

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,900

2
00:00:00,900 --> 00:00:04,890
This is Part Two of the United
States Holocaust Memorial

3
00:00:04,890 --> 00:00:09,360
Museum interview with Dr.
Alfred I Fiks taking place

4
00:00:09,360 --> 00:00:13,400
on September 29, 2016.

5
00:00:13,400 --> 00:00:16,250
We left off Part One with
you describing your travels

6
00:00:16,250 --> 00:00:19,370
from Berlin to Brussels,
and then to Paris,

7
00:00:19,370 --> 00:00:21,290
where you met up
with your father,

8
00:00:21,290 --> 00:00:24,440
and where your parents continued
their efforts to get visas out

9
00:00:24,440 --> 00:00:26,030
of Europe.

10
00:00:26,030 --> 00:00:29,780
But before we go on, I think
you had wanted to make a summary

11
00:00:29,780 --> 00:00:31,070
statement about Part One.

12
00:00:31,070 --> 00:00:33,770

13
00:00:33,770 --> 00:00:34,310
Hello.

14
00:00:34,310 --> 00:00:34,810
OK.

15
00:00:34,810 --> 00:00:37,140

16
00:00:37,140 --> 00:00:42,330
Thinking about my early
childhood in Berlin,

17
00:00:42,330 --> 00:00:45,800
I was thinking of some
way to summarize it

18
00:00:45,800 --> 00:00:49,670
adequately and accurately.

19
00:00:49,670 --> 00:00:52,640
And I would like to
say the following.

20
00:00:52,640 --> 00:00:56,150
I consider that my early
childhood in Berlin

21
00:00:56,150 --> 00:01:01,840
was very pleasant, and
I was a happy little kid

22
00:01:01,840 --> 00:01:08,220
until the evil of Hitler
and Hitlerism came out.

23
00:01:08,220 --> 00:01:13,530
So that-- I was happy
until I get thrown out

24

00:01:13,530 --> 00:01:15,420
of public schools.

25

00:01:15,420 --> 00:01:18,360
I was happy until
I got chased away

26

00:01:18,360 --> 00:01:22,440
from a military parade that
went through the neighborhood

27

00:01:22,440 --> 00:01:25,250
by the Hitler-Jugend.

28

00:01:25,250 --> 00:01:31,140
And I was happy
until Kristallnacht

29

00:01:31,140 --> 00:01:35,400
when glass splinters
flew into my soup,

30

00:01:35,400 --> 00:01:41,280
and I was pulled out forcefully
from under my bed hiding

31

00:01:41,280 --> 00:01:46,200
from hooligans who
were coming around

32

00:01:46,200 --> 00:01:49,920
to break up our property.

33

00:01:49,920 --> 00:01:54,400
And I was happy until my
father had to go into hiding

34

00:01:54,400 --> 00:01:57,160
and become a fugitive.

35

00:01:57,160 --> 00:02:01,570
So that's-- I would say that
that summarizes it for me.

36
00:02:01,570 --> 00:02:06,780

37
00:02:06,780 --> 00:02:09,990
Is there anything else you
would like to add about Part One

38
00:02:09,990 --> 00:02:13,320
before we pick up in Paris?

39
00:02:13,320 --> 00:02:17,430
Well, to set a larger frame,
perhaps, for the whole--

40
00:02:17,430 --> 00:02:22,680
for the whole interview
is to say that our--

41
00:02:22,680 --> 00:02:28,080

42
00:02:28,080 --> 00:02:34,230
we claim to have survived the
light part of the Holocaust,

43
00:02:34,230 --> 00:02:40,890
because of the 10 year
period of anxiety, tension,

44
00:02:40,890 --> 00:02:50,370
and having to escape from place
to place in order to survive.

45
00:02:50,370 --> 00:02:53,730
And I would say that
the 10 year period

46
00:02:53,730 --> 00:02:58,260
started in '33 with
the arrival of Hitler,

47

00:02:58,260 --> 00:03:02,670
and ended in '43 with our
arrival in New York City.

48
00:03:02,670 --> 00:03:08,550

49
00:03:08,550 --> 00:03:14,340
But at the moment on the
details, I think we are--

50
00:03:14,340 --> 00:03:17,040
we had left Berlin,
my mother and I,

51
00:03:17,040 --> 00:03:20,610
just before the war
started in Europe,

52
00:03:20,610 --> 00:03:25,230
and we were now in Paris.

53
00:03:25,230 --> 00:03:26,700
Shall I go on?

54
00:03:26,700 --> 00:03:30,010
Yes, sir, please.

55
00:03:30,010 --> 00:03:32,170
OK.

56
00:03:32,170 --> 00:03:37,800
Well, we arrived in
Paris, and in a sense,

57
00:03:37,800 --> 00:03:41,760
it was a family reunion
because my mother had

58
00:03:41,760 --> 00:03:46,770
a sister living in
Paris, and my father

59

00:03:46,770 --> 00:03:49,170
had a brother living in Paris.

60

00:03:49,170 --> 00:03:53,310
So in a sense, it
was family reunion.

61

00:03:53,310 --> 00:03:56,970
But it was also a period
of very, very high tension

62

00:03:56,970 --> 00:04:06,440
and anxiety, because it was
around summer or fall of 1939.

63

00:04:06,440 --> 00:04:12,240
And the European war started
on the 1st of September, 1939.

64

00:04:12,240 --> 00:04:17,254
So the French were expecting
an attack from the Germans

65

00:04:17,254 --> 00:04:17,754
any moment.

66

00:04:17,754 --> 00:04:22,200

67

00:04:22,200 --> 00:04:25,440
And in the-- in all
their foresight,

68

00:04:25,440 --> 00:04:32,520
they were predicting that there
would be an attack using gas.

69

00:04:32,520 --> 00:04:36,420
And so the problem was
to protect the citizens

70

00:04:36,420 --> 00:04:41,220

against gas attacks, as had
been the case in World War

71
00:04:41,220 --> 00:04:45,220
One, which had
ended some time ago.

72
00:04:45,220 --> 00:04:48,510

73
00:04:48,510 --> 00:04:53,310
But the problem was that there
were many refugees in Paris.

74
00:04:53,310 --> 00:04:55,740
We were not the only ones.

75
00:04:55,740 --> 00:04:59,490
There were refugees from many
countries, not all Jewish--

76
00:04:59,490 --> 00:05:02,540
some Jewish, some not.

77
00:05:02,540 --> 00:05:05,330
There were many
refugees in Paris.

78
00:05:05,330 --> 00:05:12,570
And the government was about
to issue gas masks to protect

79
00:05:12,570 --> 00:05:16,970
the civilians, only there
was one little problem

80
00:05:16,970 --> 00:05:20,570
that, although a large
percentage of the population

81
00:05:20,570 --> 00:05:24,830
of Paris were refugees, there
were only enough gas masks

82
00:05:24,830 --> 00:05:29,990
to hand out to French citizens.

83
00:05:29,990 --> 00:05:37,580
And so the advice that they
gave by radio to refugees

84
00:05:37,580 --> 00:05:42,680
who wouldn't qualify for the gas
masks, it sounds kind of funny

85
00:05:42,680 --> 00:05:44,690
now and we can laugh about it.

86
00:05:44,690 --> 00:05:48,840
But then, it wasn't so funny.

87
00:05:48,840 --> 00:05:53,240
They said the best--

88
00:05:53,240 --> 00:05:56,900
the best substitute you can--
if you don't have a gas mask

89
00:05:56,900 --> 00:06:00,320
and there is an attack,
the best thing you can do

90
00:06:00,320 --> 00:06:06,980
is to find a used diaper,
a baby's used diaper,

91
00:06:06,980 --> 00:06:13,290
and breathe through the
urine smell of the baby.

92
00:06:13,290 --> 00:06:13,790
Really?

93
00:06:13,790 --> 00:06:15,320
That was the advice?

94
00:06:15,320 --> 00:06:17,740
That was the advice given
us by the government

95
00:06:17,740 --> 00:06:21,140
to people without gas masks.

96
00:06:21,140 --> 00:06:26,810
Anyway, it seems like a long
time ago and a different period

97
00:06:26,810 --> 00:06:27,960
of history.

98
00:06:27,960 --> 00:06:30,470
It was.

99
00:06:30,470 --> 00:06:39,360
But we-- it was decided that
we and my aunt and her--

100
00:06:39,360 --> 00:06:43,100

101
00:06:43,100 --> 00:06:46,700
two of her children,
we would leave

102
00:06:46,700 --> 00:06:51,770
Paris to go live in-- to
live in the countryside

103
00:06:51,770 --> 00:06:56,990
where things were quieter and
there wasn't so much tension

104
00:06:56,990 --> 00:06:57,605
and anxiety.

105
00:06:57,605 --> 00:07:01,610

106
00:07:01,610 --> 00:07:06,460
And we decided to--

107
00:07:06,460 --> 00:07:09,640
not we, I mean, I
was a little kid,

108
00:07:09,640 --> 00:07:14,600
and I'm speaking now as
an adult so a lot of years

109
00:07:14,600 --> 00:07:16,180
have filled in in between.

110
00:07:16,180 --> 00:07:21,680
But the adults decided that
we would go to a city called

111
00:07:21,680 --> 00:07:30,440
Niort, N-I-O-R-T. And the
reason being that somebody

112
00:07:30,440 --> 00:07:37,040
in the family, I believe, knew
a man who worked in the local

113
00:07:37,040 --> 00:07:40,820
municipal government
of this little town.

114
00:07:40,820 --> 00:07:45,440
It was a little town of about
maybe 50,000 inhabitants,

115
00:07:45,440 --> 00:07:48,440
something like that.

116
00:07:48,440 --> 00:07:53,120
And that he would--

117
00:07:53,120 --> 00:07:57,770

he might be able to give
us some protection in case

118
00:07:57,770 --> 00:08:03,830
the Germans came and occupied.

119
00:08:03,830 --> 00:08:07,394
And where is Niort?

120
00:08:07,394 --> 00:08:11,240
Niort is in the
Department of Deux-SÃ©vres,

121
00:08:11,240 --> 00:08:19,010
which is near Poitiers and
Bordeaux, Southwest of France.

122
00:08:19,010 --> 00:08:20,750
Oh, I see.

123
00:08:20,750 --> 00:08:22,700
N-I-O-R-T.

124
00:08:22,700 --> 00:08:24,600
Yes, sir.

125
00:08:24,600 --> 00:08:25,100
OK.

126
00:08:25,100 --> 00:08:31,280
Well, anyway, so
that's where we went.

127
00:08:31,280 --> 00:08:37,220
And the first place we lived
in was a place out of a dream.

128
00:08:37,220 --> 00:08:42,830
Everyone called it the
Chateau, meaning the castle.

129
00:08:42,830 --> 00:08:52,130

Because it was a large house,
and it was on the edge of a--

130
00:08:52,130 --> 00:08:56,870
there was a river running
through the property,

131
00:08:56,870 --> 00:09:01,160
and there were large gardens.

132
00:09:01,160 --> 00:09:02,240
It was idyllic.

133
00:09:02,240 --> 00:09:03,910
It was something out of a dream.

134
00:09:03,910 --> 00:09:06,500

135
00:09:06,500 --> 00:09:09,500
So everybody called
it the Chateau.

136
00:09:09,500 --> 00:09:12,770
And I can-- we were there--

137
00:09:12,770 --> 00:09:15,430
I don't know how
long we were there.

138
00:09:15,430 --> 00:09:20,120
There was a group of us, not
only our own immediate family,

139
00:09:20,120 --> 00:09:24,480
but other refugees
were there, too.

140
00:09:24,480 --> 00:09:27,530
And it was a large
house with many rooms.

141

00:09:27,530 --> 00:09:30,400
It seemed like it, anyway.

142
00:09:30,400 --> 00:09:34,670
I'm remembering as best I can.

143
00:09:34,670 --> 00:09:39,260
And it was a dream, not
only in its location because

144
00:09:39,260 --> 00:09:43,760
of the river the children had--

145
00:09:43,760 --> 00:09:47,960
could play all day
long in that area.

146
00:09:47,960 --> 00:09:51,560
There was even a rowboat down
at the-- down at the bottom

147
00:09:51,560 --> 00:09:55,400
of the walkway to the river.

148
00:09:55,400 --> 00:09:59,455
So it was a dream come true.

149
00:09:59,455 --> 00:10:05,100

150
00:10:05,100 --> 00:10:06,100
I had food.

151
00:10:06,100 --> 00:10:14,370
I never had before
in Berlin, including

152
00:10:14,370 --> 00:10:21,630
artichokes, which seems like
something very luxurious.

153
00:10:21,630 --> 00:10:25,260

And I was enchanted
with the place.

154
00:10:25,260 --> 00:10:28,890
And I believe my parents
were, as well, though I

155
00:10:28,890 --> 00:10:33,180
am talking from supposition.

