

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,440

2
00:00:04,440 --> 00:00:08,010
This is a United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3
00:00:08,010 --> 00:00:13,650
interview with Mr. Christian
Koppenstein on March 24,

4
00:00:13,650 --> 00:00:18,310
2018 in Overgaard, Arizona.

5
00:00:18,310 --> 00:00:21,630
Thank you very, very
much, Mr. Koppenstein,

6
00:00:21,630 --> 00:00:24,750
for agreeing to meet
with us and speak with us

7
00:00:24,750 --> 00:00:27,970
and share some of your
story with us today.

8
00:00:27,970 --> 00:00:31,433
It's my honor to
have you do this.

9
00:00:31,433 --> 00:00:32,100
Well, thank you.

10
00:00:32,100 --> 00:00:35,170
It's ours as well.

11
00:00:35,170 --> 00:00:38,250
So the only thing
that I would like

12
00:00:38,250 --> 00:00:41,370

is for you to ask
the questions, and I

13
00:00:41,370 --> 00:00:44,730
try to answer them the
best way that I know how.

14
00:00:44,730 --> 00:00:45,420
OK.

15
00:00:45,420 --> 00:00:46,380
Thank you.

16
00:00:46,380 --> 00:00:48,510
And you know, that's
what we'll start with.

17
00:00:48,510 --> 00:00:52,230
We'll start with the very basic
questions from the beginning.

18
00:00:52,230 --> 00:00:56,370
And from there your
story will develop.

19
00:00:56,370 --> 00:00:58,530
So the very first
question I have

20
00:00:58,530 --> 00:01:02,580
is can you tell me the
date of your birth?

21
00:01:02,580 --> 00:01:07,680
My date is October 20, 1936.

22
00:01:07,680 --> 00:01:10,950
October 20, 1936.

23
00:01:10,950 --> 00:01:14,190
And what was your name at birth?

24

00:01:14,190 --> 00:01:16,650
When you were born,
what was your name?

25
00:01:16,650 --> 00:01:18,930
Christian Koppenstein.

26
00:01:18,930 --> 00:01:20,310
Did you have a middle name?

27
00:01:20,310 --> 00:01:21,090
No.

28
00:01:21,090 --> 00:01:22,740
OK.

29
00:01:22,740 --> 00:01:25,770
Where were you born?

30
00:01:25,770 --> 00:01:26,270
When?

31
00:01:26,270 --> 00:01:27,560
Where.

32
00:01:27,560 --> 00:01:29,720
Where?

33
00:01:29,720 --> 00:01:35,100
Germany, at a colony
between Romania and Russia.

34
00:01:35,100 --> 00:01:39,650
And they called it Bessaabia.

35
00:01:39,650 --> 00:01:43,310
And that's where I was born.

36
00:01:43,310 --> 00:01:47,660
What was the name of the
place within Bessarabia

37

00:01:47,660 --> 00:01:48,770
that you were born?

38

00:01:48,770 --> 00:01:49,840
Fundu Sarasika.

39

00:01:49,840 --> 00:01:52,160

40

00:01:52,160 --> 00:01:53,420
Fundu Sarasika.

41

00:01:53,420 --> 00:01:54,710
Yes.

42

00:01:54,710 --> 00:01:57,380
And when you say
Germany had a colony,

43

00:01:57,380 --> 00:02:02,060
did that mean that Germany
ruled over this place,

44

00:02:02,060 --> 00:02:05,360
or it just was that it was
colonized by German people?

45

00:02:05,360 --> 00:02:08,020
It was colonized by the people.

46

00:02:08,020 --> 00:02:08,900
OK.

47

00:02:08,900 --> 00:02:13,850
About how long had German people
been in this part of the world?

48

00:02:13,850 --> 00:02:18,440
As far as my knowledge,
since the 1700s.

49

00:02:18,440 --> 00:02:19,730
OK.

50
00:02:19,730 --> 00:02:20,870
And how did they get there?

51
00:02:20,870 --> 00:02:23,460

52
00:02:23,460 --> 00:02:27,270
I think the way I
understand is they

53
00:02:27,270 --> 00:02:33,720
had even different
countries, they

54
00:02:33,720 --> 00:02:37,200
come over there to
live there in that area

55
00:02:37,200 --> 00:02:45,310
because it was not ruled
by Russia or by Romania.

56
00:02:45,310 --> 00:02:49,630
So basically, it was
ruled by the German people

57
00:02:49,630 --> 00:02:52,530
that lived there.

58
00:02:52,530 --> 00:02:54,340
Oh, I had always
thought that this

59
00:02:54,340 --> 00:02:58,210
was some place that was
ruled by Russia originally,

60
00:02:58,210 --> 00:03:01,580
by Catherine the Great,
who invited settlers.

61

00:03:01,580 --> 00:03:06,970

She invited people basically
from different countries

62

00:03:06,970 --> 00:03:12,220

that wanted to live there,
and they were not all Germans.

63

00:03:12,220 --> 00:03:17,990

But they were also from
different countries.

64

00:03:17,990 --> 00:03:21,430

So did you have neighbors who
had different nationalities?

65

00:03:21,430 --> 00:03:22,390

No.

66

00:03:22,390 --> 00:03:23,410

OK.

67

00:03:23,410 --> 00:03:27,880

That particular town or
village, what they called it

68

00:03:27,880 --> 00:03:33,080

was kind of on its own.

69

00:03:33,080 --> 00:03:39,080

And different villages had
different people ruling,

70

00:03:39,080 --> 00:03:40,730

whatever they were doing.

71

00:03:40,730 --> 00:03:43,460

72

00:03:43,460 --> 00:03:48,320

When you were born

in 1936, what country

73

00:03:48,320 --> 00:03:53,150

was this part of the
world included in?

74

00:03:53,150 --> 00:03:56,630

Well, I don't know about
different countries

75

00:03:56,630 --> 00:03:59,440

because they were basically
on their own merits.

76

00:03:59,440 --> 00:04:01,160

So it was self-rule.

77

00:04:01,160 --> 00:04:06,610

And the basic rule was
they were ruled by Germany.

78

00:04:06,610 --> 00:04:08,420

OK.

79

00:04:08,420 --> 00:04:09,520

Can we cut for a second?

80

00:04:09,520 --> 00:04:12,580

81

00:04:12,580 --> 00:04:13,080

OK.

82

00:04:13,080 --> 00:04:16,300

I stopped the camera because
I was a little confused.

83

00:04:16,300 --> 00:04:19,470

I was under the
impression that Bessarabia

84

00:04:19,470 --> 00:04:24,390

was part of another
country, not Germany,

85
00:04:24,390 --> 00:04:29,340
because in the book that you
wrote that you self-published

86
00:04:29,340 --> 00:04:32,700
was a sentence where you
said your father had served

87
00:04:32,700 --> 00:04:34,680
in the Romanian army.

88
00:04:34,680 --> 00:04:37,620
So if it wasn't
part of Romania, why

89
00:04:37,620 --> 00:04:39,620
would he have to
serve in that army?

90
00:04:39,620 --> 00:04:45,990
That come a little bit later
on because my father also

91
00:04:45,990 --> 00:04:50,640
was in the Russian
army before that.

92
00:04:50,640 --> 00:04:51,510
Was he?

93
00:04:51,510 --> 00:04:52,680
Yes.

94
00:04:52,680 --> 00:05:00,510
And then Romania took over,
so they kind of intervened

95
00:05:00,510 --> 00:05:05,930
or whatever to rule that.

96

00:05:05,930 --> 00:05:09,300

But the main fact
still was it was still

97

00:05:09,300 --> 00:05:18,950

ruled from Germany because
the Russian queen was German.

98

00:05:18,950 --> 00:05:21,390

And so that's how
that came about.

99

00:05:21,390 --> 00:05:23,460

So you're talking
about 200 years ago,

100

00:05:23,460 --> 00:05:25,610

when the Russian Queen was
Catherine the Great, who

101

00:05:25,610 --> 00:05:28,490

was originally German.

102

00:05:28,490 --> 00:05:30,360

I see.

103

00:05:30,360 --> 00:05:30,860

OK.

104

00:05:30,860 --> 00:05:32,030

Let's go on a little bit.

105

00:05:32,030 --> 00:05:35,720

We'll, I think, clarify
things as we go along.

106

00:05:35,720 --> 00:05:38,410

Tell me, what was
your father's name?

107

00:05:38,410 --> 00:05:41,210

Reinhold Koppenstein.

108
00:05:41,210 --> 00:05:42,850
Reinhold Koppenstein.

109
00:05:42,850 --> 00:05:45,950
And he did not have a
middle name, either.

110
00:05:45,950 --> 00:05:48,110
Do you know what
year he was born in?

111
00:05:48,110 --> 00:05:48,770
Yes.

112
00:05:48,770 --> 00:05:49,470
What was that?

113
00:05:49,470 --> 00:05:51,230
In 1911.

114
00:05:51,230 --> 00:05:53,240
1911.

115
00:05:53,240 --> 00:05:55,820
And your mother,
what was her name?

116
00:05:55,820 --> 00:06:00,840
She was [NON-ENGLISH].

117
00:06:00,840 --> 00:06:02,180
[NON-ENGLISH].

118
00:06:02,180 --> 00:06:03,680
That was her maiden name.

119
00:06:03,680 --> 00:06:04,370
Yes.

120
00:06:04,370 --> 00:06:06,710

And what was her first
name, her given name?

121
00:06:06,710 --> 00:06:09,290

122
00:06:09,290 --> 00:06:10,640
Gosh.

123
00:06:10,640 --> 00:06:12,140
I know, I've kind of caught you.

124
00:06:12,140 --> 00:06:14,720

125
00:06:14,720 --> 00:06:16,190
She was mama, wasn't she?

126
00:06:16,190 --> 00:06:18,290
She was my mother, period.

127
00:06:18,290 --> 00:06:19,970
Yeah.

128
00:06:19,970 --> 00:06:20,910
It'll come to you.

129
00:06:20,910 --> 00:06:21,180
Emma.

130
00:06:21,180 --> 00:06:21,500
What?

131
00:06:21,500 --> 00:06:22,020
Emma.

132
00:06:22,020 --> 00:06:22,850
Emma.

133
00:06:22,850 --> 00:06:23,930
Yes.

134
00:06:23,930 --> 00:06:27,230
And did you have any
brothers and sisters?

135
00:06:27,230 --> 00:06:30,270
I had one brother.

136
00:06:30,270 --> 00:06:33,980
He was three years
younger than me.

137
00:06:33,980 --> 00:06:44,430
And then I had a sister
who was born in 1941.

138
00:06:44,430 --> 00:06:45,170
OK.

139
00:06:45,170 --> 00:06:49,580
So your brother was born
in 1939 and your sister

140
00:06:49,580 --> 00:06:51,590
was born in 1941.

141
00:06:51,590 --> 00:06:52,700
Yes.

142
00:06:52,700 --> 00:06:55,400
Do you know the year that
your mother was born in?

143
00:06:55,400 --> 00:06:55,940
Yes.

144
00:06:55,940 --> 00:06:57,130
What was that?

145
00:06:57,130 --> 00:06:58,980
1914.

146
00:06:58,980 --> 00:06:59,900
1914.

147
00:06:59,900 --> 00:07:01,760
That's why they got
a little mixed up.

148
00:07:01,760 --> 00:07:03,320
Yes.

149
00:07:03,320 --> 00:07:06,230
And tell me this.

150
00:07:06,230 --> 00:07:07,940
Your parents, then,
sound like they

151
00:07:07,940 --> 00:07:12,050
were quite young when they
started having a family.

152
00:07:12,050 --> 00:07:14,640
They were.

153
00:07:14,640 --> 00:07:17,330
Did you ever know
how they met and how

154
00:07:17,330 --> 00:07:19,160
they got to know each other?

155
00:07:19,160 --> 00:07:22,070
They would never
talk about that.

156
00:07:22,070 --> 00:07:26,360
And the basic fact is I
never did know for sure.

157
00:07:26,360 --> 00:07:27,150
OK.

158

00:07:27,150 --> 00:07:29,660

Were they from the same village?

159

00:07:29,660 --> 00:07:33,350

No, they were from different villages, both of them.

160

00:07:33,350 --> 00:07:34,910

OK.

161

00:07:34,910 --> 00:07:38,960

Your mother, do you know the village that she was from?

162

00:07:38,960 --> 00:07:40,620

No, I can't remember.

163

00:07:40,620 --> 00:07:41,120

OK.

164

00:07:41,120 --> 00:07:43,970

And your father?

165

00:07:43,970 --> 00:07:48,260

He was pretty close to Fundu Sarasika

166

00:07:48,260 --> 00:07:53,300

because when he got older, a little bit older,

167

00:07:53,300 --> 00:07:56,600

my grandfather moved there.

168

00:07:56,600 --> 00:07:57,680

OK.

169

00:07:57,680 --> 00:08:02,440

And how did they put food on the table?

170

00:08:02,440 --> 00:08:04,190
How did your father
put food on the table?

171
00:08:04,190 --> 00:08:06,240
What did he do for a living?

172
00:08:06,240 --> 00:08:09,770
My father was a farmer.

173
00:08:09,770 --> 00:08:17,630
And at that point
we had 600 hectares.

174
00:08:17,630 --> 00:08:19,580
That's huge.

175
00:08:19,580 --> 00:08:22,230
That is huge.

176
00:08:22,230 --> 00:08:31,240
It's just about two
and 1/2 to to one.

177
00:08:31,240 --> 00:08:35,000
So two and 1/2 acres
to one hectare.

178
00:08:35,000 --> 00:08:38,429
So if we do the math,
we're talking about--

179
00:08:38,429 --> 00:08:40,030
About over 1,000.

180
00:08:40,030 --> 00:08:41,450
Yeah.

181
00:08:41,450 --> 00:08:44,260
Yeah.

182
00:08:44,260 --> 00:08:48,790

Now had that farm come to
him through his father,

183
00:08:48,790 --> 00:08:50,350
or had he purchased it?

184
00:08:50,350 --> 00:08:55,300
He purchased that himself
because my grandfather

185
00:08:55,300 --> 00:08:58,840
died in 1936.

186
00:08:58,840 --> 00:09:00,670
The year of your birth.

187
00:09:00,670 --> 00:09:04,540
Before, about a year before.

188
00:09:04,540 --> 00:09:07,960
So I never got to
know him at all.

189
00:09:07,960 --> 00:09:10,320
Did you know your grandmother
on your father's side?

190
00:09:10,320 --> 00:09:11,350
Yes.

191
00:09:11,350 --> 00:09:15,150
What was her name,
besides grandma?

192
00:09:15,150 --> 00:09:18,070

193
00:09:18,070 --> 00:09:21,590
Besides grandma, I can't really
remember right this minute.

194
00:09:21,590 --> 00:09:22,090

OK.

195

00:09:22,090 --> 00:09:25,360

But it was also Koppenstein
as her last name.

196

00:09:25,360 --> 00:09:26,770

Yes, that was her last name.

197

00:09:26,770 --> 00:09:30,330

Did your father have
brothers and sisters?

198

00:09:30,330 --> 00:09:33,405

Yes, 11.

199

00:09:33,405 --> 00:09:34,390

11?

200

00:09:34,390 --> 00:09:34,890

11.

201

00:09:34,890 --> 00:09:36,810

Brothers and sisters.

202

00:09:36,810 --> 00:09:40,880

And did they live
in the same village?

203

00:09:40,880 --> 00:09:44,300

Till they were old
enough to leave then,

204

00:09:44,300 --> 00:09:50,010

and they went elsewhere
into different places.

205

00:09:50,010 --> 00:09:51,480

Within Bessarabia?

206

00:09:51,480 --> 00:09:52,350

Yes.

207
00:09:52,350 --> 00:09:52,850
OK.

208
00:09:52,850 --> 00:09:55,410
So everybody stayed
within Bessarabia.

209
00:09:55,410 --> 00:09:56,610
Yes.

210
00:09:56,610 --> 00:10:00,060
Did you get to know any
of your aunts and uncles?

211
00:10:00,060 --> 00:10:02,250
I knew just about all of them.

212
00:10:02,250 --> 00:10:03,270
OK.

213
00:10:03,270 --> 00:10:05,680
Did they visit, and
did you visit them?

214
00:10:05,680 --> 00:10:07,920
I did, yes.

215
00:10:07,920 --> 00:10:14,040
But it was hard by
wagon and horses.

216
00:10:14,040 --> 00:10:20,680
And basically that was our
own way of transportation

217
00:10:20,680 --> 00:10:22,030
was horses.

218
00:10:22,030 --> 00:10:23,810
Did anybody own a car?

219
00:10:23,810 --> 00:10:24,310
No.

220
00:10:24,310 --> 00:10:28,410

221
00:10:28,410 --> 00:10:30,390
At that point I didn't
even know what there

222
00:10:30,390 --> 00:10:32,090
was such a thing as a car.

223
00:10:32,090 --> 00:10:33,490
Really.

224
00:10:33,490 --> 00:10:34,260
Really.

225
00:10:34,260 --> 00:10:36,570
Well, that's common
for Eastern Europe.

226
00:10:36,570 --> 00:10:38,010
That was common.

227
00:10:38,010 --> 00:10:40,800
In many villages, when a
car would drive through,

228
00:10:40,800 --> 00:10:42,990
I was told, all the
little boys would

229
00:10:42,990 --> 00:10:46,350
run after it because
it was so interesting,

230
00:10:46,350 --> 00:10:48,840
it would be an event.

231

00:10:48,840 --> 00:10:56,370

The only car that I can remember
is there were trucks and stuff

232

00:10:56,370 --> 00:10:57,570

like that.

233

00:10:57,570 --> 00:11:01,210

That happened in the 1940s.

234

00:11:01,210 --> 00:11:04,440

So after the war starts,
that's when you see that.

235

00:11:04,440 --> 00:11:06,930

The war started in the '30s.

236

00:11:06,930 --> 00:11:07,920

That's right.

237

00:11:07,920 --> 00:11:08,880

That's right.

238

00:11:08,880 --> 00:11:09,740

Well, yeah.

239

00:11:09,740 --> 00:11:14,350

240

00:11:14,350 --> 00:11:16,660

What was the language
everybody spoke at home?

241

00:11:16,660 --> 00:11:20,470

242

00:11:20,470 --> 00:11:22,760

What they called [NON-ENGLISH].

243

00:11:22,760 --> 00:11:23,770

[NON-ENGLISH]?

244

00:11:23,770 --> 00:11:25,020

Yes.

245

00:11:25,020 --> 00:11:32,340

It's different than the
normal German language

246

00:11:32,340 --> 00:11:34,780

that is out there now.

247

00:11:34,780 --> 00:11:37,400

That come at a later date.

248

00:11:37,400 --> 00:11:40,500

So you grew up surrounded
by [NON-ENGLISH]..

249

00:11:40,500 --> 00:11:41,740

Yes.

250

00:11:41,740 --> 00:11:43,765

And let's choose a sentence.

251

00:11:43,765 --> 00:11:46,900

252

00:11:46,900 --> 00:11:48,100

Let's choose a sentence.

253

00:11:48,100 --> 00:11:54,600

The forest around us is green.

254

00:11:54,600 --> 00:11:58,400

How would you say
that in [NON-ENGLISH]??

255

00:11:58,400 --> 00:12:01,850

Gosh, I can't even remember a
whole lot of German anymore.

256

00:12:01,850 --> 00:12:03,180

Oh, really?

257

00:12:03,180 --> 00:12:06,900

Because I wanted to find out
what's the difference saying it

258

00:12:06,900 --> 00:12:10,020

in [NON-ENGLISH],,
as you grew up,

259

00:12:10,020 --> 00:12:13,320

from the kind of German
people would speak today?

260

00:12:13,320 --> 00:12:16,790

261

00:12:16,790 --> 00:12:20,690

Like a lot of things, you know,
like potatoes or something like

262

00:12:20,690 --> 00:12:24,980

that, even there, at
the [NON-ENGLISH],,

263

00:12:24,980 --> 00:12:27,590

they had different
ways of saying it.

264

00:12:27,590 --> 00:12:30,740

So normally, it
would be [GERMAN]..

265

00:12:30,740 --> 00:12:31,400

Yes.

266

00:12:31,400 --> 00:12:33,442

How would you say
it in [NON-ENGLISH]??

267

00:12:33,442 --> 00:12:36,820

268

00:12:36,820 --> 00:12:39,570

Gosh, I can't remember
at this minute, either.

269

00:12:39,570 --> 00:12:40,780

Oh, that's OK.

270

00:12:40,780 --> 00:12:43,120

When grandma's
name comes to you,

271

00:12:43,120 --> 00:12:45,010

she'll be carrying
some of those potatoes.

272

00:12:45,010 --> 00:12:51,220

273

00:12:51,220 --> 00:12:52,120

It happens.

274

00:12:52,120 --> 00:12:52,690

It happens.

275

00:12:52,690 --> 00:12:54,670

These are details,
but I'm trying

276

00:12:54,670 --> 00:12:58,630

to paint a picture of
what was your life like

277

00:12:58,630 --> 00:13:05,920

and how did people communicate,
and what was that world like.

278

00:13:05,920 --> 00:13:09,430

The language is
not that far apart

279

00:13:09,430 --> 00:13:14,380

from what they call

the regular German that

280
00:13:14,380 --> 00:13:16,990
is being spoken now.

281
00:13:16,990 --> 00:13:22,090
But the difference
was just slightly.

282
00:13:22,090 --> 00:13:26,020
And you could always
understand basically

283
00:13:26,020 --> 00:13:27,820
what you were asking for.

284
00:13:27,820 --> 00:13:28,400
OK.

285
00:13:28,400 --> 00:13:28,900
OK.

286
00:13:28,900 --> 00:13:29,800
That's important.

287
00:13:29,800 --> 00:13:31,900
That's important to know.

288
00:13:31,900 --> 00:13:36,160
But did you have a
dialect or an accent

289
00:13:36,160 --> 00:13:41,860
that, when you did come across
other Germans in Germany

290
00:13:41,860 --> 00:13:43,870
later on in your
life, they could

291
00:13:43,870 --> 00:13:46,420
tell you weren't from there?

292
00:13:46,420 --> 00:13:48,460
Yes, there was.

293
00:13:48,460 --> 00:13:53,140
Just about the same as
my English is today.

294
00:13:53,140 --> 00:13:55,612
And it's not really--

295
00:13:55,612 --> 00:13:59,460
you have a dialect
that a lot of people

296
00:13:59,460 --> 00:14:03,240
would understand
what you're saying,

297
00:14:03,240 --> 00:14:08,420
but it's still a hidden
kind of situation.

298
00:14:08,420 --> 00:14:10,650
OK.

299
00:14:10,650 --> 00:14:15,240
Let's go back to the farm
that your father bought,

300
00:14:15,240 --> 00:14:18,330
all those 600 hectares.

301
00:14:18,330 --> 00:14:21,090
Did he work it alone?

302
00:14:21,090 --> 00:14:22,420
Did he have help?

303
00:14:22,420 --> 00:14:27,750
He had quite a few men
that would work there,

304

00:14:27,750 --> 00:14:35,050
and also had a couple of ladies
that were helping my mother.

305

00:14:35,050 --> 00:14:37,350
Well, that's a huge farm.

306

00:14:37,350 --> 00:14:39,210
Yes, it was.

307

00:14:39,210 --> 00:14:41,370
Describe it for me a little bit.

308

00:14:41,370 --> 00:14:43,980
What kind of animals
did you keep?

309

00:14:43,980 --> 00:14:49,630
Mostly cows and horses.

310

00:14:49,630 --> 00:14:54,670
Did you ever participate
in any of the work

311

00:14:54,670 --> 00:14:56,260
as a little little kid?

312

00:14:56,260 --> 00:14:58,060
Oh, yes, always.

313

00:14:58,060 --> 00:15:01,970
What were the things
you liked to do?

314

00:15:01,970 --> 00:15:07,490
Well, basically, I got on a
horse when I was very young,

315

00:15:07,490 --> 00:15:14,420
and a lot of times go and
get the cows to be milked

316
00:15:14,420 --> 00:15:16,790
and stuff like that.

317
00:15:16,790 --> 00:15:25,160
And a lot of times got the
well and got the water.

318
00:15:25,160 --> 00:15:30,650
The well that we
had was quite deep,

319
00:15:30,650 --> 00:15:36,600
but I managed to get
some water out of it.

320
00:15:36,600 --> 00:15:40,550
Well, you know, we're
talking about the years

321
00:15:40,550 --> 00:15:43,370
when you are just a little
bit more than a toddler.

322
00:15:43,370 --> 00:15:47,150
If you're born in 1936,
there's not a whole lot

323
00:15:47,150 --> 00:15:51,800
that a little boy age
three or four can do.

324
00:15:51,800 --> 00:15:54,170
But they can be
interested in things.

325
00:15:54,170 --> 00:15:57,230
I was very interested
in everything.

326
00:15:57,230 --> 00:15:59,630
Yeah?

327

00:15:59,630 --> 00:16:01,730

Did you like following
your father around

328

00:16:01,730 --> 00:16:04,130

as he was doing his chores?

329

00:16:04,130 --> 00:16:06,050

Yes, I was.

330

00:16:06,050 --> 00:16:09,200

I was always outside.

331

00:16:09,200 --> 00:16:11,840

And as far as
being in the house,

332

00:16:11,840 --> 00:16:14,750

I was not much interested.

333

00:16:14,750 --> 00:16:16,400

I felt like I was being--

334

00:16:16,400 --> 00:16:19,110

335

00:16:19,110 --> 00:16:22,800

I don't know what
exactly to call it--

336

00:16:22,800 --> 00:16:24,940

to be confined.

337

00:16:24,940 --> 00:16:26,070

Yeah.

338

00:16:26,070 --> 00:16:30,990

Well, a farm can be a
very fascinating place

339

00:16:30,990 --> 00:16:32,190

for a little kid.

340
00:16:32,190 --> 00:16:33,480
It is.

341
00:16:33,480 --> 00:16:35,550
What were some of
the things that you

342
00:16:35,550 --> 00:16:39,990
were the most interested in when
you were little about the farm?

343
00:16:39,990 --> 00:16:42,540
Just about everything
that went on.

344
00:16:42,540 --> 00:16:43,090
Really?

345
00:16:43,090 --> 00:16:43,590
Yeah?

346
00:16:43,590 --> 00:16:45,070
Yes.

347
00:16:45,070 --> 00:16:50,250
I'm a very nosy
person, and I still am.

348
00:16:50,250 --> 00:16:52,590
So tell me some
of the things that

349
00:16:52,590 --> 00:16:55,860
would go on because a lot of
people who will be listening

350
00:16:55,860 --> 00:16:58,687
to this don't know the
first thing about farming

351

00:16:58,687 --> 00:17:00,270
and don't know the
first thing of what

352
00:17:00,270 --> 00:17:03,980
it takes to have a farm run.

353
00:17:03,980 --> 00:17:07,145
Well, you have to
know your animals,

354
00:17:07,145 --> 00:17:10,740
for one thing for sure.

355
00:17:10,740 --> 00:17:13,670
And if you want to
plant crops, you also

356
00:17:13,670 --> 00:17:17,130
need to know what
to do with the land.

357
00:17:17,130 --> 00:17:21,349
You had to plow it,
harrow it, plant it.

358
00:17:21,349 --> 00:17:25,069
And then hopefully it
rained enough and stuff

359
00:17:25,069 --> 00:17:31,940
to where it would come up
and grow into wheat or sug

360
00:17:31,940 --> 00:17:35,810
beets or any of those things,
whatever your planted.

361
00:17:35,810 --> 00:17:39,110
What is it that
your father planted?

362
00:17:39,110 --> 00:17:49,030

He had a lot of wheat
and barley and oats.

363
00:17:49,030 --> 00:17:52,760
And of course, a
lot of potatoes.

364
00:17:52,760 --> 00:17:54,010
Oh, yeah.

365
00:17:54,010 --> 00:17:56,620
Potatoes are some
of the mainstays.

366
00:17:56,620 --> 00:17:57,530
Yes.

367
00:17:57,530 --> 00:17:59,650
And of course, my
mother at the garden,

368
00:17:59,650 --> 00:18:04,420
which grew a lot of vegetables
and things like that as well.

369
00:18:04,420 --> 00:18:06,550
Did you have fruit trees?

370
00:18:06,550 --> 00:18:07,390
Yes.

371
00:18:07,390 --> 00:18:09,070
What kind?

372
00:18:09,070 --> 00:18:17,230
We had apples, pears,
cherries, and plums.

373
00:18:17,230 --> 00:18:19,660
Were you self-sufficient?

374
00:18:19,660 --> 00:18:22,230

Yes, pretty much.

375

00:18:22,230 --> 00:18:27,020

Did your father have
a mill for the wheat

376

00:18:27,020 --> 00:18:28,520

to make it into flour?

377

00:18:28,520 --> 00:18:29,420

No.

378

00:18:29,420 --> 00:18:30,950

He brought it someplace else?

379

00:18:30,950 --> 00:18:36,320

He took it to the flour mill,
where they were grinding it up

380

00:18:36,320 --> 00:18:41,750

and made flour out of the wheat.

