

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,650

2
00:00:01,650 --> 00:00:04,660
All right, here we go.

3
00:00:04,660 --> 00:00:09,340
OK, this is Olivia Rosen
recording an interview

4
00:00:09,340 --> 00:00:13,570
with Samuel Schleider for the
US Holocaust Memorial Museum

5
00:00:13,570 --> 00:00:19,910
on March 21, 2018, in
Delray Beach, Florida.

6
00:00:19,910 --> 00:00:23,600
OK, Mr. Schleider,
first can you tell me--

7
00:00:23,600 --> 00:00:24,650
just a simple question.

8
00:00:24,650 --> 00:00:26,880
What was your name at birth?

9
00:00:26,880 --> 00:00:29,110
And when and where
were you born?

10
00:00:29,110 --> 00:00:30,150
What year I was born?

11
00:00:30,150 --> 00:00:31,110
Mhm.

12
00:00:31,110 --> 00:00:33,780
1937.

13

00:00:33,780 --> 00:00:35,160

And where?

14

00:00:35,160 --> 00:00:41,430

I was born in Stanislaw³w,
Poland in 1937.

15

00:00:41,430 --> 00:00:43,510

That's a city in Poland.

16

00:00:43,510 --> 00:00:49,190

And at birth, what
was your name?

17

00:00:49,190 --> 00:00:55,260

Zigo-- Z-I-G-O. My family's
name was Bernstein.

18

00:00:55,260 --> 00:00:58,260

19

00:00:58,260 --> 00:01:04,650

And I learned all my family's
name in a few years ago

20

00:01:04,650 --> 00:01:07,950

when everything was opening up--

21

00:01:07,950 --> 00:01:10,300

the archives.

22

00:01:10,300 --> 00:01:11,150

So you didn't--

23

00:01:11,150 --> 00:01:12,640

Birth certificates and all that.

24

00:01:12,640 --> 00:01:15,480

So you had forgotten
what your name was?

25

00:01:15,480 --> 00:01:16,620
Not forgotten.

26
00:01:16,620 --> 00:01:17,740
I never knew.

27
00:01:17,740 --> 00:01:19,990
I see.

28
00:01:19,990 --> 00:01:22,810
Can you please describe
your family growing up,

29
00:01:22,810 --> 00:01:25,510
from what you can remember,
including the professions

30
00:01:25,510 --> 00:01:27,300
of your mother and father?

31
00:01:27,300 --> 00:01:27,800
OK.

32
00:01:27,800 --> 00:01:33,490
My father was killed during
the war because he was able

33
00:01:33,490 --> 00:01:39,160
to smuggle me and my mother
and a few other people out

34
00:01:39,160 --> 00:01:42,330
of the Stanisławów ghetto.

35
00:01:42,330 --> 00:01:44,950
And we were hidden
by a Christian woman

36
00:01:44,950 --> 00:01:48,370
in the sub-basement
for 18 months.

37

00:01:48,370 --> 00:01:50,710
Do you mind backing
up just a little bit?

38
00:01:50,710 --> 00:01:54,850
Before the war broke out and
before you were in the ghetto,

39
00:01:54,850 --> 00:01:57,230
what did your father do?

40
00:01:57,230 --> 00:02:04,210
He had-- my father had
a scrap iron business.

41
00:02:04,210 --> 00:02:08,240
And when they tried--

42
00:02:08,240 --> 00:02:11,120
when the ghetto was
made, his business

43
00:02:11,120 --> 00:02:17,460
was right adjacent to the
ghetto on the other side.

44
00:02:17,460 --> 00:02:20,180
So do you remember
any of your early life

45
00:02:20,180 --> 00:02:21,770
before the war started?

46
00:02:21,770 --> 00:02:22,490
No.

47
00:02:22,490 --> 00:02:26,435
I was at that time, I would
say, three, four years old.

48
00:02:26,435 --> 00:02:30,620
And it was nothing special.

49

00:02:30,620 --> 00:02:33,250

So what was your
earliest memory?

50

00:02:33,250 --> 00:02:36,320

My earliest memory
was when we would--

51

00:02:36,320 --> 00:02:43,300

all the people, all the Jews
were gathered from the towns

52

00:02:43,300 --> 00:02:48,740

around Stanislaw³w, and we were
marched in middle of the night

53

00:02:48,740 --> 00:02:50,820

into the ghetto.

54

00:02:50,820 --> 00:02:56,280

And all I remember is
it was a cold night.

55

00:02:56,280 --> 00:02:57,120

I looked up.

56

00:02:57,120 --> 00:02:59,410

The moon was there.

57

00:02:59,410 --> 00:03:05,140

And we were making
too much noise,

58

00:03:05,140 --> 00:03:07,990

so the soldiers who
were guarding us

59

00:03:07,990 --> 00:03:13,590

shot their rifles into
the air to quiet us down.

60

00:03:13,590 --> 00:03:15,920

About how old were you
when this happened?

61
00:03:15,920 --> 00:03:17,050
Four years old.

62
00:03:17,050 --> 00:03:17,550
Four.

63
00:03:17,550 --> 00:03:19,633
And who were you with when
you were being marched?

64
00:03:19,633 --> 00:03:22,480
Just with my mother.

65
00:03:22,480 --> 00:03:24,310
And that was it.

66
00:03:24,310 --> 00:03:26,500
Where was your father?

67
00:03:26,500 --> 00:03:31,280
He was at Prague at that
time in his business,

68
00:03:31,280 --> 00:03:38,000
which as I said before, he had
a scrap metal business which

69
00:03:38,000 --> 00:03:41,570
the Germans allowed him
to continue it because it

70
00:03:41,570 --> 00:03:44,570
was helping for the war effort.

71
00:03:44,570 --> 00:03:45,830
I see.

72
00:03:45,830 --> 00:03:49,390
So where were you--

73
00:03:49,390 --> 00:03:52,160
do you know where you were
living in relation to where

74
00:03:52,160 --> 00:03:54,410
the ghetto was set
up in Stanislaw³w?

75
00:03:54,410 --> 00:03:55,730
No, I have no idea.

76
00:03:55,730 --> 00:03:59,990
It was just they took a
certain amount of square miles

77
00:03:59,990 --> 00:04:02,690
and they said, this is
going to be the ghetto.

78
00:04:02,690 --> 00:04:03,680
I see.

79
00:04:03,680 --> 00:04:07,580
Most likely the oldest
part of the city.

80
00:04:07,580 --> 00:04:12,320
Did you know what the nature
of religion was in your family

81
00:04:12,320 --> 00:04:14,250
before the war started out?

82
00:04:14,250 --> 00:04:15,190
No.

83
00:04:15,190 --> 00:04:17,930
No, I did not.

84
00:04:17,930 --> 00:04:19,279
I see.

85

00:04:19,279 --> 00:04:23,240

So you said your earliest memory
was walking to the ghetto.

86

00:04:23,240 --> 00:04:24,110

Right.

87

00:04:24,110 --> 00:04:27,360

Do you remember what your
life was like in the ghetto?

88

00:04:27,360 --> 00:04:31,370

Well, I was carefree.

89

00:04:31,370 --> 00:04:35,810

I was able to walk out of
the building, down the steps,

90

00:04:35,810 --> 00:04:37,880

into the street.

91

00:04:37,880 --> 00:04:44,300

I was roaming just within
where I supposed to be.

92

00:04:44,300 --> 00:04:48,830

And I was playing ball
with another kid my age

93

00:04:48,830 --> 00:04:50,890

or maybe younger.

94

00:04:50,890 --> 00:04:54,576

Oh, so you were able to maintain
a relatively normal life

95

00:04:54,576 --> 00:04:55,993

in the ghetto, as
far as you knew?

96

00:04:55,993 --> 00:04:59,640

Yeah, up to a point, right.

97

00:04:59,640 --> 00:05:01,870

Because every now
and then, the Germans

98

00:05:01,870 --> 00:05:05,530

used to come into the
ghetto and they took out

99

00:05:05,530 --> 00:05:09,730

X amount of people from the
ghetto claiming they need them

100

00:05:09,730 --> 00:05:11,910

for work.

101

00:05:11,910 --> 00:05:14,950

And what happened
that you know of?

102

00:05:14,950 --> 00:05:17,340

Well, they never came back.

103

00:05:17,340 --> 00:05:21,060

So after a while, the
people in the ghetto

104

00:05:21,060 --> 00:05:23,880

realized something is not right.

105

00:05:23,880 --> 00:05:27,150

So when the Germans came
into the ghetto trying

106

00:05:27,150 --> 00:05:30,580

to collect people,
everybody was hiding

107

00:05:30,580 --> 00:05:34,140

into their special
hiding places.

108

00:05:34,140 --> 00:05:38,900

I remember they built a
special hiding place for me

109

00:05:38,900 --> 00:05:40,500

in the wall.

110

00:05:40,500 --> 00:05:41,580

Of your apartment?

111

00:05:41,580 --> 00:05:44,700

Of the apartment
where I was staying.

112

00:05:44,700 --> 00:05:49,670

And when the cry came
out, [NON-ENGLISH]----

113

00:05:49,670 --> 00:05:54,870

Aktion, Aktion-- that's a
word that sounded like that--

114

00:05:54,870 --> 00:05:59,720

everybody ran to his
or her hiding place.

115

00:05:59,720 --> 00:06:03,780

Where-- who did you live
with in the apartment?

116

00:06:03,780 --> 00:06:08,480

Just with my mother and
a bunch of other people.

117

00:06:08,480 --> 00:06:09,910

So did you get placed with them?

118

00:06:09,910 --> 00:06:11,710

Who were these other people?

119

00:06:11,710 --> 00:06:12,580

What's that?

120
00:06:12,580 --> 00:06:13,672
Who were the other people?

121
00:06:13,672 --> 00:06:14,630
Did you have a choice--

122
00:06:14,630 --> 00:06:15,797
I have no idea who they was.

123
00:06:15,797 --> 00:06:17,945
They were strangers to me.

124
00:06:17,945 --> 00:06:18,680
I see.

125
00:06:18,680 --> 00:06:20,520
Or maybe they were
relatives or maybe they

126
00:06:20,520 --> 00:06:22,330
were friends of my mother.

127
00:06:22,330 --> 00:06:23,830
I have no idea.