156
00:10:33,180 --> 00:10:38,100
So we were there for, I don't
know whether it was a few--

157
00:10:38,100 --> 00:10:41,480
it was at least a few weeks.

158
00:10:41,480 --> 00:10:45,040
And it might have been longer.

159
00:10:45,040 --> 00:10:47,470
But then for what--

160
00:10:47,470 --> 00:10:55,745
for reasons unknown to me as a
child, I was eight at the time.

161
00:10:55,745 --> 00:11:02,030

162
00:11:02,030 --> 00:11:05,720
I didn't know why, but we
moved downtown in Niort.

163
00:11:05,720 --> 00:11:11,600
We stayed in Niort, but moved
downtown to a street called

164
00:11:11,600 --> 00:11:19,070
Melaise, M-E-L-A-I-S-E,
to Number 28, Melaise.

165

00:11:19,070 --> 00:11:21,710

And that was a
memorable place for me.

166

00:11:21,710 --> 00:11:26,340

167

00:11:26,340 --> 00:11:28,880

We had a-- we rented a single--

168

00:11:28,880 --> 00:11:32,830

169

00:11:32,830 --> 00:11:37,190

a one-- we rented a
single second story

170

00:11:37,190 --> 00:11:40,725

room for my parents and myself.

171

00:11:40,725 --> 00:11:43,790

172

00:11:43,790 --> 00:11:45,740

But the room had no bathrooms.

173

00:11:45,740 --> 00:11:54,380

So I remember very,
very well the pail--

174

00:11:54,380 --> 00:12:01,530

the bathroom pail that everybody
used at night, for example.

175

00:12:01,530 --> 00:12:05,120

So that-- which had to be
carried down in the morning

176

00:12:05,120 --> 00:12:06,300

and emptied out.

177

00:12:06,300 --> 00:12:07,906

And that was not a--

178

00:12:07,906 --> 00:12:10,940

it was not painful,
but it was memorable.

179

00:12:10,940 --> 00:12:14,450

180

00:12:14,450 --> 00:12:19,180

Did your aunt and cousins
stay at the Chateau?

181

00:12:19,180 --> 00:12:20,920

No, they did not, no.

182

00:12:20,920 --> 00:12:26,680

They also moved to different
little places in town.

183

00:12:26,680 --> 00:12:30,940

So my aunt lived
about a block away.

184

00:12:30,940 --> 00:12:35,650

My aunt and my cousin
lived about a block away.

185

00:12:35,650 --> 00:12:48,370

And so-- and our
address, I think the--

186

00:12:48,370 --> 00:12:49,360

I don't know exactly--

187

00:12:49,360 --> 00:12:53,620

the Germans arrived
sometimes in 1940.

188

00:12:53,620 --> 00:13:00,220

They occupied half of France,
and including the-- including

189
00:13:00,220 --> 00:13:00,720
Niort.

190
00:13:00,720 --> 00:13:03,370

191
00:13:03,370 --> 00:13:11,950
And across from our second
floor room was no bathroom.

192
00:13:11,950 --> 00:13:15,550

193
00:13:15,550 --> 00:13:20,950
We noticed that there
was a place that

194
00:13:20,950 --> 00:13:28,600
at night played a lot of
music, fairly medium loud,

195
00:13:28,600 --> 00:13:31,510
and had a lot of
pretty women in it.

196
00:13:31,510 --> 00:13:37,720
So it was obvious that this--

197
00:13:37,720 --> 00:13:40,240
later on, I found
out that it was

198
00:13:40,240 --> 00:13:46,170
a German soldiers' bordello,
or prostitution house.

199
00:13:46,170 --> 00:13:49,950

200
00:13:49,950 --> 00:13:53,770
But you see, the Germans
are very, very orderly,

201
00:13:53,770 --> 00:13:56,560
even when they're carrying
out evil missions.

202
00:13:56,560 --> 00:14:00,320

203
00:14:00,320 --> 00:14:04,850
The military police would
come around every night very,

204
00:14:04,850 --> 00:14:07,030
very late, I am told--

205
00:14:07,030 --> 00:14:10,990
I was told, and make
sure that everybody--

206
00:14:10,990 --> 00:14:13,480
all the soldiers
were out of Niort.

207
00:14:13,480 --> 00:14:17,020
The soldiers could not
spend the night there.

208
00:14:17,020 --> 00:14:20,800
And this music had to
stop at a certain hour

209
00:14:20,800 --> 00:14:23,360
so people could sleep.

210
00:14:23,360 --> 00:14:28,990
So that's why 28 women there
was very memorable to me.

211
00:14:28,990 --> 00:14:34,200
And when I returned to
France after the war,

212

00:14:34,200 --> 00:14:40,442
it was one address I visited
with a great curiosity.

213
00:14:40,442 --> 00:14:43,010

214
00:14:43,010 --> 00:14:43,730
OK.

215
00:14:43,730 --> 00:14:46,445
But then life went on.

216
00:14:46,445 --> 00:14:52,850

217
00:14:52,850 --> 00:14:55,860
Being in the center
of town didn't--

218
00:14:55,860 --> 00:14:58,160
it meant you had to
play in the street,

219
00:14:58,160 --> 00:15:01,490
and the street was
with cobblestones.

220
00:15:01,490 --> 00:15:06,290
So that was interesting,
but slippery.

221
00:15:06,290 --> 00:15:09,410
They were slippery when--
especially after the rain,

222
00:15:09,410 --> 00:15:10,640
cobblestones were.

223
00:15:10,640 --> 00:15:15,070

224

00:15:15,070 --> 00:15:22,250
One memory is one evening, my
mother and I were visiting--

225
00:15:22,250 --> 00:15:24,290
I don't know whether
it was my aunt--

226
00:15:24,290 --> 00:15:26,050
no, it couldn't
have been my aunt.

227
00:15:26,050 --> 00:15:29,240
We were visiting some
friends who lived

228
00:15:29,240 --> 00:15:32,280
on the other side of town.

229
00:15:32,280 --> 00:15:34,790
And we were on our way home--

230
00:15:34,790 --> 00:15:40,040
now, I should preface this
by saying that my mother was

231
00:15:40,040 --> 00:15:42,890
a fairly attractive woman.

232
00:15:42,890 --> 00:15:51,730
And so-- that was obvious.

233
00:15:51,730 --> 00:16:01,710
So when my mother and
I were on the way home,

234
00:16:01,710 --> 00:16:07,530
we suddenly heard that
someone was walking behind us.

235
00:16:07,530 --> 00:16:11,030
And it turned out to
be two German soldiers.

236
00:16:11,030 --> 00:16:14,040

237
00:16:14,040 --> 00:16:20,520
And we got scared and began
to walk a little bit faster.

238
00:16:20,520 --> 00:16:22,460
And then they walked faster.

239
00:16:22,460 --> 00:16:26,420
And it seemed like they were
beginning to talk to my mother,

240
00:16:26,420 --> 00:16:32,850
and it seemed like they had had
a few drinks under their belt.

241
00:16:32,850 --> 00:16:39,760
So we began walking
really fast hand in hand,

242
00:16:39,760 --> 00:16:44,800
walking in the direction
of our apartment, our room,

243
00:16:44,800 --> 00:16:51,130
as fast as we could,
and feeling a little bit

244
00:16:51,130 --> 00:16:52,570
of-- a little bit of anxiety.

245
00:16:52,570 --> 00:16:55,930

246
00:16:55,930 --> 00:17:01,030
Of course, they didn't know
that we understood German.

247
00:17:01,030 --> 00:17:04,450

When they said-- one
said to the other one--

248
00:17:04,450 --> 00:17:06,130
no, he didn't say
it to the other one.

249
00:17:06,130 --> 00:17:12,260
He said it to us without knowing
that we understood German.

250
00:17:12,260 --> 00:17:20,380
He said, [GERMAN],, which
means, don't be afraid,

251
00:17:20,380 --> 00:17:27,089
we're just Austrians,
not Germans, you see.

252
00:17:27,089 --> 00:17:29,070
But of course, they
were in the German army.

253
00:17:29,070 --> 00:17:33,500

254
00:17:33,500 --> 00:17:35,780
And my mother and I
looked at each other

255
00:17:35,780 --> 00:17:41,360
and smiled, but walked as
fast as we could anyway.

256
00:17:41,360 --> 00:17:47,150
And that was-- that
experience-- that instance

257
00:17:47,150 --> 00:17:51,470
got recorded in my memory.

258
00:17:51,470 --> 00:17:56,180
Another instance that I remember

was, once-- about once a month,

259

00:17:56,180 --> 00:18:05,570

I believe, each Jewish family
had to report to the German

260

00:18:05,570 --> 00:18:14,240

command office, or the
Kommandantur, with a K,

261

00:18:14,240 --> 00:18:22,340

K-O-M-M-A-N-D-A-T-U-R.
[INAUDIBLE]..

262

00:18:22,340 --> 00:18:28,460

Somebody from the family
had to come with documents

263

00:18:28,460 --> 00:18:30,470

to have them stamped
once a month,

264

00:18:30,470 --> 00:18:39,200

because they were tracking
their prey quite assiduously.

265

00:18:39,200 --> 00:18:43,820

266

00:18:43,820 --> 00:18:47,210

Now what-- while my
mother and I were standing

267

00:18:47,210 --> 00:18:53,470

in line, a German
officer who was kind

268

00:18:53,470 --> 00:18:56,500

of in the-- walking around
the office to make sure

269

00:18:56,500 --> 00:19:01,840

that everyone was

behaving, he came over

270

00:19:01,840 --> 00:19:04,185
and he picked me up in his arms.

271

00:19:04,185 --> 00:19:07,110

272

00:19:07,110 --> 00:19:09,780
And this really-- well, he--

273

00:19:09,780 --> 00:19:10,860
I don't know if he was--

274

00:19:10,860 --> 00:19:12,360
I say German, obviously.

275

00:19:12,360 --> 00:19:17,700
He was an officer in the German
army with German uniform.

276

00:19:17,700 --> 00:19:19,260
He might have been Austrian.

277

00:19:19,260 --> 00:19:20,820
I don't know.

278

00:19:20,820 --> 00:19:28,070
But this officer picked
me up in his arms,

279

00:19:28,070 --> 00:19:32,780
and I thought he was
about to eat me alive,

280

00:19:32,780 --> 00:19:34,160
which is funny now.

281

00:19:34,160 --> 00:19:38,540
But at that time, it
wasn't so incredulous.

282

00:19:38,540 --> 00:19:42,720

283

00:19:42,720 --> 00:19:47,030

And now, he-- what
he did then was

284

00:19:47,030 --> 00:19:51,140

to take out his wallet
from his pocket,

285

00:19:51,140 --> 00:19:59,440

and take out a photograph
to show my mother his child,

286

00:19:59,440 --> 00:20:04,520

to show her a
photo of his child.

287

00:20:04,520 --> 00:20:11,510

And this showed an
amount of humanity

288

00:20:11,510 --> 00:20:15,140

that one was not
used to witnessing

289

00:20:15,140 --> 00:20:16,560

from German soldiers.

290

00:20:16,560 --> 00:20:21,690

So perhaps, he indeed
was Austrian, possibly.

291

00:20:21,690 --> 00:20:23,480

And what was--
what was my-- what

292

00:20:23,480 --> 00:20:25,550

was his motive in doing that?

293

00:20:25,550 --> 00:20:27,200

I don't know.

294
00:20:27,200 --> 00:20:31,730
As I say, my mother was
an attractive woman,

295
00:20:31,730 --> 00:20:33,500
so he might have been--

296
00:20:33,500 --> 00:20:42,470
he might have wanted to start
a conversation with her.

297
00:20:42,470 --> 00:20:43,760
But-- or--

298
00:20:43,760 --> 00:20:44,420
I don't know.

299
00:20:44,420 --> 00:20:48,380
Maybe he was just
being a human being.

300
00:20:48,380 --> 00:20:57,425
And I remember that as an
unlikely event during the war.

301
00:20:57,425 --> 00:21:07,970

302
00:21:07,970 --> 00:21:17,240
In the following year in 1940,
I had an interesting experience

303
00:21:17,240 --> 00:21:22,340
in that my parents, my
father and mother for reasons

304
00:21:22,340 --> 00:21:31,730
unknown to me, were arrested
by the French police

305

00:21:31,730 --> 00:21:34,745
and placed into the local jail.

306
00:21:34,745 --> 00:21:41,190

307
00:21:41,190 --> 00:21:42,710
In Niort.

308
00:21:42,710 --> 00:21:43,480
In Niort.

309
00:21:43,480 --> 00:21:44,950
This was all in Niort.

310
00:21:44,950 --> 00:21:47,630

311
00:21:47,630 --> 00:21:51,220
And I had the
memorable experience

312
00:21:51,220 --> 00:21:57,220
then of carrying a meal of--

313
00:21:57,220 --> 00:22:04,060
of carrying a good
meal to jail for them

314
00:22:04,060 --> 00:22:09,250
every once a day that
my aunt would cook,

315
00:22:09,250 --> 00:22:15,010
and I would carry
the food to the jail.

