948
00:36:25,730 --> 00:36:27,410
Well, that is interesting.

949
00:36:27,410 --> 00:36:33,020
Because that factor
of the behavior

950
00:36:33,020 --> 00:36:38,060
of the occupying forces
towards the local officials,

951
00:36:38,060 --> 00:36:41,720
the local governments,
the population at large,

952
00:36:41,720 --> 00:36:44,780
it was different
country to country.

953
00:36:44,780 --> 00:36:47,780
And the further east you
went, the worse it got.

954

00:36:47,780 --> 00:36:51,290

Yes, absolutely.

955

00:36:51,290 --> 00:36:54,050

But the factor that
they liked the food

956

00:36:54,050 --> 00:36:57,110

and would then say, OK,
let's not break something

957

00:36:57,110 --> 00:37:01,150

if it's not-- fix something
if it's not broken.

958

00:37:01,150 --> 00:37:04,570

Plus Hitler didn't really want
to have any more resources

959

00:37:04,570 --> 00:37:06,610

in Denmark than he needed to.

960

00:37:06,610 --> 00:37:11,140

Because he was busy on
many different fronts.

961

00:37:11,140 --> 00:37:13,810

And Denmark-- which I
didn't realize at the time,

962

00:37:13,810 --> 00:37:16,390

obviously-- was
really strategically

963

00:37:16,390 --> 00:37:19,510

located as far as
Germany was concerned.

964

00:37:19,510 --> 00:37:25,630

Because they continued
to get iron from Sweden.

965

00:37:25,630 --> 00:37:30,910

So it would pass through Denmark
and then go into Germany.

966

00:37:30,910 --> 00:37:34,300

That is probably
another reason for it.

967

00:37:34,300 --> 00:37:37,680

Of course, why did they really
need to occupy little Denmark?

968

00:37:37,680 --> 00:37:40,750

I mean, Denmark had been
neutral in the First World War

969

00:37:40,750 --> 00:37:44,080

and really wanted to be neutral
in the Second World War.

970

00:37:44,080 --> 00:37:45,480

But we didn't get the chance.

971

00:37:45,480 --> 00:37:45,980

Yeah.

972

00:37:45,980 --> 00:37:49,710

973

00:37:49,710 --> 00:37:54,220

Not everybody had the
luck that Switzerland did,

974

00:37:54,220 --> 00:37:55,180

of being able--

975

00:37:55,180 --> 00:37:56,950

not only wanting
to, but actually

976

00:37:56,950 --> 00:37:58,750

being able to be neutral.

977

00:37:58,750 --> 00:37:59,590

I know, yeah.

978

00:37:59,590 --> 00:38:00,090

Yeah.

979

00:38:00,090 --> 00:38:02,670

980

00:38:02,670 --> 00:38:06,270

Did you visit your relatives
in Copenhagen still after the--

981

00:38:06,270 --> 00:38:06,770

Yes.

982

00:38:06,770 --> 00:38:08,700

It didn't change.

983

00:38:08,700 --> 00:38:10,320

Did life for them change?

984

00:38:10,320 --> 00:38:11,280

Did anybody-- no?

985

00:38:11,280 --> 00:38:12,630

Not that I know of.

986

00:38:12,630 --> 00:38:14,940

I don't believe so.

987

00:38:14,940 --> 00:38:20,940

I think-- all the years, I
think we still went over there

988

00:38:20,940 --> 00:38:22,260

for Christmas.

989

00:38:22,260 --> 00:38:24,210

And at that time
we had Christmas

990

00:38:24,210 --> 00:38:26,980

at my mother's sister's house.

991

00:38:26,980 --> 00:38:33,160

Did you remember ever on
the street being singled out

992

00:38:33,160 --> 00:38:35,800

for being Jewish when you
were in public places?

993

00:38:35,800 --> 00:38:36,750

No.

994

00:38:36,750 --> 00:38:38,020

Do you mean by the Germans?

995

00:38:38,020 --> 00:38:38,890

By anybody.

996

00:38:38,890 --> 00:38:41,380

No.

997

00:38:41,380 --> 00:38:44,635

So not the Germans
and not the Danes.

998

00:38:44,635 --> 00:38:46,462

No.

999

00:38:46,462 --> 00:38:48,170

I'll talk about it
later on, but I didn't

1000

00:38:48,170 --> 00:38:49,820

know I was Jewish at that time.

1001

00:38:49,820 --> 00:38:52,260

But I'll talk about it later on.

1002

00:38:52,260 --> 00:38:53,930
So you didn't go to synagogue.

1003
00:38:53,930 --> 00:38:55,010
You didn't go to temple.

1004
00:38:55,010 --> 00:38:55,510
You didn't--

1005
00:38:55,510 --> 00:38:57,110
You couldn't.

1006
00:38:57,110 --> 00:38:58,660
Because there wasn't one.

1007
00:38:58,660 --> 00:38:59,160
Yes.

1008
00:38:59,160 --> 00:39:00,890
OK.

1009
00:39:00,890 --> 00:39:02,870
And so I'll take it that
your parents were also

1010
00:39:02,870 --> 00:39:04,610
secular, your father as well.

1011
00:39:04,610 --> 00:39:07,250
My father was brought
up in the Jewish faith.

1012
00:39:07,250 --> 00:39:11,570
But he couldn't do it
while he was in Odense.

1013
00:39:11,570 --> 00:39:14,630
And we didn't maintain
the kosher menu.

1014
00:39:14,630 --> 00:39:18,440

1015
00:39:18,440 --> 00:39:22,070
Did you hear or did you parents
talk about people leaving

1016
00:39:22,070 --> 00:39:25,263
the country during this time?

1017
00:39:25,263 --> 00:39:26,430
Do you mean leaving Denmark?

1018
00:39:26,430 --> 00:39:30,700
Or-- very few, if any,
leaving Denmark at that time.

1019
00:39:30,700 --> 00:39:33,310
I don't believe most--

1020
00:39:33,310 --> 00:39:36,250
there were very, very
few that left Denmark.

1021
00:39:36,250 --> 00:39:41,280
I don't believe they started
leaving until the fall

1022
00:39:41,280 --> 00:39:44,130
or late summer of '43.

1023
00:39:44,130 --> 00:39:46,540
And why would people start
leaving at that point?

1024
00:39:46,540 --> 00:39:49,190

1025
00:39:49,190 --> 00:39:51,380
Now we have to move forward.

1026
00:39:51,380 --> 00:39:52,760
Let's do that.

1027

00:39:52,760 --> 00:39:57,260

The Danish government
was approached

1028

00:39:57,260 --> 00:40:01,210

by the commandant in Denmark.

1029

00:40:01,210 --> 00:40:04,630

And they got an ultimatum.

1030

00:40:04,630 --> 00:40:08,710

And the ultimatum was, the
saboteurs, the resistance

1031

00:40:08,710 --> 00:40:10,560

movement, has to stop.

1032

00:40:10,560 --> 00:40:13,130

And apparently it
was really hurting--

1033

00:40:13,130 --> 00:40:16,330

the young people, the
underground movement.

1034

00:40:16,330 --> 00:40:17,590

They were bombing factories.

1035

00:40:17,590 --> 00:40:19,510

They were bombing rails.

1036

00:40:19,510 --> 00:40:21,100

They were sinking ships.

1037

00:40:21,100 --> 00:40:23,230

That were doing a
lot of things to make

1038

00:40:23,230 --> 00:40:27,640

it difficult for the
Germans to transport iron

1039

00:40:27,640 --> 00:40:31,600
from Sweden and through
shipping food into Germany.

1040

00:40:31,600 --> 00:40:33,850
They were doing all
the right things.

1041

00:40:33,850 --> 00:40:37,310
And that's why they gave the
Danish government an ultimatum.

1042

00:40:37,310 --> 00:40:39,730
And up to then, the
Danish government

1043

00:40:39,730 --> 00:40:43,690
had tried to cooperate
with the Germans

1044

00:40:43,690 --> 00:40:45,950
to the greatest extent possible.

1045

00:40:45,950 --> 00:40:49,800
And I didn't mention that
earlier, but as an example,

1046

00:40:49,800 --> 00:40:54,490
they would not have any Jewish
people in the broadcasting.

1047

00:40:54,490 --> 00:40:59,450
They didn't want to
make it too obvious.

1048

00:40:59,450 --> 00:41:03,170
So there were things
they agreed to do.

1049

00:41:03,170 --> 00:41:06,430
But when they got the big
ultimatum, they said, no way.

1050

00:41:06,430 --> 00:41:08,260

And they resigned.

1051

00:41:08,260 --> 00:41:12,160

And that became, as we referred to it, as the beginning

1052

00:41:12,160 --> 00:41:15,160

to the Final Solution.

1053

00:41:15,160 --> 00:41:19,080

And that's when the commandant went to Berlin,

1054

00:41:19,080 --> 00:41:22,550

got approval to deport the Danish Jews.

1055

00:41:22,550 --> 00:41:25,950

What was this commandant's name?

1056

00:41:25,950 --> 00:41:29,260

West, W-E-S-T.

1057

00:41:29,260 --> 00:41:32,410

Do you know anything about him that you learned of later on?

1058

00:41:32,410 --> 00:41:33,160

What kind of--

1059

00:41:33,160 --> 00:41:37,090

I don't know an awful lot.

1060

00:41:37,090 --> 00:41:39,770

I think he was very, very ambitious.

1061

00:41:39,770 --> 00:41:45,980

He wanted to make sure that life was going on as smoothly

1062

00:41:45,980 --> 00:41:48,700
as it could in Denmark.

1063

00:41:48,700 --> 00:41:50,210
Without any of the sabotage.

1064

00:41:50,210 --> 00:41:50,780
Yeah.

1065

00:41:50,780 --> 00:41:56,000
So he would have the trouble
with the saboteurs and so on.

1066

00:41:56,000 --> 00:42:03,050
And that's about all
I can really tell you.

1067

00:42:03,050 --> 00:42:06,380
Werner was his first
name, W-E-R-N-E-R.

1068

00:42:06,380 --> 00:42:07,970
So Werner West.

1069

00:42:07,970 --> 00:42:09,080
Werner West, yeah.

1070

00:42:09,080 --> 00:42:10,100
Werner West.

1071

00:42:10,100 --> 00:42:15,070
And did you, before the
Danish government resigned,

1072

00:42:15,070 --> 00:42:17,340
ever have to wear a star?

1073

00:42:17,340 --> 00:42:18,150
No, we never wore--

1074

00:42:18,150 --> 00:42:19,900

that was another thing
that was different.

1075
00:42:19,900 --> 00:42:22,630
We never wore a star in Denmark.

1076
00:42:22,630 --> 00:42:23,890
And there is a myth--

1077
00:42:23,890 --> 00:42:25,810
and some people actually think--

1078
00:42:25,810 --> 00:42:29,760
like this morning I got the
question, which I often get.

1079
00:42:29,760 --> 00:42:33,560
I understand the Danish
king wore a Jewish star.

1080
00:42:33,560 --> 00:42:35,000
So I said, it's a myth.

1081
00:42:35,000 --> 00:42:37,750
And when I tell people it's
a myth, they don't like it.

1082
00:42:37,750 --> 00:42:39,805
Because they think
it's a wonderful story,

1083
00:42:39,805 --> 00:42:41,750
that he would--

1084
00:42:41,750 --> 00:42:42,980
he didn't wear a Jewish star.

1085
00:42:42,980 --> 00:42:44,688
He probably would have
worn one, since he

1086
00:42:44,688 --> 00:42:46,760

was a big supporter
of the Jewish people,

1087
00:42:46,760 --> 00:42:50,187
if the Jewish people
had to wear a star.

1088
00:42:50,187 --> 00:42:50,770
But we didn't.

1089
00:42:50,770 --> 00:42:52,560
So where did the myth come from?

1090
00:42:52,560 --> 00:42:54,770
How did the myth evolve?

1091
00:42:54,770 --> 00:43:00,560
I think there was a cartoon
in an American newspaper,

1092
00:43:00,560 --> 00:43:04,160
American magazine, where
they showed the star.

1093
00:43:04,160 --> 00:43:04,800
On him.

1094
00:43:04,800 --> 00:43:06,260
On him, yes.

1095
00:43:06,260 --> 00:43:10,130
And what was his role?

1096
00:43:10,130 --> 00:43:11,630
It was Christian, right?

1097
00:43:11,630 --> 00:43:13,597
King Christian was his name?

1098
00:43:13,597 --> 00:43:14,555
Oh, I'm very impressed.

1099

00:43:14,555 --> 00:43:15,836

[LAUGHTER]

1100

00:43:15,836 --> 00:43:17,560

King Christian X.

1101

00:43:17,560 --> 00:43:18,320

Mm-hmm.

1102

00:43:18,320 --> 00:43:21,950

And what public
role did he play?

1103

00:43:21,950 --> 00:43:25,180

He continued to be the king.

1104

00:43:25,180 --> 00:43:28,440

His queen continued to be queen.

1105

00:43:28,440 --> 00:43:30,600

Did he ever make a speech?

1106

00:43:30,600 --> 00:43:32,130

Was there any
speech that he made?

1107

00:43:32,130 --> 00:43:33,150

He might have.

1108

00:43:33,150 --> 00:43:36,070

He was involved in surrendering
when we surrendered.

1109

00:43:36,070 --> 00:43:37,320

It wasn't just the government.

1110

00:43:37,320 --> 00:43:38,970

The king was involved
in the surrender.

1111

00:43:38,970 --> 00:43:42,577

So this would have been in the late summer of '43 as well.

1112
00:43:42,577 --> 00:43:43,410
He would have been--

1113
00:43:43,410 --> 00:43:47,210
No, when surrendered that was in April 9, '40.

1114
00:43:47,210 --> 00:43:47,710
Oh, 1940.

1115
00:43:47,710 --> 00:43:48,210
Yes.

1116
00:43:48,210 --> 00:43:48,760
I see.

1117
00:43:48,760 --> 00:43:49,560
OK.

1118
00:43:49,560 --> 00:43:51,780
But he was involved in our surrendering.

1119
00:43:51,780 --> 00:43:53,102
And that was April the 9th.

1120
00:43:53,102 --> 00:43:54,310
That was April the 9th, yeah.

1121
00:43:54,310 --> 00:43:56,220
Yeah.

1122
00:43:56,220 --> 00:44:01,440
He was a big, big supporter of the Jewish people.

1123
00:44:01,440 --> 00:44:03,900
No question about it.

1124
00:44:03,900 --> 00:44:07,560
Do you think that that
influenced Danish society,

1125
00:44:07,560 --> 00:44:08,970
or it would have--

1126
00:44:08,970 --> 00:44:12,000
he was just reflecting
Danish society?

1127
00:44:12,000 --> 00:44:15,120
I think that sentence,
reflecting the Danish society,

1128
00:44:15,120 --> 00:44:16,630
is a good one.

1129
00:44:16,630 --> 00:44:19,680
I think that's a
very good descriptor.

1130
00:44:19,680 --> 00:44:21,990
When I talk to people
and I show them

1131
00:44:21,990 --> 00:44:25,350
a picture of the king on
his horse, and always say,

1132
00:44:25,350 --> 00:44:26,490
he was writing.

1133
00:44:26,490 --> 00:44:32,090
He continued to write
in defiance of Hitler.

1134
00:44:32,090 --> 00:44:36,860
Apparently, Hitler
sent him a telegram.

1135
00:44:36,860 --> 00:44:39,240

Telegrams-- the young
generation probably

1136
00:44:39,240 --> 00:44:41,280
don't know what a telegram is.

1137
00:44:41,280 --> 00:44:45,230
Sent him a telegram on
his birthday, Hitler did.

1138
00:44:45,230 --> 00:44:45,730
Oh, really?

1139
00:44:45,730 --> 00:44:48,540
Wished him well and a
couple other things.

1140
00:44:48,540 --> 00:44:51,307
And I believe the king--

1141
00:44:51,307 --> 00:44:53,890
I don't know if he answered, but
if he answered, he just said,

1142
00:44:53,890 --> 00:44:55,820
thank you, or
something like that.

1143
00:44:55,820 --> 00:44:56,320
And Hitler--

1144
00:44:56,320 --> 00:44:57,470
He was dismissive.

1145
00:44:57,470 --> 00:44:58,320
Yeah.

1146
00:44:58,320 --> 00:44:59,112
And Hitler didn't--

1147
00:44:59,112 --> 00:44:59,612
Like it.

1148
00:44:59,612 --> 00:45:00,680
Hitler didn't like that.

1149
00:45:00,680 --> 00:45:02,710
Yeah.

1150
00:45:02,710 --> 00:45:04,810
Well, it's not everybody
he sends telegrams

1151
00:45:04,810 --> 00:45:06,580
wishing happy birthday too.

1152
00:45:06,580 --> 00:45:08,090
Other kings and
queens, you know.

1153
00:45:08,090 --> 00:45:08,590
No.

1154
00:45:08,590 --> 00:45:09,690
Of course, they had all escaped.

1155
00:45:09,690 --> 00:45:10,732
They were all in England.

1156
00:45:10,732 --> 00:45:16,180
[LAUGHTER]

1157
00:45:16,180 --> 00:45:22,780
So how did life change after
the government resigned?

1158
00:45:22,780 --> 00:45:23,620
For--

1159
00:45:23,620 --> 00:45:28,490
It changed dramatically.

1160
00:45:28,490 --> 00:45:32,260

Werner West went to
Berlin, got approval.

1161
00:45:32,260 --> 00:45:35,930
They decided on a date.

1162
00:45:35,930 --> 00:45:41,520
There was a leading
Nazi officer in Denmark.

1163
00:45:41,520 --> 00:45:42,240
Dane?

1164
00:45:42,240 --> 00:45:43,500
No, German.

1165
00:45:43,500 --> 00:45:48,030
But he had had ties to Denmark
over a number of years.

1166
00:45:48,030 --> 00:45:51,150
He went to the Danish
administration, told them

1167
00:45:51,150 --> 00:45:56,100
about the date of the final
solution, the round up.

1168
00:45:56,100 --> 00:45:59,800

1169
00:45:59,800 --> 00:46:04,200
The rabbi, the chief
rabbi, was notified.

1170
00:46:04,200 --> 00:46:05,870
The Jewish people--

1171
00:46:05,870 --> 00:46:12,070
95% of the Jewish people in
Copenhagen and surroundings

1172

00:46:12,070 --> 00:46:14,170
found out about it.

1173
00:46:14,170 --> 00:46:16,160
And during the next
two weeks, there

1174
00:46:16,160 --> 00:46:20,390
was a tremendous job
done by everybody.

1175
00:46:20,390 --> 00:46:24,850
About 7,000 Jewish people
managed to escape to Sweden.

1176
00:46:24,850 --> 00:46:26,660
Sweden was still neutral.

1177
00:46:26,660 --> 00:46:29,980
So this is-- the day that
the government resigned,

1178
00:46:29,980 --> 00:46:30,803
do you remember it?

1179
00:46:30,803 --> 00:46:31,595
Was it late August?

1180
00:46:31,595 --> 00:46:32,095
Early--

1181
00:46:32,095 --> 00:46:33,150
No, it was August 30th.

1182
00:46:33,150 --> 00:46:33,650
August 30th.

1183
00:46:33,650 --> 00:46:35,390
They resigned August 30th.

1184
00:46:35,390 --> 00:46:39,950
The date for the final

solution was October 2nd,

1185
00:46:39,950 --> 00:46:41,940
which was Rosh Hashanah.

1186
00:46:41,940 --> 00:46:43,670
And they had done
that on purpose.

1187
00:46:43,670 --> 00:46:45,650
And they thought
they were very smart.

1188
00:46:45,650 --> 00:46:49,290
Of course, they figured
everybody would be home.

1189
00:46:49,290 --> 00:46:50,210
Fortunately, most--

1190
00:46:50,210 --> 00:46:54,700
So this one German, Nazi--

1191
00:46:54,700 --> 00:46:55,580
Yes.

1192
00:46:55,580 --> 00:46:57,810
--actually saved many people.

1193
00:46:57,810 --> 00:46:59,450
Absolutely.

1194
00:46:59,450 --> 00:47:00,390
What was his name?

1195
00:47:00,390 --> 00:47:01,880
Duckwert.

1196
00:47:01,880 --> 00:47:02,520
Duckworth?

1197

00:47:02,520 --> 00:47:08,000
I think it was spelled
D-U-C-K-W-E-R-T.

1198
00:47:08,000 --> 00:47:09,540
Duckwert in German?

1199
00:47:09,540 --> 00:47:10,180
I mean, if it--

1200
00:47:10,180 --> 00:47:10,800
OK.

1201
00:47:10,800 --> 00:47:11,670
I'm not sure.

1202
00:47:11,670 --> 00:47:12,350
I'm not sure.

1203
00:47:12,350 --> 00:47:13,080
But it's--

1204
00:47:13,080 --> 00:47:14,630
It's a very unusual step.

1205
00:47:14,630 --> 00:47:16,390
It's very, very unique.

1206
00:47:16,390 --> 00:47:18,690
It's very, very unusual.

1207
00:47:18,690 --> 00:47:21,810
There's been a lot
of speculation--

1208
00:47:21,810 --> 00:47:23,375
and this is a complicated story.

1209
00:47:23,375 --> 00:47:26,420
But there's a lot of
speculation that the commandant,

1210

00:47:26,420 --> 00:47:35,580
Werner West was involved with
it also, that behind the scenes

1211

00:47:35,580 --> 00:47:39,910
he went to him and said,
tell them about it.

1212

00:47:39,910 --> 00:47:41,640
I don't want to
be involved in it.

1213

00:47:41,640 --> 00:47:48,450
But I don't want to deal
with these saboteurs anymore.

1214

00:47:48,450 --> 00:47:51,360
So it was really he
didn't like the saboteurs,

1215

00:47:51,360 --> 00:47:54,190
but he didn't want the full--

1216

00:47:54,190 --> 00:47:55,760
well, that's the speculation.

1217

00:47:55,760 --> 00:47:56,260
Yeah, but--

1218

00:47:56,260 --> 00:47:57,218
That's the speculation.

1219

00:47:57,218 --> 00:47:58,120
He wanted it to run--

1220

00:47:58,120 --> 00:48:00,130
Can we cut for a little bit?

1221

00:48:00,130 --> 00:48:01,820
We have to adjust the mic.

1222

00:48:01,820 --> 00:48:04,580
Pausing.

1223
00:48:04,580 --> 00:48:07,980
OK, we had a break
just unexpectedly.

1224
00:48:07,980 --> 00:48:09,730
Do you remember your
train of thought?

1225
00:48:09,730 --> 00:48:13,760
We were talking about Werner
West and Duckwert, Mr.

1226
00:48:13,760 --> 00:48:14,610
Duckwert.

1227
00:48:14,610 --> 00:48:19,120
Yes, I remember what
we were talking about.

1228
00:48:19,120 --> 00:48:24,770
I think the commandant wanted
everything to run as smoothly--

1229
00:48:24,770 --> 00:48:26,090
maybe we were there--

1230
00:48:26,090 --> 00:48:27,860
as possible.

1231
00:48:27,860 --> 00:48:30,440
And he was looking
out for his career.

1232
00:48:30,440 --> 00:48:35,520
And he was afraid if conditions
would be too difficult,

1233
00:48:35,520 --> 00:48:39,010
and the saboteurs would
hurt him too much,

1234
00:48:39,010 --> 00:48:41,720
that that wouldn't be
good for his career.

1235
00:48:41,720 --> 00:48:44,240
So this is a very
unique situation.

1236
00:48:44,240 --> 00:48:46,770
I don't know if
all this is true.

1237
00:48:46,770 --> 00:48:54,360
I've heard-- it's most unusual
for anybody to warn people.

1238
00:48:54,360 --> 00:48:55,490
Yeah.

