

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,210

2
00:00:01,210 --> 00:00:05,380
This is part 1 of the United
States Holocaust Memorial

3
00:00:05,380 --> 00:00:09,280
Museum interview with
Dr. Alfred I. Fiks,

4
00:00:09,280 --> 00:00:14,140
taking place on August
18, 2016, over the phone

5
00:00:14,140 --> 00:00:17,800
between Washington,
DC and Costa Rica.

6
00:00:17,800 --> 00:00:20,650
Thank you very much, Dr. Fiks,
for agreeing to be interviewed.

7
00:00:20,650 --> 00:00:22,600
We very much appreciate it.

8
00:00:22,600 --> 00:00:24,490
Thank you for the opportunity.

9
00:00:24,490 --> 00:00:25,630
Yes, sir.

10
00:00:25,630 --> 00:00:32,170
And so in part 1 we'll talk a
little bit about your family,

11
00:00:32,170 --> 00:00:36,820
some biographical information,
and the years leading up

12
00:00:36,820 --> 00:00:38,440

to the war.

13
00:00:38,440 --> 00:00:42,280
So we'll start at
the very beginning.

14
00:00:42,280 --> 00:00:45,380
Could you please tell
us your date of birth,

15
00:00:45,380 --> 00:00:50,150
your place of birth,
and your name at birth?

16
00:00:50,150 --> 00:00:53,260
My date of birth,
place, and what else?

17
00:00:53,260 --> 00:00:55,790
And your name at birth,
if it was different.

18
00:00:55,790 --> 00:00:57,190
My name.

19
00:00:57,190 --> 00:00:58,900
My name was--

20
00:00:58,900 --> 00:01:02,150
I've never changed my name.

21
00:01:02,150 --> 00:01:09,880
Anyway, the date of
birth was 2 June 1931.

22
00:01:09,880 --> 00:01:11,895
And the place is
Berlin, Germany.

23
00:01:11,895 --> 00:01:15,220

24

00:01:15,220 --> 00:01:18,190
And did you always go
by Alfred, or did you

25
00:01:18,190 --> 00:01:20,590
have any nicknames growing up?

26
00:01:20,590 --> 00:01:21,610
Did I what?

27
00:01:21,610 --> 00:01:24,320
Did you have any
nicknames growing up?

28
00:01:24,320 --> 00:01:24,820
Any--

29
00:01:24,820 --> 00:01:27,670

30
00:01:27,670 --> 00:01:30,820
Did you always go by the name
Alfred, or did you have a--

31
00:01:30,820 --> 00:01:33,400

32
00:01:33,400 --> 00:01:40,660
In Berlin I was always
Alfred or Alfred-chen,

33
00:01:40,660 --> 00:01:44,290
which is diminutive.

34
00:01:44,290 --> 00:01:47,800
It's Alfred or little Alfred.

35
00:01:47,800 --> 00:01:51,550
Oh, yeah, Alfred-chen.

36
00:01:51,550 --> 00:01:54,070
So you were born in Germany.

37
00:01:54,070 --> 00:01:56,230
Were your parents, as well?

38
00:01:56,230 --> 00:01:58,330
Were my parents?

39
00:01:58,330 --> 00:02:00,880
Were they born in
Germany, as well?

40
00:02:00,880 --> 00:02:01,740
No.

41
00:02:01,740 --> 00:02:10,485
And so the real beginning for me
goes back to their birthplace,

42
00:02:10,485 --> 00:02:11,550
actually--

43
00:02:11,550 --> 00:02:14,070
their birth places.

44
00:02:14,070 --> 00:02:15,840
Would you like to
hear about them?

45
00:02:15,840 --> 00:02:16,560
Yes, please.

46
00:02:16,560 --> 00:02:19,260

47
00:02:19,260 --> 00:02:25,020
My mother was born in
Poland, in the capital

48
00:02:25,020 --> 00:02:26,745
city, which is Warsaw.

49

00:02:26,745 --> 00:02:29,890

50

00:02:29,890 --> 00:02:42,170

And she was born
in the year 1894.

51

00:02:42,170 --> 00:02:47,710

The date, in case you're
interested, is May 9.

52

00:02:47,710 --> 00:02:56,120

Anyway, she was born
into a family with--

53

00:02:56,120 --> 00:02:59,615

she had one sister that I
know of and several brothers.

54

00:02:59,615 --> 00:03:02,270

55

00:03:02,270 --> 00:03:09,140

And they lived in the
Jewish Quarter of Warsaw,

56

00:03:09,140 --> 00:03:11,670

in an apartment.

57

00:03:11,670 --> 00:03:16,980

And they were very
industrious people.

58

00:03:16,980 --> 00:03:19,910

59

00:03:19,910 --> 00:03:23,870

During the day, that apartment
where they slept at night

60

00:03:23,870 --> 00:03:29,240

was turned into a small
factory of neckties.

61
00:03:29,240 --> 00:03:43,040
They would design, cut, and
sew men's neckties and then--

62
00:03:43,040 --> 00:03:44,870
and sell them to the stores.

63
00:03:44,870 --> 00:03:50,710

64
00:03:50,710 --> 00:03:52,900
So my mother was always--

65
00:03:52,900 --> 00:03:57,320
she always prided herself
in being a big city girl.

66
00:03:57,320 --> 00:04:01,180

67
00:04:01,180 --> 00:04:06,790
My father, on the other hand,
was born in the country.

68
00:04:06,790 --> 00:04:12,340
And the country is really
somewhat indeterminate.

69
00:04:12,340 --> 00:04:18,190
The territories in some
areas between Poland

70
00:04:18,190 --> 00:04:22,750
and Russia and Ukraine
kept changing hands.

71
00:04:22,750 --> 00:04:27,255
So it's difficult to
know whether he was born

72
00:04:27,255 --> 00:04:30,150

in Poland, Ukraine, or Russia.

73

00:04:30,150 --> 00:04:33,420

74

00:04:33,420 --> 00:04:40,600

He was born in a small town
called Rasalowska, if you--

75

00:04:40,600 --> 00:04:44,050

the best spelling I know
about, the only spelling I

76

00:04:44,050 --> 00:04:48,170

know for it is--

77

00:04:48,170 --> 00:04:50,520

let's see, here--

78

00:04:50,520 --> 00:04:59,840

R-A-S-A-L-O-W-K-A, Rasalowska.

79

00:04:59,840 --> 00:05:04,240

80

00:05:04,240 --> 00:05:08,510

It was what was called a shtetl.

81

00:05:08,510 --> 00:05:13,790

A shtetl is a village,
a Jewish village,

82

00:05:13,790 --> 00:05:17,960

from the German word
stadt, which is city.

83

00:05:17,960 --> 00:05:23,650

So it was a shtetl where
all the men were bearded

84

00:05:23,650 --> 00:05:27,760

and every other one was a rabbi.

85
00:05:27,760 --> 00:05:31,750
And if you've seen
Fiddler on the Roof,

86
00:05:31,750 --> 00:05:33,250
you know what I'm talking about.

87
00:05:33,250 --> 00:05:35,920

88
00:05:35,920 --> 00:05:42,390
Anyway, so he was born
in this country town.

89
00:05:42,390 --> 00:05:46,290
But he was looking
for wider opportunity

90
00:05:46,290 --> 00:05:51,650
for work and creativeness
than he could

91
00:05:51,650 --> 00:05:55,270
find in that little village.

92
00:05:55,270 --> 00:05:57,570
And at some point he moved.

93
00:05:57,570 --> 00:06:02,760
He picked himself up
and moved to Warsaw.

94
00:06:02,760 --> 00:06:06,360
And I don't know how
they met, but they did--

95
00:06:06,360 --> 00:06:10,050
he and my mother did meet.

96
00:06:10,050 --> 00:06:13,210
But before that-- I guess--

97
00:06:13,210 --> 00:06:15,850
well, I'm not sure if
it was before or after.

98
00:06:15,850 --> 00:06:20,570
But at some point--

99
00:06:20,570 --> 00:06:27,330
my father was born in 1893.

100
00:06:27,330 --> 00:06:31,630
So he was one year
older than my mother.

101
00:06:31,630 --> 00:06:35,860
And he was in Warsaw
taking courses.

102
00:06:35,860 --> 00:06:39,160

103
00:06:39,160 --> 00:06:43,900
His love in life was
playing the violin, just

104
00:06:43,900 --> 00:06:47,410
like Fiddler on the Roof.

105
00:06:47,410 --> 00:06:53,050
But he realized that it was
difficult to make a livelihood

106
00:06:53,050 --> 00:06:56,350
from playing the violin.

107
00:06:56,350 --> 00:07:01,042
And so he went to
Warsaw to learn--

108
00:07:01,042 --> 00:07:04,780
[COUGH] excuse me--

109
00:07:04,780 --> 00:07:09,310
to learn the craft,
art and craft

110
00:07:09,310 --> 00:07:12,050
of making ladies fur coats--

111
00:07:12,050 --> 00:07:15,305
fur, F-U-R--

112
00:07:15,305 --> 00:07:15,805
Fur coats.

113
00:07:15,805 --> 00:07:19,220

114
00:07:19,220 --> 00:07:28,840
--from the design of the coat
to getting these animal skins,

115
00:07:28,840 --> 00:07:37,010
making a design for the
coat, cutting the animal skin

116
00:07:37,010 --> 00:07:40,280
to appropriate shape,
sewing them together--

117
00:07:40,280 --> 00:07:42,980
the whole thing, from
beginning to end, because

118
00:07:42,980 --> 00:07:46,770
in those days, of course,
there was no central heating

119
00:07:46,770 --> 00:07:49,090
in the homes.

120
00:07:49,090 --> 00:07:52,610
And the houses were cold.

121
00:07:52,610 --> 00:07:53,770
So he went to--

122
00:07:53,770 --> 00:07:56,350
So he learned the--

123
00:07:56,350 --> 00:07:58,520
And at some point he married--

124
00:07:58,520 --> 00:08:03,450
no, he didn't-- at some
point he met my mother.

125
00:08:03,450 --> 00:08:10,850
Also at some point, apparently,
the Russians moved into Warsaw.

126
00:08:10,850 --> 00:08:16,600

127
00:08:16,600 --> 00:08:20,800
And they conscripted him.

128
00:08:20,800 --> 00:08:23,560
They forced him to
join the Russian army.

129
00:08:23,560 --> 00:08:32,200
This was World War I, which, if
you remember, started in 1914.

130
00:08:32,200 --> 00:08:33,130
Yes, sir.

131
00:08:33,130 --> 00:08:36,280
And what were your
parents' names,

132
00:08:36,280 --> 00:08:39,039
before we talk more about that?

133

00:08:39,039 --> 00:08:41,679

My father was David Fiks.

134

00:08:41,679 --> 00:08:43,030

David.

135

00:08:43,030 --> 00:08:45,540

And my mother was Estera.

136

00:08:45,540 --> 00:08:46,620

Estera.

137

00:08:46,620 --> 00:08:47,590

OK.

138

00:08:47,590 --> 00:08:50,680

E-S-T-E-R-A.

139

00:08:50,680 --> 00:08:52,950

Thank you.

140

00:08:52,950 --> 00:08:55,270

And so he was drafted
into the Russian army?

141

00:08:55,270 --> 00:08:57,610

142

00:08:57,610 --> 00:09:00,670

He was drafted into
the Russian-- that's--

143

00:09:00,670 --> 00:09:02,980

anyway, you
understand that a lot

144

00:09:02,980 --> 00:09:07,690

of the information
about this period

145

00:09:07,690 --> 00:09:14,530

are things that I learned as
an adult or an adolescent.

146
00:09:14,530 --> 00:09:16,760
They were not things
from my childhood.

147
00:09:16,760 --> 00:09:18,280
I didn't know
anything about where

148
00:09:18,280 --> 00:09:20,770
my father came from then--

149
00:09:20,770 --> 00:09:21,970
So he never talked--

150
00:09:21,970 --> 00:09:23,120
--with one exception.

151
00:09:23,120 --> 00:09:25,630

152
00:09:25,630 --> 00:09:33,350
On vacations my
father would not--

153
00:09:33,350 --> 00:09:36,510
would usually not go
on vacations with us.

154
00:09:36,510 --> 00:09:42,510
My mother and I would
travel alone, and sometimes

155
00:09:42,510 --> 00:09:43,560
with my other brother.

156
00:09:43,560 --> 00:09:46,520

157
00:09:46,520 --> 00:09:55,370

But-- and sometimes we would travel to Poland on vacation

158
00:09:55,370 --> 00:10:00,430
and meet one of my mother's--

159
00:10:00,430 --> 00:10:05,540
he would-- we would meet my mother's favorite brother,

160
00:10:05,540 --> 00:10:09,180
who was a very tall man, almost three--

161
00:10:09,180 --> 00:10:14,142
well, almost six feet high.