381

00:18:41,750 --> 00:18:48,260

With 600 hectares, that's more
than just feeding the family.

382

00:18:48,260 --> 00:18:51,890

Who did he sell the excess to?

383

00:18:51,890 --> 00:18:54,200

Took it to the village.

384

00:18:54,200 --> 00:18:57,290

And there were
always buyers there

385

00:18:57,290 --> 00:19:01,100

that would buy basically
everything because there's

386

00:19:01,100 --> 00:19:06,530

a lot of people had no idea

where does stuff come from.

387
00:19:06,530 --> 00:19:07,850
Of course.

388
00:19:07,850 --> 00:19:09,080
Of course.

389
00:19:09,080 --> 00:19:11,830
Were their market
days in the village?

390
00:19:11,830 --> 00:19:13,950
Yes.

391
00:19:13,950 --> 00:19:18,830
You know, lot of times like
what you called Saturday market

392
00:19:18,830 --> 00:19:21,400
or something in that effect.

393
00:19:21,400 --> 00:19:23,690
And they had a lot
of that going on.

394
00:19:23,690 --> 00:19:26,740
But my father never
was one to hang around

395
00:19:26,740 --> 00:19:34,120
very much because he
sold it to some brokers,

396
00:19:34,120 --> 00:19:40,360
and then they would distribute
whatever was available.

397
00:19:40,360 --> 00:19:44,890
So that's a difference,
because some farmers who

398

00:19:44,890 --> 00:19:50,320
have more land, more produce,
a market day is retail.

399
00:19:50,320 --> 00:19:51,610
It's not wholesale.

400
00:19:51,610 --> 00:19:52,720
No, it's not.

401
00:19:52,720 --> 00:19:53,890
Yeah.

402
00:19:53,890 --> 00:19:56,230
Did your mother ever
take anything to market?

403
00:19:56,230 --> 00:19:57,490
Oh, yes.

404
00:19:57,490 --> 00:20:01,090
She did a lot of that
as well, loaded up

405
00:20:01,090 --> 00:20:05,140
big wagon full of stuff and
hailed it to the village.

406
00:20:05,140 --> 00:20:09,460
What were some of the things
that she had grown or made

407
00:20:09,460 --> 00:20:11,260
that she would sell?

408
00:20:11,260 --> 00:20:14,740
Gosh, I can't
remember all of it.

409
00:20:14,740 --> 00:20:19,350
She basically just, about all
the vegetables that she could.

410

00:20:19,350 --> 00:20:23,870

And being anything over
the winter time over there,

411

00:20:23,870 --> 00:20:27,950

that was quite impossible
because it was quite cold.

412

00:20:27,950 --> 00:20:31,990

413

00:20:31,990 --> 00:20:34,450

Did they prepare
food for the winter?

414

00:20:34,450 --> 00:20:36,030

Yes.

415

00:20:36,030 --> 00:20:41,220

Did you ever help in that
or see how it was done?

416

00:20:41,220 --> 00:20:45,870

Usually when they would
butcher an animal, then

417

00:20:45,870 --> 00:20:49,230

the first thing they would
do, they would smoke it.

418

00:20:49,230 --> 00:20:51,810

And then a lot of it,
they would hang it

419

00:20:51,810 --> 00:20:56,070

in the rafters in the house.

420

00:20:56,070 --> 00:21:02,370

And it kind of was
preserved that way.

421

00:21:02,370 --> 00:21:05,910

Why would it be hung on
rafters in the house?

422
00:21:05,910 --> 00:21:12,400
Well, animals, mice,
rats, stuff like that.

423
00:21:12,400 --> 00:21:13,770
So that they couldn't get to it.

424
00:21:13,770 --> 00:21:16,918
So they couldn't
get to it at all.

425
00:21:16,918 --> 00:21:17,835
Did you have any pets?

426
00:21:17,835 --> 00:21:20,410

427
00:21:20,410 --> 00:21:22,480
Yes, we did.

428
00:21:22,480 --> 00:21:26,740
I had a German shepherd dog.

429
00:21:26,740 --> 00:21:29,070
What was his name?

430
00:21:29,070 --> 00:21:30,150
Just a dog.

431
00:21:30,150 --> 00:21:31,020
Just a dog.

432
00:21:31,020 --> 00:21:31,840
Didn't have one.

433
00:21:31,840 --> 00:21:32,340
OK.

434

00:21:32,340 --> 00:21:35,910

435

00:21:35,910 --> 00:21:39,490

Did you name any of the animals?

436

00:21:39,490 --> 00:21:40,800

No.

437

00:21:40,800 --> 00:21:43,350

Basically, there's too many.

438

00:21:43,350 --> 00:21:43,890

Too many.

439

00:21:43,890 --> 00:21:47,830

440

00:21:47,830 --> 00:21:49,630

Tell me a little
bit about the house,

441

00:21:49,630 --> 00:21:51,760

what did the house look
like that you lived in,

442

00:21:51,760 --> 00:21:54,820

from your memory?

443

00:21:54,820 --> 00:21:58,550

It was basically a
single story house.

444

00:21:58,550 --> 00:22:04,640

But the roof was
quite steep and had

445

00:22:04,640 --> 00:22:08,750

slats which was made of straw.

446

00:22:08,750 --> 00:22:13,670

So it was a straw roof,

a steep pitched roof.

447

00:22:13,670 --> 00:22:14,870

Pitched roof.

448

00:22:14,870 --> 00:22:18,070

What were the walls made of?

449

00:22:18,070 --> 00:22:21,980

Some old timber.

450

00:22:21,980 --> 00:22:22,780

So it was wooden.

451

00:22:22,780 --> 00:22:23,500

Wooden.

452

00:22:23,500 --> 00:22:25,020

Wooden.

453

00:22:25,020 --> 00:22:26,860

And the floors?

454

00:22:26,860 --> 00:22:29,570

They were also wood.

455

00:22:29,570 --> 00:22:32,730

How was the place heated?

456

00:22:32,730 --> 00:22:34,330

Wood stove.

457

00:22:34,330 --> 00:22:36,230

Not coal, wood.

458

00:22:36,230 --> 00:22:36,890

Wood.

459

00:22:36,890 --> 00:22:37,780

Wood.

460

00:22:37,780 --> 00:22:39,550

And how many rooms
did the house have?

461

00:22:39,550 --> 00:22:42,540

462

00:22:42,540 --> 00:22:47,900

That particular house,
we had approximately,

463

00:22:47,900 --> 00:22:50,870

I believe, about
six or seven rooms.

464

00:22:50,870 --> 00:22:53,210

That's quite large.

465

00:22:53,210 --> 00:22:57,840

Well, we had a lot of
people that lived there

466

00:22:57,840 --> 00:23:01,280

and they stayed in our house.

467

00:23:01,280 --> 00:23:04,835

So it was just a
big family affair.

468

00:23:04,835 --> 00:23:06,710

When you say a lot of
people who lived there,

469

00:23:06,710 --> 00:23:08,510

does that mean the hired help?

470

00:23:08,510 --> 00:23:10,820

Yes.

471

00:23:10,820 --> 00:23:15,610

An we also had what they
called a summer kitchen.

472
00:23:15,610 --> 00:23:16,122
OK.

473
00:23:16,122 --> 00:23:17,330
Where was the summer kitchen?

474
00:23:17,330 --> 00:23:21,440
Which was a house
on its own, which

475
00:23:21,440 --> 00:23:25,480
they would use in the summer
when it was quite warm,

476
00:23:25,480 --> 00:23:30,040
and that way they kept
the house quite cool.

477
00:23:30,040 --> 00:23:32,450
OK.

478
00:23:32,450 --> 00:23:33,620
Well, that makes sense.

479
00:23:33,620 --> 00:23:35,453
I wouldn't have thought
that, but of course,

480
00:23:35,453 --> 00:23:37,880
without air conditioning
in the heat, who

481
00:23:37,880 --> 00:23:41,000
wants to cook and
warm up a house when

482
00:23:41,000 --> 00:23:42,410
it can be hot outside?

483
00:23:42,410 --> 00:23:46,910
If you want a drink of

water, sometimes you

484
00:23:46,910 --> 00:23:49,010
could break the ice
first, and then you

485
00:23:49,010 --> 00:23:52,070
could get a drink of water.

486
00:23:52,070 --> 00:23:53,780
That was in the house.

487
00:23:53,780 --> 00:23:55,500
In the winter.

488
00:23:55,500 --> 00:23:56,910
Yes.

489
00:23:56,910 --> 00:23:58,680
It could get that cold.

490
00:23:58,680 --> 00:24:01,600
It was quite cold, yes.

491
00:24:01,600 --> 00:24:05,010
Did you have any electricity?

492
00:24:05,010 --> 00:24:07,950
There was no such
thing as electricity.

493
00:24:07,950 --> 00:24:08,450
OK.

494
00:24:08,450 --> 00:24:11,130

495
00:24:11,130 --> 00:24:15,350
How did you provide light
when it would get dark?

496

00:24:15,350 --> 00:24:24,400
We had candles for the most
part, or some oil lamps.

497
00:24:24,400 --> 00:24:29,600
And then later on, we
had some carbide lights.

498
00:24:29,600 --> 00:24:33,240
What are carbide lights?

499
00:24:33,240 --> 00:24:41,750
A carbide is about as big
around as your finger,

500
00:24:41,750 --> 00:24:45,680
and then you could turn
it down into the water

501
00:24:45,680 --> 00:24:50,770
and then it create a gas.

502
00:24:50,770 --> 00:24:54,500
And then you would burn that.

503
00:24:54,500 --> 00:24:58,330
It was quite
dangerous in one way,

504
00:24:58,330 --> 00:25:00,790
but it was quite efficient.

505
00:25:00,790 --> 00:25:05,280

506
00:25:05,280 --> 00:25:07,650
Describe the village
a little bit for me.

507
00:25:07,650 --> 00:25:11,430
Was it a village where
everybody knew everybody?

508

00:25:11,430 --> 00:25:13,770

For the most part, yes.

509

00:25:13,770 --> 00:25:15,960

Do you know about
how many families

510

00:25:15,960 --> 00:25:18,860

would have been living there?

511

00:25:18,860 --> 00:25:23,670

Probably about 30
or 40 families.

512

00:25:23,670 --> 00:25:28,960

So that might be a couple
hundred people all told.

513

00:25:28,960 --> 00:25:29,460

Yes.

514

00:25:29,460 --> 00:25:33,900

515

00:25:33,900 --> 00:25:36,600

Did it have a store,
like a general store?

516

00:25:36,600 --> 00:25:38,650

It did.

517

00:25:38,650 --> 00:25:42,120

But it was very limited
because everything

518

00:25:42,120 --> 00:25:49,280

they got they had to go and
transport it in by horses.

519

00:25:49,280 --> 00:25:50,910

By horses.

520

00:25:50,910 --> 00:25:56,070

And was there such
a thing as a baker,

521

00:25:56,070 --> 00:25:58,350

or did everyone bake
their own bread?

522

00:25:58,350 --> 00:26:00,660

Everyone baked their own stuff.

523

00:26:00,660 --> 00:26:02,070

OK.

524

00:26:02,070 --> 00:26:04,080

And there wasn't
like a communal baker

525

00:26:04,080 --> 00:26:06,300

where you would prepare
your loaf and bring it

526

00:26:06,300 --> 00:26:07,260

and they would bake it.

527

00:26:07,260 --> 00:26:08,070

No.

528

00:26:08,070 --> 00:26:09,480

OK.

529

00:26:09,480 --> 00:26:11,320

Was there a church?

530

00:26:11,320 --> 00:26:12,540

Yes.

531

00:26:12,540 --> 00:26:15,110

We had a church.

532

00:26:15,110 --> 00:26:17,970

Basically, everybody went there.

533

00:26:17,970 --> 00:26:22,740

We only had one church
in that village.

534

00:26:22,740 --> 00:26:24,900

What denomination was it?

535

00:26:24,900 --> 00:26:25,860

Lutheran.

536

00:26:25,860 --> 00:26:27,090

Lutheran.

537

00:26:27,090 --> 00:26:30,540

So you were born
into and brought up

538

00:26:30,540 --> 00:26:31,960

in the Lutheran faith.

539

00:26:31,960 --> 00:26:32,460

Yes.

540

00:26:32,460 --> 00:26:36,450

541

00:26:36,450 --> 00:26:39,880

Was your family very religious?

542

00:26:39,880 --> 00:26:43,950

They all knew what
the Bible was,

543

00:26:43,950 --> 00:26:45,630

and they could all read it.

544

00:26:45,630 --> 00:26:49,470

And basically
that's what it was.

545

00:26:49,470 --> 00:26:53,640

On Sundays they kind of got
together in the village.

546

00:26:53,640 --> 00:26:56,630

And us, like being
out on the farms,

547

00:26:56,630 --> 00:27:00,720

we did go into the village,
but not every Sunday.

548

00:27:00,720 --> 00:27:05,320

549

00:27:05,320 --> 00:27:07,270

In your book, I
think you mentioned

550

00:27:07,270 --> 00:27:11,560

that there wasn't a minister
attached to the village,

551

00:27:11,560 --> 00:27:14,590

but that you had a traveling
minister sometimes.

552

00:27:14,590 --> 00:27:16,800

Yes, sometimes.

553

00:27:16,800 --> 00:27:21,340

And sometimes it was just
people that go up there.

554

00:27:21,340 --> 00:27:25,870

And they were not
being a minister,

555

00:27:25,870 --> 00:27:32,310

but they would go and talk
about the religious parts of it.

556

00:27:32,310 --> 00:27:34,170
So they would hold the services.

557
00:27:34,170 --> 00:27:36,490
They would hold the
services themselves.

558
00:27:36,490 --> 00:27:36,990
Yes.

559
00:27:36,990 --> 00:27:40,980

560
00:27:40,980 --> 00:27:43,460
Was there a school?

561
00:27:43,460 --> 00:27:44,180
There was.

562
00:27:44,180 --> 00:27:48,620
But right there in that village,
I never went to school there.

563
00:27:48,620 --> 00:27:50,577
You never went to school there.

564
00:27:50,577 --> 00:27:51,410
You were too little.

565
00:27:51,410 --> 00:27:54,160
I was too young.

566
00:27:54,160 --> 00:27:58,590
But I did know how to cheat
about wanting to go somewhere.

567
00:27:58,590 --> 00:28:00,860
What do you mean?

568
00:28:00,860 --> 00:28:02,990
You mean like when you
wanted to play hooky?

569
00:28:02,990 --> 00:28:04,360
Something like that, yes.

570
00:28:04,360 --> 00:28:07,910

571
00:28:07,910 --> 00:28:11,380
Well, I think that's part
and parcel of being a kid,

572
00:28:11,380 --> 00:28:13,960
you know, particularly
a little boy.

573
00:28:13,960 --> 00:28:15,250
Little boys play hooky.

574
00:28:15,250 --> 00:28:19,070
Back in them days, that
was probably the only time

575
00:28:19,070 --> 00:28:20,380
I was a boy.

576
00:28:20,380 --> 00:28:24,140

577
00:28:24,140 --> 00:28:28,100
Tell me a little bit about
your parents personalities.

578
00:28:28,100 --> 00:28:33,800
What kind of nature did your
mother have, for example?

579
00:28:33,800 --> 00:28:39,545
My mother was a very
mild lady in one way

580
00:28:39,545 --> 00:28:42,500
and very tough in another.

581
00:28:42,500 --> 00:28:43,520
OK.

582
00:28:43,520 --> 00:28:45,500
Explain that to me.

583
00:28:45,500 --> 00:28:48,930
For one thing, the
religion kind of

584
00:28:48,930 --> 00:28:55,970
dictated to where she
was because if you'd

585
00:28:55,970 --> 00:29:00,185
done something wrong, we
also knew what a belt was.

586
00:29:00,185 --> 00:29:04,010

587
00:29:04,010 --> 00:29:10,440
And so you get educated very
nicely in that direction.

588
00:29:10,440 --> 00:29:12,110
Did that happen often?

589
00:29:12,110 --> 00:29:15,620
No, not to me.

590
00:29:15,620 --> 00:29:19,990
because I did not like the
belt and I did not like

591
00:29:19,990 --> 00:29:22,790
to get into trouble anyway.

592
00:29:22,790 --> 00:29:24,360
So you were a good kid.

593
00:29:24,360 --> 00:29:26,350
I tried.

594
00:29:26,350 --> 00:29:27,500
OK.

595
00:29:27,500 --> 00:29:32,660
And was she the one who then
administered the belt when

596
00:29:32,660 --> 00:29:34,190
it had to be administered?

597
00:29:34,190 --> 00:29:36,270
Not really.

598
00:29:36,270 --> 00:29:40,140
My father was the one
that done the real damage.

599
00:29:40,140 --> 00:29:40,640
OK.

600
00:29:40,640 --> 00:29:42,260
He was the disciplinarian.

601
00:29:42,260 --> 00:29:44,540
Yes.

602
00:29:44,540 --> 00:29:45,530
Let's turn to him.

603
00:29:45,530 --> 00:29:49,310
What kind of a
personality did he have?

604
00:29:49,310 --> 00:29:50,765
He was very soft spoken.

605
00:29:50,765 --> 00:29:55,090

606
00:29:55,090 --> 00:30:02,800
But his word was law, and
that's the way it went.

607
00:30:02,800 --> 00:30:07,090
And sometimes I could
hear the two arguing

608
00:30:07,090 --> 00:30:10,450
about certain
things, but it didn't

609
00:30:10,450 --> 00:30:13,090
matter on the end results.

610
00:30:13,090 --> 00:30:16,190
He was still the law.

611
00:30:16,190 --> 00:30:16,690
OK.

612
00:30:16,690 --> 00:30:22,060

613
00:30:22,060 --> 00:30:25,000
Since he had so many
siblings, was he

614
00:30:25,000 --> 00:30:29,860
amongst the youngest or the
oldest, or where was he?

615
00:30:29,860 --> 00:30:31,700
He was just about
right in the middle.

616
00:30:31,700 --> 00:30:34,220

617
00:30:34,220 --> 00:30:39,260
And he had older brothers

and older sisters.

618
00:30:39,260 --> 00:30:44,540
And then he also had younger
brothers and sisters.

619
00:30:44,540 --> 00:30:49,400
So he was somewhere in
the middle of 11 children.

620
00:30:49,400 --> 00:30:54,490
After your grandfather died,
where did your grandmother

621
00:30:54,490 --> 00:30:56,470
live, your paternal grandmother?

622
00:30:56,470 --> 00:30:57,650
Did she move?

623
00:30:57,650 --> 00:30:59,600
She stayed with us.

624
00:30:59,600 --> 00:31:00,880
She moved in with you.

625
00:31:00,880 --> 00:31:01,600
Yes.

626
00:31:01,600 --> 00:31:03,160
OK.

627
00:31:03,160 --> 00:31:05,710
And now let's turn to your
mother's side of the family.

628
00:31:05,710 --> 00:31:08,020
She came from a different
village, you said.

629
00:31:08,020 --> 00:31:09,010
Yes.

630
00:31:09,010 --> 00:31:10,690
Did she have
brothers and sisters?

631
00:31:10,690 --> 00:31:11,860
Yes, she did.

632
00:31:11,860 --> 00:31:14,110
And how many, do you know?

633
00:31:14,110 --> 00:31:15,790
I think they had 12.

634
00:31:15,790 --> 00:31:17,590
Oh my goodness.

635
00:31:17,590 --> 00:31:18,670
Oh my goodness.

636
00:31:18,670 --> 00:31:23,360
And did you know that
side of the family, too?

637
00:31:23,360 --> 00:31:24,370
Yes, I did.

638
00:31:24,370 --> 00:31:25,390
Oh my goodness.

639
00:31:25,390 --> 00:31:27,670
Your house was
never empty, was it?

640
00:31:27,670 --> 00:31:29,820
No.

641
00:31:29,820 --> 00:31:34,390
But they had a
farm on their own,

642

00:31:34,390 --> 00:31:38,080
and my grandfather
was a blacksmith.

643
00:31:38,080 --> 00:31:42,757
And so he had other
things going as well.

644
00:31:42,757 --> 00:31:45,340
Well, that sounds like it could
have been an interesting thing

645
00:31:45,340 --> 00:31:47,050
to see.

646
00:31:47,050 --> 00:31:48,130
I Enjoyed?

647
00:31:48,130 --> 00:31:52,060
Being with him
because I also learned

648
00:31:52,060 --> 00:31:56,170
what he was doing as a kid.

649
00:31:56,170 --> 00:31:58,360
It's fascinating.

650
00:31:58,360 --> 00:32:01,400
And right now I
have a grandson that

651
00:32:01,400 --> 00:32:05,550
wants to follow in
the similar position.

652
00:32:05,550 --> 00:32:08,220
But I don't know
for sure where he

653
00:32:08,220 --> 00:32:12,540
wants to go yet because
he's still going to college.

654
00:32:12,540 --> 00:32:16,440
So he would like to do
something like ironworks?

655
00:32:16,440 --> 00:32:18,480
Yes.

656
00:32:18,480 --> 00:32:20,400
That can be quite creative.

657
00:32:20,400 --> 00:32:21,840
It really can be.

658
00:32:21,840 --> 00:32:24,840
Some beautiful things
are done with ironworks.

659
00:32:24,840 --> 00:32:27,870
I will show you a
little tiny thing

660
00:32:27,870 --> 00:32:30,660
that he made for me already.

661
00:32:30,660 --> 00:32:31,410
OK.

662
00:32:31,410 --> 00:32:33,070
I'd love to see it.

663
00:32:33,070 --> 00:32:34,600
I'll show it to you later.

664
00:32:34,600 --> 00:32:36,210
Thank you.

665
00:32:36,210 --> 00:32:41,250
So your maternal
side of the family,

666

00:32:41,250 --> 00:32:45,000
did you visit them or did
they come to visit you?

667
00:32:45,000 --> 00:32:45,870
Both ways.

668
00:32:45,870 --> 00:32:47,880
Both ways.

669
00:32:47,880 --> 00:32:50,550
So they must have
lived fairly close by,

670
00:32:50,550 --> 00:32:52,120
that you would be visiting them.

671
00:32:52,120 --> 00:32:54,780
Well, sometimes it
took almost all day

672
00:32:54,780 --> 00:33:00,210
to get where they lived,
and same the other way.

673
00:33:00,210 --> 00:33:03,210
Do you remember the town or
the village they lived in?

674
00:33:03,210 --> 00:33:06,720
No, I can't remember
that anymore.

675
00:33:06,720 --> 00:33:11,610
Do you know if your village ever
had a name in another language,

676
00:33:11,610 --> 00:33:15,230
or was it always Fundu
Sarasika, you said?

677
00:33:15,230 --> 00:33:17,710
Fundu Sarasika.

678
00:33:17,710 --> 00:33:18,810
Fundu Sarasika

679
00:33:18,810 --> 00:33:20,100
Yeah.

680
00:33:20,100 --> 00:33:26,240
As far as my knowledge of
it, that was the only one.

681
00:33:26,240 --> 00:33:32,130
And if anybody wants to
look it up on the internet,

682
00:33:32,130 --> 00:33:35,580
that was the one that you
still have to use now.

683
00:33:35,580 --> 00:33:36,080
OK.

684
00:33:36,080 --> 00:33:40,670

685
00:33:40,670 --> 00:33:46,450
Did you have playmates
your age at that time?

686
00:33:46,450 --> 00:33:48,880
We had a neighbor.

687
00:33:48,880 --> 00:33:55,630
And their kids were
slightly older than me.

688
00:33:55,630 --> 00:34:01,780
And we had a game going.

689
00:34:01,780 --> 00:34:02,980
What would that be?

690

00:34:02,980 --> 00:34:08,020

We had an apple tree,
and so did they.

691

00:34:08,020 --> 00:34:13,310

And the whole fruit
was all red all inside.

692

00:34:13,310 --> 00:34:17,159

It's a very nice trees.

693

00:34:17,159 --> 00:34:19,600

They were quite large.

694

00:34:19,600 --> 00:34:25,330

So we had this game, and
we went over to their place

695

00:34:25,330 --> 00:34:28,810

to get some of those
apples that we could eat,

696

00:34:28,810 --> 00:34:33,070

and they'd come over to
our place and get them.

697

00:34:33,070 --> 00:34:35,810

Because the apple is
greener on the other side.

698

00:34:35,810 --> 00:34:41,659

Well, that's not exactly what
our neighbor said to my dad.

699

00:34:41,659 --> 00:34:45,810

700

00:34:45,810 --> 00:34:49,830

He said, I think stolen
apples must taste better.

701

00:34:49,830 --> 00:34:53,210

702
00:34:53,210 --> 00:34:58,110
Not that we needed it,
but we just did it.

703
00:34:58,110 --> 00:35:00,090
Did you get into
trouble for this?

704
00:35:00,090 --> 00:35:00,590
No.

705
00:35:00,590 --> 00:35:02,190
No.

706
00:35:02,190 --> 00:35:05,190
It was just a fun game.

707
00:35:05,190 --> 00:35:08,730
Well, and there must have been
enough apples to go around.

708
00:35:08,730 --> 00:35:10,170
Both of them, they
were very huge.

709
00:35:10,170 --> 00:35:12,840

710
00:35:12,840 --> 00:35:18,190
Were there ever strangers
who would come into town?

711
00:35:18,190 --> 00:35:19,790
Occasionally.

712
00:35:19,790 --> 00:35:22,000
Who would they be?

713
00:35:22,000 --> 00:35:24,170
They called them gypsies.

714
00:35:24,170 --> 00:35:28,730
Now what they were,
I have no idea.

715
00:35:28,730 --> 00:35:29,530
OK.

716
00:35:29,530 --> 00:35:32,965
But did you see any of
them, like Roma and gypsies?

717
00:35:32,965 --> 00:35:35,590

718
00:35:35,590 --> 00:35:38,000
Describe what they looked like.

719
00:35:38,000 --> 00:35:38,650
I don't know.

720
00:35:38,650 --> 00:35:43,060
Just like-- to me, at that time,
they looked like anybody else.

721
00:35:43,060 --> 00:35:45,140
Did they dress differently?

722
00:35:45,140 --> 00:35:45,640
Yeah.

723
00:35:45,640 --> 00:35:47,620
They kind of had--

724
00:35:47,620 --> 00:35:51,310
on their own way, they made
their own clothes and stuff

725
00:35:51,310 --> 00:35:52,930
like that.

726

00:35:52,930 --> 00:35:55,270
And whenever they come
over to your place,

727
00:35:55,270 --> 00:35:58,540
if you were not
there specifically,

728
00:35:58,540 --> 00:36:00,970
they would take some stuff.

729
00:36:00,970 --> 00:36:03,930
And then they would
also leave some stuff.

730
00:36:03,930 --> 00:36:04,870
Oh, really?

731
00:36:04,870 --> 00:36:09,750
It was more of a trade
than it was a theft.

732
00:36:09,750 --> 00:36:14,770
And nobody minded that at all.

733
00:36:14,770 --> 00:36:16,967
And would they hang
around for a while,

734
00:36:16,967 --> 00:36:18,550
or would be just
like passing through?

735
00:36:18,550 --> 00:36:19,810
Just passing through.

736
00:36:19,810 --> 00:36:24,220

737
00:36:24,220 --> 00:36:28,010
Did anybody in the
village have a radio?

738

00:36:28,010 --> 00:36:35,210

No, because basically
they had no batteries.

739

00:36:35,210 --> 00:36:41,130

They had no electricity or
any of those kind of things.

740

00:36:41,130 --> 00:36:43,550

And so they did
not have a radio.

741

00:36:43,550 --> 00:36:46,430

How did people find out
about what was going on

742

00:36:46,430 --> 00:36:47,960

in the outside world?

743

00:36:47,960 --> 00:36:50,120

Just talk.

744

00:36:50,120 --> 00:36:51,290

Word of mouth.

745

00:36:51,290 --> 00:36:53,480

Yes.

746

00:36:53,480 --> 00:36:55,910

And were there newspapers?

747

00:36:55,910 --> 00:36:59,240

Not to my knowledge, not there.

748

00:36:59,240 --> 00:37:01,340

Was there a library?

749

00:37:01,340 --> 00:37:02,230

No.

750

00:37:02,230 --> 00:37:03,680

OK.

751

00:37:03,680 --> 00:37:04,670

What buildings?

752

00:37:04,670 --> 00:37:09,230

We talked about a church
and a general store

753

00:37:09,230 --> 00:37:11,180

and a marketplace.

754

00:37:11,180 --> 00:37:13,490

Were there any other
kinds of buildings

755

00:37:13,490 --> 00:37:17,900

that were sort of like community
buildings in the village?

756

00:37:17,900 --> 00:37:22,880

Not that I can remember at all.

757

00:37:22,880 --> 00:37:25,610

Not there.

758

00:37:25,610 --> 00:37:33,510

So when you were that little,
and your parents were working,

759

00:37:33,510 --> 00:37:37,830

both of them quite hard, but
having help from hired help,

760

00:37:37,830 --> 00:37:41,410

was your hired help also German?

761

00:37:41,410 --> 00:37:43,000

Yes.

762

00:37:43,000 --> 00:37:45,460

So the same language

amongst everybody.