1239
00:48:55,490 --> 00:49:01,840
Certainly in 1943, when they're
really in the middle of it--

1240
00:49:01,840 --> 00:49:03,470
you know, I don't
know whether or not

1241
00:49:03,470 --> 00:49:06,290
this was before or after
the Battle of Stalingrad,

1242
00:49:06,290 --> 00:49:08,700
which is when the war turned--

1243
00:49:08,700 --> 00:49:09,200
Yes.

1244
00:49:09,200 --> 00:49:11,750
--against Germany's forces.

1245
00:49:11,750 --> 00:49:13,310

Yes.

1246

00:49:13,310 --> 00:49:16,160

I can't remember whether
it's before or after.

1247

00:49:16,160 --> 00:49:18,040

But it's an interesting point.

1248

00:49:18,040 --> 00:49:19,740

I'd like to Google
it afterwards.

1249

00:49:19,740 --> 00:49:22,860

Because I think
that is significant.

1250

00:49:22,860 --> 00:49:29,748

But what happened is these
people left their homes.

1251

00:49:29,748 --> 00:49:31,040

They went to stay with friends.

1252

00:49:31,040 --> 00:49:33,890

1253

00:49:33,890 --> 00:49:38,010

The ambulance picked them up,
and they stayed in hospitals.

1254

00:49:38,010 --> 00:49:40,720

They entered hospitals
under false names.

1255

00:49:40,720 --> 00:49:45,310

They didn't want to have Jewish
names in their hospitals.

1256

00:49:45,310 --> 00:49:51,350

They were hiding in lofts in
the churches, in private homes.

1257

00:49:51,350 --> 00:49:56,980

And then they was
shipped or transported

1258

00:49:56,980 --> 00:49:59,540

to Sweden, which was neutral.

1259

00:49:59,540 --> 00:50:01,108

And if you have
Copenhagen here--

1260

00:50:01,108 --> 00:50:01,650

That's right.

1261

00:50:01,650 --> 00:50:03,275

--and you have Sweden
just across here,

1262

00:50:03,275 --> 00:50:04,600

it's just two miles.

1263

00:50:04,600 --> 00:50:05,260

Is it really?

1264

00:50:05,260 --> 00:50:06,220

Just two miles?

1265

00:50:06,220 --> 00:50:07,303

Two miles, two and a half.

1266

00:50:07,303 --> 00:50:09,460

If it narrows, it can
be significantly more

1267

00:50:09,460 --> 00:50:10,670

other places.

1268

00:50:10,670 --> 00:50:13,450

And most often, they
went in fishing boats.

1269

00:50:13,450 --> 00:50:15,850
Well, this is, I think,
if anybody knows anything

1270
00:50:15,850 --> 00:50:19,030
about this part of the
history in Denmark,

1271
00:50:19,030 --> 00:50:21,117
that's what the image
in their minds is.

1272
00:50:21,117 --> 00:50:21,950
There's no question.

1273
00:50:21,950 --> 00:50:22,700
The fishing boats.

1274
00:50:22,700 --> 00:50:23,840
Yeah.

1275
00:50:23,840 --> 00:50:27,160
And it was interesting, because
I was talking to somebody.

1276
00:50:27,160 --> 00:50:28,660
I play duplicate bridge.

1277
00:50:28,660 --> 00:50:30,610
And one of the players
came over, said,

1278
00:50:30,610 --> 00:50:33,490
oh, all the Danish Jews went
in rowing boats to Sweden.

1279
00:50:33,490 --> 00:50:37,300
So I said, hold, let
me explain it to you.

1280
00:50:37,300 --> 00:50:43,030
So they were actually hiding
in the hold of the fishing boat

1281
00:50:43,030 --> 00:50:45,510
where they used to have fish.

1282
00:50:45,510 --> 00:50:49,555
And then they would still
put some ice or fish on top.

1283
00:50:49,555 --> 00:50:51,680
So if ducks came to smell
it, it would smell like--

1284
00:50:51,680 --> 00:50:52,640
They smell the fish.

1285
00:50:52,640 --> 00:50:54,420
They smell the fish.

1286
00:50:54,420 --> 00:50:57,360
And the children were sedated.

1287
00:50:57,360 --> 00:51:02,100
Because they wanted to make
sure that they wouldn't cry.

1288
00:51:02,100 --> 00:51:05,400
And I met a lady a
couple of years ago.

1289
00:51:05,400 --> 00:51:06,930
And she was a little girl.

1290
00:51:06,930 --> 00:51:08,510
And she was sedated
at that time.

1291
00:51:08,510 --> 00:51:09,010
Really?

1292
00:51:09,010 --> 00:51:13,530
And went on her way to Sweden.

1293
00:51:13,530 --> 00:51:16,440
And some were caught.

1294
00:51:16,440 --> 00:51:22,500
My uncle, his wife,
and my father's mother,

1295
00:51:22,500 --> 00:51:27,430
and my uncle's son, who was
three years younger than me,

1296
00:51:27,430 --> 00:51:28,710
they were caught.

1297
00:51:28,710 --> 00:51:31,170
And they eventually ended
up in Theresienstadt.

1298
00:51:31,170 --> 00:51:34,950
But the rest of the family
managed to escape to Sweden.

1299
00:51:34,950 --> 00:51:37,790
How was it that
they were caught?

1300
00:51:37,790 --> 00:51:41,750
What were their
particular circumstances?

1301
00:51:41,750 --> 00:51:47,720
I believe they were staying
at a pension, as we called it.

1302
00:51:47,720 --> 00:51:49,400
And--

1303
00:51:49,400 --> 00:51:50,400
Like a guest house.

1304
00:51:50,400 --> 00:51:52,200
--somebody-- I'm sorry?

1305
00:51:52,200 --> 00:51:52,783
A guest house.

1306
00:51:52,783 --> 00:51:53,617
Yeah, a guest house.

1307
00:51:53,617 --> 00:51:54,240
That's good.

1308
00:51:54,240 --> 00:51:58,930
And I think one of the
Nazis heard about it

1309
00:51:58,930 --> 00:52:01,330
or thought they were
taking care of them.

1310
00:52:01,330 --> 00:52:03,510
And so they were caught.

1311
00:52:03,510 --> 00:52:09,520
I know there was a family, a
husband and wife up the coast.

1312
00:52:09,520 --> 00:52:12,320
And they were taking in
a lot of Jewish people.

1313
00:52:12,320 --> 00:52:15,150
And they were also
building boats, actually,

1314
00:52:15,150 --> 00:52:17,530
to take them across.

1315
00:52:17,530 --> 00:52:19,930
And they were found
out by Nazis later on.

1316
00:52:19,930 --> 00:52:22,410
And they were

shot, both of them.

1317
00:52:22,410 --> 00:52:24,460
Ah, the family that
was building the boats.

1318
00:52:24,460 --> 00:52:25,390
Yeah.

1319
00:52:25,390 --> 00:52:26,040
They were shot.

1320
00:52:26,040 --> 00:52:29,352
And they are part of
the Righteous Avenue.

1321
00:52:29,352 --> 00:52:30,310
It's not called avenue.

1322
00:52:30,310 --> 00:52:31,420
It is in Yad Vashem.

1323
00:52:31,420 --> 00:52:38,390
But here in Skokie
at the museum there.

1324
00:52:38,390 --> 00:52:43,040
So it's most likely an informer
that led to the arrest.

1325
00:52:43,040 --> 00:52:43,790
It could be, yeah.

1326
00:52:43,790 --> 00:52:46,250
I mean, there were informers.

1327
00:52:46,250 --> 00:52:47,720
There's no question about it.

1328
00:52:47,720 --> 00:52:51,980
My cousin and his
mother and father--

1329
00:52:51,980 --> 00:52:53,720
she had remarried.

1330
00:52:53,720 --> 00:52:56,300
And the father was Christian.

1331
00:52:56,300 --> 00:52:59,210
And they were hiding on
a loft in the church.

1332
00:52:59,210 --> 00:53:03,320
Informer-- they said it was a
girlfriend of a Nazi officer,

1333
00:53:03,320 --> 00:53:04,780
informed them.

1334
00:53:04,780 --> 00:53:10,540
And they were later on
taken to a camp in Denmark.

1335
00:53:10,540 --> 00:53:13,560
But they didn't go to
a concentration camp,

1336
00:53:13,560 --> 00:53:19,580
because her husband
was not Jewish.

1337
00:53:19,580 --> 00:53:24,800
And my cousin's
father was not Jewish.

1338
00:53:24,800 --> 00:53:26,040
So it was a mixed--

1339
00:53:26,040 --> 00:53:27,590
It was a different definition.

1340
00:53:27,590 --> 00:53:29,570
The Nazis had a

different definition.

1341
00:53:29,570 --> 00:53:31,850
Both parents had to be Jewish.

1342
00:53:31,850 --> 00:53:34,400
The normal definition is,
if the mother's Jewish,

1343
00:53:34,400 --> 00:53:36,470
then you're automatic Jewish.

1344
00:53:36,470 --> 00:53:38,280
So that was different.

1345
00:53:38,280 --> 00:53:41,120
So yes, there were
some informers.

1346
00:53:41,120 --> 00:53:42,650
There's no question about it.

1347
00:53:42,650 --> 00:53:47,330
Well, the children
of mixed marriages

1348
00:53:47,330 --> 00:53:51,020
were in danger, but only
at the end of the war.

1349
00:53:51,020 --> 00:53:52,970
Certainly in Germany
there would be somebody

1350
00:53:52,970 --> 00:53:55,460
who would be half-half.

1351
00:53:55,460 --> 00:53:58,910
And I've conducted interviews
with those who said,

1352
00:53:58,910 --> 00:54:00,080

we were on the lists.

1353

00:54:00,080 --> 00:54:05,300

But the lists were not-- they
survived because the war ended.

1354

00:54:05,300 --> 00:54:06,478

They were not high priority.

1355

00:54:06,478 --> 00:54:07,895

Yeah, they were
not high priority.

1356

00:54:07,895 --> 00:54:12,340

1357

00:54:12,340 --> 00:54:13,360

Let's go back then.

1358

00:54:13,360 --> 00:54:15,490

So of your family--

1359

00:54:15,490 --> 00:54:18,400

I'm just going to repeat it,
besides your own situation,

1360

00:54:18,400 --> 00:54:21,080

which we'll come to--

1361

00:54:21,080 --> 00:54:24,950

there was, on your
father's side, his brother.

1362

00:54:24,950 --> 00:54:26,360

The architect or the grocer?

1363

00:54:26,360 --> 00:54:26,930

Architect.

1364

00:54:26,930 --> 00:54:28,310

The architect.

1365

00:54:28,310 --> 00:54:32,240

His wife and his son
and your grandmother who

1366

00:54:32,240 --> 00:54:36,110

were caught while they're
in a pension, a guest house.

1367

00:54:36,110 --> 00:54:37,730

And most likely an informer.

1368

00:54:37,730 --> 00:54:41,600

And then arrested
and eventually sent

1369

00:54:41,600 --> 00:54:44,810

to Theresienstadt
in Czechoslovakia.

1370

00:54:44,810 --> 00:54:50,060

Another cousin from
your mother's side--

1371

00:54:50,060 --> 00:54:53,190

would be her sister and
her Christian husband?

1372

00:54:53,190 --> 00:54:53,930

Yes.

1373

00:54:53,930 --> 00:54:58,050

And a daughter were in
the loft of a church.

1374

00:54:58,050 --> 00:54:58,550

Yes.

1375

00:54:58,550 --> 00:55:02,150

And because the husband--
they were caught as well,

1376

00:55:02,150 --> 00:55:08,780

most likely the girlfriend
of a Danish Nazi who informs.

1377
00:55:08,780 --> 00:55:09,770
But they're sent to--

1378
00:55:09,770 --> 00:55:11,000
Could have been a
Germany actually.

1379
00:55:11,000 --> 00:55:11,450
I think it was.

1380
00:55:11,450 --> 00:55:12,230
Could have been a German Nazi.

1381
00:55:12,230 --> 00:55:13,480
Could have been a German Nazi.

1382
00:55:13,480 --> 00:55:14,180
OK.

1383
00:55:14,180 --> 00:55:16,640
They're caught, but they're
sent to an internal camp

1384
00:55:16,640 --> 00:55:17,480
in Denmark--

1385
00:55:17,480 --> 00:55:18,020
Yes.

1386
00:55:18,020 --> 00:55:19,430
--rather than outside
of the country.

1387
00:55:19,430 --> 00:55:20,388
And they were released.

1388
00:55:20,388 --> 00:55:22,610
There was a lawyer that
helped them release.

1389
00:55:22,610 --> 00:55:27,690
And they were driven in a truck.

1390
00:55:27,690 --> 00:55:30,460
And then the truck stopped.

1391
00:55:30,460 --> 00:55:33,410
And they left the truck.

1392
00:55:33,410 --> 00:55:35,660
And the Nazis said
to them, if you

1393
00:55:35,660 --> 00:55:38,150
look around, if you look back,
we're going to shoot you.

1394
00:55:38,150 --> 00:55:42,060

1395
00:55:42,060 --> 00:55:43,560
And they went to Sweden.

1396
00:55:43,560 --> 00:55:45,110
And they went to Sweden.

1397
00:55:45,110 --> 00:55:47,430
They didn't want to
take any chances.

1398
00:55:47,430 --> 00:55:56,100
So in September 1943, after
the government collapses--

1399
00:55:56,100 --> 00:56:01,920
resigns-- was your family, your
mother, your father, yourself,

1400
00:56:01,920 --> 00:56:03,120
back in Odense?

1401
00:56:03,120 --> 00:56:04,020
Or were--

1402
00:56:04,020 --> 00:56:05,040
Yes, were in Odense.

1403
00:56:05,040 --> 00:56:06,460
OK.

1404
00:56:06,460 --> 00:56:07,970
And so what happened to you?

1405
00:56:07,970 --> 00:56:10,550
What happened to your family?

1406
00:56:10,550 --> 00:56:15,980
This is the \$64,000 question.

1407
00:56:15,980 --> 00:56:24,460
My mother in her interview
says they had not been warned.

1408
00:56:24,460 --> 00:56:26,985
When they got arrested,
they were shocked.

1409
00:56:26,985 --> 00:56:30,850

1410
00:56:30,850 --> 00:56:32,920
She says they had
talked the night

1411
00:56:32,920 --> 00:56:37,570
before with the other
lawyer, a Jewish person.

1412
00:56:37,570 --> 00:56:41,030
And it was his brother
who was well-connected.

1413

00:56:41,030 --> 00:56:44,640
And he said, don't do
anything until I connect--

1414
00:56:44,640 --> 00:56:45,860
Get in touch with you.

1415
00:56:45,860 --> 00:56:49,210
Unless I connect with you.

1416
00:56:49,210 --> 00:56:56,330
I've been writing in my book,
A Danish Boy in Theresienstadt,

1417
00:56:56,330 --> 00:57:01,810
several pages wondering
what really happened.

1418
00:57:01,810 --> 00:57:06,760
I realized that communications
were quite different

1419
00:57:06,760 --> 00:57:08,880
in those days.

1420
00:57:08,880 --> 00:57:12,720
When I talk to
people, they don't

1421
00:57:12,720 --> 00:57:15,720
understand that
my parents hadn't

1422
00:57:15,720 --> 00:57:18,570
known what happened in Norway.

1423
00:57:18,570 --> 00:57:22,540
In Norway, one of our
neighbors, the Jewish people--

1424
00:57:22,540 --> 00:57:24,510
half of them escaped to Sweden.

1425

00:57:24,510 --> 00:57:28,050

The other half went to
concentration camps.

1426

00:57:28,050 --> 00:57:30,580

It happened a year earlier.

1427

00:57:30,580 --> 00:57:34,030

Did they not know what
was going on in Germany?

1428

00:57:34,030 --> 00:57:38,160

Did they not know what
was going on in Poland?

1429

00:57:38,160 --> 00:57:41,380

And of course, communications
was so different.

1430

00:57:41,380 --> 00:57:42,670

I always tell people.

1431

00:57:42,670 --> 00:57:46,990

Today, if there is a
bomb in Lisbon, Portugal,

1432

00:57:46,990 --> 00:57:50,230

a second later the rest of
the world knows about it.

1433

00:57:50,230 --> 00:57:54,480

So all I can say is, when I
talk to people, I always say--

1434

00:57:54,480 --> 00:57:57,160

because I cannot
explain it in detail.

1435

00:57:57,160 --> 00:58:02,160

I say, to my knowledge, my
parents had not been warned.

1436

00:58:02,160 --> 00:58:04,330

But I am wondering
what happened.

1437

00:58:04,330 --> 00:58:06,700

A family member has
told me that there was

1438

00:58:06,700 --> 00:58:09,550

somebody that warned my father.

1439

00:58:09,550 --> 00:58:13,720

But they didn't
think it was serious.

1440

00:58:13,720 --> 00:58:18,280

The conclusion I have come
to is that I don't think--

1441

00:58:18,280 --> 00:58:20,660

nothing happened after
three and a half years.

1442

00:58:20,660 --> 00:58:22,690

So why should
something happen now?

1443

00:58:22,690 --> 00:58:26,808

And maybe they didn't
think it was serious.

1444

00:58:26,808 --> 00:58:27,350

Well, a few--

1445

00:58:27,350 --> 00:58:28,930

So very strange.

1446

00:58:28,930 --> 00:58:31,240

Yeah.

1447

00:58:31,240 --> 00:58:33,800

A few thoughts come to my mind.

1448

00:58:33,800 --> 00:58:36,970

Again, they're suppositions,
but they're the questions

1449

00:58:36,970 --> 00:58:38,050

that come to my mind.

1450

00:58:38,050 --> 00:58:41,410

And one would be,
if you really have

1451

00:58:41,410 --> 00:58:47,190

very few Jewish
families in Odense,

1452

00:58:47,190 --> 00:58:48,760

then they're very easy to find.

1453

00:58:48,760 --> 00:58:52,180

1454

00:58:52,180 --> 00:58:55,790

This is not Copenhagen.
This is not a network.

1455

00:58:55,790 --> 00:58:59,650

And I don't know whether
there is a process of people

1456

00:58:59,650 --> 00:59:02,230

registering with the
police every time they move

1457

00:59:02,230 --> 00:59:03,490

and have an address.

1458

00:59:03,490 --> 00:59:07,100

But in some European
countries, that was the case.

1459

00:59:07,100 --> 00:59:10,680

So it's easy to go and

find where everybody lives.

1460
00:59:10,680 --> 00:59:15,280
And it was even easier
for the Nazis, because--

1461
00:59:15,280 --> 00:59:17,510
this is amazing.

1462
00:59:17,510 --> 00:59:22,518
My family was a member
of the Jewish Society--

1463
00:59:22,518 --> 00:59:23,310
Well, there you go.

1464
00:59:23,310 --> 00:59:25,990
--at the synagogue
in Copenhagen.

1465
00:59:25,990 --> 00:59:28,510
And they had the
names and addresses

1466
00:59:28,510 --> 00:59:31,060
and I think phone numbers there.

1467
00:59:31,060 --> 00:59:37,350
And a couple Nazis broke into
that office and took the lists.

1468
00:59:37,350 --> 00:59:37,850
Of course.

1469
00:59:37,850 --> 00:59:40,100
They took the list.

1470
00:59:40,100 --> 00:59:41,870
That's how they got it.

1471
00:59:41,870 --> 00:59:46,400
I thought-- there were a

couple of Germans nearby.

1472
00:59:46,400 --> 00:59:48,680
And for years, I thought
that one of the Germans

1473
00:59:48,680 --> 00:59:52,380
was an informant and that
he had told them about us.

1474
00:59:52,380 --> 00:59:52,880
But they--

1475
00:59:52,880 --> 00:59:53,880
Do you still think that?

1476
00:59:53,880 --> 00:59:55,332
No, no, no, no.

1477
00:59:55,332 --> 00:59:56,540
Now I know they had the list.

1478
00:59:56,540 --> 00:59:58,970
But I didn't know that
until years later.

1479
00:59:58,970 --> 00:59:59,900
I see.

1480
00:59:59,900 --> 01:00:00,660
OK.

1481
01:00:00,660 --> 01:00:01,160
OK.

1482
01:00:01,160 --> 01:00:04,440

1483
01:00:04,440 --> 01:00:07,055
And you answered
one question I don't

1484

01:00:07,055 --> 01:00:08,430

think I had asked,
whether or not

1485

01:00:08,430 --> 01:00:10,670

you had a telephone at home.

1486

01:00:10,670 --> 01:00:12,060

We had a telephone.

1487

01:00:12,060 --> 01:00:14,270

And so one thing that
would be surprising,

1488

01:00:14,270 --> 01:00:16,760

why wouldn't have
relatives from Copenhagen

1489

01:00:16,760 --> 01:00:21,470

phoned you and just said,
this is what's happening here.

1490

01:00:21,470 --> 01:00:23,860

I wonder about that.

1491

01:00:23,860 --> 01:00:28,550

They do say that the
Nazis were listening in--

1492

01:00:28,550 --> 01:00:29,050

That's true.

1493

01:00:29,050 --> 01:00:30,280

--on the phone.

1494

01:00:30,280 --> 01:00:34,050

And at one time, I think they
went to the phone company.

1495

01:00:34,050 --> 01:00:35,740

And there was no phone service.

1496

01:00:35,740 --> 01:00:38,260

And I don't know exactly
when that happened.

1497

01:00:38,260 --> 01:00:41,850

Well, do you remember the
moment of arrest itself?

1498

01:00:41,850 --> 01:00:43,581

Yes.

1499

01:00:43,581 --> 01:00:46,050

Unfortunately, I do.

1500

01:00:46,050 --> 01:00:48,700

Can you tell me what happened?

1501

01:00:48,700 --> 01:00:52,300

There was a pounding
on the door.

1502

01:00:52,300 --> 01:00:53,320

On your third floor--

1503

01:00:53,320 --> 01:00:56,110

On the third floor apartment.

1504

01:00:56,110 --> 01:00:58,090

It was early in the morning.

1505

01:00:58,090 --> 01:00:59,830

Was it dawn already?

1506

01:00:59,830 --> 01:01:02,510

Yeah, 6 or 7 o'clock.

1507

01:01:02,510 --> 01:01:06,920

And it was on October 2nd,
as we talked about earlier.

1508

01:01:06,920 --> 01:01:09,140

And my father answered.

1509

01:01:09,140 --> 01:01:13,260

And later on I found
out what was going on.

1510

01:01:13,260 --> 01:01:17,920

And as I mentioned
earlier, I didn't

1511

01:01:17,920 --> 01:01:21,120

know why we were different.

1512

01:01:21,120 --> 01:01:24,660

Because I didn't know
that I was Jewish.

1513

01:01:24,660 --> 01:01:28,070

I had not been brought
up in the Jewish faith.

1514

01:01:28,070 --> 01:01:31,155

And when I talk to
students, especially--

1515

01:01:31,155 --> 01:01:32,780

because I think that's
very important--

1516

01:01:32,780 --> 01:01:37,040

I always say something
along these lines.

1517

01:01:37,040 --> 01:01:39,620

Is it a crime to be Jewish?

1518

01:01:39,620 --> 01:01:41,660

Is it a crime to be a Catholic?

1519

01:01:41,660 --> 01:01:44,570

Is it a crime to be a Lutheran?

1520

01:01:44,570 --> 01:01:46,260
Of course it's not a crime.

1521
01:01:46,260 --> 01:01:51,010
But in the evil mind of
Hitler, it was a crime.

1522
01:01:51,010 --> 01:01:56,270
And I knew about being occupied,
because I would bicycle

1523
01:01:56,270 --> 01:01:58,730
to school every day into town.

1524
01:01:58,730 --> 01:02:02,770
And I would see the soldiers
stamping their feet,

1525
01:02:02,770 --> 01:02:04,810
stamping their boots.