162
00:10:14,142 --> 00:10:17,830
So we would meet him on--

163
00:10:17,830 --> 00:10:23,760
in a seaside resort called Zopot--

164
00:10:23,760 --> 00:10:33,210
Z-O-P-O-T, Zopot-- which was near the city of-- at that time

165
00:10:33,210 --> 00:10:35,340
it was called Danzig.

166
00:10:35,340 --> 00:10:46,380
Now it's called Gdansk in Polish, G-D-A-N-S-K.

167
00:10:46,380 --> 00:10:53,100
And so I knew that there was a Polish connection.

168
00:10:53,100 --> 00:10:58,650
But everything else I learned as an adolescent or as an adult.

169

00:10:58,650 --> 00:11:02,810

So your father never
talked about his childhood?

170

00:11:02,810 --> 00:11:05,570

Never about the war
or anything like that?

171

00:11:05,570 --> 00:11:08,330

Did my mother-- what
was the question?

172

00:11:08,330 --> 00:11:11,990

So your father never
talked about his childhood

173

00:11:11,990 --> 00:11:16,370

in Poland or his
experiences during the war?

174

00:11:16,370 --> 00:11:18,690

Well, a little bit.

175

00:11:18,690 --> 00:11:19,190

And--

176

00:11:19,190 --> 00:11:21,250

Oh, I see.

177

00:11:21,250 --> 00:11:23,750

And the stories were
not always the same,

178

00:11:23,750 --> 00:11:26,980

which makes me a little
bit suspect of what

179

00:11:26,980 --> 00:11:29,500

really happened.

180

00:11:29,500 --> 00:11:36,070

But there was always an element

of self with time and old age.

181
00:11:36,070 --> 00:11:40,400
There's an element of
time where the story's

182
00:11:40,400 --> 00:11:43,610
growing and making oneself
more and more important.

183
00:11:43,610 --> 00:11:53,660
But anyway, the-- he was
drafted into the Russian Army.

184
00:11:53,660 --> 00:11:59,280
And the story I heard was
that he was taken prisoner

185
00:11:59,280 --> 00:12:00,000
by the Germans.

186
00:12:00,000 --> 00:12:03,260

187
00:12:03,260 --> 00:12:09,970
And as a Jewish soldier,
he was treated better

188
00:12:09,970 --> 00:12:15,280
as a prisoner in a German camp
than he had been as a soldier

189
00:12:15,280 --> 00:12:17,451
in the Russian army.

190
00:12:17,451 --> 00:12:17,951
Really?

191
00:12:17,951 --> 00:12:23,730
So he decided that Germany must
be a pretty good place to live,

192

00:12:23,730 --> 00:12:27,420
one that might give him
more economic opportunity

193
00:12:27,420 --> 00:12:29,070
to develop.

194
00:12:29,070 --> 00:12:37,850
And after the war, which
would be 1918, 1919,

195
00:12:37,850 --> 00:12:40,150
he moved to Germany.

196
00:12:40,150 --> 00:12:41,690
Really?

197
00:12:41,690 --> 00:12:42,630
Yes.

198
00:12:42,630 --> 00:12:46,005
Just because of the way he was
treated as a prisoner of war.

199
00:12:46,005 --> 00:12:48,270
Well, I'm sure there
were other factors,

200
00:12:48,270 --> 00:12:51,210
but I don't know what they were.

201
00:12:51,210 --> 00:13:03,530
Well, it was generally known
that in Poland, the Jews

202
00:13:03,530 --> 00:13:06,450
lived in their own little--

203
00:13:06,450 --> 00:13:09,800
well, it's a self-imposed
ghetto, really.

204

00:13:09,800 --> 00:13:15,270
But it's in their own areas,
their own neighborhoods.

205
00:13:15,270 --> 00:13:20,900
Whereas in Berlin they were
more integrated into the city.

206
00:13:20,900 --> 00:13:22,170
I see.

207
00:13:22,170 --> 00:13:27,440
And there were neighbors who
were not Jewish next door.

208
00:13:27,440 --> 00:13:30,290

209
00:13:30,290 --> 00:13:33,320
So it was-- that
was generally known.

210
00:13:33,320 --> 00:13:36,110
So he knew that
there would naturally

211
00:13:36,110 --> 00:13:41,030
be more opportunity in Germany
than there had been in Poland.

212
00:13:41,030 --> 00:13:43,730

213
00:13:43,730 --> 00:13:45,600
And so--

214
00:13:45,600 --> 00:13:50,560
And then, in 1920, he
sent for my mother.

215
00:13:50,560 --> 00:13:52,540
This is a story that I hear.

216

00:13:52,540 --> 00:13:56,350

217

00:13:56,350 --> 00:13:59,440

And they got married in Berlin.

218

00:13:59,440 --> 00:14:03,780

I know that's true because

I have a photo, a wedding

219

00:14:03,780 --> 00:14:11,970

photograph from Berlin, 1920.

220

00:14:11,970 --> 00:14:15,490

Now, did I get off

your question, or--

221

00:14:15,490 --> 00:14:16,120

No, no.

222

00:14:16,120 --> 00:14:19,480

This is-- you covered a

lot of the questions I had.

223

00:14:19,480 --> 00:14:20,200

Good.

224

00:14:20,200 --> 00:14:22,540

So what were your parents like?

225

00:14:22,540 --> 00:14:23,835

What were their personalities?

226

00:14:23,835 --> 00:14:24,520

What were they like?

227

00:14:24,520 --> 00:14:25,020

Yes, sir.

228

00:14:25,020 --> 00:14:28,090

That's an interesting question.

229
00:14:28,090 --> 00:14:39,730
My father, his whole life--

230
00:14:39,730 --> 00:14:45,640
well, while he was
actively working,

231
00:14:45,640 --> 00:14:47,590
his whole life was his work.

232
00:14:47,590 --> 00:14:52,820

233
00:14:52,820 --> 00:14:57,620
As soon as he could he set
up his own little store

234
00:14:57,620 --> 00:15:01,210
with his own little
workshop behind it,

235
00:15:01,210 --> 00:15:02,250
making the fur coats.

236
00:15:02,250 --> 00:15:07,040

237
00:15:07,040 --> 00:15:12,330
And he would devote all day,
and I mean all day, to working.

238
00:15:12,330 --> 00:15:15,250

239
00:15:15,250 --> 00:15:19,660
My mother was the sociable one.

240
00:15:19,660 --> 00:15:22,030
My father was not
at all sociable.

241

00:15:22,030 --> 00:15:28,960

And he was-- and I think he
tended to be a perfectionist.

242

00:15:28,960 --> 00:15:33,160

My mother would
handle the customers

243

00:15:33,160 --> 00:15:35,315

in the front of the
store, in the showroom.

244

00:15:35,315 --> 00:15:38,080

245

00:15:38,080 --> 00:15:43,250

And she liked to meet
people and talk to people,

246

00:15:43,250 --> 00:15:45,960

unlike my father,
I think, generally.

247

00:15:45,960 --> 00:15:49,740

And I don't have any memory of
ever playing with my father,

248

00:15:49,740 --> 00:15:50,330

for example.

249

00:15:50,330 --> 00:15:54,220

250

00:15:54,220 --> 00:15:55,200

And so they--

251

00:15:55,200 --> 00:15:58,880

The only thing I--
the only time--

252

00:15:58,880 --> 00:16:02,740

well, I didn't

realize I was playing.

253

00:16:02,740 --> 00:16:11,350

Once, in my childhood, there
was a happening that I just--

254

00:16:11,350 --> 00:16:15,730

I don't remember-- I don't know
if it was from my own memory

255

00:16:15,730 --> 00:16:22,900

or what I was told in
adolescence and adulthood.

256

00:16:22,900 --> 00:16:24,580

But I believe it was true.

257

00:16:24,580 --> 00:16:30,420

258

00:16:30,420 --> 00:16:39,080

I was very young in getting my
adult teeth, were coming in.

259

00:16:39,080 --> 00:16:51,310

And so I don't
know what happened,

260

00:16:51,310 --> 00:16:57,310

but I think I did something that
my mother told me not to do.

261

00:16:57,310 --> 00:17:00,480

And so she gave me
a slap in the face.

262

00:17:00,480 --> 00:17:03,210

263

00:17:03,210 --> 00:17:14,690

And one of my baby teeth fell
out as a result of the slap.

264

00:17:14,690 --> 00:17:17,480

And so I was going
to get even with her.

265

00:17:17,480 --> 00:17:24,000

I took the little baby tooth to
my father, who was in the shop.

266

00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:25,960

See, we lived near--

267

00:17:25,960 --> 00:17:31,250

the apartment we lived
in was near the store.

268

00:17:31,250 --> 00:17:34,620

So I didn't have to go
far to go to my father

269

00:17:34,620 --> 00:17:37,740

and show him what my
mother had done to me.

270

00:17:37,740 --> 00:17:40,200

[LAUGHTER]

271

00:17:40,200 --> 00:17:44,136

272

00:17:44,136 --> 00:17:52,750

But I think that
was the last attempt

273

00:17:52,750 --> 00:17:57,040

to get my mother into
trouble that happened.

274

00:17:57,040 --> 00:18:01,000

275

00:18:01,000 --> 00:18:05,050

And so your parents owned

the store where they both--

276

00:18:05,050 --> 00:18:06,895

your father made the coats.

277

00:18:06,895 --> 00:18:07,420

Yes.

278

00:18:07,420 --> 00:18:08,930

And your mother

worked out front.

279

00:18:08,930 --> 00:18:09,430

Yes.

280

00:18:09,430 --> 00:18:14,920

It was a small retail store

in a residential neighborhood

281

00:18:14,920 --> 00:18:16,230

in Berlin.

282

00:18:16,230 --> 00:18:20,600

It was not a Jewish

neighborhood.

283

00:18:20,600 --> 00:18:25,530

There were lots of

other people around.

284

00:18:25,530 --> 00:18:31,800

It was in a building which

was an apartment house, which

285

00:18:31,800 --> 00:18:38,628

had about four or five

stories with an open courtyard

286

00:18:38,628 --> 00:18:42,570

inside the buildings.

287

00:18:42,570 --> 00:18:48,910

And the store was in front of
the building, on the street,

288
00:18:48,910 --> 00:18:51,490
at street level.

289
00:18:51,490 --> 00:18:56,410
And the apartment
was inside, also on--

290
00:18:56,410 --> 00:19:00,670
at street level, but
inside the courtyard.

291
00:19:00,670 --> 00:19:07,250
We had about three or
four rooms back there.

292
00:19:07,250 --> 00:19:09,560
Apartment-- nice
apartment, middle class.

293
00:19:09,560 --> 00:19:13,610

294
00:19:13,610 --> 00:19:19,310
My parents, both my father and
mother, were not religious.

295
00:19:19,310 --> 00:19:23,590
And their families did not
seem to be very religious.

296
00:19:23,590 --> 00:19:26,290
I don't know for sure.

297
00:19:26,290 --> 00:19:29,390
But for example, I never met--

298
00:19:29,390 --> 00:19:39,160
well, I met my maternal
grandmother once.

299

00:19:39,160 --> 00:19:44,730

Of the four grandparents,
that's the only one I ever met.

300

00:19:44,730 --> 00:19:49,970

And she of course,
as partially remember

301

00:19:49,970 --> 00:19:56,200

and partially I was told, she
would embrace me and kiss me

302

00:19:56,200 --> 00:19:58,790

on the cheek.

303

00:19:58,790 --> 00:20:08,300

And I started crying because
she was all wrinkly and very

304

00:20:08,300 --> 00:20:12,880

ancient, it seemed to me.

305

00:20:12,880 --> 00:20:19,200

I was a baby at the time,
or a very young child.

306

00:20:19,200 --> 00:20:24,060

Anyway, I started crying because
a strange-looking woman was

307

00:20:24,060 --> 00:20:26,597

hugging me and kissing me.

308

00:20:26,597 --> 00:20:27,680

And that was-- yeah, the--

309

00:20:27,680 --> 00:20:30,150

So I started crying.

310

00:20:30,150 --> 00:20:35,510

And my mother says, it's
ridiculous what you're doing.

311
00:20:35,510 --> 00:20:38,700

312
00:20:38,700 --> 00:20:43,826
When I get old and I kiss
you, will you also cry?

313
00:20:43,826 --> 00:20:46,682
[LAUGHTER]

314
00:20:46,682 --> 00:20:51,450

315
00:20:51,450 --> 00:20:54,720
I was beyond words.

316
00:20:54,720 --> 00:20:58,710
I remember in one of our
past phone conversations

317
00:20:58,710 --> 00:21:02,830
you mentioned that your
mother was a feminist?

318
00:21:02,830 --> 00:21:04,660
Well, yes.

319
00:21:04,660 --> 00:21:08,860
Her attitude, I think,
was very enlightened.