763
00:37:45,460 --> 00:37:46,130
Yes.

764
00:37:46,130 --> 00:37:46,630
All right.

765
00:37:46,630 --> 00:37:50,510

766
00:37:50,510 --> 00:37:52,880
I can't imagine that
as a three-year-old,

767
00:37:52,880 --> 00:37:55,070
you would have
heard conversations

768
00:37:55,070 --> 00:37:58,350
that had to deal with politics.

769
00:37:58,350 --> 00:38:02,820
There was no politics,
to my knowledge, anyway.

770
00:38:02,820 --> 00:38:08,570
And as far as my
parents, they never

771
00:38:08,570 --> 00:38:14,060
talked much but anything
other than the working that

772
00:38:14,060 --> 00:38:16,450
had to be done on the farm.

773
00:38:16,450 --> 00:38:18,930
Were they storytellers?

774
00:38:18,930 --> 00:38:19,430
No.

775
00:38:19,430 --> 00:38:19,930
No.

776
00:38:19,930 --> 00:38:22,250
So they didn't tell you
stories of their own childhood.

777
00:38:22,250 --> 00:38:23,940
No.

778
00:38:23,940 --> 00:38:28,320
That was a misfortune
on my part.

779
00:38:28,320 --> 00:38:32,280
Well, it sounds like
the life sounds good.

780
00:38:32,280 --> 00:38:35,130
It sounds like you
were well to do.

781
00:38:35,130 --> 00:38:39,330
For farmers, 600
hectares is a lot.

782
00:38:39,330 --> 00:38:43,020
But that there is also very
little time, that they're busy.

783
00:38:43,020 --> 00:38:45,640
They never had much time.

784
00:38:45,640 --> 00:38:47,610
That was from daylight to dark.

785
00:38:47,610 --> 00:38:53,810

786
00:38:53,810 --> 00:38:58,540
So did you get to know

any of the hired help?

787

00:38:58,540 --> 00:38:59,350

I knew all of them.

788

00:38:59,350 --> 00:39:02,020

789

00:39:02,020 --> 00:39:05,770

And did they come
also from the village,

790

00:39:05,770 --> 00:39:08,620

or were they from further away?

791

00:39:08,620 --> 00:39:12,030

I have no idea where
they all come from

792

00:39:12,030 --> 00:39:17,290

or any of those things
because to me, they were just

793

00:39:17,290 --> 00:39:19,820

people that helped my parents.

794

00:39:19,820 --> 00:39:20,420

OK.

795

00:39:20,420 --> 00:39:20,920

OK.

796

00:39:20,920 --> 00:39:24,820

797

00:39:24,820 --> 00:39:28,080

Tell me a little bit about--

798

00:39:28,080 --> 00:39:33,250

oh, I just had a question,
and it went that way.

799

00:39:33,250 --> 00:39:33,750

It happens.

800

00:39:33,750 --> 00:39:41,420

801

00:39:41,420 --> 00:39:43,850

Oh, yes, I know what

I wanted to ask about.

802

00:39:43,850 --> 00:39:47,150

You said your father

served in the Russian Army.

803

00:39:47,150 --> 00:39:49,910

Yes, he did.

804

00:39:49,910 --> 00:39:53,510

How did that happen and

when did that happen?

805

00:39:53,510 --> 00:40:02,237

If he's born in 1911, that

means he's military age by 1931,

806

00:40:02,237 --> 00:40:03,070

something like that.

807

00:40:03,070 --> 00:40:04,580

Maybe a little bit before.

808

00:40:04,580 --> 00:40:08,760

Somewhere about '31, '32, maybe.

809

00:40:08,760 --> 00:40:10,590

So this is before your birth.

810

00:40:10,590 --> 00:40:12,750

Yes.

811

00:40:12,750 --> 00:40:18,630

And did he ever
tell you how that

812
00:40:18,630 --> 00:40:20,780
happened that he
served in-- it would

813
00:40:20,780 --> 00:40:22,350
have been the Soviet Army.

814
00:40:22,350 --> 00:40:25,440
Yes, it was.

815
00:40:25,440 --> 00:40:26,820
Did he ever tell you about that?

816
00:40:26,820 --> 00:40:29,520

817
00:40:29,520 --> 00:40:36,010
Not very much ever, because my
parents never talked about much

818
00:40:36,010 --> 00:40:42,820
of anything that would
even matter in my life

819
00:40:42,820 --> 00:40:44,170
or any of those things.

820
00:40:44,170 --> 00:40:47,200

821
00:40:47,200 --> 00:40:49,240
They just mentioned
that he served in it.

822
00:40:49,240 --> 00:40:51,380
Yes.

823
00:40:51,380 --> 00:40:54,000
Do you think he was drafted?

824
00:40:54,000 --> 00:41:02,520
Yes, I know he was, because
he wouldn't have never went

825
00:41:02,520 --> 00:41:06,680
because he was not what you
would call a military man.

826
00:41:06,680 --> 00:41:08,640
He never was.

827
00:41:08,640 --> 00:41:11,750
Tell me about that.

828
00:41:11,750 --> 00:41:17,120
Well, I don't know much
about the Russian situation,

829
00:41:17,120 --> 00:41:22,510
except that he talked to
our neighbor occasionally,

830
00:41:22,510 --> 00:41:27,570
and I heard some of that about
some of the horrible things

831
00:41:27,570 --> 00:41:32,640
that he had to do as
a Russian soldier.

832
00:41:32,640 --> 00:41:41,040
And then Romania
took over Bessarabia,

833
00:41:41,040 --> 00:41:46,230
and I don't know the political
stuff what was going on.

834
00:41:46,230 --> 00:41:50,670
And we basically
didn't much care.

835

00:41:50,670 --> 00:41:57,490

And then he went into
the Romanian Army.

836

00:41:57,490 --> 00:42:04,440

And to this day I have a picture
of my dad in the Romanian

837

00:42:04,440 --> 00:42:04,940

uniform.

838

00:42:04,940 --> 00:42:07,930

839

00:42:07,930 --> 00:42:14,870

And my grandfather in 1935--

840

00:42:14,870 --> 00:42:18,110

that was before I was born--

841

00:42:18,110 --> 00:42:24,290

got a visa to go into
the Romanian army to go

842

00:42:24,290 --> 00:42:25,040

see my father.

843

00:42:25,040 --> 00:42:27,640

844

00:42:27,640 --> 00:42:31,830

And my mother thought--

845

00:42:31,830 --> 00:42:36,290

his name was Christian,
the same as myself--

846

00:42:36,290 --> 00:42:40,940

and she thought
that visa was mine.

847

00:42:40,940 --> 00:42:42,140
Was yours?

848
00:42:42,140 --> 00:42:45,510
That's what she
was thinking about.

849
00:42:45,510 --> 00:42:50,420
But it actually was a
visa for my grandfather

850
00:42:50,420 --> 00:42:54,980
to go see my father
in the Romanian army.

851
00:42:54,980 --> 00:42:58,070
So your father was
stationed someplace else.

852
00:42:58,070 --> 00:43:00,040
Yes.

853
00:43:00,040 --> 00:43:03,250
And all of this is happening
before you were born.

854
00:43:03,250 --> 00:43:05,050
Yes.

855
00:43:05,050 --> 00:43:07,250
That's the only
thing that I got is

856
00:43:07,250 --> 00:43:14,395
I got my father's picture
of the Romanian army.

857
00:43:14,395 --> 00:43:17,030

858
00:43:17,030 --> 00:43:18,980
Do you have that visa still?

859

00:43:18,980 --> 00:43:20,480

Yes, I have.

860

00:43:20,480 --> 00:43:23,330

Oh, maybe we could look
at it later because that's

861

00:43:23,330 --> 00:43:27,410

very interesting as a document.

862

00:43:27,410 --> 00:43:31,190

So do you think he was also
drafted into the Romanian army?

863

00:43:31,190 --> 00:43:32,700

Yes, he was.

864

00:43:32,700 --> 00:43:35,550

That I'm sure
because like I said,

865

00:43:35,550 --> 00:43:37,350

he was not a military man.

866

00:43:37,350 --> 00:43:42,090

867

00:43:42,090 --> 00:43:46,260

Parents have things that are
important to them, values

868

00:43:46,260 --> 00:43:48,000

that they think are
important to them

869

00:43:48,000 --> 00:43:52,290

that they want their
children to understand.

870

00:43:52,290 --> 00:43:53,850

What are some of
those values that

871
00:43:53,850 --> 00:43:56,560
were important to your father?

872
00:43:56,560 --> 00:44:01,330
My father had very little
of that kind of stuff.

873
00:44:01,330 --> 00:44:06,490
But my mother always tried
to carry as many pictures

874
00:44:06,490 --> 00:44:16,890
as she could possibly do during
all of the later on situations.

875
00:44:16,890 --> 00:44:22,180
How she kept all of those
pictures and whatnot,

876
00:44:22,180 --> 00:44:24,680
I have no knowledge.

877
00:44:24,680 --> 00:44:26,830
She just kept them.

878
00:44:26,830 --> 00:44:30,400
So it was important
for her to kind of

879
00:44:30,400 --> 00:44:35,080
have some sense of what
your identity is, who are

880
00:44:35,080 --> 00:44:37,000
the people you're connected to.

881
00:44:37,000 --> 00:44:38,770
Here are their photographs.

882
00:44:38,770 --> 00:44:41,350
Here is a document, or

something like that.

883
00:44:41,350 --> 00:44:43,120
Yes.

884
00:44:43,120 --> 00:44:48,610
But you say your father was
not a military man in a very

885
00:44:48,610 --> 00:44:51,940
definitive way.

886
00:44:51,940 --> 00:44:57,490
So something tells me that
that was transmitted to you.

887
00:44:57,490 --> 00:45:00,550

888
00:45:00,550 --> 00:45:02,380
And I'm trying to
get a sense of what

889
00:45:02,380 --> 00:45:06,940
were the values in your father
that that made him like that?

890
00:45:06,940 --> 00:45:15,110
The farm because he had
a big farm back then.

891
00:45:15,110 --> 00:45:21,810
And then later on, then, when
we had to move away from there,

892
00:45:21,810 --> 00:45:23,480
the only thing
that we could keep

893
00:45:23,480 --> 00:45:26,660
was stuff that we could carry.

894

00:45:26,660 --> 00:45:32,450
There was no horses, no nothing,
just whatever you could carry.

895
00:45:32,450 --> 00:45:33,710
That's the only thing.

896
00:45:33,710 --> 00:45:34,340
OK.

897
00:45:34,340 --> 00:45:39,440
So the things he
valued was his farm.

898
00:45:39,440 --> 00:45:40,460
That was his world.

899
00:45:40,460 --> 00:45:43,610

900
00:45:43,610 --> 00:45:44,435
Was his life.

901
00:45:44,435 --> 00:45:49,830

902
00:45:49,830 --> 00:45:53,440
Then later on, the same.

903
00:45:53,440 --> 00:45:58,660
He was also, then, later
on in the German army,

904
00:45:58,660 --> 00:46:02,330
and he didn't like that, either.

905
00:46:02,330 --> 00:46:05,170
Well, we'll come to that.

906
00:46:05,170 --> 00:46:08,770
But I'm still focused now
about your first years

907
00:46:08,770 --> 00:46:11,575
before any war,
before any changes.

908
00:46:11,575 --> 00:46:14,730

909
00:46:14,730 --> 00:46:19,090
Did you ever see any soldiers
coming through town of anybody?

910
00:46:19,090 --> 00:46:19,590
Yes.

911
00:46:19,590 --> 00:46:22,380
Well, not so much in town,
just passed our farm.

912
00:46:22,380 --> 00:46:26,580

913
00:46:26,580 --> 00:46:30,900
And in one way, I was
kind of fascinated

914
00:46:30,900 --> 00:46:33,950
at a young child
about the uniform

915
00:46:33,950 --> 00:46:37,100
and those kind of things.

916
00:46:37,100 --> 00:46:46,760
But it was not something I would
have been interested in at all.

917
00:46:46,760 --> 00:46:52,700
Well, most little boys
find uniforms interesting.

918
00:46:52,700 --> 00:46:56,420

So do you know what army
those soldiers were part of?

919
00:46:56,420 --> 00:46:57,020
Yes.

920
00:46:57,020 --> 00:46:59,320
What army was that?

921
00:46:59,320 --> 00:47:03,250
Well, the difference
and the colors

922
00:47:03,250 --> 00:47:07,720
and whatever in the uniforms,
and the different dress

923
00:47:07,720 --> 00:47:09,350
and thast type of thing.

924
00:47:09,350 --> 00:47:22,540
And just knowing where my
father was and what it would be.

925
00:47:22,540 --> 00:47:32,610
And I also have a picture of my
father with a Romanian uniform.

926
00:47:32,610 --> 00:47:33,550
Yes.

927
00:47:33,550 --> 00:47:36,920
Do you have any photos of
him in any other uniform?

928
00:47:36,920 --> 00:47:37,420
No.

929
00:47:37,420 --> 00:47:40,510

930
00:47:40,510 --> 00:47:43,330

Not even the German
ones, because we were not

931
00:47:43,330 --> 00:47:50,260
allowed to have cameras or
any of those things later on.

932
00:47:50,260 --> 00:47:53,574
When you were still
little living in Fundu--

933
00:47:53,574 --> 00:47:54,350
Sarasika.

934
00:47:54,350 --> 00:47:55,240
Sarasika.

935
00:47:55,240 --> 00:47:57,145
I keep forgetting
the second part.

936
00:47:57,145 --> 00:48:00,610

937
00:48:00,610 --> 00:48:02,898
I forget it, too, occasionally.

938
00:48:02,898 --> 00:48:05,770

939
00:48:05,770 --> 00:48:08,950
You say that in peacetime,
there were soldiers

940
00:48:08,950 --> 00:48:11,180
who would sometimes come by.

941
00:48:11,180 --> 00:48:11,680
Yes.

942
00:48:11,680 --> 00:48:14,050
Were they Romanian

army soldiers?

943

00:48:14,050 --> 00:48:15,840

Either one.

944

00:48:15,840 --> 00:48:21,610

There for a while, it was
the Russian, and then later

945

00:48:21,610 --> 00:48:23,580

on the Romanian.

946

00:48:23,580 --> 00:48:24,550

OK.

947

00:48:24,550 --> 00:48:26,700

So you saw Soviet soldiers.

948

00:48:26,700 --> 00:48:28,650

Yes.

949

00:48:28,650 --> 00:48:30,270

Interesting.

950

00:48:30,270 --> 00:48:33,510

Very interesting.

951

00:48:33,510 --> 00:48:37,680

Did anything happen when there
were Soviet soldiers around?

952

00:48:37,680 --> 00:48:38,930

No.

953

00:48:38,930 --> 00:48:41,930

Anything happen when there
were Romanian soldiers around?

954

00:48:41,930 --> 00:48:43,710

Not at that time, no.

955

00:48:43,710 --> 00:48:44,210
OK.

956
00:48:44,210 --> 00:48:47,760
So life was pretty much
like it always had been.

957
00:48:47,760 --> 00:48:48,260
Yes.

958
00:48:48,260 --> 00:48:51,720

959
00:48:51,720 --> 00:48:54,780
Did anybody in the
village seem nervous,

960
00:48:54,780 --> 00:48:57,870
or life just kept on going?

961
00:48:57,870 --> 00:49:00,510
Everybody just done
their own thing.

962
00:49:00,510 --> 00:49:04,410
And that's the way
life was at that time.

963
00:49:04,410 --> 00:49:06,950
They worked from
daylight to dark,

964
00:49:06,950 --> 00:49:09,885
and they didn't care
much about anything else.

965
00:49:09,885 --> 00:49:13,360

966
00:49:13,360 --> 00:49:17,020
So tell me, when did
things start to change?

967

00:49:17,020 --> 00:49:21,580

What happened when things really started to change in your life?

968

00:49:21,580 --> 00:49:26,650

In my life, things started to change in 1941.

969

00:49:26,650 --> 00:49:28,720

When you're five years old.

970

00:49:28,720 --> 00:49:30,600

Yes.

971

00:49:30,600 --> 00:49:33,690

We had to move away from that place.

972

00:49:33,690 --> 00:49:34,770

How?

973

00:49:34,770 --> 00:49:35,910

Why?

974

00:49:35,910 --> 00:49:44,420

Because Russia wanted that property, and I guess the war

975

00:49:44,420 --> 00:49:48,180

was starting to start for the Second World War

976

00:49:48,180 --> 00:49:51,970

already in the upper '30s.

977

00:49:51,970 --> 00:49:55,700

And of course, we didn't know much about that.

978

00:49:55,700 --> 00:49:59,790

But we had to move because--

979

00:49:59,790 --> 00:50:02,570

Who told you to move?

980

00:50:02,570 --> 00:50:04,635

The German SS.

981

00:50:04,635 --> 00:50:07,270

982

00:50:07,270 --> 00:50:09,140

So the German SS.

983

00:50:09,140 --> 00:50:11,460

That was the Third Army.

984

00:50:11,460 --> 00:50:13,750

That was the Third
Army, but my father

985

00:50:13,750 --> 00:50:15,910

was not there yet at that time.

986

00:50:15,910 --> 00:50:20,440

987

00:50:20,440 --> 00:50:23,980

So the German SS,
or the Germans,

988

00:50:23,980 --> 00:50:27,640

the German army comes into
your part of the world.

989

00:50:27,640 --> 00:50:29,860

Yes.

990

00:50:29,860 --> 00:50:34,804

And they told us that we
can't take nothing out

991

00:50:34,804 --> 00:50:39,120

of that village whatsoever.

992

00:50:39,120 --> 00:50:44,770

And to this day, I could
probably claim that property,

993

00:50:44,770 --> 00:50:50,350

but I would have to live
there where we were.

994

00:50:50,350 --> 00:50:54,390

And still to this day,
there is no electricity.

995

00:50:54,390 --> 00:50:58,750

There is no
facilities whatsoever.

996

00:50:58,750 --> 00:51:00,160

Have you ever been back?

997

00:51:00,160 --> 00:51:02,010

No.

998

00:51:02,010 --> 00:51:09,800

My cousin, she's from
Canada right now.

999

00:51:09,800 --> 00:51:14,300

Her and a couple of her--

1000

00:51:14,300 --> 00:51:22,730

my mother's sisters, they went
over there through the church.

1001

00:51:22,730 --> 00:51:28,420

And they found our
place that used to be.

1002

00:51:28,420 --> 00:51:32,930

And they said the only thing
that remains there is the well.

1003
00:51:32,930 --> 00:51:34,610
Really.

1004
00:51:34,610 --> 00:51:36,110
So the house is gone.

1005
00:51:36,110 --> 00:51:37,430
Everything is gone.

1006
00:51:37,430 --> 00:51:40,580
Summer kitchen is
gone, the barn is gone.

1007
00:51:40,580 --> 00:51:41,340
Everything.

1008
00:51:41,340 --> 00:51:43,310
Everything.

1009
00:51:43,310 --> 00:51:45,680
There's nothing
there but the well.

1010
00:51:45,680 --> 00:51:48,600
Does anybody live
there in the village?

1011
00:51:48,600 --> 00:51:51,540
Not after we all
had to move, no.

1012
00:51:51,540 --> 00:51:53,490
So it became abandoned.

1013
00:51:53,490 --> 00:51:54,780
Yes.

1014
00:51:54,780 --> 00:51:57,410
A completely abandoned place.

1015
00:51:57,410 --> 00:51:58,080

That's right.

1016
00:51:58,080 --> 00:52:00,000
And nobody ever moved into it.

1017
00:52:00,000 --> 00:52:01,830
Can't.

1018
00:52:01,830 --> 00:52:04,000
Why not?

1019
00:52:04,000 --> 00:52:07,080
If you want to live around with
wolves and stuff like that,

1020
00:52:07,080 --> 00:52:09,810
it would be great.

1021
00:52:09,810 --> 00:52:12,720
But was there any government
that prevented people

1022
00:52:12,720 --> 00:52:15,000
from living there?

1023
00:52:15,000 --> 00:52:18,840
Yes, the Russian.

1024
00:52:18,840 --> 00:52:23,700
Right now it's all Russian,
or they call it Moldova now.

1025
00:52:23,700 --> 00:52:25,240
Ah, Moldova.

1026
00:52:25,240 --> 00:52:25,740
OK.

1027
00:52:25,740 --> 00:52:30,990
So Bessarabia is
synonymous with Moldova.

1028

00:52:30,990 --> 00:52:32,640

Yes, it is now.

1029

00:52:32,640 --> 00:52:33,450

Yes.

1030

00:52:33,450 --> 00:52:37,290

And there is a part of Moldova
called Transnistria which

1031

00:52:37,290 --> 00:52:41,360

is very contested territory
between the Russians

1032

00:52:41,360 --> 00:52:42,780

and the Moldovans.

1033

00:52:42,780 --> 00:52:43,510

Yes.

1034

00:52:43,510 --> 00:52:44,970

OK.

1035

00:52:44,970 --> 00:52:47,850

But then that part
of the world would be

1036

00:52:47,850 --> 00:52:50,130

under the Moldovan government.

1037

00:52:50,130 --> 00:52:51,630

I would believe so, yes.

1038

00:52:51,630 --> 00:52:54,450

OK.

1039

00:52:54,450 --> 00:52:59,580

Well, do you remember when
the SS came to your house

1040

00:52:59,580 --> 00:53:01,140

and told you to leave?

1041
00:53:01,140 --> 00:53:02,700
They told everybody.

1042
00:53:02,700 --> 00:53:06,900
They had a community
meeting, and they

1043
00:53:06,900 --> 00:53:14,610
said either you move now,
or you wind up in Siberia.

1044
00:53:14,610 --> 00:53:18,180
So in other words,
they were saying

1045
00:53:18,180 --> 00:53:20,910
what would happen to you,
not what they would do,

1046
00:53:20,910 --> 00:53:23,340
but what would happen to
you if you didn't know.

1047
00:53:23,340 --> 00:53:26,790
If you didn't move, yes.

1048
00:53:26,790 --> 00:53:27,480
OK.

1049
00:53:27,480 --> 00:53:31,080
Well, this sounds like
it was around the time

1050
00:53:31,080 --> 00:53:35,790
when Germany and the Soviet
Union no longer were allies.

1051
00:53:35,790 --> 00:53:38,580
Basically, they still
were at that time.

1052

00:53:38,580 --> 00:53:39,480

They still were.

1053

00:53:39,480 --> 00:53:44,860

So do you remember from later
the date that you moved?

1054

00:53:44,860 --> 00:53:47,010

Do you remember the
year and the month?

1055

00:53:47,010 --> 00:53:53,850

I don't know the month,
but the year was in 1941.

1056

00:53:53,850 --> 00:53:55,345

Was it springtime?

1057

00:53:55,345 --> 00:53:59,340

1058

00:53:59,340 --> 00:54:00,810

I'm not quite sure.

1059

00:54:00,810 --> 00:54:07,080

But we had to go and walk
wherever we needed to go to.

1060

00:54:07,080 --> 00:54:09,670

And then they put us in a truck.

1061

00:54:09,670 --> 00:54:12,975

And then we wound up in Poland.

1062

00:54:12,975 --> 00:54:17,550

1063

00:54:17,550 --> 00:54:21,120

If you could only take
what you could carry,

1064

00:54:21,120 --> 00:54:23,460
what did you carry?

1065
00:54:23,460 --> 00:54:25,290
What did you take with you?

1066
00:54:25,290 --> 00:54:28,950
Mostly clothes, I believe.

1067
00:54:28,950 --> 00:54:31,440
And your mother and father?

1068
00:54:31,440 --> 00:54:35,970
Well, there were two siblings
that were pretty young.

1069
00:54:35,970 --> 00:54:37,410
So somebody carried them.

1070
00:54:37,410 --> 00:54:40,950
Somebody carried them.

1071
00:54:40,950 --> 00:54:44,040
Did you or grandparents
go with you?

1072
00:54:44,040 --> 00:54:46,620
They had to go on their own.

1073
00:54:46,620 --> 00:54:48,480
That's your mother's
father and mother.

1074
00:54:48,480 --> 00:54:49,290
Yes.

1075
00:54:49,290 --> 00:54:52,800
What about grandma from
your father's side?

1076
00:54:52,800 --> 00:54:59,280
She went along with one

of my father's brothers.

1077

00:54:59,280 --> 00:55:01,120

Who was also from that village?

1078

00:55:01,120 --> 00:55:03,540

Yes.

1079

00:55:03,540 --> 00:55:08,580

So we all wound up,
eventually, in Poland, which

1080

00:55:08,580 --> 00:55:13,590

was we were quarantined there.

1081

00:55:13,590 --> 00:55:15,120

We couldn't go anywhere.

1082

00:55:15,120 --> 00:55:20,820

We couldn't go to town or
any of those kind of things.

1083

00:55:20,820 --> 00:55:21,780

Excuse me.

1084

00:55:21,780 --> 00:55:24,840

I'm going to go
back a little bit.

1085

00:55:24,840 --> 00:55:27,820

You said you went by truck?

1086

00:55:27,820 --> 00:55:31,950

They had trucks at that time.

1087

00:55:31,950 --> 00:55:36,970

And so they let us
get into the trucks.

1088

00:55:36,970 --> 00:55:47,820

I mean, they were very
nonfunctional stuff.

1089
00:55:47,820 --> 00:55:51,450
But anyway, they finally got
us where we needed to go.

1090
00:55:51,450 --> 00:55:53,310
You never got on a train.

1091
00:55:53,310 --> 00:55:56,840
Not at that point, no.

1092
00:55:56,840 --> 00:55:59,010
As far as I know, I
didn't even know there

1093
00:55:59,010 --> 00:56:03,040
was such a thing as a train.

1094
00:56:03,040 --> 00:56:06,730
And then we wound up in Poland.

1095
00:56:06,730 --> 00:56:10,480
So do you know what part
of Poland you wound up in?

1096
00:56:10,480 --> 00:56:13,900
It was pretty much on the
northern end of Poland.

1097
00:56:13,900 --> 00:56:15,700
In that quarantine camp.

1098
00:56:15,700 --> 00:56:16,930
Yes.

1099
00:56:16,930 --> 00:56:18,970
So that's quite a journey.

1100
00:56:18,970 --> 00:56:20,380
It was.

1101

00:56:20,380 --> 00:56:23,600
Do you know how long it took?

1102
00:56:23,600 --> 00:56:26,720
I can't remember
that anymore, either.

1103
00:56:26,720 --> 00:56:29,480
Was the truck covered?

1104
00:56:29,480 --> 00:56:30,160
No.

1105
00:56:30,160 --> 00:56:31,440
So it was an open truck.

1106
00:56:31,440 --> 00:56:33,060
Open truck.

1107
00:56:33,060 --> 00:56:36,770
And how many people did it fit?

1108
00:56:36,770 --> 00:56:38,490
I can't remember that, either.

1109
00:56:38,490 --> 00:56:42,320
But anyway, it was
pretty well loaded down.

1110
00:56:42,320 --> 00:56:45,060
And they had a lot of them.

1111
00:56:45,060 --> 00:56:50,860
And then my father
decided we were

1112
00:56:50,860 --> 00:56:55,720
supposed to get a farm
in Poland according

1113
00:56:55,720 --> 00:56:59,840
to the SS or whatever.

1114
00:56:59,840 --> 00:57:03,530
They said you can be reimbursed.

1115
00:57:03,530 --> 00:57:05,690
For the farm that you gave up.

1116
00:57:05,690 --> 00:57:07,340
That we had.

1117
00:57:07,340 --> 00:57:14,160
And unfortunately, I guess,
according to all politics,

1118
00:57:14,160 --> 00:57:16,390
that never happened.

1119
00:57:16,390 --> 00:57:21,220
So my father went and bought
another farm in Poland.

1120
00:57:21,220 --> 00:57:23,500
So he had some money.

1121
00:57:23,500 --> 00:57:25,980
Well, he had some money, yes.

1122
00:57:25,980 --> 00:57:29,020

1123
00:57:29,020 --> 00:57:34,750
And I have no idea what the cost
for any of those things were.

1124
00:57:34,750 --> 00:57:37,360

1125
00:57:37,360 --> 00:57:41,870
So he bought a farm.

1126
00:57:41,870 --> 00:57:47,590

And then we started
farming again.

1127
00:57:47,590 --> 00:57:52,480
But let's stop at
the quarantine bit

1128
00:57:52,480 --> 00:57:54,220
because you say you
were in this place

1129
00:57:54,220 --> 00:57:55,940
where you were quarantined.

1130
00:57:55,940 --> 00:57:56,440
Yes.

1131
00:57:56,440 --> 00:58:04,300
And was it a place that was
like surrounded by either a wall

1132
00:58:04,300 --> 00:58:08,010
or a wire or a fence?

1133
00:58:08,010 --> 00:58:10,750
A just big building.

1134
00:58:10,750 --> 00:58:14,800
And there are records
around it, and you could not

1135
00:58:14,800 --> 00:58:16,345
leave the grounds.

1136
00:58:16,345 --> 00:58:20,270

1137
00:58:20,270 --> 00:58:22,920
Do you know why you were there?

1138
00:58:22,920 --> 00:58:29,640
Because they didn't have any

place for the people to go.