316
00:22:15,010 --> 00:22:17,740

317
00:22:17,740 --> 00:22:26,020
And then after about

two or three weeks,

318
00:22:26,020 --> 00:22:28,960
they were released.

319
00:22:28,960 --> 00:22:31,180
I don't know why
they were arrested,

320
00:22:31,180 --> 00:22:34,300
and I don't know why
they were released.

321
00:22:34,300 --> 00:22:42,610
And somehow after we got to
the US, very, very seldom

322
00:22:42,610 --> 00:22:49,960
that anyone ever speak
of the period since 1933.

323
00:22:49,960 --> 00:22:55,150
The period was so
traumatic that one did not

324
00:22:55,150 --> 00:22:57,220
want to recall anything.

325
00:22:57,220 --> 00:23:01,150
And I being a little
kid in the new country,

326
00:23:01,150 --> 00:23:04,300
I was more interested in
learning about the new country

327
00:23:04,300 --> 00:23:06,955
than in learning
ancient history.

328
00:23:06,955 --> 00:23:12,160

329

00:23:12,160 --> 00:23:14,220

During the time that
they were in jail--

330

00:23:14,220 --> 00:23:15,640

Sorry?

331

00:23:15,640 --> 00:23:18,760

During the time that
they were in jail,

332

00:23:18,760 --> 00:23:21,532

were you by yourself
in the apartment?

333

00:23:21,532 --> 00:23:22,240

I don't remember.

334

00:23:22,240 --> 00:23:25,480

335

00:23:25,480 --> 00:23:30,130

I don't know if I moved in
with my aunt, or if I stayed.

336

00:23:30,130 --> 00:23:33,070

It's unlikely that I
would have stayed alone.

337

00:23:33,070 --> 00:23:36,895

I probably moved in with
my aunt, but I don't know.

338

00:23:36,895 --> 00:23:37,825

I see.

339

00:23:37,825 --> 00:23:40,560

340

00:23:40,560 --> 00:23:41,060

All right.

341

00:23:41,060 --> 00:23:43,670

Now, as I say, in
1940, French was

342

00:23:43,670 --> 00:23:47,450

half occupied and half free.

343

00:23:47,450 --> 00:23:49,760

The word free in
quotation marks,

344

00:23:49,760 --> 00:23:54,090

because the Germans
put in a French--

345

00:23:54,090 --> 00:24:03,370

a government of French leaders,
but friendly to Germany.

346

00:24:03,370 --> 00:24:07,250

So that was the free part.

347

00:24:07,250 --> 00:24:09,950

I think it was a fig leaf to--

348

00:24:09,950 --> 00:24:14,600

not to take-- see, because
France had declared Paris

349

00:24:14,600 --> 00:24:16,700

an open city, which
means they were not

350

00:24:16,700 --> 00:24:20,420

going to fight the
Germans to take it,

351

00:24:20,420 --> 00:24:24,710

because they did not want
to see Paris get destroyed.

352

00:24:24,710 --> 00:24:28,310

And so Paris was
declared an open city.

353
00:24:28,310 --> 00:24:32,700
The Germans moved
in almost casually,

354
00:24:32,700 --> 00:24:35,480
and not being noticed.

355
00:24:35,480 --> 00:24:41,540
And they set up this half--

356
00:24:41,540 --> 00:24:46,100
this government and half
France, the southern half,

357
00:24:46,100 --> 00:24:53,975
with Nazi leaning
Frenchmen in the command.

358
00:24:53,975 --> 00:24:58,320

359
00:24:58,320 --> 00:25:06,850
Also at this time,
'40, '41, my parents--

360
00:25:06,850 --> 00:25:12,250
and especially, I guess,
after the jailing,

361
00:25:12,250 --> 00:25:18,340
my parents decided that
they needed a Plan B,

362
00:25:18,340 --> 00:25:22,900
because we might never get the
US visa as we might be dead

363
00:25:22,900 --> 00:25:27,700
before we got the US visas.

364

00:25:27,700 --> 00:25:30,820

And so Plan B was
put into effect.

365

00:25:30,820 --> 00:25:33,520

What did it consist of?

366

00:25:33,520 --> 00:25:36,820

Well, first of
all, the key to it

367

00:25:36,820 --> 00:25:41,730

was that Max, my
brother in New York,

368

00:25:41,730 --> 00:25:46,440

was going to try to
arrange visas to Cuba.

369

00:25:46,440 --> 00:25:50,220

Cuba, at that time,
was one of-- one

370

00:25:50,220 --> 00:25:54,060

or two countries that was
accepting Jewish refugees.

371

00:25:54,060 --> 00:25:57,180

372

00:25:57,180 --> 00:26:02,310

No other country was
accepting Jewish refugees,

373

00:26:02,310 --> 00:26:07,620

as the incident with the ship
called the St. Louis in 1939

374

00:26:07,620 --> 00:26:14,460

proved that the US
certainly wasn't going

375

00:26:14,460 --> 00:26:15,810
to accept Jewish refugees.

376
00:26:15,810 --> 00:26:19,530

377
00:26:19,530 --> 00:26:22,950
And nobody among
the refugees ever

378
00:26:22,950 --> 00:26:26,620
thought about
entering illegally.

379
00:26:26,620 --> 00:26:28,170
They wouldn't know how, anyway.

380
00:26:28,170 --> 00:26:32,240

381
00:26:32,240 --> 00:26:35,330
Anyway, the first
part of the plan was--

382
00:26:35,330 --> 00:26:38,330
not the first, but the
principle part of the plan

383
00:26:38,330 --> 00:26:42,860
was for Max to arrange
visas to Cuba as a place

384
00:26:42,860 --> 00:26:44,630
to wait, a safe haven--

385
00:26:44,630 --> 00:26:46,490
a safe place to wait--

386
00:26:46,490 --> 00:26:51,125
to await the US visas, if
it took another three years

387

00:26:51,125 --> 00:26:52,985
or five years or 10 years.

388
00:26:52,985 --> 00:26:57,070

389
00:26:57,070 --> 00:27:01,670
So he had-- so he
was working on that.

390
00:27:01,670 --> 00:27:05,320
Meanwhile, we had to make our--

391
00:27:05,320 --> 00:27:08,020
we had to put in to--

392
00:27:08,020 --> 00:27:14,260
get to a place where we could
get transportation to Cuba.

393
00:27:14,260 --> 00:27:18,490
From where we were in
Niort, the closest place

394
00:27:18,490 --> 00:27:24,355
would be either Portugal
or North Africa.

395
00:27:24,355 --> 00:27:27,050

396
00:27:27,050 --> 00:27:40,040
So we had to sneak illegally
across the border--

397
00:27:40,040 --> 00:27:42,680
quote, end quote-- between--

398
00:27:42,680 --> 00:27:46,610
we were in the occupied
part in Niort, you see.

399

00:27:46,610 --> 00:27:54,320
And we had to walk across the
frontier to so-called free

400

00:27:54,320 --> 00:27:59,600
France, or Vichy France, because
the seat of the government was

401

00:27:59,600 --> 00:28:05,570
in a town called Vichy,
V-E-I-C-H-Y, I believe.

402

00:28:05,570 --> 00:28:07,050
Yes, sir.

403

00:28:07,050 --> 00:28:09,695
Same place where they make
a lot of bottled water.

404

00:28:09,695 --> 00:28:12,570

405

00:28:12,570 --> 00:28:14,055
You may have heard
of Vichy water.

406

00:28:14,055 --> 00:28:19,070

407

00:28:19,070 --> 00:28:21,160
We had-- we worked--

408

00:28:21,160 --> 00:28:23,620
they would look-- they
were local farmers who

409

00:28:23,620 --> 00:28:26,180
were leading groups.

410

00:28:26,180 --> 00:28:27,370
I don't know how often.

411

00:28:27,370 --> 00:28:30,670

I don't know if every
night, or just once a week,

412

00:28:30,670 --> 00:28:32,560

or once in a month.

413

00:28:32,560 --> 00:28:38,088

But in order to make extra
money, they would lead groups.

414

00:28:38,088 --> 00:28:38,630

I don't know.

415

00:28:38,630 --> 00:28:44,430

A lady in our group was between
five or 10 people in it.

416

00:28:44,430 --> 00:28:46,720

And they led the group--

417

00:28:46,720 --> 00:28:52,090

at first, they took the
group from places like Niort

418

00:28:52,090 --> 00:28:59,190

to a central meeting place
closer to the border,

419

00:28:59,190 --> 00:29:02,650

and then in trucks.

420

00:29:02,650 --> 00:29:06,070

And then getting
off the truck, one

421

00:29:06,070 --> 00:29:09,550

would have to walk
across the border.

422

00:29:09,550 --> 00:29:13,210

And then on the other side,
they would have arranged another

423
00:29:13,210 --> 00:29:20,120
truck to take us to
Limoges, L-I-M-O-G-E-S,

424
00:29:20,120 --> 00:29:24,300
which is a city in the
so-called free part.

425
00:29:24,300 --> 00:29:28,750
Anyway-- but Limoges was the
first step in the free part.

426
00:29:28,750 --> 00:29:33,760
So we walked across the
border one night, but--

427
00:29:33,760 --> 00:29:38,770
and we-- my mother begged my--

428
00:29:38,770 --> 00:29:43,510
her sister, my aunt,
to come with us,

429
00:29:43,510 --> 00:29:46,390
and she wouldn't,
because she thought

430
00:29:46,390 --> 00:29:54,850
she was protected by the fact
of being a French citizen,

431
00:29:54,850 --> 00:30:03,500
and the fact of having
two out of three children

432
00:30:03,500 --> 00:30:04,980
born in France.

433
00:30:04,980 --> 00:30:08,330
So she thought she was safe.

434

00:30:08,330 --> 00:30:13,460
But she wound up in Auschwitz
several years later.

435
00:30:13,460 --> 00:30:19,710
And my mother, of course,
and the rest of us,

436
00:30:19,710 --> 00:30:22,770
we feel bad about that
she didn't pay attention

437
00:30:22,770 --> 00:30:24,490
to us in '41.

438
00:30:24,490 --> 00:30:28,080

439
00:30:28,080 --> 00:30:30,930
Walking across that
border was interesting,

440
00:30:30,930 --> 00:30:36,390
because it was not-- it was
hilly, it was a hilly walk--

441
00:30:36,390 --> 00:30:40,650
not mountainous,
but small hills.

442
00:30:40,650 --> 00:30:47,280
And my mother, unfortunately,
on the trip, panicked.

443
00:30:47,280 --> 00:30:52,710
And the reason she
panicked was because we

444
00:30:52,710 --> 00:30:59,890
were at the top of a hill,
and we were heading downward.

445
00:30:59,890 --> 00:31:05,260

And in the valley
below, she saw what she

446
00:31:05,260 --> 00:31:08,320
believed was a lake of water.

447
00:31:08,320 --> 00:31:10,920

448
00:31:10,920 --> 00:31:12,130
And she panicked.

449
00:31:12,130 --> 00:31:17,910
And she said she is not
going to go into any water.

450
00:31:17,910 --> 00:31:20,790
And it was dangerous
because there

451
00:31:20,790 --> 00:31:25,740
were German patrols with
dogs that would control

452
00:31:25,740 --> 00:31:29,300
that border periodically.

453
00:31:29,300 --> 00:31:32,240
We could hear the dogs
in the distance barking.

454
00:31:32,240 --> 00:31:35,000

455
00:31:35,000 --> 00:31:46,940
But it was explained to her--

456
00:31:46,940 --> 00:31:50,630
to my mother, eventually,
that it was not water

457
00:31:50,630 --> 00:31:53,720

at the bottom of the hill
in the valley, it was fog.

458
00:31:53,720 --> 00:31:58,310

459
00:31:58,310 --> 00:32:00,380
So first, she
didn't believe that.

460
00:32:00,380 --> 00:32:02,570
But she came around
to believing it

461
00:32:02,570 --> 00:32:05,650
and calmed her
down a little bit.

462
00:32:05,650 --> 00:32:10,150
And we made it through safely,
and we got to the truck

463
00:32:10,150 --> 00:32:17,680
on the other side, and
got as far as Limoges.

464
00:32:17,680 --> 00:32:20,890
In Limoges, we had the
address of a safe house that

465
00:32:20,890 --> 00:32:22,440
would put us up for the night.

466
00:32:22,440 --> 00:32:25,670

467
00:32:25,670 --> 00:32:37,140
So we went looking for that safe
house to rest our weary heads.

468
00:32:37,140 --> 00:32:42,060
But we found out it was full--
it was full up and there was no

469
00:32:42,060 --> 00:32:43,170
room--

470
00:32:43,170 --> 00:32:44,340
no room at the inn.

471
00:32:44,340 --> 00:32:47,370

472
00:32:47,370 --> 00:32:50,070
And-- well, I don't know.