320
00:21:08,860 --> 00:21:11,560
I don't think she
belonged to any organized

321
00:21:11,560 --> 00:21:13,360
group of feminists.

322
00:21:13,360 --> 00:21:20,965
But she didn't like housework
too much, for example.

323
00:21:20,965 --> 00:21:24,560

324
00:21:24,560 --> 00:21:26,440
In Germany we had a--

325
00:21:26,440 --> 00:21:29,960

326
00:21:29,960 --> 00:21:31,980
well, I really had
two mothers, you see,

327
00:21:31,980 --> 00:21:35,540
because I had my real
mother, but she was--

328
00:21:35,540 --> 00:21:41,260
during the day she was always in
the store, or much of the time.

329
00:21:41,260 --> 00:21:44,960
Sometimes she would cook meals.

330
00:21:44,960 --> 00:21:47,570
But usually the one
who cooked meals

331
00:21:47,570 --> 00:21:56,920
was Marie, Mary, who was with us
for many years that I remember.

332
00:21:56,920 --> 00:22:00,460
And she was a combination
housekeeper and nanny.

333
00:22:00,460 --> 00:22:04,890

334
00:22:04,890 --> 00:22:09,550
So I really had one

and a half mothers.

335

00:22:09,550 --> 00:22:13,900

And while your mom was at
the store, Marie was there.

336

00:22:13,900 --> 00:22:17,950

While my mom was at the store
Marie would care for me,

337

00:22:17,950 --> 00:22:21,040

take care of me,
whether in the apartment

338

00:22:21,040 --> 00:22:26,120

or whether she would take me
out for a walk through the park.

339

00:22:26,120 --> 00:22:29,600

That was one of our
favorite activities,

340

00:22:29,600 --> 00:22:35,040

going to the main
park in Berlin,

341

00:22:35,040 --> 00:22:37,900

which has a zoo inside it.

342

00:22:37,900 --> 00:22:41,770

It's a wonderful part
called the Tiergarten,

343

00:22:41,770 --> 00:22:45,320

the garden of animals.

344

00:22:45,320 --> 00:22:54,380

And everything went all right
until some yellow benches

345

00:22:54,380 --> 00:22:57,310

appeared in the park.

346
00:22:57,310 --> 00:23:00,000
This would have been in--

347
00:23:00,000 --> 00:23:03,090
I don't know, after--

348
00:23:03,090 --> 00:23:08,190
between 1935 and '39.

349
00:23:08,190 --> 00:23:11,070
Maybe '36 or '37.

350
00:23:11,070 --> 00:23:14,436
Yellow benches
appeared in the park.

351
00:23:14,436 --> 00:23:20,690
And the yellow benches, I found
out later, were for Jews only.

352
00:23:20,690 --> 00:23:24,580
Jews were not allowed to sit
on benches with normal people.

353
00:23:24,580 --> 00:23:27,220

354
00:23:27,220 --> 00:23:29,020
And before we jump
too far ahead--

355
00:23:29,020 --> 00:23:29,980
Sorry?

356
00:23:29,980 --> 00:23:34,240
Before we jump too far
ahead, let-- could we go back

357
00:23:34,240 --> 00:23:35,920
to your family a little bit?

358

00:23:35,920 --> 00:23:37,480
OK.

359
00:23:37,480 --> 00:23:43,320
So you said you met one of your
mother's brothers a few times.

360
00:23:43,320 --> 00:23:44,680
Yes.

361
00:23:44,680 --> 00:23:47,905
Did you ever meet any
other aunts or uncles?

362
00:23:47,905 --> 00:23:51,760

363
00:23:51,760 --> 00:23:53,320
No.

364
00:23:53,320 --> 00:23:56,850
Well, not in Poland.

365
00:23:56,850 --> 00:23:59,580
I did meet some
later on, in France.

366
00:23:59,580 --> 00:24:08,000
But that-- we leave
that for after 1939.

367
00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:12,530
In my early childhood I did
not meet any other brothers

368
00:24:12,530 --> 00:24:14,490
or sisters.

369
00:24:14,490 --> 00:24:17,720
So in my earlier years
the only one that I met

370

00:24:17,720 --> 00:24:25,810
was my Uncle [? Shia ?] and
my mother's mother, whom

371
00:24:25,810 --> 00:24:29,010
I cried when she embraced me.

372
00:24:29,010 --> 00:24:33,240

373
00:24:33,240 --> 00:24:34,830
What about siblings?

374
00:24:34,830 --> 00:24:38,290
You mentioned a brother.

375
00:24:38,290 --> 00:24:44,190
Now, I also mentioned that
my parents were very--

376
00:24:44,190 --> 00:24:45,480
they were not religious.

377
00:24:45,480 --> 00:24:48,460
They wanted to assimilate
into the German culture.

378
00:24:48,460 --> 00:24:53,830

379
00:24:53,830 --> 00:25:01,126
And in 1921 they produced
their first child.

380
00:25:01,126 --> 00:25:04,190
And remember, they
got married in 1920.

381
00:25:04,190 --> 00:25:04,690
Yes, sir.

382
00:25:04,690 --> 00:25:12,150

In 1921 Max appeared.

383
00:25:12,150 --> 00:25:14,540
A boy appeared,
and they named him

384
00:25:14,540 --> 00:25:22,590
Max, which is not exclusively
German, but very German.

385
00:25:22,590 --> 00:25:26,130

386
00:25:26,130 --> 00:25:30,480
In-- I don't know.

387
00:25:30,480 --> 00:25:36,880
A few years later, a second
boy, a second son appeared.

388
00:25:36,880 --> 00:25:45,910
And they named him
Fritz, F-R-I-T-Z.

389
00:25:45,910 --> 00:25:47,350
Can you imagine Fritz Fiks?

390
00:25:47,350 --> 00:25:50,290

391
00:25:50,290 --> 00:25:52,040
Poor boy.

392
00:25:52,040 --> 00:26:00,660
Anyway, Fritz died
of diphtheria.

393
00:26:00,660 --> 00:26:08,150
The injection they give to
babies now against diphtheria

394
00:26:08,150 --> 00:26:11,990

was not yet developed--

395

00:26:11,990 --> 00:26:13,460
or just coming out.

396

00:26:13,460 --> 00:26:15,470
I'm not sure.

397

00:26:15,470 --> 00:26:20,620
But anyway, he
died of diphtheria

398

00:26:20,620 --> 00:26:27,180
sometime before
1931, because that's

399

00:26:27,180 --> 00:26:32,440
when they had me as a
replacement for Fritz's death.

400

00:26:32,440 --> 00:26:38,060

401

00:26:38,060 --> 00:26:40,010
Well, I shouldn't say that.

402

00:26:40,010 --> 00:26:42,970
I don't know if that
was actually true.

403

00:26:42,970 --> 00:26:46,671
But I like to say that.

404

00:26:46,671 --> 00:26:50,280

405

00:26:50,280 --> 00:26:52,070
But I never met Fritz.

406

00:26:52,070 --> 00:26:54,290
But what I'm trying to--

407

00:26:54,290 --> 00:26:56,275

what I'm trying to
point out is that they

408

00:26:56,275 --> 00:27:00,070

were-- they wanted to
assimilate into German culture.

409

00:27:00,070 --> 00:27:09,800

They named a son Max, Frtiz,
and then yours truly, Alfred.

410

00:27:09,800 --> 00:27:12,450

Pretty German names.

411

00:27:12,450 --> 00:27:18,900

They're not Jewish
names or biblical names.

412

00:27:18,900 --> 00:27:20,850

So they made a choice
to choose very--

413

00:27:20,850 --> 00:27:21,660

Huh?

414

00:27:21,660 --> 00:27:24,510

They made a choice to
choose very German names?

415

00:27:24,510 --> 00:27:25,920

They what?

416

00:27:25,920 --> 00:27:31,500

Your parents-- they chose
to pick very German names?

417

00:27:31,500 --> 00:27:33,660

I'm sorry, I can't understand.

418

00:27:33,660 --> 00:27:36,270

Are you speaking into the phone?

419
00:27:36,270 --> 00:27:37,830
Is this better?

420
00:27:37,830 --> 00:27:39,720
I think so.

421
00:27:39,720 --> 00:27:45,780
So your parents specifically
chose very German names.

422
00:27:45,780 --> 00:27:48,750
Did they specifically--

423
00:27:48,750 --> 00:27:50,325
Chose German names?

424
00:27:50,325 --> 00:27:55,590

425
00:27:55,590 --> 00:27:57,455
No, I just--

426
00:27:57,455 --> 00:28:02,010
I'm a social scientist, so
I use that, as an adult,

427
00:28:02,010 --> 00:28:05,070
to indicate that they
really wanted to assimilate

428
00:28:05,070 --> 00:28:06,560
into German culture.

429
00:28:06,560 --> 00:28:07,060
Yes.

430
00:28:07,060 --> 00:28:10,680
For example, they
had season tickets

431

00:28:10,680 --> 00:28:15,380
to the Berlin
Philharmonic Orchestra

432
00:28:15,380 --> 00:28:19,480
based on my father's
love of music

433
00:28:19,480 --> 00:28:25,325
and the desire to really
belong into Berlin culture.

434
00:28:25,325 --> 00:28:28,650

435
00:28:28,650 --> 00:28:37,290
And so he wanted to
be part of something

436
00:28:37,290 --> 00:28:40,400
bigger than he had
been in Poland.

437
00:28:40,400 --> 00:28:42,250
Yes, sir.

438
00:28:42,250 --> 00:28:46,210
And they-- in terms
of religious training,

439
00:28:46,210 --> 00:28:51,820
we just went to synagogue once
a year, on the high holy days.

440
00:28:51,820 --> 00:29:01,110

441
00:29:01,110 --> 00:29:02,560
I'm going to change ears.

442
00:29:02,560 --> 00:29:03,060
Hold on.

443
00:29:03,060 --> 00:29:05,640

444
00:29:05,640 --> 00:29:06,140
OK.

445
00:29:06,140 --> 00:29:08,990

446
00:29:08,990 --> 00:29:13,790
And so Max was 10
years older than you?

447
00:29:13,790 --> 00:29:16,160
Correct.

448
00:29:16,160 --> 00:29:20,600
So what was he like,
having an older brother?

449
00:29:20,600 --> 00:29:23,655
Well, Max was-- he was OK.

450
00:29:23,655 --> 00:29:27,430

451
00:29:27,430 --> 00:29:32,580
He was very studious,
a very studious boy.

452
00:29:32,580 --> 00:29:38,110
They put him-- they wanted him
to learn to play the piano.

453
00:29:38,110 --> 00:29:43,840

454
00:29:43,840 --> 00:29:47,150
But in order to get him
to practice his piano

455

00:29:47,150 --> 00:29:50,400
they would put a box of
candies on the piano.

456
00:29:50,400 --> 00:29:57,860
And after every-- after so
many minutes or quarter hours,

457
00:29:57,860 --> 00:30:04,220
I don't know, he was able
to take a chocolate candy.

458
00:30:04,220 --> 00:30:09,065
He was a little bit
pudgy, not very physical.

459
00:30:09,065 --> 00:30:12,240

460
00:30:12,240 --> 00:30:16,530
He was very studious.

461
00:30:16,530 --> 00:30:24,000
They gave him a nickname,
Lekko, L-E-K-K-O, Lekko,

462
00:30:24,000 --> 00:30:27,000
which is short for lexicon.

463
00:30:27,000 --> 00:30:30,540
Lexicon, in German,
means something

464
00:30:30,540 --> 00:30:39,560
like what you call
the Britannica--

465
00:30:39,560 --> 00:30:40,820
encyclopedia.

466
00:30:40,820 --> 00:30:44,090
Lexicon means encyclopedia.

467

00:30:44,090 --> 00:30:45,560

And that was his nickname?

468

00:30:45,560 --> 00:30:47,086

That was his nickname.

469

00:30:47,086 --> 00:30:50,660

[LAUGHTER]

470

00:30:50,660 --> 00:30:51,320

Lekko.

471

00:30:51,320 --> 00:30:51,920

Lekko.

472

00:30:51,920 --> 00:30:52,420

Lekko.

473

00:30:52,420 --> 00:30:54,800

474

00:30:54,800 --> 00:30:58,320

So he was very studious,
very smart, it sounds like?

475

00:30:58,320 --> 00:30:58,910

Very studious.

476

00:30:58,910 --> 00:31:00,220

I guess he was smart, yeah.

477

00:31:00,220 --> 00:31:06,130

478

00:31:06,130 --> 00:31:12,330

And he was the
intellectual light of--

479

00:31:12,330 --> 00:31:14,310

hope of the family.

480

00:31:14,310 --> 00:31:21,210

In my mother's eyes, Max
was the intellectual one.

481

00:31:21,210 --> 00:31:28,120

Now, I was-- my specialty
was psychomotor ability.