1139
00:58:29,640 --> 00:58:34,120
And so they kept them
there until they found out

1140
00:58:34,120 --> 00:58:38,150
what they really wanted
to do with all the people.

1141
00:58:38,150 --> 00:58:38,650
OK.

1142
00:58:38,650 --> 00:58:41,560
So I'm trying to get
a sense of whether

1143
00:58:41,560 --> 00:58:44,590
or not, when you
talk about the SS

1144
00:58:44,590 --> 00:58:46,900
and they tell you that
you've got to leave,

1145
00:58:46,900 --> 00:58:49,870
it sounds like you don't have
much choice in the matter.

1146
00:58:49,870 --> 00:58:51,130
Well, we did.

1147
00:58:51,130 --> 00:58:52,150
You could've stayed.

1148
00:58:52,150 --> 00:58:55,260
We could have stayed
and wound up in Siberia.

1149
00:58:55,260 --> 00:58:57,760
Did you know of
anybody who did stay?

1150
00:58:57,760 --> 00:58:58,840
Yes.

1151
00:58:58,840 --> 00:59:00,820
And what happened to them?

1152
00:59:00,820 --> 00:59:03,370
Eventually they
had to leave there

1153
00:59:03,370 --> 00:59:07,510
because there was no food
or anything like that.

1154
00:59:07,510 --> 00:59:18,660
And they were kind of shirttail
relation because the brother

1155
00:59:18,660 --> 00:59:26,940
that my father's sister married,
it was the brother to him

1156
00:59:26,940 --> 00:59:28,890
that stayed.

1157
00:59:28,890 --> 00:59:33,390
And then eventually they
had to leave Siberia.

1158
00:59:33,390 --> 00:59:38,080
And they didn't let them leave.

1159
00:59:38,080 --> 00:59:43,210
They just went on the black
market and got out that way.

1160
00:59:43,210 --> 00:59:46,550
So the threat was real.

1161
00:59:46,550 --> 00:59:48,070
It was very real, yes.

1162

00:59:48,070 --> 00:59:51,980

So if you stay, then
you will be deported.

1163

00:59:51,980 --> 00:59:55,210

So this was, in some
senses, an evacuation.

1164

00:59:55,210 --> 00:59:57,790

Basically, yes.

1165

00:59:57,790 --> 01:00:00,280

But to a small child,
when you're not

1166

01:00:00,280 --> 01:00:01,840

given a whole lot
of choice, it's

1167

01:00:01,840 --> 01:00:04,570

just this is what
you have to do.

1168

01:00:04,570 --> 01:00:07,150

It probably didn't feel
like an evacuation.

1169

01:00:07,150 --> 01:00:10,240

Well, it didn't
because it was just,

1170

01:00:10,240 --> 01:00:14,440

OK, we're going to
go to another place.

1171

01:00:14,440 --> 01:00:17,350

Did your parents talk about
any of this on the way,

1172

01:00:17,350 --> 01:00:18,640

or were they silent?

1173

01:00:18,640 --> 01:00:21,360
Or what was their demeanor?

1174
01:00:21,360 --> 01:00:25,440
They talked very
little about any of it.

1175
01:00:25,440 --> 01:00:27,660
They just figured that's
what they had to do,

1176
01:00:27,660 --> 01:00:28,740
and that's what they did.

1177
01:00:28,740 --> 01:00:31,980

1178
01:00:31,980 --> 01:00:36,990
And so you're in this quarantine
place in Poland, which

1179
01:00:36,990 --> 01:00:39,660
sounds like a holding place.

1180
01:00:39,660 --> 01:00:41,300
A holding tank, you might say.

1181
01:00:41,300 --> 01:00:46,770
Yeah-- like a holding
company, but different--

1182
01:00:46,770 --> 01:00:51,300
until it's figured out what
happens with all the people.

1183
01:00:51,300 --> 01:00:52,640
Yes.

1184
01:00:52,640 --> 01:00:56,520
About how long were you there?

1185
01:00:56,520 --> 01:00:58,650

To my knowledge,
we were probably

1186
01:00:58,650 --> 01:01:01,800
there about three
or four months.

1187
01:01:01,800 --> 01:01:03,090
That's quite a while.

1188
01:01:03,090 --> 01:01:04,800
It was quite a while.

1189
01:01:04,800 --> 01:01:09,810
And was your family all together
in that quarantined area?

1190
01:01:09,810 --> 01:01:11,210
Yes.

1191
01:01:11,210 --> 01:01:12,450
So you were together?

1192
01:01:12,450 --> 01:01:14,040
Somewhat, yes.

1193
01:01:14,040 --> 01:01:16,590
So it wasn't like the men
were split from the women

1194
01:01:16,590 --> 01:01:19,440
or kept apart.

1195
01:01:19,440 --> 01:01:20,880
It was that, too.

1196
01:01:20,880 --> 01:01:21,750
It was both.

1197
01:01:21,750 --> 01:01:23,055
It was both.

1198

01:01:23,055 --> 01:01:26,580

The men were in one
building and the women

1199

01:01:26,580 --> 01:01:28,860

were in another building.

1200

01:01:28,860 --> 01:01:30,720

And where were you?

1201

01:01:30,720 --> 01:01:32,140

I was with the men.

1202

01:01:32,140 --> 01:01:32,880

OK.

1203

01:01:32,880 --> 01:01:35,110

You were old enough
that you were included.

1204

01:01:35,110 --> 01:01:37,000

And so was my brother.

1205

01:01:37,000 --> 01:01:38,700

Oh, and he was really little.

1206

01:01:38,700 --> 01:01:41,260

Yes, he was.

1207

01:01:41,260 --> 01:01:49,260

And at that time, I had a little
sister that was born there.

1208

01:01:49,260 --> 01:01:51,900

She was born in the
quarantine facility?

1209

01:01:51,900 --> 01:01:53,460

Yes.

1210

01:01:53,460 --> 01:01:55,760

Oh, your poor mama.

1211
01:01:55,760 --> 01:01:58,020
I called her a Polack.

1212
01:01:58,020 --> 01:01:59,210
You called her what?

1213
01:01:59,210 --> 01:02:04,110
A Polack, which is not a
very nice thing to say.

1214
01:02:04,110 --> 01:02:06,360
No.

1215
01:02:06,360 --> 01:02:07,680
No, it isn't.

1216
01:02:07,680 --> 01:02:10,470
But if you want to tease your
sister, you'll find a way.

1217
01:02:10,470 --> 01:02:12,840
Always find a way.

1218
01:02:12,840 --> 01:02:14,590
What was her real name?

1219
01:02:14,590 --> 01:02:15,500
Lily.

1220
01:02:15,500 --> 01:02:16,000
Lily.

1221
01:02:16,000 --> 01:02:18,540

1222
01:02:18,540 --> 01:02:20,460
Well, yeah, but I'm
thinking of your mother.

1223

01:02:20,460 --> 01:02:27,720
And it must not have been
easy to be uprooted and carry

1224
01:02:27,720 --> 01:02:30,810
a baby inside, and then
maybe another on your arms.

1225
01:02:30,810 --> 01:02:36,940

1226
01:02:36,940 --> 01:02:40,370
And did your father
work while he was there?

1227
01:02:40,370 --> 01:02:41,850
Did you do anything?

1228
01:02:41,850 --> 01:02:42,350
or?

1229
01:02:42,350 --> 01:02:43,880
Was it like
everybody hung around

1230
01:02:43,880 --> 01:02:45,650
during the day just
waiting to hear

1231
01:02:45,650 --> 01:02:47,840
what would happen with them?

1232
01:02:47,840 --> 01:02:51,980
That part of it
I can't remember.

1233
01:02:51,980 --> 01:02:57,180
But I know he was gone
just about every day.

1234
01:02:57,180 --> 01:03:02,890
But then at night, he'd come
over there and be with us.

1235
01:03:02,890 --> 01:03:05,110
Did they give you rations?

1236
01:03:05,110 --> 01:03:07,582
Yes, they did.

1237
01:03:07,582 --> 01:03:09,040
Anddo you know what
they were like?

1238
01:03:09,040 --> 01:03:12,330
I mean, do you remember them?

1239
01:03:12,330 --> 01:03:16,010
As far as I can remember,
it was mostly soup.

1240
01:03:16,010 --> 01:03:25,950
And I'm not quite sure if I'd
feed it to some animals now.

1241
01:03:25,950 --> 01:03:27,930
Not very good soup.

1242
01:03:27,930 --> 01:03:29,010
No.

1243
01:03:29,010 --> 01:03:31,650
So was this the first
time that you tasted food

1244
01:03:31,650 --> 01:03:34,790
that didn't taste very good?

1245
01:03:34,790 --> 01:03:35,290
Yes.

1246
01:03:35,290 --> 01:03:37,880

1247

01:03:37,880 --> 01:03:42,760
But I learned how to maneuver
to keep my stomach full,

1248
01:03:42,760 --> 01:03:43,870
if I could.

1249
01:03:43,870 --> 01:03:46,720
How did you maneuver?

1250
01:03:46,720 --> 01:03:49,110
How did you do that?

1251
01:03:49,110 --> 01:03:54,360
Well, I was kind of
crafty sort of a guy.

1252
01:03:54,360 --> 01:03:59,400
And whenever I could find a
cook somewhere or anything

1253
01:03:59,400 --> 01:04:06,810
like that, I went over
there and I wanted to help,

1254
01:04:06,810 --> 01:04:09,750
which sometimes they did
just for the fun of it.

1255
01:04:09,750 --> 01:04:14,450

1256
01:04:14,450 --> 01:04:17,010
But that's pretty resourceful.

1257
01:04:17,010 --> 01:04:19,340
It kind of kept
your stomach filled.

1258
01:04:19,340 --> 01:04:20,540
Yeah.

1259

01:04:20,540 --> 01:04:22,850
When you think of
it, a five-year-old,

1260
01:04:22,850 --> 01:04:29,600
to have his wits about him to be
able to go and figure out a way

1261
01:04:29,600 --> 01:04:32,870
when you know that your
parents are helpless to help.

1262
01:04:32,870 --> 01:04:35,330
That's right.

1263
01:04:35,330 --> 01:04:38,080
That speaks for that little kid.

1264
01:04:38,080 --> 01:04:39,040
I'm still that way.

1265
01:04:39,040 --> 01:04:46,190

1266
01:04:46,190 --> 01:04:48,890
So are there any other
memories that you

1267
01:04:48,890 --> 01:04:56,830
remember from that sort
of quarantined area?

1268
01:04:56,830 --> 01:05:02,140
No, all I remember is there
were great big huge buildings.

1269
01:05:02,140 --> 01:05:07,130
And as far as I could
remember anything at all,

1270
01:05:07,130 --> 01:05:11,300
it had more than two
or three stories high.

1271
01:05:11,300 --> 01:05:16,790
And the only thing
that I knew is

1272
01:05:16,790 --> 01:05:22,160
this building was for the
men, and I could go there.

1273
01:05:22,160 --> 01:05:26,450
This was for the
ladies, stay out.

1274
01:05:26,450 --> 01:05:28,100
Was there electricity there?

1275
01:05:28,100 --> 01:05:30,470
No.

1276
01:05:30,470 --> 01:05:33,350
How was it heated?

1277
01:05:33,350 --> 01:05:38,240
With some coal stoves and
wood, stuff like that.

1278
01:05:38,240 --> 01:05:42,650

1279
01:05:42,650 --> 01:05:44,840
Did it have a name?

1280
01:05:44,840 --> 01:05:49,380
I never did know, and
I don't really care.

1281
01:05:49,380 --> 01:05:52,430
I just wanted to
get out of there.

1282
01:05:52,430 --> 01:05:56,870
And I was very happy when my

father bought another farm

1283

01:05:56,870 --> 01:05:58,850
and we moved over there.

1284

01:05:58,850 --> 01:06:03,800
Was that place far from
the holding camp, the farm?

1285

01:06:03,800 --> 01:06:07,997
It took you about almost
two days to get there.

1286

01:06:07,997 --> 01:06:09,080
And how did you get there?

1287

01:06:09,080 --> 01:06:12,530

1288

01:06:12,530 --> 01:06:16,890
My father had bought
a couple of horses.

1289

01:06:16,890 --> 01:06:20,250
And so we used them.

1290

01:06:20,250 --> 01:06:24,420
As far as my parents
were concerned, walk.

1291

01:06:24,420 --> 01:06:27,900
So the kids, you and your
brother, are on the horses,

1292

01:06:27,900 --> 01:06:30,120
and your parents
walked alongside.

1293

01:06:30,120 --> 01:06:31,950
Yes.

1294

01:06:31,950 --> 01:06:34,800

And who did your father
buy the farm from?

1295
01:06:34,800 --> 01:06:36,150
That I don't know.

1296
01:06:36,150 --> 01:06:40,020
Probably from the
German military

1297
01:06:40,020 --> 01:06:46,340
or whoever had taken
over those places.

1298
01:06:46,340 --> 01:06:50,410
The difference was
that I could remember

1299
01:06:50,410 --> 01:06:57,040
that anyone that was
connected to that farm

1300
01:06:57,040 --> 01:06:59,590
was not supposed to
be working there.

1301
01:06:59,590 --> 01:07:03,140

1302
01:07:03,140 --> 01:07:08,530
Of course, my father was kind
of a cheat in that respect

1303
01:07:08,530 --> 01:07:13,930
as well, because
one of the ladies,

1304
01:07:13,930 --> 01:07:18,730
she was born and raised
there on that farm,

1305
01:07:18,730 --> 01:07:22,630
and her parents were in town.

1306

01:07:22,630 --> 01:07:27,250

So my dad hired her
to help my mother.

1307

01:07:27,250 --> 01:07:29,530

Did he know that she
had been from the farm?

1308

01:07:29,530 --> 01:07:33,490

He did, and so did my mother.

1309

01:07:33,490 --> 01:07:37,150

But he said he didn't care.

1310

01:07:37,150 --> 01:07:40,630

He says he had enough
of somebody telling him

1311

01:07:40,630 --> 01:07:46,960

what to do on his place, and he
was not going to do it twice.

1312

01:07:46,960 --> 01:07:52,440

So in some ways, he wasn't being
very obedient to the rules.

1313

01:07:52,440 --> 01:07:53,240

That's right.

1314

01:07:53,240 --> 01:07:58,180

And so there was this young
woman whose farm it had been,

1315

01:07:58,180 --> 01:08:02,120

or her family's,
who was now working

1316

01:08:02,120 --> 01:08:04,850

as a servant for your family.

1317

01:08:04,850 --> 01:08:06,760

Yes.

1318

01:08:06,760 --> 01:08:10,210

And as I could
remember, my father

1319

01:08:10,210 --> 01:08:16,930

paid her some money, which was
not supposed to happen either.

1320

01:08:16,930 --> 01:08:22,990

And he told her not to tell
them, anybody, that he she got

1321

01:08:22,990 --> 01:08:24,880

paid.

1322

01:08:24,880 --> 01:08:30,069

And so then whenever
she went to the village

1323

01:08:30,069 --> 01:08:34,220

where her parents were,
she would take that money

1324

01:08:34,220 --> 01:08:38,540

and give it to them,
to her parents.

1325

01:08:38,540 --> 01:08:42,800

As far as her of
working with my parents,

1326

01:08:42,800 --> 01:08:49,340

she had no needs because she had
as many clothes as she needed.

1327

01:08:49,340 --> 01:08:53,410

She had enough to
eat what she needed,

1328

01:08:53,410 --> 01:08:57,670

and everything else

in that respect, too.

1329

01:08:57,670 --> 01:09:00,930

Do you think she resented
that they were there?

1330

01:09:00,930 --> 01:09:04,210

Not with us, no.

1331

01:09:04,210 --> 01:09:10,620

But in a lot of places,
that did not happen.

1332

01:09:10,620 --> 01:09:14,920

So in one way, as
a little kid, I

1333

01:09:14,920 --> 01:09:19,915

was very proud of my
dad, of what he did.

1334

01:09:19,915 --> 01:09:20,415

Of course.

1335

01:09:20,415 --> 01:09:23,380

1336

01:09:23,380 --> 01:09:27,800

That's when I started
going to school over there.

1337

01:09:27,800 --> 01:09:31,080

We'll come to school, but I want
to cut the camera a little bit.

1338

01:09:31,080 --> 01:09:34,270

1339

01:09:34,270 --> 01:09:35,410

OK.

1340

01:09:35,410 --> 01:09:38,350

So we were talking
about this Polish girl

1341
01:09:38,350 --> 01:09:43,000
who worked for your parents,
and that your father paid her

1342
01:09:43,000 --> 01:09:47,500
some money, which he
was not supposed to do.

1343
01:09:47,500 --> 01:09:53,340
And she would give that
money to her parents.

1344
01:09:53,340 --> 01:09:55,320
Did your families ever meet?

1345
01:09:55,320 --> 01:09:59,820
Did he ever get to see or
get to know her parents?

1346
01:09:59,820 --> 01:10:04,980
I don't know if my father did
or not because he never said.

1347
01:10:04,980 --> 01:10:11,490
But myself, no, I never
met any of her family.

1348
01:10:11,490 --> 01:10:12,960
What about your mom?

1349
01:10:12,960 --> 01:10:14,110
You don't know?

1350
01:10:14,110 --> 01:10:18,900
That I don't know either because
they never talked about it.

1351
01:10:18,900 --> 01:10:23,970
Well, what I am assuming
must have happened

1352
01:10:23,970 --> 01:10:27,690
is that this Polish family
was thrown out of their farm

1353
01:10:27,690 --> 01:10:30,660
as that happened across Poland.

1354
01:10:30,660 --> 01:10:37,410
And then German evacuees from
territories like Bessarabia,

1355
01:10:37,410 --> 01:10:41,160
or from Latvia or from other
places that were in the east

1356
01:10:41,160 --> 01:10:43,350
and were being
resettled, would be

1357
01:10:43,350 --> 01:10:47,190
moved into either apartments--
either Jewish apartments

1358
01:10:47,190 --> 01:10:50,730
or Polish apartments or
farms or things like that,

1359
01:10:50,730 --> 01:10:52,470
not knowing, not knowing.

1360
01:10:52,470 --> 01:10:53,070
No.

1361
01:10:53,070 --> 01:10:55,050
Yeah.

1362
01:10:55,050 --> 01:10:57,870
So the fact that
it was forbidden

1363
01:10:57,870 --> 01:11:04,170

for somebody who had previously
lived there to be associated

1364

01:11:04,170 --> 01:11:09,960
with the new occupants or owners
is a rule I didn't know about,

1365

01:11:09,960 --> 01:11:12,870
and that your father and
mother knew about it,

1366

01:11:12,870 --> 01:11:17,880
and then decided to do
what they do anyway,

1367

01:11:17,880 --> 01:11:21,700
and that you realized
it as a young boy.

1368

01:11:21,700 --> 01:11:25,730
That's what I was talking
about earlier when I asked

1369

01:11:25,730 --> 01:11:28,060
what were your father's values.

1370

01:11:28,060 --> 01:11:33,010
And this is one of the ways
that his values are shown.

1371

01:11:33,010 --> 01:11:34,555
This is what he valued.

1372

01:11:34,555 --> 01:11:35,800
Yes.

1373

01:11:35,800 --> 01:11:39,350
He valued the situation,
what was going on

1374

01:11:39,350 --> 01:11:44,140
on his farm, or
supposedly his farm,

1375
01:11:44,140 --> 01:11:50,290
nevertheless knowing that
this farm was never his,

1376
01:11:50,290 --> 01:11:54,520
but nevertheless he
claimed it as such.

1377
01:11:54,520 --> 01:11:55,990
Well, he paid for it.

1378
01:11:55,990 --> 01:11:57,250
He paid for it.

1379
01:11:57,250 --> 01:11:58,390
He paid for it.

1380
01:11:58,390 --> 01:12:02,920
Not to the ones who were thrown
out of it, but to somebody.

1381
01:12:02,920 --> 01:12:06,350
Well, most likely
I would say it all

1382
01:12:06,350 --> 01:12:17,400
went to the politics of Germany,
of what happened at that point.

1383
01:12:17,400 --> 01:12:25,840
And that Germany had
taken over Poland,

1384
01:12:25,840 --> 01:12:32,250
that was nothing that we could
even begin to think about

1385
01:12:32,250 --> 01:12:36,330
or anything like that
because even at that point,

1386

01:12:36,330 --> 01:12:42,510
my father was not in the
German army at that point.

1387
01:12:42,510 --> 01:12:56,910
And he didn't get drafted into
the German army until 1942.

1388
01:12:56,910 --> 01:13:00,240
Well, you see there is
another interesting thing,

1389
01:13:00,240 --> 01:13:04,590
that by 1942, he's 31 years old.

1390
01:13:04,590 --> 01:13:09,240
That's not the age of
most of your draftees.

1391
01:13:09,240 --> 01:13:13,170
That's older,
significantly older.

1392
01:13:13,170 --> 01:13:18,570
At tht point, I don't think
Germany cared the age,

1393
01:13:18,570 --> 01:13:25,460
as long as they could
walk and shoot a gun,

1394
01:13:25,460 --> 01:13:27,890
I think that was just
about the only thing

1395
01:13:27,890 --> 01:13:30,530
that they're concerned about.

1396
01:13:30,530 --> 01:13:34,430
And like I said,
my father was not

1397
01:13:34,430 --> 01:13:37,730

a military man for anything.

1398
01:13:37,730 --> 01:13:41,315
But when you get drafted into
it, you don't have any choice.

1399
01:13:41,315 --> 01:13:45,510

1400
01:13:45,510 --> 01:13:50,050
That's where he was,
in the Third Army.

1401
01:13:50,050 --> 01:13:57,140

1402
01:13:57,140 --> 01:14:01,160
Do you know if he was a very
religious man, your father?

1403
01:14:01,160 --> 01:14:03,740

1404
01:14:03,740 --> 01:14:08,490
About as religious
as I could think of.

1405
01:14:08,490 --> 01:14:10,770
He loved to go to church.

1406
01:14:10,770 --> 01:14:14,490
He also knew how
to read the Bible

1407
01:14:14,490 --> 01:14:18,870
and tell us the basic facts.

1408
01:14:18,870 --> 01:14:29,050
In our family, if you knew the
Bible, you knew some about it,

1409
01:14:29,050 --> 01:14:33,840

and you read the Bible
and you could at least

1410
01:14:33,840 --> 01:14:39,130
read, then that was a big plus.

1411
01:14:39,130 --> 01:14:42,390
So that gives me
aan easy segue way

1412
01:14:42,390 --> 01:14:47,070
into what you said
earlier about this

1413
01:14:47,070 --> 01:14:49,680
is the place where
you started school,

1414
01:14:49,680 --> 01:14:51,570
when you were in
this part of Poland

1415
01:14:51,570 --> 01:14:53,790
and you had your second farm.

1416
01:14:53,790 --> 01:14:56,100
This is where you
started going to school.

1417
01:14:56,100 --> 01:14:57,270
Yes.

1418
01:14:57,270 --> 01:15:00,270
And is this where you
started your formal education

1419
01:15:00,270 --> 01:15:03,020
from, let's say, grade one?

1420
01:15:03,020 --> 01:15:03,960
Yeah.

1421

01:15:03,960 --> 01:15:05,700
What language?

1422
01:15:05,700 --> 01:15:06,550
German.

1423
01:15:06,550 --> 01:15:07,050
OK.

1424
01:15:07,050 --> 01:15:10,770
Were there other
children in the classroom

1425
01:15:10,770 --> 01:15:14,920
who were also, like you,
evacuees from someplace else?

1426
01:15:14,920 --> 01:15:16,430
Quite a lot of them.

1427
01:15:16,430 --> 01:15:21,580
Actually, I would say
at least 99% of them.

1428
01:15:21,580 --> 01:15:23,620
Well, that's pretty much
everybody, isn't it?

1429
01:15:23,620 --> 01:15:25,290
Just about, yes.

1430
01:15:25,290 --> 01:15:28,110
So this would have
been a school run--

1431
01:15:28,110 --> 01:15:32,790
do you know where the farm was
located, what part of Poland,

1432
01:15:32,790 --> 01:15:34,590
what the name of the place was?

1433

01:15:34,590 --> 01:15:37,610
No, I can't remember the place.

1434
01:15:37,610 --> 01:15:42,540
I don't know any of the towns
or any of those things, either.

1435
01:15:42,540 --> 01:15:48,270
Only thing I know, it was on
the northern end of Poland.

1436
01:15:48,270 --> 01:15:50,220
Was the weather much
different from where

1437
01:15:50,220 --> 01:15:56,580
you had been born and spent your
first years in your own home?

1438
01:15:56,580 --> 01:15:58,740
Basically not.

1439
01:15:58,740 --> 01:16:03,330
It was quite cold in the
winter, lots of snow and stuff

1440
01:16:03,330 --> 01:16:05,040
like that.

1441
01:16:05,040 --> 01:16:08,670
And the summers were quite warm.

1442
01:16:08,670 --> 01:16:12,510
And you know, when
you're a young kid,

1443
01:16:12,510 --> 01:16:14,280
you don't really care.

1444
01:16:14,280 --> 01:16:16,320
No, you don't.

1445

01:16:16,320 --> 01:16:20,290
Was the farmhouse much
different than your own?

1446
01:16:20,290 --> 01:16:21,460
No.

1447
01:16:21,460 --> 01:16:24,190
Basically, it was an
awful lot like the same

1448
01:16:24,190 --> 01:16:27,220
as what we had before.

1449
01:16:27,220 --> 01:16:31,810
It had a couple more rooms.

1450
01:16:31,810 --> 01:16:34,840
But it was still the same.

1451
01:16:34,840 --> 01:16:41,500
And then my dad had built
another summer house.

1452
01:16:41,500 --> 01:16:44,590
Another summer kitchen.

1453
01:16:44,590 --> 01:16:48,730
And did your mother's parents
live with you at that point,

1454
01:16:48,730 --> 01:16:50,890
or were they around?

1455
01:16:50,890 --> 01:16:55,760
She had lived with
my dad's sisters.

1456
01:16:55,760 --> 01:16:57,370
That's your grandma.

1457
01:16:57,370 --> 01:16:58,210

My grandmother, yes.

1458
01:16:58,210 --> 01:16:59,920
From your father's side.

1459
01:16:59,920 --> 01:17:01,210
My father's side.

1460
01:17:01,210 --> 01:17:04,300
What about your
mother's parents?

1461
01:17:04,300 --> 01:17:05,620
Were they close by?

1462
01:17:05,620 --> 01:17:09,790
He bought his own farm.

1463
01:17:09,790 --> 01:17:13,900
And he lived a few miles
away from where we were,

1464
01:17:13,900 --> 01:17:16,930
but he still stayed
a blacksmith.

1465
01:17:16,930 --> 01:17:18,340
He still stayed a blacksmith.

1466
01:17:18,340 --> 01:17:21,130
Yes.

1467
01:17:21,130 --> 01:17:25,300
So the school, were there any
Polish children in the school?

1468
01:17:25,300 --> 01:17:27,760
Not that I know of.

1469
01:17:27,760 --> 01:17:31,330
Everybody that was
there talked German.

1470
01:17:31,330 --> 01:17:32,830
But then on the
other hand, there

1471
01:17:32,830 --> 01:17:35,140
were a lot of Polish children.

1472
01:17:35,140 --> 01:17:39,350
They could also talk German.

1473
01:17:39,350 --> 01:17:39,850
OK.

1474
01:17:39,850 --> 01:17:41,530
So German was the language.

1475
01:17:41,530 --> 01:17:43,330
That was the language
in the school.

1476
01:17:43,330 --> 01:17:46,840

1477
01:17:46,840 --> 01:17:50,410
But there weren't Polish
children in your class.

1478
01:17:50,410 --> 01:17:53,890
Not to my knowledge, no.

1479
01:17:53,890 --> 01:17:59,170
Did you ever interact
with any Polish children?

1480
01:17:59,170 --> 01:18:02,830
Not too much because when
we were done with school,

1481
01:18:02,830 --> 01:18:06,010
we went home.

1482
01:18:06,010 --> 01:18:13,090
And there again, my
favorite place was my dog.

1483
01:18:13,090 --> 01:18:14,380
You got another dog?

1484
01:18:14,380 --> 01:18:15,200
Yes.

1485
01:18:15,200 --> 01:18:15,780
OK.

1486
01:18:15,780 --> 01:18:16,880
What kind of dog?

1487
01:18:16,880 --> 01:18:19,720
He had the same name
as the first one.

1488
01:18:19,720 --> 01:18:21,550
What was that name?

1489
01:18:21,550 --> 01:18:22,680
Dog.

1490
01:18:22,680 --> 01:18:23,532
Dog.

1491
01:18:23,532 --> 01:18:26,370
Or [NON-ENGLISH].

1492
01:18:26,370 --> 01:18:27,280
[NON-ENGLISH].

1493
01:18:27,280 --> 01:18:30,520

1494
01:18:30,520 --> 01:18:31,020
OK.

1495

01:18:31,020 --> 01:18:34,720

1496

01:18:34,720 --> 01:18:39,472

But you know, one of the
things that is different--

1497

01:18:39,472 --> 01:18:41,180

there are many things
that are different.