473
00:32:50,070 --> 00:32:52,170
As a little kid, I didn't--

474
00:32:52,170 --> 00:32:55,890
I missed a lot of
information, obviously.

475
00:32:55,890 --> 00:32:59,280
But luckily, we found--

476
00:32:59,280 --> 00:33:04,410
we made contact with
a lady, a local lady,

477
00:33:04,410 --> 00:33:08,580
who rented us a one bed in--

478
00:33:08,580 --> 00:33:10,680
one bed for three people--

479
00:33:10,680 --> 00:33:14,790
for the three of
us in her attic,

480
00:33:14,790 --> 00:33:18,990
no blankets, and we had to use
a mattress to cover ourselves

481

00:33:18,990 --> 00:33:20,790
with.

482
00:33:20,790 --> 00:33:26,010
And of course, you understand
that since we were illegal

483
00:33:26,010 --> 00:33:29,095
now in the free French
zone, we had no papers.

484
00:33:29,095 --> 00:33:33,030

485
00:33:33,030 --> 00:33:35,568
If she had called
the police on us,

486
00:33:35,568 --> 00:33:36,735
we would have been finished.

487
00:33:36,735 --> 00:33:42,260

488
00:33:42,260 --> 00:33:46,300
But I remember
that night in that

489
00:33:46,300 --> 00:33:50,690
it was one of the
experiences that

490
00:33:50,690 --> 00:33:53,090
will stay with me for
the rest of my days.

491
00:33:53,090 --> 00:33:55,630

492
00:33:55,630 --> 00:34:01,690
Another one is we were heading--

493

00:34:01,690 --> 00:34:05,110
our objective was to
head to Marseilles,

494
00:34:05,110 --> 00:34:08,560
the big port in the
South of France,

495
00:34:08,560 --> 00:34:12,790
where we would catch
a ship to take us

496
00:34:12,790 --> 00:34:18,550
from Marseilles to
Casablanca in Morocco, which

497
00:34:18,550 --> 00:34:19,585
is in North Africa.

498
00:34:19,585 --> 00:34:22,280

499
00:34:22,280 --> 00:34:28,250
Where in theory, we
would catch another ship

500
00:34:28,250 --> 00:34:31,909
which would take us to Cuba.

501
00:34:31,909 --> 00:34:34,500
I didn't know this-- all
of this ahead of time,

502
00:34:34,500 --> 00:34:37,020
but I know it now.

503
00:34:37,020 --> 00:34:37,520
Yes, sir.

504
00:34:37,520 --> 00:34:40,380

505

00:34:40,380 --> 00:34:45,650
But back in 1941, you
see, food was rationed--

506
00:34:45,650 --> 00:34:48,420
food was rationed.

507
00:34:48,420 --> 00:34:55,850
And maybe for any readers or
listeners to this treatise,

508
00:34:55,850 --> 00:34:59,710
we should mention that
it was before computers,

509
00:34:59,710 --> 00:35:05,180
and it was before cell
phones, so that communication

510
00:35:05,180 --> 00:35:08,180
and information flow
were still a little bit--

511
00:35:08,180 --> 00:35:12,550

512
00:35:12,550 --> 00:35:14,710
well, how shall I say it--

513
00:35:14,710 --> 00:35:18,080
checkered, like Swiss cheese.

514
00:35:18,080 --> 00:35:21,980
And we-- happily, we were
able to find the holes through

515
00:35:21,980 --> 00:35:27,295
the Swiss cheese, because
the people-- the German--

516
00:35:27,295 --> 00:35:30,340

517

00:35:30,340 --> 00:35:34,810

neither the French nor
the German authorities

518

00:35:34,810 --> 00:35:43,270

on the free side knew that we
had left our abode in Niort

519

00:35:43,270 --> 00:35:49,370

without official permission.

520

00:35:49,370 --> 00:35:52,190

Because when you're going
to sneak across the border,

521

00:35:52,190 --> 00:35:56,160

it's best not to
alert your hunters.

522

00:35:56,160 --> 00:35:58,640

Yes, sir.

523

00:35:58,640 --> 00:36:07,640

So being in Limoges without
papers, we didn't have food--

524

00:36:07,640 --> 00:36:09,800

and food was rationed--

525

00:36:09,800 --> 00:36:11,840

food was rationed.

526

00:36:11,840 --> 00:36:14,090

You couldn't do-- even
if you had the money,

527

00:36:14,090 --> 00:36:17,900

you couldn't buy the food
unless you had coupons

528

00:36:17,900 --> 00:36:21,620

for whatever you wanted to buy.

529
00:36:21,620 --> 00:36:23,150
And we were hungry.

530
00:36:23,150 --> 00:36:34,540
And so we-- I helped my mother
make half a bread heist,

531
00:36:34,540 --> 00:36:36,070
I think of it.

532
00:36:36,070 --> 00:36:39,580
It wasn't really a heist
because we paid for two--

533
00:36:39,580 --> 00:36:43,930
we bought-- we had a
coupon for one loaf,

534
00:36:43,930 --> 00:36:47,560
but we needed two in
order to last us the day,

535
00:36:47,560 --> 00:36:49,990
the three of us.

536
00:36:49,990 --> 00:37:00,570
And so thanks to
our own abilities,

537
00:37:00,570 --> 00:37:08,990
and local confusion, and maybe
the bread lady's connivance,

538
00:37:08,990 --> 00:37:15,920
or liberalism, or
humanity, we were-- we

539
00:37:15,920 --> 00:37:19,050
carried out two loaves of bread.

540
00:37:19,050 --> 00:37:21,440

We were only allowed--

541
00:37:21,440 --> 00:37:24,230
officially, we were
only allowed one.

542
00:37:24,230 --> 00:37:26,510
Although, we paid
for two loaves,

543
00:37:26,510 --> 00:37:30,020
we only had coupons for one.

544
00:37:30,020 --> 00:37:35,910
So that was that that was...,
that put the dot on the Limoges

545
00:37:35,910 --> 00:37:41,560
I.

546
00:37:41,560 --> 00:37:42,060
OK.

547
00:37:42,060 --> 00:37:46,560
Though, now we were on route,
we made our way to Marseilles--

548
00:37:46,560 --> 00:37:50,410
And can-- I'm sorry, Dr. Fiks,
can I ask you a question?

549
00:37:50,410 --> 00:37:51,730
Sure.

550
00:37:51,730 --> 00:37:54,606
So back when you
said that it was

551
00:37:54,606 --> 00:37:56,950
the local farmers
that were helping

552

00:37:56,950 --> 00:37:59,000
people get across the border--

553
00:37:59,000 --> 00:37:59,500
Yes.

554
00:37:59,500 --> 00:38:03,470
--do you know how your parents
came into contact with them,

555
00:38:03,470 --> 00:38:07,810
or how they found out that
these farmers were doing this?

556
00:38:07,810 --> 00:38:11,980
I had no idea how they
came into contact.

557
00:38:11,980 --> 00:38:19,090
Everybody-- my aunt,
for example, in Niort,

558
00:38:19,090 --> 00:38:24,310
once a month, she would do a--

559
00:38:24,310 --> 00:38:26,550
everybody would-- people--

560
00:38:26,550 --> 00:38:29,296
in war time, people have to--

561
00:38:29,296 --> 00:38:33,340
often have to do things
that are illegal according

562
00:38:33,340 --> 00:38:37,780
to the authorities to survive.

563
00:38:37,780 --> 00:38:45,970
My aunt, for example, she
was earning her livelihood

564

00:38:45,970 --> 00:38:53,980
by once a month taking a
trip to Paris by train.

565
00:38:53,980 --> 00:39:02,410
And in Niort, chickens
were plentiful,

566
00:39:02,410 --> 00:39:05,380
because there were
local farms around.

567
00:39:05,380 --> 00:39:10,480
So she bought, I don't know
how many, maybe 10 chickens,

568
00:39:10,480 --> 00:39:18,130
and she put them in a big
sack, like a flower sack.

569
00:39:18,130 --> 00:39:22,380
And she traveled on
the train with this.

570
00:39:22,380 --> 00:39:25,960
And in Paris, she would
sell those chickens.

571
00:39:25,960 --> 00:39:29,470
I don't know if she sold them
all at once, or one at a time.

572
00:39:29,470 --> 00:39:32,310

573
00:39:32,310 --> 00:39:43,220
And then-- then in Niort, the
thing that was scarce was coal.

574
00:39:43,220 --> 00:39:46,190
And so in Paris,
you would buy coal,

575

00:39:46,190 --> 00:39:51,560
which was available in
Paris, and fill that same--

576
00:39:51,560 --> 00:39:53,390
I don't know if it
was the same sack.

577
00:39:53,390 --> 00:39:55,040
I hope it was a different sack.

578
00:39:55,040 --> 00:39:57,910

579
00:39:57,910 --> 00:40:01,130
And fill another
sack with the coal

580
00:40:01,130 --> 00:40:04,430
to take back to Niort
to sell it in Niort.

581
00:40:04,430 --> 00:40:07,580

582
00:40:07,580 --> 00:40:09,680
That's how she made her living.

583
00:40:09,680 --> 00:40:16,790
I tell you, I bring up
the story to indicate that

584
00:40:16,790 --> 00:40:20,240
in order to survive,
many people who

585
00:40:20,240 --> 00:40:27,890
do not have independent money--

586
00:40:27,890 --> 00:40:30,680
sources of money
have to do things

587

00:40:30,680 --> 00:40:35,870

that are not officially
blessed or authorized.

588

00:40:35,870 --> 00:40:42,170

So these farmers, they are
hurting for money, too.

589

00:40:42,170 --> 00:40:47,120

And I don't know how the contact
was made-- how my parents made

590

00:40:47,120 --> 00:40:53,270

the contact, but just
talking to people

591

00:40:53,270 --> 00:40:57,320

and asking for what kind of
services you were looking for,

592

00:40:57,320 --> 00:41:02,180

somebody would know about
someone who did that.

593

00:41:02,180 --> 00:41:05,810

594

00:41:05,810 --> 00:41:07,770

Should I go on?

595

00:41:07,770 --> 00:41:09,930

Yes, sir, please.

596

00:41:09,930 --> 00:41:10,600

OK.

597

00:41:10,600 --> 00:41:21,390

So we made-- we made
our way to Marseilles

598

00:41:21,390 --> 00:41:26,580

and we boarded the ship

without any problem.

599

00:41:26,580 --> 00:41:31,470

Now, here what's important--
here what's interesting is that

600

00:41:31,470 --> 00:41:33,690

if it were--

601

00:41:33,690 --> 00:41:36,660

if it were today, we
wouldn't be able to do

602

00:41:36,660 --> 00:41:40,510

that because they would
pick us out easily

603

00:41:40,510 --> 00:41:43,380

from a computer list.

604

00:41:43,380 --> 00:41:48,120

But there were no computer
lists in those days.

605

00:41:48,120 --> 00:41:52,830

And I think through the
lack of computer lists,

606

00:41:52,830 --> 00:41:56,970

we were able to get
away from Marseilles.

607

00:41:56,970 --> 00:41:57,960

So you were able to--

608

00:41:57,960 --> 00:42:00,120

But I noticed that--

609

00:42:00,120 --> 00:42:03,760

we notice and my parents
talked about it afterwards,

610

00:42:03,760 --> 00:42:07,170
that although this
was free France,

611
00:42:07,170 --> 00:42:13,890
the last man down the
gangplank from the ship

612
00:42:13,890 --> 00:42:21,380
was a German officer to give
the permission to leave.

613
00:42:21,380 --> 00:42:28,980
So if he had known that there
was any illegals on board,

614
00:42:28,980 --> 00:42:32,880
he could have said, no, the ship
won't leave unless-- until we

615
00:42:32,880 --> 00:42:35,200
get this person off.

616
00:42:35,200 --> 00:42:38,700
But you were able to
successfully sneak on.

617
00:42:38,700 --> 00:42:39,750
Huh?

618
00:42:39,750 --> 00:42:40,920
Say again, please.

619
00:42:40,920 --> 00:42:45,530
But you and your family were
able to successfully sneak on.

620
00:42:45,530 --> 00:42:47,520
You were able to
get on the ship.

621
00:42:47,520 --> 00:42:49,860
We were able to get

out of France, right.

622
00:42:49,860 --> 00:42:50,360
OK.

623
00:42:50,360 --> 00:42:55,360

624
00:42:55,360 --> 00:43:03,660
And now, that ship, to
get from Marseilles,

625
00:43:03,660 --> 00:43:08,250
we sailed through the
Mediterranean westward.

626
00:43:08,250 --> 00:43:11,400

627
00:43:11,400 --> 00:43:19,050
And then we had to sail around
the corner of Africa there.

628
00:43:19,050 --> 00:43:24,240
But there is a straight,
it is a very narrow border

629
00:43:24,240 --> 00:43:28,090
between Africa and Spain.