482

00:31:28,120 --> 00:31:30,230

I could fix anything
with my hands.

483

00:31:30,230 --> 00:31:33,520

484

00:31:33,520 --> 00:31:42,380

So I was going to be a super
duper arts and craftsperson.

485

00:31:42,380 --> 00:31:44,890

486

00:31:44,890 --> 00:31:52,570

Oh, and Fritz, he
was the extrovert.

487

00:31:52,570 --> 00:31:56,250

488

00:31:56,250 --> 00:31:59,260

We judge from his one--

489

00:31:59,260 --> 00:32:03,160

I've only seen one
photograph of Fritz.

490

00:32:03,160 --> 00:32:09,530

He was, I don't know, eight
years old or something.

491

00:32:09,530 --> 00:32:13,830

And he had a chocolate

cigarette in his mouth--

492

00:32:13,830 --> 00:32:15,821
we assume it was chocolate.

493

00:32:15,821 --> 00:32:19,590

494

00:32:19,590 --> 00:32:23,970
So he was, like you said,
the extrovert of y'all?

495

00:32:23,970 --> 00:32:26,480
Was he?

496

00:32:26,480 --> 00:32:30,860
So you think he was the more
outgoing one of the brothers?

497

00:32:30,860 --> 00:32:33,670
I'm sorry, I'm having trouble.

498

00:32:33,670 --> 00:32:37,850
I get an echo in
back of your voice.

499

00:32:37,850 --> 00:32:40,390
Is this better?

500

00:32:40,390 --> 00:32:41,180
Maybe.

501

00:32:41,180 --> 00:32:43,654
I don't know.

502

00:32:43,654 --> 00:32:45,850
Say something else.

503

00:32:45,850 --> 00:32:47,720
So Fritz was outgoing?

504

00:32:47,720 --> 00:32:52,700

505

00:32:52,700 --> 00:32:53,630

I didn't under--

506

00:32:53,630 --> 00:32:56,180

I didn't catch that.

507

00:32:56,180 --> 00:32:59,960

Fritz was the outgoing brother?

508

00:32:59,960 --> 00:33:00,460

Fritz?

509

00:33:00,460 --> 00:33:02,990

510

00:33:02,990 --> 00:33:05,360

Well, you understand,
I never knew Fritz,

511

00:33:05,360 --> 00:33:07,430

because he died
before I was born.

512

00:33:07,430 --> 00:33:11,880

513

00:33:11,880 --> 00:33:15,060

But from what your
parents said, he was--

514

00:33:15,060 --> 00:33:19,200

He was-- yeah, he was
outgoing and devilish.

515

00:33:19,200 --> 00:33:24,910

And that was his specialty.

516

00:33:24,910 --> 00:33:26,400

And then I came along.

517
00:33:26,400 --> 00:33:29,310
And I was very
good with my hands.

518
00:33:29,310 --> 00:33:33,680

519
00:33:33,680 --> 00:33:35,540
And later, it turned
out, they wanted

520
00:33:35,540 --> 00:33:38,765
me to take over the store
when my father would retire.

521
00:33:38,765 --> 00:33:45,170

522
00:33:45,170 --> 00:33:46,550
And they told you this later?

523
00:33:46,550 --> 00:33:49,940

524
00:33:49,940 --> 00:33:52,000
They told me what later?

525
00:33:52,000 --> 00:33:55,120
That they wanted you
to take over the store?

526
00:33:55,120 --> 00:33:59,620
No, but it was obvious
from their comments.

527
00:33:59,620 --> 00:34:02,310
They never told
me that outright.

528
00:34:02,310 --> 00:34:02,910
Oh, I see.

529
00:34:02,910 --> 00:34:08,960
It was obvious from the
comments they would make.

530
00:34:08,960 --> 00:34:13,550
And you said that your
parents wanted to integrate

531
00:34:13,550 --> 00:34:15,530
into German society?

532
00:34:15,530 --> 00:34:16,340
Yes.

533
00:34:16,340 --> 00:34:17,449
So what--

534
00:34:17,449 --> 00:34:18,110
Hm?

535
00:34:18,110 --> 00:34:23,770
What languages did you speak at
home and outside of the home?

536
00:34:23,770 --> 00:34:26,590
Well, outside of
the home, German.

537
00:34:26,590 --> 00:34:37,170
Inside of the home, my
parents would talk, I guess,

538
00:34:37,170 --> 00:34:38,170
something--

539
00:34:38,170 --> 00:34:42,210
a combination of
German and Yiddish.

540
00:34:42,210 --> 00:34:46,540
Well, Yiddish is a

dialect of German,

541
00:34:46,540 --> 00:34:49,260
you may or may not know.

542
00:34:49,260 --> 00:34:57,460
So they talked this
combination German-Yiddish,

543
00:34:57,460 --> 00:35:01,030
except when they didn't want
me to under-- to hear something

544
00:35:01,030 --> 00:35:04,300
or to understand something
they were saying.

545
00:35:04,300 --> 00:35:05,905
And then they would
switch to Polish.

546
00:35:05,905 --> 00:35:10,130

547
00:35:10,130 --> 00:35:11,780
When they didn't
want you to know

548
00:35:11,780 --> 00:35:13,200
what they were talking about?

549
00:35:13,200 --> 00:35:15,730
Right.

550
00:35:15,730 --> 00:35:17,570
Did you ever learn Polish?

551
00:35:17,570 --> 00:35:18,070
No.

552
00:35:18,070 --> 00:35:18,570
No.

553
00:35:18,570 --> 00:35:19,990
Just a few words.

554
00:35:19,990 --> 00:35:21,030
Just a few words?

555
00:35:21,030 --> 00:35:22,960
[POLISH], give me a kiss.

556
00:35:22,960 --> 00:35:28,850

557
00:35:28,850 --> 00:35:30,140
Let's see.

558
00:35:30,140 --> 00:35:33,880
So you said your family
was middle class?

559
00:35:33,880 --> 00:35:35,220
Very middle class.

560
00:35:35,220 --> 00:35:37,680
Very bourgeois.

561
00:35:37,680 --> 00:35:41,190
Had they been affected
by the depression at all?

562
00:35:41,190 --> 00:35:45,310

563
00:35:45,310 --> 00:35:51,670
Well, they lived through it.

564
00:35:51,670 --> 00:35:52,790
They lived through it.

565
00:35:52,790 --> 00:35:55,650

566
00:35:55,650 --> 00:35:57,760
But I don't see that--

567
00:35:57,760 --> 00:36:00,455

568
00:36:00,455 --> 00:36:02,650
it didn't destroy the store.

569
00:36:02,650 --> 00:36:05,170

570
00:36:05,170 --> 00:36:06,940
I was born in '31.

571
00:36:06,940 --> 00:36:11,520
So '31 was kind of during--

572
00:36:11,520 --> 00:36:15,750
well, I don't know when you
want to put the depression.

573
00:36:15,750 --> 00:36:21,170
But we were OK.

574
00:36:21,170 --> 00:36:23,445
I didn't see any--

575
00:36:23,445 --> 00:36:32,150
as a child, I didn't
see any lack of food

576
00:36:32,150 --> 00:36:34,560
or the necessities
of life around.

577
00:36:34,560 --> 00:36:40,810

578
00:36:40,810 --> 00:36:42,850

And we stayed in the apartment.

579

00:36:42,850 --> 00:36:46,030

So far as I know,
all my life in Berlin

580

00:36:46,030 --> 00:36:48,280

we were in that apartment
with that store.

581

00:36:48,280 --> 00:36:53,000

582

00:36:53,000 --> 00:36:54,590

Should I go on?

583

00:36:54,590 --> 00:36:55,140

Sure.

584

00:36:55,140 --> 00:36:57,610

Yes, please.

585

00:36:57,610 --> 00:36:59,310

Hello?

586

00:36:59,310 --> 00:36:59,820

Sure.

587

00:36:59,820 --> 00:37:01,110

Yes, please.

588

00:37:01,110 --> 00:37:01,610

OK.

589

00:37:01,610 --> 00:37:04,490

590

00:37:04,490 --> 00:37:08,595

Let me-- I have a
few notes down here.

591

00:37:08,595 --> 00:37:10,567
Let's see if I covered all this.

592
00:37:10,567 --> 00:37:15,010

593
00:37:15,010 --> 00:37:21,100
In 1930 my parents
became German citizens.

594
00:37:21,100 --> 00:37:25,134
They took out
German citizenship.

595
00:37:25,134 --> 00:37:27,735
So they were naturalized
German citizens.

596
00:37:27,735 --> 00:37:32,350

597
00:37:32,350 --> 00:37:37,050
And then I already said the
three names of three sons.

598
00:37:37,050 --> 00:37:43,420

599
00:37:43,420 --> 00:37:46,458
Season tickets to the
philharmonic orchestra.

600
00:37:46,458 --> 00:37:50,580

601
00:37:50,580 --> 00:37:55,390
Hitler came in in 1933.

602
00:37:55,390 --> 00:38:04,150
And after that things became
more and more uncomfortable

603

00:38:04,150 --> 00:38:08,320
and ugly and threatening.

604
00:38:08,320 --> 00:38:12,290

605
00:38:12,290 --> 00:38:15,830
And what was Berlin
like at this time?

606
00:38:15,830 --> 00:38:18,560
You mentioned the Tiergarten.

607
00:38:18,560 --> 00:38:22,150
Berlin-- well, the neighborhood
we lived in was very nice.

608
00:38:22,150 --> 00:38:24,140
It was a middle
class neighborhood

609
00:38:24,140 --> 00:38:28,840
with a tall building.

610
00:38:28,840 --> 00:38:33,920
We were-- one of the
main drags in Berlin

611
00:38:33,920 --> 00:38:38,870
is called the K-damm,
the Kurfurstendamm,

612
00:38:38,870 --> 00:38:40,710
which was just two
blocks away from us.

613
00:38:40,710 --> 00:38:41,210
Oh, wow.

614
00:38:41,210 --> 00:38:48,496
It was a very commercial avenue
full of cafes and fancy shops

615

00:38:48,496 --> 00:38:50,940
and department stores.

616

00:38:50,940 --> 00:38:54,100
It was quite developed.

617

00:38:54,100 --> 00:38:57,740
And I was quite happy there.

618

00:38:57,740 --> 00:39:00,360

619

00:39:00,360 --> 00:39:00,990
And--

620

00:39:00,990 --> 00:39:09,950
Until Hitler showed
his presence.

621

00:39:09,950 --> 00:39:11,870
Yes.

622

00:39:11,870 --> 00:39:18,130
And at this time
you said you did not

623

00:39:18,130 --> 00:39:20,918
live in a Jewish neighborhood?

624

00:39:20,918 --> 00:39:23,090
I'm sorry?

625

00:39:23,090 --> 00:39:27,500
You said that you did not
live in a Jewish neighborhood?

626

00:39:27,500 --> 00:39:29,900
No, it was not a
Jewish neighborhood.

627

00:39:29,900 --> 00:39:32,090

I don't know if there was--

628
00:39:32,090 --> 00:39:35,760
I don't know if there
was any such a thing.

629
00:39:35,760 --> 00:39:38,900
There may have been
a particular street,

630
00:39:38,900 --> 00:39:42,830
maybe, where mostly Jews
lived and the stores

631
00:39:42,830 --> 00:39:44,570
were mostly Jews--

632
00:39:44,570 --> 00:39:46,340
the kosher store.

633
00:39:46,340 --> 00:39:48,845
We did not have a kosher
house, for example.

634
00:39:48,845 --> 00:39:52,250

635
00:39:52,250 --> 00:39:53,390
So Berlin was--

636
00:39:53,390 --> 00:39:59,370
Although I don't think they
ate pork if they had a choice.

637
00:39:59,370 --> 00:40:05,083
So you remember Berlin
being very integrated.

638
00:40:05,083 --> 00:40:06,500
There weren't
really differences--

639

00:40:06,500 --> 00:40:07,000
Yes.

640
00:40:07,000 --> 00:40:08,150
--the way you saw it.

641
00:40:08,150 --> 00:40:10,650
I had some-- I had friends.

642
00:40:10,650 --> 00:40:14,260
I don't know if they
were all Jewish.

643
00:40:14,260 --> 00:40:17,370
You don't ask what's
your religion to friends.

644
00:40:17,370 --> 00:40:21,066

645
00:40:21,066 --> 00:40:24,770
And, as a matter of
fact, if and when

646
00:40:24,770 --> 00:40:27,980
we get to talk
about Kristallnacht,

647
00:40:27,980 --> 00:40:29,630
the Night of Broken Glasses--

648
00:40:29,630 --> 00:40:34,585

649
00:40:34,585 --> 00:40:36,860
do you know why they
call it the-- you know

650
00:40:36,860 --> 00:40:39,830
why they call it Kristallnacht?