1498

01:18:41,180 --> 01:18:42,805

But one of the things
that is different

1499

01:18:42,805 --> 01:18:45,860

is that in your home village,
everybody around you,

1500

01:18:45,860 --> 01:18:50,890

except for the Gypsies who
come by, the Roma who come by,

1501

01:18:50,890 --> 01:18:51,610

are the same.

1502

01:18:51,610 --> 01:18:54,530

That is, they're
Germans like you are.

1503

01:18:54,530 --> 01:18:55,030

Yes.

1504

01:18:55,030 --> 01:18:59,680

But when you get
to Northern Poland,

1505

01:18:59,680 --> 01:19:01,570

you're no longer
in this environment

1506

01:19:01,570 --> 01:19:05,350

where everybody else is
from the same background.

1507
01:19:05,350 --> 01:19:08,950
And I'm wondering what kind
of exposure and interaction

1508
01:19:08,950 --> 01:19:13,390
you had with people
who were either Polish

1509
01:19:13,390 --> 01:19:17,950
or from another part
of Europe or Jewish,

1510
01:19:17,950 --> 01:19:20,080
if you met anybody
who was Jewish.

1511
01:19:20,080 --> 01:19:26,890
They kind of segregated
that to a certain extent.

1512
01:19:26,890 --> 01:19:31,860
They wanted the Germans
together in a group.

1513
01:19:31,860 --> 01:19:39,040
And in that particular
area, a lot of the people

1514
01:19:39,040 --> 01:19:42,940
that bought farms
and stuff over there,

1515
01:19:42,940 --> 01:19:46,570
they were also German
because they wouldn't

1516
01:19:46,570 --> 01:19:50,590
let somebody else be in there.

1517
01:19:50,590 --> 01:19:54,730

1518
01:19:54,730 --> 01:19:59,950
As far as the Polish people,
I have no idea really

1519
01:19:59,950 --> 01:20:02,650
what happened there.

1520
01:20:02,650 --> 01:20:08,880
As far as the Jewish
people, back in them days,

1521
01:20:08,880 --> 01:20:13,620
they were not segregated
as being Jewish,

1522
01:20:13,620 --> 01:20:19,080
that that was any difficulty,
until a little bit later on.

1523
01:20:19,080 --> 01:20:21,770

1524
01:20:21,770 --> 01:20:24,860
Did you ever see
any Jewish person?

1525
01:20:24,860 --> 01:20:26,600
Yes, I did.

1526
01:20:26,600 --> 01:20:28,910
While you were on that farm?

1527
01:20:28,910 --> 01:20:37,340
Well, later on I had
one of my best friends

1528
01:20:37,340 --> 01:20:41,090
in school was Jewish.

1529
01:20:41,090 --> 01:20:43,100

Really.

1530
01:20:43,100 --> 01:20:49,280
But we had no no
confrontations whatsoever.

1531
01:20:49,280 --> 01:20:54,590
They were having their
religion and we had ours.

1532
01:20:54,590 --> 01:20:56,810
You mean when you were
in Northern Poland

1533
01:20:56,810 --> 01:20:59,420
and had settled
into this farm, you

1534
01:20:59,420 --> 01:21:02,180
had someone who was
Jewish in your classroom?

1535
01:21:02,180 --> 01:21:03,500
Yes.

1536
01:21:03,500 --> 01:21:05,610
That's highly unusual.

1537
01:21:05,610 --> 01:21:10,080
I have no idea how that
happened, but I didn't care.

1538
01:21:10,080 --> 01:21:11,660
He was my friend.

1539
01:21:11,660 --> 01:21:13,260
Do you remember his name?

1540
01:21:13,260 --> 01:21:14,670
No, I can't remember.

1541
01:21:14,670 --> 01:21:17,600

1542
01:21:17,600 --> 01:21:20,840
Did he look different?

1543
01:21:20,840 --> 01:21:23,510
Not that I could tell.

1544
01:21:23,510 --> 01:21:24,350
He was the same.

1545
01:21:24,350 --> 01:21:27,770

1546
01:21:27,770 --> 01:21:31,610
Like I said, to me, if he
would have hurt his finger

1547
01:21:31,610 --> 01:21:34,470
and I would have hurt mine, it
still would have come out red.

1548
01:21:34,470 --> 01:21:37,430

1549
01:21:37,430 --> 01:21:40,100
When I asked, he did
he look different,

1550
01:21:40,100 --> 01:21:43,430
is that some people
who are Jewish

1551
01:21:43,430 --> 01:21:46,550
had fair hair, fair eyes.

1552
01:21:46,550 --> 01:21:48,800
They could pass as non-Jewish.

1553
01:21:48,800 --> 01:21:49,800
No.

1554
01:21:49,800 --> 01:21:51,680
You don't remember.

1555
01:21:51,680 --> 01:21:55,040
I couldn't tell
one from another.

1556
01:21:55,040 --> 01:21:57,470
He did not look any different.

1557
01:21:57,470 --> 01:21:59,420
But he said he was.

1558
01:21:59,420 --> 01:22:03,460
Well, because he went
to a different church.

1559
01:22:03,460 --> 01:22:05,860
That's all.

1560
01:22:05,860 --> 01:22:12,360
And whatever the
Jewish people do,

1561
01:22:12,360 --> 01:22:16,860
that had nothing to
do with us whatsoever

1562
01:22:16,860 --> 01:22:20,460
Well, as I say, I
find that surprising

1563
01:22:20,460 --> 01:22:26,760
because the history of
Nazi policies in Poland

1564
01:22:26,760 --> 01:22:32,400
was such that pretty
soon after 1939, Jews

1565
01:22:32,400 --> 01:22:37,920
were rounded up and put in

ghettos, separated from--

1566

01:22:37,920 --> 01:22:44,100

Well, as far as I
know, that was a myth.

1567

01:22:44,100 --> 01:22:45,270

Really?

1568

01:22:45,270 --> 01:22:49,650

Because a lot of
Germans that did not

1569

01:22:49,650 --> 01:22:55,170

agree with what was
going on at that point,

1570

01:22:55,170 --> 01:22:58,080

whether they are Jewish
or whether they were not,

1571

01:22:58,080 --> 01:23:01,150

all of a sudden, they
had a star on their shirt

1572

01:23:01,150 --> 01:23:04,950

that they were Jews.

1573

01:23:04,950 --> 01:23:07,590

And it didn't
matter what religion

1574

01:23:07,590 --> 01:23:16,190

they were because if they didn't
agree with what was going on--

1575

01:23:16,190 --> 01:23:21,950

Are you saying that there
were people in your classrooms

1576

01:23:21,950 --> 01:23:25,220

who had a star on their
shirts, the yellow star?

1577
01:23:25,220 --> 01:23:26,930
Later on, yes.

1578
01:23:26,930 --> 01:23:28,880
Later on, yes.

1579
01:23:28,880 --> 01:23:37,820
But probably, if it was
1941 that you were evacuated

1580
01:23:37,820 --> 01:23:42,020
from Bessarabia, and then
spent a number of months

1581
01:23:42,020 --> 01:23:48,530
in this holding camp,
and then your father buys

1582
01:23:48,530 --> 01:23:52,190
the second farm, that means
you start your schooling still

1583
01:23:52,190 --> 01:23:55,400
in 1941, sometime around there.

1584
01:23:55,400 --> 01:23:58,010
Sometime in that area, yes.

1585
01:23:58,010 --> 01:24:03,380
And then you find that there
are Jewish students with stars

1586
01:24:03,380 --> 01:24:05,210
that they're wearing
because that's

1587
01:24:05,210 --> 01:24:10,910
the policy, they have to,
in some of those classrooms.

1588
01:24:10,910 --> 01:24:11,720

At first.

1589
01:24:11,720 --> 01:24:13,280
At first.

1590
01:24:13,280 --> 01:24:17,060
And then later on, I
don't know what happened,

1591
01:24:17,060 --> 01:24:21,500
but they all
disappeared from what

1592
01:24:21,500 --> 01:24:25,700
was going on at that point.

1593
01:24:25,700 --> 01:24:28,150
So what was it that
you say was the myth?

1594
01:24:28,150 --> 01:24:31,900
That they were not
all Jewish people,

1595
01:24:31,900 --> 01:24:36,800
that they had this star
or any of those things.

1596
01:24:36,800 --> 01:24:42,640
That was a myth because they
were not all Jewish people.

1597
01:24:42,640 --> 01:24:44,980
Oh, no.

1598
01:24:44,980 --> 01:24:48,040
No non-Jewish people
had to wear a star.

1599
01:24:48,040 --> 01:24:50,470
Only Jewish people
had to wear the star.

1600

01:24:50,470 --> 01:24:52,730

That was the idea.

1601

01:24:52,730 --> 01:25:00,100

But politically, it
didn't work out that way.

1602

01:25:00,100 --> 01:25:03,040

I've got to say I'm a
little confused by that.

1603

01:25:03,040 --> 01:25:03,540

OK.

1604

01:25:03,540 --> 01:25:06,580

1605

01:25:06,580 --> 01:25:11,230

Let's say if I would go
and I would say, just

1606

01:25:11,230 --> 01:25:16,580

to some of the authorities, I
would just go and I would say,

1607

01:25:16,580 --> 01:25:17,405

OK, you're Jewish.

1608

01:25:17,405 --> 01:25:20,730

1609

01:25:20,730 --> 01:25:24,760

The next day, you were.

1610

01:25:24,760 --> 01:25:27,020

Whether your religion
was Jewish or not,

1611

01:25:27,020 --> 01:25:28,520

that had nothing to do with it.

1612

01:25:28,520 --> 01:25:31,480

1613
01:25:31,480 --> 01:25:32,420
Oh, I see.

1614
01:25:32,420 --> 01:25:35,510
So if you want to go
inform on someone,

1615
01:25:35,510 --> 01:25:40,190
and say they're Jewish
even if they may not be,

1616
01:25:40,190 --> 01:25:41,120
that doesn't matter.

1617
01:25:41,120 --> 01:25:43,940
They're already
stigmatized as Jewish.

1618
01:25:43,940 --> 01:25:45,620
Exactly.

1619
01:25:45,620 --> 01:25:46,820
Now I understand.

1620
01:25:46,820 --> 01:25:51,240
There's a lot of that went on
that we knew that later on.

1621
01:25:51,240 --> 01:25:54,340
But at first we
had no idea of what

1622
01:25:54,340 --> 01:25:59,680
was going on in the first place
because we didn't even know why

1623
01:25:59,680 --> 01:26:03,190
they were wearing them stars.

1624

01:26:03,190 --> 01:26:06,010
So in other words,
the implication

1625
01:26:06,010 --> 01:26:10,040
is that amongst people
who were German--

1626
01:26:10,040 --> 01:26:11,690
whether they were
from somewhere else

1627
01:26:11,690 --> 01:26:13,460
or had come from
Germany or whatever,

1628
01:26:13,460 --> 01:26:15,410
but they're ethnically German--

1629
01:26:15,410 --> 01:26:17,900
if they wanted to
denounce someone,

1630
01:26:17,900 --> 01:26:21,560
they could go to the authorities
and say, so and so's Jewish.

1631
01:26:21,560 --> 01:26:24,160
And the authorities
didn't pay any attention.

1632
01:26:24,160 --> 01:26:24,830
No.

1633
01:26:24,830 --> 01:26:25,920
They picked them up.

1634
01:26:25,920 --> 01:26:27,570
Yeah.

1635
01:26:27,570 --> 01:26:29,370
I see what you mean.

1636

01:26:29,370 --> 01:26:30,450

I see what you mean.

1637

01:26:30,450 --> 01:26:34,100

I mean, it's not
something that you

1638

01:26:34,100 --> 01:26:39,740

would call that was a fair
situation in the first place.

1639

01:26:39,740 --> 01:26:46,070

But me personally, I didn't care
whether the people were Jewish

1640

01:26:46,070 --> 01:26:50,100

or whether they were
not because to me,

1641

01:26:50,100 --> 01:26:53,310

they were just people
like the rest of us.

1642

01:26:53,310 --> 01:26:54,810

I see what you're saying.

1643

01:26:54,810 --> 01:26:56,960

I see what you're saying.

1644

01:26:56,960 --> 01:26:58,180

Wow.

1645

01:26:58,180 --> 01:27:01,690

You know, the kind of atmosphere
that you're describing

1646

01:27:01,690 --> 01:27:04,570

means that you keep
your mouth shut.

1647

01:27:04,570 --> 01:27:07,110

Exactly.

1648
01:27:07,110 --> 01:27:08,630
You can't trust anybody.

1649
01:27:08,630 --> 01:27:10,640
That's right.

1650
01:27:10,640 --> 01:27:13,820
That's about what
it amounted to.

1651
01:27:13,820 --> 01:27:16,790
And that means for
a small child--

1652
01:27:16,790 --> 01:27:19,190
because you're
still pretty young,

1653
01:27:19,190 --> 01:27:23,270
you're in first
or second grade--

1654
01:27:23,270 --> 01:27:25,640
that's quite a lesson to learn.

1655
01:27:25,640 --> 01:27:28,310
Well, I didn't have
much lessons to learn

1656
01:27:28,310 --> 01:27:33,710
because I was smart
enough to know better

1657
01:27:33,710 --> 01:27:37,040
even at a very, very young kid.

1658
01:27:37,040 --> 01:27:46,490
And in them days, if you were
really never a kid anymore.

1659
01:27:46,490 --> 01:27:48,170

Well, tell me about that.

1660

01:27:48,170 --> 01:27:51,590

Well, you had to be a grownup
and think like a grownup

1661

01:27:51,590 --> 01:27:53,900

rather than being a kid.

1662

01:27:53,900 --> 01:27:56,910

Did you ever get to be a kid?

1663

01:27:56,910 --> 01:28:02,860

Not to my knowledge, except
when I was very, very young

1664

01:28:02,860 --> 01:28:06,990

because you had to learn
very quickly that if you had

1665

01:28:06,990 --> 01:28:09,090

a friend, you kept your
mouth shut no matter

1666

01:28:09,090 --> 01:28:14,920

what he was because
he was your friend.

1667

01:28:14,920 --> 01:28:23,040

And I don't know why that
kind of stuff was going on,

1668

01:28:23,040 --> 01:28:24,780

but it did.

1669

01:28:24,780 --> 01:28:27,660

1670

01:28:27,660 --> 01:28:29,190

What were your subjects like?

1671

01:28:29,190 --> 01:28:33,000

Did you have favorite subjects at school?

1672
01:28:33,000 --> 01:28:36,300
Me personally, in school?

1673
01:28:36,300 --> 01:28:39,770
I was a math whiz.

1674
01:28:39,770 --> 01:28:41,910
Were you?

1675
01:28:41,910 --> 01:28:43,680
Were you?

1676
01:28:43,680 --> 01:28:45,630
So you liked math.

1677
01:28:45,630 --> 01:28:48,900
I always loved that.

1678
01:28:48,900 --> 01:28:53,490
Even when I come over here to United States,

1679
01:28:53,490 --> 01:28:59,340
when I was with my wife, I could help her out with math.

1680
01:28:59,340 --> 01:29:03,270
I would write it down different, like we

1681
01:29:03,270 --> 01:29:07,140
did in Europe or in Germany.

1682
01:29:07,140 --> 01:29:11,740
But the answer was still the same.

1683
01:29:11,740 --> 01:29:13,690
Yeah, that's true.

1684
01:29:13,690 --> 01:29:16,660
Well, I know that my
daughter, for example,

1685
01:29:16,660 --> 01:29:21,220
prefers math and prefers
the sciences because there

1686
01:29:21,220 --> 01:29:26,200
are precise answers, whereas in
the humanities and literature,

1687
01:29:26,200 --> 01:29:28,300
you can have one
interpretation and you can

1688
01:29:28,300 --> 01:29:30,320
have another interpretation.

1689
01:29:30,320 --> 01:29:34,170
She wants to know
the precise answer.

1690
01:29:34,170 --> 01:29:35,050
That was my theory.

1691
01:29:35,050 --> 01:29:37,710

1692
01:29:37,710 --> 01:29:42,580
So what were your teachers
like in the school?

1693
01:29:42,580 --> 01:29:49,630
Well, basically, my whole
school, I only had two of them.

1694
01:29:49,630 --> 01:29:51,160
Oh, really?

1695
01:29:51,160 --> 01:29:58,310

One was a tall teacher, and
he thought he knew it all.

1696

01:29:58,310 --> 01:30:04,990
And we told him he didn't know
anything, like a lot of kids.

1697

01:30:04,990 --> 01:30:10,030
And what we picked on,
because he was in the war,

1698

01:30:10,030 --> 01:30:15,190
and they had shot half his
ear off, so we told him

1699

01:30:15,190 --> 01:30:19,630
his biggest smarts was
in his ear that he lost.

1700

01:30:19,630 --> 01:30:23,080
Well, that's kind of uppity.

1701

01:30:23,080 --> 01:30:25,630
No, just being nasty.

1702

01:30:25,630 --> 01:30:27,580
Yeah.

1703

01:30:27,580 --> 01:30:31,770
Well, how did he respond
to things like that?

1704

01:30:31,770 --> 01:30:32,760
He took it in stride?

1705

01:30:32,760 --> 01:30:36,940
He took it in stride because
he couldn't bring his ear back.

1706

01:30:36,940 --> 01:30:41,320

1707

01:30:41,320 --> 01:30:44,760
And this was in the
school in Poland.

1708
01:30:44,760 --> 01:30:47,300
Part of it, yes.

1709
01:30:47,300 --> 01:30:51,570
And we had one that
was quite short.

1710
01:30:51,570 --> 01:30:54,720
And he thought he was the
tallest guy in the country.

1711
01:30:54,720 --> 01:30:58,040

1712
01:30:58,040 --> 01:31:06,060
And what he really liked
was he likd to get a switch,

1713
01:31:06,060 --> 01:31:10,640
and he would have you
hold your hand out,

1714
01:31:10,640 --> 01:31:20,030
and he would hit your hand with
the switch, and right in here.

1715
01:31:20,030 --> 01:31:21,620
Well, that's nice.

1716
01:31:21,620 --> 01:31:30,600
Bad problem for him was also,
I was kind of a nasty guy,

1717
01:31:30,600 --> 01:31:34,410
and I put my hand
over the inkwells.

1718
01:31:34,410 --> 01:31:37,380
Remember we had

the the inkwells,

1719
01:31:37,380 --> 01:31:42,130
and then you had to dip
your pen in it and write.

1720
01:31:42,130 --> 01:31:46,630
And I held it over
my hand, and then

1721
01:31:46,630 --> 01:31:54,500
my whole hand here got all black
and blue because it got hurt.

1722
01:31:54,500 --> 01:31:56,240
So it looked worse.

1723
01:31:56,240 --> 01:31:59,390
Looked a whole lot
worse than it felt.

1724
01:31:59,390 --> 01:32:00,650
And what happened then?

1725
01:32:00,650 --> 01:32:03,350
I showed that to my
dad, and he had him

1726
01:32:03,350 --> 01:32:07,250
a nice talk with the teacher.

1727
01:32:07,250 --> 01:32:09,200
Well, I remember this incident.

1728
01:32:09,200 --> 01:32:11,150
And this is an
incident you write

1729
01:32:11,150 --> 01:32:15,890
about, you talk about, after the
war, after everything's over,

1730

01:32:15,890 --> 01:32:17,180
right?

1731
01:32:17,180 --> 01:32:18,980
It's not in Poland.

1732
01:32:18,980 --> 01:32:21,800
It's not from the
time in Poland.

1733
01:32:21,800 --> 01:32:24,970
But I had the same situation
at that point, too.

1734
01:32:24,970 --> 01:32:29,480
You mean you got switched
on your hand in Poland?

1735
01:32:29,480 --> 01:32:31,470
From one.

1736
01:32:31,470 --> 01:32:35,550
I also had a lady
teacher, and I liked her

1737
01:32:35,550 --> 01:32:43,220
because I thought she was
very smart in trying to teach

1738
01:32:43,220 --> 01:32:46,560
the kids what they should know.

1739
01:32:46,560 --> 01:32:51,210
And the other one, we had
him very, very seldom.

1740
01:32:51,210 --> 01:32:56,770
And that didn't last
too terribly long.

1741
01:32:56,770 --> 01:32:59,000
And then later on in
Germany, we kind of

1742
01:32:59,000 --> 01:33:01,190
had the same kind of situation.

1743
01:33:01,190 --> 01:33:05,300
Well, what didn't last very
long with the second person

1744
01:33:05,300 --> 01:33:07,490
in Poland?

1745
01:33:07,490 --> 01:33:09,350
He had to leave.

1746
01:33:09,350 --> 01:33:12,680
Was he called up in the army?

1747
01:33:12,680 --> 01:33:14,480
I have no idea.

1748
01:33:14,480 --> 01:33:18,540
One day he just didn't show
up any more as a teacher.

1749
01:33:18,540 --> 01:33:19,850
As a teacher.

1750
01:33:19,850 --> 01:33:21,510
I see.

1751
01:33:21,510 --> 01:33:24,830
And then we only had
the one lady teacher,

1752
01:33:24,830 --> 01:33:28,310
and she was very nice.

1753
01:33:28,310 --> 01:33:34,040
Did you ever have any
lessons about Hitler,

1754

01:33:34,040 --> 01:33:37,730
about German politics,
about German ideas,

1755
01:33:37,730 --> 01:33:39,510
the Nazi ideology?

1756
01:33:39,510 --> 01:33:43,430
Not there, not in Poland.

1757
01:33:43,430 --> 01:33:45,410
Not while you were
going to school there.

1758
01:33:45,410 --> 01:33:46,340
No.

1759
01:33:46,340 --> 01:33:49,550
But we did, then, later
on in Germany, yes.

1760
01:33:49,550 --> 01:33:50,270
OK.

1761
01:33:50,270 --> 01:33:53,470
We'll talk about
that, then, later.

1762
01:33:53,470 --> 01:34:02,050
And did you only have,
then, the one lady

1763
01:34:02,050 --> 01:34:04,060
teacher in your first years?

1764
01:34:04,060 --> 01:34:05,080
Yes.

1765
01:34:05,080 --> 01:34:07,660
All right.

1766
01:34:07,660 --> 01:34:13,030

Let's go back to the farm
that your father had bought.

1767
01:34:13,030 --> 01:34:15,760
Was it as large as the
farm in Bessarabia?

1768
01:34:15,760 --> 01:34:17,260
No, it was not.

1769
01:34:17,260 --> 01:34:25,510
But it was more than adequate
for making a very good living.

1770
01:34:25,510 --> 01:34:26,610
OK.

1771
01:34:26,610 --> 01:34:31,450
And you say in 1942,
he was then drafted.

1772
01:34:31,450 --> 01:34:32,950
Yes.

1773
01:34:32,950 --> 01:34:36,100
I'd say why don't we
stop at this point,

1774
01:34:36,100 --> 01:34:40,750
and we'll have a break for
lunch and then continue later.

1775
01:34:40,750 --> 01:34:41,820
OK.

1776
01:34:41,820 --> 01:34:44,260
Thank you, because
I think it's 1:15.

1777
01:34:44,260 --> 01:34:47,740

1778

01:34:47,740 --> 01:34:48,490
OK.

1779
01:34:48,490 --> 01:34:50,890
Before the break,
we were talking

1780
01:34:50,890 --> 01:34:56,050
about the early part
of your childhood,

1781
01:34:56,050 --> 01:35:03,010
from birth in Bessarabia to
then being evacuated to Poland,

1782
01:35:03,010 --> 01:35:05,540
and then your father
buying the second farm.

1783
01:35:05,540 --> 01:35:09,700
And we stopped at the
point where your father

1784
01:35:09,700 --> 01:35:12,760
gets drafted at the third time.

1785
01:35:12,760 --> 01:35:16,480
Do you remember when
he left the farm

1786
01:35:16,480 --> 01:35:19,660
and when he had to
go into the military?

1787
01:35:19,660 --> 01:35:21,022
Yes, I can.

1788
01:35:21,022 --> 01:35:21,730
Tell me about it.

1789
01:35:21,730 --> 01:35:25,190
He was not very
happy about that.

1790
01:35:25,190 --> 01:35:27,700
But when you get drafted
into the military,

1791
01:35:27,700 --> 01:35:30,485
you go and do
whatever you're told.

1792
01:35:30,485 --> 01:35:33,100

1793
01:35:33,100 --> 01:35:35,640
Do you remember
saying goodbye to him?

1794
01:35:35,640 --> 01:35:36,780
Yes, we did.

1795
01:35:36,780 --> 01:35:39,000
We had that much time.

1796
01:35:39,000 --> 01:35:42,520
And they just come
by, OK, let's go.

1797
01:35:42,520 --> 01:35:49,460
And so then he had to go along
with some other people that

1798
01:35:49,460 --> 01:35:52,630
were drafted at the same time.

1799
01:35:52,630 --> 01:35:56,900
And we hadn't seen him
then for quite a while.

1800
01:35:56,900 --> 01:36:00,515
Did you get any letters from
him while he was serving?

1801
01:36:00,515 --> 01:36:03,170

1802
01:36:03,170 --> 01:36:06,680
No, because there's two things.

1803
01:36:06,680 --> 01:36:09,210
He didn't know where he was.

1804
01:36:09,210 --> 01:36:13,130
And he wasn't sure that
we would get any mail

1805
01:36:13,130 --> 01:36:15,450
because it was in Poland.

1806
01:36:15,450 --> 01:36:20,120
And he had no idea
when or how long it

1807
01:36:20,120 --> 01:36:23,780
would take to get a letter.

1808
01:36:23,780 --> 01:36:26,270
He did come home
eventually, didn't he?

1809
01:36:26,270 --> 01:36:29,240
He had a furlough.

1810
01:36:29,240 --> 01:36:33,530
The thing was, when
he was home, he

1811
01:36:33,530 --> 01:36:39,500
had to keep his military
clothes on all the time.

1812
01:36:39,500 --> 01:36:40,250
Really?

1813
01:36:40,250 --> 01:36:41,720
They wouldn't let him--

1814
01:36:41,720 --> 01:36:44,810
he was not allowed to
take his clothes off.

1815
01:36:44,810 --> 01:36:47,910
So he couldn't go out farming.

1816
01:36:47,910 --> 01:36:51,510
No, he wasn't home
long enough to do this.

1817
01:36:51,510 --> 01:36:58,740
But the most that he
spent was probably,

1818
01:36:58,740 --> 01:37:02,010
I would say, at the very
longest, about a week.

1819
01:37:02,010 --> 01:37:03,170
On a furlough.

1820
01:37:03,170 --> 01:37:05,550
On a furlough.

1821
01:37:05,550 --> 01:37:14,130
He had to keep his gun on him
at all times and his uniform.

1822
01:37:14,130 --> 01:37:17,160
Did he say anything about
where he was serving

1823
01:37:17,160 --> 01:37:19,080
and what he was doing?

1824
01:37:19,080 --> 01:37:24,060
No, not at that time.

1825
01:37:24,060 --> 01:37:27,080
I found out later

on where he was,

1826
01:37:27,080 --> 01:37:32,700
but that was already
after the war.

1827
01:37:32,700 --> 01:37:35,950
So let's talk about that.

1828
01:37:35,950 --> 01:37:40,190
So for that first
deployment, where was he?

1829
01:37:40,190 --> 01:37:42,450
What you found
out after the war,

1830
01:37:42,450 --> 01:37:45,630
what did he tell you
about that first place?

1831
01:37:45,630 --> 01:37:52,440
He didn't really comment on
where he was at the time.

1832
01:37:52,440 --> 01:37:54,435
But he did say he
was in Normandy.

1833
01:37:54,435 --> 01:37:56,970

1834
01:37:56,970 --> 01:38:03,720
And that's where he
got wounded, there.

1835
01:38:03,720 --> 01:38:05,460
Was he there during D-Day?

1836
01:38:05,460 --> 01:38:07,720
Yes.

1837

01:38:07,720 --> 01:38:13,060
And he said he was on the
southern part of Germany.

1838
01:38:13,060 --> 01:38:19,300
And so then he was
ordered to go over there

1839
01:38:19,300 --> 01:38:22,900
before the ships and all
that stuff come over there.

1840
01:38:22,900 --> 01:38:26,930
So he was there during
that nasty situation

1841
01:38:26,930 --> 01:38:29,140
what was going on at that time.

1842
01:38:29,140 --> 01:38:30,380
Well, that's D-Day.

1843
01:38:30,380 --> 01:38:32,110
That's the invasion.

1844
01:38:32,110 --> 01:38:38,530
So he was not on the
beach, but in the bunker

1845
01:38:38,530 --> 01:38:39,970
at the top of the cliffs.

1846
01:38:39,970 --> 01:38:43,750
He was on top of
the cliffs, yes.

1847
01:38:43,750 --> 01:38:49,030
And he was pretty close to be
out of ammunition or anything

1848
01:38:49,030 --> 01:38:55,640
else by the time that that
portion was over with.

1849

01:38:55,640 --> 01:38:59,510

And then they ordered him to go.

1850

01:38:59,510 --> 01:39:00,770

To retreat.

1851

01:39:00,770 --> 01:39:02,870

Go somewhere else, yes.