630
00:43:28,090 --> 00:43:30,800
They come together very--

631
00:43:30,800 --> 00:43:32,190
in Gibraltar.

632
00:43:32,190 --> 00:43:35,260
The Rock of Gibraltar
is right there.

633
00:43:35,260 --> 00:43:40,840
And that's-- the waterway

between Africa and Europe are

634
00:43:40,840 --> 00:43:43,020
called the Straits of Gibraltar.

635
00:43:43,020 --> 00:43:47,120

636
00:43:47,120 --> 00:43:51,200
At that time, Gibraltar was
still an English possession.

637
00:43:51,200 --> 00:43:53,225
I believe now, they're more--

638
00:43:53,225 --> 00:43:55,550
they're independent,
or part of Spain.

639
00:43:55,550 --> 00:43:57,390
I don't know.

640
00:43:57,390 --> 00:44:02,690
But in those days,
we were buzzed--

641
00:44:02,690 --> 00:44:04,760
in other words,
we were inspected

642
00:44:04,760 --> 00:44:07,640
by an English
airplane while we were

643
00:44:07,640 --> 00:44:10,280
going through the
Straits of Gibraltar.

644
00:44:10,280 --> 00:44:15,260
They wanted to be sure that
this wasn't a ship to--

645

00:44:15,260 --> 00:44:22,100
friendly to the Germans,
bringing supplies

646
00:44:22,100 --> 00:44:22,725
to the Germans.

647
00:44:22,725 --> 00:44:25,840

648
00:44:25,840 --> 00:44:27,640
They didn't know
whether the ship

649
00:44:27,640 --> 00:44:32,890
would turn right or
left after crossing

650
00:44:32,890 --> 00:44:34,310
the Straits of Gibraltar.

651
00:44:34,310 --> 00:44:36,870

652
00:44:36,870 --> 00:44:41,140
But anyway, we were
also lucky when

653
00:44:41,140 --> 00:44:45,730
we were buzzed by the
English Royal Air Force

654
00:44:45,730 --> 00:44:54,310
with their round red,
white, and blue emblem.

655
00:44:54,310 --> 00:44:58,500
And I was happy that they didn't
shoot us, or sink us, or bomb

656
00:44:58,500 --> 00:45:03,230
us mistakenly.

657

00:45:03,230 --> 00:45:05,530

Anyway, we arrived
in Casablanca,

658

00:45:05,530 --> 00:45:09,890

which is right around the
corner from Gibraltar.

659

00:45:09,890 --> 00:45:14,380

And I'm sorry, but before
we talk about Casablanca,

660

00:45:14,380 --> 00:45:17,800

could you tell me a little bit
about the ship and the trip

661

00:45:17,800 --> 00:45:19,270

from Marseilles?

662

00:45:19,270 --> 00:45:20,350

Was it--

663

00:45:20,350 --> 00:45:24,580

It was-- well, we stopped
at a few places on the way.

664

00:45:24,580 --> 00:45:29,230

One of them was
called Oran, O-R-A-N.

665

00:45:29,230 --> 00:45:30,400

I think that's Algeria.

666

00:45:30,400 --> 00:45:32,940

667

00:45:32,940 --> 00:45:46,210

So I can't really say
very much, because I

668

00:45:46,210 --> 00:45:49,540

have no memory of

anything memorable

669

00:45:49,540 --> 00:45:52,330
that happened to me on the way.

670

00:45:52,330 --> 00:46:03,220
All we notice is dark people on
the shore, dark colored people.

671

00:46:03,220 --> 00:46:12,720
And that was proper, because
we were looking at Africa.

672

00:46:12,720 --> 00:46:14,460
But there was none--

673

00:46:14,460 --> 00:46:19,320
I can't think of any
memories in the few days

674

00:46:19,320 --> 00:46:24,360
that it took us to
go to Casablanca.

675

00:46:24,360 --> 00:46:28,728
Do you remember if there were
a lot of other people onboard,

676

00:46:28,728 --> 00:46:29,770
maybe other refugees or--

677

00:46:29,770 --> 00:46:33,510
Oh, yes, there were a lot
of other people onboard.

678

00:46:33,510 --> 00:46:35,400
So it was a big ship.

679

00:46:35,400 --> 00:46:37,490
It was a big ship, yes.

680

00:46:37,490 --> 00:46:40,140

Yeah, it wasn't a small launch.

681
00:46:40,140 --> 00:46:43,170
It was a big ship.

682
00:46:43,170 --> 00:46:47,690
It was a big ship, and
we arrived in Casablanca.

683
00:46:47,690 --> 00:46:51,310
Do you remember if-- were there
other refugees like your family

684
00:46:51,310 --> 00:46:51,810
onboard?

685
00:46:51,810 --> 00:46:56,360

686
00:46:56,360 --> 00:47:00,970
Well, looking back as an adult,
I would suspect there were,

687
00:47:00,970 --> 00:47:03,670
but I wasn't aware
of it at the time.

688
00:47:03,670 --> 00:47:06,940

689
00:47:06,940 --> 00:47:10,080
And how did--

690
00:47:10,080 --> 00:47:12,180
I guess your mother,
you mentioned

691
00:47:12,180 --> 00:47:14,940
that she was afraid
of water when you

692
00:47:14,940 --> 00:47:17,570

were crossing into free France.

693

00:47:17,570 --> 00:47:19,403

How was she-- how
was she on the trip?

694

00:47:19,403 --> 00:47:20,070

She didn't swim.

695

00:47:20,070 --> 00:47:23,330

696

00:47:23,330 --> 00:47:29,030

But she didn't-- in a big
ship, she didn't mind it.

697

00:47:29,030 --> 00:47:34,850

So is-- like you said,
kind of on an uneventful

698

00:47:34,850 --> 00:47:36,520

trip to Casablanca.

699

00:47:36,520 --> 00:47:37,020

Yeah.

700

00:47:37,020 --> 00:47:41,240

Yes, I would say that,
at least to my memory.

701

00:47:41,240 --> 00:47:43,085

I was 10 at the time.

702

00:47:43,085 --> 00:47:47,520

703

00:47:47,520 --> 00:47:48,980

Shall I go on?

704

00:47:48,980 --> 00:47:51,650

Yes, sir, please.

705
00:47:51,650 --> 00:47:52,150
OK.

706
00:47:52,150 --> 00:47:58,040

707
00:47:58,040 --> 00:48:00,620
We were-- I don't remember
exactly how long--

708
00:48:00,620 --> 00:48:03,020
I think we were in Casablanca
about three or four

709
00:48:03,020 --> 00:48:12,800
weeks waiting for another ship
that should take us to Cuba.

710
00:48:12,800 --> 00:48:14,010
The other-- the new--

711
00:48:14,010 --> 00:48:16,010
the other ship we
were waiting for

712
00:48:16,010 --> 00:48:21,320
was Portuguese, which was
deliberate on someone's part,

713
00:48:21,320 --> 00:48:27,080
because Portugal was neutral
in the Second World War.

714
00:48:27,080 --> 00:48:31,400
And so that increased
our safety margin

715
00:48:31,400 --> 00:48:34,880
that nobody would torpedo
the boat, or bomb the boat.

716
00:48:34,880 --> 00:48:40,650

717

00:48:40,650 --> 00:48:47,160

But Casablanca gave me
some memorable experiences.

718

00:48:47,160 --> 00:48:49,740

The place where they
put us was interesting.

719

00:48:49,740 --> 00:48:56,640

They took us-- and we-- it must
have been more refugees onboard

720

00:48:56,640 --> 00:48:59,340

than just us.

721

00:48:59,340 --> 00:49:05,880

I believe there must have
been a maybe 100 or 200.

722

00:49:05,880 --> 00:49:10,830

The building was a large,
large building, three

723

00:49:10,830 --> 00:49:16,590

or four floors tall, and it
had an atrium in the center.

724

00:49:16,590 --> 00:49:19,270

725

00:49:19,270 --> 00:49:24,580

And it had only one door,
and no one was allowed out

726

00:49:24,580 --> 00:49:28,230

without permission.

727

00:49:28,230 --> 00:49:34,580

And in order to enforce that,
I could see looking down

728
00:49:34,580 --> 00:49:38,380
into the atrium
from a balcony that

729
00:49:38,380 --> 00:49:45,600
was all around the
circle of the atrium,

730
00:49:45,600 --> 00:49:50,130
I could see a big Moroccan
soldier, a big black skin

731
00:49:50,130 --> 00:49:52,990
soldier.

732
00:49:52,990 --> 00:49:55,440
He was wearing a fez.

733
00:49:55,440 --> 00:49:58,170
I don't know, maybe it's
something not everyone knows

734
00:49:58,170 --> 00:49:59,690
what a fez is.

735
00:49:59,690 --> 00:50:06,420
A fez is a red,
round hat made out

736
00:50:06,420 --> 00:50:11,850
of felt with a
tassel in the middle.

737
00:50:11,850 --> 00:50:20,320
And he was wearing a fez
standing guard every hour--

738
00:50:20,320 --> 00:50:25,580
every minute of every hour that
I could see the front door.

739
00:50:25,580 --> 00:50:33,050

And he had on his shoulder
a rifle all day long.

740
00:50:33,050 --> 00:50:38,030
And the rifle had his
bayonet attached to it.

741
00:50:38,030 --> 00:50:43,140
So that would call the
attention of a young boy.

742
00:50:43,140 --> 00:50:43,860
And it did.

743
00:50:43,860 --> 00:50:47,910

744
00:50:47,910 --> 00:50:53,410
The menu-- the daily
menu was interesting.

745
00:50:53,410 --> 00:51:04,320
We would get bread, hard boiled
eggs, green olives, and water.

746
00:51:04,320 --> 00:51:09,260
That was it-- every
day, once a day.

747
00:51:09,260 --> 00:51:11,270
I don't remember if it
was brought once a day

748
00:51:11,270 --> 00:51:12,200
or twice a day.

749
00:51:12,200 --> 00:51:19,350

750
00:51:19,350 --> 00:51:23,270
So that was our
existence in Casablanca.

751

00:51:23,270 --> 00:51:27,680

752

00:51:27,680 --> 00:51:35,720

But we were very happy that we were not in worse conditions.

753

00:51:35,720 --> 00:51:38,870

After some weeks, our ship arrived.

754

00:51:38,870 --> 00:51:46,400

Everyone was taken to the port by bus.

755

00:51:46,400 --> 00:51:52,336

The name of the ship was Serpa, S-E-R-P-A, Pinto, P-I-N-T-O,

756

00:51:52,336 --> 00:51:53,439

Serpa Pinto.

757

00:51:53,439 --> 00:51:58,710

758

00:51:58,710 --> 00:52:01,470

And that gave us a very memorable--

759

00:52:01,470 --> 00:52:06,510

gave me a very memorable experience, the boarding

760

00:52:06,510 --> 00:52:08,830

process for the Serpa Pinto.

761

00:52:08,830 --> 00:52:12,780

762

00:52:12,780 --> 00:52:17,940

It seemed like the Serpa Pinto was entirely for the refugees.

763
00:52:17,940 --> 00:52:21,828

764
00:52:21,828 --> 00:52:23,245
And I'll tell you
why in a moment.

765
00:52:23,245 --> 00:52:27,990

766
00:52:27,990 --> 00:52:35,650
There were several buses
heading down to the port.

767
00:52:35,650 --> 00:52:41,590
And when people got
there, they lined up.

768
00:52:41,590 --> 00:52:46,480
The-- they would check
people's passports and visas

769
00:52:46,480 --> 00:52:51,020
before being allowed on board.

770
00:52:51,020 --> 00:52:58,690
It was a long line, as I said,
but our turn finally came,

771
00:52:58,690 --> 00:53:05,590
but there was a problem,
a memorable problem.

772
00:53:05,590 --> 00:53:12,930
The Cuban visas that we had
had an expiration date on them,

773
00:53:12,930 --> 00:53:19,350
which was about two or three
days before we would get there.

774

00:53:19,350 --> 00:53:23,130
So that the visas would
be expired by the time

775
00:53:23,130 --> 00:53:25,440
we got there.

776
00:53:25,440 --> 00:53:30,740
The captain was so exacting that
he wouldn't let us on the ship.

777
00:53:30,740 --> 00:53:35,730

778
00:53:35,730 --> 00:53:37,650
Now, we felt our--

779
00:53:37,650 --> 00:53:43,900
we felt ourselves so close
to success on Plan B,

780
00:53:43,900 --> 00:53:50,650
to have this happen was
destroying to my parents.

781
00:53:50,650 --> 00:53:54,760
Negotiations went on
between the ship's captains

782
00:53:54,760 --> 00:54:01,930
and the refugee organization
people, who luckily were there.

783
00:54:01,930 --> 00:54:05,810
My parents and I
were back on the dock

784
00:54:05,810 --> 00:54:10,820
walking the length of it back
and forth, back and forth.