651
00:40:39,830 --> 00:40:45,140

That would be around
November, 1938.

652
00:40:45,140 --> 00:40:49,780
The reason is that
German hoods--

653
00:40:49,780 --> 00:40:53,360

654
00:40:53,360 --> 00:40:59,640
Nazis mixed the SSR, the
Brownshirts mixed with

655
00:40:59,640 --> 00:41:14,990
unemployed bums and no-good
people who really disliked

656
00:41:14,990 --> 00:41:16,990
Jews--

657
00:41:16,990 --> 00:41:20,470
they went around
and burned and broke

658
00:41:20,470 --> 00:41:25,450
into a lot of Jewish property
and burned a lot of synagogues,

659
00:41:25,450 --> 00:41:30,680
broke a lot of stores,
stole a lot of merchandise.

660
00:41:30,680 --> 00:41:32,540
And we were hit, too.

661
00:41:32,540 --> 00:41:35,240
I don't know if you
want to hear about it.

662
00:41:35,240 --> 00:41:37,370
Yes, absolutely.

663

00:41:37,370 --> 00:41:38,600

But before we get there--

664

00:41:38,600 --> 00:41:42,070

665

00:41:42,070 --> 00:41:45,070

going through my list
of questions here.

666

00:41:45,070 --> 00:41:47,320

Before you-- we get there, what?

667

00:41:47,320 --> 00:41:50,626

Oh, I'm just going through
my list of questions.

668

00:41:50,626 --> 00:41:52,570

OK.

669

00:41:52,570 --> 00:41:53,367

So what--

670

00:41:53,367 --> 00:41:56,710

671

00:41:56,710 --> 00:41:58,820

What is the question?

672

00:41:58,820 --> 00:42:02,110

So how-- I guess we
could talk about,

673

00:42:02,110 --> 00:42:04,150

how did you receive news?

674

00:42:04,150 --> 00:42:04,750

Did--

675

00:42:04,750 --> 00:42:06,600

How did I what?

676
00:42:06,600 --> 00:42:09,000
Receive news?

677
00:42:09,000 --> 00:42:09,900
Did you have a radio?

678
00:42:09,900 --> 00:42:15,180

679
00:42:15,180 --> 00:42:19,118
I think we did have a radio.

680
00:42:19,118 --> 00:42:26,580
But at my age I don't
remember listening to it.

681
00:42:26,580 --> 00:42:31,250

682
00:42:31,250 --> 00:42:34,430
I don't know about my parents.

683
00:42:34,430 --> 00:42:36,980
They would-- their
social activities

684
00:42:36,980 --> 00:42:44,270
would consist of, as I said,
go to the symphony orchestra

685
00:42:44,270 --> 00:42:48,500
performances and have
social events in the house

686
00:42:48,500 --> 00:42:51,200
and play cards
with their friends.

687
00:42:51,200 --> 00:42:55,660

688

00:42:55,660 --> 00:43:01,250

And I know you mentioned
you liked going to the park.

689

00:43:01,250 --> 00:43:01,750

What--

690

00:43:01,750 --> 00:43:07,350

Yes, I liked it when Marie would
take me to the park every day--

691

00:43:07,350 --> 00:43:12,240

not every day, but maybe
two or three times a week.

692

00:43:12,240 --> 00:43:13,530

And it was about a--

693

00:43:13,530 --> 00:43:16,800

694

00:43:16,800 --> 00:43:20,110

oh, I don't know, maybe
about a 10-block walk

695

00:43:20,110 --> 00:43:24,905

to the park and 10
blocks to come back.

696

00:43:24,905 --> 00:43:28,150

697

00:43:28,150 --> 00:43:33,150

And so we got plenty
of exercise that way--

698

00:43:33,150 --> 00:43:37,350

until we had to sit
on yellow benches.

699

00:43:37,350 --> 00:43:39,710

I hate the color

yellow to this day.

700
00:43:39,710 --> 00:43:48,110

701
00:43:48,110 --> 00:43:53,120
What else do you remember
about the Tiergarten

702
00:43:53,120 --> 00:43:55,520
or anything else you use--

703
00:43:55,520 --> 00:43:57,440
About?

704
00:43:57,440 --> 00:44:00,070
What else do you
remember about the park

705
00:44:00,070 --> 00:44:03,740
or what else you did for fun?

706
00:44:03,740 --> 00:44:04,240
Hold on.

707
00:44:04,240 --> 00:44:05,930
I'm going to change ears again.

708
00:44:05,930 --> 00:44:09,830

709
00:44:09,830 --> 00:44:10,330
OK.

710
00:44:10,330 --> 00:44:11,122
Let's try it again.

711
00:44:11,122 --> 00:44:12,340
What else?

712
00:44:12,340 --> 00:44:16,210

Do you remember about
the park or other things

713
00:44:16,210 --> 00:44:17,050
you did for fun?

714
00:44:17,050 --> 00:44:20,710

715
00:44:20,710 --> 00:44:22,860
Well, the-- what else?

716
00:44:22,860 --> 00:44:29,720

717
00:44:29,720 --> 00:44:34,200
The animal-- the zoo in the park
was always of great interest

718
00:44:34,200 --> 00:44:34,700
to me.

719
00:44:34,700 --> 00:44:39,420
And we would not go to
the zoo all the time,

720
00:44:39,420 --> 00:44:42,375
but I liked doing that.

721
00:44:42,375 --> 00:44:47,760
And what else?

722
00:44:47,760 --> 00:44:48,530
Let's see.

723
00:44:48,530 --> 00:44:54,450

724
00:44:54,450 --> 00:44:57,630
That's the only thing
that stands out in my--

725

00:44:57,630 --> 00:45:00,930

726

00:45:00,930 --> 00:45:08,000

I had a very sophisticated
scooter which was a--

727

00:45:08,000 --> 00:45:09,050

you stood on it.

728

00:45:09,050 --> 00:45:14,270

And you stood on a pedal
and you pumped the pedal,

729

00:45:14,270 --> 00:45:15,200

and it pushed you.

730

00:45:15,200 --> 00:45:19,503

And you pushed you
ahead on the scooter.

731

00:45:19,503 --> 00:45:21,670

So that was a--

732

00:45:21,670 --> 00:45:23,650

and I have a photograph of that.

733

00:45:23,650 --> 00:45:30,980

And it's very-- that was
the best activity I had.

734

00:45:30,980 --> 00:45:32,140

And what else?

735

00:45:32,140 --> 00:45:35,540

Oh, and I was very
happy about Berlin

736

00:45:35,540 --> 00:45:44,875

until, one, the yellow benches,
and two, in 1934, I don't know.

737

00:45:44,875 --> 00:45:45,375

Let's see.

738

00:45:45,375 --> 00:45:47,200

I must have been--

739

00:45:47,200 --> 00:45:54,050

it must have been '37 or
'38 that they threw me out

740

00:45:54,050 --> 00:46:01,300

of public school
because they wanted

741

00:46:01,300 --> 00:46:04,480

Jewish children to go
to their own school,

742

00:46:04,480 --> 00:46:07,185

not to be mixed with Aryans.

743

00:46:07,185 --> 00:46:11,330

744

00:46:11,330 --> 00:46:15,020

And so were you in
elementary school, then?

745

00:46:15,020 --> 00:46:18,220

Elementary, early
elementary school.

746

00:46:18,220 --> 00:46:23,750

And I liked my public school
and the friends I had there.

747

00:46:23,750 --> 00:46:27,440

And I did not like
the Jewish school.

748

00:46:27,440 --> 00:46:31,090

That was one price I had to pay.

749
00:46:31,090 --> 00:46:38,950

750
00:46:38,950 --> 00:46:42,985
Yeah, so this was
the Grundschule?

751
00:46:42,985 --> 00:46:44,440
Hm?

752
00:46:44,440 --> 00:46:47,020
This was the Grundschule?

753
00:46:47,020 --> 00:46:48,010
This is the what?

754
00:46:48,010 --> 00:46:51,710
The elementary
school in Germany,

755
00:46:51,710 --> 00:46:54,750
is it called Grundschule?

756
00:46:54,750 --> 00:46:59,520
I don't remember the
official name of it.

757
00:46:59,520 --> 00:47:01,450
If I ever knew it,
I don't remember it.

758
00:47:01,450 --> 00:47:07,030

759
00:47:07,030 --> 00:47:10,100
My early development
was also interesting,

760
00:47:10,100 --> 00:47:13,160
I think, from another
point of view,

761
00:47:13,160 --> 00:47:22,180
which is that my
personality development was

762
00:47:22,180 --> 00:47:31,210
a constant competition
between Hitler

763
00:47:31,210 --> 00:47:36,490
and the picture he
painted of Jewish people

764
00:47:36,490 --> 00:47:38,620
and what my mother told me.

765
00:47:38,620 --> 00:47:42,010
My mother thought I
was the cat's meow.

766
00:47:42,010 --> 00:47:47,420
She thought I was great,
not intellectual like Max

767
00:47:47,420 --> 00:47:48,290
you understand.

768
00:47:48,290 --> 00:47:52,580
But with my hands, I was great.

769
00:47:52,580 --> 00:47:55,700
And I was a great child.

770
00:47:55,700 --> 00:48:00,940
And when I didn't get her into
trouble with my loose teeth

771
00:48:00,940 --> 00:48:08,290
to my father, she thought
I was the greatest

772
00:48:08,290 --> 00:48:11,330

child in the world.

773

00:48:11,330 --> 00:48:17,280
And Hitler, of course, in the
cartoons and the propaganda

774

00:48:17,280 --> 00:48:23,210
he was putting out in
the newspapers you saw

775

00:48:23,210 --> 00:48:26,990
and the posters you saw
was that Jewish people

776

00:48:26,990 --> 00:48:30,585
were on one level
with the sewer rats.

777

00:48:30,585 --> 00:48:34,230

778

00:48:34,230 --> 00:48:37,170
They were under people.

779

00:48:37,170 --> 00:48:41,230
They were not normal persons.

780

00:48:41,230 --> 00:48:44,200
So you grew up with these--

781

00:48:44,200 --> 00:48:49,067
I grew up with this
dichotomy, this--

782

00:48:49,067 --> 00:48:50,025
These two conflicting--

783

00:48:50,025 --> 00:48:58,250
--conflicting picture of
myself and my personality.

784

00:48:58,250 --> 00:49:01,610

Maybe I'm a-- well,
I'm a Gemini anyway,

785
00:49:01,610 --> 00:49:04,150
so I have these two aspects.

786
00:49:04,150 --> 00:49:08,230

787
00:49:08,230 --> 00:49:18,120
And one day we had a
German military parade,

788
00:49:18,120 --> 00:49:23,320
a local parade coming
through the neighborhood.

789
00:49:23,320 --> 00:49:30,700
And it was soldiers marching
and then a whole bunch,

790
00:49:30,700 --> 00:49:38,940
maybe 100 or more,
soldiers on motorcycles,

791
00:49:38,940 --> 00:49:44,010
but motorcycles with sidecars.

792
00:49:44,010 --> 00:49:49,080
And they-- to me, that was the
greatest form of transportation

793
00:49:49,080 --> 00:49:51,520
I had ever seen.

794
00:49:51,520 --> 00:49:55,380
And there would be
soldiers with guns.

795
00:49:55,380 --> 00:50:03,030
And it had the appeal to me
that it has for most young boys.

796

00:50:03,030 --> 00:50:06,310

I wanted to see the parade.

797

00:50:06,310 --> 00:50:13,690

But a little kid dressed in
a Hitler-Jugend, Hitler youth

798

00:50:13,690 --> 00:50:15,820

outfit, came up to me.

799

00:50:15,820 --> 00:50:26,010

And he said, [SPEAKING GERMAN]
Jews are not allowed here.

800

00:50:26,010 --> 00:50:29,280

So he chased me
away, essentially.

801

00:50:29,280 --> 00:50:31,720

And this was another--

802

00:50:31,720 --> 00:50:36,340

Well, you learn to
retreat into yourself.

803

00:50:36,340 --> 00:50:41,330

And that has an effect on
personality development,

804

00:50:41,330 --> 00:50:41,990

as well.

805

00:50:41,990 --> 00:50:44,800

806

00:50:44,800 --> 00:50:46,120

So at that--

807

00:50:46,120 --> 00:50:51,440

But the big event was the thing
that happened in November,

808

00:50:51,440 --> 00:50:56,440

'38, the Kristallnacht,
when they came in and broke

809

00:50:56,440 --> 00:50:57,590

into our apartment.

810

00:50:57,590 --> 00:51:01,800

811

00:51:01,800 --> 00:51:03,520

And so if this--

812

00:51:03,520 --> 00:51:11,000

if Kristallnacht was in '38,
you were seven years old?

813

00:51:11,000 --> 00:51:11,500

Correct.