128
00:06:23,830 --> 00:06:25,960
And your father, was
he living with you?

129
00:06:25,960 --> 00:06:27,380
No.

130
00:06:27,380 --> 00:06:31,230
He was outside the
ghetto at his business.

131
00:06:31,230 --> 00:06:33,740
So he was allowed to remain
outside of the ghetto?

132

00:06:33,740 --> 00:06:35,630
Yes, because of his business.

133
00:06:35,630 --> 00:06:37,950
Right.

134
00:06:37,950 --> 00:06:39,570
I see.

135
00:06:39,570 --> 00:06:45,480
So you mentioned the
Aktions with the Nazis.

136
00:06:45,480 --> 00:06:48,430
Do you remember any
specific incidents?

137
00:06:48,430 --> 00:06:48,930
Yes.

138
00:06:48,930 --> 00:06:52,900
I remember once I was
playing with this boy who

139
00:06:52,900 --> 00:06:57,750
was younger than me when
I heard the word "Aktion."

140
00:06:57,750 --> 00:07:00,590
We all ran to our hiding place.

141
00:07:00,590 --> 00:07:01,830
He was too slow.

142
00:07:01,830 --> 00:07:08,670
So when I came out, I
found him dead outside.

143
00:07:08,670 --> 00:07:13,150
And do you remember what you
thought of this experience?

144

00:07:13,150 --> 00:07:15,840
When my father came--

145
00:07:15,840 --> 00:07:18,850
What you thought of
seeing your friend?

146
00:07:18,850 --> 00:07:22,590
Well, he was dead, so
I took it for granted.

147
00:07:22,590 --> 00:07:26,870
That's not the first
person that I saw dead.

148
00:07:26,870 --> 00:07:28,760
Who was the first?

149
00:07:28,760 --> 00:07:32,020
Well, there was many people.

150
00:07:32,020 --> 00:07:35,090
If you walk in the street,
you see somebody dead,

151
00:07:35,090 --> 00:07:36,500
what are you going to do?

152
00:07:36,500 --> 00:07:39,080
Step over him and
continue walking.

153
00:07:39,080 --> 00:07:42,060
Did you know at this time--
you were a young boy,

154
00:07:42,060 --> 00:07:44,780
but did you know that these
were only Jews that you

155
00:07:44,780 --> 00:07:47,180
were housed with in the ghetto?

156

00:07:47,180 --> 00:07:48,380

No.

157

00:07:48,380 --> 00:07:51,350

And did your mother ever
talk to you about this?

158

00:07:51,350 --> 00:07:54,920

Or how did she try to maintain
a normal life for you?

159

00:07:54,920 --> 00:07:59,510

There was no such
thing as normal life.

160

00:07:59,510 --> 00:08:04,190

I know that my mother
tried to reinforce what

161

00:08:04,190 --> 00:08:07,180

I seen so I would remember.

162

00:08:07,180 --> 00:08:11,590

In fact, I'll give you one
recollection that she did.

163

00:08:11,590 --> 00:08:14,920

As the ghetto got
smaller, the ghetto

164

00:08:14,920 --> 00:08:22,100

was surrounded by Jewish
people called Kapos.

165

00:08:22,100 --> 00:08:24,140

And as the ghetto
got smaller, they

166

00:08:24,140 --> 00:08:29,540

needed less and less of those
Kapos to work in the ghetto.

167

00:08:29,540 --> 00:08:33,530

So what they did was they
took a whole bunch of them

168

00:08:33,530 --> 00:08:37,409

and they hung them
up on the poles.

169

00:08:37,409 --> 00:08:42,240

And my mother the next
day took me to see them

170

00:08:42,240 --> 00:08:47,230

and I was watching them
swinging in the wind.

171

00:08:47,230 --> 00:08:56,430

So the event that you mentioned,
do you remember when this was

172

00:08:56,430 --> 00:09:01,080

or how long you were in
the ghetto at that time?

173

00:09:01,080 --> 00:09:03,950

No, I don't remember
a time scale.

174

00:09:03,950 --> 00:09:09,120

All I remember that a few months
later, a few weeks later, we

175

00:09:09,120 --> 00:09:12,480

left the ghetto, my
mother and I in the home

176

00:09:12,480 --> 00:09:15,630

and a few other people
that my father knew

177

00:09:15,630 --> 00:09:18,430

through my father's business.

178

00:09:18,430 --> 00:09:19,090
I see.

179
00:09:19,090 --> 00:09:28,070
So that particular Aktion was
in 1942 when the 20 members--

180
00:09:28,070 --> 00:09:29,260
43 maybe.

181
00:09:29,260 --> 00:09:30,550
43.

182
00:09:30,550 --> 00:09:35,170
And then you said you were
taken out of the ghetto.

183
00:09:35,170 --> 00:09:38,190
Can you describe your escape?

184
00:09:38,190 --> 00:09:41,750
Well, we went in the
middle of the night.

185
00:09:41,750 --> 00:09:46,210
We got up, we got
dressed warmly,

186
00:09:46,210 --> 00:09:52,540
and we walked towards one
of the walls in the ghetto.

187
00:09:52,540 --> 00:09:56,130
And we moved some wooden planks.

188
00:09:56,130 --> 00:10:00,610
We went right through
into my father's business,

189
00:10:00,610 --> 00:10:05,130
then we continued walking
to our hiding place.

190

00:10:05,130 --> 00:10:07,590

Did your parents
tell you what you

191

00:10:07,590 --> 00:10:09,120

were doing when you escaped?

192

00:10:09,120 --> 00:10:11,770

Did you know that
you were escaping?

193

00:10:11,770 --> 00:10:13,176

No.

194

00:10:13,176 --> 00:10:18,190

We known when they told
me, do this, so I did this.

195

00:10:18,190 --> 00:10:20,040

Do that, so I did that.

196

00:10:20,040 --> 00:10:22,620

Was this during the
day or at night?

197

00:10:22,620 --> 00:10:23,910

Was at night.

198

00:10:23,910 --> 00:10:25,510

At night.

199

00:10:25,510 --> 00:10:27,730

And let's just go
back a little bit.

200

00:10:27,730 --> 00:10:31,000

When you were living
in the ghetto,

201

00:10:31,000 --> 00:10:33,706

was your mother working?

202

00:10:33,706 --> 00:10:36,540

There's no-- no,
she was in a ghetto.

203

00:10:36,540 --> 00:10:40,780

She was-- had-- with a
bunch of other people living

204

00:10:40,780 --> 00:10:42,520

in that apartment.

205

00:10:42,520 --> 00:10:47,040

So food was provided, X amount
of food that people cooked,

206

00:10:47,040 --> 00:10:50,830

and each one had a
little bit of the food.

207

00:10:50,830 --> 00:10:54,080

Were you hungry or did
you have enough to eat?

208

00:10:54,080 --> 00:10:59,850

I was-- my mother made
sure I have enough to eat.

209

00:10:59,850 --> 00:11:02,420

I see.

210

00:11:02,420 --> 00:11:05,330

So roughly how long were
you living in the ghetto

211

00:11:05,330 --> 00:11:07,430

before you escaped,
if you can remember?

212

00:11:07,430 --> 00:11:08,660

Maybe a year.

213

00:11:08,660 --> 00:11:09,590

A year.

214
00:11:09,590 --> 00:11:11,080
I see.

215
00:11:11,080 --> 00:11:15,950
So do you know anything
about the decision to hide,

216
00:11:15,950 --> 00:11:18,950
how your parents
decided to escape?

217
00:11:18,950 --> 00:11:26,080
Well, as the ghetto got smaller
and the people never came back,

218
00:11:26,080 --> 00:11:28,390
there was no--

219
00:11:28,390 --> 00:11:32,180
something was not right,
so that's why we left.

220
00:11:32,180 --> 00:11:32,680
I see.

221
00:11:32,680 --> 00:11:35,420
So where did you go?

222
00:11:35,420 --> 00:11:40,550
My father made arrangement
with this Christian woman

223
00:11:40,550 --> 00:11:48,870
to have some people in
her sub-basement hiding.

224
00:11:48,870 --> 00:11:54,900
And my father picked the men
or the women who had some--

225

00:11:54,900 --> 00:11:58,410
maybe-- pieces of gold
or earrings or something

226
00:11:58,410 --> 00:12:02,080
like that so they would have
enough money to buy food.

227
00:12:02,080 --> 00:12:04,710

228
00:12:04,710 --> 00:12:11,150
And once we were hidden,
every few days or weeks,

229
00:12:11,150 --> 00:12:15,140
I have no idea, then a lady
came into the sub-basement

230
00:12:15,140 --> 00:12:19,520
and somebody gave a
golden ring or something.

231
00:12:19,520 --> 00:12:23,560
So she would take the ring,
go on the black market,

232
00:12:23,560 --> 00:12:27,950
and was able to buy food for us.

233
00:12:27,950 --> 00:12:28,580
I see.

234
00:12:28,580 --> 00:12:32,090
So who else was in
your hiding space?

235
00:12:32,090 --> 00:12:33,590
About how many other people?

236
00:12:33,590 --> 00:12:40,100
Well, I know my mother's
sister was there, and my--

237

00:12:40,100 --> 00:12:44,000

and her son, which was
my cousin, was there.

238

00:12:44,000 --> 00:12:46,400

And there were a
few other people.

239

00:12:46,400 --> 00:12:49,460

I don't know who they were.

240

00:12:49,460 --> 00:12:52,040

And this sub-basement,
what was it like?

241

00:12:52,040 --> 00:12:53,960

What were your
living conditions?

242

00:12:53,960 --> 00:12:55,940

Well, the basement was--

243

00:12:55,940 --> 00:12:58,630

244

00:12:58,630 --> 00:13:01,260

we had straw, and
on top of the straw

245

00:13:01,260 --> 00:13:04,950

we had a blanket to lie on.

246

00:13:04,950 --> 00:13:14,320

And there was a hall in the back
with some sheets around on top.

247

00:13:14,320 --> 00:13:23,280

So we could go and do
our normal [? X ?] duty.

248

00:13:23,280 --> 00:13:25,860

There was no water
to take showers.

249
00:13:25,860 --> 00:13:29,520
I remember it used to have
water, just sponged ourself

250
00:13:29,520 --> 00:13:32,670
down, and that was it.