1852

01:39:02,870 --> 01:39:04,880

Did he get wounded in Normandy?

1853

01:39:04,880 --> 01:39:06,380

Yes, he did.

1854

01:39:06,380 --> 01:39:09,660

And so then he was
evacuated from there.

1855

01:39:09,660 --> 01:39:11,500

Not particularly.

1856

01:39:11,500 --> 01:39:12,370

No?

1857

01:39:12,370 --> 01:39:13,100

No.

1858

01:39:13,100 --> 01:39:22,910

He had the shrapnel in
his hip, and he got shot

1859

01:39:22,910 --> 01:39:25,880

in the bottom of his foot.

1860

01:39:25,880 --> 01:39:30,230

And so he kind of hobbled
around there for a while

1861

01:39:30,230 --> 01:39:34,190

until they ordered him
to go somewhere else.

1862
01:39:34,190 --> 01:39:36,290
To still fight?

1863
01:39:36,290 --> 01:39:38,960
Yes.

1864
01:39:38,960 --> 01:39:40,730
But he's wounded.

1865
01:39:40,730 --> 01:39:42,360
They didn't care.

1866
01:39:42,360 --> 01:39:47,270
There were a lot of people who
were wounded then at that time.

1867
01:39:47,270 --> 01:39:51,090
Well, by that point it's 1944.

1868
01:39:51,090 --> 01:39:54,750
That's June 6, 1944.

1869
01:39:54,750 --> 01:40:00,710
But the first time he's
taken is in 1942, you said.

1870
01:40:00,710 --> 01:40:02,370
And he comes back
home, and he has

1871
01:40:02,370 --> 01:40:04,560
a furlough for about a week.

1872
01:40:04,560 --> 01:40:08,400
He has to keep his uniform
on, gun by his side.

1873
01:40:08,400 --> 01:40:09,900
And then he leaves again.

1874
01:40:09,900 --> 01:40:11,780
Yes.

1875
01:40:11,780 --> 01:40:15,780
But at that point he had
no idea where he was going,

1876
01:40:15,780 --> 01:40:19,080
and we had no idea
where he was at, either.

1877
01:40:19,080 --> 01:40:21,850
That must have been very
worrisome for everybody.

1878
01:40:21,850 --> 01:40:22,715
It was.

1879
01:40:22,715 --> 01:40:24,090
What were the sort
of things that

1880
01:40:24,090 --> 01:40:26,500
would go through your mind?

1881
01:40:26,500 --> 01:40:27,890
I hope we'll see him again.

1882
01:40:27,890 --> 01:40:30,670

1883
01:40:30,670 --> 01:40:34,520
It was not the type of
thing that you were really

1884
01:40:34,520 --> 01:40:36,230
thinking about.

1885
01:40:36,230 --> 01:40:38,120
Even at that time,
you kind of had

1886
01:40:38,120 --> 01:40:43,180
to think more about am
I going to be around?

1887
01:40:43,180 --> 01:40:54,660
And when you have a lot of
gunfire and you hear 24/7,

1888
01:40:54,660 --> 01:40:57,330
it's not much fun.

1889
01:40:57,330 --> 01:40:58,260
No.

1890
01:40:58,260 --> 01:41:05,520
But you know, up until
this point in your story,

1891
01:41:05,520 --> 01:41:08,610
although it sounds
very disruptive

1892
01:41:08,610 --> 01:41:13,650
and like your fate is taken
out of your own hands,

1893
01:41:13,650 --> 01:41:18,720
I haven't heard of any
violence or danger.

1894
01:41:18,720 --> 01:41:23,790
You go to a school, the school
is in German, almost 99%

1895
01:41:23,790 --> 01:41:25,800
of the classmates
are like you who

1896
01:41:25,800 --> 01:41:28,390
have come from somewhere else.

1897

01:41:28,390 --> 01:41:31,620
The war seems far away,
even though the authorities

1898
01:41:31,620 --> 01:41:36,060
don't sound like they're
anybody to be messed with.

1899
01:41:36,060 --> 01:41:38,040
When do things change?

1900
01:41:38,040 --> 01:41:40,590
What happens?

1901
01:41:40,590 --> 01:41:45,960
We were pretty much
protected from the soldiers,

1902
01:41:45,960 --> 01:41:50,550
or with the soldiers
because all of those guys,

1903
01:41:50,550 --> 01:41:54,500
they all needed to eat.

1904
01:41:54,500 --> 01:41:57,290
And you're a farmer.

1905
01:41:57,290 --> 01:42:02,190
I don't know any politicians
or any of those kind of people,

1906
01:42:02,190 --> 01:42:04,520
they all want to eat.

1907
01:42:04,520 --> 01:42:11,740
And of course, in them days,
the soldiers needed to be fed.

1908
01:42:11,740 --> 01:42:13,320
So were you feeding them?

1909

01:42:13,320 --> 01:42:14,570

Were they coming to your home?

1910

01:42:14,570 --> 01:42:15,410

No.

1911

01:42:15,410 --> 01:42:20,210

But we had the stuff
that they would eat,

1912

01:42:20,210 --> 01:42:25,400

and they took it, I have no
idea where, to get it processed.

1913

01:42:25,400 --> 01:42:28,550

1914

01:42:28,550 --> 01:42:31,460

So if you were
growing wheat, they

1915

01:42:31,460 --> 01:42:34,610

would take the wheat for
it to be milled into flour.

1916

01:42:34,610 --> 01:42:36,140

Yes.

1917

01:42:36,140 --> 01:42:39,670

Would they requisition
things from your farm?

1918

01:42:39,670 --> 01:42:42,660

Not at that time.

1919

01:42:42,660 --> 01:42:47,860

There was just a matter of
taking that to a broker,

1920

01:42:47,860 --> 01:42:55,170

or whatever they call it, to
take this stuff somewhere else

1921
01:42:55,170 --> 01:42:56,240
to be processed.

1922
01:42:56,240 --> 01:42:58,780

1923
01:42:58,780 --> 01:43:02,430
How did your mother manage?

1924
01:43:02,430 --> 01:43:05,540
She is a tough lady.

1925
01:43:05,540 --> 01:43:07,310
Yes, I guess.

1926
01:43:07,310 --> 01:43:09,800
But I mean, everything
was left in her hands.

1927
01:43:09,800 --> 01:43:11,720
Yes, it was.

1928
01:43:11,720 --> 01:43:14,150
Did her parents come to help?

1929
01:43:14,150 --> 01:43:18,470
No, they had a place of
their own to take care of.

1930
01:43:18,470 --> 01:43:20,570
Their own.

1931
01:43:20,570 --> 01:43:26,390
So did she have hired help,
aside from that Polish girl?

1932
01:43:26,390 --> 01:43:26,990
Yes.

1933
01:43:26,990 --> 01:43:29,150
She had a couple of guys.

1934
01:43:29,150 --> 01:43:33,140
And were the guys Germans,
or were they Poles?

1935
01:43:33,140 --> 01:43:34,010
They were Germans.

1936
01:43:34,010 --> 01:43:34,760
They were Germans.

1937
01:43:34,760 --> 01:43:38,240
So the Polish girl was the
only Pole that you had there.

1938
01:43:38,240 --> 01:43:40,350
Yes.

1939
01:43:40,350 --> 01:43:42,080
Did she speak any German?

1940
01:43:42,080 --> 01:43:44,520
Yes, she did.

1941
01:43:44,520 --> 01:43:45,930
Do you remember her name?

1942
01:43:45,930 --> 01:43:48,570
No, I don't.

1943
01:43:48,570 --> 01:43:50,010
OK.

1944
01:43:50,010 --> 01:43:53,310
What about your grandma
from your father's side?

1945
01:43:53,310 --> 01:43:57,430
She was still living
with one of his siblings?

1946

01:43:57,430 --> 01:43:57,930

Yes.

1947

01:43:57,930 --> 01:44:02,330

She was staying
with her daughter.

1948

01:44:02,330 --> 01:44:05,010

OK.

1949

01:44:05,010 --> 01:44:07,320

And you continued
to go to school.

1950

01:44:07,320 --> 01:44:09,030

I did.

1951

01:44:09,030 --> 01:44:13,200

Did your father come
back on more furloughs?

1952

01:44:13,200 --> 01:44:13,980

No.

1953

01:44:13,980 --> 01:44:15,730

So there was just the one time.

1954

01:44:15,730 --> 01:44:17,650

One time only.

1955

01:44:17,650 --> 01:44:19,720

He came back and then
he's gone, and then

1956

01:44:19,720 --> 01:44:22,090

he's gone for a very long time.

1957

01:44:22,090 --> 01:44:24,220

Till 1945.

1958

01:44:24,220 --> 01:44:25,850

Till 1945.

1959

01:44:25,850 --> 01:44:40,260

Or actually, '46, because after the war ended, he was in a camp

1960

01:44:40,260 --> 01:44:47,340

to where they had the German people go and work for farmers

1961

01:44:47,340 --> 01:44:53,700

and whatever till 1946.

1962

01:44:53,700 --> 01:44:56,370

When he was in a camp, was he in a prisoner of war camp, then,

1963

01:44:56,370 --> 01:44:57,540

after the war?

1964

01:44:57,540 --> 01:44:58,590

Yes.

1965

01:44:58,590 --> 01:45:00,710

Who was running it?

1966

01:45:00,710 --> 01:45:05,350

I believe it was English soldiers.

1967

01:45:05,350 --> 01:45:06,560

It was the British, then.

1968

01:45:06,560 --> 01:45:07,730

Yes.

1969

01:45:07,730 --> 01:45:09,220

So British POW camp.

1970

01:45:09,220 --> 01:45:15,320

So he never made it home after he was wounded in Normandy?

1971

01:45:15,320 --> 01:45:18,060

No.

1972

01:45:18,060 --> 01:45:21,300

We found out about
that after the war.

1973

01:45:21,300 --> 01:45:24,460

1974

01:45:24,460 --> 01:45:26,350

Well, then, let's
go back to Poland,

1975

01:45:26,350 --> 01:45:29,710

where you are with your
mother and your little brother

1976

01:45:29,710 --> 01:45:32,040

and little sister.

1977

01:45:32,040 --> 01:45:37,210

When do things start to
become different for you?

1978

01:45:37,210 --> 01:45:42,010

What are the things that are
changing as time goes on?

1979

01:45:42,010 --> 01:45:45,760

Basically, there wasn't
a whole lot of changes

1980

01:45:45,760 --> 01:45:55,750

until about winter
of 1944 and '45,

1981

01:45:55,750 --> 01:45:58,880

and then we had to leave Poland.

1982

01:45:58,880 --> 01:45:59,380

How?

1983
01:45:59,380 --> 01:46:00,870
Who told you to leave?

1984
01:46:00,870 --> 01:46:04,690
Again, the SS guys.

1985
01:46:04,690 --> 01:46:08,980
They said you're either
going to get run over

1986
01:46:08,980 --> 01:46:15,940
by the Russian soldiers, or
you can leave and go to Germany

1987
01:46:15,940 --> 01:46:17,090
from there.

1988
01:46:17,090 --> 01:46:20,290
So again, it was
another evacuation.

1989
01:46:20,290 --> 01:46:22,030
Yes, it was.

1990
01:46:22,030 --> 01:46:27,790
And then now at this point, your
mother is without your father.

1991
01:46:27,790 --> 01:46:28,750
How did you leave?

1992
01:46:28,750 --> 01:46:31,500
What did you leave with?

1993
01:46:31,500 --> 01:46:35,340
We were allowed to take a wagon.

1994
01:46:35,340 --> 01:46:40,200
And it was similar to
the wagon trains that

1995

01:46:40,200 --> 01:46:43,530
went west from back east here.

1996

01:46:43,530 --> 01:46:44,880
In the United States.

1997

01:46:44,880 --> 01:46:45,800
Yes.

1998

01:46:45,800 --> 01:46:47,280
They were similar.

1999

01:46:47,280 --> 01:46:49,680
Were they covered wagons
or were they open?

2000

01:46:49,680 --> 01:46:56,000
Well, ours was covered,
but a lot of them were not.

2001

01:46:56,000 --> 01:47:01,060
But that was your
individual situation,

2002

01:47:01,060 --> 01:47:04,360
whatever you wanted to do.

2003

01:47:04,360 --> 01:47:08,470
Do you remember what your mother
took, what was taken, that is,

2004

01:47:08,470 --> 01:47:10,060
what you took with you?

2005

01:47:10,060 --> 01:47:11,440
Of course.

2006

01:47:11,440 --> 01:47:13,450
So what was that?

2007

01:47:13,450 --> 01:47:19,500

We had a pig and a pig
steer in the wagon.

2008
01:47:19,500 --> 01:47:24,310
They were butchered so
we had something to eat.

2009
01:47:24,310 --> 01:47:26,158
That was important.

2010
01:47:26,158 --> 01:47:27,700
And it could have
also been something

2011
01:47:27,700 --> 01:47:31,480
other people, hungry on the
road, would have wanted.

2012
01:47:31,480 --> 01:47:34,990
Well, they didn't
know what we had.

2013
01:47:34,990 --> 01:47:39,310
And we were not going to
broadcast this situation,

2014
01:47:39,310 --> 01:47:40,450
either.

2015
01:47:40,450 --> 01:47:42,730
And this was in wintertime, yes?

2016
01:47:42,730 --> 01:47:43,420
Yes.

2017
01:47:43,420 --> 01:47:45,970
So in other words,
it was cold enough

2018
01:47:45,970 --> 01:47:47,890
that the meat would not spoil.

2019

01:47:47,890 --> 01:47:50,440

It was very cold.

2020

01:47:50,440 --> 01:47:54,040

Do you remember the month that
you left your second farm?

2021

01:47:54,040 --> 01:47:55,930

No, I can't.

2022

01:47:55,930 --> 01:48:03,770

All I know was we had a lot of
snow, and we had two horses.

2023

01:48:03,770 --> 01:48:09,830

And then one of them,
the hoof kind of got

2024

01:48:09,830 --> 01:48:13,300

hurt because of the
ice and what not.

2025

01:48:13,300 --> 01:48:19,010

And so then we only had
one horse and a wagon.

2026

01:48:19,010 --> 01:48:22,940

When you were on the
road, describe to me

2027

01:48:22,940 --> 01:48:26,140

what you saw on the
road going westwards.

2028

01:48:26,140 --> 01:48:29,360

2029

01:48:29,360 --> 01:48:33,830

There's quite a few
things happened.

2030

01:48:33,830 --> 01:48:39,920

There were also a lot of

people who were marching east.

2031

01:48:39,920 --> 01:48:41,250

Why?

2032

01:48:41,250 --> 01:48:44,450

Because they were herded
that way by the soldiers.

2033

01:48:44,450 --> 01:48:47,120

2034

01:48:47,120 --> 01:48:49,630

Who were these people?

2035

01:48:49,630 --> 01:48:52,000

I don't really know.

2036

01:48:52,000 --> 01:48:53,920

A lot of them were Polish.

2037

01:48:53,920 --> 01:49:00,850

A lot of them were
concentration camps.

2038

01:49:00,850 --> 01:49:02,600

Oh, so they could
have been Jews who had

2039

01:49:02,600 --> 01:49:04,550

been in concentration camps.

2040

01:49:04,550 --> 01:49:05,390

Yes.

2041

01:49:05,390 --> 01:49:07,370

What did they look like?

2042

01:49:07,370 --> 01:49:08,750

Same as anyone else.

2043

01:49:08,750 --> 01:49:10,850
Were they dressed the
same as everybody else?

2044
01:49:10,850 --> 01:49:11,720
No.

2045
01:49:11,720 --> 01:49:13,340
How were they dressed?

2046
01:49:13,340 --> 01:49:18,500
Basically, they were
walking without shoes.

2047
01:49:18,500 --> 01:49:20,380
They were barefoot.

2048
01:49:20,380 --> 01:49:23,200
Well, a lot of
them had socks on.

2049
01:49:23,200 --> 01:49:26,380
But that's about
all, even though it

2050
01:49:26,380 --> 01:49:29,185
was cold and icy and snow.

2051
01:49:29,185 --> 01:49:32,380

2052
01:49:32,380 --> 01:49:35,710
Did they looked different
than everybody else?

2053
01:49:35,710 --> 01:49:36,325
Very hungry.

2054
01:49:36,325 --> 01:49:41,170

2055
01:49:41,170 --> 01:49:48,120

But I think you probably read in
the book that one of the ladies

2056
01:49:48,120 --> 01:49:52,140
put her head under
the wagon, our wagon,

2057
01:49:52,140 --> 01:49:57,530
and when my mother
make the horses go--

2058
01:49:57,530 --> 01:49:58,560
Over her head?

2059
01:49:58,560 --> 01:50:00,490
To kill her.

2060
01:50:00,490 --> 01:50:02,020
Oh my goodness.

2061
01:50:02,020 --> 01:50:04,540
And of course, my
mother wouldn't do this

2062
01:50:04,540 --> 01:50:10,340
because if she would have, she
probably would have got shot.

2063
01:50:10,340 --> 01:50:14,710
And there was probably
10 or 12-year-old kid,

2064
01:50:14,710 --> 01:50:20,150
he got tired of all this,
and he ran across the field.

2065
01:50:20,150 --> 01:50:21,440
And they did shoot him.

2066
01:50:21,440 --> 01:50:24,350

2067

01:50:24,350 --> 01:50:29,690
So in other words, you have
concentration camp survivors--

2068
01:50:29,690 --> 01:50:32,360
most likely concentration
camp survivors--

2069
01:50:32,360 --> 01:50:35,120
who are walking in the
opposite direction.

2070
01:50:35,120 --> 01:50:38,720
From the way we were going.

2071
01:50:38,720 --> 01:50:42,740
And there are still soldiers
that are guarding them.

2072
01:50:42,740 --> 01:50:44,800
Yes.

2073
01:50:44,800 --> 01:50:49,840
They were mostly soldiers,
regular soldiers.

2074
01:50:49,840 --> 01:50:54,850
And then every once in a
while, there was an SS guy.

2075
01:50:54,850 --> 01:50:59,150
And the soldiers had to
do what they had to do.

2076
01:50:59,150 --> 01:51:01,640
And what was that
that they had to do?

2077
01:51:01,640 --> 01:51:05,220
Just herd them people east.

2078
01:51:05,220 --> 01:51:09,150
But you saw the boy get shot?

2079
01:51:09,150 --> 01:51:10,320
Yes.

2080
01:51:10,320 --> 01:51:12,870
Was that the first time
you saw someone get shot?

2081
01:51:12,870 --> 01:51:13,920
No.

2082
01:51:13,920 --> 01:51:16,580
Tell me about the first time
you saw someone get shot.

2083
01:51:16,580 --> 01:51:20,060

2084
01:51:20,060 --> 01:51:24,350
Well, basically it was
one of our neighbors.

2085
01:51:24,350 --> 01:51:27,280
And it wasn't a
boy, it was a man.

2086
01:51:27,280 --> 01:51:30,760
So this was when you were
at the farm in Poland?

2087
01:51:30,760 --> 01:51:31,630
Yes.

2088
01:51:31,630 --> 01:51:34,700
So what happened?

2089
01:51:34,700 --> 01:51:39,470
We were not allowed
to have any guns.

2090
01:51:39,470 --> 01:51:45,780
And this man's son

was kind of bragging

2091

01:51:45,780 --> 01:51:52,620

that my dad has a gun, which
was a big mistake in them

2092

01:51:52,620 --> 01:52:03,330

days because no one was allowed
any guns except certain Gestapo

2093

01:52:03,330 --> 01:52:05,040

guys, and that was about all.

2094

01:52:05,040 --> 01:52:08,400

2095

01:52:08,400 --> 01:52:12,030

Course, we didn't
have any guns either

2096

01:52:12,030 --> 01:52:17,220

because before we
left Bessarabia,

2097

01:52:17,220 --> 01:52:20,600

my dad found out that's
what was going to happen,

2098

01:52:20,600 --> 01:52:23,650

that all the guns
were going to be--

2099

01:52:23,650 --> 01:52:26,430

you had to turn them in.

2100

01:52:26,430 --> 01:52:34,050

My dad had an or arsenal of guns
and ammunition and everything.

2101

01:52:34,050 --> 01:52:38,490

He probably could have
started his own war.

2102

01:52:38,490 --> 01:52:41,330

So what we did,
between him and me,

2103

01:52:41,330 --> 01:52:49,570

we went and we had one of
the steers and whatnot.

2104

01:52:49,570 --> 01:52:51,820

And he took the
hide off and put it

2105

01:52:51,820 --> 01:52:56,180

full of axle grease
and stuff like that

2106

01:52:56,180 --> 01:53:00,690

and wrapped guns into
it, and we buried them.

2107

01:53:00,690 --> 01:53:02,290

In Bessarabia.

2108

01:53:02,290 --> 01:53:03,980

Yes.

2109

01:53:03,980 --> 01:53:06,190

And even right now,
if I'd go over there,

2110

01:53:06,190 --> 01:53:10,180

and I know where the well is,
I know where the guns were.

2111

01:53:10,180 --> 01:53:14,130

2112

01:53:14,130 --> 01:53:16,890

In one way, it was
kind of comical

2113

01:53:16,890 --> 01:53:21,210

because I was a little kid
and I knew what was going on.

2114
01:53:21,210 --> 01:53:23,010
Well, then you
were really little.

2115
01:53:23,010 --> 01:53:26,310
I was very little.

2116
01:53:26,310 --> 01:53:31,960
So because this neighbor had
a gun, what happened to him?

2117
01:53:31,960 --> 01:53:35,760
Or how is it that he
ends up being shot?

2118
01:53:35,760 --> 01:53:40,500
My dad was on furlough
right about the same time.

2119
01:53:40,500 --> 01:53:44,370
And the two neighbors, they
were talking to each other.

2120
01:53:44,370 --> 01:53:46,470
The farmer, that
other farmer, was

2121
01:53:46,470 --> 01:53:52,230
not because he had a bad leg,
so they wouldn't take him

2122
01:53:52,230 --> 01:53:54,630
into the army.

2123
01:53:54,630 --> 01:54:00,300
and And two SS guys
drove up to the yard.

2124
01:54:00,300 --> 01:54:07,260
And one of them demanded that

he would give him the gun,

2125
01:54:07,260 --> 01:54:11,680
and he told them
he didn't have one.

2126
01:54:11,680 --> 01:54:21,150
And so he decided he was
going to take my dad's gun.

2127
01:54:21,150 --> 01:54:25,970
He took all the ammunition
out except one bullet,

2128
01:54:25,970 --> 01:54:28,890
and he went and
shot our neighbor.

2129
01:54:28,890 --> 01:54:29,840
With your dad's gun?

2130
01:54:29,840 --> 01:54:37,900
In front of his
kid and his wife.

2131
01:54:37,900 --> 01:54:43,500
And all he said was, I guess
you don't need a gun no more.

2132
01:54:43,500 --> 01:54:51,270
Then they got into their
motorcycle stuff and took off.

2133
01:54:51,270 --> 01:54:51,960
Oh my goodness.

2134
01:54:51,960 --> 01:54:58,080
And I said, you know, if
that's the kind of stuff

2135
01:54:58,080 --> 01:55:01,860
that they want, I don't
want any part of it.

2136
01:55:01,860 --> 01:55:08,330
But you live there and you
still do as you're told.

2137
01:55:08,330 --> 01:55:10,750
You know, you're
bringing up something

2138
01:55:10,750 --> 01:55:14,110
that was one of the
questions in my mind,

2139
01:55:14,110 --> 01:55:18,690
is it doesn't sound
like you lost much love

2140
01:55:18,690 --> 01:55:21,150
for these authorities.

2141
01:55:21,150 --> 01:55:23,400
I did not.

2142
01:55:23,400 --> 01:55:29,070
But like I said, you still
got to do what you gotta do.

2143
01:55:29,070 --> 01:55:35,990
Did you, in later years,
or even at that time--

2144
01:55:35,990 --> 01:55:38,500
see, I keep remembering
you're just a kid,

2145
01:55:38,500 --> 01:55:43,593
and what can you expect from
a kid to be able to process?

2146
01:55:43,593 --> 01:55:47,310

2147

01:55:47,310 --> 01:55:49,140
These are your own people.

2148
01:55:49,140 --> 01:55:52,950
These are Germans,
supposedly, these authorities.

2149
01:55:52,950 --> 01:55:53,940
Supposedly.

2150
01:55:53,940 --> 01:55:55,030
Yeah.

2151
01:55:55,030 --> 01:56:08,130
And you have this sort of
reserve, distrust, recognition

2152
01:56:08,130 --> 01:56:10,880
of their power.

2153
01:56:10,880 --> 01:56:15,990
And at the same time, people
who are not German see you,

2154
01:56:15,990 --> 01:56:18,270
and how did they think of you?

2155
01:56:18,270 --> 01:56:24,680
And do you feel like you
were caught in between?

2156
01:56:24,680 --> 01:56:27,230
Did you feel like you
were caught, basically?

2157
01:56:27,230 --> 01:56:31,490
Well, come to think
of it, at this time,

2158
01:56:31,490 --> 01:56:33,590
I would say we were--

2159

01:56:33,590 --> 01:56:35,260
well, a lot of
places, they would

2160
01:56:35,260 --> 01:56:39,140
say we were between a
rock and a hard place,

2161
01:56:39,140 --> 01:56:47,360
or we were in the
middle of good and evil.

2162
01:56:47,360 --> 01:56:51,520
A lot of the German
soldiers, they

2163
01:56:51,520 --> 01:56:57,140
didn't want that war at all.

2164
01:56:57,140 --> 01:57:02,150
But the upper
people, they decided

2165
01:57:02,150 --> 01:57:06,120
that's what they wanted,
to make more money.

2166
01:57:06,120 --> 01:57:08,450
That's the way I felt.

2167
01:57:08,450 --> 01:57:14,880
And of course, we would never
get in here that kind of thing,

2168
01:57:14,880 --> 01:57:19,400
just like you have
in every country.

2169
01:57:19,400 --> 01:57:22,460
You have people that
got the authority,

2170
01:57:22,460 --> 01:57:26,090

you have people that
follow their orders.

2171
01:57:26,090 --> 01:57:29,900
Whether it's right or
wrong, it doesn't matter.

2172
01:57:29,900 --> 01:57:38,690
And I just-- me personally,
even in them days,

2173
01:57:38,690 --> 01:57:44,170
I detested the upper
crust, so to speak,

2174
01:57:44,170 --> 01:57:51,570
of people that threw their
dirty authority around,

2175
01:57:51,570 --> 01:57:55,060
and other people had
to go and take it.

2176
01:57:55,060 --> 01:58:01,700
And I guess that kind of
stuff happens worldwide.

2177
01:58:01,700 --> 01:58:07,220
And I would think
that nobody would ever

2178
01:58:07,220 --> 01:58:09,630
change that portion of it.

2179
01:58:09,630 --> 01:58:12,260
You mean it's human nature?

2180
01:58:12,260 --> 01:58:16,310
I would think it is,
because that's why you have

2181
01:58:16,310 --> 01:58:19,180
good people and bad people.

2182
01:58:19,180 --> 01:58:27,050
But it's also, to see that
violence, first of all,

2183
01:58:27,050 --> 01:58:29,150
so unexpected against
your neighbor.

2184
01:58:29,150 --> 01:58:31,700

2185
01:58:31,700 --> 01:58:33,930
And the bitter part--

2186
01:58:33,930 --> 01:58:36,350
there are many bitter parts--

2187
01:58:36,350 --> 01:58:39,980
but taking your father's
gun that he has,

2188
01:58:39,980 --> 01:58:43,880
that he's supposed to
use in fighting an enemy,

2189
01:58:43,880 --> 01:58:46,820
and emptying it of
bullets, and using

2190
01:58:46,820 --> 01:58:52,270
that ostensibly neighbor's
gun to shoot someone,

2191
01:58:52,270 --> 01:58:57,350
to kill someone, there's
something twisted in that.

2192
01:58:57,350 --> 01:59:00,590
That's kind of the
way I felt as a kid.

2193

01:59:00,590 --> 01:59:04,120
I figured the guy that
used my dad's gun,

2194
01:59:04,120 --> 01:59:08,960
he didn't have brains
enough to use his own gun,

2195
01:59:08,960 --> 01:59:12,410
and he had to use
my dad's to do it.

2196
01:59:12,410 --> 01:59:15,650
And maybe he was
pretty well-satisfied

2197
01:59:15,650 --> 01:59:17,570
with the situation.

2198
01:59:17,570 --> 01:59:22,050
Nevertheless, it
was still wrong.

2199
01:59:22,050 --> 01:59:23,790
Of course.

2200
01:59:23,790 --> 01:59:25,500
And you didn't see this.

2201
01:59:25,500 --> 01:59:28,870
You heard about it from your
father, or you saw it as well?

2202
01:59:28,870 --> 01:59:36,155
I saw it when he did it because
we were over at their place.

2203
01:59:36,155 --> 01:59:39,800

2204
01:59:39,800 --> 01:59:41,960
So you saw a person
being murdered.

2205
01:59:41,960 --> 01:59:43,590
Yes.

2206
01:59:43,590 --> 01:59:47,960
That was not
altogether uncommon.