814

00:51:11,500 --> 00:51:14,230

815

00:51:14,230 --> 00:51:20,390

And I remember we were
sitting and eating, having

816

00:51:20,390 --> 00:51:22,820

supper in the kitchen.

817

00:51:22,820 --> 00:51:29,200

And I was eating tomato soup
when we hear the kitchen

818

00:51:29,200 --> 00:51:31,582

windows breaking.

819

00:51:31,582 --> 00:51:40,780

And flying pieces of
glass come into my soup.

820

00:51:40,780 --> 00:51:42,860
And I knew this was not normal.

821
00:51:42,860 --> 00:51:47,670
And so I ran away
from the kitchen.

822
00:51:47,670 --> 00:51:51,350
And I went to hide
under my parents' bed.

823
00:51:51,350 --> 00:51:54,550
Oh, I had a friend with me.

824
00:51:54,550 --> 00:51:58,240
And we both ran away
to my-- and went

825
00:51:58,240 --> 00:51:59,780
to hide underneath the bed.

826
00:51:59,780 --> 00:52:03,560

827
00:52:03,560 --> 00:52:10,100
And these hoodlums came
into our apartment.

828
00:52:10,100 --> 00:52:12,650
And the reason the
thing was called

829
00:52:12,650 --> 00:52:16,280
Kristallnacht is that
a lot of Jewish people

830
00:52:16,280 --> 00:52:20,180
had crystal chandeliers
in their living rooms.

831
00:52:20,180 --> 00:52:21,080
We did not.

832

00:52:21,080 --> 00:52:25,170

But a lot of Jewish people did.

833

00:52:25,170 --> 00:52:29,580

And one of their favorite
targets, the hoodlums,

834

00:52:29,580 --> 00:52:34,210

was to break those
crystal chandeliers.

835

00:52:34,210 --> 00:52:38,530

That's why it's called
Kristallnacht, night

836

00:52:38,530 --> 00:52:40,790

or the broken crystals.

837

00:52:40,790 --> 00:52:51,520

Anyway, I heard them
coming into the bedroom.

838

00:52:51,520 --> 00:52:55,280

We didn't move or say
anything under the bed,

839

00:52:55,280 --> 00:52:59,460

but obviously it was the
first place they looked.

840

00:52:59,460 --> 00:53:04,060

And I learned later they
were looking for my father.

841

00:53:04,060 --> 00:53:05,770

But they pulled me out.

842

00:53:05,770 --> 00:53:09,340

And they realized
I was just a child.

843

00:53:09,340 --> 00:53:13,630

So at that time they were
not interested in children.

844
00:53:13,630 --> 00:53:14,130
And this--

845
00:53:14,130 --> 00:53:17,250
My father had been
warned that there

846
00:53:17,250 --> 00:53:24,600
would be this raid, this attack
from the hoodlums this night.

847
00:53:24,600 --> 00:53:28,560
He was warned by some
non-Jewish friends

848
00:53:28,560 --> 00:53:34,170
not to be at home that night.

849
00:53:34,170 --> 00:53:35,040
And he wasn't.

850
00:53:35,040 --> 00:53:45,290
He had gone to hide with some
non-Jewish, nominally Christian

851
00:53:45,290 --> 00:53:45,790
people.

852
00:53:45,790 --> 00:53:49,020

853
00:53:49,020 --> 00:53:50,520
At one of their homes?

854
00:53:50,520 --> 00:53:51,540
Yes.

855
00:53:51,540 --> 00:53:54,580
And he stayed with them for

about four or five days.

856
00:53:54,580 --> 00:53:58,530

857
00:53:58,530 --> 00:54:04,030
How long were the
men in your home?

858
00:54:04,030 --> 00:54:05,770
I don't know.

859
00:54:05,770 --> 00:54:11,680
My memory, of course, is
very partial and very rusty.

860
00:54:11,680 --> 00:54:17,810
But my impression is that
it wasn't more than an hour.

861
00:54:17,810 --> 00:54:20,540
Probably something between
half an hour and an hour.

862
00:54:20,540 --> 00:54:23,440

863
00:54:23,440 --> 00:54:28,300
And how did they act towards
your mother and you once they--

864
00:54:28,300 --> 00:54:32,920
Well, she took advantage
of-- the Germans

865
00:54:32,920 --> 00:54:38,440
are supposed to be very gallant
and very courteous to women.

866
00:54:38,440 --> 00:54:42,690
And she threw that
in their face.

867

00:54:42,690 --> 00:54:49,500

Also, the policy is that they
were only arresting Jewish men

868

00:54:49,500 --> 00:54:50,370

on that date.

869

00:54:50,370 --> 00:54:54,710

870

00:54:54,710 --> 00:54:57,850

They did not go after
the women and children

871

00:54:57,850 --> 00:55:00,640

until a later date.

872

00:55:00,640 --> 00:55:05,340

And was Max home?

873

00:55:05,340 --> 00:55:06,030

No.

874

00:55:06,030 --> 00:55:13,400

You see, when I was thrown
out of public school

875

00:55:13,400 --> 00:55:16,370

he was thrown out of
public university.

876

00:55:16,370 --> 00:55:19,880

877

00:55:19,880 --> 00:55:21,060

So in--

878

00:55:21,060 --> 00:55:30,010

And we were able to
organize visas for Max

879

00:55:30,010 --> 00:55:37,400
to go study in the US because
my father had a cousin

880
00:55:37,400 --> 00:55:42,790
living in Brooklyn who
offered to take him

881
00:55:42,790 --> 00:55:46,280
in while he was going to study.

882
00:55:46,280 --> 00:55:49,660

883
00:55:49,660 --> 00:55:55,530
And Max was lucky enough
to get that student

884
00:55:55,530 --> 00:55:59,330
visa from the American Embassy.

885
00:55:59,330 --> 00:56:02,380
And so he had left--

886
00:56:02,380 --> 00:56:03,670
I don't know when he left--

887
00:56:03,670 --> 00:56:04,915
around '37, '38.

888
00:56:04,915 --> 00:56:11,710

889
00:56:11,710 --> 00:56:14,590
And so he was able
to get a visa.

890
00:56:14,590 --> 00:56:16,330
Sorry?

891
00:56:16,330 --> 00:56:19,210
Max was able to get a visa.

892
00:56:19,210 --> 00:56:22,030
But the rest of
the family was not?

893
00:56:22,030 --> 00:56:23,520
That's correct.

894
00:56:23,520 --> 00:56:30,690
That's correct, because the
rest of the family applied

895
00:56:30,690 --> 00:56:38,540
for visas in 1938.

896
00:56:38,540 --> 00:56:44,840
And I don't know if you are
aware that at that time,

897
00:56:44,840 --> 00:56:48,305
the visa program was
on a quota basis.

898
00:56:48,305 --> 00:57:00,420

899
00:57:00,420 --> 00:57:07,500
The quotas were based on what
percentage of the US population

900
00:57:07,500 --> 00:57:10,190
comes from the country
that you were born in.

901
00:57:10,190 --> 00:57:12,990

902
00:57:12,990 --> 00:57:14,080
And the Polish quota--

903
00:57:14,080 --> 00:57:17,520

904
00:57:17,520 --> 00:57:19,470
although I was
born in Germany, we

905
00:57:19,470 --> 00:57:22,500
were under the Polish quota
because of my parents.

906
00:57:22,500 --> 00:57:25,590

907
00:57:25,590 --> 00:57:35,020
And the Polish quota was very
small and very over-subscribed,

908
00:57:35,020 --> 00:57:39,360
because most of the
Jews were from Poland.

909
00:57:39,360 --> 00:57:42,330
Plus, there were some
German Jews, also,

910
00:57:42,330 --> 00:57:44,400
who had it much easier.

911
00:57:44,400 --> 00:57:49,450

912
00:57:49,450 --> 00:57:56,620
But the visas, as you will
learn from my later tale,

913
00:57:56,620 --> 00:58:02,460
we did not get the visa
until 1943, five years later.

914
00:58:02,460 --> 00:58:02,960
Five years.

915
00:58:02,960 --> 00:58:08,300

And in those five years
a lot of applicants

916
00:58:08,300 --> 00:58:13,250
were gassed and burned in
the concentration camps.

917
00:58:13,250 --> 00:58:22,200

918
00:58:22,200 --> 00:58:25,993
We were very lucky
getting out when we could.

919
00:58:25,993 --> 00:58:26,493
Yes, sir.

920
00:58:26,493 --> 00:58:32,880

921
00:58:32,880 --> 00:58:37,720
And so after Kristallnacht,
your dad returned home

922
00:58:37,720 --> 00:58:41,120
after four or five days?

923
00:58:41,120 --> 00:58:43,910
I don't remember
him returning home.

924
00:58:43,910 --> 00:58:47,210
But something else happened in--

925
00:58:47,210 --> 00:58:49,840

926
00:58:49,840 --> 00:58:51,965
well, I'm jumping
around in that period.

927
00:58:51,965 --> 00:58:54,680

928
00:58:54,680 --> 00:58:58,190
Remember, I told you
that in 1930 they

929
00:58:58,190 --> 00:59:00,440
became German citizens?

930
00:59:00,440 --> 00:59:01,370
Yes, sir.

931
00:59:01,370 --> 00:59:08,450
In 1934, the German citizenship
was revoked, nullified.

932
00:59:08,450 --> 00:59:11,540

933
00:59:11,540 --> 00:59:13,880
You are no longer
German citizens

934
00:59:13,880 --> 00:59:15,530
because you are unworthy.

935
00:59:15,530 --> 00:59:20,790

936
00:59:20,790 --> 00:59:23,270
So after they finally
get the citizen--

937
00:59:23,270 --> 00:59:27,290
So after '34 it
was quite evident--

938
00:59:27,290 --> 00:59:29,990
well, now it's quite
evident, in retrospect.

939
00:59:29,990 --> 00:59:33,690

It wasn't evident at the time.

940
00:59:33,690 --> 00:59:39,410
But in 1934 they lost
their citizenship.

941
00:59:39,410 --> 00:59:45,870
And in 1938, at about the same
time as the Kristallnacht--

942
00:59:45,870 --> 00:59:51,680

943
00:59:51,680 --> 00:59:53,680
since they didn't
find him at home,

944
00:59:53,680 --> 00:59:56,750
you see, to arrest
him and send him

945
00:59:56,750 --> 01:00:06,470
to Poland or whatever
or some camp,

946
01:00:06,470 --> 01:00:14,150
the police president sent
him a letter, my father,

947
01:00:14,150 --> 01:00:16,550
saying that you have--

948
01:00:16,550 --> 01:00:23,030
I don't know-- a number of weeks
to get out of German territory.

949
01:00:23,030 --> 01:00:25,680

950
01:00:25,680 --> 01:00:27,980
And this was from
the head of police?

951
01:00:27,980 --> 01:00:28,480
Yeah.

952
01:00:28,480 --> 01:00:32,410

953
01:00:32,410 --> 01:00:40,360
And if you don't comply, you
will be ejected forcefully.

954
01:00:40,360 --> 01:00:44,780

955
01:00:44,780 --> 01:00:49,940
But you see there's several
problems in the soup.

956
01:00:49,940 --> 01:00:55,220
One is that if you don't have
citizenship in a country that

957
01:00:55,220 --> 01:00:58,420
means you can't get a passport.

958
01:00:58,420 --> 01:01:01,100
And if you can't
get a passport it's

959
01:01:01,100 --> 01:01:05,070
impossible to get a visa
anywhere, because there's

960
01:01:05,070 --> 01:01:07,640
no place to enter the visa.

961
01:01:07,640 --> 01:01:10,880

962
01:01:10,880 --> 01:01:18,180
So this was all part of the
soup, the anti-Semitic soup

963

01:01:18,180 --> 01:01:21,760
that Hitler cooked up.

964

01:01:21,760 --> 01:01:26,220
And so in 1938, I think--

965

01:01:26,220 --> 01:01:32,330
I believe right after
escaping from home--

966

01:01:32,330 --> 01:01:36,160
oh, they also appointed
an administrator,

967

01:01:36,160 --> 01:01:39,800
an Aryan administrator,
the Nazis

968

01:01:39,800 --> 01:01:44,690
did, who were
essentially controlling

969

01:01:44,690 --> 01:01:47,540
all of our goods and property.

970

01:01:47,540 --> 01:01:51,320
And anything that
got left behind he

971

01:01:51,320 --> 01:01:56,570
would inherit, so to
speak, as our inheritor.

972

01:01:56,570 --> 01:02:02,020

973

01:02:02,020 --> 01:02:05,100
But to make a long story short--

974

01:02:05,100 --> 01:02:08,650
well, no, I don't know the
long story is the truth.

975

01:02:08,650 --> 01:02:10,660

I only know the
short story, which

976

01:02:10,660 --> 01:02:15,340

is that he escaped to
France, my father did.