251
00:13:32,670 --> 00:13:34,813
There was no sanitary
condition there--

252
00:13:34,813 --> 00:13:35,730
No sanitary condition?

253
00:13:35,730 --> 00:13:39,050
--that we know now.

254
00:13:39,050 --> 00:13:42,080
And what did you do
to pass the time?

255
00:13:42,080 --> 00:13:46,160
Just lie and sleep and dream.

256
00:13:46,160 --> 00:13:46,730
And dream?

257
00:13:46,730 --> 00:13:48,020
What did you dream of?

258
00:13:48,020 --> 00:13:51,880
The day and when this
madness is finished.

259
00:13:51,880 --> 00:13:56,020
And your father, what was
he up to during that time?

260
00:13:56,020 --> 00:13:59,920

My father did not join
us in that hiding.

261
00:13:59,920 --> 00:14:03,640
He told my mother-- this
is what my mother told me--

262
00:14:03,640 --> 00:14:06,960
that he decided to
stay out and see

263
00:14:06,960 --> 00:14:12,440
if he could take out some
more people from the ghetto

264
00:14:12,440 --> 00:14:14,590
through his business.

265
00:14:14,590 --> 00:14:20,980
And he found this man who said,
sure, I'll take some people in.

266
00:14:20,980 --> 00:14:25,000
And my father found some
people willing to go.

267
00:14:25,000 --> 00:14:31,810
And when they all came into that
man's home in the sub-basement,

268
00:14:31,810 --> 00:14:35,790
he called in the Gestapo
and had them all killed.

269
00:14:35,790 --> 00:14:40,400
Gestapo is the German police.

270
00:14:40,400 --> 00:14:43,310
And since my father
was the instigator,

271
00:14:43,310 --> 00:14:45,710
they killed my father also.

272
00:14:45,710 --> 00:14:46,380
I see.

273
00:14:46,380 --> 00:14:49,910
So do you remember
when this happened?

274
00:14:49,910 --> 00:14:51,260
How did you find out?

275
00:14:51,260 --> 00:14:52,880
My mother told me.

276
00:14:52,880 --> 00:14:56,240
And she presumably
found out from the woman

277
00:14:56,240 --> 00:14:57,280
who was hiding you?

278
00:14:57,280 --> 00:14:59,510
That's right, most likely.

279
00:14:59,510 --> 00:15:03,740
Do you know if your father
rescued other people

280
00:15:03,740 --> 00:15:05,390
other than that group before?

281
00:15:05,390 --> 00:15:06,430
I have no idea.

282
00:15:06,430 --> 00:15:10,250
But it's possible
that he rescued us.

283
00:15:10,250 --> 00:15:16,170
Maybe he rescued another group,
but I have no ideas on that.

284
00:15:16,170 --> 00:15:18,260
I see.

285
00:15:18,260 --> 00:15:21,980
And did you ever
have any close calls

286
00:15:21,980 --> 00:15:25,430
on being caught when
you were in hiding?

287
00:15:25,430 --> 00:15:30,800
Were there any incidences
where the Nazis or the Gestapo

288
00:15:30,800 --> 00:15:33,480
were close to--

289
00:15:33,480 --> 00:15:33,980
No.

290
00:15:33,980 --> 00:15:36,390
I just tried to avoid them.

291
00:15:36,390 --> 00:15:39,120

292
00:15:39,120 --> 00:15:41,340
When-- did the woman
who was hiding you

293
00:15:41,340 --> 00:15:45,900
have any relationships
with the Germans?

294
00:15:45,900 --> 00:15:46,920
Yes.

295
00:15:46,920 --> 00:15:52,470
For her to be able to
have so many people

296

00:15:52,470 --> 00:15:57,780

in that sub-basement, she had to provide some kind of food.

297

00:15:57,780 --> 00:16:03,310

So she entertained the German people, German soldiers.

298

00:16:03,310 --> 00:16:06,060

And they used to come to her house

299

00:16:06,060 --> 00:16:10,080

and used to bring either salami or bread--

300

00:16:10,080 --> 00:16:12,000

some kind of food.

301

00:16:12,000 --> 00:16:14,260

This is how they paid her.

302

00:16:14,260 --> 00:16:19,850

And she subsequently gave us some of the food.

303

00:16:19,850 --> 00:16:23,450

So what were they paying her for?

304

00:16:23,450 --> 00:16:26,030

I'll let you imagine.

305

00:16:26,030 --> 00:16:27,260

I see.

306

00:16:27,260 --> 00:16:29,510

So she was a single woman?

307

00:16:29,510 --> 00:16:32,210

She was a single woman, right.

308
00:16:32,210 --> 00:16:32,990
OK.

309
00:16:32,990 --> 00:16:34,400
About how old was she?

310
00:16:34,400 --> 00:16:37,010
Do you remember
anything else about her?

311
00:16:37,010 --> 00:16:39,110
She must have been
in the 30s or 40s.

312
00:16:39,110 --> 00:16:40,610
I have no idea.

313
00:16:40,610 --> 00:16:41,270
I see.

314
00:16:41,270 --> 00:16:45,660
So when the Germans were
coming to visit her--

315
00:16:45,660 --> 00:16:48,530
We were supposed to be quiet.

316
00:16:48,530 --> 00:16:49,250
I see.

317
00:16:49,250 --> 00:16:53,570
No talking, not even whispers.

318
00:16:53,570 --> 00:16:55,660
Was that difficult for
you, being a child?

319
00:16:55,660 --> 00:16:56,600
Well, of course.

320
00:16:56,600 --> 00:17:01,490

A child doesn't know
why he's doing things.

321
00:17:01,490 --> 00:17:03,790
He likes to run.

322
00:17:03,790 --> 00:17:09,640
He likes to talk loud so
people could hear him.

323
00:17:09,640 --> 00:17:12,640
Well, that's normal for a child.

324
00:17:12,640 --> 00:17:16,490
And I didn't have no normality.

325
00:17:16,490 --> 00:17:17,359
I see.

326
00:17:17,359 --> 00:17:21,180
And you said your cousin
was housed with you.

327
00:17:21,180 --> 00:17:23,450
Was he also a child?

328
00:17:23,450 --> 00:17:25,670
Yeah, because he was much older.

329
00:17:25,670 --> 00:17:31,430
Whereas I would say I was
about 7, he was about 15, 16.

330
00:17:31,430 --> 00:17:32,540
I see.

331
00:17:32,540 --> 00:17:35,408
Did you have in the
sub-basement any windows?

332
00:17:35,408 --> 00:17:36,700
Did you ever get to go outside?

333
00:17:36,700 --> 00:17:38,500
There was a high window.

334
00:17:38,500 --> 00:17:40,910
We never went outside.

335
00:17:40,910 --> 00:17:43,240
The window was--

336
00:17:43,240 --> 00:17:47,810
I would say, you have
to step up on a chair

337
00:17:47,810 --> 00:17:50,660
to be able to see outside.

338
00:17:50,660 --> 00:17:56,460
And during your time in hiding,
were you and the rest of you

339
00:17:56,460 --> 00:17:59,630
aware of what was happening
outside the walls to the Jews?

340
00:17:59,630 --> 00:18:02,470

341
00:18:02,470 --> 00:18:04,220
No.

342
00:18:04,220 --> 00:18:04,770
No?

343
00:18:04,770 --> 00:18:05,860
Not to me.

344
00:18:05,860 --> 00:18:10,680
I mean, if you were older, you
probably knew what's happening.

345

00:18:10,680 --> 00:18:15,180

But at my age, I
had no interest.

346

00:18:15,180 --> 00:18:17,520

Right.

347

00:18:17,520 --> 00:18:20,360

How long were you in hiding?

348

00:18:20,360 --> 00:18:24,210

Well, I would say a
good 15 to 18 months.

349

00:18:24,210 --> 00:18:30,950

We were liberated in the
summer of 1944 by the Russians.

350

00:18:30,950 --> 00:18:32,900

Do you remember your liberation?

351

00:18:32,900 --> 00:18:37,040

Well, as soon as we were
liberated, they told me,

352

00:18:37,040 --> 00:18:39,570

you could go outside and play.

353

00:18:39,570 --> 00:18:44,790

So I knew I was liberated.

354

00:18:44,790 --> 00:18:49,310

And what did you do
when you were liberated?

355

00:18:49,310 --> 00:18:50,790

Where did you go?

356

00:18:50,790 --> 00:18:52,170

I just went outside.

357

00:18:52,170 --> 00:18:55,710

And I looked at
the sun was there.

358
00:18:55,710 --> 00:18:59,710
It was still warm,
nice, beautiful.

359
00:18:59,710 --> 00:19:03,830
There was no specific
places for me to go.

360
00:19:03,830 --> 00:19:06,470
And your mom?

361
00:19:06,470 --> 00:19:08,370
What did you do next?

362
00:19:08,370 --> 00:19:15,610
Well, when the lady who
hid us, the Christian lady,

363
00:19:15,610 --> 00:19:19,730
she was denounced
as a collaborator,

364
00:19:19,730 --> 00:19:22,930
that she collaborated
with the Germans.

365
00:19:22,930 --> 00:19:27,670
So my mother went down
to the Russian commandant

366
00:19:27,670 --> 00:19:30,830
and she said, yes,
she did collaborate,

367
00:19:30,830 --> 00:19:33,310
but there was a reason
for her to do it.

368
00:19:33,310 --> 00:19:37,940
She was bringing food for us.

369

00:19:37,940 --> 00:19:42,680

Therefore, the commandant
was very annoyed at my mother

370

00:19:42,680 --> 00:19:46,280

and he said to her, what
happened, the Germans run out

371

00:19:46,280 --> 00:19:48,640

of bullets for you?

372

00:19:48,640 --> 00:19:51,915

So that's when my mother left.

373

00:19:51,915 --> 00:19:56,510

And that night, my mother
and I, we hitchhiked out

374

00:19:56,510 --> 00:20:03,050

of Stanisław³w, and we
went towards Krakow,

375

00:20:03,050 --> 00:20:08,870

which is a big city, one of
the big cities in Poland.

376

00:20:08,870 --> 00:20:13,460

Did you try to find out what
happened to the other Jews

377

00:20:13,460 --> 00:20:14,630

in Stanisław³w?