1526
01:02:04,810 --> 01:02:10,430
So my mother asked if
she and I could go down

1527
01:02:10,430 --> 01:02:13,760
to the baker on
the ground floor.

1528
01:02:13,760 --> 01:02:17,270
I played with his daughter.

1529
01:02:17,270 --> 01:02:18,800
We knew him.

1530
01:02:18,800 --> 01:02:23,200
And we went down
there, got a big sack

1531
01:02:23,200 --> 01:02:27,860
Danish bread, rolls, pastry.

1532

01:02:27,860 --> 01:02:29,390
And what's amazing--
and I didn't

1533
01:02:29,390 --> 01:02:33,290
know that until I listened
to my mother's interview.

1534
01:02:33,290 --> 01:02:38,870
Apparently, the baker offered
to try and help my mother and I

1535
01:02:38,870 --> 01:02:40,130
escape.

1536
01:02:40,130 --> 01:02:42,950
Technically, it might
have been possible,

1537
01:02:42,950 --> 01:02:46,100
because there was a basement,
and there was a corridor.

1538
01:02:46,100 --> 01:02:48,470
And we could have maybe
gotten to the other side

1539
01:02:48,470 --> 01:02:51,330
of the building eventually
and disappeared.

1540
01:02:51,330 --> 01:02:53,090
Of course, my mother
couldn't accept it,

1541
01:02:53,090 --> 01:02:55,790
because my father was
up in the apartment.

1542
01:02:55,790 --> 01:02:58,370
And he would probably
have been shot.

1543

01:02:58,370 --> 01:03:01,230
The baker could
also have been shot.

1544
01:03:01,230 --> 01:03:02,390
So we went back up.

1545
01:03:02,390 --> 01:03:06,080
And then we were transported
into the middle of--

1546
01:03:06,080 --> 01:03:07,370
the center of town.

1547
01:03:07,370 --> 01:03:08,270
In a lorry?

1548
01:03:08,270 --> 01:03:09,170
Yes.

1549
01:03:09,170 --> 01:03:11,000
Were there other
people in the lorry?

1550
01:03:11,000 --> 01:03:11,662
No.

1551
01:03:11,662 --> 01:03:12,620
You were the only ones?

1552
01:03:12,620 --> 01:03:14,180
Yes.

1553
01:03:14,180 --> 01:03:16,190
Were you able to take
anything else with you

1554
01:03:16,190 --> 01:03:18,140
besides the bread
and the pastries?

1555
01:03:18,140 --> 01:03:21,090

Yeah, we took some
clothes, took some clothes.

1556
01:03:21,090 --> 01:03:25,130
And of course, like
they tell every inmate,

1557
01:03:25,130 --> 01:03:26,330
make sure you bring money.

1558
01:03:26,330 --> 01:03:28,640
You would have chances
to spend the money.

1559
01:03:28,640 --> 01:03:30,970
And jewelry and so on.

1560
01:03:30,970 --> 01:03:32,943
And they tell that to everybody.

1561
01:03:32,943 --> 01:03:34,610
And what did the
soldiers look like when

1562
01:03:34,610 --> 01:03:36,530
they came into your apartment?

1563
01:03:36,530 --> 01:03:39,770
All I can remember is
the green uniforms.

1564
01:03:39,770 --> 01:03:41,798
Had you ever interacted
in those three years

1565
01:03:41,798 --> 01:03:42,840
with any of the soldiers?

1566
01:03:42,840 --> 01:03:44,150
No, no.

1567
01:03:44,150 --> 01:03:44,930

Never.

1568
01:03:44,930 --> 01:03:48,350
I mean, if I was walking, and
there was a soldier there,

1569
01:03:48,350 --> 01:03:50,070
I would cross.

1570
01:03:50,070 --> 01:03:53,110
I would cross over.

1571
01:03:53,110 --> 01:03:54,340
No, I never had--

1572
01:03:54,340 --> 01:03:57,160
I mean, I'd seen
them on the street.

1573
01:03:57,160 --> 01:04:00,220
And when you say that you
didn't know you were Jewish,

1574
01:04:00,220 --> 01:04:03,250
is that metaphorically,
in the sense

1575
01:04:03,250 --> 01:04:05,015
that, you knew
that you're Jewish,

1576
01:04:05,015 --> 01:04:06,640
but you didn't know
that being Jewish--

1577
01:04:06,640 --> 01:04:09,300
No, I did not know I was Jewish.

1578
01:04:09,300 --> 01:04:11,300
You mean you really didn't
know you were Jewish?

1579

01:04:11,300 --> 01:04:11,890
No, no.

1580
01:04:11,890 --> 01:04:14,440
I didn't know I was Jewish.

1581
01:04:14,440 --> 01:04:16,930
Oh my goodness.

1582
01:04:16,930 --> 01:04:17,620
Oh my goodness.

1583
01:04:17,620 --> 01:04:19,870
So you could have been
easily-- if somebody

1584
01:04:19,870 --> 01:04:22,387
could have told you you were
a Lutheran, you said OK?

1585
01:04:22,387 --> 01:04:23,470
I didn't know that before.

1586
01:04:23,470 --> 01:04:24,220
Yeah, it sounds strange.

1587
01:04:24,220 --> 01:04:24,720
But yeah.

1588
01:04:24,720 --> 01:04:28,700

1589
01:04:28,700 --> 01:04:31,110
Well, I can't imagine what
kind of a shock that was.

1590
01:04:31,110 --> 01:04:35,130
I mean, if I was older,
I know my father would

1591
01:04:35,130 --> 01:04:36,150
have found a way--

1592
01:04:36,150 --> 01:04:36,760
a bar mitzvah.

1593
01:04:36,760 --> 01:04:41,260

1594
01:04:41,260 --> 01:04:43,630
So you must have been
completely stunned

1595
01:04:43,630 --> 01:04:45,380
as to why you're arrested?

1596
01:04:45,380 --> 01:04:47,730
Yes.

1597
01:04:47,730 --> 01:04:49,080
And who then told you?

1598
01:04:49,080 --> 01:04:49,830
I think my mother.

1599
01:04:49,830 --> 01:04:52,920

1600
01:04:52,920 --> 01:04:55,268
On the lorry as you're
being taken away?

1601
01:04:55,268 --> 01:04:57,060
I think in the house
when we were arrested.

1602
01:04:57,060 --> 01:05:00,810

1603
01:05:00,810 --> 01:05:05,205
And then did you have an idea
of what it meant to be Jewish?

1604

01:05:05,205 --> 01:05:07,580
No.

1605
01:05:07,580 --> 01:05:09,620
Had you ever talked about--

1606
01:05:09,620 --> 01:05:12,920
was there any talk about
Jews in your family before,

1607
01:05:12,920 --> 01:05:14,690
that you knew there
were such a people?

1608
01:05:14,690 --> 01:05:17,270

1609
01:05:17,270 --> 01:05:19,430
I don't think-- I
don't remember it.

1610
01:05:19,430 --> 01:05:22,130
I don't think so.

1611
01:05:22,130 --> 01:05:24,680
You know, this is the first
time I'm interviewing somebody

1612
01:05:24,680 --> 01:05:27,010
who didn't know he was Jewish--

1613
01:05:27,010 --> 01:05:28,610
This is a very unique situation.

1614
01:05:28,610 --> 01:05:32,520
--until the date
that he's arrested.

1615
01:05:32,520 --> 01:05:33,090
Wow.

1616
01:05:33,090 --> 01:05:33,590

Yeah.

1617
01:05:33,590 --> 01:05:35,060
I didn't know.

1618
01:05:35,060 --> 01:05:38,810

1619
01:05:38,810 --> 01:05:43,220
I can't imagine for a
young boy what this all is.

1620
01:05:43,220 --> 01:05:44,810
It's surreal.

1621
01:05:44,810 --> 01:05:48,040
One minute, you're
safe in your bed.

1622
01:05:48,040 --> 01:05:49,830
You're sleeping.

1623
01:05:49,830 --> 01:05:52,723
And the next minute,
you're on a truck.

1624
01:05:52,723 --> 01:05:55,140
And you're told the reason why
is because you're something

1625
01:05:55,140 --> 01:05:56,140
you never knew you were.

1626
01:05:56,140 --> 01:05:58,770

1627
01:05:58,770 --> 01:06:00,452
Do you remember your reactions?

1628
01:06:00,452 --> 01:06:01,160
Do you remember--

1629

01:06:01,160 --> 01:06:02,310

No, not really.

1630

01:06:02,310 --> 01:06:06,535

Because I think I
was in total shock.

1631

01:06:06,535 --> 01:06:08,160

What about your father
and your mother?

1632

01:06:08,160 --> 01:06:09,410

Do you remember how they were?

1633

01:06:09,410 --> 01:06:11,820

No, but I think they
were in total shock.

1634

01:06:11,820 --> 01:06:15,640

And I think I mentioned
before, my mother said,

1635

01:06:15,640 --> 01:06:16,990

we didn't think it was serious.

1636

01:06:16,990 --> 01:06:19,570

We didn't think it would happen.

1637

01:06:19,570 --> 01:06:22,060

She said it was a total shock.

1638

01:06:22,060 --> 01:06:22,710

And when you--

1639

01:06:22,710 --> 01:06:23,400

It is a very--

1640

01:06:23,400 --> 01:06:23,760

I mean--

1641

01:06:23,760 --> 01:06:24,260

Yeah.

1642
01:06:24,260 --> 01:06:25,230
It's very unusual.

1643
01:06:25,230 --> 01:06:25,730
Yeah.

1644
01:06:25,730 --> 01:06:29,150

1645
01:06:29,150 --> 01:06:32,350
When you get to
the center of town,

1646
01:06:32,350 --> 01:06:34,870
what do you remember
happened next?

1647
01:06:34,870 --> 01:06:36,496
A lot of shouting.

1648
01:06:36,496 --> 01:06:39,692
The Germans were
shouting and shouting.

1649
01:06:39,692 --> 01:06:40,650
Were there more people?

1650
01:06:40,650 --> 01:06:41,820
Counting and counting.

1651
01:06:41,820 --> 01:06:43,050
There were about 60.

1652
01:06:43,050 --> 01:06:48,800
It was kind of a hut maybe,
a sample of about 60 people.

1653
01:06:48,800 --> 01:06:50,300
I have a picture of it.

1654

01:06:50,300 --> 01:06:50,980

Oh, you do.

1655

01:06:50,980 --> 01:06:54,300

Which is most-- it's a
very unique artifact.

1656

01:06:54,300 --> 01:06:58,410

It's supposed to be the only
picture of Jewish people being

1657

01:06:58,410 --> 01:07:00,030

arrested in Denmark.

1658

01:07:00,030 --> 01:07:05,760

And there's 60 people
standing in the schoolyard

1659

01:07:05,760 --> 01:07:08,242

in the center of town.

1660

01:07:08,242 --> 01:07:09,950

Maybe we'll film it
later if you have it.

1661

01:07:09,950 --> 01:07:12,030

That's great, yes.

1662

01:07:12,030 --> 01:07:14,470

Then what happened?

1663

01:07:14,470 --> 01:07:21,330

Then the truck took us to the
peninsula, Jutland Peninsula,

1664

01:07:21,330 --> 01:07:23,370

western part of Denmark.

1665

01:07:23,370 --> 01:07:28,590

And there we were herded into--

1666

01:07:28,590 --> 01:07:31,860
I call it a cattle car.

1667
01:07:31,860 --> 01:07:34,070
I think technically
it's a boxcar, rail car.

1668
01:07:34,070 --> 01:07:37,930
But I think most survivors
called it a cattle car.

1669
01:07:37,930 --> 01:07:41,430
And we were in that cattle
car for three days and three

1670
01:07:41,430 --> 01:07:43,660
nights.

1671
01:07:43,660 --> 01:07:46,050
And as you know, it
was completely dark.

1672
01:07:46,050 --> 01:07:47,740
And there were no benches.

1673
01:07:47,740 --> 01:07:48,800
There was no blankets.

1674
01:07:48,800 --> 01:07:50,460
We got no food.

1675
01:07:50,460 --> 01:07:55,940
We shared the Danish rolls, the
Danish pastry, with everybody.

1676
01:07:55,940 --> 01:07:58,350
We got nothing to
drink, other than what

1677
01:07:58,350 --> 01:08:01,800
other people have brought,
some drinks and other food.

1678

01:08:01,800 --> 01:08:03,880

We shared it all.

1679

01:08:03,880 --> 01:08:08,800

And I was frightened.

1680

01:08:08,800 --> 01:08:13,840

I think most of the
adults were frightened.

1681

01:08:13,840 --> 01:08:18,680

Atmosphere, I describe it
as being very, very tense.

1682

01:08:18,680 --> 01:08:20,624

And--

1683

01:08:20,624 --> 01:08:22,374

Did you know any of
the people in the car?

1684

01:08:22,374 --> 01:08:23,580

No, no.

1685

01:08:23,580 --> 01:08:28,040

Most of them were
young people who

1686

01:08:28,040 --> 01:08:34,540

had escaped Czechoslovakia
or Germany earlier.

1687

01:08:34,540 --> 01:08:39,520

And they were working
on farmland in Denmark

1688

01:08:39,520 --> 01:08:41,810

to learn Danish agriculture.

1689

01:08:41,810 --> 01:08:43,300

And we were quite advanced.

1690

01:08:43,300 --> 01:08:46,500

And then eventually, they
would go to Palestine.

1691

01:08:46,500 --> 01:08:49,430

1692

01:08:49,430 --> 01:08:53,290

And there were 16,
17, 18 years old.

1693

01:08:53,290 --> 01:08:55,790

And I didn't know most
of them were there.

1694

01:08:55,790 --> 01:08:58,310

There was one family from
another town that I didn't

1695

01:08:58,310 --> 01:09:00,870

know, a judge and his sister.

1696

01:09:00,870 --> 01:09:05,803

But most of them
were from the farms.

1697

01:09:05,803 --> 01:09:06,790

I see.

1698

01:09:06,790 --> 01:09:10,370

And I have to tell you a
story which is incredible.

1699

01:09:10,370 --> 01:09:14,870

In Odense, the lawyer,
the friend of my father--

1700

01:09:14,870 --> 01:09:21,260

they studied together-- they
were also pounded on their door

1701

01:09:21,260 --> 01:09:23,029

early morning.

1702

01:09:23,029 --> 01:09:26,250

They didn't hear the pounding.

1703

01:09:26,250 --> 01:09:28,300

A couple hours after
the Germans had

1704

01:09:28,300 --> 01:09:30,722

left the neighbor
came in and said,

1705

01:09:30,722 --> 01:09:31,930

you'd better get out of here.

1706

01:09:31,930 --> 01:09:33,370

You'd better escape.

1707

01:09:33,370 --> 01:09:37,229

They escaped to Sweden.

1708

01:09:37,229 --> 01:09:41,189

Much later, when I did
research for my book,

1709

01:09:41,189 --> 01:09:45,000

I found out that the
Nazis had instruction

1710

01:09:45,000 --> 01:09:48,109

not to break down a door.

1711

01:09:48,109 --> 01:09:51,260

I'm not saying they didn't do
it, but their instruction was,

1712

01:09:51,260 --> 01:09:56,500

don't break down a door,
which sounds incredible.

1713

01:09:56,500 --> 01:09:58,910

And I've read it in some books.

1714
01:09:58,910 --> 01:10:03,290
I know of another family in
Copenhagen. Unfortunately,

1715
01:10:03,290 --> 01:10:05,550
they were caught later on.

1716
01:10:05,550 --> 01:10:08,650
So they managed
to get to Sweden.

1717
01:10:08,650 --> 01:10:14,750
So we made one stop
in the cattle car.

1718
01:10:14,750 --> 01:10:16,580
We got some fresh air.

1719
01:10:16,580 --> 01:10:19,760
We got some-- to drink.

1720
01:10:19,760 --> 01:10:21,732
Was there-- pardon
me for saying.

1721
01:10:21,732 --> 01:10:22,940
Were there toilet facilities?

1722
01:10:22,940 --> 01:10:24,020
No, I was just going--

1723
01:10:24,020 --> 01:10:25,100
I forgot that.

1724
01:10:25,100 --> 01:10:26,600
There were no toilet facilities.

1725
01:10:26,600 --> 01:10:27,950
We used buckets.

1726

01:10:27,950 --> 01:10:32,870

So you can imagine the
smell was absolutely awful.

1727

01:10:32,870 --> 01:10:37,310

There was actually--
in another cattle car

1728

01:10:37,310 --> 01:10:41,020

from Copenhagen, somebody
committed suicide.

1729

01:10:41,020 --> 01:10:43,910

And I didn't realize it until
doing a lot of research.

1730

01:10:43,910 --> 01:10:46,300

There were actually
15 Jewish people

1731

01:10:46,300 --> 01:10:51,220

in Denmark that
committed suicide

1732

01:10:51,220 --> 01:10:53,700

rather than being arrested.

1733

01:10:53,700 --> 01:10:55,260

Which is very, very sad.

1734

01:10:55,260 --> 01:10:57,570

But you can understand it.

1735

01:10:57,570 --> 01:11:00,990

So we ended up in Terezin.

1736

01:11:00,990 --> 01:11:02,550

Theresienstadt.

1737

01:11:02,550 --> 01:11:03,510

Theresienstadt, yeah.

1738

01:11:03,510 --> 01:11:04,980

I use both words.

1739

01:11:04,980 --> 01:11:06,570

The Czech word as well as the--

1740

01:11:06,570 --> 01:11:09,080

Yes.

1741

01:11:09,080 --> 01:11:12,750

So what is your first image when
the doors open and there you

1742

01:11:12,750 --> 01:11:13,250

are?

1743

01:11:13,250 --> 01:11:16,620

Do you remember what you saw?

1744

01:11:16,620 --> 01:11:20,670

I saw soldiers with guns.

1745

01:11:20,670 --> 01:11:23,297

And they always
seemed to be shouting.

1746

01:11:23,297 --> 01:11:25,130

And of course, I couldn't
understand German.

1747

01:11:25,130 --> 01:11:29,750

So I didn't know exactly
what was going on.

1748

01:11:29,750 --> 01:11:30,860

And then we had to walk.

1749

01:11:30,860 --> 01:11:35,160

There was no train station
in Terezin at that time.

1750

01:11:35,160 --> 01:11:37,470
So we had to walk
from another station,

1751
01:11:37,470 --> 01:11:41,890
I think about a mile,
a mile and a half.

1752
01:11:41,890 --> 01:11:50,620
Then we came in to town and
had to empty our pockets.

1753
01:11:50,620 --> 01:11:52,360
Of the money and the jewelry.

1754
01:11:52,360 --> 01:11:56,900
Money and valuables that they
had encouraged us to bring.

1755
01:11:56,900 --> 01:12:00,850
They checked the luggage, if
there was any jewelry in there.

1756
01:12:00,850 --> 01:12:04,890
And then people always think--

1757
01:12:04,890 --> 01:12:06,840
the perception is,
and I'm sure you

1758
01:12:06,840 --> 01:12:13,020
heard, that every survivor has
a number on their underarm.

1759
01:12:13,020 --> 01:12:14,220
But as far as I--

1760
01:12:14,220 --> 01:12:15,540
I don't.

1761
01:12:15,540 --> 01:12:17,700
As far as I know
and I can determine,

1762
01:12:17,700 --> 01:12:19,320
I think it's only the ones--

1763
01:12:19,320 --> 01:12:21,820
"only" in quote-- from
Auschwitz-Birkenau

1764
01:12:21,820 --> 01:12:23,848
that has a number.

1765
01:12:23,848 --> 01:12:25,390
And some of them
don't have a number.

1766
01:12:25,390 --> 01:12:26,270
And some of them don't.

1767
01:12:26,270 --> 01:12:27,145
Yes, that's true too.

1768
01:12:27,145 --> 01:12:31,210
Yeah, I know a couple
that don't have a number.

1769
01:12:31,210 --> 01:12:32,910
And then we were split up.

1770
01:12:32,910 --> 01:12:36,390
So you weren't with
your parents after that?

1771
01:12:36,390 --> 01:12:40,830
I don't know how my mother was
able to persuade the soldiers.

1772
01:12:40,830 --> 01:12:42,570
She was quite tenacious.

1773
01:12:42,570 --> 01:12:45,010
And she managed to--

1774

01:12:45,010 --> 01:12:48,490

I stayed with my mother
for the next 18 months,

1775

01:12:48,490 --> 01:12:49,385

which was amazing.

1776

01:12:49,385 --> 01:12:51,010

And your father was
separated from you?

1777

01:12:51,010 --> 01:12:51,990

Father was separate.

1778

01:12:51,990 --> 01:12:55,540

My grandmother was separate.

1779

01:12:55,540 --> 01:12:58,710

So when you were on your
way to Theresienstadt,

1780

01:12:58,710 --> 01:13:02,680

did you know about your
uncle and his family

1781

01:13:02,680 --> 01:13:04,120

having been arrested?

1782

01:13:04,120 --> 01:13:07,100

Did you find them once
you were in Terezin?

1783

01:13:07,100 --> 01:13:09,400

No, we found out
later about them.

1784

01:13:09,400 --> 01:13:11,150

But we didn't know.

1785

01:13:11,150 --> 01:13:12,710

And did you see them in Terezin?

1786

01:13:12,710 --> 01:13:13,700

Yes, we saw them.

1787

01:13:13,700 --> 01:13:15,610

They arrived the day after.

1788

01:13:15,610 --> 01:13:17,980

They came from
Copenhagen. And then

1789

01:13:17,980 --> 01:13:19,990

they went to the
southern part of Denmark.

1790

01:13:19,990 --> 01:13:23,530

And then they took
a ship to Germany.

1791

01:13:23,530 --> 01:13:27,670

And then they went by cattle
car the rest of the way.

1792

01:13:27,670 --> 01:13:31,990

About how many-- from your
research later on, about how

1793

01:13:31,990 --> 01:13:35,020

many people from Denmark--

1794

01:13:35,020 --> 01:13:37,830

472.

1795

01:13:37,830 --> 01:13:39,260

--were deported.

1796

01:13:39,260 --> 01:13:40,440

So you were--

1797

01:13:40,440 --> 01:13:42,310

We're among the 5%.

1798

01:13:42,310 --> 01:13:44,380
You were amongst
these few, few people.

1799
01:13:44,380 --> 01:13:45,040
Yes.

1800
01:13:45,040 --> 01:13:46,548
472.

1801
01:13:46,548 --> 01:13:47,090
That's right.

1802
01:13:47,090 --> 01:13:49,780

1803
01:13:49,780 --> 01:13:54,920
So when you are separated
from your father,

1804
01:13:54,920 --> 01:13:58,040
were you able to go and see him?

1805
01:13:58,040 --> 01:14:01,250
Or was he behind the barbed wire
that you couldn't have crossed?

1806
01:14:01,250 --> 01:14:02,210
No, I saw him.

1807
01:14:02,210 --> 01:14:03,840
I saw him a couple--

1808
01:14:03,840 --> 01:14:05,380
not very often.

1809
01:14:05,380 --> 01:14:07,160
But I saw him sometime.

1810
01:14:07,160 --> 01:14:11,700
Describe to me how
people then were housed,

1811
01:14:11,700 --> 01:14:13,010
if one could use that term.

1812
01:14:13,010 --> 01:14:14,600
Where did you and
your mother go?

1813
01:14:14,600 --> 01:14:17,000
Where did some of the others go?

1814
01:14:17,000 --> 01:14:19,420
In barracks.

1815
01:14:19,420 --> 01:14:23,520
And we were in a loft.

1816
01:14:23,520 --> 01:14:29,150
And in my PowerPoint I
have a copy of the loft.

1817
01:14:29,150 --> 01:14:31,080
And I think there were
probably about 80,

1818
01:14:31,080 --> 01:14:33,780
90 people in the lofts.

1819
01:14:33,780 --> 01:14:35,160
And we stayed.