977

01:02:15,340 --> 01:02:16,300

I don't know how.

978

01:02:16,300 --> 01:02:22,630

979

01:02:22,630 --> 01:02:24,410

He escaped to France.

980

01:02:24,410 --> 01:02:34,160

And then in Paris--

981

01:02:34,160 --> 01:02:38,650

he had a brother
in Paris, my father

982

01:02:38,650 --> 01:02:42,430

did, who also had a
fur store in Paris.

983

01:02:42,430 --> 01:02:48,070

984

01:02:48,070 --> 01:02:49,610

And he went to stay with them.

985

01:02:49,610 --> 01:02:55,490

986

01:02:55,490 --> 01:03:06,110

And he wrote a letter to
Max, who was in the US,

987

01:03:06,110 --> 01:03:11,026

describing his experience
in Kristallnacht.

988

01:03:11,026 --> 01:03:16,670

It's a 23-page
letter handwritten

989

01:03:16,670 --> 01:03:22,640

in German, the original of
which is now with the Holocaust

990

01:03:22,640 --> 01:03:23,675

Museum in Berlin.

991

01:03:23,675 --> 01:03:28,972

992

01:03:28,972 --> 01:03:30,305

Telling him about what happened?

993

01:03:30,305 --> 01:03:33,490

994

01:03:33,490 --> 01:03:36,500

About what happened to
him in Kristallnacht, yes.

995

01:03:36,500 --> 01:03:39,470

996

01:03:39,470 --> 01:03:40,240

But anyway, the--

997

01:03:40,240 --> 01:03:53,280

998

01:03:53,280 --> 01:03:55,780

I'm looking here.

999

01:03:55,780 --> 01:04:01,130

In 1939-- so my father was--

1000

01:04:01,130 --> 01:04:06,590
the letter was written in
about January of '39, to Max.

1001

01:04:06,590 --> 01:04:11,720
And we had to get out
of Germany, as well,

1002

01:04:11,720 --> 01:04:14,810
because in the
letter which ejected,

1003

01:04:14,810 --> 01:04:18,148
which warned him to
get out of Germany--

1004

01:04:18,148 --> 01:04:20,950
[COUGH] Excuse me.

1005

01:04:20,950 --> 01:04:24,520

1006

01:04:24,520 --> 01:04:29,850
It said, "including
your wife and son."

1007

01:04:29,850 --> 01:04:32,580

1008

01:04:32,580 --> 01:04:35,440
So it named all of you.

1009

01:04:35,440 --> 01:04:37,080
Sorry?

1010

01:04:37,080 --> 01:04:39,790
The letter named all of you,
that you all had to get out.

1011

01:04:39,790 --> 01:04:40,290

Right.

1012
01:04:40,290 --> 01:04:40,790
Right.

1013
01:04:40,790 --> 01:04:41,340
Right.

1014
01:04:41,340 --> 01:04:41,840
Right.

1015
01:04:41,840 --> 01:04:44,850

1016
01:04:44,850 --> 01:04:51,240
And, let's see, so happily--

1017
01:04:51,240 --> 01:04:56,345

1018
01:04:56,345 --> 01:04:59,240
the other problem with
getting out of Germany

1019
01:04:59,240 --> 01:05:05,030
was that no country was
accepting Jewish refugees,

1020
01:05:05,030 --> 01:05:09,070
because every country had
their own social problems,

1021
01:05:09,070 --> 01:05:10,610
and they did not--

1022
01:05:10,610 --> 01:05:14,390
they were not looking to accept
a whole bunch of refugees

1023
01:05:14,390 --> 01:05:16,220
who would bring their own--

1024

01:05:16,220 --> 01:05:18,340

their additional
social problems.

1025

01:05:18,340 --> 01:05:21,720

1026

01:05:21,720 --> 01:05:29,000

So let's see.

1027

01:05:29,000 --> 01:05:29,990

Where am I here?

1028

01:05:29,990 --> 01:05:32,520

1029

01:05:32,520 --> 01:05:34,440

So then my--

1030

01:05:34,440 --> 01:05:39,950

I guess my father,
through his brother, had

1031

01:05:39,950 --> 01:05:45,990

a contact with the
French government,

1032

01:05:45,990 --> 01:05:53,500

because at that time, perhaps
luckily, the prime minister

1033

01:05:53,500 --> 01:05:59,750

of France was the first
Jewish prime minister

1034

01:05:59,750 --> 01:06:01,890

in French history.

1035

01:06:01,890 --> 01:06:10,950

His name was Léon Blum, B-L-U-M.
And through contacts with Léon

1036

01:06:10,950 --> 01:06:19,490
Blum, the story goes, they were
able to organize visas for us

1037

01:06:19,490 --> 01:06:22,950
to go-- to my mother and
me to come to France.

1038

01:06:22,950 --> 01:06:26,230

1039

01:06:26,230 --> 01:06:37,210
And so early in 1939
we received a postcard

1040

01:06:37,210 --> 01:06:42,700
from the French consulate,
my mother and I did--

1041

01:06:42,700 --> 01:06:48,280
my mother did, from the
French consulate in Berlin

1042

01:06:48,280 --> 01:06:54,870
asking us to appear at their
office on such and such a date

1043

01:06:54,870 --> 01:06:57,050
for the purpose of
receiving a visa.

1044

01:06:57,050 --> 01:07:00,580

1045

01:07:00,580 --> 01:07:03,180
And that postcard
probably saved our lives.

1046

01:07:03,180 --> 01:07:11,890

1047

01:07:11,890 --> 01:07:16,650

And so both you and your mother
had to go to this office.

1048
01:07:16,650 --> 01:07:18,300
Right.

1049
01:07:18,300 --> 01:07:23,610
And did they interview
you, or they--

1050
01:07:23,610 --> 01:07:24,990
I don't know if I went.

1051
01:07:24,990 --> 01:07:26,220
I don't remember going.

1052
01:07:26,220 --> 01:07:26,720
I see.

1053
01:07:26,720 --> 01:07:28,320
So maybe my mother
went by herself.

1054
01:07:28,320 --> 01:07:29,150
I don't know.

1055
01:07:29,150 --> 01:07:33,210
Or if I went with her,
I don't remember it.

1056
01:07:33,210 --> 01:07:36,330
But anyway, we were--

1057
01:07:36,330 --> 01:07:39,870
you may or may not know
that the European war

1058
01:07:39,870 --> 01:07:45,680
started on 1 September, 1939,
when Hitler attacked Poland.

1059
01:07:45,680 --> 01:07:51,130

1060

01:07:51,130 --> 01:07:59,550

And so we left, oh, in one
of the train service after--

1061

01:07:59,550 --> 01:08:05,360

see when Hitler attacked
Poland, Poland called

1062

01:08:05,360 --> 01:08:08,600

on a treaty that
Poland had with England

1063

01:08:08,600 --> 01:08:13,780

and with France which said
that England and France would

1064

01:08:13,780 --> 01:08:19,100

come to the aid of Poland
if Poland is attacked.

1065

01:08:19,100 --> 01:08:20,180

And that's what happened.

1066

01:08:20,180 --> 01:08:24,899

And that was the start of
World War II in Europe.

1067

01:08:24,899 --> 01:08:28,250

1068

01:08:28,250 --> 01:08:40,300

In US, of course, it didn't
happen until 7 January, 1941.

1069

01:08:40,300 --> 01:08:43,960

So you were still in Germany
when the war started.

1070

01:08:43,960 --> 01:08:48,130

We were still in
Germany, but we had--

1071

01:08:48,130 --> 01:08:51,939

they gave us visas on an
official-looking piece

1072

01:08:51,939 --> 01:08:56,350

of paper, since we didn't have
passports to put the visa in.

1073

01:08:56,350 --> 01:08:58,390

They stamped the
visa in their-- on

1074

01:08:58,390 --> 01:09:01,210

their own official-looking
piece of paper.

1075

01:09:01,210 --> 01:09:09,810

1076

01:09:09,810 --> 01:09:11,206

And so when--

1077

01:09:11,206 --> 01:09:11,706

Sorry?

1078

01:09:11,706 --> 01:09:13,064

When did you leave Berlin?

1079

01:09:13,064 --> 01:09:18,450

1080

01:09:18,450 --> 01:09:22,939

Well, I think it was June
or July, as I remember it,

1081

01:09:22,939 --> 01:09:25,560

of 1939--

1082

01:09:25,560 --> 01:09:27,510

just in time before September.

1083

01:09:27,510 --> 01:09:33,490

1084

01:09:33,490 --> 01:09:34,080

And what--

1085

01:09:34,080 --> 01:09:38,540

Because I mean, obviously,
even if you'd have stayed

1086

01:09:38,540 --> 01:09:43,200

there would be no train service
between Berlin and Paris

1087

01:09:43,200 --> 01:09:46,041

once the war had started
between the countries.

1088

01:09:46,041 --> 01:09:49,130

1089

01:09:49,130 --> 01:09:56,190

And you were about
eight at this time?

1090

01:09:56,190 --> 01:09:59,400

In '39 I was eight, correct.

1091

01:09:59,400 --> 01:10:02,860

And how much of this
did you understand--

1092

01:10:02,860 --> 01:10:03,360

[LAUGHTER]

1093

01:10:03,360 --> 01:10:07,220

--having to leave
home and all of this?

1094

01:10:07,220 --> 01:10:11,730

Well, there's still a lot
of it I don't understand.

1095
01:10:11,730 --> 01:10:13,740
Yes, sir.

1096
01:10:13,740 --> 01:10:14,620
How much of it?

1097
01:10:14,620 --> 01:10:16,250
Very little.

1098
01:10:16,250 --> 01:10:19,990
All I know is that
Hitler didn't like Jews,

1099
01:10:19,990 --> 01:10:23,190
and apparently I was one of
the group he didn't like.

1100
01:10:23,190 --> 01:10:25,750
[LAUGHTER]

1101
01:10:25,750 --> 01:10:27,760
Because I was thrown
out of school.

1102
01:10:27,760 --> 01:10:31,300
And I was kicked
away from parades

1103
01:10:31,300 --> 01:10:34,620
and made to sit on
ugly yellow benches.

1104
01:10:34,620 --> 01:10:38,780

1105
01:10:38,780 --> 01:10:50,330
But, as a senior citizen who
has survived all this crap,

1106
01:10:50,330 --> 01:10:54,525
one has a balanced

view of everything.

1107

01:10:54,525 --> 01:10:58,120

1108

01:10:58,120 --> 01:11:00,400

So we were what would--

1109

01:11:00,400 --> 01:11:02,350

well, no, we're
not finished yet.

1110

01:11:02,350 --> 01:11:11,470

But we were not there for the
worst part of the Holocaust,

1111

01:11:11,470 --> 01:11:15,100

because I would not be
talking to you if I had been.

1112

01:11:15,100 --> 01:11:20,960

1113

01:11:20,960 --> 01:11:22,530

We looked up the records.

1114

01:11:22,530 --> 01:11:29,300

In Jerusalem there is a big
museum for the Holocaust.

1115

01:11:29,300 --> 01:11:34,625

And all the victims are entered
into a big, big register.

1116

01:11:34,625 --> 01:11:38,980

1117

01:11:38,980 --> 01:11:42,202

And we found a lot
of the names of--

1118

01:11:42,202 --> 01:11:44,780

see, the Germans
were very meticulous

1119
01:11:44,780 --> 01:11:51,125
keeping track of all the names
of everyone they murdered.

1120
01:11:51,125 --> 01:11:56,950

1121
01:11:56,950 --> 01:11:59,580
And apparently
they never expected

1122
01:11:59,580 --> 01:12:06,460
that they would be
prosecuted on murder charges.

1123
01:12:06,460 --> 01:12:12,640
But anyway, we found a lot of
the names of my mother's family

1124
01:12:12,640 --> 01:12:13,330
on that list.

1125
01:12:13,330 --> 01:12:29,820

1126
01:12:29,820 --> 01:12:36,720
So we are on '39, and we're
leaving Berlin, heading

1127
01:12:36,720 --> 01:12:38,595
to Paris to join my father.

1128
01:12:38,595 --> 01:12:47,015

1129
01:12:47,015 --> 01:12:53,720
And wherever we were we had to
check with the American embassy

1130

01:12:53,720 --> 01:12:55,010
to see what had happened.

1131
01:12:55,010 --> 01:12:58,700
How far along are we
on the waiting list?

1132
01:12:58,700 --> 01:13:05,740

1133
01:13:05,740 --> 01:13:07,700
Shall I go on?

1134
01:13:07,700 --> 01:13:08,940
Yes.

1135
01:13:08,940 --> 01:13:16,160
But what was that train ride
like, from Berlin to Paris?

1136
01:13:16,160 --> 01:13:17,160
The train ride?

1137
01:13:17,160 --> 01:13:19,450
Well, it was--

1138
01:13:19,450 --> 01:13:20,530
I liked trains.