378

00:20:14,630 --> 00:20:17,210

Did you go back to the ghetto
after you were liberated?

379

00:20:17,210 --> 00:20:18,170

No.

380

00:20:18,170 --> 00:20:20,120

We went to Krakow.

381

00:20:20,120 --> 00:20:25,640

We were in an apartment with
some other Jewish people

382

00:20:25,640 --> 00:20:32,170

who were saved and a few
other people that came back

383

00:20:32,170 --> 00:20:35,450

with the Russians from Russia.

384

00:20:35,450 --> 00:20:38,710

And my mother was--

385

00:20:38,710 --> 00:20:44,010

met this man who lost
his family, his wife

386

00:20:44,010 --> 00:20:45,390

and his children.

387

00:20:45,390 --> 00:20:47,290

What was his name?

388

00:20:47,290 --> 00:20:49,560

His name was Markus--

389

00:20:49,560 --> 00:20:52,020

M-A-R-K-U-S-- Schleider.

390

00:20:52,020 --> 00:20:53,880

That's the name I use now.

391

00:20:53,880 --> 00:20:54,900

I see.

392

00:20:54,900 --> 00:20:59,830

And they married,
and that was it.

393

00:20:59,830 --> 00:21:01,360

I just want to go
back a little bit.

394

00:21:01,360 --> 00:21:04,714

Do you know what happened
to the woman who hid you?

395

00:21:04,714 --> 00:21:05,578

No.

396

00:21:05,578 --> 00:21:08,920

Or what about any of the
other people who hid with you?

397

00:21:08,920 --> 00:21:10,330

I don't know.

398

00:21:10,330 --> 00:21:14,490

Some of them-- we all
went different ways.

399

00:21:14,490 --> 00:21:15,900

I see.

400

00:21:15,900 --> 00:21:22,520

I know my cousin went to
Australia after the war,

401

00:21:22,520 --> 00:21:25,440

because he came once
to the United States

402

00:21:25,440 --> 00:21:26,610

and we got together.

403

00:21:26,610 --> 00:21:29,610

404

00:21:29,610 --> 00:21:32,700

What was your physical state,
like, right after you came out

405
00:21:32,700 --> 00:21:33,200
of hiding?

406
00:21:33,200 --> 00:21:34,170
My physical?

407
00:21:34,170 --> 00:21:37,080
Yes, and, you know, those who
hid with you-- your mothers.

408
00:21:37,080 --> 00:21:41,500
My mother was skinny because
she didn't have much to eat.

409
00:21:41,500 --> 00:21:44,840
I was normal.

410
00:21:44,840 --> 00:21:48,150
Well, the food was--

411
00:21:48,150 --> 00:21:53,190
if you don't have steak
and you never ate steak,

412
00:21:53,190 --> 00:21:55,530
you don't know what
you're missing.

413
00:21:55,530 --> 00:22:02,000
All I had is bread and water
or soup, and that's what I had.

414
00:22:02,000 --> 00:22:06,080
So after liberation,
you went to Krakow

415
00:22:06,080 --> 00:22:09,830
and you managed to
find housing there.

416
00:22:09,830 --> 00:22:11,180

Yes.

417

00:22:11,180 --> 00:22:14,450

Were there other refugees and
liberated people emerging?

418

00:22:14,450 --> 00:22:15,290

Yes.

419

00:22:15,290 --> 00:22:15,860

Yes.

420

00:22:15,860 --> 00:22:18,920

A lot of people
who were liberated

421

00:22:18,920 --> 00:22:22,330

immigrated towards the
big city of Krakow.

422

00:22:22,330 --> 00:22:27,530

Some of them went to the capital
city, but we went to Krakow.

423

00:22:27,530 --> 00:22:32,510

And how were the Russians
received as liberators?

424

00:22:32,510 --> 00:22:37,370

Well, the Russians were not that
much different from Germans,

425

00:22:37,370 --> 00:22:39,800

but they did not kill you.

426

00:22:39,800 --> 00:22:44,320

They took away everything that
you had, all your possessions,

427

00:22:44,320 --> 00:22:47,680

and that was that.

428

00:22:47,680 --> 00:22:52,030
In Krakow, did your mother try
to find other family members

429
00:22:52,030 --> 00:22:54,610
and try to find out
what happened at all?

430
00:22:54,610 --> 00:22:55,210
No.

431
00:22:55,210 --> 00:22:57,810
I'm not sure.

432
00:22:57,810 --> 00:23:01,230
But there was no one else that
you reunited with in Krakow?

433
00:23:01,230 --> 00:23:03,480
No.

434
00:23:03,480 --> 00:23:05,970
How did she meet
Markus Schleider?

435
00:23:05,970 --> 00:23:10,350
Well, we went and we
lived an apartment,

436
00:23:10,350 --> 00:23:13,710
and there was a lot of
other people surviving,

437
00:23:13,710 --> 00:23:15,120
living in that apartment.

438
00:23:15,120 --> 00:23:18,130
That's how she-- they met.

439
00:23:18,130 --> 00:23:21,110
Was the apartment--
did you pay for it?

440

00:23:21,110 --> 00:23:24,740

How did you come to
be in the apartment?

441

00:23:24,740 --> 00:23:26,310

Well, I have no idea.

442

00:23:26,310 --> 00:23:29,800

443

00:23:29,800 --> 00:23:32,730

So what did you do
after staying in Krakow?

444

00:23:32,730 --> 00:23:34,530

About how long were you there?

445

00:23:34,530 --> 00:23:38,880

We were not that long
in Poland because there

446

00:23:38,880 --> 00:23:41,070

was no future for us.

447

00:23:41,070 --> 00:23:45,750

So we left Poland and
we were going south.

448

00:23:45,750 --> 00:23:48,680

449

00:23:48,680 --> 00:23:52,820

And we reached Czechoslovakia--

450

00:23:52,820 --> 00:23:54,380

Prague.

451

00:23:54,380 --> 00:23:58,235

And my father was
telling me after the war

452

00:23:58,235 --> 00:24:05,470
that he met British soldiers
who came from Palestine--

453
00:24:05,470 --> 00:24:09,910
Jews who were fighting
with the British army.

454
00:24:09,910 --> 00:24:15,130
And any surviving Jew,
they kept saying, go south.

455
00:24:15,130 --> 00:24:22,320
Go to Bari, Italy and take
the boat to Palestine.

456
00:24:22,320 --> 00:24:27,390
And so we hitchhiked
all the way to Italy.

457
00:24:27,390 --> 00:24:33,680
We finally hit
Bologna, Italy, and was

458
00:24:33,680 --> 00:24:39,930
supposed to take a train from
Italy all the way to Bari.

459
00:24:39,930 --> 00:24:45,470
And Bari was a city
just below Naples.

460
00:24:45,470 --> 00:24:47,390
And there was
towns, and so people

461
00:24:47,390 --> 00:24:50,660
tried to get on the train.

462
00:24:50,660 --> 00:24:55,610
I remember seeing people on
top of the roof of the train,

463

00:24:55,610 --> 00:24:59,180
people in between the
train, and some people

464
00:24:59,180 --> 00:25:03,560
put wooden planks underneath the
train so they could lie on it.

465
00:25:03,560 --> 00:25:04,930
Underneath the train.

466
00:25:04,930 --> 00:25:06,100
Yeah.

467
00:25:06,100 --> 00:25:10,300
And my mother took one look
at that train situation

468
00:25:10,300 --> 00:25:16,370
and she said, I can't get on
it, because she was pregnant.

469
00:25:16,370 --> 00:25:19,050
And so we stayed in Italy.

470
00:25:19,050 --> 00:25:23,130
We went to the city
of Florence, Italy,

471
00:25:23,130 --> 00:25:28,550
and there were other Jews
going also to that city.

472
00:25:28,550 --> 00:25:32,280
And that's-- my sister was
born in Florence, Italy,

473
00:25:32,280 --> 00:25:35,340
and she is Italian by birth.

474
00:25:35,340 --> 00:25:35,940
I see.

475

00:25:35,940 --> 00:25:41,160

So there was this hope that your family would go to Palestine.

476

00:25:41,160 --> 00:25:43,290

Did you still-- did your family still

477

00:25:43,290 --> 00:25:46,530

hope to go there when you were settled in Florence?

478

00:25:46,530 --> 00:25:49,830

There was no way of going because it was ready.

479

00:25:49,830 --> 00:25:55,860

The war started and my sister was born, you know, so we--

480

00:25:55,860 --> 00:25:59,370

So this was about 1948?

481

00:25:59,370 --> 00:26:05,120

We were there from 1945 to '46, when

482

00:26:05,120 --> 00:26:11,066

she was born, until we emigrated to the US.

483

00:26:11,066 --> 00:26:14,180

And my parents, my father--

484

00:26:14,180 --> 00:26:18,280

my stepfather, which I shall call my father-- and my mother

485

00:26:18,280 --> 00:26:26,390

had to recuperate from their experience more than I had to.

486

00:26:26,390 --> 00:26:29,740
How did they manage
to recuperate?

487
00:26:29,740 --> 00:26:32,590
Very difficult,
but they managed.

488
00:26:32,590 --> 00:26:34,580
They had no choice.

489
00:26:34,580 --> 00:26:38,500
Did you notice the effects
on them of the Holocaust

490
00:26:38,500 --> 00:26:39,850
when you were a child?

491
00:26:39,850 --> 00:26:40,830
Yes.

492
00:26:40,830 --> 00:26:44,900
They wanted make sure
nothing would happen to me.

493
00:26:44,900 --> 00:26:49,420
They kept an eye on me
until my sister was born.

494
00:26:49,420 --> 00:26:55,780
Then they-- all the
resources were on my sister,

495
00:26:55,780 --> 00:26:58,330
so I was free to roam.

496
00:26:58,330 --> 00:27:01,060
And what was life
like in Florence?

497
00:27:01,060 --> 00:27:02,560
Very easy.

498

00:27:02,560 --> 00:27:08,480

I was going from one end
of the city to the other.

499

00:27:08,480 --> 00:27:13,710

And if I wanted
to eat something,

500

00:27:13,710 --> 00:27:15,630

I jumped into somebody's garden.