1820
01:14:35,160 --> 01:14:38,480
We had bunk beds,
wooden bunk beds.

1821
01:14:38,480 --> 01:14:42,010
It was very hard, because
while we had mattresses,

1822
01:14:42,010 --> 01:14:43,140
there was hardly any straw.

1823

01:14:43,140 --> 01:14:47,200

We were basically lying
directly on the wood.

1824

01:14:47,200 --> 01:14:49,870

And of course, there
was fleas and lice.

1825

01:14:49,870 --> 01:14:53,060

And I didn't quite understand.

1826

01:14:53,060 --> 01:14:55,880

Apparently I asked
my mother what--

1827

01:14:55,880 --> 01:14:56,380

why am I--

1828

01:14:56,380 --> 01:14:57,190

Itchy.

1829

01:14:57,190 --> 01:14:58,382

I never had this before.

1830

01:14:58,382 --> 01:14:58,882

Yeah.

1831

01:14:58,882 --> 01:15:01,610

1832

01:15:01,610 --> 01:15:05,960

What was her manner
like during this time?

1833

01:15:05,960 --> 01:15:08,270

Was she more
tenacious than usual?

1834

01:15:08,270 --> 01:15:10,700

Or was she less so?

1835

01:15:10,700 --> 01:15:12,985
She's your protector
at this moment.

1836
01:15:12,985 --> 01:15:15,470
Yeah.

1837
01:15:15,470 --> 01:15:18,160
I don't know exactly
how to answer that.

1838
01:15:18,160 --> 01:15:21,710
I think she was
always tenacious.

1839
01:15:21,710 --> 01:15:24,080
I don't know that
it was more or less.

1840
01:15:24,080 --> 01:15:26,250
But I think she was
always tenacious.

1841
01:15:26,250 --> 01:15:32,440
And of course, she worked, so
I didn't see her an awful lot.

1842
01:15:32,440 --> 01:15:34,390
Oh, so you were
alone in-- also--

1843
01:15:34,390 --> 01:15:36,490
No, I also worked.

1844
01:15:36,490 --> 01:15:38,710
But I didn't have to work.

1845
01:15:38,710 --> 01:15:39,515
Tell me about that.

1846
01:15:39,515 --> 01:15:40,140
Tell me about--

1847

01:15:40,140 --> 01:15:40,990

It was volunteer.

1848

01:15:40,990 --> 01:15:42,760

I did some volunteer work.

1849

01:15:42,760 --> 01:15:45,402

My mother didn't
like it at first,

1850

01:15:45,402 --> 01:15:47,110

but then she thought
this would be great.

1851

01:15:47,110 --> 01:15:50,600

Because time would
fly a little faster.

1852

01:15:50,600 --> 01:15:52,570

So I worked about an
hour in the morning,

1853

01:15:52,570 --> 01:15:54,660

about an hour in the afternoon.

1854

01:15:54,660 --> 01:15:58,612

And I would be going from
one Nazi office to the other

1855

01:15:58,612 --> 01:16:03,490

with messages and documents
and passing them along.

1856

01:16:03,490 --> 01:16:05,710

Did you get any more food
for this or any other kind

1857

01:16:05,710 --> 01:16:06,460

of benefit for it?

1858

01:16:06,460 --> 01:16:07,560

Yes.

1859
01:16:07,560 --> 01:16:08,440
I'm glad you asked.

1860
01:16:08,440 --> 01:16:10,120
I'd almost forgotten.

1861
01:16:10,120 --> 01:16:11,570
And I didn't
realize at the time.

1862
01:16:11,570 --> 01:16:13,890
This is from my
mother's interview.

1863
01:16:13,890 --> 01:16:17,680
I'm so lucky to
have that interview.

1864
01:16:17,680 --> 01:16:20,160
I think I got two or three
extra slices of bread.

1865
01:16:20,160 --> 01:16:24,650
And my mother said I was
very proud to get that.

1866
01:16:24,650 --> 01:16:27,410
So when you were
in these barracks,

1867
01:16:27,410 --> 01:16:31,970
you're kind of squished
with other human beings

1868
01:16:31,970 --> 01:16:33,270
in these barracks.

1869
01:16:33,270 --> 01:16:35,660
And she then has to go to work.

1870
01:16:35,660 --> 01:16:37,890

What kind of work did she do?

1871

01:16:37,890 --> 01:16:40,220

She had a couple
of different jobs.

1872

01:16:40,220 --> 01:16:43,360

She worked with a
mineral called mica.

1873

01:16:43,360 --> 01:16:47,280

And mica is a mineral that comes
from the mountains in the Czech

1874

01:16:47,280 --> 01:16:47,940

Republic.

1875

01:16:47,940 --> 01:16:49,090

Mica.

1876

01:16:49,090 --> 01:16:56,520

M-I-C-A. Two C's-- no, M-I-C-A.
You may know the other name,

1877

01:16:56,520 --> 01:16:57,700

glimmer?

1878

01:16:57,700 --> 01:17:00,150

G-L-I-M-M-E-R-- no.

1879

01:17:00,150 --> 01:17:03,080

But anyway, I didn't
know about it either.

1880

01:17:03,080 --> 01:17:04,380

But it's a metal.

1881

01:17:04,380 --> 01:17:08,710

And it's used as insulation
material for their warplanes.

1882

01:17:08,710 --> 01:17:11,720

And there were about
250 women on the floor.

1883
01:17:11,720 --> 01:17:13,850
They would sit at work benches.

1884
01:17:13,850 --> 01:17:18,030
And they would slice
it up in thin layers.

1885
01:17:18,030 --> 01:17:19,890
And then it would be sorted out.

1886
01:17:19,890 --> 01:17:24,220
And then eventually
sent to the factory

1887
01:17:24,220 --> 01:17:27,880
where they put the insulation
material into the planes.

1888
01:17:27,880 --> 01:17:29,790
So this would be
minerals that had already

1889
01:17:29,790 --> 01:17:32,000
been mined from the quarry--

1890
01:17:32,000 --> 01:17:32,500
Yes.

1891
01:17:32,500 --> 01:17:35,430
--of some kind, brought
to this facility.

1892
01:17:35,430 --> 01:17:38,210
And they would do the
rendering of it into--

1893
01:17:38,210 --> 01:17:38,710
Yep.

1894

01:17:38,710 --> 01:17:41,880
OK, OK.

1895
01:17:41,880 --> 01:17:43,603
Did you ever see
her at this work?

1896
01:17:43,603 --> 01:17:44,520
Did you ever go there?

1897
01:17:44,520 --> 01:17:46,305
No, I never-- no.

1898
01:17:46,305 --> 01:17:50,940
The description I have and what
she was doing I have that--

1899
01:17:50,940 --> 01:17:53,610
she told me some of it.

1900
01:17:53,610 --> 01:17:57,780
And some of it
from the interview.

1901
01:17:57,780 --> 01:18:03,210
And what kind of place
was your father taken to?

1902
01:18:03,210 --> 01:18:04,020
Do you know?

1903
01:18:04,020 --> 01:18:04,710
Yes.

1904
01:18:04,710 --> 01:18:07,350
I mean, he was in a
loft similar to where

1905
01:18:07,350 --> 01:18:09,740
my mother and I were staying.

1906
01:18:09,740 --> 01:18:10,240

Only men?

1907

01:18:10,240 --> 01:18:13,420

In a different barracks.

1908

01:18:13,420 --> 01:18:17,140

And then he had some
very hard work to do.

1909

01:18:17,140 --> 01:18:19,090

And it was getting
cold, because it was

1910

01:18:19,090 --> 01:18:20,830

the beginning of the winter.

1911

01:18:20,830 --> 01:18:23,010

What was his work?

1912

01:18:23,010 --> 01:18:23,510

Do you know?

1913

01:18:23,510 --> 01:18:24,610

It was roadwork.

1914

01:18:24,610 --> 01:18:27,220

He was digging ditches.

1915

01:18:27,220 --> 01:18:31,780

And he had a very hard
time, because it was cold.

1916

01:18:31,780 --> 01:18:35,320

And he wasn't used to it.

1917

01:18:35,320 --> 01:18:38,350

He would normally
sit in his office,

1918

01:18:38,350 --> 01:18:40,470

or he would go to
the courthouse.

1919
01:18:40,470 --> 01:18:43,620
But here he had to dig ditches.

1920
01:18:43,620 --> 01:18:47,950
And I'm very fortunate
that there's a person

1921
01:18:47,950 --> 01:18:50,440
that I met from Denmark.

1922
01:18:50,440 --> 01:18:52,940
She lives outside Paris now.

1923
01:18:52,940 --> 01:18:58,830
But she's doing as her
thesis a report on Danes

1924
01:18:58,830 --> 01:19:00,450
in Theresienstadt.

1925
01:19:00,450 --> 01:19:04,330
And she's talked to a number
of survivors like myself.

1926
01:19:04,330 --> 01:19:06,780
And she talked to one
person who happened

1927
01:19:06,780 --> 01:19:09,250
to be working with my father.

1928
01:19:09,250 --> 01:19:11,630
And he says-- he was younger.

1929
01:19:11,630 --> 01:19:14,800
He was one of the ones that
came from Czechoslovakia

1930
01:19:14,800 --> 01:19:21,100
or came from Germany to
escape the Nazi regime.

1931
01:19:21,100 --> 01:19:25,530
And he said that when the
guards weren't looking

1932
01:19:25,530 --> 01:19:27,290
he would dig for my father.

1933
01:19:27,290 --> 01:19:29,980
Because he was used
to that kind of work.

1934
01:19:29,980 --> 01:19:35,080
He also said that my father
suffered a great deal.

1935
01:19:35,080 --> 01:19:38,350
He had trouble with the work.

1936
01:19:38,350 --> 01:19:42,460
And consequently, he
was whipped and kicked.

1937
01:19:42,460 --> 01:19:45,700
And he had a winter overcoat on.

1938
01:19:45,700 --> 01:19:49,720
And apparently a guard came by
and tore it off him and said,

1939
01:19:49,720 --> 01:19:53,420
you don't wear
that when you work.

1940
01:19:53,420 --> 01:19:57,200
And my mother tells me
that he lost about 50%

1941
01:19:57,200 --> 01:20:01,048
of his body weight
and ended up in--

1942

01:20:01,048 --> 01:20:02,590
I don't know whether
it's a hospital,

1943
01:20:02,590 --> 01:20:04,840
but I call it infirmary.

1944
01:20:04,840 --> 01:20:09,080
And he was there
for several months.

1945
01:20:09,080 --> 01:20:12,380
And they had great
doctors, other inmates.

1946
01:20:12,380 --> 01:20:14,750
But they didn't have
the medical supplies.

1947
01:20:14,750 --> 01:20:16,610
And they didn't have the tools.

1948
01:20:16,610 --> 01:20:19,430
So he died of starvation.

1949
01:20:19,430 --> 01:20:23,540
It was after less than
six months in camp.

1950
01:20:23,540 --> 01:20:25,640
How did you learn of this?

1951
01:20:25,640 --> 01:20:27,320
My mother told me.

1952
01:20:27,320 --> 01:20:29,780
While you were still
in the camp yourselves?

1953
01:20:29,780 --> 01:20:32,430
Oh, yes.

1954

01:20:32,430 --> 01:20:33,450
How did she learn of it?

1955
01:20:33,450 --> 01:20:35,980

1956
01:20:35,980 --> 01:20:37,390
I don't know who told her.

1957
01:20:37,390 --> 01:20:38,240
I don't know.

1958
01:20:38,240 --> 01:20:42,380
But I know-- and she
took me with her--

1959
01:20:42,380 --> 01:20:45,450
that she was asked to come
and identify my father's body.

1960
01:20:45,450 --> 01:20:48,460
And we went many
different places

1961
01:20:48,460 --> 01:20:50,650
before she identified his body.

1962
01:20:50,650 --> 01:20:52,230
Did you see him?

1963
01:20:52,230 --> 01:20:53,710
Yes, unfortunately, yes.

1964
01:20:53,710 --> 01:20:58,880

1965
01:20:58,880 --> 01:21:01,940
Again, I can't imagine
what that's like.

1966
01:21:01,940 --> 01:21:04,610
I can't imagine what that

was like for a young boy.

1967

01:21:04,610 --> 01:21:06,596

No, it's tough.

1968

01:21:06,596 --> 01:21:07,096

Yeah.

1969

01:21:07,096 --> 01:21:11,260

1970

01:21:11,260 --> 01:21:13,840

When was the time-- do
you remember now then

1971

01:21:13,840 --> 01:21:17,080

when the last time was that
you saw him still alive?

1972

01:21:17,080 --> 01:21:19,120

Did you ever see him
in the infirmary?

1973

01:21:19,120 --> 01:21:22,250

Were you allowed to
go to visit him there?

1974

01:21:22,250 --> 01:21:24,040

In the infirmary,
I don't believe--

1975

01:21:24,040 --> 01:21:26,020

I don't remember being
in the infirmary.

1976

01:21:26,020 --> 01:21:28,600

I'm not saying I wasn't,
but I don't remember it.

1977

01:21:28,600 --> 01:21:30,990

But I do remember visiting
him in the barracks.

1978

01:21:30,990 --> 01:21:34,530

1979

01:21:34,530 --> 01:21:37,060

Which wouldn't be
very long because, A,

1980

01:21:37,060 --> 01:21:38,380

he worked these long hours.

1981

01:21:38,380 --> 01:21:44,230

And B, I think there was curfew
starting at 7:00 or maybe 8:00.

1982

01:21:44,230 --> 01:21:46,240

Were these wooden barracks?

1983

01:21:46,240 --> 01:21:48,700

Were these--

1984

01:21:48,700 --> 01:21:51,220

No, some of them
they had to add.

1985

01:21:51,220 --> 01:21:53,500

Because originally,
there was only room

1986

01:21:53,500 --> 01:21:55,700

for about 6,000 people.

1987

01:21:55,700 --> 01:21:57,820

And we were 60,000-plus.

1988

01:21:57,820 --> 01:22:02,980

So they had to build temporary
huts, I believe they're called.

1989

01:22:02,980 --> 01:22:04,110

And they were wooden huts.

1990

01:22:04,110 --> 01:22:06,610
And that's where you were with
your mother, or where he was?

1991
01:22:06,610 --> 01:22:08,080
No, no, no.

1992
01:22:08,080 --> 01:22:09,430
We were in a barrack.

1993
01:22:09,430 --> 01:22:15,460

1994
01:22:15,460 --> 01:22:22,270
So within six months of
having come to Terezin,

1995
01:22:22,270 --> 01:22:24,112
your father's gone.

1996
01:22:24,112 --> 01:22:25,880
Yes.

1997
01:22:25,880 --> 01:22:31,360
That would have
been about mid 1944?

1998
01:22:31,360 --> 01:22:34,500
It was March the 13th.

1999
01:22:34,500 --> 01:22:36,150
March the 13th.

2000
01:22:36,150 --> 01:22:37,830
Even less time.

2001
01:22:37,830 --> 01:22:38,535
Even less time.

2002
01:22:38,535 --> 01:22:39,035
Yes.

2003

01:22:39,035 --> 01:22:39,980

Very soon.

2004

01:22:39,980 --> 01:22:42,180

And he would have been
working in the winter months.

2005

01:22:42,180 --> 01:22:42,680

Yes.

2006

01:22:42,680 --> 01:22:47,570

2007

01:22:47,570 --> 01:22:54,830

There were 51 Danish Jews
that died in camp, 41 of them

2008

01:22:54,830 --> 01:22:56,160

within the first six months.

2009

01:22:56,160 --> 01:23:06,160

2010

01:23:06,160 --> 01:23:08,020

This you learned later?

2011

01:23:08,020 --> 01:23:09,550

Yes.

2012

01:23:09,550 --> 01:23:13,040

A lot of it I learned later on.

2013

01:23:13,040 --> 01:23:14,540

I mean, I've done
a lot of research.

2014

01:23:14,540 --> 01:23:16,300

So I want to know--

2015

01:23:16,300 --> 01:23:20,010

I mean, there was a time

when my mother and I hardly

2016

01:23:20,010 --> 01:23:23,660

spoke about it, which
is very typical.

2017

01:23:23,660 --> 01:23:27,650

And now I cannot read enough,
or I cannot talk enough.

2018

01:23:27,650 --> 01:23:30,571

Because it's changed completely.

2019

01:23:30,571 --> 01:23:33,940

2020

01:23:33,940 --> 01:23:39,110

What happened to
yourself and your mother

2021

01:23:39,110 --> 01:23:42,560

after that, after
you saw your father?

2022

01:23:42,560 --> 01:23:45,260

Excuse me, I'm going
to back up a bit.

2023

01:23:45,260 --> 01:23:49,790

Was there any possibility
of burying your father?

2024

01:23:49,790 --> 01:23:51,020

Was there any funeral?

2025

01:23:51,020 --> 01:23:52,790

Was there any cemetery?

2026

01:23:52,790 --> 01:23:54,800

Was there-- do you
know what happened?

2027

01:23:54,800 --> 01:24:01,530

At that time, they had
built a crematorium, not as

2028

01:24:01,530 --> 01:24:05,430

a gas chamber, but to
cremate all the bodies.

2029

01:24:05,430 --> 01:24:09,390

Because they ran out of
space in burying the bodies.

2030

01:24:09,390 --> 01:24:16,230

So he was cremated and put
in a paper cardboard box.

2031

01:24:16,230 --> 01:24:18,540

Were you able to keep that box?

2032

01:24:18,540 --> 01:24:21,030

No.

2033

01:24:21,030 --> 01:24:25,630

We-- it's very strange.

2034

01:24:25,630 --> 01:24:31,070

The kids were ordered
to form a human chain

2035

01:24:31,070 --> 01:24:34,990

later on from the
crematorium to a river.

2036

01:24:34,990 --> 01:24:37,660

2037

01:24:37,660 --> 01:24:44,872

And apparently close to
25,000 cardboard boxes

2038

01:24:44,872 --> 01:24:47,990

were handed from one
person to the other

2039
01:24:47,990 --> 01:24:52,040
and eventually thrown
into the river.

2040
01:24:52,040 --> 01:24:54,500
And we're all kids doing that.

2041
01:24:54,500 --> 01:24:57,800
And they all had a
name and number on it.

2042
01:24:57,800 --> 01:25:00,110
And there was a boy--

2043
01:25:00,110 --> 01:25:03,930
and I learned that later on--
three years older than me.

2044
01:25:03,930 --> 01:25:07,670
He knew that my father's
name could suddenly show up,

2045
01:25:07,670 --> 01:25:10,100
or his number.

2046
01:25:10,100 --> 01:25:15,410
So he turned the box
before it got to me.

2047
01:25:15,410 --> 01:25:18,200
Which I happened
to read about it.

2048
01:25:18,200 --> 01:25:20,360
Somebody sent me
Swedish newspaper.

2049
01:25:20,360 --> 01:25:21,860
That's how I heard about it.

2050
01:25:21,860 --> 01:25:23,300

So you were on that line?

2051

01:25:23,300 --> 01:25:25,740

Yeah, I was on that line.

2052

01:25:25,740 --> 01:25:28,650

And were you thinking to
yourself, my father's box

2053

01:25:28,650 --> 01:25:29,880

is going to come by?

2054

01:25:29,880 --> 01:25:31,500

I'm going to be handling it?

2055

01:25:31,500 --> 01:25:34,510

I don't know exactly
what my thoughts were.

2056

01:25:34,510 --> 01:25:36,910

Of course, it was just awful.

2057

01:25:36,910 --> 01:25:40,380

I mean, to have children
do that, it's just awful,

2058

01:25:40,380 --> 01:25:42,870

when you think about it.

2059

01:25:42,870 --> 01:25:43,810

Have adults do it.

2060

01:25:43,810 --> 01:25:47,570

They shouldn't have
children do it.

2061

01:25:47,570 --> 01:25:48,950

Because it is their parents.

2062

01:25:48,950 --> 01:25:49,730

Yeah.

2063

01:25:49,730 --> 01:25:51,300

For them, it is their--

2064

01:25:51,300 --> 01:25:52,190

Yeah.

2065

01:25:52,190 --> 01:25:57,140

So this is a person who knew
you, knew your father's name,

2066

01:25:57,140 --> 01:25:59,730

and turned the box around
so you wouldn't see it.

2067

01:25:59,730 --> 01:26:01,430

Yeah.

2068

01:26:01,430 --> 01:26:05,360

Did you ever make
contact with the person

2069

01:26:05,360 --> 01:26:09,260

who saw your father
on the road working

2070

01:26:09,260 --> 01:26:11,620

and who helped him work
through the woman who

2071

01:26:11,620 --> 01:26:13,280

is doing this research?

2072

01:26:13,280 --> 01:26:17,540

No, I didn't.

2073

01:26:17,540 --> 01:26:19,580

And I really wish I had.

2074

01:26:19,580 --> 01:26:22,460

I don't think he lives anymore.

2075

01:26:22,460 --> 01:26:24,080
I don't think he's
alive anymore.

2076
01:26:24,080 --> 01:26:31,380
But I don't know why I
didn't make contact with him

2077
01:26:31,380 --> 01:26:37,260
as soon as I heard about it.

2078
01:26:37,260 --> 01:26:38,410
It's a good question.

2079
01:26:38,410 --> 01:26:39,940
I don't know why I didn't.

2080
01:26:39,940 --> 01:26:41,020
Well--

2081
01:26:41,020 --> 01:26:42,520
Maybe I didn't want
to hear anymore.

2082
01:26:42,520 --> 01:26:42,870
I don't--

2083
01:26:42,870 --> 01:26:43,320
Maybe.

2084
01:26:43,320 --> 01:26:43,820
Yeah.

2085
01:26:43,820 --> 01:26:44,370
Maybe.

2086
01:26:44,370 --> 01:26:47,240
Subconsciously,
I'd heard enough.

2087
01:26:47,240 --> 01:26:48,960
But I'm glad I heard about it.

2088
01:26:48,960 --> 01:26:51,600
Because it certainly
confirms what

2089
01:26:51,600 --> 01:26:56,400
you hear from other people
the way the Jews were treated.

2090
01:26:56,400 --> 01:26:58,890
So it's not a surprise.

2091
01:26:58,890 --> 01:27:03,330
No, but the sort of precious
few sentences that a person can

2092
01:27:03,330 --> 01:27:08,600
learn about someone who
was their loved one, it's--

2093
01:27:08,600 --> 01:27:11,410

2094
01:27:11,410 --> 01:27:13,720
and sometimes it's all
somebody has to go on.

2095
01:27:13,720 --> 01:27:15,680
Sometimes they don't
even have that.

2096
01:27:15,680 --> 01:27:18,420
That's right.

2097
01:27:18,420 --> 01:27:23,140
So how did life continue for
you and your mother at the camp?

2098
01:27:23,140 --> 01:27:25,780
My mother worked.

2099
01:27:25,780 --> 01:27:27,450

There was one job she had.

2100

01:27:27,450 --> 01:27:31,900

Another job was she
was cleaning floors.

2101

01:27:31,900 --> 01:27:36,410

And you can imagine
that the Nazis didn't

2102

01:27:36,410 --> 01:27:40,950

mark my father's death
certificate dying

2103

01:27:40,950 --> 01:27:42,260

of starvation or hunger.

2104

01:27:42,260 --> 01:27:45,480

They put on pneumonia.

2105

01:27:45,480 --> 01:27:49,630

My mother was working
in the factory.

2106

01:27:49,630 --> 01:27:55,330

One day, and officer came in and
asked her how she was feeling.

2107

01:27:55,330 --> 01:27:56,710

She said, not very well.

2108

01:27:56,710 --> 01:27:59,320

I lost my husband a
couple of weeks ago.

2109

01:27:59,320 --> 01:28:01,230

How did you lose your husband?

2110

01:28:01,230 --> 01:28:04,390

And she said, he died
of hunger or starvation,

2111

01:28:04,390 --> 01:28:06,410
whatever she said.