2207
01:59:47,960 --> 01:59:53,090

2208
01:59:53,090 --> 01:59:57,880
But it's early on, and you
are six or seven years old.

2209
01:59:57,880 --> 02:00:00,800
Yes.

2210
02:00:00,800 --> 02:00:02,700
And was the next
time that you saw

2211
02:00:02,700 --> 02:00:09,000
someone killed when you were
on that road fleeing and going

2212
02:00:09,000 --> 02:00:09,990
westwards?

2213
02:00:09,990 --> 02:00:11,000
Yes.

2214
02:00:11,000 --> 02:00:12,540
And that's when you
saw the lady put

2215
02:00:12,540 --> 02:00:15,750
her head underneath the
wheel and ask your mother

2216
02:00:15,750 --> 02:00:16,810
to run over it?

2217
02:00:16,810 --> 02:00:17,310
Yes.

2218
02:00:17,310 --> 02:00:21,230

2219
02:00:21,230 --> 02:00:26,340
As you continued to go westward,
what other things did you see?

2220
02:00:26,340 --> 02:00:30,520
Well, we've had to
cross a river, which

2221
02:00:30,520 --> 02:00:35,090
they bombed the bridge.

2222
02:00:35,090 --> 02:00:38,610
And we had to cross that on ice.

2223
02:00:38,610 --> 02:00:40,510
And the ice could break.

2224
02:00:40,510 --> 02:00:43,590
And there's ice
across the river.

2225
02:00:43,590 --> 02:00:47,020
I can't remember the
name of the river.

2226
02:00:47,020 --> 02:00:49,520
I think in the book
it's the [NON-ENGLISH]..

2227
02:00:49,520 --> 02:00:52,915
It's the [NON-ENGLISH] River.

2228
02:00:52,915 --> 02:00:53,790
Or the [NON-ENGLISH].

2229

02:00:53,790 --> 02:00:55,830

The [NON-ENGLISH].

2230

02:00:55,830 --> 02:01:02,310

All I know, it was a river
between Poland and Germany.

2231

02:01:02,310 --> 02:01:04,800

Then it's [NON-ENGLISH].

2232

02:01:04,800 --> 02:01:07,680

Frankfort [NON-ENGLISH] and
Frankfort [NON-ENGLISH].

2233

02:01:07,680 --> 02:01:10,320

And I think it was the
[NON-ENGLISH] River.

2234

02:01:10,320 --> 02:01:11,700

It's between Germany and Poland.

2235

02:01:11,700 --> 02:01:15,210

I can't remember
exactly what it was.

2236

02:01:15,210 --> 02:01:18,720

And probably at that
time, I didn't care.

2237

02:01:18,720 --> 02:01:21,060

Of course not.

2238

02:01:21,060 --> 02:01:25,770

So this was with your wagon?

2239

02:01:25,770 --> 02:01:27,970

Yes.

2240

02:01:27,970 --> 02:01:31,620

And how were you sure that
the ice wouldn't break

2241

02:01:31,620 --> 02:01:33,960
and the wagon wouldn't sink?

2242

02:01:33,960 --> 02:01:39,630
Every day during the day, they
would put water on the river,

2243

02:01:39,630 --> 02:01:42,690
and then it would freeze.

2244

02:01:42,690 --> 02:01:49,940
And there was one wagon
that I seen what part of it

2245

02:01:49,940 --> 02:01:55,450
was what broke
down into the ice.

2246

02:01:55,450 --> 02:02:03,480
And there is only one
trail that you could go.

2247

02:02:03,480 --> 02:02:08,740
And I told my mother that I
was going to drive the wagon.

2248

02:02:08,740 --> 02:02:15,460
But the soldiers
wouldn't let me do this.

2249

02:02:15,460 --> 02:02:21,470
They said my mother had
to drive it instead of me.

2250

02:02:21,470 --> 02:02:23,080
So what happened?

2251

02:02:23,080 --> 02:02:28,270
We walked across,
and she drove across.

2252

02:02:28,270 --> 02:02:30,770

So she's the one
who drove it across.

2253
02:02:30,770 --> 02:02:31,270
Yes.

2254
02:02:31,270 --> 02:02:33,990
She didn't have a choice.

2255
02:02:33,990 --> 02:02:35,810
Show had to.

2256
02:02:35,810 --> 02:02:38,540
Your mother had to
deal with so much.

2257
02:02:38,540 --> 02:02:41,030
Three little kids, the wagon.

2258
02:02:41,030 --> 02:02:43,770

2259
02:02:43,770 --> 02:02:46,140
Well, I always told
them I was the man

2260
02:02:46,140 --> 02:02:51,250
of the house, which I was.

2261
02:02:51,250 --> 02:02:54,950
I was the only man in the house.

2262
02:02:54,950 --> 02:03:04,730
But my mother and myself,
we'd work together as a team.

2263
02:03:04,730 --> 02:03:06,080
She needed you.

2264
02:03:06,080 --> 02:03:07,760
Yes, she did.

2265

02:03:07,760 --> 02:03:10,430

Yeah.

2266

02:03:10,430 --> 02:03:14,030

Your grandparents, your mother's
parents, were they with you,

2267

02:03:14,030 --> 02:03:17,860

or had they left separately,
or were they still behind?

2268

02:03:17,860 --> 02:03:25,550

We run across them shortly
after we had crossed the river.

2269

02:03:25,550 --> 02:03:32,090

And then they had two
horses and we had one.

2270

02:03:32,090 --> 02:03:35,510

And so we tied the
two wagons together.

2271

02:03:35,510 --> 02:03:39,080

And then we had three horses.

2272

02:03:39,080 --> 02:03:41,930

And then we went a
very short distance.

2273

02:03:41,930 --> 02:03:49,190

Then he lost a horse, so we
had two wagons and two horses.

2274

02:03:49,190 --> 02:03:52,020

Where did you sleep?

2275

02:03:52,020 --> 02:03:55,500

They always found some
old barn or something

2276

02:03:55,500 --> 02:03:58,260

where most people slept.

2277

02:03:58,260 --> 02:04:00,720

Me, I slept out in the wagon.

2278

02:04:00,720 --> 02:04:01,300

Did you?

2279

02:04:01,300 --> 02:04:01,800

OK.

2280

02:04:01,800 --> 02:04:04,710

2281

02:04:04,710 --> 02:04:08,700

And did you continue
seeing these concentration

2282

02:04:08,700 --> 02:04:11,400

camp survivors on the road?

2283

02:04:11,400 --> 02:04:14,070

Part of was--

2284

02:04:14,070 --> 02:04:15,690

I'm not quite sure.

2285

02:04:15,690 --> 02:04:18,450

I think it probably
wasn't Poland.

2286

02:04:18,450 --> 02:04:19,980

Maybe it was in Germany.

2287

02:04:19,980 --> 02:04:23,040

I'm not sure about that.

2288

02:04:23,040 --> 02:04:32,380

But we've seen some black
smoke, probably a kilometer,

2289

02:04:32,380 --> 02:04:39,790
which was probably a mile
or less, real black smoke.

2290
02:04:39,790 --> 02:04:46,570
And we were told the
Germans were burning tires.

2291
02:04:46,570 --> 02:04:49,760

2292
02:04:49,760 --> 02:04:55,635
And we found out later
on that was Auschwitz.

2293
02:04:55,635 --> 02:04:56,135
Really?

2294
02:04:56,135 --> 02:04:59,180

2295
02:04:59,180 --> 02:05:01,430
Oh my goodness.

2296
02:05:01,430 --> 02:05:02,180
Oh my goodness.

2297
02:05:02,180 --> 02:05:05,760

2298
02:05:05,760 --> 02:05:08,190
Could you smell it?

2299
02:05:08,190 --> 02:05:11,940
Well, we figured it was tires.

2300
02:05:11,940 --> 02:05:12,570
They smell.

2301
02:05:12,570 --> 02:05:15,200

2302

02:05:15,200 --> 02:05:20,890

So you know, that's kind of
what it was for quite a while.

2303

02:05:20,890 --> 02:05:25,990

And then later on, we found
out it was not the same.

2304

02:05:25,990 --> 02:05:28,650

2305

02:05:28,650 --> 02:05:33,190

And as far as getting
lied to all the time,

2306

02:05:33,190 --> 02:05:35,010

that was a normal situation.

2307

02:05:35,010 --> 02:05:38,360

2308

02:05:38,360 --> 02:05:42,740

Did your mother ever say
anything about the authorities?

2309

02:05:42,740 --> 02:05:44,350

No.

2310

02:05:44,350 --> 02:05:45,580

Never.

2311

02:05:45,580 --> 02:05:50,070

We never discussed it
in any way because she

2312

02:05:50,070 --> 02:05:54,510

said if we say something
and it's wrong,

2313

02:05:54,510 --> 02:05:57,360

then we could get shot.

2314
02:05:57,360 --> 02:05:59,750
Said it was never
discussed in any way.

2315
02:05:59,750 --> 02:06:12,010

2316
02:06:12,010 --> 02:06:12,690
Can we cut?

2317
02:06:12,690 --> 02:06:15,260

2318
02:06:15,260 --> 02:06:19,550
In the book that your
wife Carol wrote down

2319
02:06:19,550 --> 02:06:23,420
some of your memories,
there is a part

2320
02:06:23,420 --> 02:06:26,570
where, as you keep
going westwards,

2321
02:06:26,570 --> 02:06:30,590
you come across the snow
being more and more drenched

2322
02:06:30,590 --> 02:06:32,000
with blood.

2323
02:06:32,000 --> 02:06:37,540
Do you remember this
incident or these sites?

2324
02:06:37,540 --> 02:06:39,870
I couldn't quite understand
what you were saying.

2325
02:06:39,870 --> 02:06:44,660
That the snow-- you know,

you talked about the one boy

2326
02:06:44,660 --> 02:06:46,040
that you saw shot.

2327
02:06:46,040 --> 02:06:47,330
Yes.

2328
02:06:47,330 --> 02:06:51,200
And elsewhere in
that book, you also

2329
02:06:51,200 --> 02:06:55,310
mentioned that you
see splotches of red

2330
02:06:55,310 --> 02:06:57,590
from people being
shot on the way.

2331
02:06:57,590 --> 02:06:58,340
Yes.

2332
02:06:58,340 --> 02:07:01,130
Or they were bleeding
about something.

2333
02:07:01,130 --> 02:07:01,790
I don't know.

2334
02:07:01,790 --> 02:07:06,560
Maybe they got beat up or
something like that because I'm

2335
02:07:06,560 --> 02:07:09,780
not sure about what it was.

2336
02:07:09,780 --> 02:07:13,370
We do know it was blood.

2337
02:07:13,370 --> 02:07:17,900
Did you ever see a greater

concentration in the snow,

2338

02:07:17,900 --> 02:07:22,790

of the snow being
more red than white?

2339

02:07:22,790 --> 02:07:25,700

Not really.

2340

02:07:25,700 --> 02:07:30,800

It was kind of rare where
you've seen some of those

2341

02:07:30,800 --> 02:07:36,750

because even while we were going
there, it was still snowing.

2342

02:07:36,750 --> 02:07:43,610

And so maybe a lot of it got
covered, that we had no idea.

2343

02:07:43,610 --> 02:07:47,600

Was the roads full
of people, that is,

2344

02:07:47,600 --> 02:07:50,840

with wagons and some
of these survivors?

2345

02:07:50,840 --> 02:07:55,570

Or was it times where
it was emptied out?

2346

02:07:55,570 --> 02:08:01,760

Except at night, I never seen
it empty for quite a long while.

2347

02:08:01,760 --> 02:08:07,460

So there were probably
several thousand people

2348

02:08:07,460 --> 02:08:13,300

that were going in

the wrong direction.

2349
02:08:13,300 --> 02:08:17,020
And were there always
soldiers on the roads?

2350
02:08:17,020 --> 02:08:18,735
Yes, always.

2351
02:08:18,735 --> 02:08:23,230

2352
02:08:23,230 --> 02:08:29,440
When you crossed the river into
Germany, did things change?

2353
02:08:29,440 --> 02:08:34,420
Did you still have those
camp inmates on the road,

2354
02:08:34,420 --> 02:08:36,220
or did they stop?

2355
02:08:36,220 --> 02:08:37,060
No.

2356
02:08:37,060 --> 02:08:43,150
They kind of disappeared,
then, after a while.

2357
02:08:43,150 --> 02:08:50,710
But the thing was,
a lot of people

2358
02:08:50,710 --> 02:08:57,070
said go on the south
side of Berlin.

2359
02:08:57,070 --> 02:09:02,590
And a couple soldiers told her,
don't go on the south side.

2360

02:09:02,590 --> 02:09:04,900
Go on the north side.

2361
02:09:04,900 --> 02:09:05,910
So we did.

2362
02:09:05,910 --> 02:09:08,800
We went on north side of Berlin.

2363
02:09:08,800 --> 02:09:11,590
And we didn't run
into a lot of problems

2364
02:09:11,590 --> 02:09:15,030
that we heard
later on that a lot

2365
02:09:15,030 --> 02:09:19,390
the guys run across that
were on the other side.

2366
02:09:19,390 --> 02:09:22,060
What were some of the problems
that they had that they

2367
02:09:22,060 --> 02:09:24,610
experienced on the south side?

2368
02:09:24,610 --> 02:09:28,090
They had a lot more
military activity

2369
02:09:28,090 --> 02:09:31,330
than we did on our side.

2370
02:09:31,330 --> 02:09:40,500
But listening to guns
24/7 all the time,

2371
02:09:40,500 --> 02:09:47,320
all day long, all night
long, it got to be quite--

2372

02:09:47,320 --> 02:09:51,730

2373

02:09:51,730 --> 02:09:55,500

I don't know-- quite disgusting.

2374

02:09:55,500 --> 02:09:57,180

Yeah.

2375

02:09:57,180 --> 02:09:59,490

So that's the noise
that accompanied you

2376

02:09:59,490 --> 02:10:05,040

from the time you left the
farm in Poland on your way

2377

02:10:05,040 --> 02:10:06,570

through Germany?

2378

02:10:06,570 --> 02:10:10,980

You kept hearing the guns,
the cannons, and so on.

2379

02:10:10,980 --> 02:10:13,290

So you knew the
fighting was close by.

2380

02:10:13,290 --> 02:10:15,660

Yes.

2381

02:10:15,660 --> 02:10:18,930

Is there any place that you
stopped for any length of time?

2382

02:10:18,930 --> 02:10:21,830

2383

02:10:21,830 --> 02:10:28,550

We stopped at a place, and I
cannot remember the town where

2384

02:10:28,550 --> 02:10:31,650
we actually stopped.

2385

02:10:31,650 --> 02:10:39,830
And so there was a lady.

2386

02:10:39,830 --> 02:10:47,610
And she didn't have a farm, but
she had some animals and stuff

2387

02:10:47,610 --> 02:10:50,320
by her house.

2388

02:10:50,320 --> 02:10:58,420
And the tragic situation
then was the soldiers,

2389

02:10:58,420 --> 02:11:00,900
they were on a tank.

2390

02:11:00,900 --> 02:11:03,120
Were these German soldiers?

2391

02:11:03,120 --> 02:11:04,620
They were English soldiers.

2392

02:11:04,620 --> 02:11:08,280
So you were already
in an area of Germany

2393

02:11:08,280 --> 02:11:12,150
that was being controlled
by the British.

2394

02:11:12,150 --> 02:11:13,140
Yes.

2395

02:11:13,140 --> 02:11:14,250
OK.

2396

02:11:14,250 --> 02:11:17,520

So you're in Western part
of Germany by this point.

2397
02:11:17,520 --> 02:11:19,410
Yes.

2398
02:11:19,410 --> 02:11:30,940
And then what happened is
there was a mill, a flour mill.

2399
02:11:30,940 --> 02:11:36,370
And the building
was relatively tall.

2400
02:11:36,370 --> 02:11:42,190
And that's where the
soldiers were during the day.

2401
02:11:42,190 --> 02:11:44,020
At night they left.

2402
02:11:44,020 --> 02:11:46,210
I don't know where they went.

2403
02:11:46,210 --> 02:11:49,128
But anyway--

2404
02:11:49,128 --> 02:11:50,420
These are the British soldiers.

2405
02:11:50,420 --> 02:11:52,640
They were British soldiers.

2406
02:11:52,640 --> 02:11:59,800
And anyway, during the night,
some of the German soldiers

2407
02:11:59,800 --> 02:12:07,030
come over there, and
they burned that mill.

2408
02:12:07,030 --> 02:12:08,680

So there was still
fighting going on.

2409
02:12:08,680 --> 02:12:10,570
Yes, there was.

2410
02:12:10,570 --> 02:12:18,480
And then they situated a
tank in between two buildings

2411
02:12:18,480 --> 02:12:23,160
that they could shoot
into another town.

2412
02:12:23,160 --> 02:12:27,280

2413
02:12:27,280 --> 02:12:32,305
The big part was, then, is
when that mill was burnt.

2414
02:12:32,305 --> 02:12:34,890

2415
02:12:34,890 --> 02:12:36,840
It was on a Sunday morning.

2416
02:12:36,840 --> 02:12:38,890
We had breakfast.

2417
02:12:38,890 --> 02:12:44,760
And they took a flamethrower
and shot into our house.

2418
02:12:44,760 --> 02:12:45,260
The British.

2419
02:12:45,260 --> 02:12:48,020
Where we lived, yes.

2420
02:12:48,020 --> 02:12:53,660
And whether they were ordered

to do that or whether they were

2421

02:12:53,660 --> 02:13:01,180

just ignorant and
done it on their own,

2422

02:13:01,180 --> 02:13:07,330

flamethrower went between
us kids and my grandmother

2423

02:13:07,330 --> 02:13:13,330

and grandfather and started the
whole house on fire instantly.

2424

02:13:13,330 --> 02:13:15,000

Oh my goodness.

2425

02:13:15,000 --> 02:13:20,190

My mother and my
grandpa, they went out

2426

02:13:20,190 --> 02:13:26,120

and they pushed our wagon
out over to the neighbors,

2427

02:13:26,120 --> 02:13:31,590

and the horses, except they
couldn't come back and get

2428

02:13:31,590 --> 02:13:35,850

the rest of the horses
and stuff, which they

2429

02:13:35,850 --> 02:13:38,910

died right there in the fire.

2430

02:13:38,910 --> 02:13:40,140

The animals.

2431

02:13:40,140 --> 02:13:41,430

The animals.

2432

02:13:41,430 --> 02:13:42,510
What about the people?

2433
02:13:42,510 --> 02:13:43,960
Did the people make it out?

2434
02:13:43,960 --> 02:13:46,090
There is only one lady.

2435
02:13:46,090 --> 02:13:47,470
Oh, that was her house?

2436
02:13:47,470 --> 02:13:49,980
That was her house.

2437
02:13:49,980 --> 02:13:58,570
And then my
grandfather helped her

2438
02:13:58,570 --> 02:14:05,030
and grandma, my grandmother,
and said go across the street.

2439
02:14:05,030 --> 02:14:08,880
There was an empty lot,
and so we went over there.

2440
02:14:08,880 --> 02:14:12,830
And then when my mother
and my grandfather

2441
02:14:12,830 --> 02:14:17,560
went and taken care of all
they could on that house,

2442
02:14:17,560 --> 02:14:19,340
then they come
over there as well.

2443
02:14:19,340 --> 02:14:22,270

2444

02:14:22,270 --> 02:14:28,970
The bad situation, from the
way I seen it at that time,

2445
02:14:28,970 --> 02:14:33,570
was that them soldiers
thought that was the biggest

2446
02:14:33,570 --> 02:14:38,060
thing they ever could do.

2447
02:14:38,060 --> 02:14:41,290
They were laughing, slapping
each other in the back,

2448
02:14:41,290 --> 02:14:42,880
and whatever.

2449
02:14:42,880 --> 02:14:45,895
To me, it was a stupid joke.

2450
02:14:45,895 --> 02:14:48,820

2451
02:14:48,820 --> 02:14:50,120
It's cruel.

2452
02:14:50,120 --> 02:14:53,190
It was very cruel.

2453
02:14:53,190 --> 02:14:59,056
And then we done
something after that.

2454
02:14:59,056 --> 02:15:04,170
A friend of mine
and myself, there

2455
02:15:04,170 --> 02:15:08,700
was a little creek right on
the backside of that house.

2456

02:15:08,700 --> 02:15:13,650
And we went over there and
we started a very small fire.

2457
02:15:13,650 --> 02:15:19,830
And we took some
machine gun ammunition,

2458
02:15:19,830 --> 02:15:21,840
and we set it on there.

2459
02:15:21,840 --> 02:15:25,920
So it started spluttering
and exploding.

2460
02:15:25,920 --> 02:15:27,270
Exactly.

2461
02:15:27,270 --> 02:15:29,770
And that was the idea.

2462
02:15:29,770 --> 02:15:35,130
So then we run all we could, got
around and got back over there

2463
02:15:35,130 --> 02:15:37,470
where the soldiers were.

2464
02:15:37,470 --> 02:15:41,440
And all of a sudden all
this explosion was going on.

2465
02:15:41,440 --> 02:15:44,400
They had no idea what
the heck was going on.

2466
02:15:44,400 --> 02:15:46,270
So then we had our fun.

2467
02:15:46,270 --> 02:15:50,310

2468

02:15:50,310 --> 02:15:53,130
But in your fun,
no animals died.

2469
02:15:53,130 --> 02:15:53,700
No.

2470
02:15:53,700 --> 02:15:55,158
And nobody's house
got burned down.

2471
02:15:55,158 --> 02:15:58,170
Nobody got hurt in any fashion.

2472
02:15:58,170 --> 02:16:03,027
But it sure got them
shook up a little.

2473
02:16:03,027 --> 02:16:04,110
Well, what did you all do?

2474
02:16:04,110 --> 02:16:06,750
Now you had no roof
over your head again.

2475
02:16:06,750 --> 02:16:08,456
Where did you go?

2476
02:16:08,456 --> 02:16:15,120
A neighbor just down the
road, he had a butcher shop.

2477
02:16:15,120 --> 02:16:19,860
But he hadn't used it
for quite some time.

2478
02:16:19,860 --> 02:16:26,000
So we lived in
that butcher shop.

2479
02:16:26,000 --> 02:16:27,830
Do you know the
name of this place?

2480
02:16:27,830 --> 02:16:28,340
No.

2481
02:16:28,340 --> 02:16:32,650
I have no idea what it was.

2482
02:16:32,650 --> 02:16:38,959
That was the same time
my best friend got killed

2483
02:16:38,959 --> 02:16:42,120
standing right next to me.

2484
02:16:42,120 --> 02:16:44,020
What happened?

2485
02:16:44,020 --> 02:16:45,540
Airplane.

2486
02:16:45,540 --> 02:16:46,850
You were playing?

2487
02:16:46,850 --> 02:16:47,879
An airplane.

2488
02:16:47,879 --> 02:16:49,514
An airplane.

2489
02:16:49,514 --> 02:16:54,230
An airplane went and shot him.

2490
02:16:54,230 --> 02:16:57,080
And from what I know
about airplanes,

2491
02:16:57,080 --> 02:17:03,230
you do know whether it's a child
or whether it's a grown person.

2492
02:17:03,230 --> 02:17:04,730

You know, you're saying.

2493
02:17:04,730 --> 02:17:09,350
You know, because he was
very down low to the ground

2494
02:17:09,350 --> 02:17:12,459
when it happened.

2495
02:17:12,459 --> 02:17:16,870
Three days later, the
same thing happened

2496
02:17:16,870 --> 02:17:21,350
except we were down there
by the creek at that time,

2497
02:17:21,350 --> 02:17:23,690
and we could follow this bullet.

2498
02:17:23,690 --> 02:17:26,730

2499
02:17:26,730 --> 02:17:31,040
And because it was
bouncing, kind of.

2500
02:17:31,040 --> 02:17:33,770

2501
02:17:33,770 --> 02:17:39,209
But 1/8 of a mile or
less, there was a road.

2502
02:17:39,209 --> 02:17:42,480
That bullet hit the
back of the horses,

2503
02:17:42,480 --> 02:17:47,280
killed both of the horses and
the man that was in there,

2504

02:17:47,280 --> 02:17:51,389
and kind of cut
the woman's throat.

2505
02:17:51,389 --> 02:17:56,129
Fortunately we run over there.

2506
02:17:56,129 --> 02:18:05,750
And or maybe I was tougher
than two of my friends,

2507
02:18:05,750 --> 02:18:10,309
and I told them to hurry
up and run, get a doctor.

2508
02:18:10,309 --> 02:18:14,590
And so I kind of held
that woman's neck.

2509
02:18:14,590 --> 02:18:18,559
So blood must have been
coming out all over the place.

2510
02:18:18,559 --> 02:18:19,870
It was.

2511
02:18:19,870 --> 02:18:22,690
But I was holding
it very tightly

2512
02:18:22,690 --> 02:18:30,240
and got to where we
could stop it a little.

2513
02:18:30,240 --> 02:18:31,840
And the doctor came over there.

2514
02:18:31,840 --> 02:18:35,650
Then he took over and we left.

2515
02:18:35,650 --> 02:18:40,330
Almost a year later,
this very lady

2516
02:18:40,330 --> 02:18:46,600
come looking for
us and the doctor,

2517
02:18:46,600 --> 02:18:51,010
and she thanked us
for saving her life.

2518
02:18:51,010 --> 02:18:55,750
But it's one of those
things, you know?

2519
02:18:55,750 --> 02:18:59,030
You have to do what
you have to do.

2520
02:18:59,030 --> 02:19:01,148
Yeah, but you're 10 years old.

2521
02:19:01,148 --> 02:19:01,690
That's right.

2522
02:19:01,690 --> 02:19:04,240

2523
02:19:04,240 --> 02:19:06,200
Or nine years old.

2524
02:19:06,200 --> 02:19:11,570
So we were kind of figured that
doctor would handle things,

2525
02:19:11,570 --> 02:19:13,950
and so we left.

2526
02:19:13,950 --> 02:19:16,680
And then she came over
and thanked us very

2527
02:19:16,680 --> 02:19:21,330
profusely for what happened.

2528

02:19:21,330 --> 02:19:24,870

And I think the one that
told her about us boys

2529

02:19:24,870 --> 02:19:32,410

was the doctor because she
found the doctor first.

2530

02:19:32,410 --> 02:19:36,290

But what a brave thing for
a child to save a grownup.

2531

02:19:36,290 --> 02:19:40,059

Well, like I said,
sometimes you gotta

2532

02:19:40,059 --> 02:19:43,809

do what you gotta do,
no matter what age

2533

02:19:43,809 --> 02:19:48,520

or whatever else happens.

2534

02:19:48,520 --> 02:19:55,490

And not long after
that, my mother

2535

02:19:55,490 --> 02:20:00,980

went and went with Red
Cross to find my dad.

2536

02:20:00,980 --> 02:20:03,530

This was after the war.

2537

02:20:03,530 --> 02:20:05,840

When it's over now, yeah.

2538

02:20:05,840 --> 02:20:14,180

So then we didn't
really expect much.

2539

02:20:14,180 --> 02:20:16,940
My dad did the same thing.

2540
02:20:16,940 --> 02:20:22,465
He infarmed the Red
Cross as well to find us.

2541
02:20:22,465 --> 02:20:29,160

2542
02:20:29,160 --> 02:20:31,920
Where was your dad, by the way?

2543
02:20:31,920 --> 02:20:35,640
He was in kind of a
concentration camp,

2544
02:20:35,640 --> 02:20:39,940
but they would let him go
out and work for farmers.

2545
02:20:39,940 --> 02:20:42,320
So it was a prisoner
of war camp.

2546
02:20:42,320 --> 02:20:42,820
Yeah.

2547
02:20:42,820 --> 02:20:44,160
Yeah, OK.

2548
02:20:44,160 --> 02:20:48,300
And I believe it was
English soldiers that

2549
02:20:48,300 --> 02:20:50,370
were guarding them.

2550
02:20:50,370 --> 02:20:58,346
But they could go out
and work, which was OK.

2551

02:20:58,346 --> 02:21:07,040
A man come along the road,
and he asked about his family.

2552
02:21:07,040 --> 02:21:12,750
And I said that village
on the other side--

2553
02:21:12,750 --> 02:21:15,690
the one that I said where
they could him over there

2554
02:21:15,690 --> 02:21:17,970
and shoot over there--

2555
02:21:17,970 --> 02:21:23,310
that very same
village over there,

2556
02:21:23,310 --> 02:21:28,470
I told him I thought there was
a couple of kids over there

2557
02:21:28,470 --> 02:21:32,610
with that name, his name.

2558
02:21:32,610 --> 02:21:39,590
And so I asked him, I says,
if you come out of that camp,

2559
02:21:39,590 --> 02:21:45,320
is there anybody by the name
of Koppenstein over there?

2560
02:21:45,320 --> 02:21:47,370
He says, yeah, there
is a guy over there.

2561
02:21:47,370 --> 02:21:52,550
He claims that's
what his name is.

2562
02:21:52,550 --> 02:21:59,370

So my grandfather and my
mother went over there.

2563
02:21:59,370 --> 02:22:00,860
They said, well, he's working.