785
00:54:10,820 --> 00:54:14,960
All the people who had already

boarded lined up at the railing

786
00:54:14,960 --> 00:54:17,630
to watch our drama below.

787
00:54:17,630 --> 00:54:22,950

788
00:54:22,950 --> 00:54:28,710
My parents and I were
very upset at this,

789
00:54:28,710 --> 00:54:31,270
and gradually felt
more and more hopeless.

790
00:54:31,270 --> 00:54:34,000

791
00:54:34,000 --> 00:54:38,050
I was afraid that my
mother and father--

792
00:54:38,050 --> 00:54:41,770
or father were
thinking about jumping

793
00:54:41,770 --> 00:54:48,940
in the narrow stretch of
water between dock and ship

794
00:54:48,940 --> 00:54:55,060
and drowning themselves in
order to end their agony.

795
00:54:55,060 --> 00:54:59,460

796
00:54:59,460 --> 00:55:02,070
I kept walking
between each of them

797

00:55:02,070 --> 00:55:05,640
in the edge of the dock
trying to push them

798
00:55:05,640 --> 00:55:09,870
further and further
away from the edge

799
00:55:09,870 --> 00:55:14,170
by convincing them that
all would end up well here.

800
00:55:14,170 --> 00:55:16,760

801
00:55:16,760 --> 00:55:22,720
I don't know if I convinced
them, or myself, either.

802
00:55:22,720 --> 00:55:27,380
But after what seemed
like an hour or two,

803
00:55:27,380 --> 00:55:32,570
the problem was indeed solved
because they allowed us

804
00:55:32,570 --> 00:55:34,570
to board.

805
00:55:34,570 --> 00:55:40,540
Even our spectators
clapped and cheered.

806
00:55:40,540 --> 00:55:45,040
My parents and I were
crying with joy, and relief,

807
00:55:45,040 --> 00:55:45,880
exhausted.

808
00:55:45,880 --> 00:55:49,260

809
00:55:49,260 --> 00:55:53,760
And you were 10 years
old at this point?

810
00:55:53,760 --> 00:56:01,600
At this time, I was about 10
and a half, something like that.

811
00:56:01,600 --> 00:56:04,500
So at this point, even
though you might not

812
00:56:04,500 --> 00:56:09,210
understand all of the details
of what's going on, you--

813
00:56:09,210 --> 00:56:10,710
while you're down
there waiting, you

814
00:56:10,710 --> 00:56:12,793
understand the importance
of getting on that ship.

815
00:56:12,793 --> 00:56:14,090
I get the drift, yes.

816
00:56:14,090 --> 00:56:15,610
Yeah.

817
00:56:15,610 --> 00:56:16,480
Yeah.

818
00:56:16,480 --> 00:56:17,275
I got the drift.

819
00:56:17,275 --> 00:56:20,170

820
00:56:20,170 --> 00:56:22,395
So now we were

crossing the Atlantic.

821
00:56:22,395 --> 00:56:25,530

822
00:56:25,530 --> 00:56:29,216
The Serpa Pinto
was a cargo ship.

823
00:56:29,216 --> 00:56:32,530
It was not a passenger ship.

824
00:56:32,530 --> 00:56:35,320
The cargo was us.

825
00:56:35,320 --> 00:56:39,700
We refugees were the cargo.

826
00:56:39,700 --> 00:56:46,270
So bunks were built in the
cargo hold below the waterline,

827
00:56:46,270 --> 00:56:52,420
three bunks high, three
beds high, no portholes,

828
00:56:52,420 --> 00:56:53,770
if you get my picture.

829
00:56:53,770 --> 00:56:57,820

830
00:56:57,820 --> 00:56:59,830
When the sea was
rough, some people

831
00:56:59,830 --> 00:57:02,395
would get seasick and vomit.

832
00:57:02,395 --> 00:57:05,820

833

00:57:05,820 --> 00:57:09,780

The ventilation left
a lot to be desired.

834

00:57:09,780 --> 00:57:13,995

And so my favorite place
was always up on deck,

835

00:57:13,995 --> 00:57:16,840

but my mother was not
very keen on about that.

836

00:57:16,840 --> 00:57:21,970

837

00:57:21,970 --> 00:57:25,870

Routine set in after about a
week, and kids found other kids

838

00:57:25,870 --> 00:57:32,320

and started playing
around until land, ho.

839

00:57:32,320 --> 00:57:36,145

Finally, after three
weeks, we landed at a port.

840

00:57:36,145 --> 00:57:41,330

841

00:57:41,330 --> 00:57:44,420

But there was a surprise
in the port we landed at,

842

00:57:44,420 --> 00:57:46,460

because it was not Havana Cuba.

843

00:57:46,460 --> 00:57:47,210

It was Jamaica.

844

00:57:47,210 --> 00:57:50,560

845
00:57:50,560 --> 00:57:53,950
Nobody had told me that, but
maybe they told my parents.

846
00:57:53,950 --> 00:57:55,900
I don't know.

847
00:57:55,900 --> 00:58:01,220
Now, at that time, Jamaica
was still a British colony.

848
00:58:01,220 --> 00:58:07,150
And so the reason for stopping
in Jamaica was the following.

849
00:58:07,150 --> 00:58:10,150

850
00:58:10,150 --> 00:58:16,460
The Brits wanted to check
over the passengers cause--

851
00:58:16,460 --> 00:58:22,220
presumably looking for Nazi
spies who were sneaking in

852
00:58:22,220 --> 00:58:30,320
with the refugees,
kind of like ISIS

853
00:58:30,320 --> 00:58:35,900
Jihadis sneaking in with the
migrants from the near east.

854
00:58:35,900 --> 00:58:42,360

855
00:58:42,360 --> 00:58:44,930
But I was happy,
because for a few days,

856

00:58:44,930 --> 00:58:49,940
we stopped in a bright
and clean detention camp.

857
00:58:49,940 --> 00:58:56,330
We each got a clean towel and
soap, which were luxuries then.

858
00:58:56,330 --> 00:59:00,560
The beds had blankets on them,
which we didn't really need.

859
00:59:00,560 --> 00:59:04,170

860
00:59:04,170 --> 00:59:09,360
And after a few days, we
went back to the Serpa Pinto.

861
00:59:09,360 --> 00:59:14,440
We were not-- I was
not told if they found

862
00:59:14,440 --> 00:59:17,820
any German spies, of course.

863
00:59:17,820 --> 00:59:21,110

864
00:59:21,110 --> 00:59:26,420
A few days later in
1942, we arrived in Cuba.

865
00:59:26,420 --> 00:59:34,790
Probably in January, '42 we
arrived in Cuba, very excited.

866
00:59:34,790 --> 00:59:39,680
And lo and behold, the
problem of the expired visas

867
00:59:39,680 --> 00:59:41,670
never came up.

868
00:59:41,670 --> 00:59:42,170
Really?

869
00:59:42,170 --> 00:59:44,840

870
00:59:44,840 --> 00:59:47,180
Joy of joys.

871
00:59:47,180 --> 00:59:48,370
Yes.

872
00:59:48,370 --> 00:59:52,010
We were beginning to
learn the refugee routine.

873
00:59:52,010 --> 00:59:55,130
First, you're taken
to a detention camp.

874
00:59:55,130 --> 00:59:56,560
Then they sort you out.

875
00:59:56,560 --> 00:59:59,310

876
00:59:59,310 --> 01:00:00,980
This camp was called--

877
01:00:00,980 --> 01:00:09,738
in Cuba, this camp was called
Tiscornia, T-I-S-C-O-R-N-I-A,

878
01:00:09,738 --> 01:00:13,140
on the outskirts of Havana.

879
01:00:13,140 --> 01:00:19,350
We were there about two or three
weeks before we were dropped

880

01:00:19,350 --> 01:00:24,480
in Havana proper to find
lodging in the private economy,

881
01:00:24,480 --> 01:00:27,430
in private houses.

882
01:00:27,430 --> 01:00:30,220
And what were-- what were
those two to three weeks

883
01:00:30,220 --> 01:00:32,970
like in this camp?

884
01:00:32,970 --> 01:00:34,410
Oh, it was a ball.

885
01:00:34,410 --> 01:00:37,110
I mean, for me, it
was a ball because it

886
01:00:37,110 --> 01:00:41,775
was just dawn to dusk
playing with other kids.

887
01:00:41,775 --> 01:00:47,850

888
01:00:47,850 --> 01:00:51,000
We couldn't-- we couldn't go
outside the gates of the camp,

889
01:00:51,000 --> 01:00:56,110
but nobody bothered
us inside the camp.

890
01:00:56,110 --> 01:00:58,710
So I was--

891
01:00:58,710 --> 01:01:03,860
I don't know what the state
of mind was of my parents,

892

01:01:03,860 --> 01:01:09,020

because I was a 10,
11-year-old kid.

893

01:01:09,020 --> 01:01:14,840

But we were happy to--

894

01:01:14,840 --> 01:01:21,370

when we transferred from the
camp to a private residence.

895

01:01:21,370 --> 01:01:26,000

896

01:01:26,000 --> 01:01:32,100

We found an adequate room for
the three of us to sleep in,

897

01:01:32,100 --> 01:01:34,830

with kitchen and
bathroom privileges

898

01:01:34,830 --> 01:01:36,750

shared with the owner.

899

01:01:36,750 --> 01:01:39,320

900

01:01:39,320 --> 01:01:42,440

The owner was a very
nice older widow

901

01:01:42,440 --> 01:01:49,670

living with her grown son
in a row house in old town--

902

01:01:49,670 --> 01:01:51,620

in Old Havana--

903

01:01:51,620 --> 01:01:52,550

Havana Vieja.

904

01:01:52,550 --> 01:01:55,880

905

01:01:55,880 --> 01:01:57,620

The address was Obrapia--

906

01:01:57,620 --> 01:02:04,010

the name of the street was
Obrapia, O-B-R-A-P-I-A,

907

01:02:04,010 --> 01:02:08,240

Number 506.

908

01:02:08,240 --> 01:02:14,720

We had an upstairs bedroom
with a balcony on the street.

909

01:02:14,720 --> 01:02:18,890

910

01:02:18,890 --> 01:02:29,000

I liked Havana very much, except
for large cockroaches sometimes

911

01:02:29,000 --> 01:02:32,180

in the house, and sometimes
in the street, which

912

01:02:32,180 --> 01:02:33,620

I had never seen in Europe.

913

01:02:33,620 --> 01:02:47,610

914

01:02:47,610 --> 01:02:52,360

I was-- it was a
different world to me.

915

01:02:52,360 --> 01:02:58,230

I enjoyed it-- the climate, the
people, the language, the food.

916

01:02:58,230 --> 01:03:00,735

I loved mangoes
and fried plantain.

917

01:03:00,735 --> 01:03:05,940

918

01:03:05,940 --> 01:03:08,400

And of course, as soon
as we got into town,

919

01:03:08,400 --> 01:03:13,470

my parents would contact
the local US Embassy

920

01:03:13,470 --> 01:03:17,700

to let them know that we were
still alive and still waiting.

921

01:03:17,700 --> 01:03:25,200

922

01:03:25,200 --> 01:03:25,710

Were your--

923

01:03:25,710 --> 01:03:26,210

OK.

924

01:03:26,210 --> 01:03:28,240

We're getting pretty
close to the climax

925

01:03:28,240 --> 01:03:38,150

here, because in 1943, the
spring of '43, success arrived.

926

01:03:38,150 --> 01:03:42,160

Our US visas were
finally granted

927

01:03:42,160 --> 01:03:48,190

five years after my father

applied for them in Berlin.

928
01:03:48,190 --> 01:03:49,910
Wow.

929
01:03:49,910 --> 01:03:55,190
How many refugees, I
asked myself afterwards,

930
01:03:55,190 --> 01:03:59,990
with less luck or less resources
had died in the interim.

931
01:03:59,990 --> 01:04:06,328

932
01:04:06,328 --> 01:04:06,870
What was it--

933
01:04:06,870 --> 01:04:08,060
But we-- huh?

934
01:04:08,060 --> 01:04:10,850
What was it like when
you found out that the US

935
01:04:10,850 --> 01:04:13,010
visas had come through?

936
01:04:13,010 --> 01:04:16,380
Oh, it was unbelievable joy.

937
01:04:16,380 --> 01:04:20,130
It was unbelievable joy.

938
01:04:20,130 --> 01:04:23,540
And it was--

939
01:04:23,540 --> 01:04:26,600
I would see my brother again,
and I would be free again.

940

01:04:26,600 --> 01:04:29,180

And, well, I don't know
any of that at the time,

941

01:04:29,180 --> 01:04:30,890

but I mean, looking back now.

942

01:04:30,890 --> 01:04:34,180

943

01:04:34,180 --> 01:04:36,035

And it would be my first flight.

944

01:04:36,035 --> 01:04:38,900

945

01:04:38,900 --> 01:04:45,410

But taking Pan American
Airways from Havana to Miami

946

01:04:45,410 --> 01:04:48,380

gave me a memorable
experience, as well.