501

00:27:15,630 --> 00:27:20,130

They always had all kinds
of fruit in the garden.

502

00:27:20,130 --> 00:27:22,830

And I made lots of friends.

503

00:27:22,830 --> 00:27:26,280

And I was on the
soccer league, which

504

00:27:26,280 --> 00:27:29,220

was sponsored by the churches.

505

00:27:29,220 --> 00:27:34,880

And I never had a better time.

506

00:27:34,880 --> 00:27:37,820

I was free like a bird.

507

00:27:37,820 --> 00:27:40,310

So you mentioned the churches.

508

00:27:40,310 --> 00:27:42,112

Were your friends Italians?

509

00:27:42,112 --> 00:27:43,070

Or were they refugees--

510

00:27:43,070 --> 00:27:45,680

They were all Italian.

511
00:27:45,680 --> 00:27:48,380
There was a school--

512
00:27:48,380 --> 00:27:51,290
there was a
synagogue in Florence

513
00:27:51,290 --> 00:27:54,560
and there was a
school attached to it.

514
00:27:54,560 --> 00:28:01,530
But they did not teach anything
about Judaism that I remember.

515
00:28:01,530 --> 00:28:02,940
In the synagogue even?

516
00:28:02,940 --> 00:28:03,900
In the school.

517
00:28:03,900 --> 00:28:05,230
In the school.

518
00:28:05,230 --> 00:28:08,580
So were you-- what
was your knowledge

519
00:28:08,580 --> 00:28:11,190
of your Jewish identity?

520
00:28:11,190 --> 00:28:12,060
Very little.

521
00:28:12,060 --> 00:28:13,080
Very little.

522
00:28:13,080 --> 00:28:16,350
I did not know
nothing about Judaism

523
00:28:16,350 --> 00:28:19,380
until I came to
the United States.

524
00:28:19,380 --> 00:28:23,920
We arrived in 1949 November.

525
00:28:23,920 --> 00:28:29,170
So was there anti-Semitism at
all in Italy post-World War II?

526
00:28:29,170 --> 00:28:31,650
Not that I know of.

527
00:28:31,650 --> 00:28:34,770
I mean, all my
friends were Italian.

528
00:28:34,770 --> 00:28:40,200
They did not say
anything bad to me.

529
00:28:40,200 --> 00:28:41,340
We played soccer.

530
00:28:41,340 --> 00:28:43,470
We did all those things.

531
00:28:43,470 --> 00:28:45,060
We had adventures.

532
00:28:45,060 --> 00:28:46,890
And you learned
to speak Italian?

533
00:28:46,890 --> 00:28:50,190
I still speak Italian fluently.

534
00:28:50,190 --> 00:28:54,960
And when in adult life,
I was in business,

535

00:28:54,960 --> 00:28:59,340
would be communicating
with Italians.

536

00:28:59,340 --> 00:29:04,410
So in Florence, what did your
father do for his profession?

537

00:29:04,410 --> 00:29:09,560
He couldn't work because he
was not an Italian citizen.

538

00:29:09,560 --> 00:29:14,840
To be able to get a job in
Italy, you had to be a citizen.

539

00:29:14,840 --> 00:29:18,590
You were either
born there or you--

540

00:29:18,590 --> 00:29:20,090
there is no such thing--

541

00:29:20,090 --> 00:29:24,290
it's naturalization like
we have in the states.

542

00:29:24,290 --> 00:29:30,650
So he found a unique
way of getting--

543

00:29:30,650 --> 00:29:31,880
making a living.

544

00:29:31,880 --> 00:29:35,990
He used to go down
to south Italy.

545

00:29:35,990 --> 00:29:41,250
He used to be able to buy
gold at a cheaper price

546

00:29:41,250 --> 00:29:44,600

than the gold was
in northern Italy

547

00:29:44,600 --> 00:29:48,710

and used to bring the gold to
the stores in Ponte Vecchio.

548

00:29:48,710 --> 00:29:51,600

549

00:29:51,600 --> 00:29:58,950

And he was able to make a living
like that, trading, buying

550

00:29:58,950 --> 00:30:01,900

the dollars--

551

00:30:01,900 --> 00:30:05,100

the soldiers had
different kind of dollars.

552

00:30:05,100 --> 00:30:08,430

And he used to buy
those dollars and be

553

00:30:08,430 --> 00:30:13,670

able to do that kind of work.

554

00:30:13,670 --> 00:30:15,970

Was he in business
with other Italians?

555

00:30:15,970 --> 00:30:19,060

No, he was in business
with other Jews.

556

00:30:19,060 --> 00:30:22,480

There were about 20 families,
and there were-- we all

557

00:30:22,480 --> 00:30:24,280

doing that kind of work.

558
00:30:24,280 --> 00:30:24,780
I see.

559
00:30:24,780 --> 00:30:30,280
That's the only work that
they could do which did not

560
00:30:30,280 --> 00:30:34,300
interfere with actual work.

561
00:30:34,300 --> 00:30:34,900
I see.

562
00:30:34,900 --> 00:30:38,770
So when did your parents
decide that it was best

563
00:30:38,770 --> 00:30:41,990
to leave Italy?

564
00:30:41,990 --> 00:30:46,970
My father had some
relatives in New York City,

565
00:30:46,970 --> 00:30:48,440
and he wrote to them.

566
00:30:48,440 --> 00:30:53,810
They wrote back to him, and
they made out the papers,

567
00:30:53,810 --> 00:30:59,870
and we emigrated to the
United States November 1949.

568
00:30:59,870 --> 00:31:03,500
So did you go straight
from Florence?

569
00:31:03,500 --> 00:31:07,640

We went from
Florence to a DP camp

570
00:31:07,640 --> 00:31:09,980
which is right outside Naples--

571
00:31:09,980 --> 00:31:11,540
[? Anzio ?].

572
00:31:11,540 --> 00:31:14,440
A displaced persons camp?

573
00:31:14,440 --> 00:31:19,580
No, there was just a
temporary camp for us to stay.

574
00:31:19,580 --> 00:31:25,100
And that's where they checked
us out physically and mentally,

575
00:31:25,100 --> 00:31:29,380
and they gave us all
kinds inoculation shots.

576
00:31:29,380 --> 00:31:36,680
And then came a day when the
ship was ready to take us,

577
00:31:36,680 --> 00:31:39,650
we got on it, and we left.

578
00:31:39,650 --> 00:31:42,710
So what did you think
about leaving Italy?

579
00:31:42,710 --> 00:31:44,570
Well, I loved it.

580
00:31:44,570 --> 00:31:48,530
It was such a
carefree place for me.

581

00:31:48,530 --> 00:31:51,330
Nobody said anything to me.

582
00:31:51,330 --> 00:31:53,420
I had everything I wanted.

583
00:31:53,420 --> 00:31:54,840
I had friends.

584
00:31:54,840 --> 00:31:57,800
I was in the soccer league.

585
00:31:57,800 --> 00:32:01,740
There was-- nobody asked
me, do you want to leave?

586
00:32:01,740 --> 00:32:04,970
I just had to go
with my parents.

587
00:32:04,970 --> 00:32:05,740
I see.

588
00:32:05,740 --> 00:32:08,980
And you mentioned growing up
that your parents struggled,

589
00:32:08,980 --> 00:32:13,000
dealing with the effects
of the Holocaust.

590
00:32:13,000 --> 00:32:14,330
How so?

591
00:32:14,330 --> 00:32:18,720
Well, we came to
the United States,

592
00:32:18,720 --> 00:32:23,880
and the first thing my
father did was he took me--

593

00:32:23,880 --> 00:32:28,560
we had an apartment on the
Lower East Side of Manhattan.

594
00:32:28,560 --> 00:32:33,570
And that was a real
railroad apartment,

595
00:32:33,570 --> 00:32:35,730
if you know what it is.

596
00:32:35,730 --> 00:32:40,260
And we lived there
for about 10 years.

597
00:32:40,260 --> 00:32:44,350
He also made sure I
learned about Judaism.

598
00:32:44,350 --> 00:32:50,700
So he took me to a yeshiva
which is not too far from home,

599
00:32:50,700 --> 00:32:56,210
and he told the head rabbi
that if he doesn't take me in,

600
00:32:56,210 --> 00:33:00,540
I'll grow as a gentile
because I don't know nothing

601
00:33:00,540 --> 00:33:02,340
about Judaism.

602
00:33:02,340 --> 00:33:05,970
I presume the
reason they did not

603
00:33:05,970 --> 00:33:11,920
push forward my Jewish education
in Europe was to protect me.

604
00:33:11,920 --> 00:33:12,920

I see.

605

00:33:12,920 --> 00:33:16,800

So-- and I went
into that yeshiva.

606

00:33:16,800 --> 00:33:21,960

And then I was 13 years old,
they put me in the first grade

607

00:33:21,960 --> 00:33:28,330

in Judaism and they put me in
junior high school in English.

608

00:33:28,330 --> 00:33:32,560

And after five years,
I was able to graduate

609

00:33:32,560 --> 00:33:37,315

the English department and I
was able to learn about Judaism.

610

00:33:37,315 --> 00:33:39,980

611

00:33:39,980 --> 00:33:45,360

And I passed all the regents,
and I went to college,

612

00:33:45,360 --> 00:33:47,720

and then I started a business.

613

00:33:47,720 --> 00:33:52,340

So was it difficult
for you to assimilate

614

00:33:52,340 --> 00:33:54,260

into American society?

615

00:33:54,260 --> 00:33:55,740

Yes.

616

00:33:55,740 --> 00:33:56,450
Yes and no.

617
00:33:56,450 --> 00:33:59,850
It was more difficult
for an older person

618
00:33:59,850 --> 00:34:06,780
because at that time, my
mind was thinking in Italian.

619
00:34:06,780 --> 00:34:11,176
My mind now thinks in English.

620
00:34:11,176 --> 00:34:15,550
But that's a normal
thing, that's all.

621
00:34:15,550 --> 00:34:20,969
Until when I was in a
yeshiva, I spoke Italian

622
00:34:20,969 --> 00:34:23,280
and I spoke Yiddish.

623
00:34:23,280 --> 00:34:25,770
I didn't speak a
word of English.

624
00:34:25,770 --> 00:34:28,620
But I was lucky that
most of the teachers

625
00:34:28,620 --> 00:34:33,929
were Jewish in the yeshiva,
and all of them spoke Yiddish.