1139
01:13:20,530 --> 01:13:23,080
I still like trains.

1140
01:13:23,080 --> 01:13:26,941
I like European trains more
than American trains, but--

1141
01:13:26,941 --> 01:13:32,350

1142
01:13:32,350 --> 01:13:36,090
Was it very crowded?

1143

01:13:36,090 --> 01:13:36,590

No.

1144

01:13:36,590 --> 01:13:39,690

1145

01:13:39,690 --> 01:13:43,480

They had the train organized.

1146

01:13:43,480 --> 01:13:45,150

Everybody has a seat number.

1147

01:13:45,150 --> 01:13:49,220

So there's no problems about--

1148

01:13:49,220 --> 01:13:54,050

they don't sell more

tickets than the space,

1149

01:13:54,050 --> 01:13:57,890

or didn't, in my experience.

1150

01:13:57,890 --> 01:13:59,680

But no, it was not yet--

1151

01:13:59,680 --> 01:14:02,830

1152

01:14:02,830 --> 01:14:06,210

I don't remember seeing

any people in the train

1153

01:14:06,210 --> 01:14:07,980

in the same situation we were.

1154

01:14:07,980 --> 01:14:13,170

1155

01:14:13,170 --> 01:14:14,580

They may have been.

1156

01:14:14,580 --> 01:14:18,750

But anyway, I remember
we went first to Belgium.

1157

01:14:18,750 --> 01:14:20,775

The capital of
Belgium is Brussels.

1158

01:14:20,775 --> 01:14:24,040

1159

01:14:24,040 --> 01:14:26,290

And we had a friend,
or my parents

1160

01:14:26,290 --> 01:14:30,990

had a friend in Brussels
who said he would

1161

01:14:30,990 --> 01:14:33,360

meet the train in Brussels.

1162

01:14:33,360 --> 01:14:38,790

And he was organizing a big
national holiday for us.

1163

01:14:38,790 --> 01:14:42,300

And we arrived in Brussels,
and sure enough, there

1164

01:14:42,300 --> 01:14:52,900

was a national holiday going on,
not knowing that on this date

1165

01:14:52,900 --> 01:14:58,110

was a national
holiday of Belgium.

1166

01:14:58,110 --> 01:15:03,850

And I was impressed, as a
kid, by the sense of humor

1167

01:15:03,850 --> 01:15:05,576
that our friend had.

1168
01:15:05,576 --> 01:15:10,240

1169
01:15:10,240 --> 01:15:18,910
And I don't-- did much
of this make sense to me?

1170
01:15:18,910 --> 01:15:24,430
Well, I understood the
basic concept of survival.

1171
01:15:24,430 --> 01:15:28,470
That was clear-- and
that people would

1172
01:15:28,470 --> 01:15:33,048
do almost anything to survive.

1173
01:15:33,048 --> 01:15:43,260
But we were not in the
concentration camps yet.

1174
01:15:43,260 --> 01:15:48,340
And so we were not as bad off as
some people would be later on.

1175
01:15:48,340 --> 01:15:51,650

1176
01:15:51,650 --> 01:16:01,300
So in '39 then, we got
to Paris and discovered

1177
01:16:01,300 --> 01:16:05,680
that we would still have a
long wait for the visas to US.

1178
01:16:05,680 --> 01:16:08,380

1179

01:16:08,380 --> 01:16:10,736

So then the problem became--

1180

01:16:10,736 --> 01:16:21,640

oh, then what happened was

that in 1940 the Germans

1181

01:16:21,640 --> 01:16:24,840

occupied about half of France.

1182

01:16:24,840 --> 01:16:29,460

1183

01:16:29,460 --> 01:16:35,660

And there was an

occupied part of France

1184

01:16:35,660 --> 01:16:41,590

and then there was

a frontier running

1185

01:16:41,590 --> 01:16:54,040

from the northwest of France

to the southeast of France.

1186

01:16:54,040 --> 01:16:59,704

1187

01:16:59,704 --> 01:17:00,660

I don't know.

1188

01:17:00,660 --> 01:17:01,930

How did that work?

1189

01:17:01,930 --> 01:17:08,210

Anyway, there was the

two sections of France.

1190

01:17:08,210 --> 01:17:13,430

And the Germans occupied

the section we were in.

1191

01:17:13,430 --> 01:17:18,760

And the other section
had a government

1192

01:17:18,760 --> 01:17:26,330

made up of pro-German French
political leaders, Petain.

1193

01:17:26,330 --> 01:17:29,870

1194

01:17:29,870 --> 01:17:36,390

But that frontier between
occupied and unoccupied France

1195

01:17:36,390 --> 01:17:45,750

would also play an important
part in our troubles

1196

01:17:45,750 --> 01:17:47,520

pretty soon thereafter.

1197

01:17:47,520 --> 01:17:51,360

1198

01:17:51,360 --> 01:17:53,210

And in Paris did--

1199

01:17:53,210 --> 01:17:54,560

In what?

1200

01:17:54,560 --> 01:17:58,770

In Paris, did you
stay with your uncle?

1201

01:17:58,770 --> 01:17:59,820

Yes, as I remember it.

1202

01:17:59,820 --> 01:18:00,320

Yes.

1203

01:18:00,320 --> 01:18:04,830

1204

01:18:04,830 --> 01:18:09,655

In Paris-- oh, OK.

1205

01:18:09,655 --> 01:18:13,420

1206

01:18:13,420 --> 01:18:15,740

In Paris-- that's true.

1207

01:18:15,740 --> 01:18:20,950

In Paris I met my father's
brother who had the fur store.

1208

01:18:20,950 --> 01:18:23,550

1209

01:18:23,550 --> 01:18:27,200

And then I also met
my mother's sister,

1210

01:18:27,200 --> 01:18:35,880

her only sister I believe,
who had three children--

1211

01:18:35,880 --> 01:18:40,290

1212

01:18:40,290 --> 01:18:42,070

one of who was about my age.

1213

01:18:42,070 --> 01:18:46,530

1214

01:18:46,530 --> 01:18:54,580

So we didn't stay
in Paris very long.

1215

01:18:54,580 --> 01:19:06,070

We-- on the advice of I don't

know whom we were advised to go

1216

01:19:06,070 --> 01:19:16,860
to a small town by the
name of Niort, N-I-O-R-T,

1217

01:19:16,860 --> 01:19:27,470
which is in the
southwest of France,

1218

01:19:27,470 --> 01:19:28,805
near the city of Bordeaux.

1219

01:19:28,805 --> 01:19:31,390

1220

01:19:31,390 --> 01:19:36,890
And so that's the city
we went to live in.

1221

01:19:36,890 --> 01:19:40,980
And we rented a small apartment.

1222

01:19:40,980 --> 01:19:45,138

1223

01:19:45,138 --> 01:19:46,980
And I have been back to visit.

1224

01:19:46,980 --> 01:19:57,460

1225

01:19:57,460 --> 01:20:02,380
And what were your parents
doing at this time?

1226

01:20:02,380 --> 01:20:07,810
Were they trying to find
a way to leave France?

1227

01:20:07,810 --> 01:20:11,170
Well, they were checking

with the embassy

1228

01:20:11,170 --> 01:20:15,370
to see what had happened
with their visas.

1229

01:20:15,370 --> 01:20:17,260
And then they were
arranging for--

1230

01:20:17,260 --> 01:20:20,210

1231

01:20:20,210 --> 01:20:27,910
at some point-- and as a kid,
I don't know what point it was.

1232

01:20:27,910 --> 01:20:34,800
At some point they developed
a plan B, which was just

1233

01:20:34,800 --> 01:20:41,710
as well they had a plan B.

1234

01:20:41,710 --> 01:20:43,230
Plan A was to go to--

1235

01:20:43,230 --> 01:20:44,230
Sorry?

1236

01:20:44,230 --> 01:20:46,620
Plan A was to go to the US?

1237

01:20:46,620 --> 01:20:47,120
Right.

1238

01:20:47,120 --> 01:20:49,820

1239

01:20:49,820 --> 01:20:52,260
And so what was the backup plan?

1240

01:20:52,260 --> 01:20:55,440

Well, let me say a word
about plan A first.

1241

01:20:55,440 --> 01:20:57,020

Yes, sir.

1242

01:20:57,020 --> 01:21:02,270

Max-- by this time Pearl
Harbor had happened

1243

01:21:02,270 --> 01:21:06,380

and the US had joined the war.

1244

01:21:06,380 --> 01:21:15,790

So this is early 1942?

1245

01:21:15,790 --> 01:21:16,682

Well, hm.

1246

01:21:16,682 --> 01:21:19,340

1247

01:21:19,340 --> 01:21:26,530

I'd say, I suppose so, yes.

1248

01:21:26,530 --> 01:21:28,000

I'm not sure.

1249

01:21:28,000 --> 01:21:32,410

I'm not very precise on my
dates because my memory is fuzzy

1250

01:21:32,410 --> 01:21:33,300

anyway.

1251

01:21:33,300 --> 01:21:33,990

That's OK.

1252

01:21:33,990 --> 01:21:40,360

1253
01:21:40,360 --> 01:21:42,640
Max, who had this visa--

1254
01:21:42,640 --> 01:21:47,530
this student visa,
decided that in order

1255
01:21:47,530 --> 01:21:55,750
to help us get the US visa more
rapidly he had his own plan.

1256
01:21:55,750 --> 01:21:57,480
His plan was, he would join--

1257
01:21:57,480 --> 01:22:02,000
he would volunteer
for the US Army.

1258
01:22:02,000 --> 01:22:07,830
And he would write a letter to
President Roosevelt explaining

1259
01:22:07,830 --> 01:22:14,310
the sacrifice he was
doing for his new country.

1260
01:22:14,310 --> 01:22:17,520
And could the
president do anything

1261
01:22:17,520 --> 01:22:19,560
to get us visas more quickly?

1262
01:22:19,560 --> 01:22:21,430
[LAUGHTER]

1263
01:22:21,430 --> 01:22:23,590
Really?

1264
01:22:23,590 --> 01:22:24,730
That's what he did.

1265
01:22:24,730 --> 01:22:31,300
And we will never know if
it did any good or not.

1266
01:22:31,300 --> 01:22:38,700
But in 1941--

1267
01:22:38,700 --> 01:22:39,990
This was '41.

1268
01:22:39,990 --> 01:22:48,820
And in '41 there was
no sign of visas yet--

1269
01:22:48,820 --> 01:22:50,890
American visas.

1270
01:22:50,890 --> 01:22:54,190
And so my parents had
to come up with plan

1271
01:22:54,190 --> 01:23:00,100
B. Plan B was to find another
place that maybe would accept

1272
01:23:00,100 --> 01:23:06,035
us that would be a safer place
to wait for the American visas.

1273
01:23:06,035 --> 01:23:08,610

1274
01:23:08,610 --> 01:23:12,695
And they found such
a place in Cuba.

1275
01:23:12,695 --> 01:23:16,810

1276
01:23:16,810 --> 01:23:21,655
But I don't know if you

want me to start on that.

1277

01:23:21,655 --> 01:23:27,190

Well, would-- does this seem like a good stopping--

1278

01:23:27,190 --> 01:23:28,346

Sorry?

1279

01:23:28,346 --> 01:23:31,720

Can you speak louder and slow?

1280

01:23:31,720 --> 01:23:34,120

Yes, sir.

1281

01:23:34,120 --> 01:23:39,580

Do you think this is a good place to stop part 1?

1282

01:23:39,580 --> 01:23:40,410

Yeah.

1283

01:23:40,410 --> 01:23:42,800

Yes, I think so.

1284

01:23:42,800 --> 01:23:45,140

OK.

1285

01:23:45,140 --> 01:23:49,670

Is there anything that you wanted to add at this point?

1286

01:23:49,670 --> 01:23:54,050

Or should we end part 1?

1287

01:23:54,050 --> 01:23:54,550

No.

1288

01:23:54,550 --> 01:23:55,690

At this point, no.

1289

01:23:55,690 --> 01:24:00,790
But the next time we talk I
may have an addition to make--

1290
01:24:00,790 --> 01:24:01,730
Yes, sir.

1291
01:24:01,730 --> 01:24:02,230
Absolutely.

1292
01:24:02,230 --> 01:24:03,153
--if possible.

1293
01:24:03,153 --> 01:24:06,350

1294
01:24:06,350 --> 01:24:10,070
Well, Dr. Fiks, I want
to thank you again

1295
01:24:10,070 --> 01:24:13,760
for taking the time
to talk with me today.

1296
01:24:13,760 --> 01:24:19,310
And this concludes part 1 of
the United States Holocaust

1297
01:24:19,310 --> 01:24:24,530
Memorial Museum interview with
Dr. Alfred Fiks on August 18,

1298
01:24:24,530 --> 01:24:26,380
2016.