2112
01:28:06,410 --> 01:28:08,060
He left.

2113
01:28:08,060 --> 01:28:12,988
And the women on the floor all
went around my mother and said,

2114
01:28:12,988 --> 01:28:14,030
you could have been shot.

2115
01:28:14,030 --> 01:28:16,570

2116
01:28:16,570 --> 01:28:18,760
This could have been
serious for you.

2117
01:28:18,760 --> 01:28:21,680
She said, that was the truth.

2118
01:28:21,680 --> 01:28:26,050
So the next seven days, the
same officer came around.

2119
01:28:26,050 --> 01:28:27,400
And he asked the same question.

2120
01:28:27,400 --> 01:28:30,940
Now my mother had
to say, pneumonia.

2121
01:28:30,940 --> 01:28:34,210
And it's so hard
for me to understand

2122
01:28:34,210 --> 01:28:38,300
how anybody can be so cruel.

2123
01:28:38,300 --> 01:28:41,020

But they're really
trying to set an example,

2124
01:28:41,020 --> 01:28:47,020
dehumanize us, and take
all our dignity away.

2125
01:28:47,020 --> 01:28:51,340
And they did that in
many different ways.

2126
01:28:51,340 --> 01:28:54,400
Were you ever part
or experienced

2127
01:28:54,400 --> 01:28:59,290
any part of the Red Cross
visit to Terezin where they

2128
01:28:59,290 --> 01:29:03,190
were shown a model camp with--

2129
01:29:03,190 --> 01:29:04,660
did you experience that at all?

2130
01:29:04,660 --> 01:29:05,680
Yes.

2131
01:29:05,680 --> 01:29:06,570
How did that happen?

2132
01:29:06,570 --> 01:29:10,200
There's things I can remember.

2133
01:29:10,200 --> 01:29:11,980
There's things I
cannot remember,

2134
01:29:11,980 --> 01:29:14,950
but I can tell you about,
because I know quite a bit

2135

01:29:14,950 --> 01:29:16,900
about it.

2136
01:29:16,900 --> 01:29:20,530
The Danish administration
wanted to see

2137
01:29:20,530 --> 01:29:21,960
how the Danes were treated.

2138
01:29:21,960 --> 01:29:25,520

2139
01:29:25,520 --> 01:29:28,850
At first, Nazi didn't
want to have them visited.

2140
01:29:28,850 --> 01:29:33,140
But then they thought, we can
use this to our advantage.

2141
01:29:33,140 --> 01:29:37,106
The propaganda
machine went to work.

2142
01:29:37,106 --> 01:29:39,290
They beautified the town.

2143
01:29:39,290 --> 01:29:40,520
You saw this?

2144
01:29:40,520 --> 01:29:42,170
Some of it I saw.

2145
01:29:42,170 --> 01:29:43,970
Some of it I can remember.

2146
01:29:43,970 --> 01:29:45,780
Some of it I heard later.

2147
01:29:45,780 --> 01:29:46,760
So it's a--

2148
01:29:46,760 --> 01:29:47,760
It's a mix of all of it.

2149
01:29:47,760 --> 01:29:49,010
Yeah.

2150
01:29:49,010 --> 01:29:51,830
The buildings were
certainly-- they were washed.

2151
01:29:51,830 --> 01:29:54,180
They were painted.

2152
01:29:54,180 --> 01:29:56,430
They didn't look like a camp.

2153
01:29:56,430 --> 01:29:59,160
They had a music pavilion.

2154
01:29:59,160 --> 01:30:01,580
Had nice benches.

2155
01:30:01,580 --> 01:30:06,660
They had fake store fronts
with clothes in the stores.

2156
01:30:06,660 --> 01:30:08,060
They had a cafe.

2157
01:30:08,060 --> 01:30:09,940
They had a bank.

2158
01:30:09,940 --> 01:30:14,150
In the back, they had
nice looking new sinks.

2159
01:30:14,150 --> 01:30:17,170
The problem was, if you
turned the sinks on,

2160

01:30:17,170 --> 01:30:19,465
nothing happened, because
there was no plumbing.

2161
01:30:19,465 --> 01:30:22,450

2162
01:30:22,450 --> 01:30:25,120
They transported some
young French children

2163
01:30:25,120 --> 01:30:29,440
who looked healthy and
who had nice clothes.

2164
01:30:29,440 --> 01:30:31,300
They were playing.

2165
01:30:31,300 --> 01:30:33,590
The visit was
delayed three times,

2166
01:30:33,590 --> 01:30:36,530
because they wanted to make
sure that they were ready.

2167
01:30:36,530 --> 01:30:39,640

2168
01:30:39,640 --> 01:30:43,300
There was some music at
Wunderbar played there.

2169
01:30:43,300 --> 01:30:45,610
Children were playing.

2170
01:30:45,610 --> 01:30:49,330
We had been told not to
talk to the delegation.

2171
01:30:49,330 --> 01:30:52,210
It was a delegation of
two people from Denmark,

2172
01:30:52,210 --> 01:30:54,810
one representing the Red Cross.

2173
01:30:54,810 --> 01:30:58,050
Then there was a doctor
from Switzerland.

2174
01:30:58,050 --> 01:31:02,720
And then I believe there were
a couple of Germans there also.

2175
01:31:02,720 --> 01:31:05,830
And they were from
the Red Cross.

2176
01:31:05,830 --> 01:31:09,370
I believe they spent four
to six hours in camp.

2177
01:31:09,370 --> 01:31:12,580
Had a Gestapo officer
with them the whole time.

2178
01:31:12,580 --> 01:31:15,780
They had to walk a certain way.

2179
01:31:15,780 --> 01:31:17,380
Had a nice lunch there also.

2180
01:31:17,380 --> 01:31:21,540
But there was a certain
path they had to take,

2181
01:31:21,540 --> 01:31:25,390
so they didn't see the
bad things in camp.

2182
01:31:25,390 --> 01:31:30,550
We had been transferred
from our loft

2183

01:31:30,550 --> 01:31:36,850
to smaller but nicer
apartments with more space.

2184
01:31:36,850 --> 01:31:40,540
As soon as they left, we
were moved back to the loft.

2185
01:31:40,540 --> 01:31:43,090
Did you get anything to
eat during these four, six

2186
01:31:43,090 --> 01:31:46,450
hours that was better
than what you normally--

2187
01:31:46,450 --> 01:31:48,298
If we did, I can't--

2188
01:31:48,298 --> 01:31:49,090
You don't remember.

2189
01:31:49,090 --> 01:31:49,690
Yeah.

2190
01:31:49,690 --> 01:31:50,680
But you were there.

2191
01:31:50,680 --> 01:31:52,960
It wasn't that you
were behind the scenes.

2192
01:31:52,960 --> 01:31:54,260
You actually were there--

2193
01:31:54,260 --> 01:31:59,043
I will say my mother
was not there.

2194
01:31:59,043 --> 01:32:00,460
And there were
certain people they

2195

01:32:00,460 --> 01:32:04,980
were afraid would talk to
the delegation and tell them

2196

01:32:04,980 --> 01:32:06,420
what was going on.

2197

01:32:06,420 --> 01:32:08,100
And I guess my mother
was one of them,

2198

01:32:08,100 --> 01:32:10,200
because she had said
he died of starvation.

2199

01:32:10,200 --> 01:32:11,450
Because she's tenacious, yeah.

2200

01:32:11,450 --> 01:32:12,820
[LAUGHTER]

2201

01:32:12,820 --> 01:32:19,890
And so she was escorted with
some other people way, way out.

2202

01:32:19,890 --> 01:32:20,810
And it's amazing.

2203

01:32:20,810 --> 01:32:23,035
I got a book.

2204

01:32:23,035 --> 01:32:23,660
It's in Danish.

2205

01:32:23,660 --> 01:32:27,930
The chief rabbi, who was
also in camp, wrote the book.

2206

01:32:27,930 --> 01:32:30,310
And he mentions that example.

2207

01:32:30,310 --> 01:32:34,020
And he writes my mother's
name in the margin.

2208
01:32:34,020 --> 01:32:34,925
Oh my goodness.

2209
01:32:34,925 --> 01:32:39,420
Which, when I got the book,
I couldn't believe it.

2210
01:32:39,420 --> 01:32:40,450
Oh my goodness.

2211
01:32:40,450 --> 01:32:42,370
Yes.

2212
01:32:42,370 --> 01:32:44,440
So you see this.

2213
01:32:44,440 --> 01:32:50,020
And you're at that point 11
years old, something like that?

2214
01:32:50,020 --> 01:32:51,220
Almost 10.

2215
01:32:51,220 --> 01:32:52,870
Almost 10.

2216
01:32:52,870 --> 01:32:53,980
Almost 10.

2217
01:32:53,980 --> 01:32:55,600
That's right, excuse me.

2218
01:32:55,600 --> 01:32:56,945
I mixed up the dates.

2219
01:32:56,945 --> 01:32:57,820
Don't get me too old.

2220
01:32:57,820 --> 01:32:58,060
Yeah.

2221
01:32:58,060 --> 01:32:58,750
[LAUGHTER]

2222
01:32:58,750 --> 01:33:00,250
I mixed it up.

2223
01:33:00,250 --> 01:33:03,000
Wow.

2224
01:33:03,000 --> 01:33:05,160
Are there other
instances that stick

2225
01:33:05,160 --> 01:33:10,360
in your mind of unusual
things that happened?

2226
01:33:10,360 --> 01:33:12,000
Yeah, there are a couple.

2227
01:33:12,000 --> 01:33:14,460
And I think both of them
I have from my mother.

2228
01:33:14,460 --> 01:33:19,440
But I think they're
a good example.

2229
01:33:19,440 --> 01:33:23,120
I was growing, and I
had outgrown my shoes.

2230
01:33:23,120 --> 01:33:25,100
And my mother needed some shoes.

2231
01:33:25,100 --> 01:33:27,980
So she bartered
with a Czech lady.

2232

01:33:27,980 --> 01:33:31,330

And the Czech lady
got some Danish food.

2233

01:33:31,330 --> 01:33:36,700

And my mother got
used shoes for me.

2234

01:33:36,700 --> 01:33:38,530

Did we talk about food at all?

2235

01:33:38,530 --> 01:33:39,670

No.

2236

01:33:39,670 --> 01:33:43,300

You said-- only when I asked
about being a messenger

2237

01:33:43,300 --> 01:33:44,550

did you get any extra rations.

2238

01:33:44,550 --> 01:33:45,700

Yeah, that's right.

2239

01:33:45,700 --> 01:33:47,770

I should tell you a
little bit about food.

2240

01:33:47,770 --> 01:33:48,347

Do tell us.

2241

01:33:48,347 --> 01:33:49,940

It doesn't take long.

2242

01:33:49,940 --> 01:33:54,560

We got some substitute coffee,
ersatz coffee for breakfast,

2243

01:33:54,560 --> 01:33:57,120

with some bread.

2244

01:33:57,120 --> 01:34:00,000
And then at lunch we
would stand in line.

2245
01:34:00,000 --> 01:34:01,710
And we would get soup.

2246
01:34:01,710 --> 01:34:05,490
Most days it was
called potato soup.

2247
01:34:05,490 --> 01:34:08,590
It was really boiled
water with potato peel.

2248
01:34:08,590 --> 01:34:12,030
And maybe they got the
meat of the potato.

2249
01:34:12,030 --> 01:34:13,800
And then we got
that at dinner also.

2250
01:34:13,800 --> 01:34:17,812
And then we would
sometimes get a pasta.

2251
01:34:17,812 --> 01:34:19,270
Some sort of little
pasta in there.

2252
01:34:19,270 --> 01:34:21,920
Yeah, pasta.

2253
01:34:21,920 --> 01:34:24,200
Dumplings, dumplings.

2254
01:34:24,200 --> 01:34:25,490
Typical German dish.

2255
01:34:25,490 --> 01:34:28,040

2256

01:34:28,040 --> 01:34:32,240

But we were very lucky.

2257

01:34:32,240 --> 01:34:35,870

After six months, we
started getting packages

2258

01:34:35,870 --> 01:34:37,400

from Denmark and Sweden.

2259

01:34:37,400 --> 01:34:39,330

That's what I was
going to ask, yeah.

2260

01:34:39,330 --> 01:34:44,040

And much of the
literature will tell you

2261

01:34:44,040 --> 01:34:46,340

it was only the Danes
that got packages.

2262

01:34:46,340 --> 01:34:49,250

That's not true.

2263

01:34:49,250 --> 01:34:53,400

All nationalities were
able to get packages.

2264

01:34:53,400 --> 01:34:55,730

We probably got more
than anybody else

2265

01:34:55,730 --> 01:34:59,908

because there was probably
more support behind--

2266

01:34:59,908 --> 01:35:00,450

That's right.

2267

01:35:00,450 --> 01:35:02,420

--behind us.

2268
01:35:02,420 --> 01:35:06,440
And even though the
food was rationed.

2269
01:35:06,440 --> 01:35:08,210
So we started getting packages.

2270
01:35:08,210 --> 01:35:11,900
Unfortunately, too
late to save my father.

2271
01:35:11,900 --> 01:35:15,005
When you read literature,
and most of it is in Danish,

2272
01:35:15,005 --> 01:35:23,360
the historians always tell
you that Danes got packages.

2273
01:35:23,360 --> 01:35:27,650
But they never tell you that it
wasn't until six months later.

2274
01:35:27,650 --> 01:35:31,280
And this is why I mentioned
earlier 41 of the 51 deaths

2275
01:35:31,280 --> 01:35:34,210
were in the first six
months, obviously,

2276
01:35:34,210 --> 01:35:36,660
before we got packages.

2277
01:35:36,660 --> 01:35:39,550
There's even one
Danish historian

2278
01:35:39,550 --> 01:35:42,530
who I had some email
exchanges with--

2279

01:35:42,530 --> 01:35:45,260

I'm also tenacious
like my mother.

2280

01:35:45,260 --> 01:35:49,690

And he wrote a book
and said in his book

2281

01:35:49,690 --> 01:35:53,750

that there wasn't a single
Dane that died in Terezin

2282

01:35:53,750 --> 01:35:56,450

from starvation or hunger.

2283

01:35:56,450 --> 01:35:58,400

They died from the hardship.

2284

01:35:58,400 --> 01:36:00,590

Most of them were old people.

2285

01:36:00,590 --> 01:36:03,230

And they just
couldn't handle it.

2286

01:36:03,230 --> 01:36:04,673

So that I had a big problem--

2287

01:36:04,673 --> 01:36:05,340

Yeah, of course.

2288

01:36:05,340 --> 01:36:07,220

--a big problem with.

2289

01:36:07,220 --> 01:36:09,460

And I'm not the only one.

2290

01:36:09,460 --> 01:36:12,950

But we were fortunate
to get all the packages.

2291

01:36:12,950 --> 01:36:15,650

By the way, how old was
your father when he died?

2292

01:36:15,650 --> 01:36:17,610

He was 40 years young.

2293

01:36:17,610 --> 01:36:18,700

He was 40 years.

2294

01:36:18,700 --> 01:36:19,360

Yeah.

2295

01:36:19,360 --> 01:36:21,130

And I always say,
40 years young.

2296

01:36:21,130 --> 01:36:23,640

2297

01:36:23,640 --> 01:36:24,750

A young man in his prime.

2298

01:36:24,750 --> 01:36:34,170

He was 40 years old
in October 11, 1943.

2299

01:36:34,170 --> 01:36:34,800

Just turned 40.

2300

01:36:34,800 --> 01:36:36,630

And we talked about
round birthdays.

2301

01:36:36,630 --> 01:36:40,140

Normally, he would have
had a birthday party.

2302

01:36:40,140 --> 01:36:44,850

But obviously, he
didn't have that.

2303

01:36:44,850 --> 01:36:49,020
But those cruel guards, they
took some of the food packages.

2304
01:36:49,020 --> 01:36:52,430
One that was
addressed to my mother

2305
01:36:52,430 --> 01:36:55,200
was very heavy when
she opened it up.

2306
01:36:55,200 --> 01:36:57,860
And she couldn't understand
why it was so heavy.

2307
01:36:57,860 --> 01:37:03,320
And normally, the packages had
food, vitamins, and clothing.

2308
01:37:03,320 --> 01:37:04,730
And she couldn't find any of it.

2309
01:37:04,730 --> 01:37:06,110
It was stones.

2310
01:37:06,110 --> 01:37:07,330
Stones.

2311
01:37:07,330 --> 01:37:11,120
Those guards had
replaced it with stones.

2312
01:37:11,120 --> 01:37:14,210
And I always get very
upset when I talk about it,

2313
01:37:14,210 --> 01:37:17,550
because just keep the package.

2314
01:37:17,550 --> 01:37:19,590
Don't put stones in instead.

2315

01:37:19,590 --> 01:37:20,850

That's even worse.

2316

01:37:20,850 --> 01:37:21,780

Yeah.

2317

01:37:21,780 --> 01:37:23,815

It's ridiculing the person.

2318

01:37:23,815 --> 01:37:25,570

Yes.

2319

01:37:25,570 --> 01:37:31,320

So people got packages
addressed to them individually.

2320

01:37:31,320 --> 01:37:33,870

I have even through the
help of somebody else

2321

01:37:33,870 --> 01:37:36,360

found out who sent
those packages.

2322

01:37:36,360 --> 01:37:37,145

Did you?

2323

01:37:37,145 --> 01:37:38,600

Yeah, which is amazing.

2324

01:37:38,600 --> 01:37:40,790

Well, who was it?

2325

01:37:40,790 --> 01:37:41,960

It was friends.

2326

01:37:41,960 --> 01:37:43,810

It was family.

2327

01:37:43,810 --> 01:37:50,710

My aunt in Copenhagen,

my grandmother's sister,

2328

01:37:50,710 --> 01:37:53,120
lived in a nice apartment.

2329

01:37:53,120 --> 01:37:54,700
And she was single all her life.

2330

01:37:54,700 --> 01:37:56,140
She had a housekeeper.

2331

01:37:56,140 --> 01:37:57,550
This is the one with the hats?

2332

01:37:57,550 --> 01:37:59,790
Yes.

2333

01:37:59,790 --> 01:38:01,870
She just mentioned the hats.

2334

01:38:01,870 --> 01:38:04,330
And she had a
Christian housekeeper.

2335

01:38:04,330 --> 01:38:06,090
And she sent us packages.

2336

01:38:06,090 --> 01:38:11,560
And she maintained the
apartment while she was gone.

2337

01:38:11,560 --> 01:38:13,380
What was your
grandmother's name--

2338

01:38:13,380 --> 01:38:17,380
your grand aunt's name, the
one who had the hat business?

2339

01:38:17,380 --> 01:38:21,060
Gerda, G-E-R-D-A, Michelson.

2340

01:38:21,060 --> 01:38:22,220

Gerda Michelson.

2341

01:38:22,220 --> 01:38:22,720

Yes.

2342

01:38:22,720 --> 01:38:23,470

OK.

2343

01:38:23,470 --> 01:38:25,720

And do you remember the
name of her housekeeper?

2344

01:38:25,720 --> 01:38:26,440

Oh, yes.

2345

01:38:26,440 --> 01:38:27,260

What was that?

2346

01:38:27,260 --> 01:38:35,490

Alla, A-L-L-A, Hoegdahl,
H-O-E-G-D-A-H-L.

2347

01:38:35,490 --> 01:38:36,180

Thank you.

2348

01:38:36,180 --> 01:38:36,680

Thank you.

2349

01:38:36,680 --> 01:38:37,480

Oh, yeah.

2350

01:38:37,480 --> 01:38:38,780

I remember.

2351

01:38:38,780 --> 01:38:42,600

She and I were friends.

2352

01:38:42,600 --> 01:38:46,590

And I treated her as a
member of the family, which

2353
01:38:46,590 --> 01:38:49,320
everybody didn't do.

2354
01:38:49,320 --> 01:38:51,140
And I loved food.

2355
01:38:51,140 --> 01:38:53,580
And I would go down to
her when I was hungry.

2356
01:38:53,580 --> 01:38:56,250
[LAUGHS] And she
would always help me.

2357
01:38:56,250 --> 01:38:58,230
And she would end up
sending you packages.

2358
01:38:58,230 --> 01:38:59,580
And she sent us packages.

2359
01:38:59,580 --> 01:39:03,170
And then after the war, I would
go down-- she was at the end--

2360
01:39:03,170 --> 01:39:06,705
and get food there.

2361
01:39:06,705 --> 01:39:07,205
So the--

2362
01:39:07,205 --> 01:39:08,038
And I would borrow--

2363
01:39:08,038 --> 01:39:10,140
I would go out to the
cemetery, because they

2364
01:39:10,140 --> 01:39:15,070
have a plaque for all
the Danish Jews that

2365
01:39:15,070 --> 01:39:17,090
died in Theresienstadt.

2366
01:39:17,090 --> 01:39:18,730
And my father's name is on.

2367
01:39:18,730 --> 01:39:22,510
And I would go out there quite
often when I was in Copenhagen.

2368
01:39:22,510 --> 01:39:24,490
And I would borrow her bicycle.

2369
01:39:24,490 --> 01:39:26,110
And of course, I
didn't own a hat,

2370
01:39:26,110 --> 01:39:28,110
but I had to wear-- so
I'd borrow a hat of hers.

2371
01:39:28,110 --> 01:39:32,220
[LAUGHS]

2372
01:39:32,220 --> 01:39:35,420
I still have that image of
the line of children that you

2373
01:39:35,420 --> 01:39:36,875
told me about, and those boxes.

2374
01:39:36,875 --> 01:39:38,120
Yes.

2375
01:39:38,120 --> 01:39:40,760
What did they look
like, those boxes?

2376
01:39:40,760 --> 01:39:42,130
Cardboard.

2377

01:39:42,130 --> 01:39:42,630

What color?

2378

01:39:42,630 --> 01:39:45,050

They were square.

2379

01:39:45,050 --> 01:39:45,620

OK.

2380

01:39:45,620 --> 01:39:46,470

About how big?

2381

01:39:46,470 --> 01:39:46,970

If you--

2382

01:39:46,970 --> 01:39:47,900

About that.

2383

01:39:47,900 --> 01:39:48,860

OK.

2384

01:39:48,860 --> 01:39:51,140

What color was the cardboard?

2385

01:39:51,140 --> 01:39:53,330

Neutral color.

2386

01:39:53,330 --> 01:39:55,070

Brownish, maybe?

2387

01:39:55,070 --> 01:39:56,733

Or gray?

2388

01:39:56,733 --> 01:39:57,400

If you remember.

2389

01:39:57,400 --> 01:40:00,470

2390

01:40:00,470 --> 01:40:02,450

More brownish than gray.

2391

01:40:02,450 --> 01:40:03,920

Did they have the top?

2392

01:40:03,920 --> 01:40:04,800

Did they have a top?

2393

01:40:04,800 --> 01:40:04,940

Or were they--

2394

01:40:04,940 --> 01:40:05,780

Yeah, there was a top.

2395

01:40:05,780 --> 01:40:06,170

Oh, yeah.

2396

01:40:06,170 --> 01:40:06,890

There was a top on it.

2397

01:40:06,890 --> 01:40:09,080

So you could take the top
off and look at the ashes

2398

01:40:09,080 --> 01:40:10,080

inside if you wanted to.

2399

01:40:10,080 --> 01:40:10,940

Yeah, yeah.

2400

01:40:10,940 --> 01:40:14,200

But you didn't have time,
because you had to pass it.

2401

01:40:14,200 --> 01:40:16,819

Were they heavy?

2402

01:40:16,819 --> 01:40:17,861

They were not very heavy.

2403

01:40:17,861 --> 01:40:20,690

2404

01:40:20,690 --> 01:40:22,980

I mean, I didn't
know there were 20--

2405

01:40:22,980 --> 01:40:25,880

that there were-- oh,
did this fall off again?