626
00:34:33,929 --> 00:34:36,659
Did you have a lot of support
from the Jewish community--

627
00:34:36,659 --> 00:34:39,330
your family when

you got settled?

628
00:34:39,330 --> 00:34:43,600
We had support at the
beginning-- not that much--

629
00:34:43,600 --> 00:34:45,690
like a few weeks.

630
00:34:45,690 --> 00:34:49,230
When we arrived, they
put us up in a hotel

631
00:34:49,230 --> 00:34:52,020
until we were able
to find an apartment.

632
00:34:52,020 --> 00:34:55,290
But most of the time,
we were self-sufficient.

633
00:34:55,290 --> 00:35:00,720
My father went out to the
farmers market to peddle.

634
00:35:00,720 --> 00:35:05,280
And he was able to get
merchandise on consignment

635
00:35:05,280 --> 00:35:09,720
from some businesspeople
in the Lower East Side

636
00:35:09,720 --> 00:35:11,730
who trusted my father.

637
00:35:11,730 --> 00:35:14,920
And he was doing that.

638
00:35:14,920 --> 00:35:23,520
And we as a family also
supported his physical effort

639

00:35:23,520 --> 00:35:25,290
of making a living.

640

00:35:25,290 --> 00:35:29,520
I remember we had some
businesspeople who

641

00:35:29,520 --> 00:35:35,250
were in the United States
longer than us were exporting

642

00:35:35,250 --> 00:35:38,450
nylon stockings to Europe.

643

00:35:38,450 --> 00:35:43,580
Those nylon stockings were
irregulars or third qualities.

644

00:35:43,580 --> 00:35:47,330
My father's job and my
job and my mother's job

645

00:35:47,330 --> 00:35:49,850
was to erase the
word "irregulars"

646

00:35:49,850 --> 00:35:53,450
and put a fresh
quality stamp on it.

647

00:35:53,450 --> 00:35:58,050
And we used to get \$0.10
for doing that on a dozen

648

00:35:58,050 --> 00:35:59,990
stockings.

649

00:35:59,990 --> 00:36:06,570
And we made a living on that way
until something else came out.

650

00:36:06,570 --> 00:36:11,490

So how long did your-- you
said you went into business

651
00:36:11,490 --> 00:36:12,780
with your father.

652
00:36:12,780 --> 00:36:19,610
I went into business
in 1960, 1959.

653
00:36:19,610 --> 00:36:25,620
I received from
the Germans \$5,000,

654
00:36:25,620 --> 00:36:33,240
maybe to make their conscience
easy for stealing my youth.

655
00:36:33,240 --> 00:36:35,160
So that's what they gave me.

656
00:36:35,160 --> 00:36:37,590
When did they give
you this money?

657
00:36:37,590 --> 00:36:40,380
1959, 1960.

658
00:36:40,380 --> 00:36:43,890
So you were about 22?

659
00:36:43,890 --> 00:36:45,750
No, I was about 18.

660
00:36:45,750 --> 00:36:48,000
18.

661
00:36:48,000 --> 00:36:50,270
No-- '55 I was 18.

662
00:36:50,270 --> 00:36:52,850
I was about 21, 22.

663
00:36:52,850 --> 00:36:54,120
You were right.

664
00:36:54,120 --> 00:36:56,960
Your math is good.

665
00:36:56,960 --> 00:36:59,840
And how did you feel when
they gave you this money?

666
00:36:59,840 --> 00:37:00,350
Were you--

667
00:37:00,350 --> 00:37:03,860
I said it was blood money.

668
00:37:03,860 --> 00:37:06,500
So did you not want it at first?

669
00:37:06,500 --> 00:37:10,010
I myself, I did not want it.

670
00:37:10,010 --> 00:37:13,550
And my father and my
mother said, take it.

671
00:37:13,550 --> 00:37:16,730
We need it to
continue our lives.

672
00:37:16,730 --> 00:37:19,910
So at this time,
you're a young man.

673
00:37:19,910 --> 00:37:23,518
Are you beginning to realize
more about the Holocaust?

674
00:37:23,518 --> 00:37:24,810
Is it beginning to take effect?

675

00:37:24,810 --> 00:37:26,600

No.

676

00:37:26,600 --> 00:37:33,200

You have to realize, the
Holocaust, we lived through it,

677

00:37:33,200 --> 00:37:38,340

and there was many, many years
I did not speak about it.

678

00:37:38,340 --> 00:37:42,210

And also I have a feeling--

679

00:37:42,210 --> 00:37:44,160

this is my personal feeling--

680

00:37:44,160 --> 00:37:46,800

the United States
government suppressed

681

00:37:46,800 --> 00:37:49,870

a lot of the knowledge
about the Holocaust.

682

00:37:49,870 --> 00:37:50,370

Why?

683

00:37:50,370 --> 00:37:55,080

Because we were at war--

684

00:37:55,080 --> 00:38:01,250

not yet at war, but we
were enemies with Russia.

685

00:38:01,250 --> 00:38:07,400

And the United States wanted
to enlist Germans' side

686

00:38:07,400 --> 00:38:09,920

to be with us.

687

00:38:09,920 --> 00:38:15,340

So they did not encourage
publications of the Holocaust

688

00:38:15,340 --> 00:38:18,765

or movies or anything
until there was a peace.

689

00:38:18,765 --> 00:38:24,430

In 1980s, after 1980s,
everything was opened up.

690

00:38:24,430 --> 00:38:27,190

You check around, you
see how many books

691

00:38:27,190 --> 00:38:30,180

were printed after 1980s--

692

00:38:30,180 --> 00:38:36,590

or the movies, or anything else
that was about a Holocaust.

693

00:38:36,590 --> 00:38:40,490

So you said you didn't speak
of the Holocaust growing up.

694

00:38:40,490 --> 00:38:45,950

Did your mother explain to you
about your father's role in it?

695

00:38:45,950 --> 00:38:48,530

A little bit, but not that much.

696

00:38:48,530 --> 00:38:52,050

Even my mother wouldn't
speak too much about it.

697

00:38:52,050 --> 00:38:54,550

I guess it was painful.

698

00:38:54,550 --> 00:38:56,640

I see.

699

00:38:56,640 --> 00:38:58,637

When you were a young man--

700

00:38:58,637 --> 00:38:59,595

so you went to college.

701

00:38:59,595 --> 00:39:02,170

Can you tell me
about your education?

702

00:39:02,170 --> 00:39:04,410

My education?

703

00:39:04,410 --> 00:39:07,920

I was in college a few years.

704

00:39:07,920 --> 00:39:10,340

Then I went into business.

705

00:39:10,340 --> 00:39:15,920

I was training to
be an officer, ROTC.

706

00:39:15,920 --> 00:39:18,270

Then I got married.

707

00:39:18,270 --> 00:39:22,290

And then they called
me down to Whitehall

708

00:39:22,290 --> 00:39:26,460

to have my physical
examination to see if I'm

709

00:39:26,460 --> 00:39:31,860

qualified to be an officer.

710

00:39:31,860 --> 00:39:33,590

And they gave me
a physical and I

711
00:39:33,590 --> 00:39:37,930
was ready to be
taken into the Army

712
00:39:37,930 --> 00:39:45,000
when the captain that
came out to us and said,

713
00:39:45,000 --> 00:39:47,930
you're going to be
sworn into the Army.

714
00:39:47,930 --> 00:39:51,560
And if there is any reason
why you think you shouldn't

715
00:39:51,560 --> 00:39:55,170
be sworn in, let us know.

716
00:39:55,170 --> 00:40:01,020
I raised my hand and I said, I'm
not sure if I qualified for it,

717
00:40:01,020 --> 00:40:06,050
but my wife is pregnant
and she's expecting.

718
00:40:06,050 --> 00:40:08,380
He said, when is she expecting?

719
00:40:08,380 --> 00:40:13,380
I said, in December 1960.

720
00:40:13,380 --> 00:40:17,940
So the officer said
to me, OK, go home.

721
00:40:17,940 --> 00:40:21,600
January, they send a
special delivery letter,

722

00:40:21,600 --> 00:40:25,760
please send us birth
certificate of your son.

723
00:40:25,760 --> 00:40:29,760
And my stature was
changed from 1A to 4A.

724
00:40:29,760 --> 00:40:32,850
So had you wanted
to be an officer?

725
00:40:32,850 --> 00:40:36,900
Well, I wanted to be
an officer, right.

726
00:40:36,900 --> 00:40:40,030
At that time, at that age, yes.

727
00:40:40,030 --> 00:40:43,080

728
00:40:43,080 --> 00:40:44,160
Why?

729
00:40:44,160 --> 00:40:45,600
What was your--

730
00:40:45,600 --> 00:40:49,150
Well, maybe I would have
gone to Israel and fight.

731
00:40:49,150 --> 00:40:49,650
I see.

732
00:40:49,650 --> 00:40:54,150
So you wanted to be in the
Army for the American--

733
00:40:54,150 --> 00:40:58,260
in the American Army and
represent Israel and help.

734

00:40:58,260 --> 00:41:00,030

Yes, eventually.

735

00:41:00,030 --> 00:41:03,890

I always wanted to go to
Israel and help that way.

736

00:41:03,890 --> 00:41:06,620

737

00:41:06,620 --> 00:41:10,230

Did you ever consider
taking aliyah to Israel?

738

00:41:10,230 --> 00:41:11,328

A what?

739

00:41:11,328 --> 00:41:12,245

Immigrating to Israel?

740

00:41:12,245 --> 00:41:14,900

741

00:41:14,900 --> 00:41:16,370

Not really.

742

00:41:16,370 --> 00:41:20,435

I got used to living in
the United States, so--

743

00:41:20,435 --> 00:41:24,560

and I figured there's more
ways than one to help Israel

744

00:41:24,560 --> 00:41:26,690

than living there.

745

00:41:26,690 --> 00:41:29,180

And if everybody
moved into Israel,

746

00:41:29,180 --> 00:41:31,460
nobody would be left to help.

747
00:41:31,460 --> 00:41:35,930
So it seems like your Jewish
identity really developed

748
00:41:35,930 --> 00:41:37,310
during your time in America.