947

01:04:48,380 --> 01:04:52,870

948

01:04:52,870 --> 01:04:55,590

Of course, everybody
wanted to go to Miami,

949

01:04:55,590 --> 01:04:57,990

because that's where--

950

01:04:57,990 --> 01:05:01,890

to the US because that's where
the streets are paved in gold.

951

01:05:01,890 --> 01:05:05,610

That was a myth that
refugees believed in.

952

01:05:05,610 --> 01:05:09,130

953

01:05:09,130 --> 01:05:15,600

It was my-- as I say, it
was my first flight and--

954

01:05:15,600 --> 01:05:18,010

but when we got on
board the plane,

955

01:05:18,010 --> 01:05:21,180

I could hardly
see outside to see

956

01:05:21,180 --> 01:05:22,800

what the airport looked like.

957

01:05:22,800 --> 01:05:28,250

958

01:05:28,250 --> 01:05:34,460

All the windows had
cardboard covers kind of

959

01:05:34,460 --> 01:05:37,490

jammed into them.

960

01:05:37,490 --> 01:05:39,190

Really?

961

01:05:39,190 --> 01:05:43,250

So to keep people from
looking out, I suppose.

962

01:05:43,250 --> 01:05:47,750

But as you know, little
boys are curious animals.

963

01:05:47,750 --> 01:05:55,070

So I bent the cover
of my window cover--

964

01:05:55,070 --> 01:05:58,220

I bent the cover
of the cardboard

965

01:05:58,220 --> 01:06:05,090

on my window, just one corner of
it, to see a bit of the airport

966

01:06:05,090 --> 01:06:08,000

that we were sitting in.

967

01:06:08,000 --> 01:06:10,500

And that apparently
set off an alarm

968

01:06:10,500 --> 01:06:14,030

because a stewardess came over.

969

01:06:14,030 --> 01:06:19,550

I got nervous, especially when
she asked for my wristwatch.

970

01:06:19,550 --> 01:06:22,700

971

01:06:22,700 --> 01:06:27,610

Now, you'll never guess why
she asked for my wristwatch.

972

01:06:27,610 --> 01:06:32,900

They had to examine it to make
sure that it was not a camera,

973

01:06:32,900 --> 01:06:35,710

and that I was not a spy.

974

01:06:35,710 --> 01:06:36,210

Really?

975

01:06:36,210 --> 01:06:38,200

Even though 12 years old--

976
01:06:38,200 --> 01:06:40,192
11 years old.

977
01:06:40,192 --> 01:06:41,980
Oh, wow.

978
01:06:41,980 --> 01:06:44,410
It sounds funny in
retrospect, but it

979
01:06:44,410 --> 01:06:45,850
wasn't funny at the time.

980
01:06:45,850 --> 01:06:53,500

981
01:06:53,500 --> 01:07:00,710
In those days, the world was
at war and values changed,

982
01:07:00,710 --> 01:07:03,080
and people's reactions
changed from what

983
01:07:03,080 --> 01:07:05,025
they are in normal times.

984
01:07:05,025 --> 01:07:07,823

985
01:07:07,823 --> 01:07:08,990
You want to ask me anything?

986
01:07:08,990 --> 01:07:12,070

987
01:07:12,070 --> 01:07:16,630
I guess, when she
took your wristwatch,

988

01:07:16,630 --> 01:07:19,930
did she tell you why she was
doing that, or was it just--

989
01:07:19,930 --> 01:07:20,880
No, no, she didn't.

990
01:07:20,880 --> 01:07:22,900
--give it to me?

991
01:07:22,900 --> 01:07:24,910
I don't know if she
did or she didn't.

992
01:07:24,910 --> 01:07:26,673
I really don't know.

993
01:07:26,673 --> 01:07:28,465
And what did-- what
did your parents think?

994
01:07:28,465 --> 01:07:31,960
But if she didn't tell
me, then I imagined it--

995
01:07:31,960 --> 01:07:33,880
I imagined the reason.

996
01:07:33,880 --> 01:07:37,060
It's the only one I can
see as an adult doing

997
01:07:37,060 --> 01:07:42,980
an analysis on cardboard covers
or the windows on airplanes.

998
01:07:42,980 --> 01:07:46,220
And were you sitting with your
parents when this happened?

999
01:07:46,220 --> 01:07:46,720
Yes.

1000
01:07:46,720 --> 01:07:47,810
Yes.

1001
01:07:47,810 --> 01:07:51,190
And were they worried?

1002
01:07:51,190 --> 01:07:52,538
But what did they think?

1003
01:07:52,538 --> 01:07:53,330
Well, I don't know.

1004
01:07:53,330 --> 01:07:55,780
It was a relatively--

1005
01:07:55,780 --> 01:07:57,490
it was not a major thing.

1006
01:07:57,490 --> 01:08:01,210
I think it just took a
few minutes so that--

1007
01:08:01,210 --> 01:08:03,760

1008
01:08:03,760 --> 01:08:09,250
it passed over
very quickly and I

1009
01:08:09,250 --> 01:08:11,200
think I'm the only
one who remembers it.

1010
01:08:11,200 --> 01:08:13,300
I doubt that my parents
would remember it.

1011
01:08:13,300 --> 01:08:16,319

1012
01:08:16,319 --> 01:08:20,630

And before we go on, I
want to go back to the time

1013
01:08:20,630 --> 01:08:23,720
that you're living in Havana.

1014
01:08:23,720 --> 01:08:26,899
What-- besides working
on the visas, what

1015
01:08:26,899 --> 01:08:30,529
were your parents doing while
you were living in the city?

1016
01:08:30,529 --> 01:08:32,450
Were they working or--

1017
01:08:32,450 --> 01:08:33,319
Well, OK.

1018
01:08:33,319 --> 01:08:49,170
That's an interesting
question, because they--

1019
01:08:49,170 --> 01:08:52,710
on the refugee visas that
we got would not have

1020
01:08:52,710 --> 01:08:54,810
permitted my father to work.

1021
01:08:54,810 --> 01:08:59,569
Because if my father worked,
he would take a job away

1022
01:08:59,569 --> 01:09:00,560
from a Cuban--

1023
01:09:00,560 --> 01:09:02,076
from a Cuban.

1024
01:09:02,076 --> 01:09:02,576

I see.

1025

01:09:02,576 --> 01:09:05,490

And the government
wouldn't like that.

1026

01:09:05,490 --> 01:09:12,819

So during the day, they wouldn't
do very much of anything.

1027

01:09:12,819 --> 01:09:15,604

They would read and
write, you go for walks.

1028

01:09:15,604 --> 01:09:18,740

1029

01:09:18,740 --> 01:09:29,620

My father would report
down to the Cuban office--

1030

01:09:29,620 --> 01:09:32,100

the Cuban police
office very frequently.

1031

01:09:32,100 --> 01:09:34,200

I don't know why.

1032

01:09:34,200 --> 01:09:40,470

But we had a funny
event happened there.

1033

01:09:40,470 --> 01:09:44,939

My father being German in his
behavior, and much of it--

1034

01:09:44,939 --> 01:09:50,340

and some of his
behavior, he would not--

1035

01:09:50,340 --> 01:09:51,300

I mean, Cuban--

1036

01:09:51,300 --> 01:09:55,020

Cuba is a tropical
island, as you know,

1037

01:09:55,020 --> 01:09:59,160

with pretty fairly
warm temperatures.

1038

01:09:59,160 --> 01:10:05,410

But he would not leave the
house without a jacket on.

1039

01:10:05,410 --> 01:10:12,120

So apparently, his
visits to the police

1040

01:10:12,120 --> 01:10:14,490

were not welcomed by the police.

1041

01:10:14,490 --> 01:10:16,980

There was no point in
him going down there.

1042

01:10:16,980 --> 01:10:20,360

I don't know why
he was going there.

1043

01:10:20,360 --> 01:10:24,560

But the funny part of it
was that on one occasion,

1044

01:10:24,560 --> 01:10:29,690

they grabbed him by the
scruff of the jacket,

1045

01:10:29,690 --> 01:10:31,640

and they pushed
him out the door.

1046

01:10:31,640 --> 01:10:36,752

They couldn't communicate,
because the languages.

1047

01:10:36,752 --> 01:10:39,350

So they would put-- they
pushed him out of the door,

1048

01:10:39,350 --> 01:10:45,150

and he nearly fell on the road--
in the road, in the street.

1049

01:10:45,150 --> 01:10:49,070

But he-- then he understood that
he shouldn't come down there.

1050

01:10:49,070 --> 01:10:51,890

1051

01:10:51,890 --> 01:10:53,090

But that was funny.

1052

01:10:53,090 --> 01:10:58,820

And we were living--

1053

01:10:58,820 --> 01:11:04,110

we were getting a small
amount of money from the--

1054

01:11:04,110 --> 01:11:08,605

1055

01:11:08,605 --> 01:11:14,600

the Joint Distribution
Committee was an organization

1056

01:11:14,600 --> 01:11:17,180

devoted to helping
Jewish refugees who

1057

01:11:17,180 --> 01:11:18,900

were fleeing Nazism.

1058

01:11:18,900 --> 01:11:21,960

1059

01:11:21,960 --> 01:11:28,230

And so I believe my parents were getting a small monthly sum.

1060

01:11:28,230 --> 01:11:30,150

I don't know how they were receiving it,

1061

01:11:30,150 --> 01:11:34,225

but they were receiving it to keep them with some cash.

1062

01:11:34,225 --> 01:11:40,410

1063

01:11:40,410 --> 01:11:42,403

Should I go on?

1064

01:11:42,403 --> 01:11:43,320

Well, I was going to--

1065

01:11:43,320 --> 01:11:48,180

I was going to ask, so while your parents are not working,

1066

01:11:48,180 --> 01:11:50,040

I know there was the language barrier.

1067

01:11:50,040 --> 01:11:55,080

But did you go to school at all, or did your parents maybe

1068

01:11:55,080 --> 01:11:56,970

continue your lessons in some way?

1069

01:11:56,970 --> 01:12:04,780

1070

01:12:04,780 --> 01:12:11,760

I do not remember going

to a school in Havana.

1071

01:12:11,760 --> 01:12:15,290

Well, I remember
going to some classes

1072

01:12:15,290 --> 01:12:26,250

to begin learning English, but I
don't remember going to school.

1073

01:12:26,250 --> 01:12:28,745

It's interesting, I'd never
thought about that before.

1074

01:12:28,745 --> 01:12:36,500

1075

01:12:36,500 --> 01:12:37,460

Good question.

1076

01:12:37,460 --> 01:12:40,650

Yes, I-- that's interesting.

1077

01:12:40,650 --> 01:12:44,890

I wonder why I
didn't go to school.

1078

01:12:44,890 --> 01:12:47,920

Maybe they didn't want
refugee's kids in the school

1079

01:12:47,920 --> 01:12:52,360

to take up room and teachers.

1080

01:12:52,360 --> 01:12:52,930

I don't know.

1081

01:12:52,930 --> 01:12:55,690

I don't know the explanation.

1082

01:12:55,690 --> 01:12:58,660

But you do remember going

maybe not to a school,

1083
01:12:58,660 --> 01:13:01,690
but somewhere to start
learning English.

1084
01:13:01,690 --> 01:13:02,320
I do.

1085
01:13:02,320 --> 01:13:07,220

1086
01:13:07,220 --> 01:13:07,720
Did--

1087
01:13:07,720 --> 01:13:11,080
But that was maybe one
or two hours a week.

1088
01:13:11,080 --> 01:13:15,130

1089
01:13:15,130 --> 01:13:18,135
Did your parents go
to these classes, too?

1090
01:13:18,135 --> 01:13:18,635
No.

1091
01:13:18,635 --> 01:13:22,120

1092
01:13:22,120 --> 01:13:23,590
They were-- I don't know.

1093
01:13:23,590 --> 01:13:27,730
They should have,
but they didn't.

1094
01:13:27,730 --> 01:13:31,165

1095

01:13:31,165 --> 01:13:31,665

So--

1096

01:13:31,665 --> 01:13:35,140

1097

01:13:35,140 --> 01:13:39,600

And during this entire time,
y'all are writing to Max

1098

01:13:39,600 --> 01:13:44,820

so that he knows what's
happening and he knows that

1099

01:13:44,820 --> 01:13:47,890

y'all are coming to the US.

1100

01:13:47,890 --> 01:13:49,510

Yes, I assume so.

1101

01:13:49,510 --> 01:13:52,520

Although, I did not write to
him, but I assume my parents

1102

01:13:52,520 --> 01:13:53,020

did.

1103

01:13:53,020 --> 01:13:56,500

1104

01:13:56,500 --> 01:14:00,790

Max at this time was
doing an interest-- no,

1105

01:14:00,790 --> 01:14:02,810

no, not at this time.