2406

01:40:25,880 --> 01:40:27,800

OK, let's cut.

2407

01:40:27,800 --> 01:40:29,420

I'm sorry.

2408

01:40:29,420 --> 01:40:37,380

So one question I wanted to
ask, when you were in Terezin,

2409

01:40:37,380 --> 01:40:41,400

did you meet people who
were from all over Europe?

2410

01:40:41,400 --> 01:40:45,420

Or did you kind of stick with
those who were from Denmark?

2411

01:40:45,420 --> 01:40:50,460

How was the interaction
between the prisoners?

2412

01:40:50,460 --> 01:40:55,500

I would actually play
more with Czech children

2413

01:40:55,500 --> 01:40:58,530

than with Danish children.

2414

01:40:58,530 --> 01:40:59,970

How did that come about?

2415

01:40:59,970 --> 01:41:03,420
I don't know how it started.

2416
01:41:03,420 --> 01:41:08,320
Number one, there were more
inmates from Czechoslovakia

2417
01:41:08,320 --> 01:41:10,160
than from any other country.

2418
01:41:10,160 --> 01:41:11,620
So that might have
had something.

2419
01:41:11,620 --> 01:41:13,630
The odds were that you
would meet some Czech--

2420
01:41:13,630 --> 01:41:15,730
and we would play.

2421
01:41:15,730 --> 01:41:18,030
But we also played soccer.

2422
01:41:18,030 --> 01:41:21,410
And we found a gravel
field where we could play.

2423
01:41:21,410 --> 01:41:24,440
And we didn't have
a real soccer ball.

2424
01:41:24,440 --> 01:41:26,650
It shouldn't be a surprise
they didn't give us that.

2425
01:41:26,650 --> 01:41:27,440
Of course.

2426
01:41:27,440 --> 01:41:30,590
But the mothers put
together rags, clothing,

2427

01:41:30,590 --> 01:41:32,040
tied them together.

2428

01:41:32,040 --> 01:41:34,330
And we would kick it around.

2429

01:41:34,330 --> 01:41:37,840
And I actually learned to
speak the Czech language

2430

01:41:37,840 --> 01:41:39,190
while I was there.

2431

01:41:39,190 --> 01:41:40,540
I would think, you know.

2432

01:41:40,540 --> 01:41:42,550
Phonetically, I learned it.

2433

01:41:42,550 --> 01:41:46,750
And I told my mother I could
speak the Czech language.

2434

01:41:46,750 --> 01:41:48,910
And she didn't believe me.

2435

01:41:48,910 --> 01:41:51,340
So I was tested by a Czech lady.

2436

01:41:51,340 --> 01:41:53,680
And I passed the test,
[LAUGHTER] which I think

2437

01:41:53,680 --> 01:41:55,330
is quite funny.

2438

01:41:55,330 --> 01:41:57,970
I wish I could remember
some of it later on.

2439

01:41:57,970 --> 01:42:02,350

But you know, you forget
it as fast as you learn it.

2440
01:42:02,350 --> 01:42:08,870
So that I remember
quite clearly.

2441
01:42:08,870 --> 01:42:14,630
I also remember one time these
children, boys, didn't show up

2442
01:42:14,630 --> 01:42:17,460
to play soccer.

2443
01:42:17,460 --> 01:42:20,880
And I went back to the barrack
and told my mother about it

2444
01:42:20,880 --> 01:42:23,050
when she got back.

2445
01:42:23,050 --> 01:42:24,850
And she said, don't
worry about it.

2446
01:42:24,850 --> 01:42:27,680
They were probably just ill,
or they couldn't make it.

2447
01:42:27,680 --> 01:42:30,450
They'll be back in a few days.

2448
01:42:30,450 --> 01:42:33,020
What probably happened
to those boys--

2449
01:42:33,020 --> 01:42:34,800
and my mother never
shared that with me,

2450
01:42:34,800 --> 01:42:39,500
because she was shielding her
9-year-old boy at that time--

2451
01:42:39,500 --> 01:42:42,940
they were deported to
an extermination camp.

2452
01:42:42,940 --> 01:42:46,290
And later on I
found out there were

2453
01:42:46,290 --> 01:42:55,340
90,000 inmates out of 140,000
that passed through Terezin.

2454
01:42:55,340 --> 01:42:57,020
It was almost like a hub.

2455
01:42:57,020 --> 01:43:04,020
90,000 deported to Auschwitz
or other extermination camps.

2456
01:43:04,020 --> 01:43:10,050
And 40,000 died--
starvation, illnesses,

2457
01:43:10,050 --> 01:43:12,750
could be typhus or whatever.

2458
01:43:12,750 --> 01:43:16,980
So while Terezin was not
known as a death camp,

2459
01:43:16,980 --> 01:43:20,280
it really was a death camp when
you think about all the people

2460
01:43:20,280 --> 01:43:22,010
that lost their lives.

2461
01:43:22,010 --> 01:43:24,780
Yeah.

2462
01:43:24,780 --> 01:43:30,030

I went to Terezin
in the late '90s

2463
01:43:30,030 --> 01:43:33,000
when it was all-- when the
Czech Republic had already

2464
01:43:33,000 --> 01:43:38,550
split from Slovakia, and
when the country had regained

2465
01:43:38,550 --> 01:43:41,070
its independence and so.

2466
01:43:41,070 --> 01:43:45,370
And it had become
a memorial site.

2467
01:43:45,370 --> 01:43:51,490
What I remember is this feeling
of a very soulless garrison

2468
01:43:51,490 --> 01:43:53,860
town.

2469
01:43:53,860 --> 01:43:57,550
And the parts-- and not
just the camp, but the town.

2470
01:43:57,550 --> 01:44:02,320
Can you describe a little
bit the geography of it,

2471
01:44:02,320 --> 01:44:03,340
how it looked?

2472
01:44:03,340 --> 01:44:06,490
Because some of the
buildings seemed to be 19th

2473
01:44:06,490 --> 01:44:08,380
century buildings.

2474
01:44:08,380 --> 01:44:09,030
Did you have--

2475
01:44:09,030 --> 01:44:11,750
I was there in 2009.

2476
01:44:11,750 --> 01:44:14,080
And it hadn't changed
very much from the time

2477
01:44:14,080 --> 01:44:16,930
we were there as I remember it.

2478
01:44:16,930 --> 01:44:19,570
It was a garrison
town, originally.

2479
01:44:19,570 --> 01:44:22,000
It was a fortress.

2480
01:44:22,000 --> 01:44:24,190
And it's very ironic.

2481
01:44:24,190 --> 01:44:28,653
It was built originally
to keep the Germans out.

2482
01:44:28,653 --> 01:44:30,870
[LAUGHTER]

2483
01:44:30,870 --> 01:44:33,490
And there were
brick walls around.

2484
01:44:33,490 --> 01:44:36,290
There were barbed wire.

2485
01:44:36,290 --> 01:44:39,100
They had watchtowers around it.

2486
01:44:39,100 --> 01:44:43,140

So that's how it was
built originally.

2487
01:44:43,140 --> 01:44:44,790
And maybe we talked
about it earlier,

2488
01:44:44,790 --> 01:44:47,470
to hold about 5,000
or 6,000 people.

2489
01:44:47,470 --> 01:44:48,940
No, we hadn't mentioned that.

2490
01:44:48,940 --> 01:44:54,400
Oh, it was built to hold
5,000 to 6,000 people.

2491
01:44:54,400 --> 01:44:58,770
And we had up to 60,000-plus.

2492
01:44:58,770 --> 01:45:01,470
Sometimes I think
it went to 70,000.

2493
01:45:01,470 --> 01:45:04,300
And of course, when the
number went too high,

2494
01:45:04,300 --> 01:45:09,080
then more and more
people would be deported.

2495
01:45:09,080 --> 01:45:14,133
And Terezin-- of
course, it was both--

2496
01:45:14,133 --> 01:45:15,550
I don't know if
we mentioned that.

2497
01:45:15,550 --> 01:45:21,280
It was both a concentration

camp and a ghetto,

2498

01:45:21,280 --> 01:45:23,380

because it was a town.

2499

01:45:23,380 --> 01:45:29,290

And the museum was

built exactly--

2500

01:45:29,290 --> 01:45:31,270

there was one museum

that was built

2501

01:45:31,270 --> 01:45:36,120

exactly where the children's

barracks used to be.

2502

01:45:36,120 --> 01:45:40,230

And you saw some of the museum.

2503

01:45:40,230 --> 01:45:44,720

And I think they

became free in '90--

2504

01:45:44,720 --> 01:45:46,510

it was in 1990.

2505

01:45:46,510 --> 01:45:48,310

And then they built the museum.

2506

01:45:48,310 --> 01:45:50,168

So I think they probably

had most of it--

2507

01:45:50,168 --> 01:45:50,710

That's right.

2508

01:45:50,710 --> 01:45:51,627

--when you were there.

2509

01:45:51,627 --> 01:45:54,730

And they sure had

it when I was there.

2510
01:45:54,730 --> 01:45:57,850
When you went there in 2009,
was that the first time

2511
01:45:57,850 --> 01:45:58,990
you had been back?

2512
01:45:58,990 --> 01:46:00,260
Yes.

2513
01:46:00,260 --> 01:46:03,610
Then that must have
been quite a trip.

2514
01:46:03,610 --> 01:46:05,590
Yeah, we were on
a trip in Europe.

2515
01:46:05,590 --> 01:46:08,070
We were on a river cruise.

2516
01:46:08,070 --> 01:46:10,375
And it ended in--

2517
01:46:10,375 --> 01:46:11,400
I forget where.

2518
01:46:11,400 --> 01:46:15,100
It ended in Nuremberg.

2519
01:46:15,100 --> 01:46:17,620
And I wanted to go
in and see where

2520
01:46:17,620 --> 01:46:19,780
they had the Nuremberg trial.

2521
01:46:19,780 --> 01:46:23,510
Unfortunately, it was
closed for whatever reason.

2522
01:46:23,510 --> 01:46:25,200
And we went to Prague.

2523
01:46:25,200 --> 01:46:26,540
Not that far away.

2524
01:46:26,540 --> 01:46:29,720
Spent a couple of
days in Prague.

2525
01:46:29,720 --> 01:46:32,710
I told the museum
I was a survivor.

2526
01:46:32,710 --> 01:46:37,220
And they had somebody
take me around and spent,

2527
01:46:37,220 --> 01:46:38,810
I think, almost all day there.

2528
01:46:38,810 --> 01:46:41,310
We just took a bus from
Prague to the museum.

2529
01:46:41,310 --> 01:46:43,340
It takes less than an hour.

2530
01:46:43,340 --> 01:46:44,510
And then we walked around.

2531
01:46:44,510 --> 01:46:47,330
Eileen didn't want to
see it as much as I did.

2532
01:46:47,330 --> 01:46:48,410
It's hard on her.

2533
01:46:48,410 --> 01:46:50,180
Eileen, my wife.

2534

01:46:50,180 --> 01:46:54,460

And I saw quite a bit.

2535

01:46:54,460 --> 01:46:56,370

And I'm glad I did.

2536

01:46:56,370 --> 01:47:00,970

I even went to the archives,
got some certificates

2537

01:47:00,970 --> 01:47:05,800

from each person in the family.

2538

01:47:05,800 --> 01:47:11,320

Did anybody else in your
family, your uncle or his side,

2539

01:47:11,320 --> 01:47:12,970

did they survive it?

2540

01:47:12,970 --> 01:47:16,010

Yes, my father was the
only one that passed away.

2541

01:47:16,010 --> 01:47:18,250

Even your grandmother,
your maternal grandmother--

2542

01:47:18,250 --> 01:47:20,380

My father's grandmother.

2543

01:47:20,380 --> 01:47:20,920

Paternal.

2544

01:47:20,920 --> 01:47:23,400

Paternal grandmother, yeah.

2545

01:47:23,400 --> 01:47:24,920

She survived.

2546

01:47:24,920 --> 01:47:28,040

And my father's name was Axel.

2547

01:47:28,040 --> 01:47:30,820

And I still remember her
saying more than once,

2548

01:47:30,820 --> 01:47:31,840

it should have been me.

2549

01:47:31,840 --> 01:47:33,460

She was 64.

2550

01:47:33,460 --> 01:47:35,080

It shouldn't have been Axel.

2551

01:47:35,080 --> 01:47:38,890

I mean, there's nothing
worse than losing your child.

2552

01:47:38,890 --> 01:47:39,880

That's right.

2553

01:47:39,880 --> 01:47:42,460

So I'm glad I went back.

2554

01:47:42,460 --> 01:47:44,890

Eileen was concerned
that it would come back,

2555

01:47:44,890 --> 01:47:45,670

the nightmares.

2556

01:47:45,670 --> 01:47:49,210

But I'm glad I
saw it for myself.

2557

01:47:49,210 --> 01:47:52,930

I'm glad I did some research.

2558

01:47:52,930 --> 01:47:57,305

And it was very, very helpful.

2559

01:47:57,305 --> 01:47:57,930

You mentioned--

2560

01:47:57,930 --> 01:47:59,090

I heard in my mother's--

2561

01:47:59,090 --> 01:47:59,590

I'm sorry.

2562

01:47:59,590 --> 01:48:04,260

In my mother's CD she
was asked, did you

2563

01:48:04,260 --> 01:48:06,510

ever go back to Theresienstadt?

2564

01:48:06,510 --> 01:48:09,150

And she answered
in a very stern,

2565

01:48:09,150 --> 01:48:11,410

really my mother's typical--

2566

01:48:11,410 --> 01:48:12,420

oh no.

2567

01:48:12,420 --> 01:48:13,830

Once is more than enough.

2568

01:48:13,830 --> 01:48:16,440

And I could just hear
her say it again.

2569

01:48:16,440 --> 01:48:20,240

2570

01:48:20,240 --> 01:48:22,450

You mentioned nightmares.

2571

01:48:22,450 --> 01:48:23,790

Did you have them after the war?

2572
01:48:23,790 --> 01:48:25,700
No, no.

2573
01:48:25,700 --> 01:48:27,070
I was very lucky.

2574
01:48:27,070 --> 01:48:31,780
I had and have some
abandonment issues.

2575
01:48:31,780 --> 01:48:36,310
Right after the war, my mother
and I went back to the town

2576
01:48:36,310 --> 01:48:39,240
where I was born, Odense.

2577
01:48:39,240 --> 01:48:41,320
And without my father,
I was afraid something

2578
01:48:41,320 --> 01:48:43,420
would happen to my mother.

2579
01:48:43,420 --> 01:48:46,990
So apparently I was
hanging onto her skirt.

2580
01:48:46,990 --> 01:48:49,520
And I still have some of
those abandonment issues.

2581
01:48:49,520 --> 01:48:53,050
But all in all, I've been
very, very fortunate.

2582
01:48:53,050 --> 01:48:55,970
I mean, I don't
know that I could

2583
01:48:55,970 --> 01:49:01,015

have talked to you 10 or 15
years ago or 20 years ago.

2584
01:49:01,015 --> 01:49:02,390
I don't think I
could have talked

2585
01:49:02,390 --> 01:49:05,730
to students 15 or 20 years ago.

2586
01:49:05,730 --> 01:49:08,240
But now I'm on a mission.

2587
01:49:08,240 --> 01:49:10,550
And it's very important for me.

2588
01:49:10,550 --> 01:49:12,310
What changed?

2589
01:49:12,310 --> 01:49:14,180
What changed, yeah?

2590
01:49:14,180 --> 01:49:15,522
I think the book changed.

2591
01:49:15,522 --> 01:49:16,772
When you were doing your book.

2592
01:49:16,772 --> 01:49:17,110
When the book--

2593
01:49:17,110 --> 01:49:19,260
When you were researching
and writing your book.

2594
01:49:19,260 --> 01:49:21,770
That changed a lot.

2595
01:49:21,770 --> 01:49:25,520
What really changed it was,
after I'd written my book,

2596

01:49:25,520 --> 01:49:31,860

my oldest daughter had
a son in middle school.

2597

01:49:31,860 --> 01:49:33,830

And she went to the teacher.

2598

01:49:33,830 --> 01:49:37,050

And they thought I should
talk to the students.

2599

01:49:37,050 --> 01:49:39,360

And I didn't know how
they would behave.

2600

01:49:39,360 --> 01:49:43,390

Would they play around with
their phones all the time?

2601

01:49:43,390 --> 01:49:45,400

But I said, OK, I'll go.

2602

01:49:45,400 --> 01:49:48,040

Didn't do a lot of preparation.

2603

01:49:48,040 --> 01:49:51,460

Read some passages from
my book and talked,

2604

01:49:51,460 --> 01:49:55,310

but completely different
to what I'm doing now.

2605

01:49:55,310 --> 01:49:58,745

I couldn't believe all
the students that came in.

2606

01:49:58,745 --> 01:50:02,436

There were over 100
students in the library.

2607

01:50:02,436 --> 01:50:05,190

They started asking questions.

2608

01:50:05,190 --> 01:50:08,910

My grandson, who at that
time was quite introvert,

2609

01:50:08,910 --> 01:50:10,410

asked questions.

2610

01:50:10,410 --> 01:50:14,840

Afterwards, my daughter
thought it was terrific.

2611

01:50:14,840 --> 01:50:19,100

My grandson came back to me and
said one of his friends said,

2612

01:50:19,100 --> 01:50:20,540

your grandpa was awesome.

2613

01:50:20,540 --> 01:50:23,080

[LAUGHS] And maybe
that clinched it.

2614

01:50:23,080 --> 01:50:26,275

But that became what I call
the beginning of a new career.

2615

01:50:26,275 --> 01:50:28,840

2616

01:50:28,840 --> 01:50:30,340

I'm sorry if I
jumped to the after--

2617

01:50:30,340 --> 01:50:31,460

No, no, no, that's OK.

2618

01:50:31,460 --> 01:50:32,620

--before we're finished.

2619

01:50:32,620 --> 01:50:33,130

That's OK.

2620
01:50:33,130 --> 01:50:34,180
We'll go back.

2621
01:50:34,180 --> 01:50:36,333
We'll go back.

2622
01:50:36,333 --> 01:50:37,000
I led you there.

2623
01:50:37,000 --> 01:50:38,080
I wanted to know.

2624
01:50:38,080 --> 01:50:39,670
We started with nightmares.

2625
01:50:39,670 --> 01:50:43,300
Because your wife had
been concerned that

2626
01:50:43,300 --> 01:50:44,175
you might have some.

2627
01:50:44,175 --> 01:50:44,920
Yes.

2628
01:50:44,920 --> 01:50:48,760
And many people who went through
such things did have them.

2629
01:50:48,760 --> 01:50:49,847
Oh, yes.

2630
01:50:49,847 --> 01:50:51,930
And there's some that don't
want to talk about it.

2631
01:50:51,930 --> 01:50:53,020
That's right.

2632

01:50:53,020 --> 01:50:55,120
And I respect that.

2633
01:50:55,120 --> 01:51:01,412
Now, your children, did you tell them as they were growing up?

2634
01:51:01,412 --> 01:51:03,870
Or was it part of you that they didn't know anything about?

2635
01:51:03,870 --> 01:51:07,240
No, they knew I had been in camp.

2636
01:51:07,240 --> 01:51:09,210
They didn't know an awful lot, but they

2637
01:51:09,210 --> 01:51:11,400
knew I had been in camp.

2638
01:51:11,400 --> 01:51:13,630
And obviously they knew I was Jewish.

2639
01:51:13,630 --> 01:51:14,130
They were--

2640
01:51:14,130 --> 01:51:15,680
Because you knew at this point.

2641
01:51:15,680 --> 01:51:16,180
Yes.

2642
01:51:16,180 --> 01:51:17,070
[LAUGHTER]

2643
01:51:17,070 --> 01:51:20,320
And Eileen and I, my wife--

2644
01:51:20,320 --> 01:51:22,740

they were brought up
in the Christian faith.

2645
01:51:22,740 --> 01:51:27,100
And that was something we had
decided when we got married

2646
01:51:27,100 --> 01:51:28,410
or before we got married.

2647
01:51:28,410 --> 01:51:30,510
Probably before we got married.

2648
01:51:30,510 --> 01:51:32,670
And there was no
disagreement on that.

2649
01:51:32,670 --> 01:51:33,600
So they knew about it.

2650
01:51:33,600 --> 01:51:35,550
But there was a lot
they didn't know.

2651
01:51:35,550 --> 01:51:38,670
And when the books came
out, I made them read it.

2652
01:51:38,670 --> 01:51:41,600
And they learned something new.

2653
01:51:41,600 --> 01:51:43,350
There was no question about it.

2654
01:51:43,350 --> 01:51:46,790
As a matter of fact, the way
the book came out was I wrote--

2655
01:51:46,790 --> 01:51:48,220
This was in 2011 that it came--

2656
01:51:48,220 --> 01:51:50,260

Yeah, April of 2011.

2657

01:51:50,260 --> 01:51:52,620

So a little over five years ago.

2658

01:51:52,620 --> 01:51:56,760

I wrote a memoir for my family.

2659

01:51:56,760 --> 01:51:58,650

It was more than 300 pages.

2660

01:51:58,650 --> 01:52:00,140

I can't imagine.

2661

01:52:00,140 --> 01:52:02,990

I couldn't do it today,
but I did anyway.

2662

01:52:02,990 --> 01:52:04,250

And it was important for me.

2663

01:52:04,250 --> 01:52:05,630

And then I took--

2664

01:52:05,630 --> 01:52:09,350

somebody suggested, take all
the chapters about the Holocaust

2665

01:52:09,350 --> 01:52:10,940

and put it in a separate book.

2666

01:52:10,940 --> 01:52:12,180

And I did that.

2667

01:52:12,180 --> 01:52:16,400

I put them in separate book, A
Danish Boy in Theresienstadt.

2668

01:52:16,400 --> 01:52:20,450

But when I started the book,
I didn't think about the war.

2669

01:52:20,450 --> 01:52:22,310

I didn't think
about the Holocaust.

2670

01:52:22,310 --> 01:52:26,360

I just took year by year and
worked myself through it.

2671

01:52:26,360 --> 01:52:28,370

And then, of course, I
came to the war years.

2672

01:52:28,370 --> 01:52:31,580

And then I did some
research and wrote down

2673

01:52:31,580 --> 01:52:32,790

what I could remember.

2674

01:52:32,790 --> 01:52:34,930

I was very lucky.

2675

01:52:34,930 --> 01:52:38,540

I got the interview my mother.

2676

01:52:38,540 --> 01:52:40,700

And I got a couple
of other things

2677

01:52:40,700 --> 01:52:43,370

that have helped
me a great deal.

2678

01:52:43,370 --> 01:52:47,150

And was this, then, the first
time you had really revisited--

2679

01:52:47,150 --> 01:52:47,720

Yes.

2680

01:52:47,720 --> 01:52:48,650

--everything?

2681
01:52:48,650 --> 01:52:50,000
Yeah.

2682
01:52:50,000 --> 01:52:53,700
And that would have been
60 years after the war end?

2683
01:52:53,700 --> 01:52:54,590
Yes.

2684
01:52:54,590 --> 01:52:55,700
Something like that.

2685
01:52:55,700 --> 01:52:56,870
At least.

2686
01:52:56,870 --> 01:52:57,830
At least.

2687
01:52:57,830 --> 01:53:04,970
So October 2011, that's when
I talk to my grandson's class.

2688
01:53:04,970 --> 01:53:08,510
And that gave me
inspiration, because they

2689
01:53:08,510 --> 01:53:09,980
were so well behaved.

2690
01:53:09,980 --> 01:53:11,580
They were so attentive.

2691
01:53:11,580 --> 01:53:13,110
I just couldn't believe it.

2692
01:53:13,110 --> 01:53:14,652
They weren't fiddling
on their phone.

2693

01:53:14,652 --> 01:53:15,830
No, no, they were not.