2564
02:22:00,860 --> 02:22:05,160
If you want to wait
a little while,

2565
02:22:05,160 --> 02:22:08,910
you'll probably see
him, that same guy.

2566
02:22:08,910 --> 02:22:14,370
But they had no idea who he was.

2567
02:22:14,370 --> 02:22:20,730
And with all the luck,
it was my father.

2568
02:22:20,730 --> 02:22:23,320

2569
02:22:23,320 --> 02:22:25,060
How amazing.

2570
02:22:25,060 --> 02:22:30,920
And they said, well, with all
the paperwork we gotta do,

2571
02:22:30,920 --> 02:22:33,370
he can leave in three days.

2572
02:22:33,370 --> 02:22:34,990
So they released him.

2573
02:22:34,990 --> 02:22:37,330
Yes.

2574
02:22:37,330 --> 02:22:41,950
And did you go

there to meet him,

2575

02:22:41,950 --> 02:22:46,930
or did you first see him when
he came back to your village?

2576

02:22:46,930 --> 02:22:51,225
My mother and my grandfather
went over there, and we waited.

2577

02:22:51,225 --> 02:22:55,630

2578

02:22:55,630 --> 02:22:57,690
What did he look like?

2579

02:22:57,690 --> 02:23:00,801
It's been years since
you had seen him.

2580

02:23:00,801 --> 02:23:02,430
He looked like my father.

2581

02:23:02,430 --> 02:23:06,360

2582

02:23:06,360 --> 02:23:09,405
And basically
that's all I cared.

2583

02:23:09,405 --> 02:23:12,780

2584

02:23:12,780 --> 02:23:18,720
That's basically how
we got together again.

2585

02:23:18,720 --> 02:23:22,680
And then after that, we moved.

2586

02:23:22,680 --> 02:23:24,960
Where did you move to?

2587
02:23:24,960 --> 02:23:28,960
Well, we moved
further into Germany.

2588
02:23:28,960 --> 02:23:31,380
And do you remember
any of the places

2589
02:23:31,380 --> 02:23:34,170
that you lived in
that you moved to?

2590
02:23:34,170 --> 02:23:38,610
Well, that was the last
place that we lived before we

2591
02:23:38,610 --> 02:23:41,400
come over to the United States.

2592
02:23:41,400 --> 02:23:43,830
And what was the
name of that place?

2593
02:23:43,830 --> 02:23:46,620
Was it Northern Germany,
or in Southern Germany?

2594
02:23:46,620 --> 02:23:47,820
It was kind of Southern.

2595
02:23:47,820 --> 02:23:50,410

2596
02:23:50,410 --> 02:23:53,800
One of the major towns are
over there was Hanover.

2597
02:23:53,800 --> 02:23:54,930
Oh, OK.

2598
02:23:54,930 --> 02:23:56,250

I know where that is, yeah.

2599

02:23:56,250 --> 02:23:58,920

It's sort of in the middle.

2600

02:23:58,920 --> 02:24:09,220

And so we settled over there
for a few years, until 1952.

2601

02:24:09,220 --> 02:24:12,520

And how did you
support yourselves?

2602

02:24:12,520 --> 02:24:13,505

Did you go to school?

2603

02:24:13,505 --> 02:24:14,380

Did your father work?

2604

02:24:14,380 --> 02:24:17,960

I went to school again.

2605

02:24:17,960 --> 02:24:20,410

And there was more
than a year we didn't

2606

02:24:20,410 --> 02:24:23,110

have any school because--

2607

02:24:23,110 --> 02:24:24,490

There was a war.

2608

02:24:24,490 --> 02:24:26,320

Because of the war.

2609

02:24:26,320 --> 02:24:34,360

And so anyway, so I decided I
need to get eighth grade out

2610

02:24:34,360 --> 02:24:40,090

of the road and get that done.

2611

02:24:40,090 --> 02:24:50,050

And so I took two years
of school in one year.

2612

02:24:50,050 --> 02:24:57,100

And what they called homework
in them days, that was just it,

2613

02:24:57,100 --> 02:24:59,620

home work.

2614

02:24:59,620 --> 02:25:04,930

And you did not do the
homework in school.

2615

02:25:04,930 --> 02:25:05,940

You did it at home.

2616

02:25:05,940 --> 02:25:08,530

2617

02:25:08,530 --> 02:25:10,740

And is that where you
had those teachers,

2618

02:25:10,740 --> 02:25:13,235

the one with the switch
and the one with the ear?

2619

02:25:13,235 --> 02:25:13,735

Yes.

2620

02:25:13,735 --> 02:25:19,000

2621

02:25:19,000 --> 02:25:23,920

But that was the second
time with the switch.

2622

02:25:23,920 --> 02:25:25,810

But that was OK.

2623
02:25:25,810 --> 02:25:28,058
I didn't care.

2624
02:25:28,058 --> 02:25:29,350
Well, you'd been through worse.

2625
02:25:29,350 --> 02:25:32,310

2626
02:25:32,310 --> 02:25:36,500
The bad thing about
a lot of those things

2627
02:25:36,500 --> 02:25:44,440
is that you never know
where your relatives are

2628
02:25:44,440 --> 02:25:46,540
during that time.

2629
02:25:46,540 --> 02:25:51,390
And it really doesn't really
matter much which end of it

2630
02:25:51,390 --> 02:25:53,980
or what part of it.

2631
02:25:53,980 --> 02:25:58,106
It all seemed to be in the
same kind of situations.

2632
02:25:58,106 --> 02:26:01,000

2633
02:26:01,000 --> 02:26:04,650
There's a lot that you
went-- by the age of 10,

2634
02:26:04,650 --> 02:26:07,710
you would see seen an awful
lot and had come this close

2635
02:26:07,710 --> 02:26:09,480
to death.

2636
02:26:09,480 --> 02:26:11,070
Very close.

2637
02:26:11,070 --> 02:26:12,460
Very close.

2638
02:26:12,460 --> 02:26:16,620
And the whole thing
is still you never

2639
02:26:16,620 --> 02:26:21,150
did know one day from
another if you're

2640
02:26:21,150 --> 02:26:25,620
going to get up in the morning
and you're still breathing.

2641
02:26:25,620 --> 02:26:29,880
And you know, it's just--

2642
02:26:29,880 --> 02:26:31,390
Were you afraid all that time?

2643
02:26:31,390 --> 02:26:34,320

2644
02:26:34,320 --> 02:26:38,100
Well, to a certain extent, yes.

2645
02:26:38,100 --> 02:26:41,950
To another, I guess
it happens to me.

2646
02:26:41,950 --> 02:26:45,450
It happened to a lot of
other people as well.

2647

02:26:45,450 --> 02:26:51,380
And so I just never really
worried too much about it

2648
02:26:51,380 --> 02:26:51,880
myself.

2649
02:26:51,880 --> 02:26:56,390

2650
02:26:56,390 --> 02:26:58,640
How did you come to
the United States?

2651
02:26:58,640 --> 02:27:01,220
What was the means of
being able to get here?

2652
02:27:01,220 --> 02:27:06,260
We had different places
that we could go.

2653
02:27:06,260 --> 02:27:08,910
Through what organization?

2654
02:27:08,910 --> 02:27:10,170
Lutheran church.

2655
02:27:10,170 --> 02:27:11,920
Through the Lutheran church.

2656
02:27:11,920 --> 02:27:15,430
But we could have
either went to Canada,

2657
02:27:15,430 --> 02:27:18,120
which we had relatives there.

2658
02:27:18,120 --> 02:27:21,340
We could have went to Brazil.

2659
02:27:21,340 --> 02:27:28,160

We had my grandmother's
brother lived there.

2660
02:27:28,160 --> 02:27:31,290
Or we could come over here.

2661
02:27:31,290 --> 02:27:34,530
So my dad decided we were
going to come over here.

2662
02:27:34,530 --> 02:27:36,990
And why would you leave Germany?

2663
02:27:36,990 --> 02:27:37,500
Why leave?

2664
02:27:37,500 --> 02:27:42,450
You were finally, actually
within Germany proper.

2665
02:27:42,450 --> 02:27:45,180
My father was
afraid that if there

2666
02:27:45,180 --> 02:27:47,500
was anything going
to come of it again,

2667
02:27:47,500 --> 02:27:52,760
they're going to start it again
over there, the same place.

2668
02:27:52,760 --> 02:27:55,160
So he wasn't secure.

2669
02:27:55,160 --> 02:27:59,060
He didn't feel secure at all.

2670
02:27:59,060 --> 02:28:08,730
And the thing was
that he had work,

2671

02:28:08,730 --> 02:28:14,570
but it was a
government situation,

2672
02:28:14,570 --> 02:28:22,760
and we got a certain amount of
food stamps, not money, stamps.

2673
02:28:22,760 --> 02:28:27,470
And you had to have a
certain amount of stamps

2674
02:28:27,470 --> 02:28:29,610
to buy a pair of shoes.

2675
02:28:29,610 --> 02:28:30,860
So things were still rationed.

2676
02:28:30,860 --> 02:28:33,770

2677
02:28:33,770 --> 02:28:36,180
It was very rationed.

2678
02:28:36,180 --> 02:28:41,220
And if you want to
buy a pound of butter

2679
02:28:41,220 --> 02:28:45,420
over there, if you had
money and you actually

2680
02:28:45,420 --> 02:28:49,920
wanted to pay for it, it
would have cost you 5,000 mark

2681
02:28:49,920 --> 02:28:53,180
to get one pound of butter.

2682
02:28:53,180 --> 02:28:58,720
And so then after a
while, the money changed.

2683

02:28:58,720 --> 02:29:04,090

And so there wasn't
any money per se.

2684

02:29:04,090 --> 02:29:07,570

Did you feel at home in Germany?

2685

02:29:07,570 --> 02:29:13,820

I was at home wherever
I went because I

2686

02:29:13,820 --> 02:29:16,670

had friends over there.

2687

02:29:16,670 --> 02:29:21,380

And I had other stuff, and
stuff that I'd done on my own

2688

02:29:21,380 --> 02:29:22,850

without.

2689

02:29:22,850 --> 02:29:28,850

And I went to the all the
farms in the fall of the year,

2690

02:29:28,850 --> 02:29:35,170

and I asked them,
there's a wheat field.

2691

02:29:35,170 --> 02:29:39,200

They couldn't get all the
corners and stuff like that.

2692

02:29:39,200 --> 02:29:44,800

So I went over there and I
picked heads off of that,

2693

02:29:44,800 --> 02:29:47,346

and then we took
it out in the yard,

2694

02:29:47,346 --> 02:29:51,160

and we kind of trashed it
with sticks and whatnot

2695
02:29:51,160 --> 02:29:56,590
to get the wheat
out of the hull.

2696
02:29:56,590 --> 02:30:05,280
And then we went to
the mill and traded it

2697
02:30:05,280 --> 02:30:07,240
so we would have flour.

2698
02:30:07,240 --> 02:30:08,430
For baking.

2699
02:30:08,430 --> 02:30:13,770
We also had sheep, a few.

2700
02:30:13,770 --> 02:30:17,070
And we had wool.

2701
02:30:17,070 --> 02:30:24,420
My mother was very good in
knitting stuff with sheep wool.

2702
02:30:24,420 --> 02:30:29,070
Did you feel like you were
accepted by the local Germans?

2703
02:30:29,070 --> 02:30:30,840
No.

2704
02:30:30,840 --> 02:30:34,500
We were always outcasts.

2705
02:30:34,500 --> 02:30:43,630
And we were not wanted because
even there, where we lived,

2706
02:30:43,630 --> 02:30:48,650

we lived with a farmer
couple over there.

2707
02:30:48,650 --> 02:30:54,610
And we had one room that
was assigned where they

2708
02:30:54,610 --> 02:30:58,490
couldn't even do anything with.

2709
02:30:58,490 --> 02:31:04,530
It was assigned that way from
the immediate government.

2710
02:31:04,530 --> 02:31:08,590
We had one room, and
we had the house.

2711
02:31:08,590 --> 02:31:12,310
There was a hallway
and the cows.

2712
02:31:12,310 --> 02:31:13,610
So you were in the barn.

2713
02:31:13,610 --> 02:31:16,410
Basically, yes.

2714
02:31:16,410 --> 02:31:22,830
And then later on, that farmer,
he decided, well, you know,

2715
02:31:22,830 --> 02:31:28,210
I'm going to get along with
these people very well.

2716
02:31:28,210 --> 02:31:35,340
And so I got another
small place over there.

2717
02:31:35,340 --> 02:31:38,400
And I'm going to take
the feed out of there,

2718
02:31:38,400 --> 02:31:42,360
and that's where they had
the feed for the horses.

2719
02:31:42,360 --> 02:31:44,250
So that was your room?

2720
02:31:44,250 --> 02:31:48,960
And then my parents decided,
well, my brother and myself,

2721
02:31:48,960 --> 02:31:52,650
we could be in that room.

2722
02:31:52,650 --> 02:32:00,960
But there were five of us in
one room first by the cows.

2723
02:32:00,960 --> 02:32:06,900
And we got along with
that farmer very well.

2724
02:32:06,900 --> 02:32:10,230
Did people look at
you as not really

2725
02:32:10,230 --> 02:32:13,290
being German, or not
really belonging?

2726
02:32:13,290 --> 02:32:15,990

2727
02:32:15,990 --> 02:32:20,520
We never belonged because--

2728
02:32:20,520 --> 02:32:24,460
well, we were kind of outcasts.

2729
02:32:24,460 --> 02:32:31,890
We moved there and

took over their area.

2730
02:32:31,890 --> 02:32:36,450
And so we also worked
for that farmer

2731
02:32:36,450 --> 02:32:43,860
somewhat, what they
called a peat pit.

2732
02:32:43,860 --> 02:32:47,670
It was off a little
ways from the house.

2733
02:32:47,670 --> 02:32:50,250
And we helped him go
and get some peat,

2734
02:32:50,250 --> 02:32:52,420
if you know what that is.

2735
02:32:52,420 --> 02:32:53,950
I have to say I've heard of it.

2736
02:32:53,950 --> 02:32:55,920
But if you were asking
me to point it out,

2737
02:32:55,920 --> 02:32:57,710
I wouldn't be able to.

2738
02:32:57,710 --> 02:32:58,350
OK.

2739
02:32:58,350 --> 02:33:04,460
The peat that they
had, it's in area

2740
02:33:04,460 --> 02:33:09,950
that used to be timber
and stuff like that.

2741

02:33:09,950 --> 02:33:12,590
And it all kind
of fell together.

2742
02:33:12,590 --> 02:33:14,670
So it rots.

2743
02:33:14,670 --> 02:33:16,050
Water.

2744
02:33:16,050 --> 02:33:22,980
And so then if you took the
top off, that was very mild,

2745
02:33:22,980 --> 02:33:27,580
and you could use it in
the summertime to cook

2746
02:33:27,580 --> 02:33:30,690
and that kind of stuff.

2747
02:33:30,690 --> 02:33:36,300
They also had no electricity
there much either.

2748
02:33:36,300 --> 02:33:39,900
It was common, but
not right then.

2749
02:33:39,900 --> 02:33:43,530
So you burned that in the stove.

2750
02:33:43,530 --> 02:33:48,140
The lower part of
it was like coal.

2751
02:33:48,140 --> 02:33:53,190
And so we had to go out there,
and we'd have to dig this.

2752
02:33:53,190 --> 02:33:59,050
And the horse that we
used, we put shoes on them

2753
02:33:59,050 --> 02:34:05,010
to make the feet larger
so they wouldn't sink.

2754
02:34:05,010 --> 02:34:12,190
And so we kind of had fun doing
that and helping the farmer out

2755
02:34:12,190 --> 02:34:13,930
with that.

2756
02:34:13,930 --> 02:34:17,650
So your father decides
he doesn't want to stay.

2757
02:34:17,650 --> 02:34:21,190
He wants to have a new
beginning, I guess.

2758
02:34:21,190 --> 02:34:23,860
That's right.

2759
02:34:23,860 --> 02:34:26,350
And you were able to
come-- did you have

2760
02:34:26,350 --> 02:34:28,690
relatives in the United States?

2761
02:34:28,690 --> 02:34:29,680
Yes.

2762
02:34:29,680 --> 02:34:33,310
And through the
Lutheran church, you

2763
02:34:33,310 --> 02:34:37,690
were able, then, to
secure visas to come here?

2764
02:34:37,690 --> 02:34:47,970

The church sponsored us to go
from Germany to Ellis Island.

2765
02:34:47,970 --> 02:34:50,830

2766
02:34:50,830 --> 02:34:53,110
And then from Ellis Island?

2767
02:34:53,110 --> 02:34:55,180
Ellis Island is in New York.

2768
02:34:55,180 --> 02:34:56,380
Been there.

2769
02:34:56,380 --> 02:35:01,210
And from Ellis Island,
did they sponsor you?

2770
02:35:01,210 --> 02:35:02,830
From Ellis Island,
there was a farmer

2771
02:35:02,830 --> 02:35:08,290
sponsored us to go from
there to eastern Montana.

2772
02:35:08,290 --> 02:35:10,270
That's a hike.

2773
02:35:10,270 --> 02:35:13,360
Well, we got on a train
and went over there.

2774
02:35:13,360 --> 02:35:21,120
But the thing was, the deal
was that my father would work

2775
02:35:21,120 --> 02:35:26,130
for that farmer for one year.

2776
02:35:26,130 --> 02:35:30,480

And then we kind of cheated
on that a little bit

2777
02:35:30,480 --> 02:35:33,720
because I worked there, too.

2778
02:35:33,720 --> 02:35:36,270
Well, the farmer
got two for one.

2779
02:35:36,270 --> 02:35:37,290
That's right.

2780
02:35:37,290 --> 02:35:45,960
But we both got paid a little,
you know, whatever there was.

2781
02:35:45,960 --> 02:35:47,760
And then I started work.

2782
02:35:47,760 --> 02:35:53,580
Then I got work on a railroad,
and I got all kinds of money.

2783
02:35:53,580 --> 02:35:58,710
I got \$0.53 an hour.

2784
02:35:58,710 --> 02:36:01,140
But this isn't money
with inflation,

2785
02:36:01,140 --> 02:36:04,740
where you have to pay 5,000
for a pound of butter.

2786
02:36:04,740 --> 02:36:06,090
This is different kind of money.

2787
02:36:06,090 --> 02:36:08,190
Different kind of money.

2788
02:36:08,190 --> 02:36:09,240

We could spend it.

2789
02:36:09,240 --> 02:36:14,036
But I took all my money,
except for probably \$5.00,

2790
02:36:14,036 --> 02:36:18,450
and I used that
for a smoke break.

2791
02:36:18,450 --> 02:36:19,350
A what?

2792
02:36:19,350 --> 02:36:20,670
A smoke break.

2793
02:36:20,670 --> 02:36:22,550
A smoke brick?

2794
02:36:22,550 --> 02:36:24,120
Of course.

2795
02:36:24,120 --> 02:36:26,220
You know, when you smoke?

2796
02:36:26,220 --> 02:36:27,840
So it went on cigarettes?

2797
02:36:27,840 --> 02:36:29,550
Of course.

2798
02:36:29,550 --> 02:36:31,800
I had to do something.

2799
02:36:31,800 --> 02:36:34,770
You have to find something
to invest your money in.

2800
02:36:34,770 --> 02:36:35,460
Of course.

2801

02:36:35,460 --> 02:36:35,960
Exactly.

2802
02:36:35,960 --> 02:36:40,240
The rest of money, I
give that to my parents.

2803
02:36:40,240 --> 02:36:42,250
Well, you know,
we're coming we're

2804
02:36:42,250 --> 02:36:46,330
coming close to the
end of our interview,

2805
02:36:46,330 --> 02:36:50,890
and I've got a few final
kinds of questions.

2806
02:36:50,890 --> 02:36:56,250
You know, you experienced this
war during the most tender

2807
02:36:56,250 --> 02:37:04,650
years that a child can
have, from before age 10.

2808
02:37:04,650 --> 02:37:06,330
You've seen it all.

2809
02:37:06,330 --> 02:37:08,340
Yes.

2810
02:37:08,340 --> 02:37:10,580
How did it change you?

2811
02:37:10,580 --> 02:37:12,710
How did it shape you?

2812
02:37:12,710 --> 02:37:16,650
How did these
experiences change you?

2813
02:37:16,650 --> 02:37:19,650
What did it make of you?

2814
02:37:19,650 --> 02:37:26,630
My feeling was-- and
this is very personal--

2815
02:37:26,630 --> 02:37:30,780
in my life, I had very,
very few years where

2816
02:37:30,780 --> 02:37:32,655
I could say that I was a child.

2817
02:37:32,655 --> 02:37:35,390

2818
02:37:35,390 --> 02:37:43,240
In one way, I never regretted
that because I learned a lot

2819
02:37:43,240 --> 02:37:47,930
of things about good and evil.

2820
02:37:47,930 --> 02:37:55,530
And that is the thing that
kind of installed in my life.

2821
02:37:55,530 --> 02:38:01,580
And as far as anything
else goes, to me,

2822
02:38:01,580 --> 02:38:05,670
it's something that
happened years ago,

2823
02:38:05,670 --> 02:38:08,210
and I don't want any part of it.

2824
02:38:08,210 --> 02:38:10,910
I never wanted to talk about it.

2825

02:38:10,910 --> 02:38:18,680

And I simply never regretted
any minute of it because--

2826

02:38:18,680 --> 02:38:19,180

Excuse me.

2827

02:38:19,180 --> 02:38:20,540

Continue.

2828

02:38:20,540 --> 02:38:25,380

Because I just felt like to
me, that it was just about

2829

02:38:25,380 --> 02:38:27,125

like reading a history book.

2830

02:38:27,125 --> 02:38:31,440

2831

02:38:31,440 --> 02:38:33,930

Does that mean you never
talked about the war years

2832

02:38:33,930 --> 02:38:35,820

to anybody when
you came over here?

2833

02:38:35,820 --> 02:38:38,100

No, never did.

2834

02:38:38,100 --> 02:38:41,270

When did you start?

2835

02:38:41,270 --> 02:38:44,440

My grandson started it.

2836

02:38:44,440 --> 02:38:46,290

So in other words,
your wife didn't know.

2837

02:38:46,290 --> 02:38:48,060
Your children didn't know.

2838
02:38:48,060 --> 02:38:48,630
No.

2839
02:38:48,630 --> 02:38:50,700
It was only through a grandson.

2840
02:38:50,700 --> 02:38:53,500
Yes.

2841
02:38:53,500 --> 02:38:58,250
He had to write an
essay in school.

2842
02:38:58,250 --> 02:39:03,660
And I think he did very
well, from what I taught him.

2843
02:39:03,660 --> 02:39:06,610
Whether the school teachers
believed him or not,

2844
02:39:06,610 --> 02:39:08,650
I don't know.

2845
02:39:08,650 --> 02:39:11,440
But at least he
asked the questions.

2846
02:39:11,440 --> 02:39:14,940
So he was the first one
who asked the questions?

2847
02:39:14,940 --> 02:39:16,420
The first one.

2848
02:39:16,420 --> 02:39:20,440
And how long ago was this?

2849
02:39:20,440 --> 02:39:23,020

10 years, 15 years?

2850

02:39:23,020 --> 02:39:28,620

I think maybe my wife would
know a little bit more

2851

02:39:28,620 --> 02:39:30,750

when she started
writing the book.

2852

02:39:30,750 --> 02:39:31,765

Hang on a minute.

2853

02:39:31,765 --> 02:39:32,640

Let's cut the camera.

2854

02:39:32,640 --> 02:39:36,370

2855

02:39:36,370 --> 02:39:37,030

OK.

2856

02:39:37,030 --> 02:39:39,610

So we just asked
your wife, and she

2857

02:39:39,610 --> 02:39:45,220

thinks it must have been around
2005, maybe a year or two

2858

02:39:45,220 --> 02:39:45,790

before.

2859

02:39:45,790 --> 02:39:47,890

But something around that time.

2860

02:39:47,890 --> 02:39:49,120

Somewhere in that area.

2861

02:39:49,120 --> 02:39:53,710

So it would have been 60
years, a good 60 years

2862
02:39:53,710 --> 02:39:55,270
that you never talked about it?

2863
02:39:55,270 --> 02:39:56,680
No.

2864
02:39:56,680 --> 02:39:58,690
Not to no one.

2865
02:39:58,690 --> 02:39:59,530
Not to anyone.

2866
02:39:59,530 --> 02:40:01,780
I figured it was
my history and I

2867
02:40:01,780 --> 02:40:04,360
was going to keep it that way.

2868
02:40:04,360 --> 02:40:06,550
Was it too hard to talk about?

2869
02:40:06,550 --> 02:40:07,800
No.

2870
02:40:07,800 --> 02:40:14,440
It was just, I couldn't
remember things in sequence.

2871
02:40:14,440 --> 02:40:19,900
But and my wife went
ahead and put it

2872
02:40:19,900 --> 02:40:25,090
more in a more
perspective manner

2873
02:40:25,090 --> 02:40:29,440
because I couldn't remember
everything in sequence,

2874

02:40:29,440 --> 02:40:32,290
and I didn't want to.

2875

02:40:32,290 --> 02:40:39,220
And so Carol had
no idea, basically,

2876

02:40:39,220 --> 02:40:44,140
of what I went through
or what the situation

2877

02:40:44,140 --> 02:40:48,440
was or any of those things.

2878

02:40:48,440 --> 02:40:56,120
And I got to know her in 1952.

2879

02:40:56,120 --> 02:41:01,550
I was hauling hay off of her
father's place to the guy

2880

02:41:01,550 --> 02:41:04,880
that I was working for.

2881

02:41:04,880 --> 02:41:10,560
And she had no idea who I was,
just some guy that hauled hay.

2882

02:41:10,560 --> 02:41:13,700

2883

02:41:13,700 --> 02:41:16,110
And then she didn't
know about me.

2884

02:41:16,110 --> 02:41:23,210
But her grandmother knew who
I was because her grandmother

2885

02:41:23,210 --> 02:41:28,970
and myself, basically we
were born in Bessarabia.

2886
02:41:28,970 --> 02:41:32,510
So her grandmother was from
the same part of the world.

2887
02:41:32,510 --> 02:41:34,340
Yes.

2888
02:41:34,340 --> 02:41:37,310
But she didn't know
that, and she had no idea

2889
02:41:37,310 --> 02:41:42,920
that I was going to
go after her because I

2890
02:41:42,920 --> 02:41:49,790
told my brother in 1952 that
I was going to marry her.

2891
02:41:49,790 --> 02:41:52,265
And he told me that I was nuts.

2892
02:41:52,265 --> 02:41:56,420

2893
02:41:56,420 --> 02:41:58,010
Well, you did, didn't you?

2894
02:41:58,010 --> 02:41:59,630
I did.

2895
02:41:59,630 --> 02:42:06,290
And that was only
50 some years ago.

2896
02:42:06,290 --> 02:42:10,820
Is there anything else you would
like to add to our interview

2897
02:42:10,820 --> 02:42:11,390
today?

2898
02:42:11,390 --> 02:42:13,310
Anything that you
think we've missed

2899
02:42:13,310 --> 02:42:16,400
that is necessary to highlight?

2900
02:42:16,400 --> 02:42:18,350
I wouldn't know.

2901
02:42:18,350 --> 02:42:21,560
All I know is I
probably talk too much

2902
02:42:21,560 --> 02:42:25,580
and didn't let you enough
time to ask questions.

2903
02:42:25,580 --> 02:42:27,350
You did wonderfully.

2904
02:42:27,350 --> 02:42:28,670
You did wonderfully.

2905
02:42:28,670 --> 02:42:30,710
And I can't tell
you how grateful we

2906
02:42:30,710 --> 02:42:32,870
are that you agreed to share.

2907
02:42:32,870 --> 02:42:39,810
I'm the one that has to be
grateful that you took the time

2908
02:42:39,810 --> 02:42:41,430
to even talk to me.

2909
02:42:41,430 --> 02:42:43,080
Oh, come on.

2910

02:42:43,080 --> 02:42:44,970

Thank you for sharing this.

2911

02:42:44,970 --> 02:42:48,240

Well, you're very welcome.

2912

02:42:48,240 --> 02:42:51,120

And I'll say, then,
that with this, this

2913

02:42:51,120 --> 02:42:55,350

concludes the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

2914

02:42:55,350 --> 02:43:01,470

interview with Mr. Christian
Koppenstein on March 24,

2915

02:43:01,470 --> 02:43:05,830

2018, in Overgaard, Arizona.

2916

02:43:05,830 --> 02:43:07,010

Thank you again.

2917

02:43:07,010 --> 02:43:10,020

And I am very
grateful that you did.

2918

02:43:10,020 --> 02:43:10,710

Thank you.

2919

02:43:10,710 --> 02:43:13,500

And that's all I
can say about it.

2920

02:43:13,500 --> 02:43:16,650

2921

02:43:16,650 --> 02:43:18,060

It's mutual.

2922

02:43:18,060 --> 02:43:19,080

It's mutual.

2923

02:43:19,080 --> 02:43:20,490

Thank you again.

2924

02:43:20,490 --> 02:43:24,290

No problem I was going to
show you some pictures.