749
00:41:37,310 --> 00:41:40,370
You became more religious and
you identified stronger than

750
00:41:40,370 --> 00:41:40,910
in Italy.

751
00:41:40,910 --> 00:41:41,890
Is that correct?

752
00:41:41,890 --> 00:41:43,550
That is correct.

753
00:41:43,550 --> 00:41:47,900
In Italy, I had no idea
what Israel is, just

754
00:41:47,900 --> 00:41:48,980
like any other country.

755
00:41:48,980 --> 00:41:53,080

756
00:41:53,080 --> 00:41:58,700
Were you a participant in the
Zionist movement in America?

757
00:41:58,700 --> 00:41:59,200
What?

758
00:41:59,200 --> 00:42:04,040
Did you participate in any

way in supporting Israel

759

00:42:04,040 --> 00:42:05,375
from America?

760

00:42:05,375 --> 00:42:06,680
Yeah, well, of course.

761

00:42:06,680 --> 00:42:08,640
I'd give donations.

762

00:42:08,640 --> 00:42:13,980
I'd give my vocal support,
my voting support.

763

00:42:13,980 --> 00:42:18,110
If any candidate runs and says
something bad against Israel,

764

00:42:18,110 --> 00:42:19,480
I vote against them.

765

00:42:19,480 --> 00:42:20,330
I see.

766

00:42:20,330 --> 00:42:22,670
So you needed that
kind of support.

767

00:42:22,670 --> 00:42:25,750

768

00:42:25,750 --> 00:42:27,120
And let's go back a little bit.

769

00:42:27,120 --> 00:42:28,750
You mentioned that
you got married.

770

00:42:28,750 --> 00:42:30,300
How did you meet your wife?

771
00:42:30,300 --> 00:42:35,140

772
00:42:35,140 --> 00:42:37,200
Friends of mine--

773
00:42:37,200 --> 00:42:41,000
I had many friends
there, Special.

774
00:42:41,000 --> 00:42:45,890
And some of the friends
said, we are going to--

775
00:42:45,890 --> 00:42:50,570
through the Y, on 92nd
Street Y in New York City,

776
00:42:50,570 --> 00:42:54,140
they have a young
adult camp for people

777
00:42:54,140 --> 00:42:58,700
between the ages of 18 to 25.

778
00:42:58,700 --> 00:43:04,320
They're going to get 50 guys
and 50 girls to go to that camp.

779
00:43:04,320 --> 00:43:07,440
So come sign up with us.

780
00:43:07,440 --> 00:43:09,630
So I signed up.

781
00:43:09,630 --> 00:43:19,650
And we were in that camp, and
they put us in such a circle

782
00:43:19,650 --> 00:43:24,300
that you were bound to
pair off with a person

783
00:43:24,300 --> 00:43:25,455
of the opposite sex.

784
00:43:25,455 --> 00:43:28,300

785
00:43:28,300 --> 00:43:31,125
That same-- we were
there for one week,

786
00:43:31,125 --> 00:43:33,970
and that's how I met my wife.

787
00:43:33,970 --> 00:43:36,300
Oh, was she a survivor as well?

788
00:43:36,300 --> 00:43:37,330
No.

789
00:43:37,330 --> 00:43:39,085
She was born here in the states.

790
00:43:39,085 --> 00:43:42,120

791
00:43:42,120 --> 00:43:43,100
In New York?

792
00:43:43,100 --> 00:43:44,660
No-- New York--

793
00:43:44,660 --> 00:43:48,010
no, no [? thanks ?]
as a survivor.

794
00:43:48,010 --> 00:43:50,130
But she was Jewish as well?

795
00:43:50,130 --> 00:43:52,800
She was Jewish.

796
00:43:52,800 --> 00:43:56,690
And if I didn't marry
a Jewish person,

797
00:43:56,690 --> 00:43:59,750
my parents would kill me.

798
00:43:59,750 --> 00:44:02,390
Did you want to marry a
Jewish person anyways?

799
00:44:02,390 --> 00:44:03,590
Yes.

800
00:44:03,590 --> 00:44:06,500
But in Italy there
was very low Jewish--

801
00:44:06,500 --> 00:44:08,490
Jewishness.

802
00:44:08,490 --> 00:44:11,830
It developed when
you came to America.

803
00:44:11,830 --> 00:44:13,360
Right.

804
00:44:13,360 --> 00:44:15,910
I mean, there were Jews
in Israel and Italy

805
00:44:15,910 --> 00:44:19,520
going back hundreds
and hundreds of years,

806
00:44:19,520 --> 00:44:23,860
but they were very
assimilated with the Italians'

807
00:44:23,860 --> 00:44:27,060

culture and all that.

808
00:44:27,060 --> 00:44:31,650
And now we're just going
to take some time for you--

809
00:44:31,650 --> 00:44:35,950
to ask you some broader,
more general questions.

810
00:44:35,950 --> 00:44:40,170
Can you talk about the long-term
impact of your experiences

811
00:44:40,170 --> 00:44:41,250
in the Holocaust?

812
00:44:41,250 --> 00:44:44,910

813
00:44:44,910 --> 00:44:46,110
No.

814
00:44:46,110 --> 00:44:52,770
I mean, sometimes I
wonder why I survived.

815
00:44:52,770 --> 00:44:56,680
I'm not richer or stronger
than the next person,

816
00:44:56,680 --> 00:44:58,960
and there must be a reason why.

817
00:44:58,960 --> 00:45:03,030
And I try to [? phantom ?]
to reason why I survived.

818
00:45:03,030 --> 00:45:07,470
And maybe now, in this
community where I live,

819

00:45:07,470 --> 00:45:13,010
I help out other people
who cannot help themselves.

820
00:45:13,010 --> 00:45:16,860
And of course, I go now
to a different schools

821
00:45:16,860 --> 00:45:22,970
and I talk about the Holocaust
experience that I had.

822
00:45:22,970 --> 00:45:30,700
And I tell that to kids 12,
13, and 15 about the Holocaust.

823
00:45:30,700 --> 00:45:35,160
And I mention to them,
this is not the first one,

824
00:45:35,160 --> 00:45:37,840
and won't be the last one.

825
00:45:37,840 --> 00:45:44,340
And I told them all about
previous holocausts that

826
00:45:44,340 --> 00:45:48,740
happened in the past 500 years.

827
00:45:48,740 --> 00:45:53,540
So you're part of a large
survivor network in Florida?

828
00:45:53,540 --> 00:45:58,340
I'm part of a group
of surviving network.

829
00:45:58,340 --> 00:46:02,360
We have about 130 survivors,
and every year there's

830
00:46:02,360 --> 00:46:05,420

less and less survivors.

831
00:46:05,420 --> 00:46:08,610
I'm one of the youngest.

832
00:46:08,610 --> 00:46:12,750
And that's basically it.

833
00:46:12,750 --> 00:46:19,200
If we don't talk about it, we'll
be like any other holocaust

834
00:46:19,200 --> 00:46:21,600
that happened previously.

835
00:46:21,600 --> 00:46:23,260
Nobody talks about it.

836
00:46:23,260 --> 00:46:25,330
I could start mention them.

837
00:46:25,330 --> 00:46:32,250
But going back to the Crusades,
that was also a holocaust.

838
00:46:32,250 --> 00:46:35,040
When the Crusades
went into Palestine,

839
00:46:35,040 --> 00:46:38,100
they killed every
person that they found.

840
00:46:38,100 --> 00:46:42,900
Every city that they conquered,
they killed everybody.

841
00:46:42,900 --> 00:46:45,900
How about the
Spanish Inquisition?

842
00:46:45,900 --> 00:46:51,530

Then, of course, what happened to the American Indians?

843
00:46:51,530 --> 00:46:52,750
So you--

844
00:46:52,750 --> 00:46:55,210
I'm just pointing out a few of them.

845
00:46:55,210 --> 00:46:57,655
And the kids really--

846
00:46:57,655 --> 00:47:01,810
it hits home when I tell them about the American Indians.

847
00:47:01,810 --> 00:47:03,880
Millions were killed.

848
00:47:03,880 --> 00:47:06,850
And of course I tell them, how many of you

849
00:47:06,850 --> 00:47:13,110
know what happened by the Turks when they killed 1 and 1/2

850
00:47:13,110 --> 00:47:15,150
million Armenians?

851
00:47:15,150 --> 00:47:17,130
Very few know about that.

852
00:47:17,130 --> 00:47:20,010
So you feel like by talking about your experience,

853
00:47:20,010 --> 00:47:24,330
you're helping to educate the younger generation?

854

00:47:24,330 --> 00:47:25,140
Yes.

855
00:47:25,140 --> 00:47:29,040
And there's a lot of
wonderful teachers

856
00:47:29,040 --> 00:47:34,470
who want to continue
that kind of education.

857
00:47:34,470 --> 00:47:38,400
Have you struggled
with feelings of anger

858
00:47:38,400 --> 00:47:42,416
about what happened to
you and your family?

859
00:47:42,416 --> 00:47:44,390
No.

860
00:47:44,390 --> 00:47:45,690
Sometimes I say--

861
00:47:45,690 --> 00:47:48,220

862
00:47:48,220 --> 00:47:52,870
I'm looking at sometimes
on a growth basis.

863
00:47:52,870 --> 00:47:57,120
My sister was born in 1946.

864
00:47:57,120 --> 00:48:04,280
She has four children who
are doctors, dentists,

865
00:48:04,280 --> 00:48:06,380
all in the medical field.

866

00:48:06,380 --> 00:48:12,880
She contributed a lot towards
the community in general.

867
00:48:12,880 --> 00:48:18,360
My nieces and nephews,
my sister's children,

868
00:48:18,360 --> 00:48:24,100
grandchildren, also are
doctors and also contribute

869
00:48:24,100 --> 00:48:29,980
a lot to the communities
of the United States.

870
00:48:29,980 --> 00:48:33,720
If there was no such
thing as the Holocaust,

871
00:48:33,720 --> 00:48:37,810
I would probably be
still living in Poland.

872
00:48:37,810 --> 00:48:43,810
Maybe I would marry
somebody, a local girl there,

873
00:48:43,810 --> 00:48:46,160
and have a few
children, but I don't

874
00:48:46,160 --> 00:48:49,940
think they'll be doctors
or lawyers or anything

875
00:48:49,940 --> 00:48:52,920
from our family.