2694
01:53:15,830 --> 01:53:17,490
They were amazing.

2695
01:53:17,490 --> 01:53:18,740
And they told the teacher.

2696
01:53:18,740 --> 01:53:23,480
And then we split our
time between Florida

2697
01:53:23,480 --> 01:53:26,630
and here, Chicago area.

2698
01:53:26,630 --> 01:53:30,320
And then I started
talking in Florida.

2699
01:53:30,320 --> 01:53:33,500
And they were just as attentive.

2700
01:53:33,500 --> 01:53:37,680
And now what a lot of
teachers are saying--

2701
01:53:37,680 --> 01:53:41,790
this is very important for
you, talking to the students.

2702
01:53:41,790 --> 01:53:44,430
Because you will be
the last generation

2703
01:53:44,430 --> 01:53:48,240
that will hear directly
from the survivor.

2704
01:53:48,240 --> 01:53:48,970
That's true.

2705

01:53:48,970 --> 01:53:49,550
Yeah.

2706
01:53:49,550 --> 01:53:50,910
It's true.

2707
01:53:50,910 --> 01:53:54,773
And has this helped you?

2708
01:53:54,773 --> 01:53:56,440
Oh, I think it's
helped me a great deal.

2709
01:53:56,440 --> 01:53:59,550

2710
01:53:59,550 --> 01:54:02,820
I could not imagine
going to the grave

2711
01:54:02,820 --> 01:54:06,920
without knowing what I know now.

2712
01:54:06,920 --> 01:54:11,700
And I know so much more, not
only from writing the book,

2713
01:54:11,700 --> 01:54:14,375
but since then I've
done more research.

2714
01:54:14,375 --> 01:54:15,500
I've read books.

2715
01:54:15,500 --> 01:54:16,850
I've talked to people.

2716
01:54:16,850 --> 01:54:20,280
And you learn
things all the time.

2717
01:54:20,280 --> 01:54:23,480

So it's helped me greatly.

2718
01:54:23,480 --> 01:54:26,100
This has become a
passion of mine.

2719
01:54:26,100 --> 01:54:29,180
I mean, I don't understand
why I can't talk

2720
01:54:29,180 --> 01:54:32,030
to every school around here.

2721
01:54:32,030 --> 01:54:33,250
But it was the time--

2722
01:54:33,250 --> 01:54:36,830
I mean, that's such
a dramatic change.

2723
01:54:36,830 --> 01:54:40,740
Oh, very much so.

2724
01:54:40,740 --> 01:54:42,740
I mean, Eileen would
probably-- if she was here,

2725
01:54:42,740 --> 01:54:45,530
she'd probably say that I
spend too much time in front

2726
01:54:45,530 --> 01:54:48,060
of the computer and about this.

2727
01:54:48,060 --> 01:54:49,610
But she understands.

2728
01:54:49,610 --> 01:54:51,440
And she's very supportive.

2729
01:54:51,440 --> 01:54:58,470
And I mean, I cannot imagine

this happening some years ago,

2730
01:54:58,470 --> 01:55:01,340
but I've been invited
to Springdale,

2731
01:55:01,340 --> 01:55:06,160
Arkansas to talk at
the end of October,

2732
01:55:06,160 --> 01:55:08,880
and be there for three days.

2733
01:55:08,880 --> 01:55:15,040
And I've been invited to my
hometown to speak in November.

2734
01:55:15,040 --> 01:55:15,875
They also--

2735
01:55:15,875 --> 01:55:16,430
In Denmark?

2736
01:55:16,430 --> 01:55:17,870
In Odense, yeah, in Odense.

2737
01:55:17,870 --> 01:55:19,180
Invited there.

2738
01:55:19,180 --> 01:55:24,030
And I wrote a long, long
article for them in Danish

2739
01:55:24,030 --> 01:55:25,280
and sent them pictures.

2740
01:55:25,280 --> 01:55:28,530
Has your book been
translated into Danish?

2741
01:55:28,530 --> 01:55:31,200
My book has not been

translated into Danish, no.

2742

01:55:31,200 --> 01:55:31,970

No.

2743

01:55:31,970 --> 01:55:33,570

But they know of it.

2744

01:55:33,570 --> 01:55:34,590

Yes, they know of it.

2745

01:55:34,590 --> 01:55:36,840

But this article was in Danish.

2746

01:55:36,840 --> 01:55:40,930

And it took me twice as long
as if it was in English.

2747

01:55:40,930 --> 01:55:41,750

But I wrote it.

2748

01:55:41,750 --> 01:55:44,270

And then I'm going to
make a presentation,

2749

01:55:44,270 --> 01:55:47,070

several presentations
in my hometown--

2750

01:55:47,070 --> 01:55:50,040

also to the schools
where I used to go.

2751

01:55:50,040 --> 01:55:52,920

And those presentations
will be in Danish.

2752

01:55:52,920 --> 01:55:56,220

And when I walk in the
morning I'm practicing.

2753

01:55:56,220 --> 01:55:58,410

[LAUGHS]

2754
01:55:58,410 --> 01:56:03,970
And then in April next
year, after Florida,

2755
01:56:03,970 --> 01:56:07,980
I've been invited to
Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

2756
01:56:07,980 --> 01:56:08,640
Wow.

2757
01:56:08,640 --> 01:56:10,500
So it has mushroomed.

2758
01:56:10,500 --> 01:56:12,390
It's just amazing.

2759
01:56:12,390 --> 01:56:17,250
Did you ever, after the war
and in the decades since,

2760
01:56:17,250 --> 01:56:21,820
have conversations in
your head with your father

2761
01:56:21,820 --> 01:56:24,910
and what you would
have liked him to know

2762
01:56:24,910 --> 01:56:27,310
about how life went on for you?

2763
01:56:27,310 --> 01:56:28,150
No.

2764
01:56:28,150 --> 01:56:30,620
No, I didn't.

2765
01:56:30,620 --> 01:56:34,220
That's an interesting

question though.

2766

01:56:34,220 --> 01:56:37,390

Well, if you were
to talk to him now,

2767

01:56:37,390 --> 01:56:39,340

what would be the
most important thing

2768

01:56:39,340 --> 01:56:42,880

you think you'd
want to tell him?

2769

01:56:42,880 --> 01:56:47,140

Oh, the most important thing
that I want to tell my father

2770

01:56:47,140 --> 01:56:53,710

is that, in your memory and
knowing your memory and the six

2771

01:56:53,710 --> 01:56:59,260

million other Jewish people that
were perished, I'm doing this.

2772

01:56:59,260 --> 01:57:02,700

2773

01:57:02,700 --> 01:57:03,870

Let's go back now.

2774

01:57:03,870 --> 01:57:04,730

OK.

2775

01:57:04,730 --> 01:57:06,650

Let's go back to Terezin.

2776

01:57:06,650 --> 01:57:10,130

And the last thing I
remember asking you

2777

01:57:10,130 --> 01:57:14,240
was about who are some of
the other people in the camp

2778
01:57:14,240 --> 01:57:15,350
and the nationalities.

2779
01:57:15,350 --> 01:57:18,005
And you said you played mostly
with the Czech children.

2780
01:57:18,005 --> 01:57:19,170
Yes.

2781
01:57:19,170 --> 01:57:21,640
There were also,
obviously, Danish children.

2782
01:57:21,640 --> 01:57:23,300
There were German children.

2783
01:57:23,300 --> 01:57:24,950
There were Dutch children.

2784
01:57:24,950 --> 01:57:26,720
Were there any non-Jews?

2785
01:57:26,720 --> 01:57:28,035
No, they were all Jewish.

2786
01:57:28,035 --> 01:57:28,910
They were all Jewish.

2787
01:57:28,910 --> 01:57:32,120
Except-- and I don't know if
you remember it from your trip

2788
01:57:32,120 --> 01:57:32,740
there.

2789
01:57:32,740 --> 01:57:35,610
There was something

called little fortress.

2790

01:57:35,610 --> 01:57:37,040

That was political prisoners.

2791

01:57:37,040 --> 01:57:40,650

2792

01:57:40,650 --> 01:57:45,550

So you continue for
about another year?

2793

01:57:45,550 --> 01:57:49,220

When was Terezin liberated?

2794

01:57:49,220 --> 01:57:50,970

Let's go back to the
Red Cross visits,

2795

01:57:50,970 --> 01:57:53,490

maybe, to put it in perspective.

2796

01:57:53,490 --> 01:57:56,650

That was June--

2797

01:57:56,650 --> 01:57:57,150

'44?

2798

01:57:57,150 --> 01:57:59,970

--23rd of '44.

2799

01:57:59,970 --> 01:58:06,450

Terezin was liberated by
the Russians on May the 8th.

2800

01:58:06,450 --> 01:58:07,250

'45.

2801

01:58:07,250 --> 01:58:08,716

'45.

2802

01:58:08,716 --> 01:58:12,100
The Danes gained
something unique.

2803
01:58:12,100 --> 01:58:15,028
We were liberated
by the White Buses.

2804
01:58:15,028 --> 01:58:16,570
Have you heard about
the White Buses?

2805
01:58:16,570 --> 01:58:16,675
No.

2806
01:58:16,675 --> 01:58:17,925
Tell us about the White Buses.

2807
01:58:17,925 --> 01:58:21,230
Coming from Sweden, Sweden
being a neutral country.

2808
01:58:21,230 --> 01:58:25,220
And the White Buses
managed to liberate over

2809
01:58:25,220 --> 01:58:30,260
15,000 inmates from
many different camps,

2810
01:58:30,260 --> 01:58:32,390
including Ravensbruck,
where there were

2811
01:58:32,390 --> 01:58:35,570
a lot of women in Ravensbruck.

2812
01:58:35,570 --> 01:58:36,980
And they liberated--
at that time

2813
01:58:36,980 --> 01:58:40,983
there were 421 Danish Jews left.

2814
01:58:40,983 --> 01:58:41,900
And we were liberated.

2815
01:58:41,900 --> 01:58:47,210
It was a convoy
of about 20 buses.

2816
01:58:47,210 --> 01:58:48,590
And you were still in Terezin?

2817
01:58:48,590 --> 01:58:50,023
We were still in Terezin.

2818
01:58:50,023 --> 01:58:51,440
And we couldn't
believe it when we

2819
01:58:51,440 --> 01:58:55,370
were told about it, because we
had been there for 18 months.

2820
01:58:55,370 --> 01:58:57,050
And now suddenly we
would be liberated.

2821
01:58:57,050 --> 01:58:59,720
So we didn't believe it
until the buses arrived.

2822
01:58:59,720 --> 01:59:03,200
So how did this happen
that the Swedish buses

2823
01:59:03,200 --> 01:59:05,750
come before the Soviet troops?

2824
01:59:05,750 --> 01:59:08,780
What happened was the
Danish administration

2825
01:59:08,780 --> 01:59:13,880

not only wanted to inspect
to see how we lived,

2826
01:59:13,880 --> 01:59:18,020
but they still wanted to
get the Danes out early.

2827
01:59:18,020 --> 01:59:21,710
So there's a Swedish
diplomat, being neutral,

2828
01:59:21,710 --> 01:59:23,840
contacting the Nazis.

2829
01:59:23,840 --> 01:59:28,320
And I believe they talked
to Himmler and his staff.

2830
01:59:28,320 --> 01:59:32,110
At that time-- say, it
was in February of '45,

2831
01:59:32,110 --> 01:59:34,860
which is probably
about the right time.

2832
01:59:34,860 --> 01:59:37,590
At that time, I'm sure Himmler
knew that the Germans were

2833
01:59:37,590 --> 01:59:39,980
going to lose the war.

2834
01:59:39,980 --> 01:59:41,630
He wanted to save his skin.

2835
01:59:41,630 --> 01:59:44,670
He wanted to save
his reputation.

2836
01:59:44,670 --> 01:59:46,690
And he thought he would
be treated differently.

2837
01:59:46,690 --> 01:59:52,660
So he wanted a direct pipeline,
a direct line to the Allies.

2838
01:59:52,660 --> 01:59:58,540
So they agreed to have the
buses come into different camps

2839
01:59:58,540 --> 02:00:04,180
and liberate not only the
Danish Jews, but inmates

2840
02:00:04,180 --> 02:00:05,570
from many other camps.

2841
02:00:05,570 --> 02:00:11,090
We were one of the last buses
that went through Germany.

2842
02:00:11,090 --> 02:00:13,240
So this was before May 8th?

2843
02:00:13,240 --> 02:00:13,810
Oh, yes.

2844
02:00:13,810 --> 02:00:15,995
It was April-- I'm sorry
if I didn't mention it.

2845
02:00:15,995 --> 02:00:18,160
It was April the 15th.

2846
02:00:18,160 --> 02:00:19,930
So you never saw
a Soviet soldier.

2847
02:00:19,930 --> 02:00:22,710
No, I never did.

2848
02:00:22,710 --> 02:00:23,210
And when--

2849
02:00:23,210 --> 02:00:24,000
April the 15th.

2850
02:00:24,000 --> 02:00:25,850
It took us three
days to come back.

2851
02:00:25,850 --> 02:00:27,830
And we had to stop on the way.

2852
02:00:27,830 --> 02:00:30,700
There was heavy
bombardment, I think,

2853
02:00:30,700 --> 02:00:32,670
on Potsdam, I think it was.

2854
02:00:32,670 --> 02:00:33,310
It would be.

2855
02:00:33,310 --> 02:00:34,360
It would be.

2856
02:00:34,360 --> 02:00:36,970
So did you look out the
windows as you were driving

2857
02:00:36,970 --> 02:00:38,742
through all these territories?

2858
02:00:38,742 --> 02:00:39,700
Do you remember things?

2859
02:00:39,700 --> 02:00:43,590
I wasn't supposed to, but I did.

2860
02:00:43,590 --> 02:00:45,460
I just glanced out.

2861
02:00:45,460 --> 02:00:49,640

And I saw the youngest
soldiers that I ever remember.

2862
02:00:49,640 --> 02:00:50,950
They were in their teens.

2863
02:00:50,950 --> 02:00:51,695
German soldiers.

2864
02:00:51,695 --> 02:00:53,820
Yes.

2865
02:00:53,820 --> 02:00:55,230
And our buses were white.

2866
02:00:55,230 --> 02:00:59,630
They had Swedish flags on them
and Red Cross on all sides.

2867
02:00:59,630 --> 02:01:02,990
And of course, they were
not supposed to shoot at us.

2868
02:01:02,990 --> 02:01:06,910
And I heard later on
that some of the Germans

2869
02:01:06,910 --> 02:01:10,108
painted their trucks white so
they wouldn't shoot at them.

2870
02:01:10,108 --> 02:01:14,320
[LAUGHTER]

2871
02:01:14,320 --> 02:01:16,844
Well, there's a logic to that.

2872
02:01:16,844 --> 02:01:18,620
Yes.

2873
02:01:18,620 --> 02:01:20,480
And it was probably

the first decent food

2874

02:01:20,480 --> 02:01:21,720

you had in over two years.

2875

02:01:21,720 --> 02:01:22,220

Oh, yeah.

2876

02:01:22,220 --> 02:01:23,630

We got sandwiches.

2877

02:01:23,630 --> 02:01:27,220

And we got hot chocolate.

2878

02:01:27,220 --> 02:01:28,600

We got chocolate.

2879

02:01:28,600 --> 02:01:30,215

The adults got tobacco.

2880

02:01:30,215 --> 02:01:33,050

2881

02:01:33,050 --> 02:01:35,420

But interesting about the
Russian coming to camp.

2882

02:01:35,420 --> 02:01:37,760

I didn't realize
it until I started.

2883

02:01:37,760 --> 02:01:39,700

May the 8th, they arrived.

2884

02:01:39,700 --> 02:01:42,050

There were 17,000
prisoners left.

2885

02:01:42,050 --> 02:01:45,220

There were some prisoners
coming in from other camps.

2886

02:01:45,220 --> 02:01:47,750

They couldn't leave
for two or three weeks,

2887

02:01:47,750 --> 02:01:50,240

because there was typhus.

2888

02:01:50,240 --> 02:01:53,420

So they couldn't leave.

2889

02:01:53,420 --> 02:01:58,880

And I also talked to another
survivor from Terezin.

2890

02:01:58,880 --> 02:02:00,080

She was Czech.

2891

02:02:00,080 --> 02:02:02,200

She lives five
minutes from here.

2892

02:02:02,200 --> 02:02:03,710

And I like to talk
to other people.

2893

02:02:03,710 --> 02:02:05,792

I learn something all the time.

2894

02:02:05,792 --> 02:02:07,250

I'd heard rumors
they were building

2895

02:02:07,250 --> 02:02:11,210

a gas chamber in Terezin.

2896

02:02:11,210 --> 02:02:13,940

She confirmed on
Hitler's order--

2897

02:02:13,940 --> 02:02:18,020

his order was
destroy all the Jews.

2898
02:02:18,020 --> 02:02:21,300
Because he knew that
the war was lost.

2899
02:02:21,300 --> 02:02:23,620
And they were building
the gas chambers.

2900
02:02:23,620 --> 02:02:25,580
She confirmed it.

2901
02:02:25,580 --> 02:02:30,150
And they were starting
building them in April.

2902
02:02:30,150 --> 02:02:32,490
They were supposed
to be operational

2903
02:02:32,490 --> 02:02:33,900
the third week of May.

2904
02:02:33,900 --> 02:02:35,010
Oh my goodness.

2905
02:02:35,010 --> 02:02:37,220
And the camp was
liberated May the 8th.

2906
02:02:37,220 --> 02:02:39,310
And we were liberated
April the 15th.

2907
02:02:39,310 --> 02:02:42,110
It's very, very, eerie.

2908
02:02:42,110 --> 02:02:42,610
Very.

2909
02:02:42,610 --> 02:02:44,570
Yeah.

2910
02:02:44,570 --> 02:02:50,710
OK, when you get
back to Denmark,

2911
02:02:50,710 --> 02:02:52,120
do you go back to your hometown?

2912
02:02:52,120 --> 02:02:52,620
Yes.

2913
02:02:52,620 --> 02:02:53,970
Do you stay in Copenhagen?

2914
02:02:53,970 --> 02:02:55,780
What happens?

2915
02:02:55,780 --> 02:02:59,230
We spent a couple of days
in Copenhagen with family.

2916
02:02:59,230 --> 02:03:02,650
The entire family expected
us to move to Copenhagen

2917
02:03:02,650 --> 02:03:05,260
because my father
wasn't alive anymore.

2918
02:03:05,260 --> 02:03:08,980
My mother wanted to
go back to Odense.

2919
02:03:08,980 --> 02:03:09,630
She liked it.

2920
02:03:09,630 --> 02:03:12,780
She had met some nice friends.

2921
02:03:12,780 --> 02:03:14,710
And we went back.

2922

02:03:14,710 --> 02:03:16,590

Our apartment had
been rented out,

2923

02:03:16,590 --> 02:03:21,870

which was very common because
of a short of apartments.

2924

02:03:21,870 --> 02:03:25,650

Contrary to what happened in
many other occupied countries,

2925

02:03:25,650 --> 02:03:30,970

the legal firm where
my father worked

2926

02:03:30,970 --> 02:03:37,970

had stored all our
belongings for us.

2927

02:03:37,970 --> 02:03:42,020

And apparently, this was done
in many other Danish homes

2928

02:03:42,020 --> 02:03:47,570

in Copenhagen. Sometimes I think
the government had done that.

2929

02:03:47,570 --> 02:03:49,260

And in many other
countries, they

2930

02:03:49,260 --> 02:03:50,690

were stealing left and right.

2931

02:03:50,690 --> 02:03:51,620

Of course.

2932

02:03:51,620 --> 02:03:53,870

So there are an
awful lot of things

2933

02:03:53,870 --> 02:03:56,750
that are unique to Denmark.

2934
02:03:56,750 --> 02:03:59,930
Now, when you had moved
into this apartment,

2935
02:03:59,930 --> 02:04:02,390
was it as owners or as renters?

2936
02:04:02,390 --> 02:04:03,380
It was a rental.

2937
02:04:03,380 --> 02:04:04,130
It was a rental.

2938
02:04:04,130 --> 02:04:05,213
It was a rental apartment.

2939
02:04:05,213 --> 02:04:06,830
So did you find another one?

2940
02:04:06,830 --> 02:04:11,520
Yes, my mother-- and I didn't
think about it at the time.

2941
02:04:11,520 --> 02:04:15,120
But it was apparent my
mother got it very fast.

2942
02:04:15,120 --> 02:04:17,000
Normally, you have
to wait a long time.

2943
02:04:17,000 --> 02:04:18,810
She got help, I think.

2944
02:04:18,810 --> 02:04:22,970
The legal company may have
helped her get the apartment.

2945
02:04:22,970 --> 02:04:27,340

It was much smaller, but
it was in the same complex.

2946
02:04:27,340 --> 02:04:29,100
And you stayed there?

2947
02:04:29,100 --> 02:04:31,830
That is, you and your mother
stayed at this apartment?

2948
02:04:31,830 --> 02:04:34,960
Yeah, we stayed there until
my mother got married again.

2949
02:04:34,960 --> 02:04:35,460
Oh, she did?

2950
02:04:35,460 --> 02:04:38,310
No, actually, before
she got married again

2951
02:04:38,310 --> 02:04:40,610
we moved to a bigger
apartment in a house,

2952
02:04:40,610 --> 02:04:43,920
but still very close to
the apartment complex.

2953
02:04:43,920 --> 02:04:48,170
And when did that happen,
the second marriage?

2954
02:04:48,170 --> 02:04:48,670
'51.

2955
02:04:48,670 --> 02:04:51,340

2956
02:04:51,340 --> 02:04:54,490
And you were at this
time, then, 16 years old?

2957

02:04:54,490 --> 02:04:56,530

Your math is good.

2958

02:04:56,530 --> 02:04:58,480

[LAUGHTER]

2959

02:04:58,480 --> 02:05:02,230

Was that, let's say, one of
the more significant events

2960

02:05:02,230 --> 02:05:04,030

in your post-war life?

2961

02:05:04,030 --> 02:05:06,240

Depends whether
it's good or bad.

2962

02:05:06,240 --> 02:05:06,740

But--

2963

02:05:06,740 --> 02:05:09,700

Well, I wanted to be
neutral in asking it.

2964

02:05:09,700 --> 02:05:12,490

It was not one of
my happier moments.

2965

02:05:12,490 --> 02:05:16,770

Apparently, I said to my
mother, don't marry for my sake.

2966

02:05:16,770 --> 02:05:19,410

And it was a
difficult situation,

2967

02:05:19,410 --> 02:05:21,150

which it often is, yes.

2968

02:05:21,150 --> 02:05:25,230

I mean, we had been the
two of us for a long time.

2969
02:05:25,230 --> 02:05:27,830

2970
02:05:27,830 --> 02:05:32,120
And how many more years did
you live with your mother

2971
02:05:32,120 --> 02:05:33,310
and your stepfather?

2972
02:05:33,310 --> 02:05:38,650
I lived there until '53 when
I graduated from high school.

2973
02:05:38,650 --> 02:05:40,360
And then I moved
to a smaller town.

2974
02:05:40,360 --> 02:05:41,950
I was there for a
couple of years.

2975
02:05:41,950 --> 02:05:45,930
That was really the
last time I lived there,

2976
02:05:45,930 --> 02:05:47,680
what I will call permanently.

2977
02:05:47,680 --> 02:05:52,260
Later on I had to
join the armed forces.

2978
02:05:52,260 --> 02:05:54,880
And I was really upset,
because I shouldn't

2979
02:05:54,880 --> 02:05:56,910
join the armed forces.

2980
02:05:56,910 --> 02:05:59,350

I had been in camp
for 18 months.

2981
02:05:59,350 --> 02:06:01,720
And there was nobody really--

2982
02:06:01,720 --> 02:06:04,190
I think my father would
have fought for me.