1106

01:14:02,810 --> 01:14:06,370

Well, yes, at this time.

1107

01:14:06,370 --> 01:14:12,460

At this time, Max was going to university in New York.

1108
01:14:12,460 --> 01:14:16,240
That was his-- that was the purpose of his visa--

1109
01:14:16,240 --> 01:14:19,420
the visa he had gotten.

1110
01:14:19,420 --> 01:14:22,910
And that's what he was there for.

1111
01:14:22,910 --> 01:14:32,330
But he decided to drop out of university and volunteer--

1112
01:14:32,330 --> 01:14:34,115
now, this was-- we're talking about--

1113
01:14:34,115 --> 01:14:41,060

1114
01:14:41,060 --> 01:14:41,850
well, OK.

1115
01:14:41,850 --> 01:14:51,680
Now, the US went into the war on December 7, 1941, I believe--

1116
01:14:51,680 --> 01:14:52,370
Yes, sir.

1117
01:14:52,370 --> 01:14:55,530
--with Pearl Harbor.

1118
01:14:55,530 --> 01:15:00,190
So it must have been after that, because he volunteered

1119

01:15:00,190 --> 01:15:07,410
for the US Army because he
was-- one, he was patriotic

1120
01:15:07,410 --> 01:15:10,110
and he wanted to beat Hitler.

1121
01:15:10,110 --> 01:15:14,040
And number two, he
thought it might

1122
01:15:14,040 --> 01:15:21,420
help his parents and brother
get American visas faster.

1123
01:15:21,420 --> 01:15:24,390
So after he volunteered
for the US Army,

1124
01:15:24,390 --> 01:15:29,910
he wrote a letter to President
Roosevelt, Franklin Delano

1125
01:15:29,910 --> 01:15:37,620
Roosevelt, to call his--

1126
01:15:37,620 --> 01:15:43,520
to call his action to the
attention of his president

1127
01:15:43,520 --> 01:15:46,590
to see what he could
do for our visas.

1128
01:15:46,590 --> 01:15:50,460
I doubt that President
Roosevelt ever saw the letter,

1129
01:15:50,460 --> 01:15:55,170
or that it helped at
all with the visas.

1130
01:15:55,170 --> 01:15:59,990

But it was a memorable
event, memorable story

1131
01:15:59,990 --> 01:16:00,855
to keep in mind.

1132
01:16:00,855 --> 01:16:03,760

1133
01:16:03,760 --> 01:16:06,200
Yes, sir.

1134
01:16:06,200 --> 01:16:06,930
OK.

1135
01:16:06,930 --> 01:16:08,640
Then shall I go on?

1136
01:16:08,640 --> 01:16:09,615
Yes, please.

1137
01:16:09,615 --> 01:16:10,115
OK.

1138
01:16:10,115 --> 01:16:13,500

1139
01:16:13,500 --> 01:16:16,200
So I got my watch--

1140
01:16:16,200 --> 01:16:20,700
I got my watch back
on the Pan Am flight.

1141
01:16:20,700 --> 01:16:24,180
And I just got--

1142
01:16:24,180 --> 01:16:30,140
just got scolded not to bend
the cover back of the window.

1143

01:16:30,140 --> 01:16:35,190
They didn't want people to
take pictures of airports,

1144
01:16:35,190 --> 01:16:39,000
you see, in wartime,
because it might

1145
01:16:39,000 --> 01:16:44,220
have some military significance
if some other country wanted

1146
01:16:44,220 --> 01:16:46,570
to bomb the airport,
or something like that.

1147
01:16:46,570 --> 01:16:50,120

1148
01:16:50,120 --> 01:16:51,305
We landed in Miami.

1149
01:16:51,305 --> 01:16:56,180

1150
01:16:56,180 --> 01:17:04,040
But-- so the irony of me--
of Pan Am thinking I might

1151
01:17:04,040 --> 01:17:07,560
be a spy was one small point.

1152
01:17:07,560 --> 01:17:12,320
But a larger irony appeared
when we landed in Miami.

1153
01:17:12,320 --> 01:17:17,660
Because when we were
going through immigration,

1154
01:17:17,660 --> 01:17:24,710
each one of us got a small
identification paper slip.

1155
01:17:24,710 --> 01:17:28,590
It had on it our names.

1156
01:17:28,590 --> 01:17:32,470
I don't remember if
it had our photograph.

1157
01:17:32,470 --> 01:17:34,300
I don't think so.

1158
01:17:34,300 --> 01:17:43,750
Date of birth, et cetera, and
then it has a stamped sign--

1159
01:17:43,750 --> 01:17:49,930
stamped information sign on
it, which said, enemy alien.

1160
01:17:49,930 --> 01:17:52,420

1161
01:17:52,420 --> 01:17:52,920
Really.

1162
01:17:52,920 --> 01:17:55,645
My father and mother
and me enemies?

1163
01:17:55,645 --> 01:17:58,980

1164
01:17:58,980 --> 01:18:02,340
We had just come
from Germany where

1165
01:18:02,340 --> 01:18:05,520
we had been considered enemies.

1166
01:18:05,520 --> 01:18:10,280
So now we come to our
safe haven and they, too,

1167
01:18:10,280 --> 01:18:13,950
consider us enemies.

1168
01:18:13,950 --> 01:18:19,860
The irony was great
not at the moment,

1169
01:18:19,860 --> 01:18:25,470
but a few years later when I
looked at that slip of paper,

1170
01:18:25,470 --> 01:18:30,360
it came through to me and
hit me on the forehead.

1171
01:18:30,360 --> 01:18:31,750
So you finally got to--

1172
01:18:31,750 --> 01:18:34,890
It was-- it was not
understandable till many years

1173
01:18:34,890 --> 01:18:43,340
later, because our last
nationality had been German.

1174
01:18:43,340 --> 01:18:47,390
So that might be the reason
they considered us enemy aliens.

1175
01:18:47,390 --> 01:18:50,850

1176
01:18:50,850 --> 01:18:53,530
So you finally get to
where you want to go,

1177
01:18:53,530 --> 01:18:56,590
and you're given an ID that
says you're an enemy alien.

1178

01:18:56,590 --> 01:18:57,490
Right.

1179
01:18:57,490 --> 01:18:58,360
Yes.

1180
01:18:58,360 --> 01:19:04,830
But at least we did not get
sent to another detention camp,

1181
01:19:04,830 --> 01:19:06,650
which was a big accomplishment.

1182
01:19:06,650 --> 01:19:09,350

1183
01:19:09,350 --> 01:19:13,460
And how marvelous a landed
was where the door--

1184
01:19:13,460 --> 01:19:15,680
those streets were
not paved in gold,

1185
01:19:15,680 --> 01:19:24,970
but the doorknobs were round
instead of European style.

1186
01:19:24,970 --> 01:19:28,640
And the windows opened up
and down instead of European

1187
01:19:28,640 --> 01:19:31,370
in and out.

1188
01:19:31,370 --> 01:19:35,500
And everybody had
a refrigerator.

1189
01:19:35,500 --> 01:19:39,870
So I was in heaven.

1190

01:19:39,870 --> 01:19:42,440

I hated drinking
milk in Germany,

1191

01:19:42,440 --> 01:19:45,470

because it was room temperature.

1192

01:19:45,470 --> 01:19:50,610

And it usually had
a skim on top of it.

1193

01:19:50,610 --> 01:19:54,300

Whereas, in the US,
I loved drinking milk

1194

01:19:54,300 --> 01:19:56,476

because it was refrigerated.

1195

01:19:56,476 --> 01:20:00,210

1196

01:20:00,210 --> 01:20:04,560

And so how long did
you stay in Miami?

1197

01:20:04,560 --> 01:20:06,810

How long-- not very long.

1198

01:20:06,810 --> 01:20:09,390

Man, less than a week, I think.

1199

01:20:09,390 --> 01:20:13,200

We took-- we would
take-- we had arranged

1200

01:20:13,200 --> 01:20:18,690

that we would be received
by a cousin of my father

1201

01:20:18,690 --> 01:20:22,360

who lived in Brooklyn, New York.

1202

01:20:22,360 --> 01:20:27,790
So we were looking for trains
to get to New York City.

1203
01:20:27,790 --> 01:20:32,290
And our plan was that on
the way to New York City,

1204
01:20:32,290 --> 01:20:39,600
we would stop en route in
Spartanburg, South Carolina.

1205
01:20:39,600 --> 01:20:49,570
Because Spartanburg was home
to Camp Croft, C-R-O-F-T.

1206
01:20:49,570 --> 01:20:55,720
Camp Croft, in those days, was
a US Army Infantry School where

1207
01:20:55,720 --> 01:21:00,240
Max was in training,
or refresher training.

1208
01:21:00,240 --> 01:21:00,910
I don't know.

1209
01:21:00,910 --> 01:21:05,660

1210
01:21:05,660 --> 01:21:10,400
So we stopped in and saw him.

1211
01:21:10,400 --> 01:21:14,090
It was really something
to meet my brother again

1212
01:21:14,090 --> 01:21:21,280
after several
years of separation

1213
01:21:21,280 --> 01:21:23,755
and in US Army uniform.

1214
01:21:23,755 --> 01:21:26,570

1215
01:21:26,570 --> 01:21:27,070
Yes.

1216
01:21:27,070 --> 01:21:29,740
I would have loved to
have been in the US Army

1217
01:21:29,740 --> 01:21:31,060
to fight the Nazis.

1218
01:21:31,060 --> 01:21:35,590
But my brother
got to do it, even

1219
01:21:35,590 --> 01:21:38,740
though I would have made a
much better soldier than he.

1220
01:21:38,740 --> 01:21:42,240

1221
01:21:42,240 --> 01:21:47,130
Now, the train
connections from Miami

1222
01:21:47,130 --> 01:21:52,530
to Spartanburg, South
Carolina, and then again

1223
01:21:52,530 --> 01:21:56,240
from Spartanburg
to New York City

1224
01:21:56,240 --> 01:22:01,150
were very, very
challenging in 1943,

1225
01:22:01,150 --> 01:22:03,175

especially without
knowing English.

1226
01:22:03,175 --> 01:22:06,600

1227
01:22:06,600 --> 01:22:10,290
One funny incident that
happened on the way,

1228
01:22:10,290 --> 01:22:13,540
after we saw Max
for a few days--

1229
01:22:13,540 --> 01:22:19,170
visited Spartanburg
and Max a few days,

1230
01:22:19,170 --> 01:22:23,640
we continued on
north on the train.

1231
01:22:23,640 --> 01:22:27,810
And we knew we had to go--

1232
01:22:27,810 --> 01:22:30,780
to get to New York, we knew
we had to change trains

1233
01:22:30,780 --> 01:22:33,690
in Washington, DC.

1234
01:22:33,690 --> 01:22:36,510
So we got on the--

1235
01:22:36,510 --> 01:22:39,540
Spartanburg was no
problem because Max put us

1236
01:22:39,540 --> 01:22:44,710
on the right train
to get to Washington.

1237

01:22:44,710 --> 01:22:46,870
In Washington, DC, we had to--

1238

01:22:46,870 --> 01:22:52,340
we had to get off and look
for the train to New York.

1239

01:22:52,340 --> 01:22:55,940
Here's where the
incident occurred.

1240

01:22:55,940 --> 01:22:58,060
We were looking for
somebody to ask,

1241

01:22:58,060 --> 01:23:03,560
where's the train to New
York in any several-- any

1242

01:23:03,560 --> 01:23:08,030
of several other languages,
not including English.

1243

01:23:08,030 --> 01:23:15,620
So we were walking through--
in the train station,

1244

01:23:15,620 --> 01:23:21,080
and we saw a young
man with a sweater on.

1245

01:23:21,080 --> 01:23:24,560
And on his sweater,
he has a large--

1246

01:23:24,560 --> 01:23:28,700
the letter F, like in Frank.

1247

01:23:28,700 --> 01:23:31,610
The letter F was-- a
very large letter F

1248

01:23:31,610 --> 01:23:35,030
was sewn on his sweater.

1249
01:23:35,030 --> 01:23:41,960
So my mother reasoned that
that must indicate that he

1250
01:23:41,960 --> 01:23:44,090
speaks francais, French.

1251
01:23:44,090 --> 01:23:50,780

1252
01:23:50,780 --> 01:23:56,720
But unfortunately, that theory
didn't work out very well.

1253
01:23:56,720 --> 01:24:02,360
But we did finally find
the train to New York,

1254
01:24:02,360 --> 01:24:06,080
and we did finally make
our way to Brooklyn,

1255
01:24:06,080 --> 01:24:11,330
to the Brooklyn apartment
of the cousin of my father

1256
01:24:11,330 --> 01:24:17,830
who was going to put us up
for a [CUT OFF] established

1257
01:24:17,830 --> 01:24:20,810
in the new world.

1258
01:24:20,810 --> 01:24:27,500
So that's the end of that
second part of my life.

1259
01:24:27,500 --> 01:24:28,000