876
00:48:52,920 --> 00:49:00,410
Sometimes something like
that, it's good to my benefit.

877

00:49:00,410 --> 00:49:06,670
But on the other hand, I wonder
how many Einsteins did we kill,

878
00:49:06,670 --> 00:49:09,360
or Leonardo da Vincis?

879
00:49:09,360 --> 00:49:13,140
Now, I have pictures here.

880
00:49:13,140 --> 00:49:17,370
And I say to myself, if
I was living in Poland,

881
00:49:17,370 --> 00:49:20,220
would I still do
pictures like that?

882
00:49:20,220 --> 00:49:21,840
I doubt it.

883
00:49:21,840 --> 00:49:26,050
Can you explain about your
pictures and your artwork?

884
00:49:26,050 --> 00:49:28,380
They call it marquetry.

885
00:49:28,380 --> 00:49:31,590
It's a European
kind of artistry.

886
00:49:31,590 --> 00:49:35,930
In the United States,
we would call it inlay.

887
00:49:35,930 --> 00:49:42,620
All the furnitures that we
have has a veneer on top of it.

888
00:49:42,620 --> 00:49:45,290
And it's one solid
piece of veneer

889
00:49:45,290 --> 00:49:50,080
which the furniture people
smooth it down and polyurethane

890
00:49:50,080 --> 00:49:51,200
it.

891
00:49:51,200 --> 00:49:56,390
I take different veneers,
I form the pictures

892
00:49:56,390 --> 00:50:02,790
of different colored veneers,
which forms a picture.

893
00:50:02,790 --> 00:50:07,580
Then I sand them down to
make them all the same level,

894
00:50:07,580 --> 00:50:09,280
and I polyurethane it.

895
00:50:09,280 --> 00:50:12,260
Then I form a picture with it.

896
00:50:12,260 --> 00:50:13,700
How did you get into this?

897
00:50:13,700 --> 00:50:14,870
When did you decide?

898
00:50:14,870 --> 00:50:18,350
Well, a friend of
mine was doing it,

899
00:50:18,350 --> 00:50:23,090
so I found it to be
very easy to do it.

900
00:50:23,090 --> 00:50:26,910
And I see a lot of your

pictures show Jewish themes.

901
00:50:26,910 --> 00:50:27,910
Yes.

902
00:50:27,910 --> 00:50:31,620
Or do you-- American themes
like the Statue of Liberty.

903
00:50:31,620 --> 00:50:34,350

904
00:50:34,350 --> 00:50:36,660
Yes.

905
00:50:36,660 --> 00:50:40,470
I wouldn't do any other themes.

906
00:50:40,470 --> 00:50:44,430
I wouldn't do a Russian theme.

907
00:50:44,430 --> 00:50:47,700
So America is important to you?

908
00:50:47,700 --> 00:50:49,920
Oh, yes, it is.

909
00:50:49,920 --> 00:50:55,830
It's, you know, like the song
goes, God bless America, which

910
00:50:55,830 --> 00:51:00,040
is done by a Jewish fellow--

911
00:51:00,040 --> 00:51:02,460
written by a Jewish fellow.

912
00:51:02,460 --> 00:51:05,700
And I feel that he
did the right thing.

913

00:51:05,700 --> 00:51:11,160
And how do you feel
about Germany and also

914
00:51:11,160 --> 00:51:14,780
Poland and Russia today?

915
00:51:14,780 --> 00:51:18,080
Russia, I have no--

916
00:51:18,080 --> 00:51:22,840
I mean, they took away a
lot of people's livelihood,

917
00:51:22,840 --> 00:51:25,970
but they did not kill them.

918
00:51:25,970 --> 00:51:30,640
Poland, I say most
Polish people are stupid,

919
00:51:30,640 --> 00:51:37,270
and that's why we have so many
Polish jokes floating around.

920
00:51:37,270 --> 00:51:42,780
Even now, they still don't know
how to do things correctly.

921
00:51:42,780 --> 00:51:46,800
They wanted to say the
concentration camps were

922
00:51:46,800 --> 00:51:51,930
on Polish soil, but they were
really German concentration

923
00:51:51,930 --> 00:51:52,540
camps.

924
00:51:52,540 --> 00:51:54,870
But they came out with
the stupid things--

925

00:51:54,870 --> 00:52:00,030
if anybody talks about it,
we're going to fine them \$5,000.

926

00:52:00,030 --> 00:52:01,900
Stupidity.

927

00:52:01,900 --> 00:52:09,440
But Polish-- Poland was
such a vibrant country.

928

00:52:09,440 --> 00:52:13,570
It had one of the biggest
Jewish population.

929

00:52:13,570 --> 00:52:21,350
And the Jewish population helped
the whole economy of Poland.

930

00:52:21,350 --> 00:52:27,030
And now with most of
the Jews are gone,

931

00:52:27,030 --> 00:52:30,000
the population is falling apart.

932

00:52:30,000 --> 00:52:31,620
Have you been back to Poland?

933

00:52:31,620 --> 00:52:35,010
I was on the March of
the Living last year,

934

00:52:35,010 --> 00:52:38,360
with one week in Poland.

935

00:52:38,360 --> 00:52:41,870
I mean, they did nice
reconstruction work

936

00:52:41,870 --> 00:52:44,270

of synagogues,
and this and that.

937
00:52:44,270 --> 00:52:52,670
We had a bus guide,
a Polish girl.

938
00:52:52,670 --> 00:52:55,550
She must have been about 28, 30.

939
00:52:55,550 --> 00:53:01,070
And she says that the Polish
state is falling apart.

940
00:53:01,070 --> 00:53:05,540
A lot of young people
move out of the Poland.

941
00:53:05,540 --> 00:53:08,480
They go to different
countries for work.

942
00:53:08,480 --> 00:53:12,740
They come to the United States,
England, you name the country.

943
00:53:12,740 --> 00:53:15,570
They don't want
to stay in Poland.

944
00:53:15,570 --> 00:53:18,890
And the country won't
last much longer.

945
00:53:18,890 --> 00:53:21,500
Did you go to Stanisław³w?

946
00:53:21,500 --> 00:53:23,240
No.

947
00:53:23,240 --> 00:53:29,900
My group stopped over
at Krakow, and then we

948
00:53:29,900 --> 00:53:37,170
walked between two camps,
Birkenau and Auschwitz.

949
00:53:37,170 --> 00:53:43,290
We had maybe 10,000 to 15,000
people from all over the world.

950
00:53:43,290 --> 00:53:49,230
Young people from Australia,
from New Zealand, Fiji, India,

951
00:53:49,230 --> 00:53:51,990
you name the country,
they were there.

952
00:53:51,990 --> 00:53:54,960
And we walked between
those two countries

953
00:53:54,960 --> 00:53:59,940
to show what happened so
the world will take notice.

954
00:53:59,940 --> 00:54:02,900
How did you feel being in
that huge group of people

955
00:54:02,900 --> 00:54:04,260
for the March of the Living?

956
00:54:04,260 --> 00:54:12,490
When I was in Poland,
I was down because all

957
00:54:12,490 --> 00:54:16,090
you show all the cemeteries.

958
00:54:16,090 --> 00:54:21,340
One cemetery with towns, and
so thousands of children, 2, 3,

959

00:54:21,340 --> 00:54:23,650

4-year-olds, were killed.

960

00:54:23,650 --> 00:54:25,500

There was no reason
to kill them,

961

00:54:25,500 --> 00:54:28,120

but they were useless
to the Germans

962

00:54:28,120 --> 00:54:31,540

because they can't
produce anything.

963

00:54:31,540 --> 00:54:37,800

And I was very down.

964

00:54:37,800 --> 00:54:44,110

But you have to realize, 6
million Jews were killed,

965

00:54:44,110 --> 00:54:48,160

5 million non-Jews were
killed by the Germans.

966

00:54:48,160 --> 00:54:53,820

To them, anybody that
is in the hospital who

967

00:54:53,820 --> 00:55:01,070

has mental deficiency
or anything like that

968

00:55:01,070 --> 00:55:04,330

is useless, so they killed them.

969

00:55:04,330 --> 00:55:07,910

5 million non-Jews were killed.

970

00:55:07,910 --> 00:55:12,290

Total amount of people died

during the Second World War,

971

00:55:12,290 --> 00:55:15,760

I estimate is over 50 million.

972

00:55:15,760 --> 00:55:19,000

Did being in Poland

bring back any memories

973

00:55:19,000 --> 00:55:22,810

that you had perhaps

forgotten or pushed down?

974

00:55:22,810 --> 00:55:24,700

No.

975

00:55:24,700 --> 00:55:30,260

I live by the day.

976

00:55:30,260 --> 00:55:32,760

I can't change history.

977

00:55:32,760 --> 00:55:36,510

I see a lot of countries are

trying to change history.

978

00:55:36,510 --> 00:55:39,030

You can't change history.

979

00:55:39,030 --> 00:55:43,790

You could change the

future, but not the past.

980

00:55:43,790 --> 00:55:49,400

Do you have any final thoughts

that you would like to share?

981

00:55:49,400 --> 00:55:56,230

I think the new generation

that's coming up now

982

00:55:56,230 --> 00:56:01,970

will put a stop to
a lot of the abuses

983
00:56:01,970 --> 00:56:06,570
that the older generation
didn't as a practice.

984
00:56:06,570 --> 00:56:13,020
And I honestly believe, after
seeing the younger generation

985
00:56:13,020 --> 00:56:16,560
and going to schools
and talking about it,

986
00:56:16,560 --> 00:56:19,500
I honestly believe
that the world will be

987
00:56:19,500 --> 00:56:22,920
a better place in the future.

988
00:56:22,920 --> 00:56:30,970
Well, that is some very positive
and hopeful words to end with--

989
00:56:30,970 --> 00:56:32,900
if there is not anything else?

990
00:56:32,900 --> 00:56:38,130
No, you just have
to hope, right?

991
00:56:38,130 --> 00:56:40,070
Well, thank you very much.

992
00:56:40,070 --> 00:56:41,340
Am I finished?

993
00:56:41,340 --> 00:56:44,320
You are finished.

994

00:56:44,320 --> 00:56:46,090

You know--