2983
02:06:04,190 --> 02:06:09,460
But my stepfather was not
interested in doing that.

2984
02:06:09,460 --> 02:06:11,700
And I felt sorry for myself.

2985
02:06:11,700 --> 02:06:14,840
And then I had some other jobs.

2986
02:06:14,840 --> 02:06:19,520
And then-- but it was the last
time I really lived there for--

2987
02:06:19,520 --> 02:06:26,080
part of my time in the armed
forces, I stayed there.

2988
02:06:26,080 --> 02:06:30,620
And then I joined a
Danish food company.

2989
02:06:30,620 --> 02:06:33,220
And I joined them
because I wanted

2990
02:06:33,220 --> 02:06:34,870
to see part of the world.

2991
02:06:34,870 --> 02:06:37,310
Denmark was a small country.

2992

02:06:37,310 --> 02:06:41,270
And most of their
business was abroad.

2993
02:06:41,270 --> 02:06:43,980
So I went to England.

2994
02:06:43,980 --> 02:06:48,430
And it turned out that Eileen,
my future wife, so to speak,

2995
02:06:48,430 --> 02:06:50,900
and I lived in the same area.

2996
02:06:50,900 --> 02:06:52,930
I think we talked about it off--

2997
02:06:52,930 --> 02:06:53,430
Off camera.

2998
02:06:53,430 --> 02:06:54,860
--off camera.

2999
02:06:54,860 --> 02:06:56,120
In Notting Hill Gate.

3000
02:06:56,120 --> 02:06:58,190
And we probably went to
the same grocery stores,

3001
02:06:58,190 --> 02:06:59,690
maybe the same movies.

3002
02:06:59,690 --> 02:07:00,925
Did you see each other there?

3003
02:07:00,925 --> 02:07:01,200
No, no.

3004
02:07:01,200 --> 02:07:02,742
Oh, you didn't meet
each other there?

3005
02:07:02,742 --> 02:07:03,950
No, we didn't meet at all.

3006
02:07:03,950 --> 02:07:06,390
And then I was sent to Canada.

3007
02:07:06,390 --> 02:07:09,320
And we met in Canada.

3008
02:07:09,320 --> 02:07:09,820
Where?

3009
02:07:09,820 --> 02:07:12,460

3010
02:07:12,460 --> 02:07:14,000
At a party.

3011
02:07:14,000 --> 02:07:19,150
I was doing for the company,
food exhibition for Plumrose,

3012
02:07:19,150 --> 02:07:20,890
the Danish company.

3013
02:07:20,890 --> 02:07:25,060
And a Dane that I didn't
know came up, talked to me,

3014
02:07:25,060 --> 02:07:27,480
and said, we're having
a party on Saturday.

3015
02:07:27,480 --> 02:07:29,070
Would you like to come?

3016
02:07:29,070 --> 02:07:32,220
And it was still the beginning,
almost, of my time in Canada.

3017

02:07:32,220 --> 02:07:33,750
I didn't know that many people.

3018
02:07:33,750 --> 02:07:34,643
Where were you based?

3019
02:07:34,643 --> 02:07:35,310
Where was this--

3020
02:07:35,310 --> 02:07:35,940
In Toronto.

3021
02:07:35,940 --> 02:07:38,090
In Toronto, OK.

3022
02:07:38,090 --> 02:07:40,130
We had a small
office in Toronto.

3023
02:07:40,130 --> 02:07:42,270
So I went there.

3024
02:07:42,270 --> 02:07:45,460
Turned out to be a
surprise party for Eileen.

3025
02:07:45,460 --> 02:07:47,900
It was her birthday.

3026
02:07:47,900 --> 02:07:50,150
It was the evening
of September 30.

3027
02:07:50,150 --> 02:07:52,520
Her birthday is October 1.

3028
02:07:52,520 --> 02:07:54,640
Next Saturday.

3029
02:07:54,640 --> 02:08:00,520
And we met there.

3030

02:08:00,520 --> 02:08:04,320

And I guess the rest is history.

3031

02:08:04,320 --> 02:08:05,600

How lovely.

3032

02:08:05,600 --> 02:08:07,020

How lovely.

3033

02:08:07,020 --> 02:08:09,960

I think we're kind of close

to the end of our interview.

3034

02:08:09,960 --> 02:08:11,670

OK.

3035

02:08:11,670 --> 02:08:13,620

Is there anything

I haven't asked

3036

02:08:13,620 --> 02:08:18,200

that you think we've missed that
is important, that you would

3037

02:08:18,200 --> 02:08:21,410

like people to know about?

3038

02:08:21,410 --> 02:08:24,080

Yeah, a couple of things.

3039

02:08:24,080 --> 02:08:31,200

We talked about my passion for
talking especially to students.

3040

02:08:31,200 --> 02:08:33,590

And in those five years--

3041

02:08:33,590 --> 02:08:37,510

it's really almost to the date
five years since I started--

3042

02:08:37,510 --> 02:08:42,680
I've covered about 30,000
people, mostly students.

3043
02:08:42,680 --> 02:08:44,360
That's amazing.

3044
02:08:44,360 --> 02:08:47,330
And probably about 260 groups.

3045
02:08:47,330 --> 02:08:49,040
I keep track of
every one of them.

3046
02:08:49,040 --> 02:08:53,140
Typical ex-business person.

3047
02:08:53,140 --> 02:08:57,780
And I know I've exceeded 30,000.

3048
02:08:57,780 --> 02:09:02,810
I don't know when, but I
started talking to the people

3049
02:09:02,810 --> 02:09:07,750
how important it is that we
never forget the Holocaust.

3050
02:09:07,750 --> 02:09:10,910
And it's becoming
increasingly more important,

3051
02:09:10,910 --> 02:09:15,080
because there are more and
more people that are denying

3052
02:09:15,080 --> 02:09:18,530
that it took place,
especially in Europe.

3053
02:09:18,530 --> 02:09:22,130
And there's also
anti-Semitism going on.

3054
02:09:22,130 --> 02:09:24,950
And I want to make sure that
everybody hears it directly

3055
02:09:24,950 --> 02:09:26,040
from me.

3056
02:09:26,040 --> 02:09:28,550
So I'm asking each
person to share

3057
02:09:28,550 --> 02:09:30,440
with at least four people.

3058
02:09:30,440 --> 02:09:34,700
And if each person does that,
that adds up to 120,000,

3059
02:09:34,700 --> 02:09:36,410
if my math is right.

3060
02:09:36,410 --> 02:09:41,790
So that's become
very important to me.

3061
02:09:41,790 --> 02:09:43,610
And I actually-- I wish--

3062
02:09:43,610 --> 02:09:46,520
a lot of people think I just
sit at the phone waiting

3063
02:09:46,520 --> 02:09:49,680
for some-- or email for somebody
to say, I want a presentation.

3064
02:09:49,680 --> 02:09:51,652
But I have to work at it.

3065
02:09:51,652 --> 02:09:52,235
I can imagine.

3066
02:09:52,235 --> 02:09:53,480
I can imagine.

3067
02:09:53,480 --> 02:09:56,510
I have to use some of
my old salesmanship.

3068
02:09:56,510 --> 02:09:59,870
So I think that's
very significant.

3069
02:09:59,870 --> 02:10:00,370
It is.

3070
02:10:00,370 --> 02:10:03,437
And it's very significant--

3071
02:10:03,437 --> 02:10:05,520
and I think we might have
talked about it before--

3072
02:10:05,520 --> 02:10:08,400
that I've changed completely
from not really talking

3073
02:10:08,400 --> 02:10:09,390
about it.

3074
02:10:09,390 --> 02:10:10,890
Now I cannot talk
enough about it,

3075
02:10:10,890 --> 02:10:13,290
cannot read enough about it.

3076
02:10:13,290 --> 02:10:20,480
I want to add one thing,
which is important.

3077
02:10:20,480 --> 02:10:23,125
And I think it's important

for a couple of reasons.

3078
02:10:23,125 --> 02:10:26,170

3079
02:10:26,170 --> 02:10:27,450
At the museum--

3080
02:10:27,450 --> 02:10:28,170
Which--

3081
02:10:28,170 --> 02:10:29,520
--in Washington D.C.--

3082
02:10:29,520 --> 02:10:30,510
That's right.

3083
02:10:30,510 --> 02:10:34,660
You have some big--
what do you call them--

3084
02:10:34,660 --> 02:10:39,110
not statue, but-- where
you write about events.

3085
02:10:39,110 --> 02:10:41,210
Like in Theresienstadt,
you wrote

3086
02:10:41,210 --> 02:10:43,430
about what happened
in Theresienstadt,

3087
02:10:43,430 --> 02:10:47,920
what happened to the Danes
and so on in big-- not tapers.

3088
02:10:47,920 --> 02:10:48,420
I'm sorry.

3089
02:10:48,420 --> 02:10:49,160
I can't remember the word.

3090
02:10:49,160 --> 02:10:51,310
Oh, you mean-- that's
part of the exhibition?

3091
02:10:51,310 --> 02:10:52,220
Yeah, it's part
of the exhibition.

3092
02:10:52,220 --> 02:10:52,720
OK.

3093
02:10:52,720 --> 02:10:54,710
On some panels or some--

3094
02:10:54,710 --> 02:10:55,340
Panels.

3095
02:10:55,340 --> 02:10:56,570
Thank you.

3096
02:10:56,570 --> 02:10:59,300
I think you call them panels.

3097
02:10:59,300 --> 02:11:06,230
And some time ago I found
out some of the information

3098
02:11:06,230 --> 02:11:08,030
I didn't think was correct.

3099
02:11:08,030 --> 02:11:12,250
And I know how important
it is for the museum to--

3100
02:11:12,250 --> 02:11:12,750
Be accurate.

3101
02:11:12,750 --> 02:11:15,840
--transfer the
right information.

3102
02:11:15,840 --> 02:11:17,870
And I was out at a school.

3103
02:11:17,870 --> 02:11:19,640
And some of them
talked about what

3104
02:11:19,640 --> 02:11:21,290
they had read in the document.

3105
02:11:21,290 --> 02:11:23,270
This also happens
to be on the tape.

3106
02:11:23,270 --> 02:11:25,280
So I worked with the museum.

3107
02:11:25,280 --> 02:11:29,240
And they're going to
change the panels.

3108
02:11:29,240 --> 02:11:31,580
And I realized it
takes some time.

3109
02:11:31,580 --> 02:11:35,040
And I'm not always the most
patient person in this world.

3110
02:11:35,040 --> 02:11:35,540
[LAUGHTER]

3111
02:11:35,540 --> 02:11:36,860
But it has to go--

3112
02:11:36,860 --> 02:11:38,450
take the right steps.

3113
02:11:38,450 --> 02:11:40,940
But within the next
couple of weeks

3114

02:11:40,940 --> 02:11:45,520

I believe the new panels will
be on display in the museum.

3115

02:11:45,520 --> 02:11:46,620

Well, congratulations.

3116

02:11:46,620 --> 02:11:49,100

And it's very gratifying.

3117

02:11:49,100 --> 02:11:52,460

Because-- also to the museum.

3118

02:11:52,460 --> 02:11:55,520

Because I know they want
the museum to be correct.

3119

02:11:55,520 --> 02:11:57,230

Of course they do.

3120

02:11:57,230 --> 02:11:59,060

And thank you for your efforts.

3121

02:11:59,060 --> 02:12:04,280

It's through such efforts
that we can be more precise

3122

02:12:04,280 --> 02:12:07,480

and we can be more accurate.

3123

02:12:07,480 --> 02:12:10,940

Mr. Steen, thank you so much.

3124

02:12:10,940 --> 02:12:12,550

I shouldn't say Mr. Steen.

3125

02:12:12,550 --> 02:12:13,050

Steen.

3126

02:12:13,050 --> 02:12:16,740

[LAUGHS] Thank you so much

for talking to us today,

3127
02:12:16,740 --> 02:12:18,890
for sharing your
story, for sharing also

3128
02:12:18,890 --> 02:12:22,490
the hard parts of
it, and letting

3129
02:12:22,490 --> 02:12:27,380
us have a view of what
your experience was.

3130
02:12:27,380 --> 02:12:33,020
I will say that, for now, this
will conclude the United States

3131
02:12:33,020 --> 02:12:34,835
Holocaust Memorial
Museum effort-- you

3132
02:12:34,835 --> 02:12:35,960
want to say something else?

3133
02:12:35,960 --> 02:12:36,590
Yeah, may I?

3134
02:12:36,590 --> 02:12:37,632
OK, sure, go right ahead.

3135
02:12:37,632 --> 02:12:38,990
Yeah.

3136
02:12:38,990 --> 02:12:41,780
Thank you very
much for conducting

3137
02:12:41,780 --> 02:12:46,250
this in such a professional
way, and your knowledge.

3138

02:12:46,250 --> 02:12:48,870
And I'm glad to do it.

3139
02:12:48,870 --> 02:12:52,100
And I really want
the world to know

3140
02:12:52,100 --> 02:12:54,680
what the Holocaust was like.

3141
02:12:54,680 --> 02:12:58,280
Well, your voice will be
able to be heard by anybody

3142
02:12:58,280 --> 02:13:00,230
who clicks on the website.

3143
02:13:00,230 --> 02:13:04,100
And that is one of the
purposes of this museum.

3144
02:13:04,100 --> 02:13:05,690
So thanks.

3145
02:13:05,690 --> 02:13:06,290
Thank you.

3146
02:13:06,290 --> 02:13:07,610
OK.

3147
02:13:07,610 --> 02:13:11,810
This concludes the United
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

3148
02:13:11,810 --> 02:13:18,380
interview with Mr. Steen
Metz on September 26, 2016.

3149
02:13:18,380 --> 02:13:19,940
And what we're
going to do now is

3150

02:13:19,940 --> 02:13:22,560
film some of your photographs.

3151
02:13:22,560 --> 02:13:24,770
So let's cut now.

3152
02:13:24,770 --> 02:13:26,610
And rolling.

3153
02:13:26,610 --> 02:13:30,320
OK, so Steen, tell me,
who is in this photograph?

3154
02:13:30,320 --> 02:13:33,920
This is my father, Axel Metz.

3155
02:13:33,920 --> 02:13:36,800
I don't know exactly
when it was taken.

3156
02:13:36,800 --> 02:13:42,740
But obviously, it was taken
before we were arrested in '43.

3157
02:13:42,740 --> 02:13:47,390
So I would guess it might
have been taken in '40 or '41.

3158
02:13:47,390 --> 02:13:53,460
At that time, my father would
have been about 38 years old.

3159
02:13:53,460 --> 02:13:57,290
And I think he looks
a lot older than 38.

3160
02:13:57,290 --> 02:14:01,040
But they do dress differently.

3161
02:14:01,040 --> 02:14:04,126
Well, he does also seem like
a young man, though, a very--

3162

02:14:04,126 --> 02:14:04,751

Thank you, yes.

3163

02:14:04,751 --> 02:14:06,410

--a young man who--

3164

02:14:06,410 --> 02:14:08,800

and a gentle man.

3165

02:14:08,800 --> 02:14:11,790

OK, thank you very much.

3166

02:14:11,790 --> 02:14:13,950

And--

3167

02:14:13,950 --> 02:14:15,930

OK, and tell me who is?

3168

02:14:15,930 --> 02:14:19,140

This my mother, Magna.

3169

02:14:19,140 --> 02:14:22,080

And she was married
again, but I'll

3170

02:14:22,080 --> 02:14:26,760

call her Magna Metz, because
I like that name the best.

3171

02:14:26,760 --> 02:14:30,180

And I believe she was
about 85 years old

3172

02:14:30,180 --> 02:14:31,440

when the picture was taken.

3173

02:14:31,440 --> 02:14:37,920

It was taken during the summer
when Eileen and I, my wife, we

3174

02:14:37,920 --> 02:14:40,350

were in Odense, my hometown.

3175

02:14:40,350 --> 02:14:42,930

And it's one of my
favorite pictures.

3176

02:14:42,930 --> 02:14:45,970

And she died five years later.

3177

02:14:45,970 --> 02:14:49,080

She was 90 years
old when she died.

3178

02:14:49,080 --> 02:14:52,060

And she was amazed
that she lived so long.

3179

02:14:52,060 --> 02:14:54,300

And she said that
in the interview,

3180

02:14:54,300 --> 02:14:56,880

especially after what
she went through.

3181

02:14:56,880 --> 02:15:00,450

And I like to think that I
got some of her good genes,

3182

02:15:00,450 --> 02:15:04,780

so I continue to talk to
students for a while longer.

3183

02:15:04,780 --> 02:15:06,420

OK, thank you.

3184

02:15:06,420 --> 02:15:09,370

Thank you very much.

3185

02:15:09,370 --> 02:15:13,530

OK, tell us about
this photograph.

3186

02:15:13,530 --> 02:15:16,560

This is a very
unique photograph,

3187

02:15:16,560 --> 02:15:20,280

which I found on the
internet some years ago,

3188

02:15:20,280 --> 02:15:24,630

before I issued my book
or published my book.

3189

02:15:24,630 --> 02:15:27,420

This is the only photo
taken of the arrest

3190

02:15:27,420 --> 02:15:29,525

of Jewish people in Denmark.

3191

02:15:29,525 --> 02:15:32,430

It was actually
taken by a person

3192

02:15:32,430 --> 02:15:35,100

from a balcony right opposite.

3193

02:15:35,100 --> 02:15:37,800

And it shows 60
Jewish people being

3194

02:15:37,800 --> 02:15:41,790

assembled in a schoolyard
in the center of Odense.

3195

02:15:41,790 --> 02:15:44,110

And you can see the
truck in the picture.

3196

02:15:44,110 --> 02:15:46,560

And we were driven
there on the truck.

3197

02:15:46,560 --> 02:15:50,240
And later on, we were
taking the same truck

3198
02:15:50,240 --> 02:15:53,190
to the western part of
Denmark and then herded

3199
02:15:53,190 --> 02:15:59,010
into a cattle car on
our way to Terezin.

3200
02:15:59,010 --> 02:16:01,140
So you're one of
those 60 people.

3201
02:16:01,140 --> 02:16:03,120
Yes, and I've looked
with magnifying

3202
02:16:03,120 --> 02:16:05,820
glass and everything,
and I can't find it.

3203
02:16:05,820 --> 02:16:09,300
Interestingly enough, the
person that took the picture

3204
02:16:09,300 --> 02:16:10,440
put it away.

3205
02:16:10,440 --> 02:16:13,160
And his son found it.

3206
02:16:13,160 --> 02:16:14,120
That happens sometimes.

3207
02:16:14,120 --> 02:16:15,750
Yes, it does.

3208
02:16:15,750 --> 02:16:18,660
Thank you very much.

3209

02:16:18,660 --> 02:16:22,050

OK, so tell me what it is
that you have in your hand.

3210

02:16:22,050 --> 02:16:23,820

Last year when we
were in Florida,

3211

02:16:23,820 --> 02:16:26,550

I talked to a
sixth grade school.

3212

02:16:26,550 --> 02:16:28,800

The name of the school
was St. Andrew Catholic

3213

02:16:28,800 --> 02:16:31,350

School in Cape
Coral Florida, just

3214

02:16:31,350 --> 02:16:34,010

outside Fort Myers, Florida.

3215

02:16:34,010 --> 02:16:39,860

These students were as attentive
and as interested as anybody.

3216

02:16:39,860 --> 02:16:46,180

And they tried the website
of the Holocaust Museum

3217

02:16:46,180 --> 02:16:48,219

in Washington,
because they thought

3218

02:16:48,219 --> 02:16:50,049

I would be on the website.

3219

02:16:50,049 --> 02:16:51,400

I will be from now on.

3220

02:16:51,400 --> 02:16:52,040

That's right.

3221

02:16:52,040 --> 02:16:53,680

But they were very dear.

3222

02:16:53,680 --> 02:16:58,350

And after the presentation,
they wrote me a long, long poem.

3223

02:16:58,350 --> 02:17:00,190

And I'd like to--

3224

02:17:00,190 --> 02:17:01,860

I'll never forget it.

3225

02:17:01,860 --> 02:17:06,049

I had tears in my eyes when
I read it the first time.

3226

02:17:06,049 --> 02:17:11,540

And it's amazing the things they
remember from my presentation.

3227

02:17:11,540 --> 02:17:13,360

So share some of that
with us, could you?

3228

02:17:13,360 --> 02:17:17,620

You're Steen Metz, a
Holocaust survivor.

3229

02:17:17,620 --> 02:17:23,559

You were born May the 5th,
1935 in Odense, Denmark.

3230

02:17:23,559 --> 02:17:27,010

You were a happy boy
who loved ice cream.

3231

02:17:27,010 --> 02:17:32,240

You saw Nazi soldiers
on every street corner,

3232

02:17:32,240 --> 02:17:35,230
starting in April, 1940.

3233

02:17:35,230 --> 02:17:39,049
You still enjoyed a
vacation with your family.

3234

02:17:39,049 --> 02:17:41,590
Your terror began
the day the Nazis

3235

02:17:41,590 --> 02:17:44,830
pounded on your apartment door.

3236

02:17:44,830 --> 02:17:48,040
You had 30 minutes to
gather your valuables.

3237

02:17:48,040 --> 02:17:50,590
You wondered why
only some families

3238

02:17:50,590 --> 02:17:53,020
were taken by the Gestapo.

3239

02:17:53,020 --> 02:17:56,200
You were afraid riding in
the crammed cattle cars

3240

02:17:56,200 --> 02:18:00,580
for three days and three
nights as some died.

3241

02:18:00,580 --> 02:18:02,530
And then the last one.

3242

02:18:02,530 --> 02:18:05,110
We are sixth graders
at St. Andrew Catholic

3243

02:18:05,110 --> 02:18:08,410
School in Cape Coral, Florida.

3244

02:18:08,410 --> 02:18:11,469

We love that you came
to speak at our school.

3245

02:18:11,469 --> 02:18:15,520

We believe that you're a lantern
shining the light of truth that

3246

02:18:15,520 --> 02:18:17,110

was the Holocaust.

3247

02:18:17,110 --> 02:18:21,639

We are thankful for your book
to read more of your story.

3248

02:18:21,639 --> 02:18:26,049

We understand your idea to
be an upstander, instead of

3249

02:18:26,049 --> 02:18:27,650

a bystander.

3250

02:18:27,650 --> 02:18:32,139

We say, we accept your challenge
to be ambassadors to tell

3251

02:18:32,139 --> 02:18:35,730

the truth of the Holocaust.

3252

02:18:35,730 --> 02:18:38,790

We will never forget
you, Steen Metz.

3253

02:18:38,790 --> 02:18:39,945

That's lovely.

3254

02:18:39,945 --> 02:18:41,870

Yeah, it is lovely.

3255

02:18:41,870 --> 02:18:47,309

And they refer to upstander

because in some of my talks,

3256
02:18:47,309 --> 02:18:48,480
I use the word upstander.

3257
02:18:48,480 --> 02:18:49,980
There were too many
people that were

3258
02:18:49,980 --> 02:18:52,620
standing by during the war.

3259
02:18:52,620 --> 02:18:54,299
And we need more upstanders.

3260
02:18:54,299 --> 02:18:56,430
And if you can have
bystanders in the dictionary,

3261
02:18:56,430 --> 02:18:58,530
you can have upstanders also.

3262
02:18:58,530 --> 02:18:59,556
Absolutely.

3263
02:18:59,556 --> 02:19:00,389
Thank you very much.

3264
02:19:00,389 --> 02:19:01,889
And they actually
gave me a lantern.

3265
02:19:01,889 --> 02:19:04,410
Yeah.

3266
02:19:04,410 --> 02:19:06,610
Thank you very much.

3267
02:19:06,610 --> 02:19:09,559
And that's what some
of the poems are.

3268

02:19:09,559 --> 02:19:12,380

And we can pan
from top to bottom.

3269

02:19:12,380 --> 02:19:47,000